



Daily Bulletin

World Bridge Championships



Hotel Transamérica - São Paulo - Brazil

29 August - 12 September 2009



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Issue No. 15

Saturday Evening, 12 September 2009

USA RECAPTURES BERMUDA BOWL, ZIMMERMANN WINS TRANSNATIONAL



Bermuda Bowl winners: Zia Mahmood, Bob Hamman, Eric Rodwell, coach Eric Kokish, Jeff Meckstroth, npc Donna Compton, Nick Nickell and Ralph Katz.

The team captained by Nick Nickell stormed back from a 57-1 shellacking in the second set against Italy, built a big lead then turned back every challenge by their opponents to win the most coveted prize in bridge – the Bermuda Bowl. The final score was 285.33-249.

Even after winning the penultimate set 54-26, Italy needed a big showing over the final 16 deals to take back the title they have won so many times over the years. Italy made some gains against the Americans, but the set ended virtually even, 28-24 to Italy.

The victorious USA2 squad includes two first-time winners: Zia Mahmood and Ralph Katz. Nick Nickell, Bob Hamman, Jeff Meckstroth and Eric Rodwell all have multiple wins in the event, including four times as teammates.

The silver medallists are Alfredo Versace, Lorenzo Lauria, Fulvio Fantoni, Claudio Nunes, Antonio Sementa and Giorgio Duboin.

In the World Transnational Open Teams, the team captained by Pierre Zimmermann gained 3 IMPs on the last deal to win a tightly fought match with Apreo Logistic Poland by the final score of 95.5-93.

Zimmermann trailed after the first of three sets 34-32.5, but they won the next one 36-29 and rallied on the final deal for the victory.



WBF President José Damiani, second from left, with the World Transnational Open Teams champions: Adam Zmudzinski, Geir Helgemo, Pierre Zimmerman, Cezary Balicki, Tor Helness and Franck Multon.

Zimmermann was playing with Franck Multon, Adam Zmudzinski, Cezary Balicki, Geir Helgemo and Tor Helness. The runners-up at Piotr Gawrys, Krzyszto Kotorowicz, Jacek Kalita, Krzysztof Buras and Jacek Psczcola.

Third place in the event went to Team Deutschland: Alexander Smirnov, Michael Gromoeller, Josef Piekarek and Andreas Kirmse.

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RESULTS



Bermuda Bowl

Finals

Tbl		c/o	Boards 1 - 16	Boards 17 - 32	Boards 33 - 48	Boards 49 - 64	Boards 65 - 80	Boards 81 - 96	Boards 97 - 112	Boards 113 - 128	Total
1	Italy	0	19	57	17	14	24	36	54	28	249
	USA 2	8.33	46	1	47	57	48	28	26	24	285.33



World Transnational Open Teams

Finals

Tbl		c/o	Boards 1 - 16	Boards 17 - 32	Boards 33 - 48	Total
61	Zimmermann	5.50	27	36	27	95.50
	Apreo Logistic Poland	0	34	29	30	93

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



Thank you!

On behalf of the IBPA-members in São Paulo I would like to thank the WBF and the Brazilian Bridge Federation for the facilities offered in the Press Room. A special thank you goes to Ernesto d'Orsi for organizing the IBPA-outing to Guarujá Beach: a dip in the Atlantic Ocean and a 5-star lunch!

Jan Swaan
Press Room Manager

Missed a Bulletin Issue?



You can find all the Daily Bulletins of the 39th World Bridge Team Championships on the WBF website. They are in pdf format and in color. Follow the link link to go to the direct 'download' page:

www.worldbridge.org/tourn/SaoPaulo.09/Bulletins.htm

There is also a comprehensive collection of all past WBF events' bulletins, since 1995, at:

www.worldbridge.org/download.asp

Duplimate Discounts



The Duplimate dealing machines used at these championships will be sold at the end of the event with a 20% discount.

WBF PRESIDENT'S CLOSING SPEECH

And so another excellent championship draws to a close. Once again, Ernesto d'Orsi has pulled out all the stops and organized a truly spectacular event in typical Brazilian style. Ernesto, it is difficult to find adequate words to express our deep appreciation and gratitude to you for all that you have done. You have worked tirelessly, not only before the championship itself, but throughout the past two weeks, overseeing even the most minor of details. Thank you from all of us and a big thank you to Cecilia for your charming support.

The hospitality and warmth of the "Paulistas" is legendary and makes any trip to Brazil that much more enjoyable as I am sure all you players and officials have realized.

Ernesto was ably assisted by his wonderful Championship Local Operations people, who have put themselves out to see that everything runs smoothly and have assisted players and officials alike with a multitude of requests. Their kindness and efficiency is unparalleled. All the people from the Federação Brasileira de Bridge and the Confederação Sudamericana de Bridge have gone out of their way to ensure that the tournament has run extremely smoothly, something that I am sure you, the players, have greatly appreciated.

The bridge has, as usual, been of a very high standard and has produced some very close matches providing lots of excitement in the marvellous auditorium. I am, as always, very impressed with your ethics, deportment and sportsmanship and the spirit that you bring to our great sport.

I am delighted to congratulate the winners and the medallists. It's really interesting to note that there are more countries than ever in this medal role, particularly from Asia – the first victory for the Chinese Women's Teams after so many attempts. Four of the

team members – Liu Yi Qian, Sun Ming, Wang Hongli and Wang Wenfei finally became World Grand Masters as they so rightly deserved, as did Zhong Fu who played a great championship with his teammates. Many people in China are very proud of this performance

especially Mr. Deng Guangen, president of the WBF Congress. The bronze medal for Indonesia was also well deserved. And there was the usual battle between the USA and Italy in the Open with the USA triumphing as expected. The team members have an impressive history. This is the 10th time that Bob Hamman has won the Bermuda Bowl and he has come second 6 times. Meckwell have done well, well well! They have won the Bermuda Bowl 5 times now. For Nick Nickell this is the 4th time he

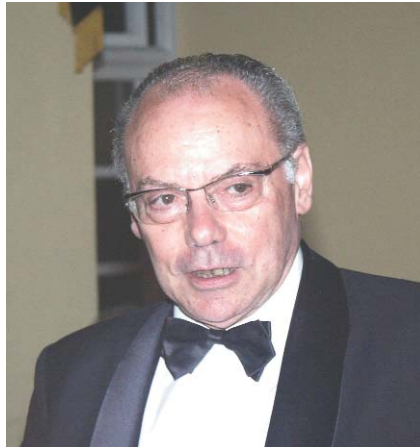
has won but it is the first time for both Zia Mahmood and Ralph Katz, the latter of whom also becomes a WGM. Some other European countries also did well, in particular England, Bulgaria, Poland and France.

However, I do not forget those amongst you who do not come up to the podium. You too are winners for participating in a great Championships and I thank you all for being here with us in São Paulo increasing the field with the Generali World Transnational Open Teams and the São Paulo Cup.

As I am sure you will recognize, there is an enormous amount of work involved in the organization of our Bridge Championships; the technology involved, the scoring – there are so many aspects, many of them unseen by you the players. There are many staff who have worked long and hard throughout this fortnight. Your support is vital and very much appreciated and I share in Ernesto's thanks to you all.

Have a safe trip home and we will look forward to seeing you in Philadelphia next year.

José Damiani, WBF President



CLOSING SPEECH FROM ERNESTO D'ORSI

Everything has to have an end, so this championship is about to finish. I have good experience in organizing bridge championships, but I must say that this one was something very special, because we never before had so many people from so many countries.

Thirty-six countries were represented here and nothing less than 600 players and officials had the opportunity of enjoying beautiful sunshine and somewhat scary storms. As you see, we could provide anything to cover the most varied tastes.

Also, I hope they could feel the warm hospitality of the "paulistas." We tried to be as helpful as possible and hope to have succeeded. And this only was possible thanks to the dedication of the hospitality and the organizational teams, with the great help of the hotel people, who were always available and willing to serve.

On the technical side of the organization, the extremely competent WBF staff gave us another lesson in competence and efficiency. The fantastic scoring system run by Tomas Brenning ably assisted by Carl Ragnarsson, Gianluca Barrese and Andreas Winge, and display of results, the intelligent on-line line-up, and the perfect duplication of 37,080 boards by Monica Gorreri and Franco Crosta built the frame of a tournament played with the highest level of ethics and skill that can be expected from the bridge players fighting for a world title.

But there was also the spectacle of the vu-graph with the dramatic images of the players in action, the perfect display of the hand and its development, and the presentation of the results of all competitions simultaneously. Operators and commentators Jean-Paul Meyer, Gabino Cintra, Barry Rigal and P.O. Sundelin, deserve our compliments and admiration.

In addition to all this fantastic apparatus, the indispensable team of tournament directors headed by Max Bavin and assisted by Gustavo Chediak, Bertrand Gignoux, Rui Marques, Jeanne Meiracker, Antonio Riccardi and Matt Smith. The best possible thing to be said about them is that they performed an irreproachable job.

The Bulletin Team, with its coordinator Jean-Paul Meyer, Editor Brent Manley, Phillip Alder, Mark Horton, Brian Senior, Layout editor Akis Kanaris and Web Editor Fotis Skoularikis and photographers Tatiana Barreto and Carol Folhasi.

The internet vu-graph broadcasts were provided by Bridge Base on Line.

The Press Room was ably overseen by Jan Swaan.

Behind the scenes on the technical side, Harvey Fox coordinated the IT, keeping the computers linked and the internet alive. Christine Francin, Anna Gudge and Carol von Linstow working within the WBF Secretariat.



Hervé Lustman and Jessie Carboneaux ran the Internet Vu-Graph working closely with the Vu-Graph team of Bernard Delange, Bernadette Pasquier and Isabelle Barrière.

Maurizio De Sacco did an excellent job of overseeing the entire operation with care and skill, working tirelessly throughout the event ably assisted by Duccio Geronimi and Manolo Eminent.

We also have to thank the Appeals Committee, under the able Chairmanship of Joan Gerard: José Damiani, Grattan Endicott (Co-ordinator), Jens Auken, Ron Gerard, Eric Kokish, Ton Kooijmand, Jean-Paul

Meyer, Jeffrey Polisner, Brian Senior, P.O. Sundelin and John Wignall.

Last, but certainly not least, I would like to thank "my" people, without whom I would never have been able to organize this Championship. They are Gabriela Bandeira, Roberto Barbosa, Renato Barros, Aline Biondillo, Paulo Brum, Samanta Carvalho, Claudia Cavalcanti, Matilde Confalonieri, Germana d'Orsi, Fernanda Joanitti, Andrea Junqueira, Hamilton Kabe, Dayse Kennedy, Nalita Hall, Sonia Landau, Fernanda Lema, Cecilia Malata, Gabriel Marccioni, Laurita Marccioni, Paula Marcondes, Marina Milos, Emilia Nunes, Bruno Pacheco, Lucilia Pereira, Tamara Pereira de Souza, Maria Lucia Racy, Hamilton Takeoka, Ariane Toledo and Miguel Villa-Boas Filho. My thanks also to Alexandre, Artur, Constantino, Felipe and Renan and to the Argentinians Christian, Daniel and Felipe

To my colleagues, bridge players, congratulations. The winners deserve their prizes, but the non-winners also deserve our recognition for their efforts and sportsmanship.

Finally, I want to say a special word to my friend José Damiani, WBF President, with whom I have been working with in perfect harmony for the last 25 years at least, the last 15 being proud of having him as the WBF President. Thank you, José, for giving us the chance to organize and stage such a splendid competition.

A special word also to the President elect – another friend – Gianarrigo Rona, who will head the WBF from 2011 on. Gianni, I wish you all the best, you can always count on my collaboration.

In conclusion, to all of you, from the very dedicated workers to the friends and also those who were rooting for the success of this event in their thoughts, and specially to my family who, in addition to the great help they have given me in each moment, have accepted my lack of attention during the long months I have been involved in this project.

Thank you. Please come back to Brazil as soon as possible. We will miss all of you and the ambience that you brought us during these two weeks.

Good bye, thank you.

D'ORSI SENIORS BOWL**Final Sessions 1-3****England****v****Poland**

by Mark Horton

The first day of the Seniors final was a fluctuating affair, with both teams enjoying long periods in the ascendancy. Here are some of the highlights:

Board 6. Dealer East. E/W Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Price	Kowalski	Simpson	Romanski
		Pass	1♠
Pass	2♦	Pass	3♠
Pass	4♣*	Pass	4♥*
Pass	4NT*	Pass	5♦*
Pass	6NT	All Pass	

After a couple of cue bids North asked and then settled for 6NT. He won the club lead, crossed to the ace of spades and played a diamond to the ten, shortly claiming all the tricks for +1020.



Colin Simpson, England

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Russyan	Hackett	Lasocki	Harper
		Pass	1♠
Pass	2♦*	Pass	2♠
Pass	2NT	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

2♦ Game forcing

When the English pair fell short they lost 11 IMPs.

Board 10. Dealer East. All Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Price	Kowalski	Simpson	Romanski
		1♦	Pass
1♥	Pass	2♣	Pass
2♥	All Pass		

Two Hearts was a comfortable spot. Declarer won the lead of the three of clubs with dummy's ace and ran the seven of hearts to North's king. It was all plain sailing now and declarer emerged with ten tricks, +170.

Closed Room

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

Once East elected to go on over Two Hearts by bidding out his shape East/West were bound to get to game.

North led the seven of spades and put up dummy's jack, tempting South to cover which simplified declarer's task when he achieved his objective, South's king losing to West's ace. (The club position would have produced a ninth trick in any event.) Taking no chances declarer simply cashed out for +600 and 10 IMPs.

Board 15. Dealer South. None Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Price	Kowalski	Simpson	Romanski
Pass	4♣*	Pass	2♦*
Dble	4♠	Dble	4♥*
2♦	Multi		All Pass
4♣	Please transfer to your major		
4♥	Spades		

With no obvious way into the auction on the first round West had to bide his time and then he doubled on the next round. East had an obvious looking double of Four Spades, but the only lead to beat the contract is a trump, giving nothing away and that was asking rather a lot. East's choice of a heart saw West allow declarer to win with the king of hearts and he continued with the queen and ten of spades, followed by the ten of hearts. West won with the queen and found the best exit of a club. Declarer played dummy's jack and East took the ace. The only way to save the over-trick is to exit with a heart, but East tried a diamond and dummy's jack was covered by the queen and ace. Declarer ruffed a heart and drew trumps, putting intolerable pressure on West. That was +990.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Russyan	Hackett	Lasocki	Harper
Pass	2NT*	Pass	2♠
Pass	3NT	All Pass	3♦*
2NT	Relay		
3♦	Feature, not minimum, either good trumps or a top diamond honour		

East led the six of clubs and declarer took the queen with the king and cashed the queen of spades. West's club discard was a bitter blow and declarer could take no more than eight tricks, -100 and another 14 IMPs to Poland.

They had won the first set 59-1 IMPs, leaving England with plenty to do.

The second set was not unlike the first, but this time it was England who asked most of the questions:

Board 17. Dealer North. None Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Holland	Kowalski	Hallberg	Romanski
1♠	Pass	1♦	Pass
3♦	Pass	2NT	Pass
3♠	Pass	3♥	Pass
4♥	Pass	4♣	Pass
5♦	Pass	4♠	Pass
		6♦	All Pass

Six Diamonds is the sort of contract a team looking for points tends to reach. If the entry position was a little more fluid it would be quite decent, as declarer might be able to play diamonds in the optimum fashion by running the queen – which gives a 71% chance of losing only one trick.

South led the nine of clubs and declarer took the king with the ace. He played a low diamond and South solved another of declarer's problems by putting up the king. Declarer won the club exit, cashed the ace of diamonds, unblocked the spades and claimed +920.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Markowicz	Hackett	Klukowski	Harper
1♠	Pass	1♣*	Pass
3NT	Pass	2NT*	Pass
	All Pass		

South led a club for the king and ace. Declarer unblocked the spades, crossed to dummy with a heart and cashed the ace of spades. North was kind enough to discard a diamond on that so declarer could simply run the queen of diamonds to South's king and apart from the jack of spades he took the rest, +460 but a good start for England, who recovered 10 IMPs.

Board 24. Dealer West. None Vul.

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

W

N

E

S

♠ 8	♠ 8 7 6 5	♠ K 9 8 7 5 2
♥ 10 8 6 5	♥ K 4	
♦ K 4		
♣ K 9 8 7 5 2		

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Holland</i>	<i>Kowalski</i>	<i>Hallberg</i>	<i>Romanski</i>
Pass	1♠	3♦	Pass
Pass	Dble	Pass	4♦*
Pass	4♠	Pass	5♣
All Pass			

The Polish pair did well to find their club fit – it was missed at several tables. The defence started with two rounds of diamonds and declarer won, discarding a heart from dummy. He finessed the queen of spades, ruffed a spade, cashed the king of clubs and played a club to the jack, claiming +420 when it held.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Markowicz</i>	<i>Hackett</i>	<i>Klukowski</i>	<i>Harper</i>
Pass	1♠	3♦	Dble
Pass	4♦*	Pass	5♣
Pass	6♣	All Pass	



Apolinary Kowalski, Poland

Ross Harper's wife, safely at home in England had watched every board her husband had played so far, but an unexpected visit from her three grandchildren meant she missed her husband's finest hour.

His dubious double followed by a new suit suggested a rather better hand and North raised to the slam with every confidence.

The early play was identical but after ruffing the second round of spades declarer played a club to the jack (not quite as good as Romanski's line which catered for a singleton queen with East). However, it was good enough and after ruffing another spade declarer drew trumps and claimed his contract and 11 IMPs.

England won the session 57-23 IMPs to get back into the match.

Board 7. Dealer South. All Vul.

♠ A J 3
 ♥ J
 ♦ K J 10 7 6
 ♣ K J 8 7

N		E
W		
	S	

♠ K 6 5
 ♥ A K 10 4
 ♦ A 9 4 3 2
 ♣ 9

♠ Q 9 7
 ♥ Q 9 7 5 3
 ♦ —
 ♣ A Q 10 5 3

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Holland</i>	<i>Kowalski</i>	<i>Hallberg</i>	<i>Romanski</i>
			1♦
Pass	2♣	Pass	2♦
Pass	3♥	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

West led the two of spades and declarer tried dummy's jack, taking East's queen with the ace. When he continued with the ace of diamonds nine tricks were secure and declarer cashed out for +600.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Russyan</i>	<i>Price</i>	<i>Lasocki</i>	<i>Simpson</i>
			1♦
Pass	3♥*	Pass	3♠
Pass	4♣	Pass	4♥
Pass	4♠	Pass	4NT
Pass	5♥	Pass	6♦
All Pass			

West led the two of spades and that was covered by the jack, queen and king. Declarer cashed the ace of diamonds and drew trumps in three rounds, East discarding a club, a heart and a spade. Declarer played the jack of hearts to the

ace and the nine of clubs to the king. East took the ace and exited with the nine of spades to dummy's ace. When declarer played the seven of clubs East followed impassively with the five and could not be blamed for ruffing, hoping that he would be able to set up an extra trick in either clubs or hearts. When neither suit obliged he was one down, -100 and 12 IMPs for Poland.

(You will no doubt have observed that the contract can be made – see for example Quinn's Triple Play.)

Board 13. Dealer North. All Vul.

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

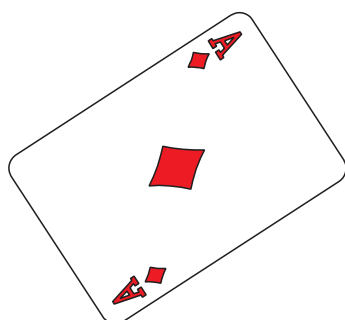
Open Room

West	North	East	South
Holland	Kowalski	Hallberg	Romanski
	Pass	2NT	Pass
3♥*	Pass	3♠	Pass
4♦	Pass	4♠	All Pass

South led the ace of hearts so declarer quickly claimed +680.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Russyan	Price	Lasocki	Simpson
	Pass	1♣*	Pass
1♠	Pass	2♦*	Pass
2NT*	Pass	3♠	Pass
4♥	Pass	4♠	Pass
5♣	Pass	5♦	Pass
5♠	Pass	6♠	All Pass
1♣	Polish		
2♦	Game forcing asking for distribution		



East was able to determine West had a singleton heart and his side reached the slam that would make without a club lead. However, with North on lead that was exactly what declarer got and he had to go two down, -200 and 13 IMPs for England.

Board 14. Dealer East. None.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Holland	Kowalski	Hallberg	Romanski
Pass	1♠	Pass	1♣*
Pass	2♦*	Pass	2♣*
Pass	3♣	Pass	2NT
Pass	3NT	All Pass	3♠*
2♣	15+ might be only 3♣		

The Polish pair got to 3NT the right way round and West led the four of hearts for the ace and ten. East switched to the queen of diamonds and when that held he tried the four. Declarer had a decision. He could not be sure hearts were 4-4 (the two was missing) but he knew East had the ♥A and the ♦Q. Would he have passed with ♥A and ♦AQJ? Most players would not, but Hallberg, also a solid rubber bridge expert might well.

Make of that what you will, but declarer put up the king and was two down in what had appeared to be an unbeatable contract.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Russyan	Price	Lasocki	Simpson
		Pass	1NT
Pass	2♣*	Pass	2♦*
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

West led the jack of spades and declarer took his nine top tricks, +400 and 11 IMPs.

Both teams had had their moments in this third set which England edged 37-31 IMPs.

Poland led overnight 116.67-95 IMPs but England, as in their semi final, appeared to have the momentum going into the last day.

VENICE CUP

Final Session 4



China Long Zhu v

USA 1



The Margin Gets Wider

by Phillip Alder

After half of the 96-board match, China led by 43 IMPs. It was time for USA 2 to regain some ground, but could they do it?

To begin, though, here is a bidding and opening-lead problem. With neither side vulnerable, you pick up:

♠ K 9
♥ 9 2
♦ K 7
♣ A 10 9 8 5 4 3

Partner deals and opens four hearts. If the next player overcalls four spades, what would you do?

Eventually you are on lead against five spades. What would you choose?

At one table, your right-hand opponent passed over four hearts, you passed, lefty made a takeout double, and righty

invited slam in spades. At the other table, righty bid four spades, you competed to five hearts, and lefty went five spades, which you doubled. (Would you?)

The match started badly for the U.S.

Board 49. Dealer North. None vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Sun</i>	<i>Levitina</i>	<i>Wang H.</i>	<i>Sanborn</i>
	Pass	INT (a)	Pass
3NT	All Pass		
(a) 14-16			

West	North	East	South
<i>Deas</i>	<i>Wang W.</i>	<i>Palmer</i>	<i>Liu</i>
	Pass	INT (a)	Pass
2♠ (b)	Pass	2NT (c)	Pass
3♣	All Pass		

- (a) 14-16
(b) Range inquiry or clubs
(c) Minimum

In the Closed Room, three clubs was comfortable. And when the lead was a diamond, Deas shook a couple of heart losers to collect an overtrick.

In the Open Room, three notrump looked hopeless. Kerri Sanborn led the heart king, asking for attitude, and Irina Levitina played the six (normal signals). South, unsure of the layout, shifted to the diamond seven: ace, five, six. Wang Hongli played a spade to her queen, both defenders starting to play high-low. Declarer, trusting her opponents, continued with a spade to the king, a spade to her ten, and the spade ace, South discarding the club nine and, unable to read partner's diamond five when declarer hid the three and four, the diamond two. Now East took nine tricks in the pointed suits.

Minus 130 and plus 400 gave China a 7-IMP start. The next two boards were flat games; then...



Karen McCallum, USA 1

Board 52. Dealer West. Both vul.

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



West	North	East	South
Sun	Levitina	Wang H.	Sanborn
1♦ (a)	Pass	1♠	Pass
INT	Pass	2♦ (b)	Pass
2♠	Pass	4♠	All Pass

- (a) 0-plus diamonds
(b) Game-forcing checkback

West	North	East	South
Deas	Wang W.	Palmer	Liu
1♦ (a)	Pass	1♠	Pass
INT	Pass	2♣ (b)	Pass
2♦ (c)	Pass	3NT (c)	All Pass

- (a) 0-plus diamonds
(b) Puppets to two diamonds
(c) Choice of games between spades and notrump



Hongli Wang, China Long Zhu

Wang Hongli went with the known 5-3 fit. The defense began with three rounds of clubs. Declarer ruffed, drew trumps, and claimed ten tricks: five spades, four hearts and on diamond.

Lynn Deas decided that both notrump and spades could have only nine tricks. But, as you can see, she was not right this time. North led the club nine (zero or two higher) and the defenders took the first five tricks.

Plus 620 and plus 100 gave China 12 IMPs.

On Board 5 East-West could make three hearts, both getting there. Wang Wenfei and Liu Yi Qian competed to three spades, which went down one. But Levitina and Sanborn tried four spades to give China another 3 IMPs.

Then:

Board 54. Dealer East. East-West vul.

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



West	North	East	South
Sun	Levitina	Wang H.	Sanborn
		1♥	1♠
2♥	Dble	3♦ (a)	Pass
3♥	All Pass		

- (a) Help-suit game-try

West	North	East	South
Deas	Wang W.	Palmer	Liu
		1♥	1♠
3♥	Pass	4♥	All Pass

In the Open Room, Sun Ming, with four hearts and only two diamonds, might have bid four hearts. But she knew her partner had at most 15 high-card points. In contrast, opposite a preemptive raise, Beth Palmer shut her eyes and hoped for the best.

A diamond lead would have defeated four hearts, but Liu selected a trump. Declarer drew two rounds, then played a club to the nine and ten. North did her best by ducking, but East crossed back to her hand with a trump and played a club to dummy's eight. Now she had ten tricks: six hearts, one diamond and three clubs.

In the Open Room, Sanborn led a club against three hearts. North won and shifted to a spade, South playing three rounds of the suit, North ruffing the last and East overruffing. Declarer now claimed nine tricks when she could have taken ten. It made no difference to the score, though, USA 2 gaining 10 IMPs.

After an IMP to China came a dynamite deal.

Board 56. Dealer West. None vul.

♠ A Q 10 7 5 2			
♥ 7			
♦ Q 10 9 2			
♣ K 6			
♠ 3	<div style="display: inline-block; background-color: black; color: white; padding: 5px; text-align: center;"> N W E S </div>	♠ K 9	
♥ K Q J 8 6 5 4 3		♥ 9 2	
♦ 6 5 3		♦ K 7	
♣ 7		♣ A 10 9 8 5 4 3	
		♠ J 8 6 4	
		♥ A 10	
		♦ A J 8 4	
		♣ Q J 2	

West	North	East	South
Sun	Levitina	Wang H.	Sanborn
4♥	Pass	Pass	Dble
Pass	4NT	Pass	5♦
Pass	5♠	All Pass	

West	North	East	South
Deas	Wang W.	Palmer	Liu
4♥	4♠	5♥	5♠
Pass	Pass	Dble	All Pass



Beth Palmer, USA 1

Wang Hongli led the club ace and continued with another club to defeat five spades. But Palmer led the heart nine. Wang Wenfei won with dummy's ace, played a spade to her ace, and led another spade, claiming a moment later when the diamond finesse worked.

Plus 50 and plus 650 gave China 12 IMPs and a 68-point lead in the match.

Two flat games (one a possible slam on a finesse that was losing) were followed by:

Board 59. Dealer South. None vul.

♠ 10 9			
♥ K J 10 7			
♦ K J 8 7 2			
♣ 7 6			
♠ A K 8 5 3 2	<div style="display: inline-block; background-color: black; color: white; padding: 5px; text-align: center;"> N W E S </div>	♠ Q J 6	
♥ 9 6		♥ Q 5 4 3 2	
♦ 9 5 3		♦ 4	
♣ J 3		♣ A 10 5 4	
		♠ 7 4	
		♥ A 8	
		♦ A Q 10 6	
		♣ K Q 9 8 2	

West	North	East	South
Sun	Levitina	Wang H.	Sanborn
			INT (a)
2♦ (b)	Dble	3♠ (c)	Pass
Pass	Dble	Pass	4♣
Pass	4♦	Pass	5♦
All Pass			

- (a) 15-17 points
 (b) 6-plus hearts or spades
 (c) Pass or correct

West	North	East	South
Deas	Wang W.	Palmer	Liu
			INT (a)
2♠	Dble	2NT (b)	3♣
3♠	All Pass		

- (a) 14-16 points
 (b) Try for game

Against three spades, North led the club seven. Declarer ducked to South's queen, and Liu shifted accurately to a trump. Deas would have done best to draw trumps and run the club jack, losing two hearts, one diamond and two clubs. But she won trick two in the dummy and called for a heart. North won and led her second club, ducked to South's king. Liu cashed the heart ace, then played a club, West discarding and North ruffing. Now the contract went down two.

Against five diamonds, East led the spade queen: four, two (encouraging), ten. Next East cashed the club ace, her partner playing the three. Then East led another club, hoping her partner was ruffing. But this let the contract through. Declarer won in the dummy, drew trumps and claimed to gain 7 IMPs for USA 2.

Wang Hongli was wrong. If her partner had seven spades to the ace-king and a singleton club, she would have overtaken at the first trick and shifted to her club.

After an overtrick IMP to China, on Board 61, Deas and Palmer bid three notrump, which could not be defeated by the lie of the cards. Sun and Wang were in four spades on their 4-4 fit, which would have gone down if Sanborn had attacked hearts from ♠ A 6 ♥ A 8 5 4 ♦ 8 3 2 ♣ J 9 5 4. Levitina had a doubleton heart and would have got a ruff. But Sanborn was never going to do that. However, she might have led a club, when Levitina could have won with her ace and shifted to hearts. But Sanborn reasonable chose a diamond and China gained an IMP.

The last sizable swing came on the next deal:

Board 62. Dealer East. None vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Sun	Levitina	Wang H.	Sanborn
INT	Pass	1♠	Pass
2♦	2♥	Pass	Dble
All Pass			3♥



Ming Sun, China Long Zhu

West	North	East	South
Deas	Wang W.	Palmer	Liu
INT	Pass	1♠	Pass
2♦	2♥	Pass	Dble
Pass	4♥	All Pass	3♥

It is hard to understand Levitina's passing out three hearts when her partner made a try. Even two hearts is an underbid.

Against three hearts, East led the club queen. Declarer ruffed diamonds in her hand and eventually lost two trump tricks, being overruffed once by East in diamonds and once by West in spades.

Against four hearts, Palmer led the spade king. Declarer won, crossed to the diamond ace, and ran the heart seven. East took her ace and returned a diamond, but North ruffed, cashed the heart king, and took a ruffing spade finesse. She collected 12 tricks to win 7 IMPs.

The teams exchanged one-point swings on the last two boards. China had gained 27 IMPs to lead by 70 with only 32 boards to play. Could USA 2 overcome that mountain?

FROM THE EDITOR: MUITO OBRIGADO!

Another great championship is almost behind us, so it is time to say thanks to everyone who helped make the Daily Bulletins enjoyable for you (we hope!).



As always, our coordinator, Jean-Paul Meyer, provided invaluable guidance and assistance, in more than one way.

Your excellent writers were the usual suspects: Mark Horton, Brian Senior and Phillip Alder.

When he wasn't flirting with Duas Fotos, Akis Kaniaris did a bang-up job despite occasional complications in laying out the Daily Bulletins and making everything fit. It was also a pleasure for a change to have our fine web editor, Fotis Skoularikis, in the same office with us.

Speaking of Duas Fotos – our two-woman photo team – it was a pleasure to work with Tatiana Barreto and Carol Folhasi, two young but very professional artists.

Harvey Fox was our ex officio proof reader and general watchdog. He provided valuable assistance in preventing errors and adding relevant bits of info at just the right time – while also keeping up with his duties as IT manager.

Thanks also to WBF President José Damiani and Organizing Committee Chairman Ernesto D'Orsi for their support and for putting together.

Finally, although he made only a small contribution to the Daily Bulletin, it was a real pleasure to see Mark Newton at the world championships again. Don't wait so long for your next visit, Mark.

by Mark Horton

However, East exited with the nine of diamonds and declarer went up with the ace, ruffed a diamond and exited with a spade to arrive at this four card ending:

♣ A 6 4

♣ 6

13

BERMUDA BOWL

Final Session 5



Italy

v

USA 1



Long road

by Brent Manley

Entering the fifth of eight sets in the Bermuda Bowl final, USA2 had a 159.33-107 lead against Italy. The first board was a push, then came a swing to Italy.

Board 2. Dealer East. N/S Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Duboin	Hamman	Sementa	Zia
Pass	5♣	2♠	4NT
Dble	All Pass	Pass	Pass

Zia Mahmood did have two chunky suits, but committing to the five level with the South hand risked what actually happened. Antonio Sementa naturally led a club. Bob Hamman ducked and Giorgio Duboin took the king to play a second round of trumps. Hamman won in hand and played a diamond to the king and ace. A third round of trumps left Hamman with three more losers for three down and minus 800.

West	North	East	South
Rodwell	Fantoni	Meckstroth	Nunes
All Pass		2♠	3♦

Claudio Nunes had to lose two spades, two diamonds and a club, but minus 100 was good enough for a 12-IMP gain. Italy had pulled closer at 159-119.

The Italians gained another swing on the next deal.



Board 3. Dealer South. E/W Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Duboin	Hamman	Sementa	Zia
1♠	2♥	2♠	Pass
Pass	3♣	All Pass	Dble

Hamman managed 10 tricks in the 4-3 club fit. At the other table, Fulvio Fantoni also took 10 tricks, but in a better strain.

West	North	East	South
Rodwell	Fantoni	Meckstroth	Nunes
1♠	2♥	3♠	Pass
Pass	4♥	All Pass	Dble

Meckstroth led the ♠A, then switched to a club: jack, queen ace. With the club suit providing a discard for a diamond from his hand, Fantoni simply cashed the ♥A and played a second heart. He gave up two trump tricks and a spade but had plus 420 for another 7 IMPs to Italy.

On board 6, Rodwell outplayed his counterpart in a difficult contract, gaining 9 IMPs despite going down.

Board 6. Dealer East. E/W Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Duboin	Hamman	Sementa	Zia
		1♣	1♦
2♥	Pass	2♠	3♦
Dble	Pass	4♠	Dble
All Pass			

Zia led the ♦K. Sementa won in dummy and played a heart to the 10, jack and queen. Zia cashed the ♦Q, Hamman discarding a club, and played the ♦3. Sementa pitched a heart from dummy as Hamman ruffed. Sementa then cashed the ♥A and ruffed a heart. Declarer followed with a club to the 10 and Zia's jack, and he won the ♣K continuation with the ace, then played a spade to his jack and ruffed his last heart. Now when declarer played a club, Hamman inserted the ♠9, forcing the ace. The defense took a diamond, a club, a heart and two spade tricks for plus 500.

West	North	East	South
Rodwell	Fantoni	Meckstroth	Nunes
		1♦	Pass
1♠	Pass	2♠	3♦
3♥	Pass	4♠	All Pass

Fantoni led the ♦9 to the jack, queen and ace. Rodwell played the ♠K, noting the discard from South, then played a diamond to Claudio Nunes' 10. When Nunes continued with the ♦K, Rodwell pitched a heart from hand, Fantoni a club. Now the ♥Q from South was ducked, and Rodwell took the heart continuation with the ace when Fantoni played the king. Rodwell cashed the ♥J and ruffed a heart, then played the ♣A and a club. Fantoni was down to all trumps at that point, so he had to ruff and play a trump from his Q 9 8. Going one down was worth 9 IMPs to USA2, now leading by 50 IMPs.

It was 181-131 for USA2 when lucky number 13 came along.

Board 13. Dealer North. All Vul.

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



West	North	East	South
Duboin	Hamman	Sementa	Zia
		1♣	1♥
1♠	2♣	2♠	3♥
Pass	4♥	All Pass	

Duboin led the ♦3. Zia went up with the ace and played a spade at trick two. Sementa took the ♠A and returned a club to Duboin's ace. Duboin got out with a trump, but Zia took the ♥J in dummy, played the ♣Q and ruffed, then played the ♠10 from hand. When Duboin covered with the ♠J, the game was home. Zia ruffed with the ♥A, ruffed a club to hand and claimed plus 620, losing only a diamond at the end.

At the other table, Rodwell was allowed to play 2♠, off one for minus 100, but 11 IMPs to USA2.

The next-to-last deal brought more good news for the Americans.

Board 15. Dealer South. None Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Duboin	Hamman	Sementa	Zia
			Pass
Pass	INT	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

Hamman upgraded his hand to a 15-17 INT opener, and Zia didn't bother with Stayman with his dull shape and weak major. With the club finesse working, Hamman had an easy nine tricks for plus 600.

West	North	East	South
Rodwell	Fantoni	Meckstroth	Nunes
			Pass
Pass	INT*	All Pass	
INT	12-14		

Fantoni played skilfully to land an overtrick. He won the ♥10 lead in hand, played the ♣J to the king and ace, cashed the rest of his clubs, then played a spade from hand to the 8 and Rodwell's queen. He won the heart return in hand, then played a spade to the ace, exiting dummy with a heart to Meckstroth, who had to lead a diamond into the A-Q at the end. Plus 180 was well done, but it cost 9 IMPs. USA2 ended the set ahead 207-131.

BERMUDA BOWL

Final Session 7



Italy

v

USA 1

Centimetering back
into the match

by Phillip Alder

Italy started the penultimate session down by 68.33 IMPs. Could they stage a recovery?

This early deal did not hurt:

Board 99. Dealer South. East-West vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Zia	Fantoni	Hamman	Nunes

I♦	Dble	2♣	Dble
Pass	3♣	Pass	3♠
Pass	4♠	All Pass	

West	North	East	South
Versace	Rodwell	Lauria	Meckstroth

I♦	INT	Pass	2♥
Pass	3♠	Pass	4♠
All Pass			

Four spades is the type of game everyone bids these days, since the upside is so good when everything works nicely.

Against Claudio Nunes, Zia led the club eight. Declarer won with dummy's queen, played a club to his ace, and led the spade jack. Now Zia erred, covering with his king and making a royal trick. South ran the spade nine to West's ten, won the diamond-king shift with dummy's ace, cashed the spade eight, and eventually lost one spade, one heart and one diamond.

In the Closed Room, where the transfer auction led to North's being the declarer, Lorenzo Lauria (East) led the diamond three. Eric Rodwell took the trick with his ace and returned a diamond, Alfredo Versace (West) winning

with his queen and continuing with the king. Declarer ruffed in the dummy, played a heart to his ace, cashed the spade ace, and led another spade. North had to go down two, losing two spades, one heart, one diamond and one club.

Plus 420 and plus 100 gave Italy 11 valuable IMPs.

Four boards later the margin hadn't changed. Then the United States had a good run.

On Board 103, both North-South pairs played in three diamonds. Nunes could have made it but went wrong near the end. Rodwell made no such error, even making an over-trick. Plus 100 and plus 130 was worth 6 IMPs.

Board 104. Dealer West. None vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Zia	Fantoni	Hamman	Nunes
Pass	2♥ (a)	Pass	2♠ (b)
Pass	3♦	All Pass	

(a) 10-13 points, 5-plus hearts, unbalanced hand

(b) Relay

(c) 1=5=4=3 or 3=5=4=1

West	North	East	South
Versace	Rodwell	Lauria	Meckstroth
Pass	1♥	Pass	1♠
Pass	2♦	Pass	3♦
Pass	3♠	Pass	4♠
Pass	Pass	Pass	

This was a bad deal for the Fantoni-Nunes system. South could not find out about three-card spade support without getting to three notrump opposite 1=5=4=3. With some help from the defense, Fulvio Fantoni took 11 tricks in three diamonds.

Jeff Meckstroth played four spades very nicely. Versace led a trump. Declarer took East's jack with his ace, played a club to dummy's ace, led a diamond to his ace, ruffed a club,

cashed the diamond king, and played another diamond. West exited with a low heart to the queen, king and ruff. South ruffed another club and ruffed a heart to give this position:

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

South led a trump. Lorenzo Lauria (East) won with his king and returned a heart, declarer discarding his diamond. West won and had to lead a heart, East ruffing dummy's jack. But Meckstroth overruffed and cashed the club queen. Minus 150 and plus 420 gave 6 IMPs to USA 2.

Board 105. Dealer North. East-West vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Zia	Fantoni	Hamman	Nunes
	1♣	1♠	Dble
Pass	3♥	Pass	4♥
Pass	Pass	Pass	

West	North	East	South
Versace	Rodwell	Lauria	Meckstroth
Pass	1♣ (a)	Pass	2♦ (b)
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

(a) 16-plus points

(b) Balanced 8-10

Four hearts had to fail, losing one spade, two diamonds and one club. And three notrump could not be defeated the way the cards lay. Declarer won the spade lead in the South hand, played a diamond to his king, cashed his hearts,

then took the club finesse. East returned a diamond to the ten and jack, and West played a club, but declarer drove out the spade ace and had nine tricks: two spades, four hearts, one diamond and two clubs. That gave 10 IMPs to USA 2 and a gain of 7 on the set.

After another 2 IMPs to the U.S., Italy had its own run of swings.

Board 107. Dealer South. None vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Zia	Fantoni	Hamman	Nunes
1♥	3♣ (a)	3♠ (b)	Pass
4♥	All Pass		Pass

(a) At least 5-5 in spades and diamonds

(b) Game-forcing heart raise

West	North	East	South
Versace	Rodwell	Lauria	Meckstroth
Pass	1♠	INT	Pass
2♦ (a)	3♦	3♠	Pass
4♣	Pass	4♠	Pass
6♣	All Pass		

(a) Transfer

Well bid by Lauria and Versace. Both declarers took two spades, five hearts and five clubs, which gave Italy 10 IMPs.

Then Bob Hamman made a very light overcall, which Zia raised to game. It was doubled and down two, gaining Italy 5 IMPs against Rodwell's making three diamonds at the other table.

After a flat board, Meckwell sacrificed in five clubs, down 300, against a four-spade contract that could have been



made only if an opponent was holding his cards carelessly. Zia brought home three spades to hold the loss to 4 IMPs.

On Board 111, Fantoni and Nunes stopped in three hearts with four top losers, while Meckwell got to game, giving Italy another 6 IMPs.

This was the final deal of the set:

Board 112. Dealer West. East-West vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Zia	Fantoni	Hamman	Nunes
1♦	Pass	1♥	Pass
2♠	Pass	2NT	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

West	North	East	South
Versace	Rodwell	Lauria	Meckstroth
1♦	Pass	1♥	Pass
1♠	Pass	1NT	Pass
2♣ (a)	Pass	2♠	Pass
4♠	All Pass		

(a) Inquiry

Hamman could have made three notrump, but he would also have had to be playing against a careless card-holder.

Hamman won South's club lead in the dummy and played a diamond to his queen. Now he had to go to dummy in clubs and play on diamonds, benefiting from the fact that the opponents couldn't play a heart and immediately establish three cashable tricks in the suit.

Understandably, though, Hamman took the spade finesse at trick three. North won with his king and shifted to a heart. Declarer cashed his clubs, then played a spade, ducking South's jack. Nunes shifted to a diamond, declarer winning with dummy's ace and cashing the spade ace. North took the last three tricks.

Four spades played beautifully on a crossruff. Versace won the first trick with his club ace, unblocked the heart ace, played a club to dummy, ruffed a heart, cashed the diamond ace, ruffed a diamond, ruffed a heart, ruffed a diamond, ruffed a heart, and claimed the spade ace.

Plus 100 and plus 620 gave Italy 12 IMPs. They had won the set by 54 IMPs to 26. The margin was down to 40.33 with 16 boards to go.

São Paulo Medal Winners

Bermuda Bowl – Italy (Silver Medal)



Second place in the Bermuda Bowl: Alfredo Versace, Giorgio Duboin, Fulvio Fantoni, Claudio Nunes, coach Massimo Ortensi, Lorenzo Lauria, npc Maria Teresa Lavazza and Antonio Sementa.



World Transnational Open Teams Apreo Logistic Poland (Silver Medal)



Four members of the runners-up in the World Transnational Open Teams, representing Apreo Logistic Poland: Jacek Pszczola, Grzegorz Narkiewicz, Piotr Gawrys and Jacek Kalita. Missing are Krzysztof Buras and Krzysztof Kotorowicz.

BERMUDA BOWL

Final Session 6



Italy

v

USA 1



by Brian Senior

After five sets of the final of the 2009 Bermuda Bowl, USA2 led Italy by 76.33 IMPs. While there were still 48 boards to play, it was important for Italy to pull some points back in Set Six so that they could sleep a little easier and look forward to the morrow with confidence.

Six fairly quiet boards saw USA2 ahead by 6-1 in the set, just what they were looking for. Then came the first major swing:

Board 23. Dealer South. All Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Duboin	Hamman	Sementa	Zia
Pass	1♥	1♠	1♦
3♦	Dble	Pass	Dble
4♠	All Pass		Pass

West	North	East	South
Rodwell	Lauria	Meckstroth	Versace
Pass	1♦	1♠	1♣
2NT	3♦	Pass	2♦
3♠	All Pass		Pass

Essentially, the respective Wests were in the same position when they had to make their final decision. Both had shown constructive spade raises and both Easts had passed rather than follow the principle of fast arrival by bidding 3♠ in front of them. Giorgio Duboin took a shot at game while Eric Rodwell settled for partscore.

Against 4♠, Zia led ace, king and a third club for Bob Hamman to ruff. Hamman switched to the queen of hearts, which Duboin won with dummy's ace. He ran the queen of spades to the bare king and Hamman continued with hearts, Zia taking the king. That was two down for -200.

Alfredo Versace too led three rounds of clubs for Lorenzo Lauria to ruff and Lauria returned the ♥Q to dummy's ace. Jeff Meckstroth led a low spade to the ace then threw his heart loser on the established jack of clubs and came to an overtrick for +170 and 9 IMPs to USA2. Of course, Meckstroth was only in 3♠ so the spade finesse was an unnecessary risk, with the actual line of play ensuring the contract whenever it could be made.

Board 25. Dealer North. E/W Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Duboin	Hamman	Sementa	Zia
Pass	Pass	Pass	1♥
Dble	1♠	Pass	Pass
INT	Pass	3NT	All Pass

West	North	East	South
Rodwell	Lauria	Meckstroth	Versace
Pass	Pass	Pass	1♥
Dble	Pass	1♠	Pass
INT	Pass	3NT	All Pass

Both Souths opened 1♥ and both Wests doubled. Hamman bid 1♠ on the North hand so Antonio Sementa passed as East, while Lauria bid passed the North hand so Meckstroth bid the spades. It didn't matter, with both Wests rebidding INT and being raised to game.

Hamman led the six of clubs to the seven, queen and king. Duboin played ace of spades followed by the ten. Hamman won the king and cashed the ace of clubs then switched to his heart, the two being covered by the nine, ten and queen. Duboin returned a low heart to the jack and Zia ducked, but that meant that Duboin could cash dummy's spade winners and take the diamond finesse; ten tricks for +630.

Lauria also led a low club but Rodwell ducked the queen! Versace returned the suit to the ace and Lauria played a

third round. Rodwell won and played ace and ten of spades. Lauria won the king and cleared the clubs. Rodwell led a heart to the jack and king and Versace returned the ♥10, pinning the nine. Rodwell had to lose one more trick from here, simply winning the heart and playing three more rounds to leave Versace to take the diamond finesse for him at the end; down one for -100 and 12 IMPs to Italy, who needed them.

Board 26. Dealer East. All Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Duboin	Hamman	Sementa	Zia
		1♥	Dble
3♦	4♣	4♥	5♣
Pass	Pass	Dble	All Pass

West	North	East	South
Rodwell	Lauria	Meckstroth	Versace
		1♥	Dble
3♦	4♣	4♥	All Pass

Both Easts opened 1♥, doubled by South, and both Wests showed a Mixed Raise with a jump to 3♦. North competed with 4♣ and East bid the obvious 4♥. Versace saw no reason to bid again as South but Zia bid 5♣, a far from obvious choice on a minimum double with only three-card club support. That was doubled by Sementa, ending the auction.

Sementa led the five of spades against 5♣ doubled, not the best start for the defence. Hamman ran that to his ten and led a diamond up. Sementa rose with the ace and switched to the ten of hearts. Duboin won the ace and played back a spade. Hamman won in dummy and ran the queen of clubs to the king; down one for -200.

Five Clubs doubled would have been a good save had 4♥ been making, but it did not. Versace led a club to Lauria's ace and Lauria returned the ten of spades to the jack and queen. Versace played ace and another spade and came to a diamond in the endgame; down one for -100 and 7 IMPs to Italy.



Board 32. Dealer West. E/W Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Duboin	Hamman	Sementa	Zia
1♦	1♥	2♦	2♠
Pass	3♦	Pass	4♦
Pass	4♠	Pass	5♣
Pass	5♠	All Pass	

West	North	East	South
Rodwell	Lauria	Meckstroth	Versace
1♦	1♥	Pass	1♠
Pass	2♦	Pass	3♦
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

The Italians had a well-controlled auction to 3NT. Lauria overcalled 1♥ over the Precision 1♦ opening then cuebid 2♦ at his next turn to show a decent hand. When Versace cuebid in turn, showing game values with no clear direction, Lauria ended the auction with 3NT.

Meckstroth led the nine of clubs round to the jack and Lauria passed the jack of spades, Rodwell taking the queen and returning the six of diamonds. Lauria won the king of diamonds and cashed the spades and clubs then the ace of hearts, taking no risks; nine tricks for +400.

Hamman/Zia had a less well-controlled auction. Sementa's diamond raise obliged Zia to introduce his spades a level higher than Versace. When Hamman cuebid 3♦, Zia in turn cuebid 4♦ and now Hamman tried for 4♠. But Zia seems to have expected primary spade support and a good hand for this combination and went on with a club cuebid. Hamman quickly signed off in 5♠ but it was already too late.

Duboin cashed the ♦A then switched to the five of hearts. Zia called for the queen then led the ♠J off the dummy. When that was not covered, he rose with the ace and played two more rounds to Duboin's queen. Duboin returned a diamond to dummy's king. Zia cashed the ♥A with some hopes for his contract but, when Sementa showed out, he knew he was doomed unless the club finesse was working. He ruffed a heart then led a club to the jack. When that lost to the queen, Sementa returned a diamond and that was two down for -100 and 11 IMPs to Italy.

Italy won the set by 36-28 to trail by 167-235.33. With only 32 boards to play the next day, the match was still alive but the Italians needed a very good day if they were to prevail.