

The Buffett Bridge Cup - 2008

Louisville, Kentucky
Europe vs United States

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Tuesday Bulletin – September 16, 2008 Prepared Monday Evening

Schedule for Tuesday, September 16, 2008
Teams – 14 Board Segments
Central Standard Time - Kentucky

Match 1 (1-14): 10:30 – 12:15
Match 1 (15-28): 12:30 – 2:15
Lunch
Match 2 (1-14): 3:15 – 5:00
Match 2 (15-28): 5:15 – 7:00

IT'S A DRAW!
USA 60 – EUROPE 60

At the end of the first day of changing fortunes the two Buffett Cup teams ended on the same score. It's as exciting as the golf. And thousands are watching the matches live on bridgebase.com

Day 1 PAIRS

The draw decided which USA pair would compare with which European pair. The draw was:

USA compares with Europe

Alan Sontag-David Berkowitz with:
Sabine Auken-Marion Michielsen
Roy Welland-Bjorn Fallenius with:
Michel & Thomas Bessis

Steve Garner-Howard Weinstein with:
Michal Kwiecien-Jacek Pszczola
Zia Mahmood-Bob Hamman with:
Tom Hanlon-Hugh McGann
Dick Freeman-Geoff Hampson with:
Boye Brogeland-Espen Lindqvist
Tobi Sokolow-Janice Seamon-Molson with:
Tor Helness-Jan Petter Svendsen

Each pair plays against the other five pairs of the opposing team in 11 board sets whilst teaming up with the other five pairs of their own team. The 11 boards are scored point-a-board. The two winning pairs in a match earn 4 points each for their Team i.e. the match is scored 8-0 to the winners or 4-4 for a draw. With three matches in progress this gives 24 points at stake.

Set 1 Europe won 16-8 "Pairs" Boards 1-11

Organiser Bill Rosenbaum found himself facing Bob Hamman as partner as the Second Buffett Cup began. Hamman's intended partner, Zia Mahmood, was still en route to the venue, with flights delayed by the hurricane. Zia arrived for Board 6.

The line-up was (USA N/S at the "a" table;
Europe N/S at the comparing "b" table):

| West | North | East | South |
|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| | <u>1a</u> | | |
| T. Bessis | Freeman | M. Bessis | Hampson |
| | <u>1b</u> | | |
| Welland | Lindqvist | Fallenius | Brogeland |

| | | | | |
|------------|-----------|-----------|----------|--|
| | | <u>2a</u> | | |
| Michielsen | Sokolow | Auken | S-Molson | |
| | | <u>2b</u> | | |
| Berkowitz | Helness | Sontag | Svendsen | |
| West | North | East | South | |
| | | <u>3a</u> | | |
| Kwiecien | Rosenbaum | Pszczola | Hamman | |
| | | <u>3b</u> | | |
| Weinstein | Hanlon | Garner | McGann | |

Europe won at Tables 1 & 2, USA won Table 3:
Score Europe 16 USA 8.

Rosenbaum's first board was a win for his team when he and Hamman were one of the few pairs to reach game and make it:

=|=====

Buffett Cup Pairs

Board: 1 Dealer: N Vul: None

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

| | | | |
|----------|-----------|----------|--------|
| West | North | East | South |
| | <u>3a</u> | | |
| Kwiecien | Rosenbaum | Pszczola | Hamman |
| | Pass | Pass | 1♠ |
| Pass | INT | Pass | 2♠ |
| Pass | 4♠ | All Pass | |

The Four Spade raise from Rosenbaum was bold but Hamman told me later he would have gone on to game even if North had invited. Kwiecien led a diamond to partner's ace. A club back at this point can beat the game as West can obtain two ruffs, but "Pepsi" had no clue that his partner was void. He switched to ace and another heart. Hamman ruffed and ran the jack of spades! A spade to the king and a diamond back to hand

allowed him to run the rest of the trumps and then cash the last diamond. Remember that with point-a-board the overtricks can be as important as making the game.

In the ending Hamman knew East had the long clubs so he played a low club from hand. When West showed out the club position was marked and Hamman scored up 11 tricks. N/S did not reach game at the comparison table.

Have you heard the tip: "If you want a ruff, lead a trump!" Well it held true on this next deal. On Board 4 Sontag found a great lead, combined with accurate defence later, to find the only way to defeat Tor Helness in his Two Heart partscore:

=4=====

Buffett Cup Pairs

Board: 4 Dealer: W Vul: Both

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

Deep Finesse Analysis:
NS 1H; NS 1C; EW 1S; EW 2D;

| | | | |
|-----------|-----------|----------|----------|
| West | North | East | South |
| | <u>2b</u> | | |
| Berkowitz | Helness | Sontag | Svendsen |
| Pass | 1♥ | Dble | Redbl* |
| 2♦ | 2♥ | All Pass | |

Sitting East Sontag led a trump. That doesn't look necessary, but see what happened. Berkowitz won the ace, and switched to a club. Three rounds of the suit gave Berkowitz his first ruff, then a diamond lead to the ace and a fourth club gave Berkowitz another ruff! One down. Note, if Sontag leads anything other than a trump, the defence cannot get two ruffs!

On the next deal some speech play by Tor Helness gave David Berkowitz a clue to the winning line in his Two Spade contract:

=5=====

Buffett Cup Pairs

Board: 5 Dealer: N Vul: N-S

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

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

S A 8 6
H A K 9 4 3
D 9 8 3
C J 10

S Q J 3
H Q 5
D K 5 4 2
C Q 6 5 3

Deep Finesse Analysis:

EW 1N; E 3S; EW 2H; E 1D; EW 2C; W 2S; W 2D;

2b

| | | | |
|-----------|---------|--------|----------|
| West | North | East | South |
| Berkowitz | Helness | Sontag | Svendsen |
| | Pass | 1♥ | Pass |
| 1♠ | Pass | 2♠ | All |
| Pass | | | |

Helness led a trump to the jack and king. On the first club Helness rose with the king to play another trump., taken by the queen. A third trump from Svendsen killed any hope of a ruff for declarer. However, Berkowitz led another club round to North's ace. Helness switched to a heart, won in dummy. A finesse of the diamond ten lost to the jack and a second heart was won in dummy as South dropped the queen. The next diamond finesse won. Berkowitz cashed his diamond ace and stopped for a moment to wonder how to play his two remaining clubs: the nine and the seven. The missing clubs were the queen, the eight and a small one. Should he play a low club to fell a bare queen, or the nine to fell a bare eight?

As he pondered, Helness enquired: "Do you have to lose a club?"

The clue was enough. Helness could not be looking at the queen. So Berkowitz led the nine pinning the bare eight and claimed the last two tricks with a trump and the winning seven of clubs.

On the same deal Freeman and Hampson found an accurate defence against INT played by Michel Bessis.

The unopposed auction had been:

1♥-1♠-INT-All Pass

A low club was led to the king. Freeman cashed the ace but then switched to a low diamond to the king and ace. Declarer played three rounds of hearts. On the third heart the West hand was under pressure and chose to discard a spade. Freeman won and switched to a spade. When Hampson gained the lead later with a spade, a diamond through dummy held declarer to six tricks.

Declarer's problem was that if he ducked the first heart South could win and continue diamonds. And that is what made Freeman's diamond switch so successful.

Set 2 Europe won 16-8 Pairs Boards 12-22
Running score: Europe 32 USA 16

This was the new line-up:

| | | | |
|-----------|-----------|----------|------------|
| West | North | East | South |
| Kwiecien | Berkowitz | Pszczola | Sontag |
| Weinstein | Auken | Garner | Michielsen |
| Svendsen | Fallenius | Helness | Welland |
| Sokolow | M. Bessis | S-Molson | T. Bessis |
| McGann | Freeman | Hanlon | Hampson |
| Hamman | Lindqvist | Zia | Brogeland |

Helness/Bessis won the set 6-5 in boards earning 8 points for Europe

Hanlon/Brogeland also won 6-5 earning 8 points for Europe

Auken/Kwiecien lost 4.5-6.5 giving USA 8 points

This deal from the set showed how the point-a-board affects tactics in the auction. Alan Sontag and Michel Bessis both pressed on where at teams scoring one would let the opponents play their partscore:

=|7=====

Buffett Cup Pairs

Board: 17 Dealer: N Vul: None

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

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

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

| | | | |
|---------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| West | North | East | South |
| | | <u>2b</u> | |
| Sokolow | M. Bessis | S-Molson | T. Bessis |
| | 1♦ | 1♠ | Dbf |
| 3♦* | Pass | 3♠ | Pass |
| Pass | 4♣* | All Pass | |

| | | | |
|----------|-----------|----------|--------|
| West | North | East | South |
| | <u>1a</u> | | |
| Kwiecien | Berkowitz | Pszczola | Sontag |
| | 1♦ | Dbf | 1♥ |
| 1♠ | 2♣ | 2♠ | 3♣ |
| 3♠ | Pass | Pass | 4♣ |
| All Pass | | | |

East-West can make Three Spades so both N/S pairs were right to move on.

At Table 2b the four-card spade overcall by Janice Seamon-Molson led Michel Bessis astray in the play. The second top spade was ruffed and ♥10 ran to the jack. Tobi Sokolow cashed the heart ace and switched to a diamond. Michel took his

top diamonds, ruffed a diamond high, and ruffed a heart back to hand felling East's queen.

Michel stopped to count the hand. East had four diamonds and three hearts and presumably, given the overcall, five spades. So she must have a singleton trump. So Bessis crossed to dummy with a trump and led the winning heart, expecting East to be out of trumps. Bad news: East ruffs, so the contract goes one off. Good news: your team-mates have been allowed to play Three Spades making so you win the board anyway.

Sontag was also at the helm in Four Clubs. Again the second top spade was ruffed but this time Sontag began on diamonds at once. He ruffed the third round high and West showed out. A heart off the dummy went to the ten and king. East led his fourth diamond and again Sontag ruffed high. When he played ace of trumps and a second trump the ten appeared so he could claim ten tricks and the board.

Set 3 USA won 20-4 Pairs Boards 23-33
Running score: Europe 36 USA 36

| | | | |
|-----------|-----------|-----------|------------|
| West | North | East | South |
| | | <u>1a</u> | |
| Hamman | M. Bessis | Zia | T. Bessis |
| | | <u>1b</u> | |
| Hanlon | Fallenius | McGann | Welland |
| | | <u>2a</u> | |
| Hampson | Auken | Freeman | Michielsen |
| | | <u>2b</u> | |
| Brogeland | Berkowitz | Lindqvist | Sontag |
| | | <u>3a</u> | |
| Weinstein | Helness | Garner | Svendsen |
| | | <u>3b</u> | |
| Kwiecien | S-Molson | Pszczola | Sokolow |

Hamman/Fallenius won the boards 6-5 to take 8 points for USA

Sokolow/Garner won 7-4 to take 8 points for the USA

Sontag/Freeman drew 5.5-5.5 with Brogeland/Auken to share the Matchpoints 4-4

On this deal from the set it was the auction that mattered, so we give that for each table.

=25=====

Buffett Cup Pairs

Board: 25 Dealer: N Vul: E-W

S Q J 10 9 6 5
H 10 9 7
D 10 7 3
C 9

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

S 8 7 4 3
H 8 5
D J 5 2
C Q J 5 2

The triumph came in Match I when both East-Wests, Hamman-Zia and, at the other table, Hanlon-McGann, reached the top spot of Seven notrumps. The board was shared, but crucially, this was enough to give the USA all the points for that match.

| West | North | East | South |
|--------|-----------|-------|-----------|
| | <u>1a</u> | | |
| Hamman | M. Bessis | Zia | T. Bessis |
| | 2♠ | Dble | 4♠ |
| 4NT* | Pass | 5NT** | Pass |
| 6♠*** | Pass | 7NT | All |
| Pass | | | |

Asked what their bids meant, Zia replied "How do you think we know?!" But here is an interpretation:

- * 4NT Two places to play
- ** 5NT You pick a slam
- *** 6♠ No, YOU pick a slam

| West | North | East | South |
|--------|-----------|--------|---------|
| | <u>1b</u> | | |
| Hanlon | Fallenius | McGann | Welland |
| | 2♠ | Dble | 3♠ |
| Dble | Pass | 6♥ | 6♠ |
| 7♥ | Pass | 7NT | All |
| Pass | | | |

South's tactics of bidding only 3♠, and then sacrificing in 6♠ is not one generally recommended but it fared no worse than Thomas Bessis's more approved style of bidding to the limit and then keeping quiet. Well done to both East-West pairs for solving a difficult problem, though one has the feeling they would not have been so bold at Teams scoring. In the grand slam declarer, with 12 top tricks, cashes the winners in spades and hearts. South might well be squeezed in the minors but on the actual layout the diamond suit breaks 3-3.

| West | North | East | South |
|---------|-----------|---------|------------|
| | <u>2a</u> | | |
| Hampson | Auken | Freeman | Michielsen |
| | 2♠ | Dble | 3♠ |
| Dble | Pass | 4♥ | Pass |
| 4NT* | Pass | 5♦ | Pass |
| 5NT** | Pass | 6♣ | Pass |
| 6♦ | Pass | 6♠ | Pass |
| 6NT | All Pass | | |

- * 4NT Keycard for hearts
- ** 5NT King ask

Hampson and Freeman came close and their final resting place, quite reasonably was Six Notrumps. This was enough to win the board when this was the auction at the comparison table:

| West | North | East | South |
|-----------|-----------|-----------|--------|
| | <u>2b</u> | | |
| Brogeland | Berkowitz | Lindqvist | Sontag |
| | 3♠ | 3NT | 4♠ |
| 5NT | Pass | 6♣ | All |
| Pass | | | |

Berkowitz's he-man Three Spades certainly made it more difficult for the European gold medallists (Brogeland-Lindqvist led the Butler rankings in Pau). Their resting place of Six Clubs was actually at risk but the bare nine allowed Lindqvist to pick up the suit for one loser. But the board was still a loss.

This is what happened in the third match:

| West | North | East | South |
|-----------|-----------|--------|----------|
| | <u>3a</u> | | |
| Weinstein | Helness | Garner | Svendsen |
| | 2♠ | Dble | 4♠ |
| 4NT | Pass | 5NT | Pass |
| 6♣ | Pass | 6♥ | All |
| Pass | | | |

We see similar efforts with 4NT and 5NT to the earlier auctions. Six Hearts made with an overtrick for 1460.

Then finally:

| | <u>3b</u> | | |
|----------|-----------|----------|---------|
| Kwiecien | S-Molson | Pszczola | Sokolow |
| | 2♠ | Dble | 3♠ |
| Dble | Pass | 4♠* | Pass |
| 5NT** | Pass | 6NT | All |
| Pass | | | |

The pick-a-slam syndrome was there again. (Who likes to make the wrong decision when you can get partner to make it!) 6NT scored 1470 for a win on the board.

Your Editor watched this next deal and amused by the problem facing Zia Mahmood with the East cards:

=3|=====

Buffett Cup Pairs

Board: 31 Dealer: S Vul: N-S

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

| West | North | East | South |
|--------|-----------|------|-----------|
| | <u>1a</u> | | |
| Hamman | M. Bessis | Zia | T. Bessis |
| Pass | 1♦ | Pass | 1♥ |
| INT | Pass | 2♠ | All |
| Pass | | | |

Zia Passed quietly over Michel Bessis' One Diamond and must have been surprised at the turn of events. His partner's One Notrump by a Passed hand showed the other two suits, normally 5-5.

Zia thought for some time, giving the commentators on Bridgebase the chance to speculate on his choice. Pass? Or 2NT? they suggested. But given the scoring Zia chose well: Two Spades.

Thomas Bessis led the ace of diamonds which was ruffed in dummy. The king of clubs was taken by Michel who, fearing a cross-ruff, switched to a trump. Zia, who probably had been planning a cross-ruff now changed tack, aiming to make all his hearts. He ran the switch to dummy's queen, came back to the ace of spades, ruffed a diamond and led a third trump. When these duly fell his hearts were good. One round of clubs and the hearts left Zia in the East hand with ♦Q10. Michel erred by releasing his club so Zia came to an extra diamond trick at the end. +170 was only matched at one other table.

Set 4 USA won 16-8 Pairs Boards 34-44
Running score USA 52 Europe 44

| West | North | East | South |
|------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| | <u>1a</u> | | |
| Brogeland | Garner | Lindkvist | Weinstein |
| | <u>1b</u> | | |
| Hampson | Pszczola | Freeman | Kwiecien |
| | <u>2a</u> | | |
| Svendsen | Hamman | Helness | Zia |
| | <u>2b</u> | | |
| Sokolow | Hanlon | S-Molson | McGann |
| | <u>3a</u> | | |
| Sontag | M. Bessis | Berkowitz | T. Bessis |
| | <u>3b</u> | | |
| Michielsen | Fallenius | Auken | Welland |

Hampson/Garner won the boards 7.5-3.5 earning 8 points for the USA

Sontag/Welland also won 7.5-3.5 earning 8 points for the USA

Helness/Hanlon won their match 7-4 earning 8 points for Europe

Match report in Bulletin 2

Set 5 Europe won 16-8 Pairs Boards 45-55
Running score at end of Day 1
Europe 60 USA 60

| West | North | East | South |
|------------|----------|-----------|-----------|
| | | <u>1a</u> | |
| Sontag | Hanlon | Berkowitz | McGann |
| | | <u>1b</u> | |
| Michielsen | Hamman | Auken | Zia |
| | | <u>2a</u> | |
| Brogeland | Sokolow | Lindkvist | S-Molson |
| | | <u>2b</u> | |
| Hampson | Helness | Freeman | Svendsen |
| | | <u>3a</u> | |
| T. Bessis | Garner | M. Bessis | Weinstein |
| | | <u>3b</u> | |
| Welland | Pszczola | Fallenius | Kwiecien |

Hanlon/Auken won the boards 6-5 earning Europe 8 points

Helness/Brogeland won 7-7 earning Europe 8 points

Bessis/Pepsi lost 5-6 giving USA 8 points

Match report in Bulletin 2

Summary of Pairs Day after round 4

USA compares with Europe

| | |
|--|--------|
| Alan Sontag-David Berkowitz | 10- 10 |
| Sabine Auken-Marion Michielsen | |
| Roy Welland-Bjorn Fallenius | 12- 8 |
| Michel & Thomas Bessis | |
| Steve Garner-Howard Weinstein | 20- 0 |
| Michal Kwiecien-Jacek Pszczola | |
| Zia Mahmood-Bob Hamman | 8- 12 |
| Tom Hanlon-Hugh McGann | |
| Dick Freeman-Geoff Hampson | 6-14 |
| Boye Brogeland-Espen Lindqvist | |
| Tobi Sokolow-Janice Seamon-Molson | 4-16 |
| Tor Helness-Jan Petter Svendsen | |

Total USA 60-60 Europe after Day 1

For additional information,
updates and photos--
Please check the Buffet Cup Home Page

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

