



BULLETIN

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Editorial

We wish all members a happy, healthy and prosperous 2010. And remind you that if you have not already done so, please renew your membership now. You can do so through the IBPA website or by contacting Jeremy Dhondy, our Membership Secretary. Details below.

In North America, it is customary at the end of one year to make lists of the 'bests' for that year, and at the beginning of the next, to make predictions, resolutions and wishes for the coming year. The IBPA makes its 'best-of-the-year' list available at the World Championships in the form of the annual IBPA Awards, so we thought we'd complete the circle by making a few 'resolutions' for bridge organisation to make by the end of the decade (yes, the decade ends on December 31, 2010, not 2009). We'll start with ourselves.

IBPA: Increase membership, and thus revenue and services to members. One way to do this is if every member brings in just one new member him(or her)self. We must all know a bridge writer or journalist (or even a player) who should belong to IBPA. Concentrate especially on those colleagues outside Europe and North America where we are weakest. Over the past few years, the rate of new membership has not matched the rate of attrition and this is one way to redress the balance.

WBF: The operation of the World Bridge Federation under José Damiani has been admirable, which is why the non-resolution of the issue of the sanctioned body running bridge in Kenya is puzzling. The WBF can resolve this easily by accepting the government-affiliated and authorised Kenya Bridge Association as the recognised NBO for that country and not the private company the WBF

Editorial continued on page 15...

Renewal Notice

Jeremy Dhondy, our new membership secretary, has renewed all members that have authorized him to charge the subscription for 2010 to their respective credit cards. That is to say, you have to act if the Bulletin notice says that you have not renewed.

The subscription for 2010 is USD 42. Please add USD 45 if you want the Bulletin mailed to you in printed form each month. The easiest way to pay is online via www.ibpa.com.

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LETTER FROM NORWAY



Knut Kjænsrød, Skallestad, Norway

The Norwegian Championship week – Norwegian Bridge Festival - was as usual organised at the beginning of August, and once again the location was Lillehammer, the 1994 Olympic venue. The hockey arena, Håkons Hall, is a spacious venue that takes good care of the hundreds of players in the many different competitions.

The bridge performances vary of course from horrors to brilliancies, and we tee off with a brilliancy. This effort earned the festival entry fees for South, reported to the bulletin by Snorre Aalberg.

Dealer North. Neither Vul.

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

Christer Kristoffersen was South. The bidding was simple:

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

East's opening bid showed four spades, a longer minor and less than opening strength. The club queen won the first trick, the ace the second, and East cleared the suit to South's king. Christer continued with two rounds of spades to see if the knave was doubleton. He then proceeded to the diamond suit, and led the two. When West produced the four, he paused to think: East had showed four spades and six clubs and most certainly had a heart honour. He probably had 4-2-1-6 distribution, and consequently West had five diamonds. Christer decided that the great majority of players would automatically follow with their lowest card from a 5-card suit, and therefore East's singleton had to be the three. With great confidence he instructed his partner: "Take the trick with the six!"

Tor Bakke and Jim Høyland from Bergen won the Pairs Championships and were shown frequently on BBO. On this board they were given an endplay lesson by Knut Storeide:

Dealer South. EW Vul.

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

Storeide was West. The bidding was again simple:

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

Tor Bakke led the knave of diamonds and continued with the king. A third round of diamonds was taken by the ace, and West cashed his hearts, and after the penultimate one the position was:

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

On the last heart Tor had to let go a diamond to retain control in the black suits. He was promptly thrown in after the club ace and a club to the king and had to surrender the ninth trick in spades.

In the Mixed Teams, Haldis Guttormsen did well in defence on this board:

Dealer South. Neither Vul.

<p>♠ A 10 9 5 3 ♥ — ♦ 10 4 ♣ K J 6 5 3 2</p> <p>♠ K 8 4 2 ♥ K 8 ♦ K 8 3 ♣ A 9 8 7</p>	<p>♠ 7 6 ♥ A Q 9 6 4 ♦ A Q 9 ♣ Q 10 4</p> <p>♠ Q J ♥ J 10 7 5 3 2 ♦ J 7 6 5 2 ♣ —</p>
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Haldis was South, and the bidding went:

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

A spade was led to the queen and king, and the heart king disclosed the position in that suit. Marianne Harding cashed two rounds of diamonds before she led a spade to South's knave. A third diamond followed, and Marianne played a club to the ace and led the heart eight in this position:

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

According to plan, dummy played low on the heart eight, and if Haldis had taken the trick, she could have cashed two diamonds but then would have had to lead into dummy's heart tenace. However, she countered by playing low, recovering from her trick-one play of the spade queen instead of the jack, and Marianne had to surrender four of the last five tricks to North.

This was one of the happy horror stories (for me!):

Dealer South. EW Vul.

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

The bidding was not entirely in accordance with the text books:

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

South led out of turn with the heart knave, and North was instructed to lead the suit. He cashed the heart ace and continued with a trump to dummy's queen. A

heart to the king and a club to the ten and ace followed. A third heart was taken by my queen, then a trump to the ace and the club king and a club ruff followed. The thirteenth heart was trumped by South, who played a spade ruffed by dummy's penultimate trump, but I could easily ensure the contract by playing established clubs.



AN UNLUCKY SLAM

Jos Jacobs, Maarn Netherlands

Pairs Final. Session 3

Board 16. Dealer West. EW Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Michal Gorski (POL)	Robert Stephens (RSA)	Przemyslaw Piotrowski (POL)	Zhivko Siderov (BUL)
1 ♦	Pass	1 ♥	3 ♠
5 ♥	Pass	6 ♥	6 ♠
Double	Pass	Pass	Pass

Siderov trusted his Polish opponents to such a degree that he decided to take the save. That was down three, minus 500 and only 10 matchpoints to North-South. The question is, however, can slam be made? Let's first ask Dennis Stuurman, who was allowed to try and make 12 tricks at another table:

West	North	East	South
Frank Visser (NED)	Stefan Skorchev (BUL)	Dennis Stuurman (NED)	Ovunc Yilmaz (TUR)
1 ♦	Pass	1 ♥	4 ♠
5 ♥	5 ♠	6 ♥	Pass
Pass	Pass		

South led the ace of spades and continued with a low club away from his queen, which ran to Dennis' eight. Dennis went on to draw three rounds of trumps, on which North, already squeezed, discarded his remaining spades. When next he discovered that neither the

diamonds nor the clubs broke, he had to concede one down and could consider himself decidedly unlucky.

When I checked the results on the board, I noticed one 1430. Before I had found out where this number came from, the culprit entered our office and started to tell us a story. As she spoke in Dutch, we could easily understand her! This had been the auction:

West	North	East	South
Sigrid	Ahmet Can	Jamilla	Ekrem
Spangenberg	Ozer	Spangenberg	Serdar
(NED)	(TUR)	(NED)	(TUR)
1 ♠	Pass	1 ♥	3 ♠
4 ♥	4 ♠	5 ♥	5 ♠
Pass	Pass	6 ♥	Pass
Pass	Pass		

West's pass of five spades was forcing, so Jamilla could bid the very good slam with some confidence. South led his top spades, Jamilla ruffing the second round. She went on to play the ace of clubs and ruffed a club, noting the fall of the queen. Next came the ace of diamonds and a diamond ruffed high for general security reasons. When South did not follow suit, the entire distribution of the hand became clear: South was likely to hold 7=3=1=2. Jamilla continued accordingly: ace of hearts and another diamond ruffed with the jack, heart to the nine which held (of course), the last trump drawn and dummy's diamonds were good.

So here we definitely have the best played hand of the tournament, I think, and probably also a good candidate for the best played hand of the year. Even if South plays any other card at trick two, it is possible for declarer to change the order of tricks but still execute the plays necessary to find out the distribution of the hand, and thus the necessity of the heart finesse, in time. So I can only say extremely well done and a super bravo to Jamilla Spangenberg!



AN ARTIST AT WORK

Anders Wirgren,
Limhamn, Sweden

My good friend Peter Fredin is a true bridge artist. His creativity is second to none, his technique is flawless, and as all naturals, he always seems to know where the missing key honours are. It doesn't matter if he competes for the world championship or plays with his friends: Peter is always on the lookout for spectacular plays, and he rarely misses them. Here is a gem from a game of rubber bridge, where Peter found a defensive play, which must be a heavy candidate for the IBPA award *Best Defence of 2009*.

Peter opened a four-card one spade, South overcalled one no trump, and soon the opponents had arrived at three no trump, North having shown his five-card heart suit with a transfer bid.

North (Dummy)		East (Peter)	
♠	A 10 5	♠	Q J 6 3
♥	A 9 6 5 4	♥	J 10 3
♦	8 6	♦	A J 3
♣	5 4 3	♣	A J 6

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

- 15-17
- Transfer to hearts

Opening lead: Spade two

Dummy played low, Peter inserted the jack, and South won with the king. He then played a low heart to the ace, and a diamond towards his hand.

The bidding marked West with one queen, and if it weren't in hearts, South would have seven top tricks and two more with his minor suit kings. So Peter assumed West had the heart queen. But even then, care was needed. If he plays "second hand low", there is a risk of a later endplay - so Peter unblocked the jack, losing to South's king.

South then cashed the heart king, felling West's queen, and played another heart to Peter, West pitching a spade.

Spades or diamonds were out, of course, so Peter had to play a club, at the same time avoiding an endplay. So for the second time he played a jack from ace-jack third, won by South's king. That finished declarer, as the remaining cards were:

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

West has both minor suit tens, so South is stuck in his own hand. If he plays a minor, West can grab the trick and push a spade through. But had Peter kept either of


his minor suit jacks, South could play that suit and wait for Peter to help him with the ninth trick.

So, all ended well for our hero? Not really. When South led the five of diamonds, West didn't want to "waste" his precious ten spot, so three no trump romped home in spite of Peter's beautiful defence. As all rubber bridge players know, your partner is often your worst enemy...

The full deal:

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

Did South miss something? As a matter of fact, he did. Double dummy, three no trump is cold if South wins the opening lead in hand, plays a heart to the ace, then a club (not a diamond). Once again, Peter has to play the jack, South winning. South establishes the hearts with the king and another, and when Peter tries to exit with his second minor suit jack, he is *allowed to win the trick*. Then, South ends up with nine tricks one way or another.



LIGHTNER STRIKES TWICE

David Bird, Eastleigh, UK
From the London Evening Standard

This spectacular deal arose in the English Premier League.

Dealer South. Both Vul.

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

Take the West cards, hiding the other three hands, and study the following bidding. What would you lead against the doubled heart slam?

West	North	East	South
<i>Waterlow</i>	<i>Perkins</i>	<i>Hackett</i>	<i>Reissman</i>
—	—	—	Pass
Pass	1 ♣	1 ♠	2 ♥
2 ♠	4 ♦	4 ♠	6 ♥
Pass	Pass	Double	Pass
Pass	Pass		

On many competitive bidding deals, with one side bidding spades and the other bidding hearts, a final double would simply be for penalties. Here, though, South had jumped to six hearts and obviously thought that he had a good chance of making the contract. East's double should therefore be interpreted as a Lightner Double, asking for an unusual lead (often of dummy's first-bid suit). On that basis you should lead a club from the West hand. East will ruff and cash a top spade, putting the slam one down.

At the table, West decided to lead the ten of spades. Somewhat carelessly, declarer played a low card from dummy. Paul Hackett was then able to contribute the seven of spades to the trick, leaving West on lead! Tony Waterlow duly switched to a club and that was one down.

If declarer had covered the spade lead with dummy's jack, no club ruff would have been possible and the doubled slam would have been made.

At the other table, West led the king of diamonds against John Holland's contract of five hearts doubled (another intended Lightner Double) and two overtricks were made.

A CLASSIC ENDPLAY

Sven-Olov Flodqvist, Lund, Sweden

The first stage of the Swedish trials for the European Championships at Ostend, Belgium, in June 2010, was played on October 31 and November 1. Twelve pairs competed over 110 boards with some surprises, since the top of the table looked like this:

1.	PG Eliasson-Thomas Magnusson	290.0
2.	Mårten Gustawsson-Johan Sylvan	258.0
3.	Mats Axdorph-Johnny Östberg	238.5
4.	Krister Ahlesved-Jonas Petersson	233.0
5.	Per-Ola Cullin-Johan Upmark	186.5
6.	Björn Fallenius-Peter Fredin	122.0
7.	Peter Bertheau-Fredrik Nyström	-7.0

Mårten Gustawsson was the only declarer who made four hearts on the following board.

Dealer South. Neither Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>de Knijff</i>	<i>Sylvan</i>	<i>Wrang</i>	<i>Gustawsson</i>
—	—	—	1 ♥
3 ♠	4 ♥	Pass	Pass
Pass			

West lead the spade king to the ace and Mårten returned the suit to the ten. Now West made a small but costly mistake when he returned a Rusinow ten of diamonds, and Mårten decided that it was a true card, not the doubleton ten, and played low from dummy.

He won with the diamond queen, ruffed his spade in dummy and played out all his trumps. West could discard his spades and one diamond and East had to let go of a couple of clubs:

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

On the heart six, West had to discard a club, as did dummy, and East tried the club queen. A club was played to the ace and it wouldn't have helped East to unblock the king, since South had that valuable nine of diamonds.

**FINDING THE ONLY
SUCCESSFUL GRAND
Fu Qiang, Beijing**

In São Paulo, the Chinese Women's team won their first World Championship title. As professional players, they took part in the National Bridge Clubs Championship only four days after arriving home. The tournament was

held in Hangzhou, a beautiful city about 100 miles from Shanghai. There are only open team events divided by three classes (A, B and C). Sun Ming and Wang Hongli played for Beijing Huayuan Club in the B class. The Venice Cup winners continued their perfect performance in the match.

For slam contracts, the longest and strongest suit in the combined hands usually should be selected for trumps. But this time...

Dealer South. Neither Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
—	<i>Sun</i>	—	<i>Wang</i>
—	—	—	1 ♥
Pass	1 ♠	Pass	2 ♣
Pass	2 ♦ ¹	Pass	2 ♠
Pass	3 ♣	Pass	4 ♦ ²
Pass	4 NT ³	Pass	5 NT ⁴
Pass	7 ♠	Pass	Pass

1. 4th suit, game forcing
2. Splinter
3. Key card ask for spades
4. An odd number of key cards and a useful void

Four no trumps was a key card ask for the first fit suit (spades). When Wang showed one key card in spades (the spade king) and a void in diamonds, Sun analysed that if South should hold a minimum opening hand, she should be 3=5=0=5 shape. If they played a grand slam with the strongest suit (clubs) as trumps, then South's heart losers could not all be discarded on North's spades. So the heart king would either need to be with South or favourably located with West if South instead had the heart queen. But if playing a spade grand slam, the two little diamonds could be ruffed in the South hand, and the heart jack could be pitched on South's fifth club. Counting 13 tricks in this way, Sun bid seven spades confidently.

After the diamond ace lead, 13 tricks were made easily. Among all 20 tables in the B Class event, six spades was played at five tables, six clubs was played at one table and seven clubs (down one) at another.

Sun/Wang were the only pair who bid and made a grand slam. The newest World Champions proved that they

deserved the medal. Their team came in second place and were promoted to the A Class directly.

(This hand was initially reported by Liu Jie, the coach of Beijing Huayuan team.)

THE DOLEFUL DOE

John Carruthers, Toronto



One of the great philosophical questions of our shallow age seems to be, "If a tree falls in the forest and no one hears it, does it make a sound?" The scientific answer is yes, of course it does, it produces sound waves, which, similarly to light waves, need no receptor to exist. Naturally, if one wanted to be contentious, one could define sound as having both a producer and a receptor, as well as the waves produced. That is another matter.

What has this to do with bridge, you ask? Well, if a bridge player produces a great play accidentally, can it still be called a great play? Does the greatness of a play have a life of its own, or must it be produced with full knowledge of the consequences? Consider the following example as grist for the mill...

Dealer North . Neither Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Levitina	Gerstman	Katz	Gerstman
—	1 ♣	1 ♠	1 NT
2 ♥	Pass	Pass	Double
Pass	2 NT	Pass	Pass
Pass			

This deal occurred during the Mixed Board-a-Match Teams at the Summer North American Championships in Nashville, Tennessee in 2007.

At one table, declarer in two no trump received a low heart lead, played low from dummy, and East took the jack and the king of the suit. As West had no entry, the defence had to settle for one trick in each of the other

suits. Since declarer could have made nine tricks by playing clubs to better advantage than she actually had, the defence was satisfied that they'd got the most out of the hand.

At the diagrammed table, Irina Levitina led the spade ten and Ralph Katz ducked to declarer's king. Sharon Gerstman continued with the spade queen and Katz ducked again, West discarding an encouraging heart. Declarer now played a club to dummy's jack and East's queen.

Katz could tell from South's double that West didn't hold too many cards – there was just room in Levitina's hand for either the diamond queen or the club king as well as the ace to six hearts. Her encouraging heart discard seemed to confirm that impression. The problem was that she could not have an entry to cash them as the minor suit aces were poised over whichever side card West held.

Katz realised, however, that the defence could afford to give a heart trick to dummy's queen and defeat the contract, if his partner retained the ace as an entry within the suit. Accordingly, Katz shifted to the heart jack, a brilliant stroke – if Levitina, a world chess and bridge champion, would duck the heart to dummy's queen, when Katz later came in with the spade ace, she could then overtake Katz's king of hearts with the ace and run the suit, regardless of the size of declarer's doubleton. The play is not that unusual for declarer, but very difficult for the defence.

Levitina did indeed find the duck of the heart jack. But then so did Sharon Gerstman! How on earth did Gerstman find this play to nullify the heart suit? Well...this table had taken a long time on the previous board, the tournament director was hovering nearby, trying to get them to speed up, Gerstman was afraid of being penalised...and she simply lost concentration for a moment and called for a low heart from dummy instead of the queen. It was a play reminiscent of the Rueful Rabbit.

East could now have played ace and another spade to ensure a one-trick set. However, this being board-a-match, and still believing that his partner held the diamond queen or the club king (otherwise declarer had 11 HCP, surely too many for one no trump?), Katz was looking for better. Indeed, if West held the diamond queen, which Katz deemed more likely than the club king based on South's later double, then a diamond shift to the queen and ace would result in two down with the heart ace as an entry for a second diamond play if necessary. So Katz switched to a low diamond, giving the contract back to declarer! South won the diamond jack and led a spade, scoring three spades, two diamonds and three clubs. Just another routine push!

So, did Sharon Gerstman make a great play, or not?

IBPA Column Service

Tim Bourke, Canberra

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

499. Dealer South. E-W Vul.

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

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

West led the jack of diamonds. When dummy went down declarer saw that there was a probable loser in each suit but, as long as trumps were not 4-0, there was a near-certain line to make ten tricks.

He took the first trick with the king of diamonds, keeping the ace as an entry to the heart suit. At trick two he played the king of trumps and then switched his attention to hearts, playing the ace followed by the nine of hearts. After taking his king of hearts, West continued with the ten of diamonds.

Declarer took this with dummy's diamond ace and led the jack of hearts. East played the queen of hearts and declarer avoided the main trap of the deal and discarded his remaining diamond. (If he had ruffed, West could overruff, cross to East's queen of diamonds and a fourth round of hearts would then allow West to make a second trump trick.) All the defence could do was to make one more trick with West's queen-jack of trumps; the established ten of hearts would take care of declarer's club loser.

The key to the hand was declarer realising that he had to make use of dummy's heart suit and to do so required using dummy's aces as timely entries.

500. Dealer North. E-W Vul.

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

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

After this explosive auction, declarer's attempt to make his contract was even briefer. He ruffed the opening heart lead and played the ace of spades. When the 4-0 trump break materialised, there was no longer any way to make twelve tricks.

Declarer should have discarded a club from dummy at trick one. East wins his ace of hearts and returns the jack of hearts (nothing else is any better). Declarer wins the king of hearts, throwing a diamond from diamond from dummy, and cashes the queen of trumps, getting the news of the bad trump break. Next, he plays a diamond to the ace and ruffs a diamond with the jack of trumps. Even when West discards on this trick, revealing the 4-1 break, there is no longer a problem.

A trump to the nine allows declarer to ruff a second diamond with the ten of trumps to establish the suit. Trumps are drawn with the ace and king and declarer claims his contract. He makes four trumps, a heart, four diamonds, two diamond ruffs in hand and the ace of clubs.

It's not the handling of difficult hands that makes the winning player. There aren't enough of them. It's the ability to avoid messing up the easy ones.
-S. J. Simon

501. Dealer North. Both Vul.

♠ J 9 6 2
 ♥ A 7 5 4
 ♦ K Q 10 7
 ♣ A

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

♠ K Q 10 8 4
 ♥ 9 3
 ♦ A J
 ♣ K Q J 4

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

Declarer took West's lead of the ten of hearts with dummy's ace and tried to discard his heart loser on the diamonds. After cashing the ace and king of diamonds, he played the queen of diamonds from dummy. East thwarted the planned discard by ruffing in with the three of trumps. Declarer overruffed, crossed back to dummy with the ace of clubs and played the ten of diamonds. Again East spoiled the attempted discard by ruffing it with the seven of trumps.

Declarer overruffed again and then played his three top clubs, discarding hearts from dummy. Even though the suit broke 5-3, the fact that East had been reduced to a bare ace of trumps came to the rescue. That was the only trick the defenders made.

502. Dealer South. Both Vul.

♠ 9 8
 ♥ A 8 5
 ♦ 10 9 6 4 2
 ♣ 6 4 2

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

♠ A 10 6 5
 ♥ Q J 10
 ♦ K Q J
 ♣ A K 5

West	North	East	South
—	—	—	2 NT
Pass	3 NT	Pass	Pass
Pass			

West led a fourth-highest four of spades to the eight, king and declarer's ace. Declarer began with the diamonds, playing the king and queen. After West

signalled that he held a doubleton diamond, East took his ace of diamonds, blocking the suit.

East continued his good work by shifting to hearts, hoping to knock out dummy's ace of hearts before the diamonds could be untangled. Declarer played the queen of hearts and West the king. Declarer saw that if he took his ace of hearts now, there would be no entry to dummy's long diamonds. He would score one spade, three hearts, two diamonds and two clubs for eight tricks, or one down. Instead, he allowed the king of hearts to hold the trick; this was safe because declarer knew from the Rule of Eleven that East began with only one card higher than West's four of spades and he had already seen it, the king. So, on any return declarer would be able to make one trick in spades, two in hearts, four in diamonds and two in clubs.

503. Dealer North. Neither Vul.

♠ A Q 3
 ♥ A 5 2
 ♦ K J 10 4
 ♣ 8 3 2

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

♠ K J 10 8 4
 ♥ K 3
 ♦ A 5 2
 ♣ Q 5 4

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

West led the nine of clubs and East took the ace and king before giving West a ruff. Declarer won the heart exit with the king and drew trumps, revealing that East began with nine cards in the black suits to West's three.

The success of the contract now depended upon picking up the queen of diamonds, so declarer set about getting a complete count on the hand. He played a heart to the ace, then ruffed dummy's third heart with his remaining trump. That little exercise revealed that East had three hearts to go along with his nine black cards. Thus it was a simple matter to play the ace of diamonds and claim with the diamond finesse when East followed small under the ace.

While getting a complete count on East's hand risks failing by two tricks when East has a doubleton queen of diamonds and only two hearts, the increased chances of making the contract with this line of play make it worthwhile.

LOOKING FOR THE BEST!

Vlad Racoviceanu, Bucharest

I would like to present you with a controversial deal that occurred in an open tournament in Bucharest. I was watching very closely the way one of our young players tried to resolve a difficult situation.

The deal:

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

The bidding:

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

1. Values
2. Cue bid
3. Spade queen?
4. Yes, and the diamond king

West led the spade eight. A club lead would have helped the declarer set up diamonds if either honour was in West (after a diamond pitch on the third club and two ruffing finesses). On a heart lead, declarer would need to guess whether it was from the king or not, either immediately or later. On the actual trump lead, declarer counted eleven tricks and he decided to delay a red-suit play to better guess the location of the honours in the red suits.

Declarer played four rounds of trumps discarding two diamonds from hand. East discarded two hearts. The fifth round of spades created a problem for East. What was South's shape? 2=3=4=4, 2=3=5=3 or 2=3=3=5? East felt embarrassed and he feared a pseudo-squeeze! He finally got rid of a diamond and declarer discarded a third diamond. Another trump, but now East knew that

declarer had only three clubs and five diamonds, so he discarded the nine of clubs (even number).

The position after the sixth round of trumps was:

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

After the last trump and three rounds of clubs, East doesn't have any chance! A guessing game avoidance! (If East bares either red-suit honour early and smoothly, keeping all four clubs, declarer still has a guess. – Ed.)

IBPA INFORMATION

www.ibpa.com

The Bulletin:

You can access an electronic copy of this Bulletin at www.ibpa.com/540fl.pdf

The 2008 Handbook:

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

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Barry Rigal, New York
Mark Horton, Bath, UK

The deals from San Diego seem to fit nicely into themes.
 The first of these themes is devious defence...

Devious Defenders I - Pairs Greed
By Barry Rigal

Dealer West. EW Vul

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

♠ A Q 9 3
 ♥ A J 9
 ♦ A 7
 ♣ A 8 6 4

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

1. Both majors, not game forcing

The opening lead is a low diamond, and dummy's nine wins. A spade to the queen wins, and you play three rounds of clubs. West produces the queen on the second round and pitches a heart when you ruff the third round. Now a diamond to the ace is followed by a second club ruff as West lets go a diamond. The king of diamonds is ruffed by the spade ten and you overruff with the ace. What to do next?

At the table, you surely can't blame South for leading the jack of hearts from hand, assuming West to have been 2=3=6=2. This was the full deal:

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

Look at Glenn Eisenstein's duck of the spade king, plus the discard of a low heart. When he was allowed to score the heart king, he cashed the spade king and led a diamond to tap out declarer and score his trump and diamond winners for down one.

Devious Defenders II - Trump Demotion
By Barry Rigal

I suspect most of the field played four spades as North on this deal from the Wednesday evening pairs game, and most were satisfied to emerge with ten tricks.

Dealer West. Both Vul.

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

At our table, South was declarer - well, he always is in the textbooks - and I knew no better than to lead the king of clubs. The contract is still impregnable, but my devious partner, Eric Leong, was not going to let that put him off. He overtook the king with the ace and returned the five. I won the ten and played back a low club to go for the trump promotion.

Declarer now had three plausible strategies available. He could ruff high and hope to negotiate trumps and hearts, with some excellent endplay chances if trumps split; he could ruff with a middle trump; or he could discard a heart, hoping for the actual lie of the cards or a winning heart finesse.

I'm not sure what is best, but when declarer followed the first line, he had turned plus 620 into minus 100 and my partner into a hero - if just for one day.

Devious Defenders III - Grand Designs
By Mark Horton

Grand Designs is a UK TV series covering unusual architectural house-building projects. The properties featured in the series vary wildly from homes underground to converted water towers, with the only common factor being that they are all rather unusual or extravagant in some way. As the building progresses, there are usually numerous hitches or delays.

On this deal from the first session of the Blue Ribbon Pairs, declarer set his sights on a grand slam, and at first things were going smoothly - but then came a hitch.

Dealer East. EW Vul.

♠ J 8 4
 ♥ 7 6
 ♦ K 10 6
 ♣ K Q 6 3 2

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

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

West	North	East	South
Castellino	Demirev	O'Hara	Feldman
—	—	1 ♥	Pass
4 NT	Pass	5 ♣	Pass
5 NT	Pass	6 ♥	Pass
7 ♠	Pass	Pass	Pass

With eight tricks in his hand facing an opening bid, West decided to reject a scientific approach. After discovering that East held the ace-king of hearts and the ace of clubs, he took a shot at the grand slam.

North, Nikolay Demirev, eschewed the traditional (but perhaps overrated) lead of a trump in favor of the king of clubs. That appears to be catastrophic when you look at all four hands, as declarer can now ruff two clubs in dummy.

Declarer won trick one with dummy's ace, cashed the top hearts, discarding a diamond, crossed to the ace of diamonds and ruffed a club. He now played the diamond queen, ruffing it in hand and ruffed his last club. He only had to get back to hand to draw trumps to land his ambitious contract, and we can see that a diamond is the way to do it. However, there was a fly in the ointment, because on the second round of diamonds, North had played the king! That brilliant falsecard saw declarer decide to return to hand by ruffing a heart that North was able to overruff. That just might put him in the running for one of the IBPA's annual awards.

The second theme that appeared in San Diego was proper timing...

**Proper Timing I - Threading the Needle
 By Barry Rigal**

Dave Siebert needed to follow a very precise route to victory on this deal from the Senior Knockout Teams. (See top of next column...)

Siebert won the lead of the queen of diamonds in hand and guessed to lead a club up. West won the king and shifted to a top spade, so declarer won, unblocked the club queen and then crossed to the heart ace to pitch dummy's losing spade on the club ace.

Dealer South. Both Vul.

♠ 7 2
 ♥ Q J 5 2
 ♦ A 9 8 6 4
 ♣ Q 5

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

♠ A 10 6 4
 ♥ A 6 4 3
 ♦ K 5
 ♣ A 10 2

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

Now Siebert led a second trump. West won and forced dummy with a spade. Siebert cashed the ace of diamonds, ruffed a diamond and ruffed a spade with the heart queen and continued with another diamond, scoring the six of hearts *en passant*.

**Proper Timing II - Allowing a Ruff
 By Barry Rigal**

Dealer South. Neither Vul.

♠ 8 7 3
 ♥ K 8 6 5 2
 ♦ 2
 ♣ Q 5 4 2

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

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

The room reached four spades on this deal from the second qualifying session of the Edgar Kaplan Blue Ribbon Pairs, and on the lead of the two of diamonds, it looks right to put in the eight, covered by the nine (yes, a nasty South might play the queen, but this might backfire spectacularly).

Declarer draws only two rounds of trumps (observing the fall of the jack-ten) and then has to decide how to tackle hearts. The heart queen might persuade a foolish North to cover (we've all made worse plays). But what if South has king to four and ducks the queen? Now you run into a heart ruff if you repeat the finesse.

At the table, West ran the heart nine, repeated the finesse, and knew the lie of the majors when South discarded. Declarer crossed to the heart ace, returned to hand with the club ace, ruffed his heart loser but

then could not get off dummy without running into a diamond ruff. Even if hearts had been 4-2, not 5-1, it is clearly right to cross to dummy with a diamond toward the king. If North ruffs, the club goes away. If North discards, then declarer can play the ace of hearts, a club to the ace, ruff a heart and get back to hand by ruffing a diamond high to claim 12 tricks.

Finally, we have our third theme of trump management and handling a bad break in the trump suit. Both examples come from Melih Ozdil. They are worthy of a wider audience.

Trump Management I & II Ozdil on the Job By Barry Rigal

The first comes from the quarterfinals of the Senior Knockout Teams.

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

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

1. 6-9 HCP with 4+ trumps
2. Game try

Ozdil won the club lead in hand and led a club to the ace, then a spade to the king, ducked (East pitched a club). Now declarer can negotiate trumps easily enough, but needs to hold his heart losers to one.

With East apparently having the heart length, Ozdil guessed to advance the eight of diamonds and run it to East's nine. Back came a diamond to the queen and ace, and Ozdil ruffed the third diamond with the eight of spades. He advanced the spade nine, ducked, East discarding a club, and led a third spade, East discarding another club.

West won and played back a fourth spade as East discarded a heart. Ozdil won in dummy and exited with a diamond, pitching a heart, to endplay East to open up hearts for his ninth trick. This had been the ending with four tricks remaining and North to play...

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

The second Ozdil deal comes from the first day of the North American Swiss Teams.

Dealer North. NS Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Gu</i>	<i>Lair</i>	<i>Shi</i>	<i>Ozdil</i>
—	1 ♦	Pass	1 ♥
Pass	3 ♥	Pass	4 ♥
Pass	Pass	Pass	

Ozdil won the spade lead in dummy and led a trump to the seven and ten. Back came a diamond to the ace. West won the first club and played a second diamond. Ozdil won in hand, crossed to the club jack and led a spade to the queen. He cashed two rounds of clubs, pitching a spade and diamond from dummy.

In the following position, Ozdil advanced the spade seven:

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

West ruffed with the heart six and was overruffed with the ace. A diamond ruffed with the heart eight let West overruff, but he was trump endplayed at trick 12.

NEWS & VIEWS

Bridge4People

The new Danish company, Bridge4People invites bridge players of all levels from all over the world to influence them with their input, feedback and great ideas or to just follow their progress by taking part in their online panel. You can sign up quickly and easily by providing your email address on their website at www.bridge4people.com.

Bridge4People is a relatively new company that is in the development phase of new products and service solutions to the bridge world. They are developing an innovative platform that enables a unique setting for playing traditional bridge with radical new opportunities to develop players' bridge skills. The idea of Bridge4People is based on the passion for playing bridge and the opportunity enabled by 21st Century technology. The company is based in Denmark but operates in a global market. Their initial launch will be in late 2010.

Sabine Auken, Copenhagen

NEWS FROM SAN DIEGO

- Bill Gates and Warren Buffett, whose love of bridge prompted them to donate \$1 million to help promote teaching the game in schools, have been selected as the 2010 ACBL Honorary Members of the Year.
- Curtis Cheek is on the mend after spending a month in a São Paulo hospital after the World Championships. He was diagnosed with swine flu and his survival was touch and go for some days. He has recovered enough to play the Open Board-a-Match and Reisinger Teams in San Diego.
- Rich DeMartino of Connecticut has been elected president of the ACBL for 2010.
- Jeff Meckstroth has been announced as Player of the Decade (sic), having won the most masterpoints in NABC events over the past 10 years.
- For the first time since the Seventies, Larry Cohen missed an NABC, staying at home in Boca Raton FL preparing to run a bridge cruise. Cohen had been talking about dropping out of high-level bridge play for about five years, but didn't want to leave regular partner David Berkowitz in the lurch. Berkowitz, now playing with Alan Sontag, joked, "I've driven Larry from the Blue Ribbon Pairs to the golf course." Berkowitz said playing without Cohen for the first time in many years "is different," but that he is enjoying his new partnership. "Alan doesn't

understand my carding," Berkowitz said, "and I don't understand his bidding. Otherwise, we're doing fine."

ANYONE FOR BRIDGE?

(From the State Library of Victoria News)

"In late 2008, Tim and Margaret Bourke donated their collection of books and journals relating to the history of the card game Contract Bridge, and its predecessors Bridge, Whist and Auction Bridge. The collection comprises around 1500 books and pamphlets and almost 150 bound journals. This is the first of several donations by Tim and Margaret Bourke that will eventually be housed at the Library. The strength of this first donation of books and journals lies in its focus on the development of the game during the early periods from 1894 to 1939."

Des Cowley, Rare Printed Collections Manager

IBPA member and author of the IBPA Column Service Tim Bourke would welcome historical documents and books missing from the collection. Tim can be contacted at bourketim@hotmail.com.

Some of the titles in the collection:





Correspondence ...

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

Dear John,

Four spades was declared by North on the following deal, played at the 2009 European Youth Team Championships in Romania in the match between France and England. It was reported in Daily Bulletin No. 11 of these championships.

Board 9. Dealer North. EW Vul.

♠ A Q 6 4 3

♥ J 9 5 3 2

♦ Q 10 4

♣ —

♠ 5 2

♥ A 4

♦ A K 5 3

♣ A 7 6 4 2

♠ J 9

♥ K Q 8 7 6

♦ 9 8 7 2

♣ 10 3

♠ K 10 8 7

♥ 10

♦ J 6

♣ K Q J 9 8 5

West	North	East	South
Bessis	Atthey	Volcker	Owen
—	1 ♠	Pass	2 NT
Pass	3 ♥	Pass	4 ♠
Pass	Pass	Pass	

For my last few syndicated columns of the year, I am writing up some of the IBPA awards deals. When I got to the junior winner, Thomas Bessis, I could not believe the original description, which states that Bessis won the first two tricks in diamonds, then immediately shifted to a low club.

If so, declarer would surely have discarded dummy's losing heart on his winning ten of diamonds, not given up a heart.

So, in San Diego at the Fall Nationals, I asked Bessis about the exact play. He told me that he cashed the heart ace before underleading the club ace. Then, after declarer ruffed, he continued heart ruff, club ruff, heart ruff, club ruff low. Frédéric Volcker overruffed and led back a trump to achieve down two.

I hope it is not too late to catch all the journalists who wish to write up this deal.

Both the original writer and the IBPA jury, of which I was a member, should have been more diligent.

Regards, Phillip Alder, Hobe Sound, FL

...Editorial continued

now recognises. Secondly, the WBF should immediately eliminate the requirement that an NBO compete in the World Mind Sports Games (formerly the World Team Olympiad) for it to be eligible for the Bermuda Bowl/Venice Cup/Senior Bowl. This rule does not have the desired result (increased representation in the WMSG), and merely serves to further disadvantage the less-affluent bridge nations. We also have a minor wish list for the WBF as well: a Board-a-Match World Championship and a Junior World Championship in Africa – it is the only continent not yet to have hosted one.

EBL: The European Bridge League will soon lose Gianarrigo Rona to the presidency of the WBF; finding a suitable replacement for Rona is a daunting task. The EBL gets most things right – they have more than 40 nations in their membership and there are many rôle models for new or less-savvy members to emulate. These have only to look at how Poland runs junior bridge or how the Scandinavian countries, France and The Netherlands have such large memberships relative to their populations to see how things should be done. However, one thing the EBL has tripped over is their attitude toward the Buffett Cup, the every-other-year competition between Europe and North America. After a brief power struggle over control of the event, which they lost, the then-World-Champion Italian players were denied participation in 2008 in a controversy over scheduling. So we wish the EBL to wholeheartedly support the Buffett Cup, even if only from the sidelines.

ACBL: The American Contract Bridge League needs to rework its structure. The current scheme of 25 District Directors controlling power is unmanageable, with some Directors looking out for their jurisdiction first, their country second, the Zone third, and the good of bridge a distant fourth. The head-office administrators who do the actual work are answerable both to their own hierarchy and to the District Directors. The ACBL also needs to revamp its Junior programme and focus on getting bridge into schools. Despite the proliferation of events, membership is still falling and the average age of an ACBL member is 25 years older than the average age of a Polish Bridge Union member. That has to change for progress to be made.

Other WBF Zones: Bring your websites up to date and keep them that way!

World Bridge Calendar

DATES	EVENT	LOCATION	INFORMATION
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 22-24	Bergen Grand Tourney	Bergen, Norway	www.storturningingen.no
Jan 23-29	51 st Bermuda Regional	Southampton, Bermuda	www.bermudaregional.com
Jan 28-31	Iceland Express Reykjavik Festival	Reykjavik, Iceland	www.reykjavikbridgefestival.com
Feb 3-6	Festival de Cannes	Cannes, France	www.ffb-competitions.net
Feb 9-14	15 th NEC Festival	Yokohama, Japan	www.jcbl.or.jp
Feb 9-14	EBU Overseas Congress	Madeira, Portugal	www.ebu.co.uk
Feb 18-27	44 th Israel Bridge Festival	Tel-Aviv, Israel	www.ibf-festival.org
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 7-14	Dead Sea Bridge Festival	Eilat, Israel	birmand@inter.net.il
Mar 11-21	ACBL Spring NABC	Reno, NV	www.acbl.org
Mar 19-23	12 ^{eme} 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 3-8	Festival Calvi	Calvi, France	www.ffb-competitions.net
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	bridge1vberlin@aol.com
May 1-8	III South American Transnational	Mar del Plata, Argentina	www.confbridge.org
May 1-8	South American Youth Championships	Mar del Plata, Argentina	www.confbridge.org
May 7-9	Grand Prix of Kosice	Kosice, Slovakia	vojtechbelcak@iol.sk
May 8-16	South of Ireland 67 th Open Congress	Killarney, Ireland	www.cbai.ie
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 19-24	Festival de Palavas	Palavas, France	www.ffb-competitions.net
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
Jul 30-Aug 5	Chairman's Cup	Orebro, Sweden	www.svenskbridge.se
Jul 30-Aug 7	Norwegian Bridge Festival	Lillehammer, Norway	www.bridgefestival.no
Jul 30-Aug 8	16 th Swedish Bridge Festival	Orebro, Sweden	www.svenskbridge.se
Aug 2-9	5 th World University Championships	Kaohsiung, Taiwan	www.worldbridge.org
Aug 6-8	Pesta Sukan Asian Championship	Singapore	www.scba.org.sg
Aug 6-15	Summer Congress	Brighton, England	www.ebu.co.uk
Aug 6-15	20 th Solidarity Festival	Slupsk, Poland	www.polbridge.pl
Aug 20-28	38 th Warsaw Grand Prix	Warsaw, Poland	www.polbridge.pl
Sep 4-5	Torneo Open de Bridge	Barcelona, Spain	www.tennispremia.com
Sep 4-23	25 th Mamaia Festival	Mamaia, Romania	www.frbridge.ro
Sep 5-16	49 th International Bridge Festival	Pula, Croatia	www.crobridge.com/pula/eng
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 20-24	32 nd ASEAN Club Championships	Bangkok, Thailand	cblthailandbridge.com
Nov 25-Dec 5	ACBL Fall NABC	Orlando, FL	www.acbl.org