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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 members.

Great news from the World Bridge Federation: - we have just received the following information from the WBF Office:

It is expected that the 2003 World Championships will be held in Monte Carlo during the first two weeks in November. The Round Robin for the Bermuda Bowl and Venice Cup will be played during the first week, as will the Senior Bowl. The World Transnational Open Teams will start at the beginning of the second week. We email all the NBOs and send out Press Releases with more details as soon as they become available, and these will also be posted on the websites at www.worldbridge.org and www.ecatsbridge.com.

Once again the WBF has done an impressive job in the wake of an unforeseen disaster (the night club bombing in Kuta Beach, Bali) in snaring a desirable venue on very short notice for its premiere event of the year.

The IBPA Executive has decided that there will be five \$200 prize draws in Menton for the 2003 Clippings Competition, followed by a Grand Prize draw for \$500. To be eligible for a prize, you must be an IBPA member, and no one can win more than one prize. All members need do to be eligible is mention the 1st European Open Bridge Championships in a magazine article, newspaper column or journal editorial, then send the clipping to the IBPA Editor by email or snail mail. I can tell you that currently, if no more entries were received, those entered have odds better than even money to win a prize. So keep your clippings coming.

Several queries have come to me regarding the use of material published in the IBPA Bulletin. Refer to Article IX of the IPBA Constitution for the organisation's position on copyright in the Handbook 2002. It states:

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My view is that the permission noted in 3. and 4. is extended to IBPA members, but not to others. We are, after all, a fraternity of sorts, and share resources. Any comments?

THE BRIDGE PRO TOUR

By Matthew Granovetter, Jerusalem

The newest rage in American bridge these days is the Bridge Pro Tour. The Tour is a new organization (two years old) that runs prize-money bridge events as individuals, open to anyone. These events are held at ACBL tournaments, often during the mornings when other events are not being run. Entry is \$100. There are two qualifying rounds and one or two final rounds, where everyone plays a different board with a different partner: 24 deals, 24 partners, no time for recriminations! One simple, "Standard American Yellow Card" is used, so there are no system discussions and no alerts. I played in one of these events last spring and found it to be a pleasure.

The upcoming 2003 Tour will have 12 events with \$144,000 prize money, plus a \$20,000 Bonus Pool for best overall performances. (See the Calendar on page 16 for dates and places. – Ed.)

For more information about the tour, or to buy an entry, readers can go to the website www.bridgeprotour.com or phone Daniel Bolger at 917-256-0103. Larry King, the ex-tennis promoter (formerly married to Billie Jean King) is one of the leading forces behind the tour. The purpose is to make bridge into a popular game, in the same commercial way that King made women's tennis popular in the 70's and 80's. "Bridge," says King, "has much more potential than tennis ever had."

Here are some deals from recent events.

Purely Psychological

Dealer South. Neither Vul.

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

South	West	North	East
1 NT	Pass	3 NT	Pass
Pass	Pass		

Opening lead: Heart eight

New York City held its first Bridge Pro Tour Individual at the end of December and the winner was Adam Wildavsky of New York, who earned \$4,000 for first prize. Wildavsky just came off a big win in the Reisinger Teams at the Fall NABC in Phoenix, Arizona.

On the last board of the Individual, Wildavsky sat East and heard his opponents bid to three no trump very quickly. His partner led a heart. Declarer won the trick in dummy with the queen and called for a low diamond. Wildavsky played the king.

Normally, you would play low from king, jack, six, and there is little advantage to playing the king, unless partner holds the ace and you want to win the trick to preserve partner's entry to lead back his suit. But this was not the case, because the lead of the heart eight had indicated a weak suit, and Wildavsky had no intention of continuing hearts. His play of the king of diamonds was purely psychological: he wanted to make it look like he held a singleton (or perhaps a doubleton) diamond. Declarer took the bait. He won the ace and cashed the queen, then led a third round, thinking that West must hold the jack. But Wildavsky won the trick and shifted accurately to the deuce of clubs.

Declarer played the king and West won the ace and continued clubs with the queen and six to Wildavsky's ten and jack. This resulted in down one and a top score for Wildavsky and his partner. Notice that if Wildavsky leads the jack of clubs instead of a low one, his side can take only three club tricks.

The play of the king appears to be fruitless, but I have seen this play win time and again, simply because declarers are either too lazy to return to dummy or want to save a few seconds of time. It's purely psychological but it seems to work.

Right Place, Right Time

Dealer South. Both Vul.

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

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

Opening lead: Diamond three

David Yang, a professor of Electrical Engineering at the University of Illinois, won the \$12,000 Los Angeles Open, last July. Yang modestly attributed his win to being, "in the right place at the right time." He sent me this hand from the final, where he sat North and his partner, Sylvia Summers, of Montréal, who emigrated to the United States from Russia when she was twelve, earned a top score for him.

Summers' first good move was not to open the South hand with a weak two-bid. It's not clear whether West would have bid two no trump over two hearts, but at the tables where this happened, the defence allowed declarer to take seven tricks, for a score of 100 to North-South. By delaying her action, Summers bought the contract.

West led a diamond. Summers won in hand and judged that the king of clubs was with East (otherwise West would have led from the ace-king of clubs). This meant that West held at least 15 of the remaining 16 high card points. Summers now had an inspiration. She led a low heart toward the dummy. West went up with the queen and played a second diamond. Summers won in hand and led another low heart!

"I knew West would never believe a blonde like me would make this play," she confided after the hand. West ducked, playing his partner for the ace (he hoped his partner would win and lead a club through South's presumed king). Summers now had an overtrick, for a score of 140, and Yang, who was watching with pleasure, went on to victory by one half of a match point. Summers finished in eleventh position.

Dancing to Victory

Dealer East. NS Vul.

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

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

Opening lead: Spade ace

Asya Kamsky of San Francisco, 37, who emigrated to the United States when she was twelve, won last August's Santa Clara (California) \$12,000 Open. Kamsky, who won \$4,000 for first prize, has another hobby - dancing, which she compares to bridge: "I mostly do West Coast Swing and Hustle, both popular partner dances. I have a dance partner, but most dance competitions are done in a format similar to an individual in bridge - your partner and music are drawn randomly and then you are judged on your ability to spontaneously dance appropriate choreography to that music with that partner."

On this deal, from the last round in Santa Clara, Kamsky seemed to be dancing by herself when she doubled the opening two-spade bid and then jumped to four hearts, leaving her partner no room to step on her toes! West led the ace of spades and continued spades. Kamsky played low from dummy and ruffed East's nine. She could see ten top tricks, but these events are scored by matchpoints, so every overtrick is important. The question was how to dispose of her club losers. If dummy had held a doubleton club and tripleton heart, it would have been obvious to play ace, king and another club to ruff in dummy. But with two hearts in dummy and three clubs, it was not clear.

Nevertheless, this is what Kamsky did. She cashed the two club honours and led a third club, won by West with the jack. It was vital not to pull even one round of trumps before attacking the club suit, otherwise West could play a second round of trumps. At trick six West continued spades. Kamsky ruffed in hand and led her last club, trumping it with dummy's heart jack. Then she led the ace, king and queen of hearts. When they broke 3-2, she had eleven tricks.

West could have held the contract to ten tricks by shifting to a trump at trick two and then playing a second round of trumps upon winning the jack of clubs. But this was difficult to spot.

Age before Beauty

Meanwhile, in Reno, Nevada, at the end of December, 77-year-old Chandler Flickinger, of Portola Valley, CA, became the first repeat winner on the Bridge Pro Tour, earning not only \$4,000 for first place (as he did early in the year in the \$12,000 Las Vegas Open), but also winning top spot on the \$10,000 Bonus Pool for 2002 for best performance overall. Flickinger, who learned bridge as a child, claims to be a “kitchen bridge player” who took up tournament bridge only a few years ago after retiring from his law practice. When asked if he ever expected to win one of these Pro Tour events, the two-time winner replied (with a glint in his eye): “Never, oh never. These guys are so good.”

Dealer East. Neither Vul.

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

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

On this deal from the Reno final, the normal result was three no trumps making five East-West. But three of the eight tables played in four spades. At seven tables, West responded one spade and East usually rebid two diamonds. At one of these tables, West now bid three clubs, trying to be scientific (hoping to steer the contract to partner's side with a doubleton heart king, perhaps). But East insisted on spades now, bidding three spades and then four spades over three no trump. At two tables East raised to two spades over one spade. West then jumped to four spades without checking back to see if partner had only three trumps.

At Flickinger's table, he was West. He took all the problems out of the auction in one bid by jumping to three no trump over one diamond. This is a sign of someone who has played in too many individuals and knows how to win them!

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Norwegian Festival Deals

By Jon Sveindal, Nyborg, Norway
(From Aftenposten. No credit necessary – members may use these deals as they wish.)

The Norwegian Bridge Federation introduced the Norwegian Bridge Festival three years ago. Instead of holding tournaments all over the calendar, most national championships are now scheduled in the week at the end of July and the beginning of August. Here are a few boards from the 2002 Festival in Skien.

Ronny Jørstad is one of our best juniors. This board is from the Junior Pairs Championship, which he and Stian Sundklakk won.

Too Late!

Dealer West. Neither Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
1 ♥	Pass	2 NT ¹	Pass
3 ♥	Pass	Pass	3 ♠ (!)
Pass	Pass	Pass	

1. At least invitational with heart support

Several East-West pairs made ten tricks in a heart partial when the defence did not find the difficult route to four tricks. On a spade lead to the ace West plays a diamond. If North does not take his ace and continue with the club king, club to the ace and a club ruff, the diamond king wins and West throws a club on the spade king. Then, three rounds of trumps, and another diamond toward dummy. North wins his ace and returns the suit, but dummy wins and plays a club. North can take two club tricks, but then West gets rid of his last club when North has to play a spade or a diamond, and dummy ruffs.

The bidding told Ronny that his partner had some values, and his daring balancing bid was rewarded with a big spade fit. With two trump losers, two in diamonds, and a heart loser, it looks like one down in three spades which would have yielded a handsome score to North-South.

However, West led the ace and a second heart, and Ronny was home! He ruffed, played a club to the king, and ruffed dummy's last heart. Then the ace of clubs, a club ruff, and a spade. In with the ace, West shifted to diamonds, but it was too late! Ronny played low from

dummy, and East won the queen, only to find himself helplessly endplayed. After the spade king, he either had to return a diamond, or give south a ruff and sluff! Three spades just made - and all the points to the champs.

Queen Beats Jack!

Dealer West. Both Vul.

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

Contract: 3 NT by South

Opening Lead: Heart Three

After North had opened one diamond and East bid one heart, both teams in the Final of the Open Teams reached three no trumps.

The Wests led their lowest heart (showing an odd number, in this case three), and at one table East played the jack, the normal thing to do. South played his king, and continued with a diamond to the king and ace. A small heart was returned, and Odd Frydenberg read the position correctly when he put up his ten - for his ninth trick and the contract.

At the other table Håvard Jensen in the East seat reckoned that his partner would not have much influence on the defence, so he false carded by playing the *queen* of hearts to the first trick! South won the king and ducked a diamond to East's queen. Again a small heart was returned. East's play to the first trick of course indicated that West had the jack, so South played the eight. Four heart tricks and the ace-queen of diamonds meant two down.

Three Queens and an Uppercut

Dealer East. Both Vul.

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

East	South	West	North
Pass	2 ♥	Double	3 ♥
Pass	Pass	Double	Pass
Pass (!)	Pass		

The *primus motor* of the Bridge Festival in Skien, Svein Markussen, had a difficult bidding problem in the East position on this board from the Pairs Final. He was right in assuming that nothing was on for his side, so he gambled that his three queens could beat 3 hearts. Three queens? The spade queen, the heart queen, and the queen of his heart, his wife Rønnaug Asla sitting West!

On the lead of the spade ace, Svein encouraged, got a low spade to his queen, and played another to West's king. The diamond ace was cashed, and then Rønnaug played the thirteenth spade! Svein played his second queen, which promoted Rønnaug's jack! One down was a huge score.

Even though Svein's major queens were really working, not surprisingly, his wife turned out to be his most valuable asset! Without her creative contribution the contract would have made.

The Norwegian Bridge Press Association awarded its "Hand of the Festival Prize" to Peter Marstrander for this beauty from the Mixed Pairs Championship.

The Criss-Crossed Beauty

Dealer East. NS Vul.

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

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

1. Transfer

2. Cue bids

Peter won the four of clubs lead with his nine. He thought that West might have found a safer lead if he had any hope of a trump trick, so Peter continued with a spade to the ace and the ten of hearts, winning the trick. Then came a heart to the jack, and the ace. Then followed the ace of diamonds, a spade to the king, two hearts and the queen of spades. Dummy had the diamond eight-five and the ace of clubs remaining, whereas

declarer held the diamond king and the queen-jack of clubs. And West? If he comes down to the singleton diamond queen, a diamond to the king is followed by a club to the ace and the thirteenth diamond. And if he bares his club king, the club ace is cashed – and declarer’s hand takes the rest!

Former IBPA president Tommy Sandsmark received his umpteenth journalist award for having reported this fine piece of declarer play in the Festival’s Daily Bulletin.

Women and Bridge

Sandra Landy, Aylesbury, England

When the IBPA Editor asked me to write an article on Women and Bridge, he no doubt expected a piece full of meaningful insights into why women play the game as they do, illustrated by a few well selected hands of female play at its best. But apart from the fact that I find it hard to remember hands that women have played well, it’s not that aspect of the gender difference that interests me most.

It is my impression that most bridge clubs in England have more women members than men. Thame, the club where I play, has 8% more women and even male dominated Oxford has 7% more. Some of the afternoon clubs around here are 100% female, whereas the only heavily male club I know of in our area is Oxford University Student’s Club. But if one looks at a roomful of competitors in a major national competition, say the national pairs regional heats, or even more at the Spring Fours, there seem to be far more men than women playing.

Do more women than men play competitive bridge? I popped into the EBU headquarters, just five minutes across town, to ask them. “How many women members does the EBU have as a percentage of the whole?” Amazingly, despite a comprehensive membership database system, the system was strangely silent on women, the computer experts saying that no one had ever wanted to know this before now.

I tried the other side of the room, where *Bridge for All* staff were working. They don’t have an all-singing, all-dancing computer system – just a small home-grown one written in Access, created when my first pilot group of students was enrolled. No problem they said, in a typical class, we have on average five women to every two men. In fact, there isn’t a class in the country where men outnumber women that we know of. However, daytime classes are more heavily female, and evening ones sometimes have as many as one male to every two females. My own evening class, which runs at six men to twelve women, fits that profile.

So it appears that many more women than men are learning to play. Where do they go when the lessons stop? The majority seem to enjoy rubber bridge with friends – bridge is a social thing to do and goes well

with tea and gossip. It’s not something to be taken too seriously, so most don’t play for money. The only keenly supported events outside the home are those charity afternoon games where Chicago is played, and the only good thing you see on the table is the food.

Those students that I taught had all played a fair amount of duplicate bridge before their classes stopped, as I ran weekly duplicates over the summer breaks. Nearly all of them are still playing and enjoying bridge; perhaps half attend a bridge club regularly. But none of them will play in a county or national competition, not even the Newcomers Pairs where the heats are played locally.

Bridge is a sport where we can compete on a level playing field, and gender should not affect performance. So why do we have Open (or Men’s) and Women’s bridge at international level? Is it that we would see so few females making their national team if there were only one? I fear the answer is yes. For some reason the male game is tougher, maybe it’s all due to testosterone levels, as Professor Robert Winston suggested recently. Testosterone is the stuff that makes you more aggressive, and that aggression shows in how you do things. Many men play bridge because they enjoy the battle of minds. To develop their prowess they enter competitions, or play rubber bridge for money, and like to do well, and the evidence of the numbers bears this out.

Men are more single-minded when they sit down to play. Their brains work differently and most men cannot do several things at once, so they just concentrate on the bridge. After all, men are the best at so few things, I wouldn’t rubbish the one where they excel, and I merely seek to find out why this is so. Women, on the other hand are multi-tasking. They tend to be able to perform several tasks at one time, never giving any of them their whole-hearted concentration, and their bridge suffers as a result. Obviously women are more balanced and lead less obsessive lives. They play bridge to meet people and to enjoy a stimulating pastime away from the home, children and career.

An estimated two million people play bridge in England. Perhaps 100,000 play some form of competitive bridge. But only 30,000 or so of those who play competitive bridge belong to the English Bridge Union and of those 30,000 fewer than half play in county and national competitions. Perhaps a few hundred have played bridge outside England in international tournaments. Less than 1 in 1000 takes the game to serious levels.

As an aside, maybe our lawmakers should bear this in mind when making the Laws of Bridge ever more complicated – is it really what the vast majority of players want? Remember all those women (and quite a lot of men too, I’m sure) want to enjoy their game. Trying to cope with the esoteric exceptions in play is not the way to keep bridge as a popular sport. Look at simplifying the rules and try to penalise all those who spoil the enjoyment of others!

So there you have it. Women are different at the bridge table. The Editor was right to commission this article. When they play, women enjoy winning, who doesn't, but their main aim is to have a pleasant time with like-minded friends. After all winning isn't everything, it's the taking part that matters.

Bonbons from the Australian National Teams

By Tim Bourke, Canberra

Some hands from the NOT may amuse. My wife Margi and her partner Arjuna De Livera encountered this deal in the first night's session:

Dealer West. Neither Vul.

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

West	North <i>De Livera</i>	East	South <i>M. Bourke</i>
Pass	Pass	Pass	1 ♦
Pass	2 ♠ ¹	Pass	3 ♣
Pass	3 ♦	Pass	4 ♦
Pass	5 ♦	Pass	Pass
Pass			

1. Fit showing

West led the heart ace and shifted to the ten of diamonds. Margi made the essential play of rising with the diamond queen. East took the ace, Margi carefully unblocking the six, and shifted to the four of clubs. Margi rose with the ace and cashed the queen of hearts, discarding a club from table. Now came a thoughtful diamond seven to the jack, a low spade to the ten and, after this held, the ace of spades. Now a well preserved diamond two was led to the three, and the spade queen led. After ruffing the spade king with the eight of trumps, Margi led the four of diamonds to the five, and the jack-nine of spades provided parking places for her two club losers.

If the diamond queen is not played at trick two, East can defeat five diamonds by ducking! Note too that you can also overcome the blocking problem by ruffing the heart queen and keeping one of the diamond four or two.

At the other table, South did not unblock the diamonds and thus failed by a trick.

This deal produced some drama in one of our morning matches:

Dealer South. Both Vul.

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

West <i>Ramshaw</i>	North	East <i>T. Bourke</i>	South
--	--	--	1 ♥
2 ♣	3 ♥	Double	4 ♥
4 ♠	Pass	Pass	Double
Pass	Pass	Pass	

Unfortunately, my partner Eric Ramshaw did not guess the 5-0 trump break and went down two. Notice, however, that five clubs is cold!

At the other table:

West	North <i>M. Bourke</i>	East	South <i>De Livera</i>
--	--	--	1 ♥
2 ♣	2 ♥	3 ♦	4 ♥
Pass	Pass	Pass	

West led the ace of clubs and then shifted to the diamond ace and a second diamond, allowing Arjuna De Livera to crossruff ten tricks.

On a trump shift, De Livera could win and lead the spade king. East wins the ace and plays a second trump. De Livera wins and leads the jack of spades, running it if West plays low.

This is how a deal from a later morning match should have been:

Dealer West. NS Vul.

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

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

West leads the diamond ten to the jack and queen.

Declarer plays the king, ace of hearts and a spade to the nine. Any return by West surrenders the ninth trick. (on the actual layout, only a spade holds declarer to nine.)

However, in four hearts by North (as I had to play) you need West to have both spade honours or to guess they are split in the end game, or find East with the club queen (unless a club is led).

Perhaps best on a diamond lead to the king and ace, and a diamond continuation, is to throw a club, draw trumps, and ruff the three of diamonds. Now the king, ace, and a third spade endplays West. It has the advantage of working on this deal, though so does a club to the jack and queen - provided you play West for both the spade queen and jack!

I did play for West to have both spade honours! (Yes, East had the club queen in practice but please allow me some journalistic license!)

I've sent this hand to David Bird as it might as well have been the Abbot as East:

Dealer South. Both Vul.

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

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

I led the club seven to partner's queen. Eric cashed the king of clubs and then erred by trying the diamond king. Declarer ruffed and played the heart queen and had to finish down one.

Best play for declarer once East plays a high diamond is based on East having eleven minor suit cards. There are two possible winning shapes (2-0-5-6 with the spade jack doubleton, or, a far more likely 1-1-5-6). In the latter case, play the heart ace, spade queen, spade king, spade ruff, diamond ruff, spade ruff, diamond ruff. The heart king and queen allows you to draw the remaining trumps and claim eleven tricks.

Trying to cash the king of diamonds was pointless. Where could dummy's diamonds go?

Playing a third club at trick three was vital. This ruins declarer's prospects. He must ruff high and now can't ruff

two spades in dummy without losing a trump trick.

After an auction that is best left unrevealed, I had to play five clubs rather than three no trumps on:

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

West led a spade to my jack. I led a diamond to West's ace; he returned a heart to dummy's king and I led a trump to the eight and king. A diamond to dummy, pitching a spade, was soon followed by a spade to the ace and the jack of clubs, pinning the ten! It all took less than ten seconds. My comment to the table was, "We might not know how to bid, but we do know how to play!"

The 8th Red Sea Festival

By David Birman, Tel-Aviv

Eight hundred players from 11 countries took advantage of 25°C temperatures to enjoy the delights of the Red Sea at Eilat, Israel from November 11-17, 2002. There were barbeque lunches, an opening gala dinner, concerts by the pool and a sweet hour every day. Did I say there was a bridge tournament?

Dealer East. EW Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
--	--	Pass	Pass
1 ♣	Double	3 ♣	5 ♦
Pass	6 ♦	Pass	Pass
Pass			

Both Jan Fucik, South, and the opponents helped North to judge that six diamonds would be a good contract. A priori it's not very good, but on the bidding and the opening lead of the heart kings, things improved. Declarer won the heart with the ace, drew trumps and knocked out the heart queen. On the run of the red suits West could not both guard the spade queen and

retain the club ace, so the slam was made.

Three hundred and twenty pairs participated in the Open Pairs won by Israeli international Gilad Altshuler and 13-year-old Eliran Argalazi, who was a member of Israel's gold medal-winning team at the last European Schools Championship. Watch Eliran on this deal.

Dealer North. Neither Vul.

♠ Q 8 2
♥ A Q 9 7 6 3
♦ K Q J 10
♣ –

♠ 5
♥ K J 8 5 2
♦ 8 3
♣ 9 8 6 5 2

♠ K 9 6 3
♥ 10
♦ A 9 6 2
♣ Q 10 4 3

♠ A J 10 7 4
♥ 4
♦ 7 5 4
♣ A K J 7

West	North	East	South
	Altshuler		Argalazi
--	1 ♥	Pass	1 ♠
Pass	2 ♥	Pass	3 ♣
Pass	3 ♦	Pass	3 NT
Pass	4 ♠	Pass	Pass
Pass			

West led the nine of clubs, ducked by East, and won by Eliran with his jack. He ruffed his low club and led the spade queen to the king and ace. The spade jack revealed the trump layout whereupon declarer cashed his high clubs and played ace and another heart, ruffing. When he now played a diamond, it mattered not when East took his ace. His trumps were neutralized. Plus 480 was a huge score. The IMP Pairs was won by van der Wouden-Laare, current Netherlands Champions. The Teams was won by an Israeli team captained by Shaya Levit, joined by Tor, Naf-tali, Leibovitz, and Zwillinger. The winners did exceptionally well here in the face of very enterprising preemption by the opponents at favourable vulnerability.

Dealer West. NS Vul.

♠ A 5 2
♥ Q J 8 5
♦ 8
♣ J 9 7 5 3

♠ Q J 4
♥ K 10 9 7 4
♦ A 7 2
♣ 8 2

♠ 10 9 8 7 6 3
♥ 6 2
♦ 6 5 3
♣ 10 4

♠ K
♥ A 3
♦ K Q J 10 9 4
♣ A K Q 6

West	North	East	South
	Tor		Levit
Pass	Pass	3 ♠(!)	Double
4 ♠	Double	Pass	6 ♦
Pass	Pass	Pass	

With all suits breaking, there was nothing to the play.

The Coffee Cup Coup

By Villy Dam, Vejle, Denmark

Hans Werge has represented Denmark on several occasions. Here he shows us how to foresee and avoid an endplay in a pairs tournament at the local club.

Dealer South. Neither Vul.

♠ K Q 6 5
♥ J 10 2
♦ 7 5
♣ A 8 3 2

♠ A J
♥ A 6
♦ Q J 9 8 6 4 2
♣ 6 5

♠ 9 7 3 2
♥ Q 8 7 5 3
♦ --
♣ K Q 9 4

♠ 10 8 4
♥ K 9 4
♦ A K 10 3
♣ J 10 7

West	North	East	South
Hans	Ole	Helene	Henrik
Werge	Wolff	Noerager	Aasoe
--	--	--	1 NT
Pass	Pass	Pass	

Aasoe's 1 NT was 11-14 and Werge led the diamond queen. Declarer took the ace and led a spade to the king and another, ducked to the ace. Hans Werge led ace and another heart, declarer winning in hand.

The club jack made a trip to the queen and a third heart cleared the suit. South now cashed the spade ten, led a club to the ace, and cashed the spade queen.

Let's stop for a moment to count the West hand: at trick one, diamonds were proven to be 7-0; in spades, West had shown the AJ doubleton; in clubs he had followed twice. Hence Werge knew that West was diamond-tight.

Declarer had already taken seven tricks, and the diamond king would be his eighth. But in pairs, you must take every trick you can, and Aasoe thought a ninth was there for the taking. He envisioned the following ending:

♠ --
♥ --
♦ 7
♣ 8 3

♠ --
♥ --
♦ J 9 8
♣ --

♠ --
♥ 8 7
♦ --
♣ K

♠ --
♥ --
♦ K 10 3
♣ --

Aasoe had only to play the diamond seven to Werge's eight and score the last two tricks with the king and ten (or so he thought). What really happened was that Werge had jealously guarded the diamond six to under-

play the seven. Noerager as East took the last two tricks and declarer was held to eight tricks and 120.

Werge explained that he'd carefully concealed the diamond six behind his coffee cup so that he would not be tempted to play it until the crucial moment. When Wolff claimed that Aasoe could have unblocked the seven at trick one to retain the five, Werge had the answer. "I'd have hidden the diamond four in that case," he stated.

Without the Count

By Teng-Yuan Liang, Tainan, Taiwan

Recently, two deals drew my attention. The first is from the '02 Winter Yeh Brothers' Cup. This event is sponsored by Dr. Yeh of Kaoshiung each season and is the largest prize money competition in Taiwan. Several famous Asia-Pacific teams were invited this time. Indonesia's Lasut-Manoppo team took away more than US\$10,000 prize money in three days' play. This deal appeared in the semifinal and was originally reported by the declarer Kuo himself in "Chinese Bridge" magazine.

Dealer South. Neither Vul.

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

West	North	East <i>Yan</i>	South <i>Kuo</i>
--	--	--	1 ♣
Pass	1 ♦	3 ♣	Pass
Pass	3 ♥	Pass	4 ♥
Pass	4 ♠	Pass	6 NT
Pass	Pass	Pass	

The declarer, Che-Hung Kuo, is our (Taiwan's) regular representative at international tournaments in recent decades. He has won several PABF Championships and partnered Patrick Huang in the 1996 Olympiad, where they reached the semifinals.

West led a club. East, Ding-Min Yan, a key member of the 2001 PABF Champions, thought for a while. And then he smartly ducked this trick, effectively killing the possibility of a club-heart double squeeze with spades as the double threat. Kuo ran the diamonds and found East with three diamonds. So there should be a squeeze without the count against West's majors, if Kuo threw both his clubs and one heart on the run of the diamonds. However, Kuo erroneously threw two hearts and one club, destroying the lead card to set up a third heart trick. But he finally recovered with a more interesting ending.

10

Kuo cashed the top hearts and reached the following end position:

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

Kuo then led a low spade. West was powerless. He must part with an honour, or Kuo could win the ten and ace then use West as a stepping stone to reach his king of spades. Kuo won the ace and threw in West with a heart. West did the best he could, his queen return pinning dummy's ten to deny an entry to the heart, but it also pinned East's nine and Kuo made his contract with the king-eight of spades.

The second deal is a revisit of a '96 Olympiad semifinal deal.

Dealer South. EW Vul.

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

West <i>Manoppo</i>	North <i>Koch-Palmund</i>	East <i>Lasut</i>	South <i>Auken</i>
--	--	--	2 NT
Pass	6 NT	Pass	Pass
Pass			

In the Open Series, the Danish pair missed the cold six clubs and reached a shaky six no trump with the North-South cards. Manoppo, West for Indonesia, led a low spade. After a low one from dummy, East put in the ten. On a double dummy basis, there are two ways to make six no trump. One way is to duck the first trick and then lead the spade queen from dummy to set up a spade-diamond squeeze against West.

The other way, however, is more interesting. Just take the first trick and run four rounds of clubs, as Auken did.

This is the position:

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

The fourth round of club forced West to give up his heart guard, or declarer could have set up a spade or run the diamonds. This made East carry the burden of both majors. At that point, cashing all the minor tricks would have materialized a squeeze without the count against East. So it's a 'non-simultaneous double squeeze without the count'.

All very well, but, as Kokish remarked in the World Championship Book, this would have required a perfect read, and Auken went for the simple diamond finesse, retaining a later club entry to dummy for the 'good' diamonds. Had he made the hand, Denmark, rather than Indonesia, would have played France in the Final.

The Saga of Missed Chances

By Ib Lundby, Fredensborg, Denmark

I'll give you a deal from the final round of the qualification for the Danish Team Championships. Team Lars Blakset won, ahead of the Peter Schaltz, Poul Clemmensen and Steen Schou squads, and these four teams will play the finals on March 1-2, 2003.

The hand was played at twelve tables in our First Division - seven of them with the same result after almost the same defence and play, which includes two end plays, an underruff by declarer, plus a trump coup:

Dealer West. Both Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Pass	Pass	1 ♣	1 ♠
2 ♣	Pass	Pass	2 ♥
Pass	2 ♠	Pass	Pass
Pass			

There were several ways to succeed in two spades played by South - one of those Souths was Nis Graulund.

The club three was led to the ace, which gave East a chance to defeat the contract. He has to shift to a low diamond NOW - but nobody found that until afterwards. The actual club return went to the king, and South ruffed the third club. The diamond king took the next trick, but West was end played on the diamond ace. He escaped with the ten of hearts, which ran to the jack. After the spade king held, South continued with the heart ace and a heart to East - the second end play.

At this point, a spade would have made it easy, and a diamond would go to dummy for a trump lead - therefore East tried a club, which South carefully ruffed with the spade seven in his hand, and just as carefully overruffed with the eight in dummy. After the queen of diamonds to pitch the heart queen, South made the spade queen on a coup. Eight tricks and plus 110.

Even a world champion failed on this deal:

Dealer West. Both Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Sabine Auken	Steen Schou	Martin Schaltz	Hans Christian Nielsen
1 ♣	Pass	1 NT	Double (?)
3 NT	4 ♣ (!)	Pass	4 ♥
Pass	Pass	Pass	

West led the ace of clubs and must cash the heart ace before she continues with a minor to defeat the contract.

At the table, West shifted to a diamond (East had played a low club at trick one) at trick two, and declarer was able to win the ace over the queen and king, ruff the club queen in dummy, play two rounds of diamonds, and a trump. West was end played. Ten tricks resulted.

What about three no trumps for East-West?

West	North	East	South
Knud-Aage Boesgaard	Morten Andersen	Andreas Marquardsen	Søren Christiansen
1 ♣	Pass	1 ♦	1 ♥
3 ♣	Pass	3 NT	Pass
Pass	Pass		

There seems to be nine tricks, but there is a blocking situation which spoils this. Three no trumps was (mis?)played at the other table, as follows. The heart queen was led and went to the ace. East cashed the club ace and king, unblocking the jack and ten, and followed with a club to the nine.

Now you can establish a spade trick, but are not able to cash the heart king first. Well, you forget about the heart king and lead a spade through South. Very kindly he plays a low spade (he has to take the spade ace and get out with his low spade to beat you). Now you can make three no trumps by playing the spade king and another spade! South must give you a red king as your ninth trick.

That was not what actually happened. After the spade king held, declarer first cashed his club tricks, thereby giving South the opportunity to get rid of the spade ace, but South apparently liked that card. He threw away all his hearts instead, and now he was endplayed with the spade ace. Did declarer make the contract?

No - when South, in with the spade ace, exited with a low diamond to the queen, East played the diamond five! I guess he expected North to take the diamond ace, because an "Oops" followed ... and his play stopped in mid-air - the diamond five did not touch the table. The Tournament Director correctly ruled that the diamond five was a played card, so the defense made the remaining tricks - one off.

Not a thing of beauty, but a funny one! Both these teams qualified for the final.

Board 57

(World Championship Book Excerpt IV)

By Eric Kokish, Toronto

The Rosenblum Semifinals were coming to a tense close. The result of both matches was in the balance when a remarkable series of boards featuring four of a major v. three no trump game decisions occurred. This was one. The board is remarkable in that the goings-on at every table were of interest. It's four for the price of one here!

Dealer North. EW Vul.

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

Poland vs Indonesia. Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Mariani</i>	<i>Manoppo</i>	<i>Burgay</i>	<i>Lasut</i>
--	Pass	1 ♦ ¹	Pass
1 ♥ ²	Pass	1 NT	Pass
2 ♣ ³	Pass	2 ♦ ⁴	Pass
2 ♥ ⁵	Pass	4 ♠	Pass
Pass	Pass		

1. Strong, FI
2. Negative; or positive relay
3. Inquiry
4. Some four-card major
5. Four spades

Poland vs Indonesia. Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Karwur</i>	<i>Balicki</i>	<i>Sacul</i>	<i>Adam Z.</i>
--	Pass	1 ♣ ¹	1 ♠ ²
1 NT	2 ♣ ³	Pass	2 ♦
Double ⁴	3 ♦	3 ♠	Pass
4 ♠	Pass	Pass	Pass

1. Strong, FI
2. At least 5/4, blacks or reds
3. Pass or correct
4. Stayman

Italy vs Sweden. Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Versace</i>	<i>Lindkvist</i>	<i>Lauria</i>	<i>Fredin</i>
--	Pass	2 ♦ ¹	Pass
3 ♣ ²	Pass	3 ♦ ³	Pass
3 ♥ ⁴	Pass	4 ♠	Pass
Pass	Pass		

1. 18-20 balanced
2. Stayman
3. No five-card major; no four hearts
4. Four spades

Italy vs Sweden. Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Nystrom</i>	<i>Bocchi</i>	<i>Bertheau</i>	<i>Duboin</i>
--	Pass	1 ♣ ¹	1 ♥
Pass ²	Pass	Double	Pass
2 ♥	Pass	2 ♠	Pass
4 ♠	Pass	Pass	Pass

1. Strong, FI
2. 0-4 control points (3\2\1 scale); might be enough to force to game

Like the previous deal, Board 57 offers East-West a choice between three no trump and four of a major. Unlike Board 56, however, no one chose no trumps, which would have been easier to play than four spades: in fact, it more or less plays itself.

Against Burgay, Lasut led three rounds of hearts. Manoppo ruffed, thought for a good minute, and returned the seven of clubs, a non-systemic spot card. Burgay won the ace, drew trumps (Manoppo discarding first the club three, then the diamond five) and led the diamond

queen, which Manoppo covered. Declarer crossed to the diamond jack and led the jack of clubs. When Manoppo followed with the six, Burgay, deceived by Manoppo's defence (a diamond switch seemed clearly indicated to Burgay, whether or not he held the king), rose with the club king and went down in his vulnerable game: minus 100.

Zmudzinski also started with three rounds of hearts and Balicki, like Manoppo, switched to the seven of clubs, also a non-systemic card. Sacul was not inclined to try to drop the club queen and so needed the finesse. To keep open his best overall chance in clubs, he let the seven run to dummy's ten. He drew three rounds of trumps ending in hand and cashed the club ace, so now he needed the diamond finesse too. He ruffed the fourth club in dummy, passed the queen of diamonds, and claimed plus 620. Twelve IMPs to Indonesia, who reclaimed the lead, 116-110.

Had Bertheau reopened one heart with one no trump, certainly a sensible alternative to his takeout double, Nystrom would not have bothered to look for a spade fit with ten-fourth of hearts and would have raised directly to three no trumps. With that practical route to the game bonus no longer available Bertheau also had to negotiate four spades on three rounds of hearts and a diamond switch. He rose with the ace, played the spade king, a spade to the ace, and passed the club jack successfully.

With the fragile entry position, Bertheau needed to play a second club now if he were to pick up queen-nine-fourth in North, so he continued with the club ten, which Bocchi covered. Duboin's ruff was the setting trick and he could have crossed to the king of diamonds for two down. He lost his concentration for a moment, however, and led the heart jack. Bertheau ruffed with the queen of spades, led the spade seven to dummy's eight, and finessed the club eight to discard dummy's losing diamond. Dummy had a long trump at trick thirteen: minus 100.

Faced with the same start, Lauria also rose with the ace of diamonds, but he continued with three rounds of trumps ending in dummy to pass the club jack. Lindkvist covered the club ten, however, and Lauria was a trick short. He could re-enter dummy with the spade eight to pick up North's nine of clubs but would be left with a losing diamond in the end: minus 100. Italy was still ahead by 19 IMPs, 103-84.

Rising with the diamond ace to rely on four club tricks does seem better than relying on the 25% chance of winning both minor-suit finesses, but even after this unfortunate start, four spades could have been made, and perhaps the winning line is not so far-fetched. Cash the king of spades and note the fall of North's ten or nine; finesse the eight of trumps (relying on the restricted

choice implications, making tripleton jack-ten-nine much less likely than ten-nine doubleton); pass the club jack; ruff the heart ten; come to the spade ace and play the last trump in this end position:

```

      ♠ --
      ♥ --
      ♦ K
      ♣ Q 9 7

♠ 5
♥ --
♦ J
♣ 10 5

      ♠ --
      ♥ --
      ♦ 6
      ♣ A K 8

      ♠ --
      ♥ --
      ♦ 10 9 7 3
      ♣ --
  
```

North is squeezed in the minors.

IBPA Column Service

By Barry Rigal, New York City

(No permission or attribution required.)

222. Marty Hirschman is one of those players who might be better known for his offspring rather than for his own abilities. He is the father of two sons, Sam and Dan, both of whom at one time or another were the youngest Life Masters in the ACBL. But Marty is no mean player himself. On the deal that follows, he spotted his only chance and played for it. It was only justice that the cards cooperated.

Dealer East. Both Vul.

```

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

♠ Q 4 3
♥ --
♦ J 9 7 6 3
♣ 10 8 7 5 3

      ♠ K J 6 2
      ♥ J 5
      ♦ K
      ♣ A K Q 9 6 2

      ♠ A 9 8
      ♥ A Q 10 9 4 2
      ♦ Q 8 5
      ♣ J
  
```

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

1. Preemptive

West's raise to three clubs was weak rather than a limit raise, but it did not prevent Marty from reaching four hearts. A club lead was followed by a spade switch. Hirschman ducked this trick and won the next spade. He noted at once that he could endplay his opponents to lead diamonds for him - but that in itself would not be enough since all it would do was to hold the diamond losers to one, and he needed to avoid a diamond loser altogether to make his contract.

Marty actually needed a singleton diamond honour in one defender's hand to have any chance, and since West had made a preemptive raise, he decided to play East for the bare king.

Therefore he drew trumps, cashed the ace of diamonds, and exited with the third spade. The defence was helpless now - a diamond would give up the defence's trick in that suit, and anything else would concede a ruff and discard to allow the diamond loser to vanish.

223. Michael Einberg, playing with David Sokolow in the qualifying event for a recent North American Swiss teams, found a neat defence on the following deal. Although the play may seem obvious, it defeated the many-times champion and newspaper columnist in the West seat at the other table. In this case all the news was definitely not fit to print.

Dealer West. Both Vul.

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

Both tables reached four spades from the South seat, with EW silent, and both declarers received a trump lead, which they won in dummy. They decided to run the jack of clubs, and West won his queen, to play a second trump. Both declarers won cheaply in hand, and now came the king of clubs. At one table West covered this; declarer ruffed, and played a heart to the queen. West took this and played a third club, but declarer could take the trick in hand, draw trumps and give up a diamond. Ten tricks made.

Einberg was West at the other table. At trick four he ducked the king of clubs, forcing declarer to ruff a club in dummy at the next trick (which cost his side a tempo, by helping to establish clubs for the defence). Now Einberg got in with the king of diamonds, and forced declarer by leading yet another club. South had to ruff, and could draw trumps, but now had no spades left. Since diamonds did not behave, and the ace of hearts was with West, who had a long club ready to cash, declarer was down, no matter what he did.

224. Sometimes a defence can seem so obvious that you may be blinded to the subtler points of the deal. Consider this hand from a knockout tournament in Vancouver.

Dealer North. Neither Vul.

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

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

1. Majors

After North had bravely backed in over the strong no trump, she found that South could not take a joke. The contract of three spades looked uncomfortably high when West hit on the trump lead - but it was too easy for East to switch to autopilot and not to consider the finer points of the defence.

Although it looks natural to win and play two more rounds of trumps, East should look a bit deeper than that. If partner has a top diamond honour (unlikely, since South must have an opening bid to justify the invitation to game), it is only a question of how many undertricks you collect.

Similarly, if declarer has either three or five diamonds to the ace-king, your play is irrelevant; either way, partner has an easy choice of discards. So why not cater to the one relevant holding, namely that West has precisely four diamonds to the ten? You must cherish your partner, who will have to find a discard on the third trump, and who may not appreciate that retaining his ten of diamonds is crucial to the defence. If you lead out trumps at once, West will have an inconvenient discard to make at trick three; look at those club and heart holdings.

This is actually what happened at the table, but fortunately for the defence, West was a good enough player to find the club discard, which on reflection is unlikely to cost. Nevertheless, East did not have to put him to the test. He should have shifted to the jack of diamonds at trick two. Now when he wins the ace of hearts and leads two more rounds of trumps, he has clarified his holding in the critical suit, and it makes West's life easier.

225. Paul Vickers is a UK expatriate resident in the USA. He was playing in the Fall NABC in Orlando, and took advantage of a defensive slip to make an unlikely number of tricks on the following deal, which took place in the first semi-final of the Blue Ribbon Pairs, the premier pairs event in the North American calendar.

Dealer West. NS Vul.

♠ A Q 8 4
♥ Q J 9
♦ A Q J 10 7 5
♣ --

♠ K
♥ 5 4 3
♦ 9 2
♣ A K 9 6 5 4 2

♠ J 7 6 2
♥ A 8 6
♦ K 8 4
♣ J 8 3

♠ 10 9 5 3
♥ K 10 7 2
♦ 6 3
♣ Q 10 7

West	North	East	South
3 ♣	Double	Pass	3 ♥
Pass	4 ♦	Pass	4 ♠
Pass	Pass	Pass	

Four spades looks like a lot of hard work, with three certain losers, and possible overruffs coming in diamonds.

However, it didn't quite work out like that.

On the top club lead, Vickers ruffed, and decided the diamond finesse was sure to lose. So he cashed the ace of diamonds as West thoughtlessly played low, then ran the queen of diamonds successfully when East decided to duck in order not to clarify the position in that suit for declarer! Now the queen of hearts lost to the ace and the jack of clubs was covered by the queen and king and ruffed in dummy.

Vickers cashed the ace of spades, ruffed a diamond, went back to the queen of spades and ran the diamonds. Despite the fact that East had two trumps including the master, he could score only one more trick. If he ruffed low, Paul would overruff and lead out winners. If, as happened at the table, East discarded hearts, Paul did the same and in the two-card ending he could lead dummy's heart and overruff East, to finish up with eleven tricks and an impressive +450.

Email: ibpaeditor@sympatico.ca

Style Guide

Since I used to be an English teacher in my former life, I am interested in language and linguistics, too. When I started my bridge column two years ago, I was aware of the need to be consistent in those areas you identified in your recent editorial (issue 455). Very quickly I located Richard Pavlicek's excellent manual, "Bridge Writing Style Guide." Whenever I have a problem, I consult Pavlicek's guide. I have yet to encounter a difficulty that he had not covered.

With respect to your concern about "the two of spades", Pavlicek states, "Bids and cards, when shown with a symbol (or NT), should always use numerals." He warns against mixing numerals with words or symbols with words; however, he doesn't state a preference for using one method over the other (words vs. symbols with numerals).

I have found it difficult to be consistent about this in my own writing. Sometimes the symbol (which, unfortunately, I can't render in this text format) works best; sometimes the full words do. In my most recent article, I used words to describe declarer playing the ace of diamonds rather than using the symbol for the ace of diamonds. The words sounded clearer to my inner ear; I wanted the reader to say ace of diamonds, not diamond ace when reading the text.

Generally, that is the criterion I use when deciding whether to write "two of spades" or use the symbol. I consider the symbol more a visual representation of the card. When I want the reader to say the card's name, I use words. Maybe this is just a quirk of mine; I don't know. Perhaps I should be consistent and always use the symbol to represent the card.

At any rate, yes, this topic interests this IBPA member. I would dearly love not to see in bulletins the heading, "Italy Take the Lead" or "Russia Move Further Ahead". That, I fear, is a bit of a dicey problem, though, as North Ameri-

Correspondence ...

The Editor reserves the right to shorten correspondence cans and British treat collective-type nouns differently. The British tend to use the plural form with collective nouns; in North American schools, we teach students to use the singular unless you are referring to the individual members of the group.

If you haven't done so already, you might consider looking at Pavlicek's guide. It's easily available on his web site. Is The Bridge World's style manual available?

Happy New Year,

Malcolm Ewashkiw

Yes, it's available at www.bridgeworld.com - Ed.

Permission and Attribution

The newest Bulletins don't have a column service. Can I use hands from the Bulletin in the Kibitzer if I give credit?

Regards,

Susan Bracken

Basically, yes, but see the Editorial for a fuller explanation.
- Ed.

African News

Could you please mention under a by-line heading titled African News that the 50th South African National Congress and the 2nd African Bridge Federation Zonal Congress will be run concurrently at "The Links", 147-10th Street, Linksfield, Johannesburg, South Africa, from June 11-22, 2003. Also, could you put it in the World Bridge Calendar.

There will be African Zonal Playoffs for the Bermuda Bowl and Venice Cup as well as Zonal and South African Pairs and Teams Championships. Readers can log on to our website at <http://get.to/sabf> for more information.

Regards,

Julius Butkow, Johannesburg, South Africa

World Bridge Calendar

Dates	Event	Location	Information
2003			
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	Canary Islands, Spain	Ivan Acevedo 34-922-380 550
Apr 11-12	4 th Seafood Bridge Festival	Figueira da Foz, Portugal	Sonia.almeida@casinofigueira.pt
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 22-27	18 th Portuguese Grand Prix	Estoril, Portugal	www.fpbridge.pt
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	Menor, Murcia, Spain	bridgecc@hotmail.com
May 21-29	USBF Women's Team Trials	Orlando, FL	www.usbf.org
May 22-25	Bridge Pro Tour Cleveland Open	Cleveland, OH	www.bridgeprotour.com
May 24-31	CACBF Championships (WBF Zone 5)	Martinique	dabreteaujy@wanadoo.fr
Jun 1-9	USBF Open Team Trials	Memphis, TN	www.usbf.org
Jun 3-7	CBF Bridge Week	Penticton, BC	www.cbf.ca
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 11-22	50 th South African National Congress	Johannesburg, South Africa	http://get.to/sabf
Jun 11-22	2 nd African Bridge Federation Zonal Congress	Johannesburg, South Africa	http://get.to/sabf
Jun 14-28	European Open Championships	Menton, Côte d'Azur, France	www.eurobridge.org
Jun 26-28	Bridge Pro Tour Las Vegas Open III	Las Vegas, NV	www.bridgeprotour.com
Jul 1-13	Biarritz International Bridge Festival	Biarritz, France	www.biarritz-bridge.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
Jul 26-30	European University Championships	Wroclaw, Poland	ebf@federbridge.it
Jul 26-Aug 3	9 th Bridge Festival	Skövde, Sweden	www.bridgefederation.se
Jul 26-31	Chairman's Cup	Skövde, Sweden	www.bridgefederation.se
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
Oct 1-5	VII Azores International Tournament	São Miguel, Azores, Portugal	acortravel@mail.telepac.pt
Oct 22-26	10 th International Bridge Festival	Figueira da Foz, Portugal	sonia.almeida@casinofigueira.pt
Nov	World Bridge Championships	Monte Carlo	www.worldbridge.org
Nov 10-16	6 th International Bridge Open	Madeira, Portugal	www.bridge-madeira.com
Nov 16-22	III International Bridge Festival	La Habana-Varadero, Cuba	www.cacbf.com
Nov 16-23	9 th Red Sea Festival	Eilat, Israel	birmand@inter.net.il
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
Jun 20-24	Chairman's Cup	Malmö, Sweden	www.bridgefestival.net
Jun 20-Jul 2	10 th Bridge Festival	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