



BULLETIN

www.IBPA.com
mail@ibpa.com

President:
HENRY G FRANCIS
6875 Stornaway Drive
Memphis, TN 38119 USA
(1) 901 754 3405 F: 901 398 7754
Email: hfranc1@midssouth.rr.com

Executive Vice-President:
PATRICK JOURDAIN
8 Felin Wen, Rhiwbina
Cardiff CF14 6NW Wales
(44) 29 2062 8839 F: 29 2061 5234
email: pdjournal@hotmail.com

Organizational Vice-President:
PER E JANNERSTEN
Villa Cicero
S-77400 Avesta, SWEDEN
Email: per@jannersten.se

Chairman:
ALAN TRUSCOTT
3333 Henry Hudson Parkway
Bronx, NY 10463 USA
Email: alantruscott@aol.com

Secretary:
MAUREEN DENNISON
148 Thornbury Road, Osterley
Isleworth TW7 4QE, ENGLAND UK
(44) 20 8560 3788 F: 20 8568 3553
Email:
maureen_dennison@ibpa.freemove.co.uk

Membership Secretary:
Dr STUART STAVELEY
Rhu-na-Bidh, Shildaidg, Strathcarron
Ross-shire IV54 8XN SCOTLAND UK
(44) 1520 755 217 F: 1520 755 355

Treasurer:
HANS CHRISTER ANDERSSON
Arstagatan 20 C
75434 Uppsala, SWEDEN
(46) 18 253584 O: 18 175764
Email: jus289n@tinet.se

Honorary General Counsel:
WILLIAM J PENCHARZ
50 Broadway, Westminster
London SW1H 0BL ENGLAND
Email: billpencharz@bdb-law.co.uk

Awards Secretary:
BARRY J RIGAL
Apt 8E, 22 West 26th Street,
New York NY 10010, USA
Email: barryrigal@mindspring.com

Sponsored Members' Secretary:
IRENA CHODOROWSKA
UI Sewastopolska 3m41
02-758 Warsaw, POLAND
Email: trans@syrena.com.pl

Bulletin Printing & Distribution:
ANNA GUDGE
The Old Railway Station
Long Melford, Suffolk CO10 9HN
England
Email: anna@ecats.co.uk

THE INTERNATIONAL BRIDGE PRESS ASSOCIATION

Editor: JOHN CARRUTHERS

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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 its members.

Lately we seem to be reporting untimely deaths at an alarming rate. Three prominent players have died recently.

Claude Rodrigue (1930-2003), 1961 European Champion and runnerup in 1971, was one of Great Britain's top players of the latter half of the twentieth century. Although born in Egypt, it was with England that Rodrigue's bridge career was associated, and he represented Great Britain many times in world championship and zonal championship play, earning a bronze medal in the 1976 Olympiad. Among Rodrigue's other successes were the Sunday Times Invitational (1967), three Gold Cups, and numerous Camrose wins. Following quadruple heart bypass surgery in 1984, Rodrigue gave up serious competitive bridge, but remained a fixture at London's TGR club. He died of a heart attack on June 19.

Jörgen Lindqvist (1945-2003) died of cancer in June. Lindqvist represented Sweden successfully in the 70's and 80's, winning the European Team Championship in 1977 and finishing third in the Bermuda Bowl that year. After his playing career, Lindqvist turned his attention to teaching the game and became one of the best-loved tutors in Sweden. Last year he returned to the international arena to coach the Swedish team to a berth in this year's Bermuda Bowl. He had hoped to play in Menton and coach the team in Monte Carlo, but it was not to be.

Lionel Wright, born in England, and until the 1990's, when he moved back to England, a mainstay of New Zealand teams in zone and world play, died in London of a stroke at 50 years of age on June 27. Always a welcome figure on the international scene because of his cheerful personality, Wright was a member of the New Zealand team that created a sensation in the 1983 Bermuda Bowl with their 'fertiliser' and forcing pass methods, missing the semifinals very narrowly, and only at the last hurdle. They created a revolution in bridge, so that by the time of the 1984 Olympiad, such diverse countries as Brazil and Denmark, among others, also fielded pairs using methods similar to those of the Kiwis.

This is the busiest time of the year in the bridge world, with most WBF Zones holding their Championships to decide who qualifies for the Bermuda Bowl, Venice Cup, and lately, the Seniors Bowl, in the fall. This year also witnessed the first European Open Championship ever. Reports on many of these events take up most of this issue. Some publication-worthy pieces have been held over until next month to make room for these reports.

By all accounts, the 1st European Open Bridge Championships were a resounding success from a bridge, organizational, and financial standpoint. Competitors from all continents took part, and non-Europeans won their share of medals. There were quibbles, however, the major one being the lack of air conditioning, exacerbated by the most intense heat wave in Europe in decades. Other bridge organisers would do well to heed this warning – you are taking a chance by holding a championship in a non-air conditioned venue in the summer months. Bridge players demand their creature comforts!

The Menton Clippings Competition draw was held at the IBPA Meeting during the European Championships. We received a fair number of clippings and stumbled across many more, which, for reasons unknown, were not submitted by the authors. We entered you in the draw anyway! The lucky US\$200 winners were: Niels Pedersen (Denmark), Brent Manley (USA), Jude Goodwin-Hanson (Canada), Eric Kokish (Canada), and Alan Truscott (USA). The US\$500 grand prize went to the even luckier Peter Lund (Denmark). The winners have Stefan Back to thank for drawing their names!

Address all editorial correspondence to: **JOHN CARRUTHERS**
65 Tiago Avenue, Toronto, Ontario M4B 2A2, Canada
Tel: +1 416 752 7034** Fax: +1 416 344 3493
Email: ibpaeditor@sympatico.ca

TRIALS AND TRIBULATIONS

WBF Zones 2, 3, 5 and 8 held their respective Championships and Trials recently.

In South America (Zone 3), Brasil (Campos-Aranha, Dib-Toma, Maia-Junqueira) won the Open title for what seems like the hundredth time (this time over Uruguay in the final), while Colombia (Angel-Benedetti, Lechter-Eisenstein, Pinzon-Barrera) were the South American Women's series winners.

The Central American and Caribbean had a first-time winner, Bermuda (Petty-Smolksi, Douglas-Harvey, Saunders-Hall), with Jack Rhind as NPC. Weary of being beaten up in Zone 2, Bermuda asked, and received, permission to switch Zones. The change was much to their liking, as was the addition of expatriate Brit Roman Smolksi to the team. Venezuela (Diebold-Pacheco, Nunez-Devletian, Smith-Hirschaut) are the CAC Women's winners.

In North America, US1 was decided in favour of the Nickell team (Nickell-Freeman, Hamman-Soloway, Meckstroth-Rodwell) a year ago, while Ralph Cohen's Reisinger winners (Landen-Rajadhyaksha, Wolff-Morse, and Wildavsky-Doub) continued a remarkable run by defeating an exceptionally strong field to win Trials II and become US2 for the Bowl. In the U.S. Women's Trials, Kent Massie captained the Wei-Sender-Kennedy, Levin-Picus, Sokolow-Seamon-Molson sextet to the US1 spot ahead of Bjerkan-Weinstein, Mancuso-Wittes, Cohen-Rogers, who become US2.

Canada and Mexico will battle for the third Zone 2 spot in August. The Canadian Open team will be Fergani-l'Ecuyer, Wolpert-Czyzowicz, Wolpert-Demuy, NPC George Mittelman; the Women's team will be Gordon-Bryant, Cimon-Kraft, Eaton-Clinton, with NPC John Carruthers.

In Africa, to no one's surprise, Egypt (Sadek-Naguib, el Ahmady-Sadek, el Khourdy-Dagher) and South Africa (Eber-Sapire, Fick-Castlein, Mansell-Holman) finished a close 1-2 in the Bermuda Bowl Trials, with Morocco a distant third. South Africa (Mansell-Modlin, Schwartz-Fihrer, Adrain-Hulett, Axelrod, NPC), and to everyone's surprise, Zimbabwe (Cameron, Vos, Hall, Pollard, Standen) were the qualifiers for the Venice Cup, with Egypt a close third.

Let's look at some of the deals that aroused interest. First, from our man in Buenos Aires...

53° Campeonato Sudamericano

by Adolfo Madala, Buenos Aires
from www.bridgezine.com

During the 2003 South American Championships, held this year in Buenos Aires, Uruguay's Open Team had two incredible swings their way, both in grand slam contracts. The first board occurred toward the end of their very exciting semifinal match against Chile. With the score tied after 92 of 96 boards, this was Board 93.

Dealer North. Both Vul.

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

In the Closed Room, Uruguay bid and made seven hearts from the South seat. Declarer established clubs for the discards he needed after a trump lead.

In the Open Room, Chile bid in a way that dramatically changed the situation:

West	North	East	South
—	2 ♣	Pass	2 NT ¹
Pass	5 ♠ ²	Pass	6 ♣ ³
Pass	7 ♥	Pass	Pass
Pass	1. Positive response with hearts		
	2. Exclusion Key Card Blackwood		
	3. One key card		

North received the spade queen lead, presenting him with a choice of plays. He ruffed the spade in hand, overtook the heart queen with the ace, and ruffed the other small spade with the king of hearts. Unluckily, he could not now get to dummy to draw the trumps, since West was in a position to overruff the second round of clubs! Down one, and 20 IMPs to Uruguay, on their way to the final.

There were lots of voices critical of declarer's line of play, but an Internet kibitzer stated that a simulator had confirmed the Chilean declarer's line of play. However, best of all may be to ruff the spade and play a high trump, not overtaking. If trumps are two-one or East has all three, the other low spade can be ruffed safely. If not, then ace and ruff a club high immediately, go back with a trump and ruff another club high (if they are four-two or the queen is singleton). The diamond finesse would be in reserve if clubs were five-one without the queen falling and trumps were three-zero behind the length.

The problem for Chile was that their system put a player with no trump to lead on lead. "He was correct," someone said of declarer's line of play. "I guess he'd rather be lucky," was the reply.

In the final against Brasil, things were not going as well for Uruguay. They had to recover some IMPs, and the sooner the better.

On the following deal, the strange auction in the Closed Room had the Vugraph theatre in an uproar. It seemed that the four heart bid made by the Brazilian East caused later

confusion as to which denomination was really trumps. Have a look:

Dealer West. Neither Vul.

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

In the Closed Room, the Brazilian East-West bid as follows:

West	North	East	South
1 ♥	Pass	1 NT ¹	Pass
4 ♦ ²	Pass	4 ♥ ³	Pass
4 NT ⁴	Pass	5 ♦ ⁵	Pass
5 ♥ ⁶	Pass	Pass ⁷	Pass

1. 5+ spades
2. Splinter
3. Control? (The rot sets in.)
4. RKC for spades (or hearts?)
5. One key card (either way!)
6. Queen ask in spades (or terminal in hearts)
7. I hope 4 ♦ was a self-splinter

The problem that remained for Uruguay was how their players in the Open Room could bid to the cold grand slam. The answer was swift in coming:

Open Room

West	North	East	South
1 ♥	Pass	1 ♠	Pass
5 NT	Pass	7 ♠	Pass
Pass	Pass		

Then the bad news came, as the affair took a turn toward the bizarre. In the Closed Room, the Brasil player who passed five hearts immediately noted that he had made a mistake, and asked the Tournament Director to change his call. The TD declined to allow the change, but some minutes later, consultation revealed that this change is authorized in some situations in the South American Championships, and this was one of them.

(Interlude. My understanding is that one is allowed to change a bidding card pulled in error, but not to change one's mind about which call to make. It's difficult to pull a Pass card in error when one meant to pull a bid from the other section of the box. For example, it's easy for the 5NT card to stick to the 5♠ card. That can be corrected. It's more difficult to justify that one meant to bid rather than pass. – Ed.)

The TD then offered Uruguay the choice of playing a new board (since it was being played first in their room) or accepting a 3-IMP profit on this board. The Uruguayan pair accepted the 3 IMPs, but by this time the deal had also been played in the Open Room.

It was difficult for the Open Room Uruguayan player to accept that he had won only 3 IMPs on the board after his brave five no trump bid, but that's how it was. Later, at the Closing Ceremonies, I asked him, "And what happens if your partner has two little hearts?" "Down one, what else?"

Open Round Robin Standings

1. Uruguay	243
2. Chile	242
3. Brasil	241
4. Argentina	228

Semifinals

Uruguay 233 – Chile 210
Brasil 251.5 – Argentina 205

Final

Brasil 211.33 – Uruguay 117

Women's Round Robin Standings

1. Uruguay	238
2/3. Argentina	236
Colombia	236
4. Brasil	230

Semifinals

Colombia 147.66 – Uruguay 112
Brasil 220.33 – Argentina 141

Final

Colombia 217 – Brasil 173

2003 CACBF Zonal Championships

by Roman Smolski, Warwick, Bermuda

Vera Petty found the only defence to defeat game on this deal from the Zone 5 Team Championships:

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

Bermuda was playing Trinidad early in the semifinal when Trinidad reached five diamonds on this deal. Vera led the spade ace and continued with the spade king, the only defence to beat the contract. Declarer did his best by starting trumps, but Vera ducked two rounds, won the third, and led a club.

In the end, declarer went three down, minus 300, and as

Saunders-Hall had been plus 150 at the other table, this meant a 10 IMP gain for Bermuda.

The most interesting deal in the second half was this one:

Dealer South. Both Vul.

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

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

This was the obvious one down for minus 200. In the other room...

West	North	East	South
—	—	—	Pass
Pass	1 ♠	2 ♠	4 ♠
Pass	Pass	Pass	

The one spade opening bid worked out rather well when both East and West could have been more aggressive. With a 31 IMP lead, however, their decisions were certainly reasonable, even though this resulted in a 13 IMP swing to Trinidad. However, it was too little too late, as Bermuda ran out winners by 112-65.

Open Round Robin Standings

1. Guadeloupe 133
2. Bermuda 122
3. Venezuela 115
4. Trinidad 109

Semifinals

Venezuela 114 – Guadeloupe 75
 Bermuda 112 – Trinidad 65

Final

Bermuda 165 – Venezuela 156

Women's Final Standings

1. Venezuela 149
2. Trinidad 138
3. Barbados 124
4. Guadeloupe 106

The 2003 USBC

by Rich Kolker, Wheaton, MD
 Adam Wildavsky, New York City

The title may need some explaining – USBC is the acronym of the United States Bridge Championship, run by the newly-formed United States Bridge Federation, the organization charged with conducting all U.S. trials for our international teams. The ACBL remains the Zonal organization.

Twenty teams entered the Trials, with the U.S. No. 2 spot in the Bermuda Bowl at stake. Schwartz (Becker, Cohen-Berkowitz, Zia-Rosenberg) and Ralph Cohen, NPC (Landen-Rajadhyaksha, Wolff-Morse, Wildavsky-Doub) were seeded through to the quarterfinals on the strength of their performance in the major team events (Spingold, Vanderbilt, Reisinger) last year.

The remaining 18 teams would play a round robin for a day and a half, 12 teams to advance. This method being somewhat random, it was almost expected that at least one top team would fall flat, and thus it was with the 2000 Bermuda Bowl winners Meltzer (Larsen, Sontag-Weichsel, Stansby-Martel), who missed qualifying by 0.33 VP. The 90-board round of 16 went off more or less according to form, but after that, any of the 8 teams remaining would be capable of winning a World Championship.

The Welland team (Fallenius, Garner-Weinstein), playing without Gitelman-Moss, seemed like the team of destiny, winning its quarterfinal match over Jacobs by 4 IMP and its semifinal over Brachman by 1 IMP. But the Reisinger winners, with Ralph Cohen as NPC, were not to be denied, winning all three of their 2-day matches handily, by margins of 52, 22 and 55 IMPs respectively.

The first board of the Cohen team's semifinal match against Weed (Cayne, Levin-Weinstein, Seamon-Smith) set the tone for the match.

Board 1. Dealer North. Neither Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Seamon	Wolff	Smith	Morse
—	Pass	Pass	1 ♠
Double	Pass	2 ♣	Pass
2 ♠	Pass	2 NT	Pass
3 NT	Pass	Pass	Pass

A quiet board in the Open Room – Morse led the spade queen, and Ron Smith was soon scoring up plus 430. It was a different story in the Closed Room, where Landen-Rajadhyaksha (universally known by his first name, Pratap) and Weinstein-Levin opposed each other. Both pairs, and especially Landen-Pratap, are more active than their counterparts.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Landen	Levin	Pratap	Weinstein
—	Pass	2 ♠	Pass
3 NT	Pass	Pass	Double
Redouble	Pass	Pass	Pass

Bobby Levin must have had a moment's doubt when Stevie Weinstein doubled Landen's three no trumps on a power auction, and when Landen redoubled, Weinstein knew his partner was broke. This double is the sort of psychological ploy that can work very well against an active pair if they are stepping out. Here, Pratap was stepping out, but Landen had him covered!

On a spade lead to the ace, North-South avoided surrendering the overtrick, but it was still minus 800 the hard way, and 9 IMPs to Cohen.

It's not exactly a news flash that bridge is a bidder's game, as illustrated by this deal played by Wildavsky in the semifinal.

Board 82. Dealer East. NS Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Smith	Doub	Seamon	Wildavsky
—	—	Pass	1 ♦
3 ♣	Double	4 ♣	4 ♠
Pass	Pass	Pass	

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Wolff	Levin	Morse	Weinstein
—	—	Pass	1 NT
Pass	Pass	Pass	

With Weed in the lead by 11 IMPs, Wildavsky-Doub bid to a low percentage game, pushed around a bit by Smith-Seamon's tactics. Smith led the heart ten, solving one problem for Wildavsky. When he next led the jack of spades out of hand, another was solved when Smith played the king to continue hearts. South won the ace to lead a spade to the ten, and was relieved to see West follow. He drew the last trump and led a club.

Smith solved the third problem for declarer by flying with the ace, thinking South had a singleton for bidding four spades. Now a heart to South's jack meant that declarer had a complete count on the hand, and could afford the luxury of cashing the ace of diamonds to collect West's singleton. When it proved to be the jack, he surrendered a diamond and claimed ten tricks. Plus 620 to Cohen.

Weinstein, in one no trump at the other table, misguessed clubs at trick one, but later led a diamond to the queen to hold his losses to down one, minus 100, and 12 IMPs away.

The following deal illustrates the importance of what Ayn Rand called "staying in focus."

"In any hour and issue of his life, man is free to think or to evade that effort. Thinking requires a state of full, focused awareness. The act of focusing one's consciousness is volitional. Man can focus his mind to a full, active, purposefully directed awareness of reality – or he can unfocus it and let himself drift in a semiconscious daze, merely reacting to any chance stimulus of the immediate moment." – Ayn Rand, "The Objectivist Ethics" in "The Virtue of Selfishness".

Board 90. Dealer East. Both Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Smith	Doub	Seamon	Wildavsky
—	—	Pass	Pass
1 ♣	1 ♠	2 ♥	Pass
4 ♥	Pass	Pass	Pass

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Wolff	Levin	Morse	Weinstein
—	—	Pass	Pass
1 ♥	1 ♠	2 ♠	Pass
4 ♥	Pass	Pass	Pass

The play was almost identical at both tables despite its being declared from different sides. Steve Weinstein and Adam Wildavsky need to be in focus to prevent declarer stealing his game.

In the Open Room, where East declared, a spade was led to the ace and a club ducked to North's ten. Spades were continued and South discarded a club as declarer ruffed low. Seamon led a diamond and South won the ace to lead a trump. Declarer ruffed a club, felling South's jack, ruffed a spade, South discarding a diamond, and led a diamond to the queen. These cards were left:

<p style="text-align: center;">♠ J 10 ♥ — ♦ J ♣ A Q</p> <p>♠ — ♠ 7 6 ♥ A ♥ J 9 6 ♦ 10 ♦ — ♣ K 9 8 ♣ —</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">♠ — ♥ 10 8 7 ♦ 9 6 ♣ —</p>
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When Seamon led a spade from his hand, Wildavsky carefully ruffed with the seven of hearts. Now when declarer overruffed and led a diamond to ruff in dummy, South was left with a diamond to throw on the next spade lead, avoiding the suicide trump endplay!

In the Closed Room, where Wolff was declarer, Bobby Levin led the spade king to the ace, and Wolff also ducked a club to North's ten. Another spade allowed a club discard from South. Wolff ruffed a club and played a high diamond from the dummy, South again winning to lead a trump. Wolff won and led a diamond to the queen, ruffed a spade and ruffed the diamond ten. His four-card end position was:

<p style="text-align: center;">♠ J 10 9 ♥ — ♦ — ♣ A</p> <p>♠ — ♠ 7 6 ♥ A ♥ J 9 ♦ — ♦ — ♣ K 9 8 ♣ —</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">♠ — ♥ 10 8 7 ♦ 9 ♣ —</p>
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Now when the spade came from dummy, Weinstein also ruffed. A well-defended push at plus 100 for both North-Souths.

Despite the result on the next fun deal (fun for the Welland team, at any rate), Cohen did not let it affect their game, outscoring Welland 13-1 over the remaining six boards of the segment. There was a certain symmetry on the deal in that East, on lead in the Open Room could have led a diamond

for his partner to ruff against six hearts, only to see him discard; while North, on lead in the Closed Room against six clubs, could have led his singleton to Partner's ace, but would have had no trump with which to ruff the return!

Board 69. Dealer North. NS Vul.

<p style="text-align: center;">♠ 6 ♥ Q J 10 8 7 4 3 ♦ J 10 7 3 2 ♣ —</p> <p>♠ K Q 5 3 2 ♠ J 8 4 ♥ — ♥ A 5 2 ♦ — ♦ 9 6 5 4 ♣ A Q J 10 9 6 3 2 ♣ K 7 5</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">♠ A 10 9 7 ♥ K 9 6 ♦ A K Q 8 ♣ 8 4</p>
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Open Room

West	North	East	South
Wolff	Welland	Morse	Fallenius
—	3 ♥	Pass	4 ♥
5 ♣	Pass	Pass	5 ♥
5 ♠	6 ♥	Double	Pass
Pass	Pass		

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Weinstein	Wildavsky	Garner	Doub
—	3 ♥	Pass	4 ♥
6 ♣	Pass	Pass	Double
Pass	Pass	Pass	

Six hearts doubled yielded 1660 to Welland, and six clubs doubled added another 1090 for 21 IMPs.

The following accident could only happen to an expert pair:

Board 83. Dealer South. EW Vul.

<p style="text-align: center;">♠ Q 3 2 ♥ Q 9 4 3 ♦ K 9 4 3 ♣ 10 3</p> <p>♠ 8 7 ♥ J 10 8 7 6 ♦ A ♣ A K 7 5 4</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">♠ A 5 ♥ A 5 2 ♦ Q 8 6 5 2 ♣ J 8 6</p> <p>♠ K J 10 9 6 4 ♥ K ♦ J 10 7 ♣ Q 9 2</p>
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Open Room

West	North	East	South
Landen	Weinstein	Pratap	Garner
—	—	—	Pass
1 ♥	Pass	1 NT	2 ♠
Pass	Pass	3 ♥	Pass
4 ♥	Pass	Pass	Pass

Weinstein led the spade two against Landen's four heart game, ducked to the king. The spade jack return went to the eight, three and ace. Declarer now led the deuce of hearts off the dummy to the king, six and three.

In with the heart king, Garner made what superficially looks a bad play, the club two. Landen had the wit to duck it to the jack, making his no-play (on the lie of the cards) game. Suppose declarer's hand were a little different: ♠ 8 7 ♥ Q J 8 7 6 ♦ A K 3 ♣ K 10. It would now take a club lead to put declarer to a guess for his contract. True, he should guess correctly since you passed as dealer, but declarers don't always guess correctly, do they?

At any rate, think back to Weinstein's plays on the spade ace and the first round of trumps – he led the spade two and followed with the three, then played the lowest outstanding trump. Doesn't it look like he's begging for a club? Weinstein would be the first to agree he led Garner astray.

At the other table, Welland won the first spade to lead a low heart. In with the king, Doub cashed the spade king, receiving a suit preference queen from Wildavsky, ending declarer's chances. The Cohen team won 12 IMPs to lead by 40, a lead they never relinquished.

The 2003 United States Women's Bridge Championships

by Jody Latham, Memphis, TN

The Massie team had beaten Baker in the match for US1. Now it was up to Baker to redeem themselves, playing Bjerkan for the right to become US2 over 96 boards, 16 per set. After four sets the score stood at 158-129 Bjerkan. Baker staged a comeback in the fifth set, winning it 38-3. This was a key deal in the Baker comeback.

Dealer South. NS Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Wittes	McCallum	Cohen	Sanborn
—	—	—	1 ♣
1 ♥	Double	2 ♥	2 ♠
Pass	3 ♠	Pass	4 ♠
Pass	Pass	Pass	

Pam Wittes led a low heart. Kerri Sanborn ducked in dummy and won her queen. At trick two, and completely in tempo, Sanborn led the spade king, five, three, two! Looking at all four hands, it's easy to win the ace and return another spade to partner's queen, but Sanborn had created the illusion (to East, Stasha Cohen) of four spades to the king, queen, jack in her hand, and (to West) of four spades to the ace, king (and maybe the jack).

Sanborn next played a low diamond, winning in dummy, and another diamond to the jack, won by West's ace. Wittes led a third diamond, still hoping to make the spade queen. Sanborn won, cashed the heart ace and ruffed a heart. Ace, king, and another club, ruffed in dummy brought the trick total to nine.

When dummy's last heart was led, Cohen ruffed in with the seven of spades, but Sanborn overruffed with the jack for her tenth trick. It would have done Cohen no better to ruff with the ace and return a spade to Wittes' queen, for the spade ten in dummy would then have provided the tenth trick. That was 10 IMPs to Baker.

I swear she's a magician!

The 2003 Canadian Team Championships and Playoffs

by John Carruthers, Toronto

This year was unique in Canadian National Open and Women's Team Championship history. The winners would play off against last year's champions, Maksymetz (Graves, Jacob-McOrmond) in the Open, and Crosby, NPC (Lopushinsky-Culham, Fung-McDonald) in the Women's, for the right to contest the Zone 2 Playoff with Mexico later this summer. The reason for this anomaly was to ensure that future winners contested Zonal Trials and World Championships in the year they won their respective national titles. This was not always the case in the past, allowing teams to 'cool off', or in extreme cases, even break up.

Both of this year's winners, Fergani (l'Ecuyer, Wolpert-Czyzowicz, Wolpert-Demuy) and Gordon (Bryant, Kraft-Cimon, Eaton-Clinton), maintained the momentum and won their respective playoffs. Vincent Demuy and Gavin Wolpert will also represent Canada in the World Junior Championship in St. Cloud, France this August. At ages 19 and 20, they will be the youngest ever to represent Canada in Open competition.

Here are a couple of amusing deals from this year's event. When Fred Couples won the 1992 U.S. Masters golf tournament, he hit the shot of his life on the par 5, 13th hole during the final round, reaching the green in two strokes. After he hit the ball, as it rocketed toward the green, over the protective creek in front, Couples was clearly heard to exclaim on television, "Oh, baby!" He knew he'd hit it flush.

This was my favourite board from the 2003 CNTC - for a while. I thought I'd hit it flush.

Match 13. Nagy v. McIntyre

Board 7. Dealer South. Both Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Beagle 2	Joe Silver	Beagle 1	JC
—	—	—	1 ♣
1 ♠	Pass	2 ♣	3 ♣
Double	Pass	Pass	Pass

Joey Silver and I were playing against Billy and John Bowman, affectionately known as the Beagles, from Ottawa. They were in second place, looking like easy qualifiers for the quarterfinals, while we were fighting for our lives. I was a bit surprised when Billy doubled me in three clubs - it's a bit unusual for a player to double in this situation at IMPs after catching a raise from Partner. Perhaps he's overcalled a four-card suit, I thought. The Beagles are known as active, imaginative players.

Billy cashed three hearts and shifted to a diamond. My only hope for the contract was not to lose a trump trick. For the double, Billy had to have four clubs to the jack. There was just one slim chance - if John had the singleton nine, I could lead the ten and pin it. I'd need Billy to be four-three-two-four as well to avoid a ruff.

I placed the ten of clubs on the table. Billy followed with the two. I called for dummy's three. John played the nine! I couldn't help myself: "Oh, baby!" I exclaimed.

As you can see, my exuberance was short-lived. A club to the king was swiftly followed by a diamond ruff for down one and minus 200 (yes, a spade underlead would have meant 500). It wasn't until much later that I realised that I should have played a spade after the ten of clubs held (before releasing the club king). That would have avoided the trump promotion that I feared (with the last heart), but would still allow me a make when Billy held two diamonds (and avoid minus 500).

Now for a play problem from the final (rotated for convenience).

Board 19. Dealer North. EW Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
l'Ecuyer	Carruthers	Fergani	Silver
--	Pass	1 ♣	Pass
1 ♥	Pass	2 ♣	Pass
3 ♦	Pass	4 ♦	Pass
4 NT	Pass	5 ♦ ¹	Pass
7 ♦	Pass	Pass	Pass
1. 0 or 3 key cards			

The opening lead is the club four. How would you play?

Perhaps you were a bit over-exuberant in the auction. You'll need to set up a club pitch for the jack of spades, or find the spade king onside. Not to mention setting up the hearts. It looks like you'll need good breaks in all suits to have a chance.

That club lead is very suspicious. But should you put all your eggs in the club finesse basket? You decide not. You win the club ace and ruff a club, the jack falling from the opening leader. A diamond to the ace reveals your worst fear, that West has all four trumps - East discards the spade five. Now what?

You may as well continue with the clubs, so you lead another and ruff it high as the king falls. You perk up. Are you going to make this after all? You now have two good clubs in the dummy for discards. Now the queen of hearts or the king of spades onside will now see you home. Are there any residual chances?

Sure, you can cash the major suit aces and squeeze either opponent with the spade king and four or five hearts. Or you could cash the top hearts and take a spade finesse if the queen of hearts does not fall. This latter line would run the risk of a second round heart ruff since you'd need to do it before finishing trumps due to the entry position. You hedge your bets by cashing one high heart, intending to unblock the jack, and the heart queen falls singleton from the opening leader. You draw trumps and claim. Partner says, "Nicely played." Opponents gnash their teeth. Their hands:

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

Is this what happened at the table? No; l'Ecuyer, nervous lest an early club be overruffed, led a trump to hand. When the vile break was revealed, he drew three rounds of trumps and took a first round heart finesse. When that lost, the losing spade finesse meant two off.

Despite this result, Fergani was strong enough through 48 boards for the Nagy squad to retire to the bar with 16 left to play. Then, over the 128-board playoff the next two days, they defeated Maksymetz 285-250 to win the right to play Mexico for a berth in the Bermuda Bowl. It was a brilliant nine days for them.

The African Zonal Bridge Championships

by Dilip Gidwani, Accra, Ghana

The African Zonal Bridge Championships to pick its representatives for this year's Bermuda Bowl and Venice Cup kicked off on June 11 at The Links in Johannesburg, courtesy of the South African Bridge Federation. The Championship was originally scheduled to be held in Botswana, but eventually moved to South Africa.

There were eight teams in the Open Series and four in the Women's. The format was a round robin of 28-board matches in the Open and a double round robin of 28-board matches in the Women's. South Africa and Egypt were the hot favourites in both events. The pundits' predictions were accurate in the Open, but Zimbabwe surprised Egypt to pip them for second place in the Women's event behind South Africa.

Much of the interest at this year's Championships centred around Egypt's star pair – Waled el Ahmady and Tarek Sadek, coming off their second straight runnerup finish in the Cavendish Invitational in Las Vegas, among other successes. El Ahmady and Sadek found themselves on the receiving end on the following two boards.

Round 1. Egypt v. Zimbabwe

Board 12. Dealer West. NS Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
el Ahmady	Stabell	Sadek	Meritt
1 ♦	Double	3 ♦	3 ♥
5 ♦	Double	Pass	Pass
Pass			

Three diamonds was a limit raise in the Egyptians' methods, and from East's point of view, five diamonds was premature, preventing him from doubling four hearts. However, four hearts needs a spade lead from West to beat it. Minus 300 meant a potential loss of 9 IMPs, but in the other room the Egyptians reached four hearts and made it on a non-spade lead, so it was 8 IMPs in.

Round 2. Egypt v. Réunion

Board 11. Dealer South. Neither Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Delfie	el Ahmady	Gerente	Sadek
—	—	—	Pass
1 ♣	Pass	1 ♠	Pass
3 ♣	Pass	4 ♣ ¹	Pass
5 ♣ ²	Pass	7 NT	Pass
Pass	Pass		

1. Explained by East to his screenmate as Gerber; explained by West to his screenmate as natural and invitational
2. Explained by East to his screenmate as "not in the system"

El Ahmady mentally grimaced when East bid seven no trumps. What was he to do? Double would hardly call for a diamond lead. He reasoned that his chances of winning a trick were one in three, assuming a non-spade lead. On the actual heart lead the grand came home in a canter. This time it was 11 IMPs away instead of 14 in.

Despite this result, Egypt won the match by the maximum, 25-0, and the Championship by 2 Victory Points over South Africa. Morocco finished a distant third, but considerably ahead of fourth. South Africa were more comfortable winners in the Women's, with Zimbabwe squeaking by Egypt by three VPs for runnerup laurels.

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LES JEUX SANS FRONTIÈRES

by Mark Horton, Romford, England
 Brent Manley, Memphis, TN
 Jos Jacobs, Amstelveen, Netherlands

The 1st European Open Championships took place in Menton, Côte d'Azur, France, from June 14-28, 2003. These games were the brainchild of European Bridge League President Gianarrigo Rona of Italy and are planned for every odd-numbered year henceforth. For the first time, a European Championship was open to any bridge player, regardless of nationality, and contestants from every continent participated.

These reports are extracted from the Daily Bulletins ably edited by Jean-Paul Meyer and Mark Horton. Surely this must be the first time a championship has produced a trilingual bulletin, in this case publishing articles in English, French and Italian every day. Despite English being the lingua franca of bridge, it is great to see articles in the languages of the host city in the Daily Bulletin.

The Championships kicked off with the Mixed Teams, comprised of 120 entries from 35 countries. In the end, to no one's surprise it was USA versus Europe for the gold. The medal winners:

1. Welland (USA) - Welland-J. Levin, R. Levin-Henner-Welland, Rosenberg-Rosenberg
2. Bertheau (SWE) - Bertheau-Nyström, Midskog-Magnusson
- 3./4. Schaltz (DEN) - Schaltz-Blakset, Auken-Auken
- 3./4. Hauge (SCO/NOR) - Hauge-Cohen, Leslie-Malinowski, Thorensen-Svendsen

There were many interesting sidelights of this championship - teams from Sweden, Norway and Denmark were in the semifinals; of the three spousal couples on the victorious Welland team, only Michael and Debbie Rosenberg played together; and Crystal Henner-Welland faced one of her teammates from the Montréal Rosenblum, Fredrik Nyström, in the final.

England's Paul Hackett found a thoughtful defence on this deal from the Mixed teams.

Board 23. Dealer South. Both Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
—	Hackett	—	de Botton
1 NT	Pass	2 ♣	Pass
2 ♠	Pass	3 ♦	Double
3 NT	Pass	5 ♦	Pass
Pass	Pass		

The opening lead of the jack of clubs was covered by the queen, ace and ruffed by declarer, who drew two rounds of trumps. Now she cashed a club, discarding a spade, ruffed a club, and having completed the partial elimination, played ace and jack of spades.

Paul Hackett was careful to overtake his partner's queen of spades with the king, even though it established a spade trick for declarer. He then exited with his trump, leaving declarer to divine the heart position for herself, a task that proved a bridge too far.

That was a terrific example of the care and nurturing of partner.

The Schaltz Team from Denmark faced a strong Israeli-Dutch squad when the following deal arose.

Board 6. Dealer East. EW Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Blakset	Jansma	Schaltz	van Ettinger
—	—	Pass	3 ♠
Pass	3 NT	Pass	4 ♠
Pass	Pass	Pass	

West led the diamond two, taken by the ace in dummy. Van Ettinger cashed dummy's top clubs pitching a diamond and ruffed a club. The spade eight floated around to east's queen, and West ruffed the diamond return, exiting with the queen of clubs. Declarer ruffed, but still had to lose to the spade ace and jack and the heart ace, finishing two off for minus 100.

At the other table:

West	North	East	South
Herbst	J. Auken	Barr	S. Auken
—	—	—	3 ♠
Pass	3 NT	Pass	Pass
Pass			

Here, Sabine Auken showed more discipline than her counterpart. Having already told her story once, there was no need to tell it again. Nevertheless, the contract was doomed on any but the normal diamond lead from East. Naturally, Barr did lead the diamond queen, which Jens Auken won with the ace to fire back a low diamond, taken by Barr with the jack.

Barr switched to a low club to the jack, queen and ace, but Auken was in control now. He played a diamond to dummy's ten and the eight of hearts to his king and Barr's ace. She led the spade queen through, but Auken covered with the king and that was it for the defence.

If Herbst cashed the spade jack, dummy would be high with the nine of hearts for an entry to the spades. He did the best he could, switching to a club, but Auken had his minor suit ace-kings to go with the ten of diamonds and the four heart tricks. That was nine tricks, plus 400, and 11 IMPs.

When Chagas played Mouiel, both declarers in four hearts missed a chance here.

Board 9. Dealer North. EW Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Zia	Levy	Meyers	Levy
—	1 ♥	1 ♠	2 ♦
Pass	2 ♥	Pass	4 ♥
Pass	Pass	Pass	

Jill Meyers started with the spade queen and Alain Levy ducked when Zia played the king. Levy won the spade continuation and played a heart to dummy's ace and a club to his king, followed by a second trump to the king. A spade discard on the diamond ace was followed by another club from dummy.

Apparently crediting Meyers with the club ace for her overcall, Levy inserted the ten, losing to the jack and conceding one off when clubs broke. Meyers is certainly capable of ducking the offside ace on the first club play, but how would she have known to do so?

The bidding was different at the other table, giving Chagas a bit of an advantage – he did not profit from it, however.

West	North	East	South
Mouiel	Chagas	Willard	Pain
—	1 ♥	2 ♠	3 ♠
Double	Redouble	Pass	4 ♦
Pass	4 ♥	Pass	Pass
Pass			

The first three tricks were the same as at the other table. Here, Chagas ruffed a low diamond, then ruffed his losing spade with the heart eight. Mouiel overruffed with the queen and returned a heart. Now Chagas, in the dummy for the last time, pitched a club on the diamond ace, and with no choice left, led a club to the ten to achieve the same one down as at the other table.

It seems better to lead a trump to dummy at trick three, followed by a low club. When the king holds, another trump to dummy seems better, since if hearts are two-two, the contract cannot be defeated. When the trump loser is revealed, the losing spade is discarded on the diamond ace and another club played. Willard's weak jump overcall argues for the existing layout. Indeed, Chagas could have gone down with trumps two-two all along. A good point for a defender holding the heart ten-five in front of that dummy!

When the mostly American Welland and O'Rourke teams met in the quarterfinals of the Mixed Teams, a tough battle was expected.

Board 8. Dealer West. Neither Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Meckstroth	R. Levin	Rogers	Henner
Rosenberg	Fredin	Rosenberg	Eythorsdottir
1 ♣	Pass	1 ♥	Pass
2 ♣	Pass	3 NT	Pass
Pass	Pass		

When Rogers declared, the ten of spades lead went to the jack and ace, and the four was returned to the king, dummy discarding a heart. Ace and another club followed, Henner winning the king. When she continued spades, declarer could cross to a high heart and knock out the last club. Rogers had nine tricks: four clubs, two hearts, two spades and a diamond.

At the other table, the opening lead and continuation were the same, but Eythorsdottir shifted to the diamond ten when in with the club king. Debbie Rosenberg covered with the

jack, but allowed the queen to hold, trying to keep her entry and tenace positions intact. When Fredin now led another spade, that was five tricks for the defence: two spades, two clubs and a diamond. The actual result was two down and 11 IMPs to O'Rourke.

As it happens, a switch to either the king or five of diamonds beats three no trumps, but the ten allows it to make in the following fashion. Declarer covers with the jack and wins the ace over the queen. A heart to dummy and queen and another club puts the defence in an untenable position. Continuing diamonds gives declarer a second diamond trick and an entry to hand. Playing a heart merely delays matters – declarer must come to a second diamond trick or a second spade trick in the end.

Later in the same match...

Board 20. Dealer West. Both Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Blakset	Welland	Schaltz	Levin
Pass	Pass	1 ♥	Double
2 ♥	Pass	Pass	Double
3 ♣	3 ♠	Pass	4 ♥
Pass	4 ♠	Pass	Pass
Pass			

This deal proved rather difficult to play. On a top heart lead, Roy Welland ruffed in the dummy and played three rounds of clubs, discarding a diamond on the second and ruffing the third, upon which Schaltz discarded a diamond.

When the diamond finesse lost, another heart from Blakset was ruffed in the dummy, and when declarer tried to cash the diamond ace, Schaltz was able to ruff and play ace and another spade, leaving Welland a trick short. This was effective defence, to be sure, but ace and another diamond after two top clubs would have seen declarer home fairly handily.

At the other table, the Rosenbergs pushed the Aukens to five spades, one off for a push.

The Mixed Pairs (426 entries from 36 countries) began concurrently with the quarterfinals of the Mixed Teams, pairs being allowed to drop in as they were eliminated from the Teams, a device begun successfully with the Rosenblum in 1978 and continued ever since. Europeans dominated, taking 17 of the top 20 places. The top placers were:

1. Vriend-Maas (NED)
2. Popa-Trapani (ITA)
3. Manara-Attanasio (ITA)

The main events for some, the Open, Women's and Senior Teams, began concurrently upon completion of the Mixed Pairs. There were 144, 22 and 28 teams, respectively, entered in these events. Following the pattern of the Mixed events, the Pairs events in the same categories would begin as the Teams events reached the quarterfinal stage.

Like the Mixed Teams, the final of the Open Teams was an inter-continental affair, Europe versus Asia this time (Israel's membership in the European Bridge League notwithstanding), with the host nation coming up short.

1. Kalish (ISR) – Kalish-Podgur, Herbst-Herbst, Yadlin-Yadlin
2. Chemla (FRA) – Chemla-Cronier, Abecassis-Soulet
- 3./4. Chagas (BRZ/USA) – Chagas-Brenner, Weinstein-Garner
- 3./4. Miroglio (ITA/POL) – Miroglio-Bongiovanni, Kowalski-Romanski, Szymanowski-Tuszynski

The medal winners in both the Women's and the Seniors Teams were all European. The Women's:

1. FIGB Mosca (ITA) – Capriata-Golin, Manara-Ferlazzo, Buratti-Forti
2. Vriend (NED) – Vriend-van der Pas, Hoogweg-van Zwol, Pasman-Simons
- 3./4. McGowan (SCO) – McGowan-McQuaker, Leslie-Cohen
- 3./4. Grönqvist (SWE) – Grönqvist-Forsberg, Rudenstål-Tengå

In the Seniors, the host country finally gave the locals something to cheer about.

1. Adad (FRA) – Adad-Aujaleu, Laserre-Poizat, Leenhardt-Levy
2. Forniacciari (ITA) – Forniacciari-Vivaldi, Abate-Morelli, Baroni-Ricciarelli
- 3./4. Flemming (DEN) – Flemming-Norris, Möller-Lund, Werdelin-Werdelin
- 3./4. Santolini (ITA) – Santolini-Sbarigia, Brillii-Cohen, Giove-Latessa

There was a slight difference in evaluation on this deal from the Open Teams that led to a slam swing.

Board 18. Dealer East. NS Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Zia	Schneider	Rosenberg	Hein
—	—	1 ♣	Pass
1 ♠	Pass	2 NT	Pass
3 ♣	Pass	3 ♦	Pass
4 ♦	Pass	4 NT	Pass
6 ♦	Pass	Pass	Pass

Except for the fact that they had not discussed the meaning of four no trumps, as came to light at the table, Zia and Rosenberg bid very well to a quite playable contract. Rosenberg treated his control-rich hand with the five-card suit as worth 18-19 balanced rather than a strong no trump (15-17).

As there is no obvious line, Michael Rosenberg took a rather long time to win the opening heart lead in dummy, cross to the heart ace, and lead a spade to the jack and queen. When the third-round spade ruff with the diamond eight in hand split out the suit, he drew trumps and claimed.

Assuming no bad breaks, which would scuttle the contract on any line of play, Rosenberg's line is sound. Since he was not willing to bank on a second spade finesse even if the eight lost to a high honour, he would gain when the king and queen of spades were on side or the suit was three-three. If neither eventuated, he'd need a spade ruff with the eight of diamonds to stand up. Then, he'd need whatever residual chances he had, three-three breaks in both minor suits, for example. All in all, about an even-money proposition.

At the other table, the East hand was treated as a strong no trump, and the slam was missed.

Board 4. Dealer West. Both Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Nunes	Robson	Fantoni	Bakshi
3 ♣	Double	Pass	3 ♦
Pass	3 ♥	Pass	3 ♠
Pass	4 ♣	Pass	4 ♦
Pass	5 ♦	Pass	Pass
Pass			

As you can imagine, the results on this deal were many and varied. The best result was obtained by a squad in the Seniors Teams who recorded plus 1540 at both tables! Six clubs

doubled making at one table, and six diamonds doubled making at the other.

Let's see what happened in the Forrester v. Angelini match. Bakshi ruffed the queen of clubs lead and led a heart. Fantoni rose with the ace and gave Nunes a spade ruff, but that was all for the defence.

West	North	East	South
McIntosh	Garozzo	Forrester	del Buono
3 ♣	Double	Pass	3 ♦
Pass	4 ♣	5 ♣	Double
Pass	Pass	Pass	

Del Buono's double of five clubs is difficult to understand, and on the spade ace lead, McIntosh was soon chalking up plus 950 for an overtrick.

There are a couple of curiosities about this deal. First, in the bidding, the tactics of Fantoni and Forrester are worth noting. Despite holding a great hand for clubs, Fantoni went quietly, passing throughout, and Forrester used the much-reviled "later method", albeit to score a decent plus. Anyone for an immediate leap in clubs?

The second curiosity is that slam can be made in each direction, except, in each case, on a heart lead. Six clubs needs a heart lead, then a heart continuation when in with a diamond to break up the impending major-suit squeeze on North. Six diamonds needs a heart lead to the ace and a spade ruff on the way back.

Both declarers in Welland v. Jacobs made a thin three no trumps look almost too easy here:

Board 16. Dealer West. EW Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Levin	Hampson	Weinstein	Greco
Pass	1 ♣ ¹	Pass	1 ♦ ²
Pass	1 NT	Pass	3 NT
Pass	Pass	Pass	
1.	Strong, artificial, forcing		
2.	Semi-positive		

Steve Weinstein led the spade ten, won by the jack in dummy. Hampson led a heart to the king and a heart to the ten, both of which held the trick. He then played a diamond to the two,

nine and queen. Seeing no future in spades, Weinstein tried to find his partner by leading the ten of clubs, but that merely simplified matters for Hampson. He covered with the queen, and won the ace over Levin's king.

When Hampson exited with a heart to West's ace, the club return gave him trick nine. At the other table, Michael Rosenberg did even better.

West	North	East	South
Balicki	Rosenberg	Zmudzinski	Zia
Pass	1 ♣	Pass	1 ♦
Pass	1 NT	Pass	2 NT
Pass	3 NT	Pass	Pass
Pass			

Here the one no trump rebid showed 15-17. The first three tricks were the same as at the other table, but Rosenberg continued with a third heart. Balicki won and played a diamond to the queen which held. Reluctant to break clubs due the 'natural' club opening bid, Zmudzinski continued with the spade nine to Rosenberg's king.

Rosenberg cashed his good heart, extracting a club from West, and led the diamond nine, passing it to Balicki's ten. Now endplayed, West exited with a club to the ten and queen. A club to the ace and the spade ace put Balicki in an untenable position. Refusing to be endplayed twice on the same deal, he threw the club king to keep the guarded king of diamonds. Rosenberg cashed the club nine for plus 430. Well done!

The pairs events were mostly a European affair, with the notable exception of the Open gold medallists from the USA and the silver medallists from Israel.

Open Pairs

1. Meckstroth-Rodwell (USA)
2. Birman-Levin (ISR)
3. Chemla-Cronier (FRA)

Women's Pairs

1. Erhart-Smederevac (AUT)
2. Cronier-Willard (FRA)
3. d'Ovidio-Allouche (FRA)

Seniors Pairs

1. Omenik-Pochron (POL)
2. Leenhardt-Sussel (FRA)
3. Jezioro-Russsyan (POL)

(To be continued)

Internet Collegiate Bridge Championship

by Marcia E. West, Mercer Island, WA

Tblisi State University (Republic of Georgia) tied Stanford University (USA) in the final of the 7th Internet Collegiate Bridge Championship in May 2003. Stanford had initially been declared the winner, but TSU recouped 13 IMPs on appeal to draw even. There being no tie-breaking procedure, they were declared co-champions. On the board in question, Stanford

IBPA MEETING AT MENTON

Tuesday 24th June 2003 9.30 a.m.

Conducted by Patrick Jourdain, Executive Vice-President

Present: Stefan Back (Ger), Kay Downes (Ire), Tony Gordon (Eng), Mark Horton (Eng), Herman de Wael (Bel), Bronius Zibaitis (Lithuania).

In Menton there were 43 IBPA members present, but many were involved in play or Appeals within the next 30 minutes.

1. **The EBL Draw** - The European Bridge League in Montréal had offered IBPA members \$1500 of prizes for mentioning Menton in newspapers or magazines between then and Menton starting. Under normal IBPA rules each clipping submitted would earn the author one ticket in an Open Draw with no member being permitted more than one prize. There would be 5 prizes of \$200 and the final ticket drawn would be worth \$500. Drawing a winning ticket would eliminate that person from a later prize.

The Chairman read out the 43 entries and Stefan Back placed the tickets one by one in the box. The draw resulted as follows: \$200 each: Niels Pedersen (Denmark), Brent Manley (USA), Jude Goodwin-Hanson (Canada), Eric Kokish (Canada), Alan Truscott (USA). The draw for \$500 went to Peter Lund (Denmark).

2. **The 2003 Awards** - The Chairman announced that the Awards Ceremony together with the AGM, Accounts for the year ending 31st December 2002, and decision regarding subscriptions for 2004 would all be conducted in Monte Carlo at the Bermuda Bowl.

One sponsor had confirmed for 2003, namely the Digital Fountain Hand of the Year. The following sponsors had yet to confirm their continuation: The Romex Award for Best Auction, The Fr. Joseph Hann & Arthur Kong Award for Best Defence, and the OKBridge Award for a Junior. It was therefore anticipated that at least one Award would become available for a new sponsor.

3. **Journalist Pairs and Press Outing** - There would be no Pairs or outing due to lack of time in the schedule. It was likely there would be a journalist Pairs in either Monte Carlo or Malmö or both.

4. **AOB** - Tony Gordon requested that future Press Rooms should not have computers with the jumble of three different national characteristics (English, French, and Italian) that existed in Menton. The fact that the computers were not networked was inconvenient. The heat was a problem common with the remainder of the building. **END**

had been allowed a controversial "Undo" by the Tournament Director, with the proviso that TSU could appeal if it affected the outcome of the match. Upon due consideration, OKbridge overturned the TD's ruling on the basis of the timeliness of the undo request and the fact that dummy, not declarer had asked for the undo.

Universities from the USA, England, Turkey, Singapore, India, and the Republic of Georgia took place in the Championship, played on the Internet in OKbridge.

NEWS

- **The Worldwide Bridge Contest** was conducted on Friday, June 6 and Saturday, June 7. The leaders were: June 6 - 1. Gloria Miller-Elaine Katzman, Jourdain Bridge Club (USA); 2. Natalie Francesco-Cesari Barbara, Associazione Sportiva Bridge Bologna (ITA); Maurice Hession-Rory Timlin, Galway Bridge Centre (IRE). June 7 - 1. Beverly Perry-Kent Mignocchi, Honors Bridge Club (USA); 2. Joseph Godefroid-Arnold Malasky, Winners Circle DBC (USA); 3. Denise Zongas-James Tullis, Mid Cape Bridge (USA).
- **Julius Butkow** has relinquished the Presidency of the South African Bridge Federation after a sterling 34-year stint in the chair.
- **Dilip Gidwani** reports that the Botswana government sent a 14-player contingent to the African Championships, with full support. One team included three 19-year-olds and a 20-year-old.
- **Jack** (NED) successfully defended its World Computer Bridge Championship in Menton, winning for the third year in a row. Jack defeated Bridge Baron (USA) 188-117 in the final. In the semifinals, Jack beat Micro Bridge 167-81, while Bridge Baron stormed from behind in the fourth quarter to overcome Wbridge5 143-139. Wbridge5, Jack and Micro Bridge finished a very close 1-2-3 in the round robin preceding the knockout stage.
- **Persi Diaconis**, a mathematics professor at Stanford University in California has determined, with the aid of computer modeling, that seven shuffles are required to produce random order in a deck of cards. This has direct application to bridge and casino games.
- **European Bridge League Vice President José Oliveira** of Lisbon has retired after eight years' service. The EBL General Assembly named Oliveira Honorary Vice President at their meeting in Menton.
- **FIDE** (the International Chess Federation) has sent a letter to José Damiani expressing their support and solidarity with the WBF in its Olympic goals. President Kirsan Ilyumzhinov pledges to work together to achieve these goals.
- **Elly Ducheyne**, longtime Press Room Manager at European and World Championships has announced that this will be her last. European Bridge League President Gianarrigo Rona presented Elly with an EBL plaque commemorating her 30 years of service.
- **Hundreds of photos** from Menton can be found at www.swangames.com.
- **François Colin** has collected a database of more than 10,000 deals from the highest level of bridge, including all deals from the world championships from 1955 to the present. He has organized them into training material previously available only to the French national teams. The material is now available to the general public for a fee. Contact fcolin@ffbridge.net for further information.
- **Gianarrigo Rona** has been named EBL President for another four-year term. He ran unopposed.



Correspondence ...

The Editor reserves the right to shorten correspondence

Mr. Carruthers,

An article by Mark Horton appeared in the Saturday 21st June Bulletin from Menton. This article approved the "sportsmanlike" action of Jovanka Smederevac in allowing an opponent to change his call after the tray had passed under the screen.

This action, a clear breach of the laws of bridge, apparently affected the result of the event.

I find this shocking for two reasons: firstly, that an experienced international player could have been so ignorant of the laws and of her responsibilities to the other contestants in the event; secondly, that an experienced journalist saw fit to approve of this action.

I request that you stimulate debate by publishing both the original article and this letter.

Richard Fleet
16 Upper Hall Park
Berkhamsted, Herts, HP4 2NW

Under the heading, "Bridge Is Still a Sport," Mark Horton reported the incident from the last session of the European Mixed Pairs, with both concerned pairs in contention, as follows ...

The world of sport is littered with outstanding moments. Here is the scenario:

It is the last session of the European Mixed Pairs Championship. You are in the hunt for a medal and find yourself facing another pair that is in contention. Your left-hand opponent and screenmate is the dealer and opens one diamond. When the tray is returned (to your side of the screen), your partner has passed and right-hand opponent has bid one spade. You pass, and now the next player thinks for a considerable period of time. To your surprise this is followed by a pass and the tray has almost completed its journey under the screen (the bids are clearly visible on the other side), when your screenmate realises what he has done.

According to the Laws it is now too late for any change to be made and many players would call the Director. Not this one! You get the tray back and allow the bid to be changed. A different result on this board would have given you a medal and cost your opponents a golden one.

Take a bow, Jovi Smederevac, a true sportswoman.

Wow! If true, this would mean that Popa-Trapani of Italy would have won the gold rather than their actual silver. Well, do you agree with Fleet or Horton?

In one of those exquisite twists of fate, Smederevac later won the Women's Pairs with Maria Erhart.

World Bridge Calendar

Date	Event	Location	Information
2003			
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 14-27	40 th Deauville Bridge Festival	Deauville, France	Nadine Ansay 33 1 4603 5120
Jul 17-27	ACBL Summer NABC	Long Beach, CA	www.acbl.org
Jul 21-25	Bridge Festival Vienna	Vienna, Austria	www.bridgefestival.at
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 26-31	European University Championships	Wroclaw, Poland	ebf@federbridge.it
Jul 26-31	Chairman's Cup	Skövde, Sweden	www.bridgefederation.se
Jul 26-Aug 3	9 th Bridge Festival	Skövde, Sweden	www.bridgefederation.se
Aug 1-5	Festival de Bridge de Megève	Megève, France	Valérie Ronchis 0450586345
Aug 3-9	35 th Internationale Wachauer Bridgewoche	Loiben, Austria	www.noe-bridgesportverband.at
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 8-17	XIII International Sport Bridge Festival "Solidarity"	Slupsk, Poland	www.bridgefestival.hg.pl
Aug 10-18	Avis Copenhagen Open	Copenhagen, Denmark	blakset@post.tele.dk
Aug 13-17	VII Azores International Tournament	São Miguel, Azores, Portugal	acortravel@mail.telepac.pt
Aug 16-25	7 th Mind Sports Olympiad	Manchester, England	www.msoworld.com
Aug 18-28	World Junior Teams	St. Cloud (Paris), France	www.worldbridge.org
Aug 22-24	Festival de la Côte Basque	Biarritz, France	www.biarritz-bridge.com
Aug 22-30	XXXI Grand Prix Warszowy	Warsaw, Poland	www.warsbrydz.pl
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 21-25	14 th Sun, Sea & Slams	Barbados	www.cacbf.com
Oct 22-26	10 th International Bridge Festival	Figueira da Foz, Portugal	sonia.almeida@casinofigueira.pt
Oct 25-26	2003 Lederer Trophy	London, England	simonx@simonx.plus.com
Nov 2-10	World Championships – Senior Bowl	Monte Carlo, Monaco	www.worldbridge.org
Nov 2-15	World Championships – Bermuda Bowl & Venice Cup	Monte Carlo, Monaco	www.worldbridge.org
Nov 10-15	World Championships – Transnational Open Teams	Monte Carlo, Monaco	www.worldbridge.org
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 17-23	6 th International Bridge Open	Madeira, Portugal	www.bridge-madeira.com
Nov 20-23	International Bridge Festival	Brasov, Romania	bridgeclubbrasov@hotmail.com
Nov 20-30	ACBL Fall NABC	New Orleans, LA	www.acbl.org
Nov 24-28	EBL Simultaneous Pairs	Clubs	anna@ecats.co.uk
Nov 26-30	2003 International Bridge Tournament	Cefalù, Sicily, Italy	albor@infcom.it/start
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			
Feb 9-15	9 th NEC Festival	Yokohama, Japan	www.jcbl.or.jp
Mar 18-28	ACBL Spring NABC	Reno, NV	www.acbl.org
May 14-27	55 th Antibes International Bridge Festival	Juan-les-Pins, France	www.bridgejuan.com
Jun 19-Jul 3	47 th European 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
Oct 23-Nov 6	12 th World Team Olympiad	Istanbul, Turkey	www.worldbridge.org
Oct 24-30	3 rd Senior International Cup	Istanbul, Turkey	www.worldbridge.org
Oct 24-30	2 nd World University Teams Bridge Cup	Istanbul, Turkey	www.worldbridge.org
Nov 2-6	3 rd World Transnational Mixed Team	Istanbul, Turkey	www.worldbridge.org
Nov 18-28	ACBL Fall NABC	Orlando, FL	www.acbl.org