



BULLETIN

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Editorial

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

Something exceedingly odd is going on in Kenyan bridge. The Kenya Bridge Association (KBA) was formed in 1963. In 2001, some members of the KBA Executive formed a private corporation named Kenya Bridge Africa Ltd and attempted to dissolve the KBA, while assuming its assets and functions. This activity was at least partly successful, since the WBF now recognizes the limited company as the official body of bridge representing Kenya in the African Bridge Federation (ABF) and the WBF.

The KBA Ltd company attempted to officially disband the KBA in 2002 and declined to call the required AGM in doing so. The members of the KBA complained to the Kenya Registrar of Societies and were permitted to call an Extraordinary General Meeting to elect new officials and continue running the KBA. The limited company then brought two lawsuits against some members of the association, apparently attempting to scare them off. (Both suits have recently been dismissed in the Kenyan High Court, with costs awarded to the defendants.)

This all came to a head at the recent All Africa Bridge Championships and the African Zonal Championships to qualify their teams for the World Championships in Shanghai. Coincidentally, these Championships were held in Mombasa, further adding fuel to an already-raging inferno. The KBA, which is still functioning, sought a compromise solution so that the Championships could run smoothly, but Kenya Bridge Africa (backed by the ABF and WBF) snubbed their rival, insisting that it was the properly-constituted body to host the tournament. The upshot of this was that only five of the 150 registered members of the Kenya Bridge Association took part in the Championships, an appalling record, and an embarrassment to Kenyan bridge. All five members were on the Kenyan Women's Team, and so had a personal stake in the matter.

The Kenya Bridge Association has been appealing for some time to the WBF and the ABF for proper accreditation for their organization. The WBF (and the ABF similarly) has replied that it considers the matter an internal Kenyan issue and that any queries should go through the Kenyan NBO (KBA Ltd) and be resolved locally. On the face of it, this seems a reasonable position, and that position is supported by legal opinion from Jeffrey Polisner, WBF Legal Counsel, who states: "The WBF recognizes only one NBO (*per country - Ed.*) and its membership is a local matter and does not involve the intervention or involvement of the WBF. Good luck to all as it appears that the long-standing dispute can finally be resolved amicably."

That position seems less reasonable when one goes to the website of the Government of Kenya Ministry of Gender, Sports, Culture and Social Services at http://www.culture.go.ke/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=94&Itemid=71 and discovers that the Kenya Bridge Association, not Kenya Bridge Africa Ltd, is indeed the official body of bridge in Kenya. They, along with the other national sports federations, are listed as affiliates.

The WBF Constitution states, in part, "ARTICLE 5 – MEMBERSHIP: The National Contract Bridge Organization, herein also called NBO, of any country is eligible, subject to the By-Laws, to apply for membership of the WBF, and may be elected by the Executive." Since the Kenya Bridge Association, and not the Kenya Bridge Africa Ltd. company, is clearly the National Contract Bridge Organization in Kenya, the question arises, why do the African Bridge Federation and the World Bridge Federation not recognize this fact? Further, how did a private company replace the KBA in the first place, against Kenyan law?

Indeed, this does not seem to be solely an internal Kenyan issue at all, but a procedural issue for the WBF to resolve. In any case, how could it possibly be resolved in Kenya when the Kenya Bridge Africa Ltd company was formed specifically to depose the Kenya Bridge Association? Further investigation is warranted.

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USBF Championships II

Suzi Subeck, Chicago

Women's Playoff. Quinn v Sulgrove

Eight teams entered the trials to produce the two USA teams for the Venice Cup. Following round robin play, the top four would qualify for knockouts with the winner taking the USA1 spot. The USA2 spot would come from the winner of the match between the losing finalist and the winner of the semifinal losers. Clear?

Narasimhan (Levitina, Meyers-Levin, Stansby-Rosenberg) won the USA1 spot, then **Quinn** (Picus, Eythorsdottir-Pollack) took the USA2 spot, defeating **Sulgrove** (Griffey, Kranyak-McGarry, Bernstein-Wheeler) to do so.

In the playoff for USA2 in the Venice Cup, Sue Picus and Shawn Quinn had a well-judged auction to the top spot here:

Board 18. Dealer North. NS Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Quinn	Wheeler	Picus	Bernstein
—	Pass	2 ♣	Pass
2 ♦ ¹	Pass	2 ♥	Pass
3 ♣ ²	Pass	3 NT	Pass
Pass	Pass		

1. Negative
2. Second negative

Sue Picus and Shawn Quinn both made thoughtful bids on this hand that paid off with a 6 IMP gain for the Quinn team in their playoff for the USA2 spot.

Picus held the East cards and decided first to treat the hand as a strong two in hearts. Quinn's decision to show a second negative rather than rebid four hearts, as many would, also worked well when Picus rebid three no trump. Quinn decided to play for the nine trick game with her sterile shape. When Kranyak-McGarry bid two clubs-two diamonds-two no trump-pass at the other table, the Quinn team had gained 6 IMPs.

Bermuda Bowl Trials

Twenty-five teams entered the fray to choose the USA2 team for the Shanghai Bermuda Bowl (Jacobs-Katz, Zia-Rosenberg, Weinstein-Garner qualified as USA1 last year). Twenty-two of these would compete in preliminary play to produce nine teams for the knockout round. A complicated formula based on results over the previous year resulted in the #1-seeded **Nickell** team (Freeman, Meckstroth-Rodwell, Hamman-Soloway) having a bye to the semifinals, while the #2-seeded **Ekeblad** team (Rubin, Gitelman-Moss, Stansby-Martel) had a bye to the quarterfinals, and the #3 **Meltzer** team (Larsen, Sontag-Bates, Cohen-Smith) enjoyed a bye to the round of 16.

The round robin stage produced no great surprises, but the round of 16 produced one upset, with the unheralded **Harris** team (Morgan, Gerstman-Carmichael) defeating **Robinson** (Boyd, Woolsey-Stewart, Wolff-Morse). As their reward **Harris** would play **Ekeblad** in one quarterfinal match. The others would feature **Meltzer v Deutsch** (Kranyak, Bramley-Lazard, Baze-Cohler), and **O'Rourke** (Jacobus, Hampson-Greco, Cheek-Grue) versus **Schwartz** (Becker, Casen-Krekorian, Berkowitz-Cohen). The heavy artillery was deployed.

Quarterfinals. Deutsch v Meltzer

Board 3. Dealer South. EW Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Meltzer	Bramley	Larsen	Lazard
—	—	—	Pass
Pass	Pass	1 ♦	Pass
1 ♥	Pass	2 ♦	Pass
2 NT	Pass	3 ♥	Pass
3 NT	Pass	Pass	Pass

Sidney Lazard is back at the top of his game. Bart Bramley, North, led the deuce of spades against three no trump. Lazard found the only switch to give declarer a chance to go wrong ... and Lazard's side a chance to defeat the cold game!

Lazard won the king of spades and shifted to the king of clubs. Who can blame Meltzer for thinking it was from the ace-king? Lazard continued with the club eight

and Meltzer inserted the queen. Bramley won the club ace, cashed his spade ace, and led another club to Lazard for two off. This was 13 IMPs to Deutsch, since Seymon Deutsch made three no trump with two overtricks at the other table on a club lead and continuation.

Board 21. Dealer East. NS Vul.

♠ 10 8 6 4
 ♥ J
 ♦ 9 7 3
 ♣ A K 7 6 5

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

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

West	North	East	South
Lazard	Larsen	Bramley	Meltzer
—	—	2 ♥	2 ♠
5 ♥	5 ♠	Pass	Pass
Pass			

Five spades went light one trick when Lazard cashed the heart ace and switched to a club. When Lazard won the spade ace, he gave Bramley a club ruff to set five spades. Nice switch!

In the other room, Smith and Cohen never bid with the East-West cards, and Baze and Cohler were allowed to play four spades making. That was 12 IMPs to Deutsch.

Quarterfinals. O'Rourke v Schwartz

Board 97. Dealer North. Neither Vul.

♠ A J 4 2
 ♥ K Q J 8
 ♦ A 10 5
 ♣ A 8

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

♠ K Q 5
 ♥ A 9 7 3
 ♦ J
 ♣ K J 9 5 3

West	North	East	South
Berkowitz	Grue	Cohen	Cheek
—	2 NT ¹	Pass	3 ♣ ²
Pass	3 NT ³	Pass	4 ♦ ⁴
Pass	4 ♥ ⁵	Pass	4 ♠ ⁶
Pass	5 ♣ ⁷	Pass	5 ♦ ⁸
Pass	6 ♥ ⁹	Pass	7 ♥ ¹⁰
Pass	Pass	Pass	

1. 20-21; sue me, we're down 100 IMPs
2. Puppet Stayman

3. Two 4-card majors
4. Agrees hearts
5. Okay
6. Key card enquiry
7. 1 or 4 key cards
8. Trump queen enquiry
9. Trump queen; no outside king
10. Glad to hear it!

Since his Junior days (not that long ago), Joe Grue has had a knack for the spectacular. Here, with his team entering the seventh of eight sets down more than 100 IMPs, desperate measures were called for. In their first few deals, O'Rourke had recovered 30-odd IMPs and were still in with a chance. Nevertheless, the prospect of a grand slam with 5-0 trumps against did not look likely to continue the rally.

Larry Cohen chose the four of clubs as his opening lead, three, seven, eight. Grue was mildly taken aback when Cohen showed out on the heart king, discarding a diamond. Nevertheless, he made short work of the hand - club ace, spade ace-king-queen, then high clubs through Berkowitz to neutralize his heart holding. Plus 1510 won 11 IMPs against the 980 in the other room.

Semifinals

Deutsch, Schwartz and Ekeblad survived the quarterfinals. They were joined by Nickell, finally, for the semifinals.

Deutsch v Nickell

With nine boards to go in the match and down 27 IMPs, Gary Cohler and Grant Baze of the Deutsch team picked up the following collection, perhaps the deal of the tournament:

Board 112. Dealer West. EW Vul.

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

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

♠ 5
 ♥ 5
 ♦ K Q 9 8
 ♣ J 10 7 6 4 3 2

West	North	East	South
Baze	Meckstroth	Cohler	Rodwell
1 ♠	Pass	2 ♥	4 ♣
4 NT	Pass	5 ♠	Pass
7 ♥	Pass	Pass	Pass

On a diamond lead, seven hearts is straightforward. Declarer would ruff two diamonds in dummy, using the club king and a club ruff as entries back to the closed

hand. But Rodwell found the best lead of a club, and the hand appeared doomed.

Cohler (with help from the defence) found an amazing route to bring home his contract. He won the king of clubs, cashed the ace of diamonds and ruffed a diamond. He cashed the ace of spades and played the ace of clubs. When Meckstroth discarded a diamond, Cohler discarded a diamond too. This was followed by the queen of clubs on which Meckstroth discarded his last diamond, and declarer shed a spade.

Now Cohler made another key play. He led the nine of hearts and when Meckstroth followed low, Cohler ran the nine! Now he was able to cash the spade king and crossruff for 13 tricks.

Since Cohler led the nine of hearts before cashing dummy's ace, a cover by North would do the defence no good. Cohler would still be able to make the hand by returning to dummy with a spade, trumping a loser low and crossruffing for the remainder of the tricks. Great card reading!

West	North	East	South
Soloway	Bramley	Hamman	Lazard
1 ♣ ¹	Pass	1 NT ²	4 ♣
4 ♥	Pass	4 ♠ ³	4 NT
Pass ⁴	5 ♦	Double	Pass
Pass	Pass		

1. Strong
2. 12+ HCP, 5+ hearts
3. RKCB
4. 0 or 3 key cards

In the other room, Lazard bid boldly as South and played five diamonds doubled for a 1700 point set. Imagine his pleasure when his teammates said, "Win 11!"

Final. Nickell v Ekeblad

Nickell hung on to defeat Deutsch in a close match in one semifinal, and Ekeblad won fairly handily over Schwartz in the other, so the original #1 seed would face the original #2 seed for the right to contest the 2007 Bermuda Bowl.

Eric Rodwell put his stamp on the final match very early.

Board 11. Dealer South. Neither Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Stansby	Rodwell	Martel	Meckstroth
—	—	—	Pass
1 ♠	Pass	2 ♥	Pass
2 ♠	Pass	3 ♥	Pass
4 ♥	Pass	5 ♣	Pass
5 ♦	Double	Redouble	Pass
6 ♥	Pass	Pass	Pass
West	North	East	South
Nickell	Gitelman	Freeman	Moss
—	—	—	Pass
1 ♠	Pass	2 ♥	Pass
2 NT	Pass	3 ♥	Pass
4 ♥	Pass	5 ♣	Pass
5 ♦	Pass	6 ♣	Pass
6 ♦	Pass	7 ♥	Pass
Pass	Pass		

In the first ten boards, there was no swing larger than 5 IMPs. The VuGraph commentators were kidding around that it was only to be expected from two such conservative pairs (Meckwell and Martel-Stansby).

At that point, with the score 12-5 in favour of Nickell, this board showed up. In the closed room, Nickell and Freeman bid the cold grand. However, in the open room, Rodwell tried to mislead the opponents about a possible diamond finesse, and his trickery worked. Even a pair with five World Championships and more agreements than any other pair (except maybe Rodwell-Meckstroth) can be muddled by unexpected developments. Eleven IMPs to Nickell.

Nickell went on the win three of the first five sets by useful margins, losing the other two by two and three IMPs respectively, to lead by 78 IMPs. Ekeblad charged back in the sixth set 60-10 to close the gap to 28. The following board contributed to the comeback.

Board 87. Dealer South. Both Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Rodwell	Moss	Meckstroth	Gitelman
—	—	—	1 ♠
Pass	2 ♦	Pass	2 ♥
Pass	2 ♠	Pass	3 ♣
Pass	4 ♣	Pass	4 ♠
Pass	Pass	Pass	

With no really attractive lead, Rodwell decided upon the diamond deuce, as good as anything. Gitelman won the ace and ruffed a diamond, Rodwell contributing the king. The king and ace of clubs were followed by another heart ruff and the jack of diamonds. When Meckstroth failed to produce the queen, Gitelman threw a heart.

Rodwell won the queen, revealing the subterfuge, and played a trump to dummy's queen. Gitelman discarded his last heart on the ten of diamonds as Rodwell ruffed, his side's second trick. However, with only the heart ace and three trumps headed by the ten remaining, Rodwell had to allow Gitelman to score the nine of spades for a useful 620.

In the other room, the first four bids were the same, whereupon Nickell bid three spades and Freeman raised to four.

Rubin led the club queen and Nickell immediately played three rounds of the suit, West ditching the diamond deuce. Ekeblad followed with a diamond to the king and ace, and Nickell ran the diamond jack, losing to Rubin's queen. The heart ace forced declarer to ruff in dummy and he tried the diamond ten, discarding a heart. Rubin ruffed this and exited a trump.

The timing was critically affected now and having lost three tricks already, Nickell found that he could not shut out the spade ten for down one and 12 IMPs to Ekeblad.

With nine boards remaining and the score 242-215 to Nickell...

Board 112. Dealer West. EW Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Stansby	Soloway	Martel	Hamman
Pass	1 ♣ ¹	1 ♦ ²	Pass ³
2 ♦ ⁴	Pass	2 ♠	Pass
Pass	Double	Redouble	3 ♥
Pass	Pass	Pass	

1. Strong
2. Clubs and spades, or diamonds and hearts
3. 0-5 HCP
4. Pass or correct

The club four opening lead went to the king and ace, and Martel returned a low club, attempting to force the dummy. Hamman won the jack, pitching a spade, and

played two rounds of trumps before starting on diamonds. When the second high diamond was ruffed by Martel, Hamman was in trouble.

Martel played the ace and queen of spades. Hamman ruffed in dummy, but could only score his four remaining trumps separately for one off, minus 50.

This was a clear misplay by Hamman, who, after cashing one high diamond, merely had to play a low one next to score ten tricks instead of eight. At the other table...

West	North	East	South
Rodwell	Moss	Meckstroth	Gitelman
Pass	1 ♦	Double	Pass
1 ♠	2 ♥	2 ♠	4 ♥
Pass	Pass	Pass	

Played from the other side, and defending against game, Meckstroth led the trump five to the jack and ace. Moss tried two high diamonds now and Meckstroth ruffed and continued another trump.

The timing was now critically different. Moss won in hand with the heart queen and ruffed a diamond. When he then played a club to the king, Meckstroth was end-played, forced to concede a trick to the spade king or a club in dummy. He played ace and queen of spades – Moss won the king and ruffed the diamonds high for a magnificent plus 420 and 10 IMPs.

These 10 IMPs closed the gap to 17 with eight to play.

Board 113. Dealer North. Neither Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Stansby	Soloway	Martel	Hamman
—	1 ♠	Pass	2 ♦
Pass	2 ♥	Pass	2 NT
Pass	3 NT	Pass	Pass
Pass			

Hamman and Soloway made short work of this: although two diamonds was not game-forcing, the two no trump rebid was forcing. When Soloway merely raised to three, Hamman let it go. Stansby led the unbid suit and Hamman scored ten tricks: two spades, three hearts, one diamond and four clubs. Pretty routine.

There was, however, high drama at the other table...

West	North	East	South
Rodwell	Moss	Meckstroth	Gitelman
—	1 ♠	Pass	2 ♦
Pass	2 ♥	Pass	2 NT
Pass	3 NT	Pass	4 NT
Pass	Pass	Pass	

Here, Gitelman's two diamonds was game-forcing, and not playing a strong club like Hamman-Soloway, Moss-Gitelman tend to open the bidding a little more soundly than their counterparts. Thus Gitelman had unexpressed values and bumped the level one higher.

Unlike Stansby at the other table, Rodwell was warned off the aggressive club lead and tried a passive heart eight, nine, three, king. This achieved its purpose in giving nothing away. Gitelman won and tried a spade to the jack. When that held he played a club to the king and another spade. Rodwell rose with the ace (Meckstroth discarding the heart deuce, although perhaps a diamond would have been better), and continued a second heart to the queen.

Gitelman now had nine tricks and had many possible approaches for the tenth. He tried the king of diamonds and Meckstroth won the ace, lest he be end-played with the fourth round of hearts to concede a trick to the diamond queen. He exited the eight of clubs to the six, nine (good play!) and queen. This was the position:

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

When Gitelman cashed the spade king, he and Meckstroth both threw diamonds. On the heart ace both he and Rodwell discarded diamonds.

At this point, it was merely a question of where the minor suit fives were. If he exited from dummy in either spades or hearts, he'd have to discard a minor suit ten, committing to four-two clubs in either case; keeping two clubs if he threw Rodwell in and two diamonds if he threw Meckstroth in. Instead he played for three-three clubs by playing a club – he scored only the club ace and the diamond queen in the ending.

One off produced 10 IMPs for Nickell and they were out of danger. A further 13 IMPs on a good slam bid by Meckwell a few boards later ended it officially.

Bermuda Bowl Qualifiers

USA2 – Dick Freeman-Nick Nickell, Bob Hamman-Paul Soloway, Jeff Meckstroth-Eric Rodwell

Venice Cup Qualifiers

USA1 – Jill Levin-Jill Meyers, Irina Levitina-Hansa Narasimhan, Debbie Rosenberg-JoAnna Stansby

USA2 – Hjördis Eythorsdottir-Rozanne Pollack, Sue Picus-Shawn Quinn



57° Campeonato Sudamericano

WBF Zone 3 Trials

Quito, June 2-9, 2007

John Carruthers, Toronto

Seven teams entered the South American Open Team Championship for a chance to qualify for the Bermuda Bowl in Shanghai. As expected, and as usual, Argentina and Brasil led the round robin, with Chile and Uruguay also qualifying for the semifinals. A rather unusual feature of this event was that the semifinals were 96 boards in length, while the final was only 64 boards long. Why? Both semifinal winners qualified for Shanghai, so the final was only for pride, and since they are South American, the shorter final would give them more time to party.

Argentina dispatched Uruguay readily in one quarterfinal. Brasil and Chile was close all the way. With Chile leading 226-217 and one flattish board to play, it looked as though Brasil were out. This was the final deal, with, apparently, nothing more than a part score at stake:

Board 96. Dealer West. Neither Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Mauricio	Joaquin	Diego	Benjamin
Figuereido	Pacareu	Brenner	Robles
1 ♠	Pass	1 NT	Pass
Pass	Pass		

Robles' pass seems conservative, but the only alternative, double, could have worked out very poorly on a slightly different layout.

Be that as it may, he led the heart seven, which went to the nine and queen. Brenner tried the spade jack and Robles immediately went in with the ace to switch to diamonds, needing, he thought, to find a good holding in that suit with his partner to beat the contract. Brenner played the king and ran spades, eventually scoring eight tricks and plus 120.

Since Brasil might have scored 110 or 140 in spades and Argentina the same in hearts, this seemed a decent result, but even if Chagas-Villas Boas were to buy the hand in hearts and make 140, the combined 260 points would only translate to 6 IMPs to Brasil for a win to Chile by 3 IMPs.

However, Chagas produced some of that old black magic...

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Jack	Gabriel	Marcelo	Miguel
Smith	Chagas	Caracci	Villas Boas
1 ♠	Pass	3 ♠	Double
Pass	4 ♥	Pass	Pass
Double	Pass	Pass	Pass

Caracci led a sensible spade king to have a look, and was allowed to hold the trick. He continued spades and Chagas won and ruffed a spade to hand to advance the club jack. Caracci should no doubt have ducked this, but he did not have the advantage of seeing the North hand, and played the queen. Chagas covered with the king and it was Smith's turn to release his honour prematurely. He won and continued a club. That was the defence's last chance.

Chagas won the club ten in hand and advanced the heart jack. This time East ducked and it lost to the king. Smith continued the passive defence by leading another heart, which went to the queen and ace. Another heart to hand mopped up the remaining trump and the three good clubs were good for three diamond discards from the dummy. The diamond ace and the thirteenth trump took the last two tricks. Plus 590 to Chagas and 12 IMPs to Brasil, leaving the final score 229-226 to Brasil; joy in Rio, heartbreak in Santiago.

In the Final, Brasil bested Argentina 164-78, and Gabriel Chagas celebrated his 26th South American Team Championship.

Both teams earned a trip to Shanghai.

Brasil: Gabriel Chagas-Miguel Villas-Boas; Diego Brenner-Mauricio Figueredo; Marcelo Branco-Paulinho Brum

Argentina: Guillermo Mooney-Martin Monsegur; Pablo Ravenna-Pablo Lambardi; Walter Fornasari-Luis Palazzo



Pacific Asia Bridge Championships

Bandung, Indonesia

June 3-13, 2007

Jos Jacobs, Amstelveen, Netherlands

The PABF Championships, in the years they qualify their member nations for the Bermuda Bowl, are the most complicated in the WBF. Firstly, they invite Australia and New Zealand to take part, even though they are no longer members of the Zone, as a goodwill gesture. Secondly, the team winning the round robin qualifies for the Bermuda Bowl automatically. Then a knockout starts among the other close finishers for the second and third spots in the Bowl. Thirdly, although they cannot qualify for the playoffs, each team's results against Australia and New Zealand count toward their final total.

This year, a double round robin was played among the 12 teams taking part in the Open series. Eleven, twelve, eleven and six teams took part in the Women's, Senior, Junior and Schools series respectively. At the end of the first round robin, the order of play is revised so that the top teams play each other toward the end of the competition.

The playoff took on an interesting twist in Bandung. Since China had qualified automatically as hosts, the team (other than China, Australia and New Zealand) finishing highest in the standings would qualify automatically for the second Bermuda Bowl spot. The order of finish was, China, Australia, Japan, New Zealand, Indonesia, Hong Kong, Taipei, Singapore. So Japan qualified automatically; Indonesia would play Hong Kong for the third berth and Chinese Taipei would play Singapore for the right to play the loser of Indonesia-Hong Kong for the fourth and final berth. Phew!

Continued on page 9...

IBPA Column Service

Tim Bourke, Canberra

Members may use these deals as they wish, without attributing the author or the IBPA.

393. Dealer South. Both Vul.

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

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

When you receive heart support, you decide to bid seven hearts if North holds the queen of trumps. When Partner denies this card with his response of six clubs, you settle for the small slam in hearts. West leads the jack of spades. How do you plan to make twelve tricks?

The most likely problem is that you have a trump loser and clubs are 4-1, giving you a deep club loser too. This can be overcome by making a trick with the ace of diamonds, which requires an entry to dummy. The only way to get there is with the eight of trumps. So, you win the spade lead and play the jack of trumps.

What can West do? If he takes this with the queen of trumps, you have your entry to dummy's ace of diamonds. If West ducks, you continue with the ten of trumps. This time he must either take the queen of trumps or lose it. Either way you will have made twelve tricks.

394. Dealer South. E-W Vul.

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

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

This deal is from a pairs game at a local social club. This was the auction at every table and the opening lead was a universal of the king of clubs. The common play was to duck the first round of clubs as this could cost nothing and win the second trick with the ace of clubs.

At trick three, the paths diverged. While everyone decided to play East for the queen of diamonds, many decided to cash the ace of diamonds immediately, guarding against West holding a singleton queen in the suit. After the defenders followed with low cards, the declarers continued with a finesse of the ten of diamonds. This brought both good and bad news. While the finesse succeeded (good), West showed out (bad). Unfortunately, these declarers could now only make eight tricks.

It was the two best players in the club who showed the way to make the contract. Instead of cashing the ace of diamonds, they finessed the ten of diamonds on the first round. After this held, they returned dummy with the ace of diamonds and finessed the jack of diamonds. They made five diamonds, three tricks with the other aces and the king of hearts.

While their line would have failed if West had held a singleton queen of diamonds, they would make the contract when diamonds were 4-1 and West's singleton was a low diamond, which is four times more likely than the alternative.

395. Dealer South. E-W Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
—	—	—	2 ♣
Pass	2 ♦	Pass	2 ♠
Pass	4 ♠	Pass	6 ♠
Pass	Pass	Pass	

Although North's raise to four spades denies an ace or king, you decide to punt the slam anyway. West leads the jack of clubs, taken by your ace. You see that if there were plenty of entries to dummy, the contract would

depend on little more than one of two finesses - in trumps and in diamonds. As the only entry to dummy is with a heart ruff, you cash the ace-king of hearts and ruff a heart. The next difficulty occurs when the trump finesse succeeds but the suit turns out to be 3-0.

As you still need to get to dummy for a trump finesse, you continue with a fourth round of hearts. Alas, West produces the ten of hearts, making it pointless to ruff in dummy. Instead, you throw one of dummy's diamonds. Now you can reach dummy with a diamond ruff and pick up East's trumps with a second finesse in the suit.

You make six trumps, two hearts, the minor suit aces and two ruffs - twelve tricks.

396. Dealer South. E-W Vul.

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

West led the queen of clubs and East played the king. Declarer held up the ace in the hope of a club continuation, intending to win the second round, exhaust West of spades and force him to lead a red suit when put on play with clubs.

When East shifted unerringly to the diamond jack, declarer played the queen. West took the trick with his king and continued with diamonds. Declarer allowed East to hold the second diamond as well. With no semblance of an entry for the thirteenth diamond, East properly shifted back to clubs, feeling very pleased with himself.

Declarer was not finished, however. Having lost the first three tricks and being convinced by the defensive carding that clubs were 5-2 and diamonds 4-3 or 5-2, he won the club ace and cashed the diamond ace to learn they were 4-3. When three rounds of spades revealed them to be 4-2, declarer cashed the fourth spade throwing a heart.

West did the best he could be discarding a heart on the third spade and a club on the fourth, but declarer accurately read the ending and dropped West's heart queen. Had West thrown two clubs on the spades, South would have had an easy endplay with the third club to force a lead from the heart queen.

Australia v Japan Open RRI Match 7

Interesting play and defence problems on board 15 caused a swing in many matches. The contract was four hearts by West at both tables in the match between two of the fancied teams.

Board 15. Dealer South. NS Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Takayama</i>	<i>Hans</i>	<i>Teramoto</i>	<i>Nunn</i>
—	—	—	Pass
1 NT	Pass	2 ♣	Pass
2 ♥	Pass	4 ♥	Pass
Pass	Pass		

Left to his own devices, Takayama won the club jack lead in hand and led a trump to the queen, which held. Exploiting the advantage of being in dummy, his next move was a low diamond, but South rose with the king and gave his partner a ruff – carefully choosing the diamond ten as his return card. The message was duly picked up by North, who underled his ace of spades and thus got another ruff. Brilliant defence and a well-deserved plus 50 to Australia.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Gill</i>	<i>Ino</i>	<i>Gosney</i>	<i>Imakura</i>
—	—	—	Pass
1 ♣	1 ♠	Double	3 ♠
Pass	Pass	Double	Pass
4 ♥	Pass	Pass	Pass

As South had supported spades, North led the ace of spades before switching to the club jack. Dummy's ace won and declarer played off the ace and another heart. North took his king and returned a trump, but with diamonds not unfavourably-placed, the hand could no longer be beaten - Australia plus 420 and 10 IMPs.

Australia v Indonesia Open RRI Match 10

A double-figure swing went Australia's way on the following board. A defensive subtlety was the issue:

Board 18. Dealer East. NS Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Gill</i>	<i>Watulingas</i>	<i>Gosney</i>	<i>Ong</i>
—	—	1 ♠	Pass
3 ♥	Pass	4 ♠	Pass
Pass	Pass		

South led the club ace and played two more rounds of the suit, dummy's spade nine ruffing. A diamond went to the ace and declarer led the heart six, five, king and...North won the ace to return a diamond.

Now ruffed and ran the trumps, squeezing North in the rounded suits for his contract.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Boyoh</i>	<i>Hans</i>	<i>George</i>	<i>Nunn</i>
—	—	1 ♠	2 ♦
3 ♦	Double	4 ♠	Pass
Pass	Pass		

The ace of clubs was led and the diamond switch went to declarer's ace. Next came the heart seven, South playing the two and dummy the king. This time, however, North correctly played low. On this defence, only a double dummy line of drawing one round of trumps by cashing dummy's spade queen and ruffing two clubs will see declarer home. When Noldy George understandably failed to find this, Australia had gained 10 IMPs.

Indonesia v Singapore Open RR2 Match 1

by Bert Toar Polii

Board 6. Dealer East. EW Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Fong</i>	<i>Watulingas</i>	<i>Lau</i>	<i>Ong</i>
—	—	2 ♦	Pass
3 ♥	Pass	Pass	Pass

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Karwur</i>	<i>Poon</i>	<i>Panelewen</i>	<i>Loo</i>
—	—	3 ♥	Pass
Pass	Double	Pass	3 ♠
Pass	Pass	Pass	

Poon Hua and CC Loo, who finished third in the 2006 World Youth Bridge Championships in Bangkok showed their talent here.

In the Open Room, three hearts made easily, declarer losing two spades, one club and one diamond.

In the Closed Room, Karwur led the ace of hearts and continued with another which Loo ruffed. Loo played the diamond jack to the king and ace, then followed with the four of clubs, Panelewen playing the six, so Loo almost knew the opponents' hands.

After winning with the club queen, Loo played the diamond nine and, when Karwur played the two, Loo followed low from dummy. After some time, Panelewen ruffed with the spade two and switched to the spade eight.

Loo won with the spade king continued with another diamond finesse and then played the last diamond. Next came the ace of clubs and another, Panelewen winning his king. As Panelewen was forced to play a heart now, declarer could discard his last club. Karwur ruffed with the spade ten and dummy with the ace. There was still one more trick to come to declarer from his jack-nine of spades for a fabulous 140. Seven IMPs for Singapore.

The Playoffs

Board 12. Dealer West. NS Vul.

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

With China (first in the qualifying round robins) already qualified as host and Australia (2nd) and New Zealand (4th) ineligible, the automatic spot went to Japan. Then

Indonesia played Hong Kong for the third spot and Taiwan played Singapore to stay alive for the fourth and final spot.

The playoff for the third Bermuda Bowl berth between Hong Kong and Indonesia was close all the way.

To bid your suits proved the winning decision on the diagrammed deal (see *previous page*).

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Sze	George	Chan	Bojoh
1 ♠	Pass	2 ♠	Pass
2 ♠	Pass	2 NT	Pass
3 ♠	Pass	4 ♠	Pass
Pass	Pass		

With no clue about the precise values each might hold for their bids, Sze-Chan really had no choice but to contract for four hearts. This went down one when the club king was wrong, but declarer could have made it by drawing trumps first.

North led the diamond ace and shifted to a low spade for West's ace. West led diamonds immediately now, but South cashed the king-queen and played a fourth round for North to ruff. Dummy over-ruffed, but after drawing trumps declarer now had no other option than to take the club finesse. When this failed he was one down, Indonesia plus 50.

Two rounds of trumps and then diamonds would have seen him home once North failed to play a club at trick two, the last time he would be on lead.

In the other room we saw some good bidding.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Karwur	Lai	Panelewen	Mak
1 ♠	2 ♣	2 ♠	3 ♣
3 ♠	Pass	3 NT	Pass
Pass	Pass		

Holding the ace-queen of clubs, East had an obvious three no trump bid over three diamonds. West had an equally obvious pass too, so much depended on the lead, as a club would present declarer with his contract immediately.

South did well to emerge with a low spade for dummy's blank ace. Next came six rounds of hearts, so both defenders had to find four discards. North let go the ten of spades and three clubs, whereas South discarded his remaining two spades, a club and a diamond.

Declarer went on to take a club finesse with some confidence, but South won and returned a diamond to North's ace. North might have cashed his top spades first, but when he continued with the jack of clubs immediately, declarer could win his ace and exit in

diamonds, forcing South to hand the ninth trick to dummy in the suit after that player's faulty discarding.

Going into the last eight boards, Hong Kong led 119-96. Then they allowed three no trump doubled to make for plus 750 when it was booked for minus 800 at one table and went three off vulnerable in a freely bid game at the other table.

With the score 122-119 to Hong Kong and three boards to go, this deal appeared:

Board 62. Dealer East. Neither Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Mak	George	Lai	Bojoh
—	—	Pass	1 ♣
Pass	1 ♦	Pass	1 ♥
Pass	4 ♣	Pass	4 ♥
Pass	Pass	Pass	

Indonesia came to grips with the club duplication when Noldy George splintered in support of hearts. Bojoh was not tempted to go on with most of his hand in his partner's shortness.

On the spade four lead, declarer won the king, played a diamond to the queen and ace, won the spade continuation pitching a diamond and tried to cash the king of diamonds. When this was ruffed and he later lost a trick to the club king, he had made ten tricks and plus 420.

West	North	East	South
Karwur	Baron	Panelewen	Wan
—	—	Pass	1 NT
Pass	2 ♣	Pass	2 ♥
Pass	4 NT	Pass	5 ♠
Pass	6 ♥	Pass	Pass
Pass			

Samuel Wan's rather eccentric no trump opening helped propel his side to the under-par, but by no means hopeless, slam. The first chance to make it was on opening lead. If Franky Karwur struck upon a club lead, Wan would be odds-on to make, and would not be down immediately unless Karwur found ace and another diamond.

The tension in the VuGraph theatre was thick as Karwur selected the four of spades. Wan would need to play two

tricks better than his opponent in the other room had on the same lead. He needed to pick up diamonds to do so. Wan won the spade and cashed another for a diamond pitch, then led a diamond to his queen. Karwur gave him no second chance, leading another diamond for Panalewen to ruff. Wan guessed clubs to go one off, but that was 10 IMPs to Indonesia, the match, and the third Bermuda Bowl berth.

Hong Kong had another chance, against Chinese Taipei for the final spot in the Bowl, but fell short. The Zone will be ably represented by China, Japan, Indonesia and Chinese Taipei.

South Pacific (Zone 8) Teams

Ron Klinger, Northbridge, NSW

(From the Sydney Morning Herald)

Results of the finals of the South Pacific Zone Teams held in May were:

Open: Australia 216 - New Zealand 84
Women's: New Zealand 198 - Australia 125
Seniors: Australia 207 - New Zealand 79

The following deal is from Round 4 of those championships. All series played the same boards.

Dealer North. NS Vul.

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

The contracts and outcomes in the Australian Open and Women's matches were identical.

West	North	East	South
	<i>Havas</i>		<i>Travis</i>
	<i>Peake</i>		<i>Green</i>
—	Pass	1 ♦	6 ♥
7 ♦	Double	Pass	Pass
Pass			

Declarer had to lose a spade, a heart and a club. Australia plus 500.

At the other table in both series, the contract was the same, but the paths were slightly different.

West	North	East	South
<i>Schroor</i>		<i>Kaplan</i>	
—	Pass	1 ♦	Double
5 ♦	Pass	Pass	5 ♥
Pass	5 ♠	Pass	6 ♥
Pass	Pass	Double	Pass
Pass	Pass		

West	North	East	South
<i>Jedrychowski</i>		<i>Neill</i>	
—	Pass	1 ♦	Double
5 ♦	Pass	Pass	6 ♥
Pass	Pass	Double	Pass
Pass	Pass		

At both tables, the spade nine was led: ten, jack, ace, and both declarers missed the best line. They rattled off eight rounds of hearts, coming down to four cards, and exited with a club to the king. East, who had come down to the queen-four of spades and the minor-suit aces, took the club ace and exited with the diamond ace. Declarer ruffed, but still had to lose a spade trick. That was plus 200 and 12 IMPs to Australia in each match.

The swing in the Seniors match was even bigger:

West	North	East	South
<i>Haughie</i>		<i>Lilley</i>	
—	2 ♠ ¹	Pass	2 NT ²
Pass	3 ♣ ³	Pass	6 ♥
Pass	Pass	Double	Redouble
Pass	Pass	Pass	

1. 5 spades and a 5+ minor
2. Strong inquiry
3. 5 clubs

East's double would normally be taken as Lightner, asking for an unusual lead. In this case, a Lightner double would ask for a spade lead, dummy's first bid suit. As it happens, a spade lead could be fatal for the defence (see later). Noting South's redouble, Bill Haughie judged that South was well-prepared for a spade lead. He therefore chose the diamond king as his opening salvo.

That gave declarer no hope. He ruffed the lead and played off all his hearts. David Lilley came down to the queen-jack-four of spades and the club ace. When declarer exited with a club to the king, Lilley returned the spade queen. The slam was thus one down for plus 400 to Australia.

At the other table:

West	North	East	South
	<i>Lester</i>		<i>Lorentz</i>
—	Pass	1 ♦	6 ♥
Pass	Pass	Pass	

Lead: ♠9

Gabi Lorentz of Sydney demonstrated how six hearts should be played on the nine of spades lead. He covered with dummy's ten and captured the jack with his ace.

He then ran eight rounds of hearts, reducing everyone to four cards:

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

Lorentz now played his last heart and East was finished. He could not afford to throw the club ace or a spade and so he discarded the diamond ace. Lorentz now played a club to the king and ace. East was end-played and had to give declarer the last two tricks in spades. That was plus 1430 and 18 IMPs to Australia.

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NEWS & VIEWS

European Open Championship Winners

Mixed Teams - Heather Dhondy, Jeremy Dhondy, Matilda Popililov, Lilo Popililov

Mixed Pairs - Dessy Popova, Rossen Gunev

Open Teams - Michel Bessis, Thomas Bessis, Eldad Ginossar, Ron Pachtman

Open Pairs - Victor Aranov, Julian Stefanov

Women's Teams - Carla Arnolds, Bep Vriend, Jet Pasma, Anneke Simons, Marion Michielsen, Meike Wortel

Women's Pairs - Carla Arnolds, Bep Vriend

Senior Teams - Amos Kaminski, Sam Lev, Yeshayahu Levit, Pinhas Romik, Adrian Schwartz, Rami Sheinman

Senior Pairs - Patrick Grenthe, Philippe VanHoutte

Jimmie Arthur

By Alasdair Steven, From The Scotsman

Born: 25 March, 1929, in Glasgow.

Died: 3 May, 2007, aged 78.

Jimmie Arthur was one of the most respected and admired bridge players on the international circuit. He was a careful and inspired player, but it was, perhaps, as a captain that he is particularly recognised among his colleagues.

He captained three British teams to European gold medals, played seven times for Scotland and captained them 19 times. He had a wonderful manner to get the best out of his players - encouraging, polite and invariably smiling.

Arthur was a gifted sportsman - he played golf off a single-figure handicap and was an excellent snooker player. But it is bridge for which he will be remembered. Arthur is survived by his wife, Jill, and two stepchildren.

Dorothy Shanahan

From the English Bridge Union website

Dorothy Shanahan, who has died aged 91, was, for three decades, part of British women's teams recording the most successful haul of medals for the nation.

Miss Shanahan was in the team that won the World Olympiad gold in 1964 and the European gold medal in 1961, 1963 and 1966. The team took silver in 1957, 1965 and 1969 and bronze in 1955, 1967 and 1973, Shanahan's last appearance for her country.

With the death of Dorothy Shanahan, Sandra Landy is now the only surviving member of the 1969 British ladies Team (see photo).



1969 British Ladies Team I. to r.: Sandra Landy, Dorothy Shanahan, Jane Priday, Alan Hiron (npc), Joan Durran, Fritzi Gordon, Rixi Markus.

Luigi Filippo D'Amico

Long-standing IBPA member Luigi Filippo D'Amico of Italy has passed away (1924 - 28 April 2007). D'Amico was an Italian film director and writer; among his movies were "Bravissimo" (1955) and "Amore e Ginnastica" (1973).

MPP Book of the Year Shortlist

IBPA Nominees for the 2007 Master Point Press Book of the Year are:

David Bird: **Off-Road Declarer Play**

Mel Colchamiro: **How You Can Play Like an Expert (Without Having to Be One)**

Roy Hughes: **Canada's Bridge Warriors: Eric Murray & Sami Kehela**

Enda Murphy: **Silver for Ireland**

Julian Pottage: **Back Through the Pack**

This year's jury is: John Carruthers, Canada; Brent Manley, USA; David Morgan, Australia; Barry Rigal, USA; PO Sundelin, Sweden

USBF Trials Records

Tim Bourke has once again performed yeoman service for his fellow journalists by gathering and formatting the deals from the USBF Open Championship held in Chicago in June. IBPA members will find this on the IBPA website in pdf format.

www.ibpa.com/2007-USOPENTEAMTRIALS-FINAL.pdf

and

www.ibpa.com/2007-USOPENTEAMTRIALS-SEMIFINALS.pdf

If you would like it in another font or format, let Tim know at tim.bourke@bigpond.co.au

NA Juniors Triumph in Ecuador

Five ACBL Junior players were invited to participate in the South American Junior Championships in Quito, Ecuador, in mid-June and did their organisation proud.

Jason Feldman and Ari Greenberg (USA) won the Open Pairs, then they joined Mike Develin and John Barth (USA) and Erin Anderson (Canada) to win the team championship, defeating a squad from Argentina in the final.

2007 Hall of Fame Banquet

Tickets for the ACBL Hall of Fame Banquet honouring the Class of 2007 inductees, Kerri Sanborn, Zia Mahmood, and Alan Sontag, and Sidney Lazard Jr. Sportsmanship Award winner Seymon Deutsch are available from the ACBL www.acbl.org for \$100.

The event will take place from 4:45 - 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, July 19 in the Fisk Room, Renaissance Nashville Hotel.

PhD Thesis on Bridge

Miguel Mestanza, former President of the Spanish Bridge Federation (1993-1997), presented a doctoral thesis on the subject of "Bridge: Culture, Science and Sport" in the Faculty of Humanities of the Spanish San Pablo CEU University in Madrid on 16 March 2007. Mestanza received the highest cum laude qualification for a doctoral thesis at the University.

Brugge to Host 2007 European University Championships

Brugge, the historic and picturesque city in Belgium, will be the venue of the 11th European University Bridge Championships, which will take place August 4-9, 2007. All EBL member countries are invited to participate with an unlimited number of university teams.

The 2008 YEH Bros. Cup

The prize money for this invitational tournament will be increased to US\$100,000 for the winner of the team event and to \$30,000 for the winner of the Open Pairs.

ASEAN Primary Schools Sports Olympics

From 10 to 16 November 2007, Indonesia will host the 1st APSSO in Jakarta. These Olympics will be sponsored by the Indonesian Ministry of Education, with room and board provided. The idea is to make this an annual event with a maximum of 13 different sport disciplines.

Non-ASEAN countries who are interested in participating, please contact:

Bert Toar Polii bert_toar@hotmail.com or Arifin Halim arifinhl@dnet.net.id.

Permission to enter the event must be granted by the Ministry of Education for any non-ASEAN country.

Correspondence ...



The Editor reserves the right to shorten correspondence

Email: ibpaeditor@sympatico.ca

Dear John,

Thank you for your appreciation of IMSA. As usual your suggestions are pretty good.

- For 18 months we have corresponded with the NBOs each month and emphasized the necessity for them to form and train a team of youngsters (up to 28 years old, like in the University championship) to be sent to Beijing at the expense of the IMSA. This is the way to revive and promote bridge in the smaller countries.

In parallel the WBF will hold the International World Bridge Internations (previously named Olympiads – a word that we will not use anymore at the request of the IOC) for Open, Women, Senior and Mixed Teams.

Although the NBOs are perfectly aware of the project the responses are a little bit disappointing.

- We are working on the IMSA web site as well as the World Mind Sports Games (the wording accepted today instead of Intellympics) for several months.

We are quite ready except for the money which hopefully will come....soon.

Yours sincerely, José Damiani, Paris

John,

We have a TV programme here in England called *Grumpy Old Men*, where men of a certain age complain about the (many) things that annoy them. Now that I have become both old and grumpy, may I mention one thing that aggravates me? It is when magazines, including the *IBPA Bulletin*, include the tediously pedantic text: 'hands rotated for the reader's convenience'. What interest is this information to man or beast? We all know that declarer is traditionally placed South in such articles. May I suggest that the word 'rotated' is banished forthwith from the *IBPA Bulletin*? (You even added it to an article of mine in the April issue!)

Yours grumpily, David Bird

Your point is noted, David. I personally prefer that all writers retain the original compass positions of their protagonists, but realise I may be in a minority. We include the practice in the IBPA Bulletin only in the interest of accurate reportage, and usually only when the author makes a point of it, your experience notwithstanding. Nevertheless, we'll try to wean ourselves off it! – Ed.

Dear Mr. John Carruthers,

Thank you for the May 2007 Bulletin. My reading is that six hearts makes even on a spade lead (IBPA Column Service Deal 386, p. 7). Declarer simply ducks the spade queen and later West is squeezed in spades and diamonds.

Even on the lead of the spade king (*from king-jack-nine-eight-six! – Ed.*), where declarer cannot duck for fear of a ruff by East (with the singleton queen), declarer cashes his hearts and clubs. His LHO is shortened to three diamonds and one spade, whereupon declarer plays a spade and gets a spade winner. Claim.

Sudhir Ganguly, Kolkata, India

You are absolutely correct. – Ed.

John,

Raman Jayaram's comments on the Zone 4 Championship in Bulletin 509, where he opined that the qualification ratio for the World Championships was "ridiculous" and "unfair", are pertinent. To my mind, Zone 7 is a more extreme case: it is entirely unreasonable that mere geographical accident means that Australia and New Zealand are guaranteed places in the World Championships.

It is high time that the World Championships were reorganised to reflect the reality that the winner will almost certainly come from Europe or the USA - to date, there has only been one exception to this rule. I suggest that:

- The Bermuda Bowl should revert to being an open event for a small number of teams, say four. Of these, one each will come from Europe and the USA and two from anywhere in the world (including Europe and the USA), with the WBF arranging whatever eliminating events are necessary. If this means that the Bermuda Bowl contains three USA teams and one European team (or vice versa), that is not a negative point: the best players are competing for the premier event.

- The Bermuda Bowl format should be knock-out, with the European and USA teams kept apart in the semi-final (this is deliberately designed to increase the chances that the two best teams in the world will contest the final), with a large number of boards being played, say 200. This will obviate the need for the current, virtually meaningless, round robin stage, meaning that media coverage would be concentrated on important matches. Given the number of boards (i.e., reducing the luck element), I would recommend aggregate scoring, as being more readily comprehensible to the average bridge player who has never been near a tournament, but I accept that this is unlikely to be the case.

- At a different time and place (so as not to detract from the significance of the Bermuda Bowl), there should be Championship Teams events for Men, Women, Juniors (possibly Schools as well) and Seniors (possibly Veterans as well), held upon similar lines to the current World Championships. This will get rid of the current, discriminatory, rule which favours female bridge players. By holding the Junior event (or events) simultaneously with the others, there will be economies of scale.

Richard Fleet, Berkhamsted, UK

I sympathize with your views, but our goals in running such an event would be different from the WBF's, which has financial goals as well, thus the proliferation of teams, and indeed, events, at World Championships. – Ed.

World Bridge Calendar

DATES EVENT LOCATION INFORMATION

2007

Jul 6-21	Australian National Championships	Fremantle, Australia	www.abf.com.au
Jul 7-15	Danish Bridge Festival	Vinstded, Denmark	www.bridge.dk
Jul 11-15	Gmunden Festival	Gmunden, Austria	www.bridgeaustria.at
Jul 11-21	21 st European Youth Team Championships	Jesolo, Italy	www.eurobridge.org
Jul 12-15	6 th Czech Open	Pardubice, Czech Republic	www.czechopen.net
Jul 19-29	ACBL Summer NABC	Nashville, TN	www.acbl.org
Jul 28-Aug 2	Chairman's Cup	Jönköping, Sweden	www.svenskbridge.se
Jul 28-Aug 5	Bridgefestival XIII	Jönköping, Sweden	www.svenskbridge.se
Aug 3-10	Junior Bridge Camp	Bristol, England	www.ebu.co.uk
Aug 4-9	European University Cup	Brugge, Belgium	www.unibridge.org
Aug 5-11	Loiben Festival	Loiben, Austria	www.bridgeaustria.at
Aug 10-12	Kepri Governor Cup IV	Batam, Indonesia	www.bridgekepri.org
Aug 10-19	Summer Congress	Brighton, England	www.ebu.co.uk
Aug 11-18	XXXI International Festival	Varna, Bulgaria	www.ibf-varna.hit.bg
Aug 17-20	Governor Kepri Cup III	Batam, Indonesia	www.scba.org.sg
Aug 24-Sep 2	35 ^o Warsaw Grand Prix	Warsaw, Poland	www.polbridge.pl
Aug 25-Sep 2	Festival La Grande Motte	La Grande Motte, France	www.ffbridge.asso.fr
Aug 27-Sep 8	22 nd Mamaia Festival	Mamaia, Romania	office@frbridge.ro
Aug 28-Sep 2	Hong Kong Inter-City	Kowloon, Hong Kong	www.hkcba.org
Aug 29-Sep 7	1 st PABF Congress	Surfer's Paradise, Australia	pabf@qldbridge.com
Sep 6-9	Territory Gold Bridge Festival	Darwin, Australia	www.abf.com.au
Sep 8-15	46 th Bridge Festival	Pula, Croatia	www.bridge.hr
Sep 12-16	Festival Venezia	Venice, Italy	www.federbridge.it
Sep 13-16	41 st Isle of Man Congress	Douglas, Isle of Man	pdeweerd@manx.net
Sep 14-16	J. Antonio Samaranch Homage	Madrid, Spain	www.aebridge.com
Sep 21-30	Geurnsey Congress	Geurnsey	www.ebu.co.uk
Sep 22-29	New Zealand Nationals	Hamilton, New Zealand	www.nzcba.co.nz
Sep 25-30	9 th Annual Gay Bridge Festival	Palm Springs, CA	www.communityvisions.org
Sep 29-Oct 13	World Team Championships	Shanghai, China	www.worldbridge.org
Oct 16-20	17 th Sun, Sea & Slams	St. Michael, Barbados	www.cacbf.com
Oct 12-14	2007 Neutrino Cup	Bucharest, Romania	danenescu@bridge-club.ro
Oct 20-21	61 st Lederer Memorial Trophy	London, England	www.metrobridge.co.uk
Nov 3-10	7 th Cuba International Festival	Varadero/Havana, Cuba	www.cacbf.com
Nov 5-11	10 th Madeira International Open	Madeira, Portugal	www.madeira-bridge.com
Nov 7-9	1 st Small NBO Bridge Games	Monte carlo, Monaco	www.federation-bridge.mc
Nov 8-18	13 th Red Sea International Festival	Eilat, Israel	www.bridge.co.il
Nov 9-11	19 th International Patton Teams	Monte Carlo, Monaco	www.federation-bridge.mc
Nov 10-16	ASEAN Primary Schools Olympics	Jakarta, Indonesia	arifinhl@dnnet.net.id
Nov 22-25	29 th International Festival	Brasov, Romania	bridge-club-brasov@as.ro
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
Nov 28-Dec 2	Sicily Open	Cefalù, Italy	www.federbridge.it
Nov 30-Dec 12	Festival Argentino	Mar del Plata, Argentina	www.bridgegear.com.ar
Dec 7-10	Città di Milano	Milan, Italy	www.federbridge.it
Dec 7-11	29 th ASEAN Club Championships	Makati, Philippines	www.scba.org.sg
Dec 14-16	2007 Winter Cup	Bucharest, Romania	dragosslesan@yahoo.com
Dec 21-23	Junior Channel Trophy	Netherlands	www.ebu.co.uk

2008

Jan 14-20	57 th Hawaii Regional	Honolulu, HI	www.acbl.org
Jan 26-2	Bermuda Regional	Southampton, Bermuda	www.bermudaregional.com
Feb 23-Mar 1	Gold Coast Congress	Broadbeach, Australia	www.qldbridge.com/gcc
Mar 6-16	ACBL Spring NABC	Detroit, MI	www.acbl.org
Mar 9-16	White House Junior Internationals	Amsterdam, Netherlands	keestammens@email.com
Mar 18-23	113 th Canadian Nationals	Toronto, ON	www.toronto-bridge.com
May 16-18	13 th Southern Regional	Trinidad	www.cacbf.com
Jun 14-28	49 th European Championships	Pau, France	www.eurobridge.org
Jul 17-27	ACBL Summer NABC	Las Vegas, NV	www.acbl.org
Jul 26-Aug 3	Chairman's Cup/XIV Festival	Jönköping, Sweden	www.svenskbridge.se
Sep 2-9	4 th World University Championships	Lodz, Poland	www.unibridge.org
Oct 3-18	World Mind Sports Games	Beijing, China	www.worldbridge.org
Nov 20-30	ACBL Fall NABC	Boston, MA	www.acbl.org