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Editorial

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

The World Bridge Federation has announced regulations for teams to participate in the 2005 Bermuda Bowl, Venice Cup and Seniors Bowl in Estoril, Portugal in October. There will be 22 teams in each event, with qualifiers distributed as follows:

Zone	Geographical Area	Organisation	Teams
1	Europe	EBL	6
2	North America	ACBL	3
3	South America	CSB	2
4	Asia & Middle East	BFAME	2
5	Central America	CACBF	1
6	Pacific Asia	PABF	3
7	South Pacific	SPBF	2
8	Africa	ABF	2

- Notes:
- In the Senior Bowl, Zone 1 will have 7 teams and Zone 3, 1 team
 - No more than 2 U.S. teams are permitted
 - The host nation may send a team to all events
 - In the case of an odd number of teams in any of the 3 events, an extra team from Zone 1 will be permitted
 - Countries must have participated in the respective 2004 Olympiad event to send a team to any of the 3 events.

There are additional rules regarding participation based on NBOs and Zones declaring membership to the WBF and NBO payment of WBF dues. For 2007 and beyond, the WBF intends to make participation in these events also dependent on:

- NBOs and Zones raising their membership numbers
- NBO and Zone participation in Schools, Junior and University Championships.

All three events will consist of a round robin, followed by knockouts for quarterfinal, semifinal and final matches. The regulations, including deadlines, are spelled out in more detail at <http://bridge.ecats.co.uk/Events/wbf/2005estoril/default.asp>

These regulations state, in part, "It is the intent of the Executive Council to possibly reduce the allocation of the teams to Zones for the 2007 BB and VC unless the registered and paid membership of the Zone exceeds the following figures by March 30, 2006." What follows are goals for each Zone to aim at in terms of membership. For example, Europe's benchmark is 400,000 members.

We trust the WBF will be more explicit in defining these requirements by the time implementation arrives. One can imagine the dilemma if, for example, Italy increases its membership by 10% or so, while Zone 1 membership reaches only 399,000.

Alert! This January Bulletin will be the last to go to those not paid up for the year 2005. You may pay by:

- credit card via the IBPA website www.ibpa.com
- downloading a Renewal form from the IBPA website (also sent with the December Bulletin) and mailing or faxing the completed form to the Membership Secretary (details at left)
- by cheque made out to IBPA and sent to the Membership Secretary. The rates are £44 (pounds sterling) with printed Bulletin and £25 with Internet version only.

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12TH WORLD TEAM OLYMPIAD



Istanbul, Turkey

23 October - 6 November 2004



(Unless otherwise noted, these deals are taken from the Daily Bulletins ably edited by Brent Manley and his stalwart assistants Mark Horton and Brian Senior. Some further editing has occasionally taken place.)

Women's Teams

That the Women's Teams had no clear favourite was evidenced by the variety of teams picked as co-favourites by the pundits, and by the number of teams in the event which had won medals at previous championships (eight gold-medal winning countries alone). The USA, China, the Netherlands, Germany, France and Austria featured in most selections, with England, Denmark and Sweden given a nod by some. No one foresaw what would actually occur.

This deal is from the Round Robin match played between two of the 'The's, Netherlands and USA.

Board 7. Dealer South. Both Vul.

♠ 10 7 6 5 4
♥ A 10 7 2
♦ 10 8
♣ 7 3

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

West	North	East	South
Meyers	Arnolds	Montin	Vriend
—	—	—	1 ♦
2 ♣	Pass	2 ♦	Pass
2 NT	Pass	3 NT	Pass
Pass	Pass		

Three no trumps was generally played from the East side, and on the usual low diamond lead declarer had an easy time. Jill Meyers, declaring from the West seat, faced the much tougher assignment of trying to make the contract on the lead of the seven of spades. (A heart lead would have been too much to cope with, even for Jill).

Declarer won in hand with the ace and played the king of clubs, continuing with a club to the queen when it held. South switched to the three of hearts to North's ace and back came the five of spades. Declarer went up with the king and played back the jack of spades, discarding a diamond from hand. South cashed the ace of diamonds (even the best

defence of the queen of diamonds would not have worked) and followed it with the six, but declarer played low and when dummy's jack scored she had made her contract in spectacular style.

Barry Rigal reported the following deal from the Round 11 encounter between Denmark and Wales.

The Danish women did not come to Istanbul to pass, and nor should they, given their performance on the following deal in their round-robin match against Wales.

Board 3. Dealer South. EW Vul.

♠ 10 8 7
♥ J 5 2
♦ J 9 7 6
♣ K 5 4

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

♠ K J 5 2
♥ A Q 9 7 3
♦ A 3
♣ J 6

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

East was Marlene Kirstan, who stretched to bid two no trumps, trustingly raised to game by West, Camille Krefeld. South kicked off with the heart seven to the jack and king. The diamond two went to dummy's king, and the queen of clubs was ducked all around, followed by the eight of clubs to South's jack. South, looking at a sure entry in the ace of diamonds, cleared the hearts. East won the fourth round of hearts and ran the clubs. This was the four-card ending:

♠ 10 8
♥ —
♦ J 9
♣ —

♠ A 6	♠ Q 9
♥ —	♥ —
♦ Q 10	♦ 8
♣ —	♣ 10

♠ K J
♥ 9
♦ A
♣ —

South was forced to discard her winning heart, and then was thrown in with the diamond to lead away from the spade king.

The VuGraph commentators had seen Zia jump to two no trumps on the same auction, and when Krefeld was informed that Michael Rosenberg had passed with the West hand, she said, "My partner plays them better than Zia." Indeed, Zia had taken only eight tricks in two no trumps!

**KO Round of 16. Session 3. China v. Sweden
Board 46. Dealer East. Neither Vul.**

♠ K J 9 7 6 2
♥ 4
♦ 8 3
♣ A 8 7 2

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

♠ A
♥ J 8 2
♦ Q 7 5
♣ Q J 10 9 4 3

West	North	East	South
Ryman	Zhang	Ryman	Gu
—	—	1 ♦	Pass
1 ♥	1 ♠	2 NT	Pass
3 NT	Pass	4 ♥	Pass
Pass	Pass		

Sweden's Jenny Ryman knew from her mother Marie's artificial raise on the second round that she would be in four hearts so, in an attempt to deter North from leading a spade, she deliberately bid three no trumps. When the opening lead was the eight of diamonds, that part of her plan had proved successful. Now she had to make the contract.

Drawing all the correct inferences from the bidding and the opening lead (no spade honour), she won in dummy, drew trumps ending there, and played a club to the king to sever the opponents' transportation. Now there was nothing the defence could do to defeat her (one spade, one diamond and one club was all they could muster) and she had picked up 11 IMPs for her side.

None of the knockout matches in any of the events was more exciting than the Women's Round of 16 encounter between England and France. Some of the combatants had been playing against each other for almost 30 years. The following deal was the penultimate board of the match.

**KO 16-5. England v. France
Board 79. Dealer South. N/S Vul.**

♠ A Q 9
♥ K J 9 7
♦ 8 3
♣ Q 8 6 4

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

♠ K 8 7 6 2
♥ A 10 4
♦ A J 5
♣ 3 2

West	North	East	South
Dhondy	D'Ovidio	Smith	Allouche
—	—	—	1 ♠
Pass	2 ♣	Pass	2 ♠
Pass	4 ♠	Pass	Pass
Pass			

Dhondy started with the king of diamonds, ducked by declarer, as East contributed the four. Dhondy continued with the spade four, taken in dummy with the queen. South now made the clever play of a low club from dummy. Smith went in with the king, as South played the two and West the five. A trump was continued, and Allouche took it in dummy, and followed with a diamond to the ace and a diamond ruff.

Now a heart to the ace allowed declarer to pick up the last trump, after which she played her second club, ducking when West produced the jack. The diamond return was ruffed, and South had to play hearts. With a fairly accurate count of the East hand, there was no way South was going to drop the doubleton queen offside, and indeed she finessed, going one down.

At the other table.

West	North	East	South
Willard	Goldenfield	Cronier	Brunner
—	—	—	1 ♠
Pass	2 ♣	Pass	2 ♠
Pass	4 ♠	Pass	Pass
Pass			

Willard also started with the king of diamonds, ducked as at the other table. Again, a trump switch was taken in dummy and a low club played from the North hand. Cronier played the club king, Brunner followed low – but Willard played the jack.

At this point, Cronier could have continued with a high club and a third round to promote a trump trick, but she exited with a spade. Now Brunner did not have to make a guess in hearts. She could win the spade switch in dummy, play to the ace of diamonds and ruff a diamond, enter hand with the heart ace and pick up the last trump, discarding a heart from dummy. She could then play a club from hand and simply cover West's card. East could win cheaply but would be end-played.

A heart return would solve declarer's problem in that suit, a high club would be ruffed, making the queen good for a heart discard, and on a low club return, declarer simply pitches a heart. Alas, on the third round of spades, Brunner discarded a club! Now the endplay would not work, and she ended up taking the losing heart finesse as had her counterpart. One down – no swing, but plenty of excitement for the VuGraph mob.

(Intrigued by what thought processes led to Sabine Auken's finding the winning line in the following slam, your editor asked her to put pen to paper and explain them. Here they are. It was probably the best-played hand not declared by an Egyptian – see last month's issue.)

This deal made its appearance in Round 18 of the Women's Olympiad Teams Round Robin in Istanbul when Germany faced Greece.

Board 4. Dealer West. Both Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Kanello-Poulou	Auken	Oikonomou	von Arnim
Pass	1 ♥	Pass	2 ♣ ¹
Pass	2 ♦ ²	Pass	2 ♥ ³
Pass	3 ♦ ⁴	Pass	3 ♥ ⁵
Pass	3 NT ⁶	Pass	4 NT ⁷
Pass	5 ♦ ⁸	Pass	6 ♥
Pass	Pass	Pass	

1. Artificial game force
2. If you really want to know what I have, you have to ask me again, partner.
3. Ok, I really want to know. So, what have you got, please?
4. One-suiter in hearts
5. Not bad. How do you feel about slam?
6. My hand could be worse. But I have no shortness.
7. In that case let's check whether we have enough key-cards
8. I have 0 or 3 key-cards. Is that enough?

Daniela and I produced yet another one of our infamous bidding sequences under the cover of science. Mercifully, the opponents didn't interfere at all; else we would really have been in the soup, not knowing what was going on at all. This way at least we had a rough idea that slam should have some kind of play on the above deal. Or rather, Daniela did, because I was just answering her polite questions and really was not responsible for the final level and strain at all. Okay, so I did claim I had a decent opening bid. But isn't every hand containing three key-cards decent?

Our opponents clearly were totally unimpressed by all the scientific gibberish. My screenmate's questions about the bidding seemed to stem more from politeness than from real interest and with a knowing nod she selected the spade three as her opening lead, her pair's methods being third and fifth leads.

A quick glance at dummy and a first tally revealed eleven tricks on top (God forbid trumps break 5-0), and several possibilities for a twelfth trick. The diamond ace could be onside or the club queen could be onside. And I could even test both possibilities after discarding a diamond from hand on the third spade from dummy. Ideally, I would want to wait with that till after trumps were drawn, just in case a mean opponent ruffed the third spade away. But, unfortunately, my entries were a bit tangled and I couldn't afford to overtake the second round of trumps in hand unless trumps broke 3-

2 or the ten came up. But how could I possibly know? I couldn't, and a 4-1 trump break definitely seemed a bigger danger than a 6-2 or 7-1 spade break. But who knew? Maybe the heart ten would make an early appearance, allowing me to draw trumps before cashing all the spades, so it seemed a good idea to start some detective work.

On the second round of hearts, West discarded a small club. This discard had bad news written all over it. I would now be forced, in order to combine all my options, to cash all my spade winners before pulling trumps, thus risking a ruff. The club discard also bore all the signs of being from length – the famous idle fifth or sixth or seventh – meaning the club queen was a hot favourite now to be over the Jack. This didn't bode well, but not all was lost yet.

Things brightened up a bit when none of my spade winners got ruffed, allowing me to discard a diamond from hand in peace. Entering my hand with the club ace, I had nothing better to do, for the time being, than to finish drawing trumps, dispatching dummy's useless little diamonds. West happily discarded another club and a diamond. It seemed a good idea to play just one more round of trumps: sometimes illuminating things happen on the run of the trumps. East discarded the spade ten and West another small Diamond. I had now reached this position:

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

I could still go for the combination play: play a diamond towards the king and if the ace was offside take the club finesse. This was roughly a 75% chance apart from the fact that I was totally convinced by now that the club queen was offside. So, in reality, I would just be playing for the 50% chance of the diamond ace being onside.

As the astute student of squeezes and endplays has already noticed, the contract can also be made in this ending with both key-cards offside. On the last round of trumps I could spare my last small diamond from dummy and West's goose would be cooked. She could either blank the club queen or, alternatively, the diamond ace, only to be thrown in with it to lead into dummy's club tenace.

So, in reality, it all boiled down to where was the diamond ace? Were there any clues at all to its whereabouts? Might East have led a diamond looking at the ace? Maybe, maybe not. One thing was for sure, going for the strip squeeze and endplay was a far sexier play than taking a straight finesse or two. When your husband just has left you for another woman, the sexy play takes on a whole new dimension, making it even more appealing than it might be under more normal circumstances. So what was I waiting for? West did well, blanking her club queen in tempo on the last trump, but my

mind was set, and nothing could dissuade me from dropping it now.

So you see, John, my train of thought here may not have been as instructive for your readers as you were hoping for, but maybe it was enlightening.

Russia beat USA for the gold and England beat China for the bronze.

Transnational Teams

One hundred and thirty-odd teams lined up for the chance to win a World Championship in the Transnational Teams. Many of them were quite strong, but the fancied squads were an all-Chinese team led by ZHANG and a polyglot German-French-American (or was it Danish-French-Pakistani?) crew led by Sabine AUKEN, and featuring Zia, Catherine d'Ovidio and Paul Chemla.

Here are two deals from the crucial (final) Round 15 Swiss match between AUKEN, leading the field, and almost-certain qualifiers, and POPOVA, needing a good win to qualify for the semifinals. (By John Carruthers)

Board 12. Dealer East. NS Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Auken	Popova	Zia	Gunev
—	—	Pass	1 NT ¹
Pass	2 ♣	Pass	2 ♥
Pass	3 NT	End	

1. 14-16 HCP

Auken led the club three (fourth-best), two, ten, king. How would you play?

Declarer, Gunev, won the club ten with the king and immediately returned a club, putting in the seven when Auken followed with the four. When Zia won with the jack and returned the diamond deuce, Gunev completed a poor effort by ducking the diamond in both hands. Auken continued diamonds and he was two off for a windfall gain of 13 IMPS to AUKEN.

Almost any reasonable line works, including playing on spades, leading a club to the queen, then playing on spades, or even leading a red card to dummy and playing on spades.

The next deal presented the opportunity of a lifetime for Dessy Popova.

Board 19. Dealer South. EW Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Zia	Gunev	Auken	Popova
—	—	—	1 ♠
2 ♥	4 ♦ ¹	4 ♥	4 ♠
5 ♣	5 ♠	Double	Pass
6 ♥	Pass	Pass	6 ♠
Pass	Pass	Double	Pass
Pass	Pass	Pass	

1. Fit: ♦ + ♠

In the auction, the first three bids were all slightly off-centre. Popova could have opened two clubs (natural) and bid spades at any level whatever. Zia could have bid four hearts (as most of us would). Gunev's four diamonds is ... imaginative. Only Auken was on the level. Popova had more-or-less backed herself into four spades at her second turn. Now, you say, what about Zia's five club bid. Years ago the French beat the Americans in an Olympiad final when they cue bid their singleton rather than their void, then bid a slam which made when the Americans led the void suit. Was Zia dreaming of a similar scenario here? It's hard to say for sure. After that, anyone could have produced the remainder of the auction.

You will notice that on perfect defence, East-West will make three tricks. A heart lead, diamond to the ace, and a heart continuation leaves declarer locked in her hand. When she plays ace and another spade to East's king, East must give her the dummy to pick up the club king. Is this what happened? Are you kidding?

Believing that no hearts would cash and that the opponents had a double fit in diamonds and spades, Zia made the intelligent lead of his club; declarer followed from the dummy. No doubt misled by Zia's five club bid into believing he had length there, Auken put up the king (although this was not material to the outcome).

Over to Popova. You will now notice that the hand is cold if declarer reads it correctly! She needs to play a high club, ruff a club to get to dummy, take a trump finesse (by now obvious since West won't have ruffed the club), draw trumps and finally, pitch dummy's hearts on the good clubs. Plus 1210. Is this what happened? Are you kidding?

Popova realised that Zia would not have bid five clubs on four small (not usually, anyway, and certainly not vulnerable). She knew that the clubs were four-one anyway, and that Zia

had led his singleton. A guy who leads a singleton must have a trump, right? She played the ace of spades and is now a sadder, but wiser woman. She recovered her composure enough to pitch dummy's hearts on the clubs and concede one off: minus 100.

At the other table, Chemla and d'Ovidio took 500 from seven hearts doubled to win 12 IMPs. But had Popova read the clues properly and made her contract, it would have been 12 IMPs the other way and the match result would have been in POPOVA's favour rather than AUKEN's. However, POPOVA needed both these deals to go in their favour to qualify.

The clues in six spades doubled were readily available: Zia's pull of five spades doubled and his vulnerable forcing(?) pass of six spades practically shouted "no spades." Surely, he'd have doubled with two black singletons, or with one-four in the black suits if Auken had happened to have the singleton king. Still, one would look pretty silly giving Zia a club ruff in a cold contract when all one had to do to make it was cash the spade ace! Nevertheless, making six spades doubled would have been a story for life.

As usual, Zia had the last word: "Not many guys lead a singleton with a void in trump! I was going to ruff with a heart and hope no one noticed!"

For once, the pundits were bang on target, with AUKEN beating BATOV in the final and ZHANG taking the bronze.

FISU World University Teams

If the Women's Olympiad Teams was difficult to handicap, the University Teams was impossible, although based on their past record, the Netherlands would have to be considered among the favourites, and so would the always-tough USA. And with Poland's record in Youth events over the past five months (two World and two European Championships), they could not be discounted.

Buckle your seat belts folks...

Round 7. Board 12. Dealer West. NS Vul.

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

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

The opening lead was critical on this deal, where it could swing as many as four tricks. John Kranyak of the USA heard

North splinter in hearts and realised that that suit had no future for the defence. Since North-South seemed to have a lot of clubs, he came up with a nice lead: the two of clubs, after which it was not difficult to collect the first five tricks.

Bas Tammens of the Netherlands, playing against Taiwan, created his own plus score with a tiny opening bid.

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

When you have an opening bid to show both majors you should do so when you have them. And nice major suits they were indeed. The good thing for this preempt was the position, the vulnerability and the result. Tammens led a diamond for one down.

The following deal provided a rare instructive point.

Board 13. Dealer North. Both Vul.

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

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

A similar auction occurred at most tables. Against four hearts, East led the spade ace and everybody played low. East switched to a club and declarer threw his last spade on a club honour. Then, a diamond to the queen and hearts. When the diamond king fell doubleton ten tricks and 620 were there.

West missed a great chance. To the first trick he should play the spade queen. This would cause East to cash the king of spades as well, thinking West had a singleton. No matter. West will score his ace-king of trumps to beat the contract.

Poland, Belgium and the USA took home the medals.

Senior Teams

France started on pole position in the Senior Teams, with their stable of champions led by the indomitable Paul Chemla, but the other leading European nations (Denmark, Germany, Israel, the Netherlands and Sweden) and the always-strong USA rated to be there or thereabouts when the music stopped.

In the event, it quickly became a two-horse race, the USA eventually nosing out the Netherlands for the Win and Germany outlasting France for Show.

Adventures with the Canadian Seniors, Chapter 1

Board 23. Dealer South. Both Vul.

♠ 10 9
♥ K 2
♦ 2
♣ K Q J 9 8 7 6 5

Imagine you hold this hand playing the Senior Teams for Canada against Japan. You are the dealer and have to decide how many clubs to bid, if you choose to bid at all. Suppose you make the (you think) down-the-middle call of four clubs. The auction proceeds:

West	North	East	South
—	Silver	—	Carruthers
Double	5 ♣	5 ♦	4 ♣
6 ♦	Pass	Pass	Pass

Well, it's your lead. What's it to be? Can a club really be the killing lead? You think not likely. A trump seems to you to be giving up, and you have a penchant for leading from kings in unbid suits versus slams, so you decide to lead a heart. Theoretically, the deuce is better than the king, because the king should be reserved for the king-queen or singleton king, allowing Partner to overtake when he has the ace. So, you lead the heart two and dummy tumbles down with:

♠ K J 4 3 2
♥ A 8 4
♦ A K J 7 3
♣ —

Declarer wins the ace of hearts, Partner encouraging, plays a diamond to the queen, the ace of clubs throwing a heart, and a spade to the jack. Partner wins the ace of spades and continues with a heart to your king. One down, plus 100. Well done. You found the only lead to beat it. The full deal:

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

If your teammates bid to five diamonds, you think, you'll win 12 IMPs, and if they venture six diamonds, they will likely make it, for a gain of 16 IMPs. The worst that can happen is six diamonds by West, down one on a heart lead. Isn't it?

Is it possible to keep a straight face and maintain discipline in the comparison, when you proudly call out, "Plus 100," and teammates respond, "Lose 12"? No, of course not. You would say, "You must have plus 600 on the wrong side (knowing that would be 11 IMPs away anyway, not 12). "Sorry," teammates say, "12 away is correct, we're minus 700." Are you professional enough to go on to the next board with no further discussion. We sure weren't!

Here's what happened at the other table...

West	North	East	South
Laliberté	—	Robinson	—
—	—	—	Pass(!)
1 ♠	Pass	1 NT	Pass(!)
3 ♦	Pass	5 ♣	Pass
Pass(!)	Pass	—	—

Down seven!

Post Mortem: How is it possible to pass an eight-card suit missing the ace, first as dealer, and second, when only at the two-level? It's possible that guy will never preempt again in his life. Not to mention that he will be dining out on this story as long as he lives!

Adventures with the Canadian Seniors, Chapter 2

'Waste not, want not' is a familiar maxim, and perhaps that sentiment was on North's mind as he participated – in a manner of speaking – in the play of board 12 from the round of 19 in the International Senior Cup. That approach was to prove costly to the Irish Seniors, who shall remain nameless for reasons that will soon be obvious.

Board 12. Dealer West. NS Vul.

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

This was the auction in one room.

West	North	East	South
—	Laliberté	—	Robinson
Pass	3 ♣	Double	5 ♣
Pass	Pass	5 ♥	Pass
Pass	Pass	—	—

This contract made on the nose for plus 450. At the other table...

West	North	East	South
Piafsky	—	Hoffer	—
Pass	3 NT	4 ♠	5 ♣
5 ♠	Pass	6 ♠	Double
Pass	Pass	Pass	—

South started with the heart ace and, not visualizing the actual layout, switched to a club at trick two. Declarer ruffed and played a trump. When he played a second trump, both opponents showed out. A third trump was cashed and again both opponents discarded.

Now declarer played a low diamond, South taking the ace, whereupon East claimed down one. "Not so fast," says North, "I have a heart ruff coming!" Indeed, South then gave his partner a heart ruff. Until North spoke up, Hoffer had

apparently not noticed that although he had played trumps three times, the opponents had followed only once each.

A Tournament Director was summoned and ruled that the established revoke and subsequent trick taken with a card that should have been played on the revoke trick would cost the offending side two tricks. That meant that the doubled slam had been made for plus 1210 to Canada, leaving North to reflect that perhaps silence is golden after all.

IBPA Column Service

Tim Bourke, Canberra

Members are free to use these deals as they wish, without attributing either the author or the IBPA.

296. Dealer West. NS Vul.

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

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

West's pre-emptive opening caused a problem for North since his partnership used a double of four hearts as a takeout bid. North could either pass on his eighteen points and be considered somewhat of a wimp, or he could double and hope things didn't turn out too badly.

South bid four spades (because the doubler would normally have at least four-card support there), and West cashed the ace of hearts and played the king next. South ruffed then played the ace and king of trumps. When West discarded a heart on the second round of trumps the play suddenly got easier rather than harder. If West had followed twice, declarer would have to judge whether West had two or three trumps before continuing.

As it was, declarer was now sure to make ten tricks as long as East had at least three diamonds and two clubs. Declarer began by cashing the ace-king of clubs, then the diamond tops ending in hand. Next he ruffed a diamond winner with dummy's queen of trumps to score his ninth trick: two trumps, a heart ruff, three diamonds, two clubs and this trick.

This left East in a seemingly strong position, with three trumps headed by the jack. However, South had the ten of trumps and no hearts so that when the jack of hearts was led from table East could not prevent declarer from scoring a trick with his remaining trump.

297. Dealer North. EW Vul.

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

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

North's double was a Support Double, promising three-card heart support; if North had raised hearts directly it would have promised four-card support. South was somewhat fixed and decided to sign off in two hearts but changed his mind when North issued a game invitation; he had good trumps and the clubs might prove useful.

West began with the three top spades. As South had plenty of winners (four hearts, five clubs and the ace of diamonds), he followed the normal course when in that position – he played to keep control by discarding a diamond; indeed, as the cards lie, this is essential.

West now shifted to a diamond. Declarer rose with the ace and drew two rounds of trumps with the ace-king and considered the club position. If trumps were 3-3 he could draw the last trump, cash dummy's top clubs and ruff a diamond back to hand. However, trumps were likely to be 4-2 and so he needed a plan to overcome the club blockage.

After a short pause, declarer continued with the ace-king of clubs. When both defenders followed he was safe! He drew the remaining trumps with the queen and jack and discarded the queen of clubs from dummy, allowing him to score the last three tricks with the jack-ten-nine of clubs.

The play is similar if West persists with another spade at trick four. Declarer ruffs low in dummy. If East overruffs the play develops along similar lines to that above. If instead East discards a club, declarer cashes just the ace of clubs then draws trumps, discarding the king and queen of clubs from dummy. Again he makes the last three tricks with his club winners.

298. Dealer North. EW Vul.

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

♣ A 5

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

This is from a par contest of just over fifty years ago, the Intercollegiate of 1953.

West leads the king of spades and the official analysis was:

“The point of the defense is that East must try to kill the diamond suit. If declarer takes out all the trumps, on getting in with the spade ace, East should hold up the diamond ace until the third round (West should cooperate by a number-showing play of his two diamonds). If declarer tackles the diamonds before exhausting trumps, so as to leave a trump re-entry in dummy, East must win the second diamond and lead the third, giving West a ruff. Thus the defenders should win either a trump or a club in addition to two spades and a diamond.”

Of course you have all seen that this is a flawed par.

South ducks the lead, East indicating he has a three-card suit. Declarer wins the second spade, draws trumps and plays on diamonds. As West will show an even number of diamonds, East holds up the ace twice.

The count in spades suggests it is impossible to endplay the hand with three diamonds, East. So declarer targets West and exits with a spade. West takes his top spade and leads the thirteenth spade but South counters by discarding a diamond from hand and dummy. As West now has only clubs remaining and there is no losing guess, declarer has ten tricks.

299. Dealer East. East-West Vul.

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

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

After South opened a weak two in hearts, West followed the disciplined course of not pre-empting against a pre-empt. Instead, he decided to bide his time and hope for a favourable development in the auction.

As South was in second position, the two heart opening was basically sound rather than tactical, so North asked for a feature and bid the slam after West emerged from the woodwork.

West began proceedings with ace and another spade. Declarer rightly ruffed with the ace of trumps and then the king of trumps was played to the next trick. After West discarded a spade, declarer finessed against East's ten of trumps and drew the last two trumps with the queen and jack, discarding clubs from dummy.

South could count only eleven tricks; six trumps, a spade ruff and the four minor-suit winners. So the extra trick could only come from a minor-suit squeeze against East. For that to happen West had to have at most two clubs and no more than three diamonds.

He was known to have nine spades and if he had 2-2 in the minors any play would work. If West had three diamonds a little work was needed both to take the mystery out of the hand and make sure the squeeze succeeded when East had only four diamonds. Declarer simply played the ace and king of diamonds then ruffed a diamond.

This had two effects. The first was to clarify what declarer needed to play for; West beginning with 9-0-3-1 distribution and East with a 1-4-4-4 shape. Declarer now played his last trump throwing a third club from the table. Dummy had the seven of diamonds and the ace-eight of clubs; declarer the king-seven-four of clubs; East had no winning discard from the diamond queen and the queen-jack-ten of clubs.

300. Dealer North. EW Vul.

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

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

1. 18-19 points
2. Enquiry
3. Three-card heart support and extra (5+) clubs
4. Exclusion Key-Card Blackwood
5. 1 or 4 key cards counting both ♣K and ♥K

While the auction bristled with new-age science, the final contract was poor, but had chances when West led a mechanical diamond two. Declarer could count twelve top tricks and only a squeeze against East's diamond ace and presumed spade king would produce a thirteenth.

One difference between a trump squeeze and an ordinary one is that trumps play a crucial role after the squeeze has operated. Another is that, more often than not, there has to be a clue from the bidding or play for declarer to justify relying on such an exotic play.

After ruffing the opening lead, declarer played four rounds of trumps, throwing the spade two from dummy, and followed this with four rounds of clubs to leave:

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

When declarer called for dummy's ten of clubs, East was caught in a trump squeeze and had no winning discard. If he threw the ten of diamonds, declarer would ruff the diamond six, felling the ace. Dummy would take the last two tricks with ace of spades and king of diamonds. A spade discard would be no better, for then declarer would play the ace of spades, dropping East's king and establishing his own queen, with a diamond ruff providing the entry to enjoy it. Either way, declarer would make thirteen tricks.

The 2004 Lederer

Simon Cochemé, London

The 58th Lederer Memorial Trophy was held at the Young Chelsea Bridge Club over the weekend of October 16-17, 2004. Eight invited teams played 12 board matches against each other, with Victory Point scoring (part IMPs and part point-a-board).

Ireland led overnight (after 4 matches) with 160, ahead of the President's Team (128) and the Holders (127). Ireland narrowly won matches 5 and 6, but the Holders and England both had big wins to close the gap to 8 and 22 VPs respectively.

In the last match, Ireland lost 27-33 to the President's team while the Holders faced England on VuGraph. In a nail-biting finish, England were in three spades doubled on the last board. If they went one down, Ireland would win. If they went two down, the Holders would get just enough points to overtake Ireland. One down was the final result, so Ireland were the winners in the closest-ever Lederer finish.

1. Ireland (Tommy Garvey, John Carroll, Hugh McGann, Tom Hanlon) 257 VP
2. Holders (Phil King, Andrew McIntosh, Andrew Robson, David Bakhshi) 255 VP
3. England (Tom Townsend, David Gold, Colin Simpson, David Price) 235 VP

Each year, the organizers present prizes for the best deals of the tournament. The winners this year were:

BEST BID HAND

The first round on Sunday included this deal, which produced joint winners for the best-bid deal of the weekend:

Dealer East. NS Vul.

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

Where Ireland were North-South against the Schapiro Spring Foursomes winners the bidding went:

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

1. Game-forcing with hearts
2. Minimum
3. More information, please
4. Singleton spade
5. 2 of 5 key cards
6. Diamond king or the 2 other kings

When England faced Canada the bidding went:

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

1. Game-forcing with hearts
2. Singleton spade
3. 2 of 5 key cards
4. Diamond king

These two sequences earned their bidders a share of the prize for the best bid hand. What made the judges choose this hand? Of the other six pairs, only one bid a small slam while five languished in game.

BEST DEFENDED HAND

This deal was from the last round on Saturday. (See next page.) Two pairs reached six diamonds on the North-South cards and conceded one off soon after they saw dummy. In Match 6, when the Holders faced Canada on VuGraph, the Canadians managed to avoid the doomed slam, but not the one-off result.

Dealer East. EW Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
David	John	Andrew	Joe
Bakhshi	Carruthers	Robson	Silver
—	—	Pass	1 ♦
Pass	2 ♣	Pass	2 NT
Pass	3 ♦	Pass	3 NT
Pass	4 NT	Pass	Pass
Pass			

Robson had not mentioned his heart suit for fear of encouraging a heart lead. He was rewarded when Bakhshi led the spade eight, an attitude lead, apparently denying interest in spades. Robson won with king and considered his options (*at length!* – Ed.). With a significant point-a-board element in the scoring, overtricks and undertricks can be very important. Eventually he decided to play his partner for precisely queen-nine-eight of spades and returned a small spade. The defence took the first four tricks to beat four no trumps by one.

In the other room André Laliberté opened one heart on the East cards and the Holders bid to six no trumps. Jon Robinson led his partner's suit (proving Robson's point) and declarer made eleven tricks. Different contracts, but a flat board, but their play earned Andrew Robson and David Bakhshi the prize for the best defended hand.

BEST PLAYED HAND

With one round to go there were three teams still in contention. Ireland were leading with 230 VPs from the Holders (222) and England (208). Ireland were playing the President's Team and the Holders faced England on VuGraph. This hand was critical in both matches.

Dealer East. NS Vul.

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

The Holders and England both bid to seven diamonds.

West	North	East	South
Colin	Andrew	David	Phil
Simpson	McIntosh	Price	King
—	—	Pass	1 ♦*
3 ♠	Double*	4 ♠	6 ♣
Pass	7 ♦	Pass	Pass
Pass			
Andrew	David	David	Tom
Robson	Gold	Bakhshi	Townsend
—	—	Pass	1 ♣
3 ♠	3 NT	4 ♠	5 ♦
Pass	6 ♠	Pass	7 ♦
Pass	Pass	Pass	

Both Wests led the queen of spades and both declarers played to set up the clubs. When West showed up with a third club they had to ruff with dummy's diamond king. Now the critical point had been reached: how to play the trumps. King for the Holders and Townsend for England both played a diamond to the ace and went back to dummy's heart ace to finesse the ten of diamonds. This line would have succeeded if the diamond jack had been singleton in the West hand or trebleton in the East hand, but failed on the actual lie of the cards. So the board was flat in seven diamonds minus one.

In the Ireland versus President's match Tom Hanlon and Hugh McGann bid and made six no trumps. The auction at the other table was:

West	North	East	South
John	Willie	Tommy	Zia
Carroll	Coyle	Garvey	Mahmood
—	—	Pass	1 ♦
3 ♠	Double*	4 ♠	6 ♣
Pass	7 ♦	Pass	Pass
Pass			

The play started in the same way, but, after ruffing the third club with king of diamonds, Zia played a diamond to the eight! When that held he was able to cross back to dummy with ace of hearts and take another trump finesse. There was much discussion on VuGraph, Bridge Base and in the bar afterwards about the relative odds of the two lines of play. I am reliably informed that Zia's line of finessing the eight of diamonds immediately is 21 to 17 (full calculations available on request). Zia was the only person to make thirteen tricks and was a worthy winner of the award for the best played hand. (*I remain unconvinced. This looks like resulting to me. There are 32 divisions of the missing five trumps. In 25 of these cases, neither wins or both win. Of the remaining seven, only Zia's play wins in three cases, and only King's and Townsend's play wins in four.* – Ed.)

Ireland lost 12 IMPs on the board and lost the match 27-33. When the Holders could only manage a 33-27 win over England, Ireland emerged as the winners of the 2004 Lederer by 2 VPs, the smallest ever margin of victory.

Five of the eight pairs bid to game on this deal. It was another candidate for best-played.

Dealer North. Both Vul.

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

Andrew Robson and David Bakhshi got to three no trumps by North and had no difficulty making nine tricks on a club lead. The other four pairs were in four hearts by South. All four got the lead of the diamond queen and all the Easts gave declarer a chance by winning with the ace and returning the diamond two. All four Souths rose with the diamond king, and three of them took an immediate trump finesse. When that lost West got his diamond ruff and cashed the club ace for one off.

The fourth declarer was Jason Hackett, playing for the Schapiro Spring Foursomes winners. At trick three he led his singleton club. West went in with the ace and switched to a spade, but Hackett was able to win in dummy and discard his diamonds on the king and queen of clubs. Then he played the ace of hearts and another heart. He ruffed the diamond return high and made the rest of the tricks. If East had held the club ace and been able to give his partner a diamond ruff at trick four, then the contract would have depended on the position of the heart king. By postponing a decision on the necessity for a trump finesse, Jason had given himself an extra chance, and he was duly rewarded.

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>
<http://www.math.aau.dk/~nwp/bridge/>

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

...Correspondence cont. from p. 15

To the Editor,

While the Australian Bridge Federation committees are sometimes (justifiably) criticised for tournament structure, the World Teams Olympiad in Istanbul demonstrates that actual Australian tournaments provide far better service to the players than the World Bridge Federation does. At our national championships, the hand records (with a few exceptions) come with Deep Finesse analysis, much appreciated by the players. No Deep Finesse analysis was provided by the WBF, although this is a simple enough task.

At our national championships datums for each board are posted shortly after each session. No datums for any boards are provided by the WBF.

The wealth of information on the ABF website leaves the WBF details for dead. The WBF has no hand records on their site (!), while a look at the Spring Nationals on the ABF website reveals not only hand records, datums and the results and personnel of each team, but also the scoresheet for each match, including the scores for each board, Imps gained and Imps against datum for each pair. Maybe the ABF should offer to run the world championships?

Ron Klinger, Northbridge, NSW

Results from the ACBL Fall NABC, Orlando, November 19-28, 2004

Life Master Open Pairs: Richard Pavlicek, Richard Pavlicek, Jr.

Life Master Women's Pairs: Cynthia Hinckley, Diana Schuld

Open Board-a-Match Teams: Peter Bertheau, Christal Henner-Welland, Fredrik Nystrom, Mike Kamil, Fulvio Fantoni, Claudio Nunes

Women's Board-a-Match Teams: Jill Levin, Debbie Rosenberg, JoAnna Stansby, Hansa Narasimhan, Sue Picus, Irina Levitina

Blue Ribbon Pairs: Tarek Sadek, Walid el-Ahmady

Senior Knockout Teams: John Koch, Mary Egan, Rod Beery, Tony Ames

Reisinger Board-a-Match Teams: Nick Nickell, Richard Freeman, Eric Rodwell, Jeff Meckstroth, Bob Hamman, Paul Soloway

North American Swiss Teams: Martin Fleisher, Barnet Shenkin, Larry Mori, Venkatrao Koneru, Gavin Wolpert, Vincent Demuy

News & Views

Damiani Honoured by French Government

WBF President José Damiani was appointed on October 14, 2004 as Officier de la Legion D'Honneur, one of the highest honours to be bestowed on civilians in France. Damiani was already a member of the Legion of Honour; this represents a promotion within that rank. The award was announced by French Prime Minister Jean-Pierre Raffarin and was presented by Antoine Bernheim, President of the Generali Group at the Automobile Club of France in Paris.

The Legion of Honour is meant to recognize outstanding achievement in the national interest of France. Damiani has been involved in bridge administration for decades, as President of the European Bridge League and, since 1994, as World Bridge Federation President. Since Damiani took over as WBF President, bridge has made significant advances in recognition by the International Olympic Committee and has been declared a sport by that body.

WBF Distinctions for Jafri & Rona

Two important honorary distinctions were announced in Istanbul: Mazhar Jafri of Pakistan was honoured with the WBF Gold Medal for 25 years of continuous service to bridge as a member of the WBF Executive Council. As well, EBL President Gianarrigo Rona was elected to the WBF Committee of Honour, filling the vacancy created by the passing of Nils Jensen.

Fred Gitelman Honoured by ACBL

IBPA Member Fred Gitelman has been announced as the ACBL's 2005 Honorary Member. Gitelman's bridge programs have made a major difference for hundreds of thousands of bridge players. Some of Gitelman's other activities include promoting Junior bridge, writing, committees work, and coaching some of America's international teams. Gitelman earned silver medals in the 1991 World Junior Team Championship and the 1995 Bermuda Bowl. He won the 2003 Cavendish Pairs.

WBF Women's Committee Report

Anna Maria Torlontano, Chairman of the WBF and EBL Women's Committees reports:

A meeting of the WBF Women's Committee was held in Istanbul, attended by representatives of the 8 WBF Zones. The aims of the Committee are as follows:

- 1) to have more Women's teams and pairs in the WBF Championships.
- 2) to promote Women's Bridge in general.
- 3) to seek and persuade the NBOs, in accordance with WBF policy, to appoint more women administrators and to encourage women to become tournament directors and teachers.

Women in bridge are becoming increasingly important. I am sure you all know that the total number of women players in the world is greater than the total number of men. Therefore, women surely deserve to be fully represented in all aspects of the sport. We are delighted

to have new Committee members, very dynamic and active representatives working with us, especially within the less developed WBF Zones. They are enthusiastic and willing to cooperate. I can assure you that since the last meeting in Monte Carlo, last year, there is a good progress, above all in Zone 6-Pacific Asia, and in Zone 4-Asia and the Middle East.

I am more than happy to see that many countries that in the past were totally absent and far from our policy, are now little by little approaching us, showing interest in what we of the Women's Committee are doing for them. I also hope that members of IBPA will help us to achieve our aims by publicising women's bridge events. I am sure I can count on them!

Bonn Nations Cup

Göran Mattsson informs us that this year is very special for the Bridge Club of Bonn. They will celebrate:

- 1) their 75th anniversary
- 2) the 25th "Ascension Day Pairs Tournament"
- 3) the 20th "Bonn Nations Cup"

Bonn Nations Cup is a Teams Tournament with invited national teams (mostly about 20 teams) and is always played on the Wednesday and Thursday (Ascension Day - this year May 4 & 5). Many European national teams like to play this tournament because it always takes place shortly before the European Championships. The Pairs Tournament played on Thursday is open to all pairs and is the biggest one-day tournament in Germany (about 150 tables), so at the prize-giving ceremony and dinner there will be about 700-800 people.

10th Sport for All World Congress

Gianarrigo Rona presented an abstract on bridge to the 10th 'Sport for All' World Congress in Rome, November 11-14, 2004. Attending were IOC President Jacques Rogge, Italy's Undersecretary of State Mario Pescante, Italian Olympic Committee (CONI) President Gianni Petrucci, the Mayor of Rome Walter Veltroni and related political and sports authorities from all over the world.

The Congress, held biennially, represents one of the most significant gatherings for sport, health and culture. The Congress was attended by 1437 delegates from 137 countries, representing the IOC, GAISF, WHO, WADA, elite Olympic athletes, amateur sportsmen, youth, the elderly, and the disabled.

Belgian University Championship Team

Oops. In the last issue, the names of the silver medal-winning Belgian University Championship Team were not correct. The names reported were the seniors from Belgium. Although the seniors would still like to be students, the Belgian University Team was: Steve de Roos, Daniel de Roos, Alon Amsel, Steven de Donder and non playing captain Geert Magerman. Thanks to Harry van de Peppel and Herman de Wael for reporting the error.

ACBL Educational Foundation Appointment

IBPA member Jerry Thorpe was elected to a one year

term as Treasurer of the Board of Trustees of the ACBL Educational Foundation. The term began on January 1, 2005. The objectives of the Foundation are to increase the population of bridge players, increase the pleasure of playing bridge, and engage in educational activities and research.

Polish Club Summary

Krzysztof Jassem has completed a Summary of the Polish Club in English. He will make it available to any interested parties – Jassem can be reached at jassem@amu.edu.pl. The full system will be published in Polish in 2005.

Costa Calida Tournament

The XVIII International Tournament of Bridge Costa Calida, Spain will be held May 16-22, 2005. Events are: 16-17 May 2005 Mixed Couples Tournament; 18-19 May 2005 Team Tournament; 20-21-22 May 2005 Open Tournament. For more details, and information about the schedule, prizes and lodging, etc., please visit our web page: <http://bridgecc.com> or email bridgecc@bridgecc.com

Organiser:

Maribel Corchero Mendez

C/ Santa Quiteria, 10-1º

30001 Murcia-España

bridgecostacalida@yahoo.es

Tel: 00 34 968 21 86 13 and 00 34 687 40 75 85

Games Festival 2005 (April 21-29)

The Hellenic Bridge Federation and the Organizing Committee of Games Festival 2005 invite all bridge players and friends to participate in the International Bridge Festival organised by HBF in Halkidiki, Greece from 22nd to 27th of April 2005, and part of Games Festival 2005.

Prizes for Open Pairs (April 22-24) and Open Teams (April 25-27): at least 10,000 Euro in total prize money; silver cups and special gifts. To be held at Porto Carras Grand Resort. The Bridge Festival will be organized in the Congress Center Olympic Hall, the venue for the European Union Leaders Meeting in 2003.

The games festival includes competitions, seminars and exhibitions in other sports such as chess, tennis, golf, and billiards.

Contact Information:

email: info@gamesfestival.com

phone/fax: 2310 865 778

web: <http://www.gamesfestival.com>

Indian Winter Nationals

Bulletins from the Indian Winter Nationals at Visakhapatnam, December 7-17, can be found at www.greatbridgelinks.com and at <http://bridge.ecats.co.uk/documents/docdefault.asp?page=Bulletins>

Olympiad Play Records

Deal and play records from selected sessions of the 2004 Olympiad Teams have been made available on the IBPA

website. Tim Bourke and Per Jannersten have done the legwork.

2nd European Open Championships

The European Bridge League has released details of the 2nd European Open Bridge Championships, to be held at Tenerife in the Canary Islands, June 17-July 2, 2005. Events will be Mixed Teams, Mixed Pairs, Open Teams, Women's Teams, Senior Teams, Open Pairs, Women's Pairs and Senior Pairs. More information can be found at the EBL's website at www.eurobridge.org.

Team Orange

The Dutch, who last won a world title in 1993, are in the process of revamping their national program. Tired of the disappointing results of the Dutch open teams in international competition, after the successes in the first half of the nineties, they have set up an organisation, called Team Orange, with goals, a sports climate, training, coaching, funding, expertise and play. The ultimate goal is to win a medal in the 2007 Bermuda Bowl.

If you are interested in hearing more about this initiative and organization, want to give advice, or would like to invite Team Orange to strong tournaments, contact:

- the Manager, Toine van Hoof:
toine.van.hoof@planet.nl
- the Technical Member of the Board of Team Orange, Enri Leufkens:
enri.leufkens@capgemini.com

And what's the significance of the Team Orange name? Orange is the official national color of the Netherlands. (You may have noticed their football team's orange jerseys as well.)

Bridge Today Free Offer

The January issue of Bridge Today eMagazine, featuring the women's Olympiad Team final between Russia and the USA, is being offered as a free sample issue, upon request. To get the free sample copy, simply send a request by email to matt@Bridgetoday.com. It's filled with great bridge and it's in full color, pdf format.

DVD on Istanbul Olympiad

New Bridge Assets filmed the second week of the Istanbul Olympiad and produced six one-hour programmes that were shown on Sky Sports TV in the UK.

The programmes cover the drama of the knock-out stages and include interviews, analysis by the players themselves, predictions and panel discussions, as well as featuring critical boards in the main matches. They are presented by Zia Mahmood and Sabine Auken, with commentary on the play by David Burn.

To make the programmes available to a wider audience NBA have created a pack of two DVDs containing the programmes. If anyone would like more information they should contact Simon Cochemé at: simonx@simonx.plus.com



Correspondence ...

The Editor reserves the right to shorten correspondence

Email: ibpaeditor@sympatico.ca

Dear John,

The five diamonds doubled contract on page 10 of the Sept Bulletin is interesting.

Board 18. Dealer East. N/S Vul.

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

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Ringseth	Houmoller	Kippe	Jensen
—	1 NT	Pass	Pass
2 NT	Pass	3 ♦	Pass
5 ♦	Double	Pass	Pass
Pass			

The bidding is clearly confused. Perhaps East doubled one no trump and South's pass was systemically forcing. In the four-card ending (*North having been reduced to diamonds and the lead in West. - Ed.*), North clearly erred by playing the diamond nine. Would the contract have made if East had played the three instead of the nine? Bearing the double in mind, South could have finessed the eight, prevailing against a 4-0 division. But that would have been fatal against a 3-1 split, with West holding a singleton queen, jack or nine. South would be worrying about whether East would double with queen-nine-three or jack-nine-three, or would play the three with queen-jack-three.

Best wishes, Alan Truscott, New York

To the Editor:

In the process of doing my research for the Istanbul Finals, I happened across an item 'Championship Diary' on page 15 of Bulletin 14. The first paragraph speaks of Giorgio Duboin making an impossible contract in a two-card ending involving a high and low heart in dummy with an opponent holding a heart higher than dummy's low card and another heart lower than dummy's low card. Apparently, Giorgio

played so quickly that when he called a low heart from dummy, the opponent played his lower heart. This is mentioned with admiration in the Bulletin.

Am I missing something? Surely, this is not behaviour we wish to endorse. Not that I believe for a minute that Giorgio wanted to take this trick, and I'm suspicious about whether he in fact accepted the trick if the facts are correct.

This is akin to this position:

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

South plays ace-king and sees West show out. He crosses to North to lead through East, who light-heartedly plays his jack. Declarer, losing concentration for a moment starts to play his ten. In the real world, where bridge is meant to be played by sportsmen, everyone laughs for a moment and South is permitted to take the jack with the queen. East might even point out that South should be more careful, but possession of the trick is not at issue.

I was surprised that Giorgio himself seems to have said nothing about the publication of this little 'news' item. I've looked through the BBO records and found the deal in question, Board 20. In fact, Norberto was declarer and this heart suit was concealed, not in dummy. The record does not reveal the play suggested in the article. At the point in question East had only one heart left, the nine, which was higher than declarer's six. Unless he discarded the nine, something else had to have happened. Nor does the play record explain how Norberto made his impossible four spades. But perhaps these are secondary issues.

The WBF wants to put a positive spin on bridge and in fact, the game's best players are largely both honourable and friendly individuals who know the difference between right and wrong, clean and dirty. Norberto himself is often playful at the table and if he 'misplayed' carelessly he would expect his gracious opponents to give him the benefit of the doubt.

Whatever happened at that table, it was surely wrong to publish the item in Championship Diary, particularly extolling the virtues of playing so quickly that an opponent would misplay.

Yours, Eric Kokish, Toronto

Cont. on p. 12...

World Bridge Calendar

DATES	EVENT	LOCATION	INFORMATION
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 14-16	11 th Southern Regional	Port of Spain, Trinidad	www.cacbf.com
Jan 22-30	Bermuda Regional	Southampton, Bermuda	www.acbl.org
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 10-19	39 th Israel Bridge Festival	Tel-Aviv, Israel	www.bridge.co.il
Feb 13-19	22 nd Cairo Bridge Festival	Cairo, Egypt	ebf@egybf.com
Feb 18-19	Youth Games Festival	Biarritz, France	www.eurobridge.org
Feb 18-21	24 th Icelandair Open	Reykjavik, Iceland	www.bridge.is
Feb 19-26	Gold Coast Congress	Surfer's Paradise, Australia	www.qldbridge.com
Feb 26-27	2 nd White House International Teams Festival	Amsterdam, Netherlands	www.hetwittehuisbridge.nl
Mar 2-6		Montegrotto, Italy	www.federbridge.it
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 18-24	2 nd Maroc Bridge Festival	Fes, Morocco	www.eurobridge.org
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 4-5	Bonn Nations Cup	Bonn, Germany	www.bonn-bridge-club.de
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 16-22	XVIII International Tournament	Costa Caliad, Murcia, Spain	http://bridgecc.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 9-18	SA Bridge Congress 2005	Capetown, South Africa	www.sabf.co.za
Jun 17-Jul 2	2 nd European Open Championships	Tenerife, Canary Islands	www.eurobridge.org
Jun 23-Jul 3	6 th PABF Championships	Seoul, South Korea	www.abf.com.au
Jun 24-26	Carta Mundi Bridge Festival	Ostend, Belgium	chris_leysen@cartamundi.com
Jul 1-3	Hans Christian Anderson Open	Odense, Denmark	www.bridgeopen.dk
Jul 7-12	Nordic Teams Championships	Vingsted, Vejle, Denmark	dbf@bridge.dk
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 7-17	10 th World Youth Team Championships	Sydney, Australia	www.worldbridge.org
Aug 22-26	9 th European University Bridge Cup	Rotterdam, Netherlands	www.eurobridge.org
Sep-28-Oct 2	Festival	Venice, Italy	www.federbridge.it
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 13-20	11 th Red Sea International Festival	Eilat, Israel	www.bridge.co.il
Nov 17-27	ACBL Fall NABC	Denver, CO	www.acbl.org
Nov 23-27	Sicily Open	Cefalù, Italy	www.federbridge.it

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EXACTLY as it appears here.