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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.

Qualification is now complete for the World Championships in Estoril, Portugal this fall in three events: Bermuda Bowl, Venice Cup and Seniors Bowl. Player names can be found at www.ecatsbridge.com, the official web site for Estoril information.

	Bermuda Bowl	Venice Cup	Seniors Bowl
Host Nation	Portugal	Portugal	Portugal
Zone 1 (Europe)	Italy Sweden Poland Russia England Netherlands	Sweden Netherlands France Austria Germany England	Denmark Poland France Germany Sweden Italy Netherlands
Zone 2 (North America)	USA 1 USA 2 Canada	USA 1 USA 2 Canada	USA 1 USA 2 Canada
Zone 3 (South America)	Brazil Argentina	Brazil Argentina	Brazil
Zone 4 (Asia & the Middle East)	India Jordan	India Pakistan	Pakistan Bangladesh
Zone 5 (Caribbean & Central America)	Guadeloupe	Venezuela	Guadeloupe
Zone 6 (Pacific Asia)	China Japan Chinese Taipei	China Indonesia Japan	Indonesia Hong Kong Japan
Zone 7 (South Pacific)	Australia New Zealand	Australia New Zealand	Australia New Zealand
Zone 8 (Africa)	Egypt South Africa	Egypt Morocco	Egypt Morocco

In an effort to coax teams to send representatives to the Olympiad, the WBF introduced the following rule:

Zones may not send teams from countries which did not participate in the 2004 World Bridge Team Olympiad in the respective event, i.e., Open = BB and Women's = VC.

You will notice that the rule does not apply to the Senior Bowl. Just as well, since there are six teams playing in the Seniors Bowl from countries which did not send representatives to Istanbul. The only nation to run afoul of this rule was Trinidad & Tobago, unfortunate winners of the Caribbean & Central American Zone Women's Teams, but ineligible for the Venice Cup. Indeed, Venezuela was the only country from Zone 5 which played in the Women's Olympiad Teams and will thus be in Estoril.

This strikes us as exceedingly unfair. It greatly disadvantages teams from Zones other than Europe and North America since the Olympiad is always held in Europe or North America, making it more expensive and inconvenient for them to attend. The WBF made a generous gesture to T&T by offering them WBF-subsidized entry into the Transnational Teams as a consolation. However, the WBF would have done better by offering subsidies to poorer nations to attend the Olympiad. Would it not be better to encourage countries from Zones 3, 4, 5 & 8 (South America, BFAME, CAC and Africa) to come to the Olympiad by offering, for example, to waive their (not inconsequential) entry fees?

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The African Zonal Championships

Dilip Gidwani, Accra & Julius Butkow, Johannesburg

The Zone 8 Championships were played in Casablanca, Morocco from May 7 to May 15. Two slots were at stake for the Bermuda Bowl, the Venice Cup and the Seniors' Bowl. Egypt swept the board in all three categories, winning convincingly. They will be joined by Morocco in the Ladies and Senior events – yes – Morocco were surprise silver medallists at South Africa's expense in the Venice Cup qualifier. South Africa booked their place for the second spot in the Bermuda Bowl qualifier.

The championship kicked off with 73 pairs playing a three-session Match Point game. Chavannaz – Beineix from France (ineligible for the Championship) won with a final total of 184.55%, more than three percentage points clear of Alami – Cambournac, the home pair from Morocco, winners of the Zonal Title.

The Bermuda Bowl team trials was played as a double round robin of 20 boards among seven countries – Egypt, South Africa, hosts Morocco, Kenya, Botswana, Tunisia and Réunion. Egypt led after the first round robin with 140 VPs and consolidated their position after the second, with a total of 288 VPs. A significant win for Egypt was their 25-2 trouncing of South Africa.

The Venice Cup trials were also played on the same format as the Open, with Egypt, South Africa, Morocco, Kenya and Réunion making up the field. Egypt here too emerged winners with 198 VPs. Morocco grabbed the second spot when South Africa lost to the Egyptian Ladies 25-1, in the second leg and also lost the all-important direct match against the Moroccan ladies 17-13.

The trial for the Seniors Bowl was a contest between Réunion and Morocco since Egypt were favourites for the gold medal, which they duly gained. Morocco edged out Réunion by a slender 1 VP margin to book their passage for Estoril.

The Championship was a organizational success for The Royal Moroccan Bridge Federation and a personal triumph for its President, Ms Chafika Tak Tak.

Here are two deals of interest from the Open Pairs.

Session 1. Board 13. Dealer North. Both Vul.

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

It is normal for East to start with a preempt of three hearts after a pass from North. West would normally raise to four hearts. Would you like to play or defend? Remember, it is pairs. Tim Cope from South Africa, sitting South, led the diamond seven. What are East's chances now?

At the table, East let this ride to the king. Glen Holman, sitting North, ducked the trump queen, on which South dropped the eight (which he told me later was a preference for spades). East then played the spade five to his queen and South's ace. South returned a small club and East took the losing finesse. Back came the diamond jack, setting up a trump promotion for South, and in the fullness of time, East was down one.

The diamond lead was indeed most attacking. East would have done better to win the lead in dummy and immediately play the trump queen. North can duck this and East gets back to his hand with the diamond king. Now it's decision time again – whether to play for the ace or ten doubleton in trumps. Here is where Cope's play of the heart eight at trick two may have led declarer to believe that that the trump ten was doubleton. Good play by the South African pair.

Or, alternatively, declarer can win the diamond king and heart queen, then play the spade king to try to force an entry to hand. If this is ducked as well, two more rounds of diamonds discarding a black loser see declarer home safely.

The South African "Winkle"

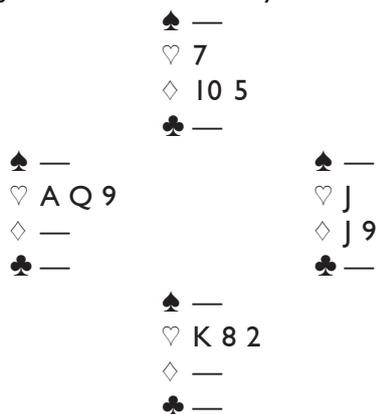
Holman from South Africa gave me this hand that he played in the African Pairs Championships. The "Winkle" (dictionary meaning = to pry, extract, or force from a place or position) is the name he gave to the situation. Hand and play are reproduced below:

Board 16. Dealer West. EW Vul.

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

Holman was sitting South. The auction went two hearts by West, passed around to South who bid two no trump and was raised to three no trump by North. West led the spade five and East played the two, giving count.

In Holman's words, "I now cashed three more spades, pitching a heart from dummy. Put yourself in East's position. Pitching a club or a diamond would be wrong if declarer had queen third of diamonds or ace-ten third of clubs, so he let go a heart. I crossed to dummy with a diamond (still searching for my ninth trick), to lead the queen of clubs. When the club ten fell from West, I now cashed four club tricks and the attention fell to West who had to pitch diamonds or be end-played with the diamond queen (he thought) to play a heart up to my king. This led to the following three-card ending with the lead in dummy:"



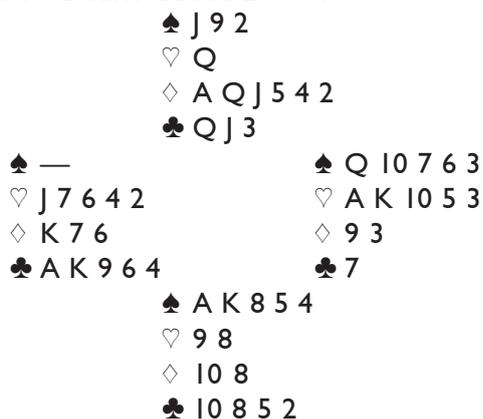
Holman told me he now led the heart seven from dummy and ducked the East's jack. West could overtake and concede a heart to the king or he could let East win and concede a trick to the diamond ten. That was the eleventh trick for the South African pair. Nicely played and analyzed by Holman, despite a soft opening lead.

But what has the winkle got to do with the hand? The winkle occurred at trick eleven when East was winkled if he won as he would have to yield a trick to the diamond ten in dummy, or West was winkled if he won the heart queen, as he would have to give declarer the heart king!

West could have avoided the winkle by retaining a low diamond and unblocking the diamond queen on the second round of the suit.

Why Double When You Can Make A Slam?

Board 19. Dealer South. EW Vul.



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

Julius Butkow of South Africa wrote up this pretty deal played by the Grand Old Dame of Bridge, the indomitable Petra Mansell. Petra's intellect came into sharp focus, belying her 80-plus years.

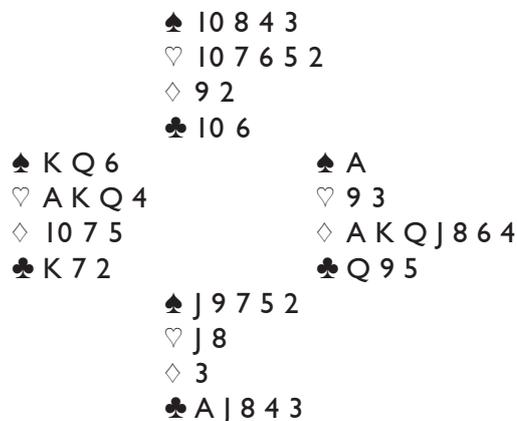
Most contracts are simple affairs, but with this one North led the two of spades, and now difficulty reared its ugly head. The ten of spades was covered with the king, which was ruffed in hand. A small heart followed to the king and then a small spade which again was ruffed in hand. Another heart to the king drew out the remaining trump. Declarer then laid down the queen of spades because she knew the jack was in the North hand. South agitated for a long while, then ducked, on which declarer sluffed a diamond. A small club to the ace, followed by the king saw declarer pitch a diamond from dummy.

Declarer had the feel of the outstanding cards – North had one more club and five diamonds. A third club followed captured by the queen on which declarer threw away her last diamond. North was end-played, and had to play diamonds – she chose the ace, which was ruffed in dummy - and the diamond king in declarer's hand became trick twelve.

If the ace of diamonds is led the contract is easy. The small spade lead presented declarer with ramifications that were difficult to confront, but she overcame all obstacles to get home safely, with a little help from the defence. Once declarer played a second trump, South must cover the spade, forcing out declarer's last trump while still holding the spade eight over dummy's seven-six. Not as easy to see was the necessity for North to unblock the queen and jack of clubs under the ace-king to avoid being left on play with the third round of the suit.

Board 9 from Round 2 was a hand that brought joy and grief depending on which side of the score line the teams finished.

Board 9. Dealer North. EW Vul.



This deal produced some of the wildest swings of the tournament. The Kenyan pair on Vu-Graph, Pujara-Shah warmed up the room with an auction that was more rubber-bridge: East opened one diamond, the Egyptian South bid

one spade and West made a bold bid of six no trump. Pass from North, but East was not done – seven no trump – South, holding the club ace, made a systemic double, asking for a non-spade lead. Excluding the diamond, North was 50 % on to lead a club, but got it wrong – a heart lead brought home 13 tricks, plus 2490 and 15 IMPs to the Kenyans. And guess who were Kenya's victims – Tarek Sadek and Waleed el-Ahmady of Egypt !!



The Last 30

Tim Bourke, Canberra

In 2004, Roy Welland, Björn Fallenius, Michael Rosenberg and Zia Mahmood lost the final of the United States Bridge Championship to Nick Nickell, Dick Freeman, Paul Soloway, Bob Hamman, Jeff Meckstroth and Eric Rodwell. At the time, there were concerns that the strain of such an event was too much for a four-man team, especially for a group that was on the far side of forty. This year, those same concerns were raised again as the team was set to face a (for the most part) younger six-man squad in the final: Russ Ekeblad, Ronnie Rubin (both in Zia's age group), Fred Gitelman, Brad Moss, Geoff Hampson and Eric Greco (all younger than Welland, the youngest on his team).

The final would be 120 boards played in eight sessions over two days. After 90, WELLAND had held its opponents to a little more than one and a half IMPs per board (the Kaplan standard for excellence) and led 189-148. On the first board of the penultimate set, this lead was increased to 47 IMPs. Astonishingly, at the conclusion of board 98 the scoreline read WELLAND 194, EKEBLAD 192. EKEBLAD had the lead by board 101 and would never relinquish it, running out comfortable winners, 281-230. They'd outscored their opponents 133-41 in 30 boards, an amazing feat at this level. It was the third straight loss in the final for Welland, and perhaps it is time for a reassessment of the four-man strategy.

Here are four of the boards which contributed to the turnaround:

Board 92. Dealer West. NS Vul.

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

Acquiring their club ruff was a bit too double-dummy and Zia-Rosenberg beat Ekeblad a trick in his freely-bid game. Perhaps Rosenberg should have taken the push to five hearts.

After all Zia could have had a stiff spade and two clubs, in which case even six hearts had excellent play.

West	North	East	South
Zia	Ekeblad	Rosenberg	Rubin
1 ♥	1 ♠	2 ♠	Pass
3 ♦	4 ♣	4 ♦	Pass
4 ♥	4 ♠	Double	Pass
Pass	Pass		
Moss	Welland	Gitelman	Fallenius
1 ♥	4 ♠	5 ♥	Pass
Pass	Pass		

Gitelman did take the push to five hearts, albeit through a more direct route and at his first opportunity to express his support. This is one of those deals where you don't know whether plus 480 (Gitelman-Moss's score) is going to be good or bad. You might be comparing against minus 50 or plus 980. They had to be pleased at their teammates' minus 200 to win 7 IMPs.

Board 93; Dealer North; Both Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Zia	Ekeblad	Rosenberg	Rubin
—	Pass	1 ♥	Pass
1 ♠	Pass	2 ♦	Pass
3 ♣	Pass	3 ♦	Pass
3 ♥	Pass	4 ♣	Pass
4 ♦	Pass	4 ♥	Pass
5 ♦	Pass	5 ♥	Pass
Pass	Pass		

Rosenberg drew some trumps and knocked out the ace of diamonds, eventually claiming eleven tricks for plus 650 – another potential 25 IMP swing deal, depending on whether opponents bid the slam in no trump or in hearts.

Gitelman-Moss had no trouble bidding to the top spot in efficient fashion.

West	North	East	South
Moss	Welland	Gitelman	Fallenius
—	Pass	1 ♥	Pass
1 ♠	Pass	2 ♦	Pass
3 ♣	Pass	3 NT	Pass
4 NT	Pass	6 NT	Pass
Pass	Pass		

And that was another 12 IMPs EKEBLAD's way. Zia-Rosenberg were on the wrong end of yet another slam swing, a pattern over the past two finals.

Board 100. Dealer West. Both Vul.

♠ A 8 3 2
♥ A 9 6 2
♦ Q 6 4
♣ 8 3

♠ K Q 10
♥ Q 3
♦ J 10 8 7 2
♣ 10 7 6

♠ J 9 7 5
♥ K J 8 5
♦ A
♣ A Q J 4

♠ 6 4
♥ 10 7 4
♦ K 9 5 3
♣ K 9 5 2

West	North	East	South
Zia	Ekeblad	Rosenberg	Rubin
Pass	Pass	1 ♣	Pass
1 NT	Pass	Pass	Pass

Rosenberg's pass seems a trifle conservative, vulnerable at IMPs. So it proved when Ekeblad led a heart, Rubin ducked the club king and Ekeblad played diamonds at every opportunity thereafter. WELLAND plus 150.

West	North	East	South
Moss	Welland	Gitelman	Fallenius
Pass	Pass	1 ♣	Pass
1 NT	Pass	2 NT	Pass
3 NT	Pass	Pass	Pass

There was no way Gitelman-Moss were going to stop short of game, despite their meagre values and the fact that game could be beaten. Details, details.

Not knowing which major to lead, Welland made an intelligent choice of the spade ace, keeping a shift to hearts in reserve and hoping that his better heart intermediates would come into play if that were necessary.

The sight of dummy and Fallenius's discouraging signal convinced him to switch horses. He continued with the diamond four, catching an encouraging nine from partner. When Moss tried a heart to the queen in the closed hand, Welland grabbed the ace to play diamond queen, diamond six. Moss made nine tricks as well, but for plus 600 and 10 IMPs.

Should the defence be able to sort this out? Perhaps when Fallenius gets the diamond shift he wanted, he should discourage these as well. A heart to the queen could well have seen Welland shift to clubs upon winning the ace.

Board 101. Dealer North. NS Vul.

♠ 10
♥ A J 8 3
♦ 10 9 8 4
♣ J 5 4 3

♠ K Q J 9 8 6 3
♥ Q 9 6
♦ A 5 3
♣ --

♠ A 2
♥ 10 2
♦ K Q J 2
♣ A K 9 8 7

♠ 7 5 4
♥ K 7 5 4
♦ 7 6
♣ Q 10 6 2

West	North	East	South
Zia	Ekeblad	Rosenberg	Rubin
—	Pass	1 ♣	Pass
1 ♠	Pass	2 ♦	Pass
3 ♥	Pass	3 ♠	Pass
4 ♦	Pass	4 ♥	Pass
4 NT	Pass	5 ♥	Double
6 ♠	Pass	Pass	Pass

The auction may be more esoteric than we suspect, beginning with Zia's three heart call. It looks as though Rosenberg was not on Zia's wavelength for the remainder of the auction. From Zia's point of view, could Rosenberg have held the heart ace-king instead of the club ace-king? Maybe, at least until the double of five hearts. At that point Zia might have passed the ball to Rosenberg for the final say. In any case, Ekeblad was charmed to be able to lead and cash the ace and another heart.

West	North	East	South
Moss	Welland	Gitelman	Fallenius
—	Pass	1 ♣	Pass
1 ♠	Pass	2 ♦	Pass
3 ♠	Pass	4 ♠	Pass
5 ♦	Pass	5 ♠	Pass
Pass	Pass		

Once again, Gitelman-Moss produced a simpler, more effective auction, on this occasion to stop just in the nick of time. Welland also led the ace and another heart, but that was 11 IMPs to EKEBLAD.

There were still 19 boards to go, and EKEBLAD's lead was only 10 IMPs, but momentum, confidence and karma were all on their side. It will be interesting to see how they do against the world's best in Estoril.



The 23rd CACBF Zonal Championships

Eric Kokish, Toronto

(From the Daily Bulletins edited by EOK.)

The CACBF Zonals were held in San José, Costa Rica from May 14-21, 2005. The three national team championships would be used to determine the Zone's Bermuda Bowl, Venice Cup and Seniors Bowl representatives in Portugal later this year. Thirteen, eight and four teams, respectively, would do battle for these berths.

The Open Teams was won handily by Guadeloupe, who also won the Seniors title. Trinidad & Tobago prevented a clean sweep by defeating Guadeloupe in the final of the Women's Teams, but both are ineligible for the Venice Cup, not having appeared in the 2004 Olympiad. Presumably, Venezuela, defeated semifinalist, as the only Zone 5 representative in the 2004 Women's Olympiad Teams, will take their place.

One of the more interesting matches involved French Guiana and Jamaica. On the following deal, the Jamaican declarer took his eye off the ball.

Board 5. Dealer North. NS Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Jones	Humbert	James	Folio
—	3 ♦	3 ♥ ¹	Pass
4 ♠	Pass	Pass	Pass

1. Hearts and spades (!?)

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
C Martin	Williams	R Martin	Wong
—	Pass	1 ♥	Pass
1 ♠	3 ♦	3 ♠	Pass
4 ♠	Pass	Pass	Pass

Humbert (Fr. Guiana) found the opening lead of the king of clubs against Jones' peculiarly-reached four spades. Declarer took the ace and played a trump, Folio winning immediately to cash two club winners before exiting in diamonds. Jones won the diamond ace, crossed to a trump, and played a heart from dummy, Folio rising with the queen.

Jones won the king of hearts and would have made his contract had he continued hearts. South could ruff, or not, but declarer could over-ruff and return to dummy's high trump for the two heart winners required to discard his minor-suit losers. Instead, he ruffed his losing club and played hearts, but South ruffed the third heart and Jones had a diamond to lose at the end for one down, minus 50.

Williams (Jamaica) led the king of diamonds against Claude Martin. The ace won and a trump went to the king and ace. Williams won the diamond continuation and switched to the club king, but Martin won the ace, led a heart to the jack, cashed the heart king, and crossed to a trump, reaching the winning position. He could lead heart winners through Wong, over-ruff when relevant, and return to dummy's high trump, removing South's last lurker in the process. A lovely plus 420 for Martin and 10 IMPs to French Guiana.



Board 14. Dealer East. Neither Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Jones	Humbert	James	Folio
—	—	1 ♥	Pass
1 NT	Double	2 ♦	Pass
2 ♥	2 ♠	Pass	3 ♠
Pass	4 ♠	Pass	Pass
Pass			

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
C Martin	Williams	R Martin	Wong
—	—	1 ♥	Pass
Pass	Double	Pass	2 ♠
Pass	4 ♠	Pass	Pass
Pass			

Where Humbert (North) was declarer, East led three rounds of diamonds, helping him reach an elimination position. After drawing trumps, declarer knew eleven of East's cards and had the luxury of end-playing either of his opponents. Humbert took the ace-king of both hearts and clubs, recited "Eeeny, Meeny, Miny, Moe...", then exited in clubs, collecting his ruff and discard a moment later; a textbook deal, really.

Williams, who knew only that East had five hearts, received an initial heart lead from West to the ten and king. He achieved the same position by playing on diamonds, but did not cash the heart ace before playing the third club, so Claude Martin could lead a second heart through the jack to defeat the contract. Ouch! That was 10 IMPs to French Guiana.

The Zonal Open Pairs was taken by Paolo Pasquini and José María Valdés of Venezuela; the Open Teams winners were Joanne Greene, Bob Crossley, Chris Earl, Fredrik Nyström and Peter Bertheau of the USA and Sweden; and the Mixed Pairs was won by Pat Cummins and Dave Blackman, Barbados.

Notice to All IBPA Members !!

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The 43rd PABF Championships,

Cathy Chua, Melbourne

Robert Zajac, Hong Kong

(From the Daily Bulletins edited by Chua and Zajac.)

The PABF has an interesting method of determining their three qualifiers for the Bermuda Bowl, Venice Cup and Seniors Bowl. All teams in each series play a double round robin – the team finishing on top becomes the No. 1 qualifier. The teams finishing second and third in the round robin play off in a full-day match to determine the No. 2 qualifier. The teams finishing fourth and fifth in the round robin also play off, and the winner of that match plays the loser of the 2/3 match for the third spot.

Is that all clear? Wait, there's more! Traditionally, the PABF invites Australia and New Zealand to send teams to compete, but as they are in their own WBF Zone, they are not eligible for the qualifying spots or the playoffs.

The pre-tournament favourites in both the Open and the Women's were China, although Japan were considered by some to have a strong chance in the Open. They believed that faith in losing to Singapore in their first match. This deal contributed.

Board 4. Dealer West. Both Vul.

<p>♠ J 10 9 7 ♥ 9 8 5 ♦ 10 6 ♣ A K 10 3</p> <p>♠ A 8 6 5 2 ♥ A 3 ♦ 9 ♣ J 9 8 7 5</p> <p>♠ Q ♥ K J 7 6 2 ♦ A K J 3 2 ♣ Q 4</p>	<p>♠ K 4 3 ♥ Q 10 4 ♦ Q 8 7 5 4 ♣ 6 2</p>
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Both North-Souths climbed to a fairly difficult four-heart contract with East-West having shown spades along the way. In the Closed Room, West led his singleton diamond, ten, queen and ace. South for Singapore was Liao Kuo Tang. He tried a low trump next from hand and this remarkable play effectively telescoped the opponents' three potential trump winners into two. If West had ducked this, he would have had to ruff partner's diamond return with his ace and if he hopped up with his ace and returned a low spade for partner to return a diamond for him to ruff, his partner's remaining queen-ten of trumps would be exposed to a marked finesse. As it was, declarer lost two trumps and a spade but made his contract.

At the other table, the Singapore West chose to lay down his spade ace and then switched to a club. Declarer could not

really be faulted calling for the ace in dummy and following low from hand. The Japanese declarer called for a low trump from dummy and when his jack lost to the ace there were two inescapable trump losers. Missing ace-queen-ten in a key suit, a slightly superior play would be letting dummy's heart nine ride if not covered, catering for RHO to hold any combination including the ten.

West returned another club and this time declarer took this with his queen in hand, expecting to reach dummy via a diamond ruff to enjoy a winning club. He laid down his top diamonds only to see West ruffing away his hopes on the second diamond for 12 IMPs away.

Here's a play problem: how to play three no trump on a spade lead. It is from the Philippines/Singapore match.

Board 3. Dealer North. EW Vul. (Board rotated 180 degrees.)

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

West	North	East	South
Anastacio	Tang	La Guardia	Hen
—	Pass	Pass	1 NT
2 ♦ ¹	Double	2 ♠	Pass
Pass	2 NT	Pass	3 NT
Pass	Pass	Pass	

1. Majors

West leads a fourth-best four of spades to the two, jack and three. East returns the queen of spades for the ten and five and you duck again. The nine of spades forces out your ace and you discard a heart, West following with the seven. Plan the play before reading on.

At the table, Declarer ran the ten of diamonds and received good news: the ten forced the king, diamonds were three-three, and the club king was onside. Unfortunately, the bad news was that he could no longer make the hand. Here's the complete deal:

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

What should declarer discard on the fourth round of spades? It is the end of him: a club or diamond discard means only two tricks in the suit discarded. Had he played the club ten

instead of the diamond ten, all would have been well, whether or not East covers.

Board 15 from the sixth match of the second round robin contained a defensive gem. Only the pairs of Nagy and Hinge for Australia in the Open Series and the Singapore Ladies pair of Seet and Foo found the killing defence against three no trump by North-South. This was the deal:

Board 15. Dealer South. NS Vul.

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

	♠ 10 9 ♥ 3 ♦ A 9 5 3 ♣ A Q J 9 8 4		
West	North	East	South
Hinge	—	Nagy	1 ♣
—	3 NT	Pass	Pass
2♥			
Pass			

At both those tables North found himself as declarer on East's lead of the heart nine. West took his king and played back the spade five. Declarer went up with his king which East ducked. When the diamond finesse lost, West continued spades and the defence chalked up eight tricks consisting of five spades, two hearts and one diamond.

There is an interesting twist to the defence. Had declarer played the eight of spades instead of an honour, East would win with his jack, but would need to find an immediate switch to a diamond. Otherwise declarer could enter his hand with the club king (carefully choosing a club higher than the four in dummy for this purpose), and force out the heart ace for nine tricks (two hearts, one diamond and six clubs). The club six would provide a later entry to cash the two winning hearts.

Okay, here's another play problem. This time you are West, declaring six hearts.

Board 16. Dealer West. EW Vul.

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

	♠ 10 9 ♥ 3 ♦ A 9 5 3 ♣ A Q J 9 8 4		
West	North	East	South
2 ♣	3 ♣	Double ¹	Pass
3 ♥	Pass	3 ♠	Pass
4 ♦	Pass	4 ♥	Pass
5 ♣	Pass	5 ♠	Pass
6 ♣	Pass	6 ♥	Pass
Pass ²	Pass		

1. Penalties
2. Reluctantly

Suppose the auction had proceeded as diagrammed. You might regret your conservative decision to pass six hearts when the dummy came down, but that is no longer your problem. How would you play on the club king lead?

Only five-one breaks in either or both red suits can defeat you. If hearts are four-two or better, you are cold since you can safety play diamonds for four winners. On the other hand, if diamonds are four-two, you still need hearts to break if the diamond jack does not fall. Accordingly, it looks as though the best play is to draw trumps since you may still make it if hearts are five-one, if the diamonds behave. Here is the complete deal:

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

Six pairs played six hearts, three of them making it, presumably by playing three rounds of diamonds, ruffing the third in dummy, a markedly inferior play, as we have seen; or perhaps by taking a diamond finesse if North revealed his distribution. In this case, virtue had to be its own reward.

The Zone 6 qualifiers for the 2005 World Championships:

Bermuda Bowl: China, Chinese Taipei, Japan

Venice Cup: China, Japan, Indonesia

Seniors Bowl: Japan, Indonesia, China Hong Kong

The other winners:

Junior Championship: Japan, Chinese Taipei, China Hong Kong

Open Pairs: Ishmael Del' Monte (AUS)-Tadashi Teramoto (JAP)

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/>

IBPA Column Service

Tim Bourke, Canberra

(Members may use these deals as they wish, without attributing either the author or the IBPA.)

321. Dealer South. Both Vul.

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

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

West leads the obvious king of hearts. If declarer doesn't put on his thinking cap and plays dummy's ace of hearts, he fails automatically, with both finesses wrong. East ruffs the ace of hearts and shifts to a club. Declarer has to try the queen. West wins, cashes a heart and when the diamond finesses loses South finishes a trick short.

However, a thoughtful declarer can overcome these problems by playing low from dummy on the opening lead and on the next heart too! After East ruffs the third heart, declarer over-ruffs, draws trumps, and runs the jack of diamonds. Although this loses to East's queen he make ten tricks; six trumps, three diamonds and a club. The club finesse is never risked.

322. Dealer West. Both Vul.

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

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

After West opened the bidding it was no surprise to South that the next two players passed. As he had ten probable tricks in his own hand, South doubled in the event that North held five clubs, which could be enough for a slam.

When West passed and North chose to respond in his better suit, South simply bid game.

West led the queen of hearts against four spades, taken by declarer with the ace. Two top trumps revealed the four-one break, leaving South with four seemingly inescapable losers. Declarer did not give up, continuing with his singleton diamond at trick four. West rose with the ace of diamonds and returned the ten of hearts.

As the hearts had been eliminated from East's hand (East-West were playing five card majors), South turned his attention to end-playing him. All he needed was for East to have four clubs or the top three missing clubs; he cashed the ace and king of clubs and exited with a third round of the suit. After West showed out, East won with the nine of clubs and would concede the contract on the return of either a trump or a diamond. So he had to play the jack of clubs, which declarer ruffed.

Declarer then continued with queen and a low trump, once again putting East on lead, this time with his trump trick. However, this time East had only diamonds left in his hand and so dummy's king of diamonds provided a parking place for declarer's heart loser.

323. Dealer East. Both Vul.

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

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

When South showed two key-cards with the queen of spades with his five spade response to North's Roman Key Card Blackwood, North took a rosy view of his hand and bid the parlous grand slam. He was lucky that it had a play.

Declarer ruffed West's lead of the two of hearts and drew trumps, revealing West to have a likely six cards in the majors to East's eight. Some players might have left it at that and attacked clubs immediately, relying on West to have the queen of clubs because he had more unknown cards than East.

Nevertheless, such play is premature, because declarer can gather more information by ruffing a diamond in dummy. When he does, East is revealed to have begun with only two diamonds, and so has a 1=7=2=3 shape.

Consequently, declarer cashes dummy's king of clubs and then finesses East's queen of clubs.

324. Dealer South. EW Vul.

♠ Q 10 9 8
♥ 6 5
♦ A K 7
♣ A 7 5 2

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

♠ A K J 4 3
♥ A 3
♦ Q 8
♣ K Q 9 3

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

North's two no trump promised a strong raise in spades.

West led the nine of hearts, suggesting a doubleton in the suit. Declarer saw that thirteen tricks would be routine on a three-two club division. He took the lead with the ace of hearts and drew trumps, discovering that East had only one. Instead of playing on clubs immediately, declarer cashed three rounds of diamonds, discarding the heart loser from hand.

When East showed out on the second round of diamonds, declarer ruffed a heart in hand with the jack of trumps, which revealed East's original shape as 1=7=1=4. So declarer crossed to dummy with the ace of clubs then led a low club from dummy, intending to finesse the nine if East followed with the eight.

(It would do East no good to split his jack-ten for declarer wins with the queen and returns to dummy with a trump to finesse the nine of clubs.)

Online Transmissions

Aug 1-6	Norwegian Festival	BBO
Aug 3-4	Swedish Chairman's Cup	Swan
Aug 8-18	World Youth Championships	BBO
Aug 17-19	England v. Netherlands	BBO
Sep 2-3	Teams GP of Poland	BBO
Sep 10	Black Jack KO Teams (USA)	BBO
Sep 12-18	Bank Indonesia Governor's Cup	BBO
Sep 23	NZ Inter-Provincial Teams	BBO
Sep 23-25	Polish 1st Division	BBO
Sep 24-25	Prince Takamatsu Cup (Japan)	BBO
Dec 16-18	Pairs GP of Poland	BBO



2nd European Open Championships (1)

(From the Daily Bulletins edited by Mark Horton. Except where otherwise noted, the material is Horton's. Some further editing has taken place. Article concluded next month.)

The weather in Tenerife was perfect, 20 degrees in the evenings, 25 degrees during the day. The temperature inside the fabulous Mare Nostrum Resort was a comfortable 20 degrees night and day. The pace was sedate and the atmosphere convivial.

The Best Form of Defence...

The Welland team was in Tenerife to defend its title from two years ago in Menton. The team continued to line up in the partnerships it employed in Menton, namely the Rosenbergs in tandem, but Roy Welland with Jill Levin and Bobby Levin with Crystal Henner-Welland. Their group of six teams was a tough one, studded with internationals.

In Welland v. Barr (Israel/Netherlands), Michael and Debbie Rosenberg lined up against Ilan Herbst and Roni Barr of Israel. The first five deals produced little in the way of IMPs one way or the other. Then came:

Board 6. Dealer East. EW Vul.

♠ J 3
♥ K 4
♦ 9
♣ Q J 10 9 8 6 5 3

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

♠ A K Q 5
♥ 9 6 2
♦ 10 6 5 4 2
♣ 2

West	North	East	South
Michael R	Herbst	Debbie R	Barr
—	—	1 ♦	Pass
1 ♥	4 ♣	Pass	Pass
Double	Pass	4 ♥	Pass
Pass	Pass		

Herbst had no reason to find the spade lead here. His choice of a diamond ran round to Michael Rosenberg's ace, and a heart to the queen for a club to the ace and a second heart up saw the cards lying as well as could possibly have been hoped for. The defence took their spade winners at the end, for plus 420 to East-West.

In the other room Elizabeth Ettinger opened a nebulous Dutch club, and Crystal Henner-Welland overcalled one spade. Now when East-West reached four hearts, a spade lead from either side of the table was assured, and South could play four rounds of the suit to promote the heart king into the setting trick.

Some Number of Spades

You might enjoy this story from the Mixed Teams Consolation.

Dealer North, EW Vul.

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

After North opens one club, your partner passes and South responds one heart. My informant, the genial Sascha Wernle politely enquired what I would do with this hand. "Some number of spades," was the obvious start, and as Tacchi fancied four spades I could hardly bid less.

"Okay, you go for at least 800." This was what happened at the table:

Dealer North. EW Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Wernle		Smederevac	
—	1 ♦	Pass	1 ♥
4 ♠	Double	5 ♣	Double
5 ♠	Double	Pass	Pass
Pass			

As Edgar Kaplan might have remarked four spades is the right bid - but not on this deal. It cost 1100. When Tacchi was given the auction and asked what he would do over the double of five clubs, he said he would draw his Smith & Wesson and shoot partner, echoing his father's words, "A Smith & Wesson beats four aces."

Still, West doubtless consoled himself with the thought that his opposite number might well get into trouble at the other table. Let's take a look:

West	North	East	South
Birman		Birman	
—	1 ♣	Pass	1 ♥
Pass	1 ♠	Pass	1 NT
2 ♠	Pass	Pass	Pass

David Birman's wait-and-see approach paid a big dividend. Reckoning North-South could make one no trump (indeed, nine tricks are possible) he contented himself with a conservative two spades and although that failed by one trick, his thoughtful approach had contributed significantly to a massive gain for his team.

The 11% Solution

This deal from the penultimate round of the Mixed Teams Swiss almost slipped through our net - but we caught it just in time.

Board 16. Dealer West. EW Vul.

♠ 6 3
 ♥ A K J 6 2
 ♦ 10 9 8 6
 ♣ J 5

♠ 8
 ♥ Q 8
 ♦ A K 7 5 4
 ♣ A K 10 9 4

First of all, consider your line of play in six hearts when West, who has bid spades, supported by East, wins trick one with the spade ace and switches to a trump.

While you are thinking about that, how would you play a contract of five hearts if West continues with a second spade at trick two?

In the first scenario, Paul Chemla, doubtless annoyed to be in hearts, rather than diamonds, won in dummy, drew trumps and ran the jack of clubs. Guido Ferraro won in dummy, cashed the ace of diamonds, followed by the ace king of clubs with the idea if nothing significant appeared he could draw trumps and play for diamonds to be two-two.

Which do you think is the better line? While you are pondering that, what about five hearts? We like the line adopted by Fred Gitelman, who ruffed, cashed the queen of hearts and played the ten of clubs to create an entry to hand.

Meanwhile it's time to make your play in six hearts. This was the full deal:

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

As you can see, Ferraro's line worked better - and he claims it is a full 11% better than the one adopted by 'The Cigar'. That may be the case - we have not had time to consult our resident odds merchant David Burn, but suppose East drops the jack of diamonds when declarer cashes the ace? Now declarer is likely to fall back on the club finesse.

Quarterfinals Sets 1 & 2

We owe our thanks to Gunnar Hallberg for letting us have the details of this deal, very nicely played by Lars Goldberg.

Board 6. Dealer East. EW Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
—	—	Pass	Pass
Pass	1 ♣ ¹	1 ♠	Pass
Pass	1 NT	Pass	Pass
Pass			
1. Strong			

Janet De Botton did well not to lead a spade, although a heart lead might have caused some real problems. On the low club lead to the jack and king, Goldberg played three rounds of diamonds to West, as East pitched a heart. Now Hallberg knew declarer was specifically 4=4=3=2. He led the spade nine, which held the trick, then the heart queen (not best), covered with the king.

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

Declarer can now succeed by force; he cashes the club king, exits with a low heart, and comes to two more tricks, one way or another. When he actually chose to cash the club king and get out with a spade, De Botton won cheaply and led the heart ten.

The defence had one more chance: if Hallberg ducks this, East can cash the spade ace and play another spade, so that West takes the last two tricks. Instead Hallberg overtook the heart ten with the jack and cashed the ace, planning to endplay North to concede the last two tricks to East. But Goldberg saw this coming, and unblocked the heart eight under the jack and the nine under the ace! Now Hallberg could cash the seven of hearts but was left with a losing diamond and club to concede to dummy.

In the second half of the match Tor Helness perpetrated a significant overbid, then had to find a way to justify his bidding.

Board 17. Dealer North. Neither Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
T Helness	Moss	G Helness	Greenberg
—	Pass	Pass	2 ♦
2 ♠	4 ♦	Pass	Pass
4 ♥	Double	4 ♠	Double
Pass	Pass	Pass	

Brad Moss' jump to four diamonds worked to lure Helness into the auction again on the basis that he thought someone was stealing from him. Not so; in fact four spades doubled did not look a healthy spot, until the club king lead crashed Gail Greenberg's ace. Gail did her best by returning the ace and another diamond, which declarer had to ruff.

Now when Helness advanced his second club, how would you rate the defenders' chances? Personally, I think only Deep Finesse and the Rueful Rabbit could defeat the hand. When Brad Moss rose with the club queen, he had to shift to the heart king to dislodge dummy's entry and declarer could draw trumps and run hearts easily enough.

If Moss had ducked the club, Greenberg would have ruffed and now can play a heart - again forcing North to give up his heart trick - or could give a ruff and discard, letting declarer ruff in dummy and ruff a club, then draw trumps and claim.

So what is the defence? Moss must duck the club, and South must throw a heart! The Rueful Rabbit could do this easily enough - thinking he was defending against four hearts doubled - but could any of you have found the play? Declarer can only play another club, pitching a heart from hand to retain control, but South pitches her second heart and gets a heart ruff to set the game!

Ilan Herbst and Marion Michielsen produced a couple of splendid results to win their match against Armstrong.

Board 24. Dealer West. Neither Vul.

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

Arnolds opened the East hand one spade, then jumped to three spades after a two heart overcall came back to her. Michielsen opened four spades - a trifle rustic with so many controls, but the play's the thing.

Smith as South doubled and everybody passed. What would you lead to the first trick now? Smith started well when she selected the only card in her hand to give the defence a chance, namely the ace of hearts. After that, she again only had one card in her hand to set the game, namely her trump. Had she found the play, declarer is forced to use her entry to dummy at an inconvenient moment to grab her discard, and she can no longer make.

But Smith quite reasonably played the the diamond ace, hoping her partner had either the diamond king or the club ace - which is certainly what she would have expected to be the case. After the play of the diamond ace, Michielsen could concede a trump and claim ten tricks.

The results:

Mixed Teams

1. (Norway) Espen Erichsen, Helen Erichsen, Boye Brogeland, Tonje Brogeland, Tor Helness, Gunn Helness;
2. (Sweden) Lars Goldberg, Ulla-britt Goldberg, Bengt-erik Efraimsson, Helena Svedlund;
3. (Brigada) Maija Romanovska, Karlis Rubins, Maria Lebedeva, Igor Khazanov; & (Herbst) Ilan Herbst, Ronnie Barr, Elisabeth Van Ettinger, Jan Van Cleeff, Marion Michielson.

Mixed Pairs

1. Tor Helness, Gunn Helness;
2. Sylvie Willard, Herve Mouiel;
3. Michael Rosenberg, Debbie Rosenberg.

Open Teams

1. (Team Orange I) Ton Bakkeren, Huub Bertens, Jan Jansma, Bauke Muller, Louk Verhees, Simon de Wijs;
2. (Miroglio) Apolinary Kowalski, Piotr Tuszynski, Jacek Romanski, Jerem Stepinski, Giulio Bongiovanni, Anunas Jankaukas;
3. (Hecht) Peter Hecht-Johansen, Knut Blakset, Andreas Marquardsen, Lars Blakset, Morten Bilde, Jorgen Hansen; & (Ozdil) Melih Ozdil, Eldad Ginossar, David Bakhshi, John Holland.

Women's Teams

1. (D'Ovidio) Catherine D'Ovidio, Daniele Gaviard, Benedicte Cronier, Sylvie Willard;
2. (Weber) Sally Brock, Ingrid Gromann, M. James-Courtney, Elke Weber
3. (Pasma) Femke Hoogweg, Jet Pasma, Anneke Simons, Wietske Van Zwol; & (USA/Russia) Victoria Gromova, Tatiana Ponomareva, Marinesa Letizia, Carlyn Steiner, Tobi Sokolow, Janice Seamon-Molson

Senior Teams

1. (Fornaniari) Ezio Fornaciari, Carlo Mariani, Adriano Abate, Fabrizio Morelli, Marco Ricciarelli, Franco Baroni;
2. (Szenberg) Stefan Szenberg, Miroslaw Milaszewski, Krzysztof Antas, Tadeusz Kaczanowski
3. (Rand) Nissan Rand, Bill Pencharz, John Carruthers, Goran Mattson, Avi Arvatz, Menachem Ravid; &

(Hollman) Grant Baze, Bruce Ferguson, Garey Hayden, Robert Hollman, Alan Sontag

Open Pairs

1. Apolinary Kowalski, Piotr Tuszynski
2. Stelio Di Bello, Furio Di Bello
3. Tom Townsend, David Gold

Women's Pairs

1. Aase Langeland, Tone Torkelsen
2. Montserrat Mestres, M.E. Hernandez
3. Wietske Van Zwol, Femke Hoogweg

Senior Pairs

1. Adriano Abate, Fabrizio Morelli
2. Franco Baroni, Marco Ricciarelli
3. Jaap Trouwborst, Nico Doremans

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...News & Views continued from page 14

Contract	Times Played	Result	Number of Tricks		
			10	11	12
6NT	4		-1:3	=:1	(♦7)
6♦	27	-2:1	-1:23	=:3	(♦7, ♥A, ♠8)
3NT	43	+1:1	+2:42		
5♦	4		=:4		
4NT	2		+1:2		
2♥x	-5	1			
6♣	-4	1			

From Patrick Jourdain, President, IBPA

IBPA had a most successful time in Tenerife at the EBL Transnational Championship. First we should thank the EBL for a fine Press Room: spacious, well-served with computers, dedicated to IBPA, and manned efficiently by Jan Swaan. Second, thanks for the enjoyable Press Outing for thirty members to the beautiful island of La Gomera and the excellent lunch provided by the Tourist Authority there.

But most important of all, we recruited twelve new members and welcome them to IBPA: Bruce Ferguson (USA), Dr. David Jackson (Ireland), Pawel Jarzabek (Poland), Eitan Levy (Israel), Piotr Lutostanski (Poland), Tormod Roren (Norway), Alan Sontag (USA), Howard Weinstein (USA), Roy Welland (USA), Ela Wojciechowska (Poland), and Anda Enciu (Israel). David Birman (Israel) rejoined.

Jody Latham

IBPA member Jody Latham, Associate Editor of the ACBL Bridge Bulletin for more than a decade and an ACBL employee since 1988, died Thursday, June 9.

University Platform

All official information about university bridge in the world is published at: www.unibridge.org. You can find there:

- latest news from FISU and WBF concerning university bridge
 - free registration for E-bridge
 - latest information about all other events in the world
 - the university network (clubs, contacts, etc.)
- and much more.

Geert Magerman, Chairman
FISU Technical Committee Bridge
Geert.magerman@pandora.be

Message to All Senior Players

As you know the European Bridge League has its own web site at www.eurobridge.org. What you may not know is that, within the site, we have built a special section about Seniors. There we intend to create various sections:

- composition of the EBL Seniors Committee
- contact addresses
- Chairman's communications
- European Championships and events specifically for Senior Players
- calendar

All Sections will be continuously updated. PLEASE VISIT OUR SITE: www.Eurobridge.org and in the section "Categories", please click on "SENIOR".

Göran Mattsson, Chairman, EBL Seniors Committee

Message to All Women Players

The European Bridge League has its own web site at www.eurobridge.org and in the section "Categories", please click on WOMEN for the special section about Women's Bridge.

Anna Maria Torlontano, Chairman of the EBL Women's Committee

World Wide Bridge Contest 2005 Results

Friday June 3:

1. Viale Mario & Vellani Renato - 75.13% (Bridge Club San Remo, Italy)
2. Joan Gillespie & Frans Koeleveld - 73.37%(Outer Banks Duplicate, USA)
3. Robert Cabessa & Karim Hejjaj - 72.81% (Cercle de la Cité, Switzerland)

Saturday June 4:

1. Hermanto & Rukma Hardi - 74.68% (Mataram, Indonesia)
2. Noubert Geru & Robby Lembong - 74.18% (Balikpapan, Indonesia)
3. Shirley Anne Webster & Sandy Webster - 73.99% (Tillsonburg DBC, Canada)

2006 Bridge Calendar

We are about to produce a new 2006 calendar called The Bridge Players Calendar 2006. This calendar features 'paintings' of card players and incorporates a short history of the game, funny quotes and Bridge Tips that have been written by David Bird. We would like to contact all the Bridge Journalists to tell them about this new calendar and wondered if you can help? The cover can be viewed via the web site link below.

Hilary Caplan at The Bridge Players Calendar Co Ltd.:

Tel: 0044 (0) 151-428 4697

Fax: 0044 (0) 151-428 9995

Mobile: 07889 669990

E.Mail: sales@bridgeplayercalendars.com

www.bridgeplayercalendars.com

Jannersten Sells Scandinavian Rights

The Jannersten company has sold its Scandinavian retail business to Peter Ventura. This means that the Jannersten company will concentrate on manufacturing and wholesale.

Per Jannersten, Uppsala

Journalists Headed to Estoril

As regards the World Championships in Estoril, I suggest that you start your trip at www.ibpa.com and "Travel".

Per Jannersten, Uppsala

Deeper Analysis from Danny Roth

Allow me to comment on the hand at the top of page 12 - 3NT by West (No. 485, June 2005). After the initial spade lead to the king, West takes a spade finesse and continues the suit, won by North. North actually switched to a low heart, which admittedly removed the entry need for the marked club finesse. However, would it not have been better for North to persist with spades? By failing to do so, North advertised lack of a quick entry, enabling declarer to get the diamond guess right, eventually making the contract despite being unable to pick up the clubs. If he persists with spades, declarer is likely to get the diamond wrong and now, after a heart switch, declarer is surely going to be held to eight tricks.

Danny Roth, London

Further to the Cars

Buratti-Lanzarotti have been suspended by the ACBL pending a hearing at the Denver Fall NABC. FIGB will hold a hearing this fall as well. Lavazza is reportedly considering legal action against them. They have been released from service by their American sponsor, Richie Schwartz.

Sir Bill

England's Queen Elizabeth II has bestowed honorary knighthood on Microsoft Chair and ACBL member Bill Gates. The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation has set up a \$210 million scholarship program at Cambridge University.

Revised Statistics

Herman de Wael has provided slightly revised statistics from those reported last issue on Board 23, the Buratti-Lanzarotti deal v. Israel, as follows: (See page 13.)



Correspondence ...

The Editor reserves the right to shorten correspondence

Email: ibpaeditor@sympatico.ca

Dear Editor,

The Buratti-Lanzarotti case reminds me of a *cause célèbre* of more than half a century ago that showed similarities to board 23 of the match of the Lavazza Team against Israel too remarkable to let that *cause* rest in oblivion.

The venue is Venice where the European Championships in 1951 were held. In the fourth round match Italy-Norway the following hands appear in the open room on the table after they were played in the closed room. In the East-West seats we find Schroeder & Nielsen-Halle for Norway and in the North-South seats Ricci & Chiaradia for Italy. The facts have been derived from the report of the championships by Maurice Harrison-Gray ('Carnival at Venice') in the *European Bridge Review* v.2 (1951), no. 10, pp. 18-34, especially pp. 24-25.

Dealer South. Nobody vulnerable

♠ K
♥ A Q 7
♦ K 8 6 5 3
♣ 10 8 4 3

♠ 8
♥ K J 4
♦ A 10 7 2
♣ A K 9 5 2

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

Harrison-Gray: "A heart was led and the adverse diamonds dropped obligingly in two rounds. South (Chiaradia) crossed to dummy and led the three of clubs; East played the six and South the nine! West, as it turned out, had the singleton seven and East the queen-jack-six. All thirteen tricks were duly made."

So far the simple facts. By the way, an unremarked remarkable fact is that East-West had eleven spades between them and never ventured further than two spades. In a sense they were right. If West has a 6=3=2=2 pattern, there are seven losers and he cannot make even one spade; furthermore, you have to remember it was still 1951.

Harrison-Gray, who showed the deal as an example of very remarkable Italian bidding and play, continues with: "One's first reaction is this: the worst team in Europe is capable of reaching such an unlikely contract – but any team that succeeds in *making* such a contract will beat the world!"

But this was not the end of the story. Just the beginning. According to Harrison-Gray, the Italian players who he asked

about Chiaradia's play could at first see, "nothing out of the ordinary in this hand". Eventually Paolo Baroni offered this explanation: when East played low on the first round of clubs, Chiaradia had noticed that West had started to detach a card from his hand. But Ranik Nielsen-Halle (West), an experienced international, denied the aspersion indignantly. Harrison-Gray's comment is that he "found this denouement vaguely disappointing", and he concludes with an anecdote about coffee-housing.

In the same issue of the *E.B.R.*, Herman Filarski reports as a fact that, "In some important matches of the Italian team, it happened that the scorer or an official in the open room announced the final result of the match as soon as the last board had been played in that room. The inference is that the scorer (or official) in question must have been aware of the exact result of each hand played in the closed room."

Filarski adds to this a description of what happened during the decisive match between Italy and Egypt. He witnessed a continuous *va-et-vient* of Italian enthusiasts from the 'scorer room' to the table in the open room and everybody, even without knowledge of their language or any psychological experience, could understand that things went well for the Italian team. Immediately after the last card was played, somebody close to the table announced that Italy was the European Champion.

For a matter of record, Italy drew the match against Norway (at that point in the championship, together with Egypt, the main threat to Italy) 53-55 and won the match against Egypt in the penultimate round 69-45. Later that year the Italian team suffered a rather heavy defeat against America in Naples (417-533 in European matchpoints of the day).

One cannot avoid some uneasy feelings creeping up. From the reported facts and the following discussion in the *E.B.R.* the thought arises that the possibility cannot be excluded that in the above shown deal, the declarer had some external information at his disposal. And there we see the second parallel with the Buratti-Lanzarotti case. In Venice, the inadequate tournament organization of the European Bridge Union (at that time, the Middle Ages of organized bridge were not yet over in Europe) was to blame for the possibility of this suggestion.

In Tenerife, however, the dummy, although he denied having done so, is said to have looked into the cards of one of his opponents and as a consequence he knew the distribution of the hand of that opponent. In my opinion, this was a serious mistake *toward his own partner* because, in doing so, he deprived his partner as declarer of the freedom to take an inspired (winning) view on the deal. And in case the declarer saw his partner peeping into the cards of an opponent, he blundered by still taking the inspired view that led to his remarkable double finesse.

Bob van de Velde, Amsterdam

World Bridge Calendar

DATES	EVENT	LOCATION	INFORMATION
2005			
Aug 5-7	Pesta Sukan	Singapore	www.scba.org
Aug 5-14	XV International "Solidarność" Festival	Slupsk, Poland	bridgefestival@go2.pl
Aug 5-15	Festival	Ais-les-Bains, France	www.ffbridge.asso.fr
Aug 7-17	10 th World Youth Team Championships	Sydney, Australia	www.worldbridge.org
Aug 12-21	Brighton Summer Congress	Brighton, England	www.ebu.co.uk
Aug 13-20	XXIX International Festival	Varna, Bulgaria	www.ibf-varna.org
Aug 15-17	Bridge Pro Tour	Las Vegas, NV	www.bridgeprotour.com
Aug 15-18	Prize Money Bridge University	Las Vegas, NV	www.bridgeprotour.com
Aug 17	Bridge Pro Tour	Secaucus, NJ	www.bridgeprotour.com
Aug 16-21	Hong Kong Inter-City	Hong Kong, China	www.hkcba.org
Aug 18-21	Riga Invitational	Riga, Latvia	www.bridge-verband.de
Aug 18-28	Festival	La Baules, France	www.ffbridge.asso.fr
Aug 20-21	Selangor Congress	Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia	www.scba.org
Aug 23-29	Mind Sports Olympiad	Manchester, England	www.msoworld.com
Aug 24-29	9 th European University Bridge Cup	Rotterdam, Netherlands	www.eurobridge.org
Aug 30	Bridge Pro Tour	Santa Clara, CA	www.bridgeprotour.com
Sep 1	Bridge Pro Tour	Pittsburgh, PA	www.bridgeprotour.com
Sep 8-11	39 th Isle of Man Congress	Isle of Man, UK	www.ebu.co.uk
Sep 10	International Pairs Tournament	Verona, Italy	www.federbridge.it
Sep 10-21	44 th International Bridge Festival	Pula, Croatia	www.crobridge.com/pula
Sep 16-25	Guernsey Congress	Guernsey, Channel Islands	www.ebu.co.uk
Sep 24-31	National Congress	Hamilton, NZ	www.nzcba.co.nz
Sep 28-Oct 2	Festival Internazionale	Venice, Italy	www.federbridge.it
Sep 30-Oct 2	Vilnius Cup	Vilnius, Lithuania	www.bridge-verband.de
Oct 7-9	XXIV International Festival	Stara Zagora, Bulgaria	www.bgbridge.org
Oct 8	24 ^o Torneo Internazionale di Lugano	Lugano, Italy	www.federbridge.it
Oct 11-15	14 th Sun, Sea & Slams	St. Michael, Barbados	www.cacbf.com
Oct 12-16	XXX Torneo Internacional	La Toja, Spain	www.aebridge.com
Oct 13-16	4 th European Champions Cup	Brussels, Belgium	www.worldbridge.org
Oct 15-16	Lederer Memorial	London, England	simonx@simonx.plus.com
Oct 21-27	3 rd FISU Championships	Tianjin, China	www.fisu.net
Oct 22-23	XII Torneo Internacional	Denia, Spain	www.aebridge.com
Oct 22-Nov 5	37 th World Team Championships	Estoril, Portugal	www.worldbridge.org
Oct 23-30	Bridge Festival El Rubicon	Lanzarote, Canary Is., Spain	ayanes@parcan.es
Oct 25-30	World Computer Championship	Estoril, Portugal	www.worldbridge.org
Nov 7-13	Fuengirola Open	Fuengirola, Spain	mariedahlberg@iafatours.com
Nov 11-13	II Torneo Internacional	Madrid, Spain	www.aebridge.com
Nov 13-20	11 th Red Sea International Festival	Eilat, Israel	www.bridge.co.il
Nov 17-27	ACBL Fall NABC	Denver, CO	www.acbl.org
Nov 19-25	5 th International Bridge Festival	Cuba	www.cacbf.com
Nov 23-27	Sicily Open	Cefalù, Italy	www.federbridge.it
Nov 28, 30	European Internet Simultaneous Pairs	Clubs in Europe	www.eurobridge.org
Dec 2-4	International Teams Tournament	Milan, Italy	www.federbridge.it
Dec 16-18	Junior Channel Trophy	Belgium	www.ebu.co.uk
Dec 27	Bridge Pro Tour	New York, NY	www.bridgeprotour.com
2006			
Jan 18-30	Summer Festival of Bridge	Canberra, Australia	not@abf.com.au
Jan 21-28	Bermuda Regional	Southampton, Bermuda	www.acbl.org
Feb 6-12	11 th NEC Festival	Yokohama, Japan	www.jcbl.or.jp
Feb 17-20	25 th Icelandair Open Bridge Festival	Rejkyavik, Iceland	www.bridge.is
Feb 18-25	Gold Coast Congress	Surfer's Paradise, Australia	gcc@abf.com.au
Feb 25-26	White House Top Teams	Amsterdam, Netherlands	jvcleeff@xs4all.nl
Mar 7-12	Commonwealth Games	Melbourne, Australia	a.halmos@rmit.edu.au
Mar 17-19	Yeh Brothers Cup	Taipei, Taiwan	ckshenn@yahoo.com.tw
Mar 30-Apr 9	ACBL Spring NABC	Dallas, TX	www.acbl.org
Apr 11-16	111 th Canadian Nationals	Toronto, ON	www.toronto-bridge.com
Apr 13-17	36 th International Festival	Jyväskylä, Finland	www.bridge-verband.de
Jun 9-24	8 th World Championships	Verona, Italy	www.worldbridge.org
Jun 30-Jul 2	6 th World Youth Pairs Championship	Piesztany, Slovakia	www.worldbridge.org
Jul 1-8	New Zealand Nationals	Hamilton, NZ	fran@nzcba.co.nz
Jul 3-10	7 th World Junior Camp	Piesztany, Slovakia	www.worldbridge.org
Jul 13-23	ACBL Summer NABC	Chicago, IL	www.acbl.org
Aug 12-26	48 th European Team Championships	Warsaw, Poland	www.eurobridge.org
Nov 23-Dec 3	ACBL Fall NABC	Honolulu, HI	www.acbl.org