



II EUROPEAN BRIDGE CHAMPIONS CUP



ROME
Tennis Club Parioli
10th - 12th
October 2003



Daily Bulletin

Editor: Jos Jacobs

Journalists: Alberto Benetti, Franco Broccoli, Gianluca Frola,
Mark Horton, Mauro Saglia, Peter Ventura

Lay-out Editor: Nicola Di Stefano - Printing: Roberto Luchin

Bulletin I

Friday 10th October 2003

WELCOME !

Today, Friday 10th October 2003, we are celebrating the opening of a truly extraordinary event. It's easy to get carried away by excitement when it's for a discipline we love deeply and passionately, but this time the excitement is overtaken by the reality. Being here for the Champions Cup in a veritable "temple" for tennis fills us with pride and is extremely gratifying, but in particular it confirms fully our position unquestionably as a true sport. The host of journalists, personalities, authorities and champions at yesterday's Press Conference gave us further, perhaps even unexpected, gratification.

I wish to thank Tennis Club Parioli and the Angelini Group for this great opportunity they have given us and for their warm welcome and generous hospitality.

Giving my warm welcome, in this marvellous corner of this wonderful and glorious city of Rome, I would like to thank the Clubs and their Champions. Once again they have answered our invitation with great enthusiasm and in this way they have given us the opportunity to organise a great bridge event which contributes significantly to the promotion of bridge's image.

Ad majora.

Gianarrigo Rona
European Bridge League President



Programme & Schedule of play

Friday 10th October

- 14.15 Captains' Meeting
- 14.30 Opening
- 14.45 Round Robin 1st match
Italy - France | Poland - Sweden
Norway - Israel | Netherlands - Bulgaria
- 20.30 Round Robin 2nd match
Poland - Italy | Sweden - France
Netherlands - Norway | Bulgaria - Israel

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Press Conference

by Alberto Benetti

The Press Conference on Thursday 9th October was the first act of the bridge event in Rome 2003: the 2nd edition of the Champions Cup. In the Parioli Tennis Club conference room the Champions of the Angelini Parioli team and delegates of the EBL, FIGB, CONI and the host club, answered questions from many journalists of the most important newspapers.

The Chairman of the Championship, Ercole Bove, and the Press attaché, Mabel Bocchi, were the brilliant hosts of the event, which was also covered from national and local television.

In their short opening speeches, the President of Parioli Tennis Club, the EBL President and the regional President of CONI, all underlined that this bridge competition is taking place in one of the temples of Italian sport, showing once again that bridge is a real sport. Then the debate began.

Among the most interesting answers given by the champions was that given by Francesco Angelini to a journalist who had asked him how he

could combine both his very significant work and bridge commitments.

Angelini underlined how in bridge and in every human activity it is essential to be in harmony and friendly relations with everyone and he thanked “his boys” for their commitment, attitude and team spirit which give them the capacity to win in the national and international field.

One touching moment, which demonstrated the values of our discipline and impressed everyone, was when Benito Garozzo and Alfredo Versace were asked to compare the Legendary Blue Team with today’s champions. Garozzo said that, at that time, there were less strong teams than now and that to win today means much more than in the past. Versace said that the glorious era of Garozzo & Company was unrepeatable and, turning to

the all-time great, said, “We have all been lucky to have had you as teachers and we would not exist today if you had not been there in the past.”



Draft

Group A

1. Italy
2. France
3. Poland
4. Sweden

Group B

1. Norway
2. Israel
3. Netherlands
4. Bulgaria

Round Robin

Group A

1st Match

Italy - France
Poland - Sweden

2nd Match

Poland - Italy
Sweden - France

3rd Match

Italy - Sweden
France - Poland

Group B

1st Match

Norway - Israel
Netherlands - Bulgaria

2nd Match

Netherlands - Norway
Bulgaria - Israel

3rd Match

Norway - Bulgaria
Israel - Netherlands

Transfer will be provided from the hotel to Tennis Club Parioli and back as follows:

<i>Friday</i>	-	<i>13.45</i>	<i>00.45</i>
<i>Saturday</i>	-	<i>11.30</i>	<i>00.45</i>
<i>Sunday</i>	-	<i>09.30</i>	<i>19.00</i>
	-	<i>20.15</i>	<i>23.00</i>

The Beauty Of Bridge

by Jos Jacobs

Whenever we are packing our suitcases and are leaving for yet another bridge trip abroad, the question should arise why we are doing all this. In my opinion, there are two basic reasons: the beauty of the game at which we want to do well and win. Here in Rome, new deals are waiting for us, on a number of which you will be able to read tomorrow and the day after, so for now we have to be content with old deals that some of us may remember and some may not.

No, we won't reprint the deals that brought our friends who came from Haifa to play here their first European Open teams title; that's only a few months ago so we all remember. We can't reprint too many of the Italian brilliancies over the last decade, as Bocchi and Duboin are not here. However, Heimdal Bridge Club from Trondheim, Norway, is here, fielding two pairs who for many years have been the basis of the Norwegian National Team. Their matches against Italy were usually shown on Bridge-Rama, so who does not remember Lauria's lead to beat a slam made at the other table? Here it is again:

Board 4
W/ALL

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

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
<i>Versace</i>	<i>Saelensminde</i>	<i>Lauria</i>	<i>Brogeland</i>
Pass	1 ♠	Pass	4 ♣
Pass	4 ♠	Pass	5 ♣
Pass	5 ♦	Pass	6 ♠
All Pass			

Lauria judged the information available from the auction very well. Dummy would be void in clubs and the ♦A would not run away. So the best chance to set the contract had to be a heart lead. Out came the ♥5, declarer had to finesse, Versace won the king and returned an effortless diamond. One down.

At the other table, the situation was less clear for the defence:

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
<i>Helgemo</i>	<i>Bocchi</i>	<i>Helness</i>	<i>Duboin</i>
Pass	3 ♠	Pass	4 ♣
Pass	4 ♦	Pass	4 ♥
Pass	5 ♣	Pass	6 ♠
All Pass			

The only thing Helness knew for sure was that partner had not doubled any of the cuebids made. So he elected the ♦A as his opening lead, after which the heart switch came too late. The ♦K and the 5th diamond served as parking places for the heart losers.

Please note:

To enter Tennis Club Parioli and the playing area, during play and at any other time, players have to have their badges clearly displayed.

A year before, the same match also had produced a number of good hands.

Board 4
W/ALL

	♠ 10 8 4 2 ♥ K Q 8 4 ♦ 4 ♣ A 10 3 2					
♠ 9 7 5 ♥ 10 7 ♦ A 9 7 6 3 ♣ K J 8	<table style="margin: auto; border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">N</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">W E</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">S</td></tr> </table>	N	W E	S	♠ A 6 ♥ A 3 ♦ K Q 10 5 2 ♣ Q 9 7 5	
N						
W E						
S						
	♠ K Q J 3 ♥ J 9 6 5 2 ♦ J 8 ♣ 6 4					

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
<i>Versace</i>	<i>Helness</i>	<i>Lauria</i>	<i>Helgemo</i>
Pass	Pass	INT	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

Long or strong, that was the question after Versace's bold raise. Strong looks the better choice, but this time long would have been winning. Italy +600 on a spade lead.

At the other table, the other Trondheim pair did well to little avail:

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
<i>Groetheim</i>	<i>Bocchi</i>	<i>Aa</i>	<i>Duboin</i>
Pass	Pass	INT	Pass
Pass	2♣	2♦	2♥
3♦	All Pass		

When Groetheim passed INT in orthodox fashion, NS could come to life. 2♣ showed majors and thus made the heart lead against NT a certainty. So the best thing the Norwegians could do was settling for a diamond partscore, and so they did.

Board 13 of this match lived up to the number's reputation:

Board 13
N/ALL

	♠ K 8 ♥ K 8 5 4 ♦ A K 5 2 ♣ A 8 6					
♠ A Q 9 4 ♥ Q 3 2 ♦ 9 6 ♣ J 4 3 2	<table style="margin: auto; border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">N</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">W E</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">S</td></tr> </table>	N	W E	S	♠ 10 7 6 ♥ A J 10 9 7 ♦ — ♣ Q 10 9 7 5	
N						
W E						
S						
	♠ J 5 3 2 ♥ 6 ♦ Q J 10 8 7 4 3 ♣ K					

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
<i>Versace</i>	<i>Saelensminde</i>	<i>Lauria</i>	<i>Helgemo</i>
Pass	INT	2♥	Dble
Dble	Pass	Pass	3♦
3♥	4♦	Pass	5♦
All Pass			

Theoretically speaking, North did well to avoid 3NT and opt for the diamond game, but as the cards lay, 3 NT will be made, even on a spade lead. West's heart intermediates simply are too modest. If North ducks the ♥Q he is in safety. Anyway, +600 to Norway.

Please note:
Players should contact Elena at the Hospitality Desk in the venue to receive their hotel payment details.

At the other table, something happened:

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
<i>Groetheim</i>	<i>Bocchi</i>	<i>Aa</i>	<i>Duboin</i>
Pass	1♣	1♥	Dble
2♥	Dble	Pass	3♦
Pass	3NT	Pass	Pass
Dble	Pass	Pass	3♦
All Pass			

Bocchi-Duboin were in the top spot for a while until Groetheim found a double. When Duboin ran, Bocchi surprised all of us by passing 4♦. Italy +150.

Herkules Bridge Club of Stockholm, Sweden, are here with Bertheau-Nyström and Sundelin-Sylvan. The former pair did well in Menton a few months ago, as we all remember, so here are a few hands from the latter pair, not surprisingly again taken from a match v. Norway: Helgemo's omnipresence is as inevitable as it is advantageous, as we can see on this board:

Board 11
S/-

♠ K 10 8 6 3 ♥ A 10 8 7 4 ♦ — ♣ A 9 8	<table border="1" style="margin: auto;"> <tr><td></td><td>N</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td></td><td>E</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td>S</td><td></td></tr> </table>		N		W		E		S		♠ Q J 4 ♥ 9 5 3 ♦ J 10 7 2 ♣ K 7 2
	N										
W		E									
	S										
♠ A 5 2 ♥ Q J ♦ K Q 6 ♣ Q J 10 4 3	♠ 9 7 ♥ K 6 2 ♦ A 9 8 5 4 3 ♣ 6 5										

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
<i>Andersson</i>	<i>Helness</i>	<i>Gullberg</i>	<i>Helgemo</i>
			Pass
INT	2♣	Pass	2♥
Pass	3♥	Pass	4♥
All Pass			

With both majors behaving really super, 11 tricks were trivial. Of course, 2♦ had shown majors, as did 2♦ at the other table:

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
<i>Brogeland</i>	<i>Sylvan</i>	<i>Saelensminde</i>	<i>Sundelin</i>
			Pass
INT	2♦	Pass	2♥
Pass	Pass	2NT	3♥
All Pass			

All this passing, both directly and in the repechage, did not do NS any good. Same tricks, 6imps gone.

Near the end of that match, the Swedes got their revenge:

Board 18
E/NS

♠ A 10 9 6 5 3 ♥ 8 7 6 2 ♦ 9 ♣ K J	<table border="1" style="margin: auto;"> <tr><td></td><td>N</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td></td><td>E</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td>S</td><td></td></tr> </table>		N		W		E		S		♠ 7 2 ♥ 9 5 ♦ A K 10 7 5 ♣ Q 10 5 2
	N										
W		E									
	S										
♠ K 8 ♥ A K Q 10 4 3 ♦ 2 ♣ 8 7 6 4	♠ Q J 4 ♥ J ♦ Q J 8 6 4 3 ♣ A 9 3										

Today's Vugraph Matches

14.45 Norway - Israel
20.30 Poland - Italy

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
<i>Andersson</i>	<i>Helness</i>	<i>Gullberg</i>	<i>Helgemo</i>
		2♦	Pass
3♥	Pass	4♥	All Pass

2♦ was natural, 8-11 hcp and 3♥ was invitational with a six-card suit. On the ♣K lead 4♥ went down two, but this did not look too serious as 4♠ was on. Would their team-mates bid it?

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
<i>Brogeland</i>	<i>Sylvan</i>	<i>Saelensminde</i>	<i>Sundelin</i>
—	—	Pass	Pass
1♥	1♠	Dble	2♥
3♥	3♠	4♥	4♠
Pass	Pass	Dble	All Pass

♦A, trump. Declarer won and conceded a heart. The second trump was taken in dummy. Two hearts went on the ♦QJ (for 1 loser of course) and the least heart was taken by dummy's last trump. Sweden +790 and 12 imps.

Another bridge club to send a full national team is Bridge Plus, from ancient Thracia's capital Plovdiv, now in central Bulgaria. The players here must have played each other many times at home, but we managed to find a report on an event where four of them played each other in public. The scene this time is Sorrento, EC Pairs 2001, and the main topic is the Bulgarian weak NT:

Can you defend yourself against a weak NT? On the board below, the anonymous EW certainly could not:

Please note:

During play players have to wear the uniform (shirt, t-shirt, polo shirt, etc.) of their own Club or Federation, while for the Victory Banquet they have to wear formal uniform (jacket and tie)

Board 9
N/EW

♠ 9 5		♠ J 8 7 2						
♥ Q 3		♥ K J 7 6						
♦ J 10 4		♦ A 8 7 3						
♣ A K 9 8 7 5		♣ Q						
♠ A K Q 6		♠ 10 4 3						
♥ 10 9 8 5		♥ A 4 2						
♦ K 6		♦ Q 9 5 2						
♣ 6 4 2		♣ J 10 3						
	<table border="1"> <tr><td></td><td>N</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td>S</td><td>E</td></tr> </table>		N		W	S	E	
	N							
W	S	E						

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
	<i>Trendafilov</i>		<i>Karaivanov</i>
Pass	INT	Pass	2♣
Pass	3♣	All Pass	

One down, but EW are cold for game in either major. Whom would you blame?

After this overture, here is Act I:

Board 7
S/ALL



♠ K 9 7 6 2		♠ A						
♥ A J 6 5 4 2		♥ 10 9						
♦ J 4		♦ A K Q 8 7 6 5						
♣ —		♣ K J 3						
♠ Q 10 4		♠ J 8 5 3						
♥ K 7 3		♥ Q 8						
♦ 10 2		♦ 9 3						
♣ Q 7 6 5 2		♣ A 10 9 8 4						
	<table border="1"> <tr><td></td><td>N</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td>S</td><td>E</td></tr> </table>		N		W	S	E	
	N							
W	S	E						

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
<i>Karaivanov</i>	<i>Nanev</i>	<i>Trendafilov</i>	<i>Mihov</i>
—	—	—	Pass
Pass	1♠	3NT	Pass
Pass	4♥	Pass	4♠
Dble	All Pass		

With the hearts blocked in spectacular fashion, 3NT always makes, so 4♠ was a good save, even though Nanev went down two when he played a spade rather than a heart when in dummy.

Act 2:

Board 8
W/-

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



WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
<i>Karaivanov</i>	<i>Nanev</i>	<i>Trendafilov</i>	<i>Mihov</i>
Pass	INT	2♣	Pass
2♥	Pass	3♥	Pass
4♥	All Pass		

2♣ showed majors, after which West had no trouble in accepting East's invitation. Ten tricks made and a much more effective defence against the weak NT than on that first board shown above.

Back now to my home country. The other day, when

I was playing in a local training match for our Juniors, my attention was drawn to a number of very beautiful hands. This should be a sufficient reason to show them to the world (or at least to Europe):

Board 2
E/NS

<p>♠ K 8 7 2 ♥ Q 9 6 5 3 ♦ — ♣ 10 7 3 2</p>		<p>♠ J 10 5 3 ♥ J 2 ♦ J 10 7 5 ♣ J 9 6</p>
<p>♠ A 6 4 ♥ A 7 ♦ A K 4 2 ♣ K Q 5 4</p>		<p>♠ Q 9 ♥ K 10 8 4 ♦ Q 9 8 6 3 ♣ A 8</p>

Well, 7♦ looks OK but with trumps 4-0 it's not that easy to make even six. You win the lead (running a possible spade to your queen for an easy ride) and play the ♦A getting the bad news. If you next try to ruff a heart, East may overruff and return the ♠J. No matter if you cover this or not, the squeeze is there. If East does not overruff, just give him his trump trick and play for the squeeze. In fact, covering the ♠J establishes an automatic double squeeze no matter who is guarding clubs. A club lead to the ace, and a club continuation after overruffing the first heart reduces the squeeze possibilities, but against West they still remain intact as you can draw East's last trump and lead the 13th diamond to squeeze West.

So East should not overruff, but throw a club. Now, if the opening lead has been a club, you go down as you cannot both get rid of your losing spade and last heart. East will ruff the third top club and play a spade to leave you stranded in dummy, and if you give him his trump trick first, he will play a club to break the squeeze. On a heart lead, there are no problems as the communication in clubs is still there for the squeeze to work.

How to go down in a cold contract?

Board 27
S/-

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

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Pass	2♥	Dble	2♠
All Pass			

Low heart to the ace and a low diamond back, away from the ace! Now declarer has to rise with the king to get home, for: ♦J, diamond nine (!) back to the ace, heart to the king, diamond ruff and the ♠K still to score.

You like it? Then try the next squeeze, a genuine one:

Board 19
S/EW

♠ 10 9 8 7 6 5 3 2 ♥ Q J 8 2 ♦ 9 ♣ —	W N S E	♠ K J 4 ♥ 10 6 5 ♦ A K 6 3 2 ♣ K 6	♠ — ♥ 9 4 ♦ Q J 10 5 4 ♣ J 8 5 4 3 2
♠ A Q ♥ A K 7 3 ♦ 8 7 ♣ A Q 10 9 7			

South opens 2NT and West overcalls 3♠ (red v. green, mind you!). North counts his points or his blessings and instead of doubling, which nets 500 or 800, he goes all out and raises to 6NT. West leads a spade, East discards. It's so easy: win the ♠A and duck a trick in any red suit. Win the return and cash the red suit tops followed by the top spades. East will fold.

What would you (South) lead against 6 NT, holding: ♠ K752 ♥ 975 ♦ QJ85 ♣ 98? The bidding as gone: West 3♣, North Pass, East 6NT, All Pass. Any suggestions?

Board 28
W/NS

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

As you can see now, only a spade is effective. Once again, the pairs tigers have been overdoing a little, as 6♣ is cold.

In Menton, Maarten Schollaardt and Bas Drijver of the Lombard team playing here, did well enough to get some of their best hands published in the Bulletin there. So here we have a few hands they played to win the Dutch National Team Championships and qualify for Rome.

Bridge Base Online

will provide
free live broadcast
of all Rama Matches

http://www.bridgebase.com/3.4.12/bbo_setup.exe

Board 16
W/EW

♠ 5 3 ♥ J 10 4 3 2 ♦ Q 9 4 3 ♣ K 10	♠ N W E S	♠ 10 9 2 ♥ 9 7 5 ♦ A J 6 5 ♣ J 9 2	♠ Q J 8 6 ♥ — ♦ K 10 8 2 ♣ 7 6 5 4 3
♠ A K 7 4 ♥ A K Q 8 6 ♦ 7 ♣ A Q 8			

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
	<i>Schollaardt</i>		<i>Drijver</i>
Pass	Pass	Pass	2♣
Pass	2♦	Pass	2♥
Pass	3♥	Pass	3♠
Pass	4♣	Pass	4NT
Pass	5♦	Pass	6♥
All Pass			

Nothing special, except for the choice of the forward-going 3♥ bid. Quite rightly, Maarten judged that his five hearts were ample compensation for the lack of the ace this single raise usually promises. At the other table they bid: South 2♥ (strong) - North 4♥ and there it rested, to prove Maarten's point once again.

At partscore level, they can handle the situation well enough too:

Board 20
W/ALL

♠ 9 6 ♥ Q 6 2 ♦ Q 10 9 7 5 2 ♣ K 2	♠ N W E S	♠ K 10 7 5 ♥ 8 7 4 3 ♦ 4 3 ♣ A J 7	♠ J 3 2 ♥ A ♦ A K J 8 6 ♣ 9 6 5 3
♠ A Q 8 4 ♥ K J 10 9 5 ♦ — ♣ Q 10 8 4			

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
	<i>Drijver</i>		<i>Schollaardt</i>
1♦	Pass	1♥	Pass
2♣	Pass	2♦	Dble
Pass	Pass	3♣	Dble
All Pass			

This netted 800.

With so many strong players around here in Rome, we can hope and also expect to see much good bridge, all of it worth reporting if only there would be time to write it up. Good luck to all of you!

Alla faccia della scaramanzia

E' vero che né tra i componenti del Team Angelini né tra gli altri intervistati vi sono dei napoletani ma, onestamente, non mi sarei mai aspettato una tale mancanza di rispetto nei riguardi di madama Scaramanzia. Tutti gli italiani interrogati su quali squadre accederanno alla Finale di Domenica, hanno infatti dato per scontata la presenza del Team Angelini tra le finaliste. Garozzo, Fantoni, Angelini e Versace danno i norvegesi dell' Heimdal Bridge Club come avversari dei romani. Nunes , Rona, Maci e Gabriele, gli israeliani del Bridge Club Haifa e Ortensi i bulgari del Bridge Plus Plowdiw. Lauria ha detto che, visto che gli incontri si giocano su poche mani, alla Finale potrebbe accedere una squadra – sorpresa oltre, naturalmente, al Parioli.