



BULLETIN

www.ibpa.com
mail@ibpa.com

President:

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

Chairman:

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

Executive Vice-President:

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

Organizational Vice-President & Bulletin Production Manager:

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

Secretary:

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

Treasurer:

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

Membership Secretary:

JEREMY DHONDY
50 Great North Way
London NW4 1HS, UK
(44) 20 8203 2119
j.dhondy@btinternet.com

Honorary General Counsel:

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

Awards Secretary:

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

Sponsored Members' Secretary:

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

Presidents Emeritii:

TOMMY SANDSMARK (NORWAY)
HENRY FRANCIS (USA)

THE INTERNATIONAL BRIDGE PRESS ASSOCIATION

Editor: John Carruthers

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

No. 538

Year 2009

Date November 10

Editorial

We laud the election of Gianarrigo Rona as the next World Bridge Federation President. Rona was elected by the Executive Council of the WBF at their meetings in São Paulo, Brazil during the 2009 World Championships. He will take office at the end of 2010, after Josè Damiani's swansong, the 2010 World Championships in Philadelphia. "I am honoured," Rona said, "It is not an easy task to follow the giants before me."

Rona is a retired lawyer who lives in Milan and has a long record of bridge administration, first in the Italian Bridge Federation, and latterly in the European Bridge League, where he has served as President since 1999. One of Rona's toughest tasks will be to reduce the antipathy of some members of the American Contract Bridge League's Board of Directors toward the World Bridge Federation. If anyone can do that, Rona can - there is no bridge administrator with more poise, confidence and class than Gianarrigo Rona.

Rona was behind the introduction of the European Open Championships, modelled on the Rosenblum and World Open Pairs and affectionately referred to as "The Ronablum" in recognition of their chief advocate. IBPA members may recall David Stern's blistering letter to the editor regarding the running of those first Open Europeans in Menton in 2003, comparing them very unfavourably with tournaments in Australia, and Gianarrigo Rona's humble response, taking full responsibility. What IBPA members may not be aware of was Rona's private response to Stern - he invited Stern as his guest to the next European Open Championships in Tenerife so that Stern could witness first-hand the improvements that were made. There are not many bridge administrators with that kind of class and ability to mend fences. We shall continue to be in good hands after Josè Damiani's retirement to concentrate on the International Mind Sports Association, of which he is also President. (*An interview with Gianarrigo Rona by Marek Wojcicki will appear next month.*)

Not so laudable has been the decision of some NBOs not to support or fund their teams to senior championships, for example the Ernesto d'Orsi Senior Bowl in Brazil this fall. To say that England benefitted from the decision of the Dutch team not to incur the cost, at their own expense, of travel to Brazil, would be an understatement. Although the English team (albeit with some different personnel) failed to qualify for the World Championship by finishing seventh at the European Championship, when the Netherlands withdrew, England, as next in line, was in. They made the most of their chances, winning the gold medal convincingly after some hair-raising moments earlier in the knockout round. Why does the Nederlandse Bridge Bond, and there may be

(Continued on page 9...)

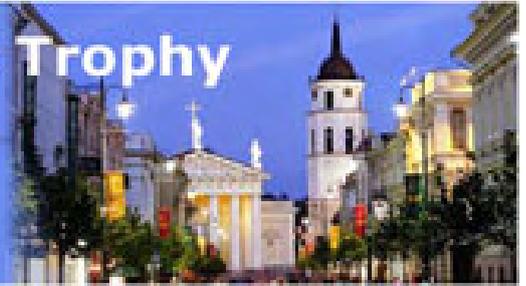
Address all IBPA Bulletin correspondence to: JOHN CARRUTHERS
65 Tiago Avenue, Toronto, Ontario, M4B 2A2, CANADA
Tel: +1 416-752-7034
email: ibpaeditor@sympatico.ca

2nd EBL Small Federations Trophy

28-30 September 2009



Vilnius ♦ Lithuania



Marek Wojcicki, Przemysl, Poland

The second European Bridge League Small Federations Championship took place prior to the Vilnius Cup in late September. Twelve teams would compete for the trophy first won by Bulgaria in 2007 in Monte Carlo. For these purposes, a small federation is defined as having 500 or fewer members.

SQUEEZE OR FINESSE?

In the third-round match between Cyprus and Slovakia we saw a good example of fine card reading:

Board 23. Dealer South. Both Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Henc</i>	<i>Christofides</i>	<i>Lohay</i>	<i>Georgiades</i>
—	—	—	1 ♥
2 ♦(?)	3 ♠	Pass	4 ♠
Pass	Pass	Pass	

East led a diamond, ducked to his partner's queen. After two rounds of clubs, a second diamond was played. Declarer had to rise with the ace and was at the crossroads. He could either play for the finesse in hearts, assuming that East had the queen, or for the squeeze in hearts and diamonds, assuming the heart queen in the West hand.

There were two keys: one was the two-diamond overcall. As East had shown up with the ace-queen of clubs, it was improbable that West would overcall vulnerable with only king-queen to five diamonds and the king-jack in clubs. The other indicator was that, after drawing trumps, it appeared that West had started with 1=4=5=3 distribution. If that were the case, there was no need to finesse hearts – either East's queen would drop under the ace-king, or West would be squeezed down to a doubleton heart as well.

So, declarer decided to play for the squeeze. He simply cashed all his spades. West had to keep the diamond king to guard that suit, thus had to discard two hearts. Declarer cashed the ace and king of hearts, making the contract.

TOO CLEVER

Playing on Vugraph, one is sometimes tempted to show that one is a capable player. Let's look at the following board from the seventh round of the event, played on BBO Vugraph:

Board 19. Dealer South. EW Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Butina</i>	<i>Karpov</i>	<i>Mikic</i>	<i>Laanemae</i>
—	—	—	1 ♠
Pass	4 ♠	Pass	Pass
Pass			

West led a spade. Declarer cashed the heart ace, ruffed a heart, crossed to the table with another spade and ruffed the last heart. Now a spade to the dummy and the queen of clubs – small, small... West also ducked!

Declarer next played the jack of clubs, but this time put the ace on it. He was right - the percentage for the finesse is only 50%. He now had a 100% line. Laanemae played a third round of clubs. West took his king, but was forced to play a diamond, so declarer lost only two diamonds and a club, making the contract.

If West wins first club trick and returns the suit, declarer must lose three diamond tricks.

CARD READING

In the semifinals and the final there was a lot of very good bridge. I would like to present two examples of my favourite theme – declarer's card reading. Both are

from the Lithuania – Estonia match. The first is really spectacular:

Board 8. Dealer West. Neither Vul.

♠ Q
♥ Q J 10 6
♦ J 8 3
♣ K Q J 8 4

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

♠ 6 5 4 2
♥ A K 5 2
♦ 9 4 2
♣ A 9

West	North	East	South
<i>Tyla</i>	<i>Levenko</i>	<i>Saulis</i>	<i>Sester</i>
Pass	1 ♦	1 ♠	Double!
1 NT ²	2 ♥	3 ♦	4 ♥
4 ♠	Pass	Pass	5 ♥
Pass	Pass	Pass	

1. 4+ hearts
2. 7-9 HCP, spade support

Five hearts looks like an impossible contract, but the defence started with spades - East led the spade jack and West took the trick with the ace. The diamonds could not all be cashed. West played the diamond ace and continued with a spade, ruffed in dummy.

Declarer took the inference from the bidding and play that East had six diamonds and five spades. Declarer saw his chance: he cashed the heart queen and played a club to the ace, East following to both, completing the picture of the East hand: 5=1=6=1. Now declarer ruffed a spade, played the king, queen, and jack of clubs, discarding diamonds from hand, ruffed a club and then crossruffed diamonds and spades with top trumps.

The second example will be presented as a single dummy problem. You play a modest contract of three hearts with the following cards:

♠ A 8 5
♥ 5 4 3
♦ K J
♣ K J 10 9 6

♠ Q 10 4 3
♥ A J 9 8 7
♦ A 5
♣ 4 2

West	North	East	South
<i>Sester</i>	<i>Vainikonis</i>	<i>Levenko</i>	<i>Olanski</i>
Pass	1 ♣	1 ♦	Double!
2 ♣	Pass	Pass	2 ♠
Pass	3 ♥	Pass	Pass

1. 4+ hearts

East led the eight of clubs. West took the trick with the ace and played two of diamonds (third/fifth). Vainikonis put up the king and played a heart – East following with the two. What now?

Vainikos assessed that, for his vulnerable overcall, East, with maximum six HCP in spades and diamonds, must have more than one heart honour. With only the king – nine HCP and poor diamonds, without the ace-king-jack, Levenko would not have overcalled.

How right he was! The jack was played from dummy and took the trick – West followed with the ten. Look at the complete deal:

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

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

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

Next the heart nine was played – East took the trick with the queen and continued with a diamond. Ace from dummy, spade to the ace, heart finesse, ace of hearts: ten tricks.

In the replay, the same contract was one down – the trump suit was played in a textbook way – small to the nine, hoping for queen-ten or king-ten in the East hand.

The results...

Round Robin

202 Monaco	156 Luxembourg
198 Lithuania II	156 San Marino
191 Estonia	154 Lithuania I
174 Belarus	142 Ukraine
162 Latvia	141 Cyprus
157 Slovenia	139 Slovakia

Semifinals

Monaco 41-26 Belarus
Lithuania II 50-29 Estonia

Final

Lithuania II 53-30 Monaco

Playoff

Belarus 40-36 Estonia

The winners were: Arunas Jankauskas, Wojtek Olanski, Alvydas Saulis, Albertas Tyla, Erikas Vainikonis, and Vytautas Vainikonis.



THE 36th VILNIUS CUP

Oct. 1-4, 2009

John Carruthers, Toronto

Legend has it that Vilnius, the capital of Lithuania, was founded in the early fourteenth century by the mighty Gediminas, Grand Duke of Lithuania (Kernave, Trakai and Kaunas have also served as capital). After an eventful day's hunting, the Duke was seized by weariness, and he decided to take a nap. He had barely fallen asleep when a terrible apparition appeared before him. It was a gargantuan iron wolf that seemed to howl with the strength of many hundred beasts. Troubled by this ghastly vision, the Duke sought the wise druid Lizdeika. Lizdeika advised the Duke that he should found a city on the spot where he had slumbered. The city would be as strong as the Iron Wolf, and the howls echoed the grandeur of a city whose glory would echo across the world. Gediminas liked this idea and he founded the city, naming it after the River Vilnia.

In reality, we know that there was already a significant settlement and castle in this valley at that time. Archaeologists have discovered evidence of life here since paleolithic times. However, it is generally accepted that Gediminas transferred the Lithuanian capital from Trakai to Vilnius, and it was in his day that the city began to gain prominence. Today Vilnius, with a population exceeding half a million, is a remarkable blend of beautiful Gothic and Baroque architecture and stark 20th-century highrises. The city stretches along the valleys of the Neris and Vilnia rivers - each road leading into the centre of the city has its own unique panorama.

The Vilnius Cup has grown into one of the premier bridge events in Europe. The open tournament this year was preceded by the European Bridge League's Small Federations Championship, a 12-team event won by the hosts. The Vilnius Cup itself consists of three events, an

Invitational IMP Pairs, the Open Teams and the Open Pairs. The field this year was very strong, with all the top Polish players in attendance, as well as tough competition from Lithuania, Latvia, Estonia, Finland, Sweden and Russia.

Try your hand at this opening lead problem from the Invitational Pairs (scored at IMPs). You are North.

Board 13. Dealer North. Both Vul.

♠ K J 3 2
♥ A K 9 6 3
♦ 10 5 4
♣ 9

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

Well, do you try a high heart, a low heart or a sneak attack with a spade?

While the other leads may have something to recommend them, only a high heart works in practice:

♠ K J 3 2
♥ A K 9 6 3
♦ 10 5 4
♣ 9

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

On a low heart lead, it was a simple matter for me as declarer to win, cash the diamonds and clubs and endplay North with a heart to lead away from the spade king. Poor North could not even falsecard successfully with that spade holding.

Despite That, This Game Is Too Tough for Me, Part I...

Board 14. Dealer East. Neither Vul.

♠ J
♥ A J 10 9 8 6 5 2
♦ J 7 6
♣ J

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

1. 15-17
2. Spades and a minor

What do you bid over four spades doubled?

With 19-21 total trumps, I thought that we might make five hearts and they'd be down one in four spades. If we could not make five hearts, they might make four spades. I was as wrong as could be!

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

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

When the defence led the ace and king of diamonds and South played an encouraging spade on the second of these, I had a moment of hope and optimism that South would not be able to ruff the third diamond that North played. I would win the diamond jack as South discarded, then my spade would go on dummy's clubs. Dreamer! Two off for minus 300 when four spades was also two off. The Law of Total Tricks? Bah, humbug!

This Game Is Too Tough for Me, Part II...

I had a brain cramp on this deal from the Open Teams. We'd been doing quite well and were near the top, until...

Board 9. Dealer North. EW Vul.

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

<p>♠ A 3 ♥ A K Q 10 9 ♦ 4 ♣ K 9 8 4 3</p>	
---	--

West	North	East	South
Sundelin	Balicki	Carruthers	Zmudzinski
—	1 ♠	Pass	2 ♥
4 ♦	Pass	Pass	4 ♠
Pass	5 ♣	Pass	6 ♣
Pass	6 ♠	Pass	Pass
Double	Pass	Pass	Pass

I was all set to lead a club when I started to think (a very bad idea, you might say, and you'd be right!). Eventually, I convinced myself that with apparent (N.B.: "apparent") diamond shortage, North probably had a heart fit to go beyond game, so I led a heart. Minus 1310. Of course, had North had a heart fit, he might

have bid four hearts over four diamonds. More telling though, and I did not realise this until later, P.O. would have doubled six clubs with a heart void. Idiot!

As an aside, how did Balicki find that match-winning five-club advance beyond four spades? A great bid.

Events were just as dramatic at the other table...

West	North	East	South
Narkiewicz	Arvidsson	Buras	Bech
—	1 ♠	Pass	2 ♦ ¹
4 ♦	4 ♠	Pass	5 ♦
Pass	5 ♠	Pass	Pass
Pass			
1. Hearts			

At this table it was the rising stars of Polish bridge versus the rising stars of Swedish bridge. Krzysztof Buras led the club two against Eric Arvidsson's five-spade contract. Grzegorz Narkiewicz ruffed and underled his diamonds to get a second ruff. Down one in five spades to go with six spades doubled making seven meant 16 IMPs to the Poles and they were on their way to the title. Buras' lead was well-reasoned – partner did not double five diamonds and a major-suit lead did not make much sense. This deal won Buras-Narkiewicz the Best Defence of the Tournament award.



St. Anne's Church, Vilnius

But the Game Is Not Too Tough for My Partner...

P.O. showed his class on the following deal (See top of next page.)

Sundelin, South, led the heart deuce against three no trump. Declarer won in the dummy and had to consider two lines of play.

Board 13. Dealer North. Both Vul.

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

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

1. Precision
2. Relay; game forcing
3. Fewer than four spades and fewer than three hearts

Declarer could cash the ace and king of spades, hoping for the queen to drop; if it did not, he could try the club finesse. The chances of success for this line are about 57%. Alternatively, he could attempt the stealth line, simply taking the club finesse without revealing the location of the rest of the high cards, hoping that if the finesse lost, South would not know to shift to diamonds, or if he did, three diamond tricks would be the limit for the defence.

Declarer adopted the stealth line. Upon winning the club king, P.O. shifted smoothly to diamonds for down one. At the other table, after a club opening bid and a heart response, South led a diamond, and after four rounds of the suit, declarer was able to adopt the percentage line for the same one off and a push. It felt more difficult at our table.

Thank Goodness the Game Is Too Tough for the Opponents As Well...

Here's another bidding problem, again from the teams. You are East:

Board 14. Dealer East. Neither Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
—	—	Pass	Pass
3 ♣	Double	5 ♣	Pass
Pass	Double	Pass	5 ♥
Pass	Pass	Double	Pass
Pass	Redouble	?	

You may not agree with East's bidding to date, but that's neither here nor there. Your problem now is whether to pass and hope to beat five hearts or to take your small minus (or a miracle make) in six clubs. Are you a man or a mouse?

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

I thought that P.O. would not pull the double of five clubs unless he expected to make five hearts, thus must have a couple of working cards. So I redoubled. Even if we could not make it, how could LHO stand the redouble, I thought. In reality, 11 tricks were cold on the East-West cards. I was right – East could not stand the pressure and pulled to six clubs, taking out a small insurance premium.

At the other table, partners opened two clubs, playing a strong club system, so had more reason to double five hearts when it was bid (as a two-way shot) over their five clubs.

Best Bid Hand

Marek Pietraszek and Tomasz Ukrainski from Poland bid the following East-West hands with deadly accuracy, winning themselves the Martens University book prize for the best-bid hand of the tournament:

Board 4. Dealer West. Both Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Pietraszek</i>		<i>Ukrainski</i>	
1 ♣ ¹	Pass	1 ♠	2 ♥
2 ♠ ²	Pass	2 NT ³	Pass
4 ♠ ⁴	Pass	4 NT ⁵	Pass
5 ♥ ⁶	Pass	6 ♣ ⁷	Pass
7 ♣ ⁸	Pass	Pass	Pass

1. Polish Club, balanced 12-14 HCP, balanced 18-22 HCP or natural 12-21 HCP
2. 4 spades, 12-14, usually balanced
3. Forcing, at least invitational
4. Enough to accept the game invitation, but not a super-maximum (the heart queen did not look like an asset)
5. RKCB
6. 2 key cards without the trump queen
7. Grand slam invite, likely side suit
8. OK, maybe in clubs we have a trick more than in spades...

The top place-getters were:

Invitational Pairs

1. Bartosz Chmurski-Mariusz Puczynski, POL 61.63IMP
2. Olle Wademark-Anders Palmgren, SWE 60.23IMP
3. Andris Smilgajs-Andrey Shudnev, LAT 56.86IMP

Open Teams

1. Auguri Warszawa (POL) – Cezary Balicki, Krzysztof Buras, Zdzislaw Ingielewicz, Grzegorz Narkiewicz, Cezary Serek, Adam Zmudzinski 177 VP
2. Unia-Sygnitas (POL) – Rafal Jagniewski, Michal Kwiecien, Jacek Poletylo, Wlodzimierz Starkowski, Marek Wojcicki 171 VP
3. Vitas (POL/LTU) – Krzysztof Jassem, Apolinary Kowalski, Krzysztof Martens, Wojtek Olanski, Piotr Tuszyński, Vytautas Vainikonis 162 VP

Open Pairs

1. Cezary Balicki - Adam Zmudzinski, POL 64.99%
2. Andrius Michailovas - Povilas Lukinskas, LTU 64.38%
3. Olle Wademark-Anders Palmgren, SWE 63.13%

Next year's Vilnius Cup will take place from the 16th to the 19th of September. Details can be acquired from the organiser, Erikas Vainikonis at: erikas.vainikonis@gmail.com.



THE EUROPEAN UNIVERSITIES CHAMPIONSHIP

Christer Andersson, Uppsala, Sweden

The 2009 European Champion in University Bridge is the Polytechnic University of Wroclaw. Although the European Championships have been staged since 1993, this was the first championship organised by the European University Sports Association (EUSA). Bridge has been a recognised University Sport since 2007,

which opens up the possibility for bridge to be included in the World University Games, the Universiade.

This year, the championship was organised in the first week of October by the Croatian University Sports Federation (and particularly the Sports Association of the Polytechnic of Karlovac) in Opatija, a maritime resort of 13,000 on the Northern Adriatic coast. The venue is well known to European aristocracy. Although Croatia is a young country (formed in 1991) with a fairly small bridge-playing community, the local University Sport Federation was able to make this championship a true success by efficiently linking to the local bridge organisations. These were actually the best youth championships organised until now. Perhaps it is time to let actors other than the traditional Bridge Federations take responsibility?

Twenty-two teams participated. Going into the last match, the title holders, University of Paris, were leading by a narrow margin (2 VPs) over The Polytechnic University of Wroclaw I. After nine of the ten boards in the last match the standing was unchanged. This was the last board played:

Dealer West. NS Vul.

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

At most tables East became declarer in three no trump after a strong no-trump opening. If South finds the spade lead, the contract is doomed as the defence will get five tricks before declarer gets nine. Most Souths, however, led a heart and that gave declarer his eighth trick. Declarers then generally continued with the clubs from the top, bringing down the jack and scoring four club tricks. Now a diamond to the queen promoted the ninth trick.

That was what happened for Wroclaw in the match Polytechnic University of Wroclaw versus the Ludwig-Maximilians University in Munich. At the other table, however, West became declarer for Munich, and North had no problem finding the spade lead. Ten IMPs to Wroclaw I and now they had a chance.

In the match Paris versus Krakow, the Polish team made three no trump after a heart lead. Against the French team, however, South (vulnerable against not) had

Continued on page 10...

IBPA Column Service

Tim Bourke, Canberra

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

495. Dealer South. Both Vul.

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

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

North correctly decided not to look for an eight-card heart fit when he already knew he his side had at least ten cards in clubs; if there were a 4-4 heart fit, it might prove too difficult to manage.

West led the spade queen and declarer called for the king immediately. Next he asked for the king of trumps. West took this with the ace and led the jack of spades. East was awake enough to ruff this and play a heart.

“That was unlucky,” South remarked.

“Not really,” said North. “All you had to do was to win the first trick in hand with the ace of spades and then throw the king of spades on the ace of diamonds before playing on trumps. This guarantees the contract, unless the defenders can get a heart ruff.”

496. Dealer West. Both Vul.

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

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

West’s double was for take-out and North’s cue bid promised the values for a good raise in spades.

West did not want to lead away from one of his aces and so risked a trump lead. Declarer took this in hand with the eight and then drew a second round of trumps with the king. Next he played the three of clubs. West rose with the ace and exited with the queen of clubs.

Declarer did not make the mistake of winning the king of clubs for he would surely lose two diamonds and a heart. Instead he called for dummy’s seven of clubs and ruffed it in his hand so that he could lead the three of hearts. This caught West in a Morton’s Fork. If he rose with the ace, declarer would make three heart tricks, enough for the contract. So West played low and the king of hearts won the trick. The king of clubs came next and declarer threw of his now useless queen of hearts on it. Declarer now claimed, by conceding two diamonds and announcing that he would ruff his third and fourth diamonds in dummy.

497. Dealer South. Both Vul.

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

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

West led the king of diamonds against this seemingly routine game. When that held, he continued with the jack of diamonds. Declarer ruffed and led the ace of

Editorial (Cont...)

trumps, without much apparent thought. When he continued with a low trump West took his queen of trumps and played a third round of diamonds. Declarer had to ruff and was then reduced to the ten-eight of trumps opposite dummy's bare jack. No matter what he did, West would make both his king and nine of trumps for one down.

As usual, dummy had the last word with, "The main danger to the contract was a 4-0 division in trumps. All you had to do was to lead a low trump at trick three rather than the ace. West would rise with his queen of trumps and force you with a third diamond. You ruff, reducing yourself to ace-ten-eight in trumps and continue the good work by playing the eight of trumps. West takes this with his king, but he no longer has any way to defeat four spades. If he plays a fourth round of diamonds, you will ruff with dummy's jack; you then return to your hand with a heart and draw West's remaining trumps with the ace and ten."

498. Dealer South. Both Vul.

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

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

West led the jack of diamonds. East took his ace and returned the seven of diamonds to declarer's king. South drew trumps in four rounds and tested the spades, discovering the 5-1 break. Now he needed three club tricks, so he cashed the ace of clubs and finessed dummy's jack of clubs. Then he lost a diamond as well!

There was a better way to play this slam. Declarer has eleven top tricks and a diamond ruff will bring the contract home. After cashing the ace and king of trumps and discovering the 4-1 break, a club is played to the king and a diamond is ruffed with the ten of trumps. Next dummy is re-entered by overtaking the heart jack with the queen and the nine of trumps draws East's remaining trump while the seven of spades is discarded from hand. Declarer can now lay his hand down as he has only winners remaining.

others, decline to sponsor their Senior team? In addition to their Open teams, the NBB does sponsor their Women's team, and no country has a better record of supporting junior bridge than does the Netherlands – they hosted and won the first World Junior Team Championship and continue to host the White House Junior International each year. Indeed, two Dutch players have even won a World Senior Championship. Of course, the World Senior Championship is a relatively-recent innovation, following the Women's and Juniors, and perhaps it is just a matter of time before funding arrives, as has been the case for the Women's and the Juniors, and for the Seniors in other nations after some delay.

In any case, a look around at any bridge tournament will reveal that seniors play a significant part in bridge, whether the authorities like it or not, and no matter that everyone wants more youth in the game. There are basically three sources of income for bridge organisations: membership subscriptions, tournament entry fees, and sponsors (corporate and government). Both membership and tournament entry fees come from the players, and a significant portion of these fees comes from seniors themselves. Is it not then reasonable to support this group financially in top competitions?

IBPA INFORMATION

www.ibpa.com

The Bulletin:

You can access an electronic copy of this Bulletin at www.ibpa.com/538ba.pdf

The 2008 Handbook:

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

Personal Details Changes:

Whenever your contact details change, please amend them as appropriate in the database found at: www.jannersten.org or inform the Membership Secretary, Jeremy Dhondy at: j.dhondy@btinternet.com

Subscriptions:

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

Members' Addresses:

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

entered the bidding with a conventional bid showing both majors. That convinced declarer that he was short in clubs, and that North, therefore, was more likely to have the club jack. After winning the heart lead, the French declarer played a club to the ace and finessed the ten to South's jack. Now the defence had time to switch to spades and actually took the contract two off. Eleven IMPs to Krakow. The result on the last board made a difference of 5 VPs - the gold went to Wroclaw I, who scored 412 VP, silver to Paris on 409 VP.

Playing for the winning team from the Polytechnic University in Wroclaw I were Piotr Wiankowski – Michal Nowosadzki and Piotr Zatorski – Wojciech Gawel, the first three also playing for the national Polish Junior team. The silver medals went to University of Paris; Pierre Franceschetti - Nicolas l'Hussier and Chrisophe Grosset – Cédric Lorenzini, the three last players being in the French team that took the gold in the European Junior Championship in Poiana Brasov earlier this year. Third were a team from Trondheim in Norway, representing the Norwegian University for Technology and Natural Sciences: Karl Morten Lunna – Erland Skjetne and Fredrik Simonsen – Erik Berg. Closest to the podium were the University of Economics in Prague.

The next board is from the match between University of Prague and the winners from Wroclaw. Recently-crowned World Champions (Istanbul 2009) Michal Kopecky and Milan Macura were playing for the Czech team:

Dealer West. NS Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Wiankowski</i>	<i>Kopecky</i>	<i>Nowozadski</i>	<i>Macura</i>
1 ♣	Pass	1 ♠	Pass
2 NT	Pass	3 NT	Pass
Pass	Pass		

Michal Kopecky, North, led the club deuce and Milan Macura's king forced declarer's ace. Piotr Wiankowski tried to establish spades, but the spade king was ducked. He now continued with his five diamond tricks. Kopecky discarded two hearts and a spade, and declarer himself one club and one heart. Macura won the continuation of the spade queen with the ace, declarer discarding another heart. Macura tried his low heart. Had

Wiankowski played low, Kopecky could win and endplay declarer with a second heart. Declarer then has to play clubs from his own hand.

Therefore, Wiankowski went up with his heart ace and end-played Kopecky who now had to play clubs into declarer's jack. Contract made. The match ended with a small victory for the Wroclaw team.

Results:

1. Wroclaw I 412; 2. Paris 409; 3. Trondheim II 390; 4. Prague 386; 5. Zagreb 361; 6. Warsaw II 357; 7. Poznan 352; 8. Athens 336; 9. Trondheim I 328 and 10. Reims 326.

Winners on the Butler-score were Wojciech Gawel – Piotr Zatorski (Wroclaw I) 1.63. They were followed by Christophe Grosset – Cedric Lorenzini (Paris) 1.22, Michal Kopecky – Milan Macura (Prague) 1.10, Erik Berg – Fredrik Simonsen (Trondheim II) 0.82 and Vassilis Vroustis – Miltos Karamanlis (Athens) 0.79.

Next year the University World Championships will be held in August at the National Sun Yat-Sen University in Kaohsiung, Chinese Taipei.

PROFESSORS IN WAITING
Mark Horton, Bath, UK

I don't know if it is possible to obtain a degree in bridge just yet, but on the evidence of some of the deals I watched from the 1st European Universities Bridge Championship in Opatija, Croatia at the beginning of October, the students appear to have a great future ahead of them. Here are a couple of examples from the match between Krakow and Prague – the first of them a strong candidate for next year's IBPA awards:

Dealer West. Both Vul

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Michalak</i>	<i>Jankova</i>	<i>Jarosz</i>	<i>Hoderova</i>
Pass	1 ♣ ¹	3 ♥	3 NT
Pass	Pass	Pass	

1. Polish club, in this case 12-14 balanced

In the other room South had passed after East's intervention of three hearts over one diamond, the contract failing by one trick.

Against three no trump West led the six of hearts (low from a doubleton) and East, wanting to maintain contact with his partner, played the three, allowing declarer to win with the jack. Pavla Hoderova had to play brilliantly to take advantage.

Hoderova ran the nine of clubs, and when that held she played four more rounds of the suit. East was feeling the pinch and he parted with both his spades followed by the queen of hearts. Now declarer cashed the ace of spades and East discarded the four of hearts. He was down to ace-fourth of hearts and the doubleton king of diamonds and when declarer exited with the king of hearts he could cash four tricks but then had to lead away from the king of diamonds.

Dealer West. Neither Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Macura</i>	<i>Holeksa</i>	<i>Kopecky</i>	<i>Wesolowska</i>
Pass	1 ♦	Pass	1 ♥
Pass	1 NT	Pass	2 ♣ ¹
Pass	2 NT ²	Pass	3 NT
Pass	Pass	Pass	

1. Checkback
2. Maximum, not 3 hearts or 4 spades

In the other room North opened one no trump and when South bid two diamonds West made a dubious double. North redoubled and East retreated to two spades, a contract (mercifully undoubled) which failed by three tricks.

Against three no trump, East led the five of spades and declarer put up dummy's king, West following with an upside down count two. Now came a heart to the king. If Michal Kopecky had taken this trick declarer would have been in clover, but unwilling to surrender his potential entry he wisely ducked.

West was able to win the next round of hearts with the queen and he played his remaining spade which was ducked to dummy's queen. The third round of hearts saw East win and cash his spade winners for a well deserved one down.

MASUD SALIM

Zia Mahmood, London

I first met Masud Salim, who died last month, when we were in our early 20s. I had just caught the bridge bug and an addicted group of us would play until early morning at a local club, often ending up on the street under a lamppost when they closed the doors.

I recall that Masud hardly knew any English and he had never read a bridge book, but he never needed to. He was one of those who, when he touched the cards, they responded like the keyboard of a piano to the touch of a maestro. He was simply a natural, gifted with God-given talent and temperament to match. We soon became partners and played together in the Pakistani national team.

In my youth, my game was, I confess, on occasion, eccentric and I remember Masud gently rebuking me on more than one occasion after some particularly obtuse action - curve ball, if you will - I had taken.

"Zia," he said to me, "you know I love you like a brother. Why do you want to make me crazy?" Similar words have been spoken to me by subsequent partners, sadly all without the love part.

In later life, Masud played less bridge as his health declined because of diabetes. I was happy three years ago to have the opportunity to play with him one last time in a tournament in Karachi. He was confined to a wheelchair, having lost both legs to his disease, but he played with his old intensity to carry us to victory.

I remember being cross with him only once, in Tokyo. We all sat down to eat his home-cooked food, and he warned that it was *really* spicy, and he was right! That day I learned what a bottom in bridge is really about!

Goodbye, dear friend. You know I love you too.

Upcoming BBO Transmissions

Nov 6-8	Madeira Open, Portugal
Nov 7-12	Red Sea Festival, Israel
Nov 8	SUNGET Team Championship, Turkey
Nov 8	Zlote Asy Tournament, Poland
Nov 11/18	TGR Super League, England
Nov 13-15	English Premier League
Nov 24-26	Balkan Championship, Sebia
Nov 28	German Cup
Nov 28-29	Grand National Teams, Australia
Nov 29	Rade Antic Teams, Serbia

Minutes of the IBPA AGM

São Paulo, 10:00 a.m., Monday 7th September, 2009

Present: Patrick Jourdain (IBPA President) Wales; Per Jannersten (IBPA Chairman) Sweden; José Damiani WBF President (Fra); Jaime Ortiz-Patiño (Switz) WBF President Emeritus; Phillip Alder (USA); Olivier Audouard (Fra); Jean-Claude Beineix (Fra); John Carruthers (Can); Philippe Cronier (Fra); Joan Gerard (USA); Panos Gerontopoulos (Gre); Tony Gordon (Eng); Tommy Gullberg (Sweden); Hans-Olof Hallén (Sweden); Azwerul Haque (Pak); Britt Jannersten (Swe); Ron Klinger (Australia); Ton Kooijman (Net); Ray Lee (Canada); Fernando Lema (Arg); Brent Manley (USA); Ernesto d'Orsi (Brazil); TC Pant (India); Barry Rigal (USA); Jon Sveindal (Nor); Jan Swaan (Ned); Geo Tislevoll (Nor); Mauro Uberti (Arg); Christian Vennerød (Nor); Howard Weinstein (USA). Also in attendance: Bill Pollack (USA).

In the absence of the secretary the President asked for a volunteer to take minutes. Jan Swaan proposed Tony Gordon and this was accepted.

The President welcomed the WBF President. Mr. Damiani reported he would answer questions at the end of the AGM. The Press Conference traditionally held on Friday might then not be necessary.

The meeting stood in memory of deceased members Nissan Rand and Freddie North and others who had passed away since the previous AGM.

The minutes of the last AGM in Beijing were tabled. They had been published in the IBPA Bulletin 527 and were taken as read. There being no corrections Panos Gerontopoulos proposed their acceptance, Barry Rigal seconded and this was passed nem con.

The IBPA President gave his report:

The major change for IBPA this year had been the transfer of Bulletin printing from England to India, under the supervision of Dilip Gidwani. This had worked well and the increased surcharge for members requesting the service now fully covers the reduced cost.

The new Handbook had been printed and distributed. Last year it was in internet form only. The printing concluded IBPA's 50th anniversary celebrations. These had included a pin for every member provided by Jannersten Forlag, and the self-financing but very successful dinners in Pau and Beijing. We can be proud of the Handbook. The Editor, Tjölpe Flodqvist, and major contributors such as Britt Jannersten had been thanked at the last AGM, but thanks could now be added to Jannersten Forlag for covering the cost of printing and Generali for the postage cost to members. As to São Paulo, the Press Room had good conditions, well-managed as usual by Jan Swaan. The Press Trip to Guarujá was a great success and Ernesto d'Orsi was thanked for that and the excellent lunch. So far in São Paulo IBPA had five new members: Bianca Barden of Germany, Olivier Adouard of France, TC Pant of India, and Mauro Uberti & Anna Roth of Argentina. Those present were introduced.

An apology was made for the fact that the accounts presented to this meeting had not yet been audited and therefore cannot be approved here. Our Chairman reports further on this matter. Your Executive in Sanremo decided that subs for 2010 be quoted in US dollars rather than pounds sterling though the intention is to leave them unchanged at current exchange rates.

All five of our sponsors had agreed to continue for 2009. The name of the Declarer Play of the Year has been changed to the RoseCliff Award following a request by the sponsor, Rose Meltzer, as the previous name, C&R Motors is no longer valid. Thanks were made to Ernesto d'Orsi for the Junior Award, George Rosenkranz for the Bidding Award, Dilip Gidwani for the Defence Award and Ray Lee for Book of the Year Award.

Relations between the WBF and IBPA have remained warm. The WBF was thanked for its grant to IBPA. The Treasurer had reported the 2009 grant had already been received in the IBPA Account.

The President concluded by thanking the other officers and members of the Executive for their work during the year. The former Treasurer, Christer Andersson, and long-standing Executive member, Peter Lund, are to retire as Executive members and they were thanked warmly for their service. The Nominations Committee had asked our Auditor to expand his role to include auditing the actions of the Executive Committee, a task which he has accepted, and he has therefore stepped down from the Executive whilst continuing to have the right to see the minutes of its meetings.

The Executive had recommended a new Honour Member of IBPA. This was the new WBF President-elect, our good friend Gianarrigo Rona. He has been a strong supporter of IBPA during his period as EBL President and before that as President of the Italian Bridge Federation. The President moved the motion that he become an honour Member of IBPA. This proposal was passed unanimously.

The IBPA Editor's (John Carruthers) report: He introduced Katie Thorpe, who was known mostly through e-mails with monthly Bulletin codes. Bulletin printing and distribution had moved to India, with Dilip Gidwani taking

over as Production Manager. After some initial growing pains, production was operating smoothly once again. Although the post takes longer to reach some parts of the world from India than it had from the UK, costs to IBPA are lower. Bridge authorities continue to provide rich material for his editorials, not always popular. He was nowhere near as diplomatic as our previous editor (and current president) and was striving to achieve his deft touch.

Europe, North America and Australia continue to provide the bulk of the material for the Bulletin, although in the past year reports appeared of trials and tournaments and/or correspondence from 7 of the 8 WBF zones; only the CACBF was not represented. Material was published from writers residing in 19 countries on every continent - Barry Rigal, Ron Klinger, Tim Bourke, Brent Manley and Mark Horton being the most frequent contributors. We would welcome more material from especially Africa, South America and Asia. If you are uncertain about your English-language skills, you may submit material in your own language and I shall endeavour to have it translated for our readers.

Suggestions for improvement were welcome and all would be carefully considered.

The Editor recognised the assistance and expertise of his proofreaders, PO Sundelin of Stockholm and Katie Thorpe of Toronto. PO ensures that that the writers' analyses are accurate and occasionally, much to his glee, is able to correct my English grammar. Katie ensures that the content makes sense, flows smoothly, checks to see there are 13 cards in every hand and that there is precisely one of each card in every deal. Their help was invaluable.

The IBPA Liaison officer with the EBL and WBF, Panos Gerontopoulos reported that he had no problems to report.

The IBPA Secretary: There was no report from the secretary.

The IBPA Chairman, Per Jannersten gave his report: The nominating committee consisted of Jannersten, Barry Rigal and David Stern. The ambition of the nomination committee is (gradually) to renew the Executive and Officers with younger people, while maintaining a good geographical spread.

The Control Committee consists of the Chairman, the Auditor (Julius Butkow) and the Counsel (Bill Pencharz). The only question that the control committee has had to consider since the previous AGM is how to handle the fact that the accounts for 2008 have not been audited as yet. The control committee's advice to the AGM is:

- i. to note (have it minuted) that the accounts are unaudited.
- ii. to pass a resolution urging the Officers to see to that the accounts are audited without further delay.
- iii. to pass a resolution directing the Executive to inform the membership of the Auditor's Report as soon as received.
- iv. to adjourn the formal approval of the 2008 accounts until the next General Meeting (probably the 2010 AGM.)

This motion was passed nem con.

The Chairman judged that the state of realm of the organization was good, but the Executive has reason to consider improvements to the organization's administrative routines.

The aforementioned is a report on the Chairman's constitutional duties; but it is other matters that have consumed most of my time. In January we moved the printing and mailing of the Bulletin to India in order to reduce costs. That has been possible thanks to Organisational Vice-President Dilip Gidwani. With great efforts by Tjolpe Flodqvist, supported by Britt Jannersten, we managed to publish our 50th anniversary Handbook in January 2009. Finally he had managed (through the Jannersten company) the website, our internet-based membership registry and the credit card payment facilities.

At 10:30 a.m. the AGM was suspended for the Awards Ceremony...

Awards: Brazilian Junior Award presented by Ernesto d'Orsi, player Thomas Bessis (\$50), Brian Senior journalist (\$250); RoseCliff Award presented by Jose Damiani, player Steve Weinstein represented by Howard Weinstein, journalist Phillip Alder (\$250); Gidwani Defence Award presented by Dippak Poddar, player Michelle Brunner represented by John Holland, journalist Maureen Hiron (\$250); Precision Bidding Award presented by Phillip Alder, Gerald & Stuart Tredinnick represented by Peter Baxter, journalist Heather Dhondy (\$250); Masterpoint Press Book of the Year Award presented by Ray Lee, joint winners Ron Klinger (\$250) and the late Frank Vine (\$250); The Alan Truscott Award: Gary Pomerantz (USA); IBPA 2009 Personality of the Year presented by Patrick Jourdain: Rose Meltzer, represented by Bill Pollack.

Returning to the AGM...

The IBPA Treasurer's (Mario Dix) report: Unaudited accounts and balance sheet and 2010 budget were tabled (see elsewhere). The President said the loss shown was almost wholly due to currency changes with a strong dollar in 2008 whereas the deposit account was in euros and the Treasurer's account in pounds sterling. In reality the report showed IBPA had broken even in 2008. The Meeting accepted the accounts as unaudited. When the auditors report had been received they would be published in the IBPA Bulletin. Formal approval would be delayed until the next General Meeting. (*Editor's Note: As of 13 October 2009, the Auditor has approved the 2008 Accounts. They will be presented in the December 2009 Bulletin.*)

The President then read out a proposal from the Executive that the sub for 2010 would be US \$42 with a surcharge of US \$45 for those members who received a printed Bulletin (\$87 total for hard copy). This was passed nem con.

The Chairman read out membership numbers for 2008. IBPA had gained members. So far in 2009 there was a fall but this was normal and overall he reported membership was stable.

Elections: As agenda in Bulletin 535: For a 3-year re-election to 2012: Geo Tislevoll (Norway); Nikolas Bausback (Germany); Ron Tacchi (France); For a 2-year vacancy to 2011: Pietro Campanile (Israel). Approved nem con. Already elected to 2010: David Stern (Australia); Panos Gerontopoulos (Greece); Brent Manley (USA). Already elected to 2011: John Carruthers (Canada); Barry Rigal (USA).

AOB This was adjourned to allow the WBF President to make an announcement and receive questions from the IBPA members present.

Mr Damiani requested support from journalists in promoting the World Bridge Series in Philadelphia, October 1-16th 2010. The schedule of events had been published, the city was a fine attraction, and the costs of the recommended accommodation and getting to the city were reasonable. Presentation material would be available later this week. The Series would include the Junior finals of the Under 26 and Under 21 events and a new Youth Individual open to all juniors. The WBF was not ready yet for a Girls event. One change from Verona was the Mixed Teams event had been moved to the end and would coincide with the Pairs finals.

The first World Youth Congress in Istanbul had had 94 pairs and 40 teams.

For the 2011 World Championships: Marrakesh in Morocco was being considered. For the 2012 World Mind Sport Games: IMSA was still seeking a venue but was not expecting London to come up with a viable proposition. For 2013: a debt was still owed to Bali who lost the 2001 event but Buenos Aires, Argentina had also applied.

PD Jourdain (Daily Telegraph) asked about drug tests. JD replied the WBF was resisting any out-of-competition tests. 8 had already been tested in São Paulo and 16 more would take place. No failures reported from Beijing. Currently no drugs were on the performance-enhancing list, but research was continuously under way.

Alder asked about Junior sponsorship which had been strong in Beijing with flight and accommodation assistance: JD replied there was no equivalent in Philadelphia.

AOB re-opened: Hans-Olof Hallén reported that IBPA's President Emeritus, Tommy Sandsmark, sent his greetings and was now in much better health and able to travel more. Sadly his wife Siri had recently passed away.

IBPA President's Report re: São Paulo

IBPA had a happy and successful time in Sao Paulo. We welcomed seven new members: Olivier Audouard (France); Bianca Barden (Germany); Dan Morse (USA); Kailas Newatia (India); TC Pant (India); Ana Roth (Argentina); and Mauro Umberti (Argentina). Ernesto d'Orsi organised an excellent Press Trip to Guarujá Beach where some members swam and all lunched well. The Press Room was efficiently run by Jan Swaan. There was an excellent attendance at the AGM and Awards ceremony (the minutes are published in this issue). We welcome three new members to the Executive: Nicolaus Bausback (Germany); Geo Tislevoll (Norway); Pietro Campanile (Italy), and a new Honour member: the WBF President-elect Gianarrigo Rona (Italy).

New IBPA Membership Secretary

Mario Dix of Malta has been combining two jobs for IBPA, those of Treasurer and Membership Secretary. With heavy commitments elsewhere, Mario has been finding the dual role too much of a burden and with Mario's full co-operation and support, your Executive has persuaded Jeremy Dhondy of England to take up the job of IBPA Membership Secretary with immediate effect. Jeremy is a well-known England international player, is on the English Bridge Union's Laws & Ethics Committee and is married to world champion and IBPA member Heather Dhondy.

From now on, when reporting any changes to your personal details, either make them yourself on the membership file, or report them to Jeremy. For contact details see the masthead on the front page of the Bulletin. Jeremy will also handle the processing of all subscription payments.

I take this opportunity of thanking Mario for the work he has done as Membership Secretary over the last four years, since the retirement of Stuart Staveley at our AGM in Estoril.

Patrick Jourdain, IBPA President, October 18th 2009



Correspondence ...

The Editor reserves the right to abridge and/or edit correspondence. Email: ibpaeditor@sympatico.ca

Dear John:

IBPA members who are interested in the Buffett Cup bridge match between Europe and North America next September at the Miskin Manor Hotel & Country Club near Cardiff should note the dates: Monday the 13th to Thursday the 16th of September, and the website: www.buffettcup.com. You may note that this is two weeks earlier than the originally-scheduled date, during Ryder Cup week, the reason being that the World Bridge Championships were rescheduled to Philadelphia from the 1st to the 16th of October.

The IBPA President is the local organiser. Those who are more interested in attending the Ryder Cup two weeks later (28th September-3rd October) should note that Patrons or Sponsors of the Buffett Cup can receive Ryder Cup corporate tickets (i.e., tickets where you can have different names on different days) as part of their reward.

IBPA members, please assist the Buffett Cup 2010 by publicising this fact in your columns and to any business contacts or friends who are keen to have Ryder Cup tickets. The contact e-mail is: pdjournain@hotmail.com

Yours, Patrick Journain, Cardiff

NEWS & VIEWS

IB LUNDBY RETIRES

After 36 years as editor of Dansk Bridge (a record?) Ib Lundby has decided to stop and hand over the pen to Henrik Kruse. Lundby will still contribute articles.

COMMONWEALTH NATIONS CUP

The Commonwealth Nations Cup will take place in New Delhi, India starting on Sunday 24th October. There will be four days of round robin followed by a day off when an excursion to the Taj Mahal is planned. Teams eliminated are invited to join the HCL tournament which will start on Friday 29th with a teams tournament. For those who wish to stay another couple of days the HCL will be holding a pairs tournament. The prize fund in the HCL is expected to exceed \$25,000.

Any country which has not yet received its official invitation is requested to contact Subhash Gupta on sgupta07@rediffmail.com.

RR'S COUSIN JR

Paul Higginbotham writes *Bridge in the Wildwoods*, a parody of Victor Mollo's menagerie. His chief protagonist is JR, John Rabbit, Rueful Rabbit's cousin and childhood best friend. Some of the material has been published by the American Bridge Teachers' Association. See: <http://pennvalleycoop.net/BridgelnTheWildwoods>.

EVENTS IN KOSICE

The Grand Prix of Kosice, Slovakia, will be played from 7th till 9th May 2010. There will be a teams and a pairs tournament. For details contact Vojtech Belcak, chairman of the Kosice Bridge Club, vojtechbelcak@iol.sk.

Slovakia also hopes to host the 2013 European Small Federations Cup. Kosice will be a 2013 European Capital of Culture.

WHITE HOUSE JUNIOR INT'L

The 2010 White House Junior Internationals will again take place in Amsterdam next year from 21-26 March. A reception for the teams will be followed by a Pro-Am tournament on Sunday 21 March. The Junior Internationals round robin will be from the 22nd to the 25th with a Final on Friday 26 March. There will also be a closing dinner and prizegiving on Friday.

ABTA TEACHER OF THE YEAR

The American Bridge Teachers' Association has announced that, beginning in 2010, Master Point Press will sponsor a "Teacher of the Year" award. Details can be found at: <http://abtahome.com>.

BRIDGE RESURGENCE?

A recent article in The StarTribune.com (Minneapolis-St. Paul, Minnesota) reports that bridge is experiencing a resurgence amid research indicating that playing the game not only may make kids smarter, but keeps players smarter longer. Copy this URL to your browser to read the story: <http://www.startribune.com/lifestyle/63288392.html?page=1&c=y>.

SOPHIE SARWAT

Egypt's Safeya (Sophie) Sarwat has died aged 77 after a brief fight against cancer. She had an outstanding bridge career (achieving the rank of World International Master) representing Egypt countless times and attending World Championships from 1987 to 2008. In Shanghai in 2007 she was a member of the team that finished in fifth place.

An outstanding swimmer, Sarwat was the founder of synchronised swimming in Egypt and a board member of the Egyptian Swimming Federation. She was also a brilliant actress, starring in numerous plays and films, the best known being *Rihlah ila al-Qamar* (*Journey To The Moon*) made in 1959.

2009 World Bridge Calendar

DATES	EVENT	LOCATION	INFORMATION
2009			
Nov 2-9	X11 Madeira International Open	Funchal, Madeira, Portugal	www.bridge-madeira.com
Nov 5-15	15 th Red Sea International Festival	Eilat, Israel	www.israbridge.com/ibf/Redsea
Nov 8-14	1 st Asian University Championships	Denpasar, Bali, Indonesia	www.gabsi.or.id
Nov 14-21	9 th Cuba International Festival	Havana/Varadero, Cuba	www.cubabridge2005.com
Nov 19-22	31 st Brasov International Festival	Brasov, Romania	www.frbridge.ro
Nov 24-29	4 th Balkan Championships	Novi Sad, Serbia	www.balkanbridge.org
Nov 26-Dec 6	ACBL Fall NABC	San Diego, CA	www.acbl.org
Nov 27-Dec 5	Festival Mar del Plata	Mar del Plata, Argentina	www.bridgeargentino.org.ar
Dec 5-6	UBS Teams	Uppsala, Sweden	eva.bjarnab@bredband.net
Dec 5-9	31 st ASEAN Bridge Club Championships	Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia	www.mcba.org.my
Dec 6-8	Città di Milano	Milan, Italy	www.federbridge.it
Dec 6-13	1 st Regional-on-a-Cruise	Miami, FL (Embark)	www.acbl.org
Dec 11-13	Geologi Cup	Bandung, Indonesia	www.gabsi.or.id
Dec 18-20	Junior Channel Trophy	Ostend, Belgium	www.ebu.co.uk
Dec 27-30	EBU Yearend Congress	Blackpool, England	www.ebu.co.uk
2010			
Jan 8-10	Camrose Trophy I	Scotland	www.ebu.co.uk
Jan 11-25	Summer Festival of Bridge	Canberra, Australia	www.abf.com.au
Jan 23-29	51 st Bermuda Regional	Southampton, Bermuda	www.bermudaregional.com
Feb 9-14	EBU Overseas Congress	Madeira, Portugal	www.ebu.co.uk
Feb 20-22	Slava Cup	Moscow, Russia	portnoypavel@rambler.ru
Feb 27-Mar 6	Gold Coast Congress	Broadbeach, Australia	www.abf.com.au
Mar 2-7	Mexican Nationals	Ixtapan del Sal, Mexico	www.acbl.org
Mar 5-7	Camrose Trophy II	Northern Ireland	www.ebu.co.uk
Mar 11-21	ACBL Spring NABC	Reno, NV	www.acbl.org
Mar 19-23	12 ^{ieme} Festival de Palavas	Palavas, France	www.ffbridge.asso.fr
Mar 21-26	White House Junior International Teams	Amsterdam, Netherlands	keestammens@email.com
Mar 30-Apr 4	115 th Canadian Nationals	Toronto, ON	www.unit166.ca
Apr 2-5	Easter Festival	London, England	www.ebu.co.uk
Apr 24-May 2	Lambourne Jersey Festival	St. Helier, Channel Is.	www.ebu.co.uk
Apr 28-May 2	International Berlin Championship	Berlin-Spandau, Germany	bridgelvberlin@aol.com
May 1-8	III South American Transnational	Mar del Plata, Argentina	www.confssudbridge.org
May 1-8	South American Youth Championships	Mar del Plata, Argentina	www.confssudbridge.org
May 7-9	Grand Prix of Kosice	Kosice, Slovakia	vojtechbelcak@iol.sk
May 12-13	25 th Bonn Nations Cup (Invitational)	Bad Godesburg, Germany	www.bridge-verband.de
May 13	30 th Bonn Cup (Open Pairs)	Bad Godesburg, Germany	www.bridge-verband.de
May 14-16	1 st German Bridge Team Trophy (Open)	Bad Godesburg, Germany	www.bridge-verband.de
May 21-29	PABF Championships	Hamilton, New Zealand	www.gabsi.or.id
May 30-Jun 6	12 th German Festival	Wyk auf Föhr, Germany	www.bridge-verband.de
Jun 3-6	50 th Poznan Bridge Congress	Poznan, Poland	www.kongres.brydz.wlkp.pl
Jun 5/6	Worldwide Bridge Contest	Clubs Everywhere	www.worldbridge.org
Jun 18-Jul 2	50 th European Team Championships	Ostend, Belgium	www.eurobridge.org
Jun 29-Jul 11	Festival International de Biarritz	Biarritz, France	www.biarritz-bridge.com
Jul 1-3	European Transnational Pairs	Ostend, Belgium	www.eurobridge.org
Jul 22-Aug 1	ACBL Summer NABC	New Orleans, LA	www.acbl.org
Aug 2-9	5 th World University Championships	Kaohsiung, Taiwan	www.worldbridge.org
Aug 6-15	Summer Congress	Brighton, England	www.ebu.co.uk
Aug 6-15	20 th Solidarity Festival	Slupsk, Poland	www.polbridge.pl
Sep 4-5	Torneo Open de Bridge	Barcelona, Spain	www.tennispremia.com
Sep 9-12	Isle of Man Congress	Douglas, Isle of Man	www.ebu.co.uk
Sep 13-16	3 rd Buffett Cup	Cardiff, Wales	www.buffettcup.com
Sep 16-19	37 th Vilnius Cup	Vilnius, Lithuania	erikas.vainikonis@gmail.com
Sep 17-26	Guernsey Congress	Guernsey, Channel Islands	www.ebu.co.uk
Oct 1-16	13 th World Bridge Series	Philadelphia, PA	www.worldbridge.org
Oct 13-18	EBU Overseas Congress	Crete, Greece	www.ebu.co.uk
Oct 24-29	3 rd Commonwealth Nations Cup	New Delhi, India	sgupta07@rediffmail.com
Oct 29-Nov 1	HCL Teams and Pairs Tournament	New Delhi, India	sgupta07@rediffmail.com
Nov 25-Dec 5	ACBL Fall NABC	Orlando, FL	www.acbl.org