

**Documenti gentilmente inviatici da Laura Camponeschi  
(Iscritta alla IBPA)**

# **2012 IBPA Awards**



John Carruthers, Lille, France, August 16, 2012

# Personality of the Year

## Maria Teresa Lavazza



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

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

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

# Master Point Press Book of the Year

## Winner: *The Contested Auction* – Roy Hughes



Canadian expert Roy Hughes' has written four bridge books: *Building a Bidding System*, *Card by Card*, *Canada's Bridge Warriors: Murray & Kehela*, and *The Contested Auction* – all have been shortlisted for the Master Point Press Book of the Year Award. Hughes won the 2007 award for *Canada's Bridge Warriors*. Now he has won the 2012 award for his latest, *The Contested Auction*.

Hughes' background in mathematics and linguistics has led him to think a great deal about the theory and structure of effective bidding systems. In *The Contested Auction*, he turns to the theory and practice of competitive auctions, a critical component of the modern game. Beginning by establishing what the bidding system needs to accomplish, Hughes goes on to discuss every type of contested auction, and recommends useful methods and agreements from which the reader can select. This is an up-to-date discussion, covering many topics in detail that have at best seen cursory treatment in print up to now. Hughes discusses "different philosophies and strategies to cope with the modern vernacular, stressing the importance of clarity of principles, comfort with agreed methods, and a commitment to understanding any treatment and its consequences before adopting it."

### Shortlist:

*Bridge at the Edge* – Boye Brogeland & David Bird

*It's All in the Game* – Bob Ewen & Jeff Rubens

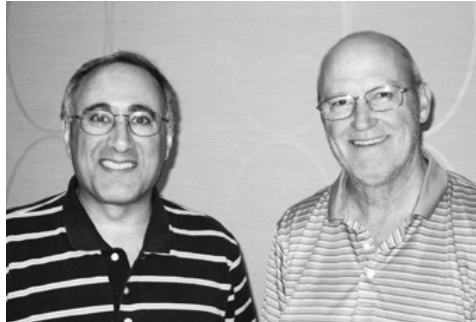
*The Deadly Defence Quiz Book* – Wladyslaw Izdebski, Roman Krzemien & Ron Klinger

*Defend or Declare?* – Julian Pottage

*The Amazing Queen* – Clement Wong

# John Simon Sportsmanship Award

**Recipients: Jeff Ruben & Andrew Stayton (USA)  
and Debbie Rosenberg (USA)**



Jeff Ruben & Andrew Stayton



Debbie Rosenberg

The John Simon Sportsmanship Award is granted occasionally for acts of sportsmanship by bridge players that define how we all should act. This year there were two incidents at the North American Bridge Championships in Philadelphia in July that stood out.

Firstly, in the David Bruce 0-5000 Life Master Pairs, Jeff Ruben and Andrew Stayton, who had won the event, were checking their matchpoint scores against their estimates. They noticed that their score for one board greatly exceeded their estimate. Upon checking further, they discovered that the score for that board had been entered incorrectly, and furthermore, that the correct score would drop them from first to second place. They immediately reported the correction to the Tournament Directors.

Secondly, Debbie Rosenberg woke up in the middle of the night realising that her team in the Richard Freeman Mixed Board-a-Match Teams had scored a board incorrectly, winning a full point rather than the correct half a point (board-a-match in the ACBL is scored as a point for a win on the board and half a point for a draw). The margin of her team's win was less than half a point. Rosenberg also immediately reported the error to the directing staff, dropping her team out of first place into second.

While it is true that these actions are covered in the rules of the game, the behaviour of Ruben, Stayton and Rosenberg is laudatory and shows that there is sportsmanship at all levels of the game.

# Richard Freeman Junior Deal of the Year

**Winner: Roger Lee (USA)**  
**(Phillip Alder, journalist; from IBPA Bulletin 560.16)**

OPATIJA 2011 I  
Phillip Alder, Hobe, Sound, FL

The second World Youth Congress was held in Opatija, Croatia, from August 21 to 30. Opatija is a picturesque town in the northwest corner of Croatia, about a three-hour drive from Venice. I was editor of the daily bulletins, with able assistance from Herman De Wael (primarily page layouts), PO Sundelin (daily bridge puzzles) and Kees Tammens (articles about his Dutch charges).

If there had been a prize for the best-played deal of the tournament, this would have been the easy winner. It was played by Roger Lee of the USA team in the opening session of the Knockout Teams.

**Dealer East. EW Vul.**

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

West	North	East	South
	<i>Wolkowitz</i>		<i>Lee</i>
—	—	Pass	INT
Pass	2♠ <sup>1</sup>	Pass	3♣ <sup>2</sup>
Pass	3NT	Pass	Pass
Pass			

1. Range enquiry
2. Maximum

At the other table, South took the first heart trick and early on played on diamonds, hoping they would run. But when they broke 5-1, he had to fail, going two down.

Lee realized that diamonds could wait. He won the ten-of-hearts lead with his queen and immediately ran the seven of clubs, losing to East's jack. To defeat the contract, East had then to switch to a diamond, or return his low club for West to switch to his diamond! Understandably, though, East tried a low spade. Declarer put in his jack, winning the trick. Suddenly he seemed to be up to nine tricks: two spades, two hearts and five diamonds. But Lee realized that diamonds could still wait. He led another

club, dummy's queen losing to East's ace. East led the king of spades, ducked by South, and another spade to declarer's ace, dummy discarding a heart.

Diamonds could wait no longer. South took his ace, played a diamond to dummy's king, and cashed the queen and jack to put West under pressure. On the jack of diamonds, South threw a club, but what could West spare? He had to pitch his last spade. But now a club exit endplayed West to lead away from the king of hearts. Beautifully done! Are you wondering what would have happened if West had won the second club trick with his king and led back the ten of spades? Declarer would have ducked and taken the next spade to cash his ace of hearts, squeezing East in the minors. He would have had to give up his spade, but declarer would then have led a third club to establish his ninth trick there. What marvelous symmetry.

Shortlist:

Alejandro Scanavino/Felipe Ferro (Ana Roth & Fernando Lema, 561.14)

Frederik Skovly/Emil Buus Thomsen (Jens Otto Pedersen, 571.16)

Liga Bekere (Herman De Wael, 571.16)

# Keri Klinger Memorial Declarer Play of the Year

**Winner: Terje Lichtwark (NOR)**  
**(Knut Kjærnsrød, journalist; from IBPA Bulletin 566.12)**

NORWEGIAN BRILLIANCY  
Knut Kjærnsrød, Tored, Norway

This board was played recently in one of our clubs in the far north, Harstad. Anders Kristensen, one of the opponents, reported declarer's brilliant play.

**Dealer East. Both Vul.**

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Bremseth</i>	<i>Lind</i>	<i>Kristensen</i>	<i>Lichtwark</i>
—	—	Pass	2♥
Pass	2NT	Pass	3♥
Pass	6♥	Pass	Pass
Pass			

Two hearts showed six hearts and 10-13 points and three hearts showed a (semi-)balanced minimum. Despite that, North decided to jump to slam. West had decided to “wait in the bushes” with his solid suit. West started with the ace of diamonds and continued with the king, ruffed in dummy. With the trumps 2-2 or 3-1 the contract is easy, but when Terje Lichtwark played a trump to his queen, West discarded a diamond. South played a club to the king and played the ten of trumps, which East had to cover. Then Terje played a club to the ace and ruffed a club. It may seem natural to play the queen of spades now, but that would not work. Instead he played a spade to the king and a club from dummy. East discarded a spade and South his remaining diamond. Now the situation was:

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

To fulfill his brilliancy, Terje played dummy's last club and trumped with his three. The spade queen overtaken with the ace left East helpless.

#### Shortlist:

Bill Jacobs (Ron Klinger, 566.6)

Ronny Jorstad (Knut Kjærnsrød, 566.11)

Matias Rohrberg (Roland Wald, 567.11/568.15)

Franck Multon (Brian Senior, 570.7)

Sven-Åke Bjerregård (Micke Melander, 570.22)

Carla Arnolds (Mark Horton, 570.20)



# Gidwani Family Trust Defence of the Year

**Winner: Tezcan Sen (TUR)**  
**(Erdal Sidar, journalist; from IBPA Bulletin 560.4)**

ISTANBUL OPEN PAIRS  
Erdal Sidar, Istanbul

Dealer West. Neither Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
1♦	Pass	INT	4♥
Pass	Pass	Pass	

This deal comes from the four-session 2011 Istanbul Open Pairs Championship; 186 pairs took part. West led the diamond ace, spade ace and diamond king. Declarer, Orhan Ozcelik, ruffed and played a trump; East won the ace and continued with a third diamond, but Ozcelik ruffed and cashed all his trumps (unblocking the ten of clubs). West's last three cards were a master spade, a master diamond and the jack of clubs. A club to the ace and another to the nine made the contract. Had East returned a spade instead of a diamond, retaining his diamond guard, the position would have been more complex:

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

This time, on the last trump, West can let go his last diamond; had he discarded it earlier, a club would be forced at this point. Declarer throws the spade from dummy and East feels the pressure between the minors.

At another table, after the same start, East, Tezcan Sen (European Mixed Pairs champion in San Remo and World IMP Pairs champion in Verona) ducked the heart queen. Not wishing to allow the defence a chance to eliminate the diamond menace, declarer ruffed a spade to hand and continued with a high heart, discarding a spade from dummy. Again Sen ducked. On another high heart, declarer was presented with a dilemma: dummy remained with two spades, two diamonds and three clubs. A discard in either spades or diamonds would allow East to destroy the menace in that suit, so he threw the ten of clubs. Sen could now exit with the club queen, clipping the transportation channels for any squeeze. A brilliant stroke.

Declarer, however, missed his chance. Instead of a spade ruff after the queen of hearts holds the trick, if he comes to hand with a diamond ruff, that isolates the diamond menace as the cards lie and the guard squeeze works as before. That, however, was very difficult as if diamonds had been 4-4, East could eliminate the menace in the suit when in with the heart ace.

Shortlist:

Norberto Bocchi (Jan van Cleeff, 563.9)

Lynn Deas (Brian Senior, 564.3)

Joel Wooldridge (Phillip Alder, 564.14)

Balicki Slavek (Latala, 567.11)

# IBPA Best Bid Hand of the Year

**Winners: Alejandro Scanavino/Felipe Ferro (ARG)**  
**(Ana Roth/Fernando Lema, journalists; from IBPA**  
**Bulletin 561.14)**

OPATIJA 2011

Ana Roth & Fernando Lema, BA  
“A Big Bull in an Unknown Rodeo”  
(From *El Gaucho Martin Fierro*)

“I am a bull in my rodeo and a big bull in an unknown rodeo; I always think of myself as very good and if you want to try me, let others sing and we will see who is less.”

With the words of the great Argentine poet José Hernández, we thus describe the excellent South American performance in the semifinal of the teams against a very powerful Dutch-Romanian team. In a match that will surely make history in Argentine-Uruguayan youth bridge, four junior masters from South America overcame a negative result and won this semifinal. The last set began with Argentina-Uruguay down 25 IMPs and produced a lot of swings. With three boards to play, and with the South American team 7 IMPs behind, Felipe Ferro-Alejandro Scanavino bid and made a grand slam that swung the match in their favour. The remaining boards added more IMPs and the match finished 134-104 in favour of the South Americans. The last set was not for heart patients and board 30 was a luxury not often seen.

## Board 30. Dealer East. Neither Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Agica	Garcia	Nistor	Crusizio
	Da Rosa		
—	—	1♠	Pass
INT	Pass	2♣	Pass
3♠	Pass	4♠	Pass
Pass	Pass		

Agica began with one no trump in order to later show an invitational hand with spade support. Nistor didn't think his hand deserved a slam invitation and closed proceedings with four spades. He made all 13 tricks. The bidding in the other room was very different...

West	North	East	South
<i>Ferro</i>	<i>Drijver</i>	<i>Scanavino</i>	<i>Wackwitz</i>
—	—	1♠	Pass
3♣ <sup>1</sup>	Pass	3♦ <sup>2</sup>	Pass
4♣ <sup>3</sup>	Pass	4♥ <sup>4</sup>	Pass
4NT <sup>5</sup>	Pass	5♦ <sup>6</sup>	Pass
5♥ <sup>7</sup>	Pass	6♥ <sup>8</sup>	Pass
7♠	Pass	Pass	Pass

1. 3 or 4 spades and an invitational hand
2. Game force
3. Club shortage
4. Heart control, denies diamond control
5. RKCB
6. 3 Key Cards
7. Asks for the trump queen
8. I have it and the king doubleton or king-queen third of hearts.

Once Scanavino confirmed they were going to play game, Ferro began slam exploration. First he informed partner about the club shortage, and when he saw four hearts, he knew that his partner didn't have club wastage, and that he had heart control but no diamond control. Ferro continued by asking about key cards, promising diamond control. The three-key-card answer was evidently the ace-king of spades and the ace of clubs, so he continued by asking for the queen of spades, telling his partner they had all five key cards. Scanavino confirmed the spade queen and third-round heart control (he had already promised the king). Now Ferro could count to 13 and contracted for the grand slam, not concerned about their combined 25 HP. A jewel.

The lead was a trump; declarer only had to draw trumps and play on hearts...for a well-deserved 1510.

Diego Brenner/Agustin Madala (Ana Roth/Fernando Lema, 561.10)

George Jacobs (Brent Manley, 568.5)

Marion Michielsen/Laura Dekkers (Roland Wald, 568.13)

Gary & Daffyd Jones (Patrick Jourdain, 570.6)

# **The Alan Truscott Award**

**Tim Bourke (AUS)**



The Alan Truscott Award is presented periodically to a person who does something for bridge that the IBPA Executive believes Alan would appreciate.

This year's recipient is Tim Bourke of Canberra, who not only produces the IBPA column service each month, but also converts the BBO .LIN files into text for we journalists.

For this service Tim is the 2012 recipient of the Alan Truscott Award.



# 2011 IBPA Awards

## The IBPA Personality of the Year

### Pierre Zimmermann



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

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

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

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

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

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

Patrick Jourdain, IBPA President, 24<sup>th</sup> October 2011



Pierre Zimmermann is presented the IBPA Personality of the Year Award  
in Veldhoven by IBPA President Patrick Jourdain

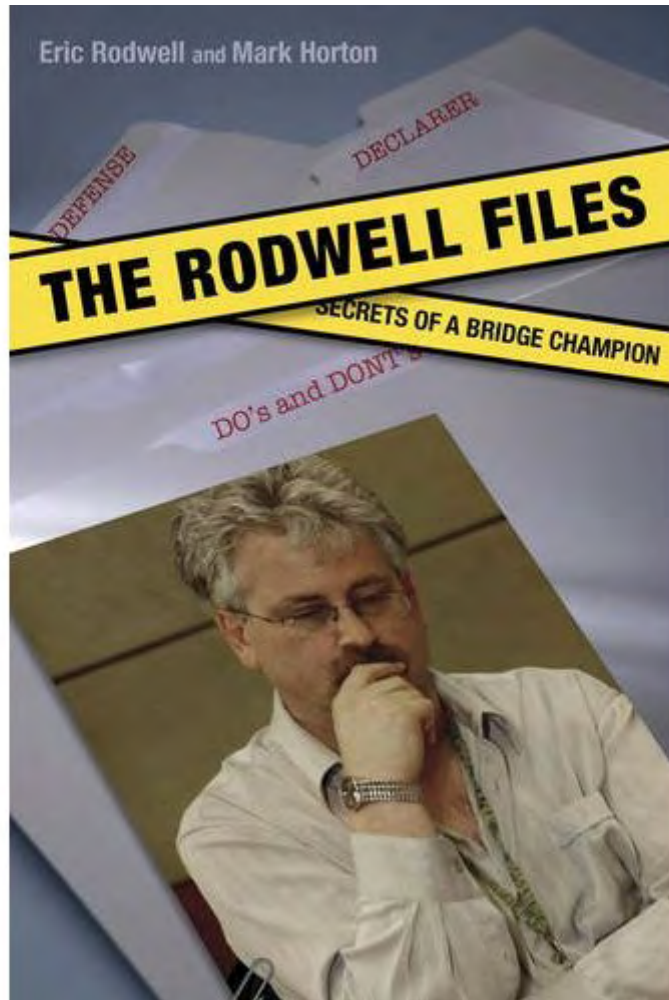




## The Master Point Press Book of the Year Award

Winner: The Rodwell Files  
Authors: Eric Rodwell and Mark Horton

This year's candidates were of unusually-high quality in terms of originality of material. Nevertheless, one book was adjudged by the jury of Patrick Huang (Taiwan), Fernando Lema (Argentina), David Morgan (Australia), PO Sundelin (Sweden), Ron Tacchi (France) and Paul Thurston (Canada) to be superior to the others.



From the publisher's blurb:

Eric Rodwell's contributions to bidding theory are well-known, but in this ground-breaking book he reveals for the first time his unique approach to the play of the cards.

First, he describes and explains the process for deciding on a line of play — using concepts such as +L positions, tightropes, trick packages and Control Units as well as exploring more standard themes such as counting winners, losers, and distribution. Included here too is a checklist of 'defogging questions' to get you back on track when your analysis gets bogged down. Then he moves on to a host of innovative ideas in card play, strategies and tactics that can be used by declarer or defenders, each one illustrated with real-life examples from top-level play. Many of these ideas will be new to anyone below the bridge stratosphere. Finally, under the heading 'DOs and DON'Ts', Rodwell talks about the mental side of the game: areas where players often go wrong in their approach to the problem at hand, areas that mark the key differences between an average player and a successful one.

The original 'Rodwell File', the collection of notes on which this book is based, has been in existence for more than twenty years, but it is only now that the author is prepared to allow his 'secrets' to become public knowledge.



The authors of *The Rodwell Files*, Mark Horton and Eric Rodwell, receive their awards for 2011 MPP Book of the Year from John Carruthers at the World Championships in Veldhoven

The 2011 shortlist :

Wladyslaw Izdebski, Roman Krzemien and Ron Klinger, *Deadly Defence*  
Krzysztof Martens, *Guide Dog, Part I & II*  
Victor Moillo, *The Hog Takes to Precision*  
Barry Rigal, *Breaking the Bridge Rules, First Hand Play*  
Eric Rodwell and Mark Horton, *The Rodwell Files*  
Peter Winkler, *Bridge at the Enigma Club*

## The Alan Truscott Award

The Alan Truscott Memorial Award is presented periodically to that person whose contribution to bridge, in the opinion of the IBPA Executive, would be most appreciated by Alan.



Alan Truscott circa 1964, The New York Times

This year the award goes to Roland Wald from London (ex-Copenhagen) who, in his spare time from teaching and playing, arranges for and organizes the commentators for Fred Gitelman's BBO transmissions.



Roland Wald

## The Keri Klinger Award for Pressure Play



Michelle Brunner



John Holland

This is a new IBPA award in 2011 sponsored by Ron and Suzi Klinger in memory of their daughter Keri. It is awarded to an individual, pair or team who performs in admirable fashion under pressure. This past year, no one did that better than Michelle Brunner and John Holland from England. Despite being diagnosed with terminal cancer, Michelle, with John as a partner, continued to play bridge at the highest level, winning a cap to represent England in the Camrose home internationals and reaching the final of the Gold Coast Teams in Australia against an elite Australian and international field. Additionally, in the past 24 months, John won two World Championships, the 2009 and 2010 Senior Teams for the d'Orsi Cup, in São Paulo and Philadelphia respectively.

Michelle won a Venice Cup and was twice a winner of the Gidwani Family Trust Defence of the Year Award. Any bridge player would be happy to claim either defence as the best deal of his/her career. Michelle had both of them. Here they are:

### **The Venice Cup Heather Dhondy**

Having successfully negotiated the round robin, it was time for England to face China in the quarter-finals. We were neck and neck for the first four sets out of six, but eventually the Chinese proved too

strong and we were eliminated. One of the earlier sets produced a very special play from Michelle Brunner:

**QF2. Board 26. Dealer East. Both Vul.**

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

West	North	East	South
Michelle	Liu	Rhona	Wang
Brunner	Yi Qian	Goldenfield	Wenfei
--	--	Pass	Pass
Pass	1 ♣ <sup>1</sup>	Pass	1 ♦ <sup>2</sup>
Pass	2 ♠	Pass	2 NT
Pass	3 ♣	Pass	4 ♣
Pass	5 NT	Pass	7 ♣
Pass	Pass	Pass	

1. Precision Club (16+)

2. Negative (0-7)

The Precision auction propelled the Chinese side to an optimistic seven-club contract. You will note that the entryless dummy more or less forces declarer into the winning line of dropping the singleton king of trumps off-side to land a rather jammy contract.

Enter Michelle, who, on seeing partner's lead of the jack of hearts covered by the queen in dummy, ducked!

Declarer, who was mightily relieved to gain a surprise entry, had no hesitation in taking advantage of it to play her percentage shot in trumps of taking the finesse! Whoops!

How was this brilliancy found? Should declarer have been fooled? Let's think about it.

One club was strong and one diamond negative. The jump to two spades was natural and forcing, showing a strong hand. Two no trump and three clubs were both natural. Over partner's natural four clubs, showing support, North jumped to five no trump, grand slam force. Whether they disagreed about the meaning of five no trump or the responses, I'm not sure, but one thing that Michelle could be certain of is that declarer had a source of running tricks in spades for this action. Therefore there would be no danger in giving declarer a cheap trick in hearts since they would soon be disposed of on spades in any case.

From Michelle's point of view, a jump to seven clubs holding only the queen in trumps left room for partner to have a trump honour and there was a significant danger that it would be singleton. With plenty of time to think about it, we can all see that it can't cost, and may gain on this layout.

However, the really impressive thing is that it had to be done smoothly and in tempo so as to give nothing away. If you duck slowly, declarer will be suspicious. Should she have been suspicious anyway?

It is unusual to lead from a king-jack-ten holding against a grand slam. If you don't want to lead a trump, then a spade into the solid suit would seem to give nothing away. On the other hand, a lead from jack-ten would be perfectly normal. Therefore, you should not expect the queen of hearts to hold the first trick. Nevertheless, it is a huge leap of logic to then deduce that West has ducked in order to persuade you to take a losing line in trumps. This brilliancy was undoubtedly the play of the tournament.

## ANOTHER BRUNNER GEM

Maureen Hiron, Málaga

Dealer East. Both Vul.

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

Michelle Brunner won the 2008 International Bridge Press Association Defence of the Year Award, for a brilliant play in Shanghai. I believe, though I stand to be corrected, that this is the first time a woman has won this. Nor can I remember the same player winning two years in succession, so I intend submitting this hand as a contender for next year's prize.

Michelle passed as dealer and South opened one no trump (12-14). North bid two clubs, Stayman, then raised South's two-spade reply to the spade game.

John Holland, West, led the jack of hearts. Declarer ducked in dummy and Michelle won with her king. What were her chances of defeating four spades, faced with that dummy? Many players would simply return a trump and hope that declarer, left to his own devices, would adopt a failing line.

But Michelle envisaged a position where her partner held the king to three spades and a doubleton club. (He could not hold more than three honour points, given South's one no trump opener.) Even that was not enough; she also had to paint a false picture for declarer.

So – she returned the nine of clubs, which, with dummy's assets on view, surely could only have been a singleton. Dummy won, and fearing a club ruff, South continued with ace and another spade. Holland

won with his king and returned a club, South playing low from dummy. Michelle Brunner captured with her king, then gave her partner the club ruff that defeated the game.

## The IBPA Auction of the Year

Winners: Venkatrao Koneru and Ira Chorush, USA

Journalist: Brent Manley, USA

From the Bobby Nail Life Master Open Pairs, Fall NABC, Orlando, FL, Nov. 26-Dec Dec. 5, 2010 Daily Bulletins

**Dealer South. EW Vul.**

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

West	North	East	South
—	Koneru	—	Chorush
—	—	—	1♣
Pass	1♥	1♠	Double <sup>1</sup>
Pass	2♠ <sup>2</sup>	Pass	3♦ <sup>3</sup>
Pass	4♣ <sup>4</sup>	Pass	4♦ <sup>5</sup>
Pass	4♠ <sup>5</sup>	Pass	4NT <sup>6</sup>
Pass	6♣	Pass	Pass
Pass			

1. Support Double: three-card heart support
2. Strong hand; could be agreeing either hearts or clubs, or looking for a stopper for 3NT
3. Values in diamonds
4. Confirms clubs; slam try
5. Cue bids
6. More encouraging than five clubs

The candidates:

Diamond/Platnick, IBPA Bulletin 550.19, Mark Horton (ENG)  
 Zia/Gold, IBPA Bulletin 552.2, Paul Lamford (ENG)  
 Zia/Gold, IBPA Bulletin 552.3, Paul Lamford (ENG)  
 Hackett/Holland, IBPA Bulletin 553.12, John Carruthers (CAN)  
 Koneru/Chorush, IBPA Bulletin 553.12, Brent Manley (USA)



# The Gidwani Family Trust Defence of the Year

Winners: Mike Kamil/Marty Fleisher (USA)

Journalist: Brent Manley (USA)

From the Edgar Kaplan Blue Ribbon Pairs, Fall NABC, Orlando, FL, Nov. 26-Dec Dec. 5, 2010 Daily Bulletins

**Dealer North. NS Vul.**

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

West	North	East	South
Fleisher	Hand	Kamil	Greenberg
—	1♦	Pass	2♥
Pass	3♠	Pass	3NT
Pass	Pass	Pass	

Fleisher led the heart queen, Rusinow. When that held, he shifted to the spade jack. Declarer won dummy's king, played a spade to her ace and led a third round. West won the ten and exited with his last spade. Kamil discarded his two remaining hearts and South threw a club.

Greenberg led a low diamond from the dummy to her ten and West's king. When West returned a diamond to dummy's ace, declarer cashed dummy's club king. This was the position:

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

When South played a club to her ace unblocked his queen to avoid the endplay. Then South cashed her heart ace. East unblocked his club jack. South led her last club, but West took the final three tricks for down two.

Both defenders had unblocked in the same suit.

The candidates:

Willenken/Rosenberg, IBPA Bulletin 550.9, John Carruthers (CAN)

Kamil/Fleisher, IBPA Bulletin 553.4, Brent Manley (USA)

Hoeyland, IBPA Bulletin 554.5, Jon Sveindal (NOR)

Alfrey/Robson, IBPA Bulletin 556.12, Roland Wald (DEN)

Krogsgaard/Kruse, IBPA Bulletin 556.15, Jens Otto Pedersen (DEN)

## The Rose♠Cliff Declarer Play of the Year

Winner: Geir Helgemo (NOR)

Journalist: GeO Tislevoll (NZ)

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

**Dealer South. Both Vul.**

♠ A 9 7 4 3

♥ K 8 7 6 3

♦ A 6

♣ 7

♠ K J 10 6 5

♥ A

♦ K 7

♣ A 6 5 4 3

West	North	East	South
Skjetnes	Lund	Forfot	Helgemo
—	—	—	1♠
2♠	2NT	Pass	3♣
Pass	4♣	Pass	4NT
Pass	5♠	Pass	7♠
Pass	Pass	Pass	

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

West had to discard on the first two trump rounds, and on both of them he had to pitch clubs as he could not let go a heart which would have enabled declarer to set up the fifth heart. Now

the spade king was played when West was down to three hearts and three clubs. If West discards another club on the spade king, declarer plays a low spade from dummy, and simply establishes the fifth club with two ruffs. He still has two trumps as entries to his hand. If West instead throws a heart, declarer is able to overtake the trump king with the ace and work on the heart suit, and still have enough entries to set up the fifth heart and collect it.

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

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

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

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

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

Helgemo said to me: "I played the percentages." Wow! Well, he is right in a way. But if we awestruck spectators say: "He JUST played the percentage", it would be the biggest understatement for years, maybe even for decades.

The candidates:

Rehder, IBPA Bulletin 551.11, Tim Verbeek (NED)

Sharon Gerstman, IBPA Bulletin 553.13, Dan Gerstman (USA)

Nakamura, IBPA Bulletin 554.6, Ron Klinger (AUS)

Helgemo, IBPA Bulletin 555.9, GeO Tislevoll (NZ)

Duboin, IBPA Bulletin 558.2, Jos Jacobs (NED)

## The Richard Freeman Junior Deal of the Year Award

Winners: Cédric Lorenzini/Christophe Grosset (FRA)

Journalist: Patrick Bogacki (FRA)

Located south of the Tropic of Cancer, Kaohsiung is a tropical city with temperatures largely in excess of 30°C ; humidity is around 80%. The port of Kaohsiung is one of the biggest in the world, and is important particularly in container transport. The city is home to the National Sun Yat-sen University, host of the 5<sup>th</sup> World University Bridge Championships, organised by FISU (Fédération Internationale des Sports Universitaire). The French delegation comprised three pairs, Cédric Lorenzini-Christophe Grosset, Alexandre Kilani-Simon Poulat, Thibault Coudert-Aymeric Lebatteux, and a non-playing captain, the author of this article.

Here's a superb example of how to make the declarer stumble in three no trump:

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

West	North	East	South
	Grosset		Lorenzini
INT	Pass	2♦	Pass
2♥	Pass	3NT	Pass
Pass	Pass		

Christophe Grosset led the four of spades and declarer played the ten from dummy. Cédric Lorenzini did not cover - he wanted to deny declarer a later entry to the hearts. In dummy with the ten of spades, declarer played a small heart to the jack, ducked in tempo by Grosset! And that was the end. Not able to imagine such a Machiavellian scheme, declarer next cashed the ace and king of hearts and was not able to recover.

Chiu, IBPA Bulletin 550.17, Brian Senior (ENG)  
 Grosset-Lorenzini, IBPA Bulletin 552.6, Patrick Bogacki (FRA)  
 Fisher, IBPA Bulletin 555.13, Roland Wald (DEN)  
 Johansen, IBPA Bulletin 559.3, Brian Senior (ENG)  
 Birman, IBPA Bulletin 559.5, Ram Soffer (ISR)

Lorenzini, IBPA Bulletin 559, Brian Senior (ENG)