



BULLETIN

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THE INTERNATIONAL BRIDGE PRESS ASSOCIATION

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This Bulletin is published monthly and circulated to around 400 members of the International Bridge Press Association comprising the world's leading journalists, authors and editors of news, books and articles about contract bridge, with an estimated readership of some 200 million people who enjoy the most widely played of all card games.

Nº 491

Year 2005

Date December 10

I BPA Personality of the Year Fred Gitelman (USA)



Photo: Ron Tacchi

Fred Gitelman receives his award from Patrick Jourdain

Our Personality of the Year is a fine player who is not only very well-liked, but who has also made a major contribution to bridge away from the table in the computer field, one that you will be seeing in front of you when play begins shortly.

As a player for Canada, he won a silver medal in the World Junior Teams Championship of 1991, losing to the USA in the final, and, in 1995, another silver in the Bermuda Bowl, again coming in second to the USA.

They say if you cannot beat them, join them, and a few years ago Fred moved from Toronto to Las Vegas and became eligible to represent the USA. Last year he won the Cavendish partnering Brad Moss, and this year the Spingold and US Trials, again partnering Moss, to become part of the USA2 team here in Estoril.

Fred is also the author of the book *Master Class* that made our shortlist for Book of the Year, but the contribution away from the table he is best known for is Bridge Base Online. BBO offers a free and valuable service to bridge players worldwide, including watching bridge live with excellent commentary. Tens of thousands of bridge players have benefited and are benefiting now from that service. In the last year, BBO has become the source of the Vugraph screen picture you will be seeing in a few moments. The few problems we have seen with the feed dropping are no fault of the service provider.

By now you should all have guessed who the man is, but I now ask him to come to the podium. Please give a warm welcome to FRED GITELMAN.

(From the presentation made by Patrick Jourdain at the World Championships.)

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The C & R Motors Best Played Hand of the Year

Brilliant Display Roy Welland, NYC

From IBPA Bulletin No. 484, p. 6



Photo: Ron Tacchi

Barry Rigal presents Roy Welland with the journalist's award for Best Played Hand of the Year

On the first deal of his team's match against the Roy Welland team, Bill Pettis managed to bring home a very difficult contract, playing it practically double dummy. His squad emerged with a 6 IMP win over the No. 3 seed, thanks in large measure to this deal. Pettis was playing with Frederick Allenspach against Roy Welland and Björn Fallenius.

Dealer South. Neither Vul.

♠ 7 4 3
♥ K 5 4
♦ A Q 9 7 5 3
♣ 6

♠ A K Q 10 8
♥ 6
♦ K 4
♣ K 5 4 3 2

♠ J 9 5 2
♥ Q 10 8 7
♦ J 10 8
♣ 9 8

♠ 6
♥ A J 9 3 2
♦ 6 2
♣ A Q J 10 7

West	North	East	South
Welland	Allenspach	Fallenius	Pettis
—	—	—	1 ♥
1 ♠	2 ♠	Pass	4 ♥
Double	Pass	4 ♠	Pass
Pass	5 ♥	Pass	Pass
Pass			

Welland started with two high spades. Pettis ruffed the second round. At trick three, he played the club ace, followed by the club queen. Welland did not cover, so Pettis discarded dummy's last spade. Welland again refused to cover when

Pettis played the club jack, so he discarded a diamond from dummy.

Fallenius ruffed the club and offered an unhelpful ruff-sluff by playing the jack of spades. Pettis pitched a club from hand as he ruffed the spade in dummy. A heart went to the nine in declarer's hand, then Pettis finessed the queen of diamonds, cashed the diamond ace and ruffed a diamond to hand, leaving this end position:

♠ —	♠ —
♥ K	♥ Q 10 8
♦ 9 7	♦ —
♣ —	♣ —
♠ Q	♠ —
♥ —	♥ Q 10 8
♦ —	♦ —
♣ K 5	♣ —
♠ —	♠ —
♥ A J	♥ —
♦ —	♦ —
♣ 10	♣ —

Pettis ruffed the ten of clubs with the heart king as Fallenius underruffed, leaving the lead in dummy for the contract-fulfilling trump coup. Had Pettis gone down in his contract (four hearts was successful at the other table), his team would have lost the match.

The other finalists were:

Walid el-Ahmady in 6♠, Bulletin No. 479, p. 9, reported by Brent Manley

Sabine Auken in 6♥, Bulletin No. 480, p. 4, reported by Sabine Auken

Fulvio Fantoni in 6♥, Bulletin No. 482, p. 12, reported by Mark Horton

ZY Shih in 6♣, Bulletin No. 485, p. 6, reported by Eric Kokish

Fred Gitelman in 6♦, Bulletin No. 486, p. 14, reported by Tim Bourke

The Romex Best Bid Hand of the Year

Bridge with the Hackett Family Paul Hackett, Manchester

(With permission from the Sunday Express, April 17, 2005.) From IBPA Bulletin No. 486, p. 7

Dealer East. NS Vul.

♠ A 5
♥ K J 8 2
♦ Q 6 5
♣ A Q 6 5

♠ Q 10 7
♥ 10
♦ 10 7 2
♣ K 10 8 7 4 3

♠ J 9 8 6 4 3
♥ Q 4 3
♦ J
♣ J 9 2

♠ K 2
♥ A 9 7 6 5
♦ A K 9 8 4 3
♣ —

West	North	East	South
	Justin Hackett		Jason Hackett
—	—	Pass	1 \diamond
Pass	1 \heartsuit	1 \spadesuit	5 \clubsuit ¹
Pass	5 \spadesuit ²	Pass	6 \clubsuit ³
Pass	7 \diamond ⁴	Pass	Pass ⁵
Pass			

1. Exclusion Key Card Blackwood
2. 2 key cards outside clubs, no heart queen
3. Anything extra?
4. You bet! Could we play diamonds, perhaps?
5. Of course we could!

We recently played in the invitational White House tournament, held in Utrecht, Holland. It was a superb tournament, with top teams and attractive cash prizes. All the invited teams were taken out to an excellent dinner on the Saturday night. This was one of the most interesting deals from the tournament.



Photo: Ron Tacchi

The Hacketts, père et fils, receive their awards for Best Bid Hand of the Year from Barry Rigal

Often a failure to bid can provide as many clues in the play as a bid itself. This is the case in this deal, where East's decision to enter the bidding on the second round proved very expensive. East's overcall of one spade was questionable, given he didn't particularly want a spade lead from partner, and that it helped South out in the bidding and the play.

West led his partner's suit and, of course, finding the heart queen was the key to the hand. South won the spade in hand and played a low diamond to the queen in case East had all the outstanding diamonds, and ruffed a club.

He drew trumps and crossed to the spade ace, played the ace of clubs, then ruffed a club. Now, knowing East had five or six spades, one diamond, and three or more clubs, South consulted the East-West system card. He ascertained that East would have opened two spades to show five spades and a four-card minor and 4-9 points. Since he had not opened two spades, six spades, three clubs and one diamond left East with three hearts.

South duly led a low heart from hand, thrilled to see the ten appear. He won the heart king and now finessed East's heart queen for a well-deserved thirteen tricks and a 19 IMP swing.

The other finalists were:

- Peter Boyd-Steve Robinson to 7 \heartsuit , Bulletin No. 486, p.11, reported by Richard Colker
- Geoff Hampson-Eric Greco to 5 \clubsuit , Bulletin No. 486, p. 13, reported by Donna Compton
- David Berkowitz-Larry Cohen to 5 \spadesuit , Bulletin No. 486, p. 14, reported by Donna Compton
- Fred Gitelman-Brad Moss to 6NT, Bulletin No. 487, p. 4, reported by Tim Bourke

The ITES Best Defended Hand of the Year

Defensive Wizardry
Donna Compton, Dallas
From IBPA Bulletin No. 486, p. 14



Photo: Ron Tacchi

Dilip Gidwani presents the ITES Award for Best Defence of the Year to journalist Donna Compton and defenders Bart Bramley and Mark Feldman

On this deal, a candidate for the best defence of the year, declarer committed a slight inaccuracy, but it is my view that the defense deserved to beat the game for their efforts. What do you think?

Board 26. Dealer West. Both Vul.
(rotated 180 degrees)

\spadesuit 9 4 2
 \heartsuit A K J 9 4
 \diamond 2
 \clubsuit A 8 7 6

\spadesuit A 8	\spadesuit 10 7 6 5 3
\heartsuit 10 7 3	\heartsuit Q 8 5
\diamond Q J 8 4 3	\diamond 10 7 6
\clubsuit J 5 2	\clubsuit Q 9

\spadesuit K Q J
 \heartsuit 6 2
 \diamond A K 9 5
 \clubsuit K 10 4 3

West	North	East	South
Pass	1 \heartsuit	Pass	2 \clubsuit
Pass	3 \clubsuit	Pass	3 NT
Pass	Pass	Pass	

Bart Bramley led the diamond jack, promising the queen. Let us look at the deal and speculate about how many tricks you expect declarer to come to.

Well, there are clearly nine tricks available by dislodging the spade ace before playing on hearts, but let us see what happened at the table.

Roy Welland ducked the opening lead, won the next diamond, pitching a spade from dummy, and led to his heart ace – he could see the danger in taking the heart finesse. Now he planned to duck a club to West, win the return, and drive out the spade ace. But when he led a low club from dummy, Mark Feldman played the queen!

It was not safe to duck this, so Welland won and crossed to the heart king (hoping that the fall of the ten or queen would make his life easy). No luck there; so he played a spade to his king – and Bramley ducked!

Now declarer played two more rounds of clubs and committed the very slight error of leaving his own hand with the re-entry when he saw that West was about to win the third club (it seemed irrelevant to him, since he knew East had the spade ace). In this position:

<p>♠ 9 ♥ J 9 4 ♦ — ♣ 6</p> <p>♠ A ♥ 10 ♦ Q 8 4 ♣ —</p> <p>♠ Q J ♥ — ♦ K 9 ♣ 10</p>	<p>♠ 10 7 6 ♥ Q ♦ 7 ♣ —</p>
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The defence had two tricks in, and Bramley now led a heart to his partner's queen for the diamond switch. When declarer won and played a second spade, Bramley had the rest.

The other finalists were:

- Tarek Sadek-Walid el-Ahmady to 3NT, Bulletin 479, p. p, reported by Brent Manley
- Richie Pavlicek-Richard Pavlicek to 3NT, Bulletin No. 481, p. 13, reported by Brent Manley
- Doron Yadlin-Israeli Yadlin to 5♦ doubled, Bulletin No. 483, p. 2, reported by Lex de Groot
- Ross Harper-Paul Hackett to 4♠, Bulletin No. 486, p. 6, reported by Paul Hackett

The Brazilian Best Junior Deal of the Year Presented by *Revista Brasileira de Bridge*

10th World Junior Team Championship, Sydney Olympic Park, August 7-17, 2005

Brian Senior, Nottingham
(From the WJTC Daily Bulletins)
From IBPA Bulletin No. 488, p. 14

Sports leagues are fond of naming a 'Most Valuable Player'; FIFA has its 'Footballer of the Year'. A case can be made for naming Joe Grue of USA1 as 'Bridger of the Year' or, at the

least, MVP of the 2005 World Junior Bridge Team Championships. See if you agree.



Photo: Ron Tacchi

Ernesto d'Orsi presents the Junior Deal of the Year Award to Joe Grue, player, and Brian Senior, journalist

Following is a deal Grue declared during the Championship against Canada in the Round Robin.

Board 17. Dealer North. Neither Vul.

<p>♠ A K J 10 5 ♥ Q 9 2 ♦ Q J 10 ♣ Q 9</p> <p>♠ 9 ♥ A 10 6 5 ♦ K 8 7 4 ♣ A K 6 3</p> <p>♠ 7 6 4 3 ♥ K J 8 3 ♦ A 9 6 5 ♣ 5</p>	<p>♠ Q 8 2 ♥ 7 4 ♦ 3 2 ♣ J 10 8 7 4 2</p>
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West	North	East	South
Demuy	Grue	Wolpert	Kranyak
—	1 NT	Pass	2 ♣
Pass	2 ♠	Pass	3 ♣
Pass	3 NT	Pass	4 ♠
Double	Pass	Pass	Pass
West	North	East	South
Wooldridge	Grainger	Hurd	Lavee
—	1 ♠	Pass	3 ♥
Pass	3 NT	Pass	4 ♣
Double	4 ♠	Pass	Pass
Pass			

There is an inescapable loser in each suit and so Demuy's double gained 2 IMPs for his side, right? Wrong! Grainger was given no chance to make his four spade contract when Hurd led the club jack to Wooldridge's ace and back came the nine of spades.

Grainger won the king, ruffed his club loser and played a second spade to the ace. Seeing that he had a spade to lose, he tried the diamond finesse and was one down for minus 50.

At the other table, Wolpert led a heart against four spades doubled and Demuy ducked it to Grue's nine. To trick two Grue led the jack of spades (!) from hand, trusting that the

spade had to be offside to justify Demuy's double. Had Wolpert gone in with his queen he could then have collected a heart ruff for down two, but he played low, not believing that anyone could play this way from Grue's actual holding. When the spade jack scored and West followed suit, Grue happily cashed the top spades and simply conceded one trick in each side-suit; a wonderful plus 590 and 12 IMPs to USAI.

The other finalists were:

Jenny Ryman in 4♥, Bulletin No. 480, p. 3, reported by Brent Manley

Vincent Demuy in 4♠, Bulletin No. 485, p. 12, reported by Richard Colker

Joe Grue in 6♥, Bulletin No. 488, p. 15, reported by Brian Senior

Krzysztof Buras in 3NT, Bulletin 489, p. 11, reported by Ron Klinger

The Master Point Press Book of the Year

The Principle of Restricted Talent and Other Bridge Stories

by Danny Kleinman & Nick Straguzzi

Readers of The Bridge World will already be familiar with the acerbic Chthonic, the self-confessed world's greatest bridge player. Fifteen of the 21 stories in this delightful book previously appeared in its pages; the other six are new.

In his Foreword to the book, Jeff Rubens professes that for him, "...the holy grail consists of humorous pieces that meet the exacting general standards that readers demand of the magazine's articles: technically sound bidding and play, deals of interest to accomplished or improving players, and a high ratio of bridge to total content."

Despite stiff competition, The Principle of Restricted Talent was a clear winner in our jury's collective opinion. The bridge deals are intriguing and the witty dialogue brings to mind another great book from 1976, *Bridge with a Perfect Partner* by PF Saunders.

Here is a sample of the dialogue:

Chapter 14 - Auction Bridge

'That stupid robot of yours is totally out of control!' I barked as I returned to the lab from my lunch break.

Marty MacLain, my co-worker, was sitting at her workbench, finishing a cup of yogurt and watching her favorite Webcast soap opera, *Silicon Valley Heartache*. 'I only built him, Mike,' she reminded me. 'You wrote all his software. What did Chthonic do now?'

Angrily, I held up a printout of a webpage. 'Look what Lefkowitz in Optics found on eBay!'

Marty took one look and began giggling uncontrollably. The page showed an open auction from the popular online trading house. Near the bottom was a JPEG photo of me playing bridge, with a dunce cap digitally superimposed on my head. Above the photo was this auction description:

For Sale: bridge partner. Low mileage, lower intellect. Knows all popular systems and conventions; occasionally remembers them at the table. Drawback: human. Buyer pays all shipping costs and entry fees. For details contact Chthonic, Robotics Laboratory, Orttman Foundation for Scientific Advancement.

'Is there a problem, Michael?' came a voice from the far corner of the lab. Other than a single aluminum arm emanating from the right side of his square black chassis, Chthonic, the OFSA's renowned bridge-playing robot, had no outwardly human traits. Except for the ability to drive everyone around him crazy, of course.

I marched to the corner and waved the printout in front of his laser eye. 'This is ridiculous, C.!' I shouted.

'A thousand pardons,' he replied in the voice of the late British actor George Sanders, his favorite among the 3000 or so in his library. 'Unfortunately, eBay does not offer a Nitwits category, so I listed you under Garden Tools. Would you prefer I move you to Housewares?'

How about you de-list me entirely?'

'That would be impossible. You have already met your reserve price.'

The Alan Truscott Memorial Award for Special Achievement - Bill Bailey (USA) for Deep Finesse

IBPA has announced a new award this year, to be awarded periodically to a person who has made a significant contribution to bridge and bridge journalists. The first such award, named after our ex-President and ex-Chairman Alan Truscott, who died in September, goes to Bill Bailey for Deep Finesse, an invaluable tool for bridge writers and analysts everywhere.

The 2005 IBPA Honour Member of the Year - George Rosenkranz (Mexico)

IBPA has announced that George Rosenkranz of Mexico has been named the Honour Member for 2005. George has been a long-time supporter of the IBPA and its awards programme.

2006 IBPA Awards

The next World Championship is in Verona, Italy in June 2006, which throws a spanner into the works insofar as a Fall awards presentation is concerned. There are other possibilities:

- The European Championships in August (Warsaw)
- The World Junior Teams in August (Bangkok)
- The ACBL Fall Nationals in November (Honolulu)

If you have a preference or wish to suggest an alternative please contact the Awards Chairman,

barryrigal@mindspring.com



The 37th Bermuda Bowl

Brent Manley, Memphis, TN, Mark Horton, Romford, UK & Brian Senior, Nottingham, UK

(From the Daily Bulletins. Additional editing has taken place.)

There would be something for everyone in Estoril, Portugal for these championships: the Bermuda Bowl for open teams, the Venice Cup for women's teams, the Senior Bowl for the oldsters, all zonal team events for national teams; and for everyone else who had not already qualified for their country, the Transnational Teams, in which anyone could play with anyone else.

The flagship WBF event, the Bermuda Bowl, has been around since 1950, having been won almost exclusively by Italy or the USA. Only five other countries have won it, none more than twice (France). This edition was expected to be no different, with Italy established as the solid favourite, and the two USA teams given the best chance to unseat them. Astonishingly, despite Italy having won the Bowl 14 times, it had been 30 years since their last victory.

As the defending champions in the Bermuda Bowl, the USA I team captained by Sidney Lazard wanted to get off to a good start in the marathon that is the round-robin – 20-board matches against each of the other 21 teams in the event.

Day 1 The Kick-off

The Americans started with Argentina on Vugraph. Rising star Agustin Madala and Pablo Lambardi faced Jeff Meckstroth and Eric Rodwell. It was a shootout, with nearly 100 IMPs changing hands before the match was concluded. The South Americans scored first on the second board.

Match 1. Board 2. Dealer East. NS Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Freeman	Mooney	Nickell	Monseguer
—	—	1 ♣	1 ♦
1 ♠	Double	Pass	2 ♥
3 ♣	4 ♥	Pass	Pass
5 ♣	Double	Pass	Pass
Pass			

West	North	East	South
Madala	Meckstroth	Lambardi	Rodwell
—	—	1 ♣	1 ♦
1 ♠	2 ♣	Pass	2 ♥
Pass	4 ♥	Pass	Pass
Pass			

In the Closed Room, Dick Freeman's save against the vulnerable heart game was normal enough, and Nick Nickell played trumps for one loser to finish one down for minus 100. The problem was that four hearts is not a make with proper defence.

Madala could have assured defeat of the contract by leading his singleton diamond – he can put partner in with the ace of spades after winning the heart king to get his diamond ruff. Madala, however, started with a low spade, taking that entry out of partner's hand. Lambardi won with the spade ace and returned the suit, taken by Rodwell with the king. He needed to discard his jack of spades on the club ace, and the only way to get there was by playing a diamond.

After returning to hand with a club ruff, Rodwell played a low heart from hand. Madala rose with the heart king and led a low spade. Lambardi ruffed it with the trump ace and returned a diamond for one down. That was 5 IMPs to Argentina. They scored again on the next deal.

The Rematch

Match 3. Board 8. Dealer West. Neither Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Jansma	Bocchi	Verhees	Duboin
Pass	1 ♠	Pass	1 NT
Pass	2 ♦	Pass	3 ♠
Pass	4 ♠	Pass	Pass
Pass			

Louk Verhees started with the ten of hearts, ducked all around. He continued with the heart queen, ruffed by Bocchi. At trick three, Bocchi led a low club from hand and, when Verhees played low, Bocchi put in dummy's ten. Jan Jansma

won the king and exited with the jack of diamonds, taken by declarer with the ace.

Bocchi cashed the king of diamonds and ruffed the diamond five in dummy with the jack. Jansma discarded a club instead of over-ruffing, but there was nothing the defence could do. Jansma was eventually thrown in with the spade queen with a choice of leading into the club tenace in dummy, allowing Bocchi to discard his losing diamond, or playing a heart, which establishes dummy's king for the diamond pitch. That was plus 420 for Italy.

At the other table, de Wijs also played in four spades from the North seat. The play went along similar lines but, when de Wijs led a club from hand, Lauria as East put in the queen. De Wijs could still have succeeded (club ace, spade to ace, ace-king of diamonds, club), but without a peek he finished one down – 10 IMPs to Italy.

At the close of Day 1, England led the way on 58VP, followed by Italy-56, Argentina-54, USA2-53, Australia-52, Brazil-51, Chinese Taipei-51 and USA1-50. It was moderately surprising that only two European teams were in the top eight.

Day 2 Brothers in Arms

Match 6. Board 18. Dealer East. NS Vul.

♠ K 10 5 2
♥ A J 9 6 3
♦ A 7 5
♣ K

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

♠ 9 7 6 4
♥ 8 4
♦ 10 3
♣ J 10 9 4 3

West	North	East	South
Rodwell	Greco	Meckstroth	Hampson
—	—	Pass	Pass
1 ♣	Double	1 ♦	1 ♠
1 NT	Pass	3 NT	Pass
Pass	Pass		

Greco's double showed the majors, and Rodwell's one no trump rebid showed a better hand than a one no trump opener (14-16). With his five-card diamond suit, Meckstroth did not hesitate in bidding the game.

Greco started with a low heart, taken by Rodwell with the king in hand to keep the entry to dummy intact. On the low diamond from Rodwell, Greco played the diamond ace and cleared the heart suit with the ace and another. Rodwell ran diamonds, discarding the spade jack from his hand while watching South's discards. On the play of the last diamond, Rodwell discarded a club from his hand. Holding the singleton spade ace and the ace-queen-seven-five of clubs, Rodwell knew South was down to one spade and four clubs.

Based on the bidding and the play to that point, Rodwell knew North had at most one club. Making sure of his contract. Rodwell played a spade to the ace, removing South's last spade, and then played the ace of clubs. Even if North followed low, Rodwell could be sure of another club trick by playing a low club from hand. South could win and cash the club king, but would then have to play a club to Rodwell's queen on the final trick.

As it happened, Greco's club king fell under the ace and Rodwell could claim a very well-played game contract.

At the other table, Rubin and Ekeblad were less ambitious – and less successful in the play. They declared three diamond – on the eight of hearts lead, they lost two red aces, two black kings and a heart ruff. Minus 50 meant 10 IMPs to USA1.

This was the table at the end of Day 2:

1.	Italy	120
2.	Egypt	114
3.	Brazil	104
4.	USA2	99
5.	Argentina	98
6.	China	97
=7.	Portugal	94
=7.	Japan	94

Day 3 Back on Track by Mark Horton

An important match was in prospect. Brazil, still third despite their heavy loss to Egypt on Day 2, would be hoping to get back to their winning ways; so too their opponents, Australia, who had dropped out of the qualification zone after successive defeats by Italy and Argentina. The match got off to an explosive start.

Match 7. Board 1. Dealer North. Neither Vul.

♠ 10 9 8 7 5 4 2
♥ 5 4
♦ J 4 2
♣ 9

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

♠ K J 6
♥ 9 2
♦ Q 5 3
♣ Q 8 6 5 4

West	North	East	South
Villas Boas	Marston	Chagas	Thomson
—	Pass	2 NT	Pass
3 ♦	Pass	4 ♥	Pass
4 NT	Pass	5 ♣	Pass
5 ♦	Pass	5 ♠	Pass
6 ♣	Pass	7 ♥	Pass
Pass	Pass		

South led the two of hearts and declarer won in hand and, after a few moments of thought, cashed the top diamonds and ruffed a diamond high, claiming plus 1510 when the suit divided 3-3.

West	North	East	South
Nunn	de Mello	Hans	Janz
—	Pass	2 NT	Pass
3 ♠	Pass	4 ♠	Pass
4 NT	Pass	5 ♠	Pass
5 ♠	Pass	6 ♠	Pass
7 ♥	Pass	Pass	Pass

North led the ten of spades and declarer put up dummy's ace, crossed to the king of hearts, cashed the ace of clubs ... and continued with the king. North ruffed to give Brazil 17 IMPs.

The best line? If clubs can be 5-1, then so could diamonds, so Chagas's line was certainly the luckier choice. Discussion surrounded the drawing of a second trump. If they are 2-2 you are in a very strong position, and if they are 3-1, you can make a decision about drawing the last trump or immediately starting to ruff things. The trouble with that is that a 3-1 break will be awkward whichever way round it happens. Our conclusion is that the operation was a success but the patient died.

England v. USA2

Ronnie Rubín played expertly to bring home a good slam on the following deal.

Match 8. Board 3. Dealer South. EW Vul.

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

Jason and Justin Hackett bid to three no trump and made nine tricks on a spade lead when the diamonds failed to break.

The bidding at the other table was long and involved, starting with South's strong one club. Rubín eventually became declarer in six diamonds from the South seat. The opening lead was a spade: the queen was covered by the king, and 12 tricks would have been easy if diamonds were divided 3-2 or the jack fell singleton. The ace of diamonds and a diamond to the king revealed the 4-1 split, but Rubín still had plenty of ammunition.

He played the queen of hearts and a heart to the ace, followed by the heart king, on which he discarded dummy's spade. Now a spade ruff was followed by the jack of clubs to the king and ace. Rubín cashed the club queen, leaving this position:

♠ —	♠ 10
♥ —	♥ J
♦ Q 10 9	♦ —
♣ 8	♣ 10
♠ J 8	♠ 9 7
♥ —	♥ 4
♦ J 7	♦ —
♣ —	♣ 6

Rubín played the spade from hand, ruffing, then got off dummy with his club. Whoever won the trick would have to play to dummy's diamond tenace; plus 920 and 11 IMPs to USA2.

Day 3 ended with only small changes at the top of the table. Australia replaced Japan in the last qualifying spot. Italy and Egypt were still 1-2 and minor shuffling took place among the next few teams.

Day 4

Portugal v. China by Mark Horton

Match 10. Board 8. Dealer West. Neither Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Castanheiro	Fu	Pessoa	Zhao
1 NT	Pass	3 NT	Pass
Pass	Pass		

North led the king of hearts and continued with the queen, West ducking twice. Now Fu realized there was no future in hearts, so he switched to the two of spades. South took the ace and was not tempted to go back to hearts, returning the nine of spades.

West put in the jack and cunningly discarded the two of clubs. North won with the queen and completed a spectacular effort by switching to a diamond. One down, plus 50 and thunderous applause from the appreciative audience.

West	North	East	South
Dai	Paz	Yang	Luis
1 ♠	2 ♥	Double	2 ♠
Pass	3 ♥	4 ♣	Pass
Pass	Pass		

East/West stopped in a safe contract. South led a heart, declarer winning in dummy and playing the king of diamonds. North won, cashed a heart and switched to a trump. Declarer won, cashed the queen of diamonds, ruffed a diamond, ruffed a heart, ruffed a diamond and claimed plus 130, which was worth 5 IMPs.

With 12 of 21 matches complete, the standings were:

1.	Italy	238
2.	Egypt	210
3.	Argentina	207
4.	USA2	202
5.	USA1	196
6.	Brazil	195
7.	Japan	193
=8.	Canada	192
=8.	China	192

Day 5
Italy v. Egypt

Match 13. Board 5. Dealer North. NS Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Dagher	Fantoni	el-Kourdy	Nunes
—	1 ♦	Pass	2 ♣
Pass	2 ♠	Pass	2 NT
Pass	3 ♦	Pass	3 NT
Pass	Pass	Pass	

Dagher led a low heart. When Nunes ducked the heart queen and king, he was doomed. El-Kourdy cleared the suit with a third round, and when Dagher came in with the club king, he had two hearts to cash for one down.

West	North	East	South
Versace	el-Ahmady	Lauria	Sadek
—	1 ♦	Pass	1 ♥
Pass	1 ♠	Pass	1 NT
Pass	2 ♣	Pass	3 ♥
Pass	3 NT	Pass	Pass
Pass			

Sadek did better. Versace also started with the heart five to the jack, queen and four. When Lauria continued with the heart king, Sadek considered his play for some time before correctly winning the ace. He then played the ace of clubs and a club to Versace's king, and when Versace switched to the spade seven, it was clear that Lauria had the heart nine or ten – Versace obviously did not hold both.

Accordingly, Sadek won the spade continuation with the ace, cashed the club queen, played a club to the ten and led the heart three from hand. What could the Italians do? If Versace went up with the ten, Sadek's eight would be the ninth trick. So he had to duck. Now when Lauria won the heart nine, he had the option of leading into a tenace in diamonds or spades. Either way, Sadek had nine tricks for plus 600 and a 12-IMP gain. Sadek couldn't hear it, but the Vugraph audience burst into applause on the play of the heart three.

Master of Psychology by Mark Horton

Playing on Vugraph can be a nerve-racking experience, especially when you realize that you are being watched not just by the audience in the theatre but also by several thousand online spectators. Under those circumstances it takes an awful lot of courage to adopt a psychological line of play as opposed to taking a genuine chance. Take a look at this deal from the match between Japan and England.

Match 15. Board 8. Dealer West. Neither Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Jason	Furuta	Justin	Chen
Pass	1 ♥	Double	3 ♥
Pass	Pass	4 ♠	Pass
Pass	Pass		

In the other room, where North had opened a strong no trump, East had contented himself with an overcall of two spades. He made three, so some IMPs were sure to change hands, whatever the result in this room.

South led the three of spades and declarer put up dummy's ten, covered with the jack, although he may have done better to play the six, giving declarer the entry he needed to take the losing club finesse. Justin won in hand and played off his trumps. This was the seven-card ending:

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

North's discards of the four and five of clubs convinced Justin that the queen of clubs was not going to fall, so instead of cashing the ace and king he tried a very cunning jack of clubs!! It's easy to say that South should not have been caught out, but when he played the seven declarer had achieved a spectacular coup – and on Vugraph to boot!

There had not been a lot of movement in the top nine from the day before. However, Sweden and Portugal had replaced Japan and Brazil in the lower half of the qualifying eight, but only 17 VPs separated eleventh place from third. With six matches to go, it was time to round into form for teams with playoff aspirations.

Day 6

Elegant Defence. Italy v. USA2

Match 18. Board 4. Dealer West. Both Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Duboin	Moss	Bocchi	Gitelman
Pass	1 ♠	Pass	2 ♥
Pass	3 ♥	Pass	3 ♠
Pass	3 NT	Pass	4 ♥
Pass	5 ♣	Pass	5 ♥
Pass	Pass	Pass	

West	North	East	South
Hampson	Fantoni	Greco	Nunes
Pass	1 ♠	Pass	2 ♥
Pass	3 ♥	Pass	4 ♣
Pass	4 ♠	Pass	5 ♥
Pass	Pass	Pass	

To expert players, both auctions made it clear that neither North nor South had a control in diamonds, so the opening lead of a low diamond by West stood out – and it was the killer both times. The two Easts – Norberto Bocchi and Eric Greco – won with their king at trick one and returned the suit, earning a trump promotion for the defence with a third round of the suit. That was one down at both tables.

To Double or Not to Double?

On the following deal, in many matches, East found a double of seven spades, only to discover that he couldn't beat seven no trump when North (usually) bid that.

However, when USA2 and Italy played the deal, Greco doubled seven spades after a long, tortuous auction, prompting Fantoni to pull to seven no trump. At the other table, the double came at a different spot in the auction, and that made a huge difference in the outcome.

Match 18. Board 14. Dealer East. Neither Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Duboin	Moss	Bocchi	Gitelman
—	—	Pass	1 ♠
Pass	2 ♣	Pass	2 NT
Pass	3 ♠	Pass	4 ♦
Pass	4 ♥	Pass	4 NT
Pass	5 ♣	Double	5 ♦
Pass	5 ♥	Pass	5 NT
Pass	7 ♠	Pass	Pass
Pass			

Bocchi's double of the response to Blackwood was a clever ruse, and it appears Gitelman did not consider that it might be a void. The club lead sank the grand and gave Italy a 17-IMP swing.

With only one day (three matches) to go to complete the round robin, it looked like no one but Italy was a certain qualifier: only 25 Victory Points (one match) separated second from fourteenth place. The top nine were:

1.	Italy	333
2.	China	293
=3.	USA2	291
=3.	Egypt	291
5.	USA1	289
6.	Netherlands	288
7.	Argentina	287
8.	Brazil	283
9.	India	282

As you can see, it was desperately close, with India, currently not in a qualifying spot, only 11 VP out of second place. Eight more teams were within striking distance. Only five teams were too far distant to have a realistic shot at eighth place, the final qualifying spot.

Day 7

Playing from Hunger by Barry Rigal

Ramadan requires the devout Muslim not to eat between sunrise and sunset. Walid el-Ahmady seems to be thriving in this unorthodox approach to bridge - the Egyptians are frequent visitors to the late rounds of World Championships in recent years - they also reached the knockout stage in the Istanbul Olympiad.

This deal occurred in Egypt's match against the Netherlands.

Match 20. Board 9. Dealer North. EW Vul.

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

El-Ahmady, North, reached three no trump after a one heart overcall by Louk Verhees, East. El-Ahmady won the opening lead of the heart king with the ace - a club switch after two rounds of hearts would sink the contract, although very difficult to find without a peek at North's hand.

In any event, el-Ahmady played the diamond jack to the ace and ran the diamond eight, then took three more diamonds. Verhees did the best he could, discarding deceptively - pitching a club, a spade and a heart to reach this position:

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

On the last diamond, Verhees discarded the spade nine, trying to look like a man still holding three clubs and a singleton spade ace. Now declarer had a losing option: he could finesse in clubs, then exit with a spade to the hoped-for singleton ace, and take the club ace-queen at the end, after East had cashed his heart winners. El-Ahmady was up to it, however: he played the club jack to dummy's queen, cashed the ace, felling the king, and claimed his game for plus 400.

Battle Royal. Italy v. USA1

Match 21. Board 6. Dealer East. EW Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Hamman	Bocchi	Soloway	Duboin
—	—	1 NT	Pass
2 ♣	Pass	2 ♠	Pass
4 ♠	Pass	Pass	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 plus 650.

West	North	East	South
Versace	Rodwell	Lauria	Meckstroth
—	—	1 NT	Pass
2 ♦	Pass	2 ♥	Pass
3 ♥	Pass	4 ♣	Pass
4 ♥	Pass	4 ♠	Pass
Pass	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; minus 100 and 13 IMPs for USA1 - as a result of Meckstroth's good lead and subsequent strong defence.

The round robin ended with few surprises, chief among them being that only two European teams made it into the top eight - a tribute to the competitive nature of bridge worldwide. Indeed, five zones would be represented in the quarterfinals. The final table:

1.	Italy	368
2.	USA2	348
3.	USA1	347
4.	Sweden	344
5.	India	344
6.	Argentina	339
7.	Egypt	339
8.	Brazil	334

Another day more or less might have seen quarterfinals with a totally different complexion. Indeed, China had dropped from second to tenth in one day (and from fourth to tenth in their last match), while India had done almost the opposite, climbing from fifteenth to fifth in two days. Only a little more than a match back were another TEN teams which did not make it. Japan finished ninth, 6 VP behind Brazil, and although they undoubtedly felt they should have made it, they were far enough back not to commit seppuku. Only six teams had not been in the top eight at some point in the competition.

The Quarterfinals

As is usual these days, Italy were compelled to chose their opponent from among the teams finishing fifth through eighth and picked India. Next, USA2 chose Argentina and then USA1 picked Brazil. That left Sweden, as fourth-place finisher, to deal with Egypt, the team no one wanted to face.

The following deal was the most talked-about of the quarterfinals, perhaps of the tournament.

Case Closed by David Berkowitz

QF3. Board 10. Dealer East. Both Vul.

<p>♠ — ♥ A 6 4 3 ♦ A K 9 8 3 2 ♣ Q J 2</p> <p>♠ — ♥ K J 10 9 7 ♦ J 10 ♣ 9 7 6 5 4 3</p> <p>♠ A K J 10 9 8 6 3 2 ♥ — ♦ Q 7 5 ♣ A</p>	<p>♠ Q 7 5 4 ♥ Q 8 5 2 ♦ 6 4 ♣ K 10 8</p>
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Watching board 10 of the Bermuda Bowl match between USA2 and Argentina, third set, on Vugraph, could drive an analyst to drink.

West	North	East	South
Gitelman	Palazzo	Moss	Fornasari
—	—	Pass	2 ♣
Pass	3 ♦	Pass	5 NT
Pass	7 ♣	Pass	7 ♦
?			

First of all, after the above auction, should Fred Gitelman (West) double with a spade void? He did not, and was soon minus 2140 for a spectacular push.

Barnet Shenkin and I were speculating about what South should do if seven diamonds doubled got back to him. Originally, we thought he should run to seven spades, playing partner for one spade. Then we thought, heck, he should redouble, after all, how will the opponents know to lead a spade? Case closed?

Almost closed. What if the opening leader had both rounded-suit kings? Then he would know South's suit was spades and he would lead one, so South should run. Case closed?

Almost closed. How should South know his partner has a spade? It must be a guess. Case closed?

Almost closed. We now get to the crux of the matter. North is looking at a spade void and the heart ace. He knows that partner has spades and that there is a double void. It is North who must redouble to spare South the guess. Case closed.

There were no surprises in the quarterfinals and none of the matches was close.

Italy	272	-	India	192
USA2	250	-	Argentina	198
USA I	243	-	Brazil	141
Sweden	268	-	Egypt	157

The Conditions of Contest mandated that the two USA teams would meet in the semifinals. The teams that had finished 1-2 in last year's European Championship would contest the

other. If these were not the four best teams in the world, they were certainly close to it.

The Semifinals

That's Entertainment. USA1 v. USA2

SF2. Board 11. Dealer South. Neither Vul.

<p>♠ — ♥ A 10 9 6 5 2 ♦ 10 9 8 4 2 ♣ A 7</p>	<p>♠ A 8 7 4 ♥ K 8 ♦ J 7 3 ♣ Q 8 4 3</p> <p>♠ — ♥ Q J 3 2 ♦ J 7 ♦ K Q 6 5 ♣ 10 6 5</p> <p>♠ K 10 9 6 5 ♥ Q 4 3 ♦ A ♣ K J 9 2</p>
--	--

West	North	East	South
Hampson	Nickell	Greco	Freeman
—	—	—	1 ♠
2 ♠	3 ♦	Pass	3 ♠
Pass	Pass	Pass	

Hampson led the heart ace and continued with a heart to the king, and Freeman was soon claiming ten tricks for plus 170.

West	North	East	South
Rodwell	Ekeblad	Meckstroth	Rubin
—	—	—	2 ♣
2 ♥	Double	Redouble	2 ♠
3 ♦	4 ♠	Pass	Pass
Pass			

Rubin's two club opening and subsequent rebid of spades described his hand to a tee (the system, as reported by the Vugraph commentators, is the creation of Russ Ekeblad).

Rodwell got the defence off to the best start with the diamond ten. Rubin won the ace perforce and played a spade, stopping for a long study when Rodwell discarded a heart. He eventually went up with the ace, ending his chances of making the contract as long as the defenders did not err.

Rubin played a club to the king and Rodwell's ace, ruffing the diamond return. He then played a club to the queen in dummy and ruffed dummy's last diamond. This was the position:

<p>♠ — ♥ A 10 9 6 ♦ 9 2 ♣ —</p>	<p>♠ 8 7 4 ♥ K 8 ♦ — ♣ 8</p> <p>♠ Q J 3 ♥ J 7 ♦ 6 ♣ —</p> <p>♠ K 10 ♥ Q 4 3 ♦ — ♣ 9</p>
---	---

Now he played a heart to the king in dummy and another heart, covering the jack with the queen. Rodwell could have let the contract through if he had played a diamond – declarer ruffs, discards his club, then on the play of dummy's club, declarer discards the heart if East splits his spade honors, taking the final two tricks with the spade king-ten. Rodwell accurately continued with the ten of hearts, however, and now it was up to Meckstroth to do the right thing - discard his diamond instead of overruffing. Rubin was down to two trumps in each hand, and he had to lose two of the last three tricks for minus 50.

That Sinking Feeling by Mark Horton

Bridge is close to being unique in so far as at any given moment you have no idea of the score in your match. Of course, you may get a feel for the way things are going depending on the results at your table.

In the third session of the Bermuda Bowl semifinal between Sweden and Italy, the Swedish pair in the Closed Room must have thought they were scoring heavily, but in the other room their compatriots undoubtedly had a different view. The first board showed the aggressive style of both teams.

SF3. Board 1. Dealer North. Neither Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Versace	Lindkvist	Lauria	Fredin
—	1 ♥	1 ♠	2 ♥
Double	4 ♥	Pass	Pass
Pass			

East led the king of spades and West overtook it and played back the jack of spades. When that held he switched to a heart and declarer played low. East won and played the queen of spades. Declarer ruffed, played a club to the ace, a club to the king, ruffed a club with the ten of hearts and claimed plus 420.

West	North	East	South
Nyström	Bocchi	Bertheau	Duboin
—	1 ♥	1 ♠	2 ♥
2 ♠	3 ♣	Pass	4 ♥
Pass	Pass	Pass	

This time the defenders started with a more challenging three rounds of spades and declarer ruffed. He played a club to the ace, a club to the king and ruffed a club with the ten of hearts. Of course, it was entirely possible that West had refused to over-ruff with the king-nine fourth of hearts, but after due consideration declarer played a heart to the ace to flatten the board.

To my simplistic way of thinking, after ruffing the spade declarer should cross to dummy with a club and take the heart finesse.

There was a belief in some quarters that the young Americans would stand a better chance at halting the Italian juggernaut than their aging countrymen, but they would have to wait for another year for the chance to do so. The scoreline for the semifinals read:

Italy	205	-	Sweden	131
USA1	211	-	USA2	172

The Final

USA1 v. Italy. Action Packed

Board 14 from the second stanza was frustrating for USA1 partisans but a delight, in a way, for Italian rooters.

F2. Board 14. Dealer East. Neither Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Nunes	Rodwell	Fantoni	Meckstroth
—	—	1 NT	2 ♦
4 ♣	Pass	4 ♥	Pass
Pass	Pass		

Two diamonds was diamonds plus a major and four clubs was a transfer to hearts. Meckstroth started with the diamond queen (Rusinow), ducked. Fantoni won the continuation of the diamond king and, after long thought, played the jack of clubs and let it go. He could have prevailed had he continued with clubs, but he ruffed a spade in dummy to play a low heart. Rodwell went up with the king and accurately played back a diamond. That was ruffed in dummy, followed by a heart to the queen. Fantoni had to lead a club at that point, otherwise he would have been locked in dummy after picking up the trumps and forced to lead away from the club king. On the club lead from declarer, Meckstroth went up with the ace and played a fourth round of diamonds, promoting Rodwell's jack of hearts to the setting trick.

USA1 was in position for a nice gain thanks to overly aggressive bidding by Versace and Lauria, but they had to settle for less.

West	North	East	South
Freeman	Lauria	Nickell	Versace
—	—	1 ♦	1 ♠
2 ♥	2 NT	Pass	4 ♠
Pass	Pass	Double	Pass
Pass	Pass		

Freeman would have done best to lead his partner's suit - the club return through declarer's ace-queen would have been deadly. Freeman started with the ace of hearts, however, and continued with the heart two, advertising the club king. Versace studied the dummy at length before going up with the king, dropping Nickell's queen (Versace discarded a club from hand). On the play of the jack of hearts, Nickell ruffed with the two of spades. Versace over-ruffed and played the diamond king to Nickell's ace.

The jack of clubs went to Versace's ace, and he exited with the club queen to Freeman's king. Freeman could have ensured two down by continuing with a heart, giving declarer a useless ruff-sluff but allowing Nickell to ruff with the spade queen or king while he still had an out card. Instead, Freeman got out with a club, ruffed by Versace. Now declarer could cash two winning diamonds and ruff the last one in dummy, bringing Nickell down to the king-queen-ten of spades. All Versace had to do then was to play low from the ace-eight-seven of spades toward the jack in his hand to achieve one down. It was still a loss, but he should have been minus 300.

USA1 had taken an action-filled set, 37-33. There was a lot of bridge left to play, however.

The third set of the final was a quiet affair, with only 45 IMPs changing hands over the sixteen deals. Still, when these two sides meet there is always something to savour.

All Quiet on the Estoril Front by Mark Horton

F3. Board 1. Dealer North. Neither Vul.

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

♠ J
♥ K 10 8 7 5
♦ A 8
♣ K 9 5 4 3

West	North	East	South
Versace	Hamman	Lauria	Soloway
—	Pass	Pass	1 ♥
Double	Pass	1 ♠	Pass
2 ♥	Pass	3 ♥	Pass
4 ♠	Pass	Pass	Pass

In isolation, four spades is not much of a contract, but the cards were disposed in such a way as to give declarer a chance, especially as South had a difficult lead. (Perhaps the jack of spades is the least of four evils — but declarer can still prevail.)

Here the start was ace of diamonds, diamond, and declarer won in hand and played two top spades from dummy, South discarding a club. Then came two more spades, declarer taking the marked finesse as South pitched a heart and a club, then a heart, ducked to North's queen. Declarer won the diamond return, played a heart to the jack, cashed the ace of hearts

and exited with a heart to force South to make declarer a present of the club finesse; plus 420 - not a bad way to start the session for both declarer and the spectators.

West	North	East	South
Rodwell	Fantoni	Meckstroth	Nunes
—	Pass	Pass	2 ♥
Double	2 NT	Pass	3 ♣
Double	Pass	4 ♠	Pass
Pass	Pass		

South showed a limited heart-club two-suiter, but it did not stop his opponents reaching game - indeed, I doubt any method can be devised to halt the Meckwell train. South led ace and another diamond. Declarer won with dummy's king, cashed the top spades, played a diamond to the queen, took a winning club finesse, cashed the ace of clubs, played a spade to the nine, ruffed a club, cashed the ace of hearts and claimed; plus 420.

F3. Board 8. Dealer West. Neither Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Versace	Hamman	Lauria	Soloway
Pass	1 ♣	2 ♣	2 ♠
4 ♣	Pass	Pass	Double
Pass	4 ♠	Pass	Pass
Pass			

The pass and pull approach adopted by North usually suggests some slam interest, but the intervention had made life difficult and the American pair stopped in game. Declarer took eleven tricks; plus 450.

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

In the context of having at least five spades and 10+ points, South showed a minimum hand and an even number of key cards. West led a low club, and East won and returned the suit, forcing dummy to ruff. Declarer played a spade to the king, a heart to the ace, then a spade. When East discarded a club declarer won, crossed to the king of hearts and ruffed a heart with the jack of spades. When a diamond to the jack held declarer tabled his cards - he could draw the last trump and ruff a heart to establish his twelfth trick; plus 980 and 11 IMPs to Italy.

Little IMPs Mean a Lot

F5. Board 10. Dealer East. Both Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Freeman	Bocchi	Nickell	Duboin
—	—	1 ♣	1 ♠
Pass	2 ♣	Pass	2 ♥
Pass	2 NT	Pass	3 NT
Pass	Pass	Pass	

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

West	North	East	South
Nunes	Rodwell	Fantoni	Meckstroth
—	—	1 NT	Pass
Pass	Pass		

Fantoni bought it with his one no trump opening, and it looked as though he might go two down, perhaps three.

Meckstroth started with his fourth-best spade, ducked in dummy. It probably would have been better for Eric Rodwell to win with the ace and fire one back, giving Fantoni an entry to dummy to take the losing club finesse. Rodwell played the six, however, taken in hand by Fantoni. Declarer played the king of hearts to Rodwell's ace. Rodwell cashed the spade ace and thought about his next play for some time before getting out with the club four. Fantoni diagnosed this perfectly - Rodwell was unlikely to be giving Fantoni a shot at the club finesse if it was working.

Accordingly, Fantoni went up with the ace of clubs, asking for another look at Meckstroth's card when his king appeared. Now it was possible for Fantoni to make the contract against less-than-perfect defence. Fantoni cashed his hearts, forcing Rodwell to find two discards. He threw one club on the third heart, and he needed to throw another club on the last one, but he discarded a diamond. Again, Fantoni read the situation just right, exiting with a diamond. Now, whoever won the third round of diamonds was going to have to give Fantoni his seventh trick. Well played for plus 90 to hold the loss to 3 IMPs.

Final Round-up

The following deal illustrates two valuable principles which are sometimes at odds with one other: tactics and preemption. The American chose to make a tactical bid, the Italians a preemptive one.

F7. Board 8. Dealer West. Neither Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Nunes	Meckstroth	Fantoni	Rodwell
1 ♥	Pass	3 ♥	Double
4 ♥	4 ♠	Pass	Pass
Pass			

West	North	East	South
Nickell	Bocchi	Freeman	Duboin
1 ♥	Pass	1 NT	Double
Redouble	2 ♠	Pass	Pass
2 NT	3 ♠	4 ♥	Pass
Pass	Pass		

Fantoni made a preemptive raise to three hearts but this put momentum into the auction and his opponents bid on to four spades over four hearts.

Nunes won the heart lead and switched to a club. Meckstroth won and played a spade to his jack then ruffed the heart loser. Next he played the spade queen, which Nunes won with the ace. He cashed the ace of diamonds before putting dummy on play with a club. Meckstroth cashed the club winners but then had no way off the dummy so had to play the king of diamonds. Nunes' ruff meant that the contract was down one for minus 50. Nicely defended, but little consolation for the cold-on-the-lie-of-the-cards four hearts his way scored by Nickell after Freeman's tactical one no trump.

Summing Up

This time there were no last-board heroics for the Americans, and Italy ran out winners, 268-250 IMPs. Italy were quite clearly the best team in this event, dominating the round robin and defeating three solid teams in the knockout stage. Despite the match being close all the way, there was an air of inevitability to it all. No doubt the Americans would dispute that assertion, but despite being 20 IMPs down at the start due to carryover, Italy chipped away at that margin and pulled away at the end. They were 38 IMPs better over the 128 boards of the final.

That carry-forward was the result of their round robin match, won 107-40 by USA1. There was much discussion around whether Italy had intentionally taken some extra-aggressive and anti-percentage stances in order to try to knock out the team they felt was their main stumbling block to the title. The reason for the speculation was that with one match to play Italy had locked up first overall and the right to choose their opponents for the quarterfinals. USA1 was in no such

lofty position, essentially being in a six-way tie for third place, with another five teams hot on their heels, about half a match back. If Italy could inflict a bad defeat on USA I, they could perhaps knock them down to ninth or lower, and out of the competition. Only the Italians know for certain whether this was a factor in the match.

Anyway, congratulations to Italy and their supporters. There can be no doubt that all three of their pairs are among the world's top five, and further, that, as a group, they are currently the best team in the world and will remain so for as long as they choose to compete together. The final standings in the 2005 Bermuda Bowl were:

1. **Italy** - Fulvio Fantoni-Claudio Nunes; Alfredo Versce-Lorenzo Lauria; Girogio Duboin-Norberto Bocchi; Maria-Theresa Lavazza, NPC
2. **USA I** - Nick Nickell-Dick Freeman; Bob Hamman-Paul Soloway; Jeff Meckstroth-Eric Rodwell; Sidney Lazard, NPC
3. **USA2** - Brad Moss-Fred Gitelman; Russ Ekeblad-Ron Rubin; Eric Greco-Geoff Hampson; Steve Landen, NPC
4. **Sweden** - P.O. Sundelin-Johan Sylvan; Peter Bertheau-Fredrik Nyström; Peter Fredin-Magnus Lindqvist, Jan Kamras, NPC

The other events will be examined in future issues. The winners were France in the Venice Cup (Bénédicte Cronier-Sylvie Willard; Danièle Gaviard-Cathérine d'Ovidio; Nathalie Frey-Vanessa Reess), USA in the Senior Bowl (Alan Sontag-Peter Weichsel; Rose Meltzer-Garey Hayden; Lew Stansby-Roger Bates) and Peter Schneider-Grant Baze and Piotr Gawryś-Marcin Lesniewski in the Transnational Teams.

IBPA President's Report from Estoril, 2005

Although we had sad moments in Estoril, saying farewell to long-standing friends and supporters of the organisation, we had much to celebrate. The slow but steady decline in membership has been halted. We welcomed 22 new or rejoining members: Karen Allison (USA); Michael Cornell (NZ); Willie Coyle (Scotland); Heather Dhondy (UK); Antonio Eanes (Port); Joan Gerard (USA); Irving Gordon (Scot); Franco Gusso (Ven); Krzysztof Jassem (Pol); Danny Kleinman (USA); Bobby Levin (USA); Hans Metselaar (Net); John Mohan (USA); Bruce Neill (Australia); Derek Niederman (USA); Michael O'Connor (Ire); José Oliveira (Port); Peter Sisselaar (Net); Pieter Spruit (Net); Nick Straguzzi (USA); Robert Todd (USA-Fin) and Mike Whittaker (Eng).

We also welcomed a new sponsor for our Junior Deal of the Year Award, Ernesto d'Orsi and *Revista Brasileira de Bridge*. We congratulated an IBPA member and sponsor of our C&R Motors Hand of the Year Award, Rose Meltzer, on becoming the first woman to win the Senior Bowl. Four years ago she was the first woman to win the Bermuda Bowl, and in January 2000, she was the first woman to win the World Transnational, a remarkable trio of achievements. Other IBPA members I spotted winning medals were our Personality of the Year, Fred Gitelman (USA) in the Bermuda Bowl; Sabine Auken, Pony Nehmert, Carla Arnolds and Bep Vriend in the Venice Cup; Jens Auken, Flemming Dahl, Peter Lund, Steen & Kirsten

Møller, and Georg Norris in the Senior Bowl (yes, the whole of the Danish team have been IBPA members, though Kirsten has now retired); Björn Fallenius and Roy Welland in the Transnational; and several of the n.p.c.'s and coaches.

We recognised the passing of Alan Truscott by inaugurating a new Award called the Alan Truscott Memorial Award. This will be either an occasional award to recognise achievements outside our normal Award scheme, or, possibly, a regular Award for a Bridge Column or Bridge Website. We invite members' suggestions (send them to the President) on how the latter idea might be handled. One restriction would have to be that no person could win it twice. The first winner of the Truscott Award was Bill Bailey (USA) for Deep Finesse.

More than 50 members attended our AGM and Awards Ceremony at the early hour of 9 a.m. The main business was completed before the 10 a.m. start of play.

We held a successful dinner in honour of the retirement of our long-serving Membership Secretary, Stuart Staveley, and our Treasurer, Christer Andersson. Christer has been promoted to an important role in European Food Hygiene. Per Jannersten has been elected a Governor of the Rotary Club and takes on the less onerous job of Chairman. The former Chairman was Henry Francis who we saluted in his absence.

As new officers, we welcomed Mario Dix who takes over the joint responsibility of Treasurer and Membership Secretary; and Dilip Gidwani, sponsor of our ITES Defence Award, as Organisational Vice-President. In due time Dilip will take over responsibility for our website from Per Jannersten.

We thank the WBF both for their annual grant, and for the hospitality following their Press Conference.

Any problems arose from the presence of something like 80 of our members at the Championships (more than a fifth of our worldwide membership). This meant extra work for our Press Room Manager, Jan Swaan, who coped admirably (call him hard-Pressed); and, at busy times, shortage of space and computers (the Press-ure Room?). It was very necessary and welcome that non-members had their own room for connecting to the internet.

Patrick Jourdain, President, IBPA

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