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Issue No. 14

Friday, 23 June 2006

Mad About Matchpoints



Al Levy, far right, with the winners of the World Computer-Bridge Championship, from left, Martin Pattenier, Wim Heemskerck and Hans Kuijff, who created the bridge program Jack.

It's all down to pairs now as the knockouts have concluded and, with the exception of one event, players have turned their thoughts to overtricks, undertricks and doubling those bothersome opponents.

Two events will be ending today – the Women's Pairs and Senior Pairs. The IMP Pairs is the only event of the remaining schedule without matchpoints. It concludes tomorrow.

The Open Pairs also continues today, heading for a final session tomorrow morning. Here are the pairs leaders at the end of play on Thursday: Open: Jeff Meckstroth and Perry Johnson. Women's: Irina Levitina and Kerri Sanborn. Seniors: Nico Klaver and Roald Ramer. IMP: Tezcan Sen and Okay Gur.

The Closing Ceremony

All participants (players, officials, journalists, staff, etc.) in the championships are invited to the closing cocktail and buffet lunch in the room at the far end of the Players' Plaza on the lower ground floor, starting as soon as possible after the end of the pairs on Saturday afternoon – i.e., at approximately 14.30 hours.

This will be followed by the Prize Giving and Closing Ceremony, which will be held in the auditorium at 16.00 hours.

VuGraph Programme



Teatro Verdi

10.30 Open Pairs Final 3
15.45 Open Pairs Final 4

TODAY'S PROGRAMME

Open and Women's Pairs (Final)

10.30 Session 3
15.45 Session 4

IMP Pairs

10.30 Final A, Final B - Session 3
15.45 Final A, Final B - Session 4

Senior Pairs

10.30 Session 7
15.45 Session 8

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| The Teltcher Touch and the Hackett Hatchet | 16 |

OPEN PAIRS

Final Phase (After 2 Sessions)

| Rank | Names | Total | | | Total |
|------|---|-------|----|---|-------|
| 1 | Jeff MECKSTROTH - Perry JOHNSON | 58.39 | 36 | Franck MULTON - Pierre ZIMMERMANN | 50.07 |
| 2 | Tomasz GOTARD - Josef PIEKAREK | 58.19 | 37 | David BIRMAN - Alon BIRMAN | 50.00 |
| 3 | Win ALLEGAERT - Jaggy SHIVDASANI | 57.51 | 38 | Michael BAREL - Yaniv ZACK | 49.92 |
| 4 | Marc BOMPIS - Thierry De SAINTE MARIE | 57.35 | 39 | Archie SEQUERA - Ramawatar AGARWAL | 49.45 |
| 5 | Fulvio FANTONI - Claudio NUNES | 57.28 | 40 | Richard SCHWARTZ - Chris WILLENKEN | 49.45 |
| 6 | David BAKHSHI - Andrew MCINTOSH | 57.05 | 41 | Rafal JAGNIEWSKI - Boguslaw PAZUR | 49.13 |
| 7 | Vincent RAMONDT - Berry WESTRA | 56.47 | 42 | Ilan HERBST - Ofir HERBST | 48.92 |
| 8 | Rossen Georgiev GUNEV - Julian STEFANOV | 56.45 | 43 | Melih OZDIL - Eldad GINOSSAR | 48.62 |
| 9 | Jacek PSZCZOLA - Cezary BALICKI | 56.02 | 44 | Chip MARTEL - Lew STANSBY | 48.34 |
| 10 | Bobby LEVIN - Steve WEINSTEIN | 55.57 | 45 | Kazuo FURUTA - Kyoko SHIMAMURA | 48.11 |
| 11 | Eric RODWELL - Doug SIMSON | 54.17 | 46 | Jens AUKEN - Soren CHRISTIANSEN | 47.97 |
| 12 | Jean-Jacques PALAU - Pierre-Yves GUILLAUMIN | 54.08 | 47 | Desislava Borissova POPOVA - Georgi KARAKOLEV | 47.84 |
| 13 | Tom TOWNSEND - David GOLD | 53.71 | 48 | Apolinary KOWALSKI - Piotr TUSZYNSKI | 47.79 |
| 14 | Jon Egil FURUNES - Per Erik AUSTBERG | 53.40 | 49 | Ismail KANDEMIR - Suleyman KOLATA | 47.59 |
| 15 | Zhong FU - Jie ZHAO | 53.22 | 50 | Jean-Paul BALIAN - Philippe TOFFIER | 47.59 |
| 16 | Matthias THORVALDSSON - Magnus MAGNUSSON | 52.72 | 51 | Ahu ZOBU - Victor ARONOV | 47.58 |
| 17 | Jan JANSMA - Louk VERHEES JR | 52.56 | 52 | Marcin LESNIEWSKI - Jean-Michel VOLDOIRE | 47.43 |
| 18 | Jerome ROMBAUT - Lionel SEBBANE | 52.27 | 53 | Julien GAVIARD - Thomas BESSIS | 47.24 |
| 19 | Andrei GROMOV - Alexander DUBININ | 52.27 | 54 | Andreas GLOYER - Wolfgang LAUSS | 47.15 |
| 20 | Andrew ROBSON - Zia MAHMOOD | 52.04 | 55 | Paul CHEMLA - Philippe CRONIER | 46.82 |
| 21 | Michael PRESCOTT - Stephen BURGESS | 51.95 | 56 | Ton BAKKEREN - Huub BERTENS | 46.80 |
| 22 | Konrad ARASZKIEWICZ - Dariusz KOWALSKI | 51.95 | 57 | Larry N. COHEN - David BERKOWITZ | 46.66 |
| 23 | Boguslaw GIERULSKI - Jerzy SKRZYPCZAK | 51.90 | 58 | Larissa PANINA - Michael ROSENBLUM | 46.63 |
| 24 | Nick SANDQVIST - Artur MALINOWSKI | 51.87 | 59 | Hao Jun SHI - Ze Jun ZHUANG | 46.59 |
| 25 | Vadim KHOLOMEEV - Jouri KHILOUPPENEN | 51.77 | 60 | Marcelo BRANCO - Diego BRENNER | 46.46 |
| 26 | Krzysztof MARTENS - Vytautas VAINIKONIS | 51.68 | 61 | Jian Ming DAI - Li Xin YANG | 46.42 |
| 27 | Michael ROSENBERG - Ralph KATZ | 51.40 | 62 | Gary COHLER - Mark LAIR | 46.28 |
| 28 | Wojciech OLANSKI - Wlodzimierz STARKOWSKI | 51.22 | 63 | N. K. GUPTA - Sandeep THAKRAL | 46.10 |
| 29 | Fred GITELMAN - Brad MOSS | 50.93 | 64 | Maija ROMANOVSKA - Karlis RUBINS | 45.88 |
| 30 | Bengt-Erik EFRAMSSON - Anders MORATH | 50.88 | 65 | Mario D'AVOSSA - Stelio DI BELLO | 45.61 |
| 31 | Carel BERENDREGT - Bert PAPIING | 50.77 | 66 | Tim COPE - Glen HOLMAN | 45.25 |
| 32 | Norberto BOCCHI - Giorgio DUBOIN | 50.75 | 67 | Avi KALISH - Leonid PODGUR | 42.80 |
| 33 | Alejandro BIANCHEDI - Ernesto MUZZIO | 50.69 | 68 | Giuseppe FABBRINI - Niccolo FOSSI | 42.54 |
| 34 | Jason HACKETT - Justin HACKETT | 50.47 | 69 | Doron YADLIN - Israel YADLIN | 42.43 |
| 35 | Assaf LENGY - Gadi LEBOVITS | 50.24 | 70 | Maris MATISONS - Andris SMILGAJS | 42.28 |
| | | | 71 | Alex KOLESNIK - Roberto SCARAMUZZI | 42.15 |
| | | | 72 | Jacek CIECHOMSKI - Piotr JUREK | 41.85 |

WOMEN'S PAIRS

Final Phase (After 2 Sessions)

| | | | | | |
|----|---|-------|----|--|-------|
| 1 | Irina LEVITINA - Kerri SANBORN | 57.44 | 19 | Margie GWOZDZINSKY - Cathy STRAUCH | 50.69 |
| 2 | Sally BROCK - Heather DHONDY | 54.91 | 20 | Catherine FISHPOOL - Claude BLOUQUIT | 50.36 |
| 3 | Janice SEAMON-MOLSON - Sabine AUKEN | 54.62 | 21 | Lynn BAKER - Karen MCCALLUM | 50.31 |
| 4 | Wei Fei WANG - Hong Li WANG | 54.55 | 22 | Shawn QUINN - Mildred BREED | 49.66 |
| 5 | Veronique BESSIS - Sylvie WILLARD | 54.11 | 23 | Pamela GRANOVETTER - Migry ZUR-CAMPANILE | 49.27 |
| 6 | Vanessa REESS - Nathalie FREY | 53.63 | 23 | Tobi SOKOLOW - Jo Ann SPRUNG | 49.27 |
| 7 | Ya Lan ZHANG - Ling GU | 52.90 | 25 | Ewa SOBOLEWSKA - Anna SZCZEPANSKA | 48.60 |
| 8 | Debora CAMPAGNANO - Irene BARONI | 52.45 | 26 | Gemma MARIANO - Tina J. Del GALLEGRO | 47.75 |
| 9 | Anne-Frederique LEVY - Blandine De HEREDIA | 52.18 | 27 | Carla GIANARDI - Laura ROVERA | 46.98 |
| 10 | Ewa HARASIMOWICZ - Malgorzata PASTERNAK | 52.11 | 28 | Joann GLASSON - Lisa BERKOWITZ | 46.96 |
| 11 | Marion MICHIELSEN - Meike WORTEL | 51.96 | 29 | Renee LEGER - Laurence RIMBAUD | 46.79 |
| 12 | Sylvie DUMON - Muriel CLEMENT | 51.72 | 30 | Pascale THUILLEZ - Dominique JEANIN-NALTET | 46.76 |
| 13 | Gianna ARRIGONI - Gabriella OLIVIERI | 51.68 | 31 | Petra MANSELL - Merle MODLIN | 46.41 |
| 14 | Nikica SVER - Marina PILIPOVIC | 51.58 | 32 | Grazyna BREWIAK - Anna SARNIAK | 45.61 |
| 15 | Carla ARNOLDS - Bep VRIEND | 51.34 | 33 | Li Ping WANG - Yu ZHANG | 44.99 |
| 16 | Victoria GROMOVA - Tatiana PONOMAREVA | 51.17 | 34 | Carlyn STEINER - Marinesa LETIZIA | 44.86 |
| 17 | Jill LEVIN - Daniela von ARNIM | 50.89 | 35 | Luigina GENTILI - Maddalena SEVERGNINI | 44.81 |
| 18 | Ana Maria De ALONSO - Monica ANG. De BALDASARRE | 50.76 | 36 | Ruth FARKAS - Ora DAN | 39.93 |

IMP PAIRS

Final A (After 2 Sessions)

| Rank | Names | Total IMPs | | | |
|------|--|------------|----|--|-----|
| 1 | Chuck BURGER - Howard PERLMAN | 65 | 36 | Paolo COMUNIAN - Claudio BIANCHINI | 2 |
| 1 | Tezcan SEN - Okay GUR | 65 | 36 | Robert STOLINSKI - Adam HINTERTAN | 2 |
| 3 | Maciej DOBRZYNSKI - Wojciech ARCZEWSKI | 64 | 38 | Artur RUTKOWSKI - Henryk BRODAWSKI | -1 |
| 3 | Craig GOWER - Henry MANSELL | 64 | 39 | Jan Petter SVENDSEN - Erik SAELENSMINDE | -2 |
| 5 | Laurent THUILLEZ - Wilfried LIBBRECHT | 60 | 40 | Otto RUTHENBERG - Jerzy KOZYCZKOWSKI | -4 |
| 6 | Irina LADYZHENSKY - Alexander LADYZHENSKY | 57 | 41 | Stefano CATA - Giancarlo MARINI | -7 |
| 6 | Michael CORNELL - Ashley BACH | 57 | 42 | Linda GORDON - Robb GORDON | -8 |
| 8 | Sven Olai HOYLAND - Sam Inge HOYLAND | 51 | 42 | Pauline GUMBY - Warren LAZER | -8 |
| 9 | Manuel d' OREY CAPUCHO - Krzysztof LASOCKI | 50 | 44 | Shireen MOHANDES - Andy BOWLES | -9 |
| 9 | Jeff SAPIRE - Neville EBER | 50 | 45 | Bobby RICHMAN - Zoltan NAGY | -10 |
| 11 | Pierre ADAD - Pascal RINGUET | 48 | 46 | Bjorn FALLENIUS - Biancastella RUSSO | -15 |
| 12 | Gary GOTTLIEB - Peter FREDIN | 47 | 46 | Ange AGNETTI - Franck MATEOS-RUIZ | -15 |
| 12 | Hans FRERICHS - Ulrich WENNING | 47 | 46 | Sotiris NINOS - Petros AGGELOPOULOS | -15 |
| 12 | Lynn DEAS - Beth PALMER | 47 | 49 | Gene FREED - Bill WICKHAM | -16 |
| 15 | Joanna STANSBY - Debbie ROSENBERG | 41 | 50 | David KENDRICK - Patrick COLLINS | -17 |
| 16 | Robert HOLLMAN - Bruce FERGUSON | 40 | 51 | Marc SMITH - Peter CZERNIEWSKI | -19 |
| 17 | Farid ASSEMI - Edward WOJEWODA | 39 | 52 | Jeroo MANGO - B.n. PARASRAMPURIA | -21 |
| 18 | Tommy GARVEY - John CARROLL | 35 | 53 | Tien-Chun YANG - Robert TODD | -24 |
| 19 | Yeshayahu LEVIT - Ronnie TOR | 30 | 54 | Tadashi TERAMOTO - Shunsuke MORIMURA | -26 |
| 20 | Poul CLEMMENSEN - Hans Christian GRAVERSEN | 25 | 55 | Janet DE BOTTON - Gunnar HALLBERG | -27 |
| 21 | Frederic VOLCKER - Quentin ROBERT | 24 | 56 | Hilary DOWLING-LONG - Ann Marie HORAN | -29 |
| 22 | Paolo PASQUINI - Jose Maria VALDES | 23 | 57 | Thanos KAPAYANNIDIS - Petros TRIANTAFILLIS | -32 |
| 23 | Jelena ALFEJEVA - Vladimir GONCA | 21 | 58 | Valerio GIUBILO - Guido BONA VOGLIA | -35 |
| 23 | Avi KANETKAR - Nigel ROSENDORF | 21 | 59 | Kit WOOLSEY - Fred STEWART | -36 |
| 25 | Mine BABAC - Aydin UYSAL | 20 | 60 | Adam WILDAVSKY - Doug DOUB | -37 |
| 26 | Keiran DYKE - David WILTSHIRE | 18 | 61 | Bernard DONDE - Alon APTEKER | -38 |
| 27 | Dan MANEA - Gabriel BALITA | 14 | 62 | Nels ERICKSON - Marjorie MICHELIN | -48 |
| 28 | Gabriel CHAGAS - Miguel VILLAS-BOAS | 9 | 63 | Furio MENEGHINI - Roberto SALTARELLI | -49 |
| 29 | Giorgio ZANARDI - Giuseppe De MONTIS | 8 | 64 | Alexander F LEWIS - Anal SHAH | -53 |
| 30 | Herve VINCENT - Federico GODED | 6 | 65 | Francois BOUCHER - Marc LACHAPELLE | -58 |
| 30 | Maxim ZHMAK - Denis DOBRIN | 6 | 66 | Alain NAHMIA S - Dominique BEAUMIER | -60 |
| 32 | Alexandra NIKITINA - Sergei SYTSEVICH | 5 | 67 | Calin STIRBU - Gheorghe SERPOI | -61 |
| 33 | Enrico LONGINOTTI - Giampaolo FRANCO | 4 | 67 | Valerie GARDINER - Peter GILL | -61 |
| 34 | Mckenzie MYERS - Joel DATLOFF | 3 | 69 | Angela DE BIASIO - Donatella GIGLIOTTI | -71 |
| 34 | Patrice PIGANEAU - Francois LEENHARDT | 3 | 70 | Nadine WOOD - Linda MALONEY | -78 |
| | | | 71 | Terry WALSH - Brid KEMPLE | -79 |
| | | | 72 | Barnet SHENKIN - Jim MAHAFFEY | -97 |

IMP PAIRS

Final B (After 2 Sessions)

| | | | | | |
|----|--|-----|----|---|-----|
| 1 | Sjoert BRINK - Bas DRIJVER | 139 | 21 | Paul GOSNEY - Luke GARDINER | 0 |
| 2 | Matt GRANOVETTER - Katherine WEI-SENDER | 77 | 22 | Nicholas GARTAGANIS - Judith GARTAGANIS | -9 |
| 3 | Dave COLBERT - John DUQUETTE | 64 | 23 | John DAVIDSON - Michael WHIBLEY | -10 |
| 4 | Gordon CAMPBELL - Piotr KLIMOWICZ | 63 | 24 | Sara TISHLER - Adam SARTEN | -13 |
| 5 | Martine ROSSARD - Johanna RACZYNSKA | 57 | 25 | Ena CLEARY - Jeannie FITZGERALD | -16 |
| 6 | Bjarni EINARSSON - Sigurbjorn HARALDSSON | 53 | 26 | Gitte HECHT-JOHANSEN - Valentin Dgiassim AL-SHATI | -23 |
| 7 | Astrid DEKKER - Rosalien BARENDREGT | 49 | 27 | Ferenc ZOLD - Gyorgy MARJAI | -25 |
| 8 | Christophe MARRO - Bogdan MARINA | 48 | 28 | Niclas JOHANSSON - Per JANSSON | -29 |
| 9 | Tony NUNN - Sartaj HANS | 36 | 29 | Ernst WARENDORF - Rene STIENEN | -30 |
| 10 | Cornel TEODORESCU - Lavinia MOTEA | 29 | 30 | Anna MATWIJOW - Bernard JADCZAK | -32 |
| 11 | Rene HERMANS - Willem Van EIJCK | 22 | 31 | Pierluigi IOTTI - Giancarlo GIACHETTI | -35 |
| 12 | Eric DEBUS - Piet VANDEREET | 18 | 32 | Patsy MEEHAN - Rose O'FARRELL | -37 |
| 13 | Shalh MOFAHKAMI - Giorgio ODELLO | 16 | 33 | Gloria PESTON - Peter SISSELAAR | -43 |
| 14 | Vincenzo BURGIO - Salvatore GATTO | 15 | 34 | Alexandra BERTRAM - Paul WENS | -45 |
| 15 | John HOLLAND - John ARMSTRONG | 14 | 35 | Gila EMODI - David BROWER | -56 |
| 16 | Marita MAI - Francesco Ariatta | 12 | 36 | Daniela BALDASSIN - Giovanni Carlo PRINCIPE | -60 |
| 16 | Yan HUANG - Yan Hong WANG | 12 | 37 | Natalija VEKSA - Liga BRIKMANE | -62 |
| 18 | Adolfo Andres MADALA - Shivam SHAH | 7 | 38 | Bodil FOSSAN - Vigdis MOEN | -63 |
| 19 | Jean-Pierre LAFOURCADE - Jacques HENRI | 3 | 39 | Stanislaw GOLEBIOWSKI - Tomasz SIELICKI | -66 |
| 20 | Sahar OUDA - Hans KREUNING | 1 | 39 | Yves AUBRY - Jean-Claude THUILLIER | -66 |

SENIOR PAIRS (for the Hiron Trophy)

After 6 Sessions

| Rank | Names | Total | | | |
|------|--|-------|----|--|-------|
| 1 | Nico KLAVER - Roald RAMER | 57.99 | 55 | Jorg EICHHOLZER - Christian FELDERER | 50.26 |
| 2 | Nico DOREMANS - Jaap TROUWBORST | 56.73 | 56 | Koeno BROUWER - Loek VERHEES SR | 50.25 |
| 3 | Entscho WLADOW - Reiner MARSAL | 56.60 | 57 | Henryk KOSIANKO - Kazimierz PUCZYNSKI | 49.95 |
| 4 | Reese MILNER - Sam LEV | 56.32 | 58 | Stefan CABAJ - Wlodzimierz ILNICKI | 49.89 |
| 5 | Julian KLUKOWSKI - Aleksander JEZIORO | 56.08 | 59 | Victor SILVERSTONE - Bernard TELTSCHER | 49.67 |
| 6 | Krzysztof ANTAS - Tadeusz KACZANOWSKI | 55.87 | 60 | Vivian PRIDAY - Tony PRIDAY | 49.59 |
| 7 | Wlodzimierz STOBIECKI - Jerzy RUSSYAN | 55.79 | 61 | Giuseppe MONTANARI - Gianni BALBI | 49.44 |
| 8 | Dano De FALCO - Guido RESTA | 55.79 | 62 | Patrick JOURDAIN - Michael TEDD | 49.29 |
| 9 | Robert SHEEHAN - Bill EISENBERG | 55.26 | 63 | Dario TRAMONTO - Oscar FENZO | 49.20 |
| 10 | Fritz KUBAK - Alexander MILAVEC | 55.06 | 64 | Nicola SMITH - Kitty TELTSCHER | 49.10 |
| 11 | Ulrich KRATZ - Bernhard STRATER | 54.74 | 65 | Ranan RIMON - Raimo HONKAVUORI | 48.98 |
| 12 | Marco RICCIARELLI - Franco BARONI | 54.61 | 66 | Tor BAKKE - Jan TROLLVIK | 48.87 |
| 13 | Andrzej ALEKSANDRZAK - Antoni ZDZIENICKI | 54.35 | 67 | David LIGGAT - Roy BENNETT | 48.66 |
| 14 | Walter HOEGER - Stanislaus KOSIKOWSKI | 54.35 | 68 | Michael KOUMAS - Dimitris KALAVANAS | 48.51 |
| 15 | Mario LUCCHESI - Paolo ROMANO | 54.14 | 69 | Jean-Claude PELLETIER - Jacqueline CASSIN | 48.42 |
| 16 | Lea DUPONT - Benito GAROZZO | 54.05 | 70 | George BILSKI - Barry NOBLE | 48.39 |
| 17 | Ali YALMAN - Ergun BANKOGLU | 54.02 | 71 | Martin HOFFMAN - Ross HARPER | 48.33 |
| 18 | Ezio FORNACIARI - Carlo MARIANI | 53.99 | 72 | Gordon LESSELLS - Aidan CLEARY | 48.06 |
| 19 | Tony WATERLOW - Paul D HACKETT | 53.94 | 73 | Claude LUMBROSO - Alexandre COUPERE | 47.78 |
| 20 | Gail GREENBERG - Jeff HAND | 53.76 | 74 | Salvatore LUCENO - Daniele SCHWARZ | 47.74 |
| 21 | Jan ROGOWSKI - Jozef POCHRON | 53.73 | 75 | Lorenzo SAVELLI - Antonio VIVALDI | 47.42 |
| 22 | Albert FAIGENBAUM - Romain ZALESKI | 53.34 | 76 | Claire TORNAY - George TORNAY | 47.34 |
| 23 | Willem BOEGEM - Onno JANSSENS | 53.33 | 77 | Rossana MAGLIONI - Alfredo GOLDSTAUB | 47.20 |
| 24 | Kyoko OHNO - Akihiko YAMADA | 53.13 | 78 | Claartje BAK - Inez Van EIJCK | 46.78 |
| 25 | David A JACKSON - Pat BARRY | 53.03 | 79 | Ergun KORKUT - Orhan EKINCI | 46.77 |
| 26 | Stanley WALTER - Christian MARI | 53.01 | 80 | Carlo LO CASCIO - Rita MARZANO | 46.72 |
| 27 | DON STACK - Tom KNIEST | 52.98 | 81 | Andre GIGNAC - Serge CHEVALIER | 46.64 |
| 28 | Victor MELMAN - Shalom ZELIGMAN | 52.92 | 82 | Max COPPOLANI - Claude PEYRONNIE | 46.44 |
| 29 | Paolo FARINA - Ruggero FILIPPINI | 52.81 | 83 | Erwin OTVOSI - Marek BOREWICZ | 46.43 |
| 30 | Ferruccio RAINIERI - Pierino DATO | 52.79 | 84 | Wolfgang ACHTENBERG - Halit BIGAT | 46.41 |
| 31 | Bjorn BUER - Svein Arne MUNKVOLD | 52.62 | 85 | Tommaso NACCA - Franco BOVE | 46.23 |
| 32 | Brian SHORT - John MATHESON | 52.58 | 86 | Erik LUND - Niels Joergen TOBIASEN | 46.14 |
| 33 | Giuseppe MASSAROLI - Amilcare POZZI | 52.53 | 87 | Tony TURNAGE - John CRUICKSHANK | 46.10 |
| 34 | Lew FINKEL - John MOHAN | 52.48 | 88 | Seamus DOWLING - John GODDEN | 45.25 |
| 35 | Hanspeter BOESIGER - Walter SPENGLER | 52.44 | 89 | Mauricio COLOMBO - Gianantonio CASTIGLIONI | 45.05 |
| 36 | Merih TOKCAN - Faik FALAY | 52.42 | 90 | Ursula FLEISCHMANN - Alfred FLEISCHMANN | 44.92 |
| 37 | Christo DRUMEV - Ivan TANEV | 52.21 | 91 | Jules HENDRICKX - Luc DE MESMAECKER | 44.81 |
| 38 | Werner SCHNEIDER - Robert KOCH | 52.16 | 92 | Fred MONDOR - Antoine DELCOURT | 44.80 |
| 39 | Victor MARKOWICZ - Jerzy ZAREMBA | 51.80 | 93 | Charna HELLER - Lalit MOHAN | 44.74 |
| 40 | Andras KOVACS - Istvan GERO | 51.62 | 94 | Harriette BUCKMAN - Fred BUCKMAN | 44.32 |
| 41 | Marinella CANESI - Franco CEDOLIN | 51.55 | 95 | Carla SOLDATI - Giovanna FRANCESCONI | 43.60 |
| 42 | Adalberto DALLACASAPICCOLA - Giovanni MACI | 51.54 | 96 | Vicky TELLIER - Michel TELLIER | 42.78 |
| 43 | Mario BENBASSAT - Jacques DELORME | 51.49 | 97 | Francoise LAVERRIERE - Michel SIMBOZEL | 42.13 |
| 44 | Miroslaw MILASZEWSKI - Stefan SZENBERG | 51.48 | 98 | Rosanna VITALI - Agata ALBIERO | 36.32 |
| 45 | Harry Van De PEPPEL - Koos VRIEZE | 51.17 | | | |
| 46 | Nissan RAND - Irving GORDON | 51.09 | | | |
| 47 | Hans HUMBURG - Goran MATTSSON | 50.97 | | | |
| 48 | Shapour MOHTASHAMI - Jean-Michel RUNACHER | 50.95 | | | |
| 49 | Wil BUKET - Ely SCHIPPERS-BOSKLOPPER | 50.92 | | | |
| 50 | Wlodek BUZE - Zdzislaw KOWALEWSKI | 50.52 | | | |
| 51 | Beat SCHMID - Rolf WEINBERG | 50.51 | | | |
| 52 | Dr. Boms WADIA - Adi KALIANIWALA | 50.40 | | | |
| 53 | Irmgard CHARLES - Darrell CHARLES | 50.33 | | | |
| 54 | Boguslaw DZIAR.-DZIALYNSKI - Dariusz WEGROWICZ | 50.32 | | | |

L' Arena

IL GIORNALE DI VERONA



These cheerful women have been serving you food and drinks during the tournament. Next time you see them, say, "Grazie mille!" They are, from left, Maria Rosa, Daniela, Kathy and Giusy.
Photo by Laila Leonhardt

Souvenir Bags for Sale

Empty WBF Championship bags are for sale at €5 each at the Hospitality Desk.



A Laguna, one of the cars provided by Renault, a tournament sponsor

Club des Clubs de Casablanca

Organise
Sous l'égide de la Fédération Royale Marocaine de Bridge

Festival international de Bridge

TROPHEE DRISS TAK TAK 2006



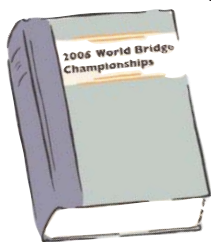
Du 31 Octobre au 5 Novembre 2006
en partenariat avec Attijariwafa bank

RENSEIGNEMENTS et INSCRIPTIONS

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Le passeport est obligatoire

World Championship Book 2006



The official book of these championships in Verona will be available before the end of the year at a price of US\$34. However, for those present in Verona, the book can be pre-ordered at the very special reduced price of US\$25 or 20 Euros, including surface mail to anywhere in the world (Airmail is extra).

To order and pay for your copy, please see Jan Swaan in the Press Room – go through the door marked Staff and Guests only, one floor down from the main playing area, and the Press Room is through the Bulletin Room. Please, when you fill in the form, write your name and address very clearly in capital letters, as every year I have to guess at several addresses.

The book will be 336 large pages, its usual size, and will include a full results listing and many photographs. There will be coverage of every championship, with the principal analysts being Eric Kokish and Brian Senior. Barry Rigal is taking a year off, but there will be one or two special guest contributors to look forward to.

OSSERVATORIO

Nel buio del rama gli attori recitano il loro spettacolo dando il meglio del loro talento (mi sto infilando in un inizio difficile e leggermente oleografico. Ora ne esco...). A volte, pero', al passaggio di un risultato interessante proveniente da un altro incontro, e' d'obbligo approfondire. Se non altro per curiosita'.

Attacchi azzeccati

Board 4. Dich. Ovest. Tutti in zona.

| | | | |
|--|---|--|---|
| <p>♠ 8 5 ♥ 8 4 2 ♦ 6 4 2 ♣ K J 8 5 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;">O E</p> <p style="margin: 0;">S</p> </div> | <p>♠ A 9 3 ♥ 3 ♦ A 10 9 5 ♣ A Q 10 7 3</p> | <p>♠ K Q J 4 2 ♥ Q 10 9 ♦ K Q J 3 ♣ 9</p> |
|--|---|--|---|

Si parla dei quarti della Rosenblum, il che corrisponde alle semifinali della McConnell. Sotto i riflettori la formazione israeloturca di Yadlin e quella cinese di Smeg. In sala chiusa, sulla manche a cuori dei cinesi, la coppia israeliana ha opposto la buona difesa a 5♣, a parita' di zona. Ma la vera chicca e' arrivata dal parallelo torneo femminile. In un tavolo della McConnell cup il contratto di manche a cuori e' stato battuto. Facile, direte voi, Nord apre in multi, Sud arriva a 4♥ ed Ovest attacca picche. No, perche' nei due casi in cui la multi ha colpito trasferendo il gioco in Sud, una Ovest ha attaccato 8 di picche (ma la compagna si e' persa per strada e non ha battuto filando un colpo, ed erano pure contrate le 4♥..), e l'altra ha intavolato una fiori. Percio' sono state sempre realizzate 10 prese. Meno che al tavolo della chicca, come dicevamo, dove, anche se la dichiarante era in Nord, Mari Ryman, in Est, ha intavolato il 3 di picche d'attacco. Niente male. Risultato 4♥ - 1.

Virate immediate

Board 11. Dich. Sud. Tutti in prima.

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

| Ovest | Nord | Est | Sud |
|----------|---------------|--------|----------------|
| Shi | Ginossar | Zhuang | Ozdil |
| 1♥ 4♥ | Passo Fine | 3♦ | Passo Passo |

Nell'incontro sugli schermi, ricevuto l'appoggio in stile Bergen, il cinese Shi ha chiuso direttamente a partita. Attacco Re di fiori. Non e' che ci siano problemi nella realizzazione della manche, dovendo perdere al massimo 2 picche e 1 quadri, ma il tempismo di Ovest e' stato interessante: Asso di fiori e quadri al Fante. Al volo, al colpo, al buio, per Sud, che infatti ha preso, ha ragionato a lungo ed e' tornato fiori. 4♥ + 1. In generale, non e' facile giocare con chi ti pone subito di fronte al bivio.

Dalla finale della McConnell.

Board 7. Dich. Sud. Tutti in zona.

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

| Ovest | Nord | Est | Sud |
|-------------------|----------------|---------------------|----------------------|
| Ponomareva | Meyers | Gromova | Levin |
| Passo 4♠ 5♠ | 1♣ 5♦ 6♦ | 2♦ Passo Fine | Passo 3♦ Passo |

Il 2♠ della Gromova mostra una bicolore con le picche. La licita ha seguito dei canali obbligati fino alla seconda azione di Nord che non ha un 5♦ e basta ma, quanto meno, un 5♦ e mezzo, se non di piu'. Le mezze licite non sono ancora permesse da regolamento, e la Meyers, quasi di sicuro volutamente, ha dato un colpo di freno, riproponendosi un rialzo a sorpresa nel probabile caso di ulteriore competizione della difesa. Si', doveva pensare cosi' in quanto sul 5♠ della Ponomareva, non ha fatto in tempo a contare fino a 3 e ha messo il 6♦. Il carrello e' tornato verde fino ad Ovest. Avreste dovuto vedere la sua faccia. Ha fatto una smorfia del tipo: "Se veramente dovevi chiamare 6♦, perche' non lo hai fatto prima? Mi hai tirato dentro? Hai veramente rischiato il passo generale a manche con lo slam in mano?". Dopo un altro paio di smorfie/considerazioni di questo tipo, la Ponomareva ha optato per un passo disciplinato, in fin dei conti c'e' quel singolo di fiori....

Riflettori su Est che, ottimo zoom della telecamera, ha messo i due Assi neri uno vicino all'altro. Gromova ha accarezzato l'Asso di picche e poi ha velocemente cambiato intavolando quello a fiori. 5 del morto, 6 di Ovest, 3 di Nord. Breve riflessione, fiori taglio. 6♦ - 2 (sul ritorno cuori la Meyers ha passato l'Asso).

Board 8. Dich. Ovest. Tutti in prima.

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

| Ovest | Nord | Est | Sud |
|------------|--------|---------|-------|
| Ponomareva | Meyers | Gromova | Levin |
| Passo | Passo | 1♦ | 1♠ |
| Passo | 2♦ | Passo | 2♥ |
| Passo | 2♠ | Passo | 3♠ |
| Passo | 4♠ | Fine | |

Ovest ha attaccato piccola quadri per l'Asso del morto che ha mosso il 10 di cuori. Se Est passa il Re e torna nel colore, la mano e' finita rapidamente in quanto, dietro al 9 di picche di Est, e' in agguato una promozione in atout. Est, invece, ha passato il Fante, coperto da tutti. Nessuna piega. C'e' un ritorno che batte, ora, ma richiede collaborazione. Il ritorno e' fiori, e la Ponomareva lo ha effettuato. La collaborazione consiste nel filare con l'Asso. Non e' successo. Est ha preso ed ha provato ad incassare il Re di quadri. 4♥ mi. Anche stavolta nemmeno una piega, come se facesse parte del bilancio generale. Sara' per il precedente colpo buono, sara' perche' sono abituate al recupero (vedi olimpiadi), ma contro questa coppia russa non e' facile giocare. Nell'altra sala due down.

Take home a Souvenir of the World Bridge Championships in Verona

WBF bar-coded cards are for sale at the Hospitality Desk. The cost is 1 Euro per pack, and they are sold in sets of 10 packs.

The White House Teams Top 16, 2007

The 4th White House Teams Top 16 will be held February 23-25, 2007 in Amsterdam, The Netherlands. The world's strongest teams are participating. Please contact Jan van Cleeff, present at the Verona WC's, for further information or mail to jvcleeff@xs4all.nl.

Birthday Hand

by Matthew Granovetter

Wednesday was my wife's secular birthday (according to the solar calendar, though we celebrate according to the lunar calendar in the Jewish tradition). But in honor of the solar birthday, I thought I'd show her favorite hand from the world championships here in Verona, which occurred during the Mixed Pairs. Pamela was East, playing with Bob Hamman.

Board 13. Dealer North. All Vul.

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

| West | North | East | South |
|------|-------|------|-------|
| | 2NT | 3♦ | Dble |

All Pass

Opening lead: ♠10.

When Pamela picked up the East cards, she was having an unlucky game and felt she had to do something pushy to get a good score and change the momentum. So over 2NT she bid 3♦ (rather than pass and hope the opponents play in 2NT or 3NT). This worked well for a strange reason. South doubled to say East took her bid – a transfer to 3♥. North, however, saw three losing diamonds in his hand and a doubleton heart (albeit a good doubleton) and decided to convert the double – not his best move on this deal.

South led her singleton spade, and Pamela dropped the queen under the ace. North switched confidently to a trump. Oops. Pamela took 11 tricks for a cold top.

North had put all his eggs in one basket, playing declarer for K-Q doubleton of spades. Instead, North should have led the ♥A at trick two, and his partner should tell him whether to go back to spades.

South discourages in hearts and North now knows that his partner started with a singleton spade. (This is an old rubber-bridge signal for trick two and still works very well.) Then it goes spade ruff, club to the queen, spade ruff. This defeats the contract by one trick.

Down one would still be a good score for East/West, since most North/South pairs scored 650 in 4♥. Yes, 4♠ can be made by West, but that's a tough contract to reach.

Bridge Today Daily, a daily e-mail column, can be purchased by subscription through the Granovettors here at the tournament or on the Internet at Bridgetoday.com.

Final - Session 4

Rosenblum Cup

Headed Off at the Pass

by Brent Manley

Going into the final set of the Rosenblum, Rose Meltzer's team led the Christal Henner-Welland squad 123-91. It is better, of course, to be ahead by 32 IMPs than behind by that sum, but no experienced player would take anything for granted with 16 deals left to play. Furthermore, the aggressive Henner squad had demonstrated their ability to come back, winning on the next-to-last deal in their semi-final match.

The final quarter produced some nervous moments for the Meltzer team before they finally pulled away for a comfortable win.

This deal helped Meltzer to 7 IMPs.

Board 22. Dealer East. E/W Vul.

| | | | | | | | | | | | |
|----------------|--|--------------|---|--|---|--|---|--|---|--|--|
| ♠ Q J 10 4 | | ♠ K 7 6 3 | | | | | | | | | |
| ♥ A J 6 3 2 | | ♥ K Q 9 4 | | | | | | | | | |
| ♦ 6 | | ♦ - | | | | | | | | | |
| ♣ 8 7 4 | | ♣ Q 10 9 5 3 | | | | | | | | | |
| ♠ A 9 5 | | | | | | | | | | | |
| ♥ 10 8 | | | | | | | | | | | |
| ♦ A 10 9 7 5 3 | | | | | | | | | | | |
| ♣ K 6 | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | <table border="1" style="background-color: black; color: white; 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 | | |
| | N | | | | | | | | | | |
| W | | E | | | | | | | | | |
| | S | | | | | | | | | | |
| | ♠ 8 2 | | | | | | | | | | |
| | ♥ 7 5 | | | | | | | | | | |
| | ♦ K Q J 8 4 2 | | | | | | | | | | |
| | ♣ A J 2 | | | | | | | | | | |



Magnus Lindkvist, Sweden

| | | | |
|-------------|--------------|-------------|--------------|
| West | North | East | South |
| Nystrom | Sontag | Bertheau | Bates |
| Pass | 2♥ | 1♦ | 2♦ |
| Dble | All Pass | Dble | 3♦ |

As you can see, in their forcing club system, Fredrik Nystrom and Peter Bertheau can open 1♦ with no cards in that suit. Roger Bates' overcall was natural. Alan Sontag, apparently looking for a better spot, merely elevated the level of the contract, which Nystrom was happy to double. With the terrible trump stack against him, Bates could take only five tricks. That was Minus 800.

| | | | |
|-------------|--------------|-------------|--------------|
| West | North | East | South |
| Helgemo | Lindkvist | Helness | Fredin |
| Pass | 1♥ | Pass | 1♦ |
| Dble | All Pass | Dble | 2♦ |

Tor Helness chose not to open the East hand, allowing Peter Fredin to play his doubled diamond contract one level lower. He took the same number of tricks for Minus 500.

The following deal had a surreal aspect to it.

Board 24. Dealer West. None Vul.

| | | | | | | | | | | | |
|--------------|--|----------------|---|--|---|--|---|--|---|--|--|
| | | ♠ 6 3 2 | | | | | | | | | |
| | | ♥ A K 8 7 4 2 | | | | | | | | | |
| | | ♦ J 4 | | | | | | | | | |
| | | ♣ 8 5 | | | | | | | | | |
| ♠ Q 7 | | ♠ J 8 | | | | | | | | | |
| ♥ J 9 | | ♥ 6 3 | | | | | | | | | |
| ♦ A 8 7 5 | | ♦ K Q 10 9 6 | | | | | | | | | |
| ♣ A K 10 6 3 | | ♣ Q J 7 2 | | | | | | | | | |
| | <table border="1" style="background-color: black; color: white; 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 | | |
| | N | | | | | | | | | | |
| W | | E | | | | | | | | | |
| | S | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | ♠ A K 10 9 5 4 | | | | | | | | | |
| | | ♥ Q 10 5 | | | | | | | | | |
| | | ♦ 3 2 | | | | | | | | | |
| | | ♣ 9 4 | | | | | | | | | |

| | | | |
|-------------|--------------|-------------|--------------|
| West | North | East | South |
| Nystrom | Sontag | Bertheau | Bates |
| INT | Pass | 3NT | All Pass |

Sontag started with a low heart, and it wasn't long before Nystrom was claiming – one trick! As you can see, the defenders have six tricks in each major, leaving declarer with one. That was down eight in a voluntarily bid game.

Remarkably, it appeared that the result was going to be duplicated at the other table, but it didn't happen.

| | | | |
|-------------|--------------|-------------|--------------|
| West | North | East | South |
| Helgemo | Lindkvist | Helness | Fredin |
| INT | Pass | 3NT | Dble |
| 4♣ | All Pass | | |

Helgemo also opened the West hand INT, and Helness innocently raised to game. When Fredin offered an opinion about this contract with a double (no doubt calling for the lead of a major), Helgemo believed him, running to 4♣. Magnus Lindkvist led two top hearts and switched to a spade, so North/South were Plus 50, losing 8 IMPs for their effort.

On the next board, there was more 3NT trouble for the Swedes.

Board 25. Dealer North. E/W Vul.

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

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

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| | N | |
| W | | E |
| | S | |

| West | North | East | South |
|----------------|---------------|-----------------|--------------|
| <i>Nystrom</i> | <i>Sontag</i> | <i>Bertheau</i> | <i>Bates</i> |
| | Pass | 1♣ | Pass |
| 1♦ | Pass | INT | Pass |
| 2♣ | Pass | 2♦ | Pass |
| 3NT | All Pass | | |

The 1♣ opener was strong, and the INT rebid must have a wide range for Nystrom to blast right into 3NT after making a negative response.

Bates started with the ♥3 to the jack, queen and king. Bertheau put all his eggs in one basket, playing a heart to dummy's ace and a diamond to the jack. Bates won the ♦K and played the ♥10. When it held (Sontag unblocking the ♥9), Bates cashed the ♥8 and played a diamond to the 10 and declarer's ace. There was almost no chance that the contract could be made, but Bertheau went to dummy with the ♦Q and played a club to the queen. Disaster! Bates won the ♣K and played the top two spades, continuing the suit. Bertheau won the ♣A at the end for his fifth trick. That was four down for Minus 400.

The auction was more sensible at the other table.

| West | North | East | South |
|----------------|------------------|----------------|---------------|
| <i>Helgemo</i> | <i>Lindkvist</i> | <i>Helness</i> | <i>Fredin</i> |
| | Pass | INT | All Pass |

Fredin also started with a heart to the jack, queen and king, but Helness didn't bother with finesses. He cashed the ♦A and played another from hand. Fredin won the ♦K and cleared hearts, but Helness had his seven tricks via two hearts, four diamonds and the ♣A. Plus 90 meant 10 IMPs to Meltzer.

At that point, Meltzer's lead had grown to 156-103. They were cruising, but there was trouble ahead – and it didn't take long to arrive.

Board 26. Dealer East. All Vul.

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

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

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| | N | |
| W | | E |
| | S | |

| West | North | East | South |
|----------------|---------------|-----------------|--------------|
| <i>Nystrom</i> | <i>Sontag</i> | <i>Bertheau</i> | <i>Bates</i> |
| | | 1♣ | 1♥ |
| INT | 3♥ | 4♦ | Pass |
| 4♥ | Pass | 4♠ | Pass |
| 5♦ | Pass | 6♦ | All Pass |

Bates led the ♥A, and that was it. Bertheau quickly claimed 12 tricks for Plus 1370.

| West | North | East | South |
|----------------|------------------|----------------|---------------|
| <i>Helgemo</i> | <i>Lindkvist</i> | <i>Helness</i> | <i>Fredin</i> |
| Pass | 4♥ | All Pass | 3♣ |

Fredin's jump overcall, showing the majors, silenced West and effectively blew the Norwegians out of the water. The contract could not be made – after the lead of the ♣K, declarer has only three apparent losers but not enough winners. Even so, Minus 100 was a huge break for Henner, who gained 15 IMPs.

Another 5 IMPs went to Henner when Nystrom and Bertheau stopped in 3♠ on Board 27, earning Plus 140 while Helgemo and Helness bid to game, going one down.

Then came this deal.

Board 28. Dealer West. N/S Vul.

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

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

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| | N | |
| W | | E |
| | S | |

| West | North | East | South |
|----------------|---------------|-----------------|--------------|
| <i>Nystrom</i> | <i>Sontag</i> | <i>Bertheau</i> | <i>Bates</i> |
| 1♥ | Dble | 4♥ | All Pass |

Nystrom had to lose two diamonds and a club, but that was it – Plus 420.

The auction worked out much better for the Swedes at the other table.

| West | North | East | South |
|---------|-----------|---------|--------|
| Helgemo | Lindkvist | Helness | Fredin |
| 1♥ | 2♣ | 4♥ | 5♣ |
| 5♥ | All Pass | | |

Lindkvist's decision to overcall his long suit rather than doubling for takeout earned a huge dividend, as Helgemo was forced to bid on to avoid a double game swing – 5♣ was cold. The defense had the same three tricks, Helgemo was one down and Henner had another 10 IMPs. With four boards to go, Meltzer's lead had shrunk to 23 IMPs.

The next deal was a killer for Henner, but it could have been another big swing for them.

Board 29. Dealer North. All Vul.

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

| West | North | East | South |
|----------|--------|----------|-------|
| Nystrom | Sontag | Bertheau | Bates |
| Pass | 1♠ | Pass | 3♣ |
| Pass | 3♦ | Pass | 4NT |
| All Pass | 5♥ | Pass | 5♠ |

Bates made a game-forcing spade raise, then checked for key cards, signing off at 5♠ when he learned his side was missing an ace and the trump queen. His discretion was rewarded



Peter Fredin – Geir Helgemo

when the defense turned out to have a trump trick in addition to the ♥A.

At the other table, Lindkvist and Fredin had a lengthy, complicated sequence that ended when they reached the no-play slam. That was 13 IMPs to Meltzer, but it would have been 13 IMPs to Henner had trumps been 2-2 or 3-1 with a singleton honor in the East hand.

That put Meltzer's margin at 36 with three deals to go, and they put the icing on the cake on the next deal.

Board 30. Dealer East. None Vul.

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

| West | North | East | South |
|---------|----------|----------|-------|
| Nystrom | Sontag | Bertheau | Bates |
| 1♥ | Dble | Pass | 1♦ |
| 4♥ | All Pass | 3♥ | Pass |

Sontag led the ♦7 to the 10 and queen. Nystrom cashed the ♦A and played a third round, overruffing Sontag's ♥8 with dummy's 10. A heart went to the jack and queen, and the ♥A picked up South's king. Now Nystrom played the club from his hand, ducking when Sontag played the jack. A second round of clubs was ruffed by Nystrom, who then played a spade to dummy's ace. Bates erred by not playing the queen, and Nystrom took advantage to score an overtrick. He ruffed dummy's last club and exited from hand with the ♠6. Bates had to win and provide a ruff-sluff, on which Nystrom's losing spade disappeared. That was Plus 450. Nicely played, but still a loss of 8 IMPs because of what happened at the other table.

| West | North | East | South |
|---------|-----------|---------|--------|
| Helgemo | Lindkvist | Helness | Fredin |
| | | Pass | INT |
| 2♦ | 2NT | 3♥ | Pass |
| 4♥ | 4♠ | Dble | 5♣ |
| Dble | All Pass | | |

Helgemo led the ♣6, taken by Fredin with dummy's ace. He played the ♥8 to his jack and Helgemo's queen, then ruffed in dummy when Helgemo continued with the ♥A. A diamond went to the jack and queen, and the ♠J was ducked to Fredin's queen. Fredin cashed the ♣K and played the ♦K to Helgemo's ace. Helgemo could now put Helness on lead with the ♠A so that he could cash the ♣Q and play another heart, forcing dummy to ruff. The defense still had another spade trick coming for Plus 800.

That 8-IMP gain put Meltzer up 177-133. They tacked on 2 IMPs more and had the championship with a 179-133 victory.

Final

Women's Pairs

Session One

by Brian Senior

The Women's Pairs final saw 36 pairs playing 35 x 3-board rounds spread over four sessions. There were some lively boards in the first session on Thursday morning, this being the first to catch my eye:

Board 4. Dealer West. All Vul.

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

| West | North | East | South |
|-------|----------|----------|----------|
| Baker | Olivieri | McCallum | Arrigoni |
| 1♣ | 4♠ | Dble | All Pass |

It was far from unreasonable for Gabriella Olivieri to overcall 4♠ with her seven-four shape but, even after a helpful club lead, permitting a heart discard on the ace, it proved to be a very expensive choice. Olivieri continued by taking the trump finesse then cashing a top spade to get the bad news. Next, she led to the queen of diamonds, losing to the king, and Lynn Baker switched to the two of hearts for the jack and queen. Karen McCallum shot back a low diamond and Olivieri, who had no doubt intended to lead to the jack next, thought for some time before getting it wrong, putting in the nine and losing to the ten. Olivieri ruffed the heart return and led a diamond, McCallum winning the ace then cashing the seven. There was still a trump to come so the contract was three down for -800 and zero matchpoints to North/South, 34 to East/West.

Board 7. Dealer South. All Vul.

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

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

| West | North | East | South |
|----------|--------|----------|-------|
| Arrigoni | Dhondy | Olivieri | Brock |
| Pass | 2♣ | Pass | 1♥ |
| Pass | Pass | Dble | 2♥ |
| 2NT | Dble | Pass | Rdbl |
| 3♣ | Dble | All Pass | Pass |

Heather Dhondy's 2♣ response was two-way, either natural or a three-card limit raise, around 9-11, and the 2♥ rebid showed a minimum with at least five hearts. Sitting behind Olivieri I was surprised when she started to think when 2♥ came around to her, and even more surprised when she doubled as it seemed clear that partner had some heart length for her failure to come in earlier, in which case there might not be a fit for East/West. Sally Brock redoubled because she expected her opponents to find a spade fit, and she wanted to be certain that she would get an opportunity to double 2♠. As it turned out, Gianna Arrigoni bid 2NT, two places to play, then ran to 3♣. Dhondy doubled both these contracts.

A trump lead would be best, but the actual lead of three rounds of diamonds only cost a few matchpoints. Brock ruffed and switched to ace and another spade, ruffed. Declarer hoped to find clubs five-one because of the auction, so took a heart pitch on the ♦Q now, only to run into a second ruff. She ruffed the spade return and played ace and another heart, ruffed, but had to give a trick to the jack of clubs at the end as Dhondy could ruff the third heart with the ♣8 to force the ace. That meant down two for -500 and 29 MPs to North/South.

Board 11. Dealer South. None Vul.

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

| West | North | East | South |
|-------|------------|--------|---------|
| Brock | Severgnini | Dhondy | Gentili |
| Pass | 2♦ | Dble | 2♣ |
| 3♣ | 3♠ | 4♣ | 2♥ |
| Dble | All Pass | | 4♠ |

Two Clubs was weak with at least four-four in the majors and 2♦ asked. Dhondy doubled to show diamonds and 2♥ de-

nied five spades. Brock competed in clubs, and everyone had another go, ending with a prompt double from Brock, who could have found her partner with somewhat more than she actually held.

Dhondy led a club to the queen and Brock switched to a diamond, Dhondy winning and playing two more rounds of the suit, Maddalena Severgnini ruffing. Best would have been to ruff a club now, but cashing a top trump was not fatal. Severgnini's next play, queen and another heart was, however, fatal. She continued with the third heart winner and Brock ruffed. Declarer over-ruffed, ruffed a club, ruffed a heart, then another club, but had to give up a trump at the end for down one; -100 and only 4 MPs to North/South.

At the point where she cashed the hearts, declarer needed instead to ruff a club, play a heart to the queen and ruff another club. Now she plays the ace and king of hearts and West is powerless. If she ruffs, declarer over-ruffs, ruffs her last club and leads a heart for a trump coup. If West discards on the third heart then declarer throws a club, leads the ♠10 and stays in dummy for the same trump coup.

Five out of 14 declarers in a spade contract made ten tricks.

Board 12. Dealer West. N/S Vul.

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

| West | North | East | South |
|--------------|-------------------|---------------|----------------|
| <i>Brock</i> | <i>Severgnini</i> | <i>Dhondy</i> | <i>Gentili</i> |
| 1♣ | Pass | INT | 3♠ |
| Pass | 4♠ | All Pass | |

Having seen Severgnini miss a chance for a big board on the previous deal, this time it was Luigiana Gentili's turn to have a chance to show her declarer-play skills. Brock's 1♣ opening was either natural or 11-13 balanced, when it could be as short as a doubleton. Gentili finessed the club queen at trick one, losing to the king, and Dhondy switched to the queen of hearts to dummy's ace. Gentili took the spade finesse and Brock tried to cash two hearts. Gentili ruffed, drew trumps and played her remaining club to the nine and ace. When she now led the ♣6 off the table, she had to decide who had the ten. Alas, she ruffed, and still had a diamond loser; down one for -100 and 10 MPs to North/South.

This time only two out of 16 declarers in a spade contract managed to make ten tricks, but note that the defenders could have switched to diamonds earlier to take out the entry to the fourth club, ensuring that declarer could not prevail.

Board 13. Dealer North. All Vul.

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

| West | North | East | South |
|----------------|----------------|-------------------|----------------|
| <i>Gentili</i> | <i>Wen Fei</i> | <i>Severgnini</i> | <i>Hong Li</i> |
| | Pass | Pass | INT |

All Pass

Hong Li Wang opened a 14-16 no trump and played there on the lead of a low diamond to her six. She continued with the queen of diamonds and Gentili judged not to cover. The ♦10 to the jack came next and Severgnini, who had first pitched a heart, now threw a club. Hong Li led dummy's singleton heart and, after a little thought, let it run, forcing the king. Gentili led a diamond to the ace so Hong Li crossed to the ace of clubs and led the ♥Q to Severgnini's ace. On the lead of the jack of spades, Hong Li rose with the ace and cashed her heart then the ♣K so had an overtrick for +120 but only 16 MPs - six pairs made nine tricks, two of them in game.

Board 14. Dealer East. None Vul.

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

| West | North | East | South |
|----------------|----------------|-------------------|----------------|
| <i>Gentili</i> | <i>Wen Fei</i> | <i>Severgnini</i> | <i>Hong Li</i> |
| | | INT | Pass |
| 2♦ | Dble | Pass | Pass |
| 2♥ | Dble | Pass | 3♦ |

All Pass

Wen Fei doubled to show diamonds, then for take-out at her next turn, so Hong Li bid 3♦, with no great enthusiasm. Gentili led the king of hearts and Hong Li ducked. Now came a club switch and the defence played three rounds, Gentili ruffing with the queen as dummy pitched a heart. Hong Li

won the heart return and cashed the top diamonds, then played the jack of spades. Severgnini won the king, underled to Gentili's queen, and won the return with her ace; three down for -150 but 24 MPs to North/South.

The other four declarers in diamond contracts made fewer tricks than did Hong Li.

Board 15. Dealer South. N/S Vul.

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

| West | North | East | South |
|----------------|----------------|-------------------|----------------|
| <i>Gentili</i> | <i>Wen Fei</i> | <i>Severgnini</i> | <i>Hong Li</i> |
| Pass | 1♠ | Pass | 1♦(i) |
| Dble | Rdbl | 3♥ | 2♠ |
| Pass | 4♠ | All Pass | 3♠ |

(i) Precision

Severgnini led her club against 4♠ and Wen Fei put in the nine, the ten forcing the ace. She cashed ♠Q and ♠A then played three rounds of hearts, ruffing, and drew the remaining trumps. Gentili threw a club on the last trump, a fatal error, as now Wen Fei could take the whole club suit, making eleven for +650 and 32.9 MPs.

Only one other declarer made an overtrick and half the field went down in 4♠.

Board 16. Dealer West. E/W Vul.

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

| West | North | East | South |
|----------------|---------------------|----------------|------------------|
| <i>Wen Fei</i> | <i>Harasimowicz</i> | <i>Hong Li</i> | <i>Pasternak</i> |
| 4♥ | 4♠ | Pass | Pass |
| 5♦ | Pass | Pass | Dble |
| All Pass | | | |

You can understand it, but it feels wrong to bid a second time with the West hand – the suits need more solidity than this – but 5♦ doubled was not hopeless, looking only at the East/West cards.

Ewa Harasimowicz cashed a top spade then tried a top club, ruffed. Wen Fei played ace and another heart but Harasimowicz could ruff with the ten in front of dummy, from which went a spade. She played a top spade, ruffed, and now Wen Fei was starting to lose trump control. She ruffed a heart then led the ♣Q and, after some thought, threw a heart on it. Harasimowicz won the king and played another spade, ruffed in dummy. Declarer played the ♣J, throwing a heart as Malgorzata Pasternak threw a spade, then ruffed a club and ruffed a heart, over-ruffed; down two for -500 and 22 MPs to North/South.

One declarer got out for one down in 5♦ doubled, but two were three down and one four down.

Board 17. Dealer North. None Vul.

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

| West | North | East | South |
|----------------|---------------------|----------------|------------------|
| <i>Wen Fei</i> | <i>Harasimowicz</i> | <i>Hong Li</i> | <i>Pasternak</i> |
| Pass | 1♠ | Pass | INT |
| All Pass | 2♦ | Pass | 2♠ |

Hong Li led a heart, on which Harasimowicz played low so the king won. Wen Fei cashed the king of diamonds but Hong Li, wanting a club through, discouraged. Wen Fei duly switched to a club to the king and ace and Hong Li switched back to diamonds. After getting her diamond ruff, Hong Li played the queen and jack of clubs. Harasimowicz ruffed, crossed to the ace of hearts and led the ♠9 to her queen. Then meant two trump losers for down three; -150 and only 3 MPs to North/South.

Two other declarers went three down, but two went two down and four got out for only down one.



Final – Session 1

Open Pairs

They're Racing in Verona

by Mark Horton

The final of the World Open Pairs Championship – the ultimate matchpoint test, 142 boards where every trick counts, kicked off yesterday. It would be easy enough to include all 26 deals from the first session, as most of them contained a point of interest – but after all that tends to be the rule, rather than the exception, when this form of scoring is in use.

Board 5. Dealer North. N/S Vul.

| | | | | | | | | | | | |
|-------------|--|------------|--|--|---|--|---|--|---|--|---------|
| ♠ 8 6 4 | | ♠ A Q 10 2 | | | | | | | | | |
| ♥ 6 5 3 2 | | ♥ A J 8 7 | | | | | | | | | |
| ♦ 5 | | ♦ Q 9 8 6 | | | | | | | | | |
| ♣ 8 7 5 4 3 | | ♣ K | | | | | | | | | |
| ♠ K 7 5 | <table border="1"><tr><td>N</td><td></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 | | ♠ J 9 3 |
| N | | | | | | | | | | | |
| W | | E | | | | | | | | | |
| | S | | | | | | | | | | |
| ♥ Q 4 | | ♥ K 10 9 | | | | | | | | | |
| ♦ A K 4 3 | | ♦ J 10 7 2 | | | | | | | | | |
| ♣ A 10 6 2 | | ♣ Q J 9 | | | | | | | | | |

| West | North | East | South |
|---------------|---------------|---------------------|---------------|
| <i>Bompis</i> | <i>Yadlin</i> | <i>Sainte Marie</i> | <i>Yadlin</i> |
| | Pass | 1♦ | Pass |
| 2♣ | Pass | 2NT | Pass |
| 3NT | All Pass | | |

You would certainly like to play a slam on the East/West cards – although some pairs who reached Six Diamonds went down when West was declarer and North led a heart, as they took a finesse and were defeated by the 4-1 trump break.

6NT is the top spot, especially since on this layout you can survive despite the bad diamond break.

The French pair made no move towards slam – I must ask the co-ordinator if Three Diamonds by West would have been forcing. It gave E/W 44%.



Jason Hackett, England

Board 7. Dealer South. All Vul.

| | | | | | | | | | | | |
|-------------|--|---------------|--|--|---|--|---|--|---|--|-------|
| ♠ A 5 4 3 2 | | ♠ K 9 7 | | | | | | | | | |
| ♥ A J 7 | | ♥ Q 10 5 | | | | | | | | | |
| ♦ K 4 2 | | ♦ Q J 10 | | | | | | | | | |
| ♣ J 10 | | ♣ 9 8 6 4 | | | | | | | | | |
| ♠ Q 10 6 | <table border="1"><tr><td>N</td><td></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 | | ♠ J 8 |
| N | | | | | | | | | | | |
| W | | E | | | | | | | | | |
| | S | | | | | | | | | | |
| ♥ 3 | | ♥ K 9 8 6 4 2 | | | | | | | | | |
| ♦ A 7 6 3 | | ♦ 9 8 5 | | | | | | | | | |
| ♣ A K Q 7 2 | | ♣ 5 3 | | | | | | | | | |

| West | North | East | South |
|--------------|---------------|---------------|----------------|
| <i>Jason</i> | <i>Martel</i> | <i>Justin</i> | <i>Stansby</i> |
| | | | Pass |
| 1♣ | 1♠ | INT | 2♥ |
| Dble | Pass | 3♣ | Pass |
| Pass | 3♥ | All Pass | |

The American pair were having a terrible time – they were rooted at the bottom for most of the session. I will leave you to consider the merits of South's entry into the auction (although one of the VuGraph commentators suggested that North should not have bid One Spade!).

West led the king of clubs, East following with the eight, cashed the queen and switched to a low diamond. Declarer was booked for two down; -200, the usual kiss of death, and an 11% score.

Board 8. Dealer West. None Vul.

| | | | | | | | | | | | |
|-------------|--|--------------|--|--|---|--|---|--|---|--|-------|
| ♠ A K 9 2 | | ♠ 10 8 | | | | | | | | | |
| ♥ J 9 7 6 4 | | ♥ A K Q 3 | | | | | | | | | |
| ♦ Q 9 5 | | ♦ 3 2 | | | | | | | | | |
| ♣ K | | ♣ 10 9 8 7 2 | | | | | | | | | |
| ♠ Q J 7 6 4 | <table border="1"><tr><td>N</td><td></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 | | ♠ 5 3 |
| N | | | | | | | | | | | |
| W | | E | | | | | | | | | |
| | S | | | | | | | | | | |
| ♥ 8 2 | | ♥ 10 5 | | | | | | | | | |
| ♦ J 6 4 | | ♦ A K 10 8 7 | | | | | | | | | |
| ♣ Q 6 5 | | ♣ A J 4 3 | | | | | | | | | |

| West | North | East | South |
|--------------|---------------|---------------|----------------|
| <i>Jason</i> | <i>Martel</i> | <i>Justin</i> | <i>Stansby</i> |
| | | | 3NT |
| Pass | 2♦* | Pass | |
| All Pass | | | |

A classic deal with the battle surrounding the number of tricks declarer could arrive at in 3NT. The Americans had done well in the auction as, slightly surprisingly, North was

usually the declarer and it was easy for East to lead a club. Trying to be safe West led the eight of hearts. After long thought East cashed out, but conceding ten tricks was worth only 11% – an average round.

Board 9. Dealer North. E/W Vul.

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

| West | North | East | South |
|--------|--------------|----------|-------|
| Duboin | Christiansen | Bocchi | Auken |
| | INT | Pass | 2♣ |
| 2♦ | Pass* | Pass | 2♥* |
| Pass | 2♠ | Pass | 2NT* |
| Pass | 4♠ | All Pass | |

The Danish pair had dominated the qualifying session, but they were making a slow start and they scored badly on this deal when they reached a normal game.

East led the six of diamonds and declarer won with the ace, played a heart to the ace, a spade to the king and the queen of spades, getting the bad news. He took the king of hearts, ruffed a heart and played the king of clubs. West ruffed, cashed the ace of spades and then played a top diamond. Declarer could take only two more tricks – two down for –100, worth only 26%.

A complete top is very rare, but one was recorded on the following deal:

Board 12. Dealer West. N/S Vul.

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

| West | North | East | South |
|----------|-----------|------|-------|
| Townsend | Weinstein | Gold | Levin |
| Pass | Pass | 1♥ | Pass |
| INT | All Pass | | |

North led a low diamond and South took his honours and played a third round. Declarer crossed to the ace of clubs and played a club. When South produced the queen declarer elected to duck and that resulted in seven tricks for +90 and a zero.

If declarer had taken his clubs and finessed in spades he would have scored 73%.

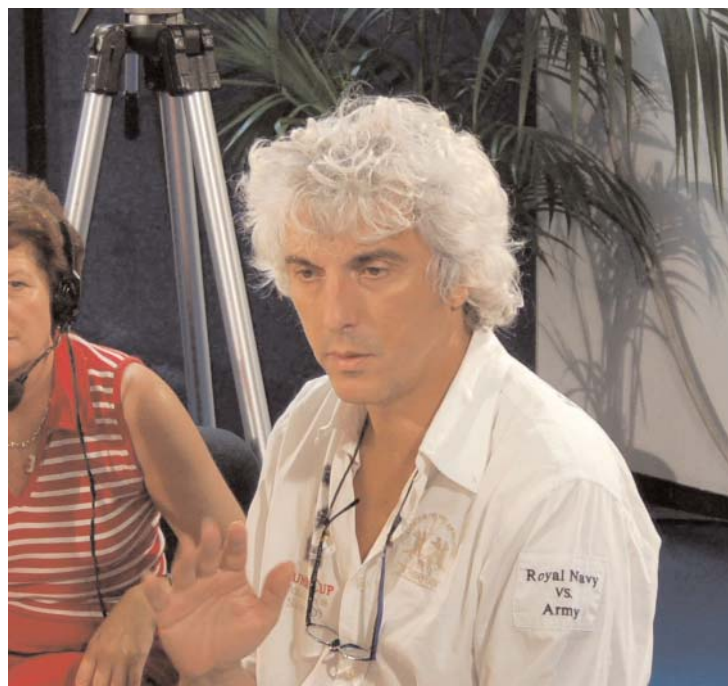
Board 13. Dealer North. All Vul.

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

| West | North | East | South |
|---------|----------|--------|--------|
| Cronier | Herbst | Chemla | Herbst |
| 1♠ | Pass | 1♥ | Pass |
| 2NT | All Pass | 2♦ | Pass |

As you would expect, a significant number of pairs reached the spade game, but it went a begging at this table. Many players would simply raise spades at their second turn but, in the French system, raising without four-card support in this position is forbidden by the 'Code Penal'.

North led a club and declarer won at once with the ace, played a diamond to the queen, a spade to the queen, the nine of hearts to the ace, a spade to the king and ace and a dia-



Norberto Bocchi, Italy

mond. North, who had discarded a club, ducked, won the next diamond and cashed his winners – to his partner’s discomfort. Declarer emerged with nine tricks, salvaging 29% from the wreckage.

The VuGraph audience were treated to a rare sight, when Meckwell were in opposition.

Board 15. Dealer South. N/S Vul.

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

| West | North | East | South |
|----------|------------|--------|---------|
| Rodwell | Meckstroth | Simson | Johnson |
| 3♠ | 4♠ | Pass | INT |
| Pass | 5♠ | Pass | 5♥ |
| All Pass | | | 6♦ |


Meckstroth took the bull by the horns and drove to slam over West’s preempt. Right he was as +1370 was quickly recorded. Did South consider the possibility of bidding 6NT? That would have delivered 89% as opposed to the actual 54% recorded.

Board 16. Dealer West. E/W Vul.

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

| West | North | East | South |
|----------|------------|--------|---------|
| Rodwell | Meckstroth | Simson | Johnson |
| 1♦ | 1♥ | Pass | 4♥ |
| All Pass | | | |

The only interest here was in West’s choice of opening bid. A gambling 3NT would have made life interesting, but Rodwell’s more pedestrian choice of One Diamond saw North/South reach their cold game. It was worth 47%, so it was ‘Meck by a neck’ on the round.



I Love this Game

Sabine Auken will be signing copies of her bestseller at the bookstall in the basement at 15.00.

The Teltscher Touch and the Hackett Hatchet

by Maureen Dennison

Kitty Teltscher, West, playing in the Senior Pairs with Nicola Smith, both of England, was in 6NT as West on this deal:

Board 6. Dealer East. E/W Vul.

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

North’s club lead was run to the queen, and declarer played four rounds of hearts. North won and switched to a diamond: 3, 9, queen and ace. Teltscher cashed her long heart, squeezing South down to ♠K10, having to cover the long club. Now the club play put North under pressure, having to keep the ♦K. He, too, was reduced to two spades. Declarer took the successful finesse in spades and the ♠8 was her 12th trick.

Paul Hackett, playing with Tony Waterlow, also England, was North at a different table against the same contract by West. The play at his table was identical for the first five tricks but, when Hackett was in with ♥9, he led a spade and broke up the squeeze – not so easy to see.

