

2014 IBPA Awards

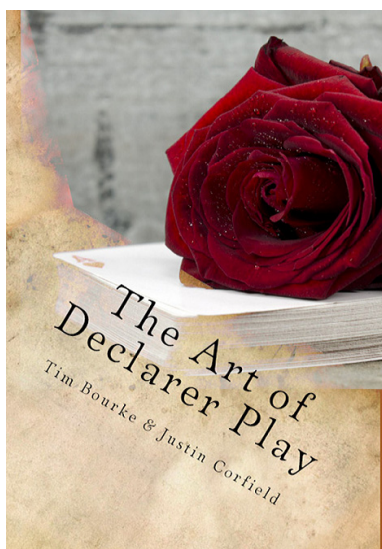


John Carruthers
Sanya, Hainan, China
Monday, October 20, 2014
Revised Wednesday, October 22, 2014



The Master Point Press Book of the Year

The Art of Declarer Play by Tim Bourke & Justin Corfield,
KD Books & Publishing, USA 386 pp., paperback, \$26.00



This year we had a plethora of terrific books to choose among for our Book of the Year. In another year, three of our other candidates might have won the award. However, this year, one book stood out from the rest. *The Art of Declarer Play* belongs in the ranks of Watson, Reese and Kelsey as one of the best books on declarer play ever written. If you buy only one bridge book this year, this should be the one.

From the publisher: “Anybody can make straightforward contracts. *The Art of Declarer Play* is about how to handle the rest. If you already have a good grasp of declarer play technique, the blocking and unblocking plays, the eliminations and the squeezes, then this is the book for you. Bourke and Corfield begin where most of the other books finish, and reveal what goes on inside the mind of an expert, explaining how to anticipate the likely distribution, how to use logic and visualization, how to listen to the cards, and many other ways to make ‘impossible’ contracts. By understanding the thought processes

that lead to a successful strategy in the most challenging of contracts, you will be able to replicate them for yourself, and bid with the confidence that comes from expert-level declarer play.”

“If you want your card play to improve out of all recognition, If you want to learn the secrets of expert-level technique, If you are not afraid to challenge yourself, then read this book.”



Tim Bourke

TIM BOURKE is one of bridge’s most prolific writers, having co-authored over twenty books. His writing partnerships have included Marty Bergen, David Silver, Marc Smith, David Bird and Hugh Kelsey. He is also a regular contributor to the IBPA Bulletin, Australian Bridge and other magazines, and has won several national-level titles. He lives in Canberra, Australia.

Dr. JUSTIN CORFIELD is a very well-known player on the tournament circuit of the British Isles, where he has won a number of national-level events. He regularly commentates on international matches on vugraph, and has written articles on many different aspects of the game. He lives in Dublin, Ireland.



Justin Corfield

Other Shortlisted Candidates:

- The Rabbi’s Rules* - Mark Horton & Eric Kokish
- Further Adventures at the Bridge Table* - Roy Hughes
- Why You Still Lose at Bridge* - Julian Pottage
- More Breaking the Rules* - *Second-Hand Play* - Barry Rigal & Josh Donn
- Bridge on a Shoestring* - Michael Schoenborn
- How to Be a Lucky Player* - Matthew Thomson

The Alan Truscott Award



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

2014 Winner: Frank Stewart



Frank Stewart

The 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.

This year, the Truscott Award goes to Frank Stewart, syndicated newspaper columnist and bridge author. Over the past decade Stewart has written a series of bridge books and has donated the proceeds to local, Fayette, Alabama, charities. We are certain that Alan would appreciate this generous gesture from a fine man.

Frank Stewart has been involved with bridge as a journalist, author, editor, competitor, teacher and creator of the popular "Daily Bridge Club" column.

Stewart is a longtime enthusiast of the game. In 1968, while serving in the U.S. Army, he represented South Korea in the Far East Bridge Championship. He went on to win several regional events in the '70s before discontinuing tournament play to devote full time to writing about bridge.

He is the author of 19 books – including "The Bridge Player's Comprehensive Guide to Defense," "Better Bridge for the Advancing Player" and The Devyn Press Bridge Teacher's Manuals and Student Texts – and has also published hundreds of technical articles, tournament reports and fiction and humor pieces in most of the world's leading bridge magazines and online publications.

He was co-editor from 1984 to 1989 of the most widely circulated of these – The Contract Bridge Bulletin – and continues to contribute a monthly instructional column he began in 1981. He edited the American Contract Bridge League's World Championship books from 1983 to 1987 and was a principal contributor to the "Official Encyclopedia of Bridge" from 1986 to 1989.

Stewart is a graduate of the University of Alabama. He and his wife Charlotte, a speech-language pathologist, make their home in Fayette, Ala.

The IBPA Personality of the Year

PATRICK HUANG



The fact that we are currently in China, and that the centre of bridge appears to be moving in an easterly direction, is a salutary reminder that 45 years ago international bridge was almost irrelevant in the Far East. The role of Deng Xiaoping in bringing bridge to the forefront of China is well known. However, almost equally important was the success of bridge in Chinese Taipei, and leading the charge was our Personality of the Year, Patrick Huang.

In both 1969 and 1970, Chinese Taipei (then known to the world as Nationalist China or Taiwan) reached the finals of the world championship (the Bermuda Bowl), and a young Patrick Huang was duly recognised as one of the great players in the game. Patrick was also instrumental, with C.C. and Kathie Wei, in making Precision the dominant strong club system in the world. With those developments, bridge became recognized in the Far East, and a new era of the game was born.

But if that was all, we wouldn't be recognizing him today. In the intervening years, Patrick has contributed to the game in so many different ways: as a player, coach, non-playing captain, YuGraph commentator (in Mandarin and English), appeals committee member, member of IBPA's book-of-the-year jury, and as organizing secretary of the Yeh Bros Cup, amongst his many other roles. The Yeh Bros Cup, thanks to the sponsorship of Mr. Chen Yeh, has almost single-handedly kept the world of the invitational tournament alive. Patrick has just announced his retirement from that post.

Finally, it is rare to find a successful player in the bridge world about whom nobody has a bad word to say! Patrick is at the very top of the world not only as a player, but also in his ethics and deportment. He has set a fine example for everyone, and it is fitting that we take the opportunity in Sanya to acknowledge his contributions to the game.

The Margaret Parnis England Youth Sportsmanship Award

2014 Botswana Junior & Girls Teams



Junior Team : Boatametse ELLECE, Glod MAELE, Mbakisi MALILO, Mosimanegape MOJI, Kabelo MOLETA, Prince MOSEKI, Letsogile MAFA, non-playing captain
Girls Team: Angela BADI, Tebogo CAIPHUS, Kgomotso DIPORO, Onalenna GAOLATLHWE, Ontlametse MOLOME

The Margaret Parnis England Youth Sportsmanship Award goes periodically to a Youth player, partnership or team who embodies the ideal of good sportsmanship. This year, the award goes to the Botswana Junior and Girls teams for their behaviour and demeanor at the recent 15th World Youth Team Championships in Istanbul.

We often forget that the Olympic principle as espoused by Baron de Coubertin is that it is better to take part than to win. At the World Youth Championships this summer, it soon became apparent to everyone that the Botswana Junior and Girls teams were far less experienced than their counterparts. Although it would have been easy to lose hope and thus interest, the organisers and the other participants were both surprised and delighted to observe that the teams decided to treat the tournament not only as a competition, but also as a learning experience.

The teams benefitted not only from the opportunity to play the matches against tough opposition but also to discuss the boards with their opponents and NPCs. They left Turkey with a lot of teaching material and with a legion of fans who will help, not only Botswana, but also other developing countries to learn the game.

A fund has been established to help with the process of getting bridge books, playing cards, and other essentials to Botswana and to help them participate in future events.

We could find no more suitable candidate for this award, which is dedicated to making bridge a better game for not only the current generation but future generations.

We urge others to follow Margaret Parnis England's example and donate to the Botswana youth fund.

Keri Klinger Memorial Declarer Play of the Year

Winner: Marc Jacobus (USA)

Article : *Jacobus at the Helm*

Journalist: Micke Melander (Sweden)

Event: 2013 d'Orsi Trophy Semifinal, USA v. Poland.

Source: IBPA Bulletin 585, October 2013, p. 15



Jacobus at the Helm

Board 29. Dealer North. Both Vul.

♠ K 10 3
♥ 10 6
♦ K 10 9 8 5
♣ 7 5 4

♠ Q 7 5 2
♥ A 7 5 4
♦ Q J
♣ K J 9

♠ J 9 6
♥ K 2
♦ A 7 6 3 2
♣ A 10 6

♠ A 8 4
♥ Q J 9 8 3
♦ 4
♣ Q 8 3 2

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Passell</i>	<i>Kowalski</i>	<i>Jacobus</i>	<i>Romanski</i>
—	Pass	1♦	1♥
Double	Pass	1♠	Pass
2♥	Pass	2NT	Pass
3NT	Pass	Pass	Pass

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Lasocki</i>	<i>Hayden</i>	<i>Russyan</i>	<i>Bates</i>
—	Pass	1♦	1♥
1♠	Pass	1NT	Pass
3NT	Pass	Pass	Pass

Roger Bates, in the Closed Room, led the jack of hearts (Rusinow) and Jerzy Russyan went up with dummy's ace and called for the jack of diamonds from dummy, which went to the king, ace and four. Declarer then played another diamond and when South discarded, he was two down when he, in an attempt to make his contract, tried to find South with both the ace and the king of spades.

Jacobus played very well at the other table. He ducked the queen of hearts lead and South shifted to the four of diamonds. That went to dummy's jack and the king from North, whereupon declarer again ducked! Kowalski, who didn't know what to believe, returned a diamond (a club switch here is the killer since, despite finding the queen of clubs for declarer, it destroys the communication between declarer and dummy). Declarer won the

diamond in dummy, South discarding a heart. Jacobus now continued with the two of spades, the three, nine, ace. Romanski returned the eight of spades to the five, ten and declarer's jack. Jacobus cashed the king of hearts and played a spade to Kowalski's king. Declarer still only had eight tricks and had already lost four when North was to play from:

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

Romanski exited with the ten of diamonds, ace from declarer, and South discarded the eight of clubs, dummy the jack of clubs. Jacobus next played a club to the king in dummy, cashed the heart ace, forcing a diamond discard from North. The spade queen administered the coup-de-grâce as North had to keep a diamond and South a heart. Thus neither could keep two clubs and the queen of clubs had to fall under the ace. That was a very well-deserved 13 IMPs to USA 2 for that terrific declarer play by Jacobus in a very difficult contract.

Other Shortlisted Candidates:

Wietzke van Zwol (Netherlands) in *“Wonderful Wietzke”* by Carla Arnolds (Netherlands),
2013 Venice Cup Semifinal, Netherlands v. USA, IBPA Bulletin 587.12

Ron Tacchi (France) in *“Jewel in the Crown”* by Mark Horton (England),
2014 French National Team Championship Qualifying, IBPA Bulletin 590.16

Cezary Balicki (Poland) in *“Knockout Punch”* by Sue Munday (USA),
2014 Spring NABC, IBPA Bulletin 592.13

Kevin Bathurst (USA) in *“The Final”* by Suzi Subeck (USA),
USBF Open Trials, IBPA Bulletin 593.11

Gidwani Family Trust Defence of the Year

Winner: Jacek Pszczola (Poland/USA)

Article: "The Eleventh Hour"

Journalist: Brent Manley (USA)

Event: 2013 Transnational Teams (Quarterfinal), Gordon v. Polish Students

Source: IBPA Bulletin 585, October 2013, p. 17



The Eleventh Hour

This board was critical in both the women's semifinal match between The Netherlands and USA II and the quarterfinal match between Polish Students and Gordon in the Transnational. Both American teams desperately needed a good result, and got one. The USA women were allowed to make three notrump against the Dutch (king of diamonds lead, queen of diamonds continuation - East following with the two, seven).

Board 31. Dealer South. NS Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Klukowski</i>	<i>Sontag</i>	<i>Zatorski</i>	<i>Berkowitz</i>
—	—	—	1♠
Pass	INT	2♥	Pass
Pass	2♠	Pass	Pass
Pass			
West	North	East	South
<i>Seamon</i>	<i>Jassem</i>	<i>Pszczola</i>	<i>Wojcieszek</i>
—	—	—	1♠
Pass	INT	3♥	Double
Pass	4♠	Pass	Pass
Pass			

The Gordon team declared two spades at one table, and defended four spades at the other. Berkowitz made 10 tricks in two spades against less-than-inspired defence for plus 170.

At the other table, North/South had had a disagreement about South's double, South believing he had made a penalty double and North believing South had made a good, as opposed to a competitive, three-spade bid.

Michael Seamon led his singleton heart against four spades. Declarer won in hand and crossed to a top club to lead the jack of spades. Had East made the normal play of ducking, declarer would have been able to complete the drawing of trumps and come to ten tricks via the club finesse. But Jacek Pszczola covered the jack of spades with his queen - this was excellent defence. Declarer won with the ace of spades and tried another club, to the ace, ruffed by East, who returned his last trump. Declarer still had two hearts and two diamonds to lose for minus 200, down two, and 9 IMPs to Gordon, drawing them to within 1 IMP in the match with one board to play. A better chance for declarer would have been to crash the spade honours, drawing three rounds of trumps and splitting them out 3-3, but the bad club break would have held him to nine tricks anyway.

Other Shortlisted Candidates:

Martin Reid (New Zealand) in "*Mr. Deschappelles, Meet Mr. Merrimac*" by Rich Colker (USA),
2014 NEC Cup Round Robin, IBPA Bulletin 590.2

Jason & Justin Hackett (England) in "*52nd European Team Championships*" by John Carruthers (Canada),
Open Teams, Round 6, Denmark v. England, IBPA Bulletin 594.6

David Gold (England) in "*Suicide Is Painful*" by Mark Horton (England),
52nd European Open Team Championship, Round 6, Denmark v. England, IBPA Bulletin 594.7

Sally Brock (England) in "*Les Ennemis Héréditaires*" by John Carruthers (Canada),
52nd European Women's Team Championship, Round 12, France v. England, IBPA Bulletin 594.17

Yeh Bros. Best Bid Deal of the Year

Winner: Michel and Thomas Bessis (France)

Article: "La Onzième Heure"

Journalist: Philippe Cronier (France)

Source: IBPA Bulletin 595, August 2014, p. 5



La Onzième Heure

The expression in the title is little-used in French, but is appropriate in the following context. You might note that Michel and Thomas Bessis not only arrived in the correct contract at the very last moment, they did so in 11 bids!

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Michel Bessis</i>		<i>Thomas Bessis</i>	
—	—	2♣	Pass
2♦	Pass	2NT ¹	Pass
3♦ ²	Pass	3♥ ³	Pass
3♠ ⁴	Pass	3NT ⁵	Pass
4♣ ⁶	Pass	4♠ ⁷	Pass
5♣ ⁸	Pass	7♦!	Pass
Pass	Pass		

1. 23-24
2. Hearts
3. Three-card heart support
4. Slam try with unspecified singleton
5. Asks location of singleton
6. Club singleton
7. Key card ask
8. One key card

Thomas knew his partner didn't have four spades and five hearts as he would have used Stayman, so Michel had to have either six hearts or 3=5=4=1 (or both). So, a grand slam facing even three low diamonds was no worse than 52% and strongly rated to be much better than that ... and Michel could have bid seven hearts with, for example, ♠KQx ♥AJxxxx ♦xxx ♣x 'knowing' that Thomas had to have the heart king-queen.

Other Shortlisted Candidates:

David Berkowitz & Alan Sontag (USA) in “*Caught at the Wire*” by Katie Thorpe (Canada),
2013 Transnational Teams Quarterfinal, IBPA Bulletin 585.17

Mike Bell & Michael Byrne (England) in “Tribal Calls” by Paul Lamford,
2013 Lederer Memorial, IBPA Bulletin 587.2

Josh Donn & Adam Kaplan (USA) in “Grand Bidding” by Sue Munday (USA),
Blue Ribbon Pairs 1st Semifinal, Phoenix NABC, IBPA Bulletin 589.10

Diego Brenner (Brazil) & **Carlos Pellegrini** (Argentina) in “Blog Trotter” by Quentin Robert (France),
NABC Swiss Teams, Phoenix NABC, IBPA Bulletin 591.16

Jan Jansma (Netherlands) in “Elementary, My Dear Watson” by Toine van Hoof (Netherlands),
Rotterdam’s Lombard Bridge Club IMP Competition, IBPA Bulletin 593.21

Richard Freeman Junior Deal of the Year

Winner: Bob Donkersloot (Netherlands)

Article: "Brilliance, to No Avail"

Journalist: GeO Tislevoll (New Zealand) & Onno Eskes (Netherlands)

Event: 2014 German Bridge Trophy

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



Brilliance, to No Avail

This deal was reported independently and simultaneously by both authors. Their reports have been amalgamated. - Ed.

When people say bridge is a game where you always see new, different deals, it is both true and false. Bridge is very much about recognition. To have seen situations previously and to recognize patterns and plays are skills where experience is needed, but talent is just as important. The play by the Dutch youth player Bob Donkersloot on this deal must be mostly talent, as he is only 19 years old.

Dealer North. NS Vul.

♠ A J 7 4
♥ K 5
♦ K Q 6 5 4
♣ A K

♠ Q 10 9 8 6
♥ 6 2
♦ 10 8 7 3 2
♣ Q

West	North	East	South
Zeeberg	Coppens	Cilleborg-Bilde	Donkersloot
—	1♦	Pass	1♠
Pass	4♣ ¹	Pass	4♠
1. Control-bid slam-try			

West led the diamond nine. To read the diamond situation is not hard – it is surely a singleton – since West would not have led the nine from a holding of jack-nine, ace-nine or ace-jack-nine. The danger is that East/West will start with the diamond ace and a ruff followed by a heart through dummy's king. That defence will set the contract when East holds the ace of hearts. While most players would automatically ask for the diamond king at trick one, Donkersloot thought for a few seconds. The trump king must be onside to make the contract - is there anything that can be done about the dangerous red-suit situation?

Perhaps there is no chance on best defence, but Bob Donkersloot found a play that at least could trap the opposition. Instead of conceding the ace of diamonds and a ruff to the defence, why not give them two diamond tricks, he thought? Coming to this conclusion, Donkersloot played low from dummy, an unusual and amazing play with such a diamond combination. Bob's father, Rob Donkersloot, who was kibitzing his son,

thought, “What is he doing? Didn’t I teach him to take his time at trick one? Now he has blown a diamond trick with careless play.”

Donkersloot’s play in diamonds made it very difficult for the defence to set the contract in the following dangerous layout:

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

East wins the first trick with the diamond jack and cashes the ace. To set the contract, West must ruff the ace of diamonds and play a heart, a very difficult defence since the highly-unusual diamond play by the declarer has created an illusion. How can declarer have played like that with ten diamonds combined? Alternatively, the defence can set the contract by East winning with the ace of diamonds instead of the jack at trick one and playing back the jack to force West to ruff. But how can East know that the nine is a singleton, especially taking into consideration declarer’s play in diamonds?

Alas ... in real life it was not like this. The ace and queen of hearts are swapped in the board’s diagram. With the ace of hearts onside, anyone would make four spades, even with the ‘normal’ play to the first trick. So the deal did not create any swing when it was played in the 2014 German Bridge Trophy. East, Dorte Cilleborg-Bilde, remarked after the board had been played, “Now that was a very clever play.” She didn’t enlighten us about whether, if she’d had the heart ace, she would have played the diamond ace instead of the jack at trick one.

When a number of quite-good players were shown this deal, most of them didn’t see the play. Only the most experienced and talented ones did. And getting such a declarer-play problem on a piece of paper is certainly easier than solving it at the table. This beautiful play tells us that, even though this time it was of no consequence, there will be many IMPs and MPs coming for the young Dutch talent.

Other Shortlisted Candidates:

Dennis Bilde (Denmark) in “The Last Hurrah” by Jens Otto Pedersen (Denmark),
2014 Danish Junior Teams Championship, IBPA Bulletin 592.7

Adam Stokka (Sweden) in “15th World Youth Bridge Teams Championships” by Phillip Alder (USA),
Junior Teams Round Robin 8, IBPA Bulletin 596.4

Adam Stokka (Sweden) in “15th World Youth Bridge Teams Championships” by Micke Melander (Sweden),
Junior Teams Round Robin 19, IBPA Bulletin 596.5

Zach Grossack (USA) in “15th World Youth Bridge Teams Championships” by Phillip Alder (USA),
Junior Teams Round Robin 21, IBPA Bulletin 596.5

Ida Grönkvist (Sweden) in “15th World Youth Bridge Teams Championships” by Micke Melander (Sweden),
Youngsters Teams Semifinal, IBPA Bulletin 596.7