



BULLETIN

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The IBPA Personality of the Year



Antoine Bernheim, president of the Generali Group, has been selected as the International Bridge Press Association's Personality of the Year. Generali is a longtime supporter of the WBF and the IBPA. Bernheim is shown playing at the World Championships in Estoril, Portugal.

This year both the IBPA and the WBF are celebrating 50 years of existence. Your Executive decided to honour as its Personality of the Year someone who represents the commercial sponsors who have most supported bridge in general, and IBPA in particular, over many years. For IBPA, in our early years, that would have been BOLS, but in the later years one company stands out, namely, Generali.

In the days when I was your Editor, Generali frequently supported IBPA with full page advertisements. When we produced our last Handbook in 2002, Generali paid for the postage to members, and they have made a similar offer this year. In bridge, generally you all know of Generali's support for both the WBF and EBL. The most obvious here in Beijing was the Generali World Masters Individual.

The one individual who has represented Generali over the years is its President, Antoine Bernheim of Italy. Sadly, Mr. Bernheim cannot be present to accept the Award so we have asked someone who is a good friend of Mr. Bernheim to accept the Award on his behalf. I refer to the President of the World Bridge Federation, Mr Damiani.

Patrick Jourdain, President



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1st WORLD MIND SPORTS GAMES



3-18 October 2008
BEIJING - CHINA



THE OPEN TEAMS

The 2007 Bermuda Bowl, won by Norway, had given heart to all countries other than Italy and the USA, who between them had won every Bermuda Bowl, Olympiad and Rosenblum for the nine previous years. (Helness and Helgemo had been on the primarily-American Meltzer team in 2006). Thus Norway joined the exclusive ranks of those nations having won an open world team title (there are only nine). With Italy having lost to South Africa in the event Norway won and the Nickell team showing signs of mortality, other teams were beginning to think, "Why not us?"

Other than Norway, the teams considered to have the best shot at upsetting Italy and the USA, were, in alphabetical order, Brazil, England, Netherlands and Poland, all previous world team title holders. Sure, other teams such as China, France and Germany were expected to do well, but the winner? The winner was expected to come from that small group of seven. When all was said and done though, Italy, returning to its strongest-possible lineup of Duboin-Sementa, Fantoni-Nunes and Lauria-Versace, were clear favourites. After two poor (by their standards) championships in a row (Bermuda Bowl, European), both won by Norway, they were hungry again. That was bad news for the rest of the field.

Seventy-one teams were seeded into four roughly-equally-skilled groups for round robin play of 16-board matches. The top four teams in each group would qualify for knockout play with the winner in each group being able to choose its opponent from the third- and fourth-place finishers in its companion group (A with B; C with D). As usual in this format, this would lead to some heavyweight matchups in the early knockout rounds. With an all-play-all round robin being just a little random with such a wide range of skill among the teams, a better methodology could be sought, but perhaps not a fairer one - no one could argue that the method was biased. Once the group winners had made their picks, the brackets were automatic.

The Group Stage

First, a few deals from the Round Robin.

CANADA v ITALY

Brent Manley, Memphis, TN

RR2. Board 30. Dealer East. Neither Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Fergani</i>	<i>Sementa</i>	<i>l'Ecuyer</i>	<i>Duboin</i>
—	—	1 ♣	Pass
1 ♥	Pass	2 ♥	Pass
Pass	Pass		

Sementa started with a low trump from his queen. Fergani won the ace, played a spade to his ace and took the diamond finesse. He cashed the diamond ace, then played a club to his king and Sementa's ace. Fergani won the trump continuation with dummy's king, ruffed a club in hand, played a spade to dummy's king and ruffed dummy's last club with the jack of hearts.

Now when he exited with a spade to Sementa's jack, Sementa could cash the queen of hearts and punch out declarer's last trump with the jack of clubs. Still that was plus 140 for Canada.

At the other table, the Italians were more ambitious.

West	North	East	South
<i>Nunes</i>	<i>Jacob</i>	<i>Fantoni</i>	<i>Lebi</i>
—	—	1 ♣ ¹	Pass
1 ♦ ²	Pass	1 ♥ ³	Pass
2 ♣ ⁴	Pass	4 ♥	Pass
Pass	Pass		

1. 12+ HCP with clubs/15+ HCP balanced
2. Hearts, 0-11 HCP
3. 4-card support, 15+ balanced
4. Invitational+

Lebi started with the club four to the king and Jacob's ace, and Jacob shifted to the queen of spades. This seems

like a contract in which it might be necessary to play the side suits before tackling trumps or taking your ruffs, but Fantoni won in hand, ruffed a club, played a heart to his ace, then ruffed his last club with the jack of hearts.

When Fantoni played a diamond from dummy, Jacob put up the king, which appeared to deceive declarer. Fantoni won the ace and played the ace and another spade to Jacob's jack. Jacob got out with the jack of diamonds. Fantoni cashed the heart king and played the heart six to Jacob's queen, but Jacob won and punched out declarer's last trump with his remaining club. That was one down and 5 IMPs to Canada.

Fantoni could have made the contract a number of ways, including from this end position:

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

If Fantoni plays his winning spade, North can ruff, but then he must play a heart, allowing Fantoni to run it to dummy's eight, or play a club. In the latter case, Fantoni could ruff in hand with the six of hearts and overruff in dummy with the eight, leaving him in position for a trump coup for his ninth and tenth tricks. Fantoni should have followed this line. North was known to have three spades and the play of the diamonds looked a lot like a doubleton. Further, North could not have five clubs or the third- and fifth- lead of the club four from South would have been anti-systemic. Therefore, North had four clubs and four hearts.

QUIET PLEASE, MAESTRO AT WORK

Marc Smith, Southampton, UK

There are plenty of world-class players here in Beijing this week, and even a few living legends, so there is every chance that during the two weeks of these championships, we will be treated to some spectacular plays. In the match between the two favourites in the Open Series Group D, England v USA, multiple-World Champion Jeff Meckstroth treated the gallery to a performance worthy of Pavarotti.

On a deal that saw most North-South pairs floundering in a failing part score, it will come as no surprise to hear that Meckstroth/Rodwell were in game. For mere mortals, the saying goes that, "When you have eight tricks in three no trump there are usually nine to be

found." Meckstroth began with rather less than the eight you and I usually need.

RR5. Board 10. Dealer East. Both Vul.

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

Meckstroth's opponents were the Hackett twins, Justin and Jason, so hardly a pair of chimps just off the banana boat.

West led a heart, the unbid suit, to the queen and king, and now declarer had five top tricks plus one by force in diamonds. He crossed to a top club and led dummy's nine of diamonds, covered all around. We can all see now that a club is the best exit, but that's hardly obvious and the heart continuation is understandable, hoping to find partner with the nine.

With four heart tricks in the bag, declarer now established his long club with two more rounds of that suit. West won the club queen and got out with a third round of hearts and declarer cashed his rounded-suit winners.

As this was happening, East had one last chance to defeat the contract. That he missed it is understandable, as I'm sure you will agree. This was the position when declarer cashed his long club...

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

When declarer now cashed his club, East discarded the spade four. What could be more normal?

Declarer now played a low diamond, won with the six, and East exited with his last spade. Or, at least, he tried to.

Unfortunately, his last spade was the TEN and not the four. When the spade ten rode around to dummy,

Meckstroth simply called for dummy's nine, allowing East to win the trick and forcing him to lead away from his diamond jack at trick 12.

Bridge is all about taking advantage of opponents' mistakes, and although East-West here hardly did anything that could be described as stupid, they erred just sufficiently for Meckstroth to capitalise. Could you ask for a better illustration of a great champion?

A PLAY PROBLEM FANTASY

John Carruthers, Toronto

Board 8. Dealer East. Neither Vul.

♠ A Q 8 5 2
♥ K 8 7 5 4 3
♦ A
♣ A

♠ 9
♥ A Q J
♦ K 10 7 5 2
♣ 10 7 6 4

How about a declarer play problem?

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

North's four clubs promised a big two-suiter and you were content to invite slam in hearts, or if North had diamonds and spades, to pull North's five-spade correction to six diamonds.

The contract would have been a lot better had North's trumps been more robust. Nevertheless, you decide not to take a likely-to-fail spade finesse, but play on cross-ruff lines. Accordingly, you win the ace of clubs and cash dummy's other aces. Then, spade ruff, diamond king, diamond ruff, spade ruff, diamond ruff spade ruff.

Somewhat surprisingly, West does turn up with four spades to the king and on the last ruff, East discards the last outstanding diamond. Since the contract cannot be made if East holds all four hearts and has no clubs left, you ruff a club low successfully.

At this point, you are in the dummy and the contract is now cold. The cards that remain are the king-eight-seven of hearts in the dummy and a diamond and two clubs in your hand. You know East has three trumps left and that West has one trump and two clubs remaining. If East has ten-nine-six or ten-nine-two of trumps, you simply exit with the seven and wait for your declarer-play awards. On the other hand, if East has ten-six-two or nine-six-two, leaving West with the singleton nine or ten, the play of the king is indicated. Which is it to be?

You must go for the trump end-play. Had West had the singleton nine or ten, he'd have ruffed in with it on an early diamond play to promote a second trump trick for East's six. Ergo, East must remain with the ten-nine third. Brilliantly played.

So why was this a play problem fantasy? Well, the reality was much more prosaic than my fantasy. This is how the cards were actually distributed in the England-Turkey match:

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

The Turkish declarer went two off in six hearts on our auction by taking a spade finesse after pulling a couple of rounds of trumps. The English declarer made twelve tricks in four hearts by ruffing a couple of spades and losing a trump trick.

INTRA-WHAT?

David Stern, Sydney, Australia

One of the delights of VuGraph commentating is spotting a beautiful hand and watching it unfold before your eyes. Equally, reaching the critical point and watching declarer fail is so frustrating.

Such a hand arose in Round 16 of the Open Championships during the match between Germany and England. While both of these teams proved easy qualifiers, the difference between finishing second and meeting Bulgaria or Belgium versus finishing third and facing Norway or Poland is certainly something worth fighting for every IMP over.

RR16. Board 26. Dealer East. Both Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Townsend	Piekarek	Gold	Smirnov
—	—	1 ♣	Pass
1 ♦	3 ♦	4 ♣	4 ♦
6 ♣	Pass	Pass	Pass

I was a little surprised that South elected to pass the opening bid as one spade would have been my choice – a bid that could have cost 16 IMPs, as you will see later.

West	North	East	South
Kirmse	Sandqwist	Gromöller	Malinowski
—	—	1 ♣	1 ♠
Double	2 ♦	3 ♣	Pass
3 ♦	4 ♦	5 ♣	5 ♦
6 ♣	Pass	Pass	Pass

I was mildly confident that Gold for England would find the winning intra-finesse to make six clubs, however, he had less information than the declarer at the other table.

Both declarers reached the critical point relatively quickly:

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

Gold thought for a long time, indicating that he clearly understood his options for the intra-finesse and then played to the queen, leading to down one and a 16 IMP loss.

North-South deserve some credit here for displaying just enough high card points to confuse declarer. I suspect, however, that had South overcalled one spade, declarer would certainly have taken the intra-finesse and succeeded in his slam.

At the other table, Gromöller showed why Germany topped Open Group D by leading to the heart seven, followed by playing the heart queen after regaining the lead.

So, is there a lesson here? Perhaps. If you want to improve your game, revisit the Bols Bridge Tips of the early 1980's and 1990's.

Group A, arguably the toughest, produced the most tension and excitement at the finish, with three teams, Italy, Brazil and Estonia fairly solidly in a qualifying position with one match to go, and five more (Canada, Ireland, France, Romania and Denmark, in that order after 16 matches) fighting it out for the fourth and final

playoff spot. With 17 teams in this group, each team had a bye, and the last round was Romania's, so they felt their chances had gone, especially when they looked at the Round 17 matchups:

- Canada v Trinidad & Tobago
- Ireland v Pakistan
- France v China Macau
- Denmark v Kenya

Surely all the favourites would win; it was simply a question of who would blitz whom to forge to the front. Not so fast – Canada and Ireland both lost, Canada in embarrassing fashion, France won 17-13 and Denmark won 20-10. Romania and France were tied for fourth place, causing everyone to race for their computers to look up the tie-breaking formulae, with Denmark another 0.5 VP behind, Finland 2 VP in arrears, Ireland 3.5 back, and Canada, falling from fourth to ninth, but still only 5 VP out of qualifying.

When the oracle had been consulted, Romania had qualified ahead of France on IMP-quotient! The French were stunned. So were the Romanians.

Group A: Italy 337.0; Brazil 304.0; Estonia 302.0; Romania 286.5

The other groups were much less dramatic:

Group B: Israel 343.0; Netherlands 329.0; China 314.0; India 313.0

Group C: Norway 346.5; Poland 331.5; Bulgaria 316.0; Belgium 293.0

Group D: Germany 353.0; England 324.0; USA 323.0; Turkey 318.0

(Half-Victory Points are due to appeals or late-play penalties.)

As well as the surprise qualifiers, there were, as usual some surprise non-qualifiers. France, of course; as well, Denmark, Sweden, Ireland, Indonesia and Egypt had all hoped for better.

Round of 16

Once the group winners had chosen from the third and fourth place teams in their companion group(A&B; C&D), the other matchups were automatic. For the Round of 16, they were:

- A1. Italy v India
- C2. Poland v USA
- A2. Brazil v China
- C1. Norway v Turkey
- B1. Israel v Romania
- D2. England v Bulgaria
- B2. Netherlands v Estonia
- D1. Germany v Belgium

After the choices had been made, Group A winners and runners-up were paired with their Group C counterparts, as were B & D, for continuing matchups. The top half of the bracket looked considerably more robust than the lower half. For example, for Poland to even reach the final, it looked like they'd have to beat, in order, USA, Italy and Norway.

THE SLAM ZONE

Mark Horton

The second session of the Poland-USA Round of 16 match started with two slam deals – well bid by both teams at both tables – this was the third board of the set.

Round of 16. Board 19. Dealer South. EW Vul.

♠ K 7 6 3
♥ K 8 4
♦ A K Q 3 2
♣ 10

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

♠ A 8 5
♥ J
♦ J 9 6 4
♣ A 7 5 4 2

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

It seems to be asking a lot to expect a passed hand to deliver up enough for a slam to be good, but when South showed a good raise in diamonds and then cue bid in clubs, North put his foot down on the accelerator.

East led the queen of hearts and West took the ace and switched to the five of diamonds. Declarer's prospects had improved considerably, and may have caused him to take his eye off the ball for just a moment – and as we all know to our cost, that can sometimes be fatal.

Declarer let the diamond shift run to East's ten and dummy's jack – and the contract could no longer be made. Declarer cashed the ace of clubs, ruffed a club high, took the king of hearts pitching a spade, ruffed a heart, ruffed a club high, played a spade to the ace, ruffed a club, cashed the queen of diamonds and conceded one down when East discarded.

The winning line is to go up with a top trump at trick two. Then you can ruff a couple of clubs in hand, whilst discarding a spade on the king of hearts. The ace and

king of spades bring you up to eight tricks and the last four will be scored on a high crossruff.

Only an initial trump lead is certain to defeat six diamonds, as West can play a second round when he gets in with the ace of hearts.

West	North	East	South
Rodwell	Zawislak	Meckstroth	Pazur
—	—	—	Pass
Pass	1 ♦	Pass	1 ♠
Pass	2 ♣	Pass	2 NT
Pass	3 ♠	Pass	4 ♣
Pass	4 ♦	Pass	5 ♦
Pass	Pass	Pass	

East led the king of clubs and declarer won with dummy's ace and played the jack of hearts, putting up the king when West played low. After that he was not hard pressed to score eleven tricks, plus 400, giving Poland 10 IMPs.

USA v POLAND – 4th SESSION

Mark Horton

Round of 16. Board 53. Dealer North. NS Vul.

♠ 10 6 4
♥ 8 7 5
♦ J 9 8
♣ 10 6 5 3

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

♠ K 9 2
♥ A Q 6 4 3
♦ K 7 2
♣ 9 2

West	North	East	South
Rodwell	Zawislak	Meckstroth	Pazur
—	Pass	1 NT	Pass
2 ♥	Pass	2 ♠	Pass
3 NT	Pass	Pass	Pass

South led the four of hearts and declarer won with dummy's king, crossed to hand with a club and played a spade to the queen. When that held, he cashed three more club tricks, South discarding a spade and a diamond, played the spade jack to the king and ace and exited with a heart. South won and in desperation tried a low heart. Declarer won and cashed the ace of diamonds for plus 400.

West	North	East	South
Jassem	Compton	Martens	Hamman
—	Pass	1 ♣ ¹	1 ♥
Double	Pass	1 NT	Pass
3 NT	Pass	Pass	Pass
1. Polish Club			

The same opening lead saw declarer win in hand with the jack of hearts and he cashed all his club tricks, South making the farsighted discard of two low diamonds. The jack of spades was covered by the king and ace and declarer cashed the queen of spades. Declarer was in a scoring position, but he was not in a position to know a squeeze play had operated and he exited with the king of hearts, expecting South to eventually be end-played into leading a diamond away from the king.

Not quite. After cashing his hearts South produced the nine of spades and declarer was one down, minus 50 and 10 IMPs. Is Bob Hamman after an IBPA award?

Results of the first-round knockout matches were:

Round of 16:

Italy 135 – India 69
 Poland 127 – USA 100
 China 134 – Brazil 125
 Norway 145 – Turkey 84
 Romania 170 – Israel 102
 England 143 – Bulgaria 98
 Netherlands 99 – Estonia 89
 Germany 210 – Belgium 89

Although they were Round of 16 losers, the pundits predicted better things in the future for the young Israeli team which had won its group, similarly to the England team in Istanbul which then bowed out in the same round.

The Quarterfinals

A SWING A MINUTE

Mark Horton

QF. Board 9. Dealer North. EW Vul.

♠ A Q 7 6 5
 ♥ 6 5
 ♦ K 6 5
 ♣ Q 10 7

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

♠ K J 9 2
 ♥ A 4
 ♦ A 10 9 7
 ♣ A K 4

West	North	East	South
<i>Elinescu</i>	<i>Bertens</i>	<i>Wladow</i>	<i>Bakkeren</i>
—	Pass	Pass	1 ♦
Pass	1 ♠	Pass	2 NT ¹
Pass	3 ♣	Pass	4 ♣
Pass	4 ♦	Pass	4 ♥
Pass	4 NT	Pass	5 ♦
Pass	6 ♠	Pass	Pass

1. Strong spade raise

Germany played the Netherlands in one quarterfinal match. This board was atypical for the Germans.

East led the nine of hearts and declarer won with dummy's ace, drew trumps, eliminated the clubs ending in hand and exited with a heart. In this situation, declarer **must** play for split honours and he did so (if either defender has both diamond honours, he simply allows his partner to win declarer's heart exit and lead a diamond for one off). Here, East allowed West to win and he exited with a low diamond (they tell me the jack is the best shot - but it never seems to work when I try it). Declarer took East's queen with the ace and the diamond finesse gave him plus 920.

West	North	East	South
<i>Westra</i>	<i>Piekarek</i>	<i>Ramondt</i>	<i>Smirnov</i>
—	1 ♠	Pass	2 NT ¹
Pass	3 ♣ ²	Pass	3 ♦
Pass	3 NT	Pass	4 ♣
Pass	4 ♦	Pass	4 NT
Pass	5 ♦	Pass	5 ♥
Pass	6 ♦	Pass	6 ♠
Pass	Pass	Pass	

1. Game raise in spades
2. Minimum hand

This time East led the seven of hearts. You would not expect a swing unless declarer goes wrong in diamonds but something strange happened, as after winning with the ace of hearts declarer simply played five rounds of spades! Perhaps he thought he was in six no trump, but whatever, he could make no more than eleven tricks, and lost 14 IMPs.

One of the more exciting deals from the same match is reported by Michael Gromöller.

WINNING 1 IMP!

Michael Gromöller, Leverkusen, Germany

The following deal was one of the highlights of the 1st World Mind Sports Games in Beijing for me.

QF. Board 19. Dealer South. EW Vul.

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

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

♠ J 8 5
 ♥ K 8 6 5 2
 ♦ A J 2
 ♣ 5 3

West	North	East	South
Westra	Gromöller	Ramondt	Kirmse
—	—	—	Pass
1 ♣	1 NT	Pass	2 ♦
Pass	2 ♥	Pass	3 NT
Pass	4 ♥	Double	Pass
Pass	4 NT	Double	Pass
Pass	Pass		

Initially, I thought four hearts would be a better contract than three no trump with all my controls, despite the 3=3=3=4 distribution. After the double, I reconsidered and bid four no trump. Ramondt doubled again.

The opening lead was the four of clubs, which went to the king and ace. Wanting now to force West to make discards, I played the ace and nine of hearts, allowing East to hold the trick. West discarded the two of spades and the six of clubs. East, in with the ten of hearts, shifted to the seven of diamonds, two, three, nine.

After the discard of the small spade from Westra I was pretty sure that he would NOT have the ace-queen-ten-two, because he would have kept the spades and signalled for them. So, now I played a third round of hearts to the king, and again West had to find a discard. This time, he chose to discard a diamond (if he throws another spade, I can make two spade tricks; if he throws a club, I make four club tricks). This was the position:

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

By now, having a very good idea of the layout, I played the club five to the seven and eight! Then, the diamond king and a diamond to the ace. When I played the spade five from the table, West had no effective counter-move: if he plays low, he will be end-played in spades for another two club tricks; if he plays the ace, he is end-played immediately. He tried his best and put in the spade queen. I took the king and played the club queen and ten to West's jack, and made my spade jack as the tenth trick.

All this work (the play and defence needed about 15 minutes) was for 1 IMP in the end. Although we scored plus 610, in the other room four hearts was also doubled, but North did not remove it. And 'knowing' hearts were 5-0, the declarer made ten tricks for plus 590.

The results:

Quarterfinals:

Italy 210 – Poland 173
 Norway 214 – China 159
 England 267 – Romania 146
 Germany 217 – Netherlands 196

With the demise of China, the event became an all-European affair, as it mostly had been from the onset of the knockout rounds. The other four non-European teams (Brazil, India, Israel, USA) had all lost in the first round of the knockout. Okay, Israel is also in the European Bridge League, but geographically, it is in Asia.

The Semifinals

Despite having some faint hope of seeing a new nation crowned as a major team event winner, the four semifinalists were all previous champions: Norway-2007 Bermuda Bowl; Germany-1990 Rosenblum; England-1955 Bermuda Bowl (as Great Britain); Italy-too many to list. If Italy could get by Norway, no easy task, it was thought they would be a clear favourite against either England or Germany in the final.

CLASH OF THE TITANS

Brent Manley

SF. Board 32. Dealer West. EW Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Aa	Fantoni	Molberg	Nunes
Pass	3 ♦	3 ♠	Pass
4 ♣	Pass	5 ♣	Pass
Pass	Pass		

Fantoni led the diamond ace and continued the suit at trick two. Aa played a club to his ace at trick three and ran the spade ten to Nunes' jack. The heart jack was returned to the queen, king and ace. Aa played the club jack and then called for the spade king. Nunes covered, Aa ruffed, returned to dummy with the club king and played spades from the top. The fall of the nine from North meant all of Aa's losing hearts went away and he recorded a well-earned plus 600. At the other table, Helness withheld his diamond preempt for one round, which produced a better result.

West	North	East	South
Duboin	Helness	Sementa	Helgemo
Pass	Pass	1 ♠	Pass
1 NT	3 ♦	Double	Pass
4 ♦	Pass	4 ♥	Pass
Pass	Pass		

Helgemo led the diamond queen to his partner's ace, and the jack of diamonds was returned to Sementa's king. Sementa played the ace and another heart to the jack, queen and king. A low spade went to the king and Helgemo's ace. The spade return was ruffed in dummy, and Sementa tried dummy's last heart, hoping for a good split.

Helgemo won the nine of hearts and played a third spade. The nine from Helness knocked out declarer's queen and Helgemo had two more tricks for plus 300 and 14 IMPs to Norway.

On the same deal...

ENGLAND v GERMANY Phillip Alder, Hobe Sound, FL

West	North	East	South
Jason	Gromöller	Justin	Kirmse
Pass	3 ♦	Double	Pass
4 ♦	Pass	4 ♠	Pass
5 ♣	Pass	Pass	Pass
West	North	East	South
Elinescu	Sandqvist	Wladow	Malinowski
Pass	3 ♦	3 ♠	Pass
Pass	Pass		

Jason handled five clubs perfectly, playing card for card exactly as had Aa on the ace and another diamond lead and continuation.

Wladow's decision to overcall three spades did not work nearly so well. South led the diamond queen, North winning with his ace and shifting to his singleton club. Declarer won with dummy's queen and ran the spade ten, but South won and gave his partner a club ruff. East took the next trick with his diamond king and led the spade king, but South won with his ace and played his last club. Declarer drew trumps and got the hearts right, but that was still down one. Plus 600 and plus 100 gave England a big 12 IMPs.

Semifinals:

Italy 210 – Norway 111

England 277 – Germany 143

The young English team would face the best team in the world over 96 boards for the 1st World Mind Sports Games Championship. Although the Hackett twins and Tom Townsend had been juniors as recently as 1995, winning the world title in Bali that year, it was not to be forgotten that Alfredo Versace played in that same World Junior Team Championship against them. The Italians were not exactly ready for Senior bridge quite yet.

AVERY ODD END-PLAY

Barry Rigal, NYC

This deal is from the fourth of six sets in the final match.

Board 49. Dealer North. Neither Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Nunes	Gold	Fantoni	Townsend
—	4 ♣	Pass	Pass
Double	Pass	4 ♦	Double
4 ♥	Pass	Pass	Double
Pass	Pass	Pass	

David Gold led a hopeful diamond six, ducked to Tom Townsend's queen. Townsend returned the diamond three, a clear suit-preference signal, for Gold to ruff, and Gold in turn shifted to the club two, another suit-preference signal, denoting another trump, and South ruffed that, declarer unblocking his ace.

When Townsend continued with the diamond eight, declarer interrupted the defence's fun by trumping it with the ace of hearts. Three rounds of hearts put South on play with his spades and the king-nine of diamonds remaining.

Townsend played the king of spades, ducked, and another spade, won by the ace. Nunes took four trump tricks and a trick in each of the other suits for minus 500 - he could have saved two tricks by rising with the diamond ace, drawing three rounds of trumps and guessing spades.

At the other table:

West	North	East	South
Malinowski	Lauria	Sandqvist	Versace
—	3 ♣	Pass	Pass
Double	Pass	3 ♦	Pass
3 ♥	Pass	3 NT	Pass
Pass	Pass		

Here, the lower level of the preempt allowed the English to declare three no trump.

Alfredo Versace led the spade queen, and when that held, continued with the four. Nik Sandqvist, believing South to have led from a king-queen-jack holding, consistent with the Italians' carding, inserted dummy's ten, losing to Lorenzo Lauria's jack.

With no hope of establishing clubs, Lauria tried to do something positive for the defence and shifted to the six of diamonds. Sandqvist ducked this to Versace's queen and South continued the attack on spades, leading the king to dummy's ace.

Declarer cashed two hearts in the dummy, then the king and ace of clubs, to give this ending:

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

When Sandqvist led the seven of spades, discarding the club eight from hand, to Versace's spade nine, South was caught in a very unusual end-play. Whichever suit he returned, declarer had the remainder of the tricks, either four diamond tricks, or three hearts and a diamond, for plus 400 and a huge 14 IMP pickup.

THE GOLD/TOWNSEND STANDARD

Mark Horton

The final of the Open series in the 1st World Mind Sports Games was a tremendous tussle between England and Italy, featuring many outstanding pieces of play. On this deal from the final session England's David Gold and Tom Townsend exhibited the standard required to be successful at this exalted level – as they had done throughout the match:

Dealer West. Both Vul

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Malinowski</i>	<i>Sementa</i>	<i>Sandqvist</i>	<i>Duboin</i>
Pass	1 NT	Double	2 ♣
Double	Pass	3 NT	Pass
Pass	Pass		

England were looking for opportunities to generate some swings, and it was reasonable for East to hope the nine-trick game would be on, especially since the opening bid made North a heavy favourite to hold the king of hearts.

South led the queen of spades and when it held he continued with the four, North playing the king and declarer winning with the ace. With only one entry to dummy declarer was bound to finish a trick short, minus 100.

You would expect the Italian superstars to get this one right and this was how events unwound at the other table:

West	North	East	South
<i>Versace</i>	<i>Gold</i>	<i>Lauria</i>	<i>Townsend</i>
Pass	1 NT	2 ♦ ¹	Pass
2 ♠ ²	Pass	2 NT ³	Pass
3 ♥ ⁴	Pass	4 ♥	Pass
Pass	Pass		

1. Either spades or hearts
2. To play in spades; at least a game try in hearts
3. Relay inquiry
4. Game try in hearts

East showed his heart suit via a multi style overcall and went on to the cold major suit game that would earn Italy 12 IMPs. However, David Gold had not read the script, and he found the magnificent lead of the ten of hearts!

Versace gave that a very long look – was it really possible North had led from the heart king-ten? Eventually he went up with the ace and when South followed with the seven he suspected he had been caught.

Undaunted, Versace continued with the nine of clubs. It was the turn of Tom Townsend to shine, as he played the only card to ensure the contract would be defeated when he went up with the queen of clubs. Declarer could not avoid the loss of four tricks – a flat board from nowhere.

The results:

Final: Italy 200 – England 170

Playoff: Norway 93 – Germany 56

Gold: ITALY - Giorgio DUBOIN, Fulvio FANTONI, Lorenzo LAURIA, Claudio NUNES, Antomio SEMENTA, Alfredo VERSACE

Silver: ENGLAND - David GOLD, Jason HACKETT, Justin HACKETT, Artur MALINOWSKI, Nik SANDQVIST, Tom TOWNSEND

Bronze: NORWAY - Terje AA, Glenn GROTHEIM, Geir HELGEMO, Tor HELNESS, Jorgen MOLBERG, Ulf TUNDAL

THE WOMEN'S TEAMS

Mark Horton, London

The Women's event was thought to have no clear favourite - there were, however the usual suspects - USA, Germany, Netherlands, England and France as well as the host, China. The winner would come from that group, most thought. And so it proved, as all three medal winners were familiar. It had been China's best chance yet to win a gold medal, and they fell just 1 IMP short.

Gold: ENGLAND – Sally BROCK, Heather DHONDY, Catherine DRAPER, Anne ROSEN, Nevena SENIOR, Nicola SMITH

Silver: CHINA – GU Ling, LIU Yi Qian, SUN Ming, WANG Hongli, WANG Wenfei, ZHANG Yalan

Bronze: USA – Mildred BREED, Marinesa LETIZIA, Janice MOLSON, Sylvia MOSS, Judi RADIN, Tobi SOKOLOW

Heather Dhondy shone brightly on this deal from the final match:

Board 2. Dealer East. NS Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Wang	Draper	Sun	Rosen
—	—	Pass	Pass
2 ♦ ¹	Pass	3 ♥ ²	Pass
Pass	Pass		

1. Weak two in either major
2. Prepared to play at least three spades

North had no convenient way into the auction on the first round and then had to guess on the next. The singleton king of hearts was of dubious value and her main suit was hardly robust – she decided to pass.

South led a trump and thereafter declarer was easily held to six tricks, minus 150.

West	North	East	South
Dhondy	Wang	Senior	Liu
—	—	Pass	Pass
2 ♦ ¹	Double	2 ♥ ²	3 NT
Pass	Pass	Pass	

1. Weak two in either major
2. Pass or correct

As I mentioned earlier, with no obvious way into the auction – clearly the word obvious has no Chinese equivalent - North was right there with a double after which South jumped to the obvious game.

West led the seven of hearts and declarer won with dummy's king. Declarer started with a club to the queen and West followed with the eight! Naturally, declarer played a club to dummy's six and East won with the jack, played the king of spades and then went back to hearts. Declarer ducked, won the next heart, and knocked out the ace of clubs. All she needed to do now was locate the queen of diamonds – save for the fact that it was West who produced the club ace and proceeded to cash her heart tricks for plus 300.

THE SENIOR TEAMS

As usual, the USA were the favourites for the Senior Teams. Some thought, however, that this could be Indonesia's year, and Poland, Australia, England and the Netherlands were thought to be strong contenders. Never having been in contention for a medal before, scant thought was given to Japan, who nevertheless, displayed a strong game from beginning to end, dispatching USA in the final by a mere 2 IMPs.

Gold: JAPAN – Hiroya ABE, Makoto HIRATA, Masayuki INO, Yoshiyuki NAKAMURA, Kyoko OHNO, Akihiko YAMADA

Silver: USA – Grant BAZE, Billy EISENBERG, Russ EKEBLAD, Matthew GRANOVETTER, Sam LEV, Reese MILNER

Bronze: INDONESIA – Michael HARTONO, Henky LASUT, Eddy MANOPPO, Denny SACUL, Munawar SAWIRUDDIN, Ferdy WALUYAN

A KILLING BLOW

Jos Jacobs, Maarn, Netherlands
Raman Jayaram, Baroda, India

The last board of the penultimate segment in the World Mind Sports Seniors' Final featured a shaky slam bid at both tables.

Board 80. Dealer West. EW Vul.

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

The USA pair of Sam Lev-Billy Eisenberg bid like this:

West	North	East	South
Yamada	Lev	Ohno	Eisenberg
Pass	Pass	Pass	1 ♠
Pass	1 ♠	Pass	2 ♥
Pass	3 ♦	Pass	3 ♥
Pass	4 ♣	Pass	5 ♦
Pass	6 ♦	Pass	Pass
Pass			

The final contract is against the odds but it certainly has play. The best line of play, however, is difficult to assess. Eisenberg made a good shot at it by winning the Rusinow queen of spades lead with his bare ace and playing a low heart to the king. Next came the jack of clubs, covered by the king and ace, and a low trump now went to the ace. The heart ten was led from dummy, overtaken in hand with the jack, which held.

Now, declarer was in a good position. The losing club could go on the ace of hearts, then a club to the queen, spade ruff, club ruff, spade ruff and the last heart ruffed if the queen were still out.

However, when Yamada could ruff the ace of hearts with the queen of diamonds and return another trump, this reasonable plan was spoiled and declarer had to concede one down.

At the other table...

West	North	East	South
Granovetter	Abe	Ekeblad	Ino
Pass	1 ♠	Pass	2 ♦
Pass	2 NT	Pass	3 ♣
Pass	3 ♦	Pass	3 ♥
Pass	4 ♥	Pass	6 ♦
Pass	Pass	Pass	

Winning the spade king lead in hand, Ino played a heart to the king and then pulled the queen of clubs, not covered. The heart ten to the ace and then the nine of hearts was played. West discarded a club. Ruffing small on the table, Ino ruffed a spade, cashed the club ace and played his last heart, the jack. Again West discarded a club. Ruffing this with with the eight, a third spade was played and ruffed in hand and then declarer played the diamond nine to the ace.

Another spade was played now, which East ruffed with the ten, over-ruffed with the jack and West had to follow with the queen. The king of trumps was declarer's twelfth trick. The defence collected trick thirteen with both the trump queen and the club king. I wonder what the technical name is for this sort of play – combining a trump loser with a side suit loser.

The Japanese veterans had recovered brilliantly from a deficit of 43 IMPs at the half way stage of the finals to lead by 7 IMPs at the end of Board #79. This board gave them a further 14 IMPs. By the end of Board #95, the

USA seniors, looking for a third consecutive gold, had wiped off that 21-IMP deficit and were in front by 1 IMP. The last board gave the Japanese 3 IMPs and a historic and dramatic win by 2 IMPs.

But let us go back to Granovetter's discard of two clubs on the third and fourth hearts. It may appear dangerous to discard a spade, but does not dummy's lack of entries, if trumps have not been played at least twice, make it not merely safe, but mandatory? I (Jayaram) am glad I stick to writing, unlike Granovetter, who does writing and playing excellently. No sir, it would not have occurred to me to discard a spade at the table. Indeed, if the thought had occurred to me, I would have dismissed it as idiotic!

THE TRANSNATIONAL MIXED TEAMS

One hundred and twenty teams entered the Mixed Transnational, played as a Swiss teams with the top eight qualifying for knockout play. The stars of the show:

Gold: YEH BROS. – GONG Fang-Wen, HU Seau-Fung, Gloria MENG, SHEN Chih-Kuo, SHIH Juei-Yu, YEH Chen

Silver: RUSSIA – Alexander DUBININ, Andrey GROMOV, Victoria GROMOVA, Tatiana PONOMAREVA

Bronze: A-EVERTRUST – Claudio CUCCORESE, GAN Lin, HOU Xu, HUANG Yan, LIN Rongxiang, SHI Zheng Jun

TN WIZARDRY

David Bird, Eastleigh, Hants., UK

Dealer North. EW Vul.

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

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

The brilliant Gabriel Chagas of Brazil sat South on this deal from the Transnational Mixed Teams. How would you play six clubs on a low spade lead?

Chagas won with the ace, crossed to the trump queen and successfully finessed the jack of hearts. He then cashed the heart king and played a trump to his jack. After cashing the ace of hearts for a spade discard, he ruffed a spade in dummy. Now came the big firework. Chagas led a diamond and inserted the nine! West won with the singleton ten and had to concede a ruff-and-discard. Away went declarer's remaining diamond loser and the slam was made.

Why had the Brazilian spurned a straight-forward lead towards the diamond queen? East was marked with strong spades and yet had not overcalled. It therefore seemed that he held only four spades and would be long in diamonds. Also, if West held more than one diamond he would have to return a diamond to avoid giving a ruff-and-discard. Declarer could try the queen then.

As Marc Smith pointed out, if East plays the diamond six (the eight really is counter-intuitive) on the lead from dummy, South would do better to play the five, gaining over the nine when West started with jack-ten doubleton.

EWA'S POLISH RECIPE Mark Horton

One of the delights of Beijing is the opportunity to enjoy its famous Peking Duck, but that is not the only dish on offer as this cosmopolitan city affords one the opportunity to sample a wide range of International cuisine.

Poland's Ewa Harasimowicz, conjured up a wonderful dish at the table. It featured a coulis of squeeze, a dash of throw-in garnished with an endplay, the whole thing being stirred with a Morton's Fork.

Board 14. Dealer East. Neither Vul.

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

West	North Gierulski	East	South Ewa H.
—	—	Pass	1 ♥
Pass	1 ♠	Pass	2 ♥
Pass	4 ♥	Pass	Pass
Pass			

West led the seven of clubs and East took the ace and returned the suit, West winning and playing a third round, ruffed by declarer, who, knowing that East, having already showed up with the ace-queen of clubs, was unlikely to have the ace of diamonds, played a low diamond to the king. West could not afford to play the ace and when the king held, declarer settled down to the trump suit.

This was the five-card ending: (see top of next page)

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

When declarer cashed the ten of hearts West had to discard the jack of diamonds. Now declarer could exit with the queen of diamonds to endplay West. (It hardly detracts from declarer's play that had she retained the five of diamonds she could, slightly remarkably, have set up a second diamond trick in dummy by leading the queen of diamonds after the ten of hearts.)

THE INDIVIDUALS

The Individuals were small events, limited to 36 players in the Men's and 24 in the Women's, and were played over three sessions, the first on the Friday before play began and the second and third on the day off.

STOUT DEFENCE Phillip Alder

Board 22. Dealer East. EW Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Hamman	Gower	Keaveney	Baldursson
—	—	1 ♠	Pass
1 NT	Double	2 ♣	Pass
3 ♠	Pass	Pass	Pass

At IMPs, East, Gay Keaveney from Ireland, would have undoubtedly raised to four spades. But at matchpoints, he decided to protect his plus score. He was theoretically correct, but in practice wrong.

South, Jon Baldursson from Iceland, led the diamond queen. North, Craig Gower from South Africa, won with his ace and returned a diamond. Now declarer played in textbook fashion. He won with his king and played three rounds of clubs. He could not be stopped from ruffing a club in the dummy to win ten tricks: five spades, one heart, one diamond, two clubs and the club ruff.

Plus 170 was worth just under average: 7 matchpoints out of 16.

At every table, East was in spades, five times at the two-level, once at the three-level and three times in game. The diamond queen was led every time, and eight of the nine declarers won ten tricks. The only North to find the killing defense was Patrick Huang from Chinese Taipei. (At his table, the auction was as above, except that South threw in a sporting two-diamond advance over East's two-club rebid.)

Huang won the first trick with the diamond ace and shifted to a trump. And when he got in with a club, he played another trump to kill the ruff. Plus 100 was a deserved cold top.

The medallists were:

Men's Individual

Gold: NORWAY – Tor HELNESS
Silver: NORWAY – Geir HELGEMO
Bronze: RUSSIA – Andrey GROMOV

Women's Individual

Gold: SWEDEN - Catarina MIDSKOG
Silver: FRANCE – Anne Frédérique LEVY
Bronze: CHINA – YAN Ru

THE JUNIOR EVENTS

This year there were three categories of Junior Teams, the Under-26 and Under-21, as usual, with the addition of IMSA's Under-28. The European teams, led by Poland, were thought to be strong contenders in all categories. Additionally, there were Under-28 Pairs and Individual championships. The medal winners:

Under-28 Teams

Gold: NORWAY – Sverre Johan AAL, Erik EIDE, Jørn Arild RINGSETH, Steffen Fredrik SIMONSEN

Silver: POLAND – Konrad ARASZKIEWICZ, Lukasz BREDE, Krysztof BURAS, Jacik KALITA, Jakub KOTOROWICZ, Krysztof KOTOROWICZ

Bronze: CHINA – LI Xin, LIU Jing, LIU Yinghuo, SHENG Ming, WU Zhenguo, ZHANG Yizhuo

Under-26 Teams

Gold: DENMARK – Dennis BILDE, Anne Sophie HOULBERG, Jonas HOUMÖLLER, Emil JEPSEN, Lars NEILSEN, Martin SCHALTZ

Silver: POLAND – Piotr NAWROCKI, Michał NOWASADSKI, Przemysław PIOTROWSKI, Jan SIKORA, Artur WASIAK, Piotr WIANKOWSKI

Bronze: NORWAY – Erik BERG, Ivar BERG, Petter EIDE, Espen LINDQVIST, Allan LIVGARD, Tor Ove REISTAD

Under-21 Teams

Gold: FRANCE – Marion CANONNE, Pierre FRANCESCETTI, Alexandre KILANI, Aymeric LEBATTEUX, Nicolas l'HUSSIER, Cedric LORENZINI

Silver: ENGLAND – Adam HICKMAN, Edward JONES, Daniel McINTOSH, Robert MYERS, Benjamin PASKE, Thomas PASKE

Bronze: CHINA – CHEN Simin, CHEN Yichao, DONG Chunhui, HU Junjie, JIANG Yujie, SONG Qi

U-28 Pairs

Gold: TURKEY – Mehmet SAKIRLER, Melih SEN

Silver: ISRAEL – Lotan FISHER, Ron SCHWARTZ

Bronze: POLAND – Joanna KRAWCZYK, Piotr TUCZYNSKI

Under-28 Individual

Gold: TURKEY - Salih ANTER

Silver: ROMANIA – Radu NISTOR

Bronze: NORWAY – Lars JOHANSEN

THE SUICIDE SAUSAGE SQUEEZE

Christian Vennerød, Bergen, Norway

The Norwegian language has an expression which might be adopted by the international bridge community. We talk about a "sausage squeeze" instead of a pseudo squeeze. This means that the defender might have beaten the contract, but he discarded the wrong card. In everyday language, he got saugaged!

U-21. Round 9. Norway v Bulgaria.

Board 7. Dealer South. Both Vul.

♠ Q 8

♥ Q 6 5

♦ 8 7 3

♣ A 10 8 7 6

♠ 10

♥ J 10 8 7 4 3 2

♦ J 5 2

♣ 9 4

♠ A 7 5 3 2

♥ A 9

♦ A 4

♣ K Q 5 3

♠ K J 9 6 4

♥ K

♦ K Q 10 9 6

♣ J 2

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

It is of course a great pleasure to sausage an opponent if it is done deliberately, and a perhaps worse disgrace to get sauged if you should have known how to escape it.. But the worst tragedy is to sausage yourself! Sometimes you have to be wide awake not to fall into your own trap.

The Norwegian rising star Haakon Bogen, in the Under 21 class, was in a two-spade contract on the diagrammed deal.

West led the jack of hearts which was allowed to run to the king. A trump to the queen stood up, but West played an ominous ten. Now what?

Haakon saw that he had to lead a diamond now in order to be able to play the suit twice towards his hand. East grabbed the ace of diamonds and shifted to the king of clubs, which Haakon captured with the ace. Now he played the eight of spades which also stood up, as West discarded a heart. Haakon led a diamond to the king and a third trump, which East finally won with the ace. East cashed the club queen and tried to take a trick with the ace of hearts, but Haakon ruffed.

Haakon realised that the contract would make, but overtricks are important in short matches. There was also an element of pride involved. He fingered his last trump...

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

It looks natural to play the jack of spades as East has two smaller trumps. But what will happen when Haakon plays the queen of diamonds next, dropping West's jack?

Haakon had enough respect for his Bulgarian opponent to know that East was perfectly capable of not ruffing that diamond trick, but waiting for the next.

When Haakon then plays to the penultimate trick, he has to throw either the high heart or the high club from dummy as East ruffs in. And Haakon had no way of knowing what card East had kept as his last. (In practice

Haakon would probably have misguessed as East held only two hearts and West seven from the start.)

Consequently Haakon played the queen of diamonds in the diagrammed position. Now he was in control. East could ruff whenever he wished, but Haakon had enough winners to take the rest of the tricks. He had avoided sausageing his own dummy!

To put it another way – it was a reverse rectification of the count. He gave up an early trick, not in order to be able to squeeze an opponent, but in order not to sausage squeeze himself.

IBPA INFORMATION

www.ibpa.com

The Bulletins:

To access the November 2008 Bulletin, key in, in your web browser: www.ibpa.com/526rr.pdf

The 2002 Handbook:

To access the 2002 IBPA Handbook from www.ibpa.com click on the link on the Constitution page. The password is: **ihccaT** *exactly* as it appears here.

The 2008 Handbook:

Follow emailed instructions to access the (electronic) draft of the new Handbook

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NEWS & VIEWS

New Info on IBPA Website

- IBPA 2008 Awards:

<http://www.ibpa.com/2008%20IBPA%20Awards.pdf>

- Thanks once again to Tim Bourke of Canberra for making the following available: Final, Semi-Final and Quarter-Final hands/ bidding/play from Beijing

[http://www.ibpa.com/](http://www.ibpa.com/Beijing%202008%20Bridge%20Quarter%20Finals.pdf)

[Beijing%202008%20Bridge%20Quarter%20Finals.pdf](http://www.ibpa.com/Beijing%202008%20Bridge%20Quarter%20Finals.pdf)

[http://www.ibpa.com/](http://www.ibpa.com/Beijing%202008%20Bridge%20Semi%20Finals.pdf)

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[Beijing%202008%20Bridge%20Finals.pdf](http://www.ibpa.com/Beijing%202008%20Bridge%20Finals.pdf)

Tim is willing to convert any BBO LIN file to Word/ PDF for IBPA members. Tim can be reached at: tim.bourke@mail.bigpond.com

Karl Rohan

Karl Rohan (74) died at his home in Salzburg on October 28. He fell ill shortly after the Loiben tournament.

Rohan's career spanned five decades. He was president of the Austrian Federation, a top player (in spite of a marvellous career as a businessman) with a European title in 1985 and two World titles in the Seniors later. He was also an officer of the EBL and WBF. His proudest achievement was the "Große Goldene Ehrenzeichen", a high ranking distinction which he received from the Austrian government.

Karl is survived by his wife Elisabeth, his daughter and a granddaughter. He will be sadly missed in our federation.

Fritz Babsch

Women's Bridge

Anna-Maria Torlontano reports that the WBF and BBO have joined together to run women's online tournaments once a week on Wednesdays. They have created a new website for Women – a kind of online club, at:

www.wbfwomensbridgeclub.org

and hope that IBPA members will help create lots of interest in it!

Through the club there are going to be weekly online tournaments run in conjunction with Bridge Base Online, just for women. These are going to be played every Wednesday, starting on November 5th – details are on the website. Please let as many women players know about it as you can, so that they can join in and participate

2008 IBPA Awards Summary

Personality of the Year: Antoine Bernheim, Generali

Alan Truscott Memorial Award: Liu Siming, Vice-President of the Chinese Contract Bridge Association

Master Point Press Book of the Year: Julian Pottage (Wales) - "A Great Deal of Bridge Problems"

Precision Best Bid Hand of the Year: Geoff Hampson-Eric Greco (USA); Journalist - Paul Linxwiler (USA), Bulletin 516, page 4

C&R Motors Declarer Play of the Year: Giorgio Duboin (Italy); Journalist - Mark Horton (England), Bulletin 514, page 9

Gidwani Family Trust Defence of the Year: Michelle Brunner (England), Journalist - Heather Dhondy (England); Bulletin 514, page 18

Brazilian Junior Deal of the Year: Rosaline Barendregt (Netherlands); Journalist - Max Rebattu (Netherlands), Bulletin 521, page 13

Details will be in the December Bulletin.

The New Laws

Ecats Bridge has published a synopsis of the new laws (2007 edition), highlighting the differences between the old and the new version. These can be viewed at their website:

<http://bridge.ecats.co.uk/Documents/2007laws.asp>

Next Month...

Due to extensive coverage of the 1st World Mind Sports Games in Beijing, regular features such as Tim Bourke's IBPA Column Service, the World Bridge Calendar and the Correspondence section have been absent this month. They will return next month. Also next month, we shall publish minutes of the IBPA Annual General Meeting in Beijing.