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THE INTERNATIONAL BRIDGE PRESS ASSOCIATION

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Editorial

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

It is with pleasure that we are able to report that, with the lifting of the US State Department's Travel Advisory on Turkey, the United States Bridge Federation has reversed its decision on not sending teams to Turkey. The new resolutions adopted by the USBF give the Trials-winning teams (Open, Women's, Seniors) the choice of playing the Olympiad in Turkey or being one of the US teams in next year's Bermuda Bowl, Venice Cup or Seniors Bowl. Should the teams wish to go to Turkey, they will be required to sign an agreement absolving the USBF of liability. This is a very reasonable precaution. The resolutions:

Resolutions of the United States Bridge Federation at its May 3, 2004 Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors & its May 24, 2004 Special Board Meeting.

1. The USBF affirms its commitment to the safety of its members participating in the world bridge competitions and continues its policy of not nominating teams to participate in a tournament located in a country for which the State Department has issued a Travel Advisory.
2. Since the State Department Travel Advisory for Turkey has been lifted, the USBF shall designate Teams for the 2004 Olympiad in Turkey as follows:
 - a. The winning teams of the 2004 Open, Women's and Senior USBF Championships shall be nominated by the USBF as the United States representative if four, five or six members of each such winning team desire to play in the 2004 Olympiad and if each such member signs and submits to the USBF a waiver and release of any claim against the USBF arising out of participation in the 2004 Olympiad to the USBF within seven days of the end of the USBF Championship. The USBF shall determine the method of filling vacancies on such teams with at least four players, if any. If any winning team declines to compete at the 2004 Olympiad in Turkey, it shall be designated as U.S. Team One in the 2005 world championships only if the United States is qualified to send two teams to that event under World Bridge Federation rules. In the event the United States is qualified to send only one team to the 2005 world championships and a 2004 Open, Women, or Senior USBF trials champions elects not to participate in the 2004 Olympiad in Istanbul, then the 2004 winning team shall play the winner of the 2005 USBF Championships for the right to be the one 2005 United States representative.
 - b. If any of the Open, Woman, and Senior USBF Championship winning teams decline to participate in the 2004 Olympiad in Turkey, then the number two team (that finished second in the USBF Championship) will be nominated under the same rules as in section a.
 - c. If both the winning team and the team finishing second in either the USBF Open, Woman's or Senior Championship decline to participate in the 2004 Olympiad in Turkey, the rights under section a. will pass in order to the third and fourth placed teams in that division, who will be required to play off for the number three position.

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- d. If fewer than four members of the number three and number four teams in any division wish to participate, there shall be no U.S. representative in that division.
- e. The USBF recognizes its responsibility for the safety of its Members and reserves the right to withdraw its nomination of any such teams at any time if, in the Board's judgment, the safety of its representatives is threatened.
3. In the event the 2004 Istanbul Olympiad is relocated to a location, which in the judgment of the Board, does not threaten the safety of the United States representatives, the regular USBF rules applying to USBF team selection shall apply.

As USBF President Chris Compton states, "The situation is murky." Under current WBF rules, if the U.S. does not send a team to Turkey in any division, it would not be invited to participate in the 2005 World Zonal Championships in that division (Bermuda Bowl/Venice Cup/Seniors Bowl). However, Compton further states that if a State Dept. Travel Advisory is in effect for Turkey in November, "the WBF is likely to waive the rules." Stay tuned.



What started out in 1975 as an invitational pair game sponsored by the Cavendish Bridge Club in New York City has grown into a big-money international extravaganza held in, where else, Las Vegas. The Invitational Pairs has spawned a smaller event (the WBP Pairs, named after the new sponsor, World Bridge Productions) for those unwilling to risk the cash needed to compete in the big event. This year the WBP Pairs was won by Ishmael Del'Monte and David Stern.

In addition, a team event was added some years ago. If you think the pair event is tough, take a look at the teams which finished in the *bottom half* of the field of 16 this year:

9. Baze-Kasle; Lanzarotti-Buratti; Stewart-Woolsey
10. M. Moss-Grue; Birman-Altschuler
11. Brachman-Passell-Wold; Fantoni-Nunes
12. Johnson-Rodwell-Meckstroth; Greco-Hampson
13. Hamman-Mahmood; Lev-Pszczola-Gawrys
14. Ekebald-Rubin; Ekeblad-Seamon; B. Moss-Gitelman
15. Welland-Fallenius; Henner-Kamil; Levin-Weinstein
16. Casen-Cohen; Gromov-Petrinin

You can count the players in that group who have not won a World Championship medal on the fingers of two hands!

This year the 30th Cavendish was held at the Rio Hotel. The format has settled down to one that the players seem to like: the Teams consists of a nine-match three-session Swiss tournament, with rematches possible in the last session. This event is a simple entry-fee proposition, with the prize money being redistributed to the players.

By contrast, the Pairs is a Calcutta auction with the prizes going to the people who purchased the winning pairs, though there is a relatively small additional entry-fee, which is redistributed to the winning players. The minimum bid on any partnership was \$12,500 this year, and it is a commentary on the strength of the field that two of the pairs who went for the minimum finished in the top ten and the prize money. The total auction pool this year was just over one million dollars. There were 31 world champions in the field and at least an equal number of players who had won a silver or bronze medal in World Championships, so there were not going to be many IMPs readily available.

The John Roberts Teams

Barry Rigal, NYC

Board 7. Dealer South. Both Vul.

♠ K 10 9 7 6
♥ A J 5 4
♦ A 8 7
♣ 3

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

On this deal Gunnar Hallberg was South, declarer in three no trumps after West had opened two clubs – natural, and limited, promising six or a five-card suit with a four-card major. Charles Wigoder overcalled two spades, and Hallberg tried a delicate call of three no trumps.

West, Adam Zmudzinski, led the diamond queen, ducked all round as East encouraged, then shifted to a low club to Cezary Balicki's ten and Hallberg's king. Now Hallberg led the heart queen, covered by the king and ace, and paused for reflection when East played the heart six, suggesting an odd number.

The spot-cards suggested that West had only five clubs – thus a four-card major, and the diamond lead suggested he had some length there – hence he was heavy favourite to have only a singleton spade. So Hallberg passed the spade ten from dummy, and when it held he unblocked the majors and crossed to the diamond ace to take ten tricks.

Board 11. Dealer South. Neither Vul.

♠ 2
♥ A 9 8 7
♦ J 10 4 2
♣ Q 10 5 2

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

Board 11 was an exercise in the art of the possible for declarer. At most tables the contract was five spades by West after North-South bid on to five hearts. At quite a few tables (including the one we watched) the defence shifted to a diamond at trick two. Now declarer had a chance to make, but passed up his opportunity by misguessing the clubs.

Cezary Balicki reached five spades from the East hand on the auction:

West	North	East	South
—	—	—	1 ♥
2 ♥	4 ♥	4 ♠	5 ♥
5 ♠	Pass	Pass	Pass

He received the heart king lead and the diamond queen shift, so he won in dummy, drew trumps, and passed the eight of clubs to South. In with the club ace, South had the unenviable choice of giving declarer a ruff and a discard or of leading a club into declarer's tenace, allowing him to establish three club discards for all of dummy's diamond losers.

Board 21. Dealer North. NS Vul.

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

Most of the field played three no trumps from the West seat on a low diamond lead to the nine and ten. Declarer generally played the king of spades to North's ace. If the defence now shifted to a club declarer got to test both spades and clubs, but even on a diamond continuation declarer could take the third diamond and duck a spade. That allowed him to test each of the black suits, and when clubs behaved declarer had nine tricks.

Against Ron Smith and Billy Cohen the defence went differently. On the king of spades play at trick two Smith ducked as Cohen contributed the eight. Declarer now played the spade queen to try to pin the nine or the jack in South, and North won the ace and returned a diamond to let Cohen take his ace and play a third diamond.

Now the tempo in the spade suit is different: declarer had to commit himself either to spades or to clubs, and he guessed wrong by playing a third spade (the right play in abstract since the hand with the long spades might not have had the diamond to cash). That resulted in a swift down one when Smith had two spades and a diamond to cash, and 10 IMPs to the Deutsch team, who needed just a little more from their final match to take first place. However, had the following deal worked out differently, they would have retained the lead they held as the last round started.

Board 22. Dealer East. EW Vul.

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

Charles Wigoder as East did very well to make three no trumps here. On a spade lead from Alain Levy to the jack and king and a spade back to the ace, he advanced the club ten, covered with the jack and queen. South pitched the heart seven so Wigoder led the heart king, ducked, and the heart queen, won by South. He shifted to the jack of diamonds to damage declarer's transportation.

Wigoder cashed the ace, king and queen of diamonds (pitching his low spade and heart), then led the four of clubs from dummy and ducked North's nine. North, Hervé Mouiel, had only clubs left and had to lead into the ace-eight for declarer's ninth trick.

Gene Freed defended three no trumps as South. Declarer, Bob Hamman, ducked the opening spade lead to the king and won the spade continuation with the ace. He played a heart to the king and ace. Freed shifted to a diamond, so declarer cashed his three top diamonds, pitching a spade and a heart. Now he led a club to the queen, cashed the queen of hearts and the queen of spades and exited with a low club in this ending:

	♠ —	
	♥ —	
	♦ —	
	♣ K J 9 7	
♠ —		♠ —
♥ 10 6		♥ —
♦ 7		♦ —
♣ 10		♣ A 8 6 2
	♠ 10 9	
	♥ J	
	♦ J	
	♣ —	

If Larsen, North, takes the trick he has to play a top club back. Hamman can duck this trick and now the defence must concede the ninth trick. But Larsen ducked the club ten and dummy had to give Freed the last three tricks.

Fredrik Nyström reached four hearts instead of three no trumps on the following deal (see next page) and when Fred Gitelman found the excellent trump lead he was under some pressure. He responded by winning in hand to advance the diamond queen, ducked all around. Now he cashed the spade ace, crossed to the heart king, and led the jack of spades from dummy.

Board 1. Dealer North. Neither Vul.

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

If Brad Moss had covered he would have ruffed, drawn the last trump, then exited with ace and another diamond to Gitelman who could cash the spade winner, but declarer would pitch his club loser, end playing the defence. In practice Moss ducked so Nyström discarded and Gitelman won the trick. Since he had no trumps left to lead he could only exit with a spade. Nyström ruffed, drew trumps, and played ace and another diamond to endplay Gitelman to open up clubs. Unluckily for declarer, with the ace of clubs right he could simply have led to the king of clubs for his tenth trick, but this was a far better line.

Board 4. Dealer West. Both Vul.

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

Grant Baze as North found an interesting and successful line in four spades here. Having overbid his cards by making a try for game, he was, we suppose, obliged to overplay them as well.

On a fourth highest diamond lead he won dummy's jack. A mere mortal might now cross to hand to lead a spade to the jack, a reasonable but unsuccessful line. Baze reasoned that if spades were three-two it was a blind guess as to whether to play to the spade jack or to lead low from dummy. The advantage of playing from dummy was that even if he had misguessed what to do, and had to lose two spade tricks, it would leave the correct hand (East) on play, and he might thus avoid the heart shift. On the other hand, leading a spade to the jack would surely result in a heart play when West won with a spade honour.

The defence actually played a second diamond back. Baze won and cashed the ace of spades, dropping the queen, but even if the second spade honor had not fallen, if clubs were three-three one of his heart losers would have gone away on the thirteenth club.

The Results:

1. Charles Wigoder; Gunnar Hallberg; Michael Cornell; Richard Jedrychowski (UK/NZ) 186 VP \$50,000
2. Seymon Deutsch; Paul Soloway; Billy Cohen; Ron Smith; Adam Zmudzinski; Cezary Balicki (USA/POL) 180 VP \$37,800
3. Hansa Narasimhan; Billy Miller; Roger Bates; Fredrik Nyström; Peter Bertheau (USA/SWE) 156 VP \$25,200
4. Pierre Zimmermann; Pierre Saporta; Alain Levy; Herve Mouiel; Frank Multon; Jean-Christophe Quantin (FRA) 150 VP \$15,000

Variations - The 2004 Cavendish Invitational Pairs

Bart Bramley, Dallas

The fifty pairs generated a Calcutta pool of just over one million dollars, led by Norberto Bocchi-Giorgio Duboin at \$53,000. At the end, three pairs had scores that would have often won the event comfortably, but this year it was a photo finish, with Sam Lev-Jacek Pszczola edging out Fulvio Fantoni-Claudio Nunes and Bob Hamman-Zia Mahmood. Bocchi-Duboin were fourth, somewhat further back, followed by Paul Chemla-Guido Ferraro in fifth.

The first session featured this exciting deal:

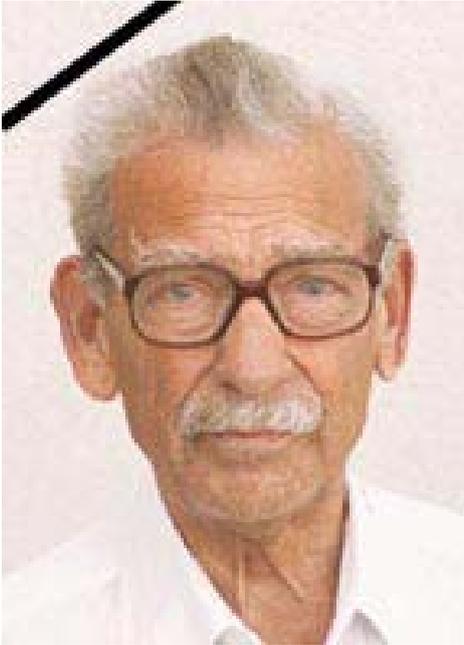
Dealer North. EW Vul.

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

At most tables North opened one diamond and East overcalled three or four hearts. After a balancing double by North, South bid four spades, usually doubled by West. The singleton heart came around to the ace, and the spotlight shone on South.

In one variation declarer led a spade to the ace, followed by the diamond ace, felling the queen. With the layout now an open book, he continued with the rest of the diamonds, shedding a club and a heart. West could ruff in or wait to be thrown in with a trump, but either way he had to open up clubs to set up a trick in dummy, which declarer could reach with the fourth round of trumps to ditch his remaining heart. Making five, plus 690 for North/South. (Alas, this was the variation at my table.)

In the most popular variation declarer was held to ten tricks, either from failure to spot the overtrick line or, less often, from West finding the 'winning' lead of the club ace. Plus 590 was the most common result, achieved at 11 of the 25 tables.



Nils Jensen 1920-2004

IBPA lost one of its most distinguished members on May 20. Nils Jensen (born in Stockholm on March 11, 1920) was a fine player and a much-appreciated organiser. Some of you might recall that he was President (Emeritus) of the EBL, a WBF delegate and Honorary Member. If not, see the *Encyclopedia*.

Nils not only made the best of the chances he got - he created them. A few examples:

When he was fed up with his studies (at the age of 16), he went to a classmate's father's work at the railroad company and asked if they needed any help. They didn't. "But wait, there is a vacancy on a train now on Saturday. We need a waiter..." Nils had no experience of how to serve, but he took the chance.

The next chance came when a young couple he knew from school asked if he could cover as repairman in their bicycle repair shop during the summer holidays. Nils didn't know how to repair a bike, but he didn't know the word "no" either.

Unfortunately, the employers did not have the money to pay the agreed \$50 at the end of the summer. Instead, the employers offered Nils a part of their new enterprise for \$150. The company, called ELFA, had a business plan to sell components and flowcharts for build-it-yourself radio kits. Nils saw the potential, but he didn't have the funds.

Unlike most other people, Nils did not see *any* chance for this business to go down the drain. So he tried to raise the missing \$100 among his friends and relatives, but to no avail - they were as broke as Nils and his potential business partners. Impossible? Not quite. Nils managed to get a personal bank loan, guaranteed by a large number of understanding (and equally broke) colleagues at the rail company.

This was after the Second World War when radio components were sold as surplus material in USA. Importing them into Sweden was as difficult as it was costly, but one day Nils got the brilliant idea that he could hire on to one of the cruise ships going to New York and sail back with the cabin full of radio components. No grass ever grew under Nils' feet. So, he immediately headed for the Swedish America Line's HQ in Stockholm. The waiting room was packed with people, until the moment when it was announced that all staff for the next vessel were enrolled. Nils was the only one to stay. After a while the chief recruiter asked harshly: "What are you doing here?" Nils took the opportunity to explain that he wished to work as a steward the next summer. "I do need a steward", grumbled the boss, "but I need him now! The ship is sailing from Göteborg tomorrow morning..."

Nils' success story is well worth telling, but space is limited and I think that you have grasped the idea by now. Otherwise, just remember that Nils was an extremely successful businessman who managed to build a small empire, and big wealth, from nothing.

Nils had extraordinary social talents. He was an active member of many service/volunteer associations and organisations. He not only knew his company's (several hundred) workers' surnames; he also knew their first names and their family details off the top of his head. I admire Nils for that.

I admire Nils even more for being such a good friend. He truly was a self-made man, but he was definitely not *nouveaux riche*. He always remained the same person. He kept his friends from his youth and in particular he cared about those who had been less successful than he had. Nils had learned to serve, and he did it well.

The funeral will take place on June 10 in *Storkyrkan*, Stockholm. "Storkyrkan" literally means "the big church," but it will no doubt be filled to the last seat. With friends.

Per Jannersten

In a third variation declarer led a diamond to the ten at trick two, which met swift and brutal punishment. Down two, minus 300 for North/South. This was the next most common result, achieved at six tables.

What is the right line? If East's singleton diamond had been any but the queen, the third group of declarers would have been successful. Meanwhile, the other groups of declarers would presumably have continued with a club after one high diamond. West would win and eventually exit with a club, putting declarer at the crossroads.

To make against queen to four diamonds with West, declarer would have to ruff his club winner to take a diamond finesse, later crossing with the fourth round of trumps to repeat the finesse. (Note that in the first variation above, declarer used the fourth round of trumps to cross in the other direction!) But against any other diamond distribution declarer could claim by pitching a diamond on the club and continuing diamonds to ruff out the suit.

Those who finessed at trick two were presumably already catering to four-one diamonds. Nevertheless, following the other line would have cost them nothing and allowed them to guard against the actual position. Discretion prevents me from revealing the names of several of the world's greatest declarers who went down on this deal.

The early event leaders, Buratti-Lanzarotti, produced yet another variation. Their North opponent chose an off-shape and overweight one no trump opening. East was content to bid three hearts, but over one no trump this showed more tricks, so West, with three possible tricks of his own, raised to game on his singleton heart. South was delighted to double, and the Italians were soon scoring up plus 790 in their own column rather than the usual minus 590 or 690 in their opponents' column.

Variations abounded on the following deal as well:

Dealer North. NS Vul.

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

Despite 26 HCP and three strong fits, 12 of the 25 North/South pairs rested in a part score. Only three pairs reached the top spot of five diamonds, making easily. A couple of pairs overreached to slam going down, but the most popular game contract was four spades, which was touch and go.

When the defence did not tap dummy, declarer usually crossed to the heart queen for a diamond finesse, drew three rounds of trumps, and repeated the diamond finesse. If West forgot to play the king on the second round of diamonds, declarer had a safe play of continuing with two more rounds of diamonds, pitching a club before West could ruff in. If

West did play the diamond king, declarer had to guess whether to continue diamonds or to try splitting the hearts. Sometimes an opening lead of the heart five helped declarer guess right.

More often, the defence led clubs to tap dummy at trick two. Declarer played the ace and queen of spades. One declarer, seeing East's nine and jack, read the position perfectly and overtook with the king to take a diamond finesse. He crossed to his heart queen to repeat the finesse, then continued diamonds to dump his last club before West could ruff. West got two trump tricks, but South made the contract.

At a couple of tables, after dummy was forced, declarer cashed the two high spades, crossed to the heart queen, cashed the spade king (pitching a diamond), and took a diamond finesse to reach this position, needing four of the last six tricks:

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

Declarer led high hearts, a safe move. If West ruffs he can cash a club, but then the defence must allow declarer to repeat the diamond finesse. Nor could West pitch a diamond effectively, which would let declarer run diamonds at once. Therefore, West pitched a club. Declarer countered by leading the fourth heart, discarding his last club. West was cooked. If he pitched a diamond, declarer would be able to score a club ruff in hand and a diamond trick. When instead West pitched his last club, he could overruff declarer but then had to lead a diamond from his king-six in the two-card ending. Nicely done!

My partner Chris Compton found an enterprising move on this deal:

Dealer South. NS Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Compton	—	Bramley	1 ♠
—	—	—	3 ♥
Pass	2 ♠	3 ♣	Pass
Pass	4 ♠	Pass	Pass
Double(!)	Pass	Pass	Pass

North's two spade bid was the weaker of two ways he had to bid two spades.

You be the judge. In the North/South methods, North had a high-card maximum. Should he have been deterred by his lack of shape and his bad holdings in partner's suits? Or should South, with the 'wrong' doubleton and a limited partner, have resisted trying for game? Or were they just unlucky?

Anyway, Compton sniffed an opportunity and made a great double. He led the club ten. I took the ace and king before shifting to my heart. Partner gave me a ruff and I continued with the club queen. Declarer saved a trick by ruffing with the ace and continuing with the trump queen, but holding the result to down three, minus 800, was like rearranging deck chairs on the Titanic. Twenty of 25 North/South pairs went down between one and four tricks on this deal, but only our declarer was doubled.

Finally, another deal with tough bidding decisions and sharp defence:

Dealer West. NS Vul.

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

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

1. Forcing

Would you make a vulnerable overcall with the North hand? Doing so easily gets you to three no trumps. However, at many tables North passed and South doubled, allowing West to jam things with a bid of two spades or, especially, three spades. Some Norths were reluctant to put all of their eggs in the three no trump basket, resulting in North/South contracts of five clubs or even six clubs. Of course, five clubs is hardly a bad contract, but the five-nil trump split dooms it.

The play in three no trumps is more complex. West leads a spade. (It doesn't matter here, but would you lead an honour or a low one?) South, who can claim unless clubs are five-zero, naturally wins in his own hand and cashes a high club, getting the news. When declarer shifts to the diamond king, West must duck, resisting the temptation to grab it and clear spades. (If West errs and takes the ace, declarer is home with at least nine tricks - four diamonds, three clubs, and two spades.) Declarer will then cash his second club and lead the heart king, which West should also duck. (If you exchange the ten and seven of hearts, then winning the heart ace subjects West to a red-suit strip-squeeze.) Now declarer is

dead; despite all of his high cards he has no more entries to his own hand.

Note that if declarer played the heart king before cashing the second club, West would have to win lest declarer revert to diamonds. In that case, declarer would still have a hand entry with the club jack, and he could make nine tricks despite getting only two club tricks. But if West takes the heart ace and clears spades, even the heart ten would not be enough to help declarer, because the club blockage leaves him with only seven top tricks.

Many Wests got the defence right, but three no trumps made at 9 of the 25 tables, some through misdefence and others with the help of a non-spade opening lead.

The Cavendish continues to be the world's greatest annual pair event. The chance to compare results and stories with lots of the world's best players makes this a treat for all who participate. And again this year Bridge Base Online presented a live VuGraph show on the Internet so that bridge fans everywhere could follow the action.

The Results:

- | | |
|--|------|
| 1. Sam Lev - Jacek Pszczola | 3495 |
| \$243,308 / \$26,810 | |
| 2. Fulvio Fantoni - Claudio Nunes | 3424 |
| \$156,412 / \$17,236 | |
| 3. Bob Hamman - Zia Mahmood | 3363 |
| \$104,274 / \$11,490 | |
| 4. Norberto Bocchi - Giorgio Duboin | 2895 |
| \$78,206 / \$8,618 | |
| 5. Paul Chemla - Guido Ferraro | 2565 |
| \$69,516 / \$7,660 | |
| 6. Eric Greco - Geoff Hampson | 1757 |
| \$60,828 / \$6,702 | |
| 7. Bjorn Fallenius - Roy Welland | 1531 |
| \$52,138 / \$5,744 | |
| 8. Brian Glubok - Jim Robison | 1522 |
| \$43,448 / \$4,788 | |
| 9. Andrea Buratti - Massimo Lanzarotti | 1488 |
| \$34,760 / \$3,830 | |
| 10. Rose Meltzer - Peter Weichsel | 1389 |
| \$26,070 / \$2,872 | |

(The first dollar amount is the auction pool prize; the second is the players' pool prize.)

IBPA Website Notice

The Bulletin

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www.IBPA.com/473cs.pdf

The Handbook

You can download a copy of the Handbook from www.ibpa.com (click on the link at the page bottom). When you open it will ask for a password, which is:

ihcaT

EXACTLY as it appears here.

IBPA Column Service

Tim Bourke, Canberra

(These deals may be used without crediting Tim Bourke or IBPA.)

276. Dealer South. EW Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
—	—	—	1 NT
Pass	2 ♥	Pass	2 ♠
Pass	4 ♠	Pass	6 ♠
Pass	Pass	Pass	

North's transfer to spades followed by the leap to game was a mild slam try; hands with only game ambitions and long spades would be shown by bidding four hearts, also a transfer to spades. South bid the slam because he had three trumps and controls in all suits.

West led the king of diamonds, taken by the ace. After cashing the ace and king of trumps, getting the bad news that trumps were three-one, declarer had to decide on the best strategy for disposing of dummy's losing diamond before surrendering the lead.

At first glance, the choices seemed to be finessing the jack of clubs and playing on hearts, hoping that East began with at least three hearts. As the former offered a 50% chance and the latter a 68%, at first glance, it seemed that playing on hearts was the winner.

However, as is often the case when faced with two choices, even better odds can be obtained by adopting a combination play; here, cashing the king and ace of clubs and, when both opponents follow low, ruffing a third round of clubs before tackling hearts. This plan not only succeeds on the diagrammed hand but also on around 80% of all possible defensive layouts.

277. Dealer South. NS Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
—	—	—	1 ♦
1 ♠	Double	3 ♠	4 ♥
4 ♠	5 ♥	Pass	Pass
Pass			

East-West did well to sacrifice in four spades, which fails by two tricks. Then, following the general rule that the "five level belongs to the opponents," they decided to defend five hearts.

South ruffed the opening lead of the king of spades then played a low trump to West's nine and dummy's king. After ruffing dummy's remaining low spade, as he needed trumps to be three-two to make eleven tricks, he played the jack of trumps. West won and continued with a spade to dummy's now bare ace, on which declarer threw a low club.

South continued by playing the ace and king of diamonds. All would have been well if West had ruffed the latter but he found the killing defence of discarding, in fact, a low club. These cards to be played:

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

Declarer continued with the queen of diamonds, hoping that West would discard and East held the king of clubs. However West ruffed and exited with a spade, so South now had to lose a trick to the king of clubs for down one.

You may have noticed that declarer could have made his contract by finessing the ten of diamonds on the first round of the suit. However such double-dummy heroics were not necessary on this layout. After ruffing the opening spade lead, successfully playing a heart to the king, and ruffing a second spade, South should have played the ace and king of diamonds next. If all followed, he would play a second trump and make his contract whenever they were three-two and East could not gain the lead.

As the cards lay, West would ruff the second diamond with the queen of trumps and play another spade to dummy's now bare ace. A second round of hearts would draw the remaining trumps and West would persist with a spade for dummy to ruff. Then, after finessing East's jack of diamonds, declarer would have made eleven tricks; three trumps, four diamonds, the black aces and two spade ruffs.

278. This simple hand involves an extra chance in play that some might not spot. (See next page.)

West led a trump and, after East followed, declarer counted five trumps, two hearts, three diamonds and a club, for eleven tricks. So the slam appeared to depend on East holding the king of clubs. However, South saw an extra chance.

Dealer South. Both Vul.

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

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

After drawing trumps with the ace and queen, declarer crossed to dummy with the ace of diamonds and led a heart towards his hand. When East followed low, South played the king, which won the trick. The clever bit came on the next trick when declarer led the six of hearts and called for the five from dummy. As East had begun with a doubleton ace of hearts, he had to win the trick with his ace. After winning East's club shift with the ace, declarer crossed to dummy with a trump and threw the queen and ten of clubs on the queen and jack of hearts.

279. Dealer East. EW Vul.

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

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

South can reduce the guesswork here by assuming East has exactly five hearts: West led the jack of hearts, dummy played low and declarer won the ace. South ran five rounds of diamonds next. East could part with a club and a spade painlessly but, he was marked with the missing aces and kings, the easiest thing seemed to be to throw a heart. (Discarding a club or a spade would see declarer develop an extra black suit trick with little pain; as East was placed with five hearts, by assumption, and two diamonds he had to have begun with four-five-two-two or three-five-two-three shape and a second black suit discard would be all revealing.) Declarer must part with the club two from dummy.

South now led a spade to the queen and king, endplaying East who had to give declarer his eighth trick no matter what he played. In fact he chose to exit with king and another heart. Now a second spade off table fixed East again; he could cash one heart winner and the spade ace for the third and fourth defensive tricks but would then have to lead away from his king-ten of clubs into dummy's ace-queen, giving declarer his ninth trick.

The Chinese Cup

Teng-Yuan Liang, Tainan, Taiwan

The top bridge competition in Taiwan is the Chinese Cup; not only because it's the longest-lasting yearly tournament, but also because it has been the Team Trials of Taiwan for decades. This year the champs will go to Istanbul for the Olympiad. And the top four in the Open will be the official representatives for our country in 5th PABF Congress, which will be held in the Grand Hotel, Taipei, this July.

The Cup took place at Taipei IBC in April over three consecutive weekends. The first weekend was the round-robin stage. The top four in the Open would advance to the knockout stage on the following two weekends. The Open bracket fielded eleven major teams from Taiwan. To our surprise, our 2003 Bermuda Bowl representatives, Patrick Huang and Co., did not play in the Cup, presumably due to sponsorship problems.

The very first deal of the Cup saw a favourable three no trumps for declarer if he took the right view.

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

For the record, there were seven three no trump contracts: four were made and three went down. At our table, North was the declarer. My partner started with the obvious diamond queen. North took the ace in his hand and saw me pitch the club eight to suggest interest in spades. (A spade discard seemed no better.)

Now if North went after clubs first, he could make at least nine tricks. However, he attacked hearts first, leading to the jack. He then switched to spades, playing a low spade to the queen and a further low heart to the now bare ace.

With his entry to the diamonds now gone, East played back a spade. Now if North took the right view in clubs, he could fly with the spade ace, cash all his red winners and then a low spade would see whichever one of us chose to win the trick be stripped and thrown in. The alternative was for my partner to bare the club jack, allowing the queen to scoop it.

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

On the play of the heart queen, the defence is powerless. Alas, North didn't read the position and went down.

As they say, "On freak deals, bid one more." The following was one of the more freakish of the tournament.

Dealer East. Both Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Liang	Liu	Hung	Chung
—	—	1 ♥	Pass
1 ♠	3 ♣	Pass	5 ♣
Double	Pass	Pass	Pass

Liu's super-heavy three club 'preempt' made bidding communication very difficult for us. Chung's timely five club bid made the situation even worse. Without knowing the degree of spade fit, I couldn't help doubling to show my extras. With a minimum balanced hand, Hung's pass seemed to be normal.

However, it turned out to be a huge disaster. Liu soon claimed for plus 950. The only thing that eased my pain was that we didn't 'push' them to the unbeatable club slam. By the way, we were not the only victims. The same result was achieved at three other tables.

Jia-Hsing Wu/Chuan-Cheng Chen are the anchor pair for the Jiang-Yo team. The following deal explains why. They were the only pair who bid and made the game. (See top of next column.)

Chen loved his stiff club and all his top honours at this vulnerability. South began with two top clubs and Chen ruffed. He then conceded a low spade to South's jack. South played a low club and North ruffed with ten, Chen overruffing. (Other continuations from South allow declarer to easily establish spades.)

Dealer West. Both Vul.

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

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

A low diamond to the king, and the fourth club saw North ruff with queen. Now Chen knew hearts well. After the spade exit, won with the ace, a low heart to the eight and the successful diamond finesse brought the contract home. Again, they were the only pair to bid and make the game.

Some experts argue that the Exclusion Key Card Blackwood is the most useless convention ever invented. However, this deal is proof of its usefulness, but only when well-prepared.

Dealer West. EW Vul.

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

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

- Reverse Drury (fit)
- Strong 2-suiter
- EKCB
- 1 or 4 keycards
- Trump queen asking
- Heart queen or equivalent and denying any side king
- Diamond king and further grand slam interest

That was how the auction should have gone, but it was not to be. My partner (West) misinterpreted my five spade bid as "bid seven if you have second-round control of spades." (Instead, six clubs means that in our agreement.) So he bid only six hearts (denying the heart queen in our agreement). We lost our opportunity to be brilliant and coincidentally, to clinch the final knockout spot in the last round.

Partly because of my frustration at the previous weekend, and partly because of family commitments, your reporter failed to watch the knock-out matches, even though there

was live on-line VuGraph on Bridge Base Online. Here are the results:

In the semi-final stage, the two pre-tournament favourites encountered each other, with Jiang-Yo knocking out Ji-Chiang. The other semi-final other was a seesaw affair. Jin-Mei overcame the round-robin winner DEPPO by just 2 IMPs over 80 boards.

Jiang-Yo then blitzed Jin-Mei with three slam swings in the first set of the final. Jin-Mei never really contended in the match. Finally, they conceded with one set to go.

The Champions:

Open: Jiang-Yo; Jia-Hsing Wu; Chuan-Cheng Chen; Shun-Ho Chuang; Yong-Hong Chen; Yong-Yi Lin; Chen Kao as playing captain.

Women: Zu-Yi; Ching-Shan Ho as playing captain; Fang-Wen Gong; Sheau-Fong Hu; Violet Liu; Wen-Chuan Tsai.

Seniors: Dragon Cartoons: captained by Jacky Ji-Chung Tsai (A very famous comics artist in Asia).

Congratulations to the champs, they have proved they are the best teams in Taiwan this year. And they will head to Istanbul this fall.

Three...Two...One...

Michelle Brunner, Manchester

Hands up those of you who would like to be squeezed by our esteemed President, Patrick Jourdain! Don't all rush at once now! Seriously, though, this magnificent example of a true triple squeeze, executed at the Crockford's Cup final on May 15 in West Bromwich, is a piece of history, and as painful as it was for his opponents, it was a moment to be cherished for Jourdain.

Session 2. Board 5.

♠ A Q J 9 6 4

♥ Q J 10 6 3

♦ 8 3

♣ —

♠ 10 8 5

♥ 9 7 5

♦ 6 4

♣ 8 7 6 5 3

♠ K 7 3 2

♥ 8 4

♦ J 10 5 2

♣ K 9 2

♠ —

♥ A K 2

♦ A K Q 9 7

♣ A Q J 10 4

West	North	East	South
—	Ratcliff		Jourdain
—	1 ♠	Pass	2 ♦
Pass	2 ♥	Pass	3 ♣ ¹
Pass	3 ♥	Pass	4 NT ²
Pass	5 ♦ ³	Pass	5 NT ⁴
Pass	7 ♥ ⁵	Pass	7 NT ⁶
Pass	Pass	Pass	

The bidding on this deal is, I'm afraid to say, no thing of beauty, and as such, is unlikely to feature in the award for IBPA's Best Bid Hand of 2004. However, it is undoubtedly a

worthy candidate for the Hand of the Year prize. Allow me to set the scene.

Patrick Jourdain and his partner Tony Ratcliff arrived at the wrong grand slam, but it gave Jourdain the opportunity of achieving one of the rarest types of squeeze, and great extra material for a further edition of his book *Squeeze Play is Easy* (co-authored with Terence Reese). The occasion was the final of the England Open Teams championship for the Crockford's Cup where an original entry of 172 teams had been whittled down to the last eight.

1. Fourth suit.

2. RKCB with hearts as the trump suit (last natural suit).

3. One or four of five key cards. If they had been using the 1430 method where five clubs showed one key card, Jourdain could then have asked for the queen of hearts with five diamonds, and still leave room to ask for kings if possession of the queen was denied. (Two kings would be enough to make seven no trumps an excellent prospect even if partner did not have the heart queen, as there would be twelve top tricks and many chances for the thirteenth.) However, over the actual five diamond response, five spades was the queen-ask and a denial then would leave insufficient room to enquire for kings.

4. Opting to ask for kings (because if partner has two, seven no trumps must be superior to seven hearts, whatever partner's heart suit.)

5. As five no trumps promised the presence of the five key cards, and four no trumps had implied second-round spade control (and Jourdain had not asked about the queen of hearts), Ratcliff thought his hand good enough to take a shot at seven hearts. However, what happened next would have been avoided had he taken the precaution of first denying any kings.

6. As a leap to seven normally shows two outside kings, Jourdain opted for the 'safety' of seven no trumps.

In seven no trumps declarer had only ten immediate winners. Crucially, West led a club, but East correctly withheld his king, thereby increasing declarer's tally by only one trick at this point. Were those extra two tricks going to come from a favourable diamond position or a triple squeeze? You've guessed it.

Jourdain cashed the ace, king of hearts, the ace of diamonds, and the ace of clubs, throwing a second spade from the dummy, and then ran the hearts. This was the ending when the last heart was played:

♠ A Q J 9

♥ 10

♦ 8

♣ —

Immaterial

♠ K 7

♥ —

♦ J 10 5

♣ K

♠ —

♥ —

♦ K Q 9 7

♣ J 10

East now had to concede two tricks in whichever suit he released! Unguarding the spade king would make dummy

high and releasing a diamond would give South an extra two winners in that suit. In practice, an exasperated East threw his club king in the hope that his partner would be able to continue guarding the suit. Alas, that was not the case, and an exuberant Jourdain claimed his grand slam bonus.

Note the key point that declarer must not cash the ace of spades before the fifth heart or the South hand gets squeezed before East. Whether South ditched a diamond or a club he would now have only one extra trick to make in that suit when the last heart was led, and East could defeat the grand slam by releasing that minor. The squeeze is not a repeating squeeze, but the much rarer three-suit squeeze where two tricks are gained from one discard.

At the other table North-South had stopped in six hearts, so the swing was 13 IMPs to the Welsh team, who finished third overall.

Bloom 'n' Gill

Ron Klinger, Northbridge, NSW

(From the Sydney Morning Herald, May 5, 2004)

Martin Bloom and Peter Gill did particularly well in the final of the NSW Open Teams Selection. They were leading for quite some time and finished fourth, one point behind third place and just missing a spot on the NSW Team. In Round 5 of the final, Gill pulled off a neat coup against a top class declarer. He later said, "As an avid reader of the SMH bridge column, I noticed the coup earlier this year. I was delighted to put it into practice." (Sydney Morning Herald, February 5, 2004; IBPA Bulletin 470, March 2004, page 3.)

Here is the deal where Gill employed the manoeuvre to which he referred:

Dealer South. NS Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
—	Bloom	—	Gill
1 NT	Pass	3 NT	Pass
Pass	Pass		

Bloom led the fourth-highest diamond three: four – two – seven. Declarer continued with the club two: seven – queen – five!! Declarer expected the club ace to be on his left, of course, and it seemed that clubs were three-three. He continued with the club three: ten – four – nine. Gill cashed the ace of clubs, followed by the jack and the diamond return

gave the defence five tricks. That was worth 10 IMPs as the datum was EW plus 410.

Every other declarer made three no trumps, three times with an overtrick. After the queen of clubs wins, declarer can succeed, as the heart suit is friendly, by reverting to diamonds to create an extra trick there. Full marks to Gill, whose brilliant defence led declarer astray.

That led to another reader submitting the following deal.

Perchance to Dream

Ron Klinger, Northbridge, NSW

(From the Sydney Morning Herald, May 31, 2004)

The publication of the Gill deal prompted Peter Buchen to write: "Last night I had a dream. I held as South:

♠ K Q J
♥ 6 5 3 2
♦ A K 4
♣ Q 8 7

"Playing a one no trump opening as 16-18, I had to open one club. Partner responded one spade and I rebid one no trump. When partner continued with two no trumps, inviting game, I naturally bid three spades, forcing, to show three spades with maximum values and to offer partner the choice between three no trumps and four spades. Partner chose three no trumps and everyone passed.

"West led the heart queen and I had to find a way to make nine tricks with this miserable collection:

♠ A 10 5 2
♥ K 4
♦ 8 7 5 3 2
♣ K 3

♠ K Q J
♥ 6 5 3 2
♦ A K 4
♣ Q 8 7

Contract: 3 NT Lead: Heart queen

"I tried the king of hearts without much hope. When that held I saw a faint possibility. Perhaps East had read the famous Gill article.

"I crossed to the king of spades and played a club to the king. It won. I now knew I was in with a chance and played another club to my queen. That also won and so I claimed nine tricks with four spades, one heart, two diamonds and two clubs. As expected East held:

♠ 9 8 6 3
♥ 9 8 7
♦ Q 9
♣ A J 10 2

"Alas, I then awoke and the hope for glory had vanished."

Diamond Mining

Prakash Paranjape, Marahashira, India

Bridge analysis is like diamond mining. Once in a while, you get very lucky. The Bridge Base Online Vu-Graph broadcast of the 45th AKAI Winter Nationals played

at Aurangabad, India was one such occasion. Examine the following gems.

IMPs. Dealer South. Neither Vul.

(Positions rotated for convenience.)

```

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

♠ J 10
♥ Q 10 3
♦ Q J 10 9
♣ 8 5 3 2

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

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

West	North	East	South
—	—	—	1 ♠
Pass	1 NT	Pass	3 ♥
Pass	3 NT	Pass	4 ♥
Pass	4 ♠	Pass	Pass
Pass			

“A trump is the regulation lead,” I typed.

“It doesn’t matter,” remarked another Vu-Graph commentator, “The contract would go down anyway.”

Would it? Suppose East wins the queen of diamonds lead with the ace and returns a trump. South would win the ace of trumps, travel to the heart king, ruff a diamond, ruff a heart, ruff another diamond, and cash the king and queen of spades and the ace of hearts, reaching the following four-card position. (Note that North has king-jack-seven of clubs, South having carefully discarded the club ten to keep the situation ‘flexible’).

```

      ♠ —
      ♥ —
      ♦ 8
      ♣ K J 7

      ♠ 8
      ♥ —
      ♦ —
      ♣ A Q 6

      ♠ —
      ♥ 8 7 6
      ♦ —
      ♣ 9
  
```

South now plays a good heart. East has to ruff, but he is endplayed. Thanks to the club position, neither the six nor the ace help the defence. What about the club queen?

Had the club suit been South’s only tool, the club queen would have defeated him. The dummy would have had to lead away from the club jack-seven at trick twelve and the defence would have made two further tricks. Fortunately for South, on the play of the heart West has to discard from four cards, and South can decide to keep the diamond eight in the dummy if West discards the diamond jack. So we have a minor suit squeeze as a strategy to overcome the single-suit squeeze the dummy would face...a rare gem!

(I did a bit of ‘polishing’; South had the eight of clubs, not the nine, in the original hand.)

The second deal is a technical beauty, something you would think you only get to see in bridge books and articles.

Pairs. Dealer East. EW Vul.

(Positions rotated for convenience.)

```

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

      ♠ —
      ♥ A J 3 2
      ♦ A 8 6
      ♣ J 9 8 7 6 5

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

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

In the Ruia Trophy finals, playing in four spades, Asim Mukherjee received a club lead. Winning with the ace, Asim played a trump to the ace in the closed hand. When West showed out, Asim was staring at four losers.

Preparing for a trump endplay, Asim played a diamond to dummy’s king and ruffed a club. He next played a diamond to West’s ace. At this point, Peter Lund observed that the hand could be defeated. If West played a club, and played another club when in with the heart ace, the defenders would prevail.

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

      ♠ —
      ♥ A J 3 2
      ♦ 8
      ♣ J 9 8

      ♠ Q 10 9
      ♥ 10 8
      ♦ 7 4
      ♣ K

      ♠ 8 5 3
      ♥ K 6 5
      ♦ Q J
      ♣ —
  
```

At the table, West played the eight of diamonds, and Asim quickly made his contract. A heart to West’s ace, a diamond, and a heart to dummy’s queen to ruff the last club finished the endplay preparations and a trump endplayed East.

Was there a counter to Peter Lund’s defensive strategy? There was. South should refrain from ruffing a club when he gets to dummy with the diamond king. He should simply concede a diamond. If West plays a club, South can ruff that and use a heart entry to ruff the last club, thus getting to the familiar three-card ending.

If West plays a diamond, South could still ruff two clubs, one using the heart queen as an entry, and another by ruffing a diamond winner to create an extra entry to the table! In the three-card ending, dummy would have a heart and the king-jack of trumps, and East would have three trumps. East would be forced to ruff South’s losing heart and lead away from the queen-ten of trumps!

European Youth Championships

When representative teams from most EBL member countries gather in Prague for the 19th European Youth Team Championship, the capital of the Czech Republic will have witnessed another milestone for Junior bridge.

It was in Prague that Junior Bridge took off when the 1st European Junior Team Championship was held in 1968, with just 10 countries participating. This year, the championship returns to its birthplace - and it does so in great style! What was once a small event has now become a major championship. From the single series of 1968, we now have a separate series for teenagers - and Prague will see the inauguration of a third series, reserved exclusively for girls.

The format of the competition is a simple round robin, played among the national teams competing in each series. In addition to the titles and trophies, the leaders of the Junior series will also earn the right to represent Europe in the 2005 World Youth Team Championship.

Springtime in New South Wales

A tip of the hat to IBPA member and frequent contributor to the Bulletin Ron Klinger, who has won the right to contest the Olympiad Teams in Istanbul by dint of winning the Australian Open Team Trials with partner Bruce Neill and teammates Terry Brown-Phil Gue. Sartaj Hans-Tony Nunn were automatic choices for the Olympiad team as a result of winning the Pairs Trials.

April in Paris

Congratulations also to José Damiani, President of the World Bridge Federation, who, despite all the work involved in the Presidency, has found the time to compete in and win the French Senior Trials for the European Championships in Malmö and the Olympiad in Turkey.

ACBL Hall of Fame

Induction Ceremony will be at the ACBL Summer Nationals, Thursday, July 8, 2004, New York, NY. Inductees are:

Peter Weichsel

Amalya Kearse, *Blackwood Award*

Jeff Rubens, *Blackwood Award*

Harold "Harry" Harkavy, *von Zedtwitz Award*

Merwyn "Jimmy" Maier, *von Zedtwitz Award*

King of Bridge

Robert Glickman has been named the ACBL's "King of Bridge." The Woodland Hills, CA teenager can now add a \$1,000 scholarship to his bridge accomplishments. Funded through the ACBL Educational Foundation, the King of Bridge title is presented to a graduating high school senior who has been a successful player and an active advocate of the game. Glickman, 18, represented the United States at the 2003 World Junior Team Championship in Paris and has played in events in Hungary and the Netherlands.

North American Junior Teams

Europe will not have an easy time retaining the World Youth Team Championship won by Italy in 2003 when next the event is held in Australia in 2005. The USA1 team will be anchored by Joe Grue, John Hurd, John Kranyak and Joel Wooldridge, all of them tough, seasoned players. The Canadian team will be led by Vincent Demuy, David Grainger, Daniel Lavee and Gavin Wolpert, also all very experienced players. Demuy and Wolpert led the Canadian Bermuda Bowl team to a ninth place finish in Monte Carlo that missed qualifying for the quarterfinals by 1 VP. They were 7th in the Butler rankings for the Bowl.

US Women's Trials Winners

The US Trials for the Olympiad in Istanbul has been won by Carlyn Steiner-Marinesa Letizia, Jill Meyers-Randi Montin and Tobi Sokolow-Janice Seamon. They defeated Gail Greenberg-Irina Levitina and Jacqui Mitchell-Amalya Kearse in the 96-board final. The team has informed the USBF it will attend the Olympiad.

Bridge Pro Tour Results

Miami Open, April 25

1. Frances Egger; 2. Hans Stocker; 3. Alice Gerard

Lake Geneva Open, May 12

1. Michael Slaven; 2. George Klemic; 3. Brian Beecher

Cleveland Open, May 29

1. Joseph Hart; 2. Laurie Kranyak; 3. Frank Treibe

Bonus Pool Leaders after 9 Events

1. Michael Slaven	4850
2. Marshall Tuly	4800
3. Frances Egger	4750

Future Junior Championships

Reliable sources (although *not* the WBF) inform us that after the World Youth Team Championship in Sydney in 2005, the WBF will move to even-numbered years for the WYTC to synchronize it with the World Junior Pairs. The first year for this scheme will be 2006, with the venue possibly in North America.

Women's Bridge on WBF Web-site

Anna Maria Torlontano, Chairman of the WBF Women's Committee, informs us that they have launched a special area for Women's Bridge on the WBF web-site. Information about the Committee is there, and, to launch the venture, biographies of three of the top female players – Rixi Markus, by Patrick Jourdain; Dorothy Truscott, by Alan Truscott and an autobiography of Sabine Auken.

This Women's Bridge section can be found at:

<http://www.worldbridge.org/categories/women/>

The Women's Committee is very proud of this idea which they feel gives increased exposure to women players, while promoting and contributing to the development of women's bridge in general.



Correspondence ...

The Editor reserves the right to shorten correspondence

Email: ibpaeditor@sympatico.ca

To the Editor:

John Wisner - Goodbye "Satterbutt" (Sadder, but Wisner)

Johnny was a true quiet giant among bridge personalities and an exemplary professional over his bridge career, which spanned many decades. He was an expert player, and served at the highest rank of Tournament Director in the American Contract Bridge League – National Director. He was unflappable under stress, and possessed a profound knowledge of the Laws, tournament methodology, and history of bridge. His extraordinarily effective handling of committees for appeals, ethics, discipline, and deportment was known to the entire world.

Together with an untiring work ethic and superb directing skills, John was a respected fixture at World Bridge Federation tournaments. He readily shared his knowledge with all interested persons, and was an excellent teacher of Tournament Directors. He was truly a man-of-the-world, fluent in many languages and understanding of diverse cultures. With Satterbutt on the world staff I always had the secure feeling that we would handle any eventuality with good sense, dignity, and fairness, no matter the venue or the problem. I relied heavily on his counsel for many years.

Above all, he was loved. Not only by his wife Daniela, whose devotion and caring exemplify true love, but also by his many friends and acquaintances throughout the world. I regret that I hadn't the chance to spend more time with him in our mutual retirement - his golf game would have been a steady source of income for him since betting against Johnny was generally a losing proposition. He will forever be in my heart and mind as a true friend, a gentle man, a consummate gentleman, and the Quiet Giant of our profession - he set the highest standards for all.

My sadness is tempered by sweet remembrance of years of his friendship.

William J. Schoder, "Kojak," Tampa, FL

Dear John,

Johnny Wisner, one of my closest friends throughout our bridge careers is gone, but he'll never be forgotten. John was one of the finest directors who ever gave a ruling; he was one of the very few directors who could give a ruling and leave all four players happy. He also was a friend who never let you down. He was special.

Henry Francis, Memphis, TN

(Agreed. John was a player's director: he was the one we wanted when there was a tough ruling to be made. - Ed.)



Dear John,

I would appreciate it if you would publish details of the 75th Austrian Bridge Federation's Bridge-Festival Vienna and invite all IBPA members to visit our beautiful city. The Festival will be held from 21-25 July, 2004 in Vienna City Hall, under the patronage of Michael Häupl, Mayor of the City of Vienna. Twenty thousand Euro is the guaranteed prize money. Playing-card manufacturer Piatnik is one of our main sponsors.

Very reasonable hotel rates have been negotiated (€90 in several 4-star hotels; €18-60 in lesser hotels). Partners are guaranteed. Events are Mixed Pairs, Open Pairs, and Teams-of-Four. Sightseeing tours have been arranged. Information can be found at www.bridgefestival.at.

Martin Schifko, Vienna
martin.schifko@bridgefestival.at
+43/676/735 47 36

Dear John,

I have many happy memories of Nils Jensen as well as a deep sense of gratitude. It was way back in 1985 when I was elected as a member of the European Bridge League and I was so lucky to have Nils as President. He welcomed me with great enthusiasm and immediately he entrusted me with the management of "Women's Bridge."

During the entire period of his leadership, I enjoyed his confidence, trust and complete approval of the various activities of the EBL Women's Committee. When Nils gave up his role as EBL President, he continued to be "near" Women's Bridge.

For 5 years the winners of the European Women's Bridge Championship received on the podium, at the prize-giving ceremony, from Nils and his wife Bibbi, the wonderful silver trophy with replicas:

NILS AND BIBBI TROPHY

Thank you Nils, also on behalf of the Women's Committee. Thank you for having believed in me!

All of us will miss you!

Anna Maria Torlontano, Pescara, Italy

World Bridge Calendar

DATES	EVENT	LOCATION	INFORMATION
2004			
Jun 1-10	1 st International Festival	Saint-Tropez, France	www.saint-tropez.st
Jun 2	Bridge Pro Tour	Sacramento, CA	www.bridgeprotour.com
Jun 4-5	WBF Worldwide Contest	Clubs Everywhere	www.ecatsbridge.com
Jun 4-13	USBF Open Championships	Memphis, TN	www.usbf.org
Jun 5-13	54 th Campeonato Sudamericano	São Paulo, Brasil	www.bridgeargentino.org.ar
Jun 7-13	2 nd Festival de Bridge Golf	Almeria, Spain	http://bridgegolf.com
Jun 17-19	Bridge Pro Tour	Penticton, BC, Canada	www.bridgeprotour.com
Jun 19-26	Bridge Festival 2004	Novi Vinodolski, Croatia	www.polbridge.pl
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
Jun 22-26	USBF Senior Championships	Las Vegas, NV	www.usbf.org
Jun 24	Bridge Pro Tour	Cherry Hill, NJ	www.bridgeprotour.com
Jun 25	Bridge Pro Tour	Las Vegas, NV	www.bridgeprotour.com
Jun 29-Jul 11	19 th Biarritz International Festival	Biarritz, France	www.biarritz-bridge.com
Jul 1-2	Bridge Pro Tour	Chicago, IL	www.bridgeprotour.com
Jul 3-10	New Zealand National Congress	Hamilton, New Zealand	rksoloman@xtra.co.nz
Jul 8-18	ACBL Summer NABC	New York, NY	www.acbl.org
Jul 9-10	North American College Championship	New York, NY	http://web2.acbl.org/html/college.htm
Jul 10-15	17 th Tunis Bridge Festival	Hammamet, Tunisia	www.itunisie.com/ftbridge/
Jul 10-18	5 th Pacific Asia Bridge Congress	Taipei, Taiwan	www.ctcba.org.tw
Jul 13-14	1 st Youth Challenge Cup	New York, NY	www.acbl.org
Jul 14-16	1 st World Junior Individual	New York, NY	www.worldbridge.org
Jul 15-28	Mondial de Bridge de Deauville	Deauville, France	www.biarritz-bridge.com
Jul 16-17	Bridge Pro Tour	New York, NY	www.bridgeprotour.com
Jul 17-24	World Junior Camp	Nyack, NY	www.worldbridge.org
Jul 20-25	Women's Bridge Festival	Vienna, Austria	anna@ecats.co.uk
Jul 21-25	75 th OBV Bridge Festival	Vienna, Austria	www.bridgefestival.at
Aug 1-7	36 th Wachauer Bridgewoche	Loiben, Austria	www.noe-bridgesportverband.at
Aug 1-11	19 th European Youth Teams	Prague, Czech Republic	www.worldbridge.org
Aug 7-9	Pesta Sukan	Singapore	www.scba.org
Aug 10-15	Hong Kong Intercities	Hong Kong, China	isawc@cityu.edu.hk
Aug 11-12	Bridge Pro Tour	Secaucus, NJ	www.bridgeprotour.com
Aug 13-22	1 st Baltic Sea Championships	Ventspils, Latvia	www.balticbridge.lv
Aug 13-22	Brighton Summer Meeting	Brighton, England	www.ebu.co.uk
Aug 17-27	Festival La Baule	La Baule, France	www.ffbridge.asso.fr
Aug 24-30	Mind Sports Olympiad	Manchester, UK	www.msoworld.com
Aug 26-27	Bridge Pro Tour	Santa Clara, CA	www.bridgeprotour.com
Sep 2	Bridge Pro Tour	Pittsburgh, PA	www.bridgeprotour.com
Sep 2	Bridge Pro Tour	Santa Clara, CA	www.bridgeprotour.com
Sep 8-10	Generali Masters Individual	Verona, Italy	www.worldbridge.org
Sep 16-24	Festival Internazionale	Elba, Italy	www.federbridge.it
Sep 28-Oct 3	Festival Internazionale	Venice, Italy	www.federbridge.it
Oct 8-10	3 rd European Champions Cup	Warsaw, Poland	www.worldbridge.org
Oct 12-16	15 th Sun, Sea & Slams	Barbados, West Indies	www.cacbf.com
Oct 16-17	Lederer Memorial	London, England	simon@simonx.plus.com
Oct 22	Bridge Pro Tour	Lake Geneva, WI	www.bridgeprotour.com
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 29-31	Antigua Independence Open Tournament	Antigua, West Indies	www.cacbf.com
Oct 31-Nov 6	2 nd World University Teams Cup	Istanbul, Turkey	www.worldbridge.org
Nov 1-6	3 rd World Transnational Mixed Teams	Istanbul, Turkey	www.worldbridge.org
Nov 5-7	Monte Carlo International Tournament	Monte Carlo, Monaco	jcaconseil@monaco377.com
Nov 7-13	IV Internacional Festival	La Habana & Varadero, Cuba	www.cacbf.com
Nov 14-21	10 th Red Sea International Festival	Eilat, Israel	birmand@inter.net.il
Nov 18-28	ACBL Fall NABC	Orlando, FL	www.acbl.org
Nov 24-28	Sicily Open	Cefalù, Sicily, Italy	www.federbridge.it
Nov 26-27	Bridge Pro Tour	Orlando, FL	www.bridgeprotour.com
Nov 29 & Dec 1	European Simultaneous Pairs	Clubs in Europe	www.eblsims.org
Dec 10	Bridge Pro Tour	Indianapolis, IN	www.bridgeprotour.com
Dec 16-18	Bridge Pro Tour	Palm Springs, CA	www.bridgeprotour.com
Dec 17-19	Junior Channel Trophy	England (TBA)	www.ebu.co.uk
2005			
Mar 10-20	ACBL Spring NABC	Pittsburgh, PA	www.acbl.org
May 14-21	23 rd CACBF Zonal Championships	Costa Rica	www.cacbf.com