

# The Buffett Bridge Cup - 2008

Louisville, Kentucky  
Europe vs United States

Editor: Patrick Jourdain

Layout & Photos: Donna Compton and Peg Kaplan



## THE BUFFETT CUP 2008 - EUROPE

BOYE BROGELAND - ESPEN LINDQVIST - MICHEL BESSIS - PAUL HACKETT -  
THOMAS BESSIS - HUGH MCGANN - TOM HANLON - MICHAL KWIECIEN  
- JAREK PSZCZOLA - SABINE AUKEN - MARION MICHIENSEN - JAN PETER  
SVENDSEN - TOR HELNESS

Thursday Evening Bulletin 4  
September 18, 2008

**EUROPE WINS BUFFETT CUP**  
**EUROPE 205.5 – USA 172.5**



## THE BUFFETT CUP 2008 - USA

DICK FREEMAN - ALAN SONTAG - TOBI SOKOLOV - DONNA COMPTON -  
JANICE SEAMON-MOLSON - HOWIE WEINSTEIN - GEOFF HAMPSON -  
BOB HAMMAN - DAVE BERKOWITZ - BJORN FALLENIOUS - ROY WELAND -  
STEVE GARNER - ZIA MAHMOOD

Congratulations to Europe who won  
the Second Buffett Cup  
held over four days  
at the Galt House Hotel in Louisville, Kentucky.

The Ryder Cup of Golf starts tomorrow (Friday) in the same city.

### Summary of the events:

Day 1	Pairs	Europe 60	USA 60
Day 2&3	Teams	Europe 59.5	USA 66.5
Day 3&4	Individual	Europe 86	USA 46
	Total	Europe 205.5	USA 172.5

From the Editor:

This is a stunning event that produced excitement throughout the four days. Thousands watched the match on [www.bridgebase.com](http://www.bridgebase.com)

We owe thanks to all those local operators who entered the data (as well as transporting the players to and fro), and commentators worldwide who provided entertainment and elucidation for the spectators on the internet.

At the venue Sol Weinstein was a superb Tournament Director. "How you handle Appeals?" I had asked Paul Hackett. "We don't have them," he replied.

The efficient Director of operations at the site was Bill Rosenbaum of New York. Also on the Organising Committee were the two non-playing captains, Donna Compton and Paul Hackett. Roy Welland and Bob Hamman completed the group, with Beth Reid, District Director from Louisville. Donna Compton worked tirelessly filling any gap that appeared in the schedule of work. My personal thanks are also due to Peg Kaplan who was the official photographer. Compton and Kaplan between them were responsible for the layout of the Bulletins, and Kaplan filled in some of the duties of Editor today whilst I was attending the Ryder Cup practice day and opening ceremony.



In two years time the Ryder Cup moves to the Celtic Manor in South Wales. And so the Third Buffett Cup will also be held in South Wales. I am Secretary of the Organising Committee and part of my role here was as observer for 2010.

The 2010 Committee has already booked the Hotel, the beautiful Miskin Manor near Cardiff just ten miles from my house in Cardiff. Put the dates in your diary, noting it is a couple of weeks later than this year:

The Third Buffett Cup:  
Monday, 27<sup>th</sup> to Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> Sep 2010  
Miskin Manor, nr Cardiff, South Wales  
<http://www.miskin-manor.co.uk/>

Followed by

The 38<sup>th</sup> Ryder Cup:  
Friday 1<sup>st</sup> to Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2010  
Celtic Manor, Newport, South Wales

If you want to volunteer to help at the next Buffett Cup or your company would like to sponsor it, please contact me on:  
[pdjournain@hotmail.com](mailto:pdjournain@hotmail.com)

Also please keep your registration and e-mail address up to date on the Buffett Cup website so you continue to receive information about the 2010 event.

We have been promised tickets to watch the golf and, if we can, will be happy to reward those who assist the Buffett Cup with an opportunity to watch both the bridge and the golf.



## Match Report on the Individual

Running score at the end of the teams:

USA 126.5                      Europe 119.5

Each player is drawn to compare permanently with a particular player on the other team and never meets that player. A player partners in turn, for 6 boards, each of the other 11 members of their own team.

The four players at one table always have their counterparts playing in the same seats at the comparing table. After comparison of the 6 boards each of the four players on the winning side earn 1 point for their continent i.e. the continent receives 4 points for a win or 2 for a draw. With three comparisons and 11 rounds there are 132 points at stake in the Individual. The winning target is 189.5 overall. On the final day Europe needed 42 Matchpoints of 84, whereas the USA needed 44. The players drawn to compare were:

### Wednesday Afternoon and Thursday Individual Pairings

USA	Points	Europe	Points
Sontag	2	Auken	9
S.Molson	4	Pszczola	7
Berkowitz	4	Hanlon	7
Garner	3	Michielsen	8
Welland	4.5	M.Bessis	6.5
Freeman	4.5	T.Bessis	6.5
Fallenius	2	Helness	9
Hampson	3	Kwiecien	8
Weinstein	4	Brogeland	7
Sokolow	6	Lindkvist	5
Hamman	4	McGann	7
Zia	5	Svendsen	6

Note that Dick Freeman, 75, the oldest player on either team was drawn to compare with Thomas Bessis, 24, not quite the youngest on the European team (Marion Michielsen is 23). The average age of the European team was 37, younger than the youngest member of the USA team (Geoff Hampson, 40). In fact the difference in average age was roughly 20 years. And yet the teams were close to a tie almost throughout the event.

Does this suggest that as the years pass, the lesser powers of concentration are balanced by increased experience?





## Individual Round I

## Boards 1-6

The line-up was:

	West	North	East	South
1a	Hampson	Svendsen	Freeman	Auken
1b	Kwiecien	Zia	T.Bessis	Sontag

	West	North	East	South
2a	Fallenius	Pszczola	Sokolow	Brogeland
2b	Helness	S.Molson	Lindqvist	Weinstein

	West	North	East	South
3a	Hamman	Michielsen	Welland	Hanlon
3b	McGann	Garner	M.Bessis	Berkowitz



Match 1 was drawn 3-3 in boards. 2 Matchpoints to each team

Match 2 Europe won 3.5-2.5 for 4 points

Match 3 Europe won 4.5-1.5 for 4 points

Europe won the round 10-2

Running score: Europe 129.5 USA 128.5

Tor Helness won the first board of the Individual by virtue of a well executed overtrick:

### Buffett Cup Individual

Board: I Dealer: North Vul: None

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

	West	North	East	South
2b	Helness	S.Molson	Lindqvist	Weinstein
		Pass	Pass	Pass
	1♠	Pass	2♠	Dble
	4♠	All Pass		

North led the ♥9 to West's ten. Taking the clue from South's take-out double, Helness laid down the king of spades. When South contributed the queen, he ran the ten and made 11 tricks.



## Individual Round 2 Boards 7-12

The line-up was:

	West	North	East	South
1a	Weinstein	Svendsen	Fallenius	Pszczola
1b	Brogeland	Zia	Helness	Molson

	West	North	East	South
2a	Hampson	Hanlon	Hamman	Lindqvist
2b	Kwiecien	Berkowitz	McGann	Sokolow

	West	North	East	South
3a	Auken	Welland	T.Bessis	Garner
3b	Sontag	M.Bessis	Freeman	Michielsen

Match 1 USA won 3-2 in boards with Board 6 removed from play. USA wins 4 points  
 Match 2 USA won 4-2 in boards for 4 points  
 Match 3 was drawn 3-3 in boards 2-2 in Matchpoints

USA won the round 10-2

Running score: USA 138.5 Europe 131.5

We had been waiting for a Zia coup. It came on this deal from the Individual:



## Buffett Cup Individual

Board: 8 Dealer: West Vul: None

S Q 10 7 3  
 H 7  
 D A J 10 5 3  
 C Q 8 3

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

S K 9 8 4  
 H Q J 5  
 D Q 9 6 4  
 C 10 9

S J 6 2  
 H A K 4 2  
 D 2  
 C A K J 6 2

	West	North	East	South
1b	Brogeland	Zia	Helness	S.Molson
	Pass	Pass	Pass	1♣
	Pass	1♠	Pass	2♥
	Pass	3♣	Pass	3♠
	Pass	3NT	All Pass	

Zia was in Three Notrumps from the North seat. This can be beaten by a heart lead. However, diamonds were unbid and Helness duly led a low diamond to his partner's king. Zia ducked! That risked losing the game had West found the heart switch. But West continued diamonds. Now Zia put in the ten and East won. The game was now safe but the bonus from Zia's deceptive play now arrived. East has to find a spade switch to hold declarer to nine tricks. If there was a warning bell in the play of the diamond suit, Helness did not hear it. A third diamond allowed declarer to wrap up ten tricks and win the board.





The next deal was also interesting:

### Buffett Cup Individual

Board: 9 Dealer: North Vul: E-W

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

	West	North	East	South
Ib	Brogeland	Zia	Helness	S.Molson
		1♥	Pass	INT
	Pass	2♥	Pass	3♥
	Pass	4♥	Dble	All Pass

Each continent was playing a standard system agreed by them. South's choice to bid INT in response to 1♥ was surprising. For the USA team this was a forcing NT, for the Europeans it was not. As it was not alerted Helness might have been misled into expecting a weaker dummy, but Zia still had problems in making game. The king of spades lead was won in dummy, a diamond was led to hand and the queen of hearts ran and won. Zia now cashed his second diamond and led a low club to the jack and queen, observing East's contribution of the nine. Declarer now has the option of playing for clubs to be 3-3, or for East to have the bare ace (note that doubleton 98 can be ruled out as the defence would now take a ruff). Zia got this right, playing low on the next round of clubs. He therefore wrapped up 4♥x. This won the board when the comparing table was 4♥-1.

### Individual Round 3 Boards 13-18

The line-up was:

	West	North	East	South
Ia	Sokolow	Svendsen	Hampson	Hanlon
Ib	Lindqvist	Zia	Kwiecien	Berkowitz

	West	North	East	South
2a	Weinstein	Michielsen	Sontag	McGann
2b	Brogeland	Garner	Auken	Hamman

	West	North	East	South
3a	S.Molson	T.Bessis	Fallenius	M.Bessis
3b	Pszczola	Freeman	Helness	Welland

Match 1 was drawn 3-3 2 Matchpoints each  
 Match 2 Europe won 4.5-1.5 for 4 Matchpoints  
 Match 3 Europe won 3.5-2.5 for 4 Matchpoints  
 Europe won the round 10-2

Running score Europe 141.5 USA 140.5





Brogeland was endplayed by Hamman on this next deal but he found the only exit to defeat the contract:

### Buffett Cup Individual

Board: 15 Dealer: South Vul: N-S

<p>S J 5 4</p> <p>H K J</p> <p>D K J 9 6</p> <p>C A 10 8 7</p>	<p>S</p> <p>H</p> <p>D</p> <p>C</p>	<p>Q 9 8 7 6</p> <p>8 7 4 2</p> <p>7 3</p> <p>J 3</p>	<p>S</p> <p>H</p> <p>D</p> <p>C</p>	<p>A</p> <p>9 5</p> <p>8 4 2</p> <p>Q 6 5 2</p>	<p>K 10 2</p> <p>10 6 3</p> <p>10 5</p> <p>9 4</p>
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	West	North	East	South
2b	Brogeland	Garner	Auken	Hamman
				1♥
	Dble	2♥	2♠	3♥
	Pass	Pass	Dble	All Pass

A spade was led to East's ten and a trump came back. Hamman finessed the ten. Brogeland won and exited with the king of hearts. Now Hamman smartly led the queen of diamonds from hand. Brogeland won with the king and had to decide on his exit.

First imagine he leads a spade. Declarer has two entries to dummy with diamond ruffs and can set up and enjoy two spade tricks for club discards. So that was out.

What about a diamond? Declarer can win the ten, and play two more rounds of diamonds, discarding two clubs from dummy! West has to win the fourth diamond and is endplayed again, this time fatally. Declarer either makes a spade or the king of clubs as his extra trick.

Finally Brogeland worked out that the safest exit was ace and another club. Though that gave South the king he only had two trumps in dummy to take care of three losers and the doubled contract had to fail.

### Individual Round 4 Boards 19-24

This was the line-up:

	West	North	East	South
1a	Hamman	Svendsen	Weinstein	Michielsen
1b	McGann	Zia	Brogeland	Garner

	West	North	East	South
2a	Lindqvist	Welland	Pszczola	Sontag
2b	Sokolow	M.Bessis	SMolson	Auken

	West	North	East	South
3a	Hanlon	Fallenius	Kwiecien	Freeman
3b	Berkowitz	Helness	Hampson	T.Bessis

Match 1 was drawn 3-3 in boards 2-2 in Matchpoints

Match 2 USA won 3.5-2.5 for 4 Matchpoints

Match 3 Europe won 5-1 for 4 Matchpoints

The set was drawn 6-6.

Running score:

Europe 147.5 USA 146.5





Michel Bessis played this hand well:

**Buffett Cup Individual**

Board: 22 Dealer: East Vul: E-W

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



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

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

	West	North	East	South
2b	Sokolow	M.Bessis	S.Molson	Auken
			Pass	1♣
	Pass	1♦	1♥	Dble
	Pass	1♠	Pass	2♥
	Pass	2♠	Pass	4♠
	All Pass			

Michel began to regret responding on the North cards as his partner forced the auction higher and higher. But when he saw dummy he became much happier.

East led a trump. This was won in dummy and a diamond was played to the ten and queen. Bessis won the next trump in his own hand and led the ten of hearts covered by the jack and ace. West ruffed with his last trump and exited with the queen of clubs. Bessis cashed the second top club and cross-ruffed clubs and diamonds until his trumps had gone.

He then exited with a low heart to the seven and nine. As East had only hearts left he was end-played into leading away from the heart queen. Four Spades was home.



