



THE BRIDGE WORLD

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WORLD EVENTS

MUSIC CITY SPINGOLD, II

Barry Rigal

BOBBY WOLFF:

THE BRIDGE WORLD INTERVIEW, II

INTERCOLLEGIATE BRIDGE

Henry Brandt

HOLDUPS BEYOND ENTRIES

Marshall Miles

BLIND SPOTS

Terence Reese

PERFECTION

John C. Stablein

LONG LIVE BRIDGE

Kaj G. Backas

THE SCBPA ANNUAL AWARDS

John Carruthers

THIRD AND FOURTH TOGETHER

Ed Herstein

ADDING THREE-SUITERS

Stephen Cooper

THE BRIDGE WORLD

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LONG LIVE BRIDGE

BY KAJ G. BACKAS, HELSINKI

On Christmas Eve 2007, the bridge club in Salo, Finland, celebrated the one-hundredth birthday of one of the club's most active players, Mrs. Laila Kuusinen. Chronological age can deceive. Laila can remember every card from previous deals during a session (sometimes to her partner's regret). She has adjusted well to many changes over her long career, from defensive signals to Alerts to artificial systems (she prefers a simplified version of Precision).

Laila attributes her good health partly to playing cards (she started with skruv, which is similar to whist) most of her life. Bridge, in particular, has kept her moving around and meeting new people, most of whom are decades younger. She has seen much, including all of Finland's history as an independent country (beginning in 1917). Her parents were farmers, later storekeepers. Early education required 12-mile trips on horseback to and from school. Eventually, she received a professional degree and worked for the Högfors foundry for 42 years. When the Salo Bridge Club was established in 1955, she was one of 19 original members; today there are over 50 regulars.

To many of her colleagues, the most amazing part of Laila's game is her table-presence. One simply doesn't ex-

pect a woman in her late nineties to be able to "read" the opponents.

East dealer; neither side vulnerable

NORTH
 ♠ K Q 4
 ♥ A 10 4
 ♦ Q 7 3
 ♣ K J 8 2

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

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

SOUTH
 ♠ A 9 6
 ♥ J 9 6
 ♦ A K 2
 ♣ A Q 7 4

SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
<i>Laila</i>	—	—	Pass
1 ♣*	Pass	2 ♣†	Pass
2 NT	Pass	4 NT	Pass
5 ♠	Pass	5 NT	Pass
6 ♦	Pass	6 NT	(AllPass)

*artificial; strong

†four 2-1-points (ace = 2; king = 1)

East's interest in the final contract and disappointment when the jack of diamonds was led were not lost on South. Declarer won the lead and ran clubs. East defended weakly, discarding a spade. Disdaining two finesses in hearts, declarer ran spades, then finished diamonds in the closed hand and passed the jack of hearts to East.

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