



BULLETIN

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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.

Anna Gudge and Mark Newton of Ecats have recently organised an online bridge event to raise money for the victims of the Asian tsunami - over £60,000 was raised. A total of 13,570 players took part in 393 clubs across 52 countries in that effort. Congratulations and thanks to them for their efforts.

Each year the ACBL Charitable Foundation donates in excess of \$100,000 to various charities. The Canadian Bridge Federation distributes about \$20,000 per year to its own charitable causes. Individual Districts and Units in the ACBL also raise money for charity, as do many bridge clubs. Although I have no information regarding charitable work by NBOs outside North America, despite an attempt to find it, I am sure some of them are involved as well.

Yet little publicity outside the bridge world is generated from these events. It takes a diligent search of the ACBL and CBF websites to find this information and an equally thorough search of other bridge organisations' websites (admittedly not exhaustive) reveals a complete lack of information regarding their charity work. It's time for bridge to step up and applaud the efforts of those individuals and organisations who give of their time and money so that less-fortunate others' plights are eased.

As a contrast, take a look at the American PGA Tour website (www.pgatour.com). That is an organisation which makes a huge deal of its charity work. Their theme for 2005 is "Drive to a Billion," indicating that sometime this year, the Tour's charity efforts will surpass \$1 Billion in total. This has been somewhat controversial among the more cynical sports journalists in North America, since, as they point out, strictly speaking, it is neither the PGA Tour, nor its players, which raises the money for charity; it is the individual tournaments themselves and their workers. Sponsors donate millions of dollars for prize money and the running of the tournaments, which also depend upon television and ticket sales for their revenue. Thousands of volunteers work long hours so that some of this money can go to (mostly) local charities. Little of the money the PGA Tour receives and lesser yet of the players' prize money goes to charity unless an individual player donates a portion of his winnings personally. Some of the more-successful players such as Tiger Woods and Phil Mickelson generate so much money that they have their own charitable foundations, and many other players themselves do a lot of charity work.

The point of all this is that the PGA Tour generates a lot of publicity from this charity work (they also run a series of television commercials touting their beneficence), even though its own involvement is peripheral at best. Bridge could certainly do the same, and with more justification. It would be an interesting exercise for the World Bridge Federation, and its member NBOs, to query each of their own constituent organisations to discover how much money has been raised for charity over the years. Additionally, organisations such as Ecats and individuals such as Anna and Mark would need to be consulted. For all we know, bridge has already raised more than \$1 Billion.

(One point to keep in mind is that in North America, one billion is counted as one thousand million, whereas in Britain one billion is one million million. Thus the PGA Tour's catchphrase in England would have to be "Drive for a Thousand Million." Not quite as compelling.)

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The 10th NEC Bridge Festival, Yokohama, February 7-13, 2005

Eric Kokish, Toronto
Richard Colker, Wheaton, MD
John Carruthers, Toronto

This report is (mostly) taken from the Daily Bulletins brilliantly edited by 'Kokes' and 'Cokes.' If only all Daily Bulletins were this good. Check them out at www.jcbl.or.jp

The NEC Bridge Festival consists of the NEC Cup (the main event, for teams), the Yokohama & SRR Swiss Teams and the Asuka Cup (open pairs). The NEC Cup field consists of about 15 invited international teams, the three national Japanese teams (Open, Women, Youth) and 30-odd other Japanese teams. The format is rather unique: an eight-round, 20-board Swiss, after which the top eight teams enter knockout play and all the others wishing to continue to play enroll in the Yokohama & SRR Swiss Teams.

The Press Room/Secretariat betting favourites were teams from Poland, the Netherlands, NATO (England/Norway and USA/Turkey), and the Warsaw Pact (Russia/Poland), with Canada, the USA and Israel getting sentimental nods from various scribblers and geeks. Because of the strength of the top teams, last year's winners, the Chinese Women's Team, and the Olympiad-winning Russian Women's Team were thought to be outsiders. The best chance for a Japanese victory was thought to be Tajima (a mixed-nationality Japanese-led team including two Chinese, Fu and Zhao, and a Kiwi, Ish Del'Monte) and Larry Mori of the American team.

The top finisher in the Swiss, again uniquely, gets to choose its opponent from among the group of fourth- through eighth-place finishers; second choosing next; then third; the final two teams being forced. This means that, unlike WBF events, the team finishing fourth does not automatically play the toughest team of the fifth-eighth group – they may be picked by one of the medallists. Picking one's opponents is always fraught with danger and psychological implications, and this year's NEC Cup was to be no exception. One last intelligent quirk: the team with the higher standing in the qualifying Swiss gets ½ an IMP carry-forward for any knockout match. Thus, no overtime.

The host hotel, the Yokohama Grand Inter-Continental Hotel, is as magnificent and beautiful as the day it opened 14 years ago just before the Bermuda Bowl/Venice Cup. The facilities at Pacifico Yokohama Convention Centre are second to none. With an enormous, modern shopping centre a few metres away, containing hundreds of shops and services and dozens of eating places ranging from fast-food to gourmet dining, the participants need never step outside their insulated, womb-like world. For the more intrepid, however, Tokyo with its many temptations is only a short train ride away from Yokohama Station.

The field for the Swiss is seeded into two halves, each team in the top half being drawn at random against a team in the



The Yokohama Grand Inter-Continental Hotel

bottom half for play in Round 1. After that, normal Swiss teams principles are followed, with each team playing the team closest to it in Victory Points, with no playbacks allowed.

Swiss Qualifying

There's no denying that everyone could have stayed in North America to play their Round 2 match, but it's aesthetically more pleasing to do battle in the Land of the Rising Sun. Both CANADA (Jurek Cyzowicz-Darren Wolpert, Kamel Fergani-Nicolas l'Ecuyer) and USA (Drew Casen-Steve Landen, Larry Mori-Venkatrao Koneru) had won their first-round matches big.

Board 2. Dealer East. NS Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Cyzowicz	Mori	Wolpert	Koneru
—	—	1 NT	Pass
3 NT	Pass	Pass	Pass

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Landen	l'Ecuyer	Casen	Fergani
—	—	1 NT	Pass
2 ♣	Pass	2 ♥	Pass
2 NT	Pass	3 ♥	Pass
4 ♥	Pass	Pass	Pass

It's hands like West's decent eight-count that will eventually convince a realistic partnership to stop cheating a point with their no trump openings.

In three no trump, Wolpert took the first spade and ducked a heart, won the second spade, and finished hearts, Koneru discarding the diamond eight, a spade, and the diamond nine, Mori a diamond and a tantalizing club, after dummy parted

with two diamonds. Declarer left himself with a spade exit for a potential endplay, but in doing so deprived himself of the opportunity to confirm the spade distribution. He eventually decided that spades were six-two, but Mori's club discard was enough to convince him that this suit was 5-1.

Accordingly, he led a club to the ace and played a second club. Had Mori been dealt the king of diamonds and five clubs to two honours, he would indeed have been forced to concede a trick to dummy's ten of clubs or declarer's queen of diamonds. Here, however, Koneru could take the club king and three spades. His last card was the diamond king, which did not please Wolpert: minus 50. South had been squeezed on the last heart, but declarer had to guess the position.

In POLAND vs MORIMURA, Daniel Bizon ducked the first spade in three no trump, but South gained the lead in hearts to clear spades. Bizon tried to duck a club to North, hoping to catch him in a strip squeeze in the minors, but South was able to prevent that. Declarer won the ace of clubs and ran the hearts, and South, Morimura, defended in the same fashion as Koneru, blanking the king of diamonds. When North eventually discarded a club, Bizon read the position correctly and dropped South's diamond king to make his contract.

Casen's four hearts had fair prospects too, and there was no legitimate way to defeat it, but Casen had to read the position to get home. He won the spade lead, cashed ace-king of trumps, and took a third-round spade ruff. L'Ecuyer overruffed and exited with a club (Fergani had followed upwards in spades) to the queen and ace. Ducking a club would have worked well here, leading to the establishment of a second club trick with diamonds frozen. But Casen led a second club to the nine and king. Fergani got out with a spade, and Casen was still alive.

Had he played his last trump, discarding a club, he would have been in a position to make his contract. If l'Ecuyer discards a club in this ending, a club play forces him to lead from the diamond jack, and if he blanks the diamond jack to keep two clubs, the diamond queen is declarer's answer. There's certainly room for error in that position, and perhaps to avoid a nasty guess, Casen simply played a third club. That enabled l'Ecuyer to win and play a fourth club, and now Casen had to lose a diamond trick for one down, minus 50. No swing.

Board 3. Dealer South. EW Vul.

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

Robson (USA/EGYPT) and Gawrys (POLAND) declared three no trump as North after South showed five hearts and four spades. Both ducked the opening lead of the club queen

and won the club continuation. Gawrys played on hearts and eventually came to eleven tricks where he might have been held to ten, plus 460.

Robson got much more involved in the play. At trick three he advanced the king of diamonds, which held. Then he crossed to the king of spades to lead a diamond to the ten and jack. Kwiecien, with no future in clubs, played a second spade. Robson won and continued diamonds, but Bizon could win and drive out the spade queen. When he won the fourth round of diamonds (Robson cashed the king of clubs first), he had a spade to cash before having to lead around to dummy's ace-queen of hearts. One down, minus 50, and 11 IMPs to Poland.

Board 12. Dealer West. NS Vul.

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

Both Souths overcalled one heart with one no trump. Both Norths transferred to spades and invited game with two no trump. Where Kowalski declined the invitation, Shugart took a shot at game, perhaps because she figured to be far behind in the match. When Kwiecien overtook the heart queen opening lead with the king, Shugart had no chance, and she lost three hearts and two spades for one down, minus 100.

Kwiecien's play is more commonly seen in a situation where the king is overtaken by the ace, typically from a holding including the ace-jack-ten. It is a hallmark of the expert player that he can adapt to never-before-seen situations. Whatever the case, it was a gorgeous play.

In two no trump, Sadek did not overtake the queen of hearts, but Kowalski won and passed the jack of spades. Sadek allowed that to hold, and Kowalski played ace-king and another club. West might have played a diamond here, but he exited in spades and East cashed the heart king when he won the spade queen: plus 120. POLAND gained 6 IMPs.

Board 1. Dealer North. Neither Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Doron	Verhees	Israel	Jansma
—	1 ♣ ¹	1 ♥	Pass
1 NT	Double	2 ♦	Pass
Pass	3 NT	Pass	Pass
Double	Pass	Pass	Pass

1. Polish-style, FI

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Schollaardt	Barel	Drijver	Campanile
—	2 ♣	3 ♥	Double ¹
Pass	3 NT	Pass	Pass
Pass			

1. Artificial, weak

When Verhees in effect bid three no trump on his own, Doron felt that his club stopper and prime values merited a penalty double. Israel led the heart five, an anti-systemic choice of spot-card. When the jack held, Verhees took a spade finesse and cleared clubs, Israel parting with the three and seven of hearts and his two remaining low spades.

Doron had a shrewd idea that a diamond shift was in order and returned the diamond nine. Israel won the king and played the diamond jack, and Verhees was soon one down, minus 100.

Drijver's choice of leads was the ten of hearts. When the jack won, Barel saw no reason to risk the spade finesse as he had no indication that clubs were 4-0. When Drijver discarded the seven of hearts on the first high club, Barel was in trouble. He cleared clubs, East releasing the heart three, the spade two and the spade eight. Either red suit at this point would have worked well for Schollaardt, but instead he switched to the seven of spades. Barel finessed the queen and claimed nine tricks for plus 400 and 11 IMPs to Israel.

Board 6. Dealer East. EW Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Doron	Verhees	Israel	Jansma
—	—	1 ♦	Pass
1 ♥	Pass	1 ♠	Pass
2 ♣ ¹	Pass	2 NT	Pass
3 ♠	Pass	4 ♠	Pass
Pass	Pass		

1. 4th suit forcing

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Schollaardt	Barel	Drijver	Campanile
—	—	1 ♦	Pass
1 ♥	Pass	1 ♠	2 ♦
4 ♦ ¹	Pass	4 ♠	Pass
Pass	Pass		

1. Splinter raise of spades

The fast way to beat four spades is to arrange an early club ruff, but both Souths started reasonably with a trump, declarer taking two rounds in hand. Israel, with no clues from the bidding, started on hearts, but Jansma ruffed the second and switched to ace and another club (Verhees had discarded an encouraging club on the second spade and followed with relatively low hearts) to get his ruff for two down, minus 200.

Drijver, who knew at least ten of Campanile's cards after Barel's encouraging club discard at trick two, found the good shot of a low club towards dummy. Campanile went up with the ace and demonstrated that a club ruff was not required to defeat four spades by returning a trump.

Declarer won with the ten and led towards the club queen. Barel won with the king and also eschewed the club ruff, returning the diamond nine. Drijver played the king, hoping Campanile would win and continue with a 'safe' diamond, which would allow the contract to make. It is rumoured that South giggled before playing her last trump. Barel clutched all his hearts to the end, so Drijver could not untangle his winners and had to go one down, teased to within an inch of his life. That was an awful lot of work for minus 100. 3 IMPs to The Netherlands.

Everyone could have met in Warsaw for the match between POLAND and POLAND/RUSSIA...

Board 15. Dealer South. NS Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Kwiecien	Balicki	Bizon	Zmudzinski
—	—	—	1 ♣ ¹
1 ♠	Pass	Pass ²	2 ♣ ³
2 ♠	3 ♣	Pass	3 NT
Pass	Pass	Pass	

1. Polish, FI

2. New suits constructive

3. Natural, but 17+

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Gromov	Gawrys	Dubinín	Kowalski
—	—	—	1 ♣ ¹
1 ♦ ²	Pass	1 ♥	1 NT
2 ♦ ³	Double	2 ♥	Double
2 ♠	Pass	Pass	Double
Pass	Pass	Pass	

1. Polish, FI
2. Spades/diamonds or hearts/clubs
3. Spades/diamonds, extra values

Had Gawrys-Kowalski known of their club fit, they might not have been so quick to double two hearts or two spades, but Polish Club does not always convey the most useful information at low levels in competitive auctions. Conversely, had Gromov known what Dubinín held, he'd have been plus 470 in two hearts doubled.

Gromov came close to making his contract anyway. The defence began with two rounds of hearts, declarer discarding a club on the second. Kowalski cashed the club ace, on which Gawrys followed with the eight, playing reverse signals. Kowalski treated this as count, not attitude, and so played a second club. Gromov ruffed and led the diamond ten. Gawrys did the right thing by following low (well, maybe covering wasn't really an option), and the ten held. A diamond to the king was ruffed by Kowalski, who led the ace of hearts. Gromov ruffed with the queen, and played ace of spades, spade, and so had to go one down, minus 100.

Had Kwiecien led his best suit, Zmudzinski would have claimed an easy plus 600, but Kwiecien led the ace of diamonds, a beautiful stroke: low, deuce (encouraging, if a choice), nine. He continued with the diamond ten, which declarer covered. Bizon won and switched to his spade, so Zmudzinski was soon two down, minus 200. 7 IMPs to POLAND where it might well have been 11 to RUSSIA/POLAND. That's a big bravo for Michal.

Board 3. Dealer South. EW Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Landen	Furuta	Casen	Chen
—	—	—	2 ♠ ¹
Pass	3 ♠	Pass	Pass
Pass			

1. 5+ spades/4+ minor, 0-10 HCP

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Shimizu	Mori	Nakamura	Koneru
—	—	—	Pass
1 ♣	Double	1 ♦ ¹	1 ♠
Double ²	Pass	3 NT	Pass
Pass	Pass		

1. Hearts
2. Three-card heart support

Chen's two spade toy did a nice job on Casen-Landen, who could not comfortably enter the auction. Three spades was two down for minus 100. This did not need to be a loss, however.

Nakamura's three no trump was a tenuous proposition on the lead of the spade ten (Rusinow). He covered with the king, and so was able to hold up his single stopper 'til the third round. Koneru overtook Mori's spade eight on the second round, however, to switch to the heart nine, which ran to the king. A second heart went to the queen and ace, and Mori cleared spades.

Nakamura crossed to the ace of clubs and led the diamond jack, to the queen, ace, and three, then exited with the seven of diamonds to North's eight. Mori exited with the club queen, but Nakamura was headed for home. He won the club king, and led the diamond nine. Mori covered, but Nakamura won, led the diamond five to dummy's six, and finessed the heart seven for one of the prettier plus 600s you'll encounter in your travels. It was a masterpiece of timing. 11 IMPs to Japan.

2005 NEC Cup Swiss - Final Standings

Rank	Team	VP
1.	POLAND - Piotr Gawrys, Dariusz Kowalski, Piotr Bizon, Michal Kwiecien	161
2.	HANA - Takashi Maeda, Seiya Shimizu, Takeshi Hanayama, Nobuyuki Hayashi, Sei Nagasaka, Yasushi Kobayashi	151
3.	USA/EGYPT - Rita Shugart, Andrew Robson, Walid el-Ahmady, Tarek Sadek	148
4.	USA - Steve Landen, Drew Casen, Venkatrao Koneru, Larry Mori	144
5.	JAPAN OPEN - Yasuhiro Shimizu, Kazuo Furuta, Yoshiyuki Nakamura, Chen Dawei, Makoto Kono	141
6.	RUSSIA/POLAND - Andrei Gromov, Alexander Dubinín, Adam Zmudzinski, Cezary Balicki	140
7.	NETHERLANDS - Jan Jansma, Louk Verhees, Bas Drijver, Maarten Schollaardt	139
8.	ISRAEL - Israel Yadlin, Doron Yadlin, Michael Barel, Migry Campanile	138

The teams that failed to make it could easily have comprised their own high-quality quarterfinals: last year's winning CHINA Women's team; ENGLAND-NORWAY (Paul Hackett-Jason Hackett, Geir Helgemo-Tor Helness); the Olympiad-winning RUSSIA women; CANADA; INDONESIA; the multinational Japanese/Chinese/Australian conglomerate captained by Mitsui TAJIMA; CHINESE TAIPEI; and a strong Japanese team led by Shunsuke MORIMURA that missed by 2 VP.

For the second time in six years, a Canadian team tied for the eighth and final playoff spot only to lose out on a tie-breaker and finish ninth overall!

Quarterfinals

Consider the plight of the HANA team from Japan. Having finished second in the Swiss, it could choose its opponent from among USA, RUSSIA/POLAND, NETHERLANDS and ISRAEL for its quarterfinal match. What a choice! It did not make the same mistake RUSSIA/POLAND had made the year before in choosing ISRAEL, only to lose to them, instead choosing a multi-cultural USA team containing two Americans, an Indian and a Japanese. (POLAND had chosen the JAPAN OPEN team first.) That left USA/EGYPT the equally unpalatable choice of the sixth through eighth place finishers and they chose ISRAEL rather than the NETHERLANDS team which won silver at the Olympiad or a RUSSIA/POLAND team which consisted of one of the best pairs in the world and a pair from the bronze-medal team in the Olympiad. That left two of the pre-tournament favourites, NETHERLANDS and RUSSIA/POLAND, to do battle in the remaining quarterfinal match.

Board 8. Dealer West. Neither Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Chen	Gawrys	Furuta	Kowalski
3 ♦	Pass	3 ♥	Pass
4 ♥	Pass	Pass	Pass

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Kwiecien	Nakamura	Bizon	Shimizu
Pass	Pass	1 ♥	1 ♠
2 ♣ ¹	2 ♠	4 ♥	Pass
Pass	Pass		

1. Diamonds

At both tables, South led the queen of clubs over to the ace, and North switched to the spade king. Gawrys continued with the spade queen and switched to a trump. Furuta finessed for minus 50.

Nakamura, who had contented himself with a heavy raise to two spades, returned the eight of spades at trick three. Shimizu won and exited with...the club two! Bizon won with the ten, wondered why he was being given certain access to dummy, and led a trump to...the ace, for plus 420. 10 IMPs to Poland.

Against Drijver's (North) three no trump (see *top of next column*), Balicki (East) led a spade, giving declarer an eighth winner. When Drijver won and ducked a diamond, Zmudzinski (West) contributed the eight, hoping it could be read as suit

preference for hearts - not that it was clear he wanted a heart switch more than a club switch.

Board 5. Dealer North. NS Vul.

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

Balicki duly switched to hearts, choosing the four. Drijver played low from dummy, took the eight with the king, and ran diamonds, reducing to the following ending:

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

Cashing the ace of hearts and exiting in spades would have brought home the contract, but Drijver led a club to the queen, king, and ace, and Balicki could exit with the heart jack for one down. Well done by the defence, after an unfortunate start.

At the other table, Verhees found the promising lead of the two of clubs against Gromov's three no trump: seven, nine, king. When Gromov ducked a diamond, Jansma also contributed the eight, but in this case, it was a Smith Signal, encouraging a club continuation. Verhees cashed the club ace and Jansma huddled before producing the four. Perhaps with his actual holding, West should have played the jack on the first round.

In any case, Verhees switched to the jack of hearts, and Gromov, with no ninth trick, cashed only some of his diamonds before playing a spade and so lost his heart ace to go two down. 3 IMPs to NETHERLANDS.

Quarterfinal Results

Team	C/O	1-20	21-40	Final
POLAND	0.5	36	14	50
JAPAN OPEN		27	47	74
RUSSIA/POLAND	0.5	33	72	105
NETHERLANDS		49	22	71
USA/EGYPT	0.5	20	23	43
ISRAEL		40	95	135
JAPAN HANA	0.5	38	29	67
USA		12	42	54

Semifinal Results

Team	C/O	1-20	21-40	Final
JAPAN HANA	0.5	12	37	49
RUSSIA/POLAND		64	64	128
JAPAN OPEN	0.5	40	30	70
ISRAEL		42	44	86

The two finalists arrived in the final having taken very different routes in their semifinal matches. RUSSIA/POLAND (Andrei Gromov, Alexander Dubinin, Adam Zmudzinski, Cezary Balicki) had dispatched JAPAN HANA quite handily (128-49), while ISRAEL (Israel Yadlin, Doron Yadlin, Michael Barel, Migry Campanile) had struggled against JAPAN OPEN (86-70). But past is past (although perhaps prelude as well), and it was time to get down to the business at hand.

Board 9. Dealer North. EW Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Doron	Gromov	Israel	Dubinin
—	1 ♥	Pass	2 NT ¹
Pass	4 ♥	Pass	Pass
Pass			

1. Limit raise of hearts

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Zmudzinski	Barel	Balicki	Campanile
—	1 ♥	1 NT ¹	2 ♠ ²
Pass	4 ♥	Pass	Pass
Pass			

- 4 spades/5+ minor
- Limit raise in hearts

Both Easts led the five of clubs against four hearts. Both declarers won dummy's ace, ducked a spade, ruffed the club return, ducked another spade, and ruffed another club return. At trick six, Gromov ruffed a spade in dummy, played the diamond queen, ducked, then played a heart to the jack followed by a low diamond toward dummy. Israel rose with the ace and played the killing spade king, promoting a trump trick for Doron when Gromov ruffed with the king of hearts; minus 50. (It would not have helped Gromov to ruff low, as Doron could either pitch his last diamond or overruff, as he wished - the culprit was Gromov's premature spade ruff at trick six.)

At the other table, Barel led a diamond to the queen at trick six, then a heart to the jack, and the king of diamonds to

Balicki's ace. Balicki played a fourth club, heart seven, heart nine, heart queen. Barel ruffed a spade, crossed to the jack of diamonds, and claimed the last two tricks on a high crossruff: plus 420. 10 IMPs to ISRAEL.

Board 11. Dealer South. Neither Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Doron	Gromov	Israel	Dubinin
—	—	—	1 ♦
1 ♠	Pass	2 ♥	Pass
2 ♠	Pass	3 ♥	Pass
Pass	Pass		

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Zmudzinski	Barel	Balicki	Campanile
—	—	—	1 ♦
1 ♠	Pass	4 ♥	Pass
Pass	Pass		

Against the Yadlins' three heart contract, Dubinin cashed the ace-king of diamonds at tricks one and two, then got out with the spade king to dummy's ace, declarer pitching a diamond. Israel crossed to the king of clubs, ruffed his last diamond, Gromov pitching his remaining club, and tried to return to hand by ruffing a spade with the four of hearts, but was overruffed with the five.

Dubinin now led the club ten, suit preference for spades, as Gromov ruffed out dummy's ace. Gromov dutifully returned a spade, promoting Dubinin's queen of hearts into the setting trick, minus 50. It goes without saying (but we'll say it anyhow) that the contract could have been made had declarer simply cashed both club honours ending in hand before ruffing his last diamond.

In the Closed Room, East-West were in four hearts, and the defence began the same way: diamond ace, king, spade king. At trick four, Balicki ruffed a spade off dummy as South overruffed and got out with the heart queen. But now declarer ran his remaining trumps, squeezing South in the minors. Plus 420, 10 IMPs to R/P.

Israel led from start to finish, building a 37 IMP lead going into the final 16 boards, eventually winning 158-130.

Team	C/O	1 st	2 nd	3 rd	4 th	Final
ISRAEL	0.5	46	26	56	30	158
RUS/POL		29	31	31	39	130

(Full results can be found on page 14.)

Annual General Meeting of the International Bridge Press Association

Monday 1st November 2004, 09.00-10.15 at Grand Cevahir Hotel, Istanbul

Attending: Marijke Blanken (Net), Peter Burrows (Eng), John Carruthers (Can), Irena Chodorowska (Pol), Jan van Cleeff (Net), Simon Cochemé (Eng), José Damiani (Fra), Chris Diment (Austral), Mario Dix (Malta), Seamus Dowling (Ire), Kay Downes (Ire), Panos Gerontopoulos (Gre), Tony Gordon (Eng), Hans Olof Hallén (Swe), Britt & Per Jannersten (Swe), Alf Jensen (Nor), Patrick Jourdain (Wal), Krastyn Kavlahov (Montenegro), Radek Kielbasinski (Pol), Eric Kokish (Can), Ray Lee (Can), Peter Lund (Den), Brent Manley (USA), Göran Mattsson (Ger), José Oliveira (Port), Margaret Parnis England (Malta), Nissan Rand (Isr), Barry Rigal (USA), Gianarrigo Rona (Ita), David Stern (Austral), Jan Swann (Net), Ron Tacchi (Fra), Boye Brogeland (Nor), Erik Sælensminde (Nor), Paul Thurston (Can), Barbara Travis (Austral), Alan Truscott (USA), John Wignall (N.Z.)

Apologies: Christer Andersson (Sweden), Dilip Gidwani (Ghana), Stuart Staveley (Scotland)

1. President Patrick Jourdain took the chair and called the meeting to order.
2. Jourdain paid homage to deceased members, Niels Jensen (Sweden) and Marie Gleeson (Ire) and asked the members to be upstanding for a minute's silence.
3. The minutes of the AGM held in Monte Carlo in November 2003 were approved as published in the Bulletin.

4. OFFICERS' REPORTS:

President's Report - Patrick Jourdain

My first year as President has been a relatively quiet one. We have lost one sponsor, for the Junior Award, but seek to replace that next year. We have gained an important new one in the Masterpoint Press Book of the Year Award, signed up for three years, and we welcome the company's President, Ray Lee, both as a member and sponsor. We are also grateful to our distinguished panel, Jean-Paul Meyer, P-O Sundelin, John Carruthers and Bruce Cook, in the arduous task of choosing the winner. The Best Played Hand of the Year has changed its name to C & R Motors, but the sponsor remains Rose Meltzer. George Rosenkranz has been the sponsor of our Romex Award for Best Bid Hand of the Year for many years and we thank him for that. The ITES Award for Best Defence is already signed up for next year, and we are grateful to Dilip Gidwani for that.

In respect of our annual grant from the WBF I would like to thank them, and José Damiani in particular, for this. In many sports the relationship between the Authorities and the Press is often stormy. In bridge it has been a good one, though we are prepared to defend the independence of our members when needed.

I am also grateful to our own officers and executive for their work. We missed Maureen in Monte Carlo and are pleased to see her here in Istanbul. Her daughter, Jean, does an excellent job producing the printed Bulletin each month, updating the membership file, and sending out the e-mails. Per is responsible for the website, and Stuart Staveley, our faithful Membership Secretary. Our Treasurer, Christer Andersson of Sweden deserves special mention. He has sent an email saying his job is taking up so much time that he wishes to give up the reins. He will stay on for as long this year as we require but no longer. So when it comes to the elections we plan to re-elect him but suggest a new name to take over later in the year.

We welcome a dozen new members here, but there remain great areas of the world where we are poorly represented. We have had to match our decline in income, both from lower internet subs and decline in membership, by cutting costs.

I want to thank the Swedish Federation for providing an excellent Press Room in Malmo, with non-members catered for elsewhere, though a flaw in security led to the loss of two laptops. Here in Istanbul the Press Room is very crowded and the Press Room Manager has a fulltime job keeping the non-journalists away from the facilities for the Press. We think he does a good job, and thank Jan Swaan for his work.

I would like to take this opportunity to nominate for acceptance by acclaim, the name of the person your Executive has chosen to become an Honour Member of IBPA. He is rather young for this honour, but we do actually hope he will survive for many more years. The certainty is that he has worked very hard for many years for IBPA, denying himself the certainty of many prizes in the meantime. I refer to our indefatigable Awards Chairman, Barry Rigal.

Organisational Vice President's Report - Per Jannersten

In summary it has been a routine year, keeping our Internet services going, the web page reasonable updated, backing up Jean Tyson etc. This is a good sign in the sense that Jean, Stuart Staveley and John Carruthers are self-propelling. But it also implies that I should have time to make IBPA more Internet oriented. The only step taken in that direction (during the past year) is the searchable database where you can find a fellow member even if you have forgotten his name. This would be easier if we had a face to put to each name. We hope to introduce photos next year. Inch' Allah

Treasurer's Report - Christer Andersson

During 2003, our Association made a surplus of US\$ 910 although we received less funding from sponsors of Awards than expected and no income from advertisement in the IBPA Bulletin. Changing printer for the Bulletin however, more than compensated for the reduced income. Controlling the expenditure in the future will be the way forward to balance the budget.

Secretary's Report - Maureen Dennison

An IBPA meeting was held at the European Championships in Malmo. Foremost was the question of security in the Pressroom. Laptops need to be chained to desks or put in a locked cupboard when not in use. Per Jannersten will take the matter up with the authorities. He was also to ask for extra software capability at future Championships.

Single accommodation at Championships can be expensive and it was proposed that, if members want to share or have knowledge of cheaper hotels/apartments at a venue, they could inform me and I would be a clearinghouse among members. The new arrangements for publishing and sending out the Bulletins is going smoothly and Jean Tyson is keeping the Membership Handbook on line up to date. It is therefore vital that members let us know changes of address, email etc.

5. APPOINTEES' REPORTS:

WBF & EBL Liaison Officer - Panos Gerontopoulos

I am pleased to report that relations between the IBPA and the WBF & EBL are running smoothly and there were no problems or difficulties during this past year.

Bulletin Editor - John Carruthers

After a somewhat stormy first year, I am happy to report that my second year as Editor went along quite smoothly despite some technical difficulties. During that year we changed Production Manager to Jean Tyson. Jean was very quick off the mark and has performed her duties very admirably. We have also changed printers twice; the first time to a printer in Norway in the gap between Production Managers, then the second time to a printer in England to be close to Jean.

We have had reports of one kind or another from all eight WBF Zones in the past year but submissions from Zones 1 & 2 continue to comprise the larger part of the material in the Bulletin despite my entreaties. However, Daily Bulletins from tournaments around the world and matches of interest online have helped this considerably. Nevertheless, I would like to appeal to all members, especially those in the non-European and -North American Zones to make a point of submitting at least one deal per year for publication.

Membership Secretary - Stuart Staveley

Membership report 2004: Honour 16, Sponsored 6, Full 322 = total 344.

Stuart Staveley reported a further fall of 9% in membership, disproportionately in USA & the Low Countries and a marked decline in new members. Approximately half the membership has opted for Internet Bulletins but demands for the printed version seems likely to remain around the present level.

NEW MEMBERS (prior to Istanbul): *Australia*: D Browne: *Austria*: M Schifko: *Canada*: J Silver: *France*: A Fabre: *Germany*: G Mattson, F Weber: *Greece*: D Ballas: *India*: H Deora: *Italy*: G Resta: *Nigeria*: F Erinle: *Norway*: T Brogeland, G Kolsberg, K Kristiansen: *Netherlands*: M van Beijsterveldt: *Sweden*: T Larsson, A Wilkner: *Taiwan*: K-Y Chen: *U.K.*: J de Botton, M Brunner, M Kane: *U.S.A.*: A Levy.

REJOINED: P Gue (*Australia*): F Palma (*Italy*): Dr P Erich, J Prinsen (*Netherlands*): K Arnesen (*Norway*): A Prados (*Spain*): J Granwald (*Sweden*): S Eginton (*UK*)

6. Jourdain drew the attention of members to the **Summary of Accounts** attached to the agenda. However any questions would have to be referred to Andersson. He reported that at this time we have no sponsor for the Junior award but the other sponsors have renewed though Rose Meltzer had changed the title of her award to C&R Motors. It was decided nem con that the subscription should remain unchanged for 2005. However it is essential that we recruit new members and contact lapsed members, a number of which are in the USA. Truscott volunteered to do so if he was given a list of such journalists.

7. Annual Awards:

The award for the **Master Point Press Book of the Year** was 'Play or Defend?' by Julian Pottage (England) was presented by Ray Lee and accepted by Peter Burrows on behalf of the author. Pottage emailed that he felt it a great honour to receive this award knowing that his book faced stiff competition from legends such as Eddie Kantar. He wished to thank those who played a key part in making Play or Defend possible, especially Ray Lee and Andrew Diosy for the book's design and Maureen Dennison for her work in checking the manuscript and making many valuable suggestions. Lastly he thanked William Bailey for it was his Deep Finesse software that gave him the confidence to attempt a project that depends on precise analysis.

Cezary Balicki (Poland) won **C&R Motors Best Played hand**. The awards were presented by Alan Truscott to Irena Chodorowska on his behalf and to Eric Kokish (Canada), the winning journalist.

The awards for **ITES Best Defended Hand**, won by Peter Gill and reported by Ron Klinger, both of Australia, was presented to Barbara Travis on their behalf by Barry Rigal.

The **Romex Best Bid Hand** award was presented to Boye Brogeland & Eric Sælensminde (Norway) by Alan Truscott and Brogeland also accepted the award for the journalist, Jon Sveindal (also Norway).

The **Best Junior Deal** was won by Gilad Offir and reported by non-member Michael Barel, both of Israel, and it was accepted on their behalf by Nissen Rand from Per Jannesten. As his prize, Michael Barel receives free membership of the IBPA for 2005. Patrick Jourdain presented the award for the **IBPA**.

Personality of the Year to Radoslaw Kielbasinski in recognition of his work for the Polish Bridge Federation in general and the great success of their juniors in the past year. The average age of the Polish NBO is 43 and going down. Bridge is recognised in Poland as a sport and taught in an increasing number of schools.

Jose Damiani, WBF President, expressed his pleasure that the IBPA should honour a person who has done so much for bridge in his country and he felt the Award was well deserved.

Barry Rigal informed the meeting that he tended to get the candidates for awards from the Bulletin and that if a hand is good enough for an award, it should be in the Bulletin. He further stated that any journalist, attending a Championship, should have at least one good deal to submit to the Bulletin.

8. Nominations: These were published in Bulletin 476. While there were no other nominations, Christer Andersson, due to pressure of work, wishes to resign as our Treasurer though he is willing to continue for a maximum of one year. Jourdain asked the meeting to vote for Mario Dix (Malta) as Treasurer Elect as well as voting on the existing members of the Executive. All were re-elected nem con and ratified Jourdain as President.

9. Any Other Business: David Stern asked how much our Sponsors are expected to pay for each award and was informed that it is U.S. \$1000 per year. He also brought up the matter of payment of dues, pointing out that sending credit details by email is not secure. Subs could be paid by fax to Dennison or Staveley but members want to be able to work electronically. Jourdain informed the meeting that we are building up a secure bank of credit card details and each year, we are asking for authority to renew subscriptions and this is one way forward. Stern, however, felt that the IBPA should subscribe to a secure service for paying on-line. Jannersten promised to look into the matter.

Kokish expressed difficulty in finding the Handbook on the website, which is not under the word 'handbook.' Also, even though a member might know the password, they had not been informed that they also have to add Handbook at the second prompt. This should be made clearer.

There being no other business, Jourdain declared the meeting closed.

IBPA Column Service

Tim Bourke, Canberra

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

305. Dealer West. Both Vul.

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

As a jump to three hearts would have been semi-preemptive, North's cue bid promised a sound raise in hearts.

West began by leading the queen of clubs. Declarer counted nine tricks with a diamond ruff. The tenth would have to come from either the queen of spades or the king of diamonds. However, in view of West's overcall, neither of those seemed likely on play directly to them. So, declarer set out to endplay West to force him to lead up to one of these honours.

The first step was to eliminate clubs, so, after winning the first trick with the ace of clubs, he cashed the king, then ruffed a club high. After the ace and king of trumps, he played dummy's last club. If West had the remaining club, declarer planned to discard his four of spades; West would win and have to concede the tenth trick by leading a spade or a diamond.

When East produced the last club South had to change tack; otherwise the defence could take two diamonds and a spade as well. As West was likely to have five spades headed by the king, after ruffing the club, declarer continued with the ace and queen of spades. West took two spade tricks and declarer claimed, for West would have to concede a ruff-and-discard or lead away from the ace of diamonds. Either way declarer had ten tricks.

306. Dealer South. EW Vul.

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

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

West	North	East	South
—	—	—	1 ♦
1 ♠	2 ♠	Pass	2 NT
Pass	4 NT	Pass	5 ♦
Pass	6 ♦	Pass	Pass
Pass			

North promised a minimum of a sound raise to three diamonds with his cue bid and thereafter chose a simple route to the slam because he was unlikely to gain much by any other approach. For example, after a negative double and South's no trump rebid, there may then be uncertainty later in the auction.

Anyway, how should South make his contract when West leads the queen of clubs?

After drawing the outstanding trumps in two rounds, declarer could now ruff three spade losers in dummy. So the only problem was getting rid of the club loser. As West was likely to have the ace and queen of spades, the obvious way to do that was to establish a second heart trick. However that offered a choice between a straight finesse and a ruffing one.

Normally declarer would probably play the overcaller for the heart king and finesse that way. However here that would see East make his king of hearts and West a spade trick, for one down. Luckily South saw that there was no need to play on hearts directly. Instead he cashed the ace of hearts before leading a spade to the jack.

Of course, West won the spade queen but was then without recourse. It did not matter whether he returned a spade, a heart or a club – any return would give South his twelfth trick.

307. Dealer South. EW Vul.

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

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

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

West leads the jack of diamonds after a simple strong no trump auction to game. Declarer tries dummy's queen, but of course East produces the king. As nothing is lost by ducking declarer does so, but East continues the suit, forcing the ace.

What should South do now? If he plays ace and another club, although the suit breaks 2-1, and he will have four

extra tricks in the suit, he will lose one club and four diamond trick, finishing one down.

Seeing this fate if he played on clubs, declarer decided to try for seven major-suit tricks instead. After a successful finesse of the jack of hearts, declarer led a low spade (not the queen) from dummy. A finesse of the jack of spades succeeded and dummy was re-entered with the ace of hearts. A second low spade was led and gained a just reward when the king appeared from East. Declarer won with the ace, crossed to dummy with the queen of spades, and returned to the ace of clubs to cash the ten of spades, his ninth trick.

Notice that squandering the queen of spades on the first or second round of the suit would leave South a trick short of his contract.

308. Dealer North. Both Vul.

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

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

While he had a fabulous hand, South was less enthusiastic about it when North only admitted to values in hearts.

West led the king of clubs and South did not see any problems. He took his ace of clubs and played the ace of trumps. Now he had to lose two clubs, a diamond and a trump for one down.

As a 4-0 break occurs a little over 10% of the time, South should have addressed what he could do if trumps were so divided. By now you will have seen what declarer should have done - won the opening lead with the ace of clubs and led the ten of trumps from hand.

This would leave the defenders powerless. If they win this proffered ten of trumps declarer can cross to dummy's seven of trumps on the next round, then discard his diamond loser on the ace of hearts. If instead the ten of trumps holds, which might happen when West holds four trumps, declarer will not have a trump loser and thus will make ten tricks - seven trumps and the minor suit tops while losing just three tricks in the minors.

Often a safety play surrenders a trick but guarantees the contract in return. In most cases on these North-South cards, it comes free of charge when trumps are not 4-0 for unless there is a singleton jack of trumps there are only ever ten tricks if trumps are played from the top.

Bergen Festival

Maureen Dennison, Isleworth, UK

Even though this Norwegian event takes place in January (br-r-r), it attracts a good quality field which included the likes of Helness-Helgemo, Zmudzinski-Sveindal and a number of good overseas players such as Zia, Forrester and Hallberg, though mainly playing with clients.

There were 33 tables in the main event with a secondary event for the overflow. As with most Scandinavian tournaments, it was played Barometer-style, in an almost complete Howell, with each pair playing 60 of the other 65 pairs. The efficiency was such that your results for each round were brought to the next table almost before the bidding of the first board was completed! Thus you could check your scores and position round-by-round. It is surely the best format for an event though rarely played, it seems, outside the north European countries.

In spite of the big names, the leading places all went to home pairs, mostly from the Trondheim area of mid-Norway. They were led home by Geir "GeO" Olav Tislevoll - Ole A Berset, 2% ahead of Stig Gamlemshaug - Per Erik Austberg, a mere 6 matchpoints over Peter Eide - Allan Livgård.

This was a deal which particularly pleased the winners.

Dealer North. NS Vul.

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

Average was four spades making ten tricks. Some played in no trumps, ten tricks for 80%. Tislevoll for the winners, however, managed an eleventh trick in no trumps for an outright top.

West led a heart, taken with the queen, and declarer played a club to the queen and king. West couldn't read the heart situation, and so continued with the ten of clubs. South won and continued with a diamond to the ten and East's king. East played a second heart to declarer's ace. After cashing the diamond queen, Tislevoll carefully cashed the ace and queen of spades to get a count on the suit, so as to know what to discard from dummy on the ace of diamonds.

If spades had been 4-1, he would have thrown a spade and put West on lead with the heart king to lead from his nine-two of clubs for a tenth trick. As it was, with spades behaving, he threw a club, took the last spade in dummy and West was finished, having to throw either the heart king or a club, so giving the magic second overtrick. (Had declarer retained the three of clubs in dummy, he could have thrown the eight of clubs on the diamond ace regardless of the spade break. - Ed.)

Where in the World?

Mark Horton, Romford, UK

In January, this earnest scribbler was down under at the Australian Summer Festival of Bridge in Canberra, producing the Daily Bulletins. He still found time to check out a couple of other events being reported on Bridge Base Online.

In the final of the Campionato Italiano di Societa, between Parioli and Salerno, Fulvio Fantoni found a brilliant line of play to land a slam that failed at the other table.

Dealer North. EW Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Amendola	Fantoni	D'Aniello	Nunes
—	1 NT ¹	Pass	2 ♣ ²
Pass	2 ♥	Pass	2 ♠ ³
Pass	3 ♦	Pass	3 ♥
Pass	4 ♦	Pass	4 ♠
Pass	4 NT	Pass	6 ♥
Pass	Pass	Pass	

1. 12-14, includes all 5-4 hands
2. Inquiry
3. Artificial game forcing relay

East led the six of clubs and declarer won with dummy's ace, played diamond to the ace and ruffed a diamond. He now played a spade and when West played low Fantoni put in the eight. The combination of a non-spade lead and the non-appearance of the king from West convinced him that the king must be on his left.

He won the club return in dummy, played a heart to the king and ruffed a diamond, felling East's king. He cashed the ace of hearts, came to hand with a club ruff and drew the outstanding trump. He cashed the queen of diamonds, discarding the losing club and in the two card ending he advanced the queen of spades, running it when East followed with the six.

As they say in Italy, it earned him a strong applaud!

Meanwhile, in the Bergen Storturning (*reported elsewhere in this issue by Maureen Dennison. – Ed.*), Zia faced off against a couple of well-known Norwegians. (See top of next column.)

Tor Helness was on lead against Zia's five clubs doubled. Helness cashed the ace of spades and switched to the nine of diamonds for dummy's queen, Geir Helgemo's king and declarer's three.

Dealer North. Neither Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Zia	Helness	Wiik	Helgemo
—	1 ♠	Double	2 ♠
3 ♣	3 ♠	4 ♥	Double
4 ♠	Pass	5 ♣	Double
Pass	Pass	Pass	

Helgemo returned a diamond and Zia won with dummy's ace, ruffed a spade, crossed to the ace of hearts and advanced the queen of clubs. When South followed with the three, he followed his own Bols Tip, 'If they don't cover, they don't have it,' and went up with the ace, hoping to collect a singleton king. Not this time!

Zia took his revenge on the very next deal:

Dealer East. NS Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Zia	Helness	Wiik	Helgemo
—	—	Pass	Pass
4♥	Pass	Pass	Pass

North led the ace of diamonds and continued with the two. Declarer ruffed, drew trumps and played the jack of clubs. When North failed to go in with the queen Zia was home. South won the club and returned the suit. North could win, but was end-played. He tried the queen of spades, but Zia won with dummy's king, ruffed a club, went back to dummy with a trump and played a spade to the nine.

Meanwhile, at the Summer National Open Teams Championship in Canberra, a well-known Polish superstar was flexing his muscles.

Dealer West. EW Vul.

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

♠ 6 4
 ♥ J 9
 ♦ 8 6 3
 ♣ J 8 7 6 3 2

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

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

West	North	East	South
Walsh	Pszczola	McDonald	Jedrychowski
Pass	1 ♠	Double	4 ♠
Pass	Pass	Pass	

The commentators (save one) expected declarer to go down (he failed by two tricks at the other table) but World Champions are made of sterner stuff!

East led the king of hearts and declarer ducked, West playing the jack. East continued with the ten of hearts and declarer took the ace and gave the hand a lot of thought before making his next move.

Realising that a winning spade finesse would not really help, declarer crossed to the ace of spades and cashed the king. When the trumps divided he simply exited with a heart. East won with the king, but was end-played. When she exited with a heart declarer was able to win in hand with the six and claimed ten tricks and 11 IMPs.



**White House Teams, Utrecht,
February 26-27, 2005**

- WESTRA: Berry Westra -Vincent Ramondt;
Bart Nab-Gert-Jan Paulissen
- GROMOV: Andrej Gromov-Alexander
Debunin; Adam Zmudzinski-Cezary Balicki
- NIJMEGEN: Jeroen Top-Eric Janssen;
Vincent Kroes-Jean Harings

WWW Resources

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://www.ecatsbridge.com>
<http://www.math.au.dk/~nwp/bridge/>

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

News & Views

The New Zealand National Bridge Congress

(Richard Solomon writes. . .) Many readers will have heard of the beauty of New Zealand, towering mountains, green rolling hills, magnificent winding fjords, splendid tramping, fishing, skiing, golf courses wherever you look. Yet, fewer would have heard of The New Zealand National Bridge Congress. We invite you to discover both the country and its congress. The congress, held at a most suitable hotel in Hamilton, a city 90 minutes south of Auckland, September 24th to October 1st. You can play a lot of bridge in those eight days or else play less and visit the nearby glow-worm caves or the unique geysers and mud-pools of Rotorua. A little further away are the ski-fields and trout rivers of the central North Island or the lovely Coromandel Peninsula.

The congress includes the New Zealand Pairs (3 days), the New Zealand Teams (2-5 days, depending on how well you do) and the New Zealand Mixed Pairs (1 day) with many other side events as well. Top Australian and New Zealand pairs compete for the big prizes though the 500+ participants contain tournament players of all abilities. We do it the "New Zealand way," which includes the most sociable atmosphere you could imagine before and after sessions, into the early hours of the morning.

It is not cheap getting to New Zealand but, once here, the exchange rate is still very much in favour of overseas visitors. The congress entry fee, for the whole week, is a mere US\$200 (UK pounds £110) while a standard guest room at the hotel is US\$70 (UK pounds £39) per night.

We can arrange teammates for pairs and will do whatever we can to make visitors welcome. I can help you with any enquiries you may have. Please contact me at rksolomon@xtra.co.nz, by phone on 0064 9 2328494 or by fax on 0064 9 2328873. You will not be disappointed.

2005 Lederer Memorial

Simon Cochemé writes to say that this year's Lederer will be on October 15-16, 2005, at the Young Chelsea Bridge Club in London. Simon can be reached at simonx@simonx.plus.com for details.

ACBL Bulletin for IBPA Members

Brent Manley informs us that the ACBL has a policy that if an IBPA member wishes to pay for the overseas postage (US\$20 per year), they will send the magazine for no other charge (members pay the \$20 plus the annual membership of \$35).

Those who want to receive the magazine may send cheque, money order or credit card info to Brent at ACBL, 2990 Airways Blvd., Memphis TN 38116-3847 USA.

Bridge, Golf and Beach in Spain

The III International Tournament Of Bridge-Golf Almerimar will be in Almeria, Spain, as follows:
 6-7 June 2005 - Mixed Couples Tournament
 8-9 June 2005 - Team Tournament
 10-11-12 June 2005 - Open Tournament

For more details, and information about schedule, prizes and lodging, etc., please visit our web page: <http://bridgegolf.com>

If you have any questions, please, write to: bridgegolf@bridgegolf.com

This venue is for all level bridge players, from beginners to experts. Organizer of the tournament of bridge: Jesus Fermin Corchero and Maribel Corchero Mendez C/ Santa Quiteria, 10-1º, CP: 30001 Murcia-España, pochusmaster@yahoo.es
Tel: 00 34 968 218 613—00 34 666 071 079
On Saturday night will be the best Andalusian party for all players.

Istanbul Olympiad on DVD

This is the first of a number of major bridge events that New Bridge Assets will be filming. The pack will be compatible with DVD players in any region. It can be ordered from www.worldbridgeolympiad.com for £15.25 plus postage.

Ecats and Tsunami Relief

Anna Gudge and Mark Newton of <http://www.ecatsbridge.com> write to say that they have closed scoring on their Tsunami event ... and raised over £60,000!

A total of 13,570 players took part in 393 clubs across 52 countries from Aruba to Zimbabwe, all set up and run via internet, with individuals from different clubs writing commentaries on the hands "for fun." The bridge winners are on the website, but the real winners are the victims of the disaster and Anna and Mark hope this will help them just a little bit.

We salute Ecatsbridge.

Notice to All IBPA Members !! Change of e-Mail Address

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



**Icelandair Open, Reykjavik,
February 18-21, 2005**

Pairs

1. Lars Blakset - Peter Fredin
2. Olav Ellestad - Björnar Halderaker
3. Sævar Þorbjörnsson - Karl Sigurhjartarson

Teams

1. Símon Simonarson, Sigfús Árnason, Friðjón Þórhallsson, Stefán Guðjónsson, Rúnar Jósef Magnússon
2. Erik Sælensminde, Jan Petter Svendsen, Simon Gillis, Boye Brogeland
3. Steve Garner, Howard Weinstein, Curtis Cheek, Hjördis Eyþórsdóttir

Correspondence continued from page 15...

4 – Datums for each board were displayed not only in the Vu Graph theatre but also on the large screen (not monitors) in several places in the building. You are again right; we certainly can transfer that to the website.

5 – Names in the Bulletin: Jean-Paul Meyer told you already that we published them in the programme with rectification or correction if necessary in the Bulletin. Same for the rule of seeding for the knockout brackets, which are published in the supplemental Conditions of Contest, and very often reported in the Bulletin. (*Again, not everyone has access to these documents; and the line scores are reported, but not the brackets for future matches. – Ed.*)

There are certainly other items that we can improve. In any event thank you for some of your ideas.

Best regards, José Damiani, Paris

IBPA WEBSITE NOTICE

To access a Bulletin on the IBPA website, enter the website address www.IBPA.com, followed by a forward slash, then the Bulletin code, immediately followed by .pdf - this Bulletin, March 2005, will have code 482sd so you will need to key in:
www.IBPA.com/482sd.pdf

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



NEC Bridge Festival

NEC Cup

1. ISRAEL Israel Yadlin, Doron Yadlin, Michael Barel, Migry Campanile
2. RUSSIA/POLAND Andrei Gromov, Alexander Dubinin, Adam Zmudzinski, Cezary Balicki
- 3= JAPAN OPEN Yasuhiro Shimizu, Yoshiyuki Nakamura, Chen Dawei, Kazuo Furuta, Makoto Kono
- 3= HANA Takashi Maeda, Seiya Shimizu, Takeshi Hanayama, Nobuyuki Hayashi, Sei Nagasaka, Yasushi Kobayashi

Yokohama & SRR Swiss Teams

1. NETHERLANDS - Jan Jansma, Louk Verhees, Bas Drijver, Maarten Schollaardt
2. TAJIMA - Tadashi Teramoto, Mitsue Tajima, Fu Zhong, Zhao Jie, Ishmael Del'Monte
3. JAPAN OPEN - Yasuhiro Shimizu, Yoshiyuki Nakamura, Chen Dawei, Kazuo Furuta

Asuka Cup

1. Paul Hackett-Junko Nishimura
2. Bas Drijver-Maarten Schollaardt
3. Chen Dawei-Takahiko Hirata

World Bridge Calendar

DATES	EVENT	LOCATION	INFORMATION
2005			
Feb 28-Mar 6	Mexican Nationals	Ixtapan de la Sal, Mexico	http://d16acbl.org/u173
Mar 2-6	Festival	Montegrotto, Italy	www.federbridge.it
Mar 10-20	ACBL Spring NABC	Pittsburgh, PA	www.acbl.org
Mar 11-19	40 th International Week	Crans-Montana, Switzerland	www.bridge_federation.ch
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.toronto-bridge.com
Mar 24-28	XXXV International Easter Festival	Jyväskylä, Finland	www.co.jyu.fi/bridge/easter.htm
Mar 28	Bridge Pro Tour	Orlando, FL	www.bridgeprotour.com
Apr 3-9	4 th Eilat Spring Festival	Eilat, Israel	daganbridge@hotmail.com
Apr 9-16	11 th Malta Bridge Festival	Sliema, Malta	www.bridge.org.mt/festival.html
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 28	Bridge Pro Tour	Cincinnati, OH	www.bridgeprotour.com
Apr 28	Bridge Pro Tour	Lake Geneva, WI	www.bridgeprotour.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 12-16	Autumn Nationals	Adelaide, Australia	www.abf.com.au
May 12-22	USBF Open Team Championship	Houston, TX	www.usbf.org
May 13-21	23 rd CACBF Zonal Championships	San José, Costa Rica	www.cacbf.com
May 16-22	XVIII International Tournament	Costa Calida, Murcia, Spain	http://bridgecc.com
May 22-29	7 th Deutsches Bridge Festival	Binz auf Rugen, Germany	www.bridge-verband.de
May 26	Bridge Pro Tour	Cleveland, OH	www.bridgeprotour.com
May 31	Bridge Pro Tour	Sacramento, CA	www.bridgeprotour.com
Jun 3-4	Worldwide Simultaneous Pairs	Clubs Everywhere	www.ecatsbridge.com
Jun 4-12	USBF Women's Team Championship	Las Vegas, NV	www.usbf.org
Jun 6-12	III International Bridge-Golf Festival	Almeria, Spain	bridgegolf@bridgegolf.com
Jun 9-18	SA Bridge Congress 2005	Capetown, South Africa	www.sabf.co.za
Jun 15-19	XV th European Summer Games	Clermont-Ferrand, France	www.eurosportfestival2005.org
Jun 17-Jul 2	2 nd European Open Championships	Tenerife, Canary Islands	www.eurobridge.org
Jun 23	Bridge Pro Tour	Cherry Hill, NJ	www.bridgeprotour.com
Jun 23	Bridge Pro Tour	Las Vegas, NV	www.bridgeprotour.com
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
Jun 30-Jul 1	Bridge Pro Tour	Long Beach, CA	www.bridgeprotour.com
Jul 1-3	Hans Christian Anderson Open	Odense, Denmark	www.bridgeopen.dk
Jul 4-7	USBF Senior Team Championship	San Antonio, TX	www.usbf.org
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 13-23	20 th European Youth Championships	Riccione, Italy	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 6-9	Pesta Sukan	Singapore	www.scba.org
Aug 7-17	10 th World Youth Team Championships	Sydney, Australia	www.worldbridge.org
Aug 12-21	Brighton Summer Congress	Brighton, England	www.ebu.co.uk
Aug 15-18	Prize Money Bridge University	Las Vegas, NV	www.bridgeprotour.com
Aug 16	Bridge Pro Tour	Secaucus, NJ	www.bridgeprotour.com
Aug 16-21	Hong Kong Inter-City	Hong Kong, China	www.hkcba.org
Aug 20-21	Selangor Congress	Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia	www.scba.org
Aug 22-26	9 th European University Bridge Cup	Rotterdam, Netherlands	www.eurobridge.org
Sep 1	Bridge Pro Tour	Santa Clara, CA	www.bridgeprotour.com
Sep 1	Bridge Pro Tour	Pittsburgh, PA	www.bridgeprotour.com
Sep 10	International Pairs Tournament	Verona, Italy	www.federbridge.it
Sep 24-31	National Congress	Hamilton, NZ	www.nzcba.co.nz
Sep 28-Oct 2	Festival	Venice, Italy	www.federbridge.it
Oct 13-16	4 th European Champions Cup	Brussels, Belgium	www.worldbridge.org
Oct 15-16	Lederer Memorial	London, England	simonx@simonx.plus.com
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
Nov 28, 30	European Internet Simultaneous Pairs	Clubs in Europe	www.eurobridge.org
Dec 2-4	International Teams Tournament	Milan, Italy	www.federbridge.it
Dec 12	Bridge Pro Tour	Palm Springs, CA	www.bridgeprotour.com
Dec 16-18	Junior Channel Trophy	Belgium	www.ebu.co.uk