# World Bridge Series **Championship**

# Philadelphia

Pennsylvania. USA

1<sup>st</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup> October 2010



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Issue No. I

#### Saturday, 2 October 2010

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OFFICIAL SPONSOR **GENERA** 

# PHILADELPHIA INDEPENDENCE AND PARTNERSH



Joan Gerard receives a bouquet of flowers from José Damiani in appreciation for her work on the World Bridge Series Championship.



Mr. Michael A. Nutter, Mayor of Philadelphia, Mr. Bill Pollack, President of the United States Bridge Federation, Mr. Jay Baum, CEO of the ACBL, distinguished guests, colleagues and friends.

On behalf of our bridge community, I am very pleased to thank you, Mr. Nutter, for

the very warm welcome we received in your lovely city. We are delighted to be here for this World Bridge Series which, hopefully, will combine Independence and Partnerships.

We are proud and grateful for the cooperation we found with the ACBL and the USBF with a particular mention to Joan Gerard, who has really been the driving force of this organization, taking care not only of the whole picture but the little details as well. She truly deserves a round of applause, which will go

to be continued on page 8



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I am pleased to send greetings to all those participating in the 2010 World Bridge Series Championship.

This event is a unique showcase for the game of bridge, featuring some of the best players from around the world in a rigorous and exciting competition. I hope the players gathered take pride in the skill and dedication required to reach this moment.

I have fond memories of my grandparents, who were avid bridge players, enjoying this game in the company of family and friends. As you come together to take part in this special event, I wish you all the best of luck.



### **Important Notices**

#### Important notice for Rosenblum, McConnell and Rand Cup



Registration for these events closes at 8:30 p.m. (20:30) on Monday 4 October.

If you haven't registered or paid, please do so as early as possible. You can register online on the WBF website, and then pay using the USBF online payment system. Alternatively, you

can register and pay on the 5th floor of the Marriott.

It is absolutely essential that the deadline is observed in order to allow the organizing committee to produce correctly seeded sections in time for the start of play.

Please note that all participants will need to go to the 5th floor of the Marriott to collect their badges and bags before start of play.

#### **Systems Information**

The regulations permit the use of the Multi 2 Diamond convention. This shows a weak two in either major. It may have additional meanings, all of which must be strong. Players are permitted to bring their written defences to the table

Players must ensure that both members of the partnership have a fully completed convention card detailing all their agreements. This must be the WBF Card; blank WBF Cards can be obtained from the Information Desk on the 5th floor of the Marriott. Alternatively, the completed WBF Generali card may be used and modified by the partnership as necessary.

Players are reminded that Brown Sticker Conventions and Highly Unusual Methods (HUM) are not permitted at any time in any Championship events.

#### **Screen Regulations**

Copies of the latest Screen regulations are available from hospitality, so please familiarise yourself with them

#### **Rulings and Appeals**

All players and captains are reminded that the tournament directors consult among themselves and solicit the opinions of expert players before giving a judgemental ruling. For this reason, the Appeals Committee, in accordance with the Code of Practice, presumes initially that the director's ruling is correct. The ruling will be overturned only if the evidence presented is strong enough to persuade the committee to the contrary. Copies of the Code of Practice may be obtained from the Information Desk on the 5th floor of the Marriott.

#### Alerts

The WBF Alerting Policy applies. No announcements are made. Copies of the Policy are available from Hospitality.

For the Mixed Pairs, in order to ensure that there shall be a man and woman on each side of the screen, the men shall sit North and West, the women East and South.

#### **Boards**

When the Boards come to the table DO NOT deal them. They are pre-dealt boards.

#### Restrictions

**No smoking** is permitted in any part of the building. **No mobile phones / electronic equipment** may be taken into the playing area or the designated restrooms.

Any player or team official bringing such an item into these areas will result in his team being fined 2VPs (or 6 IMPs in a knockout match) or, in the case of pairs events, will result in his partnership being fined 25% of the matchpoints available on a board during the session. The penalty is mandatory. Constant violation of this regulation will result in the player being prohibited from playing and in the team official not being admitted into the playing area.

The Chief Tournament Director may, at his discretion, prohibit a player from bringing other equipment into the playing area.

The Information Desk on the 5th floor of the Marriott will keep these devices during play, but it must be clearly understood that no responsibility can be taken for any loss or damage.

No alcohol is permitted in the playing area.

#### **Dress Code**

Players are reminded that the WBF is recognised by the IOC as a sports federation and are asked to respect this by dressing appropriately.

## **Tournament Opens On High Note**



WBF President José Damiani presents a trophy to Philadelphia Mayor Michael Nutter at the opening ceremony Friday night.

It's not often that the president of the host country sends greetings to participants in a world championship, but it happened in Philadelphia yesterday as WBF President José Damiani declared the 13th World Bridge Series Championship open at 7:01 p.m.

The greeting from President Barack Obama was one of the highlights of the opening ceremony, which included an appearance by Philadelphia Mayor Michael Nutter.

"We are very, very excited to be the host city for the World Bridge Series," Nutter told the crowd. "We enjoy hosting World Series." That was a reference to the appearance by the Philadelphia Phillies in two recent baseball championships.

#### Important when using the Bridgemate in Pairs events

Before play starts in a session all players have to enter their Bridgemate ID into the Bridgemate device. You will find your Bridgemate ID on your badge. The following will show on the Bridgemate screen:



ENTER PLAYERS: Begin with entering North's Bridgemate ID then press OK; continue with the other players ID in the specific order: South, East and finally West.

ACBL's chief executive, Jay Baum, thanked the WBF for picking a U.S. city to host the tournament. "We're looking forward to an absolutely fabulous tournament," he said.

Bill Pollack, president of the United States Bridge Federation, read the letter from Obama (see page 1), and thanked the ACBL for logistical support in helping organize the tournament. Pollack also noted the important role of the local unit and volunteers.

Damiani said he was "very proud and grateful for the cooperation from the ACBL and the USBF" in the tournament organization.

He offered special thanks to Joan Gerard, a member of the ACBL Board of Directors and the organizing committee for the tournament. Gerard's attention to detail was invaluable, Damiani said as he presented a bouquet of flowers to Gerard.

After Damiani declared the tournament open, the crowd was entertained by the Philadelphia Mummers, who are famous for their annual parade and string band.

#### WBF Congress meeting



The notice in the World Bridge Series Championship programme regarding the WBF Congress meeting is in error. The meeting is scheduled for Friday, Oct. 8.

## **USA dine out at the Buffett**

by Julian Pottage

As the Ryder Cup gets under way at Celtic Manor Julian Pottage reports on the bridge preliminary. (Interestingly, the continent that wins the Buffet Cup has always lost the subsequent golfing contest).

The 2010 Buffett Cup took place at Miskin Manor near Cardiff in September. This now traditional precursor to the Ryder Cup pits the best bridge players from Europe and the USA against one another. I must begin by congratulating the two non-playing captains – Paul Hackett for Europe and Donna Compton for the USA – for assembling such a galaxy of stars. I know this is a bit of a cliché – in this case, it is true.

Every member of team Europe is a world champion of some kind. The two Norwegian pairs, Tor Helness/Geir Helgemo and Boye Brogeland/Erik Saelensminde won the Bermuda Bowl in Shanghai in 2007; the former are also current World Transnational champions. The Italians, Giorgio Duboin/Antonio Sementa and Fulvio Fantoni/Claudio Nunes, have many world championships among them. The Hackett twins took the world junior title in Bali in 1995 while Sabine Auken/Daniela von Arnim have won the Venice cup more than once.

The lineup for the USA is equally impressive, with current world champions in Bob Hamman/Zia Mahmood and Jeff Meckstroth/Eric Rodwell. Further world champions include Bobby Levin, who played with Steve Weinstein, and Alan Sontag, who played with David Berkowitz. On top of that, they had Jill Meyers (winner of a world pairs and mixed teams title) partnering Jill Levin (multi Olympiad winner) and two Canadians living in the US, Fred Gitelman/Geoff Hampson.

Before moving to the action, I must say a bit about the scoring method. Although there are 6 tables in play, each table compares only against one other table, scoring either a win, loss or a tie (the margin of difference being irrelevant, as in the Ryder cup). Table I compares with 4, 2 with 5 and 3 with 6. At the end of reach round there is a conversion to Buffett points (like victory points). In each of the three matches in the round, the winner takes all the Buffett points (unless there is a tie), regardless of the margin of victory. There are 5 rounds in the pairs, 6 rounds in the teams and 11 rounds in the individual, with varying amounts of Buffett points at stake, mainly depending upon the length of the round.

This was Board 3 from the first round of the pairs:



The auction at table 5 was as follows:

West	North	East	South
von Arnim	Hampson	Auken	Gitelman
			$ \diamond$
Dble	♡*	Pass	2NT *
Pass	<b>4</b> ♡ *	Pass	<b>4♠</b> *
Pass	6◇	All Pass	

North's  $I\heartsuit$  was a transfer, showing four or more spades. Playing a form of Precision, the 2NT rebid showed a big diamond suit. With diamonds agreed by inference,  $4\heartsuit$  was then a key-card enquiry.

Von Arnim led the  $\clubsuit Q$  (Roman, showing the  $\oiint K$ ). Declarer has a choice of plays. One is to strip the clubs, draw trumps and run the  $\bigstar Q$ . This works if East has the  $\oiint K$  (unlikely), if West has the  $\oiint J$  or if East has the doubleton  $\oiint J$ . Bearing in mind the lead and the double, Gitelman chose a simpler line, a squeeze, making the position of the  $\oiint J$  irrelevant. He ducked the opening lead, won the heart switch and drew trumps. He then cashed the final heart winner and the  $\oiint A$  (to remove any ambiguity in the endgame). The run of the diamonds forced West to surrender.

As the cards lie, declarer can succeed by playing a spade to the queen and later a spade to the ten - but the squeeze is more fun and the better line.

Such was the standard that all six North/South pairs bid and made a slam. Levin/Myers for the USA and Helgemo/Helness for Europe played in 6NT, winning the board in their respective matches; everyone else was in 6.

During the second round the hotel's broadband Internet system went down, which meant that many of the spectators left the VuGraph room to watch live at the tables. As tends to be the case, a large crowd gathered around one particular table.

On Board 17 Zia pulled out a wrong card, discarding a heart when meant to ruff. Did it cost him a trick? No, it made no difference because the trump he kept stopped declarer from ruffing a loser in dummy. This can only happen to a world champion!

There was no prize for the best-played hand, so I am going to present three deals and let you decide the winner. We begin with Zia's Zero-five Zapper:



All Pass

A glance at the four hands tells that you declarer may have a hard time, with both black kings offside and trumps 5-0. Jason cashed a top diamond, on which Justin played the jack (standard count). Reading the diamond position correctly, Jason switched to a low heart. Zia won in hand and finessed in clubs. Justin won and returned a club. Deciding from the club plays that the suit was 3-3, Zia ruffed a diamond, crossed to dummy with a third round of clubs and ruffed another diamond. He went back to dummy with a heart and led another diamond, ruffed and overruffed. He then led the racket J, conceding a trick to the king but making his contract when Jason showed out.

No other declarer made 10 tricks with spades as trumps on the deal.

The second of the three candidates is Sabine's Strip Squeeze:



At table 3, von Arnim/Auken bid to 3NT, played by Sabine Auken from the hand with the void club. As Hampson/Gitelman had made 620 in 4 at table 6, she needed to make 10 tricks to win the board for Europe. In fact, she did better than that, making more tricks than did anyone else in either spades or no-trumps.

Jill Meyers led the six of diamonds, top of nothing. Auken won, played on spades, losing to the queen on the second round and received a club switch. Not willing to risk making only nine tricks if the finesse lost, she took this with the ace. She came to hand with a diamond and ran all the spades. Auken then crossed to dummy with the third round of diamonds. South came down to a bare  $\heartsuit A$  and  $\clubsuit Q$ -x. Reading the position correctly, Auken exited with a heart, making the last two tricks with dummy's club tenace. You may have spotted a winning defence – South discards the  $\heartsuit A$  while North keeps a long diamond – but this does nothing to detract from the brilliance of Auken in making a trick more than all the male declarers.

We complete the trio with another strip squeeze, Tens are Boye's Best Friend, from round 11 of the individual.

	<ul> <li>♣ 7</li> <li>♡ A 10 8 2</li> <li>◊ K Q J 8</li> <li>♣ A Q 10 6</li> </ul>	
<ul> <li>▲ K Q 6 5 4 2</li> <li>♡ 7 4</li> <li>◊ 10 7 5 2</li> <li>♣ K</li> </ul>	N W E S ▲ A 8 ♡ K Q 5 ◇ A 9 4 3 ♣ 7 5 4 3	<pre></pre>

Boye Brogeland as South played in 6 $\diamond$  after West (Berkowitz) had overcalled in spades. He took the spade lead in hand and immediately played a club. Up popped the king and the ace won. Brogeland cashed the  $\diamond$ K-Q-J, returned to hand with a heart and ruffed a spade. He came back to hand with a heart and drew the last trump, throwing a club from dummy. East (Eric Rodwell) had thrown spades on the second and third round of trumps but this time had to part with a club. Everyone was now down to four cards. Dummy had  $\heartsuit$ A-10 and  $\clubsuit$ Q-10, East J-x in these suits. Brogeland played a club to the queen and exited with the ten. The  $\heartsuit$ A-10 made the last two tricks. It would not have helped Rodwell to keep a club more and only one heart as then it be easy to cash the  $\heartsuit$ A and drop the jack.

Brogeland was the only declarer to make 12 tricks. There was a consensus in the over-dinner discussion that the key play was testing the clubs early.

This deal, spotted by Mark Horton, who was on Vu-Graph duty, might easily trump them all:

In Round 7 of the Individual section of the Buffett Cup Bob Hamman demonstrated that his powers have in no way diminished.



North avoided the fatal club lead, preferring the five of hearts for the two, king and ace. Declarer crossed to the king of spades and ran the ten of diamonds. When that passed off peacefully he played a diamond to the jack and cashed the ace, North discarding the two and four of clubs. Now declarer cashed the ace of spades, extracting a vital exit card from North and then crossed to dummy with a diamond and played the six of hearts. When South followed with the four declarer played the three. North, down to  $\heartsuit$ Q98 and  $\clubsuit$ AQ8 could win, but in due course he had to give declarer a trick with the king of clubs – and the fifth diamond was the game going trick.

At the other table East was unwilling to show his diamond support and when he passed over North's 3<sup>®</sup> USA had won another board.

Returning to day I and the pairs, the USA were piling on the points. I shall give you an excellent defence by Levin/Weinstein with the other great defensive deals. For now, would you like to try an opening lead?

You hold:

	Q	10	3	
$\heartsuit$	KS	9		
$\diamond$	ΑJ	3		
•	K	96	4	3

Vulnerable against not, you pass throughout as RHO opens a strong INT and LHO transfers into hearts. Decide before studying the full deal:



At several tables, West played in  $2^{\heartsuit}$  after a strong INT opening and a transfer by East. In fact, West declared a heart contract at all six tables.

Andrew Robson, on BBO, said that he would lead the  $\bigstar$ 3, though he admitted it was close. The stakes were higher at two of the tables, where Duboin/Sementa and von Arnim/Auken bid to game. In the latter case, the auction was a simple  $I\heartsuit -4\heartsuit$ .

Most of the North players disagreed with Robson. Only Justin Hackett found the lead of the  $\bigstar$ 3. All the others led the  $\bigstar$ 3, which would have been my choice too. The result

was that all of the declarers apart from Alan Sontag made 10 tricks, just losing one trick in each of spades, hearts and diamonds.

Day I closed with a healthy lead for the USA, 40-20. Evidently, jet lag had not been a problem. Perhaps the players are so used to travelling that they can recover very quickly. One thing I did notice was just how many players seemed to smoke. Given how difficult it is to find somewhere to smoke at a bridge tournament, this was a surprise. Even the top players seem to need something to calm their nerves.

After their hammering on Monday, Europe started well in the teams on the Tuesday. Donna Compton decided to put arguably her two strongest pairs, Meckwell and Zia-Hamman in a team, maybe hoping to win that match and have a 'one out of two finesses' option with the other two teams. This did not bear immediate fruit since in two of the three matches in round I of the teams Europe built a big lead with a board or two to go.

As Board 9 arrived, the USA was one board ahead in the close match.

<ul> <li>▲ 10 7 6</li> <li>♡ 6 2</li> <li>◇ A J 7 6 5</li> <li>▲ J 10 9</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>▲ K Q</li> <li>♡ 98</li> <li>◇ Q 92</li> <li>▲ A K 7</li> <li>N</li> <li>W</li> <li>S</li> <li>▲ A J 4 3</li> <li>◇ I0 4 3</li> <li>▲ Q 8</li> </ul>	5 4 3 ► 9 ♡ A ◊ K ► 6 3 2	K J 10 7 5 8
West	North	East	South
Nunes	Meckstroth	Fantoni	Rodwell
	2♣	<b>2</b> ♡	2♠
All Pass			
West	North	East	South
Zia	Auken	Hamman	von Arnim
	2 🛧	<b>2</b> ♡	Dble
Pass All Pass	3♡	Pass	3NT

At both tables,  $2^{\text{red}}$  was Precision style, opening values with a club suit. Auken's  $3^{\circ}$  was asking for a heart stopper.

2<sup>th</sup> made exactly when the defenders cashed their four top winners and found their diamond ruff.

3NT is not solid but, with the  $\Diamond J$  and  $\heartsuit A\text{-}K$  onside, it made. Europe had levelled the match.

The 10-2 win had been just what the doctor ordered for Europe in round 1 of the teams. Could they continue their comeback in round 2?

Let us see Claudio's Curse Crusher on Board 22, a candidate for best defence:



Sabine Auken as East had gone one down in 2NT at table 4, giving the USA 100. Could Fantoni/Nunes at table 1 make a contract or pick up a bigger penalty to win the board?

West	North	East	South
Zia	Fantoni	Hamman	Nunes
		INT	Pass
Pass	2♣ *	Pass	20 *
Dble	2♡	Pass	2♠
3 📥	Pass	3♢	Dble
All Pass			

2♣ was Landy, both majors. Why South bid 2◊ rather 2♠ is unclear. Zia doubled diamonds and bid clubs to show both minors but his relative lengths in the suits were unclear to his partner (over dinner Zia said that he should just have bid 2NT, unusual). 3♣ would have been makeable, which could have won the board for the USA.

Claudio Nunes led the  $\bigstar$ 7, an inauspicious start when dummy's jack held. The commentators spotted that Hamman could make his contract by using the top hearts and then a spade as entries to ruff two hearts in dummy. However, Hamman did not have the advantage of seeing all four hands. Having come to hand with a heart and placing the doubler with side values as well as trumps, he tried a club to the king and ace. After what seemed like an eternity, Fantoni continued spades, knocking out a key entry for the play described above. Hamman won, cashed his remaining major-suit winners and gave up a club. Fantoni took his club winners as Nunes threw a spade. Everyone was now down to five cards, in Claudio Nunes case, five trumps. When Fantoni switched to a trump and Hamman ducked, Nunes played low! The wisdom of this became apparent when declarer ruffed the fourth round of clubs with the  $\Diamond$ K. Nunes was able to overruff and exit with the  $\Diamond$ 10, pinning the cursed nine.

Just as there was no prize for the best play, there was no prize for the best defence. Here I present the remaining candidates for you to choose a winner.

This comes on Board 9 from round 5 of the teams – Two Hels Make Heaven:



In one match, the Hackett twins bid to  $5\diamond$  going one down. Bobby Levin/Steve Weinstein at the counterpart table stole the contract in  $4\diamond$ , apparently meaning that the USA would win the board. Helgemo (West) and Helness (East) had other ideas. Declarer decided to play on spades initially. Had the A-K been short, Weinstein might have been able to set up the queen as a discard for a third-round heart loser. As it was, the defenders led a trump each time they were in and nothing good happened in spades. As Helgemo ducked the first heart, the heart suit was dead. When he came in with the  $\heartsuit K$ , he could play a second round of clubs, forcing dummy to ruff. Declarer had a losing club and no place to put it. One down gave a tied board and led to a 6.5 to 5.5 win for Europe.

To complete the trio we have Steve's Sexy Switch, to which I alluded earlier; this had been Board 32 on day I:





West	North	East	South
von Arnim	Levin	Auken	Weinstein
Pass	Pass	Pass	$ \heartsuit$
♠	2♡	Dble	Redble
Pass	Pass	2♠	Dble
Pass	Pass	3♣	Dble
All Pass			

Once his vulnerable opponents entered the bidding, Steve Weinstein decided to play for a penalty. Weinstein (pronounced Wine-Steen) led the  $\Diamond A$  and, not knowing that his partner had a sure trump entry, switched to the  $\heartsuit Q$ , offering her up to the waiting king. On the next trick, North won the  $\clubsuit K$  with the ace and returned the  $\Diamond 3$ , a suit-preference signal confirming possession of the  $\heartsuit J$ . Having ruffed, Weinstein underled his hearts, allowing North to win and play another round of diamonds. Had he held the  $\clubsuit J$ , this would have promoted an extra trump trick. As it was, dummy could overruff. Still, 500 was enough to win the board.



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some small way to thank her for the tremendous work she has done.

I very much hope that you, the players, will enjoy your stay in Philadelphia as well as your bridge among the best in the world, bringing together all kinds of events, including our Junior Championships which are among our major concerns.

Before the show and the cocktail which will follow, it is now time to declare the 13th World Bridge Series open.

José Damiani, WBF President