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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

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

The Transnational Teams (TNT) has become a much-desired feather in the cap of bridge players worldwide. The basics are this: a team can consist of any six eligible players from any country. Of last year's quarterfinalists in Estoril, five were unilingual; the other three were multinational, including the winners. The event is fun to play, the schedule is quite gentle, and great players abound.

Improvements to the event are possible. Here are a few suggestions:

1. Starting times: after playing for eight days in the Bermuda Bowl/Venice Cup/Senior Bowl and being finished every day by 20:00 hours, it is inconsistent to start the first day of the TNT at 21:00 hours. Understandably, the organisers wanted to allow the losing quarterfinalists entry into the new event. They could still do it: start the TNT earlier, but allow the losing quarterfinal teams (if they wish to play) into the TNT with the same number of Victory Points as, say, the eighth-place team. Contingencies would need to be made for teams that wanted non-quarterfinalists in their makeup.
2. Matches in the knockout rounds are too short for the number of teams qualifying. It would be a simple matter to begin the Swiss Qualifying a day earlier and to finish it two days earlier by the simple expedient of playing 5x10-board matches each day. That would allow 4 days (11 sessions) to complete a KO portion of 20-board (or 16-board) segments.
3. Qualify more than the current 8 teams for knockout play. As the event has grown, it has become much more difficult to get into the top 8. So, expand the qualifying group to 16 teams. Eight teams qualifying from 134 is not enough.
4. If it is necessary to have a playoff for third place, make it a real match and not just an afterthought. This philosophy should apply to ALL WBF events, by the way. If you make those teams play, let them play a real event, not merely a short match which proves nothing.

The new TNT would look like this: a 3-day Swiss to qualify 16 teams with drop-in teams from the quarterfinals of the other 3 events after 1 or 1 ½ days. Then play 40-board KO matches for the round of 16 and 60-board matches thereafter for the quarterfinals, semifinals and final (those 20-board segments could be reduced to 16 if absolutely necessary). And a third-place KO match of the same length as the final, whether 48 or 60 boards.

One more detail: if 16 teams are allowed into the KO stage, do away with the choosing of one's opponent. Slot the teams automatically into a standard bracket sheet where 1 plays 16, 2 plays 15 and so on. In the quarterfinals 1 plays 8, 2 plays 7, etc. Then 1 plays 4 and 2 plays 3 in the semifinals. Where n = the number of teams in a given knockout round, the total of the two seeds must add to n+1.

An alternate solution to allow the maximum number of teams the most playing time would be to increase the number of Swiss matches to 20, permitting 4 days of Swiss play and an 8-team KO. This might seem fairer if the proposal to allow losing quarterfinalists to drop in is accepted. And why should it not be? After all, drop-ins from the latter stages of the Rosenblum are already allowed into the World Open Pairs.

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SOUTH POLE -v- THE REST OF THE WORLD

Chris Dixon, London



Clockwise from left: Chris Dixon, Wendy Beeler, Harry Otten and Rolf Petersen contest the world's most southerly bridge game ever.

A game of bridge was played on the evening of Monday January 16th 2006 at the remotest place on the planet. The venue was the precise geographic South Pole – 90 degrees South. The weather was sunny but windy and the temperature was a bracing minus 27 degrees Celsius (minus 16 degrees Fahrenheit). The contestants were the South Pole versus the Rest of the World.

For the South Pole were Rolf Peterson playing with Wendy Beeler and for the Rest of the World were Chris Dixon (England) and Harry Otten (Netherlands). Naturally, in view of the extreme location, all players were sitting North.

The deciding hand was the following – played in the ice cold contract of four hearts.

North (Otten)

♠ K J 9 5
♥ K 9 4 3
♦ K 9 4
♣ 9 7

North (Beeler)

♠ 8 7 4
♥ J 6 5 2
♦ Q 8 7 3
♣ J 4

North (Petersen)

♠ Q 10 3
♥ 7
♦ A J 10 6 5
♣ K Q 8 5

North (Dixon)

♠ A 6 2
♥ A Q 10 8
♦ 2
♣ A 10 6 3 2

The dealer was North (Harry Otten) with neither side vulnerable. The bidding was as follows:

North Beeler	North Otten	North Petersen	North Dixon
--	Pass	1 ♦	2 ♣
2 ♦	2 NT	3 ♦	3 ♥
Pass	4 ♥	Pass	Pass
Pass			

The opening lead was the diamond three won by Petersen with the ten, followed by a switch to the heart seven. With so much opposition bidding, it was safe to assume that suits did not break very favourably and the spade queen was probably offside.

There seemed two possibilities to land the contract. One was to make on a sort of cross ruff, scoring seven trump tricks, two spades and the ace of clubs. The other was to ruff one diamond, duck a club, and make the contract with five trump tricks, three spades, the ace of clubs and a minor suit squeeze against Petersen for the tenth trick. To preserve both options, declarer (Dixon) played the ace of hearts and continued with a low spade to dummy's jack and Petersen's queen. The ace of spades had to be preserved as the king might be required as an entry later on.

Petersen now switched to a low club and Dixon ducked. Winning with the jack, Beeler did her best by playing a second trump but Dixon won this carefully with the ten and cashed the ace and king of spades. Now he could ruff a diamond with the heart queen and lead the carefully preserved heart eight for a marked finesse against Beeler's jack. He then drew the last trump and cashed the thirteenth spade on which Petersen was squeezed with king-queen of clubs and the ace of diamonds.

Ten tricks made and victory for the Rest of the World.

The extreme wind, low temperatures, and the difficulty of holding cards whilst wearing polar mitts forced the early curtailment of the game which had set a new record for the most southerly game of bridge ever played.

BULLETIN ACCESS ON THE IBPA WEBSITE

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SWINDLERS ABOUT

David Stern, Sydney

When we go shopping, we sometimes see signs saying, "Watch your belongings - thieves operate in this area." Well, people, I am here to tell you that when playing bridge, beware, there are swindlers about!

Boye Brogeland is recognised as one of the finest players in the world and here is an example of why he is ...

As a bridge club owner I am frequently asked, "How can I improve my game?" My standard answer is to read as much bridge material, books and magazines, as you can, and that will certainly help.

When reading, however, you frequently see plays that you think, "Hmm - looks good but who would really find that at the table?" Here is one such play from the Australian National Open Teams:

Dealer South. Neither Vul.

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

After an auction in which West overcalled in clubs North-South reached four hearts with, seemingly, four losers - I did say seemingly.

Without any attractive lead West started with the diamond six, ace from dummy and jack from East. One round of hearts saw trumps drawn and Brogeland continued with the club seven, eight from East, on which he played the five! The spotlight was on West.

West could not conceive that South held the club king-queen and would play low - and was therefore likely to hold a spade honour. Harking back to trick one he believed that the defence needed to play another diamond through the queen, so overtook partner's club eight, which at this stage was winning the trick, with the nine, then continued diamonds.

That was all Brogeland needed to complete his coup. He ruffed the diamond and played the club king through West for a ruffing finesse to establish the queen of clubs for a spade discard and make his contract.

At the other table, declarer played a club to the queen, and West, who realised that, having regard to his two-club overcall, East would likely have put up the club king had he held it, placed declarer with the that card for a spade discard. He thus continued with a low spade to partner's king (just in case declarer held the queen).

Now those are the plays that great players make and which you can read about in your favourite bridge books.

Mercifully, all my dealings with my team-mates Espen Erichsen and Boye Brogeland have been honest and painless. In the future, I shall be a little more wary, as this hand from the Australian National Open Teams will show:

Dealer South. NS Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Brightling</i>	<i>Erichsen</i>	<i>Thompson</i>	<i>Brogeland</i>
—	—	—	Pass
1 ♣	1 ♦	1 ♠	2 ♠ ¹
3 ♦ ¹	Pass	3 ♠	Pass
Pass	Pass		

1. Constructive raises in partner's suit

At score-up, we ruefully announced plus 100, defending two no trump when we analysed that we could make four spades, marking this as a lost board. "Plus fifty," say our team mates - I think, well, they must have misplayed four spades. I glance down at their card and see that the contract was three spades.

"A revoke," I ask?

"No," says Espen Erichsen as he recounts the defence, "a small swindle."

The opening lead of the club queen was ducked by declarer. This was followed by a heart switch, won in dummy, and dummy's singleton diamond, won by

North's ace. Tuned into what was happening, North continued hearts.

Now follow declarer's thoughts - with 22 points missing, and the opponents allowing us to play at the three-level it was likely that the points were evenly divided. So, probably North held the ace-queen of diamonds (no diamond lead from the king-queen) and the ace of clubs, and South the diamond king and the queen-jack of clubs.

It therefore looked 'certain' that South held at least one of the spade honours, if not both, so declarer confidently played the spade queen, believing that he needed just one of the two honours to be in the South hand in what he thought was this position:

♠ A 9 7 4	♠ Q 10 8 3 2
♥ A 10	♥ —
♦ —	♦ 5 3
♣ K 10 4	♣ 8 6
	♠ ??? (but certainly including the king or jack)
	♥ 8
	♦ K J 8
	♣ J 9

Then the queen of spades lost to the king, the defence promptly took the club ace and a club ruff.

The key issue on this hand was to make one spade trick before taking the ruff, as declarer could play the spade ace dropping the now bare king if the ruff came prematurely. (*True at that point, but at trick two, Brogrland could have continued ace and another club, ruffed, diamond over, club, promoting the spade king into the fifth trick. - Ed.*)

So next time you shake hands with our Norwegian friends, remember to count your fingers afterwards.

Just to show you that the Norwegians were not solely responsible for all of our successes, here is a hand featuring my wife Linda.

Dealer North. Neither Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Stern	Khan	Lambardi	Del'Monte
—	Pass	Pass	1 ♠
4 ♥	4 ♠	Pass	6 ♠
Pass	Pass	Pass	

Things looked grim from the West hand, with no outside defensive tricks and a reasonable expectation that there could only be one heart trick. Deciding to take a chance, Linda led the heart two to partner's queen and instantly received the club return.

Ishmael graciously stated one down as the club hit the table, knowing full well what was about to happen. Why, you may ask? Linda's two of hearts could not be a true card as in fourth highest. Typically a low unusual card asks for the lower suit and a high unusual card for the higher suit. Here the two was obviously asking for a club.

Well done, Linda. You may now understand why she is playing the next match and I am sitting here writing up her exploits.

OZYOUTH

Ron Klinger, Northbridge, NSW

(From the Sydney Morning Herald, January 27, 2006)

Try this problem:

Board 25. Dealer East. NS Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
—	—	Pass	1 ♦ ¹
Pass	1 ♥	Pass	1 NT ²
Pass	2 ♦ ³	Double ⁴	Redouble ⁴
Pass	Pass	Pass	

1. Diamonds or big balanced
2. 18-20 balanced
3. Artificial, forcing to game
4. Shows diamonds

West leads the spade four, two, queen, king. When you play the diamond ace, all follow. When you play the diamond queen, West follows with the ten! Plan your play from there (*solution later*).

Kieran Dyke-David Wiltshire, two of Australia's bright young stars, are in the habit of producing huge results. They did so on today's deals from the first session of the New South Wales Bridge Association's New Year Teams.

Board 16. Dealer South. NS Vul.

♠ A Q
♥ K J 5
♦ A K 8 7 3 2
♣ 3 2

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

♠ K 9 8 4
♥ A Q 9 7 4 3
♦ —
♣ K Q 8

West	North	East	South
Klinger	Nunn	Neill	Adams
—	—	—	1 ♥
3 ♦	4 ♦ ¹	Pass	4 ♠ ²
Pass	4 NT	Pass	5 ♣ ³
Pass	5 ♦ ⁴	Pass	6 ♣ ⁵
Pass	6 NT	Pass	Pass

1. Strong heart raise
 2. Cue-bid, good hand
 3. 1 or 4 key cards
 4. Asking for the trump queen
 5. "I have it, plus the club king as well."
- Lead: ♠ 3

This was a very good auction. Fearing that South might have a singleton diamond, Nunn chose six no trump and quickly notched up plus 1440. This figured to be a great score since the club lead will defeat six hearts. Or will it?

See what transpired at the other table.

West	North	East	South
—	Wiltshire	—	Dyke
—	—	—	1 ♥
Pass	2 ♦	3 ♣	Pass
Pass	5 ♥	Pass	6 ♥
Pass	Pass	Double	Pass
Pass	Pass	—	—

Wiltshire's jump to five hearts asked partner to bid six hearts with control of clubs. West was ready to lead the singleton club when East doubled, Lightner-style: "Do not lead my suit. Find an unusual lead." West knew what that meant. East was void in diamonds and so West started with a diamond. Low from dummy, ruffed, over-ruffed. Declarer had to lose one trick, but that was plus 1660, and 6 IMPs.

Dyke pooh-poohed the suggestion that he should redouble. "That might convince West to lead the club after all." He felt that he might have bid five no trump over five hearts to suggest six no trump as a contract.

Board 25. Dealer East. NS Vul.

(Directions rotated for convenience)

♠ A 10 9 7 6 2
♥ A J 10 8 4 3
♦ —
♣ A

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

♠ K J
♥ K 9 7
♦ A Q J 9 8 7
♣ K 6

West	North	East	South
Neill	Adams	Klinger	Nunn
—	—	2 NT ¹	3 NT
Pass	4 ♦	Pass	4 ♥
Pass	6 ♥	Pass	Pass

1. Weak, both minors
- Lead: ♣ 9

This was another excellent auction by North-South. Declarer played a heart to the king at trick two, ran the heart nine and drew trumps. Then came a spade to the king and the jack of spades lost to East's queen for plus 1430.

Things took quite a different turn at the other table:

West	North	East	South
—	—	Pass	1 ♦ ¹
Pass	1 ♥	Pass	1 NT ²
Pass	2 ♦ ³	Double ⁴	Redouble ⁴
Pass	Pass	Pass	—

1. Diamonds or big balanced
 2. 18-20 balanced
 3. Artificial, forcing to game
 4. Shows diamonds
- Lead: ♠ 4

East's lead-directing double will not be discussed, since if you cannot say anything nice, say nothing. Wiltshire's redouble showed a desire to play in two diamonds redoubled and Dyke felt his three aces would be useful. Declarer captured East's spade queen and led the diamond ace, followed by the queen, discarding hearts from dummy.

East won and returned a club. Wiltshire needed to return to hand and chose a heart. East ruffed, but declarer made the rest for three redoubled over-tricks and plus 1960 and 11 IMPs.

Answer to problem:

Wiltshire later chastised himself for not making twelve tricks. After capturing the spade queen at trick one, he played the diamond ace, pitching a heart, followed

by the diamond queen. When West produced the ten, Wiltshire had the chance for a very neat play. He can discard the club ace from dummy! East wins, but no matter what is returned, South wins, draws trumps and has twelve tricks for plus 2360!

TO DOUBLE OR NOT TO DOUBLE?

Andrew Robson, London
(From *The Times*, Dec. 22, 2005)

Question: You suspect that the opponents have overreached and have a useful trump holding. Should you double?

Answer: No – generally not. The double will tip declarer off as to your useful trumps and may enable him to make a contact in which he would otherwise have failed. Keep your mouth shut and he will probably drift one or two down.

Take our featured deal. Declarer listened to West's injudicious double and played card-perfectly, reducing five seemingly certain losers (three trumps, a heart and a club) into just three.

IMPs. Dealer South. EW Vul.

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

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

1. The technical bid is three hearts, asking for help in the suit and possibly (not here) leading to a superior 4-4 (4-5) four-heart game.
2. Very dangerous – as it tips declarer off that West has a menacing trump holding.

Opening lead. ♣ 3

West kicked off with a club (although a super-passive diamond would have left declarer powerless). Beating East's queen with the king, declarer knew (from West's double) to leave trumps well alone. Instead he cashed the ace of diamonds, finessed the queen of hearts, ruffed a diamond, crossed to the ace of hearts, ruffed a third diamond, then exited with a third heart.

West won the king of hearts but was in a sticky position. His switch to the king of trumps (best) only postponed the agony, for declarer ducked. What next?

If West continued with a second trump, declarer would win cheaply, cash the ace, and then lead the master heart. If West threw a club, declarer would simply cash the ace of clubs – his tenth trick; if West ruffed the heart then he would have to lead away from his jack of clubs, thus avoiding (for declarer) a loser in the suit.

If (after the king of trumps was allowed to hold the trick), West switched to a club, declarer would win the nine, cash the ace, then lead the jack of hearts. West would ruff perforce, but at trick 12, have to lead away from the queen-nine of trumps around to declarer's ace-jack. Either way, 10 tricks and doubled contract made.

Would you believe that the declarer, Australia's Adam Edgton, is only 13 years old!

IBPA COLUMN SERVICE

Tim Bourke, Canberra

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341. Dealer South. EW Vul.

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

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

After a standard two club auction to show a balanced 23 or 24 points, South thought the question asked by North's transfer to hearts followed by three no trump was "Do you have 4=3=3=3 shape?" rather than "Do you have three-card heart support?" In either event, passing three no trumps was a poor decision as building tricks in hearts was more likely to be easier than in no trump.

Still, there is a case for North insisting on playing the game in hearts rather than no trumps on the general grounds that partner is unlikely to make a game unless

the heart suit can be put to use. Because that is less than certain in three no trump, North might find it best to choose the suit contract unilaterally.

West led the jack of spades, taken by declarer with the queen. When he continued with the ace and ten of hearts East withheld the king and the game failed.

A better plan was to rely on East holding the king of hearts. Declarer should play the play two of hearts to dummy's queen at trick two. As East cannot take his king of hearts without surrendering the contract, he must duck. After declarer continues with a low heart to his ten he has his nine tricks.

342. Dealer South. EW Vul.

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

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

North made a strong jump shift in spades followed by an inferential cue bid of four clubs in support of hearts. When South's return cue bid promised first round control in diamonds, North used five no trumps to inquire about top honours in hearts. South bid the grand slam in hearts because he had the required two top honours there.

When West led the two of hearts, declarer realised he had to set up dummy's spades and saw he could do this as long the suit broke no worse than 5-1. In that case, he would have to ruff three spades in hand to establish the suit. As that requires four entries to dummy, declarer saw that he needed to win the first trump in dummy with the ace then ruff a spade high. The second entry was a trump to dummy's jack, drawing West's remaining trump, and a second spade was ruffed.

The remaining two entries to dummy would be club ruffs - a club ruff and another spade ruff established the spade suit despite the 5-1 break. Now a second club ruff followed and the ace and king of spades removed East's remaining spades while declarer shed two diamonds. The two remaining minor suit losers were thrown on the established spades.

Notice that if declarer carelessly plays low from dummy at trick one the 5-1 spade break scuppers the slam.

343. Dealer South. EW Vul.

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

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

While the South hand would be too strong for a four spade opening bid in the first or second seat, it is almost certainly the best choice in third seat.

West led the king of hearts and declarer won the first trick with his bare ace. With only nine winners, he aimed to combine his chances for a tenth trick by working on the minor suits in the right order. Since he needed two entries to dummy to benefit from East holding the king of clubs, he led the eight of trumps to dummy's nine at trick two. East took this with the ace and returned a heart. Declarer ruffed with the king, to preserve the six and four of trumps as entries to table.

After leading the six of trumps to dummy's seven he called for a low club from table. East rose with the king and declarer had ten tricks; he could ruff the next heart high, cash the queen of clubs and then lead the two of trumps to dummy's three to cash the ace of clubs and discard one of his diamond losers.

If the queen of clubs had lost to West's king, declarer would have had to rely on finding that West held the king of diamonds too.

344. Dealer South. NS Vul.

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

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

West leads the king of clubs and East plays the nine. West counted sixteen points in dummy and a further twelve for South's advertised weak no trump. Consequently, as East had a barren point count, the only chance of beating had to be by trump promotion!

So West cashed the ace of clubs and continued with the jack of clubs. As declarer could not afford to let East score a ruff, he called for dummy's king of trumps then led a trump to his jack. West took this with the ace of trumps and played a fourth round of clubs.

As long as East ruffed this with the ten of trumps, the defence would score a second trump trick. When the ten of trumps is played South can either over-ruff with the queen and West's nine of trumps is setting trick or he can let the ten of trumps serve that duty. Either way the defence scores a very pretty plus 100.



World Wide Web Resources for Bridge Journalists

On-line Viewing

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

Tournament Bulletins

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

Miscellaneous Information

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

Upcoming Live Online Transmissions

Mar 1	Turkish Open Team Trials	BBO
Mar 3-5	Camrose Teams	
Mar 3-12	Japan Open Team Trials	BBO
Mar 10-11	Commonwealth Championship	BBO
Mar 11-12	Danish Championship	Swan
Mar 17-19	Yeh Bros Cup, Taiwan	BBO
Jun 9-24	World Championships	Swan
Aug 2-3	Chairman's Cup, Sweden	Swan



TRANSNATIONAL TEAMS Oct. 31-Nov. 5, 2005

Here's a selection of deals from the Transnational Teams. They are from the World Championships' Daily Bulletins edited by Brent Manley, Mark Horton and Brian Senior. The winners were Peter Schneider and Grant Baze (USA) and Piotr Gawrys and Marcin Lesniewski (Poland) over Warren Spector, Bart Bramley, Chip Martel, Mark Feldman and Roy Welland (USA) and Björn Fallenius (Sweden). Full results can be found at www.worldbridge.org.

Hard Work Mark Horton

It can take quite a bit of work forming your squad for the Transnational Teams, especially when half your original team decides to go home. That was the fate that befell the Israeli Senior team when three of their members departed at the end of the Senior Bowl. The notional captain, Nissan Rand, found an Egyptian pair, Ahmed Hussein & Tarek Sadek, but there was a price to pay, the captaincy being taken over by Hussein. However, their team of five quickly became four, when another of the Israelis withdrew. Undaunted, the search went on and in the fullness of time, South Africa's Craig Gower was added and, then linked to Canada's Ralph Cohen. This hotchpotch squad proved to be rather formidable, and after twelve rounds they were in second place.

They scored rather well here:

Round 1. Board 5. Dealer North. NS Vul.

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

Both tables reached one no trump via the same unopposed sequence: one diamond-one heart-one spade-one no trump, and in one room West led the seven of spades. Declarer won in dummy and played the jack of clubs, covered by the king and ace. East won the next club and exited with a diamond. Declarer won and claimed seven tricks; plus 90.

In the other room, Nissan Rand led the ten of diamonds and declarer won in hand, East playing the eight. Declarer played a spade to the king and played the jack of clubs, covered by the king and ace. When declarer led another club East won and played the nine of diamonds. When declarer ducked West cashed his diamond winners and South was in trouble; the defenders finished up taking four heart tricks as well, for down three and plus 300.

Good Defence, Better Offence David Berkowitz

Round 1. Board 10. Dealer East. Both Vul.

♠ A Q 8 6 5
♥ 6 3 2
♦ A 4 3
♣ 8 7

♠ 9 3
♥ J
♦ Q J 5
♣ A K Q J 10 6 4

After East/West bid and raise hearts, you get to a good five-club contract. The opponents lead the ace and another heart. You ruff and lead the ace of clubs (West contributes the nine), then lead the spade nine to the seven, queen and king. You wonder whether you can ever win a finesse.

East shifts to a diamond and you try to win with the queen, but it is covered by the king. Looks like you can't find a king in the right place. This is the position as you look for your eleventh trick:

♠ A 8 6 5
♥ 6
♦ 4 3
♣ 8

♠ 3
♥ —
♦ J 5
♣ K Q J 10 6

Is there a way to make the game? Yes, if you consider those mighty spade spots and the eight of clubs. Play the ace of spades, dropping West's jack, and run the spade eight. If East covers the eight, ruff high, return to dummy with the club winner and discard your losing diamond on a good spade.

Even if West covered the spade nine with the jack on the first round, you have the same ruffing finesse, and it doesn't help for West to have started with the jack-ten-spot in spades because trumps are 3-1, so you would not be able to cash the fourth spade without East ruffing in. Besides, who splits in spades from jack-ten third on the first round?

The full deal:

♠ A Q 8 6 5
♥ 6 3 2
♦ A 4 3
♣ 8 7

♠ J 7
♥ A Q 9 7 5 4
♦ K 10 8 6
♣ 9

♠ K 10 4 2
♥ K 10 8
♦ 9 7 2
♣ 5 3 2

♠ 9 3
♥ J
♦ Q J 5
♣ A K Q J 10 6 4

Did you find the better offence for the winning play?

Transnational Endplay Brent Manley

The IRELAND Open Team (Hanlon-McGann; Mesbur-Fitzgibbon; Carroll-Garvey) faced ORANGE I (Jansma-Verhees; Bakkeren-Bertens, Muller-de Wijs) in Round 6.

Round 6. Board 18. Dealer East. NS Vul.

♠ J 9 4 3 2
♥ Q 10 6 2
♦ 9 6 3
♣ 10

♠ Q 7 5
♥ A 8 7 5 4 3
♦ 7 4
♣ J 5

♠ A K 10 6
♥ K J
♦ J 8 5 2
♣ 6 3 2

♠ 8
♥ 9
♦ A K Q 10
♣ A K Q 9 8 7 4

West	North	East	South
Jansma	Hanlon	Verhees	McGann
—	—	1 ♣	Pass
2 ♦ ¹	Pass	2 ♥ ²	5 ♣
Pass	Pass	Pass	

- Multi-response
- Pass or correct

McGann passed over the one club opening, but jumped to five clubs at his next turn, giving up on an unlikely slam. Jan Jansma led the ace and another heart, and McGann ruffed, then drew a few rounds of trumps. Jansma pitched a diamond to help his partner with his discards, but this gave McGann the final clue to confirm that the distribution was as he already

suspected (East seemed to have a weak no trump with two hearts and three clubs, so should be 4=2=4=3).

McGann cashed two top diamonds, seeing Jansma show out, then cashed the rest of his trumps. Louk Verhees had to keep two diamonds so was forced to come down to just one spade. McGann exited with his spade at trick eleven and Verhees had to win and lead into the queen-ten of diamonds to give the contract.

Had Verhees come down to a singleton low spade, Jansma would have been able to win the spade trick with his queen, but would then have had to give dummy the last two tricks with the jack of spades and the queen of hearts. There was no escape after trick two.

In the other room, East again opened one club, but South overcalled five clubs immediately. The diamond lead did not challenge declarer, so McGann's good play was necessary just to flatten the board.

Bridge The Silver Way Brian Senior

Canada's Joey Silver has a unique approach to the great game of bridge. This is a polite way of saying that he is completely barking mad, certifiable, but the world of bridge would be a duller and poorer place without people like Joey to enliven it. Take this example from the eighth round of the World Transnational Open Teams Championship.

Round 8. Board 19. Dealer South. EW Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Graves</i>	<i>Kirilenko</i>	<i>Baran</i>	<i>Shudnev</i>
—	—	—	Pass
Pass	1 ♣	1 ♦	Pass
1 ♠	Pass	4 ♣	Pass
4 NT	Pass	6 ♣	Pass
6 ♠	Pass	Pass	Pass

Let's look at Silver's teammates' table first, where both the bidding and play had points of interest. Boris Baran chose to overcall one diamond rather than double, and when Allan Graves could bid one spade, his hand grew to enormous size. He showed club shortness

and Graves had no compunction about using Blackwood, finding out about one or three key cards plus a club void. Six spades was quite enough, he thought.

North led the diamond jack and Graves played carefully after winning in dummy. He crossed on a heart to the king and played another diamond without drawing any trumps. When West failed to follow to the second diamond, he had enough entries to the dummy to ruff the diamonds good and ruff the losing heart. North could over-ruff at his leisure, but that was his only trick.

The auction, as they say, was different at the other table!

West	North	East	South
<i>Krasnosselski</i>	<i>Silver</i>	<i>Zhmak</i>	<i>Carruthers</i>
—	—	—	Pass
Pass	1 ♠	2 ♦	Double
Pass	2 ♥	3 ♦	Pass
Pass	3 ♥	Pass	Pass
3 NT	Pass	Pass	Double
Pass	Pass	Pass	

After two passes, Joey traded on the favourable vulnerability to open one spade, hoping to pick off the opponents' suit. East had a very good hand for a simple overcall, but nothing else particularly appealed, so that was his choice.

John Carruthers made an aggressive negative double and two hearts was the obvious response. Now East showed his extra strength by repeating the diamonds and, when that was passed by West, North's operation had been successful. But Joey could not bear to pass when he had a guaranteed heart fit so came again with three hearts. That slipped past East, but not West, who tried a speculative three no trump, offering partner a range of options, pass being the logical choice with the actual East hand.

Carruthers doubled - after all, his partner had bid when he had no need to do so, and John had the diamonds well held. The double ended the auction.

Silver led the five of clubs won by the king, and Carruthers switched to the heart nine. Declarer won the king and cashed the spade king, unblocking the nine. When the ten fell from South, he played a spade to the jack and took his nine top tricks for plus 750. That may not look like a triumph for North-South, considering that they could have passed out three diamonds and conceded only minus 150. However, as the contract at the other table was six spades making for plus 1430, the Canadians picked up 12 IMPs anyway. A triumph after all!

Transnational Trump Coup Brent Manley

Many declarers were defeated in four spades on this deal from Round 12 of the Transnational Teams. England's Heather DHONDY (Dhondy, Bennett, McGowan) brought it home, however, to gain 10 IMPs for her team. Dhondy was playing with her old partner from the days when Great Britain played as one nation in international bridge, Scotland's Liz McGowan.

Round 12. Board 19. Dealer South. EW Vul.

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

The defence began with three rounds of hearts, giving a ruff-and-discard. Dhondy ruffed in the North hand while pitching a club from South, then played the king of spades.

East won and played a fourth round of hearts and again Dhondy ruffed in the North hand, throwing her remaining club. Now, suspecting from the line of defence that there might be a problem with the trump situation, she carefully ruffed a club, shortening herself, and laid down the queen of spades, discovering the four-one break.

Thanks to her foresight, the bad break was not a problem. Dhondy crossed to dummy with a diamond and started playing winning clubs through East, who could ruff whenever he wanted to, but would be over ruffed, the remaining trump drawn, and winning diamonds cashed. Taking the club ruff before she had seen the bad trump split meant that Dhondy could also have survived a 5-1 diamond break.

Missing 9 VPs on One Board Hans Olaf-Hallén

The Swedish Seniors team (Hallén, Dieden, Flodqvist, Sjöberg, Hyden, Backström) had this disastrous board in the last match of the Transnational Open Teams. (See top of next column.)

At Table 1, North's four clubs showed solid hearts. We don't know why South doubled. Against five diamonds doubled, South led a spade. Declarer won and played four rounds of trumps. East later finessed in clubs and went one down. East should understand from the opening lead that South has no hearts and

therefore play the ace of clubs. Even if South has the king, declarer would be able to play the suit for enough winners later to discard his losing heart. The outcome on this lie of the cards would have been 12 tricks.

Round 15. Board 4. Dealer West. Both Vul.

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

Table 1

West	North	East	South
Pass	4 ♣	4 ♦	Double
Pass	4 ♥	Pass	Pass
5 ♦	Pass	Pass	Double
Pass	Pass	Pass	

Table 2

West	North	East	South
Pass	3 NT	Pass	4 ♥
5 ♣(!)	5 ♥	6 ♣	Double
Pass	Pass	Pass	

At Table 2, North's three no trump showed a solid major suit. South doubled six clubs to stop his partner from bidding six hearts. West's five clubs seems brave. As North 1 made the mistake of leading the heart queen instead of the two. Partner forgot to ruff and the slam was made. The Hadi team (Isphani, Ahmed, Hadi, Shoaid) from Pakistan gained 17 IMPs instead of losing a large number. We still won the match, but only 16-14 instead of 25-5, finishing 17th in the qualifying instead of 12th.

Who's Got the Queen? Barry Rigal

Consider the deal as a single dummy problem first. You are West.

Round 9. Board 10. Dealer East. Both Vul.

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

Your partner reaches six hearts and RHO, on lead, doubles - unlikely to be Lightner unless he has forgotten the position (but South is an Austrian expert, so this is unlikely).

Gunnar Hallberg declared six no trump doubled on the queen of clubs lead and won in dummy. Since hearts figured to be 5-0 as South would not risk a double on just a four-card suit here, the queen of spades figured to be with North – particularly since he had doubled the final contract. But Hallberg paused for reflection.

The double of six hearts must have been with the awareness that the opponents might retreat to six no trump; so maybe the double of six no trump was psychic – protecting his partner's spades? Backing his judgment, Hallberg passed the spade jack, and when the suit behaved he had his 12 tricks. This was the full deal:

<p>♠ 9 7 5 ♥ — ♦ 10 8 4 3 2 ♣ Q J 5 4 3</p> <p>♠ K 3 ♥ 9 7 6 5 ♦ K Q 7 6 ♣ A 10 2</p> <p>♠ Q 4 2 ♥ A J 4 3 2 ♦ 5 ♣ 9 8 7 6</p>	<p>♠ A J 10 8 6 ♥ K Q 10 8 ♦ A J 9 ♣ K</p>
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You can see that Hallberg would make a good poker player.

SQUEEZING JORDAN

Ghassan Ghanem, Amman

Although not finishing in the high overalls in the Estoril Bermuda Bowl, Jordan did have some triumphs. Here are two.

Jordan v. China

Match 8. Board 3. Dealer South. EW Vul.

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

1. Puppet Stayman
2. 4 cards in one or both majors
3. Slam try
4. Cue bids
5. 0 or 2 top honours in diamonds

West led the seven of clubs to the eight, nine and queen. Declarer played four rounds of diamonds discarding two spades. West won the diamond jack and returned the club five to the four, ten and ace. Declarer cashed the ace of spades, went to dummy via the heart queen and cashed both remaining diamonds discarding his last spade and last club.

The squeeze works whenever the defender holding four or more hearts also holds either or both black kings. Without the Vienna Coup, the squeeze is positional and less frequent. If West, after winning the jack of diamonds, plays back a heart, the Vienna Coup can't be applied, but still, declarer can make the slam if East holds the long hearts and both black kings. (*This deal produced many variations to making six diamonds or six no trumps. – Ed.*)

Jordan v. Argentina

Match 21. Board 16. Dealer West. EW Vul.

<p>♠ 10 9 8 4 3 ♥ A 9 6 ♦ 10 7 4 ♣ 8 5</p> <p>♠ 6 5 ♥ K 3 ♦ A K Q J 5 3 ♣ Q 9 3</p> <p>♠ A J ♥ Q J 10 8 4 2 ♦ 9 8 ♣ K 10 2</p>	<p>♠ K Q 7 2 ♥ 7 5 ♦ 6 2 ♣ A J 7 6 4</p>
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West	North	East	South
Ghassan	Mooney	Nuha	Monsegur
1 NT	Pass	2 ♣	2 ♥
Pass	Pass	3 ♥	Double
3 NT	Pass	Pass	Pass

North led the heart six to the five, ten and king. Declarer played six rounds of diamonds discarding one spade and three clubs from dummy and South discarded the spade jack, heart four, club two and club ten, baring the club king.

Declarer was planning to end-play South with a spade

but he had doubts about the number of hearts still held by South, especially since the two of hearts had not appeared. In addition, he knew that South was a capable player who was expecting the end-play and could have countered by discarding all his clubs but the king.

Accordingly, declarer played a small club from his hand to the ace, dropping the king, for one overtrick. At the other table, South discarded two hearts and was end-played in spades and had to give declarer the ninth trick. Indeed, there is no escape.

SHARP DEFENCE

Kyoko Ohno, Tokyo

Let's look at a wonderful defence Italy played against Japan in the last qualifying round of the Senior Bowl in Estoril.

Match 21. Board 13. Dealer North. Both Vul.

♠ A K 7 2
♥ A Q
♦ 9 7 6 5 4
♣ J 7

♠ Q 6
♥ 8 6 5
♦ 10 2
♣ A 10 9 8 5 4

♠ 10 9 8
♥ J 9 7 3 2
♦ A J 3
♣ K 2

♠ J 5 4 3
♥ K 10 4
♦ K Q 8
♣ Q 6 3

West	North	East	South
Pietro	Abe	Nino	Masayuki
Forquet	Hiroya	Masucci	Ino
—	1 ♦	Pass	2 NT
Pass	3 NT	Pass	Pass
Pass			

The South hand is 4=3=3=3 and has slow cards, so Ino-san judged that it was better to choose not one spade but two no trump. The final contract was three no trump by South.

Forquet led the ten of clubs, Ino-san played the seven from dummy, and Masucci played the two(!) in tempo. Declarer can succeed if he ducks, but that is hard to do. Ino-san won the club queen, then played a heart to the dummy, and played a diamond. Masucci immediately put up the diamond ace, then returned the club king, Forquet overtaking with the ace.

Three no trump went to two down, a very nice defence. This board was played 20 of 66 times in three no trump in the Bermuda Bowl, Venice Cup and Senior Bowl – this was the only time it was defeated! At the other table, declarer had no trouble making four spades on a trump lead.

NEWS & VIEWS

Zia Plans to Build School in Pakistan

Zia Mahmood, despite spending most of his year in London and New York, maintains close ties to his native Pakistan. Zia plans to build a school in the earthquake-ravaged region of that country. To that end, he intends to raffle off a game with himself at a major event, using the Internet and bridge tournaments to sell tickets, the proceeds of which will go to building the school.

Logistical details are still being worked out, but the WBF and ACBL will both be involved. Raffle tickets will sell for \$10 each, with the winner allowed to choose his or her event from a menu of choices. The winner's expenses to the game would be covered if it is outside his or her home area..

Zia would like IBPA members to advertise the raffle in their bridge columns – he will supply accompanying deals. Watch for further details as they are made known.

IBPA Membership Cards

It was decided when Mario Dix took over as Treasurer not to send out IBPA Membership Cards each year. If a journalist needed one – e.g., for a visa or to join a union, etc. - then they could ask for one and Jean Tyson, Bulletin Production Manager, will send it to them.

The Cars Update

The three organisations of which Andrea Buratti and Massimo Lanzarotti were members have held hearings in the wake of accusations of peeking and signalling in the 2005 Open European Championships.

The ACBL (American Contract Bridge League, North America) has expelled the pair. The FIGB (Federazione Italiana Gioco Bridge, Italy) has suspended the players for two-and-a-half years and has prohibited them from ever playing together again; the AEB (Asociación Española de Bridge, Spain) will follow the Italian decision and will take no independent action.

Azores Festival

Rui Marques informs us that the Xth International Azores Festival takes place from 2 to 7 of June, right before Verona, on the Faial island, one of the most beautiful of the archipelago. Prize money 7500 Euro.

Teams 2-4 June; Pairs 5-7 June. One session per day. Tournament Direction: Rui Marques. Further information and registrations by email to webmaster@lusobridge.com.

Red Sea Festival

David Birman writes that the 11th Red Sea Festival broke all attendance records, with 490 pairs in the main event. The 12th edition will be held November 5-12, 2006.

NA College Championship

A record 30 teams entered the online qualifier for 2006 North American College Bridge Team Championship which began on Feb 18 on Bridge Base Online.

Simon Ainger

We are very sad to report the death of Simon Ainger on 25th January 2006.

A former ITV journalist, in the '80s Simon run the Heath Bridge Club in Weybridge, Surrey, which over the years numbered amongst its members Alan Truscott, Patrick Jourdain and Mr Bridge. When Mr Bridge launched a new magazine, *Bridge Plus*, in 1989, Simon immediately joined its team of writers. After moving to Cornwall, Simon Ainger also became a contributor to the EBU's Bridge for All scheme, lending it his trademark elegant and lucid style.

Although an intensely private man, Simon was a caring friend to many and will be very much missed. Our deepest sympathy goes to his wife, Angela.

Elena Jeronimidis

VI^o Cuba Festival

Frankie Frontaura would like to invite all IBPA members to visit Cuba during the VI^o International Bridge Festival from November 4 to 11 in Havana and Varadero. Events include IMP Pairs, Teams and Open Pairs, with usually one session per day to allow for sightseeing and nightlife. Special rates from \$50 to \$85 at four 4-star and 5-star hotels in Havana and Varadero have been negotiated for tournament participants and guests. Information at:
www.cubabridge2005.cm
f-fbridge@hotmail.com

63rd South of Ireland Congress

The Congress offers 8 days of bridge for open pairs, mixed pairs and novice pairs as well as men's, ladies, mixed and open teams. Uniquely, two golf tournaments (singles and better-ball) are also offered for those wishing a break from bridge, but not from competition.

Accommodation is at the beautiful Lake Hotel in Killarney. Package rates are available for 3, 4, 5, 7 & 9 day stays. Contact Marie Maloney at:
coolickcottage@hotmail.com and the Lake Hotel at www.lakehotel.com.

Ryder Cup-style Bridge Event in Dublin

Preceding the Ryder Cup of golf at the K Club in Ireland this September, the Irish Bridge Association is putting on a bridge competition between America and Europe. The event will be contested by 12 players from each continent over 4 days.

Playing for Europe will be Norberto Bocchi-Giorgio Duboin (Italy), Geir Helgemo-Tor Helness (Norway), Sabine Auken-Daniela von Arnim (Germany), Justin Hackett-Jason Hackett (England), Tom Hanlon-Hugh McGann (Ireland) and Cezary Balicki-Adam Zmudzinski (Poland). Paul Hackett (England) will act as their Non-Playing Captain.

The American team has not been finalised, but Bob Hamman-Paul Soloway, Roy Welland-Zia Mahmood, Geoff Hampson-Eric Greco and Jill Meyers will take part.

Individual, pairs and team games will comprise the cup. Day 1 will be an individual, with each player competing head-on against only one player on the other team. Scoring on each deal will be board-a-match. There will be 12 points at stake in Day 1 (1 for each match). Each captain will put in a blind lineup of his players numbered 1 through 12; thus, until the draw is announced, no one will know who they are playing against.

On Day 2 will be a pairs competition, following a similar formula, but with 2 points available for each match-up.

Days 3 and 4 will consist of a teams competition, with 3 head-on matches, each worth 4 points. Thus a total of 36 points will be at stake, 12 from each format.

It is expected that Trans World Sport will televise the event and that all tables will have online commentary on Bridge Base Online.

Contact Paul Hackett at paul.h@ukonline.co.uk for details.

Notice to All IBPA Members !! Change of e-Mail Address

If your e-mail address changes, please inform the Bulletin Production Manager, Jean Tyson, at:

mail@ibpa.com

We need to have your correct e-mail address to send you the Bulletin codes each month.



Correspondence ...

The Editor reserves the right to shorten correspondence

Email: ibpaeditor@sympatico.ca

Hi John,

Dorothy and I would like to add a few words concerning Evelyn Senn.

Evelyn was special - always a willing helper, always a superb planner, always a true friend. Our visits to her were always a delight. We especially remember the June night she took us to the beach near her home to watch a breath-taking sunset.

My years as president flowed smoothly, thanks to Evelyn. She was an excellent administrator, making sure everything went just right, even in areas for which she was not directly responsible. Her attention to detail was incredible - she never forgot anything. And she donated her time and effort selflessly.

Yes, Evelyn was special.

Henry & Dorothy Francis, Memphis

John,

With reference to your editorial, why does anyone bother with VP scales at all? It just introduces a random factor. In the days when all scoring had to be done manually, there was a lot to be said for simplifying the numbers and avoiding negatives. However, that does not apply nowadays.

There are still anomalies in IMP scoring as well. For example, why should making a non-vulnerable one heart contract at one table and beating it by one trick at the other be worth one third more IMPs than the same combination of results in a one club contract? N.B., were the contracts two hearts and two clubs and the outcome one down in both cases, the swing would be the same, and were the contracts three hearts and three clubs, the difference is one quarter more IMPs. And the IMP scale drastically affects the odds in bidding grand slams.

Personally, I enjoy teams events scored by aggregate points. In reality, IMPs is no more than an uneasy compromise between the purer forms of aggregate and point-a-board. But I don't expect much support for this view!

Richard Fleet, London

Dear John,

The present scale was devised by Wim Wagner of The Netherlands, who was Ton Kooijman's predecessor

and mentor. The maximum Victory Point win was 20, but a loser could go down to minus five. Minus numbers are difficult for newspapers (and laymen) so Harold Franklin (my mentor!) and Jimmy Ortiz-Patiño simply upped the maximum win to 25 to eliminate minuses.

The two other points you make are valid. Why should the "marginal rate" of 1 IMP be worth disproportionately more than another? And why should the lower reaches of the scale go 5-6-4-4-5? And I would add a third point (implicitly taken up by you in your "improved" scale) - why isn't a one IMP lead a win? It is in any other sport.

Regards,
Bill Pencharz, London

Dear John,

The current WBF scales are based on a statistical review of IMP-differences of matches in both homogenous and inhomogenous fields. This review took place in the Netherlands in the Seventies. The initiator was the late (and very much regretted by me) Dr Wim Wagner, a former WBF Championships Operations Manager in the late Eighties (Miami, Venice, Geneva et al.). Some of the statisticians who were his colleagues at Shell (Royal Dutch) Laboratories in Amsterdam collected the data.

The point I really want to make is that the wider range for 11-9 (now 16-14) has been chosen intentionally as a result of the statistical report, which stated: "The 16-14 area should be somewhat broadened in order to avoid too large a swing in VP's as a result of an IMP-swing on 1 board."

Just for fun: I do remember that the increase in the number of IMPs needed for the maximum VP win was found proportional to the square of the increase in the number of boards played, according to Gauss.

This sounds maybe a little obscure, but an example should clarify it: it's 25-5 with 30 IMPs difference on 8 boards, but with 60 IMPs difference (2x30) after 32 (4x8) boards, etc.

Cheers,
Jos Jacobs, Maarn

I'm confused by this. Jos has agreed to post me a copy of the report, which, I am certain, will make interesting reading, and hopefully, provide clarification. – Ed.

World Bridge Calendar

DATES	EVENT	LOCATION	INFORMATION
2006			
Mar 7-12	Commonwealth Games	Melbourne, Australia	a.halmos@rmit.edu.au
Mar 10-14	Festival de Megève	Megève, France	www.ffbridge.asso.fr
Mar 16-19	Yeh Brothers Cup	Taipei, Taiwan	www.ywt.com.tw
Mar 17-27	37 th Indian Summer Nationals	Wayanad, Kerala, India	www.bridgeinindia.homestead.com
Mar 20-25	White House International Junior Teams	Amsterdam, Netherlands	www.worldbridge.org
Mar 26-Apr 4	5 th Spring Festival	Eilat, Israel	daganbridge@hotmail.com
Mar 28-Apr 2	Kitzbühler Bridgewoche	Kitzbühel, 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 11-20	SABF National Congress	Durban, RSA	www.sabf.co.za
May 13-21	63 rd South of Ireland Congress	Killarney, Ireland	coolickcottage@hotmail.com
May 15-21	XIX Costa Calida Internacional	Murcia, Spain	www.worldbridge.org
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 24-29	Festival	Palavas, France	www.ffbridge.fr
May 29-Jun 4	IV Festival de Bridge Golf	El Ejido, Almeria, Spain	www.worldbridge.org
Jun 2 & 3	Worldwide Bridge Contest	Clubs Everywhere	anna@ecats.co.uk
Jun 2-7	X International Azores Festival	Faial, Azores, Portugal	webmaster@lusobridge.com
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 23-28	Festival Citadelle de Blaye	Blaye, France	www.ffbridge.asso.fr
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 National Congress	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	Vejle, 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 4-6	Pesta Sukan	Singapore	www.scba.org.sg
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
Aug 20-31	44 th PABF Championships	Shanghai, China	www.scba.org.sg
Aug 26-Sep 3	Summer Festival	La Grande Motte, France	www.ffbridge.asso.fr
Sep 18-21	Ryder Cup of Bridge	Dublin, Ireland	paul.h@ukonline.co.uk
Sep 30-Oct 1	Vilnius Cup	Vilnius, Lithuania	www.worldbridge.org
Oct 6-11	EBU Autumn Overseas Congress	Çesme, Turkey	www.ebu.co.uk
Oct 17-21	17 th Sun, Sea & Slams	Barbados, WI	www.cacbf.com
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
Oct 28-29	Lederer Memorial Trophy	London, England	www.metrobridge.co.uk
Nov 4-11	VI ^o International Festival	Havana/Varadero, Cuba	www.cacbf.com
Nov 5-12	12 th Red Sea Festival	Eilat, Israel	birmand@inter.net.il
Nov 23-Dec 3	ACBL Fall NABC	Honolulu, HI	www.acbl.org
Dec 9-14	28 th ASEAN Club Championships	Singapore	www.scba.org.sg
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