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São Paulo, Brazil



2009 IBPA Awards

The IBPA Personality of the Year

ROSE MELTZER



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

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

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

Rose's passion for bridge began in high school, but really blossomed in the late 1990's. Since then she is the first woman to win five open world titles and the first

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woman World Grand Master. Rose considers herself very fortunate to have the complete support of her husband and family in her endeavours.

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

The Alan Truscott Memorial Award

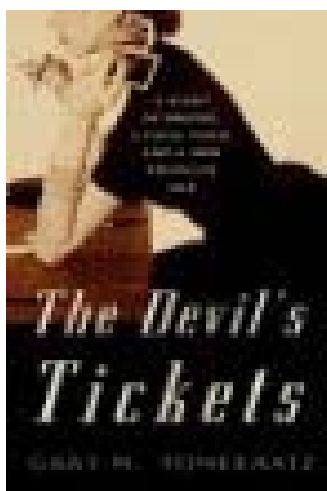


Alan Truscott, circa 1964, The New York Times

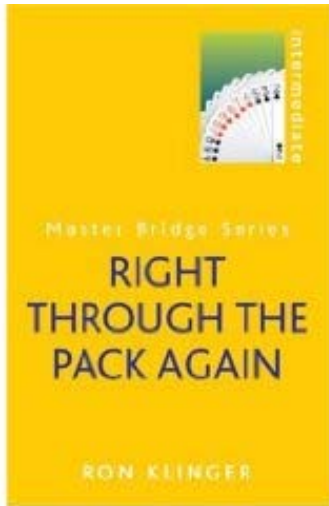
The **Alan Truscott Memorial Award** is given periodically for some special service to the game that would appeal to Alan. As well as a top bridge player and writer, Alan was also a fine chess player and had varied interests away from the table.

The Truscott award for 2009 goes to Gary M. Pomerantz for “*The Devil’s Tickets*”, an unusual bridge tale. It tells the interleaved stories of Ely and Jo Culbertson and Myrtle and Jack Bennett. Myrtle shooting Jack dead is perhaps the most famous incident in bridge history, and it occurred 80 years ago. Ely and Jo need no introduction. The book is also an interesting social history of the Roaring Twenties, pre-WWII America and bridge as the latest craze. One need not be a bridge player to enjoy this well-written and lively account of the time.

Pomerantz (photo below from USA Today), 48, a former reporter at The Washington Post and Atlanta Journal-Constitution, is a lecturer at Stanford University. He lives in Larkspur, Calif., with his wife and three children. Books include “*Where Peachtree Meets Sweet Auburn*”, a history of race relations in Atlanta.

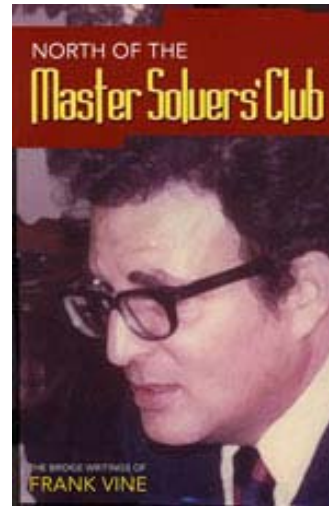


Master Point Press Books of the Year



Winner:

Ron Klinger (Australia), "Right through the Pack Again", Ron Klinger Bridge, Sydney, 2009, 222 pages



Winner:

Frank Vine (Canada), "North of the Master Solvers' Club", Master Point Press, Toronto, 2008, 183 pages

Shortlist:

Augie Boehm (USA): "Wielding the Axe – The Vanishing Art of the Penalty Double", HNB Publishing, New York, 2008, 162 pp

Ian McCance (Australia): "The Setting Trick – Practical Problems in Bridge Defense", Master Point Press, Toronto, 2008, 159 pages

Gary M. Pomerantz (USA): "The Devil's Tickets", Crown Publishers, New York, 2009, 289 pages

Frank Stewart (USA): "Frank Stewart's World of Bridge", Vivishere Publishing, New York, 2008, 268 pages

RIGHT THROUGH THE PACK AGAIN

Right Through The Pack (A Bridge Fantasy) by Robert Darvas and Norman de V. Hart was published in 1948 and the idea of each card in the pack telling its own story was an instant hit. It is on virtually every bridge magazine's and bridge player's list of the top ten bridge books of all time and has become a bridge classic.

This new book follows the original but also continues the story of the Old Master, a character featured in a series of articles Klinger wrote for *The Bridge World* magazine. The Old Master managed to snatch victory from impossible-seeming situations but in the final article, *Last Hurrah*, he collapsed and died... or did he? In *Right Through The Pack Again* the cards strive to keep the Old Master alive. Each card tells its own tale and how it was the key feature in a particular hand. Not only will you be entertained by the deals, but you will also learn more about why the Old Master has lost the zest for life. Will the cards be able to restore his desire to live? Here is the tale of the eight of diamonds.

Trumpled to Death

Dealer East. Both Vul.

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

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

North's three hearts showed club support and a singleton or void in hearts. The Old Master toyed with the idea of bidding three no trump, but the poor clubs combined with the singleton diamond deterred him.

West began with the diamond ace and promptly switched to the club ten when East signalled with the queen and the king dropped from South. South won in dummy to play a heart. It would do no good for East to rise with the heart king. East did not have a second trump to lead and to play the heart king would also expose West to a ruffing finesse in hearts. East played low and the heart queen lost to the ace.

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What was West to do? If he did not play a second trump, declarer would be able to cross-ruff the rest of the hand for eleven tricks. West therefore played the nine of clubs, but that was just as fatal.

The Old Master won with dummy's king of clubs, but East had no good discard. If he threw a spade, ace, king and a third spade ruffed would set up dummy's fourth spade. If East ditched a heart, a spade to the ace, heart three ruffed, diamond ruff and heart five ruffed would drop East's king, and South's heart jack would be high. Finally, East discarded the nine of diamonds. The Old Master ruffed the diamond three, ruffed a heart, and ruffed the four of diamonds. That made me into a winner, said the diamond eight. Had I been the seven of diamonds or lower, the contract would have failed.

NORTH OF THE MASTER SOLVERS' CLUB

Frank Vine's trenchant commentaries on the game, often thinly disguised as fiction, appeared regularly in *The Bridge World* and other magazines in the 1970s and 1980s. A small collection of his work was published previously by *The Bridge World*, but has long been out of print. Readers who are familiar with Vine's writings will be delighted to see them once more available, this time in a much more comprehensive collection. Those who haven't discovered Frank Vine's work before are in for a rare treat.

Vine was the master of parody, writing articles under such titles as *The Man from La Mancha*, *Wednesday the Rabbi Played Bridge* and *How I Challenged the Champs and Made Them Cry*. His article *Rashomon*, based on the Japanese film of 1950 in which each of four witnesses gives his or her version of events, rates as many players all-time favourite bridge article.

Vine liked to take potshots at the authorities, and in the 1970s and 80s there was no larger authority on the game than Edgar Kaplan, publisher of *The Bridge World*, Chairman of the ACBL Laws Commission and, with Norman Kay, one of the world's top partnerships. Here, in an episode from *The Coldbottom Chronicles*, Vine chides Kaplan for the views of sportsmanship and ethics espoused by *The Bridge World*.

'And so we arrived at the Nationals. What a thrill to meet the storied giants of the game, whom none of us had ever seen. I made sure to point out those I recognized to Coldbottom to ensure he would be suitably apprehensive.

Our first important encounter came on the third round. Our opponents were certainly somebodies, for the table was engulfed by kibitzers. One smoked a meerschaum and the other was called Norman. It was all affability until the second board.

Dealer South. EW Vul.

♠ A K 6 5 4

♥ 6

♦ A K

♣ A K Q J 10

♠ 9 3 2

♠ Q

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

The bidding was unexceptional. South (meerschaum) opened a weak no trump and North (Norman) put him in seven. I led the jack of hearts. The declarer let this come to his hand, puffed three times on his pipe, and pushed out the jack of spades. Whoa, I said to myself, I've got a problem.

I could play the deuce and give count. I could ignore count and play a deceptive three, or I could pop the nine and try to muddle the communications. I took out one card, put it back, pulled out another, put it back, and so on for about four minutes. Finally, I played the three. The pipesmoker studied this, studied me, and finally finessed.

The director was polite but inquisitive. Why had I hesitated? I advised him it was not hesitation, it was thought. . Thinking and huddling, I explained, though very different, often appear similar to an opponent. Luckily I was able to cite chapter and verse, namely the June *Bridge World*, page 26, where an identical situation had been carefully reviewed. I quoted the author. "If we had been hesitating over which card to play (whether to falsecard, whether to give count), we would say nothing. If declarer then misguessed, misreading our problem, we would be charmed."

As I left the table, I thought it appropriate to comfort my opponents. "When you decided to finesse," I said, "I was charmed. Really charmed."

Precision Best Bid Hand of the Year

Winner: Stuart & Gerald Tredinnick (England)
Journalist: Heather Dhondy (England)
Bulletin 531, page 10

2008 GOLD CUP FINAL

Heather Dhondy, Hendon, UK
(Courtesy English Bridge Union)

The final rounds of the Gold Cup are held each year in the beautiful Scottish border town of Peebles. Both of the semi-finals and the final take place over the weekend, with the option also to play the quarterfinals on the Friday.

The final was contested between 2006 winners de Botton (Janet de Botton, David Burn, Nick Sandqvist, Artur Malinowski, Jason Hackett and Justin Hackett), and Collins (Patrick Collins, Derek Patterson, Gerald Tredinnick and Stuart Tredinnick). One unusual feature of this final was that each team fielded a pair of twins – the Hacketts for de Botton and the Tredinnicks for Collins.

It was a close affair from start to finish, with neither side building up any sort of a comfortable lead. Our first deal shows some fine bidding judgement by the Tredinnick twins:

Dealer West. EW Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Malinowski</i>	<i>Stuart</i>	<i>Burn</i>	<i>Gerald</i>
Pass	1 NT ¹	Pass	2 ♣
Pass	2 ♠	Pass	3 ♣
Pass	3 NT	Pass	4 ♥
Pass	5 ♣	Pass	5 NT
Pass	6 ♥	Pass	Pass
Pass			

1. 14-16 HCP

Gerald's three-club bid was natural and forcing, implying four hearts, and when he bid four hearts, that was also natural, stressing the quality of the suit. He followed

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this up with five no trump, asking Stuart to pick a slam, and six hearts was chosen. This really is a good-quality slam, giving the option of establishing clubs by taking ruffs in the hand with short trumps, and he didn't really want the clubs to be 3-3, since that meant that other inferior slams such as six clubs or six no trump would also be making.

However, since slam was missed at the other table, they gained 10 useful IMPs anyway.

Shortlist:

Forrester-Bakhshi (Paul Lamford), Lederer, 527.10
Costa Constantin (David Bird), Madeira, 527.13
Jagniewski-Kwiecien (Marius Wokicki), Vilnius, 528.6
Peter Fredin (Nick Hughes), Yeh Bros, 531.4

The Rose♣Cliff Declarer Play of the Year

Winner: Steve Weinstein (USA)
Journalist: Phillip Alder (USA)
Bulletin 533, page 5

2009 CAVENDISH INVITATIONAL

Phillip Alder, Hobe Sound, FL

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

Board 9. Dealer North. EW Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Weinstein	Gitelman	Levin	Moss
—	2♥	2♠	Pass
3 NT	Pass	Pass	Pass

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

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

Weinstein then turned to Gitelman and said that if he held the club king, he was going to be squeeze-endplayed in the rounded suits by the run of the spades. Being brought down to four cards, if Gitelman kept king-doubleton in hearts and clubs, West would play the ace and another heart, forcing a lead away from the club king. This was only a six-trick swing since Weinstein would have been down four if he'd put in the spade jack.

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

Shortlist:

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

Gidwani Family Trust Defence of the Year

Winner: Michelle Brunner (England)
Journalist: Maureen Hiron (Spain)
Bulletin 528, page 7

A GEM FROM MICHELLE BRUNNER

Maureen Hiron, Málaga, Spain

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

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

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

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

So – she returned the nine of clubs, which, with dummy's assets on view, surely could only have been a singleton. Dummy won, and fearing a club ruff, South continued with ace and another spade. Holland won with his king and returned a club, South playing low from dummy. Michelle Brunner captured with her king, then gave her partner the club ruff that defeated the game.

Shortlist:

Hanlon/McGann (Patrick Jourdain), Buffett Cup, 525.4
Townsend/Gold (Mark Horton), Beijing Open Teams, 526.10

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Ker (Max Wigbout), NZ National Congress, 529.14
Lungu/Micescu (Mark Horton), San Remo, Daily Bulletin
Madala/Bocchi (Jos Jacobs), San Remo, Daily Bulletin

Brazilian Junior Deal of the Year

Winner: Thomas Bessis (France)
Journalist: Brian Senior (England)
European Junior Championships, Romania, Daily Bulletin

BESSIS BRILLIANCY

Brian Senior, Nottingham, UK

Over several years of Youth tournaments I have found Thomas Bessis to be a rich source of top-quality play and defensive hands. Here in Poiana Brasov, Thomas left it until the final match, against England, for his finest effort.

Board 9. Dealer North. EW Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Bessis	Atthey	Volcker	Owen
—	1 ♠	Pass	2 NT
Pass	3 ♥	Pass	4 ♠
Pass	Pass	Pass	

Chris Owen's two no trump response was an invitational or better spade raise and John Atthey's three hearts a length-showing game try, accepted by Owen who, of course, was always planning to go on to game.

It looks as though four spades is destined to make, courtesy of the ruffing club finesse, but...

Frederic Volcker led the eight of diamonds, second from three or more small cards, and Bessis won the king and cashed the ace, Atthey falsecarding with the queen as Volcker dropped the two, confirming two or four cards – clearly four on the auction. Bessis switched to the seven of clubs and, not surprisingly, declarer was taken in. Atthey ruffed low and gave up a heart, Bessis winning the ace and returning a diamond to declarer's ten. Atthey ruffed a heart, ruffed a club, ruffed a heart, being relieved to see that Bessis could not over-ruff, and ruffed another club. But Volcker could over-ruff and that was two down.

How could Bessis possibly find the brilliant underlead? His partner would surely have led a singleton club rather than four small diamonds so was marked with either two

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clubs or a void. Once declarer was known to have three diamonds, plus heart length because of the auction, it had to be he and not Volcker who had the club void.

As the French North-South pair had played in four clubs down one for minus 50 in the other room, Bessis' fine defence turned a 10-IMP loss into a 2-IMP gain.

Shortlist:

Kalita (Christer Andersson), University Championships, 525.7

Macura (Bert Toar Polii), University Championships, 525.10

Van Lankveld (Patrick Jourdain), European Junior Championships, Romania, Daily Bulletin

Tekin (Brian Senior), European Junior Championships, Romania, Daily Bulletin