



BULLETIN

www.ibpa.com

mail@ibpa.com

President:

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

Chairman:

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

Executive Vice-President:

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

Organizational Vice-President & Bulletin Production Manager:

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

Secretary:

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

Treasurer & Membership Secretary:

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

Honorary General Counsel:

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

Awards Secretary:

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

Sponsored Members' Secretary:

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

Presidents Emeritii:

TOMMY SANDSMARK (NORWAY)
HENRY FRANCIS (USA)

THE INTERNATIONAL BRIDGE PRESS ASSOCIATION

Editor: John Carruthers

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. 534

Year 2009

Date July 10

Editorial

After much trial and error, the World Bridge Federation has got their systems policy exactly right, with the use of "Highly Artificial Methods" (HUM systems) allowed only in matches of 17 boards or longer and only in the Bermuda Bowl and Venice Cup. Notwithstanding this, Regulation 2.4 (e.) states, "None of the foregoing restrictions pertain to conventional defences against forcing, artificial opening bids or defences against 'Brown Sticker' or HUM conventions." Additionally, teams with pairs using HUM are subject to Regulation 3: "Whenever a team with one or more pairs using a HUM system opposes a team that has no such pair, the HUM systems team will be the 'Away' team, and lines up first throughout." The reason for this is so that teams not playing HUM can designate a specialist 'HUM pair' to play against these methods without being unduly disadvantaged.

Furthermore, Regulation 6 goes on to say, regarding defences to HUM, "i) Such defences are deemed to be part of the opponents' convention card." And, "iii) The pair using a HUM system ... is not permitted to change any of the highly artificial aspects of its system."

It is puzzling, therefore, that such a rational approach has not been adopted by all NCBOs. At the two extremes are Australia (where anything goes) and the USA (where even, or especially, the use of the Multi Two Diamonds is severely restricted).

That the Australian regulations are unduly punishing to unprepared teams in short matches is undeniable. Conversely, it seems ridiculous in this day and age to ban Multi from all except top-level team events of long duration. In the recent Gold Coast Teams in Australia earlier this year an unusual situation arose. There were 250 teams playing a three-day Swiss to qualify six teams for quarterfinal play (the top two had byes to the semifinals). One of the four quarterfinal teams had a HUM pair playing essentially the mid-Eighties New Zealand 'fertiliser' system where they were *required* to open the bidding with 0-9 HCP *regardless of vulnerability*. The Conditions of Contest allowed that pair to force two pairs of the opposing team to play against their methods (e.g., in their quarterfinal match, they had seeding rights in the second half and chose not to play against the pair they'd met in the first half.

One effective method against this system is to pass in first chair, not vulnerable against vulnerable, with a strong balanced hand, forcing your LHO to open the bidding. Then you double their response to show a

Cont. on p.15...

Address all IBPA Bulletin correspondence to: JOHN CARRUTHERS
65 Tiago Avenue, Toronto, Ontario, M4B 2A2, CANADA
Tel: +1 416-752-7034
email: ibpaeditor@sympatico.ca

AUSTRALIAN SENIOR TRIALS

Ron Klinger, Northbridge, NSW

(see <http://www.RonKlingerBridge.com>)

Try your hand at these problems from the 2009 Trials for the Australian Senior Team.

1. Round Robin 4. Board 27. Dealer South. Neither Vul.

♠ Q 9 8 7 3
♥ A 9 7
♦ K 5 4
♣ K 10

♠ A K 10 5 2
♥ K 10 8 4
♦ Q 10 9
♣ 5

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

- 4-plus spades, 6-13 points
- Not interested opposite 6-9

West leads the club four: ten – jack – five. East continues with the ace of clubs, which you ruff. Plan the play before reading on.

This was the complete deal:

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

West led the club four against four spades and South ruffed the second club. After drawing trumps, David Hoffman played the the ace of hearts followed by the heart nine. When East followed low, Hoffman ducked in hand, a 100% play, and could claim his contract. West was endplayed in three suits.

If declarer lazily plays the heart ace, king and exits a heart, West wins and plays a fourth heart. Now South has to find the diamond jack.

2. Round Robin 8. Board 24. Dealer North. Neither Vul.

♠ A K Q
♥ Q 10 9 3
♦ A Q J 9 2
♣ 7

♠ 10 7 6
♥ A 5 4
♦ 6 4 3
♣ K 8 4 2

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

West leads the club two: seven – ace – six. East returns the three of clubs: jack – king – diamond two from dummy. How should West defend?

This was the complete deal:

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

At our table, after the auction given, West led the club two to the ace and East returned the club ten, necessary on some layouts: queen – king – diamond two from dummy. Placing East with the nine of clubs for the return, and hoping East had the diamond as well, West continued with a club. That would have given East-West three clubs, the king of diamonds and the ace of hearts. David Hoffman, South, claimed nine tricks via two clubs, four diamonds and three spades for plus plus 400.

At the other table the auction was:

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

Here, too, the two of clubs was led to East's ace. Bill Haughie thought that giving partner count in clubs was more important and so he returned the club three: queen – king – heart three from dummy.

Andy Braithwaite now paused to consider the position. If East had started with ace-jack-ten-three, he would have returned the jack and likewise the ten from ace-ten-nine-three. If South had started with queen-ten to

four in clubs, South would have played the club ten, not the queen. That meant that South had to have started with queen-jack-nine-low or queen-jack-ten-low.

Either way there was no future in clubs. That was also confirmed by the more revealing North-South auction. North had shown a singleton or a void in clubs and so South's three no trump had to be based on a strong holding in clubs. (At our table I figured South had four or more clubs for the one-no-trump response and so I chose not to tell the opponents too much about my shape.)

Andy switched to the heart ace. East played the H6, low-encouraging. Bill hoped Andy would read the six as encouraging. Even though South played the eight, Andy could tell the six was the second lowest. Without interest in hearts, East would be able to afford a higher heart as East was marked with three or four hearts. Andy returned a heart and Bill took the jack, king and the fourth heart for two down and 11 IMPs.

3. Final. Board 10. Dealer South. Both Vul.

West	North	East	South
<i>Hoffman</i>	<i>Kanetkar</i>	<i>Klinger</i>	<i>Brown</i>
—	—	—	1 NT ¹
Pass	2 ♥ ²	Pass	3 ♠ ³
Pass	4 ♠	Pass	Pass
Pass			

- 15-17
- Transfer
- Minimum with 4+ spades

What would you lead as West from:

♠ 10
♥ K 8 4 2
♦ K J 7 2
♣ A J 10 6

This was the full deal:

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

At the other table, West led the diamond two against four spades – that was the end of the defence.

At our table, with no attractive lead and reluctant to touch any other suit, David Hoffman led the spade ten: two - five - ace. South continued with the spade three

to the nine, West discarding the heart two (suit preference for clubs) and East played the spade six. The heart three went to the ten and king. Reading my five, then six of spades as interest in clubs, West switched to the club six. After taking the king, East returned the club seven: queen - ace. West then played the club jack and South had to go one down.

4. Final. Board 64. Dealer East. EW Vul.

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

1. Transfer to hearts
2. Good hand for hearts
3. 1 or 4 key cards for hearts
4. To play opposite one key card, ask for the trump queen if four key cards
5. The heart queen but no outside king

What do you lead as West from:

♠ 10 9 6 5 3 2
♥ 8 5
♦ A
♣ K 6 5 3

After you have made up your mind about that, suppose South now runs to six no trump. Would you double? What would you lead against six no trump, doubled or undoubled.

The bridge was not always great, but it was very exciting at times. This was the very last board of the final:

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

At our table, I made a Lightner double of six hearts, hoping West would find the spade lead. David Hoffman did very well. He cashed the DA: four – nine – ten, then shifted to the spade ten, ruffed. He ruffed the diamond return and played another spade, ruffed. That was three down for plus 500. At the other table the auction was a little different:

West	North	East	South
—	—	Pass	2 NT
Pass	3 \diamond^1	Pass	3 \spadesuit^2
Pass	4 \spadesuit	Pass	5 \clubsuit^3
Pass	5 \diamond^3	Pass	5 \heartsuit^4
Pass	5 \spadesuit	Pass	6 \heartsuit
Pass	Pass	Double	Pass
Pass	Pass		

1. Transfer to hearts
2. In theory five spades and only two hearts, but intended as a cue-bid for hearts
3. Cue-bids
4. Intended to play, but taken as a cue-bid with spades the agreed suit.

The situation was similar to the one at the other table. Here West led the ten of spades, intended as a suit-preference signal for diamonds. East ruffed, but returned a club. Now declarer escaped for one down and 9 IMPs.

It would make life easier to cash the diamond ace and then play the spade for East to ruff, but East ought to return a diamond anyway. South had cue-bid clubs, but not diamonds, and perhaps West was void in diamonds.

Six hearts is an excellent slam, but destroyed on the rocks of distribution. Against six no trump, West needs to lead a club. South can take the first ten tricks. Without the club lead, six no trump makes.

The final results:

KANETKAR 134

Terry Brown - Avinash Kanetkar, Bruce Neill - Mike Hughes, Robert Krochmalik - Paul Lavings

DEL'MONTE 151

Bill Haughie - Andrew Braithwaite, Ron Klinger - David Hoffman, Bob Richman - George Gaspar

THE U.S. WOMEN'S TEAM TRIALS

Suzy Subeck, Chicago

Eight teams entered the Trials to select the two U.S. teams for the Venice Cup in São Paulo, Brazil. The Trials were held in Sacramento, California from May 23-28, 2009. Two one-day Round Robins were followed by two semi-finals, a playoff and two finals, one each for USA1 and USA2. The first final featured the two semifinal winners – the winner of that match is USA1. That losing finalist then played the winner of a match between the two losing semifinalists for the right to be USA2. The semifinals were 64 boards in length and the other three matches were 96 boards long. While one might quibble over the abbreviated length of the matches, the format itself is excellent.

For São Paulo, USA1 will be Dinkin (Lynn Baker-Karen McCallum, Lynn Deas-Beth Palmer, Irina Levitina-Kerri Sanborn) and USA2, Mancuso (Connie Goldberg-JoAnn Sprung, Renée Mancuso-Peggy Sutherland, Shawn Quinn-Pam Wittes). Both teams are expected to challenge for the Championship.

In the USA2 semi-final (Glasson versus Moss), Cheri Bjerkan for Glasson had a textbook hand.

Board 19. Dealer South. EW Vul.

	\spadesuit A K J 6		\spadesuit 3
	\heartsuit A K 5 4		\heartsuit 9
	\diamond Q 8 6		\diamond A K J 5 4 3 2
	\clubsuit A 8		\clubsuit K 6 5 2
\spadesuit Q 5		\spadesuit 3	
\heartsuit J 10 8 7 6 3 2		\heartsuit 9	
\diamond 9		\diamond A K J 5 4 3 2	
\clubsuit Q J 3		\clubsuit K 6 5 2	
	\spadesuit 10 9 8 7 4 2		
	\heartsuit Q		
	\diamond 10 7		
	\clubsuit 10 9 7 4		

West	North	East	South
<i>Perlman</i>	<i>Bjerkan</i>	<i>Picus</i>	<i>Weinstein</i>
—	—	—	Pass
Pass	2 NT	3 \diamond	4 \heartsuit^1
Pass	4 \spadesuit	Pass	Pass
Pass			

1. Transfer to spades

After a Texas auction to four spades, Sue Picus led the ace, king and a third diamond. Bjerkan saw there was no need to depend on a favourable location of the trump queen and discarded a club from dummy. With two more discards coming on the ace and king of hearts, her contract was secure. Somewhat surprisingly, this won her 10 IMPs against plus 50 at the other table when declarer ruffed the third diamond and was overruffed, later losing a club.

From the USA1 final...

Board 92. Dealer West. NS Vul.

	\spadesuit A 9 5 3 2		\spadesuit Q J 7 4
	\heartsuit K 7 4		\heartsuit A J 9 8 3
	\diamond K J		\diamond 9 8 7
	\clubsuit A J 6		\clubsuit 2
\spadesuit K 10 6		\spadesuit Q J 7 4	
\heartsuit Q 2		\heartsuit A J 9 8 3	
\diamond Q 6 2		\diamond 9 8 7	
\clubsuit K 10 9 7 3		\clubsuit 2	
	\spadesuit 8		
	\heartsuit 10 6 5		
	\diamond A 10 5 4 3		
	\clubsuit Q 8 5 4		

West	North	East	South
Quinn	Levitina	Wittes	Sanborn
Pass	1 NT	Pass	Pass
Pass			

Pam Wittes lead her fourth-best heart which rode to the queen and king. Levitina led the jack of clubs from her hand, losing to the king in West (ducking does not help). Quinn returned the deuce of hearts to her partner's jack and found herself now forced to discard two spades (and one club) on the run of the hearts. (A shift to spades by either defender would have been better.)

After the run of the hearts, Wittes exited a spade to declarer's ace. Levitina took full advantage of the defence, reading the cards perfectly. She cashed the ace of clubs and the king of diamonds, then continued with a club to the queen. Finally, she got out a club, discarding the blocking jack of diamonds. Quinn was forced to win the club and lead a diamond from her queen-six into dummy's ace-ten. At the other table, East/West played two hearts down one for a 1 IMP swing. Nice play by Levitina!

In The USA2 final, Mancuso versus Glasson, the following deal was tricky to handle, both on defence and declarer play.

Board 37. Dealer North. NS Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Berkowitz	Goldberg	Glasson	Sprung
Quinn	Bjerkan	Wittes	Weinstein
—	Pass	Pass	Pass
2 NT	Pass	3 ♣	Pass
3 ♥	Pass	3 NT	Pass
Pass	Pass		

Quinn received a low club lead, ducked to the nine. She immediately played the ace, king, and jack of spades establishing dummy's ten while the club ace was still intact as an entry. Bjerkan, North, squeezed in three suits, pitched two hearts, allowing declarer the possibility of setting up her ninth trick in the suit.

Weinstein won the third spade and shifted to a diamond. Declarer won this and played the ace of hearts followed by the jack of hearts. Bjerkan won the king of hearts

and got out with the queen of diamonds, immediately handing Quinn her ninth trick.

However, if Bjerkan had exited with a high club, declarer could still prevail by winning the ace of clubs in dummy and cashing the ten of spades. If Bjerkan discards a diamond, her queen falls under declarer's high diamond. If she discards a club, declarer exits from dummy with a club and Bjerkan is end-played again. Either way declarer makes the hand.

It appears it might be better for Bjerkan to pitch one heart and one club on the early run of the spades, however, this defence fails as well. Weinstein can now win the spade and lead a heart to Bjerkan's nine. North can then exit with the club king. Dummy wins it and cashes the ten of spades in the following end position:

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

On the ten of spades, West discards the club jack, North a club winner or a heart, and declarer sets up a long heart for her ninth trick – the defence can cash two winners at most whoever wins the heart exit. A diamond discard from North instead of a heart or club is immediately fatal.

At the other table where Goldberg led the queen of clubs, there is no obvious line for declarer to bring in nine tricks. However, as long as declarer ducks the club queen, she is cold for her contract double dummy. West can exit a spade or a heart at trick two. If a spade, declarer plays on hearts, leading low to create a tenace or build a second trick in the suit. Suppose North wins the heart nine and leads another to the queen and ace. On the ace and king of spades, the North hand is destroyed. Two clubs discards allow a club duck then a squeeze-endplay in the red suits, while a heart discard allows another trick in the suit and an endplay.

If North shifts to a heart at trick two, declarer wins the ace over the queen, cashes a high spade and plays a heart, endplaying North immediately and creating a further squeeze-endplay position on North when the spades are cashed. North is helplessly destroyed in three suits.

In actual play, declarer did squeeze North out of two clubs but misread the end position and discarded a diamond on the set-up club in dummy.

A few boards later...

Board 45. Dealer North. Both Vul.

♠ K J 9 3
♥ K 10 9
♦ Q J 2
♣ K 10 5

♠ 10 8

♥ A 2

♦ 8 7 4 3

♣ A 9 7 6 4

♠ A 6 5 2

♥ Q 5

♦ 10 9 6 5

♣ J 8 2

♠ Q 7 4

♥ J 8 7 6 4 3

♦ A K

♣ Q 3

West	North	East	South
Berkowitz	Goldberg	Glasson	Sprung
Quinn	Bjerkan	Wittes	Weinstein
—	1 ♣	Pass	1 ♥
Pass	1 NT	Pass	2 ♦ [!]
Pass	2 ♠	Pass	3 ♥
Pass	4 ♥	Pass	Pass

1. Game-forcing relay

Both tables arrived in four hearts by South. Berkowitz, West, led the ten of spades and Glasson encouraged and ducked, maintaining communications. When Sprung, South, led a heart from hand at trick two, Berkowitz flew with her ace, played a second spade to Glasson's ace, got her ruff and scored her club ace for down one.

At the other table, Quinn, West, also led the spade ten. Weinstein, South, covered with dummy's jack and Wittes won her ace. Wittes shifted to diamonds, which Weinstein won in hand, but she still had to get the hearts right to make her contract...she took what in isolation would be the technically correct play of a low heart to the nine, and alas, that lost to the queen and she suffered the same fate as her counterpart in the other room.

Once Wittes won the ace of spades and didn't continue the suit, perhaps Weinstein should have gone right and played for the heart ace on her left. However, it was just another pushed board.

It was a big victory for Mancuso after having lost a heartbreaker (162-154) on the penultimate board to Dinkin in the USA1 final. The USA2 final was not so close (226-143).

UNE AMUSE BOUCHE

David Bird, Eastleigh, UK

Dealer North. Neither Vul.

♠ —

♥ J 7 6

♦ K Q 5

♣ A Q 9 8 6 4 3

♠ 10 8 4

♥ K 10 8 5 2

♦ J 10 9 7 4

♣ —

♠ J 6 5 2

♥ A 9 3

♦ 8 3 2

♣ 10 7 2

♠ A K Q 9 7 3

♥ Q 4

♦ A 6

♣ K J 5

West	North	East	South
Buchel		Gautret	
—	1 ♣	Pass	2 ♣
Pass	3 ♣	Pass	6 ♣
Pass	Pass	Pass	

Bill Daly is a Scottish friend of mine who lives in France. The other day he was kibitzing the top-class French players, Michele Buchel and Eric Gautret, during the final of the Mixed Excellence teams in Languedoc Roussillon.

Daly was amazed to witness the ostensibly all-natural auction shown – one that will surely arise only once in the history of the universe. Can you guess what had happened? South opened with a strong two clubs, not having noticed his partner's opening bid. North bid a third club, aiming to shut out an East-West spade contract, and you can imagine her surprise when South then jumped to six spades.

A heart lead would have put the slam at least two down, three down if East were to return a club at trick two. Buchel made the natural lead of the jack of diamonds, however. Declarer won with the ace of diamonds and drew three rounds of trumps, both defenders following. He then played dummy's king and queen of diamonds, discarding a heart. When he continued with a club to the king, a further rush of good luck came his way. West showed out and could not ruff because she did not hold the last trump!

Declarer continued with two more rounds of clubs, East having to follow suit. On the fourth club, East ruffed with his master trump and declarer ditched his last heart, making the slam. If Buchel and Gautret managed an amused chuckle at this turn of events, my friend did not mention it.

Corresponding with the IBPA President

IBPA Members, please use
president.ibpa@gmail.com when
corresponding with Patrick Jourdain
on IBPA matters.

SMITH ON PLAY

Paul Thurston, Tweed, ON

BBO's answer to television's endless dose of reality shows must be "The Cayne Matches", usually twice-daily encounters pitting American expert Jimmy Cayne with an all-star partner and top-notch teammates against a challenging team.

We (Isabelle Smith-Sondra Blank, Jeff Smith and I) have been fortunate to have been invited to play in these matches on a semi-regular basis and are greatly appreciative of the opportunity to practice against such high-quality opponents.

Of course, there are also hundreds of kibitzers who might wonder what some of the bidding is all about so for those who saw Jeff deliver one of the best exhibits of declarer play for 2009 here's the deal, auction and explanations.

Dealer South. Both Vulnerable

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

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

1. Forcing for one round but not necessarily strong – sort of Polish-Swedish-Smithish
2. Natural but a rock-bottom minimum (would have promised 8+HCP if there hadn't been an overcall)
3. 17-18 HCP and a game-force if there had been no overcall, partly because of the out-of-competition strength of one spade and partly because two notrump might also have been 24+HCP (not a systemic possibility – as I've since learned – after the overcall).
4. Checkback
5. Four hearts and maybe three spades
6. Interested in spades
7. Not three spades

Opening lead: ♥ 3

Not a great final contract to be sure, but ironclad contracts are reserved for "Romex Bidding Award" nominees and this is actually a submission for "Best Declarer Play of The Year".

To start with, declarer needs clubs to work for four tricks: king-queen or king-queen to three onside (defenders of this quality won't let you "steal" the suit on other lies). As you can see, the card gods were lined up on Canada's side this time but after Versace's heart lead, declarer still had an uphill struggle.

East covered dummy's ten of hearts with the jack and declarer won with the king to advance the club ten. Perforce, West covered, but Smith played low from dummy. The queen of hearts was also ducked but declarer won the heart eight continuation (spade discard from dummy) to go back to clubs and get the necessary good news.

When the last club was about to be cashed, this was the position:

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

When the last club was cashed in dummy, Smith discarded the spade nine and West?

- Option A : either spade
- Option B : heart nine
- Option C : any diamond other than the king.

If A (Versace's actual choice), declarer would play a spade to the ace and tuck LHO in with a heart to get the 9th trick via a diamond return.

If B: obviously fatal.

If C: Declarer would simply duck a diamond to LHO, watch him cash the nine of hearts for the fourth and final defensive trick and claim the balance.

Upcoming BBO Transmissions

Jul 6-10	US Senior Championship
Jul 8-9	XP Digital Danish Open
Jul 9-18	European Youth Championships,
Jul 12	Danish Open Pairs Championship
Jul 30-Aug 2	6th KEPRI Governor's Cup,
Aug 2-9	Norwegian Bridge Festival
Aug 15-16	HCL Open, New Delhi

IBPA Column Service

Tim Bourke, Canberra

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

479. Dealer East. NS Vul.

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

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

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

After East's weak notrump opening, West tried to jam his opponents out of the auction by jumping to four hearts. North showed a good hand with defensive strength by doubling and South, with his offensive rather than defensive hand, chose to take his chances in four spades. West led the queen of hearts. Declarer took that in hand with the king and led a trump. When West discarded it seemed that there were two losers in both trumps and diamonds. As the former were unavoidable, the focus had to be on reducing the latter to one.

As East had to have the ace of diamonds and king of clubs to justify his opening bid, two possible ways of making ten tricks were to find East with either (a.) a doubleton ace of diamonds or (b.) a doubleton king of clubs. However, neither was particularly likely to succeed, as West had advertised long hearts, declarer sought a line that was guaranteed to succeed.

After cashing dummy's ace of hearts, throwing a diamond from hand, declarer threw East in with a trump. East took his two trump winners and, as a diamond switch would run to the king which would allow declarer to then lead towards his queen, East exit with a low club, which was taken by dummy's nine. Declarer now played the ace of clubs, throwing a second diamond from hand, followed by the queen of clubs. It did not

matter whether East covered because declarer would ruff if he did and discard a diamond if he didn't. Either way, declarer would make four trumps, two hearts, a diamond and three club tricks for ten in all.

480. Dealer South. EW Vul.

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

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

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

East decided not to compete on what was likely to be a misfitting hand and because his side controlled three suits it was likely that two spades would fail. (East was somewhat hamstrung by his agreements - a two notrump bid would be natural while a double would promise a good raise in hearts.) West led the two of diamonds and East took the ace and returned the ten of diamonds. Declarer guessed well by playing low from hand. West ruffed and returned the king of hearts. Declarer played the ace and East ruffed. A third diamond ruff was followed by a second heart ruff to set the contract before declarer had even gained the lead.

Dummy was, as ever, unsympathetic. "All you had to do was duck the king of hearts" offered that oracle of doom. "West's king of hearts will win the trick and East can do no better than discard from a minor suit. East will ruff the next heart and give West a second diamond ruff, but the contract will then be secure. You will ruff the next heart, draw the last trump, cross to dummy with the ace of clubs and discard your club loser on the ace of hearts."

481. Dealer South. EW Vul.

♠ K Q 10 7
 ♥ Q 7 6
 ♦ A 5 4
 ♣ 6 5 2

 ♠ 3
 ♥ A K J 10 4 2
 ♦ J 9 3
 ♣ A 9 3

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

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

After North showed a good raise to three spades, South had an easy bid of four spades. West led the heart king and declarer made short work of the play. He ruffed, played a trump to the king followed by a club to the queen and king. West took his ace of clubs and returned the nine of clubs. West cashed two club winners before exiting with a heart. Declarer ruffed and eventually conceded a diamond for the fourth defensive trick.

A more experienced declarer would have avoided this fate by discarding a diamond at trick one. Suppose West shifts to a diamond. Declarer takes this in hand with the king, plays a trump to the king, ruffs a heart and then plays a diamond to the ace. After ruffing dummy's last diamond, declarer crosses to dummy with a trump and leads the queen of hearts, discarding the four of clubs from hand. West takes his ace of hearts but has no winning return. A club exit guarantees that the king of clubs will be the tenth trick while a fourth round of hearts will concede a ruff-and-discard.

482. Dealer North. E-W Vul.

♠ Q 7 2
 ♥ A K 9 7 4
 ♦ A 5
 ♣ 6 4 3

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

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

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

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

North's cooperating cue bid saw South drive to an optimistic slam when he discovered that his partner held two key cards and the queen of trumps. West led the queen of diamonds, taken with dummy's ace. Declarer saw that he needed the trump finesse and no nasty distributional surprises. After running the queen of trumps at trick two, declarer led second trump to the ten. Next he led the two of hearts to the ace. After taking another trump finesse and cashing the ace of trumps, declarer cashed the queen of hearts only to discover that the suit would not run; West had three hearts to the ten left and that would become a trick if he overtook one of his heart honours.

This problem should have been avoided by playing the queen of hearts to the ace at trick three. Now East's trumps are extracted as before but when the jack of hearts is cashed and East discards, the suit now runs after a finesse of the nine of hearts.

The question is whether this is the best play. Given that West did not have a club holding that he wanted to lead away from and the fact that East has four trumps to the king, the odds of West having four hearts compared to East's are about 20 to 3. So, yes, it is the optimal way to manage the hearts on this deal when only looking at the North-South cards.

IBPA INFORMATION

www.ibpa.com

The Bulletin:

You can access an electronic copy of this Bulletin at www.ibpa.com/534bh.pdf

The 2008 Handbook:

To access the electronic version of the Handbook, please follow the emailed instructions.

Personal Details Changes:

Whenever your contact details change, please amend them as appropriate in the database found at: www.jannersten.org or inform the Organizational Vice-President, Dilip Gidwani: mail@ibpa.com

Subscriptions:

You can apply to join the IBPA or renew your subscription on the website by clicking on the appropriate button on the top of the homepage.

Members' addresses:

You can find fellow members' contact details at: www.jannersten.org. If you have forgotten your access code: mail@ibpa.com

IBPA ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING & AWARDS

Monday morning, September 7th 2009 – Sao Paulo

Agenda

1. **Remembrance** of members deceased since last AGM.
2. **Minutes** of the AGM held on 12th Oct, 2008 in Beijing (see Bulletin 527, page 11) 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 2008, budget and subscriptions for the year 2010. Auditor's report.
6. **Elections:**
Already elected 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 re-election to 2012: Christer Andersson (Sweden); Peter Lund (Denmark); Ron Tacchi (France). Already elected to 2010: David Stern (Australia); Panos Gerontopoulos (Greece); Brent Manley (USA). Already elected to 2011: Julius Butkow (RSA); John Carruthers (Canada); Barry Rigal (USA).
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)

From the IBPA President...

- IBPA had a successful time at Sanremo. We had our best-attended Executive Meeting for some time with nine present including all the officers, and representatives from the USA, Canada and Australia as well as Europe.
- As IBPA's expenditure in pounds sterling has virtually disappeared, the Executive decided to open a new internet account in US dollars and propose 2010 subscriptions in US dollars. The land-based account in Scotland in pounds sterling started by an earlier Treasurer will be closed.
- We welcomed five new members: Max Abram (Net); Mrs Hancy Djurhuus (Den) and Jan Bau (Den) both representatives of Bridgespinner; Ernst Warendorf (Net); and Els Witteveen (Net).
- The Press room was well run by Jan Swaan with six EBL laptops, Skype (making phone calls almost free), and a powerful printer and photocopier.
- The EBL President hosted a very pleasant IBPA evening at a local restaurant al fresco. During the 2009 world championships Ernesto d'Orsi is offering IBPA members an outing to the beach resort of Guarajua near Sao Paulo, the date yet to be decided. The AGM and Awards ceremony is on Monday, 7th September.

Patrick Jourdain



TRIALS & TRIBULATIONS I

Suzi Subeck, Chicago

The USBF Open Team Trials were held in White Plains, New York, between the Hudson River and Long Island Sound just north of New York City, from June 5-15, 2009. The winners and USA1 for the Bermuda Bowl were Steve Robinson-Peter Boyd, Kit Woolsey-Fred Stewart and Adam Wildavsky-Doug Doub. Winning the second-chance bracket and thus becoming USA2 for São Paulo were Nick Nickell-Dick Freeman, Bob Hamman-Zia Mahmood and Eric Rodwell-Jeff Meckstroth.

(Richard Freeman died on June 29, two weeks after having to leave the Trials due to illness.)

The following deal presented a difficult issue for the defence to resolve. Not everyone was able to resolve it correctly.

Meltzer v. Nussbaum

Board 29. Dealer North. Both Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Heitzman	Sontag	Prahn	Bates
Schermer	Walker	Chambers	Rowntree
—	1 ♠	5 ♣	6 ♥
Pass	6 ♠	Pass	Pass
Pass			

Both Easts led the ace of clubs. Schermer, playing standard signals, followed with the six. Declarer played the nine. This presents an interesting problem. If one presumes that declarer would always play the nine from nine-two as a mandatory false card, East is faced with a pure guess as to who has the other club. On the other hand, if one assumes that declarer would occasionally get sloppy and play the deuce, the odds lean toward playing partner for the doubleton six. Obviously, Chambers believed declarer would always false card and continued clubs. Declarer claimed his slam.

In the other room, West, also playing standard signals, played the deuce. We don't have the full details of East-West's carding system, but apparently, they do not play count on the lead of the ace against slam.

Here, East shifted to a heart, successfully cutting off dummy and winning 17 IMPs. The switch to a heart only loses when declarer is void in hearts... and even then, one pitch may not be sufficient. Also, North may well have passed six hearts if he'd been void in hearts or had a doubleton club since partner's hand might be useless in spades.

Do you and your partner have firm agreements on the difference in the lead of the ace or the king against high level contracts?

While the count on this hand was not ascertainable playing either right side up or upside down, if partner plays the deuce giving standard count, you know he holds a singleton. If he plays the upside down nine, you know he has a singleton. It would seem that most players would be looking for count in these situations where the opponents have had to make a high-level bidding guess.

On the other hand, if the opponents have bid slowly to a slam, one might disdain a count signal in favour of attitude or suit preference. No one gets these right all the time but established partnerships with well-discussed methods have the best chance.



Barry Rigal, NYC & Mark Horton, Bath, UK

The Right Ingredients

Mark Horton

If you want to do well at Pairs there are two essential ingredients – to be skillful and to be lucky. This deal is from the Women's Pairs.

Board 21. Dealer North. NS Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
—	Senior		Penfold
1 ♥	Pass	Pass	Pass
Pass	2 ♦	Double	3 ♦
	Pass	Pass	

East led the king of hearts and continued the suit. (As perceptive readers you can probably work the rest out for yourselves, but just in case...)

West won, cashed a third heart and switched to the ten of spades. That ran to dummy's king. Declarer drew trumps, East discarding a club on the second round. From the cards played so far, Nevena Senior thought it likely that East was 5=2=1=5, so she cashed the ace of spades and played a club to the ten. West could win, but was endplayed.

When Boye Brogeland gives a member of the press a hand it is usually time to sit up and listen. See if you can outdo him on this one from the Mixed Teams.

Board 2. Dealer North. Neither Vul.

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

Playing five clubs from the North seat sees you get a heart lead, after East has shown a two-suiter 5+/4+. Clearly you must win the opening lead or a spade shift would doom the contract. A club finesse loses to the king. If West lazily plays a heart back and East continues the suit declarer is in good shape in this ending:

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

Playing the ace of diamonds first allows you to play the suit for no loser but not to enjoy any discards. Alternatively, the jack of diamonds first is a sound and

reasonable play when it seems that East has eight or nine points in the majors and seemingly a singleton diamond, with the only losing situation being East with the singleton queen. Look at the effect if, however, West plays back a spade.

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

You can 'pick' the diamonds by crossing on a trump and running the diamond jack but an alternative now emerges on the hand: you can play a diamond to the ace and run the jack - catering to East having singleton queen and losing only to the actual layout - which is what Brogeland did to go one down. Fine defence by West.

Board 17. Dealer North. Neither Vul.

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

Six diamonds is a delicate slam, but on a spade lead the percentages in the diamond suit surely demand that you get the suit right. In order to pick up a singleton queen in either hand and any diamond queen in East you would lead to the king and finesse on the way back. There are two awkward leads that the defenders might find: on a heart lead you might misguess diamonds to retain the king as an entry to dummy. The alternative is the even more diabolical lead of the club ten, found by Jan van Cleeff against six diamonds! Now declarer opted to take the ace and misguessed the whole hand, for which one can hardly blame him.

For the fourth round of the Mixed Teams, I settled in to watch Alizee against Joel. Alizee led 8-0, but gave back those IMPs with interest on the following deal.

Board 3. Dealer South. EW Vul.

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

While the Alizee North-South played the hopeless four spades, down two on a diamond ruff, Adam Zmudzinski doubled West's one diamond opening bid - an interesting, and I would guess a minority, choice. When Janice Seamon-Molson cuebid then introduced her clubs, he headed for three notrump, and received the lead of the diamond nine.

Michael Gromoeller put up the queen and Zmudzinski ducked, won the next diamond, and went after spades. With the honours split he could not be prevented from taking nine tricks (since the defenders could not establish either red-suit in time) for an 11-IMP pick-up.

Can you see the way the defenders could have done better? The first route was to shift to hearts at trick two; North must duck and East wins and switches to clubs, setting up a fifth trick for the defence. But far easier was for Gromoeller to duck the first diamond. Now when East wins the first spade and continues the attack on diamonds declarer is helpless.

The winners were:

Mixed Teams: HAUGE - Rossen Gunev, Rune Hauge, Anna Malinowski, Dessy Popova, Erik Sælensminde, Gunn Vist (Norway & Bulgaria)

Mixed Pairs: Emine Kondakci Sen & Tezcan Sen (Turkey)

Open Teams: NETHERLANDS WHITE - Sjoert Brink, Simon De Wijs, Bas Drijver, Bauke Muller, npc Eric Laurant, coach Anton Maas (Netherlands)

Women's Teams: CBC MILANO - Gloria Colombo Brugnoli, Luigina Gentili, Mietta Preve, Annalisa Rosetta, Maddalena Severgnini, Marilina Vanuzzi (Italy)

Senior Teams: MIROGLIO - Giulio Bongiovanni, Andrea Buratti, Amedeo Comella, Apolinary Kowalski, Jacek Romanski (Italy & Poland)

Open Pairs: Björn Fallenius & Peter Fredin (Sweden)

Women Pairs: Wietske van Zwol & Martine Verbeek (Netherlands)

Senior Pairs: Amedeo Comella & Jacek Romanski (Italy-Poland)

NEWS & VIEWS

LONDON INTER-NATIONAL TEAMS

The Second London Inter-National Teams was held at the Young Chelsea Bridge Club on May 30-31. It is for players with non-British passports who live in London. It is a mixed standard, fun event with many teams playing in national colours. There were 21 teams made up of 94 players from 22 countries.

The main event was won by Italy A, ahead of Iran Green and Sri Lanka. The one-day Trans-National event was won by a team from India, USA and Sri Lanka, with Italy B second and a Norway-Ireland-Austria-New Zealand team third.

FUNDRAISING FOR PHILLY

The United States Bridge Federation must raise \$450,000 for the World Bridge Series in Philadelphia next year. This amount includes \$400,000 which the USBF has agreed to guarantee the World Bridge Federation for the expense of conducting the event and an additional \$50,000 to cover contingencies. The ACBL has agreed to provide \$100,000 of the amount and the fundraising effort has been most graciously kick-started through an initial \$50,000 funding gift made by Tracy and Lou Ann O'Rourke.

To contribute ideas and/or funds for the 2010 World Bridge Series, contact Donna or Chris Compton at: dcompton69@sprintpcs.com chriscompton@mindspring.com

CACBF RESULTS

Winners of the 25th CACBF (WBF Zone V) Championships, held in Le Gosier, Guadeloupe, May 23-30, 2009, were:

Open Teams: Guadeloupe

Women's Teams: Barbados

Senior Teams: Guadeloupe

Junior Teams: Costa Rica

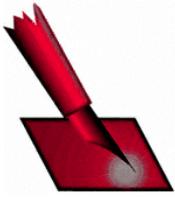
ABF RESULTS

Qualifying for the Bermuda Bowl, Venice Cup and Ernesto d'Orsi Senior Bowl at Sharm el-Sheikh, Egypt, May 31-June 3 from Zone VIII were the following teams:

Open Teams: Egypt, Tunisia

Women's Teams: Egypt, Morocco

Senior Teams: Egypt, South Africa



Correspondence ...

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

Email: ibpaeditor@sympatico.ca

Dear John, (A similar email was received from Fernando Lema.)

Just received and had a look over the June Bulletin. Very good as usual; it's a pleasure reading it. I did note some small mistakes in the results of the South American Championships.

Open Teams: Colombia 3rd. Brazil 4th. (By regulation, 3rd and 4th are according to the final round-robin positions.)

Women's Teams: Chile 3rd Colombia 4th (Venezuela 5th qualified for the Venice Cup because Chile and Colombia did not participate in Beijing).

Seniors: Argentina 1st Brazil 2nd and Venezuela 3rd qualified for the d'Orsi Senior Bowl.

Transnational Teams: la Barrera y Garcia (Chile) Mooney y Palazzo (Argentina) Hoyos (Colombia) y Pain (Brazil).

And... I won the South American Pairs with Fernando Lema, not Campos/Villas-Boas:

1. Ernesto d'Orsi (Brazil)-Fernando Lema (Argentina)
2. João Paulo Campos-Miguel Villas-Boas (Brazil)
3. Gabriel Chagas-Mauricio Figueiredo (Brazil)

Now some news: Most probably, the pairs of the Brazilian Team for the Bermuda Bowl will be: Chagas-Branco, Campos-Villas-Boas, Brenner-Figueiredo.

I'm looking forward to seeing Katie and you in São Paulo.

Kindest regards, Ernesto d'Orsi, São Paulo

John,

From the Daily Bulletin in San Remo: "On Tuesday, Zia refused to accept a revoke, telling his opponent to take his card back. Bravo...!"

If reported accurately, this is the antithesis of sportsmanship. No player, however eminent, has the right to take the Laws of the game into his own hands like this. Zia's absolute duty was to call the Tournament Director. He could then, if he wished, ask the TD to allow the player to take the card back.

Richard Fleet, Berkhamsted, UK

Mr. P. Sridhar is a member of the Texan Aces, winners of the bronze medal in the Open Teams in San Remo at the recent European Open Championships. He offers his impressions of the tournament on the "BridgeinIndia" website.

To the editor:

My impressions of the tourney are:

1. Very punctual start of ALL sessions.
2. Convenient timing of sessions.
3. Only 50-56 boards a day, no strain.
4. Spotlessly clean environment; excellent air conditioning for player comfort.
5. BridgeMates were used – very good tool, you get running scores of all matches, deal by deal, displayed prominently.
6. Screens used 100% at every stage of the tourney.
7. 100% computer-dealt deals.
8. Excellent Bulletin coverage with lively photographs.

All of the above were appreciated by the players.

Some improvements possible are:

1. Toilet facilities were grossly inadequate for such a mammoth crowd of players.
2. Very few boards for crucial knockout matches – e.g., the quarterfinal and semifinal matches had only 28 boards.
3. Hotel facilities were very costly – perhaps there is room for negotiation when 700 players need accommodation.
4. No VuGraph at venue.

Regards, P. Sridhar, Chennai

To the African Bridge Federation (c.c., World Bridge Federation):

Dear Sirs,

First of all, on behalf of all the bridge players in Kenya, a very warm congratulation for your elections on 1st June 2009.

We in Kenya are requesting you honourably to please consider our request for affiliation as the sole NBO for Kenya, this affiliation to be returned to Kenya Bridge Association. Since its inception in 1963, the only body recognized by the Kenya

Government and the WBF has been the Kenya Bridge Association. Kenya Bridge Africa Limited somehow have managed wrongfully and without any Government authority or support from the bridge playing fraternity, sneaked in and replaced us as the NBO for Kenya.

We have, I believe, furnished you with sufficient proof of our status as the National Body for Bridge as recognized by the Kenyan Government. We refer to the letter from the Ministry of Sports of 14th February 2007, clearly stating that Kenya Bridge Association is the only National Body for Bridge in Kenya. We are also affiliates and have membership with Kenya National Sports Council. Until and unless the Ministry rescinds this letter, there can be no other recognized NBO for Kenya other than Kenya Bridge Association. We are even listed on the website of the Ministry of Youth and Sports of Kenya as an affiliate.

It is most unfortunate that despite the fact that bridge in Kenya is flourishing, Kenya was unrepresented in the Zonals being played currently in Egypt. We, the Kenya Bridge Association, have sufficient players with a thirst for participating in WBF events to field several teams.

I believe that this decision of returning the status of NBO to the rightful body, the Kenya Bridge Association can be made by the Governing Body of the African Bridge Federation whilst in Egypt. We in Kenya are appealing to you all in the interest of bridge in Kenya to promote and encourage bridge players and to put an end to all our problems by doing the needful expeditiously and without a further delay.

In the meantime, we continue to uphold the image of bridge in Kenya and promote it in a very enthusiastic manner whilst waiting for justice to be dealt.

Looking forward to an urgent decision.

Samina Esmail, Chairman Kenya Bridge Association, Nairobi

Editorial - continued from page 1.

strong notrump plus. Bobby Richman was the first to expose this weakness in the system and collected a few 1400 penalties before its users caught on. In Australia, however, at least in the Gold Coast Congress, this defence was itself deemed to be 'Yellow Sticker', requiring its submission "*before the event began.*" This was a perfect Catch-22: you must submit a defence to a system of which you have no awareness.

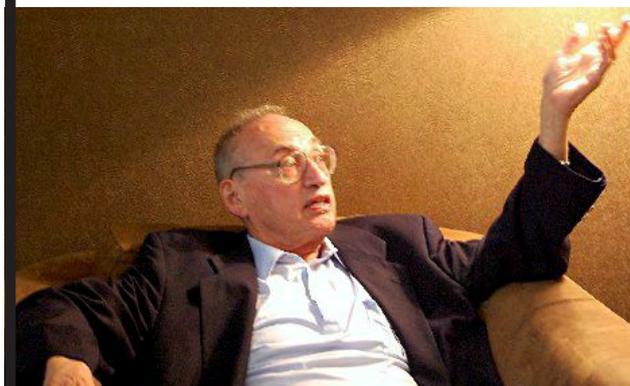
Apparently one needs to know the systems of all 250 teams to decide what to play.

The Australian system regulations say that the pair using HUM must provide an adequate defence or they cannot play the method. The pair in question produced a four-line defence, but this was deemed 'adequate' by the TD. Before the matter could go further a compromise was reached in which the HUM pair's opposing pair from the first set would also play against them for the second half of the match. Thus, hard feelings were (mostly) avoided.

In the event, the HUM pair's team were soundly defeated in the quarterfinals. (In reaching the quarterfinals, the HUM pair's team had been in about 13th place before the final match of the Swiss and had drawn an inexperienced team for their final match, blitzing them and vaulting to sixth, 1 VP ahead of one of the very strong Italian teams.)

We call on all NBOs to align their system policy with the sensible policy of the WBF.

RICHARD FREEMAN



Many-times USA representative in World Championship play, and partner of Nick Nickell, Richard Freeman died late in the night of July 29th in Florida. We will all miss him. Freeman won too many world and national titles to list, including three Bermuda Bowls. Most recently, he was on the Nickell team that won the USA2 bracket of the United States Bridge Championships in White Plains, New York, although he was unable to play the final match because of the pancreatitis that eventually led to his death. Thanks to Peg Kaplan, here's a photo of Dick relaxing during one of the earlier matches in the USBC.

2009 World Bridge Calendar

DATES	EVENT	LOCATION	INFORMATION
2009			
Jun 30-Jul 12	International Festival	Biarritz, France	www.biarritz-bridge.com
Jul 4-5	All-Africa Bridge Challenge	Piggs Peak, Swaziland	www.gbu.co.za
Jul 4-12	Dansk Bridge Festival	Vingsted, Denmark	www.bridgefestival.dk
Jul 8-18	22 nd European Youth Championships	Brasov, Romania	www.eurobridge.org
July 10-12	OECS Annual Championships	St. George's, Grenada, WI	www.cacbf.com
Jul 11-19	Over-59 Festival	Riccione, Italy	www.federbridge.it
Jul 16-29	International Festival	Deauville, France	www.deauvillebridge.com
Jul 23-Aug 2	ACBL Summer NABC	Washington, DC	www.acbl.org
Jul 24-Aug 2	XV Swedish Bridge Festival	Örebro, Sweden	www.svenskbridge.se
Jul 30-Aug 1	Youth NABC	Washington, DC	www.acbl.org
Jul 31-Aug 2	Governor KEPRI Cup	Batam, Indonesia	www.gabsi.or.id
Aug 1-9	Norwegian Bridge Festival 2009	Lillehammer, Norway	www.bridgefestival.no
Aug 2-8	Wachauer Bridgewoche	Loiben, Austria	www.bridgeaustria.at
Aug 7-9	Pesta Sukan	Singapore	www.scba.org.sg
Aug 10-16	Festival International	Cannes, France	www.ffb-competitions.net
Aug 13-16	HCL Invitational	New Delhi, India	www.cba.org.in
Aug 14-23	Brighton Summer Congress	Brighton, England	www.ebu.co.uk
Aug 15-16	Selangor Congress	Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia	www.mcba.org.my
Aug 15-23	World Youth Championships	Istanbul, Turkey	www.worldbridge.org
Aug 19-23	Hong Kong Inter-City Championships	Kowloon, Hong Kong	www.hkcba.org
Aug 19-23	10 th Festival del Bridge	Abbadia San Salvatore, Italy	Leonardo Cima +39.348.3043875
Aug 20-30	59 th Festival International de la Baule	La Baule, France	alain.bihouix@orange.fr
Aug 29-Sep 4	33 rd International Festival	La Grande Motte, France	www.ffb-competitions.net
Aug 29-Sep 12	29 th World Team Championships	São Paulo, Brazil	www.worldbridge.org
Sep 4-6	1 st Festival Nazionale del Bridge	Sanremo, Italy	Assoc. Bridge +39.0184.261639
Sep 5-16	48 th International Bridge Festival	Pula, Croatia	www.crobridge.com/pula
Sep 7-12	Senior Games 2009	Zeeland, Netherlands	www.seniorgames2009.com
Sep 10-13	43 rd Isle of Man Congress	Douglas, Isle of Man	www.ebu.co.uk
Sep 18-27	Guernsey Congress	Guernsey, Channel Is.	www.ebu.co.uk
Sep 26-Oct 4	New Zealand National Congress	Hamilton, NZ	www.nzcba.co.nz
Oct 3-6	Tolani Grand Prix	Mumbai, India	www.cba.org.in
Oct 4-10	1 st EUSA Bridge Championship	Opatija, Croatia	www.eurobridge.org
Oct 6-11	Women's Jamboree	Rome, Italy	www.worldbridge.org
Oct 8-13	EBU Overseas Congress	Andalucía, Spain	www.ebu.co.uk
Oct 9-11	International Team Tournament	Monte Carlo, Monaco	www.federation-bridge.mc
Oct 15-18	8 th European Champions Cup	Paris, France	www.worldbridge.org
Oct 17-18	63 rd Lederer Memorial	London, England	www.metrobridge.co.uk
Oct 20-24	Sun, Sea & Slams	Christ Church, Barbados, WI	www.cacbf.com
Nov 5-15	15 th Red Sea International Festival	Eilat, Israel	www.israbridge.com/ibf/Redsea
Nov 8-14	1 st Asian University Championships	Denpasar, Bali, Indonesia	www.gabsi.or.id
Nov 14-21	9 th Cuba International Festival	Havana/Varadero, Cuba	www.cubabridge2005.com
Nov 26-Dec 6	ACBL Fall NABC	San Diego, CA	www.acbl.org
Dec 5-9	31 st ASEAN Bridge Club Championships	Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia	www.mcba.org.my
Dec 6-8	Città di Milano	Milan, Italy	www.federbridge.it
Dec 6-13	1 st Regional-on-a-Cruise	Miami, FL (Embark)	www.acbl.org
Dec 11-13	Geologi Cup	Bandung, Indonesia	www.gabsi.or.id
Dec 18-20	Junior Channel Trophy	Belgium	www.ebu.co.uk
Dec 27-30	EBU Yearend Congress	London, England	www.ebu.co.uk
2010			
Jan 11-25	Summer Festival of Bridge	Canberra, Australia	www.abf.com.au
Feb 27-Mar 6	Gold Coast Congress	Broadbeach, Australia	www.abf.com.au
Mar 11-21	ACBL Spring NABC	Reno, NV	www.acbl.org
Apr 28-May 2	International Berlin Championship	Berlin-Spandau, Germany	bridgelvberlin@aol.com
Jun 3-6	50 th Poznan Bridge Congress	Poznan, Poland	www.kongres.brydz.wlkp.pl
Jun 18-Jul 2	50 th European Team Championships	Ostend, Belgium	www.eurobridge.org
Jul 1-3	European Transnational Pairs	Ostend, Belgium	www.eurobridge.org
Jul 12-29	5 th World University Championships	Kaoshiung, Taiwan	www.worldbridge.org
Jul 22-Aug 1	ACBL Summer NABC	New Orleans, LA	www.acbl.org
Oct 1-16	2010 World Bridge Series	Philadelphia, PA	www.worldbridge.org
Nov 25-Dec 5	ACBL Fall NABC	Orlando, FL	www.acbl.org