

C.A.C. BRIDGE

EDITOR
JEFF HAND
ABRIL 1976
APRIL 1976

C. A. C. B. F.
APARTADO 8103
PANAMA 7
REPUBLICA DE PANAMA



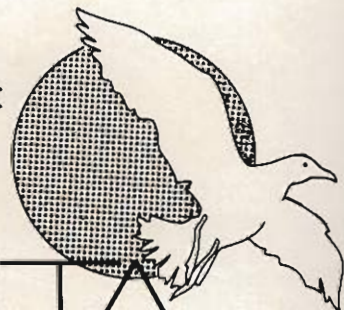
WORLD BRIDGE
FEDERATION

PUNTA CHAME



Panama's most exciting resort development

More than ten miles of spacious crystalline beaches await you at Punta Chame. Only a short two hour drive through Panamá's charming countryside. Come visit us at our Beach-side Motel, call or write us, we would like to tell you more about an investment in our vacation or retirement plans.



PUNTA
CHAME
TURISTICA S.A.

P. O. Box 10520 - Panamá 4, R. P. Tels.: 64-7560 23-1747

CONTENTS

EDITORIAL 2
 FIFTH OFFICIAL C. A. C. TOURNAMENT 2
 1975 C. A. C. B. F. TOURNAMENT 3
 GOLDEN ANNIVERSARY OF CONTRACT BRIDGE 5
 JULIUS ROSENBLUM 5
 BERMUDA BOWL 1976 6
 BRIDGE IN THE BAHAMAS - RICHARD CRAWFORD 7
 BRIDGE IN BARBADOS - ALAN MOSS 7
 BRIDGE EN COLOMBIA - BERNARDO GAONA 8
 THE BRIDGE SCENE IN JAMAICA - CALVIN WONG 8
 BRIDGE EN MEXICO - MIGUEL REYGADAS 9
 ST. KITTS-BRIDGE GIANT OF THE EASTERN CARIBBEAN - FITZROY BRYANT 9
 THE MEXICO INVITATIONAL - DR. RALPH ST. LUCE 10
 SOUTH AMERICAN CHAMPIONSHIPS 11
 THE CAVENDISH INVITATIONAL 12
 NEWS BITS 13
 THE LANCIA ALITALIA BRIDGE TEAM 13
 PROGRESS IN THE LAWS - BILL SCHODER 14
 IMP TACTICS 15
 BYZANTINE BLACKWOOD 16
 THE OTHER SIDE OF THE COIN - TERENCE REESE 17
 EXTEND YOUR SUIT-LENGTH SIGNALS - DR. PIERRE JAIS 18
 BEWARE OF YOUR TRUMP TRICKS - JEAN BESSE 18
 CONSIDER WHETHER TO LEAD AN HONOUR - JEREMY FLINT 19
 COUNT THE OPPONENTS' HANDS, BUT . . . - PIETRO FORQUET 20

Madurito

**Distributor in Panama
and Colon Free Zone
of these world
famous products**

Hi-Fi





marantz
We sound better.

SUPERSCOPE.
You never heard it so good.







Camaras













tm I.L. MADURO JR.,
 Zona Libre de Colón, Rep. of Panama Tel: 47-1970 71, .72
MADURITO, S.A.
 Ave. 7 España 200, Panama City, Rep. of Panama

WE'D LIKE TO CUT IN

To want "in" is a basic human urge. People want to belong. Man is a social animal. That's why the game of Bridge—the social game *par excellence*—exists.

Wanting "in" is also a legitimate human aspiration. Modern history is largely the story of this aspiration's being realized—from the Third Estate's efforts to be included fully in the French community to the inclusion of emerging states in the United Nations.

So it's scarcely surprising that the Central American and Caribbean Bridge Federation wants to be included in the W.B.F. with full zonal status. Wanting "in" is part of human nature, and in tune with the times as well.

We don't want to belong just for form's sake. We don't want to take without giving. We are of age, and we can pull our weight. We can contribute. We can help make the W.B.F. truly a WORLD body.

We'd like, in short, to cut in at your table. We'll pay our full share of the fees. We'll try to win our full share of the benefits—but always playing fully by the rules. We're a little newer to the club than most of you are and maybe a little different, but we love and respect the game as much as anyone. Cut us into the W.B.F.

. . . . BUT NOT AT UNFAIR ODDS

When a player cuts in at the table, it's expected that he'll pay the card fee. And he expects fair play. No decent club would permit the original players to stack the deck against a new entrant, or to combine against him in any other manner. No decent bridge player would even think of using such tactics. The W.B.F. stands universally for fair play.

That is why we strongly object to certain proposals recently submitted to the W.B.F. Executive Council. We refer to the proposal that W.B.F. events be held only in Europe or the United States, and the proposal that only zones which have placed countries in the top twelve at the previous Olympiad will be eligible to participate in the Bermuda Bowl. What these proposals advocate is a caste system, a stacked deck.

They also advocate—whether their proponents realize it or not—the dissolution of the W.B.F. There is no such thing as a "world" federation that ignores great segments of the world. Should the W.B.F. choose to restrict its events to Europe and the United States, it would cease at once to be a world body. Continuing to call itself one might do some violence to language but would fool no one, not even the Europeans and North Americans themselves.

Moreover, the institution of a caste system would make the W.B.F. repugnant to the eyes of most of the world. And it would make the W.B.F. look foolish. Quite simply, the caste system has gone out of style, and those who seek to perpetuate it show no more understanding of reality than does the ostrich.

The world—the modern world—won't go away, no matter how fiercely one tries to shield one's eyes from it. In asking the W.B.F. to give us full membership, we are also offering the W.B.F. a chance for full membership in the world.

Editorial Board: Alberto Calvo, Richard Koster

FIFTH OFFICIAL C. A. C. TOURNAMENT

Saturday 24 April	Registration, Delegate Meeting, Cocktail Party
Sunday 25 to Monday 26	Open Pairs
Tuesday 27 to Friday 30	National and Open Teams of Four
Saturday 1 May	National Teams Semi-finals, Proposed Swiss Teams
Sunday 2 May	National Teams Finals
Monday 3 May	Victory Banquet

**1975 C. A. C. B. F.
TOURNAMENT**

The fourth annual C. A. C. championships were inaugurated last April 11 in great - Gatsby - like splendor at the lavish Pietri estate in Caracas, Venezuela. Dr. Luis Pietri, vice president of the Venezuelan Bridge Federation, and charming Morella Pietri were splendid hosts at the unforgettable "cocktail party".

Then on Saturday April 12th the four session Central American and Caribbean open pairs championship began. Of the 92 pairs from 13 C. A. C. countries that entered the event, it was Ivy Smith and "Maestro" Edgar Loynaz of Venezuela who won the beautiful Altamira Tennis Club Cup. The winners:

1. I. Smith-E. Loynaz, Venezuela 409.5 pts.
- 2-4 F. Hirschhaut-A. Dhers, Venezuela 408 pts.
- 2-4. J. Boulogne-A. Rimbaud, Guadeloupe 408 pts.
- 2-4. D. Zanalda-S. Hamaoui, Argentina-Venez. 408 pts.
5. H. Manrique-M. Onorati, Venezuela 395 pts.
6. R. Benaim-D. Berah, Venezuela 385.5 pts.
- 7-8. M. Pietri-H. Zuloaga, Venez.-Colombia 377 pts.
- 7-8. T. Mandovsky-R. Savdie, Colombia 377 pts.
9. F. Vernon-R. Salomon, Venezuela 375.5 pts.
10. B. Johnston-M. Wilson, Trinidad 374 pts.

CONSOLATION PAIRS

1. R. Fidelin-E. L'Estang, Guadeloupe 259.5 pts.
2. M. Benchimol-M. Shaio, Venezuela 255.5 pts.

HOTEL: The brand new first class "Royal St. Kitts Hotel & Golf Club" has been leased en block, from April 24th to May 3rd. The hotel has 76 double rooms and 12 suites. Continental breakfast, buffet lunch and dinner, no service charge except for room service (25%), live music nightly, beach, 18 hole golf course (EC\$10.00 green fee), Casino (if opened in time); all for: US\$35.00 single per night, US\$55.00 double per night, US\$105.00 for suite of 3 - US\$20.00 for each additional person in suite. Each double room has one king size bed and each suite has two queen size

3. E. James-J. Livingston, Antigua 250 pts.
4. L. Morganti-U. Morganti, Venezuela 247 pts.
5. D. Levy-K. Wong, Jamaica 246 pts.

With some help from his opponents, Cecil Chuck of Jamaica made his contract through some outstanding card play on this deal:

NORTH			
	♦ K 9 8		
	♥ A 4		
WEST	♦ K 10 3	EAST	♦ 4 2
♦ Q J 7 5 3	♠ A J 10 8 4	♥ K J 9 6 5	♦ 8 2
♥ 8 3 2		♦ 8 2	♠ K Q 9 6
♦ 7 6 4			
♠ 7 2			
SOUTH			
	♦ A 10 6		
	♥ Q 10 7		
	♦ A Q J 9 5		
	♠ 5 3		

EAST	SOUTH	WEST	NORTH
Pass	1 ♦	Pass	2 ♣
Pass	2 N T	Pass	4 N T
Pass	5 ♥	Pass	6 N T
Dble	Pass	Pass	Pass

Chuck won the opening lead of the queen of spades with his ace, finessed in spades, and cashed a third spade. He cashed two high diamonds, ending in his hand, and led a club to dummy's ten, taken by East's king. East was reduced to hearts and clubs and erred by returning a heart. Chuck won the ten of hearts, cashed the ace, and ran his diamonds, squeezing East in hearts and clubs. East bared his queen of clubs but Chuck assessed the situation correctly and dropped it. East could have broken up the squeeze if he had returned a club when he won the king.

On April 14 the premier event began with eleven countries competing in the national teams. There was a

beds and a full size sleeper.

ENTRY FEES: National Teams US\$60.00, Open Teams US\$50.00, Open Pairs US\$30.00, Swiss Team to be decided.

PRIZES: National Teams: The main prize is the magnificent Sterling Silver Challenge Trophy donated by Panama. There will be trophies for the players in teams placing first, second and third. **Open Teams:** Trophies will be awarded to winners and runners-up. **Open Pairs:** Trophies will be awarded to the pairs placing first, second and third as well as the top female pair and the top

complete round robin with a stake of 20 victory points per match, the four top teams qualifying for the playoffs.

Carryover was computed at 50% of the IMPs if the winning team placed higher in the round robin, 33% if the winning team placed lower in the round robin. The semi-final and final matches were 60 boards long. Bidding boxes were used throughout and screens were used in the semifinals and finals.

The round robin results:

1. Colombia 175 V. P.
2. Venezuela 166 V. P.
3. Jamaica 156 V. P.
4. Panama 146 V. P.
5. St. Kitts 97 V. P.
6. Barbados 89 V. P.
7. Trinidad 88 V. P.
8. Netherlands Antilles 86 V. P.
9. Antigua 77 V. P.
10. Canal Zone 53 V. P.
11. Guadeloupe 52 V. P.

Jeff Hand of Panama had a difficult play problem on this hand against Jamaica:

SOUTH	NORTH
♠ A Q J 7 4 3	♠ 10 9 2
♥ A K	♥ Q 7 5 4 2
♦ A K 6	♦ 8 7
♣ Q 8	♣ A 4 3
2 ♣ (1)	2 ♥ (2)
2 ♦	2 N T
3 ♣	4 ♣
4 ♦	4 ♣
5 ♦	6 ♣
Pass	

- (1) Strong, artificial
- (2) 0-2 Controls, 6 + pts.

East-West vulnerable

Opening lead: 10 ♥ , East plays ♥ J.

Hand won the first trick with his A ♥ and continued with the K ♥ . If it won he was planning on continuing

mixed pair. No pair can win two prizes. **Swiss Team:** Trophies will be awarded to the winners and runners-up. Sean Hamel-Smith of Trinidad has donated a beautiful trophy for the "Most Cordial Team". The Barbados Bridge League has donated a ladies' prize.

DIRECTION: Margaret and Bill Schoder will be directing the Tournament with assistance from two Caribbean directors.

CORRESPONDENCE: St. Kitts Bridge Association, P.O. Box 282, Basseterre, St. Kitts. W.I. Telephone: 2074, 2447.

with a low spade towards dummy. If East ruffed he was planning on finessing East for the K♦ (with hearts 5-1 the short hand rates to be longer in the other suits-including having the K♦). This was not one of the many successful lines of play as East held singletons in both majors (with 6-5 in the minors he did not choose to venture a bid).

Jaime Roitman of Colombia brought in a difficult 3 N T contract against Antigua:

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

WEST **EAST**
 ♦ A K 7 3 2 ♦ Q 10
 ♥ K 6 5 2 ♥ J 10 8
 ♦ A 8 ♦ 10 7 6 5 3
 ♣ 6 5 ♣ 9 8 3

SOUTH
 ♦ J 9 8 4
 ♥ A 9 4
 ♦ J 9 4 2
 ♣ Q 7

The lead of a small spade was taken by East's queen. The spade return was taken by West who cleared the suit. After five clubs were run this position was reached:

NORTH **SOUTH** **Immaterial**
 ♦ —
 ♥ Q 7
 ♦ K
 ♣ 2
 ♦ 2
 ♥ K 6
 ♦ A
 ♣ —
 ♦ —
 ♥ A 9
 ♦ J 9
 ♣ —

On dummy's last club West discarded a spade. Roitman then threw him in with the ♦ A, and West had to lead into the divided heart tenace.

Antigua struck back when they reached a grand slam missed by Colombia:

J. Livingston **E. James**
 ♠ Q 9 6 3 ♠ A K 5 2
 ♥ K Q 5 ♥ A 9 8
 ♦ Q 7 ♦ A K 6 5 3
 ♣ A 9 3 2 ♣ 7

I N T 2♦
 2♣ 4♣
 4♥ 5♣
 5♥ 7♣
 Pass

They were playing a modified blue team club. 2♦ showed 12 or more points. 2♣ showed a minimum with a spade suit. 4♣ and 5♣ asked for aces and kings.

St. Kitts showed a lot of spark as they drove for fifth place. They were a much improved squad over last year.

Colombia played remarkably steadily. With the exceptions of 16-4 and 14-6 losses to Panama and Venezuela, they averaged 19 3/8 victory points per match! They naturally picked Jamaica as their opponent in the semi-finals and began with a maximum 30 IMP carryover. Panama and Venezuela squared away in the other semi-final match.

The tournament was graced with the presence of the top World Bridge Federation officials: Julius Rosenblum, president; Johannes Hammerich, 1st vice president; Jaime Ortiz-Patiño, 2nd vice president. Rosenblum arrived with his charming wife, Natalie, early in the tournament and Ortiz-Patiño arrived for the finals. Johannes Hammerich of Caracas, Venezuela was present throughout.

Simultaneous with the national team round robin was the open team round robin. Eleven teams entered. Third place was taken by J. and N. Rosenblum, T. Phocas, C. Blohm, G. and E. Otero. Two Venezuelan teams played in the finals on viewgraph. The team of E. Sasson, L. Rodríguez, Ch. Núñez, M. Hameau, E. Leon, and R. Hamea defeated the team of M. Pietri, G. Fornari, M. Bettini, F. Hirschhaut, A. Dhers, and S. Hamaoui.

Morella Pietri demonstrated excellent declarer technique on this hand from the open team finals:

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

SOUTH
 ♠ K 10 8 5 2
 ♥ 10 4
 ♦ J 10 2
 ♣ 7 6 4

NORTH **EAST** **SOUTH** **WEST**
 2♣ Pass Pass 2♥
 Pass 3♥ All Pass

North cashed two club tricks and shifted to a spade. South won the king and played a spade to declarer's queen. Mrs. Pietri drew three rounds of trump and cashed the ace of spades. At this point she knew that North had two spades, three hearts, and six clubs-for the precision 2♣ opening shows 11-15 points and either a five-card club suit and a four-card major or a six-card club suit. Therefore North held two diamonds, and the diamond holding had to be Kx because North had just nine points in the other suits. Therefore Morella played a small diamond to the ace and let a small diamond ride to North's king, beautifully making her contract.

In the national team semi-final matches Colombia squashed Jamaica and Venezuela came from behind to beat Panama.

	Carry-over	1-20	21-40	41-60	Total
Colombia	30	31	27	70	158
Jamaica	0	21	11	42	74
Venezuela	3	45	28	87	163
Panamá	0	52	60	33	145

Colombia continued its consistency and beat Venezuela in the finals 121-107. It was an even match after 58 boards but on #59 Venezuela sailed into an unmakeable slam and Colombia won. Congratulations to T. Mandowsky-R. Savdie, A. Cahn-Speyer-J. Roitman, J. M. Núñez-M. A. Mejía, and captain J. Restrepo. They played a tough tournament, made fewer errors, and deserved their victory.

Here is a hand where Venezuela had a good auction to reach a grand slam against Panama in the semi-finals:

Benaim **Vernon**
 ♠ A 9 5 ♠ K Q J 8 5
 ♥ A K ♥ 8 5 3
 ♦ A J 9 7 6 2 ♦ K
 ♣ A Q ♣ K 8 6 3

1♣ (17+)
 2♦
 3♦
 5 N T
 7♣

1♠ (3 Controls)
 2♣
 3♣
 6♥ (2 top honors)
 Pass

Jamaica defeated Panama in a 32 board playoff match for third place. Incidentally, the Jamaican pair that psyched excessively during the championship has been dealt with decisively by the Jamaican bridge Federation and will not be seen again for a long time.

On Sunday April 20 the tournament officially ended with a prizegiving luncheon. Julius Rosenblum spoke about the tremendous growth of our

Federation and the truly exception tournament which was now ending. Trophies and prizes were awarded. A special prize for the best play of the tournament was won by Jeff Hand of Panama.

The presence of Julius and Natalie Rosenblum helped make the tournament great. Besides official importance it was a pleasure for us all to renew our very dear friendships.

Thanks to Bill Schoder and his wife Margaret. Along with the local staff they directed a typically flawless tournament.

Thanks to the tournament committee and the Venezuelan bridge federation for the wonderful tournament. And special thanks to Alberto Dhers who headed the tournament committee and, along with David Zanalda of Argentina, edited the daily bulletin.

GOLDEN ANNIVERSARY OF CONTRACT BRIDGE

On October 31, 1925 the S. S. Finland, en route from San Francisco to Havana, reached Balboa too late to proceed through the Panama Canal. Before the next evening the late Harold S. Vanderbilt invented the game of contract bridge, which is now played by an estimated 200 million people, the most widely played of card games.

It was no coincidence that Vanderbilt, already an auction bridge star, took exactly three friends with him on a trip that began with a lighthearted inspection of American railroads and a more serious examination of California golf courses. The four Harvard graduates, Dudley Pickman Jr., Frederic B. Allen, Francis M. Bacon III, and Vanderbilt, boarded the Finland in San Pedro, California. On board, they experimented with "plafond", a French form of bridge that requires the players to bid to their "ceiling" to gain full credit. They judged this boring and reverted to auction.

When the ship anchored off Balboa the night of the 31st, the passengers weren't allowed to go ashore. Bacon and Allen protested indignantly, to no avail. A little later these two met a young lady who was not bashful in asking if she could join their game. Dudley, the weakest player, was happy to bow out, and before long she insisted on showing the others an obscure oriental version of the game. The rules of the game were crazy, but she did make one lasting contribution — the use of the word vulnerable.

The next morning Vanderbilt went to work. He took the plafond principle and devised a new scoring table with



Julius Rosenblum (2nd from right) presents a beautiful hand-made "plaque" to Rogelio Arias (left), Panama's Minister of Tourism, to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the invention of bridge in Panama. Onlooking are John Maduro, President of the Panama Bridge Federation, Alberto Calvo, C.A.C.B.F. President, and Natalie Rosenblum.

slam bonuses added. The decimal principle was adopted so that 100 points represented game, instead of the 30 in auction. Bonuses and penalties were made bigger for a side that had scored a game, the term vulnerable used to describe this condition.

The new game of contract was first played on the evening of November first. As Vanderbilt described it "We enjoyed playing my new game on board the Finland so much that, on my return to New York, I gave typed copies of my scoring table to several of my auction bridge playing friends. I made no other effort to popularize or publicize contract bridge. Thanks apparently to its excellence, it popularized itself and spread like wildfire."

Vanderbilt was the scion of a famous family, a prominent businessman, and a world famous yachtsman. He was solely responsible for the strong artificial one club opening, the artificial negative one diamond response, the strong balanced one notrump opening, and the weak two-bid. But he is probably best remembered as the "Father of Contract Bridge". Indeed, the scoring table he developed 50 years ago in Panama has required no major changes.

Thanks go to Dick Frey and Alan Truscott, without whose research would have made this account impossible, and to Francis Bacon III, the sole survivor of the original quartet, who provided most of the personal accounts when interviewed by Frey and Truscott.

BRIDGE DE FRANCE

Publi-Index 10, Rue Lord Byron 75008 Paris. Un abonnement d'un an Ci-joint la somme de 115 Francs (Etranger).

JULIUS ROSENBLUM

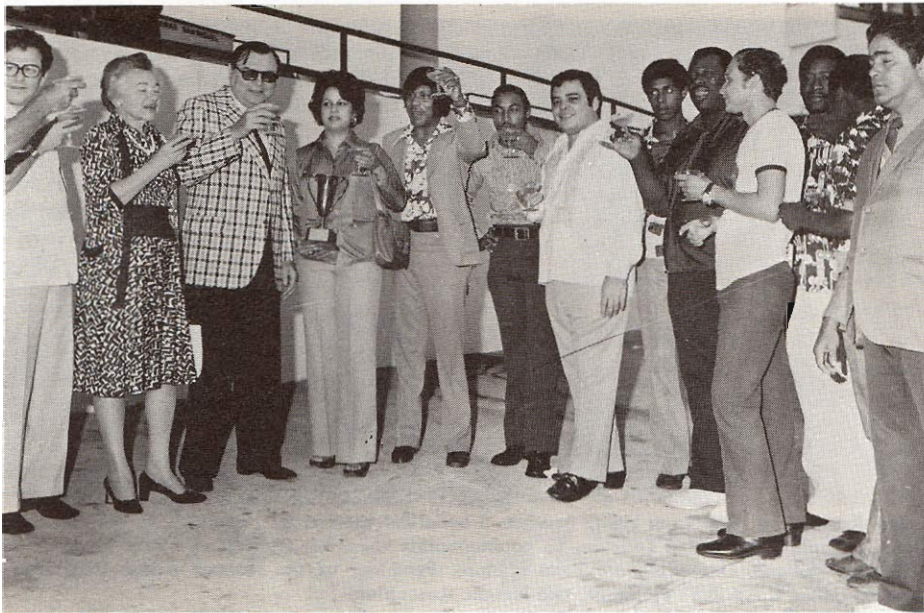
The International Bridge Press Association honored Julius Rosenblum, president of the World Bridge Federation (WBF), last November as "World Bridge Man-of-the-Year".

Indeed, in the last decade no one else has done more for the game of bridge. Rosenblum has been active in WBF affairs since 1963, the busiest administrator at many a world championship, even before he was elected president in 1970!

Mr. Rosenblum believes strongly that communication is vital to bring national contract bridge organizations closer together and to help them understand each other's problems. Working towards this end, the President, in company with his wife Natalie, has visited 45 countries. Furthermore, in 1971 he launched "World Bridge News", edited by Albert Dornier of England, thus giving the Federation its own direct access to bridge officials and writers throughout the world.

He has spearheaded many other accomplishments during his tenure, including putting the Federation on a firm financial base for the first time, the development of the master point plan, the update of the laws, the increased importance of zonal competitions, more attractive WBF programs, and increased member country participation.

As an observer on the executive council last year, I marveled at his administrative ability. Everything from the setting up of the agenda to the smooth, efficient, and fair running of the meetings showed that special administrative touch. And his very fair handling of the "footsie" scandal may have saved the WBF from widespread disintegration.



They're celebrating the 50th anniversary of bridge at the "Julius Rosenblum handicap"! Included in the photo are Michael Moss, Natalie and Julius Rosenblum, and Alberto Calvo.

His better half, Natalie, deserves her own very special tribute. Julius Rosenblum would be the first to agree that without the unfailing support and unobtrusive assistance of his wife, it would have been virtually impossible for him to have played so active a role in international bridge.

His term as president expires in May. The WBF executive council will either have to elect a new president or prevail upon Mr. Rosenblum to accept another term.

He is also a great player. He is the only North American who has played and defeated Italy but never played and lost in Bermuda Bowl competition. It happened in 1951 when he was non-playing captain of a five-man team. He is the only non-playing captain who played in the Bermuda Bowl. He was also non-playing captain of the United States or North American teams in 1960, 1966-67-68.

Here is a hand from an ACBL national tournament some years ago.

	NORTH		
	♠ 3		
	♥ A 9 8 7 2		
	♦ K 4 3		
	♣ A 9 8 2		
WEST		EAST	
♠ A K J 9 7 6		♠ 5 4	
♥ 4		♥ K Q J 10 6 5	
♦ A J 9 2		♦ 10 8 7 6	
♣ 4 3		♣ 5	
	SOUTH		
	♠ Q 10 8 2		
	♥ 3		
	♦ Q 5		
	♣ K Q J 10 7 6		
WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
1♠	Double	3♥	5♣
All Pass			

Rosenblum gave a good deal of thought to his opening lead. He knew his partner was long in hearts while he was short. He had length in spades and was certain his partner was short. From North's takeout double, it was reasonable to assume North was long in hearts and short in spades. That of course meant South was long in spades and short in hearts.

So Julius led the four of clubs—the only suit to beat the contract! Declarer needs three spade ruffs—and he has the necessary time if the opening lead is the spade king or heart four. But when Rosenblum got in with a spade honor, he led his other trump, and declarer could only come to ten tricks.

BERMUDA BOWL 1976

Italy is a strong favorite to successfully defend their title in the 22nd Bermuda Bowl next May 2-8 in Monte Carlo. They are fielding their strongest team: Belladonna, Forquet, Franco, Garozzo, Pittala, Vivaldi, and Salvetti (non-playing captain). The anchor pairs will be Belladonna-Forquet, and Garozzo-Franco. This star-studded team is putting in regular training sessions and can be expected to dominate the championship.

The North American Team Trials were held early last November in Palo Alto, California. The winners were Ira Rubin-Paul Soloway (reportedly the strongest partnership); Billy Eisenberg-Fred Hamilton, a partnership of recent origin; and Erik Paulson-Hugh Ross, an experienced partnership but short on international experience.

Israel qualified to represent Europe by finishing second to Italy in the European Championships held last July in Brighton, England. Italy automatically attends as defending champion. 23 countries competed. The leaders: 1) Italy 329, 2) Israel 314, 3) Gt. Britain 306, 4) Poland 292, 5) Norway 288, 6) Denmark 287, 7) France 284. Israel's team is Frydrieh, Hochzeit, Lev, Levit, Romik, and Shaufel. One of the most interesting hands of the championship was when Irving Rose of Gt. Britain made six diamonds on this hand against Sweden:

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

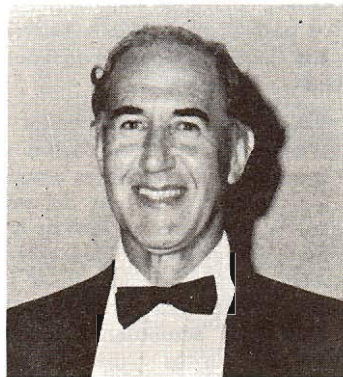
West led the queen of clubs, Rose winning the ace. He took the ace of trumps and two high spades, discarding two clubs. He ruffed out the queen of spades and continued with the ace of hearts and a heart ruff. He then discarded his last club on the jack of spades, ruffed a club, and ruffed a heart to set the stage for an end play in trumps. Dummy led a spade and when East ruffed with the jack of diamonds, declarer discarded his last heart. He won the last two tricks with the king-ten of diamonds.

Hong Kong won the Far East championships held last November/December in Bangkok. They finished the 12-team event just in front of Australia but well in front of the two previous champions Taiwan and Indonesia. The winners were Leslie Sung-T. S. Lo, Anthony Chow-Y. L. Chung, Raymond Chow-Derek Zen, Woo Tsing (non-playing captain).

Australia won the South Pacific championship last November 18-19. In a match of 120 boards they defeated New Zealand by 298 IMPs to 192. The winners were Denis Howard-Dick Cummings, Tim Seres-Roelof Smilde, Ron Klinger-Les Longhurst, Eric Ramshaw (non-playing captain).

Brazil completes the 6-team championship. Their victory in the South American championships is reported elsewhere in this magazine.

By Richard Crawford



There are only about 700 players in the Bahamas, but their devotion to the game has been stepped up to the point to where zeal and enthusiasm more than make up for the lack of number. Most of the players are from the "foreigner" or "expatriate" community.

Some of these devotees have been here for a very long time, and have served the cause of local bridge staunchly and energetically. There is, for example, Mr. Fred Rubbra, whose chubby countenance you may have seen in the ACBL Bulletin among the winners of this or that tournament in the States. He wins surprisingly often. He took up residence in Nassau many years ago, and was chiefly instrumental in persuading the then Development Board to lend its support to the inauguration of the Bahamas Contract Bridge Club. He also led the move to affiliate with the ACBL. Fred is still a Nassau resident, though for many weeks at a time he will be away playing in one of the big tournaments. He remains one of the strongest supporters of the Club, which meets every Wednesday evening at the Sheraton British Colonial Hotel to play duplicate. He is often accompanied by his wife, Kay, who is also an avid player.

Sometimes cruise ships putting into Nassau harbour will be found to contain a high proportion of bridge enthusiasts who quickly locate the Club. All of a sudden Mrs. Eva Dugdale, the hard-working secretary who runs the competitions, will find that she needs not only a larger club, but possibly a larger hotel!

At Freeport, on the island of Grand Bahama, bridge has never lost its grip, despite the fact that the population of players there is even more transient than in Nassau. The local club is gaining strength, and thanks to the energetic efforts of Mr. Jim Coultrup, a series of Special Bridge Weeks has been organised in conjunction with the

Xanadu Princess Hotel, to offer tourists a grand bridge-based vacation bargain.

This writer is constantly receiving sharp reminders of the seriousness which our players approach the game. I write a column on bridge for the evening paper, *The Tribune*, and there are times when I get the feeling of operating in a vacuum, a common feeling among columnists, wondering whether anybody reads the stuff at all. But let me make just one hasty analysis, one slip in the description of the play, or the defence or the bidding sequence, and my mail box is full for days, and my telephone never stops ringing for the rest of the week.

Perhaps the high spot of our bridge adventures in the Bahamas arrived in 1972, when we put together a team of 6 to represent the islands in the World Team Olympiad in Miami, Florida. Our team did not win all their matches, but they didn't lose them all, either. It was a wonderful experience, not only for our players, but also for those loyal supporters who made the journey across the sea to watch. Since that time, we have made further overseas trips in search of bridge glory. We have twice sent a team to compete in the Caribbean tournament; each time they played well enough to emerge with credit. And this year we sent a pair to Mexico City to take part in the Panamerican tournament. They were able to record a number of successes, even going so far as to defeat the World Champions, Hamman and Wolff in one thrilling match. Already there is considerable local discussion about the forthcoming 1976 World Olympiad, and hopefully the Bahamas will be there to shock some of the favourites.

Our local players generally remain faithful to conservative systems such as Acol, Schenken and Standard American. Precision has gained only a slight hold, but may spread before long. Patience is required in such matters; changes do not take place with breathtaking rapidity here; there is a small band of elderly players who are only now somewhat reluctantly discarding Culbertson for a brash youngster by the name of Goren!

But our tourists bring new ideas with them, and keep us on our toes. There's little doubt that bridge will always be a Bahamas favorite.

BRIDGE IN BARBADOS

by Alan Moss

Alan Moss is well known throughout the CAC, having played in several championships. He is a young player and one of Barbados' best players.

It is a measure of the importance of bridge to the Barbadian social scene that the former British Colonial Office, in its *Notes on Conditions in Barbados* — a publication intended for those coming to take up residence in Barbados, used to feel it worthy of mention that bridge is extremely popular here. Out of a population of about 230,000, we have about 2,000 players. We have three and more often than not four duplicate sessions a week.

In the earliest days, when exclusive rubber bridge was played, the chief centres of play were probably the Savannah Club and, from 1939, the Y. M. C. A. In the late 1940s the Mayfair Club began to hold rubber sessions, and in 1953 to play duplicate. In 1955 came the first of an as yet unbroken series of annual matches between the Trinidad and Barbados Mayfair clubs.

In the early 1960s a Roman Catholic priest, Father Pierson, was influential in establishing the St. Francis bridge club, and in the setting up of the Barbados Bridge League. Since then there has been a steady stream of new clubs, some of them born to prosper, some to fall away. The St. Francis club itself was one of the earliest casualties, but the Hastings Duplicate Bridge Club, formed soon after it, still runs the biggest weekly game. Ramblers, later to be re-organised as the Carlisle Bridge Club, is another which is very much a part of today's scene. Oldmanders, a development from a group of bridge-playing masters at one of the island's leading secondary schools, Harrison College, is now remembered in name only, but the Cave Hill Bridge Club, so named because it originally met at the Cave Hill campus of the University of the West Indies, and the youngest of the clubs currently active, continues to thrive. The Hastings and Cave Hill clubs, which consistently attract the largest number of tables, in addition to their regular games hold a number of trophy games, and the Hastings club awards a player of the year trophy, Cave Hill a pair of the year trophy. The Cave Hill club lays claim to being the first organization in the region to use bidding boxes at the club level, this development being a direct outcome of the pleasure which its members experienced on using them in the Caracas championship.

The present state of affairs, then, is that on Monday evenings the Carlisle club holds its game; Thursday evening is Hastings' night; and Saturday afternoons belong to Cave Hill. In addition to this, the Barbados Bridge League, to which all of the clubs are affiliated, and which controls bridge at the national and international level, organizes its own very full tournament

calendar. These sessions normally take place on Tuesday evenings, except when part of a weekend tournament. It is chiefly in League events that players are able to participate in teams play, although the Cave Hill club does stage a team event, and a head-to-head team of four match is probably the most popular form of private game organized by the members of the League. Since it feels that it has a duty to foster all forms of duplicate bridge, the League endeavours to have as varied a programme as possible. Thus its annual events include the Spring Teams, which is an IMP/victory point teams competition, usually lasting at least eight weeks; the Open Pairs, the island's national pairs championship, conducted over four sessions; a four-week Swiss teams, plus a one-day Swiss teams played in two sessions; a four-week Summer Round Robin team event; two weekend tournaments involving between them mixed pairs, board-a-match teams and IMP/victory point teams, an individual, and as many other events as can be conveniently fitted into the programme.

A variety of bidding systems are encountered among League members, but the coming system in Barbados is very definitely Precision, which is favoured by a number of the island's leading players. Others employed include Acol, with and without variations, CAB, Schenken, and Neapolitan. In addition, many players take the trouble to keep themselves au fait with the latest developments in bidding, play, and the bridge scene generally by reading the major English-language bridge journals, *Bridge World*, the ACBL *Bulletin*, and *Bridge Magazine*, which are circulated among those interested. The League also has its own journal, of course, the *Barbados bridge bulletin*, but we would hardly place it in the same bracket.

With effect from 1st January 1974, the League introduced a master point plan, designed to dovetail as neatly as possible into the CAC's own system.

On the international front, two of the clubs, Carlisle and, as has already been noted, Mayfair, have annual matches against clubs from other islands, Carlisle taking part in a three-way interchange with similar clubs in St. Kitts and Antigua. Many players also like to attend the excellent tournaments organized at intervals by clubs in Martinique and Guadeloupe. It is the Barbados Bridge League itself, however, which is responsible for the annual match between Trinidad and Barbados, and for sending a team to the CAC 'Regional'.

It can be truly said that the Regional has captured the imagination of the bridge-playing public in Bar-

bados. And perhaps their special feeling for the event is understandable, when it is recalled that it was in Barbados, at the first "unofficial" Regional, held chiefly as a result of the unremitting energies of the League's President, E. L. 'Jimmy' Cozier, that the first moves were made towards the formation of a Central American and Caribbean zone of the World Bridge Federation. Barbados has not failed to be represented at any of the subsequent Regionals, and it is my confident prediction that it will attend all future ones, such is the respect of its senior players for the stature of this event. It goes without saying that when the CAC does become an official zone of the WBF, enthusiasm for the tournament will increase even more. We look forward to the day when the leading players of the region can sit down at the same table as the likes of Garozzo and Belladonna with the Bermuda Bowl at stake. We might not beat them, but the experience could only serve to improve the standard of bridge in the region, just as the creation of the CAC has served to improve the standard of bridge in the individual territories. Let it be soon.

BRIDGE EN COLOMBIA

Bernardo Gaona
 Presidente de la Federación
 Colombiana de Bridge

La Federación Colombiana de Bridge ya cumplió 12 años de vida y para quienes hemos tenido la suerte de apreciar sus realizaciones y seguir de cerca el desarrollo de la afición en Colombia, es muy satisfactorio tener la oportunidad de mostrar a otros países, el resultado de lo que han logrado los esfuerzos de un puñado de entusiastas organizadores en una docena de años.

Los estatutos que rigen la organización interna de la Federación, han sido aprobados por el Gobierno Nacional y por ello las delegaciones que participan en torneo fuera del país, lo hacen como representantes oficiales de Colombia, con la responsabilidad y el honor que ello implica. El Instituto Colombiano de la Juventud y el Deporte, entidad que rige todo el deporte en el país, exige selecciones y entrenamientos especiales a los jugadores que compiten en el exterior y por ello patrocina, aunque no auxilia, a nuestros representantes. Las selecciones y entrenamientos se hacen siempre por la Federación y bajo sus reglamentos.

La Federación está compuesta por 21 clubes de Bogotá, Barranquilla, Cali, Cartagena, Girardot y Medellín, ciudades en donde se concentra la mayoría de la afición. A través de los

clubes e independientemente de éstos en algunos casos, existen alrededor de 1,500 jugadores afiliados, a quienes se les expide anualmente un carnet, que les permite participar en más de 350 eventos patrocinados por la Federación y en los Campeonatos organizados por la misma.

Existe una reglamentación para otorgar puntos de clasificación a los participantes en las distintas competencias, los cuales son la base del ranking nacional y de las tres categorías en que se dividen los afiliados. Para reconocer la calidad de algunos jugadores sobresalientes, se otorgan títulos de Maestros a quienes acumulan determinado número de puntos habiendo ganado ciertos campeonatos.

Se ha organizado un sistema de handicap para todos los jugadores, calculado por una computadora electrónica, que recibe información en porcentaje, de los resultados de las actuaciones de todos los afiliados en todos los eventos y con base en un promedio ideal de 60% para el jugador scratch "0", le calcula un porcentaje a cada persona, el cual tiene una vigencia de 6 meses y sirve para agregárselo como handicap en los torneos donde se dan trofeos a los ganadores con ventaja, que lo son prácticamente todos, con excepción de los campeonatos.

Es sorprendente el interés de la juventud por el bridge, se están programando cursos especiales en las universidades y actualmente se dan clases a alumnos de 8 años en adelante, con un número creciente de asistentes.

El tremendo éxito del XXVI Suramericano, jugado el pasado Noviembre en Bogotá, es una demostración evidente de la organización y entusiasmo de la afición colombiana.

Hoy día, toma el mismo tiempo viajar de Bogotá a Barranquilla, Panamá o Caracas y ello debemos aprovecharlo para programar enfrentamientos amistosos de fácil realización, con lo cual se atenderían los fervientes deseos de jugadores que viven a la caza de competencias que les permitan evaluar un nuevo sistema, un nuevo partner, o sencillamente pasar unos días agradables con su viejo partner y su viejo sistema.

THE BRIDGE SCENE IN JAMAICA

Past, Present, and Future

By Calvin Wong... August, 1975

Calvin Wong is the secretary of the Jamaica Bridge Association, a tutor in the Jamaican Bridge Academy, and a member of the Jamaican team that placed third in the CAC games in Caracas.



CALVIN WONG

For the past 30 years or so, Jamaica has had a viable bridge unit, with fair turnouts at tournaments. These tournaments usually consisted of weekly 'club' events and end-of-month 'cup' events. Today it is estimated that there are some 8,000 players in the island, with the majority concentrated in the capital city, Kingston. Unfortunately, most of these present day players prefer the social and 'spirited' atmosphere of rubber bridge to the more strenuous and competitive area of tournament bridge.

Our Association has made valiant efforts in the past to get more young players into the fold — for example, holding beginners tournaments and offering prizes to high-placing juniors, but in the end, only a few of the stouthearted remained. The 'old guard' should bear a lot of the blame for this, as the terror instilled in the young players, plus the humiliation, intolerance and condescending attitude shown to new players have done little to encourage them to stay.

One of the shortcomings of the new players has been the lack of proper initial instruction. It is hoped that instruction classes started in November 1974 will alleviate this problem. At present, each class has an average of 20 students. Moreover, one of our regular tournament players gives bridge lessons at a local high school (as an extra-curricular club), and reports show favourable interest at that level.

The inception of the CAC games in 1971 by Barbados has opened a whole new dimension and heightened the interest in competitive bridge in Jamaica. The prospect of finishing in the upper half of the field at the 1976 Olympiad in order for the CAC to qualify as a zone has been taken as a personal challenge to us — although we realize that other countries in the area are capable of accomplishing this feat. We expect to field a team which will not only regain the CAC title, but also prove a formidable force in the World Olympiad.

In anticipation of the rigorous competition expected next year, five pairs from Jamaica recently participated in the ACBL Summer Nationals in Miami, and all pairs at least placed highly in

their sections. Good performances were turned in by Sam Mahfood and Dhirru Tanna who went right through to the finals of the Life Master Pairs, and by Ralph St. Luce and Larry Wong who, backed by a U. S. trio (Henry Francis, Mrs. Bobbie Shipley and Lyn Horobetz) placed second in the Swiss Team Event (ex 320), and 3rd in the Mexican Panamerican Invitational.

Our trials for team selection start in October, 1975 and will continue, after the Christmas break, in February and March, 1976. A large number of pairs are expected to contest this event, including several 'new' and 'hot' pairs.

There is no doubt that the annual CAC games have stimulated our players to practice conscientiously in order to achieve excellence and national rating. Our standards have improved since. As evidence, we have been 'in the money' in the 5 CAC tournaments so far. And in order to maintain this reputation, there can be no room for complacency. We cannot rest our oars, so to speak, as the other countries are moving up.

We eagerly await the 1976 CAC games and Olympiad. And we feel confident that CAC will qualify as a zone. Moreover, when the time comes to do battle with the giants, we feel sure that CAC will be able to hold its own, hopefully with Jamaica making a significant contribution.

BRIDGE EN MEXICO

El nivel de juego de Bridge en México es muy irregular desde el punto de vista Nacional ya que se encuentra un pequeño grupo de muy buenos jugadores y una gran cantidad de novatos y jugadores de baja calidad.

Para entender esta situación hay que conocer un poco los antecedentes del Bridge Mexicano:

Hace unos 30 años que el Bridge en México se empezó a desarrollar gracias al entusiasmo de un grupo de jugadores en su mayoría de origen europeo que fundó un club para jugar su pasatiempo favorito. Durante todo ese lapso los directivos del club se dedicaron a mantener el bridge pero no a desarrollarlo dando como resultado un pequeño grupo de jugadores.

Hara unos 5 años que gracias al impulso de una generación nueva de profesores que trabajaría profesionalmente en dar clases de Bridge este tomó un auge tremendo entre la juventud y se formó un nuevo club de Bridge manejado por gente joven que se dedicó más a la cantidad de jugadores que a la calidad de juego.

Este grupo sigue en su tarea de clases masivas que ha multiplicado el número de jugadores de Bridge, pero se encuentra ahora con el escollo de falta de competencias de calidad tanto para los profesores (que forman el equipo mexicano) como para sus socios ya que México forma parte de la Liga Americana de Bridge (A. C. B. L.) y para ganar el derecho de jugar en el Campeonato del Mundo se tiene que derrotar a E. E. U. U., así que cuando nos enteramos de la Federación del Caribe y sus metas vimos con agrado a esta organización y empezamos a hacer los arreglos para afiliarnos. Pero la A. C. B. L. no ve con buenos ojos esta unión y en una de sus últimas juntas decidió suspender todos los privilegios que goza México si nos cambiamos a la Federación del Caribe, Resultante de esto son dos corrientes, la que quiere seguir en la susodicha Liga Americana y los que vemos que nuestra unión con la Federación del Caribe puede dar un impulso a los buenos jugadores, competencias más equitativas y un ambiente menos viciado que el profesional americano.

En este momento estamos tratando de formar una Federación Mexicana para tratar de incorporarla al Comité Olímpico Mexicano y recibir un apoyo oficial que nunca hemos tenido y de que esta Federación sea el árbitro entre los 2 Clubes existentes y como una de las metas de esta Federación queremos nuestra afiliación a la Federación del Caribe lo más pronto posible.

Esperando extender con todos los miembros de la Federación los lazos de amistad que hicimos con Jeff Hand y Alberto Calvo los saluda el Club de Bridge Tenozcalli.

CLUB DE BRIDGE TENOZCALLI
Miguel Reygadas

ST. KITTS — BRIDGE GIANT OF THE EASTERN CARIBBEAN

by Fitzroy Bryant

Fitzroy Bryant is one of the most prominent government officials in the Caribbean. He is one of St. Kitts' best bridge players.

St. Kitts is a small island (65 square miles) with a population of 40,000. Organised bridge in the island is a mere 5 years old, the St. Kitts Bridge Association having been formed early in 1971. But St. Kitts will host the 1976 C. A. C. Tournament from 25th April to 3rd May and there are clear indications that the 1976 Tournament will surpass its predecessors held in Barbados, Panama, Jamaica, Trinidad and Venezuela.

By the end of 1975 St. Kitts had firmly established itself as the bridge giant of the Eastern Caribbean. It had won the Leeward Islands Tournament for the Bryson Trophy (played between Antigua, Montserrat and St. Kitts) 4 times out of 5. It had won the "Peggy Griffith" Trophy Tournament from Antigua and the Carlisle Club of Barbados 4 times out of 5. In the 1975 C. A. C. Tournament played in Venezuela St. Kitts had placed 5th behind Columbia, Venezuela, Jamaica and Panama.

How has this come about? How many bridge players are there in small St. Kitts?

To ask how many persons in St. Kitts are playing bridge is to spark off a heated argument. A lot of bridge is being played but the vast majority of players do not take part in the duplicate pairs and team-of-four sessions of the Association on Wednesday and Saturday evenings.

Rubber bridge is a very popular, well established sport. However many of its enthusiasts have not taken the plunge into duplicate. They seem a bit suspicious of the complicated systems being touted at the Association.

In addition, a highly competitive aura now surrounds the Association's sessions. Everyone is reading bridge, all kinds of systems and conventions are being experimented with, including several indigenous offspring of the major conventions. Most pairs are playing Precision but there are as many modifications as there are pairs.

Rubber bridge players complain that the Association is not a friendly enough place. There is too much argument, they say. And they are distressed to hear the "compliments" exchanged between partners when things go wrong — sometimes at the bridge table! Indeed, some of them insist that tournament bridge takes all the fun out of bridge and is a form of warfare.

But the Association goes on. After every regional or international tournament in which a St. Kitts team takes part there is a mini-crisis — post-mortems of the bad hands, dissatisfactions expressed with the way in which the team is selected, accusations of big-headedness and insufficient commitment against team players, and so on, and so on. Until the next tournament.

You could get a completely false impression from the heat of the arguments within and outside the Association. Nor are the suspicions of the rubber bridge players profound.

For bridge is a social leveller in St. Kitts. The Association's membership embraces all social and economic levels

(political leaders, top Government bureaucrats, sugar workers, professionals, middle management and junior executive personnel, waterfront workers, technicians, etc.), all races and all political persuasions.

The activities of the Association are strongly supported by the so-called "drawing-room" players, the term "drawing-room" being taken to include bars and rum-shops.

"BRIDGE NEWS", the weekly Newsletter published by the Association since November 1973, is well supported. It contains results of sessions, interesting hands from the sessions and commentaries, news about local, regional and international bridge, etc.

The edition for Wednesday 29th October 1975 carried the hand below from the 1975 "Peggy Griffith" Trophy Tournament played in Antigua from Friday 24th to Sunday 26th October —

Dealer West

Neither side vulnerable

NORTH

♠ —
♥ K J 7 5 2
♦ Q 3
♣ K J 10 8 7 3

WEST

♠ A K J 10 8 4
♥ A 9 8 2
♦ J 7 5

SOUTH

♠ — —
♥ 6 5
♦ A K 10 9 8 4
♣ A 9 6 2

EAST

♠ Q 9 7 3 2
♥ Q 10 4 3
♦ 6 2
♣ Q 5 4

The hand occurred in the Antigua-St. Kitts match. In one room the St. Kitts East-West pair played 5 spades doubled, down one. In the other room the bidding went —

West	North	East	South
1S	2S	Pass	3D
3S	4C	4S	5C
5S	Pass	Pass	6C
Double	Pass	Pass	

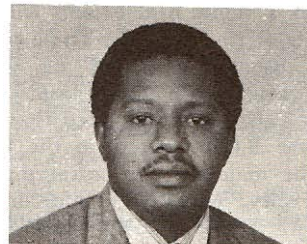
North's 2S is Michaels showing a five-card heart suit and a five-card minor. St. Kitts gained 14 IMPs on the board, North playing the club suit correctly and losing only to ace of hearts. (By the way, what do you think of East's pass in the first round of the bidding?)

St. Kitts will shortly be applying for membership in the World Bridge Federation.

1976 will undoubtedly be a momentous year in our bridge history. We expect more than 20 countries to participate in the C. A. C. Tournament in St. Kitts.

What more fitting occasion could there be for St. Kitts to record its first C. A. C. win! Anyone willing to give odds?

THE MEXICO INVITATIONAL



by Dr. Ralph St. Luce

The Tenozcalli Bridge Club of Mexico staged its second Panamerican Invitational Tournament, this time from August 12th to 16th, just two days after the Miami Nationals. There should have been 18 pairs, but Alberto Dhers and Fida Hirschhaut of Venezuela couldn't make it. So it boiled down to 16, among whom were Bob Hamman and Bob Wolff, Peter Pender and Grant Baze (Baze had just won the Spingold), Eric Kokish and Peter Nagy (Canada), Mike and Gail Moss (New York), Alberto Calvo and Jeff Hand (Panama), George Rosenkrantz and Sol Dobson (Mexico), Tania Mandowski and Ana de Soto (Colombia), Jaime Roitman and Cahn Speyer (Colombia) — these two Colombian pairs had recently won the CAC games in Caracas, John Tomlinson and Richard Crawford (Bahamas), Larry Wong and Ralph St. Luce (Jamaica).

Things started on the night of the 11th with a cocktail party and "muchissimo" Mexican hors d'oeuvres. Tuesday night saw the Pro-Am pairs event, with professional cum amateur partnerships vying for the top spot. My partner was a charming, nervous and apologetic Mexican señora. Against a spade contract, she attempted to ruff a club with a heart! ! Results:

1) Mickey Moss and Loretta Hamul

2) Sonia Vomshebler and Diego Covarrubins

On Wednesday afternoon the big event began. There was a complete round robin of 15 ten-board matches, with 20 victory points at stake each match. The Colombian pair of Mandowski and deSoto took an early lead, and after 9 rounds the scoreboard looked like this:

- 1) Mandowski and deSoto 113
- 2) Kokish and Nagy 112
- 3) Pender and Baze 109
- 4) St. Luce and Wong 106
- 5) Tomlinson and Crawford 104
- 6) Leipen and Duran (Mex.) 99

After play on Thursday, more mouth-watering goodies followed by a good night's sleep for the gruelling day ahead. Then on Friday everyone went flat out on the home stretch. Here is a big club auction from Hamman and Wolff:

<p>♠ 7 ♥ 6 3 ♦ K Q 8 6 4 ♣ K 9 6 3 2</p> <p>— 3 ♦ 4 ♣ 4 ♣ ** 5 ♣</p>	<p>♠ A Q J 5 ♥ 9 ♦ A J 7 5 2 ♣ A J 10</p> <p>1 ♣ * (2 ♣ overcalled) 3 ♣ ** 4 ♥ ** 4 N T *** 6 ♦</p>
--	---

- * 17 HCP up
- ** Cue bid, 1st or 2nd round control
- *** General cue bid

The slam rolled home when declarer finessed the non-bidder for the club queen.

This hand helped Pender and Baze along the road to eventual victory:

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

Pender in the South seat found himself in four hearts. The jack of clubs was led and won in dummy, then a heart to the queen and the ace of hearts. Declarer now led the spade jack! West ducked and declarer was spared an awkward guess in the diamond suit.

Here is a hand that shows the calibre of the Canadian pair. Kokish, as we say in the West Indies, "put the wood" on his opponents in the bidding, but showed delicacy in the play.

<p>E-W Vul.</p> <p>WEST</p> <p>♠ K J 5 3 2 ♥ A 10 7 5 ♦ A 3 ♣ 5 2</p>	<p>NORTH</p> <p>♠ 6 4 ♥ 6 4 ♦ K J 9 8 6 5 4 ♣ 8 4</p> <p>SOUTH</p> <p>♠ A Q ♥ Q 8 4 3 ♦ 2 ♣ A Q J 10 9 3</p>	<p>EAST</p> <p>♠ 10 9 8 7 ♥ K J 9 ♦ Q 10 7 ♣ K 7 6</p>
---	--	--

West opened one spade, East raised to two spades, and Kokish, sitting South, jumped to 3NT to end the auction. The spade lead was won by the queen and a diamond was led toward dummy. West ducked. King. Now the eight of clubs for a successful finesse and a well earned score.

At my table, I held the West hand and this was the auction:

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
1 ♣	4 ♦ !	4 ♣	All pass

The four spade bid was conventional and showed excessive confidence in partner's dummy play. South unsuccessfully tried to swallow something before passing. See if you can make four spades on the lead of the spade 6. The ace is won and the diamond 2 is led. You win the diamond ace, heart to king, heart jack covered by queen and ace.

And you are now at the crossroads. The winning line is to cash the spade king, heart to the 9, spade to the jack, heart 10 discarding a club. Now a club towards the 7 endplays East who is forced to concede a ruff and discard. Unfortunately, I did not justify partner's confidence.

The following hand was played by Jeff Hand of Panama:

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

Hand played in 3NT after his LHO opened with a diamond and his partner made an intermediate jump overcall of 2 hearts. He won the opening diamond lead with the jack and led the four of hearts, jack, queen, king. He took the diamond return with the ace and, on the lead of the eight of hearts, LHO discarded a diamond and RHO failed to find the difficult play of winning the heart and shifting to spades. The eight of hearts won the trick and Hand was now in control. He led a spade to the queen and a club to the jack. LHO won the queen and was endplayed. He started with ace third of spades and king-queen third of clubs and had no way to beat the hand.

These were the final results:

- 1) Pender and Baze 213
- 2) Kokish and Nagy 210
- 3) St. Luce and Wong 180
- 4) Calvo and Hand 177
- 5) Hamman and Wolff 176
- 6) Roitman and Cahn Speyer 162
- 7) Mandowski and deSoto 150
- 8) Mariscal-Konstantinowsky (Mex.) 147

After play on Friday we were wined and dined again. Then on the next day it was horseracing, ballet, or bull-fighting for those who fancied. Our sincere thanks go to our Mexican friends for putting on such a fine show; especially to the producer, Luis Sneider, and associate producers Mrs. Alicia Duran, Gonzalo Herrarro, Miguel Reygadas (all bridge instructors) and all the other members of Tenozcalli. Finally, our thanks to our director, the ubiquitous Bill Schoder, whose brilliance was such that it literally shone through his scalp.

SOUTH AMERICAN CHAMPIONSHIPS

Brazil completely dominated the 26th South American Championships, held in Bogotá, Colombia on November 8-15. They led the first round robin with a score of 132 out of a possible 140 victory points, an incredible 94.3%! Coasting on in, they won the triple round robin with an 82.5% score. Halfway through the finals against Venezuela they led by a score of 84 to 20 IMPs, not counting their 20 IMP carryover! Brazil was represented by Assumpcao-Chagas, Branco-Branco, Cintra-Fonseca.

Marcelo Branco fulfilled his contract of six spades on this hand against Chile:

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

Branco won the heart lead in dummy and cashed the queen of spades. Upon seeing the jack fall from West, he cashed the heart ace, discarding a club, and trumped a heart, East discarding a club. Branco now cashed the ace of spades and continued with the club king, losing to East's

ace. A club return was won with dummy's queen, and a club was trumped by South. Three diamonds were cashed, ending in dummy, and declarer took the last two tricks with his K 9 of spades. It was a double trump coup.

Assumpcao and Chagas displayed good defensive technique on this hand against Venezuela:

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

Assumpcao led his singleton spade against South's 4H contract. South won and played a trump to East's ace, who gave his partner a spade ruff. East won the diamond return with his ace, and returned a diamond, trumped by South. Three rounds of trump were now cashed, South discarding a club. A spade was cashed and a club was led to the ace to reach this position:

NORTH		
♠ -		
♥ -		
♦ -		
♣ K 10 8		
WEST	EAST	
♠ -	♠ 2	
♥ -	♥ -	
♦ 10	♦ 4	
♣ 6 5	♣ Q	
SOUTH		
♠ 10		
♥ -		
♦ -		
♣ 9 7		

When South led his last spade, Assumpcao discarded a club. If he had discarded his diamond, South would have known that he had begun with one spade, two hearts, and seven diamonds, therefore only three clubs, and therefore would have been forced to drop the queen of clubs. Declarer chose to play Assumpcao for six diamonds and four clubs to the queen, finessed in clubs and went set two.

At the end of the first round robin Argentina was leading the battle for second place by 44 victory points. Venezuela was just over average, but they fought back and finally gained second place in the last qualifying match. The round robin results:

1 Brazil	346 V.P.
2 Venezuela	288 V.P.
3 Argentina	276 V.P.
4 Colombia	231 V.P.
5 Chile	184 V.P.
6 Peru	163 V.P.
7 Ecuador	91 V.P.
8 Bolivia	45 V.P.

Here is a hand that helped Venezuela blitz Ecuador in the third round robin:

NORTH			
♠ Q J 4 2			
♥ K J 7 2			
♦ 10 8 7 6			
♠ 5			
Rossignol	Berah		
WEST	EAST		
♠ A 7 6	♠ 10 5		
♥ 9 6	♥ A Q 10 8 5 3		
♦ J 9 4	♦ 5 2		
♠ K Q J 8 6	♠ A 10 9		
SOUTH			
♠ K 9 8 3			
♥ 4			
♦ A K Q 3			
♠ 7 4 3 2			
South	West	North	East
2 ♣	Pass	2 ♥	Dble
2 ♠	3 ♠	Dble	Pass
Pass	3NT	Dble	R dbl.
Pass	Pass	Pass	

South opened a Roman 2♣ showing 12-16 points and any 4-4-4-1 distribution. This is a difficult bid to defend against because any suit you bid is likely to be held by an opponent. Berah's double of 2 hearts was merely lead directing, similar to a double of Stayman to show clubs. When Rossignol forced the auction to 3NT Berah redoubled because he had the ace of clubs in reserve. Nine tricks made easily on the marked double heart finesse.

Brazil also won the womens teams. They dominated the round robin but had a tight match against Argentina in the finals. Argentina lost every match in the first round of the quadruple round robin, but came back to easily take the second qualifying place. They played a 54 board final. After 18 boards Argentina was leading by 4 IMPs, after 36 by 3 IMPs, but in the final 18 boards Brazil picked up 30 IMPs to win by 27.

The finals of the open championship was divided into three thirds of twenty boards each. Brazil had a 20 IMP carryover but with this provision, if Venezuela won the 60 boards by 20 IMPs or less, there would be a ten board playoff.

Venezuela won 11 IMPs on the first board when they bid a good slam that was missed by Brazil.

♠ A 9 5 4 3 2	♠ K Q
♥ -	♥ A J 8 6 3
♦ J 10 5 4 3	♦ A K
♣ A 4	♣ 10 5 3 2
BERAH	ROSSIGNOL
1 ♠	2 ♥
2 ♠	3 ♦
5 ♦	6 ♠

CHAGAS	ASSUMPCAO
Pass	1 ♠
1 ♠	2 ♠
3 ♥	4 ♠

In the Brazilians super precision auction 2♠ asked about Chagas' spade suit and 3♥ showed a six card suit to the ace. Assumpcao was content to play in game apposite a passed partner and Chagas had no room to explore for slam.

After six boards Venezuela was leading 20 to 6 IMPs, but they were shut out on the next 25 boards. Venezuela landed in numerous wrong contracts, they even bid 4♥ in a 3-1 fit! After 20 boards Brazil was leading 59 to 20 IMPs (plus carryover). After 30 boards it was 84 to 20 IMPs, a complete runaway. Venezuela made a comeback but it was too little too late.

THE CAVENDISH INVITATIONAL

Last May 9-11 the Cavendish Club of New York City hosted a charity calcutta invitational IMP pairs tournament. This highly prestigious event was contested by 32 top class pairs, including eight former world champions. On Friday night there was a calcutta auction for every pair, the pool reaching over \$50,000. The highest priced pairs sold for \$3,300—Peter Weichsel and Alan Sontag, who have dominated the Sunday Times for the past three years, and Ron Rubin and Matt Granovetter, who had recently won the Grand Nationals. Play was divided into four sessions, section top winners receiving \$1,000, section second \$600, section third \$300. The rest of the calcutta pool, after a deduction of almost \$3,000 for Children's Cancer Fund of America, was divided among the overall winners — 1st place receiving 35%, second 25%, and on down through 6th place. There was also an entry fee of \$300 which, after club expenses, was redistributed to the overall winners according to the same schedule.

The winners, with a score of 1701, were Jim Jacoby, a two-time world champion, and Jeff Westheimer, who almost won the World Pairs in the 1970 Olympiad. Second with 1555 were Alberto Calvo and Jeff Hand of

Panama. Third with 1250 were Ira Rubin and Fred Hamilton, members of this years North American team. Fourth with 1241 were Ron Rubin and Matt Granovetter.

A most remarkable deal in the final session, as reported by Alan Truscott in the New York Times, determined the relative standings of the top four pairs. Jim Jacoby needed the six of hearts to defeat a slam bid against him by Ron Rubin and Matt Granovetter.

EW Vulnerable

NORTH

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

WEST

EAST

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

SOUTH

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

EAST	SOUTH	WEST	NORTH
Pass	1♦	Pass	3♦
Pass	3♦	Pass	4♣
Pass	4 N T	Pass	5♥
Pass	6♦	All Pass	

Seven of the 16 North-South pairs bid slam on this hand, and five of them were successful. Granovetter and Rubin held the North-South cards against Jacoby and Westheimer, and reached six spades on the peculiar systematic auction shown in the diagram. Granovetter never bid his six-card heart suit.

Jacoby, sitting West, didn't have the slightest idea about the heart position and made his natural lead of the king of hearts. South won the ace and led a diamond to the jack. Westheimer won the ace and made the crucial play of returning the heart ten. This was covered by the jack and queen, and dummy was now forced to ruff. There was now no way to use the diamonds, since trumps could not be drawn so as to leave the lead in dummy.

If South had held the heart six instead of the five, his hearts would now have been established and he could have simply drawn trump. As it was there was no way to make the contract.

If South had held the apparently insignificant heart six, the final standings would have been: 1st, Calvo

and Hand 1,533; 2nd, Ron Rubin and Granovetter 1,427; 3rd, Jacoby and Westheimer 1,424.

NEWS BITS

The International Bridge Press Association (IBPA) invites Journalists, authors, and editors to join the Federation. An excellent monthly bulletin is distributed. The annual subscription is \$ 12.50 (£6.20) and should be sent to IBPA, 151 Blackheath Park, London, SE3. Checks should be in British or U. S. funds.

St. Kitts retained the Peggy Griffith Trophy, competed last October in Antigua. St. Kitts defeated Antigua 202 IMPs to 150, St. Kitts defeated Carlisle 155 IMPs to 105, and Carlisle defeated Antigua 140 IMPs to 104.

The daily bulletin in Monte Carlo will be edited by Albert Dormer and Tannah Hirsch, and will be available on airmail subscription. Sterling prices are: combined subscription, £7.70; Olympiad only £5.50; Bermuda Bowl only, £2.75. Send remittances to EBU, 15B High Street, Thame, Oxon, England.

Fitzroy Bryant and Ian Slack won the 1975 St. Kitts pair championship.

The second edition of "Barbados Bridge Bulletin" can be bought at E. C. \$ 1.00 plus postage. Remit: Alan Moss, 4 Hopefield Close, Paradise Heights, St. Michael, Barbados.

The 27th annual Juan-les-Pins International Bridge Festival will have large cash prizes and is only an hour or two from Monte Carlo. Individual: May 21-23; Open pairs: 24-28; Mixed pairs 29-31; Teams: June 1-3. Information: M. Raymond Leyrat, Eden Beach Casino, Juan-les-Pins, 06160 France.

Leewards Island Tournament "Bryson's Trophy", competed in November, results: Antigua defeated St. Kitts 154 IMPs to 93; Montserrat defeated Antigua 131 IMPs to 72; and St. Kitts defeated Montserrat 141 IMPs to 54.

The New "Laws of Duplicate Contract Bridge" are available" \$US 2.50 —a very attractive soft binding, \$US 4.00— Hard cover; f.o.b. New Orleans; 15% discount for 100-249, 25% for 250 or more; Remit: WBF, 5400 Jefferson Highway, New Orleans, LA. 70123, USA; specify cheapest freight or air freight.

The 5th FESTIVAL OF BRIDGE IN GUADELOUPE was held February 27 through March 7. Players from the Caribbean and Europe competed.

Congratulations to Gonzalo Herrera, Elias Konstantinovskiy, Laura Mariscal, and Miguel Reygadas, all from Mexico

City, on winning one of the ACBL's major events at the Fall Nationals last November —the 4-session Swiss Team (310 teams). Dr. Jorge Rosenkrantz, also from Mexico City, did very well at that tournament by finishing second in a 208 team Swiss event, and by winning the final 2-session Swiss Open (348 teams).

A recent tournament between San Salvador and Guatemala was cancelled due to the earthquake. Even the hotel where the tournament was to be played was devastated.

The Barbados Bridge League has formally adopted the use of bidding boxes in the events which it organizes.

Dunhill International, the cigarette company, is sponsoring in the fullest possible manner the Barbados Bridge League's premier team-of-four event. Renamed the Dunhill International Teams-of-Four, it is played over 8 or 9 weeks in January-March. Dunhill has agreed to pay all expenses such as rental of playing facilities, to provide playing cards and convention cards, to present to the League an impressive silver salver for perpetual competition, to provide miniatures to be kept each year by the winners, and to donate bidding boxes to accommodate 24 tables.

Two recent South American tournaments were won by Brazilian teams. The annual Carnival tournament at the beautiful beach resort of Punta del

Continued on top of next page.

THE LANCIA ALITALIA BRIDGE TEAM



From the left: Roberto Pellegrin, Antonio Saladino, Cesare Fiz, Giuseppe Garabello, Benito Garazzo, Giorgio Belladonna, Walter Avarelli, Dante De Martini, Omar Sharif, Antonio Vivaldi, Pietro Forquet.

This team has been having challenge matches throughout the world, any team that beats them wins five Lancia cars, worth approximately \$35,000. In the United States they lost three of four matches. On a limited South American tour they lost to Brazil. They competed in Australia March 5-15. They may be competing in several C. A. C. countries next October/November.

Este, Uruguay, was immediately followed by the Air France tournament in Buenos Aires, Argentina. Among the competitors were seven players from Mexico and Panama.

The prestigious Sunday Times Pairs was won in January by the youngest competitors, Barnet Shenkin and Michael Rosenberg of Glasgow, who are Britain's reserve pair for the Olympiad.

PROGRESS IN "THE LAWS"

by Bill Schoder



Bill and Margaret Schoder

Photo by R. Brady

In the last year there has been much commentary, argument, and confusion over the 1975 Laws of Duplicate Contract Bridge. It is the first code of laws carrying the indorsement of the World Bridge Federation Laws Commission; thus it is the first truly world-wide code. In the Western Hemisphere we had previously used the 1963 edition of the American Contract Bridge Laws, as did Great Britain, and most other federations.

Let us quickly review the Laws, note some important changes, and further appreciate the differences between the International Laws of Bridge and Rules that are promulgated by Sponsoring Organizations. As examples of *Rules*, consider the following. The American Contract Bridge League (ACBL) has adopted face down opening leads as a procedural *Rule*. The South American Bridge Federation does not permit any questions about the bidding during the first round of bidding in Team play — This is a *Rule*. The ACBL has approved listings of Conventions for various levels of play, — another *Rule*. I remember one city in the USA where they barred the use of the Jacoby and Texas Transfer Bids during mixed pairs competitions because when the husband bid hearts it meant hearts (explanation to the director — "I forgot") and when wifey bid hearts it was a true transfer so that daddy could get to play the hand! It is time for the C. A. C. to codify the rules that we have been successfully operating under these last years, through common sense and usage.

And now for the new Laws. They no longer include sections on Party, Progressive, or Pivot Bridge, though there are some added sections as we shall see. For ease of reference I've used the new Laws numbering system.

Law 6. The Shuffle and Deal. There is a section added which gives the director options on the preparation of the hands for a competition.

Law 9. Procedure Following an Irregularity. There are two new provisions. It is now clearly stated that summoning the director does not forfeit any rights to which a player might otherwise be entitled. Also, it prohibits dummy from calling the director after an irregularity has been committed *during the play* of the hand. Only the three active players have that right. Dummy retains the right to attempt to prevent an irregularity, i.e. he can inquire if a player who failed to follow suit has a card of the suit led, or attempt to prevent declarer from leading from the wrong hand. Otherwise he is limited to calling the director only after play is over.

Law 11. Forfeiture of the Right to Penalize. This section now includes a section on control of spectators as part of the Laws.

Law 13. Incorrect Number of Cards. Provision is made for correcting hands when hand records are used.

Law 20. Review and Explanation of Calls. A review after the final pass can only be requested when it is the player's first turn to *play*. During the play of the hand, either defender or declarer may request an explanation of opposing calls, and declarer may request an explanation of the defenders' card play conventions, each only at his own turn to play.

Law 21. Call based on Misinformation. This law has included provisions for handling misinformation caused by the used by some alert procedures sponsoring associations.

Law 26. Change of Call. The proliferation of conventional bids made the old law unworkable. The new law includes provisions for handling conventional bids.

Law 27. Insufficient Bid. Any insufficient bid may now be accepted by the opponent at the offender's left. It is accepted if that opponent calls. Also, the director has been given the option of applying the Law on Unauthorized Information even if the bid is made sufficient in the same suit.

A Section Six on Conventions and Agreements has been added on Concealed Partnership Understandings as part of the Laws, and also permitting Sponsoring Organizations to set their own rules for the use of bidding and play conventions, convention cards, and rules for the use of convention cards.

Law 42. Dummy's Rights. This law has been greatly modified with the intent of making dummy *only* the declarer's agent during the play of the hand, and severely restricting him from participation in the play. As usual with most changes, there are now penalties, "teeth", added to violations of these Laws.

Law 47. Retraction of Card Played. This Law has been amplified to cover more instances, and most importantly permits a card to be retracted if the leader was mistakenly informed that it was his lead by an *opponent*.

Law 64. Procedure after Establishment of a Revoke. If the revoking side took the trick on which the revoke occurred, the Law is the same as before. However, if the revoking side did not take that trick, then the penalty is *One* trick instead of the *Two* as before. The other provisions remain the same.

Law 66. Inspection of Tricks. Once a player has turned over the card he is playing to the current trick he no longer may inspect other players' cards played to that trick, or any previous tricks, until the hand is over.

The Section on Proprieties remains essentially the same, however it is more clearly written and now provides penalties for violations of these Laws.

A very fine Section on Partnership Understandings has been added which should be required reading for all good players.

Law 75. Tricks Won. There has been a very important change in this law. Once there has been an agreement upon the number of tricks taken and the round is over, there can be no correction made should a subsequent disagreement arise if the result was reported in accordance with the original agreement. There are certain circumstances in which corrections can be made, but the most important one is it is no longer possible to find one's opponents after the game is over, get them to agree on a change to their original agreement, have the director change the result, and maybe even win the event (which has happened!).

In this very short review, I'm sure that I've missed some of the finer points of the new Laws, but I hope to have covered at least the major points in which they differ from the old ones. The new Law Book is more clearly written, leaves much less to "Interpretation" and incorporates new developments in Bridge that had not previously been considered.

IMP TACTICS

The Odds

Bidding and making a close non-vulnerable game can gain a swing of 250 points or 6 IMPs. If it goes down one undoubled you lose a swing of 190 points or 5 IMPs. So the odds are about 6 to 5 in favor of bidding game, not allowing for the badly splitting hands on which you may get doubled. You should therefore bid a non-vulnerable game that is about even money or better to make.

Vulnerable games gain 10 IMPs or lose 6. Here the odds are much better, you should bid games that are 40% or better.*

* Actually the odds vary from hand to hand. If you have nine certain tricks and are confident that the opponents will not double you at four of a major, a non-vulnerable game only needs to be 45.45%, a vulnerable game 37.5%. On the other hand, if your trump quality is poor or if the opponents' bidding has indicated that you may be in for some bad splits, your game should be a much higher percentage.

Small slams are about an even money proposition.

Grand slams should be bid if they are 60% or better. The odds are 15-11 against you non-vulnerable, 17-13 against you vulnerable, not allowing for going down more than one or being doubled, or that your opponent may not even bid small slam!

One and Two IMP Swings

IMPs puts emphasis on sound accurate bidding and the making and/or breaking of contracts. One or two Imp Swings, resulting from overtricks or extra points by playing in notrump or in major suits, are relatively insignificant. All contracts at a given level (part score, game, or slam) can be thought of as scoring essentially the same number of points. Therefore, at every level, you should aim for the safest contract. For example:

♠ K Q 10 8 4	PARTNER	YOU
♥ 8 4	1♦	1♠
♦ Q J 8 2	INT	?
♣ 6 5		

At match points you should bid 2♠. as you may make an overtrick for +140. But at IMPs you should bid 2♦. You may lose one IMP by making 90 or 110 in diamonds against 110 or 140 in spades, but you could lose much more (4 or 5 IMPs) by going down in 2♠. when you could have made 2♦.

You shouldn't jeopardize your contract in an effort to score an overtrick. You shouldn't worry about giving declarer an overtrick when making an effort to defeat his contract.

Part Score Competition

To what extent should you compete in part score situations? If you can make three spades for plus +140 but allow the opponents to make the three hearts for -140, then you have lost 280 points or 7 IMPs. Clearly you cannot allow the opponents to peacefully buy a lot of part score contracts. On the other hand, if three spades gets doubled and goes down 500, you will have lost 360 points or 8 IMPs. You cannot afford to do that very often either.

A good general rule is that, in a part score situation, you should take any plus score.

There are many factors to consider before deciding if competing will improve your chances for a plus score. Are the opponents going to make their contract? Have they found a fit? It is more feasible to balance when they

have found a fit. Are the opponents in their best contract? What are your chances of making a part score? Looking at your hand and remembering the auction, try to visualize partner's hand. If you hold a poor suit and it is possible that partner cannot support that suit, then it is inadvisable to balance; his high cards, as well as your own, will be more useful on defense.

1) ♠ 10 9 8 5 3 ♥ A 5 4 2 ♦ 7 6 ♣ A 2

Both Vulnerable

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
1♣	Pass	1♥	Pass
2♥	Pass	Pass	?

2) ♠ 9 6 5 ♥ K J 9 7 6 ♦ K 9 8 ♣ K 7

Both Vulnerable

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
1♦	Pass	1♠	Pass
2♣	Pass	Pass	?

On hand No. 1 you should bid 2♠. Partner is short in hearts and has some high cards. On hand No. 2 you should pass. Although partner has some high cards, there is no assurance he has hearts. The opponents may be in a 4-3 fit and would welcome your bid with a punishing double.

Sacrificing

Sacrificing against game contracts can be hazardous. It is worthwhile to lose 100 or 300 points against a vulnerable game, but if you lose 500 points rather than 620, you only gain 120 points or 3 IMPs. This is not a very good return on your gamble that your opponents would make their game. If the game goes down and your teammates made +140, your phantom sacrifice loses 8 IMPs instead of winning 6, a cost of 14 IMPs!

Likewise, you are prone to double an opponent's sacrifice rather than bidding and risking going set at say, five of a major.

The decision whether or not to sacrifice against a slam contract could easily win or lose a tournament. Accurate sacrificing can win substantial awards. If you go down six doubled not vulnerable when your teammates make 1430, you win 330 points or 8 IMPs. However, if the slam doesn't make and your teammates stopped in game, your phantom sacrifice loses 10 IMPs instead of winning 13, a cost of 23 IMPs! Therefore, you are prone to sacrifice when you expect that your teammates will bid the slam and you feel certain that it will make.

Penalty Doubles

Should you double on the following hands?

1) ♠ A K 3 ♥ J 10 6 3 2 ♦ 7 ♣ J 4 3 2

SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
1♠	2♦	3♠	Pass
4♠	Pass	Pass	?

It appears that the opponents have bid too much. You should double. They might make it, but if your opponents never make a doubled contract against you, you aren't doubling enough.

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

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
1♠	2♥	2♠	Pass
Pass	3♥	?	

Again you should double. Partner has an option to pass or bid. If he passes you will collect a sizable penalty.

3) ♠ K J 9 3 ♥ Q 9 7 6 ♦ A 4 3 ♣ Q 7

SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
1♠	Pass	2♠	Pass
2♠	Pass	3♠	Pass
4♠	Pass	Pass	?

A double here would warn declarer of the trump position, and might let him make a contract that he would have otherwise gone down in. You should pass quickly.

4) ♠ 6 ♥ A 9 8 7 ♦ A 8 7 ♣ J 10 7 6 5

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
1♠	Pass	1 NT	2♦
Pass	Pass	?	

Both vulnerable. A double here stands to gain a lot or lose a little. Doubles of overcalls can produce very large penalties, and if they make it you only lose 90 points (180-90) or 3 IMPs.

5) ♠ 9 7 6 5 ♥ Q J 10 8 ♦ 6 5 ♣ 7 4 2

The opponents bid 1♥ 2♥ 3♥ 4♥.

The opponents bidding suggests that they are on minimum values for their game. You know that they are losing more trump tricks than they expected, and therefore rate to go down. You should double.

6) ♠ 7 6 ♥ K Q J 9 8 6 3 ♦ 10 9 7 6 ♣ -

SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
1♠	Pass	2♣	3♥
3♠	Pass	6♣	?

A lead directing double of a non-vulnerable slam can gain 22 IMPs by being successful and lose 1 IMP by being unsuccessful! If your teammates do not bid slam you would win 11 IMPs instead of losing 11 IMPs. You cannot tell if a club lead will beat slam in this deal, but it improves your chances tremendously. Double.

Team Tactics

A steady game is the most effective at IMPs. The best players try to play sound bridge and make as few mistakes as possible. They win because their opponents take too many chances, gamble unnecessarily, and end up beating themselves.

Good partnership and team spirit are essential. Here is a hand from the 1956 European Championships that shows how good temperament led to the foundation of the Blue Team dynasty. It was reported by Herman Filarski in the daily bulletin.

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

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

France played the East-West hands in six spades, icy despite the bad trump break. In the other room the bidding went:

NORTH	EAST	SOUTH	WEST
Jais	Forquet	Trezel	Siniscalco
1♥	4♠	Pass	4 NT
Pass	6♦	Pass	6♣
Pass	7♠	Dbl.	7 NT
Dbl.	All pass		

Trezel's double of seven spades on the South cards, betraying the trump situation and giving Forquet the chance to make the contract seems incredible, but it must be remembered that Forquet's bidding did not command the same respect then as now. How-

ever, Siniscalco ran to 7 NT, doubled by North who proceeded to rattle off six heart tricks. Siniscalco's error of judgement cost a total swing of 2890 points.

That Italy did not collapse was due largely to Pietro Forquet who, according to Filarski, "did not say a harsh word about this terrible catastrophe but played quietly on for the rest of the match. His good temper allowed Siniscalco to recover and fight on, incredibly, to an exact draw". But Italy had the better matchpoint quotient and became the European champions, and so earned the right to challenge for the 1957 Bermuda Bowl.

The Blue Team went to New York, where they trounced an experienced but not overpowering U.S. team by 10,150 points. It was the Blue Team's first world championship.

BYZANTINE BLACKWOOD

UNKNOWN PAIR FROM BYZANTIUM WIN 1978 WORLD PAIR OLYMPIAD

Cannes, France... John Antigua and Kitt Curacao From Byzantium, a small Caribbean island, have just astounded the world and won the World Pairs Olympiad! The unknown partnership easily outdistanced the famous second place pair of Benito Garozzo and Giorgio Belladonna of Rome, Italy. They attributed their victory to a convention called Byzantine Blackwood. There were an unusually large number of slam hands in the championship and their increased bidding accuracy allowed them to slowly pull away from the Roman pair.

The cornerstone of Byzantine Blackwood is that the king of trumps is about as important as an ace for slam bidding purposes. If you bid a slam missing a cashable ace and the king of trumps, it is clear that the slam will generally be no better than a finesse for the missing king*. And the slam will often be far worse than a 50% chance. Consider these possibilities:

- (1) The missing ace is the ace of trumps.
- (2) You are missing the queen of trumps.
- (3) You are missing the jack or ten of trumps:

A 10 9xxx	Qxxx
about 6% to lose no trump trick.	
A Qxxxx	Jxxx
about 39% to lose no trump trick.	

* The possibility that the partnership will have 12 trumps is so unlikely that it is disregarded.

A J 9xx Qxx
 about 15% to lose no trump trick.
 (4) You have all the trump spots:

Q J 10 9x A 8 7
 about 43% to lose no trump trick.

In Byzantine Blackwood the king of trumps is counted as an ace. There are now five "aces" and you don't bid a slam missing two "aces". The responses are:

- 5♣ 0 or 3 "aces"
- 5♦ 1 or 4 "aces"
- 5♥ 2 "aces", 0 or 1 "key cards".
- 5♠ 2 "aces", 2 "key cards".

The "key cards" are the queen of trumps and kings in responders natural bid suits.

Here are some hands that helped the Byzantine pair win the tournament:

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

1♠	3♠
4 N T	5♦
5♠	Pass

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

1♠	3♦
3♠	4♠
4 N T	5♠
7♠	Pass

When the responder to 4NT bids 5♣ or 5♦, the partner assumes that it shows 0 or 1 "aces". If it was actually 3 or 4 "aces", the responder bids again.

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

1♠	3♠
4 N T	5♠
5♠	6♦
7♠	Pass

Problems arise in the use of this convention when it is not 100% clear which suit is agreed to be trump. Therefore, if no suit has been raised, the last bid suit is inferentially agreed. (One exception: responder has made a jump shift and bids 4NT at his next turn. This "agrees" his suit.)

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

1♠	2♣
2♥	4 N T
5♣	5♥
6♥	7♥
Pass	

The 5NT rebid confirms possession of all five "aces" and asks for extra values. On some hands it is used to tell partner about the "aces", hoping he has enough tricks to bid seven:

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

1♠	3♦
3♥	3♠
4 N T	5♠
5 N T	7♠
Pass	

If the responder to 5NT cannot bid seven, he should either sign off in six of the agreed suit or cue bid. He signs off if (1) he has nothing to cue bid or (2) his cue bids are higher than the agreed suit and he is too weak to commit the partnership to a contract higher than six of the agreed suit*.

Otherwise the responder to 5NT cue bids his kings (he would not cue bid a king that he has already shown by virtue of guaranteeing two key cards, a cue bid in that suit would show the queen). Some expert partnerships also cue bid singletons or voids when there are sufficient trumps for ruffing.

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

1♠	3♠
4 N T	5♥
5 N T	6♠
7 N T	Pass

* Note: the responder signs off with the queen of trump when he has nothing to cue bid. If that is all partner needed he would have bid grand slam force.

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

1♠	2♥ (5 card suit)
2♠	4♠
4 N T	5♠
5 N T	6♥ (Q♥)
7 N T	Pass

Kitt Curacao summed up their victory "Those Romans have been dominate in the world since 1957, but after the fall of the Roman empire comes the Byzantine empire".

THE OTHER SIDE OF THE COIN

By Terence Reese

The Bols Bridge Tips Competition is launched by the International Bridge Press Association and the long-established Dutch company which manufactures a wide range of liquors. Leading bridge players from around the world are invited to submit bridge tips, the overall winners receiving cash prizes. Last year's competition was won by Terence Reese. Here is an additional tip by Reese.

There are two sides to every question, it is said, and certainly there are two sides to the Bols Bridge Tip. 'Watch the early discards,' was the advice to declarer. Equally, the defenders should aim to avoid making discards that reveal their distribution. Suppose that this hand is played in a match between two teams:

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

With both sides vulnerable, the bidding goes:

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

The defenders begin with four rounds of hearts. At the first table dummy throws a club on the fourth heart, East a spade, and South a club. West switches to a diamond, the queen losing to the king.

South, a Bols man, cashes the ace of spades, takes two more diamonds and the K-Q of spades. By this time East has shown up with three hearts and diamonds, and the clear inference from the discard of a spade at trick four is that East began with five. No reason, therefore, to place East with more than two clubs. Declarer plays for the drop and makes his contract.

At the second table East also is a Bols man. Judging that the contract will easily be made unless South can be induced to take a losing finesse in clubs, he plans from the first to create the impression that he holds length in clubs. At trick four, instead of the obvious but revealing spade, he throws a diamond. Playing the cards in the same order as before, South arrives at this end position:

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

Reflecting that East did not throw a spade until he had to find a discard on the third round of diamonds, declarer counts him for 4-3-3-3 distribution and takes the club finesse. Unlucky! Down two.

EXTEND YOUR SUIT-LENGTH SIGNALS

By Dr. Pierre Jais

Pierre Jais, a Paris doctor, has been a star for 40 years. He has won three world championships and currently ranks thirteenth in the world. This is his entry in the Bols Bridge Tips Competition. The Bols company is a long-established Dutch liquor company.

MY BOLS BRIDGE TIP concerns the vital subject of signaling. You can effect quite an improvement in your defensive play by enlarging the use of suit-length signals to cover new situations.

Practically everybody knows how to use suit-length signals on the first round of a suit: you play high-low to show an even number of cards, low-high to show an odd number. In this diagram you are East and your partner leads the king of hearts.

♥ J 8 4		
N		
♥ K Q 9 7	W E	♥ 6 5 3 2
	S	
		♥ A 10

On the lead of the king you start an echo with the 6, showing an even number.

So far, so good — but what happens when the cards are divided like this:

♥ J 3 2		
N		
♥ K 9 5 4	W E	♥ Q 8 7 6
	S	
		♥ A 10

This time West leads the 4, dummy plays low and your queen loses to the ace. Later, your partner gains the lead in another suit and lays down ♥K. In certain circumstances it could be vital for West to know that South started with only two hearts. In fact, if there is no outside entry to dummy, West will be able to switch to another suit and declarer may never come to a second heart trick.

My suggestion

MY SUGGESTION is that, as East, you should echo — or not echo — with your remaining cards in order to show how many you still have. In the above example, where East has three cards left in hearts, he should follow suit with the 6 on the second round. With Q-7-6 originally, East would follow with the 7 on the second round, starting an echo to show two cards remaining.

The use of this signal enabled my partner to produce a nice defence in a recent match.

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

S	W	N	E
1♥	Pass	1♠	Pass
2♣	Pass	2♥	Pass
3♣	Pass	4♣	Pass
4♥	Pass	Pass	Pass

West led the 3 of diamonds and my king lost to South's ace. Declarer led a small heart towards the dummy, my partner winning with the king.

My partner had good hopes of defeating the contract by taking one trick in each suit. The bidding had

marked South with at least five hearts and five clubs. If South had two diamonds and one spade, the contract was sure to fail. However, if South held three diamonds and no spades the defenders would have only three fast tricks and my partner would need to think again...which is just what he did.

At the third trick my partner led the queen of diamonds, on which I played the 2. Declarer falsecarded with the 10 but my partner of course decided to believe me. My play of the lowest diamond showed an odd number of cards remaining in the suit and South was therefore known to have started with three diamonds. My partner now knew that the ace of spades would be ruffed if he led it.

Accordingly, West switched to the 2 of spades. Declarer, who was faced with a difficult guess, finessed the jack from dummy and was forced to ruff my queen. Declarer now needed all his trumps to draw mine, and when West eventually came in with the queen of clubs he was able to cash the ace of spades for down one.

MY BOLS BRIDGE TIP is this:

Arrange with your partner to play length signals from the remaining cards in a suit when you have not been able to start a signal on the first round. You will find that this extra exchange of information enables you to defeat many more contracts.

BEWARE OF YOUR TRUMP TRICKS

by Jean Besse

Jean Besse has been the mainstay of the Swiss team that has been a strong force in international bridge in the postwar era. This article is his tip in the Bols Bridge Tips Competition. The Bols company is a long-established Dutch company which manufactures a wide range of liquors.

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 K-10-2 behind declarer's A-Q-J-9-8-7 they can ensure two tricks. The following, however, is less obvious.

NORTH

♠ Q 2
♥ 8 6
♦ K J 9 5
♣ Q 10 9 7 6

WEST

♠ A 9
♥ Q 3 2
♦ Q 4 3 2
♣ A K 5 4

EAST

♠ K 8 3
♥ 9 7
♦ A 10 7 6
♣ J 8 3 2

SOUTH

♠ J 10 7 6 5 4
♥ A K J 10 5 4
♦ 8
♣ —

The contract is 4♣. 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 trump trick to the ace and makes his contract.

But if East refuses to overruff, 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 whenever you hold either length or strength 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.

NORTH

♠ 9 2
♥ 6 5
♦ A K Q 4 3
♣ A K 5 4

WEST

♠ Q 7
♥ 10 7
♦ 10 9 8 7 2
♣ J 9 6 2

EAST

♠ K 6 5
♥ A K Q 9 8 2
♦ J 5
♣ 10 8

SOUTH

♠ A J 10 8 4 3
♥ J 4 3
♦ 6
♣ Q 7 3

The contract is 4♣, East having overcalled in hearts. West leads ♥10 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 9-2 was

really no more than good technique. Dare you go one step further? It is possible to blend the technique of trump promotion with deception, as in this example:

NORTH

♠ 9 2
♥ 6 5
♦ A K Q 4 3
♣ A Q 5 4

WEST

♠ J 7
♥ 10 7
♦ 10 9 8 7 2
♣ J 9 6 2

EAST

♠ K 6 5
♥ A K J 9 8 2
♦ J 5
♣ 10 8

SOUTH

♠ A Q 10 8 4 3
♥ Q 4 3
♦ 6
♣ K 7 3

Again the contract is 4♣ and West leads ♥10, East playing off the ace, king and a small heart. This time West ruffs declarer's ♥Q with the seven of spades!

Declarer overruffs with dummy's nine and continues with ♣2. When East follows 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 hypothetical K-J-x. If he plays the queen, he may lose to West's hypothetical king.

Declarer may very well decide that his best chance is to play the ten; that is, to finesse against the one card, the jack, which West seems least likely to hold. As the cards lie, this will cost South the contract.

My BOLS BRIDGE TIP is this: Beware of your trump tricks. When you see a chance for an easy overruff, don't be in too much of a hurry to take it. You may gain still more tricks by holding back.

CONSIDER WHETHER TO LEAD AN HONOUR

By Jeremy Flint

Jeremy Flint is one of Britain's top players. He is a World Master of the WBF. In 1965 he created a record by becoming a Life Master of the ACBL in 11 weeks. This is his entry in the Bols Bridge Tips Competition. The Bols Company manufactures a wide range of liquors.

IT is normal in bridge to lead low from a suit of three or more cards headed by an unsupported honour card. There are, however, some basic situations where the lead of the high card may produce better results.

The most common of these occurs when there has been a competitive auction. Suppose that the defender on lead has, say, K-x-x-x of his partner's suit and scarcely any other assets. It may very well be good play to start with the King in order to retain the lead and find the killing switch through the dummy.

Experienced players will recognize that kind of situation readily enough. Here is a case where a little more thought is required. The bidding has been:

1♣	1♠
2♦	2♠
2NT	3NT

West has to lead from:

♠ K 10 7 ♥ Q 10 4 ♦ Q 3 2 ♣ J 9 7 6

The opponents' bidding suggests that they have little to spare. Furthermore, South has displayed lukewarm enthusiasm for his partner's suit. For that reason it is good play to attack with a spade. No other lead appeals and declarer may well be embarrassed by an early assault on dummy's entry.

Having reached that conclusion, the best card to lead is the King. Declarer may misjudge the lie of the suit — or the King may even score a trick by force. In play this was the full deal:

NORTH

♠ A J 9 8 4 3
♥ J 3 2
♦ J 7
♣ 10 2

WEST

♠ K 10 7
♥ Q 10 4
♦ Q 3 2
♣ J 9 7 6

EAST

♠ Q 6 5
♥ K 7 6 5
♦ K 8 6 4
♣ 5 3

SOUTH

♠ 2
♥ A 9 8
♦ A 10 9 5
♣ A K Q 8 4

Not unnaturally declarer allowed ♣K to win. On the next trick he received a nasty shock when ♠J lost to the Queen. He elected to discard a heart. Now, after a heart switch and continuation, he was limited to six tricks.

At the other table, after a heart opening lead, South succeeded in scrambling home with two heart tricks, four clubs, two diamond tricks and a spade.

All the assets

A SITUATION that frequently confronts a defender is to possess practically all of his side's assets and yet to have no attractive opening lead at his disposal. Here is a typical example:

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

SOUTH	NORTH
1♣	1♦
1♠	2♥
2NT	3NT

North's 2♥ is artificial, in the fourth-suit forcing style. With no attractive alternative, West decides to lead this suit.

It is easy for West to appreciate that East can have at most one or two points. Unless East has an honour in hearts it will be immaterial which heart West chooses to lead. However, if East happens to have the Jack, the Queen will be the superior lead for three reasons. First, declarer may well misjudge the lie of the suit. Secondly, the presence of the 9 in West's hand means that declarer's options in the play of the suit will be restricted. Finally, if declarer does go wrong the effect will be to create a vital entry in East's hand. This last consideration is of prime importance, since in this type of hand West is all too likely to find himself repeatedly on play.

In our example, declarer wins the lead of the Queen of hearts in his own hand, goes to dummy with the King of spades and leads a club, losing the 9 to West's Queen. West continues with a heart which East wins. Appreciating that his own hand is dead, East switches to a diamond and now the contract is doomed.

It is clear that if West starts with a low heart instead of the Queen, East will never gain the lead and declarer is likely to come home a winner without ever being seriously threatened.

MY BOLS BRIDGE TIP, therefore, is that instead of stolidly pushing out an unimaginative small card from three or four to an honour, you should consider whether to lead the honour.

COUNT THE OPPONENTS' HANDS, BUT..."

by Pietro Forquet

Forquet began his international record by winning the 1951 European Championships. In the last 20 years on the Blue Team he has lost only once. He is officially ranked as the world's second most successful player with 1450 WBF points. He is reknown for his all-around accuracy. This is his BOLS Bridge tip.

HOW MANY times have you heard the excuse, "Sorry partner, if I'd guessed correctly I'd have made the contract."? And how many times was this so-called 'unlucky guess' truly unlucky?

I was recently playing rubber bridge with my wife, who sometimes accuses me with considerable emotion (but, in my opinion, very little justice) of taking a superior toward her at the table. In consequence, she says, I fail to concentrate fully — and here she may be nearer the truth, as the reader may judge from a hand I played that evening in 6NT.

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

I was East, playing 6NT, and South, who had opened with three hearts, duly led the king of hearts. North discarded a diamond and I won with the ace, continuing with five rounds of clubs.

South and dummy each discarded two hearts and North parted with three small diamonds. I cashed the A-K of spades and all followed.

Now, I am a consistent fellow and follow the advice I give to others, so at this point I applied the first part of my BOLS bridge tip and started counting the opponents' hands. South had started with seven hearts, three clubs and at least two spades. His thirteenth card was either a spade or a diamond. If it was a spade, the diamond finesse through North was a mathematical certainty; while if South held a diamond, the odds were 7 to 1 that his diamond was not the queen. Armed with this analysis, I led a diamond from dummy, finessed the jack... and went DOWN FOUR. This was the complete deal:

NORTH
♠ J 10 9 4
♥
♦ 9 7 6 5 4 3 2
♣ 10 5

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

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

"Sorry partner," I said, trying to make the best of it. "With the diamonds 7-1, I was unlucky enough to find the singleton queen in South's hand."

"Down FOUR?" said my wife.

"Yeah, an unlucky hand," I said, hoping she'd fail to notice my error. (Have you seen it?)

"Wouldn't it have been better to endplay North with the fourth round of spades?" she asked.

"Sure, I could have," I replied, "But it wouldn't have helped. If North held the queen of diamonds, and exited with a low one, the suit would have been blocked." (I was beginning to realize that she'd seen my mistake.)

"Blocked? How can that be? I would have cashed the king of diamonds instead of taking that silly finesse. If South showed out, that would mean spades were 3-3, and there would be twelve tricks on top. If South followed with a small diamond, I would simply cash the queen of spades and lead dummy's last spade, discarding the jack of diamonds on it. East would then have to lead into dummy's A-10 of diamonds at the end."

As you see, my wife was quite right. "Count the opponents' hands — but when you have counted them, *play intelligently!*"

The 18th Indian National Bridge Championship will be held next December 5-19. Information: Bombay Contract Bridge Association, 40 Rampart Row. Bombay 400 023, India.

JAEN, GALVO Y TORRIJOS

ATTORNEYS AT LAW

SPECIALIZED IN:

INTERNATIONAL LAW

MARITIME LAW

COMMERCIAL LAW

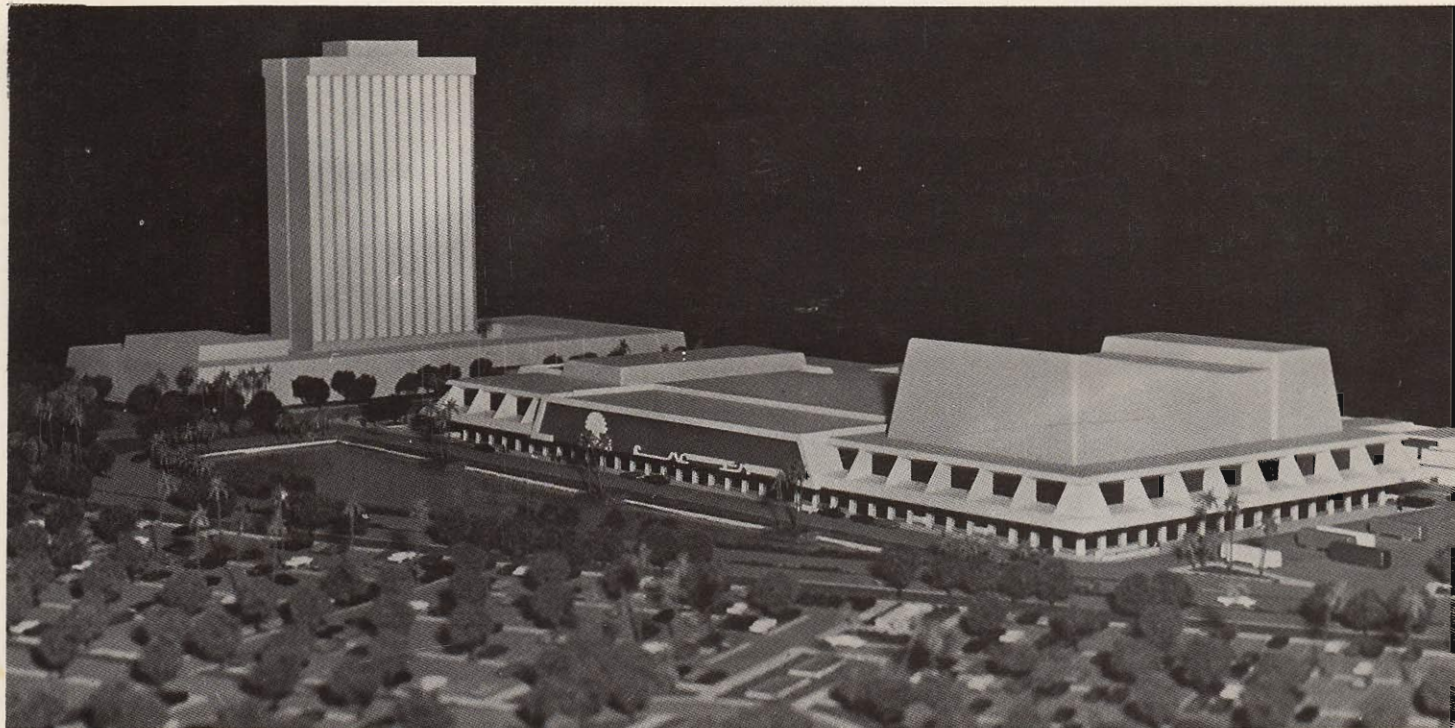
(AND IN THE CONSTITUTION

OF OFFSHORE COMPANIES)

**P. O. BOX 5216
ZONE 5, PANAMA, R.P.**

**TEL.: 64-8100
TELEX 368728-JAEN**

**EDIFICIO BANCO REPUBLIC
7th FLOOR**



PANAMA'S TWO OCEAN CONVENTION CENTER

Now under construction, Panama's ultra modern Convention Center in hospitable Panama will have separate conference and banquet areas to accommodate 3,000 persons at once, or be divided into smaller sections for fewer people. Audio-visual and communications equipment will include the most sophisticated facilities for simultaneous translations.



There's lots to see and do in the Republic of Panama. Free port shopping for tourist articles from all over the world. Ships passing through the fabulous Panama Canal. Entertaining nightlife... government operated casinos, nightclubs, and restaurants to suit every palate. Over 700 islands, among them lovely Contadora of the Pearl Islands in the near Pacific. And in the Atlantic, the San Blas Islands, home of the Cuna Indians whose molas are collector items. Miles of uncrowded, sandy Pacific beaches. Over 35 world fishing records. Intriguing historic ruins. The sun rises in the Pacific and sets in the Atlantic!

Visit Panama where contract bridge was invented!

PANAMA

. . . and you thought it was only a canal.

