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Editor: JOHN CARRUTHERS

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EDITORIAL

We have received a very interesting letter from Dr. Prakash Paranjape of India. In a wide-ranging dissertation, Dr. Paranjape identifies what he believes are some crucial issues for the IBPA. His letter, reprinted in the Correspondence section, has been edited for length, leaving only the issues he raises for the IBPA. Other issues Dr. Paranjape raises were directed at the WBF and national bridge organisations.

One of the critical issues for Dr. Paranjape (and many others) refers to the benefits of IBPA membership. Naturally, I am a little biased, believing that the Bulletin alone is worth the price of membership. It is, however, true that unless one attends major championships, one misses out on ancillary benefits of IBPA membership such as the luncheons, press conferences, and other perquisites associated with membership. On the other hand, we do have cash prize competitions, such as the Menton Clippings Competition, which return a significant amount of cash to the lucky members whose names are drawn. One does have to make some effort to enter these competitions, however. For the money, I believe the IBPA delivers good value.

Another issue raised by Dr. Paranjape is that of Bulletin content. He poses the question of variety of material, and asks about the idea of publishing columns on (1) bidding, and (2) tournament organisation. One of the things I've tried to do as Editor has been to introduce a little more variety into the Bulletin. I must admit, though, I had not thought of publishing material on bidding or tournament organisation. There are two reasons for this. One is that I thought those subjects were well-enough represented in other journals such as *The Bridge World*, *Bridge*, *IMP*, *Bridge Today*, and other non-English publications. The second is that I hadn't received any submissions about them suitable for publication. That is not to say that we could not publish such material. I can think of members who might be willing to submit such material if prodded. Do other members have any interest in seeing articles on these subjects? I can promise you that all material submitted will be considered for publication, and no submission will be rejected based solely on the subject matter. In one area mentioned by Prakash as lacking, that of bridge promotion, the Bulletin has taken recent steps to publish such material, notably the *Bridge Pro Tour* series by Matthew Granovetter.

As for the issue of the IBPA developing a method of player rating, surely that is the purview of National Contract Bridge Organisations and the World Bridge Federation. Indeed, they have already done so, and the IBPA would be duplicating their efforts if it undertook such a scheme.

Dr. Paranjape also comments that, apart from the Bulletin, he sees no effort on the part of the IBPA to better position its members. Certainly it is easy to see that a member from a WBF Zone other than Zone 1 or Zone 2 who does not attend major championships could have that view. For those from all Zones who do attend the major championships, however, it is clear that the IBPA has developed a very successful working relationship with the WBF in establishing standards for Press Rooms, recording the details of the championships, and disseminating news of import. His point is well-taken, though, and we would do well to heed his advice if we wish, as we do, to expand and diversify IBPA membership. That's a worthwhile challenge for the IBPA Executive to consider.

Last month I urged all members to contribute to the Bulletin regardless of their command of English, promising that, for publication, we'd do our best to see that their submissions were literate (insofar as we could make them so!). Now I'm setting myself a new challenge – if you want to submit a piece in your own language, I'll do my best to see it translated faithfully for publication. I believe we could handle any European language, Chinese, Japanese, Arabic and Hebrew. And I'd be willing to give any other language a try. Delays in publication could be expected though, while translation proceeds. No guarantees can be offered!

I've been having occasional difficulties with my e-mail system. Thus, if you have sent me a submission that you don't see published within a couple of issues, it may be for some technical reason, rather than one of merit. Please do not be reticent about re-sending it.

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A PHILADELPHIA STORY

North American Championship Winners at the Spring NABCs

- **Vanderbilt Knockout Teams** – Nick Nickell, Richard Freeman, Bob Hamman, Paul Soloway, Eric Rodwell, Jeff Meckstroth
- **North American Pairs** – Steve Landen, Michael Zerbini
- **Open Pairs I** – Ralph Katz, Michael Rosenberg
- **Senior Pairs** – Roger Lord, Alan Popkin
- **Mixed Pairs** – Corinne & Jim Kirkham
- **Open Pairs II** – Eric Greco, Geoff Hampson
- **Women’s Pairs** – Joan Eaton, Candace Griffey
- **Open Swiss Teams** – Peter Bertheau, Fredrik Nystrom, Fulvio Fantoni, Claudio Nunes, Christal Henner, Fred Gitelman
- **Women’s Swiss Teams** – Valerie Westheimer, Judi Radin, Mildred Breed, Shawn Quinn

The deals that follow are taken from the ACBL’s Daily Bulletins from the Spring NABC in Philadelphia. Those with no byline can be attributed to Editors Brent Manley and Henry Francis of Memphis TN.

The Greats

By Don Krauss, Los Angeles

The Philadelphia Daily Bulletins carried photos, biographies and stories of some of Philly’s great players from the past, such as B. Jay Becker, John Crawford, Charles Goren, Norman Kay and Helen Sobel Smith. Krauss tells a great story, and being one to share...

1. Charles Goren and Harry Fishbein traveled to a tournament in upstate New York. Each was playing with a different partner. Goren won five events with his partner. Fishbein was second in each of the contests won by Goren.

On the way home, Fishbein commented to Goren: “I bet I beat you in one thing this trip, Charlie.”

Said Goren: “What would that be, Harry?”

Fishbein: “I made off with five bars of soap from the hotel.”

Goren’s rejoinder: “Second again.”

2. As an experienced gambler, John Crawford never wanted to bet anyone more than that person could pay. After all, if you win a \$100 bet from someone who can’t pay more than \$50, you probably won’t even get the \$50.

All this was relevant when Crawford’s team - Howard Schenken, Edgar Kaplan, and Norman Kay - was playing a practice match against the sextet of Sam Stayman-Vic Mitchell, Robert Jordan-Arthur Robinson and Bob Hamman-Don Krauss prior to

their competing in the World Bridge Olympiad in New York City in 1964. The practice game was at the Regency Whist Club in New York City.

Before the match, Crawford set out to make bets on the outcome with each member of the other team. Crawford bet Stayman \$500. The bet was \$200 for Jordan, and \$50 each for Mitchell and Robinson. When he got to Hamman and Krauss, the two young hotshots, Crawford asked, “Can you two afford \$10 each?” We said yes.

Sure enough, Crawford’s team won, and we all had to pay up. Between Hamman and me, we had \$27. After we paid off on the bet, we had just enough for cab fare back to the hotel.

3. Helen Sobel Smith was playing with Charlie Goren, who, as usual, was surrounded by admiring female kibitzers who fawned over him. Charlie was more famous from his television show, books and columns than any other player of his day. Late in the session, one of these effusive ladies leaned over and asked Smith, “What’s it like to play with the world’s greatest player?” Smith replied ingenuously, with a nod toward Goren, “I don’t know. Ask him!”

My Son the Genius

By Zia Mahmood, New York City

If you don’t see me winning any tournaments for a while, don’t be surprised. It’s not that I am becoming senile (that, too), but I am too busy playing with my one-and-a-half-year-old son, Zain. That means that at times when I should be reading the system notes, I am gleefully playing soccer in the park.

Naturally, the important question looming is, “Should I encourage him to learn bridge?” My gut reaction is no. I wouldn’t like him to spend his life as I did, albeit with great passion, in the pursuit of a one-suit squeeze.

And what if the dream I had the other night was a look into the future? In it, my son (aged about ten) returned home from a bridge lesson. He was furious! “The teacher told me I wasn’t any good,” he complained.

“What happened?” I asked.

“I held four hearts – king, queen, ten, seven - against a four spade contract. Partner led the heart nine. I played the queen and declarer won the ace. Later when I got in, I played the heart ten, and declarer won his stiff jack.”

“That does sound wrong,” I said. “You know the rule about cashing winners in suit contracts.”

“Of course,” Zain said, “but it was you who taught me that there are always exceptions. This had been the bidding:”

West	North	East	South
--	--	Zain	
2 ♡	Pass	I ♡	Double
Pass	Pass	Pass	4 ♠

With a superhuman effort, I restrained myself from commenting on the agricultural bidding as Zain went on, “I played the queen of hearts on the lead of the nine, and declarer won the

ace. He now played the club three, partner played the two, and I took dummy's ten with the ace. I was about to play the king of hearts when I stopped to think. It seemed the whole deal would look like this (with declarer likely to hold seven spades and one club):"

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

"If I played the king of hearts and another heart, declarer would ruff and play a low spade to dummy's eight. I would be end played into giving declarer a trick and a dummy entry, so it seemed the only chance was to sacrifice a heart trick."

"But exiting with the heart seven wouldn't work either. Declarer would win his jack, lead a spade to dummy's eight and my queen. Now if I played the heart ten, declarer would discard a diamond and I would still have to give dummy an entry."

"No, the only card to defeat the contract was the ten of hearts. That way, I could later play the heart seven, and declarer could not afford to discard, since partner could win the trick. That's when the teacher got angry."

But I could see my son was correct. What a defense! Brilliant! Experts could look at all four hands and never see the position. I was excited and thrilled, until I started to see the follow-up scenarios: Eddie Kantar and Barry Rigal hounding my son endlessly for hands; Bob Hamman chasing him to play in the Blue Ribbon Pairs. And worse, endless hours in chat rooms on the Internet, discussing double dummy problems with Kevin Rosenberg (son of Michael and Debbie).

I knew then that it must never happen. I had to put in place a three-step plan to stop this before it actually occurred:

1. Build a higher shelf in the bathroom on which I could hide *Adventures in Card Play* by Geza Ottlik and Hugh Kelsey (from which this deal is unashamedly lifted).
2. Make sure my son never heard the name of Eric Kokish - coach *di tutti* coaches.
3. Wake up.

(Perhaps Zain should have stopped to think before winning the ace, not afterward. Does it not seem that ducking the club ace always leads to declarer's defeat? - Ed.)

Cover an Honour?

By Barry Rigal, New York City

The rule is: Cover an honour with an honour. Is this always the right thing to do? No! Look at Board 16 from the second qualifying session of the Open Pairs I where best defense could give declarer a very nasty problem.

Dealer West. EW Vul.

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

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

The above was the typical auction. On a heart lead to the jack, king and ace, declarer cashed the ace and king of diamonds, and led to the club queen. East took his ace to return a heart. Declarer knocked out the diamond queen and claimed the rest.

Compare that with what happens if East ducks the first heart. Declarer would be in dummy and would lead to the top diamonds in his hand. Then he would play a club to the queen and ace. East now wins the ace and leads the heart king, and declarer would have to win in hand and would be an entry short of bringing in the diamonds.

So what to do? Would you criticize a declarer who played the percentages and took a finesse of the club nine? After all, that way you get back to par against all the other declarers who were lucky enough to have East cover with the heart king on the opening lead. If you took the club finesse, don't cry, just smile. Leni Holtz, in partnership with Tobi Sokolow, made the nice play of ducking the heart and was duly rewarded when declarer took the club finesse.

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That Fine Line

At match pointed pairs, it's not uncommon to be facing a zero on a board, yet wind up with a top. On one round from the second final session of the North American Pairs, the winners, Steve Landen and Michael Zerbini, found themselves in that position twice. They survived the tightrope walk to win the event. This was the first board.

Dealer South. Neither Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Landen</i>		<i>Zerbini</i>	
--	--	--	Pass
Pass	1 NT	Pass	3 NT
Pass	Pass	Pass	

Considering the mirror distribution and lack of ruffing possibilities, three no trump is clearly a better contract than four spades. Declarer could lose a spade trick and still make his no trump game, whereas losing a trump trick in a spade game would likely result in a minus for North-South.

Zerbini made the normal lead of a club, taken in dummy with the queen. When declarer called for a spade, Landen put up the king. Declarer apparently took the spade king as a true card, winning the ace and playing the queen and another spade next, expecting East to win, which would prevent the defence from playing another club to good effect.

Imagine declarer's surprise when Landen won the spade jack. The club return established Zerbini's suit while he still had the heart ace as an entry. Declarer took only eight tricks to finish down one.

The next board was even dicier for the winners. Let's present it as a lead problem. You, West hold:

♠ 8 7 4 3
♥ K Q J
♦ K Q 9
♣ K 10 8

You are in first chair, not vulnerable versus vulnerable.

The bidding:

West	North	East	South
<i>Landen</i>		<i>Zerbini</i>	
1 NT	Pass	Pass	2 ♥
Pass	2 NT	Pass	3 ♦
Pass	Pass	Double	Pass
Pass	Pass		

All right, so you cheated a point on your opening no trump, taking advantage of the vulnerability and preemptive effect. What would you lead? The diamond king? Obvious, really, isn't it? Second choice? The heart king? Third choice? A passive spade? Not good enough!

Dealer West. NS Vul.

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

There's only one lead to defeat the diamond partial – a club. Note that even with West's strong trump holding and his partner's double, even on a trump lead, declarer can make three diamonds doubled. He wins the diamond ace, overtakes the spade queen to pitch two clubs and a heart, then arranges to ruff one heart in dummy and two clubs in hand. He makes plus 670 with the trump ace, the heart ace, a heart ruff, four spades and two club ruffs.

On a club lead, East can win the ace and continue the suit or switch to a trump. Either way, declarer comes up a trick short. On a trump switch, declarer can win the ace, take a club pitch when he runs dummy's spade winners, but when he plays a third round of clubs, East can ruff in with the diamond ten, and declarer would take no more tricks.

In practice, Landen led the a trump, the king, often a good move against a doubled part score, but declarer mistimed the play to finish down one for minus 200 and another top for the winners.

The Queens

By Andy Stark, Mississauga, ON

Playing against world champions brought out world class defense from the new partnership of Bharat Rao and Burrell Humphreys. In an early Vanderbilt match, Rao and Humphreys had the (mis)fortune to draw Giorgio Duboin and Norberto Bocchi of Italy, the current Rosenblum world champions.

A little backdrop: Rao had declared four or five hands against Duboin and Bocchi and each time one of them

was on lead, Rao thought to himself, "Gee, I hope they don't switch to this suit." And they would. Or, "Gee I hope they don't play that card." And they would. So, after the first 12 hands that old numbing feeling was sinking in, as in "These guys are way way too good." Then came this board:

Board 30. Dealer East. Neither Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Rao	Bocchi	Humphreys	Duboin
--	--	Pass	1 ♥
Pass	1 NT	Pass	2 ♦
Pass	4 ♥	Pass	Pass
Pass			

Humphreys passed as dealer, Duboin opened one heart, Rao passed and Bocchi bid one no trump, showing at least five spades. Duboin rebid two diamonds, which denied as many as three spades. Bocchi bid four hearts, ending the auction.

Rao led the club five. Duboin hopped up with the king in dummy to play a diamond to his ace and ruff a diamond in dummy. He returned to hand with the club ace and ruffed another diamond with the four. Now Duboin cashed the spade ace and Rao casually dropped his queen! Taking this at face value, Duboin called for the club nine from dummy, and now it was Humphreys' turn - he played his black queen! Duboin ruffed with the three and played the diamond queen, covered by the king, ruffed with the nine and overruffed with the ten. Humphreys now played the ten of clubs and the look on Duboin's face was well worth the price of admission (even if I didn't pay a cent).

Duboin shrugged and then ruffed the club with the eight of hearts as Rao pitched the five of spades. Next came the heart king. Rao won his ace and got out a diamond and claimed the last two hearts, his queen, seven of hearts sitting over declarer's jack, six.

Note that declarer is always cold for his contract by ruffing two diamonds in dummy and pitching another on the spade jack, the classic loser-on-loser play. Then, it is just a matter of powering out the trumps. However, by jettisoning his spade queen, Rao painted a different picture of the defensive layout. By throwing his club queen, Humphreys perpetuated the forgery. Well done, gentlemen. World class defense against a world class declarer.

The Ace

Barry Piafsky, playing with his father Don, knew just what to do with his diamond ace - at the crucial moment in the play he threw it away. The deal is from the first final session of the Sidney Silodor Open Pairs I.

Dealer North. NS Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
B. Piafsky	Lev	D. Piafsky	Milner
--	1 ♣	Pass	1 ♥
1 ♠	1 NT	Pass	3 NT
Pass	Pass	Pass	

The spade opening lead went to the king, and Sam Lev set up clubs by cashing the ace and leading another. Barry Piafsky found the best return - the diamond queen. Lev won this and led the jack of hearts, covered by the queen and won with dummy's ace. Lev then ran his black suit tricks. Barry saw that he was going to be endplayed in hearts if he held onto his diamond ace, so he threw it away on the last black trick.

When Lev exited with his diamond two, Don Piafsky went up with his jack just in case his partner had the ten. Dan then pushed a heart through dummy, setting up Barry's heart ten for the third defensive trick, a very fine result for the defense.

The Nine

On this deal from the Educational Fund Knockout Teams, Eddie Wold was very thankful for dummy's nine of spades, which helped him earn ten IMPs on the way to victory in the final. Wold was playing with Marc Jacobus.

Dealer South. Both Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
--	Jacobus	--	Wold
1 ♠	2 ♦ ²	Pass	1 ♣ ¹
2 ♠	3 ♦	Pass	2 ♥
Pass	4♥	Pass	4 ♣
Pass			Pass

1. Strong and artificial
2. Natural and game forcing

West started with a low heart, which ran to the six, seven, and ten. Wold played a club to the king, then back to the ace and ruffed a club, pleased to see the suit split favorably for him. He ruffed a diamond to hand and cashed the top hearts, stopping to assess the information to date.

The auction clearly indicated at least six spades in the West hand, and West had already followed to two hearts, three clubs and a diamond. It seemed very likely that West's shape was six-two-two-three. Taking advantage of the spade nine in dummy, Wold exited with a low spade away from his king.

West couldn't afford to duck. If he did, Wold would win the nine in dummy and ruff a diamond, establishing the king. He could then play club winners, and East would be stuck. If he ruffed in, he would have to lead into dummy's diamond tenace, allowing Wold to shed his two spades. If East refused to ruff, Wold would make eleven tricks with six trump tricks, four clubs and the spade nine.

In practice, West won the ten of spades and was duly endplayed, left with only spades and the diamond ace. Whatever West did, Wold was home. If West cashed the spade ace, the spade king would be Wold's tenth trick.

If West played his now-singleton ace of diamonds, Wold would ruff and play club winners, and East would face the same dilemma as before.

Note that if dummy's spades did not include the nine, West could duck and allow East to gain the lead. East would pick up Wold's last heart by cashing the queen and continue with a diamond. The defense would then prevail with a trump trick, two spades and the diamond ace. Plus 620 was good for a ten IMP gain since North-South at the other table played a part score.

The Sixes

Sam Lev's ingenious defense gave Bart Bramley fits on this deal from the second final session of the Sidney Silodor Open Pairs I.

Dealer West. NS Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Lev	Bramley	Milner	Lazard
1 ♣	Pass	1 ♥	1 ♠
2 ♥	Pass	Pass	Double
Redouble	3 ♦	Pass	Pass
Pass			

Considering the vulnerability, Bramley wasn't all that happy with his contract. Somehow, he had to find eight tricks and go down just one if his side was going to get a reasonable score. Things looked even worse when Reese Milner led the ten of clubs - Bart's king was caught in the middle. But he saw a silver lining - if Milner's second club were the eight, then eventually Bart's six would become the master in the suit. So he covered with the king and lost to the ace.

At many tables, West continued with clubs here, but Lev realized the same thing Bramley had - the six would be the master eventually. So Lev switched to a heart, planning to try for a trump promotion eventually. Dummy's ace took Milner's king, and Bramley called for another heart to set up dummy's ten.

Lev won with the heart queen and cashed the queen and jack of clubs, Milner discarding a heart. But he didn't lead the fourth club - he switched back to a heart, giving Bramley a number of choices. After careful thought, he finally threw his good club six. "That card had accomplished its mission," said Bramley.

Next he cashed the top spades, noting that Lev followed with the jack on the second round. Bramley led a third spade, intending to ruff low, but Lev wasn't about to let that happen - he ruffed with the seven, forcing Bramley to overruff with the ten. By this time Bramley knew East had the jack of diamonds. Why?

Because Lev had already shown up with fourteen high card points in a balanced hand. If he had had 15, he would have opened one no trump instead of one club. So Bramley led a trump, putting in the nine from dummy to force the ace. Lev followed through on his heart plan by leading a fourth round of the suit, and Bramley ruffed with the four, forcing Milner to ruff with the eight. Bramley overruffed that with the king.

When Bramley led a spade, the diamond six came into its own. Lev's only remaining trump was the two, so Bramley was able to ruff with the six as Milner helplessly followed suit. He won the last trick with the trump queen, having completely neutralized Milner's trump jack. That was down one - the result Bramley was shooting for from the outset. "We managed to salvage 59 of the 90 matchpoints available," said Bramley.

The Ten

Sue Picus arrived at slam on this deal. That was the easy part. Making twelve tricks was not so easy. If the defense had started with a spade she would have had no chance.

Dealer East. EW Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
--	--	1 ♦	2 ♥
Pass	Pass	3 ♣	Pass
3 ♥	Pass	6 ♦	Pass
Pass	Pass		

Not surprisingly, the opening lead was the queen of hearts. Picus gratefully discarded her two spades on the top hearts and ruffed a third heart. She drew trumps and stopped to do a little counting.

North had shown out on the third heart, so South had seven hearts. Therefore, South had nine red cards, because she had followed to two trumps. North had passed two hearts, so chances were he didn't have seven spades. That meant South had three spades, and therefore only a singleton club.

So Picus led a club from hand to the ten, queen and king. Following through on her initial conclusion that South had a singleton club, now revealed as the ten, she finessed North for the club jack and chalked up her slam.

Oh, Boye!

By P.O. Sundelin, Stockholm

On this deal from the third round of the Vanderbilt Knockout Teams, Norway's Boye Brogeland showed his skill as a declarer. Brogeland was playing with Tony Forrester on the Rita Shugart squad against John Schermer and Neil Chambers of the Larry Mori team.

Dealer North. Neither Vul.

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

The bidding was not recorded, but Brogeland declared three no trumps as East after he had opened one no

trump, and South, Chambers, had shown a spade suit. The defense put Brogeland to the test, but he came out on top.

Chambers started with a low spade to the ten and king. Brogeland played a diamond to the jack at trick two, and Schermer returned the spade jack to South's ace. The spade two cleared the suit and showed a potential entry in clubs. Brogeland discarded a club on the spade queen, played a diamond back to his hand, and advanced the nine of hearts, eight, two. Schermer ducked!

Brogeland cashed a third diamond, only to discover that South had started with four. Next came the heart ten, ducked again in dummy and by Schermer. At that point, however, South was feeling some pressure. He had to let go a spade, and when the heart king followed, this was the position:

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

To throw a diamond was fatal, but so was a spade, since then Brogeland could afford to give up a diamond to establish his ninth trick. So Chambers discarded the club nine. But Brogeland had no difficulty in executing the *coup de grâce*: the club ace and then the jack threw Schermer in for a stepping stone to dummy's heart ace.

At the other table, the less exciting contract of three spades, down three, was played by South.

Unusual Encouragement

The analysis sheet for the second qualifying session of the Mixed Pairs said, "only a difficult defense beats four spades." Brenda Jaffe and Marty Hirschman accomplished that feat.

Dealer West. NS Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Jaffe		Hirschman	
Pass	1 ♣	Pass	1 ♠
Pass	1 NT	Pass	3 ♠
Pass	4 ♠	Pass	Pass
Pass			

Jaffe opened the heart king and Hirschman followed with an encouraging six. So Jaffe cashed a second heart and led a third, won by the queen in dummy as declarer pitched a club. Now declarer had to lose the ace of trumps and the diamond queen. Although offside, the queen could have been picked up with a backward finesse in diamonds.

Hirschman gave the high signal in hearts because he realized that a minor suit switch would be tragic, enabling declarer to make his game. This was worth 53 matchpoints on a 64 top. (*In with the spade ace, with no more major suit cards and a diamond return giving the contract, East must have led the club jack to the queen, king and ace upon winning the spade ace. Thus the backward finesse in diamonds might be considered a better chance than the straightforward finesse, as the queen of diamonds with West would have given her a hand with which most would open the bidding. – Ed.*)

Overkill

By Barry Rigal, New York City

The definition of overkill is a complex one at bridge. Sometimes it could come about as the defensive problem of having too strong a combined holding against no trumps. More typically though, it relates to what happens when one team gets two outstanding results on the same deal and the IMP scale does not reflect it. From our second-round Vanderbilt match this example left both pairs feeling very happy.

Dealer South. NS Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Rigal		Aker	
--	--	--	1 ♠
2 ♣	3 ♠!	Pass	4 ♠
4 NT	Double	5 ♦	Pass
Pass	Double	Pass	Pass
Pass			

1. Mixed raise

Taking advantage of vulnerability, I guessed to bid four no trumps, and partner bid five diamonds, which was doubled. It was tough for North-South to bid on to five spades over five diamonds doubled. We conceded 300, which looked like a fair return for us against minus 650 in spades.

Our teammates were more adventurous:

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

You may not agree with John Diamond's hand evaluation – it was understandably successful though! Playing in hearts, the club loser in North can be discarded on the long spade. Plus 1430 meant a fifteen IMP pickup for the good guys.

Losing Tricks & Matches

By Barry Rigal, New York City

When you play against Malcolm Brachman's team, you have to take advantage of your opportunities. Here's one that got away:

Dealer South. Both Vul.

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

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

It's not easy to avoid playing four hearts here, but my two no trump opening bid saw Jeff Aker transfer to hearts and then offer no trump. I was happy to play for a swing by trying the no trump game. I was favoured with a low spade lead to the nine and ten. Now the obvious thing to do is to play on hearts. But how? I decided to make my best play for holding my losses to two by running the jack, losing to the queen.

Eddie Wold found the fine club shift - and I was toast when diamonds did not split and West turned up with the long club and the heart entry.

But of course I had misanalysed the deal. The right play

is to lead a heart to the king at trick two. If I did that, the defense wouldn't be able to stop me from setting up a ninth winner in clubs or hearts.

A Senior Moment

By Glenn Grotheim, Melhus, Norway

On day two of the Vanderbilt, the Grant Baze squad faced the Swedish National Junior Team that had pulled an upset over the Richie Schwartz sextet on the opening day of play. On this deal, Michael Whitman showed the Juniors how the Seniors play. Whitman was playing with team captain Grant Baze.

Dealer South. Neither Vul.

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

At the other table, North-South stopped in game and made eleven tricks for plus 450. Whitman and Baze bid the good heart slam. Whitman got the queen of spades opening lead. He rose with the ace, ruffed a spade and then played the club jack from hand. West didn't cover, so Whitman discarded a diamond from dummy.

When the club jack held, Whitman ruffed a low club and played a trump to his ace, discovering the bad break. Next came another low club ruffed in dummy, then the top diamonds and a diamond ruff. This was the position:

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

Whitman ruffed the club queen with the queen of hearts and East was forced to pitch his last diamond. When Whitman led a spade from dummy, East - down to all trumps - had to split his trump honors to keep Whitman from making his twelfth trick with the trump nine. That only postponed the inevitable, however, as Whitman discarded the club ace and had the heart king-nine over East's jack-four in the end for plus 980 and an eleven IMP swing on the way to victory.

Double, No Trouble

By P.O. Sundelin, Stockholm

Akihiko Yamada from Tokyo, playing with his spouse Kyoko Ohno, took advantage of a slight defensive slip to produce a neat ending and a top score in the second qualifying session of the Open Pairs II.

Board 13. Dealer North. Both Vul.

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

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

Kyoko's takeout double might not be everybody's choice as the king of spades rated to be unfavourably placed. But then everybody would not have got the score she did. Yamada wriggled from one four-three fit to the other, but had no more squares to run to after two hearts was doubled.

East, who shall remain anonymous, led his singleton spade to the six, jack, and queen. Yamada continued spades to the king and ace, East pitching a diamond. Three rounds of clubs followed. Yamada ruffed, then entered dummy with a diamond to play a heart to the ten. East won and - fatally - played back another heart to the king and ace.

That was all the help Yamada needed. He played a diamond to the king and another diamond to reach the following position with West on lead:

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

Whether East ruffs the spade return or not, he gets no more tricks.

Ruff and Promotion

By Barry Rigal, New York City

The defense has a number of manoeuvres available to them - in the trump area they have the ruff, and the up-percut and promotion. It is rare for one and the same defender to get an extra trick from both strategies, but Board 10 in the second qualifying session of the Open Pairs II showed North-South scoring well on defense by doing just that.

Dealer East. Both Vul.

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

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

I'm sure that the auction went around to West in third seat at many tables. He probably would open one spade as West did at our table - most macho men believe in four-card majors in third seat. North (me) overcalls two hearts, not liking it too much, but pair events require you to do this sort of thing. East bids two spades. How bad can it be to finish up at the two-level here? Plenty bad, as you'll see.

I led a diamond to the ten and queen, and John Diamond cashed his ace and gave me a ruff. Now the ace of hearts and another to the king saw the declarer run the club jack to my king. I cashed the heart queen, then led another heart. Dummy ruffed with the six and Diamond overruffed with the eight. Declarer took the trick with the trump jack. He cashed the club ace and ruffed the club queen in dummy.

Declarer next played dummy's last trump to the queen and my ace. I led my last heart at trick twelve. Diamond ruffed with the ten. When declarer overruffed, my spade nine was the third undertrick for plus 300, and 35 of a possible 38 matchpoints.

Thank You, Partner

By Barnet Shenkin, Boca Raton, Florida

Board 32 was a key deal in the Vanderbilt match between Richard Pavlicek and Charles Weed.

Dealer North. EW Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Shenkin	Levin	Jones	Weinstein
--	2 ♣	Pass	2 ♦
Pass	2 NT	Pass	4 ♣
Pass	4 ♥	Pass	6 NT
Pass	Pass	Pass	

Bobby Levin showed a hand with 22-23 points and three aces. East led a low diamond and declarer won in hand to play the diamond king and queen. I pitched two clubs and now declarer played a club to the king, which held the trick. On the diamond ten, dummy threw a club and I let my last club go.

Now declarer played the spade king and followed with the three top hearts. When he cashed the ace of spades he was at the crossroads. I still had the spade jack-four and the heart jack. If he guessed to play a heart, I would have to give dummy the last two tricks.

However, not unreasonably, he thought I held the club ace, in which case the spade queen, followed by the ten, would give him his twelve tricks. He thus played a spade and I won the last two tricks. Had my partner, Bob Jones, won his ace of clubs (or made a revealing hesitation), I would have had no defense. When declarer cashed his minor suit winners, I'd have had to unguard one of the major suits to give declarer his contract.

Jones's very nice play resulted in an eleven IMP swing to Pavlicek, instead of the same number the other way, as our teammates played in game.

Who Needs Stoppers?

Canada's Barry Harper wasn't going to tell us about this deal, but the article, "Real Men Don't Need Real Stoppers", in an earlier Bulletin, was like the gauntlet being thrown down.

Earlier in the week, in a knockout match, he had held:

♠ K 10
♥ K 10 9
♦ Q
♣ A K Q J 10 6 4

The bidding started Pass-Pass-3 \diamond , both vulnerable at IMPs, so of course he bid 3NT, and everyone passed. Left-hand opponent made the comment "I know this can't be right" as he led the diamond king (Harper of course thought it looked very right for East-West!).

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

Right-hand opponent knew Harper, and thought, "That lucky so-and-so has bid three no trump with the queen-deuce of diamonds, and just might make this stupid hand because diamonds are eight-one."

We all know what it's like when you get a fixed idea about a hand. Thinking that way, he discouraged diamonds with an upside down nine (hoping it was also a mild spade suit preference in case partner had the spade king-jack-ten to four and the heart ace).

Left-hand opponent saw his partner's diamond nine and Harper's queen and thought partner had opened with six to the ace in third seat, and that declarer thus had the queen-jack-ten of diamonds. So he shifted to a low spade. North-South took twelve tricks for plus 690 instead of East-West collecting the first eleven tricks!

Harper also had a stopper encounter against opponents he knew (and who knew him) at last fall's Phoenix NABC. After his partner's one club opening and a one heart overcall, he bid one no trump on a normal hand, but with only the jack-four-deuce of hearts. Hearts were raised and when opener bid two no trumps, Harper carried on to three no trumps.

The opponents' hearts were queen-seven-three opposite ace-king-ten-nine-five. When the three was lead to the king, right-hand opponent was concerned that Harper had bid no trump with queen-small of hearts (there seems to be a theme here), since jack to four was not possible. So he tried the heart ace. Left-hand opponent unblocked the queen and suddenly jack-four-two opposite eight-six was not only a stopper, it was a trick!

Technicians should note that if the opponents lead fourth best against no trump, you should play the two from jack-four-two, but if they play third best, you should false card with the four.

Clearly, Italy's Fulvio Fantoni, World Open Pairs Champion, is also a subscriber to this theory. Playing in Friday

evening's board-a-match with Betty Schuler, Harper and Marilyn Hemenway, Fulvio held:

\spadesuit Q 6 5
 \heartsuit A 10 5
 \diamond J 4 2
 \clubsuit A Q 10 4

Notice that the diamond holding is identical to Harper's heart holding on the previous deal. After one spade from partner and a two heart overcall, he bided his time with a negative double. His left-hand opponent bid three diamonds, and when right-hand opponent returned to three hearts, he deduced that there was no diamond fit on his right, so he bid three no trumps. His partner's diamond holding was much better than on Harper's deal - he had the nine-seven! Luckily for Fantoni, he was right about his right-hand opponent's lack of a diamond fit, since the opponents' suit was king-queen-ten to seven opposite the singleton ace! After the diamond queen lead he endplayed his right-hand opponent to go plus 630 and win the board against the 620 at his teammates' table.

A Revealing Lead

Ken Cohen, who finished second in Open Pairs II in partnership with Dan Gerstman, read the distribution correctly on this deal from the second final session. That enabled him to pressure his right-hand opponent in three suits and make his contract.

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

West	North	East	South
--	--	--	1 \heartsuit
Pass	2 NT ¹	Pass	4 \clubsuit ²
Pass	4 \diamond	Pass	4 \spadesuit
Pass	5 \clubsuit	Pass	5 \heartsuit
Pass	6 \heartsuit	Pass	Pass
Pass			

1. Game-forcing heart raise
2. Five-card suit

When West led the club nine, Cohen instantly read this as a singleton. "There could be no other reason for this lead based on the auction," he said. The lead rode to declarer's jack. He cashed the trump king and led to the ace in dummy. He then played a spade, and when East played low, he put in the ten and won the trick. When

he now drew the last trump, East was in trouble looking for a discard. He discarded a diamond, his best hope.

Cohen cashed the spade ace, led a club to the ace, and ruffed a spade. "Now I knew my right-hand opponent had started with four-two-two-five distribution," said Cohen. "I played a diamond to the ace, dropping the king, and led a spade, pitching a club from my hand. East was endplayed - he had to play a club to my king-ten."

Very good - but what if East had split his spade honors the first time the suit was led? "If that had happened," said Cohen, "I could easily have set up dummy's fifth spade for my twelfth trick. This was an important hand for us because the third-place pair was close behind us."

Unmakable Contract?

By Alan Truscott, Bronx, New York

Richard Pavlicek and his teammates had one minor complaint during the course of the Vanderbilt: they kept playing Ron Smith. On Wednesday it was Ron Smith of Hixson, Tennessee for the Foster team, and Thursday it was Ron Smith of San Francisco for the Cayne team.

On the first of these occasions, Bob Jones gave a remarkable demonstration of the art of making an 'unmakable' contract. He landed in three no trumps, which was due to be defeated by any lead except an implausible queen of diamonds.

Dealer South. NS Vul.

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

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

The opening lead from, who else, Ron Smith, was the nine of clubs, which in his methods promised the ten. The queen won in dummy and East unblocked the jack. The diamond jack was led for a finesse, and West held up his queen after a brief but revealing hesitation. South called for a low spade and won the jack when East played low.

Jones felt sure that West started with four diamonds

since he would not likely have held up the queen with only three. That suggested that West had begun with nine minor-suit cards, and there was a ray of hope if that player held the ace of hearts. South cashed the diamond ace and reached this position:

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

South led his heart six, and if West had seen what was coming he would have grabbed his ace. When he routinely played low, Jones won with the queen and executed his brilliant plan. He cashed the spade ace, led a heart and carefully discarded a diamond. All his clubs were needed.

Now it was ping-pong in the minor suits. After winning the ace of hearts, West cashed the club ace and led the ten. Jones won with the king and exited with his last club, making his game by forcing West to lead a diamond at the finish. The Pavlicek team gained 12 IMPs when four spades failed by one trick in the replay.

THE BRIDGE PRO TOUR REPORT

by Matthew Granovetter, Jerusalem

Reporters, please feel free to use any of this copy or previous or future reports on the Pro Tour without giving credit.

This month, I'd like to show some deals from a Bridge Pro Tour event held last year in Las Vegas, where I was playing, and present a personal perspective. First of all, I'd like to say that these events are great fun, and very relaxing, despite the prize money angle.

Everyone uses the same convention card. The Individual movement brings back to the tournament trail the lost art of partner handling and using the knowledge of your opponents' habits. These elements are reminiscent of money/rubber bridge days.

Here are three examples. They comprise one round of the event, with the same four players switching partners after each round.

Partner Wouldn't Hang Me

South Dealer. Neither Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
--	--	--	3 ♥
Pass	Pass	Double	Pass
Pass	Pass		

The cast of characters was: Larry Cohen (West) of Las Vegas, Bob Schwartz (North) of San Pedro, California, and Jon Wittes (South) of Claremont, California. I was East. Cohen, Wittes and I are all established champions, while Schwartz, though a good player, was a lesser known factor.

Wittes decided to open three hearts with his strange hand. After two passes, I would have balanced with four clubs with a weaker player, but facing Cohen I decided to risk a takeout double, thinking that he would not hang me by jumping to four spades on a four-card suit.

He passed, of course, and we crucified the contract by one trick. With his cards, Cohen was disappointed, but with my collection, I was elated. We scored 60 percent for plus 100.

On the second board I sat North, facing Schwartz. Cohen remained as West, facing Wittes, East:

A Lucky Pass

North Dealer. EW Vul.

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

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

I knew Schwartz to be an aggressive bidder from a round we played in the qualifier. After he opened one heart in third seat, Cohen overcalled one spade and I made a negative double. Wittes raised spades, South bid three clubs and West three spades. I passed, thinking that partner was in third seat, and I had more or less described my hand with the negative double. If partner had bid three diamonds rather than three clubs, I would have raised, since then my diamond queen and club ace would have both been working cards. This was not the case with clubs as trumps, however. Looking at the hand now, I see that I was too conservative, but my pass really fixed the opponents when my partner, seeing the crossruff potential of the hand, chose to push on to four clubs by himself. On the sound of this auction, East has a clear-cut matchpoint double, don't you think?

The king of spades lead was overtaken by the ace and East continued spades. But declarer was in control. Schwartz cashed the ace of clubs, the queen-jack of hearts, and took the club finesse. The king of clubs was followed by high hearts and a claim of ten tricks, as three diamonds were discarded from dummy on the hearts, and a third spade ruffed in dummy. South lost two spades and a club for plus 510 and a next-to-top.

Notice that four spades doubled by West doesn't do very well. Simple defense of three rounds of hearts and a club shift will reduce West to five trumps. After two rounds of trumps, West may try a diamond from dummy rather than tap himself out, but South can ruff air and the defenders still come to a diamond trick for down two.

The best defense against four spades doubled would be a diamond lead from North and a low heart back! The defenders would then be able to score the first seven tricks, South receiving four diamond ruffs and North scoring the jack, queen of hearts and a heart ruff! South would score no heart tricks, but would receive ample compensation.

On the third deal, I was East, facing Wittes. Schwartz was North and Cohen was South.

The Struggle to Find a Jack

East Dealer. NS Vul.

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

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

A two-club contract would normally never get into a newspaper column, but readers may enjoy it for the matchpoint element, declarer's modest goal being to try to locate the jack of trumps for a second overtrick. Declarer's knowledge of the habits of the East-West players played a significant factor in the result.

Wittes led the diamond five to my king and I returned a diamond to the ten and ace. Cohen ruffed a diamond, cashed two spades and ruffed a spade. Then he led a heart to the king, a heart back to the ace, and a third round of hearts in this position:

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

Wittes won the trick with the queen, our second trick, as I discarded the nine of diamonds. Wittes then led the

eight of hearts at trick ten.

At this point, declarer was fairly certain of our distribution and every high card except for the jack of clubs. If I held the jack of clubs, he must ruff the 8 of hearts with dummy's queen. The jack of clubs would give me thirteen high card points for my opening bid and West four points for his one heart response. Cohen knew that Wittes would not hesitate to make a one-over-one with four points, and he also knew that I had a reputation for being a sound opening bidder. Indeed, my one diamond opening on a poor twelve points was not my style. (I simply decided to try it at the time.)

So Cohen ruffed with the queen, I overruffed and Wittes scored the jack of clubs. We were minus 110 but received 64% of the matchpoints on the board.

There are two Bridge Pro Tour prize-money individuals this month, one in San Diego (starting April 16), and the other in Miami (starting April 23) at the Miami Airport Hilton. Entry fees are \$100 with a \$4,000 first prize and \$100 money back for every player who makes the final. There's a \$20,000 bonus pool this year for the top finishers overall in the twelve events.

For more information about the tour, or to buy an entry, readers can go to the website bridgeprotour.com or phone Nancy King at 530-274-0923 or Daniel Bolger at 917-256-0103.

Matthew Granovetter can be reached at his website: www.bridgetoday.com



Correspondence ...

The Editor reserves the right to shorten correspondence

Dear IBPA

Thanks for the reminder, and I will renew as per your advice.

I do not look at the membership dues only as a subscription fee for the Bulletin. Alas, apart from the IBPA bulletin, there is hardly any membership benefit for a person who does not visit big events. If it only concerns Bulletins, my answer would be yes, Internet copy is good enough for a reduced subscription, provided that the material is available only to members.

If updates were available more frequently, I would be in a position to make better use of the material.

I do like the paper Bulletin. I am not sure I will be happy if it vanishes. At the same time, from the environmental point of view, I feel the lesser the paper, the better it would be. I guess a six-monthly paper issue would be ideal.

The content is satisfactory. At the same time, it lacks breadth. I would like to see more bidding issues discussed, and I would also like to see some organizational issues discussed. Further, I see little regarding bridge promotion.

Finally, I would like to see IBPA work as a body, serving the interest of Bridge writers in many different ways.

I would suggest two columns: one that addresses bidding trends; another that addresses tournament organization. As I see it, bridge will not be a proper sport until certain standards for tournament organization are developed. I think IBPA should catalyze that process. In particular, IBPA should work towards having all National events Vugraphed and bulletined. IBPA should also evolve guidelines for a Bulletin Editor's remuneration, and guidelines for the support organizers should provide to him. IBPA should also work towards developing a player-rating scheme.

My general observation is that apart from the IBPA bulletin, I don't see any effort from the IBPA that would better position its members.

I hope the new Editor addresses some of the wider issues.

Prakash Paranjape, Mumbai, India

(I hope the new Editor is doing so. Prakash presents many ideas, with much food for thought for the IBPA. Any comments?)

John:

I thought you might be amused by this email I received. I also had one from Tjolpe Flodquist who is translating the article into Swedish. I am amazed it was found useful.

To: Sandra Landy, Aylesbury, UK

Subject: Great Piece! 'Women and Bridge'

Dear Sandra,

I was very much charmed by your recent great work, "Woman and Bridge." Your opinion is very unique, and so special that I think my people and my NCBO should notice it. May I have the honor of translating it into Chinese and posting it on the Taiwan bridge website or magazine?

Best Regards,

Teng-Yuan Liang, Tainan, Taiwan

Hi JC

I was embarrassed by the following excerpt from my letter which appeared in February's IBPA Bulletin: "...in North American schools, we teach students to use the singular unless you are referring to the individual members of the group."

Perhaps I was one of the few who noticed – but in North American schools we also teach students that nouns are third person, not second person as I suggested by my statement!

Ah well, that's why we need editors, isn't it?

(Your editor is chagrined.)

Bye for now,

Fox (Malcolm Ewashkiw), Belleville, Canada

Hi John,

The April issue of Bridge Plus is going to the printers tomorrow morning, but I thought you might be interested in a preview of the "Market Research" item in the Editorial, which you are free to reprint in the Bulletin if you wish.

(Readers may access the website at www.bridge-plus.co.uk - Ed.)

It would be interesting to know if any similar research has been done in other countries and how depressing (or encouraging) the results have been.

Best regards,

Elena Jeronimidis, Reading, UK,

Editor, Bridge Plus

e-mail: ejeronimidis@btconnect.com

tel/fax: 0118 935 1052

Dear Mr. Carruthers,

Apropos of the note by Malcolm Ewashkiw about a "Writer's Style Guide," the following point should be made: the first person I know of who was interested in organising and defining standards for bridge writing was the pragmatic George S. Coffin in his "Bridge Writer's Manual," published in 1961. The book exhibits Coffin's habitual conciseness in discussing the material. Unfortunately, I am not familiar with Richard Pavlicek's "Bridge Writing Style Guide," but just wanted to present the evidence (*Mr. Neamtzu encloses a photocopy of the title and contents pages of the work in question.*) that Coffin was the originator of this theme.

Coriolan Neamtzu, Bucharest, Romania

Dear John

I couldn't help but notice there was a bit of space available at the bottom of your Correspondence column, and hoped you wouldn't mind if I took it up with some information about WBF Activities!

Please ask all your members to publicise the **World Wide Bridge Contest** on Friday 06 & Saturday 07 June 2003 as widely as they can for us. We want to encourage as many people as possible to play in what has become a very exciting event, scored, as it is across the whole field within 24/48 hours. More information, with hands and commentary from previous events can be found at www.ecatsbridge.com - it is linked from the front page.

The other "snippet" is concerning the **World Championships in Monaco** from 02 - 15 November, where it should be noted that the **Transnational Teams** will now start on **Monday 10 November**, not on 11 November as stated in World Bridge News, copies of which are enclosed for IBPA "postal" members. For those who receive their Bulletins by email, I will send you the URL so that you can download your copy from the web.

All the best

anna - anna@ecats.co.uk - www.ecatsbridge.com

World Bridge Calendar

Dates Event

2003

Apr 9-14 11th International Bridge Tournament
 Apr 11-12 4th Seafood Bridge Festival
 Apr 15-20 108th Canadian Nationals
 Apr 16-18 Bridge Pro Tour San Diego Open
 Apr 17-21 XXXIII International Easter Tournament
 Apr 19-27 ABA Spring Nationals
 Apr 22-27 18th Portuguese Grand Prix
 Apr 23-26 Bridge Pro Tour Miami Open
 Apr 26-27 2003 Junior Collegiate Team Championship
 Apr 30-May 4 International Berlin Championship
 May 2-9 SPBF Championships (WBF Zone 7)
 May 7-11 Cavendish Teams and Pairs
 May 9-11 2003 Nordic Cup
 May 17-25 XVI Internacional de Bridge Tournament Costa Calida
 May 21-29 USBF Women's Team Trials
 May 22-25 Bridge Pro Tour Cleveland Open
 May 24-31 CACBF Championships (WBF Zone 5)
 May 29-30 Bonn Nations Cup
 Jun 1-9 USBF Open Team Trials
 Jun 3-7 CBF Bridge Week
 Jun 5-15 PABF Championships (WBF Zone 6)
 Jun 6-7 WBF Worldwide Pairs
 Jun 11-22 50th South African National Congress
 Jun 11-22 2nd African Bridge Federation Zonal Congress
 Jun 13-15 21st Carta Mundi Bridge Festival
 Jun 14-28 European Open Championships
 Jun 26-28 Bridge Pro Tour Las Vegas Open III
 Jul 1-13 Biarritz International Bridge Festival
 Jul 4-6 World Junior Pairs Championship
 Jul 7-14 World Junior Camp
 Jul 9-12 Bridge Pro Tour Chicago Open
 Jul 14-27 Deauville Bridge Festival
 Jul 17-27 ACBL Summer NABC
 Jul 22-25 Bridge Pro Tour Los Angeles Open II
 Jul 24-Aug 3 ABA Summer Nationals
 Jul 26-31 European University Championships
 Jul 26-31 Chairman's Cup
 Jul 26-Aug 3 9th Bridge Festival
 Aug 6-8 Bridge Pro Tour Secaucus Open
 Aug 8-17 English Summer Nationals
 Aug 13-17 VII Azores International Tournament
 Aug 19-28 World Junior Teams Championship
 Aug 22-24 Festival de la Côte Basque
 Aug 25-Sep 6 18th International Bridge Festival
 Aug 29-31 Bridge Pro Tour Santa Clara Open III
 Oct 22-26 10th International Bridge Festival
 Nov 2-15 World Championships - Bermuda Bowl & Venice Cup
 Nov 2-10 World Championships - Seniors Bowl
 Nov 10 - 15 World Championships - Transnational Open Teams
 Nov 16-22 III International Bridge Festival
 Nov 16-23 9th Red Sea Festival
 Nov 17-23 6th International Bridge Open
 Nov 20-23 International Bridge Festival
 Nov 20-30 ACBL Fall NABC
 Nov 24-28 EBL Simultaneous Pairs
 Dec 9-12 Bridge Pro Tour Palm Springs Open
 Dec 26-27 Bridge Pro Tour New York Open
 Dec 27-29 Bridge Pro Tour Reno Open

2004

Feb 9-15 9th NEC Festival
 Mar 18-28 ACBL Spring NABC
 Jun 19-Jul 3 47th European Bridge Team Championships
 Jun 20-24 Chairman's Cup
 Jun 20-Jul 2 10th Bridge Festival
 Jul 8-18 ACBL Summer NABC
 Oct 25-Nov 6 12th World Team Olympiad
 Nov 18-28 ACBL Fall NABC

Location

Damascus, Syria
 Figueira da Foz, Portugal
 Toronto, Canada
 San Diego, CA
 Vihtavuori, Finland
 Minneapolis, MN
 Estoril, Portugal
 Miami, FL
 Internet
 Berlin, Germany
 Tahiti, French Polynesia
 Las Vegas, NV
 Rottneros, Sweden
 Menor, Murcia, Spain
 Orlando, FL
 Cleveland, OH
 Fort de France, Martinique
 Bonn, Germany
 Memphis, TN
 Penticton, BC
 Makati, Philippines
 Clubs everywhere
 Johannesburg, South Africa
 Johannesburg, South Africa
 Ostend, Belgium
 Menton, Côte d'Azur, France
 Las Vegas, NV
 Biarritz, France
 Tata, Hungary
 Tata, Hungary
 Chicago, IL
 Deauville, France
 Long Beach, CA
 Long Beach, CA
 Puerto Rico
 Wroclaw, Poland
 Skövde, Sweden
 Skövde, Sweden
 Secaucus, NJ
 Brighton, England
 São Miguel, Azores, Portugal
 Paris, France
 Biarritz, France
 Mamaia, Romania
 Santa Clara, CA
 Figueira da Foz, Portugal
 Monte Carlo, Monaco
 Monte Carlo, Monaco
 Monte Carlo, Monaco
 La Habana-Varadero, Cuba
 Eilat, Israel
 Madeira, Portugal
 Brasov, Romania
 New Orleans, LA
 Clubs
 Palm Springs, CA
 New York, NY
 Reno, NV
 Yokohama, Japan
 Reno, NV
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