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A Passionate Pursuit Begins



*Carmen Giannattasio, Soprano, Fulvio Oberto, Tenor and
Rossana Rinaldi, Mezzosoprano*

Verona, City of Passion, welcomed thousands of the world's best players to the 8th World Bridge Championships, where one and all will be in passionate pursuit of collecting - what else? - tricks!

In a gala ceremony at Verona's Palazzo della Gran Guardia, World Bridge Federation President José Damiani declared the championships open at 9:37 p.m. Play begins today with two qualifying sessions of the Mixed Pairs.

Damiani also paid tribute to the many who contributed to the organization of the tournament and the sponsors who support it.

Damiani made special mention of the sponsorship of the Generali Group and the company's president, Antoine Bernheim, who took the microphone on receiving a special medal from the WBF. Said Bernheim: "Bridge is very good ... because you work the head."

Gianarrigo Rona, president of the European Bridge League and the Italian Bridge Federation, noted that Italy

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has hosted many world tournaments in the past but never the World Bridge Championships.

Besides celebrating the opening of the tournament, Rona announced that the Italian government had approved the release of a commemorative stamp, issued on June 9.

The program, which included an enthralling shadow bridge show, concluded with excerpts from five different operas.

TODAY'S PROGRAMME

MIXED PAIRS

10.30 **Session 1**

16.00 **Session 2**

OPENING SPEECH FROM THE WBF PRESIDENT



Av. Paolo Zanotto, Sindaco di Verona
Dott. Massimo Giorgetti, Assessore Regionale
Prof. Elio Mosele, Presidente Provincia di Verona
Dott. Fabio Bortolazzi, Presidente Camera di Commercio
Av. Luigi Castelletti, Presidente Fiera di Verona

President Emeritus,
 President Rona,

Dear All,

Times may have changed but the world is not really so different from when the disputes raged between the Montagues and Capulets, so diametrically opposed to our motto, Bridge for Peace.

At least, in Bridge, we succeed in bringing together people from all races or religions, assembling here participants from about 70 countries.

However, tonight I am happy to feel like a Veronese. Indeed, I had to pay many visits here in order to prepare these big Championships and, every time, I made new friends. Grazie per il benvenuto, grazie per l'aiuto.

And now, finally, the event will start with you, the bridge players, filling the city, enjoying its special atmosphere and the beauty of Verona and the welcome of its inhabitants and authorities.

I am more than pleased to have the opportunity to thank all those who made this event possible and, on your behalf, I will acknowledge our gratitude to the Regione del Veneto, the Verona Provincia, the Verona Commune, the Camera di Commercio and the Veron-

aFiere.

Please come onto the stage to receive the WBF Trophy.

Besides the institutional sponsors, we were lucky enough to build some partnerships with private companies such as the Generali Group, which has supported the world of bridge for many, many years thanks to its President, my personal friend and friend of many bridge players, Antoine Bernheim. He deserves a gold medal as a partner and player.

I am delighted also to give our souvenir trophy to Dott. Fabio Innocenzi, Amministratore Delegato of the Banco Popolare di Verona and to Dott. Reggia, Amministratore Delegato of the Cattolica Assicurazione, our local sponsors who came into the picture through the recommendation of another friend of ours, Romain Zaleski, who I thank most warmly.

I will not forget to mention also our friends from Lavazza and Renault as well as all the technical partners.

And last, but by no means least, let me pay tribute to the FIGB and its President, Gianarrigo Rona, the Comitato Mondo Bridge: Mrs. Maria Cristina Motta, Luca Darbi, Enrico Ghinato, Camillo Norbiato, Giovanni Maci and Paolo Clair.

I am quite sure that you will want to compliment them for all the hard work they have put in to make this a successful championship for you.

Enjoy Verona, enjoy playing bridge with the greatest champions and VIPs, among whom I salute with great pleasure the presence of Bill Gates.

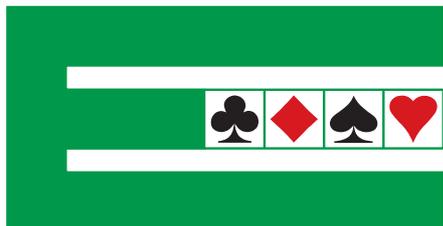
Thank you all.

It is now my privilege to declare the 2006 World Bridge Championships open.

José Damiani,
WBF President



WELCOME MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE ITALIAN BRIDGE FEDERATION



Mr. Mayor, Authorities, Mr. President of the WBF, Mr. President Emeritus of the WBF, distinguished guests, dear colleagues, dear friends,

Welcome to Verona to participate and enjoy together the 8th World Bridge Championships. In Italy we are proud to have organised the Olympiad on three occasions, the Bermuda Bowl four times, once with the Venice Cup, and the Generali Masters Tournament, but this is the first time we have had the honour of organising the World Bridge Championships. With teams representing some 70 countries, this will be a truly unique and special event with thousands of bridge players involved.

I want to thank the WBF and particularly its President, my dear friend José Damiani for this great opportunity that has been given to us.

I am sure that this will be a great event thanks to the Organising Committee, who have worked with such commitment, passion, professionalism and enthusiasm towards its success. To all of them go our most sincere thanks. We are also very grateful to the local Authorities for their significant and essential contribution and to all our sponsors and friends. Without their generosity it would be impossible for us: we would not only to be unable to organise this event, but it would have been unthinkable to attempt to organise it.

For this great event the Italian Government, to underline and emphasize its importance and to celebrate it, for the first time in our history, approved the release of a Commemorative Stamp, which has been issued today, 9th June 2006, on the occasion of the Opening Ceremony. It is not only a landmark for the philatelists, but it is an extraordinary messenger of bridge around the world. And I am pleased to take the occasion to thank once again the Italian Ministry for Communication.

I am sure that this marvellous town of Verona will live up to its reputation, tradition, history, culture, nature, colours and flavour by offering a great welcome to all of you dear friends, players, officials, journalists and guests.

Together with my colleagues from the World Bridge Federation, the Italian Bridge Federation and the European Bridge League I am confident in being able to count on both the dedication and professionalism of

our staff, and on the cooperation of all of you. I always repeat that bridge is more than fair-play, because it is a way of thinking and not just a way of being, and I am sure that, once again, this great event will increase my conviction.

This great Championship renews the tradition of friendship and solidarity, without discrimination and barriers, highlighting the true values of Sport in general, and Bridge in particular. At a dramatic time in history, such as the one we are living through at present, our reply, the reply of the Bridge world, has been yesterday, is today, and must continue to be tomorrow, firm and resolute. Our motto 'Bridge for Peace', which is

our flag, has to continue to fly higher and still higher.

Saying tomorrow, my mind goes to the future, and the future means young people. Following the teaching from my Presidents and "Magistri" Jimmy Patino and José Damiani, I will never tire of repeating that without youth there is no future for us. But today we are particularly happy because just before this Ceremony, here in Verona, in this prestigious Palazzo della Gran Guardia, some 150 school children aged between twelve and seventeen, played in a fantastic friendly sportive atmosphere a very agreeable bridge tournament. This event will not be only a lucky omen for the Championship, which starts tomorrow, but also a strong sign that our future will be prosperous.

Thank you dear friends for your attention and enjoy all together the Championship and your stay in Verona.

Gianarrigo Rona
FIGB and EBL President



DRESS REHEARSAL

by Mark Horton

In August the eyes of the bridge world will turn towards Warsaw when the Polish capital plays host to the European Bridge Championships. The staging of a major International Championship represents a massive undertaking and to ensure that everything runs like clockwork from day one the organizers staged a dry run of the departments involved in the presentation of the Championships, using the Polish Division I Finals, (the Superligi) and a friendly Women's International match between France and Poland as a backdrop.

While producing a couple of Bulletins I also commented on Bridgebase (www.bridgebase.com). Here is some of the action from both events.

Lights, Camera, Action

The setting for the Final of the First Division of the Polish League and the Friendly International between the hosts and the reigning Venice Cup Champions was the magnificent Hotel Intercontinental, which will be the nerve centre of the European Championships. The Hotel is located in the heart of the vibrant Polish capital, (and only a 3 Euro ride from the Airport!) and will delight both players and visitors alike.

The fantastic Polish Bridge Federation site, www.pzbs.pl provided all the results and a detailed analysis of every board!

I'll start with the semi-finals of the First Division, and a couple of deals from the match between Praterm — Warsaw and Sakura — Krakow.

Dealer East. E/W Game

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Jassem</i>	<i>Tuszynski</i>	<i>Martens</i>	<i>Kowalski</i>
		2♣	Pass
2♦*	Pass	3♣*	Pass
3♦*	Pass	3♠*	Pass
4♣	Pass	5♣	All Pass

When East opened with a classical Polish Two Clubs West relayed and discovered that he was facing a six card suit and a spade stopper. With 3NT looking to have little chance Five Clubs was clearly the best chance of making game.

With a difficult lead South tried the ace of diamonds and then switched to a heart. Declarer won with dummy's ace, crossed to hand with a spade and took the diamond finesse. He could get rid of his losing heart on the king of diamonds and play on clubs for +600.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Chmurski</i>	<i>Kupnicki</i>	<i>Gawrys</i>	<i>Majdanski</i>
		2♣	Pass
2♦*	Pass	2NT	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

South led the seven of hearts and North continued the suit when declarer tried the jack. When South came in with the ace of clubs the defenders cashed out for two down, +200 and 13 IMPs for Sakura.

The ubiquitous Two Club opening bid was also to the fore on this deal:

Dealer North. N/S Game

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Szymazak</i>	<i>Tuszynski</i>	<i>Pilch</i>	<i>Kowalski</i>
		2♥	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

I do not know the Polish adjective that might be used to describe West's jump to 3NT — precipitous perhaps? Still with South being able to score a couple of club ruffs 4♥ was not going to make either. North cashed the ace of spades and on seeing an encouraging two from partner continued with a low spade. That was a fast two down, +100.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Gawrys</i>	<i>Jassem</i>	<i>Chmurski</i>	<i>Martens</i>
		2♣	All Pass

My Polish friends tell me that it is not the style to open the North hand One Diamond, despite the poor quality of the club suit. Tant pis as the French might observe!

The defence was merciless. East led his spade and declarer won and ducked a club. West won, gave East a spade ruff, got in with a heart and gave East a second ruff. With a couple of aces and two trumps still to come that was down four, -400 and 11 IMPs for Praterm.

Night Games

With only two sessions of twelve boards remaining Praterm led Sakura by just 7 IMPs. The evening session saw them extend their lead immediately.

Dealer North. Love All

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Gawrys</i>	<i>Szymczak</i>	<i>Chmurski</i>	<i>Pilch</i>
	1♦	Pass	1♥
1♠	Double	2♣	Pass
3♠	4♦	All Pass	

East led a spade and West won and switched to a club, East putting in the jack and dummy winning with the queen. Declarer played a club back to the eight and East won and played a spade. Declarer ruffed, cashed the top diamonds and the king of clubs and exited with a trump. East won, exited with a spade and the defenders had to score a heart trick for one down, +50.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Jassem</i>	<i>Tuszynski</i>	<i>Martens</i>	<i>Kowalski</i>
	1♦	Pass	1NT
2♠	3♠	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

With the diamond suit under control perhaps East might have ventured a double — in any event it would have averted the debacle that was to follow.

Trying to put East in West led the seven of hearts. That ran to declarer's jack and he played a diamond, West discarding the five of spades — perhaps the king of hearts might have been more effective? Declarer played three rounds, putting

East on play as West discarded a couple of clubs. Of course East switched to a spade, but it was the eight and declarer could cover with the nine. West won and perhaps reflecting that with the diamonds held it was impossible for partner not to have doubled holding the ace of clubs as well, tried the ace of spades. Finis, a remarkable nine tricks and +400.

However, now the wind changed, with three big swings going in the opposite direction.

Dealer South. All Vul

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Gawrys</i>	<i>Szymczak</i>	<i>Chmurski</i>	<i>Pilch</i>
			Pass
1♠	Pass	2♦	Pass
2♠	Pass	3♥	Pass
3♠	Pass	4♦	Pass
4♠	All Pass		

Perhaps I am getting too old for this — I would have doubled 4♠, led the king of clubs and had my apology to partner ready. With the spades clearly all on your right and partner appearing to have something good in clubs (no 3NT from anyone) how can it be wrong?

Even with the helpful lead of the five of hearts declarer had no hope at all, and was quickly two down, -200.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Jassem</i>	<i>Tuszynski</i>	<i>Martens</i>	<i>Kowalski</i>
			Pass
1♠	Pass	2♦	Pass
2♠	Pass	3♥	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

With a horrible hand to lead from North again selected the five of hearts, (as would I) this time with more serious consequences. Declarer put up dummy's nine and when that held he played three rounds of diamonds. The defenders were helpless — they could muster only three tricks in the black suits and declarer had a miraculous +600 and 13 IMPs.

Dealer North. N/S Game

♠ A K 4 3	<table border="1" style="background-color: black; color: white; text-align: center; width: 40px; height: 40px;"> <tr><td>N</td></tr> <tr><td>W</td></tr> <tr><td>E</td></tr> <tr><td>S</td></tr> </table>	N	W	E	S	♠ 10 9 8 6 5
N						
W						
E						
S						
♥ 9 4	♥ Q 6					
♦ 10 9 6 5 2	♦ 4 3					
♣ 10 9	♣ A Q 7 5					
	♠ Q J 7					
	♥ A K 10 3					
	♦ A J 8					
	♣ K J 8					

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Gawrys	Szymczak	Chmurski	Pilch
	Pass	Pass	1♣
1♠	Pass	2NT	Pass
3♠	Pass	Pass	Double
Pass	4♥	All Pass	

Clearly 4♥ was not in danger and when declarer eventually played a club to the jack he had eleven tricks, +450.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Jassem	Tuszynski	Martens	Kowalski
	Pass	2♠*	Double
4♠	Pass	Pass	Double
Pass	5♥	All Pass	

Declarer found himself at an uncomfortable level when East/West were able to apply a lot of pressure in the bidding.

West won the opening spade lead and switched to a trump. Declarer won in dummy, drew a second round, ruffed a spade, crossed to the ace of diamonds and ruffed dummy's last spade. He cashed the king of diamonds and played a club. He was confident West was 5-2-2-4, but the location of the queen of clubs was in doubt. When East played low declarer went up with the king, came to hand with a diamond and exited with a club, hoping to endplay East.

As the medical men would say, 'The operation was a success but the patient died.'

The bill was 13 IMPs.

Remarkably the set closed with yet another 13 IMP swing in the same direction:

Restaurant

There will be a restaurant available with a self-service for warm and cold dishes. To get there, take the exit on the ground floor at the back side and follow the signs crossing an open area (250 meters in total).

Dealer West. N/S Vul

♠ 6 4 2	<table border="1" style="background-color: black; color: white; text-align: center; width: 40px; height: 40px;"> <tr><td>N</td></tr> <tr><td>W</td></tr> <tr><td>E</td></tr> <tr><td>S</td></tr> </table>	N	W	E	S	♠ A 7 5
N						
W						
E						
S						
♥ 8 7 2	♥ 10					
♦ K 10 7	♦ 9 8 6 4 2					
♣ K 6 5 4	♣ Q 10 8 3					
	♠ 10					
	♥ A Q J 9 6 5 4					
	♦ A J					
	♣ A 7 2					

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Gawrys	Szymczak	Chmurski	Pilch
Pass	1♠	Pass	2♥
Pass	2♠	Pass	2NT*
Pass	3♠	Pass	5♥
Pass	6♥	All Pass	

Facing an opening bid South drove to slam and West had to find a lead. As the cards lie only a diamond allows the contract to make and West was very unlucky when his choice of the seven of diamonds proved fatal.

Declarer won in hand and overtook the ten of spades. East won and switched to a club but declarer could win the ace, draw two trumps ending in dummy and discard his losing clubs on the top spades. A breathless +1430.



Piotr Tuszynski, Poland

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Jassem</i>	<i>Tuszynski</i>	<i>Martens</i>	<i>Kowalski</i>
Pass	1♠	Pass	2♥
Pass	2♠	Pass	2NT*
Pass	3♥	Pass	4♥
All Pass			

South made no move towards slam — just as well as West led a club, holding declarer to eleven tricks and winning another bundle of IMPs.

Last Round

With just twelve deals to play, Sakura — Krakow led Praterm — Warsaw by 16 IMPs (really 15.8 because of the carry-over). After five boards they had added 2 IMPs.

Dealer East. N/S Vul

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Jassem</i>	<i>Tuszynski</i>	<i>Martens</i>	<i>Kowalski</i>
Pass	2♦*	1♦	1NT
Pass	3♥	Pass	2♥
Pass		Pass	4♥
All Pass			

I thought North had a close decision at his second turn. The six card suit suggested making an invitation, but his values were very soft. Exploring for game proved to be a good decision as West led a diamond and declarer could win, unblock the spades, come to hand with a diamond and play two more rounds of spades throwing clubs for +650.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Chmurski</i>	<i>Kupnicki</i>	<i>Gawrys</i>	<i>Majdanski</i>
Pass	1♥	1♦	Double
Pass	2♦*	Pass	1♠
Pass	4♥	All Pass	2♥

The effect of South's double was to make North declarer. East cashed a top heart and was not hard pressed to find the club switch for a rapid one down and 13 valuable IMPs for the trailing team.

Dealer West. All Vul

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Majdanski</i>	<i>Tuszynski</i>	<i>Kupnicki</i>	<i>Kowalski</i>
Pass	1♣	1♥	Double
2♥	Pass	Pass	3♥
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

3NT was a swift two down as East led the king of hearts and followed with a low one, cashing out when he came in with the ace of diamonds for +200. South might have been better to double again, which would either have produced a penalty or led to a contract of 5♦. That would have given declarer a chance to show off by putting the pressure on West, who has to look after both black suits. Indeed, I am assured by my finessing friend that there is no way to defeat 5♦.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Gawrys</i>	<i>Martens</i>	<i>Chmurski</i>	<i>Jassem</i>
Pass	1♣	2♥	Double
3♥	Pass	Pass	Double
All Pass			

It is not clear why West felt compelled to raise, but it gave North/South a chance they did not hesitate to take. There was nothing to the play, declarer losing the obvious six tricks for -500, a loss of 12 vital IMPs.

Dealer South. All Vul

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Majdanski	Tuszynski	Kupnicki	Kowalski
Pass	1♦	Double	1♠
Pass	2♣	Pass	2♦
All Pass			

When South bid 1♠ he made it nigh on impossible for East/West to reach the possible spade game. What is more he stole the pot, and 2♦ was an easy contract, scoring +110.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Gawrys	Martens	Chmurski	Jassem
Pass	1♦	Double	3♦
Pass	Pass	Double	Pass
4♦*	Pass	4♠	All Pass

Once again East elected to double rather than overcall 1♠ — no doubt Eric Kokish is gnashing his teeth (I admit I am too) — but this time East/West found the spade fit and reached the playable game. South led a diamond and north won and played a second round, ruffed by declarer. If he plays South for the queen of spades then he has excellent chances of making game, although the defenders can still make life difficult. However, he played a spade to the king and the hand was already over, declarer finishing two down, -200.

It was the team from Krakow that advanced to the final where they scored a convincing victory.

Ladies Please!

I happened to be in the lobby of the Hotel when Bénédicte Cronier arrived. She complained of being tired, having had to get up at 07.00 for the trip to the airport. It was impossible to sympathise, as by the time she left her apartment in Paris I had already been up for two hours.



Krzysztof Martens, Poland

There was an early set back for the French team as Bénédicte had left her convention cards at home. It was only after some complex financial negotiations had been concluded that we provided her with copies via Anna Gudge's excellent website, www.ecatsbridge.com.

Both teams comprised three pairs, and they were using the 'Star' formation, where the anchor pair compares scores with both their other pairs, meaning all three pairs would play each of the 108 boards — and they think a marathon is tough!

Dealer East. N/S Vul

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Willard	Brewiak	Cronier	Sarniak
Pass	Double	1♠	Pass
Pass	2NT	All Pass	2♣

If you presented the North hand to a bidding panel they might well be split down the middle between 2♥ and North's actual choice of 2NT.

East led the five of spades and declarer won with the king. The layout of the spade suit, combined with the potential to endplay East meant that declarer was well placed to make her contract, and that remained the case even though her next move was a low club, rather than the ace.

She took three rounds of the suit, leaving the queen stranded in dummy and then exited with a spade. East had already parted with a couple of spades and when she went up with the ace declarer was assured of at least one overtrick. She won the spade exit in dummy, cashed the resurrected club queen and, East having discarded a heart, exited with ace and another heart. East could cash a spade but then had to lead into the diamond tenace, giving declarer a well played +180.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Harasimowicz	D'Ovidio	Pasternak	Gaviard
Pass	Double	1♠	Pass
Pass	2♥	All Pass	2♣

See what I mean about the choice of rebid?

Declarer won the opening club lead, cashed the ace of hearts and then played on clubs, East refusing to ruff. In the fullness of time declarer came to nine tricks, +140.

This was immediately followed by a deal where at two of the three tables East/West pressed on to a slam:

Dealer South. E/W Vul

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

	N	
W		E
	S	

♠ A 8 3
♥ J 9 2
♦ 10 7 5
♣ J 8 6 4

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Willard</i>	<i>Brewiak</i>	<i>Cronier</i>	<i>Sarniak</i>
			Pass
1♣	Pass	1♥	Pass
1♠	Pass	2♦*	Pass
2NT	Pass	3♠	Pass
4♣*	Pass	4♦*	Pass
4♥*	Pass	4♠	Pass
4NT*	Pass	5♣*	Pass
6♠	All Pass		

If East's jack of diamonds had been in spades this would have been almost laydown, but as it was declarer had to negotiate the trump suit. North led a diamond and declarer won with dummy's jack, crossed to the ace of hearts and played a spade to the nine, king and ace. (I wonder if South considered ducking that?)

Back came a diamond and declarer won with dummy's ace and took the spade finesse — as who would not?

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Harasimowicz</i>	<i>D'Ovideo</i>	<i>Pasternak</i>	<i>Gaviard</i>
			Pass
1♣	Pass	1♥	Pass
1♠	Pass	2♣*	Pass
2NT	Pass	3♠	Pass
3NT	Pass	4♣	Pass
4♦	Pass	4NT	Pass
5♣	Pass	5♦	Pass
6♣	Pass	6♠	All Pass

This time North led a heart so declarer won in hand and played a spade to the king and ace. She won the heart return in dummy and finessed in spades for a flat board. At the third table Poland stopped in 3NT to pick up a useful swing.

Notice that if North were to play the nine of spades from nine small that would leave South with ♠AJx, so they would have to win the first round of spades.

Dealer North. E/W Vul

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

	N	
W		E
	S	

♠ 2
♥ A Q J 10 7 4
♦ A J 10 3
♣ A 6

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Willard</i>	<i>Brewiak</i>	<i>Cronier</i>	<i>Sarniak</i>
	Pass	3♠	4♥
4♠	5♥	All Pass	

North might have considered some alternative to a simple 5♥, but she was doubtless concerned by her lack of aces. One idea that is gaining ground is to use 4NT in this situation as a cue bid in spades, promising support for South's suit and a decent hand.

West cashed the king of spades and switched to a diamond, so declarer claimed +480.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Harasimowicz</i>	<i>D'Ovideo</i>	<i>Pasternak</i>	<i>Gaviard</i>
	Pass	2♦*	2♥
2♠	4♥	Pass	4♠
Pass	5♣	Pass	5♦
Pass	6♥	All Pass	

Here, where the stakes were higher East overtook the king of spades and exited with a heart, leaving declarer to divine the diamond position. Declarer ruffed a couple of clubs to get a picture and naturally played West for the vital queen. As usual, virtue was not rewarded and I was reminded of a comment by Andrew Robson — 'You work out who has three diamonds and then play for the hand with the doubleton to have the queen.'

Who said diamonds are a girl's best friend?

Leading Question

Suitably refreshed by the splendid breakfast buffet on offer at the Intercontinental Hotel there was a little bit of time before the start of play to review some of the previous day's action. This deal from the second session of the women's match caught my eye, because it illustrates yet again the importance of the opening lead.

Dealer West. None Vul

♠ 5 4 2
♥ K Q 8 3
♦ J 5 2
♣ A 10 7

♠ Q 10
♥ J 10 7 6
♦ 10 9 7 3
♣ K Q 2

N
W E
S

♠ J 9 8 7 3
♥ 5
♦ A Q 6
♣ J 8 4 3

♠ A K 6
♥ A 9 4 2
♦ K 8 4
♣ 9 6 5

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Harasimowicz	Cronier	Pasternak	Willard
Pass	Pass	Pass	1♣
Pass	1♥	Pass	2♥
Pass	Pass	2♠	Pass
Pass	3♥	All Pass	

I will leave you to debate the merits of 2♠ or double on the East cards. It looks as if 3♥ should fail by a couple of tricks, but East discarded a diamond and declarer was one down, -50.

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Gaviard	Brewiak	D'Ovidio	Sarniak
Pass	Pass	Pass	1♣
Pass	1♥	Pass	2♥
Pass	Pass	2♠	Pass
Pass	Double	All Pass	

This time North reopened with a strength showing double and South decided to go for a penalty. Trust me gentle reader, if you always make the best lead you will win every prize the game has to offer.

To my untrained eye it looks obvious to lay down a top spade and have a look at the dummy. If you do that it should not be impossible to find a switch to hearts — simplest is the ace followed by the nine — when there is no way the contract can succeed.

However, South led the six of clubs and declarer had a vital tempo. North took the ace and switched to a diamond for the queen and king, South playing a second club. Declarer won in dummy and ran the ten of diamonds. When that held she played a third diamond, cashed the jack of clubs and ruffed a club with the ten of spades. That gave declarer five tricks and she could not be denied three more in trumps for +470.

Doubling low level part scores can be a risky business unless you have very good trumps. As one famous player once remarked of an unsuccessful double, 'Did you need the extra fifty points?' France won this friendly International with something to spare.

Enjoy these wonderful Championships here in Verona, but if you have time (and if you don't then find it!) make sure you visit Warsaw in August.

Instructions for Bridgemate

General

Press OK to start Bridgemate. There is no Off button - it turns itself off. Press OK to continue. Press Cancel to go back.

Start

Press OK. A welcome screen is shown. Press OK again.

Round and table numbers

The next screen shows what round and what boards are to be played as well as pair numbers. Press OK to continue.

Enter result

Board number. First enter board number. Press OK.

Contract and declarer: Then enter contract and possibly double/redouble. After that declarer is selected by pressing N/S or E/W. One press gives N and E respectively. Two presses give S and W. Finish with OK.

Lead: Enter lead card. Both ©Q and Q© work. Finish with OK.

Result: Then enter the result in this way

= Just made
+ n Overtricks
- n Setting tricks

Finish with OK.

Verification: Finally, the opponents must verify the result. Let them see the entered result and press OK.

Enter passed hand

In the middle of the keyboard there is a button with a K and a green PASS. Use that button for passed hands.

Hint

Do not wait with the entries until the game is over. It's much faster if you enter the contract when the bidding is over and enter the lead whenever possible. When play is over you just have to enter the result and move on to the next board.

Volunteers!

If you wish to act as a volunteer BBO operator, please contact Herve Lustman at the Hospitality Desk.

Wheeling and dealing near Las Vegas

by Barry Rigal

Last month's Cavendish Invitational Pairs in Henderson, Nevada (not far from Las Vegas) was won by Dutchmen Ton Bakkeren and Huub Bertens. Here are a few deals from that annual event.

How would you rate East's chances in 4♠ here? Not so good, I'd say, but more tables succeeded than you might think. Billy Pollack was one of the declarers who brought home the game.

Board 21. Dealer North. N/S Vul.

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

After North-South had bid and raised diamonds, South led the ♠3 against 4♠. Pollack won in dummy, cashed the ♦A and ♦K, pitching two hearts, and exited with a club to North's ace. Back came a trump as Pollack rose with the king and led the ♣J. If South ducks, North wins the queen and leads a heart to South, who can play a third round of trumps, leaving declarer with a third club loser to go with his heart loser. But when South covered the club jack, Pollack ruffed and returned to his hand by ruffing a diamond, then drew the last trump and conceded a club to the queen. Plus 420 for E/W and 122 IMPs.

Board 8. Dealer West. None Vul.

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

Marc Bompis/Jean-Christophe Quantin bid the E/W cards to 3NT. Dubinin led the ♣2 to the ace, and Gromov returned the ♣10 at trick two. Bompis knocked out the spade stopper and soon had nine tricks. Plus 400 was worth 125 IMPs.

That might seem a little lucky for East-West, but Kit Woolsey and Fred Stewart played the hand in 5♦ against Lew and JoAnna Stansby. Remarkably, that contract is cold on any lead as the cards lie. When a heart was led, declarer played as follows: ♥A, ♠A, ♠K, spade. When South ruffed, declarer simply pitched his losing heart and later used the ♣K entry to the good spades to pitch his third club, losing only a trump and a club.

If South had discarded on the third spade declarer would ruff, setting up the spades, then cash ♦K followed by a diamond to dummy's ace. He then plays a good spade, and whether South ruffs right away or not declarer pitches his losing heart and later his losing club, using the ♣K as a late dummy entry. All that this contract needs is the ♣A onside, and spades 3-2 with South having the long spades, plus three diamonds, so there is no trump promotion!

Board 13. Dealer North. Both Vul.

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

♠ 10 7 4 2
 ♥ 8
 ♦ 10 9 8 3 2
 ♣ J 10 4

West	North	East	South
<i>Levin</i>		<i>Weinstein</i>	
1♥	Pass	Pass	Pass
3♣	Pass	2♣	Pass
4♥	Pass	4♣	Pass
	Pass	6♣	All Pass

Weinstein's 2♣ was three-card Drury, with 3♣ a long-suit slam-try, and it was excellent judgment to bid the slam in clubs rather than hearts – with an inescapable diamond loser, the hearts are needed to get rid of the spade loser in the likely event that the ♠K is not onside doubleton. Plus 1370.

The wildest set of results of the tournament came on this deal: how often do you see the same suit-game contract declared by both sides?

Board 1. Dealer North. None Vul.

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

Freak hands do throw up odd results, admittedly, but Bjorn Fallenius and Roy Welland had the pleasure of defending 4♥ doubled with the North-South cards, while Martel/Fleisher had the pleasure of defending that contract with the East-West cards. Both collected 800.

By contrast diamond contracts were always played by North/South but they had a range of plus 380 in 2♦ doubled, collected by Bramley/Rigal and Bompis/Quantin on a non-trump lead, to the plus 1100 recorded by Gary Cohler/Howard Weinstein from 5♦ doubled, when they did remember to lead trumps.

Sometimes very similar starts to the play can produce quite disparate denouements (hands rotated).

Dealer North. None Vul.

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

Vastly different results ensued in the contract of 3NT by South (on the unopposed sequence 1♠ - 2♦ ; 2♥ - 3NT) after the "fourth-highest" lead of the ♠3. Both Entschow Vladow and Ralph Katz made this play, and when the lead went to the ♠K and ♠9 they both won the low club shift by their partners (yes, perhaps the ♣J might be a technically superior play) to lead another low spade. Ralph's went up with the ace, then guessed to run the ♥J next. Down 100. Your author ran the spade to his hand. When his ♠10 scored he cashed out the diamonds, triple-squeezing West for plus 460 without a guess!

Board 19. Dealer South. E/W Vul.

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

With one session to go, Rodwell/Hampson were leading the field. But the last set did not go well, and board 19 was typical of what happened to them: as North/South they failed to catch North/South for a penalty, and ended up declaring 3♣ themselves, down 100. Meanwhile the Dutch played 2♥ doubled from the West seat, on a trump lead and club shift and went for 500. But that was almost an average result here; why? Well, after West overcalled an off-center INT at most tables, the final contract was 2♥ doubled by East-West. The defense have seven almost top winners, if they play spades early enough, and can also arrange a trump promotion if they are careful, no matter what declarer does.

Of course some East-West pairs did better than that.

When South opened 1♦ Weinstein overcalled 2♣ and Levin sat it out when this was doubled. On a diamond lead declarer wrapped up eight tricks in 2♣ for plus 180. This was a gain of 208 for their combined good judgment.

More about the Bridgemate

Bridgemates are used throughout the championship to enter results. Instructions for the operation were provided in your registration packets. The instructions are also published in today's Daily Bulletin.

During pairs events, it is possible to get an estimation of your score on the boards shown as a percentage. This takes into account all of the results up to that moment within a group of three or four sections, so it will not reflect your score across the entire field.

During the last round you will receive your results on all the boards in the session but the last two or four, with your preliminary session results. We would like you to check those results and inform the TD about any errors. This most probably means that you will have to find your opponents - the mistake is a result of wrong input.

Important Information for all Players and Participants

Please read this carefully

Smoking Regulations

This building is totally non-smoking. Anyone wishing to smoke must go outside at the end of the session. You may not go to smoke during a session. Please stand well away from the doors.

Mobile Phones & other electronic devices

There are penalties for anyone taking mobile phones or any other electronic device capable of sending or receiving data into the playing area.

Alcoholic Drinks

Alcoholic drinks are not permitted in the playing areas at any time

Dress Code

Players are asked to take note of the recognition of bridge as a sport by the IOC and the WBF requests that players should, at all times, be dressed appropriately; this is particularly the case at the opening ceremony and at the prize giving ceremony or victory banquet, when it is expected that teams should at least be uniformly dressed even if a team uniform is not available. During play appropriate dress would, for example, be an open-necked shirt, or a smart polo or sweatshirt worn with trousers or skirt as appropriate. Shorts and open-toed sandals may not be worn during play.

Convention Cards

Players are reminded of the requirement to have two identical, fully completed convention cards at the table at all times for the use of their opponents. Blank cards can be obtained from the Hospitality Desk, where copies of the WBF Standard Card are also available.

Systems

Players are reminded that HUM and Brown Sticker Conventions are not permitted at any time during these championships. Red Sticker cards may not be used unless these were pre-registered with the WBF in advance.

Rulings and Appeals

The WBF Code of Practice applies in all events at these championships. The attention of players is drawn particularly to the fact that the appeals committee bases the hearing of each appeal on the expectation that the ruling of the director is free of significant error and appropriate to the facts. An appeals committee will only change the ruling made by the director if wholly convinced by the appellant that such is not the case. For this reason, players who are inclined to appeal a ruling are asked to bear these considerations in mind:

1. The Chief Tournament Director is at the top of his profession and the team of directors he has assembled include a number of senior directors with exceptional experience of world championships.

2. If any question arises as to the application of the law to the facts of a case, there is consultation among these directors.

3. In reaching decisions that involve bridge judgment, the directors consult a number of expert players for their opinions. Consequently, only the strongest arguments will overturn rulings that are never made on impulse or without proper consultation.

Appeals on Scoring

Any appeal against a score, or against the total score attributed to a pair, should be accompanied by a deposit of 20 Euro and will be determined by the Tournament Appeals Committee. The deposit will be forfeited:

- (a) If there is no error in the published score, or
- (b) If the error is the fault of the competitor.

In the case of 41(b) above, the score will be rectified (but Law 79B applies), provided that protests are made within the correction period, which for purposes of Law 79C shall be:

- In all but the last session of any phase of an event, 15 minutes before the next session of that phase is scheduled to begin, and
- In the last session of any phase of an event, 30 minutes after the official score for that session has been completed and made available for inspection; and the official score may in the discretion of the chief tournament director be made available for inspection by posting it on an official results board, or by visual display on a TV monitor (or similar device) or both methods, in which case time will run from whichever method first occurs.

SHUTTLE BUSES

There will be shuttle buses every day to and from the venue.

09.00 & 09.30 From Piazza Brã (Arena) to the venue

20.00 & 20.30 From the venue to Piazza Brã (Arena)

The buses are free — but only on production of your badge!

Badges

Tournament badges must be worn at all times.

Italy's Mind Sport Monopoly

In the field of Mind Sports Italy is certainly holding centre stage in 2006. Just prior to the start of these Championships the Chess Olympiad was staged in Turin and now the spotlight turns on Verona.

I was at the Olympiad for the closing stages and it was interesting to draw comparisons between these two great tournaments, not least because Chess & Bridge are set to feature in the inaugural Mind Sports Olympiad in 2008.

Each match in the Olympiad has an arbiter (read director for bridge) - primarily because of the potential for time trouble to raise its head.

The leading games are shown on giant screens (and on the Internet) but there is no live commentary for the onsite spectators.

In addition the web site features live move-by-move coverage of every game in both the Open and Women's events.

The dedicated Press Room is armed with a vast array of computers - but any one arriving just after the start of play has no chance to get one such is the demand.

There is a Daily Bulletin, but amazingly it contains only one game each day! (Imagine the howls if we tried that here in Verona!)

Still, as you can see from this picture of one of the World's youngest stars, the 16 year old Norwegian Grandmaster Magnus Carlsen, it is every bit as popular as its Bridge counterpart!

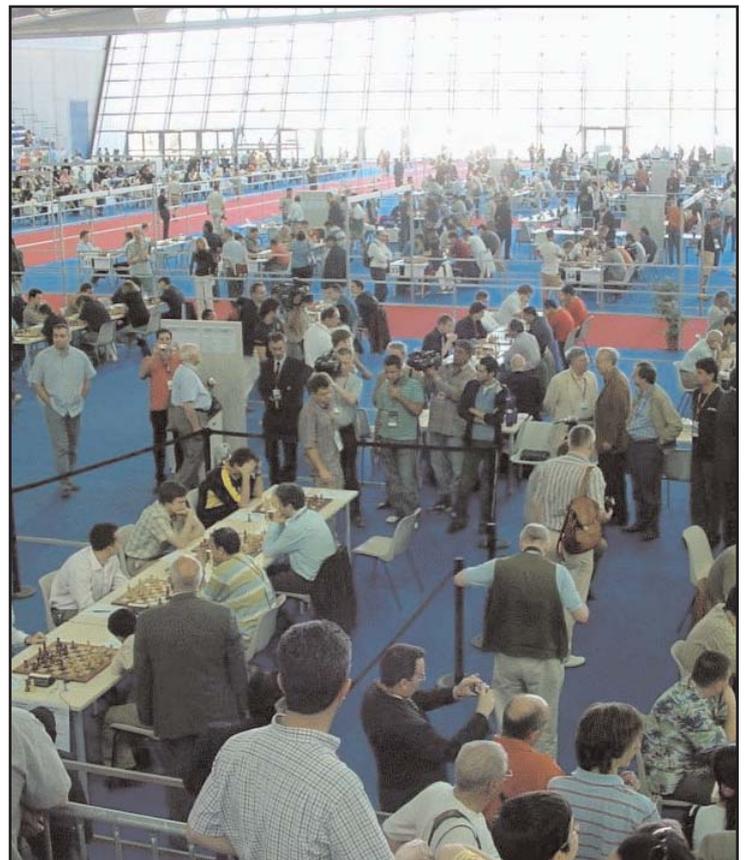


Perhaps the biggest difference that is immediately apparent is the relative age of the contestants, with the Chess players being significantly younger than their Bridge playing counterparts, as for example Croatia's 13 year old star Lara Stock.



A chess player can prepare by studying all the games his opponent has played - they are all freely available on the Internet or on any one of several databases. Should bridge players do the same, for example studying the last 500 deals a top pair such as Bocchi & Duboin have played on Bridgebase to get a feel for their style in both bidding and play?

However you view these two mighty mind sports, the first occasion on which they run side by side is certain to be one to remember.



The playing area in Turin

Championship Diary

Verona is one of Italy's loveliest towns. It's rich in archeological sites and has a beautiful medieval centre. The Roman Arena, where concerts and operas are performed in the summer, is the city's grandest sight (original capacity 20,000), but the so-called 'Juliet's balcony' is a principal port on the Shakespearian tourist trail.

You can spend a long time exploring the narrow streets lined with palazzi that make up the historic centre (there's also a mini-train tour if you're feeling lazy). One of them boasts a Damiani jewellery store! Some of the churches contain fine works of art, while the ruined Teatro Romano over the river has excellent views from the terraces where the ancients watched plays.

If you are a bridge tourist and want to see more of Italy, Verona is usefully located for Venice or for the lovely Lake Garda. It's easy to travel by public transport from the lake to Verona (bus or train).

If you need to travel sans shuttle then a taxi ride to town will cost no more than 8 Euro. The buses, (23, 24, 51 up till 20.00, then 91 & 98) cost 1 Euro - buy your tickets in advance from a shop or a machine.

Our photographer, Ron Tacchi may well be able to make you famous - but this is not the Cheers Bar - where everyone knows your name - so please wear your badge!

Several people have arrived in Verona sans luggage. It reminded me of the unlucky administrator who flew from Greece to Canada via France. It was a case of breakfast in Athens, lunch in Paris, dinner in Toronto.... and luggage in Tokyo.



It was all aces at the opening ceremony on Friday night for the 8th World Bridge Championships



Durante i Campionati del Mondo a Verona 2006

Scoprite i test PLAY BRIDGE

Domenica 11 giugno alle 19.30 presso FERIA
presentazione riservata agli **ITALIANI** : gioca-
tori, tecnici e responsabili federali e di club con la
partecipazione di Toni Mortarotti.

Giovedì 15 giugno alle 19.30 presso FERIA
presentazione **PER TUTTI** con la partecipazione
di Philippe Cronier, Gilles Cohen, Marina Causa,
Toni Mortarotti

Dall'inizio del 2007, i bridgisti francesi ed italiani inizialmente, poi quelli del mondo intero, potranno testare le loro competenze nel bridge scegliendo di passare dei test in centri di certificazione la cui lista sarà resa pubblica e nota a tutti.

Questi test saranno destinati a tutti, dal principiante al campione. In questo modo ciascuno potrà compararsi a tutti gli altri bridgisti del mondo nei 7 domini di competenze tecniche e nei numerosi domini psicotecniche. Ciascuno potrà così conoscere il proprio livello, migliorare i suoi punti deboli, e misurare i suoi progressi passando sempre nuovi test.

Competenze tecniche e competenze psicotecniche

Per passare un test PLAY BRIDGE, i giocatori potranno scegliere tra tre categorie di test, ciascuna che fa riferimento a due o tre competenze tecniche. Per contro, le competenze psicotecniche saranno sistematicamente valutate, qualunque sia la categoria di test scelto.

1. Test sulle dichiarazioni
2. Test sul gioco d'attacco
3. Test sul gioco di difesa

Competenze psicotecniche

- a) Gestione del tempo
- b) Gestione dello stress
- c) Memorizzazione
- d) Concentrazione
- e) Qualità come partner
- f) Strategia