



BULLETIN

www.ibpa.com

mail@ibpa.com

President:

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

Chairman:

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

Executive Vice-President:

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

Organizational Vice-President:

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

Secretary:

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

Treasurer & Membership Secretary:

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

Honorary General Counsel:

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

Awards Secretary:

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

Sponsored Members' Secretary:

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

Bulletin Production Manager:

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

Presidents Emeritii:

TOMMY SANDSMARK (NORWAY)
HENRY FRANCIS (USA)

THE INTERNATIONAL BRIDGE PRESS ASSOCIATION

Editor: John Carruthers

This Bulletin is published monthly and circulated to around 400 members of the International Bridge Press Association comprising the world's leading journalists, authors and editors of news, books and articles about contract bridge, with an estimated readership of some 200 million people who enjoy the most widely played of all card games.

No. 516

Year 2008

Date January 10

From: The IBPA President

A Happy New Year to all members.

IBPA was founded at the European Championships in 1958 in Oslo with Eric Jannersten as Secretary and Guy Ramsey as President. It began as the European Bridge Press Association but later that same year, at the World Championships in Como, Italy the membership was widened and the name changed to International. We therefore plan to celebrate fifty years of the Association with a number of projects.

Firstly, we will have a new Members' Handbook. Our last Members' Handbook was 2002. Tommy Sandmark, a President Emeritus of IBPA, and Sven-Olov Flodqvist have kindly offered to prepare one for 2008. It will be published on our website, and, if we find a sponsor for the printing costs, in printed form as well.

Our intention is that the digital version of the Handbook (at the least) will record all our Award winners over the fifty years, plus as much as we can manage of the original articles and shortlists. There will be a section in the Handbook on our history and the names of our officers over our lifetime. But the key feature, where we need the assistance of each member, is the Members' section with up-to-date personal details of the membership in the year 2008.

Our Production Manager, Jean Butler (daughter of our Secretary Maureen Dennison), keeps an up-to-date record of members' names and addresses, e-mail addresses, membership category and payment situation. What Jean cannot do is to update your personal details such as members' newspapers, world and zonal titles or official posts, date of birth, employment, photo etc. For that we rely on each and all members checking their own record and updating it.

We plan to give each 2008 member a commemorative pin. Per Jannersten, son of the founding member, Eric, is in charge of this project.

In June, in Pau at the European Championships, the plan is to hold a self-financing dinner for those present to mark the founding of our Association, and in Beijing we will similarly mark the extension to a worldwide membership. The World Bridge Federation will also be celebrating fifty years.

All these plans mean you should ensure you are an IBPA member in 2008. So please take the time to make any payment due for the New Year and also the time to check that your details are up-to-date on the membership file.

All the best for 2008.

Patrick Journain, President

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



The North American Bridge Championships

San Francisco, CA

November 23-December 2, 2007

Barry Rigal, New York

Winners of the major events were:

REISINGER TEAMS (BOARD-A-MATCH)

Jimmy Cayne, Michael Seamon, Alfredo Versace,
Lorenzo Lauria, Claudio Nunes, Fulvio Fantoni

BLUE RIBBON PAIRS

Steve Landen, Pratap Rajadhyaksha

OPEN BOARD-A-MATCH TEAMS

Aubrey Strul, Michael Becker, Larry Cohen, David
Berkowitz, Lew Stansby, Chip Martel

LIFE MASTER PAIRS

Zia Mahmood, Bjorn Fallenius

NORTH AMERICAN SWISS TEAMS

Larry Mori, Leonard Melander, Kelley Hwang, Rick
Kaye, Kazuo Furuta, Hiroki Yokoi

WOMEN'S BOARD-A-MATCH TEAMS

Ping Zhu, Jian Wang, You Mei Zhou, Ping Wang, Shao
Hong Wu

WOMEN'S PAIRS

Karen McCallum, Lynn Baker

SENIOR KNOCKOUT TEAMS

Bob Hollman, Bruce Ferguson, Brenda Keller, Jerry
Clerkin, Dennis Clerkin

Following is a selection of the more interesting deals
that arose over the ten days.

A Journey through the Interior

In England, the old saying is that you can wait hours for
a Number 9 bus, then two come at once. Saturday
afternoon's boards demonstrated this point regarding
the intra-finesse, perhaps the last-discovered expert play.
Gabriel Chagas wrote an article about the intra-finesse
as a BOLS tip in the mid-Seventies. Before that, no one
had written about the play. Serious East-West pairs in
the afternoon game on Saturday will be familiar with
the basic layout:

J 9 8 2

A 6 5 3

The best way to play this suit for one loser depends on
who has shown values. If your right-hand opponent is
strong, it is more likely that LHO has the doubleton
ten than that RHO has king-queen doubleton. So you
should lead to the eight and, if the king or queen is
played, advance the jack on the next round to try to
pin the ten.

Conversely, if LHO is more likely to have values, start
by leading up to the jack, hoping LHO has king-ten or
queen-ten doubleton. If LHO wins, cross to dummy and
advance the jack to pin the ten on the next round.

Note that if West contributes the ten on the first round
from king-ten, queen-ten or ten-low, he leaves declarer
with a blind guess as to what to do next.

This general theme of defending against the intra-finesse
comes up under quite a number of guises. Let's see
how it works in practice.

IBPA Members! *Bring yourself up to date!*

1. Go to www.jannersten.org* and log in with the username and password that you received with December's Bulletin notice.**
 2. Make sure that your personal details are correct.
 3. Send photo to ibpa.jannersten.se if missing or obsolete.
- * If you do not have access to the Internet, please use the printed form that you received with the December issue.
- ** If you have lost the username and/or password, please inquire at mail@ibpa.com.

Dealer North. Neither Vul.

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

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

1. Three-card spade support

On the lead of a club, Sue Picus (South) playing with Marilyn Losberg, won with dummy's queen at trick one. At trick two, she led a heart to the jack and queen. Another club forced dummy's ace, and Picus ran the heart eight to West's ace. A third club forced declarer to ruff. Picus followed with a low spade from hand, won by West with the king. A fourth round of clubs forced Picus to ruff again. Down to two trumps in each hand, she took her best shot by leading a diamond to dummy and running the jack of spades to pin the ten and claim ten tricks when the hearts proved to be 3-3.

Immediately following that deal was one which shows the other variation of the intra-finesse.

Dealer East. Both Vul.

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

You might reach four spades as South by responding one spade to a takeout double of a one-diamond opening by West. On the lead of the heart king, you have no difficulty taking ten tricks.

If you happen to find yourself in four hearts (after responding one heart to the takeout double), that's a far harder contract to make on an unreadable spade lead.

The natural thing to do is to win the spade in dummy and lead a low heart to the eight and king. A second

spade is played, and you win in hand. Now comes the big decision: Do you play to drop the doubleton king-queen of hearts or lead the jack to pin the ten?

Although the intra-finesse works if the opening leader has four or more diamonds and three spades, the doubleton honor is more likely. If you play that way and it's right, however, you don't get your name in the Daily Bulletin.

Criss-Crossed

John Armstrong and Paul Hackett put together an excellent first round in the Edgar Kaplan Blue Ribbon Pairs – and the following deal didn't hurt their cause, and it did not detract from their enjoyment that Armstrong's right-hand opponent was a many-time world champion.

Dealer South. EW Vul.

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

Armstrong opened two spades and got to play it there. West started with a trump – not best, but hardly unreasonable. Armstrong won cheaply in hand as the MTWC ducked, then mis-guessed in diamonds by running the seven to East's ten. East returned the diamond queen to his partner's ace, then ruffed the third round of the suit.

At that point, East did not know what to do. The percentage play might be a heart, but it looked safe enough to play the ace and queen of spades and sit back and wait for a winner at the end.

Not so fast – Armstrong ran his trumps and diamond winners to reach this ending:

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

On the play of the spade nine, Armstrong discarded dummy's jack of clubs, and East was a goner, trapped in a criss-cross squeeze. Whichever honour East bared, Armstrong would cash the ace of that suit and make the last two tricks in the other hand.

Board-A-Match Beauty

Geoff Hampson and Eric Greco bid these hands from the Reisinger qualifiers beautifully.

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

Greco

2 NT¹

4 ♦³

4 NT⁵

5 NT⁷

7 ♣

1. 19-21

2. Minor-suit Stayman, one/both minors

3. Diamonds and a club fit

4. Key-card ask in clubs

5. 1 or 4 key cards

6. King ask

7. A red king

Hampson

3 ♠²

4 ♥⁴

5 ♠⁶

6 NT

Pass

When Hampson bid six no trump Greco knew he was facing a running club suit and could count 12 top tricks. The thirteenth would come from setting up the diamonds, and the worst diamond holding that would go down in dummy of three small would still leave him with better than a 50% contract. Even getting to six no trump would have scored well at BAM, but reaching seven clubs deservedly earned them a shared top from the 64 tables in play and a win at BAM.

Return of the No. 9 bus

As we have already noticed, intra-finesses are like No. 9 buses. You wait a few years, then they all come at once. When that happens, you can be sure that something unusual or interesting has happened. This deal was from the Blue Ribbon Pairs semifinal. Mike Becker was playing with Aubrey Strul.

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

West	North	East	South
	Strul		Becker
Pass	Pass	Pass	1 ♣
Pass	1 ♠	Double	1 NT
2 ♥	3 ♣	Pass	Pass
Pass			

Becker decided not to make a support redouble but to settle for a simple one no trump rebid. Accordingly, he got to play three clubs rather than two spades, which might make plus 110 or 140.

In three clubs, the heart lead went to the queen, king and ace. Becker crossed to the dummy with the heart jack for a spade to the king and ace. He could have taken the intra-finesse before playing on spades, but he wanted to find out where the spade honours were in case he needed to guess diamonds.

West won the ace of spades and returned a diamond to East's ace. Becker won the diamond continuation with the king, then pitched a diamond from dummy on the ten of hearts. He ruffed a diamond, then played a spade to the queen and put East in with a third round of spades. This was the ending:

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

East led a diamond, ruffed by Becker with the club eight. West discarded his heart, and Becker over-ruffed with dummy's nine. Becker now took the intra-finesse by playing the good eight of spades from dummy. East ruffed in with the ten of clubs, Becker over-ruffed with the jack, and West over-ruffed with the queen. West was end-played, however, forced to lead from queen-three of clubs. Plus 110 was good for 61 out of 105 match points.

San Francisco Vise

The following deal occurred in the first qualifying session of the Keohane North American Swiss Teams. It was reported by Daniel Korbel and Jonathan Steinberg, the victims of Richard Popper's expert play.

Although Korbel and Steinberg were excited to report Popper's play, they took pains to assure us that they won the match anyway.

Dealer South. EW Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
—	—	—	2 ♣
Pass	2 ♦	Pass	2 NT
Pass	3 ♣	Pass	3 ♦
Pass	6 NT	Pass	Pass
Pass			

Korbel started with the ten of clubs, taken by Popper with the king in hand. He played a heart to dummy's king, then played four rounds of diamonds. A spade to the king and another spade to the ace left this position:

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

On the lead of the nine of spades, West had to pitch a club. Now a club to the king and a club to the queen caught East in a vise squeeze. He discarded a heart, so Popper could lead dummy's nine of hearts to the jack, queen and ace. The heart seven took the twelfth trick.

A Rare Play

Dealer West. Both Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Pass	Pass	1 ♦	1 ♠
Double	Redouble	1 NT	2 ♠
Pass	Pass	Pass	

This deal from the Victor Mitchell Open Board-a-Match Teams produced an ending not often seen.

West led a low diamond to East's ace, dropping South's king. East thought for a while and shifted to a low heart, ducked to West's queen. A heart was returned to the ace, and South won the third round of the suit.

Three rounds of spades put East on play, and a diamond was played after more thought. South didn't know if West had the diamond queen or the club ace – or nothing in diamonds and the ace-queen of clubs. On the ruff of the diamond, West parted with the ten, looking a player who started with three to the queen.

South then played a club, going up with dummy's king when West played low, and ruffed a diamond, felling the queen, to reach this ending:

♠ — ♥ 9 ♦ — ♣ A 10	♠ — ♥ — ♦ J ♣ J 9 ♠ 8 ♥ — ♦ — ♣ 6 4
-----------------------------	--

The club lead from South produced a wrinkle: If West plays low on the club, East wins and must play a diamond (South discards his losing club). If West goes up with the ace of clubs, he crashes his partner's queen, and dummy is good.

IBPA WEBSITE INFO:
www.ibpa.com

The Bulletins: To access the January 2008 Bulletin, key in, in your web browser:
www.ibpa.com/516kt.pdf

The Handbook: You can also access the IBPA Handbook from www.ibpa.com by clicking on the link on the Constitution page. When you open the link, you will be asked for a password, which is: **ihccaT** exactly as it appears here.

Subscriptions: You can apply to join the IBPA or renew your subscription on the website by clicking on the appropriate button on the top of the homepage.

A Paul of Smoke

Ron Klinger, Northbridge, NSW

(From the Sydney Morning Herald)

Paul Marston produced a little gem on this deal from Stage 1 of the 2007 Butler Trials:

Round 9. Board 24. Dealer North. Neither Vul.

♠ A 8 7

♥ Q 9 6 3

♦ K Q J 2

♣ 10 5

♠ J 9

♥ 10 8 2

♦ 10 9 7 6 4

♣ K 9 7

♠ K 10 6 4 3 2

♥ —

♦ A 8 3

♣ A Q 8 3

♠ Q 5

♥ A K J 7 5 4

♦ 5

♣ J 6 4 2

West	North	East	South
Ted	Michael	Dave	Paul
Chadwick	Prescott	Beauchamp	Marston
—	1 NT	2 ♠	4 ♥
Pass	Pass	Double	Pass
Pass	Pass		
Lead: ♠J			

Realising that East must have the spade king, Marston rose with the ace. How would you continue at trick two?

As he was now faced with four losers on top, Marston tried a canny subterfuge. He played the two of diamonds from dummy! Fearing declarer could have the singleton ten, Beauchamp naturally rose with the ace. He cashed the spade king, followed by the club ace and awaited his partner's club signal.

Beauchamp-Chadwick play low-encouraging and as Chadwick wanted partner to continue clubs, he followed with the club seven, the lowest card he had. It was not clear to Beauchamp that the seven of clubs showed a liking for clubs. Two lower clubs were missing. Perhaps partner wanted a third spade. That would promote a trump trick if West had jack-ten-low in trumps.

It is easy to make the right decision when you see all four hands. It is a different matter at the table and Beauchamp reverted to spades at trick four. Marston ruffed high, drew trumps ending in dummy and discarded his three remaining clubs on the diamond winners. That was plus 420, a triumph for great imagination, and 4 IMPs against the datum of NS 270.

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

Kreko & Lorenzo

Phillip Alder, Hobe Sound, FL

(From the New York Times)

Dealer North. NS Vul.

♠ J 6 4 3

♥ A K J 8

♦ 2

♣ J 10 5 3

♠ 9 8 7 5 2

♥ Q 10 7 6

♦ A 4

♣ K Q

♠ K 10

♥ 2

♦ J 10 8 7 6 5

♣ 8 7 6 4

♠ A Q

♥ 9 5 4 3

♦ K Q 9 3

♣ A 9 2

West	North	East	South
—	Pass	3 ♦	3 NT
Pass	Pass	Pass	

Many experts hoping to win major titles were practicing at Regionals in the weeks leading up to the North American Bridge Championships in San Francisco. One such pair, Jim Krekorian of New York and John Onstott of New Orleans, went to Corpus Christi, Texas to compete. The diagrammed deal arose during a two-day knockout team event.

At the other table East did not open three diamonds, giving North-South sufficient bidding room to find four hearts. Declarer made his contract by taking three spades, three hearts, one diamond, one club, a diamond ruff on the board and a spade ruff in his hand.

In this auction, where East opened with a second-seat three-diamond bid that would not occur to many players, South felt 'end-played' into overcalling three no trump and hoping his partner had sufficient goodies to give him play. (South's alternative was to pass, which would probably have worked well. After West passed, North would have reopened with a takeout double, which South could have passed. Sensible defense would have defeated the contract by four tricks for plus 800. But that would have ruined a great story.)

Against three no trump, West led the spade deuce, which was ostensibly fourth-highest. Krekorian (South) took East's ten with his queen and paused to assess his prospects.

Declarer could see two spades, what he hoped would be three hearts, at least one diamond, and one club. That was only seven winners. Clearly clubs would have to provide some more tricks.

South played a heart to dummy's ace, then led a low club to his nine and West's queen. Back came the heart seven. Not being psychic, declarer called for dummy's jack, East discarding a diamond. Now South played a

diamond to his queen, unexpectedly losing to West's ace. West continued with the heart queen, East pitching a club, not another diamond.

Declarer still did not want to commit himself in clubs. To find out a little more, he played a spade to his ace, surprisingly collecting East's king.

Now Krekorian was up to eight tricks: three spades, three hearts, one diamond and one club. And when he cashed his diamond king, he learned that West had begun with five spades, four hearts, two diamonds and two clubs. South was leaning toward playing East for king-fourth of clubs but then realized that that was not necessary.

This was the end position:

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

How did Krekorian take three more tricks? He found the line that did not require his having to guess the clubs. He led his last heart, giving West the trick, East throwing a diamond. West exited with the spade nine, of course, and declarer let West hold the trick! (East and South discarded diamonds.)

On the next spade, East was caught in a strange variation of the show-up squeeze. He had to keep his last diamond to beat South's nine. But when East pitched a club, South threw his diamond nine, then played the club jack to his ace, knowing the king would appear. Dummy's club ten took the final trick for the contract.

That brilliant piece of card play was its own reward because it held the Krekorian team's loss on the board to 1 IMP.

Dealer West. EW Vul.

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

Bridge is a bidder's game, or so the modern mantra goes. But overbidders ignore one reality: If you make a bid and become a defender, you have given declarer extra - often vital - information in the quest for his contract.

This board occurred during the final of the Italian Club Team Championship in October.

In one room, Fulvio Fantoni (East) did not open in the third position despite holding 12 high card points. The vulnerability was unfavorable, a one-club opening was unlikely to inconvenience South, and East knew that his partner probably did not have a long suit.

Antonio Sementa (South) opened one diamond, Agustin Madala (North) responded three clubs, showing a maximum pass with diamond support, and South rebid three no trump, ending the auction.

Claudio Nunes led the spade six. Assuming diamonds were 3-2, Sementa could see two spades, four diamonds and one club. Hoping for some good fortune, declarer took the first trick with his spade king and immediately played a club to dummy's queen. When that lost to East's king, though, the contract could no longer be made. Sementa took his seven top tricks and a heart to finish down one.

In the other room, Norberto Bocchi (East) did open that 12-point hand. Lorenzo Lauria (South) stretched to overcall one no trump, and Alfredo Versace (North) raised to three no trump.

West	North	East	South
Pass	Pass	1 ♣	1 NT
Pass	3 NT	Pass	Pass
Pass			

Giorgio Duboin led the heart seven, second-highest from a weak suit. With only 15 points missing, Lauria was confident that East held the club king. So Lauria set out to catch East in an endplay.

East took his heart ace and returned the heart queen. South won with his king and cashed four diamond tricks ending on the board. East discarded a spade and a club, and West threw a heart. Declarer played dummy's last heart, giving East the lead in this position:

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

East led the spade queen, which declarer ducked all around. The second spade went to dummy's ace, then came a spade to South's king. Declarer played a club toward the dummy, planning to cover with dummy's seven. However, West, who saw what was about to

happen, put up his jack. This was a good try, but declarer covered with dummy's queen, East winning with his king and returning the club six. Lauria completed a beautifully played deal by running the trick to dummy's nine to make his contract and gain 10 IMPs.

The Future of Bridge - Is There One?

David Stern, Sydney

(IBPA member Stern is one of those rare people who cares deeply about our game, expounds intelligently on it, and takes action as well: among other things, he organised the 2006 World Youth Championships in Australia. Here he presents his suggestions for bridge administrators worldwide to keep our game alive and thriving.)

Before reading on I would like you, the reader, to guess how many registered bridge players there are worldwide, a question I will answer later.

Bridge administrators worldwide are scratching their heads while searching for answers to the following very difficult questions:

- ◆ what is the future of bridge?
- ◆ what can we do to promote bridge?
- ◆ how can we market bridge across a wide range of socio-economic groups?
- ◆ how can we increase participation amongst those who already know how to play bridge?
- ◆ how can we reduce the average age of registered players, which is rising all the time (currently 67 years old in the USA)?

When I was a child some 35-45 years ago it was very common for parents to play cards with their children as a family activity and indeed I played some amount of cards with my children but certainly less than my parents did with me in my youth. Will our kids play with their kids? I fear not.

Are card games relevant in today's world? The sad fact is that there is so much competition for the attention of young people today: internet, sports, TV, travel, books, pubs and clubs. It is extremely hard for bridge to compete in this changing world. It is true that computer and online gaming are thriving, but just how can bridge insert itself into this changing world?

One of the reasons that the online world seems so buoyant is that users can devote any amount of time that they wish to their activities. Unlike a session of duplicate bridge where we have to commit almost four hours of our time including travel, it is possible to play online for 30 minutes between other activities or, even while doing other things.

While some point to the success of online and televised poker as giving rise to the possibilities for bridge it is hard to parallel a game like no limit hold'em poker, the rules of which can be learned in about 15 minutes, with

the intricacies of bridge. Many attempts have been made over the past 30 years to televise bridge, and while individual series have been successful, none have shown sufficient appeal to continue for any length of time.

By now, some readers will be disappointed that I am so negative about the future of bridge. However, the numbers make my point much better than the words on this page. Back to the opening question – there are approximately 646,552 registered bridge players in the world today, almost 400,000 of these in Europe. I bet like me you are astounded at this low number. People I have discussed this with say anything from 5 million upwards. This number is pathetically low when you consider that it is estimated that 200 million people worldwide know how to play bridge. How can bridge administrators believe they are performing well when they can only sign up 0.22% of players to play in their tournaments or at affiliated clubs? The answer is they aren't!

The American Contract Bridge League has recently undertaken a survey and no doubt were very pleased with the result that 25.1 million people in the USA knew how to play bridge. To put this number in perspective, in the United States in 1940, bridge was played by 47% of women, and 30% of men, which would equate to 123 million versus the 25.1 million estimated today. While this looks impressive one must ask why the ACBL has only been able to capture 156,000 registered members.

Significantly, the survey revealed that more than 60% of respondents in the 25-35 age group thought that bridge was old-fashioned. That being the case, what chance do we have to convince non-players that bridge is a great game that they should learn?

With the growth of entrepreneurial for-profit clubs around the world, many National Bridge Organisations (NBOs) are increasingly relying on bridge entrepreneurs to promote and teach bridge, recognising the reality that they are probably more successful than the NBOs in promoting the game. But this has been a two-edged sword, with many of the same clubs moving away from

the registration of players, seeing very little value in paying for registration and master points to NBOs that are seen to offer very little to their players. Of increasing concern is the move by NBOs to promote online bridge in competition with the very clubs they are constitutionally bound to support.

Most bridge teachers will tell you that a retention rate in excess of 25% would be most acceptable. But given that the game is so besieged with rules, systems, alerting procedure, system cards, not to mention the unacceptable behaviour and attitude of some players at the table, even keeping those that are retained is very difficult. A number of well-known and colourful bridge personalities have given up bridge in favour of online poker for, among other reasons, the ability to avoid complicated rules and ever-increasing gamesmanship we all see at the bridge table.

Want an example of why people are often encouraged to look elsewhere for more relaxing pursuits? Then read this paragraph from the August 2006 Bridge World Magazine: "One of the most vigorously-debated issues among bridge theoreticians and legalists is: Can a player be penalised for forgetting a partnership agreement?"

Would we penalise Tiger Woods for choosing the wrong club or a cricket team for making a poor decision to declare. Surely wrong decisions in any game or sport, even if through poor memory, are part and parcel of life, yet this is described as the most vigourously-debated issue. If only this vigour and energy could be channelled into promoting bridge this article would have different conclusions.

Any discussion of the future of bridge would be incomplete without considering online bridge. There is no doubt that online bridge (according to the ACBL survey only 4.2% of players learned over the internet) has a future for the game of bridge and it may be possible that in the not too distant future more games will be played online than at clubs. While this takes away the social interaction which many of us cherish as part of the bridge experience, it caters to the increasing number of time-strapped players who are quite happy to play 10 boards or one hour at a time, rather than committing to a three-hour session plus travel time at a local club.

Those are the problems, but what is the Stern solution for promoting bridge? I have no quick fixes, but here are some steps that I would take towards solving the problem:

1. The World Bridge Federation (WBF) on behalf of its membership should go to (say, five) leading marketing and communications companies and pay a nominal fee for their ideas on how to promote bridge, bring it into the 21st century and market it. Select all of the best ideas and commission the 'winner' to a two-

or three-year contract to promote bridge through the various NBOs on a global basis where the materials and plans are provided by the WBF. This could cost upwards of \$500,000, and with the limited budget and resources of the WBF (their total assets are in the order of \$US530,000) this may be a difficult ask, but expecting each individual NBOs to come up with the solutions and materials will result in the current situation – precious little being done.

2. The WBF must find a way of getting bridge into schools. This is not as easy as it sounds. In one instance when I suggested it to a Catholic School they told me cards were the 'tickets of the devil' and no way would they allow cards to be promoted at school. To this end a government lobbyist advised me that any Department of Education would not buy into the idea of bridge in schools unless there is a proven benefit to the students. We all believe that bridge adds to mathematical and social skills, but try proving it. My proposal would be for the WBF to commission a PhD paper to be done on the effects of bridge in schools on the social, mathematical and personal development of children in school. Armed with a positive study every NBO could then have the necessary material to put forward a compelling case to education bodies including schools and universities.
3. There is a need to identify a group of people interested in promoting bridge. My experience is that youth bridge has ALWAYS been successful where there is a committed person who takes on the responsibility of a well organised and managed program. An example of this was Dorothy Jesner in Canberra who arranged for bridge-playing senior citizens to accompany her to the various schools where she taught and supervise to the extent of having one person at each table. While she was undertaking this program, she was receiving phone calls from headmasters inviting her to come to their schools to teach bridge. It was amazingly successful while it was operating, but when Dorothy was unable to continue for health reasons the entire program collapsed.
4. Invite every registered bridge player to have a friend learn bridge. Entice them with a year's free registration for every recommendation they provide who in turn becomes registered. Let's get clever and use the vast resources of our membership to gear up a drive for increased membership.

Promoting bridge is not about money; it is about people with ideas and commitment to see the game grow who are supported with materials, ideas and yes, to some extent, money. Don't make the mistake of underestimating the value of commitment.

Finally if there are any players or even non-players out there who have ideas for the promotion of bridge; who have the time, energy and commitment to promote or teach bridge; who understand how to implement some of the ideas put forward here; or who simply want to

comment on this article; give some thought to contacting your NBO or the WBF. (We know that Indonesia and Ireland have had some success with schools bridge, and that Poland has had huge success with youth bridge. Let's contact them and borrow from them. - Ed.)

IBPA Column Service

Tim Bourke, Canberra

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

417. Dealer South. Both Vul.

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

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

This deal occurred in a social rubber bridge game where, much to East's surprise, he found himself defending a slam contract. He was, however, playing against the two most forward bidders of the foursome.

West led the queen of diamond and declarer paused to plan the play. Clearly, a complete cross-ruff would produce only eleven tricks. Given that he had only trump entries to hand, the chance of bringing in the spade suit was slight. A cross-ruff plus the heart finesse would yield twelve tricks. But what would happen if East had the king of hearts? Then he would need to make extra tricks in hearts, probably by establishing the suit with a ruff. That would result in three heart tricks on power, five trumps and a one heart ruff in hand, a total of nine. So he would need to ruff two more diamonds in hand.

As entries to dummy were few, he played a heart to the ace to ruff a diamond. Next he played his second heart. If West had the king of hearts, nothing would be lost. However, when East produced the king of hearts declarer needed the ace of spades on his right too. As it was, East could not exit safely in spades, so he had to help South ruff red cards in his hand. When East chose

to exit with the ten of hearts, declarer ruffed with the ace, cashed the king of trumps and ruffed a spade in dummy to ruff dummy's remaining diamond with the his last trump, the queen. After ruffing another spade, declarer drew West's remaining trumps and, as the heart suit was established, he claimed his slam.

"You were lucky there." remarked East "If my partner had led anything but a diamond, the 3-0 trump break defeats you. Still, you played it well. If you had made the mistake of taking a heart finesse at trick two, I would have won the king and returned the ten of hearts, leaving you an entry short to take all of your red suit ruffs. Yes, well played indeed."

418. Dealer West. Nil Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Pass	Pass	3 ♥	6 ♠
Pass	Pass	Pass	

South's leapt to six spades because he feared that his partner would pass a takeout double. West did well to defend too, for seven hearts loses five tricks and costs 1100.

West led a normal ten of hearts and, after calling for dummy's five of hearts, declarer showed how to make the hand on this layout. He ruffed the opening lead with the ten and drew trumps by cashing the ace and then leading the four to dummy's nine. After ruffing the six of hearts, declarer cashed the ace and king of diamonds, discovering the 4-1 break. Next he played the ace and

king of clubs then entered dummy for the second time by ruffing the third round of clubs.

Now came the crucial moment. He led the queen of hearts on which East played the king. Instead of ruffing, declarer threw a diamond from his hand. As East had nothing but hearts left he had to concede a ruff-and-discard. Declarer threw his remaining diamond from hand and ruffed in dummy.

Keen readers may note only a heart lead allows six spades to make! On any other lead declarer would be an entry short of that required to ruff the two hearts and to get back to dummy to lead the queen of hearts.

419. Dealer East. Both Vul.

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

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

This hand arose in a pairs tournament and after North's second double promised strong no trump values, South knew where he wanted to play.

However, South did not play as well as he had bid. East took the opening two of hearts lead with the queen and played the king of hearts. After ruffing this, declarer played a trump to dummy's ace and finessed the jack of trumps on the way back. West won his queen trumps and played a third round of hearts. East overtook and declarer had no option but to ruff

After cashing the king of trumps, discarding the nine of diamonds from dummy, he ran the clubs. West ruffed the fifth round of clubs and played a diamond. As declarer had to lose a diamond, he was down one.

Declarer should have reckoned that hearts were 3-6 and hoped that each defender had at least two trumps and at least one card in each of the minors. On those assumptions the contract is made secure by discarding a diamond at trick two. Then, after ruffing the heart continuation, declarer plays the trumps as before. The difference is that West has no heart to play and will exit

with a diamond. Declarer rises with the ace of diamonds and crosses to hand by leading a low club to his queen. All that needs to be done then is to draw West's two remaining trumps with his king and jack, while discarding dummy's useless diamonds. At this stage, declarer has six tricks and dummy's four remaining clubs will provide the balance needed for the contract.

420. Dealer North. Both Vul.

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

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

South had an awkward choice of bids and, opposite a passed partner, chose an off-beat one. North transferred into spades and South leapt to game.

West led the jack of hearts and declarer took this in hand with his ace. Next he drew three rounds of trumps ending on the table and led a club to jack, king and ace. West defended cannily by cashing the queen of clubs before exiting with a heart to declarer's king. When the ace and king of diamonds revealed that East had two diamond tricks, declarer complained about his luck.

As ever, dummy was not sympathetic. He pointed out that the contract can only fail if two diamonds and two clubs are lost and there was an absolutely certain way to stop this happening. "After winning the first trick, you draw trumps in three rounds. Next you cash your king of hearts and the ace of diamonds before exiting with a showy six of clubs. East may win the first round of clubs and persist with the queen of diamonds. You will take this with the diamond king and exit with the king of clubs. When West takes his ace, he will have to give you a ruff-and-discard."

"Suppose instead that East holds the club ace and the defenders are able to take two rounds of clubs, ending in the East hand. This time you will duck the queen of diamonds continuation, leaving East with no winning exit. If he chooses a low diamond, you will run this to dummy's ten and if he tries a club or a heart the ensuing ruff will be your tenth trick."

IN THE NAME OF SCIENCE

Munir Atallah, Karachi

(From 'Across the Bridge')

Dealer North. EW Vul.

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

In the staid old days, this deal would hardly cause a ripple. The dealer would most likely pass or open a daring weak two in spades and East would bid his hearts, East-West finishing in four hearts.

The deal occurred in the semi-final of a Men's Knock-Out Teams event and at one table, the contestants were two pairs of old fogies whose methods were cast in traditional mould. The auction there did indeed follow the predictable course:

Table 1

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

At the other three tables, modern science and gadgetry were on full display.

Table 2

West	North	East	South
—	2 ♠ ¹	3 ♥	Pass
4 ♠! ²	Pass	Pass	4 NT ³
Pass	Pass! ⁴	Double	Redouble ⁵
Pass	5 ♠ ⁶	Double	Pass
Pass	Pass		

Does the bidding strike you as surrealistic? Has everyone gone mad? Not quite. Here are the explanations:

1. The modern gadget: a very weak three-bid in a suit.
2. Not sure if three spades would be forcing. Anyway, as he plans to bid four spades next, so he may as well not confuse partner.
3. How many of you at the table would find this brilliant inferential bid? Whatever suit North has (and the opponent's bidding means it can't be spades), surely we have a game or a save available.
4. Better pass while the going is good. Maybe I will escape undoubled.
5. Bid your suit, you OX!
6. OK. You asked for it, so don't blame me (surely five clubs would be more prudent).

South, resigned to his fate, passed. North thought West's four-spade bid to be a splinter in support of hearts and was convinced partner would have a few spades.

Table 3

West	North	East	South
—	2 ♦ ¹	2 ♥ ²	Pass
2 ♠ ³	Pass	3 ♠ ⁴	Double
Pass ⁵	4 ♠ ⁶	4 NT ⁷	Double
Pass	Pass	5 ♥ ⁸	Double
Pass	Pass	Pass	

1. The Multi: usually a weak two in an unspecified major.
2. Either length in the suit or the equivalent of a take-out double of the other major. Thus while two hearts does not guarantee a heart suit, it does indicate spade shortage.
3. Should be a cue-bid. But do I care?
4. I have a fine hand partner and am pleased to show you my void in the opponent's suit.

At this stage South loses patience and decides to come out of the bushes. "No one pushes me around." Nevertheless, he is playing with fire. Partner may well infer the double to show spade support in case a sacrifice at favourable vulnerability may be worthwhile.

5. Content, "Who's on lead?"
6. Yes, North does misunderstand his partner's double.
7. Exclusion Key-Card Blackwood. "Show me your goodies outside spades where you know I have a void. You did cue-bid, didn't you?"

South continues to double, at last on firm ground, and a disgruntled West passes, by now totally disenchanted with developments.

8. Mystified, but what else?

And finally:

Table 4

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

A shorter, slightly saner, auction, ending in a different disaster.

1. Multi, with East's two-heart bid having the standard defensive implication.
2. The same tragic error. It may be heart-breaking never to bid a suit of this quality but alas! Two spades is a cue-bid.
3. Compounding the error: West liked his singleton club, three trumps and an ace. But to jump after having 'cue-bid' invites retribution.
4. "This should be lay-down".
5. "You wanna bet?"

Well, there you have it folks, straight out of Ripley's "Believe It Or Not".

NEWS & VIEWS

Kenya Bridge Association Update

Further to the Kenya Bridge Association's quest for recognition by the African Bridge Federation and the World Bridge Federation, IBPA has been copied on a letter sent in December to Tushar Pujara and Bernard Pascal of the ABF and José Damiani of the WBF by the Kenya Bridge Association. Following is the letter:

"Dear Sirs:

Re *Our letter dated 20 March 2007 requesting affiliation to WBF and ABF:*

We refer to our letter of 20th March 2007 to which we have not had any response from either the WBF or the ABF. We further refer to the letter of 14th February 2007, from the Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Gender, Sports Culture and Social Services addressed to Mr Damiani, President World Bridge Federation, copied to President Africa Bridge Federation in which the Government of Kenya through the Ministry of Sports has confirmed the status of National Bridge Organization being with ONLY the Kenya Bridge Association.

Sirs, we are requesting you to acknowledge receipt of the said letters above and to let us know what action has been taken to replace Kenya Bridge Africa Ltd with the Kenya Bridge Association as the NBO from Kenya.

The letter of 14th February 2007, clarifies the position of the Government of Kenya and we believe that until WBF or ABF receive any communication from the Ministry of Sport to the contrary withdrawing this position, Kenya Bridge Association is the Legal Body whom both WBF and ABF should recognise. (We refer to article 5 Membership of WBF Constitution and article 2 Organizations, of the By Laws of WBF).

We will do our utmost to cooperate with the WBF and ABF.

We believe bridge is a sport for all and we need to regularize these issues so that we can spend all our energies and resources in promoting and developing the game of bridge particularly to the young people.

Kindly oblige us with a response.

*Yours sincerely,
Paresh Shah/Samina Esmail, Kenya Bridge Association"*

We call upon the ABF and WBF to resolve this matter without further delay.

ECatsBridge for Children in Need Pairs 2007

The 6th ECatsBridge Simultaneous Pairs bridge tournament for Children in Need was held on five

nights between Friday 9 November and Thursday 15 November 2007.

466 heats were held over the five evenings with a total of 8,474 pairs (16,948 individual players) competing. Bridge clubs from Botswana, Croatia, Singapore, Spain, Tunisia and Zambia joined clubs across England, Northern Ireland, Scotland & Wales to raise £55,349.80.

Organiser Anna Gudge paid tribute to all the players who have contributed since she launched the event in 2002, "It's official - bridge players are wonderful! Thank you all so so much ... do you realise that over the past 6 years you have raised £283,753.37 for Children in Need ... you are totally amazing."

Winners:

Fri 9 Nov - Sheila Cooper & Len Dreebin (Ruff Club, London);
Mon 12 Nov - Pat & David Hancock (Coxley BC, Hertfordshire);
Tue 13 Nov - Roger Edmonds & David Stimson (Hemel Hempstead BC, Hertfordshire);
Wed 14 Nov - Janet Smith & Ray Burrows (The New BC, Dorset);
Thu 15 Nov - Anne Field & Graham Broadbent (Hayling Island BC, Hampshire).

For further information including details of next year's event and sponsorship opportunities contact: Anna Gudge 01787 881920;

anna@ecats.co.uk and

www.ecatsbridge.com

Also, see <http://www.bbc.co.uk/pudsey/>

Lederer Date Change

The Lederer Memorial Trophy competition at the Young Chelsea Bridge Club in London will be on November 1-2, 2008, not October 25-26, as was previously announced. The date change was necessitated by the proximity of the International Mind Sports Association Championships in Beijing.

Card Combination/ Percentages Gadget

Harold Schogger brings to the attention of journalists and members an online gadget that calculates percentage probabilities of any card combination:

<http://www.automaton.gr/tt/en/OddsTbl.htm>

haroldschogger@haroldschogger.com

www.haroldschogger.com

+44 (0)20 8905 3877



Correspondence...

The Editor reserves the right to abridge and/or edit correspondence

Email: ibpaeditor@sympatico.ca

Dear John,

Regarding your August 10, 2007, editorial concerning Junior Bridge, the problem quite simply is that the WBF is holding to an upper age of 26 for Juniors (and 28 for the IMSA Championships).

When the ACBL Educational Foundation was asked for money to support the Junior Program, this request was turned down. As you mentioned, the ACBL cancelled the Junior Camp; the idea of sending youth as young as 14 or 15 to a camp with 26-year-old adults is not acceptable. It was found that the level of oversight by adult chaperons was very minimal at these Junior Camps. Your editorial seems to excuse alcohol abuse, drugs, escort services, and "youthful highjinks" because "what one does in the privacy of one's own home (or hotel room, by extension) is no one else's business."

I have taken students from the age of 15 to 18 to seminars in Washington, D.C., and the program is highly regulated so that our sponsors and parents will continue to support the program. No alcohol or drugs are allowed. If either is found, the student is immediately placed on an airplane and flown home at the parents' expense. There are monitors on each floor of the hotel, which are either male or female, and the students are not allowed to wander the hotel from 11 pm to 6 am. There are coordinators with the students at all times during the day.

In the US, we expect adults to be out in society working and supporting themselves by the age of 22, unless in graduate school. To think that a 28-year-old (or even a 26-year-old) person should be thought of as a Junior stretches the definition. The ACBL does have events for college age youth. The Educational Foundation, in November, established a Youth Bridge Fund for those under the age of 20. There are successful programs in Atlanta and Toronto for elementary school-aged children, supported by the ACBL and the Educational Foundation. In 2008, there will be a national tournament for elementary school students in Atlanta. Consequently the ACBL believes, and financially supports, the reality that bringing young people into the game is extremely important. Perhaps it is time for the WBF and the EBL to redefine "Junior Bridge."

Warm Regards, Jerry Thorpe, Tacoma, WA

Jerry brings up many interesting points worthy of consideration for the WBF. Yes, I believe that alcohol, drugs, and sex are health issues, not moral issues.

Dear Editor,

The USBF did the right thing by dropping all the charges against the Venice Cup players, but as to the motivation for doing it...it may simply be that public opinion both within the bridge world, and outside it, was massively against them.

Jared Johnson, Bridge Columnist, Denver Post; Editor & Writer, Contract Bridge Forum

Jared included an incisive column he'd authored for the Denver Post, in which he made the following points:

- This is probably the biggest bridge story to spill over into the general population and national press in decades.
- For some folks the time is never right for free speech. It's always the wrong time, the wrong place, or the wrong topic.
- The USBF, not the players, catalyzed the controversy.
- There is much to be said for the idea of keeping bridge and politics separate, but that's quite a different matter from the notion of imposing sanctions on those who choose not to do so.
- Not only in the print media, but also on the supposedly more conservative blogosphere, where there was an explosion of stories and commentary, opinion ran overwhelmingly and devastatingly against the USBF.
- Unless one accepts the old adage that any publicity is good publicity, this was shaping up to be the biggest public relations disaster in the history of modern bridge.
- It is probably good that the two sides elected to copilot in for a soft landing.

We agree wholeheartedly on all points.

Dear Sir,

Although I usually prefer to call you John, I choose this salutation to express my respect for you and the work you do as our editor.

You are a brave man. You raise controversial issues, and even have the guts to bring forward your own opinions. However, it is not easy to be 'in opposition' to the establishment, opposition being what one is called as soon as one's opinion differs from the official one.

I have seen dignitaries and others try to discipline you more than once. I was happy to see you standing your ground. Not necessarily because you were right, but because freedom of speech should never be tampered with.

Bridge columnists do not normally write about small organizational shortcomings at international championships. However, for the first time since I became a member of IBPA in 1975, I experienced that there were not enough bags at the World Championships in Shanghai so that all journalists could have one. (There was not even a program to be had.) Not all officials were overwhelmingly polite when I talked to them about this. Not even all those who paid the (considerable) entrance fee to play the Transnationals got a bag. Or a refund.

If one wants to raise an issue of some critical nature, it would be very hard to find a suitable arena away from those provided by the IBPA. Newsletters and international championship bulletins are surely not such arenas; your article would just not be printed. This happened in Shanghai, has happened before, and will happen again. (And I really understand, and to a certain extent accept that.)

So we need the IBPA forum, we need the IBPA Bulletin, and we need you, John. Please keep up the good work!

Best regards, Jon Sveindal, Nyborg, Norway

Thanks. It's nice to receive a laudatory letter once in a while.

Dear Sirs,

The fixes I have seen to the 20 Victory Point scale seem much worse than the original. Luck will always be a factor, and the best scoring system is the one which minimizes the role of luck and maximizes the effect of playing well. With win/loss scoring, it is too easy for bad luck to put you out of contention. Also a 1 IMP difference being worth ¼ of a match, if it is just at the right score, increases the role of luck.

With the 20 VP scale, the biggest wins almost always depend in part on luck. In my experience, a noticeably better team will often win a short match by about a vulnerable game swing (10 IMPs) and rarely lose by that much. But it is not uncommon for the better team to get unlucky enough to lose by 3 or 4 IMPs, so I propose a 10 victory point scale that makes a 10 IMP victory a full win. For longer matches I suggest a modified 20 VP scale.

For matches of fewer than 16 boards:

IMPs	VPs	IMPs	VPs
0	5-5	3-5	8-2
1	6-4	6-9	9-1
2	7-3	10+	10-0

For matches of 16 boards or more:

IMPs	VPs	IMPs	VPs
0	10-10	6-7	16-4
1	11-9	8-10	17-3
2	12-8	11-14	18-2
3	13-7	15-19	19-1
4	14-6	20+	20-0
5	15-5		

In addition to minimizing the role of luck, using these scales will increase the excitement for teams that run into early bad luck; they will know that a string of solid

victories will put them back in contention. Instead of needing 'swingly' hands they need only outplay their opponents on sets with an average number of potential swings.

Sincerely yours, N. Scott Cardell, Pullman, WA

John,

I have just seen Bulletin 515. Whilst appreciating that editors have the right to edit, I would have far preferred my letter not to have appeared at all than for it to have been emasculated. In my original version, I was careful to compare what happened at the table with a technical error made by one of the greatest players in the history of the game - both were lapses of concentration. I feel that much of the point was lost by this comparison being edited out.

Finally, it is easy for Weinstein's teammates to support his action when it doesn't cost. Maybe they would have been as supportive if the match had been lost on this board. Somehow, I doubt it.

Richard Fleet, London

The comparison you made has been made previously – I felt that our members are astute and knowledgeable enough to interpolate for themselves. And I think you do Weinstein's teammates a disservice.

Dear Mr. John Carruthers,

After three rounds of diamonds and when the spade queen gets home, a small club from hand would simply make three no trump regardless of any distribution. So the exercise taken by the declarer was not at all necessary. Please look at this point and correct me if I am wrong. Thanks.

Sudhir Kumar Ganguly, Kolkata, India

Sudhir is quite correct. Scott Cardell replied similarly, but in much greater detail. This was the deal, from the Lederer, reported by David Bird in Bulletin 515, December 2007...

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

The defence played three rounds of diamonds. Gunnar Hallberg won, played the spade queen, ducked, and ace and another spade. East won and played a fourth spade. Hallberg won, cashed the fourth diamond and played ace and a low club, making his contract when West was end-played. As our correspondents correctly point out, when the spade queen holds, a low club ensures the contract against any distribution.

World Bridge Calendar

DATES	EVENT	LOCATION	INFORMATION
2008			
Jan 12-13	2008 Marathon Contest	Sigishoara, Romania	danenescu@bridge-club.ro
Jan 14-20	57 th Hawaii Regional	Honolulu, HI	www.acbl.org
Jan 14-28	Summer Festival of Bridge	Canberra, Australia	www.abf.com.au
Jan 18-20	Bergen International Tournament	Bergen, Norway	www.storturneringen.no
Jan 26-Feb 2	Bermuda Regional	Southampton, Bermuda	www.bermudaregional.com
Feb 1	PABF Simultaneous Pairs	Clubs in Pacific Asia	www.scba.org.sg
Feb 1-6	EBU Overseas Congress	Lanzarote, Spain	www.ebu.co.uk
Feb 4-16	School Bridge League Valentine's Day Tournament - Online -		schoolbridgeleague@leagueworldwide.org
Feb 5-11	12 th NEC Festival	Yokohama, Japan	www.jcbl.or.jp
Feb 7-16	42 nd Israel Bridge Festival	Tel-Aviv, Israel	www.ibf-festival.org
Feb 9-10	Dinosaur Memorial	Bucharest, Romania	dragosslesan@yahoo.com
Feb 12-17	Festival des Jeux	Cannes, France	www.festivalsdusoleil.com
Feb 13-17	Yeh Bros. Cup	Kaohsiung, Taiwan	pat_hwang2002@yahoo.com.tw
Feb 13-17	Icelandair Open	Reykjavik, Iceland	www.bridge.is
Feb 18-26	Festival Biarritz	Biarritz, France	www.biarritz-hiver.com
Feb 21-26	Cairo Bridge Festival	Cairo, Egypt	www.egypt-bridge.org
Feb 22-24	White House International Teams	Amsterdam, Netherlands	jvcleeff@xs4all.nl
Feb 23-Mar 1	Gold Coast Congress	Broadbeach, Australia	www.qldbridge.com/gcc
Mar 3-9	Montegrotto Bridge Festival	Montegrotto, Italy	www.federbridge.it
Mar 6-16	ACBL Spring NABC	Detroit, MI	www.acbl.org
Mar 7	PABF Simultaneous Pairs	Clubs in Pacific Asia	www.scba.org.sg
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
Mar 27-30	Ceahlau Trophy	Piatra Neamt, Romania	liviu@alsoft.ro
Mar 30-31	Isle of Man Congress	Isle of Man	www.ebu.co.uk
Apr 8-13	Kitzbüheler Bridgewoche	Kitzbühl, Austria	www.bridgeaustria.at
Apr 25-May 8	Festival Juan-les-Pins	Juan-les-Pins, France	www.festivalsdusoleil.com
Apr 28-May 10	School Bridge League End of Year Spring Tournament - Online -		schoolbridgeleague@leagueworldwide.org
Apr 30-May 1	Bonn Nations Cup	Bonn, Germany	g.mattsson@t-online.de
May 1-9	South Africa National Congress	Cape Town, South Africa	www.sabf.co.za
May 12-18	XXI Torneo de Bridge Costa Calida	Murcia, Spain	http://bridgecc.com
May 16-18	13 th Southern Regional	Port of Spain, Trinidad, WI	www.cacbf.com
May 23-27	20 th Cyprus Festival	Limassol, Cyprus	www.bridge.org.cy/festivals.shtm
May 23-Jun 1	10 th German Bridge Festival	Wyk auf Föhr, Germany	www.bridge-verband.de
Jun 6&7	Worldwide Simultaneous Pairs	Clubs Worldwide	www.worldbridge.org
Jun 4-8	Geologi Cup	Bandung, Indonesia	www.gabsi.or.id
Jun 14-28	49 th European Championships	Pau, France	www.eurobridge.org
Jun 17-18	26 th International Bridge Festival	Albena, Bulgaria	www.bridgealbena.org
Jul 1-13	Biarritz International Festival	Biarritz, France	www.biarritz-bridge.com
Jul 3-6	1 st Youth NABC	Atlanta, GA	www.acbl.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
Aug 3-9	Wachauer Bridgewoche	Loiben, Austria	www.bridgeaustria.at
Aug 8-17	Summer Congress	Brighton, England	www.ebu.co.uk
Aug 29-Sep 7	6 th PABF Congress/1st Asian Cup	Surfer's Paradise, Australia	www.qldbridge.com
Sep 2-7	4 th World University Championships	Lodz, Poland	www.unibridge.org
Sep 6-13	47 th International Bridge Festival	Pula, Croatia	www.crobridge.com/pula
Sep 10-14	Festival del Bridge	Venice, Italy	www.federbridge.it
Sep 26-28	Vilnius Cup	Vilnius, Lithuania	k.vasauskaite@transp.lt
Sep 27-Oct 5	New Zealand National Congress	Hamilton, NZ	www.nzcba.co.nz
Oct 3-18	13 th World Bridge Games (was Olympiad)	Beijing, China	www.worldbridge.org
Oct 3-18	1 st World Mind Sports Games	Beijing, China	www.worldbridge.org
Oct 3-18	12 th World Youth Championships	Beijing, China	www.worldbridge.org
Oct 5-7	Oltania Team Cup	Gura Vail, Romania	www.ecatsbridge.com
Nov 1-2	62 nd Lederer Memorial Trophy	London, England	www.metrobridge.co.uk
Nov 20-23	29 th International Bridge Festival	Brasov, Romania	bridge-club-brasov@as.ro
Nov 20-30	ACBL Fall NABC	Boston, MA	www.acbl.org
Nov 24&26	European Simultaneous Pairs	Clubs in Europe	www.ecatsbridge.com
Nov 28-30	Sicily Open	Cefalu, Italy	www.federbridge.it
Dec 6-8	Citta di Milano International Teams	Milan, Italy	www.federbridge.it
Dec 19-21	Junior Channel Trophy	Belgium	www.ebu.co.uk