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Issue No. 15

Saturday, 24 June 2006

Wild Wild Quest



Women's Pairs winners, Irina Levitina and Kerri Sanborn



Senior Pairs winners, Nico Klaver and Roald Ramer

For most of the last session of the Women's Pairs final, it appeared Irina Levitina and Kerri Sanborn would run away with the event. Their huge lead shrank to miniscule size at one point, but they rallied and were able to survive a complete zero on the final board to win the championship, just ahead of Wei Fei Wang and Hong Li Wang, who also suffered a bad final board. Third were Sabine Auken and Janice Seamon-Molson.

In the Senior Pairs, Nico Klaver and Roald Ramer by a small margin over Julian Klukowski and Aleksander Jezioro. Third place went to Entschow Wladow and Reiner Marsal.



VuGraph Programme

Teatro Verdi

10.00 Open Pairs Final 5

TODAY'S PROGRAMME

- 10.00 Open Pairs – Final Session 5
- IMP Pairs Final A – Session 5
- 14.30 Cocktail
- 16.00 Closing Ceremony

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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.

The odd-numbered rows from A to E on the left of the central aisle will be reserved for officials, while all the other seats in rows A to I (i.e., the front of the auditorium) will be reserved for medallists in all the events.

OPEN PAIRS

Final Phase (After 4 Sessions)

Rank	Names	Total		Total	
1	Marc BOMPIS - Thierry De SAINTE MARIE	57.05	36	Krzysztof MARTENS - Vytautas VAINIKONIS	49.56
2	Zhong FU - Jie ZHAO	56.36	37	Tom TOWNSEND - David GOLD	49.53
3	Vincent RAMONDT - Berry WESTRA	56.35	38	Assaf LENGY - Gadi LBOVITS	49.51
4	Jacek PSZCZOLA - Cezary BALICKI	55.73	39	Marcin LESNIEWSKI - Jean-Michel VOLDOIRE	49.45
5	David BAKHSHI - Andrew MCINTOSH	55.22	40	Jean-Paul BALIAN - Philippe TOFFIER	49.08
6	Bobby LEVIN - Steve WEINSTEIN	55.20	41	Ton BAKKEREN - Huub BERTENS	48.99
7	Fred GITELMAN - Brad MOSS	54.93	42	Larissa PANINA - Michael ROSENBLUM	48.93
8	Wojciech OLANSKI - Włodzimierz STARKOWSKI	54.88	43	Chip MARTEL - Lew STANSBY	48.81
9	Rossen Georgiev GUNEV - Julian STEFANOV	54.78	44	Jian Ming DAI - Li Xin YANG	48.78
10	Fulvio FANTONI - Claudio NUNES	54.46	45	Jean-Jacques PALAU - Pierre-Yves GUILLAUMIN	48.58
11	Win ALLEGAERT - Jaggy SHIVDASANI	53.99	46	Larry N. COHEN - David BERKOWITZ	48.57
12	Jeff MECKSTROTH - Perry JOHNSON	53.76	47	Paul CHEMLA - Philippe CRONIER	48.49
13	Tomasz GOTARD - Josef PIEKAREK	53.37	48	Desislava Borissova POPOVA - Georgi KARAKOLEV	48.46
14	Vadim KHOLOMEEV - Jouri KHIOPPENEN	53.27	49	Rafał JAGNIEWSKI - Bogusław PAZUR	48.44
15	Matthias THORVALDSSON - Magnus MAGNUSSON	53.25	50	Alejandro BIANCHEDI - Ernesto MUZZIO	48.34
16	Jerome ROMBAUT - Lionel SEBBANE	53.06	51	David BIRMAN - Alon BIRMAN	48.17
17	Konrad ARASZKIEWICZ - Dariusz KOWALSKI	52.77	52	Ilan HERBST - Ofir HERBST	48.09
18	Norberto BOCCHI - Giorgio DUBOIN	52.68	53	Richard SCHWARTZ - Chris WILLENKEN	48.00
19	Jan JANSMA - Louk VERHEES JR	52.50	54	Archie SEQUERA - Ramawatar AGARWAL	47.81
20	Jason HACKETT - Justin HACKETT	52.48	55	N. K. GUPTA - Sandeep THAKRAL	47.57
21	Bogusław GIERULSKI - Jerzy SKRZYPCZAK	52.34	56	Doron YADLIN - Israel YADLIN	47.34
22	Nick SANDQVIST - Artur MALINOWSKI	52.00	57	Hao Jun SHI - Ze Jun ZHUANG	47.30
23	Michael PRESCOTT - Stephen BURGESS	51.55	58	Apolinary KOWALSKI - Piotr TUSZYNSKI	47.22
24	Melih OZDIL - Eldad GINOSSAR	51.25	59	Maris MATISONS - Andris SMILGAJS	47.12
25	Michael ROSENBERG - Ralph KATZ	50.94	60	Maija ROMANOVSKA - Karlis RUBINS	47.04
26	Eric RODWELL - Doug SIMSON	50.88	61	Mario D'AVOSSA - Stelio DI BELLO	46.77
27	Andrei GROMOV - Alexander DUBININ	50.83	62	Marcelo BRANCO - Diego BRENNER	46.04
28	Julien GAVIARD - Thomas BESSIS	50.68	63	Franck MULTON - Pierre ZIMMERMANN	46.04
29	Andrew ROBSON - Zia MAHMOOD	50.68	64	Bengt-Erik EFRAIMSSON - Anders MORATH	45.99
30	Michael BAREL - Yaniv ZACK	50.66	65	Alex KOLESNIK - Roberto SCARAMUZZI	45.71
31	Jens AUKEN - Soren CHRISTIANSEN	50.60	66	Andreas GLOYER - Wolfgang LAUSS	45.47
32	Ismail KANDEMIR - Suleyman KOLATA	50.44	67	Ahu ZOBU - Victor ARONOV	45.01
33	Jon Egil FURUNES - Per Erik AUSTBERG	50.36	68	Jacek CIECHOMSKI - Piotr JUREK	44.97
34	Carel BERENDREGT - Bert PAPING	49.97	69	Gary COHLER - Mark LAIR	44.51
35	Tim COPE - Glen HOLMAN	49.81	70	Giuseppe FABBRINI - Niccolo FOSSI	44.30
			71	Kazuo FURUTA - Kyoko SHIMAMURA	43.67
			72	Avi KALISH - Leonid PODGUR	43.07

WOMEN'S PAIRS

Final Phase (After 4 Sessions)

1	Irina LEVITINA - Kerri SANBORN	57.31	19	Victoria GROMOVA - Tatiana PONOMAREVA	49.64
2	Wei Fei WANG - Hong Li WANG	56.73	20	Pamela GRANOVETTER - Migry ZUR-CAMPANILE	49.37
3	Janice SEAMON-MOLSON - Sabine AUKEN	56.51	21	Catherine FISHPOOL - Claude BLOUQUIT	49.27
4	Ya Lan ZHANG - Ling GU	55.35	22	Debora CAMPAGNANO - Irene BARONI	49.26
5	Nikica SVER - Marina PILIPOVIC	54.94	23	Ewa SOBOLEWSKA - Anna SZCZEPANSKA	48.39
6	Sally BROCK - Heather DHONDY	53.83	24	Marion MICHELSEN - Meike WORTEL	48.27
7	Carla ARNOLDS - Bep VRIEND	53.18	25	Sylvie DUMON - Muriel CLEMENT	47.71
8	Margie GWOZDZINSKY - Cathy STRAUCH	52.92	26	Carlyn STEINER - Marinesa LETIZIA	47.57
9	Shawn QUINN - Mildred BREED	52.68	27	Joann GLASSON - Lisa BERKOWITZ	47.38
10	Veronique BESSIS - Sylvie WILLARD	52.41	28	Grazyna BREWIAK - Anna SARNIAK	46.75
11	Jill LEVIN - Daniela von ARNIM	52.01	29	Gemma MARIANO - Tina J. Del GALLEGRO	46.28
12	Vanessa REESS - Nathalie FREY	51.97	30	Pascale THUILLEZ - Dominique JEANIN-NALTET	46.02
13	Lynn BAKER - Karen MCCALLUM	51.84	31	Ana Maria De ALONSO - Monica ANG. De BALDASARRE	45.97
14	Anne-Frederique LEVY - Blandine De HEREDIA	51.65	32	Carla GIANARDI - Laura ROVERA	45.85
15	Gianna ARRIGONI - Gabriella OLIVIERI	51.07	33	Petra MANSELL - Merle MODLIN	45.49
16	Luigina GENTILI - Maddalena SEVERGNINI	50.53	34	Ruth FARKAS - Ora DAN	44.51
17	Tobi SOKOLOW - Jo Ann SPRUNG	50.20	35	Renee LEGER - Laurence RIMBAUD	43.70
18	Ewa HARASIMOWICZ - Malgorzata PASTERNAK	49.79	36	Li Ping WANG - Yu ZHANG	43.46

IMP PAIRS

Final A (After 4 Sessions)

Rank	Names	Total IMPs			
1	Tezcan SEN - Okay GUR	162.9	35	Artur RUTKOWSKI - Henryk BRODAWSKI	12.3
2	Gary GOTTLIEB - Peter FREDIN	113.0	36	Hans FRERICHS - Ulrich WENNING	12.0
2	Mckenzie MYERS - Joel DATLOFF	113.0	37	Patrice PIGANEAU - Francois LEENHARDT	3.1
4	Laurent THUILLEZ - Wilfried LIBBRECHT	105.9	38	Maxim ZHMAK - Denis DOBRIN	1.0
5	Jeff SAPIRE - Neville EBER	89.6	39	Linda GORDON - Robb GORDON	-6.1
6	Manuel d' OREY CAPUCHO - Krzysztof LASOCKI	84.5	40	Alexandra NIKITINA - Sergei SYTSEVICH	-9.2
7	Craig GOWER - Henry MANSELL	80.4	41	Keiran DYKE - David WILTSHIRE	-15.3
8	Avi KANETKAR - Nigel ROSENDORF	77.0	42	Alain NAHMIAIS - Dominique BEAUMIER	-15.6
9	Farid ASSEMI - Edward WOJEWODA	76.4	43	Mine BABAC - Aydin UYSAL	-16.3
9	Bobby RICHMAN - Zoltan NAGY	76.4	44	Poul CLEMMENSEN - Hans Christian GRAVERSEN	-22.8
11	Chuck BURGER - Howard PERLMAN	75.3	45	Jan Petter SVENDSEN - Erik SAELENSMINDE	-26.5
12	Tommy GARVEY - John CARROLL	71.3	46	Valerie GARDINER - Peter GILL	-27.0
13	Robert HOLLMAN - Bruce FERGUSON	70.3	47	Thanos KAPAYANNIDIS - Petros TRIANTAFILLIS	-36.3
13	Lynn DEAS - Beth PALMER	70.3	48	Sotiris NINOS - Petros AGGELOPOULOS	-39.7
15	Giorgio ZANARDI - Giuseppe De MONTIS	69.5	49	Bjorn FALLENIUS - Biancastella RUSSO	-41.7
16	Ange AGNETTI - Franck MATEOS-RUIZ	69.2	49	Kit WOOLSEY - Fred STEWART	-41.7
17	Irina LADYZHENSKY - Alexander LADYZHENSKY	63.1	51	Marc SMITH - Peter CZERNIEWSKI	-44.0
18	Joanna STANSBY - Debbie ROSENBERG	61.1	52	Tien-Chun YANG - Robert TODD	-44.8
19	Pierre ADAD - Pascal RINGUET	58.0	53	Bernard DONDE - Alon APTEKER	-45.8
20	Robert STOLINSKI - Adam HINTERTAN	44.0	53	Alexander F LEWIS - Anal SHAH	-45.8
21	Sven Olai HOYLAND - Sam Inge HOYLAND	41.7	55	Tadashi TERAMOTO - Shunsuke MORIMURA	-46.8
22	Pauline GUMBY - Warren LAZER	37.7	56	Valerio GIUBILO - Guido BONAVOGLIA	-47.9
23	Michael CORNELL - Ashley BACH	32.0	57	Herve VINCENT - Federico GODED	-51.9
24	Adam WILDAVSKY - Doug DOUB	30.9	58	Gene FREED - Bill WICKHAM	-61.1
25	Stefano CATA - Giancarlo MARINI	30.5	59	Frederic VOLCKER - Quentin ROBERT	-65.2
26	Dan MANEA - Gabriel BALITA	27.0	60	Barnet SHENKIN - Jim MAHAFFEY	-70.3
27	Yeshayahu LEVIT - Ronnie TOR	25.9	61	Angela DE BIASIO - Donatella GIGLIOTTI	-71.6
28	Gabriel CHAGAS - Miguel VILLAS-BOAS	23.0	62	Shireen MOHANDES - Andy BOWLES	-73.0
29	Paolo PASQUINI - Jose Maria VALDES	19.3	63	Paolo COMUNIAN - Claudio BIANCHINI	-82.5
30	Maciej DOBRZYNSKI - Wojciech ARCZEWSKI	17.3	64	Janet DE BOTTON - Gunnar HALLBERG	-86.0
31	Otto RUTHENBERG - Jerzy KOZYCZKOWSKI	15.0	65	Nadine WOOD - Linda MALONEY	-106.9
32	Jelena ALFEJEVA - Vladimir GONCA	14.5	66	Jeroo MANGO - B.n. PARASRAMPURIA	-110.3
33	David KENDRICK - Patrick COLLINS	14.3	67	Calin STIRBU - Gheorghe SERPOI	-120.3
34	Enrico LONGINOTTI - Giampaolo FRANCO	12.4	68	Francois BOUCHER - Marc LACHAPELLE	-137.0
			69	Hilary DOWLING-LONG - Ann Marie HORAN	-151.7
			70	Terry WALSH - Brid KEMPLE	-160.9

IMP PAIRS

Final B (After 4 Sessions)

1	Sjoert BRINK - Bas DRIJVER	252.0	19	Niclas JOHANSSON - Per JANSSON	-8.0
2	Matt GRANOVETTER - Katherine WEI-SENDER	110.0	20	Marita MAI - Francesco Ariatta	-12.0
3	Gordon CAMPBELL - Piotr KLIMOWICZ	100.0	21	Cornel TEODORESCU - Lavinia MOTEA	-16.0
4	John HOLLAND - John ARMSTRONG	95.0	22	Sara TISHLER - Adam SARTEN	-18.0
5	Bjarni EINARSSON - Sigurbjorn HARALDSSON	85.0	23	Sahar OUDA - Hans KREUNING	-19.0
6	Martine ROSSARD - Johanna RACZYNSKA	72.3	24	Adolfo Andres MADALA - Shivam SHAH	-20.0
7	Tony NUNN - Sartaj HANS	70.0	25	Stanislaw GOLEBIOWSKI - Tomasz SIELICKI	-26.0
8	Eric DEBUS - Piet VANDEREET	68.1	26	Dave COLBERT - John DUQUETTE	-39.0
9	Christophe MARRO - Bogdan MARINA	61.9	27	Anna MATWIJOW - Bernard JADCZAK	-41.0
10	Yan HUANG - Yan Hong WANG	56.0	28	Bodil FOSSAN - Vigdis MOEN	-44.4
11	Shalh MOFAHKAMI - Giorgio ODELLO	52.0	29	Patsy MEEHAN - Rose O'FARRELL	-66.1
12	Jean-Pierre LAFOURCADE - Jacques HENRI	46.0	30	Ena CLEARY - Jeannie FITZGERALD	-78.5
12	Vincenzo BURGIO - Salvatore GATTO	46.0	31	Gila EMODI - David BROWER	-82.0
14	Astrid DEKKER - Rosalien BARENDREGT	37.0	32	Gitte HECHT-JOHANSEN - Valentin Dgiassim AL-SHATI	-88.0
15	Paul GOSNEY - Luke GARDINER	26.8	33	Ernst WARENDORF - Rene STIENEN	-107.4
16	John DAVIDSON - Michael WHIBLEY	11.0	34	Daniela BALDASSIN - Giovanni Carlo PRINCIPE	-110.0
17	Rene HERMANS - Willem Van EIJK	7.0	35	Pierluigi IOTTI - Giancarlo GIACHETTI	-113.0
18	Ferenc ZOLD - Gyorgy MARJAI	-6.0			

SENIOR PAIRS (for the Hiron Trophy)**After 8 Sessions**

Rank	Names	Total		
1	Nico KLAVER - Roald RAMER	57.63	55	Lorenzo SAVELLI - Antonio VIVALDI 49.71
2	Julian KLUKOWSKI - Aleksander JEZIORO	57.45	56	Tor BAKKE - Jan TROLLVIK 49.45
3	Entscho WLADOW - Reiner MARSAL	56.40	57	Dr. Bomsì WADIA - Adi KALIANIWALA 49.35
4	Nico DOREMANS - Jaap TROUWBORST	56.39	58	Wil BUKET - Ely SCHIPPERS-BOSKLOPPER 49.33
5	Marco RICCIARELLI - Franco BARONI	55.40	59	Ergun KORKUT - Orhan EKINCI 49.31
6	Krzysztof ANTAS - Tadeusz KACZANOWSKI	55.18	60	Nissan RAND - Irving GORDON 49.30
7	Reese MILNER - Sam LEV	55.16	61	Bogusław DZIAR - DZIALYNSKI - Dariusz WEGROWICZ 48.90
8	Fritz KUBAK - Alexander MILAVEC	54.94	62	Stefan CABAJ - Włodzimierz ILNICKI 48.88
9	Dano De FALCO - Guido RESTA	54.68	63	Andre GIGNAC - Serge CHEVALIER 48.58
10	Ulrich KRATZ - Bernhard STRATER	54.66	64	George BILSKI - Barry NOBLE 48.53
11	Tony WATERLOW - Paul D HACKETT	54.47	65	David LIGGAT - Roy BENNETT 48.48
12	Robert SHEEHAN - Bill EISENBERG	54.35	66	Salvatore LUCENO - Daniele SCHWARZ 48.40
13	Ezio FORNACIARI - Carlo MARIANI	54.30	67	Carlo LO CASCIO - Rita MARZANO 47.97
14	Victor MELMAN - Shalom ZELIGMAN	54.05	68	Max COPPOLANI - Claude PEYRONNIE 47.69
15	Jan ROGOWSKI - Jozef POCHRON	54.01	69	Rossana MAGLIONI - Alfredo GOLDSTAUB 47.68
16	Włodzimierz STOBIECKI - Jerzy RUSSYAN	53.92	70	Irmgard CHARLES - Darrell CHARLES 47.55
17	Mario LUCCHESI - Paolo ROMANO	53.84	71	Erwin OTVOSI - Marek BOREWICZ 47.04
18	Willem BOEGEM - Onno JANSSENS	53.64	72	Gordon LESSELLS - Aidan CLEARY 46.77
19	DON STACK - Tom KNIEST	53.58	73	Claude LUMBROSO - Alexandre COUPERE 46.56
20	Gail GREENBERG - Jeff HAND	53.47	74	Claartje BAK - Inez Van EIJCK 46.42
21	Albert FAIGENBAUM - Romain ZALESKI	53.45	75	Martin HOFFMAN - Ross HARPER 46.37
22	Lew FINKEL - John MOHAN	53.34	76	Erik LUND - Niels Joergen TOBIASEN 46.01
23	Werner SCHNEIDER - Robert KOCH	53.21	77	Tony TURNAGE - John CRUICKSHANK 45.97
24	Adalberto DALLACASAPICCOLA - Giovanni MACI	53.01	78	Jules HENDRICKX - Luc DE MESMAECKER 45.85
25	Brian SHORT - John MATHESON	52.77	79	Claire TORNAY - George TORNAY 45.53
26	Andrzej ALEKSANDRZAK - Antoni ZDZIENICKI	52.59	80	Mauricio COLOMBO - Gianantonio CASTIGLIONI 45.23
27	Ferruccio RAINIERI - Pierino DATO	52.59	81	Wolfgang ACHTERBERG - Halit BIGAT 45.12
28	Hans HUMBURG - Goran MATTSSON	52.46	82	Ursula FLEISCHMANN - Alfred FLEISCHMANN 44.83
29	Stanley WALTER - Christian MARI	52.43	83	Fred MONDOR - Antoine DELCOURT 44.55
30	Walter HOEGER - Stanislaus KOSIKOWSKI	52.43	84	Seamus DOWLING - John GODDEN 44.50
31	Bjorn BUER - Svein Arne MUNKVOLD	52.24	85	Carla SOLDATI - Giovanna FRANCESCONI 44.30
32	David A JACKSON - Pat BARRY	52.23	86	Vicky TELLIER - Michel TELLIER 43.91
33	Hanspeter BOESIGER - Walter SPENGLER	52.11	87	Francoise LAVERRIERE - Michel SIMBOZEL 43.35
34	Andras KOVACS - Istvan GERO	52.06	88	Rosanna VITALI - Agata ALBIERO 36.25
35	Paolo FARINA - Ruggero FILIPPINI	52.05		
36	Christo DRUMEV - Ivan TANEV	51.81		
37	Koeno BROUWER - Loek VERHEES SR	51.75		
38	Marinella CANESI - Franco CEDOLIN	51.69		
39	Harry Van De PEPPEL - Koos VRIEZE	51.65		
40	Ali YALMAN - Ergun BANKOGLU	51.51		
41	Merih TOKCAN - Faik FALAY	51.50		
42	Mario BENBASSAT - Jacques DELORME	51.01		
43	Kyoko OHNO - Akihiko YAMADA	50.92		
44	Wlodek BUZE - Zdzislaw KOWALEWSKI	50.81		
45	Giuseppe MONTANARI - Gianni BALBI	50.76		
46	Shapour MOHTASHAMI - Jean-Michel RUNACHER	50.75		
47	Jorg EICHHOLZER - Christian FELDERER	50.70		
48	Vivian PRIDAY - Tony PRIDAY	50.65		
49	Mirosław MILASZEWSKI - Stefan SZENBERG	50.23		
50	Patrick JOURDAIN - Michael TEDD	49.99		
51	Giuseppe MASSAROLI - Amilcare POZZI	49.95		
52	Beat SCHMID - Rolf WEINBERG	49.82		
53	Henryk KOSIANKO - Kazimierz PUCZYNSKI	49.80		
54	Michael KOUMAS - Dimitris KALAVANAS	49.72		

**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.

L' Arena

IL GIORNALE DI VERONA



A Laguna, a Renault car under Berdinelli banner, representative of the car maker in Verona



12th Red Sea International BRIDGE FESTIVAL

Eilat-Israel, 5-12 November 2006

Celebrating the start of the 2nd
Decade of Tradition



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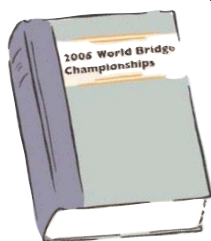


RED SEA INTERNATIONAL
BRIDGE FESTIVAL

For information and registration: The Organizing Committee
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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 secondo quarto della finale della Rosenblum il bridgerama ha offerto uno scontro scandinavo con gli svedesi Lindkvist/Fredin in N/S ed i norvegesi Helness/Helgemo in E/O. Come sapete i secondi, alla fine, hanno avuto la meglio portando a casa il titolo in nome e per conto della formazione a prevalenza americana di Rose Meltzer, ma colpi di fioretto, spada e sciabola hanno preso le due direzioni, anche se non equamente. In sala chiusa, E/O per Meltzer, si sono seduti gli americani Bates/Sontag, mentre in N/S Nystrom/Bertheau hanno difeso i colori del team capitanato da Christal Henner-Welland.

Board 27. Dich. Sud. Tutti in zona.

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

Ovest	Nord	Est	Sud
<i>Fredin</i>	<i>Helness</i>	<i>Lindkvist</i>	<i>Helgemo</i>
			1♠
Passo	2♣	2♥	2♠
3♥	4♦	Passo	4♥
Passo	4SA	Passo	5♣
Passo	7♦	Fine	

La cue bid a 4♥ di Helgemo implica l'accettazione delle quadri. E' stato come sventolare la bandiera di partenza al gran premio. Helness si e' accertato delle carte chiave e, appurata la presenza del necessario (nella risposta c'e' pure spazio per il Re di picche), si e' librato al grande slam a quadri. Dopo l'attacco Re di cuori, il gioco e' stato breve ma attento. Asso di cuori, Re di quadri, quadri per l'Asso, fiori per l'Asso, picche per l'Asso, picche taglio, quadri per il 10, Re di picche. Non c'e' piu' bisogno di niente. Le fiori spariscono sulle picche.

In chiusa:

Ovest	Nord	Est	Sud
<i>Sontag</i>	<i>Nystrom</i>	<i>Bates</i>	<i>Bertheau</i>
			1♠
Passo	2♣	3♥	3♠
4♥	6♣	Fine	

In questa sala il disturbo a livello piu' alto messo in piedi dagli orizzontali ha infastidito la linea in attacco, interferendo nel

dialogo tra Nord e Sud e impedendo, di fatto, l'uscita delle quadri. Nord ha sbrigliatamente chiuso a slam e, su attacco Re di cuori, ha realizzato tutte le prese battendo in testa le fiori.

Board 32. Dich. Ovest. E/O in zona.

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

Ovest	Nord	Est	Sud
<i>Fredin</i>	<i>Helness</i>	<i>Lindkvist</i>	<i>Helgemo</i>
1♠	Passo	Passo	Contro
Fine			

Quando i norvegesi vedono rosso non fanno sconti. Helness ha attaccato Asso di cuori e, visto il giro di carte fornito, e' tornato piccola cuori per la Dama di Helgemo. A seguire: Re di picche (in presa), Re di quadri (in presa) e picche. Asso di picche e 8 di fiori. 10 di fiori, Fante di quadri per l'Asso e Fante di fiori. 1♠ contratto meno 2, pari a 500 punti per N/S.

Nell'altra sala Sontag e Bates sono riusciti ad uscire dalla trappola con un'altra licita:

Ovest	Nord	Est	Sud
<i>Sontag</i>	<i>Nystrom</i>	<i>Bates</i>	<i>Bertheau</i>
1♠	Passo	1SA	Contro
2♣	Contro	Passo	2♦
Passo	3SA	Fine	



Meltzer - Welland on VuGraph

Non che a 2♣ contrate, con l'attacco picche, sia facile limitare i danni, ma e' sicuramente un contratto molto piu' difficile da penalizzare con convinzione in licita. Merito della risposta ispirata di ISA di Est. D'altronde quando devi vincere l'ispirazione devi averla come angolista personale. Attacco 3 di fiori, 3SA - 2 e 12 imp.

La partita a coppie fisse, a linee invertite, e' continuata anche nella terza frazione.

Board 3. Dich. Sud. E/O in zona.

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

Ovest <i>Helgemo</i>	Nord <i>Lindkvist</i>	Est <i>Helness</i>	Sud <i>Fredin</i>
Passo	1♥	1♠	1♦
Passo	3♦	Passo	2SA
Passo	4♦	Passo	3♠
Passo	4♠	Passo	4♥
Passo	5♣	Contro	4SA
Fine			6♦

Helness, in Est, nel suo piccolo ha partecipato attivamente con un intervento e con un contro d'attacco. Quest'ultimo non ha propriamente terrorizzato Fredin che, se avesse avuto bisogno di una spinta per chiamare lo slam, l'avrebbe ricevuta proprio con questa indicazione. Conoscendo il dichiarante, comunque, la spinta probabilmente e' stata superflua. L'attacco 5 di fiori di Ovest ha raccolto il 7, il Re e l'Asso. Fredin si e' trasferito al morto con il Re di quadri e ha fatto scivolare sul tavolo il 5 di picche del morto, per una specie di controtempo estetico. Est e' stato basso e Sud, in presa con la Dama di picche, ha proseguito Dama di fiori, fiori taglio e Re di picche. 12 prese, contro le 11 a Senza Atout dell'altra sala nel contratto di manche.

Board 10. Dich. Est. Tutti in zona.

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

Occhio che in questa mano sono partiti la bellezza di 14 imp. Come prima cosa trasferiamoci in chiusa per vedere cosa e' successo.

Ovest	Nord	Est	Sud
<i>Nystrom</i>	<i>Sontag</i>	<i>Bertheau</i>	<i>Bates</i>
		Passo	Passo
1♣	Passo	1♠	Passo
ISA	Passo	3♣	Passo
3SA	Fine		

Qualche spiegazione. L'apertura di 1♣ e' forte e 1♠ di Est mostra le fiori. Il contratto sembrerebbe normale, ma risultato finale non lo e' stato. Sontag, in Nord, ha attaccato con il 4 di cuori. In presa al morto con il Fante, il dichiarante ha proseguito con una piccola fiori (oops! Come si dice perbacco in svedese?), entrando con l'Asso. Abbandonato il colore, Nystrom ha giocato quadri per la Dama e l'Asso di Bates che e' tornato nel colore d'attacco. Ovest ha impegnato l'Asso, ma l'ossigeno stava per finire. Picche verso la Dama. Asso di picche e cuori. Due levee di Nord e Dama di fiori per l'affrancamento del seme (qualcosa bisognava pur scartare dal morto sulle cuori...). Re di fiori e picche al 10. Finita la riserva. Il che vuol dire che il dichiarante ha incassato solo 5 prese. 3SA - 4, pari a 400 punti per N/S.

Ovest	Nord	Est	Sud
<i>Helgemo</i>	<i>Lindkvist</i>	<i>Helness</i>	<i>Fredin</i>
		Passo	Passo
ISA	Passo	3♥	Passo
3SA	Fine		

Il 3♥ di Est mostra la corta nel colore. Percio' il contratto e' lo stesso. Si', ma qualcosa cambia da subito. Lindkvist, in Nord, non volendo attaccare nella probabile forza del vivo (cuori), si e' limitato a fare un normale attacco di lunga, 10 di fiori, pur sapendo di trovarne un certo numero al morto. Certo, non si aspettava la sesta.... Sulla piccola di Est, Fredin e' entrato in riflessione e, dopo un po', ne e' uscito scartando il 10 di quadri. Probabilmente il dichiarante non l'avrebbe sbagliato, vista la distribuzione generale, ma di sicuro questo scarto non ha disturbato oltremodo Ovest. Contiamo: 3 fiori, 3 quadri, 2 cuori e 1 picche. Come minimo, infatti, alla fine e' uscita anche la decima presa. Da una parte 5 e dall'altra 10. Una bella differenza. Si', di 14 imp.



Roger Bates, USA

Final - Session 2

Open Pairs

Fall of the Cards

by Mark Horton

The play's the thing

Wherein I'll catch the conscience of the King

Hamlet Act II, scene II

Despite the obvious attractions of Italy v Czech Republic, I kept an eye open for a few morsels during the second session of the Open Pairs final. Luckily, most of the leading pairs seemed to be involved, and several deals offered an opportunity for declarer and defenders alike to earn their points in the play.

Board 15. Dealer South. N/S Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Gotard	Gromov	Piekarek	Dubinín
Pass	1♠	Dble	Pass
3♥	Pass	4♥	Dble
Pass	Pass	Rdbl	All Pass

North led the king of spades and declarer won and played a club. North went up with the king and switched to the four of diamonds. Declarer elected to play the queen which South

won with the king and played the seven of hearts, dummy winning with the nine. Declarer unblocked the queen of clubs and cashed the ace of diamonds. When North's jack appeared he was in excellent shape. He played a diamond to the ten, ruffed a diamond, ruffed a spade and then ruffed the ace of clubs with the ace of hearts before showing his cards. South could score only one of his five trumps; +880 – a complete top.

I have never understood the rationale behind the type of re-double East made on this deal. Making a doubled game is certain to give you an excellent result but, if you go down, you will turn a poor result into a terrible one.

On this deal -100 would have been worth 36%, -200 20% at best. Making Four Hearts doubled would have delivered 94%.

Board 19. Dealer South. E/W Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Nunes	Rodwell	Fantoni	Simson
1♣	Pass	1♦	Pass
1♥	Dble	Rdbl	Dble
Pass	Pass	Dble	Pass
3♣	All Pass		

North led the queen of diamonds and, when declarer ducked continued with the suit, covered all round. When declarer played a third diamond, North discarded the two of spades and declarer ruffed and played a club to the king and ace. Now he ruffed his last diamond as North discarded the seven of hearts. A heart to the jack lost to the king and North switched to the six of spades, declarer winning with dummy's ace. The critical moment of the play had been reached.

Assuming declarer was disposed to treat South's king of clubs as a true card, he could get home now by playing a spade, winning the likely heart return in dummy, ruffing a spade and exiting with a heart to endplay North. However, declarer was obviously not certain as to North's distribution and when he played a heart to the ace he could no longer make the contract. He cashed the queen of clubs and played a heart but North could ruff and cash a spade and a club for +100. That was 39% for the holders and the next board was worse.



Josef Piekarek, Germany

Board 20. Dealer West. All Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Nunes	Rodwell	Fantoni	Simson
Pass	Pass	1♠	2♣
2NT	Pass	3♥	Pass
4♠	All Pass		

South led the ace of diamonds and continued with the jack, dummy's queen winning as declarer discarded a club. A club went to the king and South's ace and declarer ruffed the diamond continuation as North discarded the seven of hearts. Now declarer played a heart to the ace. If he takes a spade finesse at this point the hand plays itself. After it wins you cash the king of hearts and the queen of clubs, ruff a heart with the ace of spades, repeat the spade finesse and exit with a heart, taking the last two tricks via the spade tenace.

However, declarer continued with a heart to the jack and king, cashed the queen of clubs and ruffed a heart with the five of spades. North overruffed and had to make another trump for one down, only 14% as opposed to the 81% had the contract been made.

Right at the end of the session we saw a classic matchpoint auction from a pair hoping to move up the leaderboard.

Board 28. Dealer West. N/S Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Robson	Lengy	Zia	Lebovits
1♠	Pass	2♦	Pass
2♠	Pass	3♥	Pass
3NT	Pass	6♦	Pass
6NT	All Pass		

By bidding 6NT Robson converted 50% into a potential 74% that actually became 97% when North led the two of hearts.

Appreciating that I have whetted your appetite, here are a few gems from the third session.

Board 3. Dealer South. E/W Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
	Bompis	Westra	Sainte-Marie
3♣	4♣	5♣	1♠
Pass	6♠	All Pass	Pass

This was a bad miss by the French pair who scored only 27%.

There were all sorts of suggestions as to how you can get to the grand slam after the intervention. For my money, despite the poor trumps, with three suits controlled, South might have bid Six Clubs over Five Clubs.

There are some players who believe that it is almost never right to let your opponents play at the two level if the bidding dies early – here is a classic example:

Board 5. Dealer North. N/S Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Nunes	Cohen	Fantoni	Berkowitz
Pass	1♥	Pass	1NT
Pass	2♣	Pass	2♥
2♠	Pass	Dble	Pass
Dble	2NT	Pass	3♥
	Pass	3♠	All Pass

Letting North/South play in Two Hearts would have been dreadful for East/West, only 31%. North led a top club and switched to a diamond. Declarer won in hand and played a spade and was soon claiming eight tricks for -50 and 71%.

Board 6. Dealer East. E/W Vul.

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



West	North	East	South
Nunes	Cohen	Fantoni	Berkowitz
Pass	2♦	Pass	1♠
Pass	3♥	Pass	2♥
Pass	4♠	Pass	3♠
Pass	7NT	All Pass	4NT

Only five pairs missed 7NT on this deal, so you may ask why I am including it. Well, we have had quite a lot of movie connections in the Bulletins and I wanted to remind you of the *Eastwood* convention.

In the film *Dirty Harry* the character played by Clint Eastwood opens the movie with these immortal lines:

Harry Callahan: I know what you're thinking. "Did he fire six shots or only five?" Well, to tell you the truth, in all this excitement I kind of lost track myself. But being as this is a .44 Magnum, the most powerful handgun in the world, and would blow your head clean off, you've got to ask yourself a question: Do I feel lucky?...Well, do ya, punk?

So, a bid of 4NT, Eastwood, asks partner not for aces, but if they feel lucky. By jumping to 7NT North must have been feeling very lucky! (Only joking, Larry!)



Fulvio Fantoni, Italy

Board 14. Dealer East. None Vul.

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



West	North	East	South
Gotard	Martel	Piekarek	Stansby
Dble	All Pass	Pass	3♥

Would you criticise a multiple World Champion for his choice of opening bid? Perhaps when he is safely on the plane home.

Mind you, Lloyds of London would hardly underwrite the action of West on this deal either. What, one wonders, would he have done if East had bid diamonds? East's decision to convert the double was reasonable. The nap selection is for West to bid 3NT – great if North leads a heart, not so hot if a diamond hits the table.

Three Hearts was two down; -300, 46% for North/South.

Board 15. Dealer South. N/S Vul.

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



West	North	East	South
Herbst	Bakhshi	Herbst	McIntosh
Pass	3NT	All Pass	INT

I cannot tell you if it is sound strategy to simply raise to 3NT on this type of hand – it depends on your personal viewpoint – but most pairs elected to play in hearts once the 5-3 fit was located. We'll return to them in a moment.

West led the three of diamonds and East did very well to put up the king and switch to the king of spades. When that held he continued with the queen (the jack might be clearer?) and declarer won and started on the hearts. On the third of these West discarded the nine of spades, so all the good work was for nothing as declarer could set up a diamond for ten tricks; +630.

Only 49% for North/South (and avoiding the 14% they appeared headed for) because many pairs recoded +650 in hearts.

Board 16. Dealer West. E/W Vul.

♠ 9 4 ♥ 5 4 ♦ Q 7 3 2 ♣ A 8 7 3 2	♠ K 10 8 3 ♥ A 10 ♦ K 10 9 8 ♣ K Q 10 <div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 40px; height: 40px; margin: 10px auto; display: flex; flex-direction: column; align-items: center; justify-content: center;"> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; width: 100%;">N</div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; width: 100%;">W</div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; width: 100%;">E</div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; width: 100%;">S</div> </div>	♠ A Q J 7 ♥ Q 8 7 6 ♦ A 6 4 ♣ J 5 ♠ 6 5 2 ♥ K J 9 3 2 ♦ J 5 ♣ 9 6 4	
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West	North	East	South
Herbst	Bakhshi	Herbst	McIntosh
Pass	INT	Pass	2♦
Pass	2♥	All Pass	

With a difficult lead – at least it seemed that way to East – he eventually opted for a low diamond. (Personally, I think the jack of clubs, chosen by the majority of players who had to lead against a heart contract, is clear-cut – and it should also lead to a plus score provided West wins and switches to a spade.)

West put up the queen so declarer won and returned a diamond. East won and switched to the jack of clubs, West taking the ace as declarer dropped the queen. West switched to the nine of spades and the defenders played three rounds, West ruffing and returning a club. Declarer won, cashed a diamond for a club discard, ran the ten of hearts, ruffed the king of spades and played a heart to the ace. He was in the right hand to effect the trump coup on East. Neat – but only worth 53% as the contract was made several times, even when the jack of clubs was led.



Andrew McIntosh, England

Down Two – Good Bridge

by Matthew Granovetter

In the final of the Rosenblum Cup Teams, down two was good bridge in the third quarter, as one of the pairs on the Henner team played three consecutive deals down three tricks, three tricks and four tricks. Here is one of the three-trick contracts, which was entertaining for the spectators.

Board 6. Dealer East. E/W Vul.

♠ A 10 8 ♥ K 8 ♦ Q 7 5 3 ♣ Q 9 5 2	♠ K Q J 3 ♥ A 2 ♦ 2 ♣ A J 8 7 6 3 <div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 40px; height: 40px; margin: 10px auto; display: flex; flex-direction: column; align-items: center; justify-content: center;"> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; width: 100%;">N</div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; width: 100%;">W</div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; width: 100%;">E</div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; width: 100%;">S</div> </div>	♠ 9 7 6 5 2 ♥ Q 10 5 ♦ A K J ♣ K 4 ♠ 4 ♥ J 9 7 6 4 3 ♦ 10 9 8 6 4 ♣ 10	
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West	North	East	South
3♥	Pass	1♠	3♣
		3♠	All Pass

Here North had the best hand at the table but never bid. West's 3♣ showed the red suits, and Geir Helgemo (West) bid 3♥ as a limit raise in spades. Tor Helness (South) retreated to 3♠ and played it there, down two. West led his singleton club and received a ruff with his singleton trump. North still had three trump tricks and the ♥A; Plus 200 to North/South.

West	North	East	South
3NT	Dble	INT	Pass
Rdbl	Pass	Pass	Pass
		4♦	All Pass

Here Bertheau (East) opened a weak INT and his partner bid 3NT. Alan Sontag (North) doubled (asking partner to lead his weaker major). What would have happened in 3NT doubled? We don't know, but it probably would have been set. Nystrom (West), however, redoubled.

The commentators say that the redouble expressed doubt, and that is why East ran to his longer minor (better than running to spades, the suit North might hold!). Roger Bates (South) declined to join the party, content to defend 4♦ undoubled. This contract went three down for plus 300 to North/South, and a 100 net result for the Meltzer team – 3 IMPs. Welcome to the world championships!

Have a nice weekend.

Bridge Today Digest Daily is edited by Pamela and Matthew Granovetter. Subscriptions or comments by return e-mail to info@bridgetoday.com.

Final

Women's Pairs

Session Three

by Brian Senior

Irina Levitina and Kerri Sanborn of USA were leading the Women's Pairs final after two of the four sessions and, having sat behind Levitina throughout the third session, I strongly fancied them to go on and win the title as they played both well and in luck to post a 64.6% session.

Inevitably, simply avoiding error does not make for exciting reading, so many of the deals in this article involve accepting gifts from tiring opponents.

Board 1. Dealer North. None Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Sanborn	Wortel	Levitina	Michielsen
Pass	2NT	Pass	3♣
Pass	3♦	Pass	3♠
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

Rising Dutch star Meike Wortel helped the leaders to a great start to the session by selecting a losing line in the popular contract of 3NT on this board.

Wortel won the club lead and played ace then jack of diamonds, ducked. Wortel switched her attention to spades, the ten losing to Sanborn's king. Declarer ducked the club return then won the next club and tried the jack of spades from hand, but Levitina won, cashed her club winner, and knew to lead a diamond to cash Sanborn's king; one down for -50 and 29 MPs out of 34 to Sanborn/Levitina.

The diamond play was flawed as it would always establish a winner for the defence. Had declarer played on spades from the start, she would have made her contract.

Board 5. Dealer North. N/S Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Vriend	Levitina	Arnolds	Sanborn
Pass	1♣	Pass	1♠
Pass	1NT	Pass	2♦(i)
Pass	2♠	Pass	3♦
Pass	4♠(ii)	Pass	4NT
Pass	5♦	Pass	6♠
All Pass			

- (i) GF Relay
- (ii) Weakest option

When you are playing well, the luck often seems to follow you around. Slam is poor on this combination as, needing a parking place for the fourth diamond, Sanborn judged to win the club lead and finesse the queen on the first round of trumps, rather than first finessing the nine then the queen, thereby reducing her chances in the suit to increase her chances on the whole deal. Of course, on a heart lead to the queen and king, she would have no option but to play spades this way. When the spades behaved as required, Sanborn could throw her heart loser on the ♣K and ruff a diamond in dummy; +1430 and 30 MPs.

Board 8. Dealer West. None Vul.

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

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West	North	East	South
Sanborn	Zhang	Levitina	Gu
2NT	Pass	3♥	Pass
3♠	Pass	3NT	All Pass

The leaders did the right thing in the auction by playing the popular 3NT rather than the five-three heart fit. Yalan Zhang led a diamond to dummy's queen and Sanborn led a heart to her queen. No doubt a smooth duck is best with the North cards, but Zhang found herself thinking and, with no possibility that ducking would deceive declarer as to the position of the ace, decided that she might as well win the trick. Unfortunately, Ling Gu's two was consistent with her holding an odd number of hearts, and Zhang now talked herself into returning the ♥J – which would have been a good idea had partner held three cards in the suit, but was disastrous when the odd number proved to be one. Sanborn won the ♥K and returned the nine, and soon had ten tricks for +430 and 33 MPs.

Had North simply played a diamond when in with the ♥A, declarer could have made nine tricks by switching her attention to clubs when the bad heart position was exposed, but she could also have gone wrong, attempting to endplay South, who was favourite to hold the ♣K, and now the contract would fail.

Board 10. Dealer East. All Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Sanborn	Mariano	Levitina	De Gallego
3♦	3♠	Pass	Pass
All Pass		Pass	4♠

The Philippines pairing of Tina De Gallego and Gemma Mariano contributed in generous fashion to the Sanborn/Levitina championship fund on two boards out of three.

Sanborn's pre-empt looks normal enough, even if one might prefer to have better intermediates in the suit, and the first decision belonged to Mariano – should she double or overcall? It is easy to see that double would have worked out much better this time, but 3♠ was a perfectly sensible action. The spotlight turned to De Gallego, who could have passed, raised to 4♠, or tried 4♥ on the way, assuming that to be natural in their methods. Again, 4♥ would have worked out much better this time, though it can be defeated by a spade lead and subsequent ruff, but the 4♠ raise was quite reasonable. However, the combination of bids led to a dreadful contract on the lie of the cards.

The defence cashed its diamond winners then Sanborn switched to a club. Mariano won in hand and cashed the king and ace of spades, then cashed the clubs, ending in hand, to lead a heart to the king and ace. She ruffed the diamond return and was over-ruffed, won the heart return but had to concede another trump to East; down two for -200 and 33 MPs to the leaders, which seemed a little harsh on the Philippines pair.

Board 11. Dealer South. None Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Sanborn	Mariano	Levitina	De Gallego
Pass	1♥	1♠	1♣
2♥	3♣	3♠	Dble
4♠	All Pass		Pass

De Gallego cashed a top club then switched to a low heart. Mariano did well on this trick by going up with the queen rather than putting in the nine, and Levitina won her ace then led the ♠9 towards dummy. She thought for several seconds before running the spade to the bare ace, but now Mariano fell from grace when she returned a club rather than a heart. Levitina could ruff in dummy, draw the outstanding trump, and set up the diamonds to get rid of her heart loser; eleven tricks for +450 and 31 MPs.

Board 15. Dealer South. N/S Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Sanborn	De Baldassarre	Levitina	Alonso
Pass	1♦	Pass	Pass
Pass	5♠	All Pass	1♠

There are a couple of good ways to deal with the North hand when partner responds 1♠, obviously depending on your agreements. I don't think either of them is a raise to 5♠, asking for good trumps. If 4♦ shows four-card support and a big diamond suit, that should work fine, or a 4♥ splinter should also get partner to bid on with three of the four cards you need. Five Spades went one off, of course, to give Sanborn/Levitina 31 MPs.

Board 16. Dealer West. E/W Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Sanborn</i>	<i>Frey</i>	<i>Levitina</i>	<i>Reess</i>
1♠	Pass	2♦	Pass
3♠	Pass	4♦	Pass
5♣	Pass	5♥	Pass
6♠	All Pass		

Even when they reached the wrong contract something happened to rescue them – not that just making 6♠ would have been a terrible result, but 6NT is obviously better. It did not occur to Nathalie Frey that dummy would come down with a spade void and she led, yes, you guessed it, a trump. That neatly picked up Vanessa Reess's jack to four. Sanborn drew trumps then played ace and ruffed a diamond. When that did not produce the king, she took and repeated the heart finesse; thirteen tricks for +1460 and another 31 MPs.

Board 19. Dealer South. E/W Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Sanborn</i>	<i>Rimbaud</i>	<i>Levitina</i>	<i>Leger</i>
INT	Pass	2♥	Pass
2♠	All Pass		Pass

Sanborn opened the awkwardly shaped West hand with 1NT and was transferred to 2♠, where she played on the lead of the queen of diamonds to dummy's ace. Sanborn cashed the ace and king of spades then led a club to the jack and ace. Renee Leger switched to the two of hearts to the jack and queen and Laurence Rimbaud tried to decide whether to continue hearts or hope to put her partner in again to lead through a hypothetical ♥Kx in declarer's hand.

I think she should have returned her club, because it is clear that partner has the ♠Q. If partner also has the ♦K, declarer has no entry to dummy to draw the remaining trumps, and partner will get in with the diamond to give North a club ruff. If partner has the ♥K rather than the diamond, no harm is done as the heart(s) can be cashed when partner wins the ♠Q. However, in practice Rimbaud returned a low diamond. Sanborn won the ten and threw one of dummy's hearts on the ♦K as Leger ruffed with the ♠Q. She led a heart now so Rimbaud won the ace, but that was all for the defence; nine tricks for +140 and 31 MPs.

Board 20. Dealer West. All Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Sanborn</i>	<i>Rimbaud</i>	<i>Levitina</i>	<i>Leger</i>
2♦	Pass	2♠	3♥
4♥	4♠	Pass	5♥
All Pass			

Finally a bad board for the leaders, who had been stretching their lead ever wider throughout the session. It may be tough to go on to the cold 5♠ over 5♥, as East/West will think that they have done their job by pushing the opposition to the five level, and defending 5♥ may be the long-term winning action. But, having pushed them to 5♥, they also failed to defeat that contract.

A spade lead would have seen a prompt diamond switch from Levitina and she would have been given her ruff, but Sanborn led a club and now declarer could draw trumps and establish diamonds on which to pitch her third club; +650 and only 2 MPs for the leaders.

Souvenir Bags for Sale

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

Final - Session 3

Open Pairs

Grinding It Out

by Brent Manley

The World Open Pairs is a gruelling affair. Even for the pairs who don't have to play all 13 sessions; it is still an endurance contest.

Before they started play in the third final session of the Open Pairs, Jeff Meckstroth said to his partner, "Have fun, Perry."

At that point, Meckstroth and Perry Johnson were leading. After having less fun than they would have liked, the two had dropped out of the lead but were still in contention with two sessions to play.

They got off to a slow start, in no small measure because of bad luck. After five rounds, they needed a 97% score on the tenth board to bring their average per board to 44.4%.

This deal was their first.

Board 1. Dealer North. None Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Johnson		Meckstroth	
	Pass	1♠	Pass
INT	Pass	2♦	Pass
3♥	All Pass		

They did well to stop in 3♥ – several pairs, to their regret, bid game – but, after the lead of the ♣J from North, Plus 140 for 53% was the best score they could achieve. As you can see, 5♦ is cold, but only three pairs in the field of 72 bid it. About the same number scored Plus 150 in diamond partials.



Jeff Meckstroth, USA

On the next deal, their opponents bid 7♠, a laydown contract that was a 23% score for Meckstroth and Johnson. On the deal after that, Johnson had to guess well at trick one to avoid a near-disastrous round.

Board 4. Dealer West. All Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Johnson		Meckstroth	
1♠	Pass	2♠	All Pass

North started with a low spade. Johnson considered his play for a bit before going up with dummy's king – essential to their score. When the king held, Johnson played a diamond to the queen, cashed the ♦A and ruffed a diamond in dummy. He eventually lost two spades and two hearts for Plus 140 and 57%. Had he ducked at trick one, the defenders would have played another two rounds of trumps, depriving Johnson of a diamond ruff. The resulting Plus 110 would have been a 14% score.

On the next two deals – on VuGraph – Meckstroth and Johnson again scored poorly when an opponent managed Plus 620 in 4♥ (many pairs went down) for 30%, then Meckstroth got off to the wrong lead against 4♠, resulting in Minus 480 (27%) instead of minus 450 (51%).

The following deal was a tough one for Meckstroth and Johnson.

Board 9. Dealer North. E/W Vul.

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

West <i>Johnson</i>	North	East <i>Meckstroth</i>	South
	Pass	Pass	Pass
1♥	Dble	3♥	3♠
All Pass			

With diamonds going 3-3, 4♥ was cold – and Johnson might have bid it, even after (or perhaps because of, considering the promised minimum of four trumps) Meckstroth’s weak raise to 3♥. When Johnson passed 3♠, Meckstroth could do no more, having described his hand already. Johnson started with the ♣Q, taken by South with the ace. A trump was led to Johnson’s ace, and he cashed the ♦A and played a diamond to Meckstroth’s king. Johnson ruffed the club return and gave Meckstroth a diamond ruff. They still had the ♥A coming, but Plus 100 scored only 9%.

Fortunately for Meckstroth and Johnson, they got even on the next deal.

Board 10. Dealer East. All Vul.

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

West <i>Johnson</i>	North	East <i>Meckstroth</i>	South
	2♥	Pass	1♣
1♠	4♣	2♠	2NT
Pass	6♣	Pass	4♥
Pass	Pass	Pass	6♥
Pass	Pass	Dble	All Pass



Tomasz Gotard, Germany

The club slam – which obviously terrified South – was headed for Minus 200, so the double of 6♥ was necessary for Meckstroth and Johnson to keep their 97% score from slipping to 84%

On the next round, Johnson played 3NT, and as long as the defenders made no errors, his limit was 11 tricks, but it still scored only 51%. The Americans earned a good score on the next deal of the round simply by taking their tricks. This time, in the Howell movement, they were North/South.

Board 12. Dealer West. N/S Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
	<i>Meckstroth</i>		<i>Johnson</i>
1♣	Pass	1♦	Pass
INT	All Pass		

1♣ was strong and artificial. INT showed 17-18.

Meckstroth started with a low heart, which went to declarer’s 9. A club to the 10 and queen was followed by a low spade from Johnson, ducked by declarer. Meckstroth took the ♠K and returned the 7. Declarer played another club and the defense took two more tricks for Minus 120 and 57%.

There was more bad news on round seven, but the tide turned on round eight.

Board 15. Dealer South. N/S Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
	<i>Meckstroth</i>		<i>Johnson</i>
Pass	2♦	Pass	INT
Pass	2NT	Pass	2♥
All Pass			4♥

West started with a low spade, and Johnson ducked the ♠J, winning the continuation with the ace. He played a heart to the king, the ♥Q and a heart to the ace, ruffing a spade low in dummy. Johnson cashed the ♥J, pitching a diamond from hand, then claimed, giving up a diamond at the end for Plus 650 and 76% of the matchpoints. Had East/West taken all the tricks to which they were entitled, the Americans would have had only 30% on the board.

Meckstroth earned another good result on the next deal.

Board 16. Dealer West. E/W Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
	<i>Meckstroth</i>		<i>Johnson</i>
Pass	INT	Pass	2♦
Pass	2♥	All Pass	

East started with the ♣J, which was ducked to Meckstroth's king. He played the ♥A and overtook the ♥10 with the jack, then cashed the ♥K and called for dummy's ♦J. West ducked, and East took the ♦A, getting out with a club to partner's ace. The ♠9 came back, covered by Meckstroth with the 10 and taken by East with the jack. East thought about his next play for a long time before exiting with a diamond. West could have prevented an overtrick by playing low, but he put up the queen. Now Meckstroth could discard both of dummy's losing spades on good diamonds. Plus 140 was worth 67%.

The next round was against Tomasz Gotard and Josef Piekarek, who had been in the lead in the final and who ended the third session in seventh place.

Board 17. Dealer North. None Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
	<i>Meckstroth</i>		<i>Johnson</i>
Pass	Pass	Pass	1♣
Redble	1♦	2♠	Dble
4♠	3♦	Pass	Pass
	All Pass		

The defenders have five tricks against 4♠, but they have to take them early. Johnson started with the ♣9, and Gotard took full advantage. He won the club in hand, went to dummy with another club, tossed a losing diamond on the third round of clubs and another when Meckstroth ruffed in with the ♠10. There was no way to defeat the contract at that point, and Gotard finished with 10 tricks for Plus 420, a 90% score.

They gave almost all of it back on the next deal.

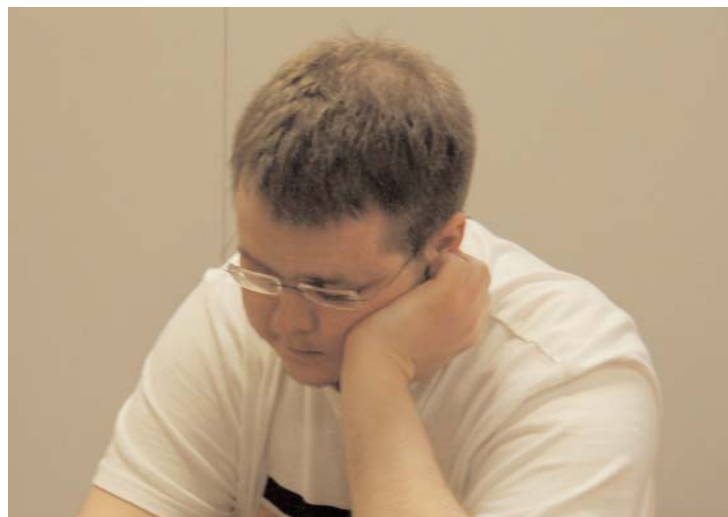
Board 18. Dealer East. N/S Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
	<i>Meckstroth</i>		<i>Johnson</i>
4♠	Dble	1♣	1♥
		All Pass	

Meckstroth started with his singleton heart, which went to the 10 and ace. Piekarek played the ♣10 from hand next, but Meckstroth won the ace, cashed the ♦A and played a diamond to Johnson's king. The ♥K and a heart ruff made for two down and Plus 300 for the Americans, worth 81%.

The next round was another big one for Meckstroth and Johnson.



Magnus Magnusson, Iceland

Board 19. Dealer South. E/W Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Johnson</i>		<i>Meckstroth</i>	
Pass	1♦	1♥	Pass
3♦	Pass	4♥	1♠
			All Pass

Johnson's 3♦ was a so-called mixed raise (better than a simple raise, not as good as a limit raise, with four trumps). The West hand did not qualify for a mixed raise, but Meckstroth bid the game and made it with some help from the defense.

South started with the singleton ♦Q, ducked by North. Meckstroth cashed the ♥A and played the ♥10 to dummy's king. Next came a spade to the king and ace, and when South switched to the ♣7, Meckstroth knew what to do. He played low, as did North. Meckstroth later gave up two diamonds, but he had a trump to ruff his fourth one. Plus 620 was worth 73%.

The next deal was bad luck for South but very good news for Meckstroth and Johnson.

Board 20. Dealer West. All Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
1♠	2♦	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

Johnson started with the ♥K: 8, 2, 7. He continued with the ♥Q and, when he played the ♥A, Meckstroth unblocked the 10 as declarer's jack fell. There were two more tricks to come and declarer, with a fine 14-point hand opposite a partner overcalling vulnerable at the two level, was Minus 200; worth 74% for the Americans.

But for a nice play on the following deal by Magnus Magnusson, Meckstroth would have had another great result.

Board 22. Dealer East. E/W Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
	<i>Meckstroth</i>		<i>Johnson</i>
1♥	1♠	Pass	Pass
5♥	5♠	2♥	4♣
Dble	All Pass	Pass	Pass

East, Matthias Thorvaldsson, started with the ♥K, ruffed by Meckstroth, who could see that his 'save' might be a maker. He played a spade to dummy's ace, dropping the singleton king, then played a spade to the queen, cashed the ♦A and ruffed a diamond. Now he played a low club from dummy's king and Magnusson followed low smoothly (his only chance, he said later, to defeat the contract). Meckstroth played the ♣9 from hand, losing to the 10. From there, two down and Minus 300 was inevitable. That was worth only 6% of the matchpoints.

Another first for Meltzer



Rose Meltzer, the first woman to win the Bermuda Bowl and the Rosenblum Cup, is now the first of her gender to become an Open World Grand Master. Meltzer was captain of the winning Bermuda Bowl team in Paris in 2001. Earlier this week,

she and Christal Henner-Welland became the first women to make it to the final of the Rosenblum.

Other master point promotions announced on Friday:

New World Open Grand Masters: Roger Bates, Geir Helgemo, Tor Helness and Kyle Larsen, Rosenblum winners in Verona.

New World Women's Grand Masters: Victoria Gromova, Tatiana Ponomareva, Debbie Rosenberg and Carlyn Steiner. All but Rosenberg were McConnell Cup winners. Rosenberg was on the silver-medal team.

José Damiani Answers the Press

Having already held a press conference last week – with Bill Gtes, Antoine Bernheim, Romain Zaleski, José Damiani asked for new written questions from bridge journalists.

Some general remarks:

First, on the work of the Executive Council: we spent three days on a brainstorming discussion for the future of bridge and the WBF.

It is clear that we have a strong willingness to reinforce the youth policy.

The WBF is going to participate in the Intellympiad in Beijing 2008 after the Olympic and Paralympic Games and we want the federations to use the next two years to be able to present one junior team each that will be sponsored by the organisation at least for accommodation and food, if not for travel.

I also presented a recommendation to the Congress on how to promote the game.

For that purpose, if the biggest zones or federations were prepared to help the smaller ones, it could be of interest to reduce the number of zones from 8 to 5 as in the IOC five rings, specifically merging Zones 2, 3 and 5 and Zones 4 and 6 without interfering with the qualifications for the Bermuda Bowl, Venice Cup and Senior Bowl, which will remain the same.

To help to finance the promotion and youth policy, we suggested an increase in the dues from \$0.50 to \$1 per players over a three-year period (2008, 2009, 2010). This will only correct the inflation and drop in value of the US dollar. If every bridge player in the world were to pay that, it would not affect the Federation budget.

Then we would like to review the elections of our representatives which must come partly at least from the Congress, with some women among them, and the election of the President who can also be elected by the Congress.

The NBOs and the zones may give consideration to all that during the coming two years before the next Congress in 2008.

Secondly, on this championship:

It has been another success as far as the venue is concerned.

The playing conditions are good, there is good technology and a good atmosphere.

There may have been rather too many appeals considering the participation, which has been greater than in Montreal four years ago, but less than in Lille eight years ago.

Here are some figures:

	Lille	Montreal	Verona	Objective
Rosenblum	233	160	173	192
McConnell	56	36	39	48
Senior Teams	38	31	42	50
Mixed Pairs	625	434	482	500
Open Pairs	660	328	400	500
Women's Pairs	120	99	102	120
Senior Pairs	100	72	102	120
IMP			166	200

In my view these show that only the Seniors have increased slightly.

So, for the future of such events, we have to worry about the bridge population getting older and older.

Some questions from journalists and my answers:

Mabel Bocchi asked whether, in order to facilitate the job of the press, it would not be possible to ask the players to register immediately for all the events they intend to play. In such a way, we would avoid mistakes due to lack of information.

In this respect, we regret the players' lack of discipline in registering and not showing up or, on the contrary, showing up without registering. This is the main difficulty we face in organizing this event. We need more cooperation from the players.

It would really be helpful if the players, as is the case in other sports, could make themselves available for interview after play. Would it be possible to organize this?

Regarding the relationship between the press and the players, it would be nice if they were more available for interviews, especially in the big newspapers or radio and TV.

On the other hand, for years now as a result of certain events (September 11, Salt Lake City) and the participation of VIPs such as Bill Gates, Antoine Bernheim, Romain Zaleski, we have been getting good press coverage.

And that was the case in Paris in 2001, Salt Lake City in 2002, Monaco 2003, Istanbul 2004, Estoril 2005 and here in Verona in 2006.

With respect to the calendar, Jean-Paul Meyer noted that the European Championships and the World Bridge Open Team Championships (such as this one in Verona) are very similar. Holding both events is a burden

- for organizers
- for players
- for NBOs

He wondered whether it would be possible to organize ONE common event instead.

There is a gap of 18 months between the European Team Championships and the Bermuda Bowl/Venice Cup, i.e., between qualification and the World Championships. Could that be changed?

Indeed, I have already had the opportunity to say to my European colleagues that we might consider organizing the World and European Open Championships together in the even years. I believe that we have to bear in mind the market (i.e., the bridge players' demands) as this may be reduced year by year as the bridge population gets older.

This will also have the advantage of returning to the previous calendar whereby the Bermuda Bowl will follow the European Team Championships, which is more sensible.

On the organization, Mr. Meyer noted that more and more information is being given to the players in a shorter time, which is a very good thing. Does this imply that the staff is bigger than previously? Can you tell us how many people work on this championship.

You know that I am a 'communications man' and, as such, I consider it to be of primary importance to keep the players and the press as informed as possible.

Here we have been helped by the new technology and an efficient staff of about 150 people, including officials.

Participation: last time this event was held in Europe, it was in Lille. Verona is undoubtedly more of a tourist town. How do you explain the decrease in participation? It seems that fewer Italian players took part than French players eight years ago.

You have seen the figures presented in this article. The participation here is better than Montreal four years ago, which certainly suffered because of September 11, but organizing the event in Europe is also getting more people. However, Lille, eight years ago, was a tremendous event because of a very high French and European participation.

I do not know why the Italians did not play as much in this event, as I remember some team tournaments years ago in Milan, Rome or Venice with some 200 teams.

Here we have a very good participation from the North Americans, the French, the Dutch and the Poles, but we are missing Asia (except China).

Finally, how many member NBOs does the WBF have and how many registered players?

The WBF figures were given to the Congress in detail: 130 member countries and a little more than 700,000 registered members (including junior and schools). This must be improved.

Barry Rigal wanted to know if, following the rescheduling of the 2001 Championships, there were any prospects of holding any future events in Bali – or elsewhere in Indonesia?

This is my own sorrow as the Indonesian administrators and players are very good friends of mine.

They also did a marvellous job with the youth, with more than 30,000 pupils learning bridge. Every year we hope to arrange a championship in Bali, but each time a disaster seems to happen, when we try to help.

I keep in mind that they deserve our attention as soon as possible.

Mark Horton thought that the final of the Senior Pairs might be too big. Several pairs have dropped out from fatigue/lack of interest.

The conditions of contest stated that we were going to organize the Seniors events according to the numbers that we had, unfortunately, only at the time of starting. Then we thought that playing the whole field would be more attractive than cutting it.

Indeed, the format is good except that some of the Seniors are tired and have withdrawn.

It is bad luck on pairs who miss qualification because of the drop ins. Why not offer them a bye into the semi-finals of the next championships as a consolation?

You may have noticed that we organized a new World Championship IMP Pairs which is played with the same barometer final and same number of 72 pairs.

So those who did not qualify (12) because of the drop in from the Rosenblum were qualified, together with another eight or 10 pairs, directly for this IMP final, an opportunity that did not exist before.

Will you introduce electronic scanners to prevent mobile phones etc being taken into the playing areas?

It is clear that we will have to introduce these scanners if the players will not discipline themselves.

And the final question, what about IMSA

The creation of IMSA (International Mind Sports Association) and the next Intellympiad organization will certainly help again in the recognition of the values of the mind sports games.

We are grateful to the champions for their help in this field and thank them a lot.

We all need to pull together in the same direction – players, administrators or journalists for the good of bridge.

Championship Diary

Given that after all these years we have still won only a couple of IBPA awards between us, perhaps it is time for some new categories to be introduced.

How about one for 'The article with the most commas', (*The Brian Senior award*) or 'The slowest article submitted to the Daily Bulletin' (*The Tony Gordon trophy*)?

One of our colleagues suggested an award for 'The worst piece of analysis by a VuGraph commentator.' (*The.....Memorial Trophy.*)

Do let us have your suggestions.

Eitan Levy's wife Doreen decided to go to see, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, advertised as being 'In the original language, with Italian subtitles.'

Alas, it transpired that it was not in the original English prose of the Bard of Avon, but that of the performers, who spoke Hindi!

Mabel Bocchi decided to refill the water machine in the Press Room. If you have ever tried this you will know that the bottles have a special type of stopper that is opened only when the bottle is put in position. Mabel, applying considerable force, removed this before turning the bottle upside down, which is why the Press Room is now known as *The Niagara Falls suite*.

