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EDITORIAL

Immediately after Menton, I received a lengthy letter from IBPA member David Stern of Australia which was extremely critical of the 1st Open European Bridge Championships. Stern exhorted me to publish the letter in the Bulletin.

I thought Stern's letter a bit contentious, so I asked his permission to forward it to the European Bridge League to give them an opportunity to respond in the same Bulletin issue in which his letter was to appear. Here are the key points presented by David Stern, followed by the response from EBL President Gianarrigo Rona. The letters are much too long to be published in full (four pages in total), but I believe their key points are presented. The dialogue is important to the future of bridge in Europe and elsewhere.

Menton – Why Not?

By David Stern, Sydney, Australia

Some twelve months ago a group of bridge-loving Australians decided to enter the first open European Bridge Championships to be held in the beautiful town of Menton. The thought of playing bridge on the French Riviera was so alluring and sounded so romantic that we could not resist.

We spent a great deal of time making travel plans, arranging accommodation, organising teammates and dealing with the general logistics of playing bridge on the other side of the world. After all, travelling on a plane for 26 hours to play bridge is the best testament we can give to our desire to play in the event.

It is therefore with regret that we have to report our extreme disappointment with so many aspects of our bridge holiday.

Lest you think that the organisers have been forced to select this venue based on financial considerations you should consider that the entry fees for the entire event exceeds •580,000 (\$US675,000).

As an often writer of business plans I have tried to evaluate this tournament in terms of a strength and weakness analysis and summarise these as follows:

Strengths

- the outstanding coffee service
- the very high number of boards in play resulting in players never having to call for boards
- the quality of the Daily Bulletin
- the excellent Vu-Graph presentation

Weaknesses

- a venue which has no air-conditioning and a temperature of 35 degrees Celsius
- a venue which echoed badly where players were discussing the hands while play continued at adjoining tables
- poor toilet facilities
- sessions which always started 15 to 30 minutes late with no penalties

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- the 20-30 minutes it took each time for the teams draw to be posted
- the nine minutes allowed per board (there were screens throughout) which most tables finished in 7 minutes and the resulting 10½ hours, including a lunch break, to play just 50 boards
- players being allowed to smoke around the venue despite the event being non-smoking
- players being allowed to wander around a room while waiting for their draw with boards which they are about to play already in play
- a total disregard for any system card requirements
- a board stuff-up which required some matches to be replayed
- mobile phones in the adjacent scoring room continually ringing during play
- inability to purchase cold drinks or light snacks
- inability to pay entry fees by credit card or exchange US dollars, a common practice in the ACBL and elsewhere in the world
- a total lack of interest on the part of the organisers to deal with some of the negative issues
- the 19 teams who did not indicate their intention to withdraw and not play in the consolation – something which delayed game time by another 20 minutes.

So what is the upshot from our point of view? We will stay at home, play in modern and very acceptable venues in Australia, pay entry fees 25% of those being charged here, have much more professional organisation and enjoy our bridge outing much more than we experienced in Menton.

Dear John,

Thank you for your courtesy in sending me the letter from Mr. Stern and for offering to publish my reply in the IBPA Bulletin. These are my brief comments:

"I read carefully the letter from David Stern, whom I also spoke to in Menton during the Championship, trying to explain to him the reasons for the serious troubles and our position as organizers. I must say immediately that I share some of his views, whilst others I absolutely cannot accept.

I am truly sorry, more than sorry, distressed, by what happened in Menton, which practically made fruitless a whole year's preparatory work and mortified the great work and sacrifice of all the staff members who worked with the utmost professionalism and self-denial in the hope that all participants would enjoy a great bridge event. I apologized to the players openly and calmly, with complete humility, assuming all responsibility for what happened. I know, however, that this was small comfort and my words were not able to change ipso facto the situation there.

All that we could say again now to apologize would sound merely like an awkward attempt to justify matters. Nevertheless, we should not forget that usually the climate in Menton in the second fortnight of June is absolutely temperate and that we had no problems at previous

championships, played in the same venue at the same time. Never in eighty years has there been such weather as there was this year in Menton (and all over Europe). However, to organize means to foresee, and to foresee means to prevent. Certainly in the future we will not run the risk of ending up in the same trap. To be even more sure, we have asked all participants for their complaints, comments and suggestions, and we will consider them all very carefully.

I can promise that the Championship in 2005, which will probably take place in Tenerife in the Canary Islands, a veritable earthly paradise, fit for the bridge player, will be a great Championship and of an excellent standard. And I assure you that this does not mean 'closing the stable door after the horse has bolted', as the saying goes.

Concerning David Stern's letter, I wish to thank him for his comments on the aspects he considers 'strengths' and also for those he considers 'weaknesses', even though, in my modest opinion, it seems to me that he overemphasised some of the negative aspects. However, I cannot accept his comments on the attitude or behavior of the organizers nor his apodictical conclusions.

As far as the 'stuff up' boards are concerned, this happened only once in one team session for a very small number of tables and occurred due to human and not technical error. Obviously there is room for improvement, particularly regarding the pauses, even if in Menton the climactic conditions damaged the technological and operational structure and not only inconvenienced the players. This should and must be rectified.

Concerning the heat, we tried to intervene as soon as it was possible (and certainly not unwillingly) by installing a series of air-conditioning units, which of course did not resolve the problem, but did offer some relief.

Concerning the playing venue, as I mentioned earlier, in future such mishaps will not occur. The fact that we were unable to provide a snack-bar/café in the venue was due to there being dozens of bars, cafés, bistros and restaurants very close to the building, while inside there was free and limitless water, tea and coffee available (I do not believe that this is usual at sporting events). However, in the future this necessity will be taken into consideration.

Finally, regarding the entry fees, we had the same costs in Euros as the corresponding entry fees, at the time, for the Rosenblum in Montreal (the strong dollar penalized the weaker Euro in Montreal, while the inverse situation with the strong Euro in Menton penalized the weaker dollar).

Criticism is sacrosanct and willingly accepted when intended to eliminate problems and improve the state of affairs: we are always ready to heed criticism and I must say that we have already undertaken appropriate and opportune steps in this regard."

Dear John, thank you for the attention, time and space.

Un abbraccio
Gianarrigo Rona

My Latest Humiliating Experience

by Eric Kokish, Toronto

Most of the time writing about bridge is a lot of fun. But not always. Soon after my article *Redemption Song* appeared in the Menton Daily Bulletin, I was confronted by my great and good friend Franco Broccoli, who presented me with his best Jewish mother impression and said, "Ah, Eric, I am so disappointed..."

Disappointed in whom? Well, actually, it was moi. It turns out that I had screwed up one of the better deals I've written about in years. This was the deal:

Board 15. Dealer South. NS Vul.

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

North led the ace of clubs and played a low spade away from his king. West, declarer in four hearts, won the nine, drew trumps, cashed the spade ace and the king of clubs, and led a diamond to the ten and king. I suggested that South had to lead the seven or eight of diamonds to defeat the contract, surviving the unfortunate lead of the club ace and switch to a spade by dint of maintaining focus.

This, of course was nonsense. Even if South finds this play the contract cannot now be defeated.

Declarer wins the jack of diamonds in dummy and exits with a spade. Now North is endplayed and must give declarer a ruff and discard. Declarer's second diamond loser disappears.

It's rather a pretty deal, don't you think? Too bad about the bridge writer, though. He was last seen plunging into the sea from the Hôtel de Paris in Monte Carlo.

Jack Scores a Hat Trick

By Wim Heemskerk, Bodegraven, Netherlands

For the first time in the history of computer bridge, a program has succeeded in winning the World Championship title three times in a row. After Toronto 2001 and Montréal 2002, Jack (from The Netherlands) once again came out first in Menton 2003.

The fight was not as exciting as in Montréal. There, Jack finished only 1 IMP ahead of the French program WBridge. This year, the 64-board semifinal against MicroBridge (Japan; 167 - 81) and the 64-board final against Bridge Baron (USA; 188 - 117) both turned out to be relatively easy wins.

Jack's strongest quality is its capability for controlled aggressive bidding, which put the program clearly ahead of the rest of the field. It has to be said, though, that the level of all

the competitors has improved a lot since Montréal. As soon as the programmers are able to get the play and defence up to the same level as the bidding, even top players will have a hard time trying to beat the silicon monsters.

A few boards from the final:

Jack made an overtrick in a doubled part score on the following deal, while Bridge Baron went one off in game. Please notice that Jack did not even double four spades!

Session 1. Board 4. Dealer West. Both Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Baron	Jack	Baron	Jack
Pass	Pass	1 ♠	Double
Redouble	Pass	Pass	2 ♥
3 ♠	Pass	4 ♠	Pass
Pass	Pass		

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Jack	Baron	Jack	Baron
Pass	Pass	1 ♠	Double
2 ♥ ¹	Pass	2 ♠	3 ♥
Pass	Pass	3 ♠	Pass
Pass	Double	Pass	Pass
Pass			

1. Exactly three card spade support, at least 8 HCP

In the Open Room, Bridge Baron could not handle the bad trump break and the off side heart king, going one off.

In the Closed Room, more was at stake. South led the diamond ace and switched to the jack of clubs, taken by the queen. Declarer played the spade six, covered by the eight, and won the trick with the queen. (*It seems more prudent to play on diamonds first, planning ruffs in the dummy.* – Ed.) He crossed to dummy with a club and played the spade king and then the diamond nine, North playing the ten.

East covered the diamond ten with the jack to prevent North leading a third trump. South won, and in desperation, played a heart. Indeed this looks like the only way to create another trick for North-South. In this case, however, it was right into the ace-queen. Declarer made the ace-queen of hearts, ruffed a diamond in dummy, then a club in hand. After that, he played a diamond. North had to ruff, and with ace-ten of spades behind the jack-nine, declarer scored the last two tricks for a juicy three spades doubled plus one.

On the next deal, it looks like Bridge Baron is too passive at the wrong moment. Jack once more seems to have the right tempo.

Session 1. Board 7. Dealer South. Both Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Baron	Jack	Baron	Jack
—	—	—	Pass
1 ♣	Pass	1 ♠	Pass
2 ♠	Pass	3 ♠	Pass
Pass	Pass		

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Jack	Baron	Jack	Baron
—	—	—	Pass
1 ♣	Pass	1 ♠	Pass
2 ♠ ¹	Pass	2 NT ²	Pass
3 ♥ ³	Pass	4 ♠	Pass
Pass	Pass		

1. May be three card support
2. Relay
3. Four card support and minimum

Jack reversed the dummy to make its aggressive but reasonable game, while Bridge Baron played in part score, making three.

This time Bridge Baron overbid to a poor game while Jack stayed low.

Session 3. Board 14. Dealer East. Neither Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Baron	Jack	Baron	Jack
—	—	1 NT	Pass
2 ♥	Pass	2 ♠	Pass
2 NT	Pass	4 ♠	Pass
Pass	Pass		

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Jack	Baron	Jack	Baron
—	—	1 NT	Pass
2 ♥	Pass	2 ♠	Pass
2 NT	Pass	3 ♠	Pass
Pass	Pass		

In the Open Room, Baron in the East seat considered its four-triple three 15 HCP hand enough to bid game. It does have a lot of controls, but that doesn't seem to be enough. On a diamond lead the contract should go two off, but South led a heart. That gave declarer time to develop the fourth club to dispose of a diamond loser. The contract was still one down though.

Jack as East had no faith in four spades and settled for three. Again South led a heart and gave declarer enough time to play for a diamond discard on the fourth club. East lost a spade, a diamond and two clubs and made its part score.

On the website www.jackware.nl you can find more information about Jack.

Jörgen Lindqvist

By P.O. Sundelin, Stockholm

Here is an example of Jörgen Lindqvist's creativity from earlier this year.

Dealer East. EW Vul.

<p>♠ K 8 3 ♥ A 9 8 6 5 ♦ 9 8 7 3 ♣ 8</p> <p>♠ 4 ♥ J 7 3 2 ♦ A 5 4 2 ♣ J 9 5 2</p>	<p>♠ A 7 ♥ K Q 10 ♦ K Q J 10 ♣ K Q 10 4</p> <p>♠ Q J 10 9 6 5 2 ♥ 4 ♦ 6 ♣ A 7 6 3</p>
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West	North	East	South
—	—	2 ♣	4 ♠
Pass	Pass	Double	Pass
Pass	Pass		

The opening showed 20-21 balanced or any game force. West led a trump which East won with the ace to return the suit.

In theory there was now no way to make the contract.. But what about real life? That trump lead was killing as it had

taken away two ruffs in dummy. There remained six trump tricks, two aces and one ruff.

Jörgen decided to try an old gambit. He exited with a small club from both hands. The defenders played diamonds. Jörgen ruffed the second, ruffed a club in dummy and a diamond in hand, and ran all the spades. Both defenders 'knew' that partner had the club ace so they held onto hearts in the three-card ending, letting declarer win two club tricks and make ten tricks and the impossible game.

Defend This Hand with Me

By Renée Secrète, Londres

Wellington's defeat of Napoleon at the Battle of Waterloo was in no small measure due to the last minute arrival of Blucher's Prussian forces. This deal might be said to echo that.

Dealer West. NS Vul.

♠ 4 3 2
♥ 4 3 2
♦ 4 3 2
♣ 5 4 3 2

My partner is a solid enough performer, but the rubber is going badly when I pick up a hand of a type with which both my Bank Manager and I are all too familiar. In the hope of creating a diversion I decide to open three hearts. This appears to give North a problem, but eventually he doubles. When partner redoubles, I have to announce a convention. His bid shows heart support, but suggests there is no future in leading the suit.

I suspect that three hearts redoubled may be a trifle expensive, but South is from the old school and he trots out Blackwood. After discovering North has two aces and a king he bids seven no trumps.

This has been the full auction:

West	North	East	South
3 ♥	Double	Redouble	4 NT
Pass	5 ♥	Pass	5 NT
Pass	6 ♦	Pass	7 NT
Pass	Pass	Pass	

Prospects are poor, but in any event, I must clearly try and find a lead to pressurise the declarer. As partner did not double six diamonds it is a choice of black suits and eventually I decide on a slightly deceptive four of spades.

♠ K J 10
♥ J 6 5
♦ A Q 6 5
♣ A Q 6

♠ 4 3 2
♥ 4 3 2
♦ 4 3 2
♣ 5 4 3 2

South does not appear discomfited and he proceeds to cash three top spades, partner showing an even number, followed by three top hearts, partner again revealing four. This confirms my earlier conjecture that three hearts redoubled would not have been a picnic.

Now declarer takes the ace, queen and king of diamonds, partner producing the jack and ten, then, looking learned, discarding the ten of clubs. Then follow the ace, queen, and king of clubs. Partner follows to the first two clubs and considers his discard on the third. He must decide whether to throw the thirteenth heart or the thirteenth spade. Eventually he decides on a heart. I have to follow all the way, but in the hope of causing some confusion I play the three, five and four. For once it is appropriate to show the one card ending:

♠ —		♠ 9
♥ —		♥ —
♦ 5		♦ —
♣ —		♣ —
♠ —		♠ —
♥ —		♥ —
♦ —		♦ —
♣ 2		♣ —
	♠ —	
	♥ —	
	♦ —	
	♣ —	

South, who is busily entering the score, receives a rude awakening when his partner points out that he has not yet played to trick thirteen. Despite a thorough search there is no sign of the missing card and in accordance with Law 67.B.1. (1975), I find myself on lead for the second time.

My goodness! I am going to take a trick with the two of clubs for a hard-fought one off. This was the full deal:

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

IBPA Column Service

By Tim Bourke, Canberra

(These deals are provided as a service to members and may be used without attributing the author or the IBPA.)

241. Acting on an inference, declarer was able to bring home the following game. (See top of next page.)

West led the diamond king and ace before shifting to the two of spades. Declarer won the king and led another trump to dummy, carefully noting East's diamond discard. From the bidding and carding to date he came to the conclusion that West had four diamonds and East five. Thus West had a singleton club.

Dealer West. Neither Vul.

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

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

The heart king was certainly offside, so declarer had to look to clubs for his tenth trick unless West had the five highest outstanding hearts. Since he would need two more dummy entries to pick up and cash the clubs, he now made the key play of the club jack. East covered and South won the king.

Another trump put declarer back in dummy to lead a club to the eight. After the club ten was cleared declarer still had a high trump in dummy to return for the club ace and his game-going trick.

242. The bidding revealed that all key cards were off side on this deal.

Dealer West. NS Vul.

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

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

West's no trump was 15-17 and North felt that he was worth game in view of his vulnerable partner's action.

The queen of hearts lead was won by declarer with the king. South then cashed the spade ace, the heart ace, and the club ace and king. He then ruffed dummy's third club and led a spade to end play West. West could either let declarer score the diamond king or allow him to discard a diamond from dummy on a ruff and sluff.

243. Here is a very simple deal for declarer. He is at the complete mercy of the defence.

Dealer South. Both Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
—	—	—	1 ♠
Double	Redouble	Pass	Pass
2 ♣	3 ♣	Pass	3 ♠
Pass	4 ♠	Pass	Pass
Pass			

West's first three tricks are easy. However, to defeat four spades he must lead a fourth round of clubs. Of course, he should be able to tell from the bidding that his partner cannot hold as much as a king. So a trump promotion seems the only chance.

As a side issue, is there some way East can instruct his partner to lead the thirteenth club? Let's say you're playing standard, old-fashioned methods. Partner leads the king (from ace-king or king-queen); you discourage with the two. Next, Partner continues with the club queen. He must have the ace or jack to continue clubs in the face or your signal, so your normal play would now be to give remainder count with the nine so he'd know how many were cashing. When, finally, he plays the ace, your three hits the table. Is it possible from your plays for him to deduce that you have a trump promotion available? Perhaps not.

So, maybe you should play the nine and three in reverse order to alert him that something is up. The red flag signal. He knows when declarer follows to the third club that you've given him false count. Will he work out why? He could, but with a different hand, he may switch, believing no other club will cash.

There is no absolute answer. My choice would be to play two, nine, three and hope he can work it out.

244. South must display a modicum of care here.

South Dealer. Both Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
—	—	—	2 NT
Pass	3 ♠	Pass	4 ♥
Pass	Pass	Pass	

With a spade and a diamond to lose, South can afford one trump loser, but not two. He therefore wins the opening spade lead and plays a spade right back. West wins and switches his attention to clubs, leading the jack. Declarer wins the club and plays one high heart only, then the ace and another diamond.

Declarer can afford having someone ruff a diamond from a doubleton or tripleton trump holding, but not from a singleton, as here. Additionally, he must not give the defenders a chance to draw a third round of trumps, as would happen here if he cashed both the ace and king before playing on diamonds.

So, after ace and another diamond, he wins the club return and cashes the other high heart. Now his crossruff has been fully prepared.

POTPOURRI

By Ib Lundby, Fredensborg, Denmark

(As usual, Ib consents to the use of these deals by members of the IBPA without the need for attribution. – Ed.)

The Nordic Championships

In May, the Faroe Islands hosted the Nordic Championships. This year Norway won the Open and Sweden the Ladies.

The President of the European Bridge League, Gianarrigo Rona, visited the championships and tells about some fantastic days in the islands. He was also very impressed with the perfectly-organised tournament. The Faroese Bridge Federation has only a couple of hundred members.

The federation has been a member of the Nordic Bridge Union for many years, but for natural reasons the teams have always been cannon fodder. To inspire and encourage the players, for many years I offered a bottle of whisky for each victory the team had. Luckily enough, I did not go to the championships this year. During the double round robin the Faroese Open Team beat Iceland and Norway 17–13, Sweden 18–12, Denmark 16–14 and Finland 20–10. I saved five bottles of whisky during the week! And for the first time, the team did not come last in the tournament. They finished with 9 VP more than Finland.

Dealer South. Both Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Kauko	Hedin	Clas	Jóannes
Koistinen	Mouritsen	Nyberg	Mouritsen
—	—	—	1 ♥
Pass	Pass	Double	Redouble
Pass	Pass	Pass	

Opening Lead: ♠ 3

Are you familiar with the score of 2320? Svend Novrup, successful (Danish) team captain of the Faroese team, tells about this seldom-seen score in the bulletin. The deal came up during the match against Finland.

Obviously, East assumed that West's pass to the redouble was for penalty. And indeed it was, but it penalised East-West. After a shaky defence South made 11 tricks (South won a trick with the club king as East ducked), and the score had to be found on the back of the bidding cards – none of the players were able to calculate it themselves: 2320!

In the Closed Room the Finnish North-South stopped in a part score in hearts, but it cost only 2 IMPs not to bid the game.

A Grown Up Youngster

Back in 1970, I captained a brilliant Danish Junior Team which won the European Junior Team Championships. The late Gert Kristensen was on the team, and his son, Mik, walked in his fathers footsteps. He won gold at the World Junior Team Championships in Canada 1997 and bronze in Florida 1999.

In fact Martin Schaltz, son of Peter, who played on the 1970 team as well, is still a junior top player. He won bronze in Brazil 2001 and is on the team in Paris this year.

Back to Mik, who now belongs to the group of the best players in Denmark. Here is an example of his successful imagination at the bridge table.

Dealer East. Both Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Mik	Snorri	Mikkel	Sigurd Lauge
Kristensen	Sveinsson	Nøhr	Petersen
—	—	Pass	Pass
1 ♠	2 ♠ ¹	Pass	4 ♥
Pass	5 ♣ ²	Pass	6 ♥
Pass	Pass	Pass	
1. Michaels			
2. Invitational			

Opening Lead: ?

A long time ago, the diamond king was led if you or I held the West cards, but Mik is not a routine player. From the bidding he knew that the slam had to be almost lay-down because of his ♣ K-J, if not ...

Mik led the club jack! Now jump to the South seat and plan the play. It would be unfair to blame South for asking for the club ace and relying on a heart finesse. One off.

At the other table, Georg Norris and Flemming Dahl (Gert Kristensen's partner on the 1970 team) played four hearts making 12 tricks.

The Extra Chance

Always look for the extra chances is good advice. South forgot it on this deal, but before he fell asleep that night he realised that he could have made his contract.

Dealer North. Neither Vul.

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

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

1. Diamonds and a major

Opening Lead: ♥ 10

This deal is from rubber bridge, where East-West had a part score of 60 – that may explain why South wouldn't give up, and finally had to declare four spades from the South seat.

A clairvoyant West would have led the club queen or ten – the only way to defeat the contract (declarer could duck the eight or seven). But, more naturally, West started with the ten of hearts, obviously from a doubleton.

South won the lead with the heart king (important) and realised that trumps divided two-two plus a correct guess in clubs was necessary to make the contract. Therefore he played a spade to the ace and continued with a spade from dummy. Good night!

Yes, indeed good night! When Per Donnerup went to bed later in the evening, he couldn't sleep because of this deal, and finally he found the solution. He had missed the extra chance of finding East with the singleton ten or jack of spades. Leading the queen of spades at trick two makes four spades!

Sabine at the Cavendish

Sabine Auken and Daniela von Arnim joined the field for this year's Cavendish, and although the final result was a little disappointing (37th of 50 pairs), Sabine told me that it had been a tremendous experience to participate. The girls were an impressive 3rd place in the final session, from which this deal is taken.

Dealer North. EW Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Daniela von Arnim	Fredrik Nyström	Sabine Auken	Peter Bertheau
—	Pass	Pass	1 ♦
Pass	2 ♣	2 ♦	3 ♣
3 ♦	5 ♣	5 ♥	Double
Pass	Pass	Pass	

Sabine has a tool to show the two-suiter as an opening bid, but the Cavendish system policy forbade her to use it, so she had to pass in second seat. She tried to show the hand at her next turn, but because of the Swedish opponents' Precision one diamond opening Daniela might have had a little doubt about whether the two diamond bid was natural. Anyway, her three diamonds covered everything, and a little later Sabine had to fight at the level that is said to belong to the enemy.

Sabine ruffed the opening club lead and the heart king revealed the bad break. After a diamond to dummy she led a spade upon which North went up with the king and played a diamond to dummy. The ten of spades went to the jack, queen and ace, and Sabine was in charge. Eleven tricks.

Sabine was ready, when I asked her what she'd have done if North had played the jack of spades instead of the king. It wouldn't have helped him very much, but would have given Sabine an opportunity to show her declarer skills.

South wins the spade queen with the ace and leads the club jack, ruffed by East, who continues with a spade to the ten in dummy and North's king. North plays a third club, ruffed by declarer, and at this moment it is important to cash a diamond trick, which leads to the following ending.

In this ending, South has the longer trump suit but it doesn't matter. Sabine plays a spade from dummy and continues with spades until South ruffs. She overruffs and her hand is high. Plus 850 was the result.

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

One in a Thousand

Some deals are more interesting than others. This one from the Danish Mixed Pairs Championships has a lot of interesting points. Have a look at the whole hand:

Dealer East. EW Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
—	—	Pass	Pass
4 ♥	4 ♠	Double	Pass
Pass	Pass		

You hit the target if you as East lead the diamond ace and give partner a ruff, because that is the only way to defeat four hearts. Try the normal heart lead instead.

North wins the ace and trumps a heart. He cashes the club ace, ruffs a club and takes the spade ace before leading the king of diamonds. East wins the diamond ace (best) and continues with a diamond to the queen. A low spade brings East in again, and he uses his remaining exit card, a club. North ruffs, cashes the top spade and plays a spade to East who has to be the stepping stone to dummy.

At another table South felt she had to rescue her doubled partner. She bid four no trumps and ended up in five diamonds, doubled as well. Again a diamond lead is the only way to defeat declarer.

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EXACTLY as typed.

Instead, let's try the king of hearts lead, won with dummy's ace. After a club to the ace, South ruffs a club, goes back with a heart ruff and ruffs another club. Once again South goes back with a heart ruff to achieve this ending:

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

With this particular trump distribution South is always able to get two diamond tricks in a way so that East is in with his fourth diamond. Play the jack, and if East ducks continue with the ten. No matter what East does he will be endplayed to lead a spade to dummy's ace, king, jack of spades.

Results and bulletins can be found at www.bridge.fo (NM 2003).

Bridge on the Dance Floor

By Kees Tammens, Amsterdam

's-Hertogenbosch in the Netherlands has acquired quite a reputation for junior bridge. From 1993 until 2000 the Stichting Bridgestad 's-Hertogenbosch organised the annual International Youth Bridge Festival. In 2000, 26 teams from 23 different nations participated, including USA, Canada, Indonesia and Australia from outside Europe.

Alfredo Versace (Ita), Roland Rohowski (Ger), Jason and Justin Hackett (GBr), Boye Brogeland (Nor), the brothers Madsen (Den), Andrei Gromow (Rus), Simon de Wijs (Net) and many other juniors who made it to their national open teams have taken part in the festival. They all have fond memories and still speak with great love about their participation in the festival and their visits to the rich cafés and restaurants in this very nice city located in the south of the Netherlands.

However, lately, the sponsor climate has worsened drastically, even in the Netherlands, so the Youth Festival has ended. However, Jan Rijnaarts of the organising Stichting Foundation never stops thinking about creating new opportunities for junior bridge. This led quickly to six-nation tournaments in 2001 and 2002, and this year from 28 June until 2 July as the Carrousel Cup. The Carrousel, a local discothèque, is also the playing area which inspired the nickname of this junior event, "Bridge on the Dance Floor."

The junior teams of USA, Norway, Denmark and England travelled to the Carrousel Cup with pairs who will also participate in the World Junior Teams (Paris in August). For Germany and the Netherlands it was a great chance to introduce new juniors to the international scene.

All three pairs on each team play continuously, in matches of three times ten boards. Every session another pair sits down at the anchor table. Their result is compared with that of the other two pairs of their team. As you will realise, the scores of

the anchor pair can be expensive or profitable. This is illustrated by a board from England versus Denmark.

Dealer North. Neither Vul.

<p>♠ — ♥ A 9 6 5 4 2 ♦ A Q J 6 5 ♣ Q 3</p> <p>♠ A K J 10 9 6 5 4 ♥ — ♦ 9 4 ♣ J 10 5</p>	<p>♠ Q 3 2 ♥ J 8 7 3 ♦ K 10 ♣ K 9 6 2</p>
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Open Room (Anchor Table)

West	North	East	South
Harper	S.Houberg	Green	A.Houberg
—	1 ♥	Pass	2 ♥
4 ♠	4 NT	Double	5 ♣
Pass	5 ♥	Double	Pass
Pass	Pass		

It seemed that Simon Houberg (Denmark) was in a dilemma about his meaning of four no trumps: two-suiter, or Blackwood. It had, however, the fortunate effect of East doubling five hearts. After a spade lead, ruffed in North, declarer played a heart to the king, took the losing diamond finesse and ruffed the second spade. A heart to the ten, queen of hearts and diamond to the ace were next. When East had to follow suit to the diamond, declarer could draw the last trump and claim eleven tricks and plus 650 for Denmark.

The events at the two other tables: Denmark as East-West and England as North-South.

West	North	East	South
Marquardsen	Levy	Henriksen	Woodcock
—	1 ♥	Pass	2 ♥
4 ♠	5 ♦	5 ♠	Pass
Pass	Double	Pass	Pass
Pass			

A well judged five spades by Boje Henriksen and another 650 for Denmark for plus 1300 and 16 IMPs.

West	North	East	South
B.Houmoller	Morris	J.Houmoller	Bryne
—	1 ♥	Pass	2 ♥
4 ♠	5 ♦	5 ♠	6 ♥
Pass	Pass	Pass	

The English pair Morris-Bryne did everything right. Six hearts depended only on the diamond finesse, and it was a cheap save against five spades making. But a second loss for the English, this time minus 700 and 12 more IMPs for Denmark.

The final round robin standings were:

1:	Norway	269
2:	Denmark	258
3:	USA	252

4:	England	233
5:	Germany	163
6:	Netherlands	160

Norway, the pre tournament favourites, won the round robin and met Denmark in the final (three sessions of 16 boards). All three Danish pairs played a near-perfect game in the first session so Denmark took the lead by 50 IMPs.

Andreas Marquardsen brought home a delicate four spade contract here.

Dealer West. EW Vul.

<p>♠ Q 9 5 3 ♥ K Q 9 ♦ J 8 5 ♣ J 6 4</p> <p>♠ J 8 7 4 ♥ J ♦ 9 7 4 ♣ A Q 9 7 2</p>	<p>♠ A ♥ 10 7 5 4 ♦ A 10 2 ♣ K 10 8 5 3</p> <p>♠ K 10 6 2 ♥ A 8 6 3 2 ♦ K Q 6 3 ♣ —</p>
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West	North	East	South
Pass	Pass	1 ♣	Double
1 ♠	Double	2 ♣	3 ♠
4 ♣	4 ♠	Pass	Pass
Pass			

Declarer ruffed the club ace at the first trick and played a small diamond to the jack and ace in East, who persisted in clubs, again ruffed in South. A heart to the king and the jack of clubs ruffed with the spade ten in South followed. South then played another heart, West discarding a small diamond, followed by the heart nine for the marked finesse while West discarded his last diamond.

Declarer now played a diamond to the king, which West ruffed, then played a fourth round of clubs. South discarded the eight of diamonds from the dummy and ruffed with the spade king. Declarer played the diamond queen, ruffed by West with the seven and overruffed by the nine in dummy. A low spade exit from the dummy to the spade ace in East meant that the queen-five of spades were good for the last two tricks.

Simon Houberg gave his partner and sister Anne Sofie no chance to let through a possible four heart or four spade game on that deal.

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

East, Anne Sofie, led a small heart, and with the spade and diamond ace as two sure entries, two heart ruffs for West assured four defensive tricks against any spade contract.

Norway made up ground in the second and third session and got Denmark in sight until a very timely two diamond opening bid by Anne Sofie Houberg decided the final.

Dealer East. Neither Vul.

♠ A Q
♥ J 9 4 2
♦ A 3 2
♣ J 7 6 3

♠ 10 9 7 6 3 2
♥ —
♦ J 7 5
♣ K 8 5 2

♠ K J 8 4
♥ K 7 6 5
♦ 8 6
♣ 10 9 4

♠ 5
♥ A Q 10 8 3
♦ K Q 10 9 4
♣ A Q

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

1. Four or more of each major, less than opening values
2. Good hand with one or two minors

A new topic in competitive bidding: How to reach a slam in a suit shown by the opponents. Or is it just too difficult? With the Danish North-South pairs reaching six hearts after initial passes by East the Carrousel Cup 2003 went to Denmark. USA beat England for third place and the Netherlands won their match for fifth place against Germany.

Jan van Zon, owner of the Carrousel and not even a bridge player, handed out the Cup and prizes. Van Zon enjoyed this four-day event so much that he announced a possible enlargement of the number of nations for the tournament in 2004. Bridge will roll on in 's-Hertogenbosch!

Living Vicariously

By David Bird, Eastleigh, England

(From The Mail on Sunday – 10 August 2003)

Dealer East. Both Vul.

♠ A 9 4
♥ 8 6 3 2
♦ A J 9 5
♣ A J

♠ 8 5 3
♥ 9 4
♦ K 10 8 6 4 3 2
♣ 6

♠ K 2
♥ K Q J 5
♦ Q 7
♣ Q 10 4 3 2

♠ Q J 10 7 6
♥ A 10 7
♦ —
♣ K 9 8 7 5

West	North	East	South
—	—	1 ♣	1 ♠
Pass	2 ♣	Pass	3 ♠
Pass	4 ♠	Pass	Pass
Pass			

My partner, Stephen Lee, found a great play on this deal from the main teams event at the English Bridge Union Spring

Congress in Bournemouth. How would you have played the spade game when West leads the six of clubs?

Lee won the club lead with dummy's ace and continued with the jack of clubs, covered by the queen. Suppose declarer plays the king of clubs on this trick. West will ruff and return a trump. The contract will then fail, declarer losing two trump tricks (a ruff and the trump king), one heart and one club.

Realising that West's opening lead was likely to be a singleton, Lee played low from his hand at trick two, allowing East's queen of clubs to win. When East switched to the king of hearts, he won with the ace and was able to ruff all three remaining clubs in the dummy. He threw one of his heart losers on the diamond ace, so the only losers were one club trick, one heart and the king of trumps.

It seemed to me that West might have done better to ruff his partner's queen of clubs, so that he could return a trump. Declarer can still succeed, however. He ducks the trump switch to East's king and wins the trump return. The defenders now have no more trumps. Declarer concedes a club trick to East's ten, throwing three hearts from dummy on the king, nine and eight. The tenth trick comes from a hard-to-foresee heart ruff in the dummy!

The only other line of defence to consider is that East returns a third club at trick three, South winning with the nine and West throwing his last heart. Declarer now leads the king of clubs and West does best to discard. A trump to the ace is followed by the diamond ace, throwing a heart, and a diamond ruff that brings down the queen.

Declarer continues with the trump queen to the bare king. When East leads the king of hearts, covered by the ace, West ruffs with his last trump but then has to lead from king-ten-eight-six of diamonds. This allows declarer to throw his heart loser on the diamond jack. Only one thing is disappointing about the deal. That I did not find this great play myself!

First Date Nerves

By Bill Townsend, Leeds, England

(From the Yorkshire Post)

I am grateful to Clive Owen of the North East for this deal, taken from a teams-of-eight event similar to our Yorkshire League.

How would you feel, picking up the South monster?

Dealer South. NS Game.

♠ 6 2
♥ J 8 7 4
♦ Q 5 4
♣ A 9 6 3

♠ Q 10 9 4 3
♥ 10
♦ 10 8 7
♣ K Q J 10

♠ A K J 8 7 5
♥ 9 5
♦ —
♣ 8 7 5 4 2

♠ —
♥ A K Q 6 3 2
♦ A K J 9 6 3 2
♣ —

Wonderful, but with a touch of apprehension perhaps? A bit like a first date, maybe, with the question of what to wear

replaced by what to open as dealer. Something bizarre perhaps, like six diamonds. The competition will be so devastated that you may just get away with it. No, this is a classy game and you decide to tread softly, play it cool and gradually reveal your considerable assets.

Unfortunately you don't have a normal two diamond bid in your wardrobe, that's the multi-coloured thing, and a game forcing two clubs might give totally the wrong impression. In any case, the competition may step in to disrupt your plans and you won't have got very far in presenting yourself.

Eventually you decide on a modest one diamond, sure you'll get a second bite at the cherry with such great shape, and you want to find out more about partner's assets before making the next move. The competition butts in with one spade on his moth-eaten suit, but partner encourages with a negative double, showing four hearts and a few goodies.

RHO now ups the ante with four spades but you've had all the encouragement needed. To hell with first base, you go straight for a home run with a bid of seven hearts. LHO passes but RHO plucks up his courage and bids seven spades. You double this in pique, and beat it two to get a miserly 300.

All this effort, just for the equivalent of a good night kiss. (*If East had made a Lightner Double and beaten you a trick, as they should on the auction, I daresay that would have been the equivalent of a slap in the face goodnight.* – Ed.) Perhaps you should have opted for the flamboyant six diamonds in the first place. At least this would have scored heavily; the opposition would have been just too stunned to compete.

In the replay, at another table, on a different planet, South opens one heart, the shorter suit, not one diamond. Okay, he intends to rebid economically in diamonds, but isn't this carrying the principle of being prepared too far?

This time, West meekly passes and partner gives a modest come-on with two hearts. East is there with two spades but South confidently jumps to seven hearts. West gives this quite a long look but eventually passes. East isn't finished yet and doubles seven hearts, a Lightner double asking for an unusual lead and suggesting that he can ruff.

This is passed out and West alternately fingers a club and a diamond, eventually selecting the former. South wins and spreads his cards. The prize is his.

Haffer Duck Is Better than No Duck at All By Ron Klinger, Northbridge, Australia

The National Butler Trials, the most strenuous event on the Australian national calendar, seven days straight, was held during the first week of the national championships in Darwin. The results were:

Open Trials

1. Nic Croft – Joe Haffer (SA)
2. Peter Reynolds – Nigel Rosendorff (WA)

Women's Trials

1. Valerie Cummings – Candice Feitelson (NSW)
2. Berenice Folkard – Marlene Watts (NSW)

Seniors Trials

1. Bobby Evans – Bill Westwood (NSW)
2. David Anderson (QLD) – David Mortimer (SA)

The Open and Women's Butler is played in three stages with a cut after Day 2 and another cut after Day 4. This deal arose in Stage 3:

Dealer North. Both Vul.

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

The common contract was three no trumps played by South on a low club lead from West. Auctions included:

West	North	East	South
—	Pass	Pass	1 NT
Pass	2 ♥	Pass	2 ♠
Pass	2 NT	Pass	3 NT
Pass	Pass	Pass	

West	North	East	South
—	2 ♠ ¹	Pass	3 NT
Pass	Pass	Pass	

1. Weak Two, but only a 5-card suit promised

Declarer usually won trick one with dummy's club queen and then led a diamond to the ten. At two tables at least, North (Zoli Nagy, Michael Prescott) ducked smoothly. This was a good move: it retained the entry if the clubs could be set up and misled declarer as to the location of the diamond ace.

Placing East with the diamond ace and not wanting East on lead to play a club, both Souths shifted to the spade queen. East won with the ace and returned a club, ducked to West, who played a third club. Now when declarer knocked out the diamond ace, West could cash a club trick. With the spade jack and heart queen both wrong, declarer was doomed.

At another table the play started the same way: club won by the queen, diamond to the ten, but West did not duck. After taking the ace, West switched to the spade nine-two-four-? Declarer, Joe Haffer, of Adelaide, ducked the spade nine!

When the next spade came, Haffer played low from dummy, and it did not matter whether East took the spade ace or played the jack. Either way Haffer was able to score three spades, three diamonds, two hearts and two clubs for plus 630 and 12 IMPs against the Open datum (average) of NS plus 20. Women's datum: NS plus 40. Seniors' datum: NS plus 140.

The Sunday Swiss

By Teng-Yuan Liang, Tainan, Taiwan

Taipei IBC (International Bridge Center) is the most important bridge club in Taiwan. For decades it was the headquarters of our NBO and the arena for our national team trials. Though not as glorious as it once was, IBC still regularly holds bridge duplicates and tournaments, and it recently launched a weekly Sunday Swiss Teams. The Sunday Swiss attracts some of Taiwan's strongest players, and it also provides some interesting deals.

The following deal is an example.

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

Almost every table played three no trumps from the South hand. After the heart jack lead, they rose with dummy's queen. Seeing a common safety play, some of them played safely by playing a low club to the eight. This group was soon rewarded by collecting eleven or twelve tricks.

But the others - maybe they played too quickly, or feared that the overtrick IMP would finally count at VP scoring - played a low club to their ace. And soon found themselves in an awkward position. After trying for the spade break, that group failed by two or three tricks by eventually taking a diamond finesse.

Kibitzer Da-Chi Lin pointed out during the on-line post mortem that those who played a low club to ace also can make their contract after all. If they take the right view in spades and diamonds.

What's needed is to cash the club king after the ace, and West will be squeezed in a very unusual way. This is the position as South cashes the second club:

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

West cannot part with a spade on the club king. But if he pitches a diamond, declarer can prevail by stripping West's last diamond and throw him in with the fourth spade.

A heart discard does no good either, for declarer can cut the defenders' communications by leading a heart. West would then be limited to two losing options: he can cash all his hearts and execute a delayed suicide Vienna Coup against East; or he can switch to spades or diamonds to let declarer set up a diamond trick.

Beau Geste

By Mark Horton, Romford, England

Bridge has a huge number of complex laws. There is nothing wrong with implementing the law, but some players are of a different disposition.

This happened during the second round of the Open Pairs Final in Menton.

Dealer North. Neither Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Chemla	Wladow	Cronier	Elinescu
—	1 ♦	Pass	1 ♥
2 ♣	2 ♥	3 ♣	4 ♥
Pass	Pass	Pass	

West led a diamond and declarer won in hand and took his only chance. He unblocked the spades, crossed to dummy with a diamond and played the two master spades, discarding clubs from his hand as East ruffed in with the eight of hearts.

On the fourth round of spades, Paul Chemla played a club! Realising his error, he produced the thirteenth spade, but now he had a penalty card, and if he so wished, declarer could have forbidden a club lead from East. The enforced heart return would have given declarer the contract – and East/West a certain zero.

Michael Elinescu would have none of it – he told Paul to pick up his card and let East play what he liked.

Don't expect to be offered a game by Richard Fleet, Michael!

(Horton is taking a playful dig at Fleet with reference to Fleet's criticism of Horton's sportsmanship article in the Menton Daily Bulletin. The issue always seems to be whether a non-offender should make an offer such as Elinescu's. In my view, perhaps Chemla should have insisted on the application of the law. Wouldn't that have been great sportsmanship? See the Correspondence section for other opinions on this debate. – Ed.)

Correspondence ...

The Editor reserves the right to shorten correspondence

Email: ibpaeditor@sympatico.ca

The WBF has forwarded the following letter from the daughter of one of Egypt's leading players for decades.

Dear Mr. Damiani,

It is with deep regret and profound sorrow that I let you know about the demise of my mother, Mrs. Josephine Morcos, on 13th July 2003. I am sure you will agree with me that bridge lost one of its top players for over 43 years.

Mrs. Morcos won the World Championship in Turin, Italy in 1960, and she was a founding member of the Egyptian ladies team. She won many titles in bridge all over the world, including her homeland Egypt. She played for Egypt every year since her debut in 1960, winning the zonal championship three times along the way.

On behalf of my sister Dr. Nadia Morcos and myself, I would like to ask the WBF to honor Josephine and to acknowledge her achievements. I would also like to put her name in the Guinness Book of Records marking her as, I believe, the only lady to represent her country in bridge for more than 43 years.

Warm regards,
Aida Y. Morcos
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As Richard Fleet intended, his letter last month has indeed provoked further debate.

Dear John,

I would like to respond to Richard Fleet's letter to the editor in the latest IBPA Bulletin (No. 462), particularly as, in my view, both he and Daily Bulletin editor Mark Horton are in error.

The facts of the case appear to be these:

Player B, the LHO and screen mate of player A (Jovi Smederevac, the "you" in Horton's article), is dealer and opens one diamond, and when the bidding tray returns, it has gone pass by C and one spade by D. Next, A passes and B considers his rebid for some time. Apparently, he put a Pass card on the tray and someone transferred the tray to the CD side of the screen (with its contents visible to C and D). Then, before any action on the CD side, someone retrieves the tray to the AB side and B "realizes what he has done" — that is, he has passed his partner's forcing response in error.

Both Fleet and Horton claim that it's too late for a change, *according to the Laws*. Well, let's see: what does the applicable Law say? (Please note that reference is made to the Laws and not to some supplementary regulations that might apply when screens are being used, and of which I am not aware.)

LAW 25 - LEGAL AND ILLEGAL CHANGES OF CALL
A. Immediate Correction of Inadvertency

Until his partner makes a call, a player may substitute his intended call for an inadvertent call but only if he does so, or attempts to do so, without pause for thought.

B. Delayed or Purposeful Correction

Until LHO calls, a call may be substituted when Section A does not apply:

1. Substitute Call Condoned

The substituted call may be accepted (treated as legal) at the option of offender's LHO.

I believe that Section A applies in this case. The word "immediate" can hardly be taken literally — less than one millisecond, perhaps? — as the time window for a change extends to the point where D (B's partner), and not even C, makes a call.

Secondly, "without pause for thought" was, I think, intended to mean that the substitution must not be the result of a change of mind, but to correct a mechanical error such as making an erroneous/inadvertent grab from the bidding box. That it takes a second or two before the error is noticed does not seem to be relevant.

Even if one does not accept this interpretation of what happened to B, and judges that Section B applies here, it was not up to A to condone the change of call, but to C — from whom we haven't heard!

Furthermore, the article's "many players would call the Director" seems to be inappropriate. After all, a (non-trivial) irregularity has occurred (Law 25 is found in Ch V, part II, Irregularities in Procedure) and according to Law 9, Section B, 1 (a), "The Director must be summoned at once...".

Thus, the suggestion, however faint, that "many players" would somehow be engaging in 'sharp practice' by calling the director is entirely unfounded.

It's not that I don't sympathize with A's sentiments, but her action merely compounded one irregularity (that could easily have been resolved) with another one (that may have been trickier to resolve if Law 25 B had been deemed to apply). But we'll never know, will we?

As far as correspondent's "ignorant of the laws" is concerned, it would appear that his net should be cast a little wider than experienced international players, but his "responsibilities to the other contestants" is spot on and an important *raison d'être* for the laws.

Needless to say, if I'm all wet on this one, I'll stand to be corrected, but it would raise some serious questions about the transparency of the laws.

I'm anxiously looking forward to further debate.

Lex De Groot

Arnhem, The Netherlands

Hi John,

A fascinating debate (*the Richard Fleet reaction to Mark Horton's 'sportsmanship' article about Jovanka Smederevac. - Ed.*). Fleet's reaction of "I find this shocking," frankly depresses me - if the bridge room were full of Richard Fleets, I'd pack up the cards and go home - a situation arises at a particular point in time, and as a human being, you react in the way in which you feel comfortable, which will most of the time be within the 'law.' However, occasionally there are extraneous side issues, and you just know it is 'right' to react a bit differently - that, I believe, is what sportsmanship is about.

I believe if you questioned Jovanka about this incident, you will find there was something that made her react the way she did at the time - she 'knew' it was the right thing to do.

If Mr. Fleet wants to live strictly by the rules, that's his business - for me, life's too short for that - it may in truth be part of the reason I've just about packed in bridge for poker!

This could be a fun debate.

Kind regards,
Chris Convery, South Africa

NEWS & VIEWS

- Marc van Beijsterveldt reports that the 2nd International Bridge Festival in Alexandria, Egypt, will be held from October 1-6, 3003. He recommends their web site www.ascbridge.com
- John Scudder would like to entice us to the 2004 Summer Festival of Bridge in Canberra, Jan. 14-26. It includes Seniors, Women's and Open Teams. He recommends combining it with the Gold Coast Congress in Surfer's Paradise from Feb. 21-28. Don't we wish! www.abf.com.au
- Laila Leonhardt writes that SWAN Games Company has released a new free feature: Partnership Bidding & Practice Tables. The feature allows two or four-player practice with parameters defined by the users. Details can be found at www.swangames.com
- Adam Wildavsky reports that Yvan Calame has just made the Vu-Graph of the 2003 Spingold final available on the Swiss Bridge Federation's web site: <http://fsbridge.nexenservices.com/2003/summnabc/index.html>
- Teng-Yuan Liang informs us that during the recent SARS outbreak, virtually all organized bridge activity in Taiwan ceased. He is happy to report that, with the epidemic now under control, bridge has resumed, and is providing him with much new material. See his report elsewhere in this issue.
- "Sportsmanship is also how you handle defeat. But perhaps next year I can win a lot of events to give my opponents the opportunity to show how gracious and sportsmanlike they are!" - Larry Cohen, accepting the ACBL's Sportsmanship Award in Long Beach.

- Gavin Wolpert, 20 and Vincent Demuy, 19 became the youngest players to represent Canada in open competition when their team won the right to play off against Mexico for Zone 2 Bermuda Bowl qualification. In August they'll also play in the World Junior Championship in St. Cloud, France, then in the Bermuda Bowl in November.
- The three most famous players at the Long Beach NABC were Bill Gates, Warren Buffett and Wes Parker. Wes who? Ah, as any true baseball fan could tell you, Parker was the first baseman for the Los Angeles Dodgers in the 60's and 70's. You know who the other two are.

RESULTS

World Junior Pairs Championship Tata, Hungary, July 4-6

1. Adi Azizi; Yuval Yener - Israel
2. Guillaume Grenthe; Jerome Grenthe - France
3. Bas Drijver; Bob Drijver - Netherlands

Summer North American Bridge Championships Long Beach, CA, July 17-27

Grand National Teams - Rose Meltzer, Kyle Larsen, Peter Weichsel, Hugh Ross, Lew Stansby, Chip Martel

Life Masters Pairs - Nick Nickell, Richard Freeman

Wagar Women's KO Teams - Hjördís Eythorsdóttir (NPC), Lynn Baker, Lynn Deas, Beth Palmer, Kerri Sanborn, Karen McCallum, Debbie Rosenberg

IMP Pairs - Steve Weinstein, Bobby Levin

Spingold KO Teams - Roy Welland, Björn Fallenius, Cezary Balicki, Adam Zmudzinski, Zia Mahmood, Michael Rosenberg

Master Mixed Teams - Fulvio Fantoni, Donna Compton, Petra Hamman, Hemant Lall

Bridge Pro Tour

Las Vegas Open, June 26-28

- | | |
|----------------------|---------|
| 1. Charles Miner | \$4,000 |
| 2. Harvey Brody | \$2,000 |
| 3. Dean Panagopoulos | \$1,000 |

Chicago Open, July 9-11

- | | |
|--------------------|---------|
| 1. Charles Bantz | \$4,000 |
| 2. Ryan Daniels | \$4,000 |
| 3. Nikolay Demirev | \$1,000 |

Los Angeles Open, July 22-25

- | | |
|------------------|---------|
| 1. Chris Compton | \$4,000 |
| 2. Jade Barrett | \$2,000 |
| 3. Leo Bell | \$1,000 |

\$20,000 Bonus Pool Standings

- | | |
|--------------------|---------|
| 1. Charles Miner | \$8,000 |
| 2. Chris Compton | \$6,400 |
| 3. Paul Neidlinger | \$4,500 |

World Bridge Calendar

DATES	EVENT	LOCATION	INFORMATION
2003			
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 Warszawy	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
Aug 29-Sep 7	42 nd PABF Championships	Manila, Phillipines	www.ptba.net/pabf/info.htm
Sep 9-14	Genova International Festival	Genoa, Italy	www.bridgestelle.com
Oct 1-6	2 nd International Bridge Festival	Alexandria, Egypt	www.ascbridge.com
Oct 12-18	Pan-Arab Championships	Amman & Aqaba, Jordan	nuha_h@yahoo.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	www.bridge.co.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 Tournament	Cefalù, Sicily, Italy	albor@incom.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			
Jan 14-26	Summer Festival of Bridge	Canberra, Australia	www.abf.com.au
Feb 9-15	9 th NEC Festival	Yokohama, Japan	www.jcbl.or.jp
Feb 21-28	Gold Coast Congress	Surfer's Paradise, Australia	www.abf.com.au
Mar 18-28	ACBL Spring NABC	Reno, NV	www.acbl.org
May 14-27	55 ^{ème} Bridge Festival International d'Antibes	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 Cup	Istanbul, Turkey	www.worldbridge.org
Nov 2-6	3 rd World Transnational Mixed Teams Championship	Istanbul, Turkey	www.worldbridge.org
Nov 18-28	ACBL Fall NABC	Orlando, FL	www.acbl.org