



BULLETIN

www.ibpa.com

mail@ibpa.com

President:

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

Chairman:

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

Executive Vice-President:

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

Organizational Vice-President:

DILIP GIDWANI
401 Mariden, 16th Road Bandra West
Mumbai 400 050 INDIA
(91) 22 98205 47150 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 Emeriti:

TOMMY SANDSMARK (NORWAY)
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Editor: John Carruthers

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Editorial

The World Championships are fabulous events, wonderful to play in, and, regardless of whether your team is competitive or not, or what your expectations are, great experiences. After much tweaking over the years, the World Bridge Federation arrived at a formula for the Bermuda Bowl, Venice Cup and Senior Bowl in Shanghai that was almost perfect. Perfect from a player's point of view, perfect from a visiting spectator's point of view, perfect from an online spectator's point of view and yes, it must be said, perfect from a journalist's point of view.

All three main events comprised the same number of teams, 22. All three events allowed a complete round robin of 21 matches over 7 days. All matches were 16 boards in length, allowing no team the excuse that they were exhausted by the time the knockout rounds came along. All three series even played the same boards, allowing for much more interesting dinner discussions and statistical comparisons, etc. And the bidding and play were recorded for all deals!

For the first time ever, the knockout matches consisted of no more than three 16-board sets per day, again providing for a much higher level of play in the final stages than in the past. I have heard it said by contestants in the 1970s and 80s World Championships that the teams that win nowadays are not as strong as those from their time. Nonsense! Until this year, the teams reaching the final of the Championships were merely exhausted from the number of boards they'd played. No longer. The quarterfinals were all played simultaneously, 96 boards over two days. It was the same with the semifinals. Only when the finals were reached did the Bermuda Bowl extend an extra two sessions after the Venice Cup and Senior Bowl were finished, thus comprising eight sessions of 16 boards each rather than six 16-board sets.

This is my first quibble with the new scheme (did you guess there would be one?), and it really is a minor one. How about making all three series equivalent in length? There seems no real reason to do otherwise, now that the Transnational Teams encroaches on the Bermuda Bowl's domain anyway. Not that this is a new quibble – they've always ended the other two (or one) events earlier, insisting that the Bermuda Bowl is the flagship event and should have the spotlight on its own. So, first improvement, either find a way to finish the Transnational Teams a day earlier, or finish the Venice Cup and Senior Bowl concurrently with the Bermuda Bowl.

Secondly, a bronze medal is a significant accomplishment in any field. In no field of endeavour I can think of other than bridge is it treated by the administrators as an afterthought. In some sports such as boxing two bronze medals are awarded because losing semifinalists are frequently battered enough to make another match inadvisable from a health standpoint. No such considerations apply to bridge, however, so the bronze medal matches should be significant, just as long as the final matches, or nearly so. In Shanghai, as in some previous world championships, the bronze-medal matches were 48 boards in length, as opposed to 96 boards for the Venice Cup and Senior Bowl, and 128 for the Bermuda Bowl. The bronze-medal matches should also be 96 boards in length. (Or, alternatively, give two bronze medals.)

Nevertheless, the actual playoff is infinitely preferable to some of the travesties which have occurred in the past. One example will suffice: in the 1988 Olympiad in Venice, the bronze medals were awarded to the losing semifinalist which had the higher Victory Point average in the Round Robin, even though the two teams in each series (Open and Women) were in different qualifying groups, with different numbers of teams, and had not played a single team in common!

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 Indian Winter Nationals

TC Pant, New Delhi

Bharuch today is a large seaport city of more than a million inhabitants and is a municipality in Bharuch district in the state of Gujarat, India. Bharuch is situated 70 kilometres from Vadodara. It is an ancient town with a 2000 year history. On a hilltop is a fort, which overlooks the river Narmada.

As a trading depot, the limitations of coastal shipping made Bharuch a regular terminus for several mixed trade routes of the fabled spice and silk trade between East and West, and it became known to history by various names such as Bharakuccha, Bhrigu Kaksha (the domain of Bhrigu, an ancient Indian sage), Bhroach, as well as Bhrauch.

Bharuch was once a small village on the banks of the Narmada River, but with that river's inland access to central and northern India and with a location in the sheltered Gulf of Khambat in the era of coastal sea travel, Bharuch grew and prospered as a trading transshipment center and ship building port. Until very modern times, the most effective way to move goods was by water transport, and Baruch had sheltered waters in an era without weather forecasting, compasses, and when shipping was necessarily limited to coastal navigation. The general east-to-west course of the Narmada gave access to the rich inland empires at the upper reaches of the Narmada, including easy caravan access to the Ganges valley and Delhi plain.

By the 500s BC, the city was known (at least by reputation, via land-sea routes reaching the Levant) to the Arab and Ethiopian traders feeding goods westwards to the Egyptians, Greeks, Persians, Western Romans, Carthaginians, and eventually, the Eastern Roman Empires, and the Republic of Venice. It is likely even the Phoenicians knew of it and so it has acted since antiquity as a link port to the luxury goods trade from the Far East and the interior of the Indian sub-continent to the civilizations of southwest Asia, the Middle East, and the Mediterranean basin, including northern Africa and Europe.



Bharuch Mandir

A WELL-PLAYED HAND FROM DAY 2

Mr. Gobind Singha, one of the senior-most bridge players of India, played this hand in Round 9 of the Team of Four event in Group "B" (84 teams total in two groups.)

Team #35 (Malani) vs. Team #20 (Rajasthan)
Dealer North. Both Vul.

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

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

Lead: ♠2

South (declarer, Mr. Gobind Singha) played the ten from dummy, which won the trick. He now played the heart

queen, which held, but the nine from East awoke the declarer. He played a club from dummy and East's queen held the trick. East continued with a club, and West, after taking with the ace, played a diamond taken in dummy with the ace. Declarer now came to hand with the ace of hearts and finessed the jack of spades. He cashed the top spades, discarding a diamond from hand.

South took the diamond king and ruffed a diamond in hand. A club from hand produced the tenth trick. Only if declarer plays a second high heart from the dummy early, the defence will prevail.

QF3 (FORMIDABLES vs. INDIA BLUES) THE IMPORTANCE OF SIGNALLING I

The three-session quarterfinal match between Formidables & India Blues invoked the maximum interest for the kibitzers. Formidables took the first set of 12 boards by a score of 32-21 and India Blues turned the tables by taking the second set by 30 IMPs (45-15). The third and last set of 12 boards started with India Blues leading the match by 19 IMPs. The writer watched the third set in the closed room. Missed chances was the theme.

Board 1. Dealer North. Neither Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>P Sridhar</i>	<i>K Nadar</i>	<i>SK Iyengar</i>	<i>B Satya</i>
—	2 ♣	Pass	2 ♥ ¹
Pass	3 NT	Pass	Pass

1. Negative

Declarer took advantage of a very messy defence here. West led the jack of hearts, declarer taking the ace and playing the diamond queen (hoping for five hearts trick, two club tricks and one each in diamonds and spades). West ducked this and now declarer cashed the top hearts and played the fourth heart to East. East now shifted to club six to dummy's eight, the queen and the ace.

Declarer cashed the last heart and West faltered by discarding a club. Declarer now cashed the king of clubs and played a diamond. West was able to take the last three diamond tricks but was then forced to play a spade. When declarer allowed it to run to the queen, it

was all over for the defence. Two spades, four hearts, one diamond and two top clubs made up the nine required tricks for plus 400. If West does not duck the queen of diamonds the contract cannot be made.

The India Blues NS (J.M. Shah – Sandeep Karmarkar) played the hand in four hearts doubled, which went only off one, minus 100, giving 11 IMPs to Formidables.

Board 3. Dealer South EW Vul

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

West	North	East	South
—	—	—	Pass
1 ♥	Pass	1 ♠	Pass
2 ♣	Pass	2 ♥	Pass
Pass	Pass		

Declarer rather lost his way here. North led the six of diamonds and declarer, after winning with the ace, played a heart to the jack and ace. South continued with the diamond five, declarer discarding a club from hand and winning in dummy with the king. A low club was led to the ten, jack and North's ace. The diamond continuation was ruffed by declarer, the club and spade kings were cashed, then the spade jack played to the ace.

Declarer ruffed a spade, which was over-ruffed by North, who promptly gave South a club ruff. Another spade was played by South and the king-nine of hearts of North fetched the last two tricks for the defence. The contract was down one for plus 100 to Formidables. In the closed room, EW played in two hearts for plus 140 and 6 IMPs for Formidables.

PSYCHIC DOUBLE

Dealer South. Neither Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
—	—	—	1 NT
Pass	2 ♣	Pass	2 ♦
Pass	4 NT	Pass	5 ♦
Pass	6 NT	Double	Pass
Pass	Pass		

This hand is from the fourth session of IMP Pairs. Seeing all the four hands it is difficult to imagine that the declarer went down in slam.

South's one no trump was 15-17 and he denied a four-card major on the Stayman enquiry by partner. Four no trump was simple Blackwood and five diamonds showed two aces. East-West were Samir Pal & P.K. Bera and Samir tried the psychic double weapon for declarer to go wrong.

The lead was the ten of hearts. Declarer took it in dummy and tried the spade finesse, which lost. The heart continuation was taken in hand and declarer after going to dummy with a top diamond tried the club finesse. That also lost and the double had done its job. Declarer's table presence might be questioned.

THE IMPORTANCE OF SIGNALLING II

Board 3. Dealer South. EW Vul.

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

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

South's one diamond was Precision and North's two no trump showed 11-12 balanced, denying a four-card major. South accepted the invitation with a bare minimum. On the four of diamonds lead, declarer played low from dummy and West won the trick with the jack and shifted to his fourth-best heart. East's queen was allowed to win and East continued with the heart nine, declarer again playing low and West putting up the king to play back the ten. Declarer won with the ace in dummy, East discarding a club.

Declarer now played the spade two from dummy and West made the first mistake of not putting the jack on this (signaling the ten with him). Declarer took with the ace and now it was the turn of East to falter, when

he did not chuck the spade king on ace. When another low spade was played, East took the trick with king and now it was easy for the declarer to score his nine tricks, consisting of three spades, one heart, three diamonds and two clubs. Had West rightly signaled his spade holding, it would have been easy for East to chuck the spade king under the ace, although he should find the play anyway.

BAM FINAL

Board 10. Dealer East. Both Vul.

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

The bidding at the Rajesh Dalal-Sunit Chokshi (Formidables) table:

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

The bidding at the Pritish Kushari-Aloke Sadhu (Dhampur Sugar Mills) table:

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

Except for a small variation in bidding, the grand slam was bid easily.

Winners of the major events were:

Ashok Ruia Gold Trophy for Open Teams
FORMIDABLES TEAM - Kiran Nadar-B Satyanarayana,
Subhash Gupta-KR Venkatraman, Rajesh Dalal-Sunit
Choksi

Holkar Trophy for Open Pairs: Keyzad Anklesaria-
Uttam Gupta

Mohan Sicka Memorial Trophy for BAM Teams:
NALCO TEAM - A. Rout, J. Pratihari, D.N. Lenka, B.M.
Behera, I. Khan, S.K. Pradhan.

IBPA Column Service

Tim Bourke, Canberra

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

421. Dealer South. E-W Vul.

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

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

The auction was fairly straightforward, with South's three notrump bid requesting a cue bid. North showed a control in clubs but denied one in hearts, which was enough for South to bid the small slam in spades.

West led the queen of clubs. Declarer won in hand with the ace and cashed the ace of trumps. When both opponents followed, he put his plan of an elimination play into action.

After cashing the ace of diamonds, he crossed to dummy by playing the eight of trumps to dummy's jack and ruffed the nine of diamonds with the king of trumps. Next he cashed the king of clubs and ruffed dummy's remaining club with the queen of trumps. As both minor suits had been eliminated, declarer demonstrated the way to make at least three tricks in hearts, by crossing to dummy and leading the carefully-preserved three of trumps to the six and then leading the four of hearts to his queen.

West took this with the king and, as he had a count of the South hand as originally a 6=4=2=1 shape, he could see that returning the ten or nine of hearts was useless; declarer would win in hand with the ace and finesse dummy's eight of hearts on the way back. So he tried a tricky seven of hearts. However, when declarer called for dummy's eight of hearts, West conceded the rest of the tricks.

If the queen of hearts had held, declarer planned to lead the two of hearts towards dummy, intending to duck in dummy if West showed out; East would then have to win the trick and give declarer his twelfth trick either leading away from the king of hearts or by conceding a ruff and discard. Of course if West followed to the second round of hearts with a low card, declarer would call for dummy's jack of hearts. This would hold if West had the king of hearts and if East had that card, the suit would have been 3-2 originally, giving declarer three heart tricks.

So, no matter how the hearts divided, declarer found a plan to make certain of his contract unless a defender had started with ten diamonds and forgot to bid!

422. Dealer South. Both Vul.

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

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

The two notrump response promised around 8 to 10 points and the rest of the bidding was natural. West led the queen of diamonds and declarer took this with dummy's king, drew trumps in three rounds and cashed the ace-king of spades. When the 5-1 division came to light there was no way to make twelve tricks.

After winning the first trick and cashing two trumps in hand, declarer should draw the last defensive trump with the ace. Next, he should make certain of his contract by leading the ten of spades and running it when East follows with the three. After West produces the jack of spades, declarer claims his contract; he makes

four spades, four trumps, three tricks from the minors and another trick by ruffing a minor suit card.

423. Dealer West. E-W Vul.

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

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

When South showed a hand too strong for a simple overall of the weak two in hearts, North checked on key cards and then bid the slam.

Declarer played the hand quickly, without giving any thought to a plan of attack. He drew three rounds of trumps, finding that he had a trump loser, and then cashed the king of clubs. Next he played a club to dummy's jack and was dismayed when East took this with the queen. The jack of trumps proved to be the setting trick.

All that was needed here was giving some thought to overcoming the combination of a 4-1 trump division and East holding the queen of clubs. While little could be done if West had four trumps, it is a simple matter to counter the case when East had four trumps as long as East began with at least one diamond.

The idea behind overcoming the layout shown was to strip East of hearts. This essential step is to ruff a heart at trick two. Then after cashing the three top trumps, declarer crosses to dummy with the king of diamonds and ruffs dummy's last heart, leaving East with the master trump and five cards in the minors.

Declarer now runs the diamonds, giving East an unwelcome choice of how to concede the contract.. If he ruffs, the forced club return would be into dummy's club tenace, giving declarer a third club trick and his contract. If East chooses to discard two clubs on the third and fourth round of diamonds, the king and ace of clubs will become declarer's eleventh and twelfth tricks.

Note that if East began with five diamonds his original distribution was 4=3=5=1 and, after two rounds of

diamonds, declarer makes sure of the contract by cashing the king of clubs then finessing appropriately in clubs, leaving East without recourse.

424. Dealer South. Both Vul.

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

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

After the negative double and South's jump to four hearts, North enquired about key cards and bid five notrump to confirm that all of the relevant cards were held. South was happy to bid the grand slam because he had a potential source of extra tricks in the spade suit.

Declarer proceeded to show how the contract should be played. He took the king of diamonds with the ace, cashed the king of trumps and continued with the nine of trumps to his ace. Next he cashed the ace-king of spades and ruffed a spade with dummy's jack of trumps. The five of trumps was led to East's seven and declarer's eight. After drawing the last trump with the jack, declarer claimed four spade tricks, a spade ruff, four trumps and four minor suit tops.

As you can see any less careful way of managing the trumps sees declarer fail. Cashing the king and jack of trumps will result in East overruffing dummy on the third round of spades. Also, failing to unblock the nine of trumps will prevent you drawing trumps after ruffing the third round of spades high. No matter what declarer does from there, East will score a trump trick.

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AVOIDING THE GUESS

GeO Tislevoll, Norway

This hand was played in a game on BBO not long ago. It includes a fine, but not extraordinary squeeze-endplay, but also some more when looking into the hand a little deeper. What looks like a standard 50-50 guess early in the play is in this hand a choice declarer shouldn't make, because it doesn't matter where the two vital honours are placed.

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

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

Declarer was the Norwegian Kjell Gaute Fyrun. He received the spade six (third/fifth as an opening lead). The position of the defenders' heart honours are not necessarily correct in this diagram. I will not tell you where they really were placed when the hand was actually played, so it remains a guess for you for the time being.

Fyrun won the first trick with the spade eight. Then he cashed dummy's spade jack before playing a club to the queen followed by the club ace. If that suit had behaved nicely he could have claimed twelve tricks already, but since East proved to have a stopper in the suit, there were only eleven top tricks. One line from here is to play a diamond to the queen and hearts towards declarer's hand. When East follows with a low heart declarer will have to guess if East is holding the queen or the ace. But this guess is, with most layouts, unnecessary if declarer follow Fyrun's line. He avoided the heart guess and cashed his spades discarding one club and two hearts from dummy. East had to keep two clubs, of course, and he wanted also to keep hearts as long as possible. So he threw one heart and two diamonds. West discarded a useless diamond. Then declarer cashed ace-king of diamonds, and these cards were left:

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

Notice that the top hearts in East and West are changed to question marks. But does it really matter who has the queen and who has the ace? When declarer played a diamond to the queen East had to let go a heart. Then heart jack, and if East follows with the queen, South plays low! West cannot take the trick with his ace, if he does South's king will be good. So East has to be left in on the queen only to have the doubtful pleasure of playing a club into North's king-ten. And finally, East cannot throw all his hearts including the queen. If that's the case declarer simply plays the jack of hearts. West must give him the trick with the jack, or take the trick with his ace only to be the stepping stone for declarer's heart king!

Fyrun's line is probably the best since he normally does not need to guess the heart situation. He will win his contract every time the heart honours are separated (or if East has both). The only time this line will fail is when West has the ace of hearts and the length in diamonds, but then declarer could also have gone wrong by guessing wrong when playing on the straightforward line, trying to establish a heart trick early. When the hand was played East actually had the heart ace, and he was squeezed and endplayed in the diagrammed position. Note that if East and West swap heart honours, like in the first diagram, Fyrun also wins his contract. Then East would have been squeezed and endplayed the same way, and in that case squeezed in three suits where he has the stopper in only one!

COMING UP (CAM)ROSES

Mark Horton, London

Although England eventually inflicted a severe defeat on the Contract Bridge Association of Ireland team in the first of the two Camrose Trophy weekends, it was their opponents who took the lead on the very first deal of the match when they delivered a perfect natural auction to a slam missed at every other table:

Dealer North. Neither Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Hallberg	Pigot	McIntosh	Moran
—	1♣	Pass	1♥
Pass	2♠	Pass	3♣
Pass	3♠	Pass	4♦
Pass	4♥	Pass	5♣
Pass	6♣	Pass	Pass

There were two key bids, the first being North's jump to two spades, which established a game-forcing situation. The second came when, having given preference to clubs, Mark Moran appreciated the potential importance of his singleton diamond and took the opportunity to cue bid four diamonds. When he bid five clubs over North's cue bid of four hearts, Peter Pigot realised that his partner's trump support must be significant and went on to the laydown slam. If they go on to collect the IBPA award for the best bid hand of the year, those Irish eyes really will be smiling.

TIMES BRIDGE

Phillip Alder, Hobe Sound, FL
(From the New York Times)

Apart from the fun of watching the play during matches broadcast live over the Internet at www.bridgebase.com, it is also interesting to read the remarks made by the commentators.

Dealer East. Both Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Pierre Zimmerman Marie	Philippe Toffier	Franck Multon	Thierry de Sainte Marie
—	—	1♣	1♠
Pass	2♥	Pass	3♥
Pass	3♠	Pass	3NT
Pass	4♠	Pass	Pass

Lead: ♦4

The diagrammed deal occurred on Dec. 22 in the final of the French trials. What would you say about South's one-spade overcall? Both Hervé Mouiel and Thierry de Sainte Marie overcalled one spade.

One person typed, "I would always pass, not bid one spade." Harsh. A French observer effectively said, "No comment on Mouiel's one spade - I only comment on the bridge." Harsher. And a former partner of mine typed, "I prefer dying to one spade." Harshest.

At the other table, Alain Lévy (North) advanced Mouiel's intervention with a two-club cue-bid, showing spade support and at least game-invitational values. South rebid two spades, which was passed out. Not under any pressure, Mouiel won nine tricks.

At this table, Philippe Toffier (North) advanced de Sainte Marie's overcall with a forcing two hearts. (I like this agreement, although a majority of experts treat the bid as encouraging but nonforcing.) It is slightly surprising that South did not continue with two no-trump, but, presumably expecting his partner to have a six-card suit, he raised to three hearts. North rebid a forcing three spades. Now South suggested three no-trump, which could have been defeated after a low-club or low-diamond lead. And North understandably retreated to four spades.

This auction would not win many marks in a bidding contest, but the play's the thing, and de Sainte Marie handled the cards perfectly to benefit from the lucky layout. Pierre Zimmermann (West) judged from the bidding that a diamond start would be best. Declarer ducked the first round and took the second. He then cashed his three club tricks, discarding dummy's remaining diamond.

If South had ruffed his diamond loser, he would have been in the wrong hand. Realizing this, declarer played a heart to dummy's nine. Franck Multon (East) won with his ace and returned a diamond, ruffed on the board. South cashed dummy's heart king, ruffed a heart in his hand (East threw a club) and played a spade to the ten, jack and king to give this position:

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

East led his club jack: ruff, overruff, overruff. Now a heart from the board executed a trump coup. South had his eight-six of spades hovering over East's seven-three.

If you bid up, you must play up, as de Sainte Marie did here. Minus 140 and plus 620 gave de Sainte Marie's team 10 IMPs in a losing cause.

Dealer North. EW Vul.

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

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

Lead: ♣7

The basic suit-preference signal was invented by Hy Lavinthal in 1934. Suppose the contract is four spades. You lead a singleton club. Partner, bless his or her boots, wins with the club ace and gives you a club ruff. If only you could get partner back on lead, you could get a second ruff and defeat the contract. But do you shift to a spade, heart or diamond?

In these situations you usually ignore the trump suit. Partner's club choice at trick two tells you which side suit to return. If his entry is in hearts, he leads back his highest club, the high card signaling his preference for the higher-ranking of the other two side suits. If his entry is in diamonds, he leads his lowest club. (And if he has either no re-entry card or equal holdings in the red suits, he returns a middle club.)

But what if the dummy makes it obvious that shifting to one of the red suits cannot possibly get partner in?

The diagramed deal occurred during the Edgar Kaplan Winter Regional in New York City last month. East's opening bid would not have appealed to everyone because his heart suit was weak. But he did not have a rebid problem.

Against four spades, Ira Herman of New York guessed well to lead his club seven. East took the trick with his ace and cashed the club king, which showed that he started with ace-king doubleton. (With A-K-x or longer in clubs, East would have taken the first trick with the king.)

It was now Herman's job to tell his partner how to get him on play so that East could receive a club ruff. Realizing that a diamond shift could not be right, Herman made a brilliant play, dropping his club queen under partner's king to call for a spade shift. If East had gotten the message, West would have won the third trick with his spade ace and given his partner a club ruff to defeat the contract.

East, though, shifted to a heart. South won with his ace and cashed dummy's two top diamonds, discarding his last club. Then declarer played on trumps, making his contract for the loss of two clubs and one spade.

Sadly, a rarely seen suit-preference signal for trumps went for naught.

Dealer South. Neither Vul.

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

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

Lead: ♣7

You are playing in a team-of-four match. Your table finishes much quicker than the one where your teammates are playing. You could get up and move around, or you could chat with your opponents. For a journalist talking is much the better plan, especially if you are playing against someone with a good eye for a deal.

Last November during the Fall North American Championships in San Francisco I played against Gunnar Hallberg, a Swede who has lived in England for many

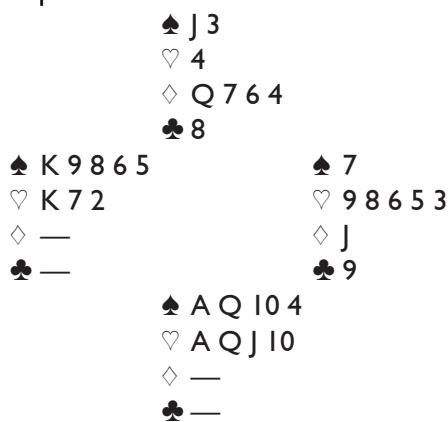
years. He told me about the diagrammed deal, which occurred in the high stakes game at TGR's Bridge Club in London.

Hallberg's partner overbid badly. His sequence of two diamonds followed by three diamonds showed 10 or 11 high-card points, not seven. He should have responded (a nonforcing) one no-trump, hoping to rebid in diamonds on the next round. West, thinking the cards lay badly for declarer, chanced a penalty double. In one way this was well timed, because the contract could have been defeated. But in another way it was silly, because it helped declarer to place the cards.

West led his club seven. How should Hallberg have planned the play?

Declarer had only three top tricks: one spade, one heart and one club. He could get one diamond trick, but even if West had ace-doubleton, the spade jack did not look like a timely dummy entry. And the major-suit finesses were clearly losing. Things looked grim. But Hallberg loves this type of deal.

First, he made the key play of calling for dummy's club jack and capturing East's king with his ace. A diamond to dummy's king was followed by a low diamond from the board, bringing down West's ace. West cashed his club queen and club ten, South discarding a spade to give this position:



If West had shifted to a low spade, declarer would have won with the jack on the board, cashed the diamonds and taken nine tricks: two spades, one heart, five diamonds and one club. Realizing this, West exited with a low heart. That, though, only delayed the inevitable. South won with his queen and cashed the heart ace. If West had unblocked his king, declarer would have taken the rest of the hearts, then led a low spade toward dummy's jack. But when West retained his heart king, he was endplayed with it, forced to open up spades.

That was brilliantly played by Hallberg, but did you spot the fatal defensive error?

Three no-trump doubled and made was worth 550 points. East-West, though, would have been plus 100 if East had not covered dummy's club jack with his king at

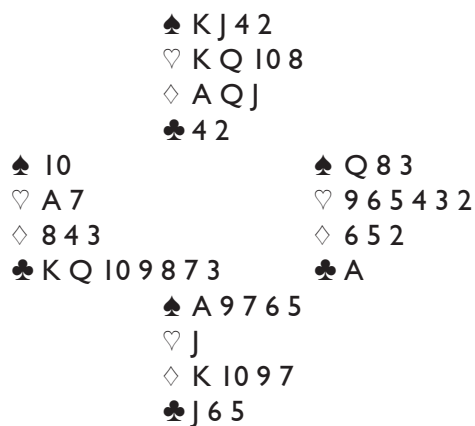
Trick 1. This would have left East with a later entry in the club king and destroyed declarer's timing for the double endplay on West. But who would have found that play? (*Perhaps Michelle Brunner!- Ed.*)

HERALD BRIDGE

Ron Klinger, Northbridge, NSW
(From the Sydney Morning Herald)

If you want to test your declarer play, cover the East-West cards on the following deal. Check the bidding below and plan your play after West leads the club king against four spades. East wins with the ace and switches to the six of hearts. West wins with the ace, cashes the club queen, on which East discards the heart four, and plays a third club. What do you do?

Dealer East. EW Vul.



West	North	East	South
—	—	Pass	Pass
3 ♣	Double	Pass	4 ♠
Pass	Pass	Pass	

Lead: ♣K

It would be too timid for South to bid only three spades in reply to the takeout double. With nine plus points, it is reasonable to try for game. A takeout double of a pre-empt will normally have six losers or fewer. South has eight losers and so $6 + 8 = 14$ total losers. Deduct from 24, according to the Losing Trick Count formula, and this means 10 potential tricks; and so South has a four-spade response.

After a pre-empt one usually places any significant high card in the other suits with the partner of the pre-emptor. After the king of clubs to the ace, heart to the ace, club queen and a third club, West has shown up with 9 HCP. With the spade queen as well, West would have a one club opening rather than a three-club opener. That is even more reason to place the queen of spades with East.

If you ruff low in dummy or do not ruff at all, East will score the spade queen and you are one down. Therefore you ruff the third club with the spade king. After that, your only hope is to find West with the bare ten of

spades. As West is much more likely to be short in spades anyway, you continue with the spade jack at trick five and let it run if East plays low. If East covers with the spade queen, you take the ace. When West drops the ten, you return to dummy with a diamond and finesse against East's remaining eight-three of spades.

If you are impressed with that coup, you will be even more impressed by the play on this deal by Daniel Geromboux of Canberra. It arose in qualifying Round 6 of the 2007 Grand National Open Teams.

Dealer South. Both Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
	<i>Mark Abraham</i>		<i>Daniel Geromboux</i>
—	—	—	1 ♠
2 ♣	3 ♣ ¹	Pass	3 ♠ ²
4 ♦	4 ♠	Pass	Pass

- Pass
 1. Strong spade raise
 2. Not forcing

Lead: ♣A

West continued with the king of clubs and a third club. How should South play?

Geromboux ruffed the third club with the spade king (very good!) and continued with the spade two, eight, nine (excellent)!

Board 18. Dealer East. NS Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Berri Folkard</i>	<i>Pauline Gumby</i>	<i>Helen Lowry</i>	<i>Warren Lazer</i>
—	—	2 ♥	2 ♠
Pass	3 ♠	Pass	4 ♠
Pass	Pass	Pass	

Lead: ♣K

The first event at the New South Wales Bridge Association each year is the New Year Teams. This year the winners were Peter Gill – Bob Richman, Murray Green – Andrew Peake (126 Victory Points). In Round 4 of the New Year Teams, Warren Lazer found a fine play to bring home his four-spade game on the diagrammed deal.

Although her hearts seemed of little value (two hearts was alleged to be a weak two), Pauline Gumby did well to raise to three spades. She followed the advice of the old adage, "With support, give support." In fact, the hearts proved essential. Lazer had quite a bit to spare for his two-spade bid and had no hesitation in pushing on to game.

West began with the club queen, ducked by Lazer. A switch to diamonds was needed now to beat four spades, but why would West find that play? She continued with the queen of clubs. Lazer took the ace of clubs and ruffed his last club with the jack of spades. He then played four rounds of trumps to reach this position:

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

Lazer knew at the outset that East had started with only five hearts. When East showed out on the third club and the second spade, she was marked with 5-5 in the red suits. Lazer played off his last spade and East discarded the nine of diamonds. A heart to the king was taken by the ace and back came the heart jack. Lazer won with dummy's queen and exited with the heart nine. East won, but had to surrender the last two diamond tricks to declarer.

EVENING STANDARD BRIDGE

David Bird, Eastleigh, UK

(From the London Evening Standard)

Dealer West. Neither Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Zein	el-Ahmady	Mohsen	Sadek
4♥	Pass	Pass	4♠
Pass	Pass	Pass	

This attractive deal comes from the final of the Egyptian Premier League, played between the Wadi Degla Club and the el-Ahly Club. West led the ace of hearts against four spades and declarer ruffed in his hand. Tarek Sadek reached dummy with a club to the ten and then led the nine of trumps to his ten, the finesse succeeding. His luck changed on the next trick, when West discarded a heart on the ace of trumps. Sadek continued with the king of clubs to West's ace and all depended on Ahmed Zein's next move.

How would you have defended? Would you have switched to a diamond or continued to force declarer's trumps with another heart?

A diamond switch would have beaten the contract. West decided to play another heart, however, and dummy's queen was covered by East's king. Sadek now made the fine play of discarding a diamond instead of ruffing. When East returned his last heart, declarer ruffed with the seven and drew two further rounds of trumps with the king and queen. He then reverted to clubs and East was powerless. If he ruffed the third or fourth club with his last trump, he would have no heart to play. If instead he refused to ruff, declarer would score six trumps, three clubs and the diamond ace, conceding the last trick. Suppose declarer had made the mistake of ruffing the second round of hearts. East would then have had a heart to play when he ruffed a club with his last trump.

HOTEL DEMOLISHED AT NORTH POLE TOURNEY

Richard Pavlicek, Ft. Lauderdale, FL

I just got back from the North Pole Regional, which ended early this year when a reindeer stampede demolished the host hotel. It all happened as a result of today's deal. The top Eskimo pair, Mush and Slush, were playing against a weak reindeer pair, Ralph and Ronald.

Mush, North, opened one no trump and Slush, South, responded two clubs, Stayman...or so he thought. The language barrier has always been a problem at this tournament, and the rules committee decreed that all bids must be made in the language of one's opponents. Unfortunately, Slush did not speak fluent reindeer and his bid was misinterpreted.

When Mush passed the 'Stayman' bid, Slush knew something was awry and asked for a review of the bidding. Ralph cheerfully stated that it went, "one no trump-pass-seven clubs-all pass."

Dealer North. Both Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
—	1 NT	Pass	7♣
Pass	Pass	Pass	

"Director!" shouted Slush. Moments later, the Tournament Director arrived and Slush explained the problem. The Director thumbed through his rule book as Slush annoyingly persisted, "I want a ruling!"

"The bid stands!" announced the Director. "Play it!" (A later examination of the rule book showed no such rule, but Director Rudolph Blitzen said his decision was impartial and unprejudiced.)

Ralph led the nine of hearts and Slush reluctantly agreed to play out the hand. He won the ten as East played low and led the diamond ten, jack, queen. A heart was led to the queen, then came the ten of spades, jack, queen. Another heart to the ace was followed by the diamond nine and spade nine, both of which won.

Slushed with success, South led the club two to dummy's nine. It won! He cashed the ace of diamonds, and ace of spades, and then ruffed dummy's last spade with his king of clubs as each reindeer helplessly underruffed. Dummy won the last two tricks with the ace-jack of clubs over West's queen-ten. Seven clubs, bid and made! On a three-two trump fit!

Word spread quickly. The floor trembled, then splintered, as the hooved creatures began to run amok. The hotel was trampled to rubble. Luckily, I escaped with only a few bruises from hoofprints.

For more of Richard Pavlicek on bridge, visit his web site at: www.rpbbridge.net

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NEWS & VIEWS

2008 Buffett Cup

The 2nd Warren Buffett Cup will take place in Louisville, Kentucky from the 15th-19th September. The website will be www.buffettcup.com

Online Women's Bridge Festival

The World Bridge Federation and BBO present a Women's Bridge Festival Pairs and Individual Championships 7th – 13th April 2008.

Anna Maria Torlontano, Chair of the WBF Women's Committee, invites players from all WBF Zones to participate in Pairs and Individual Championships. The entry fee \$1, the standard fee for most BBO pay tournaments. BBO Master Points will be awarded based on the size of the field. Players interested in participating in this new and exciting event should go to www.worldbridge.org for all the relevant information.

Jerry Thorpe

Jerry Thorpe, IBPA member, was re-elected to a one year term as President of the ACBL Educational Foundation Board of Trustees, at the National Meeting in San Francisco. The term began on January 1, 2008. The objectives of the Foundation are to increase the number of bridge players and to engage in educational instruction and research. Jerry was also elected to a three year term as the 2nd Alternate to the ACBL Board of Directors Representative for District 19.

Swedish Festival

Micke Melander, the President of the Swedish Federation, would like all IBPA Members to come to Sweden this summer.

Swedish Bridge Festival – 33 pair tournaments with either 42 or 24 boards and 10 Mini knock-out team tournaments. Cash prizes in all. All players welcome – no pre-registration just to drop in and play. Played at Conventum arena in Örebro Sweden, 25 July – 3 August. Questions to mme@svensbridge.se.

Chairman's Cup – International team tournament. All players welcome – registration has to be sent in before 25th of July. Swiss in the first two days, then knock-out. Played at Conventum arena in Örebro Sweden, 26 July – 31 July. 100,000 SEK to be distributed in cash prizes. Registration and questions to mme@svensbridge.se.

Parkinson Foundation Fund Raiser

The National Parkinson Foundation will host a luncheon-duplicate bridge fund-raiser in honour of bridge Grandmaster Zeke Jabbour. Jabbour, winner of many honours and awards, was the American Contract Bridge League 2007 "Member of the Year." The event will be held at St. Andrews Country Club in Boca Raton FL on March 30th and the proceeds will go to the foundation.

More than 40 bridge experts have volunteered their services to play in the event as partners of donors. Well over half the experts are world or national champions. Optionally, donors can come with their own partners. There are three levels of donation.

Interested persons can call event chairperson Marilyn Perlin 561 477-1325 for details.

Barry Rigal comments: As a separate issue, the deals for the event have a pre-written commentary. If anyone wants to write about the event and would like a good deal or two to write up afterwards, he will happily oblige.



Correspondence...

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

Email: ibpaeditor@sympatico.ca

José Damiani replies to David Stern's article, "The Future of Bridge".

Dear David,

Thank you for thinking about the future of bridge. Here are some of the steps already taken:

- recognition of bridge as a sport from IOC & FISU
- support of UNESCO for bridge teaching programme in schools (we put one for teachers and one interactive one for pupils on the Internet)
- two guides of development (20 pages) where we describe in detail what should be done (one new player for each registered one, shorter tournaments, etc...)
- travel all over the world to push the schools programmes, which by the way is now quite - but not enough - successful in some countries (Indonesia with 35,000 pupils, France with 10,000, China, Poland, Italy...)
- received US\$1M from B. Gates and W. Buffet (but for the US only), with no results for the time being.

You are unfortunately right. The WBF can only recommend, and it is up to the NBOs and to individuals to do the job. If they are sleeping, as apparently you believe we are ourselves, what can we do? We can only show the way, as we are with the next 2008 World Mind Sports Games.

Without any co-operation from the Zones or the NBOs, nothing can be achieved, and money is not indeed the only issue. For example, the ACBL hired a PR Agency and spent US\$200,000 without any results, refusing my personal involvement, which I regret, because I believe I have some knowledge and passion.

Frankly speaking, the problem lies in the fact that some bridge administrators are too old to take care of the future.

Regards, José Damiani, Paris

P.S.: Your membership numbers are certainly lower than actual, as many NBOs minimize membership and do not include pupils. Still, the total is poor compared to what it should be.

...and David responds...

Hi José,

Indeed, some of the matters you raise I was not aware of, which is either my fault for not doing enough research, or yours for not making the public aware of

it. In any event my article was intended to stimulate debate which, on this issue at least, is healthy. I urge you to write a response in the IBPA putting forward your view further stimulating debate.

Kind regards, David Stern, Sydney

Dear John,

One letter writer (Richard Fleet, Dec. 2007 edition) castigated Howard Weinstein for waiving the opportunity to penalize a revoke situation on grounds Howard felt he had created a 'somnambulist coup' situation by taking an inordinate amount of time before making his next play as declarer. Your correspondent thought this reflected poor sportsmanship by Howard.

I was and remain incensed by the letter. If Howard's team had been involved in a round robin match, I would feel entirely differently - then any Victory Point shift might well affect other teams' standing, and thus be unfair to other competitors. In the actual case, however, Howard was playing a straight knockout match; only his team and teammates were affected, and only they have standing to complain.

To their credit, as I would expect, they defended Howard's refusal to gain advantage by anything other than the skill with which they bid and play their cards, even if the rules would allow it (I tend to side further with Howard that his extremely slow play on this occasion might have been a violation of the Proprieties, and thus that it would be an exacerbation of the violation to profit beyond making the excellent play Howard no doubt worked out during his lengthy 'tank').

Howard, and all his teammates, are paragons of ethical play and peerless sportsmanship. Before anyone else bestirs him- or herself to write a critical letter about such exemplars of our game, they might consider that they are probably in error. As my father of blessed memory used to say, "You can let people think you a fool, or open your mouth (or put pen to paper) and remove all doubt."

Allan Falk, Okemos, MI

John,

Whilst not wishing to detract in any way from Paul Marston's imaginative declarer play, East's defence to four hearts (page 6, Bulletin 516) makes no sense. Had West's heart holding been the putative J10x, declarer would have drawn trumps and claimed. Given dummy's

trump holding, the only feasible chance for a fourth trick lies in clubs.

Richard Fleet, Berkhamsted, UK

Hi John,

What irks some of us about any VP scale is the 'on the cusp' syndrome, that some IMPs gain nothing while another IMP can gain a whole VP.

We have adopted a scale where all IMPs are equal. For short matches, say 8 boards each, where +30 would be considered a maximum win, the match is scored out of 60. Winners score 30+IMPs won (maximum 60), Losers 30-IMPs lost (minimum 0). For longer matches, say of 20 boards where +80 IMPs would produce a maximum win, Draw=80 each, Winners=80+IMPs won (max 160), Losers=0-IMPs lost (minimum 0).

Clearly you can make the maximum win whatever the organisers wish, but the point is that all IMPs have equal value.

Cheers, Ron Klinger, Nortbridge, NSW

The USBF has also adopted a similar scale, although their matches are sometimes so short that they prefer to use fractions of IMPs. Canada used to have one as well, but inadvisably went with the WBF scale for its national championships, although it is under review. – Ed.

Dear John,

I do not know if you care about these things (*I do. – Ed.*), but in the November Bulletin you listed John Wignall as from Australia, but he lives in Christchurch. (Unless you know that he has recently moved across the Tasman Sea. But if he has, the WBF needs to update its web site.)

If my suspect memory is holding up, I think he told me in Shanghai that Adele and he had considered moving to Brisbane for the warmer weather, but had gone off the idea.

Regards, Phillip Alder, Hobe Sound, FL

Dear John:

The writeup regarding Norman Selway's play of four hearts in the Lederer (No. 515, p. 6) suggests that East-West were helpless to defeat the game because of declarer's brilliant play. I don't think that is correct.

The opening lead was a trump, taken in the closed hand, and the diamond jack was led, covered by the queen and ducked in dummy. The writeup says that West does no better if he ducks the diamond jack, but whether or not West plays the queen, if East overtakes with the diamond king and returns a spade, it goes, presumably, nine, jack, five; West now leads his second trump.

Declarer wins the trump return, plays the diamond ace, takes a diamond ruff, plays a club to dummy (West

unblocks the club queen), diamond ruff, and now a club to dummy to draw the last trump. But declarer has no exit card from dummy, which remains with a trump and 108 of clubs (East has J9). So whether or not Selway's play was the best of the tournament, the defense could (should) have prevailed nonetheless.

Allan Falk, Okemos, MI

RAYMOND BROCK

1936- 1st January 2008

Raymond Brock, who has died aged 71, was, for four decades, one of Britain's leading bridge players and administrators. He was a member of the British team in 1987 that won silver at both the European and World Championships and was a World Bridge Master.

In the Home Internationals Brock had 26 caps for England as a player and, later, four as non-playing captain, including last year. Whilst resident in Glasgow in the early '70s he had seven matches for Scotland in the era when Scotland won the Camrose Trophy three times. Brock won the Gold Cup, the British knockout championships, on seven occasions.

Brock was educated at Manchester University and became a Physics teacher at a Manchester school. His international bridge career began in 1960 partnering Roy Higson of Lancashire. In 1968 Brock became a computer manager for Honeywell and moved to Glasgow. After his return to England in 1975 he lived in Middlesex and initially formed a partnership with Bill Pencharz, earning four caps for England. But his main success in British teams came from the eight-year partnership with Tony Forrester, bridge columnist of the Daily Telegraph, which began in 1982. This included the World and European silver medals and two bronze medals at Common Market Championships.

Of numerous national titles his most recent was the England Teams Championship for the Crockford's Cup in 2004. This was his sixth win in Crockford's.

As an administrator, Brock was twice President of the British Bridge League and non-playing captain of many of its teams, including a world bronze for the Women in 1980, and gold for the Juniors at the 1989 World Championships in Nottingham. He was a key figure in coaching young players and in 1994 captained the British Junior team that won the Europeans and went on to win the world title the following year in Bali. Brock was an England selector.

Brock married for the first time in 1993. His widow, Sally, is one of Britain's leading bridge players. They won the England Mixed Teams title six times and the British Mixed Pairs twice. They have two children.

Patrick Jourdain

World Bridge Calendar

DATES	EVENT	LOCATION	INFORMATION
2008			
Feb 4-16	School Bridge League Valentine's Day Tournament - Online -	schoolbridgeleague@leagueworldwide.org	
Feb 5-11	12 th NEC Festival	Yokohama, Japan	www.icbl.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	12 th Dead Sea Festival	Dead Sea, Israel	birmand@inter.net.il
Mar 9-16	White House Junior Internationals	Amsterdam, Netherlands	www.jeugdbridge.nl
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 7-13	Women's Bridge Congress	BBO	www.worldbridge.org
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 25-Aug 3	Chairman's Cup/XIV Festival	Örebro, 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 9-16	32 nd International Bridge Festival	Varna, Bulgaria	bcv_varna@hotmail.com
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 15-19	2 nd Buffett Cup	Lexington, KY	www.buffettcup.com
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 Vaii, Romania	www.ecatsbridge.com
Nov 1-2	62 nd Lederer Memorial Trophy	London, England	www.metrobridge.co.uk
Nov 13-23	14 th Red Sea International Festival	Eilat, Israel	birmand@inter.net.il
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