



BULLETIN

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Editorial

Which country does the best job of running bridge tournaments? That is very difficult to say – many countries do some things well, but it is extraordinarily difficult to get everything right. If we first consider the ACBL, the aspect of their tournaments which is unique in its smooth operation is the player registration process. With the exception of the major team events (Spingold, Reisinger and Vanderbilt), they accept player entries right up until game time. When you consider that they receive many hundreds of pairs and teams in their North American Bridge Championships, this is really quite efficient. Much of the rest of the world requires some sort of pre-registration for the tournament authorities to cope, sometimes days or weeks in advance.

The recent Open European Championships in San Remo, Italy had many laudable aspects: for example, screens for every table in every event, live scoring through BridgeMates, every board pre-duplicated and a wonderful playing schedule – starting time was 10:30 a.m., with play finishing in plenty of time (usually around 7:30 p.m.) to enjoy a relaxing dinner and a social evening. Contrast this with North America, where play for the major events begins at 1:00 p.m., wasting half the day, and finishes at 11:00 in the evening, or later, often necessitating a hurried dinner between sessions rather than at the end of play.

No one does hospitality better than they do in Bermuda (the best in the ACBL), with afternoon tea, a gala closing dinner and prize-giving ceremony and many 'extracurricular' activities for the players. Indonesia's hospitality is also second-to-none. Tournaments in Asia seem somehow more civilised and polite than they do elsewhere, with none of the misbehaviour and rancour sometimes evident in other environs. Invitational tournaments in Japan, Indonesia, Taiwan, the Netherlands and other countries have been fantastic.

So which country comes closest to getting it all right? Although I have played bridge in about 30 countries, and there is a much larger number I have not played in, it seems to me that Australia, Brazil, Indonesia and Japan get nearly everything right: superb organisation, magnificent playing sites and environs, friendly people, and good playing schedules. All this success is mainly due to the ability and hard work of their 'conveners' such as Arifin Halim, Denis Howard, Tadayoshi Nakatani, Ernesto d'Orsi, David Stern, Therese Tully, Tadashi Yoshida, and the late Amran Zamzani.

It seems evident that the most important aspect of any Championship is the person in charge. That is why the 1985 Bermuda Bowl/Venice Cup in São Paulo and the 1995 World Junior Championship in Bali were, in my experience, the best World Championship tournaments I've ever attended – Ernesto d'Orsi and Amran Zamzani, respectively, planned everything down to the last detail and had wonderful assistants to carry out those plans. Everything about those two events was top-drawer: organisation, hospitality, playing site, hotel. Size has been a factor as well - the smaller the tournament, the better. For invitational tournaments, the Yeh Brothers Cup sets the current standard for excellence.

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15th BFAME CHAMPIONSHIPS
AMMAN, JORDAN
Raman Jayaram, Baroda, India

The 15th BFAME Championships, organized by the Jordan Bridge Federation at the Regency Palace in Amman from 26th June to 4th July, attracted a record number of 19 entries in three events from the different countries of the region. The championships had many 'on-going improvements' for the region: on all nine days of the tournament, there was live coverage on Bridge Base Online and scoring was done through Bridgemate software.

The teams were vying for three trophies: the Zakaria Adamjee Trophy for the Open Teams; the Vinodini Goenka Trophy for the Women's Teams; and the Jordan Trophy for the Senior Teams. Two teams from each category would be the representative teams from Asia and Middle East, Zone 4, for the World Championships to be played in São Paulo in August-September.

I am partial to 16-board matches and 16-board segments of matches. With 14, 12 and more so in 10 board matches, the purpose of equality of opportunity in terms of favourable-unfavourable vulnerability to all the four pairs and the opportunity to bid first to all the eight players, is vitiated. Sixteen is a far fairer number. In Amman, all matches and segments of matches were of 16 boards, as indeed is the case in World Championships, Teams Olympiads and other WBF tournaments.

In the open event, the nine teams played a double round robin to decide the four semifinal spots; in the women's event, there was a triple round robin among the five teams to decide the two finalists; and in the seniors' event, there was a double round robin among five teams to decide the two finalists. The abiding logic was very simple: qualification to go to São Paulo.

Open event – early rounds

On Day One, Bangladesh surprised everyone by winning all three of its matches, against Bahrain, Sri Lanka and Jordan, for a tally of 65.5 VP. Pakistan were in second position with a total of 55.5 VP and four-times consecutive winners and Bermuda Bowl quarterfinalists in Paris (2001) and Estoril (2005), India had a poor beginning, losing to Sri Lanka 13-17 and just scraping

through the other two matches against Syria and Jordan, by the same score of 17-13, to finish the day in third position with a score of 47VP.

In the first round, Board 6 presented both the defenders and the declarer with playing choices.

Board 6. Dealer East. EW Vul.

♠ K 5
 ♥ Q 3 2
 ♦ K Q 10 9 7
 ♣ 8 5 4

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

At many tables, the bidding went one spade-two spades-four spades. In a couple of instances, the heart suit was also mentioned but the final contract was four spades nevertheless.

South has alternatives for the opening lead. Let us say he leads the ace of clubs. Now declarer has the option of cashing his two hearts and ruffing the third with the queen of spades, hoping that it will stand up so that he can discard diamonds on the established clubs. If the third heart is over-ruffed and North shifts to diamonds, declarer is in trouble. Alternatively, South may lead the ace of diamonds and the third round of the suit has to be ruffed in dummy. Dummy is reduced to two spades now, and that would mean a definite trump loser, and everything would depend on how declarer tackles the heart suit.

What surprised me was that at a couple of tables, South led the trump three! Now, that is not as foolish as I first thought it was. Declarer plays the nine from dummy on that trump lead and let's say it holds. Now what? Take the ruffing finesse in clubs to get rid of diamonds, hoping again that the third heart will not be over-ruffed? Finesse in hearts? How to tackle the trump suit later? Play for a 3-3 heart break?

I think that the choices of play develop thick and fast at the table, and it is only table judgement that will save the player, because there is no 100% logical play. *If not*

logic, from what does table judgement emanate, may I ask? There is something within us that is far superior to logic, which is external-born and internalized later. We were all born with intuition. Logic is something we learned after birth.

At the end of Day Two, with six rounds of the first Round Robin completed, Pakistan went into the lead with three impressive victories, against Jordan, Syria and Palestine, to collect 69 VP. Pakistan 123.5, Bangladesh 110 and favorites India still languishing in third spot with a score of 103 VP.

When RR-1 was completed by the end of the third day, Pakistan was still in the lead with a tally of 172.5 VP. India had moved to second position with a score of 154 VP and Bangladesh was not giving up, not yet, and their score was 152 VP.

Pakistan faltered on Day Five, collecting just 47 VP in the three matches on this day, against Jordan, Kuwait and Sri Lanka, surrendering the top position to India who beat Kuwait 18-12, Sri Lanka 25-2 and Syria 23-7. With three rounds to go, India were on 284.5, 15 VP ahead of Pakistan at 269.5. In spite of their loss to India, Syria, with 241, continued to occupy the third position and it was becoming clear that the three (India, Pakistan, Syria) would qualify for the semifinals.

With three rounds to go on Day Six of the round robin stage, four teams were in contention for the fourth semifinal berth. Fourteen VP behind third-placed Syria was Bangladesh on 227. Kuwait was on 215, Jordan on 213 and Sri Lanka was on 210.5. The drama was about to unfold.

With just one match to play, Kuwait had a bye (15 VP) and it was known that they would finish on 260. Jordan was playing Sri Lanka in this round and Bangladesh was pitted against eighth-placed Bahrain. Everyone believed that Bangladesh was through to the semi-finals as Jordan had to score 13 more VP than Bangladesh and Sri Lanka 18 more VP, in that last round, to qualify. Helped by Bahrain who beat Bangladesh 20-10, Jordan did precisely that by winning against Sri Lanka 23-7 and clinching a semifinal berth by just one Victory Point!

India finished on top, 33 VP ahead of Pakistan. Syria finished a good third with 300VP, just 7 behind Pakistan, and Jordan just made it with a score of 266 VP. India chose Syria as their semifinal opponent, thus Pakistan was slated to play Jordan.

Women's event – early rounds

The Indian women had won this event four consecutive times, in Colombo (1999), Bahrain (2001), Amman (2003) and Dhaka (2005). In Karachi (2007), the Indians were ahead by nearly 40 IMPs with one segment to go in the final against Jordan. The latter recovered sensationally in that last segment and ousted the Indians.

From the beginning, the Jordanians made their intentions very clear. In round two on the first day, they stormed India 23-7 and at the end of the day had taken the lead with a score of 56 VP. The Jordanian merry vein continued and continued. Throughout the league stages they were on top of the table and they only kept increasing the margin of difference over the second-placed team.

Pakistan, meanwhile, had taken over second place from India midway through the second day and stayed there throughout, at one stage increasing their lead over India by as much as 21 VP. In the very last match of the round robin stage, India did not even have an arithmetic chance of catching up with Pakistan. Jordan comfortably, in fact very comfortably, topped the table with 293 VP. Way behind was Pakistan in second spot with a tally of 241.5 VP. India with a total score of 235 may have failed to be in the finals by just 6.5 VP, but to my mind they were never in the fray. For the first time since 1989, the Indian women are out of the Venice Cup.

Seniors' event – early rounds

What the ladies did for the Jordanian Women's team, the veterans did for the Indian Senior team. They easily stayed on top throughout the league stages, did not lose a single match in victory point terms (they lost to Pakistan once by two IMPs; that still translated to 15-15 in VP). Their total at the end of the league stages was 207 in ten matches that included two byes; that meant, in eight played matches, they scored 177 VP, an average of more than 22 VP per match. An 88% score, to my mind, is phenomenal. The Pakistani veterans were second throughout the league stages and finished with a tally of 171 VP. The other three teams, Bangladesh, Jordan and Palestine, were never in the fray. India and Pakistan were through to the 32-board final for the Jordan Trophy and both simultaneously earned a berth in São Paulo for the Ernesto d'Orsi Senior Bowl in the World Championships.

THE deal from the early rounds

This deal came up in Round Robin 2, Match 1, of the Open event.

Dealer North. EW Vul.

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

At several tables, vigorous interference by North-South made many East-West pairs stop in three notrumps. A couple of Easts played in five diamonds. This is how Kiran Nadar-B Satyanarayana of India bid the hands:

West	North	East	South
Satya		Nadar	
—	Pass	1 \diamond	2 \spadesuit
3 \spadesuit	4 \spadesuit	4 NT	Pass
6 \clubsuit	Pass	6 \diamond	Pass
Pass	Pass		

Kiran Nadar (East) won the spade queen lead on the table and immediately played a low heart to the eight. South won with the queen and shifted to a club, the only entry to the table. Nadar cashed the second club, discarding a heart, then pulled a heart to her ten. When that held, she drew trumps and claimed.

Which is better, a heart to the eight or a heart from hand towards the jack, hoping to drop a doubleton honour on the left? Or perhaps to play for both king and queen with the non-two-spade bidder? Is not playing for one honour and the nine on the right the poorer percentage play? At the same time, when a low heart is pulled from dummy towards the eight, would North be able to play low with both honours?

And finally, this corollary: South is a class player who will view with suspicion a low heart from declarer towards dummy's jack. Holding honour-small, as was the case at the table, he would follow smoothly with the low card, to give declarer the losing option of placing North with both the king and the queen; that way, North will win the first heart and South can win the second with his doubleton honour!

Kiran's thinking probably was along the above lines and she knew that North was not Meckstroth. Low to the eight was perhaps the best option under the circumstances. It was good for her that that line of play succeeded. If it had not, Kiran's teammate and double international Subhash Gupta would have engaged her in a long discussion on the virtues of percentage plays!

Open event – semifinals

The semifinals in the open event were yet another example of good design by the organizers of the 15th BFAME. They were played over six-16 board segments, 96 boards, the logic being that the winners of the two semifinals qualify to play in the Bermuda Bowl. It is to be noted that the finals in all three categories were played over 32 boards only, perhaps the first time in the history of the game that a semifinal match had three times the number of boards the finals had!

Board 7 of Segment 1 was a delight on two counts. One, from the reporter's point of view. Two, the way Sireen Barakat and Marwan Ghanem bid it for Jordan.

Board 7. Dealer South. Both Vul.

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

In the India-Syria match, in one room the Syrian North-South stopped at five hearts, They got a spade lead and made five. India bid the heart slam, but on a spade lead, had to go one down. The result? Thirteen very important IMPs to Syria.

In the Pakistan-Jordan match also, the contract was six hearts by the Pakistani South, going down one when the eight of spades was led. In the other room, Sireen Barakat-Marwan Ghanem bid thus. Marwan was sitting North and Sireen, South.

Barakat	Ghanem
1 \clubsuit ¹	1 \spadesuit ²
1 NT ³	3 \clubsuit ⁴
3 \diamond ⁵	3 NT ⁶
4 \clubsuit ⁷	4 \diamond ⁸
4 \heartsuit ⁸	4 \spadesuit ⁸
6 \clubsuit	Pass

1. Strong, artificial, forcing: 16+ HCP
2. 8-13 HCP, balanced
3. Relay
4. 4 or 5 clubs and another 4-card suit plus 4 or more controls
5. Relay
6. 4-card diamond suit
7. Sets trumps and demands cue-bidding
8. Cue-bids

Barakat cantered through the contract, making it easily when clubs broke 3-2.

Board 13. Dealer North. Both Vul.

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

In the India-Syria semifinal, Khaldoun Sanadiki (North) of Syria was in four hearts. Subhash Gupta of India led the jack of clubs. Declarer won on the table and pulled a diamond to his jack. As he hoped, East won with the ace all right, but continued with clubs. On winning in hand, declarer played a heart to the ace and back for Rajesh Dalal (West) to win and destroy dummy by playing the third club. One trump was still outstanding and the inevitable diamond losers could not be got rid of. India gained 13 IMPs, as the contract was made in the other room.

In the next five segments of the two semifinals, India overwhelmed Syria and Pakistan did the same to Jordan. In 96 boards, these were the scores in the two matches: India 285.5, Syria 196; Pakistan 233, Jordan 145. Both India and Pakistan had qualified for the Bermuda Bowl.

Women's Final

Jordan (Yasmin Khatak, Huda Al Saket, May Abu Gharbieh, Azza Qashu, Hana Kredeieh, and Randa Saket) easily retained the Vinodini Goenka Trophy for women, which they had won in the 2007 Karachi BFAME, by beating Pakistan (Rubina Agha, Najm Abid, Fizza Adamjee, Neelofar Aslam, Zeenat Azwer and Qudsia Dossa) 80-44 in the 32-board final. Both teams qualified for the São Paulo Venice Cup.

Seniors Final

The Pakistan Seniors took the lead in the first segment - Pakistan 49, India 41. Then Pakistan won 'running away' by winning the second segment as well, 38-14 to emerge as winners of the Jordan Trophy. Pakistan was represented by Tariq Rasheed Khan, Saeed Akhtar, Rashidul Ghazi, Javed Khalid, Parvez Mirza and Abdul Ghaffar Quraishi. India had Anand Samant (NPC), Ramavatar Agarwal, S.K. Iyengar, Vinay Mohan Lal, Dipak Poddar, Ashok Ruia and R. Sreedharan.

Pakistan and India qualified to play in the Ernesto d'Orsi Senior Bowl in the Sao Paulo World Championships.

Open Final

Would India make it five in a row for the Zakaria Adamjee Trophy?

Board 1. Dealer North. Neither Vul.

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

Sunit Choksi-Venky for India in the open room played quietly in three diamonds making five. Mubashir Puri-Khaled Moiuddin bid an excellent three no trumps for Pakistan in the closed room. Satya hit upon the best lead of the nine of hearts, as North had shown concern over the heart suit during the bidding. Nadar put up the king. Moiuddin won and played the ace of diamonds; queen from Nadar. Moiuddin took the Restricted Choice play, finessing in diamonds. Upon winning with the jack, Nadar continued with the three of hearts, Moiuddin playing the five.

This presented Satya with a difficult defensive problem - he was afraid of a blockage in the suit. If partner had started with king-jack-eight-three-two and no entry, he needed to play the queen, then the ten. With the actual layout, he needed to win the ten, then the queen and wait for partner to get in again to cash two more hearts. Eventually, he went up with the queen and declarer's jack turned out to be his ninth trick.

India were in an almost-impregnable position at the half way stage. India 76, Pakistan 37. Pakistan did recover 10 IMPs in the second segment but the damage had already been done. India had made it five in a row in the open event of BFAME and both India and Pakistan were once again through to the Bermuda Bowl. India will be represented by Kiran Nadar, B Satyanarayama, Subhash Gupta, Rajesh Dalal, KR Venkatraman and Sunit Choksi, while playing for Pakistan will be Mubashir Puri, Khaled Moiuddin, Masood Mazar, Hassan Jawad, Mirza Shauq Hussain and Yusuf Talpur. Subhash Gupta played his first Bermuda Bowl in 1985, also in São Paulo, but representing Canada.

It must be acknowledged that this BFAME was the best ever in terms of organization, hospitality and comfort in playing conditions. The traditional Jordanian Dabkeh celebration dance at the welcome party, delicious food throughout; four cocktail-cum-dinner invitations. The players and foreign officials were treated like royalty. All this, and more, that could not have been possible without the vision of Ghassan Ghanem, the brilliant organizational ability of Bahjat Majali and the grace of the hostess, Nuha Hattar.

When all was said and done, one thing stood out in this tournament: the passion for the game, as exemplified by a lady from Palestine and a veteran from India. I have seen Widad Abu-Hijla of Palestine at BFAME championships since 2003. This time around, there was a difference. She was using a walker. But she came. The other example is that of Dipak Poddar of India, the veteran with a handsome pate and a wonderful knack for bridge one-liners. He suffered multiple fractures in one of his legs recently. But he also came, in a wheelchair.

AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL OPEN TEAMS

Ron Klinger, Northbridge, NSW

The ANOT was won easily by David Lilley-Zoli Nagy, Arjuna De Livera - Ian Robinson by 162-95. This cute deal was one of the few bright spots for our team.

Dealer West. NS Vul.

<p>♠ A Q 4 ♥ 8 6 5 2 ♦ A K J 2 ♣ 5 2</p> <p>♠ K 9 2 ♥ K Q J 10 7 ♦ 7 3 ♣ K J 9</p> <p>♠ J 10 7 6 5 ♥ — ♦ 10 9 6 ♣ A Q 10 8 3</p>	<p>♠ 8 3 ♥ A 9 4 3 ♦ Q 8 5 4 ♣ 7 6 4</p>
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West	North	East	South
<i>Fruewirth</i>	<i>Nagy</i>	<i>Del'Monte</i>	<i>Lilley</i>
1 ♥	Pass	3 ♣ [!]	Pass
3 ♥	Pass	Pass	Pass

1. Heart raise, 6-9 points

North led the ace of diamonds and switched to a trump. Declarer won in hand and played a diamond. North won and led another trump. Declarer won in dummy and ditched a club on the diamond queen. Then came a spade to the king and ace. Back came another trump. The result was three down for minus 150.

At the other table the good shape lured me into a characteristic overbid:

West	North	East	South
<i>De Livera</i>	<i>Mullamphy</i>	<i>Robinson</i>	<i>Klinger</i>
1 ♥	Pass	2 ♥	2 ♠ [?]
Pass	3 ♥ [!]	Pass	3 ♠
Pass	4 ♠	Pass	Pass
Pass			

1. Strong spade raise

Lead: ♥K

Facing a two-spade overcall at unfavourable vulnerability, you cannot blame North for insisting on game. It was lucky to find North with strong trumps and strong diamonds.

The heart lead was ruffed, followed by the diamond six to the jack and queen. I was hoping to find the queen with West and the club king with East. The heart return was ruffed. As the opening lead placed East with the heart ace and East had shown up with the diamond queen, the king of clubs figured to be with West. After

the diamond nine to the ace, a club went to the ten. Maybe East had the club jack. No luck there, as West won and continued with a heart, ruffed.

This was now the position:

<p>♠ A Q 4 ♥ 8 ♦ K 2 ♣ 5</p> <p>♠ K 9 2 ♥ J 10 ♦ — ♣ K 9</p>	<p>♠ 8 3 ♥ 9 ♦ 8 5 ♣ 7 6</p> <p>♠ J 10 ♥ — ♦ 10 ♣ A Q 8 3</p>
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When the diamond ten was led, West was stymied. If he declined to ruff, then the club ace, a club ruff, heart ruff, and a club would be easy. West ruffed with the spade two and continued with the spade nine. Dummy's queen won, followed by a heart ruff, the club ace, a club ruff, the spade ace and the diamond king for plus 620 and 10 IMPs.

BIARRITZ 2009

Hervé Pacault, Bordeaux

With a quarter of the participants being foreign, the Biarritz Festival has become the place to be for those who value fun and pleasure as much as results. Such is the belief amongst bridge players from five continents, including Zia Mahmood and the world-champion Lavazza Team from Italy.

The winners of the 2009 Festival events were:

- Le Grand Prix de la Ville de Biarritz - Thibault Delmas-Sirven and Alexandre Kilani
- Lavazza Patton - Maria Teresa Lavazza, Norberto Bocchi, Girogio Duboin, Agustin Madala, and Antonio Sementa
- Casino Barrière Mixed Pairs - Estelle Sicard and Philippe Cronier
- IMP Pairs - Nicole Curetti and Jean le Poder
- Whisterie.com Women's Pairs - Dominique Dieu-Camboulive and Claudine De La Ville
- Men's Pairs - Guy Cambournac and Jean Hayet.

Complete results, photographs and the 2010 programme can be found at the website www.biarritz-bridge.com

In the first session of the Open Pairs, Regis Lesguillier from Montpellier made twelve tricks on the following deal:

Dealer South. NS Vul.

♠ K 10 9 8
♥ J 3
♦ 8 7 6 2
♣ Q 9 5

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

♠ A 5 4 3
♥ A Q 10 8 7 6 4
♦ —
♣ A K

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

1. Game try in hearts, possibly with a second, lesser, suit

West led the ace of diamonds, ruffed by South, who played a low heart towards dummy. West won the king and continued diamonds. South ruffed again, unblocked the ace-king of clubs, entered dummy with the jack of hearts, discarded a spade on the club queen, ruffed another diamond and ran trumps.

On the last trump, West was left with the sole guard in diamonds and spades and had yet to discard, producing a near-top for North-South. West missed a chance to hold declarer to 11 tricks by shifting to a club (or playing another heart) when in with the heart king. This would prevent declarer from isolating the diamond menace and allow East to guard diamonds and West spades.

The Dutch pair, Frank Bakkeren and Jos van Wel, found an imaginative defence on this deal from the IMP Pairs:

Dealer West. Neither Vul.

♠ K 7 6 3
♥ 10 5
♦ A 8 6 4
♣ 9 7 3

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

♠ A J 9
♥ K Q J 7 6 2
♦ K
♣ 6 5 4

West	North	East	South
<i>Bakkeren</i>	<i>Falla</i>	<i>van Wel</i>	<i>Brunel</i>
Pass	Pass	1 ♣	1 ♥
1 ♠	Pass	2 ♣	2 ♥
3 ♣	3 ♥	Pass	Pass
Pass			

After two rounds of clubs, Jos van Wel resisted the temptation to cash a third club, instead shifting to his singleton spade. South won his ace, unblocked the diamond king, and played a heart. East won the ace and played his low club for partner to ruff, West then returned a spade for East to ruff. One down was the reward for this brilliant defence.

A LAST GASP EFFORT
The 2009 PABF Championships
Laurie Kelso, Melbourne

In a final round match littered with multiple game and slam swings, Kridsadayut Plengsup of Thailand produced the following gem for one of the few flat boards of their Open series encounter against Australia in Macau.

Round 26. Board 16. Dealer West. EW Vul.

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

♠ K Q J 2
♥ K 3
♦ 9 6 4
♣ 10 9 7 5

♠ A 8 6 5
♥ Q J 9 8 7 5
♦ K 5 3
♣ —

West	North	East	South
<i>Nunn</i>	<i>Terasak</i>	<i>Hans</i>	<i>Kridsadayut</i>
Pass	1 ♣	Pass	1 ♥
Pass	1 NT	Pass	3 ♥
Pass	4 ♥	Pass	Pass
Pass			

Both tables played in four hearts, ducking the opening spade lead and winning the high spade continuation. The Australian declarer had an easy ride when West failed to cover the trump queen at trick three. After the heart king came down on the next round, declarer pitched a diamond on the ace of clubs and then played a diamond. He lost just one diamond and two spades, (the spade ten having gone under the jack).

Kridsadayut at the other table proceeded to demonstrate that he didn't need any assistance from friendly opponents. When Nunn covered the heart queen at trick three, declarer won in dummy and advanced the queen of clubs, which was covered and ruffed. Next came the jack of hearts and a third trump which end-played Hans into surrendering two diamonds.

Continued on page 10...

IBPA Column Service

Tim Bourke, Canberra

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

483. Dealer East. E-W Vul.

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

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

West had an awkward problem and decided to put up some resistance with a leap to four hearts. Unfortunately they were playing against a pair who spurned such sophistication as four notrump being a take out bid. No, North's four notrump was Roman Key-Card Blackwood and the response showed South held two key-cards (the black aces). His five notrump bid was a grand slam try, asking for the cue bid of any king held. So, the six diamond bid promised the king of diamonds. Thus, as he could almost count thirteen tricks, North ventured the grand slam in spades.

The question then was, "How should declarer play this contract after West leads the ten of hearts?" One declarer showed how! He took the first trick with the ace of hearts and drew trumps, noting that East began with three trumps. While the contract depended on playing the diamond suit, declarer was not yet ready to play the suit. Instead he played the three top clubs.

As the bidding was consistent with a 6-4 heart division, then if West followed to one or two clubs the diamonds would be 3-2. When East actually followed three times, declarer placed him with an original distribution of 3=6=1=3. So, declarer cashed the king of diamonds and then led the nine of diamonds, intending to run the card whenever West followed with a low card. (Covering the nine of diamonds would make it easy for declarer

as he still had an entry in trumps to finesse West's remaining diamond honour.)

484. Dealer South. E-W Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
—	—	—	1 ♣
1 ♠	Double	Pass	5 ♣
Pass	Pass	Pass	

North had an awkward choice in the auction, in the end opting for a negative double as the least evil of his possible decisions. No doubt five clubs was the last call he expected, but he was unconcerned as his aces figured to be worth more than some raggedy queens and jacks.

West led the king of spades and the play was soon over. Declarer took the trick with dummy's ace of spades and discarded a diamond from his hand. Next he played a trump to the jack, losing to West's queen. After ruffing the spade return, declarer drew trumps and was somewhat relieved to find that West had begun with a natural trump trick.

Now the contract came down to the heart finesse. So, declarer crossed to dummy with the ace of diamonds and took the heart finesse. West took his king of hearts and the contract failed by a trick.

When South complained about his luck, North set him straight. "The contract is almost certain if clubs are no worse than 3-1. You should have discarded the queen of hearts on the ace of spades. Then you continue with ace and another diamond. If East holds the king of diamonds, you are just about guaranteed to make eleven tricks; even if East rises with the king of diamonds and

West is then able to ruff the third round of diamonds with the trump queen, you will have just the two losers.”

“When the queen of diamonds loses to West’s king there is nothing that he can do! If he returns a trump, that sees the trump loser disappear. Things are no better if West returns a plain suit for then you would ruff your diamond loser in the dummy; you would only lose a diamond and a trump.”

485. Dealer West. E-W Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
2 ♠	Pass	Pass	6 ♥
Pass	Pass	Pass	

South was a long time rubber bridge player and so chose to bid what he thought he might make (and four hearts was too wimpish for his taste).

West led the queen of spades. Declarer took this with the ace of spades and drew the trumps in three rounds. Declarer saw that playing the ace and queen of diamonds would be futile unless there was a doubleton queen of diamonds; as the cards lie, West will show a three-card holding in the suit, and East will then hold up the king of diamonds, to keep declarer out of the dummy. Then there will be no recourse for declarer as East will win the third round of diamonds and exit with a club, leaving declarer a trick short when the club finesse loses.

Instead, at trick four, declarer led the queen of diamonds. East had no option but to let this hold, for otherwise declarer would make two spades, six trumps, three diamonds and a club. As he had a diamond trick, declarer continued with the jack of clubs, giving West a version of East’s dilemma on the previous trick. When West played low, declarer won the queen in dummy, judged to throw his low club on the king of spades and then finessed East for the king of diamonds.

The double play of using the secondary honours in the minors made twelve tricks a certainty.

IBPA member **Jeff Rubens** has a new book, *“Expert Bridge Simplified: Arithmetic Shortcuts for Declarer”*, available from www.bridgeworld.com.

486. Dealer South. E-W Vul.

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

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

Sometimes players miss old chestnuts, as South did here. West began defence with the ace and king of clubs. Declarer counted five hearts, three diamonds and the ace-king of spades for ten tricks and ruffed the opening lead. This reduced him to the same number of trumps as East.

The difficulties he faced only became apparent when he continued with two rounds of trumps and West discarded on the second round. Now he was unable to draw all of the remaining trumps before playing on diamonds; that would see the defenders have a lovely time cashing clubs. So, hoping for the best, he played on diamonds. West ducked his ace on the first round of the suit but took it the second time the suit was played and then gave his partner a diamond ruff. As the defenders now had three tricks with a spade trick to come, the game was down one.

Declarer should have discarded a spade on the second club, a trick that had to be lost eventually. Now he could ruff another round of clubs in the dummy, which would maintain his trump-length advantage over East. On a non-club shift at trick three, declarer would draw all of East trumps and then play on diamonds. He would still have a trump left to take care of a third round of clubs and make two spades, five trumps and three diamonds.

Corresponding with the IBPA President

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 corresponding with Patrick
 Jourdain on IBPA matters.

tricks plus an entry to dummy's clubs for the spade pitches. Even unblocking the heart ten wouldn't have saved East since Kridsadayut now simply draws the last defensive trump before playing a small diamond to the jack and again East is powerless to prevent declarer from enjoying dummy's clubs.

This last board of the match helped Thailand to a 23-7 win against Australia, but it all proved to be in vain when Indonesia defeated New Zealand 20-10 to squeak into the KO series by a single Victory Point.

THE 2009 VICTOR CHAMPION CUP

Ron Klinger, Northbridge, NSW

We just concluded the Victor Champion Cup Open Teams, run as a 10-round Swiss. Placings:

- 1 Barry Noble, Bill Haughie, Stephen Burgess, Michael Prescott, Richard Jedrychowski 191 VPs
- 2 Bill Jacobs, Ben Thompson, Matthew Mullamphy, Ron Klinger 185 VPs
- 3= Helen Horwitz, Paul Gosney, Tony Nunn, Ishmael Del'Monte, Murray Green 183 VPs
- 3= Griff Ware, Mark Abraham, Mary Ellen Newton, Michael Ware 183 VPs

Full results are on the www.abf.com.au website.

Here are a couple of deals from my blogs. They are from the www.ronklingerbridge.com website.

This was a cute defence:

	♠ J		
	♥ K Q J 9 8		
	♦ A J 10 9 5 4		
	♣ Q		
♠ A 10 3 2		♠ K Q 7	
♥ 5 3 2		♥ 10 7 6	
♦ 8		♦ K Q 7 2	
♣ A K J 6 3		♣ 9 8 5	
	♠ 9 8 6 5 4		
	♥ A 4		
	♦ 6 3		
	♣ 10 7 4 2		
West	North	East	South
<i>Mullamphy</i>	<i>Ware</i>	<i>Klinger</i>	<i>Newton</i>
1 ♣	2 ♣ ¹	Pass	2 ♥
Pass	3 ♥	Pass	Pass
Pass			

1. Heart and diamonds, at least 5-5

Perhaps South should prefer two diamonds rather than excite partner with two hearts. North might also have preferred to rebid three diamonds rather than three hearts.

The opening lead of the heart three went to the nine, ten and ace. Then the diamond three was played to the jack, East playing the two.

You can see what happens if East takes the first diamond. If the defence plays one of the black suits and forces dummy to ruff, declarer can draw trumps and concede another diamond, losing two diamonds and two black tricks. East can give West a diamond ruff, and now West can lead a trump or a low spade to defeat three hearts by one trick. The actual play continued:...

Declarer played the diamond ace, ruffed by West. Two round of clubs forced the dummy and the diamond ten was covered, ruffed and overruffed. Further clubs forced the dummy once again and declarer could score no more than his five hearts and the diamond jack, going three down.

Round 6. Board 7. Dealer South. Both Vul.

♠ Q
♥ K Q 9 7 2
♦ 9 8 5
♣ 7 6 5 4

♠ —
♥ A J 5 4
♦ A J 7 3
♣ K Q 9 8 3

West	North	East	South
—	—	—	1 ♣
2 ♠ ¹	Pass	4 ♠	Double ²
Pass	5 ♣	Double ³	Pass
Pass	Pass		

1. Weak
2. For takeout
3. After long thought

West leads the spade ace, which you ruff. You continue with the club king: two, four, ace. East switches to the six of diamonds. Which diamond do you play?

Here is the full deal:

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

South ruffed the lead and had to decide how to continue. To cross to dummy with a heart to play a club might incur a heart ruff and so South played the club king at

trick two, which went to East's ace. East switched to the six of diamonds.

There are three choices:

(a.) Duck the diamond and play East to have led from king- or queen-ten to three or four

(b.) Play the jack from hand and play East to have the king-queen

(c.) Play the ace, draw the missing trumps, hopefully 2-2 originally, then play off two or three rounds of hearts before exiting with a low diamond. If West has a bare honour left, the ensuing ruff-and-discard will allow you to ditch dummy's diamond loser.

Only line (b.) works. Why should you find that play? Because where is East's penalty double with nothing in hearts, no reasonable expectation of a trick in spades and no more than the club ace. To justify the double East should have the king-queen of diamonds too.

At the other table:

West	North	East	South
—	—	—	1 ♣
2 ♠	Double	4 ♠	4 NT
Pass	5 ♣	Pass	

The spade king opening lead was ruffed and a heart played to the king. A club from dummy went to East's ace and the diamond four was led. Declarer had the same guess as at the other table, but with much less information. Thus he ducked the diamond to West's ten, going one off.

INDEPENDENT BRIDGE

Maureen Hiron, Málaga, Spain

Dealer North. Both Vul.

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

West	North <i>Michelle Brunner</i>	East	South <i>John Holland</i>
—	1 ♦	Pass	1 ♥
2 ♣	2 ♦	Pass	4 NT
Pass	5 ♠ ¹	Pass	6 NT
Pass	Pass	Pass	

1. 2 key cards plus the diamond queen

This deal is from the final of the 2009 Corwen Pairs.

West led a diamond, and Holland could count on eleven tricks. If the spade suit breaks 3-3, or the queen and jack of hearts are bare, the twelfth trick rolls in. In the light of the bidding, the ace of clubs was certainly offside.

Declarer ran dummy's diamonds, and when West turned up with a trebleton, it became reasonable to take the view that spades were not breaking. This was the position before the last diamond was played:

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

East had pitched all his clubs, but on the last diamond he was fixed. If he threw a spade, declarer would discard a heart and would have four spade tricks. At the table, East threw a heart. Holland could now jettison his fourth spade, after which ace, king and another heart established the thirteenth heart. Slam made, courtesy of a "squeeze without the count" – and 92 out of 102 matchpoints.

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MICHAEL WOLACH

Tony Friday, Málaga, Spain

One of Britain's most enduring bridge masters died recently at the age of 95. Michael (Mischa) Wolach was born and brought up in Warsaw and received an excellent education in Poland where he learnt to speak about nine languages. He fought against the Germans when they invaded Poland in 1939, but he managed to escape from Warsaw, where his entire family was captured and later killed in the Holocaust.

Meanwhile, Wolach was himself captured by the Russians and sent to a prison camp in Siberia. After six months in the biting cold, he escaped again and, due to his knowledge of dialects and languages, he was able to make his way across Russia, to Armenia, then Israel and eventually to Egypt, where he rejoined the Polish army. With them he fought his way up through Italy.

After the war, he settled in London where he was soon adopted by the leading émigré bridge players and he was a regular player at Crockfords, Lederers and the Hamilton. He represented England in the Camrose matches and won most of the major English competitions.

In 1961 he won the prestigious British Gold Cup, playing with Joel Tarlo, Rixi Markus and Fritz Gordon. Women were very rare winners of the Gold Cup in those days and the prizes selected for 1961 were four elegant pairs of gentleman's hair brushes, which were not appreciated by the ladies. Wolach was a fairly regular partner of Rixi Markus for over 40 years – an amazing feat!

In 1962 Wolach was part of the British team which was invited by Rita Jacobson and Jack Harrison to tour South Africa. It was just after the Sharpeville incident so feelings about apartheid were at their highest and the British were told that they could only play matches against white opponents. The British refused and, after a discussion in the South African Parliament, it was agreed that they could play two matches against the coloureds and one against the blacks.

The tour was a great success and, after the final Test Match, the British presented a trophy, the Pioneer Cup, a championship for teams with no restrictions to colour, creed or gender. The competition became, and still is, one of South Africa's major championships and this might be considered an early strike for the anti-apartheid movement.

Wolach was a quick, incisive, and often explosive player. Here is a hand he played in the South African tour:

Dealer West. NS Vul.

♠ 6 3
♥ 8
♦ Q 10 9 8 7 6 4
♣ 7 6 5

♠ K Q 10 5
♥ J 6 4 2
♦ 2
♣ J 9 4 2

♠ 9 8 7 4 2
♥ 3
♦ K J 5 3
♣ K 10 3

♠ A J
♥ A K Q 10 9 7 5
♦ A
♣ A Q 8

West	North	East	South
Pass	Pass	Pass	2 ♣
Pass	2 ♦	Pass	2 ♥
Pass	3 ♦	Pass	4 ♥
Pass	Pass	Pass	

The bidding and the opening lead of the spade king were the same in both rooms. The South African declarer won the spade ace and set about drawing trumps, in due course losing a spade, the heart jack and two clubs.

Wolach looked a little deeper and at the second trick he cashed the diamond ace before exiting with the spade jack. This seemingly pointless manoeuvre ended played West, who was forced to give up a heart or club or lead a spade, giving declarer a ruff and discard.

RESULTS

Washington, DC Summer NABC

Grand National Teams - Rose Meltzer, Kyle Larsen, Sally Woolsey, Kit Woolsey, Chip Martel, Jan Martel

Life Master Pairs – Michal Kwiecien, Raold Ramer

College Teams – STANFORD: Alex Lovejoy, Elena Grewal, Eric Mayefsky, Zizhou Wang

Senior Teams - Mike Ledeen, Karen Allison, Lea Dupont, Benito Garozzo

Women's Teams – Lisa Berkowitz, Joann Glasson, Linda Lewis, Val Kovalciuc, Betty Ann Kennedy, Cindy Bernstein

Open Pairs – Nicolas l'Ecuyer, Nickolay Demirev

Fast Pairs – Nick Bruno, Peggy Kaplan

Mixed Teams – Robert Hampton, Jenny Wolpert, John Hurd, Sabine Auken, Joel Wooldridge, Sylvie Willard

Spingold Teams – Jan Jansma, Ricco van Prooijen, Louk Verhees, Matthew Granovetter, Russ Ekeblad, Ron Rubin

Swiss Teams – Robert Hampton, Gavin Wolpert, Joel Wooldridge, John Hurd, Gregorz Narkiewicz, Krzysztof Buras

4th EUROPEAN OPEN BRIDGE CHAMPIONSHIPS



Sanremo, Italy
12-27 June 2009



THE 4th EUROPEAN OPEN CHAMPIONSHIPS II SAN REMO, ITALY JUNE 13-27, 2009 Barry Rigal, NYC

Here is a further selection of deals from the recent European Open Championships in San Remo.

Antonio Sementa executed brilliantly on this board:

Board 23. Dealer South. Both Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Wernle	Bocchi	Smederevac	Auken
—	—	—	Pass
1 ♣	Pass	1 ♦	Pass
1 ♥	Pass	1 ♠	Pass
3 ♣	Pass	3 ♥	Pass
3 NT	Pass	Pass	Pass

In spite of all the negatives after the strong club, three notrump was quickly reached and Bocchi led the jack of diamonds. Declarer won perforce and led a low club, Bocchi inserting the ten which won the trick. Next came the nine of spades – a very good card indeed...

Auken played the ten and declarer had to win his king. What next? Playing on clubs now is no good as this leads to the loss of five black tricks. However, declarer did not see anything more sensible so he more or less conceded one down when he played on clubs from the top. Lavazza plus 100.

He might have made the contract, however, had he returned a spade. South has to win and cannot cash two more spades as dummy's fifth spade will then become the ninth trick. So South should cash just one

more spade (North being forced to throw a heart) and exit in diamonds. Now, if declarer reads the hand perfectly, he is home. Low heart to the nine sees him home immediately, so North splits, declarer wins the queen, returns to hand with a heart (preferably the nine) and plays three rounds of clubs, unblocking the heart nine if it happens to be still there. North will have to lead into the heart tenace.

Of course, this is a double dummy line so we cannot blame declarer at all for not finding it at the table.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Sementa	Kovachev	Cuzzi	Rimstedt
—	—	—	Pass
2 ♣	Pass	2 ♦	Pass
2 ♥	Pass	2 ♠	Pass
3 ♥	Pass	3 ♠	Pass
3 NT	Pass	Pass	Pass

Conventional relays and negatives at the two-level led to the same contract as in the Open Room, but here, North led the spade nine to the ten and king. Declarer thus got a first piece of interesting information and went on to play the club king and another. South overtook partner's ten to lead a low diamond through, North playing the nine – a second piece of interesting extra information for declarer, who next returned his spade.

Here too, South could not cash all her spade tricks, so after winning the jack and the ace (declarer throwing a club), she exited with her last club, making it as difficult as possible for declarer to find out the exact distribution.

Sementa, however, had seen enough, it looked. He won the club ace, played off the ace of hearts, noting the eight in South, and continued a low heart. For his plan to succeed, hearts had to be 5-1 for if they are not, North has room for a third diamond apart from his four clubs and two spades. In that case, putting North on play with the last club to lead away from his hearts would not work as he would have a diamond left to probably reach his partner.

At the table, Kovachev split his heart honours, but it did not matter any more. Dummy won, the second diamond was cashed and the last club was led to North, dummy discarding the blocking nine of hearts. Very well played for an absolutely magnificent plus 600 and 12 IMPs to Lavazza.

Board 4. Dealer West. Both Vul.

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

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

Two spades was going to be a playable spot, but how do you rate West's chances in three diamonds? Not so bad on a heart lead, and even one down was going to be a respectable score for East-West, since plus 110 for North-South was a relatively common result.

Fredin led the club king and Campanile overtook to shift to a top spade (she had promised three or more spades on the auction so the spade nine was unambiguous). Fredin won and returned the club ten. Declarer ducked, but Campanile overtook and played a second spade, letting Fredin cash two spades and play the 13th spade, ruffed by Campanile with the jack of diamonds. that promoted the queen into a trick, for two down.

My favourite defence of the tournament was conducted by Ismail Kandemir and Suleyman Kolata. Here Kolata found a way to defeat West in three notrump, without giving him the chance to read the position and succeed.

Board 2. Dealer East. NS Vul.

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

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

Kolata sat South when Kademir led a top heart. Instead of overtaking to unblock the suit South deliberately ducked, and now on the low heart continuation to the king declarer was seduced into ducking. Kolata now found the killing shift to a top spade, won in dummy. He ducked the diamond play, and won the second diamond to play a second top spade.

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

The defenders have three tricks and declarer has three, needing six of the last seven. The best he could do was cash the spade ten pitching a diamond from hand, and the heart ace, but South could keep his clubs and take the last two tricks.

“Anyone can take a finesse” may well be the theme of the following deal. East opens one spade, and you as South jump to five diamonds. You receive a spade lead, ruffed. How should you continue?

Board 20. Dealer West. Both Vul.

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

You could try to set up a club and ruff a club but the defenders might get two rounds of trumps in and foil your scheme. Matthew Granovetter found an intriguing line to improve on his chances.

Granovetter crossed to the heart ace and led a low club from the dummy, figuring that this would work if East had a singleton trump, no matter whether he had one or both club honours. West captured the club queen with his king and shifted to trumps, but Granovetter saw his plan through and won in hand to lead a second club. When East had no second trump to lead, declarer was home.

Good news? Alas no! In the other room, North-South declared five diamonds doubled and declarer led a low club from hand at trick two. East and West each led

trumps at their earliest opportunity, so declarer had to fall back on the heart finesse – and this was the full layout:

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

With the heart finesse onside declarer had a rather undeserved pick-up of 4 IMPs. If that was unlucky consider the multiple world champion who found a well-reasoned and unlucky ‘improvement’ on this line as South.

He ruffed the spade lead and led the heart jack and when West ducked smoothly, he decided to play for the king to be offside (East had opened the bidding) and played the ace. He then ruffed a heart, led a club to the ten and ace, won the trump return in dummy and ruffed a heart, then led a second club. West took the trick and played a second trump, and declarer was dead. ‘Bad luck, the heart finesse worked’, his team-mates consoled him.

IBPA OUTING

The IBPA outing in São Paulo is planned for Thursday 3rd September. The outing will be to Guaruja Beach for lunch.

www.larryco.com

Larry Cohen has articles/deals on his website available to journalists - they can be used free of charge - just mention the site.

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:**
 Proposed for a 2-year election to 2011: Pietro Campanile (Israel), replacing Julius Butkow (RSA) who has resigned.
 Proposed for a 3-year election to 2012: Nikolas Bausback (Germany); Geo Tislevoll (Norway); Ron Tacchi (France).
 Already elected to 2010: David Stern (Australia); Panos Gerontopoulos (Greece); Brent Manley (USA).
 Already elected to 2011: 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)



Correspondence ...

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

I guess that as Chairman of the WBF systems Committee for many years now, I have had as much to do as anyone with the development of the WBF Systems Policy so on behalf of my committee I thank you for your kind comments in your July Editorial. It is important, however, to realise that since Bridge is an evolving and changing game the Policy itself cannot stay static but has, if possible, to anticipate change and if not, at least adapt to it.

Our game may be universal but it is played in different ways in different parts of the world. Bidding systems and carding agreements vary considerably, as indeed they must if we are to have innovation and improvement. Which is why your plea for a universal systems policy is a cry in the wilderness. Every NBO has to administer the game in accordance with the wishes of its members, and not to comply with a set of regulations developed for World Championships.

For this reason your criticism of the Australian Bridge Federation is most unfair. Here is an NBO which has been expanding while many others have been contracting and now has more than 33,000 members. It must be doing something right if they are happily patronising its tournaments. Does an attendance of 250 teams at the Gold Coast indicate to you that there is dissatisfaction with the Conditions of Contest? These, by the way, are displayed on a large Notice Board on site as well as on the Website beforehand. If one doesn't like them one doesn't have to play.

I heard a slightly different version of the events on the Gold Coast but that is irrelevant. It was an event run under ABF rules and as long as these comply with the Laws of Duplicate Bridge no-one should have cause for complaint.

Kindest regards, John Wigball, Christchurch, NZ

I don't believe I uttered a word of criticism about the ABF, merely System Regulations.

John,

Although not an IBPA member, I was shown your July '09 editorial and thought I should comment. HUM systems are virtually extinct these days so don't warrant much space. Anyway, here goes.

Agreed that pairs should be able to defend as they wish against Strong Pass, just an oversight that

nobody has bothered to close. I guess it makes some sense in world championships where all systems are lodged months in advance. We tell our opponents to do as they wish, ignoring the rule makers. Perhaps it would be sensible for us to switch to a strong club at unfavourable but it seems fair to give opponents an occasional free kick. Swings and roundabouts.

A common view overseas seems to be that regulations are loose in Australia but it is not so: HUM only in the later stages of major teams events, with restrictions like loss of seating rights, requirement to pre-lodge a defence. Few pairs bother.

Another view is that these methods have little merit and have died a natural death. That we only succeed through unfamiliarity and lack of preparation by our opponents. Strong pass has been legislated out of existence; it's difficult to judge merit, especially from a distance.

Concerning seating rights, pairs can hide during the qualifying but it's a bit rich to continue to seek protection during a final. This seating issue has proved costly for us. When we play a sponsored team, the sponsor understandably side-steps us. Our four-line defence is adequate, mostly ignored. In fact, pairs who arrive with pages of notes often end up with foot injuries. These are the ones who campaign for noose-tightening. Similarly, our defence to Multi Two Diamonds runs one line while the recommended ACBL defences are six pages. Hmmm.

In the Swiss, we played against Helegemo - Helness, Lauria - Versace, Ino - Harata with no issues. They sat down, discussed for a few minutes and played. We had narrow losses to both the finalists. We were 12th of 503 on datums. We lost our quarterfinal 63-45. I guess that's a "sound defeat". Certainly we did not play well. Tiredness might have been a factor. My opening a vul vs not Multi on K6, J107632, J62, 53 didn't help.

Incidentally, our last round opponents were seeded 11th. They played the Yeh Brothers Cup in the previous week. While they did not qualify for the knockout there, they won the Swiss Teams Plate. All have played for Australia. Hardly "an inexperienced team".

Nick Hughes & Nicoleta Giura, Bondi, NSW