

The Buffett Bridge Cup - 2008

Louisville, Kentucky
Europe vs United States

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Wednesday Bulletin 2 – September 17, 2008 Prepared Tuesday Evening

Schedule for Wednesday, September 17, 2008
Central Standard Time – Kentucky

Teams – 14 Board Segments

Match 3 (1-14): 10:30 – 12:15

Match 3 (15-28): 12:30 – 2:15 pm
Lunch

Individual – 6 board segments

Round 1 3.15 – 4.05 pm

Round 2 4.10 – 5.00 pm

Round 3 5.10 – 6.00 pm

Round 4 6.05 – 6.55 pm

USA by a WHISKER

A single board determined the margin between the two teams at the end of Day 2. With 7 points at stake in each set and several matches going to the final board the running score is:

USA 105.5

Europe 98.5

Match Report

We start with hands from the first day:

Set 4 USA won 16-8 Pairs Boards 34-44

Running score USA 52 Europe 44

	West	North	East	South
1a	Brogeland	Garner	Lindvist	Weinstein
1b	Hampson	Pszczola	Freeman	Kwicien

	West	North	East	South
2a	Svendsen	Hamman	Helness	Zia
2b	Sokolow	Hanlon	SMolson	McGann

	West	North	East	South
3a	Sontag	M.Bessis	Berkowitz	T.Bessis
3b	Michielsen	Fallenius	Auken	Welland



This was the last deal of the set and featured a battle for overtricks by Bob Hamman against Tor Helness & Jan Petter Svendsen:

Buffett Cup Pairs

Board: 44 Dealer: West Vul: N-S

S A 9 H Q 10 6 5 3 D K 5 2 C 7 4 2 S J 6 H J 8 7 2 D Q 9 7 6 C 9 8 6	S K 7 3 2 H A 9 4 D A 4 3 C Q 10 3 S Q 10 8 5 4 H K D J 10 8 C A K J 5
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	West	North	East	South
2a	Svendsen	Hamman	Helness	Zia
	Pass	Pass	1♣	1♠
	Pass	INT	Pass	2NT
	All Pass			

Bob Hamman was in Two Notrumps from the North seat. Helness led a low diamond when Hamman played the jack from dummy Svendsen let this hold.

Hamman tried a spade to the nine and Helness, crucially, let this hold. Hamman now cashed his spade ace felling the jack, and then took the club finesse, successfully. Next he led dummy's queen of spades. Svendsen threw a discouraging heart and Helness ducked again.

Hamman continued spades. Helness won, cashed his ace of hearts and exited with the queen of clubs. Dummy could cash its black winners, but declarer had to lose two diamonds at the end.

This was a normal nine tricks for Hamman. Points to note are: West probably does better to cover the first diamond as that allows East a safe continuation of the suit. If East wins the first spade declarer has an easy ten tricks.

Set 5 Europe won 16-8 Pairs Boards 45-55

	West	North	East	South
1a	Sontag	Hanlon	Berkowitz	McGann
1b	Michielsen	Hamman	Auken	Zia

	West	North	East	South
2a	Brogeland	Sokolow	Lindkvist	SMolson
2b	Hampson	Helness	Freeman	Svendsen

	West	North	East	South
3a	T.Bessis	Garner	M.Bessis	Weinstein
3b	Welland	Pszczola	Fallenius	Kwiecien



This deal from the final set of Day 1 produced a number of interesting results:

Buffett Cup Pairs

Board: 49 Dealer: North Vul: None

S 9 7 6 H 9 8 6 4 3 2 D 7 6 C 10 5	S A 4 H Q 10 5 D A J 10 5 4 2 C K 3 S K Q 8 5 3 2 H 7 D K 3 C J 8 7 4 S J 10 H A K J D Q 9 8 C A Q 9 6 2
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Six Notrumps is on a finesse and, as we shall see, Six Diamonds is even better. If the diamond finesse is wrong you can even go off in Three Notrumps. So in Teams scoring one should end in Six Diamonds.

What about point-a-board? That method certainly upgrades Six Notrumps as a contract (though against this is the fact that East had overcalled).

Two of the six tables bid that slam. East led a top spade. Declarer won, tested the clubs (no luck) and took the diamond finesse.

East won and cashed a second spade. At two tables West unblocked the nine of spades, and even where he didn't it did not matter (declarer had also cashed hearts, so West was all winners!). As the two tables in 6NT-5 were the same match it was a flat board.

Two declarers were in the best contract, Six Diamonds, and they had a hard luck story to tell:

	West	North	East	South
1a	Sontag	Hanlon	Berkowitz	McGann
		INT*	2♥**	Pass
	2♠	Pass	Pass	3♠
	Pass	3NT	Pass	4NT
	Pass	6♦	All Pass	

* 14-16

** Showing spades

Tom Hanlon was in the best contract of Six Diamonds as North, and received the lead of the king of spades.

As East had bid the trump finesse was likely to be losing. So Hanlon began by laying down the ace of trumps. No joy.

Next he tried three rounds of clubs. If the suit was 3-3 or either defender had two clubs and Kx in trumps that would also bring home the slam. No luck again. West was able to ruff the third club with a small trump.

There was still another string to declarer's bow. The only trump out was the king. So Hanlon returned to dummy with a heart, ruffed a club to make the fifth club good, and then tried to get back to dummy to ditch his losing spade on the club. Now came the final straw: as East held a singleton heart he was able to ruff the second heart and cash the top spade for one off.

How unlucky is that?

Actually, not too unlucky, as the board was still a half with the other table going off in 3NT.

Now to the real bad luck story:

	West	North	East	South
2a	Brogeland	Sokolow	Lindvist	SMolson
		INT	2♦*	Dble
	Redbl**	3♦	Pass	6♦
	All Pass			

* Single suited in a major

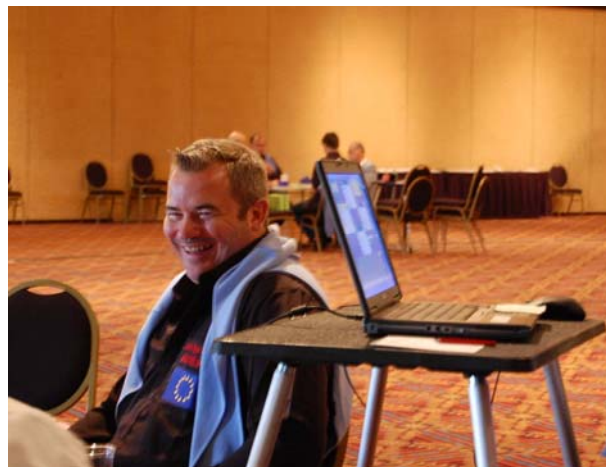
** Bid your major

Sokolow was also in the excellent Six Diamonds. On the lead of the spade king she played it in identical fashion to Tom Hanlon for one off. Could it be a flat board, or even a gain against a notrump slam? Well, no, as this was the auction at the other table:

	West	North	East	South
2b	Hampson	Helness	Freeman	Svendson
		INT	2♣*	Dble
	2♥	3♦	Pass	4♦
	All Pass			

This auction came to a premature end as Svendsen thought his 4♦ bid was forcing, whereas Helness thought it was invitational.

Of course, declarer had no problem in making his partscore, and all was forgiven when the result from the other table was a failing slam. That is the happy side of point-a-board. The missed game meant nothing.



Thomas Bessis played this doubled contract from the same set well:

Buffett Cup Pairs

Board: 53 Dealer: North Vul: N-S

S K Q 3 H K 10 8 D 7 3 C A J 10 4 2 S 10 9 7 6 5 2 H 5 D A K 4 C Q 6 3	S A 8 H A 6 4 2 D 10 8 2 C K 8 7 5 S J 4 H Q J 9 7 3 D Q J 9 6 5 C 9
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	West	North	East	South
3a	T.Bessis	Garner	M.Bessis	Weinstein
		1♣	Pass	1♥
	1♠	Pass	Pass	3♦
	Pass	3♥	3♠	Pass
	Pass	Dble	All Pass	

* Three-card support for hearts



Thomas was in Three Spades doubled as West. Steve Garner led the 7 from the North seat. Bessis won and led the ten of spades. When North played low he ran it to the jack. South switched to his singleton club and North let this run round to the king. (He does no better to rise and give South a ruff as the extra club set up in dummy still allows for a diamond discard.) The younger Bessis cashed the ace of hearts, ruffed a heart, crossed back to the ace of spades, and ruffed another heart.

This course of action eliminated hearts from the North hand. Next Bessis cashed his remaining top diamond to extract North's last card in that suit. Finally declarer exited with a trump and North was endplayed into leading away from his ace of clubs.

Well done indeed by Thomas to make the doubled contract. Thomas Bessis, 24, was on the team that won the World Transnational in Shanghai last year and has recently won the European Under 25 Pairs championship. But he has not made any French team for Beijing, even the Juniors!



DAY 2 TEAMS

The format for Day 2 and part of Day 3 was to be teams. The non-playing captains put their six pairs into teams. These would two sets of 14 boards against each of the opposing three teams, with a compulsory change of line-up after 14 boards. Each set of 14 would be scored point-a-board, and the winners earn 7 Matchpoints for their continent.

With three matches on the go, and six sets of 14 boards, this meant 126 match points were up for grabs in the teams.

These were the teams chosen by their NPCs:

USA1 Hamman-Mahmood + Sontag-Berkowitz
 USA2 Sokolow-S-Molson + Hampson-Freeman
 USA3 Weinstein-Garner + Welland-Fallenius

EU1 Brogeland-Lindkvist + Helness-Svendsten
 EU2 Auken-Michielsen + Bessis-Bessis
 EU3 Hanlon-McGann + Kwiecien-Pszczola

Teams Session I

For the first 14 boards the line-ups were:

	West	North	East	South
1a	Brogeland	Hamman	Lindqvist	Zia
1b	Berkowitz	Helness	Sontag	Svendsen

	West	North	East	South
2a	T.Bessis	Sokolow	M.Bessis	SMolson
2b	Hampson	Auken	Freeman	Michielsen

	West	North	East	South
3a	Weinstein	Pszczola	Garner	Kwiecien
3b	McGann	Fallenius	Hanlon	Welland

The USA had a clean sweep 21-0 with
 Hamman-Sontag won 7.5-6.5 for 7 matchpoints
 Sokolow-Freeman won 8.5-5.5 for 7 matchpoints
 Garner-Welland won 8-6 for 7 matchpoints

Running score: USA 81 Europe 60

Alan Sontag picked up points for the USA on the first deal of the day:

Buffett Cup Teams

Board: I Dealer: North Vul: None

	S	9 7 6 3		S	Q 8
	H	A J 7 3		H	Q 10 5 4
	D	J 10 8		D	K 9 7
	C	7 5		C	A J 10 2
S	A K 5 2			S	J 10 4
H	K 8 6			H	9 2
D	Q 6 3			D	A 5 4 2
C	K Q 6			C	9 8 4 3

	West	North	East	South
1b	Berkowitz	Helness	Sontag	Svendsen
		Pass	1♦*	Pass
	1♠	Pass	INT	Pass
	3NT	All Pass		

*Could be short

Sontag was in 3NT as East on a low diamond lead to the ten and king. A heart was led to the king and ace and Helness played a second diamond. Svendsen ducked, a risky move, given the scoring method.

Sontag risked a heart finesse. When this held, the heart queen was played, followed by the clubs. It did not matter who guarded spades because in the ending North would have to keep a heart and South the top diamond, so Sontag could claim 12 tricks and a win on the board.



Boye Brogeland had envisaged the ending on this next deal, but his opponent spoilt the story by helping him out:

Buffett Cup Teams

Board: 8 Dealer: West Vul: None

S Q 7 H A J 8 3 D 9 2 C A J 10 9 8	S A 9 H K Q 6 2 D 7 5 C K Q 6 5 4
S K 5 2 H 10 7 D A K Q J 6 4 C 7 3	S J 10 8 6 4 3 H 9 5 4 D 10 8 3 C 2

	West	North	East	South
Ia	Brogeland	Hamman	Lindqvist	Zia
	1♣	1♥	2♦	Pass
	2NT	Pass	3NT	All Pass

North led a low club won cheaply by Brogeland. He tested one round of diamonds to see they were running and then led the spade king. North won this and does best to exit with a diamond. Brogeland already had the ending planned. The heart position was irrelevant. The remaining diamonds would leave West with a spade winner, the heart ace and three clubs. A spade to the queen would finish North. In the four card ending if he kept three clubs and one heart, whatever it was, declarer cashes the heart ace and exits with a low club.

This plan was spoiled by North switching to the heart king when he was on lead. This gave the eleventh trick at once.



On this deal from the set, only one table reached slam:

Buffett Cup Teams

Board: 13 Dealer: North Vul: Both

S A Q 9 4 H K Q J D A 2 C K J 9 7	S K 10 8 7 6 3 H A 4 D Q 6 C 6 3 2
S J 5 2 H 7 6 5 D 9 8 7 5 4 C 10 5	S ----- H 10 9 8 3 2 D K J 10 3 C A Q 8 4

	West	North	East	South
Ia	Brogeland	Hamman	Lindqvist	Zia
		2♠	Dble	2♠
	Dble	Pass	4♥	Pass
	4♠*	Pass	5♣*	Pass
	5♦*	Pass	5♥	Pass
	5♠*	Pass	6♥	All Pass

* Control bids

The Norwegians reached Six Hearts with Lindqvist at the helm.

South led a spade to the ace, with a diamond going from declarer. A trump was ducked by North but he had to win the next one. A top spade was led but declarer had no problems. He ruffed high and claimed.

Had North played a passive club declarer can still happily dispose of his diamond if the queen did not fall.

The board was a win for Europe as the other table reached 3NT+2.



The last board of the set saw plenty of action:

Buffett Cup Teams

Board: 14 Dealer: East Vul: None

S 10 9 7 5 4
H 8 5 2
D J 7 6 4
C 8

S A Q 2
H A J 10 4 3
D Q 9 2
C K 9

S K J 3
H 9
D A K 10 8 5
C A 5 4 2

S 8 6
H K Q 7 6
D 3
C Q J 10 7 6 3

Seven Diamonds is ambitious though not hopeless, but as the cards lie it cannot be made with the 6-1 club break and 4-1 trump break.

Two tables reached the grand on effectively identical auctions:

West	East
T.Bessis Weinstein	M.Bessis Garner
	1♦
1♥	2♣
2♠	3NT
4♦	4♠*
4NT**	3 keys
7♦	Pass

* Cue

** Keycard

The only difference was that the Bessis response to 4NT to show three keycards was 5♣ whereas the response for Garner was 5♦.

As two tables stopped in 3NT it would have galling at teams scoring to fail in a grand and no doubt both pairs would have stopped in a small slam. Notrumps is best. You can pick up the diamonds and run the suit, followed by the spades. If South has long clubs and even one heart honour he will have to bare it.

Teams Session 2

The USA players kept the same seats as the first half of the match whilst the Europeans swapped, giving this line-up:

	West	North	East	South
1a	Svendsen	Hamman	Helness	Zia
1b	Berkowitz	Lindqvist	Sontag	Brogeland

	West	North	East	South
2a	Michielsen	Sokolow	Auken	SMolson
2b	Hampson	M.Bessis	Freeman	T.Bessis

	West	North	East	South
3a	Weinstein	Hanlon	Garner	McGann
3b	Kwiecien	Fallenius	Pszczola	Welland

The scores of the first set were reversed. This time it was Europe that had the clean sweep. The Norwegians won 10.5-3.5 to earn 7 points. Auken-Bessis won 7.5-6.5 for 7 points. And most significant of all, given that the Poles had not yet scored a point: Hanlon-Pepsi won 7.5-6.5 to earn 7.

Running score: USA 81 Europe 81

The teams were level again!



When the two womens pairs met face-to-face there was plenty of excitement, though this deal turned out a half:

Buffet Cup Teams

Board: 20 Dealer: West Vul: Both

S J 10 H A Q 10 6 D Q 9 7 6 5 2 C 8 S A Q 9 7 H K D K 10 8 4 C K 7 4 3	S 8 6 5 H 9 8 5 4 3 D ----- C A Q J 5 2 S K 4 3 2 H J 7 2 D A J 3 C 10 9 6
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	West	North	East	South
2a	Michielsen	Sokolow	Auken	SMolson
	1♣	1♦	1♥	Dbl*
	Pass	2♦	3♣	3♦
	Dble	All Pass		

* Exactly four spades

	West	North	East	South
2b	Hampson	M.Bessis	Freeman	T.Bessis
	INT	Dbl*	2♦**	Dbl
	Pass	3♦	Pass	3♥
	Pass	4♦	Pass	4♠
	Pass	5♦	All Pass	

* a 4-card major and 5-card+ minor

** Showing hearts

For Europe at one table Marion Michielsen had doubled Three Diamonds. A spade was led to the queen, and the singleton king of hearts returned. Tobi Sokolow won this and led a trump. When East showed out she rose with the ace and returned a low trump.

Michielsen put up her king, cashed the top spade, led a club to partner's club jack and received a heart ruff. Declarer had the rest but Europe had a score of 200.

At the other table Pere et Fils Bessis got too high for an unusual reason. East had shown five hearts, and West was assumed to hold at least two for his opening notrump bid. In which case, deduced Thomas, his father could not have four hearts and must have four spades!

Alas for such reckoning. But fortunately East-West did not double and East led the ace of clubs preventing the defensive ruff. And so Five Diamonds went only two off for a flat board! The excitement on this deal was generated by some point-a-board action:

Buffett Cup Teams

Board: 24 Dealer: West Vul: None

S Q 10 7 H 9 7 4 D 10 8 4 C K J 8 3 S 9 6 5 3 H A Q 10 6 D 3 C 10 6 4 2	S K J 4 2 H K J 3 D A J 9 6 C 9 7 S A 8 H 8 5 2 D K Q 7 5 2 C A Q 5
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	West	North	East	South
3a	Weinstein	Hanlon	Garner	McGann
	Pass	Pass	1♣	INT
	2♣*	Pass	2♠	Pass
	Pass	Dble	Pass	3♦
	Pass	Pass	3♠	Pass
	Pass	Dble	All Pass	

* Both majors

	West	North	East	South
3b	Kwiecien	Fallenius	Pszczola	Welland
	Pass	Pass	1♣	INT
	2♣*	Pass	2♠	Pass
	Pass	2NT	3♠	4♦
	Dble	All Pass		

* Both majors

The auctions began identically. East-West were pushed to Three Spades. The Irish decided to double that whereas Welland pressed on to Four Diamonds and was doubled by the Poles.

Four Diamonds doubled went the normal three light, losing three hearts, a spade, and two trump tricks. 500 to Europe.

So much would depend on the fate of Three Spades doubled. The team would regret the double if the contract made for that would have been a score of 530 to the USA and a win on the board and the match!

Hugh McGann led \diamond K to the ace. Declarer ruffed a diamond, led a heart to hand and then the \diamond J. This was covered and ruffed and the ten fell from North.

Now declarer, Steve Garner, led a trump off dummy and North played low. When Garner decided to play the king the contract went one off to a sigh of relief from the Irish.

This was 200 to Europe, a win on the board, and the Poles first Matchpoint of the two days.

Teams Match 2 Set 1 Boards 29-42

The line-up was:

	West	North	East	South
1a	Berkowitz	Pszczola	Sontag	Kwiecien
1b	Hanlon	Hamman	McGann	Zia

	West	North	East	South
2a	Brogeland	Sokolow	Lindqvist	SMolson
2b	Hampson	Helness	Freeman	Svensden

	West	North	East	South
3a	Weinstein	M.Bessis	Garner	T.Bessis
3b	Michielsen	Fallenius	Auken	Welland

Europe won the set 14-7:

For USA Sontag-Zia won 7.5-6.5 for 7

For Europe Brogeland-Helness won 8.5-5.5 for 7 points

For Europe Bessis-Auken won 7-6 when there was not time to play the last board. This gave Europe 7 points.

Running score:

Europe 95 USA 88



Teams Match 2 Set 2

The line-up was:

	West	North	East	South
1a	Berkowitz	Hanlon	Sontag	McGann
1b	Kwiecien	Hamman	Pszczola	Zia

	West	North	East	South
2a	Svensden	Sokolow	Helness	SMolson
2b	Hampson	Lindqvist	Freeman	Brogeland

	West	North	East	South
2a	Weinstein	Auken	Garner	Michielsen
2b	T.Bessis	Fallenius	M.Bessis	Welland

Sontag-Zia won 8-6 for 7 matchpoints

Sokolow-Freeman won 7.5-6.5 for 7 matchpoints

Match 3 was a draw 7-7 i.e. 3.5-3.5 in matchpoints

So USA won the set 17.5-3.5

Running score USA 105.5 Europe 98.5



**Wednesday Afternoon and Thursday
Individual Pairings**

U.S.	Europe
1. Sontag	13. Auken
2. S.Molson	14. Pszczola
3. Berkowitz	15. Hanlon
4. Garner	16. Michielsen
5. Welland	17. M. Bessis
6. Freeman	18. T. Bessis
7. Fallenius	19. Helness
8. Hampson	20. Kwiecien
9. Weinstein	21. Brogeland
10. Sokolow	22. Lindkvist
11. Hamman	23. McGann
12. Zia	24. Svendsen



For additional information,
updates and photos--

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<http://www.buffetcup.com/>

