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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 planets have aligned in a once-in-a-lifetime occurrence in order that this summer will bring us three months of bridge at the highest levels. There will be three World Championships (the Open World Championships in Verona, the World Youth Pairs in Slovakia, and the World Youth Teams in Thailand), the European Team Championships in Warsaw and the Summer North American Championships in Chicago.

World Championships

The Open World Championships in Verona, Italy in June means just that – anyone can play and all events are transnational. The major events contested will be the Rosenblum Teams and the World Open Pairs Championships; others include Women's Teams and Pairs, Senior Teams and Pairs and IMP Pairs. As a beautiful and historic venue, Verona is hard to equal. The dates of the World Championships are June 9-24. Details can be found at www.worldbridge.org. This is everyone's chance to play a World Championship – you can not only play against Zia, Hamman and Lauria, but also against Bill Gates.

World Youth Pairs Championship

A short hop over the Alps from Verona is Piešťany, Slovakia, site of the World Youth Pairs Championships. The Championships will be run in two series, for Juniors (25 and younger) and for Schools (for 21 and younger). The Championships will be followed by the World Junior Camp from July 3-10. Details on all both these events can be found at the World Bridge Federation's website www.worldbridge.org.

Summer North American Bridge Championships

After Slovakia, a transatlantic flight takes us to Chicago, site of the NABCs, July 13-23. The major events are the Life Master Pairs and the Spingold Knockout Teams. Chicago is the most fascinating of all American cities, with the most beautiful architecture in the Americas, great museums and art, wonderful music (especially the blues), fabulous restaurants, every sport imaginable – in short there is something for everyone. More information can be found at www.acbl.org.

World Youth Teams Championships

From Chicago, we continue westward across the International Dateline to Bangkok, site of the 11th World Youth Team Championships, run in Junior and Schools series. Each WBF Zone qualifies a number of countries for each series, depending on membership. Pre-tournament favourites are expected to be the holders, USA, and last year's runnersup, Poland. See the WBF website for details.

European Team Championships

Finally, it's back to Europe, this time for the single most grueling event on the bridge calendar, the European Team Championships (closed), this year to be held in Warsaw from August 12-26. Each of the 40-odd entrants plays a complete round robin over two weeks with no knockout portion. Italy will be odds-on favourite to add their seventh title in a row to their list of credits. See www.eurobridge.org for details.

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THE 2006 YEH BROS CUP

Kaoshiung, Taiwan, March 16-19

Paul Marston, Sydney

John Carruthers, Toronto

For a group that fancies itself pretty analytical, bridge players can be surprisingly foolish. A fairly large proportion of the foreign contingent at the 8th Yeh Bros Cup booked themselves into Taipei by air, then took what they thought would be a short bus trip to Kaoshiung. Since Kaoshiung is on the southwest shore of Taiwan while Taipei is in the north end of the island, this trip takes six hours!

Still others flew Hong Kong-Taipei-Kaoshiung when they could have gone Hong Kong-Kaoshiung direct; furthermore, Kaoshiung is closer to Hong Kong than is Taipei. No matter; everyone arrived safely and in plenty of time.

Kaoshiung is an industrial port city of about a million and a half people with one of the largest harbours in the world. Manufacturing, refining and transportation are the chief industries.

Chen Yeh, whose company manufactures high-quality wood furniture for export from Taiwan, chiefly to Japan, sponsors this unique tournament, moving it to a different city in China or Taiwan each year. Approximately 20 international teams were invited this year and were joined by a handful of local teams. Generous prize money would accrue to those doing well, especially to the winners of the main event, carrying a US\$42,000 first prize.

The field was very strong, with World Champions on tough teams from Italy, the USA, Poland, France and Canada. Other seasoned entries came from Indonesia, Australia, England, Germany, Israel and Sweden.

The format of the Yeh Brothers Cup is unique. The teams first play a 12-round, 8-board Swiss, with the top 15 teams plus the sponsor's team qualifying for a knockout stage. The KO has two brackets, top and bottom, one's placing in either being dependant on one's finish in the Swiss.

The top bracket consists of the teams finishing first through seventh in the Swiss, plus the sponsor's team, or first through eighth if the sponsor's team is in that group. The bottom bracket comprises the ninth-through-sixteenth teams from the Swiss.

Here's the interesting part: the losing teams from top bracket drop into the bottom bracket when they lose. The bottom bracket losers are immediately eliminated. It is in effect a double knockout for the 1-8 group, but a single elimination for the 9-16 group. Some three-way matches are involved in the latter stages in the bottom bracket, so it's important to finish in the top group to maximize one's chances.

An Appealing Hand

Most of the deep thinking on the following deal was done away from the table. It was all very intriguing, but not for the usual reasons.

Match 3. New Zealand v Israel.

Board 4. Dealer West. Both Vul.

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

Let's start this saga with what happened at the table...

West	North	East	South
<i>Yadlin</i>	<i>Bach</i>	<i>Yadlin</i>	<i>Ware</i>
1 ♦	1 ♠	Pass	2 ♥
Pass	2 ♠	Pass	Pass
Pass			

East led the nine of hearts. Declarer won in hand and ran the queen of spades. West won the king, and when two rounds of clubs knocked the spade ace out of the dummy, delivered two heart ruffs (the second on a promotion) for one down. At the other table...

West	North	East	South
<i>Gardiner</i>	<i>Barel</i>	<i>Sarten</i>	<i>Campanile</i>
1 ♣	1 ♠	3 ♣	3 ♥
Pass	3 ♠	Pass	Pass
Pass			

Declarer won the heart nine lead with the ace and played a spade to the ace. When the king came down she had ten top tricks.

Let's go back to the first table. After West had opened the bidding, the tray was pushed under the screen for North and East, whereupon East promptly put a one spade bid on the tray! North pointed out that he hadn't bid yet, so East retracted his bid and North made his one-spade bid.

Later North claimed that he had been misled. If East did indeed have four spades he would have to take the finesse to avoid three trump losers (with the trump promotion that would be available). So what was East doing? East-West said that they would bid one natural spade on the East hand because it has no attractive alternative. The director ruled no damage and North-South appealed. The committee ruled that the table result should stand, but they fined *East-West* IVP for not calling the director at the time of the fuss.

At table two, West explained East's bid to South as a limit raise, but East explained it to North as weak. South later claimed that if she had known it was weak she would have bid four spades. The director ruled South would bid and make four spades 75% of the time and stay in three spades 25% of the time.

East-West appealed this ruling, saying that if South had bid four spades, they would have bid and made five clubs. The committee ruled that the table score stand and they fined East-West 3 IMPs for the mistaken explanation.

This may have been a first in bridge: a deal on which the tournament director was called at both tables, and on which the same team appealed both rulings! Furthermore, East-West at one table was assessed a IVP penalty by the appeals committee, and at the other table their East-West counterparts were fined 3 IMPs!

A Big Mak Attack

Match 6. Australia 1 v Hong Kong. Board 8. Dealer West. Neither Vul.

Ishmael Del'Monte (AUSTRALIA) reported that on the following deal (see *top of next column*) Hugh Grosvenor opened one spade on the North hand and that he responded two hearts on the South hand. Grosvenor then bid five diamonds, a key card ask for hearts, excluding diamonds. Del'Monte responded six clubs to show two key cards plus the queen of trumps.

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

West, KF Mak from HONG KONG, knowing that North must have a diamond void, found the sensational opening lead of the club six. Naturally, Del'Monte played low and down he went.

Just Say Yes!

When Benito Garozzo asks you if you want a hand – you say yes!

Match 10. Italy 2 v Poland. Board 2. Dealer East. NS Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Gawrys</i>	<i>Sementa</i>	<i>Chmurski</i>	<i>Garozzo</i>
—	—	Pass	Pass
1 ♠	Pass	2 ♣	Pass
2 ♦	Pass	4 ♠	Pass
Pass	Pass		

Antonio Sementa led the diamond king. Declarer won the ace and played the jack of hearts. Sementa ducked and declarer rose with the king. Garozzo took the ace and switched to the seven of spades. This went to the eight, queen and king. Declarer ruffed a low heart, dropping the queen, and trumped a diamond. He now played the nine of hearts, low from Garozzo, diamond discard from declarer, and trumped by Sementa.

The position was now as it appears on the next page. Declarer has lost two tricks so he had to hold his remaining losers to one. The automatic play for North is to exit with a spade to prevent another diamond ruff, but Sementa could see that this would get him nowhere. In fact, declarer simply wins and runs his

trumps to squeeze North for an overtrick. So Sementa led the diamond queen, giving declarer his ruff.

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

By now declarer was convinced that Sementa had no more trumps so he trumped a heart and Sementa cleverly maintained the illusion by discarding. If Sementa had no more trumps, declarer could see that he didn't have to guess the club position. All he had to do was cash the ace of clubs and cross to the club king and play the last heart, trumping with the ten of spades.

It surely came as a nasty surprise when Sementa overtrumped with the spade jack and cashed the queen of clubs for one down. It should be said that declarer should have cashed the ace of spades to clarify the trump position before he cashed the two top clubs but declarer had no doubt in his mind where the trumps were, so masterful was Sementa's deception.

There were no surprises in the top 16 teams, and if we'd played for a week, the results might well have been similar. ENGLAND (P. Hackett, Armstrong, Justin Hackett, Helgemo) finished on top with 218 VP, followed by CANADA (Kokish, Mittelman, Demuy, Wolpert) on 207 and ITALY I (Bocchi, Duboin, Ferraro, Madala, Balicki, Zmudzinski) on 206; 15th place was only 20 VP in arrears.

The non-qualifying teams would do battle in a new event, the Yeh Bros Swiss Cup, joined by a few local teams and the four losers of the knockout matches in the bottom bracket.

A True Gentleman

Board 5. Dealer North. NS Vul.

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

JETOX-OX was leading the Swiss Cup going into the last round when....

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

Chi-Sung Chang opened one no trump as East and West raised to three no trump. South led the three of diamonds. Declarer can take eight tricks but the various plays for nine all appear to come unstuck - but wait!

Chang led a low club to the jack and king. North exited with a low spade. Declarer won in dummy, crossed to a diamond and played another low club! South ducked, so dummy's nine won. Now Chang played a spade, giving North the choice of rising with the ace and exiting in spades, allowing East to strip-squeeze South in the minors, or ducking the spade, allowing East to strip-squeeze North in hearts. North, Adam Sarten of NEW ZEALAND, chose the latter!

Despite this success, JETOX-OX still drifted to third, over taken by JETOX-JET and AUSTRALIA.

Guess? What Guess?

In the knockout match between USA 2 and ISRAEL...

Board 17. Dealer North. Neither Vul.

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

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

1. Puppet to 2 ♦
2. Forced
3. Invitational

West leads the diamond king and shifts to a spade. How do you play?

Migry Zur-Campanile of ISRAEL won the spade in dummy and trumped a diamond. Then two more spades ending in dummy and another diamond ruff followed. The ace of clubs, king of clubs, and a fourth diamond off dummy gave East no good play - he pitched his club. Campanile ruffed and exited with a

club. She could not be prevented from taking two trump tricks and making her contract.

With such short knockout matches (24 boards, until the 32-board final) any of the 16 teams making the playoffs could win. Still it was no surprise that POLAND (Gawrys, Chmurski, Tuszynski, Kowalski) defeated ITALY 2 (Versace, Lauria, De Falco, Garozzo, Olivieri, Sementa) in the final of the top bracket, leaving ITALY 2 to fight a 3-way match with CANADA and FRANCE (Bompis, Quantin, Chemla, Levy) to produce the other finalist.

The French survived the 3-way and entered the final against POLAND down by the designated 6.5 IMP carry forward. POLAND added to this margin on the first board of the final with a fine defence.

Not Quite Perfect

Board 1. Dealer North. Neither Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Quantin</i>	<i>Tuszynski</i>	<i>Bompis</i>	<i>Kowalski</i>
—	Pass	1 ♣	1 ♦
1 ♠	Pass	2 ♣	Pass
3 ♣	Pass	3 ♥	Pass
3 NT	Pass	Pass	Pass

North led the ten of diamonds. South won the king and shifted to the nine of spades. Declarer covered with the king, and North won the ace and came back another diamond. South won and played another spade. Declarer misguessed, playing the jack, so the defence took two further spade tricks for one down.

Slightly better would have been the three or two of spades on the first round of the suit. Then declarer could not possibly guess the suit.

In the other room:

West	North	East	South
<i>Chmurski</i>	<i>Levy</i>	<i>Gawrys</i>	<i>Chemla</i>
—	Pass	1 ♣	1 ♦
1 ♠	2 ♦	3 ♣	Pass
3 NT	Pass	Pass	Pass

Again North led the ten of diamonds, but this time South played low, so declarer quickly claimed 11 tricks.

At the end of the first half the score with carry forward was POLAND 44.5, FRANCE 44. The second half was FRANCE by 29 IMPs to 28 and that was enough. Just.

Eeny Meenie Miny Moe

How about a lead problem? This deal comes from the final session of the Open Pairs, won handily by Bocchi-Duboin over Lasut-Manoppo and Del'Monte-Grosvenor.

Board 14. Dealer East. Neither Vul.

♠ Q 8 7
 ♥ 10 7 6
 ♦ K 9 4 3
 ♣ J 3 2

West	North	East	South
<i>CH Wu</i>	—	<i>P Huang</i>	<i>You</i>
—	—	2 NT ¹	Pass
3 ♦ ²	Pass	3 ♥	Pass
4 NT ³	Pass	6 NT	Pass
Pass	Pass		
1. 20-21			
2. Heart transfer			
3. Invitational			

This is a nightmare hand. Depending on how good West's hearts are, he could have as few as 10-11 HCP, possibly 12 if the hearts are bad. That leaves Partner with 2-4 HCP. Any one of the four suits could easily blow the deal. What would be your choice?

Here is the complete deal:

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

As you can see, only the aggressive diamond lead defeats the slam. Declarer can set up four club tricks however he plays them. Did you find it?

The results:

Yeh Bros Cup

1.	France	\$42,000
2.	Poland	\$10,000
=3.	Italy 2	\$4,500
=3.	Canada	\$4,500

Swiss Cup

1.	Jetox-Jet	\$5,000
2.	Australia	\$2,000

Open Pairs

1. Bocchi-Duboin \$6,000
2. Lasut-Manoppo \$3,000
3. Del'Monte-Grosvenor \$1,500

Consolation Pairs

1. Yadlin-Yadlin \$1,500
2. Shen-Shih \$1,000
3. Carreon-Reyes \$500

IBPA

Annual General Meeting

The AGM will be held in Verona on Monday, 19th June, 2006. The Awards ceremony will be in Warsaw at the Europeans in August. The deadline for submissions with the exception of the Junior Award will be the end of Verona; for Juniors it will be extended to include the World Junior Pairs in Piestany.

Proposed Agenda

1. Minutes of the AGM held on 2nd November in Estoril (see Bulletin 492, page 8) and matters arising.
2. Officers' Reports.
3. Appointees' reports.
4. Accounts for the year ending 31st December 2005, budget and subscriptions for the year 2007.
5. Election of officers. Nominated are:
President: Patrick Jourdain (Wales);
Chairman: Per Jannersten (Sweden);
Exec Vice-President: Jan van Cleeff (Net);
Organisational Vice-President: Dilip Gidwani;
Secretary: Maureen Dennison (England);
Treasurer: Mario Dix (Malta);
Hon. General Counsel: Bill Pencharz (Eng);
Hon. Auditor: Julius Butkow (South Africa)
6. Automatically continuing without election are the
President Emeriti: Tommy Sandsmark (Nor);
Henry Francis (USA).
7. Election of Executive members:
Executive members whose term expires and are available for a 3-year term to 2009: Christer Andersson (Swe); Peter Lund (Denmark); Ron Tacchi (Fra).
Already elected to 2007: Chris Diment (Australia); Panos Gerontopoulos (Greece); Brent Manley (USA).
Already elected to 2008: Julius Butkow (RSA); John Carruthers (Can); Barry Rigal (USA).

Note: Appointees in post: Awards Chairman: Barry Rigal (USA); Editor: John Carruthers (Can). Membership Secretary: Mario Dix (Malta). Sponsored Members: Irena Chodorowska (Pol).

8. Any other competent business.

Patrick Jourdain (President)

KITZBÜHEL 2006

Fritz Babsch, Vienna

In the Open Teams, last year's winners (Andreas Babsch-Wolfgang Bieder, Heinrich Berger-Renate Hansen) had the chance to repeat their success, but got into trouble in the last round. This was the decisive hand:

Dealer East. Both Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
—	Bieder		Babsch
—	—	2 ♦	Pass
2 ♠ ¹	6 ♣	Pass	Pass
Double	Pass	Pass	Pass
1. Non-forcing			

East duly led the king of diamonds and Bieder went one down. Babsch soon discovered that, as South, he could have made seven no trump, but look what had happened at the other table:

Closed Room

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

1. Both majors
2. Meant as asking for kings
3. South understood five hearts as a demand to bid five no trump, but for North, five no trump showed one king!
4. South thought that seven clubs was intended as a proposition to play in either clubs or diamonds.

South went four down and lost 5 IMPs. Had North been content with six no trump (would you?), his side would have gained 17 IMPs and would have won the match and the tournament. By the way, the hand was dealt by hand at Berger's table, not by a computer!

This hand from the Opening Tournament had a tragic touch:

West	East (Dealer)
♠ A K J 5	♠ Q 4 3
♥ A Q 9 6	♥ K 5 4 2
♦ Q 9 3	♦ A K
♣ A 6	♣ K Q 10 2

With their 37 points, East-West should play seven no trump and not look out for a four-four fit. Seven no trump was cold, of course, and so was seven spades, but North had jack-ten-eight-three of hearts, so seven hearts failed. The board was played at 26 tables: seven pairs bid seven no trump, and three bid seven hearts. I do not know what these three declarers said about the computer...

It is incredible that two pairs stopped in five no trump – as you see, Austrian players have some problems with ‘asking for kings’!

GOLD STRIKE!

Mark Horton, Romford, UK

England used to dominate the Camrose Trophy (the UK Home Internationals) but find things much tougher these days, this year finishing a very modest fourth as Ireland retained the title they had won the previous year. However, they did have the odd good moment, as witness this fine piece of declarer play by David Gold in the match against Wales:

Dealer South. Both Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Townsend	Shields	Gold	Denning
—	—	—	2 NT ¹
Double	Pass	4 ♥	Pass
Pass	Pass		
1. Minors			

South's opening bid made it hard to reach the relative safety of the 4-4 spade fit, but four hearts gave Gold a chance to shine.

South led the king of clubs and when North played the eight, (upside down) cashed the ace and then

switched to the five of spades. Declarer put up the ace, North following with the eight.

Declarer now cashed the ace and king of diamonds, discarding spades, ruffed a diamond, ruffed a club, ruffed a diamond, crossed to the ace of hearts and played dummy's remaining diamond. North ruffed with the jack of hearts and declarer over-ruffed to leave this 3-card ending:

♠ Q 9 4 ♥ — ♦ — ♣ —	♠ K ♥ 9 7 ♦ — ♣ —	♠ J ♥ K 8 ♦ — ♣ —
	♠ 2 ♥ — ♦ — ♣ J 9	

The only question left was the disposition of the outstanding trumps. Was South 1-2-5-5 or 2-1-5-5?

There was the evidence of North's eight of spades, suggesting he held three cards in the suit, plus North's decision to ruff in with the jack of hearts, a play he might not have made if he knew his partner held a second trump.

After taking his time, Gold exited with the jack of spades, and claimed when South followed with the two, as he knew North was end-played. It was worth 12 IMPs when the same contract was one down at the other table.

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

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

THE 2006 COMMONWEALTH NATIONS BRIDGE CHAMPIONSHIP

Brian Senior, Nottingham, UK



The Pratt Family Medal presented to participants in the Commonwealth Nations Bridge Championship

The first Commonwealth Nations Bridge Championship was held in Manchester, England, in 2002, to link up with the Commonwealth Games, which were held in that city. In 2006, the Commonwealth Games re-convened in Melbourne, Australia, and the second Commonwealth Nations Bridge Championship duly followed.

Perhaps it was not surprising that the attendance was down in 2006, England, being a little more convenient geographically, as well as being a more attractive place to visit for some, being the 'mother country'. Particularly disappointing was the absence of Canada, one of the major Commonwealth nations and also the defending champions.

To make up for the drop in overseas contestants, coordinator Andrew Halmos invited teams from each of the Australian states to take part, along with, as in Manchester, a small number of sponsored teams. That brought the field up to a total of twenty, though only the eleven Commonwealth nations could win the medals.

The format was a complete round robin with four teams going on to semi-finals and final, both of 64 boards. Qualification was complicated by the fact that the regulations required an all-national team final, so that only a maximum of two non-national teams were permitted to play at the semi-final stage, and if there were two such qualifiers they had to meet at that point, leaving the other, all-national team semi-final, as the deciding match for the Nations Championship gold and silver medals.

All of this made for a slightly messy event, however, this was more than made up for by the special friendliness of the competition, which was on a level unique for a major international championship.

The tournament opening was held at Raheen, the historic home of Richard and Jeanne Pratt, whose support added greatly to the success of the event. The Pratt Family Medal, designed by artist Michael Meszaros, was given to every participant as a lasting memento of a special championship. The camaraderie among the competitors was aided by the fact that the foreign players all stayed in the same hotel throughout.

Two of the sponsored teams, Australia (Derofe) and Noble Australia, finished first and second in the round robin, and had to meet in one semi-final, Derofe having much the better of that match to come through by 242-96 IMPs. England came third and met India, who finished sixth, but only 9 VPs behind England, in the other semi-final and the final of the Nations Championship. England took a significant lead in the first quarter of that match but India came back at them and eventually won by 165-150. Australia took the bronze medals as they were the highest ranked non-qualifiers in the round robin, just ahead of South Africa.

The Indians led the final virtually throughout to defeat Australia (Derofe) by 141-123 IMPs. Congratulations to Ramawtar Agrawal, Archelius Sequeira, Ajit Chakradeo, Alexander Lewis, Anal Shah and Gopinath Manna. As the 2010 Commonwealth games are to be held in India, they will be able to defend their title on home soil.

As always, there was a mixture of good bridge, bad bridge, and indifferent bridge. Here is a sample of the more interesting deals, starting with one reported by Ron Klinger from the first round match between England (Hackett) and Australia.

Board 7. Dealer South. Both Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Moren	Armstrong	Francis	Callaghan
—	—	—	Pass
Pass	1 NT	Pass	2 ♥
Pass	3 ♠	Pass	4 ♠
Pass	Pass	Pass	

The lead was the ten of diamonds, which England's John Armstrong won with the jack and played a heart. Neville Francis rose with the king and continued with

the four of diamonds to the ace. After a spade to the king, declarer led a club to the king and ace, won the club return and played a second heart to the queen and ace. Magnus Moren returned the eight of diamonds. Armstrong ruffed the diamond high and ruffed a heart then the last diamond high, leaving:

	♠ 5	
	♥ —	
	♦ —	
	♣ 8 5	
♠ —		♠ 9 6
♥ —		♥ J
♦ 9		♦ —
♣ J 9		♣ —
	♠ J 8 7	
	♥ —	
	♦ —	
	♣ —	

Armstrong took the spade finesse and had plus 620.

West	North	East	South
Bach	Klinger	Cornell	Neill
—	—	—	2 ♠
Pass	4 ♠	Pass	Pass
Pass			

The two-spade opening showed a weak two bid with exactly five spades. Ashley Bach led the three of diamonds and dummy's jack held the trick. Bruce Neill cashed the ace of spades then led a spade to his jack. A club went to the king and ace and Michael Cornell shifted to a low heart for the queen and ace. Bach returned the nine of hearts to the king and East exited with a diamond to dummy's ace. Declarer ruffed a heart, leaving:

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

Neill led the king of spades and West was finished. If he lets go a club, declarer continues with a club to the queen and a club ruff, establishing the last club. If West instead pitches a diamond, a diamond is ruffed in dummy and now declarer's last diamond is high.

The following deal was covered in a match report where we saw how both declarers, playing from the North seat in four spades, received the defence of a club to the ace then the queen of clubs to the king. One declarer went down when he played to ruff two

clubs and eventually found himself forced in diamonds to lose control of the hand.

Board 18. Dealer East. NS Vul.

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

At the second table, declarer led a spade to the king at trick three then ducked a spade on the way back. East took the jack of spades and switched to ace and another diamond, but declarer was in control and made his ten tricks. However, there is a little more to this hand.

Suppose that East ducks the spade? If declarer plays ace and another spade, the defence has a club and a diamond to cash. If he cashes the ace of spades, then plays on hearts, the third round is ruffed and he is well short of his goal. If he gives up a diamond he gets forced, and if he ruffs a club he will still have a club to lose in the endgame. There is no way home.

John Armstrong found a better way. He cashed the ace of spades then ducked a diamond at trick four, establishing his own communications at the same time as cutting those of the defence. The defence won and returned a diamond, ruffed. Now Armstrong ran the ten of spades, not caring if it won or not. East could not cover as declarer would then just draw trumps and run the hearts, so he ducked.

But now Armstrong switched his attention to hearts. East could ruff the third round and play a diamond, but Armstrong could ruff that and still had the king of spades as an entry to the rest of the hearts – four hearts, one club and all five spade tricks.

However, Deep Finesse assures us that four spades should be defeated. One thought was that this could be achieved if West puts in the nine of clubs at trick one to preserve defensive communications. If declarer makes the diamond play, he is forced with a second diamond, plays ace then ten of spades, then plays hearts. East ruffs the third heart and can play a club. Now the next club forces dummy to ruff with the king of spades and the contract fails.

What if declarer returns a club at trick two to cut the defensive communications. If the defence wins and switches to diamonds, declarer ruffs the second round and plays ace then ten of spades – no problem – so

West instead plays a third club, forcing dummy. But now declarer gives up a diamond to cut communications in that suit. If the defence plays a fourth club he can ruff it and overtake the spade king with the ace (when the queen falls), then drive out the spade jack. There is no entry for East to get a heart ruff, so the contract succeeds.

So the defence plays a second diamond instead of the fourth club, forcing declarer to ruff. If he plays the line of ruffing the fourth club and overtaking to clear the spades, he is forced again and East makes two trump tricks. If instead he plays on hearts, East can ruff and still has to come to the jack of spades as well.

It also appears that repeated diamond leads from trick one will beat the contract, declarer never coming to a club trick in most variations.

The next deal from England (Hackett) v Queensland features decisions in both bidding and play.

Board 18. Dealer East. NS Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Parker</i>	<i>Armstrong</i>	<i>Hainsworth</i>	<i>Callaghan</i>
—	—	3 ♦	3 ♥
Pass	4 ♥	Pass	Pass
Pass			
West	North	East	South
<i>Bach</i>	<i>Robson</i>	<i>Cornell</i>	<i>Lee</i>
—	—	3 ♦	3 ♥
3 ♠	4 ♥	Pass	Pass
Pass			

The North hand has a decision to make when three diamonds is opened on the left and partner overcalls three hearts. Should North raise to four hearts, the obvious call, or try three no trump to protect the diamond position?

Certainly, on this deal a diamond lead would allow three no trump to make, while four hearts is always beatable. In the event, both Mike Robson and John Armstrong raised to four hearts, which is probably the long-term winner.

At both tables, the opening lead was the singleton diamond to the queen. Both Easts cashed the ace of diamonds and both switched to the singleton spade. Both declarers correctly went up with the ace of spades but now their paths divided. Betty Lee crossed to the ace of clubs to take a heart finesse. When that lost, Ashley Bach played king and another spade for two down; minus 200.

At the other table, Brian Callaghan laid down the ace of hearts, not believing that there would be a guarded king on his right along with such a good diamond suit. When the king fell his good play was rewarded. He could draw the trumps and give up a spade; plus 620 and 13 IMPs to Hackett.

We end with an example of nicely timed defence from the final match between India and Australia (Derofe). The Derofe team featured a highly talented transnational partnership in Australia's Ishmael Del'Monte and Canada's Vincent Demuy.

Board 11. Dealer South. Neither Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Demuy</i>	<i>Lewis</i>	<i>Del'Monte</i>	<i>Shah</i>
—	—	—	Pass
2 ♣ ¹	3 ♠	Double	Pass
Pass	Pass		
1. Either strong, or a bad weak two in a major			
West	North	East	South
<i>Agrawal</i>	<i>Richman</i>	<i>Sequeira</i>	<i>Nagy</i>
—	—	—	Pass
Pass	2 ♠	Double	Pass
Pass	Pass		

Agrawal was not prepared to open such a bad weak two as the West hand, and must have been delighted to hear Bobby Richman open two spades in second seat, doubled for take-out by Sequeira and, of course, left in by Agrawal.

Sequeira led three rounds of clubs, ruffed and over-ruffed, and Agrawal switched to a heart. Sequeira won and cashed the ten of clubs and ace of diamonds, then played another diamond, ruffed. Richman could exit with his remaining heart and had to come to four more trump tricks for down three; minus 500.

Demuy's two clubs could have been game-forcing or a bad weak two in a major, and Del'Monte could make a negative double of the three spade overcall.

Del'Monte cashed the ace of clubs, king of hearts, king of clubs, then played the queen of clubs, ruffed and over-ruffed. A heart to the ace permitted Del'Monte to cash his minor-suit winners then exit with a diamond to the king, ruffed. Lewis could only take the top spades from here; down five for minus 1100; and 12 IMPs to Derofe. The extra defensive trick came because the defenders managed to cash all of their winners before permitting declarer to get a ruff, leaving Lewis with no side-suit exit card. Nicely done.

VON ZEDTWITZ CUP MAGIC

Andy Stark, New York City

Here is a hand that I think was pretty interesting, and where my opponent did well. It is from the semifinal once-defeated bracket of the 2005 Von Zedwitz Cup, New York City's premiere double knockout teams event.

Dealer East. Neither Vul.

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

North was Judy Bianco; South, Win Allegaert; East, Franco Baseggio; West, Andy Stark.

West	North	East	South
Stark	Bianco	Baseggio	Allegaert
—	—	Pass	Pass
Pass	1 ♣	Double	1 ♦
1 ♥	Double ¹	Pass	1 NT
Pass	2 NT	Pass	Pass
Pass			

1. 3-card support for diamonds

The opening lead was a low heart, ducked to East's jack. A low heart came back to the ace. Allegaert cashed the king and queen of clubs and played a diamond to the jack and king. Baseggio cashed the heart queen (dummy pitching a club), and returned a low diamond, but Allegaert won the diamond ace, cashed the club ace, pitching a heart, and played a diamond to the queen. Here is the position as West discards a heart on that trick:

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

If Allegaert plays a spade here, he will take only one more trick, but he carefully exited a diamond, which created a losing-trick squeeze. West could not part with a club since dummy would gain the lead later, but when he parted with a spade, declarer was able to maneuver two spade tricks.

Deep Finesse suggests that the hand could have become more complicated if each side played hearts at different times, but the ending is pretty interesting nonetheless.

The Allegaert team won the match, then beat the winner of the undefeated bracket to reach the final, only to lose the second time they faced the Kamil team.

THE PORTLAND CUP

Maureen Hiron, Málaga

From *The Independent*, April 10, 2006

Dealer South. Neither Vul.

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

The English national Mixed Pairs Championship for the Portland Cup was once a weekend competition, played in a few venues around the country. Nowadays there are many more venues, but the event has been scaled back to just two sessions.

A fine defence was produced on this board by two English internationals playing in tandem, Nicola Smith and David Burn, who finished in second place nationally. This deal helped their cause.

South opened with one no trump (12-14), North applied Stayman, and over South's two-hearts reply, jumped to four hearts.

David Burn led the ace then king of clubs, and with no obvious switch presenting itself, continued with a third club to dummy's queen. This club continuation proved essential. The trumps appear to be favourably placed for declarer, but Nicola Smith had other ideas about that.

At trick four, declarer led the jack of hearts from dummy and Smith rose with the ace. On the bidding, Burn was marked with no more than one further point. However, there was one card that West might hold, which would lead to the defeat of the contract - namely the seven of hearts. A club continuation, giving a ruff and discard, would be of no benefit to declarer, and this is what Smith chose. She was delighted to see Burn ruffing with the heart seven. Dummy over-ruffed with the nine, but with Smith's queen-eight of hearts, sitting over North's ten-six, the defenders had negotiated the extra trump trick that would set the contract.

THE SPRING NATIONALS

Barry Rigal, New York



The North American Bridge Championships have become much more international in flavour since the ACBL relaxed the rules for participation in major championships to allow non-residents to compete. It used to be that because the major team championship winners qualified directly to the International Team Trials, these events were restricted to North Americans. No longer.

This was no more evident than in this year's Vanderbilt Knockout Teams, where, in the quarterfinals alone, there were 23 Americans, 5 Canadians, 4 Poles, 2 Chinese, 2 Swedes, and one player each from Taiwan,

Japan, Norway, England and New Zealand. To complete this international smorgasbord, three of the Canadians, one of the Swedes and the Taiwanese live in the USA, the other Swede lives in England and the New Zealander lives in Australia! Players from the aforementioned countries and the Netherlands, Egypt, Bulgaria, India, Israel, Iceland, Germany, Mexico, Pakistan and Italy were knocked out in earlier matches.

Six Diamonds the Hard Way

Fred Hamilton declared six diamonds on this deal (rotated):

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

As you can see, twelve tricks are surely going to be easy on a non-trump lead. Declarer gets a major-suit winner established or ruffs out the clubs. Unfortunately, West did lead a trump. Undaunted, Hamilton won the diamond king, led the heart jack to the ace and ran trumps reaching this position:

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

On the penultimate trump, West pitched a club, as did dummy. East threw a spade. Declarer then led a club to the ace and ruffed a club, forcing West down to two hearts and two spades. (If West pitches a heart he is end-played with a heart. Whether he exits with a high or low spade, declarer can take the last three spade tricks.) Now declarer took the ace-king-eight of spades and surrendered a heart at the end.

Do you see the defence? East must hold on to three of his spades, and now in the four-card ending when West comes down to a doubleton queen of spades, West controls the third round of the suit.

Nicely Done

Richard Schwartz and Tarek Sadek found the right contract and the right line of play on this deal (rotated) from the IMP Pairs:

<p>♠ Q 10 7 6 ♥ A K 9 8 ♦ 10 4 ♣ A 7 5</p> <p>♠ 9 5 ♥ 5 2 ♦ 9 3 2 ♣ K 10 6 4 3 2</p> <p>♠ A K J 3 ♥ 10 7 6 4 ♦ K Q J 5 ♣ Q</p> <p>North Sadek</p> <p>— 1 ♥ 2 ♣ 3 ♠ 5 ♠ Pass</p>	<p>♠ 8 4 2 ♥ Q J 3 ♦ A 8 7 6 ♣ J 9 8</p> <p>South Schwartz</p> <p>1 ♦ 1 ♠ 3 ♥ 4 ♥ 6 ♠</p>
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I particularly like Schwartz's thoughtful one spade bid rather than the precipitate jump to three hearts found at the table by me, among others.

Six spades looks easy, but the diamond transportation is rather awkward. On a club lead, Schwartz could have run this to his hand. Instead of gambling on the location of the club king, he elected to win on the board and lead a trump to his hand and a diamond to the ten. East's best defence is to duck, but he won the ace and tried to cash a club.

Schwartz could ruff, cross to the heart ace to ruff another club, unblock a top trump, then cross to the heart king to draw the outstanding trump and claim twelve tricks. Even if East wins the ace of diamond and returns the suit, Schwartz can ruff two clubs using the ace and king of hearts as entries, then cash the spade king and run diamonds as East follows to all four of them.

Once in a Blue Moon?

Quickly: what is the rarest contract you are ever likely to see, regardless of the number of tricks taken? If you said five no trump, you're close, but no cigar. If you gave the right answer, five no trump redoubled, you are correct.

And remarkably, the pair declaring that unlovely contract - Andy Stark and Mark Aquino - had reached the optimum spot. Here's the deal, from a semifinal knockout match.

Dealer East. NS Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
—	Aquino	1 ♠	1 NT
4 ♠	5 NT	Double	1 NT
Pass	Pass	Pass	Redouble

The auction makes perfect sense in a perverted sort of way. Aquino's five no trump bid asked his partner to pick a slam. The double by East asked his partner not to sacrifice. The redouble suggested a place to play, and you have to admire North's nerve and trust for passing it out, don't you?

Five no trump redoubled, making five, scored plus 1240, for a 16-IMP pickup when slam went down in the other room. There was no happy ending for Stark and Aquino - they lost the match despite this deal.

By the Book

Once in a while, a 'real' textbook deal comes along. Look at this layout from the second qualifying session of the IMP Pairs.

<p>♠ 8 7 ♥ K J 5 2 ♦ A K 10 9 4 ♣ 7 3</p> <p>♠ A J 10 9 ♥ 8 7 6 4 ♦ Q J 7 ♣ 9 2</p> <p>♠ K 6 5 ♥ Q 10 9 ♦ 6 5 ♣ A K Q 10 8</p>	<p>♠ Q 4 3 2 ♥ A 3 ♦ 8 3 2 ♣ J 6 5 4</p>
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At two tables (where Bruce Rogoff and Jim Krekorian occupied the East seats), North-South reached three no trump after a 15-17 one no trump opening from South. Yes, inflation strikes pretty much everywhere these days.

Both Wests, confronted with an uninformative Stayman auction, led a revealingly high heart spot. Both Easts won the ♥A and...drum roll...shifted to the spade queen. Ta-da!

Do Not Trust This Man!

Gunnar Hallberg's greatest pleasure in life comes from deception - if he shakes hands with you, remember to count your fingers afterwards and check to see if you still have your watch.

On this deal from the first final session of the Open Pairs (rotated), Hallberg opened one spade and played there:

Dealer South. Both Vul.

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

Since Hallberg had not had the opportunity to rebid his suit, he had given away very little about his hand.

The opening lead was a top club, East contributing a discouraging nine (upside-down), as Hallberg played the jack. Not so deceptive, you say? Well, when the defence shifted to a heart, Hallberg took the queen with the king, and played the club queen!

Naturally West assumed declarer had only two clubs, so there was no need to cash out. He played a second heart, and Hallberg took the jack, ruffed a club, pitched a diamond on the ace of hearts and claimed nine tricks for a great match point score.

Clubbed in the Auction

One of the most unlikely results you will ever see came up in the Vanderbilt Round of 32 Knockout match between the Meltzer and Hollman teams.

With both vulnerable, you hold the East cards:

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

Here's the auction:

West	North	East	South
1 ♠	1 NT	Double	2 NT ¹
Pass	3 ♣	4 ♣	Pass
4 ♥	Pass	4 ♠	Pass
Pass	5 ♣	5 ♦	Pass
6 ♦	6 NT	Double	Pass
Pass	7 ♣	Double	Pass
Pass	Pass		

1. Weak hand with clubs

You elect to double one no trump, then drive toward slam. You are happy to get cooperation from partner, but rightly decide not to try for the grand slam. North, however, has his own ideas and bids seven clubs. What do you lead?

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

It doesn't matter what you lead! Seven clubs is cold! Yes, the INT bid may be a little off-centre, but we've come to expect that sort of thing from Bruce Ferguson, the North player in this case, who was playing with Bob Hollman.

Not to worry - in the other room, Larsen-Meltzer also reached seven clubs doubled by a more traditional route. No swing!

Dual-Jewel Duals

This deal from the knockouts this week offer some interesting 'play or defend' options.

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

West	North	East	South
1 ♠	2 NT	3 ♠	4 ♣
Pass	5 ♣	Pass	Pass
Pass			

Against the trump lead, declarer won the jack and crossed to the ace of spades to ruff a diamond. He then finessed in clubs, ruffed a diamond, ruffed a spade and led a third diamond, pitching a heart, leaving West on play (see next page).

West exited with the king of spades. Declarer ruffed, drew the last trump and led a heart to the ten and king, but West could lead a spade to South's queen and let East win the heart queen at trick thirteen for down one.

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

On a trump lead there are various ways to make it, but they all feature one thing in common - you need to put in the club queen at trick one. Hardly automatic! Now declarer ruffs a diamond, plays the ace of hearts and another heart, ruffs a diamond (again you need to unblock in trumps by ruffing with the jack). Then finesse in clubs, cash the club ace and give up a diamond to West, who has to win the third round of the suit. All he has left is spades and dummy can win and give up a diamond.

The Championship Winners

North American Pairs – Gordon Campbell, Piotr Klimowicz

Open Pairs – Larry Cohen, David Berkowitz

Senior Pairs – Lewis Finkle, Gaylor Kasle

Mixed Pairs – Tom Kniest, Karen Walker

IMP Pairs – Fred Gitelman, Geoff Hampson

Women's Pairs – Sylvia Moss, Judi Radin

Vanderbilt Knockout Teams – Fred Chang, Fu Zhong, Jack Zhao, Gunnar Hallberg, Seymon Deutsch

Open Swiss Teams – Jeff Meckstroth, Eric Rodwell, Bob Hamman, Paul Soloway, Steve Weinstein, Bobby Levin

Women's Swiss Teams – Judi Radin, Sylvia Moss, Mildred Breed, Shawn Quinn, Pam Granovetter, Migry Zur-Campanile

NEWS & VIEWS (Cont. from p. 16)

Zia's School

Zia reports that tickets to raise money for a school in Pakistan to help earthquake relief efforts are selling briskly. Look out for the opportunity to buy a raffle ticket for a game with Zia at the World Championships in Verona, the Summer NABC in Chicago and I at other venues.

Michael Becker Elected to Hall of Fame

Michael Becker was elected to the ACBL Hall of Fame this spring and will be inducted at the Summer NABC in Chicago. Becker joins his father BJ Becker as the second father-son combination in the Hall (Ozzie and Jim Jacoby were the first).

Championship Bridge with Charles Goren

The ACBL is producing a full series of the Charles Goren-Alex Drier "Championship Bridge" television show from the 1960s. The original 16mm film is being edited, packaged and transferred to DVD format. Segments feature legends such as BJ Becker, Easley Blackwood, Dorothy Hayden, Lew Mathe, Sonny Moyse, Helen Sobel and Sam Stayman. Details can be obtained from linda.grinnell@acbl.org on 1-901-674-4688.

Ralph Cohen Is Sportsmanship Winner

IBPA member Ralph Cohen has been named the 2006 recipient of the Sidney H Lazard Sportsmanship Award. The award will be presented at the Hall of Fame banquet during the Summer NABC in Chicago. Cohen held many administrative positions within the ACBL, including Executive Director, and has represented his native Canada many times in international competition, placing fourth in the 1964 World Team Olympiad.

Pula Festival 2006

Venue: Hotel Histria, Pula, Croatia

Dates: Sept. 9th-Sept. 16th (main festival); Sept. 17th-20th (additional tournaments)

Events: Open Pairs (IMPs), Mixed Teams, BAM Teams, Mixed Pairs, Open Teams, Open Pairs (MPs)

Entry Fee: €15 per player per session

Prizes: €2000 first prize open teams & open pairs; many other prizes (see web page)

Accommodation: Apartments €8 per person/night; hotels from €31 half-board per person/night in double room

Contact Info: Address - Tihana Brkljacic 00385 91 7888 600; email - tihana@pilar.hr;

web page - www.crobridge.com/pula/eng

Youngest-ever ACBL Life Master

Ten-year-old Adam Kaplan has become the ACBL's youngest-ever Life Master at 10 years and 43 days. The youngster from Florida has been playing for five years, having caught the bug on a cruise with his family.

ACBL & ABA to Forge Stronger Ties

The American Contract Bridge League and the American Bridge Association have announced that they plan to form a closer bond. Their first joint game, the ACBL/ABA Unity Game, will be held June 24. The ABA consists mainly of African-Americans.

Passings

World Senior Teams Champion (2004) Jim Robison of the USA died in Las Vegas on March 27 from complications arising from a severe stroke he suffered in the fall of 2005. Robison was once on the verge of a professional golf career, having played on the same Ohio State University team as Jack Nicklaus.

Boris Koytchou, contemporary and frequent teammate of 50's bridge stars such as Charles Goren, Helen Sobel and Howard Shenken, died on April 30. Koytchou's victories included the Spingold and Reisinger and he represented both France and the USA in international competition.



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

To The Editor:

Regarding your Editorial on sportsmanlike dumping (in issue 495):

Pity the poor competitor! If you think that it is unethical to dump a match to win a tournament, while others think that it is unethical to dump a tournament to win a match, those forced into one of these evil situations will find that any behavior will result in being damned somewhere as an unethical player. Please place the blame where it belongs—on the rule makers.

Telling a team to “play as hard as it can at all times” does not address the issue, because, in the context of that formulation, the controversy is over the definition of “hard.”

Over the many years that The Bridge World has pursued the matter of sportsmanlike dumping, opinion (at least in our correspondence) has gradually shifted, with a dramatic overall result. At the outset, only about 15 percent of those expressing a view supported our position that, as good sportsmanship requires playing to win the event one has entered, unfortunately it could be necessary to try to lose a match if, foolishly, the conditions of contest rewarded such behavior. Nowadays, hardly anyone disagrees with that stand.

Two critical points that win over diehards have been: (1) the part of the definition of sportsmanship cited above, which does not necessitate striving to win every session, match, deal, contract or trick; and (2) considering whether winning a match at the expense of losing a tournament is in any way more-desirable behavior than winning a tournament at the expense of losing a match.

Jeff Rubens, Scarsdale, NY, Editor, The Bridge World

Dear Sir,

I gave the hand that only Michael Rosenberg had solved among the experts Bobby Wolff consulted (Bulletin No. 494, p. 4) to my stepson on a paper napkin over dinner. In about four seconds he also took the lead in dummy, finessed the spade queen, put down the club queen. When I told him that only Michael Rosenberg had found the correct solution in the expert community, my stepson, not knowing that he had played the same cards in the same order as Michael, said Michael surely had made a more profound analysis than himself, and that he very often played his cards instinctively, not knowing why at first, and therefore he was much faster than Michael at

the table. When I told him the result, he was very happy to have played like Michael.

Yours sincerely, Halit Bigat, Lausanne

P.S.: My wife’s son is Paul Chemla

Dear John,

I have sad news from Austria. Dr. Gavriel Unger (63), a mathematics teacher and member of IBPA, died last Friday after short illness. He was a fine player who had many successes (the one he was most proud of was winning the Open Pairs in Loiben with his pupil Axi Wodniansky) and the editor of the Austrian Bridge Magazine for 15 years. As a teacher he was especially interested (and rather successful) in getting young people to play bridge. He will be sadly missed.

Fritz Babsch, Vienna

NEWS & VIEWS

Lederer Diamond Jubilee

The London Metropolitan Bridge Association and the Lederer Memorial Trophy are both celebrating their 60th anniversaries in 2006, and to mark the occasion the LMBA has put together a booklet of 28 hands played in past Lederer Memorial Trophy events. (The Lederer is England’s top invitation event, organised by the LMBA and held every autumn.) Clubs in London will be playing the hands as a Simultaneous Pairs on Tuesday 26th September, but any club in any country is welcome to join in.

The Lederer deals go back as far as 1952 and feature some great players from the past and present, including Rixi Markus, Jeremy Flint, Zia, John Collings, Tony Forrester and Andrew Robson. The score achieved by the Lederer players will be on the traveller, so pairs will be able to IMP up as they go along.

The deals are meant to be a fun event, not a par contest. There are psyches, misplays and misunderstandings as well as great plays.

Any club which would like to play the hands at any time on or after 26th September should contact Simon Cochemé at: simonx@simonx.plus.com. For a flat fee of £10 (or equivalent) Simon will email them the booklet, the prepared travellers, and a DupliMate file of the deals.

Norwegian Bridge Festival

Gaute Kolsberg informs us that the Norwegian Bridge Festival will be held July 28-August 5, 2006 in Lillehammer, Norway. See www.bridge.no for details, or telephone Gaute on: 917 73 073.

Zia Is ACBL Honorary Member of the Year

ACBL Honorary Member of the Year for 2006 is IBPA member Zia Mahmood. Zia was presented with a plaque marking the occasion at the Dallas Spring NABC.