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THE INTERNATIONAL BRIDGE PRESS ASSOCIATION

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Editorial

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

"I have just had the most extraordinary conversation with David Rex-Taylor," my wife Katie said to me upon my return home on Friday, May 6 from the Bonn Nations Cup. "What about?" I asked. "You should take off your coat and put your suitcase away, at least," she replied, "this will take a while."

The crux of that conversation and the two I had with Rex-Taylor over the following two days was that Terence Reese had confessed to him years ago, and had sworn him to secrecy until both Schapiro and he (Reese) were dead *and* 40 years' time had passed between the Buenos Aires Bermuda Bowl incident and the revelations to follow. Following is the text of Rex-Taylor's submission, details of which were to be published simultaneously by Alan Truscott in the *New York Times* and Patrick Jourdain in *The Daily Telegraph* on Tuesday, May 10, then in the June number of the IBPA Bulletin. It is printed it here in its entirety, with very minor editing for clarity.

CHEATING AT WORLD BRIDGE

New York Times 60s Exposé Vindicated after 40 Years
from David Rex-Taylor

The nineteen fifty-five world bridge champion, Englishman Terence Reese, was a genius player and author. Forty years ago news media worldwide broke the biggest bridge story of the 20th century, alleging that he and his partner, fellow-champion Boris Schapiro, had been observed cheating in a major international event in Buenos Aires. Official hearings in the USA and UK reached opposite conclusions as to guilt. Both Reese and New York Times correspondent Alan Truscott wrote books each convincingly presenting opposing cases. Controversy has raged inconclusively since then.

Over 30 years ago, Reese privately explained to me what had really happened after I solemnly promised I would reveal nothing whatever to anyone until after both his and Boris' deaths and then only after 40 years from the time of the allegations in 1965. I have kept that promise.

Firstly, to clarify my involvement with Reese that has finally brought me to this point. After the general horror and fallout from what had happened, Reese chose not to be seen for many months, and I, like many others, was concerned. As organiser of the Richmond Bridge Congress, a popular annual event, I decided to tempt him back to competitive bridge by including a special 'Little Major' session to give players a unique opportunity to use Reese's new artificial bidding system (of which the 'establishment' utterly disapproved). After days of consideration he agreed to compete.

After months of bidding practice with my partner, 48 hours before the event Reese phoned me to confirm his attendance, adding that he was looking forward to "our playing together." I was surprised, as it had not occurred to me to ask, or that he would have even considered playing with me. I said there had been a misunderstanding, which he immediately accepted. Seeking a partner (Jeremy Flint declined as he was abroad), Reese finally persuaded a reluctant Jack Albuquerque, a London rubber bridge player, who had but a few hours to study the complexities of the Little Major from scratch! GCH Fox reported the result in *The Daily Telegraph*: 1 T Burger/D Rex-Taylor; 2 JT Reese...! For me it was an unwelcome Pyrrhic victory. At his suggestion, I partnered Reese in another of the congress events, and when I misdefended, he remarked, "Partner, you really butchered that one!"

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The Carrousel Cup, Amsterdam

April 11-15, 2005

Kees Tammens, Amsterdam

What is the most frequently-asked question by a Junior at the start of a training session? Usually the players enter the playing area with an urgent question, "When are we going to eat?"

Eight invited national junior teams met in April to contest the 2005 Carrousel Cup in Amsterdam. The fancied teams were Poland and the host Netherlands, due mainly to their extensive youth training programmes.

Can you match the juniors in this quiz?

1. Danny Molenaar of the Netherlands had a fine moment with an ordinary 6-6:

♠ A K 10 9 3 2
♥ —
♦ A 9 8 5 4 2
♣ 7

He opened one spade and rebid three diamonds after partner answered one no trump. Partner raised to four diamonds and now the Dutch junior took things in hand by bidding six diamonds. After the lead of club queen he had the task of making twelve tricks.

♠ 6 5
♥ 10 9 8 7
♦ Q 10 7
♣ A K 9 5

♠ A K 10 9 3 2
♥ —
♦ A 9 8 5 4 2
♣ 7

How do you play six diamonds with the lead of queen of clubs?

2. Rutger van Mechelen from Belgium had a tough bidding decision, like always on hands with a semi-solid ten-card suit!

Dealer North. Neither Vul.

♠ 7 2
♥ 2
♦ --
♣ A K J 10 8 6 5 4 3 2

West	North	East	South
—	1 ♥	3 ♠	??

What is your bid?

3. Tim Heeres of the Netherlands was pleased by the way he made this tricky four-spade contract.

Dealer South. Both Vul.

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

How would you play as West on the heart queen lead?

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

4. The following deal arose in the semifinal match between Poland and Norway.

Dealer West. Both Vul.

♠ Q 10 8 6 3
♥ 9 4
♦ A J 7 2
♣ 7 5

♠ A K 7 5
♥ A K 2
♦ 9 3
♣ Q J 9 2

West	North	East	South
1 NT	Pass	2 ♣	Pass
2 ♥	Pass	3 ♣	Pass
3 NT	Pass	6 NT	Pass
Pass	Pass		

With a tough lead against the opponents' six-no-trump slam, you (North) decide on a fairly aggressive spade six. Declarer ducks in dummy (gulp!) and wins Partner's nine with his jack. He continues with the heart six to the ace, Partner following with the three (reverse signals), and the diamond three, four, king. Do you win or not?

Answers:

1. ♠ 6 5
♥ 10 9 8 7
♦ Q 10 7
♣ A K 9 5

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

Danny Molenaar took the club queen opening lead and went on with the diamond queen, which was certainly the right move when East covered with the king. Ace of diamonds, ace-king of spades and a spade ruffed with the diamond ten was the winning play.

2. Rutger van Mechelen jumped all the way to six clubs, not showing any fear of two possible losers in spades. Right he was. The dummy:

♠ A 8 5
♥ A K 9 6 3 2
♦ J 8 2
♣ 7

♠ 7 2
♥ 2
♦ --
♣ A K J 10 8 6 5 4 3 2

A nice result, and the Belgian pair only wanted to know how they should or could have bid the grand!

3.

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

Heeres ducked the opening heart queen lead, won the continuation with the ace, then played the ace of clubs followed by the queen. When South covered with the club king, declarer ruffed, played a diamond to the king, then continued with the club jack. At this point the defence was finished: if South ruffs low, declarer over-ruffs and crashes the spade tops; if South goes in with the spade ace, declarer ditches his heart loser.

4.

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

In defending against six no trump, the actual defender won the diamond ace and continued with the spade queen, allowing Patryk Kuczera Dyga of Poland to execute a double squeeze against the defence, with diamonds as the central suit. Ducking would have defeated the slam.

In the Netherlands A match against Poland, Maria Dam Mortensen (North) found the winning line in a tricky three no trump contract.

Dealer North. Neither Vul.

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

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

A low club was led to the nine and queen. Mortensen continued with the diamond king to the ace and East got off play with the heart ten. Declarer won the ace and tried to split the diamonds, finding out that West's nine stopped the suit.

Realising that if the spade honours were split, Mortensen knew that West would win the first spade honour and play a club through the ace. Then East would have the remaining spade honour for the established clubs. Thus, West needed both spade honours to make her game. Accordingly she cashed the ace of clubs and her hearts before leading a spade. West could take a diamond as well as his spades, but then had to concede the ninth trick to dummy. Well played!

A round robin of 20-board matches was followed by quarterfinals, semifinals and final. All teams made the quarterfinals (these are juniors, after all), 1st playing 8th, 2nd meeting 7th, and so on. Netherlands A, Poland, Norway and England took the first four places and defeated Netherlands B, Germany, Belgium and Denmark, respectively, in the quarterfinals.

England accounted for Netherlands A in one semifinal, and Poland beat Norway in the other. Poland staged a second-half comeback to pip England in the final. Congratulations to Ewa Grabowska, Patryk Kuczera-Dyga, Piotr Madry, Lukasz Brede, Robert Dyczkowski and Jan Sikora with Marek Markowski as NPC.



The Chinese Taipei Team Trials Teng-Yuan Liang, Tainan, Taiwan

Bridge is full of both joy and tears. However, in competitive bridge, experiencing these mixed emotions in just a few boards with two successful coups is extremely rare. For Nelson Ho and De-Tong Cheng, this happened in our Team Trials for the Chinese Cup.

RR 8. Board 11. Dealer North. Neither Vul.

(Rotated for convenience)

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

West led partner's suit, which was ducked on the table and taken by East's jack. After some thought, Cheng played the spade ace and another trump to extinguish the ruffing ability of dummy. Ho then led a small diamond from the table to his hand's queen and West's ace. West exited with another club, which was ruffed by declarer. After drawing East's remaining trump, Ho tested for an even break in diamonds. When East showed out on the third round, Ho had a sure plan in mind. He rattled off all his trumps to reach the following position:

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

When the last spade was played, an automatic double squeeze was executed. West had to protect his diamond, so he released a heart. A diamond discard now from dummy put East in jeopardy. In fact, East gave up a heart, so Ho made his deuce of hearts and thus the contract.

It's not too difficult to point out that West did not do his best. When in with the diamond ace, should he switch to a heart, declarer would be put to a guess in the diamond position. If diamonds are three-three, he'd have to win the heart in hand. If they are four-two with West, he'd have to win in dummy to execute the squeeze. Though he may guess right, at least you give him a losing option.

Exactly five boards later, Cheng got a chance to take his revenge.

RR 8. Board 16. Dealer South. NS Vul.

(Rotated for convenience)

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

West	North	East	South
Ho	—	—	Cheng 4 ♥
Pass	Pass	5 ♦	Pass
Pass	5 ♥	Pass	Pass
Double	Redouble	Pass	Pass
Pass			

Ho also led his partner's suit and Cheng ruffed. When Cheng banged down the trump ace and found the bad news, he did not panic. He then passed the spade eight and there was no solution for defensive side. At the table, East took his ace and played the ace of diamonds. South ruffed and repeated his spade finesse to the jack, then played the club ace, club king and a club ruff. A spade to the table was followed by another club ruff.

Now the hand was reduced to ♠ 10, ♥ K J in declarer's hand and ♥ Q 10 9 in West's. A spade forced West to lead into the trump tenace. A rare plus 1200 for a vulnerable redoubled five hearts, making despite the worst trump break.

Even if East had found his best defence by ducking the first round of spades and returning a spade after taking the second round, thus refusing to facilitate declarer's trump reduction, South still could prevail via a diamond ruff, a club to the jack, ace, king of clubs pitching a spade, and a club ruff. The only hope for the defence is a club opening lead. But the careful play of an immediate diamond still means success.

After a big round robin for three days, YEH BROS, JIANG-YO, KUANG-HWA, and TAICHUNG CITY stood out. They would advance to the knockout stage. Under the conditions of contest, the round robin leader YEH BROS (Chen Yeh, Chih Kuo Shen; Patrick Huang, Chin-Hsiang Wu; Hsin-Lung Yang, Wei-Chun Chiu) could choose their opponent in the semifinal. To everyone's surprise, Patrick Huang chose the defending champ, also another of the two pre-trials favourites, the retooled JIANG-YO. Maybe he wanted to prove he's still the best.

This match proved to be very exciting. JIANG-YO took charge early, winning 42 IMPs in first session and gradually increasing the lead to 47 after three sessions. Then the roof caved in and they lost 50 IMPs in the fourth session and maybe their morale also. Soon, the lead switched hands. In the final session, YEH BROS chopped again and another 50 IMPs sent them to the final.

On the other side, the five-handed KUANG-HWA (Steven Chien, Zuei-Yo Shih; Wen-Yu Chen, Hsin-De Huang, Peter Ou) entirely out-matched TAICHUNG CITY, winning about 200 IMPs in four sessions before the latter conceded.

It was YEH BROS to face KUANG-HWA in the 96-board final. KUANG-HWA drew first blood by winning 28 IMPs in the first session. But then it was YEH BROS taking control, and they never lost a single session afterwards.

The final result was 285-146, and YEH BROS will represent Taiwan in the PABF Championships in Seoul this summer. They are almost the same team that reached the 2003 Bermuda Bowl playoffs and the winner of the 2004 PABF Congress. So we can hopefully expect them to clinch one of the three spots for the Bermuda Bowl in Estoril.

If you are South, holding:

♠ K 4
♥ 2
♦ A 10 6
♣ A K 9 8 5 3 2

with neither vulnerable, after:

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

What call do you make?

In the final, both Souths elected to bid five clubs. The North hand:

♠ Q 9 6 3 2
♥ A Q
♦ 9 7 4 3
♣ Q 10

After a heart lead, both declarers went up with the ace and tried for a miracle in spades. The spades broke 5-1 and both declarers went down two. The heart king was onside all along. However, if you bid four no trump at your second turn, you would not face such a difficult play problem. Four no trump must be natural and indicate longer club length than expected after North's initial pass. With so many fast tricks in prospect, if North thinks three no trump will make, so will four no trump.

Final. Session 3. Board 42. Dealer East. Both Vul.

♠ A 6 5 4 3
♥ 10
♦ A Q 7 4
♣ A 9 8

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
—	CHWu	Pass	Huang
1 ♥	1 ♠	3 ♥	3 ♠
Pass	4 ♠	Pass	Pass
Pass			

Closed Room

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

1. Constructive raise to 2♥

In the Open Room, East led the heart queen to the king and ace. Wu ruffed the heart continuation. He cashed spade ace

and the bad news surfaced. Another spade was played to the ten, East ducking. Then Wu showed us an experienced play: he led club deuce from table, West following low, so Wu's eight took this trick.

After that, the play became easy enough. Even a further heart play from East, when in with the spade king, could not bother declarer. If West had smartly risen with a club honor on the first round of that suit, things would have been much different. A heart force would now disturb declarer's transportation. Declarer would need to take the right view in diamonds to bring home his contract. So, credit to CHWu.

In the Closed Room, Yeh (sponsor of YEH BROS team and Cup) started with the club king. No ducking, nor unblocking. South took his ace immediately and continued with the trump ace to confirm the worst break. A spade to the ten left declarer with big entries troubles as the cards lay.

South tried a club, but Yeh took the queen and shifted to a precise low diamond. (Otherwise declarer might play the heart king as a scissors coup to cut off the later entry for a diamond ruff, and thus make his game.) East then cannot be denied a diamond ruff because there still was a heart entry to West. Well done, Sir Yeh! The juicy 13 IMPs gained from such YEH BROS teamwork was just a part of the 72-12 slugfest session.



Hangzhou
April 17-19, 2005
Eric Kokish, Toronto

Hangzhou calls itself "the cradle of Chinese Civilization" and, for its scenic beauty, "Paradise on the Earth." It is one of the seven ancient Chinese capitals, having once been the capital of the Wu and Yue kingdoms in the 10th century and the Southern Song Dynasty during the 12th and 13th centuries.

Hangzhou is currently the capital of Zhejiang province and is its centre of politics, commerce, culture and tourism. It is one of 15 'vice-provincial' cities in China, second in rank to the giant municipalities like Beijing and Shanghai. In comparison to western cities, Hangzhou is about the size of Bogotá or Essen, with more than six million people. Hangzhou is a 2½ hour coach ride from Shanghai Airport.

Twenty-four invited teams would play in a unique event. Eight rounds of Swiss teams would produce 15 teams for a direct knockout; they would be joined by the team of the main sponsor, Mr. Chen Yeh. Again uniquely, the top eight teams from the Swiss would play in double-elimination mode, having to lose twice before exiting the event, while the teams finishing 9-16 in the Swiss could afford to lose only once.

Due to the vagaries of the format, three once-defeated teams would face each other in a semifinal match to determine one opponent in the final. The other opponent would be the remaining undefeated team which, as a reward, would receive a 6-IMP carryover into the match. Is all that clear?

On the Saturday before play began, there was a friendly match arranged between a team led by Minister Ding and

one captained by Chen Yeh. Despite losing 71-54, the sponsor showed his mettle on the following deal.

Dealer West. NS Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Fan	Yeh	Wong	Huang
1 ♥	Pass	Pass	Double
2 ♥	3 ♦	Pass	3 NT
Pass	4 ♣	Pass	5 ♣
Pass	Pass	Pass	

Yeh-Huang's teammates, Gloria Ho and Benito Garozzo, had bought the hand for three hearts when Garozzo never supported hearts with the East hand, responding one no trump to his partner's one heart opening and passing thereafter, causing the opponents to misjudge their degree of fit.

It would have been interesting to see whether Fan could have picked off Huang's stiff king, and if he hadn't, whether Huang could have picked off his, if Huang had been allowed to declare three no trump!

In any case, against five clubs, Wong led the spade eight to the ten and king. Yeh realised that East must have had a big heart fit, yet he had not bid, which he was certain Wong would have done had he held a king. Backing his judgment he played a club to the ace and soon claimed his contract.

Swiss Highlights

Round 1. Board 6. Dealer East. EW Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
—	Chen	Pass	Shih
1 ♠	—	Pass	1 ♣ ¹
Pass	Double ²	Pass	2 ♣ ³
Pass	2 ♥ ⁴	Pass	3 ♥
Pass	6 ♣	Pass	Pass

1. Many hand types
2. Negative
3. 4/5 in the minors
4. Forcing

The bidding wasn't elegant, but Steve Chen and ZY Shih's six clubs was a respectable contract - one that was missed frequently. Shih had his work cut out for him with trumps five-zero, but he started well by winning the spade lead in dummy, discarding a diamond on the spade king, crossing to hand with the heart ace, and leading a low club to the king.

East took the ace to play a second heart to the ten, jack, and king. The six of clubs was covered by the nine and jack and declarer cashed the heart queen before leading a diamond to dummy's jack. He needed East to be precisely 2=3=3=5, and could not afford to ruff a diamond in dummy as he needed to preserve dummy's last trump to lead through East.

When the diamond finesse worked, Shih led the club three to his seven, crossed to the diamond ace, and led the thirteenth heart from dummy. East could ruff and be over-ruffed, or discard his diamond and succumb to a trump coup at trick 12, declarer discarding the diamond king on the long heart. There was no defence in the end game, and once declarer started clubs as he did, it would not have helped East to withhold the ace of clubs.

A beautiful piece of declarer play!

Round 2. Board 7. Dealer South. Both Vul.

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

At most tables, North declared four spades after a takeout double by East, West remaining silent. The defence can prevail by cashing two rounds of hearts and switching to clubs, and figure to do this if West gives count in hearts. But West fears a potential heart discard on a diamond and does not know that East has five hearts.

Attitude signalers might well encourage hearts. Declarer ruffs the third heart, cashes the ace of spades to learn that he has a trump loser, and leads the diamond ten before East can be sure of the position. It's best not to cover, but if East plays his queen, declarer wins the ace, finesses the spade jack, cashes the spade king, and plays on diamonds. If West ruffs in, he must play a club, fatally. If he doesn't, declarer exits in trumps and West must lead from the king of clubs to concede the contract.

Pairs who lead the ace to ask for an attitude signal and the king to ask for a count signal would have no trouble getting this one right. Maybe everyone should get it right no matter what the signalling method. One high heart and a club switch, perhaps?

Round 3. Board 5. Dealer North. NS Vul.

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

North/South can make two hearts and can make at least one no trump from the normal South side on any lead but a spade. Consider the events at one table, where West found the lead of the heart three against South's one no trump (Pass-Pass-1NT-All Pass). Declarer, hoping West had led from queen-third, tried the jack at trick one, handing the defence a heart winner it was not otherwise going to make. Declarer took the heart queen with the ace, and tried the club king, which held. He cashed the king of hearts and exited with a second club to the jack and queen.

East switched to the queen of spades, theoretically denying the jack in the partnership methods. When West took South's king with the ace he noted that declarer had already shown up with the black kings and ace-king of hearts and his stated range was 13-15 HCP. There was therefore no room in his hand for the diamond king, which would give him 16 HCP.

Stuffing his abacus under the table, West thoughtfully shifted to the queen of diamonds to avoid giving East a problem. Imagine his surprise when declarer won with the 'impossible' diamond king and played a club to West's ace. East had followed to the diamond queen with the ten, indicating the nine, so rather than bank on spades running, West exited smoothly with the diamond deuce, hoping declarer would have the eight and misguess.

Indeed, declarer played low from dummy! East scooped in the nine of diamonds and returned his remaining diamond. The defenders took the rest of the tricks, and declarer was down 300!

The following board saw some very well-timed card reading and play from Giorgio Duboin in three no trump:

Round 7. Board 7. Dealer South. Both Vul.

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

On receiving the lead of the three of spades, which ran to the eight (looks strange, but has no bearing), Duboin played a small diamond to the king and ace, noting the appearance of the ten. East returned a spade and the queen lost to the king. Back in with the ace of spades, Duboin let the eight of hearts run(!), cashed the ace and played to the jack of hearts.

Next, he let the other red eight run and was rewarded with nine tricks. At the other table, no more than eight tricks were assembled, declarer leading towards the queen of diamonds on the first round of the suit.

KO I. Board 14. Dealer East. NS Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
—	Li Xin	3 ♥	Shaolin Sun
4 ♥	Pass	Pass	Pass

At many tables, East passed, permitting South to open one spade before East/West reached four hearts. At those tables, declarer was going to play South for both minor-suit aces and make his contract. Indeed, that is what happened at one table in China SMEG vs. Canada, Fu/Zhao going plus 420.

At the diagrammed table, Shaolin Sun had to find a blind opening lead against four hearts, and he did well to start with the ace of diamonds. When North followed low to discourage a continuation, it was clear for South to underlead the ace of clubs at trick two. Put yourself in declarer's place. Would you play for split aces or for South to have both aces because he led one rather than (say) a club from the queen, or a spade?

Ask any expert and he will give you a sage reply about the merits of one approach or the other, but at the table, where it mattered, the Canadian declarer played low from dummy and so went down in four hearts to lose 10 IMPs, more than half the margin separating the teams at the conclusion of the match.

KO Quarterfinal. Board 1. Dealer North. Neither Vul.

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

This was the first deal of the three-way match between ZJ Hua Men and Canada. At both tables, North/South reached six spades from the South side. Fred Gitelman for Canada got the lead of the two of hearts (third/fifth), won dummy's ace, and played on trumps, losing a trick to the queen. West returned a trump and Fred played two more rounds of that suit.

Gitelman cashed a high club and played three rounds of diamonds, ending in the dummy. East, forced to keep the heart king, had to come down to two clubs so Fred was able to win the last three tricks in that suit after finessing against the club queen. Not too shabby!

Wenfei Wang, for Hua Men, ducked the lead of the heart two to the king, so had two discards for her clubs, but now she had to find the trump queen for her contract. She started to giggle, then ran the spade nine, giggled some more, repeated the trump finesse, cashed the spade king, came to hand and drew my last trump. This display merited a 'high five' between Wenfei and Yu Zhang. My partner, the inimitable George Mittelman, seethed visibly through the screen.

Unwilling to believe that my old friend Wenfei had pre-purchased the hand records, I dared to ask her why she had adopted such an esoteric line of play. She batted her eyelids at me, grabbed my wrist, and confessed: "I like you, but your partner, not so much. I knew that if my play worked, he would be an unhappy person for the rest of the match, maybe even the rest of his life." I would not make up this story.

In the event, Italy I was the undefeated team and would face either China or Canada in the final. There were two teams from Shanghai and one representing Toronto in the semifinal: they would play a three-cornered match to determine Italy's opponent. The other two teams would play off for third place.

Shanghai The Flag is Loyal defeated the other Shanghai team and Toronto in the semifinal to advance against Italy. A curious thing happened in the two matches: the final finished even on the boards played, and Italy won by the precise margin of their 6 IMP carry-forward. The playoff also ended in a draw: there both teams tied for third place. Names of personnel can be found in last month's Bulletin.

A Tribute to Henri Szwarc

Henri Szwarc, the most decorated of all French bridge players, died on 22 April 2005.

Throughout his career as a high level bridge player, Henri Szwarc accumulated many international achievements. What is most remarkable is that he obtained some of these successes with undeniably talented but young players, whom he inspired with his dogged determination to win. Philippe Soulet (Olympiad in Valkenburg 1980), Hervé Mouiel (European Open Championship in Wiesbaden 1983, Bermuda Bowl in Stockholm 1983, Olympiad in Seattle 1984) and Franck Multon (Olympiad in Rhodes 1996) among others passed through the hands of this giant.

It is impossible to cite here all his dozens of French championship titles. We will content ourselves therefore with listing his international medals. We should also remember that with his benchmark partner, Jean-Michel Boulenger, Henri received the award for the best European pair in 1966.

Bermuda Bowl

- Silver: Taiwan (1971)
- Bronze: Miami (1967), Hamilton (1975), Stockholm (1983)

Olympiad

- Gold: Valkenburg (1980), Rhodes (1996)
- Silver: Seattle (1984)

European Open Teams Championship

- Gold: Warsaw (1966), Estoril (1970), Herzlia (1974), Wiesbaden (1983)
- Silver: Montreux (1954), Stockholm (1956), Palermo (1959), Dublin (1967), Ostend (1973)

European Senior Teams Championship

- Silver: Malta (1999)

M. Szwarc, You were known affectionately as "Old Henri," not because of your age, which you easily concealed with elegance since you always appeared 20 years younger, but more for the exceptional longevity of your remarkable career as a champion. I only know about the beginning through stories of the exploits of the pair that you formed with Jean-Michel Boulenger, another great player who has also sadly left us, with whom you formed one of the best partnerships in the world. On the other hand, I got to share at close hand the past 25 years during which you remained in the foreground, both at the national and international level.

And these world titles or European titles, you won these with young players to whom you undoubtedly brought your experience and perhaps, even more, your desire to win and your unshakeable optimism. Together with talent, these are the qualities that are indispensable to the successes you sought with such pugnacity.

International and French bridge owes you a great deal and paid the tribute to you that you deserved when I had the pleasure of presenting you with the insignia of 'Chevalier' of the National Order of Merit. You did not disguise your pleasure that day, nor on any other day of victory. So much so, that one can say, without fear of being mistaken, that bridge made you happy.

You loved life so much that I have difficulty in believing that you have left us. You will continue to be with us in our memories, and with your bridge hands. And if, this time, you could not overcome this last stroke of fate, your spirit will always be looking down and enlivening the bridge table.

José Damiani, Paris

IBPA Column Service

Tim Bourke, Canberra

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

313. Dealer South. EW Vul.

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

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

This was a simple auction, with four no trump being treated as Blackwood – even though there is a strong case for using it as natural after either Stayman or a minimum-level transfer bid; then the cheapest bid in the other major at the three or four-level is a general slam try in the major suit shown by opener.

West led the ten of clubs to dummy's ace and declarer made the obvious move of a heart to the queen. This brought mixed news; the finesse succeeded, but East still had a sure trump trick. At the table, declarer returned to dummy with a club and repeated the heart finesse. After cashing the ace of trumps, he took the simple line of cashing the king of diamonds and finessing dummy's jack. When this lost to East's queen, South bemoaned his luck.

However, dummy was not sympathetic. He pointed out that there was an additional chance. "Just cash your spade winners and then exit with the last trump. As East will only have diamonds left, he will have to lead one and you will make the three diamond tricks required for your contract"

"Of course, if it turned out that East had a safe exit available in one of the black suits," North continued "you would ruff in the dummy, cross to the king of diamonds and take the diamond finesse."

314. Dealer South. NS Vul.

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

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

Once South opened with a strong, artificial two clubs, North always had a grand slam in mind. Rather than take up space by making a positive response, he decided to make a waiting bid of two diamonds. After the two heart rebid and raise, South declined to cue bid because he had a bare minimum for his opening.

North rolled out Roman Key-Card Blackwood and bid the grand slam in hearts once South showed four key-cards (three aces and the king of hearts). This was more than a tad agricultural as asking about the trump queen (with five spades) would see South bid six diamonds, showing both queen of hearts and the king of diamonds.

Still, the play's the thing. How should South plan to make thirteen tricks once West has led the jack of spades? Clearly the hand revolves around taking four diamond tricks. If diamonds are 3-2 or 5-0 or there is a singleton jack of diamonds all will easy. The difficulty comes when one defender has J-x-x-x. It seems that declarer will cash the ace of diamonds and then have to guess whether to play the king or the queen next.

However, declarer can reduce this risk of misguessing diamonds by gathering information about the defensive hands. He takes the spade lead with the king and draws trumps in three rounds. On this layout, after cashing the two remaining spade winners, followed by the minor suit aces and club ruff, declarer knows that West started with five spades, three hearts and at least two clubs – that's ten cards so he can't have four diamonds! Consequently, declarer plays the queen of diamonds next and makes his contract by finessing for East's jack.

315. Dealer East. Both Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
—	—	3 ♥	3 ♠
Pass	4 NT	Pass	5 ♠
Pass	5 NT	Pass	7 ♠
Pass	Pass	Pass	

South showed two of the five key cards (the ace and king of trumps plus the trump queen) after North's key card inquiry.

North's five no trump asked for side-suit kings and invited a grand slam. South, with a very suitable hand, was happy to accept.

West led the nine of hearts. Declarer counted the twelve obvious tricks and saw that normally the best chance of a thirteenth would be to play on clubs, which succeeds there is a singleton queen of clubs or when the clubs are no worse than 4-2, for then you can establish a long club by ruffing.

After winning the lead with the ace of hearts, declarer drew trumps and found East following twice. As East now has nine known cards in the majors, the combined chance of a 4-2 or 3-3 club break reduced to around 68% - down from the usual 84% or so.

Declarer realised that, as East had only four cards in the minors, aiming for a minor-suit squeeze on West was a better plan. Declarer cashed the minor suit aces and, when both opponents followed with small cards, he continued with the king of diamonds and ruffed a diamond. This left West in sole control of both minors, so when the remaining trumps were run, West has to abandon his guard in one of the minor suits.

Overall, the squeeze has nearly an 80% chance of success, much better than relying on establishing the clubs.

316. Dealer North. Both Vul.

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

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

After North opened the bidding, South was hardly likely to stop short of game. His two heart cue bid promised a strong hand and asked North to find a bid that best described his hand. Once North chose two spades it was obvious to continue to game in that suit. How should declarer plan to make ten tricks when West leads a heart to East's ten and a trump is returned?

South had nine sure tricks and needed a tenth from somewhere. There was no point in trying for a heart ruff; if he played a heart, East would take this with the king and return another trump, leaving South a trick short of his contact (if a round of diamonds is conceded at some stage, to set up the suit, the defenders will be able to cash a third heart trick).

There is only one way to make the contract, by ducking a diamond at trick three, before the second round of trumps

is drawn. Now declarer loses a diamond trick at a convenient time, while there is still a trump in dummy to deal with a third round of hearts. The defenders can do no better than cash one more heart and play a second trump. South wins in hand, draws trumps and discards his remaining heart on a long diamond.

20th Estoril International

19–24 April, 2005

Rui Marques, Palmela, Portugal
João Passarinho, Madrid

For the 20th time, players from around Europe gathered in Estoril for this popular event, this year with the added flavour of being right next to the venue where the Bermuda Bowl, Venice Cup and Seniors Bowl will take place in late October.

The event has a not-very-demanding format: three days of Swiss Teams (3 x 8 boards per day, in one session per day), followed by three days of Open Pairs. Prize Money: around 20,000 Euro. Chief TD: Rui Marques.

The Swiss was held at the Casino Estoril and contested by 34 teams. The competition at the top was fierce and from day 1 the VuGraph transmitted through Bridge Base Online and the duplication of boards for the top third of the field added spice and emotion to it. The last round was Danish (replays permitted), and at table 1 the leaders, GRADS (Dessy Popova, Rosen Gunev, Steve and Georgia Ray), from Bulgaria and the U.K., very strong throughout the event, were ahead by 3 VPs, but were being challenged by PASSARO (João Passarinho, Maria Panadero, Paulo Sarmiento and Tiago Canelas), from Portugal and Spain.

The final victory could have gone either way on several occasions, the most spectacular of which could have been on the very last board:

Board 8. Dealer West. Neither Vul.

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

The bidding was the same in both rooms:

West	North	East	South
Sarmiento	Popova	Canelas	Gunev
G.Ray	Passarinho	S.Ray	Panadero
1 ♦	Pass	1 ♥	1 ♠
Pass	1 NT	Pass	2 ♠
Pass	Pass	Pass	

The cumulative score up to this point was 6-4 (16-14 in VPs) to PASSARO, virtually trailing by 1 VP. The play was basically the same in both rooms too...

The opening lead was the ace of diamonds, followed by the nine of hearts to the queen from dummy and the king from East. East played the only card to beat it: the diamond seven to his partner's king. Without that return, West would be easily end-played later. West exited with his (or her) last heart and that was curtains for declarer, with three tricks to lose in clubs. Six to four in IMPs, 16-14 in VPs, not enough to the challengers...

Could declarer have made it? None of the 12 declarers saw it, and yet there is a 100% line of play... five minutes after the match Maria Panadero got it: only one card does the trick - the heart ace at trick two, and not the queen! After this, declarer draws trumps and exits with the jack of diamonds! Now the defence is truly end-played and must concede the much needed eighth trick in hearts, diamonds or clubs! It could have been 17-13, and thus 1 VP ahead in the end instead of 1 VP behind...but it was too late to count, and too close for comfort.

Final standings:

- 1 GRADS (Popova, Gunev, S. Ray, G. Ray) 164 VP
- 2 PASSARO (Passarinho, Panadero, Sarmento, Canelas) 163 VP
- 3 LARA (Capucho, Lara, F.S.Ferreira, Nuno Paz, Luis Faria, Carlos Luis) 159 VP

The pairs tournament was held in the new Cascais Mirage hotel, a five-star unit with perfect conditions for the game. There were 147 entries, with Ventin/Lambardi training for the Cavendish, Popova/Gunev with the teams in the bag, most of the top Iberian players and dozens of others from abroad. Portuguese pairs dominated the field. The top three (all from Portugal) were:

- 1 Sofia Pessoa-Joao Faria 65.53%
- 2 P.G.Pereira-Jorge Cruzeiro 61.65%
- 3 Jorge Castanheira - J.Dias 61.02%

More information can be found at http://www.lusobridge.com/main/2004_2005Festivals/estoril_english.htm

13th BFAME Championships B. Jayaram, Baroda, India

The thirteenth Championships of the Bridge Federation of Asia and the Middle East were held this year in Dhaka, Bangladesh, from 28th April to 6th May, 2005, at the Pan Pacific Sonargaon Hotel. India and Pakistan were again expected to be the dominant forces, and so it proved...almost.

After a triple round robin of matches and a final, the Open winners were indeed India (Kiran Nadar, Subhash Gupta, Rajeswar Tewari, B Satyanarayan, KR Venkatraman, Sunit Choksi). However, they defeated not Pakistan, but Jordan (Marwan Ghanem, Haider abu Jaber, Sireen Barakat, Nuha Nattar, Zafer Jarar), in the final. Both teams qualify for the Estoril Bermuda Bowl.

In the Womens' Series it was again India (Geeta Lakhani, Bimal Sicka, Shailaja Mahajan, Feroza Chothia, Indira Sonawala, Ameeta Raithatha), but this time over Pakistan (Rehana Saigol, Zeenat Azwer, Samia Rasheed, Tahera Naqvi, Shireen Bokhari, Abida Ali). Similarly, both qualify for the Venice Cup in Estoril.

Deal 19 in the third round of Round Robin I provoked some discussion among the experts present here. Most of the North-South pairs were in four spades, the normal contract, going down one. But in the Pakistan-India match, Ziaullah Beg, sitting in the North position for Pakistan, concealed his five card spade suit and landed in a three no trump contract.

Board 19. Dealer South. EW Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Subhash	Ziaullah	Rajeswar	Hamed
—	—	—	Pass
Pass	1 NT	2 ♦*	2NT*
Pass	3 ♣	Pass	3 NT
Pass	Pass		

After Ziaullah opened with a no trump and Rajeswar Tewari of India bid two diamonds, showing a single-suiter in a major, Hamed bid a Lebensohl two no trumps. Ziaullah made the asked-for three club bid and Hamed signed off in three no trumps showing good values in the majors.

After some thought, Rajeswar led the seven of hearts. The lead was taken on the table with the king and a low diamond was played. The diamond pips were so bad that declarer has essentially to win with the king. Was that the moment of reckoning for Rajeswar?

Perhaps, because he had to drop his queen under the king in case declarer continued with diamonds. He would hope that Subhash could gain the lead with the jack and push a club through declarer. After one round of diamonds, however, declarer must test spades, for if they are three-two, he has his nine tricks. On the second round of spades, East gets a second chance to dispose of the offending diamond queen, and hopes his partner can shift when he gains the lead and that he has the clubs necessary for declarer's defeat.

Once spades are seen not to break, declarer must turn his attention back to diamonds, leading to the ten to maintain transportation. Now, if East has made the good play of dropping the queen under the king and then has taken the opportunity to discard a heart on the second spade, West should perhaps find a club shift. The shift would certainly be more difficult if East follows low to the diamond king, then rids himself of the diamond queen on the second round of spades, realising that the lady has become a liability.

This is a situation all serious partnerships should discuss. There are circumstances where the defender might want a heart return, but must maintain a stop in the other suit, in this case clubs. But this is what makes defence so fascinating.

**Round Robin 5. Jordan v Pakistan.
Board 8. Dealer West. Neither Vul.**

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

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

While the open room East-West quietly played in two clubs making four, Jordan's Ghassan executed an interesting sequence of plays to make three no trump. Winning the spade lead in hand with the king over South's seven, he finessed the spade nine at trick two and followed with the queen. North won and shifted to a low heart. Rising with the ace, Ghassan cashed his third spade winner, then played a diamond to his king and two club winners to learn that he now needed a club finesse as well.

Ghassan then played a low diamond to South's now bare ace! Nine tricks were in the bag now. That, I thought, was nicely played, although I pondered that South might have defeated the contract by rising with the ace of diamonds on the first round of the suit and continuing with another diamond.

No sir, says Pakistan's Hassan Askari who was the actual defender in the South position. If South rises with the ace and continues diamonds, Ghassan could go up with the king and end-play South in clubs for dummy to win the ninth trick with the queen of hearts. Three spades, two hearts, one diamond and three clubs, leaving the defence with only one trick in each suit!

Board 15. Dealer South. NS Vul.

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

In the closed room, declarer played in five clubs and went down three, undoubled. In the open room, in East's four hearts contract, there is a seemingly beautiful defence which was evidently missed at the table. Diamond ace led, followed

by a shift to clubs. North takes the first heart and plays a second round of diamonds forcing dummy to ruff with the last trump on the table. Declarer is stuck at the table now and cannot avoid a club ruff by North. But...declarer can counter this by refusing to ruff the second diamond.. But...the defence can win the second diamond and give North a club ruff. But...declarer can ruff the second diamond and lead a trump. But, finally...North can duck the first trump...



Las Vegas, May 4-8, 2005

Rich Colker, Wheaton, MD

This report is an amalgamation of deals from the Rich Colker/ Barry Rigal-edited daily bulletins, Bridge Base Online deals and contributions from the players.

The Cavendish is the world's top money bridge tournament, this year returning to the Rio Hotel in Sin City. For the past few years the Cavendish has sported three events, the John Roberts Teams, the World Bridge Productions Pairs, and the flagship event, the Cavendish Pairs.

First up was the teams, which featured, by my count, 33 world champions in the 18 entrants. Although not a member of that club yet, Vincent Demuy would be on most people's list of "Most likely to..." especially as he is still of junior age.

Match 1. Board 3. Dealer South. EW Vul.

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

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

Demuy as South received the lead of the heart ten which he ducked to his queen, then played a diamond to the jack and king. The seven of clubs went to the jack, queen and ace. A second diamond went to the queen and ace. West now played another heart in an attempt to give his partner a ruff, Demuy winning dummy's ace while pitching a club from hand.

At this point Demuy's discovery plays had given him enough information to know that East held the spade king.

Accordingly, he played the spade queen from dummy and was able to limit the losers in the suit to one. Plus 420.

There was no auction in the teams event, the prizes being paid out of the entry fees. The top placers were:

1. Roy Welland, Björn Fallenius, Bobby Levin, Steve Weinstein (USA)
- 2= Gilad Altschuler, David Birman, Piotr Bizon, Michal Kwiecien (Israel, Poland)
- 2= Seymon Deutsch, Paul Soloway, Billy Cohen, Ron Smith, Walid el-Ahmady, Tarek Sadek (USA, Egypt)

It is a different story for the pairs events. Top Calcutta pair was Bocchi-Duboin, fetching \$58,000. The minimum buy-in was \$12,500 and a dozen pairs in the field of 44 failed to attract more than the minimum bid. The auction amassed just under \$1M, \$230,000 of which went to the winners' buyer. Top prize in the players' pool was just over \$23,000.

The Cavendish Pairs is played as an all-play-all five-session IMP pairs, with three-board rounds. The results are IMPed against all 21 of your opponents, so to get a realistic score, divide the totals by this number.

Session 1. Board 17. Dealer North. Neither Vul.

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

The defenders combined nicely on this deal Willenken led a heart, which went to the jack and queen. Declarer tried the jack of diamonds, then when North followed with the nine, judged that the king was offside, and rose with the ace to play a spade to the king. Willenken ducked this smoothly and declarer knocked out the diamond king, allowing the defence to win and in turn knock out the heart ace.

Declarer won the second heart and ran his diamonds, Cohler cleverly pitching the ten of clubs, denying interest in that suit and showing interest in spades. Declarer was completely taken in, and believed he had Willenken in a strip squeeze. On the last diamond, declarer expected North to be squeezed out of his idle spade. When Willenken instead threw a low club, declarer expected the king to drop under the ace and played accordingly. He was surprised to see the defence take the rest!

Bart Bramley is one of the world's great technicians on card play. On the following deal, Bramley demonstrated that even

after a misguess, declarer can often recover, provided he keeps his wits about him.

Session 1. Board 23. Dealer South. Both Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
—	Lazard	—	Bramley
Pass	2 ♣	Pass	2 ♠
Pass	3 NT	Pass	Pass
Pass			

Bramley won the diamond six opening lead with the jack and played a diamond back, winning the queen in dummy. He ran the nine of spades, losing to the jack and ducked when West shifted to a heart. When East won the king, Bramley unblocked the jack.

East returned a heart and Bramley won the queen and knocked out the spade ace. Down to hearts and clubs, East exited a club, which Bramley won with the queen. He cashed his two spade winners, forcing East to release clubs. Then ace and another club forced East to concede two more heart tricks.

The heart unblock had allowed Bramley to score three heart tricks, whereas if he had not unblocked, the defence could have held him to two, despite the stronger holding.

The following deal illustrates why Fred Gitelman is one of the best young bridge players in the world today.

Session 2. Board 2. Dealer East. NS Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Semeta	Gitelman	Moss Sr.	Moss Jr.
—	—	Pass	Pass
1 ♠	Pass	2 ♣ ¹	Pass
3 NT	Pass	Pass	Pass

1. Drury + fit

Gitelman led the fourth-best four of clubs and Mike Moss put down the dummy. When Moss's son Brad followed with the club ten (reverse count), Gitelman could see that the clubs were annoyingly (to the defence at least) blocked.

Sementa would have needed to be clairvoyant to see the blockage. Accordingly, in a desperate attempt to make his contract without needing a spade play, he instead continued with a diamond to his jack. Gitelman won the queen and could now, because of Sementa's play, visualize the whole deal. He pictured Sementa with spades that he knew were not running, and perhaps the three side-suit kings.

Accordingly, Gitelman played back a second low club! Imagine Sementa's surprise and glee to be offered this gift. Still in with a chance (he thought), he won the club king, unblocked the diamond king and continued with a heart to the jack, hoping Gitelman had the doubleton king. Brad Moss captured the jack with the king, carefully cashed the ace of spades and played his third club to Gitelman's now running suit. Three down!

Try the next hand as a lead problem. You are Jean-Christophe Quantin, sitting West.

Session 5. Board 3. Dealer South. EW Vul.

♠ A 6
♥ K Q 7 3 2
♦ K Q 6
♣ J 10 6

West	North	East	South
Quantin	Buratti	Multon	Lanzarotti
—	—	—	1 ♦
1 ♥	Double	3 ♥	4 ♣
Pass	5 ♣	Pass	Pass
Pass			

I am certain that Quantin would be the first to agree that his actual lead of the heart king was too reflexive. Look what happened:

♠ Q 10 5 3
♥ A J 6 4
♦ 7
♣ Q 9 3 2

♠ A 6
♥ K Q 7 3 2
♦ K Q 6
♣ J 10 6

♠ K J 7 4 2
♥ 10 9 8 5
♦ J 10 8
♣ 4

♠ 9 8
♥ —
♦ A 9 5 4 3 2
♣ A K 8 7 5

Lanzarotti easily made his contract on Quantin's king of hearts lead. It is evident on the bidding that the defence must cash its tricks in the majors with alacrity. The spade ace can hardly cost. If a heart needs to be cashed, it will still be there at trick two. On the actual layout, three rounds of spades would have brought the French a huge score.

Going into the final session, Lanzarotti-Buratti had a large, but by no means insurmountable, lead. In a set of boards that was generally pretty much to their liking (that is to say, dull), the following was the deal of the final session, if not the event.

Session 5. Board 11. Dealer South. Neither Vul.

♠ 8 6 4
♥ Q 7 4
♦ A J 2
♣ A J 10 4

♠ K Q 7 3
♥ A
♦ K Q 10 5
♣ K Q 9 7

♠ 10 9 2
♥ J 8 6
♦ 7 6 4 3
♣ 8 6 5

♠ A J 5
♥ K 10 9 5 3 2
♦ 9 8
♣ 3 2

West	North	East	South
Zia	Garner	Hamman	H. Weinstein
—	—	—	2 ♥
Double	Redouble	Pass	2 ♠
Double	3 ♥	Pass	Pass
Double	Pass	3 ♠	Pass
Pass	4 ♥	Double	Pass
Pass	Pass		

This deal will do nothing to change Hamman's opinion of trump leads, which he loathes. Zia led his trump, the ace, and switched to the spade king, then the diamond king, both of which Weinstein allowed him to hold.

Zia's club queen continuation was won with the ace in dummy, and Weinstein ran all his trumps, finessed the diamond jack and threw his club on the diamond ace. Oops. Zia had to bare the spade king to keep the club king and Weinstein dropped it for a cool plus 590.

West	North	East	South
S. Weinstein	Buratti	Levin	Lanzarotti
—	—	—	2 ♥
Double	Redouble	Pass	Pass
2 ♠	Double ¹	Pass	2 NT
Pass	4 ♥	Pass	Pass
Pass			

1. Competitive

Here again, Weinstein led the ace of hearts and shifted to the spade king. Lanzarotti showed that there is more than one path to enlightenment by winning the ace and continuing with a club. When Weinstein split his honours, declarer won the ace and played heart queen, heart to his king and two more hearts. The six card ending was:

♠ 8 6
♥ —
♦ A
♣ J 10 4

♠ Q 7
♥ —
♦ Q
♣ Q 9 7

♠ 10 9
♥ —
♦ 7 6 4 3
♣ 8 6

♠ J 5
♥ 10 9 5
♦ 9 8
♣ 3

When Lanzarotti played his second club, Weinstein had to duck and the jack scored in the dummy. Declarer now ruffed a club, travelled to the diamond ace and played dummy's last club discarding the (albeit master) diamond. West had to win and present declarer with his tenth trick by way of the spade jack. A rare winner-on-loser play.

In the diagrammed end-game, declarer had two alternate winning lines: playing off the diamond ace at trick eight (then playing a club honour) or cashing the diamond ace at trick nine (after winning the club jack).

At the conclusion, the top pairs were:

1. Andrea Buratti-Massimo Lanzarotti
2. Cezary Balicki-Adam Zmudzinski
3. Pablo Lambardi-Juan Ventin

Blair Seidler and Kevin Wilson were the winners of the WBP Pairs. More details can be found at the Cavendish website: www.thecavendish.com.

World Wide Web Resources for Bridge Journalists

On-line Viewing

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

Tournament Bulletins

<http://www.worldbridge.org/competitions/>
<http://www.eurobridge.org/index2.html>
<http://www.acbl.org/play/nabc3.html>
<http://www.pabf.org/competitionCorner.asp>
<http://www.bridgeplaza.com/>
<http://bridge.cplaza.ne.jp/necfest.html>
<http://www.thecavendish.com/>

Miscellaneous Information

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

Online Transmissions

Jun 3-4	Canadian Team Championship	BBO
Jun 9-11	S.A. Championships	BBO
Jun 9-12	U.S. Women's Team Championship	BBO
Jun 18-Jul 2	European Open	Swan
Jun 24-Jul 3	PABF Championships	BBO
Jul 7-12	Nordic Championship	Swan
Jul 9-17	Danish Bridgefestival	Swan
Aug 3-4	Swedish Chairman's Cup	Swan
Aug 7-17	World Youth Team Championship	BBO
Sep 2-3	Polish Team G.P.	BBO
Sep 23-25	Polish Division 1	BBO
Dec 16-18	Polish Pairs G.P.	BBO

Correspondence ...



The Editor reserves the right to shorten correspondence

Email: ibpaeditor@sympatico.ca

Joan Durran

Joan Durran, who has died aged 83, won the 1966 World Women's Pairs for Britain partnering the late Jane Juan (later Priday). Mrs. Durran was a runner-up at the World Mixed Pairs the same year partnering Maurice Weissberger, a neighbour in Brighton for her retirement years.

Mrs. Durran was also a member of the British Women's Team that won the European Championships in 1961 and 1966. She was a World Life Master.

Mrs. Durran married the late George Durran, a dentist in Welwyn Garden City, and leaves two children.

Patrick Jourdain, Cardiff

IX Computer World Bridge Championship

The 2005 World Computer Bridge Championships are set to take place at the WBF's World Championships (Bermuda Bowl/Venice Cup/Senior Bowl/Transnational Open Teams). The dates of the computer championships are tentatively set at October 27 - November 1, 2005.

Information on entry, along with the history and write-up of all past championships, can be found at <http://www.computerbridge.com/> or www.ny-bridge.com/allevy/computerbridge

Al Levy
allevy@aol.com
 631-858-9225
<http://ny-bridge.com/allevy>

Patrick Jourdain's New Book

"*Easy Guide to ACOL Bridge*" is now available. It is a beginners' book aimed at bridge teachers and bridge students. The book includes an extensive Glossary and contact details for online bridge and the Bridge Federations of England, Scotland, Wales, Northern Ireland and Republic of Ireland. The book is a suitable manual for any teacher of ACOL.

Journalists and bridge teachers can obtain copies from the author for £8.50 plus P&P (£1 within the UK) or apply for a free copy from the publisher. Contact Jourdain on pdjourdain@hotmail.com. Paperback: 160 pages, retail price £10.99. The publishers, Chrysalis Books Group, give a 35% discount to anyone ordering 20 copies or more... contact: cdampier@chrysalisbooks.co.uk.

...Cheating at World Bridge: continued from page 1

Following the congress, we stayed in touch. I published (imprint Bibliagora) titles by Victor Mollo, Rhoda Lederer, Maurice Harrison-Gray, Reese and Flint, and reprinted the rare first bridge book "*Biritch*," and was IBPA executive editor from 1982 to 2001, when sudden serious illness forced immediate retirement.

Although I am Russian-speaking and enjoyed chatting with Mollo and Schapiro, I was never in an appropriate situation to discuss the cheating allegations with Boris. Equally, I had never planned to raise the subject with Terence, and it was several years before the alleged cheating surfaced in conversation. I had managed to insert the remark that Schapiro had said, at the time, words to the effect of, "That wicked man made me do it." A long, uneasy, painful silence followed. Then, following my agreement with his strict confidentiality and 40-year embargo insistence, he said, "Hardly fair comment by Boris, wickedness didn't come into it." Now taking notes, I was further startled by his measured insistence that I was to understand that the versions of events in his and Alan Truscott's books were "by no means mutually exclusive, but rather jointly conclusive," adding that, "motives aside, both were, for practical purposes, collectively exhaustive."

He went on to confide that in the sixties he had been planning to write a highly-researched, in-depth book on cheating at cards and other indoor games and activities, commenting that he despised cheats, that success and winning solely on merit was cardinal, and that cheats in any activity should be pilloried and their methods exposed. He had discussed the material with Boris but had planned sole authorship. He felt that the book would have done very well, and was to have been first published in the United States, possibly with the title, "*Grand Theft – Cheating*." I recently learned that in the 50s, Reese made two BBC radio broadcasts on cheating.

He persuaded a reluctant Boris Schapiro that, as world champions, it would be quite unthinkable that they would cheat, that no one would even be paying attention to such an idea, and that in any event, absolutely no signalled information would be used in any way whatsoever during their actual play. Consequently, as this was merely a purposeful security exercise, they would definitely not be cheating – it would simply be a constructive illusion, establishing a crucial point about a despicable practice.

Certainly, he said, a competitive advantage could be obtained by finger-signalling heart holdings whilst holding one's cards. Their exercise had the single positive aim conclusively to establish in a 'live' situation that cheating could be practised undetected, such research establishing that urgent remedial action was needed.

A reluctant Boris finally agreed, strictly on the understanding, firstly, that the whole exercise be revealed in full detail in the book on cheating, with analyses to prove that they had both acted honourably throughout the play of the hands, as if they indeed had no prior knowledge of the heart distribution, so

confirming their 'worthy innocent objective,' and secondly, that publication should be a matter of priority. Reese's brainwave was atypically a disastrous miscalculation. Although judged not guilty in the UK at a hearing widely considered to be flawed by blatant cherry-picking of both evidence and witnesses, elsewhere the pair were deemed proven guilty. Security was, of course, duly increased, but Reese could not reveal the true explanation at the time as the very objective of his extraordinary operation – effectively an author's failed publicity stunt – had so spectacularly backfired in abject failure. Pleading anything but innocence was therefore not an option for either player.

Instead of the cheating book, Reese said that he and Flint would write a soft-porn novel, "*Trick Thirteen*," based on cheating, real-life antics off the bridge table in hotel bedrooms at international bridge tournaments. As requested by Reese, I published the paperback edition. Sales were insignificant and as the publisher I arranged for all unsold copies of both hardcover and paperbacks to be destroyed.

So, as requested, after forty years, I have provided a mouthpiece in order for Terence Reese to explain these exceptional matters to the world from beyond the grave. He was unrepentant.

Comments are invited. Since we have already taken up so much space, I shall reserve my own comments for future issues. [*The Daily Telegraph* gave Rex-Taylor's story (through Patrick Jourdain) page 1 treatment. However, the *New York Times* declined to publish any mention of it through Phillip Alder, who is writing Alan Truscott's column while he recovers from illness.]

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