



Daily Bulletin

WORLD BRIDGE CHAMPIONSHIPS
22nd OCTOBER - 5th NOVEMBER

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Saturday Evening, 5 November 2005

ITALY'S GOLDEN MOMENT



Italy, happy Bermuda Bowl Champions.



Bermuda Bowl



Venice Cup

It turned out differently this time. There was no final-board rally by the opponents. Italy are the new Bermuda Bowl champions, winners by the score of 268-250 over USA1.

The team captained by Maria Teresa Lavazza made up for the disappointment of losing to their American rivals on the last board of the championship in Monte Carlo two years ago with a strong performance in the second half of the 128-board final.

The champions are Norberto Bocchi, Giorgio Duboin, Fulvio Fantoni, Lorenzo Lauria, Claudio Nunes, Alfredo Versace.

The silver medallists are Dick Freeman, Bob Hamman, Jeff Meckstroth, Nick Nickell, Eric Rodwell, Paul Soloway. The bronze medal went to USA2 in a play-off earlier in the tournament.

The final two sets in the Bermuda Bowl promised to be dramatic – Italy started the day only 8 IMPs ahead – and they did not disappoint. The Italians increased their lead by only 1 IMP with 16 boards to play, plenty of time for an American rally.

It did not happen, however, as the Italians were never seriously threatened. The Americans simply could not take advantage of several opportunities to earn their second straight Bermuda Bowl.

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In the Transnational Open Teams, the Peter Schneider Team defeated the team captained by Warren Spector by 93-70. The winners are Schneider and Grant Baze of the USA and Piotr Gawrys and Marcin Lesniewski of Poland. With the win, Lesniewski became a World Grand Master. The silver medalists are Spector, Bart Bramley, Bjorn Fallenius, Mark Feldman, Chip Martel and Roy Welland.

The bronze medal in the Transnationals went to Team 777 (Russia).



RESULTS**Bermuda Bowl Final**

Teams	Carry-over	Session 1	Session 2	Session 3	Session 4	Session 5	Session 6	Session 7	Session 8	Total
1 ITALY USAI	0 - 20	19 - 24	33 - 37	22 - 24	43 - 43	42 - 17	32 - 18	30 - 29	47 - 38	268 -250

Transnational Final

		Session 1	Session 2	Session 3	Total
2 SCHNEIDER	SPECTOR	38 - 5	37 - 32	18 - 33	93 - 70

List of winners**Bermuda Bowl**

Gold: Italy – Norberto Bocchi, Giorgio Duboin, Fulvio Fantoni, Lorenzo Lauria, Claudio Nunes, Alfredo Versace. Non-playing Captain:: Maria Teresa Lavazza. Coach: Massimo Ortensi.

Silver: USAI – Dick Freeman, Bob Hamman, Jeff Meckstroth, Nick Nickell, Eric Rodwell, Paul Soloway. NCP Sidney Lazard. Coach: Eric Kokish.

Bronze: USA2 – Russ Ekeblad, Fred Gitelman, Eric Greco, Geoff Hampson, Brad Moss, Ron Rubin. NPC: Steve Landen. Coach: Sheri Winestock.

Venice Cup

Gold: France – Bénédicte Cronier, Catherine D'Ovidio, Nathalie Frey, Danièle Gaviard, Vanessa Reess, Sylvie Willard. NPC: Gérard Tissot

Silver: Germany – Anja Alberti, Sabine Auken, Barbara Hackett, Pony Beate Nehmert, Mirja Scharaverus, Daniela von Arnim. NPC: Bernard Ludewig. Coach: Nikolas Bausback.

Bronze: Netherlands – Carla Arnolds, Femke Hoogweg, Jet Pasman, Anneke Simons, Wietske van Zwol, Bep Vriend. NCP: Ed Franken. Coach: Enri Leufkens.

Seniors Bowl

Gold: USAI – Roger Bates, Garey Hayden, Rose Meltzer, Alan Sontag, Lew Stansby, Peter Weichsel. NCP: Jan Martel. Coach: Chip Martel.

Silver: Indonesia – Henky Lasut, Freddy Eddy Manoppo, Denny Jacob Sacul, Amiruddin Yusuf, Arwin Budirahardja.

Bronze: Denmark – Jens Auken, Flemming Dahl, Peter Lund, Kirsteen Steen Moller, Steen Moller, Georg Norris. NPC: Peter Westrup.

Transnational Open Teams

Gold: Schneider – Baze G (USA), Gawrys (Poland), Lesnieswki (Poland), Schneider P (USA).

Silver: Spector – Bramley B (USA), Fallenius B (Sweden), Feldman M (USA), Martel C (USA), Spector W (USA), Welland R (USA).

Bronze: 777 (Russia) – Dubinin A, Gromov A, Khokhlov J, Khven M

Championship Diary

You sometimes get good value for money when following the play on BridgeBase.

Yesterday, discussing a board from the sixth set, Michael Rosenberg commented 'E/W cannot make the 3-level.'

There was an immediate retort from David Burn, 'N/S can, despite there only being 16 total trumps. I have reported this to Larry Cohen, who is arranging for the board to be cancelled and a legal one substituted.'

When the line-up for the last session of the Bermuda Bowl final was announced and we realised the Lauria & Versace were in the Open Room, we considered presenting Lorenzo with a ball and chain to make sure his partner could not leave the table!

David Bird, commentating on BridgeBase reckoned that being 13 IMPs ahead is the equivalent of being more than a converted try ahead in Rugby. Well, needless to say we don't agree, since a swing of more than 13 IMPs is possible on a single board. Perhaps something nearer to 20 IMPs would be about right - but in 2003 even 21 IMPs was not enough with only two boards to play.



A Message From The President

Estoril, Portugal – 5th November 2005

Um Grande Campeonato! A truly great Championship!

Our delightful Portuguese hosts have welcomed us with open arms and have provided us with a superb venue, warm hospitality and an event that we will remember for a long time to come. I hope – I am sure we all hope – that they will not wait 10 years before inviting us to their wonderful country again for another Championship!

I would like to thank most warmly Herculano Ferreira, the President of the Portuguese Federation and, of course, our very dear friend José Manuel Soares de Oliveira for all they have done to ensure the great success of the Championship. I would also like to thank the Portuguese authorities and, in particular, the Mayor of Cascais, Antonio d'Orey Capucho, the Chairman of the Estoril Tourist Board, Duarte Nobre Guedes, and Rui Mourinha representing the President of the Instituto do Desporto de Portugal, as well as Manuel d'Orey Capucho and all the organizing committee for their support.

We have been fortunate indeed to have had the sponsorship offered by the Office of Tourism Estoril, the Municipality of Cascais, BPI, Europe Assistance, Companhia de Seguros Tranquilidade Vida, Banco Espirito Santo, the Instituto do Desporto de Portugal, and not forgetting Generali, who has been a generous sponsor of bridge for many years. We would also like to thank our partners the Estoril Congress Centre, Renault, Lavazza, Navigator, Océ, Viuva Lamego the Barros Porto and this wonderful Casino of Estoril to whom we owe this spectacular closing dinner and the show that will follow afterwards.

You will all, I am sure, recognise the enormous amount of work involved in the organisation of our Bridge Championships; the technology involved, the hospitality – there are so many aspects, many of them unseen by you, the players. There are many staff who have worked long and hard throughout this fortnight, in every field and I am very pleased to have the chance to thank them all personally through the medium of this Bulletin.

The Hospitality Team – Martine Schupp and Antonio Salgueiro with Annie Chekroun

The Bulletin Team, with its co-ordinator Jean Paul Meyer and Editor Brent Manley, Assistant Editors Mark Horton, Brian Senior, proof-reader Phillip Alder, photographer Ron Tacchi, layout editor George Georgopoulos and Internet Editor Fotis Skoularikis

Our Line-up team, Corry & Jan Louwerse with Irena and Janek Chodorowski.

Scoring and Results – Tomas Brenning, Harvey Fox, Duccio Geronimi, Tommy Westman, Laila Leonhardt, Carl Ragnarsson & Marc van Beijsterfelt, using the BridgeMate system developed by Ron Bowland. I know you all enjoyed the service provided by this new and exciting technology.

The Internet Vu-Graph broadcasts were provided by Bridge Base Online and Swan Games.

The Press Room, ably overseen by Jan Swaan.

Behind the scenes on the technical side, Mark Newton co-ordinated the IT, keeping the computers linked and the Internet alive. Christine Francin, Anna Gudge and Carol von Linstow worked within the WBF Secretariat.

In the Vu-Graph, there was the Bridge Vision Team headed by Elisabeth Antelme with Hervé Lustman, Elisabeth Piganeau and the Vu-Graph team, led by Bernard Delange, with Paul Binisti and Bernadette Pasquier.

Fulvio Colizzi organized the equipment, and the duplication team of Monica Gorreri, Franco Crosta, José Julio Curado, Bo-Lennart Grahs and Hélène Vivier who dealt the many thousands of boards needed for the event' and the team of caddies who distributed them amongst you so efficiently, led by Albert and Yvette O'Hana.



The excellent vugraph Commentators, who keep you so well entertained were Paul Chemla, Francisco Pereira Goncalves, Eric Kokish and Barry Rigal, with their co-ordinator Jean-Paul Meyer.

The World Bridge Federation is fortunate to have a very experienced team of Tournament Directors, led by its Chief, Max Bavin: Maurizio Di Sacco, Bernard Gignoux, Slawek Latala, Rui Marques, Jeanne van den Meiracker, José Perera de Sousa, Guillermo Poplawski and Matt Smith and Hans van Staveren.

We also have to thank the Appeals Committee, under the able Chairmanship of Joan Gerard: Jens Auken, Paul Chemla, Richard Colker, Jim Kirkham, Eric Kokish, Ernesto d'Orsi, Jean-Paul Meyer, Dan Morse, Jeffrey Polisner, Mario Reis and John Wignall, for their work. A special mention too for Grattan Endicott, the co-ordinator.

Ton Kooijman has overseen the entire operation with his usual care and skill, working tirelessly throughout the event as he always does with the unstinting and valuable and, it has seemed, omnipresent assistance of João Paes de Carrvalho.

Please, all of you, accept my personal thanks and the thanks of the Executive Council. We are fortunate indeed to have such a professional and dedicated team.

The bridge at the Championships has been – as we have come to expect from all of you – of a very high standard, with many close matches giving us plenty of excitement, as we have watched in the excellent auditorium; I have been impressed as always with your ethics, deportment and sportsmanship, and the spirit that you bring to our great sport.

It is with great pleasure that I congratulate the winners and the medallists, but I do not forget those amongst you who do not come up to the podium – you too are winners for taking part in a great Championship, and I thank you all for joining us here in Estoril.

For the future, we have the challenge of the World Bridge Championships in Verona next June – I hope you will all join us for this, the biggest of our Championship events and one that will provide challenging bridge in an excellent venue close to one of the most beautiful cities in the world.

And I am delighted that in 2007 we will be with our close friends, the Chinese Bridge Association as they will host the Bermuda Bowl in Shanghai ... I am sure you will all be fighting hard to qualify for that Championship and that those of you who don't make your national team will want to come and play in the Transnational Open Teams just so that you can be with us in that amazing city. And later on, we can look forward to 2009 and the Bermuda Bowl in Brazil.

Thank you all for your attention – and we will see you next year!

Jose Damiani

FINAL 5

Bermuda Bowl



Italy v USA I
Little IMPs Mean A Lot

The late Everett Dirksen, noted politician from the American state of Illinois, once commented on the U.S. government budget to this effect: "A billion here, a billion there, and pretty soon it adds up to real money."

As it played out, that was the Italian approach to their match with USAI in the fifth set of the Bermuda Bowl – 5 IMPs here, 4 IMPs there, and pretty soon you're taking the lead. It didn't happen exactly that way on Friday, but Italy did have eight single-digit swings to tighten up a match had been 31 IMPs in the Americans' favour at the start.

This deal produced 4 IMPs for the Italians.

Board 3. Dealer South. E/W Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Nunes</i>	<i>Rodwell</i>	<i>Fantoni</i>	<i>Meckstroth</i>
1♥	1♠	2♣	1♦
All Pass			2♦

Claudio Nunes started with the ♣K, overtaken by Fulvio Fantoni, who cashed the ♣Q then played the ♥K, followed by a heart to the ace and a heart ruff. The third round of clubs was ruffed by Jeff Meckstroth with the ♦8 and overruffed by the jack. That was it for the defense, but it was one down and Plus 50 for Italy.



Italy v USA I on vugraph

West	North	East	South
<i>Freeman</i>	<i>Bocchi</i>	<i>Nickell</i>	<i>Duboin</i>
1♥	Dble	2♣	1♦
Pass	Pass	2♥	2♦
3♣	All Pass		Pass

Giorgio Duboin started with the ♦A before switching to the ♠K. A spade to the ace was followed by a spade ruff, and when the ♦K lived the Italians were plus at this table as well.

Little by little, Italy was cutting into the Americans' lead, and it was down to 10 IMPs when this deal came along.

Board 6. Dealer East. E/W Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Freeman</i>	<i>Bocchi</i>	<i>Nickell</i>	<i>Duboin</i>
2♠	All Pass	1♠	Pass

Giorgio Duboin started with the ♠Q, not a good sign for declarer. Nick Nickell won in dummy and played a diamond to the ace then a low diamond. Norberto Bocchi won the trick and played the ♣J to dummy's queen. Now a spade to hand allowed Nickell to ruff his last diamond. He lost one club, one diamond, two hearts and two spades, for one off.

West	North	East	South
<i>Nunes</i>	<i>Rodwell</i>	<i>Fantoni</i>	<i>Meckstroth</i>
2NT	Pass	1♠	Pass
4♠	Pass	3♦	Pass
All Pass		Pass	Dble

The Fantoni/Nunes system is unique and difficult to understand, but 1♠ in their methods is forcing because it can be a good hand. The 2NT by Nunes showed 6+ high-card points and spade support. Nunes' acceptance of the game try seems optimistic in the extreme, and it was costly.

Meckstroth knew what to do when 4♠ came back to him. He started with the ♠Q, taken by the ace in dummy. Fantoni played a diamond to the ten, jack and king. Meckstroth played the ♣A – it would have been better for him to get out with

his singleton heart – followed by a low club to the king. Now Fantoni could cash the ♠K and the ♦A, ruff a diamond and discard a losing heart on the ♣Q. It was still two down doubled, however, and USA1 had a useful swing of 9 IMPs.

Italy got 5 IMPs back on the next deal.

Board 7. Dealer South. All Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Freeman</i>	<i>Bocchi</i>	<i>Nickell</i>	<i>Duboin</i>
1♠	Dble	Pass	Pass
All Pass			2♥

The defense was card for card the same at both tables: top two spades, ♠10 ruffed by East, diamond to the ace, spade ruffed with the ♥J. That was eight tricks to Duboin — Plus 110. Unfortunately for USA1, the auction was different in the Open Room.

West	North	East	South
<i>Nunes</i>	<i>Rodwell</i>	<i>Fantoni</i>	<i>Meckstroth</i>
2♠	Dble	Pass	Pass
All Pass			3♥

Nunes' 2♠ opener showed 9-12 with five or more spades. No red-blooded player would pass with the North hand, although he certainly would with a peek at the hand record. Meckstroth was one down and Italy had another small swing.

This deal could have been a big swing for USA1, but wasn't.

Board 10. Dealer East. All Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Freeman</i>	<i>Bocchi</i>	<i>Nickell</i>	<i>Duboin</i>
Pass	2♣	1♣	1♠
Pass	2NT	Pass	2♥
All Pass		Pass	3NT

Nickell started with the ♥K, won by Bocchi with the ace. He played the ♠A and a spade to the ten, but he could not keep the Americans from taking three hearts and two clubs from there for Minus 200.

West	North	East	South
<i>Nunes</i>	<i>Rodwell</i>	<i>Fantoni</i>	<i>Meckstroth</i>
		INT	All Pass

Fantoni bought it with his INT opening, and it looked as though he might go two down, perhaps three.

Meckstroth started with his fourth-best spade, ducked in dummy. It probably would have been better for Eric Rodwell to win with the ace and fire one back, giving Fantoni an entry to dummy to take the losing club finesse. Rodwell played the ♠6, however, taken in hand by Fantoni. Declarer played the ♥K to Rodwell's ace. Rodwell cashed the ♠A and thought about his next play for some time before getting out with the ♣4. Fantoni diagnosed this perfectly – Rodwell was unlikely to be giving Fantoni a shot at the club finesse if it was working. Fantoni went up with the ♣A, asking for another look at Meckstroth's card when his honour appeared. Now it was possible for Fantoni to make the contract if the Americans weren't careful.

Fantoni cashed his hearts, forcing Rodwell to find two discards. He threw one club on the third heart, and he needed to throw another club on the last one, but he discarded a diamond. Again, Fantoni read the situation just right, exiting with a diamond. Now, whoever won the third round of diamonds was going to have to give Fantoni his seventh trick. Well played for Plus 90 to hold the loss to 3 IMPs.

Defense again played a part in a swing for Italy, only this time it was a big one.



Eric Rodwell, USA

Board 12. Dealer West. N/S Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Nunes</i>	<i>Rodwell</i>	<i>Fantoni</i>	<i>Meckstroth</i>
2♦	Pass	Pass	2♠
Pass	4♠	All Pass	

Nunes led the ♦Q, ruffed in dummy. Had Meckstroth played a low heart from dummy at trick two, he would have had a shot at the game, but it takes a line of play that is not at all obvious even looking at all the cards and unlikely to be found in any single-dummy setting.

If East plays low on the heart at trick two, West wins the ace and can play the ♠A and another spade, but declarer wins in dummy and plays the ♥J, ruffing when East covers. Now the top two diamonds are cashed for discards of a low club and a low heart. Declarer then plays the ♣2 from hand to dummy's eight. East wins with the ♣9 but has the choice of returning a club up to dummy's queen or playing on hearts, establishing declarer's tenth trick in dummy. There is still a trump left to ruff a diamond to cash the winner. If East splits his heart honours and returns a spade, declarer wins the second round in dummy, ruffs a heart to hand, felling the ace, then cashes the top diamonds and ruffs a diamond, getting off dummy with the ♥J, discarding a club from hand when East covers. East has only hearts and clubs left at that point and must let declarer in dummy with a club or heart return.

In practice, Meckstroth played a spade at trick two to his king. Nunes won with the ace and returned the ten to Meckstroth's queen. Now the ♥10 went to the ace, and a diamond was returned to the ten and ace. Meckstroth played the ♦9, covered by the jack and ruffed in dummy. Meckstroth knew that East held the ♣K (West was limited to 12 high-card points and had already shown up with 11), but there was nothing he could do about it. After long study, he cashed the ♣A and conceded one down.

Declarer had a much easier time at the other table.

West	North	East	South
<i>Freeman</i>	<i>Bocchi</i>	<i>Nickell</i>	<i>Duboin</i>
1♦	Pass	1♥	1♠
2♦	3♠	Pass	4♠
All Pass			

Freeman started with the ♥A, continuing with a heart to the seven and eight. Duboin ruffed and played the ♠Q to Freeman's ace, won the spade return in dummy with the jack and called for the ♥J. Duboin had adequate entries to dummy to establish a heart trick to get rid of one of his clubs. That was

Plus 620 and 12 IMPs to Italy.

The final swing of the set was another small one, but it put the Italians within 6 IMPs of their American rivals.

Board 15. Dealer South. N/S Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Nunes</i>	<i>Rodwell</i>	<i>Fantoni</i>	<i>Meckstroth</i>
Pass	1♠	Pass	1♦
Pass	2♠	All Pass	2♣
West	North	East	South
<i>Freeman</i>	<i>Bocchi</i>	<i>Nickell</i>	<i>Duboin</i>
Pass	2♠	All Pass	1♦

Both Easts got off to the best start of a low heart, but Rodwell played low from dummy, revealing the location of the jack when Nunes won the king. The top clubs were cashed, East taking a club ruff at trick four. Fantoni then cashed his ♦A and later took the setting trick with the ♠J.

Bocchi played the ♥Q at trick one, so it was not obvious to Nickell to cash the ♦A after he ruffed a club at trick four. Instead, he exited with another heart. Now Bocchi had a parking place for his losing diamond and he was in with eight tricks for Plus 110.

The 5-IMP swing pulled Italy as close to USAI as they had been in the entire match.



Fulvio Fantoni, Italy

FINAL ROUND UP Venice Cup



France v Germany
Allez Les Bleues!



by Mark Horton

When day two of the Venice Cup final dawned, France led by 19 IMPs, still far from decisive. The French were playing the final four-handed, a tactic that their opponents have also used successfully in the past. In the fourth set Germany started well, and after six boards they had taken the lead, mainly as a result of this deal:

Board 5. Dealer North. N/S Vul.

♠ K 10 ♥ Q 10 4 ♦ K J 10 8 7 6 ♣ 5 4	<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		♠ Q 9 8 4 3 ♥ J 7 6 2 ♦ Q 5 ♣ 7 3
	N										
W		E									
	S										
	<table border="0" style="margin: auto;"> <tr><td>♠</td><td>J 7 6</td></tr> <tr><td>♥</td><td>K 9 8 3</td></tr> <tr><td>♦</td><td>A 4</td></tr> <tr><td>♣</td><td>K 10 6</td></tr> </table>	♠	J 7 6	♥	K 9 8 3	♦	A 4	♣	K 10 6		
♠	J 7 6										
♥	K 9 8 3										
♦	A 4										
♣	K 10 6										

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Gaviard</i>	<i>Auken</i>	<i>d'Ovideo</i>	<i>von Arnim</i>
Pass	2♣	Pass	2♠*
Pass	3♥*	Pass	4♣*
Pass	4♥*	Pass	4♠*
Pass	5♣	All Pass	

Two Spades was a force with club support and Three Hearts showed values in that suit. Four Clubs asked North to cuebid. Over Four Spades North would have gone on with significant extra values, for example the king of spades, so it was easy for South to make her final pass.

Five Clubs presented no problem; +600.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Alberti</i>	<i>Cronier</i>	<i>Schraverus-Meuer</i>	<i>Willard</i>
3♦	1♣	Pass	1♥
Pass	Pass	Pass	Dble*
Pass	4♣	Pass	4♦*
Pass	4♥*	Pass	4♠*
Pass	4NT*	Pass	5♣*
Pass	6♣	All Pass	

The Three Diamond bid took away a significant amount of space, and made life difficult for North/South. The play record does not show an alert for 4NT, but I refuse to believe that it is natural with North holding three low diamonds. Of course, Six Clubs had no play at all; -100 and 12 IMPs for Germany.

However, France quickly moved back in front via a few small swings – and this substantial one:

Board 12. Dealer West. N/S Vul.

♠ 10 7 6 3 ♥ Q J 3 2 ♦ J 8 5 ♣ 7 2	<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		♠ Q 9 4 ♥ K 9 8 7 6 ♦ 10 4 ♣ K J 5
	N										
W		E									
	S										
	<table border="0" style="margin: auto;"> <tr><td>♠</td><td>A K 2</td></tr> <tr><td>♥</td><td>A 10 5</td></tr> <tr><td>♦</td><td>A K</td></tr> <tr><td>♣</td><td>A 10 8 6 3</td></tr> </table>	♠	A K 2	♥	A 10 5	♦	A K	♣	A 10 8 6 3		
♠	A K 2										
♥	A 10 5										
♦	A K										
♣	A 10 8 6 3										
	<table border="0" style="margin: auto;"> <tr><td>♠</td><td>J 8 5</td></tr> <tr><td>♥</td><td>4</td></tr> <tr><td>♦</td><td>Q 9 7 6 3 2</td></tr> <tr><td>♣</td><td>Q 9 4</td></tr> </table>	♠	J 8 5	♥	4	♦	Q 9 7 6 3 2	♣	Q 9 4		
♠	J 8 5										
♥	4										
♦	Q 9 7 6 3 2										
♣	Q 9 4										

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Gaviard</i>	<i>Auken</i>	<i>d'Ovideo</i>	<i>von Arnim</i>
Pass	Pass	2♣*	Pass
2♦*	Pass	2NT	Pass
3♣*	Pass	3♦*	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

South led the six of diamonds, and declarer won in hand and played a club. South put in the nine of clubs and, when that held, continued with the nine of diamonds, trying to conceal the diamond distribution. Declarer won and cashed the ace of clubs. From North's point of view, if partner had been trying to indicate a possible entry in spades it would have been fatal to unblock in clubs, and when she followed with the jack the hand was over; +400.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Alberti</i>	<i>Cronier</i>	<i>Schraverus-Meuer</i>	<i>Willard</i>
Pass	Pass	2♣*	Pass
2♦*	Pass	2NT	Pass
3♣*	Pass	3♦*	Pass
3♥	Pass	3♠	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

South led the six of diamonds and declarer won and tried the two of spades, South winning with the jack and returning another diamond. Declarer won, cashed her top spades and



played ace of hearts and a heart to the queen and king. She had only eight tricks; -50 and 10 IMPs for France.

At the end of the session France had increased its lead by 2 IMPs to 21 IMPs – and had held the first German charge.

In the penultimate set neither side gave much away. This was perhaps the most interesting of the opportunities to score heavily:

Board 2. Dealer East. N/S Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Willard</i>	<i>Auken</i>	<i>Cronier</i>	<i>von Arnim</i>
Pass	3NT	3♥	Dble
		All Pass	

There were no problems in 3NT, and declarer made ten tricks, +630.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Nehmert</i>	<i>Gaviard</i>	<i>Hackett</i>	<i>d'Ovidio</i>
Pass	5♦	4♥	Dble
		All Pass	

East led the two of clubs (low from a doubleton) and declarer was soon posting +620, so no swing.

The preemptive action by East gave neither side a chance to get near to Six Diamonds. Played by South it is not too difficult – win the heart lead, play a trump, club to the jack, second trump, club to the king, ace of clubs, ruff a club, ruff a heart, and exit with a diamond to endplay West.

Played by North declarer has to view well on a spade lead, rising with dummy's ace and then taking the double finesse in clubs.

Board 13. Dealer North. All Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Willard</i>	<i>Auken</i>	<i>Cronier</i>	<i>von Arnim</i>
Pass	1♣*	1♥	2♥*
Pass	2♠	Pass	3♦
	4♠	All Pass	

West found the excellent lead of the eight of spades, and declarer won in dummy and played a club. West took the ace and when East discarded declarer was already inclined to think the trumps would not break.

West switched to a heart, covered by the king and ace, and declarer won the heart return and played the king of clubs. East ruffed and declarer overruffed in dummy.

She could see there was no genuine way to make the contract, but eventually found a line to give the defenders a chance to go wrong. She played a low diamond from dummy and of course it was virtually impossible for West to go in with the ace. When she played low, East won with the king and tried another heart. Declarer ruffed in dummy, ruffed a diamond, felling West's queen, and cashed the ace of spades. Now came a winning club and East had no answer. If she ruffed declarer could overruff and cash two diamonds.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Nehmert</i>	<i>Gaviard</i>	<i>Hackett</i>	<i>d'Ovidio</i>
2♥	1♣	1♥	1♠
Pass	Dble	Pass	3♥
All Pass	3♠	Pass	4♠

West led the six of hearts and East took the king with the ace and returned the jack. Declarer won and made the natural but fatal play of a spade to the king. When she played a club West ducked, allowing her partner to ruff, and now declarer could never make more than nine tricks; -100.

That result brought Germany to within 12 IMPs with just 16 deals to play.

In the final set, the French did almost nothing wrong, and the



Danièle Gaviard, France

ghosts of Paris were laid to rest. These were the most significant gains for the French team.

Board 5. Dealer North. N/S Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Gaviard</i>	<i>Auken</i>	<i>D'Ovideo</i>	<i>von Arnim</i>
Pass	1♠	Pass	INT
All Pass	2♥	Pass	3♥

Should North, with such prime cards, raise Three Hearts to game? Ten easy tricks; +170.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Hackett</i>	<i>Cronier</i>	<i>Nehmert</i>	<i>Willard</i>
Pass	1♠	Pass	INT
All Pass	2♥	Pass	4♥

A different approach on the South hand gave France 10 IMPs.

Board 8. Dealer West. None Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Gaviard</i>	<i>Auken</i>	<i>D'Ovideo</i>	<i>von Arnim</i>
Pass	Pass	Pass	1♣*
All Pass	INT	Pass	3NT

East led the four of clubs, and declarer put up dummy's ten then played a spade to the queen and king. East switched to the king of hearts, ducked, and then played the queen, taken

by dummy's ace.

Declarer played a club to the king, the jack of clubs, ducked, a diamond to the ace, cashed the club and played a diamond to her king. West had produced the four, eight, nine and queen of diamonds, East the two and five. Hoping to endplay West to lead away from the jack of spades, declarer exited with a heart – and West could cash out for one down; –50.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Hackett</i>	<i>Cronier</i>	<i>Nehmert</i>	<i>Willard</i>
Pass	Pass	Pass	INT
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

Here West led the ten of diamonds and South won with the jack. She played a spade to the queen and king and ducked both the return of the queen of hearts and the king. East switched to the two of spades and declarer put in the ten, losing to the jack. West exited with a heart, declarer winning as East discarded a club. She cashed the ace of diamonds, the ace of spades, and then played a club to the king. She could cash the king of diamonds and then finesse in clubs, for a well played +400 and 10 IMPs.

Board 15. Dealer South. N/S Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Gaviard</i>	<i>Auken</i>	<i>D'Ovideo</i>	<i>von Arnim</i>
4♠	Pass	Pass	Pass
Pass	Pass	Rdbl	Dble
			All Pass

By this time Germany had to press, but this was not the layout to reward South's reopening double.

Probably South should run to Five Clubs once East redoubles, but it was all academic. North led the queen of diamonds and declarer took her discard on the top hearts and posted +1080.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Hackett</i>	<i>Cronier</i>	<i>Nehmert</i>	<i>Willard</i>
4♠	All Pass		Pass

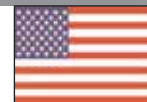
Declarer made eleven tricks on a diamond lead – 12 IMPs to France who had won the last set 49-6 to secure a totally deserved first Venice Cup title.

FINAL 7

Bermuda Bowl



Italy v USA I



Italy took an 8-IMP lead into the last 32 boards of the Bermuda Bowl final and everything appeared set for another epic ending like the one two years ago in Monte Carlo.

Both teams missed an opportunity on the first deal of the day.

Board 1. Dealer North. None Vul.

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

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

West	North	East	South
Nunes	Meckstroth	Fantoni	Rodwell
	Pass	1♣	1♠
Dble	Pass	2♦	Pass
2♠	Pass	2NT	Pass
3♠	Dble	Rdbl	Pass
3NT	Pass	4♣	Pass
4♦	Pass	4♥	Pass
4NT	Pass	5♣	Pass
6♣	All Pass		



Norberto Bocchi, Italy

West	North	East	South
Nickell	Bocchi	Freeman	Duboin
	Pass	1♣	1♠
Dble	Pass	3NT	Pass
4♦(i)	Pass	4♠	Pass
5♦	Pass	6♣	All Pass

(i) RKCB for clubs

There are thirteen easy tricks available in clubs and, slightly less secure looking at the two hands but equally safe in practice, also in no trump. Neither E/W pair got close to seven; flat at +940.

Board 3. Dealer South. E/W Vul.

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

♠ A Q J 7 3 ♥ A 9 7 3 2 ♦ K J ♣ J	N W E S	
--	-------------------	--

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

West	North	East	South
Nickell	Bocchi	Freeman	Duboin
	INT	2♦	1♠
3♦	Pass	Pass	2♥
All Pass			3♥

Giorgio Duboin opened 1♠ then showed his two-suiter in easy stages, and Norberto Bocchi did not have a good reason to go on to game. Nick Nickell started with a diamond to Dick Freeman's ace and back came a second diamond to the king. Duboin started well by leading to the ♥10. Next he took the losing spade finesse and Nickell gave him a ruff and discard, the club loser going from hand as Duboin ruffed with the ♥J. He cashed the ♥K then crossed to the ♠A, cashed the ace of hearts and conceded a spade and a heart; +140.

Eric Rodwell opened a strong club and it was natural for Jeff Meckstroth to drive to game. Again the defence began with two rounds of diamonds. Rodwell followed the same line of a heart to the ten followed by a spade finesse. Claudio Nunes

won the spade and returned a heart to dummy's jack. Rodwell could cash the ♥K and cross to the ♠A, but there was a second spade to lose plus a club; down one for -50 and 5 IMPs to Italy.

Board 4. Dealer West. All Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Nunes</i>	<i>Meckstroth</i>	<i>Fantoni</i>	<i>Rodwell</i>
Pass	Pass	2♠	Dble
4♠	All Pass		

West	North	East	South
<i>Nickell</i>	<i>Bocchi</i>	<i>Freeman</i>	<i>Duboin</i>
Pass	Pass	2♠	Dble
3♣	3♥	3♠	4♥
4♠	Pass	Pass	Dble
All Pass			

Fulvio Fantoni's 2♠ opening was systemically more constructive than a normal weak two-bid, and Nunes raised to game over Rodwell's double. Four Spades was all about the opening lead. When Rodwell chose a low club, Fantoni could win and take a heart pitch on the second club winner. From there it was easy to hold the losers to three, two diamonds and one trump; +620.

Freeman's 2♠ opening was a normal weak two but, of course, anything goes in third seat. Nickell showed his clubs, a fit-non-jump, then went on to 4♠ over 4♥, where he was doubled. Duboin found the killing lead of the ace of hearts and his club switch ensured that he would eventually come to two diamonds and a spade for down one; -200 and 13 IMPs to Italy.

Board 5. Dealer North. N/S Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Nunes</i>	<i>Meckstroth</i>	<i>Fantoni</i>	<i>Rodwell</i>
	1♦	2♠	3♦
4♠	5♠	Dble	Pass
6♠	Dble	All Pass	

West	North	East	South
<i>Nickell</i>	<i>Bocchi</i>	<i>Freeman</i>	<i>Duboin</i>
	1♦	2♠	Dble
4♠	5♣	Pass	Pass
5♦	Pass	5♠	Pass
Pass	Dble	All Pass	

Two very competitive auctions saw E/W buy the contract in a high-level spade contract at both tables, doubled. N/S can make a club slam, as long as it is played by North to avoid a diamond ruff, but it is not at all clear that Meckwell were going to avoid the hopeless diamond slam, so Nunes guessed wrong by when he went on to 6♠ - from his point of view, 6♠ might have been making or his opponents might have been on the way to a making 6♣/♥. Six Spades doubled lost the two obvious tricks; -100.

In the other room, a slightly slower auction saw Bocchi double the cold 5♠ to concede 650, giving USA 13 IMPs.

Board 8. Dealer West. None Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Nunes</i>	<i>Meckstroth</i>	<i>Fantoni</i>	<i>Rodwell</i>
1♥	Pass	3♥	Dble
4♥	4♠	All Pass	

West	North	East	South
<i>Nickell</i>	<i>Bocchi</i>	<i>Freeman</i>	<i>Duboin</i>
1♥	Pass	INT	Dble
Rdbl	2♠	Pass	Pass
2NT	3♠	4♥	All Pass

Fantoni made a pre-emptive raise to 3♥ but this put momentum into the auction and his opponents bid on to 4♠ over 4♥. Nunes won the heart lead and switched to a club. Meckstroth won and played a spade to his jack then ruffed the heart loser. Next he played the ♠Q, which Nunes won with the ace. He cashed the ace of diamonds before putting dummy on play with a club. Meckstroth cashed the club winners but then had no way off the dummy so had to play the king of diamonds. Nunes' ruff meant that the contract was down one for -50. Nicely defended.

At the other table, Freeman slowed the auction down with a forcing INT response. That had the effect that N/S had done all their bidding by the time that he bid 4♥ and Nickell was allowed to play there. Bocchi led a trump so Nickell cashed a second round and claimed ten tricks for +420 and 9 IMPs to USA1, taking three ruffs in the dummy.

Board 9. Dealer North. E/W Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Nunes</i>	<i>Meckstroth</i>	<i>Fantoni</i>	<i>Rodwell</i>
	2♦	Pass	Pass
3♣	Pass	3NT	All Pass
West	North	East	South
<i>Nickell</i>	<i>Bocchi</i>	<i>Freeman</i>	<i>Duboin</i>
	2♥	All Pass	

Bocchi opened with a natural weak two-bid and played there. The queen of clubs was covered by king and ace, and Nickell returned the ♣8, which held the trick. He played a third club, ruffed by Bocchi, who took the diamond finesse followed by a spade to the jack and king. Freeman exited with the ♦K to dummy's ace, and Bocchi ruffed a diamond with the nine, losing to the ♥Q. Back came a club, trumped, and Bocchi played a spade to the queen, ruffed. He ruffed the club return with the ten and exited with the ace of spades, making one more heart at the end; down two for -100.

Meckstroth opened a multi and Rodwell had a pretty good idea what his hand-type would be, so passed. Nunes balanced



Jeff Meckstroth, USA

with 3♣ and Fantoni guessed to try 3NT, not really knowing how strong his partner would be. Rodwell led the queen of diamonds. Fantoni won with the king and picked up the clubs. After four rounds of those, he led the ♥Q but went up with the ace and cashed out when Rodwell showed out; down two for -200 and 7 IMPs to USA1.

Board 12. Dealer West. N/S Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Nunes</i>	<i>Meckstroth</i>	<i>Fantoni</i>	<i>Rodwell</i>
2♣	Dble	Pass	2♥
Dble	Pass	3♣	All Pass
West	North	East	South
<i>Nickell</i>	<i>Bocchi</i>	<i>Freeman</i>	<i>Duboin</i>
1♣	Dble	2♥	All Pass

Nickell opened 1♣ and Freeman made a weak-jump response over the take-out double. He was left to play there. Duboin cashed a top diamond against 2♥ then switched to a spade, ducked to the king. Bocchi switched to the king of clubs, won by dummy's ace. Freeman cashed his two spade winners then played ace and another heart. Bocchi won, cashed the queen of clubs, and played a diamond to the ace. Duboin led the jack of clubs now and Bocchi ruffed with his queen. Duboin still had two trumps to come for down three; -150.

Nunes opened 2♣ and Fantoni had no reason to bid after the double. Being limited by his opening bid, Nunes made an aggressive take-out double of 2♥. Many of us would have passed that with ace to six trumps, but Fantoni chose to go back to 3♣, ending the auction.

Meckstroth led the king of hearts to dummy's ace, declarer erring by pitching a spade. Nunes played a diamond towards his hand, Rodwell going up with the king and switching to a club. Nunes ducked the club but won the club continuation then played a third club to Rodwell's jack. Nunes rose with the ace on the spade switch and exited with a spade, but Meckstroth took his king and played a heart. Nunes ruffed and had to lead diamonds from hand so had two more losers; down two for -100 but 2 IMPs to Italy.

So what would have happened had Fantoni judged to pass the double of 2♥? According to Deep Finesse, 2♥ doubled makes except on the improbable opening lead of the two of diamonds. Well judged by Fantoni!

Italy won the set by a single IMP, 30-29, and would go into the final set with a narrow lead, 221-212.

FINAL 8 **Bermuda Bowl**

Italy v USA I
The Thirty-Year Itch



by Mark Horton

The last session of the final delivered a thrilling set of boards, and the American team scored more than enough IMPs to overcome their deficit. However, they gave away too many - especially on these two deals:

In the other room South's opening bid had made it easy for West to enter the auction. That was not the case here, and although several pundits on BridgeBase suggested West should bid, none of them actually suggested how West could show his suits.

North/South stole the pot, and declarer was not hard pressed to make his contract for +110 and 12 IMPs.

Board 7. Dealer South. All Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Versace</i>	<i>Meckstroth</i>	<i>Lauria</i>	<i>Rodwell</i>
2♦*	2♥*	4♥	1♦* All Pass

South cashed the ace of clubs and the ace of diamonds before switching to a spade. Declarer put up dummy's ace and played a spade, ruffing when North played the king. He ruffed a club and played a trump, claiming ten tricks, +420.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Soloway</i>	<i>Fantoni</i>	<i>Hamman</i>	<i>Nunes</i>
Pass Pass	2♦* 3♣	Pass All Pass	2♣* 2♠*



Board 12. Dealer North. N/S Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Versace</i>	<i>Meckstroth</i>	<i>Lauria</i>	<i>Rodwell</i>
Pass Pass Pass	INT 2♠ 3♥* 4♣	Pass Pass Pass	2♣* 3♦* 3♠* 5♣

All Pass

South expressed interest in a club slam, but when North showed a minimum, he stopped in game. West led the jack of diamonds, and East won and switched to the queen of hearts for a fast one down, -100.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Soloway</i>	<i>Fantoni</i>	<i>Hamman</i>	<i>Nunes</i>
Pass Pass Pass Pass	1♣* 2♠* 3♠ 4♦* 5♣	Pass Pass Pass	2♣* 3♣ 4♣ 4♥* All Pass

Sorry, no time to discover the exact inferences that were available to East from the auction, but he led the seven of hearts. Declarer put up the king and West took the ace. When he switched to the five of spades declarer was home, +600 and 12 IMPs to Italy.

For the Azzura the long wait was over - Italy had won the Bermuda Bowl - and it will take a very good team to take it away from them.

Unheard Melody

By *Barnet Shenkin*

This deal is one of those might-have-been efforts in the exciting Bermuda Bowl final between USA1 and Italy.

Board 14. Dealer East. None Vul.

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

On vugraph, USA1 made 3♠ on the opening lead of the ♦10. This was the bidding in the closed room.

West	North	East	South
Nunes	Hamman	Fantoni	Soloway

			1♥
Dble	2♦	3♠	All Pass

North's 2♦ bid was a good heart raise. West paused before passing 3♠. Paul Soloway led the ♦10, and declarer took the same nine tricks. It was suggested by the commentators that Fulvio Fantoni would also make 4♠ on a diamond lead by finessing the ♦J and later taking a heart ruff in dummy. Bob Hamman, North, would certainly double 4♠, and now South could reasonably lead the ♥A, setting the contract by two tricks.

One of the spectators suggested a trump lead would also prevail for the defense by repeated trump leads, stopping the heart ruff. On a trump lead, declarer wins in hand, finesses diamonds and pitches two club losers on the ♦A and ♦K.

If declarer plays a heart from dummy, South must win this, lead a club to North, who plays a second spade. Now North can win the second heart lead with the king and clear trumps. So declarer leads the ♦8, pitching his last club - a scissors coup. South has no trump and forces declarer to ruff a club.

Now East has to play hearts from his hand. He starts with the ♥9. South must carefully play the ♥10, keeping the ♥3 in order for his partner to overtake and play a second trump. Now when declarer leads a second heart, South can play his 3, and North can win with the ♥8. A third trump will leave the declarer one trick short.

That would have been a well-played contract on both sides. Unfortunately, we did not get to hear the melody.

RENAULT



Renault, the car manufacturer that won both titles in this year's Formula 1 Championship - pilot and manufacturer - is also involved in Bridge.

Indeed, through the REA Group, which is the leading dealer for Renault, Nissan, and Dacia in Europe and the European subsidiary of Renault,

there is a Renault Bridge Tournament organized in the Renault Show Room. Six thousand (6,000) players were invited to participate in 35 heats in France and 18 in Europe. The heats in Europe were held in the following countries:

Austria:	Vienna
Belgium:	Brussels & Antwerp
Czech Republic:	Prague
Germany:	Munich, Frankfurt, Berlin, Cologne
Great Britain:	Birmingham & Manchester
Hungary:	Budapest
Italy:	Milan
The Netherlands:	Amsterdam & Rotterdam
Poland:	Warsaw
Portugal:	Lisbon
Spain:	Barcelona
Switzerland:	Geneva

Participants enjoyed cocktails before and after the play, received some prizes and the winners were qualified for a final to take place in Paris on 3rd December next.

REAGROUP

The REA Group is going to organize this event again next year.



Renault Scenic. Renault is a championship sponsor.

The Best Ever

IOC President Jacques Rogge said that he wasn't going to use the phrase "these were the best games ever" anymore. I never had the intention to make such a remark myself, though I have my ideas about the quality of championships.

To be honest, I think that WBF championships have been of high quality for a long string of previous events. When the main complaint regards unjustified accusations about the deals being too wild, the organisation does quite well.

Why then this title? Because you, the players, came to me saying that this championship was the best ever, and such a thing you never said before. So there is no escape, I leave Maastricht 2000 behind me and we leave Bermuda, Monaco and Istanbul behind us, Estoril gets on top.

What did you like so much? The congress centre was an excellent size and with everything well placed (where did we ever have such a line up desk?), though the overwhelming participation in the Transnationals almost caused us to play in the street. You liked the nicely designed coloured flags and names everywhere, on result boards, envelopes, forms and playing tables. And probably the most important technical improvement was the use of the Bridgemates, with real-time information about the running scores in all matches. You even started hoping for technical mistakes when leaving the playing room after the round, the screen told you that your match was lost. It is now possible to start the next round in the Swiss five minutes after finishing the previous one. Not that we did so, you liked the chatting breaks in the lobby too much. I want to thank Tomas Brenning and his scoring staff. He developed the software to provide us with all these data. Not an easy job, I can tell you.

The standard of the more routine jobs was high as ever: duplication, communications, paper work, moving boards, line-ups, it all went flawlessly.

And then the contribution from the Portuguese organisation, the federation and the congress centre. Every request got an immediate and positive answer. With naming João Paes de Carrvalho, my amiable and trustworthy on-site counterpart, I want to thank Portugal for its main contribution to the success of this event.

Let me finish by mentioning the Bridgemate once more. To be honest, I am quite proud to have played a role in the development of this radio device. It is a major improvement for the quality of our events. It is obvious already here, but for sure it will be even more impressive when we are in Verona next year. I can tell you that we will make Verona a fierce competitor in the most-successful-event contest. But to Portugal goes the honour to sit proudly on top of the list now. Parabéns (congratulations).

Ton Kooijman

Transport Options To Lisbon Airport

By Train

From Estoril or Cascais train station to Cais do Sodre train station (terminal) and from there by bus or by taxi. Outside the train station at Cais Sodre there is taxi service, or take Bus 44 or Bus 45, both with stops at the Lisbon airport.



By Bus



Departing from the bus stops by the Estoril train station, using Scott Urb bus direct to the Lisbon airport. This bus operates daily from 6:13 a.m. and every hour until 7:13 p.m. After the departure at 7:13 p.m., there are another two at 8:58 p.m. and

9:55 p.m. The price of the ticket is 8 Euros.

By Taxi

Order at hotel reception. From Estoril to the Lisbon airport can cost between 30 Euros and 45 Euros.

Note that you should leave enough time for the journey, which can take more than an hour in congested traffic.

Delegations preferring private transport should contact Top Atlantico in the lobby of the convention centre. Please do so well in advance.

Appeals

Subject to anything that might happen in today's two finals, so far there have been 11 Appeals. They have been written up and will be available at the WBF website, www.worldbridge.org and at www.ecatsbridge.com

Thank You

On behalf of all the journalists present at these championships, I would like to thank the WBF and the Portuguese Bridge Federation for the excellent facilities and hospitality they have provided us in Estoril.

Jan Swaan
(Press Room Manager)

Thanks to Lavazza

LAVAZZA
ITALY'S FAVOURITE COFFEE

Italy's favorite coffee has been a constant presence at the World Championships in Estoril. Players, staff and spectators owe Lavazza and their many workers a debt of thanks.

Merci From French Ladies

The new Venice Cup champions, France, are grateful to Société Générale and Louis Vuitton for their generous support.

Team work

The World Championships go on for a long time, so it is important that members of any team get along with each other. That has been the case with the Daily Bulletin staff.

I offer my thanks to Mark Horton and Brian Senior for their excellent reporting on the great bridge we have seen in these past two weeks; to Phillip Alder, our dedicated proof-reader; to our Greek co-workers, George Georgopoulos, layout editor, and Fotis Skoularikis, Internet editor, and to Ron Tacchi, expert photographer and peerless driver (those late-night curries are necessary to maintain our strength, after all).

Here's hoping we do it again in Verona.

Brent Manley

Quote of the Day

Many have become bridge masters - no one has become the master of bridge.

2006 WORLD YOUTH PAIRS CHAMPIONSHIP

6th WORLD JUNIOR PAIRS

(for players born in 1981 or later)

1st WORLD SCHOOLS PAIRS

(for players born in 1986 or later)

30 June - 2 July

2006 WORLD JUNIOR CAMP

3-10 July

PIESTANY, SLOVAKIA

Detailed information will be available through the WBF internet site
www.worldbridge.org as from December 2005