



BULLETIN

www.ibpa.com
mail@ibpa.com

President:

PATRICK D JOURDAIN
8 Felin Wen, Rhiwbina
Cardiff CF14 6NW WALES UK
(44) 29 2062 8839
email: pdjournain@hotmail.com

Chairman:

PER E JANNERSTEN
Banergatan 15
SE-752 37 Uppsala, SWEDEN
(46) 18 52 13 00
email: ibpa@jannersten.se

Executive Vice-President:

JAN TOBIAS van CLEEFF
Prinsegracht 28a
2512 GA The Hague, NETHERLANDS
(31) 70 360 5902
email: jvcleeff@xs4all.nl

Organizational Vice-President:

DILIP GIDWANI
401 Mariden, 16th Road Bandra West
Mumbai 400 050 INDIA
(91) 22 98205 47150 F: 22 26002241
email: dilipgidwani@itesghana.com

Secretary:

MAUREEN DENNISON
148 Thornbury Road, Osterley
Isleworth TW7 4QE, ENGLAND UK
(44) 20 8560 3788 F: 20 8568 3553
email:
maureen_dennison@ibpa.freeserve.co.uk

Treasurer & Membership Secretary:

MARIO DIX
Flat 1, 41 Tigne Seafront
Sliema SLM15 MALTA
(356) 2132 2433 F: 9949 3167
email: mario@bridge.org.mt

Honorary General Counsel:

WILLIAM J PENCHARZ
50 Broadway, Westminster
London SW1H 0BL ENGLAND
(44) 207 222 7000
email: billpencharz@bdb-law.co.uk

Awards Secretary:

BARRY J RIGAL
Apt 8E, 22 West 26th Street,
New York NY 10010, USA
(1) 212 366 4799
email: barryrigal@mindspring.com

Sponsored Members' Secretary:

IRENA CHODOROWSKA
Ul Sewastopolska 3m41
02-758 Warsaw, POLAND
(48) 842 5054
email: poyel@post.pl

Bulletin Production Manager:

JEAN TYSON
105 Roundways, Coalpit Heath
Bristol BS36 2LT, ENGLAND
(44) 1454 778432
email: mail@ibpa.com

Presidents Emeriti:

TOMMY SANDSMARK (NORWAY)
HENRY FRANCIS (USA)

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Editor: John Carruthers

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EDITORIAL

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

Most bridge players were delighted when Fu Zhong and Jack Zhao of the People's Republic of China won the World Open Pairs in Verona in June. Both players are extremely popular among their peers for their ability, their ethics and their personable demeanour at and away from the table. They are great ambassadors for bridge, for their sponsor and for their country. It has been a terrific year for Fu and Zhao to date: they won the Vanderbilt Knockout Teams in Dallas, reached the quarterfinals of the Rosenblum Cup, also in Verona, and won the World Open Pairs.

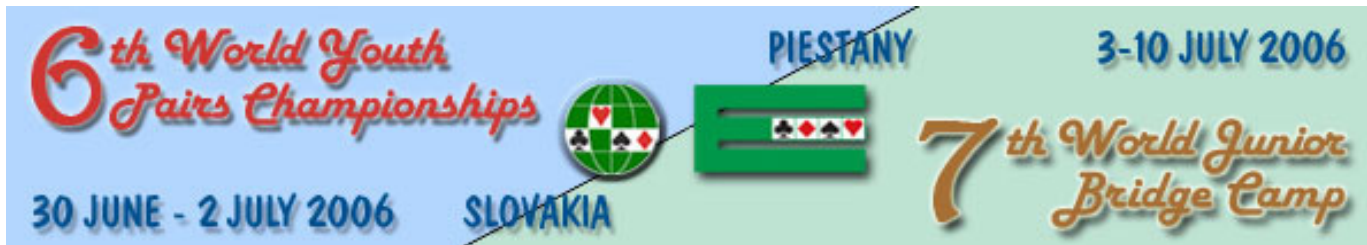
Despite all this success, they have been placed in a very unusual situation by the organisers of the World Open Pairs in Verona. During the fourth session (of five) of the Pairs Final, they faced two pairs of their countrymen, Dai/Yang and Shi/Zhuang, on the last four boards of the session, boards 25-28. Fu-Zhao were having a good game at the time and were among the leaders – they had a real chance to win. On those last four boards of the session, Fu-Zhao's scores were 99, 96, 94 and 99% respectively. These four results catapulted them to near the top of the table, where they battled with Bompis-Ste. Marie of France and Levin-Weinstein of the USA for most of the fifth and final session before emerging victorious. Similar situations happened in the Women's Pairs as well, with countrywomen facing each other late in the event.

It must be asked why it was necessary for these delightful chaps to be placed in this position. Surely it is not too difficult an endeavour to ensure that countrymen face each other in the first or (at worst) second session of the five-session Final. In most cases, bridge players like nothing less than doing poorly against their compatriots - they battle extremely hard against each other. However, in an event such as this, after 13 days of top-flight and hard-fought bridge, unusual things occur due to fatigue and other factors. It is unfortunate that the organizers placed this extra burden on the players and opened them to possible rumour-mongering.

As an example of how to do these things properly, the Cavendish Invitational Pairs in Las Vegas ensures that all pairs who buy a percentage of other pairs in the Calcutta auction face each other early on in the event. It is not that the organizers believe anything nefarious will go on; however, they do want to ensure that everything also *appears* to be on the up-and-up to the untutored observer, and to prevent even the merest suspicion of anything untoward occurring.

There is a lesson here for all bridge event organizers.

Address all Bulletin correspondence to: JOHN CARRUTHERS
65 Tiago Avenue, Toronto, Ontario M4B 2A2, CANADA
Tel: +1 416-752-7034
email: ibpaeditor@sympatico.ca



SWEDES WIN JUNIOR PAIRS
Barry Rigal, NYC, Peter Gill, Sydney
& Patrick Jourdain, Cardiff



Sara Sivelind and Cecilia Rimstedt

For the first time in a World Championship event that was open to both sexes, we have a winning partnership of two women. Sara Sivelind and Cecilia Rimstedt of Sweden emerged victorious, but it was a close run thing!

In a desperately exciting finish, three pairs entered the final round of four boards of the Junior event separated by less than a top. Finishing runners-up, about one-quarter of a top behind, were Jacek Kalita and Krzysztof Kotorowicz of Poland, followed by Marion Michielsen and Vincent de Pagter of the Netherlands, another one-quarter of a board further back.

In the first-ever World Schools event it was a Polish one-two finish, to make up for the World Cup, perhaps? Bartolomiej Iglar-Artur Machno edged out the leaders at the start of the day, Andrzej Bernatowicz-Jan Betley. In third place, by less than a matchpoint, came Pierre Franceschetti and Andrea Landry of France.

For boards 1-6 of the first of four sessions, Patrick Jourdain followed World Junior Team titleholders Joe Grue & John Kranyak of the USA. They had a tough start facing one of the leading Dutch pairs Bas Tammens and Bob Drijver. The Dutch can be described as well-bred, for Bas is the offspring of Kees, NPC of many Dutch Junior teams, and Bob's elder brothers Tom and

Bas Drijver have been leading Juniors in the Netherlands until the age limit caught up with them, leaving Bob to keep the family name going in Junior bridge.

Tough Start

The first board proved fascinating:

Board 1. Dealer North. Neither Vul.

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

| West | North | East | South |
|---------|------------------|------------------|------------------|
| Tammens | Grue | Drijver | Kranyak |
| — | Pass | Pass | 1 ♦ ¹ |
| 1 ♥ | 1 ♠ ² | 3 ♣ ³ | Pass |
| 3 ♥ | Pass | Pass | Pass |

1. Precision, at least 2 cards
2. Denies four spades following the Italian style
3. Fit-jump showing clubs and heart support

The Dutch ended in the best-scoring spot of three hearts, but it was not easy to make. Grue began with a trump lead away from the queen. Tammens went up with the ace and, with the idea of establishing transportation, played the queen of clubs off dummy. South won and played a second trump, declarer playing the jack, and Grue accurately withholding his queen. Now declarer could not take a diamond ruff without setting up the queen of trumps for the defence, and it was too late to establish spades, as North can play a third trump when in with the jack of spades (though if declarer plays the ace of spades next, South has to unblock).

Note that had declarer won the second trump in dummy, an anti-avoidance play in spades (ducking if South plays high and putting on the ace if he plays low) would prevent North gaining the lead and the defence is helpless. To make the contract declarer does best to start the spades earlier.

Tricks to Burn

Whoever it was who said that declarer play was easier than defence clearly had not focused on this deal from the second session of the Junior Pairs.

Board 21. Dealer North. NS Vul.

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

| West | North | East | South |
|---------|-------|------|-------|
| Kranyak | Davis | Grue | Boyd |
| — | 1 ♣ | Pass | 1 ♠ |
| Pass | 2 NT | Pass | 3 ♥ |
| Pass | 3 NT | Pass | 4 ♥ |
| Pass | Pass | Pass | |

John Kranyak led ace and another diamond against Richard Boyd's four-heart contract. Boyd started well by winning the second diamond and immediately playing three rounds of spades, ruffing low, before anyone could get a chance to discard a spade.

Once that stood up, he only had to hold his trump losers to two to make the hand, but it looked to him as if he was in a normal contract and so should go for the maximum. His actual choice of leading low to the ten was both unlucky and incredibly expensive. Kranyak won his bare jack and pumped declarer with a third diamond, then a fourth diamond from Grue when in with the ace of hearts led to one down.

If Boyd had considered that he had already done well in both the bidding and play thus far he might have reconsidered his approach, though it is easier to see this when the full 52 cards are on view. But perhaps it would not have been absurd to ruff a diamond back to hand at trick six, then play ace and king of clubs and ruff a club. At this point in the deal when a club is led from dummy and East is about to show out, declarer has ten tricks by force, by ruffing a club in hand and a spade high in dummy. Making ten tricks would have scored 89 of 140 to North-South, but down one was only worth 26.

Polished Polish Play

Here we see the Polish stars Bartłomiej Iгла and Artur Machno in action in the Schools Pairs:

Board 28. Dealer West. NS Vul.

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

| West | North | East | South |
|------|-------|--------|-------|
| Iгла | | Machno | |
| 1 ♣ | 1 ♥ | Double | Pass |
| 2 ♠ | Pass | 4 ♠ | Pass |
| Pass | Pass | | |

Double showed at least four spades, and two spades suggested 12-14 and four spades. The nine of clubs was led to the queen and ace, and the club jack was returned to Iгла's king. Declarer played the jack of hearts, North winning the ace then returning a low heart. Because people with the ace-queen in these sorts of positions tend to rise with the ace and people with the ace but no queen tend to duck jacks, Iгла guessed correctly to run this to his jack.

A club ruff, the ace and queen of spades, the heart king ruffed and over-ruffed, followed by another club ruff then a diamond to the ace left declarer in his hand to draw the last trump at Trick 11. As he drew the trump, North was squeezed in the red suits in the following ending:

| | |
|----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| ♠ K ♥ — ♦ 5 4 ♣ — | ♠ — ♥ 8 ♦ K 10 ♣ — |
| ♠ 9 ♥ — ♦ 6 ♣ 10 | ♠ — ♥ 8 ♦ K 10 ♣ — |

This excellent example of precise timing by declarer for plus 450 was worth 58 out of 66 match points.

Online Bulletin Access

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THE JUNIOR CAMP
 Piestany, Slovakia, July 3-7
Barry Rigal, NYC

The Winning Edge

Adam Edgtton from Australia and Niclas Ege from Denmark showed in Pairs Tournament 2 that the harmony in their surnames can also be found in their defence.

Board 21. Dealer North. NS Vul.

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

| West | North | East | South |
|---------|--------|------|-------|
| Edgtton | | Ege | |
| — | Pass | Pass | 1 ♦ |
| 1 ♠ | Double | Pass | 1 NT |
| Pass | Pass | Pass | |

Edgtton led the six of clubs. Declarer rose with dummy's king in order to preserve an entry to the diamonds, Ege encouraging with three. Three rounds of diamonds left Ege on lead with the diamond king, as Edgtton discarded the discouraging six of spades. The club five went to the ace, and on the two diamond winners, Edgtton discarded two spades, Ege two hearts, and dummy a club and a heart.

Declarer played a sneaky ten of hearts, but Edgtton was not fooled and rose with the ace to retain the transportation for the impending squeeze. He played a club to partner's queen and Ege smartly played the queen of spades to the king and ace, isolating the spade guard in dummy, with the ending as follows:

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

Now when Edgtton cashed the jack of clubs, dummy was squeezed, giving the defence the rest of the tricks for plus 100.

Silence Is Golden

Board 19. Dealer South. EW Vul.

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

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

At Rosaline Barendregt's table, North could not refrain from opening his mouth after his partner passed, and the one spade overcall did not prevent his opponents from reaching slam – but did provide a blueprint as to how to play the hand.

After a spade lead and a club return, Rosaline took the ace of clubs, cashed the ace of spades and played two more top clubs, pitching the small spade from dummy. When, rather to her surprise, it was North who revealed himself to be long in both black suits, she took the diamond finesse, cashed the diamond king and ace, and finally played the queen of spades, watching South's discard with interest.

By now, Rosaline know South to have started life with a 2=5=4=2 pattern, so if he pitched his diamond, she would be able to cash dummy's long diamond. If South pitched his heart she would throw the diamond from dummy and take trick 13 with the long heart.

Without opposition bidding it might seem that six no trump is far harder to play. On a low heart lead, for example, you might well not work out to play spades initially –and if you did play spades, you might misguess who to play for the spade honours! However, that is an illusion: Alex Morris did play six no trump after an unopposed auction, as West. On a club lead he simply won and played four rounds of clubs, pitching spades from hand. He had not obtained a second spade trick, but he had set up the long club instead. Now, on a spade return, he could finesse in diamonds and cash three rounds of that suit, then go to the heart queen

and cash the fifth club, catching South in a red-suit squeeze.

At another table, Eliran Argelazi declared six diamonds on an unopposed sequence where he had opened one diamond and reversed into hearts. He was treated to a low spade lead from Rens Philipsen, (a club lead defeats the slam by force as it happens) and his five scored the first trick. Now it looked a little as if North had been faced with a choice of awkward leads, so quite reasonably declarer played the diamond king, a diamond to the ace, and a third diamond.

The play looks simple enough now, right? South wins the queen of diamonds and plays a second spade. Declarer wins the ace, draws the trump pitching a club from dummy, cashes the queen of hearts and the ace of clubs and now has to guess to take the ace and king of hearts (as opposed to playing the top clubs first).

In the ending shown below, North still has to discard, and is squeezed in the black suits. The only time this line fails is if North had begun with a 5=4=2=2 shape, when cashing the top clubs first would squeeze North in the majors.

Would it not be unusual for one declarer to be able to make a slam by squeezing North in the black suits, and another declarer to make the slam by squeezing South in the red suits?

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

At the table, though, Rytis Posochova of Lithuania threw a spanner in the works by ducking the third diamond as South!! Declarer won his jack, and could have reverted to the winning position by exiting with his fourth diamond, to allow him to achieve the same squeeze. But quite reasonably he decided to take an 'extra' chance, namely that South had four clubs and four diamonds, by attacking clubs, leaving the master trump outstanding.

Disaster! South ruffed the third top club and now there was no transportation for a squeeze on North (if declarer cashes the three top hearts, he can no longer reach the East hand). Down one, and quite a coup by South.

AUSTRIAN OPEN TEAMS

Altmünster, May 26-28, 2006

Fritz Babsch, Vienna

This is not the biggest team tournament but the most important. Normally, almost all Austrian top players compete, but some of them play with sponsors. Therefore, the field was not as strong as it could have been. Twenty-four teams allowed a fine movement: Two groups of 12 teams (strong and weak teams in each group) played a Round Robin, then the field was divided into four groups of 6, according to performance.

My favourite was TERRANEO (Kurt Feichtinger, Robert Franzel, Jan Fucik, Hubert Obermair, Franz Terraneo), but FISCHER (Doris Fischer, Bernd Saurer, Tilman Seidel, Wolf Seidel) was also a strong team. Dr. Wolf Seidel (67 years young), a retired neurologist from Innsbruck, has played for Austria in some European Championships (1965 in Ostend, 1977 in Helsingör); his son Tilman was very successful when he was a junior. They gave up competitive bridge some years ago but Doris Fischer managed to get them back.

There were several grand slams which were interesting.

| West | East (Dealer) |
|---|----------------------|
| <i>Leitner</i> | <i>Sattler</i> |
| ♠ J 10 9 4 | ♠ — |
| ♥ K J 8 7 | ♥ A Q 9 5 3 |
| ♦ A K Q | ♦ 10 8 7 6 5 4 |
| ♣ K 5 | ♣ A 4 |
| — | 1 ♥ |
| 2 NT ¹ | 3 ♥ ² |
| 4 NT | 5 NT ³ |
| 6 ♥ | Pass |
| 1. Game forcing with four hearts | |
| 2. "Not minimum" (the opening bid could have been made on four cards) | |
| 3. Two aces plus a void | |

West did not agree with East's rebid of three hearts because he did not know which void East held. He did not want to gamble: he was rewarded with 13 IMPs, as the contract at the other table had been four hearts after East had opened with a weak two-suiter with hearts.

East's rebid was not a good move: If you open such a hand you should show your second suit even if it is weak.

Dealer South. Both Vul.

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

| West | North | East | South |
|------|-------------------|------|------------------|
| — | <i>Guttman</i> | — | <i>Berger</i> |
| Pass | 2 NT ² | 4 ♠ | 1 ♥ ¹ |
| Pass | 5 ♠ ³ | Pass | 6 ♣ ⁴ |
| Pass | 7 ♥ | Pass | Pass |

1. The partnership opens on any four hearts with 4-4 in the majors
2. Game forcing with four hearts
3. Exclusion Blackwood
4. One ace

West led a spade (which was rather silly as North had shown a void; on a different layout a trump lead might break the contract) so Berger had an easy time, but I am sure that he would have made the contract anyway with two club ruffs in his hand.. His team gained 13 IMPs – at the other table South opened one diamond, North responded two clubs and the heart suit was lost. The final contract was six diamonds, made with an overtrick.

Gerhard Pollak found a master bid and an excellent save but lost 30 IMPs on this hand:

Dealer South. Both Vul.

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

In one room Branc-Zeugner played in six hearts; the excellent save in six spades was not found by Simon-Wernle. In the other room there was dramatic action (North-South play a homemade system):

| West | North | East | South |
|---------------|--------------------|---------------|---------------------|
| <i>Zelnik</i> | <i>Hedi Fräser</i> | <i>Pollak</i> | <i>Harry Fräser</i> |
| — | — | — | Pass |
| Pass | 1 ♣ | Pass | 1 ♥ |
| 1 ♠ | 2 ♥ | 3 ♦ | Pass |
| 4 ♦ | 5 ♦ | 5 ♠ | 6 ♥ |
| Pass | Pass | 6 ♠ | Pass |
| Pass | 7 ♥ | Pass | Pass |
| Pass | — | — | — |

Peter Zelnik led a spade and Harry let it run to the queen. Then he finessed in hearts and made his contract!

TERRANEO won their group easily and FISCHER was second in the other group. The first three of each group went to the final.

This was a grand slam that was good but not laydown.

Dealer South. EW Vul.

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

Many good pairs in Austria play Blue Club. I would possibly not open with one club (will it help if partner shows three controls?), but on this deal it worked quite well:

| West | East |
|---------------------------------|-------------------|
| <i>G.Kriftner</i> | <i>Kubak</i> |
| <i>T.Seidel</i> | <i>W.Seidel</i> |
| 1 ♣ | 2 ♣ ¹ |
| 2 ♥ | 5 NT ² |
| 7 ♥ | Pass |
| 1. Five controls | |
| 2. Josephine (Grand Slam Force) | |

Fucik and Obermair are not a regular partnership but they also reached seven hearts:

| West | East |
|--------------|-----------------|
| <i>Fucik</i> | <i>Obermair</i> |
| 1 ♣ | 2 ♣ |
| 2 ♠ | 3 ♣ |
| 3 ♥ | 4 ♣ |
| 5 ♥ | 7 ♥ |
| Pass | — |

The other three pairs in the final stopped in six hearts. TERRANEO won the championship with FISCHER in second place.

Annual General Meeting of the International Bridge Press Association

Monday, 19th June 2006, 09.15 -10.15, Conference Centre, Verona

Attending: Phillip Alder (USA), Mabel Bocchi (ITA), Jan van Cleeff (NED), Simon Cocheme (ENG), José Damiani (FRA), Maureen Dennison (ENG), Mario Dix (MAL), Seamus Dowling (IRE), Auda Enciu (ISR), Tony Gordon (ENG), Dilip Gidwani (GHA), Maureen Hiron (ESP), Mark Horton (ENG), Per Jannersten (SWE), Elena Jeronimidis (ENG), Patrick Jourdain (WAL), Ron Klinger (AUS), Eian Levy (ISR), Robert Lui (CAN), Rosa Lui (CAN), Brent Manley (USA), Göran Mattsson (GER), Jean-Paul Meyer (FRA), Margaret Parnis England (MAL), Tony Priday (ENG), Nissan Rand (ISR), Roswitha Schneeweiss (OST), Jan Swaan (NED), Ron Tacchi (FRA), Robert Todd (USA).

1: Per Jannersten called the meeting to order.

2: Jourdain paid homage to deceased members Amram Zamzami (IND), Evelyn Senn (NED), Albert Benjamin (SCO) and Simon Ainger (ENG) and asked members to be upstanding for a minute's silence.

3: The minutes of the AGM held in Estoril in November 2005 with one correction (Jan Swaan (NED) had been omitted from those attending) were approved as published in the Bulletin

4: Officer's Reports

President: Patrick Jourdain

This year, IBPA has lost two of its most distinguished members. Evelyn Senn was a bridge player who worked in the public relations department of BOLS when Herman Filarski proposed the BOLS Tip idea that Evelyn enthusiastically supported. She became an officer of IBPA for ten years and a highly valued friend to your President.

Albert Benjamin was one of our best known and longest standing members. He was Scotland's first true bridge professional, writing a daily column for forty years for the Glasgow Citizen. His variation of ACOL is today the most popular system for tournament players in Britain.

Last year at Estoril we made some major changes to our officers, caused by new jobs for Per Jannersten and Christer Andersson, and the loss of Alan Truscott. This year I am relieved to report we are able to propose an unchanged list of officers. One of the new men, Mario Dix, thinking he had retired from his main job, offered to fill the roles of both Treasurer and Membership Secretary. But his main job was extended and he suffered a fractured leg taking him out of action for several weeks. As a consequence the 2005 Accounts have not met the various deadlines for preparation. We will present them today but ask for their approval in Warsaw after auditing. But I wish to pay tribute to Mario for sticking to his post in very difficult circumstances.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank our sponsors. All have signed up for a further year, so in Warsaw, when we make the Awards, there will be as last year a C&R Motors Hand of the Year, A Precision Auction of the Year, an ITES Best Defence of the Year, a Masterpoint Press Book of the Year, and a Brazilian Best Junior Play of the year. Furthermore, we have already received the annual grant from the WBF that is possible by the support the WBF has from Generali.

We are discussing ideas for the Alan Truscott Memorial Award, currently with no sponsor.

The Press Room here in Verona is excellent, efficiently run as usual by Jan Swaan, spacious and enough computers though there were occasional problems with the Internet connections. I conclude by thanking our other officers, in particular our secretary, Maureen Dennison, for their work during the year.

Organisational Vice President: Dilip Gidwani

We are making an effort to upgrade the IBPA website to cover maximum possible information on bridge-related events. I hope to have the assistance of Robert Todd (a new IBPA member who joined in Estoril) for this work. Hopefully it will be during the course of this year. We hope to build in links to other bridge-related websites and so encourage those writing on the web to join IBPA.

Secretary: Maureen Dennison

There has been very little change in the secretarial workload as problems of magazine delivery etc is easily sorted over the net. The policy now is not to automatically send out membership cards but if they are needed for professional reasons, as for example for a trade federation or visa, they are available on request. We had a short report from our Editor, John Carruthers, that other than a few glitches in printing the logo, all was going well except for a shortfall in submissions from members and a few more contributions would not come amiss.

5: Appointees' Reports:

Treasurer: Mario Dix

This is my first Annual General Meeting as your Treasurer and I am also your Membership Secretary. My comments at this meeting are mostly to do with the finances but also to touch on Membership numbers.

I firstly owe you an apology that you do not have the audited figures but merely my accounts. Unfortunately, when I agreed to take on these responsibilities, I had no idea I was about to embark on a task for my previous company that involved 14 visits to Turkey during the past 12 months. The accounts attached hereto should have been audited by the time we meet again in Warsaw when a formal vote can be taken to approve them.

As most of you know, the IBPA is formally incorporated in Montana, USA, where we are registered as a non-profit making organisation and thus we are afforded "tax-free" status. This obviously means that our accounts need to be prepared in US dollars. However, only about a third of our income and disbursements are actually transacted in dollars and all our cash is currently kept in Euro and pounds sterling. But this does mean that our accounts are apparently subject to the very large currency fluctuations that have been prominent over the past few years. During the year 2005 when the dollar was relatively strong at year end compared to 2004, it appeared that our assets held in European currencies had depreciated by about 6% when in reality they were almost unchanged. Most of this "loss" would have been eradicated if the "year end" was today when the dollar is quite a bit lower than at the end of last year. Our Awards continue to be well sponsored and we continue to receive our annual \$1,000 grant from the WBF. Thanks to the facility of using our Chairman, Per Jannersten's secure credit card facility, we have also reduced our credit card processing fee. So you will see from the attached budget for 2006, we still anticipate making a small profit this year. However, rising printing, postage and secretarial costs seem to warrant a small increase next year to GBP46 for the full rate subscription. It is not proposed to alter the Internet sub which will remain at GBP25.

Membership Secretary: Mario Dix – Report 2006:

Honour members 14: Sponsored 7: Internet Members 164: Hard Copy Members 108.

Our membership continues to hold just about steady at approximately 325 members, though some have yet to renew. It can be seen that about 60% have now switched to receiving the monthly bulletin by Internet rather than snail mail. Whilst this dilutes our income, it also substantially reduces our costs in printing and postage.

New Members Joining at Verona: AUSTRIA: Roswitha Schneeweiss – CANADA: Robert & Rosa Lui – GERMANY: Elke Weber – USA Matt Granovetter.

6: The meeting was asked to approve the Accounts subject to auditor's report and they would be ratified in Warsaw. Also the meeting was asked to approve the increase to **£46** for the hard copy and it was passed nem con.

7: Election of Officers

Patrick Jourdain (WAL) was confirmed as **President**. All other officers were **elected nem con as follows:**
Chairman: Per Jannersten (Swe), **Exec Vice-President:** Jan van Cleeff (NED), **Organisational Vice-President:** Dilip Gidwani (GHA), **Secretary:** Maureen Dennison (ENG), **Treasurer:** Mario Dix (MAL), **Hon General Council:** Bill Pencharx (ENG), **Hon Auditor:** Julius Butkow (RSA). Automatically continuing without election are the **President Emeriti:** Tommy Sandsmark (NOR) and Henry Francis (USA).

8: Election of Executive Members:

Executive members whose term expires and are available for a 3-year term to 2009: Christer Andersson (SWE), Peter Lund (DEN), Ron Tacchi (FRA).

Already elected to 2007: Chris Diment (AUS), Panos Gerontopoulos (GRE), 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 (MAL); Sponsored Members' Secretary: Irena Chodorowska (POL)

9: Any other business: Ron Tacchi informed the meeting of his website www.flickr.com on which he is posting archive photos. This is a public site, accessible to all, of less than top quality photos. However journalists can sign up, free of charge, with Tacchi and access his original, top quality, un-cropped photos. They can be downloaded for personal use but if used in a publication, laws of copyright still apply and a fee will be required. Note, photos from various Daily Bulletins can be used without fee but the quality is not as the original. He is to tag each photo – who, when, where etc – and would appreciate help with this task. More information will appear in the Bulletin.

Maureen Hiron introduced her new game aBRIDGED, based on bridge without the bidding, which is to be sold in shops, not specialised outlets, and it is hoped that it will inspire players to take up the real game. José Damiani asked that the WBF logo is printed on the box as a sign of his support and interest. She offered any journalist present a free, review set.

Asked about Journalist Pairs and Journalists' Outings, Jourdain noted the problem of time. It may be possible to organise a Pairs in Warsaw on Wednesday or Thursday providing at least 20 journalists are ready to play. At the world events, time is the problem. There is likely to be a Press Conference followed by hospitality on Friday in lieu of an outing.

ROTTNEROS NORDIC CUP

Ib Lundby, Fredensborg, Denmark

During May, Paul Horn welcomed the Nordic countries to Rottneros Manor and Park in Sweden for the 11th time. Once this was "Ekeby" in Selma Lagerlöfs' "The Story of Gösta Berling". It is the most beautiful flower and sculpture park in Scandinavia.

In these wonderful surroundings six Nordic national teams battled for the Rottneros Nordic Cup 2006. The final results: Finland 90, Denmark 89, Sweden 81, Norway 70, Iceland 67, Farø Islands 50. The winning team: Lasse Utter, Jorma Valta, Osmo Kiema and Jouni Juuri-Oja.

David and Goliath

With only a couple of hundred members, the Farø Islands has to accept their role as little brother in Nordic bridge. However, the players know very well how to handle the cards. An example from the match against big brother from Denmark:

Dealer North. Both Vul.

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

| West | North | East | South |
|-------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|
| <i>Dorthe</i> | <i>Joannes</i> | <i>Peter</i> | <i>Hedin</i> |
| <i>Schaltz</i> | <i>Mouritsen</i> | <i>Schaltz</i> | <i>Mouritsen</i> |
| — | 1 ♣ | Pass | 1 ♦ |
| 1 ♠ | Pass | 3 ♦ ¹ | Double |
| Pass ² | Pass | 3 ♥ ³ | 4 ♦ |
| Pass | Pass | Pass | |

1. Short diamonds and good support
2. Extra values
3. A new game try

Lead: ♣Q

Of course, East could have won with the ace of clubs to play another club - West still had his two aces, and one down. But the club combination persuaded East to duck, and South won with the king. West had to duck the queen of spades - else two clubs will disappear on dummy's high spades. The king of diamonds won the following trick, but West captured the diamond queen with her ace with her ace and shifted to a heart, won with dummy's ace. The heart queen was covered with the king and ruffed by South,

whereafter Hedin cashed the diamond ten and continued with the well-preserved...two of diamonds!

West had to accept the gift. She won with the diamond eight and acted as stepping stone to dummy. In this way, South didn't have any club losers at all, merely one spade and two diamonds!

The Last Round

In the last round, Finland met Denmark; Denmark was 1 VP ahead of Finland, but Finland won the match 16-14 to win the Nordic Cup for the first time.

Jorma Valta showed his skills on this deal from that match:

Dealer East. NS Vul.

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

| West | North | East | South |
|--------------|---------------------|--------------|----------------|
| <i>Lasse</i> | <i>Sören</i> | <i>Jorma</i> | <i>Martin</i> |
| <i>Utter</i> | <i>Christiansen</i> | <i>Valta</i> | <i>Schaltz</i> |
| — | — | 1 ♦ | Double |
| Redouble | 1 ♥ | 2 ♦ | 2 ♠ |
| 3 ♠ | Pass | 3 NT | Pass |
| Pass | Pass | | |

Lead: ♠A

Young Martin shifted a low heart which spoiled the transportation for declarer, but East knew how to recover. In with the ace of hearts, he played a diamond to South's ace, and the club shift was won in dummy. After two more club tricks (East discarded the jack of spades), East, after unblocking the queen of diamonds end-played South with a heart, and the hand was over. Nine tricks, where the same contract went two off at the other table.

JACK RECAPTURES WORLD TITLE

Wim Heemskerck, Bodegraven, NED

Of the seven teams that vied for the 2006 Computer Bridge World Championship in Verona, Italy, June 17th through June 22nd, four emerged from the qualifying round-robin (six 28-board matches). The Dutch program Jack, seeking to regain the crown it had lost to the French program Wbridge5 in 2005 after winning the previous four championships, won all six of its

round-robin matches and led the field by a wide margin. The final standings in the Round Robin:

1. Jack (Netherlands) 124 VP
2. Micro Bridge (Japan) 104 VP
3. WBridge5 (France) 102 VP
4. Q-Plus Bridge (Germany) 99 VP
5. Bridge Baron (USA) 82 VP
6. Blue Chip Bridge (England) 66 VP
7. Shark Bridge (Denmark) 52 VP

In one 64-board semi-final match, Jack beat Q-Plus Bridge, 239 IMPs to 41. In the other semi-final, Micro Bridge edged defending champion Wbridge5, 141 IMPs to 133.

So as in Toronto, Canada, five years ago, Jack faced Micro Bridge in the 64-board final. Jack had won easily enough in 2001, and in Verona it again dominated, winning 217 IMPs to 54.

**Round Robin. Jack v WBridge5
Dealer North. EW Vul.**

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

Table 1

| West | North | East | South |
|------------------|-------|------------------|-------|
| WB5 | Jack | WB5 | Jack |
| — | Pass | 1 NT | Pass |
| 2 ♣ ¹ | Pass | 3 ♥ ² | Pass |
| 4 ♥ | Pass | Pass | Pass |

1. Stayman, invitational plus
2. 5 hearts

Wbridge5 discovered the 5-3 fit in hearts and sailed into four hearts. South led the club jack, to the king and ace. At trick two, declarer tried to cross to dummy in spades to play a trump up to his honours. South ruffed and North-South cross-ruffed their way to five tricks: two down.

Table 2

| West | North | East | South |
|------|-------|------|-------|
| Jack | WB5 | Jack | WB5 |
| — | 2 ♠ | 2 NT | Pass |
| 3 NT | Pass | Pass | Pass |

The hyperactive topless weak two by Wbridge5 may have kept East-West from discovering their 5-3 heart

fit, but it backfired on them. Only a heart lead beats three no trump double dummy, but of course, South led a club. Declarer won and cashed three spade tricks ending in dummy, forcing South to discard some diamonds.

Declarer must cash dummy's fourth spade to put further pressure on South, but instead he led a heart from dummy, giving North a chance to rise with the ace and shift to diamonds. When North ducked, declarer inserted the jack, losing to South's queen of hearts, but now the defence was helpless. South's desperate diamond shift let declarer take eleven tricks for a 13-IMP pickup.

DOROTHY TRUSCOTT, 1925-2006

(Excerpted from the New York Times, July 7)

Dorothy Hayden Truscott, for many years the top-ranked woman in bridge and the winner of four world titles and more than two dozen national championships, died on July 4 in New Russia, N.Y., following a long battle with Parkinson's disease. She was 80.

Truscott won four world titles as a player: the Venice Cup in 1974, 1976 and 1978, and the Women's Team Olympiad in 1980. She was the non-playing captain of the winning American Venice Cup team in 1989.

Dorothy Johnson was born in New York City on Nov. 3, 1925, four days after Harold S. Vanderbilt had introduced his new game, contract bridge, to three friends while sailing the Panama Canal. Her parents, Dorothy and Reginald Johnson, were keen players and taught her the game when she was 7. She graduated from Smith College and briefly became a math teacher in Kalamazoo, Mich.

Truscott won one world silver medal, from the 1965 Bermuda Bowl, and six world bronze medals, from the Open Pairs in 1966 (she is the only woman to win a medal in this event); the Women's Team Olympiads in 1968, 1972 and 1976; and the Women's Pairs in 1962 and 1974.

Truscott was inducted into the [American Contract Bridge League's](#) Hall of Fame in 1998. Her husband since 1972, Alan Truscott, the bridge columnist for The New York Times, died last year.

Truscott wrote two best-selling bridge books, "Winning Declarer Play" (1969) and "Bid Better, Play Better" (1970). With her husband she wrote "Teach Yourself Basic Bidding" (1976-77) and "The New York Times Bridge Book" (2002). Also in 2002, she published "Hell Gate," an historical novel about early Dutch settlers in Harlem.

Phillip Alder

NEW ZEALAND NATIONALS

Peter Gill, Sydney

A prize for the Play of the Day at the New Zealand Nationals went to David Wiltshire from Australia on the following deal.

Board 5. Dealer North. NS Vul.

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

| West | North | East | South |
|------|-------|------|-----------|
| — | Ware | | Wiltshire |
| — | 1 ♠ | 2 ♦ | 3 NT |
| Pass | Pass | Pass | |

Wiltshire may have passed the age limit, but his bidding still has the spirit of a youth player. West led the seven of clubs. When the nine won the trick, Wiltshire could count eight tricks (assuming that the diamond queen was with East). He gave the hand a lot of thought (long enough for dummy to take a comfort stop, actually). He decided that as nobody had bid hearts, there was a very good chance that hearts were 4-4, so at trick two Wiltshire played a heart!

East gratefully won the heart ten and cashed three more rounds of hearts (declarer pitching a spade from dummy and a spade and a club from hand).

East continued with a small diamond, which Wiltshire ran to dummy's king. He cashed the king of clubs and finessed the jack of diamonds. The ace of diamonds was cashed and Wiltshire led out the other minor ace in this position:

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

West had to protect the clubs and thus could hold on to no more than two spades. East had to guard the

diamonds and thus could retain only two spades. Therefore, neither opponent could protect the spades. As the cards lie, East was caught in a simple squeeze, but Wiltshire had played the hand as if it were a double squeeze, to make three no trump.

Note that declarer has to pitch a spade on the fourth heart, but the fall of the spade ten in two rounds means that the defence cannot break up the squeeze by shifting to a spade after cashing the hearts.

LORDS v COMMONS

David Bird, Eastleigh, Hants., UK

(From the Evening Standard, August 10, 2006)

Board 19. Dealer South. NS Vul.

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

| West | North | East | South |
|----------|-------|-------|-------|
| Bridget | Lord | John | Lord |
| Prentice | Baker | Marek | Kalms |
| — | — | — | 1 ♥ |
| 2 ♣ | Pass | Pass | 2 ♥ |
| Pass | Pass | Pass | |

The deal comes from the 2006 Lords v Commons match, which was splendidly hosted at the Crockfords Club in London. The East-West cards were cruelly placed for declarer on Board 19. Can you believe that the defenders scored the first nine tricks?

Bridget Prentice, for the Commons, cashed her two top diamonds and the ace of spades. She then switched to a club. John Marek ruffed and cashed the queen of diamonds, West discarding a club. A fourth round of diamonds allowed West to ruff and she played another club for East to ruff. When a spade was returned, Lord Kalms ruffed with the eight and Bridget Prentice over-ruffed with the nine. A third round of clubs was ruffed with the ace and the defenders had scored the first nine tricks. John Marek then led another spade, which promoted West's jack-six of trumps, lying over the king-queen-ten-five-two. The contract was five down vulnerable for minus 500.

"What did you do on Board 19?" Lord Kalms asked Robin Squire as he arrived for the next match. "Awful!"

he replied. "I went six down vulnerable in three hearts." It just shows how you can get an appalling result without doing anything wrong.

BEST BID HAND OF THE YEAR?

Matthew Granovetter, Cincinnati, OH

(From Bridge Today Daily Column - Issue #26 - July 3)

Preview

Dealer West. NS Vul.

South (you)

♠ J 9 8 7

♥ 9 8 7 6 5

♦ K Q 8

♣ Q

| West | North | East | South |
|------|-------------------|------|--------|
| Pass | 1 ♣ | 1 ♠ | Double |
| Pass | 2 ♠ ¹ | Pass | 2 NT |
| Pass | 3 ♦ | Pass | 3 ♥ |
| Pass | 3 ♠ | Pass | 3 NT |
| Pass | 5 NT ² | Pass | ?? |

1. Game force

2. Asking you to pick a slam, implying 1=3=4=5 shape, having failed to rebid either minor

Which slam do you choose?

Pick a Slam

JoAnna Stansby told me about this hand from a round-robin match against the Steiner team in the McConnell Women's Teams, two weeks ago in Verona. JoAnna was partnered by Debbie Rosenberg:

Dealer West. NS Vul.

♠ 10

♥ A K Q

♦ A J 10 2

♣ A K J 6 2

♠ K 4 3

♥ J 10 4

♦ 7 5 4

♣ 10 9 8 5

♠ A Q 6 5 2

♥ 3 2

♦ 9 6 3

♣ 7 4 3

♠ J 9 8 7

♥ 9 8 7 6 5

♦ K Q 8

♣ Q

| West | North | East | South |
|------|-----------|------|---------|
| | Rosenberg | | Stansby |
| Pass | 1 ♣ | 1 ♠ | Double |
| Pass | 2 ♠ | Pass | 2 NT |
| Pass | 3D | Pass | 3 ♥ |
| Pass | 3 ♠ | Pass | 3 NT |
| Pass | 5 NT | Pass | 6 ♣ |
| Pass | Pass | Pass | |

Opening lead: ♠A

Rosenberg's two-spade cuebid set up a game force in their style. Stansby bid two no trump with her spade stopper and Rosenberg showed her second suit, diamonds. Now Stansby bid her heart suit and Rosenberg cuebid for real. Stansby, with most of her high cards in the minors, rebid three no trump, and this left Rosenberg wondering where to play it, because she wasn't finished yet with her massive hand.

She jumped to five no trump, a popular convention known as "Pick a Slam." Since she had not rebid four clubs or four diamonds, the bid implied 1=3=4=5 shape exactly. JoAnna Stansby told me afterwards, "My first impulse was to go with the obvious eight-card heart fit. But then I noticed my trumps were not so good. Even if partner held the ace-king-queen of hearts, the defenders could start with two rounds of spades, and that would promote a trump trick. What about the seven-card diamond fit? The same defence of two rounds of spades would leave our hopes pinned to a 3-3 diamond split. That left the six-card club fit to consider. Here I would need clubs 4-3 with partner owning the jack (or the 10 and the jack falling tripleton)."

Stansby believed her partner's strong bidding made it likely she would hold the club jack, so she rejected both her partnership's eight-card fit and seven-card fit to bid slam in the six-card fit. Right she was!

At the other table, the Russian pair on the Steiner team bid the North-South cards to six hearts. Jill Meyers and Jill Levin defended well, leading two rounds of spades to promote the heart jack as the setting trick. Stansby's team won a slam swing, but the Steiner team eventually won the gold medal, defeating her team in the final of the world championships.

BIDDING CANDIDATE

Sheri Winestock, Las Vegas, NV

Rosenblum Qualifier Round 4

Board 24. Dealer West. Neither Vul.

(NS cards approximate)

♠ A K J 9 8

♥ Q 8 7 2

♦ —

♣ Q 5 4 3

♠ 6 4

♥ 9 3

♦ A Q 10 6 5 3

♣ K 10 6

♠ 3 2

♥ 6 5 4

♦ J 9 8 7 2

♣ J 9 2

♠ Q 10 7 5

♥ A K J 10

♦ K 4

♣ A 8 7

Brad Moss-Fred Gitelman bid as follows:

| West | North | East | South |
|------|------------------|------|------------------|
| | Moss | | Gitelman |
| Pass | 1 ♠ | Pass | 3 ♣ ¹ |
| Pass | 3 ♥ ² | Pass | 3 ♠ ³ |
| Pass | 4 ♣ ⁴ | Pass | 4 ♥ ⁵ |
| Pass | 5 ♦ ⁶ | Pass | 6 ♥ |
| Pass | Pass | Pass | |

1. GF spade raise
2. Minimum with unspecified shortage
3. Where?
4. Diamonds
5. Cue-bid
6. Void

Gitelman found diamond shortage opposite and then was able to offer hearts as an alternative trump suit; Moss might have been able to pass with as little as queen to three hearts - as it was, he was more than delighted to play hearts.

RALPH COHEN, 1926-2006

Ralph Cohen died on June 13. He was a fine bridge player, an able administrator, a proud family man and a good friend. But most of all he was a fierce warrior. Early on, his bridge opponents and partners discovered his fierceness. Later bridge administrators learned how hard Ralph would fight to improve the game. But it was in the battle of life that Ralph demonstrated his warrior strengths most strongly.

When he was hit by four major illnesses simultaneously a few years ago, no one thought he'd make it. But he did. When one major cancer after another struck him down, Ralph just kept going. Every Thursday when he wasn't hospitalized, he trekked to the Lightman Bridge Club in Memphis to play bridge with me. And he never changed. He had to take a couple of short rest breaks each time, but he still put the fear of God into opponents with his fiercely competitive play and defense.

How tough was Ralph Cohen? Here's how tough. He played his last game of bridge just three days before he died. When he went outside for some warmth, he fell and broke his shoulder and his hip. What did he do? He went back to his seat and finished the game. And he did it with a flourish - he came from behind and won. He never gave up in bridge and he never gave up in life. And he never complained. If you asked him how he was doing, his answer was always the same - "I'm OK."

And that was the right answer. Ralph Cohen was an OK guy.

Henry Francis

DRESS REHEARSAL

Mark Horton, Romford, UK

In August, the eyes of the bridge world will turn towards Warsaw when the Polish capital plays host to the European Bridge Championships. The staging of a major International Championship represents a massive undertaking and to ensure that everything runs like clockwork from day one the organizers staged a dry run, using the Polish Division I Finals, (the Superligi) and a friendly Women's International match between France and Poland as a backdrop.

The setting was the magnificent Hotel Intercontinental, which will be the nerve centre of the European Championships. The Hotel is located in the heart of the vibrant Polish capital, (and only a 3 Euro ride from the airport!) and will delight both players and visitors alike.

The Polish Bridge Federation site (www.pzbs.pl) provided all the results and a detailed analysis of every board! Here is a deal from the semifinal of the Superligi between Praterm (Warsaw) and Sakura (Krakow).

Lights, Camera, Action

Dealer North. NS Vul.

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

Open Room

| West | North | East | South |
|--------|----------|----------|--------|
| Gawrys | Szymczak | Chmurski | Pilch |
| — | Pass | Pass | 1 ♣ |
| 1 ♠ | Pass | 2 NT | Pass |
| 3 ♠ | Pass | Pass | Double |
| Pass | 4 ♥ | Pass | Pass |
| Pass | | | |

Clearly four hearts was not in danger and when declarer played a club to the jack he had plus 450.

Closed Room

| West | North | East | South |
|--------|-----------|------------------|----------|
| Jassem | Tuszynski | Martens | Kowalski |
| — | Pass | 2 ♠ ¹ | Double |
| 4 ♠ | Pass | Pass | Double |
| Pass | 5 ♥ | Pass | Pass |
| Pass | | | |

1. Spades plus either minor, weak

Declarer found himself at an uncomfortable level when East-West were able to apply a lot of pressure in the bidding. West won the opening spade lead and switched to a trump. Declarer won in dummy, drew a second round, ruffed a spade, crossed to the ace of diamonds and ruffed dummy's last spade. He cashed the king of diamonds and played a club. He was confident West was 5=2=2=4, but the location of the queen of clubs was in doubt. When East played low declarer went up with the king, came to hand with a diamond and exited with a club, hoping to endplay East. As the medical men would say, "The operation was a success, but the patient died." The bill was 13 IMPs.

Sakura Krakow won this match narrowly, then emerged victorious in the final. France beat Poland in the women's Friendly.

THE TITLE WOULD GIVE IT AWAY!

Larry Cohen, Boca Raton, FL

The following deal is from the Round Robin of the 2000 Olympiad in Maastricht. It illustrates the flaw with so-called 'problem-hands.' Without the 'alarm bell' to warn you, you might go wrong (as did many world class players that faced this problem without knowing it was a 'problem-hand'.)

With both vulnerable, your partner opens one club in second seat and your RHO overcalls one heart. What do you do as South with...?

Dealer West. Both Vul.

♠ Q 5
♥ Q J 9 8
♦ K J 5 2
♣ 10 8 3

Let's say you bid one no trump and everyone passes. The ten of diamonds is led and this is what you see:

♠ A K J 10
♥ 10 5
♦ 6 4
♣ Q J 9 7 4

♠ Q 5
♥ Q J 9 8
♦ K J 5 2
♣ 10 8 3

RHO wins the diamond ace and returns the diamond queen. Any thoughts?

This is nothing more than a hold-up lesson. If you duck the queen of diamonds you can't be defeated. If you win trick two with your diamond king you can no longer make your contract. This was the full deal.

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

If you win trick two (as did many Maastricht masters), you would take four spades and two diamonds for sure. You'd have to set up a club or heart trick. No matter which suit you played next, West would win and clear diamonds. The defense would get their aces in hearts/clubs and THREE diamond tricks.

By ducking trick two you guarantee your contract. If East happens to have more diamonds, then the suit is 4-3 and you will lose only two diamond tricks. If East shifts to clubs or hearts, that sets up your seventh trick. If East shifts to spades you can play on clubs to easily make your contract. It's easy once you are warned!!

(That is always my argument against books/articles on card play - the reader is ready for the problem. In real life, no alarm bells sound - that's what is so good about using everyday deals. Note the not-so-subtle plug for my CDs: *Play Bridge with Larry Cohen.*)

IBPA WEBSITE NOTICE

You can access the IBPA Handbook from www.ibpa.com by clicking on the link on the Constitution page. When you try to open it will ask for a password, which is: **ihccaT** EXACTLY as it appears here. When prompted for a keyword, it is **Handbook.**

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

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

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

NEWS & VIEWS

Warren Buffett Cup

All journalists are urged to check out and register at the website for the Warren Buffett Cup, www.buffettcup.com. The first Cup will be held in Dublin, immediately preceding the Ryder Cup of golf, this September 18-21. Twelve pairs from Europe will compete against 12 from America in individual, pairs and teams matches. The venue is the County Bridge Association of Ireland Headquarters, Templeogue, Dublin 6.

Live Vugraph, online match commentary and daily bulletins will be available.

For more information please contact Paul Porteous (Paul@cbaie.ie), Paul Hackett (paul.h@ukonline.co.uk) or Donna Compton (cdmra@mindspring.com). The contact phone number is 0035314929666.

European Women's Bridge Festival

The 2006 Festival will be held under the auspices of Anna Maria Torlontano, Chairman of the EBL and WBF Women's Committees, in Riccione, on the Adriatic coast, Emilia Romagna Region, Italy, 26th September - 1st October 2006. Riccione is known as the "Green Pearl" of the Adriatic, for its atmosphere, elegance and charm.

The Festival is dedicated to European women bridge players of all levels. On offer are five unforgettable days in one of the most attractive place in Italy: Riccione. The Festival is transnational and players from outside Europe are welcome.

See <http://www.mbwebdesign.nl/riccione.htm> for details.

aBRIDGED

IBPA member Maureen Hiron is a master games developer who has been the subject of a BBC documentary, *The Will to Win*, and who was voted Londoner of the Year in 1990 for her efforts to raise money for a London hospital. Her first published game, CONTINUO, has sold over 5 million copies since its release in 1982. Her 50th game, aBRIDGED, was released this year at the American Toy Fair by Out of the Box Publishing in the USA.

aBRIDGEDd dispenses with the bidding and uses its own proprietary deck of cards, allowing the game to be made available via the shop shelf, meaning people can discover the game for themselves.

Maureen can be reached at:
maureenhiron@hotmail.com.

Chicago NABC Winners, July 12-23, 2006

Grand National Teams: Bob Hamman, Petra Hamman, Hemant Lall, Justin Lall, John Sutherlin, Peggy Sutherlin

Life Master Pairs: Bart Bramley, Björn Fallenius

Collegiate Championship: University of Michigan – Kevin Fay, Ilya Podolyako, Jeremy Vosko, Jonathan Zimble

Open Pairs: Jianrong Lin, Julie Zhu

Senior Swiss Teams: Geoff Brod, Steve Earl, Richard de Martino, John Steifel

Mixed Board-a-Match Teams: Beth Palmer, Bill Pettis, Rozanne Pollack, Bill Pollack, Lynn Deas

Fast Pairs: Robert Lebi, Nicolas l'Ecuyer

Spingold Knockout Teams: Nick Nickell, Dick Freeman, Bob Hamman, Paul Soloway, Jeff Meckstroth, Eric Rodwell

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

Open Swiss Teams: Chrystal Henner, Roy Welland, Antonio Sementa, Björn Fallenius, Cezary Balicki, Adam Zmudzinski

Correspondence ...



The Editor reserves the right to shorten correspondence

Email: ibpaeditor@sympatico.ca

John,

The correct e-mail address for Linda Granell is linda.granell@acbl.org. An incorrect address was published in the May Bulletin.

Gary Blaiss, Memphis TN

Hi John,

In the interests of journalistic accuracy, I should point out that Fred Gitelman's article (Meckstroth Does It Better?) originally appeared in (and was written specifically for) Canadian Master Point magazine in the mid 1990s, and was subsequently reprinted in an anthology, Northern Lights (Master Point Press).

Ray Lee, Toronto

Dear John,

Re: Verona, Bulletin 498, page 6: In the four hearts doubled contract Johan Upmark as North, not Tobias Törnqvist as South, is to blame. North should have overtaken South's queen of hearts. South then ruffs a spade, North a club and South a spade. East should have at most five hearts on the bidding, so this is the really easy way.

Hans-Olof Hallén, Stockholm

World Bridge Calendar

| DATES | EVENT | LOCATION | INFORMATION |
|---------------|---|--------------------------|--|
| 2006 | | | |
| Jul 29-Aug 8 | 11 th World Youth Teams | Bangkok, Thailand | www.worldbridge.org |
| Aug 4-6 | Pesta Sukan | Singapore | www.scba.org.sg |
| Aug 4-13 | International Festival | Aix les Bains, France | www.ffbridge.asso.fr |
| Aug 6-12 | International Festival | Loiben, Austria | fritz.babsch@tele2.at |
| Aug 8-13 | Hong Kong Inter-City | Hong Kong, China | doris1710hk@yahoo.com.hk |
| Aug 11-20 | Brighton Summer Congress | Brighton, England | www.ebu.co.uk |
| Aug 12-26 | 48 th European Team Championships | Warsaw, Poland | www.eurobridge.org |
| Aug 17-27 | International Festival | La Baule, France | www.ffbridge.asso.fr |
| Aug 18-21 | Copa Libertador | Mar del Plata, Argentina | www.bridgeargentino.org.ar |
| Aug 20-30 | 44 th PABF Championships | Shanghai, China | www.scba.org.sg |
| Aug 21-Sep 2 | 21st International Bridge Festival | Mamaia, Romania | www.worldbridge.org |
| Aug 26-Sep 3 | Summer Festival | La Grande Motte, France | www.ffbridge.asso.fr |
| Sep 6-10 | 40 ^o Festival Internazionale | Venice, Italy | www.federbridge.it |
| Sep 8-10 | Ballyunion Annual Congress | Ballyunion, Ireland | mulinswm@eircom.net |
| Sep 9-10 | Torneo Internazionale Squadra Libere | Venice, Italy | www.federbridge.it |
| Sep 9-20 | 45th Bridge Festival | Pula, Croatia | www.crobridge.com |
| Sep 15-23 | 1 ^o Festival Internazionale Isola Elba | Potoferraio, Elba, Italy | www.federbridge.it |
| Sep 18-21 | Warren Buffett Cup | Dublin, Ireland | www.buffettcup.com |
| Sep 26-Oct 1 | Women's Bridge Festival | Riccione, Italy | www.worldbridge.org |
| Sep 29-Oct 1 | Vilnius Cup | Vilnius, Lithuania | vasauskaite@transp.lt |
| Oct 6-11 | EBU Autumn Overseas Congress | Çesme, Turkey | www.ebu.co.uk |
| Oct 12-15 | European Champions Cup | Rome, Italy | www.federbridge.it |
| Oct 17-21 | 17th Sun, Sea & Slams | Barbados, WI | www.cacbf.com |
| Oct 20-22 | Autumn Congress | Eastbourne, England | www.ebu.co.uk |
| Oct 21-27 | 3 rd World University Championship | Tianjin, China | www.unibridge.org |
| Oct 23-29 | 26 th Mexico Resort Regional | Puerta Vallarta, Mexico | www.puertavallartabridge.com |
| Oct 27 & 28 | European Simultaneous Pairs | Clubs in Europe | www.eurobridge.org |
| Oct 28-29 | 60 th Lederer Memorial Trophy | London, England | www.metrobridge.co.uk |
| Nov 4-11 | VI ^o International Festival | Havana/Varadero, Cuba | www.cacbf.com |
| Nov 5-12 | 12 th Red Sea Festival | Eilat, Israel | birmand@inter.net.il |
| Nov 7-12 | International Madeira Festival | Madeira, Portugal | zecurado@yahoo.com |
| Nov 16-26 | ACBL Fall NABC | Honolulu, HI | www.acbl.org |
| Nov 27&28 | European Internet Simultaneous Pairs | Clubs in Europe | www.ecatsbridge.com |
| Nov 29-Dec 3 | Torneo Internazionale | Cefalù, Sicily, Italy | www.federbridge.it |
| Dec 1-10 | Festival de Mar del Plata | Mar del Plata, Argentina | www.bridgeargentino.org.ar |
| Dec 8-10 | Torneo Internazionale Squadra Libere | Milan, Italy | www.federbridge.it |
| Dec 9-13 | 28 th ASEAN Club Championships | Singapore | www.scba.org.sg |
| Dec 15-17 | 2006 Winter Cup | Bucharest, Romania | dragosslesan@mae.utcluj.ro |
| Dec 15-17 | Junior Channel Trophy | France | www.ebu.co.uk |
| 2007 | | | |
| Jan 5-7 | Camrose Trophy | England (TBD) | www.ebu.co.uk |
| Jan 12-14 | Thames Coromandel Bridge Festival | Thames, NZ | www.discoverybridge.co.nz |
| Jan 19-21 | Bergen International Tournament | Bergen, Norway | www.storturningingen.no |
| Jan 20-27 | Bermuda Regional 2007 | Southampton, Bermuda | www.acbl.org |
| Jan 22-26 | WBF Charity Pairs | Clubs Worldwide | www.ecatsbridge.com |
| Mar 8-18 | ACBL Spring NABC | St. Louis, MO | www.acbl.org |
| Mar 30 | Lords v Commons | London, England | www.ebu.co.uk |
| Apr 3-8 | 112 th Canadian Nationals | Toronto, ON | www.toronto-bridge.com |
| Apr 17-22 | International Festival of Estoril | Estoril, Portugal | np43je@telepac.pt |
| Jun 1&2 | Worldwide Bridge Contest | Clubs Worldwide | www.ecatsbridge.com |
| Jun 15-30 | 3rd European Open Championships | Antalya, Turkey | www.eurobridge.org |
| Jul 19-29 | ACBL Summer NABC | Nashville, TN | www.acbl.org |
| Jul 30-Aug 1 | 2 nd World Junior Individual | Nashville, TN | www.worldbridge.org |
| Sep 29-Oct 13 | 38 th World Team Championships | Shanghai, China | www.worldbridge.org |
| Nov 22-Dec 2 | ACBL Fall NABC | San Francisco, CA | www.acbl.org |