



BULLETIN

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THE INTERNATIONAL BRIDGE PRESS ASSOCIATION

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Editorial

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

European bridge goes from strength to strength these days. As reported earlier in these pages, Poland was by far the most successful nation at the 2004 European Youth Championships in Prague, winning both the Junior and Schools series and taking third in the Girls' competition. In a ceremony upon returning home, Adam Giersz, Poland's Minister for Sport, received the Polish champions and awarded them diplomas and prizes. Mr. Giersz pointed out that bridge is a real sport and congratulated the young players for their great achievements.

At the European Champions Cup, held in Barcelona over the weekend of October 8-10, Juan Antonio Samaranch, International Olympic Committee Honorary President, visited the venue, keeping a promise he had made to Gianarrigo Rona. It was under Samaranch's presidency that bridge was recognised as an Olympic sport, and the Honorary President was reminded that the walk of bridge along the Olympic way is not yet finished. After watching the Vugraph, Samaranch went to the playing area to meet the players, congratulating them and confirming that bridge has been recognised by the IOC because it is a true sport.

The Champions Cup this year grew to 12 teams, the top 10 nations at the European Championship, plus the defenders and the hosts. The teams were seeded into two groups of six for round robin play, followed by semifinals and finals, with playoffs to decide the other places. The results:

Group A		Group B	
Italy (Allegra)	96	Italy (Parioli)	100.5
Netherlands	83	Poland	95
Sweden	80	France	79

In the semifinals, Tennis Club Parioli beat Bridge Club Allegra 106-86 and Poland dominated Netherlands, 99-68. To no one's surprise it was Italy v. Poland in the final, handily won by the Italians, 107-52, while Italy easily beat Netherlands for the bronze, 103-68. Congratulations to Alfredo Versace-Lorenzo Lauria, Claudio Nunes-Fulvio Fantoni and Antonio Sementa-Francesco Angelini.

So, with their 6th consecutive European Championship and 3rd consecutive European Champions Cup under their belts, and the non-appearance of the reigning Bermuda Bowl champion Nickell team from the USA, can there be any doubt that Italy have installed themselves as odds-on favourite to defend the Olympiad Open Team title they won in Maastricht in 2000? Nevertheless, other fancied teams such as the USA, Sweden and Poland will not be ready to concede the title to Italy just yet. The Women's Teams seems to have more countries as serious contenders, the USA and China and the usual suspects from Europe (Austria, England, France, Germany, Netherlands) in with a chance. With Sweden having only two players from their European Championship team in Istanbul, they are a longer shot. In the Seniors, France leads the pack as early favourites, with Denmark, Italy and Poland nipping at their heels, followed by Indonesia. Penelope the Peerless Prognosticator has looked into her crystal ball and sees Italy, Austria and Poland, respectively, clutching those gold medals. Yes, she sees a European sweep!

Brian Senior and not, as was reported, Barry Rigal, was the author of the Pivot Teams report in last month's issue.

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The 6th Generali World Masters Individual Championship

Verona, September 8-10, 2004

Brian Senior, Nottingham & Kees Tammens, Amsterdam



(Extracted from the Daily Bulletins. Some further editing has taken place.)

The 6th Generali World Masters Women's Individual Championship field of 28 included four of the previous five winners of the event, Maria Erhart (Austria), Nicola Smith (England), Migri Zur-Campanile (Israel) and Bénédicte Cronier (France), the missing champion being the 1996 winner, Elizabeth Delor of France.

It was the same story in the Men's Championship, where the field included four past champions in Piotr Gawrys (Poland), Jon Baldursson (Iceland), Paul Chemla (France) and Antonio Sementa (Italy), missing only Geir Helgemo (Norway), who won in 1996.

The 52 men played 102 boards, 51 two-board rounds over four sessions, while the 28 women played 81 boards, 27 three-board rounds over three sessions. Everyone played the same system which resembles French Standard more closely than anything else, with five-card majors and a 15-17 no trump, two clubs game-forcing, two diamonds strong with one suit (eight or nine playing tricks) or 22-23 balanced, and two hearts and two spades weak. Leads were top of honour sequences, third and fifth against suit contracts and in partner's suit in no trump, otherwise fourth best in no trump. Signals and discards were standard count, with high to encourage as the secondary possibility, while suit preference had third priority.

For the first round it seemed appropriate to take a look at how the men's defending champion, Antonio Sementa of Italy, would start. However, by the wonders of modern science (the fact that the Bridge Base Online table can be watched alongside the regular Vugraph table in the Vugraph Theatre), you get to see two lots of action for the price of one on some deals.

Session One - Men

Board 1. Dealer North. Neither Vul.

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

Sementa and Jiansheng Jin had a normal auction to a normal contract, but one which requires some work due to the bad club split.

West	North	East	South
Hamman	Sementa	Freeman	Jin
—	1 ♠	Pass	2 ♣
Pass	2 ♠	Pass	3 ♥
Pass	3 NT	Pass	Pass
Pass			

Dick Freeman led his fourth-best diamond and Sementa won the queen. He played a club to the king and ace and back came a second diamond which he won with the ace. A club to dummy revealed the bad news so Sementa switched his attention to spades, leading the ten.

Bob Hamman erred, as the cards lay, by going in with the ace to play a third diamond. Since the spade queen had fallen under the ace, declarer could win the diamond and play the spade jack to clear the suit, after which he had the rest; ten tricks for plus 430 and 19 match points out of a possible 24.

Board 2. Dealer East. NS Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Hamman	Sementa	Freeman	Jin
—	—	Pass	Pass
1 ♣	Pass	1 ♦	Pass
1 NT	2 ♣	Double	Pass

On the next deal, it was routine for Freeman, who could not be assured of game facing a weak no trump, to double at the prevailing vulnerability. Freeman led a heart to the queen and ace, then Sementa played a spade up. Freeman went in with the ace and played a second spade to Hamman's king.

Hamman knew he could give his partner a ruff, but there could be no hurry for that, so he instead returned a heart to declarer's king. Sementa tried the jack of clubs but that ran to Hamman's ace and now he gave the spade ruff. Freeman

cash the jack of hearts and the contract was soon down two for minus 500 and all 24 MPs to Hamman/Freeman.

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

Everyone may be obliged to play the same system, but that does not prevent differing styles from being followed. Where Freeman had passed the East cards as dealer, Baldursson opened one diamond. When Wolff came in with two clubs over the one heart response, Baldursson's double merely showed three-card heart support. Hackett had no reason to pass the double, of course, instead cue bidding to force to game. Three no trumps was the obvious call now from East.

Chemla led his singleton club and Baldursson won in hand then played a diamond to the ace followed by the diamond ten, ducking when Wolff ditched a spade. Paul Chemla thought about that for a bit then allowed the ten to hold the trick. Had he taken the diamond, Baldursson would have had eight winners as soon as he regained the lead, but he was now an entry short to establish a fourth diamond trick.

Instead, Baldursson tried a heart towards his jack. Wolff went in with the heart ace and cleared the clubs, and now all declarer could do was to cash out for two down: minus 100 and 19 MPs to North/South.

Board 3. Dealer South. EW Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Martens	Zia	Bocchi	de Falco
—	—	—	4 ♠
Pass	Pass	Pass	

Dano de Falco opened his in-between hand with an aggressive four spades rather than the alternative of one spade and duly bought the contract.

Krzysztof Martens led the ace of diamonds, on which Norberto Bocchi played the three, then continued with the king, Bocchi playing the two, as de Falco followed with the ten and jack. It seemed clear that Bocchi had four diamonds and that he had petered with the bottom two cards to suggest a club switch. Sure enough, Martens switched to a club and now the contract had to fail by a trick; minus 50 and just 5 MPs for North/South.

Meanwhile, at the other table...

West	North	East	South
Gitelman	Bompis	Brogeland	Baldursson
—	—	—	1 ♠
2 ♥	Pass	3 ♥	3 ♠
4 ♥	Pass	Pass	4 ♠
Pass	Pass	Double	Pass
Pass	Pass		

As Martens had, Fred Gitelman cashed a top diamond as well, but Boye Brogeland played the diamond two. Gitelman had seen his partner support hearts and for him the obvious switch was to a heart, not a club. Gitelman did not attempt to cash the second diamond but switched immediately to the ten of hearts.

On this auction it was clear to play for the heart queen to be onside and Baldursson did so, winning the heart king, finessing the jack and pitching his club loser on the heart ace. Now he gave up a diamond and could not be prevented from ruffing his third diamond in dummy, losing just a trump trick for a fine plus 590 and 23 MPs.

Board 4. Dealer West. Both Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Martens	Zia	Bocchi	de Falco
1 ♦	Double	Pass	3 ♣
Pass	Pass	Pass	

Personal style had a big effect on the outcome of this deal as Zia went for a take-out double in hope of finding a major-suit fit, only to hear his partner jump in the unbid minor. He had to pass three clubs, of course, and Martens cashed a top spade, getting the eight from Bocchi, then cashed the ace of diamonds before trying the second spade. De Falco ruffed the spade and led the queen of clubs for the king and ace then led to the club nine, and shortly afterwards settled for ten tricks and plus 130, for a complete zero.

There was a trump coup in the ending had declarer gone for it, playing three rounds of hearts to shorten himself then a diamond to the king and winning spades, but that would have salvaged only 2 MPs.

West	North	East	South
Gitelman	Bompis	Brogeland	Baldursson
1 ♦	1 ♥	Pass	1 NT
Pass	Pass	Pass	

Gitelman led a low diamond which ran to declarer's queen and Baldursson, short of entries to hand, elected to give up on the king doubleton of clubs onside and led low to the

ace, picking up a nice bonus when the king appeared. He played a club back to his nine then a diamond to the king, Gitelman taking the ace and clearing the diamonds.

Baldursson had ten tricks now and took them for plus 180 but only 8 MPs – there were five 630s and a couple of penalties to North/South.

On the following board, Claudio Nunes led the heart ten against Gitelman, ducked all round. A second heart to the jack and king was also ducked, but now Tony Forrester switched to the eight of clubs to the nine and queen. Nunes reverted to hearts, Gitelman winning his ace to play a spade to the ten and jack.

Board 5. N/S Vul. Dealer North.

<p>♠ 9 5 3 ♥ A 6 4 2 ♦ A 8 7 ♣ K J 9</p> <p>♠ A Q J ♥ K Q 7 ♦ 6 5 4 ♣ 8 7 6 4</p>	<p>♠ 7 6 2 ♥ 10 9 3 ♦ K Q 3 ♣ A Q 5 2</p> <p>♠ K 10 8 4 ♥ J 8 5 ♦ J 10 9 2 ♣ 10 3</p>
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West	North	East	South
Forrester	Gitelman	Nunes	Multon
Madala	Levy	Helness	Brogeland
—	1 ♣	Pass	1 ♠
Pass	1 NT	Pass	Pass
Pass			

A club went to the jack and ace and Nunes, after some thought, played a third round of clubs to establish a trick for the defence. Gitelman won the club and played another spade up so the defence took its black winners before switching to a diamond. Gitelman won the ace and cashed the long heart for down three: minus 300 and 9 MPs.

It seemed for a moment that Tor Helness had made a worse opening lead at the other table as he chose the diamond king. Alain Levy won the ace and played back the suit, ducked, then played a third round to the queen. Helness switched to a spade for Agustin Madala's jack and a club came through to the queen. A second spade went to the king and ace and another club was led through, Helness ducking declarer's jack. It didn't matter, however. At this table there was no time for declarer to get a second heart winner and the opening lead gave only one extra diamond trick, so Levy was the same three down for the same minus 300 and the same 9 MPs.

On the next board (See top of next column) Nunes' reraise to four hearts looks very aggressive but, had he not done so, Frank Multon would probably have doubled again on the South cards and that would have worked out worse for East/West. Multon did not double again over four hearts, and Gitelman was unwilling to take a solo shot at four spades, even at this vulnerability.

Board 6. Dealer East. EW Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Forrester	Gitelman	Nunes	Multon
—	—	1 ♥	Double
3 ♥	Pass	4 ♥	Pass
Pass	Pass		

Multon led the ace of hearts then switched to the king of spades and Nunes won and played a club towards the queen, Multon going in with the king and playing the queen of spades, ruffed. Declarer continued with a heart to the king then cashed the queen of clubs before ruffing the last spade.

Nunes next cashed the club ace for a diamond pitch then played the last club, ruffing. It didn't matter what Gitelman did as the defence could only take the heart queen and the diamond king from here; down one for minus 100 but 14 MPs to North/South.

West	North	East	South
Madala	Levy	Helness	Brogeland
—	—	1 ♥	Double
3 ♥	Pass	Pass	Double
Pass	3 ♠	Pass	Pass
Pass			

Helness led a heart to dummy's ace, and a moment later found himself back on lead with the ace of spades. He led a second heart and Levy thought before pitching a club from dummy, losing the trick to the king. Madala returned a trump and Levy won the ten, cashed the spade jack, and led a diamond to the king, then a low diamond back to the nine and ace. He got the club right, of course, because of the bidding, so came to nine tricks for plus 140 and 18 MPs.

Board 9. Dealer North. EW Vul.

<p>♠ 10 8 3 ♥ 6 5 ♦ 10 8 3 2 ♣ Q J 5 4</p> <p>♠ K J 5 ♥ K Q 7 4 3 ♦ J ♣ 10 9 8 2</p>	<p>♠ Q 6 4 2 ♥ 10 9 ♦ A K Q 6 5 ♣ A 6</p> <p>♠ A 9 7 ♥ A J 8 2 ♦ 9 7 4 ♣ K 7 3</p>
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West	North	East	South
el-Ahmady	Forrester	Zia	Mohan
—	Pass	1 NT	Pass
2 ♠	Pass	2 ♥	Pass
3 NT	Pass	Pass	Pass

After a typical one no trump opening, Zia reached game from the right side (a club lead defeats three no trumps if played by West, so Zia justified his bidding).

South, John Mohan, led a diamond to the bare jack in dummy and Zia led the spade king, ducked. After that, the jack of spades would have led to nine tricks as the spades break three-three, but Zia instead decided to play the low spade to his queen. Mohan was able to win this trick and switch to a club to the jack and ace, thereby cutting declarer's transportation and leaving him a trick short. On the run of four diamond tricks, dummy is squeezed in three suits; one down for minus 100 and just 4 MPs out of 24 for East/West.

Board 17. Dealer North. Neither Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Atabey	Mohan	Bocchi	Levy
—	Pass	Pass	1 NT
Pass	2 ♥	Pass	2 ♠
Pass	2 NT	Pass	3 NT
Pass	Pass	Pass	

A small club was led to dummy's jack and declarer started well with a small diamond to his ten. Norberto Bocchi won the continuation of the king of diamonds and played back a diamond to Levy's queen. Hoping for a miracle, Levy led a heart to the ace and a heart back to the ten and jack.

Yalcin Atabey switched to the king of clubs and Levy ducked, so Atabey had to change tack, choosing the spade queen, again ducked. A second spade was won by declarer's ace and Levy cashed the king of hearts then played the final heart to West's queen, ending playing him to lead into the ace-nine of clubs. Despite being too high, by getting out for down one, Levy managed 13 MPs out of 24, instead of only 5 MPs had he been down two.

Jens Auken of Denmark had had a terrific first session in the Men's event on Friday evening, and had opened a useful one top lead on the field. (The women would start the next day, concurrent with the second men's session.) However, there were three more to go and no one was willing to concede him the cup just yet!

Men's Ranking after Session 1

			MP	%
1	Jens Auken	DAN	369	64.06
2	Ishmael Del'Monte	AUS	344	59.72
3	Bob Hamman	USA	343	59.55
4	Tor Helness	NOR	338	58.68
5	Luis Lantaron	ESP	337	58.51

Session One - Women

The first board made for a lively start to Session 1 for the Women's defending champion, Bénédicte Cronier of France.

Board 1. Dealer North. Neither Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Cuzzi	Cronier	Lara	Gaviard
—	Pass	Pass	Pass
1 ♣	1 ♠	Double	3 ♠
4 NT	Pass	5 ♣	Pass
Pass	Pass		

Maria-João Lara made an aggressive negative double, planning to show her long hearts later, but she never got the opportunity to do so, which perhaps should not have come as a big surprise to her, looking at a weak hand with spade shortage.

Danièle Gaviard's pre-emptive spade raise caused problems for Monica Cuzzi, who attempted to solve them by bidding four no trumps for the minors. Lara duly denied any key cards.

Cronier led a spade against five clubs and Cuzzi won the ace, ruffed a spade and took the diamond finesse, losing to the king. Cronier was thus in the enviable position of being able to lead any card in her hand, save the heart queen, to beat the contract. She chose a trump to deny the second spade ruff; minus 50 and 5 MPs out of 12 for East/West.

It is not easy to reach five diamonds. Perhaps four spades from West, rather than four no trumps, followed by a delicate four no trumps from East, would do the trick. But perhaps not.

Board 9. Dealer North. EW Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Poplilov	Vriend	Wei-Sender	Sokolow
—	1 ♠	Pass	2 ♦
Pass	2 ♡	Pass	4 ♡
Pass	Pass	Pass	

On the next deal, the popular auction was Vriend-Sokolow's. Everyone played four hearts, but nobody made it – not surprisingly. Wei-Sender led the ace of clubs, then switched to her trump. Vriend won the trump and cashed a second round, after which she had no chance for success.

Vriend next played ace, king and jack of spades, and Wei-Sender covered. The spade queen was ruffed and overruffed, and Matilda Poplilov returned her remaining trump, not that it mattered. Vriend had to lose two diamonds from here, as the clubs were blocked so she had no discard, for down one and 9 MPs.

It might have become interesting had declarer unblocked the club at trick three then played a second heart to dummy to play the club queen. It looks as though the defence can still prevail unless West ruffs in with the jack, but West has to be careful and one can imagine the contract being let through at times.

Tobi Sokolow from Austin, Texas had sessions of 65 % and 59%, winning both, to open up a four percentage-point lead over second-place Gloria Ho of Taiwan, who had yet another two percentage points over the defending champion.

Women's Ranking after Session 2

			MP	%
1	Tobi Sokolow	USA	402	62.04
2	Gloria Ho	TAI	378	58.33
3	Bénédicte Cronier	FRA	366	56.48
4	Sabine Auken	DEU	353	54.48
5	Catherine d'Ovidio	FRA	351	54.17

Session Three - Men

Board 4. All Vul. Dealer West.

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

West	North	East	South
Auken	Forrester	Jansma	Zia
Pass	Pass	2 NT	3 ♦
4 ♦	Pass	4 ♡	Pass
Pass	Pass		

Zia led ace followed by two of diamonds, a revealing signal, and Jansma won the king and played on trumps. When the four-two split came to light, he had to draw all the trumps before touching clubs, and that put Tony Forrester to two discards.

Forrester would have done best to throw spades, but that was not easy to see. In practice, he threw a club and his remaining diamond. Trusting Zia's trick two signal, and having seen him turn up with ten red cards and North unwilling to throw a single spade, suggesting that South had some spade length also, Jansma had good reasons for his next play, which was to finesse the ten of clubs. When that held the trick, he could cash out the suit and had eleven tricks for plus 650 and 22 MPs.

Board 5. Dealer North. NS Vul.

	♠ 4 3 2		
	♡ A 10 4 2		
	◇ K Q 6 5		
	♣ J 4		
♠ K 10 6		♠ J 9 7	
♡ J 9 5		♡ 8 7 3	
◇ A 4		◇ J 9 3 2	
♣ A K 8 5 3		♣ 10 9 6	
	♠ A Q 8 5		
	♡ K Q 6		
	◇ 10 8 7		
	♣ Q 7 2		

West	North	East	South
Versace	Kowalsky	Zia	Lantaron
—	Pass	Pass	1 ♦
1 NT	Double	Pass	Pass
Pass			

Luis Lantaron operated mildly on this deal, no doubt drawing reluctant admiration from at least his RHO. That operation and Apolinary Kowalsky's subsequent small diamond lead proved too much for declarer, Alfredo Versace, who played the nine, for the ten and ace. Versace gave up a club and finished two down as Lantaron switched to king and another heart, making it easy for the defence to take four hearts and two diamonds to go with their club and the spade ace; minus 300 and 17 MPs to NS. It was soon to become even worse for Zia.

Board 7. Dealer South. Both Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Zia	Wolff	Lantaron	Drumev
—	—	—	1 ♣
Pass	1 ♠	4 ♡	4 ♠
Pass	4 NT	5 ♦	Pass
6 ♦	6 ♠	Pass	Pass
Pass			

After the light but sensible one club opening by Bulgaria's Christo Drumev, Lantaron of Spain came in fiercely with his

twelve red cards. But this did not prevent Bobby Wolff, North, bidding to six spades. After a small diamond lead the contract made an overtrick for plus 1460 and a top score, but Zia comforted his partner with, "Oh, that was indeed a very good play."

Norberto Bocchi of Italy, one of the leaders, scored two near tops in partnership with Jiansheng Jin from China.

Board 9. Dealer North. EW Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Forrester	Bocchi	Jason H	Jin
—	Pass	Pass	1 ♥
Pass	2 ♥	Pass	3 ♣
Pass	4 ♥	Pass	Pass
Pass			

Tony Forrester led out two top diamonds, the second being ruffed by Jin, who cashed one top heart then finessed the jack of clubs, losing to the queen. Jason Hackett needed to play a spade now but instead played a third diamond. Jin ruffed, cashed the heart king, and played on clubs. Dummy's spades went away on the clubs and that was ten tricks for plus 420 and 20 MPs to North-South.

The penultimate session of men's play finished with Andy Robson of England leading the way. He had almost a two-and-a-half tops lead over the closely bunched trio of Norberto Bocchi, Alain Levy and Jens Auken. The winner would likely come from this foursome. Even so, if anyone had designs on overtaking Robson, he would have to have a magnificent session.

Men's Ranking after Session 3

			MP	%
1	Andrew Robson	ENG	1084.5	59.46
2	Norberto Bocchi	ITA	1017.4	55.78
3	Alain Levy	FRA	1006.2	55.16
4	Jens Auken	DAN	1003.2	55.00
5	Bobby Wolff	USA	987.0	54.11

Session Three - Women

In the women's event, someone would have to have a similar session to overtake Tobi Sokolow. Sokolow had performed an incredible double, winning both the first and the second sessions handily, opening up a lead of almost four percentage points (two tops) over Gloria Ho of Taiwan. Bénédicte Cronier was a further top behind. As for the men, Ho or Cronier would have to score a big game to overtake Sokolow.

Board 18. Dealer East. NS Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
D'Ovidio	Erhart	Ho	Winestock
—	—	Pass	Pass
Pass	1 ♦	Double	Redouble
2 ♠	Pass	Pass	3 ♦
3 ♠	Double	Pass	Pass
Pass			

It would be a popular approach to play D'Ovidio's jump to two spades over the redouble as pre-emptive, at least in the English-speaking world, but not in this tournament and, possibly, not for a French player anyway. When Winestock showed her diamond support, D'Ovidio took the push to three spades and Erhart made a hungry double on the strength of her three aces, including trump control, and singleton.

Erhart led the ace of clubs, on which Winestock played the ten, which could not have helped Erhart find the winning switch. She eventually chose a low diamond, figuring that there would be little hope if partner did not hold the ace of that suit, and D'Ovidio ruffed in dummy then led the king of spades, which was ducked. Declarer next played a low club to her king, perhaps not foreseeing what was coming from the defence. Erhart's ruff should not have been unexpected, and now she cashed the ace of trumps and played a second diamond.

With the clubs still blocked, D'Ovidio could not ruff the diamond then get rid of her other diamond loser on the clubs. Thus, her only hope was that the ace of diamonds was on her left all along, and she discarded a heart from dummy. Winestock won the diamond ace and needed only to return a heart to cash the fifth defensive winner for one down.

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Alas, Winestock tried to give Erhart another club ruff instead. D'Ovidio won the jack, ruffed her winning king of diamonds to get to dummy, and gratefully threw both her hearts on the clubs for plus 530 and 12 MPs. Second-placed Ho scored 23 MP out of 36 on the round to consolidate her position near the top.

A new round and an important new challenge for Ho, as she faced Sabine Auken, one of those in the chasing group behind her. Many would have seen a pre-emptive three spades raise in the North cards but Maria-Joao Lara contented herself with a simple raise. That left room for Auken to show a good four heart bid via a cue bid, and now Ho had a clear four spades.

Board 19. Dealer South. EW Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Zur-C	Lara	Auken	Ho
—	—	—	1 ♠
2 ♥	2 ♠	3 ♠	4 ♠
5 ♥	Double	Pass	Pass
Pass			

Migri Zur-Campanile went on to five hearts, no doubt tempted to try more but suspecting bad breaks, and Lara, looking at a trump trick, doubled. That ended the auction and Lara made the natural lead of a low spade to her partner's ace. Ho could not be sure what her partner's double was based on – perhaps more on high cards rather than on trumps – and she was concerned about dummy's club suit. After some thought she switched to the king of diamonds to knock out the late entry to those clubs. From here, declarer took a long time to be sure but there was no sensible line that would not provide eleven tricks; plus 850 and 11 MPs to East/West.

If Ho had returned a passive spade, Zur-Campanile would have won the king and thrown a diamond from dummy. Now the ace of clubs followed by a diamond to the ace, and declarer must be careful. If she plays king of clubs for a diamond discard then ruffs a club, she will be over-ruffed and, still needing another ruff in dummy, will eventually fail due to a trump promotion, losing a second trump trick. So she needs to ruff a club back to hand without cashing the club king. Now she can take her second ruff, cash the king of hearts, and throw the last diamond on the king of clubs as North ruffs with her trump trick.

In any event, it was Nicola Smith who had the huge game, but she had started too far behind to threaten Sokolow.

Women's Final Ranking

			MP	%
1	Tobi Sokolow	USA	580	59.67
2	Bénédicte Cronier	FRA	565	58.13
3	Nicola Smith	ENG	550	56.58
4	Gloria Ho	TAI	533	54.84
5	Betty Ann Kennedy	USA	527	54.22

Session Four - Men

Jon Baldursson played the first deal of Session Four nicely, though it proved not to be necessary on the actual lie of the cards.

Board 1. Dealer North. Neither Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Gupta	Chagas	Baldursson	Madala
—	Pass	1 ♠	3 ♣
3 ♦	Pass	4 NT	Pass
6 ♠	Pass	Pass	Pass

Agustin Madala, the tournament's youngest player, led a top club then switched to a heart for the ten and jack. Baldursson cashed the king and queen of spades then ruffed a heart before cashing the ace of spades.

Next he played a diamond to the ace, cashed the ace of hearts and ruffed the last heart. A club ruff followed by the last trump would have squeezed South had he held any three diamonds along with the ace of clubs but, in practice, all this hard work proved to be unnecessary as the diamond honours were falling all along. Still, a nice plus 980 and 19 MPs for Baldursson and Subhash Gupta.

Board 9. Dealer North. EW Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Zia	Ferraro	Baldursson	Kokish
—	1 ♡	Pass	2 ♦
Pass	2 ♡	Pass	4 ♡
Pass	Pass	Pass	

Baldursson did not show up in quite such a good light on this deal where he was partnering the inimitable Zia Mahmood. Eric Kokish's lead-inhibiting two diamond response probably made no difference as East has a normal enough club lead anyway. That is what Baldursson chose, the queen, and Guido Ferraro won the ace in hand to lead a spade to the ten and Zia's ace. Zia switched to the seven of diamonds, suggesting a lack of interest in the suit, and Ferraro took his ace then played the jack of spades.

When Baldursson won the king of spades, Zia played the two, an attempt to give suit preference for clubs, but this was lost on his partner. Had Baldursson cashed the diamond queen, he would still have survived, as he could then have switched to a club to give the ruff, but he instead led the diamond ten to his partner's king and that was the end of the defence; plus 420 for Ferraro and 19 MPs instead of just 3 MPs for down one.

Going into the final session of the Men's event, Andrew Robson had a healthy lead over the rest of the field but his session started badly and that advantage soon all but disappeared. As the afternoon progressed Robson held on to his lead as Norberto Bocchi, Jens Auken and Alain Levy attempted to overhaul him. Then came the last board.

Board 26. Dealer East. Both Vul.

	♠ K J 8		
	♡ A 8 6		
	◇ 10 5		
	♣ A K 9 8 4		
♠ 9 6 5 4 3		♠ A Q	
♡ J 7		♡ K Q 9 2	
◇ A Q J 6 4		◇ K 9 7	
♣ 2		♣ Q J 6 3	
	♠ 10 7 2		
	♡ 10 5 4 3		
	◇ 8 3 2		
	♣ 10 7 5		

West	North	East	South
Del'Monte	Drumev	Chemla	Robson
—	—	1 NT	Pass
2 ♡	Pass	2 ♠	Pass
2 NT	Pass	3 NT	Pass
Pass	Pass		

Robson held the slenderest of leads over Bocchi going into this final deal. Elsewhere, Bocchi was conceding 630 to collect 14 MPs. All Robson had to do to win the title was to equal or better that score, also on defence to three no trumps. Robson led the three of hearts to the ace and Drumev could have held the contract to ten tricks by doing anything else except what he actually did, namely underleading the club honours in the hope of giving declarer a losing option. But there was no losing option this time, and Paul Chemla won the club switch and made eleven tricks for plus 660, leaving

Robson with only 2 MPs and second place in this tournament that he had been leading for so long. Very tough!

Men's Final Ranking

			MP	%
1	Norberto Bocchi	ITA	1387.4	56.68
2	Andrew Robson	ENG	1376.5	56.23
3	Jens Auken	DAN	1353.2	55.28
4	Antonio Sementa	ITA	1317.5	53.82
5	Hervé Mouiel	FRA	1308.2	53.44

IBPA Column Service

Tim Bourke, Canberra

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292. Dealer West. NS Vul.

	♠ Q J 9 2		
	♡ 9 4		
	◇ K 10 8		
	♣ Q J 5 2		
♠ 8 7 5		♠ 4	
♡ A K J 7 5		♡ 10 8 6 2	
◇ 9 3 2		◇ Q 7 4	
♣ A 7		♣ 10 9 8 6 4	
	♠ A K 10 6 3		
	♡ Q 3		
	◇ A J 6 5		
	♣ K 3		

West	North	East	South
1 ♡	Pass	3 ♡ ¹	3 ♠
Pass	4 ♠	Pass	Pass
Pass			
1. Pre-emptive			

As is often the case with hearts, the pre-empt had little effect on the final contract. West took the ace and king of hearts then shifted to a trump. South took this with dummy's queen then drew the remaining trumps with his ace and king.

Declarer knew that West had to have the ace of clubs for his opening bid. So, he saw it would cost nothing to lead the three of clubs towards dummy. Alas, West did not have a singleton ace of clubs and so dummy's queen won the trick. However a second club to the king and ace saw West end-played, obviating the need for a diamond guess.

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

(Columnists may like to, "jazz up" the diamond position to the following:

♠ K J x
 ♠ 10 x x ♠ Q 8 x
 ♠ A 9 x x

Now the endplay produces an extra trick that would otherwise not be available.)

293. Dealer South. EW Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
—	—	—	2 ♣
Pass	2 ♦	Pass	2 ♠
Pass	4 ♠	Pass	Pass
Pass			

West led the obvious king of clubs and declarer ruffed. After a trump to the jack, declarer ruffed dummy's second club, eliminating that suit. After drawing the last trump with the king of spades, declarer proceeded to make certain of his contract. Can you see how?

Once you have seen the basic idea of this deal, it is easy to solve. The first move is to cash the red aces then to play a second heart. As the cards lie, whoever wins the third heart is endplayed. If it is East, he has to play a club; declarer discards a diamond from hand and ruffs in dummy for his tenth trick.

If West wins and plays a diamond honour, South ducks which leaves West with no winning continuation; he has to lead from the jack-nine of diamonds into declarer's king-ten or concede a ruff and discard.

What would happen if East had produced a second diamond? South covers the card, making certain of his contract.

294. Dealer South. Both Vul.

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

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

West, with spades well held, leads a mandatory trump against South's heart game. Declarer wins and plays a spade, taken by West who plays a second trump.

If South tries to ruff two spades, using diamond ruffs for transport, he will be down to only one trump in hand when he comes to play the fourth spade. So, on almost every layout from there he will lose three more tricks and finish down one.

Instead declarer must rely on the queen of diamonds being onside and he should lead one now. If he does, West covers with the queen and dummy wins with the ace. Now declarer draws the last trump, cashes the nine of diamonds and then ruffs a spade in dummy. The king-jack of diamonds and two trumps in hand will give him ten tricks; five trumps, four diamonds and a spade ruff.

Note too that the timing is precise. If instead declarer ruffs a spade, crosses to hand with a trump and then leads the ten of diamonds, West defeats the contract by covering with his queen.

295. Dealer South. EW Vul.

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

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

As North had promised some values by bidding two no trump, rather than giving a second negative of three clubs, South drove to a slam.

A modicum of care is needed to make twelve tricks when West leads the queen of hearts. You could use your two entries, the heart ruff and the queen of trumps, to take two club finesses. This would fail on the above layout and ignores a better plan, using dummy's diamonds.

After winning the heart lead, cash the ace of diamonds and your remaining heart honour then ruff the two of hearts. Next lead the queen of diamonds discarding the ten of clubs

from hand. West wins the king of diamonds and plays a fourth heart, which you must ruff in hand. Then, after crossing to dummy with the queen of trumps, you discard the queen of clubs on the jack of diamonds. All that remains is to cross to hand with the ace of clubs and draw the remaining trumps with the ace and king.

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Matt Granovetter, Jerusalem
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Preview

Dealer South. Both Vul.

North

♠ 10 6 4

♥ A

♦ 10 7 6 5 4

♣ K J 6 4

South (you)

♠ A K J 9 8 5

♥ K Q

♦ A K

♣ A 8 3

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

Opening lead: ♥J

How would you play it?

Suppose you win and cash the ace-king of trumps. East shows out on the second round, pitching a heart. Now what?

Suppose you cash the ace-king of diamonds, ruff your high heart in dummy and ruff a diamond. East shows out, pitching another heart. Now what?

Tales of Hoffman

Haste Makes Waste Dept.
by Martin Hoffman

Sir Jack

♠ 10 6 4

♥ A

♦ 10 7 6 5 4

♣ K J 6 4

♠ Q 3 2

♥ J 10

♦ J 9 8 2

♣ 10 9 7 2

♠ 7

♥ 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2

♦ Q 3

♣ Q 5

Professor Hoodleman

♠ A K J 9 8 5

♥ K Q

♦ A K

♣ A 8 3

West led the jack of hearts against Professor Hoodleman's six spade contract. Declarer won and cashed two top trumps, East showing out on the second round. He continued with ace-king of diamonds, ruffed his master heart in dummy, and ruffed a diamond, East discarding a heart on the third round. Declarer saw nothing else but to try the club finesse now and when that failed the result was one down.

The Professor bewailed his luck. He explained that he was really looking for a grand slam, but knowing how badly everything breaks whenever he partners Sir Jack, he thought he had better stay in a safe spot.

Sir Jack asked me if his partner could have improved on his line. I had to agree that the fates were not smiling on him. However, he could have improved his line had he not been in such a hurry. After discovering that West had four diamonds, declarer continues patiently by exiting with a trump, hoping to get some additional information before making the club play. West will win, and say he plays the ten of clubs. Declarer wins with the ace and plays a trump. West will be forced to discard a club, leaving:

Sir Jack

♠ --

♥ --

♦ 10

♣ K J

♠ --

♥ --

♦ J

♣ ??

♠ —

♥ 9 8

♦ —

♣ ?

Professor Hoodleman

♠ J

♥ --

♦ --

♣ 8 3

When the last trump is played, West will discard a club, and dummy throws the diamond. At trick twelve, declarer plays a club. West follows low, and declarer knows West's thirteenth card is the diamond jack and not a club, so he plays the king club from dummy, dropping East's queen.

Postmortem from the Editors

When Martin showed us this deal, he told us that he had been on the airplane all night looking over his deals, and suddenly he realized that there is a much easier way to make six spades: "Cash the ace-king of diamonds at tricks two and three, ruff a heart in dummy, ruff a diamond and then lead a middle spade. If someone takes the queen, you have the ten as an entry for another diamond ruff. If not, you lose no trump tricks!"

French Premier League Deals

Jean-Paul Meyer, Paris

Following are two rather attractive deals from the French First Division Team League. The Champion will be decided later in the year. Try your hand as declarer.

I. IMPs. Dealer West. Neither Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
2 ♦	Pass	2 ♠	Pass
3 ♥	Pass	5 ♥	Pass
6 ♥	Pass	Pass	Pass

The bidding was typical French style, where two diamonds was game-forcing and two spades showed one ace (not necessarily spades).

How would you play six hearts on this deal? The opening lead was a trump to the jack, queen and king.

Answer: There is a line that gives you a little over 87.5%. Two rounds of trumps, spade to the ace, ten of spades ruffed, three rounds of diamonds, hearts to dummy. When you play the queen of spades, if it is not covered, discard a club – end.

If the spade queen is covered by the king, ruff and lead a low club. If either the king or jack of clubs is on side, you make. North had:

♠ 9 7 4 3
♥ 9 2
♦ 10 8 7 3
♣ K J 7 4

This line of play needs only one of three cards right, once the trump situation has resolved itself, with the tiny residual chance of doubleton spade king.

And next:

2. IMPs. Dealer West. NS Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
2 NT	Pass	3 ♣	Double
3 NT	Pass	Pass	Pass

North leads the four of clubs to South's ten and you duck. South continues with the king and queen of clubs, North following with the eight and five, and you win the ace on the third round. What have you discarded from dummy on the second and third clubs, and what is your plan now?

Answer: Your discards are the main thing on this deal. It may be important to keep the fourth spade as a threat card, so you should pitch one diamond and one heart. You cannot afford to let South regain the lead.

Since it cannot cost to take the diamond finesse, you play a heart to the ace and a diamond to the queen, losing to the king. A spade comes back to your ace. Neither the jack nor the ten appears. What now?

You cash the diamond ace and North discards the heart deuce! You cash the other high spade from your hand, cross

to dummy with the diamond jack, North throwing another heart, and play the spade queen, South following with the ten and North the nine. Now you play the carefully preserved spade eight. North must win the jack and is forced to lead a heart from the queen:

♠ J 9 7 6
♥ Q 9 5 4 2
♦ K
♣ 8 5 4

You score three spades, three hearts, two diamonds and a club. Nine tricks.

What the Hecht!

**Hecht Cup 2004, Copenhagen
September 24-26
Eric Kokish, Toronto**

The 5th Hecht Cup, an invitational Barometer Pairs event scored at match points, was held at Blaksets Bridgecenter in Copenhagen in late September. The creation of Denmark's generous and supremely enthusiastic Peter Hecht-Johansen, this year's field of 52 pairs, which included 20 foreign entries, was reputedly the strongest ever.

Most experts would prefer to play IMPs rather than match points, surely because the objectives for each side are far clearer at IMPs and because match points requires deeper analysis or fine judgment on nearly every deal. The following board had the potential for excitement and a swing at any form of scoring...

Board A9. Dealer North. EW Vul.

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

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

West	North	East	South
LL Madsen	Mittelman	ML Madsen	Kokish
—	Pass	Pass	1 ♥
1 NT	Pass	2 ♥ ¹	Pass
2 ♠	Pass	2 NT	Pass
3 NT	Pass	Pass	Pass

1. 4+ spades

Morten Lund Madsen's sequence showed invitational values with only four spades and his brother Lars accepted with a marginal hand (he might have had 18 HCP for his one no trump overcall). North led the heart queen and South discouraged with the nine. Declarer won the ace and led a low club towards the jack. North went in with the queen and played a second heart.

South, unwilling to give declarer the rest of the heart suit and unaware that the defence could take three more club tricks, put in the heart seven. Declarer won the jack, cashed the ace of spades, overtook the spade jack and willed the ten to drop, cashed two more spades, and took the diamond finesse for his contract: plus 18 for EW. Lars explained that he would have taken *four* diamond tricks (of course!) for plus 630 if he felt he needed the overtrick for a good result. Thanks for sharing that with us, Master Madsen.

Care to match your competitive judgment against the great Paul Chemla's? With both sides vulnerable, he held as East:

♠ 5 4 2
♥ A 9
♦ Q 6 5 3
♣ K 8 5 4

West	North	East	South
Cronier	—	Chemla	—
—	—	Pass	Pass
1 ♦	1 ♥	Double*	2 ♥
3 ♦	3 ♥	?	

Paul's negative double denied as many as four spades. Would you bid four diamonds, pass, or double? Paul voted for four diamonds, albeit with misgivings. It went all pass. Care to match your match point declarer skills against the great Philippe Cronier? This is what he faced:

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

North led the heart six. How would you play? To make four diamonds, you must pick up the trumps without loss, either by leading the queen to pin the jack in North, or (the percentage play) by playing out the ace to pick up a singleton king in either hand. If you pick up trumps, and the club jack is with South, a club to the ten will yield a valuable overtrick. But, if that loses and you lose a trump trick as well, you could be two down for the dreaded match point score of minus 200. Choose your poison.

This was the full deal:

Board B10. Dealer East. Both Vul.

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

On a low heart lead Philippe Cronier won dummy's ace and led a low club to his ten, playing to make an overtrick if the club jack were in South and the diamond king dropped singleton. As a result he finished two down as the defenders had time for a spade trick before declarer could reach dummy

for a discard on the king of clubs. Minus 200 produced an unsatisfactory score of minus 22, but had Cronier made four diamonds (by leading the queen of diamonds from dummy) his side would still have been below average.

The winning decision would have been for Chemla to double or pass three hearts, collecting 500 or 200 points respectively. Perhaps EW would have benefited by having a good/bad two no trumps at their disposal to separate the different strengths of potential three diamond bids by opener, but even so, Chemla's problem would have been a difficult one.

Erik Sælensminde played these cards against us in everyone's three no trumps.

Board B20. Dealer West. Both Vul.

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

Cover the NS cards and plan the play on the opening lead of the five of spades (attitude), three, deuce (standard count), king.

It's a complex position as there are several possibilities in the minors. If you use your entry to dummy to lead towards the king of diamonds you might make six with ace-and-one diamond onside and a later club finesse or black-suit squeeze, but that line involves an early commitment and might lead to defeat in three no trumps if the diamond play fails.

Erik decided to first secure his contract by leading a low club from hand to the jack and queen. North switched to the eight of hearts, which declarer won with the ace to finish the clubs, the last of which caught South in a somewhat obscure squeeze in three suits. A diamond discard would allow declarer to take all the remaining tricks but one if he judged the diamond position correctly and a spade would give up a clear trick to dummy's nine.

It seemed more politic to discard a heart, but declarer unblocked the spade ace, led his remaining heart to dummy, cashed the queen of spades, and exited with the nine of spades. South had to give declarer the diamond king in the end. Giving up the spade would have produced the same result. How revolting! We were pleased to score no worse than -10 on that one.

Board B34. Dealer East. NS Vul.

	♠ 6 3 2		♠ A K J
	♥ Q 10 4		♥ A J 2
	♦ K Q 9 7 6 2		♦ J 8 4
	♣ 8		♣ Q 10 7 2
West	North	East	South
—	—	1 ♣	1 ♠
Double*	Pass	1 NT	Pass
3 NT	Pass	Pass	Pass

You declare three no trumps from the East seat after rebidding one no trump to indicate 15-17 HCP. On a spade lead you'd have no decisions to make, but South tries a surprise attack with the six of hearts. How would you proceed?

At IMPs I believe you should win the first trick with the ace of hearts to force an entry to dummy lest an opponent hold up the diamond ace twice. (*That is not at all clear, Koach. How would you like it if South won the ace of diamonds on the third round, played a club to North's ace or king, and North returned a club? – Ed.*) At match points it's rarely right to take a safety play in a normal contract, and if you deem three no trumps the popular spot you should win the first trick cheaply and play on diamonds, hoping to take a lot of tricks.

After nearly two sessions you have learned that everyone bids a lot in Denmark, and that in this field, West would be more inclined to raise to three no trumps than invite game by showing a decent diamond suit. Still, if the king of hearts is in South it won't hurt and might well be essential to win the first heart with the ace. It's only when the diamond ace is short and North holds the heart king, or when the defenders can do some business in clubs, that it will be an error to make the best play for the contract.

This was the full layout.

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

As you can see, winning the first heart cheaply would lead to at least 10 tricks, 11 if North switches to spades upon winning the diamond ace and declarer catches South in a black-suit endplay after taking all his red-suit winners. Plus 460 was worth plus 16, plus 430 was just 3 points over average and plus 400 yielded minus 6 match points.

The conversation piece of the 2004 Hecht Cup was surely...

Bridge Pro Tour Results

Santa Clara Open, September 4

1. Thomas Snouse
2. Dean Starr
- 3.= John Marron
- 3.= Paul Foster

Bonus Pool Standings (After 18 Events)

- | | | |
|----|-------------------|------|
| 1. | Frank Treiber III | 8275 |
| 2. | Michael Slaven | 7000 |
| 3. | Jim Linhart | 6755 |

Board C8. Dealer West. Neither Vul.

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

Sixteen East-West pairs were permitted to play six hearts. The part I find most remarkable is that nine of them were not doubled. Once South shows spade support North knows that six spades will be a cheap sacrifice if EW can make six hearts, so it makes no mathematical sense to do nothing. If they're going down, double them, but if they're making six hearts, take the save.

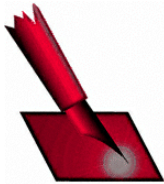
This lecture will be repeated every year at the same time. Don't miss it.

Those who did not double six hearts were minus 3. Those who did were minus 19. I'm not touting the virtues of doubling, but rather the wisdom of backing your judgment. In contrast, selling out to five hearts when East embarks on a cat-and-mouse game of minimum heart bids at every turn (Fredrik Nyström, for one, overcalled one spade with two hearts, then protected with five hearts over South's jump to four spades, then went on to six hearts when North reopened in turn with five spades; he was doubled for his efforts) makes more sense, and in the event would produce a score of plus 7. NS pairs who competed to six spades scored very well whether or not they were doubled and whether or not they pushed East to seven hearts.

The final leaderboard looked like this:

1. Doris Fischer/Bernd Saurer, Austria, +365 MP, 56.24%
2. Andrew McIntosh/David Bakshi, England, +327 MP, 55.59%
3. Bettina Kalkerup/Ulla Kock, Denmark, +271 MP, 54.63%
4. Nicolai Kampmann/Jens Auken, Denmark, +262, 54.48%
5. Ulrik Zeeberg/Peter Zeeberg, Denmark, +252, 54.31%
- =6. Georg Norris/Henrik Normann, Denmark, +249, 54.26%
- =6. Morten Bilde/Jorgen Hanse, Denmark, +249, 54.26%
8. Sabine Auken/Janice Seamon-Molson, Denmark/USA, +234, 54.00%
9. Martin Schifko/Andreas Gloyer, Austria, +222, 53.79%
10. Michael Askgaard/Gergers Bjarnarson, Denmark, +218, 53.73%

The closing party was held at a special restaurant (Peter Lieps Hus in Dyrehaven) in the middle of a forest. Those of us who walked the last few thousand metres were pleased to cross paths with several elk in full antler. The elk did not join us for dinner, or for dancing, which went on until the wee hours. The Danes sure know how to party. Peter brought his own juke box, which earns him my undying respect.



Correspondence ...

The Editor reserves the right to shorten correspondence

Email: ibpaeditor@sympatico.ca

Dear John,

The following ending is from a deal provided by Ron Klinger in Bulletin No. 474, July 2004 p.9

♠ 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	
♦ --	
♣ --	

South declared six no trump and had taken the first six tricks. East had shown singletons in both minors and could reasonably be assumed to be six-five in the majors. He had discarded two spades and two hearts. When declarer cashed the club king, East discarded a heart, making the ending easy to judge. If a spade is discarded the author stated that it would be slightly harder (only slightly?) but declarer can still succeed by playing ace and another spade. But if East had six spades and five hearts originally, this play would fail. It is a tough decision.

However, if declarer plays the heart ace before the club king, the position is clearer, making it easier for declarer to make the winning decision.

Warm regards, Zhou Qi, Flushing NY

Dear John,

The following deal is from the European Championships, reported by Christer Andersson, IBPA Bulletin No. 475, August 2004.

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

South led his singleton club against East's four spade contract. North won with the jack and returned a club. South ruffed and continued with the jack of diamonds, won by East's ace.

A spade to the queen revealed the trump position. Then declarer made a beautiful end-play by ruffing a club and cashing the two top spades to reach this position (South's hearts are QJ8, not J83 as shown in Bulletin No. 475).

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

Declarer cashed the heart king and played a spade to North, who was end-played. He tried a diamond to the king, but declarer ruffed the club good and still had the heart ace as an entry. A real beauty created by the Turkish hands of Atabey. I think after the spade queen, declarer could make his contract by cashing the diamond king and the heart ace. Then a heart. If North ruffs, East plays low, otherwise the king and a heart ruff in the dummy. This way seems more natural, simple and less risky (provided North has two hearts) but not as beautiful.

Warm regards, Zhou Qi, Flushing, NY

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://ecatsbridge.com>

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

World Bridge Calendar

DATES	EVENT	LOCATION	INFORMATION
2004			
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 Internacional 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	wnc2004nec@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 13-19	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 22-27	Greek International Bridge Festival	Halkidiki, Greece	www.gamesfestival.com
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 11 & 12	European Simultaneous Pairs	Clubs in Europe	www.eblsims.org
May 13-21	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