



4th EUROPEAN OPEN BRIDGE CHAMPIONSHIPS Sanremo, Italy, June 2009

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Issue No. 1

Saturday, 13 June 2009

Sunshine in Sanremo



The EBL President Gianarrigo Rona opening the 4th European Open Bridge Championships

With its terraces affording spectacular views across the municipality of Sanremo, the Teatro Ariston provided a majestic setting for the official Opening Ceremony of the 4th European Open Bridge Championships. AnnaMaria Torlontano introduced the President of the European Bridge League, Gianarrigo Rona, who welcomed everyone before formally declaring the Championships open.

Earlier in the day, Sanremo followed the precedent set by the previous editions of these Championships by being bathed in sunshine.

Saturday's - Schedule

10.30-12.00	Mixed Teams Qualification (R1)
12.15-13.45	Mixed Teams Qualification (R2)
14.45-16.15	Mixed Teams Qualification (R3)
16.30-18.00	Mixed Teams Qualification (R4)
18.15-19.45	Mixed Teams Qualification (R5)
20.00	Captains Meeting



Gestetner

TIPOGRAFIA **pime** EDITRICE Srl



Writer's Cramp

by Mark Horton

The trouble with being a bridge writer, especially one who is responsible for a daily column, is that it is all too easy to overlook a point in any of the three elements, bidding, play and defence. (If we happen to do that in the Bulletin, rest assured that anyone who can locate our well hidden office will not hesitate to point it out.)

This deal, from one of the major English national newspapers, is a case a point:

Dealer North, All Vul.

♠ Q 10 ♥ K Q 6 ♦ Q 9 4 ♣ J 10 9 7 5	♠ J 5 3 2 ♥ 10 7 4 3 ♦ — ♣ K Q 8 6 4	<table border="1" style="margin: auto; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr><td style="padding: 5px;">N</td></tr> <tr><td style="padding: 5px;">W E</td></tr> <tr><td style="padding: 5px;">S</td></tr> </table>	N	W E	S	♠ A 8 ♥ 9 8 5 2 ♦ K J 8 4 2 ♣ A 3
N						
W E						
S						
♠ K 9 7 6 4 ♥ A J ♦ A 10 7 6 2 ♣ 2						
West 2♣	North Pass 4♠	East 1♦ All Pass	South 1♠			

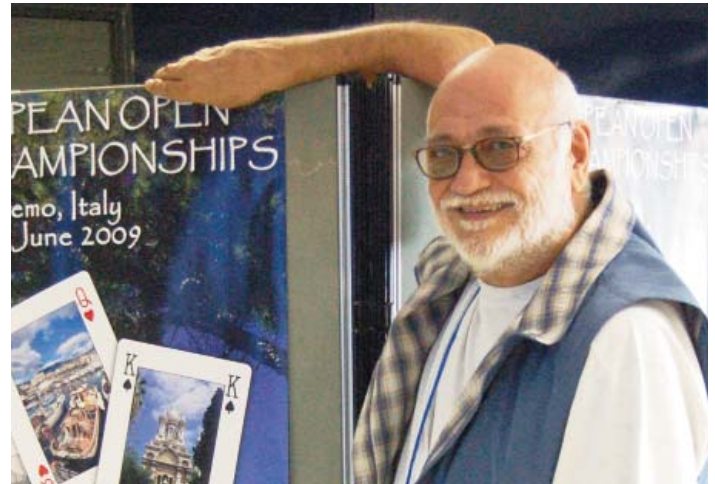
West led the jack of clubs and declarer put up dummy's queen. East took the ace and switched to ace of spades and a spade. Declarer won with the king and then tried a cross ruff, but with neither minor dividing he finished one down.

The correspondent rightly pointed out that if declarer had played low on the opening lead he would have succeeded. West wins and say he plays trumps as before. Now a cross ruff will see declarer ruff out East's ace of clubs and he will have an extra trick.

One only has a limited amount of space, but nevertheless it struck me a strange that the reporter didn't mention that having put up the queen of clubs declarer can later take advantage of the favourable heart position by simply playing ace of hearts and a heart, subsequently establishing the ten of hearts for a tenth trick. Equally surprising was the apparent approval of the opening lead – if West had led the suit his partner bid then some precise defence would leave declarer with no chance of making the contract.

Say declarer discards a club and after winning in hand plays a club to the nine, queen and ace. East returns a low diamond to force the dummy to ruff. Now, when declarer plays a spade East goes in with the ace and plays a second spade.

Welcome Message from the EBL President



Maurizio Zoccarato, Mayor of Sanremo, distinguish guests, ladies and gentlemen and my dear friends, on behalf of the European Bridge League and myself personally I am very pleased and honored to welcome you to Sanremo.

I wish to express my gratitude to the town of Sanremo, Regione Liguria and Provincia di Imperia, the institutional partners of the championship, for their great support.

I also want to thank all our sponsors through whose support and contributions we have been able to organize and open the curtain on this event today.

A special thanks to the European Olympic Committees and the Comitato Olimpico Nazionale Italiano through whose excellent patronage we have been able to increase the image of the championship once again confirming bridge as a strong part of the Olympic Family as well as the value of bridge as true sport.

Let me also thank the Organising Committee who have worked with enthusiasm and professionalism to create the foundations of what we believe will be another great European bridge event. The role of the Organising Committee has now been transferred to the Championship Committee and the Championship Officials who will, I am confident, manage and run the event to the highest standard.

Last but not least I want to thank you, all of you, for coming to attend the 4th staging of the Open European Bridge Championship. The number as well as the global reach of the participants is higher than we expected which again confirms player support for this type of quality open competition.

I am confident that Sanremo will welcome and host you according to the high standard of its tradition, culture and history and I trust that Sanremo will satisfy all of your expectations.

Now the stage is handed over to you, the players, the true owners of this event and I am sure that once again you will be proud to show the values of fair play, friendship, harmony, solidarity, rejecting any discrimination, which are within sport in general and bridge in particular.

I officially declare open the 4th staging of the Open European Bridge Championship.

Enjoy your play and your stay.

Ron's Vanishing Trick

by Mark Horton

When he is not taking photographs, or solving some complex problem in the Bulletin office (making the Editor's mouse operational), Ron Tacchi manages to get in the occasional game of bridge. A few years ago he was short listed for the IBPA's declarer play award, when he executed a remarkable play against those redoubtable Italians, Parmigiano and Reggiano.

Having mysteriously failed to win, he recently produced another brilliancy during a duplicate at his local club in Nogent le Rotrou that might put him in to the winners circle:

Dealer North, None Vul

♠ K J 4 ♥ A J 5 3 ♦ K J 7 6 ♣ K 7	♠ 7 6 3 ♥ Q 9 ♦ Q 8 3 ♣ A Q 8 5 4	<table style="margin: auto; border: 2px solid green; 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 9 ♥ 10 8 4 ♦ 9 5 4 ♣ J 10 9 6 2
N						
W E						
S						
	♠ A Q 8 5 2 ♥ K 7 6 2 ♦ A 10 2 ♣ 3					

West	North <i>Cameron</i>	East	South <i>Tacchi</i>
INT	Pass 4♠!	Pass All Pass	1♠



Ron Tacchi

Showing touching faith in Ron's redoubtable skills as declarer North eschewed the more obvious double.

With an awkward lead, West tried the effect of ace of hearts and a heart. Declarer won with dummy's queen and had to find a way to telescope his four potential losers (two spades, one heart and a diamond) into three.

With a view to achieving some sort of endplay on West, declarer cashed the ace of clubs and ruffed a club, felling West's king.

At this point, my finessing friend tells me that there is only one route to success – yet Ron managed to find it without the benefit of any extraneous aids.

He played the queen of spades out of his hand! West won with the king, but was now in difficulties. A diamond exit was out of the question, but declarer had also worked out that either major suit would also be fatal.

Say West exits with a heart, as happened at the table. Declarer won in hand, cashed the ace of spades, and played his last heart. If West had been able to ruff he would be endplayed. As it was declarer ruffed, returned to hand with a club ruff and exited with a trump to force West to lead into the split diamond tenace.

Notice from the registration desk



On Saturday, June 13th, the registration desk will be open from 9.00 till 10.00 am for the registration of mixed teams.

Mixed Teams

We expect to play with 15 or 16 groups of 5 or 6 teams.

They will play a round robin with 10 boards in each match.

The teams ranked 1, 2 and 3 will enter the Swiss A, the other teams the Swiss B. They will then play 5 rounds of Swiss on the second day. From Swiss A 27 teams qualify for the Knock-Outs, to which are added the teams 1-5 from Swiss B, to get 32 teams.

The Open Room is on the 2nd floor and the Closed Room is on the 3rd floor.

Ton Kooijman

BRIDGE SOFTWARE TO ANALYSE SITUATIONS PART I

by David Stern

When I learned bridge some (ahem) 40 years ago, it was widely taught that you needed 26 points to bid and make 3NT and 4♥/4♠ and 29 points for 5♣/5♦. But over the years a few things have happened to lower these benchmarks. The most important is that the quality of declarer play has improved dramatically, so why therefore hasn't defence equally improved?

I would love to be able to answer these questions and I certainly invite written submissions on the subject.

However, in the meantime and to test the theory, I used a piece of software called Bridge Browser, which was written by Stephen Pickett of Canada. What this allows one to do is to call up all of the results of millions upon millions of hands played on OKbridge when the software was first developed and more recently on BBO and to statistically analyse them. Further you can analyse by excluding players who do not have a particular rating. (<http://www.microtopia.net/bridge>)

So I called up ten thousand hands played over a period of time in 3NT at IMP scoring (this took the computer some twenty hours) including doubled contracts, regardless of vulnerability, where the declaring side had exactly 24 HCPs and found that the average number of tricks made when holding a combined 24 HCPs was 8.65. I can report that the standard deviation of the number of tricks was a mere 0.01 indicating that the variances from this 8.65 tricks was exceptionally low.

Some may say that bidding 3NT with a combined 24 count is therefore questionable. HOWEVER the average gain by doing this at IMPs was 1 IMP, making it a very solid action indeed and if you don't bid it then you will likely be a long-term loser. This might seem like a small difference from the 26 points which we were taught. However, your side is now holding 60% of the points rather than 65% or 8% less.

As a further check I also ran three thousand hands with a combined 23 HCPs to see if there was a significant difference and there was. The average number of tricks was 8.25, but interestingly, even doing this gained 0.44 IMPs per board on average. I don't, however, recommend this as a long term strategy unless you are an excellent declarer player.

So just in case you haven't been told today – bid'em up!!!!

ANALYSE THIS PART 2

by David Stern

I recall some years ago having discussions with Tim Seres about an auction where opener opens 1NT, responder transfers and then bids 3NT offering the opener the option of 3NT, or four of his major. A further discussion involved whether to play four of a major every time we were known to have a 4-4 major fit. On this theme Ron Klinger and I have been engaged in a similar dialogue for some months now.

In these situations I like to refer back to my random hand generator and Deep Finesse to provide me with some clues, which I would like to share with you. I ran 5000 hands, which is a sizeable sample, but one should bear in mind that the analysis assumes perfect defence and perfect declarer play and some may argue about the ability to defend better against no trumps than suit contracts.

North 15-17 1NT opening with 4-(3-3-3)	4♠ makes 84% of the time
South Game Values with 4-(4-3-2)	3NT makes 87% of the time

Note: where bridge writers write 4-(3-3-3) it means exactly four spades and the other cards in any combination of the cards in bracket. So 4-(4-3-2) means 4 spades and the remaining suits in any form of 4-3-2

North 15-17 1NT opening with 3-(4-3-3)	4♠ makes 61% of the time
South Game Values with 5-(3-3-2)	3NT makes 75% of the time

So going back to the opening discussion, this analysis suggests that one should not convert 3NT to four of a major when partner transfers and then offers a choice of contracts and you hold a 4-3-3-3 with three card support for partner.

Moving to perhaps the more obvious analytical conclusions:

North 15-17 1NT opening with 4-(4-3-2)	4♠ makes 89% of the time
South Game Values with 4-(4-3-2)	3NT makes 82% of the time

North 15-17 1NT opening with 3-(5-3-2)	4♠ makes 82% of the time
South Game Values with 5-(3-3-2)	3NT makes 75% of the time

So the summary is that whenever there is a possibility of a doubleton opposite a doubleton, four of the major is a clear winner but very flat opposite an invite suggests a pass of 3NT to be best.

I guess that I could analyse the holding in the doubletons to make the analysis more meaningful but I'll leave that one for another day.

The Fascination of the Game

by David Stern

What keeps us so deeply interested and committed to the game of bridge? This is a question I am often asked by those who don't play or understand the game. One of the magnets is the game's its continual ability to surprise even those who have been playing the game since before man landed on the moon - that's forty years for those of you too young to remember.

Just such a hand arose on board one of the last round of the 2009 Cavendish Pairs. Sitting E/W were Jacek Pszczola (Pepsi) and Sam Lev facing Charles Wigoder and Zia Mahmood.

Levin/Weinstein were leading the event by the proverbial length of the straight while Lev/Pszczola, who were running second before this final session, were fighting for minor but not insignificant prize money.

To set the scene for North's 'gambling' opening bid I relay the following conversation between Zia and the Tournament Director before the first session:

Zia: "My partner wants to play 2NT opening showing 12-14 balanced – surely we aren't allowed to play this"

TD: "I'll just check"A few minutes pass

TD: "No, Zia, I am advised that this opening is with in the rules"

Zia: "No you don't understand SURELY we can't play this – PLEASE!!"

Dealer North, None Vul

♠ K 10 9 4 ♥ A K 9 8 2 ♦ 10 ♣ A K 8	<table style="border: 1px solid black; width: 100px; height: 100px; margin: auto;"> <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 Q ♥ 10 6 5 4 ♦ A K Q 3 ♣ Q 9 5
N					
W E					
S					
	♠ J 8 7 6 3 2 ♥ 7 3 ♦ 9 2 ♣ J 6 2				

West	North	East	South
	3♦!!	3NT	Pass
4NT	Pass	5♠	Pass
5NT	Pass	6♦	Pass
7NT	Pass	Pass	Pass

I was BBO operating when this gem arose and thought to myself that E/W would likely get to 7♥ and go one down after North plays the ♥Q or ♥J on the first round and declarer followed best practice with restricted choice and finesses the missing honour on the second round.

But interestingly Lev/Pepsi got to what I realised was a vastly superior contract of 7NT mainly as a result of North's ill-advised 3♦ pre-empt, making it very difficult for E/W to assess their heart fit.

"Vastly superior 7NT?" you might ask – with only eleven tricks is that really so? Clearly if you can navigate the heart suit for no loser you will easily make both contracts so that would seem to make them similar. However look what happens when you cash three spades, three clubs, three diamonds and one heart with this ending:

♠ — ♥ K 9 8 ♦ — ♣ —	<table style="border: 1px solid black; width: 100px; height: 100px; margin: auto;"> <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 6 ♦ 3 ♣ —
N					
W E					
S					
	♠ J 8 ♥ 7 ♦ — ♣ —				

You will have gleaned that North started

- ♠ x 1 - known
- ♥ x 1 or 2 (or irrelevantly 3)
- ♦ x 6 - known
- ♣ x 3 or 4

As a result, North cannot have a singleton heart and must, in terms of relevant hands anyway, be 1-2-6-4. Pepsi did just this and promptly cashed the ♥K to bring home this excellent contract. I wonder how many of us have imagined that 7NT can be much superior to a 5/4 fit – something that I certainly found intriguing.

It is interesting to note that with 24 tables in play in what most would regard as one of the toughest events in the world:

7NT	bid and made three times
7♥	bid and made once
7♣	failed four times
Small slam	bid and made fifteen times
Other N/S -1400 presumably 3♦ going six down	

Such hands whether by luck or by science, are defining moments for deciding who wins events like the Cavendish. Lev and Pepsi finished fourth after a slightly below average session but clearly this board was part of the damage control.



São Paulo 2009

THE WORLD BRIDGE CHAMPIONSHIPS

São Paulo, Brazil

August 29 to September 12

Bermuda Bowl, Venice Cup, Ernesto d'Orsi Seniors Bowl
World Transnational Open Teams Championships

HEAD-QUARTERS AND PLAYING AREA:
HOTEL TRANSAMERICA

Opening ceremony

August 29th - to be held at the "teatro alfa" (connected to the hotel); the ceremony will be followed by a musical show at the theatre and by a cocktail/dinner at the hotel.

The Bermuda Bowl, Venice Cup & Senior Bowl

The Round Robin for all three Championships will start on Sunday 30th August and finish on Saturday 12th September, with the knock-out stages starting on Sunday 6th.

The Quarter Finals for each of these events will end before the start of the Transnational Open Teams, thus enabling players eliminated from the main Championships to participate Transnational Championship.

The World Transnational Open Teams Championship

The 7th World Transnational Open Teams Championship is a prestigious and most enjoyable event. Being Transnational, it

is open to teams composed of players coming from different countries, nominated by their National Bridge Organisation and approved by the WBF Credentials Committee.

It is a great opportunity for players to participate in a wonderful Bridge tournament while at the same time enjoying a unique opportunity to experience the atmosphere and excitement of the final stages of the Bermuda Bowl and Venice Cup and watch some of the greatest players in the world on the first class vugraph presentation. Players wishing to compete in this Championship should contact their NBO and request nomination by the end of July 2009. There is no quota, and NBOs may nominate as many teams as they wish to compete in this special tournament.

Players eliminated from the Round Robin of the Bermuda Bowl, Venice Cup & Seniors Bowl will be able to enter the World Transnational Open Teams Championship free of charge if they enter as a complete team.

The **World Transnational Open Teams** will take place during the second week, starting in the late afternoon on Monday 7th September. The format will be Swiss Teams. It is normally played as 10-board matches (3, 4 or 5 per day) for 15 qualifying rounds (150 boards). The Quarter Final will start on Thursday late afternoon, the Semi Final will be played on Friday 11th September and the Final will end on Saturday 12th September.

REGISTRATION

REGISTRATION OF TEAMS

- Bermuda Bowl / Venice Cup 15th May
- D'Orsi Seniors Bowl 15th May
- World Transnational Open Teams 1st July

REGISTRATION OF PLAYERS NAMES

- Bermuda Bowl / Venice Cup 1st June
- D'Orsi Seniors Bowl 1st June
- World Transnational Open Teams 1st August

PAYMENT OF ENTRY FEES

- Bermuda Bowl / Venice Cup US\$ 4,000 1st July
- D'Orsi Seniors Bowl US\$ 4,000 1st July
- World Transnational Open Teams US\$ 1,500 1st August

Players eliminated from the Open, Women's or Senior Teams may form new Open teams and will receive free entry provided no players who have not participated in these events are added.

In the event that a team is made up from players who have not participated in the three main events, with players from these events added to the team, the charges will be as follows:

- A team with 4 new players & 1 or 2 eliminated players: \$1,500
- A team with 3 new players & up to 3 eliminated players: \$1,200
- A team with 2 new players & up to 4 eliminated players: \$800
- A team with 1 new player & up to 5 eliminated players: \$400

REGISTRATION OF SYSTEMS

- Bermuda Bowl, Venice Cup & D'Orsi Seniors Bowl 7th July

ENTRIES must be sent to:

The World Bridge Federation
40, rue François 1^{er}
75008 Paris - France

cfrancin@worldbridgefed.com

SYSTEMS

For **Bermuda Bowl, Venice Cup & Senior Bowl**, the conditions of contest will give full details of systems regulations and registration, but players should note that it will be a requirement that all systems are registered in advance via e-mail to Anna Gudge: anna@ecats.co.uk

HUM systems or Brown Sticker conventions are not permitted in the Round Robin stage of the Bermuda Bowl or Venice Cup, or at any stage of the Senior Bowl.

Pairs wishing to register HUM systems or Brown Sticker conventions for use in the Knockout phase of the Bermuda Bowl or Venice Cup must register these, together with the relevant HUM or BS forms no later than 7th July 2009. No extension to this deadline will be accepted. Teams using HUM systems or BS conventions lose their seeding rights when they play against teams that do not use such methods.

THE VENUE

São Paulo is one of the biggest cities in the world, having over 17 million inhabitants, and it is the most important Brazilian city.

Quite often São Paulo intimidates people because of its size, its constant pedestrian and vehicle traffic, ethnic and cultural multiplicity. But it is this very "city-in-a-hurry" tempo that makes the city entertaining, attractive, diversified and unique.

To think of São Paulo as merely a business destination, although the largest in Latin America, would be inaccurate. After all, what business capital has 280 movie theatres, more than 70 shopping malls and 12,000 restaurants featuring every sort of international cuisine. Feel like seeing a Broadway-style play? This is the place. Or would you rather max out your credit card at some charming street boutiques? São Paulo has so many of them, from the simplest and cheapest to the most sophisticated and expensive.

As for art - the offerings are many and varied, including "MASP" The Art Museum of São Paulo, the Museum of Brazilian Art, the Museum of Modern Art to name just three; in addition there are also important architectural works.

The Championships will take place at the Transamerica Hotel, a wonderful deluxe five-star hotel, located near the most important business, shopping, and gourmet areas of the city. The hotel

has free internet access (wifi and intranet) and offers very comfortable, well equipped rooms, two restaurants, a bar, tennis courts, soccer field, three-hole golf course, jogging lane, fitness center, heated pool, dry sauna and steam rooms, pool tables, etc.

HOTEL INFORMATION

HOTEL TRANSAMERICA

Double-room (single or double occupancy): **US\$180.00**

(tax included) per night, breakfast-buffet included. 3 nights payment in advance is required for reservations, refundable for cancellations only until June 30. A 5% discount is offered if reservations are made for 12 or more nights, paid totally in advance, with no reimbursements in the event of an early checkout. Suites can be reserved at prices to be arranged with the hotel.

Reservations can be made directly with the hotel:

- Group Sales Department by e-mail: grupos@transamerica.com.br
- or phone (+55 11) 5693-4092/5693-4098/5693-4972

Hotel web-site: www.transamerica.com.br

Economic alternative Hotel:

TRANSAMERICA FLAT NACOES UNIDAS

Located at 4 km (2.5 miles) distance from the main hotel (shuttles will be provided)

Double-room (single or double occupancy): **US\$110**

(tax included) per night, breakfast-buffet included. Triple room, with rollaway bed, subject to availability: US\$140 (tax included) per night. 3 nights in advance required for reservations, refundable for cancellations only until June 30.

Reservations can be made directly with the hotel

- by e-mail: rsnunidas@transamericaflats.com.br
- or phone (+55 11) 5187-2955/5693-4952

Hotel web-site: www.transamericaflats.com.br

Alternatively, reservations can be made directly with the organization by e-mail: contact@brazilbridge2009.com.br

Championship Official Site: www.brazilbridge2009.com.br

Zonal Qualified teams for BB, VC and E. D'Orsi SB

Zone 1	6	Zone 5	1
Zone 2	3	Zone 6	3
Zone 3	3	Zone 7	2
Zone 4	2	Zone 8	2

If any Zone does not fill its quota the first berth will be offered to Zone 1, the second one to Zone 6



1st World Youth Bridge Championships

Yeditepe University
Istanbul – Turkey / 15-23 August 2009

Swiss-KO teams
15-19 August

Board-a-match teams
18-19 August

Entry fee:
500€/team

MP Pairs
20-23 August

IMP Pairs
22-23 August

Entry fee:
200€/pair

NBO's are not restricted with any quotas.

Transnational teams and /or pairs are also allowed.

National anthems will be played, and national flags will be raised for only teams or pairs with all players of the same nationality.

Eligibility: born on or after January 01, 1984

In case of sufficient participation in U20 teams and/or pairs,
the Championship will be played in both U25 and U20 categories.

Full board accommodation in double rooms: 45€ per person per day

Registrations will be made through WBF site:

www.worldwide.org

