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Issue No. 11 Thursday, 13 November 2003

Hitchcock Sits One Out



The victorious Italians compare scores. They will face USA I in the Bermuda Bowl final, starting today

he scene was set for a classic battle between Italy and Norway, who had stormed back from a big deficit to within 14 IMPs of their opponents. The winner would advance to the Bermuda Bowl final, and the VuGraph auditorium was packed with spectators keen to see a close contest.

It was not to be, as a dull set of boards provided Norway with little ammunition to overcome their rivals. As one wag on OKbridge noted, in a reference to the late master of suspense, "Alfred Hitchcock did not deal these boards."

It didn't hurt the Italian cause that Norberto Bocchi and Giorgio Duboin in the closed room had a near-flawless card, with only a couple of minus scores, while Alfredo Versace and Lorenzo Lauria made few errors themselves. The final score for the sixth set was 31-9.

Italy won 223-187.7 and got revenge for their semi-final loss to Norway two years ago. The winners advanced to the final against USA I, who rode a 67-5 fourth set to an easy win over USA II. USA I will start with a 13-IMP carryover in the final.

Neither match in the Venice Cup semi-final round was close, as China won five out of six sets to advance with a 279-202 triumph over the Netherlands. In the gold medal round, China will face USA I,

Continued on Page 3...

VUGRAPH MATCHES

Venice Cup – Final – (Session 1) – 10.30

USA I v China

Bermuda Bowl – Final – (Session 2) – 13.20
Italy v USA I

Bermuda Bowl – Final – (Session 3) – 17.00

Italy v USA I

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Le Petit Écho de Monaco

No smoking, quiet please

Players are not permitted to smoke in any playing areas. This includes the Costa and Eiffel Rooms in the Hotel Hermitage, the Sporting d'Hiver and the Bellevue in the Café de Paris. Players violating this regulation will receive VP penalties.

Players are requested to enter and leave the playing areas quietly in order not to disturb the players from the Bermuda Bowl or Venice Cup who are playing on Vu-Graph.











RESULTS

Bermuda Bowl

Semi-finals								
Carry-over Session I Session 2 Session 3 Session 4 Session 5 Session 6 Total								
ITALY	NORWAY	0 -1.7	41 - 12	38 - 39	49 - 9	36 - 51	28 - 66	31 - 9 223 -187.7
2 USA I	USA II	13.5 - 0	41 - 17	21 - 34	27 - 34	67 - 5	21 - 19	31 - 25 221.5 - 134

Final								
		Carry-over Session I	Session 2	Session 3	Session 4	Session 5	Session 6	Total
I ITALY	USA I	0 - 13						

Play-off						
		Carry-over	Session I	Session 2	Session 3	Total
3 NORWAY	USA II	8 - 0				

Venice Cup

Semi-finals								
Carry-over Session I Session 2 Session 3 Session 4 Session 5 Session 6 Total								
3 CHINA	NETHERLAN	DS 0 - I	32 - 30	53 - 19	44 - 32	74 - 27	54 - 52	22 - 41 279 - 202
4 USA I	USA II.	9.5 - 0	28 - 24	31 - 41	45 - 17	54 - 20	49 - 23	35 - 54 251.5 - 179

Final								
		Carry-over Session I	Session 2	Session 3	Session 4	Session 5	Session 6	Total
2 CHINA	USA I	0 - 5.3						

			Play-of	f		
		Carry-over	Session I	Session 2	Session 3	Total
4 USA II	NETHERLANDS	6 - 0				

LOUIS VUITTON

Official sponsor of the World Bridge Championships

Welcomes all the bridge players to his boutique, located between the Sporting d'Hiver and the Hotel de Paris

from 11 am to 7 pm

RESULTS AFTER 12 MATCHES

Transnational Teams

Rank	Team	Category	Country	VPs	Ran	kTeam	Category	Country	VPs
ı	JANSMA J.		NTH	240	40	HUGON B.	М	FRA	174
2	BRACHMAN M.		USA	23 I	41	ALBERTI A.		GER	173
3	LASUT H.		IND	22 I	42	MARI C.	S	FRA	173
4	MILNER R.		USA	212	43	DOUSSOT B.		FRA	172
5	ZHUANG Z.		CHI	208	44	SZWARC H.	S	FRA	172
6	DE BOTTON J.		ENG	207	45	STRATAN D.		ROM	172
7 8	FERGANI K. POPOVA D.	М	CAN BUL	205 203	46	BRIDGE PLUS	М	FRA	172
9	MARKOWICZ V.	I⁴I S	USA	203	47	CONTERNO A.	M	PER	171
10	COMPUTERLAN	_	POL	203	48	DHONDY H.	• •	ENG	171
11	VENKATESH G.		USA	202	49	WATERLOW T.		ENG	170
12	STAMATOV J.		BUL	199	50	CHAMMAA I.		LEB	170
13	GAMRATH J.		DEN	197	51	YEH C.			
14	ISTUAN S.		HUN	197				CHI	170
15	JACOB T.		NZL	196	52	SCUDDER M.	L	AUS	169
16	LAVAZZA		ITA	195	53	CONVERY C.		ZAF	168
17	HADI K.	M	PAK	193	54	HUSSEIN A.		EGY	167
18	JACOBS G.		USA	193	55	KHAN T.		PAK	167
19	WIGODER C.		ENG	191	56	BENBASSAT M.		SWI	165
20	ZIMMERMAN P.		SVVI	191	57	FORNACIARI E	M	ITA	164
21	DHONDY J.		ENG	191	58	DAUVERGNE B.		FRA	164
22	SACUL D.		IND	190	59	NADAR K.		IND	163
23	MIZEL J.		ENG	189	60	ARNABOLDI S.		ITA	162
24	SERF M.	SM	FRA	189	61	QUITTNER J.	M	AUS	159
25	BJARNARSON C	j	DEN	186	62	BARYLEWSKI M		POL	158
26 27	MODALFA GILLIS S.		NTH ENG	186 186	63	SPRONG J.	М	ZAF	158
28	GOTARD T.		GER	186	64	ZEST		SWE	156
29	MIROGLIO		ITA	185	65	VOZABAL D.		CZE	155
30	VAN HOOFT.		NTH	185	66	SCHAEFER L.	L	USA	153
31	ADAD P.	S	FRA	185	67	RASMUSSEN J.	M	USA	152
32	TERAMOTO T.		JPN	184	68	RESTA G.	L.	ITA	152
33	CLEMENT M.	L	FRA	184	69	PANAHPOUR M	_	ENG	150
34	JOURDAIN P.		ENG	179	70	PETROVIC I.			
35	RAND N.	S	ISR	178			L	CRO	146
36	MOSSOP D.		ENG	178	71	SUPANDI H.		IND	138
37	RYNNING E.		NOR	178	72	BORTOLETTI	M	ITA	137
38	GREGSON C.	M	ENG	178	73	CROCI A.		ITA	130
39	JOAO L.	М	POR	177	74	MEEHAN P.	L	IRE	123

Transnational Schedule

Thursday I3 November

 10.30 - 12.00
 Match 13

 12.30 - 14.00
 Match 14

 14.30 - 16.00
 Match 15

Captain's Meetings for

Transnational Quarter-finalists

16.30 - 18.00 Match 16 17.00 - 19.20 Quarter-final Session I

21.10 - 23.30 Quarter-final Session 2

Follow the 36th Bermuda Bowl, the 14th Venice Cup and the 2nd Senior Bowl on Internet through the WBF official web site:

www.worldbridge.org

...Front Page Continued

winners over USA II by the score of 251.5 to 179. In the final, the Americans will have a 5.3-IMP carryover.

In the World Transnational Open Teams, the Jan Jansma team from the Netherlands extended their lead with three matches to play in the round-robin. Jansma has 240 Victory Points to 231 for the second-place team from the USA, captained by Malcolm Brachman. The Henky Lasut squad from Indonesia is in third.

The top eight teams in the round-robin will begin quarterfinal play tonight.



IBPA Annual Awards 2003

Adjudication by Barry Rigal Commentary by Patrick Jourdain

Bidding

Winners: Bart Bramley & Sidney Lazard (USA), Blue Ribbon Pairs, Phoenix, December 2002 Author: Bart Bramley (USA)

It is rare to see an auction with seven natural bids reach the topscoring contract despite intervention, when three strains and two different levels are under consideration. This was beautifully handled by both players.

The Blues

By Bart Bramley, Chicago

Natural Bidding

Our best bid hand was from the first final session.

Dealer West. EW Vul.



West	North	East	South
Lazard		Bramley	
I♡	I♠	2♣	3♠
4 ♦	Pass	4♡	Pass
4♠	Pass	6♣	Pass
7♡	Pass	7 NT	Pass
Pass	Pass		

Sidney eschewed opening 2Φ because the opponents were at favorable vulnerability and he had a spade void. When the opponents jammed the auction Sidney still had a big problem at his second turn. His delicate $4\Diamond$ bid was a great solution, as it was natural, forcing, and low. That bid may look obvious, but ask around and you'll find out differently. My $4\heartsuit$ preference was conservative, but I feared bidding more on a potential misfit. Luckily for us, the $4\heartsuit$ bid relieved Sidney of any concerns about hearts running. Sidney's next call, the 4Φ cuebid, continued his gradual approach to a complex hand. Having pulled in a notch earlier, I was comfortable driving to slam over 4Φ , but I was still not sure of the best trump suit. I chose the descriptive 6Φ , simultaneously accepting the slam try, showing a strong suit, and offering 6Φ as a choice of contract. Note that 6Φ could be the winning contract opposite

♦—♥A O x x x x ♦ A K I0 x x **♣** x x

or the like. That was good news for Sidney, who knew that the ΔK was huge, so he confidently bid 7%. Equally confidently, I converted to 7NT based on possession of the ΔA . I knew Sidney held solid hearts, the A, and one of the minor-suit kings.

Note that our auction was completely natural except for 4\(\phi\), a cuebid of a void, hardly a big contribution to a contract of 7NT. We used no ace-asking bid and cuebid no aces. Every bid but 4\(\phi\) showed a suit, and our last several bids were all offers to play. Yet when we reached 7NT we both knew it was cold!

There was a small point in the play. On the spade lead I pitched a heart from dummy. Sidney, who had been looking nervous, perked up and said, "That's a good sign!" I didn't need the seventh heart for 13 tricks, but if hearts had been 4-0, I could still have made the contract with the diamond finesse and a squeeze if LHO had ♠Jxxx, ♥J98x, ♦K9xx, ♣x, a holding consistent with the bidding. Plus 2220 was worth 42 on a 51 top.

Defence

Eric Greco (& Geoff Hampson) (USA) at Nebraska Regional

Authors: Larry Cohen & Alan Truscott

One can just imagine the thrill for Greco and the anguish of declarer as the deal unwound. So sad to go three off when at one point you can make 12 tricks!! (Yes, if declarer plays the ace of clubs on the second round of the suit, West gets squeezed later) But there was a sound reason for declarer's play. So was dummy sympathetic?

Cornhusker Defence

By Larry Cohen, Boca Raton, FL and Alan Truscott, New York City

Anyone who spotted Warren E. Buffett of Berkshire Hathaway at the Summer North American Bridge Championships in Long Beach, California, last month might have been excused for thinking that he was the wealthiest person present. However, that would have been wrong, for one of his teammates in the Master Mixed Teams was Bill Gates of Microsoft.

A week later, Buffett, back at his Omaha, Nebraska home, entertained a group led by another financial wizard, Peter Lynch, and played a friendly match. Lynch and his wife, Carolyn, then continued to the 'Nebraska' regional tournament, played just outside the state, across the Missouri River, in Iowa. Their team was uniformly successful, winning three knockout events and the Swiss teams.

In one knockout event, Eric Greco, West for the Lynch team on the diagrammed deal, produced a stellar defense.



At the other table, Greco's teammate South opened a 14-16 no trump, and dummy transferred to clubs and then showed spades. South bid three no trump and received a fourth-best \$\displays 8\$ lead. Dummy's jack won, and the \$\Displays Q\$ went to West's king. West cashed the high diamonds, and declarer claimed 10 tricks for plus 630.

Contrast this with what happened at Greco's table. South opened $I \lozenge$, and again the dummy showed clubs and spades with South arriving in 3NT. Greco led a high diamond and got the discouraging 2 from partner, Geoff Hampson. Even looking at all four hands, it's difficult to see a way to beat the game, but Eric found it. He played the $\lozenge 7$ at trick two, won by declarer's 9.

Declarer crossed in spades (East showing an even number) and led the ΦQ for a finesse. Greco ducked in tempo. Declarer, afraid to lay down the ΦA (if East has king-third, he can't be let in for a diamond through), continued with dummy's ΦJ , passed around to Greco's now bare king.

Greco continued the good work by shifting to the ♠Q. Not only did this pin the jack, but it also severed declarer from dummy's clubs. The ♠A was now blocking the suit. Declarer countered by ducking the spade! Had Greco woodenly continued spades, declarer could have won in dummy and thrown the ♠A to make the contract. But, having done everything right so far, Greco wasn't going to fall from grace at that point. He accurately shifted to hearts, the final nail in declarer's coffin.

Declarer now had to fail by three tricks, down 300! Declarer, seemingly with nine top tricks, was held to two clubs, two hearts, one spade and one diamond trick. Making the right play in all four suits (at the right time), Greco earned 14 IMPs for his team with his superb defence.

Play

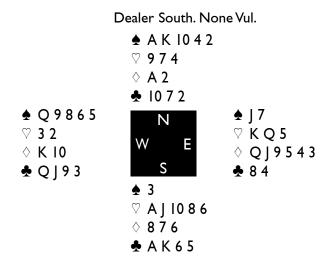
Geir Helgemo (Norway) OKbridge Author: Geir Olav Tislevoll (Norway)

Classic Helgemo. This is yet another example of his superior ability to see through complex positions to the way home. Geir's ability to project the end-position of the cards at the early point of the deal makes him appear a magician at the table.

A Thing of Beauty

By Geir Olav Tislevoll, Trondheim, Norway

This lovely piece of declarer play took place when Geir Helgemo and Jimmy Cayne were practising on OKbridge. Since it did not occur in a big tournament, there was a danger that it would not come to light. To remedy that, here it is:

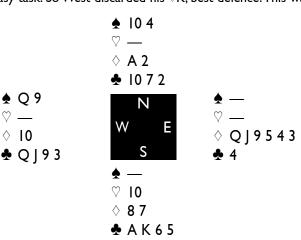


West	North	East	South
	Cayne		Helgemo
			IΫ
Pass	I♠	2♦	Pass
Pass	3♦	Pass	3♡
Pass	4♡	All Pass	

East/West were strong opponents and West found the best lead - a trump - which prevented declarer from ruffing a diamond for his tenth trick. Geir took the first trick with the ace over East's queen. If the opponents' spades had been 4-3 there would not have been much to tell. In that case, declarer would have had no problems in establishing the fifth spade.

The play would continue $\triangle A$, $\triangle K$, discarding a diamond. Then a spade is ruffed, and if both opponents follow to that trick, declarer plays three rounds of clubs. The defenders must then play two more rounds of trumps to deny declarer a club ruff, and he ends up in dummy with the nine of hearts. He would then ruff another spade, and can get to the now good, fifth spade with the $\lozenge A$.

But, luckily for all but East/West, East showed out on the third spade, discarding the \$8. Geir ruffed and played the jack of hearts to East's king (East cannot profitably duck). East continued a heart to dummy's 9. On that trick, West had to find a discard, and he could not let a black card go without giving declarer an easy task. So West discarded his $\Diamond K$, best defence. This was left:



Now came a strange but beautiful trick: the two, jack, seven and ten! If East now switches to a club declarer plays low and West will be endplayed, forced to help declarer in spades or clubs. But East continued with a diamond to the ace. On that trick, West had to discard again. He could not give up a club, but since there was no more entry to the North hand he could afford to let a spade go, and so he did.

That only delayed the inevitable. Helgemo still had one joker left to play out: he ruffed a spade with his last trump, and that took away West's last spade as well. With four cards left both West and South held only clubs. North had a high spade and his three clubs. A low club toward dummy's ten gave West no good option. Beautiful, yes?

Juniors

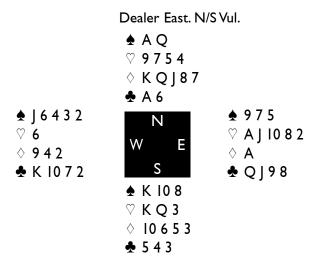
Ophir Reshef (Israel) from the ACBL Junior Camp Author: Andrew Robson

This was a beautiful false-card and quick thinking by declarer not only to realize the significance of dummy's nine in the suit, but how East would be tempted into returning the trick conceded, as well as diverting the club switch.

The False-Card

By Andrew Robson, London

Ophir Reshef found a great false-card on this deal.



West	North	East	South
		Ι♡	Pass
♠	2♦	Pass	3◊
Pass	3♡	Pass	3NT
Pass	Pass	Dble	All Pass

North/South really belong in a part score - 2NT is their best-scoring spot, but an aggressive auction such as the one shown is quite reasonable. What would you expect the fate of the contract to be? Well, on a spade lead by West declarer drives out the diamond ace, and the defence must play clubs to hold declarer to nine tricks. On a heart lead and club shift, or on a club lead at trick one, declarer cannot make more than eight tricks. Agreed?

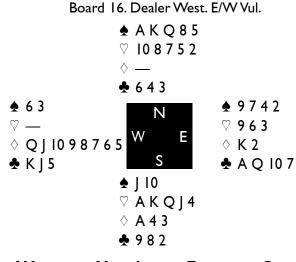
Well, consider East's problem if his partner leads a heart to

trick one. The obvious solution is to go up with the ace; if no honour appears, shift to clubs and hope for the best. Nice logic, but...

Ophir Reshef was sitting South and on the auction shown above he was treated to a heart lead. Gauging the situation accurately, he called for a low heart from dummy, and when East put up the ace he dropped the queen! East sniffed the air suspiciously for a few minutes then took the bait and returned a low heart, letting Ophir run this to dummy's nine and collect his 10 tricks for all 15 matchpoints out of 15.

What a difference a lead makes

After 15 boards of the third session of the Bermuda Bowl semi-final USAII were winning the session 27-20. However, the last deal was one that could seriously spoil your dinner...



West	North	East	South
Hamman	Wolff	Soloway	Morse
3♦	3♠	Pass	4♡
Pass	5◊	Pass	5♡
All Pass			

You would get away with this against most players, but Bob Hamman does not fall into that category, and he put the five of clubs on the table for a fast one down.

West	North	East	South
Landen	Rodwell	Pratap	Meckstroth
3NT* All Pass	Dble*	Pass	6♡

The match records say North doubled, while Bridgebase showed 4. If the latter is correct then East would probably have doubled, so we go with the recorder. Whatever, South bid what he thought he could make. When West led the queen of diamonds he dropped a bushel of IMPs.

It also cost Norway a bundle, as they lost 1010 at one table when North was declarer in 6%, whereas the Italians made no mistake at the other table, where East, defending the same contract, put the ace of clubs on the table at trick one.

FINAL BUTLER RANKING

Bermuda Bowl

Previously published Butler scores were incorrect because of a faulty application of IMPs by the program.

Ran	k P air		Country	Boards	IMPs/Bd
	Lauria	Versace	ITA	224	1.04
2	Brogeland	Sælensminde	NOR	240	0.92
3	Hamman	Soloway	USA I	240	0.77
4	Bocchi	Duboin	ITA	224	0.75
5	Meckstroth	Rodwell	USA I	240	0.75
6	Gawrys	assem	POL	320	0.73
7	Demuy	Wolpert	CAN	208	0.69
8	Aa	Grøtheim	NOR	208	0.52
9	Gunev	Stamatov	BUL	224	0.52
10	Wu	Yen	CHT	240	0.50
II	Antoff	Simpson	AUS	160	0.30
12	Fantoni	Nunes	ITA	224	0.47
13	Mihov	Nanev	BUL	224	0.47
13	Morse	Wolff	USA 2	224	0.40
15			IDN	320	0.40
16	Karwur	Panelewen Pont	ESP	208	0.36
17	Graupera		AUS	272	0.32
17	Richman	Thomson			
18	Chiu	Yang	CHT	176 192	0.28
	Doub	Wildavsky	USA 2		0.28
20	Chmurski	Puczynski	POL	176	0.27
21 22	El Ahmady Fredin	Sadek	EGY SWE	272	0.25
23		Lindkvist	URU	240 208	0.24 0.20
23 24	Carve	Scavuzzo	CAN	208	0.20
2 4 25	Fergani Del Monte	L'Ecuyer Fruewirth	AUS	206 224	0.20
25 26		Tewari	IND	22 4 224	0.16
27	Gupta Huang	Wu	CHT	224	0.16
28	Fernandez	Ventin	ESP	240	0.14
29	Catellani	Fissore	MON	192	0.13
30	Landen	Rajadhyaksha	USA 2	256	0.06
31	Gheewala	Khan	PAK	112	0.03
32	Rothier	Tognetti	MON	208	0.02
33	Berthaeu	Nyström	SWE	224	0.02
34	Bach	Burgess	NZ	240	0.02
35	Branco	Toma	BRA	240	-0.04
36	Krupowicz	Zawislak	POL	176	-0.05
37	Karaivanov	Trendafilov	BUL	208	-0.08
38	Fu	Zhao	CHN	304	-0.08
39	Freeman	Nickell	USA I	192	-0.12
40	Czyzowicz	Wolpert	CAN	240	-0.13
41	, Ham	Zumarán	URU	208	-0.13
42	Gustawsson	Morath	SWE	192	-0.16
43	Allavena	Tardy	MON	240	-0.17
44	Asbi	Tobing	IDN	272	-0.18
45	Shi	Zhuang	CHN	224	-0.20
46	Jafer	Siddiqui	PAK	256	-0.22
47	Khalil	El Kourdy	EGY	176	-0.23
48	Helgemo	Helness	NOR	224	-0.23
49	Hughes	Meltz	ZAF	208	-0.23
50	Cornell	Mayer	NZ	224	-0.25
51	Junqueira	Maia	BRA	192	-0.39

k P air		Country	Boards	IMPs/Bd
Allana	Fazli	PAK	304	-0.42
Aranha	Campos	BRA	224	-0.46
Jacob	Jedrychowski	NZ	208	-0.47
Nadar	Satyanarayana	IND	224	-0.50
Naguib	Sadek	EGY	208	-0.51
Frances	Torres	ESP	192	-0.59
Brechner	Donath	URU	224	-0.71
Choksi	Venkataraman	IND	224	-0.77
Reynolds	Sprong	ZAF	224	-0.79
Castelein	Fick	ZAF	224	-0.93
Petty	Smolski	BER	224	-1.03
Douglas	Harvey	BER	240	-1.20
Hall	Saunders	BER	208	-1.37
	Allana Aranha Jacob Nadar Naguib Frances Brechner Choksi Reynolds Castelein Petty Douglas	Allana Fazli Aranha Campos Jacob Jedrychowski Nadar Satyanarayana Naguib Sadek Frances Torres Brechner Donath Choksi Venkataraman Reynolds Sprong Castelein Fick Petty Smolski Douglas Harvey	Allana Fazli PAK Aranha Campos BRA Jacob Jedrychowski NZ Nadar Satyanarayana IND Naguib Sadek EGY Frances Torres ESP Brechner Donath URU Choksi Venkataraman IND Reynolds Sprong ZAF Castelein Fick ZAF Petty Smolski BER Douglas Harvey BER	Allana Fazli PAK 304 Aranha Campos BRA 224 Jacob Jedrychowski NZ 208 Nadar Satyanarayana IND 224 Naguib Sadek EGY 208 Frances Torres ESP 192 Brechner Donath URU 224 Choksi Venkataraman IND 224 Reynolds Sprong ZAF 224 Castelein Fick ZAF 224 Petty Smolski BER 224 Douglas Harvey BER 240



La Compagnie Monégasque de Banque, sponsor officiel du Championnat du Monde de Bridge 2003, est heureuse de vous rencontrer dans son point d'accueil au Sporting d'Hiver, à côté du Salon François Blanc, de 9h30 à 11h00 et de 15 heures à 16h30, chaque jour. Notre personnel se tient à votre disposition pour vous fournir tout renseignement concernant son activité de Private Banking.

* * *

Compagnie Monégasque de Banque, official sponsor of the World Bridge Championship 2003, will be delighted to see you at its "meeting point" located at the Sporting d'Hiver, near the Salon François Blanc, from 9.30 to 11.00 a.m. and from 3.00 to 4.30 p.m., every day.

Our staff is at your disposal to give you any detail you may need about our Private Banking activity.

* * *

La Compagnie Monégasque de Banque, sponsor ufficiale del Campionato Mondiale di Bridge 2003, sarà lieta di incontrarLa nel suo " punto accoglienza " allo Sporting d'Hiver, vicino al Salone François Blanc, dalle 9.30 alle 11.00 e dalle 15.00 alle 16.30 di ogni giorno.

I nostri consulenti sono a Sua completa disposizione per fornirLe qualsiasi chiarimento sulla nostra attività di Private Banking.



World Bridge Olympiad Istanbul Turkey

23 October - 6 November 2004



stanbul - a fabulous city where East meets West, the bridge between Europe and Asia, a thriving metropolis of 12 million people - exotic yet distinctly western.

Istanbul has been the seat of three great empires - Roman, Byzantine and Ottoman and a meeting place for peoples of many religions and cultures who came together and learned to live in peace and harmony.

Ultra-modern amenities, the splendours of the Ottoman past and the honoured traditions of Turkish hospitality combine to make Istanbul a fascinating city, one that will impress all visitors with treasured and lasting memories. Istanbul will reward you with the comfort of home while offering sights, sounds and smells that carry you swiftly to another culture, another time.

This vibrant, exciting city is really accessible from all part of the world, served by more than 50 airlines. Every major European Airport is 2-3 hours away. There are frequent direct flights to Istanbul from most European cities, and all the important cities in the world. Istanbul is a treasure trove of sight seeing possibilities, and has many wonderful places that should not be missed - for example Tokapi Palace: the residence of the Sultan for 4 centuries, a city within the city; the Blue Mosque; St Sophia; the Basilica Cistern; the spice market; Rumeli Castle and many other historic monuments - followed, of course, by a shopping expedition to the Grand Bazaar.

The World Bridge Olympiad will be held in the heart of Istanbul at the

Grand Cevahir Hotel and Convention Centre

which is a truly luxurious deluxe hotel. It combines a state of art convention centre with an extremely comfortable hotel, ideal for such a prestigious Championship. Accommodation will also be available in hotels nearby which will include 2 and 3 star hotels as well as the more expensive 4 and 5 star hotels, so that as wide a range of rates as possible can be offered to players coming to the Championships

Five major Championships will be staged during the course of the two weeks, with the most important being the 12th Open and Women's World Team Olympiad. The 2nd Senior International Cup will be held during the first week as will the 2nd World University Teams Bridge Cup. The 3rd World Transnational Mixed Teams Championship will be held during the second week, enabling players eliminated from the Olympiad to participate in this enjoyable and challenging event. Details of these events are as follows:



12th World Team Olympiad Open and Women's Series

Please note that it is extremely important for each NBO to send a team to enhance our Olympic image and also to ensure that all NBOs will be eligible to qualify for the 2005 Bermuda Bowl and Venice Cup.

- Entry fees: US \$ 3,000 per team
- It is anticipated that the Round Robin stage will initially be organized with different groups and NBOs are requested to confirm their participation as early as possible but in any case no later than 15 May 2004 in order that that the draw can be made early, which will be of advantage to all participants.
- Names of the players will be needed by 01 July 2004 in order that the programme can be prepared.
- The Round Robin stage will be played from Sunday 24 October to Saturday 30 October.
- Players eliminated from the World Team Olympiad may play free of charge in the 3rd World Transnational Mixed Teams Championship.

2nd Senior International Cup

- Entry fees: US\$ 3,000 per team (includes the entry fee to the World Transnational Mixed Teams held during the second week)
- This event is for national teams who will compete in a Round Robin to be played from Sunday 24 to Saturday 30 October (i.e.during the first week of the Olympiad.)
- Each WBF Member NBO is entitled to send one national team to compete in the Senior International Cup.
- Players competing in the Senior International Cup must be at least 55 years of age on the first day of this competition.
- NBOs are requested to confirm that they will be sending a team to participate in the Senior International Cup by 15 May 2004 and names of the players must be submitted to the WBF no later than 01 July 2004
- Players who participated in the Senior International Cup may play free of charge in the 3rd World Transnational Mixed Teams Championship.

3rd World Transnational Mixed Teams Championship

This event has been a successful and exciting Championship since its inception in Rhodes when 86 teams competed. We feel sure that many players would enjoy participating in this challenging event, which gives them the opportunity of pitting their bridge skills against some of the greatest players in the World as well has having the chance to watch the exciting final stages of the World Team Olympiad on the expert View-Graph presentation.

- Entry fees:
 - >free for the eliminated players
 - >US \$800 for a new team

If a team is composed of players eliminated from the Olympiad together with players who have not competed in the Olympiad, the players who have not competed will be charged US \$150 per head if it is a team of six, or \$200 per head if it is a team of four.

- Teams must consist of at least two women and two men from any country, playing in Mixed partnerships.
- The Transnational Mixed Teams will be played during the second week of the Championships starting on either Monday 01 or Tuesday 02 November. The

exact dates will be announced as soon as they are known. The knock out phase will start on either Thursday 04 or Friday 05 and end on Saturday 06 November.

• Teams wishing to enter this event should contact their NBO as soon as possible to request nomination. In any event entries should be made before 15th August 2004, although late entries may be accepted provided there is sufficient space at the venue.

2nd World University Teams Bridge Cup

It is very important that each of the main NBOs should make every effort to send a team to this tournament as the staging of this event is an important part of the WBF strategy in support of its IOC policy and its aim to obtain Government and Olympic Committee recognition for bridge as a sport in as many countries as possible.



- Played under the auspices of the FISU (Fédération Internationale des Sports Universitaires)
- Entry to World University Teams Bridge Cup is free
- This event is for University teams who will compete in a Round Robin to be played from Sunday 24 to Saturday 30 October (i.e.during the first week of the Olympiad.)
- Minimum age 17, maximum 28
- Accommodation: very inexpensive accommodation will be arranged for this event.
- NBOs are requested to confirm that they will be sending a team to participate in the World University Teams Bridge Cup by 15 May 2004 and names of the players must be submitted to the WBF no later than 01 July 2004

Please assist us by ensuring that you respect the deadlines for entries, team names and payments of entry fees which are as follows:

- Entry of Teams for the **Olympiad Open** and **Women's Series**: 15 May 2004

- Player's names for the Open and Women's Series: 01 July 2004

- Entry of Teams for the **Senior International Cup**: 15 May 2004

- Players' names for the **Senior International Cup**: 01 July 2004

- Entry of Teams for the **World University Teams Bridge Cup**: 15 May 2004 - Players' names for the **World University Teams Bridge Cup**: 01 July 2004

- Entry of Team for the **World Transnational Mixed Teams** (including registration of player's names) 01 September 2004 (late entries will be accepted provided there is sufficient space at the venue)

- Payment of entry fees for the **Team Olympiad** and **Senior International Cup**: 01 August 2004

- Payment of entry fees for the World Transnational Mixed Teams: 01 September 2004

All NBOs are reminded that national teams should be selected in accordance with the WBF Eligibility Regulations published in the WBF Directory, on the WBF Website at www.worldbridge.org and on www.ecatsbridge.com. Both these Websites will carry updated information about the Olympiad as it becomes available.

Entries for all events must be made through the National Bridge Federations and sent to:

Mr José Damiani President, World Bridge Federation 40 Rue François 1er 75008 Paris France

Or by fax to: +33 1 40 70 14 51

or email to: cfrancin@worldbridgefed.com

Payment of entry fees should be made by bank transfer to:

Banque de Baecque Beau 30118 - Ag 00001 3, rue des Mathurins

75009 PARIS - France Account No. : 03203 Q1065

If bank transfer is not possible, please contact Mrs Christine Francin at the WBF office, who will discuss possible alternative arrangements for payment.

Α

full list of hotels, with details of how to make reservations, will be published on the WBF Website and any other associated websites in due course.

Transnational Open Teams

Wham, Slam, Thank You Ma'ams

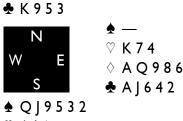
e usually only hear about the action at the top tables in the Transnationals, but some of the best action can often occur lower down the field. The BRIDGE PLUS team features players from Romania, France, England and Sweden, and the English player was originally Bulgarian while one of the Frenchmen insists that he is actually not French at all but a Breton (the North-Western province of France) - you can't get much more transnational than that! All three partnerships in the team are also of mixed gender.

Day two of the event saw a number of slam swings in favour of BRIDGE PLUS.

Round 5.

Board 15. Dealer South. N/S Vul.

♠ 8 6 ♥ Q 10 9 8 5 2 ♦ K



♥ A J 6
♦ 10 7
♣ 8 7



Marina Stegaroiu, Romania

West	North	East	South
Jeanneteau		Ryman	
			2♠
Pass	Pass	3♠	Pass
3NT	Pass	4♣	Pass
6◊	All Pass		

We have seen this deal before and know that a take-out double from East works rather nicely. But Sweden's Jenny Ryman did even better with her 3\(\Delta\) cuebid, initially asking partner to bid 3NT with a spade stopper. That is what Yves Jeanneteau (the Frenchman) did, of course, but the 4\(\Delta\) continuation showed a good hand with both minors and now Jeanneteau blasted the diamond slam.

It may appear that the slam requires two finesses, but it is not quite so bad as that. Except on a club lead, declarer can try a heart towards the king. When the ace is onside a club can be discarded from hand, while whenever South has the $\heartsuit A$ the club finesse is almost sure to succeed, given the weak $2 \clubsuit$ opening. Anyway, the bottom line was that $6 \diamondsuit$ proved to be quite cold for +920 and a double-figure swing to BRIDGE PLUS.

Round 5.

Board 17. Dealer North. None Vul.

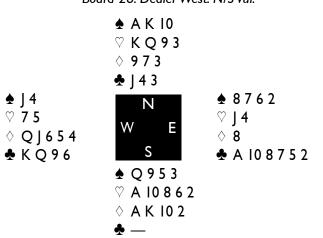
★ K 6
 ♡ K Q 9 7 4 3
 ◇ A 8 4
 ♣ K 5
 ♠ Q J 5 3 2
 ♡ J 6 2
 ◇ Q J 10 5 3
 ♠ A 7
 ♡ 8 5
 ◇ 7
 ♠ A Q 10 9 8 7 6 2

West	North	East	South
	Stegaroiu		Marina
	ĪΫ	Pass	2♣
Pass	2♡	Pass	3♣
Pass	3NT	Pass	4♣
Pass	4 ♦	Pass	4♠
Pass	6♣	All Pass	

Marina Stegaroiu opened I^{\odot} and Bogdan Marina's $2\clubsuit$ response was either natural and game-forcing or a Drury-type. Two Hearts confirmed a good opening hand and $3\clubsuit$ showed the game-force. When Marina made a clear slam try by bidding $4\clubsuit$, Stegaroiu cuebid then jumped to slam when Marina could show the $\clubsuit A$ but deny the $\heartsuit A$; +920.

In the other room North/South bid 1° - 2^{\bullet} - 2° - 5^{\bullet} - Pass; I I IMPs to BRIDGE PLUS.

Round 6. Board 28. Dealer West. N/S Vul.



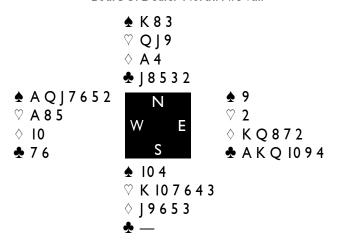
West	North	East	South
	Ryman		Jeanneteau
Pass	I ♣	Pass	ΙÖ
Pass	2♡	Pass	4♣
Pass	4♠	Pass	4NT
Pass	5♠	Pass	5NT
Pass	6♠	Pass	7♡
All Pass			

Four Clubs was a splinter bid and, when Ryman was willing to cuebid, she presumably had little club wastage. Jeanneteau checked on key cards, finding two plus the ∇Q , then asked for kings. Six Spades showed either the ΦK , or both minor-suit kings. Obviously, Jeanneteau could tell which option was actually held and now bid the grand slam.

Seven Hearts is by no means secure, looking at the two hands, but on the actual lie of the cards there were no problems and Jeanneteau soon wrapped up 13 tricks for +2210.

At the other table, North opened a weak no trump, South transferred, and West doubled the $2\lozenge$ bid. North completed the transfer and South jumped to game; +710 but 17 IMPs to BRIDGE PLUS.

Round 7. Board 5. Dealer North. N/S Vul.



The Romanian pairing of Marina/Stegaroiu reached 4♠ played

by East after she had opened 24, weak or strong with both minors. South led a low heart to dummy's ace and Stegaroiu led the singleton diamond towards her hand, North rising with the ace and switching to a club for the ace, ruffed. Back came a heart, ruffed in hand, and Stegaroiu played the two winning diamonds to pitch dummy's last heart and club. When a diamond was ruffed and there was still the $\pm K$ to lose the contract had to fail by a trick

Declarer saw that there was a winning line after ruffing the heart return, namely to ruff a diamond to get to dummy, cash the ace of spades, then cash clubs to get rid of the last heart loser. Of course, there was no reason to play that way, but you always worry after going down in a contract where you see a line of play that would have succeeded. Stegaroiu need not have worried as this was the auction in the other room:

West	North	East	South
	Queran		Senior
	Pass	♣	3♡
3♠	Pass	5♣	Pass
6.	dbl	All Pass	

One Club was strong and Nevena Senior decided that, facing a passed partner, this was the time for a touch of aggression - who looks at the vulnerability anyway? Five Clubs stressed that the I opening was based on a good club suit rather than merely high cards, and West raised to the small slam. Giles Queran (the Breton) knew what to do to that.

Declarer got a fixation with the idea that South would have a seven-card heart suit, even when that became virtually impossible, and so dropped an unnecessary undertrick. The contract was down three for -500 and 10 more IMPs to BRIDGE PLUS.

Having seen the above boards you might be wondering why BRIDGE PLUS is not amongst the leading teams in the event. Alas, not every board is a potential slam deal, or they might indeed be doing rather well.



Jenny Ryman, Sweden

MATCH 9

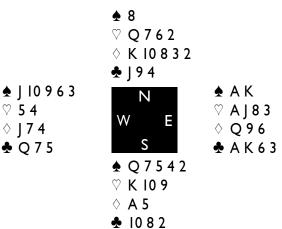
Transnational Open Teams



Brachman v Lasut



Board 21. Dealer North. N/S Vul.



West	North	East	South
Karwur	Passell	Panelewen	Brachman
	Pass	I♣	Pass
I♦	Pass	10	Pass
l ♠	Pass	INT	Pass
2♡	Pass	2♠	Pass
2NT	All Pass		

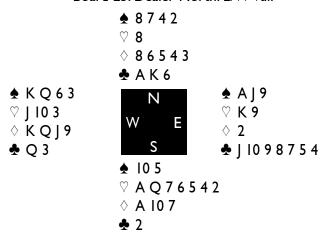
In the other room Eric Greco and Geoff Hampson, for BRACHMAN, had a standard auction to 3NT, which had to fail by a trick. Franky Karwur and Santje Panelewen, for LASUT, stopped in 2NT after Panelewen had shown 20-21 balanced and Karwur transferred then invited in no trump (the first four bids were all artificial).



Jeff Hampson, USA

Malcolm Brachman found a safe lead when he chose a club and Panelewen won the king then cashed the top spades, learning of the bad break in that suit. He continued by cashing the remaining clubs and Mike Passell threw a diamond to go with the heart that had gone on the second spade, Brachman a spade. Now Panelewen ducked a heart and Brachman won the nine. After a moment's thought he returned the ♥10 for the queen and ace, but a few seconds later found himself back on lead with the king of hearts. Declarer had established the ♥J but when Brachman now cashed the ♠Q that had to go away to keep three diamonds - a diamond had earlier been thrown from dummy to keep a spade guard. No matter, Brachman could do no better than switch to ace and another diamond now and Panelewen had to make the ♦Q at trick 13; +120 and 5 IMPs to LASUT.

Board 25. Dealer North. E/W Vul.



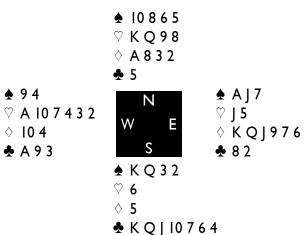
West	North	East	South
Karwur	Passell	Panelewen	Brachman
	Pass	Pass	3♡
Pass	Pass	4♣	All Pass
West	North	East	South
			Journ
Greco	Lasut	Hampson	Мапорро
Greco			

Panelewen did not like to open 3♣ on a jack-high suit with so much outside strength but, when Brachman's third-seat pre-empt came around to him he knew that Karwur was marked with some strength and tried 4♣. Alas, Karwur had too much wasted in diamonds and 4♣ was easily defeated by two tricks. Brachman led a spade and Panelewen won in hand to play a club to the queen and king. Passell switched to his heart and, though Panelewen did his best by putting up the king, the spots were such that Brachman had no difficulty in reading the position. He cashed the two red aces then played another club; down two for -200

Hampson was quite happy to pre-empt as East and Greco competed to $4\clubsuit$ over the $3\heartsuit$ overcall. Not every pair in this

tournament would be able to make a penalty double on the North hand, many playing double as take-out, but Henky Lasut was not hampered by his methods and he doubled, penalties. There were the same five unavoidable losers; down two for -500 and 7 IMPs to LASUT.

Board 29. Dealer North, All Vul.

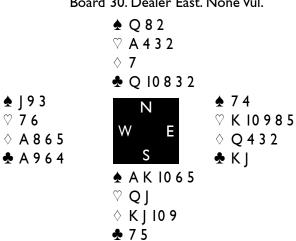


West	North	East	South
Karwur	Passell	Panelewen	Brachman
	Pass	1♦	3♣
3♡	Pass	4 ♦	4♠
Pass	Pass	Dble	All Pass

Brachman made a jump overcall in clubs then came again to show the spades and found a four-four trump fit. Karwur led the ten of diamonds to dummy's ace and Brachman played a spade to the king then a heart up. Karwur won the ace of hearts and continued diamonds, forcing declarer to ruff. Now Brachman played the king of clubs to the ace and, fortunately for him, Karwur was out of diamonds. After considerable thought, Karwur led his remaining spade to partner's ace and Panelewen played a diamond, forcing declarer to ruff with the queen of trumps. But Brachman could play two winning clubs to get rid of the remaining red losers from the dummy, so all Panelewen came to was the jack of spades for down one; -200.

At the other table Eddy Manoppo overcalled 4♣ then competed in spades. Nobody doubled and he too was down one on essentially the same line of play; -100 but 3 IMPs to LASUT.

Board 30. Dealer East. None Vul.



West	North	East	South
Karwur	Passell	Panelewen	Brachman
		Pass	I♠
Pass	INT	Pass	2◊
Pass	3♠	All Pass	

The Indonesians bid I♠ - 2♠ at the other table and made a peaceful +110. When Mike Passell judged to make an invitational three-card raise, Brachman was a level beyond his safe limit. However, all was not lost as Karwur led a heart and Brachman ducked this to the king. Back came a heart to the jack and now Brachman could have made the hand simply by playing for trumps to be three-two - just draw trumps ending in dummy, take a club pitch on the VA and give up two diamonds. Instead, he played a spade to the queen and took the club pitch now. Karwur ruffed and returned his last trump and Brachman played a club to the ten and jack. Back came a heart, ruffed, and now declarer's choice of diamond play was decisive. He actually played the $\Diamond K$ to the ace, ruffed the club return and passed the jack of diamonds, losing to the queen for down one; -50 and 4 IMPs to LASUT. Had the first diamond play been other than the king, it would have run round to the queen but then there would have been a successful ruffing finesse against the ace to make the contract.

LASUT won the match by 20-2 IMPs, converting to 20-10 VPs.



SEMI-FINAL

Bermuda Bowl

SESSION 5



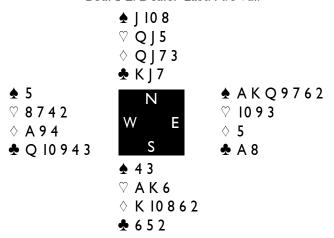
Italy v Norway On the Offensive



ith only 32 deals left, Norway needed swings aplenty to get back into their match with Italy. The boards co-operated and they mounted a mighty charge that gave their supporters plenty to cheer about.

Both North/South pairs did very well to reach a slam on the first board, but both wished they hadn't as the trumps broke 4-0 and the contract had to go down.

Board 2. Dealer East. N/S Vul.



So long Monique

Monique Callon says good-bye to us all, organizers and players.

She stays of course a member of the French Bridge Federation, but thinks better to retire from the EBL and WBF.We regret her decision.

Monique was at one time Vice-Président of the FFB and has worked at European and World Championships, since Biarritz in 1982, when José Damiani was President of the FFB.

As Vice-President of the European Ladies Committee, since its foundation in 1985, she worked with Anna-Maria Torlontano for the Ladies Pairs Championships and the Ladies Festival (ex Jamboree).

Since 2000 she helped Corry and Jan Louwerse in the line-up.

Monique is unhappy to leave us all and hopes to see some of you sometimes.

We wish her a happy and relaxed retirement in Reims, and will always remember Monique and her warm smile.

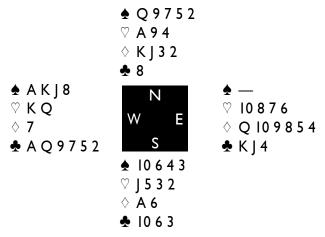
West	North	East	South
Versace	Saelensminde	Lauria	Brogeland
		I♠	Pass
INT*	Pass	2♣*	Pass
2NT	Pass	3NT	All Pas

The Italians reached the top spot and nine tricks rolled home, +400.

West	North	East	South
Helgemo	Fantoni	Helness	Nunes
		4 ◊*	Pass
4	All Pacc		

The defence started with two rounds of hearts and South switched to a diamond, ending all speculation. One down and 10 IMPs for Italy, stretching their lead to 62 IMPs. Was the match over?

Board 3. Dealer South. E/W Vul.

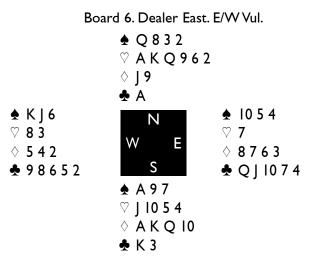


West	North	East	South
Versace	Saelensminde	Lauria	Brogeland
			2◊*
Dble	4♠	5♦	All Pass

Norway had a weapon of mass destruction for the South hand and it caused East/West to go astray. Five Diamonds was hopeless; two down for -200.

West	North	East	South
Helgemo	Fantoni	Helness	Nunes
			Pass
l ♣	I♠	$Dble^*$	3♠*
3NIT	All Page		

When North led the two of diamonds declarer may have had an anxious moment waiting for the dummy, but there was no danger. He put up the queen of diamonds, but nine tricks were safe; 13 IMPs for Norway, but still 49 IMPs behind.



West	North	East	South
Versace	Saelensminde	Lauria	Brogeland
		Pass	INT
Pass	2◊*	Pass	2♠
Pass	2NT	Pass	4♡
Pass	4NT*	Pass	5♡*
Pass	5 ♠ *	Pass	7♡

All Pass

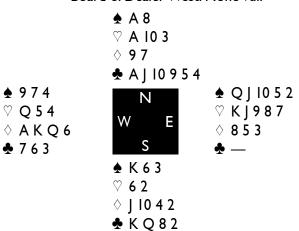
Well bid, but were North/South not likely to repeat the performance at the other table?

West	North	East	South
Helgemo	Fantoni	Helness	Nunes
		Pass	♣*
Pass	2♡*	Pass	2NT*
Pass	3♠	Pass	4♣*
Pass	5♣*	Pass	6♡
All Pass			

Close, but no cigar; I I IMPs to reduce the margin to 37. On Board 7 the East/West pairs bid to a routine Four Hearts. The trump suit was:

When South led a trump Paul Chemla recounted how he had gone down in a slam with a similar holding when, needing a ruff in the short hand, he had played low from dummy, finding North with a singleton jack and therefore promoting a trick for South's $\heartsuit 9743$. Still, that was 26 years ago.

Board 8. Dealer West. None Vul.



West	North	East	South
Versace	Saelensminde	Lauria	Brogeland
Pass	INT	2♣*	Dble
Rdbl	3NT	Pass	Pass
Dble	All Pass		

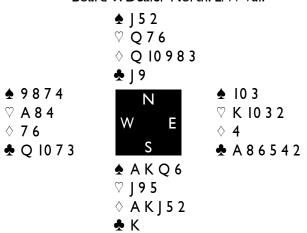
Nine top tricks, and +550.

West	North	East	South
Helgemo	Fantoni	Helness	Nunes
I ♦	2♣	Dble	2NT
Pass	3NT	4♣*	Pass
4 ♦	Dble	Pass	Pass
Rdbl	Pass	4♡	Pass
Pass	Dble	All Pass	

Helness did well to go on, ensuring Norway would gain more points.

South led the king of clubs and declarer ruffed, crossed to dummy with a diamond and played a trump, perhaps hoping to slip past a doubleton ace in North. When the king won he played the queen of spades. South gave that a look and ducked, so North won with the ace and played a club, forcing declarer to ruff. He now played the two of spades and South won and made the terrible mistake of playing a trump. Declarer could win, cross to dummy with a diamond to draw the last trump and take the winning spades; +590 and a massive 15 IMPs to Norway, now only 22 down.

Board 9. Dealer North. E/W Vul.



West	North	East	South
Versace	Saelensminde	Lauria	Brogeland
	Pass	Pass	I♦
Pass	INT	Pass	2♠
Pass	3◊	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

Norway looked to have every chance of another huge gain here, as a low club lead from East would give declarer ten tricks. However, East led the two of hearts and West won and switched to a club, a very fast four down; -200.

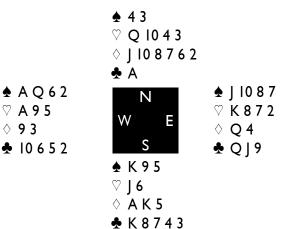
West	North	East	South
Helgemo	Fantoni	Helness	Nunes
	Pass	Pass	1♦
Pass	3♦	Pass	3♠
Pass	4 ♦	All Pass	

6**♣**

A very good stop by the Italian pair to pick up 8 badly needed IMPs.

The Italians may have dodged a bullet on this deal, but the Norwegians were not out of ammunition.

Board 12. Dealer West. N/S Vul.



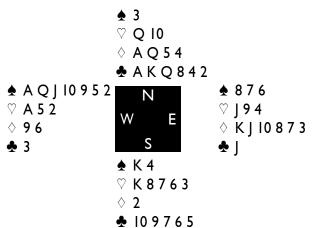
West	North	East	South
Versace	Saelensminde	Lauria	Brogeland
Pass	Pass	Pass	INT
Pass	2♣*	Pass	2◊*
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

West led a spade, making declarer a present of his ninth trick, for what one might describe as a miraculous +600.

West	North	East	South
Helgemo	Fantoni	Helness	Nunes
Pass	Pass	Pass	INT
Pass	2NT*	Pass	3♣*
Pass	3♦	Pass	4♠
Pass	5◊	Pass	Pass
Dble	All Pass		

A wheel came off here. Helgemo might have doubled Four Spades, but he was probably expecting Helness to lead that suit anyway. No, he led the queen of clubs, but declarer was still no play and the 13 IMPs they picked up here saw Norway close to just 18 IMPs. There were some very nervous Italians in the audience, and they didn't have to wait long for another shockwave.

Board 13. Dealer North. All Vul.



West	North	East	South
Versace	Saelensminde	Lauria	Brogeland
	♣	1♦	ĪΫ
[♠	3♣	Pass	4 ♦
Pass	4♠	Pass	5♣
All Pass			
That looke	d good; +600.		
West	North	East	South
Helgemo	Fantoni	Helness	Nunes
3	♣*	2♦	2♡

5♣

All Pass

4♠

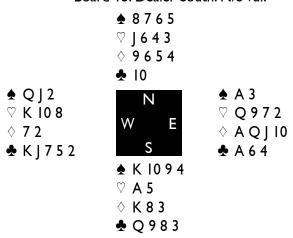
Dble

The bold bidding of the Norwegians saw the Italians go overboard. Fantoni/Nunes were probably hoping this set would come to an end without any further disasters - this one had cost yet another 13 IMPs.

5♠

Only 5 IMPs now remained of that massive Italian lead, but after a couple of overtrick IMPs, Italy gained a small amount of comfort to take into the final session.

Board 15. Dealer South. N/S Vul.



West	North	East	South
Versace	Saelensminde	Lauria	Brogeland
			♣
Pass	Pass	Dble	Pass
Pass	Rdbl	Pass	I♠
Pass	Pass	2♠	Pass
2NT	Pass	3NT	All Pass

East/West did well to reach a game that could not be defeated; +400.

West	North	East	South
Helgemo	Fantoni	Helness	Nunes
			INT
Pass	2♣*	Pass	2♠
Pass	Pass	Dble	Pass
3♣	All Pass		

There was speculation that West should have bid 2NT to show some values, but of course it may well have been a conventional bid. Whatever, the game had been missed and Italy had 7 IMPs, and just a little breathing space.

With one session to go, Norway had the momentum but, with Bocchi & Duboin due to come back, Italy were still favourites.

SEMI-FINAL

Bermuda Bowl

SESSION 2



USA I v USA II

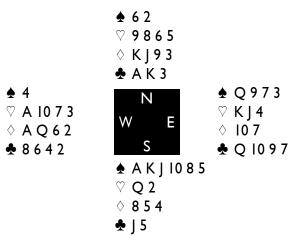
Hard at Work

oing into the second set of the Bermuda Bowl semi-final round, USA II had some work to do. They weren't desperately behind, but they were trailing by 37.5 IMPs, including USA I's 13.5-IMP carryover. If they couldn't wipe out the entire deficit in one set, they at least wanted to reduce it.

With Bobby Wolff and Dan Morse putting up another good set, USA II managed a 34-21 win in the second round to trim their deficit to 24.5 IMPs with 64 boards to play.

It didn't start out all that well for USA II as they lost 6 IMPs on the first board of the set.

Board 17. Dealer North. None Vul.



In the Closed Room, Richard Freeman played in 3♠, making 10 tricks for plus 170.

West	North	East	South
Rodwell	Wolff	Meckstroth	Morse
			3♠
Pass	Pass	Pass	

Eric Rodwell started with a low club, which Morse ducked to Jeff Meckstroth's queen. Meckstroth played the $\heartsuit K$ and a low heart to the queen and ace, Rodwell continuing with a third round, ruffed by Morse. He cashed a top spade from hand and entered dummy with the $\clubsuit A$, cashing the king for a diamond discard before taking the spade finesse. When Rodwell showed out, Morse's contract was about dead. He tried a low diamond from hand, but Rodwell flew with the ace and made no mistake, putting the $\heartsuit 10$ on the table, which allowed Meckstroth to discard his second diamond, and Morse was down one.

Note that a club return would have allowed Morse to make the contract. He would ruff the club to reduce his trump length to that of Meckstroth, then a diamond to the king would put him in dummy with two tricks to go, and he would have been poised over East's doubleton ΦQ with the ΦK].

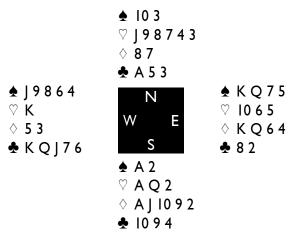
At any rate, one down put USA I ahead 60.5-17.

USA II drew closer on Board 19, when foul breaks in two key suits doomed the 6♣ that Nick Nickell and Dick Freeman

reached, while Wolff and Morse stopped in 3NT making II tricks. That was II IMPs to USA II.

Meckstroth and Rodwell usually get the best of the opposition in competitive auctions. On the following deal, Wolff and Morse did the damage.

Board 22. Dealer East. E/W Vul.



West	North	East	South
Wildavsky	Nickell	Doub	Freeman
		Pass	INT
Dble	2♦	3♠	All Pass

Adam Wildavsky's double showed a minor of at least five cards and a major of at least four cards. After Nickell bid 20 to transfer to hearts, Doug Doub reasoned that his partner's major was spades, so he raised the ante with a jump to the three level. It was not difficult for him to take nine tricks for plus 140.



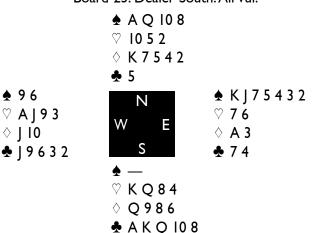
Doug Doub, USA

West	North	East	South
Rodwell	Wolff	Meckstroth	Morse
		Pass	INT
Pass	2♡	Pass	Pass
2♠	3♡	3♠	4♡
Pass	Pass	4♠	Dble
All Pass			

Wolff would have had to drop the singleton trump king offside to make 4%, but if the defense was conducted in such a way that East, a passed hand, was known to have started with two sets of K-Qs, Wolff would not have tried a finesse that had no chance. At any rate, in 4 Rodwell had to lose one trick in each suit for minus 200, an 8-IMP gain for USA II.

The next deal was only a I-IMP gain for USA I, but it was fun to watch the play in the Open Room.

Board 23. Dealer South. All Vul.



West	North	East	South
Wildavsky	Nickell	Doub	Freeman
			I ♣
Pass	I ♦	2♠	3♡
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

Nickell took 10 tricks after Doub led a low spade. Wolff did one better.

West	North	East	South
Rodwell	Wolff	Meckstroth	Morse
			♣
Pass	I ♦	2♠	3♠
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

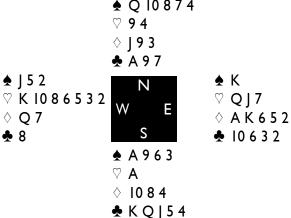
Meckstroth also led a low spade to the nine and ten, and Wolff played a diamond to the queen and ten, returning the nine to the king and ace. Meckstroth could have prevented the ending that produced 11 tricks if he had exited with a club, breaking up the inevitable squeeze, but he got out with the $\heartsuit 7$ to dummy's queen, ducked by Rodwell.

Wolff then ran his diamond winners, coming down to $\triangle A \times Q$ 10 and the $\heartsuit K$ 8 in dummy, while Rodwell held $\triangle 9 \heartsuit A \triangle 9 9 6 3$. When Wolff cashed the $\triangle A$ and discarded the $\heartsuit 8$ from dummy, Rodwell lost his exit card. Wolff was then able to enter dummy with a high club, cash a second winner just to be sure of his contract, then play the $\heartsuit K$ to endplay Rodwell for plus 660. It would not have helped Rodwell to win the $\heartsuit A$. With Wolff holding the

 \heartsuit I0, Rodwell could not play that suit, and if he played a spade, Wolff would win the ace, cash the \heartsuit K and run his diamond winners, squeezing Rodwell in clubs and hearts for the same II tricks.

USA I managed another 10 IMP gain when they played a spade game from the correct side of the table, which made all the difference.

Board 25. Dealer North. E/W Vul. O 10 8 7 4



West	North	East	South
Wildavsky	Nickell	Doub	Freeman
,	Pass	1♦	2♣
Pass	3♣	Pass	Pass
3♡	Pass	Pass	3♠
Pass	4♠	All Pass	

Nickell's spade suit isn't all that great, and he did have a fit for partner's overcall, so it's hard to fault him for raising. The way the auction developed, however, it was very easy for Wildavsky and Doub to defeat the game. Wildavsky started with the $\lozenge Q$ and continued with a diamond to partner's king. When Doub cashed the $\lozenge A$, Wildavsky discarded his singleton club, defeating the contract with a club ruff at trick four. The situation was radically different in the Open Room.

West	North	East	South
Rodwell	Wolff	Meckstroth	Morse
	Pass	1♦	2♣
2♦	2♠	4♡	4♠
All Pass			

Rodwell's 20 showed at least five hearts in a limited hand. Wolff knew he was safe bidding spades because he could always go back to clubs, so he trotted out the mangy spade suit, striking gold.

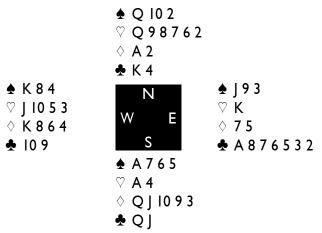
The only way to defeat the contract was to lead a low diamond from the East hand. Would anyone find that lead? Perhaps where they always lead fourth from their longest and strongest, but this is the Bermuda Bowl, so Meckstroth started with the normal lead of the $\Diamond A$, followed by the $\Diamond K$ and a ruff. The only question was how Wolff was going to play the trump suit. Rodwell had ruffed with the five, and if that was from an original holding of \P 5, Wolff could made the contract by playing the \P Q, smothering Rodwell's now-singleton jack.

After ruffing, Rodwell exited with his singleton club. When Wolff played the nine, Meckstroth played the six, giving Wolff the opportunity to be in his hand for the play of the $ext{$\PhiQ}$. After due

consideration, however, Wolff played the \$10, claiming when Meckstroth followed with the king.

USA II suffered a mild setback on the following board.

Board 27. Dealer South. None Vul.



Nickell and Freeman had played the very reasonable contract of 3% by North, just making for plus 140.

West	North	East	South
Rodwell	Wolff	Meckstroth	Morse
			I ♦
Pass	IΫ́	2♣	2♦
Pass	2NT	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

Morse's free bid of $2\lozenge$ is questionable considering that Meckstroth's intervention could not have improved the South hand. The hopeless game was reached, and Wolff won the opening club lead in dummy with the queen, then took his best shot (a singleton $\lozenge K$ off side rather than a doubleton $\lozenge K$ onside) by playing to the $\lozenge A$. Wolff continued with a diamond to the queen and Rodwell's king. Meckstroth had six clubs to cash from that point for three down and a 7-IMP swing to USA I.

Still, the team that nearly didn't make the round-robin cut was alive and kicking in the semi-final round.

They picked up another 7 IMPs in by the third round to enter the second day of semi-final play down only 14.5 IMPs.



Nick Nickell, USA

Le petit écho de Monaco

par Guy Dupont

Bon pour le suspense

La séance des demi-finales de la Bermuda Bowl la plus spectaculaire, pour le suspense, a été la cinquième, où les Norvégiens ont amorcé un prodigieux retour, en marquant cinq swings de plus de 10 imp, contre un seul pour leurs adversaires italiens. A trois donnes de la fin, l'Italie ne menait plus que de 5 imp (mais elle a terminé la séance à + 14 - la Norvège reprenant finalement 38 points dans la séance). Le syndrome de Paris, où, il y a deux ans, la Norvège avait éliminé l'Italie à ce stade de la Bermuda Bowl allait-il frapper ? Non ! Chapeau aux Italiens qui ont su sortir le turbo dans la dernière séance !

Trop fort!

La dernière donne de la quatrième séance du match des demifinales USA I-USA 2, dans la Venice Cup, a dû être annulée. Motif : en quittant la salle de jeu, après son match dans la Bermuda Bowl, Jeff Meckthroth a répondu, à la question de son partenaire, qu'il avait réussi treize levées sur la donne. Une précision qui a été entendue par une joueuse américaine, qui a prévenu l'arbitre. Une information qui rendait le coup injouable.

La meilleure et la pire

L'entame italienne sous As-Dame quatrièmes, contre 3 SA, dans la cinquième séance de la demi-finale Italie-Norvège, livrait le contrat. Paul Chemla, commentateur au bridgevision, rappela la célèbre formule de Georges Théron; "La meilleure des entames à SA est celle qui consiste à entamer sous As-Dame cinquièmes. Mais la pire est l'entame sous As-Dame quatrièmes".

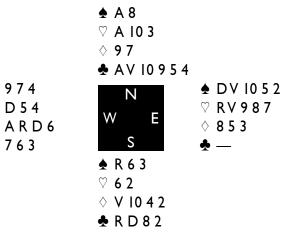
On se bouscule

Beau succès de curiosité sur le site de BBO, pour suivre sur Internet les demi-finales de la Bermuda Bowl : 2250 internautes ont suivi la dernière séance du match Italie-Norvège, et 600, la rencontre entre les deux équipes américaines (où la victoire des Etats-Unis I paraissait acquise).

Le retour

C'est dans la 5e séance des demi-finales de la Bermuda Bowl que la Norvège amorça son retour sur l'Italie. Elle enregistra son plus gros swing sur la donne 8 : 15 imp. Le voici :

Donneur Ouest, personne vulnérable



En salle fermée :

0	N	E	S
Versace	Saelensminde	Lauria	Brogeland
Passe	I SA	2 🕭 (Landy)	Contre
Surcontre	3 SA	Passe	Passe
Contre	(Fin)		

Neuf levées de tête. 550 pour la Norvège.

Dans l'autre salle, les choses prennent un tour différent après l'ouverture d'Helgemo, en Ouest.

0	N	E	S
Helgemo	Fantoni	Helness	Nunes
1 ♦	2 🚓	Contre	2 SA
Passe	3 SA	4 🙅	Passe
4 ♦	Contre	Passe	Passe
Surcontre	Passe	4 ♡	Passe
Passe	Passe	Contre	(Fin)

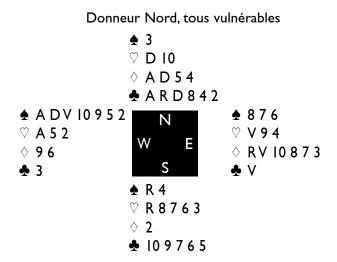
Les Italiens parviennent bien à 3 SA. Mais Helness prend la bonne décision de se replier dans un contrat majeur. Après un échange de politesse, où chacun laisse le choix à l'autre, c'est finalement pour 4 \heartsuit que se décident les Norvégiens, accueilli, comme il se doit, par un Contre final.

Sud entame du Roi de \clubsuit , coupé. Un \diamondsuit est joué pour le mort, suivi d'un \heartsuit , pour le Roi. Helness présente alors la Dame de \spadesuit , prise du Roi par Nord, qui insiste à \clubsuit , coupé. Le tour de \spadesuit suivant est pris par le Roi de Sud, qui, malheureusement pour lui, contre-attaque de la seule carte qui, à ce stade, livre le contrat : le 6 de \heartsuit . Nord prend de l'As, mais ses chances de couper un \spadesuit se sont envolées. Il ressort de l'As de \clubsuit . Est coupe de son dernier atout, rejoint le mort à \diamondsuit , purge le dernier atout et table avec ses \spadesuit affranchis.

Dix levées, alors que le coup aurait dû chuter d'une. Et 15 imp pour la Norvège pour ces deux contrats contrés et faits.

Autre temps fort

Le retour norvégien permit même de réduire l'écart à 5 points avec l'Italie sur la donne 13 de cette 5e séance. Voici cet autre temps fort au rama :



Les enchères, en salle fermée :

0	N	Ε	S
Versace	Saelensminde	Lauria	Brogeland
	♣	1 ♦	ΙÖ
l ♠	3 💠	Passe	4 ♦
Passe (Fin)	4 ♠	Passe	5 🏚

L'intervention au palier de un des Italiens rend la vie plutôt facile aux Norvégiens. Dans l'autre salle, il n'est guère aisé de s'en sortir sous un tir nourri de barrages :

0	N	E	S
Helgemo	Fantoni	Helness	Nunes
	♣	2 ♦	2 ♡
4 🛧	5 🚓	5 🛧	6 🐣
Contre	(Fin)		

Fantoni a une enchère difficile sur 4 ♠ (le contrat ne devrait chuter que d'une levée), et prend la bonne décision en déclarant 5 ♣. Malheureusement pour lui, Sud se laisse séduire par son singleton à ♦ et les cinq cartes dans la couleur de son partenaire annoncée au palier de 5. Moins un et un coup de 13 pour la Norvège.

Mais, promis, nous aurons l'occasion de parler ici des bons coups italiens.

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