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The IBPA Personality of the Year ROSE MELTZER



No one has a better record than Rose Meltzer in World Championship play over the last decade. Rose has won a Bermuda Bowl, a Rosenblum, a Transnational Teams and two Senior Teams: five world championships in ten years. She has played in five World Championship finals and has won them all. She has augmented that record with Spingold and Morehead (Grand National Teams) Trophies and a number of second-place finishes in major North American Championships and the IOC Cup. Rose

has also been the Fishbein Trophy winner as the leading master-point winner at the Summer North American Bridge Championships. She is a World Grand Master, the highest ranking in the WBF, and unusually, is also highly ranked in the Women's and Seniors categories as well.

However, Rose's talents extend far beyond bridge. She grew up in New York and received her bachelor and master's degrees in chemistry from Columbia University. Rose and her husband, Cliff, now an executive with Apple after years with Cisco Systems, along with their four dogs and four cats, have lived in California for the past nine years. Rose's other great passion is her love of music and playing the piano (she is also a graduate piano student from the Juilliard School of Music).

While in New York Rose served as unit president and tournament chairman, as well as a member of District 3's board. In California she has served on both the unit and district boards. She is currently a member of the United States Bridge Federation Board of Directors and is Chair of the USBF Grievances and Appeals Committee.

Rose's passion for bridge began in high school, but really blossomed in the late 1990's. Since then she is the first woman to win five open world titles and the

(Continued on page 2. For a full listing of the 2009 IBPA Awards, see page 16.)

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first woman World Grand Master. Rose considers herself very fortunate to have the complete support of her husband and family in her endeavours.

We can think of a no more deserving candidate for the IBPA Personality of the Year. If there were a Personality of the Decade award, Rose would get it.

The Alan Truscott Memorial Award Gary M. Pomerantz for “The Devil’s Tickets”



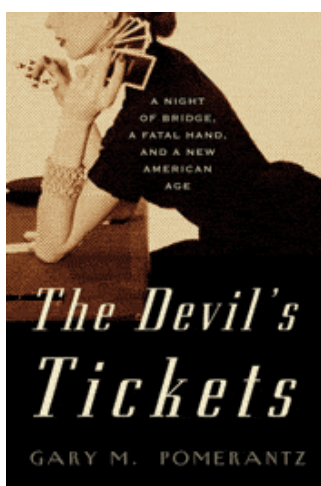
Alan Truscott, circa 1964,
The New York Times

The **Alan Truscott Memorial Award** is given periodically for some special service to the game that would appeal to Alan. As well as a top bridge player and writer, Alan was also a fine chess player and had varied interests away from the table.

The Truscott award for 2009 goes to Gary M. Pomerantz for “*The Devil’s Tickets*”, an unusual bridge tale. It evokes the Roaring 20’s and the Depression when bridge was all the rage. The Barnum of the bridge craze was a spotlessly-manicured, tuxedoed Russian, Ely Culbertson, who used mystique, brilliance and a certain madness to position the game as a challenge to women, a dare, really. If a woman sought true equality, Culbertson suggested, she only had to buy a deck of cards – and, of course, Culbertson’s books of bridge instruction. But many husbands weren’t ready to follow their wives’ lead. In a flashpoint of the craze, in September 1929, in Kansas City, a husband and wife bridge spat boiled over, and Myrtle Bennett shot her husband Jack dead. Her murder trial was a sensation set against the backdrop of a raucous decade in which women were achieving new voice. Her attorney was the most famous man in Kansas City, former U.S. Senator James A. Reed, a one-time Democratic presidential candidate who yet had his eyes on the 1932 nomination. Reed smoked cigars with Mencken, and counted Darrow and Hearst among

his friends. As a lawyer, he represented Henry Ford and oil companies. For Myrtle, Reed put on a dramatic show of courtroom logic, eloquence and a few tears. Watching from New York, Culbertson offered trial commentary and used the Bennetts’ story to sell bridge, his instructional books and himself. Housewives adored Culbertson, and rushed to hear his lectures. Months after the 1931 trial, when Culbertson and his glamorous wife Josephine won the Bridge Battle of the Century at the Waldorf Astoria in the glitter of New York high society and Hollywood newsreels, they became millionaire icons. Ultimately, “*The Devil’s Tickets*” reveals a tension between husbands and wives that is eternal and that manifests itself at the bridge table – both then and now – in ways surprising and profound. (From www.garympomerantz.com)

Pomerantz (photo below right), 48, a former reporter at The Washington Post and Atlanta Journal-Constitution, is a lecturer at Stanford University. He lives in Larkspur, Calif., with his wife and three children. His books include “*Where Peachtree Meets Sweet Auburn*”, a history of race relations in Atlanta.



“*The Devil’s Tickets*”, Crown Publishing, New York, hardcover, 245 pp, US\$26.00, published June 9, 2009

Gary M. Pomerantz
with the devil’s tickets

Photo: Martin Klimek





Phillip Alder, Hobe Sound, FL
John Carruthers, Toronto, ON
Mark Horton, Bath, England
Patrick Jourdain, Cardiff, Wales
Brent Manley, Memphis, TN
Brian Senior, Nottingham, England

There were 22 teams in each of the three main events at the 39th World Championships in São Paulo, Brazil in September. In each event, the teams would play a complete round robin of 16-board matches, followed by the top eight playing 96-board knockout matches. Uniquely, the Bermuda Bowl final would be 128 boards in length. The round-robin leader would choose its opponent from the fifth through eighth-placed teams, then second would choose its opponent, and so on. After that, the brackets were pre-determined.

As usual, Italy and USA2 were joint favourites for the Bermuda Bowl. If neither of them won, it was thought that perhaps the Netherlands or Norway, the defending champions, would bring home the bacon. The other 18 teams were considered outsiders, although a few of them fancied their chances with both Italy and the USA having shown recent cracks in their previously-impenetrable shells.

For the Venice Cup, the situation was similar, with clear favourites France, China and USA1 unanimously thought to have the inside track, followed by USA2. In the women's, any other winner would be a complete surprise.

In the d'Orsi Senior Bowl, four teams were considered the early favourites, but not by the same margin as in the other two events. Those teams were both USA teams, England and Poland. The situation here was not as clear, however; many other teams thought they were in with a chance, especially Japan, who'd won in Beijing and had sent the same team, Indonesia, who had knocked on the door many times already, and Sweden and Canada.

We'll follow all three events simultaneously and chronologically, looking at interesting deals as they occurred. Then we'll look at couple of deals from the Transnational Teams.

For each deal presented, we'll use initials for the Bermuda Bowl (BB), Venice Cup (VC), d'Orsi Senior Bowl (OSB) and Transnational Teams (TNT), as well as

author, event and segment initials. Thus, OSB SF6 (PJ) would mean the Ernesto d'Orsi Senior Bowl, 6th segment of the semifinal match, report written by Patrick Jourdain.

OSB RR8 ENGLAND/INDONESIA (PA)

As you know, five matches each session are being shown on BBO. Luckily someone was watching at the right moment when England played Indonesia in Round 8 of the seniors.

Board 26. Dealer East. Both Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Sawiruddin</i>	<i>Price</i>	<i>Sacul</i>	<i>Simpson</i>
<i>Holland</i>	<i>Lasut</i>	<i>Hallberg</i>	<i>Manoppo</i>
—	—	Pass	1 ♠
Pass	2 ♦	Pass	2 NT
Pass	3 NT	Pass	Pass
Pass			

After identical auctions at each table to three no trump, a club lead would have been fatal. But against Colin Simpson, Munawar Sawiruddin selected the heart nine. Declarer won with his jack and immediately ran the diamond queen. Denny Sacul took his king and shifted to the spade three (when the eight would have been a better choice).

South now erred. He should have won the ace, cashed the heart king, overtaken the heart queen with dummy's ace, and played on diamonds. At the worst he would have lost two spades and two diamonds. But declarer played a low spade. West won with his queen and could have shifted effectively to a club. But he was fooled by his partner's low-spade shift, thinking this promised at least one honour in the suit. So West next led the spade king. South won with his ace, cashed three more spade

tricks and claimed ten in all: four spades, four hearts, one diamond and one club.

In the Closed Room, John Holland (West) led the heart two. Eddy Manoppo (South) started in identical fashion, winning in his hand and running the diamond queen. But now came the key difference: Gunnar Hallberg (East), a Swede who has lived in England for many years, ducked. And now the contract had no chance.

South tried a low spade, but West won with his queen and shifted to the club two. East took dummy's queen with his king and returned the four, West carefully unblocking his jack. Declarer ran dummy's spade ten, but West produced the king and played his last club to give the defenders five tricks: two spades and three clubs. Very nicely defended. Plus 630 and plus 100 gave England 12 IMPs.

VC RRI0 USA2/ITALY (JC)

Board 31. Dealer South. NS Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Olivieri</i>	<i>Wittes</i>	<i>Arrigoni</i>	<i>Quinn</i>
—	—	—	Pass
Pass	Pass	1 NT	Pass
2 ♦ ¹	Pass	2 ♥	Pass
3 ♣	Pass	3 NT	Pass
Pass	Pass		
1. Transfer			

West	North	East	South
<i>Sutherland</i>	<i>Saccavini</i>	<i>Mancuso</i>	<i>Paoluzi</i>
—	—	—	Pass
Pass	Pass	1 ♦	Pass
1 ♥	1 ♠	Pass	Pass
3 ♣	Pass	3 NT	Pass
Pass	Pass		

Despite West's having shown five hearts in the auction, Shawn Quinn led the heart four against Gianna Arrigoni's three no trump. Arrigoni won the king and played diamonds, Pam Wittes winning the king on the first round and shifting to the spade queen. Arrigoni won the ace and played another diamond. When Quinn won the ace she knocked out dummy's heart ace.

With nine tricks now certain, Arrigoni played off her diamonds and the black-suit kings. As North came down to two clubs and the spade jack, declarer threw her in with a spade to score two clubs at the end. She was annoyed that the club queen had been onside all along. Plus 430 to Italy.

The Italian defenders gave Renée Mancuso a much tougher ride. Ilaria Saccavini's thin overcall allowed Simonetta Paoluzi to find the potentially-damaging spade three lead against three no trump. However, Mancuso was up to the task, executing the rare double duck with two stoppers in the suit. North won the ten at trick one and continued with the two, Mancuso allowing it to go to South's nine. The third spade knocked out the ace.

Mancuso played a diamond to North's king, and seeing the futility of a spade continuation, Saccavini tried to do something positive for her side by shifting to the heart queen, but declarer had the king, and so scored nine tricks. Well done by Mancuso to lose an IMP for her trouble.

BB RRI7 PAKISTAN/ITALY (PA)

Board 16. Dealer South. EW Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Askari</i>	<i>Sementa</i>	<i>Mohiuddin</i>	<i>Duboin</i>
—	—	—	1 ♦
1 ♥	Double	4 ♥	4 ♠
Pass	5 ♣	Pass	5 ♦
Pass	5 NT	Pass	6 ♠
Pass	Pass	Pass	

One of the best defensive plays of the tournament occurred on the diagrammed deal in the Bermuda Bowl match between Italy and Pakistan.

Before getting to that, if you were South, how would you play in six spades after the defence begins with two rounds of hearts?

It looks normal to play on a crossruff. You plan to take one diamond, two clubs, four ruffs in the South hand and five trumps in the North hand. But as you can see, West ruffs the second club to defeat the contract. The winning line is to play a diamond to the ace, lead a trump to South, cash the diamond king, ruff a diamond, return

to South with a trump and lead winning diamonds. Whenever West ruffs, North overruffs, plays a trump to South's ace (which removes West's last spade), and runs the rest of the diamonds.

However, being lucky in diamonds is much less likely than finding clubs 5-2 or 4-3, when the crossruff will work.

Both North-South pairs reached six spades. At the other, non-diagrammed table, the auction was as given until four spades, except that Mirza Shauq Hussain (North for Pakistan) did not double over one heart, he bid one spade promising at least a five-card suit. Then Fulvio Fantoni (West) rebid five hearts, and North jumped to six spades.

Claudio Nunes (East) led the club queen. Declarer (North) won in his hand, cashed the diamond ace, played a trump to dummy (seeing the 4-0 break), took the diamond king, ruffed a diamond, drew trumps ending in the South hand and claimed.

In the diagrammed auction, Antonio Sementa (North) doubled one heart to show four or five spades. Then, over four spades, he could not ask for aces. Five clubs showed a first- or second-round control in the suit. Five diamonds did the same. And five no-trump said that North wanted to be in a slam, but that he did not have first-round heart control. Giorgio Duboin (South) signed off in six spades.

Hasan Askari (West) led the heart ace, then continued with a low heart when his partner, Khalid Mohiuddin, played the queen. South ruffed, led a club to dummy's ace and cashed the diamond ace, under which West dropped the queen!

Declarer, believing that diamonds were 5-1, thought he had to play the crossruff. Duboin called for the club king, but West ruffed it. Plus 1430 and plus 100 gave Pakistan 17 IMPs on the board.

When you cannot beat a contract by hook, try crook.

After seven days of qualifying matches, these were the results:

Bermuda Bowl

Italy	390
Norway	385
Bulgaria	382
USA2	368
Netherlands	361
Germany	360
Russia	359
China	358

Venice Cup

China	411
France	389
USA1	377
USA2	354

Italy	348
Germany	347
Spain	345
Sweden	333

D'Orsi Senior Bowl

England	402
Belgium	378
Poland	371
USA1	365
USA2	361
Egypt	352
Sweden	344
Indonesia	341

Only in the Seniors was the ninth-place team close to qualifying. That was Japan, 1½ VP behind. In the Bermuda Bowl and the Venice Cup, the closest non-qualifiers were half a match in arrears.

BB QFI RUSSIA/ITALY (PJ)

The first set of the quarterfinal between Italy and Russia was a close-fought affair but Khury Khiuppenen earned a good swing for his side by brilliant play on this deal:

Board 14. Dealer East. Neither Vul.

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

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Kholomeev</i>	<i>Fantoni</i>	<i>Khiuppenen</i>	<i>Nunes</i>
—	—	1 ♣	1 ♦
1 ♥ ¹	2 ♦	Pass	Pass
Double	Pass	3 ♣	Pass
3 ♦	Pass	3 NT	Pass
4 ♣	Pass	5 ♣	Pass
Pass	Pass		
1. 4+ spades			

West	North	East	South
<i>Versace</i>	<i>Gromov</i>	<i>Lauria</i>	<i>Dubinin</i>
—	—	Pass	1 NT
Pass	2 ♣	Double	2 ♦
3 ♦	Pass	3 NT	Pass
4 ♣	Pass	Pass	Pass

Three no trump stands no chance on a diamond lead, so both Wests did well to remove to clubs. Khiuppenen's decision to open the East hand caused his partner to choose a game-forcing auction, whereas Lauria's pass meant the Italians were able to stop in four clubs.

With West as declarer and the ace of diamonds offside, a diamond lead holds declarer to ten tricks, and even when East is declarer the alternative line of finessing the nine of spades in the hope of creating two discards for East's diamonds also fails, so stopping in the partscore looks a wise decision.

Gromov led a heart. At some point in the play Versace led a spade to the queen and ace and South exited with a second heart. The records do not show how Versace managed 11 tricks from this point, but as his spades were not visible it is possible North discarded a spade too many.

It was the play in the other room where a large number of IMPs were at stake. Nunes, South, found the safe lead of a heart. The bidding had warned declarer that the ace of diamonds was likely to be wrong. If North had the ace of spades the contract stood no chance. Was there a better line than finessing the nine of spades to generate discards for two diamonds?

Khiuppenen sought a line of play that would work when South held both aces without risking that spade finesse. He found it. Winning the opening heart, he immediately cashed a second heart and then played a trump to the ace, North discarding a heart. Declarer ruffed a heart to eliminate the suit, cashed the king of trumps (North threw a spade) and a third trump to the queen (North throwing a diamond). Now Khiuppenen led the nine of spades through South.

Bingo! South, Nunes, had no answer to this. He could see that if he ducked he would be put on play at the next trick and be forced to lead diamonds. So Nunes actually rose with the ace of spades. Khiuppenen claimed, being able to discard two diamonds from his own hand on dummy's spades.

South had been caught in a Morton's Fork, where the choice was between conceding an extra trick in spades, or being endplayed later. Khiuppenen had gained 6 IMPs for his side instead of losing 5 IMPs, a reward of 11 for his fine play.

The quarterfinal scores:

Bermuda Bowl

Italy	234	Russia	186
Bulgaria	271	Germany	245
USA2	214	Netherlands	200
China	197	Norway	194

Venice Cup

China	259	Sweden	182
USA2	258	Germany	210
USA1	189	Spain	139
France	252	Italy	188

d'Orsi Senior Bowl

England	237	Egypt	236
Indonesia	211	Belgium	140

USA2	223	USA1	163
Poland	247	Sweden	164

There were no real surprises here. Norway was without Helness-Helgemo, so their match with China rated to be closer that it might have been. And Egypt raised an eyebrow or two by taking England down to the wire. But by and large, form prevailed.

BB SF5 USA2/CHINA (BM)

Nick Nickell made a nice play on defence to help his team win IMPs on this deal.

Board 11. Dealer South. Neither Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Nickell	Dai	Katz	Yang
—	—	—	1 ♣ ¹
1 ♥	Double ²	Pass	2 NT ³
Pass	3 NT	Pass	Pass
Pass			

1. Precision: 16+ HCP
2. Semi-positive 5-8 HCP
3. 19-20 HCP, balanced

Nickell started with a low heart, taken in dummy with the queen. Yang played the spade jack at trick two, ducked by Nickell. Yang repeated the spade finesse at trick three, and Nickell won and played a third round, clearing the suit.

When Nickell later got in with the heart ace, he put Katz in with the ace of clubs to cash two spade tricks for one down. When the first spade finesse won, playing on hearts would have ensured nine tricks for declarer.

West	North	East	South
Wang	Rodwell	Zhuang	Meckstroth
—	—	—	2 NT ¹
Pass	3 NT	Pass	Pass
Pass			

1. 19-20 HCP, balanced/semi-balanced (could have singleton heart)

The play to trick one was the same, dummy's heart queen winning the first trick, but when Meckstroth played the spade ten, Wang won to cash the ace of hearts and clear the suit. Meckstroth had his nine tricks then, however, and another 11 IMPs went to the Americans.

OSB SF5 ENGLAND/INDONESIA (BS)

England's David Price made a 100%-correct expert play on this deal from the fifth set of the Senior semifinal between England and Indonesia. The play cost him one trick and could have cost two, but it assured the success of the contract.

Board 15. Dealer South. NS Vul.

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

Price was in four spades from the North hand on the lead of the five of hearts. He guessed well to put in dummy's queen and played a trump to East's ace. East continued with what looks to be the worst card he could possibly have selected, the king of hearts. All Price had to do was to win the ace and claim the rest of the tricks, but he called for dummy's three! East failed to give his partner a ruff now so Price made an overtrick and, with the Indonesians stopping short of game in the other room, that was worth 10 IMPs to England.

But why did Price duck the king of hearts? The answer is that he could afford to see the ace of hearts ruffed out on the third round of the suit but not the second. Consider the two lines of play if hearts are 4-1.

If declarer covers the king of hearts with the ace and it is ruffed, a diamond switch establishes a winner for the defence, and that winner can be cashed when declarer concedes a heart to the jack – down one.

But when declarer ducks the heart king the defence is powerless. If the heart ruff is not given there is no possibility for a fourth trick. If the defence does take its ruff and switches to a diamond, declarer has time to ruff out the jack of hearts and that creates a discard for dummy's diamond loser. Again, ten tricks are secure.

OSB SF6 ENGLAND/INDONESIA (MH)

(See top of next column.)

West cashed the ace of clubs and followed it with (to my eyes a strange play), the ace of spades. He then went back to clubs, cashing the king and playing the three. Now South, who had already made a number of excellent plays during the course of the tournament had another chance to shine.

Board 23. Dealer South. Both Vul.

<p>♠ Q 5 4 ♥ K J 8 ♦ K Q J 10 6 ♣ 6 5</p> <p>♠ A 10 8 6 3 2 ♥ 10 ♦ 8 5 ♣ A K J 3</p> <p>♠ K ♥ A 9 6 5 3 2 ♦ A ♣ 10 9 8 7 2</p>	<p>J 9 7 ♥ Q 7 4 ♦ 9 7 4 3 2 ♣ Q 4</p>
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West	North	East	South
<i>Sawiruddin</i>	<i>Holland</i>	<i>Sacul</i>	<i>Hallberg</i>
—	—	—	1 ♥
1 ♠	2 ♦	Pass	2 ♥
2 ♠	4 ♥	Pass	Pass
Pass			

If he ruffs with the king of hearts and then passes the jack of hearts he sees the ten fall. He discards the ace of diamonds on the queen of spades (with a polite thank you to West) and the losing clubs go on the diamonds. However, declarer, after long thought, elected to ruff with the eight of hearts and that was that, minus 100.

West	North	East	South
<i>Price</i>	<i>Lasut</i>	<i>Simpson</i>	<i>Manoppo</i>
—	—	—	1 ♥
1 ♠	2 ♠ ¹	Pass	3 ♥
Pass	4 ♥	Pass	Pass
Pass			

1. Limit+ in hearts

Here West cashed the ace of clubs and then continued with the king. When East's queen appeared he had only to play a third club to defeat the contract, but like his counterpart in the other room he cashed the ace of spades. He then gave South less chance to shine by playing a second spade. Declarer ruffed, unblocked the ace of diamonds, crossed to dummy with the king of hearts and tabled the jack, running it when East followed with the seven. Now the diamonds took care of the losing clubs for a splendid plus 620 and 12 IMPs.

The semifinal results were:

Bermuda Bowl

Italy	234	Bulgaria	186
USA2	214	China	200

Venice Cup

China	259	France	182
USA1	189	USA2	139

d'Orsi Senior Bowl

England	237	Indonesia	236
Poland	223	USA2	247

Continued on page 10...

IBPA Column Service

Tim Bourke, Canberra

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

491. Dealer South. NS Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
—	—	—	1 NT ¹
3 ♥	6 NT	Pass	Pass
Pass			
1. 15-17 HCP			

How was declarer to make twelve tricks in notrumps? There were ten top tricks and an eleventh was available in the heart suit. If the diamonds were to break 3-3, there would be twelve easy tricks.

The problem was to overcome the given layout, when East began with four diamonds. After winning the spade lead in hand, declarer advanced the five of hearts.

What could West do? If he rose with the ace of hearts, declarer would then have two heart winners and his contract. When West played low and dummy's king of hearts won the trick. Declarer then cashed the three top diamonds, discovering that East did indeed have a diamond stopper. However, as he had already made his eleventh trick (the king of hearts), he conceded a diamond to East. As East had only black-suit cards remaining, declarer made two spades, one heart, four diamonds and five clubs.

Note that it was crucial to gather the trick in hearts first by catching West in a Morton's Fork which assured the contract.

492. Dealer South. EW Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
—	—	—	1 NT ¹
Pass	2 ♣	Pass	2 ♦
Pass	3 NT	Pass	Pass
Pass			
1. 12-14 HCP			

West led diamond queen and continued with the nine to the king when declarer held up. The third diamond was won by the ace. Declarer could see seven winners so two extra tricks in clubs were needed. The danger was that the defence would take four diamonds and a club.

As East had no more diamonds, it was obvious to finesse clubs into the East hand. If declarer had led a low club to dummy's ten next he would have been defeated because there weren't the required entries to hand to repeat the finesse then cash the remaining clubs with the 4-1 break.

Declarer saw this trap and ran the jack of clubs at trick four. After finessing the ten of clubs and cashing dummy's king of clubs, declarer returned to hand with the king of hearts and cashed two more club tricks to make an overtrick.

Notice that if East had produced the queen of clubs the contract would still have been successful.

2009 World Championship Details

Journalists wanting details from the 2009 World Championships in Brazil should go to www.swangames.com/magic. There you will find results, hand records, bidding and play records, and many other useful things. Thanks to the brilliant Tomas Brenning for organising the data.

493. Dealer South. NS Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
—	—	—	1 ♥
2 NT	3 ♣	5 ♣	6 ♥
Pass	Pass	Pass	

This deal arose in a duplicate contest where the favourable vulnerability persuaded West to use the Unusual Notrump to show at least 5-5 the minors. After North showed a sound raise to at least three hearts with his three club bid, South took the slightly-optimistic view that West's overcall would likely give him a trick in the play.

West did well by not leading a club or a diamond, as it was obvious that declarer was not worried about either minor-suit lead. So, as the North-South trumps were likely to solid, he led his singleton trump. Declarer took this with the queen and ruffed the seven of clubs. After crossing back to dummy with the ace of trumps, he ruffed the jack of clubs. Next, declarer cashed the three top spades, ending in hand, and ruffed his remaining spade in dummy. Finally, he called for the king of clubs and discarded the five of diamonds from hand.

West took his ace of clubs but had no safe exit. A diamond would be into the ace-queen while a fourth round of clubs would see declarer ruff in dummy and discard the queen of diamonds from hand. So declarer had twelve tricks no matter what West did.

Note that with all the key minor-suit cards held by West, declarer had other lines of play to succeed. His chosen line, however, required only that West hold the club ace. Should East have unexpectedly turned up with that card, covering the king, declarer had only to ruff and exit with the diamond five to end-play West in that suit.

494. (See top of next column.) West led the ten of clubs against this adventurous contract and declarer immediately assumed that he had no diamond to lead. So, after winning the first trick with the queen of clubs, declarer drew trumps then cashed his remaining club winners. This marked East with either 2=0=8=3 or 1=0=8=4 shape, making a 3-3 spade break impossible.

Dealer North. EW Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
—	1 NT ¹	3 ♦	3 ♥
Pass	3 NT	Pass	5 NT
Pass	6 ♥	Pass	Pass
Pass			
1. 12-14 HCP			

Declarer saw that his only chance was that East had at least one spade honour. So, he cashed the ace of spades and led a second spade towards dummy. His plan was to insert the nine if West played low and to duck if West played an honour.

As you can see, if East wins with his now-bare jack, he is end-played into leading a diamond away from the king to give declarer his twelfth trick with the queen of diamonds. If West found the Crocodile Coup of rising with the queen of spades, to prevent East's jack winning the trick, declarer would later finesse the nine of spades for the twelfth trick. Well-played!

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BB FI USA2/ITALY (BM)

Italy struck for a big gain on the following board.

Board 14. Dealer East. NS Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Nunes</i>	<i>Katz</i>	<i>Fantoni</i>	<i>Nickell</i>
—	—	1 ♣ ¹	2 ♥
3 ♥ ²	Pass	3 ♠ ³	Pass
4 ♥	Pass	4 NT	Pass
5 ♠	Pass	6 ♠	Pass
Pass	Pass		

1. (a.) 14+HCP, 4+clubs (b.) good 12-13 HCP, 5+ clubs (c.) 15+ HCP balanced
2. Spades
3. Spade support, GF

Nickell started with the heart ace, which didn't hurt declarer's cause. Fantoni discarded a club from dummy on the heart continuation, played the spade queen, a spade to the ace, and a third high spade. He then called for the diamond jack, covered by Katz with the queen.

Now a heart was ruffed in dummy. Declarer then played a diamond to his king and played the diamond nine from hand. When Nickell covered with the ten, that was it. The diamond eight was declarer's 12th trick for plus 980.

West	North	East	South
<i>Rodwell</i>	<i>Lauria</i>	<i>Meckstroth</i>	<i>Versace</i>
—	—	2 NT ¹	3 ♦ ²
3 ♠	Pass	4 ♠ ³	Pass
4 NT ⁴	Pass	5 ♠ ⁵	Pass
6 ♠	Pass	Pass	Pass

1. 19-20 HCP, balanced/semi-balanced (could have singleton heart)
2. Hearts
3. Worst raise
4. RKCB
5. 2 key cards plus the spade queen

Lauria started with the heart nine, which held the trick. Rodwell ruffed the heart continuation, played two rounds of high spades, ending in hand, then played the diamond jack, covered by the queen, to the ace. He then cashed the top clubs in dummy and played the spade ten to hand.

Rodwell then ran the rest of the spades, hoping for a squeeze to develop on North, with presumably three diamonds to the ten and club length remaining. It did not materialize, however, and Rodwell was one down for minus 50 and 14 IMPs to Italy.

BB FI USA2/ITALY (BM)

The Americans got almost all of that swing back immediately...

Board 15. Dealer South. Neither Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Nunes</i>	<i>Katz</i>	<i>Fantoni</i>	<i>Nickell</i>
—	—	—	Pass
2 ♦ ¹	Pass	Pass	2 ♠
Pass	3 ♦	Double ²	Pass
Pass	3 NT	Pass	Pass
Pass			

1. 10-13 HCP, 5+ diamonds, unbalanced
2. Don't lead a diamond

Fantoni started with the two of diamonds and when Katz played low, Nunes would have done best to play the seven – declarer's entries to dummy were severely limited. Nunes inserted the ten, however, taken by Katz with the king. When Katz cashed the spade queen, he got the news that the spade suit would provide only four tricks. That was the bad news. The good news was that Nunes was already having trouble finding discards.

Nunes threw the heart six on the first spade, then discarded three clubs on the next three. Katz played the diamond jack, covered by the queen and ace. He then cashed the nine of diamonds and then played the king of clubs, smothering Nunes' queen. Fantoni won the ace and cashed the nine of spades and played a heart to Nunes' ace for plus 630.

West	North	East	South
<i>Rodwell</i>	<i>Lauria</i>	<i>Meckstroth</i>	<i>Versace</i>
—	—	—	2 ♠
Double	2 NT ¹	Pass	3 ♥ ²
Pass	3 NT	Pass	Pass
Pass			

1. Forcing, relay
2. Balanced non-minimum

Versace did open two spades and Meckstroth started with a low club to the queen and king. The pace of play slowed after Rodwell discarded on the spade queen, but Lauria finally cashed his spades and played the diamond jack to the queen and ace. Lauria cashed the king of diamonds, but that was his last trick. When he played the nine of diamonds to Rodwell's ten, Rodwell played a club through declarer's jack. Meckstroth had four black winners to cash and a heart to play to his partner's ace. Plus 200 was good for 13 IMPs.

VC PLAYOFF I FRANCE/USA2 (MH)

In baseball, an unassisted triple play occurs when a defensive player makes all three putouts by himself in one continuous play, without any teammates touching the ball. In Major League Baseball, it is the rarest of individual feats (*not quite – Johnny van der Meer pitched back-to-back no hitters, a feat never equalled – Ed.*) and in the history of the *World Series* (from 1903) there has been only one such occurrence, when Bill Wambsganns became a baseball legend during the 1920 Series, when as a second baseman for the Cleveland Indians he completed an unassisted triple play against the Brooklyn Dodgers. During the fifth inning of Game 5 with base runners on first and second, a sharp line drive was hit to Wambsganns who caught it, stepped on second base and then tagged the runner coming from first.

In bridge terms a simple squeeze is common and a double squeeze is reasonably frequent. But a triple squeeze is simply not an everyday occurrence, especially in the rarefied atmosphere of a World Championship.

However, when the opportunity arose in the Venice Cup bronze-medal decider between France and USA 2, Shawn Quinn was able to demonstrate her considerable talents on this deal:

Board 7. Dealer South. Both Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
A-Gaviard	Wittes	d'Ovidio	Quinn
—	—	—	1 ♦
Pass	2 ♦ ¹	Pass	2 ♥
Pass	3 ♣	Pass	3 ♥
Pass	3 ♠	Pass	3 NT
Pass	5 ♦	Pass	6 ♦
Pass	Pass	Pass	

West led the two of clubs to the jack and queen and East switched to the three of hearts. Declarer put up the ace, cashed the ace of diamonds, East discarding the five of hearts, played a diamond to the jack (this time East pitched a club), ruffed a club, ruffed a heart, and ruffed another club to reach this position:

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

When declarer played a diamond to the king, East, in deep trouble, discarded the seven of spades. On the last trump she parted with the nine of hearts while declarer threw the five of spades. She crossed to the king of spades and cashed the king of hearts, throwing the king of clubs from dummy. When the queen of hearts fell under the king, she could claim the last two tricks for plus 1370, worth 12 IMPs against the 690 recorded at the other table.

BB F6 USA2/ITALY (BS)

After five of eight sets, USA2 led Italy by 76.33 IMPs. While there were still 48 boards to play, it was important for Italy to pull some points back in Set Six so that they could sleep a little easier and look forward to the morrow with confidence. Six fairly quiet boards saw USA2 ahead by 6-1 in the set, just what they were looking for. Then came the first major swing:

Board 87. Dealer South. Both Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Duboin	Hamman	Sementa	Zia
—	—	—	1 ♦
Pass	1 ♥	1 ♠	Double ¹
3 ♦	Double	Pass	Pass
4 ♠	Pass	Pass	Pass

1. 3-card heart support

West	North	East	South
Rodwell	Lauria	Meckstroth	Versace
—	—	—	1 ♣
Pass	1 ♦	1 ♠	2 ♦
2 NT	3 ♦	Pass	Pass
3 ♠	Pass	Pass	Pass

Essentially, the respective Wests were in the same position when they had to make their final decision. Both had shown constructive spade raises and both Easts had passed rather than follow the principle of fast arrival by bidding three spades in front of them. Giorgio Duboin took a shot at game while Eric Rodwell settled for partscore.

Against four spades, Zia led ace, king and a third club for Bob Hamman to ruff. Hamman switched to the queen of hearts, which Sementa won with his ace. He played the queen of spades and when Zia followed with the seven, Sementa went into a study. There were indications from the bidding that Hamman was 2=4=5=2 and that Zia was 2=3=4=3. (If Hamman were instead 3=4=4=2, there was no play which would succeed.)

Where were the high cards? If Hamman's heart queen were a true card (and why should it be?), Zia had the heart king and the club ace-king. Hamman had a diamond honour for his double. All that being the case, Hamman practically had to have the spade king, else Zia would have opened one no trump.

Despite all this, Sementa played for the major-suit kings to be reversed and finessed to the bare king. Hamman continued with hearts, Zia taking the king. That was two down for minus 200.

Alfredo Versace too led three rounds of clubs for Lorenzo Lauria to ruff and Lauria returned the heart queen to declarer's ace. Jeff Meckstroth led a low spade to the ace, then threw his heart loser on the established jack of clubs and came to an overtrick for plus 170 and 9 IMPs to USA2. Of course, Meckstroth was only in three spades, so the spade finesse was an unnecessary risk, with the actual line of play ensuring the contract whenever it could be made.

BB F6 USA2/ITALY (MH)

Board 88. Dealer West. Neither Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Rodwell	Lauria	Meckstroth	Versace
Pass	1 ♠	Pass	1 NT ¹
Pass	2 ♠	Pass	2 NT
Pass	3 NT	Pass	Pass
Pass			

1. Forcing one round

One hallmark of the expert is his knowledge of squeeze play. Although the legendary Giorgio Belladonna famously said that one could become a great player without any special knowledge of this technique, it frequently comes to the rescue, as on this deal from the sixth session of the Bermuda Bowl final.

North's raise to three no trump was well-timed, as this type of deal very often delivers nine tricks more easily than ten. West led the five of hearts for the jack and king and declarer played four rounds of spades, East winning the last of them with the ten. The club switch was taken by declarer's ace and he took no chances, playing a heart to the ace and claiming nine tricks, plus 400.

The USA had to work much harder in the replay:

West	North	East	South
Duboin	Hamman	Sementa	Mahmood
Pass	1 ♠	Pass	1 NT
Pass	2 ♠	Pass	4 ♠
Pass	Pass	Pass	

East led the queen of clubs and when that held he continued the suit, declarer winning with dummy's ace and playing a spade. When the queen appeared Hamman gave some thought to ducking (at double dummy the start of the only winning line) but that would have looked very foolish if West had started with a doubleton spade and declarer took the ace and continued with the king and jack, dummy discarding a heart while West threw both his remaining clubs.

When declarer played a diamond East went up with the king and declarer ducked. The winning defence now is for East to exit with a club. Declarer ruffs, as West discards a heart, and exits with a spade, dummy discarding a heart and West a diamond. Now when East exits with his last club dummy, it forces out declarer's last trump. Then, he'd have had no trump to ruff a diamond, isolating that menace, and squeezing West in the red suits.

However, East exited with the nine of diamonds and declarer went up with the ace, ruffed a diamond and exited with a spade to arrive at this four-card ending: (See top of next page.)

Now if East plays a club, West is squeezed in the red suits, while the jack of hearts exposes West's queen to a finesse. On a low heart, declarer could play low from dummy, covering West's card, cross to the king of hearts,

then ruff his way back to the master heart. All that gave USA2 a hard-earned 1 IMP.

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

BB F6 USA/ITALY (BS)

Board 89. Dealer North. EW Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Duboin</i>	<i>Hamman</i>	<i>Sementa</i>	<i>Zia</i>
—	Pass	Pass	1 ♥
Double	1 ♠	Pass	Pass
1 NT	Pass	3 NT	Pass
Pass	Pass		
West	North	East	South
<i>Rodwell</i>	<i>Lauria</i>	<i>Meckstroth</i>	<i>Versace</i>
—	Pass	Pass	1 ♥
Double	Pass	1 ♠	Pass
1 NT	Pass	3 NT	Pass
Pass	Pass		

Against Duboin, Hamman led the six of clubs to the seven, queen and king. Duboin played the ace of spades followed by the ten. Hamman won the king and cashed the ace of clubs then switched to his heart, the two being covered by the nine, ten and queen. Duboin returned a low heart to the jack and Zia ducked, but that meant that Duboin could cash dummy's spade winners and take the diamond finesse; ten tricks for plus 630.

Lauria also led a low club, but Rodwell ducked the queen! Versace returned the suit to the ace and Lauria played a third round. Rodwell won and played ace and ten of spades. Lauria won the king and cleared the clubs. Rodwell led a heart to the jack and king and Versace returned the heart ten, pinning the nine. Rodwell had

to lose one more trick from here, simply winning the heart and playing three more rounds to leave Versace to take the diamond finesse for him at the end; down one for minus 100 and 12 IMPs to Italy, who needed them.

BB F6 USA/ITALY (BS)

Board 96. Dealer West. EW Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Duboin</i>	<i>Hamman</i>	<i>Sementa</i>	<i>Zia</i>
1 ♦	1 ♥	2 ♦	2 ♠
Pass	3 ♦	Pass	4 ♦
Pass	4 ♠	Pass	5 ♣
Pass	5 ♠	Pass	Pass
Pass			
West	North	East	South
<i>Rodwell</i>	<i>Lauria</i>	<i>Meckstroth</i>	<i>Versace</i>
1 ♦	1 ♥	Pass	1 ♠
Pass	2 ♦	Pass	3 ♦
Pass	3 NT	Pass	Pass
Pass			

The Italians had a well-controlled auction to three no trump. Meckstroth led the nine of clubs round to the jack and Lauria passed the jack of spades, Rodwell taking the queen and returning the six of diamonds. Lauria won the king of diamonds and cashed the spades and clubs, then the ace of hearts, taking no risks; nine tricks for plus 400.

Hamman/Zia had a less well-controlled auction. Zia expected primary spade support and a good hand for Hamman's bidding and five spades was already too high. Duboin cashed the diamond ace, then switched to the five of hearts. Zia called for the queen then led the jack of spades off the dummy. When that was not covered, he rose with the ace and played two more rounds to Duboin's queen.

Duboin returned a diamond to dummy's king. Zia cashed the ace of hearts with some hope for his contract but, when Sementa showed out, he knew he was doomed unless the club finesse was working. He ruffed a heart then led a club to the jack. When that lost to the queen, Sementa returned a diamond and that was two down for minus 100 and 11 IMPs to Italy.

Italy won the set by 36-28 to trail by 167-235.33. With only 32 boards to play the next day, the match was still alive but the Italians needed a very good day if they were to prevail.

BB F7 USA2/ITALY (PA)

Board 104. Dealer West. Neither Vul.

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

♠ A 10 8 5 2
♥ —
♦ A 8 6 2
♣ Q J 5 3

West	North	East	South
Zia	Fantoni	Hamman	Nunes
Pass	2 ♥ ¹	Pass	2 ♠ ²
Pass	3 ♦ ³	Pass	Pass
Pass			

1. 10-13 HCP, 5+ hearts, unbalanced
2. Relay
3. 1=5=4=3 or 3=5=4=1

West	North	East	South
Versace	Rodwell	Lauria	Meckstroth
Pass	1 ♥	Pass	1 ♠
Pass	2 ♦	Pass	3 ♦
Pass	3 ♠	Pass	4 ♠
Pass	Pass	Pass	

South could not find out about three-card spade support without getting to three notrump opposite 1=5=4=3. With some help from the defense, Fulvio Fantoni took 11 tricks in three diamonds.

Jeff Meckstroth played four spades very nicely. Versace led a trump. Declarer took East's jack with his ace, played a club to dummy's ace, led a diamond to his ace, ruffed a club, cashed the diamond king, and played another diamond. West exited with a low heart to the queen, king and ruff. South ruffed another club and ruffed a heart to give this position:

<p>♠ — ♥ J 6 4 ♦ 10 ♣ —</p> <p>♠ 6 ♥ A 10 9 ♦ — ♣ —</p>	<p>♠ K 4 ♥ 3 ♦ — ♣ 10</p>
---	---------------------------------------

♠ 10 8
♥ —
♦ 8
♣ Q

South led a trump. Lorenzo Lauria (East) won with his king and returned a heart, declarer discarding his diamond. West won and had to lead a heart, East ruffing dummy's jack. But Meckstroth overruffed and cashed the club queen. Minus 150 and plus 420 gave 6 IMPs to USA2.

The final matches ended this way:

Bermuda Bowl			
USA2	285	Italy	249
Venice Cup			
China	220	USA1	148
d'Orsi Senior Bowl			
England	187	Poland	164

TNT2 Just Like Mr. Deep Finesse (BM)

By this time, everyone knows about Deep Finesse, the computer program that can tell you how to make or defeat any contract that can be made or defeated, although DF has the advantage of being able to see all the cards.

Thus, when a human picks the one and only card identified by DF as the killing defence, it is worth noting. The deal was played in the World Transnational Open Teams. The hero was Peter Boyd of the USA.

Board 19. Dealer South. EW Vul.

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

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

Boyd led the nine of hearts, taken in dummy with the ace. Declarer could have made his contract by simply taking the club finesse, cashing the club ace and exiting with a low diamond. It's not as easy when you can't see all the cards, however, so declarer played on diamonds at trick two, leading the nine to his king and Boyd's ace.

At this point, there was only one card in Boyd's hand that he could play to defeat three spades – and he found it - the queen of spades.

Say Boyd exits with a heart. Declarer ruffs, ruffs a diamond, ruffs a heart and ruffs a diamond, noting Boyd's discard. If Boyd discards a club, declarer ruffs a heart, plays the ace of clubs and exits with a club or a diamond. Boyd would be down to all trumps and forced to ruff and then lead into the ace-king-ten of spades.

A low spade does not do the job because declarer can take the trick in dummy, take the club finesse, cash the ace of clubs, ruff a diamond and eventually get South down to the point where he would have to ruff one of his partner's winners and lead into the spade tenace.

After the play of the queen of spades, declarer can win in hand, ruff a diamond, take the club finesse, cash the ace of clubs and exit with a diamond, but North can win a diamond, cash another and give South a ruff while he still has an out card in hearts. Boyd would still have a trump trick with the eight, seven, three against declarer's king, ten, five.

Plus 100 was a 5-IMP pickup because at the other table, North-South played in four hearts off two.

TNT8 DHONDY/GALO (BS)

Board 15. Dealer South. NS Vul.

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

In Team Dhondy's Transnational Round 8 match against the Galo team from Brazil, both Souths declared four spades.

Against Alan Kay for Dhondy, the lead was a diamond from Claudio Andrade. Kay won and took the losing trump finesse and West switched to the queen of clubs. Had Kay lazily made the automatic cover with the king, he would have been one down. East would have won and given his partner a diamond ruff and there would have been a heart loser at the end.

Howeve, Kay correctly withheld the club king. Now Guilheme Guimaraes, East, was powerless – if East allowed the queen to hold, there would be no diamond ruff, while if he overtook to give the ruff, the king of clubs would be a parking place for the heart loser. Either way, there were ten tricks for plua 620.

Had West switched instead to a low club, declarer would have had to guess – playing low makes the contract on

the actual layout, while rising with the king would be the winner had West underled the ace.

Did Kay's duck win the board for his team? No, with a women's world champion at the other table you have to work hard just to keep your losses to a minimum. Heather Dhondy led a club against four spades so it made an overtrick; 1 IMP away for the Dhondy team.

THE MEDAL WINNERS

BERMUDA BOWL

1. **USA2**: Bob Hamman, Ralph Katz, Zia Mahmood, Jeff Meckstroth, Nick Nickell, Eric Rodwell, NPC Donna Compton, Coach Eric Kokish

2. **Italy**: Giorgio Duboin, Fulvio Fantoni, Lorenzo Lauria, Claudio Nunes, Antonio Sementa, Alfredo Versace, NPC Maria Teresa Lavazza, Coach Massimo Ortensi

3. **Bulgaria**: Victor Aronov, Diyan Danailov, Kalin Karavanov, Georgi Karakolev, Julian Stefanov, Roumen Trendafilov, NPC Vladislav N. Isporski

VENICE CUP

1. **China**: Dong Yongling, Liu Yi Qian, Sun Ming, Wang Wenfei, Wang Hongli, Yan Ru

2. **USA1**: Lynn Baker, Lynn Deas, Irina Levitina, Karen McCallum, Beth Palmer, Kerri Sanborn, NPC Sam Dinkin

3. **France**: Véronique Bessis, Bénédicte Cronier, Danièle Gaviard, Elisabeth Hugon, Catherine d'Ovidio, Sylvie Willard, NPC Julien Gaviard, Coach Thomas Bessis

ERNESTO d'ORSI SENIOR BOWL

1. **England**: Paul Hackett, Gunnar Hallberg, Ross Harper, John Holland, David Price, Colin Simpson, NPC Peter Baxter

2. **Poland**: Julian Klukowski, Apolinary Kowalski, Krzysztof Lasocki, Victor Markowicz, Jacek Romanski, Jerzy Russyan, NPC Wlodek Wala

3. **Indonesia**: Bambang Hartonog, Arianto Kamadjajanegara, Henky Lasut, Eddy Manoppo, Denny Jacob Sacul, Munawar Sawiruddin, NPC Santje Panelewen

TRANSNATIONAL TEAMS

1. **Zimmerman**: Cezary Balicki, Geir Helgemo, Tor Helness, Franck Multon, Pierre Zimmerman, Adam Zmudzinski

2. **Apereo Logistic Poland**: Krzysztof Buras, Piotr Gawrys, Jacek Kalita, Krzyszto Kotorowicz, Grzegorz Narkiewicz, Jacek Psczcola

3. **Deutschland**: Michael Gromoeller, Andreas Kirmse, Josef Piekarek, Alexander Smirnov



2009 IBPA AWARDS



IBPA Personality of the Year

Rose Meltzer

Alan Truscott Memorial Award

Gary M. Pomerantz for *The Devil's tickets*

Master Point Press Books of the Year

Right through the Pack Again, Ron Klinger (Australia)

North of the Master Solvers' Club, Frank Vine (Canada)

Shortlist: *Wielding the Axe - The Vanishing Art of the Penalty Double* by Augie Boehm, *The Setting Trick – Practical Problems in Bridge Defense* by Ian McCance, *The Devil's Tickets* by Gary M. Pomerantz and *Frank Stewart's World of Bridge* by Frank Stewart.

Precision Best Bid Hand of the Year

Winner: Stuart & Gerald Tredinnick (England)

Journalist: Heather Dhondy (Hendon, England)

Title: 2008 Gold Cup Final

Bulletin 531, page 10

Shortlist: Forrester-Bakhshi (Paul Lamford), Lederer, 527.10; Costa Constantin (David Bird), Madeira, 527.13; Jagnewski-Kwiecien (Marius Wokicki), Vilnius, 528.6; Peter Fredin (Nick Hughes), Yeh Bros, 531.4

The Rose ♠ Cliff Declarer Play of the Year

Winner: Steve Weinstein (USA)

Journalist: Phillip Alder (Hobe Sound, FL, USA)

Title: 2009 Cavendish Invitational

Bulletin 533, page 5

Shortlist: Chagas (David Bird), Beijing Mixed Transnational Teams, 526.10; Liu Jing (Richard Colker), NEC, 530.6; Li Jie (Richard Colker), NEC, 530.8; Balicki (David Stern), Gold Coast Teams, 531.7; El-Ahmady (Brent Manley), Vanderbilt, 532.2; Sementa (Jos Jacobs), San Remo, 535.13

Gidwani Family Trust Defence of the Year

Winner: Michelle Brunner (England)

Journalist: Maureen Hiron (Málaga, Spain)

Title: A Gem from Michelle Brunner

Bulletin 528, page 7

Shortlist: Hanlon/McGann (Patrick Jourdain), Buffett Cup, 525.4; Townsend/Gold (Mark Horton), Beijing Open Teams, 526.10; Ker (Max Wigbout), NZ National Congress, 529.14; Lungu/Micescu (Mark Horton), San Remo, Daily Bulletin; Madala/Bocchi (Jos Jacobs), San Remo, Daily Bulletin

Brazilian Junior Deal of the Year

Winner: Thomas Bessis (France)

Journalist: Brian Senior (Nottingham, England)

Title: Bessis Brilliancy

Daily Bulletin, European Junior Championships, Romania

Shortlist: Kalita (Christer Andersson), University Championships, 525.7; Macura (Bert Toar Polii), University Championships, 525.10; Van Lankveld (Patrick Jourdain), European Junior Championships, Romania, Daily Bulletin; Tekin (Brian Senior), European Junior Championships, Romania, Daily Bulletin