



BULLETIN

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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.

We have six excellent, and very different, books as finalists for the Master Point Press IBPA Book of the Year Award. They are:

- *Kantar on Kontract*, Eddie Kantar, Master Point Press, Toronto. This is a collection of Kantar's best newspaper columns from the 1960's to date. Kantar's incomparable self-deprecating humour comes through in devastating fashion. The selected deals "combine equal amounts of humor and instruction, along with some great stories and great bridge hands," as Kantar himself states in the Introduction.
- *Bridge - Classic and Modern Conventions*, Nicu Kantar and Dan Dimitrescu, edited by Magnus Lindkvist, Bridge Tidningen, Stockholm. This magnum opus comes in 4 volumes of more than 2000 pages and is meant to be an exhaustive exposition of the world's bridge conventions. Obviously, it is not meant to be read for entertainment, but is nevertheless a valuable reference work. The only work equivalent to this in scope is the *Encyclopædia of Bridge*.
- *Bridge Master: The Best of Edgar Kaplan*, edited by Jeff Rubens, The Bridge World, New York. This book is billed as "A tribute to one of the game's leading personalities and inventors." No matter how well you knew Edgar Kaplan, there will be plenty in this book you have not seen or heard. It would be difficult to overestimate the influence Kaplan had on the game. The book includes remembrances by editor Rubens. Every bridge player should be remembered so affectionately.
- *Natural Therapy for Defense Disorders*, Lajos Linczmayer, Melania Publishing, Budapest. This is a thorough exposition of the basics of signaling, leading, and most importantly, thinking on defence. There are 135 mostly multiple-part problems to help you through to the correct play. The author adopts Bob Hamman's philosophy: "If partner really needs to know something, he should assume that I have anticipated his problem and have helped him out with a signal."
- *Play or Defend? 68 Hands to Test Your Bridge Skill*, Julian Pottage, Master Point Press, Toronto. Unusually, the reader is presented with all four hands and the auction. Overleaf, he is given one or more play/defend options, with analysis, and asked the question, "Can you make it?" or "Can you beat it?" in a number of forms. The second section of the book has the ultimate solutions. This is not simply a book of double dummy problems, but a very original concept. The deals chosen range from very interesting to outstanding.
- *Omar Sharif Talks Bridge*, Omar Sharif and David Bird, Finesse Bridge Publications, London. Sharif is one of the all-time great personalities in the world of bridge and in this book he presents many of his favourite bridge deals from the past 40 years. Colour and context is added as well: in the chapter on the now-defunct Macallan (formerly the Sunday Times) Invitational, the authors wryly state, "In the far corner was a table with a plentiful supply of the sponsor's wares. Few serious bridge players consume alcohol while playing and it was mainly the bridge journalists who considered it their duty to support Macallan to the hilt."

"A cow flew by!" Thus did Hugh Kelsey describe why otherwise-competent bridge players make inexplicably-bad bids and plays. That's what must have happened last month when the year 2005 appeared on page 1 of the September issue. We did not notice it until it was on the website. At least we were able to correct that version, if not the hard copy version.

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A Scot's Favorite Deal, in Miami

Alan Truscott, Bronx, NY

From the New York Times, August 12, 2004

As in many other areas, bridge in the New World often receives an infusion of talent from the Old World. Half a century ago Boris Koytchou, a Russian by birth, crossed the Atlantic after representing France and played for his adopted country. Sami Kehela moved from England to Canada and was a strong candidate for world titles. Sam Lev came from Poland via Israel and contends regularly. This year Björn Fallenius, who has won many medals for Sweden, earned the right to play for the United States in Istanbul next October.

Two Scots who used to represent Britain as partners are prominent in American bridge. Michael Rosenberg already owns one world title and may earn another as Fallenius's teammate. Barnet Shenkin added to his many victories by capturing the Grand National Teams in New York last month representing Florida. His favorite deal of the year occurred earlier at a tournament in Miami. As South he opened one heart.

South Dealer. Neither Vul.

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

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

Experts are often ready to overcall in a four-card suit at the one-level, especially when not vulnerable. West tried one spade, and his partner bid three spades pre-emptively over a negative double that showed the minors. South, unwilling to quit, stretched slightly to bid four hearts, and the bidding ended.

The declarer needed to lead hearts from the dummy, but he could not afford to block the diamonds by playing the king immediately. He therefore decided to enlist West's help, forcing that player to do something that would be useful. His first move was to win with the diamond ace and cash the diamond queen. This was risky, since the lead might have been a singleton, but proved to be a successful Dentist's Coup: it extracted an important exit card from the West hand.

South next led a club, and West took his ace. He then had to lead in this tricky position:

<p>♠ 7 3 ♥ 10 4 ♦ K 10 7 ♣ K 8 6</p> <p>♠ A Q 9 6 ♥ A 5 3 ♦ — ♣ 10 7 3</p> <p>♠ K 8 4 ♥ K J 9 8 7 2 ♦ 6 ♣ —</p>	<p>♠ J 10 5 2 ♥ Q 6 ♦ J ♣ Q J 9</p>
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Since his second diamond had been dentist-extracted by Shenkin, West now had a fiendishly difficult defensive problem, and he did not solve it. He returned a club, giving South the entry he needed to the dummy, together with a spade discard on the club king. Trumps were played. East's queen was eliminated, and the declarer could not be prevented from drawing trumps and eventually using dummy's diamonds. A heart, a spade and a club were the only tricks for the defense.

Did you see what West could have done? He could, brilliantly, have led the spade queen in the diagramed position, South would have won with the king, but the defense would have been poised to score a crucial diamond ruff, with a spade entry to the East hand.

Biarritz

Hervé Pacault, Bordeaux

The 19th Biarritz International Festival, held from June 29 to July 11, had 980 participants from 25 countries vying for five championships (IMP Pairs, Open Pairs, Mixed Pairs, Individual and Teams). This year, Przybora joined the exclusive club of double-winners of the Open Pairs with Bocchi, Chemla, Duboin, Lasocki and Zia as members.

The Open Pairs (316 pairs) was won by Polish world champions Tomasz Przybora and Marek Szymanowski; the Mixed Pairs (226 pairs) by Jovanka Smederevac and Alexander Wernle from Austria; and the IMP Pairs (116 pairs) by Catherine and Jean-Louis Vives (from Montpellier). The Open Teams (110 teams) was captured by the Austrian squad of Doris Fischer, Smederevac, Bernd Saurer, Gerhard Schiesser, and Wernle. Finally, the Individual was won by Thérèse Eychenne from Paris.

The next Festival will be 28 June-10 July, 2005. Information and complete results can be found at www.biarritzbridge.com. This deal is from the AGF-Lavazza Teams Championship.

Dealer South. EW Vul.

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

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

West began with his three top clubs. How should South play to make his game against this defence, and why? South has already lost two clubs, with a diamond to come, and has an apparent heart loser as well, but a good analysis of the adverse hands revealed the solution to him.

After ruffing the third club, he discovered that West had two spades. Marked with ten cards in the minors for his bid of two no trumps, West thus possessed only one heart. If that heart were the jack, all would be well. If it were the eight or nine, South would need to take a double finesse through East. Accordingly, he played a heart to the king, and presented East with the heart ten to cover with the jack, which he won with the queen.

Reentering dummy with a trump, declarer was then in a position to lead another heart through East to his ace-seven tenace.

Jean-Louis Stoppa, whose team finished third in the AGF-Lavazza Teams Championship, took a small precaution on the deal in case West's singleton was the four or the six. After two rounds of trumps, he played the diamond four to the queen, West ducking, and was then certain of making his contract regardless of West's heart singleton. If West had followed to the heart king with the four or the six, Stoppa would have simply put him on play with his remaining diamond. West would have had to concede a ruff-and-sluff.

HCL Tournament, New Delhi, August 12-15 T.C. Pant, New Delhi

Kiran Nadar is no stranger to the world of bridge. Captain of the Indian team which reached the quarterfinals of the 2001 Bermuda Bowl where they lost to Poland (whom they had narrowly beaten in the league stages) and the round of sixteen in the Power Rosenblum at Montreal, she and her team-mates are omnipresent in most international tournaments these days. It was her father who introduced her to the game when she was all of seven years old and her cherished ambition is to do a Rose Meltzer one day.

Supported by her husband, industrialist Shiv Nadar (he is the Chairman of one of India's best known IT companies, Hindustan Computers Limited (HCL), and the architect of a dream story on professional wealth creation), and fully supported by double international Subhash Gupta (he has played for Canada and India), Kiran organized India's highest prize money tournament (nearly one million Rupees in cash prizes) during August 12-15 at Hotel Claridges, New Delhi. Appropriately, two trophies were on offer apart from the cash prizes - the Naresh Tandan Trophy for the team-of-four event in memory of her late father and the Nina Bonnerjee Trophy in memory of a great personal friend (Nina, along with Roby Roy, finished 12th in the World Mixed Pairs at Biarritz in 1982) for the pairs event. This was the second edition of the annual event and the portents are that it will

become bigger and bigger in the years to come, probably international sooner rather than later.

Forty-six teams from all over India went through ten league matches of ten boards each with the top eight qualifying for the quarterfinals of 42 boards each, followed by 48-board semifinals and a 64-board final. The pairs event, with 127 pairs in the fray, had two elimination rounds leading to a two session 62-board final with 32 pairs competing for the top positions.

India's newest sensation, 30-year-old Sumit Mukherjee (watch out for him at Istanbul) was playing in industrialist Ashok Goel's Dhampur Sugar Mills team who topped the league stages of the team event and easily reached the semifinals. Kiran's own team, Formidables, also had an easy quarterfinal win. The following deal helped in that quarterfinal:

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

West	North	East	South
	Tewari		Gupta
1 ♣	Pass	1 ♦	1 ♥
1 ♠	2 ♥	Pass	3 ♣
Pass	3 ♦	Pass	4 ♥
Pass	Pass	Double	Pass
Pass	Pass		

I. Precision

Nearly twenty years ago, 1985 to be precise, Subhash Gupta had helped Canada qualify for the Bermuda Bowl by making a play that sent Canada's NPC John Carruthers into a frenzy first and a delight later. In the play-off qualification match against Bermuda, Subhash led the *four* from an *eight card suit* headed by ace-king-queen-jack in a slam contract. His partner won the trick with the *five spot* (yes, five spot) and returned a suit which Subhash ruffed to beat a cold six clubs contract!

This time around, Gupta again demonstrated that bridge players the world over are the same, *all of them are occasionally fallible*. In the above hopeless contract, West cashed a top spade, then cashed the club ace and gave East a club ruff. East returned a spade, Subhash ruffed and went for the only legitimate chance he had of making the contract - catching West napping. Subhash played the small diamond, West kept his queen, and Subhash had created the additional entry in dummy for that vital double finesse in trumps.

In the semifinals, Agsar Paints from Chennai prevailed over Kiran's Formidables by virtue of their carry over. The 48-board match, per se, was won by the latter 113-108, but the former got into the finals because they had a carry over of 13.5 IMPs! In the other semifinals, another team from Chennai, Well Knit, got the better of Dhampur by 14 IMPs. The affable

captain of Well Knit, C. R. Badrinath (who had won the BAM event in Manchester in 2002 during the Commonwealth Games), could not make it for this event, but must be a happy man indeed as his team stormed through the finals by a margin of over 60 IMPs.

Many players these days tend to open a no trump even when holding a decent five card major. Unusual bids, sometimes, bring in unusual results, as exemplified by the following deal taken from the pairs finals. Two of the sixteen Easts (vulnerable against non-vulnerable) opened one no trump on the following layout and played there getting what they deserved – a shared bottom.

<p>♠ J 8 4 ♥ 9 4 3 ♦ A 2 ♣ A J 10 7 4</p> <p>♠ Q 9 6 2 ♥ Q 8 6 ♦ Q 10 ♣ Q 8 6 3</p> <p>♠ A 10 7 5 ♥ 10 7 ♦ K J 9 7 3 ♣ 5 2</p>	<p>♠ K 3 ♥ A K J 5 2 ♦ 8 6 5 4 ♣ K 9</p>
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South led a diamond against East's one no trump contract and the defence rattled off five tricks in the suit. On the long diamonds, North discouraged both majors and declarer committed *hara-kiri* by discarding one of dummy's four clubs. The club shift at trick six, ten by North, was won by declarer's king. No warning bells yet for this declarer. He tries to sneak a spade through for the impossible seventh trick (he obviously was not happy to get out with six), to land up with just three. Five diamonds, four clubs and the spade ace for a total of ten tricks to the defence! Subhash Gupta and Rajeshwar Tewari got a top on this deal and won the pairs event rather comfortably.

RESULTS

Naresh Tandan Trophy - Well Knit (R. Krishnan, A.S. Viswanathan, K. Krishnakumar, R. Venkatesh and J.M. Shah) beat Asgar Paints (N. R. Kirubakara Murthy, B. Prabhakar, Anil Padhye, P. Sridhar and S. Sundar Ram) 142-81 in the finals.

Nina Bonnerjee Trophy - Subhash Gupta-Rajeshwar Tewari (561), R.A. Agarwal-G. Biswas (537), Badal Das-Sumit Mukherjee (534).

(T. C. Pant is a software expert, bridge journalist and tournament organizer based in New Delhi. He produces a very popular monthly bulletin for the Delhi Bridge Association.)

The Pivot Mixed Teams, Brighton

Brian Senior, Nottingham

The winners of the Pivot Mixed Teams Championship, Michael Byrne, Jeffrey Allerton, Frances Hinden and Graham Osborne, had a huge score of +111.38 IMPs, better than 4 IMPs per board. My own team contributed generously to this total. Also, the winners showed good technique, as witness this

deal on which Graham Osborne took advantage of a favourable opening lead to show how it should be played in the popular contract of four hearts.

Board 1. Dealer North. Neither Vul.

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

At several tables, West led a diamond against South's heart game. It was easy for East to win the ace and switch to the singleton club to get two ruffs and defeat the contract by two tricks. At many tables, however, the lead was a passive spade or heart. Superficially, the contract must still go down unless declarer takes an inspired view of the clubs - low to the jack then finesse West for both nine and eight - to avoid a second loser in that suit.

Osborne showed that there is no need for second sight to make this contract. He won the opening lead and eliminated the major suits before playing a club to the king. When that held he simply exited with a diamond. After taking two diamond tricks, the defence had either to give a ruff and discard, or West had to lead a club, either of which meant no further loser for declarer. Note that this line is a sure thing, winning however the clubs are divided.

Swiss Pairs Session Three

A few years ago when David Harris was Chairman of the EBU, a Liberal/Democrat MP by the name of Evan Harris was active in sponsoring bridge in Parliament. It seemed a good idea for the two to play a tournament together and they chose the Brighton Swiss Pairs. This is, I understand the fourth year that they have partnered each other in this event. Generally, they have finished somewhere above average without actually threatening the big names at the head of the field. In this year's event, for the first time, they scored a 100% board - and here it is:

Match 8. Board 5. Dealer North. NS Vul.

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

David's jump to six spades was a nice bid, trusting that his partner's values would be outside diamonds and so all working well. However, it looks as though the contract is destined to be unlucky, does it not, due to the three-zero trump split?

West cashed the ace of diamonds then switched to a heart, which Evan won in the dummy. Those of you who are naturally distrusting of politicians will not have your views changed by what happened next. Evan knew that the technically correct play was to cash spades from the top, but it could do no harm to tempt East into an error. First, he led the jack of spades off the dummy, intending to play the king whatever happened. And East fell into his trap by covering with the queen. From here it was a simple matter to pick up the trumps and make the slam. Not surprisingly, nobody else in their section had succeeded in both bidding and making six spades, so this was worth 128 MP out of 128.

Match 2. Board 10. Dealer East. Both Vul.

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

Almost everyone played six spades. Declarer should appreciate that the contract is going to succeed unless there is both a spade and a club to be lost. That requires that the club finesse is wrong, and that someone holds jack to four spades. If it is West who holds the spade length, it may be possible to make the slam, but usually this will require the club to be onside. However, when East holds the spade length, a trump reduction followed by a trump coup or endplay should do the trick.

Michelle Brunner was one declarer who played correctly after a diamond lead. She won the ace and immediately ruffed a diamond before playing ace of spades followed by a spade to the king. The point of playing spades this way is that you save a dummy entry in case the trump reduction play is required. Sure enough, West showed out on the second spade.

Declarer is in the right hand to take a second diamond ruff, reducing to the same length as East. Now Brunner cashed one top club before cashing the three hearts, throwing a club from hand. Down to the queen-ten of spades and the king-ten of clubs, declarer played a club toward her hand. This is not important on the actual lie of the cards, where

simply cashing ace and king of clubs at some point is good enough, but it pays off when East has a singleton club as he will be ruffing fresh air and declarer just throws the club ten away.

In real life, declarer won the club king and exited with the ten. West won the queen, but had to lead to trick twelve and declarer makes the queen and ten of spades and the slam.

A different lead makes no difference. Declarer can win a heart lead in hand, play two diamonds ruffing the second, then ace and king of spades and take a second ruff, then revert to the same line. If you went off, sorry, but you were not unlucky, you misplayed the hand.

A Guessing Game

Ron Klinger, Northbridge, NSW

From the Sydney Morning Herald,
September 13, 2004

Consider the trump layout with South the declarer:

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

The defenders score no tricks by ruffing. How many tricks might they make in the trump suit? The instinctive answer, of course, is one, but if that were the answer, the question would not have been posed.

On this deal from the 2004 Australian Open Butler Trials, two magicians produced a trick out of thin air.

Round 3. Board 5. Dealer West. EW Vul.

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

(Directions rotated for convenience)

West	North	East	South
Jacek		Richard	
Pszczola		Jedrychowsky	
Pass	Pass	Pass	1 NT ¹
Pass	2 ♠ ²	Double	3 ♥ ²
Pass	4 ♥	Pass	Pass
Pass			
1. 12-14			
2. Range inquiry			
3. Maximum and five hearts			

Lead: ♠ J

East played low and South won with the spade king. He promptly played three rounds of clubs to clear one of dummy's spade losers and exited with a spade. East allowed West's

ten to win and West continued with a fourth round of clubs trumped with the heart five, eight and ten.

Next came the diamond king, taken by the ace, and West persisted with a fifth club. Declarer ruffed with the six of hearts and East discarded the diamond ten, while declarer pitched the diamond nine. This was the position:

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

The diamond was led from dummy. East ruffed with the heart nine, over-ruffed with the jack. Declarer had lost one spade and one diamond. The ace of hearts was a third loser, and so South tried to rid himself of the spade loser by ruffing it with the king of hearts. All very well, but now West's ace-seven of hearts over declarer's queen-four-three gave the defence two trump tricks.

No doubt declarer could have done better (diamond king after the third round of clubs), but full marks to the defence for producing a double uppercut to defeat the contract. That was worth plus 50 to East-West and 10 IMPs against the datum of 420 to North/South.

DABF Congress Gems

Teng-Yuan Liang, Tainan, Taipei

Regret

In the Open Qualifying Round 8, I encountered this deal, which had an interesting ending.

Board 1. Dealer North. Neither Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
—	Liang	Ou	Double
Pass	1 ♦	1 ♥	2 ♥
Pass	1 ♠	Pass	4 ♠
Pass	2 ♠	Pass	
Pass	Pass	Pass	

I soon regretted my stupid Precision one diamond opening. However, I had to cope with it.

East started with a spade. Since no club honour had been led, I assumed they were either split or West had both. Because of the overcall, the diamond king was thus more likely to be with East.

Since I didn't have enough entries to take two club ruffs and lead hearts twice toward the dummy, I decided to play for four-two hearts, and score three heart tricks and a club trick if I could. Accordingly, I won the spade lead with the queen and immediately played the club queen. West erred by covering with the king, then he exited with a spade. I took the ace and played a heart to the king. A spade to the king and another heart saw East duck again (he would have been end-played had he won) and West followed, much to my relief. I ruffed a heart and played the club jack, covered by the ace and ruffed in dummy. Now the ten was good, but I still had to get to it.

On the fourth round of hearts, I pitched a diamond and East had to offer me the entry to my club winner. On the actual layout, if the defenders had played perfectly, I could still have guessed correctly to drop East's doubleton diamond king.

One-Suit Squeeze

Swiss Round 8. Board 8. Dealer West. Neither Vul.

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

(Some spot cards reconstituted from imperfect memory!)

On this deal from Mxix Cup, North had a chance to show his brilliance. After a one no trump opening from North, the popular result was six no trump down one. However, there is a line to succeed in six no trumps after a normal low club lead from East. *(More than one - no letters, please! - Ed.)*

After winning the club in dummy, North comes to hand with a diamond and continues with a heart to the queen, which scores. Now the basic plan is to pass the nine of spades, then try to drop the jack of diamonds, and if that does not work, fall back on a second spade finesse or maybe a squeeze for the contract.

But before doing this, declarer can cash the second top diamond from the North hand. When East shows out, he knows that the diamond position is of no use to him and the contract may rely on the spades.

It is now very possible that East, who rates to have the spade length, will have both honours, and to delay the first spade finesse cannot hurt.

So declarer should cash all his minor-suit winners to reach the following position, meanwhile studying East's discards:

♠ A K 10 7
 ♥ 7
 ♦ 4
 ♣ --

♠ 6 4
 ♥ 10 8
 ♦ J 9
 ♣ --

♠ Q J 5 3
 ♥ K J
 ♦ --
 ♣ --

♠ 9 8
 ♥ A 4
 ♦ K 10

When he comes to the conclusion that East has the long spades, declarer can cash the king of diamonds. If East throws a spade, then declarer simply ducks a spade to him and has the rest. If, on the other hand, East discards a heart, declarer cashes the ace of hearts, then runs the nine of spades and East is end-played to lead into the ace-king-ten of spades at trick eleven.

Amusement

The third deal cannot match the previous two in its technical aspect, but it had a special amusing feature at one table.

Qualifying Round 3. Board 27. Dealer South. Neither Vul.

♠ 6
 ♥ K 9 5 4 2
 ♦ J 9 7 2
 ♣ Q 9 2

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

♠ Q 10 9 8 4
 ♥ Q 3
 ♦ A K
 ♣ A J 5 4

♠ J 7 3
 ♥ A
 ♦ 10 8 6 5 4 3
 ♣ 7 6 3

This deal is a bidding challenge for East/West pairs, who must stay away from the doomed six spades. However, there were many pairs who reached that contract, including my own.

At first glance, six spades seems to have no play, but there were at least three declarers who brought it home. Of course, the heart ace lead would really destroy the slam. At my table, South led an unlucky diamond. My partner, Peter Ou, did not give up. He took the diamond lead, drew the trumps, and needed to guess the club position. After finessing through North successfully, he cashed all his minor-suit winners and exited with a heart. Poor South had to give him a ruff-sluff.

My countryman Fu-Bi Chen also made the slam by this line of play.

The amusing story occurred at a third table. There, South also began with a diamond lead against six spades. After drawing trumps, declarer simply gave up on the contract and played the heart queen from hand. However, the previous trick had been won in dummy. The players should have summoned the Tournament Director and to get a proper ruling, but they just negotiated at the table.

North argued that the heart queen should be a penalty card. Declarer just agreed, even though the Laws say differently. So declarer corrected the lead and played a low heart from dummy, placing his queen on the table as a penalty card.

North must have thought Kao's hearts holding was ace-queen doubleton and that he had a chance to take advantage of declarer's error. He accordingly put the king on the queen triumphantly, but just as embarrassedly saw it swallowed up by South's ace. Curtains!

Place Your Bets

The following deal was reported in the PABF Congress Daily Bulletin edited by Brian Senior.

In the big Round 5 match between Taipei A and Taipei B in the Youth series, CW Liu for A and SY Wang for B both declared the same contract, albeit from different sides of the table.

Board 8. Dealer West. Neither Vul.

♠ A 10 7
 ♥ 7 5 4
 ♦ K 5 4 2
 ♣ Q 8 6

♠ K 5 4
 ♥ Q 2
 ♦ Q J 9 7 3
 ♣ 10 9 2

♠ J 9 6 2
 ♥ 10 9 6 3
 ♦ 10 6
 ♣ K J 7

♠ Q 8 3
 ♥ A K J 8
 ♦ A 8
 ♣ A 5 4 3

West	North	East	South
YM Chen	CW Liu	YHWu	CH Chien
Pass	Pass	Pass	1 ♣
Pass	1 ♦	Pass	1 ♥
Pass	1 NT	Pass	3 NT
Pass	Pass	Pass	

West	North	East	South
CYTzeng	MC Liu	W Wang	SY Wang
Pass	Pass	Pass	1 ♣
Pass	1 ♦	Pass	1 NT
Pass	3 NT	Pass	Pass
Pass			

Who would you expect to succeed, Liu as North on the lead of the jack of clubs to the queen, or Wang as South on the lead of the queen of diamonds?

Liu won the club queen and played a spade to the queen and king. Chen switched to the diamond nine, which held, and another diamond to dummy's ace. Liu cashed the ace of hearts, then finessed the ten of spades. East won the jack and returned a heart. When Liu put in the jack, he was held to the seven top tricks he started with. Down two; minus 100.

SY Wang received a more testing queen of diamonds lead, which he ducked, but won the second diamond. He played a club to the queen and king, and won the heart ten switch with the ace to play ace and another club. East won the jack and continued with hearts, Wang putting in the eight, losing to the queen.

Tzeng now continued the attack on diamonds by returning the nine to dummy's king and Wang crossed to the heart jack, then cashed the long club and the heart king. On the last of these winners, West had to bare the spade king or give up his diamond guard. Plus 400. From a much less promising beginning, Wang had managed two more tricks than the declarer at the other table.

The Rabbi's Coup

Mark Horton, Romford, England

Imagine you found yourself holding:

♠ K 8 2
♥ K Q 10 8 4
♦ 6 5 2
♣ 7 6

and heard your vulnerable opponents bid slowly to four hearts after partner had overcalled the opening bid of one diamond with two clubs. Would you not imagine that Christmas had arrived a little early and double?

Well, when the declarer is the redoubtable Rabbi Leonard Helman you would do well to think twice, as you can see for yourselves as we take a look at this deal from the recent NABC in New York City.

IMPs. Dealer South. NS Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
—	Margolis	—	Helman
2 ♣	Double	Pass	2 ♥
Pass	3 ♥	Pass	4 ♥
Pass	Pass	Double	Pass
Pass	Pass		

West led the club king and declarer won with the ace, played a diamond to the ace and ruffed a club. Then the king of diamonds was followed by a diamond ruff and the queen of spades, covered by the king and ace.

Now declarer played a winning diamond discarding a spade from dummy. East ruffed and played the heart king. Declarer won and played a club. It would not help East to ruff, so he discarded a spade and now declarer crossed to the jack of spades to record his ninth trick. Now a club from the table enabled the Rabbi to score the game-going trick with the heart jack en passant.

IBDA Column Service

Tim Bourke, Canberra

Members are free to use these deals without accrediting the author or the IBPA.

288. Dealer South. Both Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
—	—	—	1 ♥
Pass	3 ♥	Pass	6 ♥
Pass	Pass	Pass	

The auction may appear unsophisticated, but South did not believe the chance of a grand slam was sufficiently high to warrant exploratory bids that might help West with his lead. How should South play when West leads the queen of diamonds?

Declarer has ten top tricks and an eleventh will come from diamonds. A twelfth trick is more elusive, for while a successful finesse in either black suit will provide it, if it fails, South will almost certainly lose a diamond trick and go down. Declarer does better to look for a way of avoiding a guess. After winning the ace of diamonds and cashing the ace of trumps, he crosses to the ace of clubs and ruffs a club. A trump to dummy allows a second club ruff, eliminating that suit. After drawing the last trump, South plays the king of diamonds and exits with a diamond.

As the cards lie, West is end-played. He must either concede a ruff and discard or lead a spade into declarer's tenace. Either way South has twelve tricks! What would happen if West had four diamonds? South would ruff the fourth diamond in dummy and fall back on the spade finesse for his contract.

On the plan employed, South makes twelve tricks when diamonds are three-three, or the queen-jack is doubleton, or East has the king of spades – better than a 70% chance, and much better than a direct finesse in one of the black suits.

289. Dealer South. EW Vul.

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

Bridge at the 2004 Mind Sports Olympiad

Paul Hackett, Manchester

The 8th Mind Sports Olympiad took place in Manchester UK for the second successive year at the University of Manchester Institute of Science and Technology (UMIST). The bridge program this year was run in partnership with the English Bridge Union – and what a difference that made. Green points were allocated for the three-one day events on the Bank Holiday weekend and the number of tables playing in the Olympiad tripled to over 200. The quality of the players participating was outstanding: Norwegian champion Geir Helgemo, top Chinese player Fu Zhong, Russian Champion Dima Nickoloyenko, Spain's European Championship silver medallist Luis Lantaron, American Ladies player Connie Goldberg, and a host of top British players, including IBPA President Patrick Jourdain, Michelle Brunner, Brian Senior, Ben Green, and Jason and Justin Hackett.

With excellent prize money, gold, silver and bronze medals, and green points, Bridge at the Mind Sports has everything going for it. UMIST is centrally located, only a short walk from the main Piccadilly Station and very close to a wonderful selection of restaurants. Timing of the Saturday and Sunday events was arranged so that bridge was completed by 7.30 p.m., allowing players to go out and enjoy the culinary pleasures of Manchester and the Mardi Gras Festival, which took place over the same weekend. With the continued support of the sponsors and backing of the EBU, Bridge at the Mind Sports Olympiad is set to grow. The playing room in the Barnes Wallis Building would comfortably take an 80-table event, if necessary, and the venue has the advantage of its own on-site hotel and multi-story car park. Many first-time visitors will return next year, bringing yet more newcomers.

The Winners

Men's Pairs: Justin Hackett, Mike Alexander; **Ladies Pairs:** Michelle Brunner, Rhona Goldenfield; **Mixed Pairs:** John and Muriel Hassett; **Multiple Teams:** Craig Fisher, Fu Zhong, Malcolm Harris, Maria Budd; **Point-a-Board Teams:** Justin Hackett, Jason Hackett, Paul Hackett, Geir Helgemo, NPC Brigitte Mavromichalis; **Championship Pairs:** Michael Byrne, Michael Newman; **Open Pairs:** Ben Green, Brian Senior; **Seniors Pairs:** Alan Jones, Pauline Lang; **Seniors Teams:** Patrick Jourdain, Jeff Morris, John Hassett, Bill Hirst; **Swiss Teams:** Justin Hackett, Jason Hackett, Paul Hackett, Geir Helgemo NPC Brigitte Mavromichalis; **Swiss Pairs:** Ben Green, Brian Senior

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

North's first cue bid promised a sound raise to three spades (a direct three spade bid would have been pre-emptive). After two cue bids, South used Roman Key Card Blackwood to discover North had either zero or three key cards. As the bidding to date was not consistent with the former, South bid the slam.

West led an obvious king of hearts, taken in dummy with the ace. After cashing the ace of trumps, South could count ten top tricks. If East had one of diamond honours, a double finesse in diamonds would produce an eleventh trick and the twelfth would be a diamond ruff in dummy.

But before any play on diamonds was made, South had to shed his heart loser. So he cashed his two club winners then crossed to dummy with a trump to the ten, West discarding a heart. After throwing his heart loser on the ace of clubs, declarer saw an extra chance as long as West had the king of diamonds for his overcall. He ruffed a heart, eliminating both black suits from the West hand, then led the queen of diamonds. West took this with the king but now had to either concede a ruff and discard or lead into declarer's ace-ten tenace in diamonds. This ensured declarer avoided a second diamond loser and made his slam.

What would have happened if West had produced a fourth club? South would ruff, cross to dummy with a trump and finesse East for the jack of diamonds. If that was the case, a diamond ruff would be the twelfth trick.

290. Dealer South. NS Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
--	--	--	2 NT
Pass	3 ♣	Pass	3 ♠
Pass	6 NT	Pass	Pass
Pass			

West led the jack of clubs, taken in dummy with the jack. Declarer has eleven top tricks with a multitude of choices for developing a twelfth; for example playing the three top spades succeeds when that suit is four-three on an honour falls from the defenders.

However there is a 100% line! Just lead a spade and cover East's card. If it is a low card and West wins the ten or jack of spades, he must give up a trick in whichever suit he returns. On the diagrammed hand, if East plays low then declarer has his twelfth trick immediately. If East produces the ten or jack, the extra trick comes from winning playing the three top spades followed by the nine, thereby establishing the eight as the contract-fulfilling winner.

291. Dealer South. EW Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
--	--	--	2 ♣
Pass	2 NT	Pass	3 ♠
Pass	4 ♠	Pass	4 NT
Pass	5 ♣	Pass	5 ♦
Pass	5 ♠	Pass	6 ♠
Pass	Pass	Pass	

West leads the jack of hearts, taken by the king. The contract appears to depend on the club finesse but there is an extra chance, that East has the doubleton ace of diamonds. At the table declarer tried to take advantage of this by cashing the ace of trumps, crossing to dummy's ten of trumps and leading a low diamond. This was not good enough for East rose with the ace of diamonds and played a third trump, forcing South to rely on the club finesse.

You have probably seen that declarer should cross to dummy with a trump at trick two and then leads a low diamond. When his king scores, he draws a second round of trumps with the king and then ducks a diamond. As the cards lie, this is successful; declarer wins the return, draws the last trump with dummy's queen and throws the queen and ten of clubs.

Bridge Today Digest Daily

Matthew Granovetter, Jerusalem

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Problem

North (Dummy)

♠ J 7 5 4 3 2
♥ J 9
♦ K 7 2
♣ J 3

West (You)

♠ 10
♥ 8 2
♦ Q 9 8 5
♣ A K 9 7 5 2

The opponents bid to four hearts after you've shown clubs. You lead the king of clubs. Playing standard signals, partner plays the queen. You continue with the ace of clubs and partner plays the ten. How do you continue? Would you defend differently if partner's first two clubs were in the reverse order, the ten and then the queen?

Quality over Quantity Department

Today is my wife's birthday, but this is not exactly the present she had in mind. If you've followed my OKbridgetoday daily columns, which ran for a few years on the Internet, you are familiar with my stories of how my wife usually beats me in our set games (when we partner different people). Today's hand, however, is the exception. I was playing the other night against my wife, and everything seemed to be going my way. Then this hand came along, and it was the icing on the (birthday) cake:

IMPs. Board 69. Dealer South. NS Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Reichl	Gran	Gran2	Airmont
—	—	—	1 ♣*
3 ♣	Pass	3 NT	Pass
Pass	Double	4 ♣	4 ♥
Pass	Pass	Pass	

Opening lead: Club king
Result: 11 tricks; NS Score: +650; +11.36 IMPs

My partner, Airmont, opened a Precision Club on the South cards and declared four hearts. As you can see, we landed in our seven-card fit instead of our ten-card fit. Darn it. However, after three rounds of clubs, East could not overruff the jack of hearts and my partner claimed the remaining eleven tricks after drawing trumps. At most tables, where the pedestrian four spade contract was reached, East was able to overruff the third club with the queen of spades, and the ace of

diamonds was the setting trick. So we won 11.36 imps for playing four hearts instead of four spades.

Pretty lucky, right? Nevertheless, there's a nice point here about the defense to four hearts or four spades. What card should East play on the first round of clubs when West leads the king?

Normally, the queen is played to show the queen-jack. But when dummy has the jack, I think East can play the queen as the start of a doubleton (using standard signals). Against four spades, East plays the queen of clubs at trick one under the king, and West knows to continue with the ace and another. East over-ruffs and cashes the ace of diamonds.

However, against four hearts, East should play the ten of clubs at trick one. This is because he cannot over-ruff the third club! He wants partner to switch to diamonds (hoping that South has two diamond losers). On this deal, it won't help, but give West two spades and three diamonds, and it will help. In fact, on this deal, West will probably switch to a spade, hoping East has the ace of spades instead of the ace of diamonds.

In any case, it's a cute situation to discuss with your favorite partner.

Australia Prepares for the Olympiad

David Stern, Sydney

Following an approach from the 2004 Australian Seniors Team, the Australian Bridge Federation (ABF) instantly embraced the idea of subsidising travel for members of the Open, Women's and Seniors teams to attend a weekend of training and team bonding.

This was somewhat of an uncharted area for Australian bridge, with teams often undertaking training in a fragmented way, but rarely, if ever, collectively.

The weekend started on Friday afternoon with a short play session, followed by a seminar conducted by David Beauchamp, focusing on competitive bidding. It was very interesting to note the varying views on some of the situations posed by David. Try this one – sitting South, you hold:

♠ — ♥ A Q J 10 9 8 7 6 ♦ J 6 4 ♣ 5 2

At favourable vulnerability you open four hearts first in hand and West overcalls four spades, passed back to you – do you bid? Around 80% of those attending suggested that there was no alternative to pass. David suggested that a double, showing a desire to compete, was a very serious alternative. A double by a pre-emptor, by arrangement of course, could show a desire to compete further, but keeping the option open for partner to pass for penalties.

Suppose partner had:

♠ Q 9 8 2 ♥ 5 ♦ A 5 2 ♣ Q J 4 3

He would not have given much thought to doubling but would be delighted to defend in the knowledge that partner is likely to contribute a defensive trick.

David quizzed the partnerships on whether they had discussed a number of competitive situations, and not surprisingly, there were some gaps. Try this one:

You	LHO	Partner	RHO
1 ♠	Pass	2 ♠	3 ♦
??			

A popular consensus was that double should be for penalties and three hearts should be a non-specific game try. This allows opener to bid three spades with a minimum hand with a six-card suit. But how would it change in this auction?

You	LHO	Partner	RHO
1 ♠	Pass	2 ♠	3 ♥
??			

Most agreed that their agreement here was double should be a game try, again allowing opener to bid three spades with a minimum hand and a six-card suit. The lesson was to tailor one's bids to suit available actions as well as to ensure that common situations were discussed and agreed.

David then discussed how to avoid bidding disasters!

Dealer East. NS Vul.

♠ K 10 8 7 5
♥ K 7 2
♦ 9 7
♣ 10 9 4

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

♠ A Q 3
♥ 10 5
♦ A K J 8 3
♣ K J 3

West	North	East	South
Beauchamp	'Pepsi'	Phil	Richard J
—	—	1 ♣	1 NT ¹
Pass	2 ♥ ²	3 ♣ ³	Double ⁴
3 ♦	Pass	Pass	Double
Pass	Pass	3 ♥ ⁵	Pass
Pass	Double	Pass	Pass
Pass			

1. Too strong to overcall INT?
2. Transfer
3. Better to double 2♥ to show 5/4 or 6/4
4. Greedy! - not attractive with 3-card spade support when partner has not shown any values.
5. Hard to resist

The opening lead was the heart ten, covered by the Jack and king. Declarer finished with ten tricks and plus 630.

The morals of this tale are:

- Avoid reflexive penalty doubles.
- Avoid trying to compensate for initially conservative actions when still within range.

On Saturday morning, Ishmael Del'Monte posed the question, "What can I teach this trio of very strong Australian teams?" He settled on discussing a few highly instructive deals and

then focused on the mechanical things players competing at the top level can do to improve their game. Here are his suggestions:

IMPROVING YOUR GAME

- Find out exactly where you are supposed to be 20-30 minutes before the start.
- Arrive at the table five minutes early and get comfortable.
- Familiarize yourself with opponents' methods before you arrive at the table.
- Recap your defence to any unusual methods.
- Check opponents' carding methods before you start to play.

WHEN DEFENDING, TRY THESE TO HELP KEEP YOU "AWAKE"

- Ask yourself if this was the dummy you expected.
- Analyse your partner's lead.
- Prepare yourself for plays in all suits.
- Take a break if your concentration wavers.

GENERAL APPROACH AT THE TABLE

- Concentration is most important – practice it.
- Believe in your partner.
- Stick with the system you play. Do not make any esoteric bids, especially in high-level pressure situations.
- If you are having a bad set, do not focus on your scores.
- No post mortems.
- No crosses on your score sheet.
- Do not to waste time between hands.

CAPTAINCY ISSUES

- Have the players arrive at the venue at least 15 minutes before game time.
- Score up at the same place every time.
- When the match is finished, there is only one objective – determine the result of the match. For this reason there should be no comments on how you did before scoring up.
- Avoid comments and histrionics during the comparison.
- Don't make your captain or your teammates arbiters of your partnership mishaps.
- When deciding line-ups, the captain will generally be interested in each team member's opinion on the subject. However once the line-up is decided, there should be no further discussion.
- Teams should establish a general policy towards alcohol.

More play and discussion of the deals played followed.

Sunday morning started with everybody's favourite teacher, Ron Klinger, discussing how he prepares for international play. Ron's pointers included:

PREPARATION

- The importance of lasting the distance - don't consider that the tournament revolves around one match.
- Physical and mental preparedness for the event.
- Avoiding heavy meals.
- Alcohol can put you over the driving limit, so the effect be on bridge play, where the concentration level

must be much higher, is serious.

- Sex is okay as long as you still get adequate sleep.
- If you are not playing the last session at night consider going to bed early.
- Even world champions are not immune to mistakes in bidding and play and you should not be dejected based on an error or two.
- Do not be despondent or pre-judge your matches before the comparison.
- When you are dummy, try not to follow the play.
- Generally, you are playing with partner based on mutual respect – treat him/her so.
- Be good ambassadors of your country. Be courteous at all times to the opponents, but avoid socially interacting with them during the match.

A final session of play/discussion followed.

All but two of the 17 attendees had represented Australia on previous occasions, and we were very fortunate that everybody came with an open mind, willing to learn.

Compliments to our presenters and to the ABF for taking an enlightened view as to what is required to better prepare our overseas players.

Generali World Masters Individual, Verona, September 8-10, 2004

**Brian Senior, Nottingham &
Kees Tammens, Amsterdam**

Extracted from the Daily Bulletins - some further editing has taken place. A full report on the Generali will appear in next month's issue.

Board 1. Dealer North. Neither Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Jason H.	Wolff	Baldursson	Chemla
—	1 ♠	Pass	2 ♣
Pass	2 ♠	Pass	3 ♥
Pass	3 NT	Pass	Pass
Pass			

Iceland's Jon Baldursson led a diamond against American Bobby Wolff's three no trumps, choosing the four. Since the six would have been the conventional lead from this holding (all players being obliged to play the same convention card), we shall credit him with a deliberate false card rather than lack of familiarity with the convention card, I suppose, since

in this or any group, only Chagas and Zia have as much imagination at the table as does Baldursson.

Bobby Wolff won the diamond and played a club to the king and ace, won the diamond return and played a second club to the jack, West showing out. Wolff led the spade eight next, and Jason Hackett ducked it to Baldursson's queen. Now Baldursson cleared the clubs rather than the diamonds, Hackett throwing a spade, to follow the heart that had gone on the second club.

Wolff was not prepared to play on spades now, as he could see that he would go down if East held a second spade honour. Instead, he crossed to the heart king, cashed the third diamond, then played a heart to the jack and ace. With West down to two top spades and the ten-eight of hearts, the contract could now have been made by exiting with a spade, forcing West to lead into the heart tenace at the end.

However, it was unclear that the ending was as it actually was and Baldursson's false card on opening lead paid off, Wolff finally deciding to cash the heart queen (playing East for one-three-four-five distribution and jack-ten-five of hearts). He was one down for minus 50 and just 3 MPs.

Board 14. Dealer East. Neither Vul.

♠ K J 3
 ♥ Q 10 9 5
 ♦ J 8 7 4
 ♣ Q 9

♠ 9 7 2
 ♥ A K J 6 2
 ♦ 9 2
 ♣ 10 4 3

♠ 6 5
 ♥ 8 4 3
 ♦ A 10 6 3
 ♣ A K 8 6

♠ A Q 10 8 4
 ♥ 7
 ♦ K Q 5
 ♣ J 7 5 2

West	North	East	South
Mouiel	Zia	Bocchi	Ferraro
—	—	1 ♣	1 ♠
Double	2 ♠	Pass	Pass
3 ♥	Double	Pass	Pass
Pass			

Thinking plus 300, Zia decided to double Hervé Mouiel's three heart contract. Zia led the king of spades, followed by the jack, before switching to the eight of diamonds. Declarer ducked the diamond and Guido Ferraro won the queen and returned a spade, ruffed in dummy.

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Mouiel cashed the ace of diamonds then ruffed a diamond. Next he cashed the ace of hearts, crossed to the ace of clubs, cashed the club king, and played the last diamond, ruffing, while Zia had to follow suit. Mouiel exited with his losing club now and Zia was obliged to ruff then lead away from his queen-ten of hearts at the end to give declarer nine tricks and a very nicely played plus 530 for 20 MPs.

Board 18. Dealer East. NS Vul.

♠ J 10 8 3
 ♥ 4
 ♦ 5 2
 ♣ A K 8 7 5 4

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

♠ A 6 4 2
 ♥ A 5 3 2
 ♦ K 8 3
 ♣ Q 6

♠ 7 5
 ♥ J 8 7
 ♦ A Q 9 6
 ♣ J 10 9 3

West	North	East	South
Wolff	Nyström	Gawrys	Kokish
—	—	1 ♦	Pass
1 ♥	2 ♣	2 ♥	3 ♥
4 ♥	Pass	Pass	Double
Pass	Pass	Pass	

Eric Kokish helped Fredrik Nyström find the killing defence on this deal by his bidding. Four hearts was made at all other eleven tables at which it was played. Nyström led the ace of clubs and Kokish dropped the jack, clearly showing four cards after the three heart bid.

A trick in spades cannot be sufficient and will not be going anywhere anyway, so for a chance to beat the contract South needs to hold very suitable diamonds. So Nyström switched to his doubleton diamond and Kokish won the queen, cashed the ace and gave his partner a ruff for one down, plus 100 and all the match points.

(Given that nobody else managed to defeat the heart game, many people have discussed how the defence should get it right. Zia is of the opinion that, given the defensive carding methods in use here, after South has supported clubs, he should drop the ten at trick one. This cannot be a doubleton, nor can it be a count card from a three-card holding. Which only leaves a four-card holding and, as that must include the jack, it follows that the ten is suit preference for diamonds.)

It is also only fair to point out that Kokish was the only South to double the final contract, making it that much easier for partner to play him for the required diamond holding.

The Medallists

Men

- Gold** - Norberto Bocchi, Italy
- Silver** - Andrew Robson, England
- Bronze** - Jens Auken, Denmark

Women

- Gold** - Tobi Sokolow, USA
- Silver** - Bénédicte Cronier, France
- Bronze** - Nicola Smith, England

News & Views

Jordan Bridge Festival

Ghassan Ghanem, President of the Jordan Bridge Federation and of BFAME, reports that the 23rd International Bridge Festival is to be held on the Red Sea in the City of Aqaba, Jordan, from 25th to 28th November 2004.

The program will be as follows:
Nov. 25, 26, & 27: 3-sessions of Open Pairs
Nov. 28: 8 rounds of Swiss Teams

Aqaba has very nice weather at this time of year and has many watersport activities and is very close to some of the most attractive tourist destinations in the world, namely Petra, Wadi Rum & the lowest point in the world, the Dead Sea. There is a beautiful coral reef in the Red Sea, with suitable areas for snorkeling and diving.

The competition will be held in the Mövenpick Prestigious Resort at very reasonable rates.

Single Room: US\$70

Double Room: US\$80

including room & board (Open Oriental Buffet) and all taxes.

Prizes will be more than US\$10,000 cash,

See www.emiratesbridge.org

Cavendish Invitational

World Bridge Productions (WBP) announces the 2005 Cavendish Invitational Pairs, the John Roberts Teams, the WBP Teams and the WBP Pairs. All four events will be held at the Rio Hotel in Las Vegas from May 4-8, 2005.

The 2004 events had almost \$1.4 million in total prize money.

The 2005 World Series of Poker (WSP) will be played at the Rio starting immediately after completion of the Cavendish events. WBP will be exploring the facilitation of interested Cavendish players as participants in the WSP.

Contacts:

The Cavendish Invitational

c/o William Rosenbaum, 305 East 24th Street, Apt. 6T,
New York, NY 10010

Phone: 212-725-2135 Fax: 973-589-0554

E-Mail Bob Blanchard: theman001@mindspring.com

Prize Money Bridge Results

Secaucus Open, Aug. 11-12, 2004

1. Jim Linhart
2. Iyadurai Rajendram
3. Ernest Campbell

Bonus Pool Leaders

- | | |
|--------------------|------|
| 1. Michael Slaven | 6850 |
| 2. Jim Linhart | 6645 |
| 3. Ernest Campbell | 6600 |

Fall 2004 NABC in Orlando - Junior Day Get-Together

All Junior players are invited to meet for pizza between sessions on Saturday, Nov. 20 to celebrate Junior Day at the Fall NABC in Orlando.

E-bridge Merger

CEO Pinhas Romik has announced that E-bridge has signed an agreement to merge with www.WorldWinner.com, a leader in on-line games.

On-Line Event Schedule

European Champions Cup, Barcelona, October 7-10 on www.swangames.com

Lederer Memorial Trophy, London, October 16-17 on www.bridgebase.com

World Bridge Team Olympiad, Istanbul, October 24-November 6 on www.bridgebase.com

Free Web Site

Mike Lawrence has begun a free web site that gives readers two interactive bridge columns daily, one on bidding and one on play or defense. This is as a result of a California bridge player wishing to give a gift to bridge.

It can be viewed at www.bridgeclues.com

I Fought the Law

IBPA member Anders Wirgren and Mike Lawrence have just finished a book called "I Fought the Law of Total Tricks." They have spent the last two years on this work and expect it to be controversial, especially to followers of Larry Cohen. Early opinions are that this is going to start a small riot.

World Wide Web Resources for Bridge Journalists

On-line Viewing

<http://www.bridgebase.com/>

<http://www.swangames.com/main/index.html>

Tournament Bulletins

<http://www.worldbridge.org/competitions/>

<http://www.eurobridge.org/index2.html>

<http://www.acbl.org/play/nabc3.html>

<http://www.pabf.org/competitionCorner.asp>

<http://www.bridgeplaza.com/>

<http://bridge.cplaza.ne.jp/necfest.html>

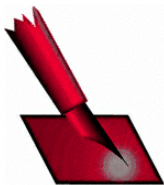
<http://www.thecavendish.com/>

Miscellaneous Information

<http://www.greatbridgelinks.com>

<http://bridge.ecats.co.uk>

Please advise the Editor of other resources that would help out fellow members, and if this feature is useful to you.



Correspondence ...

The Editor reserves the right to shorten correspondence

Email: ibpaeditor@sympatico.ca

Hi John,

You requested the views of those Europeans experienced in Board-a-Match. I love it - and think it clearly best for Bridge - both on grounds of sheer quality of the method, and on simplicity for the Bridge public at large. Every deal is gripping - my Bridge Club staff party always ends up with a late BAM session - guaranteed to be a hit even if the deals are low level. Let us indeed lead a crusade for more BAM!

All Best,
Andrew Robson, London

John,

I have a few comments concerning your exchange with PO in the last Bulletin.

1. P-O opines that there should be a "reward for winning big rather than narrowly." You rightly comment that leagues in most other sports do not differentiate between big and small wins. However, the logical conclusion from that is that bridge matches should be scored on a win-loss basis (as was the case in the European Championship just after the War) rather than by margin-related Victory Points. The method by which the winner of the individual match is determined is a different matter.
2. The analogy between pairs games and BAM is not exact. An overtrick may well suffice to win all the points available on a BAM board but this happens less frequently in a duplicate pairs: rather, the effect of the overtrick is to improve one's score on the individual board relative to the other contestants. That is, the overtrick is rewarded, but only rarely to the extent of the maximum score available on the board.
3. As a general point, however, I am in favour of varying scoring methods (compare match play golf with stroke play; within match play, compare four-ball and foursome). It would be interesting to see the reintroduction of a major tournament scored by aggregate: there is still an event in England scored this way (the Hubert Phillips Bowl) but this is for mixed teams with a full pivot, and so does not appeal to everyone.

Richard Fleet, Berkhamsted, Herts., England

Dear John,

While reading the latest issue, I noted that your correspondents made a mistake in announcing that the top five teams from the Schools series in Prague will qualify for the World Schools Championships next summer in Australia.

This was the original idea, but as only Europe and North America showed interest in taking part, the first world schools event was moved to New York. It seemed absurd to have teams from these two zones playing a contest in Australia! You have already mentioned this event in your editorial.

There will only be a Junior series in Sydney. The World Schools Team Championship will become a separate series of the World Youth Team Championships as from 2006.

In case this is confusing, our terminology follows the equation: youth = juniors + schools (+ whatever else may come up, as for example, girls, etc.).

Finally, it is a very common error to define the Juniors as Under-25s. The truth is that they are Under-26s.

Best wishes,
Panos Gerontopoulos, Athens

Hi John,

Just wanted to let you know that the six heart deal from the European Championships in Malmö reported on page 7 of the August IBPA bulletin was not reported quite correctly. At the point where I played a diamond towards dummy, Andersson did indeed split her honours. She played the queen. I felt I had a very difficult decision there. Wasn't this a restricted choice situation? And wouldn't most defenders play the king with king-queen, figuring most declarers would consider it easier for a defender to go up with the king from Kx(x) than with the queen from Qx(x)? East was a very good player who could easily have found the play from Qx(x). Maybe speed played the most important role when I finally guessed right and ducked the queen. The play of the hand had gone very fast, making it maybe a bit more difficult for East to play the Q from Qx(x) without a slight hesitation.

Sabine Auken, Copenhagen

IBPA WEBSITE NOTICE

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, October 2004, will have code 477za so you will need to key in:
www.ibpa.com/477za.pdf

You can download a copy of the Handbook from www.ibpa.com (click on the link toward the page bottom). When you try to open it will ask for a password, which is: **ihccaT** EXACTLY as it appears here. At the next prompt, key in **Handbook**

World Bridge Calendar

DATES	EVENT	LOCATION	INFORMATION
2004			
Oct 5-10	3 rd Alexandria Bridge Festival	Alexandria, Egypt	ebf@egybf.com
Oct 7-10	3 rd European Champions Cup	Barcelona, Spain	www.eurobridge.org
Oct 12-16	15 th Sun, Sea & Slams	Barbados, West Indies	www.cacbf.com
Oct 14-15	Bridge Pro Tour	Los Angeles, CA	www.bridgeprotour.com
Oct 16-17	Lederer Memorial	London, England	simon@simonx.plus.com
Oct 20-25	X th Figueira International Open	Figueira da Foz, Portugal	sonia.almeida@casinofigueira.pt
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 28	Bridge Pro Tour	Lake Geneva, WI	www.bridgeprotour.com
Oct 29-31	Antigua Independence Open Tournament	Antigua, West Indies	www.cacbf.com
Oct 30-31	International Pairs Tournament	Milan, Italy	www.federbridge.it
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 6-10	Tournoi de Bridge de la Famille	Pompadour, France	http://www.festiBridge.com
Nov 7-13	IV International Festival	La Habana & Varadero, Cuba	www.cacbf.com
Nov 9-14	VII th Madeira International Open Festival	Funchal, Madeira, Portugal	rodrigo_m_soares@hotmail.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 19-21	Brasov International Bridge Festival	Brasov, Romania	www.eurobridge.org
Nov 20-21	Bridge Pro Tour	Orlando, FL	www.bridgeprotour.com
Nov 24-28	Sicily Open	Cefalù, Sicily, Italy	www.federbridge.it
Nov 25-28	23 rd International Bridge Festival	Aqaba, Jordan	nuha_h@yahoo.com
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 4-6	International Teams Tournament	Milan, Italy	www.federbridge.it
Dec 7-17	46 th Winter National Bridge Championships	Visakhapatnam, India	wnbc2004nec@rediffmail.com
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	Winter Cup	Bucharest, Romania	www.eurobridge.org
Dec 17-19	Junior Channel Trophy	England (TBA)	www.ebu.co.uk
2005			
Jan 10-14	Sharjah Bridge Festival	Dubai, UAE	www.emiratesbridge.org
Jan 12-24	Summer Festival of Bridge	Canberra, Australia	www.abf.com.au
Jan 14-16	II nd Évora Pairs Festival	Évora, Portugal	rui.mlmarques@netvisao.pt
Jan 22-30	Bermuda Regional	Southampton, Bermuda	www.acbl.org
Jan 28-30	Trinidad Regional	Trinidad and Tobago	nkinn@wow.net
Feb 5-10	EBU Overseas Congress	Tunisia	www.ebu.co.uk
Feb 7-13	10 th NEC Festival	Yokohama, Japan	www.jcbl.or.jp
Feb 13-10	22 nd Cairo Bridge Festival	Cairo, Egypt	ebf@egybf.com
Feb 19-26	Gold Coast Congress	Surfer's Paradise, Australia	www.qldbridge.com
Feb 26-27	2 nd White House International Top Teams	Amsterdam, Netherlands	jvcleeff@xs4all.nl
Mar 10-20	ACBL Spring NABC	Pittsburgh, PA	www.acbl.org
Mar 18	House of Lords v. House of Commons	London, England	www.ebu.co.uk
Mar 21-27	110 th Canadian Nationals	Toronto, ON	www.acbl.org
Apr 3-9	4 th Eilat Spring Festival	Eilat, Israel	daganbridge@hotmail.com
Apr 19-24	20 th Portuguese Grand Prix	Estoril, Portugal	np43je@telepac.pt
Apr 29-May 12	Festival International de Bridge	Juans-les-Pins, France	www.bridgejuan.com
May 4-8	Cavendish Invitational	Las Vegas, NV	the.man001@mindspring.com
May 14-21	23 rd CACBF Zonal Championships	San José, Costa Rica	www.cacbf.com
May 22-29	7 th Deutsches Bridge Festival	Binz auf Rugen, Germany	www.bridge-verband.de
Jun 3-4	Worldwide Simultaneous Pairs	Clubs Everywhere	www.ecatsbridge.com
Jun 18-Jul 2	2 nd European Open Championships	Tenerife, Canary Islands, Spain	www.eurobridge.org
Jun 23-Jul 3	6 th PABF Championships	Seoul, South Korea	www.abf.com.au
Jul 1-3	Hans Christian Anderson Open	Odense, Denmark	www.bridgeopen.dk
Jul 7-12	Nordic Teams Championships	Vingsted, Vejle, Denmark	dbf@bridge.dk
Jun 9-12	Capetown	Capetown, South Africa	www.sabf.co.za
Jul 9-17	Danish Bridge Festival	Vingsted, Vejle, Denmark	www.bridgefestival.dk
Jul 10-21	17 th Maccabiah Games	Israel	www.maccabi17.com
Jul 14-24	20 th European Youth Championships	Wroclaw, Poland	www.eurobridge.org
Jul 21-31	ACBL Summer NABC	Atlanta, GA	www.acbl.org
Jul 23-Aug 6	Australian National Championships	Sydney, Australia	www.abf.com.au
Aug 8-18	10 th World Youth Team Championships	Sydney, Australia	www.worldbridge.org
Oct 13-16	4 th European Champions Cup	Brussels, Belgium	www.worldbridge.org
Oct 22-Nov 5	37 th World Team Championships	Estoril, Portugal	www.worldbridge.org
Nov 17-27	ACBL Fall NABC	Denver, CO	www.acbl.org