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Issue No. 9

Monday, 31 October 2005

STILL IN THE FIGHT



One of the many vendors at the Congress Centre

Halfway through the quarter-final rounds of the Bermuda Bowl, Venice Cup and Seniors Bowl, some of the matches were shaping up as nail-biters. Others were not so close, but there were no white flags waving with 48 boards still left to play.

The closest match was in the Bermuda Bowl, where defending champion USA1 held a 12-IMP lead against Brazil. The other leaders – Italy, Sweden and USA2 – were solid but taking nothing for granted.

USA1 started out well, winning the opening set 40-9, but Brazil won the next two sets to close the gap. USA2, trailing Argentina for most of the third set, put on a burst at the end to take a 31-IMP lead.

In the Venice Cup, France – the runaway winner of the round-robin – were more than 100 IMPs ahead of Canada, while USA1 were comfortably ahead of USA2, 134-76. China and the Netherlands were relatively close at 109-87 for the Dutch, and Germany were not ready to relax with a 131-91.7 margin over England.

Round-robin winner USA1 in the Seniors Bowl will start today's play 50 IMPs ahead of France. The other American team ended play 25 IMPs in arrears to the Netherlands. Indonesia led by 31 over Portugal, and Denmark was ahead of Israel by 42.

Play in the Transnational Open Teams begins tonight at 8 p.m.

VUGRAPH MATCHES

Seniors Bowl – Quarter-Final – 10.00
Indonesia v Portugal

Bermuda Bowl – Quarter-Final – 13.00
To Be Decided

Bermuda Bowl – Quarter-Final – 16.00
To Be Decided

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Vugraph notice

It is very important that spectators refrain from taking food or drink into the vugraph auditorium. The convention centre has said the auditorium will be closed if there are continued violations of this policy.

PROGRAMME

Bermuda Bowl

Quarter-finals

Teams	Carry-over	Session 1	Session 2	Session 3	Session 4	Session 5	Session 6	Total
1 ITALY INDIA	0 - 2.3	53 - 49	53 - 8	31 - 43				137 - 102.3
2 USA2 ARGENTINA	0 - 4	33 - 20	40 - 46	46 - 28				119 - 98
3 USA1 BRAZIL	9 - 0	40 - 9	24 - 38	16 - 30				89 - 77
4 EGYPT SWEDEN	0 - 16	30 - 27	18 - 64	54 - 36				102 - 143

Venice Cup

Quarter-finals

Teams	Carry-over	Session 1	Session 2	Session 3	Session 4	Session 5	Session 6	Total
5 FRANCE CANADA	15.5 - 0	28 - 36	62 - 7	55 - 9				160.5 - 52
6 CHINA NETHERLANDS	16 - 0	28 - 10	23 - 28	20 - 71				87 - 109
7 GERMANY ENGLAND	0 - 3.7	57 - 23	27 - 40	47 - 25				131 - 91.7
8 USA1 USA2	9 - 0	33 - 25	28 - 39	64 - 12				134 - 76

Seniors Bowl

Quarter-finals

Teams	Carry-over	Session 1	Session 2	Session 3	Session 4	Session 5	Session 6	Total
9 USA1 FRANCE	11 - 0	45 - 14	46* - 48	19 - 9				121 - 71
10 PORTUGAL INDONESIA	0 - 16	35 - 31	36 - 24	25 - 56				96 - 127
11 USA2 NETHERLANDS	16 - 0	24 - 21	28 - 45	26 - 53				94 - 119
12 DENMARK ISRAEL	16 - 0	21 - 17	37 - 61	58 - 12				132 - 90

Symmetrical
Playing Cards

The WBF will be selling symmetrical cards. They will be available at the Hospitality Desk from Monday, 24th October. Minimum quantity will be 10 decks at €1 per deck.

Swan Games
Internet broadcast

Bermuda Bowl USA1 v Brazil	10.00
Bermuda Bowl Sweden v Egypt	13.00
Seniors Bowl Denmark v Israel	16.00

No Need
To Go Hungry

Playing bridge can make you hungry. Luckily, there are several options at the Centro de Congressos. There is a cafeteria with hot food on the ground floor of the facility, and there is a snack bar on the first floor with sandwiches, snacks, soft drinks and cakes.

Transnational Schedule

(Swiss Teams - 10-Board Matches)

Monday 31 October

20.00 - 21.30	Match 1
22.00 - 23.30	Match 2

ROUND 20

Bermuda Bowl



USA2 v Brazil



Entering the next-to-last round of the Bermuda Bowl qualifying, Brazil was tied for seventh with India, but a number of teams were very close to them. The South Americans needed a good showing against a tough USA2 team to assure themselves of a spot in the top eight.

Brazil started with a 4-IMP swing on the first board, but USA2 got half of it back on a well-played deal by Geoff Hampson.

Board 2. Dealer East. N/S Vul.

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

In the Closed Room, Brad Moss opened 2♠ with the East hand and played it there, going one off for Minus 50.

West	North	East	South
<i>Marcelo B.</i>	<i>Greco</i>	<i>Pedro B.</i>	<i>Hampson</i>
2♥	Dble	Pass	INT
All Pass		Pass	3♣



Eric Greco, USA

INT was 14-16, and the double was for take-out. Marcelo Branco started with the ♠8 to the nine, ten and king. Hampson played a low diamond from hand, and Branco went up with the king, returning the suit to the nine, jack and ace. Hampson was told the 2♥ overall might also have contained a minor suit, and he used that information to find the correct line of play. Hampson played the ♣A, a club to the king and a third round to his ten. He could then cash the ♣Q and discard the blocking ♦Q from dummy. A well-done Plus 110 and 2 IMPs to USA2.

The Americans went ahead on Board 4 when the auction dissuaded Pedro Branco from leading his best suit against 3NT.

Board 4. Dealer West. All Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Gitelman</i>	<i>Chagas</i>	<i>Moss</i>	<i>Villas Boas</i>
Pass	1♦	Pass	2♣
Pass	2NT	Pass	3♥
Pass	4♣	Pass	4♥
Pass	4♠	Pass	5♣
All Pass			

Gabriel Chagas had to lose three tricks after Moss led a diamond.

West	North	East	South
<i>Marcelo B.</i>	<i>Greco</i>	<i>Pedro B.</i>	<i>Hampson</i>
	INT	Pass	2♣
Pass	2♦	Pass	3♣
Pass	3♦	Pass	3♥
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

Had Pedro Branco started with a diamond, the contract would have been defeated. After a diamond to the ace, a diamond back to the jack, Pedro could clear the suit and wait for his club trick to cash the setting tricks. Pedro was less inclined to lead the suit, however, after Eric Greco showed diamond values over Hampson's 3♣. The spade opening lead conceded all the timing to Greco, and he finished with an overtrick for a 12-IMP gain and a 14-4 lead for USA2.

Brazil got 4 IMPs back when Greco at one table went four down in 3♦, while Chagas managed to go down only two in

the same contract. The South Americans went ahead on the following deal.

Board 9. Dealer North. E/W Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Gitelman</i>	<i>Chagas</i>	<i>Moss</i>	<i>Villas Boas</i>
	1♦	1♥	2♣
Pass	2♦	Pass	2♥
Pass	2NT	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

Moss started with the ♥Q, continuing with the king when Chagas ducked. Chagas played low from hand again, and Moss could have scuttled the contract by switching to a low club, but that is a play one would make only if looking at all the hands – and maybe not even then. Moss naturally continued hearts, and he covered the ♣J when Chagas played it at trick four. Chagas won with the ♣A in dummy and took the right view in diamonds, playing low to the nine then back to the ace. He cashed the ♣Q and ♣10 and claimed with five diamonds, three clubs and one heart.

On a double-dummy basis, had Moss switched to a club at trick three, it would have disrupted communication between the North and South hands and, on the run of declarer's diamonds, Moss would have been able to discard clubs without fear of giving declarer extra tricks (assuming the ♣A had not



Miguel Villas-Boas, Brazil

been cashed). Chagas erred by playing the ♣J from hand at trick four – had Moss refused to cover, the contract would have failed.

It's all easy looking at 52 cards, but the successful line of play after winning the ♥A (which can be done at trick one, by the way) is to play the ♦J to dummy's ace, running the ♦8 if not covered. Then three more rounds of diamonds put East under enormous pressure. He can never discard a club without conceding the ninth trick, so he would have to come down to the singleton ♠A, one heart and three clubs. Now declarer can play the ♣J, letting it ride, exiting with a spade. East can cash a heart but must play into the ♣A Q at the end.

West	North	East	South
<i>Marcelo B.</i>	<i>Greco</i>	<i>Pedro B.</i>	<i>Hampson</i>
	1♦	2♦	3♣
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

Pedro Branco's 2♦ showed the majors. Branco started with the ♥K, continuing with the queen when Greco ducked. A third round of hearts cleared the suit but, when Greco played the ♣J from hand, Branco did not cover. Greco also guessed diamonds, but his trick limit was eight (Greco had to cash the ♣A before running all the diamonds or he would not get it). That was 10 IMPs to Brazil.

Board 13. Dealer North. All Vul.

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

This board put the Americans in front for good.

West	North	East	South
<i>Marcelo B.</i>	<i>Greco</i>	<i>Pedro B.</i>	<i>Hampson</i>
	INT	All Pass	

INT was ostensibly 14-16. Pedro started with a low heart to Greco's nine, and he tried the ♠J, hoping to convince the defenders to look elsewhere for tricks. Marcelo won the ♠Q and played the ♦Q. Greco ducked smoothly – and again when Marcelo played the jack, but Marcelo read the position and reverted to spades. On the run of the spades, Greco did not hold onto all his diamonds, so he finished two down and Minus 200, but his team mates had him covered.

West	North	East	South
<i>Gitelman</i>	<i>Chagas</i>	<i>Moss</i>	<i>Villas Boas</i>
	1♦	Pass	Pass
1♠	Pass	2♦	Pass
2NT	Pass	3NT	All Pass

Chagas started with a low diamond, taken by Gitelman with the ten. He played a club from hand, and Chagas rose with the ace to continue with a second low diamond. When spades broke Gitelman had nine tricks for Plus 600 and a 9-IMP gain. The next board produced another swing for USA2.

Board 14. Dealer East. None Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Gitelman</i>	<i>Chagas</i>	<i>Moss</i>	<i>Villas Boas</i>
		1♣	Pass
1♥ 5♥	3♦ All Pass	3♥	5♦

Chagas could have sunk this contract by leading his suit, but he started with the ♠9. Gitelman took full advantage, winning the ♠A in hand and playing three rounds of clubs, pitching his singleton diamond. Chagas ruffed, but it was with a natural trick. The only other loser for Gitelman was the trump ace – Plus 450.

West	North	East	South
<i>Marcelo B.</i>	<i>Greco</i>	<i>Pedro B.</i>	<i>Hampson</i>
		1♣	Pass
1♥ 6♥	2♦ Dble	3♥ All Pass	5♦

Curiously, the enthusiasm of both Brancos – Pedro for his aggressive raise to 3♥ and Marcelo for his leap to slam – did not cost the team, although it might have. Greco could have assured two down by leading his suit, but perhaps it sounded as though Marcelo was void. Greco also began with the ♠9, and Marcelo followed the same route to 11 tricks. Minus 100 or Minus 50 was the same 11-IMP loss. Two down, of course, would have been a 13-IMP loss.

Near the end of the match, USA2 added another swing when Moss and Gitelman bid a pushy slam that happened to make. The final score was 49-30 (19-11) for the Americans, putting Brazil briefly in danger of not qualifying for the quarter-final round. They assured themselves of a spot, however, by crushing China in the final match of the day.

Lost keys

If you lost a set of car keys, and possibly an apartment key, check with the Hospitality Desk.

Elegant Play, Inelegant Contract

By Barry Rigal

Sam Lev and Billy Eisenberg are an interesting mix of partnership styles. Eisenberg is the consummate scientist. Lev – well, caveman nouveau would perhaps summarize his approach to bidding.

On today's exhibit (Round 15 Board 1) Sam reached 4♠ after Billy had produced a three-card spade raise to lead Sam into temptation.

Board 1. Dealer North. None Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Lev</i>		<i>Eisenberg</i>	
	Pass	1♦	Pass
1♠	Pass	2♠	Pass
3♣	Pass	4♣	Pass
4♠	All Pass		

The ♦9 went to the jack, queen and ace. Lev played a spade to the king and ran the ♠8 to North's jack. The ♥10 went to the queen, followed by a diamond (North discarded a club) to the king. Lev then cashed the ♣A, felling the queen, and played a club to his jack. North ruffed and played the ♥9 to Lev's jack. Lev then cashed the ♠A and played a spade to North. His heart return then squeezed South in the minors in the process.

Had North discarded a heart instead of a club on the second round of diamonds, Lev would not have made the game.

WBF Press Conference

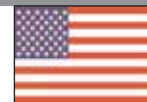
The WBF is to hold a Press Conference on Friday November 4th at 11.30 a.m., followed by a light lunch, also in the WBF meeting room. Please register by Thursday in the Press Room for the lunch.

ROUND 21

Bermuda Bowl



Italy v USA I
Battle Royal



I don't know how long Saturday night's match between USA I and Italy will be talked about, but it was a privilege to be a member of the vugraph audience and witness such a terrific demonstration of why we all love bridge. Almost every result from either room was greeted with cheering and applause from the spectators who filled every corner of the theatre. (If these two teams meet in the final I would book your seat now!)

Before the match I congratulated Giorgio Duboin on Italy's winning the Round Robin exhibition and asked him who would finish second. He wasn't sure, but thought Italy might choose India in the quarter-finals (they did).

When Bob Hamman came to the microphone I asked him how it felt to be the second-ranked player in the world, but he reckoned he was a lot lower than that!

Bob revealed that a couple of days ago his company had lost \$1,000,000 when a young Canadian kicked a 50-yard field goal in a sports promotion event. Unperturbed, Bob said he was looking forward to playing Italy in a repeat of the thrilling final in Monte Carlo.

So are we if this encounter is anything to go by!

Join me now for a white-knuckle roller-coaster ride.

After a few minor exchanges Italy, hoping for a big win that might just eliminate one of their most dangerous rivals, trailed 5-7. Then the IMP-fest began in earnest.

Board 5. Dealer North. N/S Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Hamman	Bocchi	Soloway	Duboin
	1♥	Pass	2♣
Pass	2♦	Pass	2♥
Pass	3♣	Pass	4♥
All Pass			

East led the four of spades and declarer put up the queen, winning with the ace when West produced the king. Declarer drew trumps and played a club to the queen and ace. East cashed the jack of spades and played another spade. Declarer ruffed, crossed to the king of clubs, ruffed a club, went to dummy with a heart and played a diamond. After some suitable deliberation Bocchi put in the jack; +620.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Versace	Rodwell	Lauria	Meckstroth
	1♥	Pass	2NT*
Pass	3♣*	Pass	4♥
All Pass			

Play started on similar lines, but when Rodwell had to decide he put up the king of diamonds; -100 and 12 IMPs for Italy.

Board 6. Dealer East. E/W Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Hamman	Bocchi	Soloway	Duboin
		INT	Pass
2♣*	Pass	2♠	Pass
4♠	All Pass		

South led the seven of diamonds, which simplified declarer's task. He took the queen with the ace, cashed two top spades, played a diamond to the king, drew the last trump and played a heart to the queen. When that was ducked declarer claimed +650.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Versace	Rodwell	Lauria	Meckstroth
		INT	Pass
2♦*	Pass*	2♥*	Pass
3♥*	Pass	4♣*	Pass
4♥	Pass	4♠	All Pass

Here South led a more challenging club. Declarer won with the ace, drew trumps in three rounds and played a heart to the queen. Meckstroth ducked and there was no reason for declarer to do anything other than play on diamonds. He cashed the ace and king and played a third round. When South discarded declarer threw a club from dummy but North won and played a club. Declarer could make only two more tricks; -100 and 13 IMPs for USAI - as a result of Meckstroth's lead and subsequent defence.

Board 7. Dealer South. All Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Hamman	Bocchi	Soloway	Duboin
			Pass
1♦	1♠	Dble*	2♣
3♦	Pass	3♥	Pass
4♦	All Pass		

North cashed the ace of clubs and switched to the ten of hearts. Declarer ruffed South's ace and played a club. East won and when the defenders cashed their spade tricks declarer claimed the rest; -100.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Versace	Rodwell	Lauria	Meckstroth
			1♦*
5♦	Dble	All Pass	

The defence was perfect. North led the ten of hearts, declarer ruffing and playing a spade. South won and switched to a trump, won by declarer who played the queen of spades. North won and underled his ace of clubs, enabling South to win and play a second trump. That was down three; -800 and USAI led 32 -17.



Jeff Meckstroth, USA

Board 9. Dealer North. E/W Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Hamman	Bocchi	Soloway	Duboin
	Pass	Pass	1♠
2NT*	3♣*	4♣	4♥
5♣	5♠	Dble	Pass
6♣	Dble	All Pass	

When Bob Hamman bid Five Clubs he was baiting the hook, Soloway's double put the fish on the line, and Hamman's retreat to Six Clubs reeled him in. South led the ace of spades and declarer claimed +1740.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Versace	Rodwell	Lauria	Meckstroth
	1♦*	Pass	2♠*
3♦	4♠	Pass	Pass
5♣	Dble	All Pass	

Here North was on lead. He chose the nine of spades so declarer recorded +1150 - and lost 11 IMPs.

Board 10. Dealer East. All Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Hamman	Bocchi	Soloway	Duboin
		Pass	1♥
2♣	2♠	3♣	Pass
Pass	3♥	Pass	3♠
Pass	4♣	Pass	4♦
Pass	4♥	All Pass	

West led the queen of diamonds. Declarer won in dummy, drew trumps, pitched a club on the king of diamonds and took a spade finesse; +680.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Versace</i>	<i>Rodwell</i>	<i>Lauria</i>	<i>Meckstroth</i>
		Pass	1♥
2♣	4♣*	Dble	Pass
Pass	4♦*	Pass	4♠*
Pass	5♦*	Pass	6♥
All Pass			

West cashed the ace of clubs and continued with the queen, ruffed by declarer, who played a heart to the ace and took a losing spade finesse. That would be the start of a winning line if the king was with West and East held three trumps, but this time it led to two down, East winning and returning a diamond. Declarer won in dummy and played spades allowing West to ruff; -200 and 13 IMPs for Italy.

Board 14. Dealer East. None Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Hamman</i>	<i>Bocchi</i>	<i>Soloway</i>	<i>Duboin</i>
		Pass	1♣
Pass	1♦	Pass	2♦
Pass	2♠*	Pass	3♣
Pass	4♣	Pass	4♦
Pass	4NT	Pass	6♣
All Pass			

Six Clubs was not unreasonable, but there was no reason for declarer to take a winning view and he lost a spade and a diamond; -50.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Versace</i>	<i>Rodwell</i>	<i>Lauria</i>	<i>Meckstroth</i>
		Pass	1♣*
Pass	1♠*	Pass	2♦*
Pass	2♥*	Pass	2NT*
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

On the lead of the three of spades declarer made eleven tricks; +460 and 11 IMPs for USAI.

The American team had a strong hold on the match and they emphasized their superiority over the closing boards.

Board 16. Dealer West. E/W Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Hamman</i>	<i>Bocchi</i>	<i>Soloway</i>	<i>Duboin</i>
1♦	Pass	1♠	2♥
2NT	Pass	3NT	All Pass

When North led the eight of clubs Hamman shrugged his shoulders, went up with the ace and cashed his diamonds. That gave him seven tricks; -200.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Versace</i>	<i>Rodwell</i>	<i>Lauria</i>	<i>Meckstroth</i>
1♦	Pass	1♠	3♥
3NT	4♥	4NT	All Pass

When North led the eight of clubs Versace shrugged his shoulders, finessed and took five tricks; -500, adding 7 IMPs to the total of USAI.

Board 18. Dealer East. N/S Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Hamman</i>	<i>Bocchi</i>	<i>Soloway</i>	<i>Duboin</i>
		Pass	1NT
2♦*	Pass	2♥	Pass
Pass	3♦	3♥	All Pass

As the cards lie you can make Three Hearts, but when South led a club declarer won with dummy's ace and played two more rounds of the suit discarding the losing diamond. North ruffed and switched to a diamond, forcing dummy to ruff. Declarer played a heart to the queen and ace, a spade to the

jack and a hopeful heart. South won, cashed another heart and played the ace of diamonds. The contract was four down; -200.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Versace	Rodwell	Lauria	Meckstroth
2♣*	3♦	1♣	INT
Dble	All Pass	Pass	3NT

East's opening bid did not guarantee clubs, so there was no reason for West to start with the ace. He led the two of spades and declarer won with the queen and cashed his diamonds. He finished with eleven tricks; +1150 and 14 IMPs.

Do you remember the old line about 'things could only get worse?' Well, they did.

Board 19. Dealer South. E/W Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Hamman	Bocchi	Soloway	Duboin
2♣	Pass	2NT	Pass
3♠	4♥	Dble	3♥
			All Pass



Lorenzo Lauria, Italy

Put South's intervention down to the state of the match and general depression. It was a bloody affair. West led the king of clubs and East ruffed and switched to the king of diamonds. Declarer won in dummy and played the seven of hearts to the nine. He tried the king of spades and West won and played a top club, East discarding a spade and South a diamond. East ruffed the spade switch and cashed the ace of hearts. That was four down; -800.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Versace	Rodwell	Lauria	Meckstroth
Pass	2♥	Pass	2♦*
3♥*	Dble	Pass	Pass
5♣	All Pass	Pass	Pass

North led the king of hearts and declarer won, pitching his losing diamond, and played a spade to the queen. That was the last piece of good news and he was down three; -300 and another 15 IMPs worse off.

Board 20. Dealer West. All Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Hamman	Bocchi	Soloway	Duboin
1♥	Pass	2♣*	2♠
3♥	Pass	4♥	All Pass

North led the four of spades and South cashed out for one down; +100.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Versace	Rodwell	Lauria	Meckstroth
1♥	Pass	INT	Dble
3♥	Pass	4♥	4♠
All Pass			

West cashed the ace of hearts and switched to the six of spades. Declarer took East's queen with the ace and played the jack of clubs. West won with the king and played another spade. Declarer won in dummy and played a diamond to the two, ace and ten.

The ten of clubs went to East's ace and back came the five of diamonds. Declarer went up with the ace to land his contract; +620 and 11 IMPs.

USA1 had prevailed by 107-40 and had served notice that they did not intend to give up their crown lightly.

BENITO GAROZZO: THE MYTH

Mabel Bocchi has taken the opportunity to interview the legendary Italian here in Estoril.

He was born in Alexandria, Egypt, 78 years ago. He has lived in the United States since 1987 and in 1994 obtained double nationality. For his genius, his imagination and the results he has obtained, he is considered one of the best players ever, if not the best. Born under the sign of Virgo, he is divorced, has a son, Fulvio (46) and a daughter, Silvia (45). His partner since 30 years, both in life and in bridge, is Lea Dupont. He loves all sports and when young, practiced a number of them: soccer, basketball, volleyball, tennis and ping pong. Nowadays he plays golf and loves to bet on horses, a hobby that he appreciates more for the preparation it needs than for the bet itself. But his great passion remains bridge. Still not appeased by the huge number of successes obtained in his bridge career, already playing with the Rome Angelini Parioli Team, he offers himself again on the international stage with that blue uniform with which he won almost everything that can be won, in fact, playing on the Italian Seniors Team.

His Major Victories

- ♠ 10 World Championships
- ♥ 3 Olympiads
- ♦ 5 European Championships
- ♣ 1 Open Pairs EU Championships
- ♠ 1 Mixed Teams EU Championships
- ♥ 13 Open Teams Italian Championships
- ♦ 1 Open Pairs Italian Championships
- ♣ 4 Italian Cups

Italy, following the example of the United States and many European countries - such as France, Poland, Israel and Denmark - have always considered Seniors activity as a basic instrument for the promotion of Bridge, and for this reason they have always been represented in the top events by the best available players, and in Portugal they are fielding a team that has no need of an introduction. They can rely on the names that have helped to make Italian Bridge history: Benito Garozzo, together with Dano De Falco, Pietro Forquet, Nino Masucci, Carlo Mosca and Silvio Sbarigia.

Your return to the Italian team seems quite a miracle and made the entire bridge world, and not only that one, talk. Aren't you satisfied with your ten gold medals in the Bermuda Bowl?

"I know that ten gold medals are not few at all, but I must say I would not be sorry to add another trophy to my records. We will surely try. We all trained very seriously via the Internet, including Pietro Forquet who wasn't confident at all with this instrument. This to demonstrate that we can be elderly people, but serious and professional elderly people, besides being as passionate as when we were thirty."

Dano De Falco will be your partner in this new adventure. Do you get on well with him?

"I already played several times with Dano in high level competitions, by the way often winning, as in China. He is a very

good bridge player with a unique fault: he doesn't study! Here we are playing my system that isn't simple at all, being filled with conventions. I hope that in this period he will be good, also because a conventional system is an advantage only if you know it by heart, otherwise it can be a disaster."

You are here in Estoril with a brand new team that comprises at least three or four bridge generations. Will this finally be the team able to reverse the forecasts that always see the United States as favourites?

"It will really be very hard. The two American teams are very strong and we cannot really say that we are super trained and perfectly tested. I personally continue to play, both with the Angelini Team and with the Lavazza Team, and also at a personal level; you cannot say the same for Forquet, for a long time far from the bridge tables. However, I saw him play quite well on the Internet: solid as ever and with an aggressiveness he didn't have when young.

Mosca and Sbarigia are certainly more close and used to high-level competitions, while I think that Masucci hasn't this kind of experience. There are many uncertainties and, however, besides our performance, we will have to consider how luck will be. In such a level contest, it is often important. Apart from all this, I put myself on the podium!"

We know everything about the Garozzo of the old days, how is the new one?

"Getting older, unfortunately, means to lose speed, you don't succeed any more in those brilliant plays that disorient the competitors, especially in defence. And it would be fine if it would only be this; but you also become less patient and,



Benito Garozzo, Italy

faced by a mistake, be it yours or your partners', I easily explode. In bridge this isn't a good mood as it takes you to make more mistakes. Fortunately the brain resists and so does the memory; and I compensate for the diminished coldness with a better technical experience that in the course of the years cannot do anything than increase, if you go on applying and studying."

You were among the first players who felt the need for conventional bidding system.

"When I first began to play in the Blue Team, in 1961, I still played a rather rough kind of bridge. I remember that Chiaradia compelled me to an incredible full-immersion to learn, on the eve of my first World Championship, the "Neapolitan Club" that I had to play with my new partner, Pietro Forquet. The next step was the "Blue Team Club" and from that moment on, my research in the bidding context went on without any interruption."

Was it difficult for you to get along with such different partners?

"It has never been a problem for me. I've always been a quite flexible player and the list of my bridge partners in my long career is really infinite."

How and how much did bridge change your life?

"A lot, to the point that it can be identified with my own life. Even my thirty- year long relationship with Lea and my definitive move to the States have to be related to bridge."

Is it sufficient to win to be a bridge champion?

"I should say yes, but to win it isn't sufficient to be ingenious and keen, if you don't have a good partner; or if you are a presumptuous person, this fault takes you to indulge on honours and interrupt any kind of growth, you don't win anything and in consequence, you cannot become a champion."

In what do yesterday's and today's Blue Team mainly differ?

"I think that the difference isn't all in the level of the single members, excellent today as they were then, but in the competition that is now much keener. Now the competing teams that can aspire to important international titles are many, definitely much more than the ones that could worry us then. To summarize, I think that the main difference is the possibility to obtain the same number of successes."

Bocchi-Duboin, Fantoni-Nunes and Lauria-Versace will try again to get that gold medal that Italy has been seeking for thirty years. Do you feel this could be the right time?

"I do think so, even if it will not be easy. Our technical superiority is evident and the malediction that affected Lorenzo Lauria should, after the third time, be exhausted."

You know very well both the Italian and the American bridge environments. What do you think about them?

"Americans live bridge in a more professional way. For example, they play with a sponsor, and do not say a word, when the partner makes a mistake, they don't turn a hair, they never show their mistakes, and they are always at time. We still have a lot to learn in this. On the other hand, under a strictly technical aspect, I think that, at least from a bidding point of view, we Italians are better."

Is there somebody you have to thank?

"First of all God the Father for having let me arrive at 75 with my head still working; then Chiaradia and Forquet who gave me my first big opportunity."

Rulings and Appeals

Grattan Endicott

The WBF Code of Practice applies in all events at these championships. The attention of captains 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, captains 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. From some early appeals here in Estoril, it seems that appellants are inclined to appeal too readily without fully appreciating the amount of work that goes into the director's rulings.

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.

NOTES FROM THE BERMUDA BOWL

by Barry Rigal

Board 7. Dealer South. All Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Lambardi</i>	<i>Lindkvist</i>	<i>Madala</i>	<i>Fredin</i>
Pass Pass	1♣ INT	1♠ All Pass	Pass Dble

A low spade would have given Magnus Lindkvist the option of playing dummy's nine, which would have led to his defeat. Agustin Madala, however, started with the ♥5, which went to the nine and queen. Lindkvist played a low diamond to the queen and king, and Pablo Lambardi switched to the ♠10, ducked to his partner's queen. Now the ♣10 went to Lambardi's ace, and another spade would have scuttled the contract, but he continued with a heart instead; Plus 90.

Board 11. Dealer South. None Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Lambardi</i>	<i>Lindkvist</i>	<i>Madala</i>	<i>Fredin</i>
Pass Pass All Pass	2♥ 3NT	3♦ Pass	INT Pass 4♠

West led the ♦4 to the ace. Peter Fredin played a club to the ten and king. West continued with a diamond to the ten. Now what? Can you blame Madala for ploughing on with the

♦K? Fredin ruffed with the jack, played the ♠A, led a club to the queen and continued with the ♠K and another spade. When the suit went 3-3, Fredin could claim.

Board 19. Dealer South. E/W Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Lambardi</i>	<i>Lindkvist</i>	<i>Madala</i>	<i>Fredin</i>
Pass 2♣ 3♥	1♦ 2♦ All Pass	INT 2♥	1♣ Pass Pass

In the other room, East made INT. Madala had to make nine tricks in hearts.

The ♠K went to the ace, and declarer played the ♥A and ♥K (an error according to Deep Finesse), then a diamond to the ace and another diamond, taken by North's king (South discarded a club). A spade was led to South's ten. Now the correct defense is another heart. Declarer wins the ♥10, ruffs a spade and plays a winning diamond, but South ruffs and will get a spade trick in the end.



Pablo Lambardi, Argentina

South, however, did not continue with a heart, instead playing another spade. East ruffed, leaving this position:

<p>♠ - ♥ Q 10 ♦ - ♣ J 7 5 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>♠ - ♥ 9 ♦ Q J ♣ Q 10 4</p>
N					
W E					
S					
	<p>♠ 4 ♥ J 7 ♦ - ♣ A 9 6</p>				

Declarer played a low club, ducked to North's king – and now there was no way to defeat the contract. If North returned a club (what happened in practice), and South won, East could ruff the spade return in hand, cash a high club and play diamond winners to execute a trump coup on South. The winning defense is for South to win the ♣A and play a trump. Now if declarer wins with the ♥10 and cashes the queen, the defense gets a spade when North comes in with the ♣K. If declarer does not cash the ♥Q, playing a club instead, North can win the king and promote a trump trick for South by playing a fourth round of spades.

System Failure

by Maureen Dennison

When player deviates from the system, she or he is often unduly penalised for even a minor infraction. It happened on this board.

Board 6. Dealer East. E/W Vul.

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

North opened INT and South transferred to spades. North liked her ace-heavy hand and good fit so bid 3♦, promising a five-card suit plus spades. Only a little lie! South passed, of course. Sitting West was Wietske van Zwol. She quite liked this turn of events. North did her best, leading spades when possible. Around trick nine, a third round of spades was played and West ruffed. She turned to South and said, "Finally your partner has given me my ruff!"

Sports News

Golf

Colin Montgomerie won his eighth European Order of Merit title when Michael Campbell finished outside the top five at the Volvo Masters. New Zealand's Campbell shot a one-over par 72 for a three-under par total. Ireland's Paul McGinley won the title, his first in four years, after a 67 gave him a 10-under par total. Sergio Garcia (73) was two shots back in second while Montgomerie (74) was joint third with Luke Donald (64) and Jose Maria Olazabal (69).



Soccer



Italy Serie A: Roma 2-1 Ascoli; Fiorentina 2-1 Cagliari; Chievo 2-2 Empoli; Lecce 0-2 Messina; Livorno 2-0 Parma; Reggina 1-0 Lazio; Treviso 0-1 Siena.

English Premiership: WBA 0-3 Newcastle.

Spain Primera Division: Alaves 0-0 Cadiz; Deportivo La Coruna 1-0 Getafe; Mallorca 1-1 Sevilla; Osasuna 2-0 Espanyol; Valencia 1-1 Racing Santander; Zaragoza 1-1 Malaga.

Argentina: Argentinos Juniors 0-1 Gimnasia La Plata; Boca Juniors 2-1 Newells Old Boys.

Rugby Union – Heineken Cup

Glasgow 20-33 Leinster; Wasps 15-15 Toulouse, Clermont 34-14 Ospreys.

Cricket

South Africa took a winning 3-0 lead with two matches still to play in the one-day series against New Zealand. In a thrilling finish, South Africa reached 245-6 in the final over to pass the New Zealand total of 243-9.



Motorsport

Sebastien Loeb of France completed his 10th victory of the season in the Rally of Catalunya to seal the manufacturers' title for his Citroen team. Citroen claimed three of the first four places in the season's penultimate race, meaning they cannot be caught by second-placed Peugeot. Belgian Francois Duval was second and Spain's Xavier Pons fourth, while Finn Mikko Hirvonen, in a Ford, was third.

Tennis Finals

Linz: N. Petrova beat P. Schnyder 4-6, 6-3, 6-1.

Hasselt: K. Clijsters beat F. Schiavone 6-2, 6-3.

St. Petersburg: T. Johansson beat N. Kiefer 6-4, 6-2.

Basel: F. Gonzales beat M. Baghdatis 6-7, 6-3, 7-5, 6-4.

Lyon: A. Roddick beat G. Monfils 6-3, 6-2.

Horse Racing

Pre-race favourite Saint Liam, ridden by Jerry Bailey, came home one and a half lengths clear to win the Breeders' Cup Classic at Belmont Park. Bailey hit the front at the final turn and held off Flower Alley and Perfect Drift for his fifth win in the Classic.

QUARTER-FINAL I

Seniors Bowl



Denmark v Israel



Denmark went into their 96-board quarter-final match against Israel in the Seniors Bowl with the maximum possible carry-over of 16 IMPs from their Round Robin encounter. Israel took a bite out of that lead on the first board of the match.

Board 1. Dealer North. None Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Romik</i>	<i>Lund</i>	<i>Levit</i>	<i>Moller</i>
	1♥	Pass	2♥
Dble	4♥	4♠	Dble
Pass	5♥	Pass	Pass
Dble	All Pass		

West	North	East	South
<i>Auken</i>	<i>Schwartz</i>	<i>S-Moller</i>	<i>Sheinman</i>
	1♥	Pass	2♥
Dble	3♦	3♠	4♥
All Pass			

It seems to me that Peter Lund's leap to 4♥ at his second turn is the practical bid but it didn't turn out too well when he next pulled his partner's double of 4♠, fearing his own lack of defence to that contract. After a spade lead, it was not too taxing for the defenders to collect one spade trick and two in each minor for three down; -500.

I am much less a fan of Adrian Schwartz's 3♦ game-try but it worked out much better as East/West had done their bidding and with no pressure in the auction were willing to defend against 4♥. The same five tricks were lost but that was only two down for -100 and 9 IMPs to Israel.

In other matches a number of tables saw a contract of 4♠ by East/West, sometimes doubled. After a heart lead, best defence seems to be to give a ruff and discard, but this is not good enough to beat the contract. Declarer ruffs in the East hand while pitching the ♦10 from West, then plays the ♠Q, ducked, and the ♠J, covered by the king and ducked. A third heart is ruffed by East, West throwing a club, the diamond finesse is taken, and declarer cashes the ace of spades, then starts running the diamonds. The defence just comes to a trump trick. Any defence that does not involve giving ruff and discards is less difficult for declarer to overcome.

The set score had moved onto 12-3 in favour of Israel when the next potential major-swing board came along.

Board 12. Dealer West. N/S Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Romik</i>	<i>Lund</i>	<i>Levit</i>	<i>Moller</i>
1♣	1♥	1♠	3♣
4♠	Pass	Pass	5♥
Pass	Pass	5♠	Pass
Pass	Dble	All Pass	

West	North	East	South
<i>Auken</i>	<i>Schwartz</i>	<i>S-Moller</i>	<i>Sheinman</i>
1♣	1♥	1♠	4♥
4♠	Pass	Pass	5♥
Pass	Pass	5♠	Pass
Pass	Dble	All Pass	

Five Hearts goes one down with a loser in each side-suit, but it is tough to let your opponents play in 5♥ when 5♠ will be so cheap. A diamond lead and continuation would get 5♠ down two but it is not really possible to find such a lead and both Souths started with a heart, then switched to their singleton club. Both declarers took the ace of clubs, drew trumps and established the clubs; one down for a push at -100.

Board 14. Dealer East. None Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Romik	Lund	Levit	Moller
		Pass	1♠
Dble	2♠	Dble	4♠
Dble	All Pass		

West	North	East	South
Auken	Schwartz	S-Moller	Sheinman
		Pass	1♠
Dble	3♠	Dble	4♠
Pass	Pass	4NT	Pass
5♣	All Pass		

Lund made a normal simple raise to 2♠ and Steen Moller in turn jumped to 4♠ over the responsive double. Pinhas Romik doubled that, ending the auction. Romik led the ace of spades then switched to a low diamond to the ace. Yeshayahu Levit returned the jack of spades and Romik made the disastrous discard of a heart. There is no way home in 4♠ without a heart pitch but now Moller was in control. He won the ♠Q and laid down the ace of hearts, being charmed by the fall of the king on his right. Moller cashed the king of spades next, ruffed a diamond back to hand took the finesse of the ten of hearts. With the hearts running, Moller had eleven tricks for +690.

At the other table Schwartz made an aggressive jump raise to 3♠ and Kirsten Steen-Moller made a responsive double. Rami Sheinman raised himself to 4♠ and, when that came around to Steen-Moller, she judged that her partner would be very short in spades so that five of a minor should be a good bet. As we can see, with diamonds coming in it was only the four-one trump split which beat 5♣. One down cost -50, but that went very nicely with the result from the other table; 12 IMPs to Denmark.

Board 15. Dealer South. N/S Vul.

♠ K 4 2		♠ Q J 7									
♥ A K J 8 7 2		♥ 4									
♦ Q 2		♦ K J 10 9 6 3									
♣ K 10		♣ Q 5 4									
♠ A 10 9 8 5 3	<table border="1" style="display: inline-table; vertical-align: middle;"> <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		♠ 6
	N										
W		E									
	S										
♥ Q 6 3		♥ 10 9 5									
♦ 4		♦ A 8 7 5									
♣ A 9 7		♣ J 8 6 3 2									

West	North	East	South
Romik	Lund	Levit	Moller
1♠	2♥	4♠	Pass
			All Pass

West	North	East	South
Auken	Schwartz	S-Moller	Sheinman
2♠	3♥	4♠	Pass
Pass	Dble	All Pass	Pass

Four Hearts requires good decisions in both hearts and clubs, so is not favourite to succeed, but one can understand that East would rather bid quickly to 4♠ before South has the opportunity to show a likely heart fit. In the first auction, 4♠ may well be making, while in the second it is only the fact that West is so maximal for the 2♠ opening that makes 4♥ odds against. Schwartz doubled 4♠ because he had a fair bit to spare for the 3♥ overcall; Lund went quietly.

Both Norths cashed a top heart then switched accurately to the diamond two – if partner has the ♣A there will be a second chance to take the club tricks when North wins with the ♠K. Both declarers tried the ♦K, losing to the ace. Moller returned a heart, forcing dummy to ruff, and Romik ran the ♦J to the queen, pitching a club. Lund switched to a trump to dummy's jack and ruffed when declarer played the ♦10 to ditch his other low club. Now the ♠K took the last trump off the table and there was a heart to lose at the end; down two for -100. The contract was also down two at the other table but the double meant that was -300 so 5 IMPs to Israel.

Board 16. Dealer West. E/W Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Romik	Lund	Levit	Moller
Pass	1♥	Pass	2♥
			All Pass

West	North	East	South
Auken	Schwartz	S-Moller	Sheinman
Pass	INT	Pass	3NT
			All Pass

Four Hearts can be made with good guesswork, but neither table was close to reaching that contract. Lund made an over-trick in 2♥ without breathing heavily; +140. The Israeli North/South pair bid quickly to 3NT, against which Steen-Moller led a low spade to the ace. A second spade went to the jack and queen, and the spades were cleared. Everyone pitched clubs as declarer cashed the hearts. Now king of diamonds and the diamond finesse lost to the queen. The defence had blocked the clubs so, after crossing to the ♣A and cashing the thirteenth spade, had to give the last trick to dummy with a diamond; one down for -50 and 5 IMPs to Denmark.

The Danes won the set by 21-17, so led by 37-17 after 16 boards.

THE BLML - SS FINLAND CHALLENGE

The game of bridge was conceived and formalised by HAROLD STIRLING (MIKE) VANDERBILT on 31 October 1925 onboard the SS FINLAND in the PANAMA CANAL.



Yachting was a major sport and pastime for wealthy families in the USA during the 30s. As an adult, Harold S. Vanderbilt pursued his interest in yachting, winning six 'King's Cups' and five 'Astor Cups' at regattas between 1922 and 1938. In 1930 he achieved the pinnacle of yacht racing success by winning the America's Cup. His victory put him on the cover of the September 15th issue

of Time magazine. Harold Vanderbilt won the prestigious event three times in a row, taking it again in 1934 and 1937.

His wife, Gertrude 'Gertie' Lewis Conway became the first female to compete as a fully-fledged team member in an America's Cup yacht race. They were both elected to the America's Cup Hall of Fame.

Vanderbilt was also a card-game enthusiast who, in 1925, invented contract bridge. Harold S. Vanderbilt perfected a new form of the game, embodying the *plafond* principle but including the element of vulnerability and producing a scoring table that corrected the major faults in *plafond*. He succeeded so well that his game of contract bridge became the staple diet of card players everywhere. Afterward, he wrote:

"Many years of experience playing games of the Whist family were, I think, a necessary prelude to acquiring the background and knowledge needed to evolve the game of Contract Bridge. Starting as a young boy about 70 years ago, I have played successively over the years Whist, Bridge, Auction Bridge, and *Plafond*. I compiled in the autumn of 1925 a scoring table for my new game. I called it Contract Bridge and incorporated in it, not only the best features of Auction and *Plafond*, but also a number of new and exciting features; premiums for slams bid and made, vulnerability, and the decimal system of scoring which by increasing both trick and game values and all premiums and penalties was destined to add enormously to the popularity of Contract Bridge.

"An ideal opportunity to try out my new game presented itself while I was voyaging shortly after completing my scoring table with three Auction Bridge playing friends on board the steamship Finland from Los Angeles to Havana via the Panama Canal, a nine-day trip. At first, we were at a loss for a term, other than game in, to describe the status of being subject to higher penalties because of having won a game. Fortunately for us, a young lady on board the Finland solved that problem by suggesting the word 'vulnerable'."

"We enjoyed playing my new game on board the Finland so much that, on my return to New York, I gave typed copies of my scoring table to several of my Auction Bridge playing friends. I made no other effort to popularise or publicize Contract Bridge. Thanks apparently to its excellence, it popularised itself and spread like wildfire."

No world-popular game in history, certainly none in the

whist family, can so accurately pinpoint its conception and the first time it was ever played.

Recent research has established that the SS Finland reached Balboa on October 31, 1925, too late to proceed through the Canal or for passengers to go ashore. Francis Bacon III, in 1975 the then sole surviving member of Vanderbilt's foursome, recalled that on that night the lady who suggested 'vulnerable' was allowed to join their game of *plafond* and attempted to suggest some exotic and impractical changes based on a game she said she had played in China. This so irritated Vanderbilt that the next day, while the Finland passed through the Canal, he worked out the scoring table for contract which, except for notrump tricks then being valued at 35 points each, remained virtually unchanged half a century later. On that night, November 1, the game became Contract Bridge, scored under Vanderbilt's new rules.

Within two years, three codes of laws had been produced for the new game. Those of Robert F. Foster and the Knickerbocker Whist Club (both 1927) were withdrawn in favor of the more authoritative code issued by the Whist Club of New York. In 1928 the game was adopted in the major New York clubs, and late that year the first National Championship was held.

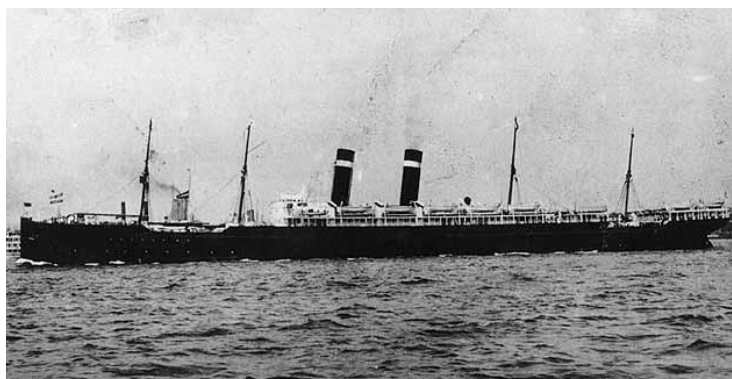
Harold Stirling (Mike) Vanderbilt donated the Vanderbilt Trophy to go to the winners of the USA national team-of-four championship. In 1932 and again in 1940, he was part of a team that won his own trophy and he penned several books on the subject. In 1969, the World Bridge Federation made Vanderbilt its first honorary member. When a Bridge Hall Of Fame was inaugurated in 1964, Vanderbilt was one of the first of three persons elected. His trophy remains one of the most prized in the game.

To commemorate the birthday of the Sport of Contract Bridge, 31 October 1925, our good friend Herman de Wael. Organises a Simultaneous Tournament on or around 31 October.

In honour of the ship on which the Sport originated, this tournament is called the SS Finland Challenge.

The first staging of this event was on 31-10-1997 and involved 13 centres in 6 countries on 4 continents and a total of 263 pairs participating.

For more information contact Herman at: hermandw@skynet.be



2006 EUROPEAN TEAM CHAMPIONSHIPS

Warsaw, Poland – 12-16 August 2006

Located right in the heart of Poland's developing and thriving capital, Warsaw, the brand new InterContinental Warszawa provides not only an architectural landmark as one of the highest buildings in the city, but also services that are tailored to and exceed the expectations of our discerning guests.

The InterContinental Warsaw offers 326 guest rooms, suites and 75 Residence Suites, which are all exquisitely furnished and fully equipped with the latest technology.

In three restaurants and two bars, guests can sample the best of Polish and international cuisine. Eleven banqueting rooms, all with natural daylight, are available on two floors and can accommodate events for up to 700 guests.


One of the most stunning features of the hotel is the Riverview Wellness Centre, located on floors 43 and 44, which offers a swimming pool, gym classes, fitness equipment, sauna, steam bath, solarium, massages and beauty treatments, all with a spectacular view of the city.

Unique to the city are the hotel's Residence Suites. These 75 apartments, in six different configurations, offer the ultimate services for those guests who wish to combine the advantages of having their own private space with the services of a five-star hotel. Built-in kitchens, comfortable furnishings and state-of-the-art technical equipment provide the feeling of a 'home away from home' that InterContinental is known for all over the world.

You can get a Registration Form from the Press Room or Anna Retka.



Anna Retka is here representing the Intercontinental Warsaw. She will be at the information point today & Tuesday between 10.00-12.00 and will be delighted to answer all your questions.



INTERCONTINENTAL
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SPECIAL ROOM RATES FOR
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Championship in Warsaw
12th - 26th August, 2006

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STANDARD ROOMS

- single occupancy EUR 100.00
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The all above quoted are per room, per night.

The rates include 7% VAT tax, buffet breakfast served in Downtown Restaurant and free use of RiverViewWellness Center as well as taxi transfer from and to the airport. Final bill will be issued in PLN applying National Bank of Poland exchanged rate valid on the arrival day.

Please ask our representative for more details and reservation form.

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Fancy a Flutter

You are welcome to visit the Casino - all you need to do is show your badge and some form of identity.



Wbridge5 Wins It All

The first champion to be crowned at this tournament is not human. A team of four Wbridge5 robots defeated four-time reigning champion Jack 136-67 in the final of the World Computer-Bridge Championship. Wbridge5 was created in France, Jack in the Netherlands.

The two programs reached the final by finishing first (Jack) and second in the six-team round-robin.

At the halfway point of the 64-board final, Jack was in the lead 45-44, but Wbridge5 was too strong in the second half, winning the third set 41-4 and the fourth 50-19 to cruise to victory.

This deal, from the final set, was icing on the cake for Wbridge5.

Board 11. Dealer South. None Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Wbridge5	Jack	Wbridge5	Jack
1♦	Dble	3♣	Pass
Pass	4♥	5♣	Pass
Pass	Dble	All Pass	

This contract could not be beaten. Jack took one heart and one diamond but Wbridge5 took Plus 550.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Jack	Wbridge5	Jack	Wbridge5
			Pass
1♦	Dble	3♣	Pass
3♦	4♥	Pass	Pass
5♦	Pass	Pass	5♥
Pass	Pass	Dble	All Pass

Jack started with the ♠A, and the contract could have been defeated had East switched to a club and West returned a spade for East to ruff. West played the ♠3 under the ace, but East apparently did not read it as suit preference for clubs. On the diamond continuation, North won with the ace, pulled the enemy trumps, cashed the spades, then entered dummy with the ♥5 to the nine to cash the long spade for a club discard. The defense got only a diamond from there and North/South were Plus 650. Combined with the 550 at the other table, that was 15 IMPs to Wbridge5. A new champion was crowned.

Nice Lead

South Africa and India had been moving steadily up the Bermuda Bowl rankings over the last few rounds. When they met in Round 20, India had moved into a qualifying place while South Africa was just outside the top eight, still well in touch.

This match saw India almost confirm their quarter-final participation while killing off the hopes of their opponents. This early board played a part in that outcome.

Board 5. Dealer North. N/S Vul.

♠ 8 7 6 ♥ J 3 2 ♦ J 7 5 4 ♣ K 9 4 ♠ K 10 5 3 2 ♥ A 6 4 ♦ 9 3 2 ♣ 5 2	N W E S	♠ Q 9 ♥ K Q 9 5 ♦ K Q ♣ A Q J 8 6 ♠ A J 4 ♥ 10 8 7 ♦ A 10 8 6 ♣ 10 7 3	
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West	North	East	South
Holman	Choksi	Cope	Venkataraman
-	Pass	1♣	Pass
1♠	Pass	2♥	Pass
2♠	Pass	3♠	Pass
4♠	All Pass		

Four Spades is a decent contract, having some hope of making even with the ♣K offside, unlike 3NT on a diamond lead. As the cards lie, it seems that declarer will always succeed if he gets the spades right, but Sunit Choksi threw a spanner in the works by leading the jack of hearts.

Glen Holman won the king of hearts and tried the effect of running the nine of spades. He was pleased to see that hold the trick and continued with the ♠Q to K.R. Venkataraman's ace. South switched to ace and another diamond to dummy's king. Declarer crossed to the ace of hearts, cashed the ♠K, and played a heart to the nine. When that lost to the ten, Venkataraman had a diamond to cash for down one – embarrassing when the club finesse was working all along, and worth 10 IMPs to India.

It is easy to say that declarer should have been suspicious of the lead – jack from J1032 is not that attractive a lead, particularly in a suit bid by dummy – but tiredness is beginning to creep in for many players after a week of hard bridge.

Quote of the Day

'Every day you play worse and worse but today you are playing like it's tomorrow already.'
Anon

WBF SENIORS OPEN MEETING

Estoril, Portugal – 29 October 2005

Present: Chair: N. Rand (Isr); Secretary: P. Jourdain (Wales) + 50 seniors and Press

The Chairman of the WBF Seniors welcomed the President of the WBF, José Damiani, and invited him to make announcements about WBF Senior events.

JD: "I hope you are happy with the format in Estoril, for we now believe we have found the right one for the Bermuda Bowl years.

"Yes. The next Bowl venue and dates will be announced at the President's press conference on Friday (the format will be the same). Next year in Verona we have put the Transnational Senior Pairs and Teams the second week (teams: 16th to 19th June, pairs: 20-23rd June) so the Seniors can play in the Rosenblum if they wish. There will be opera tickets for Verona's famous opera house as some of the prizes. It is premature to talk about 2008 except to say we are having discussions with other mindsports about the possibility of holding them at the same venue and time. We expect the format to be same as the Women's Olympiad."

NR: "The Seniors here in Estoril sees countries which are not traditional friends competing happily together, supporting the WBF phrase Bridge for Peace."

JD: "And we should be happy to see so many famous players competing in the Seniors, including most of the 2001 Bermuda Bowl champions." Here he welcomed to the meeting Benito Garozzo and Pietro Forquet, mentioning their many Bermuda Bowl and other world titles. Garozzo replied they had not yet won the Seniors World title, but there was still time. JD also greeted Zia Mahmood, now playing in the Seniors.

NR then made presentations to those who were particular friends of Senior bridge: Mr. Damiani for improving the format of the WBF Seniors events; José Oliveira of Portugal, Gianarigo Rona of Italy and Joan Gerard of the USA who all championed Senior bridge on the WBF; and Patrick Jourdain of Wales as Secretary. He added gifts for those outside Senior bridge who particularly had assisted Seniors, namely Mark Horton for publicity, and the three in the office: Anna Gudge, Christine Francin and Carol von Linstow.

Patrick Jourdain asked about the problem that occurred in Istanbul where a loophole in the Systems definitions permitted a system using a one-diamond opening to show hearts to

appear in the same class as standard systems not requiring advance notification.

JD: "The WBF Systems Committee has discussed this. For Estoril all systems in the Seniors Bowl required advance notification so the problem that arose in Istanbul could not happen. For Verona and other events where advance notification is not compulsory such systems will not be permitted."

Ron Klinger (Australia) congratulated the WBF on improvements such as including the Deep Finesse analysis on hand records, the greater presence on websites, and the provision of datums for each board. For the 18 teams in the WBF Youth Championship it was even possible to see all bidding and play, though he realised this was much more difficult for the 66 teams in Estoril. "Are any other innovations planned?"

JD: "Don't forget the appearance of the Bridgemate. This will make significant improvements to the service to players. For example, in the Verona pairs events we expect players, as they leave a session, to receive a personal score sheet detailing their result on every board bar the last couple. This will allow players to check their scores at once, and spot any errors."

David Stern (Australia) said their Senior team would like to play 20-board matches.

JD: "This has been debated many times, and we are convinced the 3 x 16 board format is both right and popular with the Seniors. Of course you have the opportunity to let us know if this view changes."

Feroze Ahmed of Bangladesh said his players found the expense of travel, accommodation and entry fees a great burden and had found that it would have been cheaper for them to book their hotels not via the website even if that meant paying extra in entry fees.

JD: "We have no desire to go into the hotel business and would prefer not to be involved at all. But the local Federation is compelled, for obvious reasons, to reserve rooms (500 in the case of Estoril) up to two years in advance. The hotels always keep back half their capacity for tour operators and last minute bookings, and no-one knows whether public rates for these will be lower or higher for those booking much later. The entry fee discount rewards players who use the rooms that have been reserved for them well in advance. I can say we always have the interests of the players in mind, and receive no commission from the hotels."



Renault Scenic and Laguna. Renault is a championship sponsor

Transnational Open Teams

All teams registered in the World Transnational Open Teams are requested to come as soon as possible to the WBF Secretariat Office on the second floor of the Congress Centre in order to pay their entry fees and collect the receipt that will give them entry to the playing area.

If you reserved your hotel through Top Atlantico, you are entitled to a discount on the entry fee PROVIDED you bring a copy of your confirmation of reservation from Top Atlantico with you when you come to pay.

Teams who have paid in advance or teams of players from the Bermuda Bowl/Venice Cup or Seniors Bowl should also come to the WBF Secretariat and confirm their entry and obtain the necessary receipt.

The office will be open for Transnational entry fees payment between 10.00 - 12.00 and 14.00 - 17.00 today.

A New Bridge Game

aBRIDGEdTM – a new bridge game, but without the bidding, now has a world license, and will be launched at American Toy Fair in New York next February.

The inventor is Maureen Hiron, who is currently here in Estoril. She has represented Great Britain and England at bridge, and is the bridge columnist for *The Independent*, a British national daily newspaper.

She is better known, however, as an inventor of games, having already had over 50 published around the world. (The sales of her first game, *CONTINUO*, have passed the 5 million mark.)

aBRIDGEdTM retains all the beauties of the card play of bridge – but dispenses with the bidding, and its rules can be understood in just a few minutes. Then you are up and playing.

Over the years, attempts have been made to find a simpler alternative to bridge – usually as a teaching aid – but most have relied on the standard pack of playing cards. That means that these games could not be commercialised, and needed people to bring them to people.

aBRIDGEdTM has its own unique and user-friendly pack of cards, and will be sold from shop shelves, just like any other commercial game.

The question Hiron encounters most frequently is, "Why introduce another version of bridge – what's wrong with the real game we all know and love?"

It is because Maureen is so dedicated to bridge that she has created this. "Bridge is the victim of its own success. The bidding has become so sophisticated that the learning curve has become too steep. Consequently, far too few young players, the future lifeblood of the game, are learning to play. If people become expert card-players through playing **aBRIDGEdTM**, there is the greater likelihood they will make the crossover to bridge."

Out of the Box Publishing, Inc. – America's fastest-growing games company, are the head licensees, and although there is not one bridge player in the company, they are extremely enthusiastic about **aBRIDGEdTM**.

Journalists who would like to receive a review set – please email to matt@otb-games.com, stating your credentials. But, please, not before the end of February, after the launch.

Bermuda Bowl Notice

All teams in the quarter-finals will play their matches today in the Open and Closed Rooms used in the round-robin last week.

Calling All Journalists

The IBPA Annual General Meeting and Annual Press Awards will be held on Wednesday November 2nd at 9 a.m. in the WBF meeting room (balcony floor).

World Championship Book 2005



The Official World Championship Book 2005, of these championships in Estoril, will be available next March. As always, we offer a substantial discount to anyone who would like to order and pay for their copy while at the championships.

On publication, the price will be US\$33 per copy plus postage. For the duration of these championships, you can order the book for US\$25 or Euros20, including postage (surface mail) to anywhere in the world. To order your copy, please see Jan Swaan in the Press Room on the ground floor of the building.

Principal analysts will be Eric Kokish, Barry Rigal and Brian Senior. There will be a complete listing of teams playing in all four championships, plus a full results listing and many photographs. Kokish will cover every board of the Bermuda Bowl and Venice Cup finals and there will be substantial coverage of the earlier stages, plus enhanced coverage of the Seniors Bowl and the best of the action from the Transnational Teams.

