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2008 Book-of-the-Year Award Nominees

We have a very diverse set of nominees for this year's Master Point Press Book of the Year Award – six entries from four countries on three continents. We have a burlesque, a satire, a parody, a problem book, a very recent memoir and an autobiography. Yes, humour is strong in this year's roll. Here are the nominees.

The Bridge Adventures of Mr. Badhir (The Numb) by Anant M. Baghwat is a delightful collection of tales revolving around the hapless club duffer known as The Numb. Mr. Badhir consistently makes the wrong bid, the wrong opening lead, and the wrong play on defence or declarer play, yet succeeds through sheer happenstance. If this analysis reminds you of the Rueful Rabbit, you'd not be far wrong. A wonderful change of pace.

Heavenly Contracts by David Bird recounts the further adventures of the Abbot, Hugo Yorke-Smith, and the monks from St. Titus. Bird paints a wonderful portrait of the haughty, supercilious, and arrogant Abbot, his long-suffering partner Brother Xavier, the obnoxious novice Brother Cameron and the other monks. Bird is about to enter his fourth decade as the chronicler of the monks of St. Titus, their first appearance having been in Bridge magazine in 1978. The adventures are ever-interesting.

Misplay These Hands with Me by Mark Horton is written in the over-the-shoulder style popularised by Terence Reese half a century ago. Horton is one of the most prolific bridge authors writing today, and this effort must rate among his best. Rather than woodenly follow the Reese formula, Horton introduces a twist, 'misplaying' each deal in the book, but quickly pointing out the correct/winning play. It's a very entertaining book.

A Bridge Too Far? by Enda Murphy, with Tom Hanlon assisting, is not precisely a sequel to the popular *Silver for Ireland* of 2007, but rather a follow-up to one of the Irish team members (Tom Hanlon) as he becomes a full-time professional card player (Hanlon plays a little poker as well). Murphy chronicles Hanlon's first year as a pro, with a plenitude of interesting deals for those readers who can't do without, and an accurate portrayal of an engaging personality.

A Great Deal of Bridge Problems by Julian Pottage presents, according to its publisher, "...the greatest bridge problem collection, ever!" Even allowing for the usual publisher's hype, Ron Garber is not far off the mark. Firstly, the book has nearly 200 problems, double or triple the usual number. Secondly, Pottage is unerring in his choice of material, presenting his usual array of terrific deals for one's entertainment and education. Pottage has been nominated every year but one for the MPP Book-of-the-Year award, and with good reason – his books are uniformly excellent and this is no exception.

Continued on page 15...

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AT THE OASIS

Bobby Wolff, Las Vegas



Las Vegas has been the fastest-growing city in the USA since 1990. With no state income tax, a low crime rate, low unemployment, great weather and the highest per-capita urban-area income in the country, it is an attractive choice for all age groups. Bridge players have been moving there in droves as well, and the number of players now residing in Las Vegas means that it can give New York, LA, Dallas, Chicago and Miami a run for their money in terms of talent.

Las Vegas is also a favourite spot for tourists, which means that NABC and Regional tournaments here are very popular. Here are a couple of deals from the most recent Vegas Regional, held from February 27-March 2, 2008:

Dealer South. Both Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
--	--	--	1 NT
Pass	2 ♥	Pass	3 ♠
Pass	4 ♠	Pass	Pass
Pass			

On the first deal, Kent Mignocchi made a play in the Knockout teams that his teammate Barry Rigal thought worthy of reporting.

Both tables bid to four spades on the diagrammed auction. On the diamond-jack lead both declarers won the queen and played a top trump to get the good news/bad news. Now the diamond ace and a ruff lets you lead spade jack, and both Easts ducked. What now?

Where Rigal was defending, declarer followed the routine line of trying to ruff the fourth diamond in dummy. Had East had the long diamond, that would have been ten tricks. But East over-ruffed the diamond and exited with a top heart and declarer had to lose three tricks at the end.

Instead of attempting to ruff the fourth diamond, Mignocchi played three rounds of hearts, ruffing in hand, drew a third trump, and had reached this ending.

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

Only now did Mignocchi play the fourth diamond. At this point, if East had started life with a fourth diamond it would have done him no good to discard it earlier, on a heart say. Declarer leads the diamond and pitches a club. And if East has the fourth diamond, declarer can safely ruff a diamond in dummy. But as the cards lie, even though East can over-ruff when South ruffs the diamond in dummy, he is end-played to lead away from the ace-king of clubs at the end. Playing the hand as he did generated a game swing for Mignocchi's side.

The next deal was played by John Schermer, also in the KO in Las Vegas.

Consider it first as a single-dummy problem.

Dealer East. NS Vul.

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

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

West leads the diamond jack, covered all round. Back comes a diamond; your nine wins the trick, if you want it to. Plan the play. Your opponents are solid experts.

Schermer deduced that West was likely to be long, not short, in clubs since the doubleton jack lead suggested

no spade shortage either. He led the club king and a club up, gathering West's doubleton queen. So far so good. Now Schermer knew that West was probably 2=7=2=2. Why a diamond lead and not a spade or a heart? West presumably had the heart ace since he had not led that suit, and he must have a significant doubleton in spades as well.

East's decision to raise to four hearts without more than the queen-jack of hearts and the diamond ace suggested that player had the king of spades as well. Accordingly, Schermer made an extraordinary play: he cashed a third diamond and led the queen of spades from dummy, covered by the king, and putting West on the hot seat. When he did not unblock his jack, he was end-played with a spade to lead hearts and set up the discard declarer needed. Had he unblocked the jack, declarer would have crossed to dummy with a diamond to lead a spade up to the nine.

Well played! Here is the complete deal:

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

Phillip Alder, Hobe Sound, FL

(From the New York Times)

Dealer West. EW Vul.

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



Harbour Town Lighthouse, Hilton Head, SC

West led the diamond king on the diagrammed deal, perhaps the best-played hand at the Hilton Head, SC Regional this February. It occurred during the final of a Knockout Teams event. In the auction, East could use Stayman because if West had rebid two spades, a three-diamond continuation by East would have been non-forcing in their methods. When two diamonds came back to South, he competed with two spades. North cue-bid three diamonds to invite game in spades. And when East doubled to ask for a diamond lead, South passed to express game interest. Although he had only eight high-card points, he knew that his excellent distribution and singleton diamond justified trying for game. North was happy to leap to four spades.

West led the diamond king, which denied the ace. At trick two, she continued with her diamond queen, which South ruffed. How did Cohen plan the play? How could the defenders have defeated the contract?

Declarer, having inquired about the unusual East-West bidding methods, realized that East almost certainly had 1=4=5=3 distribution with at most one major-suit jack to go with his diamond ace. South played off dummy's two top clubs before leading a spade to his king. West won with the ace (it would not have helped to duck) and played a third diamond. South ruffed, trumped a club on the board to establish his suit and played a spade to his queen to give this position:

<p>♠ 10 ♥ A 8 5 4 ♦ — ♣ —</p> <p>♠ J ♥ K J 9 ♦ 10 ♣ —</p>	<p>♠ — ♥ 10 6 3 2 ♦ 6 ♣ —</p> <p>♠ 6 ♥ Q 7 ♦ — ♣ J 10</p>
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Declarer led the club jack, discarding a heart from the board. West had no defence. After West paused for a while, Cohen tabled his cards and claimed, stating that if West ruffed and shifted to a heart, he would run it around to his queen. If West trumped and led her last diamond, South would ruff on the board and throw a heart from his hand. If West threw two hearts on the clubs, declarer would play a heart to dummy's ace, knowing the king would appear. And finally, if West pitched a diamond and a heart, South would exit with his trump, end-playing West to lead away from her heart king.

To defeat four spades, East had to overtake West's diamond king with his ace at trick one and shift to a heart.

At the other table, East passed over one no-trump, South balanced, and North-South came to rest in two spades. This made with an overtrick, declarer losing two spades, one heart and one diamond – 7 IMPs to Cohen-Berkowitz's team.

BRAINS AND BRAUN

Ron Klinger

(From the Sydney Morning Herald)

Nabil Edgerton was playing bridge recently on BBO with a school friend, Daniel Braun, when this deal arose:

Dealer South. Neither Vul.

♠ A K 3
♥ Q 4
♦ K Q 9 7 6 5
♣ 8 7

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

♠ 8 7 2
♥ K 9 3
♦ A J 4
♣ A K 10 9

West	North	East	South
—	<i>Edgerton</i>	—	<i>Braun</i>
Pass	6 NT	Pass	1 NT
Pass			Pass

Against six no trump, when there is no evidence from the bidding that dummy will have a long suit, one usually makes the safest lead possible. That includes not leading a suit headed by a single honour. The lead of the club three did not give away a trick, but it was dangerous. The safest lead for West is the spade ten (and a spade lead can defeat six no trump).

East played the jack of clubs and South won with the king. A heart went to the queen and ace and East

returned the six of clubs, taken by the ace. Braun proceeded to cash the diamonds. With one diamond to go, this was the position:

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

When the seven of diamonds was played, what was East to do? No discard was safe. In practice East threw the heart eight and so South made the last four tricks with the spade ace and king and the heart king and nine.

It would not have helped East to discard the spade six. South could let go a club or the heart nine. Needing to retain the club queen, West could throw the jack of hearts. A heart to the king then squeezes West in the black suits.

Braun had produced a double squeeze and what is impressive is that he is only 16 and has been playing for less than a year!

Nye Griffiths suggested that a heart return by East after taking the heart ace would make life tougher for declarer. South would take the king and run the diamonds, leading to:

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

On the diamond seven, East and South throw a club and West has to discard a spade to hold on to the club guard. Now a club to the ace squeezes East in the major suits. If East holds on to the ten of hearts and pitches the spade six, South continues with the ace-king of spades and makes his twelfth trick with the spade three.

A spade return from East might actually wrongfoot declarer, who becomes squeezed on the last diamond, should he forget to cash the club king before running the diamonds. A spade lead originally beats the slam.

If at first you do succeed, try not to look astonished!

IBPA Column Service

Tim Bourke, Canberra

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

433. Dealer South. E-W Vul.

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

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

West led the jack of spades and declarer took this with the ace, cashed the king of spades and ruffed a spade. Then he ran the nine of trumps, which held the trick. After East discarded the seven of diamonds on the second round of trumps, declarer rose with the ace and played on clubs. When West ruffed the third round of clubs declarer had to concede defeat, losing two tricks in both trumps and diamonds.

It would have done declarer no good to have played the ace and queen of trumps at tricks two and three, as long as West let the latter hold. Again, West would ruff the third round of clubs for the same outcome.

By now the idea behind the deal should be plain; it is to draw trumps while keeping control of the suit by not releasing the ace prematurely. So, the queen of trumps must be led to the second trick. If West takes this with the king, the defenders can score only two diamond tricks, as dummy's nine of trumps protects against a third round of diamonds from the defenders.

A good defender will allow the queen of trumps to win the second trick. Then declarer must continue with the jack of trumps. Once again, there is no chance for the defenders if West takes this with the king. Accordingly, he will hold up the king for a second time.

Now declarer must shift tack, cashing the king of spades and ruffing his losing spade with dummy's nine of trumps.

Then, after returning to hand with the ace of clubs, he cashes the ace of trumps and plays on clubs, throwing a diamond from hand. This limits the defenders to one trick in trumps and two in diamonds.

434. Dealer South. N-S Vul.

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

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

While the bidding did have a certain agricultural flavour, declarer's play did not. West led the eight of spades and East could do no better than take this with the queen and shift to a diamond. Declarer took this with the ace, cashed the ace of trumps and continued with the nine of trumps to dummy's ten. It did not matter that East discarded, for declarer countered by calling for dummy's jack of spades, giving East an awkward problem. If he failed to cover, declarer could throw the two of clubs from his hand so he played the ace of spades. Declarer ruffed high then went back to dummy by leading the six of trumps to dummy's eight, drawing West's last trump in the process, to lead the nine of spades.

As the queen of diamonds was still intact as an entry to dummy, it did not matter whether East covered with the king. If he did, declarer would ruff then cross to dummy with the queen of diamonds and discard his losing club on the good seven of spades. Of course, if East followed to the nine of spades with a low spade then the two of clubs would be thrown from declarer's hand. So, no matter what East did, declarer had his twelfth trick.

435. Dealer South. Both Vul.

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

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

West led the two of spades and declarer proceeded to make a meal of the hand. He took the lead in hand, cashed his winning diamond honours and crossed to dummy with the ace of spades to cash the ace of diamonds. When East discarded, declarer could no longer make his contract.

Instead of playing quickly, declarer should have formed a plan. After counting eight top tricks, the idea is to find the best way of obtaining an extra trick in diamonds. This is by winning the spade lead in hand, preserving dummy's king of spades as an entry, and then cashing the king of diamonds. Next declarer should overtake the queen of diamonds with dummy's ace to play the nine of diamonds.

As only four diamond tricks are required for the contract this will produce the extra trick when diamonds are 3-3. The additional chance from this plan comes when East began with a doubleton jack or ten in diamonds, as here. Now the nine of diamonds drives out West's jack, which establishes dummy's remaining diamonds as the game going tricks.

While this gives up the chance of an overtrick when diamonds are 3-3, it increases the overall chance to around 68%. Assuming that the original declarer would have overtaken the queen of diamonds with the ace if an honour appeared on the first or second round of the suit, this is a big improvement on the 51% chance of success for line originally chosen.

436. Dealer North. N-S Vul. (See top of next column.)

As declarer fancied his declarer play more than North's, he bid the small slam in no-trumps rather than hearts. After West led the jack of spades, declarer could count thirteen tricks if diamonds were 3-2 or the jack of hearts fell in three rounds. So he turned his mind to protecting against a 4-1 diamond break and a 4-2 heart break with the jack of hearts with the length.

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

West	North	East	South
—	2 ♥	Pass	2 NT
Pass	3 ♦ ¹	Pass	6 NT
Pass	Pass	Pass	
			1. Good suit and ace or king of diamonds

After winning the first trick with the ace of spades, he cashed the ace of hearts and then ducked a diamond. East won and returned a spade to declarer's king. After crossing to dummy with the ace of diamonds, declarer threw his black suit losers on the top hearts and then crossed to hand with a club. After the king and queen of diamonds were cashed, declarer's hand was high.

Notice that this layout is unforgiving to anyone who cashes the ace of hearts and crosses to dummy with the ace of diamonds. There is then no way of preventing the defence from making at least two tricks, most probably the red jacks.

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COLLATERAL DAMAGE

Cameron French, Scarborough ON

Chip Martel looked from his table across the floor and wondered...could it be? He was watching two players who had enjoyed some tremendous successes in the last couple of years. When playing against them he grew increasingly uneasy: their motions were too animated, their results too uncanny. Stranger still, when they played with other partners, none of the exaggerated animation was present. In his mind he thought, "They're cheating." In his heart he hoped it was untrue. How many others had like suspicions but were unable or, more accurately, unwilling to act upon them? That question would never be answered. He would be the catalyst.

Martel decided on exploration by stealth. He confided in Kit Woolsey and asked him how to investigate without raising alarm bells. Woolsey suggested they recruit a few experts to kibitz and analyze their observations. Martel went to the Chief Tournament Director John Hamilton to inform him and secure his consent.

The kibitzer had to be someone the perpetrators knew and trusted. Brenda Blumenthal was recruited to that end. At the end of the first session Kit Woolsey, Chip Martel, Paul Lewis, Brenda Blumenthal and Marc Jacobus got together to go over Blumenthal's observations. The trouble was, almost anything could have been a signal and Brenda was unsure what she should be looking for. Some, Woolsey included, doubted that players of this calibre would be unlawfully communicating at all, or in plain terms – cheating.

The next night, Blumenthal was more attuned to the mannerisms. She noted that they looked at their present hand, and only then wrote down the result of the previous hand. They tended to position their pencils all over the place, on the top, below, in the middle or right/left hand side of the score card. The group encouraged her to record where each player placed his pencil after looking at his hand.

On the third night (and the final session of the event) she recorded where the pencils were placed. When examined with the hand records, a correlation became obvious. The pencil placement indicated shortness, on the top (for example) clubs, on the right, diamonds, and so on. When they checked the hand records, the correlation was, in Woolsey's words, "100% accurate." They had cracked the code.

Now, what to do with that information? Bear in mind that this team (with one pair cheating) had just won a National Board-a-Match event by less than one full board. Also remember that the ACBL was still reeling from the Katz/Cohen scandal. They were suing the League. The League had every right to be guarded with regards to catching and prosecuting cheaters. Sadly, it

was woefully unprepared and the fallout would be catastrophic, at least for a few.

This is a cold case from 1979. The author (Cam French) has published Chapter One on www.bridgeblogging.com. It is a story of duplicity, treachery and players betrayed. If you wish further details, explore on your own as space prohibits us from printing more. The perpetrators, as you will have realised by now, were Steve Sion and Alan Cokin. They were expelled from the American Contract Bridge League as a result of a committee finding that they were in violation of Law 73.2.b which concerns "the gravest possible offenseprearranged methods of communications."

KITZBÜHEL 2008

Fritz Babsch, Vienna

This year's tournament seemed to be a festival for Maria Erhart and Doris Fischer. It started with Doris winning the Opening Pairs event with Mario Bernardi, then Maria won the Mixed Pairs with Martin Schiffko. Together they won the Team Tournament (Doris with her usual partner Bernd Saurer, Maria with Dietlind Angebrandt-Kellner), the runners-up were Fucik/Purkarthofer and Simon/Wernle. The latter won the Open Pairs.

This was an interesting deal:

Dealer South. Both Vul.

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

Most pairs played in four spades, one pair in four hearts; seven pairs stopped in a spade partial. At most tables the contract was made, some declarers made an overtrick when North went wrong at the end (after a heart lead and club continuation, South returned a club when he was in with the spade ace).

Andreas Babsch and Renate Hansen showed how you can beat the contract if West makes a small mistake. Andreas led the ace of hearts and shifted to a diamond, taken by the ace. Declarer now played the queen of spades - an error, as he soon noticed. Renate took the ace, returned her second heart and a third round promoted a spade trick for Andreas. The declarer can avoid this fate if he plays the five of spades from the table, not the queen.

THE GREAT SMOKIES

John Carruthers, Toronto



Gatlinburg, Tennessee is not exactly the place you'd expect to find the biggest little bridge tournament in America, if not the world. For example, the recent Spring North American Bridge Championships in Detroit drew almost 9000 tables over its 10 days; a month later the Regional tournament in Gatlinburg (Regionals are second-tier tournaments to Nationals in the ACBL; Sectionals are the third tier) had more than 10,000 tables over seven days. Almost every year, Gatlinburg breaks the attendance record for Regional tournaments in North America – its own record! This year, its 10,345 tables fell just short of last year's record.

Gatlinburg is a small town in eastern Tennessee which bills itself as "The Gateway to the Smokies" and which depends largely on tourism for its income – think of it as a cross between Innsbruck and Coney Island and you'll get the idea. Part of its appeal is its family-oriented entertainment and inexpensive accommodation: hotel rooms can be had for as little as \$30, making it very attractive to those on a limited budget.

Many of the top American, and a scattering of foreign, professionals attend each year. This year saw Meckstroth-Rodwell, Berkowitz-Cohen, Levin-Weinstein, Balicki-Zmudzinski, Passell-Wold, Cheek-Grue and Lesniewski-Zaremba, among others, plying their trade.

The secret of Gatlinburg's success may lie in its loving embrace of the "Bracketed Knockout Teams", an invention of the ACBL designed for similar skill-level teams to play each other. How it works is this: all teams entering a Knockout event are seeded according to their players' master point holdings. The top 16 teams go into Bracket 1 and play only within their bracket – and all match-ups are drawn by lot. The second 16 go into Bracket 2, and so on. Thus each knockout event runs exactly four sessions. At the start of the semifinals on the second day of the event, a new Bracketed Knockout starts.

Those are the main events. For the truly addicted, there are also Morning Knockouts (for those who'd rather

play than sleep), Dinner Bell Knockouts (for those who'd rather play than eat) and Midnight Knockouts (for those who'd rather play than party). It is possible in Gatlinburg to play bridge from nine in the morning until three the following morning with no more than an hour's break in between matches. There were 15 different Knockout Team events this year – it was theoretically possible to play in all 15 of them if one played poorly enough! The larger events had upwards of 30 brackets! There is also the usual collection of pairs and Swiss teams events for those who get tired of being knocked out.



Downtown Gatlinburg

This year, Karl Hicks, an old University friend inveigled me to go to Gatlinburg for the first time – it was an opportunity for me to enjoy his and his wife Kerry's company and to see what all the fuss was about. Hicks shone on this deal:

Board 14. Dealer East. Neither Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Katz	Hicks	Kivel	Carruthers
—	—	Pass	Pass
1 ♠	Double	4 ♠	Pass
Pass	Pass		

Hicks led the ace of diamonds (ace from ace-king) and when I discouraged with the two (we are still in the Sixties in some respects!), he found the deadly shift to the nine of trumps, giving the defence half a chance. How should declarer play? In practice, she won the spade in hand and played ace-king and a third heart, ruffing, crossed on a spade and ruffed another heart. Now a club to my ace saw me lead a diamond to

Partner's king to score a diamond ruff for one off. The heart plays had allowed me to pitch away two diamonds.

Declarer had understandably mistimed the play slightly. She should have played a club at trick three, won the spade continuation in dummy and then played a diamond to the ten: since she needed the diamond jack onside to make her game, the danger of my holding six red cards would have then been avoided. The early minor suit plays would have allowed her to make a diamond trick with the queen *before* ruffing hearts in hand.

Any other card from Hicks at trick two would have made declarer's job fairly simple.

The following hand was an awkward problem, first in the bidding, later in the play:

♠ J 7
♥ A K 10 9 7 2
♦ A K Q
♣ 7 6

With both sides vulnerable, your LHO opens three clubs and your partner joins in with three spades. RHO passes and it's up to you. What is your call?

You surely have too much for four spades and four clubs will equally surely beget four spades. Should you try four diamonds? Hardly, as that would ostensibly be natural. Daniel Korbelt resolved the issue by leaping to five spades. When partner David Grainger bid six clubs, Korbelt gave him one more chance with six diamonds and passed the six-spade continuation.

Now, how would you play six spades on the lead of the heart three?

♠ J 7
♥ A K 10 9 7 2
♦ A K Q
♣ 7 6

♠ A Q 10 9 6
♥ 8 6
♦ 10 8 5 4
♣ A K

You win the heart ace and East follows with the five. Do you like the play of ace and another spade or running the jack? Superficially, running the jack is attractive in case you have a late diamond loser and cannot set up hearts because they are 4-1 and spades are 4-2 with the king onside. But in that case, you have a spade loser anyway and West can be squeezed in the red suits. If spades are 3-3, hearts can be established and if West has four spades, one of the red suits is likely to break. These were the East-West hands:

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

As you can see, running the jack, as declarer did, fails when West wins the king and gives his partner a heart ruff. Good lead!

Geoff Hampson presented me with this extraordinary three-card ending:

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

Hearts are trumps and South is on play and must make two of the remaining three tricks to secure his three-heart contract.

Declarer cannot lead a trump, else West wins and cashes a diamond. So South must lead a good club. West cannot ruff since dummy would discard the losing diamond. So West must discard; if he throws his spade queen, South ruffs the club with the heart queen and ruffs dummy's diamond with the heart jack; West and East both ruff the last trick with their heart honours as North under-ruffs!

So West must discard the diamond jack, setting up dummy's seven; declarer again ruffs with the heart queen and leads dummy's now-good diamond. East cannot discard, else South does likewise and West has to ruff with the heart king, allowing the jack to make the final trick. So, East ruffs with the ten of hearts, and South and West both over-ruff. Dummy's heart three wins the last trick!

Here's how the position arose:

Dealer South. Neither Vul.

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

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

West led a diamond and declarer played three rounds of the suit to rid himself of the spade king. A club from dummy was won by East with the queen and a spade ruffed by declarer. Another club was won by the ace and another spade ruffed by South. A third club, ruffed low by West, and a third spade was ruffed by declarer, who then cashed the heart ace, achieving the diagrammed position.

Declarer had lost two clubs and a club ruff, with the heart king still to come. Guessing the position was necessary to make the contract. "Did you guess the ending?" I asked Hampson. "Yes, I did," he replied, quick-witted as ever, "but I was East! Unfortunately for himself, South did not."

Dealer East. Neither Vul.

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

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

Bart Bramley declared three diamonds on the singleton club lead from West (would you have passed as North?). He won the ace and led a heart to his king; West won and shifted to a trump. Bramley won in dummy, ruffed a heart, traveled to dummy with another trump and played a third heart, discarding a club. West won the queen (after having failed to unblock on the second round) and had nothing but spades left.

On Bramley's line of play, West could have unblocked the heart queen on the second round of the suit and East could have played the jack on the third round, denying Bramley the chance to discard a club. With no further entry to the dummy, declarer would have been left with five losers. That defence might have won East-West an award!

Bramley pointed out that he could have improved upon his line by forcing the opponents to play hearts for him while removing their trump exits: win the club, draw both trumps, leaving an entry in the dummy, and lead the king of hearts. West must continue hearts: if the queen, discard a club; if the nine, cover with the ten, ruff the jack, then go to dummy to discard on the third round. This line wins against most heart layouts.

Competition is so intense at the top that no team won more than one knockout event. Since it is not unusual for a pro team to win three or four events at a Regional in the US, this was quite remarkable.

Drew Cannell handled the following deal masterfully. It surfaced in, what else, one of the Knockout Team events

Dealer East. Both Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
—	<i>J Whipple</i>	2 ♥	<i>D Cannell</i>
Pass	Double	Pass	Pass
Pass	3 ♥ ²	Pass	3 NT
Pass	Pass	Pass	

1. Natural, constructive
2. Asking for a heart stopper

The opening lead of the heart ten was won by the ace and a diamond led to the queen and ace. Cannell continued with the diamond nine, holding the trick, and a spade to the queen. So far, so good. Trying to keep all his options open, declarer now played a spade to the nine and West's king. West continued with a heart to the queen, dummy pitching a club, and East shifted back to spades, leading the jack to knock out the ace. (A heart would have set up declarer's ninth trick.)

In hand for perhaps the last time, Cannell led the heart jack to East's king, West and dummy both discarding clubs. East exited with the club deuce to the three, king and ace. When Cannell now cashed the thirteenth spade, West was finished: he could bare the club queen or unguard the diamond jack. When he chose to discard a club, Cannell played the club jack from dummy, forcing a lead from the diamond jack at trick twelve. Nine tricks and plus 600.

THE LET'S MAKE A DEAL PARADOX

John Carruthers, Toronto

Let's Make a Deal was a popular television game show which originated in the United States and has since been produced in many countries throughout the world. The show was based around deals offered to members of

the audience by the host, Monty Hall. The contestants usually had to weigh the possibility of an offer being for a valuable prize, or an undesirable item, referred to as a “zonk”.

In a discussion of probability, the Let’s Make a Deal Paradox surfaced. In the show, a contestant was given a choice of three doors, one of which contained a prize. The other two doors contained gag gifts like a chicken or a donkey. After the contestant chose an initial door, the host of the show then revealed a zonk behind one of the two unchosen doors, and asked the contestant if he or she would like to switch to the other unchosen door. The question was, should the contestant switch? Do the odds of winning increase by switching to the remaining door?

The intuition of most people tells them that each of the doors, the chosen door and the unchosen door, is equally likely to contain the prize so that there is a 50-50 chance of winning with either selection. This, however, is not the case. The probability of winning by using the switching technique is 2/3 while the odds of winning by not switching is 1/3.

The easiest way to explain this is as follows. The probability of picking the wrong door in the initial stage of the game is 2/3. If the contestant picks the wrong door initially, the host must reveal the remaining empty door in the second stage of the game.

The probability of choosing the winning door initially is 1/3. The probability that the big prize is behind either of the other two doors is thus 2/3. When the host tells you which of those two doors houses a zonk, you then have a 2/3 probability of winning the big prize by switching. Your original door retains its original 1/3 probability of hiding the big prize.

It does not make a difference which door you, the contestant, select initially. However, if you don’t switch, you get your original door, which had, and still has, a 1/3 chance of winning. If you switch, you get the benefit of both of the other doors’ probability of winning. The host will tell you which of these two is the wrong one.

Does this sound familiar to you as a bridge player? It ought to – isn’t it analogous to The Principle of Restricted Choice? Even down to the intuitive feeling that the finesse and the drop are equivalent. When the jack or queen falls under the ace or king, missing four cards,

♠ A 9 7 5 4 ♠ K 10 8 2

our intuition tells us that there are only two cases we need be concerned about – the honour being singleton, and the honour being from queen-jack doubleton. Surely these are equivalent in probability. Reese proved that this was not the case, and that the finesse is a 2:1 favourite on the second round of the suit.

I wonder if Reese ever saw the show?

DEALS FROM INDIA

TC Pant, New Delhi

(From the Delhi Bridge Association Newsletter)

The following deal, from the “Col. Harish Chandra Memorial Tournament,” is on the theme of ‘extreme measures’ taken by players when the chips are down for their team.

Board 5. Dealer North. NS Vul.

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

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

1. Precision 16+
2. RKC in diamonds
3. 0 or 3 key cards
4. Queen ask
5. Queen is there, but no kings

The North-South team desperately required a minimum 22 VPs to have any chance of success in the tournament and South saw this as a good opportunity.

South was able to count 14 HCPs (for three aces and the trump queen) in North’s hand and he expected at least 17 balanced HCPs for the opening bid as partner had not bid any suit over two diamonds. So he was sure that partner had one more queen and thus the six-level would be pretty safe. But the opponents will also bid the small slam, so where were those extra IMPs to come from? Partner could have two queens also and if partner has queens in hearts and clubs, it will be a cold grand slam, with the spade loser going on the third club. With that assumption he bid seven diamonds.

The lead was a small diamond and declarer, seeing the dummy, realised his main chance to make his contract was the club finesse, but there was a second option. Declarer weighed his chances between the finesse versus the club queen falling on the third round from either East or West. Luck favoured the brave, and as it turned out, the club fell in the third round (the finesse would have also succeeded) and declarer was home.

This play was surely better as West would have been squeezed in the black suits with the club queen and the king-queen of spades. However, West might have led a spade holding both the the king and queen. An even better line of play would have been: win diamond queen, cash heart ace, lead a diamond to hand, cash the heart king (pitching a spade) and ruff a heart, play a trump to hand and cash another trump pitching another spade from dummy. The position is:

♠ A J
 ♥ —
 ♦ —
 ♣ A J 6 5

♠ 10 5
 ♥ —
 ♦ 4 3
 ♣ K 4

Upon cashing the penultimate trump (discarding the spade jack from dummy), either defender with four or more clubs and the spade king-queen is trump squeezed. If the king or queen of spades has not appeared on the next-to-last trump, you play three rounds of clubs, hoping to bring down the queen. You are certainly no worse off than trying to ruff out the queen earlier. The ten of spades in hand makes all this possible.

If the king or queen of spades does appear, you must then decide if an opponent has false-carded you.

The next deal is from the “Indo-Dubai Bridge Meet”. Declarer played well to make his contract. As the cards lie, three spades doubled may have gone three down for plus 500 to North-South, but then there would have been no discussion.

Board 11. Dealer South. Neither Vul.

♠ 10 8 6
 ♥ 4 2
 ♦ 3 2
 ♣ A K 8 6 3 2

♠ A Q 5 4 3
 ♥ J 3
 ♦ 7
 ♣ Q J 9 5 4

♠ J 7
 ♥ K 9 8 5
 ♦ J 9 8 6 5 4
 ♣ 10

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

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

1. Precision 16+ HCP
2. Spades and clubs
3. 5-8 HCP
4. Penalty

West preferred the fourth-best spade lead to a club and declarer won East’s jack with the king. With only one entry to dummy, the prospects of making the contract were looking very bleak and South was cursing himself for not doubling the opponents. He had one spade, two clubs, three diamonds and a maximum two tricks in hearts (if the finesse worked).

Declarer came to the conclusion that as West was supposed to have a minimum of ten black cards, East would be stacked with red cards. Both East and West were top-class players, and East would have surely preempted if he had any support for West’s suits.

So, based on that assumption, South went ahead with the possibility of a red-suit squeeze on the East hand and returned a spade to West. West cashed his four spade winners, declarer throwing two clubs from dummy, East discarding two diamonds and a heart and declarer throwing two hearts.

West now returned the heart jack to declarer’s queen and declarer went to dummy with the ace of clubs. When the king of clubs was cashed, East was again in difficulty and discarded a heart. Declarer threw the diamond ten and took all the remaining tricks when the heart king came down.

West had made the things easy for the declarer by leading the heart jack. Say that he returns the club queen instead. Declarer wins the trick with the king and the seven-card layout will be as follows:

♠ —
 ♥ 4 2
 ♦ 3 2
 ♣ A 8 6

♠ —
 ♥ J 3
 ♦ 7
 ♣ J 9 5 4

♠ —
 ♥ K 9 8
 ♦ J 9 8 6
 ♣ —

♠ —
 ♥ A Q 10
 ♦ A K Q 10
 ♣ —

When declarer cashes the club ace, East, who has already thrown two diamonds and a heart on three spades, gets squeezed in red suits.

An even better line is to cash a top diamond when in with the spade king and then play the spade back. As it is mandatory that the heart finesse is on for the contract to make, this line allows for the extra chance of West having the singleton diamond jack, and also to have a correct count of the hand.

Unusually for a situation such as this, it does West no good not to cash his spades since declarer can cash two clubs and two hearts before end-playing East to force a diamond play from the jack at the end.

NEWS & VIEWS

Pakistan Pursues Sponsorship

The incoming President of the Pakistan Bridge Federation, Khurshid Hadi, has two main goals for his tenure: to increase participation in youth bridge, and to acquire strong sponsorship for Pakistan's International Mind Sports Teams. Hadi, as a successful businessman, plans to use his contacts in the commercial world and the high visibility of this year's World Mind Sports Games to present bridge and the other mind sports as an attractive option to potential sponsors.

Hadi has prepared a very powerful presentation for the Pakistan Mind Sports Association to deliver to sponsors. He is trying to reach out to as many people as possible to absorb ideas, experiences and initiatives in all areas of Mind Sports development, whether it be competitions, coaching, establishing clubs at academic institutions, incentivisation etc. Hadi can be reached at khadi44@gmail.com.

1st WBF/BBO Women's Festival

Anna Maria Torlontano, Chairman of the WBF Women's Committee, reports that the first WBF/BBO Women's Festival was an extremely successful event with over 650 players from 67 countries participating and a total over the week of 495 tables in play.

The winners were:

Individual Winner: Magdalena Dabrowska (Poland)

Pairs Winners: Francesca & Anna Stoppini (Italy)

Overall classification (Individual + Pairs)

1st Jessica Tahya (Indonesia)

2nd Laras Suryaningtyas Aksa Putri (Indonesia)

3rd = Francesca Stoppini (Italy); Maria Stoppini (Italy)

Results are online at <http://www.bboitalia.it/festival/>

The winners of each of the individual and pairs events all received certificates by email which were much appreciated. And judging from the reaction of the participants, the event was greatly enjoyed.

The second WBF/BBO Women's Festival will be held in the spring of 2009 but in the meantime consideration is being given to forming a Women's Bridge Club Online. If you wish to receive further information about this, please email anna@ecats.co.uk who will add you to the mailing list – just give your name, the country you live in and say that you wish to join the Women's Bridge Mailing List.

Anna Maria would like to take the opportunity of thanking her colleagues in this venture: José Damiani, the President of the World Bridge Federation who

supported the whole concept of the event, Vincenzo delle Cave, of BBO-Italia, Fred Gitelman of BBO, the WBF Women's Committee and the friends who translated the information pages into different languages, and especially the members of the Committee who worked so closely with her: Joan Gerard, Barbara Nudelman, Anna Gudge, Silvia Valentini and Marijke Blanken Burger who was responsible for the lovely design of the site and the certificates.

2009 World Bridge Team Championships

The next Bermuda Bowl, Venice Cup, Seniors Bowl and the World Transnational Open Teams Championship will be held in São Paulo, Brazil from 29th August – 12th September 2009. The headquarters hotel will be the Hotel Transamerica, Av. Nacoes Unidas, 18591, São Paulo – 04795-901 S.P. Brazil.

As more information becomes available, it will be published on the WBF Site at www.worldbridge.org and also at www.ecatsbridge.com.

2008 World Wide Bridge Contest

The 2008 World Wide Bridge Contest will be held on Friday 6th and Saturday 7th June and is open to clubs throughout the world. At the end of the event participants will receive the excellent commentary by Eric Kokish and then can watch the results being uploaded from all the participating clubs. Their scores will change throughout the next 24/48 hours as new sets of results are sent in and the event is re-scored across the whole field each time. Then the final winners will be announced. There are World Year Points for the winning pairs, as well as prizes for the overall winners, together with special certificates for the worldwide winners.

Please help us by publicising the event, and by encouraging as many clubs from your country to participate as possible. If you would like a copy of the 2008 commentary in Word format for use in any articles, Anna Gudge can email it to you – just let her know at anna@ecats.co.uk.

EBU Board Notice on Abusive Behaviour to EBU Personnel

The Board of the English Bridge Union will not tolerate abusive behaviour, whether verbal, written or physical, by any member of the English Bridge Union towards any of its staff, Tournament Directors or voluntary workers. If a member behaves in such a way, the EBU will cease to deal with the individual concerned and

may implement its disciplinary process which can result in expulsion from the Union.

Peter Stocken, Chairman, November 2007

It is a sad state of affairs that such a notice is necessary. Let's hope that the notice is sufficient deterrent.

Vanderbilt Final Uploaded

Tim Bourke has once again performed yeoman service in converting the bidding and play details of the BBO transmission of the Vanderbilt final into a pdf file. Members can access the file by keying into their web browser: www.ibpa.com/2008VanderbiltFinal.pdf



Correspondence...

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

Email: ibpaeditor@sympatico.ca

Dear John,

The seven no trump doubled hand from your April Bulletin is fascinating to me (the result notwithstanding).

Yeh Bros. Cup K.O. Italy 2 v USA 1. Board 23. Dealer South. Both Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
J Stansby	DeFalco	L Stansby	Garozzo
—	—	—	2 ♣
Pass	3 ♥ ^{1,2}	Pass	7 ♠
Double	7 NT	Pass	Pass
Double	Pass	Pass	Pass

Before I tell you about it, I'd like to clarify that we played Italy twice. This hand came up in our first match vs Italy where the score was close. (It was our second match vs Italy where the score was a blow-out.)

Even though an adjusted score of plus 100 on this hand would have been enough to win the match, our team believed the Director's ruling to be fair and well-reasoned. Both teams were satisfied with it. Our director was Richard Grenside. By the way, only I called the director, not both of us, as Coriolan Neamtu stated.

Before I share my problem with you, I invite you to imagine this hypothetical scenario on the given auction through three hearts, where Benito crisply alerts three hearts as "both minors" then bids seven spades. I would have nothing to do except pass and see if the heart ace cashes.

What actually happened was much different. When three hearts came back across the screen, Benito (my screenmate) visibly flinched. This was followed by the alert, then followed by a very long tank. It was obvious to me, and probably to the caddy as well: Benito's body language (head shaking) strongly suggested he was not expecting his partner to have a spade suit.

Benito and I both knew that the wheels had come off as he leapt to seven spades. My guess was Benito had solid spades and was counting on his partner for hearts. Benito's hand confirms my guess was correct. I could see from my hand that Dano actually had something other than hearts (looking at a heart honor in my hand and inferring a heart honor in Benito's hand). My guess was that Dano had clubs. Simple enough for me to lead out my ace of hearts vs seven spades, but this is not why I doubled.

Benito and Dano were playing a system with many artificial bids and the earlier boards in the match showed this pair was on shaky ground in terms of knowing their methods. There was a real danger, from my point of view, that Dano might realize, even without a double, that something had gone awry and correct seven spades to seven no trump. This hunch about Dano pulling to seven no trump was also correct, because when Dano alerted his three-heart bid (both minors) to Lew, he also explained to Lew that he knew his partner was going to forget it. (Only God, and Dano, know why he bothered to bid it.)

So here was my dilemma: do I quietly pass seven spades, hope Dano sits, and lead out my heart ace? Or, do I plan ahead for the rescue to seven no trump? I feared that with no doubling by me, Lew would lead a 'safe' spade vs seven no trump and they would score it up with seven spade tricks and six club tricks. (Our bidding agreement is that pass of seven spades followed by doubling seven no trump calls for a club lead.)

I had to do something, either pass or double, and I knew it could cost a zillion IMPs if I got it wrong. Eventually, I hit upon the idea of doubling seven spades. If they sat,

fine, I would lead my heart ace and hope it cashed. If Dano ran to seven no trump, then I could double that also, hoping it would mean, "I changed my mind about the spade lead".

Well, not surprisingly, this auction had never come up before. How could Lew expect such obscure reasoning on my part in a hand holding two aces? After all, he couldn't tell that my side of the table knew that the other side of the table had "gone nuts". I am totally supportive of Lew's spade lead. The only questionable action was my double of seven spades.

From all of this I learned something very important: you need THREE aces to double seven no trump because if partner leads the wrong suit they can still only take 12 tricks!

Cheers, JoAnna Stansby, San Francisco

Dear John,

My most recent correspondence to the WBF is attached; please keep me updated.

Regards, Samina Esmail, Nairobi

To: president@worldbridge.org; christine francin; tushar pujara; the vice president, african bridge federation - mr. bernard pascal; anna gudge; jpolisner@hotmail.com akoto&company, advocates
cc: psgender@nbnet.co.ke;
ministergender@nbnet.co.ke;
commissionergender@nbnet.co.ke
Sent: Thursday, April 24, 2008 2:34 am
Subject: World Mind Sports Games Beijing, China,

October, 2008

Dear Mr Damiani and Mr Tushar Pujara,

Further to your reply of our request to allow us participation in Beijing, I would request you once again to allow us to register our national team from Kenya. We are in the process of advertising in the press and holding proper team selections for all kenyan to select six players for the open teams and six players for the women's team. These selections will take place at the end of May and are open to ALL bridge players as the aim is to select the very best players in the country.

What you had recommended in your email is most unreasonable, knowing well that the National Body for bridge in Kenya is the Kenya Bridge Association and that the only National Team that can represent Kenya is to be selected by the National Body and not by any private organization. Teams presented through any other organizations will not be the Kenya National Team.

We find it very strange that despite several requests to you to accept the letter from the Ministry of Sport clarifying this position the WBF and ABF persists in giving their full support and recognition to Kenya Bridge Africa Limited.

Further should any funding be available for our teams to travel to Beijing, it must come through Kenya Bridge Association, the NBO as recognised by the Kenyan Government, be fully accounted for and be used for Kenyan citizens only.

I am forwarding this email to the Ministry for Sports in Kenya to further investigate this gross irregularity and injustice to Kenyan bridge players.

We are once again requesting you to act fairly to Kenyan bridge players!!

Regards, Samina Esmail, Chairman
Kenya Bridge Association, Nairobi
Tel: 254 733 220890

Dear John,

Jeff Easterson's comments in the December issue on the spelling of my name are right on both counts: yes, it is usually spelt without an 'e' but yes, in my case, this could be the exception.

I used to be an internationally respected chess journalist around 1970, examining the psychological aspects of the game, but then became more interested in bridge. Now I am retired from college lecturing, I have the ambition to become a respected bridge journalist.

So far I have written regularly for the Delhi Bridge Association Newsletter, Australian Bridge Federation Newsletter and recently had an article published in Mark Horton's Bridge magazine.

My email address is: m.akeroyd@bradfordcollege.ac.uk

Best wishes, Michael Akeroyd, Bradford UK

...Master Point Press Book-of-the-Year Award Nominees, continued from page 1.

The Lone Wolff, by Bobby Wolff is possibly the most-anticipated bridge book in decades. Wolff is an 11-times World Champion, a former President of both the WBF and the ACBL, a Bridge Hall of Fame member and a member of the WBF Committee of Honour. As such, he is uniquely positioned to comment on bridge, bridge players, administrators, the Laws, appeals committee decisions and yes, cheating. He does pull a few punches, no doubt on the advice of his publisher and lawyers, but he also is not shy with his opinions. This will be a very interesting read for all bridge players.

World Bridge Calendar

DATES	EVENT	LOCATION	INFORMATION
2008			
May 7-11	Cavendish Invitational	Las Vegas, NV	www.cavendishinvitational.com
May 12-18	XXI Torneo de Bridge Costa Calida	Murcia, Spain	http://bridgeecc.com
May 16-18	13 th Southern Regional	Port of Spain, Trinidad, WI	www.cacbf.com
May 16-25	XX Festival Costa Brava	Lloret de Mar, Spain	www.ffb-competitions.net
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
May 29-Jun 1	41 st Tallinn Festival	Tallinn, Estonia	festival@bridge.ee
May 30-Jun 1	Grand Prix Bratislava	Bratislava, Slovakia	pmokran@internet.sk
Jun 6&7	Worldwide Simultaneous Pairs	Clubs Worldwide	www.worldbridge.org
Jun 6-9	Barrier Reef Congress	Townsville, Australia	www.abf.com.au
Jun 4-8	Geologi Cup	Bandung, Indonesia	www.gabsi.or.id
Jun 13-15	21 st OECS Championships	Rodney Bay, St. Lucia	www.cacbf.com
Jun 14-19	Festival de Bridge à Blaye	Blaye, Gironde, France	www.ffb-competitions.net
Jun 14-21	Campeonato Sudamericano	Lima, Peru	admin@bridgeperu.org
Jun 14-28	49 th European Championships	Pau, France	www.eurobridge.org
Jun 17-28	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 5-13	Danish Bridge Festival	Vingsted, Denmark	www.bridge.dk
Jul 11-17	21 st Bridge Festival of Tunis	Hammamet, Tunisia	ftbridge@planet.tn
Jul 12-20	2 nd Italian Senior Festival	Riccione, Italy	www.eurobridge.org
Jul 15-18	9 th European Youth Pairs Championship	Wroclaw, Poland	www.eurobridge.org
Jul 16-27	ACBL Summer NABC	Las Vegas, NV	www.acbl.org
Jul 17-27	World Bridge Festival	Deauville, France	www.ffbridge.asso.fr
Jul 25-Aug 3	Chairman's Cup/XIV Festival	Örebro, Sweden	www.svenskbridge.se
Jul 27-Aug 3	Hong Kong Inter-City	Hong Kong, China	www.hkcba.org
Aug 3-9	Wachauer Bridgewoche	Loiben, Austria	www.bridgeaustria.at
Aug 7-10	Pesta Sukan	Singapore	www.scba.org.sg
Aug 8-17	Summer Congress	Brighton, England	www.ebu.co.uk
Aug 8-17	XVIII International Festival	Slupsk, Poland	bridgefestival@go2.pl
Aug 9-16	32 nd International Bridge Festival	Varna, Bulgaria	bcv_varna@hotmail.com
Aug 21-23	KEPRI Governor's Cup	Batam, Indonesia	www.gabsi.or.id
Aug 22-31	International Festival	La Baule, France	alain.bihouix@wanadoo.fr
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 4-7	HCL International Tournament	Delhi, India	www.cba.org.in
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 19-28	Geurnsey & Senior Congresses	Geurnsey, Channel Islands	www.ebu.co.uk
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 (ex-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
Oct 9-14	Mercian Dubrovnik Congress	Dubrovnik, Croatia	www.ebu.co.uk
Oct 12-19	Bridge Week in the High Tatras	Tatry, Slovakia	www.bridgetatry.sk/turnaje/tae.htm
Oct 21-25	18 th Sun, Sea & Slams	Barbados	www.cacbf.com
Oct 22-30	Australian Spring Nationals	Sydney, Australia	www.abf.com.au
Nov 1-2	62 nd Lederer Memorial Trophy	London, England	www.metrobridge.co.uk
Nov 12-21	Golden Jubilee (50 th) Winter Nationals	Kanpur, India	www.cba.org.in
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	Cefalù, Italy	www.federbridge.it
Dec 1-7	Festival de Mar del Plata	Mar del Plata, Argentina	www.bridgeargentino.org.ar
Dec 6-8	Città di Milano International Teams	Milan, Italy	www.federbridge.it
Dec 8-12	ASEAN Bridge Club Championships	Bandung, Indonesia	www.gabsi.or.id
Dec 19-21	Junior Channel Trophy	Belgium	www.ebu.co.uk