



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: pdjourdain@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.freemove.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 Emeritii:

TOMMY SANDSMARK (NORWAY)
HENRY FRANCIS (USA)

THE INTERNATIONAL BRIDGE PRESS ASSOCIATION

Editor: John Carruthers

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.

No. 501

Year 2006

Date October 10

EDITORIAL

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

The inaugural Warren Buffett Cup is now history, and from all accounts, it was a rousing success. The Contract Bridge Association of Ireland and Paul Hackett and his team are to be heartily congratulated.

The competition was won decisively by the USA. All deals were scored at board-a-match. The results of the matches were then converted to "Buffett Points", with 1 for each individual win, 2 for each pairs win and 3 for each team win. Zero points were given for a drawn match. The overall result of the competition was then expressed as a "+" or "-", balancing to 0. For example, if Europe was up 9 Buffett Points, their score was expressed as +9, while the USA's was -9.

Thus, what started out as a laudable attempt to simplify the scoring to make it more accessible to the public morphed into something more complicated than the existing IMP table and Victory Point scales. As this was the first attempt, no doubt future events will be improved in this regard. Here are some suggestions:

- Stick to teams and pairs - the individual competition is very difficult for a non-tournament player to fathom when the competitors are not at the same table.
- In the pairs, have them battle their counterparts head-on, not at another table.
- Structure the event more like the Ryder Cup/President's Cup in golf - for example, 3 days of team matches, 2 x 20-boards per day, then a single day of pairs competition, also 2 sessions of 20 boards.
- Teams scoring: all teams matches can be scored at BAM, and the result of the match is either 1 point, a half point or zero points, just as in the Ryder Cup.
- Pairs scoring: here, have 6 head-on matches scored simply at total points.
- Make the scores known at all times during play.
- There is no need in a competition of this sort to play an all-play-all format at any type of competition.
- Have the Captains declare who plays whom (as in the President's Cup), not have a random draw (as in the Ryder Cup). This in itself would generate much excitement (it could even be on BBO). For example, suppose the European Captain kicks off with Hanlon-McGann and Bocchi-Duboin. The American Captain replies with Hamman-Soloway and Gitelman-Hampson, then declares her next team. The European Captain then matches them with his team and so on. Similarly for the pairs event.
- There would be 18 points available from the teams matches in this format and 12 available from the pairs. While a draw is unlikely (especially in the pairs), a draw should be worth half a point. Thus you have a simple scoring system everyone can understand, totaling 30 points no matter what.
- Have a sudden-death playoff in the case of a 15-15 draw.

The Warren Buffett Cup, as the Ryder Cup has done in golf, has the chance to develop into an important event on the bridge calendar. With a little tweaking, it just might do so.

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



THE WARREN BUFFETT CUP

Dublin, September 18-21, 2006

Brian Senior, Nottingham
 Patrick Jourdain, Cardiff
 John Carruthers, Toronto

The inaugural Warren Buffett Cup was played at the premises of the Contract Bridge Association of Ireland in Dublin over the four days preceding golf's Ryder Cup at the K Club. The competition consisted of teams, pairs and individual events. Unlike in the Ryder Cup, the USA team dominated the individual matches to waltz home winners by 23 points, 66 to 43. All boards were scored at board-a-match, i.e., one point for a win and a half point for a tie, then converted to 'Buffett Points': one point for each individual match won, two points for each pairs match won, and three points for each teams match won, with no Buffett Points for a draw. A maximum of 246 points was available: 60 from the pairs, 54 from the teams and 132 from the individual. The most remarkable thing about this scoring system is that there are more people who understand Special Relativity.

Playing for the USA were David Berkowitz, Larry Cohen, Fred Gitelman, Bob Hamman, Geoff Hampson, Bobby Levin, Jill Levin, Jill Meyers, Steve Weinstein, Paul Soloway, Roy Welland and Zia Mahmood, with Donna Compton as Captain. Europe's team was Daniela von Arnim (GER), Sabine Auken (GER), Norberto Bocchi (ITA), Giorgio Duboin (ITA), Jason Hackett (ENG), Justin Hackett (ENG), Tom Hanlon (IRE), Geir Helgemo (NOR), Tor Helness (NOR), Jan Jansma (NED), Hugh McGann (IRE) and Louk Verhees (NED), with Paul Hackett (ENG) as Captain.

Restricted Choice?

The following board arose early in the first round of the pairs.

Board 2. Dealer East. NS Vul.

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

Bocchi and Duboin eagled the board, being the only pair to get to slam, and won a point for Europe, but Sabine Auken birdied the board in a quite different way.

West	North	East	South
<i>Soloway</i>	<i>Auken</i>	<i>Hamman</i>	<i>von Arnim</i>
—	—	Pass	1 ♠
Pass	2 ♦	Pass	3 ♦
Pass	3 ♥	Pass	4 ♣
Pass	4 ♥	Pass	Pass
Pass			

Auken began with a transfer response showing hearts and Daniela von Arnim was systemically able to show her shape despite having only a limited opening. When Auken repeated her hearts, von Arnim was prepared to cue bid once but then settled for game.

The opening tee shot from Bob Hamman was the ten of spades. Auken won the ace and cashed the top hearts then crossed to dummy with a diamond to ruff a spade. Back in dummy with a second diamond, Auken led the jack of spades next. Paul Soloway knew his only hope was not to cover and Auken had to decide whether Hamman had led from the queen-ten or the king-queen-ten. Going with a truly rare variant of Restricted Choice, she ran the jack, discarding her club loser for plus 710 and a win. Realising that a normal club lead would have denied Auken the ability to guess the spade position, Hamman vowed to leave his driver in the bag and tee off with a fairway wood for the near future.

Board 30

In Session 3 of the Pairs, Board 30 proved crucial in the set where Berkowitz and Cohen, playing against the Hackett twins, were comparing with Steve Weinstein and Bobby Levin (against von Arnim and Auken).

Board 30. Dealer East. Neither Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Weinstein</i>	<i>Auken</i>	<i>Levin</i>	<i>von Arnim</i>
—	—	Pass	1 ♦
1 ♠	2 ♥ ¹	Pass	Pass
Double ²	3 ♦	3 ♠	Double
Pass	Pass	Pass	

1. Non-forcing
 2. Competitive

West	North	East	South
Jason H.	Berkowitz	Justin H.	Cohen
—	—	Pass	1 \diamond^1
1 \spadesuit	2 \heartsuit^2	3 \spadesuit^3	Pass
Pass	4 \diamond	Pass	4 \spadesuit^4
Pass	5 \diamond	Pass	Pass
Pass			

1. Precision-style
2. Forcing for one round
3. Pre-emptive
4. Cue bid

West	North	East	South
Gitelman	Helness	Hampson	Helgemo
—	—	Pass	1 \diamond
1 \spadesuit	2 \heartsuit^1	Pass	2 NT
Pass	3 \diamond	Pass	3 \spadesuit
Pass	4 \heartsuit	Pass	5 \diamond
Pass	Pass	Pass	

1. Forcing for one round

Par on the deal is plus 140 to North-South playing a heart part score. East-West can be held to seven tricks in spades, though it requires a perfect defence to manage it, so in theory, if they press on to three spades North-South might get plus 300.

There were some interesting differences in style at the three tables featured. South always opened one diamond, though for Cohen-Berkowitz it was Precision. West overcalled one spade and North bid two hearts, whether it was forcing (Berkowitz and Helness) or not (Auken). In typical fashion, Justin Hackett made a preemptive raise on the East cards whereas Levin initially passed and then competed when Weinstein reopened with a double.

At two tables, North-South pressed on to five diamonds, apparently too high, whereas von Arnim doubled three spades, the theoretical best spot for her if they could take it two off. Let's see how the three managed in the play....

Auken led a club against three spades doubled. South played three rounds of the suit, choosing the two on the third round to ask for a diamond back. North ruffed with the singleton jack of trumps, and dutifully played a diamond to South's ace, and back came the singleton heart. That looked a sound defence, but Weinstein had the answer to save his par. He put on the ace, ruffed his winning club to reach dummy, and picked up the trumps with the finesse; 100 to NS.

The defence to achieve two down is for South to play the singleton heart INSTEAD of giving North the club ruff. Declarer can win the ace and prevent North from getting a ruff by playing ace and another trump, but only at the expense of South getting two trump tricks instead. South can win the second trump, underlead the

diamond, and receive a heart ruff. The defence makes two club tricks, a heart, a diamond and two trumps.

So now let's put the spotlight on the two tables where South was in five diamonds. Both declarers needed to make it to birdie and win the board; conversely, going down would bogey and win the board for East-West (Zia Mahmood-Roy Welland played three diamonds plus two at the table comparing with Gitelman-Hampson).

If West simply cashes his spade ace, the heart ace and East's trump trick set the game. But both Wests led a club from the queen. The jack won in dummy, and two more rounds of the suit disposed of dummy's spade. A heart came next, and both Wests rose with the ace to find the only play to give declarer a problem... the fourth club, in this position:

\spadesuit —	
\heartsuit K 10 9 6 5	
\diamond K J 9 7	
\clubsuit —	
\spadesuit A Q 8 5 4	\spadesuit 10 9 7 6
\heartsuit J 7	\heartsuit Q 3
\diamond 6	\diamond Q 10 2
\clubsuit Q	\clubsuit —
\spadesuit K 3 2	
\heartsuit —	
\diamond A 8 5 4 3	
\clubsuit 8	

Both declarers ruffed the fourth club with the jack of trumps. At the table where Larry Cohen was declarer, Justin Hackett over-ruffed and returned a spade to the king and ace and a ruff in dummy. Dummy had only two trumps left. Cohen ruffed a heart. Now, if both red suits were breaking he could play ace and king of trumps and enjoy the hearts. Knowing that West had at least nine black cards, Cohen delayed his decision by playing a low trump first. At this point if West had no hearts and a doubleton ten of diamonds left, it would be necessary to finesse the nine of trumps and ruff another heart high to establish dummy. But Cohen accurately played for West to have one card in each of the red suits. He put on the trump king and led hearts from the top. One spade went away on the heart king, and when East ruffed the next he over-ruffed and ruffed his last spade. Five diamonds was home. For the USA it was a win on the board and a win in the set by just half a point. Phew!

At the table where Helgemo was declarer in the diagrammed ending, he also ruffed the fourth club with the jack of trumps but Hampson, East, pitched a spade. Helgemo cashed the king of trumps and king of hearts, ditching one of his spades, ruffed a heart to set up the suit, drew a second trump with the ace, ruffed a spade, and led a winning heart. East ruffed with his master trump, but declarer's last spade disappeared on this trick and he could claim the game.

Pairs Session 5

This set had plenty of interesting part score deals, the sort that would mean little at IMP scoring, but offered plenty of scope at point-a-board. The following deal produced what may well be the defence of the week from Giorgio Duboin:

Board 48. Dealer West. EW Vul.

	♠ J 2		
	♥ Q 8 7 5 3 2		
	♦ A Q 7 4		
	♣ Q		
♠ 8 7 6		♠ Q 10 9 5 4	
♥ A J 10 6		♥ 4	
♦ K 9 8		♦ 10 5 2	
♣ J 9 5		♣ A K 4 3	
	♠ A K 3		
	♥ K 9		
	♦ J 6 3		
	♣ 10 8 7 6 2		
West	North	East	South
<i>Duboin</i>	<i>Berkowitz</i>	<i>Bocchi</i>	<i>Cohen</i>
—	1 ♥	1 ♠	2 NT
Pass	3 ♥	Pass	Pass
Pass			

David Berkowitz was declarer as North in tree hearts. Bocchi as East led the king of clubs for count and switched to a diamond ducked round to declarer's queen. Berkowitz cleared the suit by playing ace and another diamond to West's king. Duboin switched to a spade, which went to the jack, queen and king.

Declarer now ruffed a club in order to lead a trump to dummy's king. Suppose West wins this and leads another spade. Dummy wins and leads the nine of hearts. When West plays low declarer has a simple safety play of running the nine to guarantee his part score at no cost; nine tricks. But when Berkowitz led a heart to dummy's king, it held the trick! When declarer led a second trump, Duboin contributed the ten. Now declarer had a genuine dilemma. He could guarantee his part score by putting on the queen, but only at the expense of an overtrick if East had doubleton ace. At point-a-board scoring the decision was clear: Berkowitz ducked the second round of trumps. When East showed out, declarer knew he had been conned, but there was no recovery. He had to lose two more trumps to West and Europe had the plus score. An eagle for Duboin.

What a Beauty!

This deal from the third session of the teams produced fine plays from both the women's pairs; first, a smart defence by Jill Meyers, and then, at a different table, great declarer play by Daniela von Arnim. The popular contract was four spades by North, reached here by the Hackett twins:

Board 6. Dealer East. EW Vul.

	♠ Q 10 9 8 7		
	♥ J 6 5 3		
	♦ —		
	♣ K J 10 2		
♠ A J 4		♠ K	
♥ Q 10 8 7		♥ 9 4	
♦ A		♦ Q 10 9 6 5 3 2	
♣ Q 6 5 4 3		♣ A 8 7	
	♠ 6 5 3 2		
	♥ A K 2		
	♦ K J 8 7 4		
	♣ 9		
West	North	East	South
<i>Meyers</i>	<i>Justin H.</i>	<i>Levin</i>	<i>Jason H.</i>
—	—	2 ♦	Pass
Pass	2 ♠	Pass	4 ♠
Pass	Pass	Pass	

A heart lead from East would allow the defence a chance to set up an early trick in the suit but the actual diamond lead worked equally well. Justin Hackett put in the jack and ruffed out West's ace, but in order to reach the South hand to play on clubs he had to play a heart to hand himself. He now ran the nine of clubs to the ace. Jill Levin won and played a second heart. This was taken by the king, and the king of diamonds led. If West ruffs low declarer can over-ruff and ditch the losing heart on the club king. But Jill Meyers was well aware of this danger. She smartly ruffed with the ace of trumps and cashed her winning heart whilst declarer still had a heart in each hand. Partner's king of trumps later sunk the game.

Now the declarer play, but with the systemic difference that put South at the helm.

West	North	East	South
<i>Gitelman</i>	<i>Auken</i>	<i>Hampson</i>	<i>von Arnim</i>
—	—	Pass	1 ♠
Pass	4 ♦	Pass	4 ♠
Pass	Pass	Pass	

Playing canapé, you start with the shorter suit. You would think you can't get much weaker than this for an opening major suit bid, but, as you will see later, the SIX of spades proved vital to declarer's success.

Von Arnim found herself in four spades with three top losers and plenty of work to do. Played by North as we could see earlier the defence can get their heart trick before declarer can get the loser away on the club king. Played by South only the double dummy start of a low trump allows the defence this chance. In the real world, Fred Gitelman, West, began with a low club to partner's ace and a heart came back. Von Arnim won the ace and ruffed a diamond, seeing the bare ace come down. She cashed the king of clubs ditching her losing heart and then returned to hand with a heart to lead the king of diamonds. Gitelman gave this a long look, but eventually

and correctly decided it was best not to ruff. He threw a heart, as did dummy. On the next diamond West discarded a club and dummy ruffed.

Next came a club ruff followed by a further diamond ruff with West discarding his last club. This was the ending with the lead in dummy:

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

At this point von Arnim led the heart from dummy. Suppose first East does not ruff. Then declarer makes a small trump and leads another diamond. The defence will only make their two top trumps. So Hampson ruffed with the king of trumps and declarer discarded her last diamond. Gitelman was left with all trumps and you might think he was guaranteed two tricks from his holding of ace-jack-four. But you can see what happened when Hampson had to play a diamond. Von Arnim ruffed in hand with that crucial SIX. Now poor Gitelman had a choice of three poisons.

He could ruff high and be forced to lead away from the jack into dummy's queen-ten; or he could ruff with the jack and find that dummy would over-ruff and lead a club ruffed by declarer's FIVE; or he could under-ruff the six with the four and South would be on lead to ensure dummy made another trump trick!

A birdie from the rough to win the board for Europe. What a beauty! (Referring to the deal, of course.)

Trump Promotion/Ruff-Sluff

Jill Meyers found the killing defence on this deal from Match 6 of the Individual, only to find that she still lost the board!

Board 31. Dealer South. NS Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Auken	Meyers	Justin H.	Cohen
—	—	—	Pass
1 ♦	2 ♠	3 ♦	Pass
Pass	Pass		

Meyers led out three rounds of spades for Larry Cohen to ruff and, in response to her suit preference signal, Cohen switched to a club. Declarer could have saved the day by rising with the ace of clubs and picking up the trumps – she rates to get trumps right on the auction – but this was board-a-match scoring and it could cost the board to fail to take a winning finesse. Declarer ducked the club switch and Meyers won her king.

Meyers determined that there was almost certainly no further defensive trick to come outside the trump suit, so she played a fourth round of spades, giving declarer a useless ruff and discard. Declarer was helpless. If she ruffed low in dummy or not at all, Cohen would ruff with his nine, forcing the king and leaving the queen as a later winner. But if declarer ruffed with the jack or ten in dummy, Cohen could simply discard and his trumps would once again be good for an eventual trick. Three diamonds was one down on this fine defence, but at the other table East had bid two no trump over the two-spade bid and three no trump sailed down after a spade lead.

The competition had been close until the end, when the USA pulled away to win 2-up with one hole to play in golf parlance. Everyone looks forward to Louisville, Kentucky in 2008.

ERRATA

Last month, we claimed that Russ Ekeblad and Ronnie Rubin were on the winning USTrials team with Howard Weinstein/Steve Garner and Zia Mahmood/Michael Rosenberg rather than their actual teammates, George Jacobs and Ralph Katz. That was a brain cramp. The JACOBS team defeated the EKEBLAD team in the final by 5 IMPs.

We also published a statement that only Helen Sobel Smith had done as well in the Bermuda Bowl as Dorothy Truscott had in finishing second in 1965 in Brazil. That was true at the time of Truscott's runnerup placing, and remained so until 2001. However, at the Bermuda Bowl in Paris in that year, Rose Meltzer *won* the event. Abject apologies to Meltzer for the oversight

Thanks to the thousands who pointed out these sins (okay, the few).



Warsaw, 12-26 August, 2006

Mark Horton, Romford, UK

Jos Jacobs, Amstelveen, Netherlands

(From the Daily Bulletins – additional material from Barry Rigal, NYC, Daniel Auby, Stockholm, Kauko Koistinen, Helsinki & Marek Wojcicki, Pulawy)

Two Brilliances for the Prize of One

Mark Horton

RR3. Board 15. Dealer South. NS Vul.

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

In the match between France and Bulgaria Vladimir Marashev and Marc Bompis combined as declarer and defender to produce a story that will undoubtedly be remembered long after the Championships are over – it might even win them both a prize!

West	North	East	South
Ste Marie	Marashev	Bompis	Petkov
—	—	—	1♠
3♦	4♣	Pass	4♦
Pass	4♥	Pass	4♠
Pass	4NT	Pass	5♦
Pass	6♣	Pass	Pass

In the other room Alain Levy had made eleven tricks in four spades, so there were a lot of IMPs on the line.

East led the three of diamonds and declarer won and played three rounds of clubs, followed by the two of spades. East played his required part in the brilliancy by putting up the king of spades - and he did it in perfect tempo. When declarer ducked he continued with the four of spades, but declarer countered by putting up the ace, landing his contract in spectacular style.

Italy v. Romania

Jos Jacobs

RR3. Board 17. Dealer North. Neither Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Briciu	Fantoni	Ghigheci	Nunes
—	Pass	2 NT	Pass
3 NT	Pass	Pass	Pass

Simple and straightforward bidding to reach the normal contract. South led a club to declarer's queen and the diamond ace came next. Noting the fall of the ten, declarer followed with a low diamond to the jack. Nunes contributed an interesting six of hearts to this trick, clearly not a suggestion to continue clubs. Fantoni thus won his diamond queen and without any hesitation put one of the two winnings cards on the table: the nine of spades. In some circumstances, only the nine works; on this layout either the jack or nine works. Well done anyway, plus 50 to Italy. When this defence was missed at the other table, Italy had 10 IMPs.

Netherlands v. Norway

Barry Rigal

RR5. Board 1. Dealer North. Neither Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Tundal	Westra	Ekren	Ramondt
—	1♦	Pass	2♣
Pass	2 NT	Pass	3♥
Pass	3 NT	Pass	6 NT
Pass	Pass	Pass	

West	North	East	South
<i>de Wijs</i>	<i>Helness</i>	<i>Muller</i>	<i>Helgemo</i>
—	Pass	Pass	1 ♣
Pass	1 NT	Pass	3 NT
Pass	Pass	Pass	

Three no trump made a comfortable 13 tricks, but where the stakes were higher Westra had a quite a problem on the lead of a low spade to the ten jack and ace. The simple heart finesse (low to the ten then back to the club jack for another low heart up, on which West did not drop the nine) left declarer with no possibility of a further finesse in the heart suit. He ran the clubs and eventually played hearts from the top and also made 13 tricks when West unguarded his spade honour.

I wonder if there might have been some merit to declarer leading the diamond jack from hand at trick two? You give up on the doubleton heart king onside but do pick up quite a few positions in the diamond suit. As the cards lie, both lines work of course.

Norway v. Iceland

Jos Jacobs

RR6. Board 7. Dealer South. Both Vul.

♠ A 8
♥ K 8 5 4 2
♦ K 8 7 2
♣ Q 8

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

♠ Q 10 5 3
♥ A 10 9 7
♦ Q 4
♣ K 4 2

West	North	East	South
<i>Baldursson</i>	<i>Helness</i>	<i>Jonsson</i>	<i>Helgemo</i>
—	—	—	1 ♥
Double	3 NT	Pass	4 ♥
Pass	Pass	Pass	

This is a perfectly normal contract, but look at the West hand. What would you like to lead? Even the ace and another diamond only seems to postpone the endplay. As it happened, Baldursson led the queen of hearts, giving Helgemo a problem. When he decided to win in dummy and play East for the jack, he was doomed once Baldursson found the next defensive move of exiting with a low club away from his ace. One down.

West	North	East	South
<i>Brogeland</i>	<i>Thorvaldsson</i>	<i>Salensminde</i>	<i>Magnusson</i>
—	—	—	1 ♣
Double	1 ♥	Pass	2 ♥
Pass	4 ♥	Pass	Pass
Pass			

With North declaring, East had a few safe leads available. When he elected to lead a spade declarer was able to insert dummy's ten and thus get rid of his loser in that suit. End of the defence. Iceland plus 620 and 12 IMPs.

Denmark v. England

Mark Horton

RR6. Board 19. Dealer South. EW Vul.

♠ J 4 2
♥ A 9 7 3
♦ 9 3
♣ A J 9 5

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

♠ K 6
♥ 6 4
♦ J 8 4
♣ K Q 7 6 4 2

West	North	East	South
<i>Armstrong</i>	<i>D.Schaltz</i>	<i>Holland</i>	<i>P.Schaltz</i>
—	—	—	Pass
3 ♥	Pass	4 ♦	Pass
4 ♥	Pass	4 ♠	Pass
5 ♥	Pass	5 ♠	Pass
6 ♥	Pass	6 ♠	Pass
Pass	Pass		

You don't get a hand like East's every day of the week! What is more, the textbooks are not exactly full of how you should develop it, not least when partner starts with a preempt.

What do you make of West's decision to bid six hearts? Partner has heard you bid hearts three times and is surely now asking you to either pass, raise spades or go back to diamonds. Since partner is clearly prepared for you to bid six diamonds maybe possession of the queen of spades is enough to justify a raise? Whatever the case, the contract rolled home, plus 1430.

West	North	East	South
<i>Bjarnarson</i>	<i>Price</i>	<i>Askgaard</i>	<i>Simpson</i>
—	—	—	3 ♣
Pass	5 ♣	6 ♦	Pass
Pass	Pass		

Holding two aces it was very difficult for North to sacrifice in seven clubs - and if you give West South's king of spades you might be glad you didn't. Declarer was plus 1370 and lost a couple of IMPs. Several declarers went down in six spades after a three-club preempt by ruffing a diamond and passing the spade queen to South. Playing in diamonds offered no such luxury.

A Beautiful Push - Bulgaria v. Finland

Kauko Koistinen

In the 10th round match between Bulgaria and Finland some high level preemptive bidding propelled the Bulgarian pair into an inferior contract.

RR10. Board 17. Dealer North. Neither Vul.

♠ 10 8 2
♥ 8 4
♦ 10
♣ A K J 10 4 3 2

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

♠ 6
♥ Q 10 7 3 2
♦ K 8 6
♣ Q 9 8 5

West	North	East	South
Aronov	Koistinen	Stefanov	Nyberg
—	3 NT ¹	Pass	5 ♣ ²
Double	Pass	5 ♦	Pass
Pass	Pass		

1. Pre-empt in either minor
2. Pass or correct

Clas Nyberg led his spade to dummy's ace and Julian Stefanov continued with a small trump to the ace. Next came the key play, the heart ace-king followed by the heart nine, discarding the club seven when North could neither follow suit nor ruff in. South won with the ten of hearts, but the link for the spade ruff was cut and all declarer had to lose was one heart and one diamond.

"Well played", I had to acknowledge, not without regret, to my opponent after the board.

When comparing results I found out that the same contract was played exactly the same way by my teammate Antti Elsinen. "Well played", I had to acknowledge again, this time with complete satisfaction. Push.

Sweden v. Hungary

Jos Jacobs

RR15. Board 6. Dealer East. EW Vul.

♠ A 4
♥ A K J 9 2
♦ 8 7
♣ 6 4 3 2

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

♠ 10 7
♥ 6 5 4
♦ K Q 9 4 3 2
♣ J 5

West	North	East	South
Szalay	Bertheau	Macskasy	Nyström
—	—	Pass	Pass
1 ♣	1 ♥	1 NT	2 ♦
4 ♠	Pass	Pass	Pass

The first sizeable swing of the match could have gone either way. North leads the heart ace and switches to the eight of diamonds, covered by the jack and queen. What is the best line?

As the cards lie, you can simply win the ace and play a trump to the queen but this certainly is an inferior line. As South did not open, diamonds are more likely to be no worse than 6-2, so it is pretty safe to duck the diamond queen. If South continues the suit you win the ace, cross in clubs and lead a low spade off dummy. This line would have netted you plus 420.

A more elegant line of play would be to win the ace, cross to the ace of clubs and play the heart queen, throwing your losing diamond to cut transportation between the defenders. There is an equally elegant counter to this: North can win his heart king and lead a second round of clubs (having read his partner's club five correctly, which is not so difficult when God has dealt you the two, three and four).

North's next move will be to win the ace of spades at the first attempt and give partner a club ruff. This line, actually chosen at the table by Gyorgy Szalay for Hungary, gave Bertheau the chance to shine by finding the defence mentioned above. When he duly did so, the threatening loss for his team changed into a 7-IMP gain as this is what happened at the other table:

West	North	East	South
Fredin	Winkler	Björnlund	Dumbovich
—	—	Pass	3 ♦
3 ♠	Pass	Pass	Pass

With diamonds likely to be 7-1 here, Fredin won the diamond shift and, playing only three spades, could afford to lead a low spade from hand immediately. One overtrick, Sweden plus 170.

The scissors coup works if you win the first diamond, lead to the queen of spades and then play the heart queen to pitch your diamond. The problem with playing this line is that it fails if South has the singleton spade ace. All things considered it is much better to duck the first diamond.

Netherlands v. Hungary

Jos Jacobs

The Dutch registered a big swing on the following board when Berry Westra read the cards better than his Hungarian counterpart.

RR23. Board 4. Dealer West. Both Vul.

♠ Q 10 8 5
♥ 5 3
♦ Q 9 8 3 2
♣ 5 3

♠ J 6 3
♥ K J 8 7
♦ 7 4
♣ A K 6 4

♠ A K 4 2
♥ A 10 4
♦ K 10 6
♣ Q 10 8

♠ 9 7
♥ Q 9 6 2
♦ A J 5
♣ J 9 7 2

West	North	East	South
<i>Dumbovich</i>	<i>de Wijs</i>	<i>Winkler</i>	<i>Muller</i>
1 ♣	Pass	1 ♠	Pass
1 NT	Pass	3 NT	Pass
Pass	Pass		

Against Dumbovich's three no trump, deWijs led a third/fifth-best two of diamonds to the ten and South's jack. South shifted to the nine of spades at trick two, ducked all round. The next spade went to the ace, a club was taken by the ace and a heart went to the ten and queen. South exited with a heart and now declarer cashed his heart and club tricks and led a diamond to the king. When South won the ace and returned the suit, North had the rest: down two. Netherlands plus 200.

West	North	East	South
<i>Westra</i>	<i>Honti</i>	<i>Ramondt</i>	<i>Szilagyi</i>
1 ♣	Pass	1 ♠	Pass
1 NT	Pass	3 NT	Pass
Pass	Pass		

Honti for Hungary led the diamond eight to the ten, which was taken by South's jack. The spade seven came back, covered by the jack, queen and ace. At this table too, declarer crossed in clubs and played a heart to the ten and queen and South exited in hearts. Declarer went on to cash all his winners and then simply exited with his last club. South had to win this and return a diamond and thus made two spades, three hearts, three clubs and the diamond king to fulfill his contract. Nicely done, and a pretty plus 600 and 13 IMPs to the Netherlands.

Board 13. Dealer North. Both Vul.

♠ 9 2
♥ A 3
♦ K J 10 5 2
♣ J 6 3 2

♠ Q 10 7 3
♥ J 9 7
♦ Q 8 7 4
♣ Q 9

♠ A K 5
♥ K Q 8 6
♦ A
♣ K 8 7 5 4

♠ J 8 6 4
♥ 10 5 4 2
♦ 9 6 3
♣ A 10

West	North	East	South
<i>Dumbovich</i>	<i>de Wijs</i>	<i>Winkler</i>	<i>Muller</i>
—	Pass	2 NT	Pass
3 ♣	Pass	3 ♥	Pass
3 NT	Pass	Pass	Pass

Winkler played this hand very well. He played low from dummy on the six of diamonds lead, North playing the ten to Winkler's bare ace. Next came a heart to the jack and ace and a heart back. Winkler won this with the king, unblocking dummy's nine, and led a club to the queen, which held. The nine of clubs now followed, bringing down the ace when Winkler ducked. The diamond three now went to the seven and jack and North returned a spade, Winkler winning this in hand with the ace. His next move was to cash the king-queen of spades and exit from dummy with the diamond queen! When this scooped the nine he was home: North could either lead into the club tenace or give dummy one more diamond trick after which a spade from dummy would force South to lead into declarer's heart tenace. Beautifully played for a well-deserved plus 600 to Hungary.

West	North	East	South
<i>Westra</i>	<i>Honti</i>	<i>Ramondt</i>	<i>Szilagyi</i>
—	Pass	1 ♣	Pass
1 ♦	Pass	2 ♥	Pass
2 NT	Pass	3 NT	Pass
Pass	Pass		

No such brilliancies here - same diamond six lead to the ace, but North played low when dummy played low! The heart king went to the ace and a club came back to the ten and queen. The jack and queen of hearts came next, followed by the ace-king of spades and a spade to the queen. When the jack did not drop, the defence had the rest. Down two, Hungary another 200 and 13 IMPs.

**Björnlund Makes his Debut
Sweden v. Portugal
Daniel Auby**

In 1996, the European Junior Championships were played in Cardiff. Surprise winners of the Butler were the 'second' Swedish pair Fredrik Björnlund and Anders Eriksson. Ever since then, we have waited for Fredrik to take the step from the Junior elite into the open elite, a step many promising juniors fail to accomplish.

For his debut performance, Fredrik Björnlund played with Peter Fredin. When Fredin was sent home, Björnlund played two of the last ten or so of our matches with Fredrik Nyström. In round 28 they were up against Portugal and Björnlund had the task of taking nine tricks in three no trump on the following board.

RR28. Board 13. Dealer North. Both Vul.

♠ 10 4
♥ K J 7 2
♦ K 8
♣ Q 10 9 6 3

♠ A K J 7 5
♥ A 10 3
♦ 10 3
♣ 7 5 2

♠ 6 2
♥ Q 8 4
♦ A Q 7 4 2
♣ A K J

♠ Q 9 8 3
♥ 9 6 5
♦ J 9 6 5
♣ 8 4

West	North	East	South
<i>Nyström</i>	<i>Cruzeiro</i>	<i>Björnlund</i>	<i>Matos</i>
—	Pass	1 NT	Pass
2 ♥	Pass	2 ♠	Pass
3 NT	Pass	Pass	Pass

The opening lead was a third-and-fifth six of diamonds. Björnlund played the ten from dummy and North played the king. Björnlund ducked it and North continued with the diamond eight. Björnlund won with the ace as South followed with the five. How would you continue?

Björnlund was able to spot a 100% line of play providing South had four diamonds, which the carding very strongly suggested. Can you?

He cashed dummy's ace and king of spades and then entered his hand with the king of clubs. He cashed the diamond queen and put South on lead with a fourth round of diamonds, discarding a club and a spade from dummy. A heart return would now give him an extra heart trick, a club would be into his tenace, and finally, a spade would establish a spade trick in dummy however the spades were distributed.

Neatly done by Björnlund - he has now finally taken the step into the front line of Swedish bridge stars. Well done Fredrik!

Poland v. Italy

Jos Jacobs

RR29. Board 10. Dealer East. Both Vul.

♠ —
♥ K J 9 4
♦ 8 6 4 2
♣ 10 7 6 4 3

♠ A Q 2
♥ Q 10 7
♦ A Q 10 7 5 3
♣ 5

♠ J 8 5
♥ A 8 3 2
♦ —
♣ K Q J 9 8 2

♠ K 10 9 7 6 4 3
♥ 6 5
♦ K J 9
♣ A

West	North	East	South
<i>Bocchi</i>	<i>Tuszynski</i>	<i>Duboin</i>	<i>Kowalski</i>
—	—	1 ♣	1 ♠
2 ♠	Pass	3 ♣	Pass
3 NT	Pass	Pass	Pass

Two spades showed a diamond suit. As Tuszynski could not lead his partner's suit he chose the heart four, which ran to Bocchi's seven. A club to the king was won by the ace and Kowalski returned a heart to the ten, jack and ace. The queen of clubs brought the bad news, so Bocchi cashed one more top club and led a spade to the queen. He now exited with the queen of hearts, so North could win two tricks in the suit but would then have to play a minor. In the meantime, Bocchi had discarded a diamond on the club queen but his low spade on the last heart. Tuszynski did return a diamond, to the king and ace, but after Bocchi cashed the diamond queen, on which South played the nine, he had to guess which diamond to lead next. When he continued the ten, Kowalski won the jack and returned a spade but North's diamond eight made the last trick. Either keeping his low spade or playing a low diamond instead of the ten would have seen declarer home...Poland plus 100.

West	North	East	South
<i>Gawrys</i>	<i>Fantoni</i>	<i>Chmurski</i>	<i>Nunes</i>
—	—	2 ♣	2 ♠
3 ♦	Pass	3 ♥	Pass
3 NT	Pass	Pass	Pass

Fantoni led the four of clubs and Gawrys put on dummy's eight to bring down the ace from South. Nunes continued the six of hearts, covered by the ten and jack and ducked in dummy. Fantoni now led the king of hearts, won by dummy's ace. Declarer now cashed his hearts and clubs and had the choice of end-playing South in either spades or diamonds for his ninth trick; plus 600 and 12 IMPs to Poland.

Women's Teams – Germany v. England

Marek Wojcicki

In this Vugraph match, we could see another example of a tough battle between the defenders and declarer:

RR20 (Open 31). Board 9. Dealer North. EW Vul.

♠ 8 6 5 2
♥ J 9 5
♦ A Q 9
♣ 7 5 3

♠ K 7 3
♥ 7 3
♦ J 8 4
♣ Q J 10 9 6

♠ A Q 10 9 4
♥ K Q 8 4
♦ K
♣ A K 8

♠ J
♥ A 10 6 2
♦ 10 7 6 5 3 2
♣ 4 2

West	North	East	South
von Arnim	Smith	Auken	Dhondy
—	Pass	1 ♣ ¹	2 ♦
Double	3 ♦	3 ♠	Pass
4 ♠	Pass	4 NT	Pass
5 ♣	Pass	5 ♠	Pass
Pass	Pass		

1. Strong club



THE USBC, WHITE PLAINS, NY August 18-29, 2006

Pamela Granovetter, Cincinnati
Brian Senior, Nottingham

(With material from *Bridge Today Digest* -
info@bridgetoday.com - and the *PABF Championships Daily Bulletins*)

The German pair, after a slam try, was in a contract that was in danger when the trumps split 4-1. Heather Dhondy led the two of diamonds; small from dummy, ace from North and king from declarer. North now returned the nine of diamonds. Declarer could discard from hand, but could she guess to do so? She ruffed and cashed ace of trumps; jack from South... could it be a false-card? Probably not, as North could have something like queen to three in trumps.

Sabine Auken decided to play for the 4-1 trump split. For this to be successful, North had to have at least three clubs. Declarer now played three rounds of clubs, ending in dummy. When South discarded a diamond, the contract was safe. In this ending:

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

Declarer played double dummy - heart to the king and ace. Now a diamond, ruffed in hand, queen of hearts and a heart ruff with the trump seven and a club... just made.

The top finishers were:

Open Teams		Women's Teams	
1. Italy	661	1. France	398
2. Ireland	594	2. Netherlands	391
3. Norway	590	3. England	378
4. Sweden	582	4. Germany	350
5. Netherlands	581	5. Denmark	350
6. Poland	579	6. Croatia	346
7. Iceland	572	7. Poland	345
8. France	554	8. Austria	335
9. Hungary	537	9. Italy	327
10. England	534	10. Norway	324

Senior Teams (A Final)	
1. Germany	352
2. Sweden	338
3. France	335
4. Denmark	327
5. Poland	317
6. Italy	315
7. Turkey	304
8. Scotland	272

Thirty-two teams made their way to suburban White Plains, nestled between the Hudson River and Long Island Sound, 24 miles northeast of Manhattan's Grand Central Station, to contest the United States Bridge Championship. The winner would be designated as USA1 in next year's Bermuda Bowl in Shanghai. USA2 would be determined by the 2007 USBC in Chicago.

The favourites were generally considered to be perennial Bermuda Bowlers and #2 seed NICKELL (Nickell-Freeman, Meckstroth-Rodwell, Hamman-Soloway), with #1 seed EKEBLAD (Ekeblad-Rubin, Gitelman-Moss, Greco-Hampson) given the best shot at unseating them. Both these teams would have the advantage (?) of having a bye to the semifinals based on their performance in major championships over the past year (lots were drawn between the two for the #1 and #2 seeds).

Other than those two, teams captained by JACOBS (#3 seed), ROBINSON (#4), WELLAND (#5), LYNCH (#6) and MELTZER (#11) were also thought to be in with a chance. Seeds #3 and #4 would have byes to the quarterfinals; the other 28 teams would have to struggle through a round-robin to qualify the top 12 for knockout play. It's a sign of the times that only one of the top 10 seeds (ROBINSON) was a non-sponsored team. The top 13 seeds all contained one or more World Champions.

Original seed #20 EISENSTEIN (Eisenstein-Rosenbloom-Glubok-Westheimer-Kopera) won the round robin, and the carnage was extensive, with #6 LYNCH, #8 O'ROURKE, #10 MAHAFFEY, #13 DEUTSCH and #14 GORDON departing early.

The theme of this championship was to be last-board heroics (or blues, depending on your rooting interest). It started in the round of 16 (limited to 12 teams because of the byes) in the match between SCHWARTZ and WEED. SCHWARTZ was leading 158 to 154 when the last board of the 90-board match was placed on the table. This was the action at the first table:

Board 90. Dealer East. Both Vul.

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

♠ 5
 ♥ A Q 8 3 2
 ♦ 7 6
 ♣ A Q J 9 4

♠ 7
 ♥ J 7 5
 ♦ K J 9 4 3 2
 ♣ 10 5 3

♠ A K Q 9 8 4 2
 ♥ K 4
 ♦ 5
 ♣ K 8 7

West	North	East	South
Seamon	Hurd	Cayne	Wooldridge
—	—	Pass	1 ♠
2 ♥	2 ♠	3 ♦	4 ♠
Pass	Pass	Pass	
Opening lead: ♦7			

Declarer won the ace of diamonds, ruffed a diamond high, led a spade to the jack, then a heart to the king. West won and continued with the heart queen and another heart, and eventually scored two club tricks for down one, 100 to East-West.

At the other table...

West	North	East	South
Willenken	Weinstein	Baze	Levin
—	—	Pass	4 ♦*
4 ♠	5 ♦	Pass	5 ♠
Pass	Pass	Pass	
Opening lead: ♣A			

After the Namyats four-diamond opening, showing a strong four-spade bid, South reached five spades when West made a gutsy four-spade Michaels Cue Bid and North made a lead directing five-diamond bid on the way to five spades. East, Baze, might have doubled five diamonds, but perhaps was thinking that Christmas had come early and the opponents were about to play there....

Five spades was slated for down two and a victory for the SCHWARTZ team. But Willenken, West, led the ace of clubs. When his partner played the three, discouraging, he thought that it called for the obvious shift, hearts. So the heart ace hit the table next and suddenly declarer made the contract! WEED gained 12 IMPs to win the match at the wire.

In the quRTERFINALS, it was the MELTZER team who won on the last board of their match against ROBINSON when one of their opponents, none other than multiple world champion Bobby Wolff, made a fatal bidding decision on the very last board. ROBINSON was up by 2 IMPs, 191-189, when this problem arose.

Board 120. Dealer South. Neither Vul.

♠ A
 ♥ K Q J 10 4
 ♦ A Q 7 5
 ♣ 7 4 2

♠ 7 6
 ♥ A 9 7 6 5
 ♦ K 9 6 2
 ♣ A Q

♠ 9 5 3 2
 ♥ 8
 ♦ J 10 8 4
 ♣ K 8 6 5

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

West	North	East	South
Feldman	Wolff	Bramley	Morse
—	—	—	3 ♠
Double	Pass	4 ♣	Pass
Pass	4 ♠	Pass	Pass
Pass			
Opening lead: ♣A			

Wolff's partner, Dan Morse, opened three spades and Mark Feldman (West) made an off-shape takeout double. Bart Bramley tried four clubs, and escaped the double when Wolff bid four spades. Feldman found the killing club lead. He continued with the club queen, overtaken by Bramley, who returned his heart for a heart ruff, then gave partner a club ruff for down two, 100 points to East-West.

Had Wolff taken a crack at four clubs, or even passed, he would have scored up a nice number, or at least plus 200 at 50 a trick, to win the match.

At the other table, the bidding went:

West	North	East	South
Boyd	Sontag	Robinson	Bates
—	—	—	2 ♠
Double	Redouble	2 NT ¹	Pass
3 ♦	Double	Pass	Pass
Pass			
1. Lebensohl			
Opening lead: ♠A			

The auction started lower and Alan Sontag (unlike Wolff) was out for a number. Meanwhile, Peter Boyd (West) caught a good dummy, four trump and a singleton! Sontag (North) cashed the spade ace and switched to hearts.

Boyd won, cashed two clubs, ruffed a heart, cashed the king of clubs and ruffed a club with the diamond nine. Sontag over-ruffed with the queen, cashed the ace and led a third diamond, reducing declarer to one diamond in each hand. Boyd cross-ruffed the remaining two trumps for down one, 100 points to North-South and 5 IMPs to the MELTZER team, winning the match at the wire.

Double-dummy, three diamonds can be made: win the heart ace, ruff a heart, club to hand, ruff a heart, club to hand, ruff a heart. Even if South throws two clubs away on the heart ruffs, declarer can ruff a club to hand and ruff his last heart in dummy for his eighth trick. The king-nine-six of diamonds is still in the West hand for one more trick. Quite a line of play!

JACOBS beat WEED in the other quarterfinal, setting up, for spectators at least, the dream semifinals of #1 EKEBLAD v. #11 MELTZER (Meltzer-Larsen, Sontag-Bates, Bramley-Feldman) and #2 NICKELL v. #3 JACOBS (Jacobs-Katz, Weinstein-Garner, Zia-Rosenberg).

JACOBS took an early lead against NICKELL and never gave it up, eventually winning by 10 when NICKELL outscored JACOBS 81-18 over the last 30 boards to make it close. The other match was put away in the 6th segment, won by EKEBLAD 57-3, to lead by 69.

Weinstein-Garner have a history of knocking off the #1 and #2 seeds in U.S. Team Trials, having done it previously to go the 2000 Olympiad in Maastricht. Could they pull it off again?

After seven of the eight 15-board segments, EKEBLAD led JACOBS 193-161 IMPs. EKEBLAD added another 10 IMPs on the first three boards of the final segment, to lead by 42 with 12 boards to play. Then came a comeback which saw JACOBS close to 188-203 with eight boards to play.

EKEBLAD seemed to have weathered the storm as they picked up 7 IMPs on Board 115, and with four deals to play they led 210-188. Then the fun started.

Board 117. Dealer North. NS Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Weinstein	Gitelman	Garner	Moss
—	Pass	1 ♥	Pass
1 ♠	Pass	2 ♣ ¹	Pass
2♦ ²	Pass	3 ♦	Pass
4 ♦	Pass	4 ♥	Pass
4 NT	Pass	5 ♥	Pass
6 ♦	Pass	Pass	Pass

1. Natural, or strong & artificial
2. Relay

West	North	East	South
Greco	Rosenberg	Hampson	Zia
—	Pass	1 ♣ ¹	Pass
1 ♠	Pass	2 ♥	Pass
2 NT	Pass	3 ♥	Pass
4 ♣	Pass	4 ♥	Pass
Pass	Pass		

1. Strong

Six of either red suit is excellent. The advantage of playing in diamonds is that you may survive a five-one heart split, but six hearts is probably better because you will be able to take a safety play in the diamond suit whenever hearts are four-two or better.

On the actual layout, it didn't matter which slam was reached; the problem was to reach slam at all. This was achieved by Garner-Weinstein's 'natural' auction, but Hampson's decision to stress his hearts left the diamonds unbid in the other room and, despite holding 15 HCP opposite a strong club opening, Greco was willing to stop in game because of his singleton heart.

Weinstein won the club lead in six diamonds, crossed to the king of diamonds and pitched his club losers on the top spades. He just lost a diamond for plus 920.

In four hearts, Hampson won the spade lead and cashed the other, throwing clubs, drew trumps using the club ace as an entry, then cashed the ace of diamonds and played the jack, pinning the ten and making all 13 tricks for plus 510, but 9 IMPs to JACOBS, who were only 13 IMPs behind at 197-210.

Board 118. Dealer East. EW Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Weinstein	Gitelman	Garner	Moss
—	—	1 ♣	1 ♠
2 ♥ ¹	Pass	3 ♦	Pass
3 NT	Pass	Pass	Pass

1. Diamonds

West	North	East	South
Greco	Rosenberg	Hampson	Zia
—	—	1 ♦	1 ♠
2 ♠ ¹	Double	5 ♣	Pass
6 ♣	Pass	Pass	Pass

1. Minors

After a spade lead to the jack and king, Weinstein played safely for his contract and made three no trump exactly; plus 600.

Hampson-Greco bid to the moderate club slam. Zia led ace and another spade and sat back to wait for his heart trick; down one for minus 100 and 12 IMPs to JACOBS; 209-210 with two boards to play.

Board 119. Dealer South. Both Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Weinstein	Gitelman	Garner	Moss
—	—	—	Pass
1 ♥	Pass	2 ♠ ¹	Pass
4 ♥	Pass	Pass	Pass

1. Hearts and spades

West	North	East	South
Greco	Rosenberg	Hampson	Zia
—	—	—	Pass
1 ♥	Pass	3 ♣ ¹	Pass
4 ♥	Pass	Pass	Pass

1. Bergen Raise

The unfortunate heart position dooms four hearts to defeat, so this became a matter of trying to go only one down.

Against Weinstein, Gitelman led a club to the nine, ducked, and Moss returned a club to declarer's ace. Weinstein tried a spade at trick three, and guessed wrongly, putting up the king and losing to the ace. He ruffed the club return and played a second spade up, Gitelman taking the queen and returning the suit. Weinstein won the jack, throwing a diamond from hand. After a heart to the ace, Weinstein played ace and another diamond to set up his ruff; down two; minus 200.

Rosenberg also led a club, but Greco won immediately and played ace and another diamond to Rosenberg's king. Rosenberg played two rounds of clubs. Greco ruffed and played a spade to the jack and ace, and just had a trump to lose for down one; minus 100 and 3 IMPs to EKEBLAD, ahead now by 4 IMPs with one board to play.

Greco would have gone off on this line had Rosenberg held only jack to three hearts, as Zia played a diamond back when he won the spade trick.

Board 120. Dealer West. Neither Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Weinstein	Gitelman	Garner	Moss
Pass	3 ♥	Double	4 ♥
4 ♠	Pass	Pass	5 ♥
Double	Pass	5 ♠	Pass
Pass	Pass	—	—

West	North	East	South
Greco	Rosenberg	Hampson	Zia
Pass	2 ♥	2 ♠	3 ♠
4 ♥	Pass	4 ♠	5 ♥
5 ♠	6 ♥	Pass	Pass
Double	Pass	Pass	Pass

Gitelman opened a normal three hearts and Moss raised to game over Garner's take-out double. Moss bid once more over four spades, but North-South had done all their bidding now and were willing to defend five spades. With the club king onside, Weinstein made twelve tricks and wondered if his opponents had managed to bid the slam in the other room; plus 480.

Rosenberg opened two hearts and Zia established a force by cue bidding three spades, then, when Greco showed a good four-spade raise, himself went on to the five level. That was enough to convince Rosenberg to save in six hearts over five spades and Greco judged that he had done enough on his flat 10-count so decided to take the money rather than accept Hampson's invitation to go on to six spades.

Much to his regret, Hampson led the club queen, ducked all around, and thus beat six hearts doubled only one trick for minus 100 and 9 IMPs to JACOBS; that was the match and a place in next year's Bermuda Bowl - JACOBS won 218-213, a great comeback. Had Greco judged to go on to six spades rather than to double six hearts, or had Hampson led the spade ace or a diamond against the six-heart save, EKEBLAD would have won the match.

George Jacobs and his mates can now sit on the sidelines and offer sage commentary on next year's United States Bridge Championship, which will be held in his home town of Chicago in June 2007.



SMEG PABF CHAMPIONSHIPS

Shanghai 2006



The 44th Pacific Asia Bridge Federation Championships, Shanghai, August 20-30, 2006

Brian Senior, Nottingham
David Stern, Sydney
Alan Turner, Tauranga, NZ

The rest of the PABF is delighted that the next Bermuda Bowl and Venice Cup are in Shanghai, as this means that, as hosts, the Chinese Open and Women's Teams will have automatic entry into their respective events and will not be competing for those berths with the rest of the Zone. This edition of the PABF Championships could be considered a warm-up for next year's event, since it will be the 2007 Championships in Indonesia which will determine PABF representation for Shanghai.

As if it were not enough that the Chinese women have been a force on the world scene for a decade or so, now the Chinese Open Team is poised to make a splash. Indeed, two of its members, Zhao Jie and Fu Zhong, have already done so in winning the World Open Pairs in Verona.

For the PABF Championships, in the spirit of good neighbourliness, the PABF always invites representative teams from Australia and New Zealand to take part – in qualification years, the Antipodean results do not count toward qualification. They do, however, count toward the Championships themselves.

The Puzzle

David Stern

One of the enjoyable parts of playing in bridge tournaments is when friends and acquaintances ask what would you do on this hand and present you with a very challenging problem. Try this one given to me by Michael Cornell from the New Zealand Open Team.

Open Round 4. Board 20. Dealer West. Both Vul.
(Rotated for convenience)

♠ 9 4 3 2
♥ A J 8
♦ A K J 10 6
♣ J

♠ K 7
♥ K 5 2
♦ 8 7 4
♣ K 8 7 6 2

On an auction which revealed that declarer (South) held a four-card spade suit and dummy a singleton club, you lead the heart two against four spades. This strikes gold when partner's heart ten scores the first trick. Partner returns the heart three, showing that he started with four hearts and, after you play the king, declarer ducks!

I am guessing that to you, as it did to me, this looks very strange indeed. What next? My thoughts were along the following lines... the only two reasons that declarer would want to duck this could be:

- (i) To preserve an entry to dummy in the event that I switched.
- (ii) To avoid my partner from subsequently gaining the lead with the heart queen.

I was not up to solving this problem and decided that I would continue hearts. Here is the full layout:

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

Why did declarer duck the second heart? He was concerned about the following spade layout, which would prove fatal if East could gain the lead and play the last heart to promote West's ten of spades.

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

As you will have deduced, West needed to play a diamond and subsequently give Partner a diamond ruff after winning the king of spades.

Was this well-played by declarer - Zhuang Zejun of China? Exceptionally, in my opinion. Even though on the actual hand he created a previously non-existent opportunity to go down, he used an excellent combination of a more likely layout and the difficulty that the opponents would have in finding the correct alternative solution, which of course assumes that the layout he was protecting against did not exist.

A Hand Well-played

Alan Turner

Board 8. Dealer West. Neither Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
	<i>Alabaster</i>		<i>Cormack</i>
Pass	1 NT	Pass	2 ♣
Pass	2 ♦	Pass	3 NT
Pass	Pass	Pass	

Jan Alabaster of the New Zealand Women's Team made this seemingly impossible contract in her team's Round 3 match against Singapore. East led the four of hearts, fourth best, to the jack and king. Alabaster immediately played back the heart seven and East cashed her four heart tricks.

On the run of the hearts, Alabaster threw two small clubs from dummy and the spade two, club six and club three from hand, while West pitched the ten and two of clubs, leaving:

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

East exited with the queen of clubs, which Alabaster won in hand, and West began to feel the pressure. She let go the diamond six and now a second club to dummy's ace was the killer. West had to let go a low spade, and it was now easy for declarer to finesse the ten of spades, cash the ace, and cross to dummy to enjoy the remaining spades. That gave nine tricks and, not surprisingly, was worth 10 IMPs to New Zealand.

The other nations are champing at the bit to join China in Shanghai next year.

The final rankings:

Open Teams

1. China
2. Japan
3. China Hong Kong

Women's Teams

1. New Zealand
2. Australia
3. Indonesia

Senior Teams

1. Australia Markovics
2. Chinese Taipei
3. Australia Krochmalik

Open Pairs

1. Marston-Grosvenor, Australia
2. Bach-Cornell, New Zealand
3. Wu-Wang, China

IBPA WEBSITE NOTICE

To access a Bulletin on the IBPA website, enter the website address www.ibpa.com, followed by a forward slash, then the Bulletin code, immediately followed by .pdf - this Bulletin, October 2006, will have code 501sa so you will need to key in:

www.ibpa.com/501sa.pdf

You can access the IBPA Handbook from www.ibpa.com by clicking on the link on the Constitution page. When you open it, you will be asked 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.

Online Transmissions

Oct 10-15	Balkan Championships	BBO
Oct 12-15	EBL Champions Cup, Rome	Swan
Oct 14-15	English Open Trials	BBO
Oct 18-21	Women's Elite, WuXi, China	BBO
Oct 21-26	World University Champ.	BBO
Oct 28-29	Estonian Championship	BBO
Oct 28-29	Lederer Memorial, London	BBO
Nov 4-7	Tolani Grand Prix, Mumbai	BBO
Nov 10-12	Norwegian Premier League	BBO
Nov 11-12	Lady Milne Trophy, England	BBO
Dec 9-11	Norwegian Premier League	BBO