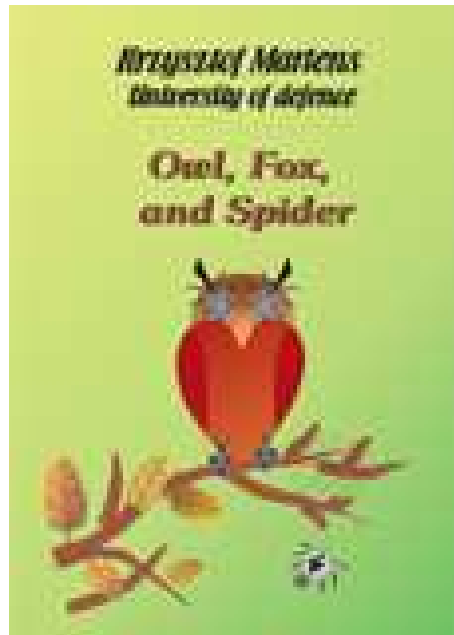


2010 IBPA AWARDS



THE MASTER POINT PRESS IBPA BOOK OF THE YEAR

Krzysztof Martens (POL) for "Owl, Fox and Spider"



Owl, Fox and Spider

You are the wise owl already,
If you are alert as a fly
Strong as a tiger
Sly as a spider
Cunning as a fox
You'll have to go and see your vet
'Cause you might have turned calf at this point.

The Fox and Crow

(Thomas Philipot)

The Crow with laden beak the tree retires,
The Fox to gett her prey her forme admires,
While she to show her gratitude not small,
Offering to give her thanks, her prize lets fall.

Spiders and Scorpions

Everyone is afraid of spiders and scorpions! They are terrifying because they have many legs, move fast and are venomous. We must not forget, however, that they can be beneficial too: they eat the worms and insects that destroy crops. Spiders create sticky threads to make webs, which they use to entrap insects. They then kill their prey with venom and consume them.

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Look at the following defensive trump suit shenanigans from Krzysztof Martens...

CAMOUFLAGING 4

"He's not a fox, he's a chicken," commented the kibitzers, when the contract was not doubled.

Pairs. Dealer West. Both Vul.

♠ 10 9
♥ A K J
♦ 8 3
♣ A J 10 9 8 4

♠ A J 5 2
♥ 8 5 3 2
♦ Q J 6 4
♣ Q 7

West	North	East	South
1 ♦	2 ♣	Double	3 ♣
3 ♥	Pass	4 ♥	Pass
Pass	Pass		

Lead: Club ace and a small club. West ruffs, crosses to dummy in spades and leads a heart to the nine. You, North, win the jack, cash two more trumps and switch back to clubs, forcing declarer to use his last trump. Here are the four hands:

♠ 10 9
♥ A K J
♦ 8 3
♣ A J 10 9 8 4

♠ K Q 6
♥ Q 9 7 4
♦ A K 10 5 2
♣ 3

♠ A J 5 2
♥ 8 5 3 2
♦ Q J 6
♣ Q 7

♠ 8 7 4 3
♥ 10 6
♦ 9 7 4
♣ K 6 5 2

Declarer claims nine tricks. One off was worth only 29%. Many North players courageously doubled. Well, if the queen had appeared in dummy you would have been right to pass.

After a similar auction, the fox did not double either. His opening lead was identical, and he also continued clubs at trick two. However, when declarer crossed to the ace of spades and led a trump to the nine, the fox won with the king and continued clubs. Can you blame declarer for looking for a way to make the contract? He imagined North holding ace-king doubleton of trumps. Based on this, he ruffed in dummy and played another heart. The result: four down and 99%.

"Better four down undoubled than one down doubled," was the friendly beast's response to the kibitzers' critique.

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KILLER 3

Underestimating your opponent may cost you dearly. The auction was informative.

Pairs. Dealer East. Neither Vul.

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

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

Lead: Heart queen. You, South, take the ace and continue hearts. Declarer ruffs, draws trumps via a finesse against the queen and claims the contract. How lucky! The four hands:

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

The fox never rests. Having taken the first trick, he switched to the ten of spades! Declarer happily covered with the jack and, when it held, played the spade nine, ducking in dummy. Ultimate naïveté, no doubt about it, but congratulations to the fox nevertheless. If you haven't been fooled this way before, you are very likely to fall for this trick.