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Issue No. 6

Thursday, 15 June 2006

Teams' theme: Carpe Diem



Today is the day that teams will find out whether they are still playing in the Rosenblum and McConnell as both reach the knockout stage. The open event will enter the round of 64, with play beginning on Friday. The women's round of 16 starts on Saturday.

All teams are striving to reach the top four in their respective groups – 16 in the open event and four in the women's. Teams will play three matches today, two if they have a bye round.

Some teams are no longer in the running to qualify for the next stage, but there are many on the cusp, and the final lineup of the teams in the knockout is still in doubt.

TODAY'S PROGRAMME

Time	Rosenblum Cup	McConnell Cup
10.30	Round 9	Round 7
13.45	Round 10	
14.00		Round 8
16.05	Round 11	
16.40		Round 9

Ralph Cohen 1926-2006



Former ACBL chief and four-time national champion Ralph Cohen died on Tuesday at his home in Memphis, Tennessee, in the USA. Cohen, who had battled cancer for several years, was 79.

Cohen was a current member of the WBF Laws Drafting Committee and a familiar face at world bridge championships for many years.

Continued on page 7

WBF CONGRESS MEETING



The WBF Congress Meeting will be held today at 09:30 in the Theatre Verdi at the VeroneFiere.

The theatre is situated on the lower ground floor of the venue, near the Registration Desks.

All countries represented in Verona are requested to send a delegate to this important meeting.

Coffee and croissants will be available for delegates.

ROSENBLUM CUP

(Round-Robin Standings after 8 Rounds)

GROUP A		GROUP B		GROUP C		GROUP D	
1 Clair	161.00	1 Iceland	172.00	1 Russia	164.00	1 Mullamphy	156.00
2 Bessis	160.00	2 Nickell	151.00	2 Akgul	159.00	2 Herbst	153.00
3 Lynch	149.00	3 Vasilev	149.00	3 Milner	144.00	3 Izisel	151.00
4 Cope	148.00	4 Forrester	134.00	4 Hadi	126.00	4 Morath	147.00
5 Hauge	143.00	5 Oz-One Kanektar	132.00	Gordon	126.00	5 Madsen	143.00
6 Drenkelford	111.00	6 Kendrick	128.00	6 Chateau Rossenovo	121.00	6 Markowicz	135.00
7 Simson	108.00	7 Agressor	122.00	7 Smith	107.00	7 Johnson	127.00
8 Bel2	95.00	8 Aubonnet	99.00	8 Adad	106.00	8 Haagensen	89.00
9 Nader	91.00	9 Izmir Buyuksehir Belediyesi	98.00	Warendorf	106.00	9 Atay	79.00
10 Panahpour	77.00	10 Fioretti	90.00	10 Passarinho	94.00	10 Lol	78.00
11 Clark	72.00	11 Dohnert	34.00	11 T.C.Parioli - Angelini Junior	84.00	11 Venit	54.00
GROUP E		GROUP F		GROUP G		GROUP H	
1 Ekeblad	154.00	1 Welland R	175.00	1 Meltzer	157.00	1 Jacobs	168.00
2 Mossop	142.00	2 Hecht-Johansen	161.00	2 Berg	142.00	2 Altshuler-Shaham	142.50
3 Nadar	139.50	3 Bareket	150.00	3 Team PharmaService	137.00	3 Onstein	133.00
4 Assemi	136.70	4 Villa Fabbriche	146.00	4 Hackett	136.00	4 Jokisch	131.00
5 Auken	129.50	5 Otvosi	113.50	5 Bigat	131.00	5 Szilagy	128.50
6 O'Briain	125.00	6 Lara	108.50	6 Kirilenko	125.50	6 Tudor	127.00
7 Tananbaum	121.00	7 Poddar	107.00	7 Barbosa	121.00	7 Computerland	121.00
8 Gosney	117.50	8 Kvangraven	101.00	Borevkovic	121.00	8 Dhampur Sugar Mills	116.00
9 Pauncz	95.00	9 Oz-One Nagy	99.00	9 Kokten	111.00	9 Ingham	102.00
10 Colectivo 06	91.30	10 COOK & Buddys	77.00	10 Corsica	99.00	10 Blumenthal	92.00
11 Mayantz	64.50	11 Malaspina	75.00	11 Abate	52.50	11 Sarten	66.50
GROUP I		GROUP J		GROUP K		GROUP L	
1 Yadlin	166.00	1 Lavazza	121.00	1 T.C.Parioli - BTA	125.00	1 Gillis	125.00
2 de Botton	143.00	2 Popova	107.00	2 Allfrey	121.00	2 Chang	110.00
Romania	143.00	3 Soulet	99.00	3 Grenthe	107.00	3 Belgium I	109.00
4 Zimmerman	140.00	4 11 diamonds	94.00	4 Teltscher	94.00	4 Van Helsing	97.00
5 Gardiner	134.00	5 Brenn	91.00	5 Hamaoui	93.00	5 Strul	93.00
6 Piekarek	116.00	6 Colchamiro	88.00	6 Muzzio	86.50	6 Noble	85.00
7 Shen Zhen Qiao You	108.00	7 Sundelin	86.00	7 Geely Auto	80.00	Triantafyllis	85.00
8 San Marino	107.00	8 Hargreaves	77.00	8 Freed	73.50	8 West VIP	79.00
9 Lewis	105.00	Ruia	77.00	9 Bartley	57.00	9 Dohet	55.00
10 Sakura Krakow	104.00	10 Slovenija	50.00	10 Goenka	46.00	10 Read	52.00
11 Mori	57.00						
GROUP M		GROUP N		GROUP O		GROUP P	
1 Allana	140.00	1 Gwinner	147.00	1 Cornell	162.00	1 Henner	161.00
Tornay	140.00	2 Orange	143.00	2 Chagas	147.00	2 Robinson	142.00
3 China SMEG	137.00	3 Mahaffey	140.00	3 Rogoff	142.00	3 Canada	138.50
4 Spector	134.00	4 Pont	135.00	4 Quinn	134.00	4 Texans	136.00
Furuta	134.00	Moers	135.00	5 Schwartz	128.00	5 Schneider	131.00
6 Bridge+	131.50	6 Alizee	128.00	Gartaganis	128.00	6 Shanghai Heng Yuan Xiang	130.50
7 Mragowia SI	125.00	7 Arcelor Stainless india	125.00	7 Allix	127.00	7 Kitabgi	111.50
8 Smykalla	117.00	8 Rayner	118.00	8 Gerin	115.00	8 Tangues	102.00
9 Tolani Shipping Team	103.00	9 Smilgajs	101.00	9 Bausback	114.00	9 Indonesia	99.00
10 Philogene	97.50	10 Harper	91.00	10 D.M.R.	81.50	10 Cuevas	95.00
11 Beauchamp	75.00	11 Datloff	68.00	11 Jung	33.00	11 Morimura	78.00

McCONNELL CUP

(Round-Robin Standings after 6 rounds)

GROUP Q		GROUP R		GROUP S		GROUP T	
1 Levy	114.00	1 Poland	109.00	1 Narasimhan	125.00	1 Netherlands	110.00
2 McGowan	109.00	2 China Global Times	100.00	2 Katt-Bridge	108.00	2 Sver	109.00
3 Westheimer	103.00	3 La Cucina Italiana	96.00	3 Bessis	102.00	3 Radin	104.00
4 Venezuela	101.00	4 Baker	94.00	4 Viaggi e Saporì	96.00	4 Philippines	100.00
5 Jacobs	93.00	DanGer	94.00	5 Steiner	95.00	5 Renoux	94.00
6 Bistoquet	90.00	6 Swartz	85.00	6 Martel	80.00	6 Gruppo Midi	93.00
7 Canada	85.00	Pollack	85.00	Cocogirls	80.00	7 Hammerli	87.00
8 Penfold	78.00	8 Rossard	82.00	8 Gmur	72.00	8 Morse	73.00
9 Axelrod	63.00	9 San Marino Ladies	78.00	9 Deora	62.00	9 Wood	72.00
10 Gwinner	59.00	10 Makiko	74.00			10 Goodman	52.00

REGISTRATION FOR THE PAIRS AND SENIOR TEAMS

URGENT



If you are going to play in the pairs event – open or ladies – or in the senior teams, it is very urgent that you register at the registration desk (basement floor). That applies to all players, even if they do not have to play the qualifying sessions.

Butler Standings

If you are interested in Butler standings from Rosenblum and McConnell competitions, you can visit www.swangames.com to see Butler rankings for each pair in their respective groups.

Women's Committee Meeting

A WBF Women's Committee meeting is anticipated for today at 2 p.m. in the VIP Room on the first floor of the convention center.

Rectification

Mari and George Retek played the second session of the Mixed Pairs to fill in a hole in the tournament, which was very nice of them. They played very well and ended at the top of the field. It was necessary to remove them from the rankings and to give them an artificially low score, not at all related to their performance. Sorry for that.

Ton Kooijman

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.

Seeding Rosenblum and Mc Connell



The sixteen (Rosenblum) and four (McConnell) teams ranked highest in the WBF master-points classification that are qualifying have a protected status.

They get seeding numbers from 1 to 16 and 1 to 4, with the lowest number for the highest ranked in this classification and so on.

The remaining teams get a seeding number in order of their ranking within the group, starting with number 17 (5) for the first ranked team in the lowest free group-letter and so on until number 64 (16) for the team ranked 4th in the 'highest' free group-letter (presumably P and T).

With these numbers, the brackets as shown in the conditions of contest are filled in.

The QF has four sessions of 14 boards. Teams have to line-up in advance, 10 minutes before the start of the session. The lower numbered team in a match has seating rights in the first and the last session. It is home team in the first two sessions and visiting in the third and fourth session. Play and line-up takes place in the red carpeted room.

Ton Kooijman

COSE DI CASA NOSTRA

Nel secondo match di qualificazione la squadra Angelini ha incontrato la formazione indiana di Goenka, in diretta mondiale su BBO. Il risultato finale ha sancito una parita' determinata da un set di mani suscettibile di swing che, nella fattispecie, si sono annullati strada facendo.

Nel corso di tutta la vostra carriera bridgistica, quante volte vi e' capitato di licitare 4SA come contratto finale? In questi 14 board, solo nella sala chiusa, e' successo in 3 occasioni. A pensarci bene, non sono poche.

Eccole:

Tentativo

Board 23. Dich. Sud. Tutti in zona.

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



Antonio Sementa, Italy

Ovest	Nord	Est	Sud
Versace	Goenka	Sementa	Sadhu
1♥	Passo	2♣	Passo
2♥	Passo	2♠	Passo
3♦	Passo	4SA	Fine

Tutto naturale con 3♦ quarto colore, richiesta di fermo. Arrivati al punto di decollo Versace si e' fermato a riflettere a lungo per cercare nella sua apertura qualcosa che giustificasse lo slam o che, almeno, permettesse di essere ottimisti nella prosecuzione. Pur spremendo le carte in tutti i modi, questo plusvalore non e' uscito, determinando l'abbandono della dichiarazione. Sadhu, in Sud, ha attaccato 7 di cuori, per far calare un po' di nebbia sulla distribuzione del colore e per provare ad anticipare una eventuale decisione del dichiarante. Non era questo il caso. Sementa ha passato il Fante del morto, scuotendo la testa quando e' rimasto in presa (classica situazione in cui il dichiarante desidera che non riesca nessun impasse). Fiori impasse (vedi sopra). Cuori impasse. 10 di fiori, Re, Asso. Le prese a disposizione, potendo, sono state ben piu' di 13. Certo, invertendo le carte tra Nord e Sud...

Quantitativo

Board 25. Dich. Nord. E/O in zona.

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

Ovest	Nord	Est	Sud
Versace	Goenka	Sementa	Sadhu
3♣	Passo	2SA	Passo
4SA	Passo	3♦	Passo
	Fine		

Sementa, prima di passare, ha valutato per un momento se fosse il caso o meno di procedere fissando le quadri. Attacco cuori per l'Asso e cuori. 11 prese. Sementa si e' affacciato da sotto il sipario e, scherzando, ha detto a Versace: "Stavo per dire 6♦, in alternativa al passo...". Tanto per mantenere viva l'attenzione del compagno. "Il misto ti fa male...", ha proseguito. "Sto giocando ancora il tavolo... - ha risposto Versace -, prima tutti i Re piazzati, ora mancano 2 Assi, ci stanno facendo il trap-polone con queste mani...". "Puo' farti sentire meglio se mi metto una parrucca?", ha chiuso Sementa.

Se non me ne fai giocare 3, te ne dico 4

E' il turno degli avversari:

Board 17. Dich. Nord. Tutti in prima.

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

Ovest	Nord	Est	Sud
Versace	Goenka	Sementa	Sadhu
	Passo	Passo	1♦
2SA	3♦	Passo	3SA
4♣	4♦	Passo	4SA
Fine			

Il 2SA di Ovest, come vedete, mostra una bicolore tonda (♥♣). Versace ha combattuto ma Sadhu si e' limitato a rialzare. Dopo aver filato due volte l'attacco fiori, il dichiarante si e' limitato a catturare il terzo giro nel colore, ad incassare le quadri ed a cedere l'Asso di picche. Contratto, preciso, non c'e' che dire.

Scendendo di un gradino licitativo, c'e' stato anche un 3SA dichiarato in soluzione unica:

Vecchio stile

Board 28. Dich. Ovest. N/S in zona.

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



Ovest	Nord	Est	Sud
Versace	Goenka	Sementa	Sadhu
Passo	Passo	Passo	3SA
Fine			

L'apertura di 3SA in quarta posizione probabilmente vuol dire "li faccio". Vero, con tre surlevee.

Sara' stato chiamato questo slam nell'altra sala? Vediamo:

Ovest	Nord	Est	Sud
	Fantoni		Nunes
1♥	Passo	3♣	Contro
???			

Interrompo un attimo per farvi notare che Sud, con piu' della meta' dei punti in giro, ha cominciato a licitare a livello 3, ma non contro un barrage: c'e' stata una normale apertura (!!!) a sinistra su cui a destra ha appoggiato in limite Bergen (vista la diretta mondiale Ovest ha deciso di movimentare un po' il gioco).

Proseguiamo:

3♥	Contro	Passo	3SA
Passo	4♦	Passo	4♥
Passo	4♠	Contro	Surcontro
Passo	5♦	Contro	Surcontro
5♥	Passo	Passo	Contro
Fine.			

Est, ancora sicuro che il compagno avesse quanto meno uno straccio d'apertura, ha iniziato a manifestare il suo dissenso con dei rossi, ordinatamente seguiti da dei blu di Sud. Il secondo surcontro sarebbe stato molto costoso ed Ovest, pur essendo pieno di prese difensive (ahahah!) non ha voluto provare a controgiocare. A 5♥ contrate il dichiarante ha pagato 800 per 4 down.



Alfredo Versace, Italy

Alarms and Discussions

By Barry Rigal

The subject of alarm clocks at the bridge table comes up from time to time – normally in the form of, "Wake up, partner."

This can be an oral request, but the same result can be achieved by the play of the cards.

As it happened, round four of the Rosenblum qualifying produced just such an opportunity.

Board 19. Dealer South. E/W Vul.

<p>♠ A 7 6 ♥ Q 9 7 5 ♦ 10 ♣ Q 10 9 7 2</p>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 40px; height: 40px; margin: 0 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 E </div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: center; width: 100%;"> S </div> </div>	<p>♠ 9 ♥ K 10 4 3 ♦ 6 5 4 3 ♣ A K 5 4</p>	<p>♠ Q J 8 5 4 3 2 ♥ 2 ♦ K 7 2 ♣ 8 3</p> <p>♠ K 10 ♥ A J 8 6 ♦ A Q J 9 8 ♣ J 6</p>
--	---	---	--

Bruce Rogoff, East, was on lead against 4♠ (I would say it was the luck of the Irish that Gay Keaveney chose to jump to 4♠ after South opened 1NT, an undiscussed sequence, instead of using a Texas transfer, but since our teammates are Irish, I won't).

Rogoff led the ♣K and West produced the queen. A discouraging club would have produced a heart shift, so was something else required? After a little thought, out came a diamond. Declarer won the ♦A and led a trump, but West won the ♠A to lead the ♣2 to East's ace for a diamond ruff. Our teammates played 2♠, making four, so this was a double partscore swing.

The man who was no Chagas

By Barry Rigal

Board 18. Dealer East. N/S Vul.

<p>♠ Q 8 2 ♥ K J 6 4 3 ♦ – ♣ A K 7 5 4</p>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 40px; height: 40px; margin: 0 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 E </div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: center; width: 100%;"> S </div> </div>	<p>♠ J 9 5 3 ♥ A 9 8 2 ♦ Q 9 7 4 ♣ 6</p> <p>♠ 7 6 ♥ Q 7 5 ♦ J 10 6 3 ♣ J 10 9 2</p>	<p>♠ A K 10 4 ♥ 10 ♦ A K 8 5 2 ♣ Q 8 3</p>
--	---	---	--

West	North	East	South
		Pass	1♦
2NT	3♦	5♣	5♦
All Pass			

When Gabriel is at the other table, you had better have your best game on.

At my table, I declared 5♦. Marcelo Branco led a top club and shifted to a heart. What is the best play after winning the ♥A?

Obviously, the only danger is 4-0 diamonds, but can you protect yourself against it? I don't think so: I tried the ♦9 from dummy, but when Diego Brenner played low smoothly I did not have the courage to let it ride.

In retrospect I was kicking myself – not because I had missed a technical play but because my right-hand opponent had visibly twitched before passing 5♦, so at the vulnerability he had to be thinking about sacrificing. If that was so, the first round finesse was surely the indicated play. If that lost the spade finesse was virtually certain to work.

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.

Ralph Cohen

...continued from front page

Canadian by birth, Cohen represented his native country in international play in the early part of his career, placing fourth in the World Team Olympiad in 1964. Playing on a multinational squad in the Rosenblum Teams in 1990, Cohen and his teammates were quarter-finalists. He held the title of International Master from the World Bridge Federation.

Cohen was also an ACBL Grand Life Master with four North American Bridge Championship titles: IMP Pairs (1990), Senior Knockout Teams (1997), Open Swiss Teams (1995, 1998).

Earlier this year, Cohen was named the 2006 recipient of the Sidney H. Lazard Jr. Sportsmanship Award. He was scheduled to receive the award in Chicago next month.

Cohen joined the ACBL staff as assistant executive secretary in 1971 and served as executive director from 1984 to 1986. He continued as an ACBL consultant until retiring in 1991. He was a member of the ACBL Laws Commission for more than two decades and was vice chair of the WBF Laws Committee.

WBF President Jose Damiani expressed sadness at the news of Cohen's death.

"Ralph loved bridge, and he worked very hard and effectively on the WBF Laws Drafting Committee," said Damiani. "He was a personal friend to me and the other members of the WBF Executive. He will be missed. We send our deepest sympathy to Ralph's wife, Joan, and their sons."

John Wignall, a member of the Laws Drafting Committee, said he and Cohen went back a long way – to the Culbertson days. "Ralph has been a big part of bridge ever since then."

Wignall said he had enormous respect for Cohen's contributions to the development of the laws. "He was clear thinking, very experienced, and he had a memory like an elephant," said Wignall. "He could remember passages from the laws from the Thirties."

Joan Gerard, also on the Laws Drafting Committee, was visibly shaken at the news of Cohen's death. "This is a huge loss to the committee," she said, "and a huge loss to bridge."

Gerard added: "He loved the ACBL, and he cared so much about bridge. He dedicated his life to the ACBL. He was a wonderful man."

Despite his illness and frail health, Cohen still managed to play bridge, winning at a club game in Memphis only three days before his death.

One of his regular partners in recent years was Henry Francis, former editor of the ACBL Bridge Bulletin and the Daily Bulletins at the world championships.

Francis wrote the following tribute to his friend:

"Ralph Cohen was a fine bridge player, an able administrator, a proud family man and a good friend. But most of all he was a fierce warrior.

"Early on, his bridge opponents and partners discovered his fierceness. Later bridge administrators learned how hard Ralph would fight to improve the game. But it was in the battle of life that Ralph demonstrated his warrior strengths most strongly.

"When he was hit by four major illnesses simultaneously a few years ago, no one thought he'd make it. But he did. When one major cancer after another struck him, Ralph just kept going.

"Every Thursday when he wasn't hospitalized, he trekked to the Lightman Bridge Club in Memphis to play bridge with me. And he never changed. He had to take a couple of short rest breaks each time, but he still put the fear of God into opponents with his fiercely competitive play and defense.

"And he never complained. If you asked him how he was doing, his answer was always the same – 'I'm OK.' "

A graveside service was scheduled for Thursday in Memphis. Besides his wife, Cohen leaves three sons: Jordan, Billy and Mitchell.

The family requests that donations be made to the Methodist Alliance, 6423 Shelby View Drive, #103, Memphis TN 38134.

World Bridge Championships 2006

Special Offer to BRIDGE Magazine

Edited by Mark Horton

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Good, Bad and...

by Barry Rigal

It is sometimes tough to tell your good results from you bad ones. Consider the following deal from the Rosenblum encounter between the Schwartz and Rogoff teams.

Board 3. Dealer South. E/W Vul.

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

At the table where Rogoff was North this was the auction:

West	North	East	South
Pass	1♠	3♥	1♦
5♦	Pass	5♥	4♥
Pass	5♠	All Pass	Pass

Note the subtle 5♦ by Jim Krekorian. Drew Casen, East, led his singleton diamond for a ruff a trick two. The ♠K meant one down. Nicely bid, but in the other room this was the auction:

West	North	East	South
Pass	1♠	3♥	1♦
4♥	Pass	Pass	3♠
5♥	Dbl	All Pass	4♠

Very nicely bid by John Carroll, West, to take the vulnerable save, which turned out to be the best kind of sacrifice - a making one for plus 850.

If you thought that was hard to predict, how about this one?

Board 6. Dealer East. E/W Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Dbl	4♠	Pass	3♠
Dbl	All Pass	Pass	Pass

4♠ went down two. Plus 300 did not look to be a great return. At the other table, the auction was hardly unreasonable but even less successful.

West	North	East	South
Dbl	5♠	Pass	3♠
5NT	Pass	Dbl	Pass
		6♦	All Pass

The diamond slam was not a happy spot, but did anyone do anything stupid? 6♦ went down 200 for an 11-IMP swing to Schwartz. The final swing for Bruce Rogoff came when Carroll found a nicely deceptive line in 4♥.

Board 12. Dealer West. N/S Vul.

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

At the other table, East-West had declared 3NT down two, eschewing both their eight-card fits.

West	North	East	South
1♥	Pass	2♦	Pass
2♥	Pass	3♥	Pass
4♥	All Pass		

East's 2♦ was a heart raise of at least game-invitational strength.

On a diamond lead, Carroll won with the queen in dummy to lead a heart to his king. Another diamond to dummy and another heart to the 10 and queen revealed the two heart losers. Now came a club from the West hand. By delaying the club play, Carroll had convinced North that there was no need to rush in with the ♣A - wrong! That was 11 IMPs to the Rogoff team on the way to a 25-5 victory.



A Bug's Life

It's too bad there is no warning system that can tell you it's not your day at the bridge table – that a better plan would be to head for the golf course or the shopping mall.

That was the experience of the team that faced the Roy Welland squad in the second qualifying session of the Rosenblum.

In case you're wondering, the headline refers to a song on the Dire Straits album, "On Every Street." The track is called, "The Bug," and include this passage "...sometimes you're the windshield, sometimes you're the bug."

At any rate, five boards into the 14-deal match, Welland's opponents were behind 53-0 on their way to a 78-9 thrashing.

There's not much of interest to report in such a match, but there was the curiosity of the following three deals.

Board 17. Dealer North. None Vul.

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



Roy Welland, USA

West	North	East	South
	Pass	Pass	1♦
2NT	3♥	Pass	4♠
5♣	Pass	Pass	Dbl
All Pass			

Lew Stansby, South, explained Chip Martel's 3♥ bid as showing five or more spades, the reason for his leap to the spade game. Martel, of course, would have preferred diamonds if given the chance. Declarer won the spade lead with dummy's ace and advanced a club. She continued with the ♣Q after the king won. Stansby took the ♣A and could have secured a heart ruff, but he played the ♦K. Declarer, apparently playing a heart contract right at the moment, "ruffed" with a low heart. When that was sorted out, she ended up two down for minus 300 – seemingly not a bad result since North-South can make 5♦.

Unfortunately for them, the contract at the other table was 4♥ doubled on the lead of the ♠5. That produced minus 590 for North-South and 13 IMPs for Welland.

Next came:

Board 18. Dealer East. N/S Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
		Pass	1♦
2NT	Dbl	4♣	4♠
5♣	Pass	Pass	Dbl
All Pass			

Stansby started with the ♠K, switching to his singleton heart at trick two. He took the heart ruff and cashed the ♠A for plus 300. That was 11 IMPs to Welland inasmuch as North-South took the push to 5♠ at the other table, finishing two down.

It was déjà vu all over again on the next deal.



Board 19. Dealer South. E/W Vul.

♠ 7 5 ♥ A K 8 6 5 4 3 ♦ J 10 9 2 ♣ —	<table border="1" style="border-collapse: collapse; width: 80px; height: 80px; margin: auto;"> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">N</td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">W</td><td style="text-align: center;">E</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td></td><td style="text-align: center;">S</td><td></td></tr> </table>	N			W	E			S		♠ K Q J 10 6 3 ♥ 2 ♦ A 7 6 4 ♣ 7 6	♠ A 9 4 ♥ — ♦ K Q 8 5 3 ♣ A Q 10 9 8
N												
W	E											
	S											

West	North	East	South
2NT	3♦	4♠	1♦
Pass	Pass	Dbf	5♦
			All Pass

West started with the ♥Q, perhaps hoping partner could ruff. Indeed, East was short in hearts, but not short enough. Stansby took the ♥A and played the ♦J, ducked by East. At this point, 5♦ could have been defeated, but it didn't work out that way.

After West showed out of diamonds, Stansby switched gears, playing a spade to the ace, followed by the ♣A for a spade pitch from dummy. Stansby next played the ♣Q from hand, covered by the king and ruffed in dummy. On the play of dummy's ♥K, East ruffed with the ace (a major error) and continued with a low diamond, taken by Stansby in hand. He played the ♣10 next and West erred by covering. Stansby ruffed in dummy, ruffed a heart to hand, pulled the last trump and claimed with two good clubs and an overtrick in his doubled contract. Plus 650 was good for 12 IMPs after declarer in 5♦ at the other table went down.

When everyone pulled their hands out of Board 20, Stansby noted with relief that there would be no 2NT overcall by West, the dealer, because "I'm not opening a diamond."



Lew Stansby, USA

Greed is a Terrible Thing

By Barry Rigal



When dummy comes down with a far better (or worse) hand than you might have expected, it's easy to take your eye off the ball.

Consider the contract of 5♦ doubled, reached after North took a sensible view of his freakish hand.

Board 19. Dealer South. E/W Vul.

♠ 7 5 ♥ A K 8 6 5 4 3 ♦ J 10 9 2 ♣ —	<table border="1" style="border-collapse: collapse; width: 80px; height: 80px; margin: auto;"> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">N</td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">W</td><td style="text-align: center;">E</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td></td><td style="text-align: center;">S</td><td></td></tr> </table>	N			W	E			S		♠ K Q J 10 6 3 ♥ 2 ♦ A 7 6 4 ♣ 7 6	♠ A 9 4 ♥ — ♦ K Q 8 5 3 ♣ A Q 10 9 8
N												
W	E											
	S											

West	North	East	South
1♥	2♦	4♠	1♦
Pass	Pass	Dbf	5♦
			All Pass

On the lead of the ♠8 to the 10 and ace, how should you continue? With visions of sugar plum fairies (doubled overtricks) floating in his head, declarer cashed the ♣A, pitching a spade, ruffed a club, took the ♥A, pitching a spade, and led the ♥K, ruffed and overruffed. Now, if a club ruff had stood up there would have been 12 tricks, but East could overruff the third club and return a trump for one down.

If declarer pitches a club on the ♥A then ruffs the ♥K as before, no crossruff by declarer can be interrupted. He ruffs two spades in dummy, and although the fourth ruff in dummy is overruffed, declarer has scored enough low trumps in hand to survive.

However, I believe the defense can prevail after the spade lead if South takes his eye off the ball. Declarer wins the ♠A at trick one and must cash the ♣A and ruff a club at trick three. If he ruffs a spade, now when he plays the ♥A and ♥K, East can pitch his second club instead of ruffing and interrupt the crossruff.

Round 4

McConnell Cup

A First Look

by Brian Senior

Our first look at the McConnell Trophy features one of the fancied teams, The Netherlands, against The Philippines. The Philippines must be the most widely distributed team in the tournament from a geographical point of view, as the four players live in Manila, London, New York, and Auckland, New Zealand. Apart from having all represented the Philippines at some time in the past, the link is team-member Gemma Mariano, as all three are either her past or current partners. Inevitably, the team is a little short on face-to-face practice, so beware, as they will be getting stronger as the tournament progresses. The Dutch were fielding their new junior pairing of Meike Wortel and Marian Michielsen, alongside the vastly experienced Bep Vriend and Carla Arnolds.

A relatively quiet set of deals started with a flat grand slam.

Board 1. Dealer North. None Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Mayer	Wortel	Egan	Michielsen
	Pass	1♠	Pass
4NT	Pass	5♣	Pass
7♠	All Pass		

West	North	East	South
Vriend	Mariano	Arnolds	Del Gallego
	Pass	1♠	Pass
2♣	Pass	2♥	Pass
3♠	Pass	3NT	Pass
4♣	Pass	4♦	Pass
4NT	Pass	5♣	Pass
7♠	All Pass		

One might dream of picking up a hand like West's on this deal then hearing partner open the bidding with 1♠. For the Philippines, Faith Mayer took the simple approach – surely correct in an unpractised partnership – of checking that there was no missing key card, then bidding the grand slam. Yes, it is possible to construct hands where 7♠ is a bad contract, but you need some methods to be confident that it is right to stay out of seven.

Bep Vriend went more slowly, 3♠ being forcing, and discovered that her partner was 5-4-2-2. When Carla Arnolds could cuebid in diamonds, Vriend had all the information she required to know that seven would be cold (short of outlandish breaks) if the ace of hearts was present.

Flat at +1510.

Board 4. Dealer West. All Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Mayer	Wortel	Egan	Michielsen
1♦	Pass	1♠	Dble
2♣	Pass	3♦	Pass
3♥	Pass	3NT	All Pass

West	North	East	South
Vriend	Mariano	Arnolds	Del Gallego
1♦	Pass	1♠	Dble
2♣	Pass	3♦	All Pass



Meike Wortel, Netherlands

Vriend/Arnolds had a normal auction to a normal contract and Vriend's normal spade play led to ten tricks for +130.

Mayer made a very aggressive move towards game and, holding the requested heart stopper, Victoria Egan bid 3NT. This was a great opportunity for the Philippines, as the same normal spade play of hoping to find North with the queen would have seen the contract home after Marian Michielsen's club lead. Alas, Egan convinced herself that she could not get so lucky and that, maybe, her youthful opponents might mis-defend if she gave them the opportunity to do so. She cashed all the diamonds then played a heart, but Michielsen could clear the clubs and, though she had to give the last trick to declarer as she had kept a low spade along with the ace in case declarer played a spade after the diamonds, that meant one down for -100 and 6 IMPs to Netherlands when it could have been 10 IMPs the other way.

Board 5. Dealer North. N/S Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Mayer	Wortel	Egan	Michielsen
3♥	1♥ Pass	2♥ 4♣	2♠ All Pass

West	North	East	South
Vriend	Mariano	Arnolds	Del Gallego
2NT 3NT	1♥ Pass All Pass	2♣ 3♠	2♥ Pass

The Philippines immediately missed another opportunity at the other table on this deal. Egan's Michaels cuebid led to one of the two good games being reached and she soon had eleven tricks stacked in front of her for +450.

Arnolds preferred to overcall 2♣ then showed the spades over Vriend's 2NT response. But when Vriend went back to no trump, Arnolds gave up with a significant part of her distribution unbid, at least in my view. Gemma Mariano led a low heart to the queen and Tina Del Gallego's return of the ten of hearts was covered by the jack and king. Now a low heart to the nine followed by a spade through would have defeated the contract but, of course, Del Gallego would have returned the ♥10 from and ♥Q10x holding, and Mariano chose to switch to a diamond, establishing declarer's ninth trick; +400 and a lucky escape for the Netherlands, who lost just 2 IMPs when it might have been 11.

Board 8. Dealer West. None Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Mayer	Wortel	Egan	Michielsen
1♣ 2NT	1♠ Pass	1NT 3NT	Pass All Pass
West	North	East	South
Vriend	Mariano	Arnolds	Del Gallego
1♣ 3NT	1♠ All Pass	2NT	Pass

Both Mariano and Meike Wortel overcalled on the empty spade suit. It is normal enough to do so, of course, particularly given that the opening bid was 1♣ so that there was some pre-emptive benefit to the bid. However, this proved to be a bad time for it as East/West reached a game that they would not otherwise have bid and then the lead of the ♠Q was disastrous for the defence.

Arnolds upgraded her ten-count because of the good spade holding and Vriend had an easy raise to game. At the other table, Egan bid a mildly cautious 1NT but Mayer made a very aggressive invitation and she had an obvious acceptance.

Both Souths led the ♠Q to declarer's king and declarer played the ♥K, South winning the ace. Del Gallego now



Tina Del Gallego, Philippines

continued with her remaining spade, while Michielsen switched to the eight of diamonds. It made no difference, both declarers taking a safe nine tricks when they might even have managed ten with a third-round heart finesse. Flat at +400.

Board 10. Dealer East. All Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Mayer</i>	<i>Wortel</i>	<i>Egan</i>	<i>Michielsen</i>
		Pass	1♣
1♠	Pass	2♣	Pass
3♣	Pass	3♠	All Pass

West	North	East	South
<i>Vriend</i>	<i>Mariano</i>	<i>Arnolds</i>	<i>Del Gallego</i>
		Pass	1♣

All Pass

Lack of partnership experience explains the Philippines' auction. Well, it doesn't explain Mayer's 1♠ overcall, which was to do with her personal approach to the game, but it explains the subsequent auction Michielsen's 1♣ opening promised only two cards and Mayer was therefore unsure of the meaning of Egan's 2♣ bid. Of course, when Egan converted to 3♠, Mayer quickly passed. A diamond lead would have defeated 3♠, but why should Wortel lead a diamond? Mayer won the actual club lead, played ace and another trump, won the next club and played a third trump. She won the club return and played a heart and Michielsen was powerless; +140.

In the other room, the Dutch East/West pair passed over Del Gallego's 1♣ opening and she was left to stew there, going three down for -300 and 4 IMPs to The Netherlands.

The Philippines had had their chances in a closely fought match, but The Netherlands sneaked the victory by 22-19 IMPs, 16-14 VPs.



Nicely Defended

We saw several -590s around the room on this deal from the second round of the Rosenblum, but Danish pair Hans Christian Graversen and Poul Clemmensen found the defence to beat 4♥ doubled, to hold their loss on the board to 4 IMPs!

Board 17. Dealer North. None Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Armstrong</i>	<i>Graversen</i>	<i>Holland</i>	<i>Clemmensen</i>
	Pass	2♠	2NT
3♥	3NT	Pass	Pass
4♣	Pass	4♥	Pass
Pass	Dble	All Pass	

Despite the likely misfit, England's John Armstrong showed both his suits in the face of his opponents' strong auction, and eventually declared 4♥ doubled. Graversen led a diamond, forcing him immediately, so Armstrong correctly set about his side-suit before tackling trumps. Clemmensen won the first club and led a second diamond, ruffed, and Armstrong cashed a top club then played the other club honour, and Graversen correctly discarded a diamond. Armstrong played the ♥Q next and Graversen won and played a diamond, giving the ruff and discard as it was clear that declarer could have no side-suit losers. Armstrong elected to ruff that in hand and played another winning club, which Clemmensen could ruff with the remaining trump as Graversen pitched his last diamond, and there was no way to prevent Graversen from making the ♥9 for down two; -300.

However, +300 was not good enough for the Danes.

West	North	East	South
<i>Kroejgaard</i>	<i>Hackett</i>	<i>Caspersen</i>	<i>Waterlow</i>
	1♦	2♠	Dble
Pass	3♦	Pass	3NT
4♣	Dble	Pass	4NT
All Pass			

Paul Hackett opened a very thin 1♦ with the North cards and Henrik Caspersen made a weak jump overcall. When Tony Waterlow doubled, Niels Kroejgaard decided to bide his time rather than bid a heart suit that had been suggested, if not guaranteed, on his right. Hackett repeated the diamonds and Waterlow tried 3NT. Now Kroejgaard introduced his club suit but, though Hackett doubled 4♣ to discourage his partner from bidding on, Waterlow judged correctly to go on to 4NT on the strength of his extra values and massive diamond fit. After a club lead, it was a simple matter to duck to shut out the long clubs, then establish two spade tricks to bring the total to ten for +430.

Round 5

Rosenblum Cup

No need for a Penalty Shoot out by Mark Horton

It is impossible to ignore that there is another major sporting contest being staged at the moment, so I make no apologies for using a few analogies and metaphors in this report from Round 5 of the Rosenblum round robin between two teams who needed to start scoring heavily, especially as goal difference might play a part in the qualification process.

Board 3. Dealer South. E/W Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Meltzer	Kokten	Larsen	Aluf
Pass	1♥	Pass	1♣
Pass	3♠	Pass	3♣
All Pass			4♥

In the Open Room the goal was wide open but after a perfect build up the Meltzer team put the ball wide of the net.

East led the queen of spades and West went up with the ace and found the only switch to trouble declarer, the king of diamonds. Declarer won, East playing the seven, and returned a diamond, West winning the queen as East followed with the five.

If West now reverts to spades declarer wins with the king and may well try a low heart. So long as East is alert and goes in with the king to play another spade declarer has no chance.

However, West played a third diamond and now declarer was in control, playing a low heart to the queen and a heart to the ace, +420.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Aluf	Helness	Eskinaz	Helgemo
Pass	2♦*	Pass	INT
Pass	2NT	Pass	2♥
All Pass			4♥

With West on lead declarer's prospects are only marginally better as the king of diamonds is a winning lead, and a club also works. However West gave the ball away to his opponents by leading a low heart. East won with the king and switched to the nine of diamonds. Declarer won with the ace and played three rounds of clubs, ruffing high. He then drew trumps and came to eleven tricks, +450 and 1 IMP.

Board 4. Dealer West. All Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Meltzer	Kokten	Larsen	Aluf
Pass	1♣	1♥	Dble
2♦*	2♠	4♥	All Pass

South ignored her spade sequence and led the three of clubs. With that guess eliminated the contract was secure and when North failed to cash two diamonds declarer could set up a club for a discard, +650.



Namik Kokten, Turkey

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Aluf</i>	<i>Helness</i>	<i>Eskinaz</i>	<i>Helgemo</i>
Pass	1♣	1♥	1♠
2♦*	2♠	4♥	All Pass

Although the build up was identical, the outcome was not. South led the queen of spades and declarer won in hand, drew trumps and exited with a diamond. North took the queen, cashed the ace and continued with the king. Declarer ruffed, crossed to the ace of spades and played a club to the jack. One down, -100 and a loss of 13 IMPs.

Perhaps declarer thought it was suspicious that North had been kind enough to show possession of the all the top diamonds, but it was still a strange view.

Board 9. Dealer North. E/W Vul.

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

N
W E
S

♠ K Q J 8 7 6 5
♥ A K Q
♦ Q
♣ A 3

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Meltzer</i>	<i>Kokten</i>	<i>Larsen</i>	<i>Aluf</i>
Pass	4NT	Pass	6♣
Pass	6♦	All Pass	

Route 1 is not always the best way to attack and North might have been better to have attempted to control the ball rather than kicking it so far up the field.

The opening bid promised a good preempt in a minor – and when someone enquired if it asked for specific aces I speculated that in some countries it might show two aces and ask partner if they have eleven tricks.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Aluf</i>	<i>Helness</i>	<i>Eskinaz</i>	<i>Helgemo</i>
Pass	1♦	2NT	4NT
Pass	5♥	Pass	5NT
All Pass	7♦	Pass	7NT

South brushed aside East's attempted tackle and a lightning fast attack saw the ball swept into the net.

Neither defence managed to cope with the next attack:

Board 12. Dealer West. N/S Vul.

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

N
W E
S

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Meltzer</i>	<i>Kokten</i>	<i>Larsen</i>	<i>Aluf</i>
Pass	Pass	2NT	Pass
3♦*	Pass	3♥	Pass
3NT	Pass	4♥	Pass
5♦	Pass	6♥	All Pass

Hard to lead a diamond – but if you hope your king of hearts is a trick then the queen of diamonds in partner's hand will be enough – and it conforms to the advice of the great Benito Garozzo.

South tried a spade and declarer was soon claiming.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Aluf</i>	<i>Helness</i>	<i>Eskinaz</i>	<i>Helgemo</i>
1♥	Pass	2♣*	Pass
2♦	Pass	2♥	Pass
4♥	Pass	4♠	Pass
5♣	Pass	6♥	All Pass

Even harder to lead a diamond here with West having shown the suit naturally. Once again a spade lead led to an early claim.

Just before stoppage time Meltzer almost conceded a consolation goal.

Board 13. Dealer North. All Vul.

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

N
W E
S

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Meltzer	Kokten	Larsen	Aluf
	Pass	INT	Pass
2NT*	Pass	3♣	All Pass

A good stop or a lucky one? The diamond position means that there are eleven tricks in Five Clubs and play was speeded up when South led the queen of diamonds; +150.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Aluf	Helness	Eskinaz	Helgemo
	Pass	1♠	Pass
INT*	Pass	2NT	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

North led the four of diamonds and declarer blasted the ball over the bar into Row Z by playing low. South won with the queen and switched to a spade giving the defenders four spades and a trick in each red suit; down two, -200 and another 8 IMPs.

At the final whistle Meltzer had run away with the match, 40-0 IMPs, 25-5 VP. The American's supporters were over the moon, while the Turkish ones were sick as a parrot.

NOTE FROM THE TREASURER

The Treasurer has remitted to the Tournament Directors a list of countries not in good financial standing with the WBF, requesting that a representative of the country visit the WBF office on the 1st floor to see either the Treasurer or the Assistant Treasurer, Christine Francin.

The players of these countries will not be authorized to enter the pairs event if their Federation has not settled its dues to the WBF.

COUNTRIES NOT IN GOOD STANDING

VERONA

To see the Treasurer (*Jean-Louis Derivery*) or the Assistant Treasurer (*Christine Francin*)

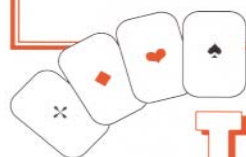
before play

		Dues	Entry Fees	WWBC
Zone 1	Greece		x	
	Iceland			x
	Latvia	x	x	
	Liechtenstein	x		
	Lithuania	x		
Zone 3	Argentina	x		
	Brazil	x		
Zone 4	Jordan			x
	Pakistan	x	x	x
	Sri Lanka	x		
Zone 5	Costa Rica			x
	Dominica	x		
	Guatemala	x		
	Netherlands Antilles			x
Zone 6	China			x
	Indonesia	x		x
	Singapore			x
Zone 8	Botswana			x
	Egypt	x		
	Kenya			x
	Madagascar			x
	Tunisia			x
	Zambia			x
	Zimbabwe	x		



MONTE-CARLO

10 - 11 - 12 NOVEMBRE 2006



TOURNOI INTERNATIONAL DE BRIDGE

(par équipes de quatre)

20 000 EUROS DE PRIX

QUATRE SEANCES

Vendredi 10 : 21 h 00 - Samedi 11 : 14 h 00 et 20 h 00 - Dimanche 12 : 14 h 00

au

SPORTING-CLUB
D'HIVER

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