



BULLETIN

www.ibpa.com
mail@ibpa.com

President:

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

Chairman:

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

Executive Vice-President:

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

Organizational Vice-President:

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

Secretary:

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

Treasurer & Membership Secretary:

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

Honorary General Counsel:

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

Awards Secretary:

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

Sponsored Members' Secretary:

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

Bulletin Production Manager:

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

Presidents Emeritii:

TOMMY SANDSMARK (NORWAY)
HENRY FRANCIS (USA)

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Editor: John Carruthers

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Gabriel Chagas Wins His 28th South American Team Championship



Gabriel Chagas and teammates Pedro-Paulo Assumpção, Marcelo Castelo Branco, Diego Brenner, Paulo Brum and Miguel Vilas-Boas won the recent Campeonato Sudamericano, defeating home side Chile in the final.

Norway Win Halts Italy's Streak at Seven European Team Championships in a Row



The Norwegian team of Terje Aa, Boye Brogeland, Geir Helgemo, Espen Lindqvist, Boerre Lund and Jörgen Mollberg took the gold medals at the 49th European Open Team Championships in Pau, France in June. The Norwegians were followed to the finish line by Russia, Germany, Bulgaria, Italy and The Netherlands, all of whom qualified for the next Bermuda Bowl in Brazil, in 2009.

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

Attention IBPA Members Planning to Attend the World Mind Sports Games in Beijing

**If you intend to go to the World Mind Sports Games in Beijing,
you should not wait to take care of the practical details.
Here is the information we have at this time.**

VISA

To obtain a visa for China, you will need:

- Properly-completed visa application form
- Passport valid until, at least, April 2009
- Evidence of return flight ticket (outbound from China)
- Evidence of (Chinese) hotel booking.

The visa requirements might change and/or vary from country to country. So it would be best if you contact your local Chinese embassy or consulate. (Most of them have web pages.)

ACCOMMODATION

WBF offers a selection of hotels and apartments, see www.2008wmsg.org. (You can switch to English in the upper right hand corner.) WBF recommends the apartments in the nearby Olympic village. Look for **North Star Huiyuan Service Apartment Building D** (deluxe) or **North Star Yayuncun Hotel** (cheaper).

THE VENUES

The main bridge events (**Open, Women and Seniors**) will be played in the **Chinese National Congress Centre (CNCC)**. WBF will also set up a pressroom in the CNCC.

The **Juniors** will play in the **Beijing International Congress Centre (BICC)**. That is the same building as was used for the Bermuda Bowl in 1995.

The **Vugraph Theatre** will be in the **Intercontinental Beijing Beichen Hotel**, 200 metres from CNCC and about one kilometre from BICC.

ACCESS TO THE VENUES

Playing area. Players (and captains, etc.) must file an application for an ID card **PRIOR TO JULY 26**. The application should be sent to the NCBO. Each NCBO is to forward the applications en bloc to the organizers. The application form for players (etc.) can be downloaded from www.ecatsbridge.com.

IBPA members who are not players (or captains, etc.) should mail to Anna Gudge, anna@ecats.co.uk, to get the relevant application form, which must be returned to Anna **PRIOR TO JULY 26**. Note that you will have access to nothing but the Vugraph without an ID card.

The Vugraph will be open to the public, i.e, tickets to the Vugraph Theatre will be available on the spot.

1st WORLD MIND SPORTS GAMES



**3-18 October 2008
BEIJING - CHINA**





2008 European Championships

Barry Rigal, NYC

(...with a little help from his friends, where noted)

The 49th European Team Championships (for national teams of EBL member countries in Open, Women's and Senior categories) were held in Pau, France over the last two weeks of June.

The Women's and Seniors events were as usual, a complete round robin with the top six qualifying for the next World Championships in Brazil in 2009. For the first time, the Open teams were divided into two intended-to-be-equal sections for a preliminary round robin, then the top nine in each section would play a further round robin with no carryover to declare the winners and Bermuda Bowl qualifiers.

Italy were seven-times defending champions, but had not brought their optimum team and so were considered to be no more than equal favourites with The Netherlands and Norway. Nevertheless, there were half a dozen other teams that fancied their chances.

Here are some of the better deals.

Bid Boldly, Play Safe

In match seven of the initial Open teams Round Robin, J.C. Quantin-Marc Bompis conducted a bold auction to the best spot. While most tables had opened the South cards one spade and played contracts ranging from three no trump to six hearts, Quantin adopted the standard French systemic opening of one club.

Board 19. Dealer South. EW Vul.

<p style="text-align: center;">♠ 6</p> <p style="text-align: center;">♥ A Q 7 5 3</p> <p style="text-align: center;">♦ 10 7 3</p> <p style="text-align: center;">♣ K Q J 3</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">♠ K J 9</p> <p style="text-align: center;">♥ K J</p> <p style="text-align: center;">♦ Q 8 6 5 2</p> <p style="text-align: center;">♣ 10 8 4</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">♠ Q 8 3 2</p> <p style="text-align: center;">♥ 9 8 6 4 2</p> <p style="text-align: center;">♦ J 9 4</p> <p style="text-align: center;">♣ 6</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">♠ A 10 7 5 4</p> <p style="text-align: center;">♥ 10</p> <p style="text-align: center;">♦ A K</p> <p style="text-align: center;">♣ A 9 7 5 2</p>

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

The defenders led a diamond and Quantin played the hand on a complete cross-ruff. When East turned out to be short in hearts, declarer could lead a heart through him and execute a trump coup. If East ruffed in declarer could overruff and run the spades; when he discarded, declarer achieved the same sort of position with the minimum of effort.

On a trump lead, declarer has only 12 top tricks, but can still make his contract by ruffing down the heart king and executing a Grand Coup on East.

The Perfect Bridge Partner & A Champagne Moment Mark Horton

Match 9 delivered a deal that afforded the opportunity for the Bulletin to make its first nomination for a 'Champagne Moment' and also choose the recipient of the first 'Perfect Bridge Partner' award.

Board 12. Dealer West. NS Vul.

<p style="text-align: center;">♠ —</p> <p style="text-align: center;">♥ Q J 10 7 3 2</p> <p style="text-align: center;">♦ Q J 9 3 2</p> <p style="text-align: center;">♣ 10 7</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">♠ K Q 7 5 4 2</p> <p style="text-align: center;">♥ K</p> <p style="text-align: center;">♦ 8 6 5 4</p> <p style="text-align: center;">♣ J 4</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">♠ A 10 8</p> <p style="text-align: center;">♥ 9 8 5 4</p> <p style="text-align: center;">♦ —</p> <p style="text-align: center;">♣ K 9 8 6 5 3</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">♠ J 9 6 3</p> <p style="text-align: center;">♥ A 6</p> <p style="text-align: center;">♦ A K 10 7</p> <p style="text-align: center;">♣ A Q 2</p>

In the match between Bulgaria and Ireland both sides reached a slam:

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Danailov</i>	<i>Garvey</i>	<i>Karkolev</i>	<i>Carroll</i>
2 ♦*	Pass	2 NT*	Pass
3 ♣*	Pass	3 ♦*	Pass
3 ♥*	Pass	6 ♠	Pass
Pass	Pass		

West showed a good weak two in spades with short hearts. South led the eight of hearts and declarer won with dummy's king, played the jack of clubs to the ace and discarded a club on the ace of hearts. He then ruffed a club and played the king of spades. When that held he played a spade to the jack and ace. To be certain of defeating the contract South should now play the king of clubs, removing an entry from the dummy, but he returned a spade to dummy's queen, declarer unblocking the nine. When declarer played four of diamonds North followed with the two and declarer put up dummy's ace – and was one down.

Closed Room

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

Here, West showed a good weak two in spades with a heart control, one key card and the trump queen. South led the three of clubs and declarer put up dummy's jack. When that held he played the king of spades, ducked, a spade to the jack, ducked and a spade. South won (North discarding heart, diamond, heart) and exited with the four of hearts. Declarer won with dummy's king and played a diamond to theking, so Bulgaria scored a couple of IMPs.

West, Hugh McGann, said not a word and calmly placed the next board onto the table – and in doing so collects the first *Perfect Partner* award.

Six spades (sometimes doubled) was attempted at a number of tables, but only one declarer drew the right inference. That happened in the match between Italy and Serbia: in the Closed Room Serbia stopped safely in four spades and scored 450. The stakes were higher at the other table:

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Sementa</i>	<i>Jovanovic</i>	<i>Angelini</i>	<i>Djuricic</i>
2 ♠	Pass	2 NT*	Pass
3 ♥*	Pass	5 ♠	Pass
6 ♠	Pass	Pass	Double
Pass	Pass	Pass	

North knew his partner could ruff something and so naturally led the queen of hearts. Declarer won in hand with the king and played the queen of spades. South won and played back a heart, so declarer won with dummy's ace, discarding a club from hand, drew trumps and played the four of diamonds. When North contributed the two declarer put in the seven and claimed plus 1210. That's our first *Champagne Moment!*

Mastering The Fates Mark Horton

Each player must accept the cards life deals him or her. But once they are in hand, he or she alone must decide how to play the cards in order to win the game. - Voltaire

In European mythology, there are three goddesses dispensing fate. The 'Fates', known as Norns in Norse mythology determine the events of the world through the mystic spinning of threads that represent individual human destinies. I don't know if Geir Helgemo is aware of this, but in Match 13 of the Open Series he avoided what fate had in store with a play that escaped everyone else's attention.

Board 18. Dealer East. NS Vul.

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

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Aa</i>	<i>Gierulski</i>	<i>Molberg</i>	<i>Skrzypczak</i>
—	—	Pass	1 NT
Pass	2 ♦*	Pass	2 ♥
Pass	3 ♣	Pass	3 ♦*
Double	3 ♥	Pass	3 ♠
Pass	4 ♣	Pass	4 ♦
Pass	4 ♥	Pass	4 NT
Pass	5 ♠	Pass	6 ♣
Pass	Pass	Pass	

East led a diamond and declarer won with dummy's ace and drew trumps ending in dummy. He then ran the queen of hearts to East's king, ruffed the diamond return and cashed the ace of hearts. When East discarded declarer conceded one down, minus 100. That was a fate suffered by virtually everyone who attempted six clubs, although a couple of declarers got home by taking a second finesse in hearts, a line that offers a 71% chance of success.

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Kwiecien	Helgemo	Jagniewski	Lund
—	—	Pass	1 NT
Pass	2 ♦*	Pass	2 ♥
Pass	3 ♣	Pass	4 ♣
Pass	4 ♦*	Pass	4 ♠*
Pass	4 NT	Pass	5 ♣
Pass	6 ♣	Pass	Pass

Once again a diamond was led and play developed along similar lines, but when West did not cover the queen of hearts, Helgemo realized there was a way to cheat fate. He put up dummy's ace, a play that would only lose to king-jack to four or five hearts in West, when it would be miraculous for West to fail to cover.

Englishman Peter Clarke, describing a brilliant victory by World Chess Champion Mikhail Tal over the Dane Bent Larsen wrote: "That is what happens when a player of the highest quality crosses swords with a genius."

(BJR: Readers with long memories will recall that this coup is not unique; Terence Reese tackled queen-low facing ace-ten-nine-eight in this fashion in an 'Over the shoulder' deal.)

It's Not Enough to Bid Well...

When England played Turkey this deal revolved around two battles; could North-South bid to the right contract, and could declarer bring home his contract once he was there?

Board 5. Dealer North. NS Vul.

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

The Turkish declarer managed to avoid the trap of playing three no trump – as you can see, the lead of either red-suit puts declarer in deep trouble. Instead, Atabey declared five clubs on a heart lead. How do you rate declarer's chances? Pretty good, I'd say. You win the lead, cross to a trump, and give up a spade to the ace. Back comes a heart, then a diamond switch, and you win the diamond ace, draw another trump, then have to view the spades. With the jack tripleton onside how can you go wrong?

At the table, Justin Hackett was sitting West, and at trick three he ducked his ace of spades! Now declarer

played a spade back to the jack, and after winning the diamond ace and drawing trumps he had reached this position:

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

Declarer needs to guess spades on his next play, and since the ace was 'marked' on his right he passed the spade queen with confidence; he will know better next time! Down two.

Many a Michal Makes a Muckle

The old Scottish proverb is "many a mickle makes a muckle", but since declarer here in two hearts was Michal Kopecky, maybe we should have put in a bad pun about kopecks.

Board 5. Dealer North. NS Vul.

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

No matter: here is Michal in two hearts. In the other room two spades by his team-mates had gone down a trick (and yes, the contract might have been made) so there were only a handful of IMPs riding on the success or failure of his contract. But one must take one's chances where one can.

Kopecky opened a forcing one heart à la Fantoni-Nunes and declared two hearts. The defenders gave him a sporting chance by cashing a top spade and a top club, ducked, then leading another top spade and a spade to the queen, ruffed.

The simple line of playing on diamonds early fails, if West can resist putting up the diamond queen if declarer leads low from hand. Equally, running the trumps fails if West has neither diamond honour.

Kopecky instead drew two rounds of trumps ending in dummy and ruffed a spade with the heart queen. This was the ending as West had to find a discard:

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

Pitching a trump would let declarer play ace and another club and read the diamond position to make his game. West therefore discarded a club. Declarer led a diamond to the jack and king; East would have done best to return a diamond, (giving declarer a losing option) but he actually played a club. Declarer rose with the ace, drew the last trump, and exited with a club to collect two diamond tricks at the end.

A Scenic Route to Rome? Christer Andersson

For many teams, their performance had not been strong enough to make the second round robin, and they were only waiting for elimination. However, they could still try to find a gem to bring home as a memory.

It is said that all roads lead to Rome, but why not take a scenic one, thought Patrick Brocken in Belgium's match against Bulgaria.

Board 9. Dealer North. EW Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Bocken	Karakolev	Renard	Danailov
—	3 ♣	3 ♦*	Pass
4 ♠	Pass	Pass	Pass

Against the spade game, Georgi Karakolev led the seven of spade, which Bocken won in hand to continue with ace and queen of diamonds, discarding both clubs in dummy and allowing Dyan Danailov to win the trick. He continued the attack on trumps.

Bocken won and was in hand for the last time. He discarded a heart on the jack of diamonds and followed up with a fourth diamond, thereby establishing two tricks in the hand he could not reach. When Karakolev discarded, he ruffed in dummy, draw the rest of the trumps and continued with the ace of hearts in this situation, discarding a club from hand:

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

Karakolev saw the endplay coming and discarded his queen of hearts - Bocken continued with the ten of hearts and Danailov had to win in order not to give the contract away. But Karakolev could not overtake the club king as he then would have to give the last two tricks to declarer. And when he followed with a low club, his partner had to lead hearts into dummy's tenace.

The Old Man's Perfect Play Erdal Sidor

Orhan Ekinci is one of the well-known bridge players in Turkey. He has previously represented his country twice in the Open series. In Match 10 of the Seniors he played this hand against the Netherlands:

Board 11. Dealer South. Neither Vul.

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

Open Room

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

1. Multi
2. Bid your major

(continued on page 9...)

IBPA Column Service

Tim Bourke, Canberra

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

441. Dealer North. N-S Vul.

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

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

After this simple auction, West led fourth highest of his longest and strongest, the six of hearts. Declarer took this in hand with his nine and played on diamonds, East winning the second round of the suit, shifting to a low spade. West took declarer's ten of spades with the king and returned the nine of spades to East's three and declarer's jack.

When declarer led the three of hearts West stepped up with king of hearts and exited with the five of spades. There was nothing that declarer could now do to make his contract and he had to settle for seven tricks (two spades, three hearts and a trick in each minor).

As is the way with dummies when a cold contract is put on the floor, North proffered, "If you hadn't been so greedy at trick one you would have made the contract. All you had to do was take the first trick with the queen of hearts and play as before. When West wins the king of spades he has to shift to clubs to stop the overtrick. You win the ace of clubs and, as you would still have two low hearts left, West could not prevent you from reaching dummy with the jack of hearts. The defence could only take one trick in each suit."

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442. Dealer East. N-S Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
—	—	1 ♠	2 ♥
3 ♠	4 ♥	4 ♠	6 ♥
Pass	Pass	Pass	

West led the jack of spades against this adventurous auction and declarer ruffed. There would be no problems if trumps were 2-2 for then two diamonds could be thrown on club winners and a diamond ruffed in dummy for the twelfth trick. Looking a little deeper, declarer saw that this approach would fail whenever trumps were 3-1 and the hand with the long trumps had fewer than three clubs. Then there appear to be only 11 tricks if the deal is looked at from the South hand. However looking at it from dummy's perspective he saw a way to make his contract even if the trumps and clubs were mildly unfavourable – a dummy reversal.

So declarer crossed to dummy with the queen of trumps and ruffed a spade high. A second round of trumps to dummy's jack reveals the 3-1 trump break but all was under control for declarer ruffed a third round of spades then crossed back to dummy with the king of clubs to ruff dummy's fourth spade with his last trump.

All that remained was to re-enter dummy for a fourth time with the ace of diamonds and draw East's last trump with the ten, throwing a diamond from hand. As this gave declarer nine tricks, he showed the defenders his A-Q-J of clubs and claimed twelve tricks.

Did you notice something? While West had no obvious lead other than a spade, it turns out that any non-spade lead would have held declarer to eleven tricks because then he no longer has the entries to dummy to both ruff four spades and draw the outstanding trump.

443. Dealer North. E-W Vul.

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

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

After South's transfer to two spades, his rebid of three hearts was forcing to game and guaranteed at least 5-5 in the majors. North's cue-bid of four diamonds promised heart support with a hand suitable for slam play.

West began with the king-ace and jack of clubs. Declarer ruffed and without any apparent thought drew two rounds of trumps with the ace and queen. When West showed out he tried a spade to the queen but West produce the king of spades and returned a diamond. As declarer still had to lose a trump trick, he finished with only nine tricks.

There was a simple way to avoid this fate. All declarer had to do was count his tricks and make a plan. That should have seen him ruff the third club with a low trump and continue with the king and ace of trumps. If trumps had broken 3-2, he would draw the last trump and run the diamonds to make an overtrick. Here, after West discards on the second round of trumps, declarer would leave the queen of hearts in dummy and runs the diamonds, discarding spade losers from hand.

When East ruffs and shifts to a spade, declarer rises with his ace of spades and crosses to dummy with a

trump to the queen. This draws East's last trump and declarer makes his contract by cashing any remaining diamonds winners, which take care of the rest of his spade suit. The last trick is taken with declarer's seven of trumps; he makes five trumps, four diamonds and the ace of spades.

444. Dealer South. E-W Vul.

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

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

After some courageous bidding by South, West leads the two of trumps. Declarer then showed how to plan the play. He saw that there would be no problem if the diamonds were 3-3 or even if they were 4-2 as long as the trumps were 3-2. He began by crossing to the ace of diamonds and returning to hand with a trump.

As his future plans would depend on knowing how the diamonds were dividing, declarer cashed the king of diamonds and led a third round of diamonds, West discarded and this was ruffed with the nine of trumps. Now as he needed both three club tricks and two entries to hand in clubs, declarer overtook the queen of clubs with the king and ruffed his diamonds good with the ten of trumps. All that remained for him to do was finesse ten of clubs, draw West trumps and his hand was high.

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North led his singleton heart and declarer won in dummy and played a spade to the ace, disclosing the 4-0 split. Then he played four rounds of diamonds, discarding his remaining hearts. When North had to win the fourth diamond he was knocked out. A diamond would allow a ruff and discard, while either black suit would cost a trick.

This deal provoked a considerable amount of discussion, as many players went down, eschewing the possible loser-on-loser play and simply playing South for the queen of clubs. I had various conversations with some top players, notably Sabine Auken, Jean-Paul Meyer and Guido Ferraro, although as it happens none of them declared on this deal.

Is there any particular reason why South should be 0=6=3=4 as opposed to 0=6=4=3? Well, with eight clubs missing and only seven diamonds, there is something of a case, although it's very tiny.

The real question one should ask is can the contract be made if South is the one with the four diamonds? If that is the case and North still has the ace-queen of clubs, then there is nothing to be done as declarer will inevitably lose two clubs, a heart and a trump.

The interesting case is the one where South has four diamonds and the queen of clubs, as in this layout:

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

When South produces the jack of diamonds declarer has a choice of plays. He can discard his last heart, ruff South's heart exit high and play a low spade. If North ducks, declarer wins in dummy and plays a club to the ten. If North goes in with the jack and exits with a spade then declarer must exercise a little care, playing the eight from dummy, overtaking in hand and then crossing to the ten of spades, which squeezes South in hearts and clubs.

An interesting sideline is that if West ruffs low, North must find the brilliant defence of refusing to overruff, instead discarding a club. If he overruffs and plays a trump declarer simply plays three rounds of trumps ending in dummy, and the last of these squeezes South. However, refusing to overruff upsets his plan. Declarer can continue with three rounds of spades, but North wins

and exits with a club and South calmly puts in the nine, leaving declarer with two losing clubs. Alternatively declarer may elect, when South produces the diamond, to ruff high and then play a low trump (a heart also works). North can win with the jack and exit with a trump, but declarer has more than one way to get home. I like the one where declarer wins in dummy and plays a club to the ten and ace. He wins the trump exit in hand and exits with a heart to endplay South. I leave you to enjoy working out the other possibilities.

So, when South has the queen of clubs you can afford to play for the loser on loser, which gives you a significant extra chance of making the contract when the queen of clubs is wrong.

Odds and Ends David Burn

Thursday's Bulletin contained an excellent analysis of this play problem:

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

West plays in four spades after South has shown a weak two in hearts. North leads the three of hearts, won by the ace, and South shows out on the first round of spades.

Erdal Sidor (actually the Editor) asks whether there is any reason to place South with 0=6=3=4 rather than 0=6=4=3, and concludes that the case for doing so is "very tiny". Assuming that nothing is known about the location of specific cards, there are 2,450 ways in which South can hold three diamonds and four clubs, while there are 1,960 ways for him to hold four diamonds and three clubs. This is not a "tiny" difference at all! South is a 11:9 favourite to hold three diamonds rather than four.

However, if we assume that South would not open with a weak two bid holding king-queen-ten-nine-eight-six in hearts, a side ace, and a void, North is marked with the ace of clubs. In that case six of South's cards are known (his heart suit) and six of North's (four spades, his heart, and ace of clubs). South is in these circumstances just as likely to hold four diamonds as three, and the case for placing him with three is not "very tiny", it is non-existent.

These conclusions are not very interesting, but something still worried me about this diamond combination. Then a memory stirred, and I remembered a BOLS Bridge Tip from long ago. Assuming everyone follows to three rounds of diamonds, which defender is more likely to have the thirteenth card in the suit? The answer is: the defender who has played the deuce, because that is the one card an opponent is compelled to reveal that he holds. I had not seen an application of this Bols Tip in twenty years,

so I turned swiftly to the hand records to see whether it would work. Sure enough, North's diamond holding was jack-seven-six-two.

Board 11. Dealer East. Neither Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Tognetti</i>	<i>Kaminaris</i>	<i>Desmoulins</i>	<i>Bozemberg</i>
—	—	1 ♦	1 ♥
2 ♦	4 ♥	Pass	Pass
Pass			

To me this deal exemplifies the perfect problem. You play four hearts on a diamond lead, and the opponent's methods telling you that the suit will be 4-4. East wins the first diamond with the ace and returns a low one; you take the king and instead of following the knee-jerk reaction of ruffing a diamond, drawing trumps, and claiming 11 tricks, pause for thought.

The spades appear to be 3-4 (West did not make a negative double) so can either defender have four trumps? East could be 4=1=4=4, or 4=4=4=1. In either of those circumstances you will surely need the spade queen onside. There is not much you can do if West has length in hearts, but what about if it is East?

Say you ruff a diamond, draw three top trumps finding the bad news. West pitches a diamond then a club. Now what? If you play on clubs, East lets you cash your winners and pitches spades; then you either have to force yourself by ruffing a club (in which case East has all winners left on winning the spade ace) or you must lead a spade from dummy and give up on the finesse. If you play a fourth heart you look to be OK. West is squeezed into parting with a spade as East wins. Now a diamond or spade exit sees you home...but East meanly plays a club, locking you in dummy again to force you to ruff a club or lead spades from the wrong hand.

Once you see that, the winning solution is clear. After ruffing a diamond and cashing the heart king you take just one top club...then play four rounds of trump in total and East is toast. He can lead a spade to let you pick the suit up for one loser, or lead a diamond. You ruff and watch West's discard to decide what to throw

from the board. If the clubs are good you pitch a spade, if not you throw a club play a spade up and are home.

The qualifiers for the 2009 World Championships (the top six in each series) and closest contenders were:

Open Teams:

1	Norway	299
2	Russia	287
3	Germany	286
4	Bulgaria	285
5	Italy	279
6	Netherlands	273
7	Denmark	269
8	Iceland	265
9	France	263
10	Sweden	262

Women's Teams:

1	France	466
2	Italy	450
3	Spain	442
4	Sweden	435
5	Germany	426
6	Denmark	425
7	Poland	423
8	Netherlands	416
9	England	416
10	Norway	415

Senior Teams:

1	Turkey	348
2	Sweden	333
3	Belgium	327
4	Poland	325
5	Netherlands	322
6	Italy	314
7	England	314
8	Denmark	313
9	France	312
10	Israel	295

The 2008 USBF Trials

John Carruthers, Toronto

There were few surprises in the Open Trials, held in early June at the PGA Resort in Palm Beach Gardens, FL. The top two seeds reached the 120-board final, won by Nick Nickell-Dick Freeman, Bob Hamman-Chris Compton and Jeff Meckstroth-Eric Rodwell over Aubrey Strul-Mike Becker, David Berkowitz-Larry Cohen and Lew Stansby-Chip Martel in a match that was close most of the way. Third seed Jacobs made the semifinals.

The following deal from the quarterfinals offered the opportunity for good bidding and good play.

Board 72. Dealer West. Neither Vul.

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

<i>Nickell</i>	<i>Freeman</i>	<i>Mahaffey</i>	<i>Seamon</i>
1 ♠	2 ♥	1 ♠	2 ♥
2 ♠	3 ♣	2 ♠	3 ♣
3 ♦	4 ♣	3 ♠	6 ♣
4 ♥	Pass	Pass	

Strul v. Gu

<i>Berko'</i>	<i>Cohen</i>	<i>Ao</i>	<i>Wang</i>
1 ♠	2 ♣	1 ♠	2 ♥
2 ♠	3 ♥	2 ♠	3 ♣
4 ♣	5 ♦ ¹	3 ♠	4 ♣
5 NT	7 ♣	4 ♥	4 NT
Pass		5 ♥ ¹	6 ♥
I. Exclusion KCB		Pass	
		I. 2 KC, no ♥Q	

Jacobs v. Spector

<i>Levin</i>	<i>Weinstein</i>	<i>Gitelman</i>	<i>Moss</i>
1 ♠	2 ♣	1 ♠	2 ♣
2 ♠	3 ♥	2 ♠	3 ♥
4 ♣	5 ♦ ¹	4 ♣	5 ♥
5 NT	7 ♣	5 ♠	6 ♣
Pass		Pass	
I. Exclusion KCB			

At this point, there were only three quarterfinal matches being played since Tudor had resigned after 30 boards (of 120!) against Welland, with the score 121-27. Barring a walkover due to illness or death, that has to be some sort of a record, conceding a match after one-quarter of it has been played.

In any case, back to the deal in question. Whose auction do you like best? I personally love the Gitelman-Moss auction, especially Moss' five-heart bid, forcing to six clubs. Had Gitelman been able to plug the two holes in Moss' hand, there is no question they'd have bid the grand slam for the right reasons.

The other pairs, all of whom bid a misguided two hearts over one spade or made an even-more-misguided Blackwood call (with two voids yet!), twice for clubs and once for hearts, never came to grips with the problem.

When I gave the hand and the Gitelman-Moss auction to two pretty good bidders (E.O. Kokish and P.O. Sundelin), telling them I thought Brad Moss made a great bid, their responses were, "Normal, no?" (EOK) and "Which was the great bid?" (POS)! When I pointed out to them that no other player found the bid, they were less than impressed ("Philistines," they said.).

Apart from the merits of one auction over another, which contract would you like to play? Clubs is clearly better than hearts at any level and there seems not much to choose between six and seven clubs in an IMP match. Perhaps the small slam should be preferred to take into account that the other pair may languish in game, as did Nickell-Freeman. On the other hand, perhaps the state of the match might also be a determining factor.

As you can see, seven clubs has no play on the actual lie of the cards, but six clubs is a very interesting contract. Would Seamon demonstrate better declarer play than bidding on this deal? Would Moss produce the winning (and best) play to make his intelligently-bid slam? The clearly-best line of play in six clubs is to ruff the diamond ace lead (no trust at all!), then play ace and a low heart. That allows you to ruff the hearts good when they are 4-1 and only fails when South can win the second heart and play a third AND North has all four trumps.

Alas, neither Seamon nor Moss found the correct play. Seamon played heart ace, club to ace, heart to king; Moss heart ace, club to ace, heart to jack. Their respective Souths were chuffed to ruff and play another trump. Seamon was two off, Moss down one. It was a case of the pseudo-safety play.

The Women's Trials, held in mid-May in Raleigh NC had one large surprise, that Narasimhan-Pollack, Levin-Meyers and Rosenberg-Stansby failed to make the semifinals in an eight-team field. The final itself was not a surprise, however, with Moss-Radin, Sokolow-Molson and Breed-Letizia beating Baker-McCallum, Deas-Palmer and Sanborn-Levitina.

In a very high-scoring match, Baker led Moss 166-163 after 71 of 96 boards. This was Board 72.

Board 72. Dealer West. Neither Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Letizia</i>	<i>Levitina</i>	<i>Breed</i>	<i>Sanborn</i>
Pass	Pass	3 ♣	Double
Pass	3 ♠	Pass	4 ♥
Pass	Pass	Pass	

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Deas</i>	<i>Sokolow</i>	<i>Palmer</i>	<i>Molson</i>
2 ♥ ¹	Pass	3 ♣	Double
Pass	Pass	Pass	

1. Both majors, weak

Both Breed and Palmer made the kind of undisciplined bid that players will make from time to time. Breed should have been concerned that she had an opening bid and good defence, while Palmer did not heed Deas' opening-bid warning.

Levitina might have passed to achieve a pushed board, but one can hardly crime her for three spades. It was up to Kerri Sanborn (most Americans' choice as the best female player in the world) to make four hearts.

Letizia understandably kicked off with the diamond four, the jack winning in dummy. When Sanborn played the queen of diamonds next, Breed ducked again (how could Sanborn let it run?) and declarer won the ace and ruffed a diamond with the heart eight. She then cashed three hearts, discovering the bad news and exited with her diamond, but it was too late. Breed cashed two clubs and got out a spade. Sanborn saved a trick by winning the ace and continuing the ten, endplaying West for one off; minus 50.

Declarer can succeed by running the diamond queen, then forcing West to give dummy a spade trick or surrendering her heart trick. When she instead rises with the diamond ace and plays a third diamond, she can ruff low, cross to the spade ace and lead her fourth diamond. West can ruff with the nine and cash the spade king. It looks like there is no way home for declarer.

At the other table, Palmer was in huge trouble in three clubs doubled. Against heart, heart, she ruffed and misguessed spades. The defence played diamond queen, ducked, diamond jack, covered, spade ace, diamond ruff. Another spade, on which East discarded her remaining diamond and South ruffed, was followed by a heart ruffed and the club ace, king. Declarer was restricted to four trump tricks and went for 1100. That was 15 IMPs to Moss, who went on a 61-7 tear to win going away.

The Senior Trials, held in late June in Sturbridge MA, also produced one huge upset when Meltzer-Larsen, Sontag-Bates and Bramley-Stansby, number one seeds and current world champions, were beaten in the quarterfinals by the Tritt team. In the 60-board final,

Milner-Baze, Lev-Eisenberg and Ekeblad-Granovetter defeated Onstott-Casen and Wolff-Morse.

In their semifinal match, Onstott led Tritt, attempting their second straight upset, 112-107, when the last board was put into play.

Board 60. Dealer West. NS Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Casen</i>	<i>Assemi</i>	<i>Onstott</i>	<i>Wojewoda</i>
Pass	1 ♦	2 ♣	Double
2 ♠	Pass	4 ♠	5 ♦
Pass	Pass	5 ♠	Pass
Pass	Pass		

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Looby</i>	<i>Wolff</i>	<i>Garber</i>	<i>Morse</i>
Pass	1 ♦	4 ♣	4 NT
Pass	5 ♥	Pass	5 NT
Pass	6 ♣	Pass	6 ♦
Pass	Pass	Pass	

North-South in the Open Room appear to have had a mixup as to the meaning of South's pass, South apparently intending it as forcing and North disagreeing. In any case, with North-South vulnerable and East-West not, it seems North, with a partner who doubled and bid at the five-level, might have chanced a double. North-South took the obvious four tricks for plus 100. They would need to go plus in the other room as well in order to win the match.

Nevertheless, the ever-so-slightly-subpar slam bid by Morse and Wolff came home with the diamond king onside and Onstott won 15 IMPs to reach the final. Had the diamond king been offside, Onstott likely would have passed five diamonds and lost the match. But in that case, Garber might not have bid four clubs, and so on, and so on...

To paraphrase S.J. Simon, these three American teams may not be the best possible teams, but they are the best teams possible. All will be amongst the favourites in Beijing.

IBPA at the 2008 European Championships, Pau, France



IBPA Members at the 50th Anniversary in Pau, June 2008

Report by the President, Patrick Jourdain

IBPA had a successful European Championships in Pau. Around 50 members attended. Seven new members were recruited and three lapsed members rejoined (see list below). Members present received the 50th anniversary pin. (Other members will receive their pin with the 2008 Handbook.)

The anniversary dinner, with members contributing their own cost, had a full house of 45, including two honoured guests who had been present in Oslo in 1958 at the founding. These were IBPA Honor Members Jaime Ortiz-Patino (28 at the time) and Per Jannersten who as a young boy joined his father, Eric, a founding member.

An Open forum was held for members (see minutes elsewhere).

A draft of the 2008 Handbook was checked. The Editor, Tjolpe Flodqvist, has done a great job collecting IBPA awards over the 50 years and they provide excellent material for members. A provisional Internet version will be published in July. Please check your own entry in the Personal Section and if you have any of the missing award-winning articles please send a copy to Tjolpe.

The Jannersten company has kindly offered to print the Handbook in time for Beijing, and the WBF

has offered to pay the cost of posting it to those who cannot take a copy in Beijing.

The Press Room in Pau was spacious, cool and well-managed, as usual, by Jan Swaan. There were too few laptops and members are always advised to bring their own as organisers struggle to please both the press and the players' internet café.

The Press outing, arranged by the Pau Tourist Board, was a happy occasion for 40 members. A visit to Pau's historic castle was followed by wine-tasting and an excellent lunch outside Pau. The trip concluded with a visit to a National Stud Centre (for breeding horses rather than politicians).

A Press Conference was held on the last Friday (see Pau Daily Bulletin No 14).

New members: Elizabeth van Ettinger (Net) photographer; Jorunn Fryjordet (Nor); Louise Godtfredsen (Den) photographer; Geert Magerman (Bel) University bridge organiser; Paul Michielsen (Net) NBO board member; Erik Rynning (Nor) Norwegian BF magazine & former TV channel owner; Fabrice Foulon (Fra) Press Room.

Rejoining members: Lars Blakset (Den) Bridgespinner; Norbert Lebelly (Fra); Erdal Sidar (Turkey) publisher Turkish Bridge Magazine.

IBPA in Beijing:

The Annual General Meeting and Awards are expected to be held on the second Tuesday. The

Photo: Elizabeth van Ettinger

WBF has arranged good value accommodation for IBPA members (see Per Jannersten's memo on page 3).

Laptops were stolen from the Championships in Pau (fortunately not from the Press Room as happened in Montreal and Malmo). Journalists bringing their own to championships are advised to bring security devices such as chains and locks with them, though the WBF will supply some.

P. D. Jourdain, IBPA President

IBPA OPEN FORUM, 24th June 2008, Pau

Members present: Christer Andersson: Jan van Cleeff: Maureen Dennison: Tony Gordon: Hans Olof Hallen: Per Jannersten (Chairman): Patrick Jourdain (President): Michael O'Connor: Bill Pencharz: Nissan Rand: Jan Swaan.

1: The meeting, opened by Jourdain, was to give members the opportunity to bring any ideas or complaints to the attention of the Executive and to discuss conditions for the press both here in Pau and for the future.

2: Jourdain reported that a revised handbook was nearly completed and should be on line in the near future. As near as possible, it will include all past awards from the past 50 years. It was also hoped that Jannersten could supply a list of the original members as well as some description of these personalities. There would also be a hard copy printed free to IBPA by Jannersten and taken and distributed in Beijing. The WBF has graciously undertaken to cover postage of the new Handbook to any members not at the World Championships. Thereafter there will be a fixed copy on the net but alongside that would also be a membership file for members personally to up-date any changes of address etc. Though the present membership is

around 330, there would be 400 copies printed to allow copies for future new members.

3: Rand mentioned some shortcomings of coverage in the IBPA Bulletin. He pointed out that there were many good Middle East events going unreported. Jourdain pointed out that it was up to the membership to send reports to the editor and he had the same problems when Editor. Israeli journalists do report in their local press but they should be persuaded to translate their articles and send them to Carruthers. Jourdain felt that it should be the duty of EVERY member to send at least one hand a year to the editor. Organisers could be asked to send in reports provided they had the judgment to pick out hands worthy of coverage.

4: There was a discussion about the security of the Press Room in that at this Championship, Swaan does not have a key and is not responsible for opening and closing the Press Room. Concern was expressed about the arrangement for Beijing. Jourdain is to contact Jose Damiani for the situation to be clarified and to check that IBPA would have a separate Press Room from the other mind sports. Approval was given for Swaan, who has accepted an invitation to Beijing, to purchase four chains so that members' lap tops can be secured to the tables.

5: Swaan informed the meeting that at the start of the Championship, there was no incoming telephone line to the Press Room and that he had some problems in getting one installed. He asked that it be made clear to future organisers that there should be at least two incoming lines, one for the telephone and one for Fax. He also asked it should be stressed that 4 computers are not sufficient and that there should be a minimum of six supplied by the organisation. He pointed out that we welcome Associate Members and they often like to check their mail and, indeed, have the right to do so, thus putting more pressure on the available machines.

John Armstrong

January 23, 1952-July 3, 2008

John Armstrong of Derbyshire, who has died suddenly at 56, was a member of the England Open Bridge team a week earlier at the European Bridge Championships. In the pair rankings for the championship, Armstrong and partner John Holland of Manchester were second of about 120 pairs.

Armstrong was England's most-capped player in the Home Internationals in a career that spanned four decades. In 1987

Armstrong was in the British team that won silver in both the European and World Championships, and then gold at the European Championships in 1991. His longest partnership was with Graham Kirby.

Armstrong obtained a First at Cambridge University in mathematics. After university he moved to the Liverpool area to work in insurance, from which he recently retired.

Armstrong was both a gentle man and a gentleman, well-liked and respected in the bridge world. He predeceases his mother and a brother and sister.



Correspondence...

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

Email: ibpaeditor@sympatico.ca

Dear editor,

Bobby Wolff has a chapter in *The Lone Wolff* titled "The ACBL... Flirting with Disaster." It is about the proposal that Robert Nargassans and I put to the ACBL board in 1997. A number of the facts are wrong and the essence of the project is distorted. I would appreciate the opportunity to put things straight.

Nargassans was an event promoter from Boston, Massachusetts. I met him while diving in the Whitsundays. We thought we would make an effective team in the business of bridge, even though he was not a bridge player. We had a plan to assist the 4,000 bridge clubs in North America in the recruiting and retaining of new players. Sometimes we forget that bridge clubs are the front line of the game!

One of the ways we were going to do this was by bringing more publicity to the game. We had hired a major US publicity firm and we were going to create a pro tour with television coverage in much the same way that poker has done in the last few years. Everyone wants to play poker these days because they are seeing it on television and we were merely seeking to do the same with bridge. The money to pay for the television show was going to come from corporate sponsorship and Nargassans had three major companies interested to invest in the program.

Would we have been successful? I was always confident that we would succeed but we will never know for sure because the board voted against the proposal 15-10. Such is life. We gave it our best shot and we had a lot of fun. We have now moved on to do other things. Wolff, however, tells a different story. He writes that we said we were going to "throw in ten to 15 million" of our own money. Whatever for?

Even if he really did form that opinion at some time, it is nothing short of disingenuous for him to write it now. The essence of our proposal was to raise money from advertising and sponsorship. That was how we would fund the programs and that is how we would make our money. It was never suggested otherwise – not in the mountain of correspondence between November 1996 and May 1997, when the vote was held, not in the presentation we made to the board on 2 March 1997 and not in the contract that we negotiated with the board, prior to the vote being taken.

Furthermore, Nargassans told Wolff when he raised this subject that we were about sponsors and corporate

dollars. He said, "There is no way that I would be an Ira Corn." Later Wolff writes, "When we reviewed Nargassans' proposals, it was the ACBL that was putting up all the money – in the neighbourhood of just under \$2 million." Not true. As specified in the contract, we would make a (mostly) 40% commission on money that we raised along with income from the sale of software and other incomes such as a commission on new memberships. The only direct cost to the ACBL was normal expenses and a fee of \$450,000 to be paid over the two year period of the contract. But it should also be pointed out that we were to be subject to benchmark tests so the ACBL could have simply cut us off if we did not perform.

Wolff certainly played a significant role in the board's ultimate decision to decline the proposal and he writes that it gives him peace of mind that he helped to avoid an impending disaster. Whatever he now thinks about his role, he hasn't done the bridge clubs of North America any favours. If you were to ask all the clubs right now whether they wish the 1997 deal had gone ahead, I am sure that an overwhelming majority of them would wish that it had. The simple truth is that bridge clubs are not even a blip on the Bobby Wolff radar.

Kind regards, Paul Marston, Sydney, Australia

Dear John,

Your analysis of the "Lets make a deal" in the May issue was quite correct, although you might have emphasised more strongly that the host KNOWS already that the door he will open contains a zonk. It is this knowledge that upsets the pure probability arguments of Allan Falk. Like Vacant Places, there are a lot of misleading oversimplifications about.

Best wishes, Michael Akeroyd, Bradford, UK

John,

You shouldn't take his word for it, because Allan Falk is wrong:

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Monty_Hall_problem

Best regards, Knut Blakset, Copenhagen,

Dear John,

On this occasion my good friend Allan Falk is 100% dead wrong. The issue here is whether the information you get is random or not, and since Monty cannot open a door with a prize behind it, he is definitely restricted in his choice, which changes the odds to the 2:1 you described. There is a well-known fallacy which is related,

where South plays three no trump, needing to get a count on the diamond suit for a missing queen. Since West is discovered to have led from a five-card spade suit, declarer plays East for the diamond queen.

In the other room North is declarer, finds that East has led from his five-card heart suit, and 'logically' plays West for the missing queen. Neither of them is right, because the information is biased – after all, they have to lead something. Tim Bourke and Marc Smith discussed this kind of bridge issue quite well in Countdown to Winning Bridge, some years ago. If you're interested in a really erudite, mathematical discussion of this stuff, I suggest consulting Bob McKinnon, Eric Sutherland or Colin Lee, all of whom are well qualified to help.

Incidentally, Allan is referring to a piece by Frank Vine entitled, "How I Abolished the Rule of Restricted Choice". It was indeed first published in The Bridge World, and will appear again in print this fall as part of an anthology of Frank's work from Master Point Press, entitled "North of the Master Solvers Club".

Ray Lee, Master Point Press, Toronto

I did indeed consult Eric Sutherland, a member of Canada's silver-medal Junior Team in Ann Arbor in 1991 (coincidentally, just a few kilometres from where Allan Fald resides) and an

Honours mathematics graduate of the University of Waterloo, Canada's foremost school of mathematics and computer science. Eric presented a mathematical/statistical proof of Restricted Choice, then went on to Let's Make a Deal:

Remember "Let's Make a Deal"? Monty Hall tells you that there is a fabulous prize behind one of Doors 1, 2, and 3, but there are "zonks" behind the other two. You choose Door 1, and Monty opens Door 3 to show you a giant rocking horse. He then asks you if you want to switch your choice to Door 2. Do you switch? This problem has caused more heated arguments than you can imagine.

Bridge players should have no difficulty recognizing another Restricted Choice situation here! Switch to Door 2, and your odds of winning are 2-1, not 50-50. Let's say that Door 1 was the right door — then Monty could have chosen to show you Door 2 or Door 3, with equal probability. However, if Door 2 was wrong, Monty was forced to choose Door 3, since Door 2 has the prize behind it. Because he is forced to pick Door 3 when Door 2 has the prize, and only picks Door 3 half the time when Door 1 has the prize, Door 2 has a better shot at making you a winner.

Eric Sutherland, Toronto

NEWS & VIEWS

Pakistan Mind Sports Association Competition

A major event - under the aegis of the Pakistan MSO, competitions of bridge (team event and individual) - chess – scrabble is scheduled for August 14 to Aug 17, 2008. Khurshid Hadi, the man behind obtaining sponsorship for this event and the Pakistan MSO is the organiser.

Pakistan, India, China, Indonesia, Jordan and the Emirates have indicated that they will compete in the three disciplines on offer - bridge, chess and Scrabble. The venue is the Southend Club, Defence Housing Authority, Karachi.

BBOFlash

Bridge Base Online will soon be announcing the release of an entirely new version of BBO that runs inside a web browser. You can access the beta version of this program (which we are currently referring to as BBOFlash) through:

<http://www.bridgebase.com/v2beta/>

I believe that BBOFlash sets a new standard for online bridge software in terms of low barrier for entry, ease of use, and quality of graphics. As such, I am as hopeful that the positive impact of BBOFlash has on bridge will be similar to that which I believe we have already achieved with BBO.

In my admittedly biased opinion, I think this is big news for bridge and that bridge journalists throughout the world would like to know about it! If there is anything you can do to help in this regard I would appreciate. If you want my help I would be happy to write an article, do an interview, and/or provide you with whatever information you might need.

Thanks in advance for whatever you can do to help us spread the word!

Regards, Fred Gitelman, Bridge Base Online, Ltd., Las Vegas www.bridgebase.com