



BULLETIN

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THE INTERNATIONAL BRIDGE PRESS ASSOCIATION

Editor: JOHN CARRUTHERS

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

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Editorial

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

Our esteemed ex-President and ex-Chairman Alan Truscott died in his home early last month of complications following his third bout with cancer. Alan's New York Times column was the standard by which all others have been measured for the past forty years. His best-known book was *The Great Bridge Scandal*, now recognised as the true version of the events in Buenos Aires in 1965.

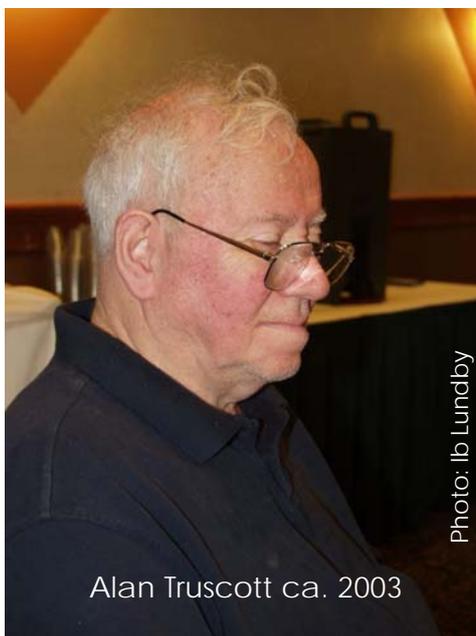


Photo: Ib Lundby

Alan Truscott ca. 2003

Alan was a Renaissance man whose interests were wide-ranging. He was particularly intrigued by the Elizabethans, including the question of the authorship of Shakespeare's works and the mystery surrounding Christopher Marlowe's murder. Indeed, it was his intention within the next year or so to marry these two interests by writing a play based on the theory that Marlowe faked his own murder and escaped to the continent, where he 'continued' to write plays under the name William Shakespeare. This construct neatly circumvents the 'Marlowe as Shakespeare' deniers who insist that, due to Marlowe's 'death' in 1593, he could not have been the author of Shakespeare's works. Both theories are given little credence by the academic mainstream, but one must recall that the academic mainstream once believed the earth to be flat and to be at the centre of the universe.

Because Alan was a special person within bridge journalism in general and IBPA in particular, we are devoting a more-than-usual amount of space to him. We begin with the Daily Telegraph obituary by Patrick Journain and follow with personal reminiscences from Phillip Alder and Barry Rigal.

Alan Fraser Truscott

16th April 1925 to 4th September 2005

Alan Truscott of Surrey and New York, who has died aged 80, was the world's leading bridge columnist and the principal witness in Britain's most celebrated scandal of cheating at cards.

British-born Truscott was bridge correspondent of *The New York Times* from 1964 until his recent illness, the longest period of service for any of the distinguished newspaper's correspondents. In 1965 Truscott was the key witness for the prosecution when Britain's

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leading bridge partnership of the day, Terence Reese and Boris Schapiro, were accused of cheating at the World Bridge Championships in Buenos Aires.

A member of the American team, Dorothy Hayden and her bridge partner B. J. Becker claimed they had observed odd finger placings of Reese and Schapiro when holding their cards, and when comparing, with Truscott, these with the actual cards had found a correspondence with the number of hearts in the player's hand. Mrs Hayden subsequently became Truscott's wife.

A brief onsite hearing of the World Bridge Federation found Reese and Schapiro guilty of cheating and banned them from world bridge. However, when the matter was reported back to the British Bridge League it conducted a year-long investigation led by Sir John Foster QC. His finding was "not guilty" by the test of "beyond reasonable doubt".

Earlier this year a publisher of Reese's books claimed that some years later Reese had confessed to him that the allegations were true, but that he had only been conducting an experiment for a forthcoming book, and that the pair had agreed not to use the illicit information. Truscott claimed this justification was implausible.

Truscott was born on the 16th of April 1925 in Brixton, and learned bridge at the age of 15 at Whitgift School in Croydon whilst the Battle of Britain was in progress. Truscott was already an accomplished bridge player when he arrived at Oxford University in 1947 after a spell in the Royal Navy. He represented the university at chess and bridge. At the age of 26, Truscott and the partner he had met at University, the late Robert D'Unienville, won the British Bridge Trials and represented Great Britain in the European Championships the following year, with Reese and Schapiro in the team. Britain took the bronze medal. Later D'Unienville returned to his home in Mauritius and Truscott had to find a new partner.

In 1955 Truscott and a Dutch bridge writer Herman Filarski edited the first Daily Newspaper for the European Bridge Championships, a practice in being to this day. In 1958 Truscott took up bridge fulltime, writing his first bridge book, and becoming secretary of the British Bridge League. The team took silver at the Europeans losing on a split tie with Italy.

At the 1960 World Team Olympiad Truscott, partnering Tony Priday, the future bridge correspondent of the Sunday Telegraph, first met the American woman who was later to become his wife. He was also head-hunted by a leading American player, Richard Frey, to ghost-write his newspaper column, write for his magazine, and co-edit an edition of the *Encyclopedia of Bridge*. At the time Truscott was organising the European Championships held in Torquay in 1961. He was in the British team for the event that won the title of European champions. Soon after, he moved to New York to work for Frey.

In 1964 Truscott became Bridge Editor of *The New York Times*. For forty years Truscott wrote a daily column, establishing himself as the world's leading bridge columnist. At world championships, he would report a deal that, due to time zones, would often appear the same day in his newspaper.

In 1965 came the Buenos Aires affair with Truscott as the main witness against Reese and Schapiro. His book on the subject, *The Great Bridge Scandal*, was not published in Britain whilst Reese and Schapiro were alive, for fear of legal proceedings.

In 1971 Truscott separated from his British wife Gloria and they then divorced. She returned to England with their children. A year later he proposed to Dorothy Hayden at dawn in front of the Taj Mahal and she accepted. They married in 1972.

Truscott was the author of thirteen bridge books and Executive Editor of the first three editions of the *Encyclopedia of Bridge*. He had a prodigious recall of humorous songs and ditties with which he would entertain his friends. He ran the New York Marathon at the age of 61. He leaves his widow, Dorothy, and three children by his first wife, one of whom, Philip, was a Liberal councillor before emigrating to the USA.

PDJ

A Personal Reminiscence Barry Rigal, NYC

Since almost everyone knows Alan's achievements at the bridge table and as a journalist, I'd like to focus on the aspect of him that only his friends and acquaintances got to know, namely his lovable eccentricities.

Alan was someone for whom the word eccentric might have been coined. The mildest of these was that he never drank coffee - there were many more. Blessed (cursed) with the worst singing voice of anyone not totally tone-deaf that I have ever heard, Alan loved to sing. Anything and everything - though mainly comic songs, Gilbert and Sullivan, Tom Lehrer, doggerel, you name it he sang it - badly. And he got the words wrong as well - just a little but enough to register with those who knew.

But more than singing, Alan loved to tell stories - sometimes jokes, more often historical nuggets and trivia. It came as no surprise when he started to write his book on historical accidents and incidents - it was one of his more major disappointments when he was unable to find a publisher for it.

Only recently I remember introducing a novice in the world of bridge to Alan. His eyes lit up as he proceeded to buttonhole her for half an hour, regaling her with story after story. She was hooked, and told me later how fascinating he was. Dorothy had heard all the stories before but managed not to seem bored - they were a perfect match in so many respects. I recommended to her one time that she should get an unhearing aid but she had no need of one.

Alan was a very good friend to me; when I arrived in New York he taught me the rudiments of Symmetric Precision in a day (the first 95% takes two hours, the last 5% a year). We played bridge, as did Dorothy and I for a year or two while I was finding partners in NY, and both of them were unfailingly generous. Alan also pushed some writing work my way - for which I will always be grateful. What many people might not appreciate was what a brave or idiosyncratic player Alan was. Alan was happy to go out on a limb and back his judgment - in many ways he often seemed able to work out what was in my hand better than I.

Over the years I went to the Bronx and Adirondacks to visit and relax and unfailingly had a great time. Alan was almost the last of his generation of players, those who had been of military age in the second world war. In many ways we will not see his like again.

My favourite Alan story relates to his trip to Finland in the 1950s for a European Championship, I think. The group he was with went to a restaurant where no English was spoken; the group spoke no Finnish. Not to worry; everyone simply pointed at a dish on the menu without knowing what it was.

They all got their food - except Alan; just as everyone was finishing a pretty good meal, Alan's dish arrived - covered by a huge silver tureen. Worth waiting for, he decided. The tureen was ceremonially lifted; it was a bowl of porridge.

Brickbats or Bouquets?

Barry Rigal, NYC

Poor Alan Truscott - he just can't win. He makes a master call and his partner shouts at him and his opponents call the Tournament Director.

The deal occurred in the second qualifying session of the ACBL NABC Open Pairs. Alan held:

♠ 5 4 3
♥ 10 7 2
♦ K 10 7 5 3
♣ A 6

Alan saw his partner open one spade in second seat, playing Precision. Alan raised to two spades and saw his LHO (a passed hand, remember) bid four clubs. His partner bid four diamonds, obviously natural, preparing the way for a decision at the five level if necessary. RHO passed. What should you bid at this point? Four spades? Five clubs? Five diamonds?

I don't know what is right in theory, but Alan decided his LHO's action implied a foul spade split - so he might as well play in a making spot - he passed four diamonds! This was the full deal:

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

Four diamonds makes, of course, while four spades would have been a likely two off doubled...but what happened to Alan? His partner told him that passing was a serious breach of partnership discipline. His opponents called the Tournament Director and reported him for making an anti-systemic psychic action which had worked.

So - belated apologies, Alan. I won't criticize your judgment next time.

Who Says You Can't Go Back?

Barry Rigal, NYC

A pair who have re-established a partnership from many years ago are Ken Barbour and Alan Truscott, both once British internationals, but now both well-established in the USA for many years. They found a very elegant defence on this hand from a recent US Nationals.

Dealer South. EW Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
—	—	—	1 NT
2 ♥ ¹	3 ♥	4 ♥	5 ♣
Pass	Pass	Pass	
1. Hearts and a minor			

Truscott led the king of hearts against five clubs, and declarer decided to follow the simple line of ruffing a heart at once, coming back to the king of spades, and ruffing a second heart. Now he led dummy's last club, and Barbour hopped up with the ace of clubs, and resisted the temptation to give his partner a spade ruff.

Instead he played a diamond, to the jack, queen, and ace. To declarer's intense irritation the lead was in dummy, and no matter which plain suit he exited with, one defender would ruff, and give his partner a ruff in the other suit, for one down.

A Personal Reminiscence

Phillip Alder, Hobe Sound, FL

Alan Truscott, after 41 years as the highly respected and admired bridge columnist of *The New York Times*, died last month.

Truscott first found out about bridge at Whitgift School in Croydon, not far from his birthplace, when he was 15. He instructed three friends to read a bridge book. The next Thursday they had their inaugural game. On the very first deal Alan's partner opened one spade. He responded three clubs, a strong jump shift, and his partner passed! His partner hadn't read far enough through the book. To make matters worse, Alan won 12 tricks and was furious at the missed slam. Twelve years later this friend had represented England and Alan had played for Great Britain in a European Championship.

Alan's trail to the United States began in 1960, when he was spotted by Dick Frey working assiduously in the press room at the inaugural World Team Olympiad in Turin, Italy. After the 1962 Bermuda bowl, Alan was invited by Frey to visit his

Long Island home where Frey asked Alan both to become his deputy editor and to write the first edition of *The Encyclopedia of Bridge*. Another big break came in 1964, when Albert H. Morehead retired as the bridge columnist for *The New York Times*, and Alan was invited to take over, after a competition in which Edgar Kaplan was the other finalist.

In 1972 Alan married Dorothy Hayden, one of the greatest women players of all time. He proposed to her outside the Taj Mahal. Dorothy says that it was very romantic, despite the Taj Mahal's being a mausoleum.

Alan had numerous successes at the table, wrote many excellent books and invented some useful bidding conventions. For example, if partner opens one of a suit and the next player makes a takeout double, a response of two no-trump shows at least a limit raise in partner's suit. (This is sometimes incorrectly attributed to Jordan or Dormer.) Alan realized that the responder does not need a natural two-no-trump bid, because with that hand he would start with redouble. Alan has also served on numerous committees and has been indefatigable in his efforts to promote bridge. Full details can be found in the sixth edition of the *Encyclopedia*, of which Alan was the Executive Editor.

Alan also added to bridge theory, in particular by describing the *Principle of Restricted Choice*. This is highlighted by the example suit combination where declarer has nine cards in a suit, missing queen-jack to four:

♠ K 9 7 4

♠ A 10 8 6 5

When declarer plays a spade to dummy's king, West plays the queen and East the two. On a second spade from dummy, East follows with the three. Should declarer finesse, assuming West had a singleton queen, or should he rise with the king, playing West for the doubleton queen-jack?

The *Principle of Restricted Choice* explains that it is statistically correct to assume your opponent's choice was restricted. If West had a singleton queen, he had no choice of card to play. But if he had the doubleton queen-jack, he might well have played the jack instead of the queen. So the percentage play is to finesse on the second round by a margin of 2:1.

I first met Alan in 1971, when he organized a trip to the United States for my bridge partner and myself. He and I became close friends, bridge partners and coworkers. I will miss him greatly.

Truscott in the Fishbowl
Phillip Alder, Hobe Sound FL
(From the New York Times)

Saturday, September 10, 2005

The diagrammed deal (see top of next column) was played in Britain's match against Belgium at the 1961 European Championship, in Torquay, England. Alan Truscott and his partner, Tony Priday, were in what was known as the fishbowl, a soundproof room made of one-way glass. The audience could see the players, but the players could not see the audience.

Dealer West. NS Vul.

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

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

Opening lead: ♣ 5

West's weak two-spade bid looks strange. Nowadays everyone would open four spades, South would double and North would pass. The penalty would be 300 for down two.

Against four hearts, West led the club five, clearly a singleton. Truscott took East's nine with his queen and continued with the heart king, East winning with the ace and giving his partner a club ruff, which luckily 'wasted' the heart queen. After West played a spade to his ace, declarer drew trumps to reach this position (he had unblocked the clubs by playing the ace on the second round of the suit):

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

South led the diamond jack from his hand.

Note that if West had taken the trick and led the spade king, it would have squeezed his partner, a so-called suicide squeeze. If East discards a club, declarer gets two club tricks before taking the diamond finesse. And if East pitches a diamond, South crosses to the club king, finesses in diamonds and runs that suit.

So West played low, but only after a slight hesitation. East won the trick and returned a diamond, but Truscott, noting the table vibes, put up his ace, dropping West's queen, and cashed the final trump to squeeze East in the minor suits.

Collecting ten tricks brought a big round of applause from the audience. Truscott heard a faint sound like ocean waters rolling onto a beach. The fishbowl was not completely soundproof.

Saturday, October 8, 2005

Bloom 'n' Gill

Ron Klinger, Northbridge, NSW

(From the Sydney Morning Herald, July 18)

Dealer South Both Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
—	—	—	2 ♣
Pass	2 ♦	Pass	2 NT
Pass	3 NT	Pass	Pass
Pass			

Opening lead: ♠ 5

Alan Truscott played this deal in the 1950s in Belgium. Two clubs was strong, artificial and forcing. Two diamonds was the negative response. The two-no-trump rebid promised a balanced 23 or 24 points, South correctly adding a point for his five-card suit. North sensibly opted for the nine-trick game, deciding it was unlikely that five diamonds would make and three no trump fail. (Note that five diamonds goes down after a spade lead from East.)

Dummy's spade nine won the first trick. If South only had an additional diamond or North a side entry, there would have been no problem. But as things stood, the contract looked hopeless. It was extremely unlikely that the club king would be a singleton. Then Truscott spotted one faint chance - perhaps West had a singleton or doubleton heart without the king.

At trick two, declarer played a heart to his queen. When that won, he cashed the heart ace and his three top diamonds before exiting with the spade king. West took his four spade winners, but at trick eleven he had to lead a club, which brought the dummy and its remaining diamond winner back to life. Truscott collected one spade, two hearts, four diamonds and two clubs.

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Beware Australians Bearing Gifts

While the locals were contesting the Victor Champion Cup in Melbourne, South African ex-patriate Martin Bloom, together with Peter Gill, went to Capetown for the South African Nationals. Bloom and Gill finished second in the Pairs Championship and second in the Teams Championship.

On this deal a fine piece of deception by Gill had the desired effect:

Dealer South. Neither Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Bloom	—	Gill	1 ♠
Pass	2 ♠	Double	3 ♠
Pass	Pass	Pass	
Lead: ♥ 8			

Gill won the lead with the heart ace and, seeing little future in hearts, he switched to the ace and a second diamond. South ruffed and played a low club to the ace. As it seemed likely that there were no more red tricks for the defence, Gill knew that three tricks were needed from the black suits, either two clubs and one spade or two spades and one club.

He started his ruse by dropping the club ten under the ace. Declarer now ran the jack of spades to West's queen. Back came another diamond, ruffed. With no entry to dummy, South would be forced into playing the spade ace next, with a satisfying outcome. With East's play of the club ten under the ace, however, South saw another chance. Perhaps the nine of clubs would be an entry.

He therefore continued with a low club to the nine and Gill ducked! He knew he could afford this, as Bloom had given count, showing an odd number of clubs. With a winning club, Bloom would no doubt have played it. Pleased to be in dummy, declarer repeated the spade finesse and so the defenders collected two spades, one heart, one diamond and one club for one down.

A Pyrrhic Victory

On this next deal (see top of the following page), after a typical competitive auction, Bloom landed in a precarious three spade contract.

Dealer South. Both Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
—	Gill	—	Bloom
—	—	—	1 ♠
2 ♦	Pass	Pass	2 ♠
Pass	Pass	3 ♦	Pass
Pass	3 ♠	Pass	Pass
Pass			
Lead: ♦K			

South won and played ace and another spade. No joy there. West needed to switch to clubs now, but he played another diamond, ruffed. Bloom returned a spade to West, who continued with a low diamond, South ruffing.

Bloom now played the ace and another heart, West winning with the king. (Had West unblocked the heart king, declarer would let his ten hold next.) West persevered with a fourth diamond. Instead of ruffing, Bloom discarded a club from hand. When West played his last diamond, Bloom discarded the heart jack from dummy and ruffed. Dummy was left with ♣K-10-9, declarer with ♥5, ♣A-7 and East had to find a discard from ♥Q, ♣Q-J-8. When he let the club eight go, Bloom cashed the ace of clubs and, picking the end-position, continued with a club to the king to land his part-score.

Well done, but Bloom's fine play for plus 140 held the loss on the board to 8 IMPs instead of 12 IMPs. At the other table East-West pushed on to four diamonds, doubled and two down for minus 500.

**A New Theme?
Jean-Paul Meyer, Paris**

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

This deal was played during a BBO match and the contract of three no trump went down. It looks to me like a fascinating and unusual new theme. South opened one no trump and North bid three no trump. West led the ace of spades and the defence took their four spade tricks.

Declarer had to discard once from each hand... is there any problem? Discarding a diamond from North is okay, but it is compulsory to throw a club from hand! Not because, as here, the clubs do not break but because, even if they are high, declarer cannot make his contract with the king of hearts offside!

At trick five, West plays a heart. If declarer plays the ace, even with a favourable club break he cannot take more than eight tricks: five clubs, one heart and two diamonds. With the heart finesse declarer makes nine easy tricks despite the 4-1 break in clubs.

The IBPA is pleased to announce "The Brazilian Best Junior Deal" sponsored by *Revista Brasileira de Bridge*.

Online Transmissions

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Oct 13-16	EBL Champions' Cup	Swan
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Oct 21-23	Farmen Teams (Norway)	BBO
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Zia at the Regency

Barry Rigal, New York

Rubber Bridge. Deal 1. Neither Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
—	Rigal	—	Zia
Pass	1 ♣	3 ♦	Pass
Pass	Double	Pass	4 ♥
Pass	Pass	Pass	

Zia was at the helm. East and West will probably not want their names published, but it was the big game. West led the spade king and, after long thought, Zia won the ace, cashed a high heart and played a low club to the eight and queen. West did not expect his partner to have four spades of course, hence played a second spade.

Zia ruffed the spade, crossed to dummy's other high heart and ruffed the third spade. Then a club to the king and ten was followed by a ruff of dummy's last spade. This was the position:

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

Declarer cashed the heart queen discarding a diamond from dummy and played a club to the nine. The ace of clubs was his tenth trick as West helplessly followed suit. He conceded the last two tricks twice over.

This is a nice variant of the type where you need to have the hand with the long trumps follow throughout, so must finesse on the third round of the suit. Here the deception of the low club from dummy was combined with the technical aspect of eloping with the trumps.

IBPA Column Service

Tim Bourke, Canberra

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

329. Dealer South. EW Vul.

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

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

The interesting thing about the bidding was that South recognised he was being asked about spade support, not whether he had a 4=3=3=3 shape. Accordingly, he converted three no trump to four spades, which proved a wise decision, for the former fails ignominiously.

West began with the king of clubs, asking for a count signal. When East indicated an odd number of clubs, with the two, West continued with the ace of clubs and then the jack. After ruffing with the eight of spades, South saw that he definitely needed the heart finesse to make his contract.

As he needed two heart finesses and would also have to lead diamonds from dummy too, declarer finessed the queen of hearts at trick four. After playing the ace of trumps, he returned to dummy with the queen of trumps to finesse the jack of hearts.

The stage was now set for an elimination, an idea that holding an ace-queen-nine in combination should always suggest as a possibility. Of course the first move was to cash the ace of hearts and the second was to go back to dummy with the jack of trumps to lead a diamond with the intention of covering East's card.

If East plays low, declarer inserts the nine and West wins with the jack, only to face two unenviable choices. He can play a diamond into the ace-queen tenace or he can concede a ruff-and-discard. Either way the game is made. It would do no good for East to play the ten on the first round of the suit. Declarer plays the queen and after West wins the king the only change is that if chooses to exit with a diamond he has lead away from his jack into what is now the ace-nine tenace.

330. (see top of next page.) How should South plan to turn twelve tricks into thirteen after West leads the ten of clubs? He needs either clubs to be 3-3 or to find the queen of spades.

330. Dealer South. EW Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
—	—	—	2 ♣
Pass	2 ♦	Pass	2 NT
Pass	7 NT	Pass	Pass
Pass			

South takes the club lead with the ace and cashes the queen. After crossing to dummy with the queen of diamonds, declarer calls for the king of clubs, discarding a spade from hand. When East shows out on the third club, the contract reduces to the second option, of fishing for the queen of spades. Only an inexperienced player would take an immediate spade guess; declarer plays off the winners in all the other suits, hoping to gain as much information as possible about the spade suit; he plans to play the hand with more spades for the queen.

After seven red suit winners, West is revealed to have begun with two hearts, three diamonds and four clubs and consequently four spades. Some might think this was enough to play West for the queen of spades. However, in the process of declarer cashing his winners, West must discard two spades for otherwise the seven of clubs will become a winner. So as both players only have two spades left, declarer cashes the ace and king of spades in the certain knowledge that the queen will fall under the ace and his remaining spade will be high.

331. Dealer South. Both Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
—	—	—	1 ♠
Double	2 NT	Pass	4 ♠
Pass	Pass	Pass	

After a simple auction, in which two no trump promised at least a limit raise in spades, West leads the king of hearts. For

those with some affection for elimination play, this hand is easy; indeed the diamond suit is something of an old chestnut for aficionados of this genre.

They win the first trick with the ace of hearts and draw all of East's trumps then cash the minor suit aces and exit in hearts or clubs. The defenders can cash a heart and club and if it is East who wins the last of these he will have to concede a ruff-and-discard. The news is not good for West either. When he wins the second defensive trick, he may delay matters by leading the queen or jack of diamonds but when East shows out, declarer plays low from hand. Now West has to lead into the ace-ten tenace or give a ruff-and-discard. Either way the game is made.

Notice what happens if declarer fails to cash the ace (or king) of diamonds. East can win the second defensive trick and exit with the eight of diamonds. Declarer plays low and West overtakes with the nine and then there is no way for South to avoid two diamond losers.

332. Dealer South. EW Vul.

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

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

Unlike the first hand in this collection, South answered the question, "Do you have 4=3=3=3 shape?" by passing three no trump instead of bidding four spades in response to "Do we have an eight-card major suit fit?" The decision to pass three no trump was a dangerous one, particularly if West began with five clubs headed by two honours.

Consistency is important in bridge and we achieve that by reducing the number of guesses we make; bidding the major-suit game every time you have an eight card achieves the former through reducing the latter.

How should declarer play three no trump when West leads the king of clubs? If South calls for dummy's ace of clubs then, on this layout, West can defeat the contract by playing low if South next leads a high club and high if he tries a low one.

So it would be folly to allow the ace of clubs to be driven out and declarer plays low from dummy. Do you see that there is another trap? South must also be careful to unblock the eight of clubs from hand, as we shall see. If West continues with the queen of clubs, declarer must again call for a low club from dummy and unblock his nine of clubs too.

West can no longer prevent declarer gaining access to dummy. If he continues with the jack of clubs, declarer takes the ace and continues his good work by playing the ten from hand on this trick.

In dummy, declarer continues with the ace, king and jack of spades - taking the finesse would be imprudent - to set up two long spades in dummy; otherwise he cannot make his contract. As you can see, the three unblocking plays in clubs made dummy's seven the entry to the spades.

If West follows any other line of defence, the ace of clubs will provide access to the spades - provided declarer plays spades from the top.

Four spades would have been easier but perhaps not as much fun!

IBPA Annual General Meeting

The AGM will be held in Estoril on Wednesday, 2nd November, 2005.

Henry Francis has resigned as Chairman (a tribute to his work for IBPA will be given in a later Bulletin), and Per Jannersten is proposed in his place, with Dilip Gidwani being proposed for Per's former post.

Homage to deceased members will be paid including a tribute to Alan Truscott.

Proposed Agenda

1. **Minutes of the AGM** held on 1st November in Istanbul (see Bulletin 482).

2. **Officers' Reports.**

3. **Appointees' Reports.**

4. **Accounts** for the year ending 31st December 2004; budget and subscriptions for the year 2006.

5. **Election of officers.** Nominated are: President: Patrick Jourdain (Wales); Chairman: Per Jannersten (Sweden); Executive Vice-President: Jan van Cleeff (Netherlands); Organisational Vice-President: Dilip Gidwani (Ghana); Secretary: Maureen Dennison (England); Treasurer: Mario Dix (Malta); Honorary General Counsel: Bill Pencharz (England); Honorary Auditor: Julius Butkow (RSA). Automatically continuing without election are the President Emeriti: Tommy Sandsmark (Norway); Henry Francis (USA).

6. **Election of Executive members:** Executive members whose term expires and are available for a 3-year term to 2008: Julius Butkow (RSA); John Carruthers (Canada); Barry Rigal (USA). Already elected to 2006: Dilip Gidwani (Ghana); Peter Lund (Denmark); Ron Tacchi (France). If Mr. Gidwani is elected as an officer a vacancy arises for a 1-year term and nominated will be: Peter Ventura (Sweden). Already elected to 2007: Chris Diment (Australia); Panos Gerontopoulos (Greece); Brent Manley (USA). Note: Appointees in post: Awards Chairman: Barry Rigal (USA); Editor: John Carruthers (Canada). Membership Secretary Stuart Staveley (Scotland) is retiring, though he will continue to assist the new Treasurer who will take on both functions.

7. **2005 Awards.**

8. **Any other competent business.**

Patrick Jourdain (President)

10th World Junior Team Championship I I

Brian Senior, Nottingham (and others)

(With additional commentary from the IBPA editor.)



Several deals arose in the World Juniors on which helping Partner was the theme. First, from Australia v. New Zealand:

Board 14. Dealer East. Neither Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Krochmalik	Whibley	Williams	Rew
—	—	1 ♠	2 ♥
Double	4 ♥	4 ♠	Pass
Pass	Pass		

The club eight was led, but declarer played ace of spades queen of spades and lost just two spades and a heart for plus 420. At the other table:

West	North	East	South
Fisher	Ware	Whyte	Geromboux
—	—	1 ♠	2 ♥
Pass	3 ♥	3 ♠	4 ♥
Double	Pass	Pass	Pass

The spade five was led to the ace and East shifted to the diamond queen, king, ace. When West returned a diamond, South succeeded for plus 590 and 14 IMPs to Australia.

Is it possible in practice to defeat four spades by East? Discounting a double dummy low heart to the king and a diamond switch, suppose South starts with his club? The danger now is that even if South wins the spade king and underleads his hearts, North will try to give him a club ruff. Perhaps the key is to duck the spade queen on the second round of the suit, win the third, then underlead the hearts. Partner might then get the message that a club ruff is not needed.

What about declarer? He could possibly thwart this plan by playing a heart at trick two, but perhaps South can triumph after all by playing the heart eight under the nine. In practice, no one defeated four spades.

The popular contract on Board 16 from Round 4 was four spades going down – though three no trump cannot be beaten, it is tough to reach.

Board 16. Dealer West. EW Vul.

<p>♠ Q 8 6 5 4 ♥ Q 10 4 ♦ A 3 ♣ A K J</p> <p>♠ 10 ♥ A K 7 5 3 ♦ K 7 6 5 2 ♣ 9 2</p> <p>♠ A K J 3 ♥ 9 6 2 ♦ Q 10 9 8 ♣ 8 3</p>	<p>♠ 9 7 2 ♥ J 8 ♦ J 4 ♣ Q 10 7 6 5 4</p>
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Four spades may not appear to be a very interesting contract – the defence starts with three rounds of hearts after West has opened the bidding and, unless East switches to a diamond, the defence eventually comes to a diamond trick for down one.

Is it quite that simple? Ben Green of the English team suggests that it is quite important whether East switches to the ‘obvious’ trump or to a club. If East plays a trump at trick four, declarer wins, draws the last trump then plays the diamond queen from dummy. No problem, you say, West covers and that is that – one down. But suppose that this is the actual North hand:

♠ Q 8 6 5 4	♥ Q 10 4
♦ A J	♣ A Q J

That is the same distribution and same high-card strength, and now to cover the diamond gives declarer an otherwise impossible contract. How is West to know?

Ben suggests that the way to ensure that West does cover the diamond is for East to switch to a club at trick four. It does not matter that this runs around to declarer’s jack, because if declarer holds the ace-king-jack to four, he could always ruff all his club losers anyway. But now West will know that the defence has no club trick and East simply has to have the jack of diamonds if the contract is to be defeated.

Against England, Australia’s Daniel Geromboux did switch to a club, resolving his partner’s potential problem.

Canada v. Israel

Board 13. Dealer North. Both Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Demuy	Hoffman	Wolpert	Ofir
—	Pass	2 ♠	Pass
4 ♠	Pass	Pass	Pass

After the ten of clubs lead the contract was cold for eleven tricks; Canada plus 650. Note that five diamonds is cold for North-South on very modest values.

At the other table Canada missed an opportunity to defeat four spades.

West	North	East	South
Reshef	Grainger	Ginossar	Lavee
—	Pass	2 ♦ ¹	Pass
4 ♣ ²	Pass	4 ♥	Pass
4 ♠	Pass	Pass	Pass

1. Multi
2. Transfer me to your major

North led the heart five to the king and ace and now the defence can take four tricks. Declarer played a club and North took the ace, cashed the diamond ace, followed by the heart queen. He then played a diamond and declarer was safe.

After taking the club ace, perhaps North should play the heart queen first. Then, when North plays the diamond ace, South might know enough to discourage diamonds and so ask North to revert to hearts. Once again, that would take very cooperative defence.

David Grainger made a good play on this deal, but perhaps declarer missed a chance.

Board 1. Dealer North. Neither Vul.

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

At one table in the Poland-Canada match, the Canadians missed game, resting in two hearts for plus 170. At the other table...

West	North	East	South
Lavee	Kalita	Grainger	Kotorowicz
—	1 ♣	1 ♠	Pass
Pass	2 ♥	Pass	2 ♠
Pass	2 NT	Pass	3 NT
Pass	Pass	Pass	

North won the club four lead and led the spade four, hoping to sneak a spade trick before reverting to hearts. Grainger made no mistake. He rose with the king and shifted to the ace and a second diamond. As West had the heart ace entry, declarer went four down for minus 200 and 9 IMPs to Canada.

As East was known to have spade length and had chosen a low club lead, there was a reasonable chance that East might be short in diamonds. In that case North could tackle hearts first to knock out the entry to the danger hand. If East has the club king and not three diamonds, it will be safe to let East in later in spades.

No Double, No Trouble Laszlo Honti, Hungary

On Board 16 of Round 7, the South player was doomed to go down in four spades, unless he could see all the cards. However, the Hungarian South got a little help from his opponents.

Board 16. Dealer West. EW Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
	Mraz		Szegedi
1 NT ¹	Pass	2 ♦ ²	2 ♠
3 ♥	3 ♠	Pass	4 ♠
Double	Pass	Pass	Pass

1. 12-14
2. Transfer to hearts

West led a heart and Balasz Szegedi won East's queen in hand and led a club to West's ace. Had West returned a passive heart, Szegedi could have played him to hold something like:

♠ K Q x x
♥ J x x x
♦ J x
♣ A Q x

and tried for a minor-suit squeeze against East. But West played a very descriptive diamond five instead. Declarer read the position well. He won the king of diamonds then played the king of clubs, pitching a diamond, and ruffed a club, cashed the ace of diamonds and led a heart to the king for a second club ruff with the spade ten. Finally, Szegedi led a low spade toward dummy's nine. West could win but then had to either give up his second trump trick or lead a heart for a ruff and discard, eliminating declarer's diamond loser. So that meant plus 590 - an expensive double, without which it would have been tough to find the winning line.

A Point Of Technique Paul Lavings, Double Bay, NSW

France played Australia in Round 11, and both Souths reached three diamonds on this innocuous-looking deal:

Board 2. Dealer East. NS Vul.

<p>♠ Q 9 3 2 ♥ 6 5 4 3 ♦ 6 ♣ A J 6 4</p> <p>♠ A 6 ♥ K J 9 ♦ K J 8 ♣ Q 10 8 7 3</p> <p>♠ J ♥ A 7 ♦ A Q 10 9 5 4 2 ♣ K 9 5</p>	<p>♠ K 10 8 7 5 4 ♥ Q 10 8 2 ♦ 7 3 ♣ 2</p>
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In both rooms West led the ace of spades and continued a second spade. Both declarers, for entry reasons, played diamonds from hand, and both played the ace and then ten. At both tables, East came into the bidding and, while both declarers would have had this in mind, there are two good reasons to play the ace of diamonds then the queen, rather than the ace and ten.

Firstly, if you play the diamond ten second and it loses to the jack, both defenders know their side has the king. If you play the queen second you will be keeping one defender in the dark about the diamond jack, and that opponent may miscount how many tricks are still needed by the defence, and give you a helping hand. The second reason is that, if the diamond ten loses to the king, the defence may still promote the diamond jack, whereas if the diamond queen fetches both king and jack, your trump suit problems are over.

Three No Trump the Hard Way Ron Klinger, Northbridge, NSW

All four tables played in three no trump on this deal from the third session of the semi-finals. In each match one declarer succeeded while the other failed. From France v. Poland...

Board 47. Dealer South. NS Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
De Tessières	Kalita	O.Bessis	Kotorowicz
—	—	—	Pass
1 ♠	Pass	2 ♣	Pass
2 ♥	Pass	2 NT	Pass
3 NT	Pass	Pass	Pass

South led the heart four, North played the jack on dummy's nine and East won to play the spade five: four, king, three.

Dummy's diamond two went to the jack and king, and East continued with the spade nine to the queen. North pitched the ten of diamonds.

On the club five from dummy, North grabbed the ace, since he could lock declarer in dummy. The diamond six went to the ace and declarer cashed the diamond queen, South discarding the club eight. The low heart from dummy was taken by North's queen and he cashed the diamond winner. The heart return left declarer in dummy to lose the last two spades for one down; plus 50 to Poland.

West	North	East	South
Buras	T.Bessis	Araskiewicz	Gaviard
—	—	—	Pass
1 ♠	Pass	2 ♣	Pass
2 ♥	Pass	3 ♣	Pass
3 NT	Pass	Pass	Pass

This was the only table where West was declarer. The jack of diamonds lead went to the ace and declarer played the five of clubs: four, king, eight. Had he known clubs were 3-3, he could have continued clubs and had an easy time with four club tricks and five red-suit winners.

However, with one club trick in the bag, it was more natural to try for three spade winners. How hard could that be? At trick three, the spade five went to the king, followed by the spade queen. Bad news, as North discarded the club ten. South took the spade ace and played the five of diamonds to the king. Declarer reverted to clubs to North's ace, discarding the heart nine from hand. North exited with the diamond ten to the queen, South letting the heart three go:

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

East cashed the heart ace and king and exited from hand with the spade seven. South won with the eight and cashed the club queen, but declarer had the last two tricks. Declarer had made three no trump the hard way for plus 400 and 10 IMPs.

Board 22. Dealer East. EW Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Kranyak	Kalita	Grue	Kotorowicz
—	—	Pass	Pass
1 ♦	1 NT	Pass	3 NT
Pass	Pass	Pass	
West	North	East	South
Buras	Hurd	Araskiewicz	Wooldridge
—	—	Pass	Pass
Pass	1 NT	Pass	3 NT
Pass	Pass	Pass	

In USA I v. Poland, Kranyak, true to form, found a third-seat opening that his counterpart in the other room did not. One diamond was Precision, not really promising the suit, so Grue led a heart. Kranyak won the ace as Kalita dropped the jack in hope of encouraging a continuation. Which is what he got. Kalita cashed two hearts and the top three clubs then crossed to the ace of spades to cash three more club tricks; plus 400.

Araskiewicz led a low spade and Hurd had no option but to put in dummy's queen. He continued by unblocking the clubs then trying the heart jack from hand. Buras won that and switched to the jack of diamonds to surround the queen and collect five defensive winners; down one for minus 50 and 10 IMPs to Poland.

Board 14. Dealer East. Neither Vul.

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

In Chile v. USA I ...

West	North	East	South
Robles	Grue	Pacareu	Kranyak
—	—	Pass	1 ♦
Pass	2 ♦ ¹	Pass	2 ♥
Pass	3 NT	Pass	Pass
Pass			

1. Forcing

At some tables, when North declared three no trump, his job was made relatively easy on a heart lead, resolving the position in that suit. Where East instead led a club, declarer looked headed for defeat, and usually did. Here was the exception.

The opening lead of the four of clubs went to the nine and queen and Joe Grue played the two of diamonds to the queen and ace. West shifted to the spade seven, king, four, two. North led the queen of hearts, ace, six, seven, and East reverted to clubs, won by North, who continued with the ace of clubs and another club. East won and exited with a diamond to dummy's king, leaving this ending:

♠ A
 ♥ 9
 ♦ 9 7 5
 ♣ —

♠ 8
 ♥ 5 3
 ♦ J 8
 ♣ —

♠ Q 9
 ♥ 10 4 2
 ♦ —
 ♣ —

♠ J 10
 ♥ K J 8
 ♦ —
 ♣ —

Grue produced a very pretty stepping-stone endplay via the spade ten to the ace, the heart nine to the king and the jack of spades exit. East won and played the heart four. Grue finessed the eight to score a well-deserved 400. That was worth 10 IMPs to USA1 when three no trump went one down at the other table.

(Results can be found in last month's IBPA Bulletin.)

20th European Youth Team Championships II

Brian Senior, Nottingham
Peter Ventura, Stockholm

Belgian Brilliancy

Almost everyone went three down in three no trump on this deal from Round 8 of the Juniors and Girls series, but Steven de Donder of Belgium brought his contract home in the match against the Czech Republic in the Juniors.

Board 16. Dealer West. EW Vul.

♠ K J 5
 ♥ Q 7
 ♦ A J 8 7
 ♣ A K Q 5

♠ Q 2
 ♥ 10 8 6 5 3 2
 ♦ K 6
 ♣ J 3 2

♠ A 10 9 8 7 4
 ♥ A 9
 ♦ Q 9
 ♣ 8 7 4

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

At almost every table the auction was a simple two no trump-three no trump or something similar and East led a spade to the queen and king. Most declarers led out ace and another diamond, hoping that East would have to win the trick and would not be able to attack spades effectively. Of course, that did not work out so well for declarer and there was a string of minus 150s on the Vugraph screen.

De Donder looked more deeply into the hand. He saw that East could, and surely should, unblock the king of diamonds from a doubleton and that, even if he did not do so, there would still be the possibility of his switching to a heart with good effect should West have the ace of that suit.

At trick two De Donder led the seven of hearts to dummy's king and continued with a low diamond to his jack. That lost to the queen but East was powerless. If he defended passively then the diamond king would fall under the ace and declarer would have all the tricks he required to bring home his contract, so East played ace and another spade, more in hope than expectation. That gave De Donder two overtricks for a great plus 460 and 12 IMPs to Belgium.

Note that the even club break means that it is no use for East to win the heart at trick two. If he does so then clears the spades declarer has two tricks in each major, one diamond and four clubs – nine in all. Nicely played.

Board 2. Dealer East. NS Vul.

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

♠ K 9 7
 ♥ Q 6 5 3 2
 ♦ Q 9 3
 ♣ 9 4

♠ J 4 3
 ♥ 9 8 7
 ♦ 6
 ♣ A 10 8 7 6 2

♠ A Q 2
 ♥ A K J 10
 ♦ A K 8
 ♣ K J 3

West	North	East	South
Michielsens	P Bethers	De Pagter	Lorencs
—	—	Pass	1 ♣
Pass	1 ♦	Pass	2 NT
Pass	3 ♣	Pass	3 ♥
Pass	3 NT	Pass	Pass
Pass			

West	North	East	South
Balasovs	Verbeek	J Bethers	Hop
—	—	Pass	2 ♦
Pass	2 ♥	Pass	2 NT
Pass	3 ♣	Double	3 ♦
Pass	3 ♥	Pass	3 NT
Pass	Pass	Pass	

Both Souths opened with a strong artificial bid and eventually declared three no trump. Marion Michielsens led a heart into declarer's suit because nothing else looked to be any more attractive. Martins Lorencs won the heart jack and played three rounds of diamonds. Michielsens switched to the nine of clubs for the queen and ace and back came a heart. Lorencs won the ace, cashed the club winners and played king then ten of hearts, leaving Michielsens to lead into the spade tenace to give the ninth trick; plus 600.

Jurijs Balasov led a club in response to Janis Bethers' double of the three-club enquiry. That was covered by the queen and ace and Bethers switched to a heart. Jacco Hop rose with the heart ace and cashed the top diamonds, then the club winners, before exiting with his third diamond. Balasov won the diamond and returned a heart to the jack. Two more rounds of hearts put him back on play and he too had to lead into the spade tenace; nine tricks for plus 600 and no swing. (See last month's IBPA Bulletin for the results.)

Two from the Fours

Andrew Robson & David Bakhshi, London

Spring 4s Allfrey vs Armstrong (Undefeated Quarterfinal)

Dealer West. Neither Vul.

♠ K Q 10 8 7 4
♥ 8
♦ 10 9 5 3
♣ 7 2

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

♠ 3
♥ J 10 5 2
♦ 8 7 6 4 2
♣ J 9 8

West	North	East	South
Bakhshi		Robson	
1 ♣ ¹	2 ♠	3 ♥	Pass
5 ♥	Pass	7 ♣	Pass
Pass	Pass		

1. 2+ (playing 5-card majors, 15-17 NT)

We reached the best grand slam, but failed to gain IMPs, as (typically!) Armstrong and Holland were one of the only other pairs to bid the best grand. Holland opened one club showing four or more, and Armstrong agreed clubs immediately by bidding three spades after North also made a weak jump of two spades, and so the issue of whether to have hearts or clubs as trumps was avoided.

(From *The Times of London*, August 6, 2005.)

If the opening lead is in dummy's side-suit rather than the opponents' bid and supported suit, you should sit up and take note. It is probably a singleton. Take this deal from the Stratford Spring Foursomes.

Dealer North. Both Vul.

♠ A K 8 6
♥ J 7 6
♦ —
♣ A K 10 9 7 3

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

♠ Q J 7 4
♥ A K 8
♦ K J 4 3
♣ 8 2

West	North	East	South
—	1 ♣	1 ♦	1 ♠
3 ♦	4 ♦	Pass	4 ♥
Pass	6 ♠	Pass	Pass
Pass			

Three diamonds was preemptive and four diamonds agreed spades, whilst showing slam interest and a diamond control. South had a useful hand and cooperated with a heart cue bid, which was just what North wanted to hear.

Declarer won the five of clubs lead with dummy's king and, although the natural line is to set up the clubs, he bothered to cross to his king of hearts to lead a second club from hand (key play). This was to ensure that if West ruffed, he would be ruffing a loser.

Had West ruffed the second club, declarer would have romped home, able to draw trumps in two rounds, ruff one club, and claim his slam. But West correctly discarded (a diamond): it is rarely correct to ruff in these situations (when you will in effect be ruffing two low cards).

Winning dummy's ace, declarer led a third club. Although he could have succeeded by ruffing high, there was no cost at this point in discarding a heart loser (West throwing another diamond). Indeed it was better play – perhaps East would make his life easier by returning a fourth club.

No, East led a second heart. Winning the ace, declarer ruffed a diamond, then ruffed a fourth club with the jack of trumps (West throwing another diamond). It was crunch time. Declarer's only real chance remaining – the opponents having defended perfectly – was to hope that West had both the ten and nine of trumps.

At trick eight declarer led a low trump intending to play dummy's eight. At the table West inserted the nine, so declarer won dummy's king. He ruffed the jack of hearts with the queen of trumps, then finessed dummy's eight of trumps, cashed the ace, drawing West's ten, and finished the job with the two established clubs. Twelve tricks and slam made – phew!

Correspondence

...Continued from page 15

www.bridge-madeira.com (Portuguese and English)
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18-23 April
21st Estoril International Open
Location to be announced
18-20 Swiss Teams
21-23 Open Pairs
Approx 20.000 euros in cash prizes
www.fpbridge.pt (Portuguese site, bilingual pages to be published). Chief TD: To be announced. Email
np43je@mail.telepac.pt

Best wishes,
Rui Marques

Dear John,

Would like to call your attention to two events and ask you to put them in the calendar.

- 1) 40th International Israel Bridge Festival, Tel Aviv, February 9 - 19, 2006 daganbridge@hotmail.com
- 2) 5th Spring Bridge Festival, Eilat, Israel, March 26 - April 4, 2006 daganbridge@hotmail.com

Nissan Rand, Tel Aviv



Correspondence ...

The Editor reserves the right to shorten correspondence

Email: ibpaeditor@sympatico.ca

Hi John,

In your editorial in the September IBPA bulletin, in my opinion, you are off-base in a number of your assumptions.

1. Carryover in the RR for future KO play *should* greatly reward the teams that do well in the RR. After all, it is a major part of the event, and who is to say, without crooked tongue, that teams play different strategies and/or do not play as hard. Just not true and it shouldn't be, since there is a valid argument which could suggest that complete carryover is justified.

2. Since, at least to me, the winner of the RR has already won an event and they should be able to choose from among the other three semi-finalists who they want to play, based, of course on their ability, the match-up with your team, and the carry-over. Rarely would they choose a team because of how that will affect the carryover of the match between the two others, but if they do, they have a right to do that also. It is somewhat logical to do what you suggest and have the carryover of the non-winner of the RR's match be determined by a more intricate formula.

3. A maximum of 16 IMP's in an upcoming 64 board match is certainly not overwhelming and, if anything, is a conservative number. Remember those are earned IMP's, not artificial ones. Yes, there is a randomness for the non-chosen teams, in whom the leading team chooses to play, but maybe that is a reason for all teams to play their hardest in an attempt to win the first half of the tournament. The notion that a six-handed team needs to rest a pair (and mentioned in conjunction with the juniors no less) so that they will be fit for the semi-finals, is hard to think about with a straight face.

4. All this is only disagreement with your logic, but for a Canadian to suggest something that might have benefitted other Canadians is not what I want to hear. In my forthcoming biography, if it ever gets published, I have a scathing chapter against WBF politics that allowed in 1990 Geneva, for Germany to beat Canada (Chapter title is Losing Team Wins). (*In my example, it could have been anyone - it just happened to be Canada. - Ed.*)

5. You should direct your talent and energy to WBF and ACBL policies that are catering more and more to the lionizing of playing sponsors who contribute to individuals (for their own welfare), but not to the game itself. I don't think George Steinbrenner ever played right field for the NY Yankees, nor Jerry Jones quarterback for the Dallas Cowboys, or even any of the Molsons goalie for the Montréal Canadiens, so why should present-day sponsors be on our boards, (e.g., Rose Meltzer on the USBF) and command powerful positions? (*As someone who played*

on sponsored teams for decades, this is a bit disingenuous. - Ed.)

Enough for now. Unfortunately, Judy and I will not be in Estoril, only the fourth WC I've missed since 1970 (many as administrator). We have bought a house and are moving to Las Vegas in October. Good luck!

Warm regards, Bobby Wolff, Dallas

We eagerly look forward to the publication of Bobby's autobiography. - Ed.

Hi JC,

What you suggest in your editorial on carryover is that some VPs should be worth more than others – and that their value won't be known until after the qualifying stage.

A better scheme might be: Let the higher-placed team have their carryover (half the net IMPs or a specified maximum). If the lower-placed team has a net plus score, let the match start from scratch. Simple, encouraging teams to place high, allowing any strategy to do so.

PO Sundelin, Stockholm

I found it interesting that a relatively trivial topic such as carryover should produce much more correspondence than a very important topic such as the Reese-Shapiro Buenos Aires incident (not that either produced a flood!). At any rate, both Wolff and Sundelin offer thoughtful replies with suggestions worth considering. – Ed.

Dear John,

I share with you the ideas about carry-over expressed in the Editorial of the IBPA Bulletin 488. If you have some time, we could talk about the matter in Estoril and afterwards I will present a project to the Rules and Regulations Committee of which I'm Chairman.

Kind regards, Ernesto d'Orsi, São Paulo

At least someone agreed with me! Perhaps we can get Bobby's and PO's ideas taken into account as well. - Ed.

Hi John,

Here follows some information on the next Portuguese tournaments, including some interesting propositions (namely Madeira Festival, which follows immediately after the Bermuda Bowl).

7-13 November

8th Madeira International Open.

7 - Pairs One Session Welcome Event

8-11 Open Pairs

12-13 Open Teams

Approx 22.000 euros in cash prizes

Continued on page 14...

World Bridge Calendar

DATES	EVENT	LOCATION	INFORMATION
2005			
Oct 7-9	XXIV International Festival	Stara Zagora, Bulgaria	www.bgbridge.org
Oct 8	24° 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 7-13	8 th Madeira International Open	Madeira, Portugal	www.bridge-madeira.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 6-13	EBU Overseas Congress	Luxor, Egypt	www.ebu.co.uk
Feb 9-19	40 th International Israel Festival	Tel Aviv, Israel	daganbridge@hotmail.com
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 26-Apr 4	5 th Spring Festival	Eilat, Israel	daganbridge@hotmail.com
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
Apr 18-23	21 st Estoril International Open	Estoril, Portugal	www.fpbridge.pt
May 24-25	Bonn Nations Cup	Bonn, Germany	g.mattsson@t-online.de
Jun 2&3	Worldwide Bridge Contest	Clubs Everywhere	anna@ecats.co.uk
Jun 9-24	8 th World Championships	Verona, Italy	www.worldbridge.org
Jun 30-Jul 2	6 th World Youth Pairs Championship	Piestany, Slovakia	www.worldbridge.org
Jun 30-Jul 12	21 st International Festival	Biarritz, France	www.biarritz-bridge.com
Jul 1-8	New Zealand Nationals	Hamilton, NZ	fran@nzcba.co.nz
Jul 3-10	7 th World Junior Camp	Piestany, Slovakia	www.worldbridge.org
Jul 8-16	Danish Bridge Festival	Vejle, Denmark	www.bridge.dk
Jul 13-23	ACBL Summer NABC	Chicago, IL	www.acbl.org
Aug 12-26	48 th European Team Championships	Warsaw, Poland	www.eurobridge.org
Oct 27&28	European Simultaneous Pairs	Clubs in Europe	www.eurobridge.org
Nov 23-Dec 3	ACBL Fall NABC	Honolulu, HI	www.acbl.org

Press Room Numbers for the World Championships in Estoril

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