



BULLETIN

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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.

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Editorial

Bridge has truly hit the big time. No, I do not mean bridge has been admitted to the Olympic Games. However, bridge is now listed on at least two sports betting sites! The sites are PAF, www.paf.com/betting, an organisation with offices in Finland, Sweden, Estonia and Spain, and Unibet, a Spanish betting site resident in Malta at <https://es.unibet.com/betting> and the Bermuda Bowl is the game. Italy is, no surprise, the favourite at 2:1; on both sites USA1 is next at 13:4 and 4:1 respectively. Sweden, The Netherlands and Poland are listed at 15:2, 8:1 17:2 on PAF and all three are at 15:2 on Unibet; USA2 is at 10:1 and 15:1 respectively; Brazil and Israel are at 12:1 on both sites and Bulgaria is at 15:1. China is at 25:1 and Egypt, India and Iceland are at 75:1. Everyone else goes off at 500:1.

While you may believe that, for example, Bulgaria is a better bet than Israel, the fact of the matter is that these are very realistic odds, at least in relation to one another. However, there is a caveat – the “vigorish”, the amount charged by the bookmaker for his services. In North American football, for example, if you lose a \$100 bet, you pay off at \$110, but win at \$100. That is 10% of the losing bets or 5% of the sum of the bets, a very reasonable proposition for the punter. And, what's more, the vigorish is quite transparent.

It's quite a different matter for “league” betting, when you bet on one of many teams to win a league (e.g., the Bermuda Bowl) and the vigorish is hidden in the odds. There, to calculate the vigorish, you need a basic knowledge of the relation that odds have to probability. It's really quite simple: odds of 4:1 mean that the bookmaker has that team winning one in five times (4 times losing:1 time winning, thus one out of five times). To calculate the vigorish, the first step is to convert the odds to probability. The probability of all teams winning a league (in the real world) sums to 1, or certainty. The amount that the total team probabilities add to more than 1 (in the bookmaking world) is called the amount “over the round” and amounts to the vigorish.

In our Unibet Bermuda Bowl league, for example, Italy at 2:1 translates to a probability of their winning of 0.33 (one in three times). USA1 is 4:1 (one in five) or 0.20; Netherlands, Poland and Sweden at 15:2 are 0.118 and so on.

The next step is to add up all the probabilities for each team. In a true odds/probability world, the probabilities would add to 1. In our Unibet world the Bermuda Bowl probabilities add up to 1.257. Thus the bookmaker (assuming a balanced ledger, always a dicey proposition) makes approximately 25% on the total amount bet. This makes league betting a very poor proposition for the punter, but the average punter hasn't the knowledge or the patience to calculate the true odds.

The betting public in Great Britain, in general, is much more knowledgeable about the true odds on betting than are we North Americans, and would not put up with league betting in the USA, where a vigorish of 50% is not unusual. In England, the amount over the round is more likely to be in the 12-15% range.

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INTERNATIONAL BRIDGE PRESS ASSOCIATION 2010 FINANCIAL REPORTS

BALANCE SHEET As at 31 December 2010

Assets (Note 3)	2010	2009
	\$	\$
Current Assets		
Trade debtors	0	2,000
Cash and cash equivalents	<u>81,505</u>	<u>65,636</u>
Total assets	81,505	67,636
Current liabilities		
Trade and other payables	4,287	1,387
Net assets	<u>77,218</u>	<u>66,249</u>
Reserves		
Retained profit brought forward	66,249	61,528
Profit and loss account	10,969	4,721
Total reserves	<u>77,218</u>	<u>66,249</u>

INCOME STATEMENT For the year ended 31 December 2010

	2010	2009
	\$	\$
Income	29,298	26,190
Interest received	423	872
Sponsored award money (Note 1)	6,000	6,000
Subscriptions due	6,752	10,985
Subscriptions paid in advance (Note 2)	10,265	7,549
Surplus on exchange rate	4,858	0
WBF grant	1,000	784
Expenditure	18,329	21,469
Printing and postage	2,100	3,466
Editor's travel	1,000	1,000
Editor's fee	9,400	7,808
IBPA awards	1,959	1,600
Bank charges	1,680	28
Deficit on exchange rate	0	4,991
Secretary's expenses	454	1,000
President's expenses	1,500	1,576
Entertaining	236	0

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS For the year ended 31 December 2010

1. Sponsor award money

Of the \$6,000 received for sponsor award money, \$2,000 was received in advance from Mr Nickell for 2011/12.

2. Subscriptions paid in advance

Subscriptions paid in advance according to the income statement confirm a liability for the year ended 2010 to the extent of \$10,265.

3. Assets

Computers, printers and fax machines are all written off to NIL during the year of purchase.



Phillip Alder, Hobe Sound FL

Here are some of the more interesting deals played in the various events.

The youngest competitor was Giovanni Donati on the Italy I team. He had his thirteenth birthday on 5th August - and he can really play. Look at this deal from Round 2, rotated to make Donati South.

Dealer West. EW Vul.

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

West	North <i>Percario</i>	East	South <i>Donati</i>
Pass	Pass	Pass	2 ♣
Pass	2 ♦	Pass	2 ♠
Pass	3 ♠	Pass	4 ♣ ¹
Pass	4 ♦ ¹	Pass	4 ♥ ¹
Pass	4 NT ²	Pass	5 ♣ ³
Pass	6 ♠	Pass	Pass

1. Control-bid
2. Roman Key Card Blackwood
3. Four key cards

At the other table, East, Massimiliano di Franco, traded on the favourable vulnerability to open one club. (Why not three clubs?) After a lengthy auction, North ended in six spades. East led a trump. Declarer took two rounds and cashed the ace of hearts, under which West, Giuseppe della Cave, smoothly falsecarded with his eight. Now North played a heart to his king.

With no chance, declarer did well to get out for one down. He gave up a club, ruffed the next club, and endplayed West with his jack of hearts. He could either lead a club, conceding a ruff-and-discard, or switch to a diamond, picking up that suit for declarer. (Yes, leading

the queen of diamonds is the best shot, but the odds favour declarer playing for split honours.)

Donati also received a trump lead. He won that trick, cashed the ace of spades, and played the hearts correctly. Then he cashed two more rounds of spades to give this position:

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

On the last trump, West had to discard a diamond. Then dummy pitches the six of clubs and East a club - the king would be best. Now when South leads the queen of clubs, West must win with his ace, to swallow his partner's king, and cash the ten of clubs.

However, nervous of coming down to queen-doubleton in diamonds, West threw the ten of clubs. Now when Donati led his club, West was endplayed into opening up diamonds. Plus 50 and plus 980 gave Italy I 14 IMPs en route to a 33-0 blitz. Watch out for Donati on future Italian teams.

These two deals, which occurred in the Round 6 match between Japan, who were in first place at that time, and Turkey 3, had instructive points.

Dealer East. EW Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Taskin	Kido	Suzer	Koike
—	—	Pass	Pass
1 ♠	Pass	1 ♥	Pass
1 ♠	Pass	Pass	Pass
West	North	East	South
Kitamura	Ozgunordu	Sugimoto	Uluer
—	—	Pass	Pass
1 ♠	Pass	1 ♥	Pass
1 ♠	Pass	INT	Pass
Pass	Pass		

I like Suzer's pass over one spade. But at the other table, I would have continued with two clubs with the West hand. Yes, I might be 4=0=5=4 or 4=1=4=4, but responder could be 4-5 or 4-6 in hearts and clubs.

Against one spade, North should have led a trump. It was virtually certain to be a 4-3 fit (East would have raised spades with four) and dummy rated to be short in diamonds. In practice, North chose the jack of hearts. When he held the trick, he switched to a trump. West won in the dummy, ruffed a heart in his hand, carefully cashed his two club tricks, then crossruffed in the red suits to eight tricks.

Against one no trump, South, with no good lead, opted for a dangerous queen of clubs. Declarer might well have won in the dummy, played a spade to his hand, and led a club to dummy's ten. If he had done that, a similar position would have arisen as actually occurred. Instead, East played three rounds of clubs. North switched to the jack of hearts, ducked around. Then came the ten of hearts. To make his contract, East had to cover, blocking the suit. When he played low, though, North continued with his third heart, South taking two more tricks in the suit and shifting to a low diamond.

What should East have done? In isolation, playing low from the dummy guarantees one down, but if the king of diamonds wins this trick, the contract is made. Thinking along those lines, East called for dummy's king and went four down, losing four hearts, five diamonds (he'd discarded two diamonds on the hearts) and one club.

What did East overlook? South had already produced the ace-king of hearts and queen of clubs, but had not opened the bidding. He could not have the ace of diamonds. Plus 110 and plus 400 gave 11 imps to Turkey 3.

One can understand Noriaki Koike's three-heart response on the next deal, but it is debatable with such a weak suit and the ace-king of spades. Four hearts, though, was not without hope. Taskin led the ace of diamonds: king, seven, ten. What did he do next?

Dealer North. EW Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Taskin	Kido	Suzer	Koike
—	1 ♠	Pass	3 ♥ ¹
Pass	4 ♥	Pass	Pass
Pass			

1. Six-card suit, game-invitational values

West	North	East	South
Kitamura	Ozgunordu	Sugimoto	Uluer
—	1 ♠	Pass	1 NT ¹
2 ♦	2 ♠	3 ♦	4 ♠
Pass	Pass	Pass	

1. Forcing one round

Trusting his partner to make a suit-preference signal, he found the only winning defence: a spade switch. Then, when he got in with his king of hearts, he gave his partner a spade ruff. The ace of hearts was the fourth defensive trick.

At the other table, when Burak Uluer learned that his partner had at least six spades, he went for game in that suit. East led the six of diamonds. West won with his ace and cashed the king of hearts. What did he do next?

West, now knowing his partner had the ace of hearts, could place North with the ace of clubs and probably the jack as well. So a club switch could not help. Instead Kitamura did very well, leading the queen of diamonds, giving declarer a "useless" ruff-and-discard. North took the bait. Here was an opportunity to avoid the club finesse. He discarded his jack of clubs and ruffed in the dummy. But now declarer had to lose four tricks: one spade, two hearts and one diamond. This looks like an error by North. If West did not have the king of clubs, surely he would have switched to that suit.

When one side plays in the same strain at both tables, something is usually amiss - and this deal was no exception. (See top of next page.)

Gerbrand Hop (South for Netherlands Juniors) traded on the favourable vulnerability to overcall three hearts. Radu Nistor (West for Netherlands-Romania) doubled to show a few values, and Marius Agica (East) wished there was a "content" card in his bidding box.

Dealer West. EW Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Nistor</i>	<i>Helmich</i>	<i>Agica</i>	<i>Hop</i>
Pass	Pass	2 ♣	3 ♥
Double	Pass	Pass	Pass

West	North	East	South
<i>v Lankveld</i>	<i>Drijver</i>	<i>vd Bos</i>	<i>Wackwitz</i>
Pass	2 ♠ ¹	Double	Pass
2 NT ²	Pass	4 ♥	Pass
Pass	Pass		

1. Five spades, four-plus in a minor and a weak hand
2. Lebensohl, usually indicating a very weak hand

West led the jack of clubs and continued with a club to his partner's king. East tried to cash the ace of clubs, but South ruffed. He led the queen of diamonds, East taking his ace, cashing his two spade winners, and returning a diamond. Declarer won with dummy's jack and played a heart to his king. Now he needed to lead the king of diamonds to "escape" for five down. But he played another trump, so East claimed the remainder with four hearts and the ace of clubs. Six down was minus 1400 the hard way (non-vulnerable).

At the other table, Bob Drijver (North) unleashed a two-bid that enjoys considerable popularity, especially in the Netherlands and Belgium. This painted Berend van den Bos into a corner. He doubled, then when his partner showed a poor hand, he went with his five-card suit. (Three no trumps would have cruised home too.)

Ernst Wackwitz led the nine of spades. East won with his ace, cashed the ace of hearts, and continued with the queen of hearts. After taking his king, how should South have defended? With this layout, South had to shift to a diamond to defeat the contract. East can win, overtake his queen of spades with dummy's king and pick up the clubs, but South ruffs the third club and taps declarer in diamonds to generate a third trump trick.

However, South led his second spade. Declarer won with dummy's king, ran the jack of clubs, played a club

to his ace, drew three rounds of trumps, and led the ace of clubs. East claimed, saying that after South ruffed and led a diamond, declarer would win with his ace and cash his last club. Plus 1400 and minus 620 gave NED-ROM 13 IMPs on the board.

The teams that disappeared from the Knockout Teams descended into the Board-a-Match Teams. This had a strange format, with three days of qualifying and a one-day final, into which the semi-finalists from the KO dropped. The finale was amazing.

Fifty-four boards had been played, there was one to go. This was the leader board:

- | | | |
|----|---------------------|------|
| 1. | USA | 63.2 |
| 2. | Vicky's Vikings | 63 |
| 3. | Netherlands Juniors | 62 |

This was the last board:

Dealer West. NS Vul.

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

As you can see, six hearts and six clubs are, in theory at least, laydown. Let's look at the six auctions of these three teams. Starting with third, Netherlands Juniors were playing against Australia 2.

West	North	East	South
	<i>Helmich</i>		<i>Hop</i>
1 ♠	Double	4 ♠	5 ♥
Pass	Pass	Pass	

This did not look good for the Dutch. How could they possibly get two points for a winning board? Well ...

West	North	East	South
<i>v Lankveld</i>		<i>vd Bos</i>	
Pass	1 NT	2 ♦ ¹	Double ²
Redouble ³	2 ♥	Pass	3 ♦
Double	3 NT	Pass	4 ♦
Pass	Pass	Pass	

1. Diamonds and a major
2. Take-out
3. Asking for partner's major

Even though North should not have passed, why did South never show clubs? That was two points to Netherlands Juniors after all, giving them 64 points.

The leaders were USA. These were their auctions:

West	North	East	South
Lee		Wolkowitz	
Pass	1 NT	Pass	2 \diamond ¹
Pass	2 \heartsuit	Pass	3 \clubsuit
Pass	3 \heartsuit	Pass	4 \clubsuit
Pass	4 \diamond	Pass	4 \heartsuit
Pass	Pass	Pass	

1. Transfer

Maybe South should have bid five hearts, asking partner to go six with a spade control. And maybe North should have continued with four spades because four clubs was a slam-try. He knew of a double fit, although jack-fourth was a worrying club holding. Also, maybe we are influenced by knowing the full deal. (Assuming you will cash the ace and king, even if the ten drops from West, you are just over 53 percent to have no losers, a priori.) Declarer took twelve tricks; USA minus 680.

West	North	East	South
	Dwyer		Lien
1 \spadesuit	Double	3 \spadesuit	4 \heartsuit
Pass	Pass	4 \spadesuit	5 \clubsuit
Pass	5 \heartsuit	Pass	Pass
Pass			

It was nice of East to give his opponents a second chance, but they did not take it. USA plus 680 and 1 point, going to 64.2. This meant that Vicky's Vikings needed a win on this board for victory.

West	North	East	South
	Eide		Ellingsen
Pass	1 \clubsuit	3 \diamond	3 \heartsuit
Pass	4 \heartsuit	Pass	Pass
Pass			

That was surely it. How could plus 680 win the board? We have just seen it once, but surely lightning couldn't strike twice.

West	North	East	South
Stangeland		Hegge	
Pass	1 NT	Pass	2 \diamond
Pass	2 \heartsuit	Pass	3 \clubsuit
Pass	3 \heartsuit	Pass	4 \clubsuit
Pass	4 \diamond	Pass	4 NT
Pass	5 \spadesuit	Pass	6 \heartsuit
Pass	Pass	Pass	

That seemed to be that. Minus 1430 to Vicky's Vikings would give the title to USA. East led a low spade. Declarer (North) won with his ace, drew only two rounds of trumps ending in his hand, and then made an amazing play: He ran the jack of clubs! West won with his queen and cashed the ace of diamonds and king of spades for two down! So Vicky's Vikings had won the gold medal. (Vicky is Virginia Chediak, who is originally from Uruguay but is now the coach of the Norwegian juniors.)

This was a well-played deal from the Board-a-Match Teams.

Dealer North. Both Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
—	Karlsson		Gullberg
—	1 \spadesuit	Pass	2 \heartsuit
Pass	3 \clubsuit	Pass	3 \spadesuit
Pass	4 \clubsuit ¹	Pass	4 \diamond ¹
Pass	4 \heartsuit ¹	Pass	4 NT ²
Pass	5 \heartsuit ³	Pass	6 NT
Pass	Pass	Pass	

1. Control-bids
2. Roman Key Card Blackwood
3. Two key cards, but no queen of spades

West led a sneaky nine of clubs, which persuaded declarer that the club finesse was losing. Gullberg won with dummy's ace, cashed the queen of hearts, and played a low spade, collecting East's queen. On a low spade towards the dummy, West put in his nine to force declarer to waste another hand entry to pick up the suit. South won with dummy's jack, called for the queen of diamonds, and, when it was covered by the king, he played low from his hand.

East returned a heart, declarer winning with his king, cashing the ace of hearts, and running the spades. With one round of spades to go, this was the position:

	\spadesuit 8		\spadesuit —
	\heartsuit —		\heartsuit 9
	\diamond 8		\diamond J 7 3
	\clubsuit K J		\clubsuit —
\spadesuit —		\spadesuit —	
\heartsuit —		\heartsuit 8	
\diamond 9 6		\diamond A 10	
\clubsuit Q 5		\clubsuit 6	

On the last spade, East had to keep his heart, so discarded a diamond. South now pitched his club and West would have been squeezed in the minors if he had held the jack of diamonds. West threw a diamond.

Now the king of clubs executed a show-up squeeze in the red suits on East. Very nicely done!

Dealer East. NS Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
—	<i>Lebatteux</i>	4 ♠	<i>Poulat</i>
Pass	Pass		Pass

Frenchmen Aymeric Lebatteux and Simon Poulat, who finished second in the pairs, did well on this deal from the second qualifying session:

South led the king of clubs, which held the trick. Now, deceptively, he switched to the six of hearts. East put

up dummy's ace, drew two rounds of trumps, and confidently played a club to dummy's jack. However, North won with his queen and led a diamond to his partner's queen. South continued with the jack of hearts, covered by the queen and king. East ruffed the third heart and led the ten of spades. South won with his queen in this position:

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

Now South underled his ace of diamonds to give his partner the lead. Then the ten of clubs promoted the eight of spades for the fourth undertrick and a 90% board.

(See September's bulletin for the results.)

MARIA ERHART

Maria Erhart, the Grande Dame of Austrian bridge and one of the best women players in the world, passed away in September after a long illness.

Maria Erhart, née Kirner, came from a bridge-playing family and learned the game when she was 24. She won the first duplicate she ever played and in just six years' time she had made it to the open team which represented Austria at the 1974 European Championships in Herzlia, Israel. As a member of the Austrian women's team, one year later she won the bronze medal at the Europeans in Brighton. That marked the beginning of Maria's long record of successes.

At the world level, Maria Erhart was instrumental in leading Austria's women's team to victory at the 1992 Olympiad, one year after finishing runners up at the Venice Cup in Yokohama. Also in 1992, she won the women's event at the inaugural GENERALI World Masters Individual, and her team won the McConnell Cup in Lille 1998.

In Europe, Maria Erhart was on the Austrian team that won the women's series in Killarney

1991. She won the European Mixed Pairs in 1996 (playing with Fritz Kubak), the European Mixed Teams in 2002 and the European Women's Pairs in 2003 (playing with Jovanka Smederevac). She was second in the European Women's Teams in 1999.

Maria Erhart had countless other successes at the national level. One of her favourite festivals was St. Moritz. Maria Erhart was a close friend of the legendary Rixi Markus; playing together, they won the St. Moritz teams just two months before Rixi died - it was her last trophy. This year, St. Moritz honored Maria who, although handicapped by her disease, finished third in the Mixed Pairs, second in the Open Pairs and first in the Teams!

Apart from bridge, Maria Erhart had many hobbies and interests, including golf, classical music, politics, psychology and literature. She enjoyed chatting with her friends over a glass of wine. Spontaneous and ambitious, she was loved by those close to her and was always willing to help those in need. The world of bridge - and not only bridge - will miss Maria Erhart.



IBPA Column Service

Tim Bourke, Canberra

Members may use these deals as they wish, without attributing the author or IBPA

585. Dealer East. EW Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
—	—	2 ♥	2 ♠
Pass	4 NT	Pass	5 ♠
Pass	5 NT	Pass	6 ♣
Pass	7 ♠	Pass	Pass
Pass			

When South overcalled East's weak two hearts with two spades, North employed Roman Key Card Blackwood. The response promised two key cards (the trump king and the diamond ace) and the queen of trumps. When South admitted to the king of clubs in response to North's grand slam try of five notrumps, North had an easy leap to seven spades.

When this was originally played, declarer won with dummy's ace and drew two rounds of trumps, West discarding a diamond. Now he needed to ruff two diamonds in dummy. He cashed the king of diamonds but when he played a second diamond East ruffed. He was one down in an all but iron-clad contract.

"You should have ruffed hearts not diamonds," said the ever-sympathetic dummy. "After winning the ace of hearts, you ruff a heart high, cross to the dummy with the king of diamonds and ruff a second heart high. A trump to the nine allows you to ruff dummy's last heart high and cross back to dummy with a trump. After drawing East's last trump you have the rest. You make four trumps in dummy, the ace of hearts, three heart ruffs, two diamonds and three clubs; unless my arithmetic is faulty, that is thirteen tricks."

586. Dealer South. N-S Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
—	—	—	1 NT
2 ♣ ¹	3 NT	Pass	Pass
Pass			

1. Both majors

West made the obvious lead of the queen of spades. As no shift could do him any particular harm, declarer allowed the queen to hold the trick. West continued with a second spade to declarer's ace. Declarer now played a club to the queen and shifted his attention to diamonds, by playing a diamond to his ace. West's heart discard was a rude shock and he continued with the king of clubs (a low club would have been luckier).

West took this with the ace and played a third spade to declarer's ace. When East discarded a heart on the jack of clubs, declarer conceded a one-trick set; he lost three spades and two clubs.

As ever, North was quick to point out the winning line: "You can place West with the ace of clubs on the bidding. When he follows with a low club at trick three, you should play the nine of clubs from dummy. East will win the trick but he has no spade to return. You will win East's likely heart return in dummy with the ace and play the queen of clubs. It does not matter whether West wins this trick or the next round of clubs (you will cross back to hand with a diamond if he ducks). As you will still have a spade stopper, you will make three club tricks to go with your six top winners."

"After the club queen won, you could still have survived as the cards lay by playing the nine of clubs at trick four; you would have to duck when East played

the ten of clubs. However, a finesse of the nine of was the right play and would have been necessary against ace-ten to four clubs with West.”

587. Dealer South. Both Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
—	—	—	1 NT
Pass	3 NT	Pass	Pass
Pass			

This deal occurred in a teams match. At both tables the auction was the same and both West players also led the jack of spades. At one table the declarer took this in hand with the ace to played ace and another club. When West followed with two small clubs, declarer called for dummy’s queen; if clubs were 3-3, it was a guess what to do, but if clubs were 4-2, then the queen would pick up the doubleton jack of clubs.

At the other table, the declarer took the spade lead in dummy with the king of spades and called for dummy’s queen of clubs. As the cards lay, this produced four club tricks. When challenged about this play after the match by his counterpart the winning declarer said, “If clubs are 3-3, it’s a guess what to do. Leading the queen of clubs gets four tricks whenever there is a doubleton jack of clubs on either side, just as your line does. The vigorish for my line is that I pick up four tricks when East has the doubleton king of clubs too.”

588. Dealer South. E-W Vul.


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

West	North	East	South
—	—	—	1 ♠
Pass	2 ♠	Pass	4 ♠
Pass	Pass	Pass	

West led the queen of diamonds against what seemed to be a routine spade game. Declarer took the ace of diamonds and played a low trump from dummy. East’s club discard was a shock. After winning the ace of spades, declarer recovered nicely.

He could count four trumps, a winner in each minor and hopefully two hearts for eight tricks. As long as hearts were no worse than 4-2, he could ruff a heart in dummy for a ninth trick. All he would need to do was score his eight of trumps to make a tenth trick. So he cashed his ace of clubs and played the ace and king of hearts. Next, instead of playing a third heart at this point, he ruffed one of dummy’s clubs in hand with the eight of trumps. When that held it was now safe to exit with a heart. The defence could cash two diamonds but nothing could prevent declarer from ruffing his fourth heart with dummy’s ten of trumps.

If declarer had given up a heart before ruffing the club, West would discard the king of clubs. East could win the trick and play a low diamond to the jack. After winning the next diamond with the king, he would play a club which would leave declarer with an unavoidable trump loser.


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A Grand Slam...but not a tennis one...

The four major tennis tournaments, also called Grand Slam events, are the most important tennis events of the year in terms of world ranking points, tradition, prize-money awarded, strength and size of player field, and public attention. They are the Australian, French and U.S. Opens and Wimbledon. The "Grand Slam" is the winning of all four major tournaments in a single calendar year. The term comes from the bridge game and was applied to tennis for the first time in 1933.

Agustín Madala plays very good tennis, but not good enough to win a Grand Slam, but talking about bridge slams, he almost never misses one.

This September, Agustín added a new title to his already long list: the 2011 Brazilian Open Teams, playing with Diego Brenner and teammates: João de Deus Vaz da Silva Neto, Mauricio Machado, Amilcar A.V. Botelho de Magalhães, Eduardo S.N. Barcellos. After winning the Round Robin, his team had to battle for two more days against the other three qualified teams to reach the Brasileirão 2011, and for sure this bridge Grand Slam, that gave his team 16 IMPs, helped them. It is from the third session of the final.

Board 12. Dealer West. NS Vul.

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

At Madala's table:

West	North	East	South
	<i>Brenner</i>		<i>Madala</i>
Pass	Pass	1♥	Double
3♥	Pass	4♥	5♥ ¹
Pass	6♣ ²	Pass	6♥ ³
Pass	7♣	Pass	Pass

1. Partner I have a one-suited hand that will play at slam level
2. I can help you in clubs
3. OK, then choose between six spades and

seven clubs.

At the other table:

West	North	East	South
Pass	Pass	1♥	Double
3♥	Pass	Pass	4♠
Pass	Pass	Pass	

At Madala's table, the lead was the ace of hearts. Brenner ruffed in dummy, played the jack of clubs to the king and continued with the four of clubs to the nine. When West played a little club, he continued with the king of clubs and claimed. Enterprising bidding and play from Madala/Brenner.



This deal from the team event at the EBU's Summer Festival in Brighton produced an excellent battle between the expert declarer and defender...

Dealer South. Both Vul.

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

(Spot cards approximate.) A typical auction was:

West	North	East	South
—	—	—	1♥
Pass	1♠	Pass	2NT
Pass	6NT	Pass	Pass
Pass			

West's spade lead gave nothing away at my table. The contract seems to depend on finding the queen of diamonds, and with little to go on other than the passive opening lead, I decided to play West for that card. Winning in hand with the queen of spades, I led a diamond to the jack (success!). A second diamond back to the king, revealing the 4-1 break, putting paid to an early claim. A club to dummy's queen now lost to East's ace, but after the heart return it was not difficult to place East with the heart length. Cashing the top hearts in hand and then dummy's spades now executed a textbook double squeeze around the club suit.

East does better to return a club when he is in as this

forces declarer to guess the position of the club jack. If West holds that card, then declarer must win the king of clubs and cash first the spades and then the top hearts to squeeze West in the minors. If East holds the club jack, then declarer can either finesse or win the king of clubs and then cash dummy's pointed-suit winners to squeeze East in the rounded suits.

One defender found a defence that gave his expert opponent little chance of making a winning guess, though. After the same first three tricks as at my table, declarer again led a club to dummy's queen, but here our hero in the East seat followed low smoothly. Declarer now thought he could see a sure way home. He cashed his top hearts and then dummy's spades, discarding the last heart and the ten of clubs from his hand and, in the process, squeezing West down to the queen-nine of diamonds and a singleton club. Declarer now confidently exited with a club to what he thought was West's bare ace, expecting him to be forced to lead into the split diamond tenace at trick 12. Much to declarer's chagrin, East claimed the last three tricks with the ace-nine of clubs and the jack of hearts.



The Coup de Grâce

This year, again as in 2010, the Allegra Team won the Italian Club Teams Championships. The finalists:
ALLEGRA: BOCCHI, DUBOIN, GIUBILO, LAURIA, MADALA, SEMENTA, VERSACE, ZALESKI
ANGELINI: ANGELINI, CIMA, FANTONI, GAROZZO, NUNES, PRIMAVERA

On September 24, 2011 in the second set of the final match, the players' positions were:

Closed Room: N/S Cima-Garozzo for Angelini and E/W Lauria-Versace for Allegra

Open Room: N/S Bocchi-Madala for Allegra and E/W Fantoni-Nunes for Angelini

We don't know if it was coincidence or not that got Benito Garozzo, the 84-year-old Italian legend, who won 10 Bermuda Bowls for Italy in the same seat as Agustín Madala, the new Italian bridge star, only 25 years old, and first-time member of the team that will represent Italy in the Bermuda Bowl this year. The second set started with Allegra 10 IMPs up and ended with Allegra up 71 IMPs. We can say it was the "Coup de Grace" as Angelini couldn't recover this deficit.

The first two boards gave Allegra 22 IMPs, let's see how...

Board 17. Dealer North. Neither Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Versace</i>	<i>Cima</i>	<i>Lauria</i>	<i>Garozzo</i>
—	Pass	Pass	Pass
1 NT	Pass	2 ♦	Pass
2 ♥	Pass	3 ♥	Pass
3 ♠	Pass	3 NT	Pass
Pass	Pass		

After three passes, Versace opened one no trump; Lauria transferred to hearts and showed nine or more cards in the majors with three hearts. Versace showed three spades and Lauria's three no trump confirmed 5-4 in the majors.

The opening lead was the two of clubs and dummy's ten won the trick. Lauria continued with a heart to the jack and Cima won his ace and played the three of diamonds. When declarer played dummy's ace, Benito unblocked the suit, playing his jack, and in so doing, allowed Versace the timing to develop his eighth and nine tricks in hearts while the diamonds were blocked.

In the other room, the same contract was played, with the same lead and first two tricks, but when Bocchi won the heart trick at trick two, he exited with the diamond queen and declarer could do nothing to make the hand.

Board 18. Dealer East. NS Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Versace	Cima	Lauria	Garozzo
Nunes	Bocchi	Fantoni	Madala
—	—	Pass	1 ♠
Pass	1 ♥	Pass	2 ♠
Pass	3 NT	Pass	Pass
Pass			

Lauria led his queen of hearts and Cima won with dummy's ace to play a diamond. Versace won with his ace and returned his second heart, and now the declarer had to lose two diamonds and three hearts.

In the other room, with the same auction and contract, the same lead, and the same play to the first two tricks, Nunes played a low diamond instead and Fantoni's only entry was used while Bocchi still had his heart stopper...another 12 IMPs for Allegra.

From the Boards 19 to 25, Angelini recovered 6 IMPs, but then suffered a loss of 45 IMPs from 26 to 31. Lets see how...

Board 26. Dealer East. Both Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Versace	Cima	Lauria	Garozzo
—	—	1 ♣	1 ♥
2 ♥ ¹	4 ♦ ²	4 ♠	Pass
Pass	5 ♥	Double	Pass
Pass	Pass		

1. Transfer
2. Fit

Lauria would have made four spades, losing only a club, a diamond and a heart. Garozzo was one down in five hearts doubled.

At the other table:

West	North	East	South
Nunes	Bocchi	Fantoni	Madala
—	—	Pass	Pass
2 ♠	Double	4 ♠	5 ♥
5 ♠	Pass	Pass	Double
Pass	Pass	Pass	

Only 10 tricks...and 9 IMPs for Allegra.

Board 27. Dealer South. Neither Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Versace	Cima	Lauria	Garozzo
—	—	—	Pass
1 ♣	Pass	1 ♥	Pass
3 ♥	Pass	4 ♥	Pass
Pass	Pass		

Versace's three hearts was invitational, showing an unbalanced hand with 14-15 HP; Lauria made five. At the other table, Fantoni-Nunes declared six hearts and were several down trying to make their contract...12 IMPs for Allegra.

Board 28. Dealer West. NS Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Versace	Cima	Lauria	Garozzo
1 ♦	1 ♠	Double	2 NT ¹
Pass	4 ♠	5 ♦	5 ♥
Pass	5 ♠	Pass	6 ♠
Pass	Pass	Pass	

1. Four-card spade support

In the other room, the opening bid was a weak no trump, and this generated a totally different bidding sequence, East-West never uncovering the ten-card diamond fit, and letting North-South declare four spades.

West	North	East	South
Nunes	Bocchi	Fantoni	Madala
1 NT	2 ♠	Double	4 ♠
Pass	Pass	Pass	

Ten tricks and 13 IMPs.

BRIDGECOLLECTION AMSTERDAM

Bob van de Velde, Amsterdam

On the occasion of the 75th anniversary of the Dutch Bridge League (2005), the collectors Robert (Bob) van de Velde and Jac Fuchs donated their, to an important extent complementary, bridge libraries to the Library of the University of Amsterdam. As a neighbor to important chess and draughts (checkers) collections, they are now part of the department Special Collections under the name Bridgecollection Amsterdam.

Besides books and magazines the BCA includes archives, brochures, bulletins and other printed materials. Van de Velde is preparing another donation of more than 3000 titles.

To support the BCA, in 2007, the donors established the Herman Filarski Foundation, named after the internationally-known player and writer who was the great stimulator of bridge in The Netherlands. Its ambition is to develop the BCA as a reference library for the international bridge world, like the chess collection of the Royal Library in The Hague is for the chess world. To achieve this goal, the Foundation is collecting a representative selection of literature in different languages about bridge and about its predecessors like whist, yeralash, vint, bridge-whist, auction bridge and plafond bridge.

YERALASH

(The discovery of a missing link?)

Bob van de Velde, Amsterdam

For more than a century, bridge and card game historians have been searching for the origin of both the game and the name of Bridge. So far, the oldest document containing some information on the topic is the famous Biritich or Russian Whist pamphlet, published by John Collinson in 1886.

Both elements of its title, the name Biritich and the description of the game as Russian Whist, lead to the assumption that the cradle of the game could be Slavic, but the lack of hard evidence left ample room for other speculation, placing the origins of the game in Constantinople, the Levant, Egypt or India.

In June 2011, the Belgian Hans Secelle, having done extensive research on the history of Bridge, has perhaps put an end to all this speculation. In the Bridge Collection Amsterdam, he discovered the title of a booklet, the content of which is definitely pointing to Russia as Bridge's country of origin before the middle of the 19th century.

In 1869, Christian Vanderheid, the Austrian author of

a number of publications on card games, published his *Gründlicher Selbstunterricht zur Erlernung des Jarolasch oder das russische Whist* (Extensive Self-teaching for the Learning of Yeralash or Russian Whist), published in Vienna by Wenedikt. His thirty-two-page booklet contains the rules of a game called Yeralash (Jarolasch) which, apart from the playing with a dummy, is almost identical to Biritich as described by Collinson in 1886. The Yeralash game already possessed the following characteristic features: a rudimentary form of bidding, the possibility to play at no-trumps, a suit hierarchy, slam bonuses, (re)doubling and scoring under and above the line. Even playing with a dummy is touched upon, but as in Dummy Whist, only as a variation for three players.

At the beginning of the previous century, recognized authorities like Robert Frederic Foster and William Dalton drew attention to a possible affinity between 'Yeralash' (possible transliterations from the Russian: Jarolasch, Jarolasj, Geralasch) and Bridge, but they never mentioned a source to substantiate their assumption. More often, later authorities like Oswald Crawford, Milton Work, Emanuel Lasker or George Hervey pointed to the younger Russian game of Vint (or Wint) as a possible ancestor. A century later the French and Dutch bridge researchers Thierry Depaulis and Jac Fuchs mentioned a manual, printed in 1848 in Moscow, which contains a description of whist-preference ('vist-preferans'). They claimed that this game was renamed Yerolash and that it seemed to be the direct forerunner of Biritich. But they too didn't show any evidence or any description of sources.

Secelle's discovery has confirmed the correctness of Foster's, Dalton's, Depaulis's and Fuchs's initial, albeit rather vague or unsubstantiated, assumptions: both the rules of Yeralash and the fact that, like Biritich, the second name of Yeralash is 'Russian Whist', indicate undeniably that the origin of most elements which are now typical for the game of Bridge must indeed have originated in Russia.

What is more, Secelle's discovery furnishes conclusive evidence that the archetype of Bridge already existed in 1869, 17 years earlier than John Collinson published his pamphlet! Vanderheid, in 1869, is testifying about the game's popularity in the German-speaking parts of Europe, so it must have been introduced there long before, and therefore the game of Yerolash must have been played in Russia still many years earlier.

So Yeralash can be considered as the missing link between Biritich and the game (whist-preference?) which came before Yeralash. It will be the task of bridge historians to find convincing evidence of the existence of Yeralash and related games like whist-preference, including the names of the games and their rules, in Russian sources of the first half of the 19th century.

OPATIJA 2011

Ana Roth & Fernando Lema, BA

“A Big Bull in an Unknown Rodeo” (From *El Gaucho Martin Fierro*)

“I am a bull in my rodeo
and a big bull in an unknown rodeo;
I always think of myself as very good
and if you want to try me,
let others sing
and we will see who is less”

With the words of the great Argentine poet José Hernández, we thus describe the excellent South American performance in the semifinal of the teams against a very powerful Dutch-Romanian team.

In a match that will surely make history in Argentine-Uruguayan youth bridge, four junior masters from South America overcame a negative result and won this semifinal. The last set began with Argentina-Uruguay down 25 IMPs and produced a lot of swings. With three boards to play, and with the South American team 7 IMPs behind, Felipe Ferro-Alejandro Scanavino bid and made a grand slam that swung the match in their favour. The remaining boards added more IMPs and the match finished 134-104 in favour of the South Americans.

The last set was not for heart patients and board 30 was a luxury not often seen.

Board 30. Dealer East. Neither Vul.

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

Open Room:

West	North	East	South
<i>Agica</i>	<i>Garcia</i>	<i>Nistor</i>	<i>Crusizio</i>
—	—	1 ♠	Pass
1 NT	Pass	2 ♣	Pass
3 ♠	Pass	4 ♠	Pass
Pass	Pass		

Agica began with one no trump in order to later show an invitational hand with spade support. Nistor didn't think his hand deserved a slam invitation and closed proceedings with four spades. He made all 13 tricks.

The bidding in the other room was very different...

West	North	East	South
<i>Ferro</i>	<i>Drijver</i>	<i>Scanavino</i>	<i>Wackwitz</i>
—	—	1 ♠	Pass
3 ♣ ¹	Pass	3 ♦ ²	Pass
4 ♣ ³	Pass	4 ♥ ⁴	Pass
4 NT ⁵	Pass	5 ♦ ⁶	Pass
5 ♥ ⁷	Pass	6 ♥ ⁸	Pass
7 ♠	Pass	Pass	Pass

1. 3 or 4 spades and an invitational hand
2. Game force
3. Club shortage
4. Heart control, denies diamond control
5. RKCB
6. 3 Key Cards
7. Asks for the trump queen
8. I have it and the king doubleton or king-queen third of hearts.

Once Scanavino confirmed they were going to play game, Ferro began slam exploration. First he informed partner about the club shortage, and when he saw four hearts, he knew that his partner didn't have club wastage, and that he had heart control but no diamond control. Ferro continued by asking about key cards, promising diamond control. The three-key-card answer was evidently the ace-king of spades and the ace of clubs, so he continued by asking for the queen of spades, telling his partner they had all five key cards. Scanavino confirmed the spade queen and third-round heart control (he had already promised the king). Now Ferro could count to 13 and contracted for the grand slam, not concerned about their combined 25 HP. A jewel.

The lead was a trump; declarer only had to draw trumps and play on hearts...for a well-deserved 1510 and the match lead.





**TEACHER
& PUPIL**
Philippe Cronier, Paris

CHIP AWAY
Marty Fleisher, NYC



Here's a deal from the Zaleski-Angelini encounter in Division I, in which Grand Masters Benito Garozzo and Lorenzo Lauria opposed each other. It was a bit of teacher versus pupil in this duel of partners from the Blue Team era.

	♠ 9 7		
	♥ 7 6		
	♦ A J 9 7 4 3		
	♣ A 6 3		
♠ J 10 8 6 2		♠ K Q 5 4	
♥ J 10 5 3		♥ 4 2	
♦ Q 6 2		♦ 10	
♣ 2		♣ K Q 9 7 5 4	
	♠ A 3		
	♥ A K Q 9 8		
	♦ K 8 5		
	♣ J 10 8		
West	North	East	South
<i>Garozzo</i>	<i>Lauria</i>	<i>Cima</i>	<i>Versace</i>
—	—	—	1 ♥
Pass	1 NT	2 ♣	Double
Pass	3 ♣	Pass	3 NT
Pass	4 ♦	Pass	4 ♥
Pass	5 ♣	Pass	6 ♦
Pass	Pass	Pass	

Alfredo Versace as South had no other choice but to double two clubs to show a good hand and Lauria was too strong to bid just three diamonds. He cue bid three clubs, which, for them, showed at least a partial stopper in clubs, allowing Versace to bid three no trump to show a balanced hand. With nothing at all in clubs, Lauria would bid, for example, two spades, three hearts or three spades. Note in passing that Versace-Lauria were on exactly the same wavelength.

Lauria showed excellent judgement in rebidding four diamonds, and after a series of cue bids, Versace concluded bravely in slam. All that remained was for Lauria to make it.

Lauria won the king of spades lead in the dummy, and taking note of the intervention, immediately played a diamond to the jack. When this won, the contract was in his pocket: he continued with the ace of diamonds, ace-king of hearts and a heart ruff as West followed suit. The wisely-conserved king of diamonds drew the last trump and permitted entry to the dummy for the two master hearts. Plus 920 showed the teacher that his pupil had learnt his lessons well.

A serious candidate for best defended hand of the year came from Chip Martel in the recent Santa Clara Regional. I was Chip's partner.

Dealer North. EW Vul.

NORTH			
♠ K Q 10 9 7 2			
♥ A J			
♦ A J 6 4			
♣ K			
EAST			
♠ J 6 4 3			
♥ K 8 4 3			
♦ K 8 2			
♣ 10 2			
West	North	East	South
—	1 ♠	Pass	2 ♣
Pass	2 ♦	Pass	2 ♥
Pass	3 ♠	Pass	3 NT
Pass	4 NT ¹	Pass	5 ♣ ²
Pass	5 ♠	Pass	6 NT
Pass	Pass	Pass	
	1. Quantitative		
	2. Natural and non-minimum		

Partner leads the heart six; jack, king, two. What next?

Martel correctly inferred that declarer would have 12 winners if left to her own devices. He shifted to a spade to try to disrupt declarer's transportation, and hoping my clubs were as good as four to the nine – and this was the full deal.

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

Interestingly, declarer can make six no trump by rising with the ace of hearts, unblocking the club king, then continuing hearts. Whether East wins the heart king or ducks it does not matter. Of course that might not be such a great idea if West wins the heart king and leads a diamond through.

NEWS & VIEWS



The 3rd Online World University Team Championship



In December 2011, FISU (World University Sports Federation) and WBF (World Bridge Federation) will start the 3rd World Online University Team Championships on BBO. It will be a knockout competition on the Internet between countries where the schedule is determined by draw. We will start by playing in groups, followed by the knockout stage.

Each country can enter an unlimited number of teams. Each team must be composed of between 4 and 6 university (or high school) players and a captain must be indicated. For each player, the following information is required: name, surname, birthdate, nationality, university or high school, country.

Both captains will have some time to schedule and play a match of 32 boards. The result must then be sent, directly after the match, to kubakasprzak@o2.pl (with a copy to geert.magerman@telenet.be). Results will be published on www.unibridge.eu and on the Facebook account "Uni Bridge".

Participants must meet the following conditions:

- being at a university or high school (or 1 year after or before studies)
- being between 17 and 28 years old
- having the nationality of the country he or she represents.

Teams can enter from now until the 25th of November 2011 by sending an e-mail to kubakasprzak@o2.pl with a copy to geert.magerman@telenet.be. After receiving all entries and after the draw, we will inform each captain. Play will start in December 2011.

We rely on fair play and friendship from all participants, important values for FISU and WBF. Any violation against fair play will not be accepted and will have severe consequences. At the request of any Captain, Kuba can be the Tournament Director during the match.

bridge**TOPICS**.com

For the upcoming World Bridge Championships in Veldhoven, The Netherlands, 15-29 October 2011, www.bridgetopics.com is fully equipped for the event. On the front page we will publish Daily News on the World Championships. In our section 'All About Veldhoven' you will find video interviews with bridge players and bridge personalities, a twitter feed, a daily updated photo gallery and direct links to other relevant websites. BridgeTopics.com's mission is to be the 'CNN of Bridge'.

If you have any entries, e.g., articles or blogs, please send them directly to the editor@bridgetopics.com. In return we shall grant you free access to our complete first annual TopicsCollection.

For any question about our website, please contact me.

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