



BULLETIN

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The Master Point Press IBPA Book of the Year Shortlist

The jury for this year's Book of the Year Award is: Patrick Huang, Taiwan; Fernando Lema, Argentina; David Morgan, Australia; P.O. Sundelin, Sweden; Ron Tacchi, France; and Paul Thurston, Canada. They have an onerous task ahead of them since we have a particularly good selection from which to choose a winner. The candidates on the shortlist are:

Deadly Defense – Wladyslaw Izdebski, Roman Krzemien & Ron Klinger. *Deadly Defense* and *Guide Dog* might be the best books on the subject since Kelsey's *Killing Defence*. It is very difficult now to come up with original material once the floodgate was opened by Hugh Kelsey, but Izdebski et al have done it; their examples range from workmanlike to brilliant. Many would be candidates for our annual award if they'd first seen the light of day in the IBPA Bulletin rather than elsewhere.

Guide Dog, Parts I & II - Krzysztof Martens. This is really two books, or one big book in two volumes. Last year's winner has done it again, produced an original work on a narrow topic with a particular theme. This time it is helping partner – the idea is to prevent him from making errors, thus the title. *Guide Dog* introduces some new concepts in defence – it will be the rare player who can not learn something from this book.

The Hog Takes to Precision – Victor Mollo. *Bridge in the Menagerie* and its sequels are among the most-beloved bridge books ever written. This collection comprises some magazine articles and some almost-forgotten original material, merged into further adventures of the Hog, the Rabbit, Papa and the others. Readers familiar with their antics will find much pleasure here.

Breaking The Bridge Rules: First Hand Play – Barry Rigal. Based on his series in *Bridge Magazine*, Rigal takes us through the instances when the rules must be broken, or at least circumvented. The key thought in the book is don't play by rote. Rigal teaches us how to do that – the objective of this book is to teach us how to think at the bridge table. This book certainly achieves that goal.

The Rodwell Files – Eric Rodwell and Mark Horton. Some books seem destined to become classics and this is one such book. Rodwell takes us into the mind of an all-time great, examining his thought processes and categorizing and naming many plays in play and defence – “intrasquash”, “pusher”, “intrapop” and “defogging” will shortly be added to every bridge player's lexicon just as “Support Double”, “Last Train” and “Serious 3NT” have already done.

Bridge at the Enigma Club - Peter Winkler. Developer of the now-illegal encrypted signalling methods, Winkler has written a novel that can be enjoyed by all bridge players, firstly as a work of fiction, secondly as a source of good bridge deals and thirdly, philosophically, as the author weaves in his ideas about bridge and technology and encryption in bidding and defence. Winkler is a Professor of Mathematics and Computer Science at Dartmouth.

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June 12-25, 2011

Barry Rigal, NYC
Mark Horton, Bath, UK
Jan van Cleeff, The Hague
Phillip Alder, Hobe Sound, FL
P.O. Sundelin, Stockholm
Jos Jabobs, Maarn, Netherlands

The Medallists

Mixed Teams

Gold: ZIMMERMANN, Bénédicte Cronier, Philippe Cronier, Catherine D'Ovidio, Franck Multon, Sylvie Willard, Pierre Zimmermann (France)
 Silver: VRIEND, Carla Arnolds, Ton Bakkeren, Huub Bertens, Anton Maas, Martine Verbeek, Bep Vriend
 Bronze: MAHAFFEY, Sam Lev, Irina Levitina, Jim Mahaffey, Jacek Pszczola, Judi Radin, Janice Seamon-Molson (USA); BADGER, Jeffrey Allerton, Frances Hinden, Graham Osborne (England), Paula Leslie (Scotland)

Open Teams

Gold: MAHAFFEY, Gary Cohler, Sam Lev, Jim Mahaffey, Jeff Meckstroth, Jacek Pszczola, Eric Rodwell (USA)
 Silver: BESSIS, Michel Bessis, Thomas Bessis (France), Josef Piekarek, Alexander Smirnov (Germany)
 Bronze: MONACO A, Jean Charles Allavena, Marco Catellani, Henri Fissore, Nathalie Frey (Monaco), Marc Bompis, Jean-Christophe Quantin (France)

Women's Teams

Gold: KAPADOKYA, Mine Babaç, Lale Gümrükçüo' lu, Serap Kurano' lu, Dilek Yava_ (Turkey)
 Silver: NETHERLANDS WOMEN I, Carla Arnolds, Laura Dekkers, Marion Michielsen, Jet Pasman, Anneke Simons, Bep Vriend
 Bronze: CRONIER, Véronique Bessis, Bénédicte Cronier, Catherine D'Ovidio, Sylvie Willard (France), Jovanka Smederevac (Austria), Nikica Sver (Croatia)

Senior Teams

Gold: GRENTHE, Patrick Grenthe, Guy Lasserre, François Leenhardt, Patrice Piganeau, Philippe Poizat, Philippe Vanhoutte (France)

Silver: PHARON, Paul Hackett, Gunnar Hallberg, David Price, Colin Simpson, Tony Waterlow (England), Hans Göthe (Sweden)

Bronze: KUTNER, Roger Kutner (Switzerland), Marek Borewicz, Jacek Stasica, WB' odzimierz Wala (Poland)

Mixed Pairs

Gold: Catherine D'Ovidio, Philippe Cronier (France)
 Silver: Anna Zack Einarsson, Bengt-Erik Efraimsson (Sweden)
 Bronze: Magdalena Ticha, Richard Ritmeijer (Netherlands)

Open Pairs

Gold: Artur GuB'a, MikoB'aj Taczewski (Poland)
 Silver: Eldad Ginossar, Ron Pachtman (Israel)
 Bronze: Krzysztof Buras, Grzegorz Narkiewicz (Poland)

Women's Pairs

Gold: Carla Arnolds, Bep Vriend (Netherlands)
 Silver: Rosaline Barendregt, Martine Verbeek (Netherlands)
 Bronze: Bénédicte Cronier, Sylvie Willard (France)

Senior Pairs

Gold: Aleksander Jezioro, Jerzy Russyan (Poland)
 Silver: Irena Chodorowska, Jan Chodorowski (Poland)
 Bronze: François Leenhardt, Fabrice Piganeau (France)

Best Played Hand (PA)

Dealer East. Neither Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Jankauskas</i>	<i>Lavazza</i>	<i>Rotomskiene</i>	<i>Duboin</i>
—	—	Pass	1♣
Pass	2♣ ¹	Pass	4♣ ²
Pass	4♥ ³	Pass	5♣ ⁴
Pass	6♣ ⁵	Pass	Pass
Pass			

1. Natural, game forcing
2. Key card ask
3. One (!) key card
4. A bit disappointed
5. I found another key card, partner

This deal from the Mixed Teams qualifying stage was chosen as the best played of the Championship. South was Giorgio Duboin from Italy. When South signed off in five clubs, Maria Teresa Lavazza (North), realizing

she had given the wrong Blackwood response, raised to six clubs.

A trump lead and continuation when East gets on play with the diamond ace would have defeated the contract. The curious may work it out. Arunas Jankauskas from Lithuania (West) actually led the diamond jack. Jurgita Rotomskiene from Lithuania (East) won with her ace and shifted to the heart four (low from a doubleton). Duboin won with his ace, played a spade to dummy's ace, ruffed a diamond with his club eight, led a trump to dummy's ten, ruffed the last low diamond, overtook his club king with dummy's ace and drew East's third trump to give this position:

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

Declarer cashed the diamond king and discarded his heart nine - but what could West spare? Nothing - he was squeezed. If West had pitched a heart, South would have played a heart to his king, cashed the spade king, ruffed a spade and taken the last trick with dummy's heart ten. When West threw a spade, declarer played a spade to his king, trumped a spade, crossed to his heart king and cashed the spade jack.

Very pretty.

Clear and Present Danger (MH)

Sometimes when everything in the garden appears rosy a nasty shock may lie in store. England's Heather Dhondy, a member of the winning Mixed Team in 2007, reported this classic instance from the second day's play.

Dealer North. EW Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
F. Weber	J. Dhondy	E. Weber	H. Dhondy
—	♦	Pass	♥
2♣	Pass	Pass	4♥
Pass	Pass	Pass	

West led the two of spades and with East having sounded no warning note, declarer played low from dummy. East won with the king and did not make the mistake of returning a spade, which would have seen declarer discard a club, but instead switched to the two of clubs. West won and returned a low club. East won with the ten and now played a spade promoting a trump for her partner.

Not So Grand (BR)

With four deals to go in the Mixed Teams Round of 32 matches, Deal 25 had the potential to swing many of the matches.

Board 25. Dealer North. EW Vul.

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

Of the 32 tables in play, seven bravely bid all the way to game, while three pairs went minus in a grand slam. For Team Pony against Calabria, Nehmert went down in seven hearts and this virtually levelled that match, but you can imagine her irritation at playing the grand slam from East on a club lead. Admittedly a spade lead would have sunk the grand slam out of hand while a red-suit lead lets it through trivially, but after the club lead, taking out the only entry to the strong hand, East-West must have felt extremely aggravated to run into the 4-1 trump break (which was what was required to prevent her from bringing home 13 tricks!).

Two pairs went down in six spades, leaving 20 tables to reach contracts of more-or-less technical merit. Ten played six hearts – and even on the troublesome club lead – found only by Hugh McGann - 12 tricks were taken by Patrick Sussel, while all the other tables collected 1460.

Three other tables played six clubs while another played six clubs doubled, all of them making in comfort. Six tables played six no trump (Smederevac-Wernle and Vecchiato-Engel achieving the coup of making West declarer), and where this contract was not doubled it made in comfort. Grahame Osborne and Andreas

Babsch both found the double of six no trump declared from the East seat, and cashed out when their partners led a spade; Alex Dubinin also played six no trump doubled...but he received a club lead and scored up 1880.

No Letup...

Board 26. Dealer East. Both Vul.

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

Nine of the 32 tables were allowed to play in three no trump from the East seat and handled the board carefully by cashing one top diamond (getting the good news) and then negotiating clubs to best effect.

Seven tables went down in three no trump - a couple of tables taking an early diamond finesse and losing 1100 in the process. For Connector Sakowska-Butryn racked up 600 at one table while Serek-Kazmucha as North-South bid to four hearts - undoubled! - and scored 620; impressive indeed and 15 IMPs. In Calandra-Pony, Calandra went down in three no trump, but made a heart part score in the other room.

You Might Think...

Board 28. Dealer West. NS Vul.

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

...that this deal is a dull three no trump. Not so...

Most teams declared three no trump – Osborne for team Badger declaring it from North on a low heart lead (after South had shown her spades but not her hearts) and collected 630. In the other room, South had described her hand more precisely, so Leslie led a club to the queen, king and ace. Now, instead of relying solely on the diamonds, declarer does best to go after

hearts; but what is the best line in hearts, in abstract? *Suitplay* (devised by Jeroen Warmerdam) tells us that low to the ten is fractionally better than low to the nine – something to do with which 4-2 breaks inside you can negotiate.

When declarer played the objectively best line (clearly best because of the entry position to dummy) the cards did not co-operate and the defenders set up clubs. The bad diamond break doomed the game.

In Pony-Calandra, both rooms played three no trump – and both Easts led hearts, allowing declarer time to establish hearts, then diamonds, and come to ten tricks. Where Madala was declarer he held himself to nine tricks in an attempt to make 11 (a good view in a sense since he lost an IMP here, and the match by 2 IMPs – had he brought home the second overtrick, it would have taken the match to extra time).

Versace for team Lavazza collected 630 as well; but Sarkanias for team Balti played three no trump on the lead of the club seven. He had opened an artificial one club and had rebid to show 18-19 without three spades; when he ducked the second-highest lead, Bocchi as West put up the king (a play that suggests he was playing his partner for ace-jack-eight-seven-(low) or ace-ten-eight-seven-(low), but that was highly unlikely if declarer had only a doubleton spade. In any event, from that point on, declarer was only playing for overtricks and emerged with 630 and a win by 5 IMPs.

A Best Bid Candidate (JJ)

How would you bid the West cards facing a one-spade opening?

Board 9. Dealer North. EW Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
—	Pass	1♠	Pass
2NT ¹	Pass	3♦ ²	Pass
5♦ ³	Pass	5NT ⁴	Pass
7♠	Pass	Pass	Pass

1. Game-forcing four+-card spade raise
2. Minimum or 18-19 balanced
3. Exclusion Key Card Blackwood!
4. Two key cards, no trump queen

Ben Handley-Pritchard, playing with Lara Ruso in the semifinals of the Mixed Pairs, found an ingenious way to advance his side's cause. (Zbigniew Sagan of the directing staff reported this.)

Ben's jump to five diamonds was based on the logical plan that he did not mind playing a grand slam if he could avoid the diamond lead. After the response of two key cards, he upped and bid seven spades and on a heart lead Lara wrapped up 13 tricks

Elegance in Defence (BR)

Lukasz Brede and Wojciech Strzemecki for Team Connector produced two elegant results – one in the bidding one in the play – during the qualifying rounds for the Open Teams.

Round 1. Board 9. Dealer North. EW Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
—	Pass	Pass	2♦ ¹
Double	Redouble	3♣	Pass
3NT	Pass	Pass	Pass
1. Multi			

Strzemecki led the heart jack against 3NT and Brede overtook in the hope that West would duck. Cautiously, West played low, so Brede shifted to a spade. Declarer won in hand and advanced the club jack, ducked, then the club king covered by the ace for a second spade back.

North won the next club and exited with his last heart, isolating the dummy and reducing West to his five diamonds and a losing heart. Declarer could do no better than lead a diamond to dummy hoping the queen was with North. Brede took his trick and cashed out the hearts for three down - and a 5-IMP gain since three no trump went one down in the other room.

Just for the record, declarer should have switched his attention to diamonds, playing one to his jack, after the club jack held. Now he gets four diamonds and three spades and one trick in each of the other suits.

Elegance in the Bidding (BR)

Round 4. Board 8. Dealer West. Neither Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
	<i>Strzemecki</i>		<i>Brede</i>
Pass	1♥	Pass	2♣ ¹
Pass	2♥	Pass	2NT
Pass	3♥	Pass	4♥
Pass	4♠	Pass	4NT
Pass	5♠ ²	Pass	6♣ ³
Pass	7♥	All Pass	

1. Relay, game forcing
2. Two key cards plus the trump queen and no kings
3. Asking for the club queen

The sequence benefited when South never bid spades naturally, encouraging North subsequently in the auction. North showed fewer than 14 HCP at his second turn and obviously had enough to advance after Brede's non-forcing four hearts. After the four-spade cue-bid, the Blackwood response manifested a quirk I've never seen before. Since North had denied any kings with his five-spade response, the six-club call asked for the club queen; Brede knew that without that card he would need spades 3-3. Once South implied grand-slam interest, North had enough extras in shape to be able to commit to the seven-level with confidence.

...But Even More Elegant (PO)

On the same deal, Helness-Helgemo - without any artificial stuff, but with much intelligence - bid this hand as follows:

West	North	East	South
	<i>Helness</i>		<i>Helgemo</i>
Pass	1♥	Pass	♠
Pass	3♥	Pass	4♣
Pass	4♥	Pass	5♦ (!)
Pass	6♥	Pass	7♥
Pass	Pass	Pass	

Helness, who had no extras and no diamond control, signed off in four hearts, but with spades controlled, he could bid slam over five diamonds, allowing Helgemo to raise to seven.

This was the best bid hand, in my opinion.

Digging a Pit...(BR)

On this deal from round six of the Open Teams Round Robin many Wests were prepared to insult the intelligence of their opponents while giving up on a legitimate chance. Amongst others, we heard of many declarers who preferred to go for the gusto by trying to fool the player in the North seat.

Before we start, let's guess what should have happened here:

Board 27. Dealer South. Neither Vul.

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

As you can see, the defence to four spades should see the defenders taking two heart tricks and one trick in each minor. Against five hearts, West will find it hard to win a spade trick and follow up with the club queen for down two but that is theoretically the par result for his side. So now you can all guess: how many tables played four spades, and how many pairs set it?

Of the 120 pairs playing the deal, 15 East-West pairs collected small positives in partscore (!) or defending hearts; 105 played spade contracts – quite a few of those higher than at the four level; 58 tables led the spade queen – of course, on the low club lead found at 16 tables the contract made, while 22 tables led a heart and defeated the game at once.

So how many of those 58 tables defeated the game? Remarkably, no fewer than 43 of the 58 made game. Quite a few declarers sneaked the diamond jack past a dozing North; when Cullin managed this against a top-class Norwegian international he added insult to injury by crossing back to hand and leading a club to the ten at trick four. That produced plus 510 and embarrassment for North.

At more than a few tables, West led a low club from hand at trick two! When Steve de Donder tried this against Gert-Jan Paulissen, Paulissen flew up with the king and cashed out – well done! This defence was duplicated by Geoff Hampson against Peter Bertheau – true respect being shown by both declarer and defender.

A Play Problem (BR)

This hand was played by Vitas Vainikonis in the Open Teams Qualifying. Let's consider it first of all as a single-dummy problem. You sit West:

Dealer North NS Vul.

♠ J 6 2		♠ K Q 9 3	
♥ 10 9 8 7 5		♥ A K Q	
♦ 6 5		♦ Q 7 2	
♣ A J 3		♣ K 6 2	
West	North	East	South
Vainikonis			
—	1♦	Double	2♠
Pass	3♦	Double	Pass
3♥	4♦	Pass	Pass
4♥	Pass	Pass	Pass

When dummy comes down you regret your decision not to double. The good news is that when the defenders lead three rounds of diamonds North has six and South can only ruff in with the heart six. You overruff and draw the remaining trumps in two rounds. Now what?

Knowing that North has six diamonds and two hearts, together with no spades, strongly suggests that he has five clubs, nicht wahr? So you cash the club ace and king then lead a spade to the king; South must duck or he is immediately endplayed. Then a spade to the jack scores, and you exit with a club.

Here is the full deal:

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

When North wins the club queen he must give you a ruff and discard and your last spade goes away. Contract made!

Little Fish Are Sweet (MH)

'Whispering' Ted Lowe, who died earlier this year, was known as the voice of snooker in the United Kingdom. He became a household name after his debut on the BBC show *Pot Black* in 1969, his unmistakable hushed tones earning him his nickname.

Lowe uttered the occasional on-air gaffe, his most famous quote being, 'And for those of you who are watching in black and white, the pink is next to the green.' He once told viewers that Fred Davis (by then

well over 70) struggling to rest one leg on the edge of the table in order to reach a long shot, 'is getting on a bit and is having trouble getting his leg over'.

When a player was forced to pot one of the minor colours for positional reasons and the shot was successful he would use the phrase, 'Little fish are sweet'. While snooker's black and pink are the equivalent to bridge's ace and king, the minor colours, starting with the yellow are the 'little fish'. On this deal from the Open Teams, one declarer missed a chance to utilise them and recover from what appeared to be a poor position:

Board 11. Dealer South. Neither Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Cullin</i>	<i>Rodwell</i>	<i>Upmark</i>	<i>Meckstroth</i>
—	—	—	3♣
4♣ ¹	Double ²	4♥	5♣
Pass	Pass	Double	Pass
Pass	Pass		

1. Majors
2. Invites further action from partner

West led his singleton diamond, and it was reported that declarer lost a spade and two diamonds.

A closer inspection reveals that declarer has a winning line! Win with dummy's ace of diamonds and set about eliminating the heart suit by cashing the ace of hearts and ruffing a heart. A trump to dummy enables declarer to ruff another heart, and he now plays a spade. West takes the ace and returns a spade, declarer winning with the king and pitching a diamond. Declarer draws the outstanding trump and then plays the eight of spades. When East cannot beat it he discards a diamond, forcing West to win and concede a ruff and discard.

How sweet is that?

This was the line followed by Jean-Christophe Quantin against Nyström and Bertheau to bring home 550 in five clubs doubled.

The Only One (JVC)

In the round of 16, Netherlands Red – a former open EC winner - was knocked out by Monaco A. Still, the

match became pretty close when the Dutchies were working on a strong comeback in the second half. Brink-Drijver earned 14 IMPs on this deal:

Board 21. Dealer North. NS Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Brink</i>	<i>Bompis</i>	<i>Drijver</i>	<i>Quantin</i>
—	Pass	1♣	Pass
4♣ ¹	Pass	4NT ²	Pass
5♠ ³	Pass	6♥	Pass
Pass	Pass		

1. Long hearts, better than an immediate four-heart response
2. Roman Key Card Blackwood for hearts
3. Two key cards and the queen of hearts

South led the diamond ten to North's king and North played the diamond ace. Declarer ruffed the second diamond and ran all his hearts but the last, reaching this position where South still has to play a card:

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

Jean-Christophe Quantin decided to sit on his spades, otherwise declarer would ruff the fourth spade high. So South bared his king of clubs, but Bas Drijver read the position. He crossed to the club ace and scored dummy's nine of clubs as the twelfth trick.

Drijver, who turned out to be the only one to make the slam, had every reason to play for the criss-cross. It was more likely that the king of clubs was with South since North was a passed hand. By the way, a club or a heart switch at trick two would have been fatal for declarer. Should North have found it?

By Jove How Tickled I Am! (BR)

As Ken Dodd might have said, you cannot hope to stop Jovanka Smederevac (known as Jovy), you can only hope to contain her.

Board 21. Dealer North. NS Vul.

	♠ Q 10 6		
	♥ 8		
	♦ 10 9 3 2		
	♣ A K 10 9 3		
♠ K		♠ J 8 7 3	
♥ K 9 7 6 3		♥ A Q J 4	
♦ Q J 4		♦ 7 6	
♣ 8 7 5 2		♣ Q 6 4	
	♠ A 9 5 4 2		
	♥ 10 5 2		
	♦ A K 8 5		
	♣ J		
West	North	East	South
—	Sver		Smederevac
Pass	Pass	Pass	♠
Pass	3♦ ¹	Pass	♠
Pass	Pass	Pass	

1. Limit raise with three spades

In the Women's Teams playoff, Jovy was unwilling to run the risk of missing a vulnerable game. West led the diamond jack, Rusinow. East contributed an encouraging seven, so declarer won in hand and led the heart ten, won by East for a second diamond play. Smederevac guessed well to rise with the ace and ruff a heart, then play three rounds of clubs from the top, discarding a heart from hand, then ruffing low in hand as East produced the queen. Now Jovy exited with a diamond as East pitched a heart, ruffed the heart continuation in hand as East followed with the ace, and had reached this ending.

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

Now a spade toward dummy's queen left West on lead, unable to do anything helpful. She played a heart and declarer took her three trumps separately.

Best Contribution to the Daily Bulletin (BR)

Despite their natural disappointment at failing to reach the final, the French women made no mistake in the play-off for the bronze. They were in sparkling form,

as this little gem by Véronique Bessis and Catherine d'Ovidio illustrates:

Board 13. Dealer North. All Vul.

	♠ 7 3		
	♥ K 8		
	♦ 10 9 8 7 6 5		
	♣ 6 5 2		
♠ Q J 9 6		♠ 10 8 4 2	
♥ 10		♥ 6 5 2	
♦ K Q		♦ A J 2	
♣ K 10 9 8 7 4		♣ A Q J	
	♠ A K 5		
	♥ A Q J 9 7 4 3		
	♦ 4 3		
	♣ 3		
West	North	East	South
Joel	d'Ovidio	Sokolow	Bessis
—	Pass	1♣	4♥
Double	Pass	4♠	Pass
Pass	Pass		

One could engage in a lengthy discussion about what East should do when West doubles. My simplistic view is that West has doubled for takeout and East should act accordingly. With four hearts being stone cold, bidding four spades was certainly the right thing to do on this deal.

South led her singleton club and declarer won in hand and played three rounds of diamonds. South ruffed in with the five of spades and declarer discarded dummy's heart. Now South played the ace of hearts and declarer ruffed in dummy and played a spade, South winning with the king and playing a heart. Declarer had to ruff, but now if she played a spade South would win and cash a heart trick, so she played a club to her ace. South ruffed with the ace of spades and played a third heart. As declarer ruffed in dummy, North discarded her remaining club, so when declarer played a club she was able to ruff in and defeat the contract.

'Curious hand', said Oscar the Owl, 'both defenders scored a ruff in the same suit.'

Declarer can get home by playing a club after ruffing the first heart. South ruffs and plays a heart, but declarer ruffs in dummy and plays another club.

Hardly a Senior Moment (BR)

Gunnar Hallberg was full of praise for the defence his partner encountered on the following deal from their Senior Teams match against Team POL-CH. (See next page.)

Against Hans Göthe's three no trump, Ilnicki led the club three (fourth highest) and Stefan Cabaj smoothly inserted the jack. When Göthe took the trick the contract could no longer be made.

Board 22. Dealer East. EW Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Ilnicki</i>	<i>Hallberg</i>	<i>Cabaj</i>	<i>Göthe</i>
—	—	1♣	1♦
Pass	♥	Pass	3NT
Pass	Pass		

Declarer had six diamonds, one club and one heart, but when he crossed to the diamond ten to lead a spade towards his king Cabaj went up with the ace and ran the club suit. In the other room three no trump made nine tricks on a spade lead.

Open Teams Final (BR)

The following deal was an extremely interesting play problem that was solved at neither table.

Board 3. Dealer South. EW Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Lev</i>	<i>M. Bessis</i>	<i>Pszczola</i>	<i>T. Bessis</i>
—	—	—	Pass
Pass	1♣	1NT	Pass
2♣	Double	2♠	Pass
4♠	Pass	Pass	Pass

Obviously, a diamond lead will sink the contract trivially, but when your partner doubles Stayman, you normally obey his strong suggestion. Thomas Bessis started with the nine of clubs, ducked in dummy and by Michel Bessis. Jacek Pszczola took the king of clubs and played a low heart to dummy's ace. The club ten was taken by North's ace, and the heart jack went to declarer's king. Now declarer played the queen of clubs from hand and South ruffed with the spade jack, declarer

discarding a diamond from dummy. The queen of hearts was ruffed and a diamond went to the king and ace. North played the jack of clubs, ruffed in dummy, and declarer ruffed another heart. The heart suit was good, but declarer had to lose another trump trick. He lost two minor-suit aces and two trump tricks for one down.

West	North	East	South
<i>Smirnov</i>	<i>Rodwell</i>	<i>Piekarek</i>	<i>Meckstroth</i>
—	—	—	Pass
Pass	1NT	Pass	Pass
2♣ ¹	Double	4♠	Pass
Pass	Pass		

1. Majors

Meckstroth, too, led the nine of clubs, this time covered by dummy's ten and Rodwell's ace. The club jack came back, declarer winning the queen. Piekarek played the heart king and a heart to the ace followed by a heart ruff, North discarding the diamond nine. Declarer cashed the ace and king of spades and was headed for plus 620 before he slipped up by playing the king of clubs, pitching a diamond from dummy. He was able to ruff his low club in dummy and establish the long heart with a second ruff, but when he played a diamond to dummy's king, Rodwell won, cashed the queen of trumps and had a winning club to cash (he had discarded the diamond queen on the fourth round of hearts).

Had Piekarek ruffed his low club before playing the king, he could have ruffed the long heart good, and if Rodwell had discarded the queen of diamonds on the fourth round of hearts, declarer could then play low diamonds from both hands to establish the king. If Rodwell retained the ace-queen of diamonds, then Piekarek could ruff his good king of clubs with dummy's spade ten. Rodwell could ruff the heart at the end but would have to surrender a trick to dummy's king of diamonds for the tenth trick.



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IBPA Column Service

Tim Bourke, Canberra

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573. Dealer South. E-W Vul.

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

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

1. Michaels

West's cue bid of two diamonds promised at least 5-5 in the majors and, at this vulnerability, a fair hand. One of the consequences of making such an overcall is that, if your side does not declare, the opposition needs to determine only three more cards to have a full count of the hand. When that is done, the opposition's declarer can make a play that would be extraordinary without the two-suited overcall.

West led the king of hearts, taken by declarer in dummy with the ace. After ruffing a heart at trick two, declarer continued with a low trump to dummy's nine to ruff dummy's last heart with his ace. Next declarer played a low trump to dummy's ten. When West discarded a spade, declarer judged that West's most likely original distribution was 5=5=1=2. This prompted him to make the unusual play of the king of clubs followed by a low club to East's seven, his eight and West's nine.

This left West on play with only major suit cards remaining. If he played a heart, declarer would be given a ruff-sluff; a spade would allow the queen to score. So, hoping for the best, West exited with a low spade. Dummy played low and declarer took East's ten with the queen. After drawing East's last trump, declarer had the rest; he made two spades, a heart, two heart ruffs in hand, four trumps in dummy and three clubs.

As West began with the nine-three of clubs, it would have done East no good to play the ten or jack on the second round of clubs. Then, declarer would win the queen of clubs and later finesse East's remaining club honour. He would make a spade, a heart, two heart ruffs, four trumps and four clubs.

Notice that as West promised at least 5-5 in the majors and had shown up with a singleton trump, this approach would succeed whenever West had a singleton or doubleton nine, ten or jack in clubs.

574. Dealer North. E-W Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
—	1♣	Pass	2♠ ¹
Pass	2NT ²	Pass	3♠
Pass	4♦ ³	Pass	4♥
Pass	4NT	Pass	5♣
Pass	7♠	Pass	Pass
Pass			

1. Fit showing, 12+ HCP
2. Asking for further information
3. Sets spades as trumps

Once South promised at least six spades with his first rebid, a grand slam was always in the offing.

West led the king of hearts and declarer counted twelve tricks. He saw that there were two main chances. The first was trumps being 2-2; accordingly, he played the ace of spades and another to the nine. When that failed, three or more clubs with East would allow a ruff of the fourth club in the dummy if needed.

Declarer saw a better chance, however: a dummy reversal. He ruffed a heart, then used a club entry and two diamond entries to ruff dummy's last two hearts and finally, the third diamond.

After all the ruffing, dummy remained with the spade queen and two high clubs. One of the clubs was the entry to draw East's last trump and South then claimed his contract.

It's a close-run thing, but an alternative (also successful) would have been to win the heart ace, cash the spade ace, then cross on clubs twice immediately to ruff two hearts; then use the two diamond entries to ruff a heart and a diamond. As long as declarer has kept a trump lower than the queen in hand, he would then be able to cross in trumps to draw the last. This plan would prevent a defender discarding from a doubleton club on the third or fourth heart or the third diamond.

575. Dealer South. E-W Vul.

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

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

1. 5+-card suit

Perhaps three no trump would have been a better choice than four spades here, but declarer faced the problem of making ten tricks in spades after West led the queen of clubs. The opening lead meant that declarer could not afford to lose the lead. If he did, the defenders would cash two clubs and two hearts.

The main chance was to take the trump finesse and make five trumps, the ace of clubs, and, if the diamonds behave, five diamonds. While a successful trump finesse and a 3-2 trump was a given to make the contract, declarer can succeed when East has four diamonds too.

All that was required was a little forethought, as this declarer proceeded to show. He took the club lead with the ace and crossed to dummy with a low diamond to the queen. Next he played a low trump to the jack and, after that held, he cashed the king of trumps. When all followed he was almost home. However, he was at the crossroads. If he drew the last trump, he would need diamonds to be 3-2. Instead he cashed the king of diamonds before drawing the last trump. If diamonds were 3-2, declarer would cross to dummy with the ace of trumps and claim an overtrick.

When West discarded a heart on the king of diamonds, declarer played a diamond to the ace and ruffed a diamond. This established the thirteenth diamond in dummy. Declarer drew the last trump with dummy's ace and cashed the good diamond; he made five trumps, four diamonds and the ace of clubs.

576. Dealer North. Neither Vul.

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

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

1. Preemptive

West led the two of spades and declarer was faced with the problem of making an eleventh trick to go with his ten winners in the red suits. Declarer called for the jack of spades at trick one and ruffed East's queen of spades. All that declarer could do now was to play for the ace of clubs to be onside. When West produced the ace of clubs the defence had three tricks.

"That was unlucky," bleated declarer "I would have made eleven tricks if West had had the queen of spades or East the ace of clubs."

"Luck had nothing to do with it," North replied. "The real danger on this hand was that West began with the ace of clubs. In that case East would, as here, have the ace and queen of spades. Consequently, you should avoid playing the jack or king of spades at trick one. You should play low instead of the jack at trick one."

"Suppose you play the eight. East covers with the nine and you ruff in hand. You play a trump to dummy's seven and lead the king of spades. East covers with the ace and again you ruff in hand. After re-entering dummy with a trump to the ace, you lead the jack of spades. East has to cover with the queen and you ruff for the third time in your hand. Next you cash the heart suit, ending in dummy, and lead the six of spades. East has to follow with a low card and you discard a club from hand. This loser-on-loser play sees West win the trick with the ten of spade and find himself endplayed. He must either play a club, allowing you to score your king, or give you a ruff-and-discard. Either way, you make eleven tricks."

MICHELLE BRUNNER

31 December 1953 - 24 June 2011, Manchester, UK.



There are those that you feel honoured to call friend, and Michelle Brunner was right there, at the top of my list.

Michelle's life revolved around bridge. She was a true expert – a World Bridge Federation Life Master and an English Bridge Union Premier Grand Master – and arguably Britain's best woman player.

She was born on 31st December 1953, the middle of three daughters of a North London family. Her initiation into bridge came from her family, and she spent many happy hours honing her newly-acquired skills in the Sixth Form at the Henrietta Barnett School, before going to Manchester University to study Italian. The university had a thriving bridge club, which interested Michelle rather more than her Italian studies, and she left university before completing her degree to work for Thomas Cook, where she gave sterling service for 17 years.

In the 70's, Michelle and John Holland became partners, in life as well as bridge, though they did marry some three years ago – a closely kept secret, only revealed during the last few days of her life.

In 1977 Michelle entered the women's trials, partnering Rosie Hudson, and their third place brought her first 'cap.' Later that year they took the Bronze Medal in the Common Market Ladies Pairs, and the Gold Medal in the Ladies Teams. Michelle went on to represent Great Britain and England in some 40 international events, bringing back a host of medals of assorted hues.

The highlight of her illustrious career was winning the Venice Cup – the Women's World Teams Championships - in 1985, partnering Gill Scott-Jones. She has twice won the European Women's Teams Championship; first in 1979, partnering Rosie Hudson, and then again in 2000, this time with her close friend Rhona Goldenfield. She and Rhona were adjudged to be the best ladies pair from all the participating countries.

Michelle has also played four times on the England Open Team in Camrose matches (the Home Countries Internationals) in partnership with John Holland. And when the Commonwealth Games were held in Manchester in 2002, she and Rhona played on England's Open Team.

As would be expected from a player of Michelle's stature, she has won many national titles, including the Hubert Phillips Bowl (six times) and the Portland National Mixed Pairs Championship three times – a record – all in partnership with John Holland.

In 1995, Michelle turned professional, forming a very successful mobile school of bridge with John Holland and Kevin Comrie. She was an excellent teacher, and her classes and seminars were hugely popular. As well as writing a regular column for *Bridge Plus*, she penned two books *Bridge With Brunner: Acol Bidding for Improvers* and *Acol Bidding for Budding Experts*.

Michelle never let her successes go to her head – she was outgoing, bubbly, friendly and helpful to all – and with a great sense of humour. And always buying presents for her friends.

In 2001 she overcame breast cancer, but it seems that a residue remained undetected in her system. Although unwell before the World Championships in Shanghai in 2007, she insisted on going, and there produced a defence that has been the talk of the bridge world ever since. This won her the International

Bridge Press Association's *Gidwani Family Trust Defence of the Year Award*. And she won this prestigious award again the following year.

On her return from Shanghai, Michelle was diagnosed with terminal cancer. The initial prognosis was for six months – but Michelle fought for her life like the champion that she was. She gave up work and lived life to the full, taking in concerts and the theatre, and rekindling her interest in playing the piano – she had an excellent ear. She continued to play in bridge events, both at home and around Europe, even going to Australia earlier this year to play in the 50th Gold Coast Congress, where she reached the final of the teams.

Since her diagnosis, she has also won two further Camrose caps in partnership with John Holland and was thrilled when John won the last two World Seniors Teams Championships.

Sadly, after approaching four years of fighting tooth and nail against it, the cancer finally claimed her, on 24th June 2011, aged 57. There was hardly a dry eye at her funeral.

She leaves her husband, John Holland, and her two sisters, Susan and Gillian.

In each issue of the English Bridge Union's bi-monthly magazine *English Bridge* there is a feature: *A day in the life of...* April 2010 featured Michelle Brunner.

This was what Michelle wrote:

"If, at the tender age of 56, you could get up at any time of the day you fancied, go to bed when you felt like it, watch television during the night if you really wanted to, spend the afternoon reading or seeing a film, play duplicate (bridge) or go to the theatre every evening, go on lots of holidays, meet your friends for lunch every day and be able to eat whatever you desired, you would be forgiven for thinking you were in heaven.

Alas, retirement did come to me early but with a heavy price to pay. In 2007, I was diagnosed with breast cancer metastases after first contracting the disease in 2001. Since then my daily routine has changed dramatically and I was advised to reduce my workload and live every day to the full.

That is exactly what I have done and although my days are often governed by my state of health, and the necessity to visit the doctor or hospital for regular tests and scans, I am actually having an amazing time!"

Maureen Hiron, Málaga, Spain



UNDER CONTROL

The South American Championships
Ana Roth & Fernando Lema, Buenos Aires

The South American Championships (WBF Zone III Trials) to qualify for the World Bridge Championships in Veldhoven (NED) were held from Friday 10 to Saturday 18 June, 2011 in Asuncion, Paraguay. The tournament qualified two teams in each category, Open, Ladies and Seniors, for the World Championships.

Ninety-six boards were played in all semifinals. In one of them, Brazil (which won the Open title and now is the 2011 South American Champion) faced Venezuela; in the other semifinal, Argentina faced Chile. Brazil was always ahead, but that was not the story between Chile and Argentina. Although the match was very close until the end, in the fourth of six sets, Chile developed an almost decisive score, when it won 55 to 28 IMPs.

One of the most beautiful hands in the tournament was an excellent small slam played by the Chilean Grandmaster Marcelo Caracci.

Board 55. Dealer South. Both Vul.

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

In the Closed Room...

West	North	East	South
Angeleri	Pacareu	Villegas	B Robles
—	—	—	Pass
3♦	Pass	3NT	Pass
Pass	Pass		

Villegas received a club lead and made 12 tricks for plus 690. At the other table:

West	North	East	South
Caracci	Pellegrini	JM Robles	Camberos
—	—	—	Pass
1♦	2♥	Double	Pass
3♦	Pass	4NT	Pass
5♠	Pass	6♦	Pass
Pass	Pass		

Caracci used a different approach to open the hand. He started with one diamond, which encouraged his partner José Manuel Robles to bid a small slam.

Carlos Pellegrini's lead was the ace of hearts and he continued with a heart at trick two. A review of West's tricks gives us 11: two spades, one heart, six diamonds and two clubs. With the divided spade honours and the club queen wrong, a first glance makes it seem that West will not be able to make 12 tricks to fulfill his contract, but often in bridge, looks can be deceiving.

Caracci has enviable technique, and gave us a clinic on how to play these kinds of hands without trying a doubtful finesse. After winning the second trick, West began to run the diamond suit, playing the four top honours from hand. He arrived at:

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

Now when West played the eight of diamonds, North discarded the heart ten, dummy the club six and South was in trouble...

If he throws a spade, West plays the ace, king and ruffs a spade, setting up the ten for his twelfth trick, so he decided to discard his club seven. But Caracci, totally in control of the hand, played the ace and king of clubs, and when the queen appeared, South claimed 12 tricks and a 1370 score: Twelve IMPs for Chile.

Congratulations and Good Luck! Brazil and Chile, Zone III representatives in the next Bermuda Bowl.

The qualifiers for Veldhoven were:

Open Teams

- 1* Brasil: Gabriel Chagas, Marcelo Amaral, Marcelo Castello Branco, Diego Brenner, Miguel Villas Boas and João Paulo Campos, Ernesto d'Orsi (NPC).
- 2* Chile: Benjamin Robles, Joaquin Pacareu, Jose Manuel Robles, Marcelo Caracci, Rafael de la Barrera (PC) and Roberto Garcia

Women's Teams

- 1* Brasil: Leda Pain, Isabella Vargas de Andrade, Sylvia Figueira de Melo, Paula Abranches David, Heloisa Nogueira and Graça Poncioni, Amilcar Magalhães (NPC).
- 2* Venezuela: Morella Pacheco, Luz Ortega, Pnina Tache, Alisa Douer (PC), Ivy Smith and Teresa Loschi.

Senior Teams:

- 1* Brasil: Claudio Andrade, Fernando Cysneiros, Amilcar Magalhães, Mauro Moreira, Gustavo Figueira de Melo and João De Deus Silva Neto (PC).
- 2* Argentina: Marcelo Lernes, Martin Monsegur, Adolfo Madala, Carlos de Miguel, Jorge Zanalda and Jorge Gueglio, Roberto Vigil (CNP).

South American Open Pairs

- 1* Benjamin Robles (CHI) & Joaquin Pacareu (CHI)
- 2* Leda Pain (BRA) & Fernando Lema (ARG)
- 3* Miguel Villas Boas (BRA) & João Paulo Campos (BRA)

Mrs. Cristina Felippo (PAR) was the Organizing Committee President.



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6th AFRICAN BRIDGE CHAMPIONSHIPS

June 18-23, 2011

Hammamet, Tunisia

Dilip Gidwani, Mumbai

The 6th African Zonal Trials to qualify for the World Teams Championships 2011, to be played at Veldhoven, were held in the sprawling and gorgeous Hotel le Royal, Hammamet, Tunisia. Moncef Daghmouri, President, Tunisian Bridge Federation, Bernard Pascal, President ABF and Jean Claude Beineix from the WBF did a wonderful job to run this championship as a world class event. Egypt qualified in all three categories while South Africa qualified in the Open, Morocco in the women's and Réunion in the Seniors. Star players on show were Walid el-Ahmady and Tarek Sadek from Egypt and Craig Gower-Alon Apteker from South Africa. Here are some deals of interest from the Championships.

Morocco v. Tunisia (Ladies). Round 12 of 15. Board 4. Dealer West. Both Vul.

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

The Moroccan ladies were unfortunate to lose IMPs on this deal. Both rooms played five diamonds from East. In one room, after North passed throughout the auction and South pre-empted in spades, Guerraoui for Morocco got the spade king lead to North's ace and North returned the ten of diamonds. Guerraoui

drew trumps, cashed her ace and king of hearts, pitching a spade from dummy. She now eliminated the hearts and exited with her last spade, hoping for a ruff and sluff or a club return away from the king. However, South won the spade and returned the club ten and declarer was down one as North had the king. Guerraoui played well for the throw-in, which unfortunately does not work on this layout.

Perhaps better might have been to throw North in on the fourth heart, or more simply...

Sallemi for Tunisia also played in five diamonds, but the difference here was that the Moroccan North had opened one heart and South had made a weak jump in spades. This made it easy for declarer to play North for the club king and lose only one spade and one club as the defenders could not get to their second spade trick. The spade blockage makes 3NT a working contract as well.

RSA v. Morocco (Open). Round 9. Board 25. Dealer North. EW Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
—	Gower		Apteker
	Pass	1♣	1♠
Double	2♦	2♥	Pass
2NT	Pass	Pass	Pass

Gower-Apteker defended well here. Gower led the spade five to Apteker's nine and declarer's jack. Declarer played the queen of clubs, ducked by South, who won the second club. Back came the jack of diamonds! Declarer ducked, unable to read the position, and Craig overtook with the queen to push back another spade. Declarer now had no way to recover and lost three spades, two diamonds and the the ace of clubs. Down one and a 5-IMP swing to South Africa as the Moroccans conceded 100 in the other room.

Gower-Apteker were on show a few boards later as well, where a superb natural auction led to a brilliant slam. (See next page.)

Four diamonds as a second-suit slam try is an interesting choice of bid from South (and of system); a heart splinter after the two-spade raise makes it hard to find the diamond fit.

RSA v. Morocco (Open). Round 9. Board 29. Dealer North. Both Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
—	Gower	Pass	Apteker
Pass	Pass	Pass	♠
Pass	2♠	Pass	4♦
Pass	5♦	Pass	6♦
Pass	Pass	Pass	

Gower suggested that, when using splinters, North could respond 5NT after the splinter of four hearts, suggesting another place to play in one of the minors. North-South could thus explore for a 4-4 minor fit. If North has a good five- or six-card minor, he could bid it directly over the splinter. The diamond slam is superior to the spade slam because on a normal 3-2 diamond break (and on some defences, a 3-2 break in either pointed suit), the club finesse is not required. None of the other tables got to a slam and Gower-Apteker earned their team a big swing here too.

Bolder intervention and a slight system difference led to a game swing on the following deal...

RSA v Egypt (Open). Round 10. Board 7. Dealer South. Both Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Amiry	Donde	Sadek	Stephens
—	—	—	♥
Pass	♠	2♦	Double ¹
3♦	3♠	Pass	4♥
Pass	4♠	Pass	Pass
Double	Pass	Pass	Pass

1. Support double: precisely three spades

Stephens and Donde had the perfect methods for these cards. When Stephens bid four hearts to offer a choice of games, Donde knew where he wanted to play. So did Amiry as West!

Sadek led the diamond ace and shifted to a club. West took the ace and went back to diamonds to knock out dummy's entry to the hearts. From here Donde had an easy crossruff for 10 tricks when the heart king fell doubleton on his right. Plus 790.

Interestingly, in order to beat four spades, East must continue diamonds at trick two to knock out an entry to the dummy.

At the other table...

West	North	East	South
Eber	el-Ahmady	Bosenberg	Sherif
—	—	—	♥
Pass	♠	3♦	3♥
4♦	Pass	Pass	4♥
Pass	Pass	Double	Pass
Pass	Pass		

Here, the three-diamond overcall made it more difficult to locate the spade fit and Sherif bid what he thought he could make. Eber led a MUD four of diamonds to Bosenberg's ace and the two of clubs went back to West's ace. The defence then took a spade ruff, allowing declarer no chance. Plus 200 and 14 IMPs to South Africa.

The qualifiers...

Bermuda Bowl

South Africa – Apteker, Bosenberg, Donde, Eber, Gower, Stephens

Egypt – el-Ahmady, Ahmed, Amiry, Pascal, Sadek, Sherif

Venice Cup

Egypt – Badawi, Homsy, Hondy, Khalil, Khouri, Wattar
Morocco – Ayad, Benchemsi, Gerraoui, Hachimi, Lahlou, Raffalli

D'Orsi Bowl

Egypt – Askalani, Kamel, Khalid, Khedr, Samie, Shaker
Réunion – Blanc, Galaup, Méjean, Mélin, Mondon, Vigna



**Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia June 15-25, 2011
Barbara Travis, Adelaide**

It used to be called the PABF Championships. Before that it was the Far East Championships. Now it's the Asia Pacific Bridge Federation (APBF) Championships and it is three tournaments in one. Firstly, the APBF Championships themselves, in Open, Women's, Seniors, Under-26, Under-21 and Pairs categories. Then there

are playoff for World Championship representation for each of Zones 6 and 7 in Open, Women's and Seniors.

The APBF Championships and Trials are unique in another way – the format and structure. All teams entered from both Zones play a double round robin. Then three teams qualify to represent Zone 6 and two to represent Zone 7 in the World Championships.

The Zone 6 team finishing highest in the double round robin qualifies as Team 1. The next two highest-placing Zone 6 teams play off; the winner is team 2; the fourth and fifth-placed teams also play off, then the winner of that match plays the loser of the two versus three match – that winner is Team 3.; the team winning the round robin qualifies automatically; teams two and three play off and the winner becomes team two; teams four and five play off and the winner of that match plays the loser of the 2 v. 3 playoff for the third spot. If Australia and/or New Zealand comes in the top five, the next-placed Asia Pacific Zone team moves up to a playoff spot.

For Zone 7, the first-placed team qualifies and second and third play off for the second spot. The the winner plays the highest-ranked team for the Zone 7 Championship.

Qualifying is further complicated in the Seniors, where multiple entries from one NBO are accepted; however, only the top-ranked team from any NBO is eligible for the playoffs and Zone representation in the World Championships. I don't know who designed the protocol, but it is indeed brilliant and, most importantly, fair!

Here is a deal from the Senior Championship where a lucky layout meant that an inferior game was destined to make, but...

Japan Yamada v. Australia (Seniors), Round Robin 2-10. Board 12. Dealer West. NS Vul.

♠ A K 10 7
 ♥ K 10 7 5
 ♦ A K 2
 ♣ J 6

♠ 8 6 4 3
 ♥ A Q 6
 ♦ 6
 ♣ A 10 9 8 5

♠ J 9
 ♥ J 9 8 4
 ♦ J 10 9 8
 ♣ K Q 2

West	North	East	South
Yoshida	Richman	Hirata	Braithwaite
Pass	1♦	Pass	1♥
Pass	2NT	Pass	3NT
Pass	Pass	Pass	

Bobby Richman declared three no trump and received a club lead. You will notice that (a.) four hearts is a better contract, and (b.) the fortunate spade and diamond positions allow three no trump to make once the heart finesse fails.

Richman won the nine of clubs with the king in dummy and played the heart nine and let it run. Makoto Hirata won with the ace! He then took the ace of clubs and exited with a club. Richman, of course, took the heart finesse again, expecting nine easy tricks, and the roof fell in.

Qualifying in the Zone 6 Open Teams were China, Japan and Singapore; in the Women's Teams, China led the way, followed by Indonesia and Taiwan; the Senior Teams qualifiers were Indonesia, Japan (Yoshida) and Hong Kong.

In Zone 7, New Zealand won the playoffs in the Open and Women's, while Australia won the Seniors. Both those countries qualified in all three events for Veldhoven.

In the non-qualifying events, Singapore won the Under-26 and Australia the Under-21, while Liam Milne and Michael Whibley (Australia) took the Asia Pacific Open Pairs.

RESULTS

OPEN TEAMS

- 1st CHINA – Chen Gang (NPC), Li Jie, Liu Jing, Shi Miao, Hou Xu, Shi Haojun, Lian Ruoyi
- 2nd AUSTRALIA – David Thompson (NPC), Ishmael Del'Monte, Hugh Grosvenor, Tony Nunn, Sartaj Hans, Nabil Edgton, Paul Gosney
- 3rd JAPAN – Masayuki Ino, Tadashi Imakura, Tadashi Teramoto, Hiroshi Kaku, Kazuo Furuta, Hiroki Yokoi

WOMEN'S TEAMS

- 1st CHINA – Ju Chuancheng (NPC), Sun Ming, Wang Hongli, Gu Ling, Lu Yan, Sun Yanhul, Feng Xuefeng
- 2nd INDONESIA – Bert Polii (NPC), Lusje O Bojoh, Julita Joice Tueje, Kristina Wahyu Murniati, Suci Amita Dewi, Riantini, Fera Damayanti
- 3rd JAPAN – Yoichi Ito (NPC), Natsuko Nishida, Midori Sakamoto, Kyoko Shimamura, Kazuko Banno, Megumi Takasaki, Akiko Yanagisawa

SENIOR TEAMS

- 1st INDONESIA – Tanudjian Sugiarto (NPC), Munawar Sawiruddin, Henky Lasut, Eddy Manoppo, Michael Bambang Hartono, Yopie Arianto, Donald Gustaaf Tuerah
- 2nd JAPAN (YAMADA) – Tadashi Yoshida (PC), Kyoko Ohno, Akihiko Yamada, Yoshiyuki Nakamura, Makoto Hirata

Okay, I should have passed one spade doubled. However, I thought if spades were 4=4=4=1 around the table, we might only beat it a trick or two. As it happens, if I lead a trump, we can hold Wolffie to four tricks for plus 500. That, however, was not my last error on the board.

Against my three no trump, Morse led the spade six(!); I put in the ten and perked up when it held. My heart spots were very tempting, so I tried a heart to the eight and ten. Morse continued hearts and I won the ace over Wolff's jack. A heart to dummy's nine presented Wolff with an unpleasant discarding issue. He resolved it by discarding the diamond ten, not best, but he did not know the club layout.

On the king of hearts, Wolff's problems continued. It's amazing that with such a poor hand, one can still have discarding problems. This time he dumped a club and I did as well. I cashed the ace and king of spades and the defenders both followed as I threw a club and a diamond. We were down to:

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

I tried the queen of clubs and let it run to Morse's king. Unfortunately for me, Morse did not win the king. He ducked! Had he won the club king and exited with a club, the third club would have squeezed him in one suit (the diamond suit was an almost-open book now, thanks to the bidding and play to date). If he keeps the ace-queen jack, I put him in with a low one to score the king in the endgame. If he throws the queen or jack, when I play the king, it pins the nine and eventually builds up the eight in dummy.

When the club queen held the trick, I had no convenient exit from the dummy. I can squeeze myself immediately by leading a spade, then letting the defence endplay me in hand to hold me to one more trick. Alternatively, I could lead a diamond and let the defence squeeze me or run the diamonds. Or so I thought. Annoying.

I had not counted on Morse ducking the club from doubleton king and thought he had another low one, thus one fewer diamond. So I foolishly led a diamond to the king when ducking the diamond would have been successful. That was one down for minus 50.

As our teammates had overcalled one no trump with the North hand and eventually had played in two spades doubled three down for minus 500, our result meant a loss of 11 IMPs. That helped Morse's team beat us in the semifinals.

All was not lost, however, as we then dropped into the *répéchage* group for the USA2 representative. On the following board, Milt Rosenberg played three no trump very well indeed against my teammates.

Board 28. Dealer West. NS Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Bates	Rosenberg	Wold	Cohen
♠	3NT	Pass	Pass
Pass			

With only three spades, Rosenberg did not bother with a takeout double and Wold led the spade three. Declarer let the jack hold and Roger Bates, with no semblance of an entry to his spades, shifted to a heart, trying to do something useful for the defence. Rosenberg won and led a low diamond to the jack, a very effective play. When West could not beat the diamond jack, Rosenberg simply cashed his heart and club winners, then endplayed East with the fourth club. Wold had to surrender a trick to the king of diamonds for declarer's ninth trick.

This was a halved board as a diamond was led at the other table after West had passed as dealer.

My teammate Eddie Wold's brilliant play on the next board helped us beat the Woolsey team.

Board 29. Dealer North. Both Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Bates	Rosenberg	Wold	Cohen
—	Pass	1♦	Pass
♥	Pass	1NT	Pass
3NT	Pass	Pass	Pass

Mark Cohen (South) could see from his own hand that his partner Milt Rosenberg had a bust, so found the very good lead of a spade. While not giving anything away, such a lead is often revealing to an astute declarer such as Wold. He won the ace and tried a club toward the queen – Cohen won the king and continued spades. Wold won the king, then cashed the club queen and the spade queen. These cards were left:

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

Notice that Cohen, with a very difficult discard on the third spade, had pitched his 'idle' club jack, which was due to fall under the ace in any case. Wold had built up a pretty good construction of Cohen's hand at this point – he came off dummy with a low diamond and put in the eight! With the black suit layout as it was he had six tricks there and needed three more from the reds. Whatever Cohen led now would surrender that third red-suit trick. When he exited with the diamond king, Wold could lead a heart to establish his ninth trick. Had North put in the diamond ten on the first round of the suit, it would not have helped the defence.

The USA teams for Veldhoven will be:

USA1 - Richie Schwartz-Lew Finkel, Bobby Wolff-Dan Morse, Arnie Fisher-Fred Hamilton

USA2 - Gaylor Kastle-Larry Kozlove, Peter Boyd-Steve Robinson, Neil Chambers-John Schermer.

The women's trials were held at the same time and venue. Their reps are: USA1 - Sylvia Moss-Judi Radin, JoAnna Stansby-Migry Zur-Campanile (Lynn Deas-Beth Palmer augmented) and USA2 - Geeske Joel-Tobi Sokolow, Janice Seamon-Molson-Debbie Rosenberg, Jill Meyers-Jill Levin



Correspondence

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

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Dear John,

I am curious as to how page 12 was constructed in the latest IBPA Bulletin (No. 557). Surely every reader will assume that whole page (except the first diagram) was written by me – but it most definitely was not. You have added Rigal's write-up of his deal to my article. Please print a correction in the next edition.

Regards, Phillip Alder, Hobe Sound, FL

Consider it done. As I replied to Phillip, it was all my fault (of course!). In essence, it was a cut-and-paste error. – Ed.

Dear John,

We are pleased to announce that the new IMSA (International Mind Sports Association) Web site is now activated. You can visit it right now at www.imsaworld.com.

Kind regards,

Christine Francin, Paris cfrancin@live.fr

Hi John,

I'm looking for Bridge Writers. **Vu-Bridge** is acting as an Editor to publish prepared bridge problems online on the Internet. Of course, there will be copyright fees paid to the author. I hope you can pass this information to IBPA members and writers.

Here is some information about Vu-Bridge: Vu-Bridge is the all new, electronic Autobridge revival. With Vu-Bridge, user can play prepared boards and bridge problems with comments by experts. The link: www.vubridge.com

Regards, Didier Lévy, France

Hi John,

I have two new items, a book (***The Talk of the Table***) and an audio CD (***Talking Bridge***) on www.larryco.com - I would love to have them mentioned in an upcoming issue. Thanks.

Larry Cohen, Boca Raton, FL