

2015 IBPA Awards



John Carruthers, Chennai, India, October 3, 2015

Personality of the Year

Boye Brogeland, Norway



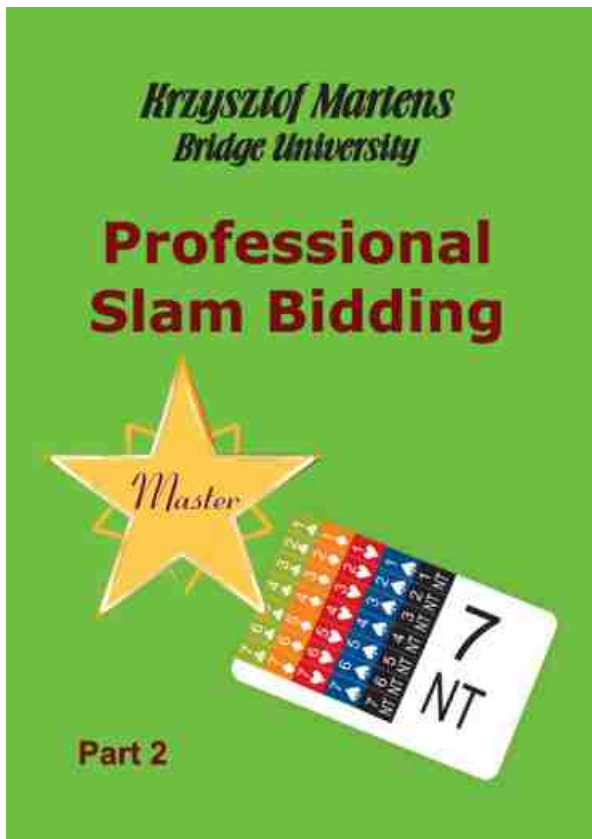
Our Personality might well have been named previously for his achievements at the bridge table. This year other activities made him a Personality in the bridge world.

It is not IBPA's role to express an opinion on the allegations made in recent weeks, but we could not disregard the name that will no doubt be associated with bridge in 2015. A much tougher decision was how to handle this conclusion. Have our recipient's decisions and actions in the past few weeks all been correct? Most probably not. Were they brave? Yes. Has he forced many organisations, including IBPA, into difficult decisions? Certainly.

We are the International Bridge **Press** Association. It is not our job to judge innocence or guilt. We merely acknowledge the bridge personality who in the last year has made the greatest impact in the media. Our naming IS not, and **MUST** not be interpreted as a judgement on any of the ongoing processes. The accused are innocent until proven guilty. The IBPA Personality of 2015 is Boye Brogeland.

Master Point Press Book of the Year

Professional Slam Bidding, Parts 1 & 2 by Krzysztof Martens, Poland



The prolific (17 books in the past few years) Krzysztof Martens (under the banner of his Bridge University) has produced yet another classic and, with it, has won the Master Point Press Book of the Year award for the second time (joining Roy Hughes and Julian Pottage in doing so). *Professional Slam Bidding* is a look (in two parts) at slam auctions bid at the table in major World Championships by professional players. It contains over 150 deals in the slam zone bid by championship pairs, with Martens' comments and proposed solutions, concepts, conventions, and agreements. A unique (and useful) idea is the counterpoint often suggested by Brian Senior. The paperback format of the book includes a CD-ROM with additional training material.

This book is for expert and aspiring-expert players. One could not help but improve one's judgement in the slam zone by dutiful assimilation of the material in these books (a quality inherent in all of Martens' works). Whether or not you always agree with him, Martens presents well-reasoned, logical alternatives if the players at the table were unsuccessful and examines why they were successful on those occasions that they were.

Here's an early example deal in which Martens' compatriots Adam Zmudzinski and Cezary Balicki went wrong in their semifinal match of the 2001 Bermuda Bowl in Paris.

Board 59. Dealer South. Neither Vul.

♠ A J 8 4

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

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

♠ 6 5
 ♥ K Q 10 6 4 2
 ♦ A 7 4
 ♣ A 8

West	North	East	South
Sontag	Balicki	Weichsel	Zmudzinski
—	—	—	1♥
Pass	1♠	Pass	2♥
Pass	3♣	Pass	3♦
Pass	3♥	Pass	4♣
Pass	4♦	Pass	4NT
Pass	5♠	Pass	5NT
Pass	6♥	Pass	7♥
Pass	Pass	Pass	

Balicki's 5♠ response to Roman Key Card Blackwood showed two key cards and the queen of hearts. Playing five-card majors, his fifth heart guaranteed a good play for no losers opposite Kxxxx or one loser opposite xxxxx.

Martens' says, "This is an example of the consequences of not having a bidding device that says, 'I need more information'. Balicki's semi-natural 3♣ bid only led to confusion and, after a rather unclear bidding sequence, the Polish pair got to a hopeless slam."

"Here is what the bidding would be with the agreements I proposed earlier."

2NT = Forcing
 3NT = 2=6=(3-2)

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

"With this sequence, responder knows about the lack of spade shortness and the spade king, and thus, we know partner has no place to put his spade loser."

The other three pairs in the semifinals (Martel/Stansby, Helness/Helgemo and Bocchi/Duboin) reached six hearts without incident after using a Jacoby-2NT response to one heart and later denying shortness or the spade king.

Shortlist:

Big Deal – Augie Boehm

A Good Game of Modern Bridge - Ron Klinger

Bumblepuppy Days – Julian Laderman

Guard Squeezes - Anthony Moon & Tim Bourke

The Canterbury Bridge Tales – David Silver & Tim Bourke

Alan Truscott Memorial Award

The Investigators



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 both Bermuda and Brazil in World Championships.

With all the allegations flying around, we have no doubt that Alan would have appreciated the work done unpaid by bridge players of a wide range of ability in assisting the investigations. These people are far too many to name individually so we are simply calling them “The Investigators”. We puzzled over who should receive the Award. Some of this work might help a prosecution, some a defence. But what Truscott would surely have wanted in Buenos Aires are videos with clear pictures of what was happening at the table. Without that, many are still in doubt fifty years later about the findings. Let us hope that today’s videos will allow the accuracy of any theory to be tested with confidence.

And so Traian Chira, who initiated the videos, receives the 2015 Alan Truscott Memorial Award on behalf of The Investigators.

Keri Klinger Memorial Declarer Play of the Year

Winner: Espen Lindqvist (Norway)
Article : *Letter from Norway*
Journalist: (Norway)
Event: 2014 World Open Pairs, Sanya, China
Source: IBPA Bulletin 601, February, 2015, p. 2

LETTER FROM NORWAY Knut Kjærnsrød, Tored, Norway



The Open World Championships in China were not a great success for Norway, but on this board from the World Open Pairs final, Espen Lindqvist performed with elegance:

Dealer North. Both Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
—	Pass	Pass	1♦
1♥	2♦	Double	4♣
Pass	5♦	Pass	Pass
Pass			

West led the ten of spades, ducked all around. Lindqvist won the spade continuation with his ace, ruffed a spade, discarded a heart on the ace of clubs and ruffed a club with the ten of diamonds. When Lindqvist played his last spade and West followed, Lindqvist ruffed it with the queen of

diamonds, then ran the nine of diamonds successfully. He ruffed another club, removing West's last exit card. and played his last two trumps to reach this position:

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

Lindqvist completed his brilliant performance by leading the queen of hearts and unblocking dummy's ten. When West won with his king, he had to lead into the ace-nine tenace to hand declarer the contract.

Other Shortlisted Candidates:

Marcelo Branco (Brasil) in *Brasileiro 2014* by Ana Roth & Fernando Lema (Argentina),
2014 Brazilian Open Teams Championship final, CHAGAS v d'ORSI, IBPA Bulletin 597.13

Peter Fredin (Sweden) in *13th European Champions Cup* by Jos Jacobs (Netherlands),
LAVEC SMILE v HEIMDAL, IBPA Bulletin 599.6

Jason Hackett (England) in *20th NEC Cup* by Rich Colker (USA),
HACKETT v JAPAN SENIOR, IBPA Bulletin 602.4

Geoff Hampson (USA) in *Tightening Up* by Don Kersey (Canada), 2015 Vanderbilt, IBPA Bulletin
603.7

Vincent Demuy (USA) in *USA2 Open Trials* by Suzi Subeck, FIREMAN v DIAMOND, IBPA Bulletin
605.21

Michel Bessis (France) in *2013 Italian Team Championship* by Jan van Cleeff,
VINCI v LAVAZZA, IBPA Bulletin 606.8

Gidwani Family Trust Defence of the Year

Winner: Dennis Bilde/Chris Willenken (Denmark/USA)

Article: *Defend with Your Life*

Journalist: David Stern (Australia)

Event: 2015 Yeh Bros. Cup

Source: IBPA Bulletin 604, May 2014, p. 4

DEFEND WITH YOUR LIFE

David Stern, Sydney



The USA ISH team may not have been setting the tournament aflame, but Chris Willenken and Dennis Bilde worked some magic here against Japan:

Board 28. Dealer West. NS Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Tanaka	Bilde	Yokoi	Willenken
1♣	Pass	1♠	Pass
INT	Pass	2♦	Pass
2♥	Pass	3NT	Pass
Pass	Pass		

Dennis Bilde's lead of the nine of diamonds went to the queen and ace. Declarer tested clubs to find the bad news, North pitching two hearts then a diamond on three rounds of the suit. In with the

queen of clubs, Willenken shifted to a low spade to declarer's ace, then a heart was ducked to the jack and king.

Willenken could see the endplay looming. To get out of his own way, he shifted to ten of spades. Declarer won in dummy with the queen, pitching a heart from hand, and had reached this ending:

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

Declarer led the seven of clubs from dummy, Willenken pitching a diamond, and West had to decide in which hand he wanted to win the fifth club. He chose to win the fourth with the nine in hand (best) and followed with the jack next, so Willenken could pitch the king of spades on the fifth club! Declarer ducked a heart to South now, but squeezed dummy in the process. When he pitched a diamond from the dummy, Willenken could win and exit in diamonds to the now bare king. North could then take the last two tricks in spades.

Other Shortlisted Candidates:

Sylvie Willard/Bénédicte Cronier (France) in *Sparkling Defence* by J.-P. Meyer (France),
2014 Monaco Cavendish, IBPA Bulletin 597.6

Fu Zhong/Li Jie (China) in *20th NEC Cup* by Rich Colker (USA), ZhiHaoLe v SACRUM,
IBPA Bulletin 602.5

Shan Huang (Canada) in *Illusion* by Brent Manley & Sylvia Shi (USA), Silodor Open Pairs
at the 2015 Spring NABC, New Orleans, IBPA Bulletin 603.7

Justin & Jason Hackett (England) in *20th NEC Cup* by Barbara Hackett (England),
England Plus v Japan, IBPA Bulletin 604.2

Yeh Bros. Best Bid Deal of the Year

Winner: Martin Kirr & Katie Thorpe (Canada)

Article: *Hollywood Finish*

Journalist: Fernando Lema (Argentina) & Katie Thorpe (Canada)

Event: 2015 Canadian Senior Teams Championship

Source: IBPA Bulletin 605, June 2015, p. 8



HOLLYWOOD FINISH

Fernando Lema, Buenos Aires, & Katie Thorpe, Kingsville, ON

Board 60. Dealer East. EW Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Galand</i>	<i>Silver</i>	<i>McCully</i>	<i>Carruthers</i>
—	—	1NT ¹	Pass
2♣	Pass	2♠	Pass
6NT	Pass	Pass	Pass
1. 14-16			

McCully claimed 12 tricks for plus 1440 as soon as the dummy appeared.

During the play of this deal at the other table, Michael Roche, who was sitting out, approached John Carruthers and Joey Silver, who had finished play. Roche had his iPad, on which he had been watching the match on BBO, with him. Roche's partner John Rayner had joined the gathering group to congratulate the opponents on their win.

"They've got one board to play and we're down 9 IMPs," Michael told his partner and teammates.

(BBO had the score incorrect - the margin was 11 IMPs at that point.)

"Then we have no chance," JC replied, "they bid to six notrump at our table and had 12 tricks on top with no hope of a thirteenth except on a squeeze, which does not work because Joey has the jack of hearts to guard the suit."

“But they can make seven clubs,” Michael pointed out.

JC took a second look. “But there’s no way to bid it,” he responded.

Michael closed his iPad. “I can’t watch,” he said.

Marty Kirr’s visualization skills are second to none. This was the auction at the second table ...

West	North	East	South
<i>Kirr</i>	<i>Scholes</i>	<i>Thorpe</i>	<i>Herold</i>
—	—	1♣	Pass
1♦ ¹	Pass	1♠ ²	Pass
2♥ ³	Pass	3♦ ⁴	Pass
3♥ ⁵	Pass	3♠ ⁶	Pass
4NT ⁷	Pass	5♣ ⁸	Pass
5♥ ⁹	Pass	6♣ ¹⁰	Pass
7♣ ¹¹	Pass	Pass	Pass

1. Four-card suits up the line unless weak. With a one-bid hand, diamonds can be bypassed to bid a major.
2. Promises at least 4 clubs
3. 4th-suit forcing
4. Natural, usually 3-card support unless 4=1=4=4 or 4=0=4=5
5. Values in hearts
6. Spade concentration
7. RKCB for diamonds
8. 1 or 4 key cards
9. Queen ask
10. Queen of diamonds and king of clubs
11. Choice of grand slams

Kirr reasoned that Thorpe’s three-spade bid, showing a concentration there, must contain the king-queen of the suit as, otherwise, she’d have bid three notrump after he’d shown values in hearts. Then when Thorpe showed the queen of diamonds, Kirr visualized a losing heart, if she had one (Thorpe could have been any of 4=2=3=4; 4=1=3=5; 4=1=4=4; or 4=0=4=5), being discarded on the fourth diamond. A spade ruff in Kirr’s hand would provide the thirteenth trick if Thorpe had only four clubs. Thus seven clubs. Thorpe would have converted to seven diamonds with four diamonds.

The whole auditorium was watching Katie Thorpe play. Exactly as Kirr had visualized, Thorpe arranged to ruff a spade in dummy and discard her losing heart on the fourth round of diamonds for plus 2140. That was 12 IMPs to CARRUTHERS and the team’s tickets to India ... by only 1 IMP. A Hollywood finish!

You may have noticed that an initial (but very improbable) diamond lead defeats the grand slam.

Other Shortlisted Candidates:

Dominik Filipowicz (Poland) in *The 2014 VV Cup* by Marek Wojcicki (Poland), IBPA Bulletin 585.17

Dominik Filipowicz (Poland) in *An Oscar and Some Razzies* by Slawek Latala, Polish Team Championship final, IBPA Bulletin 599.15

Geir Helgemo (Norway) in *The Bid of the Century?* by Michael Akeroyd (England), 2014 Rosenblum Teams quarterfinal, IBPA Bulletin 601.11

Vincent Demuy/John Kranyak (USA) in *Mind over Matter* by Mark Horton (England), 2014 SportAccord World Mind Games, Beijing, Monaco v USA, IBPA Bulletin 601.13

David Bakhshi/Andrew McIntosh (England) in *Virtue Rewarded* by Andrew Robson (England), 2015 Camrose, England v Scotland, IBPA Bulletin 603.21

Richard Freeman Junior Deal of the Year

Winner: Ben Norton/Freddie Illingworth (England)

Article: *Czech Corkers*

Journalist: Michael Byrne (England)

Event: 15th International Championship of the Czech Republic of School and Junior Teams

Source: IBPA Bulletin 595, August 2014, p. 4

CZECH CORKERS

Michael Byrne, Manchester



The England Under-20 team, having spent four days in the Czech Republic, returned with several good deals in both the bidding and the play. The tournament was long and tiring (on one day, we played 96 boards!) As NPC, I had two pairs, Ben Norton/Freddie Illingworth and Chris Cooper/Andrew Murphy. Norton/Illingworth were slightly the more experienced pair, but Murphy has played for the Under 25s and Cooper has captained a University team in the Europeans. Ben and Freddie produced a few corkers that made me smile.

Board 5. Dealer North. NS Vul.

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

East was Illingworth, from Oxford, and West was Norton, from Loughborough. North/South were two of the Czech Girls team.

West	North	East	South
—	1♦	2♣	Pass
2♥ ¹	Pass	5♦ ²	Pass

6♣ ³	Pass	6♦ ⁴	Pass
7♥	Pass	Pass	Pass

1. Forcing for one round
2. Exclusion Key Card Blackwood
3. Two key cards and the queen of hearts
4. Guarantees all the key cards and asks for a filler in clubs!

When North opened one diamond, East started slowly with two clubs, which allowed West to bid hearts at the two level, forcing for one round. East then leapt to five diamonds, EKCB, and the six-club response showed two key cards and the queen. Then came the critical bid from East, six diamonds, asking for a filler in clubs. On this auction, the bid was not needed as a queen-ask as it would have been after a five-heart or five-spade response. West could see that his singleton club (whilst not as valuable as the king) would work well with the extra trump length, so he took the plunge and bid seven hearts.

On a spade lead, with the jack holding, declarer could claim after both opponents followed to a round of trumps, but even on the best lead of a diamond, the grand slam was still easy by ruffing out the clubs.

Other Shortlisted Candidates:

Ben Norton (England) in Czech Corkers by Michael Byrne (England),
3NT in 2014 Czech Republic Schools Teams, IBPA Bulletin 601.10

Freddie Illingworth (England) in Czech Corkers by Michael Byrne (England),
4♥ in 2014 Czech Republic Schools Teams, IBPA Bulletin 601.10

Sam Behrens (England) in 25th *European Youth Team Championships* by Michael Byrne (England),
England v Italy, IBPA Bulletin 608.14

Gal Gerstner (Israel) and **Simon Ekenberg** (Sweden) in 25th *European Youth Team Championships*
by Tom Gärd (Sweden), Sweden v Israel, IBPA Bulletin 608.15

Thomas Paske (England) in 25th *European Youth Team Championships* by Patrick Jourdain (Wales),
England v Finland, IBPA Bulletin 608.16