



## BULLETIN

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## THE INTERNATIONAL BRIDGE PRESS ASSOCIATION

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## EDITORIAL

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

In a recent issue of the Delhi Bridge Association Newsletter, Arvind Vaidya makes the case for a rest day before the finals of major bridge events. He points out that in most other sports, a rest day is assured. For example, for competitors reaching the finals of tennis tournaments, cricket matches, or chess tournaments, rest days are scheduled into the event. An exception is golf, where tournaments of three to six days are played with no day of rest. Arguably, the most gruelling golf tournaments are the final stage of the PGA Tour Qualifying School, a six-day event where the top 30 or so earn their tour 'cards' for the following season, and the US Amateur, where there is not only no day of rest, but on the final two days, 36 holes are played. Even so, in both cases, there are various earlier stages prior to the final events.

In bridge, we have become accustomed to filling every day of a tournament with matches, whether it is the Olympiad Teams, the World Open Pairs, or the US Bridge Federation Trials. The European Bridge Team Championships are a little different, being solely a league-type, rather than a knockout-type of event, and a day or two with fewer matches can be, and is, granted in the middle of the event, schedule permitting. Perhaps it is time for the WBF and others to consider a full day of rest before the final stages of important events such as world, zone and national championships.

Let's look at the Bermuda Bowl as an example, perhaps the most extreme case. Twenty-two teams play a round robin of 3 x 20-board matches per day, with the top eight proceeding to knockout matches of 96, 96, and 128 boards respectively. Lately, the WBF has eased the burden somewhat by limiting the knockout days to 3 x 16-board segments per day rather than the previous practice of holding 4 x 16-board segments per day, as is common in US national championships such as the Vanderbilt. (Why not maintain consistency and have 20-board segments throughout?)

The argument for a rest day crops up when the standard of play in the final of a major world championship declines due to exhaustion on the part of the participants. Much as one can argue that stamina is an important component of bridge tournaments, with the advent of the Internet and the ability of thousands to watch every board played live, doesn't it make more sense to try to have the players really show off why they are in the championship final in the first place?

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V<sup>th</sup> European Champions Cup  
for the  
Stelle dell'Orsa Trophy  
Rome, October 13-15, 2006  
Jos Jacobs, Amstelveen, Netherlands

Over the weekend of October 13-15, the 5<sup>th</sup> European Champions Cup was contested among Club Champions from the top nations in the 48<sup>th</sup> European Championships. The defending champions from Italy rounded out the field. The teams were grouped into two sections and played a round robin within their group, followed by semifinals for the top two in each group. The venue was the Tennis Club Parioli, Rome.

**Match 1. Board 16. Dealer West. EW Vul.**

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

There was a big swing here in the match between Parioli, the hosts and holders, and Ireland, and, what is more, it was one of the best played hands of the year (once the killing defence was not found):

West	North	East	South
Versace	Burns	Lauria	Murchan
Pass	1 ♦	4 ♣	5 ♣
Pass	5 ♦	Pass	Pass
Pass			

Capsizing on the rocks of distribution, there was little declarer could do at this table. Parioli plus 50.

West	North	East	South
Onischouk	Angelini	DeRaeymaeker	Sementa
Pass	1 ♣	4 ♣	6 ♣
Pass	6 ♦	Pass	6 ♥
Double	Pass	Pass	6 ♠
Double	Pass	Pass	Pass

At the other table, Antonio Sementa exhibited table presence reminiscent of the Blue Team greats. As it happened, Sementa had to pick the right major-suit slam himself - his first brilliant move, as this way he avoided a possibly killing club lead from East. A side effect of his bidding was that he caught West in the doubling rhythm. Then came Sementa's second and decisive brilliant move: how to exploit the available data to the fullest extent.

West could have beaten the contract out of hand by leading the ace and another diamond, but he led a trump, won in dummy. The heart king was unblocked and a second round of trumps went to declarer's king. Once East followed to this, Sementa got a much better idea of East's hand pattern. He should hold eight clubs as West had not led the suit - and also to justify his bidding. What is more, the contract could not be made if East had held three trumps, so Sementa played accordingly. He cashed the top hearts, and simply took the ruffing finesse against the heart jack. When East could not ruff at any time, the rest was easy. Declarer had to shorten himself twice in trumps to get back to his hand to play diamonds but this did not hurt as West had no clubs anyway. Very well done, for a marvellous plus 1210, and 15 IMPs to Parioli.

The Iceland team (EYKT) had suffered the smallest of losses in their first-round encounter with the Poles (14-16) whereas Allegra had kicked off in great style, winning by 25-2. The Turin team were no doubt hoping to keep up that pace whereas EYKT realised that they had to register a good result in this match to keep their chances

## IMPORTANT NOTICE

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[mario@bridge.org.mt](mailto:mario@bridge.org.mt)

before 12th December 2006. Also, if your card expired BEFORE 12/06, please send him by email the new expiry date AND the new 3 digit security code.

For those with UK sterling cheque books, you may mail Mario Dix, 41 Tigne Seafront, Sliema, MALTA. Members can also use the secure online renewal which is available on the IBPA web site.

of qualification alive. Looking at the final outcome of their match, an exact tie at 49 all, I wonder which team was most pleased with the result...

The match started well for Allegra, who already led 2-0 when board 3 arrived to substantially increase this lead.

**Match 2. Board 3. Dealer South. EW Vul.**

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

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

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

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

West	North	East	South
Duboin	Baldursson	Bocchi	Jonsson
—	—	—	Pass
Pass	Pass	1 ♣	1 ♠
1 NT	2 ♠	3 NT	Pass
Pass	Pass		

North could definitely consider himself unlucky when he led the spade king, only to find that his partner did not hold a single spade honour. Even after this unfortunate lead, the contract was still not home. Duboin won the spade ace and cashed his club tricks, very pleased to see them break 3-3. On the run of the clubs, South discarded a spade and his low diamond; the latter discard was to prove costly a few tricks later.

After cashing the clubs, Duboin played a heart from dummy to his queen, holding the trick. Next came the jack of diamonds. North covered (would you have played low?), dummy ducked, and South won the now-bare ace. Duboin could win the spade return and finesse against the diamond ten for an overtrick. That was a terrific plus 630 for Duboin and Allegra.

West	North	East	South
Armannsson	Ferraro	Jorgensen	Vivaldi
—	—	—	Pass
Pass	Pass	1 NT	Pass
Pass	Pass		

On a spade lead from South, declarer decided not to put all his money on the lucky club break but to go after the diamonds first. This enabled the defence to clear the spades, with the heart ace still in South as an entry to cash the spade winners. Down two! Allegra plus 200 and 13 IMPs.

In the final round robin match came the deal of the tournament. First, from Allegra versus Poland:

**Match 5. Board 12. Dealer West. NS Vul.**

♠ J 10 7 6  
♥ A 8 4  
♦ Q 8 6  
♣ Q 8 4

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

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

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

West	North	East	South
Duboin	Gierulski	Bocchi	Skrzypczak
1 ♦	Pass	1 ♥	Pass
1 ♠	Pass	3 ♥	Pass
3 ♠	Pass	4 ♣	Pass
4 ♦	Pass	4 NT	Pass
5 ♣	Pass	6 ♥	Pass
Pass	Pass		

The question is, how to get rid of the fourth club with dummy void in trumps? On a low spade lead, Bocchi found the solution. He won the ace and drove out the heart ace. North won the second round and continued with a spade. Bocchi played off all his hearts, coming down to this end position:

♠ —  
♥ —  
♦ Q 8 6  
♣ Q 8 4

♠ Q  
♥ —  
♦ A K J  
♣ J 2

♠ —  
♥ 3  
♦ 9  
♣ A K 5 3

♠ K  
♥ —  
♦ 2  
♣ 10 9 7 6

When the last heart is played, South still had a diamond to throw, but North was in trouble and had to release a club. Next came the two top diamonds to squeeze South in the black suits. This rare phenomenon is a non-simultaneous double squeeze. If South does not keep his clubs, declarer can simply cash the suit from the top. Very well played; Allegra plus 980.

West	North	East	South
Cichocki	Madala	Sztyrak	Ferraro
1 ♠	Pass	2 ♥	Pass
2 ♠	Pass	3 ♣	Pass
3 NT	Pass	4 ♣	Pass
4 ♦	Pass	4 NT	Pass
5 ♦	Pass	6 ♥	Pass
Pass	Pass		

Now look at one of the finest displays of teamwork I have ever seen. Quite often, there is a defence to an impending squeeze, consisting of disrupting declarer's transportation. This hand proved a wonderful example when Guido Ferraro put the cherry on his teammate's cake by leading a diamond. With the squeeze broken, declarer had no option but to insert the jack and thus had to go down three, losing two clubs in the end and the inevitable ace of trumps. Allegra plus 150 and 15 IMPs to ensure first place in the group.

In the other Italian match, Parioli versus De Lombard, they also were in six hearts at both tables and both Souths led a spade.

Angelini, for Parioli, found the club return (a cunning eight, actually) as North after winning his heart ace. Drijver won the ace and ran trumps. This was the end position:

♠ Q	♠ --
♥ —	♥ 3
♦ A K J	♦ 9
♣ J	♣ K 5 3

  

♠ K
♥ --
♦ 2
♣ 10 9 6

This time, when the last heart is played, South again throws a diamond, but what can you throw from dummy? Throwing the last club means you cannot get back to your hand any more and so you need to take the diamond finesse.

In the other room, on a spade lead and no devilish club play from North, one would expect the world's No. 1 bridge player to fulfill his ambitious contract and so it proved. Playing along the same line as Bocchi, Lorenzo Lauria also made 12 tricks for a gain of 14 IMPs to his team. It also helped Parioli to ensure first place in their group as they earned a winning draw: 43-42.

The group standings:

A.	Tennis Club Parioli	Italy	111
	De Lombard	Netherlands	106
	ENC	England	71
	Nasby BS	Sweden	57
	INC	Ireland	47
	Tordas Gamax	Hungary	47
B.	GSD Allegra	Italy	92
	Bamberg Bridge Club	Germany	91
	Mragowia Si	Poland	83
	EYKT	Iceland	82
	FNC	France	64
	Vestfold	Norway	29

For the semifinals first in A played second in B and first in B met second in A, so an all-Italian final was possible. As it happened, this was not to be.

### Semifinals

De Lombard	130	Allegra	108
Bamberg	115	Parioli	110

### Final

Bamberg	137	De Lombard	73
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## 3<sup>rd</sup> WORLD UNIVERSITY BRIDGE CHAMPIONSHIP

### Jack Zhao, Tianjin

The championship was held in my home town, Tianjin, one of four semi-autonomous municipalities in China (the others are Beijing, Chongqing and Shanghai). Tianjin is a major port city close to Beijing, with a population of about 10 million.

Twenty-seven teams from 22 countries were entered in the championship, held October 21-27. The teams played a round robin of 8-board matches. Pre-tournament favourites were USA, Poland and Italy, all having had done well in Junior events in the past year.

In round 16, the Netherlands met Italy on Vugraph. I know the Dutch quite well, since I lived in that country from 1995 to 2001. At that time, these youngsters were little boys and girls; now they have all grown up. The Italian players had come second in the World Junior Championship in Bangkok. Presumably this would be an exciting match, and both teams did produce some high-standard bridge. I certainly did not play the game as well as they do at that age.

### Board 1. Dealer North. Neither Vul.

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

  

♠ 9 8 6 5 3 2
♥ J 3
♦ 5 3
♣ J 8 7

West	North	East	South
<i>Boldrini</i>	<i>Wortel</i>	<i>Lo Presti</i>	<i>Michielsen</i>
—	Pass	1 NT	Pass
2 NT <sup>1</sup>	Pass	3 ♦ <sup>2</sup>	Pass
3 ♥	Pass	4 ♥	Pass
Pass	Pass		

1. Diamonds  
2. Not good for diamonds

West	North	East	South
Bruggeman	Sangiorgio	Drijver	Ferrari
—	Pass	1 NT	Pass
2 ♣	Double	2 ♥	Pass
4 ♣ <sup>1</sup>	Pass	4 ♥	Pass
4 NT	Pass	5 ♦	Pass
6 ♥	Pass	Pass	Pass

1. Splinter

On board 1, the Dutch boys bid a sharp slam that made after some helpful information from the opponents. The Dutch West thought he had enough to drive to slam despite the fact that his partner rejected his slam try. I like the Italian auction - they had the methods to show five-plus diamonds and four hearts. When West discovered that his partner did not have a fit in his main side suit, he stopped sensibly in game.

Single-dummy, if you can finesse for the diamond king successfully you are almost home. The Italians managed eleven tricks but they were only in four. The Dutch East, Bob Drijver, had a much more difficult task in six hearts. After the double of two clubs, he received a favourable club seven lead to the ten and his queen.

Drijver took the normal diamond finesse to the queen and king. Had North now switched to his singleton queen of spades, East would have had to find the minor-suit squeeze to get home. However, North played back a sneaky diamond nine to dummy's ace, and Drijver was in control. He drew two rounds of trumps with the ace and king, then ruffed a diamond in hand. He could now enter dummy with the spade king and ruff the last diamond good. Ruffing a club to dummy and drawing the last trump, he had twelve tricks for a handsome 980 and 11 IMPs gained.

Double-dummy, the hand can be made anyway by guessing the position. Declarer has to reject the diamond finesse, instead ruffing a club in dummy, and after finding the queen of spades, strip-squeezing North in diamonds and clubs. Then he has to read the ending, either throwing in North or dropping the diamond king, as appropriate, for his twelfth trick.

From the same match:

### Board 8. Dealer West. Neither Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Boldrini	Wortel	Lo Presti	Michielsen
1 ♦	Pass	1 ♥	Pass
2 ♦	Pass	Pass	Pass

  

West	North	East	South
Bruggeman	Sangiorgio	Drijver	Ferrari
1 ♦	Pass	1 ♥	1 ♠
2 ♦	2 ♠	Pass	Pass
Pass			

The Italian South in the closed room overcalled one spade on his four-card suit, so it was natural for his partner to give him a raise. Two spades was down one.

The Dutch South, Michielsen, didn't bid at all and sold out to two diamonds peacefully. North led a club round to the jack. Declarer played a diamond to the jack and king - South switched to a small heart to her partner's king and North duly returned the club queen (suit preference) for their ruff.

South stopped to think. Declarer looked to have six-three in the minors. If he had 2=2=6=3, she had to play a spade back before declarer could set up a heart trick in the dummy. If he had 3=1=6=3, it was safe to exit with the ace and another diamond. She didn't have a clue to the distribution in hearts.

Soon, she found the correct switch: the ten of spades! It was a beautiful play, only wrong if declarer had the jack-eight third of spades, but as it turned out, partner's spade eight justified this nice coup. I think this was the best percentage play and am convinced that within a few years time, this girl will be among the greatest players in the bridge world.

The match ended in a 27-18 IMP win for Holland, or 18-12 in VPs.

The last match of the penultimate day saw the battle between the first- and second-placed teams, China A and Sweden. At the time, China A had just suffered a big defeat against the Belgians, and Sweden and the USA had just won their matches heavily to close the gap to 13 and 15 VPs respectively. This match attracted most of the attention in Round 24.

### Board 1. Dealer North. Neither Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Johansson	Jin	Cullin	Liu
—	Pass	1 NT	Pass
2 ♣	Pass	2 ♠	Pass
2 NT	Pass	3 NT	Pass
Pass	Pass		

After having opened a 15-17 no trump and having heard an invitational auction from his partner, the Swedish East decided that his 15 count looked like a 'maximum' 15 and accepted the invitation. The Chinese South led the spade jack, and whether that was coded or not, North read the position well.

North realized that she needed South to have an entry in clubs and a doubleton diamond to beat the contract. Thus, she switched to a small diamond to the jack and king and the contract had to go two down. However, the Chinese boys sold out to three spades in the other room and allowed it to make. Her brilliant defense kept her side's loss to 1 IMP!

So, not only did the host country win, the host university won! Five of the six players on the winning team come from Tianjin Normal University, our host for this competition. Four of these are women, so the rest of the world had better beware - China Women will be strong for many years to come.

The final standings:

1.	China A	508
2.	USA	492
3.	Poland B	472
4.	Sweden	462
5.	Norway	461
6.	Poland A	459
7.	Italy	444
8.	Denmark	427
9.	Netherlands	426
10.	Hong Kong	416

## IBPA COLUMN SERVICE

**Tim Bourke, Canberra**

*Members may use the following deals as they wish, without attributing either the author or the IBPA.*

### 358. Dealer West. Both Vul.

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

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

After West's weak no trump, East transferred to hearts and South doubled to show a strong hand. West showed three-card heart support (redouble would show four and pass two). As a result of North's competitive double, South became the declarer in four spades.

West began with the ace, king and ten of hearts. After ruffing South had to manage the trumps for just one loser. As West's opening bid placed the king and queen of trumps on the left, declarer crossed to dummy with the ace of clubs to lead a low trump towards his hand, finessing the nine when East played low.

When West took this with the queen and returned a diamond, declarer won in hand and then had to decide whether it was West's king-queen of spades that were doubleton or East's ten. Assuming that West did not have a five-card minor (in which case he might have organized a ruff in East's hand), playing for the latter by leading the jack of trumps, with intention of running if West played low, offered much better odds.

### 359. Dealer South. Both Vul.

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

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

After West's Unusual Two Notrump overcall, North showed four-card heart support and a singleton club with his jump to four clubs. East nuisance bid of five clubs was quickly brushed aside and the grand slam reached.

After taking West's king of clubs with the ace, declarer ruffed a club in dummy and then played the king of trumps. West's discard caused a small problem as declarer had to ruff his three black-suit losers in the dummy as well as make all the trumps in hand.

As the latter could only be achieved by ruffing diamonds, declarer crossed to the ace of diamonds and followed with the crucial play of a spade to the ace followed by the first diamond ruff. It made no difference when East threw a spade as the bidding had marked West with at most three spades and so East with a minimum of four. So declarer played the king and queen of spades then ruffed his last club low. After a second diamond ruff, declarer ruffed his spade loser with dummy's queen.

In the two card endgame, declarer held the ace-ten of trumps over East's jack-nine. So when a further diamond was led from dummy, declarer had to score two tricks.

**360. Dealer North. EW Vul.**

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

Suspecting that South would ruff spades in dummy, West led a trump. Declarer rose with the ace of trumps to ensure two spade ruffs. After throwing his low diamond on the ace of clubs, declarer crossed to hand with the ace of diamonds, then cashed the ace of spades. A crossruff of four black suit cards followed, leaving declarer with just the queen-jack of trumps. East took the queen of trumps with the king and forced declarer by playing his king of clubs. All declarer could do was ruff and play a spade. West took the last three tricks with the queen of spades, the king of diamonds and the nine of trumps.

Declarer should have played low at trick one and won the expected trump return in hand with the queen. After ruffing a spade with the bare ace of trumps and parking the seven of diamonds on the ace of clubs, he must cross to hand with the ace of diamonds then draw the last trump. After conceding a spade, declarer ruffs the return to play a fourth spade. This leaves two master spades and a trump in the South hand, the three tricks needed for the game.

Note too, that on a non-trump lead, declarer's best plan for ten tricks is a crossruff.

**361. Dealer South. EW Vul.**

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

Declarer had to manage nine tricks after West led the five of diamonds. Without much thought of what lay ahead, declarer played low at trick one with the idea of trying to protect his king of diamonds. East won with the jack and played the queen of diamonds. This gave declarer two unpleasant choices. If he took the king of diamonds West would eventually gain the lead and cash three diamond tricks. When in fact he ducked again, he could no longer make a diamond trick and had to be content with only eight tricks.

If declarer had counted his tricks, he would have arrived at four clubs, a heart and (hopefully) three spades. As there was no time to develop a heart trick without losing five tricks on most layouts, he should have seen that he had to rely on making a trick with the king of diamonds. The clear and present danger was that the suit was 5-2, but if that were so, East's doubleton was likely to consist of two honours – otherwise West might have led a diamond honour holding three of them.

So, declarer must rise with dummy's king on the first trick, disagreeable as that may be. Then he can play a spade to the ace, return to dummy with a club and play a spade to the ten (the best way of managing that suit).

When West wins his queen of spades the defence cannot run four diamond tricks. If West plays a low diamond East wins the trick with his remaining honour but that will be the defence's last trick before declarer has his ninth safely tucked away. If instead West plays the ace of diamonds then dummy's nine of diamonds will stop the suit being run.

**362.** This deal (see top of next page) is based on an Australian Par Hand contest from 1937. The original problem had a flaw permitting an alternative correct solution, but it has been modified slightly to eliminate that possibility.

**Dealer East. Neither Vul.**

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

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

♠ A  
 ♥ A Q 9 8 7 5  
 ♦ 9  
 ♣ A Q 9 7 5

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

West leads the queen of diamonds and the winning solution is to play the ace-king of diamonds, throwing the ace of spades away. Next, the spade queen is led and a club discarded from hand. West wins the king of spades but with spades 4-3 and hearts 3-1, declarer now has twelve tricks.

**363. Dealer West. EW Vul.**

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

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

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

West	North	East	South
4 ♥	4 ♠	Pass	6 ♣
Pass	Pass	6 ♥	7 ♣
Pass	Pass	Pass	

East knew his customers well - North was an overbidder, but South was as sound as the Bank of England. He did well to bid six hearts, despite the unfavourable vulnerability. However, as it happened, he was not to know that even seven hearts would still be a cheap sacrifice against seven clubs!

After ruffing the opening lead of the heart ace, declarer cashed six rounds of trumps and the ace of spades to reach this position:

♠ Q 8  
 ♥ —  
 ♦ A K 7  
 ♣ —

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

♠ —  
 ♥ —  
 ♦ J 10 8  
 ♣ 4 3

When declarer played another trump, discarding the seven of diamonds from dummy, East was left with no winning discard. If he threw a diamond, declarer would make the rest by cashing the ace-king of diamonds and ruffing a spade back to hand to enjoy the diamond jack. Alternatively, a spade discard would allow the king to be ruffed out, establishing the queen.

## 1<sup>st</sup> JUNO CUP

October 17-21, 2006

Anna Maria Torlontano, Italy

Chairman, EBL & WBF Women's Committees

The Chinese Contract Bridge Association (CCBA) and sponsor Juno hosted a new event held in Wuxi, China during October, the Juno Cup. The idea for this event was born in Estoril during the World Championships, with the support of Esther Sophonpanich, President of Zone 6, and the WBF Women's Committee. The organisers invited seven international teams to join host China in a prestigious Women's Elite Tournament - the invitees were from Canada, England, Germany, Italy, Netherlands, Sweden and the USA.

Wuxi is a major economic centre and leading tourist destination in China. It is located on the southeast coast in the Yangtze River delta, 128 km from Shanghai, in Jiangsu province. For all these reasons, it is known as "Little Shanghai." 'Little' is, of course, relative, as its population exceeds four million.

The teams were fêted well, with gala dinners and a tour to the Ling Shan Grand Buddha, the highest in China at 88 metres. The mayor of Wuxi also hosted a dinner for all participants. However, the lasting impression was of the kindness, the smiles, the hospitality and the warm atmosphere that our Chinese hosts created.

Cash prizes were awarded to the top three finishers, so for a change, a playoff between the semifinal losers had more at stake than pride. The teams played a round robin of 16-board matches to decide the semifinalists. Host China were considered the odds-on favourites



and they qualified for the semifinals along with the USA, England and the Netherlands.

China edged England 132-127 in one semifinal, while the Netherlands had a surprisingly easy time of it with the USA, winning handily 126-65. In the final, the Dutch women were no match for the Chinese, who won top prize by 177-145 IMPs. England defeated the USA 85-44 to take third place.

This deal helped the Chinese to their win in the final.

#### Final-Session 4. Board 7. Dealer South. Both Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Dong	Pasman	Yan	Simons
—	—	—	Pass
Pass	1 ♣	1 ♦	1 ♥ <sup>1</sup>
Pass	1 ♠ <sup>2</sup>	2 ♥	2 ♠
4 ♥	Pass	Pass	Pass

1. 4+ spades
2. 3 spades

West	North	East	South
Vriend	Wang	Arnolds	Liu
—	—	—	Pass
Pass	1 ♦ <sup>1</sup>	Pass	1 ♠
Pass	Pass	Double	Pass
2 ♥	Pass	3 ♥	Pass
4 ♥	Pass	Pass	Pass

1. Precision-style

At one table, Simons led the spade three to the ace, Pasman encouraging with the seven. Yan followed the tried-and-true principle of attempting to set up her long suit before dealing with trumps, playing a diamond to the ace and ruffing a low one in dummy. When she next continued with a heart to the queen, Simons won and returned a heart, not that it mattered; Yan was in control, and she made 11 tricks.

At the other table, Vriend also received a spade lead, this time the seven to the king and ace. She violated the side-suit principle by leading a trump to the queen, which held the trick! Now she started diamonds with ace and a ruff, but when she next played a heart to the jack, Liu won and put a club through. Two rounds of clubs finished the dummy's usefulness and Vriend finished two off for 13 well-earned IMPs to China.

In the money were:

1. **CHINA:** Dong, Liu, Sun, WF Wang, HL Wang, Yan \$20,000
2. **NETHERLANDS:** Arnolds, Michielson, Pasman, Simons, Vriend, Wortel \$10,000
3. **ENGLAND:** Dhondy, Jagger, Penfold, Senior, Smith, Teshome \$5,000

Thanks to Juno and the CCBA for a magnificent event.

## TOLANI GRAND PRIX BRIDGE CHAMPIONSHIP 2006

**TC Pant, Delhi**

The Tolani Grand Prix Bridge Championship 2006 was held at The Residence Hotel & Convention Centre, Vihar Lake, Mumbai, from the 4<sup>th</sup> to 7<sup>th</sup> Nov 2006. Mrs. Hema Deora, wife of the Honourable Minister of Petroleum, Mr. Murli Deora, inaugurated the tournament. The function was presided over by Dr. N.P. Tolani, Chairman, Tolani Group of Companies.

The tournament had two main events, the Team-of-Four and the Open Pairs.

**Team of Four Event:** 45 teams from all over India participated. The teams played a Swiss league of 10 rounds (of 10 boards each) after which the following top 8 teams qualified for the quarterfinals:

1. Formidables	196 VPs
2. India Blues	178
3. Shree Cement	178
4. Tolani Shipping Co.	175
5. Biopac	171
6. Shriradhey	169
7. Amonara, Pune	169
8. Dhampur Sugar Mills	169

In the 3x12 boards quarterfinals, Formidables beat Dhampur Sugar Mills by 71-54; India Blues beat Amonara, Pune by 95-20; Shree Cement beat Sri Radhey by 111-58; and Tolani Shipping Co. beat Biopac by 108-42.

In the 3x16 boards semifinals, Formidables beat Tolani Shipping Co. (R.A. Agrawal, Archie Sequeira, Anal Shah, Finton Lewis, G. Manna) by 75-50, whereas India Blues beat Shree Cement (Ravi Goenka, Manas Mukherjee, Rana Roy, Subir Majumdar, Subrata Saha, Bibhash Todi) by 124-87.

In an exciting 4x16 boards final which went down to the wire, Formidables (Mrs. Kiran Nadar, B. Satyanarayana, Subhash Gupta, Rajeshwar Tewari, K.R. Venkatraman and Sunit Choshi) beat India Blues (Ashok Ruia, J.M. Shah, Sandeep Karmarkar, Rajendra Gokhle, S.K. Iyengar and Kirubakara Moorthy) by 140-136.

With this win, Formidables gets a direct entry to the Indian Selection Trials for the BFAME Championships to decide our Zone's 2007 Bermuda Bowl representatives.

The following was one of the best bid boards of the finals, giving invaluable IMPs to the Formidables team. Playing Standard American, K.R.Venkatraman and Sunit Chokshi bid it to perfection.

**Session 3. Board 10. Dealer East. Both Vul.**

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

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

West	North <i>Chokshi</i>	East	South <i>Venkatraman</i>
—	—	Pass	Pass
Pass	1 ♠	Pass	1 NT
Pass	2 ♦	Pass	2 ♠
Pass	3 ♣	Pass	4 ♣
Pass	5 ♣	Pass	Pass
Pass			

Chokshi showed his 5=1=4=3 hand with extra values and the partnership reached the decent contract of five clubs. East led the heart three, West taking the trick with the ace and firing back a low diamond.

The diamond finesse looks a better chance than 3-3 spades, but sometimes table presence trumps the odds. Declarer took the trick with the ace and played three rounds of spades, discarding dummy's diamond. With spades 3-3 and clubs 3-2 there was no difficulty in making the contract. In the other room their opponents played in a club partial and Formidables gained 10 IMPs.

The contract of four spades has no chance as there is no entry to the clubs, and three no trump is down also unless the defence gives it away.

**Open Pairs Event:** The Open Pairs event attracted 84 pairs. After two elimination rounds, during which pairs from teams losing in the quarterfinals and semifinals of the teams were admitted, a 28-pair all-play-all final with Barometer scoring was contested. The top finishers were:

- |  |        |
|--|--------|
| 1. Manas Mukherjee - Rana Roy          | 431.31 |
| 2. C.V Rao - Sumit Mukherjee/Das Badal | 417.46 |
| 3. Gadgil - R. Sreedharan              | 401.50 |
| 4. P.S. Mukherjee - Prabir Kumar Paul  | 390.00 |
| 5. Sandeep Thakral - R.Venkatash       | 382.12 |

- |                             |        |
|-----------------------------|--------|
| 6. Arvind Vaidya - G. Manna | 379.50 |
| 7. V.M. Lal - R. Bhiwandkar | 378.77 |
| 8. Anal Shah - Finton Lewis | 375.38 |

In a glittering prize distribution ceremony, the organizers honoured Mr. Ashok Ruia, one of the leading players of the country, who has won many National Championship titles and has represented India in world bridge championships. Dr. Tolani gave away the prizes to the winners; in his presidential address Dr. Tolani assured the gathering that next year the Grand Prix would be an international tournament.

## DIAMOND JUBILEE LEDERER MEMORIAL TROPHY

**Simon Cochemé, London**

The 60<sup>th</sup> Lederer Memorial Trophy was held at the refurbished Young Chelsea Bridge Club in October 2006. Eight invited teams played 12-board matches against each other, with Victory Point scoring (part IMPs and part point-a-board).

The winners for the last two years, Ireland, were defending their title against mainly English teams, the notable exception being the All Stars, led by Zia Mahmood, with Thomas Bessis from France and Sabine Auken – Daniela von Arnim from Germany. The Gold Cup winners from 2004 and 2005 were playing (the former under the name the 'A Team'), as well as the Schapiro Spring Foursomes winners from 2006.

Most teams won two and lost two of their matches on Saturday, resulting in a closely-packed field. The All Stars had the only big win of the day, but were pegged back when they lost the last match to England. Overnight the All Stars were leading with 140, ahead of England on 134, the A Team on 131.5 and Ireland on 127.

The All Stars and England both won their first two matches on Sunday, while the A Team and Ireland lost both theirs. The All Stars then narrowly won the last match against Ireland on VuGraph, but England stumbled against the surprise team of the tournament, the Young Chelsea Champions.

1. **All Stars** (Zia Mahmood, Thomas Bessis, Sabine Auken, Daniela von Arnim) 258
2. **England** (Tom Townsend, David Gold, David Price, Colin Simpson) 233
3. **Young Chelsea** (Andy Bowles, Graham Osborne, John Howard, Martin Garvey) 221
4. **The A Team** (Alexander Allfrey, Andrew Robson, Tony Forrester, David Bakhshi) 220

The All Stars' win saw a number of Lederer records broken. Zia now has seven wins, one more than anybody else. At 22, Thomas Bessis is the youngest-ever male

winner (Nicola Smith won aged 21) and Sabine Auken and Daniela von Arnim are the first women's pair to win in 13 years.

### Best Played Hand John Matheson

Dealer South. Neither Vul.

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

♠ 9 7 5  
 ♥ 10 9 5  
 ♦ 9 7 2  
 ♣ 9 5 3 2

West	North	East	South
John Matheson	Martin Garvey	Willie Coyle	John Howard
—	—	—	Pass
1 NT	2♥ <sup>1</sup>	3 NT	Pass
Pass	Pass		

1. Nine-plus cards in the majors

Garvey (Young Chelsea Champions) led the spade king and Matheson (President's Team) won the second round, South showing an odd number. Declarer cashed two diamonds and North followed twice. Matheson now knew that North had at most two clubs and that South was a strong favourite to hold the queen. However, he lacked the diamond entries to be able to play South for queen-nine to four clubs, so had to decide whether to play for North for nine-small or queen-small. There are four variations of nine-small and five of queen-small, because queen-nine must be included. That was just enough to tip the odds in favour of playing the ace of clubs, and then small to the king.

The other two declarers in three no trump played for North to hold nine-small, finessed South for the queen, and were three down. One of the unsuccessful declarers was Zia, playing for the All Stars against the A Team. The clues from the defensive play were different in that North had led the ace of hearts and then switched to the king and jack of spades. Zia reasoned that North might just have doubled one no trump if he had held the club queen as well as all those points in the majors, or that South (holding queen-nine to four clubs might not cover the club ten when it was led from dummy.

### Best Defended Hand

Nick Sandqvist and Artur Malinowski

This hand is from the match between the 2005 Gold Cup winners and the defending champions, Ireland. At

the other table East-West were one down in two diamonds.

Dealer North. NS Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Artur Malinowski	John Carroll	Nick Sandqvist	Hugh McGann
—	Pass	1♠	Pass
1 NT	Pass	Pass	2♥
Double	Pass	Pass	Pass

After the opponents had come to rest in one no trump, three Souths decided to protect with two hearts. One played there and went three down. Two Wests doubled two hearts, but one East removed to two spades and West bid and made two no trump. At the featured table, Malinowski's double of two hearts was for penalties, a very sensible treatment when you have responded one no trump, and so was left in.

West led a spade and dummy's queen held the trick, East following with the four, suit preference for clubs. McGann finessed the ten of hearts to the king. Malinowski played the club four to the ace and then came the crucial play from Sandqvist. - he played back a club. Now he got a club ruff, gave his partner a spade ruff and got another club ruff. The spade king came next. Declarer pitched a diamond, but Sandqvist cashed the diamond ace before leading another spade to promote the nine of hearts. The contract was four off, 1100 and 14 IMPs to Gold Cup.

### Know Your Odds

Dealer South. NS Vul.

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

This was a slam hand that divided the field into two - four bid a slam and four didn't. Two East-West pairs were in three no trump, two were in four hearts, two were in six hearts, and one was in six clubs (and two down).

All but one of the players in hearts chose to play the ace of hearts from dummy and then a small heart towards their hand.

In the match between England and the Gold Cup, David Price (England) was declarer in six hearts and won the spade six lead with dummy's jack. He crossed to hand with another spade and ran the queen of hearts. I am told by an expert in such matters that this is a 53.1% line, whereas ace of hearts and another is 58.8%. The odds were vindicated and England were one down.

At the other table the Hackett twins had their eyes on the point-a-board as well as the IMPs.

West	North	East	South
Justin	David	Jason	Tom
Hackett	Gold	Hackett	Townsend
—	—	—	Pass
1 ♡	Pass	2 ♣	Pass
2 ♦	Pass	3 ♦	Pass
3 ♡	Pass	4 ♡	Pass
4 NT	Pass	5 ♦	Pass
6 NT	Pass	Pass	Pass

Six no trump will make the same number of tricks as six hearts, unless you get a club lead and get them wrong. Gold led the five of clubs! Justin went up with the queen! Well defended! Well played! Having survived the first hurdle, it was only to be expected that Justin would get the hearts right, and he did, playing the ace and another. Justin told me afterwards that top-class players are more likely to underlead a king than a jack in such situations. So if I had been on lead, he would have played the ten, but then I would never have led the club five.

### Nice Try

And now for an expert play that was with the odds, but failed.

**Dealer South. Both Vul.**

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

West	North	East	South
Tom	Thomas	David	Zia
Townsend	Bessis	Gold	Mahmood
—	—	—	1 ♡
Pass	2 ♦	3 ♣	3 ♦
4 ♣	4 ♠	Pass	5 ♠
Pass	6 ♦	Pass	Pass
Pass			

Gold led the seven of clubs against the diamond slam bid by Zia and Bessis. Townsend had supported clubs and was therefore favourite to hold the jack. If Townsend had won the first trick, then the message would have been clear - partner wanted a spade ruff.

The England pair must have been worried that they had conceded an unnecessary overtrick and might lose the board (the scoring is part IMPs and part point-a-board). They were right to be concerned; their teammates, David Price and Colin Simpson also sailed into six diamonds. But help was at hand; the All Star in the East seat, Sabine Auken, also decided that a low club lead was a good idea. Flat board!

## HECHT CUP 2005

Copenhagen, September 8-10

Ib Lundby, Fredensborg, Denmark

This year's Hecht Cup comprised 16 pairs from four continents, 14 of them invited and the other two qualifying through a tournament the week before. With such a strong, evenly-balanced field, it was difficult to pick a favourite. The pairs would play an all-play-all round robin of 10-board matches, with 80VP at stake in each match. The theme of the tournament seemed to be missed opportunities on defence, as we shall see.

**Round 3. Board 24. Dealer West. Neither Vul.**

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

West	North	East	South
Welland	Ventin	Zia	Lambardi
3 ♦	Pass	Pass	3 ♠
Pass	3 NT	Double	4 ♣
Pass	4 ♠	Double	Pass
Pass	Pass		

That Zia's thought processes are on a different plane altogether, even at this high level, was evident from this deal.

Three no trump was perhaps not the right way to thank partner for his fourth-hand protection, but that's another story.

South won the opening lead of the diamond six with the ace of diamonds, played a heart to the ace and then a club, which Zia won with the ace. Now, everyone expected a low spade to cut down the ruffs in dummy, but Zia pulled out a low club!

South did well by ducking, so West ruffed with the nine of spades and cashed the diamond king. An unexpected heart king (!) from Zia perhaps confused West a little. The heart king was intended to convey the message that Zia had an immediate entry in the ace of spades. His idea was that if West had had the queen-nine doubleton in trumps rather than the actual king-nine doubleton, West would play a diamond, East would ruff with the ace of spades and a club back would promote the presumptive spade queen in West's hand for the second undertrick.

Anyway, Welland played a heart to dummy's queen (club discard from South), and next Zia ruffed the diamond jack continuation with the spade ace (his intention all along) to play another club. It didn't matter - South was two down.

On a trump return at trick three, declarer will get out for two or three off, depending on the subsequent defence. He can always end-play them at least once for an extra trick, and perhaps twice if they are not careful.

Board 1 Saturday morning was a wake-up call for Paul Chemla.

**Round 5. Board 1. Dealer North. Neither Vul.**

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

West	North	East	South
Zia	Quantin	Welland	Chemla
—	Pass	1 ♠	Pass
1 NT	Pass	2 ♣	Pass
2 NT	Pass	3 ♦	Pass
3 NT	Pass	Pass	Pass

With no more suits to bid Welland had to pass three no trump and let Zia do the work. So he did!

The diamond five lead to the queen was won by the king, and after a club to dummy a low spade went to the queen. After another club to check that they were breaking, Zia established a second diamond trick - over and out!

Good morning, Chemla! The difficult killing defence is to win the king of spades and switch to the heart jack. Not an easy problem to solve early in the morning (or any time else for that matter!).

In this instance, a case can be made for the spade eight being suit preference, and indeed, Quantin did play the eight, but by then it was too late, Chemla having ducked.

Oh, what the Hecht ... three no trump was made at one more table:

West	North	East	South
Neystrom	K Blakset	Bertheau	Hecht
—	1 NT	2 ♠	Pass
3 NT	Pass	Pass	Pass

Neystrom won the diamond two opening lead with the king over South's queen and at once played the spade queen. He thought North probably had the king, and if not, West didn't want to play a club and give North the opportunity to make a Smith Echo.

In with the spade king, Hecht had the chance to find the switch to the heart jack. He would have received a nomination as 'Bulletin Hero' because of partner's ace-queen-ten of hearts, but didn't want to be 'Bulletin Clown' if instead North had the ace-jack to five diamonds.

In the twelfth round, Blakset-Helgemo outclassed Chemla-Quantin by 75-5. Ten IMPs came from this board:

**Round 12. Board 12. Dealer West. NS Vul.**

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

West	North	East	South
Quantin	L Blakset	Chemla	Helgemo
Pass	1 ♣	Double	1 ♠
Pass	2 ♠	Pass	3 ♥
Pass	3 NT	Pass	Pass

Blakset won the diamond four opening lead with the king and cashed five club tricks. Poor Chemla! He had three easy discards, two hearts and a spade, but what about the last one? Chemla knew what to do, he thought. He solved the problem by discarding three hearts - and then a spade. But because of East's double, and as West hadn't bid two hearts over one spade, Blakset knew what to do as well - the ace of hearts. Ten tricks and 630 to North-South.

With the jack of spades being in partner's hand, the killing defence was to throw three spades.

The round between the two French pairs was shown on the Internet via BBO. This deal was one of the more interesting deals of the match:

**Round 6. Board 17. Dealer North. Neither Vul.**

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

West	North	East	South
Levy	Quantin	Mouiel	Chemla
—	1 ♦	Pass	1 ♥
1 ♠	2 ♣	Pass	2 NT
Pass	3 NT	Pass	Pass
Pass			

With best defence, South can't make nine tricks, but something went awry, perhaps in the French East-West signalling.

Levy led the four of spades. The spade ten won at trick one, and everyone played low on the diamond ace, although it would have been better for West to unblock. But there was still no problem yet, as when West came in with the diamond queen, he found the essential shift to a club, leading the jack, covered by the queen and king.

East shifted back to spades, king from South and ... Levy should have ducked. However, he played the ace, and exited with another club in an attempt to avoid the impending endplay.

Nevertheless, he had to accept that, after this sequence of plays, he would be end-played in one way or the other. It is perhaps not so easy to visualize, as well as counter-intuitive, but if he ducks the spade, this becomes the five-card ending:

<p>♠ — ♥ 8 6 ♦ 8 ♣ 9 8</p> <p>♠ A J ♥ K J 9 ♦ — ♣ —</p>	<p>♠ 8 ♥ 10 7 ♦ — ♣ 10 6</p> <p>♠ Q 9 ♥ A Q 5 ♦ — ♣ —</p>
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On the last diamond from dummy, South must discard ahead of West and West merely throws the other major from South. The key is the reduced flexibility brought about by the fact that, at the critical juncture, declarer must lead a heart from North. East must also be careful in this ending not to endplay West, if declarer instead leads a club from dummy.

Three no trump was made at three tables and went down at the other five.

The final results:

1. Blakset-Helgemo	734
2. Pszczola-Kwiecien	700
=3. Auken-von Arnim	668
=3. Bjarnarson-Askgaard	668

## NEWS & VIEWS

### Fall NABC Winners – Honolulu

**Life Master Open Pairs** – Howard Weinstein, Steve Garner

**Life Master Women's Pairs** – Sara Siveland, Cecilia Rimstedt

**Open Board-a-Match Teams** – George Jacobs, Ralph Katz, Zia Mahmood, Michael Rosenberg, Steve Weinstein, Bobby Levin

**Women's Board-a-Match Teams** – Lynn Baker, Irina Levitina, Kerry Sanborn, Karen McCallum, Lynn Deas, Beth Palmer

**Blue Ribbon Pairs** – Fulvio Fantoni, Claudio Nunes

**Senior Knockout Teams** - Amos Kaminski, Melih Ozdil, Pinhas Romik, Yeshayahu Levit, George Mittelman

**North American Open Swiss Teams** – Tony Kasday, Jon Baldursson, Thorlakur Jonsson, Bjarni Einarsson, Hjordis, Eythorsdottir, Sigurbjorn Haraldsson

**Reisinger Board-a-Match Teams** – Jacek Pzczola, Gary Cohler, Curtis Cheek, Joe Grue

*(A report on the Honolulu NABC will appear next month.)*

## White House Juniors

Kees Tammens informs us that the 2<sup>nd</sup> White House Junior Internationals will take place from 18-25 March 2007 in Amsterdam.

## Kilimanjaro Bridge Club

Justin van der Kam reports that four bridge players (including Bermuda Bowl Champion Wubbo de Boer) recently set the world record for the bridge match at the highest elevation: the venue was atop Mount Kilimanjaro in Tanzania, 5896 metres above sea level. They did this to raise funds for mentally disabled children in Tanzania. To date, €28,818.18 has been collected for these children.

For details on the event and how to help out with a donation, see: [www.bridgersnaardetop.nl](http://www.bridgersnaardetop.nl)

## Upcoming Tournaments

Various IBPA members have sent us details on the following 2007 tournaments for the Calendar. My sources for the Calendar include email notification and the websites of the WBF, Zonal and National bridge organisations. Tournament officials can assist their cause by ensuring that details are put up on their websites as soon as possible.

Feb 6-12	NEC Festival, Yokohama Japan
Mar 1-4	Yeh Bros. Cup, Shenzhen, China
Apr 10-15	Kitzbühel Festival, Austria
Jun 29-Jul 11	Festival Int'l de Biarritz, France
Jul 11-15	Gmunden Festival, Austria
Aug 5-11	Loiben Festival, Austria

All have been added, with contact/website details, to the Calendar.

## IBPA WEBSITE NOTICE

To access a Bulletin on the IBPA website, enter the website address [www.ibpa.com](http://www.ibpa.com), followed by a forward slash, then the Bulletin code, immediately followed by .pdf - this Bulletin, December 2006, will have code 503jg so you will need to key in:

**[www.ibpa.com/503jg.pdf](http://www.ibpa.com/503jg.pdf)**

You can access the IBPA Handbook from [www.ibpa.com](http://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**

## Correspondence ...



The Editor reserves the right to shorten correspondence

Email: [ibpaeditor@sympatico.ca](mailto:ibpaeditor@sympatico.ca)

Dear John,

Gianni Bartoto of Italy gave us the results of the Open Teams from Warsaw ("Are Poland the Best of the Best?", November, 2006), counting the matches among the six best teams. These are the results for the Women's and Senior Teams using the same method:

Is Croatia the best team?

### Women

Croatia 81, Netherlands 80, France 80, England 78, Germany 76, Denmark 55

And what about Sweden?

### Seniors

Sweden 177 (91+86), Italy 154 (79+75), France 153 (76+77), Poland 147 (71+76), Germany 136 (59+77), Denmark 130 (74+56)

Yours truly, Hans-Olof Hallén, Malmö

John:

Concerning Ron Klinger's article on pages 5 and 6 of Bulletin 502, it seems to me that:

On the first hand,

1. Declarer's duck of the first heart was dubious.
2. West's failure to switch to a small diamond was poor, to say the least.

On the second hand,

1. Declarer's discard of a small heart to trick three was surreal – he had no reason to retain the fifth diamond.
2. Declarer should surely have started on diamonds at trick four. He needs West to hold the ace-king in any case.
3. The report of the play omits the fourth round of clubs, upon which East discarded a second heart and declarer a diamond.
4. The defence could have beaten the contract by winning the first round of diamonds and continuing with a low card in the suit - there is no defence if declarer has the jack-ten-nine of diamonds.
5. If declarer was sure of the distribution in the five-card ending, he should have cashed the heart king and ace and exited with a diamond.

Richard Fleet, London

# World Bridge Calendar

DATES	EVENT	LOCATION	INFORMATION
<b>2006</b>			
Dec 1-10	Festival de Mar del Plata	Mar del Plata, Argentina	<a href="http://www.bridgeargentino.org.ar">www.bridgeargentino.org.ar</a>
Dec 8-10	Torneo Internazionale Squadra Libere	Milan, Italy	<a href="http://www.federbridge.it">www.federbridge.it</a>
Dec 9-13	Saniva 28 <sup>th</sup> ASEAN Club Championships	Singapore	<a href="http://www.scba.org.sg">www.scba.org.sg</a>
Dec 15-17	2006 Winter Cup	Bucharest, Romania	<a href="mailto:dragosslesan@mae.utcluj.ro">dragosslesan@mae.utcluj.ro</a>
Dec 15-17	Junior Channel Trophy	Lille, France	<a href="http://www.ffbridge.asso.fr">www.ffbridge.asso.fr</a>
<b>2007</b>			
Jan 4-7	7 <sup>o</sup> Festival Internazionale	Versilia, Italy	<a href="http://www.federbridge.it">www.federbridge.it</a>
Jan 5-7	Camrose Trophy	England (TBD)	<a href="http://www.ebu.co.uk">www.ebu.co.uk</a>
Jan 12-14	Thames Coromandel Bridge Festival	Thames. NZ	<a href="http://www.discoverybridge.co.nz">www.discoverybridge.co.nz</a>
Jan 13-24	Internationale Woche	St. Moritz, Switzerland	<a href="http://www.bridgefederation.ch">www.bridgefederation.ch</a>
Jan 15-29	Summer Festival of Bridge	Canberra, Australia	<a href="http://www.abf.com.au">www.abf.com.au</a>
Jan 19-21	Bergen International Tournament	Bergen, Norway	<a href="http://www.storturneringen.no">www.storturneringen.no</a>
Jan 20-27	Bermuda Regional 2007	Southampton, Bermuda	<a href="http://www.acbl.org">www.acbl.org</a>
Jan 22-26	WBF Charity Pairs	Clubs Worldwide	<a href="http://www.ecatsbridge.com">www.ecatsbridge.com</a>
Feb 1-6	EBU Overseas Congress	Paphos, Cyprus	<a href="http://www.ebu.co.uk">www.ebu.co.uk</a>
Feb 6-12	11 <sup>th</sup> NEC Festival	Yokohama, Japan	<a href="http://www.jcbl.or.jp">www.jcbl.or.jp</a>
Feb 8-11	21 <sup>st</sup> Seth Shrinivas Lohia All India	Arya Nagar, Kanpur, India	<a href="http://www.bridgeindia.com">www.bridgeindia.com</a>
Feb 8-17	41 <sup>st</sup> Israel Bridge Festival	Tel Aviv, Israel	<a href="mailto:ibf@netvision.net.il">ibf@netvision.net.il</a>
Feb 14-18	Icelandair Open	Reykjavik, Iceland	<a href="http://www.bridge.is">www.bridge.is</a>
Feb 17-24	Gold Coast Congress	Broadbeach, Australia	<a href="http://www.qldbridge.com">www.qldbridge.com</a>
Feb 20-24	Festival des Jeux	Cannes, France	<a href="http://www.ffbridge.asso.fr">www.ffbridge.asso.fr</a>
Feb 23-25	White House Teams	Amsterdam, Netherlands	<a href="http://www.hetwittehuisbridge.nl">www.hetwittehuisbridge.nl</a>
Mar 1-4	Yeh Bros. Cup	Shenzhen, China	<a href="mailto:pat_hwang2002@yahoo.com.tw">pat_hwang2002@yahoo.com.tw</a>
Mar 2-4	Camrose Trophy	Scotland (TBD)	<a href="http://www.ebu.co.uk">www.ebu.co.uk</a>
Mar 8-18	ACBL Spring NABC	St. Louis, MO	<a href="http://www.acbl.org">www.acbl.org</a>
Mar 9-11	Torneo Internazionale Squadra Libre	Montegrotto Terme, Italy	<a href="http://www.federbridge.it">www.federbridge.it</a>
Mar 23-31	42 <sup>ème</sup> Semaine Internationale	Crans-Montana, Switzerland	<a href="http://www.bridgefederation.ch">www.bridgefederation.ch</a>
Mar 30	Lords v Commons	London, England	<a href="http://www.ebu.co.uk">www.ebu.co.uk</a>
Apr 3-8	112 <sup>th</sup> Canadian Nationals	Toronto. ON	<a href="http://www.toronto-bridge.com">www.toronto-bridge.com</a>
Apr 10-15	Kitzbühel Festival	Kitzbühel, Austria	<a href="http://www.bridgeaustria.at">www.bridgeaustria.at</a>
Apr 17-22	International Festival of Estoril	Estoril, Portugal	<a href="mailto:np43je@telepac.pt">np43je@telepac.pt</a>
May 11-24	Festival International de Bridge	Juan-les-Pins, France	<a href="http://www.bridgejuan.com">www.bridgejuan.com</a>
May 16-17	Bonn Nations Cup	Bonn, Germany	<a href="http://www.bridge-verband.de">www.bridge-verband.de</a>
May 17-20	Festival de Toulouse	Toulouse, France	<a href="http://www.ffbridge.asso.fr">www.ffbridge.asso.fr</a>
May 18-27	24 <sup>th</sup> CACBF Zonal Championships	Curaçao, WI	<a href="http://www.cacbf.com">www.cacbf.com</a>
Jun 1 & 2	Worldwide Bridge Contest	Clubs Worldwide	<a href="http://www.ecatsbridge.com">www.ecatsbridge.com</a>
Jun 4-13	45 <sup>th</sup> PABF Championships	Bandung, Indonesia	<a href="http://www.ccba.org.cn">www.ccba.org.cn</a>
Jun 10-16	Deutsches Bridge Festival	Wyk auf Föhr, Germany	<a href="http://www.bridge-verband.de">www.bridge-verband.de</a>
Jun 15-30	3 <sup>rd</sup> European Open Championships	Antalya, Turkey	<a href="http://www.eurobridge.org">www.eurobridge.org</a>
Jun 19-30	XXV International Festival	Albena, Bulgaria	<a href="http://www.aebridge.com">www.aebridge.com</a>
Jun 29-Jul 11	Festival Internationale de Biarritz	Biarritz, France	<a href="http://www.biarritz-bridge.com">www.biarritz-bridge.com</a>
Jul 7-15	Danish Bridge Festival	Vinsted, Denmark	<a href="http://www.bridge.dk">www.bridge.dk</a>
Jul 11-15	Gmunden Festival	Gmunden, Austria	<a href="http://www.bridgeaustria.at">www.bridgeaustria.at</a>
Jul 19-29	ACBL Summer NABC	Nashville, TN	<a href="http://www.acbl.org">www.acbl.org</a>
Jul 28-Aug 2	Chairman's Cup	Jönköping, Sweden	<a href="http://www.bridgefederation.se">www.bridgefederation.se</a>
Jul 28-Aug 5	XIII Bridgefestival	Jönköping, Sweden	<a href="http://www.bridgefederation.se">www.bridgefederation.se</a>
Jul 30-Aug 1	2 <sup>nd</sup> World Junior Individual	Nashville, TN	<a href="http://www.worldbridge.org">www.worldbridge.org</a>
Aug 4-9	European University Cup	Brugge, Belgium	<a href="mailto:geert.magerman@pandora.be">geert.magerman@pandora.be</a>
Aug 5-11	Loiben Festival	Loiben, Austria	<a href="http://www.bridgeaustria.at">www.bridgeaustria.at</a>
Aug 10-29	Summer Congress	Brighton, England	<a href="http://www.ebu.co.uk">www.ebu.co.uk</a>
Aug 24-Sep 2	35 <sup>o</sup> Warsaw Grand Prix	Warsaw, Poland	<a href="http://www.polbridge.pl">www.polbridge.pl</a>
Sep 8-15	46 <sup>th</sup> Bridge Festival	Pula, Croatia	<a href="http://www.bridge.hr">www.bridge.hr</a>
Sep 22-29	New Zealand Nationals	Hamilton, New Zealand	<a href="http://www.nzcba.co.nz">www.nzcba.co.nz</a>
Sep 29-Oct 13	World Team Championships	Shanghai, China	<a href="http://www.worldbridge.org">www.worldbridge.org</a>
Nov 3-4	Lederer Memorial Trophy	London, England	<a href="http://www.ebu.co.uk">www.ebu.co.uk</a>
Nov 22-Dec 2	ACBL Fall NABC	San Francisco, CA	<a href="http://www.acbl.org">www.acbl.org</a>
Nov 26 & 28	European Simultaneous Pairs	Clubs in Europe	<a href="http://www.ecatsbridge.com">www.ecatsbridge.com</a>