



Daily Bulletin

World Bridge Championships



Hotel Transamérica - São Paulo - Brazil

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EUROPE COMES ON STRONG



If you have wondered about some of the trump splits or diabolical layouts of the hands at this tournament, at least now you know where they came from – the duplication team. They will produce tens of thousands of hands before the World Championships conclude.

European teams are showing their prowess as the round robin stages of all three events enter the second half of the qualifying matches.

That is especially true in the Bermuda Bowl, where six of the top nine teams come from Europe. Perennial contenders Italy and the defending champions from Norway stand at the top, separated by only 3 victory points.

In the Venice Cup, six of the top 10 teams come from Europe, the top qualifier so far being France. Threatening to disrupt the European dominance are China Long Zhu, leading after 12 rounds, and USA1. The other American team, USA2, is in fourth place with nine matches to go.

In the D'Orsi Seniors Bowl, England continues to dominate, standing 16.5 VPs ahead of second place despite losing their first match (to Belgium) in round 11. Belgium is second entering play today.

Round robin play concludes on Saturday, with the quarterfinal rounds in each competition beginning on Sunday.

VUGRAPH MATCHES



Round 13 (11.00-13.20)

VG:	Table 27	Italy - USA 1	(VC)
BBO 1:	Table 3	Italy - Bulgaria	(BB)
BBO 2:	Table 6	Germany - Netherlands	(BB)
BBO 3:	Table 10	Argentina - USA 1	(BB)
BBO 4:	Table 42	Egypt - USA 1	(OSB)
OurGame:	Table 7	India - China Long Zhu	(BB)

Round 14 (14.30-16.50)

VG:	Table 7	Netherlands - Italy	(BB)
BBO 1:	Table 8	Russia - Brazil	(BB)
BBO 2:	Table 10	Bulgaria - Norway	(BB)
BBO 3:	Table 49	Poland - England	(OSB)
BBO 4:	Table 22	Sweden - Egypt	(VC)
OurGame:	Table 29	China Long Zhu - Canada MP Press	(VC)

Round 15 (17.20-19.40)

VG:	Table 8	USA 2 - Italy	(BB)
BBO 1:	Table 2	USA 1 - Egypt	(BB)
BBO 2:	Table 9	Bulgaria - Brazil	(BB)
BBO 3:	Table 26	Italy - Germany	(VC)
BBO 4:	Table 46	England - USA 2	(OSB)
OurGame:	Table 5	China Long Zhu - Germany	(BB)

Watch BBO at: <http://www.bridgebase.com>
Watch OurGame at: <http://worldbridge.ourgame.com>





RESULTS

Bermuda Bowl



ROUND 10

Home Team	Visiting Team	IMPs	VPs
1 Brazil	Chinese Taipei	35-60	9- 21
2 Italy	Norway	53-36	18.25-10.25
3 Pakistan	Guadeloupe	52-32	19.5- 9.5
4 Mexico	Bulgaria	18-40	10- 20
5 Germany	USA 2	35-26	17- 13
6 India	Russia	49-61	12- 18
7 New Zealand	Netherlands	38-51	12- 17
8 Egypt	China Long Zhu	26-86	2- 25
9 Argentina	Chile	31-37	14- 16
10 USA 1	Japan	37-43	14- 16
11 Australia	Morocco	14-62	4- 25

ROUND 11

Home Team	Visiting Team	IMPs	VPs
1 India	Germany	35 - 45	13 - 17
2 New Zealand	Mexico	38 - 15	20 - 10
3 Egypt	Pakistan	45 - 55	13 - 17
4 Argentina	Italy	5 - 44	6 - 24
5 Australia	Brazil	21 - 41	10 - 20
6 USA 1	Chinese Taipei	49 - 34	18 - 12
7 Morocco	Norway	21 - 44	10 - 20
8 Chile	Guadeloupe	75 - 2	25 - 0
9 China Long Zhu	Bulgaria	10 - 44	7 - 23
10 Netherlands	USA 2	30 - 40	13 - 17
11 Russia	Japan	41 - 39	15 - 15

ROUND 12

Home Team	Visiting Team	IMPs	VPs
1 Japan	Germany	22 - 25	14 - 16
2 USA 2	China Long Zhu	33 - 11	20 - 10
3 Bulgaria	Chile	19 - 40	10 - 20
4 Guadeloupe	Morocco	34 - 29	16 - 14
5 Norway	USA 1	50 - 16	23 - 7
6 Chinese Taipei	Australia	23 - 41	11 - 19
7 Brazil	Argentina	32 - 44	12 - 18
8 Italy	Egypt	21 - 4	19 - 11
9 Pakistan	New Zealand	37 - 57	10 - 20
10 Mexico	India	10 - 66	3 - 25
11 Russia	Netherlands	36 - 20	19 - 11

Ranking after 12 Rounds

1	Italy	236.25
2	Norway	233.25
3	Bulgaria	229
4	USA 2	215
5	Russia	213
6	China Long Zhu Open	208
	Netherlands	208
8	Argentina	204
9	Germany	189
10	Chile	183
11	Chinese Taipei	173
	India	173
13	Japan	172
14	New Zealand	163
15	Australia	158
16	USA 1	156.50
17	Egypt	155
18	Brazil	152
19	Pakistan	140.50
20	Morocco	138
21	Guadeloupe	108.50
22	Mexico	89.50



Women's Committee Meeting

The meeting of the WBF Women's Committee will be held on Saturday Sept. 5 9:30 a.m. in the WBF Meeting Room (Brasilia 3 in the basement – floor SS in the lift), next to the WBF Secretariat. All members are asked to confirm their attendance to Anna Gudge. The chairman is Anna Maria Torlontano.

Tournament on TV

Guests at the Hotel Transamerica can keep up with all three events in the World Championships – Bermuda Bowl, Venice Cup and D'Orsi Seniors Bowl – on Channel 96 on their television sets. The daily broadcasts will include running scores and rankings.



RESULTS

Venice Cup



ROUND 10

	Home Team	Visiting Team	IMPs	VPs
21	Morocco	Brazil	52 - 51	15 - 15
22	France	Sweden	52 - 34	19 - 11
23	Spain	Indonesia	22 - 48	9 - 21
24	Germany	Egypt	73 - 32	24 - 6
25	Denmark	Venezuela	54 - 34	20 - 10
26	USA 1	Japan	72 - 25	25 - 4
27	China Long Zhu	Pakistan	39 - 20	19 - 11
28	Australia	Jordan	59 - 37	20 - 10
29	USA 2	Italy	49 - 43	16 - 14
30	Argentina	Barbados	78 - 7	25 - 1
31	New Zealand	Canada MP Press	24 - 28	14 - 16

ROUND 11

	Home Team	Visiting Team	IMPs	VPs
21	Sweden	Brazil	40 - 30	17 - 13
22	Indonesia	France	4 - 48	5 - 25
23	Egypt	Spain	25 - 75	4 - 25
24	Venezuela	Germany	42 - 46	13.5 - 15.5
25	Japan	Denmark	60 - 29	22 - 8
26	Pakistan	USA 1	59 - 61	15 - 15
27	Jordan	China Long Zhu	35 - 48	12 - 18
28	Italy	Australia	29 - 37	13 - 17
29	Barbados	USA 2	12 - 41	8 - 22
30	Canada MP Press	Argentina	23 - 43	10 - 20
31	New Zealand	Morocco	69 - 8	25 - 2

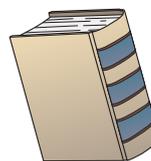
ROUND 12

	Home Team	Visiting Team	IMPs	VPs
21	Morocco	Sweden	24 - 60	7 - 23
22	Brazil	Indonesia	39 - 37	15 - 15
23	France	Egypt	42 - 17	21 - 9
24	Spain	Venezuela	61 - 28	23 - 7
25	Germany	Japan	52 - 20	23 - 7
26	Denmark	Pakistan	39 - 40	15 - 15
27	USA 1	Jordan	55 - 31	21 - 9
28	China Long Zhu	Italy	33 - 36	14 - 16
29	Australia	Barbados	46 - 0	25 - 5
30	USA 2	Canada MP Press	21 - 44	10 - 20
31	Argentina	New Zealand	17 - 37	10 - 20

Ranking after 12 Rounds

1	China Long Zhu Women	229
2	USA 1	228.50
3	France	221
4	USA 2	207
5	Italy	206
6	Denmark	196
	Spain	196
8	Germany	191.75
9	New Zealand	185
10	Sweden	184
11	Indonesia	182
12	Egypt	177
13	Australia	171
14	Argentina	168.50
15	Canada Master Point Press	161
	Morocco	161
17	Pakistan	159
18	Brazil	156.50
19	Jordan	151.50
20	Japan	151
21	Venezuela	125.75
22	Barbados	108.50

World Championship Book 2009



The Official book of these Championships in Sao Paulo will be available in March 2010, when the official price will be US\$34 plus postage. Advance orders can be made in Sao Paulo to Jan Swaan in the Press Room at the discounted price of US\$30, Euros 20, or Reals 55 per copy, including postage.

The principal writers will be Brian Senior, Barry Rigal, John Carruthers and Geo Tislevoll. There will be a full listing of all participants and results and many photographs. Every board of the finals and semi-finals of the Bermuda Bowl and Venice Cup will be covered, along with the best of the action from the earlier stages, plus the Senior Bowl and Transnational Teams.



RESULTS

d'Orsi Seniors Bowl



ROUND 10

Home Team	Visiting Team	IMPs	VPs
41 Argentina	USA 1	50 - 59	13 - 17
42 USA 2	South Africa	35 - 37	15 - 15
43 Brazil	Japan	29 - 63	7 - 23
44 Australia	Egypt	26 - 57	8 - 22
45 Uruguay	India	42 - 58	11 - 19
46 Pakistan	Barbados	14 - 26	12 - 18
47 Poland	Canada	37 - 22	18 - 12
48 Turkey	Italy	52 - 39	18 - 12
49 Venezuela	Sweden	20 - 63	5 - 25
50 Belgium	Indonesia	42 - 11	22 - 8
51 New Zealand	England	39 - 72	7 - 23

ROUND 11

Home Team	Visiting Team	IMPs	VPs
41 South Africa	USA 1	41 - 28	18 - 12
42 Japan	USA 2	37 - 40	14 - 16
43 Egypt	Brazil	40 - 51	13 - 17
44 India	Australia	51 - 51	15 - 15
45 Barbados	Uruguay	24 - 47	10 - 20
46 Canada	Pakistan	79 - 46	23 - 7
47 Italy	Poland	21 - 42	10 - 20
48 Sweden	Turkey	55 - 35	20 - 10
49 Indonesia	Venezuela	76 - 1	25 - 0
50 England	Belgium	24 - 43	11 - 19
51 New Zealand	Argentina	11 - 47	7 - 23

ROUND 12

Home Team	Visiting Team	IMPs	VPs
41 Argentina	South Africa	23 - 43	10 - 20
42 USA 1	Japan	16 - 33	11 - 19
43 USA 2	Egypt	64 - 22	25 - 3
44 Brazil	India	25 - 51	9 - 21
45 Australia	Barbados	29 - 31	15 - 15
46 Uruguay	Canada	37 - 42	14 - 16
47 Pakistan	Italy	19 - 35	11 - 19
48 Poland	Sweden	29 - 33	14 - 16
49 Turkey	Indonesia	24 - 40	11 - 19
50 Venezuela	England	14 - 33	11 - 19
51 Belgium	New Zealand	40 - 17	20 - 10

Ranking after 12 Rounds

1	England	235
2	Belgium	218.50
3	USA 2	210
4	Sweden	206
5	Poland	204
6	Indonesia	200.50
7	Egypt	200
8	USA 1	192
9	Canada	190
10	Japan	187
11	India	182.50
12	Pakistan	181
13	Italy	176
14	Australia	174
15	Argentina	171
	South Africa	171
17	Turkey	154
18	Barbados	152
19	Brazil	150
20	Uruguay	139
21	New Zealand	131.50
22	Venezuela	95

WBF cards for sale



Packs of used WBF playing cards – with 5-bar codes – are for sale. If you are interested in buying some, please contact Christine Francin in the WBF Secretariat situated on the basement floor of the Hotel - Brasilia 2 room.

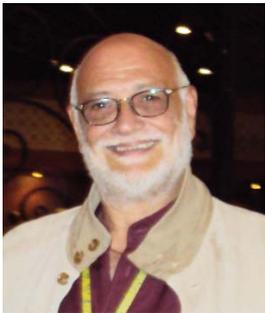
The price is US\$0.60 per pack

WBF Laws Committee

The committee will meet on Friday, Sept. 4, at 1:30 p.m. in the WBF meeting room.



Rona has time to prepare for WBF presidency



With more than a year to go before he takes over as World Bridge Federation president, Gianarrio Rona figures he will have time to learn from his predecessor, current WBF President Jose Damiani.

"I will stay close to José," Rona said on Tuesday shortly after his election as WBF president was announced.

Damiani voiced confidence the WBF executive committee, who elected Rona, made the right choice. "He is a very good bridge lover," said Damiani. "He knows how to promote bridge and he will follow the same route I have designed."

Although he will be leaving the WBF presidency in 2010 after 16 years, Damiani will stay active in promoting the game, having just been elected to a new term as president of the International Mind Sports Association, which made history last year in Beijing with the first World Mind Sports Games (bridge, chess, Chinese chess, Go and draughts). Another WMSG is set for 2012.

While Rona prepares to take over as WBF president, he knows there are many challenges as bridge organizations try to maintain or increase the relevance of the game for the public at large.

One major problem, he noted, is the current economic downturn, which has affected participation in tournaments all over the world.

"We will have to work very hard," Rona said, "but I am optimistic because I plan to have a strong team."

Rona said everyone knows how important it is to continue to recruit young players to the game of bridge, "and if you can attract young players it is very easy to enlarge the number of players."

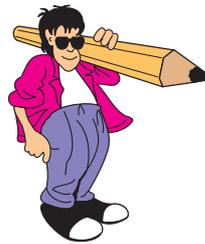
One of his goals, Rona said, is to consolidate the organization of events at world championships to increase technical support and improve services to players, including better, more affordable hotels and enhanced playing conditions.

"If you want to attract young players you have to offer services at affordable prices," he said.

Rona said he is encouraged to note that bridge administrators the world over seem to understand that they must continue to try to attract younger players – and he is proud of the results European bridge executives have had in getting bridge into schools.

He said he plans exchanges of information, technology and staff with the American Contract Bridge League and other bridge organizations.

Championship Diary



First a quiz question to put you on your toes: On Tuesday Afghanistan defeated the Netherlands in which sport?

We have some restaurant recommendations:

Nakasa Sushi (Japanese)

R da Consolacao, 3147, Telephone: 3064 0970

Abruzzi (Italian)

R Traipu 145, Telephone: 3822 2052

Ganesh (Indian)

Shopping Morumbi, Av Roque Petroni Jr, 1089, Telephone: 5181 4748

If you are enjoying the Spanish pages make sure you visit the official web site of the South American Bridge Conference (WBF Zone 3) at: www.confusudbridge.org

Mentioning the Internet, we spotted a comment by a kibitzer who was clearly unhappy that the captain of his country's team was choosing to rotate his pairs on the basis that they would be well rested for the next phase of the championships. His angst was caused by the fact that at the moment the team's position suggests they will be well rested – but only for the Transnational.

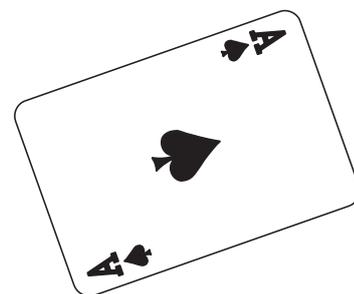
You will have observed a number of notices about the wisdom of making appeals. Our view is to follow the advice of Mike Lawrence: **DON'T**.

We have been asked to relay a message to both Barbados teams (Women and Seniors):

The French Connection say hello.

To those who are involved in the struggle to qualify we recall a quotation from the epic film *Ben Hur* made by Quintus Arrius (played by Jack Hawkins): 'Now listen to me, all of you. You are all condemned men. We keep you alive to serve this ship. So row well, and live.' In bridgespeak: 'We keep you alive to serve this team. So play well and qualify.'

The answer to the question I posed at the beginning is: a 50 overs a side cricket match, scoring 232/4 from 46.4 overs to overtake the Netherlands total of 231/7 with 20 balls to spare.



D'ORSI SENIORS BOWL Round 9



Poland

v

USA 1



Friendly Rivals

by Mark Horton

It was fitting that the match between the Senior teams representing USA I and Poland took place on Tuesday as at the same time the Honorable General James L. Jones, National Security Advisor to President Obama, led the U.S. delegation appointed by attending the 70th Anniversary Observance Ceremony of the Outbreak of World War in Gdansk, Poland. After the official commemoration ceremony, General Jones met with Poland's Foreign Affairs Minister, Radoslaw Sikorski, and presented him with a special statement from President Obama. The President sent his warmest wishes for continued friendship between the United States and Poland and said: *'We celebrate together the determination of the people of Poland to fight authoritarianism and to choose democracy and freedom. This anniversary reminds us that the United States and Poland have long been bound by the deep ties among our people, our shared values of democracy and human rights, and our commitment to partner on behalf of our common security and prosperity.'*

This spirit of friendship between the two countries was much in evidence during the match as they presented each other with some rather easily earned IMPs.



Bobby Wolff, USA I

Board 3. Dealer South. E/W Vul.

♠ A J 8 4 3 2 ♥ J 6 5 ♦ 3 ♣ Q 7 5	<table border="1" style="border-collapse: collapse; width: 80px; height: 80px; 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		♠ K 10 7 5 ♥ 10 8 ♦ Q 9 8 4 ♣ K 10 9	♠ 6 ♥ A K Q 7 2 ♦ K J 7 5 ♣ J 3 2
	N											
W		E										
	S											
♠ Q 9 ♥ 9 4 3 ♦ A 10 6 2 ♣ A 8 6 4												

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Morse	Kowalski	Wolff	Romanski
Pass	1♥	Pass	Pass
Pass	2♦*	Pass	2♣*
Pass	4♥	All Pass	2♥*
2♣	Drury		
2♦	Non minimum		

West's decision to take no active part in the auction gave North/South a free run. East's lead of the four of diamonds solved one key element of the deal immediately and declarer won in hand, drew trumps and scored five trumps, four diamonds and a club for +420.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Russyan	Fisher	Lasocki	Hamilton
2♦*	2♥	Dble*	Pass
2♠	3♦	Pass	Rdble
All Pass			3♥
2♦	Multi		
Dble	Pass if your suit is hearts		

American players do not get much exposure to the Multi and I wonder if this may have contributed to their failure to reach game. East led the king of spades and continued the suit, declarer discarding a club on the ace. He won the club switch with dummy's ace, drew trumps and was soon claiming ten tricks – but losing 7 IMPs.

Board 4. Dealer West. All Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Morse	Kowalski	Wolff	Romanski
Pass	2♣*	Pass	4♠
All Pass			
2♣ Natural, limited			

With a very useful card in partner's suit South jumped to what he hoped he could make. He ducked the opening lead of the king of diamonds, won the next diamond and played the king of hearts. East won with the ace and switched to a spade but declarer put up the ace, ruffed his losing diamond, ruffed a heart and played a spade, claiming +620 when both the missing trumps appeared.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Russyan	Fisher	Lasocki	Hamilton
Pass	1♣	1♥	1♠
2♥	Pass	Pass	3♠
All Pass			

North was not interested in accepting South's invitation so once more Poland picked up a game swing, this one being worth 10 IMPs.

Board 7. Dealer South. All Vul.

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

Open Room

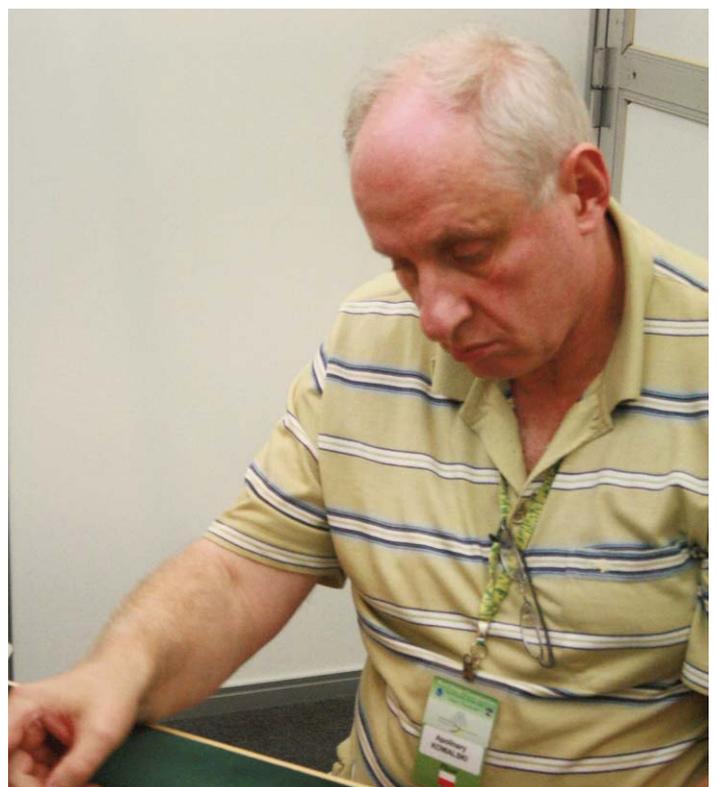
West	North	East	South
Morse	Kowalski	Wolff	Romanski
Pass	Pass	1♣	Pass
1♥	Pass	1♠	Pass
2NT	All Pass		

North led the queen of clubs and when dummy's king held declarer played a heart to the queen and then one back to the king, South winning with the ace as North discarded the nine of clubs. Declarer won the spade switch in hand and played a diamond to the ten and jack. He took the next spade in dummy and could have cashed out, taking three spades, two hearts, two diamonds and a club, but he left the master spade where it was, playing two rounds of diamonds, discarding a spade from dummy. When he exited with a diamond he fatally discarded a club from dummy and a grateful North cashed out for one down, +100.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Russyan	Fisher	Lasocki	Hamilton
1♦	Pass	1♠	Pass
INT	Pass	3NT	All Pass

Once West opened the bidding reaching game was a certainty. The first three tricks were identical save for the fact that North discarded the three of clubs on the second round of hearts. Now the play diverged, South continuing



Apolinary Kowalski, Poland

with the ten of hearts, as North pitched the nine of clubs. With little choice declarer played a club and North won and exited with a spade. Declarer won in hand, crossed to dummy with a spade and played a club. North took the ace and tried a diamond but after taking two tricks with the queen and ace West exited with a diamond and left North with the unpalatable choice of surrendering the last two tricks to either dummy or declarer.

As the cards lay it would not have helped North to keep an extra club as he would be forced down to $\diamond 9543$ $\clubsuit J9$ and would have no good discard on the third round of spades. That gave Poland 12 more IMPs and a very healthy lead.

Board 8. Dealer West. None Vul.

	♠ K Q 4 3 2 ♥ 6 3 ♦ A K J 3 ♣ 7 4					
	<table style="border: 1px solid black; width: 40px; height: 40px; 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		
N						
W E						
S						
♠ 10 7 5 ♥ 10 8 7 5 4 ♦ 10 9 2 ♣ J 9		♠ 9 8 6 ♥ Q ♦ Q 8 7 6 ♣ A K 10 6 5				
	♠ A J ♥ A K J 9 2 ♦ 5 4 ♣ Q 8 3 2					

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Morse	Kowalski	Wolff	Romanski
Pass	1♠	2♣	Dble*
Pass	2♦	Pass	2♥
Pass	2♠	Pass	3♠
All Pass			

North/South were poles apart in the bidding (hard to resist that one, you have to agree) the most likely explanation being that South thought Two Hearts set up a game forcing situation. East started with three rounds of clubs and when West ruffed in with the ten of spades declarer discarded the three of diamonds, so that was +170.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Russyan	Fisher	Lasocki	Hamilton
Pass	1♠	2♣	2♥
Pass	3♦	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

I confess I am not a fan of the overcall found at both tables, although to be fair you can take nine tricks in clubs – but only from the North/South seats.

3NT was not in jeopardy and declarer emerged with eleven tricks, +460. As one of the BBO commentators put it, 'getting to game with 15 opposite 13 pays off once again.' It gave USA 17 IMPs.

Board 12. Dealer West. N/S Vul.

	♠ K Q 5 ♥ A Q 10 ♦ J ♣ K 8 6 4 3 2					
	<table style="border: 1px solid black; width: 40px; height: 40px; 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		
N						
W E						
S						
♠ A 8 4 3 2 ♥ 9 7 2 ♦ K Q 9 8 ♣ 7		♠ J 9 6 ♥ J 8 5 ♦ 7 6 4 3 ♣ A Q 9				
	♠ 10 7 ♥ K 6 4 3 ♦ A 10 5 2 ♣ J 10 5					

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Morse	Kowalski	Wolff	Romanski
Pass	1♣*	Pass	1♥
Dble	Rdble	Pass	Pass
1♠	2♣*	Pass	3♣
Pass	3♥	Pass	3♠
Pass	3NT	All Pass	
1♣ Polish			

East led the six of spades and West took the ace and had to choose between a spade continuation and a diamond switch. When he not unreasonably played back a spade declarer won, played a heart to the king and ran the ten of clubs. When that held he played another club and East won and switched to a diamond. West could win with the queen, but declarer did not need the ace of diamonds, simply knocking out the ace of clubs to record +600.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Russyan	Fisher	Lasocki	Hamilton
Pass	1♣	Pass	1♥
1♠	Dble	2♠	3♣
3♦	3♠	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

West led the king of diamonds and when that held he continued the suit. With the queen of clubs wrong declarer had to lose one spade, two diamonds and two clubs, -100 giving Poland another big swing, this one being worth 12 IMPs.

They won 43-16 IMPs, 21-9 VP, which left the two teams tied in fifth place.



At the halfway mark: China - the new favourites

by Christian Vennerød, Norway

The round robin consists of 21 rounds. After the 11th round, which team is the favourite to win the round robin? You may say that it is the top team in the rankings, but it is not quite that simple.

If you just look at the rankings, you do not take into account that the teams have met opponents of different quality. In fact, the eight teams on top will meet very different opposition in the second half of the tournament.

A simple table of how many top teams remain as opponents, tells a revealing story about the Bermuda Bowl:

	Number of top 8 teams to meet	ranking after 11 rounds
China	2	4
Norway	2	3
Italy	3	2
Russia	4	7
Netherlands	4	5
USA2	4	6
Argentina	4	8
Bulgaria	5	1

Bulgaria has had the easiest run. They have only met USA2 and China so far. This may have had some effect on their collection of victory points and their position on top of the rankings at the halfway point.

The table implies that China and Norway has had the toughest run so far. They have both met all but two of their hardest competitors for the quarterfinals.

Barry Rigal says that China is the team which has "absolutely impressed me the most" during play in the VuGraph.

To make a better prediction of which team will win the round robin, it is a good idea to take these three elements into consideration:

the present ranking, the difficulty of the opposition so far, and the performance in the VuGraph.

Taking it all in, China emerges as the favourite.

The German team is not among the top eight so far. That is a bit surprising, as they were losing semifinalists in the Beijing Olympics. However, they have had a rather tough first half, meeting five of the top eight teams. Their main rival may seem to be Argentina, which has met only three of the top eight. So, the odds may favour a switch of these teams in the final rankings.

The right choice

Here's a short quiz for you from round seven of the D'Orsi Seniors Bowl qualifying. You deal and open 2NT, holding

- ♠ A J
- ♥ K J 5
- ♦ K Q J 5
- ♣ A K 10 4

Your partner bids 3♠, a minor-suit slam try, promising at least 4-4 in the minors. Your choices are

- 4♣ Setting clubs as trumps
- 4♦ Setting diamonds as trumps
- 4♥ Roman Key Card Blackwood in clubs
- 4♠ Roman Key Card Blackwood in diamonds

You may have a preference for something else, but you must decide. What is your choice?

solution on page 18

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BERMUDA BOWL Round 8



Norway

v

Netherlands



The Ens Have It

by Phillip Alder

When European rivals Norway and the Netherlands met in round eight of the Bermuda Bowl, the Dutch were on top of the table, 6 victory points ahead of Norway, who were fourth.

First, a quick quiz.

1. At favorable vulnerability, you pick up:

- ♠ A Q 9 7 5
- ♥ A 5 2
- ♦ A 9 4
- ♣ 4 3

The auction goes:

West	North	East	South
	2♥ (a)	Pass	Pass
3♣	Pass	3NT	Dble
Pass	Pass	Pass	

(a) A weak two-bid, perhaps with only a five-card suit

What would you lead?

2.

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

You get to six spades after an uncontested auction that began with three passes. West leads the diamond queen and East drops the three (upside-down). What would you do?

The match had an interesting start:

Board 17. Dealer North. None vul.

♠ A Q 6 2 ♥ Q 10 5 3 2 ♦ A 4 ♣ Q 9	♠ K J 7 4 ♥ J 9 6 ♦ J 9 8 7 ♣ A K	♠ 10 3 ♥ A K 7 ♦ K 10 6 5 3 2 ♣ J 8	<table style="border: 1px solid black; width: 60px; height: 60px; margin: 0 auto;"> <tr><td></td><td style="text-align: center;">N</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">W</td><td></td><td style="text-align: center;">E</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td style="text-align: center;">S</td><td></td></tr> </table>		N		W		E		S	
	N											
W		E										
	S											
♠ 9 8 5 ♥ 8 4 ♦ Q ♣ 10 7 6 5 4 3 2												

West	North	East	South
<i>de Wijs</i>	<i>Lindqvist</i>	<i>Muller</i>	<i>Brogeland</i>
Pass	1♦	Pass	2♣!!
Pass	2NT	Pass	3♣
	3NT	All Pass	
West	North	East	South
<i>Austberg</i>	<i>Drijver</i>	<i>Saelensminde</i>	<i>Brink</i>
	1♣ (a)	1♦	3♣ (b)
Dble	Pass	3♦	All Pass

- (a) 4-plus clubs and unbalanced or 2-plus clubs and balanced 12-14 or 18-20
- (b) Weak -- as if you needed to be told!

In the Open Room, Boye Brogeland (South) decided to psych a two-club response. And for a moment he probably felt comfortable, when he could rebid a nonforcing three clubs. (Note that three clubs would have made.) But Espen Lindqvist (North), after a lengthy pause, decided to take a shot at three notrump, hoping his partner had an entry to his club suit.

The Norwegians were now in a contract that their opponents could make ... and did make, taking five hearts, one spade and three diamonds.

In the other room, where Erik Saelensminde (East) could sneak in a one-diamond overcall, Sjoert Brink (South) was happy to leap to three clubs. Per Erik Austberg (West) doubled to show cards, but then took the low road when East rebid only three diamonds (and missing a four-heart game).

South led a club, Bas Drijver (North) winning with his ace and immediately shifting to a trump. Declarer won with dummy's ace, played a diamond to his ten, cashed the diamond king, then played four rounds of hearts, discarding his club loser. East lost only one club and one diamond.

Plus 250 and minus 150 gave the Netherlands 3 IMPs.

The next seven boards were quiet, after which Norway had a 1-IMP lead. Then things livened up.

Board 25. Dealer North. East-West vul.

♠ J ♥ Q 4 ♦ J 7 3 ♣ A K J 9 7 6 2	<table style="border: 1px solid black; width: 60px; height: 60px; margin: auto;"> <tr><td></td><td style="text-align: center;">N</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">W</td><td></td><td style="text-align: center;">E</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td style="text-align: center;">S</td><td></td></tr> </table>		N		W		E		S		♠ 10 8 6 ♥ J 10 9 8 6 ♦ 8 5 2 ♣ Q 5	♠ K 4 3 2 ♥ K 7 3 ♦ K Q 10 6 ♣ 10 8
	N											
W		E										
	S											

West	North	East	South
de Wijs	Lindqvist	Muller	Brogeland
	2♦ (a)	Pass	2♥ (b)
3♣	Pass	3NT	Dble
All Pass			

- (a) Weak two-bid in a major (maybe a five-card suit at this vulnerability) or a balanced 24-plus
- (b) Pass or correct

West	North	East	South
Austberg	Drijver	Saelensminde	Brink
	2♥	Pass	Pass
3♣	Pass	3NT	Dble
All Pass			



Boye Brogeland, Norway

Similar auctions at each table, with both Norths opening the "obvious" weak two! But there were different results. Brogeland led the thoughtful spade ace: jack, eight (upside-down), two. Now a spade continuation would have defeated the contract, but not sure of the position, South shifted to the club four.

After a long pause, Bauke Muller called for dummy's two. North won with his queen and returned the spade ten. Declarer took his king and claimed six clubs for down two.

In the other room, Brink found a much worse lead: a low spade to dummy's jack. Declarer cashed the club ace, then played a diamond to his king, which held. Now came another club, and after a pause, East got it right, calling for dummy's king. Then South could not stop declarer from getting an overtrick at the end.

Plus 500 and plus 750 gave Norway 15 IMPs. More came on the next deal:

Board 26. Dealer East. Both vul.

♠ K Q 9 ♥ 9 8 6 2 ♦ 8 4 2 ♣ J 5 2	<table style="border: 1px solid black; width: 60px; height: 60px; margin: auto;"> <tr><td></td><td style="text-align: center;">N</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">W</td><td></td><td style="text-align: center;">E</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td style="text-align: center;">S</td><td></td></tr> </table>		N		W		E		S		♠ 10 2 ♥ A 10 7 3 ♦ A 10 9 5 3 ♣ A Q	♠ 8 5 3 ♥ 5 4 ♦ K J 7 6 ♣ K 10 9 4
	N											
W		E										
	S											

West	North	East	South
de Wijs	Lindqvist	Muller	Brogeland
Pass	2♦	Pass	1♠
Pass	2NT	Pass	2♠
All Pass		Pass	3NT

West	North	East	South
Austberg	Drijver	Saelensminde	Brink
Pass	2♣ (a)	Pass	1♠
Pass	2♥ (a)	Pass	2♦ (b)
Pass	3NT	All Pass	3♣ (c)

- (a) Game-forcing relay
- (b) A minimum
- (c) Exactly five spades and four clubs

In the Open Room, Muller led the club ten, which was fatal. Declarer Lindqvist won with his queen, played a heart to dummy's jack, and ran the diamond queen. East took his king and shifted to a spade, but North put up dummy's ace, cashed the heart king, overtook the heart queen with his ace, cashed the diamond ace, and drove out the diamond jack. The defenders took two spades, but declarer had nine winners: one spade, four hearts, three diamonds and two clubs.

At the other table, Saelensminde led a low diamond to dummy's queen. Declarer Drijver played a low spade toward his hand, West winning with his king and accurately shifting to a club, North's queen losing to East's king. Back came the club four to the jack and ace. Declarer then ran the spade ten, but West produced the queen and led his last club, giving the defense two spades and three clubs for down one.

Plus 600 and plus 100 gave Norway 12 IMPs and the lead by 28.

The Netherlands then scored 19 unanswered IMPs on the next five boards, this being the most interesting:

Board 28. Dealer West. North-South vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>de Wijs</i>	<i>Lindqvist</i>	<i>Muller</i>	<i>Brogeland</i>
Pass	1♣	1♠	4♥
4♠	4NT	Dble	Pass
5♠	Dble	All Pass	

West	North	East	South
<i>Austberg</i>	<i>Drijver</i>	<i>Saelensminde</i>	<i>Brink</i>
Pass	1♣	1♦	4♣ (a)
4♦	4NT (b)	5♦	Pass (c)
Pass	5♥	All Pass	

- (a) Hearts
- (b) Roman Key Card Blackwood
- (c) One key card or four key cards

Not many would have duplicated Saelensminde's one-diamond overcall. Yes, that was his stronger suit, but whenever we hold spades, we strain to bid them.

Five hearts lost only one diamond and one heart.

In the Open Room there was some confusion about four notrump. North thought it was RKCB in hearts, but South felt it showed two places to play. East's double expressed a desire to bid five spades unless his partner knew better. West did not, so sacrificed in five spades.

The defense was nearly perfect. South led his club, North taking the trick and shifting to his diamond. Declarer won in his hand and led the spade nine, which ran to North's ace. North cashed the club ace, then fell from grace. He failed to play another club, which his partner would have ruffed with his spade king and would have led back a diamond for North to ruff. Instead, North played a trump, so the contract went down two.

Plus 650 and minus 300 gave the Netherlands 8 IMPs.

Then came the final deal:

Board 32. Dealer West. East-West vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>de Wijs</i>	<i>Lindqvist</i>	<i>Muller</i>	<i>Brogeland</i>
Pass	Pass	Pass	1♠
Pass	2♣ (a)	Pass	3♥ (b)
Pass	3NT (c)	Pass	4♣ (d)
Pass	4♥ (d)	Pass	5NT
Pass	6♠	All Pass	

- (a) 8-11 points with exactly three spades
- (b) Splinter
- (c) Slam interest
- (d) Control-bids

West	North	East	South
<i>Austberg</i>	<i>Drijver</i>	<i>Saelensminde</i>	<i>Brink</i>
Pass	Pass	Pass	1♠
Pass	2♣ (a)	Pass	4♠
All Pass			

- (a) Drury fit: maximum pass with spades

In both rooms, West led the diamond queen.

Brink won with his ace, played a heart to dummy's ace, returned a diamond to his king, ruffed a diamond, ruffed a

The IBPA General Meeting and Annual Awards



The IBPA AGM and awards will be held in the WBF Meeting Room in the basement of the Hotel America at 10 a.m. on Monday, Sept. 7.

Papers for the AGM will be available in the Press Room beforehand. Papers on the awards will be available in the Press Room after the meeting.

Candidates to receive or present awards who are not IBPA members should be present at 10.30 a.m.

Patrick Jourdain, IBPA President

heart, ruffed a diamond, and played dummy's remaining trump to East's ten and his queen. It lost to the king, but the spade jack dropped a moment later and Brink had 12 tricks.

In the other room, Brogeland won with his diamond ace, cashed the diamond king, ruffed a diamond with the spade eight, and played a spade to his queen and West's king to give this position:

<p>♠ 5 4 ♥ K 10 7 4 ♦ -- ♣ 4 3 2</p>	<p>♠ 6 ♥ A J 9 6 5 ♦ -- ♣ A 10 9</p>	<p>♠ J ♥ Q 8 2 ♦ 10 ♣ J 8 7 5</p>	<table style="border: 1px solid black; width: 100%; height: 100%; text-align: center; margin: 0 auto;"> <tr><td>N</td><td>E</td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td>S</td></tr> </table> <p>♠ A 9 7 3 ♥ 3 ♦ 9 ♣ K Q 6</p>	N	E	W	S
N	E						
W	S						

With a tournament director threatening a slow-play penalty, West removed a trump from his hand, but put it back and shifted to a heart. Declarer won with dummy's ace, ruffed a heart, ruffed a diamond, played a club to his hand, cashed the spade ace, and claimed.

Minus 480 and plus 980 gave Norway 11 IMPs on the board and a match win by 48 IMPs to 28, or 20-10 in victory points.

You will have noticed that if West had returned a trump, the contract would have failed. Then the Netherlands would have gained 11 IMPs and won by 2 IMPs to tie the match 15-15. What a lot one card can mean.



VENICE CUP

Round 10



China Long Zhu v

by Brian Senior

At the end of Day 3, China Long Zhu led the Venice Cup qualification table while Pakistan was in the bottom half of the table. China being my fancy for the title this year, it was time to take a look at their form.

Board 17. Dealer North. None Vul.

<p>♠ 9 8 4 ♥ 9 6 ♦ K J 9 5 ♣ J 9 8 5</p>	<p>♠ Q 7 5 ♥ K Q 8 ♦ Q 6 3 2 ♣ A 7 3</p>	<p>♠ J 10 2 ♥ 7 5 4 3 ♦ 10 8 ♣ Q 6 4 2</p>	<table style="border: 1px solid black; width: 100%; height: 100%; text-align: center; margin: 0 auto;"> <tr><td>N</td><td>E</td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td>S</td></tr> </table> <p>♠ A K 6 3 ♥ A J 10 2 ♦ A 7 4 ♣ K 10</p>	N	E	W	S
N	E						
W	S						

West	North	East	South
Azwer	Sun	Agha	H Wang
Pass	1♦	Pass	1♥
All Pass	INT	Pass	3NT



Pakistan

West	North	East	South
Dong	Dossa	Yan	Abid
Pass	1♦	Pass	1♥
Pass	INT	Pass	2♠
All Pass	4♥	Pass	6NT

For China, Ming Sun opened 1♦, Precision, and her rebid showed 11-13. Hongli Wang simple raised to game. With spades four-four and the diamond onside, Sun soon came to 12 tricks for +490.

Qudisia Dossa also opened 1♦, natural, and rebid INT, 11-14, and Najm Abid showed her second suit. Dossa jumped to 4♥ suggesting a maximum with heart support, and Abid closed proceedings with a jump to 6NT.

Six No Trump is sub-par but not terrible, requiring the diamond to be onside plus either spades or diamonds to break three-three, with the extra chance of a squeeze. As the cards lie, it is cold.

Ru Yan led the jack of spades. Dossa won the ace to lead a low diamond towards her queen, Yongling Dong rising with the king and exiting with a spade. Dossa won the spade queen and cashed the ace and queen of diamonds then four rounds of hearts, Yan throwing her remaining spade. Dossa would appear to have missed this card because she continued by cashing the ♦K, ♣K and ♣A and hopefully playing the ♦6 to trick 13. When that lost she was one down for -50 and 11 IMPs to China when it should have been 11 in the opposite direction.

Board 18. Dealer East. N/S Vul.

	♠ J 10										
	♥ A 6 5 4										
	♦ Q 9										
	♣ 9 7 6 3 2										
♠ Q 8 7 5 2	<table border="1" style="text-align: center; width: 40px; height: 40px;"> <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		♠ K 4 3
		N									
W			E								
		S									
♥ K J 9		♥ Q 7 3 2									
♦ A 10 7 3 2	♦ 6 5 4										
♣ –	♣ 10 8 4										
	♠ A 9 6										
	♥ 10 8										
	♦ K J 8										
	♣ A K Q J 5										

West	North	East	South
Azwer	Sun	Agha	H Wang
		Pass	1♣
1♥	Dble	3♠	3NT
All Pass			

West	North	East	South
Dong	Dossa	Yan	Abid
		Pass	1♣
1♠	2♣	2♠	3♣
3♠	Pass	Pass	4♣
All Pass			

Wang opened a strong club and Zeenat Azwer made a transfer overcall of 1♥, over which Sun doubled to show values, usually 5-7, and Rubina Agha made a pre-emptive raise to 3♠. Wang bid a hopeful 3NT and played there.

Knowing that declarer had spades covered, Azwer tried a low diamond lead, Wang putting up dummy's queen. She cashed the clubs then played the king of diamonds. Azwer,



Hongli Wang, China Long Zhu

who had thrown two diamonds, two spades and a heart on the clubs, won the ace and switched to the king of hearts, ducked, then the ♥J to dummy's ace. Wang played the jack of spades to the king and ace, cashed the ♦J and played a spade. As Azwer had queen-eight remaining, she had to give declarer the last trick with the nine of spades; +630.

Abid opened a natural 1♣ and Dong made a natural overcall. With her partner supporting clubs and the opposition bidding and supporting spades, Abid seems to have given up on game and merely competed, first with 3♣ then 4♣, where she was allowed to play. After a spade lead, Abid lost one trick in each side suit; +130 but 11 IMPs to China, who led by 22-0 after just two deals.

If the start suggested that this might be a big win for China, it didn't turn out quite like that. System had a big part to play in this Pakistan game.

Board 22. Dealer East. E/W Vul.

	♠ K J										
	♥ 7 3										
	♦ A J 7 4 3										
	♣ J 8 6 2										
♠ 10 5 4 3 2	<table border="1" style="text-align: center; width: 40px; height: 40px;"> <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 9 8 7
		N									
W			E								
		S									
♥ A Q 8 5 2		♥ K									
♦ K 6	♦ 10 5 2										
♣ 3	♣ A K 9 7 4										
	♠ A 6										
	♥ J 10 9 6 4										
	♦ Q 9 8										
	♣ Q 10 5										

West	North	East	South
Azwer	Sun	Agha	H Wang
		1♣	1♥
1♠	Dble	2♠	Pass
4♠	All Pass		

West	North	East	South
Dong	Dossa	Yan	Abid
		2♣	Pass
2♥	All Pass		

Agha opened a natural 1♣ and raised Azwer's 1♠ response to 2♠, Azwer going on to game – all very straightforward.

To beat 4♠, Sun had to lead the jack of spades to Wang's ace for a diamond through the king. Unsurprisingly, that proved to be beyond her. She led a heart, the suit her partner had bid. Azwer won the heart king and played two top clubs for a diamond pitch then ruffed a club and led a spade. Sun won the king and returned the ♠J to the ace and there was just one diamond to take; +620.

In the other room, the Precision 2♣ opening did not show up well. Yan opened 2♣ and Dong responded 2♥, constructive but not forcing. A 2♠ rebid would have shown a better hand so Yan passed, and the nine-card spade fit was missed. Dossa tried a low diamond lead, the queen losing to the king. Dong cashed the king of hearts and played ace,

king and a third club, ruffing and cashing a top heart. When the hearts proved to be five-two, she was a trick short; -100 and 12 IMPs to Pakistan.

Board 29. Dealer North. All Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Azwer	Sun	Agha	H Wang
	Pass	1♠	2♦
2♠	Pass	3♦	Pass
4♠	Pass	4NT	Pass
5♦	Pass	6♠	All Pass

West	North	East	South
Dong	Dossa	Yan	Abid
	Pass	1♣	1♦
1♥	Pass	1♠	Pass
2♠	Pass	3♦	Pass
4♦	Pass	4NT	Pass
5♣	Pass	5♦	Pass
6♠	All Pass		

Both East/West pairs bid confidently to their cold slam. Agha opened 1♠ and made a short-suit game try at her next turn. When Azwer could jump to game, Agha asked for key cards then jumped to 6♠. Yan opened a strong club and heard her partner make a natural positive response. When Dong next raised spades, Yan cuebid and also launched into RKCB when Dong cooperated. Dong showed one key card so Yan checked for the queen of trumps and Dong jumped to slam to show it but nothing else of interest.

There was nothing to the play – flat at +1430.

Board 31. Dealer South. N/S Vul.

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

♠ 9 7 3 ♥ J 10 8 6 4 ♦ A 6 ♣ Q 5 4

Both Easts opened 1NT and declared 3NT after a transfer sequence and both Souths, seeing no future in hearts, led a spade.

Abid led the ♠7 and Yan won immediately. She crossed to dummy with the nine of hearts, covered with the ten, then led the three of diamonds to the queen and ace. That might have been a clever play had South held the long spades but on the actual layout it pretty well forced the defence to win the first diamond in the right hand from their perspective, not declarer's. Abid continued with the nine of spades, ducked, and her third spade, and that was one down for -50.

Wang led the nine of spades, making it a little clearer that she would have the shorter spade holding. Agha ducked so Wang continued with a second spade, which Agha won. She led a low diamond from hand and Wang played low. Sun thought for a long time but finally got it right, ducking her king. Agha had nowhere else to go for tricks so played a second diamond and Wang wasted no time in returning her remaining spade. When Sun won the third diamond she had two spade winners; down one for a flat board.

China won the match by 39-20 IMPs, 19-11 VPs, so after the first two deals, Pakistan had actually won the remaining boards by 20-17.

That last contract can be made if declarer ducks the first two rounds of spades. That could prove dangerous if spades are four-four and the defence can switch effectively to hearts to establish a fifth winner, but on the actual lie it brings home the contract.

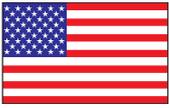
Renee Mancuso for USA2 was one declarer to find the winning play against Italy. That held her team's loss on the board to 1 IMP as the lead in the other room was a heart. USA2 won that match by 16-14 VPs.



photo by Ron Tacchi

Ming Sun, China Long Zhu

BERMUDA BOWL Round 8



USA 2

v

Bulgaria



A place in line

by Brent Manley

USA2 and Bulgaria, two teams that were doing well in the Bermuda Bowl, met in round eight. It was no surprise that it was a close, well-played match with only one swing in double digits. Both seem destined to make the top eight and thus qualify to play in the knockout phase.

Bulgaria struck first for 1 IMP when Julian Stefanov and Victor Aronov in the closed room played 4♥ for plus 420 on their eight card fit while Zia Mahmood and Bob Hamman played in 3NT with ♣Q 9 opposite ♣J 8 – and a club lead. Fortunately for Zia, opening leader's clubs were A-K doubleton. Zia could have made 10 tricks for a push, but it would have involved finessing into the hand with a lot of good clubs.

On board 22, both declarers played opposite voids in their trumps suits, but Meckstroth had an extra trump and better spot cards in his 6-0 fit.

Board 22. Dealer East. E/W Vul.

♠ 9 8 4 ♥ Q 8 7 4 ♦ Q 8 7 4 ♣ 8 7	<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		♠ A K 7 ♥ J 9 6 2 ♦ A 6 3 ♣ K Q 10	♠ J 10 6 ♥ A K 10 5 3 ♦ — ♣ A J 9 6 4
	N											
W		E										
	S											
West Aronov	North Rodwell	East Stefanov 1♣	South Meckstroth 3♦									

All Pass

Aronov led the ♣7 (low from doubletons) to dummy's ace. Meckstroth cashed two high hearts, pitching his two losing clubs, then he ruffed a heart and played a spade to the jack. East won and played the ♣K, but Meckstroth won to play the ♠Q from hand. East won again and played the ♣Q, ruffed by Meckstroth as West discarded his third spade. Now a spade by declarer was ruffed by West, who exited with a low trump. East won the ♦A and could have assured two down by returning a trump, but he played the fourth round of hearts, allowing Meckstroth to make another trump trick for one down and minus 50.

West	North	East	South
Zia	Karakolev	Hamman	Danailov
Pass	2♥	INT	Pass
Pass		All Pass	

Georgi Karakolev had one fewer trumps than Meckstroth and took two fewer tricks. Hamman started with the ♠K, switching to the ♣K at trick two. Declarer ducked, and Hamman continued with the ♣Q. Declarer won the ace and played three rounds of trumps. Hamman won the third and gave Zia a club ruff. When Zia exited with a diamond, Karakolev discarded instead of ruffing, so Hamman won and had two more tricks to cash for two down and 2 IMPs to USA2.

This deal produced a modest swing for USA2.

Board 25. Dealer North. E/W Vul.

♠ J ♥ Q 4 ♦ J 7 3 ♣ A K J 9 7 6 2	<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		♠ K 4 3 2 ♥ K 7 3 ♦ K Q 10 6 ♣ 10 8	♠ 10 8 6 ♥ J 10 9 8 6 ♦ 8 5 2 ♣ Q 5
	N											
W		E										
	S											
West Aronov 3♣	North Rodwell Pass Pass	East Stefanov 1♦ 3NT	South Meckstroth 1♠ All Pass									

Meckstroth started with his fourth-best spade, won in dummy. Declarer cashed two high clubs and continued with the suit, pitching down to the ♠K 4, ♥K and ♦K Q. Meckstroth came down to the ♠A Q, singleton ♥A and the ♦A 9. When declarer played a diamond to his king, Meckstroth won the ♦A, cashed the ♥A and exited with his diamond, taking two spades in the end. That was plus 600.

West	North	East	South
Zia	Karakolev	Hamman	Danailov
2♣	Pass	Pass	1♠
3NT	2♠	2NT	Pass
	All Pass		

Danailov also led the ♠7, but Hamman did not cash his clubs right away. Instead, he played a diamond to his king. Danailov won the ace, cashed the ♥A and exited with a

heart. When clubs proved to be 2-2, Hamman had 11 tricks and 2 IMPs for his team.

The only double-digit swing of the match came on this deal.

Board 26. Dealer East. All Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Aronov</i>	<i>Rodwell</i>	<i>Stefanov</i>	<i>Meckstroth</i>
Pass	2♦	Pass	1♠
Pass	3NT	All Pass	2NT

Aronov started with a low heart. Meckstroth won in hand and ran the ♦Q at trick two. Stefanov won the ♦K and played a spade. Meckstroth went up with the ace, cashed the ♥K, then overtook the ♥J with the ace to cash the 10, then played the ♦A and ♦10. East won the ♦J and played a spade, but that was only two more tricks. Meckstroth recorded plus 600.

At the other table, Zia found the killing opening lead. The auction was identical to that of the closed room, and Zia found the lead of a low club. Declarer put in the queen, but Hamman won the king and returned the ♣4, Zia unblocking the jack. Declarer played a spade to his jack and Zia's queen, and Zia put his partner in with a club. Hamman cashed another club and got out with a spade. Declarer put up the ace but had to concede the setting trick to the third round of spades. Plus 100 was good for 12 IMPs to USA 2, now in the lead 21-6.

The lead was 23-6 when Bulgaria made some headway.

Board 28. Dealer West. N/S Vul.

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

♠ K 2 ♥ A Q J 10 8 4 2 ♦ J 9 2 ♣ 4

West	North	East	South
<i>Aronov</i>	<i>Rodwell</i>	<i>Stefanov</i>	<i>Meckstroth</i>
Pass	2♣	2♠	4♥
4♠	4NT	Pass	5♦
Dble	5♥	5♠	Dble
All Pass			

Meckstroth led his singleton club to Rodwell's jack. Rodwell cashed the ♣K, Meckstroth discarding the ♥2, and switched to his singleton diamond. Stefanov won the ♦A and played a spade to the queen and Rodwell's ace. When Rodwell played the ♣A, Meckstroth alertly ruffed with the ♠K and gave Rodwell a diamond ruff, extracting the maximum penalty from the sacrifice. Plus 500 wasn't good enough, however.

West	North	East	South
<i>Zia</i>	<i>Karakolev</i>	<i>Hamman</i>	<i>Danailov</i>
Pass	2♣	Pass	4♥
Pass	Pass	4♠	Dble
Pass	5♥	All Pass	

The defense had a diamond and a heart coming, but that was all. Plus 650 meant 4 IMPs to Bulgaria.

Two boards later, Bulgaria closed the gap even more.

Board 30. Dealer East. N/S Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Aronov</i>	<i>Rodwell</i>	<i>Stefanov</i>	<i>Meckstroth</i>
1♥	4♠	1♦	Dble
Dble	All Pass	Pass	Pass

Stefanov must have been nervous to hear his partner double considering the shortage of high cards and quick tricks in his hand, but Aronov had him covered with his two aces. Rodwell could do no better than minus 300.

West	North	East	South
<i>Zia</i>	<i>Karakolev</i>	<i>Hamman</i>	<i>Danailov</i>
1♥	1♠	Pass	1♦
Pass	2♠	Dble	Redbl
		All Pass	

Karakolev had the same eight tricks for plus 110, good for a 9-IMP swing to Bulgaria.

The final score was 24-22 for USA2, a 15-15 tie in victory points.

Solution to 'The Right Choice'

(problem on page 9)

This was the full deal

Board 9. Dealer North. E/W Vul.

<p>♠ A J ♥ K J 5 ♦ K Q J 4 ♣ A K 10 4</p>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: 60px; margin: 0 auto;"> <p style="margin: 0;">N</p> <p style="margin: 0;">W E</p> <p style="margin: 0;">S</p> </div>	<p>♠ 8 ♥ A 9 6 4 ♦ A 9 7 2 ♣ Q 6 5 2</p>
<p>♠ K 7 2 ♥ Q 10 8 7 3 2 ♦ 8 6 3 ♣ J</p>	<p>♠ Q 10 9 6 5 4 3 ♥ — ♦ 10 5 ♣ 9 8 7 3</p>	

This was the auction

West	North	East	South
	2NT	Pass	3♠ (1)
Pass	4♠ (2)	All Pass	

- (1) Both minors, slam interest.
(2) Roman Key Card Blackwood in diamonds.

Explanation: the bidding tray was not completely under the screen, so South did not see the 2NT opening. The 4♠ RKCB for diamonds was very much the right choice. If you chose any other bid, who knows where you would land.

Masud Salim

by Zia Mahmood

I first met Masud Salim, who died on Sunday, when we were in our early 20s. I had just caught the bridge bug and an addicted group of us would play until early morning at a local club, often ending up on the street under a lamppost when they closed the doors.

I recall that Masud hardly knew any English and he had never read a bridge book, but he never needed to. He was one of those who, when he touched the cards, they responded like the keyboard of a piano to the touch of a maestro. He was simply a natural, gifted with God-given talent and temperament to match.

We soon became partners and played together in the Pakistani national team.

In my youth my game was, I confess, on occasion eccentric and I remember Masud gently rebuking me on more than one occasion after some particularly obtuse action – curve ball, if you will – I had taken.

“Zia,” he said to me, “you know I love you like a brother. Why do you want to make me crazy?”

Similar words have been spoken to me by subsequent partners, sadly all without the love part.

In later life, Masud played less bridge as his health declined because of diabetes. I was happy three years ago to have the opportunity to play with him one last time in a tournament in Karachi. He was confined to a wheelchair, having lost both legs to his disease, but he played with his old intensity to carry us to victory.

I remember being cross with him only once, in Tokyo. We all sat down to eat his home-cooked food, and he warned that it was *really* spicy, and he was right! That day I learned what a bottom in bridge is really about!

Goodbye, dear friend.

You know I love you, too.

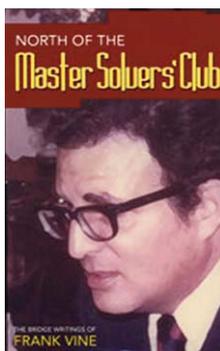
Master Point Press Books of the Year

For the first time in its short history, the IBPA Master Point Press Book of the Year award has joint winners. “Right through the Pack Again” by Ron Klinger and “North of the Master Solvers’ Club” by Frank Vine each collected precisely the same number of votes and marks for the award. In Solomonic fashion, there is no tie-breaking procedure.



Ron Klinger (Australia), “Right through the Pack Again”, Ron Klinger Bridge, Sydney, 2009, 222 pages

Frank Vine (Canada), “North of the Master Solvers’ Club”, Master Point Press, Toronto, 2008, 183 pages



Shortlist:

Augie Boehm (USA): “Wielding the Axe – The Vanishing Art of the Penalty Double”, HNB Publishing, New York, 2008, 162 pp

Ian McCance (Australia): “The Setting Trick – Practical Problems in Bridge Defense”, Master Point Press, Toronto, 2008, 159 pages

Gary M. Pomerantz (USA): “The Devil’s Tickets”, Crown Publishers, New York, 2009, 289 pages

Frank Stewart (USA): “Frank Stewart’s World of Bridge”, Vivishere Publishing, New York, 2008, 268 pages

El Que Ríe Ultimo... Ríe Mejor...

Por Fernando Lema y Ana Roth

En la última ronda del 1 de septiembre, Argentina ubicada 5° en la clasificatoria se enfrentó a China que estaba 3°. China tomó la delantera en la mano 3 y llegó a la última mano del match con 4 IMPs de ventaja.

Mano 16 : Dador Oeste, E/O Vulnerable

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

Sala Cerrada:

Oeste	Norte	Este	Sur
	<i>Pellegrini</i>		<i>Ravenna</i>
1♣	2♦	Doblo	Paso
3♥	Paso	3NT	Fin

Salida: ♦4

Ravenna salió al palo de su compañero con su único diamante, el declarante tomó con el ♦A del muerto y jugó un corazón chico al ♥K seco de su mano, Sur ganó la baza con su ♥A y volvió trébol. El ♣K del muerto fue baza, y el declarante probó el corazón. La distribución amigable del palo lo llevó a tenderse con 12 bazas.

Sala Abierta:

Oeste	Norte	Este	Sur
<i>Lambardi</i>		<i>Ventin</i>	
1♥	Paso	1♠	Paso
2♣	Paso	2♦	Paso
2♠	Paso	2NT	Paso
3♥	Paso	4NT	Paso
5♠	Paso	6NT	Fin.



Paolo Ravenna, JC Ventin, Ana Roth y Pablo Lambardi

Lambardi abrió la mano de 1♥ y Ventin contestó 1♠. Lambardi ahora dijo 2 tréboles relay y el 2♦ de Ventin fue otro relay... Oeste mostró sus 3 cartas de espadas con 2♠, Ventin aclaró que solo tenía 4 cartas de ese palo. Cuando Lambardi mostró su corazón sexto, Ventin revalorizó su ♥K seco y se tomó el buque... preguntó ases y la respuesta de Lambardi lo llevo al nivel de 6NT.

Salida: ♣6

El ♣K del muerto hizo la baza. El declarante siguió con un corazón chico a su ♥K y cuando este fue baza, jugo trébol a la ♣Q del muerto... se tendió una vez que salió el ♥A... para sumar 13 IMPs y ganar el match.

Al finalizar el match Argentina y China quedaron empatados en el quinto puesto de la clasificatoria.

Para pensar un poco... este slam sólo se jugo en 5 de las 22 mesas de la Bermuda Bowl... en 2 mesas de la Venice Cup (incluyendo a las damas argentinas)... y en 4 mesas de la d'Orsi Senior Bowl... solo el 16% de las veces...

Una Mano Problemática

Por Fernando Lema y Ana Roth

La última mano del décimo Round del 2 de Setiembre, tuvo en la subasta un denominador común: 61 de las 66 mesas llegaron al contrato de 4♥... sin embargo solo se cumplió en 13 mesas... veamos la mano y como se ganó en una de las mesas con salida del ♠8:

Mano 32: Dador Oeste, E/O Vulnerable.

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

Contrato 4♥ declarante Oeste

Salida: ♠8

El declarante gana con el ♠A y jugó ♣4 al ♣K, Sur tomó con su ♣A y jugó el ♠7. Oeste ganó con su ♠K y jugó el ♣J, Norte ganó con la ♣Q y devolvió el ♦9, el ♦A del muerto fue baza y siguió el ♣9 que Sur cubrió con su ♣10 y el declarante falló en su mano.

Continuo con el ♠2 fallado en el muerto y ahora el ♣8 para descartar su ♦6 de la mano y el fallo de Sur. Si Norte vuelve triunfo gana en su mano falla otro ♠ y se tiende si vuelve diamante falla en la mano falla otro ♠ y se tiende.

Dos Titanes se Enfrentan

Por Fernando Lema y Ana Roth

El día 2 de septiembre comenzó con el enfrentamiento de Noruega e Italia dos de los punteros de la competencia. Cuando en el Olimpo dos dioses se enfrentan los simples mortales observamos con mucho respeto...y había 5000 de ellos en el VG de BBO.

En la primer mano Brogeland invitó a slam con un 4NT cuantitativo y Lindquist dio los 6NT...en la otra mesa Versace también invitó a Lauria con el mismo canto...pero Lorenzo no lo consideró oportuno y su paso costó 11 IMPs.

En la 2° mano Fantoni-Nunes se sacrificaron en 4♠ no vulnerables sobre un 3NT tendidos...y dieron una sola multa, en la otra mesa los noruegos dejaron jugar 3NT y el match volvió a foja cero...lo que no duró mucho...

En la mano siguiente una sobre baza le rindió 1 IMP a Noruega...pero la 4° mano produjo un swing de 13 IMPs a favor de Italia cuando Fantoni-Nunes subastaron y cumplieron 6♦ y Noruega se quedaba en 5♦ hechos con una sobre-baza.

La 5° mano fue empatada, pero en la 6° Noruega recuperó 9 IMPs cuando contrató 4♠ hechos con sobre baza, e Italia se quedó en 2♠...Inmediatamente se produjo un swing de 14 a favor de Italia...Ambos subastaron 3NT jugados por Sur.

Mano 23: Dador Sur, Todos Vulnerable

♠ J 8 3 ♥ 6 5 4 ♦ K J 3 ♣ 8 6 5 3	♠ K 9 5 4 ♥ A 10 9 ♦ 6 2 ♣ J 9 7 2	<table style="margin: auto; border: 1px solid black; text-align: center; width: 60px; height: 60px;"> <tr><td></td><td>N</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>O</td><td></td><td>E</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td>S</td><td></td></tr> </table>		N		O		E		S		♠ A Q 6 ♥ J 8 3 ♦ A 9 8 7 4 ♣ 10 4
	N											
O		E										
	S											
	♠ 10 7 2 ♥ K Q 7 2 ♦ Q 10 5 ♣ A K Q											

Salida: ♣3

Brogeland hizo la baza con el ♣K y jugó el ♠2 al ♠K de la mesa que Fantoni cubrió con su ♠A...dos segundos después el ♦4 estaba sobre la mesa como así la suerte del contrato...Brogeland jugó chico pero los Italianos le corrieron los 5 diamantes y dos espadas mas...para 4 abajo.

En la otra mesa Groetheim tuvo la mala idea de salir del ♦J...y fueron sus últimas palabras...su compañero ganó la baza con el ♦A y volvió el ♦4...Versace puso la ♦Q...que Oeste sobre-tomó con su ♦K...pero el ♦10 ganó la vuelta de diamante y Versace se tendió haciendo 4 corazones, 4 tréboles y un diamante. Italia ganaba por 38 a 21.

En la 10° mano ambos equipos contrataron 4♠ por Oeste...pero Italia se llevó la presea de 13 IMPs cuando fue el único que los cumplió.

Mano 26: Dador Sur, Todos Vulnerable. N/S= Lauria-Versace, E/O=Groetheim-Tundal

♠ A 10 8 3 2 ♥ 10 ♦ A J 10 2 ♣ A K 2	♠ K Q ♥ K Q 9 ♦ 9 7 ♣ J 9 8 6 5 3	<table style="margin: auto; border: 1px solid black; text-align: center; width: 60px; height: 60px;"> <tr><td></td><td>N</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>O</td><td></td><td>E</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td>S</td><td></td></tr> </table>		N		O		E		S		♠ J 6 4 ♥ A J 8 6 5 2 ♦ 4 ♣ Q 7 4
	N											
O		E										
	S											
	♠ 9 7 5 ♥ 7 4 3 ♦ K Q 8 6 5 3 ♣ 10											

Salida: ♠K

Lauria salió de su ♠K que el declarante ganó en su mano con el ♠A, para seguir ♦A de su mano y diamante fallo, volver a su mano con el ♣A y fallar otro diamante con el último triunfo de la mesa.

Ahora adelanto el ♥A, ♥ fallo en la mano y ♣K...que Versace falló con el ♠5 para jugar ♦K que fue baza y ♦Q...fallo del declarante contrafallo de Lauria...y el ♠9 de Versace fue la multa.

En la otra mesa Lindquist salió del ♦9, el ♦4 de la mesa, ♦Q Brogeland y ♦A Nunes. Continuo fallando un diamante en el muerto, volvió a su mano con el ♣A y jugó diamante, Norte fallo con su ♠Q y Nunes descartó un trébol del muerto. Lindquist volvió trébol para el fallo de su compañero que salió de su mano jugando triunfo...Nunes puso el ♠A y pescó el ♠K de Lindquist...falló su último diamante y se tendió...El match finalizó...ganando Italia 53 a 36...



Fulvio Fantoni, Italy