



2020 IBPA Awards

Sponsored by the Hainan Bridge Festival

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(Augmented November 2, 2021)
John Carruthers

IBPA Personalities of the Year

The Rimstedts, Sweden



Sandra



Cecilia



Mikael



Ola

The Rimstedts (with mother Ann and father Magnus Eriksson) may eventually lay claim to being the first family of bridge, but they have a way to go yet to catch the Moss family (father Mike, mother Gail Greenberg and children Jill Levin, Brad and Andrew), with 12 World Championships among them. However, no family other than the Rimstedts has ever had four such accomplished children, let alone at such a young age.

The twins Mikael and Ola were taught bridge by their sisters at the age of five. That made up a table of four with a total age under 40. The boys were more interested in other sports, however, such as golf, football and badminton until they decided to try out for the Swedish Schools team. Although still interested in other sports, especially golf, they have never looked back.

Sandra has won six medals in World and European play, including gold in the Women's European Pairs in Tromsø in 2015. She currently lives in New York City with her husband Shane Blanchard, himself coming from a distinguished bridge family. Sandra has also won a number of NABC titles.

Cecilia has won nine medals in European and World play, including three gold, as well as a handful of NABCs. The crowning achievement so far, however, was her win in the Venice Cup in Wuhan.



Mother Ann and the kids, a few years back



The boys, after their win in Orlando

Most of the boys' wins have come together as partners, including the big one, the 2018 World Open Pairs in Orlando, the most difficult World Championship to win. Surely Bermuda Bowls and other world titles will follow. Mikael has 11 medals in European and World play, six of which are gold, as well as a few NABC wins. Ola has 12 medals, one more gold with a different partner. We are certain that that does not play a part in any sibling rivalry and trash talk. The boys credit our own PO Sundelin for his part in developing them as bridge players.

With World Championship wins in 2018 and 2019, the Rimstedts were an easy choice for IBPA Personalities of the Year. Not only are they all superb players, they embody what is best about bridge: they have impeccable ethics, they are personable, they are disconcertingly young for their level of success and, oh yes, they are all devastatingly attractive.

Justin Lall Memorial Declarer Play of the Year

Winner: Sartaj Hans (Australia)
Journalist: Ron Klinger (Australia)
Article: *The Asia Pacific Open Teams*
Event: The 2019 Asia Pacific Open Teams, Singapore, June 11-20, 2019,
 Australia v. China Hong Kong
Source: IBPA Bulletin 654, July 2019, p. 8



The 2019 Asia Pacific Bridge Federation Championships were held in Singapore from June 11-20. The Australian Open Team did rather well on this problem deal from their match against China Hong Kong:

Round 22. Dealer North. Neither Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Hung</i>		<i>Edgton</i>	
—	Pass	Pass	INT
Pass	2♣	2♦	2♥
Pass	4♥	Pass	Pass
Pass			

With Australia East/West and Hong Kong North/South, Andy Hung (West) led the three of clubs to the queen, king and ace. Declarer ruffed a club, finessed the queen of spades, ruffed his last club and played the king of hearts: eight – three – two and the nine of hearts: diamond three – heart four – heart ace. Hung continued with clubs and had trump control. The result was one down, East/West plus 50.

At the other table ...

West	North	East	South
—	<i>Gill</i>		<i>Hans</i>
Pass	Pass	Pass	INT
Pass	2♣	Pass	2♥
Pass	4♥	Pass	Pass
Pass			

West led the jack of clubs: queen – king – ace. Sartaj Hans (South) also ruffed a club, led a spade to his queen and ruffed his last club. However, when the king of hearts held, Hans continued with a diamond from dummy. East followed with the ten, Hans played his king and West ruffed in. West cashed the ace of hearts and led another club for Hans to ruff, East discarding a diamond on the heart and a spade on the club. These cards remained:

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

When South played the queen of hearts to draw West's last trump and discarded the six of spades from dummy, East was squeezed in an odd way. While East was considering his discard, Hans claimed, stating, "If you ditch a diamond, I shall play the ace of diamonds and another diamond. If you pitch a spade, I'll cash the ace of spades and then endplay you with the nine of diamonds." When Hans discarded a spade from the dummy, he was left with just one threat suit, diamonds. However, East still had two material suits and had to unguard one of them. That was ten tricks, plus 420 and 10 IMPs to Australia.

Additionally, had declarer discarded a diamond on the queen of hearts, East would still have been squeezed, but in that situation, it would have been a criss-cross squeeze without the count, another oddity. A diamond discard would have allowed Hans to set up his fourth diamond as a winner, with the ace of spades as an entry, while a spade discard would have meant that the ace of that suit would then have dropped the king. The ace of diamonds would have been the entry for the established jack of spades. In either case, it was very nice card-reading, a very-well-played deal and an elegant ending.

Why did Sartaj Hans play as he did? The natural move, after the king of hearts held the trick, was to continue hearts. That would have succeeded if hearts had been 3-2; if they'd been 4-1 and diamonds 3-2, Hans would still have been alright. However, after South had opened one notrump West, his screen-mate, had thought for some time before passing. Hans commented: "Since West held at most the ace of hearts, the queen-jack of diamonds and the jack of clubs in high-cards, a 5=4=2=2 or a 5=4=3=1 shape would not have warranted such a pause. He must have had six clubs and four hearts for the hesitation. The absence of a singleton diamond lead suggested to me that he was 3=4=0=6. To cater for my legitimate make when he had 2=4=1=6 shape, I led a diamond to my king. If both opponents had followed, I'd need to have continued with the ace of spades and then another diamond through West before playing any more trumps."

I had watched the play on BBO and the next day I asked Hans, "Would you have played the diamond nine if West had played low on the two of diamonds from dummy?" He replied: "Not sure what I

would have done. There was some chance LHO had a singleton queen or jack that he did not elect to lead. Playing the nine of diamonds would have worked very well on the actual deal (if East had not split) as I could then have neutralized his trumps, whatever defence he chose. In practice, however, players always split the queen-jack-ten, so perhaps the discussion is academic.” East’s rising with a diamond honour on the diamond two from dummy was not fatal to the defence. However, after West ruffed South’s king and cashed the heart ace, a spade shift instead of a club would have laid declarer low.

In the Open Series, there were 11 declarers in four hearts, but just two of them were successful. The Asia Pacific Bridge Federation Championships also determined the teams which qualified for the 2019 World Championships in Wuhan, China. They were:

Open: Singapore, Indonesia and China Hong Kong

Women: Chinese Taipei, Japan and China Hong Kong

Mixed: Chinese Taipei, Thailand and Indonesia

Seniors: Indonesia, Chinese Taipei and Japan.

China, as host nation, will also represent Zone 6 in Wuhan in all four categories.

Other Shortlisted Candidates

<u>Bulletin</u>	<u>Declarer</u>	<u>Journalist</u>
655.07	Richard Pavlicek	Jing Liu
656.15	Chris Willenken	Jan Jansma
661.09	Michael Whibley	J.J. Wang
662.06	Tor Eivind Grude	Knut Kjærnsrød
662.14	Jeff Meckstroth	John Carruthers
663.18	Hugh McGann	Katie Thorpe
664.15	Cedric Lorenzini	John Carruthers

Gidwani Family Trust Defence of the Year

Winner: Brad Bart (Canada)

Journalist: Danny Miles (Canada)

Article: *That's How You Get Your Name in the Paper*

Event: Las Vegas Summer NABC, Spingold KO Teams, first round

Source: IBPA Bulletin 655, August 2019, p. 8



Las Vegas Summer NABC

Dealer South. NS Vul.

♠ K J 10 9 7

♥ 10 9

♦ Q 6 2

♣ 10 8 6

♠ A Q

♥ 6

♦ A K J 9 8 7 5

♣ A 9 7

West	North	East	South
<i>Bart</i>	—	<i>Todd</i>	—
—	—	—	1♥
Double	Redouble ¹	Pass	3♥
4♦	Pass	Pass	4♥
Double	Pass	Pass	Pass

1. Spades

This deal is from the opening round of the Spingold Knockout Teams where Brad Bart and Bob Todd were defenders. Take the West seat where Bart sat and see how you do.

As West, you lead the king of diamonds and, of course, the spot cards (two, three, ten, upside-down) leave you in doubt as to what to do next. Decide what you would do before looking at the full deal on the next page.

Here is the full deal:

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

If you try to cash a second diamond, declarer ruffs, cashed one trump, then leads a spade, putting you in a Morton's Fork. If you duck, declarer pitches the second spade on a diamond. If you win, declarer is home on a good guess. A trump switch or a club switch is equally ineffective. Bart found the winning defence at the table: he played declarer for precisely two spades and shifted to the queen of spades. Dummy's king won. Declarer took the trump finesse and played a second spade, but Bart won with his ace and played the ace of diamonds, collecting two clubs at the end for down one.

Other Shortlisted Candidates

<u>Bulletin</u>	<u>Defender(s)</u>	<u>Journalist</u>
654.15	Michal Klukowski	Simon Cope
655.09	Xu Hou	Jerry Li
655.12	Brad Moss	Jerry Li
657.13	Stevie Weinstein/Bobby Levin	Ron Klinger
662.08	Wlodek Starkowski	Marek Wójcicki
662.13	Michael Whibley/Matt Brown	John Carruthers

Yeh Bros. Best Bid Deal of the Year

Winners: Michael Whibley/Matt Brown (New Zealand)

Journalist: Brian Senior (England) & GeO Tislevoll (New Zealand)

Article: *The 2019 APBF Championships*

Event: 52nd Asia Pacific Bridge Championships, Singapore, June 11-20, 2019

Source: IBPA Bulletin 659, December 2019, p. 12



New Zealand's Michael Whibley and Matt Brown bid the following deal nicely, as originally reported by GeO Tislevoll; a nice way of combining their use of gadgets and common sense.

Board 1. Dealer North. Neither Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Whibley</i>		<i>Brown</i>	
—	Pass	1♥	Pass
3♦ ¹	Pass	3NT ²	Pass
4♦ ³	Pass	4♥ ⁴	Pass
4NT ⁵	Pass	5♦ ⁶	Pass
6♦ ⁷	Pass	Pass	Pass

1. Limit raise with three hearts
2. Shortage in clubs, slam try
3. Control
4. Willing to subside
5. Promising a spade control (as four spades would have been a key-card ask)
6. Control
7. Offer to play

Whibley and Brown found the excellent six-diamond spot, which does not depend on the hearts to come in and scored plus 920. Unfortunately, though, the hearts broke, so six hearts was a make, and their reward was to lose 2 IMPs!

Other Shortlisted Candidates

Bulletin

654.18

658.06

660.06

663.06

663.20

Bidders

Mike and Sarah Bell

Weiping Nie

David Berkowitz/Gary Cohler

Sjoert Brink/Bas Drijver

Augustin Madala/Dennis Bilde

Journalist

David Bird

JJ Wang

ACBL Bulletin Staff

Mark Horton

John Carruthers

Richard Freeman

Junior Deal of the Year

Winner: Christian Bakke (Denmark)
Journalist: GeO Tislevoll (New Zealand)
Article: *Spotlight on the Spade 2*
Event: 2019 Scandic Maritim Cup, Haugesund, Norway
Source: IBPA Bulletin 658, November 2019, p. 12



This deal is from a recent team event, the Scandic Maritim Cup in Haugesund, Norway.

Dealer East. EW Vul.

<p>♠ A 10 9 7 6 5 2 ♥ A 9 2 ♦ A 6 ♣ K</p> <p>♠ Q J 4 3 ♥ K J 7 6 4 ♦ 3 ♣ A 8 6</p>	<p>♠ 8 ♥ 10 8 3 ♦ K Q J 9 7 5 ♣ 9 5 2</p> <p>♠ K ♥ Q 5 ♦ 10 8 4 2 ♣ Q J 10 7 4 3</p>
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West	North	East	South
Nesdal	Bakke	Rekstad	Ekren
—	—	Pass	Pass
1♥	4♠	Pass	Pass
Pass			

East led the king of diamonds. The good news was that the trump king was still in dummy as an entry but, when Bakke won the first trick with the diamond ace and played the club king, West found the best defence by ducking. If West takes the king of clubs with the ace, declarer will be able to enter dummy to cash two club tricks. He will get two quick discards for red-suit losers before the fourth round of clubs puts pressure on West. If West ruffs in, he will lose one of his trump tricks. If he doesn't, North's last red-suit loser will disappear, so it would have been ten tricks either way. When West ducked the king of clubs, the loss of a club trick for the defence looked like a good exchange for three defensive red-suit winners. Together with two trump tricks, that would have set the contract two tricks. One for three is not bad, but it was not to be.

Bakke saw that, to make the contract at that point, West must have no more diamonds and be the victim of an endplay. After the club king won the trick, Bakke played the spade five to the king. The club queen was covered by the ace and ruffed with the spade six. Without the carefully kept trump deuce an endplay might still work if West is not on the ball. After ruffing out the club ace, declarer

plays the spade ace and another, and West gets two trump tricks with his queen-jack before he must lead away from his heart king (or play a club). The declarer gets an entry to dummy to enjoy the clubs for red-suit discards.

However, West can make another sacrifice by unblocking big spades, giving up one of his two trump tricks. The defender wants to exit with the spade three to force declarer to play the rest from North with two heart losers and a diamond loser; one down. West's giving up one of his trump tricks – one trick – gives the defenders three more tricks! But Bakke was prepared for such an unblock. The carefully kept trump deuce ensured that West had no move to beat the contract. This was the position, if West had unblocked trumps:

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

North plays the trump ten; West wins and tries to exit with the three, but North follows with the two! As the play went, Bakke made 11 tricks by losing only two trump tricks. If, double-dummy, you saw at once that the spade two was the most important card on this deal, you are a very strong player. Bakke saw it at the table, only seeing the North and South cards. Don't be surprised if you hear more of Christian Bakke in the coming years.

Other Shortlisted Candidates

Bulletin	Player(s)	Journalist
655.05	Finn Kolesnik	Alex Kolesnik
655.14	Andrew Spooner	Ron Klinger
656.22	Ilan Baniri	Fernando Lema
658.09	Jared Dunbar	Barbara Travis
660.04	Chinnathee Saisith	Paul Hackett
660.16	Henry Rose/Jasmine Bakhshi	Michael Byrne
661.18	Christian Lahrmann	Jens Otto Pedersen
661.19	Richard Jeng/Brent Xiao	Marc Smith

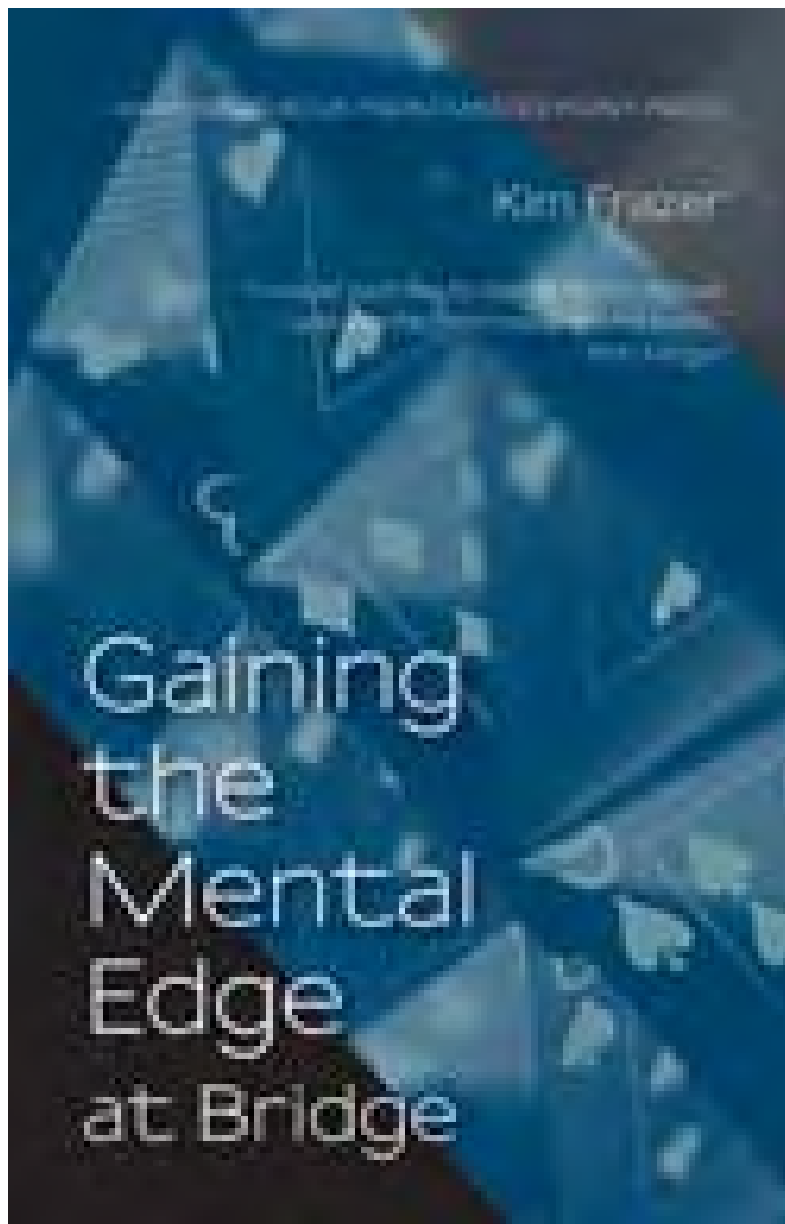
**Master Point Press
IBPA Book of the Year**

(Awarded at the IBPA AGM online, December 12, 2020)

Gaining the Mental Edge at Bridge

By Kim Frazer

Master Point Press, Toronto (October 4, 2019); paperback, 182 pp., \$18.95.





Kim Frazer

Kim Frazer (Australia) won gold medals at three successive Commonwealth Games for target shooting. She took up bridge in 2005, and in 2018 made the Australian women's team at her first attempt. Her articles on bridge psychology have appeared in *Australian Bridge* and (in France) *Le Bridgeur*.

Bridge players spend countless hours working on bidding conventions and cardplay techniques, yet give little attention to the mental side of the game. Maintaining focus and concentration, dealing with nerves, and other issues are largely ignored.

In this book, Kim Frazer, an Olympian, winner of gold medals at three consecutive Commonwealth Games and an Australian international bridge player, has adapted the mental techniques that brought her success in shooting and explains in easily-understood terms how to use these at the bridge table. Just like Kim's sport of target shooting, a loss of concentration in a bridge event can cost you a win. No matter your standard and irrespective of whether your errors are caused by distractions, nerves or other non-technical factors, this book offers simple, practical techniques to improve your mental approach to the game, allowing you to enjoy your time at the bridge table even more.

"I am anxious to try out these new ideas and incorporate them as part of my regular regime. I can't wait for my next bridge game! I would just like to bar all of my regular opponents from reading this book." -- **Ron Klinger**

Alan Truscott Memorial Award

(Awarded at the IBPA AGM at the World Bridge Championships
in Wuhan, September 23, 2019)



Alan Truscott, circa 1964, *The New York Times*

The Alan Truscott Award is presented periodically to an individual or organisation that, in the opinion of the IBPA Executive, has done something in the world of bridge that Alan would have approved of and appreciated. Alan was an IBPA Executive member, serving as its president from 1981 to 1985 and was the long-time bridge editor of the *New York Times*. Alan was also a fine player: before leaving Great Britain for the United States, Alan represented Great Britain internationally, earning a first and second in the European Team Championships and a third in the Bermuda Bowl. Before such things were forbidden, he served as the NPC for Bermuda and Brazil in World Championships.

2020 Recipients: Jan van den Hoek (Netherlands) & Tom Reynolds (USA)

This year's Truscott Award goes to two recipients, Jan van den Hoek of the Netherlands and Tom Reynolds of the USA for their unstinting work in creating top-level online bridge tournaments during the pandemic. Jan is the organiser of the Alt tournaments and Tom is the creator of the Reynolds Knockouts. Both series are high-level team events, some invitational and some open. They have all provided an opportunity for bridge players worldwide to keep their skills intact while face-to-face bridge is on hold. We all owe them a debt of gratitude.



Jan van den Hoek

Jan van den Hoek is a bridge aficionado and lawyer who had already built a name for himself in the Netherlands (and Europe) in bridge. The first Alt tournament was conceived as a replacement for the cancelled Vanderbilt Trophy at the Columbus NABCs in March 2020. With the help of Sjoert Brink, the event turned out to be very popular and many more tournaments followed, with Daily Bulletins edited by Christina Lund Madsen.



Tom Reynolds

I describe myself as a "really good bridge player for someone who really doesn't play the game." I was life Master 10,718 in 1969 but took multiple years completely off and multiple years where I played very little. Yes, life got in the way but, playing a full regional, much less a full national, is not something I enjoy. I really only care about playing teams against the best, so you will see me at the USBF Trials, the Spingold or the Vanderbilt but not much at a matchpoint event.