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THE INTERNATIONAL BRIDGE PRESS ASSOCIATION

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

N° 483 Year 2005

Date April 10

Editorial

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



Following the first-ever European Open Bridge Championships, held in Menton, France, in June 2003, the EBL has announced that the second event of the series will take place in Arona, Tenerife, on Spain's Canary Islands, from 18 June to 2 July 2005. The European Open will welcome players from all over the world and all events will be transnational, with no nationality restrictions at all.

The venue is the luxurious Mare Nostrum Resort, site of the 2001 European Team Championships. The surrounding area offers a wide choice of restaurants and a variety of shops. There are many nice beaches to enjoy the sun and the sea, and various excursion possibilities in Tenerife as well as the other Canary Islands.

The championship comprises the following competitions: mixed, open, women's and seniors pairs and teams.

The schedule of play is as follows:

Fri 17 June		Opening Ceremony
Sat 18 June to...	Wed 22 June	Mixed Teams
Mon 20 June to...	Thu 23 June	Mixed Pairs
Thu June 23		Mixed Prize Giving, Buffet
Fri 24 June to...	Thu 30 June	Open/Women's/Senior Teams
Mon 27 June to...	Sat 2 Jul	Open/Women's/Senior Pairs
Sat 2 July		Open/Women's/Senior Prize Giving, Closing Ceremony, Buffet

Play will start every day at 10.30 hrs and finish around 20.00 hrs (except on Friday 24 June). Side games will be held daily (except Friday 24 June) starting at 21.15 hrs.

The World Championship model will be in effect, whereby pairs still in the teams competitions automatically qualify through to the next day's play in the corresponding pair game.

Further details regarding eligibility, schedule, entry fees and accommodation can be found at www.eurobridge.org.



The World Championships, October 22-November 5, 2005 in Estoril, Portugal will have the usual Bermuda Bowl, Venice Cup, and Seniors competitions. These are all by national team. However, the 5th Transnational Teams is open to all players and there are no nationality restrictions. See www.worldbridge.org for details.

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White House International Top Teams, Utrecht, Feb. 26-27, 2005



Jan van Cleeff, The Hague
Lex de Groot, Amhem
Rosaline Barendregt, Maassluis
(From the Daily Bulletins)

WBF President José Damiani and Armand Trippaers, Dutch Bridge League (NBB) President, celebrated the 75th anniversary of the NBB and subsequently opened the 2005 White House tournament.

Something magical happened on Board 7 of the first Round Robin match on Day 1 between Israel and Van Lanschot.

Dealer South. Both Vul.

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

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

West	North	East	South
I. Yadlin		D. Yadlin	
—	—	—	Pass
Pass	1 ♦	2 ♦	3 ♦
3 ♥	4 ♦	4 ♥	5 ♦
Double	Pass	Pass	Pass

Israel and Dorn Yadlin displayed some oriental magic on this one. Doron led the king of clubs, which was overtaken by his brother, who cashed the queen as well and continued with a third club.

Declarer ruffed with an honour as East pitched a heart. North cashed the ace of hearts, ruffed a heart, played a spade to the queen, ruffed the third heart, cashed the spade ace and tabled the spade king. Israel inserted his trump ten and North overruffed. Next, a fourth heart was played, ruffed in the dummy. Now declarer played the last spade from dummy and Israel Yadlin ruffed in with the trump seven. In this way East's eight of diamonds was finally promoted as the second undertrick. So, eventually this filial defensive cooperation led to a trump promotion – a trump slomotion, if you wish.

Your editor had the privilege to kibitz the doctors: Dr. Michael Elinescu and Dr. Entscho Wladow, representing Germany. On this board the doctors grabbed the opportunity to show why Germany is doing fine so far.

(see top of next column.) Michael Barnay kicked off with the ace of clubs, ruffed by declarer. Dr. Elinescu continued with a spade to the king and a diamond to the king. South won his ace and returned the heart ten to dummy's ace. Elinescu played off the diamond queen (discarding a spade), then ruffed a diamond.

Round Robin 6 - Germany v. Austria Dealer East. Both Vul.

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

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

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

West	North	East	South
Elinescu	Barnay	Wladow	Terraneo
—	—	1 ♣ ¹	1 ♦ ²
1 ♥	2 ♣	4 ♣ ³	Double ⁴
Pass ⁵	Pass	6 ♥	Pass
Pass	Pass		

1. Precision
2. Diamonds or hearts/spades
3. RKCB
4. No club lead desired
5. 1 key card

When the spade jack to the ace survived and South had two clubs, he was home on a crossruff, surrounding South's nine-three of hearts. A case of a successful operation and a patient who survived for a change. Well done, docs, especially since Beppe Simon and Franz Terraneo at the other table did not venture beyond five hearts.

When Westra met Polowan halfway through Sunday's Final, the Dutchies were leading the field by a margin of one victory point. Westra won this match 22-8 and the margin increased to 4 VP. They gained 6 IMPs here:

A-Final - Round 5

Board 7. Dealer South. Both Vul.

♠ Q 7 5	
♥ 8 6 4 3	
♦ J 9 5 2	
♣ Q J	

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

♠ A 9 6 3	
♥ K Q	
♦ 8 7 6	
♣ A 4 3 2	

West	North	East	South
Kowalski	Paulissen	Tuszynski	Nab
—	—	—	1 ♣
1 ♥	Pass	1 NT	Pass
2 ♥	Pass	3 ♥	Pass
Pass	Pass		

At the other table, Westra played in two hearts from the West hand, making nine tricks. The queen of clubs was led to the ace and a spade was returned, Westra rising with the king. A spade loser was ditched on the diamonds and Westra lost two trump tricks.

Gert-Jan Paulissen led the club jack to Bart Nab's ace and a club went to the king. Apolinary Kowalski crossed to dummy in diamonds and played the trump jack to the queen and ace. Next came the heart ten to the king, and South played yet another club. Declarer ruffed with the heart seven and was over-ruffed with the eight. North was able to reach his partner's hand with a spade and the fourth round of clubs spelled doom for declarer as North had to make the six of trumps. Down one.

The Westra team went on to win handily. Results can be found in last month's Bulletin.



The Icelandair Open 2005 February 18-21, 2005 Stefán Guðjónsson, Reykjavik

If one thing is certain in Iceland, it is the February snow storms. Curiously, that did not hinder Lars Blakset and Peter Fredin from returning to Iceland after placing second in the pairs last year. And their return was successful, because this time they managed to make it all the way to first place. Norwegians Ellestad and Halderaker were second and Icelandic internationals, Thorbjornsson and Sigurhjartarson, were third. American stars Garner and Weinstein could do no better than fifth place, while Hampson and Cheek shared seventh place, and Katz and Canada's Mittelman only managed sixteenth place.

The team-of-four title was never in dispute, being easily won by the Icelandic team that recently won the Reykjavik championship. Great performance by Thorhallsson, Magnusson, Arnason, Gudjohnsen and Simonarson. In second place was an English/Norwegian team led by Simon Gillis and third the Americans led by Steve Garner, which included Iceland's only woman professional, "Disa" Eythorsdottir.

The teams winners captured the top seat in the fifth round and held onto it through the last round. Here is an interesting deal from the match with one of the Icelandic contenders.

Dealer East. Both Vul.

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

Playing four-suit transfers and Stayman promising a major, East, a former internationalist, had an interesting problem for the winners. The bidding went as follows:

West	North	East	South
--	--	Pass	1 ♠ ¹
1 NT	Pass	??	

1. Precision, could be single or less

East wants to invite to game, but has no good way of doing so. He can't go through two clubs as that promises a major and two no trumps is a transfer to diamonds. Eventually, he decided on a smart solution. He transferred to diamonds with two no trumps, intending to pass three diamonds, but bid three no trumps if West showed diamond support by bidding three clubs. It would be a logical move, as it was highly unlikely that three no trumps would make without diamond support from west. As anticipated, West bid three clubs and East three no trumps.

For better or worse, he had now put his side in a shaky three no trump contract, to say the least. North gave some thought to doubling: it was clear that East-West did not have enough points for game if South had a legitimate opening bid. As it went, he was wise not to double. Knowing that south most certainly had 4-4 in the majors, he led the seven of spades.

Declarer put up the queen of spades from the table, and South won the ace, while declarer played the jack. Without much thought, South continued with a spade and West was in with a chance. He won the king, played a small diamond to the king, noting the queen falling. The jack of hearts followed, small, small, small. Then ten of hearts, queen and king.

West knew that south had started with 4-4-1-4, so now it was easy to take two diamond tricks ending in dummy and then finesse the eight of hearts. The spade ten was the ninth trick. North-South tried to set the game through the tournament director, but to no avail. At the other table, South did not open that rubbish and East-West stopped in two no trumps making.

2005 Gold Coast Congress Surfer's Paradise, QLD February 19-26, 2005



The Beer Card
Michelle Brunner
Manchester, UK

I am not certain of the origins of the 'beer card' but I do know that it is the seven of diamonds and that wonderful things happen to you if you get to win trick 13 with it when diamonds are not trumps; something like everyone at the table having to buy you a beer...

Well, the diamond seven was - albeit unwittingly - duly promoted on the following deal by my partner John Holland during the final of the pairs in Surfers Paradise, Australia. His only reward, however, was a fistful of match points - which, mercifully, turns him on more than a pint of beer!

Half the battle on this deal was to actually reach the four-spade game with slender values. With only 22 high-card points to our credit, the auction needed to be imaginative and succinct.

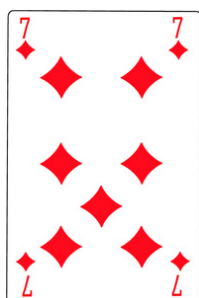
Dealer East; Both Vul.

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

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

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

West's choice of opening one diamond was systemic and following a routine overcall of one spade by John I found myself in a quandry. Devaluing my diamond king in light of the bidding so unassuming cue diamonds, raise to just two alternative call would, in our highlighted the trump but I did make this bid of getting too try of three clubs, however, now gave me the opportunity to express some diamond values and this was all the encouragement he needed.



far I made an bid of two intended as a value spades. (My of three diamonds methods, have all-important fourth not feel inclined to playing pairs for fear high.) John's game

Against four spades, East found the good lead of a trump. The play was not obvious as the diamonds seemed likely to be breaking badly. Undaunted, John set about establishing two club tricks in an effort to provide a discard for one of dummy's diamonds and when the diamonds unexpectedly broke 3-3 the contract turned out to be 'beer' proof!

Losing just two tricks to the ace of clubs and the ace of hearts, followed by a finesse for the club queen, John pitched the six of diamonds from dummy. After drawing trumps he cashed the top diamonds and ruffed the diamond five on the table, establishing the seven in its own right. A claim for eleven tricks, a well-earned top and (unknown to John) three pints of beer were imminent.

Alas, in showing his final three cards - two trumps and the seven of diamonds - he failed to specify the order of play and our Australian opponents, who were well aware of the magic of the beer card, insisted the diamond seven be played first. John looked bemused, but I was a very happy bunny!

Rule Britannia

Ron Klinger, Northbridge, NSW

(From the *Sydney Morning Herald*, March 4, 2005)

The Gold Coast Congress continues to go from strength to strength with a record number of pairs entries (551, up 25 from 2004) and 363 teams (up 9).

The Gold Coast Congress attracts many overseas visitors. For the first time, two world champions competed in a major Australian tournament. They were Michelle Brunner of England (won Venice Cup 1985, World Women's Teams 1988) and Jacek Pszczola of Poland (won World Open Pairs 1998, 2nd World Open Teams Olympiad 2000).

The two major events at the 2005 Gold Coast Congress went to England. Michelle Brunner – John Holland won the Open Pairs and then teamed up with John Armstrong, Howard Melbourne, and Paul Marston to take out the Open Teams. At least Marston was there to provide a touch of Aussie success.

The tournament Daily Bulletin, edited by Nick Hughes and Nicoleta Giura, provided lots of great deals, including this one from the Open Pairs Final. Cover the East-West cards. How do you play six spades on the diamond six lead to the queen and ace.

Open Pairs. Board 6. Dealer East. EW Vul.

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

Against us, North-South bid to six spades via one no trump by South; two hearts transfer to spades; and North continued with four no trump for aces and five no trump for kings. Once you are in six spades, if an overtrick is reasonably possible, making twelve tricks will not score well.

The diamond six was led to the queen and ace. Declarer played the heart king, ace, and ruffed the third heart. Then came the diamond king and jack. When the third diamond was ruffed, declarer could make only twelve tricks, plus 980, a match-point score of about 50% in the final, 35% in the plate.

It is not tough to make thirteen tricks and the best move after winning the diamond lead is to ruff a diamond at trick two. The line chosen above to try for an overtrick is based on diamonds 4-3. If they are 4-3, then ruffing a diamond and drawing trumps gives you thirteen easy tricks. So, diamond ace, diamond ruff, spade king, spade ace, spade queen, spade jack (discarding clubs), followed by heart to the king, diamond king, diamond jack. When diamonds do not break and East has not discarded a diamond, declarer can fall back on the heart finesse to make thirteen tricks.

In the quest for a top board, Michelle Brunner played the hand in six no trump by South. A spade was led and on seeing dummy, Brunner judged that those in six spades might well make thirteen tricks. She judged that it might be essential to make thirteen tricks to outscore them.

Brunner took the lead in dummy and played a diamond to the jack at trick two. With that hurdle over she was up to twelve tricks. She continued with the diamond ace, diamond king, discarding clubs from dummy, and cashed the spade king. After a club to dummy's now bare ace, she ran the spades to reach this ending:

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

The East-West carding convinced Brunner that the king of clubs was with West. When the spade five was cashed, East had to throw a heart in order to retain the diamond queen. Now declarer threw the diamond eight and West had to throw a heart to keep the club king. With each opponent down to two hearts, the location of the queen was irrelevant. Sad but true, lesser players would also make thirteen tricks simply by finessing the heart jack.

In the final, three pairs made 13 tricks in six no trump, one made 13 in six spades, five made 12 in six spades and three pairs failed in seven spades.

The Cards Justify the Means

Ron Klinger, Northbridge, NSW

(From the Sydney Morning Herald, March 5, 2005)

In the final of the Gold Coast Open Teams the ultimate winners, Michelle Brunner, John Armstrong, John Holland, Paul Marston and Howard Melbourne, won the first three sets 34-24, 25-11 and 67-24 to have a lead of 67 with 15 boards to play. One could be excused for thinking the match was effectively over, but Khokan Bagchi, George Bilski, Terry Brown, Phil Gue, Barry Noble produced a storming final session of 68-15 to go under by only 14 IMPs, 127-141.

Dealer East. EW Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
—	Bagchi		Gue
2 ♥	—	Pass	Pass
Pass	Double	Pass	2 ♠
Pass	3 ♠	Pass	4 ♠
Pass	Pass	Pass	
Lead: ♦4			

On this deal, Board 41 from the final of the Gold Coast Open Teams, the lie of the cards allowed declarer to make his contract by skilful play and accurate card-reading.

After winning the diamond lead, at trick two Gue played the spade five from dummy: six – king – two. He continued with the club nine, seven from West, and rose with the king from dummy.

Why did declarer play the club king rather than finesse the jack? Here is Gue's answer: "Because West had opened a weak two hearts in third seat at unfavourable vulnerability with a poor suit, and with East having the trump ace after trick two, and West probably not holding the diamond queen-jack, all this suggested the club ace was more likely to be with West."

When the club king held, South led a second club. West won and played another diamond, taken in dummy. After a club ruff, Gue led the heart queen, which was ducked. A heart to the ace was followed by another club ruff and a diamond ruff in dummy. When the fifth club was played at trick ten, East had to ruff in and was forced to give declarer his tenth trick with dummy's remaining queen-ten of spades. At the other table East-West played in three no trump down three.

The 2005 NA Intercollegiates

Phillip Alder, Hobe Sound, FL

From the New York Times, March 7, 2005

Dealer South. Both Vul.

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

South	West	North	East
1 ♠	2 ♦	2 ♠	Pass
3 ♣	Pass	3 ♠	Pass
Pass	Double	Pass	Pass
Pass			
Lead: ♠Q			

This year's North American College Bridge Team Championship began on February 19, with preliminary play on Bridge Base Online. Twenty-five teams from 18 institutions

competed, with eight moving forward to the final, to be contested July 22 and 23 at the American Contract Bridge League's Summer Nationals in Atlanta. The qualifiers are Harvard, MIT, Stanford, UCLA, University of Michigan, University of Nebraska-Lincoln, University of Toronto and Yale.

The defending champions are from MIT, and they did well on this deal against Carnegie Mellon University. At the first table, Kevin Chu, West for MIT, correctly made a takeout double over South's one-spade opening. North passed, not liking his 4-3-3-3 distribution; East, Xing Yuan (the newcomer to the team), advanced with two hearts; and South competed with two spades. Now West bid three diamonds, which shows a strong hand with, usually, at least six diamonds.

It would have been better to make a second double, which would have been for takeout and promised three-card heart support. (With four hearts, he would have raised; with two hearts, he would have shown his long suit.) Then East-West could have alighted in three hearts, which makes. Three diamonds, though, had to fail by a trick.

At the other table, West for Carnegie Mellon overcalled two diamonds, an inferior choice. John Hopkinson, North for MIT, bravely raised to two spades. Understandably, this persuaded South, Jason Chiu, to make a three-club help-suit game try. North beat a speedy retreat to three spades. Now West, who had extra values, risked a double.

This would have worked fine if he had started with a top diamond, because East would have received a third-round ruff. Later, two club tricks would have defeated the contract. But strangely, West led the spade queen.

The declarer won, drew a second round of trumps, played a heart to dummy's ace, ruffed a heart in hand, cashed the club ace, and exited with a club to produce this position:

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

West could have cashed the club king and exited with the heart king, but South would have ruffed and led the diamond queen to catch West in an endplay. West accelerated the play by cashing the diamond ace, after which South claimed his contract. Plus 730 and minus 100 gave MIT 12 IMPs.

The Betty Kaplan Teams

Phillip Alder, Hobe Sound, FL

From the *New York Times* February 24, 2005

One of the most entertaining events on the Greater New York Bridge Association calendar is the Betty Kaplan Teams. It comprises six nine-board matches for teams of four. Each

competitor must play two matches with a different teammate. The winners of this year's event, held on February 12, were Rachael Moller, David Gurvich, Michael Lipkin, all of Brooklyn, and Ira Ewen of Manhattan. In the best-played deal though, the declarer was Jeff Hand of Orlando, Fla.

Dealer North. Both Vul.

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

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

Lead: ♥10

Hand arrived in four spades by a predictable route. The declarer has one loser in each side suit, so must bring in the trumps without loss. However, if he does that immediately, he has nowhere near 10 winners.

West led the heart ten, East capturing dummy's queen with his ace and shifting imaginatively to the club three. Judging that East wouldn't under-lead the club ace, declarer played low from his hand. West, after taking the trick with the eight, switched to the diamond seven, East winning with his king and returning the club queen, ruffed in the dummy.

South decided that West's diamond-seven lead was an honest top-of-nothing and that East's diamond king was a dishonest false-card. So, declarer played a heart to his jack, ruffed a club on the board, crossed back to his heart king, led a diamond to dummy's ace, and cashed the spade king to reach this end-position:

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

Reading the distribution perfectly, declarer ruffed a diamond in his hand, trumped the club king on the board, East having to under-ruff, and called for a diamond. East's jack-nine of spades were trapped in a trump coup.

The Pearl

Patrick Jourdain, Cardiff

The pearl in this oyster would be overlooked by the great majority of defenders. It was the final deal of this February's EastWales Congress:

Match 13. Board 24. Dealer West. Neither Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
John	Ratcliff	Charlesworth	Jourdain
1 ♥	Pass	2 ♦	2 NT
3 ♦	3 ♥	4 ♥	4 ♠
Pass	Pass	Pass	

My call of two no trumps showed a black two-suiter and Tony Ratcliff's three hearts was a game try. I bid four spades over their four hearts as a two-way shot. Graham John, West, found the only lead to give the defence a chance: two rounds of diamonds. (On a heart lead declarer has time to take a trump finesse and knock out the ace of clubs without losing trump control.) I ruffed the second diamond. How would you plan the play?

There was the ace of clubs to knock out and a trump trick to lose. If declarer crosses to dummy with the heart ace, then inevitably the defence get two more chances to force the South hand, and West's nine of trumps becomes a winner. So I had to retain the ace of hearts to stop the force in that suit, and rely on the clubs being 2-2.

At trick three I led a club to the queen and ace, and East forced with a third diamond. I ruffed, crossed to dummy with a second club (good news!) and led a trump from the table. East actually chose to rise with the king so I won and led a second trump, the ten. It made no difference what West did because he had no diamond to play. He actually chose to duck, and now winning clubs ensured my game.

Have you spotted where the defence went wrong? Amazingly four spades can be beaten if East lets the first club hold. Declarer is compelled to use the club entry to lead a trump. East must play low and declarer has to finesse. West wins and plays the third diamond. Later, when East gains the lead with the ace of clubs he has the fourth diamond to play and promote West's nine of spades.

Note that if East rises with his king of trumps on the first round declarer can win and knock out the ace of clubs next, again leaving West with no diamond to play when he gains the lead with his trump winner. So East must play low on the first round of both black suits.

The successful defence is a most unusual example of a common theme, holding up to retain an entry. If East had

found the duck the deal would have been a great candidate for the Annual Best Defence Award of the International Bridge Press Association.

Instead, we scored up four spades. At the other table our team-mates had a free run to four hearts and the defence failed to take their four tricks. The double game swing gave my team 13 IMPs but only a tie for fourth place. The winners were the Midlands team of Ben Green, Duncan Happer, Glyn Preece, and Chris Potter.

Lords v. Commons

David Bird, Eastleigh, Hants, UK

From the Mail on Sunday - 10 April 2005

Dealer North. EW Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Robin	Lord	Michael	Lady
Squire	Bingham	Mates	Howe
-	1 NT	Pass	Pass
3 ♣	3 ♦	Pass	3 ♥
Pass	4 ♥	Pass	Pass
Pass			

The deal comes from this year's House of Lords versus House of Commons match, sponsored by London Export and splendidly hosted by Lord Baker at Crockford's Club. Lord Bingham opened with a somewhat eccentric strong no-trump and this was passed round to Robin Squire. He showed good values with a leap to Three Clubs and few moments later found that his opponents were in game! How would you defend with those West cards?

A spade lead would have given declarer no chance, but the obvious lead was a top club. Double-dummy play is required to make the contract after a spade switch (you would have to win with the ace and play a low diamond!). Squire played another top club, however, hoping to promote his partner's trumps. Lady Howe ruffed low in the dummy and Michael Mates over-ruffed with the five.

A diamond to the ace allowed West to lead another club, but Lady Howe demonstrated how to survive the bad breaks in the red suits. She ruffed the third club with dummy's jack and drew a round of trumps, West showing out.

The king and queen of diamonds came next, declarer throwing a club and a spade. A diamond ruff set up the suit and Lady Howe crossed to dummy's last trump. When a good diamond was led, Mates ruffed and declarer over-ruffed. She then played a spade to the ace and discarded her spade loser on dummy's last diamond. Well played, indeed!

THE INTERNATIONAL BRIDGE PRESS ASSOCIATION

Financial Statements

BUDGETS - RECEIPTS	<u>Real 2000</u>	<u>Real 2001</u>	<u>Real 2002</u>	<u>Budget 2003</u>	<u>Real 2003</u>
Dues - total	\$ 25.634	24.926	24.229	23.800	25.493
- year of account	[20.394]	[20.057]	[21.087]		[19.979]
- next year	[3.918]	[3.716]	[2.663]		[4.821]
- the year thereafter	[161]	[288]	[63]		[238]
- sponsoring	[453]	[349]	[417]		[455]
Awards money	\$ 1.930	4.431	3.000	4.000	2.000
Interest	\$ 896	792	622	750	609
Advertisements	\$ 4.282	391	802	500	0
WBF	\$ 2.054	974	1.075	1.000	1.025
Clippings service	\$ 895	415	0	1.000	1.500
IBPA Championships	\$ 148	125	63	250	0
Float/Loan	\$ 0	76	0	0	0
Donation	\$ 47	0	71	0	0
Totals	\$ <u>35.178</u>	\$ <u>31.614</u>	\$ <u>29.862</u>	\$ <u>31.300</u>	\$ <u>30.627</u>

BUDGETS - DISBURSEMENTS

Bulletin print and postage	\$ 22.301	25.500	17.472	19.500	15.618
Bull.Ed. Fee	\$ 5.614	5.200	5.242	5.070	6.254
-"- Travel	\$ 0	1.500	1.000	1.000	1.000
Memb.Secr. Fee	\$ 1.044	1.150	0	0	0
-"- Expenses	\$ 972	700	607	1.500	1.203
President Expenses	\$ 988	1.000	1.000	1.000	500
-"- Travel	\$ 804	1.500	1.000	1.000	973
Treasurer Expenses	\$ 350	297	200	350	308
Secretary Expenses	\$ 1.471	200	118	150	0
-"- Travel	\$ 0	1.500	1.055	1.000	0
Inland Revenue Scotland	\$ 124	300	52	150	0
IBPA Awards	\$ 1.960	1.600	950	1.250	1.082
Exp. Awards Chairman	\$ 50	50	0	50	0
Clippings awards	\$ 500	0	0	240	1.500
Bull. Hands	\$ 500	500	0	50	0
IBPA WEB site	\$ 35	0	0	150	133
IBPA Championship	\$ 89	150	47	150	0
Bank costs	\$ 59	250	7	0	36
- VISA rental/ CC charge	\$ 859	900	899	850	945
Handbook	\$ 373	0	401	0	165
Contingencies	\$ 298	250	0	250	0
Total	\$ 32.883	\$ 37.691	\$ 30.048	\$ 34.210	\$ 29.117

Used exchange rates (end of December 2003):

US\$ 1 = 7.25 SKr; US\$ 1 = 0.56227 GB£; US\$ 1 = 0.796 €EUR

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611 Pleasant
Miles City, Montana 59301
IBPA-agent

THE INTERNATIONAL BRIDGE PRESS ASSOCIATION

Financial Statements

CASH FLOW STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR DEC. 31 2002 TO DEC. 31 2003

by Christer Andersson, Sweden, Treasurer IBPA

Used exchange rates (end of December 2003):

US\$ 1 = 7.25 SKr

US\$ 1 = 0.56227 GB£

US\$ 1 = 0.796 €EUR

RECEIPTS

Dues	\$25.493
Awards money (spon)	\$ 2.000
Interest	\$ 609
Clippings service	\$ 1.500
WBF	\$ 1.025
IBPA Championship	\$ 0

Total	\$30.627

DISBURSEMENTS

Bulletin printing, extras and postage	\$ 15.618
Bulletin Editor Fee and extras	\$ 6.254
-"-"- Travel	\$ 1.000
Membership Secretary Expenses	\$ 1.203
President Expenses	\$ 500
President Travel	\$ 973
Treasurer Expenses	\$ 308
Handbook layout	\$ 165
IBPA Awards	\$ 1.082
Clipping awards	\$ 1.500
IBPA Website	\$ 133
Bank costs	\$ 36
VISA rental/CC charges	\$ 945

Total	\$ 29.717

Surplus 2003 \$ 910

CASH BALANCE

	<u>DECEMBER 31, 2002</u>	<u>DECEMBER 31, 2003</u>
Treasurer	\$ 31.270,—	\$ 34.775,—
Treasurer cash	\$ 77,—	\$ 87,—
Membership Secr. Petty cash	\$ 70,—	\$ 157,—
Membership Secr. Bank	\$ 13.555,—	\$ 26.265,—
Liability	\$ (-1.150,—)	\$ (-6.664,—)
Claim	\$ 2.129,—	\$ 0,—
	-----	-----
Total	\$ 45.951,—	\$ 54.620,—

Differences of \$ 7.759 is caused by the large differences in position of the US Dollar to the Swedish Krona, GB£ and €EUR.

Assets:

Computer/printer president/editor,
computer Secretary,
3 fax machines,
all fully written off.

Fortune Favours the Brave - The Indian Team Trials R. Jayaram, Baroda, India

India's selection trials were played at Chennai from 26th Feb to 2nd March. Four teams went through a triple round robin. The winner would play three-times Indian Champion RAILWAYS in a 96-board playoff.

FORMIDABLES (Kiran Nadar, Subhash Gupta, Rajeswar Tewari, K.R.Venkatraman, B. Satyanarayana and Sunit Choksi) and AGSAR PAINTS (N.R. Kirubakara Moorthy, B. Prabhakar, Rajesh Dalal, Anil Padhye, S. Sundar Ram and P. Sridhar) qualified for the semifinal and played out a 64-board match, the score card of which was:

	CO	1	2	3	4	Total
FORMIDABLES	2	52	17	48	23	142
AGSAR PAINTS	42	26	27	36	131	

In the 96-board play-off against RAILWAYS (Manas Mukherjee, Pritish Kushari, Rana Roy, Amar Nath Banerjee, Sumit Mukherjee and Hasibul Hasan), FORMIDABLES won by 21 IMPs.

	1	2	3	4	5	6	Total
FORMIDABLES	37	10	13	40	41	14	155
RAILWAYS	16	5	52	13	34	14	134

Going into the third set of the semifinal match, FORMIDABLES had a slender 3-IMP lead. The following deal swung 24 IMPs and the match.

Board 43. Dealer East. Neither Vul.

(Rotated for convenience)

<p style="text-align: center;">♠ —</p> <p style="text-align: center;">♥ Q 7 5 4</p> <p style="text-align: center;">♦ A K 8 6 2</p> <p style="text-align: center;">♣ A 7 5 2</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">♠ 9 8 4 3</p> <p style="text-align: center;">♥ 6 3</p> <p style="text-align: center;">♦ J 7 5 4 3</p> <p style="text-align: center;">♣ J 3</p>
<p>♠ A 7 6 5</p> <p>♥ 9 8 2</p> <p>♦ 10 9</p> <p>♣ Q 10 9 6</p>	<p>♠ K Q J 10 2</p> <p>♥ A K J 10</p> <p>♦ Q</p> <p>♣ K 8 4</p>

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
—	Sundar	Pass	1 ♠
Pass	2 ♦	Pass	2 ♥
Pass	3 ♥	Pass	4 NT
Pass	5 ♠	Pass	6 ♥
Pass	Pass	Pass	
Lead: ♣ 9			

With trumps 3-2, Sridhar was not challenged in the play, ruffing out the spade ace for plus 1010. However, at the other table...

Open Room

West	North	East	South
—	Gupta	Pass	Tewari
Pass	1 NT!	Pass	1 ♠
Pass	5 ♥!	Pass	2 ♥
Pass	6 ♦!	Pass	6 ♣!
Pass	7 ♥!	Pass	6 ♥
Pass		Pass	Pass
Lead: ♠ 5			

Subhash Chandra Gupta produced an extraordinary auction to arrive at the grand slam. I counted four wrinkles in Rajeswar Tewari's forehead after the raise to five hearts. They remained there for the rest of the auction. It was up to Tewari to make seven hearts and win the match.

B. Prabhakar (West), arguably India's most imaginative player, underled his ace of spades at trick one. While this aroused Tewari's suspicions, he was not prepared to bank all on Prabhakar's brilliance (capriciousness?) so early in the game.

Tewari tried for a 4-3 diamond break by ruffing the spade in dummy, coming to the diamond queen, ruffing another spade, cashing the diamond ace to discard a club, then ruffing a diamond in hand. Declarer had hoped to ruff another spade, draw trumps (needing them 3-2), then using the club ace as an entry to the two good diamonds.

When Prabhakar showed out, Tewari then took the only chance he had left, the ruffing finesse in spades and romped home with a bushel of IMPs, FORMIDABLES winning the match by just 11 IMPs! Fortune favours the brave, eh, what? But surely, this is ridiculous fortune! When all is said and done, this is another story for Tewari's and Gupta's grandchildren!

FORMIDABLES thus earned the right to represent India for the third time in the BFAME Championships later this year. With two Bermuda Bowl spots available for Estoril, India is quietly optimistic of claiming one of those berths.

The Youngster

Maureen Hiron, Málaga, Spain

(From the *Irish Independent*)

Dealer South. Neither Vul.

<p style="text-align: center;">♠ 6</p> <p style="text-align: center;">♥ K J 10 9 2</p> <p style="text-align: center;">♦ K 6 5 2</p> <p style="text-align: center;">♣ A 7 4</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">♠ Q 10 8 4</p> <p style="text-align: center;">♥ A 3</p> <p style="text-align: center;">♦ Q J 8 4</p> <p style="text-align: center;">♣ J 10 8</p>
<p>♠ A J 9 7 3</p> <p>♥ 7 5</p> <p>♦ 9</p> <p>♣ Q 9 6 3 2</p>	<p>♠ K 5 2</p> <p>♥ Q 8 6 4</p> <p>♦ A 10 7 3</p> <p>♣ K 5</p>

Research has shown that playing bridge is beneficial to mental well-being. I have two 82-year-old friends, and I'm saddened, because the one with no mentally stimulating hobbies can

no longer cope. The other is Tony Friday, mainstay of British bridge teams for the better part of half a century.

This was a hand Friday played recently at the Young Chelsea Bridge Club in London. As South, Friday opened one no trump (12-14) and his partner responded two diamonds, a transfer to hearts. Friday obliged, and over partner's next bid of three diamonds he jumped to four hearts. In spite of minimum opening values, he felt that his red-suit supporting holdings justified the leap.

West led the nine of diamonds, to the two, jack and ace. In view of the bidding, Tony Friday suspected the lead to be a singleton, and so made the essential play of eliminating clubs before touching trumps. See how necessary this manoeuvre was. Had trumps been broached first, East wins and plays a diamond for West to ruff. West would now get off play with a club, and in the fullness of time the defenders come to a further diamond trick, plus a spade.

However, as Friday played, West must either cash his spade ace, in which case dummy's losing diamond will be shed on the spade king. Or play a club, giving a ruff and discard, when the losing diamond again disappears. This plan only fails if East had originally held the bare ace of hearts, plus the ace of spades.

IBPA Column Service

Tim Bourke, Canberra

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

309. Dealer North. Neither Vul.

♠ 6 3
♥ A K 8 6 2
♦ A 10 6
♣ 8 4 2

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

♠ A K Q J 4 2
♥ 5
♦ K J 7
♣ A Q 6

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

The bidding was straight-forward once North decided to open on his three-quick-trick hand. South jump-shifted, then enquired about key cards. His five no trump was a grand-slam try, promising all the key cards. After North cue bid the king of hearts, denying a minor-suit king, South contented himself with a small slam.

This is a classic type of forced entry hand. South plays six spades on a trump lead. Declarer draws trumps, throwing a

club from the table, then plays the ace and king of hearts, discarding a club from hand.

After a heart ruff reveals that suit to be 4-3, declarer can make certain of his contract by leading the jack of diamonds next. If West has the queen, South makes three diamond tricks to go along with his nine winners in the other suits. And if West makes the mistake of covering the jack, South has the extra entry needed to set up the hearts for an overtrick.

When East takes the jack of diamonds with the queen, declarer wins the club return with the ace and overtakes the king of diamonds with the ace to ruff a heart. Finally he crosses to dummy with the ten of diamonds to cash the established heart for his twelfth trick.

Strangely, East does best to duck the diamond jack. Now if declarer is greedy and plays a diamond to the ten, East pounces. South is denied the two entries needed to set up and enjoy the thirteenth heart, and is embarrassed by winning the diamond finesse but taking only two tricks in the suit! Of course, South should not fall for this ploy since West can foil the entry position by playing the queen on the second round of diamonds if declarer leads low.

310. Dealer North. Neither Vul.

♠ A J 7
♥ K Q 8 6 4
♦ 6
♣ 9 7 3 2

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

♠ 8 5 4 3 2
♥ 10 3
♦ A K 3 2
♣ A J

West	North	East	South
—	Pass	Pass	1 ♠
3 ♦	4 ♠	Pass	Pass
Pass			

After West's weak jump overcall, North decided that her singleton diamond and major-suit honours warranted a punt on game.

West led the five of clubs and South assessed his prospects as dismal; he appeared to have two certain trump losers as well as one in each of hearts and clubs. Still, as the lead was likely to be a singleton, there was some hope that the club loser could disappear, as long as West held the ace of hearts and the suit was 3-3.

So declarer took East's queen of clubs with the ace and led a heart. When West played low, dummy's king scored. Declarer came back to hand with a diamond, East playing the jack, to lead a second heart. West took his ace of hearts and led the queen of diamonds. Seeing a way home, declarer discarded a club from table, crossed to dummy with the ace of trumps and threw the jack of clubs on the queen of hearts.

Next came a low spade from table, taken by East's king. After declarer ruffed the club continuation, West had no answer. It did not matter whether he over-ruffed or discarded, for declarer would ruff a diamond in dummy and discard his remaining diamond loser on a good heart.

Double dummy, all South needed to make his contract was West to have begun with 3-3-6-1 distribution, the ace of hearts and at most of one of the king, queen and ten of trumps.

311. Dealer South. Both Vul.

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

♠ 7
♥ A Q J 8 7
♦ K 9 7
♣ Q 10 4 3

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

West led the jack of spades, taken by East with the ace. After ruffing the spade continuation, declarer counted nine top tricks and so needed a diamond trick to make his contract. So he drew two rounds of trumps ending in dummy and led a diamond. As he expected West to have the ace of diamonds, when East followed with a low diamond South could develop his diamond trick by playing to the nine if East had both the queen and jack of diamonds. However, if East had either the queen-eight or the jack-eight, he needed to insert the seven. As the latter catered for twice as many cases as the former, he played the seven. West took this with the queen and played a third spade.

After ruffing this, declarer was down to one trump in each hand and so could not draw the last trump; if he did, the defence would cash two spades after winning the ace of diamonds. So, declarer crossed to dummy with a club and led a diamond. When East again followed low South inserted the nine. When this forced the ace of diamonds, and there was no defensive ruff to come, declarer had ten tricks.

312. Dealer East. EW Vul.

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

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

In round eight of the 2005 South West Pacific Championships, I had the pleasure of playing a match with Michael Courtney, Australia's enigmatic bridge genius. We played a simple four-card major style and had the simple auction to three no trump shown.

West led the two of clubs. East took this with the ace and returned the five to Michael's king. Next came the two of spades. West followed with the four and East took dummy's nine with his jack. After cashing the jack of clubs, East exited with a low spade, taken by Michael with the ace.

On the fall of the ten of spades, Michael did not hesitate. He cashed the ace of hearts, crossed to dummy with the queen and complimented West's playing low on the first round of spades by finessing the eight of spades. After that held, it would have been a travesty of justice if the diamond finesse had failed.

A pickup, perhaps? No! At the other table, South finessed the ten of hearts for a flat board!

Jaap Kokkes

On Thursday, March 24, Jaap Kokkes passed away at age 81 in his hometown of Amsterdam, following a brief illness. Kokkes was one of the dominant forces of post-war bridge in The Netherlands. A mathematics teacher by profession, he celebrated his greatest bridge successes in the sixties and seventies. During that period he collected eight national titles (three teams, four pairs, and one mixed pairs).

Kokkes represented his country on numerous occasions at international championships. He was a member of the Dutch squad that captured the silver medal at the 1966 European Championship in Warsaw and fourth place at the Deauville Bridge Olympiad in 1968. At the 1990 World Championships in Geneva Kokkes won silver in the senior pairs.

Jaap Kokkes was a player with a highly developed sense of ethics as well as a technically gifted player. He was co-developer (with Arie van Heusden of Culemborg) of the famous Crazy Diamond system, which has its adherents to this day. Kokkes also served in many functions within the Dutch Bridge League and was one of its honorary members.

by Jan van Cleeff



The Spring North American Bridge Championships I

**Brent Manley, Memphis TN
& Karen Walker, Champaign IL
(and others where noted)**

(From the Daily Bulletins. Some additional editing has taken place.)

The Spring Nationals were held where the Monongahela and Allegheny Rivers meet to form the Ohio, the defining feature of Pittsburgh (thus 'Three Rivers'), in western Pennsylvania. Pittsburgh has hosted a Regional tournament on the first weekend in September for many years, but this was to be its first Nationals since 1976.

Winners of the major North American Championships were:

North American Pairs – David Yang, Nikolay Demirev

Open Pairs – Robert Morris, Eddie Wold

IMP Pairs – Blair Seidler, Kevin Wilson

Silver Ribbon Pairs – Bill Esberg, Marla Chaikin

Mixed Pairs – John Kranyak, Laurie Kranyak

Open Swiss Teams – Jimmy Cayne, Michael Seamon, Geir Helgemo, Tor Helness, Bobby Levin, Stevie Weinstein

Vanderbilt KO Teams – Richie Schwartz, Mike Becker, Larry Cohen, David Berkowitz, Andrea Buratti, Massimo Lanzarotti

Women's Swiss Teams – Hansa Narasimham, Debbie Rosenberg, Jill Levin, Irina Levitina, Sue Picus, JoAnna Stansby

This deal, from the second qualifying session of the Open Pairs, shows how deeply Alfredo Versace can think. Would you make the winning play? You are West.

Dealer West. Both Vul.

West

♠ K Q 2

♥ A J 7 5

♦ 10 8 7

♣ 8 5 4

South

♠ 10 9 6 5

♥ K 2

♦ A K Q 5 3

♣ 9 7

West	North	East	South
Versace		Jacobs	
Pass	1 ♥	Pass	2 ♦
Pass	3 ♣	Pass	3 ♠
Pass	3 NT	Pass	Pass
Pass			

Your partner, East, leads the three of spades to the five, your queen, and declarer's seven. What is your next move? At the

table, Versace made the killing switch of a diamond: seven, nine, jack, ace. This forced declarer to take his other two high diamonds then or never, which set up the setting trick for the defenders. The full deal:

♠ J 7

♥ Q 9 6 4 3

♦ 9

♣ A K Q 10 2

♠ K Q 2

♥ A J 7 5

♦ 10 8 7

♣ 8 5 4

♠ A 8 4 3

♥ 10 8

♦ J 6 4 2

♣ J 6 3

♠ 10 9 6 5

♥ K 2

♦ A K Q 5 3

♣ 9 7

As you can see, unless Versace plays a diamond at trick two or three (after cashing a second high spade), declarer has time to set up his ninth trick in hearts before taking his three diamond tricks.

This deal came from the second final session:

Dealer West. NS Vul.

♠ A Q 9 4

♥ Q 7 3

♦ Q 5

♣ K 10 9 8

♠ 8 7 2

♥ 9

♦ J 10 9 6 4

♣ J 7 3 2

♠ J 10 5

♥ 10 8 2

♦ A K 8 3

♣ A Q 4

♠ K 6 3

♥ A K J 6 5 4

♦ 7 2

♣ 6 5

West	North	East	South
Yang		Demirev	
Pass	1 ♣	1 NT	Double
2 ♣ ¹	Double	2 ♦	4 ♥
All Pass			

1. Transfer to diamonds

Yang led the jack of diamonds. Declarer covered with dummy's queen, and Demirev won the king. He exited with the diamond three to West's nine. At this point, Demirev had a fairly easy play to make. A club return is clear since (a) Yang won the first trick with the lower honour, the king, and (b) Yang returned a low diamond. Both of these plays scream for a return of the lower-ranking suit, clubs. Demirev indeed played a club at trick three to defeat the contract.

Note that declarer's play of the diamond queen at trick one was an error: It allowed the defence to clearly communicate the best path to beating the contract.

**Bid worse, play better
By Barry Rigal**

If you bid them as badly as I do, you'd better play them better. Having reached six spades on the following deal and

gone down, you consult the hand record and discover that the slam is makeable despite the 5-1 trump split.

Dealer West. NS Vul.

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

On the normal lead of the diamond queen you do best to win in hand and lead a heart up. When South takes it (or else you pitch all the hearts on the clubs or avoid a spade loser if South ruffs in) and returns a diamond, you win the king, cross to the queen of clubs and lead a spade, intending to finesse. Once the queen of spades appears, you leave trumps alone. You cash all your winners, ending in dummy. This is the ending you will reach:

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

When you lead a plain card from dummy, South must ruff high to avoid immediate concession. You over-ruff, go back to the jack of spades and have your trump coup. Best defence – which would require truly imaginative declarer play – is to lead the spade queen.

Now, the defenders are threatening to get a second trump lead in early to disrupt the entries. Declarer must win the spade king, cash the king and queen of clubs and take the top diamonds, then run the clubs. South and West discard on all three rounds, reaching this position:

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

Now declarer leads the diamond five from dummy and can arrange to take four trumps tricks against any defence.

Lucky 13 By Barry Rigal

Don't tell Linda Smith of the Chattanooga TN area that 13 is an unlucky number. Check out board 13 from the Saturday afternoon pairs game. Note, of course, that she had to play well to take advantage of the lucky lie of the cards. Linda was playing with her husband, Ron Smith.

Dealer North. Both Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
L. Smith		R. Smith	
—	Pass	1 ♠	2 ♦
2 ♥	Pass	4 ♦	Pass
4 ♥	Pass	4 NT	Pass
5 ♥	Pass	6 ♥	Pass
Pass	Pass		

It's hard to fault North for leading his partner's suit – South did make a vulnerable overcall, after all. As it happens, North must lead a major suit to defeat the slam, as you will see.

Guided herself by the vulnerable overcall, Smith won the diamond lead with the ace, cashed the diamond king and ruffed a diamond. The king of clubs was followed by the club queen to the ace, then Smith ruffed her last diamond, followed by a heart from dummy. In with the singleton ace of hearts, South had two bad choices: lead into dummy's space tenace or give Smith a ruff-sluff, on which she would discard one of her spades. Slam bid and made.

Continued next issue...

Online Transmissions

Apr 7-10	Italian Championship for Bridge Associations	BBO
Apr 8-10	Swedish Team Trials	BBO
Apr 19-21	Estoril International Teams	BBO
May 4-7	Norwegian Club Team Championship	BBO
May 6-8	Swedish Team Finals	Swan
May 26-28	Tallin Invitational Pairs	BBO
Jun 18-Jul 2	European Open	Swan

John Collings

John Dimitri Roundel Collings, who died on 11th March, aged 71, was Britain's leading and most colourful personality at the bridge table. He leaves his wife Lusy, whom he met while on a trip to Indonesia, a daughter by his first marriage and two grandchildren.

Born in London on 6th April 1933 to an English father and a Greek-Russian mother, Collings attended school in Port Said and London. He learned bridge at the age of 15, left school at 16 to become a bank teller, and, while still a teenager, had a brief marriage to Pamela.

Despite being dogged by ill-health, Collings represented his country in five different decades. He first represented England with Ronald Crown in 1961. With Jonathan Cansino, in 1965, he represented England in the Home Internationals, won the Gold Cup, the premier event in Britain, and represented Britain in the Europeans. Collings had three more Gold Cup wins, the latest being in 1999. He and Cansino were sixth in the 1966 World Pairs Olympiad.

Collings was a master of the bluff bid and opponents who tried to second-guess him rarely came out best. He gave up banking to make bridge his fulltime career after a move to Geneva in the sixties. Collings was a big winner at high-stakes rubber bridge in Switzerland, and also formed partnerships with the leading Swiss players of the day, Jean Besse and Tony Trad. He represented Switzerland on two occasions. A professional bridge trip to Tel-Aviv and Beirut led to his marriage to Nora, who, following divorce, he later re-married.

After recovery from a heart attack suffered on the airplane back from Lebanon, Collings moved back to London where he ran a Bridge Academy owned by Jack Nunes. He re-entered the British bridge scene and the British team, with Collings partnering Paul Hackett, won the silver medal at the 1981 Europeans.

Away from the table Collings was a kind, generous, and thoughtful man. At it he was the most critical of partners, with a repertoire of cutting remarks that reduced even tough characters to wrecks. His most successful partnership in recent years was with Martin Jones, a player 40 years his junior. They represented Britain in the 1999 Europeans.

Last year, Collings partnered Martin Jones's father, David, in the England Senior Team at the World Olympiad in Istanbul. Friends and opponents alike reminded Collings of his remark made some years earlier, "If you see me in the Seniors, I'll be dead, and even then, I'll be above average."

by Patrick Jourdain

News

Best Wishes

Our sincere best wishes go out to Alan Truscott and Gianarrigo Rona, fighting with and recovering from recent illness.

ACBL Bridge Hall of Fame

Betty Ann Kennedy and Kit Woolsey – both winners of multiple international and North American competitions – are the newest members of the ACBL Hall of Fame. The results of the most recent ballot were revealed in Memphis in February. Induction ceremonies will take place at the Summer NABC in Atlanta.

Kennedy and Woolsey will be joined in the Hall of Fame by Marshall Miles, recipient of the Blackwood Award for service to bridge, and the late Percy Sheardown of Canada, recipient of the von Zedtwitz Award, given to veterans now out of the public eye.

Sportsmanship Award

Nick Nickell has been named the 2005 recipient of the Sidney Lazard Jr. Sportsmanship Award. The honour is given annually in recognition of players whose high standard of play is matched by equally high standards of conduct and demeanor. Nickell joins previous winners Lynn Deas (2004), Larry Cohen (2003), Rose Meltzer (2002) and Paul Soloway (2001).

Hugh Ross Update

Before last year, Hugh Ross was a regular at NABCs. A three-time Bermuda Bowl champion and winner of numerous North American titles, Ross is still recovering from a stroke. The effect of the stroke on his short-term memory was disastrous and his eyesight is also slightly impaired, making it difficult to distinguish between the red suits. Thus, Ross believes his bridge-playing days are "gone forever." Ross's passion for bridge is almost equalled by his love of opera, especially Wagner, and travel, two hobbies he now intends to combine with fervour.

EBL Official Issues Tournament Invite

Panos Gerontopoulos, in his capacity as Honorary Secretary of the European Bridge League, travelled to the Spring NABC in Pittsburgh for a couple of reasons. One was to help maintain a good working relationship between the ACBL and the European Bridge League. He also went to invite participants in the NABC to attend the 2nd Open European Bridge Championship in Tenerife, Canary Islands, June 17 through July 2.

Kokish Lauded

Eric Kokish, referred to in the Daily Bulletin at the Pittsburgh NABC in March as "the genial Canadian," was lauded by the ACBL for his success in helping the Nickell team prepare for their various successes in NABCs, USBC Trials and World Championships over the past eight years.

Croatia Tournament

Jeff Easterson writes regarding the 44th International Bridge Festival at Hotel Histria, Pula, Croatia from September 10-21, 2005. Information can be found at www.crobridge.com/pula; phone +385 98 288 199.



Correspondence ...

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Hi John,

Not the Bermuda Bowl thing, but the Estoril tournament in April - final information is now available.

**20th International Bridge Festival -
Portuguese Grand Prix of Bridge:
Teams 19-21 April 2005
Pairs 22-24 April 2005**

Venues: Casino Estoril (Teams). Hotel Cascais Miragem (Pairs). The teams will be broadcast live on BBO. The venue for the pairs is magnificent, in a new, top 5-star hotel right on the seaside. Prize money is as last year (about 20,000 euro total). On Saturday April 23, there is a dinner with show in the casino for all participants, and apart from the prize money the travel agency will offer trips to Brasil to the winners of the main pairs event. More details at www.lusobridge.com or on the Portuguese Bridge Federation's website, www.fpbridge.pt

Best wishes, Rui Marques, Chief TD Estoril

Dear Editor,

Ron Klinger's letter (Bulletin 482, p15) contains one example that implies he has forgotten Law 48A of the International Laws of Bridge: "Declarer is not required to play any card dropped accidentally." So if, as Klinger himself says, Weigkricht "... *dropped* the club jack in error...", any TD would allow her to replace the card in her hand without penalty. If there was doubt about whether she had intended to play the card the TD would refer to Law 45c2.

In the other examples the card played was the one declarer intended to play at the time, and so would normally stand even if the player spotted his error a moment later. Kokish's initial point in Bulletin 480 was that where the mistake was directly caused by the opponent intentionally violating tempo (see Law 73d2) either opponent should allow the correction. If they didn't, the TD might well do so.

The general principle of Law is that mechanical errors such as dropping cards, slips of the tongue, and unintended infractions may be corrected without penalty unless the partnership has received unauthorised information. A defender's dropped card visible to partner carries a penalty but a facedown lead out of turn or revoke by declarer may be retracted without penalty. Law 25a: "Until his partner makes a call, a player may substitute his intended call for an inadvertent call, but only if he does so, or attempts to do so, without pause for thought. If legal, his last call stands without penalty..."; Law 45c4b, on naming a card from dummy, "A player may, without penalty, change an inadvertent designation if he does so without pause for thought..."

Regulations cover the special situation with screens where errors such as insufficient bids, bids out of turn etc. may all be corrected without penalty if partner has not seen them. One Law, 25b, "Delayed or Purposeful Correction" even allows a change of intention in calling. 25b1 allows LHO to accept this change without penalty, and, controversially, Law 25b2b2 allows a change of call made intentionally even when LHO has called and objects to the change, though here a change is subject to penalty. In the next edition of Law, this is likely to be amended as it does not fit the general theme that legal actions intended at the time stand. TDs have a problem reconciling this Law with the Bidding Box regulations that imply a bid made with intent cannot be changed. (My view is that Law takes precedence over regulation.)

Yours, Patrick Jourdain (former chairman, Laws Commission of Great Britain)

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