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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.

Something that has puzzled me for ages is the World Bridge Federation's Victory Point scale. There are three anomalies. The first is quite obvious: despite its being a 30-VP scale (i.e., a tie is 15-15 VP), a team can achieve no more than 25 VP in any given match. When one team has reached its 25-point maximum, however, the other can still go to 4, to 3, and so on, finally to zero. Thus you can have scores of 25-5 and 25-0, for example, in different matches. This seems needlessly arcane and complex. Agreed, there should be some point in a match where any more than a threshold number of IMPs is meaningless, but it should be the same for both teams in the match. For example, one simple formula could state that 3 IMPs per board is a blitz and results in 20-0, 25-0, or 30-0, whichever one is chosen by the authorities.

The second inconsistency in the scale is in the situation that occurs with what is known as 'breakage', that is, the fact that a win by 8 IMPs results in 16 VPs, whereas a win by 9 IMPs means 17 VPs. That ninth IMP is obviously more valuable than the seventh or eighth IMP, neither of which increases your Victory Point total as does the ninth. A solution adopted by the USBF for their Trials makes each IMP the same value in VPs by using decimals. For example if 1 VP has a range of 4 IMPs, each IMP would be worth 0.25 VP. The Canadian Bridge Federation's solution for short matches (12-16 boards) was simply to declare each IMP a VP up to 40. Thus a 1-IMP win was 41-39 in Victory Points, whereas a 40-IMP win was 80-0 in Victory Points. Simple, but effective

The third problem, and the one that is really odd, is that the range of IMPs allotted to each Victory Point is inconsistent. In a consistent scale, the range of IMPs would either be the same or would increase (to reflect devalued IMPs with big leads) for each VP. Not so with the WBF scale. Here is the beginning of the existing WBF scale for 20-board matches with a scale improving on it (this is not the only solution, simply one example.

Existing Scale			Improved Scale		
VPs	IMPs	Range	VPs	IMPs	Range
15	-2-+2*	5	15	0	1
16	+3-8	6	16	+1-4	4
17	+9-12	4	17	+5-8	4
18	+13-16	4	18	+9-12	4
19	+17-21	5	19	+13-17	5
20	+22-26	5	20	+18-22	5

* The WBF Scale says 0-2, but it's really minus 2 to plus 2.

It's time for a revision.

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LEDERER MEMORIAL TROPHY

Simon Cochemé, London

The 59th Lederer Memorial Trophy was held at the Young Chelsea Bridge Club on October 15-16, 2005. Eight invited teams played 12-board matches against each other, with Victory Point scoring (part IMPs and part point-a-board).

The Holders, Ireland, (Tommy Garvey, John Carroll, Hugh McGann, Tom Hanlon) were defending their title against teams with players from all over the world. The Australian Open team played in the World Championships in Estoril the following week, as did the England Open and Ladies teams. Zia Mahmood was leading an All Stars team made up of his Estoril partner John Mohan from the USA, and Sabine Auken and Daniela von Arnim from Germany. The 2005 Schapiro Spring Foursomes winners included Valio Kovachev and Vladi Isporski from Bulgaria. Bernard Teltscher, President of the London Metropolitan Bridge Association and the main sponsor of the Lederer, had three Scots in his team, while Janet de Botton's team included two Swedes and a Pole, as well as the Hackett twins.

The All Stars moved into an early lead but a big loss to the Irish in the last match on Saturday saw them drop to 4th place. The position overnight (after 4 matches) was England and Ireland tied on 156 ahead of the Spring Foursomes team on 139 and the All Stars on 134.

England beat Ireland 32-28 on Sunday afternoon, enabling the All Stars to close the gap. The All Stars then went on to beat England heavily in the last round and the result of the Lederer depended on the Irish winning their last match by a big enough margin. Their 48-12 victory was indeed enough.

- 1 Ireland (Tommy Garvey, John Carroll, Hugh McGann, Tom Hanlon) 273
- 2 All Stars (Zia Mahmood, John Mohan, Sabine Auken, Daniela von Arnim) 266
- 3 Spring Foursomes winners (Geoffrey Wolfarth, Brian Senior, Vladi Isporski, Valio Kovachev) 236
- 4 England (Tom Townsend, David Gold, Colin Simpson, David Price) 229

The winners of the Teltscher Cups in the 'Play with the Stars' event, competed for by clubs playing the same first 24 boards as in the Lederer were: North-South (with Sabine Auken and Daniela von Arnim): Neill Marcus & Sophie Levi (Acol Bridge Club) East-West - equal first (with Zia Mahmood and John Mohan): Danny Gesua & Marion Tamblin (Roehampton Bridge Club) and Maurice & Bertha Bechor (Hurlingham Bridge Club).

BEST DEFENDED HAND - I The Two Singletons

The All Stars played the President's Team in Round 2. A little extra tension was created by the fact that Zia and Victor Silverstone have each won the Lederer six times and a victory in 2005 would give one of them the outright lead.

Dealer North. NS Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>John Mohan</i>	<i>Chris Dixon</i>	<i>Zia Mahmood</i>	<i>Victor Silverstone</i>
—	Pass	Pass	1 ♠
Pass	2 ♠	Pass	Pass
Double	Redouble	3 ♣	Pass
Pass	3 ♠	Pass	Pass
Pass			

John Mohan protected in the West seat after the opponents' bidding had died in two spades. Zia's bid of three clubs might not have been the majority choice, but created a bit of excitement. Silverstone didn't double three clubs on his minimum hand, so Zia never got to demonstrate that his three clubs had been merely lead-directional.

Mohan obediently led a club against three spades. Left to his own devices Silverstone would almost certainly have made the contract, playing East for the spade queen and West for the diamond ace and the heart king-jack. Indeed, there is little else he can do, and both Vladi Isporski for the Spring Foursomes Winners and David Horton for Australia made nine tricks in spades. However Zia won with the king and switched to two of hearts. From Silverstone's point of view this was clearly a singleton, so he rejected the spade finesse and cashed ace and king, getting the bad news. He exited with a club to the ace and Zia played heart three, a real singleton this time!

Silverstone won in dummy and led a spade. Zia went up with queen, played a diamond to his partner's ace and Mohan had no difficulty giving Zia his heart ruff. Three Spades down one and 5 IMPs to the All Stars, on their way to a 39-21 win.

BEST DEFENDED HAND - II

With a Little Help from My Friend

The holders, Ireland, played the All Stars on VuGraph in Round 4, the last match on Saturday. Ireland were in third place at the time, behind England and the All Stars, so this was a crucial encounter.

Dealer West. Both Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Hugh	John	Tom	Zia
McGann	Mohan	Hanlon	Mahmood
1 ♠	Pass	Pass	Double
Pass	2 ♥	Pass	3 NT
Pass	Pass	Pass	

The auction in the match at this table was fairly typical, with the main decision being whether to bid two no trump or three no trump on the second round. Seven of the North-South pairs were in two or three no trump, played by South. Only one was held to eight tricks.

McGann got his side off to a good start when he led the queen of hearts rather than the spade three, the choice at all the other tables. The lead of the queen asked for attitude or, if that was clearly inappropriate, count. Zia won in dummy with the ace and Hanlon played the four, showing an odd number. With the queen of diamonds more likely to be offside, Zia chose to play diamonds from the top. After cashing his six minor-suit winners, Zia exited with the queen of spades. West had discarded two spades and East one spade.

Confounding the predictions of the on-line VuGraph commentators, McGann found the only card to give him a chance of beating the contract – the ten of hearts. Zia won the trick with dummy's jack and a bridge had been built to Hanlon's nine of hearts, all the help that McGann needed to avoid being end-played.

Now, whatever Zia did, the defence had the communications to take the heart nine, the diamond queen, the spade ace and the heart king and beat the contract by one trick. When John Carroll made three no trump at the other table the Irish picked up 12 IMPs. They went on to win the match 50-10 and eventually win the tournament, with the All Stars just behind them in second place.

BEST BID HAND

Rising from the Ashes

The Australian team, stopping off in London on their way to the World Championships in Estoril, had jet-lag to contend with, as well as some formidable opposition at the bridge table. They lost their first three matches, including an Ashes rematch against England, before coming up against the Young Chelsea Champions (represented by English internationals Nick Sandqvist and Artur Malinowski) in Round 4.

Dealer East. EW Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Nick	Tony	Artur	Sartaj
Sandqvist	Nunn	Malinowski	Hans
—	—	Pass	1 ♦
Pass	1 ♥	Pass	2 ♣
Pass	2 ♠ ¹	Pass	3 ♠ ²
Pass	5 NT ³	Pass	6 ♦
Pass	7 ♦	Pass	Pass

1. 4th Suit Forcing
2. Extra values, no extra distribution
3. Pick a slam

Seven of the eight North-South pairs played in a small slam, one in diamonds and the others in no trumps. At most tables the first four bids were as above with North sooner or later jumping to six no trump. In the Australian auction Hans bid three spades at his third turn, showing that he had extra values but no further distribution. The five no trump bid was 'pick a slam' and when South bid six diamonds, showing a good suit, Nunn drew the correct inferences and went on to seven. The play presented no problem and thirteen tricks rolled in. Australia recovered after their poor start and finished in fifth place.

You can 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.

Deep Finesse - Right Again!

Here is a curiosity from the 2005 Lederer...

Dealer North. Neither Vul.

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

On the print-out of the hands given to the VuGraph commentators Deep Finesse indicated that North-South could make game (exactly) in all four suits! I leave it to you to work out how five diamonds can be made.

At the table seven of the North-Souths were unadventurous, ignoring the Moysian fits in clubs and diamonds and playing in mundane three no trump contracts, making ten or eleven tricks, depending on how they tackled the diamond suit.

The exception was the pair that confirmed Deep Finesse's calculations and did indeed make ten tricks in hearts with a 3-3 fit ... defending one heart doubled!

West	North	East	South
—	Auken		von Arnim
Pass	1 ♣ ¹	Double ²	Redouble ³
Pass	Pass	1 ♥	Pass
Pass	Double	Pass	Pass

1. Strong, artificial, forcing
2. Majors
3. Positive response

Sabine Auken as North opened a strong club and East doubled to show the majors. Daniela von Arnim redoubled and Auken then doubled East's one heart bid. The German women's defence was merciless, beginning with a couple of text-book plays. Von Arnim led a trump, often a good lead against low-level doubled contracts if declarer has shown a two-suiter. Auken won and returned the club jack, surrounding dummy's ten, a play that would gain if her partner had the ace and declarer the queen. Declarer was held to three tricks and the All Stars won 8 IMPs on the board.

EVELYN SENN-GORTER

12th Jan 1927 to 27th Jan 2006

Evelyn Senn, who has died at her home in the Netherlands aged 79, was one-half of IBPA's most successful sponsorship idea, the BOLSTips.

Evelyn was a bridge-player who worked in the Public Relations Department of the BOLS Liqueur Headquarters near Leiden. IBPA's Herman Filarski had the idea for the Tips and Evelyn was the link with the company that sponsored it. So began Evelyn's thirty year association with IBPA. She became an Honour Member and ran the BOLS Awards party at IBPA's annual gathering at World or European Championships.

In 1986 Evelyn attended the World Championships in Seattle. She, Alan Truscott, Per and Britt Jannersten, and Patrick Jourdain drove the full length of the west coast of America to San Diego for the US Nationals a week later. That trip cemented a friendship that was celebrated each year with a dinner at the World Championships.

In 1990 Evelyn became Treasurer of IBPA and she served as an officer for ten years, adding the role of Secretary for two years until she retired in the year 2000. Evelyn was well-loved by all who knew her at IBPA.

In the days when the Editor of IBPA, Patrick Jourdain, produced a summary of each World or European Championship for IBPA members at the final dinner, it was Evelyn who shared the task of addressing 300 Bulletins, putting them in envelopes, delivering some at the dinner, and then posting the rest next day to all parts of the world. Speaking as a close friend, I am grateful for her company at the major championships and hospitality on numerous occasions when I visited the Netherlands for bridge championships. I stayed at her home in Oestgeest, her seaside flat in Nordweg, and, later, when she moved to a sheltered home in Leiden, visited her when in the country.

She remained a keen bridge-player to the end, and was for many years Chairman of her local bridge club.

PD Jourdain 31 Jan 2006



**Ib Lundby, Fredensborg, Denmark
Andreas Marquardsen**



The President's Ship Is in Harbour

“So, how did you score in the first round?”, I asked Knud-Aage Boesgaard, the president of our federation, who is renewing his partnership with Steen Møller in the Sparinvest Division - our first division.

“Only fifty-fifty”, was the answer as he moved to round 3 with a big smile.

I looked at the frequency table - fifty-fifty...average? Absolutely not. Knud-Aage scored +50 against -50 (scoring at match pointed pairs). Well, not all the participants are at the same high level, I thought. Who were the opponents? I looked at the table once more...some foreigners named Mahmood and Weinstein!

This was the very first hand:

<p>♠ 10 ♥ A K 7 4 3 ♦ Q 6 5 2 ♣ Q 6 4</p>	<p>♠ 8 5 4 2 ♥ 10 9 5 ♦ J 9 ♣ A K J 5</p>	<p>♠ A J 9 7 6 3 ♥ — ♦ K 8 7 ♣ 10 8 3 2</p>	<p>♠ K Q ♥ Q J 8 6 2 ♦ A 10 4 3 ♣ 9 7</p>
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West	North	East	South
Knud-Aage Boesgaard	Howard Weinstein	Steen Møller	Zia Mahmood
—	1 ♥	1 ♠	2 ♠
3 ♣	3 ♥	4 ♣	4 ♦
4 ♠	Pass	Pass	Double
Pass	Pass	Pass	
Lead: ♥Q			

Even Zia can't see through the cards, though most of the time he seems to play like that, but here he was wrong, when he chose to double four spades - it is laydown against any defence!

The heart queen was ruffed, and after the spade ace Steen went to dummy with the club ace to ruff another heart. He used the club king as an entry to ruff the third heart, and now he was in the pleasant position that he could choose which defender he would throw in. Zia became the victim with his remaining trump honour, and that was the end of the story. +17 to the Danes.

In fact it was not the end of the story. On the next hand the Danes took +14 for making 12 tricks in three no trump, and on board 3 Zia and Howard bid an excellent six diamonds with two kings off side – one down and +19 for the Danes. 17+14+19...that's a fifty-fifty score!

No Sympathy for Peter

I met Peter Hecht on the sunny balcony, but there was no sun in Peter's face. I understood why, when he told me about this hand:

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

West	North	East	South
Anders Hagen	Knut Blakset	Mikkel Larsen	Peter Hecht-Johansen
—	—	Pass	1 ♥
Pass	1 ♠	Pass	2 ♣
Pass	3 ♥	Pass	Pass
Pass			

The heart seven opening lead went to the nine; West won the diamond shift with the king and fired back another trump to dummy's eight. A club finesse lost to the queen, and West played a diamond to the ace with East, who duly played a third trump. One off.

Peter asked for a little sympathy, because Nadia Bekkouche had told him, that she was in three hearts as well, but at her table West continued diamonds after winning the king, and thus she made nine tricks.

No sympathy, Peter. You should have found the line chosen by Peter Fredin at a third table. The trump lead told him where to find the heart queen, so he won the lead with dummy's ace and at once finessed in clubs. Now, he was able to set up a club trick in dummy in due time. Nine tricks.

7-Up? No, a Pepsi!

At 16 tables North-South chose a phantom save in seven clubs on board 19. Pepsi had other ideas...

♠ —
♥ 8 7 2
♦ 10 8 2
♣ K Q 7 5 4 3 2

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

♠ 9 8 6 5 3
♥ 10
♦ 9 4 3
♣ A J 9 8

West	North	East	South
Georg Norris	Jacek Pszczola ("Pepsi")	Henrik Norman	Magnus Lindkvist
—	—	—	Pass
1 ♥	1 NT!	Double	2 ♠
Double	3 ♣	4 ♣	Double
Pass	Pass	6 ♥	Pass
Pass	Pass		
Lead: Club 7			

("Do you think I'll lose my sponsor?" Pepsi asked, very disappointed that he couldn't buy an 'original' Pepsi in the bar and had to settle for a Coke instead.)

"We play natural", I heard Lindkvist answer when asked about the Swedish-Polish system. And this is a good example of their bidding methods...a natural no trump!

But why didn't they bid seven clubs? Pepsi led the club seven and got a spade back. One off, +18 instead of -7 for seven clubs doubled.

Anxious Moments

Saturday evening Peter Fredin got a well-deserved +26 on this deal...leaving a bottom for the opponents:

♠ K 6 5
♥ K J 7 6 5
♦ K J 9 2
♣ Q

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

♠ Q 10 9 2
♥ 2
♦ A 10 6
♣ A K J 9 3

West	North	East	South
Peter Fredin	Gitte Hecht- Johansen	Mathias Bruun	Jørn Lund
—	1 ♥	Pass	2 ♣
Pass	2 ♦	Pass	3 NT
Pass	Pass	Pass	
Lead: Heart Q!			

If the king-jack of hearts were not in dummy, most likely the jack was with East or South, so the heart queen was an obvious choice. At worst, it might fool declarer. No luck this time...yet.

Dummy's king won the first trick, and immediately declarer put all his eggs in one basket by playing a spade to the ten. Fredin won and fired back the heart eight. Assuming that the lead had been from queen-eight, Jørn Lund ducked, of course, and then the hand was over. West cashed the heart ace, and East still had the spade ace - four tricks for the defence and a top to the SweDanes.

All Roads Lead to Rome



This three-no-trump contract was bid and played in many ways but all of them led to Rome (nine tricks):

♠ K Q J 8
♥ 10 9 3
♦ 9 7 4
♣ J 9 4

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

♠ 10 5
♥ A 8 6 5 2
♦ 10 8 6 3
♣ K 6

West	North	East	South
Brian Jackson	Rico Hemberg	Willem van Eijck	Jesper Thomsen
—	Pass	1 ♣	Pass
3 NT	Pass	Pass	Pass
Lead: Spade K			

Declarer won with the spade ace and shifted to a heart to the king and ace. After the spade ten, South played a heart to dummy's jack, and declarer came to his hand with the ace of diamonds to play a club to the ace. South dropped the king! A very nice attempt to create an entry in partner's hand, but unfortunately in vain.

Jackson cashed his red winners. Two seconds later North was end-played with his spade honours and had to lead into the club tenace.

Foxy Møller Strikes Again



Steen Møller knows how to treat sweet ladies. Have a look at his devilish plan on this deal:

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

West	North	East	South
Trine	Steen	Nadia	Knud-Aage
Binderkrantz	Møller	Bekkouche	Boesgaard
—	—	—	Pass
1 NT	Pass	2 ♣	Pass
2 ♦	Pass	2 ♠ ¹	Pass
Pass	Pass		

1. Five spades and four hearts
- Lead: Club 7

As North, Steen won trick one with the ace of clubs and shifted to...have a guess! The two of hearts - do you believe it?

The effect was not surprising. The heart queen won the trick, and declarer tried the spade ten to South's jack. He played another heart, and of course Nadia finessed. The king of hearts and a heart ruff resulted in two undertricks.

The Results:

1. Boye Brogeland-Eric Sælensminde
- 2=. Søren Godtfredsen-Sorin Lupan
- 2=. Peter Fredin-Matthias Bruun

THE NEW ZEALAND CONGRESS

Ron Klinger, Northbridge, NSW

You Need Timing

From the October 20 Sydney Morning Herald.

En route to winning the New Zealand Mixed Pairs, Pauline Gumby showed perfect timing on this deal

from the last session:

Dealer West. Both Vul.

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

1. 11-13 balanced
 2. Artificial, forcing to game
 3. Three spades and five diamonds
- Lead: Heart seven

Gumby ducked in dummy and won with the jack of hearts. She put the diamond five on the table and West rose with the ace to shift to the queen of clubs. This was taken by dummy's ace and a club loser went away on the king of diamonds.

Gumby cashed the ace and king of spades, followed by the club king and her last club, ruffed in dummy. Her prayer was that the opponent with the last trump had three or more clubs. Having survived so far, she ruffed a diamond back to hand, drew the missing trumps and took the heart finesse. When that came off, she had twelve tricks for 117 out of 128 match-points.

Also from the NZ Championships, Peter Gill reported this example of precise timing by an opponent:

Owen Camp	
<p>♠ Q J 8 5 ♥ K 6 4 ♦ A K Q ♣ A 7 6</p>	<p>Peter Gill</p> <p>♠ 9 7 4 ♥ A 9 8 7 ♦ 10 3 ♣ Q J 4 2</p>
Martin Bloom	
<p>♠ A 3 2 ♥ 2 ♦ 9 8 6 5 4 ♣ K 8 5 3</p>	<p>Wayne Beazley</p> <p>♠ K 10 6 ♥ Q J 10 5 3 ♦ J 7 2 ♣ 10 9</p>

North-South had an uninterrupted auction to four

hearts by South. Bloom led the club three, a good start for the defence. Declarer took the ace and played a heart to the jack and a second heart to the king. Gill ducked, since this can often play havoc with declarer's trump timing.

South cannot afford to play another trump. East would win and continue clubs to shorten declarer. Another club when West comes in with the spade ace would then defeat the contract. Instead declarer played a spade to the king and ace. Bloom took the king of clubs and played a third club, ruffed by declarer.

Beazley cashed the spade queen and jack, surviving. The thirteenth spade would be fatal. East could discard a diamond, win the heart from dummy and strand declarer in dummy with a diamond. Recognising the danger, Beazley cashed two diamonds and only then played the last spade. East had no winning move.

Money for Jan

From the October 21 Sydney Morning Herald

A fine example of timing occurred on this deal, played by multi-NZ-international Jan Alabaster who won the Non-Mixed Pairs with Jan Cormack:

Dealer West. NS Vul.

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

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

1. Playing 5-card majors, strong no trump

If playing a weak INT:

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

South bids two clubs to check for a four-card major and rebids three no trump to reject hearts. North now knows that South will have four spades.

Alabaster-Cormack reached six diamonds. You will not want to know the auction, since you would not want to reach this slam. Declarer seems to have one spade, one diamond and one club loser and that is on the basis that both spades and diamonds divide favourably. Still, who among us has not been in a slam that needed

a touch of luck? The important thing is to have courage in the face of adversity and try to find a path to success.

West led the spade queen and Alabaster won with the ace. She cashed the diamond king, noting East's jack. After the ace of hearts and the heart ten to the king, Alabaster played the heart queen, pitching a spade. Next came the heart jack and when East ruffed with the queen of diamonds, declarer threw another spade.

East continued with a spade, taken by dummy's king, and a spade ruff in hand with a middle diamond set up dummy's last spade. This was the position:

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

East's failure to ruff the third spade placed the diamond ten for declarer. She led a trump and finessed the diamond seven. The ace of diamonds drew the missing trump and dummy's last spade allowed South to shed her losing club.

THE "BACKWASH" SQUEEZE

**Jens Otto "Charles" Pedersen,
Odense, Denmark**

The Backwash Squeeze is a trump squeeze in which both menaces are in the same hand, and the player in the seat behind the hand with the menaces holds both guards and a losing trump. This player is then caught in the backwash of a squeeze by means of a ruff taken in the hand holding the menaces. This particular situation in the play was first described by Mr. Geza Ottlik in *The Bridge World*, issue of February 1974.

This hand is from The Danish Team Tournament

Dealer South. Both Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Frederik	Knut	Henning	Lars
Mork	Blakset	Nielsen	Blakset
—	—	—	1 ♠
Pass	2 ♠	Pass	Pass
Pass			
Opening lead: Heart nine			

The heart ace took the first trick via the ten and queen. The ace of spades was followed by a low spade taken by the king, and West continued hearts, taken by East. East played the two of clubs, and after queen and ace of clubs, West could have spoiled the day, if he had played the spade ten, but he instead continued clubs ruffed in South.

The four of diamonds was then taken by the queen in dummy as West played low. The position:

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

Lars Blakset ruffed the heart six with the spade jack, catching West in the "Backwash" squeeze. West can obviously not under-ruff, and if he pitches the six of diamonds, South will lead a small diamond towards dummy. In with the king of diamonds, West has no good answer.

- 1) on a trump return, the diamonds are running
- 2) on the nine of clubs switch declarer will ruff in hand followed by the diamond ace
- 3) the nine of diamonds will be taken by the ace followed by the eight of diamonds.

West let go the nine of clubs, but it did not help him either, as Blakset crossed to dummy with the spade queen followed by the diamond jack! When the ten of diamonds showed up from East, West, in with the king of diamonds, had to lead away from the nine-six of diamonds, declarer holding the ace-eight. Contract just made.



SENIOR BOWL, ESTORIL OCT. 23-Nov. 4, 2005

From the Daily Bulletins edited by Brent Manley, Mark Horton and Brian Senior.

USAI were the Seniors champions in Monte Carlo two years ago but only two of the team, Roger Bates and Garey Hayden, were defending their title in Estoril. Round 1 saw the holders face an experienced team representing Australia.

Match 1. USAI v. Australia. Board 2. Dealer East. NS Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Sontag	Haughie	Weichsel	Nagy
—	—	1 ♦	3 ♦
Pass	Pass	Pass	
West	North	East	South
Klinger	Bates	Neill	Stansby
—	—	1 ♣	1 ♦
Pass	2 ♣	Pass	2 ♥
Pass	4 ♥	Pass	Pass
Pass			

Peter Weichsel's one diamond opening was Precision, not promising real diamonds, and Zoltan Nagy's methods permitted him to make a weak jump overcall in that suit, buying the contract.

After a spade lead to the ace and spade return, Nagy could win with the spade king, draw trumps and take a spade pitch on the ace of clubs before knocking out the top hearts; plus 130.

Bruce Neill's one club showed either a balanced 11-14, or a one-suited hand with six or more clubs (10-17), or a major (14-17). Lew Stansby made a simple overcall, then showed his hearts in response to Roger Bates' support-showing cue bid.

The defence has to be spot on to defeat four hearts. Ron Klinger led a spade to the ace and Neill returned a spade. Stansby rose with the king, crossed to a diamond and pitched his spade loser on the ace of clubs, then played a heart to the nine and king. Klinger smoothly switched to the spade six and Neill equally smoothly ruffed with the heart ace and gave his partner a diamond ruff for down one; minus 100 and 6 IMPs to Australia.

Match 4. France v. Italy

Board 8. Dealer West. Neither Vul.

♠ 8 4 3 2
♥ K 4 2
♦ K J
♣ Q J 9 4

♠ K 9 5
♥ —
♦ A 10 7 6 5 4 3
♣ 10 7 5

♠ A J 7 6
♥ A 9 7 6
♦ Q 9 2
♣ K 3

♠ Q 10
♥ Q J 10 8 5 3
♦ 8
♣ A 8 6 2

West	North	East	South
<i>Dechelette</i>	<i>Garozzo</i>	<i>Leenhardt</i>	<i>De Falco</i>
Pass	Pass	1 ♦	1 ♥
3 ♥	Double	Redouble	Pass
4 ♥	Pass	4 ♠	Pass
5 ♦	Pass	Pass	Pass

West	North	East	South
<i>Mosca</i>	<i>Poizat</i>	<i>Sbarigia</i>	<i>Lasserre</i>
Pass	Pass	1 ♣	2 ♥
3 ♦	3 ♥	4 ♦	Pass
5 ♦	Pass	Pass	Pass

Both East/West pairs played in five diamonds on a heart lead. Mosca ruffed in hand and played ace and another diamond. Poizat took the king and switched to the queen of clubs; down one for minus 50.

Dechelette splintered in support of the better-minor one diamond opening and that gave Garozzo an easy way into the auction. However, De Falco was not interested and East/West exchanged cue bids before settling in the diamond game.

De Falco led the queen of hearts, Leenhardt ruffed in dummy, then cashed the ace of diamonds. Before relying on the position of the ace of clubs, Leenhardt tested the spade suit. He played the spade king then the nine to the ace and, when the queen fell, could cross to dummy with a heart ruff to lead his remaining

spade to his seven. The spade jack and the heart ace then provided two discards for two club losers; plus 400 and 10 IMPs to France.

Barry Rigal suggested that, had South dropped the spade queen on the first round, declarer might well have gone wrong, running the nine next and losing to the ten for one down. It would be interesting to drop the queen from queen-ten-spot when the ace of clubs is inside all along.

Neutralising the Bad Break

Ron Klinger

Match 9. Board 2. Dealer East. NS Vul.

♠ K 9 5 3
♥ —
♦ Q J 7 3
♣ 8 7 6 4 3

♠ 8 7 6 4 2
♥ A Q J 2
♦ K 9
♣ A Q

♠ A Q
♥ 10 6 5 3
♦ 8 2
♣ K J 10 9 2

♠ J 10
♥ K 9 8 7 4
♦ A 10 6 5 4
♣ 5

West	North	East	South
<i>Lilley</i>		<i>Smolanko</i>	
—	—	Pass	Pass
1 ♠	Pass	2 ♣	Double
2 ♥	Pass	4 ♥	Pass
Pass	Pass		
Lead: Diamond queen			

South took the ace of diamonds and returned a diamond to David Lilley's king. Lilley played the heart queen taken by the king. Back came a diamond, ruffed in dummy as West shed a spade. A club to the ace was followed by the club queen, overtaken with the king. South ruffed and persevered with a fourth diamond, ruffed again in dummy as West let go of another spade. The heart ten was cashed to leave this ending:

♠ K 9 5
♥ —
♦ —
♣ 8 7

♠ 8 7 6
♥ A J
♦ —
♣ —

♠ A Q
♥ —
♦ —
♣ J 10 9

♠ J 10
♥ 9 8
♦ 10
♣ —

Lilley now simply ran the clubs. If South ruffed, West would overruff, draw the last trump, pitching the spade queen, and dummy would make the rest. If South did

not ruff, West could pitch all his spades and make the two trumps at the end. Thus Lilley could make four hearts without needing to resort to the spade finesse.

Uppercut KO's Declarer Mark Horton

USA2 met Egypt in Round 15 of the Seniors Bowl. When declarer made a mistake he was quickly punished.

Match 15. Board 3. Dealer South. EW Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Mohan		Zia	
—	—	—	1 ♠
2 ♥	2 ♠	Double	Redouble
3 ♥	Pass	4 ♥	Pass
Pass	Pass		

North led the three of spades and declarer won and played a club to the king. When that held he played the jack of diamonds, North following with the nine, and that too held the trick. Now he cashed the ace of hearts and had only to play a second round of trumps to land his game. However, he tried the ten of clubs and was soon alerted to the error of his ways. Zia won the trick, cashed the ace of diamonds and put his partner in with a spade. Back came a diamond and Zia ruffed with the ten of hearts, promoting his partner's queen into the setting trick.

Hi Lilley, Hi Lilley, High-Low Ron Klinger

Many declarers were too high on Board 13 from Round 15. In the Seniors, David Lilley made use of a favourable lead to bring in four hearts (see top of next column).

Declarer has nine tricks but, with the bad club break and the ace of diamonds over the king, a tenth trick seems impossible without help from the opposition. It is true that the queen of diamonds lead, followed by a club switch, will defeat four hearts, but why should North find that lead?

Match 15. Board 13. Dealer North. Both Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Lilley		Smolanko	
—	3 ♠	Pass	Pass
4 ♥	Pass	Pass	Pass
Lead: Club jack			

North started with the club jack and Lilley won with the ace to play the ace of hearts then heart queen. South took the king and returned a low club to dummy's queen. A low spade was ruffed and that stripped South of spades. The club position was known and South figured to hold the ace of diamonds on the bidding. Therefore Lilley ran all the trumps but one to reach this position:

<p>♠ A J ♥ — ♦ Q J 9 ♣ —</p> <p>♠ — ♥ 7 ♦ 7 ♣ K 8 6</p> <p>♠ — ♥ — ♦ A 8 ♣ 10 9 7</p>	<p>♠ K 8 ♥ — ♦ K 10 6 ♣ —</p>
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So far declarer has lost only one trick and needs to take three of the last five tricks. He continued with his last trump, throwing a diamond from dummy. What was South to do? If he discarded a club, declarer would continue with king and another club, discarding spades and forcing South on lead. South would have to give declarer the king of diamonds as the game-going trick. In practice, South discarded the diamond eight. Lilley now exited with a diamond. South won and played the ten of clubs. Lilley ducked and made the last two tricks with the club king-eight.

QF4. Board 6. Dealer East. EW Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Debonnaire</i>	<i>Lasut</i>	<i>Teixeira</i>	<i>Manoppo</i>
—	—	2 ♥	3 ♦
3 ♠	Pass	4 ♥	Pass
Pass	Pass		
West	North	East	South
<i>Sacul</i>	<i>Barbosa</i>	<i>Sawiruddin</i>	<i>Pinto</i>
—	—	1 ♣	4 ♦
4 ♠	5 ♦	5 ♥	Pass
Pass	Pass		

Pinto jumped on Sawaruddin's strong-club opening by preempting a level higher than is probably technically correct. Sawiruddin could hardly not go on to five hearts over five diamonds, but that contract had no chance of success, with the clubs 5-2 and the ten of hearts with the shortness; minus 100.

Teixeira could open with a strong but not game-forcing natural two bid, and now there was little point in Manoppo over-preempting, even were that his style. Teixeira was allowed to play in four hearts and Manoppo had to find the defence to flatten the board. No problem! Manoppo cashed a top diamond then switched to the five of hearts. Teixeira won in hand and played three rounds of clubs. Manoppo ruffed with the ten and switched to the nine of spades to Lasut's queen. The trump return left declarer with a club to lose at the end; very nicely defended for down one, minus 100 and a flat board.

F1. Board 14. Dealer East. Neither Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Sacul</i>	<i>Bates</i>	<i>Sawiruddin</i>	<i>Stansby</i>
—	—	Pass	Pass
Pass	1 ♣	Pass	1 ♥
Pass	2 ♥	Pass	3 ♥
Pass	4 ♥	Pass	Pass

West	North	East	South
<i>Sontag</i>	<i>Lasut</i>	<i>Weichsel</i>	<i>Manoppo</i>
—	—	Pass	Pass
Pass	1 NT	Pass	2 ♣
Pass	2 ♦	Pass	3 ♠
Pass	4 ♥	Pass	Pass

The natural American auction saw Stansby become declarer in the poor heart game, on the lead of a diamond to the ace and a second diamond for the ten and jack. Sacul switched to a spade but nothing mattered after this start. The contract was one down for -50.

Lasut stretched a point to open one no trump because of his good club suit, and Manoppo followed a Smolen sequence to make Lasut declarer in four hearts. Weichsel led the eight of hearts round to declarer's queen, and Lasut crossed to the queen of spades to lead a club to the jack and queen. Back came a second trump (the ten) to the nine and ace. Lasut ran the club king now, pitching a diamond from dummy, then played the ten of clubs, covered and ruffed. He crossed back to hand with a spade and played a winning club for another diamond pitch from dummy. Sontag could ruff but there was only one diamond to cash; ten tricks for plus 420 and 10 IMPs to Indonesia. The Indonesians won the session by 26-11 and led by 26-12 after 16 deals.

USAI had come back well in the third session, but Indonesia still led overnight by 104-88 IMPs. The morning session started very well for the Americans as they pulled even closer.

F4. Board 1. Dealer North. Neither Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Sontag	Lasut	Weichsel	Manoppo
—	1 ♣	3 ♣	3 NT
Pass	Pass	Pass	
West	North	East	South
Sacul	Hayden	Sawiruddin	Meltzer
—	1 NT	Double	2 ♣
Pass	2 ♥	Pass	2 NT
Pass	3 NT	Pass	Pass
Pass			

Peter Weichsel pre-empted over Henky Lasut's strong-club opening and Eddy Manoppo made the practical call of three no trump, ending the auction. Alan Sontag led the eight of clubs to the six, jack and ace, and Manoppo led a diamond to the queen and king. Had Weichsel woodenly returned a club, the contract would have been secure, but he could see that he would have no way to get to the established winners, so instead tried the effect of switching to the queen of spades. When that held, Weichsel continued with a low spade for the king and ace. Manoppo cashed the king of clubs then the diamonds, ending in dummy. He led the queen of hearts off the table but Weichsel showed out, so Manoppo rose with the ace and exited with a heart; down one for minus 50.

Garey Hayden opened one no trump and Munawar Sawiruddin showed a single-suiter by doubling. Rose Meltzer used Stayman then invited game in no trump, Hayden going on to three no trump. Sawiruddin led the queen of clubs and that proved fatal to the defence. Hayden won with the king and played ace and another diamond. Sawiruddin won with the king of diamonds and switched to a spade but it was too late, the finesse of the ten of clubs providing declarer's ninth trick; plus 400 and 10 IMPs to USAI.

F4. Board 12. Dealer West. NS Vul.

	♠ Q 9 4		
	♥ K 9 8 7 6		
	♦ 10 4		
	♣ K J 5		
♠ 10 7 6 3		♠ A K 2	
♥ Q J 3 2		♥ A 10 5	
♦ J 8 5		♦ A K	
♣ 7 2		♣ A 10 8 6 3	
	♠ J 8 5		
	♥ 4		
	♦ Q 9 7 6 3 2		
	♣ Q 9 4		
West	North	East	South
Sontag	Lasut	Weichsel	Manoppo
Pass	Pass	1 ♣	Pass
1 ♦	Pass	2 NT	Pass
3 ♣	Pass	3 ♦	Pass
3 NT	Pass	Pass	Pass

West	North	East	South
Sacul	Hayden	Sawiruddin	Meltzer
Pass	Pass	2 NT	Pass
3 ♣	Pass	3 ♦	Pass
3 ♥	Pass	3 NT	Pass
Pass	Pass		

Both Easts played in three no trump but on different leads. Manoppo looked no further than his own long suit, the diamond two going to the ten and ace. Weichsel tried the ten of hearts, which was allowed to hold the trick, then ducked a club to Lasut's jack. Back came a diamond to the king and Weichsel continued with the ace of clubs, on which Lasut correctly unblocked the king. Manoppo could now win the next club and had four diamond winners to cash for down two; minus 100.

Meltzer tried to hit her partner's suit by leading the singleton heart. Sawiruddin put up the heart queen and this was covered by the king and ace. He cashed the heart ten, discovering the five-one split, then ducked a club. Hayden won with the ♣J and cleared the hearts, but Sawiruddin was in the right hand to duck the second club to South. He had ten tricks now and an eleventh appeared when the defenders discarded inaccurately on the run of the clubs; plus 460 and 11 IMPs to Indonesia.

F4. Board 13. Dealer North. Both Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Sontag	Lasut	Weichsel	Manoppo
—	1 ♣	1 ♠	1 NT
Pass	3 NT	Pass	Pass
Pass			
West	North	East	South
Sacul	Hayden	Sawiruddin	Meltzer
—	1 ♣	2 ♠	Pass
Pass	Pass	Pass	

Sawiruddin's weak jump overcall bought the contract when Meltzer was unwilling to get involved facing what would often be a weak no trump. Meltzer led a club and Hayden won with the ace, then switched to a low trump, ducked to the jack. The queen of diamonds was covered by the king and ace, and Hayden returned a

low club, Sawiruddin putting in the jack. He played ace and another trump and was grateful to see the even break, but there was still one trick to be lost in each side suit; down two for minus 200.

Weichsel made a simple overcall of the strong-club opening, allowing Manoppo to describe his hand with a one no trump bid, raised to game by Lasut. Sontag led a low diamond to dummy's bare ace and Manoppo started by cashing the ace of clubs, then playing a low spade to the queen, followed by a second club, losing to the jack as West threw a heart. Weichsel returned a low spade now and Manoppo erred by playing low from hand and winning with dummy's king. Had he won with the spade jack, he could have ensured the contract by playing to establish a diamond then getting the hearts right. Meanwhile, Sontag discarded a harmless-looking diamond.

Harmless-looking, perhaps, but actually a fatal error. See what happens if declarer now crosses to the ace of hearts and plays the diamond queen. West's best defence is to return the queen of hearts. Declarer must win and cross to the ten of hearts to cash the diamond winner. Then he can get out with his losing diamond and use West as a stepping stone to the fourth heart trick. Now see the difference if West has kept an extra diamond, throwing a heart on the second spade. Again, declarer crosses to the ace of hearts and plays a diamond honour. West wins and exits with the queen of hearts, forcing declarer to win with the ace, cross to the heart ten and cash the diamond winner. But now, when he puts West on lead with a diamond, the defender has sufficient winners to defeat the contract.

All very pretty, but all rather academic, as Manoppo won with the spade king and played a heart to his ten, after which he had no way to come to nine tricks. The contract was two down for minus 200 and 9 IMPs to USA1, when it could so easily have been 9 IMPs the other way.

Well done to the USA: Rose Meltzer, Garey Hayden, Roger Bates, Lew Stansby, Alan Sontag and Peter Weichsel. They fulfilled their promise as the betting favourites.

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ALBERT BENJAMIN

1909 - 2006

Albert Benjamin, who has died aged 96, had a major influence on British bridge. His adaptation of Britain's most popular bidding system, Acol, to include "weak twos" is in use today in bridge clubs throughout the country.

Benjamin, who was born on 1st April, 1909, in Glasgow, took up a career as a bridge journalist in 1937. For forty years he wrote a daily column in the Glasgow Evening Citizen. He was the first in Scotland to make bridge his fulltime profession, owning and running Glasgow's Kenmure Bridge Club, and contributing articles to bridge magazines in many countries.

With bridge making no distinction between amateur and professional, Benjamin had 21 caps for Scotland in the Home Internationals for the Camrose Trophy in the period from 1950 to 1966. This included Scotland's first win of the Trophy in 1964, breaking England's monopoly of the title. For all but his last match his partner was Louis Mitchell.

Benjamin's influence on bridge was felt far outside Britain. When in his eighties Benjamin attended a world championship as a spectator, many-times-world-champion Eric Rodwell of the USA sought him out to say how his ideas and writing had influenced bridge development in America and Rodwell's group in particular.

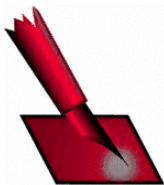
Benjamin was a witty and highly popular man. His wife, Judy, predeceased him. They had no children.

PD Jourdain 17th January, 2006

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Correspondence ...

The Editor reserves the right to shorten correspondence

Email: ibpaeditor@sympatico.ca

JC,

I forgot 2 things, sorry about that, I'm getting old :))

1. Amran Zamzami died on 12 December; our association (NCBO) was founded on 12 December 1953, we call it National Bridge Day, we have a nationwide yearly tournament.

2. As a youth, Amran was a member of the so-called Youth Army in the struggle for independence. For that reason he was buried in the military cemetery with military protocol. Flag on his casket, gun shots etc., I think you know what I mean, like soldiers who died in battle.

Arifin Halim, Jakarta

John,

You may be able to use some of this in your next issue. Albert Benjamin also authored some bridge books as I remember. He was the captain of the Scottish team for a number of years also.

I remember going to his bridge club and playing rubber bridge for money when I was 14.

On Sunday, his wife Judy used to make supper for many of Glasgow's leading players between the rubber bridge and the busy Sunday evening tournament. I was enthralled by the bridge conversation from these Glasgow luminaries on all aspects of the game. It was a highlight of my early years.

Regards, Barnett Shenkin, Boca Raton, FL

John,

Your last sentences are unfair (*of the January editorial* - Ed.). If we had not made any provision for the hotels what would you have written?

For the final banquet, the limit is obvious: space and money. As a matter of fact, everything went well in Estoril as we decided to take more than the 500 seats scheduled. We went up to 650 (which took into account an average of 80 World Transnational teams due to the success) which was the full room and paid for that. Everybody who asked got a seat free.

Best regards, José Damiani, Paris

No one suggests not booking hotels en bloc. I simply find it impossible to believe that provision in the contract cannot be made for lower market prices at tournament time. Options and futures traders do this every day. - Ed.

John,

I refer to Anders Wirgren's letter in the January edition.

I do not think that it is remotely likely that any East would have considered for one moment saving with either of the hands quoted by Anders. The likely outcome would have been a penalty of either 900 or 1100, hardly cheap at love all. And there is a contrary indication: with a $6=4=2=1$, would not West have been more likely to bid over three clubs than to have passed?

In fact, Harrison-Gray attempted to find out why Chiaradia played the way he did. In the October 1951 edition of *European Bridge Review*, he says that Baroni (another member of the Italian team) told him that Chiaradia had noticed that West had removed a card from his hand ready to play on the first round of clubs, and concluded that this was unlikely to be an honour. West, however, vehemently denied this.

Richard Fleet, London

News

WBF Women's Committee Report

Anna Maria Torlontano, Chairman of the WBF Women's Committee, reports that a very successful and positive meeting of the Committee was held in Estoril, at which, in addition to the Committee members, she was delighted to welcome Esther Sophonpanich, President of Zone 6, from Thailand. Dianne Marler, President of the South Australia Bridge Federation, has been appointed to the Committee as the representative of Zone 7 and Di Adrain, President of South Africa, has been appointed as a second representative for Zone 8 to work closely with Lily from Egypt in the development of this large Zone. The current committee members are: Anna Maria Torlontano, Chairman, Zone 1; Joan Gerard, Vice Chairman, & Barbara Nudelman, Communications Director, Zone 2; Ernesto d'Orsi, Zone 3; Rehana Saigol, Mazhar Jafri & Yasmin Abu Jaber, Zone 4; Mimi Bernazzani, Zone 5; Tadayoshi Nakatani, Esther Sophonpanich & Lilian Sun/Chen Zelan, Zone 6;

Dianne Marler, Zone 7; Lily & Diana Adrain, Zone 8; Secretary: Anna Gudge.

Anna Maria said that each Zone had presented reports to the Meeting, which had outlined how the development of women's bridge was progressing in those areas; it was noted that there has been greatly improved communication between countries and individuals and a far more positive attitude to the role of women within bridge.

The Committee was delighted with the progress of the Women's area on the WBF website (at <http://www.worldbridge.org/categories/women/>) which is developing well and has a lot of interesting and useful information about Women's Bridge. Some of the Zones are looking at organising a Women's Festival along the same lines of the one organised within Europe, which was felt to be a very successful way of introducing players to an international event.

It was agreed that special prizes should be awarded to the highest ranked Women's Pair from each zone in the 2006 World Wide Bridge Contest, with WBF Year Points also being awarded to these pairs.

Anna Maria would like to thank most warmly all those who are working so hard for the development of Women's Bridge throughout the world.

WBF YOUTH INFORMATION

Detailed information on the 2006 World Youth Pairs Championships and World Junior Camp is available on the WBF website at:

<http://www.worldbridge.org/tourn/Piestany.06/PairsMain.htm>

and

<http://www.worldbridge.org/tourn/Piestany.06/CampMain.htm>

We will be looking forward to welcoming your young players to these events, and remain at your disposal for whatever additional information/clarification you may need. Thank you for your cooperation and support.

WBF Youth Committee

CHANNEL TROPHY 2005

This year the 22nd Channel Trophy was organized in Oostende, Belgium. It's a competition among four countries: Belgium, England, France and the Netherlands for juniors (till 25 years old) and school teams (till 20).

Belgium, France and the Netherlands are separated from England by the Channel, a part of the North Sea, which explains the name of the tournament.

One of the reasons of the trophy, year after year, is not to separate these countries but to join them in a very friendly tournament.

The teams played a double round robin and the results were:

Juniors

1° Belgium	102 VP
2° The Netherlands	97 VP
3° France	84 VP
4° England	76 VP

Schools

1° France	120 VP
2° England	95 VP
3° The Netherlands	84 VP
4° Belgium	61 VP

The winners (schools) were: Alexandre Kilani, Robert Quentin, Andrea Landry, Pierre Francaschetti, Nicolas Lhuissier and Aymeric Lebatteux. In the juniors: Steve De Roos, Steven De Donder, Johan Fastenakels, Rutger Van Mechelen, Dirk De Hertog and Tine Dobbels.

Paul Magerman, Schilde, Belgium

MARK MOLSON

Friends around the world were shocked to learn on January 19 that Mark Molson had died on the operating table after suffering a massive heart attack on a golf course near his home in Florida. Molson was one of the most successful Canadian players ever, winning eight Canadian and seven North American Championships in addition to a silver medal in the 1995 Bermuda Bowl.

Molson is survived by three brothers and two sisters, his wife, Janice Seamon-Molson and their daughter Jennifer. He was 55 years old.

KEN BAXTER

Ken Baxter, who has died aged 66, represented Scotland in sixteen home internationals spread over four decades, the most recent being last year. He was President of the Scottish Bridge Union in 2003-4.

Baxter's first match for Scotland was in 1978. He partnered Jack Paterson, this season's Scottish captain, for nine matches in the period through to 1991. They won the Gold Cup, the British championships, in 1980.

After an absence from the international scene, he formed a partnership with Liz McGowan, first appearing for Scotland in 2002, and also in the 2004 European Championships. Baxter represented Scotland in the two most recent World Senior Olympiads.

Baxter lived in Edinburgh and was a computer consultant. He leaves a widow (divorced) and two children.