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

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Editorial

Best wishes to all members and your families and loved ones for a healthy and happy 2006. The year just ended has been an interesting one in bridge (is there ever a dull one?), with the solidification of the Italian open team as the team to beat on the world scene for years to come; with France finally winning the Venice Cup; and with the nail-biting finish in the World Junior Team Championship, won by USA over Poland in extra time. Sadly, 2005 also marked the death of Alan Truscott, the acknowledged leading bridge columnist in the world. He will be greatly missed.

Portugal put on a first-class display in organising the World Zonal Bridge Championships in Estoril. The playing site was magnificent and the towns of Estoril and Cascais were excellent places to hold a championship, with many fine restaurants and lots to see and do. The tournament itself ran as smoothly as one could hope; the innovation of Bridge Mate to allow scoring at each table was welcomed by all, and meant results were available promptly.

Nevertheless, there were two problems which came to light, one early and one late. As usual, there was an issue about hotel prices. Those who found they could book late at a cheaper rate than through the official agent resented the additional entry fees (US\$1200 extra per team if the hotel was not booked through the official agent). The WBF's reply to this is that the success of the tournament requires the organisers to book blocks of rooms a year or more ahead at prices that no-one can predict will be higher or lower than the those the late bookers receive.

The second problem was that the championship events were so large that not everyone was guaranteed a place at the Awards Ceremony/ Victory Banquet - only the top four finishing teams in the three main events were guaranteed a seat. For everyone else, it was first-come, first-served. More needs to be done to ensure that everyone who wants to can attend.

Subscription Reminder - to those members who have not yet renewed for 2006 - please do so immediately! In any case, please do so before the end of January (else you will not receive your February Bulletin). Subscription fees are £44 for a printed Bulletin posted to a land address, and £25 for the Internet version). Options for payment are:

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- making a payment through the secure site as instructed by our website.

And remember: report any change in e-mail address promptly to Mario Dix as well.

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The XVth Venice Cup

Brent Manley, Memphis

Mark Horton, Romford, UK

Brian Senior, Nottingham, UK

(From the Daily Bulletins, with assists from Phillip Alder, Hobe Sound FL, where noted, and with additional editing.)

This year the Venice Cup ran alongside the Bermuda Bowl, with both playing duplicated hands, albeit the women played only the first 16 boards of the 20 played by Bowl participants.

The usual suspects were all taking part and there was no clear favourite, with previous winners Germany, USA (two teams) and Netherlands given the best shot by the pundits. Many felt that this could be China's coming-out party and perennial contenders France were looking to take the final step to glory. England, Austria, and Canada were all given a chance, although most felt that these were longer shots than those in the first-named group. That was a pretty large group of nine teams with a chance at winning, and no one would be surprised if the eight qualifiers all came from this group.

The Pakistan v. Singapore match in Round 7 began with a series of major swings so that 54 IMPs changed hands over the first five deals. This was the first...

RR7. Board 1. Dealer North. Neither Vul.

♠ 10 9 8 7 5 4 2
♥ 5 4
♦ J 4 2
♣ 9

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

♠ K J 6
♥ 9 2
♦ Q 5 3
♣ Q 8 6 5 4

West	North	East	South
Chai	Azwer	Choo	Saigol
—	Pass	1 ♣	1 ♠
3 ♥	3 ♠	4 ♥	Pass
4 NT	Pass	5 ♦	Pass
5 ♥	Pass	6 ♥	Pass
Pass	Pass		

Azwer was not willing to open such a weak hand despite the seven-card suit. Jane Choo's strong-club opening attracted an artificial overcall and that forced Greta Chai to jump to

three hearts to show her positive, two hearts being only semi-positive for this pair. Zeenat Azwer introduced her long spades and Choo agreed hearts. Chai checked on key cards then settled for five hearts, but Choo went on to slam. Seven was never really in the picture; plus 1010.

West	North	East	South
Rasheed	Lam	Bokhari	Endo
—	Pass	2 ♦	Pass
2 ♠	Pass	2 NT	Pass
3 ♥	Pass	4 ♥	Pass
4 NT	Pass	5 ♣	Pass
5 ♦	Pass	6 ♥	Pass
7 ♥	Pass	Pass	Pass

Shirin Bokhari opened a multi when Lam also passed, then showed a strong balanced hand. Three hearts was natural and Bokhari raised to game. Now Samia Rasheed used RKCB, checked on the queen of trumps and, on discovering that partner held that card, bid the grand slam, trusting that there would be no club loser. Not everyone who bid seven in other matches made it, playing two rounds of clubs without drawing trumps.

Rasheed, however, received a spade lead, went up with the ace and drew two rounds of trumps, then played on diamonds for thirteen easy tricks when both red suits divided evenly; plus 1510 and 11 IMPs to Pakistan - the perfect start.

China met England in the middle of the qualifying.

RR14. Board 16. Dealer West. EW Vul.

♠ A
♥ K Q
♦ J 10 7 4
♣ A K 10 5 4 2

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

♠ J 3 2
♥ 5 3
♦ A 9 6 5 3 2
♣ J 7

West	North	East	South
Dhondy	Liu	Smith	Wang
Pass	1 ♣ ¹	Pass	1 ♦ ²
Pass	2 ♣	Double	Pass
2 ♠	Pass	3 ♠	4 ♣
4 ♠	Pass	Pass	Double
Pass	Pass	Pass	

1. Precision
2. Negative

With such a good hand East had no convenient way to enter the auction over the Precision Club, but came in on the next round. South, having already limited her hand, did not mention her diamonds, but at her next turn she felt obliged to say something. When she raised clubs, diamonds were out of the picture.

North cashed the king of clubs and switched to the four of diamonds, covered by the king and ace and ruffed by declarer,

who played a spade, taken by North's ace. At this point the winning defence, which North must be kicking herself for missing, is to force dummy with a club, but when she continued with the jack of diamonds declarer could win, draw trumps, ruff a diamond and play the seven of hearts for a more than useful plus 790.

West	North	East	South
Zhang	Goldenfield	Gu	Brunner
Pass	1 ♣	Double	1 ♦
Pass	3 ♦	Pass	Pass
Pass			

Given a more or less free run it's not so easy to reach five diamonds - and many of those who did went down as, on a heart lead to the ace and a club switch, declarer was afraid to finesse in diamonds in case East could get a club ruff. Declarer made eleven tricks and that gave England 14 precious IMPs. China won by 32-22 IMPs, 17-13 VP, but both teams were on the way to the quarter-finals.

Count Your Way through a Minefield Phillip Alder

Round 18 saw the first meeting between France and USA1 in the Venice Cup. The French won the match by 68-31 in IMPs, or 24-6 in VPs. But Sue Picus gained 12 of those 31 IMPs by finding a safe way through the minefield on this deal.

RR18. Board 8. Dealer West. Neither Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Levin	d'Ovidio	Picus	Gaviard
Pass	1 ♠	2 ♣	4 ♠
5 ♣	Double	Pass	Pass
Pass			

Danièle Gaviard led the ace of spades. Declarer ruffed and played a trump to dummy's ten. After winning with her jack, Catherine d'Ovidio returned the king of spades, ruffed by East. A diamond to the jack was followed by the queen of clubs, which was run when North played low. (Although North's double was revealing, she was marked with the king of clubs for her opening bid.)

A club to the king and ace, the king of diamonds, and a diamond to the ace came next. When North followed throughout, her 5=2=3=3 (or perhaps 6=1=3=3) distribution became known. A low heart off the dummy to declarer's ace did not pick up an honour card, so East passed the ten of hearts. When that brought down the king, Picus claimed for plus 550.

In the other room, Benedicte Cronier ruffed the ace of spades, then played the ace and another club, going one down and giving USA1 12 IMPs. The only other declarer in the Venice Cup to win eleven tricks with clubs as trumps was Catarina Midskog from Sweden, but she was in six clubs!

These were the final round robin standings:

1	France	423
2	China	383
3	Germany	383
4	USA 2	374
5	USA 1	366
6	England	346
7	Netherlands	329
8	Canada	312

Incredibly, the form chart predictions held and all eight qualifiers came from the nine fancied teams. The lone one to miss, by only 2 VP, was Austria, which finished ninth. The quarterfinal lineup, France having chosen its opponent first, looked like this (with carryover):

France	v	Canada	+15.5
China	v	Netherlands	+16.0
Germany	v	England	-3.7
USA 1	v	USA 2	+9.0

A Winning Play in a Losing Cause Phillip Alder

The USA1 Venice Cup team won easily against their compatriots in the quarter-final. But the losers combined well to gain 10 IMPs on this deal from the second session.

QF2. Board 8. Dealer West. Neither Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Levin	Sulgrove	Picus	Sprung
Pass	Pass	1 ♦	1 ♥
1 ♠	Pass	Pass	1 NT
Pass	3 NT	Pass	Pass
Pass			

At the other table, Peggy Sutherlin, West, found the killing spade start. In this room, Jill Levin, West, led the two of clubs. Declarer took the trick in hand with her king and played a diamond, West rising with her ace and leading a second club to South's queen. Another diamond went to the jack, queen and king, and Sue Picus, East, shifted to a spade, ducked to West's ten. A spade came back to the king and ace, and declarer led a heart to dummy's jack, which East had to duck. Now came the ace of clubs to give this end-position:

♠ 9
 ♥ —
 ♦ 10 8 5
 ♣ J

♠ J 3
 ♥ 9 5
 ♦ —
 ♣ 10

♠ 7
 ♥ A 10
 ♦ 9 6
 ♣ —

♠ Q
 ♥ K Q 7 4
 ♦ —
 ♣ —

South needed four more tricks, and the last club squeezed East. A diamond discard was obviously fatal. If she had thrown her spade, declarer would have crossed to the queen of spades and led the king of hearts. East would have to give the necessary tricks to either dummy or declarer. And when East actually pitched the ten of hearts, Sprung played a spade to her queen and exited with a high heart. East had to lead from the nine-six of diamonds into dummy's ten-eight.

That was nicely played, but did you notice the errors? When South ducked the first round of spades, West could have defeated the contract by returning a club, which would have destroyed declarer's timing. So, South should have put in the queen of spades — or gone up with the ace!

Make No Mistake

I (Mark Horton – Ed.) am currently working on a book that reveals the difference between the bridge master and the bridge amateur. Nothing fancy you understand, just simple points that the expert never misses. Take a look at this deal from the fifth session of the Venice Cup quarter-finals:

QF5. Board 1. Dealer North. Neither Vul.

♠ J 4 3 2
 ♥ J 8 7
 ♦ A K 8
 ♣ 8 6 4

♠ 9
 ♥ Q 10 4
 ♦ Q J 10 9 7 3
 ♣ A 10 9

♠ A K 10 6 5
 ♥ A K 6 3
 ♦ 2
 ♣ Q 7 2

♠ Q 8 7
 ♥ 9 5 2
 ♦ 6 5 4
 ♣ K J 5 3

West	North	East	South
Brunner	Auken	Goldenfield	von Arnim
—	Pass	1 ♠	Pass
2 ♦	Pass	2 ♥	Pass
2 NT	Pass	3 NT	Pass
Pass	Pass		

In the other room, Germany had recorded plus 140 in two hearts, so England would be off to a good start in their attempt to get back into the match if they could bring home three no trump.

North led the six of clubs and West took the jack with the ace and played a top diamond. North won and played a

second club and declarer played low from dummy. Our amateur South, knowing that North had started with only three clubs, would almost certainly duck, ensuring two more tricks in the suit. Our expert - at least this one - looked further and took the trick with the king and returned a club. That put declarer in dummy and she was a vital entry short to establish and enjoy the diamonds. Of course, this deal may well feature in the defensive section of the book, but perhaps it should also be in the one about declarer play! If declarer simply puts up the queen of clubs at trick one the contract can never be defeated.

Only the China v. Netherlands quarterfinal match was close, Netherlands winning a squeaker in the final set. In the other three matches, the favourites looked very strong. As top finisher in the round robin, France again had a choice of opponents, this time from among Germany, USA 1 and the Netherlands. They chose USA 1.

From the USA 1 versus France semifinal...

SF1. Board 8. Dealer West. Neither Vul.

♠ 10 9 8
 ♥ 10 5 3
 ♦ A 10 9 5 4
 ♣ K 3

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

♠ 7 6
 ♥ 8 4
 ♦ K J 8 6 2
 ♣ J 10 8 5

♠ K Q 3
 ♥ Q 9
 ♦ Q 7 3
 ♣ A 7 6 4 2

West	North	East	South
Willard	Levitina	Cronier	Narasimhan
1 ♥	Pass	1 NT	Pass
3 ♠	Pass	4 ♥	Pass
West	North	East	South
Levin	d'Ovidio	Picus	Gaviard
1 ♣	Pass	1 ♦	Pass
1 ♥	Pass	1 ♠	Pass
2 ♥	Pass	Pass	Pass

Willard opened one heart, then showed the big two-suiter with her second-round leap to three spades. Cronier could not have been too thrilled by this development but had little option but to give preference to four hearts, ending the auction. Levitina tried the ace of diamonds but that was ruffed. Willard played ace and another spade and Narasimhan won with the queen. She cashed the ace of clubs then switched to a trump. Willard won, ruffed a spade and took a club pitch on the king of diamonds. She ruffed herself back to hand, drew trumps and claimed eleven tricks for plus 450.

Levin opened a strong club then made a two-way one-heart rebid, hearts or strong balanced. One spade enquired and two hearts showed a minimum heart hand. That did not enthuse Picus, who passed. The defence took its three tricks, not managing to lead trumps to prevent a spade ruff, so that was plus 170 but 7 IMPs to France, who had put on 34 unanswered IMPs to lead by 50-0 at the midpoint of the set.

SF1. Board 13. Dealer North. Both Vul.

♠ 10 4 3 2
♥ A 9 6
♦ K 9 2
♣ 7 5 3

♠ A K Q 8 7 5
♥ K 7
♦ Q 7 5
♣ J 9

♠ 9
♥ Q 10 2
♦ J 10 4
♣ A Q 10 8 4 2

♠ J 6
♥ J 8 5 4 3
♦ A 8 6 3
♣ K 6

West	North	East	South
Willard	Levitina	Cronier	Narasimhan
—	Pass	Pass	Pass
1 ♠	Pass	2 ♣	Pass
2 ♦	Pass	3 ♣	Pass
3 ♠	Pass	Pass	Pass

West	North	East	South
Levin	d'Ovidio	Picus	Gaviard
—	Pass	Pass	Pass
1 ♠	Pass	1 NT	Pass
2 NT	Pass	3 NT	Pass
Pass	Pass		

Cronier's two-club response would often be Drury but did not promise a spade fit. The two-diamond rebid was a relay and three clubs showed that actually East had long clubs all along. Willard converted to three spades because she still hoped for a raise to game. Not this time. With the club king offside, the defenders had no trouble in coming to the five tricks that were their due.

Levin was close to a strong-club opening but preferred one spade, then raised to two no trump to show a maximum with very good spades. Picus went on to three no trump, against which Gaviard led a heart. Picus played low from the dummy and now d'Ovidio could have defeated the contract by winning with the ace and switching to diamonds, but why should she do that? D'Ovidio put in the heart nine and Picus won with her ten.

Perhaps a low club from hand is a good play now. If the king is taken the contract is secure, while if the jack holds it is almost certain that the king is with South, as North would have some trouble in reading the position so that a duck would be very tough to find. Anyway, Picus chose the simpler approach of trying to split the spades, with the club finesse as plan B.

On the king and queen of spades she threw a club and a diamond from hand then, on seeing the four-two spade split, ran the jack of clubs. Gaviard won with the king and the defenders had five tricks available to them. Gaviard continued with a heart, d'Ovidio winning with the ace. Had she next cashed the ten of spades, Gaviard could have saved the day by throwing the jack of hearts, and now a diamond switch would surely be clear. But d'Ovidio was convinced that her partner must have the queen of hearts for this line of defence and just played back her remaining heart. Picus won with the heart queen and cashed four club winners; plus 600 and

12 IMPs to USA I. France won the set by 42-26 IMPs and led by 58-26 thanks to the carry-over.

Again, the scoreline of both matches revealed that neither was close, France and Germany winning quite handily, although Netherlands was within shouting distance of Germany until the final set, won by Germany 71-8.

F5. Board 13. Dealer North. Both Vul.

♠ A 7 2
♥ K Q 7
♦ 10
♣ K Q J 8 7 4

♠ 8
♥ 8 6 3
♦ Q 6 4
♣ A 10 9 6 5 3

♠ 10 9 6 3
♥ A J 10 9 4
♦ K 9 5 3
♣ —

♠ K Q J 5 4
♥ 5 2
♦ A J 8 7 2
♣ 2

West	North	East	South
Willard	Auken	Cronier	von Arnim
—	1 ♣ ¹	1 ♥	2 ♥ ²
Pass	2 ♠	Pass	3 ♦
Pass	4 ♠	Pass	Pass
Pass			

1. Strong, artificial, forcing
2. Spades, positive, game forcing

East found the excellent lead of the three of spades, and declarer won in dummy and played a club. West took the ace and when East discarded declarer was already inclined to think the trumps would not break. West switched to a heart, covered by the king and ace, and declarer won the heart return and played the king of clubs. East ruffed and declarer over-ruffed in dummy.

She could see there was no genuine way to make the contract, but eventually found a line to give the defenders a chance to go wrong. She played a low diamond from dummy and of course it was virtually impossible for West to go in with the queen. When she played low, East won with the king and tried another heart. Declarer ruffed in dummy, ruffed a diamond, felling West's queen, and cashed the ace of spades. Now came a winning club and East had no answer. If she ruffed, declarer could over-ruff and cash two diamonds.

West	North	East	South
Nehmert	Gaviard	Hackett	d'Ovidio
—	1 ♣	1 ♥	1 ♠
2 ♥	Double	Pass	3 ♥
Pass	3 ♠	Pass	4 ♠
Pass	Pass	Pass	

West led the six of hearts and East took the king with the ace and returned the jack. Declarer won and made the natural but fatal play of a spade to the king. When she played a club West ducked, allowing her partner to ruff, and now declarer could never make more than nine tricks; minus 100. That result brought Germany to within 12 IMPs with just 16 deals to play.

F6. Board 15. Dealer South. NS Vul.

♠ A 10
♥ Q 10 8 5
♦ K Q 7 5
♣ J 6 2

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

♠ —
♥ 9 6 3 2
♦ 9 6 3 2
♣ A K Q 5 4

West	North	East	South
Gaviard	Auken	d'Ovidio	von Arnim
—	—	—	Pass
4 ♠	Pass	Pass	Double
Pass	Pass	Redouble	Pass
Pass	Pass		

By this time Germany had to press, but this was not the layout to reward South's reopening double. Probably South should run to five clubs once East redoubles (Why? She is a passed hand, and there is no reason North cannot have a real penalty pass. – Ed.), but it was all academic. North led the queen of diamonds and declarer took her discard on the top hearts and posted plus 1080.

West	North	East	South
Hackett	Cronier	Nehmert	Willard
—	—	—	Pass
4 ♠	Pass	Pass	Pass

Declarer made eleven tricks on a diamond lead - 12 IMPs to France who had won the last set 49-6 to secure a totally-deserved first Venice Cup title.

As had been the case throughout this Venice Cup, France demonstrated its clear superiority in winning the final by 55 IMPs. The Venice Cup winners are Bénédicte Cronier, Catherine d'Ovidio, Nathalie Frey, Danièle Gaviard, Vanessa Reess and Sylvie Willard.

Column Service

Tim Bourke, Canberra

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

337. Dealer South. EW Vul.

♠ J 9 2
♥ A 7 6 3
♦ A 2
♣ A 9 7 6

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

♠ Q 6
♥ Q J 10 9 4
♦ K Q 9
♣ K J 10

West	North	East	South
—	—	—	1 ♥
Pass	2 NT	Pass	4 ♥
Pass	Pass	Pass	

After a Jacoby Two No Trump raise, my team mate Pauline Gumbly was declarer on this pretty hand from the Bobby Evans Seniors Teams, held in September in Sydney.

West began by leading the four of diamonds. Pauline took this in hand with the queen and ran the queen of trumps to East's king. After winning the diamond return, she drew the remaining trump with her jack then threw a spade from dummy on the king of diamonds. Next she played a spade. The defenders could cash two spades but then had to broach clubs or concede a ruff-and-discard. Either way Pauline had ten tricks.

At the other table declarer did not find this line, preferring instead to fish for the queen of clubs. While this expedition was successful in practice, it did not deserve to be.

338. Dealer North. Both Vul.

♠ A 3
♥ A K J 8 6 3
♦ 6 2
♣ A 10 8

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

♠ J 10 8 6
♥ 10 2
♦ K J 10 8
♣ Q 5 2

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

This was another hand from Sydney with the bidding explained only by the fact that South was looking for a swing.

Declarer's luck was in when West led the four of diamonds and East played the queen. Declarer should forgo the best plan of making five heart tricks, by leading the ten; instead he should adopt the approach most likely to succeed if hearts are 3-2, by leading the two of hearts. When West plays low dummy's jack is played. East is sure to win and return a diamond, giving declarer ten tricks. The ten of hearts is the entry to the two established diamond tricks.

If instead declarer runs the ten at trick two, East wins and plays the nine of diamonds to the jack and ace. West wins and shifts to a spade, forcing declarer to rise with the ace and then run the hearts to try to strip squeeze East in the black suits. Consequently playing the two of hearts to the jack at trick two has much to commend it.

A caddy in Estoril was requested to turn dummy's cards for a player who needed to go to the loo. When asked by declarer to play a small club, she looked forlornly at the cards in dummy and said, "But they're all the same size." Later she was heard to remark, "Bridge is fun!"

Annual General Meeting of the International Bridge Press Association

Wednesday, 2nd November 2005 – 0900-10.00, Conference Centre, Estoril

Attending: Phillip Alder (USA), Christer Andersson (Swe), John Carruthers (Can), Irena Chodorowska (Pol), Jan van Cleeff (Net), Simon Cocheme (Eng), Donna Compton (USA), Maureen Dennison (Eng), Seamus Dowling (Ire), Mario Dix (Malta), Paul Erich (Net), Panos Gerontopoulos (Gre), Joan Gerard (USA), Dilip Gidwani (Ind), Tony Gordon (Eng), Lex de Groot (Net), Hans-Olof Hallen (Swe), Britt Jannersten, Per Jannersten, (Swe), Patrick Jourdain (Wal), Brent Manley (USA), Paul Marston (Aus), Goran Mattsson (Ger), Steen Moller (Den) Ernesto d' Orsi (Bra), Margaret Parnis-England (Malta), Nissan Rand (Isr), Max Rebatu (Net), Barry Rigal (USA), Brian Senior (Eng), Barnet Shenkin (USA), Pieter Spruit (Net), Stuart Staveley (UK), Ron Tacchi (Fra), Robert Todd (USA), Anna-Maria Torlontano (It)

1: President Patrick Jourdain took the chair and called the meeting to order.

2: Jourdain paid homage to deceased members, (Alan Truscott (USA) and Jody Latham (USA) and asked

4: Officers' Reports:

President: Patrick Jourdain

This year has been one of saying farewell to a group of people who have been mainstays of our organisation for many years. Prime mention must go to the passing of Alan Truscott. We are instituting an occasional special achievement award for people who deserve recognition by the Press but do not fit our regular and sponsored awards to be called The Alan Truscott Memorial Award. We are to consider the possibility that in future years this might go to a bridge columnist of any language.

Next, after many years Henry Francis, our Chairman, has retired and we salute him in his absence.

Stuart Staveley has been our membership secretary for twenty years, with his late wife filling the role before him. Stuart was elected an honour member in Montreal and will continue to assist us.

Two other changes are prompted by promotions outside bridge. Christer Andersson, our Treasurer, has a new role in European Food Safety. He resigned a year ago, but actually has continued to work for us all this year. Christer still intends to come to European and World Championships and therefore later I would like to nominate him to continue on the Executive. We must also congratulate our Organisational Vice-President, Per Jannersten, on his election as a Governor of the Rotary Club. He is proposed for the less onerous, though more prestigious, role of Chairman.

I want to take this opportunity of thanking IBPA's sponsors. We receive an annual grant from the WBF, and five of our Awards have sponsors: Rose Meltzer for Hand of the Year, George Rosenkranz, our longest-standing supporter for Best Auction, Dilip Gidwani via his company ITES for the Best Defence, Ray Lee who joined us last year for Book of the Year, and this year, our new supporter, Ernesto d'Orsi, for the Junior Award. Thank you all. Of these Rosenkranz is our longest-standing sponsor and I now invite you to approve him as our honour member for 2005. (Approved by acclaim.)

To conclude I want to thank our hard-working Secretary, Maureen, and her daughter Jean, who so efficiently handles the database and the despatch of printed Bulletins.

Organisational Vice President: Per Jannersten:

I feel it is a good time to leave my office as Organisational Vice President because most things related to our administration are running smoothly. There is a wise Swedish saying, "None mentioned, none forgotten," but I feel that I must mention John Carruthers who completes the Bulletin promptly and Katie (John's wife) who distributes the internet version equally promptly. If you do not know who Jean Tyson is, it is because she is managing the database without problem. And Hawkeye – Stuart Staveley – spots any mistake in the unlikely event that there is one. Finally, I wish to thank Christer Andersson who has been self-propelling and never caused us any headaches. **Uppsala 2005**

Secretary: Maureen Dennison

There has been very little work for your secretary since my daughter has been in charge of changes of Members' details, e-mail addresses, etc. However, I would stress it is important to inform either Jean or me, or your Bulletins are likely to go astray.

4: Appointees' Reports.

Stuart Staveley: Membership Secretary:

Report 2005:- Honour Members - 14: Sponsored - 6: Full - 327: Total - 347

It is pleasing to be able to report that the gradual decline in our membership, which has been a feature of recent years, has at last been halted. New members recruited since last October number 23 and a further 7 lapsed members have rejoined. More significantly, non-renewals during 2005 have been at a historically low level. This may almost certainly be ascribed in large measure to the fact that new technology has greatly simplified the procedure for the payment of annual subscriptions. The use of credit cards by those living outside the sterling area is now all but universal: and in 2005 for the first time, extensive use was made of secure E-mail for authorising payment. The proportion of those opting for the Internet only version of the monthly Bulletin has risen slightly and now stands at 55% of the total.

New Members: AUSTRALIA: Nick Fahrer - BELGIUM: Rosaline Barendregt - GERMANY: Fikret Dogan - IRELAND: Dr David Jackson - ISRAEL: Michael Barel, Anda Enciu - MALTA: Mrs Margaret Parnis-England - NETHERLANDS: Enrico Leufkens - NORWAY: Alf Helge Jensen, Tormod Roren - POLAND: Pawel Jarzabek, Piotr Lutostanski, Mrs Ela Wojciechowska - UK: Mrs Linda Greenland - USA: Bruce Ferguson, Mrs Rose Meltzer, Alan Sontag, Robert Todd, Howard Weinstein, Steve Weinstein, Roy Welland, Sheri Winestock

New Members Joining at Estoril: AUSTRALIA: Bruce Neil - ENGLAND: Mike Whittaker - NETHERLANDS: Hans Metselaar, Peter Sisselaar, Pieter Spruit - NEW ZEALAND: Michael Cornell - POLAND: Krzyztof Jassem - PORTUGAL: Antonio Eanes - USA: Bobby Levin - VENEZUELA: Franco Gusso.

Rejoined Members: AUSTRIA: Robert Franzel - ISRAEL: David Birman - NETHERLANDS: Jos Prinsen
UK: David Greenwood, Phil King - USA: G S Jade Barrett, Roy Green.

5: Treasurer Christer Andersson: The accounts for the year ending 31st December 2004 and the budget and proposed subscriptions for the year 2006 are attached to the agenda.

In economical terms, last year was a good year for IBPA, as the organization had a surplus of around US\$ 10.000. This surplus was due to the combination of unexpectedly high incomes, low expenditure, and delayed investments. Thus, we received the contribution of US\$1000 from one of our Award sponsor's early in 2004 instead of the year before, and many of our members paid their annual membership fee for 2005 already in 2004. This early payment was US\$4000 more than usual, and may result in a reduction in Membership incomes for the running year. Around US\$7000 had been budgeted for investments in the IBPA website to produce a platform with latest material not yet published in the IBPA Bulletin but available for members to be used. This platform was not launched in 2004.

If our new Treasurer is able to keep the disbursements low also during the coming year, I feel that Members can be satisfied with the economical status of the association. However, as I have pointed out before, it would be advantageous if the reduction in the membership cadre could be stopped and membership increased. I wish the organisation good luck in the future and suggest an unchanged Membership fee for 2006, that is GB£25 for the Web Bulletin and GB£ 44 for the printed IBPA Bulletin.

6: The motion that the subscriptions remain unchanged for 2006 was approved nem con.

7: Election of officers: Jourdain asked the meeting to ratify the following changes in duties of the Executive as below.

In Post until 2006: President: Patrick Jourdain (Wales); Executive Vice-President: Jan van Cleeff (Netherlands); Secretary: Maureen Dennison (England).

New elections: Chairman: Per Jannersten (Sweden); Organisational Vice-President: Dilip Gidwani (Ghana); Treasurer: Mario Dix (Malta). These elections were approved nem con by the meeting.

Re-appointed: 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).

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).

As Mr. Gidwani had been elected to be an officer a vacancy arises for a 1-year term and it was proposed that Christer Andersson should be elected. These four elections were approved.

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

8: 2005 IBPA Awards: The President read a citation (see elsewhere in the Bulletin for details of all Awards).

Fred Gitelman thanked the meeting for his award and praised both his wife and his associate, Uday Ivatory, for their support and help in making Bridge Base Online such a success and wanted to thank them. He informed us that they receive, on average, 400,000 logons per day, some from countries where it is illegal to play bridge. Those logging on range from 8 years up to 100 years old. He also estimated that 10% of their players had ONLY played on line, never at the table. They are doing their best to encourage these people to play off-line as well. He felt there was still room for improvement.

9: AOB: Rigal noted that IBPA had very few young members and we should try and encourage them to write about bridge. Robert Todd (USA) pointed out that many new journalists only reported on line and suggested we should make an effort to contact them and encourage them to join.

The venue for the next AGM was discussed. As the next world event in Verona is early, it would leave less time to decide on the Award winners so it was decided that, whilst the AGM would be in Verona in June at the 8th World Championships, the Executive could decide to present the Awards at the European Team Championships in Warsaw in August. This would allow brilliancies from the World Championships in Verona to be considered.

Schedules at championships now made it very difficult to find time for the IBPA Journalist Pairs, but the President agreed to keep the matter in mind.

Maureen Dennison, Secretary



4th EUROPEAN CHAMPIONS CUP

Mark Horton, Romford, UK

Tennis Club Parioli	18	71	26	25	140
Denmark – Schaltz	10	11	2	49	72

In the same way that Spain's Real Madrid dominated the early days of the European Cup, Italy continued its total domination of the European Champions Cup when Tennis Club Parioli successfully defended its title to record a hat trick of victories.

The winning team comprised Fulvio Fantoni-Claudio Nunes, Antonio Sementa-Francesco Angelini, and Lorenzo Lauria-Alfredo Versace, the latter pair having been on the winning team in all four Champions Cups (their other victory was while representing Allegra Lavazza Torino).

The runners up were Dorthe, Peter and Martin Schaltz, Mathias Bruun, and Søren Christiansen from Copenhagen with Peter Fredin from Malmö, across the bridge in Sweden.

The play-off for the bronze was won by the Italian team Allegra from Turin.

The competition saw 12 teams compete in two qualifying groups with the top two in each going forward to the semifinals. In those the holders defeated the other Italian team 145-74 and were joined in the final by the team from Denmark who beat Turkey's Besiktas 150-90.

The final was effectively decided in the second of the four sessions when the Italians outscored their opponents 71-11 to take an unassailable lead.

Here are a couple of boards from that decisive set:

Dealer East. NS Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Versace	Bruun	Lauria	Fredin
—	—	Pass	1 ♣
2 ♦ ¹	Double	4 ♥	Pass
Pass	4 NT ²	Pass	5 ♣
Pass	6 ♣	Pass	Pass

1. Majors
2. Minors

Don't you just love East's jump to four hearts that took away all the North-South bidding space? With little room to manoeuvre, North took a pot at slam, but there was no way to avoid a diamond loser and the ace of spades, Parioli plus 100.

West	North	East	South
Christiansen	Angelini	M.Schaltz	Sementa
—	—	Pass	Pass
2 ♣ ¹	Double	2 ♥	3 NT
Pass	Pass	Pass	

1. Majors

Facing a passed hand there was no reason for North to look beyond game and declarer recorded plus 660 and 13 IMPs.

Dealer West. Both Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Versace	Bruun	Lauria	Fredin
1 ♥	Pass	3 ♥	Double
Pass	4 ♠	Pass	

This time, opening on a ten-count paid a huge dividend as North-South reached a hopeless contract, which failed by no less than five tricks when the defenders played hearts at every opportunity. That was plus 500 to Parioli.

West	North	East	South
Christiansen	Angelini	M.Schaltz	Sementa
2 ♣ ¹	Pass	2 ♥	Double
Pass	3 ♣	All Pass	

1. Majors

North's calculated underbid led to a comfortable contract, plus 110 and another 12 IMPs.

Although the result of the match was not in doubt, the Danes were rewarded with two significant gains in the final session:

Dealer North. NS Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Sementa	D.Schaltz	Angelini	P.Schaltz
—	1 NT	Pass	2 \diamond ¹
Pass	2 NT ²	Pass	3 \clubsuit
Pass	3 \diamond	Pass	3 \heartsuit
Pass	3 NT	Pass	4 \clubsuit
Pass	4 \diamond	Pass	4 \spadesuit
Pass	4 NT	Pass	6 \heartsuit
Pass	Pass	Pass	

1. Hearts, values
2. No fit, no values

With such a powerful two-suiter facing a weak no trump South simply drove to slam - and found North with just what was required, plus 1430.

West	North	East	South
Christiansen	Fantoni	M.Schaltz	Nunes
—	Pass	1 \spadesuit	2 \spadesuit ¹
Pass	2 NT	Pass	4 \diamond
Pass	4 \heartsuit	All Pass	

1. Hearts and clubs

It was a different story at this table. The key moment in this auction - assuming South was unable to start with four clubs to show that suit and hearts with slam interest - was when South bid four diamonds. If that denoted a void then perhaps North, with a spade control and the vital red queen should have done more than simply bid five hearts. Minus 13 IMPs.

On the final board of the match...

Dealer West. NS Vul.

	\spadesuit J 8 7 5	
	\heartsuit 3	
	\diamond 10 8 6	
	\clubsuit 8 7 6 5 2	
\spadesuit A K 3		\spadesuit Q 10 9 6
\heartsuit K 9 7		\heartsuit A 10 6 5 4
\diamond A 5		\diamond 4
\clubsuit A Q 10 9 3		\clubsuit K J 4
	\spadesuit 4 2	
	\heartsuit Q J 8 2	
	\diamond K Q J 9 7 3 2	
	\clubsuit —	

West	North	East	South
Sementa	D.Schaltz	Angelini	P.Schaltz
1 \clubsuit	Pass	1 \heartsuit	2 \diamond
Pass	Pass	2 \spadesuit	Pass
3 \heartsuit	Pass	4 \heartsuit	Pass
Pass	Pass		

West	North	East	South
Christiansen	Fantoni	M.Schaltz	Nunes
1 \clubsuit	Pass	2 \clubsuit	2 \diamond
Pass	Pass	Double*	Pass
3 \diamond *	Pass	3 \heartsuit	Pass
3 \spadesuit	Pass	4 \clubsuit	Pass
4 \diamond *	Pass	4 \heartsuit *	Pass
4 NT*	Pass	5 \clubsuit *	Pass
5 \diamond *	Pass	5 \heartsuit *	Pass
6 \clubsuit	Pass	Pass	Pass

It was Christiansen-Schaltz's turn to outbid their illustrious opponents. Sementa recorded plus 450 in four hearts. Playing in clubs there were twelve certain tricks - and I would back declarer if the contract had been seven clubs.

The Danes finished on a high note - but it is going to take an exceptional team to prise the trophy from the champions, especially as their next defence will be on home ground in the eternal City of Rome.

THE KIWI CONGRESS

Richard Solomon, Auckland

It is a long way from most places to Hamilton, New Zealand. That's one reason we try to make The New Zealand National Congress well worth the trip. This year, nearly 600 players attended 10 days of bridge held in the most suitable (for bridge) Kingsgate Hotel in the last week of September. The congress includes both major New Zealand events, The New Zealand Pairs (three days) and New Zealand Teams (five days) as well as many other events for all grades of player.

The entrants included over 50 from Australia and they went away with some of the major prizes including The New Zealand Teams (John Puskas, Peter Chan, Phil Gue, Zolly Nagy and Bobby Richman) and The New Zealand Mixed Pairs (Warren Lazer-Pauline Gumby). Warren had to use a little stealth on the following deal to secure that title:

Dealer North. EW Vul.

	\spadesuit Q J 10	
	\heartsuit A 10 5 3	
	\diamond A 9 7 6 5	
	\clubsuit J	
\spadesuit A 8 7 6 5 3 2		\spadesuit K 9 4
\heartsuit —		\heartsuit 9 6 4
\diamond Q J 3		\diamond K 8
\clubsuit Q 9 8		\clubsuit 10 6 5 3 2
	\spadesuit —	
	\heartsuit K Q J 8 7 2	
	\diamond 10 4 2	
	\clubsuit A K 7 4	

West	North	East	South
—	1 \diamond	Pass	1 \heartsuit
1 \spadesuit	2 \heartsuit	2 \spadesuit	3 \clubsuit
4 \spadesuit	Double	Pass	6 \heartsuit
Pass	Pass	Pass	

On the lead of either black suit, a declarer has the entries to take a ruffing spade finesse and then make a loser on loser play to pitch two diamonds on dummy's spade honours.

Warren was sure he had to lead a diamond but did not want to give away the diamond position if he was wrong. So he led a cunning jack (overleads). The declarer feared the lead may have been a singleton and thus rose with the ace, cashed the top clubs, ruffed both clubs and spades and drew trumps before leading a low diamond towards dummy's 9. Warren was awake enough to play low and thus beat the contract.

Say declarer had ducked the opening lead. East would take the king. Would South then work out who held the queen since both defenders had denied holding that card?

We did manage to keep some of the titles within New Zealand. The Dunedin pairing of Jeff Miller-Graeme Stout stormed through the last dozen boards of the barometer New Zealand Pairs final to score their first national success. The following hand demonstrates that the road to success in bridge, especially successful defence, has many pitfalls.

Dealer South. EW Vul

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

West	North	East	South
—	—	—	1 ♥
Pass	2 ♥	Pass	4 ♥
Pass	Pass	Pass	

West led his singleton club. South feared the worst but won in hand with the king to lead the heart queen. West ducked and won the trump continuation. If he wanted a club ruff, he had to get to his partner's hand with a spade. One West did very well to under-lead the ace of spades. East found that his king was not a sacrificial offering and duly gave West his ruff. Alas, the story had no happy ending as the attempted cash of the spade ace did not give the defence their fourth trick.

Why come to The Kiwi Congress? It is well-established and provides strong competition in a typically-Kiwi friendly style. You can play bridge for a week...and we mean "play" as there are sessions from ten in the morning until near midnight, with many stories around the bar well after that. You can, of course, combine your bridge visit with one to take in our rather special scenery, or depending on your likes, our many excellent golf courses or ski-fields (next year's Congress is in the first week of July...snow time!). It may not be cheap to get here but once here, your money will last. So, please visit our beautiful country....and our Kiwi Congress. You will not be disappointed.

WORLD COMPUTER BRIDGE CHAMPIONSHIP Wbridge5 Wins It All

(From the Daily Bulletin at the World Championships in Estoril, Portugal, edited by Brent Manley)

A team of four Wbridge5 robots defeated four-time reigning champion Jack 136-67 in the final of the World Computer Bridge Championship, held during the Bermuda Bowl and Venice Cup in Estoril this past October.

Wbridge5 was created in France, Jack in the Netherlands. The two programs reached the final by finishing first (Jack

and second in the six-team round-robin. At the halfway point of the 64-board final, Jack was in the lead 45-44, but Wbridge5 was too strong in the second half, winning the third set 41-4 and the fourth 50-19 to cruise to victory.

This deal, from the final set, was the icing on the cake for Wbridge5.

Board 11. Dealer South. None Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Wbridge5	Jack	Wbridge5	Jack
—	—	—	Pass
1 ♦	Double	3 ♣	Pass
Pass	4 ♥	5 ♣	Pass
Pass	Double	Pass	Pass
Pass			

This contract could not be beaten. Jack took one heart and one diamond but Wbridge5 took Plus 550.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Jack	Wbridge5	Jack	Wbridge5
—	—	—	Pass
1 ♦	Double	3 ♣	Pass
3 ♦	4 ♥	Pass	Pass
5 ♦	Pass	Pass	5 ♥
Pass	Pass	Double	Pass
Pass	Pass		

Jack started with the ace of spades, and the contract could have been defeated had East switched to a club and West returned a spade for East to ruff. West played the spade three under the ace, but East apparently did not read it as suit preference for clubs. On the diamond continuation, North won with the ace, pulled the enemy trumps, cashed the spades, then entered dummy with the heart five to the nine to cash the long spade for a club discard.

The defence got only a diamond from there and North/South were Plus 650. Combined with the 550 at the other table, that was 15 IMPs to Wbridge5. A new champion was crowned.

(The East-West bidding at both tables looks a little strange to these eyes, not to mention the card-play errors. I think Zia's money is safe for a while yet. - Ed.)

News & Views

Amran Zamzami (1929-2005)

In December, we learned the sad news that Amran Zamzami passed away suddenly on Tuesday, December 12. His funeral was December 13. He was 76 years old.

Zamzami was the Chairman/Chief Organiser of the 1995 World Junior Bridge Team Championship in Bali, Indonesia, an event which set the standard for excellence in bridge tournament organisation, in our experience seldom equalled and never surpassed. It was Zamzami's fervent wish to bring the Bermuda Bowl/Venice Cup to Indonesia, and he played a major part in the negotiations with the WBF to realise that dream, only to miss by a month in 2001 when the championships were switched to Paris at the last moment due to fears of international terrorism. It was our loss.

Zamzami was several times President or Vice-President of GABSI, the Indonesian Bridge Federation, and once President of the Far East Bridge Federation (precursor to PABF). He often served as the NPC of Indonesian international teams and was instrumental in putting their Seniors team together for Estoril.

As an IBPA member, Zamzami won the journalist's prize for reporting the Best Bid Hand of 1994.

Amran Zamzami was one of those rare people who had the ability to make everyone around him better. There was no one in the world of bridge more gracious and gentlemanly than he. His contribution to Indonesian, Far East and world bridge is massive.

Gates & Buffett Bank on Bridge

(from Martha T. Moore, *USA Today*)

The two richest men in the USA are betting a million dollars they have a better card game than poker to offer young people: bridge. The two billionaires are passionate bridge players who compete in tournaments and online; now they want to fund a program to teach bridge in schools. They have hired Buffett's bridge partner, Sharon Osberg, to start a program to teach bridge in junior high schools. They've anted up \$1 million to fund it.

"Bill Gates and I kind of cooked it up together," says Buffett, who thinks bridge would teach kids math skills, logical thinking and how to work with others. "There's intellectual development involved and working as partners with people. If a lot of kids are exposed to bridge, a number of them are going to benefit in a very significant way. You have to learn to understand your partner; to be tolerant, sympathetic, encouraging. Those are skills that are not bad to have in life."

Gates learned bridge from his parents but took it up seriously when he began playing with Buffett 10 years ago. "Bridge is a game where you can keep improving and feel great about it without ever hitting the limit of what can be done," he said in an e-mail.

If a program gets going, Buffett and Gates have promised to take on the winners of a school tournament. "We'd go and play the best team," Buffett says. "It would be fun for me and Bill to play the champions. And it might spur them on some."

Records from Estoril

Tim Bourke has assembled the available hand/play records from Estoril. You can find them on the IBPA website at: [www.ibpa.com/Estoril 2005 BB Final.rtf](http://www.ibpa.com/Estoril%202005%20BB%20Final.rtf)
[www.ibpa.com/Estoril 2005 Other Finals.rtf](http://www.ibpa.com/Estoril%202005%20Other%20Finals.rtf)
(*exactly as typed above*)

WBF Gold Medals

It was Gold Medal night at the WBF President's dinner in Estoril. The happy recipients were Ernesto d'Orsi of Brazil, WBF past President on completion of 25 years in WBF service, José Manuel de Oliveira and Manuel d'Orey Capucho, both of Portugal, for their great contribution to the success of the Estoril championship, and Grattan Endicott of England, for many years the indefatigable worker behind Systems and the Appeals Committees of the various championships, as well as bridge law.

The FISU World University Bridge Championships Tianjin 2006

The Championships will be held from 21 October till 27 October 2006. It is necessary to reserve airline tickets about 6 months in advance, otherwise they become very expensive. The tickets from Europe to China will then cost about 650 Euro. Two national teams will be allowed in the competition per country; this is a possibility, but not an obligation!

Mr. Treasurer

IBPA member Jerry Thorpe was re-elected to a one year term as Treasurer of the ACBL Educational Foundation Board of Trustees, at the National Meeting in Denver. The term begins on January 1, 2006. The objectives of the Foundation are to increase the population of bridge players, increase the pleasure of playing bridge, and to engage in educational activities and research. Jerry was also elected by District 19 of the ACBL to a three year term on the National Board of Governors.

French Open Team for Warsaw

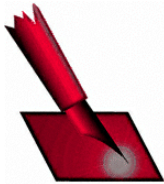
The French team for the European Team Championship in August has been chosen after long trials: Marc Bompis, Paul Chemla, Philippe Cronier, Alain Levy, Hervé Mouiel and Thierry de Sainte Marie, NPC: Jean-Paul Meyer. Cronier and Meyer are IBPA members.

2006 Games Festival

The Games Festival, of which bridge is a part, is an innovative event organized for the second year in Halkidiki, Greece from 24th of April to 2nd of May 2006. The festival includes other tournaments, competitions, and exhibitions in sports such as chess, beach volleyball, bowling, billiards, darts, tennis and the most popular entertaining table games like scrabble, strategic games, PC games and more. The 1st Games Festival, had 1,200 participants and more than 2,000 visitors from 25 countries.

Granovetters Move Back to USA

IBPA member Matthew Granovetter and wife Pamela have moved back to the USA after 12 years in Israel in order to be able to play American bridge more conveniently. Their two eldest sons are away at school, relieving them of at least some of their family commitments.



Correspondence ...

The Editor reserves the right to shorten correspondence

Email: ibpaeditor@sympatico.ca

Hi John,

When I read your editorial about my letter to you (mostly about COC but carrying over to sponsors), I was satisfied that you presented both sides fairly. Recently I have received phone calls that cause me to rethink.

My feelings about sponsors and their value to the game has been misinterpreted by some. Without sponsors, competitive bridge as we know it, would be quite different. Many of our best and brightest (quoting Winston Churchill) players would not have been able to develop their bridge to where it is today due to not being able to afford to play at the expense of a regular job. Your remark in the Bulletin about my being disingenuous (insincere) is not correct. Yes, I have often (and for many years) played professionally, but that should not mean that sponsors be put in political power positions or be given perks which they have not earned by their individual play.

Professional bridge is a good example of capitalism where teachers are allowed to teach in return for students to learn with the added incentive of throwing in the occasional ego high of winning and all the glory with it. Obviously a few students (not many) are only interested in learning but most pay higher fees in anticipation of winning as often as possible. Up to now the process is quid pro quo, with both parties being satisfied and the market place determining the cost. Win-win!

However when we go further into it, like the high-level is today, we discover the real cost to the game itself and this is the topic in which I don't want to be misunderstood. It is only when, as it is with capitalism, the system lends itself to going too far to get business, does it become a problem! When professionals can offer perks such as arranging a spot on the USBF BOD or shaping the rules so that a sponsor has a better chance to play on the international team with all its ego highs and prestige, then it gets kind of icky. This is what I am dead set against.

Our administration should never sell itself and the game down the river and allow this to happen. Our administrative main body should constantly consider how do we give our three best partnerships a very reasonable chance to win their way on the team? We can rationalize away and say a team has to be harmonious to win. Does that mean that all the professionals need to be paid a handsome sum to be able to play harmoniously?

In my opinion we have now reached the point of no return. There should be some compromises so that the players can generate enough money to be able to continue improving their games without having a day job, but the truth is that many of the professionals who want to benefit are minor league players. This sad circumstance requires more money

to be paid and that in turn produces the need for more and more extra perks back to the sponsors.

As a final analogy to keep this from going on and on: the bridge world is like what the hockey (forgive me for talking about a sport I should know more about) world would be if all good, average and poor hockey players were running the sport instead of a league office which determines what is good or bad for the long range goals of the sport.

What I am trying to say John, is that I am not against sponsors. I am for them. I only want the great game of bridge itself to not lose its identity in its zeal to satisfy the great majority of professionals, most of which wouldn't give a tinker's dam for the future of bridge.

Bobby Wolff, Las Vegas

Dear Editor,

In Column Service deal #335, the author suggests that West can defeat the contract by discarding at trick three. Actually this fails; in fact West is squeezed in an unusual way. The hand:

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

South plays four spades. The heart opening lead is won by East's jack; East continues the heart ace, West discarding a club, and then East leads the heart king. Obviously a diamond discard would be fatal, so the only try is for West to discard a club. But this gives declarer no problem either. He just draws two rounds of trumps and leads a low diamond to the jack. Declarer then cashes the ace-king of clubs. If the diamond eight or nine falls from East, declarer would lead the diamond queen now. However, when both follow low, declarer simply leads a low diamond to the ten and, when East shows, out ruffs dummy's last club. This gives declarer a complete count of the hand, so he leads his last trump, end-playing West.

Once West follows to two rounds of trumps with the spade two and eight, this line is almost a sure thing so long as West has the diamond king, as he would surely have over-ruffed if he held only eight-two doubleton of trump and king-nie-eight fourth of diamonds. I note that if West did have that

hand then over-ruffing sets the contact for sure, as East, seeing that declarer lacks the entries to lead trumps twice from the dummy, will split his honours if declarer wins a diamond finesse in dummy and leads a trump.

Best wishes, N. Scott Cardell, Pullman, WA

On the same topic, but playing slightly differently is Barnet Shenkin...

John:

Tim Bourke writes up a very pretty hand relating to counting. However, he concludes if West does not over-ruff the game is too tough! (*I confess to have added that remark! – Ed.*) This does not have to be the case. West must make a second discard and by force it must be a club. Now declarer cashes the spade ace-king, and the club ace-king. The diamond queen goes to the king and ace. A club is ruffed in hand.

Declarer has a complete count: he knows east is 2=7=1=3. He leads a second diamond and, if west splits his nine-eight, wins in dummy. Now the third trump from dummy forces West to play a diamond for declarer and he wins the last two tricks. I think this play is very reasonable and one that should be found by a good player at the table. Note how the third heart squeezes West out of his extra club if he chooses not to over-ruff.

Best regards, Barnet Shenkin, Boca Raton, FL

Dear John,

In the August issue of the IBPA Bulletin, as a follow-up to the alleged cheating incident earlier this year, Bob van de Welde mentioned a deal from the 1951 European Championships, where Eugenio Chiradia made six diamonds on this deal:

♠ 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

South opened one diamond, West overcalled one spade, North bid one no trump (probably artificial), East raised to two spades, and eventually South became declarer in six diamonds after having shown his club suit en passant.

On a heart lead, South won, drew trumps in two rounds, then played a club from dummy to the nine. Since West had the singleton six, declarer's line was a huge success.

Incidentally, playing like that isn't as stupid as it looks and, in my opinion, doesn't suggest illicit information of the opposing cards. Think about the bidding. Neither side was vulnerable, and at that time doubled undertricks were cheap (the old scale). Now, imagine East having any of these two hands when six diamonds was passed around to him:

(1.)	(2.)
♠ J 10 x x x	♠ J 10 x x x
♥ J 10 x x	♥ J 10 x
♦ J x	♦ J x
♣ J x	♣ Q J x

With the first one, East might have considered saving in six spades, but with the second one bidding six spades is out of the question with his likely defensive trick in declarer's side suit.

Did anybody ask Chiradia why he chose to play as he did? Probably not. But if somebody had, you wouldn't be surprised to hear him saying something like, "East had to have a defensive trick in order not to take out insurance, and where could that trick be but in clubs".

Best, Anders Wirgren, Limhamn, Sweden

Hi John,

On David Rex-Taylor's 'revelations', a contributor to rec.games.bridge observed: "I am suddenly reminded of an odd little media stir that occurred after the death of the Duchess of Windsor. Fanny Craddock (none other) made the most extraordinary claim that the deceased exiled couple had had a child but that the whole thing had been hushed up (or something equally silly). Her only proof was her tone - at once confidential and authoritative in a closing-time kind of way."

Regards, Tim Bourke, Canberra

Live Online Transmissions

Jan 6-8	Camrose Trophy, Dublin	BBO
Jan 14-15	Dutch Teams Semifinals	BBO
Jan 14-15	English Open Team Trials	BBO
Jan 21-22	Bergen Grand Pairs, Norway	BBO
Jan 27-30	Australian Open Teams	BBO
Feb 3-5	Norwegian Premier League	BBO
Feb 4-5	Dutch Teams Final	BBO
Feb 6-11	NEC Cup, Yokohama	BBO
Jun 9-24	World Championships	Swan
Aug 2-3	Chairman's Cup, Sweden	Swan
Aug 12-26	European Team Championship	Swan

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www.ibpa.com/492mm.pdf

You can also access the IBPA Handbook from www.ibpa.com by clicking on the link at the page bottom. When you try to open it will ask for a password, which is:

ihccaT

EXACTLY as it appears here.

World Bridge Calendar

DATES	EVENT	LOCATION	INFORMATION
2006			
Jan 18-30	Summer Festival of Bridge	Canberra, Australia	not@abf.com.au
Jan 21-28	Bermuda Regional	Southampton, Bermuda	www.bermudaregional.com
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 10-12	12 th Southern Regional	Port-of-Spain, Trinidad, WI	www.cacbf.com
Feb 15-19	Festival d'Hiver	Biarritz, France	www.ffbridge.fr
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 16-19	Yeh Brothers Cup	Taipei, Taiwan	www.ywt.com.tw
Mar 26-Apr 4	5 th Spring Festival	Eilat, Israel	daganbridge@hotmail.com
Mar 28-Apr 2	Kitzbühler Bridgewoche	Kitzbüchel, Austria	fritz.babsch@tele2.at
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
Apr 24-May 2	Games Festival	Halkadiki, Greece	www.gamesfestival.com
May 10-14	Cavendish Invitational	Las Vegas, NV	www.thecavendish.com
May 13-20	SABF National Congress	Durban, RSA	cpay@3i.co.za
May 18-21	19 th OECS Championship	St. Kitts, WI	www.cacbf.com
May 24-25	Bonn Nations Cup	Bonn, Germany	g.mattsson@t-online.de
May 24-19	Festival	Palavas, France	www.ffbridge.fr
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 23-25	Carti Mundi Festival	Ostend, Belgium	chris_leysen@cartamundi.com
Jun 30-Jul 2	6 th World Youth Pairs Championship	Piesztany, 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	Piesztany, Slovakia	www.worldbridge.org
Jul 8-16	Danish Bridge Festival	Vejele, Denmark	www.bridge.dk
Jul 13-23	ACBL Summer NABC	Chicago, IL	www.acbl.org
Jul 29-Aug 8	11 th World Youth Teams	Bangkok, Thailand	www.worldbridge.org
Aug 6-12	International Festival	Loiben, Austria	fritz.babsch@tele2.at
Aug 11-20	Brighton Summer Congress	Brighton, England	www.ebu.co.uk
Aug 12-26	48 th European Team Championships	Warsaw, Poland	www.eurobridge.org
Oct 6-11	EBU Autumn Overseas Congress	Çesme, Turkey	www.ebu.co.uk
Oct 21-27	3 rd World University Championship	Tianjin, China	www.unibridge.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
Dec 15-17	Junior Channel Trophy	France	www.ebu.co.uk
2007			
Mar 8-18	ACBL Spring NABC	St. Louis, MO	www.acbl.org
Jun 16-Jul 1	3 rd European Open Championships	Antalya, Turkey	www.eurobridge.org
Jul 19-29	ACBL Summer NABC	Nashville, TN	www.acbl.org
Sep 29-Oct 13	World Team Championships	Shanghai, China	www.worldbridge.org
Nov 22-Dec 2	ACBL Fall NABC	San Francisco, CA	www.acbl.org