



BULLETIN

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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. 502

Year 2006

Date November 10

Marc Hodler

(1918 - 2006)



The world of bridge is mourning the loss of Marc Hodler, Chairman of the WBF Congress, who passed away on 18 October 2006 in Berne due to complications resulting from a stroke he suffered a few days previously.

Hodler won the Swiss National Bridge Championship three times. He was also a member of the Swiss National Ski Team when a career-ending injury while training for the 1938 World Championships forced his early retirement. He continued with the team in a coaching role for ten years after that, then organized the Alpine events for the 1948 Winter Olympics in St. Moritz.

As a former Vice President and Executive Board member of the International Olympic Committee (IOC), Hodler served the Olympic movement for 43 years, being its second-longest serving member. He was President of the International Ski Federation (FIS) from 1951-1998, and served as President and key administrator of the Swiss Bridge Federation from 1952 to 1988.

Hodler was known for his integrity, dignity, character and courage. It was he who spearheaded the acceptance of professional athletes in the Olympics, arguing that if the IOC did not do so, only the wealthy would be able to train and compete at the top level. Hodler also exposed the corruption behind the IOC's Olympic site-bidding process, leading to sweeping reforms and the removal of ten IOC delegates.

Hodler was the mastermind of bridge's approach and its eventual recognition as a sport by the Olympic movement in 1999. He was elected President of the WBF Congress in 2001. In recent years, he visited all world championship sites, discussing questions of strategy and direction with the WBF Executive Council. For his great services to bridge, he was awarded the WBF gold medal in 1998.

Hodler was a trial lawyer fluent in English, French, German and Italian. An avid sportsman, he also played tennis, football, golf, handball, athletics and water sports. Hodler is survived by his wife Anna Rosa and his sons Beat and Martin.

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Tim Bourke, Canberra

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353. Dealer North. Neither Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
—	2 ♠	Double	Pass
3 ♥	Pass	4 ♥	Pass
Pass	Pass		

North opens as perfect a weak two as one can get, giving East a problem. Normally, East should have two or fewer spades for a takeout double. However, as East has a strong no trump opening without a spade stopper and all his values outside spades, he risks a takeout double. As West has nine high card points and a five-card heart suit, he bids three hearts, which promises about 8 to 11 points and four hearts. (With 0-7 points he would have responded two no trump instead.) East has an easy raise to game.

North leads the king of spades, overtaken by the ace. He wins the spade continuation and plays a third high spade, South throwing a club. How should you play four hearts?

With nine cards missing the queen in trumps, the odds normally favour playing for the drop. This is only marginal, however, and the fact that North holds six spades to South's two greatly changes the situation. It makes South a big favourite to hold queen to three hearts.

After ruffing the third spade, you should play a trump to the ace followed by the two top clubs and a club ruffed with the ten of trumps, eliminating that suit. After reentering dummy with the ace of diamonds, only then it is time to finesse the jack of trumps. As the cards lie, the finesse will win and all will be well.

Suppose North had started with queen-low in the trump suit, though. He would win the second round of trumps with the bare queen and find himself end-played. Then, since a spade (or a club, if he had one) would give a ruff-and-discard and the contract, he has to play a diamond into your king-jack tenace in diamonds and the game would be home.

354. Dealer East. EW Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
—	—	2 ♠	Pass
Pass	Double	Pass	3 ♥
Pass	3 ♠	Pass	4 ♥
Pass	Pass	Pass	

As South would again respond with a conventional Lebensohl two no trump on any weak hand, the actual three-heart response suggests a hand in the 8-11 point range. With 18 high card points, North asks for a spade stopper by bidding three spades. As South has no spade stopper and no second suit to bid, the only option left is to bid four hearts.

Most declarers tend to panic when they are forced to play in a 4-3 fit. However, there are two simple rules for tackling them:

Rule 1: *If you have lots of winners, look for a plan that maintains control of trumps.*

Rule 2: *If you seem to have lots of losers, look for a plan that makes as many trumps as possible from ruffs in both hands!*

Which of these rules applies? Fairly clearly it is the first, for you have eleven potential winners.

So, how would you play four hearts when the defenders play three rounds of spades? You ruff the third spade in the dummy and see that your sole problem is to avoid two trump losers. If trumps break 4-2, you can simply play three rounds from the top, turning then to the minor suits. What can you do to guard against one defender (presumably West) holding five trumps? You should cross to your hand in one of the minors and play a low trump to dummy's ten. Even if this loses to the jack with East, you are still likely to make the contract when trumps are 4-2. If East returns a fourth round of spades, you can ruff with the bare king in dummy. You can then cross to the South hand and hope to draw trumps with the ace, queen and nine.

As the cards lie, the finesse of the ten pays off as West began with jack to five in the trump suit. After the ten of trumps holds, you cash the king of trumps and come back to hand in the other minor. After drawing two more rounds of trumps, throwing a diamond from

dummy, you run the clubs. West makes just one trump trick to go with the two earlier spade tricks.

The recommended line loses when East holds a singleton jack of trumps but it is five times more likely that he holds a low singleton.

355. Dealer South. EW Vul.

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

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

West	North	East	South
—	—	—	2 ♠
Double	Pass	3 ♣	Pass
3 ♠	Pass	3 NT	Pass
Pass	Pass		

Playing Lebensohl after a double of a weak two-bid, East's three clubs was non-forcing, but suggested fair values.

South leads the king of spades against three no trump. You hold up for one round and win the next spade. How will you continue?

There is no hurry to guess how the clubs lie and you should take a look at the diamond suit first. When you play three rounds of diamonds, you are somewhat surprised to see that North shows out on the third round.

You can now place South with ten cards in spades and diamonds. To determine how many clubs he has, you next play off the ace and king of hearts. When South shows out on the second round of hearts, you can count him for 6=1=4=2 shape.

This means that the clubs are 2-2 and you can score five tricks in the suit, but only if you unblock one of the middle cards in dummy. You play the ace of clubs and lead the jack of clubs to the king. As you had expected, the suit breaks 2-2. Thanks to the unblock of the club jack, you can now cross to the ten of clubs and overtake the eight of clubs with the nine. You then score a fifth club trick, bringing your total to eleven.

Note that if South had instead followed to two hearts, you would cash the club ace and run the jack of clubs through North's presumed queen third.

356. Dealer West. Both Vul.

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

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

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

This auction is slightly unusual. South has an opening bid with both four hearts and a spade stopper in response to North's takeout double of a weak two spades. He could guess to bid either four hearts or and three no trump, and be dramatically wrong - as three no trump would prove here on a spade lead.

The solution is to use a feature of the Lebensohl two no trump convention in response to the double. Although a two no trump response at first advertises a weak hand, by bidding two no trump and then three spades, you show a game-forcing hand with four hearts and a spade stopper. Here, North knows what to do with that information.

The play of four hearts is a little tricky, but by making the right plan you can make ten tricks. While you have four trump winners, four diamond winners, the ace of clubs and at least one spade ruff the danger of drawing trumps and then playing on diamonds is that East will win the ace of diamonds and play the nine of spades; you will then lose three spades and the ace of diamonds.

So, after ruffing the first spade, play a diamond to dummy's king. If that holds, ruff a second spade, draw the trumps - throwing clubs from hand - and play a second diamond. All the defence can do take is take the ace of diamonds and two spades; you will ruff the fourth round of spades in dummy then cross to hand with the ace of clubs to take the remaining tricks with your good diamonds. You will make four trumps, two ruffs, three diamonds and the ace of clubs.

You may ask, "What would happen if East rose with the ace of diamonds at trick two and gave his West a diamond ruff?" You would take the expected club return with the ace, cross to dummy with a trump and ruff a second spade. Then, after drawing trumps, you would have ten tricks; four trumps, two spade ruffs, three diamonds and the ace of clubs.

357. One difference between a trump squeeze and an ordinary one is that trumps play a crucial role after the squeeze has operated. Another is that, more often than not, there has to be a clue from the bidding or play for declarer to justify relying on such an exotic play:

Dealer North. EW Vul.

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

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

1. 18-19 points
2. Enquiry
3. Three-card heart support and extra (5+) clubs
4. Exclusion Key Card Blackwood
5. 1 or 4 key cards counting both the kings of clubs and hearts

While the auction bristled with new-age science, the final contract was poor, but had chances when West led a normal two of diamonds. Declarer could count twelve top tricks and only a squeeze against East's diamond ace and presumed spade king would produce a thirteenth.

After ruffing the opening lead, declarer played four rounds of trumps, throwing the spade two from dummy, and followed this with four rounds of clubs to leave:

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

When declarer called for dummy's ten of clubs, East was caught in a trump squeeze and had no winning discard. If he threw the ten of diamonds, declarer would ruff the diamond six, felling the ace. Dummy would take

the last two tricks with spade ace and diamond king. A spade discard would be no better, for then declarer would play the ace of spades, dropping East's king and establishing his own queen, with a diamond ruff providing the entry to enjoy it. Either way, declarer would make thirteen tricks.

The above ending illustrates two of the problems with this type of squeeze. The first is that declarer has to have entries to set up a suit with a ruff and another to return to cash the established winner. If he is in the hand with the last trump when the squeeze card is played, he needs two entries to the hand opposite. If they are opposite one another, as above, he has to have a side entry (here, the spade ace) so that he can enjoy any card established with a ruff. This is the reason that a spade lead defeats seven hearts, it removes a necessary entry.

The second difficulty is that declarer must judge which suit the key defender has shortened, so he needs to form a view of declarer's original distribution. In this case the opening lead of ♦2 implied East had six or seven diamonds. As the former is more likely, by a factor of seven to four, declarer played accordingly because there was no overwhelming evidence to the contrary.

World Wide Web Resources

On-line Viewing

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

Tournament Bulletins

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

Miscellaneous Information

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

Online Transmissions

Nov 10-12	Lindfield Congress, Australia	BBO
Nov 10-12	Norwegian Premier League	BBO
Nov 11-12	Lady Milne Trophy, England	BBO
Nov 11-12	Madeira Open, Portugal	BBO
Nov 11-12	Finnish Pairs Championship	BBO
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Nov 18-19	French Premier League	BBO
Nov 25-26	Reisinger BAM, Hawaii	BBO
Dec 9-11	Norwegian Premier League	BBO

AUTUMN NOT

Ron Klinger, Northbridge, NSW

(From the Sydney Morning Herald)

A Noble Effort

With three boards to go in the final of the Autumn National Open Teams the NOBLE team (Barry Noble, George Bilski, Hugh Grosvenor, Phil Gue, Michael Prescott) trailed SMOLANKO (George Smolanko, Andrew Peake, David Horton, Phil Markey) by 11 IMPs. On the last three boards NOBLE picked up 10, 3 and 8 IMPs to win by 10. The first of these swings featured very fine play by Hugh Grosvenor.

Board 62. Dealer North. Neither Vul

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Bilski</i>	<i>Smolanko</i>	<i>Gue</i>	<i>Peake</i>
—	1 ♣	Pass	1 ♦
1 ♥	1 ♠	Pass	4 ♠
Pass	Pass	Pass	
Lead: ♥9			

It is normal enough to reach four spades, but the heart lead set up two heart tricks for the defence to go with one diamond and a potential club trick. With trumps 4-1, declarer had no chance.

The heart nine was covered by the jack, queen, and ace. Declarer crossed to the spade ace and took the club finesse. East continued hearts and West won two heart tricks. He exited with a club. Declarer won, played a spade to dummy and led a low diamond. Bilski naturally rose with the diamond ace and declarer emerged with nine tricks. E-W plus 50.

At the other table:

West	North	East	South
<i>Horton</i>	<i>Prescott</i>	<i>Markey</i>	<i>Grosvenor</i>
—	1 ♣	Pass	1 ♦
Pass	1 ♥	Pass	3 NT
Pass	Pass	Pass	
Lead: ♥K			

Grosvenor could have found the spade fit had he so desired, but with partner having length in clubs and hearts, three no trump seemed to be just as good a

bet, especially as the defenders were not likely to lead diamonds.

Declarer ducked the heart lead in dummy and West switched to the club four, queen, king, nine. East needs to shift to the diamond queen at this point, but that was too much to ask. East naturally returned the heart nine: jack, queen, ace.

Dummy's heart spots were good enough to create an extra trick and so the heart six went to the ten, East discarding the six of clubs. West continued with the club five, taken by the ace and the heart eight was cashed. East threw the spade two and South the diamond two.

This was now the position:

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

Grosvenor continued with a spade to the ace, followed by the king and queen. West had to retain the clubs and so threw the diamond five and nine. On the spade four to dummy's jack West could still not afford a club and so he discarded the diamond ten. South's diamond eight had assumed significant proportions.

When the diamond jack was led from dummy, East covered with the queen. It did not matter whether Grosvenor covered or not. West won and played the seven of clubs. Confident of the position, Grosvenor played the eight and the club jack was his ninth trick for plus 400 and 10 IMPs.

The Edgton Edge

OzOne was represented at the Autumn National Open Teams by Avi Kanetkar-Nigel Rosendorff and Kieran Dyke-David Wiltshire, who finished fifth.

Adam Edgton – Nabil Edgton, aged 15 and 14 respectively, are on the OzOne second tier and they pulled off quite a coup by bidding and making three no trump on the following deal for a significant gain.

Kanetkar had judged that his barren 11 points with no fillers was not worth an invitation to game. It would need near perfect cards from partner, and perhaps a little luck, to produce nine tricks. Rosendorff finished with nine tricks for plus 150.

Round 2. Board 6. Dealer East. EW Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Lilley	Kanetkar	Klinger	Rosendorff
—	—	Pass	1 ♦
Pass	1 ♠	Pass	1 NT
Pass	Pass	Pass	
Lead: ♥10			

At the other table youth had no such inhibitions:

West	North	East	South
Wiltshire	Nabil	Dyke	Adam
—	—	Pass	1 ♦
Pass	1 ♠	Pass	1 NT
Pass	2 NT	Pass	3 NT
Pass	Pass	Double	Pass
Pass	Pass		
Lead: ♠Q			

The double asked for dummy's first bid suit and so West started with the spade queen, ducked. Next came the spade nine, also ducked. East won and played a third spade. South pitched a heart and won in dummy.

Adam continued with a club to the ace, the club king and a third club, finessing dummy's eight. Then came the diamond queen, ducked. This was now the position:

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

Adam came off dummy with a low heart. Dyke flew with the heart queen, but it made no difference. South took the heart ace, cashed the jack and exited with the diamond jack. Down to the ace-king-seven of diamonds, West could not help giving declarer a diamond trick for the contract. That was plus 550 and 9 IMPs to North-South.

NOT TOO EASY TO SEE!

Tommy Sandsmark, Oslo

On this board from the Norwegian Swiss Teams Championship, the contract was the same at both tables, but the results differed immensely. Let me first give you a defensive problem:

Dealer East. Both Vul

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

West	North	East	South
—	Peter Marstrander	Pass	Anders Kristensen
Pass	1 ♠	pass	1 NT
Pass	2 ♦ ¹	pass	2 ♥
Pass	4 ♥	pass	pass

1. Artificial, forcing to game

You are sitting East and can see the dummy in North. Your partner in West leads the six of spades (high-low means distributional leads from an even number), which you win with the king, and you immediately play back the spade two to indicate a club entry. Declarer puts in the queen, your partner the three and declarer overtakes in dummy with the ace. Then a small heart from dummy, on which you contribute the seven, and declarer's heart nine gives the trick to West's king. West follows your instructions and returns a club to your ace. You naturally proceed with another spade to give partner his well-deserved ruff.

Just halt for a minute! Actually, you are way beyond the point of punishing this contract because of ingenious and world class declarer play by Anders Kristensen of Norway. This was the layout:

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

At our table in the other room, the contract was played by North. A diamond came out from East to West's king, and another diamond went to the queen in North. He played a club and East went up with the ace and played another diamond. The heart ten sailed round to the queen. Another club brought dummy in, and now declarer changed tack, and took the losing spade finesse. As he had no more entries to dummy, he tried to drop the heart king for two down.

In this room, however, Anders Kristensen played exactly as I have described, and when East played his third spade, Anders went up with the heart ten and followed up his superb play by playing a small heart to the ace, which swallowed the queen, and the rest was good.

Did you even think about going in with the queen of hearts when Anders played a small heart from dummy in trick three? I don't think so.

And this is what makes this play exceptional. East only had one chance to seal the fate of the contract, but it is incredibly difficult to spot! The only way in which you can succeed as a defender is to go up with the heart queen, give your partner a spade ruff with the heart king, and then the ace of clubs sets the contract.

It's like pure magic. Neither David Copperfield nor the excellent illusionists Siegfried and Roy could have created a setting more suitable to lead the defenders astray. This declarer's play was voted the best board bid, played or defended during the ten days of the Norwegian Bridge Festival.

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HERO WORSHIP

Allan Falk, Okemos, MI

In 1966, my sister and my then-new brother-in-law gave me a subscription to The Bridge World for my birthday. Therein I read avidly of the exploits of Eddie Kantar and Marshall Miles, and hoped someday to achieve their level of success and recognition. Eddie would frequently write about a new convention he imposed on Marshall and the mayhem that followed when they failed to discuss follow-ups.

Well, I can at least match their success, as proved by this hand from a recent Internet team game.

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

West	North	East	South
Me		Partner	
—	—	2 ♣	Pass
2 ♦ ¹	Pass	3 ♣	Pass
3 ♦ ²	Pass	3 ♠ ³	Pass
5 ♠ ⁴	Pass	6 ♣ ⁵	Pass
6 ♠ ⁶	Pass	6 NT ⁷	Double
7 ♣ ⁸	Double	Pass ⁸	Pass
7 ♠ ⁹	Double	Pass ⁹	Pass
Pass			

Result: -800

Me

1. Waiting
2. Second negative
3. Suit
4. Time for the ol' Stanislavsky asking bid
5. Pick clubs or spades
6. I like spades better
7. Huh?
8. This must be better than 6NT doubled
9. This must be better than 7♣ doubled

Partner

Positive (2♥ would be an immediate 2nd negative)
Wow! Partner has diamonds
I'll show my spade stopper and see if pard can bid 3NT
Huh?
Oh, oh; the wheels have come off; this must be better than 5♠
Not me
This must be better than 6♠
Agreed - This must be better than 6NT doubled
This must be better than 7NT doubled

Note how, just as Kantar and Miles used to do, we achieved an auction epitomizing the partnership aspects of top-level bridge. In fact, we surpassed my heroes - as we reached apotheosis, we were clearly on the same wavelength more and more, almost achieving a mind meld. Not bad for an obscure seven-round sequence in

an inexperienced partnership - and we did win the match.

Please do not be misled. I have had other successes of this nature, but usually aided by partnership discussion. For example, playing once (and only) with a likeable young professional player, he asked if I would play Exclusion Blackwood; I agreed, specifying one condition: NEVER in opener's first suit. Leading a Swiss teams after three rounds, I picked up:

♠ 7 6
♥ Q 8 7 5 4
♦ K Q 8 7 6 2
♣ —

West	North	East	South
Partner		Me	
1 ♦ ¹	1 NT	2 ♣ ²	Pass
2 ♠	Pass	5 ♦	Pass
5 ♠	Pass	6 ♦	Pass
6 ♠	Double	7 ♦	Pass
Pass	Double	Pass	Pass
Pass			

1. 5-card majors
2. Stayman

Result: -800

Of course, the five-spade and six-spade bids showed, according to partner, one ace and one king outside diamonds. After we compared scores (we were no longer leading), my teammate, Geoff Hampson, asked how we went for a number on the board, and I told him. He shook his head sadly and said, "That must be the worst auction in the history of bridge." I immediately responded, "That wasn't even the worst auction in this match!" He leaped out of his chair, screaming, "Impossible!" I then told him about another hand later in the match; he blinked, sat down ashen-faced and muttered almost inaudibly, "My God, you're right."

With my place in bridge history thus firmly cemented, I offer this additional exemplar of success in emulation of my idols, also from a Swiss teams, where I was playing with a different partner every match (five-person team):

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

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

Result: -3400

Me

1. Too good for 3♦
2. Cue bid
3. Ooh, cue bid; me too!
4. No club control
5. Second round control also!
6. Gulp!

Partner

- Big spade raise
Can't hurt to cue bid
I wonder what that is?
I prefer clubs
I wonder what that is?
I still prefer clubs

We also won this event. So success has proved easy, once I mastered the Kantar-Miles approach; only recognition has thus far eluded me, but with these results I can't be too far from the second part of my goal!

By the way, that last hand shows that, 20 years ago anyway, I was not yet a 'true bridge player', according to no less an authority than Bob Hamman. Playing rubber bridge in the halcyon days of his youth, he dealt and found himself looking at seven spades to the king and six clubs to the ace-queen. He tried one spade and it went two hearts, pass, three hearts back to him, so he tried four clubs and it went four hearts, pass pass. Now he tried four spades and it went double on his left, five diamonds by his partner, double on his right. He tried five hearts to emphasize willingness to play clubs and it went double, pass, pass.

Bob observed, "The technically correct bid is redouble - but at rubber bridge, opposite a partner who bid five diamonds, a 'real bridge player' has to recognize that it is no longer a question of finding the optimal contract, but simply one of being able to wear your pants and shoes as you exit the club." So Bob bid five spades, "which was by no means a success - except in comparison with five hearts redoubled." Another hero for my pantheon!

WANTING TO FAIL

Larry Cohen, Boca Raton, FL

(With thanks to *The Bridge World*)

At the 2005 Denver Nationals, I ran into Barry Rigal. He asked me, "Larry, have you ever seen a contract where you wanted to go down?" I didn't recall anything specific, but it seemed like something that could happen, especially at duplicate scoring.

Sure enough, the very next day, I played this deal in the Blue Ribbon Pairs:

Dealer North. Both Vul.

♠ J 9
♥ A K 8
♦ A J 9 3
♣ K Q 10 3

♠ A 6
♥ Q J 9 4
♦ Q 6 5 4 2
♣ 6 5

2006 EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIPS: STATISTICS

Fritz Babsch, Vienna

What is the correct contract? At match points, usually three no trump is a good bet, but here there is a problem. The defence will likely lead spades, knocking out your only stopper. If diamonds run, you will have ten easy tricks for plus 630. However, diamonds are less than 50% to run (you need not only the king onside, but a little more).

If diamonds don't come in, three no trump will fail by TWO tricks (presuming spades 5-4). The defense gets four spade tricks, a diamond and the club ace.

The best contract (at any form of scoring) is probably four hearts in the 4-3 fit. My partner and I reached five diamonds - probably second best. How is five diamonds?

Again, assume a spade lead. If diamonds come in, you can draw trump and play hearts to throw a spade loser. You will lose only a club trick and make 12 tricks for plus 620. Sure enough, in our five diamond contract they led spades. I won and played a diamond to the jack. I was hoping to go down!

Do you see why? I expected most pairs to be in three no trump (that's just the way it is at match points). If diamonds were running, the 'field' would be plus 630 - and I'd get a near bottom for my plus 620 (I'd even lose to pairs in SIX diamonds). If diamonds were unfriendly, I'd go down, but I'd get a great score. I'd be down only one for minus 100. Meanwhile, the three no trump declarers would be down at least two, minus 200 (as would pairs in six diamonds).

Surely, this was the time to root for failure. Down would be a near top, making would be a near bottom.

Now for the good-news, bad-news department. The diamond finesse loses at trick two. This should mean happy days, right? Wrong! This was the full layout:

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

The &#\$%&! spades were blocked! Everyone in three no trump made it. The defense led spades, yes, but there was no way to beat three no trump. The field was plus 600. We were minus 100 and got almost no match points. I'll be keeping my eyes open for more deals where I want to go down. Maybe the next one will have a happier ending.

In the most recent European Championships in Warsaw, there were 33 teams in the Open, 22 teams in the Women's and 16 teams in the Seniors.

OPEN: Italy played bridge from another planet. You can compare their performance with a runner who runs 100 metres in 9,50 seconds. They held first place from the start, losing only against Ireland, Poland, Iceland and Hungary. Their average against the last ten teams was 23 VP. The second place finish of Ireland was a sensation. The Scandinavians were strong, as always (Norway 3rd, Sweden 4th, Iceland 7th).

WOMEN: France, one of the favourites, had a strong finish; they had never been in first place until the end. The Dutch women, who led the field most of the time, lost the title on the last day. To find England and Germany in 3rd and 4th position is normal but the Danish team (5th) and the Croatians (6th) were a surprise.

SENIORS: Germany won comfortably, Sweden won silver, France bronze. Without taking any credit from the winners, I found out through analysis of the slams that the quality of the bidding was weaker than the bidding in the other groups.

Some Details:

OPEN: The average of the winner was 20, 1 VP, second had almost exactly 18 VP. To qualify for the Bermuda Bowl a team needed an average of 17,5 VP.

The Butler scoring (198 players were classified) drastically shows the superiority of the **Italians**. Bocchi/Duboin were 1st with +0,95 IMPs per board, Fantoni/Nunes were 2nd with +0,91 and Lauria/Versace were 5th with +0,64. There was no anchor pair; the pairs played practically the same number of rounds.

The **Irish** team had an anchor pair, Hanlon/McGann (8th with +0,5). They played 26 out of 33 rounds. The team had no weak spot, the other pairs produced +0,49 (Fitzgibbon/Mesbur) and +0,34 (Carroll/Garvey).

The **Norwegians** had two good pairs: Helgemo/Helness (3rd with +0,74) played 26 rounds, Brogeland/Saelensminde (19th with +0,34) played 24 rounds. Ekren/Tundal were clearly weaker (36th with +0,17).

The **Swedish** team had an anchor pair: Efraimsson/Morath played 25 rounds (6th with +0,57). The team apparently suffered from the loss of Peter Fredin who did not play any more after Round 20. You can find the reasons on Fredin's homepage.

Netherlands had a very balanced team. The pairs played the same number of rounds and reached the

positions 9 (Bakkeren/Bertens, +0,5), 17 (DeWijs/Muller, +0,4) and 18 (Ramondt/Westra, +0,36).

The **Polish** team had one very good pair (Chmurski/Gawrys, 4th with +0,73, who played 28 rounds).

Some other pairs also played well: Elinescu/Wladow (Germany) +0,53, Einarsson/Haraldsson (Iceland) +0,46, and Goran Radisic (Serbia) +0,46 and Chemla/Cronier (France) +0,45.

If you have three pairs who are able to make +0,40 IMPs constantly you have a big chance to qualify for the Bermuda Bowl.

WOMEN: The winning **French** ladies' average was almost 19 VP but the two runners-up had 18,6 VP and 18,3 VP respectively. For the Venice Cup one needed 16,7 VP.

The Butler scoring shows 132 players but the great results of the two leading Italian pairs in the open were not reached.

The **French** ladies occupied the positions 1 (D'Ovidio/Gaviard with +0,77 IMPs per board, 16 rounds), 4 (Cronier/Willard with +0,63, 15 rounds) and 19 (Fishpool/Pigeaud with +0,27, 11 rounds).

The **Dutch** ladies were only marginally weaker. They had the positions 2 (Pasman/Simons with +0,75), 5 (Michielsen/Wortel with +0,62) and 22 (Arnolds/Vriend with +0,24). The pairs played the same number of rounds. Dutch philosophy?

England had an anchor pair, Dhondy/Smith (3rd with +0,72, played 18 rounds). The other two pairs had also a good tournament (Brunner/Goldenfield +0,38 and Jagger/Teshome +0,36).

Germany had an anchor pair, of course. Daniela von Arnim/Sabine Auken played all the rounds, 420 boards! Their result is magnificent (9th with +0,52). The other pairs played only half as much and only +0,27 and +0,26.

The result of the **Danish** girls was a surprise, but they had two very good and one weaker pair. Farholt/Rahelt were 7th with +0,54, Krefeld/Kirstan were 11th with +0,46. The third pair was the only pair with negative IMPs (-0,18) among the pairs in the teams that finished 1st to 8th.

Croatia was another surprise. The good position was the result of the anchor pair Marina Pilipovic/Nicola Sver who played 21 rounds with an average of +0,34. The other pairs were also above average.

Some pairs had a very good performance but apparently rather weak companions: Remen/Thoresen (Norway) were +0,60, Paoluzi/Saccavina (Italy) +0,53, Harasimowicz/Pasternak (Poland) +0,49 and Andersson/Rimstedt (Sweden) +0,46.

To qualify for the Venice Cup, you need three pairs who are able to play at an average of +0,25 IMPs per board, though perhaps even only 0,23 IMPs is good enough.

ARE POLAND THE BEST OF THE BEST?

Gianni Bertoto, Italy

If we list only the results from the matches against the other Bermuda Bowl qualifiers at the 2006 European Championships, then Poland are perhaps the European favourites for Shanghai. They lost, very narrowly, to only one of the other five qualifiers, Norway. Strangely, it was Norway's only win against the top teams.

	POL	IRE	ITA	SWE	NED	NOR	TOT
POL	—	17	20	23	16	14	90
IRE	13	—	19	14	21	17	84
ITA	10	11	—	16	19	17	73
SWE	7	16	14	—	17	19	73
NED	14	9	11	13	—	24	71
NOR	16	13	13	11	6	—	59

STOP! IN THE NAME OF LOVE

Jeff Easterson, Berlin

A couple of years ago at the large Austrian bridge congress in Loiben, I was called to a table as a TD to sort out the following:

West	North	East	South
1 ♠	Pass	3 ♠	Pass
(Stop!) 4 ♣			

Before I could inhibit the question (it can lead to unauthorized information), the four-club bidder was asked why she had used the stop card. "Because four clubs is the ace question," she replied!

I ordered that the bidding proceed and remained at the table. It did, as follows:

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

1. No stop card was used for the five-no-trump bid.

At this point, the expected uproar followed and the opponents, noting the insufficient bid, called my attention to it. The five-heart bidder explained, "My partner made an error; she intended to bid four no trump, so I responded five hearts!" What would you do?

Once again, I allowed the bidding to continue and was fortunate: the final contract was six spades one off, close to 0% for East-West. No adjusted score was needed.

TWO FROM THE TIMES

Andrew Robson, London
(From *The Times of London*)

London Business House League

The winning defence to five hearts on today's deal (from the London Business House Team-of-Four League) is fascinatingly counter-intuitive.

Dealer South. Neither Vul.

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

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

1. Old-fashioned strong jump overcall. Most moderns now play this as weak.
2. Well judged. East has no defence to four hearts, and if his partner can bid solo to three spades, four spades (doubled) must be fairly cheap (although in fact it is down three on best defence. Plus there is always the chance that his opponents will bid on to five hearts...
3. Which of North or South should double four spades? South because he has a relatively barren shape, with a spade holding that would be better-suited to defence? Or North with good minor-suit defence and little in Partner's suit? I'd say both!

As West, you cash a top spade against five hearts. Then what?

Nigel Stuttard (my source) for the Office of National Statistics found the nice shot of switching to ace and another club. He succeeded in bullying declarer into rising with the king of clubs (and also removed dummy's entry to the long diamonds).

Declarer brushed his pressure play aside, however. He crossed to a trump, ruffed a spade, drew trumps, crossed to a top diamond, then ruffed a third club, bringing down the queen. He could then cross to the other top diamond and throw his remaining spade on the promoted jack of clubs. Eleven tricks and game made.

At the other table, declarer received a trump switch. This looks less attractive, although succeeded when declarer unwisely tried to ruff two spades with dummy's two remaining trumps, getting over-ruffed.

There are a number of winning lines on the trump switch. These include drawing a second trump (in case they are 2-2), playing ace-king and a third diamond (in case they are 3-3) and then running the ten of clubs (now needing to find West with both the ace and queen). The third string to this bow is successful as the ten scores (it does West no good to rise with the ace).

A second club to West's ace leaves him powerless. His best play is a low spade, but declarer ruffs and throws his other spade on the king of clubs.

Have you spotted the one play by West at trick two that leaves declarer with no chance? A low spade.

Whether declarer runs the spade to his queen or ruffs it in the dummy, he cannot draw all East's trumps; yet he cannot fail to draw them. If he draws trumps, he loses a spade when West wins the ace of clubs; and if he doesn't, he loses an over-ruff of the third spade when West wins the ace of clubs. Down one.

Herefordshire's Finest

When Herefordshire's Tony Forrester shows you a hand and tells you it's his best-played hand of the last 12 months, you stop everything and lap up the details. For there is probably no better declarer in the country.

Dealer North. EW Vul.

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

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

1. Spades and a minor
2. Forcing with five hearts. A slight push facing a 12-14 no trump, but South hopes to be at the helm...

West made the bright start to the defence of ace and another diamond. I suspect he reasoned as follows: "My partner presumably has nine black cards for his bid; he will probably need three hearts to have much chance of beating the game (nine-card fits tend to be tough to beat), leaving him with just one diamond."

East duly ruffed the second diamond and played a low trump. Declarer won the king, cashed the ace (felling both the remaining trumps – good!), then led the jack of spades.

When West played low in bored fashion, declarer played East for both outstanding honours. He rose with dummy's ace, ruffed a club, crossed to a diamond (East discarding a club), and ruffed another club. We have reached the following end-position:

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

Declarer exited with the ten of spades and it was over to East. What could he do after winning the queen?

If East led the king of spades, declarer could ruff in dummy, ruff a club back to hand and cash the promoted nine-five of spades. If he led back a low spade, declarer could win the nine, ruff a spade, ruff a club and cash the long spade.

Clubs were no better. If East led the ace of clubs, declarer could ruff, ruff a spade and cash the king of clubs (felling the queen), then the promoted jack. Finally, East leading the queen of clubs would see declarer throwing a spade from hand and winning dummy's king; then a club ruff bringing down the ace, and a spade ruff to cash the jack of clubs.

Any which way – game made via a lovely ruffing squeeze without the count.

A STUDY IN SLAMMING

Barry Rigal, New York

Board 2. Dealer East. NS Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Dumbovich</i>	<i>de Wijs</i>	<i>Winkler</i>	<i>Muller</i>
—	—	1 ♠	Pass
1 NT	Pass	2 NT ¹	Pass
3 ♣	Pass	3 ♥	Pass
4 ♣	Pass	4 ♦	Pass
4 ♠ ²	Pass	5 ♥ ³	Pass
Pass	Pass		

1. Any game force
2. RKCB
3. 2 key cards + ♥Q

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Westra</i>	<i>Honti</i>	<i>Ramondt</i>	<i>Szilagyi</i>
—	—	1 ♠	Pass
1 NT	Pass	2 ♣ ¹	Pass
2 ♦ ¹	Pass	2 NT	Pass
3 ♣	Pass	3 ♥	Pass
4 ♣	Pass	4 NT	Pass
5 ♥	Pass	6 ♥	Pass
Pass	Pass		

1. Extras

This board can be viewed as a study in how far bidding has advanced in certain areas of the game. As the Italians' success becomes more extensive, other players are adopting their ideas – well, plagiarism is the most extreme form of flattery, after all. Their idea that opener's rebid of two clubs showed extras (Gazilli) has become very popular. Twenty years ago, Bill Cole developed a similar convention (known as 'Cole' in the USA) which was published by Kit Woolsey in *The Bridge World* in 1991. These days, the Poles and Dutch each play their own variety. The merit of this gadget is to let jumps show extra shape plus a smattering of high cards but not be forcing.

Here, both Easts got into an efficient auction - the Hungarians use the two no trump rebid as a forcing relay to achieve much the same result. Slam is decent, though not laydown for East-West; an opening club lead might have taxed declarer (one would surely win the ace and hope for the majors to behave rather than rely on the club finesse at trick one). But of course both defenders led their singleton diamond.

Now, at the table, Ramondt followed the practical line of winning in hand and playing a spade at once; how should South signal on this? Szilagyi dropped the eight - he hoped as a suit-preference signal for diamonds, which is surely what it OUGHT to be, even if the partnership had no agreements to that effect. When Honti won his spade ace and returned a trump, declarer was able to draw trump and test spades, then fall back on the club finesse. Twelve tricks made, as also happened in the other room, where the overtrick was not important.

At double-dummy declarer must win the diamond (in either hand) and draw three rounds of trumps to prevent the ruff. Then a spade to the ten and ace leaves North with no good return; or a high spade from hand followed by a club finesse and a diamond ruffing finesse.

So far so good, but what if North decides to throw a spanner into the works and duck the first spade? His plan would be to force declarer to play a diamond to get back to hand, and now if he takes the ruffing finesse in spades, North can win, and triumphantly cash his winning diamond. Of course, this is all very well in theory, but declarer will be awake at the table and will note the tempo of his opponents. It is a little unlucky for North that he is holding the ace-nine doubleton in spades - the sight of that nine might tip declarer off to the winning line, and of course if South ducks the spade smoothly, and North takes a little while to play low on the spade ten, declarer might just get it right for the right reasons, by crossing to hand with a diamond and ruffing a spade.

So what did the field do here? In the Open Series, seven pairs played game, eleven defenders set six hearts by East (only the Finnish South Koistinen being uncharitable enough to lead a club against six hearts, the unlucky opponent being Birman of Israel). Five declarers made six hearts as East on a diamond lead; six made it as West on either a top diamond or a club lead.

The arithmetically-gifted will note that this adds up to 29 results, and there ought to be 32 in total. What of the other three? Two pairs who ought to remain nameless – but won't - bid the East-West cards to six no trump. Kask-Oja and Elinescu-Wladow were the guilty pairs, but the East players in these partnerships played the cards distinctly better than they had bid them.

Winning the diamond lead, they knocked out the spade ace, and set up a double squeeze, reducing to this ending:

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

With the position coming down to the diamond menace biting North, and the spade menace hitting South, all that the declarers needed was the club finesse for trick thirteen to go to the club nine. Of course, both Norths could have broken up the ending by shifting to a club when in with the spade ace - but where would the fun have been in that?

And what of pair 32, you ask? Well, the theme of this tournament on Vugraph has been of rather sporting defenders doubling low-level contracts for the lead, when they could not be sure that they could beat a game in that strain. This time the guilty party will have to accept sole, not joint, responsibility. Fulvio Fantoni as North decided to make his presence felt after a Gazilli auction from his opponents (one spade-one no trump-two clubs-two diamonds). One redouble from Borevkovic later he may have felt less sure of his ground.

Two diamonds redoubled on a club lead duly collected the two overtricks it was supposed to collect - and that fetched plus 960! Of course since six hearts was reached in the other room, Fantoni could argue that his enterprise was due to earn an IMP, but declarer could not bring home 12 tricks and Croatia collected 14 IMPs.

The Seniors and Women failed to offer any excitement in terms of unusual results here - up to a point. While all but two tables were content to play game or slam in hearts, with the approximately expected results, two pairs in the Seniors attempted to play in diamonds. The French attempted five diamonds down two; the Welsh (spearheaded by a senior IBPA executive) tried the diamond slam and were informed by North that they had erred - down 500. I'm sure we shall be seeing an entry for the best bid hand very shortly...

RESULTS



1. **Bamberg BC** (Germany) - Michael ELINESCU, Tomasz GOTARD, Michael GROMÖLLER, Andreas KIRSE, Josef PIEKARIK, Entschö WLADOW
2. **De Lombard BC** (Rotterdam, Netherlands) - Sjoert BRINK, Bas DRIJVER, Bauke MULLER, Vincent RAMONDT, Berry WESTRA, Simon de WIJS
3. **GSD Allegra** (Torino, Italy) Mario d'Avossa, Norberto BOCCHI, Giorgio DUBOIN, Guido FERRARO, Agustin MADALA, Antinio VIVALDI



1. **China A** - JIN Jing, LI Xin, LIU Jing, LIU Shu, LIU Yan, WANG Yan
2. **USA** - John BARTH, Ari GREENBERG, Joel FELDMAN, Joel WOOLDRIDGE
3. **Poland B** - Przemyslaw JANISZEWSKI, Jakub KASPRZAK, Piotr MADRY, Michal NOWOSADSKI, Przemyslaw PIOTROWSKI, Piotr WIANKOWSKI

NEWS & VIEWS

JONATHAN CANSINO 1939-2006

Jonathan Cansino of London, who has died aged 67, was one of Britain's most talented bridge-players until his international career was cut short by surgery for a brain tumour when he was 34 years old.

His talent first came to light in his student days at Oxford University in a partnership with Robert Sheehan. The year after he left Oxford, and whilst Sheehan was still at university, they represented England in the 1964 Camrose Home Internationals. The following year Sheehan left for the USA and Cansino formed a partnership with the late John Collings, another great talent in the England squad, but a volatile personality. After a couple of matches with Collings, Cansino had international appearances with Tony Milford and Claude Rodrigue before settling into a longer-lasting partnership with Jeremy Flint. They inaugurated the "Multi Two Diamonds" convention still in use in many countries today.

Cansino had 11 caps for England in the Home Internationals and two for Britain in the European Championships including a silver medal in 1971 in Athens. Shortly before his illness he had two last Camrose appearances with Sheehan, his original partner. For thirty years following his ill health he was a familiar figure at the bridge clubs of North London.

25th JORDAN INTERNATIONAL BRIDGE FESTIVAL

Ghassan Ghanem and the Jordan Bridge Federation would like to see IBPA members and international players alike at the Kempinski Hotel, Amman, during November 16-19, 2006. The bridge festival features open pairs and open team events, with prize money of approximately US\$10,000. Information can be had from Ghassan at nuha_h@yahoo.com or phone +962 6 569 1057. The hotel can be found at www.kempinski.com.

EUROPEAN WOMEN'S BRIDGE FESTIVAL

Anna Maria Torlontano, Chairman of the EBL and WBF Women's Committees, reports that the European Women's Bridge Festival was a great success. The Festival was held in Riccione, Italy, "green pearl" of the Adriatic Coast, in the prestigious "Pala-Terme". The Festival was notable for friendship, social activities, and a magic atmosphere, where serious bridge was combined with a very pleasant program. The results:

Individual: Stine Holmoey, Norway

Pairs: Belis Atalay - Lale Gumrukcu, Turkey

Combined Champion: Belis Atalay, Turkey

BRIDGE – WHAT FUTURE?

IBPA member Danny Roth has circulated a manifesto to leading players and publications detailing what's wrong with modern bridge and how to fix it. Roth brings up many interesting points, and his solutions, though not to everyone's taste, contain many valid and carefully-though-out suggestions. Although it is too voluminous to print here, we shall undertake to send it and Roth's contact information to anyone who has not already received it and wishes a copy.

SHAKESPEARE PLAYING CARDS

Prospero Art publishers has three new Shakespeare bridge deck items that would be of interest to bridge players: Shakespeare Playing Cards Volume 1 "Quotes" (bridge deck) features a quote from Shakespeare on each card, and every play by Shakespeare is quoted; Shakespeare Playing Cards Volume 2 "Insults" (bridge deck) features an insult from Shakespeare on each card. Shakespeare Playing Cards Double Deck Bridge Set (includes both Volumes 1 "Quotes" & 2 "Insults") packaged together in an attractive double deck slip box.

Shakespeare Playing Cards are designed in the style of the English High Renaissance, and are illustrated with the classical art of the old masters. To learn more, please visit: <http://www.prosperoart.com>

4TH EBL NBO ADMINISTRATORS' SEMINAR

The EBL President has invited every NBO in Europe to attend the seminars, February 1-4, 2007, in Rome. The seminars are devoted to development, policy, regulations, championships, youth issues and other important matters. Presidents, General Secretaries and Youth officers are asked to attend. Details can be found at www.eurobridge.org.

Correspondence (cont.)...

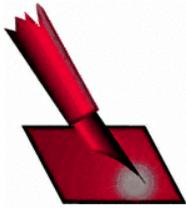
declarer should have exited with the diamond seven and made his contract.

Yours, Scott Cardell, Pullman, WA

Hi John,

Glancing through the September bulletin, I noticed a deal reported by PO from Chicago (no. 500, p. 5). As a minor detail six clubs by South is also defeated by a club lead. If North happens to be declarer then any suit except a heart is good enough.

Cheers, Mark Horton, Romford, UK



Correspondence ...

The Editor reserves the right to shorten correspondence

Email: ibpaeditor@sympatico.ca

Dear John,

I read with interest your editorial in the IBPA Bulletin (on the World Open Pairs controversy). It is a question that has long been posed and of course if there is an occurrence such as that, it does start the tongues wagging. In the PABF competition which was recently held in Shanghai, the Chinese team was in an unassailable position for first place and in the last round met China Hong Kong. This match, which consisted of 20 boards behind screens, was over in 1.5 hours with a 22-8 result to China Hong Kong, giving them the bronze medal for 3rd place. Naturally, there was a lot of talk about this. Perhaps, as you suggest, something can be done to prevent any possibility of a manipulation of results, so that no aspersions can be made.

Kind regards, Vivien Cornell, Auckland

Dear John,

The top mark in a recent bidding panel question in Bridge Magazine went to five no trump, a bid showing a two-suited hand. I would like to congratulate Klaus Reps, presumably not a native English-speaker, for his grammatically correct statement, "Partner will bid his lower-ranked suit." Alas, four other IBPA members (three from England and one from Canada) commented that they expected their partners to bid the lowest of their two suits. What is the world coming to? The next thing you know people will be making take-out doubles on balanced 12 counts.

Simon Cochemé, London

Despite his name, Simon admits to being a native English-speaker. When I replied that I hoped I was not one of the culprits, I received this reply in return...

No, not you, and the guilty parties are not to be named. I don't know if you saw my piece in Bridge Magazine about Juan Les Pins - there was an incident when my partner and I faced Paul Hackett and John Armstrong. Paul alerted John's pass (in a Support Double position), and explained, "It shows less than three spades". I told him that I felt I should call the director because there had been an incorrect explanation. Paul looked a bit shocked that I should accuse him of not knowing his system, and a little puzzled since John's hand was still only visible to John. "It should be fewer than three spades," I said. We all had a jolly good laugh and then they took a couple of tops off us.

I seem to be becoming a real language pedant in my old age.

Dear Editor,

On board 29 of the European Championships Poland Versus Italy (page 18 of the October IBPA bulletin) both West and North were completely asleep at the switch. Perhaps it was played at the end of a long session. West played three no trump; after seven tricks, declarer needed four of the last six tricks. This was the position:

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

At this point, West knows everyone's distribution as North has discarded on spades and South has discarded on clubs and hearts. When North cashed the heart jack, South discarded a spade and Declarer erred by discarding his spade two, giving himself no chance if North were awake. At this point, North should realize the spade discards pinpoint the exact spade distribution of the North and West hands.

So North should have taken advantage of declarer's error and cashed the ten of clubs as declarer's spade discard lets South safely discard a spade on the trick, and South's one diamond trick would set the contract. But instead, North foolishly led a diamond immediately, which went to South's king and West's ace. Next, West cashed the diamond queen and saw the nine drop from South. At this point, our author of the report states that West had to guess which diamond to lead. But declarer should have known South had one diamond left and North had diamonds left along with the good ten of clubs. If South's remaining diamond had been the eight, then the contract would have been hopeless, as North would always score the diamond jack and the club ten. So the only chance was that South's last diamond was the diamond jack and there was no guess,

...continued on page 14

World Bridge Calendar

DATES	EVENT	LOCATION	INFORMATION
2006			
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	zcurado@yahoo.com
Nov 10-12	International Teams Tournament	Monte Carlo, Monaco	pattonmonaco@gmail.com
Nov 16-19	25 th Jordan International Festival	Amman, Jordan	nuha_h@yahoo.com
Nov 16-26	ACBL Fall NABC	Honolulu, HI	www.acbl.org
Nov 20-21	Torneo Empresarial	Buenos Aires, Argentina	www.bridgeargentino.org.ar
Nov 20-24	Nanning ASEAN Invitational	Nanning, Guangxi, China	guan-peizhong@126.com
Nov 23-Dec 3	Bridge Week in Spa Piestany	Piestany, Slovakia	pmokran@internet.sk
Nov 27 & 29	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	Saniva 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	Lille, France	www.ffbridge.asso.fr
2007			
Jan 4-7	7 ^o Festival Internazionale	Versilia, Italy	www.federbridge.it
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 13-24	Internationale Woche	St. Moritz, Switzerland	www.bridgefederation.ch
Jan 15-29	Summer Festival of Bridge	Canberra, Australia	www.abf.com.au
Jan 19-21	Bergen International Tournament	Bergen, Norway	www.storturning.no
Jan 20-27	Bermuda Regional 2007	Southampton, Bermuda	www.acbl.org
Jan 22-26	WBF Charity Pairs	Clubs Worldwide	www.ecatsbridge.com
Feb 1-6	EBU Overseas Congress	Paphos, Cyprus	www.ebu.co.uk
Feb 8-17	41 st Israel Bridge Festival	Tel Aviv, Israel	ibf@netvision.net.il
Feb 17-24	Gold Coast Congress	Broadbeach, Australia	www.qldbridge.com
Feb 20-24	Festival des Jeux	Cannes, France	www.ffbridge.asso.fr
Feb 23-25	White House Teams	Amsterdam, Netherlands	www.hetwittehuisbridge.nl
Mar 2-4	Camrose Trophy	Scotland (TBD)	www.ebu.co.uk
Mar 8-18	ACBL Spring NABC	St. Louis, MO	www.acbl.org
Mar 23-31	42 ^{eme} Semaine Internationale	Crans-Montana, Switzerland	www.bridgefederation.ch
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
May 11-24	Festival International de Bridge	Juan-les-Pins, France	www.bridgejuan.com
May 17-20	Festival	Toulouse, France	www.ffbridge.asso.fr
May 18-27	24 th CACBF Zonal Championships	Curaçao, WI	www.cacbf.com
Jun 1 & 2	Worldwide Bridge Contest	Clubs Worldwide	www.ecatsbridge.com
Jun 4-13	45 th PABF Championships	Bandung, Indonesia	www.ccba.org.cn
Jul 7-15	Danish Bridge Festival	Vinsted, Denmark	www.bridge.dk
Jun 15-30	3rd European Open Championships	Antalya, Turkey	www.eurobridge.org
Jul 19-29	ACBL Summer NABC	Nashville, TN	www.acbl.org
Jun 19-30	XXV International Festival	Albena, Bulgaria	www.aebridge.com
Jul 28-Aug 2	Chairman's Cup	Jönköping, Sweden	www.bridgefederation.se
Jul 28-Aug 5	XIII Bridgefestival	Jönköping, Sweden	www.bridgefederation.se
Jul 30-Aug 1	2 nd World Junior Individual	Nashville, TN	www.worldbridge.org
Aug 4-9	European University Cup	Brugge, Belgium	geert.magerman@pandora.be
Aug 10-29	Summer Congress	Brighton, England	www.ebu.co.uk
Aug 24-Sep 2	35 ^o Warsaw Grand Prix	Warsaw, Poland	www.polbridge.pl
Sep 8-15	46 th Bridge Festival	Pula, Croatia	www.bridge.hr
Sep 22-29	NZ Nationals	Hamilton, New Zealand	www.nzcba.co.nz
Sep 29-Oct 13	World Team Championships	Shanghai, China	www.worldbridge.org
Nov 3-4	Lederer Memorial Trophy	London, England	www.ebu.co.uk
Nov 22-Dec 2	ACBL Fall NABC	San Francisco, CA	www.acbl.org
Nov 26 & 28	European Simultaneous Pairs	Clubs in Europe	www.ecatsbridge.com