

The Buffett Bridge Cup - 2008

Louisville, Kentucky
Europe vs United States

Editor: Patrick Jourdain

Layout & Photos: Donna Compton and Peg Kaplan

Thursday Bulletin 3 – September 18, 2008 Prepared Wednesday Evening

Schedule for Thursday, September 18, 2008
Central Standard Time – Kentucky

Individual – 6 board segments

Round 5	10.30 – 11.20 am
Round 6	11.25 – 12.15 pm
Round 7	12.20 – 1.10 pm
	Lunch
Round 8	2.10 – 3.00 pm
Round 9	3.05 - 3.55 pm
Round 10	4.15 - 5.05 pm
Round 11	5.10 - 6.00 pm

Prize-Giving Banquet

EUROPE LEADS BY A SINGLE POINT

Europe 147.5 – USA 146.5

In a thrilling day of ups and downs the scores simply could not be closer. The possibility of a tie in the event is now ruled out as the Individual matches can only be scored 4-0 or 2-2. At the end of today's play we must have a clear winner. The winning post is 189.5. That means Europe needs 42 points today and USA actually needs 44 (43 is not possible). There are 7 rounds with 12 points at stake in each.

Match Report

We start with hands from the second match on Day 2, Tuesday:

Match 2 Part 1 Boards 29-42

Europe won 14-7

Running score Europe 95 USA 88

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	Svendsten

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



The match between Hanlon-Pepsi and Sontag-Zia proved a strange affair. This was the first deal:

Buffett Cup Teams

Board: 29 Dealer: North Vul: Both

S Q H K 10 8 7 3 2 D A J 2 C 8 4 3 S 8 7 5 2 H A Q 4 D K 9 C K 10 7 6	S A 10 9 4 H 5 D 10 8 6 5 4 C Q 9 5 S K J 6 3 H J 9 6 D Q 7 3 C A J 2
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	West	North	East	South
Ia	Berkowitz	Pszczola	Sontag	Kwiecien
		2♥	All Pass	

Against Pepsi's Two Heart contract, Sontag found the best lead of a low club, taken by Berkowitz's ten. A continuation of a club to the queen was allowed to hold and the third club was won in dummy.

Declarer led a low trump off the dummy, and with no more certain entries decided to play the king. This held so he continued with a spade. East won and switched to a low diamond. Declarer tried the queen in the hope of reaching dummy's spades but it was covered by the king. That ended the contract's hopes and it went one off.



The next board was better for Europe:

Buffett Cup Teams

Board: 30 Dealer: East Vul: None

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

	West	North	East	South
Ia	Berkowitz	Pszczola	Sontag	Kwiecien
			INT	4♠
	4NT*	5♠	Pass	Pass
	Dble	All Pass		

* Two places to play

Point-a-board scoring is favourable for psyches because you are in a 50-50 win-lose position rather than the usual situation where the downside exceeds the upside. On this deal at another table Roy Welland, sitting south, tried an amazing psyche when East opened INT. He bid 3♥! The idea was that West might choose 3NT and South could smugly cash eight spades. In practice West chose 5♦. Fallenius, sitting North, presumably, checked the back of his cards to see if he had a hand from a different board. He could tell his partner had psyched and might deduce he had spades, but should he really risk 5♠? (Anyway it is easier for East to find the winning lead than West). Fallenius chose to Pass, 5♦ became the final contract, and North led the heart TWO suggesting he thought South was void. 5♦ made easily so the psyche, though certainly interesting, had lost the board.

Let's go back to our diagrammed table above. Kwiecien's contract of Five Spades doubled hinged on the lead. When West decided to start with his singleton heart he must have initially been pleased to see partner win the ace. But declarer could ruff a second heart high, draw trumps and dispose of the losing club on a heart.

This was +750 and a win for Europe on the board whereas a minor suit lead would have beaten it.

Here was a brilliant co-operative defence by Tom Hanlon & Hugh McGann, certainly a candidate for some award:

Buffett Cup Teams

Board: 36 Dealer: West Vul: Both

<p>S 8 7 3 H Q 8 2 D A 2 C A K 5 4 2</p> <p>S A J 10 H J 5 3 D Q J 8 3 C Q 10 9</p>	<p>S 9 5 H A K 10 9 7 6 D 10 7 5 C J 7</p> <p>S K Q 6 4 2 H 4 D K 9 6 4 C 8 6 3</p>
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	West	North	East	South
Ib	Hanlon	Hamman	McGann	Zia
	Pass	1♣	2♥	2♠
	3♥	3♠	All Pass	

Against Zia's Three Spades, Hanlon led a low heart, as he would from any three-card holding, so when dummy played small McGann had to win with the king.

Let's analyse the contract. Declarer must lose two trumps, a heart and a club, and has to take care of two losing diamonds. But that does not look too difficult. The club suit in dummy could take care of both. Alternatively, if there was one boss trump out, declarer might ruff one diamond and throw the other on a good club.

The first move needed by the defence to spoil this plan was the diamond switch at trick two by McGann. Zia won in hand and led the king of trumps.

If the defence take that and lead another trump, or play a second diamond, declarer can duck a club and is in control. But Hanlon, West, let the spade king hold! Suddenly the contract was in trouble. Declarer could not afford to play another trump or West draws a third one and knocks out the ace of diamonds before declarer has set up the clubs. So Zia decided to play three rounds of clubs next.

On the third club East, with another key play, discarded a diamond. West won and removed dummy's ace of diamonds. Zia could still not afford a second trump, so he tried the effect of playing a winning club.

Suppose East ruffs. Declarer over-ruffs. West can also over-ruff and cash a trump but dummy has a trump and winning club to take care of the two diamonds. So East must not ruff. What should he discard? McGann knew that West would ruff but would not know East's trump was big enough to beat dummy's eight. So he made the spectacular and informative discard of the ACE of hearts, leaving dummy's queen a winner. That instruction was clear to West. He ruffed the fourth club and led a third diamond. East made his nine of trumps to beat the contract. Well done indeed.

At the other table the contract was also Three Spades. The play began the same way but when declarer, Kwicien, led the king of Trumps, West took it and so declarer was in control.

Now Europe led 6-2 after 8 boards. Europe needed one more point out of six boards for a draw, and 1.5 for a win. The commentators had written off the chances of Sontag-Zia.



But the American team won four of the next five boards and drew the other. When the last board arrived the scores were tied on 6.5 each. This was the deal:

Buffett Cup Teams

Board: 42 Dealer: East Vul: Both

S K Q 10 9 4 2 H A J D 7 C Q 9 7 3 S 8 H Q 10 8 7 3 2 D Q J 10 3 C 8 2	S 7 H 6 5 4 D A 9 8 6 5 4 2 C K 10 S A J 6 5 3 H K 9 D K C A J 6 5 4
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	West	North	East	South
1a	Berkowitz	Pszczola	Sontag	Kwiecien
			3♦	3♠
	5♦	5♠	All Pass	

Kwiecien as South was in Five Spades. The queen of diamonds was led to East's ace and Sontag shot back the TEN of clubs!

Of course to declarer this looked like a singleton and he was forced to rise with the ace and claim his contract for +650.

But at the other table USA had scored +680. They had a win on the board and, astonishingly, a win 7.5-6.5 on the match to take all 7 Matchpoints.

This was the first of the three matches to score up; a cruel blow to the European supporters. But when the other two teams came out both European teams had won. Europe had a narrow lead again: 95-88.

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	Svendsen	Sokolow	Helness	SMolson
2b	Hampson	Lindqvist	Freeman	Brogeland

	West	North	East	South
3a	Weinstein	Auken	Garner	Michielsen
3b	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

On the first board of the set some body language from Dick Freeman gave Boye Brogeland an early clue in the auction that the cards were not lying well but the two of them did not quite have the conviction to act on it decisively:

Buffett Cup Teams

Board: 43 Dealer: South Vul: None

S 7 3 H A 8 4 3 D K Q 8 7 5 3 C 8	S K Q 5 4 H 2 D A 9 C A 7 6 5 4 3 S A J 10 6 2 H Q 7 6 5 D 10 4 C 10 2 S 9 8 H K J 10 9 D J 6 2 C K Q J 9
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	West	North	East	South
2b	Hampson	Lindqvist	Freeman	Brogeland
				1♣
	1♦	1♥*	Pass	Pass!***
	Dble	2♦**	Pass	2♥
	Pass	3♣	Pass	3♦
	Pass	3NT	Dble	All Pass

* This showed SPADES

** See story

Lindqvist's 1♥ showed spades and was alerted by South. Freeman had his hand on the bidding box intending to bid 1♠ but took the precaution of asking what the alert meant. When told it showed spades Freeman duly passed. But Brogeland had picked up the message and knew the spades were lying badly.

At point-a-board, with a minimum opening but 4♥, he risked Passing the forcing 1♥!

At the other table North had been two light in 3NT on a diamond lead from East. 1♥ on a 4-1 fit probably goes one off, winning the board for Europe, but Hampson re-opened with a double. The whole table was amused when Lindqvist caught up by making an ostensible game-forcing call of 2♦.

Both North and South had further opportunities to avoid their doom. Even after 3NT is doubled a remove to 4♣ by either wins the board. But they both stuck it and -300 gave the board to the USA.

Pere et Fils Bessis were one of only two pairs to reach Six Diamonds on this deal:

Buffett Cup Teams

Board: 47 Dealer: South Vul: N-S

<p>S K 10 7 2 H 8 5 3 2 D J 4 C K 9 5</p> <p>S A 9 8 6 H K J 10 D A Q 10 6 3 C 2</p>	<p>S ----- H Q 9 7 6 4 D K 8 5 C A J 10 4 3</p> <p>S Q J 5 4 3 H A D 9 7 2 C Q 8 7 6</p>
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	West	North	East	South
3b	T.Bessis	Fallenius	M.Bessis	Welland
				Pass
	1♦	Pass	1♥	1♠
	Dble*	2♠	3♠	Pass
	4♣	Pass	6♣	Pass
	6♦	All Pass		

* Three-card support for hearts and constructive

When Thomas Bessis bid 4♣ Dad could deduce it was probably a singleton, but he bid Six Clubs to give a choice of slams.

Six Hearts is quite tricky to play due to the 4-1 break (though no table reached it). You cannot afford to ruff a club and then play a trump because a third club promotes a trick for North's trump. The trump lead must come before the ruff, not obvious at all.

Of course, with the hearts 4-1, Six Diamonds is lucky to find the singleton heart is the ace. There were no problems in the play and the slam won the board when the other table stopped in game.

This next deal gave South a problem. What would you do with either Three Hearts (or even Four) opened on your right?

Buffett Cup Teams

Board: 50 Dealer: East Vul: N-S

<p>S J 8 H 9 7 D A 10 9 8 7 5 3 C 5 3</p>	<p>S 10 5 3 2 H Q J 10 8 6 5 4 D 6 4 C -----</p> <p>S K Q H A K 3 2 D K Q C Q J 9 4 2</p>
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	West	North	East	South
3a	Weinstein	Auken	Garner	Michielsen
			4♥	Pass!
	Pass	4♠	Pass	4NT*
	Pass	5♥**	Pass	6NT
	All Pass			

* Keycard

** Two keycards, no spade queen

As a double of Four Hearts implies holding four spades, despite her 20 high card points, Marion Michielsen chose to pass. Sabine Auken protected with a natural overcall and Michielsen caught up by reaching the highest scoring slam.

At the other table there was a mishap:

	West	North	East	South
3b	T.Bessis	Fallenius	M.Bessis	Welland
			3♥	Pass
	Pass	4♣*	Pass	4NT*
	All Pass			

* non-leaping Michaels, showing clubs and spades.

** intended as keycard but interpreted as natural

Welland also chose to pass on the South cards, though he had a natural 3NT available. Maybe that thought influenced Fallenius into believing they did not have enough for a slam.

Here is another auction on the same deal:

	West	North	East	South
Ia	Berkowitz	Hanlon	Sontag	McGann
			3♥	3NT
	Pass	4♥*	Pass	6♣
	All Pass			

*4♥ was a slam try and McGann wanted to accept but did not feel he could gamble on Six Notrumps.

The other table in his match also reached Six Clubs. The swing on the board came on the lead. Berkowitz chose the ace of diamonds, the European West selected a heart, and the USA had won the board.

The lead was all the more important at the table where North-South reached SEVEN Clubs. As South was declarer West managed to find the lead of his ace, putting an end to matters quickly.

Teams Match 3 Set I Boards 57-70

The line up was:

	West	North	East	South
Ia	Berkowitz	Auken	Sontag	Michielsen
Ib	T.Bessis	Hamman	M.Bessis	Zia

	West	North	East	South
2a	Kwiecien	Sokolow	Pszczola	S.Molson
2b	Freeman	Hanlon	Hampson	McGann

	West	North	East	South
3a	Weinstein	Helness	Garner	Svensden
3b	Brogeland	Fallenius	Lindqvist	Welland

Auken-Bessis won 7.5-6.5 to earn Europe 7 points
 Sokolow-Freeman won 8.5-5.5 to earn USA 7
 Helness-Brogeland won 8.5-5.5 to earn Europe 7

Running score: Europe 112.5 USA 112.5

This freak deal, featuring Lightner doubles by BOTH sides, allowed the North's a free rein in tactics:

Buffett Cup Teams

Board: 65 Dealer: North Vul: None

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

	West	North	East	South
Ia	Berkowitz	Auken	Sontag	Michielsen
		1♦	Pass	1♠
	Dble	4♠	4NT!	Dble
	5♣	5♦	Pass	5NT
	Pass	6♦	Pass	6♠
	Pass	Pass	Dble	All Pass

Six Spades looks excellent on the N-S cards. That is until East comes up with a Lightner double. Berkowitz interpreted it correctly and led a diamond. Sontag ruffed, put Berkowitz back in with a heart and received a second ruff. 300 to the USA.

	West	North	East	South
Ib	T.Bessis	Hamman	M.Bessis	Zia
		1♦	Pass	1♠
	Dble	2♦!	2♥	3NT
	Dble	4♠	Pass	Pass
	4NT	5♦	Pass	Pass
	5♥	Dble	All Pass	

Hamman tried a softly, softly approach but Thomas Bessis saw through this, and the tactic did not lead N-S to the best spot of Six Diamonds.

Hamman's double of five Hearts was meant to be Lightner, but this was not picked up by Zia who led the king of spades followed by the ace of diamonds. And so 5♥ doubled made with ease (declarer can even make six) and the board was won by Europe.

Still on the same deal:

	West	North	East	South
3a	Weinstein	Helness	Garner	Svendsen
		1♦	Pass	1♠
	Dble	2♠!	Pass	4♣
	Pass	6♦	6♥	Pass*
	Pass	Dble	Pass	6♠
	Pass	Pass	Dble	All Pass

This time it was both Helness and Garner who took to “walking the dog”. But Helness’s double had no Lightner implications (though on the spade king from South North’s smallest spade would be asking for a club switch).

Weinstein correctly read Garner’s double. The diamond lead was ruffed, a heart back, and a second ruff gave the USA +300 again.

This deal also had interest in both bidding and play. Four different games were feasible!

Buffett Cup Teams

Board: 67 Dealer: South Vul: E-W

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

	West	North	East	South
1a	Berkowitz	Auken	Sontag	Michielsen
				1♠
	Pass	2♦	Pass	2♥
	Pass	2NT*	Pass	3♥
	Pass	3♠	Pass	5♦
	All Pass			

* forcing

	West	North	East	South
1b	T.Bessis	Hamman	M.Bessis	Zia
				1♠
	Pass	2♦	Pass	2♥
	Pass	2NT*	Pass	3♦
	Pass	3♠	Pass	3NT
	Pass	4♣	Pass	4♥
	Pass	5♦	All Pass	

* Forcing

The auctions differed but the final contract was the same: Five Diamonds by North with East leading the ♥8

There is plenty of guessing to do.

Both declarers began with two top hearts and then the jack. Berkowitz covered, Auken ruffed with the seven and Sontag over-ruffed with the nine.

A club back at this point probably gives declarer too much to do, but Sontag led a spade. Declarer misguessed again and the game was light.

At the second table Bessis Junior did not cover the heart jack and Hamman ditched his losing spade. That was enough to bring home the contract and the board.

In another match Svendsen, with the South cards, somewhat anti-normal, opened 1♥.

This proved a success when the auction continued with 2♦ game-forcing from partner and Svendsen rebid 2♥. Not surprisingly that led to 4♥ which made an overtrick and won the board!

The full unopposed auction was:

1♥-2♦-2♥-2NT-3♦-3♥-4♦-4♥-Pass



Teams Match 3 Set 2 Boards 71-84

The line-up was:

	West	North	East	South
1a	Berkowitz	M.Bessis	Sontag	T.Bessis
1b	Michielsen	Hamman	Auken	Zia

	West	North	East	South
2a	Hanlon	Sokolow	McGann	S.Molson
2b	Freeman	Pszczola	Hampson	Kwiecien

	West	North	East	South
3a	Weinstein	Lindqvist	Garner	Brogeland
3b	Svendsen	Fallenius	Helness	Welland

Match 1 USA won 8.5-5.5 for 7 points

Match 2 USA won 9-5 for 7 points

Match 3 Europe won 9-5 for 7 points

Running score: Europe 119.5 USA 126.5

The Individual will be reported in the final Bulletin but here are the initial results:

	Europe		USA	
	Rd	Cum	Rd	Cum
Round 1	10	129.5	2	128.5
Round 2	2	131.5	10	138.5
Round 3				
Round 4				

Running score:

Round 3 Europe won 10-2 making the running score Europe 141.5 USA 140.5

Round 4 was Drawn 6-6 making the running score Europe 147.5 USA 146.5



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. Lindqvist
11. Hamman	23. McGann
12. Zia	24. Svendsen

For additional information,
updates and photos--
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