



The International Bridge Press Association

# Handbook 2014

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## PRESIDENT'S FOREWORD



Patrick Jourdain

IBPA's last Handbook was produced six years ago. The motivation for this latest effort came as IBPA was to celebrate fifty years since its foundation at the European Championships in Oslo as the European Bridge

given assistance by our President Emeritus, Tommy Sandsmark, and Peter Hasenson of GBRLand has supplied many extra photos. A number of members have done proofreading, and each member has been invited to proofread their own personal details on the Internet file.

If some reader can supply any of the missing data it is not too late to update the Internet version, so please assist in this way if you can.

More than forty members attended our dinner at the 2008 European Championships in Pau to celebrate fifty years. These included Jaime Ortiz-Patino, a founding member, and Per, who had been present at the inauguration as a boy.



Press Association. But the key to the book's appearance was the offer of Tjolpe Flodqvist of Sweden to act as Editor, for which all members should be most grateful.

The initial target was to have this version on the Internet only, but thanks to generous offers from Jannersten Forlag to print the Handbook, and Generali to cover the cost of postage to members we are able to offer a printed version as well. Jannersten's father, Eric, was the founding Secretary, and Per and his wife Britt has done much of the historical research that was needed to complete the book. Flodqvist has also been

At the World Championships following our foundation the name was amended from European to International. And at the 1<sup>st</sup> World Mind Sports Games in Beijing later this year we plan to give our wider membership a chance to celebrate similarly.

*Patrick Jourdain*  
IBPA President, August 2008

# FIFTY YEARS OF IBPA



IBPA was not built on law, but on an insight: Competitors are better off if they cooperate.

## 50s

We have no details of the founding of the European Bridge Press Association. There is no Charter, no Constitution, no minutes of the occasion. All we know is that the organization was founded in the Press Room at the European Championships in Oslo sometime during the period 18-30th August 1958.

Bridge championships in the fifties were very different from today's venues. Daylight and fresh air were banned; curtains were drawn and windows closed. At the end of the day the smoke was so thick that it was difficult to see from one end of the room to the other.

When play finished (usually after midnight) the hunt for results and interesting hands started. If a good hand was found, it was scribbled down in cryptic form with x:es for the less important cards.

With such an obvious need for a better organized exchange of information among the bridge reporters it is strange that they did not combine forces earlier.

The bridge press was, however, quick to try modern techniques. At the 1958 European Championships some of the deals from the GBRland - Egypt match was broadcasted in Norwegian radio. (Yes, Egypt counted as Europe in those days.)

After a year (in 1959) it was realized that also fellowships like ours need kind of organization. The members did not go so far as to write a Constitution, but they agreed on some "articles of the Association" (reported in Bulletin no. 1). The key points were:

- That there should be Primary Membership open for "regular bridge journalists" and Temporary Membership open for reporters from "bona fide Newspapers and Magazines".
- That the subscription should be 2.000 ♠ Italian ♥ Lire per annum.
- That the Secretary should send out a monthly bulletin "of bridge news, compiled from reports from all centres".

They forgot to elect a Treasurer, so it was never formally decided that the Secretary should take care of the funds. The first Bulletin lists 18 fully paid members in numerical (but most probably not chronological) order:

Guy Ramsey, UK  
 William B Herseth, Norway  
 Rixi Markus, UK  
 Herman Filarski, Holland  
 Ewart Kempson, UK  
 Josef Vanden Borre, Belgium  
 Svend Carstensen, Denmark  
 Jack Kelly, Ireland  
 Jens Boeck, Denmark  
 Johs. Hulgaard, Denmark  
 K W Konstam, UK  
 Ambjörg Amundsen, Norway  
 O Kaalund-Jørgensen, Denmark  
 Eric Jannersten, Sweden  
 Tore Sandgren, Sweden  
 Henri Dalati, Libanon  
 Jean Besse, Switzerland  
 Terence Reese, UK

Johannes Hulgaard is extraordinary. His first appearance on the Danish national team was at the European Championships in Stockholm 1956. Six decades later he is still playing for Denmark! (In Beijing 2008 he was on the Danish Seniors team.)

## 60s

At its first "annual meeting", held during the Olympiad in Turin 1960 our organization changed its name to International Bridge Press Association "because of many bridge journalists from non European countries who have become members". This annual meeting also corrected the mistake to state the dues in Lire. It was decided that members should pay two pounds Sterling, or 5.60 US\$. (Bulletin 10)

Terence Reese promised to pay twice if two members paid once. When the word was spread both Alfred Morehead and Jack Kelly did pay in time (in total there were 56 members).

I remember the 60s as very cold. Not only had we the cold war between USA and USSR; it was literally very cold.

To meet in Turin in the latter part of April sounds like an excellent idea. In practice it was bitterly cold. People played wearing all the clothes they had, including hat, coat and gloves. My theory is that the cold environment (compared to the warm, easy going 50ies) did offset on the atmosphere at the tables. When I asked Johannes Hulgaard to say something about bridge in the 50ies he immediately replied: *The Blue Team*.

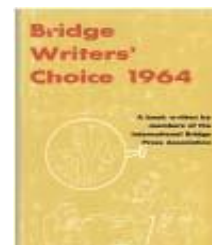
"Typical for the Italians was, apart from their skilful play, that two of their pairs played strange systems with a strong club opening. Their systems and signals were on the whole much more developed than their competitors'. Furthermore, they behaved very well at the table and were equally nice and polite to their partner and opponents — Garozzo did not join until 1961."

Another reason for the somewhat colder atmosphere was that some of the American players got increasingly frustrated that the best team in the world did not win.

Stone once jumped to his feet and cried out for the director. He complained that one of the Italians had told him, WITHOUT BEING ASKED that his partner's 1♣ opening was conventional. When the TD tried to explain that the Italian player only meant to be kind, Stone cut in: *I KNOW he is kind, and I know his kind*.

The cold war reached its peak at the World Championships in St Vincent 1966 when each table was placed in a locked room with no spectators. It did not help. The Blue Team won anyway.

IBPA's first publications, Bridge Writers' Choice 1964 and 1968, contained many interesting articles, but was not the hoped for commercial success. The AGM in 1969 decided to "not go ahead with the 1972 edition" (Bulletin no. 79).



Apart from that backlash IBPA was successful. At the end of the decade the membership was well over 200.

## 70s

The seventies is remembered for three things:

- the IBPA awards were introduced
- the cooperation with BOLS started
- IBPA got its first, real Constitution



A proud Philip Alder, "one of our youngest members", who submitted the most brilliant deal of 1969.

BOLS did not only sponsor our Brilliancy and ♠BOLS♥ tips competitions. The company also sponsored our Hand-

books and Press lunches for twenty years. That no doubt helped to boost our membership to about 300.



### 80s

In January 1982 the new Editor, Patrick Jourdain, summarized his intentions. The Bulletin should provide: (Bulletin 219)

1. *Potential copy for members' professional work*
2. *news of the bridge world*
3. *a forum for the profession of the bridge press*
4. *an official medium for the Association's business.*

That still holds true.

When digging in the archives it strikes me how little has changed since the start. The demand for at least two, preferably three, copies of hand records from every match to be available in the Press Room is, of course, as obsolete as the request for spare ribbons to the typewriters.

Internet and the fact that the hands are duplicated give more people access to fewer deals than in the old days. But in principle it is the same story as fifty years ago: An organization of IBPA's type cannot serve its members any better than the members serve its organization.

The paradox is that the more commonly available material there is, the bigger the need to have it summarized. "Our members should be confident that nothing can happen without their knowledge just by checking the Bulletin", as it was put in Bulletin no. 12.

Per Jannersten, Chairman

# IBPA OFFICIALS

## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

### Elected Officers

President	: Patrick D Jourdain (Wales)
Presidents Emeriti	: Henry Francis (USA)
	: Tommy Sandsmark (Norway)
Chairman	: Per E Jannersten (Sweden)
Executive Vice-President	: Jan van Cleeff (Netherlands)
Organisational Vice-President	: Dilip Gidwani (India)
Secretary	: Herman De Wael (Belgium)
Treasurer	: Richard Solomon (New Zealand)



### Elected Executive Members until:

2001	Panos Gerontopoulos (GRC); Chris Diment (AUS); Jan van Cleeff (NLD)
2002	Julius Butkow (ZAF) John Carruthers (CAN); Barry Rigal (USA), J. P. Meyer (FRA) 1 yr
2003	Dilip Gidwani (IND); R. Tacchi. (GBR); Peter Lund (DEN), B. Manley (USA) 1 yr
2004	C. Diment (AUS), P. Gerontopoulos (GRC), B. Manley (USA)
2005	J. Butkow (ZAF), B. Rigal (USA), J. Carruthers (CAN) C. Andersson (SWE) 1 yr
2006	C. Andersson (SWE), P. Lund (DEN), R. Tacchi (GBR)
2007	C. Diment (AUS), P. Gerontopoulos (GRC), B. Manley (USA)
2008	J. Butkow (ZAF), B. Rigal (USA), J. Carruthers (CAN), David Stern (AUS) 1 yr
2009	Nikolas Bausback (GER), Pietro Campanile (ISR) 2 yrs, Ron Tacchi (FRA); Geo Tislevoll (NOR)
2013	David Stern (AUS) 3 yrs, Brent Manley (USA) 3 yrs, Todashi Yoshida (JAP) 3yrs
2014	John Carruthers (Canada); Barry Rigal (USA); Gavin Wolpert (USA)
2015	Ge0 Tislevoll (NZL); Nikolas Bausback (GER); Ron Tacchi (FRA)
2016	:David Stern (AUS), Tadashi Yoshida (JPN), Brent Manley (USA)
2017	John Carruthers (Canada); Barry Rigal (USA); Gavin Wolpert (USA)

## HONORARY OFFICERS

Presidents Emeriti	: Henry Francis (USA), Tommy Sandsmark (NOR)
Legal Counsel	: David Harris (GBR)
Auditor	: Richard Fleet (GBR)

## APPOINTEES (Appointed by Executive)

Membership Secretary	: <a href="#">Jeremy Dhondy</a> (GBR)
Awards Chairman	: <a href="#">Barry Rigal</a> (USA)
Bulletin Editor	: <a href="#">John Carruthers</a> (CAN)
Bulletin Production	: <a href="#">Dilip Gidwani</a> (IND)
Liaison Officer EBL & WBF	: David Harris (GBR)
Sponsorship Chairman	: <a href="#">José Damiani</a> (FRA)

Registered Office: Carr Law Firm pc, 611 Pleasant, Miles City, Montana 59301 USA

## HONOR MEMBERS

José Damiani (France)  
 Patrick D. Jourdain (GBR)  
 David Rex-Taylor (GBR)  
 George Rosenkranz MEX)  
 Gianarrigo Rona (ITA)

Denis Howard (AUS)  
 Ernesto d'Orsi (BRA)  
 Henry G. Francis (USA)  
 Tommy H.S. Sandsmark (NOR)

Per E. Jannersten (SWE)  
 Henry Francis (USA)  
 Barry J. Rigal (USA)  
 Sven-Olov Flodqvist (SWE)

## FORMER IBPA OFFICERS

Year	President	Secretary	NOTES
1958	Guy Ramsey	Eric Jannersten	Founded as EUROPEAN BRIDGE PRESS ASSOCIATION.
1959-65	Ranik Halle	Eric Jannersten	The monthly Bulletin, originally a newsletter from the secretary, started in 1959.
1965-70	Jack Kelly	Eric Jannersten	In 1960 the name became INTERNATIONAL BRIDGE PRESS ASSOCIATION. In 1967 the Bulletin got its first appointed Editor in Rhoda Barrow (Lederer).
1970-74	Richard Frey	Eric Jannersten	In 1968 Jan Wohlin began contributing hands. In 1972 Albert Dormer became Editor. The Bulletin became offset printed; clippings and a Calendar were introduced.

Year	President	Chairman	Vice-Pres	Secretary	Treasurer	Award Secr	Memb Secr	Editor
74/76	R Frey		H Filarski	E Jannersten	E Jannersten	-	-	A Dormer
76/77	" "		" "	P Pigot	N Rice	A Traub	A Dormer	" "
78/81	" "		" "	E Griggs	" "	" "	" "	" "
81/82	A Truscott		" "	" "	" "	" "	" "	" "
82/83	" "		" "	" "	B Stallard	" "	A Staveley	P Jourdain
83/85	" "		J Besse	" "	" "	T Bourke	" "	" "
85/86	" "		" "	" "	" "	D Schroeder	S Staveley	" "
86/89	R Ducheyne		" "	" "	" "	" "	" "	" "
89/90	" "		T Sandsmark	" "	" "	" "	" "	" "
90/91	" "		" "	" "	E Senn	" "	" "	" "
91/92	T Sandsmark		A Truscott	" "	" "	" "	" "	" "
92/94	" "		P Jannersten	S Staveley	" "	" "	" "	" "
94/96	" "		H Francis	" "	" "	" "	" "	" "
96/98	H Francis		J-P Meyer	" "	" "	B Rigal	" "	" "
98/00	" "		" "	E. Senn	C. Andersson	" "	" "	" "
00/02	" "	A. Truscott	J-P Meyer, P. Jannersten	M. Dennison	" "	" "	" "	" "
02/03	" "	" "	P. Jourdain, P. Jannersten	" "	" "	" "	" "	J. Carruthers
03/04	P. Jourdain	H Francis	J. van Cleeff, P. Jannersten	" "	" "	" "	" "	" "
04/05	" "	" "	" "	" "	" "	" "	" "	" "
05/06	" "	P. Jannersten	J. van Cleef, D. Gidwani	" "	M. Dix	" "	M. Dix	" "
06/08	" "	" "	J. van Cleef, D. Gidwani	" "	" "	" "	" "	" "
08/10	" "	" "	J. van Cleef, D. Gidwani	" "	" "	" "	J. Dhondy	" "
10/12	" "	" "	" "	H. De Wael	H. Dhondy	" "	" "	" "
12/14	" "	" "	" "	" "	R. Solomon	" "	" "	" "
14/16	" "	" "	" "	" "	" "	" "	" "	" "

## NOTES

In 1974 Constitutional amendments added a Vice-President (Herman Filarski) and Treasurer (Eric Jannersten combined this with Secretaryship). In 1976 Eric Jannersten retired and the Executive appointed a Membership Secretary (Albert Dormer did this as well as Editor) and Awards Secretary (Alec Traub).

In 1981 Richard Frey retired as President and was appointed President Emeritus and Chairman. The new President was Alan Truscott.

In March 1982 Albert Dormer retired (to become consultant to the WBF, in addition to his post of Editor of World Bridge News). Patrick Jourdain was appointed Editor from issue 219, with David Rex-Taylor as Executive Editor in London, printing and distributing the Bulletin. Anne Staveley became the Membership Secretary, and Berl Stallard became Treasurer. Herman Filarski died the following month. At the following AGM, in Biarritz, the post of Executive Vice-President (Jean Besse), First Vice-President (André Boekhorst), and Counsel (Denis Howard) were created. Howard was Counsel for two years and the post then remained vacant until Lee Hazen accepted the job in 1985.

In 1985 the Bulletin celebrated its 250th issue, and André Boekhorst resigned to take up a post at the EBL. René Ducheyne became First Vice-President. Anne Staveley died and was succeeded by her husband, Stuart. At Miami Beach in 1986, Alan Truscott and René Ducheyne swapped posts.

Two years later, on the very day of the AGM in Venice, Dick Frey died. At the next AGM, in Turku, Jean Besse became Chairman, and his successor, as Executive Vice-President was Tommy Sandsmark.

In 1990, in Geneva, Berl Stallard retired as Treasurer, and was succeeded by Evelyn Senn-Gorter.

Early in 1991 René Ducheyne suffered from ill health, and the three senior posts were rotated: Tommy Sandsmark becoming President, Alan Truscott Executive Vice-President and Ducheyne became First Vice-President. Lee Hazen died early in 1991. At the AGM in Killarney, Bill Pencharz became General Counsel, and Lars Blakset the Association's first Honorary Auditor.

Just after Killarney closed came news of the death of René Ducheyne. At the following AGM in Salsomaggiore Per Jannersten, the son of the founding Secretary, became the Executive Vice-President, and Alan Truscott moved back to being the First Vice-President. Eloene Griggs retired as Secretary and became an Honor Member. Stuart Staveley was elected Secretary with the understanding that Evelyn Senn would carry out those duties not connected with Membership.

In September 1994 our Chairman Jean Besse died and this caused a rotation of the senior posts. The Constitution had been amended to create the post of Organisational Vice-President instead of First Vice-President. Alan Truscott became Chairman and Per Jannersten Organisational Vice-President. In Beijing in 1995 Barry Rigal (USA) was appointed Awards Chairman. At the 1996 AGM in Rhodes Tommy Sandsmark retired as President and Henry Francis (USA) was elected. The new Executive Vice-President was Jean-Paul Meyer (France).

The Constitution was amended in 1997 to create the post of President Emeritus open to living Past Presidents. At the 1998 AGM in Lille Alan Truscott and Tommy Sandsmark were elected to the new honorary post. Christer Andersson became Treasurer, and Evelyn Senn, who had been fulfilling both the roles of Treasurer and Secretary, was formally named as Secretary.

The IBPA decided to have its own website which became operational the following year.

At Maastricht, in the year 2000, Evelyn Senn-Gorter retired from the Executive and Maureen Dennison became Secretary.

In 2001 David Rex-Taylor, who had served as Executive Editor of the Bulletin, being responsible for printing and distribution from 1982, retired, and Anna Gudge filled the vacancy. The job was renamed Production Editor.

In 2002 Patrick Jourdain retired after 20 years as Bulletin Editor. John Carruthers succeeded him.

In 2003 Patrick was elected President when Henry Frances became Chairman. At the same time Per Jannersten and Jan van Cleeff swapped jobs; Jan van Cleeff stepping up as Executive Vice-President. Anna Gudge retired as Production Editor and was replaced by Jean Tyson (now Butler), who got the title Bulletin Production Manager.

After a year of re-elections we had a major change of guards in Estoril 2005. Henry Frances retired as chairman and Per Jannersten took his place. Dilip Gidwani filled the slot as Organizational Vice President that Per left. Mario Dix replaced both Christer Andersson (Treasurer) and Stuart Staveley (Membership Secretary). Stuart had served the organization in twenty years and well deserved being named Honorary member. The officers have remained the same since Estoril.

It should also be mentioned that the Auditor has been Julius Butkow, and the General Counselor Bill Pencharz, since year 2000. Alan Truscott was President Emeritus until his death in 2005. The current President Emeriti are Tommy Sandsmark and Henry Francis

# THE IBPA BULLETIN

by the Editor, John Carruthers (Canada)

The IBPA BULLETIN is the principal service to members: GBRLish language (16 pages, A4) twelve times per year (airmail). The content is aimed at journalists, so the BULLETIN has a high degree of factual information and 'good hands'. are strong correspondence and news sections.

The Bulletin can also be viewed on the IBPA website [www.IBPA.com](http://www.IBPA.com)

Any visitor to the site may view some Bulletins from earlier years. Bulletins from the most recent year need a code, to be found in the printed version. The address is the website address followed by a "forward slash" followed by the Bulletin number then its two letter code, followed by ".PDF" e.g. [www.IBPA.com/430mb.pdf](http://www.IBPA.com/430mb.pdf)

The Editor is:



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Bulletin Production:

Jean Butler 105 Roundways, Coalpit Heath, Bristol UK

The Editor began his tenure of office in October 2002 with BULLETIN 453, where he made this statement of intent:

"The BULLETIN should provide:

1. potential copy for members' professional work;
2. news of the bridge world;
3. a forum for the profession of the bridge press;
4. an official medium for Association business."

The Bulletin has little budget for contributors. One service it provides to members is hands suitable for use in bridge columns, which can be used without acknowledgement. Members of the Association provide much of the content without remuneration.

Members are invited to feel an obligation to provide copy at least once per year in the form of clippings, letters or articles.

When supplying bridge hands please make every effort to include the following:

- All the cards, Dealer, Vulnerability
- At least one auction and explanations
- Form of scoring (e.g. teams/pairs)
- When: the month or more accurate
- Where: the country or more accurate
- What: the occasion or event
- Who: at least one name
- Why: the story at one table or more
- Your own name & address & date of sending

The main tests to apply when sending material are:

- ✓ Is the copy of interest to journalists of more than one country? Is it legible, lucid and reasonably short?
- ✓ Do not worry if your GBRLish is poor. If the Editor can understand it, he will correct it. Quality (of story) is to be preferred to quantity. As speed of receipt is helpful, e-mail should be preferred to airmail.
- ✓ Articles may be submitted in GBRLish or French. The Editor will also endeavour to have articles submitted in other languages translated for publication.
- ✓ Articles are best sent as a Word document in an email attachment, although PDF or RTF files are also acceptable.
- ✓ Photographs are sometimes used in the Bulletin and are needed for the Handbook. Members are invited to include photographs of themselves when submitting their Annual Subscription Form. Screened photographs reproduce better. Photographs can also be sent electronically to the Bulletin Editor.

When submitting clippings please include:

- Name of author
- Name of publication & country
- Approximate circulation of publication
- Exact date of clipping

Clippings, which mention a sponsor, are always welcome. If they are not intended for possible publication in the Bulletin please send them directly to the Clippings Secretary.

## ADVERTISING

### IBPA BULLETIN

The BULLETIN cover notes that it is "...circulated to more than 300 members... comprising the world's leading journalists, authors and editors of news, books and articles about contract bridge, with an estimated readership of some 100 million people..."

The Bulletin includes a **Calendar** of International Events. Organizers of such events are invited to send details of upcoming championships for inclusion free of charge.

The cost for advertisements by commercial bodies are (in USD): 1/1 page US \$ 600, 1/2 page US \$ 400, 1/4 US \$ 250, 1/8 US \$ 150. There is a 25% discount for those who advertise in 12 consecutive issues, provided that all are paid for when the first advert appears.

A 50% discount is available for non-commercial bodies and for sponsors.

Prospective advertisers should contact the Editor.

### Attachments

Attachments that are sent out with the Bulletin costs US \$ 300.

### Inserts

Insert that is to be sent by mail costs US \$ 300 plus the actual technical costs (printing, inserting, postage).

### WEB page

Clickable logo (banner) on IBPA's web site is US \$ 100 per year. Text & clickable logo is US \$ 500 per year.

## COPYRIGHT

*The IBPA 1999 General Meeting in Malta approved the inclusion of the following advice from the 1998 AGM in Lille as good practice for members, and added item to:*

1. Facts such as details of an actual deal are not copyright;
2. Editors should not copy the words of a named author without crediting the author in the case of an extract or asking permission in the case of the bulk of an article;
3. Authors who send the same words to more than one publication should tell the Editors what they have done;
4. Analysis of a deal is not copyright;
5. If an author is employed then ownership of copyright is a matter between the author and employer, but others may work on the assumption that it is the employer who owns the copyright, particularly where the author is unnamed in such publications as Tournament Bulletins;
6. Further to this it could be good practice for such publications to have a clear statement regarding copyright of content so that contributing authors and prospective users of copy knew the published conditions;
7. Authors can give permission to specified third parties such as "other IBPA members" to reproduce their work;
8. IBPA is a members' club where there is an assumption that the IBPA Bulletin may reproduce members' work without payment or permission, but readers of the Bulletin must treat copy in the Bulletin as having the same copyright as the original work;
9. Invented deals such as Par Hands or Double Dummy Problems should be treated as words, and subject to copyright.
10. When third parties ask the permission of an Editor to reprint published material, the Editor should make it clear that the author's permission is also required unless the publisher clearly owns the reprint rights.

# ANNUAL AWARDS

[The Bridge Personality of the Year](#)  
[The Best Played Hand of the Year](#)  
[The Best Defence of the Year](#)  
[The Best Bid Hand of the Year](#)  
[The Best Article or Series on a System or Convention](#)  
[The Best Play by a Junior](#)  
[The Sportsman of the Year](#)  
[The IBPA Sportsmanship](#)  
[The 2005 IBPA Honour Member of the Year](#)  
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[The Simon Award for the Sporting Gesture of the Year](#)  
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[The Keri Klinger Award](#)

## THE BRIDGE PERSONALITY OF THE YEAR




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Year	Award	Award Winner
<a href="#">1973/74</a>	Charles Goren	André Lemaitre (BEL)
<a href="#">1974/75</a>	Charles Goren	Julius L Rosenblum (USA)
<a href="#">1975/76</a>	Charles Goren	Rixi Markus (GBR)
<a href="#">1976/77</a>	Charles Goren	Herman Filarski (NLD)
<a href="#">1977/78</a>	Charles Goren	Jaime Ortiz-Patino (CHE)
<a href="#">1978/79</a>	Charles Goren	Edgar Kaplan (USA)
<a href="#">1979/80</a>	Charles Goren	Amalya L. Kears (USA)
<a href="#">1980/81</a>	Charles Goren	DGBR Xiaoping (CHN)
<a href="#">1981/82</a>	Charles Goren	Albert Dormer (GBR)
<a href="#">1982/83</a>	Charles Goren	Oswald Jacoby (USA)
<a href="#">1983/84</a>	Charles Goren	Easley Blackwood (USA)
<a href="#">1984/85</a>	Charles Goren	Barry Crane (USA)
<a href="#">1985/86</a>	Charles Goren	José Damiani (FRA) ✕ No data.
<a href="#">1986/87</a>	Charles Goren	Kathie Wei (USA) ✕ No data
<a href="#">1987/88</a>	Charles Goren	Helene Lemaitre (BEL) ✕ No data
<a href="#">1989/90</a>	IBPA	Eloene Griggs (USA)
<a href="#">1990/91</a>	IBPA	André Boekhorst (NLD) ✕ No data
<a href="#">1991/92</a>	IBPA	Evelyn Senn-Gorter (NLD) ✕ No data
<a href="#">1992/93</a>	IBPA	Hugh W Kelsey (GBR) ✕ No data
<a href="#">1993/94</a>	IBPA	Ernesto d'Orsi (BRA) ✕ No data
<a href="#">1994/95</a>	IBPA	Panos Gerontopoulos (GRC)
<a href="#">1995/96</a>	IBPA	Geir Helgemo (NOR)
<a href="#">1996/97</a>	IBPA	Matthew Clegg (USA)
<a href="#">1997/98</a>	IBPA	Paul Chemla (FRA)
<a href="#">1998/99</a>	IBPA	Marc Hodler (CHE)
<a href="#">1999/00</a>	IBPA	Anna Gudge (GBR)
<a href="#">2000/01</a>	IBPA	José Damiani (FRA)
<a href="#">2001/02</a>	IBPA	Patrick Jourdain (GBR)
<a href="#">2002/03</a>	IBPA	Gianarrigo Rona (ITA)
<a href="#">2003/04</a>	IBPA	Radoslaw Kielbasinski (POL)
<a href="#">2004/05</a>	IBPA	Fred Gitelman (USA)
<a href="#">2005/06</a>	IBPA	Warren Buffett & Bill Gates (USA)
<a href="#">2006/07</a>	IBPA	Zia Mahmood (PAK)
<a href="#">2007/08</a>	IBPA	Antoine Bernheim (Generali)
<a href="#">2008/09</a>	IBPA	Rose Meltzer (USA)

<a href="#">2009/10</a>	IBPA	Thomas Bessis (FRA)
<a href="#">2010/11</a>	IBPA	Pierre Zimmermann (CHE)
<a href="#">2011/12</a>	IBPA	Maria Teresa Lavazza (ITA)
<a href="#">2012/13</a>	IBPA	Andrew Robson (GBR) & Bauke Muller (NLD)
<a href="#">2013/14</a>	IBPA	Patrick Huang (TWN)

#### **THE BEST PLAYED HAND OF THE YEAR**

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<b>Year</b>	<b>Award</b>	<b>Player</b>	<b>Journalist</b>
<a href="#">1973/74</a>	SOLOMON	José le Dentu (FRA)	▫ No data
<a href="#">1974/75</a>	SOLOMON	Benito Garozzo (ITA)	Caio Rossi (ITA)
<a href="#">1975/76</a>	SOLOMON	Tim Seres (AUS)	Denis Howard (AUS)
<a href="#">1976/77</a>	SOLOMON	Harold Ogust (USA)	Charles Goren (USA)
<a href="#">1977/78</a>	SOLOMON	Dominique Pilon (FRA)	Albert Dormer (GBR)
<a href="#">1978/79</a>	SOLOMON	Maurizio Sementa (ITA)	Ida Pellegrini (ITA)
<a href="#">1979/80</a>	SOLOMON	Benito Garozzo (ITA)	Henry Francis (USA)
<a href="#">1980/81</a>	SOLOMON	Andrzej Wilkosz (POL)	Martin Hoffman (GBR)
<a href="#">1981/82</a>	SOLOMON	Lajos Linczmayer (HUN)	Kelen Karolly (HUN)
<a href="#">1982/83</a>	SOLOMON	Claude Delmouly (FRA)	'Le Bridgeur'
<a href="#">1983/84</a>	SOLOMON	Zia Mahmood (PAK)	Daily Bulletin
<a href="#">1984/85</a>	SOLOMON	Won Li (CHN)	Alan Truscott (USA)
<a href="#">1985/86</a>	SOLOMON	Henri Svarc (FRA)	Jean-Paul Meyer (FRA)
<a href="#">1986/87</a>	SOLOMON	Jon A StoevnGBR (NOR)	Arne Hofstad (NOR)
<a href="#">1987/88</a>	SOLOMON	Trond Rogne (NOR)	Knut Kjarnsrod (NOR)
<a href="#">1988/89</a>	SOLOMON	Kerri Shuman (USA)	Alan Truscott (USA) ▫ No article
<a href="#">1989/90</a>	SOLOMON	Miss Raczyńska (POL)	Guy Dupont (FRA)
<a href="#">1990/91</a>	SOLOMON	Shmuel Friedman (ISR)	Jos Jacobs (NLD)
<a href="#">1991/92</a>	SOLOMON	Elizabeth McGowan (GBR)	Barry Rigal (GBR)
<a href="#">1992/93</a>	SOLOMON	Peter Schaltz (DEN)	Villy Dam (DEN)
<a href="#">1993/94</a>	SOLOMON	Hervé Mouiel (FRA)	Jean-Paul Meyer (FRA)
<a href="#">1994/95</a>	Le Bridgeur	Philippe Cronier (FRA)	Patrick Jourdain (GBR)
<a href="#">1995/96</a>	Le Bridgeur	Wubbo de Boer (NLD)	Eric Kokish (CAN)
<a href="#">1996/97</a>	Le Bridgeur	Geir Helgemo (NOR)	Edgar Kaplan (USA)
<a href="#">1997/98</a>	Le Bridgeur	Jeff Meckstroth (USA)	Jean-Paul Meyer (FRA)
<a href="#">1998/99</a>	IBPA	Jeff Meckstroth (USA)	Omar Sharif (EGY)
<a href="#">1999/00</a>	IBPA	Vincent Ramondt (NLD)	Jos Jacobs (NLD)
<a href="#">2000/01</a>	Digital Fountain	David Berkowitz (USA)	Jody Latham (USA)
<a href="#">2001/02</a>	Digital Fountain	Sebastian Kristensen (DEN)	Otto Charles Pedersen (DEN)
<a href="#">2002/03</a>	Digital Fountain	Geir Helgemo (NOR)	Geir Olav Tislevoll (NOR)
<a href="#">2003/04</a>	C & R Motors	Cezary Balicki (POL)	Eric Kokish (CAN)
<a href="#">2004/05</a>	C & R Motors	Bill Pettis (USA)	Roy Welland (USA)
<a href="#">2005/06</a>	C & R Motors	Tarek Sadek (EGY)	Brent Manley (USA)
<a href="#">2006/07</a>	C & R Motors	Alfredo Versace (ITA)	Marek Wojicki (POL)
<a href="#">2007/08</a>	C & R Motors	Giorgio Duboin (ITA)	Mark Horton (GBR)
<a href="#">2008/09</a>	Rose  Cliff	Steve Weinstein (USA)	Phillip Alder (USA)
<a href="#">2009/10</a>	Rose  Cliff	Michael Courtney (AUS)	Ron Klinger (AUS)
<a href="#">2010/11</a>	Rose  Cliff	Geir Helgemo (NOR)	GeO Tislevoll (NZL)

#### **THE BEST DEFENCE OF THE YEAR**

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<b>Year</b>	<b>Award</b>	<b>Players</b>	<b>Journalist</b>
<a href="#">1985/86</a>	Precision	Bob Hamman (USA)	Alan Truscott (USA)
<a href="#">1986/87</a>	Precision	Michel Lebel (FRA)	Ton Schipperheyn (NLD)
<a href="#">1987/88</a>	Precision	Primo Levi (ITA)	Paolo Frendo (ITA)
<a href="#">1988/89</a>	Precision	Dung Duong (CHE)	Jean-Paul Meyer (FRA)
<a href="#">1989/90</a>	Precision	Vladis Polenieks (LVA)	Uno Viigand (EST)
<a href="#">1990/91</a>	Precision	Geir Helgemo (NOR)	Tommy Sandmark (NOR)

<a href="#">1991/92</a>	Precision	Mike Passell (USA)	☐ No article Phillip Alder (USA)
<a href="#">1992/93</a>	Precision	Bob Hamman (USA)	Brent Manley (USA)
<a href="#">1993/94</a>	Precision	Gabriel Chagas (BRA)	Alan Truscott (USA)
<a href="#">1994/95</a>	Sender Precision	Zia Mahmood (USA)	Alan Truscott (USA)
<a href="#">1995/96</a>	Sender Precision	Larry Cohen & David Berkowitz (USA)	Jan van Cleeff (NLD)
<a href="#">1996/97</a>	Sender Precision	Gunnar Hallberg (SWE)	Robert Sheehan (GBR)
<a href="#">1997/98</a>	Sender Precision	Geir Helgemo (NOR)	Patrick Jourdain (GBR)
<a href="#">1998/99</a>	Sender Precision	Andrew Robson (GBR)	Philip King (GBR)
<a href="#">1999/00</a>	Carey Limousine	Roger & Terje Lie (NOR)	Anders Brunzell (SWE)
<a href="#">2000/01</a>	Carey Limousine	Jan Jansma & Louk Verhees (NLD)	Jan van Cleeff (NLD)
<a href="#">2001/02</a>	Fr. Joseph Hahn & Arthur Kong	Tony Forrester (GBR)	Andrew Robson (GBR)
<a href="#">2002/03</a>	ITES	Eric Greco & Geoff Hampson (USA)	Larry Cohen & Alan Truscott (USA)
<a href="#">2003/04</a>	ITES	Martin Bloom & Peter Gill (AUS)	Ron Klinger (AUS)
<a href="#">2004/05</a>	ITES	Bart Bramley & Mark Feldman (USA)	Donna Compton (USA)
<a href="#">2005/06</a>	ITES	Nino Masucci (ITA)	Kyoko Ohno (JPN)
<a href="#">2006/07</a>	Gidwani Family Trust	Giorgio Duboin (ITA)	Patrick Jourdain (GBR)
<a href="#">2007/08</a>	Gidwani Family Trust	Michelle Brunner (GBR)	Heather Dhondy (GBR)
<a href="#">2008/09</a>	Gidwani Family Trust	Michelle Brunner (GBR)	Maureen Hiron (ESP)
<a href="#">2009/10</a>	Gidwani Family Trust	Hasan Askari (PAK):	Phillip Alder (USA)
<a href="#">2010/11</a>	Gidwani Family Trust	Mike Kamil - Marty Fleisher (USA)	Brent Manley (USA)
<a href="#">2011/12</a>	Gidwani Family Trust	Tezcan Sen (TUR)	Erdal Sidar (TUR)
<a href="#">2012/13</a>	Gidwani Family Trust	Agustin Madala (ITA)	Ana Roth (ARG)
<a href="#">2013/14</a>	Gidwani Family Trust	Jacek Pszczola (POL/USA)	Brent Manley (USA)

#### **THE BEST BID HAND OF THE YEAR**

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<b>Year</b>	<b>Award</b>	<b>Players</b>	<b>Journalist</b>
<a href="#">1975/76</a>	Romex	Matt Granovetter & Ron Rubin (USA)	☐ No data
<a href="#">1976/77</a>	Romex	Gabino Cintra & Christiano Fonseca (BRA)	Daily Bulletin
<a href="#">1977/78</a>	Romex	Eric Kokish & Peter Nagy (CAN)	Eric Kokish (CAN)
<a href="#">1978/79</a>	Romex	Chip Martel & Lew Stansby (USA)	Henry Francis & Sue Emery (USA)
<a href="#">1979/80</a>	Romex	Kyle Larsen & Ron von der Porten (USA)	Daily Bulletin, Cincinnati
<a href="#">1980/81</a>	Romex	Knud-Aage Boesgaard & Peter Schaltz (DEN)	Steen Møller (DEN)
<a href="#">1981/82</a>		Not awarded	
<a href="#">1982/83</a>	Romex	Zia Mahmood & Masood Salim (PAK)	Daily Bulletin
<a href="#">1983/84</a>	Romex	Benito Garozzo & Giorgio Belladonna (ITA)	Edgar Kaplan (USA)
<a href="#">1984/85</a>	Romex	Steve Cooper & Wayne Timms (CAN)	☐ No journalist
<a href="#">1985/86</a>	Romex	Hugh Ross & Peter Pender (USA)	Henry Francis (USA)
<a href="#">1986/87</a>	Romex	Zia Mahmood (PAK)	☐ No article
<a href="#">1987/88</a>	Romex	Allan Graves & George Mittelman (CAN)	Sue Emery (USA)
<a href="#">1988/89</a>	Romex	Sven-Ake Bjerregard & Anders Morath (SWE)	Sven-Olov Flodqvist (SWE)
<a href="#">1989/90</a>	Romex	Andy Robson & John Pottage (GBR)	Patrick Jourdain (GBR)
<a href="#">1990/91</a>	Romex	Edgar Kaplan & Brian Glubok (USA)	Allan Falk (USA)
<a href="#">1995/92</a>	Romex	Jorma Valta & Juuri-Oja (FIN)	Patrick Jourdain (GBR)
<a href="#">1992/93</a>	Romex	Tom Sanders & Bill Pollack (USA)	Dick Kaplan (USA) ☐ No article
<a href="#">1993/94</a>	Romex	Shakiat & Pobsit (THA)	Amran Zamzami (IDN)
<a href="#">1994/95</a>	Romex	Larry Cohen & David Berkowitz (USA)	Alfred Sheinwold (USA)
<a href="#">1995/96</a>	Romex	Derek Patterson & Pat Collins (GBR)	Brian Callaghan (GBR)
<a href="#">1996/97</a>	Romex	Chip Martel & Lew Stansby (USA)	Brent Manley (USA)
<a href="#">1997/98</a>	Romex	Sylvie Willard & Gerard Tissot (FRA)	Philippe Cronier (FRA)
<a href="#">1998/99</a>	Romex	Geir Helgemo & Tor Helness (NOR)	Patrick Jourdain (GBR)
<a href="#">1999/00</a>	Romex	Larry Cohen & David Berkowitz (USA)	Paul Linxwiler (USA)
<a href="#">2000/01</a>	Romex	Henry Mansell & Craig Gower (ZAF)	Mark Horton (GBR)
<a href="#">2001/02</a>	Romex	Anton Maas & Bep Vriend (NLD)	Jos Jacobs (NLD)
<a href="#">2002/03</a>	Romex	Bart Bramley & Sidney Lazard (USA)	Bart Bramley (USA)

<a href="#">2003/04</a>	Romex	Erik Sælensminde & Boye Brogeland (NOR)	Jon Sveindal (NOR)
<a href="#">2004/05</a>	Romex	Justin & Jason Hackett (GBR)	Paul Hackett (GBR)
<a href="#">2005/06</a>	Precision	Debbie Rosenberg & JoAnna Stansby (USA)	Matt Granovetter (USA)
<a href="#">2006/07</a>	Precision	Valio Kovachev (BGR)	Mark Horton (GBR)
<a href="#">2007/08</a>	Precision	Geoff Hampson-Eric Greco (USA)	Paul Linxwiler (USA)
<a href="#">2008/09</a>	Precision	Stuart & Gerald Tredinnick (GBR)	Heather Dhondy (GBR)
<a href="#">2009/10</a>	Retek	Debbie Rosenberg - JoAnna Stansby (USA)	Brent Manley (USA)
<a href="#">2010/11</a>	IBPA	Venkatrao Koneru & Ira Chorush (USA)	
<a href="#">2011/12</a>	IBPA	Alejandro Scanavino Felipe Ferro (ARG)	Ana Roth & Fernando Lema
<a href="#">2012/13</a>	Yeh Bros	Peter Bertheau(SWE)	Micke Melander (SWE)
<a href="#">2013/14</a>	Yeh Bros	Michel and Thomas Bessis (FRA)	Philippe Cronier (FRA)

#### **THE BEST ARTICLE OR SERIES ON A SYSTEM OR CONVENTION**

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<b>Year</b>	<b>Award</b>	<b>Article</b>	<b>Author</b>
<a href="#">1973/74</a>	Precision	Defense against the strong artificial 1 ♣	Charles H Goren (USA) ▫ No article
<a href="#">1974/75</a>	Precision	The Montreal Relay	Eric Kokish (CAN)
<a href="#">1975/76</a>	Precision	<a href="#">CONFI</a> & <a href="#">SUPERCONFI</a>	George Rosenkranz (MEX)
<a href="#">1976/77</a>	Precision	Three-level Transfer Responses.	Jeff Rubens (USA)
<a href="#">1977/78</a>	Precision	Puppet Stayman	Kit Woolsey (USA)
<a href="#">1978/79</a>	Precision	The Two-Step	Jeff Rubens (USA)
<a href="#">1979/80</a>	Precision	' <a href="#">High-Level bridge</a> ' & ' <a href="#">Action Doubles</a> '	Ed Mansfield & Kenneth Lebensold (USA)
<a href="#">1980/81</a>	Precision	Roman Key Card Blackwood (RKC)	Eddie Kantar (USA)
<a href="#">1981/82</a>	Precision	The Useful Space Principle	Jeff Rubens (USA)
<a href="#">1982/83</a>	Precision	I've Got a Secret	Ed Manfield (USA)
<a href="#">1983/84</a>	Rosenkranz	Rubensohl	Bruce Neill (AUS)
<a href="#">1984/85</a>	Precision	Antinonsens	Sven-Olov Flodqvist & Anders Morath (SWE)

#### **THE BEST PLAY BY A JUNIOR**

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<b>Year</b>	<b>Award</b>	<b>Player</b>	<b>Journalist</b>
<a href="#">1996/97</a>	Levendaaal	Morten Lund Madsen (DEN)	Ib Lundby (DEN)
<a href="#">1997/98</a>	Levendaaal	Igor Grzejdziaak (POL)	Jon Sveindal (NOR)
<a href="#">1998/99</a>	Levendaaal	Martin Schaltz (DEN)	Ib Lundby (DEN)
<a href="#">1999/00</a>	Levendaaal	Marina Kelina (RUS)	Martin Schaltz (DK)
<a href="#">2000/01</a>	OKbridge	Jan Einar Saethre (NOR)	Knut Kjaernsrod (NOR)
<a href="#">2001/02</a>	OKbridge	Mikhail Krasnosselski (RUS)	Michael Rosenblum (RUS)
<a href="#">2002/03</a>	OKbridge	Ophir Reshef (ISR)	Andrew Robson (GBR)
<a href="#">2003/04</a>	IBPA	Gilad Ofir (ISR)	Michael Barel (ISR)
<a href="#">2004/05</a>	Brazilian	Joe Grue (USA)	Brian Senior (GBR)
<a href="#">2005/06</a>	Brazilian	Dana Tal (ISR)	Sandra Kulovic-Probst (GBR)
<a href="#">2006/07</a>	Brazilian	Olivier & Thomas Bessis (FRA)	John Carruthers (CAN)
<a href="#">2007/08</a>	Brazilian	Rosaline Barendregt (NLD)	Max Rebattu (NLD)
<a href="#">2008/09</a>	Brazilian	Thomas Bessis (FRA)	Brian Senior (GBR)
<a href="#">2009/10</a>	Richard Freeman	Carole Puillet (FRA)	Brian Senior (GBR)
<a href="#">2010/11</a>	Richard Freeman	Cédric Lorenzini - Christophe Grosset (FRA)	Patrick Gogacki (FRA)
<a href="#">2011/12</a>	Richard Freeman	Roger Lee (USA)	Phillip Alder USA
<a href="#">2012/13</a>	Richard Freeman	Chen Yuechen (CHN)	Fu Tsiang (CHN)
<a href="#">2013/14</a>	Richard Freeman	Bob Donkersloot (NLD)	GeO Tislevoll (NZL) & Onno Eskes (NLD)

#### **SPORTSMAN OF THE YEAR** (John E. Simon)

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<a href="#">1973/74</a>	Omar Sharif (EGY)
<a href="#">1974/75</a>	Alan Sontag (USA)
<a href="#">1975/76</a>	Don Oakie (USA)
<a href="#">1976/77</a>	Sir Timothy Kitson and the Right Honourable Harold Lever, and a member of the House of Lords,

Lord Glenkinglas (GBR)  
[1977/78](#) Maurits Caransa (NLD)  
[2011/12](#) Jeff Ruben & Andrew Stayton (USA), Debbie Rosenberg (USA)

#### **THE IBPA SPORTSMANSHIP**

*An occasional Award made for acts away from the table that earn the admiration of fellow bridge-players*

[1997/98](#) Lynn Deas (USA)  
[2001/02](#) Andrew Robson (GBR)  
[2012/13](#) Justin Howard (AUS) and Emil Buus Thomsen & Frederik Skovly (DEN)

#### **MASTER POINT PRESS BOOK OF THE YEAR**

[2003/04](#) Play or Defend? 68 Hands to Test Your Bridge Skill  
[2004/05](#) The Principle of Restricted Talent and Other Bridge Stories  
[2005/06](#) I Love This Game  
[2006/07](#) Canada's Bridge Warriors: Eric Murray and Sami Kehela  
[2007/08](#) A Great Deal of Bridge Problems  
[2008/09](#) Right through the Pack Again"  
 North of the Master Solvers' Club  
[2009/10](#) Owl, Fox and Spider  
[2010/11](#) The Rodwell Files  
[2011/12](#) The Contested Auction  
[2012/13](#) Fantunes Revealed  
[2013/14](#) The Art of Declarer Play

#### **Authors**

Julian Pottage (GBR)  
 Danny Kleinman & Nick Straguzzi (USA)  
 Sabine Auken (DEU)  
 Roy Hughes (CAN)  
 Julian Pottage (GBR)  
 Ron Klinger (AUS)  
 Frank Vine (CAN)  
 Krzysztof Martens (POL)  
 Eric Rodwell and Mark Horton  
 Roy Hughes (CAN)  
 Bill Jacobs (AUS)  
 Bourke & Justin Corfield (AUS)

#### **THE ALAN TRUSCOTT MEMORIAL FOR SPECIAL ACHIEVEMENT**

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[2004/05](#) Bill Bailey (USA) for Deep Finesse  
[2005/06](#) Chris Dixon (GBR), for reporting from the South Pole and then from the Sahara  
[2006/07](#) Edward McPherson (USA) for The Backwash Squeeze & Other Improbable Feats  
[2007/08](#) Liu Siming (CHN) for services to the International Mind Sports Association, bringing chess and bridge together at the First World Mind Sports Games  
[2008/09](#) Gary M. Pomerantz (USA)  
[2009/10](#) Louis Sachar (USA)  
[2010/11](#) Roland Wald (DEN)  
[2011/12](#) Tim Bourke (AUS)  
[2012/13](#) Ian McKinnon (AUS)  
[2013/14](#) Frank Stewart (USA)

#### **THE BOLS BRILLIANCY PRIZE**

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Year	Player	Journalist
<a href="#">1976/77</a>	Ron Klinger (AUS)	Alan Truscott (USA)
<a href="#">1977/78</a>	Anders Morath (SWE)	Steen Møller (DEN)
<a href="#">1978/79</a>	Gilles Cohen (FRA)	Albert Dormer (GBR)
<a href="#">1979/80</a>	Dano De Falco (ITA)	Phillip Alder (USA)
<a href="#">1980/81</a>	Richard Cummings (AUS)	Ron Klinger (AUS)
<a href="#">1981/82</a>	John Collings (GBR)	Derek Rimington (GBR)
<a href="#">1982/83</a>	Jean Besse (CHE)	Nick Nikitine (CHE)
<a href="#">1683/84</a>	Marv Rosenblatt (USA)	Alan Truscott (USA)
<a href="#">1984/85</a>	Jeff Rothstein (USA)	Alan Truscott (USA)
<a href="#">1985/86</a>	Anders Brunzell (SWE)	PO Sundelin (SWE)
<a href="#">1986/87</a>	Ed Manfield (USA)	Alfred Sheinwold (USA)

#### **THE BOLS BRIDGE TIPS COMPETITION**

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Year	Article	Journalist
<a href="#">1974/75</a>	Study the early discards	Terence Reese (GBR)
<a href="#">1975/76</a>	Beware of Your Trump Tricks	Jean Besse (CHE)
<a href="#">1976/77</a>	Honour thy partner	Jeff Rubens (USA)

<a href="#">1987/88</a>	Discovering Distribution	Steen Møller (DEN)
<a href="#">1988/89</a>	Exstasy	Michael Lawrence (USA)
<a href="#">1989/90</a>	Roll Over Houdini	Zia Mahmood (PAK)
<a href="#">1990/91</a>	Don't spoil your Partner's Brilliancy	Gabriel Chagas (BRA)
<a href="#">1991/92</a>	Play with all 52 cards	Chip Martel (USA)
<a href="#">1992/93</a>	Second-Hand Problems	Eric Crowhurst (GBR)
<a href="#">1993/94</a>	Eight never – Nine ever	Larry Cohen (USA)
<a href="#">1994/95</a>	Don't Play Idle Cards Thoughtlessly	Jean Besse (CHE)

#### **THE BEST PLAY OF THE YEAR BY A WOMAN**

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<b>Year</b>	<b>Player</b>	<b>Journalist</b>
<a href="#">1985/86</a>	ALPWATER	Irina Levitina (RUS) Yuri Govalenko (RUS)
<a href="#">1985/86</a>	ALPWATER 2 <sup>nd</sup> prize	Claude Blouquit (FRA) Patrick Jourdain (GBR)

#### **THE SIMON AWARD FOR THE SPORTING GESTURE OF THE YEAR**

1985/86 Irving Litvack & Joe Silver (CAN) ∅ No data found.

#### **ROYAL VIKING LINE PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

[1986/87](#) Zia Mahmood (PAK)

#### **THE EPSON AWARD**

<b>Year</b>	<b>Player</b>	<b>Journalist</b>
<a href="#">1988/89</a>	Mariusz Puczynski (POL)	Irena Chodorowska (POL)
<a href="#">1992/93</a>	Dr. Lewis Moonie (GBR)	Albert Dormer (GBR)
<a href="#">1993/94</a>	Zia Mahmood (PAK)	Alan Truscott (USA)

#### **KERI KLINGER AWARD**

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<b>Year</b>	<b>Player</b>	<b>Journalist</b>
<a href="#">2011</a>	Michelle Brunner (GBR)	Heather Dhondy (GBR), Maureen Hiron, Málaga
<a href="#">2012</a>	Terje Lichtwark (NOR)	Knut Kjærnsrød
<a href="#">2013</a>	Fulvio Fantoni (MCO)	Toine van Hoof (NLD)
<a href="#">2014</a>	Marc Jacobus (USA)	Micke Melander (SWE)

## THE BRIDGE PERSONALITY OF THE YEAR

### THE 1974 CHARLES GOREN BRIDGE PERSONALITY OF THE YEAR André Lemaitre (BEL)

The 1973 Charles H Goren Award: Bridge Man of the Year was awarded to André Lemaitre of Belgium in recognition of his many valuable services to bridge, including his efforts as:

- Secretary of the World Bridge Federation
- Organizer of tournaments in Europe, the Common Market, etc.
- Chairman and prime mover of the Tournament Committee of the 1973 European Championships
- President of the European Bridge League
- Outstanding bridge correspondent and journalist.

### THE 1975 CHARLES GOREN BRIDGE PERSONALITY OF THE YEAR



**Julius Rosenblum (USA)**

JULIUS ROSENBLUM, the President of the World Bridge Federation, won the Charles Goren Award for the Bridge Man of the Year. This award was judged by our leading member Mr Charlton Wallace of 'The Cincinnati Post'. Mr Wallace received more than a dozen nominations for the 'Man of Year' Award, consisting of internationally known figures in bridge. He circulated the list of nominations to a panel of judges throughout the world, inviting them to award marks for each candidate "No one even came close to Mr Rosenblum's total of marks," he reports.

The Goren Award is to be presented to Mr Rosenblum during the ACBL Fall Nationals at his hometown of New Orleans.

### THE 1976 CHARLES GOREN BRIDGE PERSONALITY OF THE YEAR



**Rixi Markus (GBR)**

Britain's Rixi Markus won IBPA's top award, the 'Charles Goren Bridge Personality of the Year', for achievement as the world's top-ranked woman player, founder of the publicity-winning Lords v. Commons match, and recipient from the Queen of the British Empire Medal. Rixi received the Award at the Bols luncheon from WBF's new president, Jaime Ortiz-Patino.

### THE 1977 CHARLES GOREN BRIDGE PERSONALITY OF THE YEAR



**Herman Filarski (NLD)**

For general services to Bridge, and in particular for initiating and organizing the BOLS Bridge Tips competition and the BOLS Brilliances Prize. Filarski receives the IBPA Plaque.

### THE 1978 CHARLES GOREN BRIDGE PERSONALITY OF THE YEAR



**Jaime Ortiz-Patino**

THE CHARLES GOREN AWARD for Bridge Personality of the Year was won by Jaime Ortiz-Patino of Switzerland, "For the tremendous achievement he has accomplished in the short time of his leadership of the WBF, in order to promote and foster ethical bridge,

regardless of personal factors. And for his work as member of the European Bridge League, of which he is Treasurer, which has given EBL new possibilities for expansion." (Panel: Gabriel Chagas, Andre Lemaitre, Jean-Paul Meyer, Dirk Schroeder.)

Tannah Hirsch on behalf of Goren International presented the Award at IBPA's 20th anniversary dinner.

### **THE 1979 CHARLES GOREN BRIDGE PERSONALITY OF THE YEAR**



**Edgar Kaplan (USA)**

Citation: "World-ranking player. Has helped to mould opinion, more particularly as editor of 'The Bridge World'. Mr Kaplan has done outstanding work on ACBL's Laws Commission and has been prominent on every Appeals Committee. He is a former Director of ACBL." Chagas, Lemaitre and Meyer voted; Hirsch did not respond.

### **THE 1980 CHARLES GOREN BRIDGE PERSONALITY OF THE YEAR**



**Amalya Kearse (USA)**

The International Bridge Press Association, meeting in Valkenburg, the Netherlands in October, announced that Judge Amalya Kearse of New York is the 1980 winner of the Charles H. Goren award as the Bridge Personality of the Year. The citation was based on contributions to bridge made over a dozen years and the reflected honor to the bridge world when one of its prominent citizens was appointed to an important federal judgeship.

#### **By Sue Emery**

Amalya Kearse gives single-minded devotion to the job at hand — whether playing bridge, writing about bridge, translating bridge books, editing bridge books or working at her profession as a lawyer and a judge,

In 1979 Ms. Kearse was sworn in to the United States Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit — the first woman to sit on the Federal Appeals Court in Manhattan. She works a six-day week and a 10-12-hour day. The court is in session to months of the year and during July and August the court is in session for one week each. The junior judges usually are assigned to sit during the summer months and Judge Kearse, as the most junior judge on the court, had to sit last August and also the summer before. Each judge is in the courtroom during one week, hearing arguments in about two dozen cases. During the other three weeks the judge is deciding those cases, writing opinions and getting ready to hear the next two dozen cases. Judge Kearse hears many kinds of cases: criminal, securities, antitrust, tax, and automobile accident, social security and employment discrimination.

Amalya had early encouragement from her family in her choice of a career. She grew up in Vauxhall NJ where her father was postmaster and her mother was a general practice doctor who tended toward paediatrics. There were a lot of doctors in Amalya's family but no lawyers. Her father had always wanted to be a lawyer, but the Depression came along at the wrong time for him, so he always supported any interest Amalya had in the law.

Her parents taught Amalya and her younger brother how to play bridge while she was a student at Columbia High School in Maplewood NJ. She continued to play occasional rubber bridge while in college at Wellesley and during her first year of law school at the University of Michigan. In her second year of law school a classmate introduced her to duplicate when they played in a game at the Michigan union and finished fourth in their section. Amalya says she was hooked from the start and carried about for a week the tenth of a master point she had won. While in law school she played duplicate once or twice a week, sandwiching the games in between her work as editor of *Low Review* and studies, which culminated in her receiving the Doctor of Laws degree cum laude.

She graduated in 1962 and moved to New York to go to work as an associate with the law firm of Hughes, Hubbard & Reed. She became a partner in this Wall Street firm in 1969 and was there until she was appointed to the Circuit Court of Appeals. Since her appointment she hasn't had the time to play or write about bridge as much as she would like.

A few months after moving to New York Amalya began to play bridge in the New York duplicate clubs. By this time she was serious about bridge, reading a lot of bridge books and giving the game scholarly attention. She was winner of the 1973 award for the most successful team player in New York competition. She won the national Women's Pairs championship in

1971 and the Life Master Women's Pairs - in 1972 plus a good number of national secondary and regional championships.

About 1969 Amalya got interested in bridge writing in a strange way. She was trying to read Jose Le Dentu's book *Bridge à la Une* in the original French because it had never been translated. She had three years of college French to help her and that was about all, but she wondered about with a copy of *Bridge à la Une* in one hand and a dictionary in the other and it became easier and easier to read. She loved the book and decided to try her hand at translating it. She found out from the author that Alan Truscott had started work on a translation some years before, but that he had been sidetracked by other projects. Amalya and Alan collaborated on the two versions and eventually Harper and Row published the translation. The experience was so enjoyable that she got involved in other bridge writing.

Her massive *Bridge Conventions Complete* is a classic, and soon after it was published she was asked to edit the third edition of the *Official Encyclopaedia of Bridge*. This was an incredibly gigantic job that involved writing new entries, updating articles, double-checking statistical records and keeping track of a lot of details. This project inundated her apartment for about a year, but when she could see her desk again she went to work translating and editing Le Dentu's *Bridge Analysis*, then writing her own *Bridge at Your Fingertips*, an excellent reference guide to standard bidding, best opening leads, percentage plays, etc. She was working on this last book during the winter a year before she had any thought of becoming a judge. She worked in the middle of business trips and squeezed the writing in on weekends and during late-night sessions.

Amalya has served the ACBL as a member of the National Board of Governors, as a regular member of the National Tournament Appeals Committee and as a member of the National Laws Commission. She served her unit, the Greater New York Bridge Association, as a member of the Board of Directors and as counsel. During a 10-year stint on the GNYBA conduct and ethics committee she served as counsel and then as chairman.

As a player, a writer, a translator, an editor, an advisor, a counsellor and an administrator, Judge Kearse has generously shared her talents with the bridge world while pursuing with distinction a career in the field of law and jurisprudence. Ms. Kearse is the third American and the second woman to be cited as Bridge Personality of the Year by the IBPA. Previously named were Andre Lemaitre, the late Julius Rosenblum, Rixi Markus, Herman Filarski, Jaime Ortiz-Patino and Edgar Kaplan.

## THE 1981 CHARLES GOREN BRIDGE PERSONALITY OF THE YEAR



**DGBR Xiaoping (CHN)**

The game of bridge gained much in honor and recognition when, during the progress of the recent world championships, the Chinese Embassy in Washington disclosed that Vice-Chairman DGBR Xiaoping of the People's Republic had agreed to accept the 1980 Charles Goren Award given to the outstanding personality in the world of bridge and bestowed by the International Bridge Press Association.

The Association had cited DGBR as follows: The Vice-Chairman of the People's Republic of China, DGBR Xiaoping, has long been an enthusiast for the great intellectual game of contract bridge. His interest has set an example to the Chinese people, who are quickly finding that bridge playing can lead to international friendship through membership of the World Bridge Federation. The International Bridge Press Association is proud to present him with the 1980 Charles Goren Award given to the outstanding personality in the world of bridge.

Conveying the Vice-Chairman's acceptance and gratitude for the honor bestowed, the Chinese Embassy in Washington added: The Vice Chairman hopes that competition in bridge will serve to strengthen the ties of friendship between the peoples of the world, and that world peace will be promoted.

Due to the distance between Beijing and New York, Vice-Chairman DGBR regrets that he is unable to accept this honor in person. He has requested that Mrs Kathie Wei accept in his place.

The Award, in the form of an inscribed plaque, was duly handed to Mrs Wei by the President of the World Bridge Federation at a private luncheon, which Mrs Wei gave to all IBPA members present.

As a native-born Chinese, now an American — and, incidentally, a WBF ladies pair champion — Mrs Wei voiced her pleasure at the bestowal of the Charles Goren Award on a countryman who had done so much for bridge in China. Kathie Wei accepted the Charles Goren 'Bridge Personality of the Year' Award on behalf of China's Vice-Chairman DGBR Xiaoping from the hands of WBF President Jaime Ortiz Patino at the World Championships in Port Chester 1981.

DGBR has always loved the game and he has always played the game, according to Patino. He played very fine bridge, frequently asking for interpretations of

the French pair's bids. "He was extremely jovial," said Patino. "He takes great pleasure from the game. I thought we would play a few hands, but we actually played 36. The game went on well past midnight."

When asked if he planned to try competitive bridge, DGBR answered, "I'm too old." Jimmy demurred, saying, "Waldemar von Zedtwitz of the United States won the World Mixed Pairs championship in Stockholm in 1970 at the age of 74." DGBR smiled and replied, "Oh yes, but I'm not 74, I'm 77!"

DGBR has made bridge not only acceptable but even official in Chinese sports circles. He considers the game a very fine activity, and he strongly encourages the sport. In China, bridge matches are played in the sports halls, along with such other games as volleyball, basketball, pingpong and racquetball. Entry is open in all tournaments — but there's an unusual fact about Chinese tournaments they are almost invariably team events. So far there is not any great interest in pair events. But interest in teams is overwhelming — at a recent tournament in Beijing (formerly Peking), 300 teams competed.

DGBR was very pleased with the gift Patino presented to him — a set of American Contract Bridge League boards with WBF cards in the boards.

"He is an amazing man," Patino concluded. "He even understands the nuances of modern bidding."

In general, Mrs. Wei had the same impressions of the vice-chairman. "He is very well-informed about the game. He thinks the game is great for stimulation of the intellect. He played the Precision Club system with me, and he played it well. (Ed. note — he played Standard in partnership with Patino). He was charming and very energetic. He played the dummy very well — he goes about the play with a great flair for strategy."

Mrs. Wei needed no interpreter when she played with DGBR — she speaks fluent Chinese. One unusual thing Mrs. Wei noted about Chinese bridge — "Very few women play. The male players outnumber the women by about 100-1."

It appears to this writer that the International Bridge Press Association has made an excellent choice for the Charles Goren Award. DGBR's actions in bringing about a rebirth of bridge in China could change the face of world bridge for many years to come.

## THE 1982 CHARLES GOREN BRIDGE PERSONALITY OF THE YEAR



**Albert Dormer (GBR)**

Albert Dormer of Great Britain was presented with the Charles H. Goren Award as the Bridge Personality of the Year yesterday at a meeting of the International Bridge Press Association. Dormer's contributions to the game have been many and varied. As editor of the International Bridge Press Association's Bulletin for to years, he kept bridge journalists all over the world up-to-date on all matters of news, features and controversies. As editor of the World Bridge News, he constantly kept bridge executives and other interested observers conversant with new concepts and policies at the world level.

His thoughtful articles in various bridge publications, notably the American Contract Bridge League's Bulletin, have helped bridge players everywhere to improve their game. His series, "Dormer on Deception", was a classic. His comprehensive and analytical approach to bridge reporting for the media has enabled bridge aficionados all over the world to enjoy vicariously the happenings at world tournaments. The books he has authored have earned high acclaim from reviewers. During the past year, Dormer has accepted a position as executive assistant to the president of the World Bridge Federation, so that the game more than ever is benefiting from his wide experience and technical know-how. He is involved in every major project fostered by the World bridge Federation, including such items as the new convention card, the recruitment of additional countries as members, fortification of better methods to conduct tournaments, etc.

Like most bridge writers Dormer tries to get mileage out of the occasional hand that he plays well. Here, from the "Daily Telegraph" Cup of 25 years ago, is one that has acquired a lasting if obscure place in the literature of the game.

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

North opened 1NT and Dormer as South landed in 4♥. West opened with the ♦A and continued the suit. A trump from the table was covered by East's queen, declarer winning with the ace. What now?

It was clear that a diamond ruff threatened. After a spot of brow clutching, Dormer hit upon the expedient, before playing a second round of trumps, of playing off the ♣A-K and ruffing a club. As it happened the stratagem was successful. In with a trump, East could either give partner a diamond ruff or he could lead a spade, but the defenders could not get both tricks.

When the defenders compared scores with their teammates, West, who was Adam Meredith, announced, "They made four hearts".

"They don't if you lead diamonds", said his teammate, Pedro Juan.

"I did lead diamonds", replied Meredith sadly.

Later the deal was used by Dormer and Terence Reese in the first of several collaborations, "The Bridge Player's Dictionary", where it still appears as a classic example under the heading, "Partial Elimination", after several revised editions and new presentations.

Juan, as a matter of fact, chose this deal, and rhapsodised over it, to illustrate his original review of "The Bridge Player's Dictionary" without recognizing the source.

## THE 1983 CHARLES GOREN BRIDGE PERSONALITY OF THE YEAR



**Oswald Jacoby (USA)**

Oswald Jacoby, an outstanding personality, for well over a half a century in bridge, was honoured yesterday for his outstanding contributions to the game – which, incidentally, still continue during this, his 80th year. The Charles Goren Personality of the Year Award was presented by IBPA President Alan Truscott to Jim Jacoby, Ozzie's son, at a special meeting of the IBPA. Jim is a member of the United States ChallGBRers team at these championships.

Jim made a very moving acceptance speech – especially moving since many of those present were not aware of the serious illness Ozzie is now fighting. Said Jim:

"I am honoured to accept this award for Oswald Jacoby. It is fitting that this award take place in Scandinavia, a land with a centuries-old tradition of warriors going to sea facing unknown foes. As some of you know, my father is now facing a most implacable enemy. He brings the same courage and joy of encounter to this battle that he brought to every contest in 80 years.

In this city William Faulkner once said, 'Man's spirit shall prevail.' That statement is affirmed by what I am experiencing with my family.

I thank all of you for this award. I wish for my father that Heaven may be a Valhalla where God and his Saints will need a fourth for bridge."

OSWALD JACOBY is one of the great players of all times. He first gained international prominence when Sidney Lenz chose him as his partner in the Culbertson-Lenz match. Jacoby already had established himself as an expert, but the choice of Lenz was early recognition of the skill and brilliance that would bring him to the top in the American Contract Bridge League. Lenz could have chosen many other outstanding players with whom he had established good partnerships — but he chose Ozzie.

Jacoby was born Dec 9, 1902. At the age of 15, he joined the Army and served two years in World War I, earning the Victory Medal. At the age of 21, he became the youngest person ever to pass the extremely tough actuarial exam.

In February 1929, he won the Goldman Pairs in New York: He won that event three times in 20 years

– the only three times he competed. In July 1929, he won his first major auction bridge tournament. Altogether he has won 42 major championships – 32 in contract, six in auction and four McKenney trophies.

Perhaps he is best known for what he did on Dec. 7, 1941. At the time first in the ACBL master point ranking, he was competing at the Fall North American Championships in Richmond, Va. The word came through about the attack on Pearl Harbor, and Ozzie immediately got up from the table, not to return for four years. He served as a lieutenant commander in the Navy. When he came back in 1945, he was far behind Charles Goren in the master point race, and he didn't catch up. In 1950 he again left the bridge world to serve as a commander in Navy intelligence during the Korean Conflict. He was a member of the original American staff at the peace talks in Panmunjon. Serving in the Navy at this time cost him a berth on the first American Bermuda Bowl team. Incidentally, he was a member of the American team that won the first official world championship in 1935.

In 1958, Ozzie decided to make a concerted bid to regain the lead in the master point race. He was sixth at the time, far behind Goren. By 1962, he had made it – he was back on top. During that period he won the McKenney four times at the ages of 57, 59, 60 and 61. In 1963 he became the first player in history to win more than 1,000 master points in a single year. In 1967, he became the first player to go over 10,000 in lifetime points – and at that time announced that he no longer was going to try for large numbers of master points.

He became a daily bridge columnist in 1950, turning out columns for hundreds of newspapers. On April 2, 1982, his 10,000th column appeared in his newspapers. He was elected to the Bridge Hall of Fame in 1965 and was ACBL Honorary member in 1967. He was non-playing captain of the American team in the Bermuda Bowl in 1969, 1970 and 1971. In 1970 he captained the American forces to their first Bermuda Bowl championship in more than a decade – his son Jim was on the team. He led the team to victory again in 1971, and again Jim was a member of the team.

He has written books on poker, bridge, gin rummy, canasta and mathematical odds. He still works as a consulting actuary. He has become an expert on computers and his advice is frequently sought concerning tournament procedures.

He has been very active in advancing bidding ideas. He is responsible for the Jacoby Transfer Bid; the weak jump overcall and the Jacoby 2NT response to a major. He has developed special uses of Blackwood and Gerber. He has advanced specialized ideas concerning the use of 2NT and 3NT responses.

On the occasion of his 80<sup>th</sup> birthday, he said: “when a man can get to my age and can say his whole family

is in good health – mentally and physically – and that they like each other – he's a very lucky man.”

The following hand is an illustration of the speed with which Ozzie's mind works.

```

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

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

      ♠ K Q J 10 7 4 2
      ♥ 2
      ♦ A 3
      ♣ K J 5
  
```

West	North	East	South
			1♠
2♥	2NT	Pass	6♠
Pass	Pass	Pass	

West led the ♥K, dummy was tabled, and when East followed suit, Ozzie instantaneously claimed on a double squeeze. And he was right: Rearrange the EW cards any way you wish – declarer still has 12 tricks on his line of play.

## THE 1984 CHARLES GOREN BRIDGE PERSONALITY OF THE YEAR



**Easley Blackwood (USA)**

Easley Blackwood of Indianapolis, one of the outstanding bridge personalities for half a century, was honored at Seattle for his outstanding contributions to the game. The Charles Goren Personality of the Year Award was presented by International Bridge Press Association president Alan Truscott at a special meeting of the IBPA in Seattle.

For the second year in a row an American bridge writer in his 80's has been selected for the Personality of the Year award. The late Oswald Jacoby was named in Stockholm a year ago. Blackwood was born June 25 1903 in Birmingham AL.

The fertile mind that devised the Blackwood 4NT bid more than 50 years ago is now applied to the task of writing three bridge books, one for early 1985 publication. The subjects are balancing, signals and second and third hand play. The book on balancing will be produced first. Blackwood has been a Bulletin columnist since 1972 – 156 columns and more to come. He wrote a syndicated daily newspaper column for many years and is author of seven books listed in the bibliography of the Official Encyclopedia of Bridge.

He was named Honorary Member of the Year for 1980 by the ACBL and in 1978 was awarded honorary membership in the American Bridge Teachers Association. His interest in the best for bridge continues to this day through his membership on the Laws Commission of the ACBL.

After a long and successful career as an executive with Metropolitan Life Insurance Company, he established a plush bridge club in Indianapolis and launched a new career as lecturer and teacher on bridge cruises. Following the death of Alvin Landy in 1967, Blackwood was persuaded to take the job of executive secretary and general manager of the ACBL for a three-year period. Using his background and experience in the business world, he directed his efforts to putting the League on a sound financial basis. He also worked out a revision of the master-point plan, correcting inequities that had existed for years.

Blackwood has long had the admiration, respect and gratitude of the people he worked with on the ACBL Board of Directors, Headquarters personnel and League members throughout ACBL and it is fitting that this international recognition goes to the inventor of the Blackwood 4NT convention. To this day it is probably the only bridge convention, which is used all the way from home games to the highest fields – wherever bridge is played.

#### **THE 1985 CHARLES GOREN BRIDGE PERSONALITY OF THE YEAR**



**Barry Crane (USA) (USA)**

The Goren Personality of the Year was awarded to Barry Crane, US. He had acquired more than 35,000 master points, a record which may never be surpassed. For the first time in the history of IBPA, an award was given posthumously.

#### **THE 1986 CHARLES GOREN BRIDGE PERSONALITY OF THE YEAR**



**José Damiani (FRA)**

No data.

#### **THE 1987 CHARLES GOREN BRIDGE PERSONALITY OF THE YEAR**



**Kathie Wei-Sender (USA)**

No data found.

#### **THE 1988 CHARLES GOREN BRIDGE PERSONALITY OF THE YEAR Helène Lemaitre (BEL)**

The Goren Award for the Bridge Personality of the Year went to Mrs Helène Lemaitre. No background data found.

#### **THE 1990 IBPA BRIDGE PERSONALITY OF THE YEAR Mrs Eloene T. Griggs (USA)**

When the International Bridge Press Association Bulletin Editor asked me for a few lines on Eloene, he did not realize how difficult that task would be. To be brief in reviewing all of Eloene's activities would do her an injustice, and to describe everything would take pages.

A certified A.C.B.L. Tournament Director and past President of the American Bridge Teacher's Association, she joined the IBPA in the early 70s. Soon afterwards she was elected to the post of Secretary, an office she still holds today. Her energy and enthusiasm have been driving forces behind our organization for almost 20 years.

Her late husband might have had an influence on her. Being an Admiral's wife, she had to be efficient

and willing to travel. Both of these qualities she has exhibited for our benefit.

As President of the IBPA I can only say that no other person could be more suitable for or deserving of this award.

*Rene Ducheyne*

**THE 1991 IBPA  
BRIDGE PERSONALITY OF THE YEAR**



**André Boekhorst (NLD)**

No data.

**THE 1992 IBPA  
BRIDGE PERSONALITY OF THE YEAR**



**Mrs Evelyn Senn (NLD)**

No data.

**THE 1993 IBPA  
BRIDGE PERSONALITY OF THE YEAR**



**Hugh W Kelsey (GBR)**

No data.

**THE 1994 IBPA  
BRIDGE PERSONALITY OF THE YEAR**



**Ernesto d'Orsi (BRA)**

No data.

**THE 1995 IBPA  
BRIDGE PERSONALITY OF THE YEAR**



**Panos Gerontopoulos (GRC)**

The first World Junior Pairs Championship was held this August at the University of Ghent in Belgium. An entry of 154 pairs from 27 nations was achieved. The first World Junior Camp followed the Championship with attendees from as far a field as Australasia, Botswana and Indonesia with a large group from North America.

The initiative and effort needed to launch the European Junior Pairs and then widen it to a successful new World event came principally from one man. He became Chairman of the EBL Youth Committee ten years ago, and since 1991 has also been Chairman of the WBF Youth Committee. Last year he was the prime mover behind the introduction of the European Schools Championship for under 20s, which attracted 13 nations at its first showing in the Netherlands. He has travelled the world arguing the cause for Juniors: inspecting premises, drumming up support, and planning Championships.

Within the IBPA this man has also been the Liaison Officer with the World Bridge Federation and European Bridge League. He is on the Executive of both authorities. He is the Editor of the European Bridge League Review and launched the EBL Competition Calendar, both of which are distributed throughout Europe.

Our candidate was educated at the Universities of Thessaloniki, Oxford, and Graz in Austria. He played bridge for Oxford against Cambridge. He likes opera and the theatre, and is a whiz kid with computers. He

is now a lecturer in Geodesy at the Technical University of Athens.

In recognition particularly for the part he has played in the launch of the World Junior Pairs, IBPA is pleased to confer the 1995 IBPA Personality of the Year Award to our friend, Panos Gerontopoulos of Greece.

### **THE 1996 IBPA BRIDGE PERSONALITY OF THE YEAR**



**Geir Helgemo (NOR)**

In the course of the last 18 months Geir has won the World Junior Pairs (with Boye Brogeland), the Cap Volmac pairs (with Tor Helness) and the Generali World Men's Individual. In addition he has put together a good string of results in US Nationals (notably Miami), he has been representing Norway in Rhodes. He and Tor Helness (who finished second in Santiago Bermuda Bowl together 1993) are undoubtedly one of the strongest pairs in the world.

But Geir has also impressed everyone as a pleasant opponent and a cheerful companion. He has given two excellent interviews to the ACBL at Miami and to The European Bridge League News, which will make good copy – and he has provided journalists with many hands to indicate what a fine player he is.

### **THE 1997 IBPA BRIDGE PERSONALITY OF THE YEAR**



**Matthew Clegg (USA)**

Matthew Tran Clegg, 33, founded OKbridge, bridge on Internet, in 1991. The system now has almost 10,000 subscribers from over 70 nations. Some of the world's leading players use the service to practice with distant partners. Bill Gates, America's wealthiest man, has tried OKbridge. Internet is also suitable for the disabled and house-bound. It attracts young players who prefer a computer keyboard to a bridge-club. The Fifth

Chair Foundation has been created to encourage talented young players on OKbridge by providing them with leading players as partners.

*Matt's wife Merja reports:*

Matt was born in Davis, California, grew up in Rhode Island and in Athens, Georgia and didn't come back to California until he went to college at UC Riverside. After college he studied math at UC Berkeley where he got a Master's degree. He later switched to computer science and came to UC San Diego in 1991. He has been working on his PhD on "Distributed Real-Time Systems".

Time off from developing OKbridge, and working on his Ph.D is spent with his daughter Anna, and Merja. Matt and Merja are learning how to sail. But no matter how busy Matt is, he would never skip an episode of Star Trek Voyager or Babylon5 on TV. Matt loves Science Fiction and anything to do with space and space research. (That's probably why he married an Alien!) *Matt met Merja when she came to the USA in 1989 from her native Finland, to study with Matt's father, a geneticist. When she returned to Finland they kept in touch via Internet. This was the motivation for OKbridge. They were married in 1990.*

### **THE 1998 IBPA BRIDGE PERSONALITY OF THE YEAR**



**Paul Chemla (FRA)**

Since our last Award made in Hammamet, Paul Chemla, 54, has had a most fantastic year of success as a player.

It began with a win in the Bermuda Bowl. He was also on the French team, which won the Olympiads in 1980 and 1992, in all three beating the USA in the final. This April in Aachen he took silver in the European Mixed Pairs partnering Catherine d'Ovidio (formerly Saul), and followed it with gold in the European Mixed Teams (teaming up with Michel & Veronique Bessis). A couple of weeks later he was in Corsica to become the Generali World Individual Champion.

As this Bulletin is printed he is competing in the World Championships in Lille. Chemla was born in Tunis in 1944. His father, a lawyer, separated from his mother, Ginette when Paul was quite young. His mother and he moved to Paris in 1960. She married a member of the French cabinet, Bertrand Flornoy, but is now married to the Turkish bridge player Halit Bigat.

Chemla took up bridge in 1968 after leaving University. He worked as a lecturer. He won the first European Pairs in 1976 in Cannes partnering Michel Lebel, and again in 1985 with Michel Perron. His Olympiad win in 1980 was decided by the famous grand slam in which Hamman led the wrong ace where Chemla partnered Christian Mari. In the 1984 Olympiad in Seattle, with Chemla partnering Michel Perron, France lost in the final to Poland.

Chemla is known for his large cigars, and the ample figure formed through love of good food. His main hobby is classical music, opera in particular. He reads good literature and enjoys a really tough crossword. He also plays rummy for high stakes.

Chemla, a bridge professional, says the evening and night are for playing bridge, the morning and afternoon for sleeping. He is unmarried.

### **THE 1999 IBPA BRIDGE PERSONALITY OF THE YEAR**



**Marc Hodler (CHE)**

Marc Hodler has a remarkable record: he has international significance in bridge, skiing, and the Olympic movement.

He learned to play bridge, from his family in Berne, Switzerland, at the age of nine, and read the first major book on the game, Culbertson's Blue Book, when it appeared in 1930. He represented his country in one European Championship, and was President of the Swiss Bridge Federation from 1955 to 1985.

He learned to ski at the age of five, which he says was too late: future champions must start at two. He was President of the International Skiing Federation for an astonishing 47 years, from 1951 to 1998. This led him into the Olympic movement, based in Lausanne, and he has been a member of the International Olympic Committee since 1963. His efforts to counter corruption within the movement bore fruit in 1998, when ABC News obtained some secret documents from Salt Lake City.

Mr. Hodler has worked hard to bring bridge into the Olympics. The first step is the international team contest now being staged annually in Lausanne. The second, he hopes, will be a similar demonstration event in Salt Lake City. Finally, perhaps in Turin in 2006, we can look forward to an official bridge event

with gold, silver and bronze medals. That is an exciting prospect for us all.

### **THE 2000 IBPA BRIDGE PERSONALITY OF THE YEAR**



**Anna Gudge (GBR)**

Anna Gudge is a name familiar to all bridge-players through her indefatigable work for the World Bridge Federation, the European Bridge League, and as Secretary of the former British Bridge League.

The last year has been a very special one for Anna. On 1st January 2000 GBRIland, Scotland and Wales were upgraded to National Federations, and the BBL was wound up.

This involved Anna in much hard work to bring to an end her main job. Meanwhile, with her partner Mark Newton, she was involved in designing and implementing the first WBF Simultaneous Pairs via Internet, a project successfully completed this June.

Anna was the key person in the massive task of recording systems via Internet for the World Bridge Olympiad in Maastricht. A wearisome administrative task for players and systems staff has been done before arriving at the venue. This is a major boost to enjoyment at the venue, and in allowing the players to concentrate on the bridge, rather than administration.

Anna Gudge is a member of the EBL Youth Committee, and Organiser of the Simultaneous Pairs for Bridge Great Britain, a successor to the British Bridge League. Mrs. Gudge has been on the staff of most European and World championships for several years past. Anna, as Mrs. Brabner, had two daughters, now grown up. She later married John Gudge, who died some 8 years ago.

**THE 2001 IBPA  
BRIDGE PERSONALITY OF THE YEAR  
Jose Damiani (FRA)**

In 1986 Jose Damiani was made IBPA Personality of the Year. The IBPA has a tradition that no person may be made their Personality of the Year more than once. But special circumstances call for a special response.

The tragic events of 11th September in the USA created the unique situation. Should the World Championships planned over six years for Bali go ahead? The WBF's immediate and correct response was to show backing for Bali and the hosts, Indonesia. Bali was safe; Indonesia was ready to welcome all its guests. But as the days went by, outside forces darkened, the US Government advised its citizens not to travel to Indonesia, and teams from more than one Zone stated their intention to withdraw. The WBF bowed to the inevitable and, towards the end of September, announced that the Championships would not be held in Bali.

The WBF then faced another difficult problem, what to do now? The President decided, almost single handed, to switch the venue to Paris and hold the event at the planned time. The decision was courageous – if it had failed he knew it would be called foolhardy.

Three weeks to plan a World Championship. Impossible! The equipment was in a boat headed for Bali that had reached Singapore. Playing accommodation and a hotel for 400 people had to be found, the teams had to be persuaded to come to Paris, a hundred staff had to be re-aligned.

We know the result. Last Monday, every team but, for very understandable reasons, Pakistan, was present in the Stade de France on time. In particular, to their very great credit, Indonesia came to Paris. The WBF President had achieved three of his goals: the Championships would go ahead; bridge was seen to be "for peace"; and as the venue was a rugby stadium, bridge was clearly a sport!

There must have been little sleep for the organisers in the three weeks before the championships began. There is a saying "Cometh the hour, cometh the man". That is why we are breaking tradition and making our Personality for the Year, for the second time, Jose Damiani.

**THE 2002 IBPA  
BRIDGE PERSONALITY OF THE YEAR**



**Patrick Jourdain (GBR)**

The IBPA Executive and Awards Chairman kept their nomination for 2002 Personality well hidden from the retiring Editor. Fred Gitelman is the nomination, the Editor had been told.

So Barry Rigal began the citation by saying:

On occasion a stalking-horse is needed to conceal one's intentions. This time Fred Gitelman filled the role.

Each sport has its irreplaceable personalities. This year's nomination fulfils that role for bridge. He has identified his job for IBPA with his own personality over a period of twenty years.

Although the IBPA Executive might seem a worthy bunch, we know who the members judge the key figure to be. IBPA stands or falls by its Bulletin and the Bulletin stands or falls by the Editor. Patrick Jourdain is a man of great principles and convictions. When he thinks something is wrong he says so. When he is enthusiastic about something he lets us know. He has worked tirelessly for IBPA, and to foster bridge around the world, but particularly in Britain and in Wales.

As a player this year he achieved a unique record in the Camrose, the Home Internationals of Britain that has been running for sixty seasons. This was not, as you might expect, that he has lost more matches for Wales than other player! It is that he became the only player to have beaten all five countries in the event in individual matches. In 1977 he played for Scotland beating Wales, then returning to Wales, he recorded wins for that country against the other four, completing the list this season with a win against the Republic of Ireland.

He is known as a singer, modest skills at tennis and golf, a collector of shampoo bottles, and, in his younger days, a man of great appetite. It is said that when at a quiz the question was how many food-groups are there? One of Patrick's team-mates gave the answer five. When told the correct answer was seven, he said. Not now, Patrick has eaten two of them!

I commend to you a true friend of bridge and of your Executive:

*Patrick Jourdain!*

## **THE 2003 IBPA BRIDGE PERSONALITY OF THE YEAR**



**Gianarrigo Rona (ITA)**

To bear the role of President of a Zonal organisation as large as Europe at the same time as presiding over the Italian Bridge Federation, its most successful NBO in terms of medals in the world's leading bridge tournaments is in itself a remarkable achievement. Our nominee has done that for four years.

This year the EBL inaugurated a major addition to the international calendar, a European championship that was open to all the world's players whether European or not. From a bridge point of view this concept was a major success, with an exceptionally high quality field in all eight events where a new European title was at stake. In future years when medallists look back at past winners, they will see worthy champions in 2003.

Our candidate has such influence in high places that one might have expected him also to arrange for the weather to suit the playing area's lack of air conditioning. That he did not proves merely that he is human. But human in a way that is a compliment for a person attaining high office: a warm personality, a generosity of spirit, and an ability to remain good-tempered even under pressure.

Gianarrigo Rona, 63, lives in Milan with his wife Cippi. He has two sons from a previous marriage. He retired as a fourth generation lawyer two years ago, handing over to a son and two nephews. In his youth he was a fine basketball player, competing in the Italian top league. His interest in powerboat racing led to a post on the Italian Federation for that sport from 1981 to 1983.

He learned bridge in the Sixties, later achieving the status of WBF International Master. He was non-playing captain of the Italian Open Team in 1984 and 1985. He joined the board of the Italian Bridge Federation (FIGB) in 1978 and became its President in 1986, a post he still holds. Under his Presidency, FIGB was recognised as a National Sport Federation by the Italian National Olympic Committee, and Rona is now a member of its National Council. Italian bridge players are the current holders of the world title for the Rosenblum Teams, the Olympiad Open Teams, the World Open Pairs, and the World Junior Teams. Junior bridge in Italy is so healthy that the country has

numerous candidates waiting to take a spot on their illustrious Open Team.

Rona joined the board of the European Bridge League in 1995 and became its President in 1999, being re-elected this year for a 4-year term. Under his aegis, the EBL has modernised its regulations, improved the training and grading of Tournament Directors, provided courses and seminars for bridge teachers, and implemented major changes to the bridge calendar.

Historically, the EBL has had an excellent relationship with the Bridge Press, never better than under Rona. Witness this year's EBL-sponsored Clippings Competition. This was mutually beneficial to both organisations, or, to be more precise in the case of the IBPA, to those members who were prepared to send in clippings, as all the money was dispensed in prizes.

The IBPA Personality of the Year 2003 is

*Gianarrigo Rona*

## **THE 2004 IBPA BRIDGE PERSONALITY OF THE YEAR**



**Radoslaw Kielbasinski (POL)**

At the Annual General Meeting in Istanbul, on Monday, November 1, 2004, Radoslaw (Radek) Kielbasinski, President of the Polish Bridge Union, was named 2004 Personality of the Year by the International Bridge Press Association. Kielbasinski has led the Polish organisation to a period of prosperity during which the federation has achieved sound financial footing and now boasts an average age for members of 43 – and going down. WBF President José Damiani was on hand for the presentation of the award, commending the IBPA, "for recognizing the merit of people who are trying to promote bridge, especially among the youth." Kielbasinski declined to take credit for the success of the Polish federation, but he promised more good bridge news from Poland in the future: "I can promise you we have not said the last word yet."

## THE 2005 IBPA BRIDGE PERSONALITY OF THE YEAR



**Fred Gitelman (USA)**

Our Personality of the Year is a fine player who is not only very well-liked, but who has also made a major contribution to bridge away from the table in the computer field, one that you will be seeing in front of you when play begins shortly.

As a player for Canada, he won a silver medal in the World Junior Teams Championship of 1991, losing to the USA in the final, and, in 1995, another silver in the Bermuda Bowl, again coming in second to the USA.

They say if you cannot beat them, join them, and a few years ago Fred moved from Toronto to Las Vegas and became eligible to represent the USA. Last year he won the Cavendish partnering Brad Moss, and this year the Spingold and US Trials, again partnering Moss, to become part of the USA2 team here in Estoril.

Fred is also the author of the book *Master Class* that made our shortlist for Book of the Year, but the contribution away from the table he is best known for is Bridge Base Online. BBO offers a free and valuable service to bridge players worldwide, including watching bridge live with excellent commentary. Tens of thousands of bridge players have benefited and are benefiting now from that service. In the last year, BBO has become the source of the VuGraph screen picture you will be seeing in a few moments. The few problems we have seen with the feed dropping are no fault of the service provider.

By now you should all have guessed who the man is, but I now ask him to come to the podium. Please give a warm welcome to Fred Gitelman.

## THE 2006 IBPA BRIDGE PERSONALITIES OF THE YEAR



**Warren Buffett & Bill Gates (USA)**

For the first time in the 33-year history of this Award we are making two people joint winners. They certainly rank as two of the world's most famous bridge-players, though their fame is built outside bridge. This year, one gave the other a donation that made headlines around the world and brought much favourable mention for bridge in that their friendship and trust of each other was based upon the game. Last year the support they provided to junior bridge in the USA will hopefully transform the future of bridge in that country and reverse the trend of an ageing bridge population there.

When one of these two competed in the World Bridge Championships in Montreal in 2002 and Verona this year, the media were attracted to the championships in volumes we rarely see. Two intellects admired throughout the world are now firmly associated with bridge. The two men, you will have deduced, are Bill Gates of Microsoft and Warren Buffett of Berkshire Hathaway.

Last year they set aside one million dollars to encourage young people to play bridge. The two argue that the game teaches logic, mental arithmetic, and cooperative behaviour, all beneficial to young people.

This year, Buffett, 'the Sage of Omaha', made a donation to the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, a charitable trust, of sixty billion dollars, with the objective of tackling global poverty and disease. The mind-boggling amount has the chance to make a real difference to the world. Making the donation, Mr. Buffett said, "You can do a better job of giving it away than I can." Mr. Gates said: "It's almost scary. If I make a mistake with my own money it just doesn't feel the same as making a mistake with Warren's money."

Also this year, the Warren Buffett Cup will be fought over for the first time, in Dublin, preceding the Ryder Cup of golf in September. The competition brings together the cream of European and North American bridge in individual, pairs and teams play.

The two first met in 1991. Buffett was already a bridge player, and it was admiration for his intellect that encouraged Gates to give the game a try some eight years ago. Both now compete on the Internet.

This year Bill Gates has also announced his forthcoming retirement from executive control of Microsoft. We have little doubt that he intends to spend more time playing bridge.

### THE 2007 IBPA BRIDGE PERSONALITY OF THE YEAR



**Zia Mahmood (PAK)**

The IBPA Personality of the Year for 2007 is a member of our organisation, a bridge journalist, married with two children, though not many people know those facts. He is one of the world's best card players but has never won an Open World title, an oversight, which may be rectified in a few days' time (*just prior to the KO round in Shanghai – Ed.*). What the bridge world does know is that he is certainly a Personality, so much so that it is a surprise he has not won our Award in the past. You will guess who it is when I tell you that this man can name three different countries as his home. This past year he can be proud of an achievement that occurred away from the bridge table. When the country of his birth was devastated by earthquake he felt he must do something about it. With the support of the bridge community he initiated a fund-raising exercise for \$150,000 that has resulted in the building of a school in the earthquake-ravaged part of Pakistan. The school was opened by José Damiani mid-year and takes its first students this term. The WBF contributed significantly to the project. Included was a raffle with, as prize, a game with Zia himself against world champions in Nashville that led to Hamman and Wolff renewing their partnership for one deal.

Our winner, who I ask to come forward to receive his certificate, is the world's most charismatic bridge player:

*Zia Mahmood of Pakistan,  
Great Britain and the USA.*

### THE 2008 IBPA BRIDGE PERSONALITY OF THE YEAR



**Antoine Bernheim, GENERALI**

Antoine Bernheim, president of the Generali Group, has been selected as the International Bridge Press Association's Personality of the Year. Generali is a longtime supporter of the WBF and the IBPA. Bernheim is shown playing at the World Championships in Estoril, Portugal.

This year both the IBPA and the WBF are celebrating 50 years of existence. Your Executive decided to honour as its Personality of the Year someone who represents the commercial sponsors who have most supported bridge in general, and IBPA in particular, over many years. For IBPA, in our early years, that would have been BOLS, but in the later years one company stands out, namely, Generali.

In the days when I was your Editor, Generali frequently supported IBPA with full-page advertisements. When we produced our last Handbook in 2002, Generali paid for the postage to members, and they have made a similar offer this year.

In bridge, generally you all know of Generali's support for both the WBF and EBL. The most obvious here in Beijing was the Generali World Masters Individual.

The one individual who has represented Generali over the years is its President, Antoine Bernheim of Italy. Sadly, Mr. Bernheim cannot be present to accept the Award so we have asked someone who is a good friend of Mr. Bernheim to accept the Award on his behalf. I refer to the President of the World Bridge Federation, Mr Damiani.

*Patrick Jourdain, President*

## THE 2009 IBPA BRIDGE PERSONALITY OF THE YEAR



**Rose Meltzer (USA)**

No one has a better record than Rose Meltzer in World Championship play over the last decade. Rose has won a Bermuda Bowl, a Rosenblum, a Transnational Teams and two Senior Teams: five world championships in ten years. She has played in five World Championship finals and has won them all. She has augmented that record with Spingold and Morehead (Grand National Teams) Trophies and a number of second-place finishes in major North American Championships and the IOC Cup. Rose has also been the Fishbein Trophy winner as the leading master-point winner at the Summer North American Bridge Championships. She is a World Grand Master, the highest ranking in the WBF, and unusually, is also highly ranked in the Women's and Seniors categories as well.

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

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

Rose's passion for bridge began in high school, but really blossomed in the late 1990's. Since then she is the first woman to win five open world titles and the first woman World Grand Master. Rose considers herself very fortunate to have the complete support of her husband and family in her endeavours.

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

## THE 2010 IBPA PERSONALITY OF THE YEAR



**Thomas Bessis (FRA)**

The personality of the year award is at the discretion of the executive committee. In the past few years the award has sometimes gone to players, sometimes to organizers, or to people who have contributed to the good of the game.

This year we have selected as our candidate a player who has excelled in the junior game, the open game, as a coach and captain, and who has also proved himself as a journalist.

Thomas Bessis came to fame as a player with his brother Olivier, but he has also played successfully with his mother Veronique, he has had huge success with his father Michel, (including this year's Vanderbilt Trophy) and has coached and captained the French women's team. He won the Junior European championships last year as well as many other junior titles.

Additionally he has won an IBPA award for best played hand by a junior, and has proved himself to be popular, well-mannered and generous. a true renaissance man.

Thomas Bessis' recent wins include:

- 3<sup>rd</sup> EUROPEAN OPEN CHAMPIONSHIPS, Antalya 2007 - Open Teams
- 38<sup>th</sup> WORLD TEAM CHAMPIONSHIPS, Shanghai 2007 - Transnational Teams
- 22<sup>nd</sup> EUROPEAN YOUTH TEAM CHAMPIONSHIPS, Brasov 2009 - Junior Teams
- 9<sup>th</sup> EUROPEAN YOUTH PAIRS CHAMPIONSHIPS, Wroclaw 2008 - Junior Pairs
- 49<sup>th</sup> EUROPEAN TEAM CHAMPIONSHIPS, Pau 2008 — Women's Teams (Coach of FRANCE)
- 2010 SPRING NABC, Reno - Vanderbilt Teams
- 2010 CAVENDISH INVITATIONAL, Las Vegas - John Roberts Teams
- 50<sup>th</sup> EUROPEAN TEAM CHAMPIONSHIPS, Pau 2010 — Women's Teams (Coach of FRANCE)

## THE 2011 IBPA PERSONALITY OF THE YEAR



**Pierre Zimmermann (CHE)**

Our Personality of the Year is the man that many bridge players are talking about and one that journalists have been writing about. As a bridge player, he has recorded two wins in the World Transnationals (in Shanghai and São Paulo), the Vanderbilt last year, and this year the Spingold in Toronto and the European Mixed Teams in Poznan.

You will know to whom I refer when I mention the more controversial matter of his formation of a team made up of four different nationalities which is seeking to represent Monaco in future World and/or European Championships.

This year our Personality has launched the Prince Albert Cup in Monaco with eight invited teams (his team lost on the final deal to a Russian team). He is planning a European equivalent of the Cavendish in Monaco and the equivalent of American majors such as the Reisinger in France. He is in discussions with the WBF that might be of assistance to that organisation.

Pierre Zimmermann is 56; he has five children aged from 10 to 21; his second marriage, to Christine, was 15 years ago. Pierre learned bridge at the École in Lausanne and founded the bridge club there; he persuaded the company Philip Morris to sponsor the students with bridge tuition. Zimmermann's father was a lawyer, but not wealthy, so he needed to find a job to finance his studies — thus he became assistant to the Professors at the University. Upon leaving university, he worked for IBM in Zurich before moving to the PR company Hill & Knowlton (now part of WPP).

In 1990, Zimmermann founded his own real estate company, Régie Zimmermann, which buys property, mostly near Geneva or Lausanne, refurbishes it, and sells it, then often remains as manager of the property for the new owner.

Zimmermann enjoys golf (at which he professes to be avid, but terrible), opera, classical music and musicals such as *Les Misérables*

## THE 2012 IBPA PERSONALITY OF THE YEAR



**Maria Teresa Lavazza (ITA)**

When legendary Non-Playing Captains are discussed, only two names will be mentioned, both Italian: Carl'Alberto Perroux of the Blue Team and Maria Teresa Lavazza of the eponymous Lavazza Team. Maria Teresa retired this year after the European Team Championships in Dublin — as a captain or coach, she won all the major team titles: three Olympiads, two Bermuda Bowls and a Rosenblum; a World Transnational Teams and five European Open Teams titles also adorn the trophy case. Seven other world and European medals complete the npc résumé. As a player, Maria Teresa Lavazza has had some success as well: wins in the European Mixed Teams and the European Champions Cup (twice), as well as three other medals in European Mixed Team Championships.

Lavazza's retirement came about as a result of the Italian Bridge Federation's avowed aim to eliminate selectors and use team trials to choose their teams. This opens the door for sponsors to play in the team, not a possibility when three pairs were selected by the Commissario Tecnico. There is no question that the open Italian bridge team will be worse off without Maria Teresa Lavazza at the helm and that the rest of the bridge world will miss her dearly. The Lavazza coffee stations had become an almost-permanent part of World and European Championships and were greatly appreciated by the attendees - Lavazza coffee has woken up a generation of bridge players, thus improving the standard of the game and providing journalists with untold numbers of brilliancies.

Apart from bridge, Maria Teresa will now have more time to spend with ADISCO, the children's leukemia charity of which she is Regional President, and with her five grandchildren.

## THE 2013 IBPA PERSONALITY OF THE YEAR



**Andrew Robson, OBE (GBR)**

IBPA member Andrew Robson, bridge columnist for The Times, Money Week and Country Life, was appointed an Officer of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire in Queen Elizabeth of GBRLand's 2013 New Year's Day Honours List for his services to bridge and charity.

Robson obtained a B.Sc. at the University of Bristol in 1985, and a Cert. Ed. in the following year. In 2001 he suffered serious injuries when he slipped on ice when hillwalking in the Lake District and fell thirty feet. He broke many bones, spent two months in hospital and was in a wheelchair for much longer. Robson was able to return to the bridge table five months after the accident, the speed of his recovery astonishing his doctors. As a result, he received the IBPA Sportsmanship Award in 2002 "for his spectacular recovery from adversity". Robson also has the distinction of receiving the IBPA award for Best Defence of the Year both as a player (1999) and as a journalist (2002).

Robson has also written for The Oldie, The Spectator and the Express on Sunday. He has written books on bridge, produced instructional CDs and DVDs and, in 1995, opened his own

bridge club, The Andrew Robson Bridge Club, in London. Robson has put his training as a schoolteacher to good use by heading many instructional seminars around the UK, as well as hosting master classes and charity bridge events and teaching at his club. Robson is married and has two daughters.

Robson's bridge wins include: Common Market Games Teams Championship, World Junior Teams Championship, European Teams Championship, Cap Gemini Pairs (three times), Sunday Times Macallan Pairs, Gold Cup (five times), Reisinger Board Match Teams (twice).

One of Robson's most cherished victories came at the 1989 World Junior Teams Championship, where he not only won the bridge gold medal, but also the impromptu tennis championship!



**Bauke Muller (NLD)**

Queen Beatrix of The Netherlands appointed Bauke Muller as a Ridder (Knight) in de Orde van Oranje Nassau last year. He receives the honour here, applauded by his teammates.

At only 52 Bauke Muller is the oldest and most experienced player of the Dutch Open team. He is the only player who was also on the team the first time the Dutch team won the World Championships back in 1993. He then partnered Wubbo de Boer, who is nowadays the captain of the Dutch juniors. Bauke Muller and Simon de Wijs began their partnership in 2005. Since the beginning they have been the backbone of the Dutch Open team with two Open European championships (2005 and 2009) and rarely place outside the podium, the highlight of course being the Bermuda Bowl in 2011.

Bauke is married and the father of a grownup daughter and has mysteriously managed both to finish an education and travel the world, winning the most

prestigious tournaments, while still attending his day-time job.

In 2012, Bauke Muller received a Royal Decoration from Her Majesty Queen Beatrix of The Netherlands. After the victory in the Bermuda Bowl in 2011 (Muller's second), the Queen appointed Muller as a Knight in the Order of OrangeNassau as the most successful bridge player of his country. His teammates now refer to him as "Sir Bauke".

Simon and Bauke play a highlyartificial system known as TARZAN. They employ many relays, making them less audiencefriendly to watch than other pairs. However, the system usually gets them to the right spot if they reach it before the clock runs out!

In addition to the two Bermuda Bowl wins and the two European Open Team Championships titles, Bauke Muller's other bridge successes include a European Champions Cup and wins in both the Teams and Pairs at the 2012 SportAccord World Mind Games.

### **THE 2014 IBPA PERSONALITY OF THE YEAR**



**Patrick Huang**

The fact that we are currently in China, and that the centre of bridge appears to be moving in an easterly direction, is a salutary reminder that 45 years ago international bridge was almost irrelevant in the Far East. The role of DGBR Xiaoping in bringing bridge to the forefront of China is well known. However, almost equally important was the success of bridge in Chinese Taipei, and leading the charge was our Personality of the Year, Patrick Huang.

In both 1969 and 1970, Chinese Taipei (then known to the world as Nationalist China or Taiwan) reached the finals of the world championship (the Bermuda Bowl), and a young Patrick Huang was duly recognised as one of the great players in the game. Patrick was also instrumental, with C.C. and Kathie Wei, in making Precision the dominant strong club

system in the world. With those developments, bridge became recognized in the Far East, and a new era of the game was born.

But if that was all, we wouldn't be recognizing him today. In the intervening years, Patrick has contributed to

the game in so many different ways: as a player, coach, non-playing captain, VuGraph commentator (in Mandarin and GBRLish), appeals committee member, member of IBPA's book-of-the-year jury, and as organizing secretary of the Yeh Bros Cup, amongst his many other roles. The Yeh Bros Cup, thanks to the sponsorship of Mr. Chen Yeh, has almost single-handedly kept the world of the invitational tournament alive. Patrick has just announced his retirement from that post.

Finally, it is rare to find a successful player in the bridge world about whom nobody has a bad word to say! Patrick is at the very top of the world not only as a player, but also in his ethics and deportment. He has set a fine example for everyone, and it is fitting that we take the opportunity in Sanya to acknowledge his contributions to the game.

## THE BEST PLAYED HAND OF THE YEAR

### THE 1974 SOLOMON AWARD FOR THE HAND OF THE YEAR José le Dentu (FRA)

No data.

### THE 1975 SOLOMON AWARD FOR THE HAND OF THE YEAR



**Benito Garozzo (ITA)**  
Journalist: Caio Rossi (ITA)

THE CHARLES SOLOMON AWARD for 'The Hand of the Year' was won by Benito Garozzo for a hand played in the Italian world championship trials and reported in Bulletin No. 138 on 11 November 1974 by Caio Rossi.

Herman Filarski, who judged the 'Hand of Year' award, reports that Mr Garozzo won via the brilliance of his bidding and play in a successful slam contract with only 19 points. Mr Rossi won for the simplicity and excellence of his narrative and his speedy transmission of the hand, which enabled his fellow IBPA members to make widespread use of it just before the 1975 Bermuda Bowl.

Highly commended hands were Roy Kerr's brilliant defence against Jean Miichel BoulGBRer in the 1974 Bermuda Bowl, reported by Jose le Dentu (Bulletin 135); and a defence by the Scots player Willie Coyle against Omar Sharif reported by Albert Benjamin in Bulletin 134.

Peter Pigot's report of a hand played by Monty Rosenberg (Bulletin 131) was commended for the humour and originality of presentation. Dirk Schroeder's analysis in the 'Deutsches Bridge Verbands-Blatt' of a hand he played in a German tournament was commended for technical excellence.

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

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

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

♠ A 9 6 3 2  
♥ A 8 3 2  
♦ A 7  
♣ 10 9

South	West	North	East
<i>Garozzo</i>	<i>De Falco</i>	<i>Belladonna</i>	<i>Vivaldi</i>
1♠	Dbl	4♣ <sup>1)</sup>	5♣ <sup>2)</sup>
Dbl <sup>3)</sup>	Pass	5♥ <sup>4)</sup>	Dbl
Rdbl <sup>5)</sup>	Pass	6♠ <sup>6)</sup>	

- 1) Strong support for spades and singleton or chicanne in clubs.
- 2) Natural.
- 3) I don't like to play 5♠; I have a minimum; I'll be satisfied to beat 5♣.
- 4) Control in hearts but no control in diamonds.
- 5) First-round control in hearts and diamonds.
- 6) You don't want to play in 5+1. Then play six of them!

Garozzo ruffed the club opening lead, played ♠J, and let it run! Then came ace and another diamond, west winning with the king. De Falco returned a club, shortening the dummy once more and leaving this position:

♠ K  
♥ J  
♦ Q 10 9 6 5 4  
♣ –

Immaterial

♠ Q 5  
♥ K 4  
♦ –  
♣ J 8 7 5

♠ A 9 6 3  
♥ A 8 3 2  
♦ –  
♣ –

Garozzo ran off dummy's diamonds, leaving East helpless: when he decides to ruff, South will ruff too. Then a spade to dummy's king leaves the dummy hand high.

Caio Rossi

## THE 1976 SOLOMON AWARD FOR THE HAND OF THE YEAR



**Tim Seres (AUS)**

Journalist: Denis Howard (AUS)

The Charles Solomon Award for 'Hand of the Year' went to a hand played by Australia's Tim Seres and reported by Denis Howard in his 'Nation Review' column. (See Bulletin 146, page 6.) Howard receives the cash – \$100 – for his write-up, the wistful Seres an IBPA plaque.

A candidate for the next "Hand of Year" Award appeared in Denis Howard's "Nation Review" column.

Dlr: East     ♠ 9 7 4  
Vul: None     ♥ A 6 2  
                   ♦ K Q 10 4  
                   ♣ Q 10 4

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

The bidding:

South	West	North	East
			1♣
1♠	Pass	2♠	Pass
4♠	All Pass		

After posing the East hand as a defensive problem Howard continues: So much for an eminently reasonable analysis of the defensive chances. However, when Tim Seres held the South cards a week, or so ago, he won West's lead of the ♣7 with the ace and, after the briefest of pauses, played ♥K!

Declarer deduced from the opening bid and the switch to ♥K, that East held ♥K-Q. Wouldn't anyone?

With ♥J up his sleeve, declarer was lured into a false sense of security. He could have played three rounds of diamonds and thrown a heart, but that is not free of risk; for example, the diamonds could break 5-

2, or East could promote a second trump trick by later taking ♠A, cash one heart and playing the fourth diamond.

The sensible thing to do was to win ♥A and play a spade from dummy at trick 3, and declarer did just that. Whammy!

The raptorial Seres pounced on the spade and laid ♥9 on the table. Declarer had barely time to murmur 'moriturus te saluto' before West had wrapped up two heart tricks.

Declarer, numbed to further pain, sat quietly while West then played the thirteenth heart. East hit that with ♠J (known in the trade as an uppercut) and ♠10 became: a trick in West's hand. Two down in an ice-cold contract, but who would blame the hapless declarer.

This is an enlightening hand because it illustrates the buccaneering insight that can transmute defeat into victory in any competitive arena. One imagines that dear old Attila won a few battles that way.

Seres recently wrote a Bols bridge tip for the IBPA Bulletin. His theme was that the defence should always be alert to present declarer with choice of plays and thus hope to induce error, when with no choice there could be no error. The above hand is a brilliant practical application of that thesis.

## THE 1977 SOLOMON AWARD FOR THE HAND OF THE YEAR



**Harold Ogust (USA)**

Journalist: Charles Goren (USA)

For the thoughtful and elegant play of Hand No.88 in Charles Goren's 100 ChallGBRIng Bridge Hands' reviewed in the Supplement to BULLETIN 163 of December 1976. Mr Ogust receives IBPA's plaque.

A SPECIAL AWARD has been made to Professor Roy Po Kerr of New Zealand for his imaginative and successful play of the hand reported on page 4 of BULLETIN 157, played in the New Zealand vs. Argentina match at the Olympiads. Other hands gaining special mention are the hand which won Ran Klinger the BOLS Brilliancy Prize, the fine defence by Stig Werdelin and Steen Møller, and Gabriel Chagas's play against Turkey, all reported in BULLETIN 157 as BOLS Brilliancy Prize entries.

## 88. A thought in time saves nine

By Charles Goren

Vuln: Both	♠ A 9 7 5 3 2	
Dealer: S	♥ 7 5	
	♦ 10 5	
	♣ A 8 2	
♠ J 10 8 4		♠ 6
♥ 9		♥ K J 8 6 3 2
♦ K 6 2		♦ Q 4 3
♣ K 10 6 4 3		♣ J 9 5
	♠ K Q	
	♥ A Q 10 4	
	♦ A J 9 8 7	
	♣ Q 7	

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

Opening lead: ♣4

As declarer, South, you let the lead ride round to your ♣Q. East plays the ♣J and you win the trick. It's your move.

If you do not find the winning play by South in this deal, you may console yourself with the fact that few experts did, even when it was presented to them as a problem.

Which is why my great friend, Harold Ogust, deserves credit for having found the successful line in a rubber bridge game, where it involved a mere matter of money, not the winning of a national championship.

A good insurance man is usually able to convince a prospect that a small premium is worth paying if it safeguards the contract. But South's problem was to find a premium payment that would enhance his chances of bringing home the game. Can you?

Counting his "sure" tricks, declarer could see that if spades were breaking, he had ten readily available. Now, whenever you can count ten and you need only nine, you should look for a way to sacrifice one in order to have a better chance of bringing home the game.

If you cashed the ♠K Q before you took this into account, you're too late to consider locking the barn door. Your horse went that-a-way. You have failed to consider that, with but a single entry to dummy, you cannot bring in the spade suit if it does not split. You will need to find some other source to bring your trick total to nine. Diamonds, for example.

If East had held the four spades, perhaps when West failed to follow to the second spade lead, you'd have made an alternate plan. Ogust didn't need that

reminder. When he overtook the ♠Q with the ♠A, he risked losing a sixth spade trick, but he could do with only five if East followed suit, surrendering one spade but winning two clubs and two aces. When East showed out after the overtake with the ♠A, Ogust had the lead where he needed it — in dummy.

Abandoning the spade suit, he led the ♦10. As long as East held either two or three diamonds to an honor, declarer was bound to win four diamond tricks, whether or not East covered the ♦10. With the ♣A in dummy for another diamond lead if necessary, South had given himself the extra chance that brought home his contract.

Suppose the spades had split. Then you'll have to apologize to partner for your "error."

## THE 1978 SOLOMON AWARD FOR THE HAND OF THE YEAR



**Dominique Pilon (FRA)**  
Albert Dormer (GBR)

As announced in BULLETIN 183, the Charles Solomon 'Hand of Year' Award presented by our distinguished late member and continued by his widow Peggy was presented in New Orleans to the young French international player, Dominique Pilon of Paris.

Second was Ron Anderson of New York City and third the 21-year-old Italian player Marco Momigliano, a contender in New Orleans. The panel of judges consisted of Jose le Dentu, Ron Klinger, Peter Pigot, Alan Truscott & Jan Wohlin under the chairmanship of IBPA Awards Secretary Alec Traub.

Eligible were all hands played in 1977 and published in the IBPA BULLETIN or submitted separately to Alec Traub. Other conditions: No hand is considered unless the bidding as well as the play is detailed. The origin of the hand shall be given and authentication may be required, whether or not the hand was played in a public contest. The Award may be in respect of a hand, which has been reported in an article in a newspaper or periodical. The Panel shall take into consideration originality, depth of analysis, and measure of interest for the average bridge player.

### Dominique Pilon

Reported by Albert Dormer in IBPA BULLETIN 169:

West Dealer    ♠ 7 6 4  
                  ♡ A Q J 10  
                  ♦ J 9 8 3  
                  ♣ 8 3

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

♠ A Q J 9 8 5 3 2  
♡ —  
♦ 5 2  
♣ A 10 4

Pilon, West, dealt and passed, Jais opened 1♦ in third position, and Pierre Schlemiel overcalled with 4♠ as South. This was passed out and Pilon led ♦7.

East won two tricks in diamonds and continued with a third diamond, declarer ruffing with the 9. On this trick Pilon discarded a club!

Placing East with ♠K, declarer decided to concede a club and to ruff his way to dummy with a club to take the spade finesse. Down one, losing two diamonds, a club and a trump.

In the other room, when the third round was led, West over ruffed declarer with ♠K. Now South was able to use dummy's trumps as entries. South took the ruffing finesse in hearts and thus avoided the loss of a club trick.

### THE 1979 SOLOMON AWARD FOR THE HAND OF THE YEAR



**Maurizio Sementa (ITA)**  
Journalist: Ida Pellegrini (ITA)

The Charles Solomon 'Hand of the Year' Award endowed by our distinguished late member and contin-

ued by his widow Peggy was presented in Lausanne to Ida Pellegrini. ('Gazetta di Parma').

Ida's hand was first published in BULLETIN 184 with translation by Michael Wolach.

This hand occurred in a team-of-four event in Viareggio on 28-29 January. The declarer was the Italian player, Maurizio Sementa and the opponents were members of a Monte Carlo team. Here are the N-S hands:

Dir: South    ♠ A 2  
Vul: Both    ♡ K Q J 4  
                  ♦ A K Q 10 6 3  
                  ♣ 3

♠ K Q 8 7 4  
♡ A 6 3 2  
♦ 4  
♣ J 7 6

South	West	North	East
1♠	Pass	2♦	Pass
2♡	Pass	4NT	Pass
5♦	Pass	6♡	All Pass

West led ♣A, on which East played the 4, and he continued with the king, which declarer ruffed with ♡4 as East followed with the 10. South drew dummy's ♡K-Q and East discarded a spade on the second round. As South how would you plan the play?

This was the full deal:

♠ A 2  
♡ K Q J 4  
♦ A K Q 10 6 3  
♣ 3

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

♠ K Q 8 7 4  
♡ A 6 3 2  
♦ 4  
♣ J 7 6

Despite the 4-1 trump break the contract will easily be made if the diamonds or spades are divided. If they are not, however, there will be difficulty, as declarer cannot afford to ruff a diamond to establish the suit.

In play South cashed ♡J and East discarded another spade. The discard was significant, as South

had bid the suit. Accordingly, Sementa read the distribution perfectly, and played the hand double dummy.

After dummy's third trump he led a low spade to his queen, leaving this position:

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

Declarer cashed ♥A — and discarded ♠A from dummy! Now East was squeezed. Hoping his partner held ♣J, he discarded ♣Q. But when declarer continued with ♣J East was obliged to throw in the sponge: if he discarded either a spade or a diamond, declarer would take the rest of the tricks.

The same contract was reached at the other table but the Monte Carlo player, after taking dummy's three top trumps, tried to enter his hand by playing ace and another spade, preparing for a simple squeeze. The second spade was ruffed, of course, and South was defeated.

Note that West can beat the squeeze by leading a low club at the second trick.

*Second and third places were both occupied by Eric Kokish of Montreal*

## THE 1980 SOLOMON AWARD FOR THE HAND OF THE YEAR Benito Garozzo (ITA)

Journalist: Henry Francis (USA)

Henry Francis won the 'Hand of the Year' Award. His article first appeared in the Bermuda Bowl daily bulletin at Rio in October 1979.

Board 20 in the Bermuda Bowl final between the United States and Italy.

The report is by Henry Francis in the Daily Bulletin.

Dir: West	♠ 8 4
Vul: Both	♥ 8 7 3
	♦ 10 4
	♣ A 7 6 4 2
♠ A	♠ Q J 7 3 2
♥ K 9 6 4	♥ J 10 2
♦ K J 7 3 2	♦ A Q 8
♣ Q 10 9	♣ K J
	♠ K 10 9 6 5
	♥ A 6
	♦ 9 6 5
	♣ 8 5 3

Board 20 was apparently going to be a 12 IMP gain for the Americans when Franco took an inferior line of play at 3NT and was defeated. Passell, meanwhile, seemed on the right track — but Garozzo found a gem of a defensive play to throw a monkey wrench into the works.

In each case the opening lead by North was a low club. Passell won the opening low club lead and immediately took his ♠A, then returned to dummy with the ♦A to lead ♠Q.

Garozzo took the king, and just when everyone had conceded the contract to Passell, Benito returned a diamond!

Look what this did to Passell. If he cashed his ♠J then the defence would be able to cash two more spades plus two aces to defeat the contract.

If Mike instead set up his extra club trick while holding his spade control, he would have no way to get to dummy later to take the good spade. Either way he was down, thanks to Garozzo's brilliant play.

# THE 1981 SOLOMON AWARD FOR THE HAND OF THE YEAR

**Andrzej Wilkosz (POL)**

Journalist: Martin Hoffman (GBR)

The 1981 Charles Solomon 'Hand of the Year' Award, presented by our distinguished late member and continued by his widow Peggy, was won by Andrzej Wilkosz of Poland for a deal described by Martin Hoffman in Britain's 'International Popular Bridge Monthly' edited by Tony Sowter.

In Port Chester Sowter accepted the Award on behalf of the absent Wilkosz at the hands of Panos Gerontopoulos. Here is the deal, which won Wilkosz the Award:

Dir: East			
		♠	A 9 6 2
		♥	K 9 5 3
		♦	J
		♣	J 10 6 4
♠	10	♠	Q J 8 7
♥	10 8 6 4	♥	Q 7 2
♦	7 5 3 2	♦	A K 10 8 4
♣	Q 9 8 2	♣	3
		♠	K 5 4 3
		♥	A J
		♦	Q 9 6
		♣	A K 7 5
West	North	East	South
		1♦	Dbl
2♦	3♦	Pass	3♠
Pass	4♠	All Pass	

West led ♦2 to East's king and East switched to ♣3. Feeling there was a high probability that East held a singleton club, Wilkosz paused to consider.

If the club was a singleton, East must have virtually all the remaining points to justify his opening bid. If trumps broke 3-2 there would be no problem, for a straightforward line would yield ten tricks, losing one diamond, one club and one spade, but what if East had four trumps? Superficially it appears that South must lose four tricks, but Wilkosz had other ideas. Look ft the beautiful timing of his play.

# THE 1982 SOLOMON AWARD FOR THE HAND OF THE YEAR



**Lajos Linczmayer (HUN)**

Journalist: Kelen Karolly (HUN)

The International Bridge Press Association has given the Charles Solomon Award for the best-played hand of the year to Lajos Linczmayer of Hungary for a hand he played in Carrara, Italy. It was published in the July-August issue of the Hungarian monthly Bridzselet, and it was submitted by the publication's editor. Kelen Karolly.

Second place went to Sam Kehela of Canada, reported by Eric Kokish of Canada. In a third-place tie were John Collings of Great Britain and Mike Cappelletti of U.S.A. Their hands were reported respectively by Derek Rimington of Great Britain and Henry Francis of U.S.A. Gabriel Chagas of Brazil and Barry Crane of the U.S.A. were tied for fifth. The Chagas deal was reported by Alan Truscott of the USA, and Crane's effort was written up by Richard Miller of the U.S.A.

Here is Karoly's write up of the Linczmayer hand:

Dir: South			
Vul: N-S			
		♠	K J
		♥	J 10 6 4
		♦	—
		♣	Q 10 9 6 5 3 2
♠	Q 10 8 3	♠	9 6 5 4
♥	K Q 8 5 2	♥	7
♦	Q 5 2	♦	A J 10 9 6 4 3
♣	7	♣	8
		♠	A 7 2
		♥	A 9 3
		♦	K 8 7
		♣	A K J 4

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

Had West led a heart declarer would have made his contract quite simply. On a spade or a diamond lead

these suits can be eliminated and West be end played in hearts. However the opening lead of the ♣7 killed one of the entries to declarer's hand.

Linczmayer won the first trick with the ♠J and ruffed a diamond in dummy. A club was led to the king and another diamond ruffed. Now a heart was led to the ace, which Karoly points out is important in case East has a singleton heart honor. The ♠J was successfully finessed and the ♠K played. Declarer's own hand was entered with the ♣A and the ♠A cashed, leaving the following position:

♠ —	
♥ J 10	
♦ —	
♣ Q 10	
♠ Q	♠ 9
♥ K Q	♥ —
♦ Q	♦ A J 10
♣ —	♣ —
♠ —	
♥ 9 3	
♦ K	
♣ 4	

South played the ♦K and discarded a heart from dummy. East won and was forced to lead either a spade or a diamond for a ruff and discard.

Linczmayer is one of the leading Hungarian internationals, with victories twice in the Venice team tournament.

At trick two he took ♣K. He ruffed a diamond, finessed ♥J, cashed ♥A and ruffed another diamond. Before leading up to ♣A, Wilkosz cashed ♥K to prevent East from discarding a heart. When the club followed there was no point to East's sacrificing a trump trick by ruffing, so he pitched a diamond, leaving the this position:

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

Needing three more tricks, Wilkosz played ♠K-A and then led the last heart from dummy to score a little trump by force. South's last trump trick was scored 'en passant'.

## THE 1983 SOLOMON AWARD FOR THE HAND OF THE YEAR



**Claude Delmouly (FRA)**  
Journalist: Patrick Jourdain (GBR)

The Solomon Award for the Bridge Hand of the Year was won by Claude Delmouly for the 3NT contract he played in the Hoechst International tournament at Scheveningen in March. The hand was reported in IBPA Bulletin 228, in the April issue of Le Bridgeur and in the September issue of Bridge Magazine. Jean Paul Mayer accepted the award for Delmouly.

As a curtain raiser on the Friday evening national teams from Italy, Poland, France, and the home country played an exhibition match of 24 boards for a sizeable audience and Dutch teletext. There were 23 dullish boards — and a 'candidate for the Solomon award'.

Dlr: North	♠ 3	
Vul: N-S	♥ A K 7 3 2	
	♦ J 4 2	
	♣ 10 9 7 5	
♠ Q 8 7 4 2	♠ J 9 6	
♥ —	♥ J 10 9 8 5 4	
♦ A Q 10 8	♦ 7	
♣ K J 3 2	♣ 10 8 6	
	♠ A K 10 5	
	♥ Q 6	
	♦ K 9 6 5 3	
	♣ A 4	

### Closed Room:

West	North	East	South
Maas	Roudinesco	Rebattu	Delmouly
	Pass	1♠ <sup>(1)</sup>	1NT
Pass	2♦ <sup>(2)</sup>	Pass	2♥
Pass	3♣	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

### Vu-graph:

West	North	East	South
Le Royer	Vergoed	Meyer	Kreijns
	Pass	Pass	1♦
1♠	Dbl <sup>(3)</sup>	2♠	2NT
3♠	3NT	All Pass	

- (1) 0-9 points
- (2) Transfer
- (3) Sputnik

When France met the Netherlands both tables reached three no-trumps and received a low spade lead to the jack and king. Declarer continued with a low diamond to the jack, which held. On the second round of diamonds East threw a heart and declarer ducked. It was possible that West might find a switch to a high club to create an entry for his partner, but in practice both defenders exited with a low club. Then the play differed.

In the Closed Room, where Delmouly was declarer for France, he put up dummy's ten which was covered by the queen and ace. A club return put West back into the lead. Anton Maas decided to exit with two more rounds of clubs and this was the position when he played the fourth club:

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

On this trick, as dummy held only one entry, Rebattu innocently (but fatally, as things turned out), threw a heart. Delmouly discarded a spade from hand and then played a heart to the queen, on which West threw a spade. Reading the hand completely Delmouly now found a most remarkable play. Leaving the ace of spades apparently stranded in his hand, he played off two more hearts. This was the position when the third heart was played:

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

Declarer threw a diamond and West, well, what indeed does West throw? Clearly, a diamond discard exposes him to a throw-in. So Maas threw his spade. Now Delmouly exited from dummy with a heart on which he ditched the king of diamonds and poor East had to concede two spade tricks to the entry less declarer.

On Vu-graph at the point where West switched to a low club Kreijns played low from dummy and Meyer, after some consideration, put in the eight. This left declarer with no chance but there was still some interest in the play. Declarer ducked the club and Meyer continued with a second club, taken by the ace. Then came three rounds of hearts. When the third was led this was the ending:

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

On this trick West came under pressure to throw his spade guard. The difference came when declarer exited from dummy with a club. If Le Royer had left the lead with his partner Meyer could have cashed two hearts, but would have then had to concede the last two tricks to declarer's spades. Reading the position correctly, Le Royer overtook the queen of clubs to cash the jack. This card squeezed declarer. To keep two diamonds he had to throw a winning spade. West exited with a spade, and came to two diamonds at the end for a two trick defeat of the contract.

**THE 1984 SOLOMON AWARD  
FOR THE HAND OF THE YEAR**  
**Zia Mahmood (PAK)**  
From the Daily Bulletin

IBPA Bulletin 235.

Zia Mahmood's 6♥ at the 1983 Bermuda Bowl was the clear winner of the Solomon Award for the best-played hand.

```

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

```

South	West	North	East
<i>Jasin</i>	<i>Zia</i>	<i>Munawar</i>	<i>Salim</i>
Pass	2♣	Pass	2♦
Dbl	2♥	Pass	3♦
Pass	4♣	Dbl	5♣
Pass	5♠	Pass	6♥
All Pass			

You will recall that North was on the same side of the screen as Zia. His unusually active interest in the bidding persuaded Zia to back his table feel and place North with the ♠Q and ♣K. The bidding had already suggested that. South had IGBRth in diamonds.

Zia ruffed the opening lead, played for trumps to be 3-2 so that after Zia ruffed three clubs and two diamonds North was unable to escape being end played in spades.

**THE 1985 SOLOMON AWARD  
FOR THE HAND OF THE YEAR**  
**Won Li (CHN)**  
Journalist: Alan Truscott (USA)

The hand of the Year, was written up by Alan Truscott in the New York Times.

**A China Hand**  
By Alan Truscott

In preparation for President Reagan's visit to China, a New York bridge Expert, Cathy Wei, was recently summoned to the White House to aid in the briefing of the President. Mrs. Wei, whose memoirs of a turbulent childhood in China, entitled "Second Daughter", are due for publication shortly by Little, Brown, has had more direct contact with the top levels of Chinese Government recently than almost any other American citizen.

Her success has been via her skill at bridge, to which many Chinese officials, among them China's leader DGBR Xiaoping, have long been devoted. Mrs. Wei was in Peking recently on business for her husband, a ship owner, and partnered Deputy Prime Minister Won Li, who will head the Chinese committee discussing nuclear energy problems. Mr. Won, a bridge enthusiast, has a reputation at the bridge-table and away from it, for being energetic, clever and unorthodox. He demonstrated the first two of these qualities on the diagrammed deal.

```

Dir: South      ♠ Q 7 5
Vul: N-S        ♥ 9 7 6 4
                ♦ 9 4
                ♣ K J 10 4
♠ A 8 6 4 2     ♠ K J 10 9 3
♥ A Q J 10 5     ♥ 3
♦ 6 2           ♦ Q J 8 7 5
♣ 5             ♣ 8 7
      ♠ —
      ♥ K 8 2
      ♦ A K 10 3
      ♣ A Q 9 6 3 2

```

South	West	North	East
1♣	Dbl	1♦	2♠
3♣	4♠	5♣	Pass
Pass	Dbl	Pass	Pass
Redbl	Pass	Pass	Pass

West led the spade eight.

The Partnership was using the Precision system devised by Mrs. Wei's husband, Charles Wei, and favoured by most Chinese players. So one club was an artificial strong bid and West's double promised IGBRth in the major suits. One diamond by Mrs. Wei was also artificial, showing 6-7 high-card points, and the bidding then followed a natural track. The final redouble indicates Won Li's aggressive optimism: The Chinese Leaders seem psychologically inclined to redouble, which the American diplomats might bear in mind.

The West player was Ding Guangen, the Vice-Secretary-General of the People's Congress, and neither he nor his partner chose to retreat to five spades. That would have failed by just one trick, barring a misguess in trumps. Instead he produced an imaginative lead of the spade eight. He was hoping to give his partner the lead for a heart return, and he chose the eight rather than a small card for suit-preference reasons. But South ruffed and studied his prospects. It was obvious that hearts were on his left, hand he was in considerable danger of losing three tricks in that suit.

Many players would charge ahead, supposing that they could strip out the side suits and eventually duck a heart to West. But Mr. Won correctly saw that this would not quite work. By the time he had drawn trumps and ruffed two diamonds in dummy, he would have no trumps left in the dummy, and the endplay would fail.

The bidding had marked West with the major suits, and that greatly improved the chance of finding East with both missing diamond honors. So South crossed to dummy with a trump lead and led the diamond nine. The East player was S.T. WGBR, a visiting New York businessman, and if he had covered, the ten would have been finessed subsequently. But he correctly played low and when South did likewise, holding his breath, the nine held. The declarer had to hope that West could not ruff the second round of diamonds. He led the remaining diamond from dummy and won with the king when East played the jack. Now the road to the endplay was clear. A trump lead to the dummy and a spade ruff left this ending:

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

The spade queen was discarded on the diamond Ace, and the diamond was ruffed. A heart was led to the eight, and West was forced to make a losing lead. Notice that the endplay would have been equally successful if East had held a singleton honor, for South would of course have played low. Mr. Won had made his redoubled contract, and demonstrated the shrewdness and ability one would expect from a leader of the world's most populous country.

## THE 1986 SOLOMON AWARD FOR THE HAND OF THE YEAR



**Henri Svarc (FRA)**

Journalist: Jean-Paul Meyer (FRA)

The SOLOMON Award for Best Played Hand of the Year.

Jean-Paul Meyer submits this fine deal to be published in the French political magazine MINUTE:

Henri Svarc, facing his new partner Jean Yves Guillaumin, was playing a match, in 'Division Nationale', the very important national team-of-four championship qualifying for Miami, which ends in mid-December.

They bid up to 6 diamonds on the following hands.

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

South had doubled a cue-bid in hearts, so North led ♥8 and it was clear that there was not much further

hope in this suit. First trick went ♥8 – ♥2 – ♥10, and the king from West.

Declarer had eleven top tricks and it was crucial to take the right view in clubs to make the contract. Svarc found a way to avoid ANY GUESS.

Do you do not see declarer's magic ... follow the play. Simple, he took exactly six rounds of trumps discarding two clubs from dummy. The defence kept two cards in hearts (Q-x in South obviously) and five cards in spades. Who would care to keep more than three cards in spades, as this was dummy's long suit with only three cards?

So West played Ace and King of spades every one following and a third spade was ruffed in hand, position was then:

♠ –	♠ –
♥ –	♥ A J
♦ –	♦ –
♣ ? x x	♣ 10
♠ –	♠ –
♥ 9	♥ Q x
♦ –	♦ –
♣ K J	♣ ?

West had just to play a club from hand. Whatever honour was in South, the contract was sure. The ace of clubs bare would endplay South; the queen of clubs bare could be taken by North's ace (crocodile coup) but then North had to give up the last two clubs.

Originally North's hand was:

♠ Q 10 x x x ♥ 8 x ♦ x ♣ A 9 x x

Sure he could have kept four spades and only two clubs for his last six cards. Then Svarc instead of ruffing out the third spade would have had to guess, but that does not change the merit of declarer to have foreseen a way to improve his odds with an easily predictable mistake from the defence.

## THE 1987 SOLOMON AWARD FOR THE HAND OF THE YEAR Jon A Stoevneng (NOR) Journalist: Arne Hofstad (NOR)

IBPA Bulletin 266.

### Pure Brilliancy

By Arne Hofstad, Norway

The Norwegian player Jon A. StoevnGBR must be a very strong candidate for the brilliancy prize after his beautiful performance against Belgium in the 13th round.

Dlr: South	♠ A Q 5 4
Vul: None	♥ A 5 3
	♦ K Q 9 7 5
	♣ 10
♠ K 7 3	♠ J 10 8 6 2
♥ J 10 9 6	♥ Q
♦ 8 3 2	♦ J 6
♣ 9 6 2	♣ K Q J 5 4
	♠ 9
	♥ K 8 7 4 2
	♦ A 10 4
	♣ A 8 7 3

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

4♣/♦ are cuebids and 4NT is Blackwood 5♣ showing 3 out of 5 Aces.

West led the ♥J, making the impossible contract a faint possibility. Dummy's Ace disclosed the bare Queen, and South took a very long time to consider. Forgive him, this is not an everyday task. He then played ♣A, club ruff, diamond to the Ace and a spade to the Queen! Now ♠A, spade ruff and a club ruffed with dummy's last trump. The ♦K Q were cashed and a diamond ruffed with the seven.

You would have to kibitz for a month to see a more beautiful declarer's play.

# THE 1988 SOLOMON AWARD FOR THE HAND OF THE YEAR Trond Rogne (NOR)

Journalist: Knut Kjarnsrod (NOR)

## DOUBLE CRISS-CROSS

By Knut Kjarnsrod

Norwegian player Trond Rogne was South on this board against internationals Glenn Grotheim and Ulf Tundal:

Dealer: East ♠ K 7 6 3  
Vul: All ♥ 6 4  
♦ 8 3 2  
♣ A J 5 4

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

♠ A 8  
♥ K Q J 9 8 2  
♦ A 7  
♣ 9 7 3

West	North	East	South
Grotheim		Tundal	Rogne
		1♦	Dbf
No	1♠	No	2♥
No	3♦	No	3♥
No	4♥	All Pass	

West led a low diamond to the king and ace. The heart king was taken by West's ace and two more rounds of diamonds followed. Now Trond hoped East would have four spades and K-Q-10 of clubs to make him the victim of a criss-cross squeeze without the count. So he ruffed the third diamond and ran the trumps. This was the position with two trumps remaining:

♠ K 7 6 3  
♥ —  
♦ —  
♣ A J 5

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

♠ A 8  
♥ 9 8  
♦ —  
♣ 9 7 3

When Trond drew West's last trump, throwing a club from dummy, East discarded the EIGHT of clubs, so Trond realised his original plan had not worked. However, he now turned his attention to a new victim — West! Trond played off the last trump and West was in trouble. If he threw a club the suit could be cleared, So he gave up a spade. The club jack was thrown from dummy and the screw turned on East. If he released a spade declarer could clear the suit, so he had to throw a club honour. The scene was set for a neat ending: Trond cashed the ace of clubs, the king and ace of spades, and then played the nine of clubs. West won with the ten but had only the six left to lead back to Trond's seven. Ten tricks and 13 imps.

# THE 1989 SOLOMON AWARD FOR THE HAND OF THE YEAR Kerri Shuman (USA)

Journalist: Alan Truscott (USA)

No article.

# THE 1990 SOLOMON AWARD FOR THE HAND OF THE YEAR Miss Raczyńska (POL)

Journalist: Guy Dupont (FRA)

At European Mixed in Bordeaux  
IBPA Bulletin 308, page 5

## MAZURKA

By Guy Dupont

Here is a very beautifully played hand from the team Championships. Miss Raczyńska from Poland had to declare 6♠ in her match against Terraneo from Austria on this one:

Board 5 ♠ K Q 10 7 3  
Dir: North ♥ —  
Vul: N-S ♦ K 8 6 3  
♣ A J 10 5

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

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

The bidding was easy:

Raczynska	Szyrnanowski
1NT	2♣
2♠	6♠

West led the ♦J to South's Queen. Can you see how she made the contract? She drew trumps and played the ♣A-K and the ♣J. Her first good move was to let this run, discarding a diamond.

Her continuation was really brilliant: she led a low diamond from dummy, away from the King! This is as beautiful as a Mazurka: if East takes his Ace, that will be the last trick he gets, as well as his first – so it's all right for declarer, and if he ducks, West will win the 10, but will be forced to lead hearts into the tenace, as he does not hold any cards or a different suit (he would have loved to hold the last club, but as we know, there are only 13 cards of each suit). Thus, declarer was able to get rid of her last two losing diamonds and score 1430. Fantastic!

Editor's note: Raczynska did particularly well not to play the fourth club. Had she done so, West would have had a chance for a brilliancy by jettisoning the blocking ♦10. This leaves East with two winners in the suit.

### THE 1991 SOLOMON AWARD FOR THE HAND OF THE YEAR

**Shmuel Friedman (ISR)**

Journalist: Jos Jacobs (NLD)

Report from the 1991 European Community Championships in Athens in IBPA Bulletin 320.

Shmuel Friedman of Israel did at least two good things in Athens. He joined IBPA and won the prize for Best Played Hand:

Dir: North	♠ A K Q	
Vul: N-S	♥ K 8 7 5	
	♦ A K 10 4	
	♣ 3 2	
♠ 10 9 6 4	♠ 8 5 3	
♥ Q 10 3	♥ A 9 6 2	
♦ 9 6 5 3	♦ J 2	
♣ 10 8	♣ K Q 9 7	
	♠ J 7 2	
	♥ J 4	
	♦ Q 8 7	
	♣ A J 6 5 4	

Nissan Rand, another IBPA member, opened 1♦ on the North cards, Friedman responded 1NT, and Rand raised to game. West, Silberwasser of Belgium, led a

spade. Friedman won in dummy, and led a club to the jack, which held. What would you do next?

Friedman cashed a second spade, and then played ace and another club, DISCARDING dummy's blocking ♠Q! East won, but either had to open up a red suit, or play another spade, giving South the extra entry to set up the fifth club. Either way Friedman had his ninth trick.

### THE 1992 SOLOMON AWARD FOR THE HAND OF THE YEAR



**Elizabeth McGowan (GBR)**

Journalist: Barry Rigal (GBR)

#### Easter in London

By Barry Rigal

At the Easter tournament a friendly match between GBRIland and Austria Womens teams, was won by GBRIland. This deal played by Liz McGowan was crucial to GBRIland's win by 8 imps.

Dir: South	♠ A 10 3	
Vul: All	♥ Q 10 3	
	♦ A 6 5 3	
	♣ A 5 4	
♠ K Q J 8 7 2	♠ 9 6 5 4	
♥ J 8 7 4	♥ –	
♦ 10 9	♦ Q 8 7 4 2	
♣ 7	♣ K Q J 9	
	♠ –	
	♥ A K 9 6 5 2	
	♦ K J	
	♣ 10 8 6 3 2	

South	West	North	East
<i>Fischer</i>	<i>Landy</i>	<i>Weigkricht</i>	<i>Handley</i>
1♥	2♠	Dbl	4♠
4NT <sup>(a)</sup>	Pass	5♠	Pass
6♥	All Pass		

(a) 2-suiter, longer hearts

South	West	North	East
<i>McGowan</i>	<i>Korus</i>	<i>Penfold</i>	<i>Erhart</i>
1♥	2♠	Dbl	4♠
5♣	Pass	6♥	All Pass

At both tables West, having pre-empted in spades, led ♠K against South's 6♥. How should South play?

Doris Fischer won in dummy, threw a club from hand, finessed ♦J, cashed ♦K, picked up the trumps, and threw another club on ♦A, but still lost two clubs at the end.

Liz McGowan ruffed the spade lead, cashed ♥K, finessed ♥10, cashed ♥Q, and ♠A throwing a club, finessed ♦J, and then ran the trumps KEEPING ♦K.

This was the ending:

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

On the last trump, a spade went from dummy and East had to resign. A club discard let Liz set up the suit with ♦K as entry. (Note: If West has ♣J-x East must unblock ♣K-Q.)

### THE 1993 SOLOMON AWARD FOR THE HAND OF THE YEAR



**Peter Schaltz (DEN)**  
Journalist: Villy Dam (DEN)

IBPA Bulletin 340.

#### Finesse of the year?

By Villy Dam

The married couple Dorthe and Peter Schaltz took bronze in the Danish national pairs final. Here we see Peter, many times a national champion and representative of Denmark demonstrate cellar-deep finessing: (Editor: with a performance worth consideration for our Annual awards):

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

South	West	North	East
<i>Peter</i>		<i>Dorthe</i>	
Pass	1♥	Dbl	3♥
4♦!	Pass	5♦	All Pass

Optimistic bidding, especially by South, was justified by careful play! After two heart tricks for West came a spade for the Ace and a spade ruffed by Peter Schaltz in his own hand. Next came a diamond to the queen, followed by the Ace. Another spade ruff completed the picture of West's distribution: 2-5-2-4. So East had to have a singleton club.

This caused a problem. Should South play East for the singleton ♣K? No, West had opened the bidding. A much better chance was to find the East with the bare 6, 8 or 9! South therefore followed with the club QUEEN, covered by the king and the ace ... and the 6 from East – thank you!

Another spade ruff was the prelude to this fantastic club trick: ♣3, ♣2 and ♣4, ... and a spade from East. You could hear the deep sigh from the kibitzing crowd around the table.

### THE 1994 SOLOMON AWARD FOR THE HAND OF THE YEAR



**Hervé Mouiel (FRA)**  
Journalist: Jean-Paul Meyer (FRA)

IBPA Bulletin No. 347, page 16.

Jean-Paul Meyer reports brilliant play by Hervé Mouiel on a spectacular deal from the "Coup de France", in October, as a candidate for an Award:

Dir: West ♠ –  
 Vul: Both ♥ A K Q 9 8 7 4 3 2  
           ♦ 9 2  
           ♣ J 5  
 ♠ A K Q J 5 4 3      ♠ 8 6 2  
 ♥ 6 5                    ♥ –  
 ♦ K J                    ♦ A 10 6 5 4 3  
 ♣ 6 4                    ♣ K 8 7 2  
           ♠ 10 9 7  
           ♥ J 10  
           ♦ Q 8 7  
           ♣ A Q 10 9 3

West	North	East	South
<i>Mouiel</i>	<i>Rombaut</i>	<i>Levy</i>	<i>Bouscarel</i>
1♠	5♥!	Pass	Pass
5♠	Pass	6♠	All Pass

Luckily for Mouiel, North did not find a club lead against the slam, but chose the more normal ♥A. As North's pre-empt marked South with ♣A, Mouiel saw how to exert pressure in the end game.

He ruffed the lead in dummy and at once led a diamond to the JACK. He then ruffed his last heart and ran off all the trumps. In the three card ending dummy held ♦A 10 and ♣K. South had to keep ♦Q x and bare his ace of clubs. Mouiel then cashed ♦K, and exited with a club to South's ace. South had to concede the last trick to dummy's ♦A.

Meyer notes that it was necessary for Mouiel to finesse ♦J and use the stepping-stone squeeze, as a strip-squeeze endplay on South does not work. South can be thrown in with ♣A to lead away from ♦Q-x, but West's JACK blocks the run of the suit.

### THE 1995 "LE BRIDGEUR" AWARD FOR THE HAND OF THE YEAR



**Philippe Cronier (FRA)**  
Journalist: Patrick Jourdain (GBR)

The nominations were: Philippe Cronier for his first round finesse of ♣10 at the European Pairs (B363 page 5); Katarzyna Klimek Poland for her finesse of ♣6 in the Junior Mixed Pairs (B360 page 5; Michael Rosenberg for his endplay in 6♥ at the Cap Volmac

(B361 P7); Morten Andersen (DEN) for his first round duck in 6♥ in the Danish Teams (B362 P7).

### Early Finesse

By Patrick Jourdain (GBR)

Philippe Cronier had a chance to show his skill on Board 14 of the first qualifying session of the European Open Pairs:

Dealer East; Vul None.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Crestey</i>	<i>Salama</i>	<i>Maarek</i>	<i>Cronier</i>
		Pass	1♦
2♠	Pass	4♠	Dbl
Pass	4NT	Pass	5♣
All Pass			

When Cronier made a consultative double over 4♠ Maurice Salama judged well to bid the competitive 4NT, suggesting his partner choose between the minors. With six cards in diamonds Cronier selected the sounder spot, but he still had to read the cards well.

West led a top spade. Cronier ruffed, crossed to ♥A and led ♦8. East put up the best defence by going up with ♦A and exiting with a heart. South won and played a third heart. East won, and exited with a fourth round of the suit. South ruffed and took stock.

West was marked with only three cards in the red suits, and was likely to have six spades; the signal from East at trick one, and the fact that West had not bid 3♠ both argued the spades were 6-5. That meant West must have four clubs. But Cronier needed to cross to dummy for the second trump finesse. The solution needed courage... on the first round of clubs he led a small one to the TEN!

The rest was plain sailing. A finesse in trumps picked up East's queen, and South could claim.

## THE 1996 "LE BRIDGEUR" AWARD FOR THE HAND OF THE YEAR



**Wubbo de Boer (NLD)**

Journalist: Eric Kokish (CAN)

Occasion: The Generali World Individual, Paris, May '96. Source: IBPA Bulletin June 1996 Bulletin 377 page 10 (by Patrick Jourdain) or IPBM August page 9 (by Eric Kokish)

Dir: South ♠ 7 2  
 Vul: All ♥ J 5 3  
 ♦ A J 5 4  
 ♣ 9 8 7 6

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

♠ A 9 8  
 ♥ A 7  
 ♦ 9 8  
 ♣ A K J 4 3 2

West <i>de Boer</i>	North <i>Chemla</i>	East <i>Kokish</i>	South <i>Nartis</i>
			1NT
2♠	Dbl	Pass	3NT
4♥	Pass	4♠	All Pass

Wubbo de Boer played in Four Spades on a club lead, which he ruffed. If declarer follows with a heart to the queen the contract fails because the defence can win and clear trumps, and declarer must lose a second heart trick. So Wubbo guessed correctly to run the ten of hearts round to East's ace. Back came a second club, which he ruffed again.

Now the problem for declarer is that if he plays on trumps the defence can duck the first round. When they win the second trump and play a third club the hearts are blocked, and declarer has to ruff to get back to hand, and runs out of trumps. However if you unblock the hearts at once before playing the king of spades East wins his ace of spades, and leads a diamond to his partner, then gets a heart ruff.

De Boer saw the problems coming up, and found an ingenious if quixotic solution to his problem. Having gone to all those IGBRths to finesse in hearts at trick

two, he now led the heart king from his hand, crashing the queen, then ruffed a heart with dummy's king of spades! Then he simply drew trumps, having retained control of the hand, and could not be prevented from making ten tricks.

*The shortlist was: Andrew Robson's 5♣ in Brighton match v. Iceland by Brian Senior in Bulletin 380 P7; Thomas Kluz Grand Coup at the European Youth in Cardiff by Nissan Rand in Bulletin 380 P11; Boye Brogeland by Jon Sveindal from 'Aftenposten' in Bulletin 374 P14; Nils Monsted at the Danish Invitation by Villy Dam (DEN) in Bulletin 369 P4.*

## THE 1997 "LE BRIDGEUR" AWARD FOR THE HAND OF THE YEAR

**Geir Helgemo (NOR)**

Journalist: Edgar Kaplan (USA)

The Bridge World June 1997 page 20. IBPA: Bull 387, page 15, April. From the Hague Bulletin report by the IBPA Editor entitled the Three-way Finesse.

### Here is Kaplan's write-up:

My team had a rather short run in the Vanderbilt, but there was a consolation prize at the finish: With a somewhat different team, Norman Kay and I won the concluding Open Swiss Teams. Our teammates were Bart Bramley, Brian Glubok. Geir Helgemo and Waiter Schafer.

Helgemo is the young Norwegian who has been producing superb results for the last five years. The reason for this became clear when I played a match with him and he produced a brilliant dummy-play on this deal, which hinged on another eight-spot: When an opposing weak two-bid is raised to game, the fourth player holding a good hand must guess well. Helgemo took a reasonable shot at 6♦.

Dir West ♠ 9 7 3  
 Game All ♥ 9 7 6 2  
 ♦ K 10 8 6  
 ♣ 9 2

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

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

West	North	East	South
	Kaplan		Helgemo
2♥	Pass	4♥	6♦!
All Pass			

He ruffed the opening heart lead, happy to have escaped a club lead. The ♦A removed the missing trumps, and it was now necessary to score three spade tricks. The only obvious chance was a three-three split, but Helgemo saw another possibility. He led a spade to the seven, a rare finesse against an eight on the first round.

East made a tricky play by winning with the jack and returning the five. Helgemo guessed what was happening: He played low from his hand, won with dummy's nine, and threw dummy's club loser on the fourth round of spades to make a slam that failed in the replay.

There were two psychological clues to this remarkable winning play. East's spade return was slightly suspicious, since he could obviously have led a heart. And if West had been able to win the third trick he might have done so, or at least hitched fractionally.

None of the experts who were shown South's problem found the solution, and all were in awe of Helgemo's effort. If East had returned an obvious heart at the fourth trick, South could still have succeeded by ruffing, crossing to dummy, and leading the ♠9.

#### Shortlist for Best Played Hand:

Player	IBPA Location	Journalist
Goncalves	388.2	Pedro Matos
B. Cronier	387.5	Brian Senior
Helgemo	387.15	Edgar Kaplan
Tomescu	383.14	Vlad Racoviceanu
Holland	381.16	Mark Horton

### THE 1998 "LE BRIDGEUR" AWARD FOR THE HAND OF THE YEAR



**Jeff Meckstroth (USA)**  
Journalist: Jean-Paul Meyer (FRA)

From IBPA Hammamet Special Page to

Jeff Meckstroth is under survey after stealing a contract. Norwegians Geir Helgemo & Tor Helness were the victims, a role they are not used to:

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

The contract was 5♣ by West (yes, 3NT is much easier!) Helness led a low diamond and Jeff played the to from dummy! Of course Helgemo's queen held the trick.

Now South, a young, promising and confident player, played back a diamond. And suddenly there was no longer any efficient defence!

Meckstroth discarded a heart on the ♦A and led a heart to his queen. Helness won this and fired back a spade — too late. Meckstroth rose with the ace and played the ♥J. South had to put up the ace, which Meckstroth ruffed in hand. He cashed the ♣A and crossed to ♣K, and the ♥10 took care of his spade loser.

Other deals which made the shortlist were: David Price (Bulletin 393, page 20); Jean-Christophe Quantin from the Paris Mixed Pairs reported by Jean-Paul Meyer (Bull 397 P7); Warren Lazer at the Australian Nationals reported by Ron Klinger (Bull 398, P4); and Marc Smith from a League match reported by David Bird (Bull 400 P13).

### THE 1999 IBPA AWARD FOR THE HAND OF THE YEAR **Jeff Meckstroth (USA)** Journalist: Omar Sharif (EGY)

See Bulletin 413, June '99

Omar Sharif's column in the London Observer on 6th June reports this deal, Board 9 in the second session of the Pairs Qualifying: It is not often that declarer makes a play that leaves me feeling that I still have a lot to learn about this game. However Jeff Meckstroth of the US is one of those masters of the game who occasionally produce a coup to take your breath away. With that huge hint, put yourself in his shoes as declarer on the following deal:

Dir: South ♠ A 7  
 EW Game ♥ J 6 3  
 ♦ J 5  
 ♣ Q J 9 6 4 2

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

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

West	North	East	South
Cope	Johnson	Chu	Meckstroth
			1♥
2♦	2♥	Pass	Pass
2♠	3♣	Dbl	3♥

All Pass

Cope led ace and another trump on a very informative auction, after Meckstroth had opened on very light values – some would use harsher language than that! Meckstroth could immediately form the picture of West's hand as having four spades and six diamonds, with a probable singleton club honour (no club lead) and with the diamond honours split (no top diamond lead).

At trick three he led his singleton club, won the return of the queen of spades in dummy, and advanced the queen of clubs, covered and ruffed. This was the ending – what would you do with the sight of all four hands?

♠ 7	
♥ J	
♦ J 5	
♣ J 9 6 4	

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

♠ K 10 6  
 ♥ 9 8  
 ♦ A 10 4  
 ♣ –

South is on lead, needing six more tricks. As you can see, playing on diamonds does not work. East will take the trick and draw a round of trumps. Ruffing a spade in dummy brings you to eight tricks, but not to nine. Meckstroth found the spectacular coup of leading the ten of spades from hand – be honest, would you have thought of it?

If West takes the trick and leads either a spade back (a diamond is no better) declarer wins in hand pitching a diamond from dummy. He plays the ace of diamonds, ruffs a diamond, ruffs a club and leads a losing heart, to endplay East into leading a club at trick 12 into the tenace in dummy.

In fact, at this point Cope decided his best chance was to duck the ten of spades, hoping his partner had the king. That simply let Meckstroth cash ♠K to pitch a diamond, then take ♦A, and ruff a diamond. Now he scored ♣J and ruffed a club for nine tricks, and put in an entry for the best played hand of the Year.

*IBPA Editor:* When West did not cover ♠10 declarer can make 10 tricks by following the line described earlier of an endplay on East. Presumably Meckstroth did not wish to take any risks once his contract was secure.

*Other declarers on the shortlist were:* B407 P13 Dec Michel Corn (FRA) by Jean-Paul Meyer (FRA); B410 P11 Mar Jens Auken (DEN) by Ib Lundby (DEN); B411 Pto Apr Brown (AUS) by Ron Klinger (Aus); B415 P7 Aug Seamon (USA) second hand by ACBL staff; B415 Pto Aug Tuzynski (POL) by Krzysztof Jassem (POL).

## THE 2000 IBPA AWARD FOR THE HAND OF THE YEAR



**Vincent Ramondt (NLD)**  
 Journalist: Jos Jacobs (NLD)

Bulletin 424, page 5: Politiken Pairs Game by N-S failed more often than not on this deal, a real beauty by young Dutchman Vincent Ramondt against the leaders:

Dealer: North ♠ 10 9 3 2  
 N-S Game ♥ K 10 9 7  
 ♦ A K  
 ♣ J 10 2

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

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

West	North	East	South
Duboin	Maas	Bocchi	Ramondt
	Pass	2♣	Dbl
Pass	Pass	2♥	Pass
Pass	Dbl	Pass	2NT
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

*IBPA Editor:* Bocchi's opening showed both majors (at least 4-4) and 4-10 points. When Ramondt's double was left in, Bocchi ran to Two Hearts. Ramondt's removal of Maas's double may have been from uncertainty as to its nature.

But the play's the thing. Knowing East has both majors with longer hearts, how would you play Three Notrumps against the ♦J lead?

Ramondt cashed ♦A-K, and exited with a spade. Duboin had to win and unblocked his second top spade, before exiting with a third round of diamonds. Ramondt won with the queen and made the key play of cashing ♥A to extract West's most dangerous tooth. Next a low diamond put Duboin back on play and he had to return a club. On the third round of clubs East was squeezed in the majors.

This declarer play has to be a candidate for IBPA's Best Played Hand. It gained the Dutch pair a well-deserved 11 IMPs.

*Others on the shortlist were: Roberto Mello reported by Bob Hamman (Bulletin 421 page 5); Michel Lebel by Jean-Paul Meyer (B423 p13); Richard Budd by Richard Colker (B417 P10); Michael Rosenberg by Barnet Shenkin (B421 p6).*

## THE 2001 DIGITAL FOUNTAIN HAND OF THE YEAR



**David Berkowitz (USA)**

Journalist: Jody Latham (USA)

Larry Cohen and David Berkowitz appeared to be on their way to victory in the Blue Ribbon Pairs when they had a monumental 69% game in the first final session. They finished fourth. Early in the fourth session they scored a triumph on this exceptionally tough hand:

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

West	North	East	South
Cohen		Berkowitz	
		1NT(a)	Pass
2♠(b)	4♠	5♣(c)	Pass
5♦	Pass	5♥	Pass
7♣	All Pass		

- (a) 14-16 HCP  
(b) (b) Transfer to clubs.  
(c) See IBPA Editor's comments later

South led a spade, and Berkowitz won the ace while pitching a heart from dummy. He found out about the 4-0-trump split when he led a club to the king. (It looks safe to cash the ♣A instead of crossing to the king, but you go down if you cash the ♣A.)

Berkowitz took his top diamonds and then ruffed a third diamond with the 10 (South throwing a heart). He then led ♠K. If South ruffs declarer can easily set up the diamonds and pick up trumps, so South threw a second heart and West a diamond. Berkowitz now ruffed a spade (South throwing another heart) and cashed the ♥K. Next came dummy's last diamond, which he ruffed with the ace (South throwing a fourth heart). Now came the eight of trumps, covered by South. Berkowitz crossed back to his own hand with the ♣A and finished with a trump coup. At that point, dummy was down to the ♣Q-5 and South had the ♣7-4.

*IBPA Editor:* Following a query from Anders Wirgren of the 5♣ Call (see 432.16) Berkowitz gave his logic in 434.16. Responder, holding four hearts and long clubs, starts with Stayman. The bidding suggests responder has at most four, say three, cards in the majors and so no losers there. You make 5♣ opposite a hand as weak as:

♠ - ♥ x x x ♦ x x x ♣ K x x x x x

*Others on the shortlist were: Boye Brogeland (NOR) by Tommy Sandmark (435.14); Geir Helgemo (NOR) by Patrick Jourdain (437.8); Kerri Sanborn (USA) by Drew Cannell (437.13); Henrik Caspersen (DEN) by Svend Novrup for e-bridge (438.7).*

## THE 2002 DIGITAL FOUNTAIN HAND OF THE YEAR



**Sebastian Kristensen (DEN)**  
Journalist: Otto Charles Pedersen (DEN)

IBPA Bulletin No. 441, page 10, Danish Tournament  
Sep 2001

Sebastian Kristensen (28) from Denmark is a very talented young player, who started to play bridge only 2½ years ago. Sebastian hopes to be able to finish his studies in The United States, and his big dream is to become a professional bridge player in The States. Here is a deal from a recent tournament:

Dealer West    ♠ A Q 10 8  
N-S Game    ♥ 9 5 4  
                  ♦ K Q 5 4 3  
                  ♣ 10

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

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

West	North <i>Jan Nielsen</i>	East	South <i>Sebastian Kristensen</i>
1NT	Pass	Pass	2♥
Pass	4♥	All Pass	

1NT = 15-17

2♥ = Hearts and minor

West led ♠3. Kristensen won with ♠Q, and led ♣10 overtaking with ♣Q to West's ace. West continued a spade to dummy's ace, and ♦K was covered by the ace and ruffed in hand. South knew the remaining high-card points were in West. It looked as if he was going to lose three trump-tricks, but he did not give up.

South ruffed a club-winner in dummy, cashed the top diamond, pitching a spade from hand, ruffed a spade, ruffed another club-winner and ruffed a diamond in hand.

The position was:

♠ 10 ♥ 9 ♦ 5 4 ♣ –  ♠ – ♥ A Q J ♦ – ♣ 5	♠ – ♥ 7 2 ♦ 10 9 ♣ –  ♠ – ♥ K 10 ♦ – ♣ K J
---	--

A third club-winner was ruffed with ♥9, removing West last exit card ♣5! South could play any card from dummy pitching a club. West had to ruff and lead away from his ♥A-Q.

This was a very nice declarer play. Christensen's dream might come true.

*IBPA Editor:* Note that declarer made *no* club tricks. His tally was seven trumps, two spades and a diamond.

*The other hands on the short-list were: Geir Helgemo (NOR) by Jan Martel (USA) also Bulletin 441, page 10; Daniela von Arnim (Germany) by Brent Manley (USA) Bulletin 442, page 12; Sabine Auken (Germany) by Christian Farwig (DEU) Bulletin 442, page 6; Michal Kwiecien (POL) by Mark Horton (GBR) Bulletin 445, page 11; Krzysztof Jassem (POL) by Richard Colker (USA), Bull 446, page 11.*

**THE 2003 DIGITAL FOUNTAIN**  
**HAND OF THE YEAR**  
**Geir Helgemo (NOR)**  
 Journalist: Geir Olav Tislevoll (NOR)

Classic Helgemo. This is yet another example of his superior ability to see through complex positions to the way home. Geir's ability to project the end-position of the cards at the early point of the deal makes him appear a magician at the table.

**A Thing of Beauty**

By Geir Olav Tislevoll, Trondheim, Norway

This lovely piece of declarer play took place when Geir Helgemo and Jimmy Cayne were practising on OK-bridge. Since it did not occur in a big tournament, there was a danger that it would not come to light. To remedy that, here it is:

Dlr: South ♠ A K 10 4 2

Vul: None ♥ 9 7 4

♦ A 2

♣ 10 7 2

♠ Q 9 8 6 5

♥ 3 2

♦ K 10

♣ Q J 9 3

♠ J 7

♥ K Q 5

♦ Q J 9 5 4 3

♣ 8 4

♠ 3

♥ A J 10 8 6

♦ 8 7 6

♣ A K 6 5

West	North Cayne	East	South Helgemo
			1♥
Pass	1♠	2♦	Pass
Pass	3♦	Pass	3♥
Pass	4♥	All Pass	

East-West were strong opponents and West found the best lead – a trump – which prevented declarer from ruffing a diamond for his tenth trick. Geir took the first trick with the ace over East's queen. If spades had been four-three, there would not have been much to tell. In that case, declarer would have had no problem in establishing the fifth spade. The play would continue ace, king of spades, discarding a diamond. Then a spade is ruffed, and if both opponents follow to that trick, declarer plays three rounds of clubs. The defenders must then play two more rounds of trumps to deny declarer a club ruff, and he ends up in dummy with the nine of hearts. He would then ruff another spade, and can get to the now good, fifth spade with his diamond ace.

But, luckily for all but East-West, East showed out on the third spade, discarding the club eight. Geir ruffed and played the jack of hearts to East's king (East cannot profitably duck). East continued hearts to dummy's nine. On that trick, West had to find a discard, and he could not let a black card go without giving declarer an easy task. So West discarded his diamond king, best defence.

This was left:

♠ 10 4

♥ –

♦ A 2

♣ 10 7 2

♠ Q 9

♥ –

♦ 10

♣ Q J 9 3

♠ –

♥ –

♦ Q J 9 5 4 3

♣ 8 4

♠ –

♥ 10

♦ 8 7

♣ A K 6 5

Now came a strange but beautiful trick: the diamond two, jack, seven, and ten! If East now switches to a club declarer plays low and West will be endplayed, forced to help declarer in spades or clubs. But East continued with a diamond to the ace. On that trick, West had to discard again. He could not give up a club, but since there was no more entry to the North hand he could afford to let a spade go, and so he did.

However, that only delayed the inevitable. Helgemo still had one joker left to play out: he ruffed a spade with his last trump, and that took away West's last spade as well. With four cards left both West and South held only clubs. North had a high spade and his three clubs. A low club toward dummy's ten gave West no good option. Beautiful, yes?

*Others on the shortlist were: Thorvald Aagard (DEN), 455.11, Author: Svend Novrup (DEN), Bob Richman (AUS), 456.8, Author: Ron Klinger (AUS), Boye Brogeland (NOR), 459.7, Author: P-O Sundelin (SWE), Fu Zhong (CHN), 460.2, Author: Fu Qiang (CHN) (and Jack Jie Zhao).*

## THE 2004 C & R MOTORS HAND OF THE YEAR



**Cezary Balicki (POL)**  
Journalist: Eric Kokish (CAN)

The 9th NEC Cup Poland v. GBRLand Board 13.  
(471.8)

Dealer North ♠ Q 8 6 4  
Both Vul. ♥ 10 7 4 2  
♦ 10 7 6 5 3  
♣ –

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

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

West	North	East	South
Zmudzinski	Armstrong	Balicki	Callaghan
	Pass	Pass	1♠
Dbl	3♠	3NT	All Pass

In Poland/Russia v. Ye Olde GBRLand, Cezary Balicki found himself in three no trumps from the East side on the lead of the spade ten to the king and ace. Would you bet on declarer or the defenders?

On general principles, it's usually right to back Balicki as declarer, and this deal will do nothing to change that strategy. Please observe. At trick two he led a club to the eight and ace, the normal play, as he couldn't afford to let North gain the lead. How do you like it so far? Balicki demonstrated that bad breaks mean nothing to a player with vision. He played ace of hearts, heart to the king, and a club, ducking South's queen. What can South do? Pretty would be an understatement. Not you, Cezary – your declarer play.

*The other candidates were:*

*Tim Bourke, Australia, reported by Richard Oshlag, USA in IBPA Bulletin 469.7 Patrick Jourdain, Wales, reported by Michelle Brunner, GBRLand in IBPA Bulletin 473.11, Dan Hohor, Australia, reported by Ron Klinger, Australia in IBPA Bulletin 474.9, David Price, GBRLand, reported by Raymond Brock, GBRLand in IBPA Bulletin 475.4, Yalçin Atabey, Turkey, reported by Christer Andersson, Sweden in IBPA Bulletin 475.6.*

## THE 2005 C & R MOTORS HAND OF THE YEAR



**Bill Pettis (USA)**  
Journalist: Roy Welland (USA)

From IBPA Bulletin No. 484, page 6

On the first deal of his team's match against the Roy Welland team, Bill Pettis managed to bring home a very difficult contract, playing it practically double dummy. His squad emerged with a 6 IMP win over the No. 3 seed, thanks in large measure to this deal. Pettis was playing with Frederick Allenspach against Roy Welland and Björn Fallenius.

Dealer South ♠ 7 4 3  
Neither Vul. ♥ K 5 4  
♦ A Q 9 7 5 3  
♣ 6

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

♠ 6  
♥ A J 9 3 2  
♦ 6 2  
♣ A Q J 10 7

West	North	East	South
Welland	Allenspach	Fallenius	Pettis
			1♥
1♠	2♠	Pass	4♥
Dbl	Pass	4♠	Pass
Pass	5♥	All Pass	

Welland started with two high spades. Pettis ruffed the second round. At trick three, he played the club ace, followed by the club queen. Welland did not cover, so Pettis discarded dummy's last spade. Welland again refused to cover when Pettis played the club jack, so he discarded a diamond from dummy.

Fallenius ruffed the club and offered an unhelpful ruff-sluff by playing the jack of spades. Pettis pitched a club from hand as he ruffed the spade in dummy. A heart went to the nine in declarer's hand, then Pettis finessed the queen of diamonds, cashed the diamond

ace and ruffed a diamond to hand, leaving this end position:

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

Pettis ruffed the ten of clubs with the heart king as Fallenius under ruffed, leaving the lead in dummy for the contract fulfilling trump coup. Had Pettis gone down in his contract (four hearts was successful at the other table), his team would have lost the match.

*The other finalists were: Walid el-Ahmady in Bulletin No. 479, page 9, reported by Brent Manley Sabine Auken in 6♥, Bulletin No. 480, page 4, reported by Sabine Auken Fulvio Fantoni in 6♥, Bulletin No. 482, page 12, reported by Mark Horton ZY Shih in 6♣, Bulletin No. 485, page 6, reported by Eric Kokish Fred Gitelman in 6♦, Bulletin No. 486, page 14, reported by Tim Bourke.*

## THE 2006 C&R MOTORS HAND OF THE YEAR



**Tarek Sadek (EGY)**  
Journalist: Brent Manley (USA)

Estoril, Bulletin 491, page 9. Italy v. Egypt

Dealer North ♠ A K J 2

NS Vul. ♥ J  
♦ A J 3 2  
♣ Q 6 4 3

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

West	North	East	South
Dagher	Fantoni	el-Kourdy	Nunes
	1♦	Pass	2♣
Pass	2♠	Pass	2NT
Pass	3♦	Pass	3NT
Pass	Pass	Pass	

Dagher led a low heart. When Nunes ducked the heart queen and king, he was doomed. El-Kourdy cleared the suit with a third round, and when Dagher came in with the club king, he had two hearts to cash for one down.

West	North	East	South
Versace	el-Ahmady	Lauria	Sadek
	1♦	Pass	1♥
Pass	1♠	Pass	1NT
Pass	2♣	Pass	3♥
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

Sadek did better. Versace also started with the heart five to the jack, queen and four. When Lauria continued with the heart king, Sadek considered his play for some time before correctly winning the ace. He then played the ace of clubs and a club to Versace's king, and when Versace switched to the spade seven, it was clear that Lauria had the heart nine or ten – Versace obviously did not hold both.

Accordingly, Sadek won the spade continuation with the ace, cashed the club queen, played a club to the ten and led the heart three from hand. What could the Italians do?

If Versace went up with the ten, Sadek's eight would be the ninth trick. So he had to duck. Now when Lauria won the heart nine, he had the option of leading into a tenace in diamonds or spades. Either way, Sadek had nine tricks for plus 600 and a 12-IMP gain. Sadek couldn't hear it, but the VuGraph audience burst into applause on the play of the heart three.

*Shortlist: Phil Gue, Governor's Cup, Jakarta Sep 05 by Jos Jacobs, 490.5; Justin Hackett, Estoril, by Mark Horton in 491.9; Andrew McIntosh, NEC Cup, by Eric Kokish/Richard Colker, 495.2; Michael Rosenberg, ACBL Reg'l, by Bobby Wolff, Bulletin 49, page 3.*

## THE 2007 C&R MOTORS HAND OF THE YEAR



**Alfredo Versace (ITA),**  
Journalist Marek Wojicki (POL)

IBPA Bulletin 500, page 13

### TOUGH GAME

Dealer West ♠ A Q 9 4  
Both Vul ♥ Q 10  
♦ K 10 9 5  
♣ 10 7 3

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

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

West	North	East	South
Versace	Birman	Lauria	Fohrer
1♦	Pass	1♥	Pass
1NT	Pass	2NT	Pass
3NT	Pass	Pass	Pass

The Computer Era of bridge has ushered in super light openings and high level preempts, tending to create chaos at the table. This style dominates now – it

seems that more force than subtle technique is preferred. Nevertheless, sitting in the VuGraph theatre reveals as many technical pearls as in the past. Here is a board from the Israel – Italy match, showing how tough the battle between the declarer and the defenders can be.

Birman decided on passivity, and hit on the lead of the seven of clubs: small from dummy, the jack from South, and Versace ducked. South switched to the three of diamonds: small from West, nine from North. Birman continued with another club, the three: king from the table and declarer played a diamond (the eight – to unblock for a possible eventual further finesse): jack, queen and king.

Birman now found a good exit card – the heart queen, keeping the ten of clubs against hard times. But Versace took the trick in dummy with the ace and crossed to hand with the heart king. This is the ending:

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

Versace, now playing double dummy, cashed the club ace and played a small spade. Birman ducked, and the king won the trick. Now declarer cashed two heart tricks. North tried his last chance to beat the contract – the spade jack in Partner's hand – and discarded the spade ace and queen. But Versace had the key card, and so took the ninth trick.

*Shortlist: Vladimir Marashev (Bulgaria), Mark Horton, 500.6; Tony Forrester (GBR), Andrew Robson, 502.11; Gert-Jan Paulissen (NLD), Andrew Robson, 507.12; Jack Zhao (CHN), Jack Zhao, 508.13; Khaldoun Sanadiki (Syria), Brian Senior, 511.11.*

## THE 2008 C&R MOTORS HAND OF THE YEAR



**Giorgio Duboin (ITA)**  
Journalist: Mark Horton (GBR)

Bulletin 514, page 9

World Bridge Team Championships, Shanghai, China  
Bermuda Bowl – Norway v Italy

Board 10. Dealer East. Both Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Helgemo</i>	<i>Bocchi</i>	<i>Helness</i>	<i>Duboin</i>
		3♥	Pass
Pass	Dbl	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

There was some discussion as to the best bid with the North cards. You can decide if you prefer three spades. You might also consider if there is any case for passing the double on the South cards.

West led the queen of clubs and we immediately observed that declarer was unlikely to make a winning guess in spades. He won the club ace and played the jack of diamonds. West took the ace and continued with the jack of clubs. Declarer ducked that, discarding the jack of spades from his hand, and won the next club, discarding the three of diamonds.

Now came some more serious thinking – declarer could be sure of eleven of East's cards – seven hearts, three clubs and one diamond – but what were the other two? For the moment, it didn't matter, as

declarer set out to develop a heart trick by playing the king of hearts.

If East wins this he has no good move – a spade is clearly hopeless, and if East and South play some ping pong in the heart suit West will be squeezed – but Helness found the only way to set declarer a problem by ducking – earning cheers from the Norwegian supporters.

Declarer came to hand with a spade and played the jack of hearts. If East wins that, he can cash another heart, but then the next heart will see West squeezed, so Helness ducked once more. A great try, but now declarer could simply play a spade to dummy's ace.

If East had shown out on the spade ace, the diamonds would have behaved. If he had followed with a small spade and showed out on the king of diamonds West could have been thrown in to lead away from his ten of diamonds. A great hand featuring top-class play and defence. When the queen of spades actually fell under the ace, Duboin emerged with a couple of over-tricks for plus 660.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Versace</i>	<i>Saelensminde</i>	<i>Lauria</i>	<i>Brogeland</i>
		3♥	Pass
Pass	3♠	Pass	4♥
Pass	4♠	All Pass	

East led the ace of hearts and switched to the six of clubs. Declarer won in dummy perforce and played a diamond to the king. When that held he cross-ruffed clubs and hearts and arrived at ten tricks, plus 620 to lose 1 IMP.

Shortlist:

- 516.7 *Lauria* (Phillip Alder)
- 519.4 *Sementa* (Yeh Bulletin)
- 520.3 *Cohen* (Phillip Alder)
- 520.10 *Cannell* (John Carruthers)
- 522.5 *Helgemo* (Mark Horton)
- 523.4 *Greenwood* (Andrew Robson)

## THE 2009 ROSE ♡ CLIFF DECLARER PLAY OF THE YEAR



**Steve Weinstein (USA)**  
Journalist: Phillip Alder (USA)

Bulletin 533, page 5

### 2009 CAVENDISH INVITATIONAL

Phillip Alder, Hobe Sound, FL

This was the favourite deal of the winners. It had strong elements of poker, a game at which both Steve Weinstein and Brad Moss excel.

Board 9.	♠ 10 6 4		
Dealer North.	♥ K J 10 6 3 2		
EW Vul.	♦ 3		
	♣ K 10 5		
♠ 8 3		♠ A Q J 7 5 2	
♥ A 9 7 4		♥ 8 5	
♦ A 2		♦ Q 10 5	
♣ A 8 7 6 2		♣ Q 3	
	♠ K 9		
	♥ Q		
	♦ K J 9 8 7 6 4		
	♣ J 9 4		
West	North	East	South
Weinstein	Gitelman	Levin	Moss
—	2♥	2♠	Pass
3NT	Pass	Pass	Pass

Fred Gitelman led the heart six, declarer ducking South's queen. Moss shifted to the diamond eight, which ran to dummy's ten. Now Weinstein called for the spade queen and South played low smoothly! He could see that if he won the trick, declarer would have at least five spades, one heart, two diamonds and one club.

Declarer played a diamond to his ace and led his second spade and – you guessed it – went up with dummy's ace, dropping South's king!

Weinstein then turned to Gitelman and said that if he held the club king, he was going to be squeeze-endedplayed in the rounded suits by the run of the spades. Being brought down to four cards, if Gitelman kept king-doubleton in hearts and clubs, West would play the ace and another heart, forcing a lead away

from the club king. This was only a six-trick swing since Weinstein would have been down four if he'd put in the spade jack.

Plus 660 earned Levin and Weinstein 212 IMPs. They would also have had a shared top in a match-point event with Jill Meyers and Jill Levin (Bobby's wife). Meyers took 11 tricks in a similar fashion.

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

## THE 2010 ROSE ♡ CLIFF DECLARER PLAY OF THE YEAR



**Michael Courtney (AUS)**  
Journalist: Ron Klinger (AUS)

Bulletin 539.3

**OZ BRIDGE** by Ron Klinger

### Anticipation

(From *The Sydney Morning Herald*, October 11, 2009)

Michael Courtney of Sydney found an ingenious deceptive play to divert East from the winning play on this deal from rubber bridge:

Dealer North.	♠ 10 3		
Neither Vul.	♥ 6 4		
	♦ A Q 10 8 7 5		
	♣ 5 3 2		
♠ A 9 8 6 5 2		♠ J 7	
♥ J 10 7		♥ A K 8 5 3	
♦ 3		♦ K 6 4	
♣ Q 7 6		♣ J 10 4	
	♠ K Q 4		
	♥ Q 9 2		
	♦ J 9 2		
	♣ A K 9 8		

South	West	North	East
		3♦	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

West led the spade six: ten, jack, king. Courtney now took the losing diamond finesse. East thought it a good idea to cash the heart winners before returning a spade and so he led the king of hearts. West was keen to deny possession of the heart queen and so he followed with the jack. Because the spade six opening lead was fourth-highest and Courtney could see the three and four, he was aware that West had at most six spades and so East had another spade.

Courtney was naturally eager to inhibit a spade switch by East and so when East continued with the heart ace, he followed smoothly with the queen! West continued to unblock by playing the ten. Completely, taken in, East played a third heart. Surprise, surprise, South's nine won the trick. Suddenly a contract which would under normal circumstances be three down was made easily. Well done, Mr. Courtney.

Shortlist:

Yury Khiuppenen (RUS);

Journalist: Patrick Jourdain (WAL) 537.5

Patrick Jourdain (WAL):

Journalist: Michelle Brunner (GBR) 542.11

Du Bing (CHN); Journalist: Fu Qiang (CHN) 545.7

Steve Garner (USA);

Journalist: Barry Rigal (USA) 547.14

## THE 2011 ROSE ♠ CLIFF DECLARER PLAY OF THE YEAR

**Winner: Geir Helgemo (NOR)**

Journalist: GeO Tislevoll (NZL)

This board occurred in a knockout match in Norway's Teams Championship.

Dealer South. Both Vul.

♠ A 9 7 4 3  
♥ K 8 7 6 3  
♦ A 6  
♣ 7

♠ K J 10 6 5  
♥ A  
K 7  
♣ A 6 5 4 3

West <i>Skjetnes</i>	North <i>Lund</i>	East <i>Forfot</i>	South <i>Helgemo</i>
			1♠
2♠	2NT	Pass	3♣
Pass	4♣	Pass	4NT
Pass	5♠	Pass	7♠
Pass	Pass	Pass	

West's two spades showed at least 5-5 in hearts and clubs, and two no trump from North was a game force with spade support. The three-club bid from South was natural, and North's four clubs showed shortage in their system, even in his partner's second suit, this time certainly a fine message for South. Over the four-no-trump key-card ask, Lund continued with valuable information about the trump queen and two key cards. The reason he showed the trump queen was because of his fifth trump opposite a five-card spade opening.

West led the club king, taken by South's ace after East followed with the jack. The contract is laydown if the trumps are 2-1. If the trumps are 3-0 declarer will be able to pick up East's trump holding, but there is no obvious line to thirteen tricks after three rounds of trumps, as there will not be enough ruffs. So why bother thinking of the 3-0 trump break anyway? Because it is quite a likely layout! Helgemo's first analysis was about the distribution, and after his conclusion he backed his judgement to play in a way that is difficult for most of us to spot even seeing the full diagram.

Helgemo's reasoning: West is likely to have six clubs unless East has played the jack from a doubleton, but why would he? West has also shown five hearts, so the 3-0 break in trumps is becoming more and more likely. West's distribution is quite likely to be 1=5=1=6 or 0=5=2=6.

What about the diamonds? If West has only one diamond, it gives East an eight-card suit, which most players would have announced over North's two no trump. And if West has the 1=5=1=6 distribution, he could have led his trump. After all, trump leads against grand slams are *de rigueur* according to the classic rule. So the 0=5=2=6 distribution with West is definitely the most likely one.

But we just agreed there will be no way to thirteen tricks by picking up East's trump holding anyway, didn't we? Well, there is a way. Look at the full diagram, and follow Helgemo's brilliant play, based on a technical analysis of the hand which proves he is some sort of a human GIB:

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

At trick two, Helgemo played ace of hearts followed by the diamond king. (There is a case for playing a low diamond to the ace and proceeding in a similar way to Helgemo, but see below for Helgemo's explanation of the reason he did not). Backing his assumption about the distribution, he continued with a diamond to the ace. Then he cashed the king of hearts before he played the spade nine from dummy, and ran it!

What is the difference between the direct finesse and playing the ace first? You will soon see that both cashing the two diamond tricks and not touching the ace of spades are essential to success. When the spade nine held, he continued with a spade to the jack leaving this position:

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

West had to discard on the first two trump rounds, and on both of them he had to pitch clubs as he could not let go a heart which would have enabled declarer to set up the fifth heart. Now the spade king was played when West was down to three hearts and three clubs. If West discards another club on the spade king, declarer plays a low spade from dummy, and simply establishes the fifth club with two ruffs. He still has two trumps as entries to his hand. If West instead throws a heart, declarer is able to overtake the trump king with the ace and work on the heart suit, and still have enough entries to set up the fifth heart and collect it.

To produce this elegant trump squeeze situation, declarer must cash the two diamond tricks before the third round of trumps, but more importantly he must also take a first-round finesse in trumps by playing the nine and running it. The key is to be able to play a third round of trumps from South in the situation where West is trump squeezed, and be able to decide in which hand the third trump is to be taken, according to what card West plays to that trick.

This hand not only contains a spectacular squeeze that occurs after declarer has manoeuvred trumps in such a way as to enable him to choose which hand he wants to be in on the third trump round of the suit, but also a first-round finesse for the trump queen in a grand slam, with ten trumps between declarer and dummy! That trump finesse is based on perfect visualisation of the distribution, and also foreseeing the complex and unusual squeeze coming up. The grand slam was reached at the other table too, but declarer was not able to duplicate Helgemo's play and went one down.

Some analysts would claim that declarer should play a low diamond to dummy at trick two, then run the spade nine followed by spade to the jack. If the trumps prove to be 3-0, declarer can proceed as Helgemo did by cashing the diamond honour from his hand before the third trump round. This will save declarer from going down when West — against what is the most likely distribution — has 1=5=1=6 anyway, and does not hold the bare trump queen. Playing only one round of diamonds first, then running the spade nine where West follows with the small one, declarer could have pulled a second round of trumps and claimed, and been very happy West did not have the bare trump queen.

Helgemo told me he was perfectly aware of that line, but chose to play the diamond king first so he did not have to commit himself to the 3-0 break in trumps at trick two. Playing the diamond king first allowed declarer to see West's card before committing himself. If West followed with the jack or queen, there was a greater chance that East still could have eight diamonds, but holding a much weaker suit, which would not be as tempting to bid, than if West followed with a small card, giving East — assuming west has the 1=5=1=6 distribution — an eight-card suit headed by the queen-jack.

If West had followed to the diamond king with, for example, the diamond queen, Helgemo could have changed his mind and played for the 2-1 trump break as all us other normal human beings would have done. So the hand is a combination of research, table feel, and an amazing technique that makes the play unusual.

Helgemo said to me: "I played the percentages." Wow! Well, he is right in a way. But if we awestruck

spectators say: "He JUST played the percentage", it would be the biggest understatement for years, maybe even for decades.

The candidates:

Rehder, IBPA Bulletin 551.11, Tim Verbeek (NED)  
Sharon Gerstman, IBPA Bulletin 553.13, Dan Gerstman (USA)  
Nakamura, IBPA Bulletin 554.6, Ron Klinger (AUS)  
Helgemo, IBPA Bulletin 555.9, GeO Tislevoll (NZL)  
Duboin, IBPA Bulletin 558.2, Jos Jacobs (NED)

## THE BEST DEFENCE OF THE YEAR

### THE 1986 PRECISION AWARD FOR BEST DEFENCE OF THE YEAR



**Bob Hamman (USA)**  
Journalist: Alan Truscott (USA)

The Precision Award for Best Defence of the Year by Alan Truscott in the New York Times

One of the most exciting matches ever played on a major American occasion took place in Memphis two weeks ago. After wild oscillations in the score and a nail-biting finish, it determined the composition of the United States team in the 1985 world championship, scheduled to start in Sao Paulo, Brazil, at the end of October.

The United States will be strongly represented. There will be a Californian quartet that almost won a world team title in France, in 1982: Chip Martel of Davis, Lew Stansby, Castro Valley, Hugh Ross, Oakland, and Peter Pender, Guerneville. Martel and Stansby are the reigning world pair champions, and will defend their title next year in Miami Beach.

Last but not least in the winning sextet are Bob Hamman and Bob Wolf of Dallas, who will be trying to win their fifth world team title in Brazil. They won in Stockholm in 1983, in a final that was about as close as that in Memphis. The non-playing captain is the veteran player-writer Alfred Sheinwold of Los Angeles.

Early in the Memphis final, against a powerful group that included Marty Bergen, of White Plains, Larry Cohen, New York, Jeff Meckstroth, Columbus, Ohio; Eric Rodwell, W. Lafayette, Ind., Eddie Wold, Houston, and Mark Lair, Canyon, Tex., the Martel team led by 90 international match points. That seemed decisive, but the tide turned and they trailed by 44 points with 32 deals remaining. Martel then fought back and won by five points, the narrowest margin ever on such an occasion.

In the diagrammed deal from the match Hamman demonstrated his superb defensive skill. He held the East cards, and wound up defending five diamonds doubled after a wildly competitive auction. He and Wolff had reached four spades, which would have made without difficulty since the bidding suggested that North was likely to have spade IGBRth.

```

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

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

      ♠ -
      ♥ 6
      ♦ A K Q 7 6
      ♣ A J 9 6 5 3 2
    
```

Both sides were vulnerable. The bidding:

South	West	North	East
1♣	Pass	1♥	2♠
3♦	4♠	Pass	Pass
4NT	Pass	5♦	Dbl.
Pass	Pass	Pass	

But Bergen as South was naturally reluctant to defend with 5-7 in the minor suits. In the light of the previous bidding, his four no-trump bid asked his partner to choose a minor, with a preference for clubs. Five clubs doubled would obviously have failed by two tricks, but chose five diamonds, also doubled, and that proved to be tricky. The question was whether South could establish and use his clubs without losing control.

West led the spade seven, and Hamman did not make the mistake of playing the spade ace when dummy played low. His jack was ruffed by the declarer, who cashed the club ace and ruffed a club with dummy's eight. Nine hundred ninety-nine players out of a thousand would over ruff and find that they had defeated the contract by one trick.

South would ruff the next spade lead, ruff another club with the diamond jack, and draw trumps. When the remaining trumps divided conveniently, he would heave a sigh of relief and surrender a club trick. The clubs would be established with the last trump as an entry, and the defence would have three tricks and a score of 200.

But Hamman saw this coming, and instead of the obvious over ruff he brilliantly discarded a heart. Now there was no way for Bergen to establish and use his clubs. He led a heart from dummy, and was forced to ruff a second spade lead. He ruffed a club with the diamond jack, scoring the remaining trumps in his hand, but that was just eight tricks and a penalty of 800.

In the replay the same contract was reached, failing by two tricks after a trump lead for a penalty of 500. If Hamman had routinely over ruffed, his team would have lost seven points instead of gaining them, and would eventually have lost the match instead of winning it.

Card-play of this class should serve to retain the world title for the United States in Brazil. But they will face strong opposition from the host-country, from Europe, and elsewhere.

### THE 1987 PRECISION AWARD FOR BEST DEFENCE OF THE YEAR



**Michel Lebel (FRA)**

Journalist: Ton Schipperheyn (NLD)

This article was published in the IBPA bulletin 268.

#### Two brilliancies

By Ton Schipperheyn

CPP, sponsored by a Dutch software firm, lost to a strong French team (Jose Damiani, Paul Chemla, Michel Lebel, Michel Perron and Jean-Louis Stoppa) after winning two knockout matches. In their VuGraph match, the French played at such a high level of competence that even the commentators wondered who could stop this team. Most impressive was the speed with which the French handled even the most difficult decisions.

For example:

Dlr: North	♠ K 10 6	
Vul: None	♥ A K J 4	
	♦ A 10 9 5	
	♣ K 7	
♠ J 9 7 2		♠ 8 5 4
♥ —		♥ Q 9 8 6 3
♦ J 8 3		♦ K 7 2
♣ A 10 9 8 6 3		♣ Q 2
	♠ A Q 3	
	♥ 10 7 5 2	
	♦ Q 6 4	
	♣ J 5 4	

In the Closed Room, Mulder opened a big club

West	North	East S	South
	1 ♣	1 ♥	Dbl
2 ♣	3 ♣	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

West led the ♣10, small from dummy, and Lebel — DUCKED! Well, you can see that Rebattu can make the contract if he also ducks — but who can blame him for winning with the Jack? Would YOU have ducked?

As you can see, if Lebel takes the first trick with his queen of clubs, declarer can manage nine tricks very easily by setting up the diamonds and hearts without letting West into the lead. But once declarer had won the first trick, his fate was sealed. As soon as Lebel got the lead in the red suits, he could play his remaining club, and the defence could cash out for down three tricks.

On VuGraph this was the bidding:

West	North	East	South
	1 ♦	Pass	1 ♥
Pass	3NT*	Pass	4 ♥
All Pass			

As you can see, this is in no way an easy contract, but Chemla made the hand in just 40 seconds. A spade was led to the king, followed by the ♥A, revealing the 5-0 break. Chemla took two more spades and played a diamond to the 10 and king. A diamond back was taken by the queen. Next came a small club to the king, the ♦A and a diamond. This was ruffed and over ruffed, followed by a club to the ace. A club was ruffed and over ruffed, but then East had to play away from his hearts into North's K-7. That gave Chemla 10 tricks and his contract.

### THE 1988 PRECISION AWARD FOR BEST DEFENCE OF THE YEAR

**Primo Levi (ITA)**

Journalist: Paulo Frendo (ITA)

For the deceptive sacrifice of the trump queen, which led to the defeat of an apparently easy game. IBPA Bulletin 284.

#### DECEPTION, ANYONE?

By Paulo Frendo, Rome

The area of deceptive plays in defense seems to be boundless as we keep on admiring brilliant and successful moves by inspired defenders.

The latest comes from Milan, in a big money game at the local club: it should certainly figure well in Zia Mahmood's collection.

In East sits Primo Levi, a very well known rubber bridge and duplicate expert who for many years partnered Mario Franco in set games against stiff opposition in Italy and on the French Riviera.

Playing five-card majors, South opens one spade, one notrump (forcing) by partner, two hearts by South, three spades by North; four spades by South ends the auction.

West leads the club king and the set-up is:

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

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

On the club king East encourages with the seven and West continues with a small club to East's ace. Back comes the heart six, won in hand by declarer, who tries the ace of trumps: small from West and queen by East. Now, in order to protect himself from an original J 9 5 4 trump holding by West, declarer plays – as who would not – a small spade to the ten. West wins with the jack and, surprisingly, East follows with the five! A heart from West and East triumphantly ruffs with the spade nine to beat an otherwise absolutely ice-cold contract.

This was the full deal:

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

## THE 1989 PRECISION AWARD FOR THE BEST DEFENCE OF THE YEAR



**Dung Duong (CHE)**

Journalist: Jean-Paul Meyer (FRA)

IBPA Bulletin 288, page 12.

### RETAINING PROMOTION

By Jean-Paul Meyer

East on this deal was Dung Duong, a Swiss player of Chinese origin. It was played in a team-of-four event in Valmont, Switzerland:

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

South and North bid: 1♠-2♦; 2♥-2NT; 3♠-4♣; 4NT-5♥; 6♠-No bid

West led a low diamond against Six Spades. Declarer won in hand, took two top hearts, ruffed a heart in dummy, cashed the ace of diamonds, throwing a club from hand, and returned to hand with a club ruff to leave this ending:

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

Declarer ruffed his last heart in dummy. What should East do?

The only chance for the defence is to promote a trump trick in West's hand. If East over-ruffs declarer can ruff any return low and draw trumps. If East makes the better discard of one of his minor suit cards, declarer should still survive. He leads whichever suit East discards and ruffs low in hand.

He then leads a high spade from hand. East wins but has no suit to play of which West is void. South can ruff low and make the rest.

Dung Duong found a brilliant answer. When South ruffed the fourth heart in dummy, East under-ruffed! Now whichever minor South ruffed back to hand, when East came in with the ace of trumps, he played that suit to promote West's eight of trumps.

Double-dummy South had a counter. On the first round of trumps he has to lead a low trump to East's now bare ace. However, that would be a losing play in all other layouts. And it would look very foolish if East had under-ruffed from, say, doubleton 32 of trumps!

### THE 1990 PRECISION AWARD FOR THE BEST DEFENCE OF THE YEAR Valdis Pilenieks (LVA)

Journalist: Uno Viigand (EST)

At Viljandi Congress  
IBPA Bulletin 302, page 15

Uno Viigand reports from Estonia that the Viljandi Congress held in August had a record entry of 128 pairs and 61 teams. Helmut Raschinski & Lembit Valdma of Tallinn won the pairs. (Alan Suba from the Turku team was a runner-up.) The teams was won by TARTU.

This brilliancy came in a match between two Latvian teams.

Dir: South     ♠ x x x  
Vul: N-S     ♥ x  
               ♦ K J 9 8 x x  
               ♣ K J 8

Contract: Six Hearts  
Lead: ♠ K

♠ None  
♥ A K Q 9 x x x x  
♦ x  
♣ A 9 x x

The bidding began with a strong 1♣ from South, 3♠ pre-empt from West, 4♦ from North, 4♠ from East, and the final 6♥ from South.

Declarer ruffed the spade lead and ran five trumps. West followed twice and then threw three spades, East threw a small card in each side-suit. Declarer led a diamond to the jack, which was won by East's ace, and ruffed the return of ♠Q. He cashed the last trump, on which West threw another spade, and East another club, then crossed to ♣K, West contributing the 10, and cashed ♦K, both defenders following small. The count was complete: West had seven spades, had followed to four red cards, and still had ♦Q, so had room for only one club. Declarer led ♣J and ran it confidently.

When West won ♣Q, declarer rushed to check the East-West cards; this was the layout:

♠ A K x x x x	♠ Q x x
♥ x x	♥ x x
♦ 10 x	♦ A Q x x
♣ Q 10	♣ 7 x x x

Declarer was Janis Bendiks of Riga and the brilliant East was Valdis Pilenieks.

### THE 1991 PRECISION AWARD FOR THE BEST DEFENCE OF THE YEAR Geir Helgemo (NOR)

Journalist: Tommy Sandsmark (NOR)

No article.

## THE 1992 PRECISION AWARD FOR THE BEST DEFENCE OF THE YEAR



**Mike Passell (USA)**

Journalist: Phillip Alder (USA)

### A Passelline Brilliancy

By Phillip Alder

Suppose dummy holds K-Q-9-4 of spades and sitting over it you hold A-J-5. Declarer, in notrump, leads low to the king. Which card do you play? Sometimes the ace, when you cannot delay the return of a particular suit. And more often you drop the five, when you want to mislead declarer about the lie of the suit. Almost certainly declarer will waste a hand entry to lead a second spade toward the queen. But you never play the jack.

The hand below occurred during a Swiss Team event in Canada earlier this year.

Dlr: South    ♠ K Q 9 4  
Vul: EW    ♥ K 7 6 3  
              ♦ Q 8 5 2  
              ♣ K

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

♠ 8 6 3  
♥ A 8 2  
♦ A K 4  
♣ A 6 5 4

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

That was the auction at both tables. The first declarer won the queen-of-clubs lead in the dummy, played a diamond to the king, then led a spade to the king. East won with the ace and returned his second club. Declarer ducked and won the next round. Now a low spade to dummy's nine kept West off play and established nine tricks: two spades, two hearts, three diamonds and two clubs.

At the second table the play began in identical fashion: queen of clubs to the king, diamond to the king, spade to the king. But here East, American expert Michael Passell, dropped the *jack* of spades under the king!

Not unnaturally, declarer, thinking East had started with the singleton jack or jack-ten doubleton or tripleton, went back to hand with a diamond before leading a spade to the queen. Passell pounced with the ace, then returned his second club, establishing his partner's suit while West still had the ten of spades as an entry.

When the diamonds weren't 3-3, declarer could cash only eight tricks.

Passell is one of the best players of all time. He won the Bermuda Bowl in 1979, and has a large number of American National and Regional titles to his name.

Surely that play of the jack of spades should go down as one of the greatest of all time; and this deal must be a front runner for next year's Precision Award.

*"You never play the jack?" "What, never?"  
"No, never!" "What, never?" "Hardly ever?"*

## THE 1993 PRECISION AWARD FOR BEST DEFENCE OF THE YEAR

**Bob Hamman (USA)**

Journalist: Brent Manley (USA)

"Look before you leap" by **Brent Manley** (USA) player: **Bob Hamman** (USA). The article was published in IBPA Bulletin 341, page 10.

Dlr: North    ♠ J  
Vul: None    ♥ K Q 6  
              ♦ K J 4 3 2  
              ♣ Q 6 4 2

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

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

South	West	North	East
	Wolff		Hamman
		1♦	Pass
1♥	Pass	2♣	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

Wolff led a low spade, won by Hamman with the ace. Hamman returned a spade, taken by declarer with the

king. A club was pitched from dummy. South played a diamond to dummy's jack and Hamman's queen, and Hamman played a third round of spades. A second club was pitched from dummy.

Declarer played another diamond to Wolff's 10 and dummy's king. Hamman pitched his last spade when declarer played a third round of diamonds from dummy. Wolff won with the 9 as declarer pitched a club. Wolff then played the club 7 and declarer went up with the queen in dummy.

With a club holding as strong as Hamman's, most players would pounce on the queen with the ace. Hamman looked more deeply into the position, however, and he could see that if he won with the club ace, Wolff would be squeezed in the red suits on the play of the club king. A heart discard would give declarer four tricks in the suit. A diamond discard would be equally fatal – both of dummy's diamonds would be good.

Accordingly Hamman played the club jack under dummy's queen. This forced declarer to make a decision. Clearly he could not play another round of clubs. If hearts divided 3-3 – or if the jack fell singleton or doubleton – declarer had nine tricks. As you can see, the winning play after Hamman's duck was to cash dummy's high hearts and exit with a diamond, but the position was far from clear.

### THE 1994 PRECISION AWARD FOR BEST DEFENCE OF THE YEAR



**Gabriel Chagas (BRA)**  
Journalist: Alan Truscott (USA)

Article in the New York Times

Whether bridge tournaments should be democratic, or whether aristocracy should have a place, is a subject for debate. In North America democracy rules; every bridge event with the doubtful exception of an occasional Calcutta, is open to all if they meet certain objective criteria. They may be expected to meet a master-point test, to have a specific record in tournament play, to be women, or to be 55 years old. But they are never required to be the best players.

This is not true in other parts of the world. Britain and the Netherlands both have events to which the world's best players are invited by a committee. There

is a similar event in Brazil, where the players are of the highest quality. Twenty-four of them played a month ago, and the winners were Gabriel Chagas and Marcelo Branco, the reigning world pair champions.

On the diagrammed deal Chagas was East, defending four spades after trump. This was due to make against any normal defence.

Dir: South    ♠ K Q 5 4  
Vul: Both    ♥ A J 3  
              ♦ Q 4  
              ♣ K 10 7 5

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

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

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

Lead: ♣2 from West.

Playing fourth best leads, West led the club deuce. East won with the jack, and worked out declarer's hand promised 13 to 15 points, which surely included the spade ace, the heart king and the diamond ace. And if he held in addition the heart queen, his contract was safe: the heart suit would provide a discard for a diamond in dummy.

So Chagas assumed South's actual hand, and made an astonishing play: He cashed the club ace and shifted to the diamond nine. South thought he knew what was happening, so he grabbed the diamond ace, fearing to lose a finesse and suffer a club ruff. He then drew trumps and confidently finessed the ♣10, but was totally discomfited when Chagas produced the queen and cashed the diamond king for down one.

# THE 1995 PRECISION AWARD FOR THE BEST DEFENCE OF THE YEAR Zia Mahmood (USA)

Journalist: Alan Truscott (USA)

The nominations were:

Eduardo Scanavino for hold-up and underlead in the Argentine Teams (B360/ B361 page 16); Mathias Bruun of Denmark for ducking ♥K in Danish National teams (B369 page 4); Zia Mahmood for putting in ♦J from K J x x when the queen was behind him (B358 page 12); Israel Delmonte of New Zealand for Best Defence in the World Juniors (B367 page 14).

## Zia Mahmood produced perhaps the year's best defensive play at the Spingold Knockouts

By Alan Truscott The New York Times

The most brilliant defensive play at the American Contract Bridge League's Summer Nationals in San Diego, which ended last weekend, will very likely prove to be the best of 1994. It occurred on the diagrammed deal from an early round of the Spingold Knockout Team Championship, and the hero was Zia Mahmood, a colourful Pakistani expert who lives in Manhattan but is usually playing bridge somewhere else.

<p>♠ A J 10 6 4 ♥ K 5 2 ♦ A 10 6 ♣ 10 7</p>			
♠ Q 7 3		♠ 9 8 5	
♥ J 9 8 3		♥ 7 4	
♦ 9 7 3		♦ K J 5 4	
♣ A K 9		♣ Q 8 6 3	
<p>♠ K 2 ♥ A Q 10 6 ♦ Q 8 2 ♣ J 5 4 2</p>			
South	West	North	East
1♣	Pass	1♠	Pass
1NT	Pass	2♦	Pass
2♥	Pass	3NT	All Pass

West led the diamond three

Zia held the East hand, and defended three no-trump, North's two diamond bid at his second turn was 'new minor forcing', asking South for information about his major suit holdings. West therefore led a diamond, since that was the only suit that had not been genuinely bid.

First, consider how the play would proceed with normal defence. South plays low from dummy and East wins the king and returns the suit. South sees that he can make at most eight tricks unless he brings in at least three spade tricks, so he plays for West to have the spade queen and finds he has ten tricks. That sequence was followed when Zia's team-mates held the North-South cards.

As East, Zia knew that the spades were favourably placed for South, so he tried to confuse the issue for the declarer. When the diamond six was played from the dummy he played the unexpected jack instead of the routine king. This play was not going to cost anything, whoever held the queen.

When South won with the queen, he was now convinced that the diamond king was on his left, which meant that he could take three diamond tricks, not two. This offered the prospect of taking seven tricks in the red suits plus two spade winners, so he played three top hearts. When the jack failed to drop he confidently finessed the diamond ten, and was considerably deflated when Zia produced the diamond king and shifted to the club queen, defeating the contract.

The thoughtful queen-play made no difference in this case, though it would have paid off if West's club holding had been A-J-9. But it was the deflection play of the diamond jack at the first trick that led South down the garden path to defeat.

## THE 1996 SENDER PRECISION AWARD FOR BEST DEFENCE OF THE YEAR



**Larry Cohen & David Berkowitz (USA)**

Journalist: Jan van Cleeff (NLD)

**Bad luck being non-Dutch**, from NRC Handelsblad, 10th Nov '95. See Bulletin 374, page 7.

The following deal is from the first Politiken Invitational World Pairs at Copenhagen. This tournament, with a similar format as the Cap Volmac and MacAllan Top 16, was won by Zia Mahmood and Peter Weichsel, a Pakistani American partnership. This hand is interesting both from a declarers' and a defenders' point of view.

Dlr: West     ♠ –  
 Vul: All     ♥ A J 4  
               ♦ 9 6  
               ♣ A Q J 10 7 6 3 2  
 ♠ K J 9 5 3     ♠ 10 7 6 4  
 ♥ Q 7     ♥ K 10 9 3 2  
 ♦ A K 8 7 3     ♦ 10 4 2  
 ♣ 9     ♣ 8  
               ♠ A Q 8 2  
               ♥ 8 6 5  
               ♦ Q J 5  
               ♣ K 5 4

Both Peter Weichsel (against the Italian European Champions Lanzarotti – Buratti) and the Dane Dennis Koch-Palmund (against Berkowitz-Cohen from the USA) jumped straight to 5♣ with the North hand after the 1♠ opening bid by West. Again a very simple auction. Both East players led a spade, but from there their paths diverged.

At trick one, Peter Weichsel played low from dummy and ruffed the spade in his hand. He drew trumps with the ♣Q. At trick three he played the ♦9 and when East did not cover he let this card run to the King. West did the best he could by returning the ♥Q. Weichsel won the Ace, crossed to dummy by leading the ♣7 to the King, pitched a diamond on the ♠A and ran the ♦Q, throwing a heart when West did not cover: an elegant route to eleven tricks.

At another table Dennis Koch-Palmund decided to play the Ace when East, David Berkowitz, led a spade, discarding a diamond from his hand. Next, the Dane put some pressure on the Americans by playing

a low diamond, away from dummy's QJ5. After some considerable thought Larry Cohen judged well by ducking. Berkowitz won with the ♦10 and persisted in spades. Declarer ruffed high, crossed to dummy's ♣K with a middle trump, ruffed a diamond high, re-entered dummy with a small club to the ♣5 and ruffed the last diamond high. At this point declarer cashed the ♥A on which Larry Cohen unblocked with the Queen. When a small heart followed. David Berkowitz did very well to win the trick with the ♥9. He kept the trick and was able to cash the ♥K as well: one down.

The defensive problem here is of course the location of the ♥J. If West had that card then Berkowitz should have popped up with a 'crocodile' ♥K. He reasoned correctly however, that from ♥Q-J doubleton Cohen certainly would have thrown the ♥J. The Jack would strongly indicate the possession of the Queen as well, since otherwise declarer would probably have made finesse with ♥A-Q-x.

The Daily Bulletin report of the hand appeared in IBPA Bulletin 371, page 4.

### Post Mortem (*not published in Handelsblad*)

After the spade lead declarer can always make his contract in a legal, though double dummy, way. He takes the ♠A, discards a diamond and plays a heart.

There are two possibilities:

1. West follows with the Queen. North should duck this card. Hereafter West cannot avoid being end played. He will be stripped in hearts and/or clubs, where after declarer will give him a trick in diamonds. Now West must concede the eleventh trick in diamonds or spades.

2. West follows small. This time North should go up with the Ace, pull a trump and continue with a small heart from his hand, achieving the same endplay as described under 1.

So it appears that only a heart lead by East kills 5♣.

*The shortlist was: Per Halvorsen & Tore Brekke by Jon Sveindal (NOR) in Bulletin 374, page 14; Håkan Nilsson's discard by Henry Francis (USA), Bulletin 375, page 7; Tony Ratcliff and Patrick Jourdain by Robert Sheehan, Wales v. GBRLand, B374 P12; Chris & Bob Hamman by John Solodar (USA) Cavendish Pairs in Bulletin 378 page 5.*

## THE 1997 SENDER AWARD FOR BEST DEFENCE OF THE YEAR



**Gunnar Hallberg (SWE)**  
Journalist Robert Sheehan (GBR)

Gunnar Hallberg, Swedish international and TGR regular, was East on this hand. He found the right play by using the most important tool of defence, counting the declarer's tricks.

Dlr South	♠ J 8 7 3	
Vul None	♥ A 2	
	♦ K Q J 5	
	♣ J 6 4	
	♠ A 6 5	♠ K 10 9 2
	♥ 6 5 4 3	♥ K 8 7
	♦ 3 2	♦ 10 9 8 7
	♣ K 10 8 2	♣ Q 5
	♠ Q 4	
	♥ Q J 10 9	
	♦ A 6 4	
	♣ A 9 7 3	

South	West	North	East
1NT <sup>1)</sup>	Pass	2♣	Pass
2♥	Pass	3NT	All Pass

### 1) 12-14 HCP

West led the ♣2. Declarer played low from dummy on the club lead, East played the queen and declarer won the ace. Declarer played on hearts, East winning the third round with dummy discarding a spade. At this point many players would return a club. Now after West takes his king declarer has nine tricks.

Can you see any improvement for the defence? What Hallberg did when he won the king of hearts was to count declarer's tricks. South was bound to have the ace of diamonds – else why wouldn't he be playing on diamonds, rather than removing the ace of hearts as entry to them?

Hence it was clear that South had seven tricks in the red suits to go with the ace of clubs, and a club return would obviously set up his ninth trick.

South needed the queen of spades to make up his 12-14 1NT, which meant that the defence couldn't make more than two tricks there.

So East returned a diamond. This innocuous looking play scrambled declarer's entries. If he won in hand to lead a club, he would never be able to cash his fourth heart. If he cashed the fourth heart first, what was dummy to discard? One spade had already gone on the third heart, and if he discarded another the defence could take four spade tricks when they came in with the king of clubs. The only other choice was to discard a diamond, but that would leave declarer a trick short.

Incidentally, if declarer thinks the defence will play this well, he should try the ♣J at trick one – his only chance being that West has led from the king-queen.

### Shortlist for Best Defended hand:

Candidate	Bulletin	Journalist
Weichsel	383.12	Ferguson
Johnson	389.11	Knut Kjarnsrod
Hallberg	385.12	Robert Sheehan
Spiljak	Rhodes 13	Alan Truscott
Leppard	386.14	Ron Klinger

## THE 1998 SENDER AWARD FOR BEST DEFENCE OF THE YEAR

**Geir Helgemo (NOR)**  
Journalist: Patrick Jourdain (GBR)

From the Generali World Masters (Bull 400, page 3)

It is easy to confuse the Deschappelles and Merrimac Coups. The first is the lead of an unsupported honour to create an entry to partner's hand; the second is the deliberate sacrifice of a high card to remove a vital entry to an opponent's hand, usually the dummy. On this deal Geir Helgemo managed both with one card!

First, Apolinary Kowalski told of an imaginative switch by Claude Delmouly but it was Helgemo elsewhere who found the most accurate defence:

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

West	North	East	South
Lant'n	Jason	Delmouly	Kowalski
		1♠	2♦
2♠	3♥	3♠	Pass
Pass	4♦	All Pass	

West	North	East	South
Khol'v	Chemla	Helgemo	Freeman
		1♠	2♦
Pass	2♥	Pass	3♦
3♠	4♦	All Pass	

West led a spade against Kowalski's Four Diamonds. Declarer won and returned a spade to East. Delmouly found the good switch of ♥K. Declarer won this and also did well by leading ♦Q covered by the king and ace. When the jack fell from West, Kowalski tried to get back to dummy by playing a club. Delmouly won, put his partner in with ♥Q and received a club ruff to defeat the part score. Note that it does no good for declarer to duck ♥K when it is led. East will cash ♣A and play a second heart. Declarer wins and plays trumps: Q, K, A and J. But now he cannot get back to dummy.

However, as Kowalski spotted he did have a chance to make. After winning the ace of trumps he must play a *heart*. West wins and plays a club, but now East is end-played into conceding an entry for the trump finesse.

This reveals a flaw in Delmouly's defence. He should have cashed ♣A *before* making the switch to ♥K – then declarer cannot succeed. And guess what, that is exactly how Helgemo defended against Freeman after the same start.

Freeman won the heart switch, began trumps by playing ♦Q, K, A, J, but when he tried to get back to dummy with a club, Helgemo ruffed, put his partner in with the ♥Q and received a second ruff. Two off!

*The other defenders on the shortlist were: Piotr Tuszyński in a Polish League match reported by Ryszard Kielczewski (Bulletin 395, page 16); Pal Haga at Norway's Easter Tournament, reported by Knut Kjaemsrod (Bulletin 400, page 12); Larissa Panina at the Aachen Mixed Teams reported by Michael Rosenblum (Bulletin 400, page 14); Tor Helness & Geir Helgemo at the Cap Gemini Pairs (Bulletin 397, page 15).*

## THE 1999 SENDER AWARD FOR BEST DEFENCE OF THE YEAR



**Andrew Robson (GBR)**  
Journalist: Philip King (GBR)

See IBPA Bulletin 407, page 5

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

West	North	East	South
Erichsen	Robson	Charlsen	Zia
1♥	Pass	1♠	Pass
2♦	Pass	3♣	Dbf
3♠	Pass	4NT	Pass
5♦	Pass	6♠	All Pass

The king of clubs was led, (a heart going from the table) won by the ace and Charlsen played a diamond to the king and ace. At every other table where this happened North played a second club, anticipating that he would then make a trump trick. However, the declarers succeeded on a crossruff without even taking advantage of the heart position. One heart went on the good diamond, two top hearts were cashed and when the cross-ruff followed the defence never had a chance to over-ruff. The declarers made four outside winners and eight trumps.

By contrast Robson counted declarer's potential twelve tricks and switched to a trump away from J x x x! Although it is possible to succeed Charlsen assumed that, with the switch, the trumps must be 3-2, and with two club ruffs, he needed one extra trick from either setting up diamonds, or a squeeze.

But when he came to draw trumps they did not break, and the slam went two down.

The other defenders on the shortlist were: B405, page 15 Oct Steve Eginton (GBR) by Mark Horton (GBR); B410, page 4 Mar Anna & Gudrun (Ice) by Barnet Shenkin (USA); B411, page 3 Apr Glowacki (POL) by Marc Smith (GBR); B414, page 12 Jul Popov (Bulgaria) by Malta Staff.

## THE 2000 CAREY LIMOUSINE AWARD FOR BEST DEFENCE OF THE YEAR

**Roger & Terje Lie (NOR)**

Journalist: Anders Brunzell (SWE)

Bulletin 420, page 15

In a match in the local league, Roger Lie of Norway realized that his partner, Terje Lie, was about to face a problem hard to solve from his point of view. Help was needed – and delivered!

Dealer: East ♠ 7  
N-S Game ♥ K Q 10 5 2  
♦ K 3  
♣ 10 9 7 4 3

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

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

West	North	East	South
Roger		Terje	
		2♣	2♠
Pass	3♥	Pass	3♠
All Pass			

Terje's opening bid promised at least five clubs and in case of five, a four card major beside. Roger started with his singleton club and Terje won the queen and played the ace. When South showed up with two clubs the distribution was quite obvious for Roger, West, and he was also fairly sure of how to beat the contract. Instead of lazily discarding something, he ruffed his partner's ace and returned a *small diamond*, the only defence to set 3♠.

North won the ♦K and continued with the ♥K. Terje grabbed his ace and returned a diamond to the queen and back came the ♠9. South had to surrender.

The lesson is: when you know how to beat a contract don't press your partner to find the same answer. Do the dirty work yourself!

Others on the short-list were: Andrew Robson by Patrick Jourdain (Bulletin 423, page 3); Steve Weinstein by Jos Jacobs (B424, page 6); George Jacobs by ? (B425, page 5); Kees Tammens (B417, page 13).

## THE 2001 CAREY LIMOUSINE AWARD FOR BEST DEFENCE OF THE YEAR



**Jan Jansma & Louk Verhees (NLD)**

Journalist: Jan van Cleeff (NLD)

Bulletin 433, page 14, Onstein v. Lombard.  
Dutch National Teams Semi final, 2000. Consolation mention: Erik Kirchhoff (NLD)

Dealer North ♠ A J 8 6 4 3  
N-S Game ♥ 8  
♦ A 5 4  
♣ K 7 2

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

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

West	North	East	South
Jansma	Eskes	Verhees	Von Seida
	1♠	Pass	1NT
Pass	2♠	Pass	3♠
Pass	4♠	All Pass	

After Ruud von Seida's inspired raise to 3♠, Onno Eskes pushed on to game, a contract that in fact depends more or less on reasonable breaks in diamonds and spades. Even with both spade honours offside the contract appears to have chances.

East led a heart for the Ace and declarer immediately passed the ♠10 to East's Queen. Louk Verhees recognized the problem – how to win two club tricks – and found the answer to the puzzle. He returned the ♣Q! This gave declarer an unexpected club trick, but it also cost him his game. If he cashes the ace of trumps and then tries to get a discard on a diamond, East will ruff and cash two club tricks. If declarer crosses to dummy for another trump finesse, Verhees would win, lead a club to partner's Jack and win the setting trick with ♣A.

On the actual layout a low club lead would have worked equally well. However, leading the ♣Q is a much better play as it caters to a possible ♣10 in

declarer's hand. In that case, had East led a LOW club to the Jack and King, declarer would return a club, which East would have to win. East can now not prevent declarer from ruffing a club in dummy without sacrificing his second trump trick. Thus, leading the ♣Q created an essential entry in West's hand for a trump return, as well as establishing a second defensive club trick. At the other table the NS pair stopped at a part score, which they made.

The deal is a double IBPA award candidate because Erik Kirchhoff, player of Hok Transfer Solutions, defending the same contract in the other semi-final match versus Modalfa, led exactly the same brilliant card as Louk Verhees did! Kirchhoff gained for his team 13 imps since the declarer at the other table went one down in the same contract.

*Others on the shortlist were: Pavo Marinkovic (Croatia) by Maastricht staff (Maastricht.14); David Berkowitz (USA) by Larry Cohen (431.4); Zia Mahmood (USA) by Anders Wirgren (433.2); Kyle Larsen (USA) by Alan Truscott (439.13).*

### THE 2002 FR. JOSEPH HAHN & ARTHUR KONG AWARD FOR BEST DEFENCE OF THE YEAR



**Tony Forrester (GBR)**  
Journalist: Andrew Robson (GBR)

Bulletin 443, page 4; Las Vegas Nov 2001

In the Pairs at the Las Vegas Nationals Tony Forrester of GBRIland played with James Mates (IBPA Editor: Britain's ITN – Independent Television News – News Correspondent, and son of Tory MP and former Minister, Michael Mates) and concocted the following gem:

Dir North     ♠ Q J 10 9  
Vul: None     ♥ A Q J 4 2  
                  ♦ A Q  
                  ♣ 10 3

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

♠ –  
♥ 9  
♦ J 10 7 6 4 2  
♣ A K J 9 6 2

West	North	East	South
Mates		Forrester	
	1♥	Pass	2♦
Pass	2♠	Pass	3♣
Pass	3NT	Pass	4♣
Pass	6♦	All Pass	

Mates did very well to start with a spade, and Tony's ace was ruffed away. Declarer placed the ♣ A-K and ruffed a club . . . not so fast! On the second top club Tony dropped the queen! That persuaded declarer to table a diamond to the queen, losing to the king. Back came a spade and declarer ruffed. He cashed the ♦A, and when the 4-1 split came to light declarer was dead. He could not get off dummy without forcing himself again, and he finished four in the glue. Had Tony removed the losing option in trumps, declarer would have 12 tricks easily.

*Other defences on the short-list were: Paul Soloway (USA) by Patrick Jourdain (GBR) Bulletin 442, page 13; David Berkowitz (USA) by Irina Levitina (USA) Bulletin 443, page 3; Morten Bilde (DEN) by Villy Dam (DEN) Bulletin 443, page 15; Andrew Robson (GBR) by Jos Jacobs (NLD) Bulletin 445, page 9; Bobby Richman & Ishmael DelMonte (AUS) by Richard Solomon (NZL) Bulletin 449, page 16.*

## THE 2003 ITES AWARD FOR BEST DEFENCE OF THE YEAR



**Eric Greco & Geoff Hampson) (USA)**

Journalists: Larry Cohen & Alan Truscott (USA)

### Cornhusker Defence

By Larry Cohen, Boca Raton, FL and Alan Truscott, New York

Anyone who spotted Warren E. Buffett of Berkshire Hathaway at the Summer North American Bridge Championships in Long Beach, California, last month might have been excused for thinking that he was the wealthiest person present. However, that would have been wrong, for one of his team-mates in the Master Mixed Teams was Bill Gates of Microsoft.

A week later, Buffett, back at his Omaha, Nebraska home, entertained a group led by another financial wizard, Peter Lynch, and played a friendly match. Lynch and his wife, Carolyn, then continued to the 'Nebraska' regional tournament, played just outside the state, across the Missouri River, in Iowa. Their team was uniformly successful, winning three knock-out events and the Swiss teams.

In one knockout event, Eric Greco, West for the Lynch team on the diagrammed deal, produced a stellar defence.

Dealer East ♠ A K 8 7  
Both Vul. ♥ J 4  
♦ J  
♣ Q J 10 7 5 4

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

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

Contrast this with what happened at Greco's table. South opened one diamond, and again the dummy showed clubs and spades with South arriving in three no trumps. Greco led a high diamond and got the discouraging deuce from partner Geoff Hampson. Even looking at all four hands, it's difficult to see a way to beat the game, but Eric found it. He played the diamond seven at trick two, won by declarer's nine.

Declarer crossed in spades (East showing an even number) and led the queen of clubs for a finesse. Greco ducked in tempo. Declarer, afraid to lay down the club ace (if East has king-third, he can't be let in for a diamond through), continued with dummy's club jack, passed around to Greco's now bare king.

Greco continued the good work by shifting to the spade queen. Not only did this pin the jack, but it also severed declarer from dummy's clubs. The ace of clubs was now blocking the suit. Declarer countered by ducking the spade! Had Greco woodenly continued spades, declarer could have won in dummy and thrown the club ace to make the contract. But, having done everything right so far, Greco wasn't going to fall from grace at that point. He accurately shifted to hearts, the final nail in declarer's coffin.

Declarer now had to fail by three tricks, down 300! Declarer, seemingly with nine top tricks, was held to two clubs, two hearts, one spade and one diamond trick. Making the right play in all four suits (at the right time), Greco earned 14 IMPs for his team with his superb defence.

*Others on the shortlist were: Richard Oshlag (& David Lindop) (USA), 451.5, Author: ACBL Washington Daily Bulletin, Adam Mesbur & Nick Fitzgibbon (Ireland), Author: Maureen Hiron (Spain), BGBRT-Erik Efraimsson (& Kenneth Borin) (SWE), 453.15, Author: Arne Frennelius (SWE), Bharat Rao & Burrell Humphreys (USA), 459.4, Author: Andy Stark (CAN), Mik Kristensen (& Mikkel Nohr) (DEN), 463.7, Author: Ib Lundby (DEN).*

## THE 2004 ITES AWARD FOR BEST DEFENCE OF THE YEAR



**Martin Bloom & Peter Gill (AUS)**

Journalist: Ron Klinger (AUS)

(473.12) (From the Sydney Morning Herald, May 5, 2004)

### Bloom 'n' Gill

Martin Bloom and Peter Gill did particularly well in the final of the NSW Open Teams Selection. They were leading for quite some time and finished fourth, one point behind third place and just missing a spot on the NSW Team. In Round 5 of the final, Gill pulled off a neat coup against a top class declarer. He later said, "As an avid reader of the SMH bridge column, I noticed the coup earlier this year. I was delighted to put it into practice."

Here is the deal where Gill employed the manoeuvre to which he referred:

Dir South     ♠ J 7 4  
 NS Vul        ♥ 8 7 5 3  
                  ♦ A Q 6 3  
                  ♣ 9 7

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

♠ Q 8 6 2  
 ♥ J 6 4  
 ♦ 8 2  
 ♣ A J 10 5

West	North	East	South
Bloom		Gill	
			Pass
1NT	Pass	3NT	All Pass

Bloom led the fourth-highest diamond three: four – two – seven. Declarer continued with the club two: seven – queen – five!! Declarer expected the club ace to be on his left, of course, and it seemed that clubs were three-three. He continued with the club three: ten – four – nine. Gill cashed the ace of clubs, followed by the jack and the diamond return gave the defence five tricks. That was worth to IMPs as the datum was EW plus 410.

Every other declarer made three no-trumps, three times with an overtrick. After the queen of clubs wins, declarer can succeed, as the heart suit is friendly, by reverting to diamonds to create an extra trick there. Full marks to Gill, whose brilliant defence led declarer astray.

*The other candidates were: Terje Aa / Glenn Grotheim, Norway, reported by Brent Manley in IBPA Bulletin 467.6, David Price / David Burn, GBRLand, reported by Simon Cochemé, GBRLand in IBPA Bulletin 468.5, Paul Hackett / Janet de Botton, GBRLand, reported by Henry Francis in IBPA Bulletin 468.11, John Mohan / John Sutherland, USA, reported by Henry Francis in IBPA Bulletin 468.11.*

## THE 2005 ITES AWARD FOR BEST DEFENCE OF THE YEAR



**Bart Bramley & Mark Feldman (USA)**  
 Journalist: Donna Compton (USA)

From IBPA Bulletin No. 486, page 14

### Defensive Wizardry

On this deal, a candidate for the best defence of the year, declarer committed a slight inaccuracy, but it is my view that the defense deserved to beat the game for their efforts. What do you think?

(The deal is rotated 180 degrees)

Dealer West     ♠ 9 4 2  
 Both Vul.        ♥ A K J 9 4  
                  ♦ 2  
                  ♣ A 8 7 6

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

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

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

Bart Bramley led the diamond jack, promising the queen. Let us look at the deal and speculate about how many tricks you expect declarer to come to.

Well, there are clearly nine tricks available by dislodging the spade ace before playing on hearts, but let us see what happened at the table.

Roy Welland ducked the opening lead, won the next diamond, pitching a spade from dummy, and led to his heart ace – he could see the danger in taking the heart finesse. Now he planned to duck a club to West, win the return, and drive out the spade ace. But when he led a low club from dummy, Mark Feldman played the queen!

It was not safe to duck this, so Welland won and crossed to the heart king (hoping that the fall of the

ten or queen would make his life easy). No luck there; so he played a spade to his king – and Bramley ducked!

Now declarer played two more rounds of clubs and committed the very slight error of leaving his own hand with the re-entry when he saw that West was about to win the third club (it seemed irrelevant to him, since he knew East had the spade ace). In this position:

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

The defence had two tricks in, and Bramley now led a heart to his partner's queen for the diamond switch. When declarer won and played a second spade, Bramley had the rest.

*The other finalists were: Tarek Sadek-Walid el-Ahmady to 3NT, Bulletin 479, pp, reported by Brent Manley; Richie Pavlicek-Richard Pavlicek to 3NT, Bulletin No. 481, page 13, reported by Brent Manley; Doron Yadin-Israel Yadin to 5♦ doubled, Bulletin No. 483, page 2, reported by Lex de Groot; Ross Harper-Paul Hackett to 4♠, Bulletin No. 486, page 6, reported by Paul Hackett.*

## THE 2006 ITES AWARD FOR BEST DEFENCE OF THE YEAR



**Nino Masucci (ITA)**  
Journalist Kyoko Ohno (JPN)

Bulletin 494, page 13

### SHARP DEFENCE

Let's look at a wonderful defence Italy played against Japan in the last qualifying round of the Senior Bowl in Estoril.

Dealer North ♠ A K 7 2  
Both Vul. ♥ A Q  
♦ 9 7 6 5 4  
♣ J 7

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

West	North	East	South
Pietro	Abe	Nino	Masayuki
Forquet	Hiroya	Masucci	Ino
	1♦	Pass	2NT
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

The South hand is 4-3-3-3 and has slow cards, so Ino-san judged that it was better to choose not one spade but two no trump. The final contract was three no trump by South.

Forquet led the ten of clubs, Ino-san played the seven from dummy, and Masucci played the two(!) in tempo.

Declarer can succeed if he ducks, but that is hard to do. Ino-san won the club queen, then played a heart to the dummy, and played a diamond. Masucci immediately put up the diamond ace, then returned the club king, Forquet overtaking with the ace. Three no trump went to two down, a very nice defence.

This board was played 20 of 66 times in three no trump in the Bermuda Bowl, Venice Cup and Senior Bowl – this was the only time it was defeated! At the other table, declarer had no trouble making four spades on a trump lead.

*Shortlist: Zia Mahmood, Lederer, by Simon Cochemé, in 493.2; Peter Gill, South African Nationals, July'05, by Ron Klinger, in 489.5; Fu Zhong & Jack Zhao, Estoril, by Mark Horton, 491.8; Maarten Schollardt Dutch Teams Final, by David Bird, 495.4.*

# **THE 2007 GIDWANI FAMILY TRUST AWARD FOR BEST DEFENCE OF THE YEAR**

**Giorgio Duboin (ITA)**  
Journalist: Patrick Jourdain (GBR)

Bulletin 501, page 4

The following deal produced what may well be the defence of the week from Giorgio Duboin:

Dealer West ♠ J 2  
EW Vul. ♥ Q 8 7 5 3 2  
♦ A Q 7 4  
♣ Q

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

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Duboin</i>	<i>Berkowitz</i>	<i>Bocchi</i>	<i>Cohen</i>
Pass	1♥	1♠	2NT
Pass	3♥	All Pass	

David Berkowitz was declarer as North in tree harts. Bocchi as East led the king of clubs for count and switched to a diamond ducked round to declarer's queen. Berkowitz cleared the suit by playing ace and another diamond to West's king. Duboin switched to a spade, which went to the jack, queen and king.

Declarer now ruffed a club in order to lead a trump to dummy's king. Suppose West wins this and leads another spade. Dummy wins and leads the nine of hearts. When West plays low declarer has a simple safety play of running the nine to guarantee his part score at no cost; nine tricks. But when Berkowitz led a heart to dummy's king, it held the trick! When declarer led a second trump, Duboin contributed the ten. Now declarer had a genuine dilemma. He could guarantee his part score by putting on the queen, but only at the expense of an overtrick if East had doubleton ace. At point-a-board scoring the decision was clear: Berkowitz ducked the second round of trumps. When East showed out, declarer knew he had been conned, but there was no recovery. He had to lose two more trumps to West and Europe had the plus score. An eagle for Duboin.

Shortlist: Cezary Balicki & Adam Zmudzinski (POL), Mark Horton, 507, page 13; David Birman & Gilad Altschuler (ISR), Donna Compton, 509, page 15; Sidney Lazard (USA), Suzi Subeck, 510, page 2; Liu Jing (CHN), L Tse, 512, page 8.

# **THE 2008 GIDWANI FAMILY TRUST AWARD FOR BEST DEFENCE OF THE YEAR**



**Michelle Brunner (GBR)**  
Journalist: Heather Dhondy (GBR)

Bulletin 514, page 18

## **The Venice Cup**

Having successfully negotiated the round robin, it was time for GBRLand to face China in the quarterfinals. We were neck and neck for the first four sets out of six, but eventually the Chinese proved too strong and we were eliminated. One of the earlier sets produced a very special play from Michelle Brunner:

Board 26. Dealer East. Both Vul.

♠ A K Q 9 8 3  
♥ A 7  
♦ –  
♣ A J 7 3 2

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

♠ 10 2  
♥ Q 6  
♦ Q 5 4 2  
♣ Q 10 9 8 5

West	North	East	South
<i>Michelle Brunner</i>	<i>Liu Yi Qian</i>	<i>Rhona Goldenfield</i>	<i>Wenfei</i>
		Pass	Pass
Pass	1♣ <sup>1</sup>	Pass	1♦ <sup>2</sup>
Pass	2♠	Pass	2NT
Pass	3♣	Pass	4♣
Pass	5NT	Pass	7♣
Pass	Pass	Pass	

1. Precision Club (16+)
2. Negative (0-7)

The Precision auction propelled the Chinese side to an optimistic seven-club contract. You will note that the entry less dummy more or less forces declarer into the winning line of dropping the singleton king of trumps offside to land a rather jammy contract.

Enter Michelle, who, on seeing partner's lead of the jack of hearts covered by the queen in dummy, ducked!

Declarer, who was mightily relieved to gain a surprise entry, had no hesitation in taking advantage of it to play her percentage shot in trumps of taking the finesse! Whoops!

How was this brilliancy found? Should declarer have been fooled? Let's think about it.

One club was strong and one diamond negative. The jump to two spades was natural and forcing, showing a strong hand. Two no trump and three clubs were both natural. Over partner's natural four clubs, showing support, North jumped to five no trump, grand slam force. Whether they disagreed about the meaning of five no trump or the responses, I'm not sure, but one thing that Michelle could be certain of is that declarer had a source of running tricks in spades for this action. Therefore there would be no danger in giving declarer a cheap trick in hearts since they would soon be disposed of on spades in any case.

From Michelle's point of view, a jump to seven clubs holding only the queen in trumps left room for partner to have a trump honour and there was a significant danger that it would be singleton. With plenty of time to think about it, we can all see that it can't cost, and may gain on this layout.

However, the really impressive thing is that it had to be done smoothly and in tempo so as to give nothing away. If you duck slowly, declarer will be suspicious. Should she have been suspicious anyway?

It is unusual to lead from a king-jack-ten holding against a grand slam. If you don't want to lead a trump, then a spade into the solid suit would seem to give nothing away. On the other hand, a lead from jack-ten would be perfectly normal. Therefore, you should not expect the queen of hearts to hold the first trick. Nevertheless, it is a huge leap of logic to then deduce that West has ducked in order to persuade you to take a losing line in trumps. This brilliancy was undoubtedly the play of the tournament.

*Shortlist:*

513.12 O'Keefe (Andrew Robson)  
 515.9 Carroll (John Carruthers)  
 528.11 Campanile-Barel (Richard Colker)  
 521.5 Groemoller (Andrew Robson)  
 521.11 Hamman (Donna Compton)

## THE 2009 GIDWANI FAMILY TRUST AWARD FOR BEST DEFENCE OF THE YEAR

**MICHELLE BRUNNER (GBR)**

Journalist: Maureen Hiron (ESP)

Bulletin 528, page 7

### A GEM FROM MICHELLE BRUNNER

Maureen Hiron, Málaga, Spain

Dealer East.

Both Vul.

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

Michelle Brunner won the 2008 International Bridge Press Association Gidwani Family Trust Defence of the Year Award, for a brilliant play in Shanghai. I believe, though I stand to be corrected, that this is the first time a woman has won this. Nor can I remember the same player winning two years in succession, so I intend submitting this hand as a contender for next year's prize.

Michelle passed as dealer and South opened one no trump (12-14). North bid two clubs, Stayman, then raised South's two-spade reply to the spade game.

John Holland, West, led the jack of hearts. Declarer ducked in dummy and Michelle won with her king. What were her chances of defeating four spades, faced with that dummy? Many players would simply return a trump and hope that declarer, left to his own devices, would adopt a failing line.

But Michelle envisaged a position where her partner held the king to three spades and a doubleton club. (He could not hold more than four high-card points, given South's one no trump opener.) Even that was not enough; she also had to paint a false picture for declarer.

So – she returned the nine of clubs, which, with dummy's assets on view, surely could only have been a singleton. Dummy won, and fearing a club ruff, South continued with ace and another spade. Holland won with his king and returned a club, South playing

low from dummy. Michelle Brunner captured with her king, then gave her partner the club ruff that defeated the game.

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

## THE 2010 GIDWANI FAMILY TRUST DEFENCE OF THE YEAR

**Hasan Askari (PAK)**

Journalist: Phillip Alder (USA)

Bulletin 537.4

**2009 BERMUDA BOWL, BRAZIL**

**BB RR17 Pakistan/Italy**

by Phillip Alder

Board 16 ♠ K 9 8 7 6

Dealer South. ♥ 10 8 6

EW Vul. ♦ A

♣ A K 10 2

♠ 5 4 3 2

♠ –

♥ A K 7 5 4

♥ Q J 9 2

♦ Q 5 2

♦ 10 8 3

♣ 9

♣ Q J 8 6 5 3

♠ A Q J 10

♥ 3

♦ K J 9 7 6 4

♣ 7 4

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

One of the best defensive plays of the tournament occurred on the diagrammed deal in the Bermuda Bowl match between Italy and Pakistan. Before getting to that, if you were South, how would you play in six spades after the defence begins with two rounds of hearts?

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Declarer, believing that diamonds were 5-1, thought he had to play the crossruff. Duboin called for the club king, but West ruffed it. Plus 1430 and plus 100 gave Pakistan 17 IMPs on the board. When you cannot beat a contract by hook, try crook.

*Shortlist:*

Gunnar Hallberg (GBR);

Journalist: Phillip Alder (USA) 537.3

Peter Boyd (USA);

Journalist: Brent Manley (USA) 537.14

Grzegorz Narkiewicz (POL);

Journalist: John Carruthers (CAN) 538.5

Nikolai Demirev (USA);

Journalist: Mark Horton (GBR) 540.11

Gordon Campbell/Piotr Klimowicz (CAN);

Journalist: Ray Lee (CAN) 546.12

## THE 2011 GIDWANI FAMILY TRUST DEFENCE OF THE YEAR

**Winners: Mike Kamil/Marty Fleisher (USA)**  
Journalist: Brent Manley (USA)

From the Edgar Kaplan Blue Ribbon Pairs, Fall NABC, Orlando, FL, Nov. 26-Dec Dec. 5, 2010 Daily Bulletins

Dealer North. NS Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Fleisher</i>	<i>Hand</i>	<i>Kamil</i>	<i>Greenberg</i>
	1♦	Pass	2♥
Pass	3♠	Pass	3NT
Pass	Pass	Pass	

Fleisher led the heart queen, Rusinow. When that held, he shifted to the spade jack. Declarer won dummy's king, played a spade to her ace and led a third round. West won the ten and exited with his last spade. Kamil discarded his two remaining hearts and South threw a club.

Greenberg led a low diamond from the dummy to her ten and West's king. When West returned a diamond to dummy's ace, declarer cashed dummy's club king. This was the position:

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

When South played a club to her ace unblocked his queen to avoid the endplay. Then South cashed her heart ace. East unblocked his club jack. South led her last club, but West took the final three tricks for down two.

Both defenders had unblocked in the same suit.

The candidates:

Willenken/Rosenberg, IBPA Bulletin 550.9, John Carruthers (CAN)  
Kamil/Fleisher, IBPA Bulletin 553.4, Brent Manley (USA)  
Hoeyland, IBPA Bulletin 554.5, Jon Sveindal (NOR)  
Alfrey/Robson, IBPA Bulletin 556.12, Roland Wald (DEN)  
Krogsgaard/Kruse, IBPA Bulletin 556.15, Jens Otto Pedersen (DEN)

## THE 2012 GIDWANI FAMILY TRUST DEFENCE OF THE YEAR

**Tezcan Sen (TUR)**  
Journalist: Erdal Sidar

From IBPA Bulletin 560.4)

### ISTANBUL OPEN PAIRS

Erdal Sidar, Istanbul

Dealer West. Neither Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
1♦	Pass	1NT	4♥
Pass	Pass	Pass	

This deal comes from the four-session 2011 Istanbul Open Pairs Championship; 186 pairs took part.

West led the diamond ace, spade ace and diamond king. Declarer, Orhan Ozcelik, ruffed and played a trump; East won the ace and continued with a third diamond, but Ozcelik ruffed and cashed all his trumps (unblocking the ten of clubs). West's last three cards were a master spade, a master diamond and the jack of clubs. A club to the ace and another to the nine made the contract. Had East returned a spade instead

of a diamond, retaining his diamond guard, the position would have been more complex:

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

This time, on the last trump, West can let go his last diamond; had he discarded it earlier, a club would be forced at this point. Declarer throws the spade from dummy and East feels the pressure between the minors.

At another table, after the same start, East, Tezcan Sen (European Mixed Pairs champion in San Remo and World IMP Pairs champion in Verona) ducked the heart queen. Not wishing to allow the defence a chance to eliminate the diamond menace, declarer ruffed a spade to hand and continued with a high heart, discarding a spade from dummy. Again Sen ducked. On another high heart, declarer was presented with a dilemma: dummy remained with two spades, two diamonds and three clubs. A discard in either spades or diamonds would allow East to destroy the menace in that suit, so he threw the ten of clubs. Sen could now exit with the club queen, clipping the transportation channels for any squeeze. A brilliant stroke.

Declarer, however, missed his chance. Instead of a spade ruff after the queen of hearts holds the trick, if he comes to hand with a diamond ruff, that isolates the diamond menace as the cards lie and the guard squeeze works as before. That, however, was very difficult as if diamonds had been 4-4, East could eliminate the menace in the suit when in with the heart ace.

#### Shortlist:

Norberto Bocchi (Jan van Cleeff, 563.9)

Lynn Deas (Brian Senior, 564.3)

Joel Wooldridge (Phillip Alder, 564.14)

Balicki Slavek (Latala, 567.11)

## THE 2013 GIDWANI FAMILY TRUST DEFENCE OF THE YEAR



**Agustin Madala (ITA)**

Journalist: Ana Roth (ARG)

From IBPA Bulletin 574.17

### FROM ANOTHER GALAXY

Ana Roth, Buenos Aires

Harry Houdini (born Erik Weisz; March 24, 1874 — October 31, 1926) was an AustroHungarianborn American stunt performer, noted for his extraordinary escape acts. He first attracted notice as “Harry Handcuff Houdini” on a tour of Europe, where he challenged police forces to try to keep him locked up. This revealed a talent for gimmickry and audience involvement that characterized all of his work. Soon he extended his repertoire to include chains, ropes slung from skyscrapers, straitjackets under water, and having to hold his breath inside a sealed milk can.

The 2012 Campionati di Società (Italian Clubs Championships) were held in Salsomaggiore from September 27 to 30. The teams played the semifinals and final for promotion to the upper league. The Open Final (six sets of 16 boards) found Associato Allegra and Bridge Reggio Emilia playing against each other. Associato Allegra consisted of Norberto Bocchi, Giorgio Duboin, Guido Ferraro, Maria Teresa Lavazza, Agustin Madala and Antonio Sementa. Bridge Reggio Emilia was Mauro Basile, Andrea Buratti, Amedeo Comella, Gianfranco Facchini, Ezio Fornaciari, Carla Gianardi, Aldo Mima and Gianpaolo Ruspa. On the first board of set three, Agustin Madala performed a sensational threestage escape act.

Board 1.  
Dealer North. Neither Vul.

```

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

```

West	North	East	South
<i>Ruspa</i>	<i>Bocchi</i>	<i>Mina</i>	<i>Madala</i>
	Pass	1♥	1♠
Double	Pass	2♣	2♦
4♥	Pass	Pass	Pass

Madala led the jack of spades (Rusinow). Declarer won with the ace and continued with a low club to the ace...Madala realized that if he ruffed the trick he was going to be endplayed (a diamond return would give a diamond trick and a spade return would give a spade trick to declarer). So he performed his first escape act: he pitched a low spade. Declarer quickly realized he was in danger...and played the ace of hearts. Agustin performed his second escape act: he unblocked the heart king, saving a heart escape card. Declarer continued with another heart and Madala performed his third escape act as he held his breath in perfect Houdini style and played the heart six, dreaming for a miracle...and all of his dreams came true when Bocchi won the trick with his heart jack and returned the diamond queen to defeat the contract by two tricks. This threestage escape act could only function with the play of a club at the second trick. If declarer had played the ten of hearts at the second trick, letting South win the trick if North played low, or winning with the ace if Bocchi played the heart jack, MadalaHoudini wouldn't have been able to escape. Finally, if Madala ruffs the first club with a heart honour and exits with his other heart honour, declarer ducks the first heart lead, wins the second, then runs hearts and clubs, ending in the dummy. This position is reached:

```

      ♠ —
      ♥ —
      ♦ Q J 4
      ♣ J
  ♠ K 10      ♠ —
  ♥ —        ♥ —
  ♦ 10        ♦ K 5 3
  ♣ K         ♣ 9
      ♠ J 9
      ♥ —
      ♦ A 9
      ♣ —

```

When declarer plays the nine of clubs to the king, South is squeezed without the count in spades and diamonds. Declarer must, of course, read the end position correctly.

After I wrote this article, I received some emails from bridge players talking about this deal. Luis Palazzo was one of them; his email begun with this words: "Agustin Madala is a player from another galaxy." ("Agustín Madala es realmente un jugador de otra galaxia.")...the same words people used to describe The Great Houdini.

Shortlist:

Fredrik	Nyström (Micke	Melander,	572.1516)
PerOla	CullinPeter Bertheau	(Mark Horton,	573.5)
Martin	SchifkoSacha Wernle	(David Bird,	575.13)
Sjoert	BrinkBas Drijver	(John Carruthers,	578.7)
Roy	Welland (Richard	Colker,	580.4)
Peter	FredinBjörn Fallenius	(Tjolpe Flodqvist,	580.16)
Paul	HackettTom Hanlon	(Patrick Jourdain,	581.7)

## THE 2014 GIDWANI FAMILY TRUST DEFENCE OF THE YEAR

**Winner:** Jacek Pszczola (POL/USA)

**Article:** "The Eleventh Hour"

**Journalist:** Brent Manley (USA)

2013 Transnational Teams (Quarterfinal), Gordon v. Polish Students, IBPA Bulletin 585, October 2013, p. 17

### The Eleventh Hour



This board was critical in both the women's semifinal match between The Netherlands and USA II and the quarterfinal match between Polish Students and Gordon in the Transnational. Both American teams desperately needed a good result, and got one. The USA women were allowed to make three notrump against the Dutch (king of diamonds lead, queen of diamonds continuation - East following with the two, seven).

Board 31. Dealer South. NS Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Klukowski	Sontag	Zatorski	Berkowitz
			1♠
Pass	1NT	2♥	Pass
Pass	2♠	All Pass	

West	North	East	South
Seamon	Jassem	Pszczola	Wojcieszek
			1♠
Pass	1NT	3♥	Double
Pass	4♠	All Pass	

The Gordon team declared two spades at one table, and defended four spades at the other. Berkowitz made 10 tricks in two spades against less-than-inspired defence for plus 170.

At the other table, North/South had had a disagreement about South's double, South believing he had made a penalty double and North believing South had made a good, as opposed to a competitive, three-spade bid.

Michael Seamon led his singleton heart against four spades. Declarer won in hand and crossed to a top club to lead the jack of spades. Had East made the normal play of ducking, declarer would have been able to complete the drawing of trumps and come to ten tricks via the club finesse. But Jacek Pszczola covered the jack of spades with his queen - this was excellent defence. Declarer won with the ace of spades and tried another club, to the ace, ruffed by East, who returned his last trump. Declarer still had two hearts and two diamonds to lose for minus 200, down two, and 9 IMPs to Gordon, drawing them to within 1 IMP in the match with one board to play. A better chance for declarer would have been to crash the spade honours, drawing three rounds of trumps and splitting them out 3-3, but the bad club break would have held him to nine tricks anyway.

Other Shortlisted Candidates:

Martin Reid (New Zealand) in "Mr. Deschappelles, Meet Mr. Merrimac" by Rich Colker (USA),

2014 NEC Cup Round Robin, IBPA Bulletin 590.2

Jason & Justin Hackett (GBRland) in "52nd European Team Championships" by John Carruthers (Canada),

Open Teams, Round 6, Denmark v. GBRland, IBPA Bulletin 594.6

David Gold (GBRland) in "Suicide Is Painful" by Mark Horton (GBRland),

52nd European Open Team Championship, Round 6, Denmark v. GBRland, IBPA Bulletin 594.7

Sally Brock (GBRland) in "Les Ennemis Héréditaires" by John Carruthers (Canada),

52nd European Women's Team Championship, Round 12, France v. GBRland, IBPA Bulletin 594.17

## THE BEST BID HAND OF THE YEAR

### THE 1976 ROMEX AWARD FOR THE BEST BID HAND OF THE YEAR



**Matt Granovetter & Ron Rubin (USA)**

No article.

### THE 1977 ROMEX AWARD FOR THE BEST BID HAND OF THE YEAR



**Gabino Cintra & Christiano Fonseca (BRA)**

For the following hand from the 1976 Olympiad match against Israel:

Cintra	Fonseca
♠ A K Q x x	♠ x x x x
♥ A Q x x	♥ x
♦ A x	♦ x x x
♣ J x	♣ A K Q 10 x
1♣	2♣
2♠ <sup>1)</sup>	3♠ <sup>2)</sup>
4♦ <sup>3)</sup>	4♥ <sup>3)</sup>
4NT	5♣ <sup>3)</sup>
5♥ <sup>3)</sup>	5NT <sup>4)</sup>
7♠	

- 1) Support asking.
- 2) Maximum support.
- 3) Cue bids.
- 4) Grand slam force.

The winners receive IBPA's plaque.

Honourable mention goes to Peter Weichsel and Alan Sontag, who lost only on a split tie, for a hand played in the Men's Pairs at the Fall Nationals in Pittsburgh last year.

### THE 1978 ROMEX AWARD FOR THE BEST BID HAND OF THE YEAR



**Eric Kokish & Peter Nagy (CAN)**  
Journalist: Eric Kokish (CAN)

Below are the winning hands in the George Rosenkranz 'Romex' Award Best Bid Hand of the Year. (Previous winners: Gabino Cintra and Christiano Fonseca of Brazil.) Placed both first and second, with different partners was our member Eric Kokish ('Montreal Gazette').

The 'Romex' Award is for the players who, in partnership, have produced the best bidding sequence. The Award shall be given only for a hand, which occurred in play, whether in a tournament, match or private play. A sequence of bids which takes place in a bidding contest shall not be considered. The panel shall take into account accuracy, originality and psychological factors. The result in play need not be a determining factor.

This year's panel of judges consisted of George Rosenkranz, Fritz Babsch, Jean Besse, Robert Ewen & Jack Marx under the chairmanship of Alec Traub.

Winners: Eric Kokish & Peter Nagy (Spingold Master Teams, 1977 Summer Nationals).

Dir: North.  
Vul: Both.

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

West	North	East	South
	1♦	Pass	1♥
2♣ <sup>(1)</sup>	Pass	4♣ <sup>(2)</sup>	Pass
4♥ <sup>(3)</sup>	DbI <sup>(4)</sup>	4♠ <sup>(5)</sup>	Pass
4NT <sup>(6)</sup>	Pass	6♣ <sup>(7)</sup>	All Pass

- (1) Anything else would be a distortion.
- (2) Preemptive.
- (3) A definite slam try.
- (4) Probably an error since he would be on lead.

- (5) A value-showing cue bid.  
 (6) My last slam try below game. Please tell me more.  
 (7) I have a diamond control, more spade help and a high trump honour. Could you expect more?

The above notes are by Eric Kokish who also comments: This resulted in a slam swing against a good team and serves to point out that it is possible to scientifically investigate a tricky minor suit slam without resorting to Blackwood. The use of 4NT as a general slam try is probably under appreciated today.

### THE 1979 ROMEX AWARD FOR THE BEST BID HAND OF THE YEAR



**Chip Martel & Lew Stansby (USA)**

Journalists: Henry Francis & Sue Emery (USA)

THE ROMEX AWARD winning deal occurred in a Spingold Trophy match against the Brachman team, eventual winners by 7 IMPs and North America's representatives in the 1979 Bermuda Bowl next October. The deal was reported by Henry Francis and Sue Emery in ACBL's 'Contract Bridge Bulletin'.

*This was the winning achievement:*

Brachman had led Martel by 3 after the first 16 boards; after 32 Martel was 2 IMPs ahead. Then came the big third quarter when Martel held the star-studded Brachman squad to 8 IMPs while gaining 33 for himself.

Board 35 was a contributing factor.

Dir: South    ♠ K J 7 4  
 Vul: EW      ♥ A Q J 7 5 2  
                 ♦ 9 4 2  
                 ♣ –

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

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

South	West	North	East
<i>Martel</i>	<i>Passell</i>	<i>Stansby</i>	<i>Kantar</i>
1♣	1♦	1♥	Pass
1♠	Pass	4♣	Pass
4♦	Pass	4♥	Pass
5♥	Pass	5NT	Pass
6♠	Pass	7♠	All Pass

Getting to a grand slam with only 24 working high card points in the combined hands was an accomplishment not achieved at any other table. In fact only Kaplan – Kay reached a slam of any kind – they bid and made 6♥. Hamilton and Lair stopped at 5♥ and Soloway – Goldman got only to 4♠.

Martel won the opening lead of the ♦K with his ace and immediately ruffed a club in dummy. Then he cashed the ♠K, played a spade to his ace and ruffed another club with the ♠J. Now he had to get back to his hand to draw the last trump. The ♥K provided that entry so he was able to pick up the last trump and run hearts for 13 tricks. The difference between 480 and 1510 was 1030 or 14 IMPs.

*Second was a bidding sequence by Britain's well-known Sharples twins reported by Tony Sowter in 'Popular Bridge Monthly'.*

### THE 1980 ROMEX AWARD FOR THE BEST BID HAND OF THE YEAR



**Kyle Larsen & Ron von der Porten (USA)**

Daily Bulletin, Cincinnati

Our member Dr George Rosenkranz of Mexico City, inventor of the Romex System, endows THE ROMEX AWARD for the Best Bid Hand of the Year.

The panel of judges consisted of Fritz Babsch, Jean Besse, Albert Benjamin and Bob Ewen.

The Award, for partners who have produced the best bidding sequence, goes to Kyle Larsen and Ron von der Porten for the sequence described below.

The following report is taken from the Daily Bulletin dated 25/11/79 from the North American Falls Championship played in Cincinnati.

Board 13 in the first qualifying session of the Reisinger Teams proved quite a test. The match-point philosophy of going for the extra points in a major suit

contract, together with the solid spade suit, lulled most of the field into a spade slam – in fact only ten pairs found the much superior grand slam in clubs. Ron von der Porten and Kyle Larsen had a good sequence on this deal.

Dlr: South.    ♠ 6 2  
                   ♡ A J 7 6  
                   ♦ Q 5 4  
                   ♣ Q J 9 8

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

♠ A K Q J 5 4  
 ♡ 5 4  
 ♦ A  
 ♣ A K 10 7

West	North	East	South
			2♣
Pass	2♦	Pass	2♠
Pass	2NT	Pass	3♣
Pass	4♣	Pass	4♦
Pass	4♡	Pass	4NT
Pass	5♦	Pass	5♡
Pass	5♠	Pass	5NT
Pass	6♣	Pass	7♣

Ron's 2NT showed some values – with nothing he would have bid 3♣, the second negative. After agreeing on clubs and making a couple of cue bids, Kyle bid 4NT – Roman Key Card Blackwood. Hearing a one ace response, he asked about the queen of trumps by bidding 5♡. "I have it", said Ron – that's what 5♠ means. After the 5NT bid uncovered the fact that Ron had no kings, Larsen decided that 7♣ had to be the best place to put the final contract. He was right – you can only make twelve tricks at spades and no-trumps, but by dint of a diamond ruff you can make 13 tricks at clubs.

*Note:* If Larsen had to bid 5NT to discover whether Von der Porten had a king it seems that in their system more than an ace and a king are needed for a positive response to an opening 2♣ bid.

## THE 1981 ROMEX AWARD FOR THE BEST BID HAND OF THE YEAR



**Peter Schaltz & Knud-Aage Boesgaard (DEN)**  
 Journalist: Steen Møller (DEN)

The Romex Award for the best bid hand went to Peter Schaltz and Knud-Aage Boesgaard for a sequence reported by Steen Møller in Berlingske Tidende and repeated in Bulletin #200. Frey presented the Award to proxy Landelius. (Panel: Benjamin and Besse.)

STEEN MØLLER contributes two fine hands from his column in Berlingske Tidende, Denmark's biggest morning paper. The first is a worthy entry for the Romex 'best-bid-hand-of-the-year' Award. Apart from the general excellence of the story, it illustrates very well the fundamental proposition that the advantage of a trump contract is greatest when ruffs can be taken in the short trump hand.

Dlr: North    ♠ 6 4 2  
 Vul: Both    ♡ A K Q 8 5  
                   ♦ –  
                   ♣ A Q 10 5 3

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

♠ A K Q J 3  
 ♡ J 6 2  
 ♦ A 9  
 ♣ 8 4 2

North	South	
2♣	2♦	
3♡	4♦	(Dbl)
5♦	5NT	
6♦	7♠	

Writes Møller in his summary translation of the Berlingske Tidende piece:

The article first describes the prospects for an all-time record by Peter Schaltz & Knud-Aage Boesgaard. Already this season they have won the Copenhagen pairs & teams, & the Danish pairs & teams, and are still in the running for the Cup and mixed titles. Their international record is also of some merit, with second place in last year's European Championship.

Here, as you can see, 12 tricks is the limit in hearts, as ♠K is offside. 6♥ was in fact the spot reached by many contestants in the last round of the recent Dutch team championship (where we play duplicated boards). Schaltz (North) & Boesgaard, however, found the grand slam in spades. They play a sort of Neapolitan Club, and 2♣ showed a club suit in a limited hand. 2♦ was a relay, & 3♥ promised 5-5 or 5-6 in hearts and clubs and a good hand. 4♦ was a Danish asking bid; and, after the opponent's double, 5♦ showed a diamond void and three aces, the trump king counting as a fifth ace. (Without the double, North's bid would have been 5♠.) Now South asked for the heart queen with 5NT, and 6♦ showed this vital card, South going all the way to 7♠, an unbid suit! He could count one club trick, one diamond, a diamond ruff, five hearts and five spades, barring a 5-1 or 5-2 split in spades.

### THE 1983 ROMEX AWARD FOR THE BEST BID HAND OF THE YEAR Zia Mahmood & Masood Salim (PAK)

The Romex Award for the Best Bid Hand of the Year went to Zia Mahmood and Masood Salim of Pakistan for their sequence to 7♦ in this year's Bridge Federation of Asia and the Middle East Championship in Mauritius. Accepting for the Pakistani pair was Mazhar Jafri. The auction was reported in IBPA Bulletin 231 in an extract from the Daily Bulletin of the Championships. The extract follows:

On Board 7 of their match against Sri Lanka, Zia and Masood showed their class. South was dealer, and all were vulnerable.

♠ K 7 4 3	♠ A 10 9 2
♥ 10 5	♥ A
♦ Q J 10 6 4	♦ A K 2
♣ A Q	♣ K 1 0 9 5 3

West	East
Zia	Masood
1♦	2♣
2♦	3♥
4♣	4♠
5♣	7♦
Pass	

The key bids were Masood's 3♥, which showed a huge diamond fit with total control of hearts, and Zia's 5♣, cue bidding the queen which figured to be very useful since it was in his partner's suit.

A spade was led, and although the clubs were 4-2, Zia easily made 13 tricks by ruffing a heart in dummy

and a club in hand to set up the fifth card in that suit. Sri Lanka meanwhile went down one in 6♠ when they lost two trumps tricks (spades were 4-1).

### THE 1984 ROMEX AWARD FOR THE BEST BID HAND OF THE YEAR



**Benito Garozzo & Georgio Belladonna (ITA)**  
Journalist: Edgar Kaplan (USA)

Choosing a winner was difficult. The decision was finally made in favour of this hand because it shows how, after two artificial bids good natural bidding can be very effective.

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

West	East
Garozzo	Belladonna
1♠	1♥
1♠	2♣
2♦	2♠
3♦	4♦
4♥	4♠
4NT	5♣
6♦	Pass

West	East
Rubin	Becker
1♣	1♦
1♥	2♦
2♥	3♠
4♠	Pass

Edgar Kaplan (in the June 1984 Bridge World) puts it best:

"The Italians began with two artificial bids, the 16-up big club and the semi positive (6 points upward fewer than 3 controls) one heart. Then came 11 delicate natural bids and cuebids, in the course of which West discovered East rather liked his hand for diamonds. Thus, Garozzo bid the slam.

In contrast, the Americans began with six artificial bids: 17-up big club, negative one diamond, relay,

response showing an ace plus a queen or two kings, with a balanced pattern, relay, response showing 2-2-3-6 distribution. And now West had to pick a contract without knowing anything about whether East had fitting honors. On the limited information available, Rubin's four spade bid was probably wise but it was not the winning decision."

**THE 1985 ROMEX AWARD FOR  
THE BEST BID HAND OF THE YEAR  
Steve Cooper & Wayne Timms (CAN)**  
Journalist: Unknown

The Romex award for the Best Bid Hand of the Year to Steve Cooper and Wayne Timms of Canada, Ko-kish accepting the award.

Dlr: South     ♠ 2  
Vul: Both     ♥ K 9 8 7 6 3  
                   ♦ 7 4 3  
                   ♣ A 9 2

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

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

North	East	South	West
		1♣	Pass
1♥	1♠	2NT	Pass
4♥	Pass	4♠	Dbl
Rdbl	Pass	4NT	Pass
5♣	Pass	5♦	Pass
5♥	Pass	7♣	All Pass

Opening lead: ♣3

**THE CRYING TOWEL AWARD:** Sympathies go out to Wayne Timms (North) and Steve Cooper (South) for their result on this dramatic Vanderbilt KO deal. The bidding: 1♣ strong, artificial; 1♥ natural. 8+ HCP; 2NT balanced 20-21; 4♥ minimum range positive, six or more hearts; 4♠ cue bid; redouble = second round spade control; 4NT=tell me more; 5♣ and 5♦=cue bids; 5♥=nothing more to say; 7♣ ... the master bid ... a spade ruff would produce a thirteenth trick even if North held only six hearts and a doubleton ace of clubs. Just right. But the 5-1 trump break killed the slam and the opponents made 6♥ in the other room.

A swing of only 25 IMPs. Makes you want to cry, doesn't it?

**Meet Steve E Cooper of Toronto**

Congratulations, Stephen!

Steve: Thank you. The first thing I noticed is that this isn't the auction that took place!

Maybe the award would still be given, but there were two more bids actually made. Over Wayne's 5♥ bid I bid 6♣. At that point I was still giving him the chance to bid seven if he had something which he had not yet noticed, or perhaps it was just a "transfer blame" bid in the hope that Wayne could bid seven and that, if it were wrong, it would be his fault.

He might have been able to show the ♦K, or he might have held a seventh heart and have been able to bid 7♥ himself. However, he bid 6♥.

That's when I went into the tank. Up to that point I had really been thinking only about hearts. A spade ruff would be the thirteenth trick in clubs so I bid 7♣.

A spade (not a club) was led and there was a big grin on my face. When I bid it, I knew there was a good chance even if Wayne had a doubleton club. That would really have been a "master bid", but then we would have needed a 4-3 club break. There was a good chance he had three clubs; maybe even four, which would make it virtually a lay down.

The dummy came down and was about what I had expected. I was thrilled to death. I won the ♠A, ruffed a spade, played the ♣A, led a club off the board, and RHO started searching through his hand.

"You must be kidding," I said to him.

I realized later that I misplayed the hand. I could have gone down four, but in fact, I went down five. There is no IMP difference between down four and down five when the opponents are on for 6♥.

## THE 1986 ROMEX AWARD FOR THE BEST BID HAND OF THE YEAR



**Hugh Ross & Peter Pender (USA)**  
Journalist: Henry Francis (USA)

From "Brazil Hands" in Bulletin 259.

### BRAVO, HUGH ROSS!

By Henry Francis

Austria went down two tricks in 7♠. The United States women went down two in 7♠. The British women stopped in 6♠ and made. HUGH ROSS MADE SEVEN SPADES!

Dlr: East ♠ K Q J 10 5 3  
Vul: EW ♥ J  
♦ A Q 8 2  
♣ A J

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

♠ A 7  
♥ A K 10 7 6 5 4  
♦ K 5  
♣ 10 6

West	North	East	South
<i>Terraneo</i>	<i>Ross</i>	<i>Fucik</i>	<i>Pender</i>
		Pass	1♥
1NT	Dbl	2♦	4♥
Pass	4NT	Pass	5♣
Dbl	5♦	Pass	5♥
Pass	5NT	Pass	6♦
Pass	7♠	All Pass	

The defensive bidding gave Ross the clue to the double squeeze. Franz Terraneo attempted to muddy the waters with a comic notrump, showing IGBRth in some suit. Jan Fucik tried to help the defensive cause along with his diamond bid. Ross found out through Roman Key Card Blackwood that Peter Pender had three controls (♥K a control) but no ♥Q. 5NT elicited the news about the ♦K, and Ross jumped to 7♠ – the first time the suit had been bid.

Without the defensive bidding, perhaps the normal way to play this hand is to play for no worse than a 5-2 diamond fit. Win the opening club lead, ♦K, ♦A, diamond ruff with the ace, and draw trumps and claim. As a matter of fact, that's exactly the way the hand was played by Austria and the USA women.

But Ross, had lots of information. West, the comic notrump bidder, had doubled clubs later on. East had bid diamonds. It seemed as if the ingredients were present for a double squeeze.

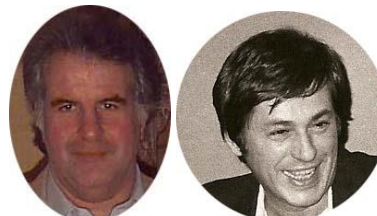
He won the opening club lead and began running the trumps as the commentators – and Gabriel Chagas in the audience – began to yell, "He's going to make it on a double squeeze!" Sure enough, after the run of the spades he led a diamond to the king and another back to the ace. When he cashed the ♦Q at trick 10, Terraneo had to come down to three cards. He knew he couldn't throw a heart, so he pitched the ♣Q, hoping Fucik had the ♣J. But Ross produced that card and claimed his slam, along with 17 IMPs. Even the commentators joined in the applause.

## THE 1987 ROMEX AWARD FOR THE BEST BID HAND OF THE YEAR

**Zia Mahmood (PAK)**

For a hand from the World Championships in Bal Harbour 1986. No article.

## THE 1988 ROMEX AWARD FOR THE BEST BID HAND OF THE YEAR



**Alan Graves & George Mittelman (CAN)**  
Journalist: Sue Emery (USA)

The Romex Award for the best auction of the year goes to Alan Graves and George Mittelman for bidding and making a slam, at the ACBL spring Nationals in Buffalo both having originally passed.

### Best auction?

It's nice when your opponents recognize that you've done well. This effort by Allan Graves and George Mittelman from the finals of the Open Pairs was reported as a nomination for the best auction of the tournament and possibly the year. It was board 2 from Monday afternoon.

Dir: East ♠ 9 8 4 3  
 Vul: N-S ♥ J 8 7 4  
 ♦ 5 4  
 ♣ 9 5 2

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

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

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

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

♠ A K J 10 8  
 ♥ A 8 7 2  
 ♦ –  
 ♣ A 7 5 2

Allan passed in first chair and heard the South player open 1♥, which was passed back around to him. He reopened with 1♠ and South bid 1NT. West doubled to show strGBRth and North retreated to 2♥. This got passed back to George who bid 3♦. Allan got excited and splintered with 4♥, which South doubled.

After two passes Allen redoubled to show first round control. George now cue bid 5♣ and Allan, with excellent trumps, jumped to 6♦. It would be an anticlimax if George had gone down, but he guessed the spades and scored up 920 for a near top.

### THE 1989 ROMEX AWARD FOR THE BEST BID HAND OF THE YEAR



**Sven-Åke Bjerregard & Anders Morath (SWE)**  
Journalist: Sven-Olov Flodqvist (SWE)

IBPA Bulletin 292, page 14.

### Brilliancy Prize for the play – but how about the bidding?

By Sven-Olov Flodqvist

In September 1988 the Studenterforeningen Bridge-Club in Copenhagen celebrated their 60th jubilee with an international pairs tournament. Three special prizes were put up for the best played hand, the best defended hand and the funniest hand of the tournament. The prize for the best dummy play went to Swedens Sven-Åke Bjerregard for making six clubs on the hand below.

Personally I think that the bidding is qualified for the Romex Award for the best bid hand.

South	West	North	East
<i>Bjerregard</i>		<i>Morath</i>	
		Pass	1♥
1♠	2♥	2♠	Pass
3♣	3♦	4♠	Pass
5♦	Pass	6♣	All Pass

South's 1♠ overcall was certainly no overbid, and Morath really expressed his values to the limit. His raise to 2♠ was merely competitive, but when South showed his club suit, North realized the enormous potential of the double fit.

When Morath jumped to 4♠, Bjerregard issued a slam invitation with a cue bid of 5♦. Most players would probably have been exhausted by now and tried to sign off in 5 spades. Some would possibly consider a cue bid of 5♥, but Morath realized the danger of partner bidding the wrong slam – 6 spades. Therefore he gave preference to 6♣.

The heart lead went to the ace and Bjerregard played a small trump towards dummy. When West contributed the nine, dummy covered with the ten and East won with the jack. He tried to cash the ace of diamonds, but declarer ruffed, ruffed a heart and took the club finesse with the seven. He ruffed another heart, played a spade to his hand, ruffed his last heart and entered his hand with a spade to draw trumps and claim.

# **THE 1990 ROMEX AWARD FOR THE BEST BID HAND OF THE YEAR** **Andy Robson & John Pottage (GBR)** Journalist: Patrick Jourdain (GBR)

At World Juniors in Nottingham  
IBPA Bulletin 302, page 6

## **MOYSIAN ADVANTAGE** By Patrick Jourdain

Dir: West ♠ 4  
Vul: EW ♥ K J 6 3  
♦ K 9 2  
♣ A 8 7 6 3

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

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

Looking at the diagram one can see that 6NT suffers from two defects: it is against the odds, requiring ♣K-x-x with East, and worse: it fails; but that was the final resting place for both the French and the Argentines.

Britain solved the bidding problem:

North	South
<i>Robson</i>	<i>Pottage</i>
1♣ <sup>1)</sup>	1♦ <sup>2)</sup>
1NT <sup>3)</sup>	2♠ <sup>4)</sup>
3♦ <sup>5)</sup>	3♠ <sup>6)</sup>
4♦ <sup>7)</sup>	6♦

1. 11-13 balanced or natural
2. Relay, diamonds or balanced
3. 4 hearts and 5 clubs
4. Fourth suit forcing
5. Fragment
6. Fifth suit forcing
7. Diamonds best

The Moysian diamond fit provides a much superior spot to no-trumps. With South as declarer a club lead would allow the suit to be established for a heart discard, and without a club lead it looks as if declarer can afford to mis guess the hearts.

In 6♦ Pottage received a trump lead, which ran to his eight. He took the ♠A and ruffed a spade, but then had the problem of how to leave the dummy. If you try a heart to the ten and that loses, the defence will play

another trump, leaving you a trick short. If you play a heart to the ace in order to take another spade ruff, how can you safely leave the dummy? Pottage concluded that his best chance was to try the clubs first, allowing the defence to play another trump, and if the clubs did not work, he would still have the chance of making four tricks in hearts. At the fourth trick, therefore, he led a low club to the queen, which lost to the king. West played a second trump and Pottage overtook to draw trumps. As West had four trumps there was no chance to ruff out the clubs. The only convenient way to play the hearts was through West and so the slam went down. As France had failed in 6NT there was no swing in the match.

# **THE 1991 ROMEX AWARD FOR THE BEST BID HAND OF THE YEAR**



**Edgar Kaplan & Brian Glubok (USA)**  
Journalist: Allan Falk (USA)

IBPA Bulletin 316  
64<sup>th</sup> Fall North American Bridge Championships in San Francisco Nov. 23 – Dec. 2, 1990.

## **Perfect Bidding** By Allan Falk

Brian Glubok and Edgar Kaplan passed up their 10-card fit in spades to play their eight-card fit in diamonds – and they were right. On this deal from the Reisinger, there's no way to beat 7♦ and no way to make more than 6♠.

Dir: South ♠ A Q 8 6 5 2  
Vul: Both ♥ 5  
♦ A K 7 6  
♣ 10 4

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

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

West	North <i>Kaplan</i>	East	South <i>Glubok</i>
			1♦
Pass	2♠	Pass	3♠
Pass	4♦	Pass	5NT
Pass	6♣	Pass	7♦
All Pass			

Kaplan's 2♠ bid was the key – it put the hand in slam territory right from the start. When Kaplan then showed the fit in diamonds, Glubok trotted out the Grand Slam Force. When Kaplan showed two of the top three honors in diamonds, Glubok of course put the contract in 7♦. Many of the pairs in the field stopped in 4♠, some got to 6♠. Precious few found the grand in diamonds. But one of those that found it were the opponents at the other table – that's right, 7♦ was only a halved board.

### THE 1992 ROMEX AWARD FOR THE BEST BID HAND OF THE YEAR

**Juuri-Oja & Jorma Valta (FIN)**

Journalist: Patrick Jourdain (GBR)

### FIRST EUROPEAN JUNIOR PAIRS & 9th CAMP

By Patrick Jourdain

There was a spectacular setting in the mountains of Switzerland at the sports camp at Feriendorf Fiesch, near Brig, for the so-called first (I think there were earlier events worthy of the name) European Junior Pairs. The four-session event attracted a high-class entry of 104 pairs from 20 nations.

Finland's Juuri-Oja and Valta reached the top spot on Board 35 from the first session:

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

With Valta West (dealer South, EW game), their Strong Club auction was:

Pass	1♣
1♥	2♣
3♣	3♦
3♥	3♠
3NT	4♦
5♦	5NT
6♥	7NT

1♥ was a positive with less than 3 controls, clubs were agreed, and cuebidding eventually allowed West

to show ♦Q (5♦). 5NT was the grand slam force, and West's 6♥ showed ♣K and an extra heart value. Bingo!

There was no problem in the play as South held ♣J-4.

### THE 1993 ROMEX AWARD FOR THE BEST BID HAND OF THE YEAR

**Tom Sanders & Bukk O'Pollack (USA)**

Journalist: Dick Kaplan (USA)

The Romex Auction of the Year: "Minor suit slam" by Dick Kaplan (USA). Players: Tom Sanders & Bill Pollack (USA). Published in the ACBL Daily Bulletin. No article.

### THE 1994 ROMEX AWARD FOR THE BEST BID HAND OF THE YEAR

**Shakiat & Pobsit (THA)**

Journalist: Amran Zamzani (IDN)

IBPA Bulletin No. 342, page 12.

A Junior pair from Thailand, Shakiat and Pobsit, did very well to reach the right grand slam on this deal:

Dir: North; N-S Game

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

<i>Pobsit</i>	<i>Shakiat</i>	
—	Pass	<sup>1</sup> ACOL
2♣ <sup>1</sup>	2♠ <sup>2</sup>	<sup>2</sup> 2 controls, 8+HCP
3♥ <sup>3</sup>	4♥ <sup>4</sup>	<sup>3</sup> Asking in ♥s
4♠ <sup>5</sup>	4NT <sup>6</sup>	<sup>4</sup> Natural (4+cards)
5NT <sup>7</sup>	7♥ <sup>8</sup>	<sup>5</sup> Asking in ♠
Pass		<sup>6</sup> Three small
		<sup>7</sup> Grand slam force in Hearts
		<sup>8</sup> Two of the top three honours

With asking bids available Pobsit had the bright idea of mentioning his hearts first. His subsequent spade ask looks unnecessary, but if the response to 5NT proved disappointing he probably planned to play in spades.

Thirteen tricks were easily available in hearts (North held: ♠ 9 7 ♥ 9 2 ♦ Q 3 2 ♣ K Q 6 3 2) as a club ruff was the thirteenth trick. In spades only 12 tricks are available and the opponents at the other table stopped in 4♠.

## THE 1995 ROMEX AWARD FOR THE BEST BID HAND OF THE YEAR



**David Berkowitz & Larry Cohen (USA)**  
Journalist: Alfred Sheinwold (USA)

*The nominations were:*

Sandra Landy & Abbey Walker of Great Britain for reaching 7♦, in the Entente Cordiale match against France (B369, page 10); Raoul Balshun & Bjorn Kapplinghaus of Germany for reaching 4♥ on a 4-2 fit in the World Junior Pairs (B368, page 3); Massimo Lanzarotti & Andrea Buratti (ITA) for reaching 6NT rather than 6♥ at the Europeans in Vilamoura (B366, page 14); David Berkowitz & Larry Cohen (USA) for 4♠ on a 4-2 fit at the 1994 ACBLs (B364, page 8)

### A Four-Twoish Fit

By Alfred Sheinwold (USA)

Bridge textbooks tell you to look for a trump suit of eight or more cards. If you can't find one, play the hand at No Trump, they advise.

Dave Berkowitz and Larry Cohen found an exception to the rule early in the 1994 ACBL Nationals:

Board 9. EW Vul. Dealer North.

		♠ Q 8	
		♥ J 7	
		♦ Q 9 8 7 4	
		♣ A 10 7 3	
♠ 7 4 3		♠ 9 6 5 2	
♥ K 10 8 3		♥ A Q 9 6 2	
♦ A J		♦ 2	
♣ J 8 6 4		♣ 9 5 2	
	♠ A K J 10		
	♥ 5 4		
	♦ K 10 6 5 3		
	♣ K Q		
West	North	East	South
Treadwell	Cohen	Gookin	Berkowitz
	Pass	Pass	1NT <sup>1)</sup>
Pass	2NT	Pass	3♠ <sup>2)</sup>
Pass	4♠ <sup>3)</sup>	All Pass	

- 1) 14-16 HCP (precision)
- 2) Looking for a fit. North probably has 9 or 10 points and the hand belongs in game but North doesn't have four spades (no Stayman) and the two short suits look dangerous.
- 3) He wouldn't have bid 3♠ on a four-card suit, would he? If South has only four spades, they must be headed by the A-K-J. Besides, Sonny Moyse became famous rooting for 4-3 trump fits. Maybe bridge players of the 21st century will celebrate the 4-2 fit.

Dave Treadwell, playing with Robert Gookin, muttered something about 'When in doubt' as he led a trump. Berkowitz won his jack and led the ♦K.

He had to set up the diamonds while he had a trump in dummy to stop the hearts. We can all see that the defenders can take two hearts, a diamond and a diamond ruff but nobody pointed this out to Treadwell and Gookin.

So they took their two hearts and got out with a second trump. Now Berkowitz drew trumps and claimed his game.

To start the ball rolling, let's call the 4-2 fit the Larry Cohen trump fit. Your reporter certainly doesn't want his name on it.

## THE 1996 ROMEX AWARD FOR THE BEST BID HAND OF THE YEAR

**Derek Patterson & Pat Collins (GBR)**  
Journalist: Brian Callaghan (GBR)

Source: From the 1995 Lederer Memorial Trophy in Bulletin 371, page 12. Lederer Invitation Teams November 1995.

Dir: North	♠ 10 9	
Vul: Both	♥ 5 4	
	♦ J 9 7 3 2	
	♣ J 6 5 3	
♠ A K 8 2	♠ Q	
♥ A J 9 8	♥ K Q 7 6 3	
♦ 10 8 4	♦ A 6 5	
♣ 9 7	♣ K Q 8 2	
	♠ J 7 6 5 4 3	
	♥ 10 2	
	♦ K Q	
	♣ A 10 4	

South	West	North	East
Edwin	Patterson	Priday	Collins
		Pass	1♥
1♠	2♠	Pass	3♣
Pass	3♠	Pass	4♦
Pass	4♠	Pass	4NT
Pass	5♥	Pass	6♥
All Pass			

This hand defeated all but one of the East West pairs. The key to it was that East's queen of spades was worth a whole trick and his two diamonds could be discarded on the West's top spades. Most Easts heard their partners make a bid to show a raise in hearts after South had overcalled in spades, and most of them quickly jumped to game.

Pat Collins though hit the jackpot by making a trial bid of Three Clubs. When his partner cuebid in spades he showed a diamond control in return, and his partner cuebid in spades again. Now that he knew his queen of spades was working he could use Blackwood and bid slam. This won 13 IMPs for his team.

*The shortlist was Eric Kokish & Joey Silver by Toine van Hoof in Bulletin 370, page 16; A Sadek & W El-Ahmady by Mark Horton in Bulletin 371, page 5; Cezary Balicki & Adam Zmudzinski by Radek Kielbasinski in Bulletin 377, page 9; Zia Mahmood & Peter Weichsel from the Politiken Pairs Daily Bulletin in IBP A Bulletin 371, page 6.*

## THE 1997 ROMEX AWARD FOR THE BEST BID HAND OF THE YEAR



**Chip Martel & Lew Stansby (USA)**  
Journalist Brent Manley (USA)

Chip Martel & Lew Stansby are known for their hard work when it comes to trying to build a better mouse-trap. One area where they have improved on standard methods is the Roman Key Card Blackwood response when you have a void. Usually 5NT shows two aces plus a void, six of a biddable suit for one or three aces with a void, and six of the trump suit for one or three aces and an unbiddable void. But what if the void is already defined?

Dlr South	♠ 8 4 3	
Vul EW	♥ K 10	
	♦ 10 3 2	
	♣ Q J 8 6 4	
♠ A J 9		♠ K Q 10 7 5
♥ A Q 7 5 4		♥ 6
♦ 9 8 7 6 4		♦ A K Q J
♣ –		♣ K 7 5
	♠ 6 2	
	♥ J 9 8 3 2	
	♦ 5	
	♣ A 10 9 3 2	

Chip and Lew had a beautiful auction to get to the best spot.

West	North	East	South
			Pass
1♥	Pass	1♠	Pass
2♠	Pass	2NT <sup>1</sup>	Pass
3♦ <sup>2</sup>	Pass	4NT	Pass
6♣ <sup>3</sup>	Pass	7♦	All Pass

1. Relay
2. Natural
3. Two aces and a void

When the shortage is already defined – and here it must be clubs – you can use 5NT for one ace plus a void, 6♣ for two aces and a void and 6♦ for three aces and a void.

Here Martel knew that if he played 7♠ he could not use his partner's diamond suit because of the blockage, since he would have to ruff clubs in dummy. So he settled for the diamond grand slam. Nicely bid.

*IBPA Editor:* Playing in diamonds, ignoring the lucky fall of the ♥K, you have to reverse the dummy to avoid promoting North's ♦10. On a trump lead, win, ruff a club, try a second diamond, ruff a club, spade to East, ruff a club, ♥A, heart ruff, draw the last trump.

*The Shortlist for Best Bid Hand was:*

Candidate	Bulletin	Journalist
Huang-Kuo	385.11	Jos Jacobs
Martel-Stansby	384.2	Brent Manley
The Rabbis	392.9	Phillip Alder
Hacketts	382.5	Brian Callaghan
Peter Fredin	Monte.6	Riccardi/Levy

*IBPA Editor:* The last named was for "Call of the Year" rather than "Best Bid" as Peter Fredin's penalty double in Montecatini let the opponents to escape from a 4-0 spade fit, going, maybe, six light, into a successful grand slam.

**THE 1998 ROMEX AWARD FOR  
THE BEST BID HAND OF THE YEAR**  
**Sylvie Willard & Gerard Tissot (FRA)**  
Journalist: Philippe Cronier (FRA)

From the European Mixed Pairs in Aachen (Bulletin 400, page 9-10)

The first session of the Pair final saw this brilliantly concise solution to reaching the best spot on board 23, found by Gerrard Tissot and Sylvie Willard of France.

Dealer South ♠ 3 2  
Game All ♥ 10 9 3  
♦ K Q 10 9 3  
♣ 10 6 3

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

♠ 5  
♥ 6  
♦ J 7 6 5 4  
♣ K Q J 5 4 2

Tissot (West) and Willard bid:

1♥-2♠; 5NT-7NT; Pass

How did Sylvie Willard come up with the winning bid so quickly?

As 5NT was a grand slam try asking for the top trumps she knew her partner must have the ace of diamonds and a void in clubs. So surely he would have at least six hearts lead by the ace-king. In which case she could count 13 top tricks in no trumps.

*The other auctions which made the shortlist were: Leigh Gold & Jamie Ebery reported by Jim Borin (Bull 397, page 12); George Rosenkranz & Eddie Wold (Bull 396, page 5); Piotr Gawrys & Marcin Lesniewski reported by Eric Kokish (Bull 398, page 6); Christian Mari & Alain Levy (Bull 395, page 12).*

**THE 1999 ROMEX AWARD FOR  
THE BEST BID HAND OF THE YEAR**



**Geir Helgemo and Tor Helness (NOR)**  
Journalist: Patrick Jourdain (GBR)

See Bulletin 409, page 2, February  
From the Mac Allan Daily Bulletin

Dlr North ♠ J 8  
Vul N-S ♥ Q 10 3  
♦ J 4 2  
♣ Q 9 8 3 2

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

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

West	East
Helgemo	Helness
	1♣
1♠	2NT
3♦	4♦
4♠	4NT
5♦	5NT
7♦	Pass

4NT was key card Blackwood. 5♦ showed one key card. 5NT guaranteed all first round controls and no trump loser. Helgemo realised any heart losers would disappear.

This effort gains in stature when you realise that three pairs stopped in game.

*Others on the shortlist were: B410, page 14 Mar Bettina Kalkerup-Charlotte Koch-Palmund (DEN) by Svend Novrup (DEN); B413, page 7 Jun Titkin-Deloney (USA) by Harvey Bernstein (USA); Lille Pto Sabine Auken & Daniela v Arnim (DEU) by Tony Gordon (GBR); B411, page 7 Apr Collins & Cusworth (AUS) by Dick Cummings (Aus); B414, page 12 Jul Adad & Aujaleu (FRA) by Aujaleu (FRA).*

## THE 2000 ROMEX AWARD FOR THE BEST BID HAND OF THE YEAR



**Larry Cohen & David Berkowitz (USA)**  
Journalist: Paul Linxwiler (USA)

Bulletin 426, page 4

The best bid hand award for the trials went to Cohen and Berkowitz for the following hand.

Dealer East ♠ K Q J 9 6 5  
N-S Game ♥ 9  
♦ J 10 8 4  
♣ J 10

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

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Cohen</i>		<i>Berkowitz</i>	
		2♥ <sup>(1)</sup>	Pass
2NT <sup>(2)</sup>	Pass	3♣ <sup>(3)</sup>	Pass
4♣ <sup>(4)</sup>	Pass	4♥ <sup>(5)</sup>	Pass
5NT <sup>(6)</sup>	Pass	6♣ <sup>(7)</sup>	Pass
7♣	All Pass		

- (1) Weak.
- (2) Enquiry.
- (3) Club feature
- (4) Ace Asking
- (5) One Ace
- (6) Pick a Slam
- (7) Confirming a club suit.

*Matthew Granovetter comments:*

When Berkowitz bid 6♣, he indicated four of them, so Cohen was able to bid the grand slam, knowing that wherever his partner had a singleton (in spades or diamonds), he could ruff in hand for an extra trick in a club contract. Seven clubs scored 1440.

At the other table, EW stopped in 6♥ making six, 980, for a swing of 460 points to Cohen-Berkowitz's team.

*Others on the shortlist were: Forrester-Helgemo by ACBL Bull (Bulletin 420, page 4); Martel-Stansby by Mark Horton (B421, page 17); Wilkosc-Wala by Nissan Rand (B424, page 8); Sykes-Wakefield by Onno Eskes (B421, page 16).*

## THE 2001 ROMEX AWARD FOR THE BEST BID HAND OF THE YEAR

**Henry Mansell & Craig Gower (ZAF)**  
Journalist: Mark Horton (GBR)

African Zonal Championships, Cairo Feb, 2001. Bulletin 434, page 4

Dealer North ♠ 8 3 2  
EW Game ♥ A Q 5  
♦ Q J 10 7  
♣ 10 8 2

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

♠ A  
♥ K J 10 6 2  
♦ A K 9 2  
♣ A K J

West	North	East	South
<i>Blanc</i>	<i>Mansell</i>	<i>Drieux</i>	<i>Gower</i>
	Pass	Pass	2♣*
Pass	2♦*	Pass	2♥
Pass	3♥	Pass	3♠*
Pass	4♦*	Pass	4NT*
Pass	5♣*	Pass	5♦*
Pass	5NT*	Pass	6♣*
Pass	6♦	Pass	7♦
All Pass			

North's first response was two-way and when he bid Three Hearts at his next turn he showed a positive with heart support. Three Spades was a serious slam try and Four Diamonds was a feature. Then RKCB established that North held the top hearts, no side king and the queen of diamonds. South suggested that Seven Diamonds might be the top spot and North was happy to agree.

That was a brilliant effort after hearts had been agreed. It earned South Africa to IMPs when Vidal-Telgone in the Closed Room reached Six Hearts on this unopposed auction:

Pass	2♦*
3♦*	3♥
4♥	4♠*
5♥	6♥
Pass	

The problem for North-South is to find a way to play in diamonds, where, providing the trumps break 3-2, 13 tricks are available irrespective of the position of the ♣Q. North's first response promised a red ace but diamonds were never in the picture.

*Others on the shortlist: Sigsgaard-Hagen by e-bridge (Maastricht.7); Charlsen-Saelensminde (NOR) by Lederer staff (433.8); Hanlon-McGann (Ire) by Seamus Dowling (438.9).*

### THE 2002 ROMEX AWARD FOR THE BEST BID HAND OF THE YEAR



**Anton Maas & Bep Vriend (NLD)**  
Journalist: Jos Jacobs (NLD)

Bulletin 447, page 6. European Mixed Teams.

Dealer: South ♠ K Q 2  
EW: Vul     ♥ Q 9 7 2  
               ♦ K Q J 9 6 2  
               ♣ –

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

               ♠ A 7 6 4 3  
               ♥ A K 4  
               ♦ A 4 3  
               ♣ 4 3

West	North	East	South
<i>Auken</i>	<i>Maas</i>	<i>Auken</i>	<i>Vriend</i>
			1♠
Pass	2♦	Pass	3♣
Pass	3♠	Pass	4♦
Pass	4NT	Pass	5♦
Pass	5NT	Pass	6♦
Pass	7♦	All Pass	

The auction began naturally, and Bep Vriend used the 3♣ bid to create a forcing situation, as 3♦ would not

have been forcing. Once spades had been agreed, the 4♦ cuebid denied a club control. So Maas could check the key cards (5♦ showed three of five with spades as trumps), and ask for kings with 5NT, knowing that the one king shown by 6♦ was the much needed king of hearts. Now Anton could count at least 13 tricks with diamonds as trumps. Well bid. Needless to say, a few pairs reached 7♠. With the spades not behaving it had no play. Unlucky?

*The other auctions on the short-list were: Huub Bertens & Ton Bakkeren (NLD) by Patrick Jourdain (GBR) Bulletin 449 page 9; Knud-Erik & Ellen Jensen (DEN) by Charles Otto Pedersen (DEN) Bulletin 445 page 15; Jon Cooke & Martin Garvey (GBR) by Peter Burrows (GBR) Bulletin 443 page 14; Hajdu-Szilagyi (HUN) by Mark Horton (GBR) Bulletin 444 page 6.*

### THE 2003 ROMEX AWARD FOR THE BEST BID HAND OF THE YEAR



**Bart Bramley & Sidney Lazard (USA)**  
Journalist: Bart Bramley (USA)

Bulletin 456, page 6, The Blues, from the Blue Ribbon Pairs, Phoenix, December 2002

It is rare to see an auction with seven natural bids reach the top-scoring contract despite intervention, when three strains and two different levels are under consideration. This was beautifully handled by both players.

#### The Blues

By Bart Bramley, Chicago

Dealer West. EW Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Lazard</i>		<i>Bramley</i>	
1♥	1♠	2♣	3♠
4♦	Pass	4♥	Pass
4♠	Pass	6♣	Pass
7♥	Pass	7NT	All Pass

Sidney eschewed opening two clubs because the opponents were at favourable vulnerability and he had a spade void. When the opponents jammed the auc-

tion Sidney still had a big problem at his second turn. His delicate four diamond bid was a great solution, as it was natural, forcing, and low. Four diamonds may look obvious, but ask around and you'll find out differently. My four heart preference was conservative, but I feared bidding more on a potential misfit. Luckily for us, the four heart bid relieved Sidney of any concerns about hearts running. Sidney's next call, the four spade cuebid, continued his gradual approach to a complex hand. Having pulled in a notch earlier, I was comfortable driving to slam over four spades, but I was still not sure of the best trump suit. I chose the descriptive six club call, simultaneously accepting the slam try, showing a strong suit, and offering six clubs as a choice of contract. Note that six clubs could be the winning contract opposite

♠ - ♥ A Q x x x x ♦ A K 10 x x ♣ x x

or the like. That was good news for Sidney, who knew that the club king was huge, so he confidently bid seven hearts. Equally confidently, I converted to seven no trumps based on possession of the spade ace. I knew Sidney held solid hearts, the diamond ace, and one of the minor suit kings.

Note that our auction was completely natural except for four spades, a cuebid of a void, hardly a big contribution to a contract of seven no trumps. We used no ace-asking bid and cuebid no aces. Every bid but four spades showed a suit, and our last several bids were all offers to play. Yet when we reached seven no trumps we both knew it was cold!

There was a small point in the play. On the spade lead I pitched a heart from dummy. Sidney, who had been looking nervous, perked up and said, "That's a good sign!" I didn't need the seventh heart for thirteen tricks, but if hearts had been four-zero, I could still have made the contract with the diamond finesse and a squeeze if LHO had ♠ J x x x, ♥ J 9 8 x, ♦ K 9 x x ♣ x, a holding consistent with the bidding. Plus 2220 was worth 42 on a 51 top.

*Others on the shortlist were: Zia Mahmood & Michael Rosenberg (USA), 451, page 3, Author: ACBL Daily Bulletin, Gabriel Chagas & Diego Brenner (BRA), 454, page 5, Author: Diego Brenner, Peter Fredin & Magnus Lindqvist (SWE), 465, page 5, Author: Paul Linxwiler, Gabi Fentresi & Adele Gogoman (HUN), Author: Junior Camp Bulletins.*

## THE 2004 ROMEX AWARD FOR THE BEST BID HAND OF THE YEAR



**Erik Sælensminde & Boye Brogeland  
(NOR)**

Journalist: Jon Sveindal (NOR)

The 47<sup>th</sup> European Championships (475.6)

Dealer East ♠ J 9 7 4 3

NS Vul ♥ Q J 4 2

♦ 6

♣ J 8 7

♠ A Q

♥ A 10 5

♦ A Q 10 7

♣ A K 4 2

♠ 8 5 2

♥ 8

♦ K J 5 3

♣ Q 10 9 5 3

♠ K 10 6

♥ K 9 7 6 3

♦ 9 8 4 2

♣ 6

West	North	East	South
<i>Brogeland</i>		<i>Sælensminde</i>	
		Pass	Pass
2♣	Pass	2♦	Pass
2NT	Pass	3♠	Pass
4♦	Pass	4♥	Pass
4NT	Pass	5♦	Pass
6♣	Pass	7♦	All Pass

The Norwegians were the only pair to bid the near-waterproof diamond grand slam. Brogeland showed 22-24 and Sælensminde the minors. Brogeland preferred diamonds and Sælensminde showed heart shortness, one key card and third round club control. He had just what Brogeland need to ruff two hearts and avoid the spade finesse. The play was no challenge.

*The other candidates were: Tor Helness & Geir Helgemo, Norway, reported by Brent Manley, USA in IBPA Bulletin 467, page 13, Robert Sheehan & Colin Simpson, GBRIland, reported by Simon Cochemé, GBRIland in IBPA Bulletin 468, page 6, Griff Ware & Daniel Geromboux, Australia, reported by Tim Bourke in IBPA Bulletin 471, page 3, Sabine Auken & Daniela von Arnim, Germany, reported by Mark Horton in IBPA Bulletin 475, page 7.*

## THE 2005 ROMEX AWARD FOR THE BEST BID HAND OF THE YEAR



**Justin & Jason Hackett (GBR)**

Journalist: Paul Hackett (GBR)

(With permission from the Sunday Express, April 17, 2005.) From IBPA Bulletin No. 486, page 7

Dealer East    ♠ A 5  
NS Vul.        ♥ K J 8 2  
                  ♦ Q 6 5  
                  ♣ A Q 6 5

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

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

West	North	East	South
	Justin		Jason
	Hackett		Hackett
		Pass	1♦
Pass	1♥	1♠	5♣ <sup>1</sup>
Pass	5♠ <sup>2</sup>	Pass	6♣ <sup>3</sup>
Pass	7♦ <sup>4</sup>	Pass	Pass <sup>5</sup>
Pass			

1. Exclusion Key Card Blackwood
2. 2 key cards outside clubs, no heart queen
3. Anything extra?
4. You bet! Could we play diamonds, perhaps?
5. Of course we could!

We recently played in the invitational White House tournament, held in Utrecht, Holland. It was a superb tournament, with top teams and attractive cash prizes. All the invited teams were taken out to an excellent dinner on the Saturday night. This was one of the most interesting deals from the tournament.

Often a failure to bid can provide as many clues in the play as a bid itself. This is the case in this deal, where East's decision to enter the bidding on the second round proved very expensive. East's overcall of one spade was questionable, given he didn't particularly want a spade lead from partner, and that it helped South out in the bidding and the play.

West led his partner's suit and, of course, finding the heart queen was the key to the hand. South won the spade in hand and played a low diamond to the queen in case East had all the outstanding diamonds, and ruffed a club.

He drew trumps and crossed to the spade ace, played the ace of clubs, then ruffed a club. Now, knowing East had five or six spades, one diamond, and three or more clubs, South consulted the East-West system card. He ascertained that East would have opened two spades to show five spades and a four-card minor and 4-9 points. Since he had not opened two spades, six spades, three clubs and one diamond left East with three hearts.

South duly led a low heart from hand, thrilled to see the ten appear. He won the heart king and now finessed East's heart queen for a well-deserved thirteen tricks and a 19 IMP swing.

*The other finalists were: Peter Boyd-Steve Robinson to 7♥, Bulletin No. 486, page 11, reported by Richard Colker Geoff Hampson-Eric Greco to 5♣, Bulletin No. 486, page 13, reported by Donna Compton David Berkowitz-Larry Cohen to 5♠, Bulletin No. 486, page 14, reported by Donna Compton Fred Gitelman-Brad Moss to 6NT, Bulletin No. 487, page 4, reported by Tim Bourke.*

## THE 2006 PRECISION AWARD FOR THE BEST BID HAND OF THE YEAR



**Debbie Rosenberg & JoAnna Stansby  
(USA)**

Journalist: Matt Granovetter (USA)

499, page 12

### BEST BID HAND OF THE YEAR?

(From Bridge Today Daily Column –#26 – July 3)

Dealer West. NS Vul.

South (you)  
♠ J 9 8 7 ♥ 9 8 7 6 5 ♦ K Q 8 ♣ Q

West	North	East	South
Pass	1♣	1♠	DbI
Pass	2♠ <sup>1</sup>	Pass	2NT
Pass	3♦	Pass	3♥
Pass	3♠	Pass	3NT
Pass	5NT <sup>2</sup>	Pass	?

1. Game force

2. Asking you to pick a slam, implying 1=3=4=5 shape, having failed to rebid either minor Which slam do you choose?

#### Pick a Slam

JoAnna Stansby told me about this hand from a round robin match against the Steiner team in the McConnell Women's Teams, two weeks ago in Verona. JoAnna was partnered by Debbie Rosenberg:

Dealer West ♠ 10  
 NS Vul ♥ A K Q  
 ♦ A J 10 2  
 ♣ A K J 6 2

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

♠ J 9 8 7  
 ♥ 9 8 7 6 5  
 ♦ K Q 8  
 ♣ Q

West	North	East	South
Rosenberg		Stansby	
Pass	1♣	1♠	Dbl
Pass	2♠	Pass	2NT
Pass	3♦	Pass	3♥
Pass	3♠	Pass	3NT
Pass	5NT	Pass	6♣
All Pass			

Opening lead: ♠A

Rosenberg's two-spade cuebid set up a game force in their style. Stansby bid two no trump with her spade stopper and Rosenberg showed her second suit, diamonds. Now Stansby bid her heart suit and Rosenberg cuebid for real. Stansby, with most of her high cards in the minors, rebid three no trump, and this left Rosenberg wondering where to play it, because she wasn't finished yet with her massive hand. She jumped to five no trump, a popular convention known as "Pick a Slam." Since she had not rebid four clubs or four diamonds, the bid implied 1-3-4-5 shape exactly. JoAnna Stansby told me afterwards, "My first impulse was to go with the obvious eight-card heart fit. But then I noticed my trumps were not so good. Even if partner held the ace-king-queen of hearts, the defenders could start with two rounds of spades, and that would promote a trump trick. What about the seven-card diamond fit? The same defence of two rounds of spades would leave our hopes pinned to a 3-3-diamond split. That left the six-card club fit to consider. Here I would need clubs 4-3 with partner

owning the jack (or the to and the jack falling tripleton)."

Stansby believed her partner's strong bidding made it likely she would hold the club jack, so she rejected both her partnership's eight-card fit and seven-card fit to bid slam in the six-card fit. Right she was!

At the other table, the Russian pair on the Steiner team bid the North-South cards to six hearts. Jill Meyers and Jill Levin defended well, leading two rounds of spades to promote the heart jack as the setting trick. Stansby's team won a slam swing, but the Steiner team eventually won the gold medal, defeating her team in the final of the world championships.

*Shortlist: Tony Nunn & Sartaj Hans, Lederer, by Simon Cochemé, 493, page 3; Jill Meyers & Jill Levin, Cavendish, by Richard Colker, 497, page 8; Tommy Garvey & John Carroll (Ire), Verona, by Peter Gill, Slovakia, Bulletin 1, page 3; Fred Gitelman & Brad Moss, Verona, by Sheri Winestock, 499, page 12.*

### THE 2007 PRECISION AWARD FOR THE BEST BID HAND OF THE YEAR Valio Kovachev (BGR)

Journalist: Mark Horton (GBR)

Bulletin 511, page 12

#### The Illusionist

'There is nothing either good or bad, but thinking makes it so.' Hamlet act 2 sc 2.

I don't know if a single bid can be a contender for the best bid hand of the year – but this is something special. An illusion is a distortion of a sensory perception, taking advantage of how the brain normally organises and interprets sensory stimulation. Illusions may occur with more of the human senses than vision, but visual illusions, optical illusions, are the best known and understood. However, some illusions are based on general assumptions the brain makes during perception.

On this deal from the 2007 Spring Foursomes, Bulgaria's Valio Kovachev created a most unusual illusion — with the cards he did not hold.

You are playing a 32-board match against very good opponents. After 24 deals your team is 20 IMPs behind. The last eight boards don't start well either – opponent Tony Forrester makes an expert guess to bring home a game with some puny 22 points and a 4-4 fit. So it looks like you are now trailing by 27-31 IMP depending on whether your team-mates have reached that game (they did!).

Now for the first time in his life, Valio made a psychic double. He was in second position and held:

♠ A 10 8 6 5 ♥ 6 5 ♦ Q 10 9 4 ♣ 9 7

West	North	East	South
<i>Forrester</i>	<i>Kovachev</i>	<i>Bakhshi</i>	<i>Isporski</i>
1♦	Pass	2♣	Pass
2♥	Pass	3♥	Pass
4♣	Pass	4♦	Pass
4NT	Pass	6♦ <sup>1</sup>	Pass
6♥	Dbl	Pass	Pass
?			

# 1. One ace plus diamond void

When the double arrived to Tony, a great player with a lot of imagination, he agonised for three minutes staring at his hand:

♠ 4 ♥ K 7 4 2 ♦ A K J 8 3 ♣ A J 8

Tell me now dear reader would you pass, and risk facing a dummy like:

♠ K Q 3 ♥ A 9 6 3 ♦ - ♣ K Q 10 7 6 5 or

♠ A K J ♥ Q 9 6 3 ♦ - ♣ K Q 10 7 6 5

only to find out that Valio's double contained 5 or 4 good trumps?

Anyway, his final decision was wrong – he moved to six no trump – as often happens, only to be doubled again for down four (minus 800) as he had no stopper in spades. David Bakhshi's hand was:

♠ Q 9 ♥ A J 10 8 3 ♦ - ♣ K Q 10 6 5 2

Indeed, six hearts has a good play – declarer need only guess the queen of hearts?

The double created a swing of 17 IMPs for our team – just the breath of fresh air that was needed to turn the match around and win 63-60 IMPs.

Most of the time the best way to play the game is to sit and wait for your opponents to make a mistake, but sometimes you need to push them to the brink of the precipice – where sometimes even the best fall over the edge.

A final detail: That great player Forrester turned to Valio after the segment and said, "Great double".

*Shortlist: Magne Eide & Sven-Olai Hoyland (NOR), Mark Horton, 512, page 5; Debasish Roy & Pritish Kushari (India), R. Jayaram, 509, page 6; Sunit Chokshi & KR Ventakaram (India), T. C. Pant, 503, page 10; Steve Garner & Howard Weinstein (USA), Brian Senior, 501, page 13.*

## THE 2008 PRECISION AWARD FOR THE BEST BID HAND OF THE YEAR Geoff Hampson-Eric Greco (USA) Journalist: Paul Linxwiler (USA)

Bulletin 516, page 4

### Board-A-Match Beauty

Geoff Hampson and Eric Greco bid these hands from the Reisinger qualifiers beautifully.

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

<i>Greco</i>	<i>Hampson</i>
2NT <sup>1</sup>	3♠ <sup>2</sup>
4♦ <sup>3</sup>	4♥ <sup>4</sup>
4NT <sup>5</sup>	5♠ <sup>6</sup>
5NT <sup>7</sup>	6NT
7♣	Pass

- 19-21
- Minor-suit Stayman, one/both minors
- Diamonds and a club fit
- Key-card ask in clubs
- 1 or 4 key cards
- King ask
- A red king

When Hampson bid six no trump Greco knew he was facing a running club suit and could count 12 top tricks. The thirteenth would come from setting up the diamonds, and the worst diamond holding that would go down in dummy of three small would still leave him with better than a 50% contract. Even getting to six no trump would have scored well at BAM, but reaching seven clubs deservedly earned them a shared top from the 64 tables in play and a win at BAM.

*Shortlist: 512, page 5 Krupowicz-Lutpstanski (Mark Horton), 513, page 7 Fredin-Fallenius (Mark Horton), 515, page 5 Heather Dhondy-Jeremy Dhondy (Simon Cochemé), 517, page 8 Pigot-Moran (Mark Horton), 519, page 12 Siebert-Said (Paul Linxwiler).*

**THE 2009 PRECISION AWARD FOR  
THE BEST BID HAND OF THE YEAR**  
**Stuart & Gerald Tredinnick (GBR)**  
Journalist: Heather Dhondy (GBR)

Bulletin 531, page 10

**2008 GOLD CUP FINAL**

Heather Dhondy, Hendon, UK  
(Courtesy GBRlish Bridge Union)

The final rounds of the Gold Cup are held each year in the beautiful Scottish border town of Peebles. Both of the semi-finals and the final take place over the week-end, with the option also to play the quarterfinals on the Friday.

The final was contested between 2006 winners de Botton (Janet de Botton, David Burn, Nick Sandqvist, Artur Malinowski, Jason Hackett and Justin Hackett), and Collins (Patrick Collins, Derek Patterson, Gerald Tredinnick and Stuart Tredinnick). One unusual feature of this final was that each team fielded a pair of twins – the Hacketts for de Botton and the Tredinnicks for Collins.

It was a close affair from start to finish, with neither side building up any sort of a comfortable lead. Our first deal shows some fine bidding judgement by the Tredinnick twins:

Dealer West.  
EW Vul.

<p>           ♠ K 9 8 7 5            ♥ Q J 5            ♦ A Q 7            ♣ Q 9         </p>			
<p>           ♠ Q 10 3            ♥ 9 6 3 2            ♦ J 9 2            ♣ J 7 5         </p>		<p>           ♠ J 6 4 2            ♥ 8 4            ♦ K 10 4 3            ♣ 10 6 3         </p>	
<p>           ♠ A            ♥ A K 10 7            ♦ 8 6 5            ♣ A K 8 4 2         </p>			
West Malinowski	North Stuart	East Burn	South Gerald
Pass	1NT*	Pass	2♣
Pass	2♠	Pass	3♣
Pass	3NT	Pass	4♥
Pass	5♣	Pass	5NT
Pass	6♥	All Pass	

\* 14-16 HCP

Gerald's three-club bid was natural and forcing, implying four hearts, and when he bid four hearts, that was

also natural, stressing the quality of the suit. He followed this up with five no trump, asking Stuart to pick a slam, and six hearts was chosen. This really is a good-quality slam, giving the option of establishing clubs by taking ruffs in the hand with short trumps, and he didn't really want the clubs to be 3-3, since that meant that other inferior slams such as six clubs or six no trump would also be making.

However, since slam was missed at the other table, they gained 10 useful IMPs anyway.

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

**THE 2010 GEORGE RETEK  
BEST BID HAND OF THE YEAR**



**Debbie Rosenberg-JoAnna Stansby (USA)**  
Journalist: Brent Manley (USA)

Bulletin 548.10  
The New Orleans Summer Nationals

**Grand Design**

by Brent Manley

On this deal from the second semifinal session of the von Zedtwitz Life Master Pairs, Debbie Rosenberg and JoAnna Stansby had an expert auction to the top spot for most of the matchpoints.

Dealer North	♠ K 9 8 5 2
Both Vul.	♥ A 3 2
	♦ A 5
	♣ 5 4 3
♠ J 3	♠ Q
♥ Q 8	♥ J 10 9 7 6 5 4
♦ K Q 9 7 6 3 2	♦ 10 4
♣ J 6	♣ 9 8 7
	♠ A 10 7 6 4
	♥ K
	♦ J 8
	♣ A K Q 10 2

South	West	North	East
<i>Stansby</i>		<i>Rosenberg</i>	
		1♠	Pass
2 NT <sup>1</sup>	3♦	Pass <sup>2</sup>	Pass
3♥	Pass	3♠	Pass
4♣	Pass	4♦	Pass
4NT	Pass	5♦ <sup>3</sup>	Pass
6♣ <sup>4</sup>	Pass	6♠ <sup>5</sup>	Pass
7NT	All Pass		

1. Game-forcing spade raise
2. Neutral
3. Zero or three key cards
4. Third-round control of clubs?
5. No

Rosenberg did very well not to jump to four spades over three diamonds. Stansby finagled a diamond control from her partner, used Key Card, then asked for third round control of clubs. When none was forthcoming, she was confident that seven no trump could be no worse than finding spades 2-1 with the clubs 3-2 or the jack in partner's hand or being pickupable, and so it proved. Six clubs was a truly inventive bid.

Shortlist:

Marek Pietraszek-Tomasz Ukrainski (POL); Journalist: John Carruthers (CAN) 538.6

Wang Hongli-Sun Ming (CHN);

Journalist: Fu Qiang (CHN) 540.6

Marion Cannone-Godefroy de Tessières (FRA); Journalist: Philippe Cronier (FRA) 544.6

Carl King-Francesco Persivale (PER);

Journalist: John Carruthers (CAN) 544

## THE 2011 IBPA AUCTION OF THE YEAR

Venkatrao Koneru & Ira Chorush (USA)

Journalist: Brent Manley (USA)

From the Bobby Nail Life Master Open Pairs, Fall NABC, Orlando, FL, Nov. 26-Dec Dec. 5, 2010 Daily Bulletins

Dealer South. EW Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
	<i>Koneru</i>		<i>Chorush</i>
			1♣
Pass	1♥	1♠	Double <sup>1</sup>
Pass	2♠ <sup>2</sup>	Pass	3♦ <sup>3</sup>
Pass	4♣ <sup>4</sup>	Pass	4♦ <sup>5</sup>
Pass	4♠ <sup>5</sup>	Pass	4NT <sup>6</sup>
Pass	6♣	All Pass	

1. Support Double: three-card heart support
2. Strong hand; could be agreeing either hearts or clubs, or looking for a stopper for 3NT
3. Values in diamonds
4. Confirms clubs; slam try
5. Cue bids
6. More encouraging than five clubs

The candidates:

Diamond/Platnick, IBPA Bulletin 550.19, Mark Horton (GBR)

Zia/Gold, IBPA Bulletin 552.2, Paul Lamford (GBR)

Zia/Gold, IBPA Bulletin 552.3, Paul Lamford (GBR)

Hackett/Holland, IBPA Bulletin 553.12, John Carruthers (CAN)

Koneru/Chorush, IBPA Bulletin 553.12, Brent Manley (USA)

## THE 2012 IBPA AUCTION OF THE YEAR

### Alejandro Scanavino/Felipe Ferro (ARG)

Journalists: Ana Roth/Fernando Lema

From IBPA Bulletin 561.14)

#### OPATIJA 2011

Ana Roth & Fernando Lema, BA

"A Big Bull in an Unknown Rodeo"

(From *El Gaucho Martin Fierro*)

"I am a bull in my rodeo and a big bull in an unknown rodeo; I always think of myself as very good and if you want to try me, let others sing and we will see who is less."

With the words of the great Argentine poet José Hernández, we thus describe the excellent South American performance in the semifinal of the teams against a very powerful Dutch-Romanian team. In a match that will surely make history in Argentine-Uruguayan youth bridge, four junior masters from South America overcame a negative result and won this semifinal. The last set began with Argentina-Uruguay down 25 IMPs and produced a lot of swings. With three boards to play, and with the South American team 7 IMPs behind, Felipe Ferro-Alejandro Scanavino bid and made a grand slam that swung the match in their favour. The remaining boards added more IMPs and the match finished 134-104 in favour of the South Americans. The last set was not for heart patients and board 30 was a luxury not often seen.

Board 30. Dealer East. Neither Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Agica</i>	<i>Garcia</i>	<i>Nistor</i>	<i>Crusizio</i>
	<i>Da Rosa</i>		
–	–	1♠	Pass
1NT	Pass	2♣	Pass
3♠	Pass	4♠	Pass
Pass	Pass		

Agica began with one no trump in order to later show an invitational hand with spade support. Nistor didn't think his hand deserved a slam invitation and closed proceedings with four spades. He made all 13 tricks. The bidding in the other room was very different...

West	North	East	South
<i>Ferro</i>	<i>Drijver</i>	<i>Scanavino</i>	<i>Wackwitz</i>
		1♠	Pass
3♣ <sup>1</sup>	Pass	3♦ <sup>2</sup>	Pass
4♣ <sup>3</sup>	Pass	4♥ <sup>4</sup>	Pass
4NT <sup>5</sup>	Pass	5♦ <sup>6</sup>	Pass
5♥ <sup>7</sup>	Pass	6♥ <sup>8</sup>	Pass
7♠	Pass	Pass	Pass

1. 3 or 4 spades and an invitational hand
2. Game force
3. Club shortage
4. Heart control, denies diamond control
5. RKCB
6. 3 Key Cards
7. Asks for the trump queen
8. I have it and the king doubleton or king-queen third of hearts.

Once Scanavino confirmed they were going to play game, Ferro began slam exploration. First he informed partner about the club shortage, and when he saw four hearts, he knew that his partner didn't have club wastage, and that he had heart control but no diamond control. Ferro continued by asking about key cards, promising diamond control. The three-key-card answer was evidently the ace-king of spades and the ace of clubs, so he continued by asking for the queen of spades, telling his partner they had all five key cards. Scanavino confirmed the spade queen and third-round heart control (he had already promised the king). Now Ferro could count to 13 and contracted for the grand slam, not concerned about their combined 25 HP. A jewel.

The lead was a trump; declarer only had to draw trumps and play on hearts...for a well-deserved 1510.

#### Shortlist:

Diego Brenner/Agustin Madala (Ana Roth/Fernando Lema, 561.10)

George Jacobs (Brent Manley, 568.5)

Marion Michielsen/Laura Dekkers (Roland Wald, 568.13)

Gary & Daffyd Jones (Patrick Jourdain, 570.6)

# YEH BROS 2013 BEST BID HAND OF THE YEAR



**Peter Bertheau (SWE)**  
Journalist: Micke Melander (SWE)

From IBPA Bulletin 572.14

<sup>th</sup>  
**14 WORLD BRIDGE GAMES LILLE FRANCE 2012**

Micke Melander, Stockholm

Board 22.

Dealer East. EW Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Zmudzinski	Ahlesved	Balicki	Petersson
		1♥	3♣1
4♠2	Pass	4NT	Pass
5♣	Pass	5♥	Pass
6♥	6♠	Double	Pass
Pass	Pass		

1. Spades and diamonds
2. Exclusion Key Card Blackwood (or a Splinter Bid)

Here, Zmudzinski and Balicki weren't speaking the same language. Four spades for Zmudzinski was Exclusion Key Card Blackwood, but for Balicki it was just a splinter. From there on the bidding went out of control and the Poles took the money when Ahlesved finally sacrificed against six hearts.

West	North	East	South
Bertheau	Narkiewicz	Cullin	Buras
		2♥	4♦1
4♥	5♠	Pass	Pass
6♥	6♠	Pass	Pass
7♥	Double	Pass	Pass
Pass			

## 1. Diamonds and spades

In the Open Room, Bertheau set a trap for Narkiewicz when he knew that the other side probably had a huge fit in spades. First he tried to buy the hand in four hearts and when they bid five spades, he gave the impression of sacrificing in six hearts. Then, after six spades, he finally bid seven hearts, which he was certain would have a play whatever partner's holding in clubs. Mamma Mia, it was laydown when East was declarer and North couldn't give partner a ruff to beat the contract. Plus 100 to the Poles in the Closed Room wasn't much to deliver when it was time to compare the scores and the Swedes at the other table had plus 2470! Twenty IMPs to Sweden and one of the highest scores in this championship.

Shortlist:

Bauke MullerSimon de Wijs (Mark Horton, 572.9), Peter Fredin (Shane Blanchard, 574.6), Giorgio DuboinAntonio Sementa (John Carruthers, 574.8), Andy Bowles (Paul Lamford, 574.14), SumampouwAndhani (Mark Horton, 582.13)

## YEH BROS. 2014 BEST BID DEAL OF THE YEAR



**Winner:** Michel and Thomas Bessis (France)

**Article:** "La Onzième Heure"

**Journalist:** Philippe Cronier (France)

**Source:** IBPA Bulletin 595, August 2014, p. 5



### La Onzième Heure

The expression in the title is little-used in French, but is appropriate in the following context. You might note that Michel and Thomas Bessis not only arrived in the correct contract at the very last moment, they did so in 11 bids!

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

West	North	East	South
Michel		Thomas	
Bessis		Bessis	
		2♣	Pass
2♦	Pass	2NT <sub>1</sub>	Pass
3♦ <sub>2</sub>	Pass	3♥ <sub>3</sub>	Pass
3♠ <sub>4</sub>	Pass	3NT <sub>5</sub>	Pass
4♣ <sub>6</sub>	Pass	4♠ <sub>7</sub>	Pass
5♣ <sub>8</sub>	Pass	7♦!	All Pass

1. 23-24
2. Hearts
3. Three-card heart support
4. Slam try with unspecified singleton
5. Asks location of singleton
6. Club singleton
7. Key card ask
8. One key card

Thomas knew his partner didn't have four spades and five hearts as he would have used Stayman, so Michel had to have either six hearts or 3=5=4=1 (or both). So, a grand slam facing even three low diamonds was no worse than 52% and strongly rated to be much better than that ... and Michel could have bid seven hearts with, for example, ♠KQx ♥AJxxxx ♦xxx ♣x 'knowing' that Thomas had to have the heart king-queen.

#### Other Shortlisted Candidates:

David Berkowitz & Alan Sontag (USA) in "Caught at the Wire" by Katie Thorpe (Canada), 2013 Transnational Teams Quarterfinal, IBPA Bulletin 585.17

Mike Bell & Michael Byrne (GBRland) in "Tribal Calls" by Paul Lamford,

2013 Lederer Memorial, IBPA Bulletin 587.2

Josh Donn & Adam Kaplan (USA) in "Grand Bidding" by Sue Munday (USA),

Blue Ribbon Pairs 1st Semifinal, Phoenix NABC, IBPA Bulletin 589.10

Diego Brenner (Brazil) & Carlos Pellegrini (Argentina) in "Blog Trotter" by Quentin Robert (France), NABC Swiss Teams, Phoenix NABC, IBPA Bulletin 591.16

Jan Jansma (Netherlands) in "Elementary, My Dear Watson" by Toine van Hoof (Netherlands), Rotterdam's Lombard Bridge Club IMP Competition, IBPA Bulletin 593.21

## THE BEST ARTICLE OR SERIES ON A SYSTEM OR CONVENTION

### THE 1973 PRECISION AWARD



**Charles H. Goren (USA)**

Best article on a system or convention to Charles H. Goren, Miami, for his article in *Popular Bridge Magazine* on defense against the strong artificial opening bid One club. No article.

### THE 1974 PRECISION AWARD



**Eric Kokish (CAN)**

Canada's young international player, Eric Kokish, has won the IBPA's 'Precision' Award for the best article or series on a system or convention. His winning article was published in the August 1974 issue of 'The Bridge World' and is reproduced below.

Mr Kokish may feel especially pleased because the Award – endowed by Mr C. C. Wei – was handled by two of the keenest judges of modern bidding methods, Ron Klinger, the editor of the 'Australian Bridge', and Jeff Rubens, co-editor of 'The Bridge World'. Before declaring Mr Kokish the winner with 48 marks, the two judges studied no fewer than 46 articles published in 13 magazines during 1974, a feat for which they themselves undoubtedly deserve an award also.

Honourably mentioned were: 'The Imprecision 2♣ Opening', by Richard Granville and A. Putley ('Bridge Magazine', July 1974, 45 marks); 'Advance Through Delay', by D. Franck ('Australian Bridge', June 1974, 42 marks); and 'Extended Blue Club Design', by Max Sapire ('Bridge Magazine', November 1974 *et seq.*, also in 'Australian Bridge Institute Papers', 40 marks).

"I am very happy about the order of merit," says Ron Klinger, "on the principle of the greatest happiness for the greatest number. Mr Kokish's suggestion

can be adapted to most natural systems. The Granville/Putley article was, to my mind, an important development for Precision. Mr Franck's article deals with a narrow area of bidding, while Mr Sapire's would have a strictly limited appeal."

### The Montreal Relay

By Eric Kokish, *Montreal*

Several years ago, a bridge idea was born in Canada's greatest city. With due apologies to offended countrymen, I'll call it the Montreal Relay because that's where it comes from, and that's what it does.

The Montreal Relay is a simple concept, which can be applied to most natural systems and some artificial ones. It is designed to make the flow of constructive bidding smoother and at the same time solve some of the problems that develop when competition forces the opening bidder to make a decision at an uncomfortable level.

The Montreal Relay is a response of one diamond to partner's one club opening bid, certainly not too difficult to remember. To get full value from the relay, the partnership should have certain basic agreements that fall under the heading of "style." First, the partnership should tend to open one diamond with four diamonds and four or five clubs. Second, the partnership should raise freely with three-card trump support for a major-suit response to an opening bid. Third, the partnership should be prepared to play negative doubles extensively. Most important of all, the partnership should agree that trump support should be offered as soon as the auction permits that is, hands with the strGBRth for one response should tend to raise if possible.

It is assumed that an opening bid of one club is natural (three or more) and nonforcing. When the responder chooses to keep the 'opening bid alive, he should respond in a major suit only if he welcomes a raise with three-card support. This implies a five card or longer suit, but a chunky four bagger should often be introduced (this leaves the responder room for judgment). Without a suitable major suit to mention, responder has the option of responding one notrump (a good 8 to 11 Rep), which denies a four-card major; or two not rump (forcing, 12-14, or 17-19 if followed by four notrump), which does not deny a four-card major since opener may check back with three clubs for a major fit; three notrump (15-16, 4-3-3-3 distribution); or the Montreal Relay one diamond, which is really a waiting type of response, carrying only the

message that responder has enough to respond and probably does not have a five-card major (unless he also has six diamonds and a very good hand).

What is the point behind all this! The most obvious advantage is being able to raise safely in competitive situations when the response *has* been in a major suit. There is a very fine line between courage and folly. It is well and good to say "we raise with three trumps and take our chances." but a series of hands where one must take nine tricks with x-x-x-x opposite K-x-x in the trump suit can be a chastening experience. The best 4-3 fits are characterized by good trumps, and the rest are best avoided if possible. When a Relay player chooses to respond in a major with K-Q-10-x, he has some reason to welcome a raise; and he has this option as part of the system. He is not a robot who must bid his suits up the line regardless of quality, I am aware that many players would respond one diamond to one club with

♠ J x x x ♥ x x x ♦ x x x ♣ A x

(or even with the minors reversed), hoping for a major response. Their partners, however, will not hesitate to raise diamonds competitively if necessary. Accordingly there is a risk involved, and no good player takes more risks than he has to.

Another immediately visible benefit occurs in uncontested auctions. Say you open one club with

♠ A x x ♥ A Q x ♦ x ♣ A Q x x x x.

Partner responds one heart. There really is no good bid. Three clubs overstates the suit and understates the support: two clubs is not a bid; two hearts is a gross underbid: three hearts may catch partner with x-x-x-x in hearts: two spades is far too much. With partner known to have five hearts, or K-J-10-x at worst, the only problem now is three hearts or a more aggressive action. And this type of hand happens more often than you would care to believe.

An advantage not so readily apparent occurs when a standard bidder responds one heart on a bad suit and a weakish hand: then partner with some hand like

♠ A x x x ♥ K x x x ♦ x ♣ A Q x x

bids three hearts (admittedly at the bottom of his range) and you struggle to get out for down one. Relay players bid one diamond, and when opener rebids one heart may raise to two hearts without getting too high.

Certain inferences become available to Relay players: The auction one club-one diamond-one heart-two clubs is not a strained preference. With only one bid to make, responder would raise to two clubs immediately. Since he might, however, have been interested in trying for a spade fit, he could respond one diamond with the intention of bidding one spade over one heart. When he doesn't bid spades, it is apparent that he was worth more than one forward move. Therefore, this sequence shows extra values, about

10-11 points. This leave one club-one diamond-one heart-three clubs *forcing*, eliminating a potentially dangerous use of fourth-suit forcing (i.e. playing a generally limit-oriented style, one might have to re bid one spade over one heart, preparatory to raising clubs, in order to force, since one club-one diamond-one heart-three clubs would not be forcing but simply encouraging). It is best to be able to eliminate awkward auctions whenever possible, and it is through the vehicle of the relay that we can eliminate this particular one.

In order to reduce the occasions when a diamond partial is missed, opener should not suppress his diamonds; he should frequently open one diamond with 4-5 in the minors in order to have a rebid over a major-suit response. It is important to remember that since the diamond response may be made on such a hand as

♠ Q x x x ♥ K x x x ♦ x ♣ Q x x x,

opener cannot raise this response merely because he has four-card support. If he does choose to open one club on 4-5 hands, he must be able to rebid two clubs or one notrump over a potential one-diamond response. With 4-6, he must rebid his clubs. It is in these situations that the artificial diamond response creates distortions, but these distortions always leave a fluid, undisturbed auction and present us with certain new opportunities.

In our style, a jump rebid in a minor shows a very good suit with about a king more than- a minimum, nonforcing. Standard systems will tolerate slightly more in the way of high cards. What do standard bidders rebids with *this* type of hand over a one-diamond response?

♠ A Q x ♥ x ♦ A Q x ♣ A Q J x x x

Three clubs is an underbid, two spades extremely dangerous, and three diamonds no better. Relay players can bid only two diamonds, the same bid than one would make over one heart (disregarding the risky three-notrump rebid with the potential heart rebid to follow). This innocent, space-saving bid is a "reverse", although it may not sound like one. If one forces a partner who may have a few diamonds to the three-level to take a preference to clubs, one must have a good hand. Partner can now bid a major-suit stopper, show *real* diamonds by bidding them, take a forcing preference to three clubs, bid two notrump to show weakness and force a three-club rebid from opener, or jump to three notrump to show about 11-12 HCP with secondary cards and no good fit. This type of situation, with its accompanying treatments, can be very useful rather than very difficult. The reverse to two diamonds, remember, always shows at least five clubs; and as such can be used to show all good club hands, with or without secondary diamonds.

The reason the partnership must use negative doubles so extensively is that good opponents will

compete over the relay, hoping to shut out the forthcoming major fit. Our own style is to use a double by opener for penalties when fourth hand interferes, and a double by responder for takeout. This extends to cases where overcaller's partner raises. Since responder may have to bid at the three-level at his second turn against aggressive opponents, he should be prepared to respond on reasonable four-card major suits when there is some danger of being unable to compete later. Again, the system is designed to encourage good judgment, not suppress it.

In my bridge odyssey I have only encountered one other pair outside the Montreal area who play anything like this. They were from the deep South. It's surprising to me that something so simple and yet so sound has been disregarded by so many great theoreticians. \* The Montreal Relay is used only in this one situation and replaces one natural bid only, while throwing open a world full of new possibilities. You'll be amazed at the indirect advantages that seem to fit in with this type of approach, and you may even discover your own version, like the Winnipeg Waiting Bid, or the Pottstown Pause . . . or ...

## THE 1975 PRECISION AWARD



**George Rosenkranz (MEX)**

Mexico's Jorge Rosenkranz won the Precision Award for best article on a system or convention for his 'CONFI' pieces in 'Bridge World', which are reproduced below. With Jorge called home on business, IBPA's plaque was charmingly accepted by his wife Edith, a member of Mexico's ladies team, at the hands of Terence Reese, a previous winner of the award founded by C.C. Wei.

### CONFI

By Dr. George Rosenkranz, *Mexico City*

In "More Slams on Fewer Points" (April 1964 BRIDGE WORLD), I challenge readers to bid slam intelligently on hands of this sort:

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

Both hands are balanced, and the standard requirement for slam under these conditions (33 HCP) is not nearly met; yet six clubs is an excellent contract. At that time I suggested a method called CATCH, which was useful for reaching suit-fit slams with fewer than 33 HCP. In brief, CATCH allowed the responder to a limited, balanced opening bid to make a series of asking bids, until he had enough information to name the final contract. Even though more than 10 years of statistics showed that CATCH was superior to other available methods, I was not fully satisfied with its operation: it was complicated; it required a lot of room (and thus used a valuable low response); it was relatively ineffective when responder had a five-card suit; there were only the weakest negative inferences from failure to use it.

Most significant, the basic CATCH requirement of 31 HCP turned out not to be an adequate standard for measuring slam prospects. The total number of controls seemed more important to success. If the partnership is missing as many as three controls, it is unlikely that any slam will be significantly better than a 50% chance.

♠ If an ace and a king are missing, declarer will usually need at least a finesse against the missing king. If three kings are missing, declarer often needs at least two out of three finesses (a 50% chance).-G.R.♥

When I readjusted CATCH to bring controls into the picture, several good things happened; and I found I had a new and far superior convention. The convention that arose out of the ashes of CATCH I call "CONFI," an acronym that summarizes the conventional procedures. The partner of the player who showed a balanced hand first asks about controls. Then, if the information received is satisfactory, he investigates for a suit fit. Controls are shown according to a simple step scheme (the more controls, the higher the bid) and the search for a fit is "natural" (each player bids the suits he has). So the mechanics of CONFI are simple compared to other artificial conventions. Finally, CONFI retains the important quality of being independent of range. It can be used effectively whenever either partner makes a limit bid showing a balanced hand with a restricted RCP total.

I call a hand pseudo-balanced if it is distributed 4-3-3-3, 4-4-3-2, 5-3-3-2 or 5-4-2-2. When one partner shows a limited balanced hand, the other should use CONFI when he has a pseudo-balanced hand of such strength that a small slam based on an eight-card (or longer) trump fit may be the best contract, either as a safer alternative to six notrump when the combined total is 33 or more RCP, or as the only playable slam when the combined total is just under 33 RCP. Assuming that the potential CONFI bidder's hand is relatively rich in controls (he should not be thinking in terms of a suit slam otherwise), the approximate re-

quirement for CONFI is that the partnership has at least as many as 31-32 RCP. This requirement should be raised when responder has 4-3-3-3 distribution, but may be lowered when responder has 5-4-2-2 and strGBRth concentrated in his long suits.

The bid used as CONFI can be determined only after reference to the rest of your bidding system. The simplest procedure is to take the lowest bid that is otherwise inessential to your bidding structure, and use it as CONFI. Consider, for example, the use of CONFI after a natural opening bid of one notrump (any range).

If your current bidding methods are very simple, you may have two diamonds available for CONFI; many pairs have two notrump as an inessential response; if you use a relatively complicated responding system based on two-way Stayman or Jacoby transfer-bids, you may not find an open space until well into the three-level. Obviously, CONFI works the better the lower the response assigned to it (so would just about any convention), but, pleasantly, the effectiveness of CONFI does not seem to be substantially cut even if the original CONFI response is as high as, say, three hearts or three spades.

Here is how that original deal would be bid with 16-18 notrump and two notrump as CONFI:

West	East
♠ K Q 7 5	♠ A J
♥ A K	♥ J 8 4 3
♦ K 6 2	♦ A 8 4
♣ 7 5 3	♣ K J 10 2
East	West
1NT	2NT
3♦ <sup>1</sup>	4♣ <sup>2</sup>
5♣ <sup>3</sup>	6♣
Pass	

1. I have 5 controls.
2. We have 10 controls or more; this is my cheapest biddable suit.
3. I have four clubs with one high honor.

#### *Development of the Auction*

In what follows, assume for discussion purposes that it is opener who has shown a balanced hand (by opening one notrump or two notrump, for example) and responder who uses CONFI. Assume also that a scale of control-showing responses has been established in such a way that the cheapest control-showing bid (a one-step bid) shows up to a certain number of controls, with each succeeding bid showing one additional control, and that the scale has been adjusted so as to be optimal for the HCP range shown by the player with the balanced hand. We saw how to construct such a

scale in a previous article ("Controls in Balanced Hands," December 1974 BRIDGE WORLD).

After opener has shown his controls (CON), responder determines whether the partnership has 10 or more controls. (If opener makes the ambiguous lowest response, responder assumes temporarily that opener has the maximum number of controls in his indicated control range.) If the total is under 10, responder signs off by passing if opener's bid is a notrump game, or by bidding the cheapest notrump game.

If the control total is 10 or more, responder continues the slam hunt by searching for a suit fit (FI). He does this by bidding the strain of a biddable suit (defined in CONFI as four or more cards headed by at least one of the top three honors), and he makes the cheapest appropriate bid. If responder has no biddable suit he must have enough strGBRth to make a quantitative notrump slam invitation in order to use CONFI (since he is not interested in a suit slam unless opener can propose a suit), and he shows this by jumping in notrump. (Opener, if continuing, may suggest a suit contract.) If opener's holding does not produce an eight-card or greater fit in responder's suit, he may show a biddable suit of his own, always obeying the show-the-cheapest rule.

The bidding proceeds in this fashion until either (a) a fit is found, or (b) it is discovered that there is no suitable trump fit. If a fit is found, the player who learns about the fit raises his partner's suit. In order to help check on trump strGBRth (and avoid a slam with a weak combined trump holding), if room permits, a single raise shows one of the top three trump honors, while a double raise shows two of the top three trump honors. If the prospective raiser has no top trump honor, he should treat his holding as one card shorter than it really is, and not raise.

If either player determines that there is no suitable fit, or if that player cannot show further suit IGBRth, he makes the cheapest notrump bid (responder may jump in notrump as a quantitative invitation to six notrump). When showing suit IGBRths, the following rules apply: Neither player shows a suit unless an eight-card fit is possible in that suit. A rebid of a suit shows a five-card suit. A bid in a suit the player previously has "denied" shows a three-card suit (headed by a high honor) or an unbiddable four-card suit.

Here are a few examples of CONFI auctions. For purposes of these examples, I assume that a two-notrump opening shows 21-22 RCP, and that a three-spade response is CONFI. (This is the cheapest available bid in many methods. A majority of experts use three clubs as Stayman and three of a red suit as a Jacoby transfer after a two-notrump opening. A three-spade response is sometimes used to show a minor two-suiter, but this is of low frequency compared to CONFI; other bids are available for minor-suit hands.)

As we saw previously, the optimal control-showing scale for 21-22 RCP is: one step, 6 or fewer controls; two steps, 7 controls; three steps, 8 controls; etc. Let us consider possible sequences with these seven responding hands:

♠ K 10 x x ♥ A x ♦ Q J x x ♣ x x x

OPENER	RESPONDER
2NT	3♠
3NT <sup>1</sup>	Pass <sup>2</sup>

1. 6 or fewer controls.
2. We lack 10 combined controls.

♠ K 10 x x ♥ A x ♦ K 10 x x ♣ x x x

OPENER	RESPONDER
2NT	3♠
3NT <sup>1</sup>	4♦ <sup>2</sup>
4NT <sup>3</sup>	Pass <sup>4</sup>

1. 6 or fewer controls.
2. If you have 6 controls we have at least 10. I have biddable diamonds but not biddable clubs.
3. I don't have 6 controls (or, less likely, I have no suit to show).
4. Sorry

♠ K 10 x x x ♥ K x x x ♦ K Q ♣ x x

OPENER	RESPONDER
2NT	3♠
4♣ <sup>1</sup>	4♥ <sup>2</sup>
5♣ <sup>3</sup>	5♠ <sup>4</sup>
Whatever <sup>5</sup>	

1. 7 controls.
2. I have biddable hearts but not biddable diamonds, and we have at least 10 controls.
3. I have biddable clubs but not biddable spades.
4. Since I know you don't have four spades, I'm showing five (I have, therefore, 5-4-2-2).
5. This looks to me like the best contract.

♠ K 10 x x ♥ K x x x ♦ K Q ♣ x x

OPENER	RESPONDER
2NT	3♠
4♣ <sup>1</sup>	4♥ <sup>2</sup>
5♥ <sup>3</sup>	or
6♥ <sup>4</sup>	

1. 7 controls.
2. We're OK for controls; I have biddable hearts but not biddable diamonds.

3. I have four hearts, but only one top honor.
4. I have four hearts with two top honors.

♠ K 10 x ♥ K x x x x ♦ K J 10 ♣ x x

OPENER	RESPONDER
2NT	3♠
4♣ <sup>1</sup>	4♥ <sup>2</sup>
5♣ <sup>3</sup>	5♥ <sup>4</sup>
5NT <sup>5</sup>	

1. 7 controls.
2. Controls OK; my hearts are biddable, but not my diamonds.
3. How about clubs?
4. No club fit, but I do have five hearts.
5. That's not enough.

♠ Q 10 x x x ♥ K x ♦ K Q 10 x ♣ J x

OPENER	RESPONDER
2NT	3♠
4♣ <sup>1</sup>	4NT <sup>2</sup>
Pass <sup>3</sup>	

1. 7 controls.
2. That's not enough – I hoped you could show 8 or 9.
3. You're the boss.

♠ Q x x ♥ K J 9 x ♦ 10 x ♣ J x x

OPENER	RESPONDER
2NT	3♠
4♣ <sup>1</sup>	4♥ <sup>2</sup>
4♠ or 4NT <sup>3</sup>	5NT <sup>4</sup>

1. 7 controls.
2. What about hearts?
3. No heart fit; either we may have a spade fit, or I've discovered that we can't have a 4-4 suit fit.
4. Even though we have no suit fit, bid six notrump if you have a maximum.

## SUPERCONFI

By Dr. George Rosenkranz, *Mexico City*

In the previous article I described the CONFI (for controls, fit) convention for scientific bidding of pseudo-balanced hands (4-3-3-3, 4-4-3-2, 5-3-3-2 or 5-4-2-2 suit distribution) in the small-slam or possible small-slam range opposite a limited balanced hand. Although they arise much less frequently, pseudo-balanced hands in the grand slam or possible grand slam range should be considered also. Most bridge texts give either no method of bidding these hands, or a method so ambiguous as to be valueless. Through

conversation, I have learned that those experts who have considered the matter use a freakish jump raise to five notrump, for example

OPENER	RESPONDER
1NT	5NT

as a quantitative invitation to seven notrump (forcing to six notrump). The partnership retains some room for suit-fit probing in this method, but not enough for any true scientific investigation. Also, opener accepts the invitation any time the partnership has the "magic" total of 37 HCP. No attention is paid to the possibility of a key king or queen being missing, which would often make the grand slam a poor gamble. About the best thing one can say for the five-notrump invitation to seven is that it is better than having nothing.

Pseudo-balanced hands in the grand-slam range are so rare that I would recommend to most partnerships that they avoid learning a new convention to deal with them alone. However, any partnership that has already learned CONFI will have no difficulty learning the not-very-different details of SUPERCONFI, an analogous convention that follows the CONFI pattern but is adjusted to grand-slam considerations.

The underlying theory of SUPERCONFI is as follows: (1) With no void or singleton in either hand, all 12 controls are almost essential to a good grand slam. It is possible to investigate grand slams with only 11 controls, but the method required is of a much higher order of complexity than CONFI. In fact, I choose not to use such a convention on the grounds that the frequency of applicability does not justify the amount of memorization required. (2) The queen of the trump suit (or any other key queen) is necessary to a good grand slam. (3) When the partnership is considering bidding seven, it has assets substantially above those normally required for six notrump, and under these circumstances six notrump is almost always the best small-slam contract, even if there is a 4-4 fit. (When there is a 4-4 fit, the chance of a bad trump break beating the slam is much greater than the chance that a ruff will be necessary on offense.) Keep these conditions in mind while you go over details of SUPER CONFI.

Each partnership must pick out the cheapest available bid for SUPERCONFI, in much the same manner it did for CONFI. It is not effective to use the same bid for both CONFI and SUPERCONFI. However, since the security level of a SUPERCONFI auction is six notrump, the method works adequately even if the original SUPERCONFI response is quite high (though not as high as, say, five notrump). Assuming for linguistic simplicity that opener shows a balanced hand, after the SUPERCONFI response opener shows his

controls using exactly the same scale as in CONFI (predetermined as a function of his known HCP range). If responder learns that a control is missing, he bids six notrump, a signoff. Six notrump is always responder's only sign off bid. Any lower bid encourages grand-slam possibilities, although perhaps only in a limited way.

It follows that if responder learns that the partnership does have all 12 controls, he starts the search for a fit by bidding a suit.

As in CONFI, responder shows the suit that corresponds to the lowest possible bid. Unlike CONFI, it is not necessary to have one of the top three honors in a suit in order to bid it. The mechanics of SUPERCONFI assure that a grand slam will not be bid if a high trump honor is missing.

If opener fits responder's suit, he either raises if lacking the queen of that suit; or, with the queen, cue-bids another queen (notrump with none) by making the cheapest "impossible" bid (that is, a bid that could not correspond to a suit IGBRth he wants to show -- this is sometimes a jump) in the suit of a queen. If opener does not fit responder's suit, he shows a suit of his own and the same bidding rules apply. If either partner learns that there is no fit, he jumps to six notrump to sign off, or: (a) if responder, he makes an otherwise-meaningless bid as a quantitative invitation to seven (opener, if tentatively accepting, should cuebid queens up-the-line); (b) if opener, he makes an "impossible" bid to show a maximum HCP total.

As in CONFI, if opener makes the ambiguous cheapest control response, he must next make the cheapest notrump bid unless he has the maximum number of controls for his first response.

This method may seem a bit strange at first, but after a few trial auctions you should find that it fits the CONFI mold with adjustments to suit grand-slam bidding. In the examples that follow, opener's two notrump shows 21-22 RCP, and the presumed responding system is:

3♣	Stayman (4♣/♦ rebid natural)
3♦/♥	Transfers
3♠	CONFI
3NT	Signoff
4♣	Gerber
4♦	SUPERCONFI
4♥/♠	Minor two-suiter; fragment (or splinter if you prefer) in bid suit

(I do not necessarily recommend this system. This particular example was picked because it shows how easily CONFI and SUPERCONFI can blend in with methods used by most experts.)

Let us consider possible sequences for some responding hands following a 21-22 HCP two-notrump

opening; recall that for 21-22 HCP, the control-showing scale is: one step, 3-6 controls; two steps, 7 controls; three steps, 8 controls, and so on. The four-diamond response is SUPERCONFI.

♠ x x x x ♥ A K ♦ K x ♣ A x x x x

OPENER	RESPONDER
2NT	4♦
4♥ <sup>1</sup>	4♠ <sup>2</sup>
4NT <sup>3</sup>	6NT <sup>4</sup>
Pass	

1. 6 or fewer controls.
2. If you have your maximum, 6 controls, we have all 12; I have a spade suit.
3. I don't have 6 controls. This interpretation always takes precedence over all others, but note it applies only after a minimum control-showing bid by opener.
4. This is as high as we belong.

♠ A J x x ♥ K Q x ♦ A J x ♣ 10 x x

OPENER	RESPONDER
2NT	4♦
4♠ <sup>1</sup>	4NT <sup>2</sup>
5♣ <sup>3</sup>	6NT <sup>4</sup>

1. 7 controls.
2. We have 12 controls; I have spades. (Responder, if not bidding six notrump, must show a suit. A simple notrump bid is best utilized to show the last-bid suit.)
3. I have clubs.
4. We have no suit fit; I don't think we belong in seven.

♠ K x ♥ K x x ♦ A 10 x x ♣ K J x x

OPENER	RESPONDER
2NT	4♦
4♠ <sup>1</sup>	5♣ <sup>2</sup>
6♦ <sup>3</sup>	7♣ <sup>4</sup>
Pass	

1. 7 controls.
2. We have 12 controls; I have a club suit but no spade suit.
3. Club fit; club queen; diamond queen.
4. We'll be unlucky not to make it.

♠ A Q ♥ x x ♦ K x x x ♣ A J x x x

OPENER	RESPONDER
2NT	4♦
4♠ <sup>1</sup>	5♣ <sup>2</sup>
5♦ <sup>3</sup>	6♦ <sup>4</sup>
6NT <sup>5</sup>	Pass

1. 7 controls.
2. OK on controls in clubs but no spades.
3. No club fit; I have a diamond suit.
4. I have four-card diamond support, but I don't have the queen of diamonds.
5. Since neither of us has the diamond queen, a grand slam has to be a poor proposition. If opener had the diamond queen plus a major suit queen, he could cue-bid six hearts or six spades; with both minor-suit queens, he could simply bid seven diamonds, since he knows that the club queen is the key one for a grand slam.

♠ A x x x ♥ A Q ♦ x x x x ♣ A x x

OPENER	RESPONDER
2NT	4♦
4♥ <sup>1</sup>	4♠ <sup>2</sup>
5NT <sup>3</sup>	6NT <sup>4</sup>
Pass	

1. 6 or fewer controls.
2. If you have 6 controls, we have all 12; and I have a spade suit.
3. I do indeed have 6 controls; I have a spade fit, including the spade queen but no other queen.
4. Rats.

Obviously, CONFI and SUPERCONFI are not methods for your local rubber bridge club. They require close partnership cooperation, adequate memory, and, in particular, advance preparation. In order to use CONFI/SUPERCONFI, you must not only determine the optimal control-showing responses for the HCP ranges in your method, but also must fit the bids into your already-established methods at the lowest possible level. This may involve juggling your system around a bit, but I think you will find it a worthwhile adjustment.

There is a hidden factor that makes any necessary realignment more manageable than it might otherwise appear. When CONFI/SUPERCONFI are used, "responder" (the potential CONFI bidder) is significantly restricted in the type of hands he can have when he makes a different slam try. A one-suiter must be based on a suit of at least six cards. A two-suiter must include a singleton or void. (So, for example, you can afford to use singleton-asking bids in certain situations

without fear that the bidding will get out of hand, because the responses need not take into account the possibility of no short suit.) Other negative inferences may be available, depending on the rest of your responding method.

After the initial strangeness has worn off, you will find that the CONFI conventions are not particularly hard to remember. To be sure, it is possible to complexity both CONFI and SUPERCONFI in order to achieve greater accuracy. (I use the form described in these articles because I believe there is a point of diminishing returns in the complexification of any artificial convention.) I doubt you will be attracted to such a procedure. The simple form is fun, effective, and, I venture to guess, superior to however you are now bidding quasi-balanced hands that have slam prospects.

### THE 1976 PRECISION AWARD



Jeff Rubens (USA)

In the 1976 December issue of *The Bridge World* Jeff Rubens published his article about new transfer implementations.

There was very close voting for this Award and honourable mentions go to the following entries: 'Putting Three Diamonds to Work', by Terence Reese; 'Using Two Hearts and Two Diamonds as two-way opening bids', by Alan Sontag; and 'Introducing the Sliver', by George Rosenkranz.

### Three-Level Transfer Responses

By Jeff Rubens, *New York*

In 1964 I was intrigued by the relay system used by Rene Bacherich and Claude Deruy in the world Olympiad. They used relay and transfer responses: a relay—a one-step nondescriptive bid requesting information; a transfer—a higher bid showing IGBRth in the next-highest-ranking suit. Since then I have studied possible new uses of transfer bids, and have found many situations in which they gain, including:

- a) after a notrump rebid by opener;
- b) two-level jump responses to an opening bid;
- c) two-level responses by a passed hand;
- d) two-level responses over a takeout double;

- e) very high (e.g., double jump) responses to an opening bid;
- f) three-level single-jump responses to an opening bid.

Here, I discuss the last case. It is in this area that transfers show the clearest (though not necessarily the greatest) gain over currently standard methods, require the least displacement of other bidding machinery, and depend least on the particular system used.

### Strong Jump Responses

The standard single-jump new-suit response to an opening suit one-bid, strGBRth-showing, is sometimes called a "jump shift," or a "forcing takeout," but for uniformity of terminology, we will call it a strong jump response (SJR). The traditional minimum requirement for an SJR was 19 HCP, or the equivalent based on support or playing strGBRth. Nowadays, most experts use an SJR minimum of 16 or 17 points, however counted, if the values are slam-suitable.

There is seldom room for responder to describe a two-suited hand after an SJR; indeed, it is often difficult for him to show a second suit at all. Accordingly, the more sensible bidders decree that an SJR should be based on one of three hand types: (a) support for partner with a strong side suit; (b) one-suiter with a very strong long suit; (c) good suit in a balanced or near-balanced hand suitable for a notrump rebid.

Even when restricted, an SJR, particularly when made at the three level, often crowds the auction. Suppose you open one heart with

♠ J x x ♥ K Q 10 x x ♦ Q x x ♣ A J,

partner jumps to three diamonds, you rebid three hearts or four diamonds depending on system, and partner bids four hearts. You have a minimum opening, but you have four important cards—the heart king-queen, diamond queen, club ace. If responder has

♠ K x ♥ A J x ♦ A K J 10 x x ♣ x x,

you are cold for six notrump from his side, and other slam contracts are also desirable. Unfortunately, partner may have jump-shifted with something like

♠ x x x ♥ A J x ♦ A K J 10 x ♣ K Q,

in which case if you steer the partnership to any contract above four hearts you are in trouble.

Obviously, it would have been nice if partner's supporting bid could have come at the three-level. You would show slam interest and a specific control with a cue-bid of four clubs. Partner would sign off with the second hand, but would get the partnership started towards the right spot with the first hand. My suggestion:

OPENER	RESPONDER
1♥	3♣(=♦)
3♦	3♥

The general principle is this: where a three-level suit bid would be an SJR in standard methods, the bid one under substitutes for it. Thus, after a major suit opening, these bids are transfers:

OPENER	RESPONDER
1♠	2NT (=♣)
1♠	3♣ (=♦)
1♠	3♦ (=♥)
1♥	2NT (=♣)
1♥	3♣ (=♦)

\* It is feasible and desirable to use a two-notrump response to one diamond as a transfer to clubs. This is omitted for the sake of simplicity.

#### Further Bidding

A transfer jump response (TJR) used as an SJR does not need a complicated bidding structure. The simplistic method in which opener always accepts the transfer (by making the cheapest bid) to let responder finish the description of his hand is quite sensible. Responder bids three notrump, or supports opener's suit, or rebids his own suit. Bids in the two "off suits" can be used as one pleases: ace-showing cue-bids, fragment bids, splinters, and asking-bids, whatever. My own preference is to use the cheapest such bid under three notrump to show a solid suit. Thus,

OPENER	RESPONDER
1♠	3♣(=♦)
3♦	3♥

shows a solid diamond suit (you cannot show a solid heart suit, but the need to do so is not great). It's nice for responder to be able to show a solid suit below three notrump, since five of a minor may be in jeopardy in spite of the strGBRth of the responding hand.

#### Forcing Raises

Any transfer method gives up a low bid (here, two notrump) to make way for the transfers, and gets back a high bid (here, the bid one-below a double major raise) in return. In this case, the retrieved high bid can be put to good use as an additional forcing raise. The most common expert method of giving direct major-suit raises with good support is: moderately weak single raise (6 to 9); limit jump raise (10-11); artificial forcing raise, three notrump with no short suit or a double-jump shift splinter bid in a singleton or void (12 to 16 or 17, a range too wide for comfort).

Using transfers, here is an improved method so simple even your partner will remember it. Preserve three notrump and the splinter bids, but specify that these show "strong" (15-17) forcing raises. With 12-14, make the bid one below the double raise (one spade-three hearts, one heart-three diamonds). Opener can bid four of the major if not interested in slam, or three of the major to find your short suit, if any (you bid three notrump or your splinter). For perfectionists, if opener wants to send some specific message (where he needs help; asking-bid; void; whatever), he bids something else.

#### The Price

Before you rush to revise your convention card, however, remember that every method has its price; study possible losses as well as gains. There are at least three ways in which the use of TJR could lead to a loss:

- (1) Making opener declarer at a contract in responder's suit, or making responder declarer at notrump;
- (2) Making it easier for the opponents to enter the auction;
- (3) Losing the use of a two-no trump response for some other purpose.

(1) Making opener declarer when responder's suit becomes trump rarely leads to a loss-in fact, it more often leads to a gain. Making responder declarer at notrump (when he bids two notrump with clubs) is a greater evil, but it is significant only when responder has the one-suiter type, and then only when he has clubs, and usually only when the contract winds up at game in notrump (because slam can almost always be played as well in responder's suit, with opener declarer), and even then only when there is a significant positional situation. And still the contract may not be defeated (since the partnership has extra strGBRth). This defect is small.

(2) The use of transfers virtually always makes it easier for the opponents to act: through lowering the level, increasing options, or providing a bid that can be doubled safely. The third category applies here; the opponents may be able to find a good sacrifice by doubling the transfer suit.

Against this, however, must be placed the increased bidding flexibility of the opening side when defensive action intrudes. Also, the opponents do not always find a sacrifice after doubling the transfer. Then, the opening side gets the benefit of the double in the play as well as the bidding. So, the opponents cannot enter the auction without trepidation.

I would evaluate this defect as moderate, largely because I prefer the opponents to keep out of my

auctions. Others may see the threat of enemy action as less serious.

(3) A majority of experts use a two notrump response to a major-suit opening bid to show a balanced hand, about 13-15 HCP, and a stopper in each unbid suit; a few cleverly use it as a two-way action: 13-15 or (say) 18 or more HCP. Although many would consider the loss of this bid the most serious drawback of TJR, to me it is virtually no loss at all because I have not used this two-notrump response by choice for about 15 years (in other words, since long before thinking about transfers). Hands for which the standard two-notrump response is truly appropriate occur very infrequently. Even when you do hold an ideal hand for it, the response may work badly through denying opener the room to complete the description of his hand pattern. And even when an ideal standard response would give opener no problem, a sequence beginning with a new-suit response will often cope just about as well.

#### Weak Jump Responses

A weak jump response (WJR) is a single jump in a new suit, showing bare minimum high-card values for a response but substantial playing strGBRth if the suit shown becomes trump. WJR's are little played, even though they enjoyed a limited following when the Roth-Stone system first became popular. Three-level WJR's, which have substantially less utility than two-level WJR's, are more unpopular still; even originator Al Roth has forsaken them.

Nonetheless, three-level WJR's do have some usefulness. And if TJR's are used, it is feasible to have a three-level TJR show either an SJR or a WJR!

It should come as no surprise that a transfer can profitably be used as a two-way action. Most transfers gain their value through the multiple meanings; the transfer is forcing, guaranteeing the transferor another chance to bid, and thus to describe his hand further.

For a transfer response to one notrump, a wide range of meanings is possible because of the limited opening bid; opener will not do anything to prevent responder from completing his message, and interference is not likely to prove disruptive, since responder is the "captain" of the partnership. A TJR could not profitably be given such a broad spectrum of meanings because opener's hand is not closely limited. But it is possible to use both the WJR and SJR meanings because the two hand types represented are so different in strGBRth that there should be virtually zero difficulty in distinguishing between them.

Since the WJR shows a weak hand, opener will not often try for game. And since the WJR suggests a playable contract, opener will usually complete the transfer. Responder will Pass with a WJR, or bid again with an SJR (as described earlier).

#### Requirements for the WJR

From the viewpoint of theory, whatever requirements you set for the WJR should be in the weakest zone possible. This will give you maximum distinction from the SJR and minimize the chance that opener will complicate the auction. Furthermore, the WJR should show a hand so weak that responder will not be anxious to take further action uninvited (following an enemy overcall, for example), because such action will show an SJR.

I do not believe it is profitable to make a three-level WJR on a hand lacking normal responding requirements. In early Roth-Stone, if partner opened one spade you socked it to the opponents by jumping to three diamonds with, say,

♠ x ♥ x x ♦ J x x x x x ♣ J x x

It is hard for a bidding structure to take a hand this weak into account. Furthermore, the fact that you must reach the three-level makes a plus score unlikely. (In contrast, if partner opened one diamond, seven spades to the jack and a side jack would be an acceptable WJR to the two-level. You hope to preempt, to describe your hand, and to make.)

To me, the main benefit of three level WJR's is not preemption (notwithstanding an occasional triumph) but negative systemic inferences. Here are two examples.

First, suppose you are using methods something like BWS. The sequences

(A)	
OPENER	RESPONDER
1♠	2♣
2♦	3♣

and

(B)	
OPENER	RESPONDER
1♠	1NT
2♦	3♣

are contiguous in strGBRth; they must cover all club one-suiters with less than game-going strGBRth. Many play that (A) is game-invitational, showing, say, about 10-11 HCP and a long club suit. Sequence (B), which denies the values for a two-over-one response, shows 6-9 HCP and a long club suit. (Good bidders will rely on the quality of the club suit as much as on the HCP total; we assume this is taken into account in the stated HCP total.) Obviously, there is a problem because the three-club bid in (B) has a relatively wide range, and opener has no quantitative invitational action available below three notrump. However, if WJR's are used you can WJR with, say, 6-7 HCP (or even 5-7, since opener is unlikely to move towards

game), and use sequence (B) only with 8-9. Now, each of the three sequences ending at three clubs has a workable range. Furthermore, you risk playing in one notrump less often-and when you do land there, responder must have at least 8 HCP.

Second, suppose you are using a one-notrump response forcing. You can still use WJR's as in the previous paragraph, but you now have another, more exciting, alternative. Instead of using the WJR to straighten out sequences like (B), you can use it to straighten out sequences like (A). This is important because sequence (A) is badly needed as forcing.

You've seen this type of problem many times in the Master Solvers' Club. You hold one of these:

(x) ♠ x x ♥ Q x ♦ J x x ♣ A K Q J x x

(y) ♠ x x ♥ A x ♦ x x ♣ A K J x x x x

(z) ♠ x x ♥ A x ♦ A x ♣ A J x x x x x

Partner opens one heart and you respond two clubs. Partner now fixes you by rebidding (of all things) two hearts. Quite a predicament! And things would be no better if partner rebid two diamonds. The BWS solution is two spades. At best this will confuse the auction; at worst clubs will be rebid only in the post-mortem.

These are strong hands, important hands. Game is likely and we must pick the best one. Slam is possible. With the forcing one-notrump response available, I would much rather use sequence (A) as forcing, defining (B) as invitational, and relying on a "wide-range" WJR with the weaker hands, notwithstanding that opener may occasionally face a tough decision. The stakes are unlikely to be so high when responder is weak.

#### Possible Losses

As before, we must consider what we may lose to get the advantages of WJR's. Let's begin with the topics covered previously:

- Making opener declarer in the suit of responder's WJR is surely good, not bad; making responder declarer at notrump is still bad, but opener will not move towards game often enough to make this a serious drawback.
- Bidding high with a weak hand will tend to hurt, not help, the opponents. The transfer effect does not increase enemy options in a significant way.
- We give up no additional bids to add WJR's.

There are at least two new dangers. First of all, we are bidding to three-something with a weak hand that might be bid to two-something. But even if this were a big deal, which it isn't, are we losing that much?

With

♠ x ♥ J x x ♦ K x x ♣ K J x x x x x

we can't get to two clubs after partner's one-spade opening anyway. And what about this:

OPENER		RESPONDER	
1♠	Pass	1NT	2♥
Pass	3♥	(!)	

Sometimes it is cheap to bid three of your suit-at least you get to mention it, allowing partner to compete with an appropriate hand (to say nothing of possibly silencing the opponents).

The second new danger is the potential ambiguity of the TJR itself. If we can't distinguish an SJR from a WJR, the whole method is insane. Partnerships using TJR's should be prepared for all competitive situations, and all cases in which opener does not complete the transfer. Here are a few suggestions that may be useful as the basis for discussion.

(1) When ambiguity still exists, the burden is with responder to show which type of response he has; opener acts under the WJR assumption until instructed otherwise.

(2) If the transfer is doubled, opener can redouble (very strong; forcing for one level if the opponents compete), or Pass (game invitation, but does not produce a force), to show strGBRth. If opener completes the transfer or bids higher, the bidding proceeds as usual.

(3) If the opponents compete, and opener passes, an immediate bid or (penalty) double by responder shows an SJR. If opener acts, responder can show an SJR by bidding Blackwood, making an uninvited bid, cue-bidding the enemy suit, or pulling a penalty double.

(4) If opener rebids his own suit, it is correctional but also mildly invitational. (If opener is willing to play three of his suit opposite an unsuitable hand, he should be willing to play four opposite a suitable hand.) But the invitation is only in that suit, so if responder does anything but Pass or raise, he shows an SJR (even if he rebids in his own suit).

(5) If opener rebids in a new suit at the three-level, it is forcing to three notrump. Responder should assume temporarily it is a try for three notrump and bid accordingly.

(6) A raise of responder's real suit by opener should be constructive, not preemptive. Responder may Pass or continue to game with a WJR; any other action shows an SJR.

Clearly, the ambiguity of the TJR is potentially dangerous, even if the frequency of disruption is low. At the least, careful partnership agreement is required. I do not have enough experience to be able to measure the losses caused, but I suspect that they will be well worth enduring in view of the many benefits.

## THE 1977 PRECISION AWARD



**Kit Woolsey (USA)**

The three winning articles were selected by the 'Precision' Award Committee, consisting of Kathie Wei, Pietro Forquet, Victor Mollo, Jeff Rubens and Terence Reese under the chairmanship of Alec Traub, IBPA's Awards Secretary. The articles were adjudged the best published in 1977 on systems and conventions. Eligibility for the Award is not limited to articles written by IBPA members. The Award is endowed by C.C. Wei of New York, inventor of the Precision System.

The winning entry, 'Puppet Stayman' by Kit Woolsey, was published in 'The BRIDGE WORLD' in April 1977. Mr Woolsey appeared personally at the IBPA luncheon in New Orleans to receive the Award at the hands of Richard Frey.

Second was '2NT Openings & Five-card Majors' by Jean Besse appeared in 'Australian Bridge' in February 1977.

Placed third by the Award committee was a monumental study covering the situation where Opener has rebid of 1NT, by Jean-Marc Roudinesco of Boulogne. The scheme described is for use with Five-card majors.

### **Puppet Stayman**

By Kit Woolsey

Almost every pair uses Stayman as the key to a notrump bidding for finding 4-4 major-suit fits and to initiate other exploratory sequences. This usually makes the responder almost fully responsible for determining the final contract, while the opening bidder, who will be declarer, tells the world about his distribution.

A superior structure was recently developed by Neil Silverman of New York. My partner Steve Robinson and I have expanded it into a highly complex and successful system. The basic elements can easily be adapted to any existing transfer structure. In fact, Steve and I first played it in the LM Men's Pairs in Pittsburgh after five minutes' discussion.

The structure is as follows: Responder initiates his search for a 4-4 major-suit fit with two clubs, as in normal Stayman, but this two clubs is a "puppet bid." Opener must rebid two diamonds (with a five-card major or six-card minor he can show it instead, after which bidding proceeds naturally). Responder now rebids as follows:

- 2♥ shows four spades, denies four hearts
- 2♠ shows four hearts, denies four spades
- 2NT shows 4-4 in the majors, invitational
- 3NT shows 4-4 in the majors, game forcing

Opener can then accurately select the proper denomination, and responder can place the final contract according to his strGBRth. Note that the two-club bid must be at least game invitational, unless the two-diamond rebid will be passed.

This structure has several advantages over standard Stayman, since the opener is usually better placed than responder to choose the proper denomination, with distributional information about his partner's hand. Some of the other advantages are as follows:

(1) As in standard Stayman, the notrump becomes declarer in almost all cases. However, the bidding doesn't reveal his distribution. For example, if responder has four spades and opener does not, the bidding might go: one notrump-two clubs-two diamonds-two hearts-three notrump, and only opener knows how many hearts he holds. This, in my opinion, is the greatest advantage.

(2) You can stop in two diamonds, simply by passing the two-diamond puppet response. As a corollary for four-suit-transfer players, a transfer to three diamonds is now at least game invitational.

(3) Opener can immediately show a five-card major over the two-club response; consequently, it is less dangerous to open one notrump with a five-card major.

(4) It is possible to stop at two spades with a 4-4 fit; e.g. one notrump-two clubs-two diamonds-two hearts-two spades-Pass.

(5) Opener may be able to pinpoint a by Kit Woolsey, Arlington, Va. three of a minor or get to a good 4-3 major-suit game.

(6) It is possible to arrive indulgently at three notrump with a 4-4 major fit in certain auctions.

Here are some sample hands illustrating the system in action:

OPENER	RESPONDER
♠ A x x	♠ Q J x x
♥ A 10 x x	♥ J x
♦ A x	♦ K x
♣ K 10 x x	♣ Q J x x x
Opener	Responder
INT	2♣
2♦	2♥
2NT	3NT
Pass	

If the opening leader has, say, Q-9-x-x in both red suits he has to guess, since the bidding would be identical if opener's red-suit holdings were reversed. In standard methods, there would be no guess.

OPENER	RESPONDER
♠ A x x x	♠ K x x x
♥ Q J x	♥ K 10 x
♦ K J x	♦ Q x x x
♣ A J 10	♣ Q x

Opener	Responder
1NT	2♣
2♦	2♥
2♠	3NT
Pass	

Responder can suggest notrump after showing his four-card spade suit, and opener can make the final decision. In standard methods, responder would have to make the decision by himself.

OPENER	RESPONDER
♠ Q 10 x	♠ K J x x
♥ J x x x x	♥ K Q x
♦ A Q	♦ x x
♣ A K	♣ J x x x

Opener	Responder
1NT	2♣
2♥	4♥
Pass	

Most players would probably open one notrump, after which the superior four-heart contract would not be reached in standard methods.

OPENER	RESPONDER
♠ x x	♠ K x x
♥ Q J x	♥ K x x x
♦ A Q 10 x x	♦ K x x
♣ K Q J	♣ 10 x x

Opener	Responder
1NT	2♣
2♦	2♠
3♦	Pass

A deal like this came up in the LM Men's Pairs on the very first board we played this method. I held the opening hand and was concerned about the spade weakness since Steve didn't have four spades, so I tried three diamonds. Steve wisely passed, and + 110 was worth 23 out of 25 match points.

OPENER	RESPONDER
♠ A x	♠ x x
♥ A K J	♥ Q 10 x x
♦ K J x	♦ Q 10 x x x
♣ 10 x x x x	♣ A x

Opener	Responder
1NT	2♣
2♦	2♠
2NT	3♦
4♥	Pass

After responder's three-diamond rebid (natural, non-forcing), opener has a good picture of the hand and can gamble out a four-heart call or take a more conservative course. At any rate, a bad notrump contract is avoided.

## THE 1978 PRECISION AWARD



**Jeff Rubens (USA)**

THE PRECISION AWARD is for the best article or series on a system or convention. C.C. Wei, inventor of the Precision System, endows it. This years judges were Terence Reese, P.S. Gupta and Alec Traub.

THE WINNER for the second time is Jeff Rubens of New York. His winning article, 'The Two-Step' was published in 'The Bridge World', September 1978.

Rubens previously won the Precision Award for an article, 'Three-Level Transfer Responses', published in 'The Bridge World' in December 1976.

### The Two-Step

By Jeff Rubens

**W**ith neither side vulnerable there are two passes to you and you hold:

♠ K Q x x x ♥ A J x x x ♦ x x ♣ x.

As almost anyone would, you open one spade: partner responds two notrump. According to most text-books, you should now be well placed. Partner has made a limit bid, which reputedly cures many bidding deceases single-handedly. In fact, partner has specified both his point count (11 to a bad 12) and his distribution (balanced or nearly balanced) within a very narrow range.

In terms of knowledge, you are indeed very well placed. You can give good odds that the best contract is a part-score in hearts. Unfortunately, in terms of getting to the best contract, or even to a reasonable contract, you are in terrible shape. If you bid three hearts, that is forcing – so much for a heart part-score. You can choose between passing two notrump (possible survival, but an outrage against common sense) and bidding three hearts (possible survival at three spades, possible very good luck at four hearts). You can also choose, after The fact, to adjust your system (for example, you can use three clubs as preliminary to a signoff), in which case you may solve this problem but are likely to introduce others in exchange (e.g. how to bid a sound hand with clubs).

The problem lies not so much in the rebid structure following two notrump as in the two-notrump response itself. It is mis-timed. All very well and good to make limit bids whenever possible, but they will be effective only when they retain appropriate bidding room. For example, a limit raise from one spade to three spades is relatively effective because opener, reassured about the final strain and with no need to describe his own hand for game-bidding purposes, has enough room to accomplish his likely ends (Pass, bid game, make a slam try).

However, "fast" bids of two notrump, limited though they may be, are often ineffective because they preempt partner out of room needed to describe his hand. The passed-hand two notrump, discussed above, and its equivalent, the limit two-notrump response by an unpassed hand, prevent opener from showing a weak two-suiter and thus "getting out" at the three-level. And these bids share with a forcing two-notrump response the defect that opener cannot stay under three notrump yet show a two-suiter (of any kind) or show his full 5-4-3-1-type distribution. Thus, responder is not always offered an appropriate choice of game contracts.

These problems are solved (possibly at the expense of creating some others) by methods that reach two notrump in two steps. For example, opener might bid his weak major two-suiter as follows:

Opener	Responder
	Pass
1♠	1NT <sup>a)</sup>
2♥	2NT <sup>b)</sup>
3♥ <sup>c)</sup>	? <sup>d)</sup>

- a) Forcing (or, if you prefer, "possibly a passed-hand maximum")
- b) Invitational
- c) Weak two-suiter

- d) Responder will usually Pass (but might bid four hearts with a lot of minor-suit aces and major-suit honors).

Another version, using Drury (as first devised):

Opener	Responder
	Pass
1♠	2♣ <sup>a)</sup>
2♦ <sup>b)</sup>	2NT <sup>c)</sup>
3♥ <sup>d)</sup>	? <sup>e)</sup>

- a) I have a good hand.
- b) I have a bad hand.
- c) I don't have three spades, four hearts or five diamonds.
- d) Help!
- e) Responder will usually Pass, etc.

Natural bidding will sometimes work, if responder can bid two of a minor with a suit strong enough so that he doesn't mind being passed.

Obviously, there are other important factors to be analysed in trying to determine one's choice of passed-hand responding structure. Still, the underlying principle is clear. Whether through systemic fiat or conscious choice, a *slower or delayed sequence (the two-step)* allows more description by partner and thus broadens the field of inquiry. Thus, when a choice is available, a fast sequence suggests interest in fewer contracts, fewer items of information, or in describing fewer features; a two-step should be used with an interest in more of the possible things partner might have to say.

### The Two-Step in Theory

The usefulness of two-step auctions is an important element in bidding theory. The early Bridge World standard polls showed a nearly even split in the expert community on whether a jump preference to opener's should be forcing after a one-over-one response. For example:

Opener	Responder
1♦	1♥
1♠	?

As a group experts prefer to treat most secondary jumps by responder in this situation as nonforcing. In the given sequence, a majority of those polled preferred three spades, three hearts or two notrump as invitational, not forcing. But there was a close vote on three diamonds. The advantage to three diamonds nonforcing is not only that it gives you a bid to make with an invitational strGBRth hand (and thus avoids a gigantic range for a *two* diamond rebid) but also that it provides a slower two-step auction (two clubs followed

by three diamonds) when responder is stronger. A strong responder is more likely to need or to be able to use the extra information received. One example:

Opener	Responder
1♦	1♥
1♠	3♦(F)
?	

Opener has not denied three hearts. If he will bid three hearts here with a doubleton, that bid gives ambiguous information; if three hearts is reserved for a tripleton, opener cannot show a doubleton heart at a convenient level. But:

Opener	Responder
1♦	1♥
1♠	2♣
2♦ <sup>a)</sup>	3♦ <sup>b)</sup>
3♥ <sup>c)</sup>	

- a) Denies three hearts
- b) Forcing
- c) Shows two hearts

The two-step principle can be profitably applied even in such murky waters as determining whether or not a four-notrump bid is Blackwood.

Opener	Responder
1♥	2♣
3♥	4♦
4♥	4NT

Should responder's third bid be interpreted as ace asking, or might he be attempting to show a second-round control in the unbid suit (spades), perhaps the guarded king? The two-step will tell you. Suppose responder wanted to ask for aces. Then why fool around with four diamonds? There was nothing to gain, and opener's third bid might have deprived responder of the opportunity to bid four notrump.

Could responder have decided only now That he wanted to ask for aces? Hardly. The intervening round of bidding did not give him any information about a possible trump suit, nor were any suit controls specified.

So four notrump should not be taken as Blackwood. Is the alternative interpretation feasible? Certainly! Suppose responder has:

♠ K x x ♥ J x ♦ A x x ♣ K Q 10 x x.

With a good club suit, a heart fit, and controls in the side suits, responder is naturally interested in slam when opener shows extra values and long, strong hearts. But the partnership may be missing both black aces, or a cashable ace and a high heart honor. Fur-

thermore, even if opener has a useful hand for slam purposes, there may be a problem of *which* slam to bid. For example, opposite

♠ A x x ♥ A K Q x x x ♦ K x x ♣ x

responder wants to get to six hearts. But if opener holds

♠ x x ♥ A K Q x x x ♦ K x x ♣ A x

responder would rather end up as declarer at six notrump, which protects the king of spades from immediate attack.

The two-step sequence, four diamonds followed by four notrump, both covers responder's obligation to suggest a slam and retains adequate flexibility in selection, the final contract. If four notrump in *any* slam-zone sequence will blindly be interpreted as Blackwood, the partnership will lose manoeuvrability.

### Ignoring the Two-Step

Failure to make use of the two-step, while often causing the partnership to stumble, is nonetheless considered by some as a superior form of strategy. Suppose that as responder you hold

♠ A 9 x x x ♥ A 10 x ♦ K Q x ♣ Q x

and must consider your rebid after this sequence:

Opener	Responder
1♣	1♠
2♣	?

Most players would rebid three notrump. And few would give the matter further thought afterwards, because three notrump will usually be the normal, and optimal contract. However, sometimes the opener will hold something like:

♠ K x ♥ x ♦ A J x x ♣ K J x x x

Nothing wrong with *his* bidding, yet three notrump has a poor chance, while six clubs has a good chance. (In a truly loaded example, opener would hold the ten of clubs, or 2-1-3-7 distribution.) And there: will he cases in which five clubs (or four spades) is a more desirable contract than three notrump.

If responder determines there is no rush to leap into three notrump, he can two-step with two diamonds. Then, depending on opener's reaction, he can support clubs or bid notrump, or whatever.

Although there is much to gain by bidding two diamonds, the argument is not one-sided. Traditionalists, and some others, will tell you that even if there were no danger attached to bidding a three-card suit (and *they* do see a danger), there is the matter of information given to the enemy. The two-stepper over the long run, tells more about The partnership hands to The ever-vigilant opponents. This may work to the declarer's disadvantage on the opening lead or later in the defence. Since it is extremely hard to quantify the

gains and losses of the two approaches, each player makes one's own subjective determination and acts accordingly. Personally, I'd rather give away a little information now and then (not always fatal to the contract) than occasionally bid briskly to an absurd spot.

### *The Two-Step in Practice*

A common problem is whether to risk advancing the bidding level further in order to complete showing your distribution. The two-step principle will often give you the answer.

Suppose that as opener you hold:

♠ K 10 x ♥ K Q x x ♦ x ♣ A K J x x

Opener	Responder
1♣	1♠
2♥	3NT

You have a splendid hand for spades. Indeed, you reversed mainly because your hand is so strong in support. Nonetheless you should pass three notrump. Partner is aware that you may have spade support and shortness in diamonds. By jumping to three notrump he denied interest in three-card spade support. Had he wanted to leave you room to support spades he would have two-stepped – with three diamonds, or two notrump, or whatever the partnership treats as forcing. Responder might hold:

♠ A x x x x ♥ J x ♦ K Q 10 x ♣ 10 x

in which case three notrump is a more desirable contract than four spades.

Similarly, after:

Opener	Responder
1♣	1♥
1♠	3NT
?	

you should pass with either

♠ A Q x x ♥ K x ♦ x ♣ A J 10 x x

or

♠ A Q 9 x x ♥ K J x ♦ x ♣ A J 10 x x

If partner had wanted to hear about your additional major-suit IGBRth, he would have two-stepped (presumably with two diamonds).

Another valuable use of the two-step is to avoid committing yourself to a descriptive action that will limit the partnership's options. Suppose you have as responder:

♠ A J 8 x x x ♥ x ♦ K x ♣ K Q x x

Opener	Responder
1♦	1♠
2♣	?

You have a fine hand for clubs, and would like to consider a club slam. However, if you raise clubs directly the partnership may find it difficult to reach a 6-2 spade fit. You would want to reach four spades opposite:

♠ Q x ♥ K x ♦ Q J x x x ♣ A J 10 x.

However, if you push hard towards spades you may never get to support clubs at all or suggest slam.

Your best strategy is to slow down the auction as much as possible, both to get more information from opener and to give yourself a chance to express interest in various black-suit contracts. Do the two-step with two hearts. This will help you find out, on this round or the next, how many spades partner has.

Just knowing that he has a singleton spade will make the slam picture bright, and may provide the clue to reaching five clubs instead of four spades. Alternatively, if you find opener has two spades, you know it will be safe to stop at four spades if he rejects your slam overture.

The two-step can also be used to determine whether partner has abnormally skewed distribution. If, after the same partnership sequence, you hold:

♠ A K 10 8 x x ♥ x x ♦ Q x ♣ A x x

you should again bid two hearts. You have no strong interest in a minor suit contract at the moment. But you might well change your mind if you learn that opener has a minor two-suiter.

The availability of a two-step will sometimes be the decisive factor in deciding a close question of judgment.

You open one spade with

♠ A J x x x ♥ K Q x x ♦ A K x ♣ J

and partner responds one notrump.

What now? If you bid two hearts, you may miss a game. If you bid three hearts, you may reach a hopeless game (or the wrong one). If you bid two notrump you lose your chance at a 4-4 heart fit.

Most experts would choose to bid hearts, and no one could prove that two or three is the less risky on this round. A decisive point in favour of two hearts, however, is that keeping the bidding low will enable you to investigate all contracts (including diamonds) if the auction continues. For example, responder will often bid two spades; and now you can complete the description of your hand with three diamonds, giving the partnership a chance to land on any base. If you jump to three hearts, it becomes awkward to investigate diamonds (and impossible to do so and still keep under three notrump).

## Defensive Two-Steps

The two-step is consistent with the commonly used principle of defensive bidding that a slower sequence offers more options than a faster sequence. Compare these two methods of reaching three notrump:

(1)

Opponent	Partner	Opponent	You
3♣	3NT	Pass	?

(2)

Opponent	Partner	Opponent	You
3♣	Dbl	Pass	3♠
Pass	3NT	Pass	?

In (1) partner may well have an unbalanced hand (perhaps with a lot of diamonds). He may have tolerance for a particular major suit or he may not (he could well have a major suit singleton). Sequence (2) is not weaker or stronger, just different. Here partner is willing to hear you bid a good enough major suit. (One way you can come to this conclusion is to reflect that he invited you to bid a major with his takeout double: you might have jumped to four of a major directly.) You should usually convert with a six-card spade suit or 5-5 in the majors, and perhaps in other cases. Partner suggests an interest in alternatives by two-stepping.

More complicated situations occur at lower levels, but the same basic principle often applies. Contrast these auctions:

(3)

Opponent	Partner	Opponent	You
		1♣	Dbl
Pass	2NT	Pass	?

(4)

Opponent	Partner	Opponent	You
		1♣	Dbl
Pass	2♣	Pass	2♥
Pass	2NT	Pass	?

These two-notrump bids show the same (invitational) strGBRth. But in (3) partner, having burned other bridges behind him, must be pretty sure that notrump will be an acceptable strain. In contrast, sequence (4) suggests that partner is interested in spades (he may be relatively ill prepared to play notrump). In a BWS type structure, in which a bid in a previously bid suit is not forcing after a defensive cue-bid, three spades at this stage should be non-forcing. Partner has shown spades, so you could jump to four spades with extra values.

The two-step is a simple dance. If both parties understand it, they will trip less often over one another's feet.

The runner up article in this year's Precision Award is 'The Stoplight Convention' by Marvin French, published in 'Popular Bridge' in February 1978. The third-placed entry in this year's Precision Award is Leandro Burgay's articles, 'The Intervening Bid after a 1NT opening.' See Bulletin 182, page 6.

## THE 1979 PRECISION AWARD Ed Manfield & Kenneth Lebensold (USA)

THE PRECISION AWARD is for the best article or series on a system or convention. Contributors to the American magazine, 'The Bridge World', edited by Edgar Kaplan and Jeff Rubens, have dominated the award since Charles Wei, inventor of the Precision System, endowed it seven years ago.

This year provides no exception. There are joint winning pieces and each was first published in 'The Bridge World': 'High-Level Bridge IV / V' in April/May '79 (Ed Manfield) and 'Action Doubles' in September '79 (Kenneth Lebensold). The first three articles in the High-Level Bridge series appeared in the August '77, March '78 and September '78 issues respectively.

Manfield, 37, is an anti-trust economist of Arlington, Virginia. Lebensold, 33, is a mathematics professor living in New York.

Judges of the 1980 Precision Award were Terence Reese, Pietro Forquet, Eric Jannersten & P.S. Gupta.

### High-Level Bridge, IV By Ed Manfield

Early in a knockout match you pick up:

♠ – ♥ Q 8 4 3 ♦ A J 10 7 6 2 ♣ K 9 5.

With neither side vulnerable, you deal and open one diamond. West passes, partner responds one heart, and East overcalls one spade. You choose two hearts, West two spades, and partner four hearts. East bids the inevitable four spades. What do you do now?

South	West	North	East
1♦	Pass	1♥	1♠
2♥	2♠	4♥	4♠
?			

This problem was posed to an expert panel by Roger Stern in the "Bridge Journal" (March-April, 1966). Most panellists chose to bid (or pass and pull partner's double). When we recently polled a Washington panel, the vote was similar.

It seems masochistic to Pass, and at the table it would require a great deal of discipline (and confidence in partner) to do so. Nevertheless, I believe that to Pass, and Pass again if partner doubles, is correct. Partner had many ways to invite your opinion. Over two spades, he could have cue-bid, or bid a new suit, or jumped in a new suit. Instead, he chose four hearts.

He knows how he wants to handle four spades, and he doesn't expect you to get in his way. You are "barred" in the sense that you can Pass or double but should not bid in front of him. Partner might hold:

♠ K Q 9 6 ♥ A 9 6 5 2 ♦ 5 ♣ Q J 6

or

♠ 9 6 ♥ A K 6 5 2 ♦ K Q 8 5 ♣ Q 6.

With the first hand, partner wants to defend four spades doubled. With the second, he will bid five diamonds or five hearts himself if you pass (which you should normally do with a singleton or void in spades). However, he will choose to defend if you double (showing two or more spades). One hand partner should not have is,

♠ 9 ♥ A J 7 6 5 2 ♦ K 8 5 ♣ 8 6 2.

With this hand he could try three (or four) diamonds over two spades, in order to suggest spade shortness plus a diamond fit, and to bring you into the picture. You would then be permitted to bid over four spades.

Most American experts feel they are never barred. Their fine judgment is what makes them experts, and they like to exercise that judgment whenever the spirit moves them. However, in certain situations partner is captain. In those cases, the decision is his, not yours. Bobby Wolff (BRIDGE WORLD, April 1972, page 28) put it another way:

*"If the Aces have learned one thing during their three years of existence, it is not to be supermen. And this alone has contributed ... more than any other single factor to our. . . success."*

Captaincy issues in constructive auctions (especially slam sequences) are often quite complex. Consider an auction like:

Opener	Responder
1♥	1♠
2♣	3♠
5♠	

Is opener issuing a command (bid on with diamonds controlled)? Is he simply describing his hand? If so, what is he describing? Who is in control? Experts disagree. Because captaincy issues are difficult to resolve, and general rules hard to formulate, relay systems have been devised. Although very difficult to learn, they have proven remarkably effective. The theory is that by placing one partner in charge, captaincy problems can be eliminated.

Captaincy in competitive situations is conceptually much easier to deal with. All that is needed are a few simple rules and large doses of discipline. The basic captaincy rule for competitive auctions is: Once a

trump suit has been found, a limited hand can't bid again.

This rule, which I call "The Fundamental Law of Competitive Bidding," is simple and easy to apply. However, American experts violate it frequently. Often, this is because they have failed to describe their hands early in the auction, and then, later on, they feel they must compensate. Championship records are studded with such instances. Even the former Aces (probably our most disciplined and successful players) violate the Law occasionally. Usually they get what they deserve.

### World Championship (1973)

NS vulnerable

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

West	North	East	South
Garozzo	Lawrence	Belladonna	Goldman
Pass	1♣	1♦	1♥
1♠	Pass	2♠	4♥
4♠	5♥	Dbl	All Pass

### North-South -200

West	North	East	South
Wolff	Forquet	Hamman	Bianchi
Pass	1♦	Pass	1♥
1♠	2♥	2♠	4♥
Pass	Pass	Pass	

### North-South +620

Lawrence "artfully" concealed his hearts at the two-level, and then felt compelled to violate captaincy by bidding them at the five-level. At the other table, Hamman had an impossible guess to make over four hearts. Largely, this was because he had failed to describe his hand adequately earlier. He guessed wrong. A well-deserved 14 imp loss. Note that both Forquet and Belladonna described their hands early in the auction, and thereby avoided any later problems.

## World Championship (1976)

North dealer  
Neither side vulnerable

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Forquet</i>	<i>Soloway</i>	<i>Belladonna</i>	<i>Rubin</i>
	Pass	1♦	1♥
1♠	3♥	3♠	4♥
4♠	Pass	Pass	5♥
Pass	Pass	Dbl	All Pass

North-South -100

West	North	East	South
<i>Eisenberg</i>	<i>Franco</i>	<i>Hamilton</i>	<i>Garozzo</i>
	Pass	1♦	2♥*
2♠	4♥	Pass	Pass
4♠	5♥	5♠	Dbl
Pass	Pass	Pass	

\* intermediate

North-South +300

Hamilton didn't think he was worth four spades at his second turn, but then he decided to "hang" partner with five spades. Rubin also decided to play Superman. He could have invited partner's opinion with four diamonds over three spades. However, he barred partner with four hearts, and then had a blind guess to make over four spades. Belladonna and Garozzo described what they had early, and won 9 imps in the process.

In general, the Italian stars are highly disciplined.

## Las Vegas K-O (1972)

EW vulnerable

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

South	West	North	East
<i>Schenken</i>	<i>Belladonna</i>	<i>Leventritt</i>	<i>Avarelli</i>
Pass	Pass	Pass	1♦
2♣	2♥	3♣	4♥
4♠	Dbl	5♣	Pass
Pass	Dbl	All Pass	

North-South -300 (should be -500)

South	West	North	East
<i>Forquet</i>	<i>Koytchou</i>	<i>Garozzo</i>	<i>Ogust</i>
Pass	Pass	Pass	1♦
2♣	2♥	3♣	4♣
Pass	4♥	All Pass	

North-South +300

Personally, I would double four clubs with Forquet's hand (to suggest a save). But having failed to do so, he was barred from bidding later. Furthermore, note that Garozzo didn't have to double four hearts (thereby exposing the trump position) in order to prevent his partner from bidding. This was an impressive demonstration of discipline and respect for captaincy, which few American pairs would duplicate.

During the height of Italian dominance over international bridge, Jeff Rubens suggested (BRIDGE WORLD, August 1967, page 18) that their success in high-level bidding stemmed from "some technique or philosophy of IMP play we have not yet discovered." Personally, I believe that this philosophy was and is nothing more than a simple belief in captaincy and the Fundamental Law.

Let us return to,

♠ - ♥ Q 8 4 3 ♦ A J 10 7 6 2 ♣ K 9 5

South	West	North	East
1♦	Pass	1♥	1♠
2♥	2♠	4♥	4♠
?			

The reason that you are tempted to bid over four spades is that you have failed to describe your hand adequately thus far. Therefore, although partner is theoretically the captain, you don't know whether or not to trust his decision. (He probably thinks you have more defense and less offense than you actually have.) A recurring theme in this series has been that it is vital to describe the character of your hand early in a competitive auction. You can then trust partner's high-level decision. In this case, you should have bid four hearts over one spade. I believe this should show a hand short on high cards, but long on tricks.

This four heart bid is just one example of a call that means one thing in a constructive auction (strong hand, 20+ points) but which should mean another thing in competition (distributional hand, minimum high-card strGBRth). Another example is the fit showing jump we discussed in the previous article (September 1978). In general, jumps in competition should be used to describe distributional hands; powerful balanced hands can be handled by cue-bidding.

After describing both the character and the strGBRth of your hand early in the auction, you can place confidence in partner's later high-level decision. He will be captain, and you will feel no need to violate the Fundamental Law of Competitive Bidding. If you never violate the Law, you will come out way ahead. However, there are certain special situations in which it is permissible for a limited hand to bid again. We shall discuss these in the next article.

## High-Level Bridge V

By Ed Manfield (USA)

Last month we discussed the Fundamental Law of Competitive Bidding:

*Once a trump suit has been found, a limited hand can't bid again.*

The Law should seldom be violated, but exceptions do exist. The most common one occurs when you have limited your hand with a raise, thus making partner captain; but he has invited your participation by bidding a new suit:

South	West	North	East
1♦	Pass	1♥	1♠
2♥	2♠	4♣	4♠
?			

South	West	North	East
2♥	3♠	1♥	Dbl
?		4♣	4♠

In each auction South is limited. However, he is allowed to bid over four spades if he has a good fit for hearts and clubs.

Sometimes your hand character may call for another bid, even though your strGBRth is limited. This can happen when a constructive auction suddenly becomes competitive:

♠ 8 5 ♥ Q 9 6 3 ♦ 9 8 ♣ K J 10 5 4

South	West	North	East
2♥	Pass	1♥	Pass
?		Pass	3♦

Your fourth trump and nice shape make three hearts clear at any vulnerability.

If the auction begins one heart double, you can bid three hearts immediately on this hand. Then let partner do the rest. Conversely, if the auction begins:

South	West	North	East
2♥	Pass	1♥	Dbl
?		Pass	3♦

you are barred from bidding three hearts. You presumably bid your whole hand the first time. Now you can only pass (or double).

At times you will have been unable to show your hand character the first time:

♠ 8 5 ♥ K J 6 2 ♦ 9 8 4 ♣ K 10 5 4

South	West	North	East
2♥	2♠	1♥	1♠
?		Pass	Pass

Two spades and three hearts are both likely to make. Therefore it is clear for you to bid again, even though you are limited. But, if you held

♠ 8 5 2 ♥ K J 6 ♦ 9 8 4 ♣ K 10 5 4

you would pass two spades. The reason it is right to bid on one hand and not the other is that while two hearts is fairly limited in terms of high-card strGBRth, it can be bid on many different distributions.

Personally, I believe that whenever possible, you should describe your hand in one bid. Therefore, with

♠ 8 5 ♥ K J 6 2 ♦ 9 8 4 ♣ K 10 5 4

it is preferable to bid three hearts directly over one spade. This should show a weakish hand (6-9 dummy points) with four trumps and a little shape. Stronger hands can be handled by two spades (balanced limit raise or better), three clubs and three diamonds (fit showing), or three spades (splinter). The advantage of this treatment is that three hearts describes your hand in one bid; it may place West under pressure if he wants to show spade support or bid a new suit. It also allows two hearts to take on more definition; since it will bid on fewer hand types. The disadvantage is minimal, because two hearts is unlikely to buy the contract anyway when you hold four hearts and two spades.

Some freakish hands are impossible to describe at a low level:

♠ A 9 8 6 3 ♥ - ♦ 7 ♣ J 9 8 7 5 4 2

South	West	North	East
		1♠	Dbl
?			

Anything could be right. However, if you choose to make a limited bid (such as three spades or four spades), you may have to bid again even though you are theoretically barred.

♠ A K 7 3 ♥ - ♦ J 7 5 3 ♣ J 10 8 5 2

South	West	North	East
			1♥
Dbl	2♥	2♠	4♥
?			

Four spades seems obvious. However, this is likely to produce an awkward situation over five hearts. Partner may double, playing you for more high cards and less distribution. I would prefer to pass four hearts, planning to violate captaincy by pulling partner's double. This should present a good picture of my hand.

Limited hands may also bid again after what I call "one under" auctions. These are auctions on which your bids one level below game (four diamonds, for example), and the opponents proceed to bid game (e.g. four hearts). Now, your side must decide whether to defend or bid on.

♠ Q 9 6 3 2 ♥ 8 6 ♦ A K 9 4 3 ♣ 6

South	West	North	East
			1♥
2♥*	3♥	3♠	4♥
?			

\*Michaels

Double! Partner's three spades suggests uncertainty as to whether he should defend four hearts. Your

diamond ace king, plus club singleton, constitute excellent defense.

A tricky one-under situation can arise when you make a limit minor-suit bid, and partner raises to the four-level (East-West vulnerable):

♠ 3 ♥ K 6 5 4 ♦ Q J 10 9 6 5 3 ♣ 4

South	West	North	East
Pass	Pass	Pass	1♣
3♦	3♠	4♦	4♠
?			

Bid five diamonds.

Partner's four diamond bid indicates uncertainty and invites your cooperation. If he is uncertain, you are not. The full deal:

### International Team Trials (1974)

South dealer  
EW vulnerable

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

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

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

South	West	North	East
<i>Beery</i>	<i>Katz</i>	<i>Pavlicek</i>	<i>Cohen</i>
Pass	Pass	Pass	1♣
3♦	3♠	4♦	4♠
5♦	Dbl	All Pass	

South made six when the defense began with two rounds of clubs. At another table, South felt he was barred and passed four spades.

In these situations you should generally bid when you have more offense and less defense than you might have, for your previous auction. You should double with more defense and less offense than you might have. Otherwise, you should just Pass and let partner decide:

North dealer, EW vulnerable

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

South	West	North	East
Walsh	Eisenberg	Swanson	Goldman
		Pass	1♥
Pass	4♥	4NT	Pass
5♦	Dbl	All Pass	

North-South -100

South	West	North	East
Hamman	Haller	Lawrence	Soloway
		Pass	1♥
Pass	2♣*	2NT	3♥
4♦	4♥	All Pass	

North-South +300

At favourable vulnerability, your defense is particularly crucial in the under situations. Thus, Lawrence, with his ace and his singleton spade, providing fair defense, judged well to pass four hearts. Hamman also judged well in choosing to make the one-under bid of four diamonds. (He might have elected to double four hearts, once partner showed some defence.)

A one-under situation in which a limited hand is barred occurs when partner had a chance to solicit your opinion and didn't. This situation arose in the 1976 World Championship (neither side vulnerable).

♠ 8 6 ♥ Q 10 6 ♦ Q 9 7 2 ♣ K 8 5 2

South	West	North	East
		1♦	Dbl
2♦	Dbl	4♦	4♠
?			

Pass. Partner, Billy Eisenberg, didn't invite you to the party. He could have done so by bidding a new suit over two diamonds. He has set a fine trap with

♠ A 10 5 3 ♥ J 8 7 4 ♦ A K J 6 3 ♣ –

If you defend well, you will collect 700.

It is permissible, on certain rare occasions, for a limited hand to bid again in Pass out seat – even without an invitation from partner. Consider this (neither side vulnerable):

♠ K 10 7 5 4 ♥ 6 ♦ Q 10 8 4 3 ♣ 7 4

South	West	North	East
	1♠	2♦	Dbl*
4♦	4♥	Pass	Pass
?			

\* negative

You didn't bid five diamonds in the first place because you hoped partner might double four hearts. Since he didn't, you may bid five diamonds now.

What would you do here (both sides vulnerable) ?

♠ K J 7 6 2 ♥ K 7 5 4 3 ♦ – ♣ 8 6 5

South	West	North	East
			1♦
2♦*	3♣	4♠	Pass
Pass	5♦	Pass	Pass
?			

\* Michaels

Bid five spades. If partner couldn't double five diamonds, you aren't going to beat it. Five spades shouldn't go down more than one or two.

The Fundamental Law of Competitive Bidding should seldom be violated. However, this article has summarized some situations in which violation is permissible. The discussion has been geared to IMPs because discipline at this form of scoring is vitally important. At matchpoints, the difference between, say, +100 and +140, or between -500 and -620, can be crucial.

Therefore, on multipoint auctions such as:

South	West	North	East
		1♥	Dbl
2♥	2♠	Pass	Pass
?			

or

South	West	North	East
		1♥	1♠
2♥	2♠	4♥	Pass
Pass	?		

you may occasionally trust your judgment and bid again, where at IMPs you are "barred." However, at any form of scoring, a healthy respect for the Fundamental Law is bound to improve your High-Level Bridge.

## Action Doubles

By Kenneth Lebensold. *New York*

In the early days of bridge, the double was completely natural, strongly suggesting that the doubled contract be the final one. Over time, it was found that some doubles were more useful as takeout conventions. However, the gradual move toward using more doubles for takeout has met considerable resistance.

In my opinion, supported by experience, doubles should be clearly defined as for takeout or for penalty only in a few clear-cut situations. Most should be cooperative or "action" doubles: showing extra high-card values, no convenient bid, at least two cards in the doubled suit; in short, a hand with good potential for defense but useful on offense as well. These hands are remarkably frequent, and very awkward; cue-bids drive the auction very high and often suggest more defined hands offensively. Natural suit jumps, too, generally show hands with some definition. Even passing first is not a solution—that simply shows less in high cards than a direct bid.

In contrast, the action double is a perfect solution because it guarantees uncertainty, keeps the bidding low, and leads to delicate follow-up auctions. Beyond this, action doubles can produce substantial penalties, and at the most useful time, when your side is often due a minus on offense. As against this, the only loss is the inability to make "command" doubles; however, these are infrequent, and usually handled adequately by a Pass. An occasional big penalty is lost, but this is more than made up for solely by the penalty aspect of the action double. As for the risk of opponents' making doubled part-scores, it is virtually nil. I have experienced several hands where I feared my double was too weak in defense, and where partner removed for fear his defense was too limited: yet leaving the double would have been best! I cannot remember any occasion where opponents were doubled into game.

Here are two examples from the Swiss qualifying for the Grand National.

(1) Both vul. You, South, hold:

♠ Q 10 8 x ♥ J x x x ♦ Q J x ♣ K x

South	West	North	East
Pass	Pass	1♥	Pass
2♥	Pass	Pass	3♦
?			

You would rather like to compete further, yet your values are primarily defensive. Still, they could be wasted on defense if partner has the wrong hand. Playing action doubles, I doubled. Partner held,

♠ A 9 x ♥ A 10 x x x ♦ x x x ♣ A Q

Of course, he had an easy leave-in. Despite the unfortunate club duplication (admittedly, the opponents had a little heart duplication), this was 500 against 140 in the other room, a 6-imp improvement even on the second-best decision, selling out to three diamonds.

(2) EW vul. You, South, hold:

♠ A K x x x x ♥ K x ♦ K J ♣ A x x

South	West	North	East
Pass	Pass	1♥	Pass
1♠	Pass	1NT*	2♥
?			

\* forcing

Three spades is tempting, but overemphasizes the spades. Other bids are equally flawed. Although K-x of trump is a light holding, the overall defensive strGBRth and the flexibility of double command its use. If partner removes to two spades, we can comfortably raise to three or four. If he bids three of a minor, we can pass or try three spades. Over two notrump (unlikely), we can try three notrump or three spades. In all cases, partner knows that our hand has scattered values with more than a singleton heart, and is not "all spades." Partner actually held,

♠ x ♥ Q x x ♦ Q 10 9 x x ♣ Q x x x

He passed with some trepidation. This netted only 200, but the three spade bid made at the other table failed, so the tally was 6 imps.

Here is another hand, from a knockout match.

Both vul. You, South, hold:

♠ x x x ♥ A K 10 x x x ♦ x x x ♣ A

South	West	North	East
		1♣	Pass
1♥	1♠	2♣	2♦
?			

While three hearts is the obvious call, on reflection it is inadequate. The opponents don't sound as though they have much shape: West bid only one spade; East couldn't even bid one diamond on the first round. No, they are setting up a defense. With your twin three-card holdings, you are in great jeopardy. Furthermore, your hand is excellent for defense, with its three quick tricks and singleton in partner's suit. This line of reasoning appealed to me so much that I doubled, playing normal penalty doubles, even with my three small trumps. On the same auction, three hearts was bid in the other room. This time, it was 14 imps (800, plus 100 against four hearts). Still, I would prefer to have been playing action doubles. If partner held, for example,

♠ A J x ♥ Q x ♦ x ♣ K Q J x x x  
 I would not want him to pass two diamonds doubled.  
 He actually held:

♠ A x ♥ Q x ♦ Q x x ♣ K Q J x x x

But we are looking only at the penalties, while the biggest advantage is flexibility. The double not only keeps the bidding low on a hand where delicate probing is necessary, but actually tells partner that such probing may well be necessary. Beyond this, it allows the partnership to stop in a low part-score even with a lot of high cards. Let's look at some examples.

WEST	EAST
♠ x	♠ Q J 10 9 x x
♠ A Q J x x	♥ x x
♦ J x x	♦ x x
♣ A K J x	♣ Q x x

West	East
1♥	1♠ (2♦)
Dbl	2♠
3♣	3♠

East's two spades is nonforcing. While three spades may go down, there is no way to stop at a lower spot.

WEST	EAST
♠ x x	♠ A x x
♥ x x	♥ A K J 10 x
♦ A K x	♦ Q x x
♣ A Q 10 x x x	♣ J x

West	East
1♣	1♥ (2♠)
Pass	Dbl*
3♣	3♥**
4♥	Pass

\* action double

\*\* good hearts

On the same auction, if East held:

♠ A x x ♥ A J x x x ♦ J x x ♣ x x

he could pass three clubs. Not playing action doubles. This hand would be a nightmare. Note that although West's hand is good for defense, two spades might make.

When should doubles not be "action"? Obviously. High level doubles have a different character, however you define them. At low levels, doubles are not action if they represent the partnership's first entry into tile auction. However, they can be action if partner, alone has not bid. For example:

South	West	North	East
1♦	1♠	1NT	Pass
2♦	?		

Double would make sense for West, holding,

♠ A 10 x x x ♥ A x ♦ K Q x ♣ A x x

Of course, the defensive requirements are very high, since partner may have a weak, balanced hand. Even this hand could run into disaster, but I believe tile odds favor competing. A queen or so from partner gives you a fair chance to beat two diamonds, whereas J-10-9-x-x-x of an off suit gives you good reason to compete for the partial.

South	West	North	East
1♦	Dbl	Pass	1♠
2♦	Dbl		

This suggests a 3-4-2-4 shape with good high cards. Logically, if opener's rebid were two clubs instead of two diamonds, the double would be penalty.

A player cannot make a *delayed* action double, If tile bidding goes,

2♥	Pass	Pass	Dbl
----	------	------	-----

that cannot be 'action'. What it is may vary with the partnership.

Individual partnerships must decide whether a double like this one,

South	West	North	East
1♠	2♣	2♠	Dbl

is responsive, perhaps

♠ x ♥ Q x x x x ♦ Q x x x x ♣ Q x

or 'action', perhaps.

♠ K 10 x ♥ A J x x ♦ K J 10 x ♣ x x

I prefer the latter treatment.

♥

Here are a few sample problems to clarify the working a little better.

(1) ♠ x x ♥ Q x x ♦ Q 10 x x ♣ A 10 x x

South	West	North	East
	1♦	Dbl	1♠
	?		

Double is penalties, so you must choose among two clubs, one notrump and Pass. If you choose two clubs or Pass and two spades is then hid on your left, an action double is the proper reopening call

(2) ♠ x x ♥ A Q 10 x ♦ A 10 ♣ A Q x x x

South	West	North	East
1♣	Pass	1♠	2♦
?			

Bid two hearts. Double tends to deny an easy descriptive bid. If the overcall had been two hearts, Pass is no doubt right: partner can hardly leave in an action double, but he may reopen with double himself.

(3) ♠ K Q x x x ♥ A x ♦ Q J 10 x ♣ Q x

South	West	North	East
1♠	Pass	2♣	2♦
?			

Double should probably be for penalty, after a two-over-one response.

(4) ♠ x ♥ A J 9 x x x ♦ K Q x ♣ A K x

South	West	North	East
1♥	Pass	1♠	2♣
?			

Double. You are poorly placed if partner bids two spades, but perfection is not always available.

(5) ♠ A x x ♥ Q x ♦ A K J x ♣ K x x x

South	West	North	East
1♦*	Pass	1♥	1♠
?			

\* playing weak notrump

Double. Partner is not likely to leave in. but one notrump. Apart from being wrong positionally, should be reserved for hands with more playing strength.

(6) ♠ K x ♥ Q x ♦ 10 9 x x x ♣ Q J 10 x

South	West	North	East
	1♦	1♠	Dbl*
Pass	2♣	Pass	2♦
Pass	3♣	Pass	Pass
?			

\* negative

Go ahead, double and collect your 800. This must be for penalties at this late stage.

## THE 1980 PRECISION AWARD



Edwin B. Kantar (USA)

In the 1980 July issue of The Bridge World Edwin Kantar published the first of four articles about his new ideas of answering to Blackwood. The rest of the articles appeared in August 1980, September 1980, and October 1980.

### Roman Key Card Blackwood (RKC)

By Edwin B. Kantar

Regardless of what you hear to the contrary, RKC is a big plus in any partnership's bidding arsenal—provided that the ambiguities can be eliminated. Easier said than done.

This version of RKC has never been printed elsewhere (you will soon see why). It is something I have been working on for a long, long, time, and I think I finally have it under control. You be the judge. (Just take it slowly, very slowly.)

#### Responses to RKC

The king of the agreed suit plus the four aces is considered key cards, five in all. A slam should not be considered unless a minimum of four key cards is held jointly.

The queen of the agreed suit is shown in the response to four notrump, but only when two key cards are held. These are the responses to RKC four notrump:

- 5♣: 0 or 3 key cards
- 5♦: 1 or 4 key cards
- 5♥: 2 or 5\* key cards without the queen of trumps
- 5♠: 2 or 5\* key cards with the queen

\* As a practical matter, forget about five key cards - 99% of the time, the response shows two.

Also, a fifth trump when partner is expecting four, or a fourth trump when partner is known to have at least six, counts as the queen!

Opener	Responder
♠ A x x x x	♠ K x x x x
♥ K Q x	♥ x x
♦ A K Q x	♦ x x x
♣ x	♣ A Q x

Opener	Responder
1♠	3♠*
4NT**	5♠+
6♠	Pass

\* Limit raise

\*\* RKC

+ 2 plus the queen! Responder is counting his fifth trump, since opener is expecting four.

Give responder four spades only, and the response to four notrump is five hearts, two without the queen. Opener does best to sign off at five spades. Missing an ace plus the queen of trumps, one should avoid bidding a slam with a nine-card trump fit, unless looking at the jack of trumps.

Opener	Responder
♠ A K x	♠ J x
♥ x	♥ A x
♦ A K 10 9 x x	♦ x x x x
♣ x	♣ A J 10 x x

Opener	Responder
1♦	2♣
3♦	4♦
4NT*	5♠**
7♦+	Pass

\* RKC

\*\* Two, plus the queen! Partner is known to have at least six diamonds, and cannot possibly know that you have four-card support.

+ Would bid seven notrump at matchpoints. Seven clubs, offering a choice of grands, is also available. (Responder might hold Q-x of diamonds.)

Responses to four notrump over interference and with void suits will be discussed at the end of these articles . . . if you're still around.

After RKC four notrump, a direct rebid of five notrump by the RKC bidder asks for kings, excluding the king of the agreed suit, already shown or denied.

Responses to five notrump follow normal lines: six clubs denies a king, six diamonds shows one king, and so on.

The five-notrump bid promises the joint possession of the five key cards as well as the queen of the

agreed suit; so, responder may forego the king response and leap to a grand slam.

\*\*\*

Before getting to the messy parts, let's try a few confidence builders.

Opener	Responder
♠ A Q x x x x	♠ 10 x x x
♥ A K Q x	♥ x x
♦ A K	♦ Q x x
♣ x	♣ K Q x x

Opener	Responder
2♣	2♦
2♠	3♠
4NT*	5♣**
5♠+	Pass++

\* RKC

\*\* 0 or 3

+ Two key cards are missing.

++ Look, I'm very sorry.

Opener knows that the hand is off both the ace of clubs and the king of spades. At best the slam depends upon finesse, and it may be worse. Five spades is high enough.

Playing simple Blackwood, opener has no way of knowing about the king of spades. (Commercial #1)

Opener	Responder
♠ A Q x x x x x	♠ x x x
♥ x	♥ A K x x x
♦ A Q 10 x	♦ x x
♣ A	♣ K x x

Opener	Responder
1♠	2♥
3♠	4♠
4NT*	5♦**
6♠+	Pass++

\* RKC

\*\* 1 or 4

+ One key card is missing.

++ I trust you.

Opener knows that the partnership is missing either the ace of hearts or the king of spades, so a grand slam is out of the question.

Playing this method, you simply cannot bid a grand slam missing one key card, because that key card may be an ace. Resign yourself to never again playing

a grand slam that depends upon a finesse for the king of trumps.

Similarly, you bid no small slams missing two key cards - you may be off two aces.

### *The Queen-Ask and Responses*

Whenever partner responds either five hearts or five spades to RKC, the location of the queen is known. (Either you have it or they do!) However, when partner responds either five clubs (none or three) or five diamonds (one or four), the location of the queen is uncertain.

In order to ask for the queen over either of these responses, bid the next ranking suit-provided it is not the agreed suit. If it is, skip over the agreed suit and bid the next one. Returning to the agreed suit is always a signoff (with one common-sense exception, which will be covered in the examples that follow).

Opener	Responder
♠ A x	♠ x x
♥ K Q x x	♥ A J 10 x x
♦ x x	♦ A K Q x x
♣ A K x x x	♣ x

Opener	Responder
1♠	1♥
3♥	4NT <sup>(a)</sup>
5♣ <sup>(b)</sup>	5♦ <sup>(c)</sup>
6♣ <sup>(d)</sup>	7♥ <sup>(e)</sup>
Pass <sup>(f)</sup>	

- (a) RKC
- (b) 0 or 3
- (c) Queen-ask
- (d) I have the queen of hearts as well as the king of clubs.
- (e) You don't mind if I bid a cold grand, do you?
- (f) Be my guest!

When partner asks for the queen of trumps, the denial is the next step, "Worst First." Any other response promises the queen. Five of the trump suit or five notrump, if not the first step, show the queen but no side king. Bidding any suit other than the first step shows the king of the bid suit as well as the queen of trumps. Bidding six of the trump suit shows the queen of the agreed suit and may show the king of the first-step suit as well.

Let's practice, because this is important. Assume spades are trumps:

Opener	Responder
1♠	3♠

4NT<sup>(a)</sup>  
5♥<sup>(c)</sup>

5♦<sup>(b)</sup>  
5♠<sup>(d)</sup> or,  
5NT<sup>(e)</sup> or,  
6♣/♦/♥<sup>(f)</sup>

- (a) RKC
- (b) 1 or 4
- (c) Queen-ask (next-ranking suit)
- (d) No queen (Worst First)
- (e) Queen but no side kings
- (f) Queen plus the king of the bid suit.

Opener	Responder
1♥	3♥
4NT <sup>(a)</sup>	5♦ <sup>(b)</sup>
5♥ <sup>(c)</sup>	5NT <sup>(d)</sup> or, 6♣/♦ <sup>(e)</sup> or, 6♥ <sup>(f)</sup>

- (a) RKC
- (b) 1 or 4
- (c) Queen-ask (next-ranking suit after the trump suit)
- (d) No queen (first step)
- (e) Queen of hearts plus king of the bid suit
- (f) Queen of hearts plus a possible king of spades

If the agreed suit is a minor, the responder is limited by the fact that he is not allowed to go beyond six of the agreed suit to show any side kings. However, as we will see later, RKC sequences might begin lower than four notrump after minor agreement.

Opener	Responder
1♥	1♠
2♦	4♦
4NT <sup>(a)</sup>	5♦ <sup>(b)</sup>
5♥ <sup>(c)</sup>	5♠ <sup>(d)</sup> or, 5NT <sup>(e)</sup> or, 6♣ <sup>(f)</sup> or, 6♦ <sup>(g)</sup>

- (a) RKC
- (b) 1 or 4
- (c) Queen-ask in diamonds
- (d) No queen
- (e) Queen but no side kings
- (f) Queen with king of clubs
- (g) Queen with at least one major king

When partner responds specifically five diamonds to RKC, showing one or four key cards, a return to the trump suit is a signoff only if responder has one key card. With four key cards he answers for the queen.

If the RKC bidder wishes to inquire about the queen regardless, he simply bids the next-ranking suit, provided it is not the trump suit.

Opener	Responder
♠ A x	♠ x
♥ K x x x	♥ A 10 x x x
♦ A x	♦ K Q J x x
♣ A x x x x	♣ K J

Opener	Responder
1♣	1♥
3♥	4NT <sup>(a)</sup>
5♦ <sup>(b)</sup>	5♥ <sup>(c)</sup>
5♠ <sup>(d)</sup>	6♥ <sup>(e)</sup>
Pass <sup>(f)</sup>	

- (a) RKC
- (b) 1 or 4
- (c) Queen-ask if opener has four key cards, signoff if opener has one key card. If responder wanted to ask for the queen of hearts willy-nilly he must bid five spades over five diamonds.
- (d) No queen of hearts
- (e) I'm too old to play grand slams missing the queen of trumps.
- (f) So am I.

Let it be known (Commercial #2) that if you were to stop reading right here, you would still be light-years ahead of the simple Blackwood bidders. But if you feel you can handle a "bit" more, read on.

One advantage of having partner deny any side kings when affirming the possession of the queen of trumps can be seen on this deal.

Opener	Responder
♠ A K Q 10 x x	♠ x x
♥ x x	♥ A K x x
♦ x x x	♦ A K x x
♣ A Q	♣ K x x

Opener	Responder
1♠	2♦
3♠	4NT <sup>(a)</sup>
5♣ <sup>(b)</sup>	5♦ <sup>(c)</sup>
5♠ <sup>(d)</sup>	5NT <sup>(e)</sup>
6♣ <sup>(f)</sup>	7NT <sup>(g)</sup>

- (a) RKC
- (b) 0 or 3
- (c) Do you have the queen of spades?
- (d) Yes, but no side kings. (Five hearts, first step, would deny the queen of spades.)

- (e) All right. I know you have no kings, but do you have anything extra, like a side queen, or an extra trump?\*
- (f) I have the queen of clubs.
- (g) Good! I can count 13 tricks.

\* With an extra trump, the answerer bids six notrump.

Before leaving this hand, let's say that the opener did not have the queen of clubs, simply A-x. His rebid over five notrump would be six spades, denying a side queen or an extra trump responder would pass. Now give opener a seventh trump but no queen. His rebid would be six notrump, and once again the responder could count 13 tricks and bid the grand.

A hand from a local tournament with the same theme:

Opener	Responder
♠ K Q x x	♠ A 10 x x
♥ A x x	♥ K Q J
♦ A J x x x	♦ K 10
♣ x	♣ A J x x

Opener	Responder
1♥	1♠
3♠	4NT <sup>(a)</sup>
5♣ <sup>(b)</sup>	5♦ <sup>(c)</sup>
5♠ <sup>(d)</sup>	5NT <sup>(e)</sup>
6♠ <sup>(f)</sup>	Pass <sup>(g)</sup>

- (a) RKC
- (b) 0 or 3
- (c) Do you have the queen of spades?
- (d) Yes, but no side kings. \*
- (e) Any side queens?
- (f) No
- (g) Enough

\* The king of spades has already been shown in the RKC response.

Many pairs bid to seven spades, not an unreasonable contract, but against the percentages needing good breaks in two suits.

Give the opener the queen of diamonds instead of the jack and the grand would be odds on. Then, he would have bid six diamonds over five notrump.

## DIRECT ASKS

We know that if the RKC bidder wishes to ask for the queen of the agreed suit, he bids the cheapest suit, other than the trump suit, after the key card response.

But what does it mean if the RKC bidder bids some suit other than the queen-ask suit?

Opener	Responder
♠ A K	♠ x
♥ K J x x	♥ A Q x x x x
♦ A Q x x	♦ x
♣ x x x	♣ A K x x x

Opener	Responder
1NT	2♦ <sup>(a)</sup>
3♥ <sup>(b)</sup>	4NT <sup>(c)</sup>
5♣ <sup>(d)</sup>	6♣ <sup>(e)</sup>
6♦ <sup>(f)</sup>	6♥ <sup>(g)</sup>
Pass <sup>(h)</sup>	

- (a) Transfer
- (b) Maximum for hearts with four trumps
- (c) RKC
- (d) 0 or 3
- (e) What exactly do you have in clubs?
- (f) f) Zilch
- (g) We have a club loser.
- (h) Whatever you say.

Notice that if responder wishes to ask about the queen of hearts, he bids five diamonds. His actual bid of six clubs is called a *Direct Ask*, because it bypasses the queen-ask.

Direct asks are grand-slam tries, promising the joint possession of the five key cards as well as solid trumps. The asker is concerned totally with what his partner has in the asked suit.

Six clubs above is a direct ask with room. "Room" simply means that there is at least one step (six diamonds) between the ask suit (clubs) and the agreed suit (hearts).

When there is room, these are the responses:

*First step:* No second- or third-round control. (x-x-x, x-x-x)

*Second step:* Third-round control. (x-x or Q)

*Higher:* Second-round control. (K-x, K-x-x, K-x-x-x, K-Q)

Second-round control is supposed to be enough to insure seven, so you can just bid seven if you have it; but that is too easy. If you do it the following way, you can get to seven notrump some of the time, and also stay out of bad sevens with K-x-x facing A-x-x-x, playing six notrump instead.

With second-round control in the ask suit, bid:

- (a) Six notrump with K-x-x, K-x-x-x, or K-x-x-x-x.
- (b) Seven of the agreed suit with K-x or x.
- (c) Raise ask suit with K-Q.

Opener	Responder
--------	-----------

♠ x x x x	♠ A K Q x x x
♥ A J	♥ K x
♦ K x x	♦ A Q x x
♣ A J x x	♣ x

Opener	Responder
1♣	1♠
2♠	4NT <sup>(a)</sup>
5♥ <sup>(b)</sup>	6♦ <sup>(c)</sup>
6NT <sup>(d)</sup>	7♠ <sup>(e)</sup>
Pass <sup>(f)</sup>	

- (a) RKC
- (b) 2 without the queen
- (c) A direct ask in diamonds
- (d) K-x-x or perhaps K-x-x-x
- (e) Safer than seven notrump (Fourth diamond might be ruffed in dummy.)
- (f) Sure, partner, sure

By using a direct ask you have uncovered a specific king, something regular Blackwood can't do. (Commercial #3) You have to resort to cue-bidding if playing regular Blackwood.

### DELAYED ASKS

A delayed ask comes after a queen ask. Like a direct ask, it promises the five key cards and trump solidity; it is concerned only with what responder has 1 in the ask suit. (These direct and delayed asks assume that there is a firmly agreed suit. If there is not, and the ask suit has been bid previously, these are natural bids.)

Once again the concept of room enters into the picture. If there is room (at least one step between the ask suit and the agreed suit), the responses to delayed asks are identical to those of direct asks.

Opener	Responder
♠ K Q J x	♠ A x x x x
♥ A J x	♥ x
♦ A Q x x	♦ K x
♣ x x	♣ A K x x

Opener	Responder
1NT	2♥ <sup>(a)</sup>
3♠ <sup>(b)</sup>	4NT <sup>(c)</sup>
5♣ <sup>(d)</sup>	5♦ <sup>(e)</sup>
5♠ <sup>(f)</sup>	6♣ <sup>(g)</sup>
6♥ <sup>(h)</sup>	7♠ <sup>(i)</sup>
Pass <sup>(j)</sup>	

- (a) Transfer
- (b) Maximum with four-card support
- (c) RKC

- (d) 0 or 3
- (e) Queen of spades?
- (f) Yes, but no side kings\*
- (g) Our toy, our toy! A delayed ask in clubs, with room.
- (h) Third-round control, either a doubleton or the queen
- (i) Just what I was looking for.
- (j) Congratulations!

\* A response of five hearts would deny the queen of spades. As five spades is cheaper than five notrump, the five spade response is used to affirm the queen but deny any outside kings. This can only be done when spades is the agreed suit and the ask is five diamonds.

What happens when there is no room (no step between the ask suit and the agreed suit, the ask suit is directly beneath the agreed suit in rank)? Things are getting a little crowded.

#### RESPONSES WITH NO ROOM

To DIRECT asks:

*First step:* No second-round control.

With K-x-x or K-x-x-x bid six notrump.

With K-x or a singleton bid seven of agreed suit.

With K-Q bid seven of ask suit.

To INDIRECT asks:

*First step:* No third-round control. (x-x-x, x-x-x-x)

With the queen bid six notrump.

With x-x bid seven of agreed suit.

With Q-J bid seven of ask suit.

When you have room (just one tiny step), you can find out anything you want to know without getting beyond the agreed suit (unless partner has second-round control, which is supposed to be enough for seven) by using either a direct or a delayed ask.

When you do not have room, direct asks are good only for second-round control, and delayed ask are good only for third-round control.

Now let's see if you can make head or tails of the following sequence. If you can, be sure to come and visit me in my ward sometime.

Opener	Responder
♠ A K	♠ x
♥ K J x x	♥ A Q x x x x
♦ x x x	♦ A 10 x x
♣ A Q x x	♣ x

Opener	Responder
1NT	2♦ <sup>(a)</sup>
3♥ <sup>(b)</sup>	4NT <sup>(c)</sup>

5♣ <sup>(d)</sup>	5♦ <sup>(e)</sup>
5♥ <sup>(f)</sup>	6♦ <sup>(g)</sup>
6♥ <sup>(h)</sup>	Pass <sup>(i)</sup>

- (a) Transfer
- (b) Maximum with four card support.
- (c) RKC
- (d) 0 or 3
- (e) Do you have the queen of hearts? This is an honesty check.
- (f) No
- (g) Delayed ask in diamonds with no room.
- (h) First step, showing x-x-x or x-x-x-x
- (i) We have a diamond loser.

Did you notice how clever the responder was? He knew he was going to have to ask for third-round diamond control with no room.

A direct ask (with no room) would do him no good, as the first step merely denies second-round control. So the responder purposely delayed the ask by asking for the trump queen even though he himself held the card.

Had opener held the queen of diamonds he would have bid six notrump; with a doubleton, he would bid seven hearts, and with both the queen and jack, seven diamonds. If the response to six diamonds happens to be seven diamonds, responder can bid a confident seven notrump.

## THE 1981 PRECISION AWARD

### Jeff Rubens (USA)

The winner of the Precision Award for the best article, or series of articles on a convention went to Jeff Rubens of the U.S.A. for his series on "The Useful Space Principle", which appeared in the Bridge World. Second place went to Alan Falk of the U.S.A. for "Some Bidding Headaches: Conventional Approach", which appeared in the Capitol Area Bridge News.

The first of six articles was published in the 1980 November issue of The Bridge World and the following articles appeared in December 1980, January 1981, February 1981, March 1981, and April 1981.

### The Useful-Space Principle

By Jeff Rubens

Let's say you and your partner are building your bidding system. You have completed a first phase in which the meanings of openings and responses were determined; now comes the more difficult job of filling in the details. As our story opens, you are concluding your work on this sequence:

<i>Opener</i> 1♠ ?	<i>Responder</i> 3♠*
--------------------------	-------------------------

\* limit

It is quickly agreed that opener's rebids of four clubs, four diamonds and four hearts will be cue-bids. What about three notrump? Its usefulness as a natural bid is too unlikely to be worth worrying about. However, you have seen cases in which three notrump is useful to ask responder about his short suit. For example, suppose opener has,

♠ A Q J x x ♥ x x x ♦ K Q J ♣ A Q

This hand is worth a look at slam. If responder shows a singleton heart, the five level will usually be safe enough; a slam-suitable responding hand:

♠ K x x x ♥ x ♦ A x x x ♣ x x x x

In contrast, if responder shows shortness in a minor suit, the duplication of values makes a good slam unlikely, and suggests that the five level may be dangerous.

When responder has no singleton, the calculation is somewhat more difficult. Still, it is hard to construct hands that offer substantially more than 50% play for slam, so opener is best advised to let the slam quest drop.

The partnership discussion hums along smoothly as you agree that one spade-three spades-three

notrump will ask for short suit. Responder will there-upon bid four of the suit of his singleton (or void), if any, and four spades otherwise. (This shortness-showing scheme is not recommended, but is used here for the sake of simplicity.)

Now the discussion moves on to this ostensibly similar sequence:

<i>Opener</i> 1♥ ?	<i>Responder</i> 3♥
--------------------------	------------------------

Your partner says, "Why don't we treat this one the same way? New suits are cue-bids, and three notrump asks for shortness."

Here, you must find an uninsulting way of explaining to partner that his scheme simply won't work. After this three-notrump ask, responder can send only three distinct messages without bypassing the security level of four hearts. Unfortunately, he has four possible messages to send—each of three possible short suits, and no shortness. No matter how the responding scheme is arranged, one message will be ambiguous (something like "either spade shortness or no shortness"), which is clumsy and inefficient; or else one of the messages will be transmitted above four hearts, which is ridiculous (getting to the five-level willy-nilly defeats the main purpose).

To be sure, there is a corresponding gain elsewhere. After the sequence one heart-three hearts-three spades (cuebid), an extra bid is available, three notrump. This can be used to increase the efficiency of auctions that begin one heart-three hearts-three spades (compared, for example, to those that begin one spade-three spades-four clubs). However, this gain is very small, applying only to a tiny fraction of cuebidding situations. Furthermore, the very asymmetry may make it more difficult to retain the system in memory. (We'll return to the practical problem of remembering methods later on.)

I believe a player's feel for bridge should tell him there is something wrong if one spade-three spades-four clubs (lowest cue-bid) and one heart-three hearts-three spades (lowest cue-bid) have essentially different bidding structures. What are important are the functions of the bids, not their names. Someone writing on a different subject has expressed this idea nicely: "There is no proof of strangeness of this organization; yet a healthy intuition tells us that something is 'fishy' and that we should remove this asymmetry."

It is clear that, after one heart-three hearts, and strictly from the point of view of efficiency, three spades as a cuebid with three notrump as an ask is far inferior to three spades as the ask with three notrump as the (spade) cue-bid. We can express this by saying that the first method wastes bidding space

by assigning extra room where it is (relatively) unneeded. In contrast, the second method is in accord with:

#### *The Useful-Space Principle (USP)*

*When allocating bidding space under partnership agreements, assign it where most useful without reference to natural or traditional bridge meanings of calls.*

Space is not "most useful" just because it allows one device to function while affecting the efficiency of another very little. For example, suppose that, after one heart-three hearts, spade-cuebid sequences were ten times as important as shortness-ask sequences. Then, it might make sense to give the extra available space to the spade cuebid, and allow the less important shortness-ask to suffer part of the time.

#### *On Remembering*

Your partner may resist treating one heart-three hearts-three spades as a shortness ask because, he says, it is easier to remember that three notrump always asks for the singleton. He is wrong. It may be temporarily easier for him to remember it that way, because he happened to look at the situation that way first. However, there is inherently nothing more difficult about remembering "cheapest bid asks for shortness." From that general principle it follows logically that one heart-three hearts; three notrump is a "cuebid in spades," and that, one heart-three hearts-three spades (ask)-three notrump shows spade shortness.

Contrary to what you might think from my authorship of numerous panicles on bidding methods and systems, I am well below average in ability to remember details. To survive, I have to design not only optimal bidding devices but also methods for remembering them. Luckily, I have found two techniques that work spectacularly well: remember in terms of principles, not sequences; generalize the successful principles to as many sequences as possible.

For example, I remember that I use "cheapest asks for singleton" by remembering why it is smart to use that method (because of the USP). Then, I need commit to memory only categories of auctions in which this particular principle applies, a far cry from memorizing lists of individual sequences. A partnership might want to apply the same principle to some or all of the following categories, where X and Y are suits of appropriate rank:

#### **One (two sequences)**

<i>Opener</i>	<i>Responder</i>
1♥/♠	3♥/♠
?	

#### **Two (five sequences)**

<i>Opener</i>	<i>Responder</i>
1X	1♥/♠
3♥/♠	?

#### **Three (three sequences)**

<i>Opener</i>	<i>Responder</i>
1X	1Y
1♥/♠	3♥/♠
?	

And there are other less obvious situations in which you might want to apply the same general idea. (I do.)

Once you memorize through the idea, you are faced not with a mass of substituted meanings (notrump means spades, spades means elephants..), but, rather, with individual at-the-table problems that are easy to unravel even if you remember nothing more than the basic principle.

The difficult sort of remembering problem arises when you have been doing something one way for a long time and try to switch. Even here, results through remembering-by-principle have been good. Here are two examples.

(1) When Journalist Leads were developed about 15 years ago, the general consensus was, "Sure, they look better than standard leads. But maybe they are only a little better, and what if we forget?" But since then, no one has ever told me he didn't use Journalist Leads because of difficulty remembering them.

(2) The use of high cards as encouraging figured to be a hard habit to break because of frequency of use. Nonetheless, reports from people switching to "low encouraging" are along the lines, "I wouldn't have believed it would be so easy."

I have emphasized the strategy of remembering because misguided notions of what is easy to remember have led to the construction of many inefficient standard bidding methods, for more important than shortness asks because they come up more often. In this series of articles I will propose several new approaches based on the USP. Some of them are not only obviously much better than existing methods but also are just as easy, if not easier, to remember.

#### *Other USP Techniques*

In the shortness-ask it was most beneficial to devote available space to one particular action. A different technique is to add a little space to several functions, making each somewhat more efficient, and to remove

all this space from one function, paying a heavy price in one place. Consider four level responses to one notrump:

<i>Without transfers</i>	<i>With transfers</i>
4♦ (diamonds)	4♦ (hearts)
4♥ (hearts)	4♥ (spades)
4♠ (spades)	4♠(?)

The switch to transfers makes it difficult, or even impossible, to show diamonds at this level. (Similarly, most two-level-transfer methods remove responder's ability to sign off at two diamonds.)

When considering a system change, it is often wise to keep in mind both possible applications of the USP.

## THE 1982 PRECISION AWARD



**Ed Manfield (USA)**

The Precision Award for the Best Bridge Article of the Year was won by Ed Manfield for a Bridge World article entitled "I've Got a Secret". Edgar Kaplan, co-editor of The Bridge World, accepted for Manfield.

### I've Got A Secret

By Ed Manfield, Arlington, Va

I've got a secret. My partners have begged me not to reveal it – they claim it will cost us 20 imps a session should it get out. However, they exaggerate.

Actually, I didn't know I had a secret until I noticed a few recent Master Solvers problems:

August '80

Matchpoints; both vulnerable

♠ A 7 6 3 ♥ K J 9 ♦ 6 4 3 ♣ Q 9 5

South	West	North	East
Pass	Pass	1♦	Dbl
Rdbl	2♣	Pass	Pass
?			

December '80

IMPs; NS vulnerable

♠ K Q 5 2 ♥ 9 6 4 ♦ A 8 7 ♣ Q 6 3

South	West	North	East
		1♣	Dbl
Rdbl	3♥	Pass	Pass
?			

Do you double and risk partner's passing when short in their suit, or do you bid and give up a possibly juicy penalty? These are situations panel members have faced hundreds of times. Nevertheless, panellists find these problems difficult; most admit they are just guessing.

In my view, these problems were created by the first-round redouble. Players have always redoubled on hands like these. The redouble has been used to announce a "big" hand (say, 10+ points), with no particular limitation on shape. In fact, failure to redouble once denied a big hand, and still does in Bridge World Standard. Through the years there have been very few changes in this concept, although many now play that new suits, and certain jumps over the double, are forcing and so can be made on good hands. Basically, the redouble remains a knee-jerk, macho noise, which is made on such a wide variety of hands that subsequent bidding becomes very difficult.

I believe the redouble should be used as a defensive weapon. When the opponents enter the auction, we want to punish them if they have no cards and no fit. *Judicious* use of the redouble can help.

From this perspective, it serves no purpose to redouble one diamond on,

♠ A 7 6 3 ♥ K J 9 ♦ 6 4 3 ♣ Q 9 5

or one club on,

♠ K Q 5 2 ♥ 9 6 4 ♦ A 8 7 ♣ Q 6 3

Surely it is unlikely that partner will be able to double the suit they choose, and you will be uncomfortable doubling anything yourself, except, perhaps, spades. Your redouble will usually enable them to get off the hook. Furthermore, it leaves you very vulnerable to preemption.

Some panellists objected to the redouble, favouring one spade or one notrump instead. However, these bids are cowardly. They give up the possibility of penalty. What astonishes me about the panel's comments is that no member argued for what I regard as the correct and obvious first-round action on the South hand: PASS!

That's right, Pass on these hands, and follow with double at your next turn. This sequence should show a balanced hand (usually 4-3-3-3, when partner opens a minor) with 10 + points. It describes your hand, makes it difficult for West to preempt (since a jump over your Pass would be constructive), and enables partner to punish the opponents when they are overboard. Furthermore, this treatment gives up almost nothing.

Well, the secret is out if it is OK to pass over a double holding a good hand. When you do so, your redoubles acquire more definition. They show 10+ points with good defense against all but one of their suits. Thus, you might redouble one club on,

♠ K 10 9 x ♥ x x ♦ A J x x ♣ K x x

or one diamond on,

♠ Q 10 x x ♥ x x ♦ Q x x ♣ A Q x x

If they bid hearts in these instances, partner will double only with four of them, because he knows you are likely to be short in hearts. Similarly, if the auction proceeds:

1♣	Dbl	Rdbl	2♣
Pass	Pass	Dbl	

or

1♣	Dbl	Rdbl	3♥
Pass	Pass	Dbl	

partner will know your double is for business. He doesn't have to contend with the possibility that you hold three little or queen-third in their suit.

This style facilitates constructive bidding too. How many times have you held,

♠ x x ♥ Q x x x ♦ A K x ♣ A x x x

and heard the auction go:

1♣	Dbl	Rdbl	1♠
Pass	2♠	Pass	Pass
?			

Partner expects you to bid, but in standard methods any action might be disastrous. In my style, this hand is easy. Partner must have IGBRth in diamonds and hearts. Therefore, you should bid three hearts, non-forcing.

The use of the delayed double to show a strong balanced hand has a host of useful applications in related auctions.

1♠	2NT	Dbl	3♣
Pass	Pass	Dbl	

or

1♣	Dbl	Rdbl	3♥
Pass	Pass	Dbl	

Doubler should have a good hand with at least four trumps. Holding a more flexible hand, responder would pass, then double.

1♠	Pass	4♠	4NT
Pass	5♣	Pass	Pass
Dbl			

Doubler shows a good flexible hand. His partner is allowed to remove with a very spade-oriented hand. If opener were suited only to defense, he would double four notrump.

1♥	Pass	2♥	Pass
Pass	Dbl	Pass	2♠
Pass	Pass	Dbl	

Doubler has a maximum balanced hand. With four spades, he would begin by redoubling two hearts.

Consider another recent Master Solvers problem (January 1981):

♠ K 10 7 3 2 ♥ 4 ♦ K 8 6 2 ♣ A K 7

IMPs, EW vulnerable

1♠	Pass	3♠	Dbl
?			

I think it is clear to redouble. This shows a good holding in some of their suits, and creates a force. Partner will not double four hearts unless he has good hearts.

Yet, only five panellists chose to redouble. The majority, along with director Wolff, rejected the redouble because it would "encourage partner to double." This view is presumably based on the assumption that redouble shows a strong balanced hand. However, as we have seen, this strong balanced hand can afford to pass and later double the run out.

Have I convinced you that it is sometimes appropriate to Pass over a takeout double holding a good hand? If so, then why not Pass on various awkward hands with trump support? Consider:

1♠	Dbl	Pass	2♥
Pass	Pass	?	

You hold, as responder:

♠ Q x ♥ x x ♦ A 10 x x x ♣ x x x x

Bid two spades, as normally.

♠ Q x ♥ J x x ♦ K 10 x x x ♣ K Q x

Double; good balanced hand with at least three hearts

♠ K x x x ♥ x ♦ A 10 x x ♣ 10 x x x

*Three spades.* This shows an unbalanced hand with four spades, and is nonforcing. You could begin with two notrump or four spades on the first round, but these bids are less descriptive.

♠ Q x x x ♥ x ♦ A x x x ♣ A J x x

*Three hearts.* This shows an unbalanced hand with four spades, and is game-forcing. You might choose to splinter with four hearts on the first round, but the recommended auction leaves more space for slam investigation.

Note that there is no purpose, in starting with redouble on either of the last two hands, because you have no intention of defending.

Now try:

1♠	Dbl	Rdbl	2♥
Pass	Pass	?	

♠ x x ♥ K 10 x x ♦ A J x x x ♣ Q x

*Double. Gotcha!*

♠ x x x ♥ K 10 x ♦ A J x x x ♣ Q x  
*Two spades.* Typically, 10-12 with three-card support.

♠ Q x ♥ A x ♦ J 10 x x x ♣ K J x x  
*Two notrump.* Natural. Partner will infer that you have the minors, because, unless you have trump support, your redouble shows two suits.

♠ Q x ♥ A x ♦ A J x x x ♣ K J x x  
*Three diamonds.* Forcing.

♠ Q x x ♥ Q x ♦ K 10 x x ♣ A Q x x  
*Three hearts.* Three-card spade support, choice of games.

♠ x x x ♥ x ♦ A K x x ♣ Q 10 x x x  
*Three spades.* 10-12, three-card spade support, unbalanced.

Note that, despite holding spade support, you can begin with a redouble in order to describe your hand, or to suggest the possibility of defending.

You can choose your own meanings for these sequences. The key point is that, although many of these bids are unused in standard bidding, they can all be defined quite precisely when some good hands begin by passing.

My methods will solve some of your old problems, but they will also create some new ones. Try these:

♠ A Q x x ♥ J x x ♦ Q x ♣ Q 10 x x

1♦	Dbl	Rdbl	1♥
Pass	Pass	?	

*One notrump.* This auction shows spades and clubs. With a stronger hand, cue-bid. With five spades, bid one spade.

♠ K 10 x x x ♥ K Q x ♦ A x x ♣ J x

1♠	2NT	Pass	Pass
?			

*Double.* Partner could have a balanced 20 count. I know-you can hardly wait to hold a strong East hand and trap pass against me.

♠ Q x ♥ A Q x x ♦ K 10 x x ♣ x x x

1♠	2NT	?
----	-----	---

*Double* is right if they are going to choose diamonds, but Pass is right if they choose clubs. I tend to pass, figuring they are more likely to land in the lower suit.

♠ A Q x x x ♥ K x ♦ A K x ♣ Q x x

1♠	Pass	Pass	Dbl
?			

*Redouble.* This just shows a good balanced hand (as in Standard). Pass, followed by double, shows a big

balanced hand only when you can be confident that your side owns a majority of the high cards.

I am reminded of Al Roth, who used to lecture constantly on the virtues of passing. Surely it time to start passing more over takeout doubles. In so doing, your redoubles can be reserved for carefully delineated hands. You will extract more blood from the opponents, and create fewer problems for yourself.

## THE 1983 ROSENKRANZ AWARD



Bruce Neill (AUS)

The Rosenkranz Award for the best article about a system went to Bruce Neill, whose article "Rubensohl" appeared in the May 1983 edition of The Bridge World. Honourable mention went to Brian Senior for "Defense to Intervention over One Notrump" and to Jerold A. Fink for "Pointed Preempts". Senior's article appeared in the October 1983 edition of International Popular Bridge Monthly, and Fink's appeared in the August 1983 Bridge World.

### Rubensohl

By Bruce Neill, Sydney, Australia

**R**ubensohl is a scheme of competitive bidding, which my team mates (Barbara McDonald, Sue Neill and Alan Walsh) and I have developed out of two other competitive conventions "Rubens advances" (The Useful Space Principle, VI, BW, April '81); and "Lebensohl" (BW, November '70).

Rubensohl works much like Lebensohl after your side has bid one notrump or made a takeout double, but with the advantage that it works over both major and minor suits. It also includes a method of inquiring about four-card majors and stoppers in the enemy suit, when responder is strong enough for game.

However, the major advantage of Rubensohl is that you can also use it effectively in a wide range of other competitive situations, when your side has opened the bidding, when you have made an overcall or a takeout double.

Moreover, Rubensohl lends itself to easy adaptation to new situations, since the same general rules apply in all Rubensohl auctions. (So what? Well, this means that you don't have to spend the effort discussing-and, even harder, remembering-the subtle differences between auctions, because all auctions can be worked out from general principles.)

This article explains the mechanics of Rubensohl, and then shows a range of situations in which it can be used. First, as background, let's have a quick review of Lebensohl and Rubens Advances.

### Lebensohl

If the bidding starts,

Partner		You
1NT	(2♠)	?

Lebensohl lets you bid three clubs, three diamonds or three hearts *forcing* when you have a good hand. If you just want to compete at the three level, rather than to defend two spades, you bid two notrump. This is a "puppet" bid, which requires partner to bid three clubs; you can then pass, or sign off by bidding three diamonds or three hearts. If you want to get fancy, you can also assign meaning to a cue-bid, or a three-notrump bid, after first bidding two notrump.

Meanwhile, what happens if you want to bid a natural two notrump? You just can't do it, so you may have to overbid slightly, or underbid by passing. That is the price you pay for the convention, but, after all, it is unlikely that you can make exactly eight tricks in notrump.

### Rubens Advances

Like Lebensohl, Rubens Advances let you show your suit with either forcing or nonforcing strGBRth. The method here is to use a transfer rather than a puppet bid. If the bidding starts,

Partner		You
(1♣)	1♠ (Pass)	?

you can bid two clubs or two diamonds, to transfer to diamonds or hearts. Then, you pass with a competitive hand, or bid on with a better hand. With a spade raise, you can bid two hearts (transfer, good raise) or two spades directly (weak raise). If you already use the cue-bid to show a good raise, you give up virtually nothing by using this convention, since it really works just as well to bid two hearts to show this type of raise.

Now, let's roll up our sleeves and put these two ideas together.

### Rubensohl

In Rubensohl, like Lebensohl, we give up two notrump as a natural bid, to gain more flexibility with strong and distributional hands. The difference is that all bids from two notrump to three spades are transfers to the next strain.

To begin with, suppose that partner opens one notrump, and RHO overcalls two of a major.

Partner		You
1NT	(2♠)	?

1. Two notrump is a transfer, showing at least five clubs, plus enough strGBRth to compete at the three level. With no game interest, you can then Pass partner's three-club bid, and play there; with extra strGBRth, you can bid on.

2. Three clubs and three diamonds also transfer, to diamonds and hearts. Partner is entitled to expect a reasonably good hand when you transfer, even if you are simply intending to Pass when partner bids your suit, since you would just defend two spades with a bad hand. So, with a maximum and a good fit, partner is allowed to super-accept the transfer by jumping, or bidding some other suit.

Now, the more exotic side:

3. Three hearts is - wait for it - still a transfer! But, since the opponents have already bid spades, this is not a spade suit but a "transfer cue-bid." It is forcing to game, and guarantees a four card heart suit.

By transferring, rather than bidding three spades ourselves, we leave partner just enough room to check back for a spade stopper if he does not have one himself. His options over three hearts are:

- Three notrump-natural; a spade stopper, fewer than four hearts.
- Four hearts – natural; four-card heart suit.
- Three spades – check back: "No heart suit here, partner. Have you got a spade stopper?"

Right! Have you got all of that? Then you will be ready for this.

4. Three spades is also a transfer, to notrump! In effect, it is a cry for help, showing a strong hand with no four-card major, no five-card minor worth bidding, and no stopper in the enemy suit.

There is one further option, which is - at last!- completely natural.

5. Three notrump is to play, showing a spade stopper with no interest in finding a four-four heart fit.

When the opponents have bid a lower ranking suit, the rules are:

- Three spades is always the "Help!" bid, to preserve useful space for other hand types.
- The transfer cue-bid is always the bid below the enemy suit-three diamonds over a two-heart overcall,

three clubs over two diamonds, two notrump over two clubs.

3. All other bids from two notrump to three hearts are standard transfers, showing a five-card suit.

Three spades ("Help!") and the normal transfers work in the same way whatever the enemy suit. However, transfer cue-bids need some adjustment when the enemy suit is a *minor*. For example:

Partner		You
1NT	(2♦)	3♣

You promise at least one four-card major. Partner rebids:

3♦ – no diamond stopper; now the partnership bids up the line to search for a major-suit fit.

3♥/♠ – four-card suit plus diamond stopper.

3NT – diamond stopper, no major.

#### After Weak Jump Overcalls

So far, Rubensohl may not seem much of an improvement. But now let's get on to the feature that really distinguishes it from Lebensohl—you can use it after a *suit* opening bid. To see how, take the sequence:

Partner		You
1♦	(2♠*)	?

\*weak jump overcall.

Suppose you hold:

♠ x x x ♥ K x ♦ Q x ♣ K Q x x x x

Bid two notrump, a transfer. Then pass partner's three clubs.

♠ x x ♥ K x x ♦ A x x ♣ A Q x x x

Bid two notrump, a transfer, then three spades asking for a stopper.

♠ K x x ♥ A Q x x ♦ K x ♣ Q x x x

Bid three hearts, a transfer cue-bid, promising a four-card heart suit. If partner bids three spades, denying a spade stopper, bid three notrump to show that you can stop spades.

♠ x x x x ♥ A x x ♦ K x x ♣ A Q x

Bid three spades, denying four hearts, and asking for a spade stopper.

♠ x x x ♥ A x x ♦ A Q x x ♣ K x x

Bid three clubs to show diamond support. Then bid three spades, asking for a stopper.

♠ K x x ♥ A x x ♦ Q x x x ♣ A x x

Bid three clubs to show diamond support. Then bid three notrump, showing a stopper.

Clearly, these transfers gain great accuracy in describing strong hands over the overcall (with weak hands, we tend to use negative doubles). The cost is

the loss of a natural two-notrump bid. The chances are that you will make fewer than eight tricks in notrump if the opponents can establish their long suit, more than eight tricks if they cannot.

#### Opener's Rebids

An opening suit bid covers a much wider range, in both high-card strength and distribution, than a one-notrump opening. Therefore it is important to consider what opener should do next if responder makes a transfer bid. Opener bids on the assumption that responder has a minimum, and is intending to pass as soon as opener bids the transfer suit.

If opener is happy to have responder Pass, opener would have passed if responder had bid his actual suit, nonforcing-opener simply accepts the transfer.

Otherwise, opener makes the bid he would have made if responder had made a nonforcing bid of his actual suit.

You		Partner
1♥	(2♠*)	2NT+ (Pass)
?		

\* weak jump overcall  
+ transfer to clubs

You, opener, hold:

♠ x x ♥ A K x x x ♦ K Q x ♣ x x x

Bid three clubs. You would have passed if partner had bid three clubs nonforcing.

♠ x x ♥ A K J x x ♦ K x ♣ A Q x x

Bid four clubs, *forcing*. Slam must be reasonable if partner has a spade control and an ace.

♠ x x ♥ A Q J x x ♦ K Q J x x ♣ x

Bid three diamonds, nonforcing. Your hand must be worth more in a red suit.

♠ K J x ♥ J x x x ♦ K J x x ♣ x

Bid three clubs (reluctantly), since you would have had to pass if partner had bid three clubs nonforcing. Partner is not likely to have a four-card diamond suit if he passes three clubs, since he could have made a negative double with a weak hand and both minors.

Incidentally, these examples illustrate why we changed two notrump from a puppet bid to a transfer. Opener just cannot rebid sensibly if he has to guess what responder's suit is.

#### Other Rubensohl Situations

The greatest thing about this gadget is the number of auctions in which it is useful. For an extreme illustration, look at this auction:

Partner		You
1♦ *	(2♦+)	?

\* better minor  
+ natural overcall.

What sort of hand is partner likely to have? Probably a balanced minimum. You can therefore use Rubensohl here as if partner had opened a weak notrump.

Bidding over a weak jump overcall was the first situation where we tried using Rubensohl after partner had opened with a suit bid. It proved so effective that we soon decided to use Rubensohl in auctions like:

Partner		You
1♥	(2♦)	?

The details are much the same as above, except that you can now play change of suit nonforcing at the two level! So, two spades in this auction would show a long suit, but only a moderate hand. With a game-forcing hand; you can jump to three hearts, transfer to spades.

It was not long before we were using Rubensohl even here:

Partner		You
1♦	(1♠)	?

Now, *one* notrump is Rubensohl! The advantage is that, with a hand of moderate strGBRth, you are now able to transfer into your long suit at the two level immediately, before the opponent can shut you out with a raise to two spades. Again, we give up a natural bid to use Rubensohl, here, one notrump. With a balanced hand of medium strGBRth and a stopper, you must either jump to two notrump, nonforcing, or pass and plan to bid one notrump on the next round if partner reopens with a double.

By the way, new suits at the one level (unlike the two level) are forcing. Another difference is that while two spades-the "help!" bid-still denies a four-card major, it does not necessarily deny a stopper; two notrump is nonforcing, and you may prefer to bid two spades, rather than three notrump, on a balanced hand, to leave room to investigate a minor-suit game or slam.

Another use:

	Partner		You
(1♦)	2♣	(2♦)	?

After partner overcalls, we normally use Rubens Advances. If RHO is unkind enough to take that option away, by raising his partner's suit, we revert to Rubensohl.

And:

Partner		You
1♣ *	(2♠)	?

\* artificial, strong

Rubensohl also works well against interference after a strong club. As usual, it allows responder to show his long suit without forcing to game, or to check for a major fit with a balanced game-forcing hand.

Adventurous (dedicated? masochistic?) partnerships may choose to adopt the generalized approach described above, and use Rubensohl in competitive auctions whenever, (a), the partnership is not forced to game, and, (b), responder has not denied a strong hand (for example, by passing earlier). You will find that it really does make competitive bidding much more comfortable to be able to tell partner at once when you have a long suit and a reasonable hand (so that he can make a sensible decision about what to do if the opponents bid on). Rubensohl lets you do so without creating a forcing situation.

However, it is only fair to warn that using Rubensohl in such a wide range of sequences will not be easy. Remembering how Rubensohl works is relatively simple; the problem is to recognize when Rubensohl applies. What is more, it requires not just a one-time effort to define which auctions will be Rubensohl, but a constant "maintenance" effort to keep the agreement fresh in your mind. (If you like, we can show you the scars. While developing this convention, we incurred several disasters – "Rubens-Oopses" – by bidding too quickly in competitive auctions, forgetting that bids that had been natural for the whole of our bridge career were now conventional.)

Still, on our experience so far, it does seem that full Rubensohl is a sufficient improvement on standard methods to repay the effort required, provided that the partnership can manage to eliminate the Oopses. One thing is sure: it will put new excitement into your competitive auctions as you try to work out whether partner's bid is natural or a transfer.

## THE 1984 PRECISION AWARD



**Sven-Olov Flodqvist & Anders Morath (SWE)**

### Antinonsens

If the opponents open 1♦/♥/♠ to show a weak hand, i.e. 0-7, we use a module called Antinonsens. Against 1♣ though, we use our normal opening methods with D=1♣ opening.

- |      |  |
|------|--|
| Dbl  | 1. Balanced hand, 13+ HCP.<br>2. Unlimited opening with at least five cards in the suit (or 4441).<br>Regardless of type the double thus always have at least a doubleton in the suit. |
| 1♥/♠ | Natural 5+ 12-16-opening, with continuations according to system   |
| 1N   | Unlimited opening with at least five <u>clubs</u> as the longest suit in an unbalanced hand.   |
| 2♣   | 1. 17+ with <u>hearts</u> over 1♦<br>2. Unlimited with <u>diamonds</u> over 1♥/♠.  |
| 2♦   | 1. 17+ with <u>spades</u> over 1♥<br>2. 17+ with <u>spades</u> over 1♥<br>3. Unlimited with <u>hearts</u> over 1♠  |
| 2♥   | Three suiter with short "opening suit" and 12-16 HCP.  |
| 2♠   | As 2♥ but 17+, forcing.  |
| 2N   | At least 5-5 in the minors and about 11-14 HCP.  |

Higher bids are normal pre-empts – sound if partner is unpassed.

### The Double

Advancer assumes the balanced double and may pass for penalties with 8+ HCP and at least four trumps (possibly three and good defensive values against vulnerable). The penalty Pass establishes a forcing situation, which is valid until a new penalty double, no-trump, bids, rebids, preferences and raises.

With a weak hand the advancer bids 1♥/♠ (4+ suit), 1NT or 2♥/♠/3♣/♦ (5+ suit). A "raise" of the doubled suit is weak and natural, but a jump to 2♥/♠ is slightly constructive.

Advancer's 2NT is natural and invitational to the 13-15 no-trump. Natural continuation with 3 of the

"opening suit" NF and a new suit forcing for one round with the unbalanced hand type.

### Advancer's 2♣/♦

"Two-way Stayman": 2♣ showing about 8-11, in principle without four card "opening suit" (since with the suit the penalty Pass is often preferred). 2♦ is FG with 12+ HCP and doesn't deny the "opening suit".

**After Dbl – 2♣** doubler may force to game with a natural 2N (2N system applies) or with natural bids at the three level, promising five card "opening suit". Without extra values doubler bids an unbid major, five card "opening suit" or 2♦, in this priority order.

**After Dbl – 2♦** doubler rebids 2N with the balanced hand (2NT system applies). Note though, that doubler must be careful to avoid a premature Pass by advancer with extra. With 13-15 and 4333 with a minor, doubler may also jump to 3NT directly over 2♦.

With an unbalanced hand, doubler rebids naturally, possibly with a jump to show extra values, good distribution and/or good suit quality. Natural continuation.

### After advancer's escape to 1♥/♠/N

Doubler's no-trump bids are natural (1N about 16-19) and normal no-trump methods apply.

Doubler's 2♣ is a general one round force and "Stayman" (2N shows maximum without a major).

Other suit rebids are natural with 5-card "opening suit". Reverses and jump rebids are invitational, but not forcing – doubler must rebid 2♣ plus a new suit at the three-level to force.

### After third hands actions

If third hand bids 1♥/♠ a double is for penalties and 2♣ is limited "Stayman". 2♦ though is natural here – since the cue bid is the FG. Over higher bids we use the no-trump defence methods after (1NT) – Dbl – (2x), i.e. an optional double with at least three trumps, while 2NT and the cue bid are FG.

If advancer passes third hand's bid doubler's repeated double shows the balanced hand and a suit bid the unbalanced.

Over third hand redoubles the above methods still apply, with Pass for penalties.

### The transfer overcall

Advancer accepts the transfer if he would have passed a natural overcall in the suit. A "raise" is invitational and others forcing – the relay is a general force, new suit with five cards, 2NT with five card relay suit. Note that advancer doesn't need to try and find a

positive bid – overcaller gets another chance after the completed transfer. The continuation is natural except for overcaller's 2N over the relay, showing a limited hand with four cards in the relay suit.

**Note!** Since overcaller is unlimited, all his rebids in new suits are forcing.

When 2♦ shows spades (and thus 17+) the above methods apply, but both 2♥ and 2♠ are limited – 2♠ shows support though. Advancer's 2N is a general positive move.

#### *Three suited 2♥/♠*

Some sort of Lebensohl is used, thus direct calls at the three-level are invitational. A bid in the short suit is natural.

#### *Fourth hand actions*

All bids after (1♦/♥/♠)-Pass-(Pass) has the same meaning as second hand bids. There is no reason to protect with a bad hand, since partner denied an opening bid with his Pass, but naturally it's quite OK to be slightly weaker. Don't forget the penalty Pass if fourth hand doubles! Continuation as after second hand actions, but the FG response of 2♦ after a double doesn't apply (2♦ is natural and weak).

#### *Vs "Säffle" types*

Over Pass/1♣ (forcing with ♠/♥) our Pass may be strong (~16+ HCP); 1♣/♦ and Dbl are overcalls (Dbl=♣) with about 8-15 HCP or 12-14 no-trump without 5-card major. 1OM is natural, 8-15 with 5-card suit. Further bidding according to system as if partner had opened. The 1N overcall is 15-17 and the "low cue bid" 1M shows 15-17 no-trump without a stopper.

Over 1♦ (0-7) and 1♥/♠ (artificial without majors) we use Antinonsens – over 1♥-1♠ (relay) as well.

## THE BEST PLAY BY A JUNIOR

### THE 1997 LEVENDAAL AWARD FOR BEST PLAY BY A JUNIOR



**Morten Lund Madsen (DEN)**  
Journalist: Ib Lundby (DEN)

From the Hamilton Daily Bulletin: On board 22 from the match against Brazil in round 6 the younger brother, Morten Lund Madsen, had a brilliant defence:

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

West	North	East	South
Morten		Lars	
		1♠	Pass
1NT <sup>1</sup>	Pass	2NT <sup>2</sup>	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

<sup>1</sup> Forcing  
<sup>2</sup> 18-19 HCP

Against the same contract in the Closed Room North chose to lead a diamond, so the Danish West had an easy task. Morten found the heart lead (1st hurdle) thereby giving nothing away.

Declarer won in dummy, and after the diamond ace he continued with the queen. Morten ducked (2nd hurdle). Declarer now shifted to the ♣10 from dummy. Morten ducked again (3rd hurdle). A second club went to the queen, and declarer took the heart shift in hand and tried a spade to the queen – successfully, but Morten had unblocked the jack (4th hurdle). Finally declarer tried the ♠A, and Morten fulfilled his brilliant-

cy, unblocking the king (5th hurdle). This defence left declarer with no chance for an endplay. One off.

Can you make 3NT double dummy on best defence? I think the contract is always beatable. Do you agree?

*IBPA Editor:* No. The play starts: ♥, ♦Q wins, ♣10 wins. Then, double dummy, declarer succeeds by setting up spades, duck a spade, win a second heart and duck a spade.

*The Shortlist for Junior Player of the year:*

Candidate	IBPA	Journalist
Morten Madsen	392.2	Ib Lundby
Wademark	391.2	Unnamed
Dupont	388.10	Stokman
Khiouppenen - Hamilton	B9.3	Rosenblum
E. Hung	Sportilia 6.2	Unnamed

### THE 1998 LEVENDAAL AWARD FOR BEST PLAY BY A JUNIOR



**Igor Grzejdzia (POL)**  
Journalist: Jon Sveindal (NOR)

From the 1998 European Junior Teams in Vienna (Bulletin 403 page 3):

The VuGraph match between Norway & Poland was mostly a one way affair in favour of the Vikings, but on Board to the capacity crowd saw a beautiful deceptive play by Igor Grzejdzia:

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

In the Closed Room Kristoffersen for Norway opened 1♥ as South, and shortly thereafter West was on lead against 4♥. He chose ♠J, which enabled South to play the suit for no loser.

In the Open Room South opened 1♣ (Polish) and Grzejdzia (North) bid 1♥. South bid 2♥ and 4♥ concluded the auction. However, this time East was on lead, and Saur chose ♠8.

It is impossible, I think, for anyone to find a legitimate winning line. But Grzejdzia found an excellent deceptive play that made it really difficult for East to find the right defence. At trick one the play went ♠8, 4, 2, 3!

Cashing ♣A could have been a disaster with another layout, so Saur continued with ♠6. North took West's jack with the ace, played three rounds of hearts, and later finessed in spades and threw a club loser on the fourth spade. A club ruff made a total of 10 tricks thanks to a very imaginative deception!

*The other players to make the shortlist were: Bas Tammens, 14, at the Amsterdam Youth Club reported by Marten Schollaardt (Bulletin 397, page 16); Leigh Gold at the Australian Youth Teams, reported by Ron Klinger (Bulletin 398, page 5); Boye Brogeland at the 1998 European Junior Teams (see Bulletin 403); Freddi Brondum at the European Junior Teams, reported by Morten Lund Madsen (see Bulletin 403).*

## THE 1999 LEVENDAAL AWARD FOR BEST PLAY BY A JUNIOR



**Martin Schaltz (DEN)**  
Journalist: Ib Lundby (DEN)

See Bulletin 408, page 7, January '99

### Third generation

Lizzi and Jørgen-Elith Schaltz were some of the hot bridge names I read about and learned from, when I was a junior player. Lizzi won the European Ladies Team title several times, and her husband played on our national team as well.

For a couple of years my partner was Peter Schaltz, their son, and in 1970 I was his captain when he and his team won the European Junior title in Dublin. Since then Peter has for many years played on our national team with different partners, among them his wife Dorthé and his cousin Knud-Aage Boesgaard.

Dorthé and Peter are still competing in the Danish first division, but their chances to represent Denmark again maybe have decreased a little. No problem at all — the third generation is ready to take over! Meet 14 years old Martin Schaltz in this fascinating hand from a recent club evening.

Dir South     ♠ Q 8 4  
Love all     ♥ Q 6  
               ♦ A K 10 7 2  
               ♣ Q 10 2

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

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

South	West	North	East
1NT	Pass	3NT	All Pass

West led his fourth best heart, won by dummy's queen, and after a diamond to the queen the next diamond trick told Martin that he had to work for it. So he did!

The ♦K took trick 3, and a heart to the ♥8 ended West on the ♥9. He elected to play the ♠J, which was taken by the ♠K, and a spade went to the ♠8 and the bare ace. Now it was East's turn to be thrown in! A low club went to the jack and queen, and before Martin cashed the ♠Q this was the picture:

♠ Q  
♥ —  
♦ A 10 7  
♣ 10 2

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

♠ 9 5  
♥ A J  
♦ —  
♣ A 6

Look what happens to East when the ♠Q is played. If he throws a diamond, declarer will cash the ♦A and continue with a diamond, thereby making his third end-play. Therefore East had to throw a club, but it didn't help him very much. Instead Martin played a club to his ace, discarded a diamond on the ♥A and threw East in with the ♠K.

Dummy's A-to in diamonds took the two last tricks. 3NT made with an overtrick. Two end-plays and a throw-in squeeze in the same hand ...

I guess that we will meet Martin at the international scene very soon.

*Others on the shortlist were: B403, page 11 Aug Julien Geitner (FRA) by Hervé Pacault (FRA); Lille page 16 Sep Gavin Birdsall (GBR) by Lille staff; B404, page 6 Sep Oglobin (POL) by Krzysztof Piatkowski (POL); B416, page 3 Sep99 Eric Greco (USA) by Florida.*

### THE 2000 LEVENDAAL AWARD FOR BEST PLAY BY A JUNIOR



**Marina Kelina (RUS)**

Journalist: Martin Schaltz (DEN)

Bulletin 427, page 3

European Junior Teams In the round 23 match on VuGraph between Russia and Italy, a revealing bid by Bernardo Biondo helped Marina Kelina of Russia to her ninth trick with a special club finesse:

Dealer North ♠ 10 7 4 3  
N-S Game ♥ Q J 9 7 3  
♦ Q 8 6  
♣ 8

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

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

Open Room

West <i>Kelina</i>	North <i>Mazzadi</i>	East <i>Krasnoselski</i>	South <i>Biondo</i>
	Pass	Pass	1♣
1NT	Pass	3NT	All Pass

Closed Room

West <i>Furio</i>	North <i>Solnsteven</i>	East <i>Stelio</i>	South <i>Malinovski</i>
	Pass	Pass	Pass
1NT	Pass	3NT	All Pass

In the Closed Room North led the queen of hearts taken by declarer's ace. Furio di Bello wanted to find out whether the king of spades was onside before deciding how to play the clubs. So he began with a spade to the queen. This lost so he needed four tricks from the club suit and therefore started by playing the ace and king. When North showed out he had only seven tricks and went two off.

In the Open Room the lead was also the queen of hearts but declarer had the extra information from Biondo's One Club together with the fact that North had chosen a heart lead and not a club. Kelina won the ace of hearts, and played immediately a heart to the ten, which held. Then she tried the jack of clubs from dummy, covered by the queen and king. Noting the fall of the eight from North declarer returned to dummy with a heart and led the four of clubs. Biondo smoothly played the three. After a small break from Kelina, she decided to let it run. When the four held she had her nine tricks.

I was not surprised that Biondo opened the bidding on his nine points. I was just puzzled that he did not choose to open One Diamond his better suit!

*Others on the short-list were: Richard Probst by David Bakhshi (Bulletin 422, page 7); Anders Hagen by Ib Lunby (B422, page 14); John Kranyak by Harvey Bernstein (B424, page 10, third Seven Diamonds); Stelio di Bello by Andrea Pagani (B427, page 3).*

**THE OKBRIDGE AWARD  
FOR BEST PLAY BY A JUNIOR  
Jan Einar Sæthre (NOR)**  
Journalist: Knut Kjaernsrød (NOR)

Norwegian Bridge Festival, August 2000 Bulletin 428  
page 10 and 11

This last board is really the icing on the cake and was  
played in the Open teams final:

Dealer North ♠ 10 8 7 6 4 3 2

Love all ♥ 9 6

♦ J

♣ Q J 3

♠ A K J

♥ K 7 2

♦ Q 7 6

♣ A 10 4 2

♠ 9

♥ A J 10 3

♦ A 4 3 2

♣ K 9 7 6

♠ Q 5

♥ Q 8 5 4

♦ K 10 9 8 5

♣ 8 5

West	East
Gunnar	Jan Einar
Harr	Sæthre
	1♣
2♣	2♦
2♥	3♥
4♣	4♦
4NT	5♦
5♥	6♣
Pass	

2♣ was Forcing and allowed East to describe his hand. Everybody gathered round the table thought it would be impossible to land the contract but the junior Jan Einar Sæthre of Tromsø played brilliantly to prove the opposite.

He took the queen of spade lead with the ace and cashed the king and ace of trumps. (North showed three by contributing the knave and three.) On two rounds of spades Jan Einar shed two diamonds and South one. North was placed with only three unknown cards and, Jan Einar cashed the ace of hearts and ran the knave to leave this position:

♠ 10 8 7 2

♥ —

♦ J

♣ Q

♠ —

♥ K

♦ Q 7 6

♣ 4 2

♠ —

♥ 10 3

♦ A 2

♣ 7 6

♠ —

♥ Q 8

♦ K 10 9 8

♣ —

North's last unknown card was revealed when East cashed the ace of diamonds. North was put in with the queen of clubs as South came down to two cards in each red suit.

North had to continue spades on which East shed a diamond and West, dummy, trumped. In this process South was criss-cross squeezed. If he bared his queen of hearts, Jan Einar would cash dummy's king before trumping a diamond, and baring his diamond king would do no better. Brilliant!

*IBPA Editor: Another report of this deal was submitted later by Tommy Sandsmark.*

*Others on the shortlist were: Steve de Donder (BEL) by e-bridge (Maastricht.7); Augustin Madala (Argentina) by Matt Granovetter (429, page 16 and 8); Jeroen Bruggeman (NLD) by Patrick Jourdain (437, page 10); Niek Brink (NLD) by World Junior staff (439, page 6-7).*

## THE 2002 OKBRIDGE AWARD FOR BEST PLAY BY A JUNIOR



**Mikhail Krasnosselski (RUS)**

Journalist: Michael Rosenblum (RUS)

Bulletin 450, page 13

European Junior Teams, Torquay Under 25s;  
Round 1; Russia v. Sweden Board 15

Dealer South ♠ A 7

N-S Vul ♥ K 8 3

♦ A K 8 5 3 2

♣ J 4

♠ J 10

♥ 2

♦ Q 9 7 6 4

♣ A Q 9 5 3

♠ K 9 8 6 4 3 2

♥ A Q J

♦ 10

♣ 10 7

♠ Q 5

♥ 10 9 7 6 5 4

♦ J

♣ K 8 6 2

West	North	East	South
Malinovski	Cullin	Krasnosselski	Upmark
			Pass
2NT	Pass	3♠	Pass
4♠	All Pass		

Malinovski's opening showed both minors and Mikhail Krasnosselski's response was natural.

The opening lead from South was the singleton jack of diamonds to the queen and king. North, Cullin, switched to ace and another spade and Mikhail mis-guessed, finessing and losing to South's bare queen.

If South does not lead a heart at this point North will get squeezed in the red suits by the run of trumps and then two club winners. But Upmark found the switch to ♥10 and Cullin correctly withheld the king. Declarer won cheaply and ran all the trumps bar one.

At this point five tricks remained. Dummy was down to three clubs and two diamonds. North had to keep two hearts, and two diamonds to prevent declarer establishing that suit with a ruff, so he had to come down to the bare jack of clubs. Reading the position Mikhail led the ten of clubs to the queen, and returned

with a diamond ruff to cash the ace of hearts, discarding the diamond, and then finesse the ♣9.

At the other table West also opened 2NT, but East settled for Three Clubs. This went three down after Alexei Zaitsev led a trump.

*The other Juniors on the shortlist were: Vincent Demuy (CAN) by Ib Lundby (DEN) Bulletin 440 page 3; Krzysztof Buras (POL) by Andrzej Aleksandrzak (POL) Bulletin 441 page 5; L. H. Chin (Hong Kong) by Brian Senior Bulletin 449 page 5; Romain Tembouret & Jean-Francois Grias (FRA) by Patrick Jourdain (GBR) Bulletin 451.*

## THE 2003 OKBRIDGE AWARD FOR BEST PLAY BY A JUNIOR



**Ophir Reshef (ISR)**

Journalist: Andrew Robson (GBR)

from The ACBL Junior Camp, B451.14. Originally reported in *The Times* of London.

This was a beautiful false-card and quick thinking by declarer not only to realize the significance of dummy's 9 in the suit, but how East would be tempted into returning the trick conceded, as well as diverting the club switch.

### The False-Card

By Andrew Robson, London

Ophir Reshef found a great false-card on this deal:

Dealer East. NS Vul.

♠ A Q

♥ 9 7 5 4

♦ K Q J 8 7

♣ A 6

♠ J 6 4 3 2

♥ 6

♦ 9 4 2

♣ K 10 7 2

♠ 9 7 5

♥ A J 10 8 2

♦ A

♣ Q J 9 8

♠ K 10 8

♥ K Q 3

♦ 10 6 5 3

♣ 5 4 3

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

North-South really belong in a part-score — two no trumps is their best-scoring spot, but an aggressive auction such as the one shown is quite reasonable. What would you expect the fate of the contract to be? Well, on a spade lead by West declarer drives out the diamond ace, and the defence must play clubs to hold declarer to nine tricks. On a heart lead and club shift, or on a club lead at trick one, declarer cannot make more than eight tricks. Agreed?

Well, consider East's problem if his partner leads a heart to trick one. The obvious solution is to go up with the ace; if no honour appears, shift to clubs and hope for the best. Nice logic, but...

Ophir Reshef was sitting South and on the auction shown above he was treated to a heart lead. Gauging the situation accurately, he called for a low heart from dummy, and when East put up the ace he dropped the queen! East sniffed the air suspiciously for a few minutes then took the bait and returned a low heart, letting Ophir run this to dummy's nine and collect his ten tricks for all 15 matchpoints out of 15.

*Others on the shortlist were: Martin Schaltz & Andreas Marquardsen (DEN), 453, page 14, Author: Jens Otto "Charles" Pedersen, Andrea Boldrini (Sicily), 464, page 2, Author: Christer Andersson (SWE), Szymon Kapala and Lukasz Brede, 464, page 6, Author: Henrik Røn, Olivier Bessis & Godefroy de Tessières (FRA), from the Daily Bulletin, Author: Brian Senior.*

## THE 2004 IBPA AWARD FOR BEST PLAY BY A JUNIOR



**Gilad Ofir (ISR)**

JOURNALIST: MICHAEL BAREL (ISR)

European Youth Bridge Team Championships, Prague, August 1 – 11, 2004 (B476, page 11)

Looking at this, the final deal from Round 16 of the Junior Championship, you might imagine that declarer would have four inescapable losers in his four spade

contract. As reported to us by NPC Michael Barel, Gilad Ofir of Israel showed that there is always a way in his team's match against Scotland.

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

West	North	East	South
	<i>Hoffman</i>		<i>Ofir</i>
Pass	1♦	Dbl	1♠
Pass	4♠	All Pass	

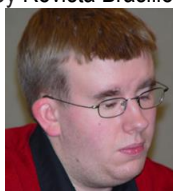
Ron Hoffman's mildly aggressive raise to game resulted in Ofir being in a rather delicate contract as the cards lie. He proved to be up to the task as he played the hand almost double dummy.

The opening lead was a heart, and Ofir took dummy's ace, then played king of hearts and ruffed a heart low, played a diamond to dummy and ruffed the last heart with his ten. Next came a second diamond to dummy and a diamond ruff. Ofir ducked a club, won the club return and ruffed a club. Down to nothing but the king-nine-five of spades, Ofir led a low spade off the dummy and East was caught; ten tricks for a magnificent plus 620.

*The other candidates were: Evgeni Rudakov, Russia, reported by Brian Senior, GBRLand in IBPA Bulletin 476, page 9, Konrad Araskiewicz, Poland, reported by Brian Senior, GBRLand in IBPA Bulletin 476, page 10, Hakon Kippe, Norway, reported by Brian Senior, GBRLand in IBPA Bulletin 476, page 10, Edward Levy, GBRLand, reported by Brian Senior, GBRLand in IBPA Bulletin 476, page 11.*

# THE 2005 BRAZILIAN AWARD FOR BEST PLAY BY A JUNIOR

Presented by Revista Brasileira de Bridge



**Joe Grue (USA)**

Journalist: Brian Senior (GBR)

(From the WJTC Daily Bulletins)  
From IBPA Bulletin No. 488, page 14

10<sup>th</sup> World Junior Team Championship, Sydney Olympic Park, August 7-17, 2005

Sports leagues are fond of naming a 'Most Valuable Player'; FIFA has its 'Footballer of the Year'. A case can be made for naming Joe Grue of USA1 as 'Bridge-er of the Year' or, at the least, MVP of the 2005 World Junior Bridge Team Championships. See if you agree.

Following is a deal Grue declared during the Championship against Canada in the Round Robin.

Dealer North ♠ A K J 10 5

Neither Vul. ♥ Q 9 2

♦ Q J 10

♣ Q 9

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

West	North	East	South
Demuy	Grue	Wolpert	Kranyak
	1NT	Pass	2 ♣
Pass	2 ♠	Pass	3 ♣
Pass	3NT	Pass	4 ♠
Dbl	Pass	Pass	Pass

West	North	East	South
Wooldridge	Grainger	Hurd	Lavee
	1 ♠	Pass	3 ♥
Pass	3NT	Pass	4 ♣
Dbl	4 ♠	Pass	Pass
Pass			

There is an inescapable loser in each suit and so Demuy's double gained 2 IMPs for his side, right? Wrong! Grainger was given no chance to make his four spade contract when Hurd led the club jack to Wooldridge's ace and back came the nine of spades.

Grainger won the king, ruffed his club loser and played a second spade to the ace. Seeing that he had a spade to lose, he tried the diamond finesse and was one down for minus 50.

At the other table, Wolpert led a heart against four spades doubled and Demuy ducked it to Grue's nine. To trick two Grue led the jack of spades (!) from hand, trusting that the spade had to be offside to justify Demuy's double. Had Wolpert gone in with his queen he could then have collected a heart ruff for down two, but he played low, not believing that anyone could play this way from Grue's actual holding. When the spade jack scored and West followed suit, Grue happily cashed the top spades and simply conceded one trick in each side-suit; a wonderful plus 590 and 12 IMPs to USA1.

*The other finalists were: Jenny Ryman in 4 ♣, Bulletin No. 480, page 3, reported by Brent Manley; Vincent Demuy in 4 ♠, Bulletin No. 485, page 12, reported by Richard Colker; Joe Grue in 6 ♣, Bulletin No. 488, page 15, reported by Brian Senior; Krzysztof Buras in 3NT, Bulletin 489, page 11, reported by Ron Klingner.*

# THE 2006 BRAZILIAN AWARD FOR BEST PLAY BY A JUNIOR

Presented by Revista Brasileira de Bridge



**Dana Tal (ISR)**

Journalist: Sandra Kulovic-Probst (GBR)

Bangkok, 9, page 14

## Elimination and Endplay Revisited

Yesterday, we published a very well played hand from Round 15 by Noble Shore of USA2 Juniors. Dana Tal, of the Israeli Schools team, also reached the slam with her partner, Ron Segev, but did not have the same information from the auction. Given what she knew about the hand, perhaps her line was even better?

Dealer East ♠ J 10 4  
 All Vul. ♥ K 10 8 2  
 ♦ 10 5 4  
 ♣ A 9 2

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

♠ A K Q 9 8 7 6  
 ♥ 9  
 ♦ A K J 3  
 ♣ 3

West	North	East	South
	Segev		Tal
		Pass	2♣
Pass	2♥ <sup>1)</sup>	Pass	3♠ <sup>2)</sup>
Pass	4♣ <sup>3)</sup>	Dbl	4♦ <sup>3)</sup>
Pass	4♥ <sup>3)</sup>	Pass	4NT <sup>4)</sup>
Pass	5♥ <sup>5)</sup>	Pass	6♠

All Pass

- 1) Positive
- 2) Sets suit and asks for cuebid of ace
- 3) Cuebid
- 4) RKCB
- 5) One key card

All that Dana knew was that East had doubled for a club lead. She won the ace of clubs at trick one and ruffed a club, crossed to the jack of spades, then ruffed the last club. Now she led her heart without drawing the last trump, only playing a partial elimination. West went in with the ace and, not holding the last trump, was endplayed. He exited with the heart four and the play went as we saw yesterday – 8 and jack, ruffed, spade to dummy, cash two hearts for diamond discards.

The point of only playing the partial elimination is that Dana did not have the information that West had minor-suit IGBRth. Suppose that she plays the full elimination then finds the ace of hearts offside. She will have to use dummy's last trump as the entry to take the diamond finesse, but will then have no trump left to ruff should East have begun with queen to four diamonds. Her actual line preserves the third trump in case a ruff is required.

*Shortlist: Marion Michielsen, European University Teams, by Christer Andersson, 490, page 13; Meike Wortel, White House Top Teams, by Jan van Cleeff, 495, page 14; Justin Lall, Chicago GNT, by Paul Linxwiler, Chicago NABC, Bulletin 2, page 13; Adam Edgton-Niclas Ege, defence World Junior Pairs, by Peter Gill, 499, page 4; Thomas Bessis, World Youth Teams, by Brian Senior, Bulletin 7, page 15.*

## THE 2007 BRAZILIAN AWARD

Presented by Revista Brasileira de Bridge  
**FOR BEST PLAY BY A JUNIOR**



**Olivier & Thomas Bessis (FRA),**  
 Journalist John Carruthers (CAN)

Bulletin 511, page 6.

### Double Duck

Juniors RR20. France v Greece

Dealer South ♠ Q 9 6  
 EW Vul ♥ Q 9 2  
 ♦ Q J 9 4 3  
 ♣ J 2

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

♠ K 7 2  
 ♥ A 8 7 5 3  
 ♦ 8 7 5 2  
 ♣ 10

West	North	East	South
Darkadakis	O. Bessis	Sofios	T. Bessis
			Pass
1 ♣	1 ♦	1 ♠	2 ♥
Dbl	Pass	5 ♣	All Pass

When you still have hopes of qualifying for a World Championship, you keep playing your best right up to the end, however slim that qualification chance might be. Take a look at this defence from the Bessis brothers on the penultimate deal of the Junior Series. The double showed three-card spade support. Olivier Bessis led the queen of diamonds and the Greek declarer won in hand, drew trumps in two rounds with the diamond ace in between, then played dummy's jack of hearts. Thomas Bessis ducked smoothly, and declarer ran the heart to Olivier's queen.

At this point, a spade return allows declarer to pick up the suit for only one loser and make the game, while a diamond gives a ruff and discard, also allowing the game to make. Olivier returned the only suit to give the defence a chance when he selected the nine of hearts.

Declarer discarded a spade from dummy and, had Thomas risen with the ace, there would have been two more discards to come on the king and ten of hearts, once again letting the game home. But Thomas ducked again, letting declarer win the trick.

The second duck left declarer with no option but to attempt to play spades for one loser and, as you can see, that was not possible on accurate defence. A very nice piece of defence from the brothers but, alas, no qualification, as France finished only seventh.

*Shortlist: John Kranyak (USA), Barry Harper, 500, page 7; Adam Edgerton (AUS), Ron Klinger, 502, page 6; Marion Michielsen (NLD), Jack Zhao, 503, page 5; Rosaline Barendregt (NLD), Kees Tammen, 508, page 5.*

## THE 2008 BRAZILIAN AWARD FOR BEST PLAY BY A JUNIOR

Presented by Revista Brasileira de Bridge



**Rosaline Barendregt (NLD)**  
Journalist: Max Rebattu (NLD)

Bulletin 521, page 13.

IMP Magazine Junior Bridge Hand of the Year. Translated from the Dutch by Lex deGroot, Arnhem, The Netherlands; courtesy of IMP Bridge Magazine. The deal was also short-listed for the IBM award.

The White House Junior International is without a doubt the most important international youth tournament in The Netherlands. This year the event comprised 24 teams, including four Dutch Teams. Such an event almost automatically guarantees beautiful and spectacular deals. This year it was Rosaline Barendregt who presented us with a fabulous three no trump contract. In view its quality, it certainly is a good candidate for the Junior Bridge Hand of the Year.

Dealer South. EW Vul.

```

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

♠ –
♥ K 9 6 4 3 2
♦ 3
♣ K 8 6 5 4 2

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

      ♠ K J 9
      ♥ A 7 5
      ♦ J 8 6 5
      ♣ Q J 7
  
```

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

Unfortunately for North, a double of two spades would not have been for penalties. Rosaline Barendregt upgraded her hand because of the spade tenaces behind East. West tried a penalty double; after all, East had bid two spades vulnerable against not.

West led the two of clubs and East won with the ace and shifted to the ten of hearts; West was allowed to win with the king. West returned a heart, won with dummy's queen.

It was time to take stock. The opening lead and the auction made it fairly clear that West held a spade void and East a likely singleton club ace. In principle, there are possibilities for four spade tricks, two heart tricks, two or three diamond tricks and one club trick. Transportation between the hands is fairly poor, though. Four spade tricks require the North hand to have three entries and East-West may be able to prevent that. Moreover, the hearts are a threat when declarer loses the lead in diamonds and clubs.

Declarer, after winning the heart queen, started with the marked finesse of her nine of spades and West showed out as expected, pitching a club. Then she played a diamond to dummy's king, all following low. Now South had an opportunity to take a second spade finesse. Then, if the diamonds were 3-2, all would be well, as there would be sufficient entries for the spade plays. However, Rosaline Barendregt avoided the trap of cashing the spade king and then playing a diamond. Instead, she led the diamond jack from her hand. West showed out, so probably had a 0-6-1-6 distribution. East ducked to avoid giving dummy an extra entry.

South could now have cashed the spade king and heart ace and then played a diamond. As East would

have no more hearts or clubs, he would be forced to lead to dummy's spade ace after winning two diamond tricks. However, declarer then has only eight tricks, four in spades, two in hearts, two in diamonds and none in clubs. Meanwhile, East-West have four tricks, so there's no more chance to develop a ninth trick in clubs.

Declarer therefore needed at least one club trick, so after the diamond jack held, she led the club queen. West won with the king and returned a club to South's jack, East discarding two spades. Again, South cannot play the king of spades and ace of hearts, and then a diamond, as that would give East-West five tricks. South therefore cashed the heart ace in the following position:

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

The seven of diamonds was discarded from dummy on the heart ace. What is East to do? If he discards a spade, South will overtake her spade king with the ace and score the spade seven for her ninth trick. If, instead, East discards the ten of diamonds, then declarer will score her ninth trick using East as a 'stepping stone'. She unblocks the king of spades and next throws East in with his diamond ace, forcing him to yield the ninth trick to dummy's spade ace. In fact, this last scenario gives South another winning option. She can play a diamond right away. East wins and South scores the last two tricks with the spade king and diamond eight.

Scoring the last trick via a classic stepping stone to an otherwise inaccessible hand is much more elegant, however.

East might have done better by capturing the diamond jack with the ace and then continuing with the diamond ten. However, South can still reach a stepping stone ending or execute a spade-diamond squeeze. After winning with queen of diamonds declarer next plays a club. She will regain the lead in clubs or hearts and, with South holding the king of spades and eight of diamonds, East will be squeezed. If West refuses to win with the club king, then, after the heart ace, a stepping stone position results. With

this fantastic end position, Rosaline Barendregt is a worthy candidate for the Junior Bridge Hand of the Year.

*Shortlist:*

515, page 4 Bessis (Mark Horton)

517, page 11 Geromboux (Ron Klinger)

519, page 11 Drijver (Kees Tammens)

520, page 4 Braun (Ron Klinger)

521, page 6 Lindqvist (Ib Lundby)

## THE 2009 BRAZILIAN AWARD FOR BEST PLAY BY A JUNIOR

Presented by Revista Brasileira de Bridge



**Thomas Bessis (FRA)**

Journalist: Brian Senior (GBR)

European Junior Championships, Romania, Daily Bulletin.

### BESSIS BRILLIANCY

Brian Senior, Nottingham, UK

Over several years of Youth tournaments I have found Thomas Bessis to be a rich source of top-quality play and defensive hands. Here in Poiana Brasov, Thomas left it until the final match, against GBRLand, for his finest effort.

Board 9. ♠ A Q 6 4 3

Dealer North. ♥ J 9 5 3 2

EW Vul. ♦ Q 10 4

♣ —

♠ 5 2

♥ A 4

♦ A K 5 3

♣ A 7 6 4 2

♠ J 9

♥ K Q 8 7 6

♦ 9 8 7 2

♣ 10 3

♠ K 10 8 7

♥ 10

♦ J 6

♣ K Q J 9 8 5

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

Chris Owen's two no trump response was an invitational or better spade raise and John Atthey's three hearts a IGBRth-showing game try, accepted by Owen who, of course, was always planning to go on to game.

It looks as though four spades is destined to make, courtesy of the ruffing club finesse, but...

Frederic Volcker led the eight of diamonds, second from three or more small cards, and Bessis won the king and cashed the ace, Atthey falsecarding with the queen as Volcker dropped the two, confirming two or four cards – clearly four on the auction. Bessis cashed the heart ace and switched to the seven of clubs and, not surprisingly, declarer was taken in. Atthey ruffed low and gave up a heart, Bessis winning the ace and returning a diamond to declarer's ten. Atthey ruffed a heart, ruffed a club, ruffed a heart, being relieved to see that Bessis could not over-ruff, and ruffed another club. But Volcker could over-ruff and that was two down.

How could Bessis possibly find the brilliant underlead? His partner would surely have led a singleton club rather than four small diamonds so was marked with either two clubs or a void. Once declarer was known to have three diamonds, plus heart IGBRth because of the auction, it had to be he and not Volcker who had the club void.

As the French North-South pair had played in four clubs down one for minus 50 in the other room, Bessis' fine defence turned a 10-IMP loss into a 2-IMP gain.

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

## THE 2010 RICHARD FREEMAN JUNIOR DEAL OF THE YEAR



**Carole Puillet (FRA)**

Journalist: Brian Senior (GBR)

**The 10<sup>th</sup> European Junior Pairs**, 14-17 July, Opatija, Croatia. Bulletin 547.12

### The Extra Chance

by Brian Senior

Carole Puillet of France spotted an extra chance in the Girls second qualifying session. It came on this deal against the Dutch Spangenberg sisters:

Board 10.     ♠ Q 8 6  
 Dealer East.   ♥ Q 5 2  
 Both Vul.     ♦ J 8 4  
                  ♣ A 8 6 5

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

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

South	West	North	East
Puillet	Sigrid S.	Chaugny	Jamilla S.
			Pass
1♥	2♦	2♥	All Pass

West kicked off with three rounds of diamonds, ruffed low by East and overruffed. Puillet crossed toummy with the ace of clubs to lead the trump queen for the king and ace. She drew a second round of trumps, then paused to take stock. She knew that West had eight red cards. If clubs were 3-3, a club could be established by playing king and another. But if the clubs were 4-2, then East would return the fourth club and declarer would have to open up spades herself, with the honours almost certainly split between the two defenders. That would lead to one down.

There was a small extra chance and Puillet found it. She led the nine of clubs away from the king. Caught with the now-bare queen of clubs, West had

no choice but to win it and was forced to either open up the spades or give a ruff and discard, either of which would give the contract. Had East been able to win the club from a four-card holding, she would have returned the suit and the contract would have failed, with declarer forced to open up the spades herself - but then there was no winning line.

If clubs had been three-three, the defence would have won and exited with a club to the king. With no entry to dummy's thirteenth club, declarer would now have to open up the spade suit - no problem, as West would now be marked with a doubleton, leading low to the queen would ensure a spade trick. Very well done, and it helped the French pair to finish top of the qualifying stage and win the bronze medal.

**Shortlist:**

Piotr Wiankowski (POL);

Journalist: Christer Andersson (SWE) 538.10

Pavla Hoderova (POL);

Journalist: Mark Horton (GBR) 538.10

Jamilla Spangenberg (NED);

Journalist: Jos Jacobs (NED) 540.4

Tobias Polak (NED);

Journalist: Kees Tammens (NED) 547.12 .

## THE 2011 RICHARD FREEMAN JUNIOR DEAL OF THE YEAR

### Cédric Lorenzini/Christophe Grosset (FRA)

Journalist: Patrick Gogacki (FRA)

Located south of the Tropic of Cancer, Kaohsiung is a tropical city with temperatures largely in excess of 30°C ; humidity is around 80%. The port of Kaohsiung is one of the biggest in the world, and is important particularly in container transport. The city is home to the National Sun Yat-sen University, host of the 5<sup>th</sup> World University Bridge Championships, organised by FISU (Fédération Internationale des Sports Universitaire). The French delegation comprised three pairs, Cédric Lorenzini-Christophe Grosset, Alexandre Kilani-Simon Poulat, Thibault Coudert-Aymeric Lebatteux, and a non-playing captain, the author of this article.

Here's a superb example of how to make the declarer stumble in three no trump:

```

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

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

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

```

West	North	East	South
	<i>Grosset</i>		<i>Lorenzini</i>
1NT	Pass	2♦	Pass
2♥	Pass	3NT	Pass
Pass	Pass		

Christophe Grosset led the four of spades and declarer played the ten from dummy. Cédric Lorenzini did not cover - he wanted to deny declarer a later entry to the hearts. In dummy with the ten of spades, declarer played a small heart to the jack, ducked in tempo by Grosset! And that was the end. Not able to imagine such a Machiavellian scheme, declarer next cashed the ace and king of hearts and was not able to recover.

**Shortlist:**

Chiu, IBPA Bulletin 550.17, Brian Senior (GBR)

Grosset-Lorenzini, IBPA Bulletin 552.6, Patrick Bogacki (FRA)

Fisher, IBPA Bulletin 555.13, Roland Wald (DEN)

Johansen, IBPA Bulletin 559.3, Brian Senior (GBR)

Birman, IBPA Bulletin 559.5, Ram Soffer (ISR)

Lorenzini, IBPA Bulletin 559, Brian Senior (GBR)

## THE 2012 RICHARD FREEMAN JUNIOR DEAL OF THE YEAR

**Roger Lee (USA)**  
Journalist: Phillip Alder

From IBPA Bulletin 560.16

The second World Youth Congress was held in Opatija, Croatia, from August 21 to 30. Opatija is a picturesque town in the northwest corner of Croatia, about a three-hour drive from Venice. I was editor of the daily bulletins, with able assistance from Herman De Wael (primarily page layouts), PO Sundelin (daily bridge puzzles) and Kees Tammens (articles about his Dutch charges).

If there had been a prize for the best-played deal of the tournament, this would have been the easy winner. It was played by Roger Lee of the USA team in the opening session of the Knockout Teams.

**Dealer East. EW Vul.**

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Wolkowitz</i>		<i>Lee</i>	
		Pass	1NT
Pass	2♠ <sup>1</sup>	Pass	3♣ <sup>2</sup>
Pass	3NT	Pass	Pass
Pass			

1. Range enquiry
2. Maximum

At the other table, South took the first heart trick and early on played on diamonds, hoping they would run. But when they broke 5-1, he had to fail, going two down.

Lee realized that diamonds could wait. He won the ten-of-hearts lead with his queen and immediately ran the seven of clubs, losing to East's jack. To defeat the contract, East had then to switch to a diamond, or

return his low club for West to switch to his diamond! Understandably, though, East tried a low spade. Declarer put in his jack, winning the trick. Suddenly he seemed to be up to nine tricks: two spades, two hearts and five diamonds. But Lee realized that diamonds could still wait. He led another club, dummy's queen losing to East's ace. East led the king of spades, ducked by South, and another spade to declarer's ace, dummy discarding a heart.

Diamonds could wait no longer. South took his ace, played a diamond to dummy's king, and cashed the queen and jack to put West under pressure. On the jack of diamonds, South threw a club, but what could West spare? He had to pitch his last spade. But now a club exit endplayed West to lead away from the king of hearts. Beautifully done! Are you wondering what would have happened if West had won the second club trick with his king and led back the ten of spades? Declarer would have ducked and taken the next spade to cash his ace of hearts, squeezing East in the minors. He would have had to give up his spade, but declarer would then have led a third club to establish his ninth trick there. What marvelous symmetry.

Shortlist:

Alejandro Scanavino/Felipe Ferro (Ana Roth & Fernando Lema, 561.14), Frederik Skovly/Emil Buus Thomsen (Jens Otto Pedersen, 571.16), Liga Bekere (Herman De Wael, 571.16)

## The 2013 Richard Freeman Junior Deal of the Year

**Chen Yuechen (CHN)**  
Journalist: Fu Tsiang (CHN)

From IBPA Bulletin 583.9

### A TEXTBOOK DEFENCE, IN A REAL MATCH

Fu Tsiang, Beijing

Suzhou, a city famous for its 2500-year history and its gardens, is only 100 kilometres from Shanghai. The 2013 China National Youth Bridge Championships started in this beautiful city on April 28. Thirty-seven teams competed in four categories: Under20/25/30 for men and Under25 for women. U25 was the largest group; there were 14 teams from different provinces, universities or clubs. A single round robin determined all rankings. Beijing and Shanghai were the favoured teams to take the championship. This deal appeared when they met.

Board 13.  
Dealer North. Both Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
CHEN		CAO	
Yuechen		Jiahao	
	Pass	Pass	2♣1
Pass	2♦2	Pass	2♥3
Pass	2♠4	Pass	2NT5
Pass	3♣6	Pass	3♦7
Pass	4NT8	Pass	6NT
Pass	Pass	Pass	

1. Strong
2. Waiting
3. Hearts or balanced
4. Forced
5. 2426 HCP balanced
6. Stayman
7. No major
8. Quantitative

West led the three of clubs, two from dummy, nine from East and the ace from declarer. At the second trick, declarer entered dummy with the diamond jack and ran the heart jack to West's ace. West exited with his remaining diamond. Declarer then played the club king, and when the queen did not drop, continued with the seven of spades.

West stopped to count declarer's points and tricks. Besides the king of hearts, the ace, king, queen of diamonds and the ace, king of clubs, he should have the king of spades. If his (minimum) remaining two points were the queen of clubs, he'd have 12 tricks by repeating the heart finesse. With both black queens, he'd also have 12 tricks. However, if declarer instead held the spade queen and no club queen, he needed three heart tricks with the aid of the finesse and a 33 break to ensure his slam.

This line became possible on the actual friendly layout. The only problem for this plan was a lack of entries to the dummy. Declarer needed two more entries to the dummy, one to finesse the heart queen again and the other to enjoy the fourth heart after the 33 break. Declarer denied a fourcard major, so that spade seven should be the only low spade card in his hand. West was concerned that declarer would risk finessing dummy's spade ten to create an extra entry. Thus West decided to make the entrykilling second-handhigh play of the spade jack, destroying the potential channel to dummy. There was then no way home for the slam.

This is a typical textbook quiz! It was wonderful to find it at the table and for Chen to make the play. Congratulations to the smart young player: Chen Yuechen, from Beijing, who found such a splendid defence. He is only 25 years old.

In the end, the Anhui team won the Championship, with Beijing second and Shanghai third.

Shortlist:

Shivan Shah Alex Roberts (Michael Byrne, 573.2), Danuta Kazmucha (Brian Senior, 573.3), Adam Kaplan (Philip Alder, 573.3)  
Jovana Marinkovic (Christer Andersson, 574.4), Wouter Van Den Hove, Harald Eide & Jakub Wojcieszek (Patrick Jourdain, 583.23)

## THE 2014 RICHARD FREEMAN JUNIOR DEAL OF THE YEAR

**Winner: Bob Donkersloot (NLD)**

**Article: "Brilliance, to No Avail"**

Journalist: GeO Tislevoll (NZL) & Onno Eskes (NLD)

**Event: 2014 German Bridge Trophy**

**Source: IBPA Bulletin 595, August 2014, p. 4**



### Brilliance, to No Avail

This deal was reported independently and simultaneously by both authors. Their reports have been amalgamated. - Ed.

When people say bridge is a game where you always see new, different deals, it is both true and false. Bridge is very much about recognition. To have seen situations previously and to recognize patterns and plays are skills where experience is needed, but talent is just as important. The play by the Dutch youth player Bob Donkersloot on this deal must be mostly talent, as he is only 19 years old.

Dealer North. NS Vul.

♠ A J 7 4  
♥ K 5  
♦ K Q 6 5 4  
♣ A K

♠ Q 10 9 8 6  
♥ 6 2  
♦ 10 8 7 3 2  
♣ Q

West	North	East	South
Zeeberg	Coppens	Cilleborg- Bilde	Donkersloot
	1♦	Pass	1♠
Pass	4♣	Pass	4♠

West led the diamond nine. To read the diamond situation is not hard – it is surely a singleton – since West would not have led the nine from a holding of jack-nine, ace-nine or ace-jack-nine. The danger is that East/West will start with the diamond ace and a ruff followed by a heart through dummy's king. That defence will set the contract when East holds the ace of hearts. While most players would automatically ask for the diamond king at trick one, Donkersloot thought for a few seconds. The trump king must be onside to make the contract - is there anything that can be done about the dangerous red-suit situation? Perhaps there is no chance on best defence, but Bob Donkersloot found a play that at least could trap the opposition. Instead of conceding the ace of diamonds and a ruff to the defence, why not give them two diamond tricks, he thought? Coming to this conclusion, Donkersloot played low from dummy, an unusual and amazing play with such a diamond combination. Bob's father, Rob Donkersloot, who was kibitzing his son, thought, "What is he doing? Didn't I teach him to take his time at trick one? Now he has blown a diamond trick with careless play."

Donkersloot's play in diamonds made it very difficult for the defence to set the contract in this ending:

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

East wins the first trick with the diamond jack and cashes the ace. To set the contract, West must ruff the ace of diamonds and play a heart, a very difficult defence since the highly-unusual diamond play by the declarer has created an illusion. How can declarer have played like that with ten diamonds combined? Alternatively, the defence can set the contract by East winning with the ace of diamonds instead of the jack at trick one and playing back the jack to force West to ruff. But how can East know that the nine is a singleton, especially taking into consideration declarer's play in diamonds?

Alas ... in real life it was not like this. The ace and queen of hearts are swapped in the board's diagram. With the ace of hearts onside, anyone would make four spades, even with the 'normal' play to the first trick. So the deal did not create any swing when it was played in the 2014 German Bridge Trophy. East, Dorte Cilleborg-Bilde, remarked after the board had been played, "Now that was a very clever play." She didn't enlighten us about whether, if she'd had the heart ace, she would have played the diamond ace instead of the jack at trick one.

When a number of quite-good players were shown this deal, most of them didn't see the play. Only the most experienced and talented ones did. And getting such a declarer-play problem on a piece of paper is certainly easier than solving it at the table. This beautiful play tells us that, even though this time it was of no consequence, there will be many IMPs and MPs coming for the young Dutch talent.

#### Other Shortlisted Candidates:

Dennis Bilde (Denmark) in "The Last Hurrah" by Jens Otto Pedersen (Denmark),

2014 Danish Junior Teams Championship, IBPA Bulletin 592.7

Adam Stokka (Sweden) in "15th World Youth Bridge Teams Championships" by Phillip Alder (USA), Junior Teams Round Robin 8, IBPA Bulletin 596.4

Adam Stokka (Sweden) in "15th World Youth Bridge Teams Championships" by Micke Melander (Sweden), Junior Teams Round Robin 19, IBPA Bulletin 596.5

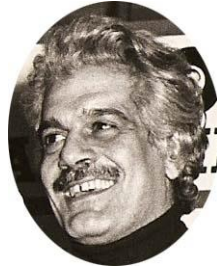
Zach Grossack (USA) in "15th World Youth Bridge Teams Championships" by Phillip Alder (USA), Junior Teams Round Robin 21, IBPA Bulletin 596.5

Ida Grönkvist (Sweden) in "15th World Youth Bridge Teams Championships" by Micke Melander (Sweden), Youngsters Teams Semifinal, IBPA Bulletin 596.7

## THE SPORTSMAN OF THE YEAR

*An occasional Award made when someone shows outstanding endeavour  
or sportsmanship in connection with our game.*

### THE 1973 JOHN SIMON AWARD FOR THE BRIDGE SPORTSMAN OF THE YEAR



**Omar Sharif (EGY)**

To Omar Sharif, Paris and Hollywood, in recognition of his outstanding sportsmanship and services to the game of contract bridge;

- Undertaking to serve as Chief Commentator for the World Bridge Federation at future world championships
- Promotion of bridge via his "Circus" matches and the filming of a widely publicized rubber bridge match in London
- Such gestures as his symbolic and fraternal play of unofficial hands against players representing Israel when official play was forbidden by his government.

### THE 1974 JOHN SIMON AWARD FOR THE BRIDGE SPORTSMAN OF THE YEAR



**Alan Sontag (USA)**

THE JOHN SIMON AWARD for 'The Bridge Sportsman of the Year', judged by Harold Franklin, was won by Alan Sontag for an act of sportsmanship in a match in New York against the touring Lancia' team.

The incident, reported by Alan Truscott in 'The New York Times', concerned the no enforcement of a penalty.

Europeans tend to give low regards to American bridge experts. One reason is the abusiveness of some of the Americans who have represented us in world championships. Another is the history of cheating accusations levelled by Americans against Europeans; justified or not, that invariably results in transatlantic friction. A third less obvious but equally important, is the difference in approach to the application of the laws of the game.

The American view is simple: Apply the letter of the law in all cases, hoping that this will serve the ends of justice but accepting occasional inequities. Most of the Europeans believe that equity is the prime consideration and they are willing to bend the law a little to achieve that end.

The stars of the Italian Blue Team have been notably reluctant to insist on a penalty when their opponents commit a slight misdemeanour. When three of them played in New York in the spring as members of the Lancia Team there was a clear-cut choice between law and equity before a single card had been played.

The stake in the 60-deal match was the highest ever on such an occasion: five Lancia cars, worth some \$35,000, for the New York experts if they could defeat the visitors. There was considerable tension when Peter Weichsel and Alan Sontag, for the home team, sat down against Pietro Forquet of Italy and movie star Omar Sharif. This tension took its toll on the very first deal when there was an opening bid, out of turn. Instantaneously an opponent came to the rescue. "Let's redeal," he said. And they did.

But there was a twist to this scenario. It was Forquet, winner of 15 world titles, who nervously opened out of turn. And it was Sontag, playing for the first time against one of the world's all-time great players, who waived the penalty. He could of course have called the director who would have enforced the law: Sharif would have been barred from the bidding and there might have been a lead penalty in addition. But re-dealing the board, which had not yet been played in the other room, was a simple way to restore the equity of the situation.

Sontag received a double reward for his sportsmanship. He was named "Sportsman of the Year" by the International Bridge Press Association in Brighton, GBRIland, in July. And the fates dealt him a replacement deal, shown in the diagram, on which his team gained substantially.

Dir: South ♠ A J 9 7

Vul: N-S ♥ K 8 4

♦ 9 7 6 4

♣ 9 6

♠ K 6 3

♥ 9 6

♦ 8 5 2

♣ K Q 10 5 2

♠ 10

♥ A J 10 5

♦ A J 10 3

♣ A J 7 4

♠ Q 8 5 4 2

♥ Q 7 3 2

♦ K Q

♣ 8 3

South	West	North	East
<i>Weichsel</i>	<i>Sharif</i>	<i>Sontag</i>	<i>Forquet</i>
1♦	Pass	1♠	Pass
2NT	Pass	3NT	All Pass

West led the club king.

Both North – South pairs were using varieties of the Precision System. In one room Giorgio Belladonna, for the Lancia Team, opened one diamond and made the orthodox rebid of one no-trump. But Weichsel allowed his bridge sense to overrule the system. He recognized that a hand containing three aces and three tens was worth much more than the point count would suggest. After the one-spade response to one diamond he jumped to two no-trump, a rare action when using a one-club system. Theoretically this should show about 15 points and a strong six-card diamond suit, offering prospects of a game with much less, than the usual quota of high card points.

Weichsel's judgment was vindicated when three no-trump with 23 points and two balanced hands, proved unbeatable. Sharif led the club king, which was allowed to win. He shifted to the heart nine, which was won, by the jack.

South would have liked to attack diamonds from the dummy, but could not afford to use up an entry. He therefore led the diamond jack giving himself some chance of making three tricks in the suit. As it turned out, the doubleton king-queen in the East hand made it easy. East won and reverted to clubs, on which South: played the jack and West the king. He could not continue clubs without giving South a trick, so he shifted to the spade king. Notice that South's third ten now pulled its weight: If East had held the spade ten a low spade shift by West would have been effective.

As it was South won with the ace and continued diamonds. The fourth round of the suit gave him an entry to play the spade jack, establishing the ninth trick. He now had nine tricks and could have made a tenth if he had needed it. The result was a gain: of 9 international match points for the New York team.

## THE 1975 JOHN SIMON AWARD FOR SPORTSMAN OF THE YEAR



Don Oakie (USA)

The John E. Simon 'Bridge Sportsman of the Year' Award was presented by Andre Lemaitre to Don Oakie during the Press luncheon. Mr Oakie, a former world team champion and the current ACBL President, has long been noted for his strong belief in the primacy of the ordinary player. He was named for the award by Sue Emery, who's citation won her \$100, for his efforts in that direction, including acting as a 'pick-up' partner at ACBL Nationals and playing in tournaments with prison inmates.

## THE 1976 JOHN SIMON AWARD FOR SPORTSMAN OF THE YEAR Sir Timothy Kitson and the Right Honourable Harold Lever, and a member of the House of Lords, Lord Glenkinglas (GBR)

The holders of the Simon Award are the British Members of Parliament, Sir Timothy Kitson and the Right Honourable Harold Lever, and a member of the House of Lords, Lord Glenkinglas, for their connection with the annual Lords vs. Commons bridge match, which has won excellent publicity for bridge.

## THE 1977 JOHN SIMON AWARD FOR SPORTSMAN OF THE YEAR Maurits Caransa (NLD)

THE JOHN SIMON AWARD for Bridge Sportsman of the Year went to Maurits Caransa of Holland, "For his public-spiritedness and devotion to Bridge in proceeding with and participating in the 1977 Caransa International Swiss Teams Tournament despite having been kidnapped and held perilously captive only two weeks earlier." (Panel: John Simon, Sami Kehela, Eric Milnes, Svend Novrup, and George Levinrew.)

It is anticipated that the Award will be formally presented to Mr Caransa on the occasion of the 8th Caransa Swiss International Tournament at the Hilton Hotel, Amsterdam on 24-26 November.

**THE 1997 IBPA AWARD  
FOR SPORTSMAN OF THE YEAR**



**Lynn Deas (USA)**

The world's top woman player, measured by WBF master points, is the American star, Lynn Deas. In the past to years she has won four world titles: The Venice Cup in Jamaica (1987), in Perth, Australia (1989), and in Yokohama, Japan (1991), and the Women's Team Olympiad in Rhodes, 1996. She has also won countless American National titles.

This has been accomplished in the face of a disabling health problem, which has become progressively worse during her decade of success. She suffers from myasthenia gravis, a muscular disorder for which there is no cure. For the last year she has been confined to a wheelchair, and has to play bridge, with all her accustomed brilliance, in a horizontal position.

When she arrived in Hammamet, Tunisia, she was immediately hospitalised with pneumonia, a far more serious development than it would be for a person in normal health. She has been unable to compete so far, but she and her team-mates hope that she will soon return to the card-tables and battle for another possible world title.

For her dignity and cheerfulness in the face of this heavy burden, the International Bridge Press Association has named her as the recipient of its 1997 Sporting Award. This award has been in abeyance for many years.

**THE 2001 IBPA AWARD  
FOR SPORTSMAN OF THE YEAR**



**Andrew Robson (GBR)**

In January this year Zia Mahmood and Andrew Robson retained their title in what many rate to be the world's toughest Pairs tournament, the Cap Gemini. Robson, happily married with a young child, a successful bridge club in London, and a bridge column in one of the world's most respected newspapers, the London Times, was a man to be envied. Less than a month later fate dealt a cruel blow.

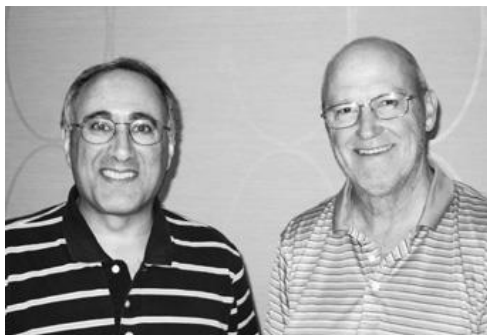
Hill-walking was one of Andrew's favourite pastimes. Relaxing in GBRIland's beautiful Lake District, he left his wife and child at the hotel, and went for a walk on his own. Slipping on black ice, he fell some thirty feet down a ravine. He was too badly injured to use his mobile phone. After some hours, he was fortunately seen by another walker, who called the Wasdale Mountain Rescue Team. He was flown by RAF helicopter to the Lake District hospital. The list of his injuries was horrific. It would be quicker to name the bones, which were not broken!

His future was in jeopardy. But the good news was that the brain was undamaged. To a bridge-player that meant the other problems had a long-term solution. After five months of intensive and courageous recuperation, Robson's recovery confounded the medics. He took to the bridge table again at the American Nationals in July with distinction. He has renewed a partnership with Tony Forrester that, ten years ago, was Britain's best-known. Their team has reached the last four of the GBRIland's Trials to determine GBRIland's representatives for next year's Europeans.

For his spectacular recovery from adversity we give our Sportsmanship Award to Andrew Robson.

Robson became World Junior Champion in 1989, and won the McAllen Pairs in 1990 with Tony Forrester. In 1991 he was European Team champion.

## **THE 2012 JOHN SIMON AWARD FOR SPORTSMAN OF THE YEAR**



**Jeff Ruben & Andrew Stayton (USA)**



**Debbie Rosenberg (USA)**

The John Simon Sportsmanship Award is granted occasionally for acts of sportsmanship by bridge players that define how we all should act. This year there were two incidents at the North American Bridge Championships in Philadelphia in July that stood out.

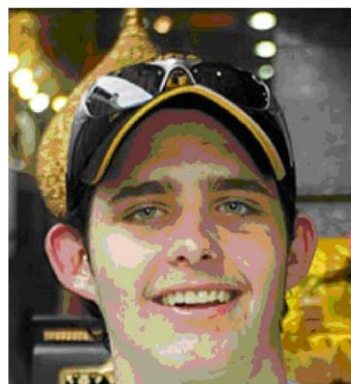
Firstly, in the David Bruce 0-5000 Life Master Pairs, Jeff Ruben and Andrew Stayton, who had won the event, were checking their matchpoint scores against their estimates. They noticed that their score for one board greatly exceeded their estimate. Upon checking further, they discovered that the score for that board had been entered incorrectly, and furthermore, that the correct score would drop them from first to second place. They immediately reported the correction to the Tournament Directors.

Secondly, Debbie Rosenberg woke up in the middle of the night realising that her team in the Richard Freeman Mixed Board-a-Match Teams had scored a board incorrectly, winning a full point rather than the correct half a point (board-a-match in the ACBL is scored as a point for a win on the board and half a point for a draw). The margin of her team's win was less than half a point. Rosenberg also immediately reported the error to the directing staff, dropping her team out of first place into second.

While it is true that these actions are covered in the rules of the game, the behaviour of Ruben, Stayton and Rosenberg is laudatory and shows that there is sportsmanship at all levels of the game.

## **THE 2013 MARGARET PARNIS JUNIOR SPORTSMANSHIP AWARD**

IBPA Sportsmanship Awards are granted occasionally for acts of sportsmanship by bridge players that define how we all should act. This year, the award is sponsored by Margaret Parnis GBRLand and is specifically targeted at junior players. The deserving winners are Justin Howard of Australia for outstanding acts of sportsmanship at the World Open Youth Championships in Atlanta and to Emil Buus Thomsen and Frederik Skovly of Denmark for similar sporting acts at the European Open Championships in Ostend.



**Justin Howard (AUS)**

Firstly, in the semifinal of the World Open Youth Team Championship, Howard allowed an opponent to retract a card inadvertently dropped, even though it cost him the contract and jeopardised the match. His team won that match on the last board. Secondly, in the final, he allowed his opponents to field a player who had not previously played in the event due to continued success in the Spingold. "We want to play against your best," was Justin's comment. Unfortunately, Justin's team lost that match. The behaviour of Justin Howard is laudatory and shows that there is excellent sportsmanship in the Junior game as well as the Open game.



**Thomsen & Frederik Skovly (DEN)**

The Parnis GBRIland Sportsmanship Award is also presented to Emil Buus Thomsen and Frederik Skovly of the Danish Under20 Team. An opponent, Mario Dix of Malta, had made a natural bid in a suit in which he was void, preventing the Danish youngsters from bidding a slam in that suit. At the end of the board, they congratulated Dix on his “good psyche” in a most sporting manner

## THE MASTER POINT PRESS BOOK OF THE YEAR

### THE 2004 MASTER POINT PRESS BOOK OF THE YEAR

#### *Play or Defend?* **68 Hands to Test Your Bridge Skill**

**Julian Pottage (GBR)**

Julian Pottage is one of the most imaginative and hardest working writers in bridge. In his award-winning book, Pottage presents the reader with all four hands and the auction. Overleaf, the reader is given one or more play/defend options, with analysis, and asked the question, "Can you make it?" or "Can you beat it?" The solutions are presented later. This is not simply a book of double dummy problems, but a very original concept. The deals chosen are outstanding.

Dealer South ♠ A Q 6 3  
NS Vul. ♥ A 5 3  
♦ 10 8 6  
♣ J 7 2

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

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

West	North	East	South
			1 ♠
4 ♦	4 ♠	All Pass	

On the diamond king lead you win in hand. What next? You have threats of sorts against East in hearts and clubs, but the entries are awkward. For example, if you give up a diamond, receive a diamond return to ruff, duck a heart to East, and get a friendly trump back, you can run the trumps and achieve your goal. However, each defender gets the opportunity to break this up by a less helpful play.

Elimination play looks a better prospect, by trying to force a defender to give you a ruff and discard or something equally unattractive, and you must surely choose East as your victim. Let us see how....

You draw three rounds of trumps and then play ace of clubs followed by a club to the jack, hoping to force East to win the trick. When East wins the club

queen and returns the club king, you ruff and have reached this ending:

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

You now advance the heart nine, planning to run it to East. If West covers, dummy's ace wins and you give up two heart tricks to East. If not, you lose the first heart trick to East, win the second heart, and lose the third. Either way, you achieve your goal. In the three-card ending East has only hearts and clubs left, and must give you a ruff and discard, allowing you to ruff the next trick in dummy whilst shedding a diamond from hand.

A similar position results if East leads a low heart after taking the second round of clubs. You put in the nine and play dummy's ace when West contributes the queen. If East plays back a high heart, you simply duck the first heart and win the second. Either way, the heart ace will serve as an entry for you to ruff a club in hand. You can then exit with a heart as above. Note that playing two rounds of clubs before pulling trumps also works. It takes an initial heart lead to stop ten tricks — the defence get their heart tricks before declarer can achieve his end-play.

*The other shortlisted candidates were: "Kantar on Contract" Eddie Kantar. "Bridge: Classic and Modern Conventions" Nicu Kantar & Dan Dimitrescu. "Natural Therapy for Defense Disorders" Lajos Linczmayer. "Bridge Master: The Best of Edgar Kaplan" Jeff Rubens, editor. "Omar Sharif Talks Bridge" Omar Sharif & David Bird.*

## THE 2005 MASTER POINT PRESS BOOK OF THE YEAR

### *The Principle of Restricted Talent and Other Bridge Stories*

Danny Kleinman & Nick Straguzzi (USA)

Readers of The Bridge World will already be familiar with the acerbic Chthonic, the self-confessed world's greatest bridge player. Fifteen of the 21 stories in this delightful book previously appeared in its pages; the other six are new.

In his Foreword to the book, Jeff Rubens professes that for him, "...the holy grail consists of humorous pieces that meet the exacting general standards that readers demand of the magazine's articles: technically sound bidding and play, deals of interest to accomplished or improving players, and a high ratio of bridge to total content."

Despite stiff competition, The Principle of Restricted Talent was a clear winner in our jury's collective opinion. The bridge deals are intriguing and the witty dialogue brings to mind another great book from 1976, *"Bridge with a Perfect Partner"* by PF Saunders.

Here is a sample of the dialogue:

#### Chapter 14 – Auction Bridge

'That stupid robot of yours is totally out of control!' I barked as I returned to the lab from my lunch break.

Marty MacLain, my co-worker, was sitting at her workbench, finishing a cup of yoghurt and watching her favourite Web cast soap opera, *"Silicon Valley Heartache"*. 'I only built him, Mike,' she reminded me. 'You wrote all his software. What did Chthonic do now?'

Angrily, I held up a printout of a web page. 'Look what Lefkowitz in Optics found on eBay!'

Marty took one look and began giggling uncontrollably. The page showed an open auction from the popular online trading house. Near the bottom was a JPEG photo of me playing bridge, with a dunce cap digitally superimposed on my head. Above the photo was this auction description:

For Sale: bridge partner. Low mileage, lower intellect. Knows all popular systems and conventions; occasionally remembers them at the table. Drawback: human. Buyer pays all shipping costs and entry fees. For details contact Chthonic, Robotics Laboratory, Orttman Foundation for Scientific Advancement.

'Is there a problem, Michael?' came a voice from the far corner of the lab. Other than a single aluminium arm emanating from the right side of his square black chassis, Chthonic, the OFSA's renowned bridge-playing robot, had no outwardly human traits. Except for the ability to drive everyone around him crazy, of course.

I marched to the corner and waved the printout in front of his laser eye. 'This is ridiculous, C!' I shouted.

'A thousand pardons,' he replied in the voice of the late British actor George Sanders, his favourite among the 3000 or so in his library. 'Unfortunately, eBay does not offer a Nitwits category, so I listed you under Garden Tools. Would you prefer I move you to Housewares?'

'How about you de-list me entirely?'

'That would be impossible. You have already met your reserve price.'

## THE 2006 MASTER POINT PRESS BOOK OF THE YEAR

### *I Love This Game*



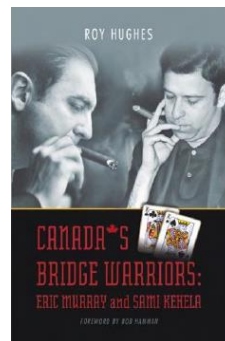
**Sabine Auken (DEU)**

*I Love This Game*, Sabine Auken. And who could blame her? Her German team came from 47 IMPs down in the final set against the home-team French to win the 2001 Venice Cup and she is widely considered part of the best female pair in the world. Auken uses the deals from this final session to tell the story of Germany's comeback and to illustrate her philosophy of bridge. Apart from being a terrific story, all players, no matter their level of skill, can learn something from this book.

Shortlist: Roy Hughes: "Card by Card", R. Jayaram (Jay): "Serendipity in Bridge", Krzysztof Jassem: "WJO5 – A Modern Version of the Polish Club", Ron Klinger: "5-Card Major Stayman", Julian Pottage: "Defend These Hands with Me".

## THE 2007 MASTER POINT PRESS BOOK OF THE YEAR

### *Canada's Bridge Warriors: Eric Murray and Sami Kehela*

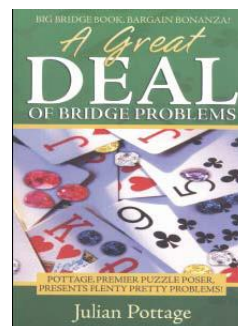


**Roy Hughes (CAN)**

Shortlist: David Bird (GBR), "Off-Road Declarer Play"; Mel Colchamiro (USA), "How You Can Play Like an Expert"; Enda Murphy (Ireland), "Silver for Ireland"; Julian Pottage (GBR), "Back Through the Pack".

## THE 2008 MASTER POINT PRESS BOOK OF THE YEAR

### *A Great Deal of Bridge Problems*



**Julian Pottage (GBR)**

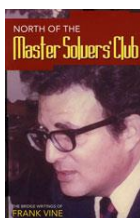
Shortlist: Anant Baghawat (India): "The Bridge Adventures of Mr. Baghir (The Numb)". David Bird (GBR): "Heavenly Contracts". Mark Horton (GBR): "Misplay These Hands with Me". Enda Murphy (Ireland): "A Bridge Too Far?" Bobby Wolff (USA): "The Lone Wolff".

## THE 2009 MASTER POINT PRESS BOOK OF THE YEAR



**Ron Klinger (AUS)**

"Right through the Pack Again", Ron Klinger Bridge,  
Sydney, 2009, 222 pages



**Frank Vine (CAN)**

"North of the Master Solvers' Club", Master Point  
Press, Toronto, 2008, 183 pages

### RIGHT THROUGH THE PACK AGAIN

*Right Through The Pack (A Bridge Fantasy)* by Robert Darvas and Norman de V. Hart was published in 1948 and the idea of each card in the pack telling its own story was an instant hit. It is on virtually every bridge magazine's and bridge player's list of the top ten bridge books of all time and has become a bridge classic.

This new book follows the original but also continues the story of the Old Master, a character featured in a series of articles Klinger wrote for *The Bridge World* magazine. The Old Master managed to snatch victory from impossible-seeming situations but in the final article, *Last Hurrah*, he collapsed and died... or did he? In *Right Through The Pack Again* the cards strive to keep the Old Master alive. Each card tells its own tale and how it was the key feature in a particular hand. Not only will you be entertained by the deals, but you will also learn more about why the Old Master has lost the zest for life. Will the cards be able to restore his desire to live? Here is the tale of the eight of diamonds.

### Trumpled to Death

Dealer East. ♠ K 8 6 3

Both Vul. ♥ 2

♦ 4 3 2

♣ A K J 5

♠ Q 7 4

♥ A 10 9 7

♦ A 7 6 5

♣ 10 9

♠ J 10 5 2

♥ K 8 6 4

♦ Q J 10 9

♣ 3

♠ A 9

♥ Q J 5 3

♦ K

♣ Q 8 7 6 4 2

West	North	East	South
		Pass	1♣
Pass	1♠	Pass	2♣
Pass	3♥	Pass	4♣
Pass	5♣	All Pass	

North's three hearts showed club support and a singleton or void in hearts. The Old Master toyed with the idea of bidding three no trump, but the poor clubs combined with the singleton diamond deterred him.

West began with the diamond ace and promptly switched to the club ten when East signalled with the queen and the king dropped from South. South won in dummy to play a heart. It would do no good for East to rise with the heart king. East did not have a second trump to lead and to play the heart king would also expose West to a ruffing finesse in hearts. East played low and the heart queen lost to the ace.

What was West to do? If he did not play a second trump, declarer would be able to cross-ruff the rest of the hand for eleven tricks. West therefore played the nine of clubs, but that was just as fatal.

The Old Master won with dummy's king of clubs, but East had no good discard. If he threw a spade, ace, king and a third spade ruffed would set up dummy's fourth spade. If East ditched a heart, a spade to the ace, heart three ruffed, diamond ruff and heart five ruffed would drop East's king, and South's heart jack would be high. Finally, East discarded the nine of diamonds. The Old Master ruffed the diamond three, ruffed a heart, and ruffed the four of diamonds. That made me into a winner, said the diamond eight. Had I been the seven of diamonds or lower, the contract would have failed.

## NORTH OF THE MASTER SOLVERS' CLUB

Frank Vine's trenchant commentaries on the game, often thinly disguised as fiction, appeared regularly in *The Bridge World* and other magazines in the 1970s and 1980s. A small collection of his work was published previously by *The Bridge World*, but has long been out of print. Readers who are familiar with Vine's writings will be delighted to see them once more available, this time in a much more comprehensive collection. Those who haven't discovered Frank Vine's work before are in for a rare treat.

Vine was the master of parody, writing articles under such titles as *The Man from La Mancha*, *Wednesday the Rabbi Played Bridge* and *How I Challenge the Champs and Made Them Cry*. His article *Rashomon*, based on the Japanese film of 1950 in which each of four witnesses gives his or her version of events, rates as many players all-time favourite bridge article.

Vine liked to take potshots at the authorities, and in the 1970s and 80s there was no larger authority on the game than Edgar Kaplan, publisher of *The Bridge World*, Chairman of the ACBL Laws Commission and, with Norman Kay, one of the world's top partnerships. Here, in an episode from *The Coldbottom Chronicles*, Vine chides Kaplan for the views of sportsmanship and ethics espoused by *The Bridge World*.

'And so we arrived at the Nationals. What a thrill to meet the storied giants of the game, whom none of us had ever seen. I made sure to point out those I recognized to Coldbottom to ensure he would be suitably apprehensive.

Our first important encounter came on the third round. Our opponents were certainly somebodies, for the table was GBRuffed by kibitzers. One smoked a meerschaum and the other was called Norman. It was all affability until the second board.

Dealer South. ♠ A K 6 5 4

EW Vul. ♥ 6

♦ A K

♣ A K Q J 10

♠ 9 3 2

♥ J 10 8 7

♦ 7 5 4 3

♣ 4 3

♠ Q

♥ Q 9 5 2

♦ 9 8 6 2

♣ 7 6 5 2

♠ J 10 8 7

♥ A K 4 3

♦ Q J 10

♣ 9 8

The bidding was unexceptional. South (meerschaum) opened a weak no trump and North (Norman) put him in seven. I led the jack of hearts. The declarer let this come to his hand, puffed three times on his pipe, and

pushed out the jack of spades. Whoa, I said to myself, I've got a problem.

I could play the deuce and give count. I could ignore count and play a deceptive three, or I could pop the nine and try to muddle the communications. I took out one card, put it back, pulled out another, put it back, and so on for about four minutes. Finally, I played the three. The pipesmoker studied this, studied me, and finally finessed.

The director was polite but inquisitive. Why had I hesitated? I advised him it was not hesitation, it was thought. Thinking and huddling, I explained, though very different, often appear similar to an opponent. Luckily I was able to cite chapter and verse, namely the June *Bridge World*, page 26, where an identical situation had been carefully reviewed. I quoted the author. "If we had been hesitating over which card to play (whether to falsecard, whether to give count), we would say nothing. If declarer then misguessed, misreading our problem, we would be charmed."

As I left the table, I thought it appropriate to comfort my opponents. "When you decided to finesse," I said, "I was charmed. Really charmed."

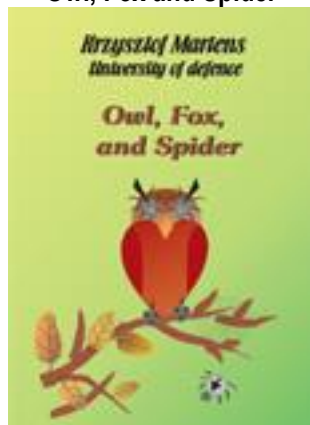
*Shortlist:* Augie Boehm (USA): "Wielding the Axe – The Vanishing Art of the Penalty Double", HNB Publishing, New York, 2008, 162 pp; Ian McCance (Australia): "The Setting Trick – Practical Problems in Bridge Defense", Master Point Press, Toronto, 2008, 159 pages; Gary M. Pomerantz (USA): "The Devil's Tickets", Crown Publishers, New York, 2009, 289 pages; Frank Stewart (USA): "Frank Stewart's World of Bridge", Vivishere Publishing, New York, 2008, 268 pages.

## THE 2010 MASTER POINT PRESS IBPA BOOK OF THE YEAR



**Krzysztof Martens (POL)**  
for "Owl, Fox and Spider"

### Owl, Fox and Spider



You are the wise owl already, If you are alert as a fly  
Strong as a tiger Sly as a spider Cunning as a fox  
You'll have to go and see your vet 'Cause you might  
have turned calf at this point.

### The Fox and Crow (Thomas Philipot)

The Crow with laden beak the tree retires, The Fox to  
gett her prey her forme admires, While she to show  
her gratitude not small, Offering to give her thanks,  
her prize lets fall.

### Spiders and Scorpions

Everyone is afraid of spiders and scorpions! They are  
terrifying because they have many legs, move fast  
and are venomous. We must not forget, however, that  
they can be beneficial too: they eat the worms and  
insects that destroy crops. Spiders create sticky  
threads to make webs, which they use to entrap in-  
sects. They then kill their prey with venom and con-  
sume them.

### KILLER 3

Underestimating your opponent may cost you dearly.  
The auction was informative.

**Pairs. Dealer East. Neither Vul.**

♠ A 3 2  
♥ K  
♦ K Q J 10  
♣ A K Q J 5

♠ Q 10 6  
♥ A 9 8 7 6  
♦ 9 8 6  
♣ 7 2

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

Lead: Heart queen. You, South, take the ace and  
continue hearts. Declarer ruffs, draws trumps via a  
finesse against the queen and claims the contract.  
How lucky! The four hands:

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

♠ K J 9 8  
♥ 10 3 2  
♦ A 4 3  
♣ 10 9 4

♠ A 3 2  
♥ K  
♦ K Q J 10  
♣ A K Q J 5

♠ Q 10 6  
♥ A 9 8 7 6  
♦ 9 8 6  
♣ 7 2

The fox never rests. Having taken the first trick, he  
switched to the ten of spades! Declarer happily cov-  
ered with the jack and, when it held, played the spade  
nine, ducking in dummy. Ultimate naïveté, no doubt  
about it, but congratulations to the fox nevertheless. If  
you haven't been fooled this way before, you are very  
likely to fall for this trick.

## THE 2011 MASTER POINT PRESS BOOK OF THE YEAR AWARD



**Authors: Eric Rodwell and Mark Horton**  
For The Rodwell Files



This year's candidates were of unusually-high quality in terms of originality of material. Nevertheless, one book was adjudged by the jury of Patrick Huang (Taiwan), Fernando Lema (Argentina), David Morgan (Australia), PO Sundelin (Sweden), Ron Tacchi (France) and Paul Thurston (Canada) to be superior to the others.

From the publisher's blurb:

Eric Rodwell's contributions to bidding theory are well-known, but in this ground-breaking book he reveals for the first time his unique approach to the play of the cards.

First, he describes and explains the process for deciding on a line of play – using concepts such as +L positions, tightropes, trick packages and Control Units as well as exploring more standard themes such as counting winners, losers, and distribution. Included here too is a checklist of 'defogging questions' to get you back on track when your analysis gets bogged down. Then he moves on to a host of innovative ideas in card play, strategies and tactics that can be used by declarer or defenders, each one illustrated with real-life examples from top-level play. Many of these ideas will be new to anyone below the bridge stratosphere. Finally, under the heading 'DOs and DON'Ts', Rodwell talks about the mental side of the game: areas where players often go wrong in their approach to the problem at hand, areas that mark the key differences between an average player and a successful one.

The original 'Rodwell File', the collection of notes on which this book is based, has been in existence for more than twenty years, but it is only now that the author is prepared to allow his 'secrets' to become public knowledge.

The 2011 shortlist :

Wladyslaw Izdebski, Roman Krzemien and Ron Klinger, *Deadly Defence*

Krzysztof Martens, *Guide Dog, Part I & II*

Victor Moillo, *The Hog Takes to Precision*

Barry Rigal, *Breaking the Bridge Rules, First Hand Play*

Eric Rodwell and Mark Horton, *The Rodwell Files*

Peter Winkler, *Bridge at the Enigma Club*

## THE 2012 MASTER POINT PRESS BOOK OF THE YEAR AWARD



### The Contested Auction – Roy Hughes

Canadian expert Roy Hughes' has written four bridge books: *Building a Bidding System*, *Card by Card*, *Canada's Bridge Warriors: Murray & Kehela*, and *The Contested Auction* – all have been shortlisted for the Master Point Press Book of the Year Award. Hughes won the 2007 award for *Canada's Bridge Warriors*. Now he has won the 2012 award for his latest, *The Contested Auction*.

Hughes' background in mathematics and linguistics has led him to think a great deal about the theory and structure of effective bidding systems. In *The Contested Auction*, he turns to the theory and practice of competitive auctions, a critical component of the modern game. Beginning by establishing what the bidding system needs to accomplish, Hughes goes on to discuss every type of contested auction, and recommends useful methods and agreements from which the reader can select. This is an up-to-date discussion, covering many topics in detail that have at best seen cursory treatment in print up to now. Hughes discusses "different philosophies and strategies to cope with the modern vernacular, stressing the importance of clarity of principles, comfort with agreed methods, and a commitment to understanding any treatment and its consequences before adopting it."

#### Shortlist:

*Bridge at the Edge* – Boye Brogeland & David Bird  
*It's All in the Game* – Bob Ewen & Jeff Rubens  
*The Deadly Defence Quiz Book* – Wladyslaw Izdebski, Roman Krzemien & Ron Klinger  
*Defend or Declare?* – Julian Pottage  
*The Amazing Queen* – Clement Wong

## THE 2013 MASTER POINT PRESS BOOK OF THE YEAR AWARD



### Fantunes Revealed – Bill Jacobs

Not since the introduction of Precision has a new bidding system created such an immediate impact as Fantunes, the unique methods of Fulvio Fantoni and Claudio Nunes, the world's numberone ranked pair. The Italians have several World Championship wins to their name, and their system has played a major role in that success. This book delves into the system, explaining how it works and just as importantly, why it works. Two words best describe Fantunes: natural and fun. This is the definitive text for those who would like to try this innovative and proven new bidding system.

Bill Jacobs has won many Australian national championships, the most recent three playing Fantunes, and has twice represented his country at Open level. He regularly provides astute vugraph commentary on Bridge Base Online. For the last ten years, he has been editor of the monthly bulletin of the Victorian Bridge Association.

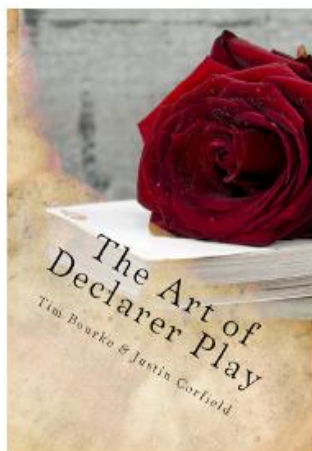
#### Shortlist:

Winning Suit Contract Leads David Bird & Taf Anthias,  
 Bridge Philosopher 3 James S. Kauder,  
 Duplicate Bridge Schedules, History and Mathematics Ian McKinnon (Removed in favour of the Truscott Award), Diamonds Are the Hog's Best Friend Victor Mollo.

## THE 2014 MASTER POINT PRESS BOOK OF THE YEAR

### **The Art of Declarer Play**

by Tim Bourke & Justin Corfield,  
KD Books & Publishing, USA 386 pp., paperback,  
\$26.00.



This year we had a plethora of terrific books to choose among for our Book of the Year. In another year, three of our other candidates might have won the award. However, this year, one book stood out from the rest. *The Art of Declarer Play* belongs in the ranks of Watson, Reese and Kelsey as one of the best books on declarer play everwritten. If you buy only one bridge book this year, this should be the one.

From the publisher: "Anybody can make straightforward contracts. *The Art of Declarer Play* is about how to handle the rest. If you already have a good grasp of declarer play technique, the blocking and unblocking plays, the eliminations and the squeezes, then this is the book for you. Bourke and Corfield begin where most of the other books finish, and reveal what goes on inside the mind of an expert, explaining how to anticipate the likely distribution, how to use logic and visualization, how to listen to the cards, and many other ways to make 'impossible' contracts. By understanding the thought processes that lead to a successful strategy in the most challenging of contracts, you will be able to replicate them for yourself, and bid with the confidence that comes from expert-level declarer play."

If you want your card play to improve out of all recognition, If you want to learn the secrets of expert-level technique, If you are not afraid to challenge yourself, then read this book."



**TIM BOURKE** is one of bridge's most prolific writers, having co-authored over twenty books. His writing partnerships have included Marty Bergen, David Silver, Marc Smith, David Bird and Hugh Kelsey. He is also a regular contributor to the IBPA Bulletin, Australian Bridge and other magazines, and has won several national-level titles. He lives in Canberra, Australia.



**Dr. JUSTIN CORFIELD** is a very well-known player on the tournament circuit of the British Isles, where he has won a number of national-level events. He regularly commentates on international matches on vugraph, and has written articles on many different aspects of the game. He lives in Dublin, Ireland.

#### Other Shortlisted Candidates:

*The Rabbi's Rules* - Mark Horton & Eric Kokish  
*Further Adventures at the Bridge Table* - Roy Hughes  
*Why You Still Lose at Bridge* - Julian Pottage  
*More Breaking the Rules - Second-Hand Play* - Barry Rigal & Josh Donn  
*Bridge on a Shoestring* - Michael Schoenborn  
*How to Be a Lucky Player* - Matthew Thomson

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## THE ALAN TRUSCOTT MEMORIAL FOR SPECIAL ACHIEVEMENT

The Alan Truscott Memorial Award is given periodically for some special service to the game that would appeal to Alan. As well as a top bridge player, Alan was also a fine chess player.

### THE 2005 ALAN TRUSCOTT MEMORIAL AWARD FOR SPECIAL ACHIEVEMENT Bill Bailey (USA) for Deep Finesse

IBPA has announced a new award this year, to be awarded periodically to a person who has made a significant contribution to bridge and bridge journalists. The first such award, named after our ex-President and ex-Chairman Alan Truscott, who died in September, goes to Bill Bailey for Deep Finesse, an invaluable tool for bridge writers and analysts everywhere.

### THE 2006 ALAN TRUSCOTT MEMORIAL AWARD FOR SPECIAL ACHIEVEMENT



**Chris Dixon (GBR)**  
for reporting from the South Pole  
and then from the Sahara.

### SOUTH POLE -vs- THE REST OF THE WORLD

IBPA Bulletin 494, page 2



Clockwise from left: Chris Dixon, Wendy Beeler, Harry Otten and Rolf Petersen contest the world's most southerly bridge game ever.

A game of bridge was played on the evening of Monday January 16<sup>th</sup> 2006 at the remotest place on the planet. The venue was the precise geographic South Pole -90 degrees South. The weather was sunny but windy and the temperature was a bracing minus 27 degrees Celsius (minus 16 degrees Fahrenheit). The contestants were the South Pole versus the Rest of the World.

For the South Pole were Rolf Peterson playing with Wendy Beeler and for the Rest of the World were

Chris Dixon (GBR) and Harry Otten (NLD). Naturally, in view of the extreme location, all players were sitting North.

The deciding hand was the following — played in the ice cold contract of four hearts.

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

The dealer was North (Harry Otten) with neither side vulnerable. The bidding was as follows:

West	North	East	South
Beeler	Otten	Petersen	Dixon
	Pass	1♦	2♣
2♦	2NT	3♦	3♥
Pass	4♥	All Pass	

The opening lead was the diamond three won by Petersen with the ten, followed by a switch to the heart seven. With so much opposition bidding, it was safe to assume that suits did not break very favourably and the spade queen was probably offside.

There seemed two possibilities to land the contract. One was to make on a sort of cross ruff, scoring seven trump tricks, two spades and the ace of clubs. The other was to ruff one diamond, duck a club, and make the contract with five trump tricks, three spades, the ace of clubs and a minor suit squeeze against Petersen for the tenth trick. To preserve both options, declarer (Dixon) played the ace of hearts and continued with a low spade to dummy's jack and Petersen's queen. The ace of spades had to be preserved as the king might be required as an entry later on.

Petersen now switched to a low club and Dixon ducked. Winning with the jack, Beeler did her best by playing a second trump but Dixon won this carefully with the ten and cashed the ace and king of spades.

Now he could ruff a diamond with the heart queen and lead the carefully preserved heart eight for a marked finesse against Beeler's jack. He then drew the last trump and cashed the thirteenth spade on which Petersen was squeezed with king-queen of clubs and the ace of diamonds.

Ten tricks made and victory for the Rest of the World.

The extreme wind, low temperatures, and the difficulty of holding cards whilst wearing polar mitts forced the early curtailment of the game which had set a new record for the most southerly game of bridge ever played.

## MIRAGES IN THE SAHARA

Bulletin 497, page 2



Chris Dixon and friends at latitude 18° north

Just ten weeks after their record-breaking bridge game at the South Pole, the intrepid Chris Dixon (GBR) and Harry Otten (NLD) were again playing in an equally-remote, but very different, location.

This time the venue was the very middle of the Sahara Desert in Niger, West Africa, as part of a journey to observe a total eclipse of the sun on March 29 of this year. The game took place after the eclipse on the sand dunes near Bilma, Niger, but this time Chris and Harry were eclipsed by a hot (42 degrees Celsius) defence from GBRishman Henryk Kloczek and Dutchman Gerard Hilte.

The cards, dealt out on the sand, were as follows:

Dealer North North (Harry)

Neither Vul. ♠ A Q 2

♥ Q 9 5

♦ 10 7 3

♣ A K 6 4

West (Henryk)

♠ 7 3

♥ K 10 8 7 4 3

♦ J 5 2

♣ J 8

East (Gerard)

♠ J 10 8 6 5

♥ A J

♦ K 4

♣ Q 10 3 2

South (Chris)

♠ K 9 4

♥ 6 2

♦ A Q 9 8 6

♣ 9 7 5

Harry opened one club (playing weak no trumps), and Chris bid one no trump after Gerard's one spade overcall. West passed and Harry raised optimistically to two no trump. Chris re-raised to game and this became the final contract.

Imagine the problem on defence for East after the opening lead of the seven of hearts on which Chris played low from dummy. By applying the rule of 11, Gerard knew that the heart jack could win the first trick, but assuming Partner held the hoped-for heart king, Henryk could have no more than a point or two outside the suit. In a moment of blinding clarity, this Flying Dutchman was quick to capitalise on what turned out to be his only chance to beat the contract. Gerard won with the heart ace and returned the jack. Bemused, Henryk took the second trick with the heart king and played a third round of the suit, on which Gerard discarded the king of diamonds! This prevented declarer from establishing the diamonds without permitting Henryk to win a trick with his jack and Chris could only come to eight tricks.

Gerard reached out to accept the applause of a marvelling audience...and discovered that the opening lead was the spade seven, not the heart seven!

A few deals later the game had to be abandoned due to a sandstorm, but we just had enough time for this last deal, featuring another intrepid Dutchman who held the following hand:

♠ 9 8 7 2 ♥ Q 7 ♦ K 2 ♣ K Q J 10 3

Hearing the bidding opened on his right with two clubs, he doubled to show clubs and after opener had shown a strong hand with diamonds, found himself on lead against six no trump.

His lead was clear-cut — he led the club king and was rather confused when the first trick was won in dummy with the ace of SPADES. This was the full deal:

North (Chris)

♠ A J 4 3

♥ 10 6 3 2

♦ 7 5

♣ 8 5 4

West (Gerard)

♠ K 9 8 7 2

♥ Q 7

♦ K 2

♣ Q J 10 3

East (Henryk)

♠ 10 6

♥ J 9 8 5 4

♦ 8 6 3

♣ 7 6 2

South (Harry)

♠ Q 5

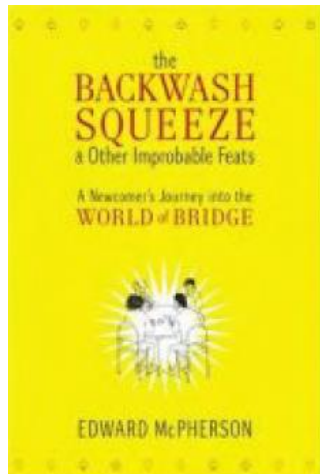
♥ A K

♦ A Q J 10 9 4

♣ A K 9

The billowing sand had made the cards difficult to see, and West had had his cards mis-sorted. Leading what he had thought was the king of clubs had actually led him to find an extraordinary double-dummy defence to defeat the no trump slam. West must lead spades twice to break up the impending black suit squeeze; the first lead must be the king to block the suit and prevent declarer taking three spade tricks!

### THE 2007 ALAN TRUSCOTT MEMORIAL AWARD FOR SPECIAL ACHIEVEMENTS



**Edward McPherson (USA)**  
for "The Backwash Squeeze  
& Other Improbable Feats".

### THE 2008 ALAN TRUSCOTT MEMORIAL AWARD FOR SPECIAL ACHIEVEMENTS



**Liu Siming (CHN)**  
for services to the International Mind Sports Association, bringing chess and bridge together at this First World Mind Sports Games

This year, the Truscott Award is given to Liu Siming, Vice-President of the Chinese Contract Bridge Association, for services to the International Mind Sports Association, bringing chess and bridge together at this First World Mind Sports Games. Patrick Choy, accepting the award, said Siming, as Director General Ad-

ministrator of Sport in China, worked tirelessly to bring bridge and chess into media coverage.

*Patrick Jourdain, President*

### THE 2009 ALAN TRUSCOTT MEMORIAL AWARD FOR SPECIAL ACHIEVEMENTS



**Gary M. Pomerantz (USA)**

The Truscott award for 2009 goes to Gary M. Pomerantz for "The Devil's Tickets", an unusual bridge tale. It tells the interleaved stories of Ely and Jo Culbertson and Myrtle and Jack Bennett. Myrtle shooting Jack dead is perhaps the most famous incident in bridge history, and it occurred 80 years ago. Ely and Jo need no introduction. The book is also an interesting social history of the Roaring Twenties, pre-WWII America and bridge as the latest craze. One need not be a bridge player to enjoy this well-written and lively account of the time.

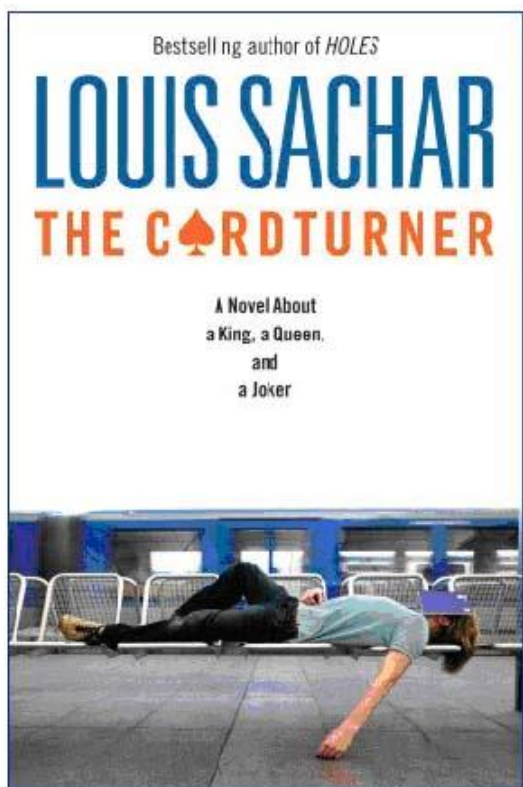
Pomerantz, 48, a former reporter at The Washington Post and Atlanta Journal-Constitution, is a lecturer at Stanford University. He lives in Larkspur, Calif., with his wife and three children. Books include "Where Peachtree Meets Sweet Auburn", a history of race relations in Atlanta.

### THE 2010 ALAN TRUSCOTT MEMORIAL AWARD



**Louis Sachar (USA)**  
for "The Cardturner"

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



When Alton's ageing, blind uncle asks him to attend bridge games with him, he agrees. After all, it's better than a crappy summer job in the local shopping mall, and Alton's mother thinks it might secure their way to a good inheritance sometime in the future. But, like all apparently casual choices in any of Louis Sachar's wonderful books, this choice soon turns out to be a lot more complex than Alton could ever have imagined. As his relationship with his uncle develops, and he meets the very attractive Toni, deeply buried secrets are uncovered and a romance that spans decades is finally brought to a conclusion. Alton's mother is in for a surprise!

## THE 2011 ALAN TRUSCOTT MEMORIAL AWARD

The Alan Truscott Memorial Award is presented periodically to that person whose contribution to bridge, in the opinion of the IBPA Executive, would be most appreciated by Alan.



**Roland Wald (DEN)**

This year the award goes to Roland Wald from London (ex-Copenhagen) who, in his spare time from teaching and playing, arranges for and organizes the commentators for Fred Gitelman's BBO transmissions.

## THE 2012 ALAN TRUSCOTT AWARD



**Tim Bourke (AUS)**

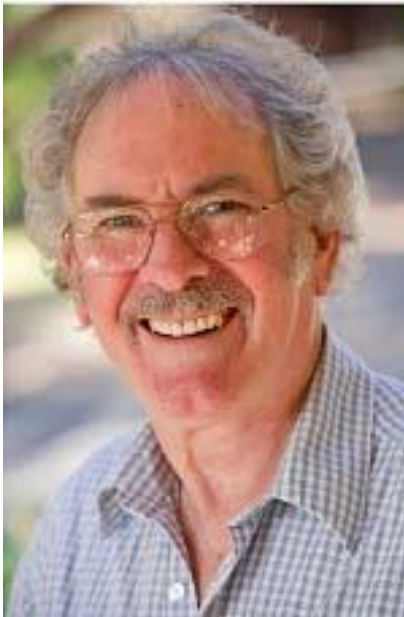
The Alan Truscott Award is presented periodically to a person who does something for bridge that the IBPA Executive believes Alan would appreciate.

This year's recipient is Tim Bourke of Canberra, who not only produces the IBPA column service each

month, but also converts the BBO .LIN files into text for we journalists.

For this service Tim is the 2012 recipient of the Alan Truscott Award.

### THE 2013 ALAN TRUSCOTT AWARD



Ian McKinnon (AUS)

Duplicate Bridge Schedules,  
History and Mathematics



AN HONORS BOOK FROM MASTER POINT PRESS

The Alan Truscott Memorial Award is presented periodically to a person who does something for bridge that the IBPA Executive believes Alan would have appreciated. This year's recipient is Ian McKinnon of Australia for producing *Duplicate Bridge Schedules, History and Mathematics*, an essential book for tournament directors as well as bridge players curious about the history of the game of duplicate bridge. This comprehensive volume supplies all the movements ever thought of and many hundreds of new ones. Included for each movement are the variations, modifications, origins, authors and history of its development. Each movement is then assessed for its measure of quality, called calibre.

The author presents a brand new event type, the Scissor movement, in which any event can be run and scored as a pairs game and as a teams game. The book also delves into the lives of wellknown figures such as John T. Mitchell and Edwin C. Howell. In addition, many lesserknown historical figures are examined for their contributions to the development of duplicate movements.

For the mathematicallyinclined there are plenty of interesting oddities. The mathematics of balance of movements, giving the measure of quality, is thoroughly discussed. The controversial debate over movement quality, along with its history, is presented through the ideas and opinions of players and mathematicians.

### THE 2014 ALAN TRUSCOTT AWARD



Frank Stewart

The Truscott Award is presented periodically to an individual or organisation that, in the opinion of the IBPA Executive, has done something in the world of bridge that Alan would have approved of and appreciated. Alan was an IBPA Executive member, serving as its president from 1981 to 1985 and was the long-time bridge editor of the New York Times. Alan was also a fine player - before leaving Great Britain for the United States, Alan represented Great Britain internationally, earning a first and second in the European Team Championships and a third in the Bermuda Bowl. Before such things were forbidden, he served as the NPC for Bermuda and Brazil in World Championships.

This year, the Truscott Award goes to Frank Stewart, syndicated newspaper columnist and bridge author. Over the past decade Stewart has written a series of bridge books and has donated the proceeds to local, Fayette, Alabama, charities. We are certain that Alan would appreciate this generous gesture from a fine man.

Frank Stewart has been involved with bridge as a journalist, author, editor, competitor, teacher and creator of the popular “Daily Bridge Club” column.

Stewart is a longtime enthusiast of the game. In 1968, while serving in the U.S. Army, he represented South Korea in the Far East Bridge Championship. He went on to win several regional events in the '70s before discontinuing tournament play to devote full time to writing about bridge.

He is the author of 19 books – including “The Bridge Player’s Comprehensive Guide to Defense,” “Better Bridge for the Advancing Player” and The Devyn Press Bridge Teacher’s Manuals and Student Texts – and has also published hundreds of technical articles, tournament reports and fiction and humor pieces in most of the world’s leading bridge magazines and online publications.

He was co-editor from 1984 to 1989 of the most widely circulated of these – The Contract Bridge Bulletin – and continues to contribute a monthly instructional column he began in 1981. He edited the American Contract Bridge League’s World Championship books from 1983 to 1987 and was a principal contributor to the “Official Encyclopedia of Bridge” from 1986 to 1989.

Stewart is a graduate of the University of Alabama. He and his wife Charlotte, a speech-language pathologist, make their home in Fayette, Ala.

## THE BEST PLAY OF THE YEAR BY A WOMAN

### THE 1985 ALPWATER AWARD FOR THE BEST PLAY BY A WOMAN



**Irina Levitina (RUS)**

Reported by: Yuri Govalenko (RUS)

First prize went to Irina Levitina of the Soviet Union for an extended trump squeeze. The deal occurred in a local pairs event, was reported by Vitold Broustunov of Leningrad to Yuri Govalenko who forwarded the details to Gabor Salgo, who in turn wrote to Alan Truscott.

Irina Levitina is a Soviet chess master and one of the top Soviet bridge players. She is the first Russian to receive such recognition in the bridge world.

Dlr: East     ♠ K 10 4  
 Vul: N-S     ♥ A  
                ♦ A Q 10 7  
                ♣ A K 10 6 5

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

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

East	South	West	North
2♥*	2♠**	Pass	7♠

All Pass

\* 8-11 HCP, 5-5 in hearts and one minor

\*\* 10-15 HCP, five or more spades

West led the jack of diamonds. Irina rose with the ace, cashed two top clubs, ruffed a club in hand, and then played ace and another trump to reach the dummy. She ruffed another club in hand and then returned to dummy, drawing the last trump. Declarer has established the fifth club at the expense of taking heart ruffs, but this was the position when the long club was led:

♠ -	♠ -
♥ A	♥ K J
♦ Q 10 7	♦ K 8 6
♣ 10	♣ -

♠ -	♠ Q
♥ 9 6 5 3	♥ Q 10 7
♦ 5	♦ 9
♣ -	♣ -

East was caught in a trump squeeze by the extended menace in the red suits. If he threw a heart, declarer cashes the ace to set up both the hearts in hand. When he actually threw a diamond, Ms Levitina took the ruffing finesse in diamonds and returned to dummy with the ace of hearts.

**THE 1985 ALPWATER AWARD  
FOR THE 2<sup>ND</sup> BEST PLAY BY A WOMAN**



**Claude Blouquit (FRA)**  
Journalist: Patrick Jourdain (GBR)

The French always hold extensive trials for both their Open and their Women's teams, and the preparation for this year's World Championships was no exception.

Madame Claude Blouquit made the textbook defensive play on the deal, which is taken from the French trials.

In the newly established ranking list of European Women players, Madame Blouquit is twelfth. Her coup was reported by Guy Dupont and won the runners-up prize in the ALPWATER Awards.

Dlr: N	♠ K J 9 5	
Vul: EW	♥ J 6 5 2	
	♦ A 3	
	♣ Q J 10	
♠ A 10 6 4		♠ 8 2
♥ A 9 3		♥ K Q 8 4
♦ J 10 2		♦ 9 6 5
♣ K 7 5		♣ 9 6 4 3
	♠ Q 7 3	
	♥ 10 7	
	♦ K Q 8 7 4	
	♣ A 8 2	

South reached a thin Three No-trumps with this unopposed auction: 1♣-1♦; 1♥-1♠; 2♠-2NT; 3NT-Pass.

The French all use the strong no-trump, which explains North's opening of a three card club suit. The One Spade call was "fourth suit", a forcing bid which did not guarantee four cards in the suit. By contrast, one might expect the auction in Britain to go quite simply 1NT-2NT-Pass.

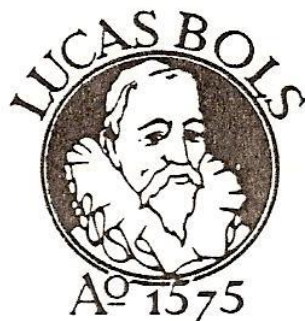
Sitting West, Madame Blouquit led the jack of diamonds. Declarer won the first trick in dummy, and at once led a spade to the queen and ace.

If West lazily continues a second diamond, as happened at one table, declarer can succeed by making five diamonds, three spades, and a club.

Blouquit never gave her opponent the chance. At the third trick she found a switch to the only card that spells doom to declarer: the NINE of hearts.

This specific card unlocked the route for the defence to cash four tricks in the suit. East, Nadine Cohen, won the queen of hearts and returned a low one to Blouquit's ace. A third heart then allowed East, sitting over dummy's jack-six, to make the king and eight to defeat the game.

Justice was done when Madame Blouquit was selected for the French squad at Miami Beach.



## THE BOLS BRILLIANCY PRIZE

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### THE 1976 BOLS BRILLIANCY PRIZE



**Ron Klinger (AUS)**  
Journalist: Alan Truscott (USA)

Australia's Ron Klinger won the Bols Brilliancy Prize for the best stroke of play during the Olympiad when he with Les Longhurst defended the winning hand. (Bulletin 157, page 5.)

The Bols Brilliancy Prize for the best individual play or defence in the 1976 World Team Olympiad in Monte Carlo was won by Ron Klinger, a member of the Australian open team.

Klinger is a well known IBPA member but this had no bearing on his winning the Brilliancy Prize, the first ever awarded at a world championship tournament. Every player in the Open and Ladies series was eligible for the prize.

Klinger was nominated for the Brilliancy Prize by Alan Truscott, whose citation is as follows:

When great players are at the table, there is sometimes scope for a duel: Thrust, parry and counter-thrust continue until one of the duellists draws blood. Consider this deal from the Australia - USA match in the Olympiad:

Dir: West     ♠ 2  
Vul: None     ♥ 9 5  
                ♦ A Q 10 8 6 3 2  
                ♣ K 8 5

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

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Klinger</i>	<i>Soloway</i>	<i>Longhurst</i>	<i>Rubin</i>
Pass	Pass	3♠	4♥
Pass	Pass	Pass	

West led a spade, and East won and returned a trump to cut down ruffs. Rubin made his first good play by playing the queen. He wanted to be in his hand if West ducked. And West did duck. If he had taken the king the contract would have been easily made by drawing trumps quickly. Thrust and parry.

Rubin now ruffed a spade, removing West's remaining card in that suit, and led to the club queen. (Finessing the 10 would have brought home the contract, but that was hard to judge.)

Klinger took the club ace and returned a club, won with the king in dummy. Now a club was ruffed, and the ace and jack of hearts were led.

Klinger won with the heart king and (in the diagram position) found the only play to defeat the contract — a most unusual one:

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

He made the counter-thrust of leading the diamond king. Touché.

This ruined South's communications. The only way to reach his hand to draw the last trump was with a diamond, and that would leave him with a losing spade.

"After any other return South would have drawn the last trump and used diamonds to get rid of the spade loser."

*Second prize went to Stig Werdelin and Steen Møller as reported by Henry Francis, editor of the ACBL Bulletin.*

*One hand was entered for the Bols Brilliancy Prize by Holland's Max Rebattu as he described a coup by Morocco's Bobby Slavenburg.*

*Chagas was nominated for the Brilliancy Prize by Lizzie Murtinho of Rio and Albert Dormer, who each independently submitted a hand. The write-up of Chagas' scintillating defence is by Dormer.*

## THE 1977 BOLS BRILLIANCY PRIZE



**Anders Morath (SWE)**  
Journalist: Steen Møller (DEN)

THE 1977 BOLS Brilliancy Prize for individual excellence in this year's European Championships in Helsingør has been won by Anders Morath (right), a member of the Swedish team which won the European crown and is due to challenge GB for the Bermuda Bowl in Manila this month.

Journalist entrants for the Bols prize were; Steen Møller, Denmark, who submitted the winning hand played by Morath and who receives \$200; Hugh Kelsey, Scotland; Charlotte Dobin, USA; Ib Lundby,

Denmark; Thomas Berg, Denmark; Caio Rossi, Italy; Jo van den Borre, Belgium; Andre Lemaitre, Belgium; Nick Nikitine, Switzerland; & Phillip Alder, GBRLand.

Prize winners and jury awards are:

	<b>Journalist</b>	<b>Jury points</b>	<b>Player</b>
1.	Steen Møller	161,5	Anders Morath
2.	Hugh Kelsey	158,5	Steen Møller
3.	Charlotte Dobin	141,5	Schmuel Lev
4.	Ib Lundby	140	Barnet Shenkin
5.	Thomas Berg	135,5	Pierre Jais

The jury consisted of Herman Filarski (President), Richard Frey, Jean-Paul Meyer, Tannah Hirsch and Svend Novrup.

Morath and Møller are due to contest the Caransa International Team Tournament at the Amsterdam Hilton on 25-27 November as members of the Swedish and Danish national squads, when the opportunity will be taken to present each with a cheque and Morath with the BOLS Brilliancy Prize, consisting of a fine crystal liqueur glass on a silver base.

\* \* \* \* \*

SWEDEN'S all-the-way win over Italy, Israel and 19 other nations began in the very first round when they beat Spain by 99 IMPs to 40 (20-0). Steen Møller's winning Brilliancy Prize entry is from that match.

The Swedish team (writes Møller under the title, 'A Piece of Swedish Brilliance') had a flying start and their system, 'The Carrot Club' developed by Morath and Flodqvist and used by two of the pairs, has served them well, sometimes with a little bit of luck — as here:

Dir: North ♠ 7 5  
 Vul: EW ♥ A Q 5 3  
 ♦ A J 6 4 2  
 ♣ 8 6  
 ♠ 9 3 ♠ K 10 8 6  
 ♥ 10 9 6 2 ♥ J 7 4  
 ♦ 10 9 7 ♦ 5  
 ♣ A Q 7 4 ♣ J 9 5 3 2  
 ♠ A Q J 4 2  
 ♥ K 8  
 ♦ K Q 8 3  
 ♣ K 10

In the open room with Spain sitting N-S the bidding went smoothly along well-known lines,

North	South
1♦	2♠
3♦	4NT
5♥	6♦

as also did the play when East chose to lead a club. Down one.

In the closed room N-S were Hans Göthe and Anders Morath – Mr. Carrot himself. (If you are not linguistic enough to see the similarity between the Swedish word for carrot and the name Morath, just look at the colour of his hair and you'll see why he's known as Mr. Carrot.)

North	South
1♦	1NT
2♦	3♦
3NT	4♣
4♥	4♠
6♦	6NT

The bidding needs to be explained. 1NT was a two-way bid, inviting slam when followed by 3♦. 3NT showed a weak balanced hand, and the remaining bids were control showing. There was of course a great deal of knocking on the table, following the 'alert' procedure, but no one really took much notice until North alerted the 4♣ bid. At this point West woke up and inquired the meaning. Taking this as a warning signal, Morath placed the contract at 6NT, to protect ♣K.

West led ♥2, giving the count away. South won in hand, crossed to dummy with a diamond, and took successful spade finesse. He proceeded to cash the diamonds, throwing a spade, while West discarded a couple of clubs. Then came a second spade finesse, and when South now scored ♠A. West was in deep trouble.

Finally he threw ♣Q. Now the low heart in dummy went and Morath played ♣10 to the bare ace, taking the rest with two heart tricks and a club.

Steen Møller

## THE 1978 BOLS BRILLIANCY PRIZE

Gilles Cohen (FRA)

Journalist: Albert Dormer (GBR)

The 1978 BOLS Brilliancy Prize for the most brilliant play or defence in any of the events of the 1978 World Olympiad has been won by Gilles Cohen of Paris with the deceptive play reported on Page 3 of this issue. M. Cohen receives the BOLS Brilliancy Trophy and the sum of \$100. The winning journalist is Albert Dormer, who receives \$200.

There were 18 entries. The jury, consisting of Herman Filarski (Chairman), Harold Franklin, Tannah Hirsch, Richard Frey & Dirk Schroeder, placed Billy Eisenberg second with the hand reported on P.2 by Edwin Kantar. They receive \$50 & \$100 respectively. Five prizes of \$50 go to the following authors (in

brackets): Roudinesco (Ie Dentu), Sundelin (Dorothy Francis), Fenwick (Oshlag), Amsbury (Klinger) & Chagas (Truscott).

THE BOLS BRILLIANCY PRIZE is awarded for the most brilliant play or defence in any of the events in the New Orleans Olympiad. The jury consisted of Tannah Hirsch, U.S.A., chairman; Harold Franklin, Britain; Richard Frey, U.S.A; Herman Filarski, Holland; and Dirk Schroeder, Germany.

The Prize is awarded to the player. In addition, the journalist submitting the winning hand receives a cash award (\$200) and journalists submitting hands, which receive honourable mentions, get smaller sums.

Under the rules prepared by Tannah Hirsch, panelists were asked to treat the quality of the hand, not of the writing, as of prime importance. The hands were marked on a scale of 0 to 10.

## LE ROI EST MORT VIVE LE ROI

By Albert Dormer

Some coups are a matter of pure technique. You plan for a squeeze, or whatever, and if the cards lie in a certain fashion your plan succeeds.

Whether such coups can be deserving of the term 'brilliancy' is a doubtful point, as the necessary technique can be learned by rote and mechanically applied.

The defensive coup below is a true brilliancy. It was invented on the spur of the moment — as perhaps were some of the many fine recipes devised by Erwen Lucas Bols, founder of the House of BOLS 400 years ago. It was not bound to succeed, but it did succeed, simply because the declarer found it hard to imagine that his opponent could be so inventive.

Dir: East ♠ A Q 8 6 2

Vul: None ♥ 3

♦ A J 9 7 5 2

♣ 6

♠ K J 10 7

♥ A 8 5

♦ K 10 8

♣ 9 8 5

♠ 5 4 3

♥ J 10 7 2

♦ 4

♣ K Q J 10 7

♠ 9

♥ K Q 9 6 4

♦ Q 6 3

♣ A 4 3 2

East	South	West	North
<i>Cohen</i>	<i>Mayer</i>	<i>Souchon</i>	<i>Frendo</i>
Pass	Pass	Pass	1♠
Pass	2♥	Pass	3♦
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

West was Gilles Cohen of Paris, a young maths lecturer in higher education. Playing in the Open Pair semi-final he led ♠J against South's contract of 3NT. The declarer, Federico Mayer, an Italian who very nearly captured the 1970 World Pair crown in partnership with Benito Garozzo, won with dummy's queen.

Mayer led a heart to the king, which lost to the ace. A club shift work nicely as the cards lie but Cohen, not seeing all four hands, returned ♠K. Mayer won and, to avoid cutting himself off, quite rightly tackled diamonds by leading low to the queen.

If West had played the king South would have made 3NT for a big match point score. But Cohen ducked, playing the 10 and apparently assigning the king to a useless death under the A-J. Declarer led a second diamond and West followed with the 8.

To Mayer it did not seem at all likely that West had ducked with the king. You virtually never see such a play. It seemed far more likely that East had ducked with K-x, which would certainly be a good play to make if declarer held 10-x.

So Mayer climbed up with the ace, expecting to catch the king and make an overtrick for an enormous score. (It would have been 47 out of 51.) When East showed out the hand collapsed and Mayer was set two tricks.

Perhaps Mayer should have played safe for nine tricks by finessing the jack of diamonds on the second round. But the fact is that he didn't.

Moreover, it is clear that Mayer certainly would have made the contract if Cohen had not been brilliant enough to duck with the king in this unusual position.

*(Jean Besse also entered the above deal for the BOLS Brilliancy Prize. As Besse's write-up appeared in the New Orleans daily bulletin, which has already been seen by many members, the IBPA Editor has taken the liberty of presenting his own write-up here.)*

### Best story

An additional Bols prize of \$200 for the best story was awarded on the spot and was presented to Dorothy Francis at the victory banquet by Jaime Ortiz-Patino, the WBF President. The citation reads: "For her story, 'Acting is the Name of the Game'. A new member of IBPA, Dorothy, wife of Henry Francis, took a theme and carried it through an article to show how Barry Crane and Kerri Shuman win."

Second was Ron Klinger, for his story 'Killing a BOLS Brilliancy'. "He showed that post-game analysis is as important to the players as taking part in the event. Besides, getting the sponsor's name into the article didn't hurt one bit."

An honourable mention went to Henry Francis for his story, 'A Toast to Maria Venturini'. "In a time where

bridge scandals seem to dominate the press, it is a pleasure to see an act of sportsmanship receive due recognition. We would like to see it get even wider attention to prove that Tournament Bridge is still a game for ladies and gentlemen."

On-the-spot BOLS competition arrangements were handled by Tannah Hirsch on behalf of Herman Filarski.

## THE 1979 BOLS BRILLIANCY PRIZE



**Dano De Falco (ITA)**

Journalist: Phillip Alder (USA)

THE 1979 BOLS Brilliancy Prize for the most brilliant play, or defence at the 34th European Championships has been won by Italy's Dano De Falco. He received the fine crystal liqueur glass mounted on silver from IBPA Executive Vice-President Herman Filarski and Ellie Ducheyne, whose work with Rene in the Press/Telex room was as always much appreciated.

The deal, which won De Falco, the Brilliancy Prize is shown below. It was submitted by one of IBPA's younger members, Phillip Alder.

The 'best story' prize was won by Sven-Olov Flodqvist.

The BOLS Brilliancy Prize Adjudicating Committee consisted of Herman Filarski (Chairman), Giorgio Belladonna, Eric Jannersten, Derek Rimington & Eloene Griggs.

Highly talented De Falco is expected to put forth a strong performance for Italy in the keenly awaited Bermuda Bowl contest against USA in Rio next October.

The first week of the Championships has been fairly quiet but it suddenly came alive Friday night with the incredible match between Italy and Israel. Everyone will be writing about the many exciting slam hands, but two other deals caught my eye. First was a hand played with subtlety by Dano De Falco, a hand for the connoisseur.

Dir: South ♠ A 10 6 3  
 Vul: Both ♥ 7  
 ♦ A 9 8 3  
 ♣ 8 7 5 2

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

♠ Q 8 4 2  
 ♥ 4 2  
 ♦ K 10  
 ♣ K Q 6 4 3

South	West	North	East
<i>Fryderich</i>	<i>De Falco</i>	<i>Shofel</i>	<i>Franco</i>
Pass	1♥	Pass	4♣
Pass	4♥	All Pass	

The 4♣ bid showed that Franco's hand was worth a raise to 4♥ and that it included a club control.

North led ♣7 to the Q-A. Now De Falco made a good play, returning ♣J. When North did not cover he could feel confident that South had started with both the king and queen. It was a bright idea of De Falco's making this discovery play so early, before the defenders had a chance to find out what was going on.

After ruffing the club De Falco drew trumps and played a diamond towards the dummy. South won with the king and returned ♦10, North taking the ace and playing back a third diamond. Now De Falco knew that North had the ace of spades because if South had held it he would have opened the bidding. South should have realised this as well but when De Falco made the crafty play of ♠J from the dummy, South ducked and let the contract make.

In the other room in the same contract, West won the club lead, drew trumps immediately and then played on diamonds. When it came to playing the spade suit he did not lead the jack from the dummy but just played a low spade to the king, going one off.

This disappointed the Vu-Graph audience, who wanted to see whether Garozzo, sitting South, still had his eye on the ball!

## THE 1980 BOLS BRILLIANCY PRIZE

**Richard Cummings (AUS)**

Journalist: Ron Klinger (AUS)

Ron Klinger was the journalist winner of the 1980 BOLS Brilliancy Prize. Richard Cummings played the hand described by Klinger below.

The jury consisted of Herman Filarski (Chairman), Jean Besse, Switzerland; Denis Howard, Australia; Avinash Gokhale, India; and Joe Musumeci, USA.

To ensure a well-considered verdict the jury were given a whole month for deliberation and study after the Olympiad had ended. In previous years the BOLS Brilliancy Prize had been adjudicated 'on the spot', but with the growth in popularity of the contest and the great increase in the number of entries this became impracticable.

### Bid 'em up, play 'em up

By Ron Klinger, Australia

If one is going to bid a hand to the hilt, then one needs the resources of expert technique to justify such bidding. Dick Cummings left no doubt as to his resourcefulness on this hand from the match between Australia and Indonesia.

Dir: West ♠ J 9 7  
 Vul: N-S ♥ 10  
 ♦ Q J 9 8 7 3  
 ♣ K 10 8

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

♠ 8 4 2  
 ♥ K Q 8 5  
 ♦ A K 5 4  
 ♣ 9 5

The Indonesian West had opened 1♥ and rebid 2♥ over East's 1♠. He played it right there. He ruffed the diamond lead, played ace and a low heart and wound up making 10 tricks, thanks to the club finesse and division in spades, which allowed the club loser to be discarded.

On Vu-graph:

West	North	East	South
<i>Cummings</i>	<i>Sacul</i>	<i>Seres</i>	<i>Waluyan</i>
1♥	Pass	2♣	Pass
4♥	Pass	Pass	Pass

North again led the ♦Q and Cummings demonstrated that he needed neither the club finesse nor the safety

play in trumps. With this trump combination, provided there are sufficient entries to dummy, the safety play is to lead from dummy and insert the jack, gaining in the precise layout that existed and also if South with K-Q-x fails to split his honors. However, the black suit entries in dummy could not be spared for the safety play since they might be vital later in the play.

Cummings cashed the ♥A, and when the 10 dropped, he carefully continued with the jack: if trumps were 3-2, the jack could be spared, and if South had started with K-Q-8-5, the jack was necessary to set the stage for a trump coup. South won with the ♥Q and switched to the ♠4, 5, jack, ace. Cummings shortened his trump holding by ruffing a diamond and cashed the ♠K-Q. This was now the position, with declarer holding one trump more than South, one too many for the trump coup to operate:

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

Cummings led a club to the ace! The Vu-graph audience groaned, but they had not seen Cummings' plan. The contract was cold, regardless of the location of the ♣K!

Dummy's ♠10 was now played. South could not afford to ruff or he would lose any chance of an extra trump trick, so he discarded. Cummings discarded a club. Next dummy's last diamond was trumped, declarer finally reducing to the same IGBRth in trumps as South, and the ♣J was the exit card. No matter who won that, Cummings was assured of his 10th trick with the ♥9-7 poised over South's K-8. (To appreciate what an error it would have been to finesse in clubs, mentally give South the ♣K-5. The club finesse loses and South leads his remaining club. Now South will be able to ruff a club or West will be stuck in his own hand at the critical 11th trick and have to yield two more tricks to South.)

Truly a scintillating example of "bid boldly, play safe".

## THE 1981 BOLS BRILLIANCY PRIZE



**John Collings (GBR)**

Journalist: Derek Rimington (GBR)

From Dell, Holland, Herman Filarski reports that IBPA's international jury has declared Britain's John Collings the winner of the 1981 BOLS Brilliancy Prize.

Derek Rimington, who receives the journalist Prize, reported the deal that won Collings the Brilliancy Prize in the Birmingham daily bulletin. Rimington's report is reproduced below.

The Brilliancy Prize, consisting of a fine antique liqueur' glass, was presented at the recent Merit Tournament in Amsterdam by Marlov Strumphler of the BOLS Company, who handed it to Paul Hackett, Collings' proxy.

Hackett was Collings' partner both on the deal that won Collings the Prize and in the Bermuda Bowl tournament in Port Chester last October.

Collings is a worthy winner of the Prize, having been noted for true brilliance in play and defence since his earliest days in bridge.

DEREK RIMINGTON pays a good deal of attention to the matter of an apt choice of title for his articles. But when he contributed to the Birmingham daily bulletin the deal which has now carried off the 1981 BOLS Brilliancy Prize he gave to it a caption, 'Brilliant Or Lucky Slam', which to some readers may have seemed less than incisive and to others less than meaningful "Stupid title — there was nothing lucky about that slam," grumbled Collings himself, the hero of the deal when it was played.

Collings was not the only one to have overlooked the acronym!

## Brilliant Or Lucky Slam?

By Derek Rimington

Open Series Round 12, Great Britain v. Hungary

Dlr: South    ♠ A K 5  
 Vul: All      ♥ 6  
                  ♦ A Q J 10 7 5  
                  ♣ A 8 2

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

### Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Rose	Dumbovitch	Sheehan	M. Kovacs
			Pass
Pass	1♦	Pass	1♠
2♥	3♥	Pass	4♠
Pass	6♣	All Pass	

West makes the Roman lead of the ten of clubs. Dummy's ace wins, East playing the five. The ace of spades is cashed and East follows with the jack. How should declarer continue? Decide before reading on.

Mihaly Kovacs was a little unlucky to be defeated because the bidding was not as revealing as in the Open Room. He overlooked a safety play, which cost his team 17 IMP, and they lost the match by only 131-127. All he did was to play two rounds of trumps, leaving the king of spades in dummy so that he could play the king of diamonds and, cater for a five-one-diamond break. An average player would simply draw trumps and cash the diamonds and be defeated if the diamonds broke worse than four-two.

John Collings, for Great Britain, demonstrated how to overcome a six-nil diamond break. He simply won the lead with the ace of clubs, cashed the ace of spades and led a heart to the third trick. When East played a low card he spread his hand claiming twelve tricks! This was the full deal, with the bidding according to the *Walpurgis Club*:

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

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

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

### Open Room

West	North	East	South
Maguar	Hackett	Linzmayr	Collings
			Pass <sup>a)</sup>
Pass	1♦ <sup>b)</sup>	Pass	1♠
Dbl	Rdbl	2♣	Pass <sup>c)</sup>
Pass	3♣ <sup>d)</sup>	Pass	3♥ <sup>e)</sup>
Dbl	3♠ <sup>f)</sup>	Pass	4♠ <sup>g)</sup>
Pass	4NT <sup>h)</sup>	Pass	5♣ <sup>i)</sup>
Pass	5♦ <sup>j)</sup>	Pass	5NT <sup>k)</sup>
Pass	6♦ <sup>l)</sup>	Pass	6♠
Pass	Pass	Pass	

- a) Indicates 9-12 high-card points.
- b) Natural, at least 12 points.
- c) Forcing.
- d) Asking bid in clubs.
- e) Second round club control.
- f) Six-ace Blackwood.
- g) Not interested.
- h) But I am! Four ace Blackwood.
- i) No aces.
- j) How many kings?
- k) Two.
- l) Choose the small slam!

## THE 1982 BOLS BRILLIANCY PRIZE



**Jean Besse (CHE)**

Journalist: Nick Nikitine (CHE)

"Deadly Unblock" by Nick Nikitine (CHE), player Jean Besse (CHE), published in the Daily Bulletin Biarritz 1982.

In a fourth-round encounter of Wednesday's Swiss between Jimmy Ortiz-Patino's team, and a Japanese squad, Jean Besse produced a defensive feat to spell doom on a contract, which made at the other table.

Dlr: South    ♠ J 6 5  
Vu1: N-S    ♥ A K  
              ♦ J 9 8 7 6  
              ♣ 10 3 2

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

              ♠ A Q 3  
              ♥ Q J 4  
              ♦ K 5 4 2  
              ♣ K Q 8

West	North	East	South
			1♦
Pass	3♦	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

West lead the ♣5, dummy inserted the 10, Besse covered and declarer ducked. The suit was continued and West took the king with the ace. A third round cleared the clubs and Besse made a good shot at the BOLS Brilliancy Prize by discarding the ♦A!

After that there was no way declarer could come to nine tricks, He eventually lost four clubs and the ♦Q which provided the vital entry to the established suit after the master's deadly unblock.

Second was "The Balkan Story" by Panos Geron-topoulos (GRC), featuring Luben Zaikov (Bulgaria).

Third was "The Angel Coup" by Jose Le Dentu (FRA), player Gabriel Chagas (BRA), published In the Daily Bulletin Biarritz 1982.

## THE 1983 BOLS BRILLIANCY PRIZE

**Marv Rosenblatt (USA)**

Journalist: Alan Truscott (USA)

**Marv Rosenblatt merited a prize he failed to win**  
*By Alan Truscott*

If there were a prize for the best played hand of the recent Summer Nationals in New Orleans, the diagrammed deal from the Spingold knockout tourney would be a strong candidate.

Sitting South was Marv Rosenblatt of Hartford playing with Art Waldmann of Rocky Hill, Conn. Playing against two former world champions, Paul Soloway and Bob Goldman, they followed the route shown to seven spades. After a slow start South eventually located an ace in the North hand and invited the grand slam with a cue-bid of six diamonds.

Dlr: North    ♠ Q 5 3  
Vu1: EW    ♥ A 9 7 6 2  
              ♦ 7 6 4  
              ♣ 10 3

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

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

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

North decided that his spade queen must be the card that was needed, as indeed it would have been if South had held 5-1-1-6 distribution.

South was hoping to find four trumps in dummy, which the three-spade raise had suggested. As it was, there were only 12 tricks in view even if the clubs could be run without loss. But Rosenblatt found a way to conjure up a 13th, which is not obvious even looking at the whole deal.

*How to Conjure Up a Trick*

He won the heart king lead, and led the club ten to the ace, an important unblocking move. Then cashed the spade ace and led to the queen.

He now had to hope that East had begun with exactly three spades and J-x-x of clubs, not too unlikely since West's overcall had marked him with diamond IGBRth.

The club nine was finessed, and two more club winners provided diamond discards from dummy. That set up a diamond ruff in dummy to dispose of the loser in the closed hand, and a heart ruff allowed the last trump to be drawn.

Rosenblatt's *tour de force* earned his team 11 points, but, as it turned out, in a losing cause.

*The rest of the shortlist:*

2. *Clash of the brightest stars in the East*, Jeremy Flint;
3. *Four hearts four losers, game made*, Phillip Alder;
4. *Artistic start to final*, Alan Truscott;
5. *Declarer coup of the championship*, Keith Stanley;
6. *A 26 point difference*, Jean-Paul Meyer;
7. *Jacoby knows when to behead his own king*, Henry Francis;
8. *Technical excellence is great, but you need more*, Henry Francis;
9. *Gabriel strikes again*, Joe Amsbury;
10. *The tale of the king of hearts*, Sylvia Philipson;
11. *That fateful final round*, Henry Francis

## THE 1984 BOLS BRILLIANCY PRIZE

**Jeff Rothstein (USA)**

Journalist: Alan Truscott (USA)

The 1984 BOLS Brilliancy Prize was awarded to Jeff Rothstein of New York for his declarer play on a deal from the Grand National Team Championship. The report was made by Alan Truscott, New York.

### ROTHSTEIN'S DEAL

By Alan Truscott

The composed problem, in bridge as in chess, is remote from practical play. Few enthusiasts care to make the effort to solve a double-dummy situation, which they know will be challenging, and complex. On the rare occasions on which such deals occur in practice there is virtually no chance that the declarer will find the doubledummy solution, which is likely to escape altogether unless the post-mortem is conducted with great vigour and perception.

But there are rare exceptions, and the diagrammed deal is one of them. The reader can test himself on two levels. First, cover the East-West hands, study the bidding, and plan the play in six hearts.

Dir: North    ♠ A 8 4 2  
 Vul: Both    ♥ A J 8  
               ♦ A J 6 3  
               ♣ 7 6

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

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

North	East	South	West
1♦	Pass	1♥	4♣
4♥	Pass	6♥	All Pass

West led the club eight.

Next, look at the four hands and see if your intended play works. If it does not, work on the double-dummy problem and find the way to make the slam. There is a way, but it is not obvious. One expert took half an hour to find it.

The deal occurred in the preliminaries of the Grand National Team Championship, and the hero was Jeff Rothstein of New York. Reporting his feat, in admiring awe, was the West player, Ira Herman of New York. He had pre-empted with four clubs, and when his opponents climbed to an optimistic slam, he chose the lead of the club eight.

This odd choice was intended to help East. If that player could win the first trick a diamond return was desirable, so the club eight carried a suit preference message. A low spot card asked for a low-ranked suit. The message got through to East, who did not need it, but it also got through to South, who did. Rothstein won with the ace and inferred correctly that West was void in diamonds. This did not help him particularly in locating the trump queen, but he guessed right by leading to the heart ace and continuing with the jack for finesse. Covering would not have helped East, and the jack won.

This was the moment of crisis, and South was attacking solving a double-dummy problem. He solved it by leading a low diamond from the dummy, putting East on the hot seat. He chose to play low, and the queen won in the closed hand.

Now East was quickly exposed to an endplay. Rothstein drew the missing trump and cashed the spade king. He was planning to lose the next spade trick to East, and that player saw it coming. He dropped the spade Jack, but it did him no good. A spade was ducked to the nine, and the forced dia-

mond return allowed South to discard his black-suit losers and make the slam.

At first sight it might seem that East could have beaten the slam by taking his diamond king, but that is not so. A spade shift would destroy the defensive trick in that suit, although it would leave a guess. But East would presumably make a passive return in a red suit. After a heart return, for example, South would win, cash the diamond queen, and reach this position:

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

South cannot now afford to cross to dummy and cash the diamond winners, for he will still have a black-suit loser. But if he cashes his two trump winners, throwing two spades from the dummy, he can then afford to take the spade ace and the diamond winners. West will be squeezed in the black suits.

To make this contract in practical play, within the few minutes available, was a remarkable achievement, and should make Rothstein a candidate for the Bols prize awarded to the best play of 1984.

*The rest of the shortlist: Bad break for British, Patrick Jourdain; Junior Europeans, Geir Olav Tisleval; Delicate Interferences, Bobby Wolff; Queen's Indian Defense, Patrick Jourdain; Doing the Impossible, Tannah Hirsch; The Problem: Anticipating the Problem, Dorothy Francis; An easy 3NT – a difficult 5 Clubs, Dorothy Francis; A Key(play) to Wonderland, Ib Lundby; A Neat Ending, Henry Francis; Italian is a Universal Language, Giorgio Belladonna; Bad slam, good Play, Dorothy Francis.*

## THE 1985 BOLS BRILLIANCY PRIZE



**Anders Brunzell (SWE)**  
Journalist: PO Sundelin (SWE)

With an overwhelming majority, the Bols Brilliancy Prize 1985 has been won by:

"The Honourable Discard".

Journalist: Per-Olof Sundelin  
Player: Anders Brunzell

*Commentary by André Boekhorst:*

77 Journalists from 30 different countries have chosen Per-Olof Sundelin's article "The Honourable Discard" as the winner of the BOLS Brilliancy Prize 1985. The winning article received an overwhelming majority of votes, unparalleled in the history of the BOLS Brilliancy Competition. Almost all members of the IBPA-jury praise the Sundelin hand: "Sundelin's article typifies all that is best in bridge. A defender, by accurate card-reading, finds the only way to give himself a chance of defeating the contract", wrote Hugh Kelsey, Scotland.

### The honourable discard

*By P.O. Sundelin*

Swedish star Anders Brunzell, back in the team after a few years of rest, found the way to lead declarer astray on this board against Belgium.

Dlr: West	♠ 7	
Vul: N-S	♥ 10 9 8 6 5	
	♦ 9 8 2	
	♣ 10 9 4 3	
♠ A J 8 5 3		♠ K 9 4
♥ Q 4		♥ A K 7 3
♦ K Q 7 4		♦ 10 6 3
♣ Q 8		♣ J 6 5
	♠ Q 10 6 2	
	♥ J 2	
	♦ A J 5	
	♣ A K 7 2	

Open Room:

West	North	East	South
Göthe	Coenraets	Flodqvist	Kaplan
1♠	Pass	1NT	Dbl
Rdbl	2♥	Dbl	All Pass

Closed Room:

West	North	East	South
Rubin	Nielsen	GBRel	Brunzell
1♠	Pass	2♣	Pass
2NT	Pass	3NT	All Pass

In the Open Room South chose the wrong moment to enter the bidding and two hearts doubled cost 500.

In the Closed Room West had shown five spades, and extra values with two no-trumps. East's club bid was 'natural'.

North led the ten of hearts, won with dummy's king, and a spade went to declarer's jack. After some consideration, he cashed the queen of hearts — North following with the nine to indicate an odd number of hearts — and continued with the king of diamonds, again North playing a nine to show an odd number (in the Swedish fashion). From here let's listen to Brunzell:

"This is now in effect a double-dummy problem. West obviously hopes to win five spade tricks, three hearts and one diamond. If I duck, West will find out about the spade situation and be forced to create diamond tricks — successfully — and make his game. Thus I must win with the ace immediately. A spade or diamond return gives away two tricks and the contract. Three rounds of clubs will establish a trick for our side, but what can I discard on the ace of hearts? Certainly, not a spade or a diamond; and if I throw the club winner, declarer can let me have my spade trick.

Assuming West does not have the ten of clubs and does not put up his queen, a low club will make life difficult for him."

This is what happened: the low club went to dummy's jack, the king of spades was cashed, and on the ace of hearts, Brunzell dropped the ace of clubs!

There was nothing declarer could do now to avoid defeat. He tried to throw Brunzell in with spades, but since communications were intact between North and South, the contract even went two down.

*The rest of the shortlist was: Urgent Message from the King (Henry Francis), Bravo Hugh Ross (Henry Francis), Deft Play in the Trump Suit (V.Sharma), Canada Mexico Match (Henry Francis), A well conceived Battle Plan (Henry Francis), The Tale of the four of Spades (Florent Dejardin), Lead perfectly, defend better (Steen Møller), Good defence, so simple and so difficult (John Plaut), Opening Leads-they are crucial (John Wignall).*

## THE 1986 BOLS BRILLIANCY PRIZE

Ed Manfield (USA)

Journalist: Alfred Sheinwold (USA)

The BOLS BRILLIANCY PRIZE 1986 has been won by:

"The early reading"

Journalist: Alfred Sheinwold

Player: Ed Manfield

Commentary by Andre Boekhorst: *It is beyond doubt that the winning article in the Bols Brilliancy Competition 1986 is outstanding. 81 journalists from 36 different countries have chosen Alfred Sheinwold's article "The early reading" as the best from this year's shortlist. Almost half of them gave 10 points to "The early reading" and here is a selection of the reasons why:*

During the home stretch of the Rosenblum Cup finals (W.O.P. Miami) Sunday night, one of our new world champions picked up to IMPs by reading virtually the entire hand at trick 2. He also had to play the hand with great finesse; there's no advantage in an early reading if you then muff your opportunity.

Dlr: East	♠ K 6 5 3 2
Vul: EW	♥ K 3
	♦ 3
	♣ 10 9 6 4 3
♠ 8 7	♠ A J 10 4
♥ J 6 2	♥ A 10 8 7 5
♦ 10 9 8 4 2	♦ Q
♣ K 7 5	♣ A Q 2
	♠ Q 9
	♥ Q 9 4
	♦ A K J 7 6 5
	♣ J 8

West	North	East	South
		1♥	1NT <sup>(1)</sup>
2♥	2♠	4♥ <sup>(2)</sup>	Pass
Pass	Pass		

(1) Comique.

(2) Sometimes Kit Woolsey has more than a king and a jack for his raise.

Zia Mahmood led the ♦A and continued with the ♦7. Jan-E-Al Fazli ruffed with the ♥K, and Manfield knew virtually the whole hand.

The diamond position was obvious, and North had started with only K-3 or K-4 of hearts since with K-x-x or K-9 he would have ruffed low. North did not have

the singleton ♥K because with 11 black cards he would have bid more. South probably had doubletons in both black suits since with a singleton and a strong 6-card diamond suit he might well have bid 2♦ or 3♦ over 1♥ instead of employing the comic no-trump.

Armed with this knowledge Manfield over ruffed the second diamond with the ♥A and led the ♠J. Zia stepped up with the Q and led the ♦K after some consideration. The panel wondered if Zia would lead another low diamond, hoping for another useful up-percut, but South could not be sure that Fazli had another trump.

Manfield ruffed with the ♥7 (a crucial unblock) and led the ♥5. When Zia played low Manfield backed his reading by inserting dummy's ♥6. (You were forewarned that Manfield played the hand with finesse.)

The deep finesse kept the ♥J in dummy and allowed declarer to return a spade to finesse the 10.

The fall of the ♠9 confirmed Manfield's reading of the spades. Besides, Zia would not have stepped up with the ♠Q if he had started with Q-9-x. Since this reading also confirmed Zia's club IGBRth, Manfield took ♣K and ♣A, coming down to this 5-card ending:

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

Manfield now led the ♠A, and Zia was thoroughly pickled: If Zia discarded, Manfield would discard dummy's club and lead the ♣Q. If Zia discarded again, Manfield would discard dummy's ♦9. Manfield would then lead the ♠4 to ruff with ♥2.

*Shortlist: Two brilliancies (Ton Schipperheyn), An invisible slam (Phillip Alder), Pure brilliancy. (Arne Hofstad), The honourable discard II (Eric Kokish), Consolation tough too (Henry Francis), Breaking the rules (Patrick Jourdain), An unwanted trick (Dorothy Francis), Inference and hypothesis (Terry Michaels), Wonderful defense (Junso Leikola).*



## THE BOLS BRIDGE TIPS COMPETITION

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### THE 1974 BOLS BRIDGE TIPS



**Terence Reese (GBR)**

The first Bols Bridge Tips Competition has been won by Terence Reese, whose advice was this:

"Study the early discards and consider this point: From what holding would the defender most readily have made those discards? The answer will often resolve a critical guess."

Mr Reese's full winning tip may be found in Bulletin No. 140. His entry was awarded 425 points by the 27-member international panel of judges. 2nd with 384 was Gabriel ('I love Finesses') Chagas of Brazil, whose tip was published in Bulletin 139. 3rd with 377 was Tim ('Give Declarer Enough Rope') Seres of Australia, published in Bulletin 141.

The \$1000 prize is to be presented to Mr Reese during the European Championships in Brighton next month, where he is to serve as Chief Commentator. The Bols Company is also arranging for each of the eight Bols tipsters to be presented with an individual piece of the famous Delft Blue china.

THE UNSUCCESSFUL TIPSTERS may find a still further solace. Each piece of Delft Blue is to be accompanied by a bottle of Bols' own fine product!



This article by Terence Reese was the fourth entry in our \$1000 Bols Bridge Tips competition. The advice is typically helpful. ('One aims to present a lesson in practical play,' says Reese in the Foreword to one of his famous books, 'not an exercise in double dummy.')

IBPA members are invited to use the article, which may if necessary be abridged, edited, rearranged or adapted, mentioning that it is an entry in the Bols Bridge Tips Competition launched by the IBPA and

the long-established Dutch company manufacturing a wide range of liquors.

MY ADVICE, says Terence Reese, is to study the early discards and consider this point: From what holding would the defender most readily have made those discards? The answer will often resolve a critical guess.

For example, a defender who holds A-5-3-2 or K-5-3-2 will discard from that suit more readily than if he had held Q-5-3-2 or J-5-3-2. That will give you a clue in situations of this kind:

- (1)
- |       |        |         |
|-------|--------|---------|
|       | J 7 6  |         |
| Q 9 4 |        | A 5 3 2 |
|       | K 10 8 |         |
- (2)
- |       |         |       |
|-------|---------|-------|
|       | J 8 6 2 |       |
| A 5 3 |         | Q 9 4 |
|       | K 10 7  |       |

This is a side suit in a trump contract and declarer needs to establish one fast trick. In (1) East has made two early discards. Conclusion: he is more likely to hold A-x-x-x than Q-x-x-x. In (2) West makes an early discard. Conclusion: he is more likely to have discarded from A-x-x than from Q-x-x.

- (3)
- |       |        |           |
|-------|--------|-----------|
|       | A 8    |           |
| J 9 4 |        | K 7 5 3 2 |
|       | Q 10 6 |           |
- (4)
- |         |        |       |
|---------|--------|-------|
|         | K 10 8 |       |
| A 5 3 2 |        | J 7 6 |
|         | Q 9 4  |       |

In (3) East makes two early discards. When you play ace and 8 he follows with 5 and 7. Play him for K-x-x-x rather than J-x-x-x-x. In (4) West discards twice. He is more likely to have come down to A-x than to J-

x; but if a low card to the king is headed by the ace, be inclined to play East for A-J-x.

Such inferences are especially strong when dummy has what may seem to a defender to be an establishable suit, as here:

Dlr: South	♠ 10 5 2	
Vul: None	♥ K J 6 3	
	♦ A 7 3	
	♣ 8 6 4	
	♠ 9 3	♠ J 7
	♥ Q 10 8	♥ A 9 5 2
	♦ 10 9 5 4	♦ J 8 6
	♣ K J 7 3	♣ A 10 9 5
	♠ A K Q 8 6 4	
	♥ 7 4	
	♦ K Q 2	
	♣ Q 2	

South plays in 4 spades after 1♠ – 1NT, 3♠ – 4♠. West leads ♣3 and South ruffs the third round. There is something to be said for leading a heart at once, putting West under some pressure if he holds the ace, but instead the declarer plays four rounds of trumps, discarding a diamond from dummy. (It is good play to keep the heart holding intact.) West throws a club and a diamond, East a club and a heart.

After cashing three diamonds South leads a heart and West play the 8. South should finesse the jack. Why? Because of East's heart discard. With A-9-x-x East, expecting the contract to depend on the heart guess, would not think it necessary to keep all four. But with Q-9-x-x he would not let go a heart, in case declarer held A-x.

As so often, the discard tells the story.

Terence Reese

## THE 1975 BOLS BRIDGE TIPS

Jean Besse (CHE)

JEAN BESSE, the amiable Swiss star who has been one of Europe's best players throughout the post war era, is the clear winner of the 2nd Bols Bridge Tips Competition.

Herman Filarski, IBPA's Executive Vice-President, announced the result just as the marathon world championships were getting under way in Monaco. The formal presentation was due to be made at the Press Luncheon following IBPA's main meeting on May 20. Second is Howard Schenken and third Pietro Forquet, separated by the smallest possible margin.

30 IBPA members in 22 countries were asked to award marks up to 20 to each of the seven Bols tipsters. 28 answers were actually submitted to Filarski by the due date, resulting as follows:

Jean Besse 472

Howard Schenken 429

Pietro Forquet 428

Besse's tip ("Beware of your trump tricks...") appeared in Bulletin 151 and included excellent column hands. It is hoped that Besse may contribute a follow-up to his winning tip in the next or subsequent issue of the Bulletins

Also due to be announced at IBPA's meeting were the names of the tipsters to be invited to enter the 3rd Bols Bridge Tips Competition which the well-known Dutch company has agreed to support following the success of the first two competitions.

The names of the Bols jury members were given in Bulletin 154, page 5. Each member of the jury has now been furnished with complete details of the voting, showing marks awarded by each jury member to each tipster.

Assembling the tangible evidence of the success of the competition — in the form of a massive array of newspaper clippings and magazine articles — was Mrs Senn-Gorter, a Bols employee who was hoping to rush the completed album to Monte Carlo so that our members could compare each other's usage of the tips. The album was also expected to provide the basis for the award of substantial cash prizes for use of the tips.

## BEWARE OF YOUR TRUMP TRICKS

By Jean Besse (CHE)

Bobby Fischer once said: "You have found a very good move. Fine! This is the time to think again: *there probably exists a better one.*"

Bobby, of course, was talking about chess. His advice, however, applies also to bridge — and especially to the situation where a defender sees an opportunity to make an easy trump trick. Surprisingly often, it will pay him to look for better things.

Players soon learn that by not overruffing the queen with K102 behind declarer's A-Q-J-9-8-7 they can ensure two tricks. The following, however, is less obvious:

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

The contract is four spades. South ruffs the opening club lead and sets out to establish his side suit: he takes two top hearts and ruffs a heart in dummy with the queen of spades.

If East yields to the temptation of overruffing with the king, South loses only one other trick and makes his contract.

But if East refuses to over ruff, the declarer is bound to lose three trump tricks no matter how hard he tries. With a diamond loser in addition, he is defeated.

The idea of not overruffing soon becomes familiar when you hold either IGBRth or strGBRth in the trump suit. Somewhat less well known are those cases where the defender *with the shorter or weaker trump holding* may gain a trick for his side by employing the same tactics.

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

South plays in four spades after East has overcalled in hearts. West leads the 10 of hearts and East plays off the three top cards in the suit.

If, on the third round of hearts, West jumps in with ♠Q, declarer will discard from dummy and thereafter will have no trouble picking up East's trumps. Instead, West should rise to the occasion by discarding a diamond! After ruffing this trick in dummy South will have to lose two trump tricks — and his contract.

In that example, refusal to ruff with the queen in front of dummy's 92 was no more than good tech-

nique. Dare you go one step further? It is possible to blend the technique of trump promotion with *deception*, as in this example:

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

Again the contract is four spades and West leads the ♥10, East playing off ace, king and a small one. On the third round West ruffs declarer's queen *with the seven of spades!*

Declarer over ruffs with dummy's 9 and continues with the 2. When East follows with a small trump declarer is confronted with a problem. If he goes up with the ace he may lose two trump tricks to East's possible K-J-x. If he plays the queen he may lose to West's possible K-x (for with this holding West would certainly ruff low, not with the king).

Declarer may very well decide that his best chance is to ruff with the 10, which seems to take care of both possibilities. It will be a shock to him when the 10 loses to the now singleton jack and he has to lose to the king as well.

Even when you hold a single isolated trump and this is of a lowly rank, you should still think twice before overruffing with it. Being now in full command of the subject, you will easily manage East's hand in the final example:

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

The contract is five clubs and West begins with two top spades, South ruffing. Declarer cashes the ace of hearts and ruffs a heart with ♣10, since East has

discarded a heart on the second spade and threatens to over-ruff. Declarer continues with a club to the king and a heart ruff with ♣J. After a diamond to the ace the position is:

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

South leads a fourth round of hearts and ruffs with ♣3. Should you now, as East, over ruff with your lowly five-spot you will have to lead diamonds to South's king, enabling him to draw trumps and claim the contract.

But you, of course, refuse to naïvely over ruff! This leaves declarer locked in dummy, compelled to force his own hand in spades and lose the last two tricks to the 8 of trumps and the queen of spades.

My bridge tip is this: Beware of your trump tricks. When you see a chance of an easy over ruff, don't be in too much of a hurry to take it. You may gain still more tricks by holding back.

In a later issue of the *IBPA Bulletin* Besse followed this rich offering with another example

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

North opens 1NT in fourth hand, East overcalls with two hearts, and South becomes declarer in four spades.

West leads his singleton heart, East plays the ace and returns with the queen, which is covered with the king. West ruffs and then ... but there is no hereafter! As East passed originally, South gauges the trumps correctly and East never comes in to cash his heart winner.

From West's angle, the best hope is to find partner with a trump entry. If he declines to ruff (or ruffs with the ace, which would be essential with Ax) he enables partner to gain entry with the queen of spades.

## THE 1976 BOLS BRIDGE TIPS

### Jeff Rubens (USA)

WINNER of the 3rd and final BOLS Bridge Tips Competition was brainy Jeff Rubens of New York — maths professor, bridge writer and theorist, and successful player. Rubens' winning tip appeared in *BULLETIN* 169 and was summarized by Rubens himself as follows:

'Honour Thy Partner' show that you treat his problems as your own and actively help him solve them. Amazingly, this will improve not only partner's defence but also his overall performance. He will be playing more carefully in order to be worthy of your respect.'

To emphasize the high practical importance of this branch of play Rubens proposes a name for all those plays that have as their special object the provision of help for partner. The name suggested by Rubens is, 'The BOLS Coup'.

In a specially written follow-up to his winning BOLS tip, Rubens gives several sparkling examples of the BOLS coup. And in his general approach to the problems of partnership, Rubens shows that he is wise as well as clever. The \$1000 winner, with 662 points from the 40-strong worldwide panel of judges, is Jeff Rubens of Scarsdale, NY. Second with 618 is Mrs Dorothy Hayden-Truscott. Third is Tony Friday.

Rubens was asked to contribute a 'follow-up' of his winning tip, which was on the theme, Help your partner.

Herman Filarski's final report on the highly successful BOLS contests was given at IBPA's general meeting in Elsinore in the presence of Mr M.A.Strumphler, representing the House of BOLS.

### Honour thy partner

By Jeff Rubens (USA)

Car A signals for a left turn but starts to turn right then suddenly brakes to a stop. Whereupon Car B, travelling behind A at a normal distance and speed, crashes into a tree.

Bridge 'crashes' are often of this sort. One defender makes a losing play but his partner was at fault. There is not only a loss on the deal, but also a drop in partnership morale. We seem to mind more when partner causes us to make the fatal move than when he makes it himself.

A player should be alert to partner's problems as well as his own. Everyone tries to help partner by

signalling, but better players should aim to go further still.

For example, a good partner tries to remove undesirable options. If you fear that partner may duck his ace in front of dummy's king-jack, you can prevent this by leading the suit yourself. If you cannot get in to lead the suit, perhaps you can discard the queen behind dummy's king-jack!

One measure of a defender's thoughtfulness is how he plays in this sort of situation:

♠ J	
♥ 10	
♦ –	
♣ –	
♠ Q	♠ –
♥ J	♥ 5
♦ –	♦ 10
♣ –	♣ –
♠ 7	
♥ –	
♦ 9	
♣ –	

East is on lead at No Trumps and does not know who has the jack of hearts. But he **does** know that West has the queen of spades and no diamonds. Leading the five of hearts cannot lose a trick no matter who has the spade seven and heart jack. Leading the ten of diamonds also cannot lose a trick — **provided West guesses correctly which card to keep**. A strong defender will not let his partner face this guess.

Where players fall down is in failing to notice that partner may have a problem. Once the problem is seen, protective measures are usually quite simple.

Dir: South				♠ K 10 9 8
Vul: EW				♥ Q 9
				♦ A 10 9 4
				♣ Q 10 3
♠ 5 4				♠ A Q 7 3
♥ K 10 8 7 5				♥ A 6
♦ 8 6				♦ K 7 5 2
♣ 9 7 4 2				♣ 8 6 5
		♠ J 6 2		
		♥ J 4 3 2		
		♦ Q J 3		
		♣ A K J		
South	West	North	East	
1♣	Pass	1♠	Pass	
1NT	Pass	3NT		

West led the seven of hearts to the nine, ace and deuce. As East, what do you return?

In play, East mechanically returned his remaining heart and it was natural for West (who needed only for East to have another heart and one entry) to duck. The defence was now separated from its five tricks and declarer made his contract. West played the fatal card, but the king of hearts was 'lost' by East. His immediate heart return could accomplish nothing except giving West a headache. East should lead something else at trick two — the eight of clubs, for example. When East leads his remaining heart later, West knows that he is not expected to duck, and now the contract must fail. Note that nothing is lost in the unlikely event that West has the king and jack of hearts.

You can keep the sleepest partner free from harm by removing his losing choice altogether.

Dir: South ♠ 9 6	
Vul: Both ♥ K J 5	
♦ Q J 10 8 6	
♣ 10 8 6	
♠ K 10 7 5 4	♠ A 8 3 2
♥ Q 6 4 3	♥ 9 7 2
♦ A 2	♦ 4 3
♣ K 9	♣ J 7 5 3
♠ Q J	
♥ A 10 8	
♦ K 9 7 5	
♣ A Q 4 2	

South	West	North	East
1NT	Pass	Pass	Pass

West led the five of spades to the six, ace and jack. East returned the two of spades to the queen, king and nine. As West, how do you plan the defence?

West can see seven tricks for the defence: five spades, one diamond and one club. But unless East leads a club early in the play South will strike first with two hearts, four diamonds and a club.

The average West, having reasoned this far, leads the spade four at the third trick. Then, East may win and unthinkingly return a spade. West will win the argument that follows, but South will make his contract.

A good defender scores points before the post mortem by playing the seven of spades before leading the four. When East wins he is out of spades and has no alternative to the winning club switch.

My BOLS bridge tip is: Honour thy partner. Show that you treat his problems as your own and actively help him solve them. Amazingly, this will improve not only partner's defence but also his overall performance. He will be playing more carefully in order to be worthy of your respect.

## THE 1987 BOLS BRIDGE TIPS



**Steen Møller (DEN)**

The Bols Bridge Tips Competition 1987 has been won by Steen Møller (DEN) with his article "Discovering Distribution".

Almost 100 IBPA members returned the voting paper, with or without their commentary.

The complete results are:

	Votes
1. Discovering Distribution Steen Møller (DEN)	476
2. The value of small cards Gabriel Chagas (BRA)	312
3. The five level belongs to the opponents Ed Manfield (U.S.A.)	290
4. Guard your honour Hugh Kelsey (Scotland)	278
5. Be always ready to change your plan Pietro Forquet (ITA)	238
6. Fear the worst Terence Reese (GBR)	200
7. Falsies George Havas (AUS)	134

The results of the "Come Closest Competition" are:

1. L. R. Griffin (GBR)
2. Alexander Yasnikov (Bulgaria)
3. Ernesto d'Orsi (BRA)
4. W.R. Luscombe (CAN)
5. M.J. Rebattu (Netherlands)

We received many clippings regarding this competition and hope to get many more. The Clippings Competition will be closed on September 1st 1988. There are 6 cash prizes of each 100 US \$ for the best publicity. Please don't forget to participate!!

In the meantime we would like to thank the members of the IBPA for their wonderful co-operation.

BOLS ROYAL DISTILLERIES  
*Evelyn Senn*

## STEEN MØLLER WINS BOLS BRIDGE TIPS COMPETITION

By Andre Boekhorst

With an overwhelming majority, the jury of IBPA members have chosen Steen Møller's "Discovering Distribution" as the best entry in the Bols Bridge Tips Competition 1987. Out of 97 jury members 32 voted for Steen Møller's tip, in most cases because of its beauty and simplicity (Ernesto d'Orsi, Brazil). The Norwegian Tore Mortensen wrote: "Considering that the tips are primarily intended for the average player, my number 1 (Møller) is by far the best. It is simple, effective and applicable in a variety of situations."

Many IBPA members also point out that the Danish winning article is of more frequent occurrence than the other entries (Bob van de Velde, Holland). But, as said before, most members praise the simplicity of the tip and the fact that less experienced players can take full advantage of it (Kees Tammens, Holland).

### DISCOVERING DISTRIBUTION

By: Steen Møller

K J 9 5 2

A Q 7

When you consider the play of this suit in a notrump contract, you will probably think, that it is not beyond your capacity to cash the ace followed by the queen and the seven.

You are, however, quite wrong. I did not deal you this suit to see you solve an unblocking problem, and you have just missed an excellent opportunity to test the honesty of your opponents and their methods. If you simply cash the ace, nobody cares to reveal the distribution, but try the effect of leading the queen first!

Now each of the defenders might think, that his partner holds the ace and will normally try hard to give count, so that partner can grab the ace at the right moment.

If one or both defenders manage to flashcard in this situation — and you will find out, when you run the suit — you should not trust any of their discards for the rest of the session. I find it a considerable advantage to get a suit like this at the beginning of a team event, so that I know where I am for the rest of the match.

A Q 10 2

K J 6

This suit offers a similar opportunity. Start with the jack from your hand and let it run. You should not pay any

attention to the discards from East, but West will normally give an honest count signal. He has to consider the possibility, that his partner holds the king and will duck the jack. Therefore he feels obliged to help East and tell him when to take the king.

As you have seen by the two examples, the effect you want to obtain occurs by leading from your hand an honour card, that is touching to one or more honour cards in dummy, and that has the air of being an unblocking play.

J 9 5 2

K Q 10

With this combination you should lead the queen to test the count signals from your opponents! For various reasons this lead is also more likely to locate the position of the ace, than the lead of the king.

West, if holding the ace, will quite often cover the queen to protect partners holding in the suit (remember that he can not see the ten). East, if he holds the ace, may well take it to preserve a possible tempo or for fear of later crashing partners king.

The lead of the king does not have this effect, as it normally promises the queen.

Having tested your opponents with one or two of the above mentioned suit combinations and found out, that they are quite honest, you may get a chance to use your knowledge later in the match:

K 10 7 2

A Q 4

Now you quite routinely play the queen to secure, that you get the count! West follows with the six and plays the nine under the ace. When you then play the four, he produces the three. This is rather confusing. What is going on, when your opponents are playing normal signals?

Well, it is in fact quite simple. West has started a count signal from J 9 6 3 with the intention of playing the three at round two, when he expects you to play a low card towards dummy.

When, however, you much to his surprise show up with the ace after the queen, he knows that he has given you the key.

In an attempt to recover, West is now trying to disguise his IGBRth and to show an odd number, but the play of the three at the third round reveals everything, and a finesse with the ten is almost sure to win — at least according to my experience.

If your opponents play upside down signals, you will see the same thing happen, when West holds 9 6 3. He starts with the six to show an odd number, then

tries to fool you by throwing the nine (looking like a man with an even number), but the final play of the three discloses the distribution, and it is almost a sure thing to go up with the king and drop the jack from East's hand.

Now that you know, how a nasty declarer tries to discover the distribution of your suits, you would probably want to know how to defend against this. I am sorry, but I can not help you. There is hardly any defence except by illegal methods, and they are not recommendable, if you want to continue playing bridge.

Inspiration may help you, but if you are too inspired and partner seems to find out most of the time, you are close to illegal methods. Holding the hand with 9 6 3 (using normal signals) you could of course play the six followed by the nine, being semi honest to your partner, and then play the three, which would then fool me, if I was the nasty declarer. If from J 9 6 3 you have started with the six to show an even number, my advice to you is to follow normally with the three and then the nine. Most declarers are very suspicious to honesty like that, especially if they have not had the opportunity of testing you with another combination earlier in the match.

## THE 1988 BOLS BRIDGE TIPS



**Michael Lawrence (USA)**

### ECSTASY BY MICHAEL LAWRENCE WINS BOLS BRIDGE TIPS COMPETITION 1988

By Andre Boekhorst

Michael Lawrence from the United States is the winner in the BOLS BRIDGE TIPS COMPETITION 1988. Although only 19 % of the voters gave his article "Ecstasy" the first position, even 2 % less than Max Rebattu's "Expect a missing high card", the number of second and third places brought Michael Lawrence the final victory. Undoubtedly the Lawrence article was chosen because of the human aspects. As Brian Senior wrote from Belfast: "I have made my selections on the basis of frequency of use and relevance to all players, so no clever bidding ideas which apply only to experts and no clever play techniques. Lack of concentration costs the average player more points than

any other weakness — hence Ecstasy is my number 1."

Almost all letters are praising the Ecstasy story because in this article Michael Lawrence has dealt with the necessity of controlling emotions in a very legible way. It is a short article, most suitable for publication in a daily or weekly column.

Max Rebattu's "Expect a missing high card etc." was beaten by Ecstasy, but it was a narrow escape for the winner. This article also received a lot of first places. Hugh Kelsey (Scotland): "First place goes to Max Rebattu for the originality of his tip, even though it is slanted towards the experts." And Barry Rigal (GBR): "Max Rebattu's tip is a major contribution to play theory and ideal because it is memorable, of general application and sound." The Swiss master Jean Besse is enthusiastic, even lyric about Max Rebattu: "This tip is an absolute break-through. It would be perfect but for the completely wrong calculation at the end, giving 83 % where we make it about 66%." Villy Darn Sørensen (DEN): "Max Rebattu's article is surprising, simple and useful."

Third prize winner Bep Vriend received also a lot of positive comments. Hugh Kelsey: "Extremely useful for the average player" and Villy Sørensen: "That is exactly what I teach my partners". Sven-Olov Flodqvist (Sweden): "Bep Vriend has written a more advanced article, but she has put into writing what many experts have been aware of for years."

Michael Lawrence (48) is a worthy winner. He is a distinguished author and one of the leading players in the world. He won the Bermuda Bowl in 1970 and 1971 and many national titles in the United States. He has written seven books on bridge, of which "How to read your opponent's cards" is considered to be a master-piece.

1.	Ecstasy	112
	Michael Lawrence (USA)	
2.	Expect a missing high card (etc.)	94
	Max Rebattu Jr. (NLD)	
3.	Be aware of minus points	84
	Bep Vriend (NLD)	
4/5.	Avoiding the Gong	78
	Dick Curnnings (AUS)	
	Use the free spaces	78
	Dirk Schroeder (W. Germany)	
6.	With eight winners and five losers	70
	Patrick Jourdain (Gr. Britain)	
7.	Don't be impulsive (etc.)	62
	Phillip Alder (USA)	
8.	Picture the original shape	60
	Matthew Granovetter (USA)	
9/10.	Make the "One for the road" a double	50
	Eric Kokish (CAN)	
	Conceal the Queen of trumps	50

	Sally Horton (Gr. Britain)	
11.	Don't cry before you are hurt	48
	Jeremy Flint (Gr. Britain)	
12.	Tip for the Pip	40
	José Le Dentu (FRA)	
13.	Don't Think	34
	Alfred Sheinwold (USA)	

IBPA-members (Come Closest) Competition (Jury)  
Unfortunately there is only one member who can be awarded with a prize in this competition. He is the only one who guessed the first three winners, though he switched the numbers one and two:

Barry Rigal (Gr. Britain)

We received many clippings regarding this competition and hope to get many more. The Clippings Competition will be closed on September 1st 1989. There are six cash prizes of each 100 US \$ for the best publicity. Please don't forget to participate.

In the meantime we would like to thank the members of the IBPA who did send in their voting form for the wonderful co-operation.

BOLS ROYAL DISTILLERIES  
Evelyn Senn

## ECSTACY

By Michael Lawrence

Almost everyone I know will admit to the following mishap. You are declaring, say, three notrump, and due to unfortunate circumstances, the defenders are running their five-card suit so you are going down at least one. Being depressed about the bidding, you discard poorly thus musing up your entries. Suddenly, your eight remaining tricks become only six when the opponents take advantage of your sloppy carding. Three down. It's bad enough you're getting a zero, but even with your head hung halfway to the floor, you catch a glimpse of partner whispering to his kibitzer.

Sound familiar?

Bad news is infectious. It brings with it emotions ranging from disappointment to sadness to depression, any one of which can distract and cause muddled thinking.

Most players know that it is important to keep your wits when things go sour. The trick is to recognize when your concentration is falling and to get your thoughts back together.

The tough player does this automatically. The good player struggles, but usually succeeds and the rest of the world does it occasionally, but not routinely.

You say 'I KNOW THAT.' I agree that you probably do know that, but do you really know it on a usable conscious level?

Strong negative emotions, they do obstruct our thoughts.

Is there anything worse for our emotions than bad news? Try this.

The bidding goes one notrump, Pass, three notrump. You lead fourth best from K-J-8-6-4-2 of spades. Dummy has two small spades and twelve high card points.

Have you led into the A-Q of spades? No. Partner plays the ace and starts to think. Does he have another spade? Is he thinking of switching? Partner, lead a spade. Please. Partner leads — the spade ten. You are now in charge with six running spades, which you proceed to take. Each one a little firmer than the one before you pound out your remaining spades, the last one being especially satisfying because it is getting you plus two hundred. You're feeling a little ecstasy mixed with a little power as you turn the final spade. Feels good doesn't it?

Now what? Cutting thru a euphoric glow, you reconstruct the last four tricks. Let's see now. Partner discarded the — what did he discard? I know his last card was the seven — of diamonds. But the one before that, and the one before that. Come to think of it, what did dummy discard, or for that matter, declarer?

Do you think you're going to get it right? What if partner has another ace and you don't get it. Can you stand to see partner talking to that kibitzer again?

Ecstasy plays no favourites. It muddles your bidding judgement, your declarer play, and your defensive awareness with equal facility.

North, Both Vul.

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

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

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

West leads the six of spades to East's ace. This is your basic dull contract, which looks like a routine nine tricks. Perhaps you have been unlucky to get a spade lead. For instance, if North hadn't bid three hearts, you might have gotten a heart lead allowing you ten tricks. Therefore, when East returns a spade ducked by West, you have to consider whether to finesse the ten of diamonds in order to try for ten tricks.

First, just to put your mind at ease, you cash the king of clubs. West pitches the three of hearts.

Eight fast tricks. Not nine. So where is the ninth coming from? You have two possible plays.

1. Play on hearts and hope spades are four-four.
2. Finesse the ten of diamonds.

Which play is right?

The answer depends on your opinion of the spades. If East returned the two, the suit rates to be four-four, in which case, you should play on hearts. If East returned a higher spade, then spades are likely to be five-three in which case you have to hope for the diamond finesse.

The issue here is very simple. Either you paid attention to the spade spots and made an educated decision or you didn't pay attention to the spade spots and therefore had to make an uneducated guess. If you allowed the comfort of nine apparent tricks to cloud your vision, you're in trouble. Conversely, if you ignored emotional intrusions and paid attention to the cards, then you were able to determine rather than to guess the correct play.

My BOLS TIP is: Any time you feel yourself succumbing to an emotion, whether sadness, depression, irritation, COMFORT, ELATION, or ECSTASY, you should fight it off.

STOP AND PAY ATTENTION

## THE 1989 BOLS BRIDGE TIPS

### Zia Mahmood (PAK)

#### ROLL OVER HOUDINI BY ZIA MAHMOOD WINNER IN BOLS BRIDGE TIPS 1989

By Andre Boekhorst

After a fascinating fight with Tony Forrester's "Power of the Closed Hand", Zia Mahmood earned new glory by winning the 1989 Bols Bridge Tips Competition. His article "Roll over, Houdini" was put in first place by about 25 % of the jury members, but decisive was the overwhelming number of second and third place voters.

Derek Rimington (Gr. Britain) wrote: "Zia's tip is original, witty and helpful for journalists" and Peter Smith (AUS) almost said the same: "Most original, can be broadly applied. It also demonstrates the continual need for an enquiring mind and logical deduction, qualities which can not be overemphasized at this game."

Extremely flattering is Emmanuel Jeanin-Naltet (FRA): "By one single hand Zia Mahmood proves to be the best player of the world."

IBPA-Bulletin-Editor Patrick Jourdain is also praising Zia Mahmood for a practical tip within the reach of a wide range of players. And Ton Schipperheyn (The Netherlands) becomes completely lyric: "By far the best tip of this series, no, the best tip ever published."

Many members of the IBPA are praising the high quality of this year's series. John Wignall (New Zealand): "After several years of Bols Tips, one might have thought that imagination and originality might be becoming jaded. That this is far from the truth was amply demonstrated by the high standard of this year's entries. Voting was extremely difficult." Eddy Kantar (USA): "All tips were very well presented and should be helpful for the advancing player."

"The Power of the closed Hand" by Tony Forrester was voted in first place by almost 20 % of the jury. E.H. Ramshaw (AUS): "Forrester's tip is outstanding as it needs little extra in technical ability to produce immense psychological pressure on the opponents with the potential for match-winning rewards. All other articles are a long way behind." And Barry Rigal (Gr. Britain): "Tony's tip is easy to understand, of general application and has the great benefit of having no downside to it. It can help you but never harm you." David Bird (Gr. Britain) prefers Tony Forrester's article to Zia's: "Forrester's entry is by far the most useful to readers. Zia's article is unsound. In many cases the defenders would have no good reasons to cover anyway; certainly they will not cover in future if declarers start playing for the drop offside." D.L.M. Roth (Gr. Britain) is also criticising Zia's tip: "My choice is Tony Forrester. Zia's tip about covering does not always

stand. The purpose of covering is to promote another card if the second player has IGBRth, he may be in a position to decide that covering will not gain." Svend Novrup (DEN): "The best Bols tip needs to be applicable for all bridge players, easy to understand and useful in daily play. At the same time it must give many players more carefully thinking in everyday situations like Forrester's tip."

Of course, not everybody was in favour of the two top articles. Willem van Niekerk (USA) wrote: "Terence Reese's tip wins my top vote for its clarity and widespread applicability. Players of all levels will benefit from his advice." And indeed, "Unfriendly Play" by Terence Reese got many votes; the grandmaster of writing books and articles is always a serious candidate for winning all kinds of prizes. Rixi Markus-article "Keep it Simple" got five votes for first place, but the opinions differed extremely. Cedric Friis (New Zealand): "Rixi's suggestion is what the great majority of players want to hear. It reassures them that they do not need to adopt complex methods to succeed." But Rodrigo da Cunha (Portugal): "Keep it simple" is an excellent article, but with 14 tips it must be out of competition because we have asked for one tip. And Miklo Csepeli (HUN): "Rixi Markus' very interesting article does not belong to this competition. It is bridge philosophy, not a bridge tip."

Although Jean Paul Meyer's "Build your own algorithm" was chosen among the top articles, it received great approval from the old master Jean Besse of Switzerland and Albert Braunstein (AUS): "Meyer's tip has wide application and the example hand is particularly well-chosen."

Nearly all IBPA members who voted in this year's competition mentioned the high quality of the eight tips. Nevertheless, there was a great difference between the first four and the last four articles. And you can say also, looking at the points obtained, that the first two were outstanding. A general suggestion was to put a limit of 350 words to all articles and this suggestion will be considered seriously.

Congratulations to Zia Mahmood, Tony Forrester and Eric Rodwell!

BOLS ROYAL DISTILLERIES is grateful to all competitors for making this year's competition such a great success.

The complete results are:

1.	Roll over, Houdini Zia Mahmood	380
2.	The Power of the Closed Hand Tony Forrester	346
3.	Second Hand high? Eric Rodwell	220

4.	Unfriendly Play	203
	Terence Reese	
5.	Trump Leaders	101
	Sandra Landy	
6/7	Keep it simple	100
	Rixi Markus	
6/7	Direct the opening Lead	100
	George Rosenkranz	
8.	Build your own algorithm	70
	Jean Paul Meyer	

#### IBPA members (Come Closest) Competition (jury)

There are 5 IBPA members who guessed the exact ranking of the numbers 1, 2 and 3 right. They will each receive a prize of 200 Dfl.

The winners in this competition are: Eddie Kantar (USA), Knut Palmstrom (NOR), Marijke van der Pas (The Netherlands), Max Rebattu (The Netherlands) and Allan Simon (CAN).

#### Clippings

We received many clippings regarding this competition and hope to get many more. The new Clippings Competition will be closed on September 1st 1990. Bols presents six cash prizes of each 100 US\$ for the best publicity. Please don't forget to participate!

In the meantime we would like to thank the members of the IBPA who did send in their voting form for their wonderful co-operation.

BOLS ROYAL DISTILLERIES  
Evelyn Senn

#### ROLL OVER, HOUDINI

*By Zia Mahmood*

It's rare that bridge players receive compliments — but when they do come, the one that strokes my ego the most is the word "magician". You can keep your praises for error-free bridge or the accolades given to the so-called purity of computerlike relay bids — they don't do anything for me. No, I suppose it's something in my character that has always made me thrilled by the razzle-dazzle of the spectacular and excited by the flamboyant and extraordinary. Yet, the world of bridge magic, like stage magic is often no more than illusion, much simpler to perform than it appears to the watcher. Allow me to take you into that world:

Assume you are East, sitting over the dummy, North, after the bidding has gone 1NT by South on your left, 3NT on your right. Isolating one suit (let's say diamonds), you see the dummy has:

either J 2  
or J 3 2

while you have Q 4  
or Q 5 4  
or Q 6 5 4

Declarer plays the jack from dummy. What would you do? Cover, you say? Correct.

With Q 4 and Q 5 4 you would cover all of the time.

With Q 6 5 4, you would cover somewhere between usually to always.

Good! What if the bidding was 1♥ on your left, 4♥ on your right, and dummy had in a side suit:

Q 2  
or Q 3 2

while you had K 4

or K 5 4  
or K 6 5 4

Declarer played the queen from dummy. Again, what would you do? Again, the answer is easy.

With K 4 and K 5 4 you would cover all of the time. With K 6 5 4 you would cover somewhere between usually and always.

In both examples, you would have defended correctly, following one of bridge's oldest rules, "Cover an honour with an honour". Bear with me a moment longer and change seats — becoming declarer needing as many tricks as possible (don't we always?). How would you play these suits?

J 2 or Q 3 2  
A K 10 9 8 or A J 10 9 8

Run the J, run the Q? That's normal; you would be following the simple, basic rule taught to every beginner about the finesse. But hold it a moment. Something's wrong. How can both these plays be right? If in the first example we saw that the defender over the dummy would nearly always (correctly) cover the honour played, when he had it, how can it be right to finesse that honour, when we know that East (RHO) almost never has it? The Q in the first example, and the K in the second are almost surely in the West hand (Mal Place as the French say) and SOMETIMES UNPROTECTED.

My BOLS TIP, therefore (and I certainly have taken my time to get there) is as simple and easy as this:

"WHEN THEY DON'T COVER, THEY DON'T HAVE IT"

and declarer should place or drop the relevant card offside, even when this is hugely anti-percentage. Before the critics jump, I must add a few obvious provisos.

1. The IGBRth must be in the concealed hand.
2. The declarer should not be known to have special IGBRth or strGBRth in the suit.
3. The honour in dummy should not be touching, i.e. J 10, Q J, etc.
4. The pips in the suit should be solid enough to afford overtaking your honour without costing a trick when the suit breaks badly.

I know this TIP is going to revolutionize the simple fundamentals of the every-day finesse, but although it comes with no guarantees. I can assure you that it is nearly always effective and deadly. Here are two examples — both from actual play.

♠ K Q 3 2	♠ Q 2
♥ A 4 3	♥ 5 3
♦ J 2	♦ 10 9 4
♣ K J 6 5	♣ A K 10 9 7 2
Deal 1	Deal 2
♠ A 4	♠ A J 10
♥ 6 5 2	♥ K 2
♦ A K 10 9 8 6	♦ A K Q 3
♣ 10 7	♣ Q 6 5 3

Deal 1. You declare 3NT after opening a slightly off-beat weak NT (if you weren't off beat, you wouldn't still be reading this). West leads a heart and you win the 3rd heart with the ace and lead the ♦J — East plays low. He didn't cover! He doesn't have it! Drop the Q offside! Magic — you might have thought so before you read this article.

Deal 2. Finally, you reach 6♣ from the right side (well bid) and receive a trump lead. How would you play?

The scientists would carefully look at this hand and see that the percentage line would be to draw trumps and play the ♦A K Q — if the diamonds were 3-3 or the J came down, they would discard a heart from dummy. Now they could play up to the ♥K and if that lost finally try the finesse in spades.

Not bad, you say? True, but the greatest illusionist of all times, Harry Houdini, would have rejected this line. Instead he would have played the ♠Q at the second trick. No East living in the 20th Century would fail to cover the K if he had it. (Declarer might have A J 2, for example) — If East played low, Houdini would "know" the K was in the West hand and win with the ace. He would now draw trumps and play on diamonds. If they weren't good, he too would play a heart up, but if they were good, he would discard a spade, not a heart from dummy and take a ruffing finesse against West's

♠K, setting up the ♠10 for a heart discard to make his contract with both finesses wrong.

If at that time the kibitzers burst into applause and the deep-throated voice of Ella Fitzgerald singing that "Old Black Magic" could be heard in the distance don't be surprised.

*ROLL OVER, HOUDINI,  
THE BRIDGE MAGICIANS ARE COMING.*

## THE 1990 BOLS BRIDGE TIPS Gabriel Chagas (BRA)

The results of the Bols Bridge Tips Competition 1990 are:

1.	Gabriel Chagas (BRA)	323
	'Don't spoil your Partner's Brilliancy'	
2.	James Jacoby (USA)	267
	'Save the Deuce'	
3.	Derek Rimington (Gt. Britain)	253
	'The King lives, long live the King'	
4.	Kitty Bethe (USA)	234
	'The Trappist Rule'	
5.	Jens Auker (Denmark)	202
	'The Kill Point'	
6.	Barry Rigal (GBR)	142
	'Defenselectivity'	
7.	Joyce Nicholson (AUS)	110
	'Move an important Card'	
8.	Anton Maas (NLD)	87
	'Reversed Splinter Bids'	

### Come Closest Competition

The Results of Competition are: Hans-Olof Hallén (SWE), Vlad Racoviceanu (Romania), Jerry Thorpe (USA), Henry Bethe (USA), Pierre Philogene (Mauritius).

### BRILLIANT ARTICLE BY GABRIEL CHAGAS

By Andre Boekhorst

Gabriel Chagas, reigning world champion in the teams and in the pairs as well, has added a new title to his impressive palmares. By a large margin he has won this year's Bols Bridge Tips Competition with the article: "Don't spoil your partner's brilliancy", From the 90 members of the IBPA jury, 19 voted Chagas' article into the first position, and it also got a lot of points for the second and third place. These 19 journalists who found Chagas' article the best one are: Giorgio Belladonna and Paul Frenzo from Italy, Joyce Nicholson, Paul Marston and Paul Lavings from Australia, Max Rebattu (NLD), Clement Wong (Hong Kong), Egil Opstad and Arne Hofstad from Norway, Allan Simon (CAN), Jean Besse (CHE), Pierre Philogene (Mauri-

tius), Hans-Olof Hallén (SWE), Vlad Racoviceanu (Romania), Ryszard Kielbasinski (POL), Stefari Gudjohnsen (Iceland) and the Americans, Jerry Thorpe, Laura Jane Gordy and Henry Bethe.

Many IBPA members praised Gabriel Chagas' article in many different ways, Hans Olof Hallén: "Even if this article only contains one hand, Chagas' way of showing how to save partner's brilliancy, is a brilliance in itself". And Max Rebattu wrote: "Some tips are technical, some are practical but Chagas' tip combines both principles brilliantly".

On the other hand, Chagas' tip is, according to many journalists, not really a tip. Prakash Reo (India): "This tip made the best reading but it is not very useful since any player, coming up with such brilliancies, is surely going to be partnered by players who can be depended upon to think and recognize what is happening and who surely would not spoil partner's brilliancy". Tore Mortensen (DEN), Glen Ashton (CAN). Bob van de Velde (NLD): Chagas' tip is fantastic, splendid, breath-taking but it is no tip". And David Bird (GBR): "The hand from Gabriel Chagas is poor because East knows his partner must hold ♠AK. He would never contemplate a club return".

Nevertheless, Chagas' article was well ahead of the rest of the field and James Jacoby, Derek Rington and Kitty Bethe had to struggle for the runner up position. "Save the deuce" by James Jacoby came second and many members of the jury applauded his article. José le Dentu (FRA): "Even good players do not pay enough attention to their deuces and it is a good idea to build a Bols tip on this point. Besides, the diamond grand slam will fill with joy many hearts." Patrick Jourdain (GBR): "Jacoby's tip is simple to implement, relevant in practice (most average players habitually dispose of their smallest cards at the earliest opportunity) and will occasionally hit the jackpot". And Terence Reese wrote: "The original purpose of the Bols Bridge Tips was to suggest ways in which keen players might improve their game. Of the present set, only Jacoby's tip qualifies". Uno Viigand (Estonia): "Save the Deuce is the best article but many articles contain useful advice for players of different rank. But... the most beautiful thing about this competition is that Bols is sponsoring bridge and organising this competition".

"The King lives, long live the king" by Derek Rington got a lot of approval. John Wignall (New Zealand): "I found it easy to make my first choice which is a bright and original idea". Kitty Bethe found herself in 4th place with her article "The Trappist Rule". Although no less than 13 members of the jury appointed this article as the best one, the opinions were divided. Irene Chodorowska (POL): "All your bridge wisdom and knowledge is seriously affected if it is disturbed by tongue wagging. That is why I value so much Kitty

Bethe's tip". And Vladimir Krass (Czechoslovakia): "For me Kitty Bethe is the winner because I am playing with my wife". Henry Francis (USA): "Since the Bols tips are primarily designed for average players, tips such as those offered by Bethe and Nicholson are invaluable. It is most important for partnerships to survive storms that arise. If the tips were designed for more advanced players, no doubt my choice would have been different". But others are saying that Kitty Bethe's tip has nothing to do with bridge and that it doesn't deserve a single point.

What to say about this year's competition in general? The members of the IBPA sometimes had completely different opinions. Eddie Kantar (USA): "All the tips were good, it was hard to decide". Eric Bowtell (GBR): "A splendid set of tips with nice touches of humour, the whole attaining the high level of those which have gone before". Others are not very content with this series. Lars Blakset (DEN): "Some of the articles are just old stuff in new cans". The level this year is a little bit lower than in preceding years (Jean Besse, Arne Hofstad, Bob van de Velde, Mini Murphy, Anders Wirgren) and Hugh Kelsey says that most articles are far too long for an average bridge column. Rodrigo Cunha (Portugal) suggests that the target should be defined more explicitly.

Nevertheless, the readers of the different bridge columns all over the world will enjoy the winning articles of this year's series. We thank all the jury members who submitted their voting forms most heartily.

## DON'T SPOIL YOUR PARTNER'S BRILLIANCY

By Gabriel Chagas

From time to time, sitting at the bridge table, you will get the opportunity to rise to the occasion. This does not always succeed because there is also a partner who must understand what is going on. Everybody knows the situation: you underlead an ace against a trump contract, and your partner looks a little surprised when his king wins the trick. This is an awkward moment for your partner, whose first duty is to discover WHY you underled your ace. He has to recognize that you made a brilliant move, and it is necessary not to spoil your brilliancy.

Dir: South.	♠ 8 2
Love all.	♥ J 10 4 3
	♦ A K 10 9 8 7 6
	♣ —
	♠ Q 6
	♥ 9 8 7
	♦ J
	♣ K 10 9 7 6 5 2

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

North-South play five card majors, the 2NT as less than 15 points, and 3♦ as forcing. Partner leads the ♣3, dummy discards a small heart, you play the ♣K as East, and declarer takes the ace. The prospects are gloomy. If declarer has diamonds, then seven tricks are already in the basket. South plays the ♦3, your partner contributes the QUEEN and, to your surprise, declarer plays LOW from dummy! Are you in a meeting of wizards? It is impossible that partner has a singleton diamond, because in that case, declarer would have played the king. Nevertheless there is not much time to think because, in the next split second, your partner has put the ♠4 on the table. What is going on? Why not another club? The mystery deepens when you put on the queen, and it wins the trick! (Declarer playing the 3.)

The ♠10 is already in your hand but... wait, what would have happened if West had played a small diamond to the second trick? Apparently declarer has only two diamonds, and is prepared to give you a diamond trick. So you would have gained the lead with the jack and then, well, which card would you have played? The ♣10 of course. Ah! Your partner played the queen of diamonds in order to play a SPADE, not a club. He did not want a club continuation. He must have promising cards in spades, and know that the club suit offers no future. As the light dawns, you return a SPADE. And this was the full layout:

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

Wave a flag for West playing the ♦Q! He knew declarer had the ♣Q and the ♥A and therefore nine tricks if you continued a club. So he found a way to gain the lead himself to make the killing switch. But what would have happened if, when you won the spade, you had thoughtlessly switched back to clubs? West would have slipped from his chair, and would have been ready for the mental hospital, to spend his days regretting this waste of beauty!

## THE 1991 BOLS BRIDGE TIPS Chip Martel (USA)

### CLEAR VICTORY FOR CHIP MARTEL IN BOLS BRIDGE TIPS COMPETITION 1991

87 journalists from 30 countries have made Chip Martel (USA) the winner of the Bols Bridge Tips Competition 1991.

This was the result of the voting:

1. Chip Martel (USA)	430
Play with all 52 cards	
2. Andrew Robson (GBR)	356
Play a pre-emptor who leads his suit for a singleton trump	
3. Berry Westra (NLD)	252
Don't follow your partner's signals blindly	
4. Anders Brunzell (SWE)	182
Don't get impressed by an overwhelming enemy strGBRth	
5. Sandra Landy (GBR)	156
Remember what they didn't do	
6. Bobby Wolff (USA)	152
Your tempo is showing	
7. Terence Reese (GBR)	146
See round corners	
8. Svend Novrup (DEN)	44
Search for the eggs of Columbus	

Chip Martel received 33 first places, Andrew Robson 23, Berry Westra and Anders Brunzell 8, Sandra Landy 7, Bobby Wolff 5, Terence Reese 2 and Svend Novrup 1.

The voting members of the IBPA came from: GB 19; USA 13; Canada 5; Australia and Denmark 4; Netherlands, Norway and Sweden 3; Austria, Belgium, France, Germany, Greece, India, Italy, Japan, Poland, Rumania and New Zealand 2; Argentina, Brazil, Finland, and Hungary; Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Mauritius, Portugal, Russia and Switzerland: 1.

Evelyn Senn, our Clippings Secretary, conveys her personal thanks to each member who submitted a clipping. She acknowledges that time was short, and it may have been difficult for some members to make the deadline, but this was extended until votes had been received from most areas of the world. In past years Evelyn has sent a "thank you" note to each member who had sent in a clipping, but this year the volume of letters, with the NEC and BOLS so close, makes that too difficult.

### The Jury Competition

Five members of IBPA guessed 1, 2, and 3 in exactly the right order. They will each receive a prize of 200 Dutch guilders.

The winners are: Luigi Filippo d'Amico (ITA), Henry Bethe (USA), Brent Manley (USA), Cees Sint (NLD), and Jan Worm (NLD).

#### Comments

The overwhelming majority of the IBPA members were very satisfied with this year's series of tips. Last year, there was an unusual mixture of psychological and non-technical aspects of the game, which was not appreciated by everybody. But this year, the mere technical aspect of bridge re-appeared gloriously, the quality of almost all tips being very high. Chip Martel became the undisputed winner and his contribution "Play with all 52 cards" can be considered a real hit among the winners of the last years. Gabriel Chagas wrote: "Most tips were quite good but Chip's tip was a great alert for beginners and average players and also for top players who play too fast". And from GBRLand, David Bird confessed, "Martel's tip, with three fine hands, could open the eyes of defenders everywhere. He had me wondering how many similar inferences I must have missed over the years."

Arne Hofstad (NOR) writes about the general level of this year's tips: "In my opinion this is the best collection of Bols tips for-years. It has been a great pleasure to participate in the jury." Another Scandinavian, Hans-Olof Hallén from Sweden says that Chip Martel's tip is so good that he easily could have given more than the maximum of 8 points to this tip. In New Zealand, WBF Executive member John Wignall gave his vote to Chip Martel but "it was a particularly close decision because a number of original and interesting ideas was put forward this year." Good old Jean Besse from Switzerland was also impressed by Martel's article ("splendid, splendid, splendid") but Terence Reese's tip was also great ("very, very, instructive").

As already said before, many IBPA-members were delighted by Andrew Robson's tip. "An excellent tip for a newspaper column" was the general remark and "An air of freshness", "A novel thought, borne out in practice". Bernard Brighton writes from Sheffield: "Andrew Robson deserves to have an overwhelming win because of his common sense use of percentage hand patterns. This comes from playing with the world number 1 player." The great master Terence Reese commented: "The object of this competition is to discover relatively new, uncomplicated lines of thought. Robson's idea is fresh, Wolff rightly stresses the importance of demeanour (no trancing) and Landy's insistence on studying all the inferences is right. My choice is Andrew Robson."

Hugh Kelsey wrote: "The choice was difficult this year since the overall standard was high. I give top marks to Andrew Robson because his is a really useful tip which will benefit all grades of players." And Andrew Robson will be pleased by what Barry Rigal wrote: "Andy's article puts into words a theme we may all have been subconsciously aware of without formulating it properly."

The third prize-winner, Berry Westra, (NLD) earned many compliments. Carlos Cabanne (Argentina): "Westra is my choice because his tip is most useful for the common player". And Santanu Ghose (India): "Westra's tip is the most important from this excellent set of tips. Even many experts think that a signal is a command while it should often be only a suggestion."

Anders Brunzell's tip was praised by many voters because it was easy to understand and very instructive. Richard Soloman (NZL): "Players of all abilities get rather disillusioned, and lay back when a large dummy appears. Brunzell's tip is an excellent warning."

Sandra Landy's article, dealing with the dog that does not bark, was considered by almost everyone to be very useful for the average player. "A real beauty, this tip" and "My readers will be very grateful for this tip". Bobby Wolff got the best remarks from the European journalists and of course there was much appreciation for Terence Reese "whose lucid style has been unchallenged for many decades."

One IBPA-member will be very satisfied with this result. Phillip Alder wrote: "Chip Martel's tip is the most useful for the average player and may be applied by everyone. Don't make a play that is impossible based on what someone didn't do. About the jury, since Martel's tip is the best one, he stands no chance of winning the competition."

And look what happened. Chip Martel won and Phillip Alder can be a little bit less disappointed by the verdicts of the IBPA-jury.

I hope that the readers of the bridge columns all over the world will enjoy the winning articles of this year's competition. I would like to extend my sincere gratitude to all the jury members who have submitted their voting forms.

A. Boekhorst

Evelyn Senn adds this note: Andre Boekhorst has written a book in Dutch called "The BOLS Bridge Tips 1987-90" edited by Elmar BV, Rijswijk. The book contains 36 tips with commentary by Andre Boekhorst.

## PLAY WITH ALL 52 CARDS

By Chip Martel (USA)

"You played that hand as if you could see through the backs of their cards," is one of the nicest compliments a bridge player can get. Accurately reconstructing the unseen hands is an essential skill for a successful card player. Unfortunately, there are often several constructions of the unseen hands, which seem reasonable. The ability to come up with the right choice separates winners from losers.

Consider the following typical defensive dilemma:

Dir: West     ♠ 9 6 3  
Game All     ♥ 10 7 5  
                   ♦ 8 4 2  
                   ♣ 9 8 5 2

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

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

You lead ♠2 against 3NT: 3, K, A. Declarer now plays ♦A and ♦Q with partner playing the 10 and 9, showing a doubleton. Decide what you would play before reading on.

It may seem that you must guess what to play. If declarer has

(a) ♠A Q ♥K x x ♦A Q J x x x ♣A Q

a spade continuation will defeat the contract and a club shift gives declarer his ninth trick. However, if declarer has:

(b) ♠A Q ♥K Q x ♦A Q J x x x ♣A x or

(c) ♠A Q ♥K Q x x ♦A Q J x x x ♣A

you must play a club to set up your five tricks before declarer drives out the ♥A. All three hands are consistent with declarer's bidding and play. However, if you turn your attention to your partner's bidding, the answer becomes clear. East responded 1♠ with only a four card suit. Thus he cannot have four hearts to an honour. A South hand such as:

♠A Q ♥K x x ♦A Q J x x x ♣A Q

(giving partner ♥Q x x x) is impossible for declarer. Thus a club shift will defeat the contract whenever it can be beaten.

This type of reasoning will often turn an apparent guess into a sure thing. A good player considers all 52 cards, not just his own and the dummy's. Thus my Bols Tip is: when analyzing a hand, be sure your construction is consistent with the bidding and play of both unseen hands.

If the West player had known this tip he would likely have avoided declarer's trap on the next hand:

Dir: West     ♠ K 9 6 3  
None         ♥ J 8 7 5  
                   ♦ Q 4 2  
                   ♣ K 2

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

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

West	North	East	South
1♦	Pass	Pass	2♥
Pass	4♥	All Pass	

At trick one declarer put up dummy's Q(!) on the ♦J lead. After winning East's king with the ace (East could hardly know to duck), declarer led a spade at trick two. West flew with the ace planning to take a trick in each suit. This pleased South, but not East or West. West explained that he was afraid that South had:

♠x ♥K Q 10 x x x ♦A x ♣Q J x x

While this hand is consistent with South's bidding and play, it leaves East with:

♠Q J x x x ♥x x ♦K x ♣x x x x

East would surely not pass over 1♦ with ♠Q J x x x and the ♦K, so declarer must have at least two spades. Thus ducking the spade at trick two is clearly correct.

As a defender, drawing inferences from your partner's bidding and play has an added benefit. While declarer may make bids or plays, which are surprising, hopefully you know what to expect from your partner. However, declarers can also benefit from using all 52 cards in their analyses.

Consider the following play problem:

♠ J 3  
 ♥ 9 7 5 3  
 ♦ A J 10 9 3  
 ♣ K O

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

East	South	West	North
1NT*	2♠	Pass	4♠
All Pass			

\* 1NT=15-17

The ♥J is led, and East wins the king. After cashing the ♥A (West playing the deuce), East takes the ♣A, West playing another deuce. East now exits with the ♥6 as West follows with the eight. You ruff and cross to a club and pick up the spades, finding East with ♠K x x. How do you play the diamonds to justify your partner's aggressive bidding?

In counting East's points it is clear that he has either the ♦Q, the ♣J, or both. On this information alone, East is more likely to hold ♦Q x x than ♦x x. However, let's turn our attention to West.

If East has:

♠ K x x ♥ A K x ♦ Q x x ♣ A x x x x

where finessing in diamonds is correct, then West did not lead his singleton diamond from:

♠ x x x ♥ J 10 8 x ♦ x ♣ J x x x x

which is very unlikely, so you should play for the drop in diamonds.

In general, you will be much more successful in reconstructing the unseen hands if you make sure both hands are consistent with the bidding and play to date. If you follow my Bols Tip and make sure that when you construct a possibility for one hand you also check the fourth hand you will "guess" correctly far more often. Soon your partner and opponents will be complimenting you on your ability to see through the backs of the cards.

## THE 1992 BOLS BRIDGE TIPS



Eric Crowhurst (GBR)

### ERIC CROWHURST GREAT WINNER IN BOLS BRIDGE TIPS COMPETITION 1992

With an overwhelming majority, 100 IBPA members from 36 countries have appointed Eric Crowhurst (GBR) the winner of the Bols Bridge Tips Competition 1992. The complete results of this year's competition are:

1. Eric Crowhurst (GBR)	Second hand problems	382
2. Bob Hamman (US)	When in Rome	274
3. Marijke v d Pas (NLD)	Play the Hand Yourself	266
4. David Birman (ISR)	Give Partner a SPS	206
5. Eric Kokish (CAN)	The Simplest Gifts are Best	188
6. Jon Baldursson (Ice)	Don't Be a Pleasant Opponent	184
7. Terence Reese (GBR)	Idiocies in the Modern Bridge	124
8. Paul Marston (Aus)	Take the Hint	100
9. Matt Granovetter (US)	Keep Your Guesses to Yourself	90
10. David Poriss (US)	Don't Walk the Plank	70

#### Number of Votes Received From:

Arg, Austl, Bel, Bra, Bul, Egy, Est, Ger, HK, Hun, Ire, Mau, Pak, Prt, Rom, Rus, Spn, Ury	1
Astr, Fin, Ice, Ind, Isr, NZel, SAfr	2
France	3
Den, Ity, Pol, Swe	5
Can, Nor	6
US	8
Neth	10
GB	14

#### Jury (or come closest) Competition

The results in the Jury Competition are:

Equal first: Sally Horton (GBR) and Uno Viigand (Estonia)  
 Equal third: Gavriel Unger (Austria) and Pierre Philogene (Mauritius)  
 Fifth Rodrigo da Cunha (Portugal)

The article "Second Hand Problems" was appreciated by almost everyone. Dr Gavriel Unger from Austria wrote: "This is a tip for everybody. The idea is excellent, the article clear and the hands are simple. What can be better?" And Arne Hofstad (NOR) predicted: "The Crowhurst article is outstanding. I would be very surprised if it does not win."

Sally Horton (GBR) likes the winning article very much and with a different scoring system she would have given Eric Crowhurst 15 out of 20 points. Jose Le Dentu (FRA): "Although Crowhurst's tip is only for experts, it is the first time I have seen the principle so completely explained and illustrated." 27 members of

the jury put Eric Crowhurst on the first spot, paying tribute to the high technical quality of his tip.

Although Bob Hamman's "When In Rome" had to be satisfied with the silver medal, 18 members of the jury found Hamman's article the best one of the series. Rodrigo Da Cunha (Portugal) wrote: "Bob Hamman's tip is a great piece of advice for all bridge players." Glen Ashton (CAN) also found Hamman's tip the best one but it was difficult to choose because the "whole collection was great reading." Derek Rimington also spoke of an outstanding article written by the American grandmaster.

Henry Bethe was one of the 9 jury-members who gave Marijke van der Pas the gold medal. He wrote: "Kokish's hands are the best and with a different tip he could have won. I loved Hamman's article but was extremely happy with Marijke van der Pas's direct and useful tip. Barry Rigal (GBR): "Marijke's tip deals with an area where all tend to err. Her tip is of general relevance."

David Birman (ISR) will be very pleased to know that among the 11 jury-members who gave his article the highest mark, we find world top stars like Gabriel Chagas (BRA): "Birman's tip is very useful, especially since it is something that players already do on doubled slams in goulash hands." And Terence Reese: "The best tips are those that are easily remembered and attach to a particular form of play. Therefore, I have given my points, in this order, to Birman, Crowhurst and van der Pas. Their articles fit this description and Birman's idea is new." But Guy Dupont (FRA) says: "Birman's tip is not new but it has never been published for a larger public. Nevertheless, I found David Birman's article the most appealing." Danny Roth (GBR): "I am sure that suit-preference signals are grossly underestimated and underused and I have lost count of the number of occasions in top-class bridge that declarers have got away with daylight robbery or worse because defenders have failed to use them."

Eric Kokish got 7 first places. Among them Clement Wong (Hong Kong): "Kokish's tip is easy to remember and to apply and therefore found his tip to be the best one." And Phillip Alder (USA): "I guess that Eric Kokish will win this competition. His tip is OK although it is nothing new. The same applies to Eric Crowhurst."

Jon Baldursson (Iceland) got 9 votes for the gold medal. His tip has been praised by almost everyone. Jon Sveindal (NOR): "Jon Baldursson's tip is most suited for a column, brief and strictly to the point. A good winner." We also received a nice letter from Gudmundur Hermannsson (Iceland): "I vote for my countryman's tip because it tells the average player what modern top-level bridge is all about and more you can not expect."

The great master of bridge, Terence Reese, was allotted the highest ranking 6 times. Among these six admirers Giorgio Belladonna and the Danish matador Ib Lundby. Michael Dewal (BEL) felt sad about the actual scoring system, "otherwise I would have given Reese  $8 + 6 + 4 + 2$  points." About half of the jury members wrote explicitly (like Fritz Babsch from Austria) that they share Reese's opinion about the foolishness of a lot of modern conventions. On the other hand, Terence Reese was also severely criticised because of his "old-fashioned approach" and "still riding his hobby-horses".

Only two IBPA members found Paul Marston's article the best one but here quality compensates quantity. Patrick Jourdain: "Paul Marston's suggestion that you consider removing doubled contracts when partner has no chance to do so, will be novel to most players but it is certainly worth the thought. The situation really arises when a takeout double is passed for penalties because partner could not have known that this would happen." The other Marston-fan was Eric Kokish.

Six members voted for Matthew Granovetter. Anders Brunzell (SWE): "By far the best one." Bob van de Velde (NLD) was of the same opinion: "An understandable tip, useful by players of any level, easy to apply and with great effect. The frequency is relatively high."

Although David Poriss finished last, he still got 4 votes. Mohammed Aslam (PAK): "Tips on using psychology are rare but most useful to the majority of average players". Many jury-members liked the idea of having also a tip for the beginners and they encouraged the Bols-staff to continue this way.

In general, there was much disagreement and in bridge ten people have ten different opinions. "Poriss, Kokish and Hamman didn't deliver tips in the real sense of the word. Attitude, mentality, fear will not be changed by tips. Their tips mean nothing else but an advice to play as well as possible, said the Dutch Bob van de Velde who was not impressed by the quality of this year's collection. He got support from Sally Horton and several others. Nevertheless, the vast majority of the jury spoke of "a high standard of tips this year" and. "a lovely assortment of different aspects of the game".

Anyhow, Eric Crowhurst became the undisputed winner and his tip certainly is an enrichment of bridge literature. We would like to express our sincere gratitude to all jury-members for their kind co-operation. And we hope that the readers of the bridge columns all over the world will enjoy the articles of this year's competition.

*Andre Boekhorst*

## Second-Hand Problems

By Eric Crowhurst

You are the declarer in a no-trump contract, and you have a 4-4 club fit containing A-K-Q-J-10-9 in the two hands. How would you plan the play of the club suit? If you believe that it cannot possibly matter, read on.

If the adverse clubs are 3-2, one defender will have to rind one discard on the clubs, and the other defender (Defender B) two. The important point is that if the fourth round of clubs is led from the hand on his right, defender B's two discards will have to be made before defender A has even made one. This can be of considerable advantage to the declarer.

Dir: South.    ♠ K 5 4  
 Love All    ♥ 7 5 2  
               ♦ A 8 4  
               ♣ K Q 6 2

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

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

South	West	North	East
1NT	Pass	3NT	All Pass

The defenders cash their four heart tricks, on the last of which declarer discards a spade from dummy. East throws ♠9, after some thought, and South discards ♦6.

West switches to ♠6, the standard MUD lead from three small cards, and South captures East's ♠J with the ace. It looks as if East might be under pressure when the clubs are cashed, and this diagnosis is confirmed when South's lead of ♣J produces ♣3 from West and ♣8 from East. If East began with two clubs at the most, he might be in difficulty if the fourth round of clubs is led from dummy – so that he has to find two discards before receiving any help from West.

South cashes ♣A and crosses to dummy with ♣Q, on which East discards a diamond. On the last club, East has a serious problem. Should he throw a spade, retaining a diamond guard if West started with ♠10-8-7-6 and ♦Q-x? Or should he discard a second diamond, which is vital in the actual lay-out? It is not easy for him – but only because he has to make the crucial discard before West can clarify the spade position.

South selected his victim on the above hand because East had some difficulty in finding a discard on

the fourth heart and because he seemed to have started with a doubleton club.

There are other situations in which declarer must assume in advance that a particular defender will be his victim. As before, he then ensures that the key defender is the second to play to a vital trick – and therefore forced to make a crucial decision before seeing his partner's card.

Dir: South.    ♠ J 6  
 Game All    ♥ J 8 5  
               ♦ K Q J 9 4  
               ♣ 8 4 3

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

              ♠ A 8 3  
               ♥ A 9 2  
               ♦ 10 3  
               ♣ A K Q J 2

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

West led ♠5 and declarer won the third round. It was clear that he had to make two diamond tricks for his contract. This involved finding East with ♦A and persuading him to duck two rounds of diamonds, and South proceeded accordingly.

At trick four, South led diamond 10. West contributed ♦5 in an effort to show an odd number of cards in the suit, but the fact that South had concealed ♦3 meant that the position was not clear to East.

South now made the key play of overtaking ♦10 with ♦J and leading ♦K from dummy, forcing East to make a decision in second position, before seeing West's second diamond. After some thought, East ducked again, in case his partner had started with ♦5-3 doubleton, and South wasted no time in cashing nine tricks.

East certainly had an extremely difficult problem on the above hand but only because he was forced to play second to the vital trick. If declarer had led the second diamond from the closed hand, West would have contributed ♦6, showing an odd number, and East would have had no further problem.

Finally, a hand on which South could only select his victim on the basis of which defender appeared to hold the doubleton diamond.

Dir: South.    ♠ A 5 2  
 Love All    ♥ K 4  
               ♦ K 10 9 4  
               ♣ K 10 6 3

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

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

South	West	North	East
1NT	Pass	3NT	All Pass

West led ♥Q, and South won in the closed hand and led ♦Q to East's ace, with West contributing ♦7. East's return of ♥2 knocked out dummy's ♥A, and declarer appeared to be one trick short. However, he followed the correct principle by cashing his diamond winners in the optimum order: forcing West, who held the doubleton diamond, to find two discards before his partner had a chance to signal.

South cashed ♦K and ♦J, on which West discarded ♠6. When declarer led his last diamond, however, West had a difficult discard. He could not throw a winning heart without permitting South to establish a ninth trick in clubs, and West therefore had to choose between ♠10 and ♣2. The winning defence is actually to discard a spade, but this would not be the case if South had started life with, say, ♠Q-x-x-x and ♣A-x-x. At the table, West threw a club on the fourth diamond, allowing South to make four club tricks and an over-trick in his "impossible" contract.

Notice the importance of South's winning the third diamond in the closed hand. If the fourth diamond lead had come from dummy, East would have had an opportunity to show a useful holding in spades, either by discarding ♠9 or by giving a Suit Preference signal with ♥8.

## THE 1993 BOLS BRIDGE TIPS

### Larry Cohen (USA)

#### LARRY COHEN BEATS ZIA MAHMOOD

Zia Mahmood, with his daring advice, is always a serious candidate for top spot in the Bols Bridge Tips Competition. But this year, he had to surrender to Larry Cohen's "Eight never — nine ever", an article that became the clear-cut winner of the 1993 competition. Exactly 100 members of the IBPA voted, with this result:

Larry Cohen (USA)	Eight never — nine ever	562
Zia Mahmood (USA)	The Panther Double	429
Villy Dam (DEN)	Do their thinking	237
Israel Erdenbaum (ISR)	Never play your lowest card	186
Clement Wong (Hong K)	Queening your defence	178
Derek Rimington (GBR)	The first trump	164
Aavo Heinlo (Estonia)	Let the opponents tell the story	132
Ib Lundby (DEN)	Bridge is only a game	110

The 1993 competition attracted interest all over the world. Journalists from 36 countries took part in the jury:

Belgium, Byelorussia, Brazil, Czech Republic, Finland, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Lithuania, Mexico, New Zealand, Pakistan, Russia, Switzerland, Turkey, and Ukraine	1 each
Austria, Bulgaria, Estonia, Germany, Ireland, Israel, Portugal, Rumania, South Africa	2 each
Denmark, France, India, Italy:	3 each
Australia, Canada, Norway, Sweden	5 each
Netherlands	7
USA	10
Great Britain	17

#### Jury Competition

*Winners in the Jury Competition were:*

Eckhard Bohlke (DEU), Ryszard Kielczewski (POL), Bernt Sigvardsson (SWE) D.R. 250 each.  
 Lionel Wright (New Zealand), Arne Hofstad (NOR), Marina R. Amaral (BRA) D.R. 100 each.

#### Comments

Larry Cohen's article is a great winner. It was praised by almost everyone and no less than 38 journalists put it top. Amongst them were many great names of bridge: Giorgio Belladonna, Brian Senior, Sally Brock, Svend Novrup, Paul Frendo, Per Jannersten and Barry Rigal. Patrick Jourdain, godfather of the IBPA, wrote: "Cohen's article is exactly what a Bols tip should be: it contains practical advice for the average player, it is useful and there is also an element of freshness." Freddie (Aunt Agatha) North: "this article is of practical use, the problem occurs daily. It is total tangible and succinct."

Another great star of international journalism, Henry Francis: "This article is so accurate, it occurs in so many hands, it must be the winner." Larry Cohen's tip is very suitable for articles, as Jerry Thorpe wrote. And Brian Senior would have been "astonished" if Larry had not won this competition. Senior, too, says that the tip is valuable to all players "as is the tip of Villy Dam". And David Bird considers the winning article to be the strongest tip since the Bols competition began. This is also the opinion of Alan Simmonds (South Africa) who also said: "Maybe this is the best tip in the last ten years. It is practical, easy to apply and it can be a great guide for teachers."

Different people have different opinions but this year we met extremely different views. Armando Abreu Rocha (Portugal) found it very difficult to choose the best article "because all tips are really excellent. Finally I have voted for Larry Cohen because I prefer articles with technical aspects." But Colonel Sharma (India) said that the general level was much below previous years and Emmanuel Jeannin-Naltet (FRA) did not vote at all: "It is a pity, but this year none of the articles is outstanding."

Zia's "The Panther Double", as expected, was praised and ridiculed. Arild Thorpe (NOR): "I have used the Panther Double for years and much pleasure has come from it. I am highly familiar with figures like 550, 790, 850 etc. However, should you meet opponents who have the audacity and impertinence to redouble, my tip is to forget the "convention", A little more than a year ago I had the "pleasure" to note plus 1800 to the opponents for 3NT redoubled with 12 tricks. "Nevertheless Arild voted in favour of Zia Mahmood's tip just as 29 other members of the jury did. Among them Sammy Kehela, Terence Reese, Dr. George Rosenkranz, Anders Brunzell, Gabriel Chagas and Eloene Griggs. Gabriel Chagas: "This tip is extremely dangerous for average players but it is a very useful weapon for experts". And Rodrigo da Cunha (Portugal): "Zia strikes again, making people feel that playing bridge might be an enjoyable adventure and not just a boring game".

It is always interesting to know the opinion of one of the greatest writers we ever had, Terence Reese. About Larry Cohen's tip: "Larry Cohen has obtained good publicity for an idea which I don't believe has ever been much use to anyone. But perhaps one day. Zia's article is clever and well written. Aavo Heinlo deserves a good result because his idea may create some interesting stories." Dr. George Rosenkranz said that Larry Cohen and Zia Mahmood should share the first prize. Ron Andersen (USA) commented: "My choice is Zia Mahmood but all entries are excellent. I particularly enjoyed the variety of new subjects."

In spite of the broad gap between the number 2 and 3, Villy Dam received a lot of appreciation. Seven

members of the jury gave him the gold medal. Among them was the respected French journalist, Jose le Dentu who wrote a very valuable comment: "The first advice that Albarran gave me many years ago was about the same tip as Villy Dam: Never forget that the opponents can't see your hand and on this basis, try to do their thinking." It helped me to win many impossible contracts. Eight never – nine ever is a very good simplification of the law of total tricks. This rule was first published by J. R. Vernes in his book "Bridge moderne de la defense", 1966. Cohen's tip could help even experts when they are in doubt." "Never play your lowest card first" is a simple and useful tip though it would have been better to say: Never play automatically... The Panther double is certainly a very effective weapon even against good opponents. But to use it you must be a good player with good nerves." Sandra Landy also loved Villy Dam's tip.

Israel Erdenbaum's fourth place is certainly an honourable result. Seven members of the jury put him in first place and the general opinion was that this tip was extremely useful for the average player. Herman De Wael (BEL) put Israel Erdenbaum on top of the ranking because "after having read his tip, I used it at the table and was very successful each time." Costas Kyriakos (GRC) says that tips tend to get longer and longer, anyhow too long for newspapers. My choice is Israel Erdenbaum because this is useful for the category of bridge-players the tips are meant for: the average player.

Clement Wong's "Queening your defence" received five first places. "Sound in all respects", and "A way to alternative defence" and "Good, understandable message", Wong's admirers wrote. Although Clement Wong did not score as many first places as the winner, many members of the jury put him among the first four of the list and found his tip very valuable.

It is surprising that Derek Rimington, great author of our time, had to be content with the sixth place. Among the six journalists who preferred his article "The first trump" to the other tips was the brand-new Dutch world champion Jan Westerhof who appreciated Derek's tip very much but who was disappointed by the general level of the tips this year. Tony Sowter (Gr. Britain) said: "I prefer Rimington's tip because it is very instructive and it can be used by our bridge teachers." Clear, useful, good journalistic work and above all, a tip to be used by teachers, were the most frequent words.

"Let the opponents tell the story" by Aavo Heinlo (Estonia) got four first top rankings. Once again, many members of the jury express their great appreciation for the simple and clear advice. The article was well written and can easily be used in columns.

Finally, although Ib Lundby's "Bridge is only a game" finished last, several members expressed

admiration for the item. Alexei Varfolomejev (Ukraine) found Lundby's tip outstanding, it contains everything that we all love and find in bridge. Another journalist who gave 8 points to Lundby was Muhammed Aslam Shaiku (PAK): "Angry arguments; tough, unpleasant atmosphere are common at the bridge table. People forget that they have come to enjoy the game. Lundby's tip should remind them of this." Lundby got 3 first places.

Jose Le Dentu, Jean Besse and Ton Schipperheyn also referred to J. R. Vernes' original framing of the Law of Total Tricks. Larry Cohen is to be congratulated on finding an example, which puts it in a practical tip. We would like to congratulate him most heartily on his splendid victory.

Our sincere recognition goes to the members of the IBPA jury for their kind co-operation. To Evelyn Senn who has done a lot of work and of course to BOLS-WESSANEN for making this competition possible. We sincerely hope that the journalists of the IBPA will use these tips in their columns and that their readers will enjoy the articles.

Andre Boekhorst

## EIGHT NEVER – NINE EVER

By Larry Cohen (USA)

When I was a young kid, just learning the game of bridge, my grandfather told me "Larry, just follow a few simple maxims and you will go far." Second hand low, third hand high, buy low sell high (oops, wrong game), and "8 ever, 9 never" were amongst his favourites.

Little did he know, that I would twist that last maxim around and use it as one of the keys to my success. What he taught me was always ("ever") finesse for the queen with eight trumps, and "never" finesse with nine. I went on to learn the LAW of Total Tricks, and that is when I discovered "EIGHT NEVER and NINE EVER!"

In this new "golden rule" the numbers 8 and 9 refer to the number of trumps in the combined hands of a partnership. If there is a 6-2 fit there are 8 trumps, a 5-4 fit means 9 trumps. The words "never" and "ever" refer to the act of competing (or bidding) on the three level on part score hands.

"Eight never" means that you should never outbid the opponents on the three level if your side has only eight trumps. Conversely, "Nine ever" suggests in the same circumstances, with nine trumps you should "ever" and always compete to three of your trump suit.

Let's try a few hands: At love all, with:

♠ K Q 9 8 7 ♥ A 8 ♦ A 9 2 ♣ 10 7 2

playing 5 card majors, you deal and open 1♠. After a two-heart overcall, your partner raises to 2♠. Your RHO bids 3♥, and it is your call. You have a nice opening bid, but you should not be tempted to bid 3♠.

Your side rates to have only eight trumps – so NEVER bid three over three. If partner has four trumps, giving your side nine, he will know to bid 3♠. The full deal rates to be something like:

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

The opponents were due to fail in 3♥, losing five top tricks. You'll also fail if you bid 3♠, as you have five sure losers after the obvious heart lead. Does this full deal contain anything surprising?

No, it is a very typical layout for this everyday auction. Both partnerships have an 8-card fit, and both sides can only take eight tricks. Why should you go minus when they are going minus?

If you were to give yourself a sixth spade you would have a clear reason to compete to 3♠. Let's even take away some high-card points to illustrate that possession of nine trumps is crucial — not possession of an extra jack or queen. Holding:

♠ K 9 8 7 5 2 ♥ A 8 ♦ A 9 2 ♣ 10 7

you are faced with the same auction as above. Your partner has raised spades, and the opponents have competed to 3♥. This time your side has nine trumps: NINE EVER – so you bid 3♠, expecting the full deal to resemble:

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

Three hearts is still down one, but now you can make 3♠. Your ninth spade translated into a ninth trick.

What if the spades were 3-1? You'd go down, but then 3♥ would make.

Why does this "eight never", "nine ever" work out so well? The reason is simple if you know the "Law of Total Tricks", a concept which has only recently received the attention it deserves. The Law states that the number of total trumps (add both side's best fit together) is approximately equal to the number of total tricks (add the number of tricks that both sides can take in their best suit). If the high cards are evenly split eight trumps usually lead to eight tricks, and nine trumps usually leads to nine tricks. This is an oversimplification, but the concept is a sound one.

Over and over again, throughout the bridge world people bid "three over three" with only eight trumps, only to find that both three-level contracts fail. Instead of going plus fifty or one hundred, players go minus the same number.

I have given my self-learned advice to my grandfather and now he's the king of the senior circuit. He simply follows the reversed golden rule: "Eight never, Nine ever".

### THE 1994 BOLS BRIDGE TIPS Jean Besse (CHE)

Winner of the 1994 BOLS Bridge Tips Competition is the late Jean Besse, who not long before his passing, submitted his tip: "Don't Play idle cards thoughtlessly. They are the neutrinos of bridge."

Runner-up is Patrick Jourdain 7 points ahead of the third: Qi Zhou.

1. Jean Besse (CHE)	489
"Don't Play Idle Cards Thoughtlessly"	
2. Patrick Jourdain (GBR)	407
"Consider the Discard"	
3. Qi Zhou (CHN)	400
"Play Your Honour Earlier if it is of no use"	
4. Toine van Hoof (NLD)	328
"Shuffle Your Cards.	
5. Mark Horton (GBR)	154
"Don't Be Afraid to Respond"	
6. David Bird (GBR)	140
"Not Obligated to Say Anything"	
7. Derek Rimington (GBR)	134
"Play Trumps Fluently"	
8. Bernard Marcoux (CAN)	26
"Imagine.. and Capitalize"	

### Jury Competition

The prize money of D Fl. 1.000 has been divided as follows:

1. Alex Montwill (IRL) D Fl 300; 2. Eric Kokish (CAN), Peter Littlewood (GBR), Vassili Levenko (Estonia) and Barry Rigal (GBR) D.Fl 175 each.

100 votes were received from 35 nations: 14 each from USA & GBR; Sweden 9; Neth 7; Australia 6, Canada 5; France 4; Nor, Austria, Ger, Ita, Den 3; Russia, Pol, Ire, Bra, Estonia, Scot 2. There was 1 from each of: HK, India, Hun, Lith, Belarus, Isr, Slo, and Rum. South Africa. NZ. Port. Arg, Ber. Fin. Bel, Mau. & Uzbekistan.

### Clippings Competition

All material in this competition is free for publication subject to the use of the name BOLS. Clippings mentioning BOLS should be sent to IBPA's Clippings Secretary. Evelyn Senn. The Clippings Competition will close on 1st September. 1995. There will be 6 prizes each of U.S.\$100 for the best publicity.

### GREAT SUCCESS FOR THE LATE JEAN BESSE

By Andre Boekhorst

The late Jean Besse has won the 1994 Bols Bridge Tips Competition by a respectable margin. In 1982 he won the Bols Brilliancy Prize for discarding ♦A to create an entry in partner's hand. This time 30 out of 103 journalists of the IBPA put his article the winner. Many emphasised that the Tip is useful for a column, very simple and widely applicable. Among Besse's admirers we find Bill Pencharz, Bobby Wolff, Henry Francis, Clement Wong, Carlos Cabanne, and many other well-known players and journalists.

Barry Rigal (GBR) wrote: "When I read Jean Besse's article, it was as if one of the missing pieces of a jigsaw fell into place. I realised why some unmakeable contracts had succeeded." Sammy Kehela (CAN), who also voted for Besse wrote that this year's tips were not of such high quality: "the well is getting dry".

Patrick Jourdain received 13 first place votes but almost all IBPA members put his article amongst the top three. Per Jannersten (SWE) found Jourdain's entry of very high standard and praised the great variety of articles in this year's competition. Several people suggested: "Let Jourdain write all the tips, then we will really have an excellent collection of great articles." (IBPA Editor: Really. Andre? All using the same words?!)

Qi Zhou made a nice appearance with "Play Your Honour Earlier". He got 20 first place votes. Hugh Kelsey (Scotland): "A classic piece of defensive advice for every player who wishes to improve. Pleasantly written and good column material". Jose le Dentu (FRA): "Qi Zhou has described the humoristic way to

find out a tip, and his article is interesting for everyone."

The fourth place, Toine van Hoof, almost caused an earth-quake. He received 27 first places, but many members did not give him a single point. Svend Novrup (DEN), who voted for Jean Besse, said: "an anecdote should not win even if written up very well". Rodrigo daCunha (Port) wrote: "a tip for gamblers, not for bridge players." and world champion Jan Westerhof (NLD) said: "This man must be hanged although the idea is original"... and then put the Tip in second place.

Hans-Olof Hallén (SWE) the well-known TD and player said: "I hope that the bridge authorities will deal very quickly with the problem van Hoof has described." And Bob van der Velde (NLD): "I like this story very much. It will be a classic one, applicable by players of all categories." Arne Hofstad (NOR): "Outstanding, the van Hoof article, great sense of humour." Dr. P. K. Paranjape (India): "For me the van Hoof article is by far the best. Nobody can beat this excellent tip".

Eric Kokish (CAN) writes: "A good crop this year. Patrick Jourdain gives very good advice, but it is not really a tip. It says visualize the play, and so is an extension of bridge logic. The same might be said of Rimington's. Bird's is, in my view, really a random viewpoint. The van Hoof tip, my choice, is something special, unusual and quite disturbing. It is a tip to save hundreds of points in a year, and so edges out Besse's tip, that will surely win the Competition. Eric Kokish really is a witch-doctor. He predicted Besse in first place and Jourdain second.

Several journalists warned against van Hoofs tip because it entered a very dangerous area: that between ethical and unethical play.

Mark Horton received seven first place votes. David Bird had only three, but amongst them was Dorothy Francis (USA): "Because it sets up a guideline for overcalls, this can eliminate a lot of headaches". And Gabriel Chagas writes: "The tip is very useful in the modern trend of competitive bidding when silence is no longer appreciated as it should." Derek Rimington also had three first place votes.

General comment on this year's competition was positive. Many members spoke of "a very high quality" but there were also others. Franco Broccolli (ITA): "If these were the eight best ones, I can easily imagine that the others, not-accepted tips, talked about gin-rummy. At least the tips were written up in proper GBRLish."

## DON'T PLAY IDLE CARDS THOUGHTLESSLY

### They are the Neutrinos of Bridge

By Jean Besse (CHE)

Idle cards are those that can neither make tricks nor prevent the enemy from making tricks, nor act as guards to important cards. They appear to have no practical use at all.

And yet idle cards can exert an influence, even though it may be hard to pin down. They are like the neutrinos of nuclear physics, which are of minute mass and seem not to affect other particles but which have mysterious powers.

There is only one way you can penetrate the mystery. Before playing an idle card, you should consider what the effect of playing it may be.

We begin with an ordinary hand, where the bidding was simple and direct.

South	North
2NT	7NT

You are West:

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

You lead the ♦10 and dummy's king wins the trick, East and South following low. Declarer cashes the ♦Q and leads a diamond to the Ace in his hand. WHAT IS YOUR DISCARD?

Clearly, a heart would be suicidal, a club, too might be dangerous. So it seems safe to throw a spade, an idle card.

Safe? You have just killed the defence! This is the full deal:

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

After the first three tricks, declarer intends to run four clubs and three spades. When East shows out on the third spade he will learn that West was dealt three. He already knows that West had two diamonds. So now he will know that West had exactly three hearts. South will therefore easily pick up your unfortunate ♥Q.

To give yourself a chance, you had to keep your spades intact, discarding a club instead on the third diamond and leaving South with a complete guess. East, too, had to take care of his idle cards. When the fourth round of clubs was played, he had to discard a diamond, not a spade.

A discard of a spade from either defender allows declarer to find out the spade distribution and hence the distribution of the entire hand. Like neutrinos those "idle" spades had mysterious and unexpected powers.

Now take a hand from the 1994 McAllen / Sunday Times pairs:

Dir: West Vul: Both

```

      ♠ A K 7
      ♥ A 6 5
      ♦ K 10 9 7 5
      ♣ A 7

♠ —
♥ 10 9 7 4
♦ J
♣ K Q 10 9 6 4 3 2

      ♠ Q 9 3
      ♥ Q J 8 3 2
      ♦ Q 6 3
      ♣ 8 5

      ♠ J 10 8 6 5 4 2
      ♥ K
      ♦ A 8 4 2
      ♣ J
  
```

West	North	East	South <i>Sheehan</i>
5♣	Dbl	Pass	5♠
Pass	6♠	All Pass	

Opening lead: ♣K

Robert Sheehan as South was one who found a successful line of play. He won with ♣A, ruffed a club — noting East's echo, and cashed the ♠K, West discarding a club.

Faced with a trump loser, Sheehan set out to partially strip the hand before putting East in. He cashed the ♥K, crossed to a top trump, cashed ♥A, and ruffed a heart, and then exited with a trump, leaving East on lead in this position:

```

♠ —
♥ —
♦ K 10 9 7 5
♣ —

      ♠ —
      ♥ Q J
      ♦ Q 6 3
      ♣ —
  
```

East had no more clubs and clearly did not want to open diamonds, so he led a heart, a "neutrino", THEREBY DISCLOSING WEST's FOURTH HEART!

Sheehan could now place West with 0-4-1-8, so he called for dummy's ♦K and continued with a finesse against the queen to complete the good work.

Again, the play of the "idle" heart sabotaged the defence. EAST MUST RETURN A LOW DIAMOND, accepting the risk of leading into the tenace, should South hold the ♦J.

Had East done so, South would have had to guess. And if you look at the hand closely, you will find that he will go for the losing line more often than not.

So, my BOLS tip is this: *Don't play an idle card thoughtlessly.* Consider what the effect of playing it may be. If played at the wrong time, an idle card may betray your whole hand.

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## **THE ROYAL VIKING LINE PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

### **THE 1986 ROYAL VIKING LINE PLAYER OF THE YEAR Zia Mahmood (PAK)**

Eighty-five members of IBPA voted in the Royal Viking Player of the Year Contest. The winner by a clear margin was: Zia Mahmood of Pakistan with 44 votes.

The runner-up with 14 votes was: Michel Perron of France.

There was a tie for third place, which was split by reference to the voter's second preferences. Third place then went to: Sally Horton of Great Britain.

The first three win prizes in addition to those already received for being on the shortlist.

The other placings were:

Larry Cohen of the USA

Lars Blakset of Denmark

Piotr Gawrys of Poland

Paul Marston of Australia

Tomas Pryzbora of Poland

Three IBPA members predicted the first three in the correct order and win the journalist prizes. These are:

Anders Wirgren of Sweden

J. van der Kam of the Netherlands

A. H. Gordon of London

Prizes are likely to be awarded in Brighton at the IBPA Awards Meeting.

The voting slips were analysed by IBPA Sponsorship Secretary Peter Ashcroft.

## THE EPSON AWARD

### THE 1988 EPSON AWARD

**Mariusz Puczynski (POL)**

Journalist: Irena Chodorowska (POL)

The judges' verdict on the Epson Award 1988, which attracted well over 200 entries, is as follows:

1. Mariusz Puczynski, Warsaw, journalist Irena Chodorowska, 'Brydz'.  
(Each receives a \$2500 Epson PC & printer.)
2. Milton Miller, Perth, Australia, journalist David Schokman 'The West Australian'
2. Pamela Granovetter, journalist Alan Truscott, New York City 'The New York Times'  
(Each receives a \$1400 Epson PX8 portable PC.)
4. Clint Morrell Marlboro, Mass. journalist Henry Francis 'The Boston Herald'
4. Patrick Jourdain, Cardiff, Wales, journalist David Hamilton 'Western Daily Press'
4. Jon Edwards Toronto, journalist Ted Horning 'Toronto Star Syndicate'
4. Santanu Ghose, Calcutta, journalist Dindrilla Kundu 'The Statesman'
4. Gyorgy Szigeti, Budapest, journalist Gabor Salgo 'The Daily News'  
(Each receives a \$500 SEIKO watch.)

I congratulate all these most heartily, and I also pay tribute to many more IBPA members whose work was commended by the judges and who also won prizes. Their names appear on page 14.

In this bulletin may be found the eight deals chosen by Epson Award judges Denis Howard, Jaime Ortiz-Patino and Edgar Kaplan. From the eight, Omar Sharif selected the overall winner, plus the winners of two enhanced prizes from North America and the Rest of the World.

### THE WINNING DEAL

A 17-year-old Pole has won the Epson Award for the best-played hand in the biggest bridge competition ever held.

Mariusz Puczynski of Warsaw was partnered by his 19-year-old brother, Tom. They were along 73,256 competitors in the 1987 Epson Worldwide Bridge Contest, won by a British pair, Stretch and Thompson. Bridge writers all over the world were invited to submit well-played hands from the contest. After combing hundreds of entries, the judges selected the Puczyn-

ski deal, reported by bridge writer Irena Chodorowska of Warsaw.

**Vuln. :** North-South

**Dealer :** East

**Board 34**

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

### Board 34 (North-South Score [Top = 100])

Score	Points	Score	Points	Score	Points	Score	Points
630	100	150	66	-100	18		
	99		62	-110	10		
	98	130	62		9		
600	86	120	58	-140	8		
	74	110	51		8		
500	73	100	41	-200	5		
	72		34		3		
300	71	50	30	-470	3		
	70		26		2		
180	69	0	25	-530	1		
	69		24		0		

In theory, the previous deal could repeat itself, this time with East opening a Weak Two and North reaching a shaky three no-trumps:

South	West	North	East
			2 ♥
pass	pass	Dble	pass
3 ♥	pass	3 NT	All pass

This contract is made only if East leads a heart, which is unlikely to happen very often. For one thing, East may avoid the heart lead, and moreover, since the heart suit is by no means ideal, he may also avoid the Weak Two.

If East passes as dealer, or opens one heart, West has a chance to mention spades. In this case South may end up in three clubs. This is a better spot, but there are still five losers — unless the defence slips.

Suppose West leads a heart. After two rounds of trumps, a diamond is led from the table. If East puts up the ace and makes the mistake of continuing diamonds, instead of pushing a spade through, South can ruff, cross to a trump, and finesse a spade into West's hand, endplaying the defender.

Writing before the Epson Worldwide Bridge Contest took place, Omar Sharif anticipated that if East opened with a weak 2 hearts, N-S might find it hard to stay out of 3NT, in theory unmake able.

If, instead, East passed as dealer, or opened with one heart, N-S might succeed in stopping at three clubs. But this tract, too, was likely to fail, as South would probably resort to the double finesse in spades.

At the Puczynskis' table, the sequence was unexpected, for East opened a weak two hearts but the

Puczynski brothers still managed to stop at three clubs. This was the sequence:

South	West	North	East
<i>M. Puczynski</i>		<i>T. Puczynski</i>	
			2♥
Pass	Pass	Dbl	Pass
3♣	All Pass		

North, under his methods, would have bid 2NT if he had held 14 points and a heart guard. So, in the actual sequence, South decided that game was unlikely.

On the basis that East held a six-card heart suit, Puczynski was able to develop a cast-iron line of play.

West led a heart and Puczynski began with two rounds of trumps. A diamond from the table was won by East with the jack.

East correctly led a spade and West won with the jack, returning a diamond. East led another spade but this time Puczynski put on the ace.

He crossed to a trump and ruffed dummy's last diamond.

When East followed to this trick, it was clear that his pattern was 2-6-3-2, and that either defender could be end played for the contract. For example, South could play off two more rounds of hearts, endplaying East, who would have to return a heart.

In play, Puczynski elected instead to exit with the queen of spades, obliging West to concede a ruff and discard, as he had no more hearts.

This play would also have worked if East had shown up with a 3-6-2-2 pattern and – unexpectedly – the spade king.

'Both brothers', says Chodorowska, 'play in the Second Division of the Polish Bridge League. In the Molex tournament in Paris last year, they won the prize for best Junior Pair. Both are GBRineering students in Warsaw.'

Irena herself is on the Ladies committee of the European Bridge League. Her winning entry was first published in the official Polish Monthly, 'Brydz'. EW were Mrs D.Zochowska and Mrs K.Rozynska of Warsaw.

Judges of the Epson Award for Best-played Hands were the President, President Emeritus and Chief Commentator of the WBF, aided by a screening Committee under Chief Organizer, Jose Damiani of Paris. He is President of the EBL and 1st Vice-President of the WBF.

At a reception in Paris in January, Omar Sharif on behalf of SEIKO-EPSON presented Puczynska and Chodorowska each with a \$2500 Epson PC and printer.

## THE 1992 EPSON AWARD

**Dr. Lewis Moonie (GBR)**

Journalist: Albert Dormer (GBR)

Each received an EPSON PC and printer.

This was Albert Dormer's column in the London Times id 4<sup>th</sup> July 1992. From IBPA Bulletin 333.

With an entry of about 102,000, the Seventh Epson Worldwide Bridge Contest, held two weeks ago, appears to have set a world record not just for bridge but for any regularly held official event.

It is easier to score well in a weak heat than in a strong one, so the integrated ranking list, headed by a French pair, may be of limited significance, even though the same hands were played worldwide.

It is this last element that gives the event its character, and tribute should be paid to Seiko Epson for appreciating this.

The contest was run from Paris by Jose Damiani, the capable president of the European Bridge League. It included "celebrity" heats in cooperation with the World Federation of Great Towers, who were happy to encourage the use of satellite communications for bridge contests.

BT hosted a heat at the BT Tower in London, linked by computer to a corresponding heat in the Eiffel Tower. (Computers not by courtesy of Epson UK!)

The BT heat matched experts against various notables for whom bridge is a relaxation rather than a rigorous form of competition; including three MPs, Sir Fergus Montgomery, Ray Whitney and Dr Lewis Moonie. They were by no means disgraced.

Dr Moonie's partner was an expert who is well known to the world's bridge writers in another role. Patrick Jourdain edits the esoteric bulletin of the International Bridge Press Association. The deal below is well worthy of inclusion.

East dealer. NS vul.

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

West <i>Wright</i>	North <i>Jourdain</i>	East <i>Handley</i>	South <i>Moonie</i>
Pass	2♣	Pass	2♠
Pass	Pass	Pass	

Opening lead: ♠J

East was Michele Handley, co presenter of the recent TV series, *Bridge with Zia*. Her partner was Lionel Wright, from New Zealand.

Moonie's 1NT opening showed 13 to 15 points. At pairs, one aims for the most productive, not necessarily the safest, contract, so North had to consider whether to bid 2♣, Stayman. A 2♥ response could be raised to 3♥, and a 2♠ response could happily be passed. But if South were to respond with 2♦, neither a Pass nor a bid of 2NT would be entirely safe.

Still, Jourdain risked 2♣ and was pleased to hear Moonie bid 2♠. West led the ♠J and Moonie won with the queen. He ruffed a club and, noting the fall of the king, wisely decided not to attempt a further ruff.

Instead, he drew trumps and finessed the ♥Q, losing to the king. Now Handley, with only red cards left, found it hard to judge the best return. She exited with a low diamond. West won and switched accurately to the ♥J, aiming to remove dummy's entry before the ♦J became established.

But Moonie put on the ace and played another diamond, forcing East to win and leaving this position:

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

East could cash the ♥10 for the defenders' fourth trick, but would then have to lead the ♥5 to dummy's 6 or the ♦10 to dummy's jack, Moonie discarding his club loser in either case.

To save a trick, East, when in with the ♥K, must return a heart. The ace wins and East is put back with a heart, establishing dummy's 6, but now she plays the ♦K! This allows West to win the next diamond and exit with a club, putting South in his own hand and leaving the ♥6 and ♦J to wither on the vine.

Omar Sharif, in the souvenir book of hands, says of a spade partial that the declarer is likely to do badly. "Whether he tries to establish the diamonds by ruffing in hand or whether he plays to ruff clubs in dummy", Sharif says, "he is likely to suffer one or more over ruffs" True, but the early fall of the ♠K gave Dr Moonie the clue to a more accurate diagnosis.

## 2<sup>nd</sup> prize

Journalist: Mohammed Aslam (PAK)

Player: Mr Nafis

## 3<sup>rd</sup> prize

Journalist: Tim Kennemore (USA)

EPSON products to a value of \$1,000.

## 4<sup>th</sup> prize

Journalist: Ib Lundby (DEN)

Player: Lars Munskard

## 5<sup>th</sup> prize

Journalist: Gabor Salgo (HUN)

Player: Tamas Szalka

EPSON products to a value of \$500.

# THE 1993 EPSON AWARD

**Zia Mahmood (PAK)**

Journalist: Alan Truscott (USA)

## Epson Winner 1993

By Alan Truscott (USA)

Dir: North	♠ A J 7 4
Vul: N-S	♥ A 3
	♦ A K Q J 9
	♣ 10 2
♠ 10 2	♠ K 9 8 5
♥ K 9 4 2	♥ 8 7 5
♦ 10 7 6 2	♦ 8 4
♣ Q 8 6	♣ J 9 5 3
	♠ Q 6 3
	♥ Q J 10 6
	♦ 5 3
	♣ A K 7 4

South	West	North	East
		1♦	Pass
1♥	Pass	2♠	Pass
2NT	Pass	3NT	Pass
5NT	Pass	6NT	All Pass

Michael Rosenberg and Zia Mahmood, playing at Honors Club in Manhattan, had 68% Friday night, the

top North South score in New York City. On the diagrammed deal they outwitted the official analysis, they pushed to six Notrumps, with a natural sequence that included a strongly invitational raise from 3NT to 5NT.

West led a small heart, which does not appear to help declarer. But it did. Mahmood, known to be a brilliant analyst, finessed, won in his hand, and formed an expert plan involving a Morton's Fork Coup. He would, he decided, take some diamond winners – three or four but not five – and then lead a low spade. He would then be safe if the spades split evenly or if East held the King. In the actual situation East was due to be victimized by the coup. If he spent his king, South would have three spade tricks, and if he saved it South would eventually surrender a heart trick to make his slam. The reference is to the Chancellor of King Henry VII of GBRIland, who extracted money from the wealthy merchants: "You are spending a lot, so you can spare some for the king." Or, "You are not spending a lot, so you can spare some for the king."

The official booklet noted that "Twelve tricks can, it is true, be made on a neutral lead – declarer starts spades by leading low from the table – but this would not be a natural play to make." That analysis was accurate after a diamond lead, or after an unlikely club lead, which attacks South's communications. But it was wrong, as Mahmood demonstrated, after a heart lead and a winning finesse. And after a spade lead, which happened at many tables, East is forked immediately when South plays low from the dummy.

For making the slam Mahmood and Rosenberg scored 87 match points out of a possible 100.



We thank all the journalists who sent in contributions and those who published stories, without submitting them, for their work. Those who sent in articles will receive a small memento. The prize winners, who should receive their prizes through the post, were:

**1st Prize: Alan Truscott (USA)** for his hand published in the New York Times played by Zia Mahmood. It is a beautiful hand and the article is very good.

Truscott also contributed another very good article in which he spoke of K Wei and B Wolff, in Beijing.

**2nd Prize: Guy Dupont (FRA)** and Marc Kerlero (as player). His article had a very good presentation in the "Figaro Magazine".

**3rd Prize: Santanu Ghose (ITA)** for his article in The Independent, Calcutta.

**4th Prize: Alexander Athanassiathis (GRC)** for his article published on the 24th June in the newspaper Thessaloniki.

**5th Prize: Svend Novrup (DEN)** for his article "Eva, Omar and Epsom" published in the International Popular Bridge Monthly last September.

#### Special Prizes

**Phillip Alder (USA)** – Newspaper Enterprise Assn.

**Sue Emery (USA)** – ACBL Bulletin for their articles on Fields & Morris. Their score, which was wrongly reported, has generated many articles. The hands were very interesting proving their aggressiveness and determination.

**Anders Wirgren (SWE)** – Skånska Dagbladet

**Sune Fager (SWE)** – for the presentation in Arbetarbladet.

## THE KERI KLINGER MEMOORIAL AWARD

### THE 2011 KERI KLINGER AWARD FOR PRESSURE PLAY



Michelle Brunner

This is a new IBPA award in 2011 sponsored by Ron and Suzi Klinger in memory of their daughter Keri. It is awarded to an individual, pair or team who performs in admirable fashion under pressure. This past year, no one did that better than Michelle Brunner and John Holland from GBRIland. Despite being diagnosed with terminal cancer, Michelle, with John as a partner, continued to play bridge at the highest level, winning a cap to represent GBRIland in the Camrose home internationals and reaching the final of the Gold Coast Teams in Australia against an elite Australian and international field. Additionally, in the past 24 months, John won two World Championships, the 2009 and 2010 Senior Teams for the d'Orsi Cup, in São Paulo and Philadelphia respectively.

Michelle won a Venice Cup and was twice a winner of the Gidwani Family Trust Defence of the Year Award. Any bridge player would be happy to claim either defence as the best deal of his/her career. Michelle had both of them. Here they are:

#### THE VENICE CUP

Heather Dhondy

Having successfully negotiated the round robin, it was time for GBRIland to face China in the quarter-finals. We were neck and neck for the first four sets out of six, but eventually the Chinese proved too strong and we were eliminated. One of the earlier sets produced a very special play from Michelle Brunner:

QF2. Board 26.  
Dealer East. Both Vul.

```

      ♠ A K Q 9 8 3
      ♥ A 7
      ♦ --
      ♣ A J 7 3 2

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

      ♠ 10 2
      ♥ Q 6
      ♦ Q 5 4 2
      ♣ Q 10 9 8 5
  
```

West	North	East	South
<i>Michelle Brunner</i>	<i>Liu Yi Qian</i>	<i>Rhona Goldenfield</i>	<i>Wang Wenfei</i>
		Pass	Pass
Pass	1♣ <sup>1</sup>	Pass	1♦ <sup>2</sup>
Pass	2♠	Pass	2NT
Pass	3♣	Pass	4♣
Pass	5NT	Pass	7♣
Pass	Pass	Pass	

1. Precision Club (16+)
2. Negative (0-7)

The Precision auction propelled the Chinese side to an optimistic seven-club contract. You will note that the entryless dummy more or less forces declarer into the winning line of dropping the singleton king of trumps off-side to land a rather jammy contract.

Enter Michelle, who, on seeing partner's lead of the jack of hearts covered by the queen in dummy, ducked!

Declarer, who was mightily relieved to gain a surprise entry, had no hesitation in taking advantage of it to play her percentage shot in trumps of taking the finesse! Whoops!

How was this brilliancy found? Should declarer have been fooled? Let's think about it.

One club was strong and one diamond negative. The jump to two spades was natural and forcing, showing a strong hand. Two no trump and three clubs were both natural. Over partner's natural four clubs, showing support, North jumped to five no trump, grand slam force. Whether they disagreed about the mean-

ing of five no trump or the responses, I'm not sure, but one thing that Michelle could be certain of is that declarer had a source of running tricks in spades for this action. Therefore there would be no danger in giving declarer a cheap trick in hearts since they would soon be disposed of on spades in any case.

From Michelle's point of view, a jump to seven clubs holding only the queen in trumps left room for partner to have a trump honour and there was a significant danger that it would be singleton. With plenty of time to think about it, we can all see that it can't cost, and may gain on this layout.

However, the really impressive thing is that it had to be done smoothly and in tempo so as to give nothing away. If you duck slowly, declarer will be suspicious. Should she have been suspicious anyway?

It is unusual to lead from a king-jack-ten holding against a grand slam. If you don't want to lead a trump, then a spade into the solid suit would seem to give nothing away. On the other hand, a lead from jack-ten would be perfectly normal. Therefore, you should not expect the queen of hearts to hold the first trick. Nevertheless, it is a huge leap of logic to then deduce that West has ducked in order to persuade you to take a losing line in trumps. This brilliancy was undoubtedly the play of the tournament.

## ANOTHER BRUNNER GEM

Maureen Hiron, Málaga

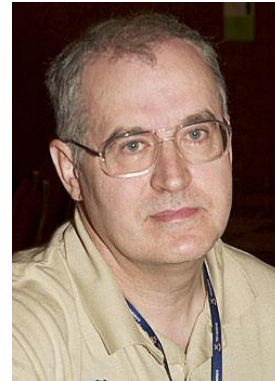
Dealer East. Both Vul.

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

Michelle Brunner won the 2008 International Bridge Press Association Defence of the Year Award, for a brilliant play in Shanghai. I believe, though I stand to be corrected, that this is the first time a woman has won this. Nor can I remember the same player winning two years in succession, so I intend submitting this hand as a contender for next year's prize.

Michelle passed as dealer and South opened one no trump (12-14). North bid two clubs, Stayman, then raised South's two-spade reply to the spade game.

John Holland, West, led the jack of hearts. Declarer ducked in dummy and Michelle won with her king. What were her chances of defeating four spades, faced with that dummy? Many players would simply return a trump and hope that declarer, left to his own devices, would adopt a failing line.



John Holland

But Michelle envisaged a position where her partner held the king to three spades and a doubleton club. (He could not hold more than three honour points, given South's one no trump opener.) Even that was not enough; she also had to paint a false picture for declarer.

So — she returned the nine of clubs, which, with dummy's assets on view, surely could only have been a singleton. Dummy won, and fearing a club ruff, South continued with ace and another spade. Holland won with his king and returned a club, South playing low from dummy. Michelle Brunner captured with her king, then gave her partner the club ruff that defeated the game.

**THE 2012 KERI KLINGER MEMORIAL  
DECLARER PLAY OF THE YEAR  
Terje Lichtwark (NOR)  
Journalist Knut Kjærnsrød**

From IBPA Bulletin 566.12)

**NORWEGIAN BRILLIANCY**

Knut Kjærnsrød, Tored, Norway

This board was played recently in one of our clubs in the far north, Harstad. Anders Kristensen, one of the opponents, reported declarer's brilliant play.

Dealer East. Both Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Bremseth</i>	<i>Lind</i>	<i>Kristensen</i>	<i>Lichtwark</i>
— —	Pass	2♥	
Pass	2NT	Pass	3♥
Pass	6♥	Pass	Pass
Pass			

Two hearts showed six hearts and 10-13 points and three hearts showed a (semi-)balanced minimum. Despite that, North decided to jump to slam. West had decided to "wait in the bushes" with his solid suit. West started with the ace of diamonds and continued with the king, ruffed in dummy. With the trumps 2-2 or 3-1 the contract is easy, but when Terje Lichtwark played a trump to his queen, West discarded a diamond. South played a club to the king and played the ten of trumps, which East had to cover. Then Terje played a club to the ace and ruffed a club. It may seem natural to play the queen of spades now, but that would not work. Instead he played a spade to the king and a club from dummy. East discarded a spade and South his remaining diamond. Now the situation was:

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

To fulfill his brilliancy, Terje played dummy's last club and trumped with his three. The spade queen overtaken with the ace left East helpless.

Shortlist:

Bill Jacobs (Ron Klinger, 566.6)

Ronny Jorstad (Knut Kjærnsrød, 566.11)

Matias Rohrberg (Roland Wald, 567.11/568.15)

Franck Multon (Brian Senior, 570.7)

Sven-Åke Bjerregård (Micke Melander, 570.22)

Carla Arnolds (Mark Horton, 570.20)

# THE 2013 KERI KLINGER MEMORIAL DECLARER PLAY OF THE YEAR



**Fulvio Fantoni (MCO)**  
Journalist: Toine van Hoof (NLD)

From IBPA Bulletin 575.13

## FANTONI'S FANTASTIC

Toine van Hoof, Utrecht, The Netherlands

Final. Session 1.

Board 16. Dealer East. EW Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Gaviard</i>	<i>Nunes</i>	<i>deTessières</i>	<i>Fantoni</i>
		Pass	1♥1
Pass	3♥2	Double	3♠3
Pass	4♥	Pass	4♠3
Pass	5♥4	Pass	6♥
Pass	Pass	Pass	

1. Natural, forcing
2. Weak
3. Cue bids
4. 1 key card without a club or diamond control; 4NT would have denied a key card

After their victory for Monaco in the Cavendish Teams, Fulvio Fantoni and Claudio Nunes finished a somewhat disappointing eleventh in the Cavendish Pairs. Fantoni, however, signed for the bestplayed hand of the tournament.

West led the queen of clubs. East's double at the three level, vulnerable, with a passed hand, had not eluded declarer. Fantoni correctly placed him with a void in hearts, the black kings and probably both diamond honours. Even double dummy, it's not easy to see how the contract should be played. After a long pause, Fantoni made the spectacular play of a low heart to the seven in dummy. As expected, East showed out (discarding the two of diamonds). Declarer continued with the ten of clubs, discarding a diamond when East played low. West won the jack of clubs and continued with a heart to the ten in dummy.

Now came the nine of clubs, covered by the king (ducking would not have made a difference) and ruffed with the queen of hearts. The rest was a piece of cake: ace of hearts, heart to the king, two established clubs for another diamond and a spade discard and a claim on the spade finesse (East had already been squeezed but that did not matter). A brilliant plus 980.

The first round heart finesse seems unnecessary, but if declarer starts with the ace and then the five of hearts, West can ruin his plans by inserting the jack, killing a vital entry to dummy. Not unsurprisingly Fantoni was the only player in the starstudded field to make the sixheart contract. The gain of 62 crossIMPs was reduced by a time penalty of 9 crossIMPs, but I'm sure that didn't bother Fantoni at all.

### Shortlist:

Danielle Avon (Hervé Pacault, 573.56), Tony Forrester (John Carruthers, 577.14), Tony Forrester (Ana Roth & David Bird, 579.14), Josef Piekarek (Brent Manley, 579.1415), Fred Gitelman (Phillip Alder, 580.15), Petter Tondel (Patrick Jourdain, 582.16), Marc Jacobus (Karen Allison, 583.13), Douglas Doub (Phillip Alder, 583.12)

## THE 2014 KERI KLINGER MEMORIAL DECLARER PLAY OF THE YEAR

**Winner: Marc Jacobus (USA)**

**Article :** *Jacobus at the Helm*

Journalist: Micke Melander (SWE)

Event: 2013 d'Orsi Trophy Semifinal, USA v. Poland.

Source: IBPA Bulletin 585, October 2013, p. 15



### Jacobus at the Helm

Board 29. Dealer North. Both Vul.

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

### Open Room

West	North	East	South
Passell	Kowalski	Jacobus	Romanski
	Pass	1♦	1♥
Double	Pass	1♠	Pass
2♥	Pass	2NT	Pass
3NT	Pass	Pass	Pass

### Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Lasocki	Hayden	Russyan	Bates
	Pass	1♦	1♥
1♠	Pass	1NT	Pass
3NT	Pass	Pass	Pass

Roger Bates, in the Closed Room, led the jack of hearts (Rusinow) and Jerzy Russyan went up with dummy's ace and called for the jack of diamonds from dummy, which went to the king, ace and four. Declarer

then played another diamond and when South discarded, he was two down when he, in an attempt to make his contract, tried to find South with both the ace and the king of spades.

Jacobus played very well at the other table. He ducked the queen of hearts lead and South shifted to the four of diamonds. That went to dummy's jack and the king from North, whereupon declarer again ducked! Kowalski, who didn't know what to believe, returned a diamond (a club switch here is the killer since, despite finding the queen of clubs for declarer, it destroys the communication between declarer and dummy). Declarer won the diamond in dummy, South discarding a heart. Jacobus now continued with the two of spades, the three, nine, ace. Romanski returned the eight of spades to the five, ten and declarer's jack. Jacobus cashed the king of hearts and played a spade to Kowalski's king. Declarer still only had eight tricks and had already lost four when North was to play from:

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

Romanski exited with the ten of diamonds, ace from declarer, and South discarded the eight of clubs, dummy the jack of clubs. Jacobus next played a club to the king in dummy, cashed the heart ace, forcing a diamond discard from North. The spade queen administered the coup-de-grâce as North had to keep a diamond and South a heart. Thus neither could keep two clubs and the queen of clubs had to fall under the ace. That was a very well-deserved 13 IMPs to USA 2 for that terrific declarer play by Jacobus in a very difficult contract.

### Other Shortlisted Candidates:

Wietzke van Zwol (Netherlands) in "*Wonderful Wietzke*" by Carla Arnolds (Netherlands), 2013 Venice Cup Semifinal, Netherlands v. USA, IBPA Bulletin 587.12

Ron Tacchi (France) in "*Jewel in the Crown*" by Mark Horton (GBRland), 2014 French National Team Championship Qualifying, IBPA Bulletin 590.16  
Cezary Balicki (Poland) in "*Knockout Punch*" by Sue Munday (USA), 2014 Spring NABC, IBPA Bulletin 592.13

Kevin Bathurst (USA) in "*The Final*" by Suzi Subeck (USA), USBF Open Trials, IBPA Bulletin 593.11

# IBPA JOB DESCRIPTIONS

Last revised in April 2013

The IBPA Constitution takes precedence over these Job Descriptions.

Throughout this document “he” also implies “she”

## I) GENERAL

(applying to all persons representing IBPA)

### 1) Collection of dues

Until membership details and subscriptions are received by the Membership Secretary they are not the responsibility of the IBPA, so any person in receipt of such must without delay transfer the money and details to the Membership Secretary.

### 2) Filing

Copies of communications that require retaining must be sent without delay to the Secretary for filing.

### 3) Allowances

The Executive Committee may decide in advance on an annual allowance for any Officer, Executive Member or IBPA Appointee, to cover miscellaneous expenditure. Any excess is to be treated as an exceptional expenditure (see next).

### 4) Journeys and other exceptional expenditure

Journeys on IBPA business or exceptional expenditure for which reimbursement is required, shall be authorized in advance by the Executive. In an emergency the individual incurring such expense must in advance obtain the consent of two officers who shall have their approval registered by email with the Secretary.

### 5) Membership

All members of the Executive have a responsibility to increase the membership of the IBPA by seeking new members; and encouraging them to complete an application form and submit subscriptions.

### 6) Sponsors

All members have a duty to bring potential sponsors to the attention of the President, who will appoint a suitable person to conduct liaison. Members should recognize sponsors by mentioning them whenever appropriate.

## II) THE PRESIDENT

### A) RESPONSIBILITIES

The President is the highest-ranking elected Officer and head of the organization. He is responsible for summoning and chairing all General and Executive Meetings. If the President needs to have a free hand in the debate, he may call upon one of the Vice-Presidents, or the Chairman, to chair the Meeting.

The President is the official spokesman of the IBPA on matters of policy. He is in charge of discussions with other bodies, such as the EBL and the WBF. With his signature, subject to approval by the Executive Committee, he closes any deal with other bodies. He also authorizes all press releases on behalf of the IBPA.

The President is the financial leader of the IBPA, and it is his responsibility to ensure that the organisation remains financially sound. Together with the Treasurer, he is responsible for the planning of finances, for budgeting, and that expenses stay within the limits of the budget. He may commit IBPA to expenditures up to 2000 USD without prior approval of the Executive.

The President is also the organizational leader of the IBPA. It is his responsibility that decisions made by the Executive Committee and the AGM are carried out, and that all decisions are in accordance with the Constitution.

## B) ORGANIZATION

### 1) Administration

The President oversees the Executive Committee. He is to ensure that each person has clearly defined responsibilities and assignments. The President should keep the Chairman and Vice-Presidents informed of major developments so that they can take over his responsibilities at short notice. The President may give guidance to the Chairman in connection with the nominating process.

### 2) Meetings

The President sets meeting schedules, summons the Executive Committee, and sends notice of, and agenda for, a forthcoming AGM to the Editor for publication in the IBPA Bulletin. The President should make an agenda ahead of each Executive meeting. The President is required to prepare a written annual report for the AGM to be included in the minutes published in the IBPA Bulletin.

The Chairman of each Meeting shall see that minutes of the meeting are taken by the Secretary, or in his absence by an appointed Executive Member. Minutes shall be distributed to those present and invited to the meeting within two weeks and, regarding General Meetings, to the Editor for publication in the Bulletin.

### **3) Representation**

To allow the President to represent the IBPA at the AGM (normally during the World Championships) the Executive Committee shall set an allowance to be used when the President's expenses are not covered by other sources. This can also apply to EGMs and European Championships but not to other Championships.

### **4) Dealing with other bodies**

The President is the head negotiator of the IBPA. Other Officers or Executive Members cannot conclude agreements unless authorized in advance by the President. If the agreement implies any major changes as to the policy, finances, or organisational structure of the IBPA, the President should not sign any documents without the consent of a majority of the Executive Committee. The Executive Committee may also require ratification of the agreement by the next AGM. The President should see that minutes of negotiations are provided with a copy of the signed agreement, if any, to the Executive Committee, not later than two weeks after the conclusion of negotiation.

### **5) Finances**

The President is responsible for seeing that the Treasurer fulfils his obligations. He should collaborate with the Treasurer in the preparation of the Budget for the next fiscal year.

### **6) Delegation of authority**

The President's designee may act for him in any of the functions set out above. The President should only designate an Officer or Executive Committee member, except after obtaining approval in advance by a Vice-President.

## **III) THE EXECUTIVE VICE-PRESIDENT**

The Executive Vice-President is an elected Officer who is second-in-command within the IBPA. It is the job of the Executive Vice-President to undertake the responsibilities of the President in his absence. If the President's position falls vacant between elections, the President's duties pass to the Executive Vice-President and, failing him, to the Organisational Vice-President. The Executive Vice-President should be kept duly informed by the President on matters of importance within the IBPA. He should discuss possible areas of delegation with the President, and remind him, as necessary, of matters requiring attention. He is the President's primary adviser.

## **IV) THE ORGANIZATIONAL VICE-PRESIDENT**

The Organisational Vice-President is an elected Officer, who is third-in-command within the IBPA. If the President's office falls vacant, and the Executive Vice-President is not available, the Organisational Vice-President assumes the President's role. Failing that, the Executive Committee will appoint another Officer, or one of the Executive Members to take office.

## **V) THE SECRETARY**

The Secretary is an elected Officer whose main task is recording and filing. The Secretary is to take the minutes of every Executive Committee meeting, the AGM, the EGM, and other meetings if so directed by the President. The minutes should be circulated no later than three days after such a meeting to those present and invited to the meeting. Minutes of General Meetings shall be sent to the Editor for publication in the Bulletin.

The Secretary is responsible for collecting written reports from all IBPA Officers and Appointees not less than two days before the AGM. He is responsible for the printing and framing of certificates of Awards, as directed by the Awards Chairman.

The Secretary is responsible for filing and retrieving all significant letters and official documents concerning IBPA.

On request of any Officer, the Secretary should produce memos, letters and other documents and distribute them to members of the Executive Committee and others concerned.

The Secretary is to keep track of time schedules on behalf of the IBPA, and send out appropriate reminders in due time. These should include publication in the Bulletin of notice for forthcoming AGM, proposals for new Officers and Executive members, and appointment of Nominating and Control Committees.

## **VI) THE TREASURER**

The Treasurer is an elected Officer whose main task is budgeting and accounting.

### **1) Bank Accounts**

The Treasurer is responsible for all money transactions coming in to or being paid by the IBPA. The IBPA may have a working account from which only the Treasurer may withdraw money but the bulk of IBPA's funds must be in a bank account from which money can only be withdrawn on the authorization of two out of three officers, namely the Treasurer, President and Chairman. The Executive Committee has the right to nominate a fourth person who can co-authorize payments.

The Treasurer should keep contact with the Membership Secretary to ensure that membership subscriptions are duly deposited in IBPA's account; and with the President to see that sponsorship monies and grants are duly collected. The approval of the Executive committee shall be sought for any term deposit that makes a tranche of IBPA funds unavailable for immediate access. IBPA funds should be maintained in more than one currency to protect the organization from the collapse in the value of one currency. The balance between currencies should be reported in the annual accounts.

## **2) Annual Accounts**

The Treasurer shall prepare the annual accounts within two months of the end of the fiscal year and submit them for checking to the President and other Officers, and then to the Auditor, for auditing within three months after the end of the financial year.. The accounts should be presented in one currency with comparisons with the previous year. The accounts, vouchers and all bank statements must be sent to the elected Auditor for auditing. The Treasurer must see that they are returned. The Treasurer must also see that the accounts are published prior to the AGM and, after approval by the AGM, in the Bulletin.

## **3) Budgets**

In collaboration with the President, the Treasurer is responsible for preparing a budget for the next fiscal year in time for presentation at the AGM. The Treasurer must report without delay to the President, and later to the AGM, any significant deviation in the current fiscal year from budget. The entries in the budget for the next fiscal year should be compared with the similar items in the current and previous year's budget and presented in one currency.

## **VII) THE CHAIRMAN**

"Chairman" is an honorary title given to an individual who has done outstanding service to the IBPA. The title is awarded by resolution of an AGM upon prior recommendation of the Executive Committee. The Chairman is ex officio an Officer of the IBPA. He is summoned to meetings of the Executive Committee, and has full voting rights.

The Chairman selects and heads the Control Committee (CC), which is to check and balance both the financial situation and any other matter or decision dealt with by the Executive Committee. The Chairman shall be kept regularly informed by the President, the Treasurer and all other Officers.

The Chairman selects and heads the Nominating Committee (NC) to determine annual nominations for

Officers and the Executive Committee. He shall keep in contact with the President and the Executive Committee, and pay attention to their advice. If necessary for any reason at all, the NC may refuse to renominate any elected Officer or Executive Member. In making nominations for the Executive some priority should be given to the principal Appointees. The Chairman is to verify the willingness of potential nominees to serve.

The Chairman should take immediate action if any infractions or violations of the Constitution have occurred. He should keep in contact with the members of the Control Committee, and he should once every year prepare a written statement about the "state of the realm" to be presented to the AGM. In the absence of the President and vice-Presidents, or at the invitation of the President, the Chairman may head any IBPA meeting.

## **VIII) THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

The Executive Committee (EC) consists of the elected Officers, the Chairman and nine elected Executive Members. Each Executive Member is elected for three years. Periods are overlapping, so that three Executive Members stand for election/re-election each year.

An Executive Member may be called upon to do a job by the President and/or by the Executive Committee. An Executive Member may be designated to chair any EGM or AGM, to supervise Prize-giving Ceremonies, or to take the minutes from any Meeting in the absence of the Secretary.

The Executive committee shall approve the appointment of persons (the "Appointees") to fulfil specific roles such as the Bulletin Editor, Membership Secretary, and the Awards Chairman.

The Executive Committee meets at the venue of the AGM and the World and European Championships. The Executive Committee checks and balances the organisation, so it must be kept duly informed by the President and Officers.

## **IX) THE MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY**

The Membership Secretary is appointed by the President, subject to ratification by the Executive Committee, to deal with all membership matters. He collects and registers members' subscriptions and/or payments for additional services such as a printed copy of the Bulletin, together with their personal details such as land address, email address, and membership category.

He is responsible for keeping the Membership File containing these details up to date and that members

have access to their own record on this file. He is responsible for the annual call in the Bulletin for dues to be paid and an initial reminder to members who are late paying their dues. He should also provide lists of members in good standing and ditto lapsed to the President and the Press Room Manager prior to European and World Championships.

The Membership Secretary must keep the Treasurer informed of monies received.

The Membership Secretary is responsible for the design and distribution of the membership form.

The Membership Secretary should every year prepare a written report to be submitted to the AGM containing the membership figures for each category of membership at the time of reporting with comparative figures at the time of the previous AGM, a list of new members and their country, and any report he has received of deceased members.. This report must be sent to the President and Secretary no later than two weeks prior to the AGM.

#### **X) THE AWARDS CHAIRMAN**

The Awards Chairman is appointed by the President, subject to ratification by the Executive Committee, to deal with all awards organized and presented by the IBPA.

These are, at June 2012:

##### **1) The IBPA Personality of the Year**

This Award shall have no sponsor and be ratified by the Executive committee before presentation.

##### **2) Journalist Awards for reporting the Best Play, Best Defence, Best Auction, Best performance by a Junior, and authoring the Best Book.**

The Awards Chairman draws up a shortlist for the Awards and appoints a panel of members of appropriate skills, deemed to be independent, who vote on the shortlist. Sponsors are sought for the Awards with at least half the sponsorship going directly to IBPA and the remainder available for disbursement in prizes.

The Awards Chairman may nominate other occasional awards for ratification by the Executive committee.

Any person may win an award but IBPA Officers are excluded from the monetary element of prizes. Other Executive members are limited to one monetary prize at each Award Ceremony. The main monetary prize is for the journalist who submitted the winning report. The players featured are entitled to a certificate recording their achievement and a small monetary

thanks for attending the Awards Ceremony. If the author of the winning article, or book, is not an IBPA member in good standing, he is not entitled to a monetary prize, but can receive the balance available after joining IBPA and paying the subscription due for the current and two subsequent years.

The Awards Chairman and the Executive Committee should endeavour to keep the list of winners confidential until the Awards Ceremony.

Award Winners are entitled to a certificate recording the win with a suitable frame. Certificates will be issued both to the players and to the journalist, in addition to potential cash and/or other prizes.

The Awards Chairman is responsible, with the assistance of the Secretary, for organizing that the prepared certificates are available, printed and, where appropriate, framed and ready for handing out at the Awards Ceremony. The Awards Chairman, with the assistance of the Editor, should prepare a short presentation of the award winners, to be published in the Bulletin together with the article describing the award-winning play.

#### **XI) THE EDITOR**

The Editor of the Bulletin is appointed by the Executive Committee, which determines his remuneration and expense allowance. He reports to the President, and in cases of intended publication of controversial material, he is to consult the President before doing so.

The Editor is responsible for the contents, the keeping of time-limits and for the layout of the Bulletin. It is the duty of the Editor to know the publication requirements of the Constitution and these Job Descriptions. When Awards are mentioned he should use the current sponsor's title.

The President or the EC may authorize additional pages and special issues.

The IBPA budget may contain a travel allowance for the Editor to the venue of the AGM provided that his travel expenses are not covered by another source.

#### **XII) THE CONTROL COMMITTEE**

The Control Committee (CC) consists of at least three members. The Chairman selects and heads the Control Committee, which is to check and balance both the financial situation and any other matter or decision dealt with by the Executive Committee.

The Control Committee should take immediate action if any infractions or violations of the Constitution have occurred.

The Control Committee, or the Chairman with the consent of at least one other member of the Control Committee together with at least two other Executive members, has the right to call an Extraordinary General Meeting (EGM). Notice of such an EGM must be published in the IBPA Bulletin at least two months in advance.

### **XIII) THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE**

The Nominating Committee (NC) consists of at least three members, appointed and headed by the Chairman.

The NC is to determine nominations for Officers and Executive Committeemembers as required by the Constitution. It shall keep in contact with the President, the Control Committee and the Executive Committee, and pay attention to their advice.

If necessary for any reason at all, the NC may refuse to re-nominate any elected Officer or Executive Member.

### **XIV) THE AUDITOR**

The Auditor is elected for each fiscal year by the AGM. He shall report to the president if he has not received, not later than three months after the end of the fiscal year, from the Treasurer, a written account of the last fiscal year with accounts, vouchers and bank statements. He should return this documentation to the Treasurer after straightening out any doubtful points. His own statement shall be sent to the President in due time before the AGM. His report will be submitted to the AGM by the President or his proxy.

### **XV) THE GENERAL COUNSEL**

The General Counsel is appointed by the Executive Committee, subject to the approval of the AGM, to deal with all matters concerning the Constitution and other legal matter involving the IBPA. The General Counsel interprets the Constitution whenever it is considered necessary. He suggests, as necessary, amendments and modifications to the Constitution.

The General Counsel represents and advises the IBPA in all matters needing an attorney at law, including lawsuits for or against the IBPA. The General Counsel should file major documents with the Secretary.

## **XVI) IBPA MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES**

There are three main categories of membership:

### **1) Full members**

Full members are those in good standing who are eligible as a bridge columnist, correspondent, editor, author or publisher of bridge books, pamphlets, or work in the media. Once eligible to be a Full Member a person retains this eligibility after retirement. Any dispute about eligibility shall initially be handled by the Membership Secretary, then referred to the President, and in the last resort dealt with by the Executive Committee as specified in the Constitution. Full members are expected to contribute to the IBPA Bulletin free of recompense at least once a year.

### **2) Honour Members**

Honour members are Full Members who do not have to pay the annual subscription. They have been elected by the AGM after nomination by the Executive committee for long-standing exceptional service to IBPA, or to bridge in general.

### **3) Associate members**

Associate membership is open to people who are not eligible to be Full Members. They do not have any other rights than receipt of the Bulletin. Associate members pay the same dues as full members.

## **XVII) PRESIDENTS EMERITI**

President Emeritus is an honorary title- bestowed upon all living former IBPA Presidents. The title may only be removed by a resolution of a General Meeting following a proposal by the Executive Committee.

END

## ADDRESS LIST OF IBPA MEMBERS

Please find this information in the database “IBPA\_members” [in IBPA's Database](#)

You can email to the membership secretary at [jdhondy@gmail.com](mailto:jdhondy@gmail.com) if you have forgotten the log in details.