



## 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 Emeritii:

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## THE INTERNATIONAL BRIDGE PRESS ASSOCIATION

Editor: John Carruthers

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## Editorial

The online magazine of the Italian Bridge Federation (FIB) recently published an interview with Maria Teresa Lavazza, "Commissario Tecnico" (manager) of the Italian team. She is responsible for choosing the players that represent Italy in major international competitions.

The two main items were:

1. Fantoni-Nunes will not be part of the Italian team at the European Championship in Pau in June 2008; the pairs will be Lauria-Versace, Bocchi-Duboin and Sementa-Angelini, and
2. Bocchi-Duboin are terminating their partnership after Pau.

**Maria Teresa Lavazza:** "In Shanghai I started to think it was time to make some changes. The Italian team needed a jolt. Something that would bring back that hunger for winning that had always been characteristic of the Blue Team (...). Aside from the bitterness about the bad result in Shanghai, I noticed from the start of the tournament a certain atmosphere within the team. My impression was that our players, some more, some less, had started to think that all they had to do, in order to beat anybody, was just to sit down at the bridge table. A little bit of self-confidence doesn't hurt, but complacency can be really harmful (...). If changes had to be made I couldn't go about it without including in the team a player that, according to all the other members of the team, is truly great. I am talking, of course, about Antonio Sementa (...). At the same time Bocchi and Duboin told me they wanted to terminate their partnership. As I was already looking to include Sementa, I thought too much change could be destabilizing (...). So I have asked Bocchi and Duboin to play one last time as a partnership for the Italian team. Both agreed fully (...)."

**Interviewer:** "So I suppose that if you didn't want to exclude Lauria-Versace and include Sementa, you had to sacrifice Fantoni-Nunes."

## IBPA Members at the 2008 European Championships

In Pau, June 2008, a self-financing dinner to celebrate 50 years of IBPA will be held, most probably on Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> June, and for all IBPA members there will be an outing with Press lunch on Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> June. Members arriving in Pau close to these dates should inform the Press Room in advance of their attendance.

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

**MTL:** "I don't like the word 'sacrifice'. It's true that I never considered excluding Lauria-Versace. Apart from anything else, Lauria is like a great wine: the more he ages the better he is. I will always call him to the national team, as long as he is available (...) Fantoni and Nunes have contributed a lot to the national team in the past and I am sure they will continue to do so in the future."

**Interviewer:** "Why did you choose Angelini? He hasn't played with Sementa for over a year."

**MTL:** "True, but before that they had played together for over ten years. Between 1998 and 2006 they won a Rosenblum, a European Championship, four Champions Cups, and an infinite numbers of Italian Championships and Coppa Italias (...) Angelini joins the team for these European Championships in recognition of his great passion and dedication to bridge. After all, equal to mine. To be even clearer, I deny in the most absolute terms that his joining the team has brought any financial rewards to the Italian Bridge Federation (...)."

The poster of the interview on Google rec.games.bridge says, "There seems to be something missing here. The text later indicates that Fantoni-Nunes were not 'fired' for cause, nor did they quit, but that rather, there just wasn't room on the team for four pairs. The text also indicates that Lauria-Versace would be retained in any case, and that Bocchi-Duboin has to be talked into staying together for one last hurrah (Pau). So, the obvious question then is why not let Bocchi-Duboin go now, and retain Fantoni-Nunes? (especially since Duboin-Sementa are reportedly going to be a partnership. – Ed.) Note that I am not analyzing this from any bridge or personality perspective (as I know nothing about it other than what I have read here), but merely from an analysis of this text."

Certainly, this is a controversial decision. How do you remove a pair which has won the World Open Pairs, the Bermuda Bowl, the Olympiad Teams and almost won the Rosenblum, all since 2002, from the team and instead keep a pair that is off their top form and are splitting up their partnership? The only answer is to win the European Championship anyway. We suspect more changes are coming, especially if Italy does not retain its crown.

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## Bonn Nations Cup 2008

Bonn-Bad Godesberg

April 30-May 1

**John Carruthers, Toronto**

**Andrew Robson, London**

Bad Godesberg is a municipal district of Bonn, in North Rhine-Westphalia, Germany. It is located along the hills and cliffs of the west bank of the Rhine River, in west-central Germany and has a population of about 70,000. From 1949 until 1999 (while Bonn was the capital of West Germany), the majority of foreign embassies to Germany were located in Bad Godesberg - some buildings are still used as embassy branch offices or consulates. The use of "Bad" in its name designates Godesberg as a spa.



Bad Godesberg  
Coat of Arms

In 1969, Bad Godesberg was incorporated into the city of Bonn. Since that time, it has been referred to as the "posh part of Bonn".

For the 23<sup>rd</sup> Bonn Nations Cup, NORWAY (Rune Hauge-Erik Sælensminde; Jan Petter Svendsen-Tor Helness), GERMANY I (Dr. Entschow Wladow-Dr. Michael Elinescu; Michael Gromöller-Dr. Andreas Kirmse; Josef Piekarek-Alexander Smirnov) and ENGLAND (David Gold-Tom Townsend; Gunnar Hallberg-Andrew McIntosh) were considered hot favourites. IRELAND (Tom Hanlon-Adam Mesbur of Eire and Rex Anderson-David Greenwood of the Republic of Northern Ireland) were doing their small bit to unite the North and South, and were given a chance, along with excellent teams from Bulgaria, Turkey, The Netherlands and Sweden. A winner coming from outside that group would have to be considered a serious upset.

The 20 invited teams were divided into two randomly-drawn groups of 10, with two German teams (Open, Seniors, Juniors, Bonn) in each group. Each group would play a complete round robin, with the group winners playing off for the title, while the other teams continued in a Swiss format to decide the other rankings.

### Board 27. Dealer South. Neither Vul.

♠ A Q 7 3

♥ 8 7

♦ A Q 10

♣ A K 10 5

♠ J 4 2

♥ Q J 10 9

♦ 7 3 2

♣ 7 4 2

♠ K 8 5

♥ 2

♦ K J 9 8 6 5

♣ Q 9 3

♠ 10 9 6

♥ A K 6 5 4 3

♦ 4

♣ J 8 6

For a deal on which 14 of the 20 pairs declared the same contract, the results on this board from Match 3 were all over the map. Those who employed some sort of transfer sequence and succeeded in making the North hand declarer in hearts (nine of them!), all made ten tricks, no matter the lead (all four suits were led!). Two of these, however, had overreached to the five and six level, where there was no plus score available.

Seven Souths declared four hearts and one reached six hearts. Two declarers received the spade two as an opening lead and made ten tricks by the simple expedient of ducking in dummy. Three declarers received the heart queen as an opening lead – only one made ten tricks; unfortunately for him, he was in six hearts. Two declarers received a diamond lead (the two and the three respectively) and one received the two of clubs lead. Only the diamond-three declarer made ten tricks by rising with the ace, making the assumption that West would not be leading from the king, drawing two trumps, then running the spade ten to East, effectively end-playing him.

On a heart or a club lead, neither giving anything away for the defence, nor reducing declarer's options as did a diamond or a spade, declarer has a complex task ahead of him when he wins the opening lead and cashes the ace-king of hearts: how to best combine the chances in the three side suits, with five possible finesses and two potentially-favourable black-suit breaks.

There are two attractive solutions (after, say, a club won by the ace and two high hearts):

1.) Lead a diamond to the queen. If it wins, you are home immediately as one spade goes on the diamond ace and another can go on a club, even if you must lose a club trick in the process. If the diamond queen loses to the king, East must surrender one trick on the return, then you can cash the ace-king of clubs and if the queen does not fall, discard the club jack and try to ruff them out 3-3, falling back on the spade finesse if all that fails.

2.) Run the spade ten if not covered. If it is covered by the jack, play the queen from dummy, then ace and another spade if it wins; if covered by the king, win the ace and play queen and another. If the ten or the queen loses, East must surrender a trick on the return and you can try to split spades 3-3 or drop the other spade honour or the eight, drop the club queen, or finally, take the diamond finesse.

As you can see, either of these lines of play would have succeeded.

The German Open Team has done very well in recent years, winning this event in 2005 and reaching the knockout round of the 2004 Olympiad in Istanbul. Against we JOURNALISTS (P.O. Sundelin-S.O. Flodqvist; Paul Hackett-John Carruthers), Kirmse-Gromöller took no prisoners in the bidding of the following deal, then

Kirmse backed up their aggressive bidding with accurate play, but was he theoretically correct?

#### Match 4. Board 8. Dealer West. Neither Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Kirmse	Hackett	Gromöller	Carruthers
1 ♣	Pass	1 ♥	1 ♠
2 ♦	3 ♠	6 ♦	Pass
Pass	Pass		

Was I too timid in bidding a routine (I felt) one spade with outside defensive values? Whatever the case, Hackett showed no such reticence, and nor did the Germans for that matter.

Hackett led an intelligent spade king and I pondered how best to deflect Kirmse from the winning line. It seemed, with so many missing high cards, that he had to have everything but the jack of diamonds, the defence's only chance. If that were the case, how could I convince him to run the queen to pin the singleton jack in Hackett's hand instead of playing the ace to drop my king? Both are equal on the face of it: a stiff king in Hackett's hand promotes my jack to a trick.

I decided my best bet was to convince him I was something like 6=3=3=1 and overtook the king of spades with the ace to return the club five. Was this a naive effort? Could I have been trying to give Partner a ruff? No, otherwise, he'd not have led the spade king with a club void. At any rate, after some thought, Kirmse played a trump to the ace and scored plus 920. I mentally chalked up a loss of 11 or 14 IMPs, until the comparison, when partners proudly announced plus 920. "Samma," I quietly replied, eager to show off my rudimentary Swedish.

#### Match 5. Board 13. Dealer South. Both Vul.

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

How would you play this hand, which arose against the Netherlands, after the following auction?

West	North	East	South
<i>De Pagter</i>	<i>Carruthers</i>	<i>Hop</i>	<i>Hackett</i>
—	—	—	1 ♠
Pass	2 ♥	Pass	2 NT
Pass	3 NT	Pass	Pass
Pass			

*De Pagter*, West, leads the club queen, which you win with the ace to attack hearts, running the ten to East's ace. *Hop* returns a club to the ten in dummy. What now?

You are home if either major is 3-3, assuming *Hop* is not playing a very deep game with the ace-queen of hearts. Do you see any extra chances? *Hackett* saw one – if East held the diamond queen, it would be a difficult play for him to rise with it on a diamond play from dummy, so that's what he did. The diamond jack lost to the queen and another club was played, knocking out the king as East discarded a diamond. Last chance!

*Hackett* went with his original plan, playing queen and another spade, trying for 3-3 in either major, an approximately 60% shot, rather than the 50+% chance that East had the diamond ace. These were the East-West cards:

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

Sadly for us, another diamond play would have worked, as would the heart king, dropping the nine, upon winning the ten of clubs. Perhaps placing the club length with the opening leader makes the heart king a better play than a diamond to the jack.

I had fun on the following board, despite the result.

**Match 9. Board 30. Dealer East. Neither Vul.**

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Andersson</i>	<i>Hackett</i>	<i>Wademark</i>	<i>Carruthers</i>
—	—	Pass	Pass
1 ♠	3 ♠	Double	3 NT
4 ♠	Pass	Pass	4 NT
Pass	Pass	Pass	

This tournament was notable for the number of Swedes playing, not only for Sweden, but for other teams as well: our Journalist team had two, and Germany II and England had one each. Here, a Swedish Swede, *Olle Wademark*, doubled *Hackett's* aggressive three-spade call, which asked for a spade stopper for three no trump. He was supposed to have 8 ½-9 tricks in his own hand, but, hey, if you wait for the perfect hand, sometimes you'll wait forever. *Wademark* doubled for three reasons: he had no entry for partner to reach to lead spades through my hand, he had decent offence for a spade contract, and finally, perhaps the double would scare us off three no trump even with a stopper.

He had no luck on the latter hope, but *Andersson*, with a little extra shape, tried four spades. When this came 'round to me, it looked as though they were going to give me my tenth trick on the upcoming spade lead, so four no trump seemed clear. Another point was that, with three cards in clubs, how was I going to beat four spades?

In any case, *Andersson* led a spade and I was soon one off – it seemed a small price to pay. The other four declarers in four no trump were also set, one of them two tricks doubled on the club jack lead (more on that later). Six North-Souths were allowed to play three no trump and all made it, whether a spade, a heart or a club was led.

Only three East-Wests were allowed to declare four spades and they all went down on the ace of diamonds lead, giving declarer the unpalatable choice of either allowing North his ruff or allowing South his trump trick.

On the well-reasoned, but disastrous, jack of clubs lead against four no trump, the play becomes very interesting. Declarer wins in dummy and plays the diamond ace. If West retains the king, declarer leads a club to hand, then a low diamond, and West must surrender the tenth trick and an entry to the diamond queen.

So West must unblock the diamond king under the ace. Declarer consequently comes to hand with a club, cashes the diamond queen and runs clubs, coming to a four-card ending of king-seven of spades and king-six of hearts. No matter which four cards West keeps, he can be end-played in spades, due to the presence of only one card higher than the spade eight in the East hand. If he plays the queen on a spade lead from dummy, South plays the king and if he retains it South plays the seven. If West keeps three spades, intending to reach East with the third, declarer instead leads a heart, ducking in hand. Now that would have been worthy of an IBPA prize!

The standings at the end of the round robin were:



Group A		Group B	
Germany I	164	Ireland	167
Sweden	156	Turkey	161
England	153	Norway	139

Germany had led Group A all the way and Ireland Group B most of the way. They were deserving finalists. The other 18 teams would continue to play three more matches with full carryover, in a Swiss format, but with no playbacks. In other words, each team would meet three others, all from the other group.



The playing site – Bad Godesberg Stadthalle

There was only one significant swing each way in the first set of eight boards: the Irish got 500 from one no trump doubled on Board 3 against Wladow-Elinescu to lead 11-0, then this deal popped up. Here is how Andrew Robson wrote it up in *The Times* of London:

**Final. Board 4. Dealer West. Both Vul.**

♠ A 2  
 ♥ A K J 8 7  
 ♦ K J 4  
 ♣ 7 4 2

♠ 10 6 5  
 ♥ 3  
 ♦ Q 10 6  
 ♣ A K Q 10 9 3

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

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

West	North	East	South
Anderson	Gromöller	Greenwood	Kirmse
1 ♣	1 ♥	Double <sup>1</sup>	2 ♥
2 ♠	3 ♣ <sup>2</sup>	4 ♠	Pass
Pass	Pass		

1. 4+ spades (1♠=artificial)
2. Help-suit game try

West	North	East	South
Elinescu	Hanlon	Wladow	Mesbur
2 ♣	2 ♥	2 ♠	3 ♥
3 ♠	Pass	4 ♠	Pass
Pass	Pass		

Bonn, capital of West Germany from 1949 to 1990, Germany's nineteenth largest city, and home to the largest Roman fort of its type, is the delightful venue of the annual Bonn Nations Cup. Won by the host nation for the fourth time in its 23-year history, one member of the winning team, Michael Gromöller, will remember this deal from the 2008 Final with special memories. For he made a truly world-class play that was found by no other player in his seat.

Four spades made – sometimes doubled and sometimes with an overtrick - at all other 12 tables where it was attempted. Not so in the Final against Ireland.

North, Gromöller, led the ace of hearts against the skimpy 17-point game, following with a second heart, declarer ruffing. Declarer, Rex Anderson of a combined Northern Ireland/Eire team, led the queen of diamonds, setting up a ruffing line of communication between his hand and dummy. North won the king, and now came the masterstroke.

North wanted to remove declarer's trumps, to prevent him ruffing dummy's heart losers, but correctly was not willing to lead ace and another trump for fear that declarer would be able to run clubs. Instead he led a low trump (key play), removing a trump from each hand whilst retaining control. This low trump lead from North's spade ace-two left declarer powerless. He won dummy's jack and tried three rounds of clubs, discarding a heart from dummy, but South ruffed with his remaining low trump. North's ace of trumps was the setting trick - down one.

What is particularly impressive about North's defence is that it is surely more difficult to visualise the correct defence when declarer's trick source in clubs is hidden. At 11 of the other 12 tables, East declared four spades with the clubs on view.

At the other table, Mesbur led the heart six to Hanlon's ace and he took a decent shot, playing a diamond to Mesbur's ace. When Mesbur returned a diamond and Wladow ruffed it and began on trumps, it was 12 IMPs to Germany.

**Final. Board 11. Dealer South. Neither Vul.**

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

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

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

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

<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>
Greenwood	Piekarek	Anderson	Smirnov
—	—	—	1 ♠
3 ♥	3 NT	Pass	Pass
Pass			

<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>
Kirmse	Hanlon	Gromöller	Mesbur
—	—	—	1 ♠
Pass	4 ♣	Pass	4 ♠
Pass	Pass	Pass	

In the second set of eight boards, a combination of poor decision-making and dreadful luck by the Irish led to a match-deciding 44-1 drubbing at the hands of the Germans.

Which do you suppose this was, poor decision-making, or bad luck? Ace and another heart dispatched four spades to the rubbish bin, while 3NT was cold on any lead and defence, Piekarek emerging with 11 tricks and 11 IMPs. The Germans were very worthy winners.



The winners: Germany I

(l. to r.) Josef Piekarek, Andreas Kirmse, Entschow Wladow, Alexander Smirnov, Michael Gromöller, Michael Elinescu

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## Rottneros Nordic Cup

### Ib Lundby, Fredensborg, Denmark

During May 23–25<sup>th</sup> Paul Horn welcomed the Nordic countries to Rottneros Manor and Park in Sweden, one of the most beautiful flower and sculpture parks in Scandinavia. In these wonderful surroundings the Nordic national teams battled for the Rottneros Nordic Cup.

Final result: Iceland 98, Sweden 86, Denmark 81, Faroe Islands 69, Norway 56, Finland 55.

A well-deserved victory for the Icelandic team (Bjarni Einarsson/Steinar Jónsson, Aðalsteinn Jørgensen/Sverrir Ármannsson), but in my opinion #4, the Faroe Islands, are the real winner of the tournament. With only a couple of hundred bridge players on these North Atlantic Islands, the result is really a pleasant surprise. Before this one, the Faroes had been the bottom team in every Nordic Championship and Rottneros Nordic Cup.

Only Espen Lindqvist, Norway, and Kauko Koistinen, Finland made seven spades on the following...

#### Norway v Denmark. Dealer South. Both Vul.

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

<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>
Clemmensen	Lindqvist	Graversen	Tøndel
—	—	—	1 ♣
Pass	1 ♥	3 ♦	4 ♦
Pass	4 NT	Pass	5 ♥
Double	7 ♠	Pass	Pass
Pass			
Lead: ♥7			

The players who went down at once played on the clubs, hoping for clubs 4-3 and spades 2-1. A fair chance, but you can do better as Lindqvist and Koistinen showed us.

North took West's heart jack with the ace and ruffed a diamond. Now the key play: a low spade to the king told declarer that he did not have the entries to play on clubs, so instead he ruffed his third diamond and cashed all his trumps. In the ending West had to give up, squeezed in hearts and clubs.

Yes, a club lead is killing, but that is theory.

# IBPA Column Service

Tim Bourke, Canberra

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## 437. Dealer East. N-S Vul.

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

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

In the auction, South showed a hand that was closer to a two-club opener than a simple overcall or a direct leap to four spades.

What plan should declarer adopt if he is to make his contract? Clearly, there are four probable losers on straightforward play; a heart, a diamond and two clubs. So, the only way to make the contract is to hold the club losers to one. The question is what is the best strategy to do so, given that the bidding indicates that East has the ace of clubs?

Where East began with a doubleton ace of clubs, declarer could succeed crossing to dummy with the jack of trumps and leading a club towards his honours. Once the king of clubs held the trick, declarer would draw trumps and continue with a low club.

As the cards lie, this approach will fail miserably and, in any event, it has a fairly poor chance of success. A much stronger line is to rely on West holding the nine of trumps. Whenever he does, declarer can lead twice towards his club honours by finessing the eight of trumps.

After winning the ace of hearts, the best play is to lead a low trump towards dummy and, after West follows low, finesse the eight of trumps. Here this holds and declarer continues by leading a low club towards his hand. East plays low and the king of clubs wins the trick. Dummy is then reentered by playing a low trump to

dummy's jack so that a second club can be led towards the closed hand.

As the cards lie, it does not matter whether East rises with ace of clubs on the first or second round of clubs; declarer always makes six trumps, one heart, one diamond and two clubs.

## 438. Dealer East. Both Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
—	—	3 ♣	3 ♠
Pass	5 ♠	Pass	6 ♠
Pass	Pass	Pass	

The auction was fairly straightforward with North's leap to five spades asking for South to bid the small slam in spades whenever he held a club control.

After West led the jack of hearts, declarer won the trick with the ace and cashed the ace of trumps. If trumps were no worse than 3-1, declarer's plan was to draw trumps and ruff a club in dummy for the twelfth trick. When East discarded a club on the first round of trumps, that plan had to be shelved.

Instead, declarer decided that the best chance was to reverse the dummy by ruffing dummy's two red-suit losers in hand. At trick three he crossed to dummy by leading the six of hearts to the king then ruffing the five of hearts with his three of trumps. (This only fails when East began with an unlikely five-card heart suit). Next, declarer cashed the king and ace of diamonds then ruffed the seven of diamonds in hand. All that remained for declarer do was to draw West's trumps and claim the queen of hearts as the eleventh trick and the ace of clubs as the twelfth; he made four trumps, three hearts, two diamonds, a club and two red-suit ruffs.

**439. Dealer East. E-W Vul.**

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

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

North's cue bid of two hearts promised a value-based raise in spades. Avoiding the pitfall of merely rebidding his spades, which would have shown a minimum overcall, South made a trial bid in clubs and it was then easy for North to bid the game.

Declarer made rather a meal of the play. He took the heart lead with the ace and plonked the king of trumps on the table. East took this with the ace of trumps, cashed the king of hearts and continued with the queen of hearts. Declarer could do no better than ruff this with the queen of trumps and lead a low trump towards dummy. West inserted the eight of trumps and dummy's ten won the trick. However, when East threw a heart declarer had to lose a second trump trick as well as a heart and a diamond.

The problem here was that declarer did not form a solid contingency plan before tacking trumps. If he had done so, he might have seen that the only way to fail in four spades was to lose two tricks in trumps and, given that East opened the bidding, that could only occur via a trump promotion when East had a singleton ace of trumps.

The way to sidestep the given layout was to cross to dummy with the ace of diamonds (which is safer than crossing in clubs) and to then lead the six of trumps. Here, East wins his singleton ace, but this time it beats the air. When East continues with king and queen of hearts, declarer is in control; he ruffs the third round of hearts with the king of trumps and then draws West's remaining trumps with the ten, queen and jack; he makes four trumps, four clubs and the two red aces.

Conversely, should East hold two or three trumps, it would matter not whether he played the ace on the first round of the suit.

**440. Dealer South. E-W Vul.**

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

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

This appeared in a book over seventy-five years ago. You were challenged to make ten tricks after West began with three top diamonds.

The official solution was to ruff the third round of diamonds with the ten and then draw the trumps with the ace and king. Then cash the ace-king of hearts and cross to dummy by leading the eight of trumps to dummy's nine. This allows declarer to lead a fourth round of diamonds, noting that once East discards a heart, the contract is assured. Declarer discards the six of clubs from hand. West must win the trick and then finds himself endplayed; he must lead a club into the ace-queen or concede a ruff-and-discard. Either way there are ten tricks for declarer.

What was not said in the analysis was what would happen if East began with four diamonds headed by the jack of diamonds. One method is to discard the six of clubs from hand for East then has to lead a club and declarer would have to rely on the club finesse to make his contract.

When I looked at the problem, my reaction was, "Why did West play a third diamond?" Surely East would have played high-low with a doubleton diamond, so West should place declarer with a doubleton diamond and consequently shift to the three of trumps instead of playing a third round of diamonds. Now when declarer plays as above and tries to endplay West with the third round of diamonds, West will avoid giving declarer the contract by playing a fourth round of diamonds. Declarer will have to ruff and then rely on making two club tricks; best is to lead the six of clubs next. On this layout East wins and returns a club and when West takes the queen of clubs with the king the defence has four tricks.



# The John Roberts Teams

Las Vegas, NV, May 7-8, 2008

Barry Rigal, NYC

The Cavendish teams event, named after the tournament's late founder (and one of the organisers of the original Woodstock Festival in 1969), is an appetizer for the main event, the Invitational Pairs. Twenty of the top teams in the world gathered for the event and played a nine-round Swiss – three stanzas of three matches. Here are my favourite deals from the event.

## Session 1. Board 11. Dealer East. Neither Vul.

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

The room had to choose between a three-no-trump contract which had little play on three rounds of hearts, and a four-spade contract that was apparently doomed by the bad trump break.

Eric Rodwell (ever the purist) pointed out that even against 4-1 trumps, four spades could be set on best defence. After Geoff Hampson led the ace, king and jack of hearts, Rodwell pitched a diamond, and now declarer would have been unable to draw trumps and set up diamonds since the hearts were ready to run, even against a 4-1 split. But a surprising number of defenders missed the point and ruffed in on the third heart. Declarer over-ruffed, cashed one top trump to find the bad news, then led a low diamond from hand, and the defence was helpless.

## Board 25. Dealer North. EW Vul.

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

Consider the contract of four hearts here by East, after South had overcalled in spades. Rodwell and Hampson defended it accurately enough on a spade lead to the jack. A spade came back and was ruffed. Declarer, Ionut Coldea, finessed in diamonds and led a club to the ten. When Rodwell led a third spade, declarer pitched a club. He now had the timing for a minor suit squeeze.

Could Hampson have done better by playing the club king before the third spade? No; declarer must win and now the count has not been rectified. No matter – declarer simply runs the trumps and this is the five-card ending:

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

On the last trump, declarer lets the spade queen go – the defenders' shapes are known. When North lets go of a spade, declarer sets up a club, or alternatively, cashes the diamond ace and endplays North with a club.

Consider this deal as a declarer play problem.

## Session 3. Board: 6. Dealer East. EW Vul.

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

You bid to four spades and are happy to receive the lead of the ace of hearts. You ruff and are relieved to draw trumps in three rounds, pitching a heart from dummy. You pass the club nine now and RHO wins the king to play a diamond.

Your safest route to ten tricks is to win the diamond in hand with the ace to preserve dummy's entry. The next club loses to LHO's ace, and he knocks out the king of diamonds. You cash the heart king, ruff a heart and take the club finesse to make five spades, one heart, two diamonds, and two clubs. Nicely played...yes, but time for the full deal...

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

Note what happens if the defenders take the club jack early. In a sort of Morton's Fork position, they can either cash their clubs to set up two discards for your diamonds or exit with a diamond to let declarer rely on the diamond finesse after pitching a club on the heart king.

You want to know which defender could find the play of the club king from the king-jack-low? That was Zia, trying to establish some psychological one-upmanship against his partner-to-be, Bob Hamman.

It is sometimes hard to tell what a good result looks like. Drijver-Brink were allowed to play four spades doubled on the following deal for plus 590. (One heart-double-two no trump-three spades-four diamonds-four spades-double-end) while teammates Welland-Meckstroth collected plus 450 for a 14-IMP gain.

**Board 14. Dealer South. Neither Vul.**

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

But that 450, the same result Helness-Helgemo managed (two spades-three hearts-four spades-five hearts-end) did not look so good when it came to scoring up in *their* match. Chemla opened the South cards one heart, bid Blackwood(!) over a four-club response that showed a singleton diamond, and then bid six hearts.

On the spade lead, he won the ace, crossed to the ace of diamonds to take his discard, and exited with a club. Furunes won the club queen and returned a spade, and declarer ruffed in hand. Then he ruffed three diamonds in dummy, the third with the heart king, and at trick 11 was able to lead a club and ruff low in safety. Had South returned a diamond at trick five, the timing for the cross-

ruff is altered. Declarer has one more trump in hand and will have to read the ending very well to avoid losing a trump to the jack-third of hearts. (In the four-card ending with the lead in dummy he must take a trump finesse rather than taking a safe ruff to his hand).

The event winners were Lou Ann O'Rourke-Marc Jacobus, Geoff Hampson-Eric Rodwell, Steve Weinstein-Bobby Levin. Steve Weinstein continues his incredible record at the Cavendish, winning the John Roberts Teams to go with his five Cavendish Pairs wins and one runner-up, with three different partners.

## The Cavendish Pairs

### Las Vegas, NV, May 9-11, 2008

#### Barry Rigal, NYC

The Cavendish is an invitation-only auction pairs. That means the main prizes go to the people who own the pairs, not the players themselves, though there is a players' pool too. Every pair is entitled to buy back a share of themselves, and there is a minimum price of \$12,500 in the auction – if you are not bid on, you must buy yourself for the minimum.

This year, the total auction pool was \$1.2 million, the highest pool for nearly ten years. Both Levin-Weinstein and Helgemo-Helness broke the record for highest bid on a pair – \$65K and \$74K respectively. The scoring of the Pairs event is cross-IMPs: with 27 results on each deal you IMP up against everyone else, so to get an idea of the true IMP value of a score, divide it by 27.

Bart Bramley/John Kranyak bid a marginal slam on this board and dared their opponents to beat them.

**Board 3. Dealer North. EW Vul.**

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

West	North <i>Kranyak</i>	East	South <i>Bramley</i>
—	1 ♠	Pass	2 ♥
Pass	3 ♥	Pass	4 ♦ <sup>1</sup>
Pass	5 ♣	Pass	5 ♠
Pass	6 ♥	Pass	Pass
Pass	1. Serious slam-try		

The slam only looks to have problems on a spade lead, and indeed, Coldea and Fu were both doubled in six hearts here for the spade lead. Fu, however, (and Bramley) received a diamond lead, Coldea a spade lead. On the diamond lead, Fu and Bramley were under no pressure. They won in dummy, led a heart to the ten, ruffed a diamond and led a heart to the queen. Now they could give up a trump and claim 12 tricks.

Coldea won the spade lead and correctly played three rounds of clubs, ruffed and over-ruffed, then a diamond to the king, a heart to the queen and the heart ace. When trumps did not split, he needed to ruff out the diamond queen in three rounds to make. His luck was in, but a better approach is to unblock the king of diamonds at trick two, then lead winning clubs, over-ruff the third club and ruff a diamond; now you lead the fourth club. When East ruffs in, you pitch the spade, and can later ruff a diamond to dummy to take the heart finesse. This line works whenever diamonds split normally and the heart king is inside not doubleton.

That looks safe enough, but Billy Pollack told me what happened to him here. He played six hearts on the six of spades lead after East had doubled a spade bid. He cashed the diamond king and then three rounds of clubs, and Bob Hamman (East) ruffed in. Had he ruffed low Pollack would have gone into the recommended and winning line. But Hamman ruffed the first club with the king of hearts! Can you blame Pollack for discarding now, and playing to ruff two diamonds in dummy and then to drop the heart jack? I can't!

**Board 7. Dealer North. Both Vul.**

♠ Q 7 5 2  
♥ A K Q 8 6  
♦ A  
♣ A 7 3

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

♠ K 9 8 4 3  
♥ 9 2  
♦ 9 3  
♣ K Q J 8

West	North	East	South
Stewart	Zaremba	Woolsey	Pszczola
—	1 ♣ <sup>1</sup>	Pass	1 ♠
3 ♦	4 ♦	5 ♦	Pass
Pass	6 ♠	Pass	Pass
Pass			
1. Polish			

Over Pszczola's forcing pass to five diamonds, Zaremba had enough extras to drive to slam. Stewart led the diamond two, suggesting the club void. Pepsi won and now knew he needed Stewart to have the bare jack or

ten of spades or else there would be a club ruff. He advanced the spade queen from dummy and now could not get trumps wrong, with no club ruff coming.

The inference might seem clear but it was one that was drawn by remarkably few declarers. In fact, Pepsi was the only declarer to make slam.

Sam Lev played six spades doubled when West never bid his diamonds. East had doubled a Blackwood response of five diamonds so West produced a quasi-Lightner double. On the diamond two lead Lev had no clue about the opponent's shapes, and it sounded as if West had the trump tricks, so it was natural to tackle trumps by leading low to his king for down one, thereby turning over 600 IMPs in the process.

**Board 15. Dealer South. NS Vul.**

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

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

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

Jack Zhao climbed to the giddy heights of four hearts here – and would rather that the auction did not appear in print. He declared four hearts as West on the spade ten lead, and won in hand to lead a diamond up. The ace won and a spade came back. He took it in dummy and led a heart to his jack and another diamond up. This was the position:

♠ —  
♥ 7 4  
♦ J  
♣ K Q J 5 3 2

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

♠ J 9  
♥ Q 6  
♦ K 9 8  
♣ 10 4

When North played the diamond jack, declarer must duck – and what can the defenders do? If they overtake to give a spade ruff, dummy provides three discards for declarer's black-suit losers. If South ducks, declarer wins the club return and draws trump ending in dummy to take a ruffing finesse in diamonds, with the spade queen being the entry to cash out the suit.

**Board 22. Dealer East. EW Vul.**

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

One of the hardest problems on defence is to lead one suit and shift to another when the primary indications are that your lead has struck gold. Although five diamonds is surely the best game here, it is very tempting to get to three no trump by a sequence such as one no trump-two hearts-two spades-three no trump. This was what happened when Louk Verhees was declarer. A fourth-highest club went to the club queen; Verhees won his ace on the third round, tested diamonds, then finessed in hearts. Ekeblad won his king and underled in spades but Verhees put up the king of course and claimed nine tricks when it held.

To set the hand, Ekeblad has to shift to a spade at trick three (Jansma cannot realistically overtake the club since if partner has king third of spades, he needs the spade shift from the other side).

Christal Henner-Welland declared six diamonds from North after an auction starting one no trump-two hearts-two spades-three diamonds-four diamonds when she rather ebulliently cuebid four hearts, East led the club ten (well done!) and Christal won and ruffed a club, led a spade to the king, a spade to the jack and ace, ruffed the spade continuation, ruffed a club, drew trumps and claimed. Our anonymous West (who was kind enough to show me the deal) issued a Gallic 'mea culpa' for failing to rise with the spade queen on the second spade for the fatal heart shift!

**Board 26. Dealer East. Both Vul.**

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

Steve Weinstein (South) played three no trump on a heart lead ducked to the king and the defenders shifted

to a spade. Weinstein took the third spade, cashed his top diamonds, then went to the ace of clubs and cashed the queen of diamonds. At this point...

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

Had West shown out on the queen of diamonds, Weinstein would have had to guess where the club queen was (he could finesse or endplay West with it). But when he followed, West could be counted out inferentially as 3-5-3-2.

So now Weinstein led a club to the club nine for a guaranteed endplay on West. That player had to give up a trick and dummy a heart entry for the repeat of the club finesse if necessary. If the club nine had held, declarer does not get the endplay but gets an extra club trick.

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

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

Three no trump is no thing of beauty, but it was a popular spot from North. On the lead of spade queen to the ace and a second spade, declarer won in hand and played heart ace and another heart. The defenders shifted to a club, cutting declarer's transportation lines, and now he needs to play a diamond to the ten. If he does so, he has nine tricks.

When Compton was East he led the spade queen and Hamman ducked his ace, so declarer won the king and played ace and another heart. Compton shifted to a club to the queen and king, and declarer now erred by playing the ace and another diamond instead of a low one. Hamman took the king and led a low spade to Compton, and a spade back to the ace let Hamman exit with a heart. Dummy was endplayed to give East the diamond jack at trick thirteen.



With three deals to go the top three pairs were separated by less than 6 total IMPs or 160 cross-IMP. Levin-Weinstein, in third, did nothing wrong in the last round but had three slightly below-par results to lose ten real IMPs and stay third. Lev and Cohler, in second place, had a slightly below average round; they would need Rodwell-Hampson to drop a few IMPs to par to have a chance. No; the leaders picked up small swings on each deal to finish 13 real IMPs and 350 cross-IMP in front of second place. It was sweet revenge for last year when a below-average last set dropped them out of the lead to second place. Their score of 3367 cross-IMP corresponds to about 1 real IMP per board.

Position	Auction	Player Pool
1 <sup>st</sup>	\$275,240	\$28,812
2 <sup>nd</sup>	\$176,940	\$18,522
3 <sup>rd</sup>	\$117,960	\$12,348

Joel Wooldridge and Tom Carmichael were victorious in the World Bridge Productions Pairs, the secondary event run concurrently over the final three session of the Cavendish Pairs.

## IMP Magazine Junior Bridge Hand of the Year

**Max Rebattu, Amstelveen, The Netherlands**

*Translated from the Dutch by Lex deGroot, Arnhem, The Netherlands; courtesy of IMP Bridge Magazine and Jan van Cleeff, publisher.*

The White House Junior International is without a doubt the most important international youth tournament in The Netherlands. This year the event comprised 24 teams, including four Dutch Teams. Such an event almost automatically guarantees beautiful and spectacular deals. This year it was Rosaline Barendregt who presented us with a fabulous three no trump contract. In view of its quality, it certainly is a good candidate for the Junior Bridge Hand of the Year. To wit.

**Dealer South. EW Vul.**

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

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

Unfortunately for North, a double of two spades would not have been for penalties. Rosaline Barendregt upgraded her hand because of the spade tenaces behind East. West tried a penalty double; after all, East had bid two spades vulnerable against not.

West led the two of clubs and East won with the ace and shifted to the ten of hearts; West was allowed to win with the king. West returned a heart, won with dummy's queen.

It was time to take stock. The opening lead and the auction made it fairly clear that West held a spade void and East a likely singleton club ace. In principle, there are possibilities for four spade tricks, two heart tricks, two or three diamond tricks and one club trick. Transportation between the hands is fairly poor, though. Four spade tricks require the North hand to have three entries and East-West may be able to prevent that. Moreover, the hearts are a threat when declarer loses the lead in diamonds and clubs.

Declarer, after winning the heart queen, started with the marked finesse of her nine of spades and West showed out as expected, pitching a club. Then she played a diamond to dummy's king, all following low. Now South had an opportunity to take a second spade finesse. Then, if the diamonds were 3-2, all would be well, as there would be sufficient entries for the spade plays. However, Rosaline Barendregt avoided the trap of cashing the spade king and then playing a diamond. Instead, she led the diamond jack from her hand. West showed out, so probably had a 0=6=1=6 distribution. East ducked to avoid giving dummy an extra entry.

South could now have cashed the the spade king and heart ace and then played a diamond. As East would have no more hearts or clubs, he would be forced to lead to dummy's spade ace after winning two diamond tricks. However, declarer then has only eight tricks, four in spades, two in hearts, two in diamonds and none in clubs. Meanwhile, East-West have four tricks, so there's no more chance to develop a ninth trick in clubs.

Declarer therefore needed at least one club trick, so after the diamond jack held, she led the club queen. West won with the king and returned a club to South's jack, East discarding two spades. Again, South cannot play the king of spades and ace of hearts, and then a diamond, as that would give East-West five tricks. South therefore cashed the heart ace in the following position:

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

The seven of diamonds was discarded from dummy on the heart ace. What is East to do? If he discards a spade, South will overtake her spade king with the ace and score the spade seven for her ninth trick. If, instead, East discards the ten of diamonds, then declarer will score her ninth trick using East as a 'stepping stone'. She unblocks the king of spades and next throws East in with his diamond ace, forcing him to yield the ninth trick to dummy's spade ace. In fact, this last scenario gives South another winning option. She can play a diamond right away. East wins and South scores the last two tricks with the spade king and diamond eight.

Scoring the last trick via a classic stepping stone to an otherwise inaccessible hand is much more elegant, however.

East might have done better by capturing the diamond jack with the ace and then continuing with the diamond ten. However, South can still reach a stepping stone ending or execute a spade-diamond squeeze. After winning with queen of diamonds declarer next plays a club. She will regain the lead in clubs or hearts and, with South holding the king of spades and eight of diamonds, East will be squeezed. If West refuses to win with the club king, then, after the heart ace, a stepping stone position results. With this fantastic end position, Rosaline Barendregt is a worthy candidate for the winner of the Junior Bridge Hand of the Year award.

## USBF Trials Winners for World Mind Sports Games in Beijing

### Women's:

Sylvia Moss-Judi Radin  
Tobi Sokolow-Janice Molson  
Mildred Breed-Marinesa Letizia

### Open:

Nick Nickell-Dick Freeman  
Bob Hamman-Chris Compton  
Jeff Meckstroth-Eric Rodwell

(Reports on both Trials next issue)

## Princes Valiant

Mark Horton, Romford, UK

There was some outstanding play in the final of the Polish Trials for the Open series in Pau between the teams led by Jagniewski and Martens. This deal at the start of the match caught my eye because of some brilliant bidding by all four players in the Open Room.

### Dealer South. Both Vul.

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

### Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Gierulski	Zawislak	Skrzypczak	Pazur
—	—	—	2 ♦ <sup>1</sup>
3 ♣	Pass	5 ♣	Pass
Pass	5 ♦	Double	Pass
Pass	Pass		

1. Weak two in either major

North's reopening reaped a rich reward when East's somewhat dubious double resulted in an easy plus 950.

### Open Room

West	North	East	South
Kwiecen	Martens	Jagniewski	Jassem
—	—	—	Pass
3 NT <sup>1</sup>	4 ♦	Pass	5 ♣ <sup>2</sup>
Pass	6 ♦	7 ♣	Double
Pass	Pass	Pass	

1. Gambling

2. Slam try (assuming West has clubs)

When South passed, West, despite his arid distribution, was quick to jack up auction. North's hand justified action, and when East bided his time, South cue bid. North showed his confidence in South's bidding and put his side in sight of a good swing by jumping to the excellent slam, but now East, trusting his opponents' bidding, made a tremendous decision to take the save.

When South led a trump, declarer won and played a heart to the queen, eventually establishing a heart for a spade discard to be only two down, minus 500, which secured 10 IMPs on the road to victory.

We are used to a pair, or even as in 2007, an individual, collecting the prize for the best bid hand – maybe this time all four players should be so honoured?



# Correspondence...

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

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

Dear John,

Your good wishes and support have paid off - we now have the core sponsorship in place (*for the Pakistan Mind Sports Association – see May Bulletin, News & Views*) with Habib Bank committed to a two-year financial support extendable for five years. The next phase will see the creation of an organisation and the infrastructure, followed by the official launch of the Mind Sports Association of Pakistan by end May. A full-blast National Games in August, selection of youth teams and individuals to be sent to Beijing and the introduction of the core programme at selected colleges by end August (i.e., the start of the academic year) will follow. Wish us luck.

Regards, Khurshid Hadi, Karachi  
President, Pakistan Bridge Federation

*By all means, best wishes. My contribution was very modest, making suggestions and editing the presentation. – Ed.*

John,

I may be missing something but, with respect to Bobby Wolff's second hand (*in the May number*), surely West is likely to be short in clubs if one assumes that he is long in both spades and diamonds. Indeed, the lead of a diamond rather than a spade might imply three spades on restricted choice grounds.

*This was the deal...*

**Dealer East. NS Vul.**

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

*The diamond jack lead went to the queen, ace and two. The diamond seven went to the nine. On that basis: club to*

the ace, club jack, heart ruff, club king, diamond to dummy, heart ruff, diamond to dummy, heart ruff, attempt to duck spade to East (needing East to be 4=3=3=3 with king-jack-eight-low or king-ten-eight-low, assuming best defence; if West plays his ten or jack, finesse on the forced spade return). If East covers the club jack, it makes no difference since the eight is an entry to complete the heart strip.

Richard Fleet, Berkhamsted UK

*What you say has merit, but the jack of diamonds would be a very dubious lead with a singleton trump. – Ed.*

John,

Just a note to let you know that the NA Pairs deal you published on page 12 of the April Bulletin was written by Dave Smith, not Paul Linxwiler as noted.

Cheers, Brent Manley, Memphis  
Editor, ACBL Bulletin

Dear John,

I hate to be the one to say “the emperor has no clothes”, but your May 2008 IBPA Bulletin summary of game theory is incorrect, especially in terms of the exemplar used. You referenced the game show “Let’s Make a Deal” and the three doors; you then advocated the position that, having picked one of three doors and been shown that one of the other two doors concealed a “zonk”, it was correct to switch your selection to the remaining door, on the theory that your original choice represented a one-third chance of the big prize, while the remaining door is a 50% chance.

Not so! You are allowing timing to change some but not all of your odds, so you are comparing earlier odds and current odds as though they are the same, which is fallacious. Look at it simply: if an audience member were now offered a choice of doors, that new contestant would have two doors remaining, and each would represent exactly a 50% chance of prize vs “zonk”. Surely those odds must be identical for the original contestant as well.

You’ll see what I mean if you consider bridge. You have nine cards in a suit, missing the queen-four-three-two. You cash, say, the ace, and all follow small; now you lead towards the remaining honour-jack and it goes small. Before you played any cards, there was a 10% chance the suit would divide 4-0; you eliminated that possibility. There was also a 12.5% chance someone would have a singleton queen; that’s also been thrown out of this deal.

And, whichever hand has so far produced two small cards had, originally, a 25% chance of being dealt a singleton (of which  $\frac{1}{4}$ , or 6.25%) is no longer under consideration. Doubleton queen onside (20%) is also out the window.

In fact, only two cases are now under consideration: one hand having originally two small or the same hand originally having queen-third and the other opponent any small singleton (two, three, or four). The a priori odds were, respectively, 20% to 18.75%, which is why, with nothing else to go on, the "percentage play" is still the drop.

But the current odds have to be reweighted - of the remaining possibilities, queen-doubleton is 51.6% and queen-third 48.4% (total: 100%). The drop is still the percentage play, and the ratio is just about exactly the 52% to 48% we were always told it would be in every book that tries to state the odds of the various options. But if you compared the current odds of the finesse, 48.4%, to the a priori odds of the drop, 40%, you would think the finesse an odds-on proposition. The key is that in doing so your total percentage of success would mysteriously be less than 100%.

So of the remaining doors, the choice is purely 50-50 based on having eliminated one door; before we eliminated that door, the other two doors each represented a one-third chance of winning the big prize. The a priori odds were 33.3% each; now those odds

have risen (because the pool of "live" possibilities has shrunk) to 50% each. If the remaining doors I had originally chosen were now only a one-third chance, and the other "live" door 50%, fully one-sixth of the remaining possibilities would be unaccounted for - astronomers can make up such a difference with "dark matter" and "dark energy" (usually supported by utterly tenebrous explanations), but practical oddsmakers or gamblers won't buy into that (unless they want to lose their shirts making bad bets) in a world where Planck's Constant remains magnitude -34 (anyone scratching their head over that reference to the paradoxes of quantum physics should read George Gamow's delightful classic *Mr. Tompkins in Wonderland*).

Oh, and this has NOTHING to do with restricted choice. If I already picked the winning door, either remaining door could be opened to show me a "zonk"; if I picked a "zonk", sure enough, they have to show me the remaining "zonk" door. So, in one case they had 100% latitude, the other 0% (or 100% restriction); the average of the two cases is 50% - surprise! Your fellow countryman FrankVine had a delightful story challenging restricted choice theory (it involved a pair that marked on its convention card, "we always play the jack from queen-jack doubleton") about 25-30 years back in *Bridge World* magazine.

Allan Falk, Okemos, MI

*I'll take your word for it!*

## 2009 Yeh Bros Cup Announcement

Mr. Yeh Chen, the patron of the Yeh Bros Cup Bridge Invitational Championships, and Mr. Patrick Huang, the International Liaison Officer for the event, together with the Queensland Bridge Federation, are pleased to announce the incorporation of the Yeh Bros Cup 2009 into Australia's largest bridge tournament, the Gold Coast Congress in February/March 2009. Following an invitation by Therese Tully, the convenor of the Gold Coast Congress, to hold the tournament in Australia the Yeh Bros Cup organisers warmly embraced the idea leading to the signing of the agreement. It will be held at Jupiter's Casino and Hotel on Queensland's Gold Coast and immediately adjacent to the venue for the Gold Coast Congress Pairs and Teams Championship.

The Yeh Bros Cup has been held in various cities in China and Taiwan and is regarded as one of the most prestigious tournaments in the world. Participation is by invitation only, and typically includes leading teams from world and zonal championships, and with prize money exceeding \$US150,000, the event attracts the finest players from around the world.

The timing of events has been structured to allow the participants in the Yeh Cup to continue to enjoy Australian hospitality as well as compete in the Gold Coast Teams Championship.

Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
26-Feb	27-Feb	28-Feb	01-Mar	02-Mar	03-Mar	04-Mar	05-Mar	06-Mar	07-Mar

← **Yeh Bros Cup** 24 Invited Teams →  
(Prize money exceeds \$US150,000)

**Pairs Championship** 800+ Prs

← **Teams Championship** 400+ Teams →