



BULLETIN

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

No. 524

Year 2008

Date September 10

IBPA ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING & AWARDS

Monday, October 13th 2008 - Beijing

Agenda

- 1. Remembrance** of members deceased since last AGM.
- 2. Minutes** of the AGM held on 8th Oct, 2008 in Shanghai (see Bulletin 514, page 3) and matters arising
- 3. Officers' Reports:** President, Secretary
- 4. Appointees' Reports:** Editor, Liaison Officer, Sponsored Members
- 5. Treasurer & Membership Secretary:** Accounts for the year ending 31st December 2007, budget and subscriptions for the year 2009. Auditor's report.
- 6. Elections:**
Nominated for a two-year term to 2010 are: President: Patrick Jourdain (Wales); Chairman: Per Jannersten (Sweden); Exec Vice-President: Jan van Cleeff (Netherlands); Organisational Vice-President: Dilip Gidwani (India); Secretary: Maureen Dennison (England); Treasurer: Mario Dix (Malta).
Proposed for annual election are: Hon. General Counsel: Bill Pencharz (England); Hon. Auditor: Julius Butkow (Republic of South Africa)
Automatically continuing without election are the Presidents Emeritii: Tommy Sandsmark (Norway); Henry Francis (USA).
- 7. Election of Executive members:**
Executive members whose term expires and are proposed for a 3-year reelection to 2011: Julius Butkow (RSA); John Carruthers (Canada); Barry Rigal (USA).
Already elected to 2009: Christer Andersson (Sweden); Peter Lund (Denmark); Ron Tacchi (France).
Already elected to 2010: Chris Diment (Australia); Panos Gerontopoulos (Greece); Brent Manley (USA).
Note: Chris Diment has resigned and David Stern (Australia) is nominated to replace him for the remaining two years of the term.
Note: Appointees in post: Awards Chairman: Barry Rigal (USA); Editor: John Carruthers (Canada). Membership Secretary: Mario Dix (Malta).
Sponsored Members: Irena Chodorowska (Poland).
- 8. The IBPA Annual Awards**
- 9. Any other competent business.**

Patrick Jourdain (President)

A self-financing dinner (as at the European Championships in Pau) is planned for Beijing on Sunday, 12th October, to celebrate 50 years of IBPA.

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MIND SPORTS

ASSOCIATION OF PAKISTAN

1st NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

The Southend Club, Karachi

August 14-17, 2008

TC Pant, New Delhi John Carruthers, Toronto

The first National Championships of the Mind Sports Association of Pakistan were held in Karachi from Thursday, August 14 through Sunday, August 17 in collaboration with the Pakistan Bridge Federation, the Chess Federation of Pakistan and the Scrabble Association of Pakistan, and sponsored by Habib Bank Limited. The competitions were: Bridge (Teams; Individual); Chess (Masters, Under-25, Under-17); and Scrabble (Masters; Doubles; Intermediates; Recreational; Students).

Twenty-two teams entered the bridge Swiss Teams event, including three women's and two youth teams. The championship was won by DATA STEEL, just 2 Victory Points ahead of CANDYLAND, and 4 ahead of LUMS after 15 rounds of 10-board matches. The winners were Tariq Rashid, Rashid-ul-Ghazi, Pervez Mirza, Hasan Jawad and Tehsin Gheewala. The Individual was contested by 72 players and won by Nauman Butt over Ghufrah Ashraf and Pervez Mirza.

See how you would have fared on these problems faced by the players:

Problem 1. Dealer North. Both Vul.

♠ K Q 6
♥ K Q 9 5 3
♦ Q
♣ A K Q 10

West	North	East	South
—	2♦ ¹	Pass	2♥ ²
Pass	3♥	Pass	??

1. Weak two
2. Natural, forcing

You hold the South hand. What would you bid now? Would you have bid two hearts or something else?

Problem 2. Dealer East. EW Vul.

♠ K Q 2
♥ Q J 10 4 3
♦ K Q J
♣ 10 9

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

You are West. What would you lead?

Problem 3. Dealer South. EW Vul.

♠ 8
♥ J
♦ A J 8 4 3 2
♣ A K Q 5 2

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

1. 4th suit forcing to game

You hold the South hand with the minor suits. What call would you make over partner's three diamonds?

Solution 1.

♠ J 10 4
♥ 7 4
♦ A K 10 7 5 2
♣ J 8

♠ 9 5 3 2
♥ A J 10
♦ 8 6 4
♣ 9 6 4

♠ A 8 7
♥ 8 6 2
♦ J 9 3
♣ 7 5 3 2

♠ K Q 6
♥ K Q 9 5 3
♦ Q
♣ A K Q 10

South bid a precipitate four hearts over three hearts, expecting three-card support opposite. When North delivered only two hearts, they were in a very precarious contract despite all those high cards. All was well when the heart ace was offside, but the suit was three-three, so the North-South team lost only 2 IMPs to the three no trump bid at the other table.

North could have bid three diamonds over two hearts, but felt his hand was too good for such a discouraging-sounding call, and one has sympathy with his position. The other alternative was two no trump, but without a true stopper in either suit, he felt that call was not obvious. In any case, South should have bid three no trump at his second turn to offer North a choice of games. His choice would have been clear.

Anyone for two spades over two hearts?

Solution 2.

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

Our nameless West woodenly led the heart queen, believing his partner's double called for the lead of their suit. However, with such an attractive holding in diamonds, that lead is really a standout and would have led to plus 800 and a 12-IMP gain rather than the minus 550 and a 12-IMP loss achieved at the table against three no trump four down (undoubled) at the other table.

Solution 3.

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

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

The holder of the South hand never got a chance to find a bid over three diamonds as his partner leapt to four no trump over three clubs, then settled for a small slam after learning of three key cards opposite. A five-

heart trump-queen enquiry would have uncovered the queen of clubs and made seven a good proposition.

There was certainly no rush for North to take charge of the auction. Over three diamonds by North, South would have had plenty of options, including four clubs, four diamonds, four hearts and four no trump, any of which would have likely led to the excellent grand slam.



Winners of the other events were...

Chess

Master: Mehmood Lohdi
 Under-25: Abdul Majid
 Under-17: Abdul Rafay Siddique

Scrabble

Masters: Wasim Khathri
 Doubles: Tariq Pervez & Fahim Naqvi
 Intermediate: Ather Shafiq
 Student: Juvena Waqar
 Recreational: Asma Abid

OVERCOMING THE BEST DEFENCE

Marcelo Castello Branco, Rio de Janeiro;
Reported by Fernando Lema; Translation
by Mike Jackson

The following board was dealt during this year's South American Championships, held in Lima, Peru, June 14-21, 2008. It occurred in the Transnational Teams. Very few experts found the right line at the table.

At the end of the session several players were discussing the deal. World Grand Master Marcelo Castello Branco from Brasil was the only one able to figure out how to make the contract on repeated spade leads.

Dealer West. Both Vul.

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

At most tables, the bidding was something like this:

West	North	East	South
1 ♣	1 ♦	2 ♣	2 ♠
Pass	3 ♣	Pass	4 ♠
Pass	Pass	Pass	

All followed to the lead of the ace of spades, but on the continuation of the spade king, East discarded the four of clubs. West continued with the four of spades, and East discarded the club six, showing an odd number of clubs, probably five.

On this lead it was impossible to ruff a heart for the tenth trick – what is your plan?

Solution: You receive a trump lead, the best defence ... and as usual you must think before touching a card...

You see that there are not enough entries to establish dummy's diamonds, so you must try something else. You have only nine tricks, and you need one more... if East has the king of clubs and a diamond honour you can make the contract on a strip and throw in.

So you follow with the spade queen under the king at trick two and take the third spade in hand with the jack, then continue with the ten and nine. You have to leave East with nothing but clubs and diamonds, and these two trumps squeeze him in three suits. In order to keep diamonds and clubs guarded effectively, he must surrender a heart or two.

When East throws two hearts and West two clubs (for example) on the spades, you cash the three top hearts. East follows twice and finally throws a club... the position is:

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

Now you know that East has only clubs and diamonds in his hand. You play the seven of diamonds and when West follows low, insert the ten, giving East the lead... for your tenth trick.

Alternatively, declarer can bring the North hand to ace-jack of diamonds and three clubs. East must come to two diamonds and three clubs, whereupon ace and a diamond ruff and queen of clubs, passed to East, endplays him.

THE BEAUTIFUL GAME

Eric Kokish, Toronto

This deal is from a practice session between the Canadian Under-26 and Open Teams for the 2008 World Mind Sports Games in Beijing. In going through the deals, this one caught my eye rather loudly.

Board 2. Dealer East. NS Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Fergani</i>	<i>Hanna</i>	<i>l'Ecuyer</i>	<i>Lavee</i>
—	—	Pass	Pass
2 ♦ ¹	2 ♠	3 ♦ ²	Double
3 ♥	4 ♣	Pass	4 ♠
Pass	Pass	Pass	

1. Weak two in hearts or both minors, (originally weak and a Brown Sticker Convention, now nominally 10-15)
2. Pass or correct

In the Open Room, where three diamonds was East's best effort to reach his side's best trump suit at the three level, North-South's casual partnership had no common experience dealing with this type of auction. South doubled for penalties and to show some cards, which he had, but perhaps two no trump would have been better.

North had a good hand and made a natural bid to show it, but three no trump was now out of reach and four spades looked as though it were doomed. The money was in three hearts doubled down 500. Might that happen? Yes, if North could double three hearts to show a good hand with no direction. Unfortunately, that's a new and undiscussed option.

Although four spades appears to have two trumps and two red tricks to lose, declarer would have two chances to make it. On the opening lead of the heart five, the line to make the contract legitimately is to win the ace of hearts and play four rounds of clubs, discarding hearts as East ruffs (or not) with his natural trump trick.

In practice, declarer won the heart ace and took a spade finesse. When that won (shades of the Grosvenor Gambit), a second chance had materialised. He needed to play clubs now to get rid of the hearts in dummy,

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thus compressing East's trump tricks or avoiding the heart loser. However, convinced of the favourable spade position, he travelled to dummy with the club ace and repeated the spade finesse. East had had enough and won the king to play more hearts. With a diamond and another spade to come, that was one off, minus 100.

West	North	East	South
<i>Halasi</i>	<i>Fourcaudot</i>	<i>Blagov</i>	<i>Demuy</i>
—	—	Pass	1 ♠
1 ♥	Double	2 ♥	Pass
Pass	Double	Pass	3 ♠
Pass	3 ♥	Pass	3 NT
Pass	Pass	Pass	

In the Closed Room, the light opening led to a series of straightforward bids by both North and South. The defence started promisingly enough, but Demuy made a simple play that you not only never see outside a good textbook but could so easily miss at the table.

Charles Halasi led the heart king, three, eight, nine, and shifted to the ten of spades. Declarer, Vincent Demuy, played *low* from dummy! When Halasi played a second spade Demuy won the ace and continued with the queen to develop two more tricks in the suit. That gave him nine winners in the form of three spades, one heart, one diamond, and four clubs. Plus 600, and 12 IMPs to the Open Team.

The question arises, however: can the defence defeat three no trump if West shifts to the spade seven (should he?) and if he does, should East put in the eight if declarer ducks in dummy? Not really. Declarer loses the spade, ducks the heart return, then plays on spades to make nine tricks if the defence continues hearts or spades, or takes advantage of the fortunate diamond layout by playing on diamonds if the defence shifts to that suit.

None of that detracts from Demuy's play however, which guaranteed the contract against most spade and diamond layouts. Ducking the spade ten is the type of play that should get you thinking that bridge really can be a beautiful game.

YAVLINSKI'S JACKS AND NINES

Yuriy Kovalenko, Frankfurt

My friend Boris Yavlinski lives and plays bridge in Munich, Germany. To put it more precisely, primarily he plays bridge – seven to nine tournaments (about 200 boards) per week - and merely lives the rest of the time. There are eleven bridge clubs in Munich, and sometimes high-level competitions occur there. Yavlinski, even playing such a large quantity of boards, remembers all the interesting ones, and sees parallels between events even

several years apart. Recently he told me about the following two boards.

The first one was played in Germany's 2001 Individual.

Dealer West. Neither Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
		<i>Yavlinski</i>	
Pass	1 ♠	Double	Redouble
Pass	2 ♣	Pass	2 NT
Pass	3 NT	Pass	Pass
Pass			

Almost all the room played three no trump and made nine or more tricks. Do you see any possibility to prevent it being made? Yavlinski found a way to muddle the declarer.

In response to partner's double, West led the heart king. Declarer ducked this and West continued a heart to the queen and ace. Declarer led the diamond eight to dummy's ace and East's... jack! Now declarer 'saw' the simple way to win all the diamond tricks and so fulfil his contract. So he played dummy's small spade to the queen and then tried a diamond to the seven... Yavlinski won the diamond nine and four spade tricks, and when declarer failed to find the endplay for three off, declarer also lost another heart and a club for down four.

The second board was played recently in one of Munich's strongest bridge clubs, "Bridgedomizil am Maximilianeum".

Dealer North. NS Vul,

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

West	North	East	South
Yavlinski			
—	2 ♣ ¹	Pass	2 ♦ ²
Pass	2 ♠	Pass	3 NT
Pass	Pass	Pass	
1. Precision Club			
2. Relay			

Boris led the spade nine. He is the chief propagandist of the “SmeKaLka” system of signals. This method is already relatively popular in Germany, where it is named “Russian Whist” or “Quality”. According to the system, the opening lead of the spade nine means suit preference in hearts!

Declarer decided that the lead located the spade jack in the East hand. That’s why he ducked the first trick to East’s king, won the second trick with the heart ace, played a club to dummy’s ace and tried a spade to the ten - Yavlinski scored his jack and four heart tricks for one off, with twelve tricks cold on the lead!

DEATH TO DEEP FINESSE

Allan Falk, Okemos, MI

(From the Las Vegas NABC Daily Bulletin)

Thanks to the miracle of computerization, perfectly reasonable plays are now fodder for losing post-mortem analyses. Deep Finesse will report that some contract in which I failed miserably was always cold on any defence. Look at example one:

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

After an inverted minor auction, I found myself declaring three no trump as South, against the jack of hearts opening lead. Dummy followed low, and East unhesitatingly played the two, allowing me to win. Not wanting to catch a heart through my remaining honor and having a serious shortage of tricks, it seemed a good idea to take advantage of my diamond spots combined with an avoidance play by crossing to dummy in clubs and playing a diamond to the ten. This lost to the jack, and back came the ten of hearts to the ace, and a diamond return.

I now had a tenace in hearts against left-hand opponent’s remaining nine-six. If my LHO had the ace of spades, I

had a chance for an endplay. So, needing clubs 3-3 anyway, I crossed to dummy and led the diamond queen. RHO won the king and returned a diamond. I cashed two clubs, coming down to the spade king and the king-eight of hearts. LHO, after much thought, discarded two low spades. Continuing my play, I led a spade, but RHO rose with the ace to cash the long diamond for down one.

Of course, Deep Finesse says three no trump is cold - against the actual defence, I have to play the ace then ten of diamonds at tricks two and three, then play RHO for both major-suit aces. No one else to whom I spoke encountered RHO’s low heart play at trick one, however. And note how playing diamonds from the top would have fared if East held ♦K J 6 3 2 and either major-suit ace. But according to Deep Finesse, I plumbed the play and went down in a cooler.

Example two:

Dealer South. EW Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
—	—	—	4 ♥
Pass	Pass	Double	Pass
5 ♦	Pass	Pass	Pass

North led a heart, ruffed in dummy. As West, I could see that five diamonds was cold if diamonds were no worse than 3-1, and there was a substantial danger of a club ruff, so at trick two, I called for the king of diamonds.

Disaster! North won the ace and played a second heart, establishing the diamond nine as the setting trick.

Deep Finesse reported that five diamonds was cold, which is true, after a fashion. To make five diamonds, I must play for diamonds to be 4-0, clubs to be 3-2 and the queen of spades to be onside. At tricks two through four, I must play three rounds of clubs, throwing my second heart. Then I must play the spade jack. North wins (ducking is no better: I lead the ten next and if he ducks again, discard the spade king on a club) and gives me a ruff-sluff by leading a second heart. I ruff in hand and play a diamond; North wins and leads a third heart, ruffed by West, reducing both West and North to three remaining diamonds.

However, after a diamond to dummy, I take another spade finesse, and when next in hand, I can draw the outstanding trump. Why take a 90% line (diamonds no worse than 3-1) when a 0.85% line (clubs 3-2 with North holding three, diamonds 4-0 with North and the spade queen with South) is available?

Example three features Deep Finesse showing equal disdain for defenders as well as declarers.

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

West	North	East	South
Pass	1 ♦	2 ♣	3 ♦ ¹
Pass	Pass	Pass	
1. Invitational.			

According to Deep Finesse, as East and on opening lead, I can somehow hold three diamonds to nine tricks. Looking at all four hands (as Deep Finesse does), I still don't see it, but my partner is left thinking I dropped yet another trick on defence. (*Heart ace lead, club jack - in case declarer has the nine - to the king at trick two, split the diamond honours, winning the second round of the suit, cross on the club queen, receive a heart ruff. - Ed.*)

Deep Finesse also says that North can make four spades, so in terms of matchpoints, the difference between minus 130 and minus 110 on a 90 top was not large.

So here's hoping that Deep Finesse and Chthonic* soon kill each other in a blood feud!

*Chthonic is Danny Kleinman and Nick Straguzzi's fictional bridge-playing computer who insults its partners and opponents alike, both incessantly and eloquently.

A MATTER OF SOME DELICACY

Jim Gordon, S. Burlington, VT

In the Round of 32 of the Las Vegas Spingold, the match between Meltzer and Shi was blown open in the third quarter. The following deal provided a significant part of the margin:

Board 9. Dealer North. EW Vul.

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

The auction at both tables started similarly:

West	North	East	South
Helness		Helgemo	
—	Pass	1 ♦	2 ♥
2 ♠	5 ♥	Pass ¹	Pass
?			
1. Forcing			

At one table, West thought he had the answer to the situation – he bid an immediate six spades. Although this would have been a viable contract on some other layouts, this time it had no play.

At the other table, Tor Helness found an elegant and delicate solution – he bid 5NT! This ensured that the hand would be played in slam, but avoided committing the partnership to a particular strain. When Geir Helgemo bid the now-obvious six clubs, the partnership had landed in the best contract. Careful play by Helgemo brought home the contract for a 16-IMP gain.

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449. Dealer South. E-W Vul.

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

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

As he had no attractive lead into a strong notrump hand, West tried a trump. When dummy came down, declarer's first thought was that the contract would depend on one of three finesses succeeding. However, after a little more thought, he saw that there was a certain way to make ten tricks if East followed to the first trick with a trump.

Declarer called for the king of spades, crossed to hand with a trump to the nine and then led a diamond to the jack. East took this with the queen and shifted to a heart. Declarer rose with the ace of hearts, cashed dummy's king of diamonds and returned to hand with a trump to the jack. After discarding the eight of hearts on the ace of diamonds, declarer advanced the queen of hearts. West covered with the king which declarer ruffed. All that remained was to return to hand with the ace of trumps and throw a club on the established jack of hearts.

If West had followed with a low card on the queen of hearts, declarer planned to discard a club from dummy. Even if East produced the king of hearts the contract was safe because the king of clubs would be protected.

450. Dealer South. E-W Vul.

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

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

Despite the hit-and-miss nature of the auction, the best contract was reached. However, after West led the queen of clubs, declarer showed that it was still possible to go down in an odds-on contract; he was too focussed on making overtricks. After winning the first trick with the ace of clubs, he played a spade to his jack, which would make twelve tricks if East had the queen of spades no more than four times.

West took this with the queen and played another club to East's king. Declarer ruffed then cashed the ace and king of trumps. When East showed out on the third round, declarer was in trouble. If he drew West's last trump and played on hearts, West would win the ace of hearts and cash three clubs. Instead he played on hearts immediately but West took the ace of hearts and forced declarer with another club. Declarer could do no better than ruff and play on hearts. West made two trumps, a heart and two clubs for plus 100.

Declarer was greedy. As he could afford to lose three tricks, it was best to assume that these could be two trumps and a heart. All that was required to bring this about was to assume that trumps

would be no worse than 4-2. He should have won the club lead with the ace and played the ace and king of trumps then attacked hearts. When West wins the ace of hearts and plays a club, declarer ruffs and continues to run his supply of heart winners. As both declarer and West have two trumps each, it is West and not declarer who is forced to reduce his trump length first. West makes two trumps and the ace of hearts but declarer takes ten tricks; five trumps, four tricks in the red suits and a club.

451. Dealer North. E-W Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
—	1 ♦	Pass	1 ♠
Pass	1 NT	Pass	4 ♠
Pass	Pass	Pass	

Perhaps South should have bid a for-him forcing three spades over one notrump, which might see North choose the easy-to-make game in notrumps. Not content with being cavalier in the auction, declarer also produced a similar performance in the play.

West led the queen of hearts and declarer played low from dummy. West continued with the jack of hearts and declarer ruffed, drew trumps and only then considered where he might get a tenth trick, which could only come from the diamond suit. Hoping that the hand with three diamonds had only three hearts, he played ace and another diamond. East won and played the ace of hearts which declarer ruffed while West followed with the ten of hearts. When declarer played a third round of diamonds, West won with the king and exited with the two of hearts. East could then cash two hearts and hold declarer to eight tricks.

Declarer should have formed a plan at trick one and seen that he needed diamonds to be 3-2 to make his contract. Accordingly, the diamond suit should be attacked before trumps. After ruffing the

second heart, declarer should play ace and another diamond. East will win and play the ace of hearts. Declarer ruffs and plays a third diamond, leaving West with no winning option. If West plays a fourth round of hearts, declarer ruffs with dummy's ten of trumps and discards his remaining diamond. Then he can draw trumps and cash the ace-king of clubs for his contract. (On any other return, declarer wins, draws West's trumps and makes six trumps, two diamonds and two clubs.)

452. Dealer North. E-W Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
—	Pass	Pass	4 ♠
Pass	Pass	Pass	

After two passes, South decided to make it difficult for his opponents to enter the auction by opening the bidding at the four level.

West led the king of clubs and shifted to the ten of trumps at trick two. Declarer took this with the ace and could count nine top tricks. Initially, he felt that his tenth trick could only come if East had the the king of hearts. However, there was an extra chance. He pulled back the king of spades he was about to play and instead placed the three of hearts on the table. As the cards lie, this scuppers the defence. It would do West no good to rise with the king of hearts for that establishes the queen of hearts as declarer's tenth trick.

Instead West played low, forcing East to take the ten of hearts with the jack. As East had no trump to return, declarer could now win the return, cash the ace of hearts and ruff the queen of hearts in dummy. After ruffing a club back to hand with a high trump, he could draw West's remaining trumps and claim ten tricks.

If trumps had been 2-2, allowing East to prevent a heart ruff by returning a trump then nothing would have been lost. Declarer would then fall back on the heart finesse for his tenth trick.

EDWIN B.

Phillip Alder, Hobe Sound, FL

(From the Las Vegas NABC Daily Bulletin)

Eddie Kantar does not compete in serious tournament bridge any longer, but he can still play a really great game. He has a terrific analytical mind that sees opportunities most players would miss.

Recently, he and I played for a couple of hours against Linda and Ray Lee of Master Point Press fame. This was my favourite deal from the session.

Dealer East. Neither Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Kantar	Ray	Alder	Linda
—	—	Pass	2 NT
Pass	3 NT	Pass	Pass
Pass			

I'll describe how the play went. You decide how many excellent plays were found and how many errors were made.

Kantar led the two of hearts. I won the trick with my ace and shifted to the nine of spades, showing zero or two higher honours. West took South's jack with his ace and returned the eight, which held the trick, then played his remaining spade.

After throwing a club from the dummy, declarer won with her king, cashed the ace of diamonds and continued with the diamond queen, which held. Now she led a low heart toward the dummy, West putting in his jack. South won with the king on the dummy, cashed the ten of hearts and took her three club tricks, but conceded the rest to go down one.

What are your thoughts?

I am sure you spotted the best play: Eddie's entry-killing jack of hearts at trick seven. Without that, declarer would have finessed dummy's heart ten and established the diamonds. After Eddie's play, the contract was unmakeable.

To stop West from finding this great play, as Eddie mentioned, South should have dumped her heart queen under my ace at trick one. However, if I had returned a

heart, that would have removed a dummy entry while the diamonds were still blocked.

The simplest way to beat the contract was for me not to win trick one. However, that would not have been so clever if declarer could have taken the next eight tricks in the minors when partner had ace-jack to four spades.

Did you see, though, that South could still have made her contract after winning with the king of spades? This was the position:

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

Declarer takes two or three club tricks, discarding a diamond from the dummy then leads her low heart. West puts up his jack, but South wins in the dummy and plays a diamond, jettisoning her queen of hearts. West has to concede the last two tricks to the dummy. To stop this, after West won the third trick with his eight of spades, he had to go back to hearts to get one of the entries out of the dummy. So, not even Eddie escaped unscathed from this deal!

ZERO TOLERANCE: LEARNING FROM OTHER SPORTS

Simon Cochemé, London

(From the Las Vegas NABC Daily Bulletin)

Aileen Osofsky, chair of the ACBL Goodwill Committee and a leading proponent of the ACBL's Zero Tolerance initiative, is keen to find out what bridge could learn from other sports, so she invited other sporting bodies to send bridge teams to a special event where they could be observed in action.

The play had already started by the time I got there. The first room seemed a bit rowdy. As I entered, a player got up and ran around the table with his arms outstretched. Then he dropped to his knees, slid forward a few feet and lifted the front of his shirt over his head. Tournament Director Mike Flader, dressed in black and wearing shorts, came over to remonstrate with him.

"It's the soccer players," sighed Aileen. "This pair does it every time they make a contract. We're trying to persuade them to keep it just for slams. Their other

pair are fine,” she went on, “They’ve yet to play a hand. They think passing all the time is a good idea – they say it’s the David Beckham way.”

We stayed to watch the next board. I looked at their opponents. From the white outfits, and the lemon barley water on the tables beside them, I guessed they were tennis players. My suspicions were confirmed when one of them started grunting loudly every time she placed a bidding card on the table. Her partner gave a clenched fist pump and a stifled cry of “Yes!” as his three-no-trump bid was passed out. The play was somewhat disjointed because the pair of them insisted on touching hands across the table after every trick, whether won or lost.

“We would have to have screens in all the clubs to take care of that,” commented Aileen, as declarer won the game with an ace.

I was almost knocked over as the new pair came to the table: the ice hockey players had arrived. We went into the second room, which was almost funereal in contrast. The table nearest the door had just finished the bidding as we got there.

Dealer West. EW Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
1 ♣	Pass	1 ♠	4 ♥
Pass	Pass	Pass	

South took a glove off his left hand and put it into the hip pocket of his garishly-checked trousers as the ace of spades was led and dummy went down. West switched to the diamond three. A second man, whom I had taken to be a kibitzer, leaned over declarer’s shoulder and pointed at the dummy.

“What are they doing?” I whispered to Aileen.

“That’s his caddy,” she answered. “He’s pointing out the best line.”

They finished their consultation. Declarer nodded and called for the ace of diamonds. He then played the king of clubs from dummy and threw the diamond six on it from hand, exchanging one loser for another. West won the trick but was unable to cross to his partner’s hand

and get a spade ruff. Declarer ruffed the diamond return and soon wrapped up ten tricks.

“A Scissors Coup,” said Aileen. “Wasn’t that neat!”

South smiled at her. “We golfers try to avoid the rough,” he said. “It was just a matter of selecting the right club.”

At half-time, the tennis players were eating bananas, the football players were drinking cans of beer and the track and field athletes were gathered in the corner, furtively taking coloured pills. Tournament Manager Mike Flader was looking apprehensive, wary of being approached by the agent of a Far Eastern betting syndicate. ACBL President Dan Morse was deep in discussion with a large gentleman from the NFL.

“It was a really useful conversation,” Dan told me later. “Did you know that Jerry Jones never actually plays for the Cowboys? Not even when they have a huge lead with only five minutes to play.” He sighed and shook his head. “If only we could find sponsors like that!”

The start of the second half was signalled by a scantily-clad young female walking around with a large board with “Round 5” on it. I gathered she was boxing’s contribution to the afternoon.

“What do you think?” asked Aileen. “Would that go down well at the Fall NABC in Boston?”

I watched the race-car drivers play the last deal of the afternoon against the football players.

Dealer North. EW Vul.

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

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

There was a pause at the end of the bidding while the East and West players left the table and were replaced by two teammates.

“They’re bringing on their defence players,” explained Aileen. “They’ve even got a guy who comes in only to lead against Lightner Doubles.”

South’s reaction to dummy was one of disappointment; he could see thirteen tricks – five hearts, five clubs and

three spades. He ruffed the diamond lead in hand, crossed to the heart king and drew a second round of trumps, East discarding a club. Declarer paused for a moment. If he cashed the heart jack next, there would be no convenient way back to his hand to draw West's last trump.

Declarer soon came up with the answer. He unblocked the club ace and led the heart jack from dummy, playing the ace from hand. Now he ran the clubs; West could ruff in with his master trump whenever he wished, but declarer would make the rest of the tricks.

South was delighted with himself. "Did you see that?" he exclaimed. "What a great piece of overtaking! Andretti would have been proud!" He dashed off to the bar and was soon spraying champagne over everyone within a ten-yard radius. The cheerleaders weren't too happy to have their outfits soaked, but it did have the advantage of breaking up the fight between two of the soccer players about who would get to swap shirts with the blonde tennis player.

I left in a hurry. If I was lucky I could just make it back to civilisation and the evening duplicate at my club.

AN UNUSUAL EXAMPLE

N Scott Cardell, Pullman, WA

The following hand was played at the University Cities Bridge Club, of Pullman, Washington and Moscow, Idaho.

IMPs. Dealer South. NS Vul.

♠ 8 6 4
♥ 10 3 2
♦ A J 10 9
♣ Q 9 7

♠ A J 5
♥ A K Q 6
♦ Q 7 5
♣ J 5 4

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

West would lead the spade ten, and declarer should capture East's queen and cash two high hearts to see what happens. What happens is that East turns up with the jack-nine doubleton of hearts. Now what?

Declarer should cross to the ten of hearts at trick four and lead a diamond toward the queen. Assuming normal breaks this guarantees the contract unless West has ace or king-third of clubs and finds the defence of switching to a low club. (If that happens, declarer will place West with four clubs, and put the club jack in on

the second round to gain an entry to hand or make West take his honour. In practice this will allow the defence to set up a long club in East's hand.) However, as the cards lie, East has the diamond king and should duck.

The diamond queen would win, and declarer should discard a spade on his last high heart and lead a diamond. When West discards a low club on the second round of diamonds, declarer knows everyone's distribution. By ducking the first round of diamonds East made declarer commit to a line of play before the distribution was revealed. All that remains unknown is which club East holds.

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

Declarer ducks the second round of diamonds to East. East wins the king and returns a diamond. At first it looks like declarer must guess whether East has a small singleton club or a singleton high club honour.

However, East has been squeezed in a most unusual manner. If East has discarded either a club, or a diamond, then declarer can safely cash the last high diamond, discarding a club and lead a spade, scoring four heart tricks, three diamond tricks and two spade tricks. But if East has discarded two spades, declarer abandons dummy's last high diamond and leads a spade. The best East can do is win and return a diamond: declarer leads a club toward the jack, and however the clubs lie and the defence plays declarer gets two more tricks.

If instead East wins the spade and leads another, declarer wins his jack, discarding a club from the dummy, and leads a club to the queen. Here, West will give declarer a club trick for his ninth, or East will win the club and give dummy a diamond trick, again the ninth.

This is a three-suit immaterial squeeze, and East can discard from any suit without unguarding that suit.

At the table North-South bid to four hearts, and this was not a success. West led the spade ten to the queen and ace; declarer ran the diamond queen at trick two and lost the next eight tricks for down five! Declarer should have started with two rounds of trumps, but would still have been down at least two.

(Perhaps a more natural, not necessarily successful, play might be a diamond to the nine at trick two, then hearts. - Ed.)

APPEARANCES CAN BE DECEIVING

Jim Gordon, S. Burlington, VT

Sometimes, a deal seems so innocuous that it doesn't get a second look. However, when the hand results in a swing, a pair suggests that it might have overdefended it, and declarer falls THREE tricks short of the double-dummy result, there just might be a story involved! The Round of 16 of the Las Vegas Spingold provided the hand:

Board 6. Dealer East. EW Vul.

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

The auction at our spotlighted table was:

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

1. Strong, artificial, forcing
2. 5-7 HCP

Although Alan Sontag, South, had a call available to show both majors, he chose a simple overcall. As we'll see, this choice had a significant impact on the play of the hand. (We can see that a Pass by West over the Double had an easy route to plus 300, but it was quite early in the match for West to take that big a position – take-out doubles are meant to be taken out.)

From a double-dummy perspective, eleven tricks are available on any lead – just use the heart honors to ruff out the suit and guess the diamonds and you're home.

However, at the table, declarer was faced with nothing but ambiguity. At this vulnerability, South's one-spade overcall could have been based on virtually any holding, hand strength and distribution. If anything, the fact that South hadn't shown both majors rather strongly suggested that he held at least one fewer heart. Similarly, North's preemptive raise revealed little, if anything, about his hand. To continue the information black-out, Sontag found the good lead of a trump! This threatened to restrict declarer to one spade ruff in hand.

Declarer decided his best chance was to find South with king-to-three hearts. This would allow the suit to

be established and, with a guess in diamonds, lead to ten tricks. Accordingly, he won the trump lead in hand to play ace and another heart, ruffing in dummy. He then led a diamond to the king.

Sontag drew a smile from S.J. Simon when he ducked this!! With growing confidence, declarer ruffed a second heart in dummy. On the actual layout, the hand could no longer be made. The refusal of the heart king to make an appearance, coupled with the availability of a diamond ruff in the hand which started with two trumps left the defence in control. When declarer next misguessed the diamond position, a second undertrick became available.

At the other table, West declared three clubs on the less challenging defence of a spade lead and a trump shift. Not deprived of the ability to ruff two spades in dummy, declarer had a clear road to nine tricks.

BIARRITZ 2008

Hervé Pacault, Bordeaux

The level of competition at this year's edition of the Biarritz International Bridge Festival benefited from its close proximity to Pau (100 km), site of the 2008 European Championships, which concluded just two days before the Festival began. Many teams made the short trip from the Pyrenees to the Bay of Biscay for the Festival.

Here is a deal where a weak two-bid in hearts facilitated declarer's discovering the winning line of play where other declarers failed in the same contract. North-South were a bit lucky to land on their feet after a bidding misunderstanding.

Dealer East. Neither Vul.

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

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

The strangeness at the end of this bidding sequence occurred because of the ambiguity of the three-heart bid, which North thought showed both minors, but South intended it as asking for a heart stopper for three no trump.

West led the king of spades to the two, ten and ace. Declarer drew trumps in two rounds and played another spade, leaving the defenders without resource. When West chose to exit a heart, South won the ace and ruffed a heart to isolate the heart menace with East. On the run of the diamonds, this ending was reached:

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

On the last trump, West discarded a club to keep the spade queen and the spade seven, job now done, was discarded from the dummy. In order to keep the heart queen to guard against dummy's ten, East now had to discard a club as well. The king and ace of clubs collected all the remaining adverse clubs and the nine of clubs was the twelfth trick.

Note that here, the jack of clubs did not play a key role, although it did provide some declarers with a less effective line of play.

The championship winners were:

Grand Prix de la Ville de Biarritz (Open Pairs)
Giorgio Duboin - Antonio Sementa (Italy)

Casino Barrière Mixed Pairs
Sylvie Willard - Zia Mahmood (France-USA)

Accor IMP Pairs
Jérôme Rombaut - Jérémie Tignel (France)

Lavazza Patton Teams
Marc Bompis - Albert Faigenbaum - Jean-Christophe Quantin - Romain Zaleski (France)

Whisterie.com Women's Pairs
Christine Bouffard - Corinne Mohsen (France)

Men's Pairs
Bernard Cabanes - Jean-Pierre Desmoulins (France)

Complete results and the programme for 2009 can be found at www.biarritz-bridge.com.

A FICKLE WOMAN

Matthew Granovetter, Cincinnati, OH
(From the Jerusalem Post)

One of the most difficult things for a bridge player to do is change his mind in the middle of a hand. When a player has a strategy planned out, and suddenly it looks wrong, usually the player will stick to his strategy anyway. On this deal, played in a bridge club in Cincinnati, Ohio, it was right to change tack. The heroine in this case was my wife, Pamela Granovetter, sitting West.

Dealer East. Neither Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Pamela Granovetter</i>	—	<i>Adrienne Netherwood</i>	—
—	—	1 ♦	Double
1 NT	2 ♠	3 ♦	3 ♥
Pass	3 ♠	Pass	4 ♥
Pass	Pass	Pass	—

West led the king of diamonds. When the king of diamonds held the trick, Granovetter continued diamonds, planning to ruff the third round with her seven of hearts. But her partner won the trick with the ace of diamonds and followed up with the queen of diamonds at trick three.

This 'high-low' signal indicated that East held strength in the major suits and not in clubs. When South followed suit with a third diamond, West had second thoughts about ruffing. Indeed, had she ruffed with the seven, the defence would be finished. Declarer could win a spade shift in dummy and finesse in trumps successfully for her contract.

After due consideration, Granovetter discarded a club. Declarer ruffed the diamond in dummy, came to her hand in clubs and led the ace and queen of hearts. East won the king and returned a fourth round of diamonds. Declarer ruffed and West over-ruffed for the setting trick.

1st MIND SPORTS ASSOCIATION OF PAKISTAN (MSAP) CHAMPIONSHIPS

Khurshid Hadi, President of the Pakistan Bridge Association and the MSAP, and Chief Organiser of the Championships, reports the following successes as outcomes from the Championships:

- the establishment of a non-governmental agency that has awakened the corporate sector to the possibility of combining corporate promotional goals and social responsibility
- the development and promotion of bridge under the more-palatable umbrella of 'Mind Sports'
- the first-ever running of tripartite national games under the constant gaze of the media (daily reports in the press, a two-hour special on GEO Sports channel on mind sports and the MSAP)
- an enterprise focussed on the launch of a 'College Program' that seeks to set up, in the initial phase, Mind Sports Clubs in 10 colleges, and provide coaching and infrastructure, build up college teams and create an inter-collegiate tournament.

Hadi and MSAP would be delighted to share experiences with like-minded organisations. He can be reached at: khadi44@gmail.com

WACHAUER BRIDGEWOCHE IN LOIBEN 2008

The biggest Austrian tournament celebrated its 40th anniversary this year, reports Fritz Babsch. Participation was very good, up 15% from last year. Players from about 15 nations participated. Winners were:

Mixed Pairs (170 pairs): Maria Erhart - Franz Terraneo. The winners were 5% ahead of the rest of the field!

Swiss Teams (91 Teams): Doris Fischer - Bernd Saurer - Björn Fallenius - Josef Simon. The team won all rounds (11 matches of 10 boards)!

Open Pairs (191 pairs): Wolfgang Semmelrath - Heimo Stalzer

Miss Loiben: Jovanka Smederevac

Mister Loiben: Kurt Feichtinger

BRIDGE PLUS

The principals of *Bridge Magazine* of the UK have announced that *Bridge Plus* magazine, also of the UK, has been acquired by Chess & Bridge Ltd. *Bridge Plus* will cease publication after its September issue and will subsequently be incorporated in *Bridge Magazine*.

This is the third occasion on which *Bridge Magazine* has absorbed a competitor, the others being *British Bridge World* and *International Popular Bridge Monthly*.

To the editor (*abridged due to space considerations*):

In the July 2008 IBPA Bulletin, I challenged the accuracy of the chapter in *The Lone Wolff* titled, *The ACBL... Flirting with Disaster!* The chapter is about a proposition that a colleague and I put to the ACBL board in 1997. I said that Wolff has a number of the facts wrong and that he has distorted the essence of the project. In reply Wolff claims he is stating the facts so that readers may judge for themselves.

This is simply not right. He may be offering facts as he remembers them but he seems to forget that sometimes even the most robust of memories can become unreliable after 11 years. This is not a case of my memory versus his. My account is based entirely on documentation from that time, which I still have in my possession. I have copies of just about all communications that took place amongst those who were involved in the project. In all, it comes to about 1,000 pages, dated between September 1996 and July 1997. I challenge Bobby Wolff to prove me wrong in any of my matters of fact.

Paul Marston, Sydney, Australia

John,

In the August Bulletin, you have a hand from Phillip Alder ("An Impossible Contract, Except That It Wasn't"), where, in the four-card end position, it is said, "Reistad completed a brilliant performance by ruffing a diamond with his spade ace and leading his last heart to guarantee one more trump trick." At that point, Reistad could also succeed by ruffing with the queen rather than the ace, or by leading a trump to the ace; the only thing he can't do is lead a trump to the queen. Meanwhile, after the play to trick one, West did not have to be brilliant to put up the club ten on the second round of that suit.

And I also have to take issue with Mark Horton nominating a sequence that involved a highly unusual (and not clearly optimal) set of conventional agreements as "the best auction of 2008". When a pair has some obscure agreement that comes up once in a blue moon, the fact that they remember it is nice, but hardly reflects great bidding judgment warranting a brilliancy prize. On the hand given, after one spade-two no trump (or some other forcing raise), East next bids five diamonds Exclusion Blackwood, learns of two key cards and the spade queen, and can fairly claim 13 tricks in spades, not a very challenging hand. No doubt there are many other ways to get there as well. (*In any case, only the Awards Chairman, assisted by a committee, chooses the finalists in each category for the IBPA awards. – Ed.*)

Best wishes, Allan Falk, Okemos, MI



Correspondence...

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

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Barnet Shenkin sent us a flurry of emails this past month, all further analysing deals in the August issue...

John:

(1.) On page 3 of the No. 523 issue, analysis of the play in the heart suit is given in slam. The writer (Michael Akeroyd), commenting about the play in six clubs, infers it is clearer and easier than six no trump as declarer can eliminate the hand. He fails to say what declarer should do. On the contrary, the fact that declarer can eliminate the hand makes it more reasonable for him to go down and harder, rather than easier. This was the deal:

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

He wins by playing ace and another, as against two finesses, when West has K6, K9, K2, K96, K92 and K62.

He loses when west has KJ6, KJ9, KJ2, any time west has KJ to four and KJ to five. This is a total of seven holdings.

The play after elimination of low to the ten followed by the queen when East takes the J loses to six jack holdings in East. Thus declarer was more likely to go down in six clubs rather than six no trump with the elimination reducing the advantage of two finesses.

(2.) On the deal reported by Andrew Robson (page 4):

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

...while it may be intuitive for declarer to pitch a diamond on the club queen as East fails to follow suit or trump, it is actually a mistake.

The hand is a readout and had declarer pitched a spade there would be no further opportunity for a trump promotion. He could then dispose of his last two spades as before, ruffing one and pitching one. Then West has no reply.

So declarer made a good recovery, losing the spade queen to East early on, but had a simpler and just as effective a play available.

(3.) If declarer (as South in one no trump, and having won the spade queen and six diamond tricks) comes down to the six-card end position shown by Barry Rigal on page 13...

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

...East simply has to keep one more spade and one fewer heart. Now, regardless of what declarer plays next, West wins the spade ace and plays the ace of hearts and a second heart, squeezing dummy between spades and clubs, East holding the spade threat and West the club threat

Regards, Barnet Shenkin, Boca Raton, FL

John:

With regard to Michael Akeroyd's contribution under the heading "Roughhouse Tactics or Percentage Play" to Bulletin 523, is it not the case that an "obvious minimum double" makes it more likely that South will have a singleton heart, not a doubleton? (Meaning that four hearts, needing a 2-2 break with four small opposite five to the ace, was less than odds-on, contrary to the author's suggestion. — Ed.)

Richard Fleet, Berkhamsted, UK

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