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

Bulletin No. 599

December 10, 2014

Editorial

The opinions expressed here are solely those of the editor do not necessarily represent those of the IBPA Executive or its membership.

Many complaints reached these ears regarding the Conditions of Contest and format of the Rosenblum Cup (the World Knockout Teams Championship) in Sanya. Briefly, here's how it worked: 123 teams entered. They played a one-day Swiss to divide them into an A and B Semifinal. The top 27 teams from A were joined by the top 5 from B in the Knockout phase. The KO matches were 42 boards in length until the final, which was 56. We agree, this is ridiculously inadequate for a major world team championship, at all levels of the competition. It happened because the WBF began the Championships with seven days of Mixed Teams and Pairs play, elevating those events to unmerited equality with the Open events.

Two major improvements need to be made: (i) returning to the format (or one similar to it) developed by Edgar Kaplan in 1978 for the first Rosenblum (knockouts all the way should a team continue to win; Swiss for those teams exiting the main bracket of the KO; semifinal qualifiers were three from the Winners Bracket and one from the Losers Bracket), and; (ii) increasing the number of boards played to make the outcomes less random.

Here's my scheme (starting on Day 1 of the Championships and making 3x20 board sessions per day).

Day 1: The field is divided into groups of four (with groups of five to handle an inconvenient number of entries). All teams play a one-day KO of 3x20 boards (fewer in five-team sections, which play two days to qualify three teams). The winners advance to the third day.

Day 2: The losers from Day 1 play a second KO - the winners advance to make a 96-team field and the losers are relegated to the Repêchage (one loss) Bracket.

Day 3: Winners Bracket reduces from 96 to 48 teams. Losers bracket reduces to 16 teams.

Day 4: Winners Bracket goes from 48 to 24. Losers Bracket (16 + 48) reduces to 8 teams.

Day 5: Winners go from 24 to 12. Losers (8 + 24) reduce to 4 teams.

Day 6: Winners go from 12 to 6. Losers (4 + 12) go to 2.

Day 7: Winners go from 6 to 3. Losers (2 + 6) go 1.

Day 8: Remaining winners (3) get the day off. Losers (1 + 3) reduce to a single team (as there are only two matches, the match length could be increased or the winner could get a session off.)

Day 9: Remaining winners plus the winner of the Repêchage play the semifinals.

Day 10: Final.

An alternative (but a less-satisfactory one) would be to make the Repêchage a Swiss format. In my scheme, all main-bracket KO matches would be at least 60 boards in length; Repêchage KO matches would be 20 boards long. The latter need to be shorter to cope with the number of teams entering the bracket from the main KO. Longer matches in the Repêchage would necessitate more days off (or shorter matches) in the main bracket and a longer event overall. (More on this in a later issue.)

Renewing your IBPA membership online - see page 3

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The International Bridge Press Association

IBPA ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING **Monday morning, 20th Oct 2014 – Sanya, China** **Minutes**

0. **Attendance:** 35 (see list below)

1. **Remembrance** of members deceased since last AGM: Tony Priday, Albert Dormer, Jens Auken, Guido Ferraro, Katalin Jakab, Ton Valk.

2. **Minutes** of the AGM held on 23rd September 2013 in Bali - Approved.

3. **Officers' Reports:** President, Chairman, Secretary (attached).

Patrick Jourdain welcomes a new Honour Member to IBPA: Yves Aubry, president of the EBL..

4. **Appointees' Reports:** Editor, Liaison Officer, Membership Secretary (attached).

Panos Gerontopoulos has notified his retirement as Liaison office. The President thanks him for his help in creating the agreement with the WBF. The executive will appoint a new Liaison Officer.

5. Treasurer

Accounts for the year ending 31st December 2013 was read out by Per Jannersten. The accounts follow the US system, which makes them hard to interpret. We are running at an annual deficit of around \$500, but have ample reserves to cover this. The accounts are approved.

Auditor's report for 2013 (Richard Fleet) read out by Per Jannersten – Approved.

Budget : presents a loss, but travel expenses are frequently left unneeded – Approved.

Proposal regarding subscriptions for the year 2015: they can remain unchanged – Approved.

6. Elections:

Officers for election: President: Patrick Jourdain (Wales) – Elected unopposed.

Chairman: Per Jannersten (Sweden); Exec Vice-President: Jan van Cleeff (Netherlands); Organisational Vice-President: Dilip Gidwani (India); Secretary: Herman De Wael (Belgium); Treasurer: Richard Solomon (New Zealand). - Elected unopposed

Proposed for annual election are:

Hon. Auditor: Richard Fleet – Approved.

Hon. General Counsel: David Harris (England) – Approved.

Patrick Jourdain thanks Bill Pencharz for his tenure as Counsel, especially when writing the new constitution some years ago.

David Harris adds a proviso to his position as Counsel: he is also Counsel to the WBF and in case of conflict of interest his first commitment will be to the WBF.

7. Election of Executive members:

Proposed for a 3-year election to 2017: John Carruthers (Canada); Barry Rigal (USA); Gavin Wolpert (USA). - Approved

The Executive announces that Jeremy Dhondy and Jerry Li (China) will be co-opted into the Executive.

8. The IBPA Annual Awards

Presentations are interspersed within the meeting, to accommodate players' and journalists' arrivals and leaving in order to play.

9. Any other competent business.

- A way ought to be found to enable members to pay for several years in advance. Currently, 3 years is mentioned, but even 10 years is possible. The website and annual notice in the Bulletin should mention those options.

- The calendar should appear in every edition of the Bulletin, especially in the Internet version.

- When trying to recruit new members, one should be able to loop up the existing ones. This is already published on the web-site.

Herman De Wael, secretary.

List of attendees to the AGM

Sevinc Atay, Ton Bakkeren, Dmitri Ballas, Marc van Beijsterveldt, Patrick Choy, Philippe Cronier, Marc De Pauw, Herman De Wael, Dilip Gidwani, David Harris, Mark Horton, Britt Jannersten, Per Jannersten, Patrick Jourdain, Laurie Kelso, Monika Kümmel, Slawek Latala, Fernando Lema, Alvin Levy, Marshall Lewis, Jerry Li, Brent Manley, Jan Martel, Micke Melander, Ernesto d'Orsi, Jacek Pszczola, Barry Rigal, Gianarrigo Rona, Stephen Smith, David Stern, Jan Swaan, GeO Tislevoll, Anna Maria Torlontano, John Wignall, Tadashi Yoshida (35)

Editor's Note: These minutes are an abridged version. The complete version was emailed to all members and uploaded to the website. The complete version includes the Officers' and Appointees' reports and the Accounts for 2013. The accounts will be published in a subsequent edition of the Bulletin.



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- You will get an email receipt, and will be asked if you wish to setup a PayPal account; you may ignore this step.

Screen displays to go along with these instructions can be viewed in the pdf sent with the December 2014 e-Bulletin. Note that minor variations may occur depending on the browser and the browser version you are using. **Dues are unchanged for 2015: US\$42 and an extra US\$45 for a printed copy of the Bulletin. Contact jdhondy@gmail.com for help.**



THE 13th CHAMPIONS CUP

Milan, Nov. 13-16

Jos Jacobs, Maarn, Netherlands
John Carruthers, Kingsville, ON

The Round Robin (JJ)

Round 1. G.S. Allegra (Italy) v. ASD Pescara (Italy)

This deal from the first-round battle between the two Italian teams was partly a matter of system, partly the choice of opening lead, and partly declarer's line of play.

Board 3. Dealer South. EW Vul.

<p>♠ A K 10 ♥ Q 10 8 ♦ K Q J 7 ♣ K 9 8</p> <p>♠ 9 6 3 ♥ A J 9 3 ♦ 10 8 ♣ Q J 7 5</p>	<p>♠ Q 8 5 2 ♥ K 7 6 4 ♦ 9 4 3 ♣ 10 2</p> <p>♠ J 7 4 ♥ 5 2 ♦ A 6 5 2 ♣ A 6 4 3</p>
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After two passes, Di Franco (North for G.S. Allegra, the defending champions) could open two diamonds and rebid two notrump to show a balanced 18-19, making it very unlikely that the other Italy's East (Freddio for ASD Pescara) would find the potentially-killing club lead. On a low spade lead, Di Franco, North, made an overtrick. The contract was makeable on any lead, but the ten-of-clubs lead would have given declarer a chance to misstep.

At the other table, Di Eusanio, North for Allegra, opened one diamond and South responded one notrump, which North raised to three. Duboin as West now found the six of spades lead, which gave the defence a better chance to beat the contract when played by the South hand. Declarer, Di Febo, won the lead with dummy's ace of spades, cashed four rounds of diamonds (West discarding the threes of hearts and spades, East the seven of hearts) ending in hand, and led a club to the nine. Bianchedi won with his ten and continued clubs to the four, jack and king. When the clubs proved to be 4-2 and the queen of spades was offside, declarer was one off; 10 IMPs to GS Allegra.

Declarer can always make three notrump by playing on hearts, and perhaps he should do so, for if the jack of hearts is wrong, the defence can always succeed if declarer loses a black-suit trick (but not after both defenders have shed a heart. Most Easts led a heart against North's three notrump, making it easier for declarer.

The last board of Round 2 looked like the most exciting of the tournament so far. It was no surprise, therefore, that we saw a few remarkable results.

Board 20. Dealer West. Both Vul.

<p>♠ — ♥ K J 10 2 ♦ 9 7 2 ♣ K Q 7 6 4 3</p> <p>♠ A 9 5 4 ♥ Q 6 4 ♦ 8 5 4 ♣ A 10 9</p>	<p>♠ K 10 8 6 3 ♥ 8 7 5 3 ♦ K Q 10 3 ♣ —</p> <p>♠ Q J 7 2 ♥ A 9 ♦ A J 6 ♣ J 8 5 2</p>
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Fredin/Upmark made five clubs doubled for plus 750 against France. However, Golebiowski-Starkowski for Ruch AZS Wroclaw (Poland) registered one of the more spectacular results by scoring plus 1000 in their five clubs redoubled against Pescara.

In the Monaco-England match, there was drama at both tables:

West	North	East	South
<i>Gold</i>	<i>Helgemo</i>	<i>Forrester</i>	<i>Helness</i>
Pass	Pass	1♠	Pass
2♦ ¹	3♣	Pass	3NT
Double	Pass	4♣	Double
4♠	Pass	Pass	Double
Pass	Pass	Pass	

1. Four-card Drury

As you can probably imagine, this contract was not a great success. Monaco plus 1100.

West	North	East	South
<i>Nunes</i>	<i>Mcintosh</i>	<i>Fantoni</i>	<i>Bakhshi</i>
Pass	Pass	2♠	Pass
2NT	3♣	Pass	3NT
Double	Pass	Pass	Pass

Fantoni, by opening two spades, suggested slightly less than a normal opening bid but when Nunes, holding two aces, doubled the final contract, Fantoni had nowhere to go. Although three notrump could have been beaten, Fantunes did not find the defence. However, scoring plus 750 still meant an 8-IMP loss for the English.

In Denmark v. Israel:

West	North	East	South
Schaltz	Herbst	Schaltz	Herbst
Pass	Pass	1♠	Pass
2♣ ¹	3♣	Pass	Pass
3♠	Pass	Pass	3NT
Pass	Pass	Pass	

I. Drury

West	North	East	South
Bareket	Blakset	Lengy	Schaltz
Pass	Pass	Pass	1♣
Pass	1♥	1♠	Pass
2♥	4♣	Pass	5♣
Pass	Pass	Pass	

To defeat three notrump, the defence must attack spades, and if declarer arranges to allow them to win three spade tricks (for example, ducking the third round of the suit), they must then shift to diamonds while still holding the ace of clubs. When East shifted to a low diamond at trick two, the Herbsts made 10 tricks against the Schaltzes for plus 630. At the other table, the other Schaltz, Martin, made 11 tricks in clubs to lose an IMP.

On the following deal, four hearts was the contract at both tables in two of the six matches. In these matches, the contract was made once and the contract was doubled at one table in each match. These two matches produced four different results: plus 590, plus 420, minus 50 and minus 100 and thus, double-digit swings in both matches. What is more, I think the contract should always go down, provided North leads a trump – which he did at none of our four tables.

Let's have a look at the match between Monaco and Bamberger Reiter from Germany.

Board 8. Dealer West. Neither Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Nunes	Piekarek	Fantoni	Smirnov
1♥	Pass	1NT	Pass
2♠	Pass	4♥	Pass
Pass	Pass		

Piekarek led a diamond to the queen and declarer's ace, and the jack of diamonds was fired back

immediately. Smirnov took his king and now, two rounds of clubs followed. Nunes ruffed, cashed the ace and king of spades, crossed to dummy's ace of hearts, threw a spade on the ten of diamonds and ruffed a club in hand, intending to ruff his last spade next. Piekarek overruffed and returned a trump ... one down.

West	North	East	South
Häusler	Helgemo	Kirmse	Helness
1♥	Pass	Pass	2♠
3♥	3♠	4♥	Pass
Pass	Double	Pass	Pass
Pass			

Helgemo led a spade. Declarer played three rounds of the suit, ruffing the last with dummy's two of hearts. A diamond then went to the queen and ace. Declarer's jack of diamonds went to South's king and South could do no better than lead a club to the king and ace. With dummy's ten of diamonds now a safe parking place for declarer's last spade, all Häusler could lose was one further trick, the jack of hearts. This was the first of two late swings to the Germans, enabling them to draw the match.

Round 7. Lavec Smile (Sweden) v. Heimdal (Norway)

Board 4. Dealer West. Both Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Grøtheim	Fredin	Mollberg	Røn
Pass	1♦	Double	Pass
1♥	2♣	Pass	2♦
2♥	3♦	Pass	Pass
Pass			

East led the ace and king of spades and Peter Fredin ruffed the second. From the takeout double, Fredin strongly suspected that the queen of clubs would be with East and that his only chance to avoid a club loser would be to immediately lead the ten of clubs from his hand. Mollberg, however, jumped up with his queen of clubs, after which Fredin smilingly remarked: "I can never fool you." Mollberg promptly replied, "You can always try again!"

This was the deal that followed ...

Board 5. Dealer North. NS Vul.

♠ A J 7 6 5 4
 ♥ K Q J 5
 ♦ A 2
 ♣ 10

 ♠ 8
 ♥ 9 2
 ♦ K Q 8
 ♣ A K J 9 8 7 6

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

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Grøtheim</i>	<i>Fredin</i>	<i>Mollberg</i>	<i>Røn</i>
—	1♠	Pass	2♠
3♣	3♥	Pass	4♠
5♣	5♠	Pass	Pass
Pass			

Five spades was destined to go one down on the club lead and diamond switch, as happened at many tables. However, Fredin believed that West would probably have tried three notrump rather than his club bids, had he been looking at the king of spades doubleton. So the spade king was likely to be doubleton with East, in which case the only way to avoid losing a trump trick was to sneak a low spade past him. So, after winning the king of diamonds switch with the ace, Fredin led the jack of spades at trick three. Mollberg ducked this and Fredin had 12 tricks ... to win just 1 IMP for his team! At the other table, North/South had been allowed to play in four spades.

In both the Bamberger-Allegra match and the Allfrey-Bareket match Board 9 was decisive.

Board 9. Dealer North. EW Vul.

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

 ♠ 8 2
 ♥ 7 2
 ♦ 8 6 4 2
 ♣ K 9 8 7 2

 ♠ Q J 10 9 6 4 3
 ♥ 9
 ♦ A
 ♣ A Q J 6

 ♠ —
 ♥ A 10 8 5 4
 ♦ Q J 5 3
 ♣ 10 5 4 3

West	North	East	South
<i>Di Franco</i>	<i>Piekarek</i>	<i>Zanasi</i>	<i>Smirnov</i>
—	1♥	4♠	5♥
Pass	6♥	Double	Pass
Pass	Pass		

Piekarek rightly thought he had a useful hand. Plus 1210 to the Germans.

West	North	East	South
<i>Häusler</i>	<i>Bocchi</i>	<i>Kirmse</i>	<i>Madala</i>
—	1♥	1♠	4♦ ¹
Pass	5♣	Pass	5♥
Pass	Pass	Pass	

1. Heart support, spade void
 The spade void shown by Madala's four-diamond bid did not really make Bocchi happy. When five clubs did not inspire Madala either, North/South came to rest in five hearts. Twelve tricks, but 12 IMPs to the Germans.

The Semifinals (JC)

G.S. Allegra (Italy) v. Zaleski (France) & Bamberger Reiter (Germany) v. Schaltz (Denmark)

Board 1. Dealer North. Neither Vul.

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

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

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

 ♠ 2
 ♥ A 8 7 4
 ♦ A 7 6 4
 ♣ A K Q 8

West	North	East	South
<i>Kirmse</i>	<i>Bruun</i>	<i>Häusler</i>	<i>Blakset</i>
—	4♠	Pass	4NT
Pass	5♦	Pass	5♥
Pass	6♠	Pass	Pass

West	North	East	South
<i>Schaltz</i>	<i>Piekarek</i>	<i>Blakset</i>	<i>Smirnov</i>
—	4♠	Pass	4NT
Pass	5♦	Pass	5♥
Pass	5NT	Pass	6♠
Pass	Pass	Pass	

West	North	East	South
<i>Toffier</i>	<i>Bianchedi</i>	<i>Pilon</i>	<i>Duboin</i>
—	4♠	Pass	4NT
Pass	5♣	Pass	5♦
Pass	6♠	Pass	Pass

West	North	East	South
<i>Madala</i>	<i>T. Bessis</i>	<i>Bocchi</i>	<i>M. Bessis</i>
—	4♠	Pass	4NT
Pass	5♦	Pass	5♥
Pass	6♠	Pass	Pass

Although the responses to Roman Key-Card Blackwood were not all the same, the meaning of the

initial response was the same at all four tables: one or four key cards. Then, the queen-ask response showed the queen of spades, but no outside king.

Helmut Häusler (Bamberger) led a top diamond against Mathias Bruun (Schaltz). Bruun had two lines of play after winning the diamond: (i) Spade to the queen and, if it won, ace of spades, jack of clubs, spade, claiming when trumps were 3-2. Even if the spade finesse lost, East would have to shift to a heart, resisting the temptation to try to cash a diamond; or (ii) Spade to the ace, jack of clubs, queen of spades. This line would succeed when clubs were 4-4 or the hand with three clubs could not ruff the fourth club. Bruun chose line (ii) and had to go down one.

The other three Easts led their singleton heart, which would beat the contract whenever West had a major-suit ace. All three declarers won with the ace of hearts and were faced with a choice similar to Bruun's. None took the spades finesse, so all went down when West could ruff the fourth club, producing pushes in both matches.

This was undoubtedly the deal of the tournament, in one match at least:

Board 25. Dealer North. EW Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>T. Bessis</i>	<i>Bianchedi</i>	<i>M. Bessis</i>	<i>Duboin</i>
—	Pass	Pass	1♣!
Double	4♠	5♣	Pass
Pass	Pass		

1. Natural or a 12-14 notrump

Duboin started with the ace of hearts and found the diamond shift to beat five clubs a trick, plus 100. At the other table, the players will have a story to tell for years to come.

West	North	East	South
<i>Madala</i>	<i>Cronier</i>	<i>Bocchi</i>	<i>Zaleski</i>
—	Pass	3♣	Pass
5♣	5♦	Pass	Pass
Double	Redouble	Pass	Pass
Pass			

For Agustin Madala, Christmas had arrived early. Bocchi led the queen of clubs, ducked in dummy and won by

the king, declarer not expecting clubs to be 8-1 on the bidding. The defence now had ten tricks on a cross-ruff but Madala, in turn not expecting the remaining diamonds to be 3-0, cashed a high diamond at trick two. That held the loss to minus 3400 and 23 IMPs. One wonders if Bocchi ragged a little on Madala for missing the opportunity for plus 4000 and 24 IMPs. How do you say, "Win 'em all," in Italian?

By the way, Zaleski lost the match by 16.5 IMPs. To win, they needed to allow Bocchi to declare five clubs and beat it or to declare five hearts and make it.

The Final (JC)

G.S. Allegra (Italy) v. Bamberger Reiter (Germany)

Board 2. Dealer East. NS Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Häusler</i>	<i>Bianchedi</i>	<i>Fritsch</i>	<i>Duboin</i>
—	—	1♠	2♣
2♠	Double	4♠	Pass
Pass	5♦	Double	Pass
Pass	Pass		

Fritsch simply followed the adage about "when your six-card suit is raised ...". Bianchedi knew there had to be some distribution about since he had such a good hand. Nevertheless, he bought very well - well enough to think about making his 'save'. Fritsch led out three rounds of hearts and declarer ruffed the third. Declarer played the ace of spades and ruffed a spade in the dummy, led a trump to hand and ruffed his third spade. The singleton club in West did him in, however, as he'd no way back to hand to draw the remainder of the trumps. That was plus 200 to Germany.

In the other room:

West	North	East	South
<i>Madala</i>	<i>Piekarek</i>	<i>Bocchi</i>	<i>Smirnov</i>
—	—	1♠	2♣
2♠	3NT	Pass	Pass
4♥	Double	4♠	Pass
Pass	Double	Pass	Pass
Pass			

Madala was more optimistic about his side's chances, despite Bocchi's pessimism. Their hands meshed together very well indeed. Smirnov led the ace of clubs and shifted to a diamond, ruffed by Bocchi. Declarer led the queen of clubs, inducing a cover from South, then ruffed the king of clubs low in the dummy. The king of spades was taken by the ace and another diamond led. Declarer ruffed and played the queen and another spade, losing two trump tricks, but just three tricks in all. He made plus 590, which, combined with Allegra's minus 200 in the other room, meant 8 IMPs to them.

Board 3. Dealer South. EW Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Häusler	Bianchedi	Fritsche	Duboin
—	—	—	3♠
Pass	Pass	Pass	

Häusler might have bid four hearts over three spades, but the doubleton spade and poor diamond texture argued for caution. When he did not bid, no one else had anything further to say. West led his club. Declarer went up with dummy's ace and led a trump. East in turn went up with the ace, cashed the club king and gave West a club ruff. West took the ace of hearts and when declarer finessed East for the queen of spades, he was home with plus 140.

West	North	East	South
Madala	Piekarek	Bocchi	Smirnov
—	—	—	3♠
4♥	4♠	Double	Pass
Pass	Redouble	Pass	Pass
4NT	Double	5♥	Pass
Pass	Double	Pass	Pass
Pass			

Madala did bid over three spades, creating a monster. As we have seen, he was due for plus 200 in four spades redoubled, but decided (too late!) that discretion was the better part of valour and pulled Piekarek's redouble. Discretion turned out to be very expensive.

Piekarek led the four of spades (low from a doubleton). Madala went up with the ace in dummy and led a heart to the ace, then another heart. North won with his king and played the eight of spades to Smirnov's king. Smirnov shifted to a diamond and the defence took two diamonds and the ace of clubs. That was plus 800 and 12 IMPs to Germany.

Board 27. Dealer South. Neither Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Häusler	Bocchi	Gromöller	Madala
—	—	—	Pass
INT ¹	2♠ ²	3NT ³	Pass
Pass	Pass		

1. 12-14
2. Spades(5+) and a minor(4+)
3. Values for 3NT without a spade stop

Against Häusler's three notrump, Bocchi tried a sneak attack, leading the three of diamonds. Declarer won with dummy's king, played three rounds of clubs ending in the dummy and tried the ten of hearts. Madala did not cover and declarer went up with the ace and down in his contract; plus 50 to Allegra.

West	North	East	South
Duboin	Piekarek	Bianchedi	Smirnov
—	—	—	Pass
INT ¹	2♠ ²	2NT ³	Pass
3♣ ⁴	Pass	3NT ⁵	Pass
Pass	Pass		

1. 12-14
2. Spades(5+) and a minor(4+)
3. Please bid 3♣
4. OK
5. Values for 3NT without a spade stop

Piekarek also led diamonds, but preferred the ace and another. Duboin also played three rounds of clubs ending in the dummy, then led a heart to his nine, making the contract for plus 400 and winning 10 IMPs.

On the next deal (see *top of next column*), Häusler was soon one off in four spades. Bocchi led the ten of hearts and Madala won with the ace and continued



The winners (G.S. Allegra, Italy): Agustin Madala, Norberto Bocchi, Massiniliano Di Franco, Alejandro Bianchedi, Giorgio Duboin, Gabriele Zanasi, Maria Teresa Lavazza (NPC)

the suit. When declarer next led a high trump, South won it and give North a ruff for plus 50.

Board 30. Dealer East. Neither Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Häusler	Bocchi	Gromöller	Madala
—	—	1♣	1♥
1♠	Pass	2♣	Pass
4♠	Pass	Pass	Pass

West	North	East	South
Duboin	Piekarek	Bianchedi	Smirnov
—	—	1♣	1♥
2♥ ¹	Pass	3♣	Pass
3♥	Pass	3NT	Pass
4♣	Pass	4♠	Pass
Pass	Pass		

1. Spades

At the other table, the vagaries of system meant four spades was declared from the East seat. Smirnov and Piekarek had to work a little harder to beat it.

Smirnov led the (Rusinow) nine of diamonds to Piekarek's ace. North shifted to the ten of hearts and South won with the ace to continue the suit. Bianchedi won in hand and was able to discard the king of hearts on the king of diamonds. However, when he ruffed a diamond to dummy to start on spades, Smirnov was able to win the first spade with his ace and lead another heart, promoting Piekarek's nine of spades into the setting trick. That flattened the board at plus 50.

Despite being down 21 IMPs at the half, G.S. Allegra dominated the second set to win going away, 68-56. For Bocchi, Duboin and Madala it was their fourth win in a row and the eleventh overall for Italian teams in 13 tries.

Playing for Bamberger Reiter (Germany) were Michael Gromöller, Jörg Fritsche, Helmut Häusler, Andreas Kirmse, Josef Piekarek and Alexander Smirnov.

In the third-place playoff, Schaltz of Denmark (Peter Schaltz, Knut Blakset, Lars Blakset, Mathias Bruun, Dorthe Schaltz, Martin Schaltz) defeated Zaleski from France (Romain Zaleski, Michel Bessis, Thomas Bessis, Philippe Cronier, Dominique Pilon, Philippe Toffier).

The teams finishing fifth through eighth in the Round Robin also played off to determine precise finishing places, as did the teams placing ninth through twelfth.



From the 19th until the 21st of September, in a beautiful venue, the Esperanza Resort in Trakai District, Lithuania, eight invited teams competed for the VV Cup, a trophy founded by the well-known Lithuanian player, Vytautas Vainikonis.

The field was very strong – it is enough to mention Fantoni/Nunes, Zimmerman/Multon, Buras/Narkiewicz, Kalita/Nowosadzki, Martens/Filipowicz, Gromov/Dubin, Nyström/Upmark, and without their regular partners: Balicki, Helness, Bilde ...

The tournament (a double round robin) was won by a wide margin by the De Botton team. The top three were:

1. DE BOTTON (De Botton/Malinowski, Buras/Narkiewicz, Bilde/Hoftaniska 192.29 VP
2. ERA (E.Vainikonis/A.Arlovich, Martens/Filipowicz, Pachtman/Tarnovski 157.51 VP
3. MAZURKIEWICZ (Mazurkiewicz/Jassem, Kalita/Nowosadzki, Balicki/Golebiowski 152.98 VP

Here are two of the more interesting boards.

The first is an example of good card reading. We can call it "Silence Would Be Golden". Let's see how Wojtek Olanski made use of an opponent's light two-suited overcall.

Dealer South. EW Vul.

♠ K J 7 6 4
♥ 6 3
♦ 10 8 4
♣ K Q 6

♠ Q 10 8 3 2
♥ K J 10 5 4
♦ J 9
♣ 3

♠ 9 5
♥ Q 9 2
♦ A 7 5
♣ J 9 7 5 4

♠ A
♥ A 8 7
♦ K Q 6 3 2
♣ A 10 8 2

West	North	East	South
Kalita	Vainikonis	Nowasadzki	Olanski
—	—	—	1♦
2♦ ¹	3♦	Pass	5♦
Pass	Pass	Pass	

1. Majors, 5/5 or better

West led the three of clubs. Prospects were not bright. The lead was obviously a singleton, so Olanski took the trick with dummy's king and played a diamond to his king. When it held, he continued with a club, which West ruffed with the jack of trumps.

Everything became clear – West had shown 5=5=2=1. When West now led the heart jack, declarer took the trick with his ace, entered dummy with the queen of clubs, came back to hand with the spade ace and discarded dummy's second heart on the club ace and ruffed a heart. Then declarer cashed the spade king to take care of the last heart from hand. Declarer played the ten of diamonds to force out East's ace and had the rest of the tricks, drawing East's last trump after regaining the lead.

At the other table, Balicki and Golebiowski stopped in a diamond partial, scoring 130 after a heart lead.

The second deal was rather amusing – there was a bidding accident caused by an imaginative action by Dominik Filipowicz. This is a story told by his partner, Krzysztof Martens ...

"During one of the boards of the second Friday match, I became very suspicious. Twice during my long bridge career, I have played boards in which one of the players had taken his cards from another board. I supposed that this was the third time. My hand (South) was:

♠ J 9 4 2
♥ —
♦ A J 6 3
♣ K 7 4 3 2

The bidding started with me, and not unnaturally, I chose pass. The bidding continued as follows ...

West	North	East	South
—	—	—	Pass
INT	2♦ ¹	Pass	2♥ ²
Pass	Pass	4♥	Pass
4♠	Pass	5♥	Pass
5NT	Double	6♦	Double
Pass	Pass	Pass	

1. One major
2. Pass or correct

When North passed two hearts nothing, as yet, looked strange. I was not looking forward to playing two hearts with a void in trumps. Better my partner Dominik should declare. Suddenly, East came back to life, and not in a straightforward way – he bid four hearts. After my initial pass, my

partner could have overcalled rather light, so I did not see any reason to do anything, even to double. I thought that a double could only have helped them.

Unfortunately for East, West read four hearts as a transfer to spades. My partner passed, and East bid hearts again. When West, by now a bit suspicious, tried five notrump. My partner doubled. How many high card points had we here? At last my time came – I doubled six diamonds, which ended the auction.

In fact, all four of us had the cards from the same board after all:

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

We must credit Dominik for his enterprising pass of two hearts!”

What can we learn from this deal? Simply that it is useful to bid immediately if you think you will do so later. Had East bid his hearts immediately, there would have been no such costly misunderstanding.

**OPTICAL
ILLUSION**

**Phillip Alder
Hobe Sound, FL**



Every Daily Bulletin at the Fourth Commonwealth Nations Bridge Championships in Glasgow this September contained a card-play problem. This deal, from the qualifying stage of the main event, could have been used. How should South play in four hearts after West leads the diamond six through dummy’s bid suit?

Dealer South. NS Vul.

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

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

The deal was drawn to my attention by Patrick Jourdain, who was on the gold-medal-winning team, Wales. The auction at Jourdain’s table went as shown.

Jourdain’s partner, Tony Ratcliff (West), led his singleton diamond. The declarer won with his king, played a spade to dummy’s king, returned a spade to his ace, ruffed a spade and discarded his last spade on the diamond ace. However, West ruffed and led the club king. (A low club would also have worked.) Now East had to get a club ruff, and the defenders took their two top hearts and the two ruffs for down one.

If you can ruff a loser in the shorter trump hand, it is usually the right play – but not when you can take ten tricks just by drawing trumps. South should have led a high trump at trick two, aiming to take two spades, four hearts, three diamonds and one club.

If East wins the trick and leads a diamond, South will ruff. Or if East shifts to his club, declarer will win in the dummy and trump a diamond in his hand. West can overruff and cash a high club, but South will lose only two hearts and one club.

It is unusual that a deal in which declarer only has to draw trumps should prove so interesting. And declarer should have anticipated that West’s opening lead was a singleton, given that it was dummy’s bid suit.



IBPA Column Service

Tim Bourke, Canberra

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

737. Dealer South. EW Vul.

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

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

West led the queen of diamonds and continued with a second diamond, very much against declarer's preference for a switch. Declarer saw that there would be no problem if both major suits divided favourably. If trumps were 4-0, he saw that he would need some luck in spades: either spades 3-2 or the hand with four trumps holding four spades.

What could be done if the spades were 4-1 and the hand with the singleton had three trumps? The only possible rescue plan was to try and set up dummy's clubs. So, after ruffing the diamond continuation, declarer cashed the ace of clubs then ruffed a club high. After crossing to dummy with via the nine of trumps, declarer ruffed another club high. As by now the clubs had been proved to be 4-3 and trumps no worse than 3-1, he returned to dummy with the ace of spades and ruffed a third club, thereby establishing two winners in the suit. Next, declarer led a trump to dummy's jack, then drew West's remaining trump with the king while throwing a spade from hand. The ten and nine of clubs provided parking places for his remaining low spades and he had made his contract.

Declarer was pleased to see that the actual layout would have seen six hearts fail if he had attempted to

set up his own hand: after drawing two rounds of trumps and playing on spades, West would then have ruffed in on the second round of spades.

Of course, if clubs had not broken 4-3 then declarer would have had to rely on the spade suit behaving favourably.

738. Dealer South. NS Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
—	—	—	1♥
2NT	Pass	3♣	3♥
Pass	4♥	Pass	Pass
Pass			

West's Unusual Notrump overcall turned out to be a poor choice once his opponents settled in four hearts: it drew a roadmap of how to play the contract and all the declarer had to do was read the map.

West led the king of clubs, taken by dummy's ace. Declarer counted nine top tricks with an easy tenth if the spades were 3-2. As a result, declarer concentrated on the case where spades were 4-1. In order to obtain the likely layout of the major suits, declarer cashed the ace and king of trumps. When West followed twice, declarer decided that the simplest course was to hope that West began with 1=2=5=5 distribution. Accordingly, he made the best continuation of calling for dummy's queen of spades. This was guaranteed to hold the losses in the spade suit to two tricks if West's singleton were the jack, ten or nine: it would have lost only when West had started with a singleton king or five (and in the latter case there would have been no

approach to the spade suit that would have succeeded).

The spade queen was covered by the king and ace. Once West produced the nine of spades, the contract was assured. Declarer drew the last trump then played a spade to the dummy's seven and East's ten. After winning the queen of diamonds shift with the ace, declarer played a spade to dummy's six and East's jack. Declarer conceded a diamond but claimed ten tricks: two spades, six hearts, a diamond and a club.

739. Dealer East. EW Vul.

♠ A Q J 10 2
♥ J 9
♦ Q 2
♣ J 9 6 3

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

♠ K 8 4
♥ 7 6 5 3 2
♦ A 10
♣ A K Q

West	North	East	South
—	—	Pass	INT
Pass	2♥	Double	2♠
Pass	4♠	Pass	Pass
Pass			

South promised three-card spade support when he volunteered two spades over the double.

West led a heart and East played three rounds of the suit, forcing dummy to over-ruff West's six of spades. Declarer could count ten tricks on a 3-2 trump break: he would be able to draw trumps, play the three club honours from hand and then cross to dummy with a heart ruff to cash the jack of clubs: that would yield five trumps, four clubs and the ace of diamonds, for a total of ten tricks.

However, when declarer cashed the ace of trumps, West gave him a problem: he discarded a diamond. As East was then marked with nine cards in the majors, declarer reasoned that a 3-3 club break was all but out of the question. Casting his mind back to the bidding, declarer recalled that East had shown up with nine high-card points and a good heart suit, but had passed as dealer. So, unless East had passed without noticing the king of diamonds, West must have that card.

As a result, declarer saw a way around his club problems. He drew all of East's trumps and discarded his ace of diamonds on the last trump! After taking his three club winners, declarer led the ten of diamonds

towards dummy's queen. West looked at this somewhat studiously but eventually rose with the king of diamonds. Dummy's jack of clubs and queen of diamonds took the last two tricks.

740. Dealer South. Both Vul.

♠ K J 9
♥ 6 5 3
♦ A Q J 9
♣ A 9 3

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

♠ A Q 10 6 5 3
♥ K 8 4
♦ 10 5
♣ K 10

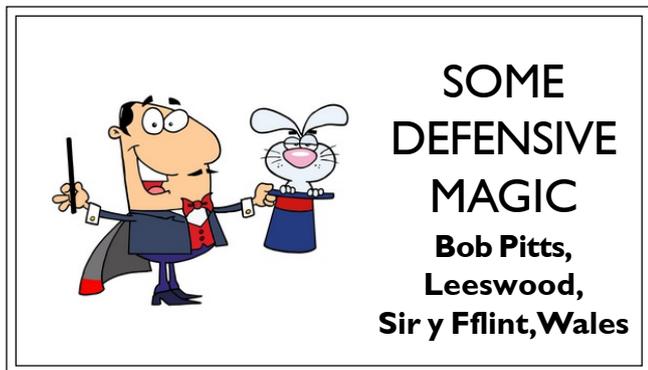
West	North	East	South
—	—	—	1♠
Pass	2♦	Pass	2♠
Pass	4♠	Pass	Pass
Pass			

After a simple auction, declarer was faced with a trump lead. He saw that if he drew trumps and finessed the queen of diamonds, the contract would be in grave danger if East had started with the king of diamonds and West the ace of hearts.

Instead of exposing himself to such a risk, declarer embarked on an avoidance-type of play that might allow him to set up a diamond trick without giving East the lead. He took the first trick in dummy with the nine of trumps then played a club to his ten. West won the trick with the jack of clubs but could not attack hearts without conceding the contract. Instead, he exited with another trump.

Declarer won the trick in dummy and came to hand with the king of clubs. After crossing to dummy with the ace of diamonds, declarer discarded his remaining diamond on the ace of clubs. Although he had just swapped a diamond loser for a club loser, the benefit of this became apparent when he led the queen of diamonds for a ruffing finesse against East. If East declined to produce the king of diamonds declarer had planned to discard a heart. In practice, East played the king of diamonds. Declarer ruffed it and returned to dummy with the king of trumps to discard two hearts on dummy's two diamond winners.

Even if West had been able to win the second round of diamonds with the king, declarer would still have made the contract. The defenders could then have done no better than to take the ace of hearts as the third and final defensive trick.



Mollo's Legacy

One of the late Victor Mollo's best characters was the Hideous Hog who, in the stories, seemed to conjure tricks out of thin air. In one episode, he defended by trying to look like a man with a singleton in order to get declarer to misplay the trump suit. Well, I can tell you that there are players out there who can be just as magical. Look at this deal from a quarterfinal match in the recent Italian Mixed Teams Championship.

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

West opened three hearts, North overcalled three spades, East raised to the heart game and that became the final contract.

North began with the spade ace and, having won the trick, had to consider how then to beat the contract. Perhaps South could ruff a spade, but she would still have needed to hold the club ace and king to defeat four hearts. If South did hold the ace and king of clubs, though, perhaps she had a four-card heart holding that could be promoted.

So North, Niccolo Fossi, switched to the club five. South took the king and continued with the ace, North playing the four in order to look like a man with a doubleton. It is hardly surprising that declarer went astray. When South played a third round of clubs, West ruffed high and now found that a trump loser was inevitable (the entries were not quite there for a trump reduction).

That was quite a defence by North – not only for pretending to have a potential ruffing value, but also in imagining a trump trick when he did not hold a trump. I am pretty sure that Mollo's books must have been translated into Italian.

Just Desserts

It was a qualifying round of our club pairs event and East/West were not the strongest pair in the field, so perhaps that was why partner and I were pushing our luck – and we received our just desserts.

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

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

Sitting North, I felt that my hand was worth a stronger raise than a mere jump to three diamonds, hence the two-spade call that added momentum to the auction, not that partner usually needs much encouragement to bid a slam.

Despite the bad trump break, a declarer in six diamonds still has chances. On the lead of the spade ace, whatever West continues, South can enter hand with a trump (discovering the bad break) and then later via the club finesse to ruff both black-suit losers. He can then draw all the trumps in comfort and cash his three heart tricks. A similar line can be adopted even if West leads a minor at trick one.

However, at the table, West found the devastating lead of his fourth highest spade! Now try and make the contract. East then had an entry to give West a heart ruff and, if all the trumps were drawn, declarer would need a 3-3 heart break and a squeeze/endplay, neither of which materialised. The lesson: Never underrate your opponents.



The American Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences Awards of Merit are presented at an annual ceremony in Los Angeles honouring achievements in film. Winners are awarded a statuette known by its nickname Oscar. Since 1929, the last Sunday of every February has been the most important day of the year for film people. The Oscars are voted upon by members of the Academy in many categories. Opposite the Oscars, the Golden Raspberry Awards, called the Razzies for short, is an awards ceremony in recognition of the worst in film.

The bridge world has an equivalent to Oscars in the IBPA awards. The bridge world does not have an equivalent to the Razzies. Not yet.

I have one strong candidate for an Oscar in the bidding category and many candidates for Razzies in a couple of categories.

The Oscar ...

It happened in the last of six segments of the final of the Polish Team Championship. Fighting it out were the teams of MARTENS and VITAS. After five ten-board segments, VITAS was leading by 32 IMPs. MARTENS had closed to within 19 IMPs in the first seven boards of the final stanza when Board 58 came up.

You are vulnerable. The bidding went as follows: North (your lovely partner, Krzysztof Martens) – “3NT” (Gambling; no side stopper); East – “4♠”. What do you bid holding ... ?

♠ A 10 4
♥ A K Q J 9 6 3
♦ K 9
♣ 6

When you decide what to do, compare your bid with Dominik Filipowicz’s effort.

Board 58. Dealer West. NS Vul.

♠ 8 7
♥ 5
♦ 10 6 2
♣ A K Q J 4 3 2

♠ 3
♥ 10 8 7 2
♦ A Q 7 3
♣ 10 9 7 5

♠ K Q J 9 6 5 2
♥ 4
♦ J 8 5 4
♣ 8

♠ A 10 4
♥ A K Q J 9 6 3
♦ K 9
♣ 6

West	North	East	South
Krzeminski	Martens	Barylewski	Filipowicz
Pass	3NT	4♠	7♣
Double	Pass	Pass	7NT
Pass	Pass	Pass	

Seven clubs was going to be easy, Filipowicz thought.: seven club tricks, seven heart tricks and the ace of spades make 15 tricks.

What? The ace of diamonds is missing? It’s an immaterial detail. How will West know that a diamond is the killing lead? Double! Because he has the ace! West doubled and that double was nominated for the first Razzie. Filipowicz foresaw what would happen, so he shifted the responsibility onto East. The opening lead was the spade king and it didn’t bring tears of joy to West. That was plus 2220 to the MARTENS team, bringing them closer to victory.

Let’s see what happened at the second table where black humour was in evidence. Please forgive me for not naming names, but these nominations are for Razzies, not for Oscars.

West	North	East	South
Pass	3NT	4♥(!)	Double
Pass	Pass	4♠	6NT
Double	Pass	Pass	Pass

East knew that declarer’s suit was clubs and, with West’s Lightner Double, that he must choose a red suit to lead. When finally East led a heart. West saw that declarer could make all the tricks, West was worried. Six notrump doubled, vulnerable, with an overtrick was going to cost 1880 and it could have reduced the differential in the match just to 8 IMPs.

However, the story was not finished. Declarer, known as a one of the slowest players in the world, took just three seconds to make the correct (in his opinion) play. He finessed the heart nine! West took the trick with the ten and the diamond ace finished the board (and the match).

The Oscar goes to Dominik Filipowicz. The Razzies go to ... ?



In the semifinals of the Transnational Teams at the Commonwealth Championships in Glasgow, this deal defeated all but one of the East/West pairs:

Dealer East. Both Vul.

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

The match between the Scottish President's team and Canadonia saw both North/South pairs bamboozle their opponents. In the Open Room ...

West	North	East	South
<i>Henneberger</i>	<i>McGowan</i>	<i>Gillis</i>	<i>Punch</i>
—	—	2♣ ¹	Pass
2♥ ²	2♠	Pass	Pass
3♠ ³	4♦	Pass	4♠
Pass	Pass	Double	Pass
Pass	Pass		

1. Strong
2. Double negative
3. Strong distributional take-out within context

East led the king of clubs. Declarer ruffed and played the jack of spades. When East ducked, West discarded the ten of diamonds (upside-down signals), thereby depriving his side of a second diamond trick and allowing declarer to escape for one down, minus 200.

In some circles, this play of echoing with a card that would subsequently have won a trick is known as a "... Peter". (Add a name of your choice.)

West	North	East	South
<i>Duncan</i>	<i>Kane</i>	<i>Gordon</i>	<i>Kane</i>
—	—	2♣ ¹	Pass
2♥ ²	2♠	3NT	Pass
Pass	4♦	Double	4♠
Pass	Pass	Double	Pass
Pass	Pass		

1. Strong
2. Negative

The defenders made no mistake this time, two down, minus 500 and 7 IMPs to the President.

They did rather better in the match between Australia and Canada:

West	North	East	South
<i>Edgton</i>	<i>Maksymetz</i>	<i>Hung</i>	<i>Korbel</i>
—	—	2♣ ¹	Pass
2♦ ²	4♠	5♣	5♠
6♣	Pass	Pass	Pass

1. Strong
2. Negative

North's full-blooded preempt made life difficult. If East (and subsequently South) had passed over four spades, then West could have bid four notrump, suggesting two places to play. Then, if East had bid five clubs, West could have bid five spades (or raised to six clubs if South had bid five spades, when there was some possibility that East would have carried on to seven clubs.

They did get the opportunity to bid four notrump at the other table:

West	North	East	South
<i>McMullin</i>	<i>Hollands</i>	<i>Yan</i>	<i>Del'Monte</i>
—	—	2♣ ¹	Pass
2♦ ²	3♠	Pass	4♠
4NT ³	Pass	5♠	Pass
6♣	Pass	7♣	Pass
Pass	Pass		

1. Strong
2. Negative
3. Takeout - two places to play

Here, East was happy to bide his time and passed three spades. When West bid four notrump to show two places to play, East's five spades suggested he was interested in a grand slam. When West showed that one of his suits was clubs East took the slight gamble of finding the queen of hearts or the king of diamonds in dummy and bid the laydown grand slam.



The final of the Rosenblum World Open Knockout Teams Championship between the Polish team MAZURKIEWICZ (Marcin Mazurkiewicz – Krzysztof Jassem, Piotr Gawrys – Michał Klukowski, Stanisław Golebiowski – Włodzimierz Starkowski)

and MONACO (Pierre Zimmermann – Franck Multon, Fulvio Fantoni – Claudio Nunes, Geir Helgemo – Tor Helness), the favourites to win the title, was over 56 boards in four sessions.

The first significant result arose on Board 5 and features Poland's newest star, Michal Klukowski.

Dealer North. NS Vul.

♠ A Q 7 2
♥ K 5 4 3
♦ A 6 3 2
♣ 3

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

West	North	East	South
Jassem	Multon	Mazurkiewicz	Zimmermann
—	1♦	1♠	2♥
3♠	4♥	4♠	Double
Pass	Pass	Pass	

South led the three of spades: four, seven, nine. Declarer played the ace of hearts, took a heart ruff, played the ace of clubs and ruffed a club, ruffed another heart, then ruffed another club. North discarded the six and two of diamonds on the second and third rounds of clubs. That was seven tricks for East and he still had a trump trick to come; two down, North/South plus 300.

The sacrifice would have been worthwhile if four hearts could be made, but was that likely?

West	North	East	South
Helgemo	Gawrys	Helness	Klukowski
—	1♦	1♠	2♥
2♠	3♥	Pass	3♠
4♣	4♥	Pass	Pass
Pass			

The four of spades was led to the ace, five and three. Declarer played the three of clubs and let East's queen hold the trick. East switched to the five of diamonds, won by South with the king. Declarer played the queen of hearts, ducked by East, and continued with the jack of hearts, won by the ace as West discarded a club. East returned the nine of hearts to dummy's king. That left one trump in dummy. South had three club losers and could ruff only one of them. South ruffed dummy's two of spades, played the seven of diamonds to dummy's ace and ruffed the seven of spades. This was the position:

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

Declarer had lost only one trick so far. He played the king of clubs. West took the ace and South discarded the three of diamonds from dummy. West was endplayed and could not avoid letting South make a trick with the ten of clubs; North/South plus 620 and an 8-IMP gain.

Board 8 also featured more very fine play by 18-year-old Klukowski.

Dealer West. Neither Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Jassem	Multon	Mazurkiewicz	Zimmermann
2♥ ¹	2NT	Pass	3NT
Pass	Pass	Pass	

1. 5+ hearts and 4+ either minor, 4-9 HCP

Mazurkiewicz led the six of spades to the four, three and eight. North played the king of clubs, ducked, and the queen of clubs, taken by the ace. East shifted to the five of hearts (East/West lead low from a doubleton). North won, cashed the jack of clubs – no luck there – and switched to the queen of spades. East won with the ace and played the six of hearts, won by the ace in dummy. Declarer cashed the spade king and jack, then exited with the eight of hearts, hoping to endplay West to lead away from the king of diamonds. The result was one down, East/West plus 50.

At the other table ...

West	North	East	South
<i>Helgemo</i>	<i>Gawrys</i>	<i>Helness</i>	<i>Klukowski</i>
Pass	1♦	1♠	Double
Pass	2♣	Pass	2NT
Pass	3NT	Pass	Pass
Pass			

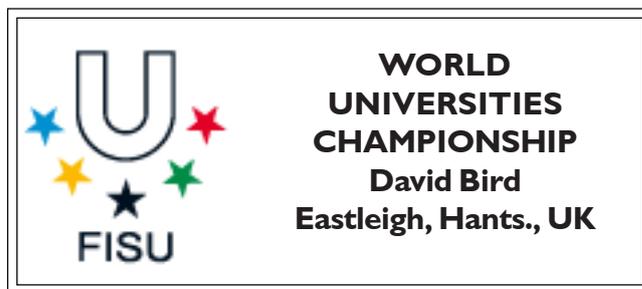
Here, South was the declarer and West led the five of spades to the queen, ace and four. East returned the ten of spades: king, three, eight. South played the two of clubs to the king, ducked, and the queen of clubs, also ducked. Next, the three of clubs was won by the eight, on which South discarded the three of hearts and West the queen of hearts. East shifted to the six of hearts to the king. The six of clubs went to the ace, South discarding the seven of hearts and West the nine of hearts. East returned the five of hearts, taken by the ace. This was now the position:

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

South continued with the seven of diamonds to the ace. If East had retained the diamond king, declarer would have cashed the jack of clubs and exited with a diamond. East would have been down to the nine-six of spades and declarer the jack-seven. East would have had to concede the last two tricks to South. Foreseeing this, East jettisoned the king of diamonds under the ace. With six tricks in, declarer now played the jack of clubs, the queen of diamonds and the jack of spades for his nine tricks.

MAZURKIEWICZ won Session 2 by 28-7 for a huge 79-17 lead at the halfway point in the match. MONACO won the last two sets, 38-28 and 25-24, but it was nowhere near enough. The final score was 131-80.

Piotr Gawrys and Michal Klukowski played every session of the Rounds of 32 and 16 and the quarter-finals, semi-finals and final. At 18, Klukowski is the youngest player ever to win an Open World Teams Championship.



Turkey faced France 1 in the World Universities Championship. With two boards to play in their round-robin match, Turkey were 21 IMPs behind. This was the penultimate board:

Morton's Turkish Fork

Dealer North. NS Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Ucar</i>	<i>Laloubeyre</i>	<i>Altindag</i>	<i>Combescure</i>
—	Pass	1♠	Double
Redouble	2♣	4♣	Pass
4NT	Pass	5♠	Pass
6♠	Pass	Pass	Pass

Altindag won the trump lead in his hand and immediately led the eight of hearts. South chose to rise with the ace and declarer then had two discards for his diamond losers. If South had played low instead, Altindag would have won with the king and discarded his queen of hearts on the ace of clubs, losing just a diamond trick.

At the other table, South did not double and, with North/South then silent, the auction was one spade-two hearts-three spades-four clubs-four spades-pass. Declarer made 12 tricks on a diamond lead, losing 11 IMPs.

Turkey needed another 11 IMPs on the final board to win the match. No such luck. The final board was a dull one notrump passed out. Well, it was at the other table, but ...

(See the deal at the top of the next page.)

The two black kings winked at the Turkish pair and the game was made. That was plus 620 against plus 120 and another 11 IMPs to Turkey for a 1-IMP win!

Dealer East. EW Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Ucar</i>	<i>Laloubeyre</i>	<i>Altindag</i>	<i>Combescur</i>
—	—	Pass	Pass
1♣	1♦	Double	2♦
Double	3♦	Pass	Pass
Double	Pass	3♥	Pass
4♥	Pass	Pass	Pass



There were unusual goings-on in the Italian Inter-Club Championship this year. This deal is from the first quarter of the semifinal between SSD Angelini and Reggio Emilia.

Board 15. Dealer South. NS Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Camerini</i>	<i>Cima</i>	<i>Basile</i>	<i>Sementa</i>
—	—	—	3♠
3NT	4♠	5♥	Pass
Pass	Double	Pass	Pass
Pass			

I'm not certain that's a first-chair, unfavourable-vulnerability three-spade bid but, equally, I am certain that Antonio Sementa for Angelini cares little for what I think, especially after the result. Camerini could have

passed three spades, but his three notrump bid was typically-aggressive against today's preempts. What was Cima to do? He could have doubled three notrump, not that that would have been the final contract, but decided, on the vulnerability, to essay four spades. Poor Basile could not have bid four notrump as unusual in the face of his partner's three-notrump bid, so he guessed to take the save in five hearts. That was very questionable strategy since four spades may have been going down (although not on the actual deal) and five hearts was not a favourite to make on the bidding (on any deal).

Sementa led a fourth-best six of clubs and Cima won with his ace to return the suit. Declarer ruffed and led a heart, playing the ace when South showed out. Declarer ruffed dummy's last club and led a diamond to the ten. North won that with the queen, cashed the king of hearts and exited with the nine of hearts. Basile won the heart in hand and led another diamond, playing the king when Sementa showed out. North won with his ace of diamonds and made a good play by exiting with his last club, presenting declarer with a useless ruff-and-sluff.

Basile should have ruffed that in the dummy and played a diamond, losing one heart, three diamonds and one club for minus 500. However, entranced by that three-spade bid of Sementa, he essentially took a practice finesse, ruffing the club in hand to discard dummy's diamond loser. He had just used the last trump in his hand. When declarer took the spade finesse next, North won and could exit with either his remaining spade or the jack of diamonds. Embarrassingly, declarer then had to lose another trick for minus 800.

It's not every day that the defence gets to tap out a 6-4 fit, having drawn two rounds of trumps along the way. And an even rarer day when declarer loses two side-suit tricks with ace-queen-third opposite a singleton and ten trumps between the two hands.

Extraordinarily, Donati had the chance at the other table to cover this poor result (only poor because Sementa was destined to make 10 or 11 tricks in four spades).

West	North	East	South
<i>Versace</i>	<i>Gandoglia</i>	<i>Lauria</i>	<i>Donati</i>
—	—	—	4♠
Pass	Pass	4NT	Pass
5♣	5♠	Pass	Pass
Double	Pass	Pass	Pass

Marty Bergen was right, vulnerability is for children. Not satisfied with a conservative three-spade pre-empt, Donati tried a Tarzan-like four spades. That silenced Versace and Gandoglia, but not Lauria. He was on much firmer ground than his counterpart at the other table in believing that four spades would make and that his side would have a decent sacrifice. Thus he bid four

notrump. Had North doubled five clubs, Versace would have ended up declaring five hearts doubled. The king-of-spades lead would have held Versace's losers to three diamonds and a heart for minus 300.

However, believing his partner actually held something more than 13 cards for his four-spade bid, North tried five spades to make, rather than accepting a smaller plus score for a penalty. Versace led the ace of spades to take a look, and having seen that imposing dummy behind him, tried to cash the ace of hearts. Declarer ruffed and could have made his contract by finessing in diamonds and ruffing down West's king. However, he led a diamond to the ace instead, ruffed a diamond, then led a spade to the king and ruffed another diamond to bring his trick count to ten. But when the clubs proved to be unfavourably-placed, there was no eleventh trick. That was minus 200 and a 14-IMP loss.

Even had Versace defended optimally by leading his low spade at trick two, declarer could still have made five spades with similar play. After a heart ruff, the diamond finesse, the ace of diamonds and a ruff to bring down the king, West would have been put on play in trumps to lead to declarer's advantage.

Angelini won this semifinal in dominating fashion 209-61, then continued that form in the final, beating Val di Magra 126-56.

NEWS & VIEWS



Photos from Sanya

Last month, we neglected to credit Francesca Canali for the photographs that appeared in the Bulletin. All the photos of winners from Sanya were Francesca's. Thanks to her and to the WBF.

New "Goren Bridge" Columnist

Bob Jones, of Hypoluxo, Florida, has been named columnist for the long-running "Goren Bridge" syndicated feature started by Goren in the 1950s. For the past 40 years, the column had been written by Tannah Hirsch, with an early assist from Omar Sharif, making Hirsch one of the longest-tenured bridge columnists ever. Jones is a well-known player, teacher and bridge-club owner, originally from New York and now living in Florida. The column appears in 180 newspapers.

uBid Launch

NewInBridge.com has just launched uBid, a bidding app meant for smartphones and tablets. With uBid,

you practice and improve your bidding skills. As a service to all IBPA journalists, NewInBridge offers a one-year subscription to uBid for free. Go to <https://nl.surveymonkey.com/s/uBid-IBPA>, fill in your name and email-address, and receive an invitation by Jan van Cleeff to bid. Then you are set to bid with any partner you like. It would be much appreciated if you review uBid in your newspaper, in your magazine or at your website. Don't hesitate to contact Jan van Cleeff for more info – email: jvcleeff@xs4all.nl, mobile: +31 6 55834036, skype: [bridge.magazine.imp](https://www.skype.com/bridge.magazine.imp).

World Cup of Online Bridge

Bridge Big hosts this new event on its website www.bridgebig.com. It is slated to be the biggest online bridge event ever with 25,000 Euro in prize money. For more information about the World Cup visit their blog at <http://blog.bridgebig.com/blog/worldcup2015>. The event is open to all players worldwide. Qualification tournaments for the World Cup have started (as of November 13) and the event will end in a Grand Final on the 1st of February 2015.

FunBridge

Valentin Foncez of FunBridge is a new IBPA member. His company is a puzzle game publisher, especially bridge games, offering two applications for smartphones and tablets (namely, FunBridge and FunBridge Quiz) as well as a computer software programme. FunBridge is a duplicate bridge game with one human player and three computer players. Each human player plays the same deals and can compare and rank himself to other FunBridge players.

The game engine has been, and is continuing to be, developed by Jérôme Rombaut (French international), allowing for more human behaviour. FunBridge is a major player in the international bridge market, with a community of more than 250,000 players from more than 170 countries and has partnerships with the French Bridge Federation (FFB), French partner clubs, and the French magazines 'Le Bridgeur' and 'l'Annuaire du Bridge'. See FunBridge at www.funbridge.com and blog.funbridge.com.

More Turmoil in Italy

Norberto Bocchi, Giorgio Duboin and Agustin Madala, in a letter to the Italian Bridge Federation, have announced that they will no longer be available to represent Italy. The reasons given were negative comments about them and the team's unsuccessful performance in Bali on the Federation's website and in its magazine. Can we see Argentina in their future?

Italian team members Alfredo Versace and Norberto Bocchi were also critical (in an interview in neapolitanclub.altervista.org) of the choice of Sanya to host a World Championship, listing poor

accessibility, high cost, bad communications links and the dreadful format as some of the faults of the Championships.

Small Federations Championship

In October, Latvia I won the 2014 edition of the European Small Federation Games in Jurmala, Latvia. October 5th, 2014.

A Stranglehold

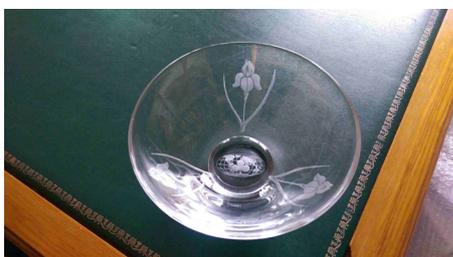
The 2014 New Zealand Teams title was won by the 2011 and 2012 champions, Michael Cornell & Ashley Bach, Martin Reid & Peter Newell, GeO Tislevoll & Michael Ware.

Vienna for Connoisseurs

An Austrian holiday – to be held from 23rd to 29th August 2015 – has a wonderful itinerary, with some very interesting places to visit, as well as bridge events. A delightful hotel and fine dining experiences are included. See <http://www.ecatsbridge.com/documents/files/Events/BlackfishBrochure2015.pdf> for the brochure or contact Doris Fischer for more information at: office@blackfish-bridge.com.

IBPA Honours Anna Gudge

In Sanya, the IBPA presented Anna Gudge with a bowl to commemorate her many years of faithful service to the organisation.



Correspondence

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

Email: ibpaeditor@sympatico.ca

Hi JC,

The IBPA Bulletin is a wonderful source for good bridge deals. Tim Bourke's "Column Service" deals are usually excellent, but I think he missed some good points about deal 732 in the October bulletin (No. 597).

This was the deal (see top of next column).

South won the spade lead, finessed the heart jack and went down. North suggested that he finesse the seven first.

732. Dealer West. Both Vul.

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

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

Bob continues ... After a heart to the jack loses and a spade is returned, declarer might still get home by running all four club tricks. This leaves a six-card ending with South holding five diamonds and the nine of hearts. West must keep all three hearts and choose between keeping three diamonds and no spades or two high diamonds and one spade. South leads the nine of hearts, forcing a cover with the ten, and then endplays West with a diamond. West can cash his winners, but then must lead a heart from the eight and dummy takes the last two hearts.

Unless ... West chooses to keep two high diamonds and the four of spades. He can then lead the four to East. It is East's spades that can beat the contract, not West's, and then only if West was clever enough to discard all his high ones.

All the best, Bob Jones, Hypoluxo, FL

PS: Most of the bulletin content seems to be reports 'from the field'. I do none of that, but I would be happy to contribute if you can think of a way for a mere columnist to do that.

Many of our members are columnists (Barry Rigal, Phillip Alder, Ron Klinger, Fernando Lema and Andrew Robson, to name a few) who frequently contribute material that has appeared, or will appear, in their columns. We always welcome contributions of any type from members. These need not be 'from the field'; the key feature is that the deals are interesting. – Ed.

Dear John,

I would like the opportunity to comment on the letter from Tim Bourke regarding the involvement of Ourgame as a content provider and, through Red Bull, a sponsor of the 2014 World Championships.

There is no doubt that OurGame had its shortcomings – even ignoring the gratuitous review of the colours used:

- players names were entered late
- there was limited pre-arrangement of English-speaking commentators
- the export function which was added during the championships at the request of the IBPA needed a lot more work
- the intermixing of open and closed room commentaries made following the action quite testing at times
- the interface, while quite adequate, could be made a lot slicker in its look and feel.

It is certainly reasonable for the viewing public to expect better – notwithstanding that the service is provided totally free of charge – something which many seem to forget.

However.....

I attended the Championships in Sanya as a Vugraph commentator (there was in fact no Vugraph in Sanya). I worked for three days doing online commentary for Ourgame where they had exclusive rights and, most importantly for this commentary, I had the opportunity to interview Eric Yang the Chairman of Ourgame both about his company as well as their involvement in bridge. (see Bulletin Page 5 <http://tinyurl.com/n3ykt86>)

Bridge administrators constantly complain about the difficulties in getting meaningful sponsorship and here we are with a credible long-term player who wants to get involved with bridge, and all some people are capable of doing is complaining about shortcomings, which one would reasonably expect can be remedied before their next involvement.

Personally, if I were Ourgame and I read the criticisms of Tim Bourke and many others, I would simply say why bother.

Ourgame is a serious player – it is a company capitalised at \$US450 million with 30 million unique logins per month including 60,000 unique bridge logins per month. Here is Ourgame, wanting to support the game of bridge both financially and as part of their platform, and our community can't see this as an opportunity for the game.

Why aren't people working with them and being constructive in an effort to improve the offering to meet their expectations rather than simply slamming them?

I think that the online criticisms of Ourgame says much more about us as bridge players than it does about the performance of Ourgame at their first attempt.

David Stern, Sydney

Your assumption that people were not constructive is incorrect – help was offered to the WBF and OurGame and was not accepted. And BBO is also free. – Ed.

Hey, John!

A couple minor points in the October issue.

(1.) In the write up of the Catherine d'Ovidio deal, pp. 6-7 ... (This was the deal – North declared three notrump against a heart lead. – Ed.)

Round 2. Board 2. Dealer East. NS Vul.

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

... where the defence endplayed dummy in diamonds, d'Ovidio erred – instead of coming off dummy with a club (after the jack and ten of clubs were pitched on her right, she should have known the ace of clubs was now stiff), she had to lead a high diamond first; now her RHO (over dummy) is endplayed instead – if RHO wins the diamond, she must lead from her four-two of diamonds into dummy's remaining ten-three, but if RHO ducks the diamond, a club now leaves RHO with the same unenviable problem. So d'Ovidio was not quite "faultless", as the article suggests.

(2.) On the deal shown on pp. 10-11 ...

Board 5. Dealer North. NS Vul.

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

... it seems to me that four hearts is makeable on any lead. After the king of spades lead to the ace and a heart to the king and ace, South led the jack of clubs. All declarer has to do is win the ace of clubs, ruff a diamond to hand, play the queen of hearts, heart (hearts must be 3-3), and claim, conceding a club.

Meanwhile, what a great partner is West, to put down that monster dummy after the really obscene four-heart opening!

Allan Falk, Okemos, MI

All true, but why should declarer have assumed that the king of clubs was offside (South was certainly capable of leading the jack from king-jack) and that the hearts were 3-3 rather than the king of clubs onside and hearts 4-2? It looks to me like you are resulting and that declarer's play was the percentage play, just not the winning choice. – Ed.

Dear John,

Re: The Indonesian Senior Pair Bert Toar Polii & Tanudjian Sugiarto ...

I met with Maurizio di Sacco in Salsomaggiore and he told me that he explained to you what had happened. I am really sorry and I will send a personal letter to Polii and Sugiarto as soon as I come back home from Lausanne where I am attending the International Federations Forum organised by SportAccord. As anticipated by Maurizio and told to you, we will invite them to attend the Senior Pairs in Wroclaw for the World Games.

Un abbraccio, Gianarrigo Rona, WBF President



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<http://www.ibpa.com/archive/Handbook/IBPA%20Handbook%202013.pdf>

Personal Details Changes:

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

IBPA President's Report on Sanya

In Sanya conditions for the Press were good with the possible exception of the internet connection, which had some problems. The Press Room, well managed as usual by Jan Swaan, was so spacious that half of it was commandeered by the Computer Championship.

As Sanya attendance numbers were lower than Bali, I wondered whether we might have a problem meeting our quorum for the AGM but, in practice, attendance was more than 30 and in line with Bali. The AGM business went well and the Award winners were mostly present to receive their awards. It was followed by a very successful Press Trip to the nearby Tropical forest and mountain, with an excellent lunch.

We only recruited two new members. These were Bettina Frerichs of Germany, who writes in the German Federation magazine, and Monika Kummel of France, the Layout Editor for the Sanya Daily Bulletins.

The AGM made the EBL President, Yves Aubry, an honour member, and elected David Harris our Honorary Counsel. Following the resignation of Panos Gerontopoulos as Liaison Officer with the EBL and WBF, your Executive then appointed David Harris to the role. We thank Panos particularly for his help on agreeing the annual grant from the WBF to IBPA and thank Bill Pencharz, our previous counsel, for his assistance on the revised IBPA constitution.

Your Executive co-opted Jerry Li of China and our Membership Secretary, Jeremy Dhondy to the Executive.

Our AGM and Awards will be held next year in Chennai, India.

Patrick Jourdain, IBPA President

World Bridge Calendar

DATES	EVENT	LOCATION	INFORMATION
2014			
Dec 10-17	SportAccord Mind Games	Beijing, China	www.worldmindgames.net
Dec 12-14	5 th International Festival	Vilamoura, Portugal	www.fpbridge.com
Dec 27-Jan 3	New Year's Bridge in Tunisia	Hammamet, Tunisia	severine.dissard@orange.fr
2015			
Jan 9-11	Camrose Trophy	Edinburgh, Scotland	www.ebu.co.uk
Jan 13-25	Summer Festival of Bridge	Canberra, Australia	www.abf.com.au
Jan 15-18	III Copenhagen Bridge Invitational	Copenhagen, Denmark	www.bridge.dk
Jan 16-18	RadissonBlu IMP Pairs	Copenhagen, Denmark	www.bridge.dk
Jan 24-30	Bermuda Regional	Southampton, Bermuda	www.bermudaregional.com
Feb 5-11	EBU Overseas Congress	Lanzarote, Spain	www.ebu.co.uk
Feb 6-8	VI Barcelona Open	Barcelona, Spain	www.aebridge.com
Feb 10-15	NEC Bridge Festival	Yokohama, Japan	www.jcbl.or.jp
Feb 12-17	28 th Cairo International Bridge Festival	Cairo, Egypt	www.egypt-bridge.org
Feb 20-26	49 th International Bridge Festival	Tel-Aviv, Israel	www.ibf-festival.org
Feb 21-28	Gold Coast Congress	Surfer's Paradise, Australia	www.qldbridge.com
Mar 12-22	ACBL Spring NABC	New Orleans, LA	www.acbl.org
Mar 22-28	XXVII International Festival	Tenerife, Canary Is., Spain	www.aebridge.com
Mar 23-29	XII International	Casablanca, Morocco	www.bridge-casablanca.com
Mar 24-29	Bridge Days	Kitzbuhel, Austria	www.bridgeaustria.at
Mar 31-Apr 1	120 th Canadian Nationals	Toronto, ON	www.unit166.ca
Apr 1-7	APBF Youth Teams Championships	Bangkok, Thailand	www.thailandbridgeleague.com
Apr 8-12	Yeh Bros Cup	Shanghai, China	chihuachen2001@yahoo.com.tw
Apr 24-May 3	Jersey Festival of Bridge	Lambourne, Jersey, Channel Is.	www.ebu.co.uk
Apr 30-May 4	ABF Autumn Nationals	Adelaide, Australia	www.abf.com.au
May 1-3	German Bridge Team Trophy	Berlin, Germany	www.bridge-verband.de
May 9-16	LXV Sudamericano	Buenos Aires, Argentina	www.csbnnews.org
May 14	XXXV Bonn Cup	Bad Godesburg, Germany	www.bridge-verband.de
May 15-23	28 th CACBF Zonal Championships	Christ Church, Barbados, W.I.	www.cacbf.com
May 19-24	Grand Prix of Portugal	Estoril, Portugal	www.fpbridge.com
May 21-25	Graz Bridge Days	Graz, Austria	www.bridgeaustria.at
May 21-31	50 th Asia Pacific BF Championships	Bangkok, Thailand	www.thailandbridgeleague.com
May 23-25	6 th Gros Supercup	Hessen, Germany	www.grossupercup2015.wix.com
May 24-31	XXVIII Golf-Bridge International	Costa Claida, Spain	www.aebridge.com
Jun 6-14	17 th German Bridge Festival	Wyk/Fuhr, Germany	www.bridge-verband.de
Jun 23-Jul 5	33 rd International Festival	Albena, Bulgaria	www.bridgealbena.org
Jun 27-Jul 11	7 th Open European Championships	Tromsø, Norway	www.tromso2015.no
Jul 11-23	Australian National Championships	Fremantle, WA, Australia	www.abf.com.au
Jul 17-25	European Youth Team Championships	Tromsø, Norway	www.eurobridge.org
Jul 25-Aug 2	21 st Swedish Bridge Festival	Örebro, Sweden	www.svenskbridge.se/festival
Jul 26-31	Chairman's Cup	Örebro, Sweden	www.svenskbridge.se/festival
Aug 6-16	ACBL Summer NABC	Chicago, IL	www.acbl.org
Aug 11-18	Coffs Gold Coast Congress	Korora, NSW, Australia	www.abf.com.au
Aug 14-23	Brighton Summer Congress	Brighton, UK	www.ebu.co.uk
Aug 19-23	9 th "Riga Invites to Jurmala"	Jurmala, Latvia	www.rigainvites.lv
Sep 4-6	Isle of Man Congress	Douglas, Isle of Man	www.ebu.co.uk
Sep 11-20	Confiance Guernsey Congress	Guernsey, Channel Is.	www.ebu.co.uk
Sep 26-30	NZ National Congress	Hamilton, NZ	www.nzbridgecongress.co.nz
Sep 26-Oct 10	World Team Championships	Chennai, India	www.bfi.net.in
Sep 30-Oct 4	International Festival	Azores Is., Portugal	www.fpbridge.com
Oct 19-23	Cavendish Invitational	Monte Carlo, Monaco	jcaconseil@libello.com
Oct 21-29	ABF Spring Nationals	Sydney, Australia	www.abf.com.au
Nov 2-8	International Festival	Madeira, Portugal	www.fpbridge.com
Nov 5-7	2nd Marbella International	Marbella, Spain	www.marbellabridge.com
Nov 11-14	14 th European Champions Cup	Little Horwood, UK	www.ebu.co.uk
Nov 26-Dec 5	ACBL Fall NABC	Denver, CO	www.acbl.org