



BULLETIN

www.IBPA.com

mail@ibpa.com

President:

PATRICK D JOURDAIN
8 Felin Wen, Rhiwbina
Cardiff CF14 6NW WALES UK
(44) 29 2062 8839
email: pdjourdain@hotmail.com

Chairman:

HENRY G FRANCIS
6875 Stomaway Drive
Memphis, TN 38119 USA
(1) 901 754 3405 Cell: 901 355 6875
Email: hfranci1@midsouth.rr.com

Executive Vice-President:

JAN TOBIAS van CLEEFF
Prinsegracht 28a
2512 GA The Hague, NETHERLANDS
(31) 70 360 5902
Email: jvcleeff@xs4all.nl

Organizational Vice-President:

PER E JANNERSTEN
Villa Cicero
SE-774 27 Avesta, SWEDEN
(46) 22 66 1900
Email: ibpa@jannersten.se

Secretary:

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

Membership Secretary:

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

Treasurer:

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

Honorary General Counsel:

WILLIAM J PENCHARZ
50 Broadway, Westminster
London SW1H 0BL ENGLAND
(44) 207 222 7000
Email: billpencharz@bdb-law.co.uk

Awards Secretary:

BARRY JRIGAL
Apt 8E, 22 West 26th Street,
New York NY 10010, USA
(1) 212 366 4799
Email: barryrigal@mindspring.com

Sponsored Members' Secretary:

IRENA CHODOROWSKA
UI Sewastopolska 3m41
02-758 Warsaw, POLAND
(48) 842 5054
Email: poyel@post.pl

Bulletin Production Manager:

Jean Tyson
105 Roundways, Coalpit Heath
Bristol BS36 2LT, ENGLAND
(44) 1454 778432
Email: mail@ibpa.com

THE INTERNATIONAL BRIDGE PRESS ASSOCIATION

Editor: JOHN CARRUTHERS

This Bulletin is published monthly and circulated to around 400 members of the International Bridge Press Association comprising the world's leading journalists, authors and editors of news, books and articles about contract bridge, with an estimated readership of some 200 million people who enjoy the most widely played of all card games

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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.



The IBPA Executive is pleased to announce a new award, to be offered for the first time this year: The Master Point Press Book of the Year Award. Ray Lee, principal of Master Point Press, located in Toronto, has agreed to sponsor the award on a three-year trial basis.

Master Point Press has become, in a few short years, the premier bridge-book publishing concern in the world. Dedicated solely to publishing books on bridge, MPP now publishes dozens of new titles each year. Ray Lee brings his wealth of experience (President of Macmillan Canada, publisher of Canadian Master Point magazine, Editor of the Ontario Kibitzer and bridge columnist in the Toronto Star) to the venture. Lee is ably supported by his wife Linda, who was one of Canada's top young players until she retired to raise her family, more years ago than she would care to remember. Linda will be on the Canadian Women's Olympiad Team this year in Istanbul.

The winner of the Master Point Press Book of the Year award will be announced and presented with the other IBPA awards at each year's World Championship; this year in Turkey at the Olympiad. The award is open to all and will be worth US\$500 to the winner (a winning entry from a non-IBPA member will earn \$300, the remainder being used as membership fees to join the organisation).

Nominations for this year's award can be made by an IBPA member, author, publisher or journalist, for a bridge book published in the past year. A shortlist will then be compiled and presented to the jury. Details on the adjudication process will be announced at a later date. There are no restrictions on content or level – the book can be aimed at beginners or experts, and can be on any bridge-related topic: novel, how-to text, problems, system exposition, etc. Initially, we are mandating that the nominations must be either written in English or translated into English because of the difficulty in adjudicating books written in other languages.

We are accepting nominations for the 2004 award now. Please send your nominations to both the Editor and to the IBPA Awards Chairman. Additionally, we are interested in volunteers for jury duty. The jury will likely need to read and judge three to six books by the end of September.

In order for us to inform publishers of bridge material about the award, members are asked to send us (the Awards Secretary and the Editor) the names of bridge publishers in their countries so that we can compile a list.

Congratulations to Italy for their sixth straight European Championship! Truly an amazing feat. As the Nickell team won the US Trials, we face the enticing prospect of a reprise of their titanic battle in the Bermuda Bowl final in the Olympiad Teams, although many others will have something to say about that. Kudos also to Sweden for being the only European nation to finish in the top five in all three series in Malmö, qualifying for the Open and Women's in Estoril, but not the Seniors.

Address all editorial correspondence to: **JOHN CARRUTHERS**
65 Tiago Avenue, Toronto, Ontario M4B 2A2, Canada
Tel: +1 416 752 7034 Fax: +1 416 344 4851
Email: ibpaeditor@sympatico.ca



Junior College Championship

Henry Francis, Memphis

(From THE OKBRIDGE SPECTATOR

Vol. 7, No. 8, May 2004 & No. 9, June 2004)

The eighth annual Junior College Championship, sponsored by OKbridge, the Fifth Chair Foundation and the American Contract Bridge League, drew its largest field ever - 21 teams from North America, Europe, the Middle East and the Far East. The whole tournament was played on the Internet in April and May.

Teams from the following schools participated: Bogaziçi University, Istanbul; Carnegie Mellon University, Pittsburgh PA; Dartmouth College, Hanover NH; Georgia Institute of Technology, Atlanta GA; Harvard University, Cambridge MA; Istanbul Technical University; Middle East Technical University, Ankara; M.V. Lomonosov Moscow State University; Nanyang Technological Institute of the National University of Singapore; Princeton University, Princeton, NJ; Stanford University, Palo Alto CA; Tübingen University, Tübingen Germany; University of California at Los Angeles; University of Maryland, College Park MD; University of Michigan, Ann Arbor MI; and Yale University, New Haven CT.

The four teams reaching the semifinals were:

1. Carnegie Mellon University
2. M.V. Lomonosov Moscow State University
3. Tübingen University (all players from Belgium)
4. Nanyang Technological Institute

Carnegie Mellon is a truly global university, offering programmes in Greece, Korea, South Africa, England, India, Silicon Valley, Singapore and most recently in Education City, Doha, Qatar. It was founded in 1900 by Andrew Carnegie, the American industrialist and philanthropist.

Tübingen University is one of the oldest in Europe, having been founded in 1477. Tübingen has an exchange programme with Texas A & M University in the USA.

These schools would battle each other in one semifinal match. Tübingen started strongly against Carnegie Mellon. Their biggest gain came on Board 5, where the vagaries of the compass position of the opening leader were critical.

Board 5. Dealer North. NS Vul.

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

Table 1

West	North	East	South
CM	Tübingen	CM	Tübingen
—	1 ♥	Pass	2 ♦
Pass	2 ♠	Pass	3 ♣
Pass	3 NT	Pass	4 NT
Pass	5 ♦	Pass	5 ♠
Pass	5 NT	Pass	Pass
Pass			

East not surprisingly led the three of clubs to the ten and king. North continued with the club nine, ducked. When declarer switched to a spade, West grabbed it with his ace to begin the attack on diamonds. Declarer won in dummy and led the club jack to drive out East's ace. East led another diamond, but it was all over. Declarer had three clubs, three spades, three hearts and two diamonds - plus 660.

Table 2

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

This time South was declarer, so West was able to start the assault on diamonds at trick one. Declarer won and tried to run the hearts, losing the fourth round to East. Back came another diamond, and declarer was finished. He tried a spade, but West hopped with the ace and cashed three diamonds. That was five tricks for the defense and they still had the ace of clubs to come for plus 200 and 13 IMPs to Tübingen.

Declarer could have done much better if he had ducked the first diamond, ensuring the contract unless West had both black aces and five or more diamonds. Declarer would wind up with ten tricks for just a 1 IMP loss. The swing on this deal helped Tübingen take a 39-13 lead as the first half came to an end. Nevertheless, Carnegie Mellon ran out easy winners 68-52.

Moscow State University was renamed in 1940 in honour of the great 18th century Russian scientist, M.V. Lomonosov. An historian, rhetorician, mechanic, chemist, mineralogist, artist and poet, Lomonosov was the Russian 'Leonardo' of his day.

Nanyang Technological Institute is part of the National University of Singapore, which was formed through a merger of the University of Singapore and Nanyang University in 1980.

These two were the combatants in the other semifinal match. The Russians had a huge first half to lead by 27 IMPs. Singapore bid the following low point count but well-fitting hands to game in the second half, keying their comeback. (See top of next page.)

The Singaporeans used a relay sequence after South opened with two spades, showing at least five-four in the majors, with fewer than ten high card points. When North discovered South's exact distribution and the heart ace, he bid the game.

Board 7. Dealer South. Both Vul.

♠ 9
 ♥ K 7
 ♦ Q 9 6 5 2
 ♣ A K J 10 9

♠ A Q 3
 ♥ 6 4 2
 ♦ K J 10 8 3
 ♣ Q 6

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

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

Table 1

West	North	East	South
MVLSMU	NTI	MVLSMU	NTI
—	—	—	2 ♠
Pass	2 NT	Pass	3 ♣
Pass	3 ♦	Pass	3 ♠
Pass	4 ♦	Pass	4 ♥
Pass	5 ♣	Pass	

West started with the diamond jack, ruffed. Declarer crossed to the heart king and ruffed a second diamond. Next came the ace of hearts, a heart ruff, a third diamond ruff and a second heart ruff. Declarer played dummy's fourth diamond and ruffed this as well. He led the spade king to West's ace and West cashed his king of diamonds. But declarer had the last three tricks, ruffing West's spade return and cashing the ace and king of trumps. Plus 600.

Table 2

West	North	East	South
Singapore	MVLSMU	Singapore	MVLSMU
—	—	—	Pass
1 ♦	2 ♣	Pass	3 ♣
Pass	Pass	Pass	

The Russian South passed, as most of us would. Nevertheless, North-South discovered their club fit, but South's ultra-conservative raise led to the missed game.

East led the queen of hearts to the king, and declarer played a second heart to the ace and ruffed a heart with the jack. He tried a spade to the jack, losing to the queen, and West alertly returned a trump. Declarer was still able to ruff three diamonds, but he wound up losing two diamonds, making four for plus 130 and a 10 IMP gain to Singapore, who eked out a 3 IMP win.

The final was thus between Nanyang Technological Institute (Singapore) and Carnegie Mellon University of Pittsburgh, PA. Singapore came from behind once again, this time to defeat Carnegie Mellon 51-34. Playing for Singapore were Poon Hua, Loo Choon Chou, Lim Faxing and Mah Boon Chuan. On the Carnegie Mellon team were Charlie Garrod, Noble Shore, Li-Chung Chen and Jennifer Lin.

There was little action on the first six boards of the final, but double-digit swings were flying on the last four boards. This was one:

Board 7. Dealer South. Both Vul.

♠ 9
 ♥ A J 10 3
 ♦ A K 4
 ♣ A K Q 9 2

♠ Q 5 4 2
 ♥ 9 5 2
 ♦ 7 6
 ♣ J 8 4 3

♠ A 8 3
 ♥ K Q 8
 ♦ Q 10 9 5 2
 ♣ 6 5

♠ K J 10 7 6
 ♥ 7 6 4
 ♦ J 8 3
 ♣ 10 7

Table 1

West	North	East	South
CM	NTI	CM	NTI
Lin	Chuan	Chen	Faxing
—	—	—	Pass
Pass	2 ♣	Pass	2 ♥ ¹
Pass	3 ♣	Pass	3 ♠
Pass	3 NT	Pass	Pass
Pass			

1. 4+ HCP, any distribution

How would you play three no trumps? Chuan put in the diamond jack to win the opening lead of the diamond two. A heart to the ten lost to the king, and East fired back a second diamond. Chuan passed the nine of spades, losing to the queen, and West switched to a heart. The finesse lost to the queen, and East led a third diamond.

Chuan cashed the heart ace and then the three when the suit broke. Then he ran his top clubs, but West had a stopper. Lin won the fourth club and led a spade to Chen's ace for the setting trick. Unlucky?

Table 2

West	North	East	South
NTI	CM	NTI	CM
Hua	Shore	Chou	Garrod
—	—	—	Pass
Pass	1 ♦ ¹	1 NT ²	2 ♠ ³
Pass	3 NT	Pass	Pass
Pass			

1. Artificial, 16+ high card points
2. At least three cards in all suits except clubs
3. 5-8 HCP and at least five spades

Once again the opening lead was the two of diamonds, and Shore won with the jack. With a clue from the bidding, he led the club ten and let it ride – very happy when it survived. He led to the club nine and then cashed the rest of the clubs. When he then led his singleton spade, Chou hopped with the ace and, hoping his partner had the ace of hearts, switched to the heart king. That gave him the rest of the tricks for plus 660. Whatever the merits of Shore's line of play, it earned his team 13 IMPs.

Carnegie Mellon carried a 31-22 lead going into the second half, but that lead didn't last long. They got into trouble at both tables on the first deal, really serious trouble at one table.

Board 11. Dealer North. Neither Vul.

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

Table 1

West	North	East	South
Lin	Chuan	Chen	Faxing
—	Pass	1 ♦	3 ♠
Double	Pass	3 NT	Pass
Pass	Pass		

Chen's three no trump gamble didn't pay off. Singapore won the first nine tricks on defence. Down five, minus 250 for Carnegie Mellon.

Table 1

West	North	East	South
Hua	Shore	Chou	Garrod
—	1 NT ¹	Double ²	Redouble
Pass	Pass	Pass	

- 10-12 HCP
- Penalty
- Good hand, willing to play in one no trump redoubled

Hua correctly figured that His partner's suit was diamonds and led his singleton. That enabled Chou to take the first seven tricks. At trick eight, Chou carefully led the club jack to partner's king and then dropped the ten under the ace. That let Hua take the rest of the tricks with his good clubs.

One no trump redoubled down seven! The two Carnegie Mellon declarers managed to take four tricks while the defense took twenty-two at the two tables. The swing at the second table was 3400 for a total of 3650 points and 23 IMPs for Singapore.

That gave Singapore the lead 45-31. There was no swing larger than 3 IMPs the rest of the way, so Singapore won the championship, 51-34.

The Bonn Nations Cup
Ib Lundby, Fredensborg, Denmark

Twenty teams participated in this year's Bonn Nations Cup in Stadthalle Bonn, Bad Godesberg, May 19th and 20th. The results from the two qualifying groups...

1 Denmark	162	1 Netherlands	170
2= France	159	2 Poland	150
2= Germany	159	3 Belgium	140

In the final, Denmark (Lars & Morten Lund Madsen, Jørgen Hansen, Morten Bilde) defeated Netherlands (Verhees,

Jansma, Bakkeren, Bertens) 69-28. The 24 boards in the final were transmitted on Bridge Base Online VuGraph.

This deal is from the qualifying match between Denmark and Germany.

Dealer West. NS Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
	Lars		Morten
1 ♥	Double	3 ♥	4 ♠
5 ♥	6 ♠	Pass	Pass
7 ♥	Pass	Pass	Double
Pass	Pass	Pass	
Lead: ♠ A			

At the other table the Germans stopped in five spades, so 1100 here meant 10 IMPs for Denmark. What about six spades? Can it be made? Not if West leads the diamond ace and shifts to anything but clubs. Otherwise, declarer can discard a club on the heart king, eliminate clubs and play a low diamond from the South hand. In with the diamond ace, West has to give declarer a ruff and sluff.



IBPA News
from
Malmö

Eight pairs competed in the Journalist Pairs held in Malmö. It was won by two new members, Tonje Brogeland (wife of Boye Brogeland) and Kare Kristiansen of Norway.

Also:

We welcome the following new members who joined IBPA in Malmö:

Joost Prinsen (Net); Arvid Wikner (Nor); Jerome Rombaut (Fra); Dimitri Ballas (Gre); Martin Schifko (Austria); Tonje Brogeland (Nor); Gaute Kolsberg (Nor); Guido Resta (Ita); Fried Weber (Ger); Peter van Linden (Nor); and Kare Kristiansen (Nor).

MINUTES OF THE IBPA GENERAL MEETING

Wednesday 30th June 2004 – Malmö

Present: Chair: Patrick Jourdain (President); Maureen Dennison (Secretary); Christer Anderson (Swe); Jan van Cleeff (Net); Seamus Dowling (Ire); Kay Downes (Ire); Tony Gordon (UK); Paul Hackett (UK); Hans-Olof Hallen (Swe); Per Jannersten (Swe); Barry Rigal (USA); Stuart Staveley (UK); Jon Sveindal (Nor); Jan Swaan (Net); Peter Ventura (Swe).

1: *Apologies for absence* received from Peter Lund & Herman de Wael.

2: *Press Room Security:* The need for better security of the Press Room at Championships was discussed following the theft of two laptop computers. A similar incident had occurred in Montreal. Jannersten is to press for lockers or a lockable cabinet for overnight security. Another possibility was for laptops to be chained to the tables. Van Cleeff noted that the Hospitality desk had a secure place for cash and might be prepared to keep the laptops overnight. This could be an option at future venues. It was not a practical solution for journalists to have to take their laptops back to hotels each evening, nor would this solve the daytime problem. (Organisers of future Pressrooms to note.)

3: *Membership renewals:* Some 30 members had paid their subs in Malmo, and 5 new members recruited. When Jourdain attempted to contact non-paying members for 2004, he found that more than 20 email addresses were no longer valid. Our Secretary, Maureen Dennison, would write to the land address of each of these members. It should be stressed in the Bulletin that members must inform us when they change their email address. To facilitate renewals, it was decided that an electronic renewal form be attached to the December Bulletin as well as a hard copy sent to those receiving the printed copy. Bank transfer when tried some years ago proved too expensive and Staveley informed us that he had no means of telling who had transferred funds. And the bank did not help. Staveley already has a number of credit card details on file and he is authorised each year by those members to take their subscriptions. We should try and extend this practice. A secure person is needed to receive these details electronically who would then send the details on to the Membership Secretary. Jean Tyson was suggested as a possible intermediary. Staveley reported that 80% of our membership now pay by credit card.

4: *Book Award:* Jourdain announced there is to be a new award “The Masterpoint Press Book of the Year”. Ray Lee would sponsor this for three years. Authors, publishers or members may nominate books either in the Bulletin or direct to the Awards Chairman,

Barry Rigal. New bridge books published in 2003 and the first half of 2004 would be eligible for the first Award in Istanbul. The Award is open to authors who are not IBPA members. The prize to a winning member who is an IBPA member would be US \$500. Should a non-member win, they will receive \$300 + three years membership of IBPA with printed Bulletin. To publicise this, we ask members who have had dealings with a publisher to tell them about it.

5: *Accommodation:* As most Championships seem to be in holiday resorts, Dennison suggested members might like to share holiday accommodation, self-catering flats etc. The suggestion was made IBPA should add a chat room to the IBPA web site for journalists to exchange such information. Alternatively, they could email Dennison their willingness to share and she would pass on names to each other. Jourdain also suggested that if members had found good, cheaper accommodation, they could inform Dennison so that information could be passed on.

6: *AOB:* Gordon brought the attention of the meeting to the limitations of the software on the Press Room desktops. Any additional installation, such as Adobe Reader, was blocked and there were a limited number of connections resulting in Internet users being cut off as there was too much load. He asked for more and better software at future events. Jannersten explained there was only one server for Internet and he would stress that in future, two were needed, one for the various Viewgraphs, and one for other use.

Hallen brought up the matter of media coverage which, he said, had been very poor in Sweden. He asked if the IBPA could assist organisers in getting better press coverage. Jourdain noted that the Assistant Press Room manager, Anders Wirgren, sends out a regular press release. Van Cleeff felt marketing should be done by the organisers and not sure how we could help further. Dowling pointed out that when the European Championships were in Killarney, TV gave a total coverage of 2 ½ minutes!

It was announced that the AGM would be in Istanbul on the second Monday or Tuesday.

The Meeting closed with an announcement about the Journalists Pairs.



The 2004 USBF Championship

John Carruthers, Toronto

The United States Bridge Federation's Closed Team Championship is held each year in Memphis to decide the US representatives to the WBF world championship events. This year, the five top seeds (based on major NABC team events) received byes to the quarterfinals, while everyone else battled through a convoluted system of two separate round robins and a so-called Round of 16 Knockout containing the top six of the fourteen original teams to produce the other three teams.

The semifinals saw three of the top seeds: 2. Nickell (Freeman, Hamman, Soloway, Rodwell, Meckstroth); 3. Meltzer (Larsen, Sontag, Weichsel, Stansby, Martel); and 5. Welland (Fallenius, Zia, Rosenberg) join 11. Ekeblad (Rubin, Molson, Lev, Moss, Gitelman), who had knocked off the top-seeded Brachman (Passell, Wold, Greco, Hampson) in the quarterfinals.

By the time the quarterfinal stage is reached, the matches are 120 boards long, so stamina could be an issue for Ekeblad, who had already been playing for seven days, for Welland, who was four-handed, and for Nickell, whose Hamman-Soloway pair had looked very tired in Monte Carlo (their win notwithstanding).

The Welland-Ekeblad match was close for the first day, but Welland pulled away steadily on Day 2 to win going away. Meltzer jumped out to a first-set 60 IMP lead against Nickell, who whittled away at it until the match was virtually tied after five of the eight sets. The match was close the rest of the way - indeed, it was decided on the penultimate board.

Remarkable decisions by two members of the Nickell team led to a significant gain for Meltzer on the following deal.

Board 94. Dealer East. Neither Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Sontag	Rodwell	Weichsel	Meckstroth
—	—	Pass	Pass
3 ♠	Pass!	Pass	Pass

Sontag lost six tricks when the defence cashed out, declining

to put him to the heart guess. He was surprised to see that Rodwell had so much, despite taking a long time to pass over three spades. On the surface, this was a good result for Meltzer, but with any game problematic (either to reach, or make), it would not be a surprise to lose IMPs. And it seemed they would do just that...

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Hamman	Martel	Soloway	Stansby
—	—	Pass	Pass
3 ♠	Double	Pass	4 ♥
Pass	Pass	Double!	Pass
Pass	4 ♠	Pass	4 NT
Pass	Pass	Pass	

With Stansby headed for two off in four hearts (a result achieved at both tables of the Welland-Ekeblad match), Soloway decided to up the ante. Obviously he believes in bidding what's in front of his nose rather than refraining from doubling the only thing he can beat.

Hamman led the spade queen and Stansby had Soloway's ears burning in no time. He won the second spade, took a club finesse, cashed four diamonds ending in hand, and played a second club. When Hamman followed with the king, he won the ace and played a third club. He'd make eight tricks or eleven tricks, depending on who would win the club. Soloway won and had to lead a heart from the king, surrendering an overtrick. Oops.

With the match on the line and two boards to go, Hamman showed that he is not yet ready to relinquish the unofficial "World's Greatest Player" title just yet.

Board 119. Dealer South. Both Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Sontag	Soloway	Weichsel	Hamman
—	—	—	1 ♣
2 ♦	3 ♣	Pass	3 ♠
Pass	4 ♣	Pass	4 ♠
Pass	5 ♥	Pass	6 ♣
Pass	Pass	Pass	

With the Meltzer team ahead by 11 IMPs and with two boards to go, both sides arrived at six clubs. Against Hamman, Sontag led the diamond king. Hamman won the ace and, after finding out the good news on the jack of clubs, played three top spades, pitching a diamond and a heart from dummy. Then,

having taken note of Weichsel's count-card nine of diamonds at trick one and Sontag's failure to bid three diamonds over one club, he ruffed a diamond with the club six.

When the diamond ruff came off safely he was home. Ace, king, queen and eight of clubs left Weichsel with that helpless feeling of being violated. He was forced to lead a heart into the tenace, bringing Hamman's hand to life again.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Rodwell	Martel	Meckstroth	Stansby
—	—	—	1 ♠
2 ♦	3 ♣	Pass	3 ♠
Pass	4 ♥	Pass	5 ♦
Pass	6 ♣	Pass	Pass
Pass			

The tempo of the auction with quite different here, Rodwell making a simple overcall at the two-level. Meckstroth led the nine of diamonds and Martel tried the jack of clubs, getting the same bad news Hamman had at the other table. Here, Martel passed the heart jack to the king and was a swift two off when the defence cashed a diamond and got their trump trick later. That was 17 IMPs to Nickell with a board to go. The last board was a push, so Nickell had once again performed last-second heroics (as at the Bermuda Bowl) to snatch a single-digit win from almost certain defeat, this time by six. I don't know how Soloway's heart can stand it!

It was a bitter disappointment for the Meltzer team. They had held up under the sustained pressure of two of the world's top partnerships for 118 boards, just failing at the last.

The final followed a similar pattern to the Nickell-Meltzer semifinal. Welland got off to an early 49 IMP lead after 30 boards, and Nickell then staged a comeback, drawing almost level after the fifth set and maintaining that proximity for 20 boards or so.

At the beginning of the sixth set, with the match margin in single digits, Zia-Rosenberg flirted with disaster.

Board 77. Dealer North. Both Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Freeman	Rosenberg	Nickell	Zia
—	1 NT	Pass	2 ♠
Pass	3 ♣	Pass	3 NT
Pass	4 ♣	Pass	4 ♠
Pass	4 NT	Pass	5 ♥
Double	5 ♠	Pass	5 NT
Pass	Pass	Pass	

Zia transferred to clubs and bid three no trumps when Rosenberg denied a good club fit. Now Rosenberg, being maximum for his action, thought four clubs was safe. Zia cooperated and four no trumps seems to have been for play, misinterpreted as Blackwood. They were able to stop in five no trumps since five hearts had denied the queen of clubs. Phew!

Nickell led his own suit, the nine, showing zero or two higher. He was delighted to see Freeman win the ace and return the eight.

Rosenberg won the king and cashed all the spades, Nickell throwing the heart five and the diamond six. The queen and three of clubs followed. When Freeman followed with the nine and Nickell the two and six, the pause that ensued was long enough for all us online kibitzers to go to the kitchen, make dinner, eat it and clear up afterwards.

When we returned, Rosenberg inserted the ten of clubs and claimed eleven tricks when Freeman discarded. Well done! An IMP to Welland as Meckwell unadventurously rested in three no trumps making four.

Rosenberg had added up all the inferences correctly: Nickell's failure to lead a heart, which he likely would have done with three or more; Freeman's immediate return of a diamond, inferentially signaling that he had another; and Nickell's discard of one heart and one diamond. A wonderful performance, appreciated especially by his partner.

Both sides missed an opportunity here:

Board 92. Dealer West. NS Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Rodwell	Rosenberg	Meckstroth	Zia
1 ♥	Pass	4 ♥	Pass
Pass	Pass		

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Welland	Hamman	Fallenius	Soloway
1 ♥	Pass	2 ♦	Pass
2 ♠	Pass	3 ♥	Pass
4 ♥	Pass	Pass	Pass

Welland had led for most of the previous 91 boards. It was here that the Nickell team began to assert itself.

Rosenberg led the spade king and Zia overtook to return the jack, which Rosenberg in turn overtook. He cashed the

spade ten and was at the crossroads. Afraid that a fourth round of spades would reveal the heart position to a declarer who had promised only five hearts, he switched to the diamond nine. To a declarer of Rodwell's skill, though, the failure to play another spade was just as revealing.

Rodwell made short work of the hand – he cashed the high hearts and claimed, ruffing one club and pitching two, one on a high diamond and the other on the good spade.

Had Rosenberg led a fourth club, Rodwell would have had to have been clairvoyant to make the contract. He'd have had to overruff the ten of hearts, ruff a club and draw trumps, then run the hearts. Zia would have been caught in a minor-suit squeeze. But there was no reason to play that way.

At the other table, the defence started the same way. Hamman should have known to play a fourth spade as Welland could not have had worse hearts for his auction. Additionally, a singleton knave of hearts in Soloway's hand would have beat the hand legitimately. Hamman played a diamond after three rounds of spades, as had Rosenberg.

In any case, Welland now returned the favour by winning the diamond in dummy and trying to tempt a ruff, led the good spade. Soloway was delighted to ruff with the ten from his weak trump holding. Now Welland needed to play as described earlier to squeeze Soloway. He tried to ruff two clubs in dummy and discard one on a high diamond, so Hamman scored a ruff for one down. That was 10 IMPs to Nickell and the lead 156-153, a lead they never relinquished.

Nickell followed up that swing with six more double-digit swings over the next 13 boards, effectively closing off Roy Welland's first chance at an Olympiad. This was one of them:

Board 96. Dealer West. EW Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Rodwell	Rosenberg	Meckstroth	Zia
1 ♥	Pass	1 ♠	Pass
2 ♥	Pass	4 ♥	Pass
Pass	Double	Pass	Pass
Pass			

One effective way of dealing with the Meckwell bidding style is to double them when they have overreached. Knowing when they have done so is quite another matter.

Rosenberg led the diamond king, which Zia overtook to put through the club jack. Playing as though he held the hand records, Rodwell won the club in hand, cashed the spade ace and ruffed a diamond. A spade ruff followed by the club

queen was next. He then ruffed another diamond with the seven of hearts and cashed the club ace throwing his last diamond.

At this point Rodwell was down to five trumps and Rosenberg had his four trumps and the diamond queen. When he played the king of spades from dummy and ruffed it with the seven of trumps, he began a signal to the dummy, Meckstroth, that he was going to make it.

Rosenberg helplessly overruffed the spade to play his last exit card, the diamond queen. Rodwell ruffed this in dummy with the heart ten and undertruffed with the five, completing the trump echo to Meckstroth. A spade ruffed with the six left Rosenberg trump end-played and feeling much the same as Weichsel had when Hamman endplayed him in six clubs. It was another virtuoso performance.

At the other table, in the same four hearts, but with no double to guide him to the winning play, Welland cashed the heart ace early on and had no chance.

Nickell was full-value for their win, outbidding and outplaying their opponents handily. The eventual margin was 100 IMPs and one has to wonder if going four-handed was the best decision for Welland. In the last 30 boards, Zia and Rosenberg had four adverse slam swings against them, all on slams they bid and their opponents did not. Two were marginal and two had no play, although to be fair, they were behind by a fair margin at the time. Nevertheless, there were game swings from better play by the Nickell team as well. All in all, it was a superior performance to the one at the Bermuda Bowl, which must be a scary thought for their opponents-to-be at the Olympiad in October/November.

54^o Campeonato Sudamericano
Diego Brenner, Rio de Janeiro

For what seemed like the 54th time, Argentina played against Brasil in the final of the South American Championship in São Paulo in early June. My team (Chagas-Vilas-Boas; Sampaio-Brenner) had high hopes, but lost in the semifinals. My partner, Claudio Sampaio showed that you'd better play in tempo against him on this deal from early in the tournament:

Dealer North. Neither Vul.

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

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

Playing 14-16 no trumps, I decided to open one club with the North hand and we bid to the mediocre slam. West led the jack of diamonds and Claudio made the ace, played the queen of clubs, covered by the king and ace, and played a low heart from hand. West played the nine and East considered covering it for a moment.

That was all Claudio needed to figure out that East didn't have the king of hearts, so he ruffed the diamond return in hand, cashed the ace of hearts, and squeezed West in the black suits! West could have played a club, but the slam was still making. The ending:

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

When declarer cashes a heart, West discards a club, but declarer still has one trump to ruff a club and establish the twelfth trick.

The following deal from the final showed why Argentina (Bianchedi-Muzzio, Mooney-Monsegur) were full value for their win over Brasil (Mello-Jan; Campos-Aranha; Dib-Figueiredo).

Board 6. Dealer East. EW Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Monsegur	Mello	Mooney	Janz
—	—	Pass	1 ♠
Pass	2 ♠	Pass	3 ♥
Pass	3 ♠	Pass	4 ♠
Pass	Pass	Pass	

In the Closed Room, Janz received a fifth-best diamond lead and won it to play the heart king. Mooney won and switched to a club which Janz won to play the queen of hearts, heart, ruffing in the dummy as West pitched a diamond. Then the diamond king was played, followed by a club to the king, and another heart. This time West ruffed in with the spade king, and east could not be prevented from scoring two trump tricks for down one, minus 50.

West	North	East	South
Dib	Muzzio	Figueiredo	Bianchedi
—	—	Pass	1 ♠
Pass	2 ♠	Pass	3 ♦
Pass	3 ♠	Pass	4 ♠
Pass	Pass	Pass	

Alejandro Bianchedi for Argentina received a club lead. He won and played the heart king as well, also won by the ace for another club play. Here Alejandro played a spade, won by West with the king, and his diamond was taken by South's ace. Bianchedi then played a spade to the queen, diamond king, diamond ruff, heart queen and a heart ruff. These cards remained:

<p>♠ — ♥ — ♦ J ♣ 10 4</p> <p>♠ — ♥ — ♦ Q ♣ Q 8</p>	<p>♠ J 10 ♥ J ♦ — ♣ —</p> <p>♠ A 8 ♥ 10 ♦ — ♣ —</p>
--	---

Having lost just the king of trumps and the ace of hearts, Bianchedi played a diamond from dummy and had to score both his trumps no matter what East did. Plus 420 and plus 10 IMPs. The final score was Argentina 176, Brasil 159.

Catch 2 for Major Major

Ron Klinger, Northbridge, NSW
(From the Sydney Morning Herald)

The play on this deal, submitted by Ian McCance, deserves recording. It arose in the Victorian Mixed Pairs, won by Meredith Woods and Dan Hohor.

Dealer North. NS Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
—	Woods		Hohor
—	1 ♣ ¹	Pass	1 NT
Pass	2 ♣	Pass	3 ♠ ²
Pass	3 NT	Pass	4 NT
Pass	5 ♥	Pass	6 NT
Pass	Pass	Pass	

1. Precision
2. 4 spades, 12 or more points

Opening lead: Club 5

Declarer finessed the ten of clubs and then cashed the diamonds. East turned up with a singleton diamond and when declarer played off the ace of clubs next, he knew East had started with eleven cards in the majors. The position after trick six looked like this:

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

When the king of clubs was cashed, what could East do? In practice, another heart was thrown and now Hohor continued with a heart to the king, back to the heart ace and a third heart. East was on play and had to give declarer an extra spade trick as well as access to the dummy for the established heart winner.

It would have been slightly tougher if East had thrown a spade in the above ending, but declarer can still succeed by playing SA and another spade. This sets up two spade winners in hand and puts East on play with only hearts left. As East has turned up with five spades only, East is known to have started with six hearts and declarer knows to play East for both heart honours.

Well done, Dan Hohor. You do not see a strip-squeeze gaining two extra tricks every day.

IBPA Column Service

Tim Bourke, Canberra

280. Dealer West. EW Vul.

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

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

West led king of diamonds, taken by declarer's ace. The ace of trumps revealed the awful news that declarer had a trump loser to go along with another probable one in clubs.

Luckily, East's two of diamonds at trick one suggested the diamonds appeared to be seven-one. If so, declarer saw a way home. First, he cashed the jack of hearts, followed by the ace and king, removing East's hearts. Next came a trump to the ten, followed by the king and queen of trumps, throwing a diamond from the table. Finally the fifth trump, discarding a low club from table, put East on play to lead away from the king of clubs. Making six!

281. Dealer North. NS Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
—	1 ♣	Pass	1 ♠
Pass	1 NT	Pass	4 NT
Pass	6 ♠	Pass	Pass
Pass			

This deal occurred in the first round of the 2003 Surfers Paradise teams. One no trump promised 15 to 17.

North was David Stern, owner of Sydney's famous Double Bay Bridge Centre, South his brother-in-law, and long-time New Zealand International, Mike Cornell.

When two four-three-three-three shapes face each other and the choice is to play three no trumps or four of a major, three no trumps is usually best because you need nine rather than ten tricks to make game. When the choice is between six no trumps and six spades, as twelve tricks are needed in each contract, the major suit contract may offer advantages.

West led the jack of clubs and Cornell won the king of clubs, crossed to the ace of spades and led a spade to the jack. When East followed low, he cashed the king of spades, the high clubs and the ace, king of hearts. When he played the jack of hearts, East had to win and lead a diamond, removing the guess in that suit, or a play a heart to concede a ruff and discard. Either way Cornell had twelve tricks without having to guess who had the queen of diamonds!

282. On the following deal (see top of next page), West led the king of spades, asking for count, and declarer rose with dummy's ace. He noted that East's two of spades indicated a singleton, giving West six spades, making trying for a spade ruff pointless.

Dealer North. NS Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
—	2 ♣	Pass	2 ♥
2 ♠	3 ♥	Pass	4 ♥
Pass	6 ♥	Pass	Pass
Pass			

It may not seem obvious but the best play for twelve tricks is a dummy reversal! First cash the king and queen of hearts, then the ace, king of clubs and ruff the two of clubs. After a diamond to the ace, the dummy's last club is ruffed then the king and queen of diamonds are cashed. As East has four diamonds, declarer ruffs the four of diamonds and the ace of hearts is the twelfth trick!

You should note that this plan succeeds when East has one-three-(four-five) shape too!

283. Dealer North. EW Vul.

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

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

One no trump was 12 to 14; West led the queen of clubs and declarer ducked. If East overtook with the king to put a diamond through declarer can later finesse West's jack of clubs and dispose of his spade loser on the ace of clubs.

Suppose the queen of clubs holds and a club is continued. Dummy's ace wins and two rounds of trumps are drawn with the ace and king. Next the queen of spade is run to West's queen and no matter how West defends declarer makes ten tricks.

Luckily for South, West could not find the killing lead of the seven or the nine of clubs!

How Would You Play?

PO Sundelin, Stockholm

A guy at the club came to tell me about a slam his teammates bid:

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

The contract is six spades with a club honour lead. You ruff and play a spade to the ace, West contributing the jack. When you next cash the spade queen, West discards a club. Assuming the defence will force the dummy a second time if they regain the lead, how should you play the hearts, and how many diamonds must East have (and you cash) to effect your putative trump coup? (Answer on page 15.)

Yeh Brothers Cup

European Championships Daily Bulletin Staff

Here is a deal with Geir Helgemo in action at the Yeh Brothers Cup, held in Beijing in May of this year.

Dealer South. NS Vul.

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

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

Helgemo's three club bid was asking for help in the suit, and it was easy for his partner to accept the game try. The defence kicked off with the ace, king and ten of diamonds.

Helgemo ruffed this and cashed one top spade. He then led a club to the king and returned to hand with the heart king. A second club was then played to the ace, and a second heart to the ace. Helgemo trumped his last heart in dummy, played a spade to the ten and spread his hand. He had already counted West for six diamonds, three hearts, two clubs and one spade, so even if the spade ten lost to the queen, West would have no option but to concede a ruff and discard.

Talking about Cards

Martin Nygren, Stockholm

(From the European Championships Daily Bulletins)

One of the good things about bridge is that, no matter how poor your results are, you can always pick up a good story for after-bridge. At after-bridge there is, of course, no such thing as misguessing the trump suit. Jan Lagerman, while enjoying a well-deserved glass of beer, related a deal with a scary trump guess.

Board 27. Dealer South. Neither Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Lagerman		Gustawsson	
—	—	—	Pass
2 ♦	2 ♥	5 ♦	Double
Pass	Pass	Pass	

Two diamonds showed an opening bid with at least six diamonds and denied a four card major. The lead was the queen of hearts, which was ducked all around, and another heart, forcing the ace, ruffed.

“Nice contract, eleven easy tricks,” said listener number one.

“Well, you have seen all fifty-two cards, but at the table you must guess the trump suit correctly,” replied Lagerman.

“What trump guess?” said listener number two. “It is obvious that trumps break one-one. North would have pulled five diamonds doubled with a void.”

“But surely you might leave it in with only a six-card heart suit. You have after all overcalled two hearts,” replied Lagerman.

“Possibly, but the pass would not have been swift,” interjected his partner Gustawsson.

“Anyway, what was your excuse for misguessing the trump suit?” queried listener number three sardonically.

“I did not want to guess the trump suit,” Lagerman replied evenly, so I decided to try to trigger the ruff-a-winner reflex. I played the queen of spades and overtook it with the king, then continued with the king of hearts which was ruffed with the eight of diamonds.”

This brought down a round of laughter. “Good guess,” conceded listener number three.

Björn Wenneberg was eager to get into the discussion and showed us the next deal.

Board 48. Dealer West. EW Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Wenneberg		Andersson	
1 ♠	2 NT	Pass	3 ♣
Pass	Pass	3 ♥	Pass
3 ♠	Pass	Pass	Pass

Three hearts showed a heart suit and three-card spade support. The opening lead was the heart ten, covered by the jack and won with the queen. South switched to the ten of diamonds which Wenneberg won with the ace.

Concluding that North’s original distribution might very well have been one-one-six-five, he crossed to dummy with the king of spades and continued with a small spade to the ten! He then knocked out the ace of hearts and had the trump queen as an entry to the good heart, to which South helplessly followed. Making three.



The 47th European Team Championships

June 19-July 3

(These reports are taken from the Daily Bulletins edited by Mark Horton with journalistic expertise provided by Jos Jacobs, Martin Nygren and Brian Senior. Since only articles authored by other than these steadfast souls have a byline, we shall have to guess who wrote the following accounts. Some have suffered re-editing for these pages.)

If there had been any lingering doubts about Italy’s determination after their devastating defeat at the last Bermuda Bowl, they were put to rest these past two weeks in Malmö by perhaps the most dominating performance ever in high-level bridge. In winning their sixth straight Europeans, Italy has accomplished something even the vaunted Blue Team did not. While Sweden looked to challenge for the first week, the pace set by the Italians was too demanding, and by Tuesday June 29, only the margin of victory was in doubt.

Nevertheless, congratulations are also due to Sweden as the hosts and only country to qualify in all three series. The World Championship qualifiers in each series were:

Open

1. Italy	657
2. Sweden	614
3. Poland	590
4. Russia	589
5. England	586

Women's

1. Sweden	402
2. Netherlands	395
3. France	377
4. Austria	370
5. Israel	361

Seniors

1. Denmark	397
2. Poland	382
3. France	382
4. Germany	381
5. Sweden	377

This deal from Round 1 featured many variations in play, with most leading to ten tricks in hearts for North-South. This was one of the more elegant series of plays:

Board 14. Dealer East. Neither Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Versace	Rombaut	Lauria	Palau
—	—	Pass	Pass
1 NT	Pass	Pass	2 ♥
Pass	4 ♥	Pass	Pass
Pass			

West cashed the top hearts and then played the two of clubs. Declarer went up with the ace, ruffed a club, drew the trump (discarding a spade, as did East), and played a diamond to the king. He ruffed the jack of clubs and played a diamond. In with the ace, West had to either lead a spade, allowing declarer to duck to the jack, or a club.

On the club lead, East is squeezed. If he discards a diamond, declarer discards a spade, cashes the spade ace and the diamond queen dropping the jack, and ruffs a spade to hand to cash the diamond ten. Should East discard a spade instead, declarer must ruff the club queen and lead the spade jack, pinning the ten and collecting three tricks in that suit.

Bulgaria produced a fancy defence to defeat Norway in a seemingly-impregnable four spades on the next deal. Would you rather play or defend? Be careful!

Board 10. Dealer East. Both Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Aronov	Charlesen	Stefanov	Bentzen
—	—	Pass	Pass
1 NT	2 ♣	2 ♦	3 ♠
Pass	4 ♠	Pass	Pass
Pass			

How can you go down in four spades? It looks as if you cannot lose more than two clubs and a diamond, as the hearts can be set up with two ruffs, drawing three rounds of trumps in the process. Well, this is true, as we shall see, but Aronov and Stefanov produced a brilliant defence to lead declarer astray. After cashing the three minor-suit winners, Julian Stefanov simply continued a club. Now what should declarer do?

If he ruffs in hand, he fatally shortens his trumps. He will not be able to draw three rounds of trumps and ruff two hearts later with only four trumps left. At the table, Bentzen ruffed the third round of hearts with his last trump, but when Aronov could overruff, he was one down.

If declarer ruffs in dummy, he will be short of entries to both set up hearts and enjoy the established suit. Ace of hearts, heart ruff, spade jack, spade to queen, heart ruff will not work as West will overruff. Drawing the last trump makes dummy entryless.

So, can four spades be made? It can. Ruff the third club in dummy, discarding your singleton heart from hand! Now you can start ruffing hearts immediately, the spade queen providing the entry for the second ruff in the suit and the spade ace the entry to the established hearts as well as the necessary move to draw the last trump. A magical deal indeed!

Concurrent with the European Championships was the annual Swedish Bridge Festival, with many events open to all comers. The Chairman's Cup was one such event. Anders Morath of Sweden is apparently a man who never wins a finesse:

Board 8. Dealer West. Neither Vul.

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

♣ 6 5

Morath and partner Bengt-Erik Efraimsson reached six clubs from the West seat. Morath received a diamond lead which he won in dummy. Carefully noting possession of the key card on the deal, the club deuce, Morath cashed the ace of clubs (keeping the deuce) and continued with a club to the jack.

Had the club finesse won it was all over. When it failed, Morath reverted to diamonds, winning the continuation in dummy and discarding a diamond from hand on the third heart. When he ruffed a diamond and they proved to be three-three, that carefully preserved two of clubs could be used to travel to the dummy to discard the spade queen on the good diamond.

Board 20. Dealer West. Both Vul.

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

Morath received a club lead to the ace in his four spade contract. He continued with a trump to the king and another to the jack, losing to the queen. A club return forced him to ruff. Morath now tried the heart finesse, and when that lost he was forced again in clubs.

It was still not time to draw the remaining trump as the diamonds needed to be established. Another finesse, of the diamond ten this time, lost to the queen, and Morath's foresight paid off again. Now he still retained a trump in his hand to take a further force, then could cross to dummy with a red card to extract South's last spade.

To Be Continued...

Results

European Championships

Open Teams

1. Italy: Norberto Bocchi; Giorgio Duboin; Fulvio Fantoni; Lorenzo Lauria; Claudio Nunes; Alfredo Versace
2. Sweden: Peter Bertheau; Peter Fredin; Magnus Lindqvist; Fredrik Nyström; PO Sundelin; Johan Sylvan
3. Poland: Cezary Balicki; Bartosz Chmurski; Apollinary Kowalski; Mariusz Puczynski; Piotr Tuszynski; Adam Zmudzinski
4. Russia: Alexander Dubinin; Andrei Gromov; Vadim Kholomeev; Max Khven; Aleksander Petrunin; Dmitri Zlotov

5. England: David Gold; Jason Hackett; Justin Hackett; David Price; Colin Simpson; Tom Townsend

Women's Teams

1. Sweden: Kathrine Bertheau; Catarina Midskog; Pia Andersson; Linda Långström; Catharina Forsberg; Maria Grönqvist
2. Netherlands: Carla Arnolds; Bep Vriend; Femke Hoogweg; Wietske van Zwol; Jet Pasman; Anneke Simons
3. France: Véronique Bessis; Bénédicte Cronier; Catherine d'Ovidio; Danièle Gaviard-Allouche; Christine Lustin; Sylvie Willard
4. Austria: Adele Gogoman; Iris Grumm; Carolina Hupka; Susanne Kriftner; Jovanka Smederevac; Terry Weigkricht
5. Israel: Daniela Birman; Shiri Faur; Nurit Graizer; Ruth Levit-Porat; Matilda Poplilov; Migry Zur-Campanile

Seniors Teams

1. Denmark: Jens Auken; Dahl Flemming; Peter Lund; Steen Møller; Georg Norris
2. Poland: Jacek Korpetta; Kazimierz Omernik; Janusz Radecki; Krzysztof Sikorski
3. France: Paul Chemla; José Damiani; Albert Faigenbaum; Christian Mari; Jean-Louis Stoppa; François Stretz
4. Germany: Hans Humburg; Ulrich Kratz; Reiner Marsal; Göran Mattson; Dirk Schroeder; Bernhard Strater
5. Sweden: Lars Alfredsson; Johan Dieden; Sture Ekberg; Hans-Olaf Hallén; Lars-Ingvar Hyden; Bernt-Åke Jansson

United States Bridge Federation Championships

Open Teams

1. Richard Freeman; Robert Hamman; Jeff Meckstroth; Nick Nickell; Eric Rodwell; Paul Soloway
2. Björn Fallenius; Michael Rosenberg; Roy Welland; Mahmood Zia
- 3=. Kyle Larsen; Chip Martel; Rose Meltzer; Alan Sontag; Lew Stansby; Peter Weichsel
- 3=. Russ Ekeblad; Fred Gitelman; Sam Lev; Mark Molson; Brad Moss; Ron Rubin

Women's Teams

1. Marinesa Letizia; Jill Meyers; Randi Montin; Janice Seamon-Molson; Tobi Sokolow; Carlyn Steiner
2. Gail Greenberg; Amalya Kearsse; Irina Levitina; Jacqui Mitchell
- 3=. Cheri Bjerkan; Mildred Breed; Stasha Cohen; Shawn Quinn; Judi Radin; Valerie Westheimer
- 3=. Lynn Baker; Lynn Deas; Hjordis Eythorsdottir; Beth Palmer; Debbie Rosenberg; Kerri Sanborn

Seniors Teams

1. Roger Bates; Rose Meltzer; Alan Sontag; Lew Stansby; Peter Weichsel
2. Leo Bell; Neil Chambers; Marshall Miles; John Onstott; Jim Robison; John Schermer
- 3=. Dennis Dawson; Garey Hayden; Carolyn Lynch; Dan Morse; Mike Passell; Bobby Wolff
- 3=. Russ Ekeblad; Billy Eisenberg; Fred Hamilton; Sam Lev; Reese Milner;

South American Championships

Open Teams

1. Argentina (Oyzum): Alejandro Bianchedi; Guillermo Mooney; Martin Monsegur; Ernesto Muzzio
2. Brazil: Sergio Aranha; João-Paulo Campos; João Dib; Mauricio Figueireda; Ricardo Janz; Roberto de Mello;
- 3=. Argentina (Ayacucho): Lema; Nuñez; Leonardo Rizzo; Rueda
- 3=. Brazil (Chagas): Diego Brenner; Gabriel Chagas; Claudio Sampaio; Miguel Vilas-Boas

Women's Teams 1. Marieras 2. Santaigo

Junior Teams 1. Brasil 2. Chile

Open Pairs: Carlos Zagarzazú; Jorge Rossolino (Uruguay)

Women's Pairs: Eleonora Alegre; Florencia Herrera (Argentina)

Mixed Pairs: Alejandro Rivas; Ana De Soto (Colombia)

Worldwide Pairs

June 4, 2004

1. Piana Alessandro; Enzo Ditano (Italy)
2. John Cunningham; Harris (Ireland)
3. Vittorio Castriota; Marcu (Italy)

June 5, 2004

1. Vera Petty; Roman Smolski (Bermuda)
2. Walter Boetti; Margherita Gagna (Italy)
3. Wang Jiong; Qiu Honghai (China)

Notice to All IBPA Members !!

Change of e-Mail Address

If your e-mail address changes, please let us know. Send the change to the Bulletin Production Manager, Jean Tyson, at:

mail@ibpa.com

We need this for various reasons, not least of which is to let you know the Bulletin codes and to reach you personally.

Answer to How Would You Play?

(From page 11.)

Small to the nine looks correct to me as it picks up three-three hearts, and HHxx or Hx with East. Alternatively, if you play the king, ace and ten, and find that West has Hxxx it looks too difficult. On the third and fourth heart East can get rid of two diamonds. As declarer needs to cash two diamonds before playing the high hearts, that would require East to have four originally. And cashing two diamonds before establishing hearts is plain stupid as East might get a diamond ruff holding a friendly xxx, xx in the red suits.

Correspondence ...

The Editor reserves the right to shorten correspondence



Email: ibpaeditor@sympatico.ca

Hi John,

Enclosed please find the link for the Red Sea Festival - we shall celebrate the 10th anniversary this year:

<http://www.bridge.co.il/Redsea/index.html>

Kindest Greetings, David Birman, Tel-Aviv



10th Red Sea

International Bridge Festival November 14-21, 2004

Contact Information:

Festival Chairman: David Birman
50 Pinkas St. Tel-Aviv 62261, Israel
Tel: 972- 3- 6058355
Fax: 972- 3- 5223566
E-mail: birmand@inter.net.il

IBPA Website Notice

The Bulletin

To access a Bulletin on the IBPA website, enter the website address www.IBPA.com, followed by a forward slash, then the Bulletin code, immediately followed by .pdf . This Bulletin, July 2004, will have code 474jn, so you will need to key in:

www.IBPA.com/474jn.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:

ihccaT

EXACTLY as it appears here.

World Bridge Calendar

DATES	EVENT	LOCATION	INFORMATION
2004			
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 12-14	1 st World Schools Team Championship	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 15-Aug 1	15 th International Festival of Bridge, Chess and Games	Pardubice, Czech Republic	www.eurobridge.org
Jul 16-17	Bridge Pro Tour	New York, NY	www.bridgeprotour.com
Jul 17-24	6 th World Junior Camp	Nyack, NY	www.worldbridge.org
Jul 20-25	European Women's Bridge Festival	Vienna, Austria	anna@ecat.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.no-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 8-15	Avis Copenhagen Open	Copenhagen, Denmark	http://blakset.dk/co2004/co2004en/co2004/co2004.htm
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	www.bridge.co.il/Redsea
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
Mar 21-27	110 th Canadian Nationals	Toronto, ON	www.acbl.org
May 14-21	23 rd CACBF Zonal Championships	San José, Costa Rica	www.cacbf.com
Jul 21-31	ACBL Summer NABC	Atlanta, GA	www.acbl.org
Oct 7-9	4 th European Champions Cup	Brussels, Belgium	www.worldbridge.org
Nov 17-27	ACBL Fall NABC	Denver, CO	www.acbl.org