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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 issue of 'sportsmanlike dumping' arose in the Torino Winter Olympics when the suspicion was aroused that the Swedish hockey team deliberately lost a game in order to encounter a less-fierce opponent in its quarterfinal game. Unlike in bridge, there was no hue and cry for the organisers to design a contest which would preclude this type of occurrence. The onus seemed to fall solely on the Swedish team to uphold the Olympic tradition of fair play and sportsmanship.

Thanks to Edgar Kaplan's series of Bridge World editorials, the bridge world has had fewer of these occurrences than it might otherwise have had without his influence. For example, in World Championships, the round robin or Swiss qualifying winner chooses its opponent, followed by the second-ranked team's choosing its opponent, and so on. This is a very good move, but does not totally eliminate the possibility of sportsmanlike dumping. For example, suppose Team A and B are co-favourites for the Bermuda Bowl. Team A has first place in the qualifying locked up with a match to go (as happened recently). Team B is in a struggle to qualify and is due to play Team C, also struggling to qualify. Team A is due to play team D, another team fighting to qualify against B and C, but thought to be of lesser skill than either B or C. Would it surprise anyone if team D blitzed Team A?

Despite Kaplan's opinion to the contrary, this does not seem ethical to me. I understand the argument that team A's duty is to win the event, not any individual match, and anything it can do to win the event, within the rules, is not only fair play, but 'sportsmanlike'. I do believe (as Kaplan did) that the organisers must design their contests to minimize such possibilities. However, unlike other sports, bridge is a game of honour, and it does not put any extra burden on a team to play as hard as it can at all times.

Let's say the 'event' is national representation. Say your country's teams play a preliminary round robin to qualify four teams for the semifinals. Your team (four players) has a lock on qualifying first and is playing another four-person team in the final round robin match. That team and others (all six-handed) are fighting for the other three qualifying spots. Wouldn't it be to your advantage to lose to the other four-handed team, have them make the playoffs, then (if they win) pick one of your pairs to augment their team for the World Championships? Given that the objective of the trials is to represent your country, would you be right in dumping to them? I don't think so.

Some jurisdictions, such as the ACBL, sensibly make it mandatory for teams to be six-handed before the Trials so that such jockeying is precluded.

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THE 11TH NEC CUP

Yokohama, February 6-12, 2006

Eric Kokish, Toronto

Rich Colker, Wheaton, MD

(From the Daily Bulletins. Additional editing has taken place.)

This year's NEC Cup boasted a very strong international field, including representatives from all three major winners in last year's World Championships in Estoril (Italy, France, and USA in the Bermuda Bowl, Venice Cup and Senior Bowl respectively).

The field of 42 teams was divided into a seeded group of 21, whose opponent for the first match of an 8-round Swiss Teams was drawn at random from an unseeded group of 21 teams. The matches were 20 boards long and were scored on the WBF's Victory Point scale.

The top 8 teams would play knockout matches of 40, 40 and 64 boards (quarterfinals, semifinals, final), the first-placed team choosing its opponent from those finishing fifth through eighth, then the second-placed team picking from the remaining three, and so on. There would be a carryover of 0.5 IMP to the team finishing ahead in the Swiss qualifying, so no overtime was possible.

This was undoubtedly the deal of the tournament:

Both Mahaffey (Jim Mahaffey-Barnet Shenkin, Mark Lair-Gary Cohler, Jacek Pszczola-Michal Kwiecien) and Hackett (Paul Hackett-John Armstrong, Andrew "Tosh" McIntosh-Jack Mizel) had garnered most of the available VPs in their first two matches. While both teams were looking for another big win, both would have settled for a draw if offered one.

Board 1. Dealer North. Neither Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Mizel	Pszczola	McIntosh	Kwiecien
—	Pass	1 ♦	Pass
1 ♠	Pass	1 NT ¹	Pass
6 NT	Pass	Pass	Pass

1. 15-17, nominally balanced

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Lair	Hackett	Cohler	Armstrong
—	Pass	1 ♦	Pass
1 ♠	Pass	2 ♣	Pass
2 ♥	Pass	2 NT	Pass
3 NT	Pass	Pass	Pass

Slam is somewhat undignified for East/West, yet 11 of 42 pairs reached six diamonds or six no trump. No one made six diamonds, but four Easts brought home six no trump. The play in the Open Room will give you some idea of how that came to pass. South led the nine of hearts and declarer won with dummy's ace to run diamonds, discarding two clubs from dummy.

North played his diamonds up the line to suggest something good in clubs. South, reluctant to discard an early spade in case declarer started with ace-low, discarded a heart, then two clubs, and finally the six of spades. On the fifth diamond, North, to keep his spades, parted with a heart, which proved fatal to the defence.

Declarer crossed to the heart jack and back to the ace of spades before leading the third round of hearts to dummy. South had no choice but to blank the club king, and Tosh, with a shrewd idea of the position, cashed the king of spades and exited from dummy with the queen of clubs.

North could not win because he'd have to concede two club tricks to declarer or lead into dummy's spades, so he followed with the ten. South won the king but had to lead a spade, and Tosh finessed the ten with the air of a man who knows he's doing the right thing: plus 990. That was one for the Tosh scrapbook.

If you think the defenders simply did poorly, ask yourself whether you mightn't have done the same. Had South discarded a spade early, North would surely have kept his long heart, but you can appreciate why South did not release a spade and why North felt he had to keep his 'useless' small spades...can't you? At the other table, South discarded two spades defending against three no trump: plus 490; 11 IMPs to Hackett.

For the third year in a row, Israel (Migry Zur-Campanile, Michael Barel, Israel Yadlin, Doron Yadlin) made the final, and successfully defended their 2005 win, this year defeating Japan-YOI (Chen Dawei, Kazuo Furuta, Masayuki Ino, Tadashi Imakura, Yoshiyuki Nakamura, Yasuhiro Shimizu) in the final.

As usual, there were two secondary events, the Yokohama Swiss Teams (for those teams not qualified for knockout play) on the penultimate day, and the Asuka Cup (pairs) on the final day.

YOKOHAMA SWISS TEAMS

February 11, 2006

Ron Klinger, Northbridge, NSW

(From the Sydney Sun-Herald, 26/02/06)

While the finals of the 2006 NEC Cup were being held, the non-finalists were able to compete in the Yokohama Teams, an 8-round Swiss of six boards per match. The Victory Point scale was unusual and would not be familiar to Australian competitors:

IMPs	Victory Points
0	15-15
1	18-12!!
2	19-11
3	20-10
4	21-9
5-6	22-8
7-8	23-7
...and so on, up to...	
28+	30-0

OzOne-Delmonte finished =7th with 157 VP and OzOne-Neill came 10th with 155VP. Each team suffered one dreaded 1-IMP loss. The event was won by a Japanese team, Tajima.

On this deal from the Yokohama Teams, Bruce Neill brought home his game with an overtrick via a rare criss-cross squeeze without the count.

Dealer South. Neither Vul.

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

After South opened showing hearts and North replied to show a strong hand, East jumped to three diamonds, a weak jump-overcall. Neill doubled for takeout, North bid four diamonds, asking South to pick a game, and Neill chose four spades.

West led the eight of diamonds and East scored the jack. The diamond king continuation was ruffed and a low club to the ten followed. Next came the diamond

queen, ruffed by South with the spade king. After cashing the spade queen, Neill played a second trump, capturing West's jack. The spade ten drew the missing trump and South and West both discarded a heart. This was now the position:

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

It was highly likely that only West was guarding the hearts and clubs and on the bidding Neill placed the heart ace with West, who also figured to have the heart jack. Neill therefore played off the spade seven and discarded the ten of hearts.

What could West do? If he threw a club, Neill would cash the club ace and king and play a heart. He would make one heart trick and club jack. In practice, West pitched a second heart and so Neill led a heart. West won and played a club, taken in dummy. Neill cashed his top heart, crossed to dummy in clubs and the heart six was his eleventh trick.

Incidentally, in Australia, some use a VP scale where each side starts with 30 VPs (or some suitable number depending on where the cut-off point is desired). Winners score 30 plus IMPs won (to a maximum of 60) and losers score 30 minus IMPs lost (minimum of 0). This means each IMP counts equally. No worries about winning or losing 'on the cusp'.

THE ASUKA CUP

Yokohama, February 12, 2006

Barnet Shenkin, Boca Raton, FL

Dealer South. Both Vul.

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

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

Over four diamonds, South thought he may get another chance to bid with his well-fitting hand. North could not bid on with three losing clubs.

When East came again with five clubs, South cue bid five diamonds knowing his partner held a singleton, and over the five-heart cue bid leapt to slam. After a club lead, declarer made 13 tricks for most of the match points.

THE ARCHANGEL

Bobby Wolff, Las Vegas

The following deal comes from a recent ACBL Regional tournament in New York. I think it is suitable award-winning material.

♠ 6 4
♥ A 5
♦ A Q 8 5 2
♣ 10 9 6 2

♠ A Q J 9
♥ K Q 4 2
♦ K 9
♣ A Q 5

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

I. Minor Suit Stayman

You reach six no trump on the lead of the heart jack. In which hand would you win the opening lead - and what would you play to trick two?

Let's say you decide to win in dummy and take the spade finesse - it wins. What do you play to trick three? This was the full story:

♠ 6 4
♥ A 5
♦ A Q 8 5 2
♣ 10 9 6 2

♠ 10 2
♥ J 10 9 7 3
♦ 10 4
♣ K 8 7 3

♠ K 8 7 5 3
♥ 8 6
♦ J 7 6 3
♣ J 4

♠ A Q J 9
♥ K Q 7 2
♦ K 9
♣ A Q 5

Michael Rosenberg was the declarer and when the spade finesse held he advanced the club queen!! Michael tested clubs by laying down the club ace next and had twelve tricks without needing the diamonds to behave.

I've given the hand to a number of experts and nobody else has found the winning line.

DECEPTIVE DEFENCE

David Bird, Eastleigh, Hants, UK

(From *The Mail on Sunday*, April 2, 2006)

Dealer East. Both Vul.

♠ Q 10
♥ A 7 5 4
♦ 10 8 6
♣ Q 9 7 2

♠ K 9 8 4 2
♥ 10 8 3 2
♦ 7
♣ K 10 4

♠ J 6 5
♥ K 9 6
♦ J 9 5 4 3 2
♣ 8

♠ A 7 3
♥ Q J
♦ A K Q
♣ A J 6 5 3

West	North	East	South
Schollaardt	Kelder	Drijver	Winkel
—	—	Pass	2 ♣
Pass	2 ♠	Pass	2 NT
Pass	3 ♣	Pass	3 NT
Pass	Pass	Pass	

This deal comes from the final of the Dutch Teams and features a brilliant deceptive defence from Maarten Schollaardt in the West seat. Would you have seen through it as declarer? West led the four of spades against three no trump and Marcel Winkel was over the first hurdle when he called for dummy's queen, winning the trick. He now led a club to the jack and West followed with a smooth ten of clubs!

Do you see the point of this defence? West wanted to persuade declarer that the club suit was his, to encourage an indiscretion in the search of overtricks. Pity poor Winkel in the South seat. He could now visualise five club tricks, three diamonds, two spades and the ace of hearts, for a total of eleven. Seeking to bump this to an impressive twelve tricks, Winkel ran the queen of hearts to the king. The contract could no longer be made!

East won with the king of hearts and returned the jack of spades. When South played low, West won with the king and cleared the spade suit. Declarer overtook the jack of hearts with dummy's ace to repeat the club finesse. When East discarded a diamond on the club queen, the cruel deception was unmasked.

Declarer ran the queen of clubs and Schollaardt was able to cash two long spades followed by two hearts, putting the contract three down vulnerable.

If Schollaardt had not been lured by the prospect of twelve tricks (and which of us can be sure that we would have resisted such temptation?), he could have played ace and another club when the jack of clubs won. Ten tricks would then have been guaranteed.

CARTES SUR TABLE

Phillip Alder, Hobe Sound FL

(From the New York Times Jan. 19, 2006)

Dealer North. EW Vul.

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

North	East	South	West
Pass	Pass	1 NT	Pass
Pass	Pass		
Opening lead: ♥8			

Brilliance prizes used to be common in major international bridge events. From 1976 to 1986 these were sponsored by the Bols Liqueur Company from the Netherlands. But the winners were often either controversial - some felt that there were more worthy winners - or the play by the opposition was second-best.

The International Bridge Press Association has given annual awards for bidding, play and defence since 1974. The diagrammed deal is a clear candidate for this year's declarer-play prize. It occurred during a head-to-head team match on BBO (www.bridgebase.com) on January 9. All three active participants played as if they could see through the cards. The dummy was James Cayne, CEO of Bear Stearns. The other three players are Italian. The declarer was Dano de Falco, a world champion in 1974. East-West were Claudio Nunes and Fulvio Fantoni, present World Open Pairs, Olympiad and Bermuda Bowl champions.

De Falco opened and closed the auction with one no-trump, showing 15-17 points. With 17 prime points and a five-card suit, one might argue that South should have upgraded, but de Falco knew that Cayne likes a solid hand for one no-trump.

West led the heart eight, which was either from an odd number of cards without an honour or an even number with an honour. Declarer called for dummy's nine, but East played low and South won with his queen. Declarer played a low spade to dummy's ten and East's king. East, trying to remove dummy's entry to the long spade, shifted accurately to a low club, West's eight losing to the board's queen. South played a spade to his ace and another spade to West's queen, East discarding a diamond. A heart was ducked around to declarer's ace.

South had only six winners: one spade, two hearts, two diamonds and one club. He thought that he could not afford to play three rounds of diamonds, because the dummy would be squeezed. Strangely, though, West is squeezed first and the contract can be made, the dummy discarding first a club, then from the same suit as West. Instead, declarer played a low diamond to dummy's ten and East's jack.

If East cashes the heart jack before exiting with a diamond, South wins with his diamond king and plays two more rounds of diamonds. At Trick 12, East must lead away from the ace-seven of clubs around to dummy's king-five. Seeing this, East returned a low diamond immediately. Declarer won with his ace and threw a club from the dummy to give this position:

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

South cashed the diamond ace, putting West under pressure. When he discarded the club nine, the club five was pitched from the dummy. Then another diamond lead squeezed West again. He threw the spade seven and dummy followed suit, releasing the spade jack. East won with his diamond queen and led the heart jack, South discarding his remaining diamond. West saw that it could not gain to overtake with his king, because dummy's heart nine would be high. But when West played low, East could only cash the club ace, then give the last trick - and declarer's seventh - to South's club ten.

At the other table, South went one down in three no-trump after a club lead, so the Cayne team gained a hard-earned 4 IMPs.

IBPA COLUMN SERVICE

Tim Bourke, Canberra

Members are free to use these deals as they wish, without attributing the author or IBPA.

345. Dealer South. EW Vul.

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

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

Declarer made something of a meal of this hand. He took West's lead of the queen of clubs with the ace and drew three rounds of trumps, West discarding a club and spade. Next, he played a spade to dummy's king and East's ace.

East exited with a club to declarer's king rather than aiding declarer by playing a wooden spade. Next, declarer crossed to dummy with the queen of spades and led a low diamond. When East produced the ten of diamonds he played the king of diamonds from hand. After West took this with the ace and exited with the jack of diamonds declarer could only take one diamond trick so he finished one down.

A slightly better plan would have landed the game. Declarer should not draw trumps immediately but play a spade instead. When East takes this with the ace and returns a club or a trump, declarer is in control. After winning the king of clubs, he crosses to dummy's queen of spades, draws trump ending in hand and ruffs his remaining spade.

Next comes the key play, of ducking a diamond in both hands. If diamonds turn out to be 3-2, he would lose two diamond but makes his contract; five trumps, a spade, two clubs and two diamonds. The key to this play is that it also produces ten tricks when diamonds are 4-1.

On this layout, if the ten of diamonds holds the trick, East can only play a black suit so declarer scores his ninth trick on a ruff-and-discard and makes his tenth tricks with the king or queen of diamonds. If instead West overtakes the ten of diamonds with the jack he

also gives away the contract on a black-suit return. Of course, a low diamond is no better, for declarer lets it run to his king and then leads a diamond towards dummy, making sure of two diamond tricks.

Columnists and teachers can simplify the deal by adjusting the trumps to be 2-2 if they wish.

346. Dealer South. Both Vul.

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

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

West led the two of clubs, an obvious singleton. Declarer could only count eleven tricks but saw that the main possibility to address the shortfall was four tricks from diamonds and a club ruff in dummy. This chance all but disappeared when East threw a club under the king of trumps (only four or five small diamonds with West would allow it).

Declarer assumed that East began with eight clubs. Consequently, as East could have at most five cards in one of the red suits, it was safe to cash the red aces. When East followed to both of these cards he could have at most four cards in any red suit, making it safe to cash the red kings. When declarer cashed the king of diamonds and East produced a second small one, rather than the hoped for jack, he could no longer rely on ruffing a club in dummy for the twelfth trick. Instead he would have to fall back on ruffing two hearts in hand to score an extra trick.

After cashing the king of hearts and noting East's club discard, marking an original 0=1=4=8 distribution on his right, declarer ruffed a heart with the nine of trumps. Dummy was entered by playing the queen of trumps to dummy's ace and another heart was ruffed with the ten of trumps.

By now the importance of unblocking in trumps should be clear; the four of trumps was led and the seven finessed, providing the vital entry to draw both of West's remaining trumps. After throwing his club loser on the jack of trumps everyone had two cards

left. Dummy had a club and a diamond and declarer the queen and ten of diamonds. East came down to a high club and the jack of diamonds. So, when a diamond was led from dummy the jack appeared and declarer could claim his contract.

Even if East had thrown all of his clubs and declarer had lost track of them, the diamond could be led from dummy and the ten of diamonds finessed with one hundred percent confidence.

East might have led declarer astray by following to the second diamond with the jack. South should not be fooled, but...

347. Dealer West. Both Vul.

```

♠ A Q 9 6
♥ A K 9 8 7 2
♦ 8
♣ Q 6

♠ K 8 5
♥ Q 4
♦ A J
♣ A K J 9 4 2

♠ J 10 4 3 2
♥ 3
♦ K 9 5 3 2
♣ 10 8

♠ 7
♥ J 10 6 5
♦ Q 10 7 6 4
♣ 7 5 3

```

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

North's double was a little old fashioned, but worked out well enough when his partnership reach a spade game that, on the bidding, required little more than developing dummy's heart suit.

After he took the king and ace of clubs, West placed his partner with three clubs, thanks to the signals in the suit. If West had shifted to a heart at trick three all would have been plain sailing. Dummy's ace of hearts wins the trick and declarer ruffs a heart then picks up the trumps. After another heart ruffs he concedes a diamond and dummy is high, with a trump and three heart winners.

At the table West found a better defense, cashing the ace of diamonds then playing a third club, attacking the trump suit as a source of entries to the long hearts. Declarer correctly ruffed on table with the six of trumps and discarded his heart. This allowed him to ruff a heart and cross back to dummy by finessing the nine of trumps to ruff a second heart. After finessing the queen of trumps and drawing West's king of trumps with the ace, he took the last four tricks with dummy's ace-king and two small hearts.

348. Dealer West. EW Vul.

```

♠ 10 4
♥ 7 5 3 2
♦ 9 8 7 2
♣ 6 4 2

♠ J 5
♥ A K 8 4
♦ K J 6
♣ Q J 9 7

♠ 8 3 2
♥ Q J 10 9 6
♦ 5 4 3
♣ 8 3

♠ A K Q 9 7 6
♥ —
♦ A Q 10
♣ A K 10 5

```

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

West led the king of hearts on which East played the queen. After ruffing and drawing trumps in three rounds, declarer could count nine winners. Obviously, a 3-3 club break would bring a tenth trick without any real work. The problem occurs when West began with four clubs – he is unlikely to have begun with doubletons in both black suits.

When the cards are as shown, declarer must set about end-playing West, for if he plays ace-king and another club now West will take his two winners and exit safely in hearts. As declarer must ruff, there will be no way to make the contract for West is down to K-J-2 of diamonds and a heart. No matter what declarer does, the defence will make two tricks in the red suits.

Strangely, these difficulties are overcome by playing a fourth round of trumps before exiting in clubs. This forces West to come down to six cards. Most defenders would discard the ace of hearts, protecting their minor suit lengths. Next, declarer exits with a club and West cashes his two winners then plays the eight of hearts. Declarer ruffs and his last three cards are the A-Q-10 of diamonds while West has only the K-J-2 of diamonds left. Declarer now leads the queen of diamonds and West takes this with the king but then has to give away the tenth trick by leading into declarer's ace-ten combination in diamonds.

A better defence for West would be to play the jack of clubs under the king of clubs, and to discard the six of diamonds on the fourth round of trumps, in an attempt to muddy the distributional waters. However, that does not detract from declarer's actual play.

As the cards lay, declarer could also succeed by playing three rounds of clubs before drawing trumps; a club ruff with the ten of spades would have been the tenth trick.



THE ICELANDAIR OPEN 2006

Stefán Guðjónsson, Selfoss, Iceland

The February storms were there alright, but the snow was not. So the foreign and local stars were a little surprised, but it was all for the better. This year, the format was changed slightly with the addition of the Invitational Star Pairs, played on Wednesday. The Open Pairs started on Thursday evening and finished on Friday. The Swiss Teams was played over the weekend. Now for the results and participants.

Newly-crowned World Junior Champion Joe Grue from the USA played with veteran professional Hjördís “Disa” Eyþórsdóttir; her husband, Curtis Cheek, played with Andrew McIntosh of England. Also present were Brad Moss and Fred Gitelman from the USA, a strong Polish team and the usual Scandinavian crowd. Peter Fredin of Sweden, playing with Lars Blakset of Denmark, were looking for their second win in a row and we also had the Swedish National team, spearheaded by veteran Anders Morath. And all the former World Champions of Iceland were present, and they made their presence felt.

The Star Pairs was no contest: former World Champions, Jón Baldursson and Þorlákur Jónsson, won easily with 149 IMPs. Curtis Cheek took the silver with McIntosh with 119 and in third place were Fredin and Blakset with 101. The Open Pairs was no contest either. Baldursson and Jónsson ran away with the gold with a 60.58% score. Second was a Danish pair, Bjarnason and Askgaard with a score of 56.23 and third were the youngest member of the Icelandic Parliament, Birkir Jonsson, and his brother Steinar, with a 55.73% score.

The Swiss Teams was a tight contest, but the foreign stars had a difficult time. In the end, an Icelandic/Danish team, Young Guns, (Kasper Konow, Sejr Andreas Jensen, Ómar Olgeirsson, Stefán Jónsson, Ísak Örn Sigurðsson) took the gold, with a score of 204 VP, but an Icelandic team by the name of Vinabær (Þróstur Ingimarsson, Hermann Lárusson, Páll Valdimarsson, Ragnar Magnússon, Sigtryggur Sigurðsson, Runólfur Pálsson) was second with 201 VP. An impressive performance by the locals on the whole.

And now a deal from the Open Pairs. Jón Baldursson and Þorlákur Jónsson were North-South and Lars Blakset-Peter Fredin were East-West

Dealer West. Neither Vul.

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

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

These are delicate situations and most of the time it is better to bid more rather than less. Both Baldursson and Fredin did so, and as is evident, both five clubs and five hearts are there for the taking. But note that Fredin must not lead a spade against six clubs or it makes.

NORWEGIAN PREMIER LEAGUE

Jon Sveindal, Nyborg, Norway

(Members - Please feel free to use whatever you like, in full or altered, without quoting any source.)

A large and enthusiastic audience followed the dramatic final round of the Norwegian Premier League on BBO the first Sunday in February. Three teams were in contention, but at the half way mark there were only two. The star-studded Midt-Trøndelag Team (Helness, Helgemo, Austberg, Furunes, Grøtheim, Aa) had to beat the leaders, the Vestfold Team (Berg, Hogstad, Kopstad, Kopstad, Svendsen, Svindahl) by 35 IMPs to add another national title to their long list of credits.

Terje Aa found a nice line on this board from the first half (board rotated for convenience).

Dealer East. East-West Vul.

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

Results in the five matches varied from six clubs making (one table) to two spades down two (one table). Using Relay Precision, Terje Aa opened one club as South, and after Glenn Grøtheim had shown a sound negative and balanced hand, Aa was left to play four spades on a diamond lead from West. He ruffed the king, and placed the spade jack on the table. As you may notice this catered for any lie with spades not worse than 4-2, and kept him in total control of the trump suit. If the jack takes the trick, he just plays two high spades and then clubs. Nine black tricks and the heart ace give him the contract. When West took the queen, and continued diamonds, Aa let go a heart loser. And then another one on the next diamond. Since a further diamond could be ruffed in dummy, East switched to a heart. Aa won the ace, pulled trumps and claimed. Vestfold bid five clubs at the other table for a push.

After 31 boards, and with one to go, the Stars were the magic 35 IMPs ahead, and would take the title if they could hold the last board to at least a tie. And what a board it was!

Dealer East. East-West Vul.
(Rotated for convenience.)

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

At the other table Helness – Furunes had gone two light doubled in four spades North-South, but how good was minus 300?

West	North	East	South
—	--	2 ♦	4 ♣
4 ♦	Pass(!)	Pass	4 ♥
Double	Pass	Pass	Pass
Opening lead: ♦A			

The sequence clearly indicated that the players were tired after having played 143 boards. Two diamonds was a Multi variation, and four clubs Leaping Michaels. West's four diamonds was lucky not to be doubled, and Odin Svendsen in the South seat showed his longest. And got doubled.

The defence started with the diamond ace, ruffed. Heart to the king, club to the king, heart ace and the club king followed. Then a club put West in. He took his second club trick, the heart queen and 'exited' with

the heart ten. But Svendsen did not accept the Greek gift. He let the ten win, and when West only had diamonds left, the hero of the day took the finesse and got rid of both of his spades. Minus 100 was good for a 5-IMP gain, and a surprising but popular victory for the Vestfold team.

NORWEGIAN TEAMS CHAMPIONSHIP

Knut Kjærnsrod, Tore, Norway

The Norwegian Teams Championships is in its knock out stage and this was an interesting board in the second round:

Dealer West. EW Vul.

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

We bid to a somewhat shaky three no trump:

West	North	East	South
1 ♣	Pass	1 ♦	Pass
1 NT	Pass	2 ♦	Pass
2 ♥	Pass	3 NT	Pass
Pass	Pass		

North led the spade ten to dummy's king and I cashed four club tricks with the aid of the finesse. South saw himself in difficulty and discarded two hearts. The spade nine ran to South's knave and he cashed the heart king and played a diamond which I took with the king to leave this ending:

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

The ace and another diamond left the defence powerless. If South takes the queen, the diamond ten provides the ninth trick, and when he let it ride to North, that player was forced to give me the ninth

trick in hearts. It makes no difference if South has both the diamond honours. In that case he has to lead into the spade tenace.

BRIDGE IN PARADISE

John Carruthers,
Toronto



The Bermuda Regional is a throwback to a time when bridge (and life) seemed more civilized. Players still dress up for evening sessions and afternoon tea is served. Two other very attractive features are that the winners all receive valuable prizes and there is a sumptuous victory banquet. And, of course, there is Bermuda itself, an extraordinarily beautiful island group equidistant from Charleston, South Carolina, San Juan, Puerto Rico, and Halifax, Nova Scotia.

Whether it's the setting or the culture, the bridge players in Bermuda seem more polite and friendly than they do elsewhere. But they can play pretty well too.

Board 16. Dealer West. EW Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
3 ♣	Douglas	Pass	Harvey
Pass	Double	Pass	4 ♠
	Pass		

West made a preempt that would not been everyone's cup of tea, and when Alan Douglas made a takeout double, Ian Harvey went straightaway to the contract he thought he could make. If he'd passed, West would still be explaining to his teammates how unlucky he was going for 800 against non-vulnerable opponents.

On the king of clubs lead, even with the key suits breaking 3-2, it looked as though Harvey had a loser in each suit. There was a certain symmetry in the spades, hearts and diamonds, with the ace-king in each, and missing the queen-jack in each. Harvey won the ace of clubs and played a trump to the ace and another to the king, breathing a sigh of relief that they broke 3-2. It looked as though West might even have the jack, meaning he probably had no more than two in

each red suit.

Accordingly, Harvey cashed the ace and king in each red suit to produce an ending where West had a good spade and five clubs, with no more red cards. Then when declarer exited with the jack of clubs to West's queen, he could cash the jack of trumps, but then had to lead another club, giving a ruff and discard. Harvey ruffed in dummy, discarding a heart from hand, gave up a diamond and claimed his game. Plus 420: 800 would have been easier!

Some deals are more interesting at one form of the game than another. Here's one on which an overtrick led to a good pairs score for Ed White and Bert Newman from Michigan. White had to work extra hard to earn his score.

Board 10. Dealer East. Both Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
White		Newman	
—	—	1 ♣	Pass
1 ♥	Pass	1 ♠	Pass
2 ♦	Pass	3 ♣	Pass
3 ♥	Pass	4 ♥	Pass
Pass	Pass		

The Michiganers got to four hearts and North led the diamond five. South won the ace to switch to a trump. With some trepidation, White put in the queen. A viable alternative is to win the ace, ruff a diamond and play the top clubs pitching a diamond. Then, holding the hearts losers to one subsequently would mean 10 tricks.

But it was match points, after all, and White breathed a sigh of relief (figuratively, of course) when the queen held the trick, at the same time noting North's play of the ten.

Now came the key play on the hand. White played off the two top clubs pitching a diamond and ruffed a club in hand (South pitching a diamond). Only now did he ruff a diamond in dummy, then he ruffed another club in hand. The king and ace of spades followed. In dummy for the last time he played off another club to ruff. This was the position after the club ruff (see next page):

♠ Q
 ♥ —
 ♦ J 7
 ♣ —
 ♠ 10
 ♥ A J
 ♦ —
 ♣ —
 ♠ 5 3
 ♥ —
 ♦ —
 ♣ J
 ♠ —
 ♥ K 5 4
 ♦ —
 ♣ —

White exited with his spade and could claim the last two tricks with the jack and ace of trumps. Had South discarded a spade on the third round of clubs, White would have played king and ace of spades before ruffing the fourth club. Then a diamond ruff would allow entry for the final club ruff, leaving the same three-card ending he actually achieved.

Try this hand as a play problem.

Dealer North. NS Vul.

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

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

1. Long suit game try
2. Roman Key Card Blackwood
3. 2 key cards, no heart queen
4. Guarantees all 5 key cards and heart queen
5. Diamond king

West leads the two of hearts. Plan the play.

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

The best line of play is to win the ace of hearts and take an immediate diamond finesse (you need those little hearts in dummy for ruffing spades). The beauty of this deal is that it doesn't matter which way you take the finesse, nor whether it wins or loses.

Suppose first that you run the diamond jack and it loses.

(a.) If West returns a diamond, you win in hand with the ace, play ace and ruff a spade, come to the heart queen and ruff the ten of spades with the king of hearts. Then a club to the ace allows you to draw the last trump and dummy's good diamond takes care of your club loser.

(b.) If West instead returns another trump, you win in hand, play ace of spades, ruff a spade, come to the diamond ace, ruff another spade, come to the club ace, draw the last trump and claim as before.

You'll notice that you need good breaks if the finesse loses, but experience shows when you are on a 4-4 fit and the opponents lead trumps, they are usually 3-2. Also, West might have led a diamond with a singleton or with five.

If the diamond jack wins at trick three, you're in even better shape. Play ace and ruff a spade, come to the diamond ace and ruff another spade. Cash a heart in dummy, play a club to the ace, draw trumps and try to split out diamonds 3-3 to make an overtrick. You play so beautifully.

When the diamond finesse wins, you can guard against (a.) 4-1 hearts by ruffing two spades low in the dummy, or, (b.) 6-2 spades by ruffing the third round of spades high.

Note that you need to cross to hand with a diamond, you should do that early to prevent an opponent discarding from a doubleton diamond on the third spade (as unlikely as that may seem).

Alternatively, you can win the heart ace at trick one, then play a spade to the ace and a diamond to the jack. The ramifications are similar.

Board 15. Dealer South. NS Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
—	Cornes	—	Barrett
—	—	—	1 ♠
Pass	1 NT	Pass	2 ♠
Pass	3 NT	Pass	4 ♠
Pass	Pass	Pass	

1. Forcing one round

The first four bids were fairly routine. Then Jade Barrett, with undisclosed distribution, closed proceedings with four hearts. He got a bit lucky to find equally undisclosed three-card support in dummy.

West kicked off with the diamond three. Barrett knew that dummy entries were at a premium, so won with the ace over East's seven. With no losers at all in the minor suits, declarer needed only to hold his major-suit losers to three to make his game. He reasoned that if the spade honours were split or both with East (75%), he could afford to lose two heart tricks, but not three. If both spades were offside, he needed to hold his heart losers to one. Pretty good odds.

Barrett cashed the heart ace at trick two to guard against a singleton king offside and received a rude awakening when West discarded a club. Suddenly, his once solid contract was in jeopardy.

Now the shrewdness of winning the first diamond trick with the ace came into play. With two natural heart losers, declarer needed three entries to the dummy (for two spades finesses and a heart lead to the queen) and some good fortune to make his contract. He deserved some good luck after all, having received the jolt of the 4-0 trump split.

Barrett next played a diamond to dummy and a spade to the eight. West won the king and tried the ace of clubs. Barrett ruffed and continued with another diamond to dummy, everybody following suit. Now the jack of spades was covered by the queen and a spade was led to the nine, again everybody following suit.

Only now did Barrett lead a second round of hearts and the defence was helpless. East could score the king and another heart trick, but that was just three tricks for the defence. This was a masterpiece of timing and earned Barrett's team a swing of 11 IMPs as Barrett's counterpart at the other table played in two hearts making two for plus 110.

The lot of a Daily Bulletin Editor is a mixed blessing. One the one hand, you live in dread of the hopeless misanalysis and embarrassing typographical error (both are inevitable eventually); on the other hand you come across the occasional great hand, nearly always played by someone else (sometimes at your own expense). Rarely, you come across a great hand yourself; hopefully you recognise it in time. I did not do so on the following deal.

Board 5. Dealer West. EW Vul. (Board rotated 90° for convenience.)

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

West	North	East	South
Douglas	Souster	Harvey	Carruthers
1 ♠	Pass	Pass	3 ♦
Pass	3 ♥	Pass	4 ♦
Pass	5 ♦	Pass	Pass
Pass			

Alan Douglas had a close decision whether to open a Precision Club or one heart - he devalued his doubleton honours and opened one heart. My three-diamond bid purported to be intermediate in strength. Douglas led a high heart against the final contract

Since the opponents were playing Precision, West could have a little less than a Standard American player would have for a one heart opening, and East could have a little more for his pass, since his partner was limited - thus the club king could be in either hand. I trumped the heart, played a spade to the king and trumped another heart in an attempt to find out as much as I could before playing on clubs.

A diamond to the queen came next, both following, and another heart ruff revealed that East had started life with jack-third in the suit. I drew trumps and played ace and another spade to get a count in that suit. East won and played another spade for me to ruff. Eventually, I lost two club tricks for one off, minus 50.

The deal worried me - it seemed that there should have been some way for me to squeeze or end-play Douglas between clubs and hearts. Nevertheless, I went on to the next deal and attempted to forget it. Four boards later it came to me. What an idiot I was! What I needed to do was to lose two tricks without East gaining the lead to play a club through my queen. How could I do that? Well, the best start is to discard a club at trick one! If West plays another high heart, I discard on that as well (a spade). If not, I draw trumps and lead spades twice toward the dummy, ducking whenever West plays the queen (a classic avoidance play). The two tricks I would lose are a heart and a spade.

Suppose the play goes high heart, low spade shift to

the king, heart ruff, draw trumps, spade toward dummy, ducking the queen, heart ruff, spade to the ace, heart ruff, run diamonds. This would be the position as the final diamond is cashed:

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

West would be helpless. Of course, this line of play is predicated on West's holding the king of clubs - not so outrageous, even against Precision players. What happened at the other table? Five diamonds was doubled for down one and we won 2 IMPs!

Nora Robinson made a terrific play against Allan Graves's slam on the following deal. Graves would have had to see through the backs of the cards to recover from Robinson's defence.

Board 22. Dealer West. EW Vul.

(Board rotated 180° for convenience.)

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

West	North	East	South
Williams	Johnson	Robinson	Graves
Pass	1 ♣	Pass	2 ♦
Pass	2 ♥	Pass	3 ♣
Pass	3 ♥	Pass	4 ♦
Pass	4 ♠	Pass	5 ♦
Pass	6 ♦	Pass	Pass

1. Strong, artificial, forcing
2. 8+ HCP, 5+ diamonds

Bunty Williams led the spade jack against six diamonds. Graves won the ace and played both high hearts to discard his losing spade. He then continued with the ace of clubs and the club jack to the king. A third club was ruffed in the dummy and Graves came back to his hand with a spade ruff.

With a losing club to ruff in the dummy, Graves played it and ruffed with ten. This was the position with East still to play:

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

Robinson made the very shrewd play of discarding her jack of hearts on the club ruff with the ten of diamonds, refusing to overruff. From Graves's point of view, it looked like he could ruff a spade safely to hand and begin to draw trumps.

However, when he ruffed a spade and played a high diamond, Robinson won the ace and continued with a fourth round of spades, promoting the nine of diamonds into the setting trick.

When Robinson's teammates Pat Morrow and Betty Cassels stayed out of slam at the other table, she had earned her team a useful swing.

Graves could have tried a heart ruff to hand after the ten of diamonds holds. Then if Robinson ruffs with the seven, and Graves doesn't guess that the ace is now singleton, the same promotion has ensued.

The Bermuda tournament is held every year during the last week in January at the Fairmont Southampton Hotel.



THE WHITE HOUSE TOP TEAMS

February 25-25, 2006

Jan van Cleeff, Amsterdam

This year's White House Teams attracted a very strong field of 16 teams, four of which were Dutch and the remaining 12 international, with representative teams from Sweden, Poland, Egypt, Italy, England, the USA, Hungary and France as well as a handful of all-star transnational teams. Favoured were the two Italian rivals, Angelini and Lavazza.

Here are a few of the more interesting deals:

Round 2. Modalfa/UMW v. Egypt. Board 14. Dealer East. Neither Vul.

♠ Q J 4
 ♥ A Q
 ♦ A 8 6 3
 ♣ Q 10 8 4

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

♠ A 2
 ♥ J 9 8 6 4 3
 ♦ 4
 ♣ K 9 5 2

West	North	East	South
Sadek	Borm	Hussein	Wortel
—	—	Pass	Pass
1 ♦	1 NT	3 ♦	4 ♥
Pass	Pass	Pass	

West led the diamond queen, won by the declarer, Meike Wortel, who then ruffed a diamond, played a heart to the queen, cashed the heart ace, and ruffed a diamond back to her hand (stripping West of the suit). When she next led a low club, West tried to avoid the impending throw-in by rising with the ace and returning a club. South won and this time there was no escape for West when he was put on lead with a trump. After winning his two trump tricks, he was forced to lead away from his spade king, giving declarer her tenth trick. Well played!

Round 4. Gromov v. Sweden. Board 4. Dealer West. Both Vul.

♠ 9 5 2
 ♥ 8 5
 ♦ 10 8
 ♣ A K 8 5 3 2

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

♠ Q J 4 3
 ♥ K J 9 7 4
 ♦ 9 7 5
 ♣ Q

West	North	East	South
Kwiecien	Fredin	Pszczola	Björnlund
1 ♦	Pass	1 ♠	Pass
1 NT	Pass	3 NT	Pass
Pass	Pass		

North led a low club to the queen and South returned a low spade. Kwiecien, who already had a strong hunch that the club distribution was 6-1, won and rattled off his diamond suit, leaving the hearts intact. To make his game, he had to guess this suit for two tricks (while keeping North off lead). Should he play a

heart to the ten, hoping for the doubleton king in North? Easy game for Kwiecien who - fast as lightning - played a heart to the ace and a heart back, eventually scoring the queen as his ninth trick. How could he be so sure of finding the winning line? Answer: North would have overcalled in clubs if, in addition to his six-bagger, he had also been dealt the heart king.

B Final Ventin v. Egypt. Board 9. Dealer North. EW Vul.

♠ A Q 10 9 8
 ♥ A K 10 7
 ♦ 10 8 5 2
 ♣ —

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

♠ 7 6 5 4 3
 ♥ 4
 ♦ A J 3
 ♣ A K 10 7

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

1. Spade fit
2. Strong
3. Cue
4. RKC
5. 2 key cards + the trump queen

Poland v. France

West	North	East	South
—	Gawrys		
—	1 ♠	Pass	4 ♥ ¹
Pass	5 ♣ ²	Pass	5 ♦ ²
Double	Pass	Pass	Redouble ³
Pass	6 ♠	Pass	Pass
Pass			

1. Strong splinter
2. Cue
3. First-round control

Both declarers received the lead of the singleton diamond nine and won with the ace (West giving count). Both Gawrys and Ventin refrained from finessing in trump. Instead they played a spade to the ace, eliminated clubs and hearts, and finally put East on lead with his trump king. The forced ruff and sluff produced the twelfth trick. At both other tables in these matches, the declarer went down when he finessed against the king of spades.

Results
Round Robin

Green Group		White Group	
1 Lavazza	137	1 Westra	129
2 Orange	115	2 Angelini	128
3 Egypt	115	3 Sweden	127

Semifinals

Lavazza	91	Angelini	31
Orange	71	Westra	56

Final

Lavazza	67	Orange	19
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Playoff

Westra	66	Angelini	48
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10th ANNUAL OK BRIDGE JUNIOR INTERCOLLEGIATES

Tony Reus, Montréal

Lomonosov Moscow State University prevailed over the University of Michigan to win the 10th Annual Junior Intercollegiate Championship. Moscow defeated Yale University Team B by 56 in one semifinal and Michigan outscored the University of Toronto by 24 in the other to advance to the final match. The final victory margin by Moscow was 84 IMPs.

Nine teams took part in the opening-day round-robin. The following teams also participated: University of Wisconsin at Madison; Indian Institute of Technology, Madras, India, Teams A and B; Yale University Team A, and Nanyang Technological University, Singapore.

The tournament was sponsored by OKbridge and the ACBL's Fifth Chair.

BRIDGETODAY.COM CONTEST

Matthew Granovetter, Cincinnati

The winner of the 2005 Bridgetoday.com Contest was Ruzica Cvetkovic of Serbia, a 44-year-old with an M.Sc. in Chemical Technology. She is married with two children and has been playing bridge for 10 years. During 2005, Bridgetoday.com ran weekly contests, where players had to choose the winning bid or play, with the winner each week being selected at random from the list of correct answers. The contest continues in 2006.

Ruzica won the contest twice in 2005. Then, in the final contest (see next column), Ruzica had the only correct answer among the previous winners.

The grand prize was a one-year subscription to Bridgetoday.com.

Interestingly, the winning deceptive play was made at the table by another woman, Sally Young, many years ago.

Rubber Bridge. Dealer South. NS Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
—	—	—	1♦
Pass	1♠	Pass	3 NT
Pass	Pass		Pass
Opening lead: ♥J			

Playing against reasonable opposition in a rubber bridge game, you bid to three no trump and receive the heart jack opening lead. East plays the five, and you win the king. Suppose your next step is to play the king of diamonds. West follows with the eight and East the five.

At trick three, you play the ten of clubs. You catch a hesitation on your left before West plays the three. East wins the trick with the queen and returns the three of hearts. You win the ace, West following with the four, and pitch a club from dummy. What is your next play?

(a) ♠3; (b) ♥6 or ♥2; (c) ♦A; (d) ♦J; (e) ♦9; (f) ♦6; (g) ♣A; (h) ♣6

Solution: (h) ♣6

When Young played the six of clubs, West thought for awhile and played low. Young won in dummy, took the diamond finesse, and claimed nine tricks.

BULLETIN ACCESS ON THE IBPA WEBSITE

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The IBPA Handbook and subscription renewal and membership application forms can also be found on the website.



Correspondence ...
 The Editor reserves the right
 to shorten correspondence
Email: ibpaeditor@sympatico.ca

Dear John,

Firstly, I wanted to say how delighted I am with a programme called geditor produced by Fred Gitelman which allows the user to create teaching files and commentaries with hands. It is an excellent programme and a 'must have' for all would-be bridge teachers and journalists.

Secondly, I am hoping to collate all the teaching bridge files out there - lin files - created by this programme so that journalists and teachers can share them.

To make this possible, could all interested parties please get in touch with me or visit my web site to view samples: www.haroldschogger.com/videos.htm (email: schogger@haroldschogger.com or telephone: +44 (0)20 8905 3877), or get in touch with Fred directly at: fred@bridgebase.com who will tell you costs for this fantastic piece of software.

Sincerely, Harold Schogger, Edgware, Middlesex, UK

Hi John,

Tim Bourke's quote prompts me to observe that when I made my promise to Reese I was mindful of the following considerations, as I firmly believe that two basic errors were made by the parties involved:

- 1) Reese should at least covered himself by appointing a secret independent witness in case of exposure, fully informed as to the pairs intentions.
- 2) Hayden/Truscott/Becker et al had ample opportunity to photograph the finger signals, conclusively to prove their case - saving the six-figure enquiry costs, and waste of everyone's time since (including mine), with over a year of flawed hearings.

As to Reese's 'revelation', a pertinent consideration is that he may have seized the opportunity I provided with my question to rationalize the awful reality, thus postponing future discussion till after his death, with the chance his explanation would be accepted as true.

The essential difference between the Craddock/Windsors claim and Reese is that the evidence against him is beyond reasonable doubt, whereas the Windsors' evidence is zero - making the cynical comparison odorous.

Regards, David Rex-Taylor, Birmingham, England

NEWS & VIEWS

New Members

Mr. Robert and his wife Dr. Rosa Lui have just joined IBPA. They have published a bridge book in Chinese in 2004 and the English version is about to come out. It is called *Windows Bidding System* (WBS); the English edition is coming out 2006. ISBN 7-5009-2633-2 comprising 313 pages.

The authors can be reached at rrlui121@hotmail.com.

Attention Bridge & Chess Columnists

Barry Rigal is planning a massive April Fool's joke on readers of bridge and chess columns for April 1, 2007. He wants to get the authors of bridge columns to write their counterparts' chess columns and vice versa. Would authors of Sunday bridge columns please contact Barry for details. Barry's contact information can be found on our masthead on page 1.

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/>

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

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mail@ibpa.com

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