

RUSSIA STEPS UP FOR GOLD



Happy winners: Russia celebrates a Gold Medal in the World Bridge Olympiad

A tough, aggressive team of unheralded players from Russia are the gold medallists in the Women's series of the World Bridge Olympiad, fending off a final-set rally by an experienced team from the USA. The final score was 271-259.

The finalists met on the stage in the Vugraph auditorium, exchanging tearful embraces after the long, hard-fought match. At one point early in the final, Russia trailed by 47 IMPs.

The winners are Olga Galaktinova, Victoria Gromova, Natalia Karpenko, Maria Lebedeva, Tatiana Ponomareva and Irina Vasilkova. Alexey Efremov was non-playing captain.

The women's medal was not the first for the Russians in world championship play. Earlier in the tournament, the Russian Open team earned the bronze medal.

The victory by the Russian women was all the more impressive when you consider that on the way to the title, they

defeated the Netherlands, essentially the same team that won the Venice Cup in 2000; Germany, mostly the same 2001 Venice Cup champions, and the USA, 2003 Venice Cup winners

In the Open series, which has two matches to play today, Italy held a lead of 77 IMPs against the Netherlands, a young team who have fought valiantly but have not been able to match the experience of the defending champions.

Yesterday's play also featured the semi-final round of the World Transnational Mixed Teams. Over 32 boards, Auken (France/Germany) defeated Allix (France) while Batov (Bulgaria) knocked out Zhang (China). After the first of three sets of the final, Auken led Batov 68-28.

VUGRAPH MATCHES

Transnational Mixed Final	11:00
To Be Decided	14:00

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RESULTS



OPEN TEAMS

FINAL (6 of the 8 sets)

Match		Boards 1-16	Boards 17-32	Boards 33-48	Boards 49-64	Boards 65-80	Boards 81-96	Total
Netherlands	Italy	35 - 37	12 - 17	36 - 67	2 - 44	35 - 35	49 - 46	169 - 246

WOMEN'S TEAMS

FINAL

Match		Boards 1-16	Boards 17-32	Boards 33-48	Boards 49-64	Boards 65-80	Boards 81-96	Total
USA	Russia	54 - 33	47 - 21	26 - 77	37 - 62	46 - 52	49 - 26	259 - 271

TRANSNATIONAL MIXED TEAMS

SEMI-FINAL

Match		Boards 1-16	Boards 17-32	Total
Auken	Allix	25 - 24	31 - 19	56 - 43
Zhang	Batov	6 - 46	37 - 12	43 - 58

FINAL

(1 of the 3 sets)

Home Team	Visiting Team	Boards 1-16
Auken	Batov	68 - 28

Today's Agenda

OPEN	WORLD UNIVERSITY	TRANS. MIXED
11:00 FinalRound 15 Final
.....Boards 97-112 Boards 17-32
14:00 Final Final
.....Boards 113-128 Boards 33-48
19:00CLOSING CEREMONY.....
21:00VICTORY BANQUET.....

World Transnational Mixed Teams Championship

Final Ranking

Rank	Players	Country	VPs	Rank	Players	Country	VPs
3	ZHANG D.	CHI	—	69	NUHOGLU S.	TUR	249
4	ALLIX J.	FRA	—	70	LANGER D.	GER - SWI	248
5	POPOVA D.	TUR - BUL	297	71	YOSHIDA T.	JPN	247
6	MAUD	EGY	296	72	HAMAOU S.	VEN - ITA	246
7	SUE	FIN	295	73	SAYILKAN R.	TUR	246
8	FORNACIARI	ITA	294	74	SEFARAD	TUR	246
9	HNATOVA D.	CZE	294	75	SAYLIK R.	TUR	245
10	VAN CLEEFF	NTH - ISR	290	76	PEGASUS	TUR	245
11	ETI	TUR - ISR	287	77	BLUEBIRD	TUR	245
12	ZIMMERMAN	FRA	287	78	PRADOS A.	ITA - SPA	245
13	HALFON D.	FRA	287	79	KUZEY	TUR	244
14	TERENZI R.	ITA	284	80	CINAR	TUR	243
15	SHIMAMURA	JPN	284	81	I.FOOTWEAR	TUR	243
16	SHORT B.	SCO	281	82	DOMENECH D	FRA - ISR	243
17	GOKSU H.	TUR - RUS	280	83	KALMIK P.	TUR	242
18	KITABGI A.	FRA	280	84	PEREKHREST	RUS	242
19	VENETINA II	ARG - VEN	279	85	HANS S.	AUS	240
20	FREED G.	USA	279	86	GIURA N.	AUS - NZL	240
21	ADAMSON S.	SCO	279	87	KEDI	TUR	240
22	HKHZ	HKG	279	88	BILGI UNI.	TUR	236
23	KOLANKAYA	TUR	278	89	KANTARCI A	TUR	234
24	CHAGAS	POR - BRA	276	90	FURUTA K.	JPN	233
25	ANADOLU	TUR	274	91	DOWLING S.	AUS - IRE	231
26	FISCHER D.	AUT	274	92	GIBSON M.	NZL	230
27	SAYER N.	TUR	272	93	SARDINAS L	TUR	229
28	LAKHANI G.	IND - GRE	271	94	DAGCIOGLU	TUR - AUS	229
29	ERGIL E.	TUR	271	95	GOKBRIDGE	TUR	228
30	CERSANIT	POL	270	96	BORNOVA SPO	TUR	227
31	EKSIOGLU M	TUR	270	97	AKUZUM	TUR	226
32	ALBERTI A.	GER	270	98	YIGITSUBAY	TUR	225
33	KORKUT E.	TUR	270	99	DAGDEVIREN	TUR	222
34	VALANI	TUR - BUL	269	100	DATA STEEL	PAK	221
35	WEIGKRICHT	AUT - HUN - GER	269	101	FRIENDSHIP	PAK - IND	218
36	LA MAISON	TUR	269	102	TURAN G.	TUR	218
37	PRIDAY T.	ENG - SCO	269	103	YUREKLI E.	TUR	218
38	GREY H.	SWI	268	104	SARILEVI	TUR	216
39	KARADENIZ	TUR	268	105	SEVIMLI G.	TUR	214
40	BARENDREGT	NTH - AUT - CZE	265	106	ERKEL M.	TUR	213
41	MERSIN	TUR	264	107	KENT	TUR	211
42	DOBRIN D.	RUS	264	108	BICACO C.	TUR	209
43	MUSTAFA	TUR - POL	263	109	ARSLAN S.	TUR	209
44	GOTARD T.	GER - DEN - SWE	263	110	SAYILKAN T	TUR	207
45	FALAY F.	TUR	263	111	AYDIN BEL.	TUR	207
46	Bk.MANDIRI	IDN	263	112	YENGEC	TUR	205
47	IC	TUR - LEB - POL	261	113	ESKINAZ N.	TUR	204
48	KALTIM PR.	IDN	260	114	RINGO	TUR	203
49	MILES	USA - ARG	259	115	PANAHPOUR	ENG - NOR	203
50	AKSUYEK E.	TUR	258	116	YENER S.	TUR	201
51	YALMAN A.	TUR - SWI	257	117	NEVRA	TUR - LEB	200
52	YILANKIRAN	TUR	257	118	BAKAN O.	TUR - PAK - AUS	198
53	PRIEBE J.	CAN - USA	257	119	SEZERLI T.	TUR	195
54	CUMMINGS	CAN - TUR	257	120	KEN-BOT	BOT - KEN	195
55	NYARADI G.	HUN	257	121	WAKSMAN S.	FRA - BEL	193
56	KAMEL M.	EGY	255	122	CLEARY A.	IRE	190
57	MPE	ROM - MAL	254	123	BAKIRLI	TUR	189
58	ENA	TUR	252	124	CHAMBERS	CAN - USA - SWE	184
59	KRAUTSAK	CRO	251	125	YILDIRIM	TUR	171
60	CHUMPS	IRE	251	126	EGELI B.	TUR	168
61	SALMAN Y.	TUR	251	127	BOYBEK U.	TUR	161
62	ANAK F.	TUR	251	128	TAGA F.	TUR	154
63	HACKETT P.	ENG - NOR	251	129	JOVI	AUS	117
64	THOMASBERG.	AUT	250	130	KIZILOK	TUR	114
65	WEBER E.	GER	250				
66	TACSPOR	TUR	250				
67	ERDEM S.	TUR	249				
68	HINGORANI	BOT - KOR - IRE	249				

OPEN

Italy v Netherlands

FINAL-I

Italy and the Netherlands settled in Thursday morning for the first set of a long match of 128 boards, and the two teams served notice that it will be an entertaining and competitive championship round.

Italy picked up 1 IMP on the second board of the match and added 5 more when Bas Drijver mistimed the play in 2♥.

Board 3. Dealer South. E/W Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Versace	Prooijen	Lauria	Brink
1♥	1♠	2♥	All Pass

Ricco Van Prooijen's 1♠ bid denied as many as four spades. He started with the ♦4 to the king and ace, and Alfredo Versace cashed the ♦Q and ruffed a diamond, continuing with a club to the queen and ace. A spade went to the jack and ace, and a club was returned to the king, followed by a club ruff and another diamond ruff. Declarer lost three trumps and two black aces but was home



Sjoert Brink, Netherlands

with eight tricks for plus 110.

West	North	East	South
Schollaardt	Bocchi	Drijver	Duboin
1♠	Dble	2♥	1♣ All Pass

Maarten Schollaardt's 1♠ bid showed spades, or hearts and a minor. Giorgio Duboin started with the ♣10 (Rusinow) to the king, followed by a diamond to the queen. Drijver erred by playing a spade to the jack, allowing Duboin to win and play the ♥K to the ace. Now declarer didn't have an entry to dummy at the right time for the ruff of the fourth diamond. He won the ♥A, cashed the ♦A and ruffed a diamond, then cashed the ♠K and ruffed a spade, but Norberto Bocchi overruffed and took East's last trump with the ♥Q before cashing the ♣A. Minus 100 meant 5 IMPs to Italy.

The Dutch broke on top with a big swing on Board 6, however.

Board 6. Dealer East. E/W Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Schollaardt	Bocchi	Drijver	Duboin
4♠ Dble	Dble All Pass	1♣ Pass	1♦ 5♦

Schollaardt's 4♠ was going down two tricks, but with his thin values Duboin wasn't comfortable sitting for the double. Schollaardt started with the ♠K, switching to his singleton diamond at trick two. Drijver put up the king, and when he got in with the ♣A he made sure dummy had no more trumps to lead through him, switching to the ♠Q. Duboin pitched a spade on the ♣Q, ruffed a club, played a heart to the ace and, continuing to try to shorten his trumps, ruffed another club. He played a heart to the ace next, but Drijver was able to ruff the next heart

and exit with his fifth club. Duboin could not escape two down for minus 300.

West	North	East	South
Versace	Prooijen	Lauria	Brink
4♠	5♥	1♣	Pass
Dble	All Pass	Pass	Pass

Van Prooijen's 5♥ bid was a big position, but it was very right on this deal. Lorenzo Lauria started with the ♣A, switching to the ♠Q at trick two. Versace overtook with the ♠A and continued with the king, ruffed by Van Prooijen. He quickly got the trumps right, banging down the ♥A and ♥K and when the diamond finesse worked, he claimed for plus 650 and 14 IMPs to the Netherlands.

More IMPs came the Netherlands' way when East/West at both tables played ill-fated heart contracts. The Italians were in 4♥, however, three down, while the Dutch stopped at the three level for two off.

Italy tied the match on the next deal, bidding a good slam missed by the Dutch for an 11-IMP gain. Italy picked up another 7 IMPs on the following deal.

Board 9. Dealer North. E/W Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Versace	Prooijen	Lauria	Brink
2♠	1♦	1♥	Pass
	All Pass		

Van Prooijen started with the top two diamonds, continuing with the jack, a clear suit preference signal, for South to ruff. Had Sjoert Brink returned a heart as requested, declarer would have been done in by the 4-2 trump split, eventually tapped out and limited to six spade tricks and a club. Brink, however, returned a trump, and declarer had the time to establish two club tricks for plus 110.

The Italians in the Closed Room did not err on defense, and the Dutch were one level higher.

West	North	East	South
Schollaardt	Bocchi	Drijver	Duboin
1♠	1♦	1♥	Pass
3♠	Pass	2♣	Pass
	All Pass		

Bocchi started with the ♦K, then got the ♣A out of his hand, before continuing with the ♦A. When Duboin took his diamond ruff, he returned a club for partner to ruff. The defense still had a club trick coming, so Schollaardt was two off.

Another 9 IMPs were recorded on Italy's side of the ledger when both Dutch pairs played INT on Board 13 and each went minus 200.

The Netherlands struck back quickly.

Board 14. Dealer East. None Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Versace	Prooijen	Lauria	Brink
1♠	Pass	2♠	1♦
Dble	Pass	3♥	3♦
3♠	Dble	All Pass	Pass



Alfredo Versace questions Jan Jansma

Van Prooijen started with his singleton diamond, ruffing when Brink returned the queen to declarer's king. A heart went to the ace, and declarer ruffed a heart, then played the ♠K. He won the return of the ♠J, ruffed a diamond, then a heart, playing the ♣A and another club. He misguessed by playing the queen and was two down for minus 300.

West	North	East	South
Schollaardt	Bocchi	Drijver	Duboin
1♠	Pass	2♠	1♦
3♠	Pass	Pass	3♦
All Pass			4♦

Schollaardt started with the ♥Q to Drijver's ace, ruffing the diamond return and exiting with the ♣2 (East had returned the ♥2) to the four, nine and king. West still had the ♦K and ♣A coming, so Duboin was one down for minus 50 and 8 IMPs to the Dutch.

Board 15. Dealer South. N/S Vul.

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

Good bidding by the Dutch on the penultimate board earned them another swing.



Maarten Schollaardt, Netherlands

West	North	East	South
Versace	Prooijen	Lauria	Brink
INT	2♦	2NT	3♥
Pass	4♥	Pass	Pass
5♣	Dble	All Pass	

Van Prooijen's 2♦ bid showed a good hand with hearts (2♥ would have shown a lesser hand with hearts). Brink made an excellent bid to indicate at least a mild heart fit and some values, and Van Prooijen bid the unbeatable game. The loss for Italy would have been more substantial had Versace not taken the save. Versace could not escape two down for minus 300. In the Closed Room, the Italians did not get into the auction.

West	North	East	South
Schollaardt	Bocchi	Drijver	Duboin
INT	Pass	2♣	Pass
2♠	Pass	2NT	Pass
3♣	All Pass		

The same nine tricks were available to Schollaardt and he recorded plus 110 for a 9-IMP pickup. When the Dutch earned an overtrick IMP on the final board, the set ended with Italy ahead 37-35.



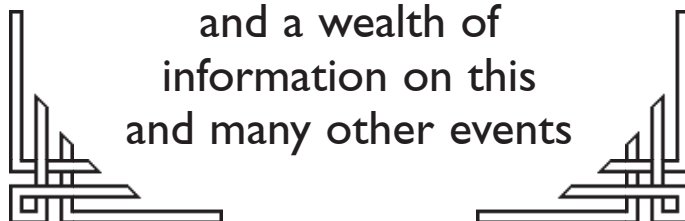
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OPEN-WOMEN

USA v Russia-Italy v Netherlands

FINAL-2

by Mark Horton

Double duty for your reporter, who was trying to follow developments in both finals as the second session got under way. Fortunately the deals were quiet, so there was not too much to report on.

Board 20. Dealer West. All Vul.

<p>♠ J 8 ♥ Q 6 3 ♦ A 10 7 ♣ A K 5 4 3</p>	<table style="border: 1px solid black; width: 60px; height: 60px; margin: 0 auto;"> <tr><td></td><td style="text-align: center;">N</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">W</td><td></td><td style="text-align: center;">E</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td style="text-align: center;">S</td><td></td></tr> </table>		N		W		E		S		<p>♠ A Q 7 ♥ J 9 2 ♦ 9 6 4 ♣ Q J 9 8</p>	<p>♠ K 9 ♥ K 10 4 ♦ Q J 8 3 2 ♣ 10 7 6</p>
	N											
W		E										
	S											
	<p>♠ 10 6 5 4 3 2 ♥ A 8 7 5 ♦ K 5 ♣ 2</p>											

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Ponomareva	Molson	Gromova	Sokolow
1♣	Pass	INT	All Pass

INT was not in danger. After South led a spade to the queen and king, when the diamond king obliged declarer cashed her tricks for +120.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Meyers	Karpenko	Montin	Vasilkova
INT	Pass	3NT	All Pass



Natalia Karpenko, Russia

With West as declarer only an inspired lead of the ace or queen of spades could defeat 3NT. North did lead a black queen but it was in clubs. You could argue that West should win that to avoid a possible switch to spades, but she ducked, giving North a second chance.

It was not taken, as unluckily South's singleton club was the two, encouraging in their methods. North continued with the nine of clubs and declarer could win with dummy's ten and play on diamonds. She eventually secured a winner in each major to emerge with 10 tricks and 11 IMPs.

Board 21. Dealer North. N/S Vul.

<p>♠ 8 7 ♥ 8 6 3 2 ♦ A 5 3 2 ♣ 6 5 4</p>	<table style="border: 1px solid black; width: 60px; height: 60px; margin: 0 auto;"> <tr><td></td><td style="text-align: center;">N</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">W</td><td></td><td style="text-align: center;">E</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td style="text-align: center;">S</td><td></td></tr> </table>		N		W		E		S		<p>♠ A 9 6 5 2 ♥ A 10 7 ♦ J 10 9 7 ♣ 3</p>	<p>♠ K Q 10 4 ♥ Q 5 ♦ K Q 8 6 ♣ Q 9 7</p>
	N											
W		E										
	S											
	<p>♠ J 3 ♥ K J 9 4 ♦ 4 ♣ A K J 10 8 2</p>											

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Ponomareva	Molson	Gromova	Sokolow
All Pass	Pass	1♣	2♣

Declarer won the opening spade lead in dummy, cashed two top clubs and played a third round. In due course she played West for the queen of hearts to finish with nine tricks; +110.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Meyers	Karpenko	Montin	Vasilkova
Pass	Pass	1♦	1♥
3♦	2♣*	Pass	3♣
	4♥	All Pass	

I will confess to being uncertain of the meaning of Two Clubs – the convention card is silent. It might be some type of Drury, or perhaps simply a relay. Or of course it might be a typo – as we say in the Bulletin Room, imitation is the sincerest form of flattery.

Declarer won the opening spade lead in dummy, played a club to the jack, ruffed a club and played ace and ten of hearts with gratifying effect. That was eleven tricks and the same number of IMPs.

Board 22. Dealer East. E/W Vul.

<p>♠ Q 9 4 3 ♥ K 10 6 ♦ K J 10 7 ♣ 8 7</p>	<table style="border: 1px solid black; width: 60px; height: 60px; margin: auto;"> <tr><td></td><td style="text-align: center;">N</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">W</td><td></td><td style="text-align: center;">E</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td style="text-align: center;">S</td><td></td></tr> </table>		N		W		E		S		<p>♠ J 10 2 ♥ 8 3 ♦ A Q 3 ♣ Q 10 9 5 4</p>	<p>♠ K 8 ♥ Q 4 2 ♦ 9 4 2 ♣ A K J 6 3</p>
	N											
W		E										
	S											
		<p>♠ A 7 6 5 ♥ A J 9 7 5 ♦ 8 6 5 ♣ 2</p>										

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Ponomareva	Molson	Gromova	Sokolow
		1♣*	1♥
Dble	INT	All Pass	

The way the play went West probably wished she had doubled INT. East cashed a top club and switched to the king of spades. Declarer won in dummy and played back a spade to her ten, and a low heart. East made the nice play of the queen, and declarer won and played back a heart to West's ten. West cashed spades and the king of hearts, squeezing North in the minors. When West switched to a club East took two tricks in the suit and exited with a club, forcing North to give West a diamond trick. Two down; +100.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Meyers	Karpenko	Montin	Vasilkova
		1♣	1♥
1♠	INT	Pass	Pass
Dble	All Pass		



Jill Meyers, USA

This time West did double, but the defence was different. East led the three of clubs, not at all unreasonable but by no means fatal. Declarer won with the nine and played a heart to the two (no queen this time) seven and ten. The threat of dummy's heart suit was clear, and West was at fault when she switched to the jack of diamonds rather than a spade. Declarer finessed, and cleared the hearts. That meant seven tricks, +180 and 7 IMPs, putting the Russians one ahead in the set, but still well behind in the match.

Time to move over to Open final the where, as half-time approached, only 7 IMPs had been scored.

Board 24. Dealer West. None Vul.

<p>♠ J 10 9 7 ♥ 9 7 2 ♦ J 8 ♣ A 5 4 2</p>	<table style="border: 1px solid black; width: 60px; height: 60px; margin: auto;"> <tr><td></td><td style="text-align: center;">N</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">W</td><td></td><td style="text-align: center;">E</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td style="text-align: center;">S</td><td></td></tr> </table>		N		W		E		S		<p>♠ 6 4 3 ♥ Q J 8 3 ♦ Q 10 9 4 ♣ 7 3</p>	<p>♠ A K Q 8 5 2 ♥ 6 ♦ K 7 5 ♣ Q 9 8</p>
	N											
W		E										
	S											
		<p>♠ — ♥ A K 10 5 4 ♦ A 6 3 2 ♣ K J 10 6</p>										

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Brink	Bocchi	Prooijen	Duboin
Pass	Pass	1♠	2♥
3♠	4♥	4♠	4NT
Dble	5♥	Dble	All Pass

West led the two of hearts and declarer won in dummy and played a club to the jack and ace. West switched to the jack of diamonds, covered by the queen, king and ace, and declarer simply drew trumps and claimed his over-trick for +750.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Versace	Verhees	Lauria	Jansma
Pass	Pass	1♠	2♥
3♠	Pass	4♠	4NT
Dble	5♥	All Pass	

West led a trump and the early play was the same as at the other table. When West was in with the ace of clubs he played another trump and declarer again won in dummy and repeated the club finesse. He drew the last trump and cashed the winning clubs (at this level the players know when the spots are good!), discarding two diamonds from dummy. He played a diamond to dummy's

queen, which lost to the king. He ruffed the spade return and claimed; +450, but a loss of 7 IMPs.

Let's see how the Women coped with this deal:

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Ponomareva</i>	<i>Molson</i>	<i>Gromova</i>	<i>Sokolow</i>
Pass	Pass	1♠	2♥
3♠	Pass	4♠	Dble
Pass	5♥	5♠	All Pass

No double, no trouble! South cashed the ace of hearts and played a low heart when North followed with the queen. Declarer ruffed and drew trumps while eliminating hearts, coming down to one trump in each hand. She tried a club to the ace and a club, but South won and played clubs. Declarer ruffed and played a low diamond to the jack and queen, down three; -150.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Meyers</i>	<i>Karpenko</i>	<i>Montin</i>	<i>Vasilkova</i>
Pass	Pass	1♠	Dble
3♠	Pass	4♠	All Pass

Clearly South should have taken another bid, double or 4NT? Play went along similar lines – a minor variation was that at one point declarer tried the jack of diamonds covered all around and was two down; -100, 2 IMPs to USA.

Okay, back to the Open where you can join me on a trip to the Twilight Zone.

Board 27. Dealer South. None Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Brink</i>	<i>Bocchi</i>	<i>Prooijen</i>	<i>Duboin</i>
Pass	3♦	Dble	1♠
All Pass			3♠

This looks easy enough to defend, heart, heart, heart ruffed, diamond, heart ruffed, diamond. However, some-

thing strange happened. West led his heart and East won, declarer dropping the jack. East cashed the king of diamonds for the two, three and ten and then cashed the ace of diamonds. A mysterious defence was completed when East played the six of hearts for West to ruff and he played back a diamond, giving declarer a ruff and discard. With the club queen onside the contract was made; +140.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Versace</i>	<i>Verhees</i>	<i>Lauria</i>	<i>Jansma</i>
Pass	2NT*	Dble	1♠
3♣	3♠	Pass	Pass
3NT*	Pass	5♦	All Pass

One has to assume that Three Spades would have been defeated at this table, but Versace, clearly a red meat eater and never one to sell out easily, came again and put his side overboard. What is more, his partner took him seriously, and went for the game bonus. North/South were sufficiently impressed so as not to double and the contract failed by two tricks; 1 IMP to Italy.

OK, back to reality.

Board 29. Dealer North. All Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Brink</i>	<i>Bocchi</i>	<i>Prooijen</i>	<i>Duboin</i>
1♥	1♣	1♦	Pass
6♦	1♠	2♣	3♠
	All Pass		

Watching on Bridge Base, Norway's Jon Sveindal described Six Diamonds as a bit heavy. What adjective would you use? The contract failed by two tricks; -200.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Versace</i>	<i>Verhees</i>	<i>Lauria</i>	<i>Jansma</i>
Dble	2♣	2♦	3♣
5♦	Pass	3♦	Pass
	All Pass		

Obviously Four Hearts would have been a good spot, but at what point could West have introduced his hearts? Five Diamonds was reasonable but unsuccessful, down one; -100 and 3 IMPs to Italy, who won this low scoring set 17-12.

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Ponomareva</i>	<i>Molson</i>	<i>Gromova</i>	<i>Sokolow</i>
	1♣	1♦	1♠
Dble*	4♠	Pass	Pass
5♦	Pass	Pass	Dble
All Pass			

Obviously Four Spades would not have made, but it was tempting for West to bid Five Diamonds, a contract that had to fail by one trick; -100.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Meyers</i>	<i>Karpenko</i>	<i>Montin</i>	<i>Vasilkova</i>
	2♣*	Dble	3♣
4♥	5♣	Dble	All Pass

This was not pretty, declarer losing two trumps, and a trick in each of the other suits; -800 and 14 IMPs to the USA, beginning to move well ahead, especially when they added another 14 IMPs on the remaining boards in the set.

Finnish SISU

The Finnish word, Sisu, is known even outside Finland and means something like persistence with a bit of stubbornness. In the match between Netherlands and Finland in the Women's event, one can say that a bit of sisu was shown, that I have not yet seen published in the bulletin.

The Finnish Women's team of four players, Birgit Baqr-lund, Sari Kulmala, Mirja Mantyla and Pirkko Savolainen, showed quite a lot of sisu. After playing 48 boards for seven days, totalling 336 boards, some with good and some with worse results, they realised that Finland, for the first time ever, had reached the knockout phase after finishing eighth.

In the draw for opponents, Netherlands chose to play Finland, perhaps thinking it would be easy prey. Against the odds, Finland took an early lead and held it for 52 of the 64 boards, before the well-known and strong-playing Dutch women succeeded in passing them, winning the match by 123-104 IMPs, one of the lowest scoring matches in the knockouts.

The strong Dutch women were naturally worthy of their victory, but the sisu Finnish ladies showed very well without any opportunity for rest while meeting an opponent that always had a rested pair to throw in against the 'enemy', is in my opinion worthy of telling.

Torsten Barlund, Finland coach.

(We agree – well done to the Finnish team. Eds).



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TOURNAMENT

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OPEN

Italy v Netherlands

FINAL-3

by Mark Horton

Delicately poised before the start of the third session, the match exploded into life as more than 70 IMPs changed hands in the first eight boards.

It was Italy who struck first, and as is so often the case it was the opening lead which effectively decided the outcome.

Board 1. Dealer North. None Vul.

<p>♠ Q 9 2 ♥ 7 5 3 2 ♦ K 10 7 3 ♣ A 7</p>	<table style="border: 1px solid black; width: 60px; height: 60px; margin: auto;"> <tr><td></td><td>N</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td></td><td>E</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td>S</td><td></td></tr> </table>		N		W		E		S		<p>♠ 10 7 5 3 ♥ A 6 ♦ J 5 ♣ K 6 5 4 2</p> <p>♠ A K 8 6 ♥ K J 10 ♦ Q 8 6 ♣ Q J 3</p>	<p>♠ J 4 ♥ Q 9 8 4 ♦ A 9 4 2 ♣ 10 9 8</p>
	N											
W		E										
	S											

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Schollaardt	Bocchi	Drijver	Duboin
2♣*	Pass	1NT	Pass
3♦*	Pass	2♠	Pass
3♠	Pass	3♥	Pass
		3NT	All Pass

South led the nine of hearts and North won with the ace and returned the suit. Declarer finessed and South won and played back the four of hearts, North matching that with the four of clubs. Declarer played a diamond to the ten and jack and North switched to the five of spades for the six, jack and queen. A diamond to the queen saw South take the ace and cash the fourth heart. That was one down and in due course North took a trick with the king of clubs; two down, -100.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Nunes	Verhees	Fantoni	Jansma
1♦	Pass	1♣	Pass
3NT	Pass	1NT	Pass
	All Pass		

This time South led the four of diamonds, a very good start for declarer, who took North's jack with the queen and played back the six of diamonds to dummy's ten. He played a heart and North made the good play of rising

with the ace and returning the suit. Declarer finessed and South won and played back a heart. Declarer won and ran the queen of clubs to North's king. North switched to the five of spades for the jack and queen and declarer played the nine of spades to his ace, a club to the ace and a spade to the eight; +400 and 11 IMPs.

Board 2. Dealer East. N/S Vul.

<p>♠ Q ♥ Q 7 6 3 2 ♦ K Q J 6 3 ♣ A 9</p>	<table style="border: 1px solid black; width: 60px; height: 60px; margin: auto;"> <tr><td></td><td>N</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td></td><td>E</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td>S</td><td></td></tr> </table>		N		W		E		S		<p>♠ 10 8 7 ♥ A 4 ♦ 9 5 ♣ K J 6 5 4 2</p> <p>♠ J 5 2 ♥ J 10 8 5 ♦ A 10 7 4 ♣ 10 3</p> <p>♠ A K 9 6 4 3 ♥ K 9 ♦ 8 2 ♣ Q 8 7</p>	
	N											
W		E										
	S											

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Schollaardt	Bocchi	Drijver	Duboin
2♠*	3♥	Pass	1♠
All Pass		4♥	4♠

West led the king of diamonds and continued with a diamond to East's ace. The commentators were speculating on how declarer might tackle the spade suit, but they had missed an obvious inference. Suppose West had ♠QJ. In that case he would have at most one club. He would have led or cashed a singleton ace at some point, or have led/switched to a singleton. When East switched to a heart declarer won in hand, cashed a top spade, crossed to dummy with a heart and finessed in spades; +620.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Nunes	Verhees	Fantoni	Jansma
3♣*	3♠	Pass	1♠
Pass	Pass	4♥	4♠
Pass	5♠	5♦	Pass
		All Pass	

East was better placed at this table as he knew both his partner's suits. Five Diamonds would have been a good save, but things got even better when North went on to Five Spades. That had to go one down for -100 and 12 IMPs for Italy.

Board 3. Dealer South. E/W Vul.

♠ 8 6 5 ♥ K 10 7 4 ♦ 2 ♣ J 8 6 5 4	<table style="border: 1px solid black; width: 60px; height: 60px; margin: auto;"> <tr><td></td><td>N</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td></td><td>E</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td>S</td><td></td></tr> </table>		N		W		E		S		♠ K J 4 ♥ 9 ♦ K 9 6 5 4 ♣ A K 10 3	♠ Q 10 9 2 ♥ A 6 3 ♦ A 8 3 ♣ Q 7 2
	N											
W		E										
	S											

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Schollaardt	Bocchi	Drijver	Duboin
Pass	1♦	Pass	1♥
Pass	2♣	Pass	2♠
Pass	2NT	Pass	3♦
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

East led the ten of spades and declarer won with the jack and forced out the ace of diamonds to ensure nine tricks; +400.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Nunes	Verhees	Fantoni	Jansma
Pass	1♦	Pass	1♥
Pass	2♣	Pass	3♦
Pass	3♠*	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

With South as declarer the contract was much less se-

cure. The opening lead of the four of clubs went to East's queen and he found a switch that ensured the defeat of the contract when he returned the three of hearts. Declarer put in the jack, which was allowed to hold, and played the queen of diamonds. East won and played ace of hearts, heart; one down, -50 and yet another double figure swing to the Italians, this time 10 IMPs.

Things were beginning to look bleak for the Orangemen, but they kept calm and hit back, first with a 7 IMP pick up and then with something more substantial:

Board 6. Dealer East. E/W Vul.

♠ 6 4 ♥ 6 2 ♦ A 10 9 4 3 ♣ Q 9 3 2	<table style="border: 1px solid black; width: 60px; height: 60px; margin: auto;"> <tr><td></td><td>N</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td></td><td>E</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td>S</td><td></td></tr> </table>		N		W		E		S		♠ 8 7 ♥ A 9 5 4 ♦ K Q 8 6 2 ♣ A 8	♠ A K Q 10 ♥ Q J ♦ 7 5 ♣ J 7 6 5 4
	N											
W		E										
	S											

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Schollaardt	Bocchi	Drijver	Duboin
Pass	2NT*	1♣	2♦*
Pass	4♥	All Pass	3♣*

East led the queen of hearts and declarer won in dummy and played back a heart to the nine. That meant one down for -50.



Fulvio Fantoni, Italy



Bas Drijver, Netherlands

Closed Room

West Nunes	North Verhees	East Fantoni INT	South Jansma 2♣*
2♦	Pass	Pass	2♥
Pass	4♥	All Pass	

West led a club and declarer won and played a spade. His plan was to ruff spades in dummy, and there was nothing the defenders could do about it. More to the point, there was no chance of a misguess in hearts given East's opening bid; +420 and 10 IMPs.

Board 7. Dealer South. All Vul.

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

Open Room

West Schollaardt	North Bocchi	East Drijver	South Duboin 1♣
2♥*	Pass	2♠	All Pass

South led the five of spades and declarer won in dummy and played a diamond to the king and ace. South played back a spade and declarer finessed. North won and switched to the three of hearts. South won with the ten and played back a heart. Declarer won with the ace and discarded a heart on the queen of diamonds. With the ace of clubs onside he had nine tricks; +140.

Closed Room

West Nunes	North Verhees	East Fantoni	South Jansma 1♣
1♠	Pass	2♣*	Pass
3♠	Pass	4♠	All Pass

To be sure of defeating Four Spades North has to lead a low heart – virtually impossible. He went for the nine of clubs and South took the ace and switched to the five of spades. Declarer won, played a diamond to the king and ace, and when South played a second spade he went up with the king and claimed; +620 and 12 IMPs

Board 8. Dealer West. None Vul.

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

Open Room

West Schollaardt	North Bocchi	East Drijver	South Duboin
Pass	3♠	All Pass	

North's preempt stole the pot, and the defence was imperfect, East/West getting their wires crossed and allowing declarer to discard a losing club on the hearts; +140.

Closed Room

West Nunes	North Verhees	East Fantoni	South Jansma
Pass	3♠	Dble	Pass
4♣	Pass	4♦	Pass
5♦	All Pass		

This time East did not hesitate to enter the auction and the result was that his side reached a laydown game; +400 and the Italian were on another roll, gaining 11 IMPs.



Giorgio Duboin, Italy

Board 12. Dealer West. N/S Vul.

<p>♠ K J 10 8 7 ♥ J 9 5 ♦ J 9 7 ♣ A 2</p>	<table style="border: 1px solid black; width: 80px; height: 80px; margin: auto;"> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">N</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">W</td><td style="text-align: center;">E</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td style="text-align: center;">S</td></tr> </table>	N		W	E		S	<p>♠ A Q 4 3 ♥ A K Q 10 3 ♦ K 3 ♣ K 10</p>	<p>♠ 2 ♥ 8 6 2 ♦ A Q 10 5 4 2 ♣ J 7 5</p> <p>♠ 9 6 5 ♥ 7 4 ♦ 8 6 ♣ Q 9 8 6 4 3</p>
N									
W	E								
	S								

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Schollaardt	Bocchi	Drijver	Duboin
	Pass	2♦*	Pass
2♥*	Dble	3♦	Pass
3♠	Pass	5♦	Pass
5♥	Pass	6♣	Pass
6♦	All Pass		

When South led the nine of clubs declarer's goose was cooked; -100.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Nunes	Verhees	Fantoni	Jansma
	Pass	1♦	Pass
2♠	Pass	3♦	Pass
3NT	Pass	4♣	Pass
4♥	Pass	4♠	Pass
5♦	All Pass		

When East/West stopped in game they collected 12 IMPs for Italy.

The situation was getting serious, but the Dutchmen collected 16 IMPs on the last three boards of the set to keep their opponents in sight, albeit at a distance of 38 IMPs.

Championship Diary

On Wednesday, during the fourth session of the semi-final between Italy and China, Giorgio Duboin demonstrated that the quickness of the hand really does deceive the eye. In an apparently doomed Four Spades he was playing a heart suit in which only four cards remained. Dummy had ♥Q6 and East held ♥92. Giorgio was playing at top speed and his opponents were trying to match him. East, expecting the queen to be played from dummy, was ready to follow with the two, but Giorgio had played the six, and now the impossible contract was home. You can judge how fast he was by the fact that on Bridgebase they were sure he had played the queen.

Visitors to the Bulletin Room are never ending. The latest in a long line was Lex de Groot, here to promote some new software that presents some of Terence Reese's classic books in an interactive way. He also offered some new definitions of well-known words. One of our favourites was:

Flatulence (n.) the emergency vehicle that picks you up after you are run over by a steamroller.

Another regular visitor is Pony Nehmert. At the moment she has a slight cold and when she started coughing we told her we hoped she was not spreading germs. 'What's a germ' she enquired. 'A small German' was the answer.

A man came into the Bulletin room bemoaning his fate in the Transnational event. 'How could my partner forget DOPI?' 'Especially as she was playing with him.' was our immediate collective response!

Discussing some obscure point with Tacchi I enquired 'When have I ever let you down?' 'How long have you got?' was his rejoinder.

You cannot profit from your mistakes until you realise you have made one.



WOMEN

USA v Russia

FINAL-3

USA led their Russian challengers by 101-58 after 32 deals of the Women's final. There was still a long way to go, but the Russians would not want to slip further behind as the third set got underway.

Board 1. Dealer North. None Vul.

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

West <i>Ponomareva</i>	North <i>Molson</i>	East <i>Gromova</i>	South <i>Sokolow</i>
	Pass	1NT	Pass
2♣	Pass	2♠	Pass
3NT	All Pass		
West <i>Meyers</i>	North <i>Lebedeva</i>	East <i>Montin</i>	South <i>Galaktionova</i>
	Pass	1NT	Pass
2♣	Pass	2♠	Pass
2NT	Pass	3NT	All Pass

With the opposition having indicated that they hold the major suits, would your choice be to lead from a mediocre four-card minor or from a solid three-card holding in the other minor?

Tobi Sokolow looked no further than her four-card diamond suit. The low diamond went to the jack and queen and Viktoria Gromova returned the ♦8. Sokolow took the ♦A and switched to a heart for the ace and a heart back to the jack and queen. With no semblance of an entry, Sokolow did not bother to clear the hearts but instead switched to a club. Janice Seamon-Molson won the ♣K but that was all for the defence; +400.

Olga Galaktionova led the ten of clubs. Randi Montin played low from dummy so Maria Lebedeva won the king and returned the suit. Montin played a diamond to the queen and ace and the clubs were cleared. When a diamond to the ten now lost, the defence could cash two club tricks and the ace of hearts for down two; -100 and 11 IMPs to Russia, just the start they needed.

Board 2. Dealer East. N/S Vul.

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

West <i>Ponomareva</i>	North <i>Molson</i>	East <i>Gromova</i>	South <i>Sokolow</i>
		Pass	1♠
2♥	2♠	3♥	Pass
4♥	All Pass		
West <i>Meyers</i>	North <i>Lebedeva</i>	East <i>Montin</i>	South <i>Galaktionova</i>
		Pass	1♠
Dble	2♠	Pass	Pass
Dble	Pass	2NT	3♠
All Pass			

Is the West hand a simple overcall, a two-suited overcall, or a take-out double? Tatiana Ponomareva went for the 2♥ overcall on a truly revolting suit but with compensation elsewhere and that caught a raise from Gromova. Ponomareva went on to the heart game and Molson led a low spade to the king. Sokolow switched to the nine of



Tobi Sokolow, USA

hearts and Molson won then played the ♠10. That was the end of the defence, as Ponomareva could ruff and play a second round of trumps, win the return and run the diamonds, getting rid of dummy's club loser on the fifth round; +420.

Jill Meyers preferred a take-out double then doubled again at her second turn. Montin passed the first time then bid 2NT, two places to play. However, when Galaktionova competed to 3♠, the Americans left her to play there. Meyers led the ♦K then switched to a heart. Galaktionova won in hand, cashed a top spade, crossed to the ace of hearts and ran the ♠8, making ten tricks for +170 and another 11 IMPs to Russia, who were suddenly a lot closer at 80-101.

Russia picked up a couple of IMPs on Board 3 for 3NT+2 against 5♦ just making, then came more good news.

Board 4. Dealer West. All Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Ponomareva	Molson	Gromova	Sokolow
Pass	1♣	INT	All Pass

West	North	East	South
Meyers	Lebedeva	Montin	Galaktionova
Pass	Pass	INT	All Pass

Molson opened the North hand where Lebedeva did not, but the final contracts were identical.

Sokolow led a heart which ran to Gromova's queen. Gromova returned a low heart and Sokolow won the jack, Molson throwing the ♣3, then switched to a spade to declarer's queen. Gromova cashed the ♠K then played a diamond to the queen and king and back came the ♣10 to declarer's king. Gromova cashed her winners and threw Molson in to lead away from the ♣A to give the seventh trick; +90.

Galaktionova also led a heart round to the queen. Again, declarer tried a low heart to South's jack, North again throwing the ♣3, but now came a change as Galaktionova switched to the ♣10. That ran to the king and Montin cashed three rounds of spades then tried a club

to the queen and made no more tricks; down two for -200 and 7 IMPs to Russia.

Board 5. Dealer North. N/S Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Ponomareva	Molson	Gromova	Sokolow
1♥	Pass	Pass	1♦
Pass	5♦	All Pass	5♣

West	North	East	South
Meyers	Lebedeva	Montin	Galaktionova
2♥	Pass	Pass	1♣
Pass	Dble	4♥	4NT
All Pass	5♣	Pass	6♣

Slam is pretty dreadful on the North/South cards, having only one thing to recommend it – it happens to make! Sokolow could open with a natural bid of 1♦ then jump to 5♣, expressing close to the power of her hand, and Molson had no reason to go on; +620.

Galaktionova had to open with a strong 1♣ and could only begin to show her distribution at her next turn. The



Olga Galaktionova, Russia

extra East/West pre-emption left the Russians guessing and Galaktionova guessed to go on to slam once she had discovered her partner's minor-suit preference. Declarer won the heart lead, passed the ♠Q and, when that held, tried the ♦J off the dummy. That was covered and she simply played trumps from the top; +1370 and 13 IMPs to Russia, who had scored 44 unanswered points to trail by only 98-101.

Board 6. Dealer East. E/W Vul.

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

West <i>Ponomareva</i>	North <i>Molson</i>	East <i>Gromova</i>	South <i>Sokolow</i>
Dble	Rdbl	Pass	3♥
Pass	4♥	All Pass	
West <i>Meyers</i>	North <i>Lebedeva</i>	East <i>Montin</i>	South <i>Galaktionova</i>
1♦	Pass	1♠	Pass
INT	Pass	Pass	2♥
3♣	All Pass		

Gromova's 2♣ opening on the kind of emaciated suit that makes me hate the Precision 2♣ saw a very aggressive two-suited overcall from Sokolow. Not surprisingly, Molson drove to game and must have been mildly disappointed to find that it was not cold. The lead was a club and Sokolow won in dummy and led a diamond to the jack and ace. A second club went to declarer's king and Sokolow cashed the ♥K, seeing the fall of the jack, then conceded a spade to East. Gromova cashed a second spade then played a third round, ruffed in dummy. Sokolow ruffed a diamond then led a heart to the nine and queen so was one down for -50.

Montin's simple 1♣ opening saw Galaktionova pass with the South cards and, though South competed later, the Americans were allowed to play 3♣. Galaktionova led her diamond to dummy's ace and Montin played three rounds of spades to throw a heart loser from dummy. The third spade was ruffed and Lebedeva cashed the ace of hearts then played queen and a low diamond, Galaktiono-

va over-ruffing with the ten. A spade was ruffed with the ace and there was still the ♣K to come; down two for -200 and 6 IMPs to Russia, who moved into the lead by 104-101.

Board 7 was a flat game, then yet more good news for Russia.

Board 8. Dealer West. None Vul.

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

West <i>Ponomareva</i>	North <i>Molson</i>	East <i>Gromova</i>	South <i>Sokolow</i>
Pass	3♠	Dble	Pass
4♣	Pass	4♦	Pass
5♦	All Pass		
West <i>Meyers</i>	North <i>Lebedeva</i>	East <i>Montin</i>	South <i>Galaktionova</i>
Pass	2♦	2NT	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

Molson opened 3♠ and her opponents bid competently to the diamond game. There was little to the play and Gromova chalked up +400.

Lebedeva opened a multi and Montin overcalled 2NT



Randi Montin, USA

immediately to avoid range issues should she pass then come in later. Meyers simply raised to game and Galaktionova could see only one real hope of defeating the contract. She led ace then queen of spades and the defence had seven quick tricks; down three for -150 and 11 IMPs to Russia.

Board 9. Dealer North. E/W Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Ponomareva</i>	<i>Molson</i>	<i>Gromova</i>	<i>Sokolow</i>
5♠	3♠	Pass	4NT
6♦	Pass	6♣	Pass
Pass	Pass	Pass	6♠
		Dble	All Pass

West	North	East	South
<i>Meyers</i>	<i>Lebedeva</i>	<i>Montin</i>	<i>Galaktionova</i>
4NT	2♠	Pass	4♠
5♦	Pass	5♣	Pass
	All Pass		

Again USA went for the more aggressive pre-empt and it worked out badly for them. Molson opened 3♠ and Sokolow tried 4NT, knowing that 4♠ was hardly likely to be sufficient. Ponomareva cuebid 5♠ trusting her right-hand opponent to have a bad hand with a lot of spades for the 4NT bid, and converted the response to 6♦, showing both red suits. Molson liked this development but didn't wish to disturb opponents who were where she wanted them to be. Alas, Sokolow did not know that her partner was looking at two trump tricks and could see no defence to the slam so took what she saw as a cheap save. And indeed, had 6♦ been making, 6♠ doubled would have been cheap. The defence took its tricks for four down, -800.

Lebedeva opened with the lesser pre-empt of 2♠, showing five plus spades and a four-card or longer minor. Four Spades was sufficient from South now and Meyers made a two-suited take-out bid then converted 5♣ to 5♦, where she played. Meyers ruffed the lead of the ace of spades, cashed the top diamonds and laid down the ace of hearts. The fall of the queen meant that there were no further problems, declarer's third club going on the king

of spades; +600 but 5 IMPs to Russia. In nine deals, Russia had scored 66 unanswered IMPs and now led by 120-101.

Board 11. Dealer South. None Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Ponomareva</i>	<i>Molson</i>	<i>Gromova</i>	<i>Sokolow</i>
2♠	Pass	Pass	Pass
All Pass			3♦

West	North	East	South
<i>Meyers</i>	<i>Lebedeva</i>	<i>Montin</i>	<i>Galaktionova</i>
1♠	Pass	2♥	1♦
3♥	All Pass		Pass

Sokolow passed the South hand so Ponomareva got to open 2♠, weak and two-suited. Sokolow balanced with 3♦ and played there. Ponomareva led a low spade and Sokolow rose with the ace and returned a spade to East's queen. Gromova switched to a low trump, run to the king, and back came a heart to dummy's king. Sokolow played two more rounds of trumps, ruffing with the jack, then led a diamond to the ten and had nine tricks for +110.

Galaktionova opened the South hand and her partner stayed mysteriously silent as the Americans bid up to 3♥. Galaktionova led the ♠9 to declarer's queen and Montin played a heart to North's king. Lebedeva played back a heart to her partner's ace and now came a second spade to the ace. Lebedeva switched to a club and Montin went up with the king to preserve the ace as a late entry to the ♠K, drew the outstanding trump and played the ♣J for the queen and ace. A diamond went on the spade and there was just the ace of diamonds to lose; nine tricks for +140 and 6 IMPs to USA, at last a bit of relief.

Board 12 was an easily bid small slam for East/West and both pairs got there without difficulty. Then USA regained the lead on the next deal.

Board 13. Dealer North. All Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Ponomareva</i>	<i>Molson</i>	<i>Gromova</i>	<i>Sokolow</i>
	Pass	1♣	Pass
1♠	Pass	2♦	Pass
2NT	Pass	3♦	Pass
3♥	Pass	4NT	Pass
5♣	Dble	6NT	All Pass

West	North	East	South
<i>Meyers</i>	<i>Lebedeva</i>	<i>Montin</i>	<i>Galaktionova</i>
	Pass	1♦	Pass
1♠	Pass	2♥	Pass
2♠	Pass	3NT	Pass
4NT	Pass	6♦	All Pass

The East hand is a problem for anyone. Gromova opened a strong club then bid and rebid her long diamonds. Eventually, she checked on key cards and shot the small slam. Alas, after this auction a club lead was routine from either side; down one for -100.

Montin opened 1♦ then invented a heart suit to show her strength, leapt to 3NT at her next turn, and accepted

Meyers' slam invitation by jumping to 6♦. East's auction sounds a little bit strange but the opening lead is by no means automatic and the choice of the diamond slam rather than no trump offered an extra losing option. Perhaps dummy was two-two in the red suits and heart ruffs were needed to make the contract? After some thought, that is the option Galaktionova went for. Her trump lead did not cause Montin any difficulties at all; +1370 and 16 IMPs to USA, ahead by 123-120.

USA picked up 4 more IMPs on the next deal but there was to be one more twist in this remarkable set.

Board 15. Dealer South. N/S Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Ponomareva</i>	<i>Molson</i>	<i>Gromova</i>	<i>Sokolow</i>
			Pass
2♦	2♥	Dble	3♥
Pass	4♥	4♠	Pass
Pass	5♥	5♠	All Pass

West	North	East	South
<i>Meyers</i>	<i>Lebedeva</i>	<i>Montin</i>	<i>Galaktionova</i>
			Pass
2♦	4♥	All Pass	

Both Wests opened with a multi. Molson overcalled 2♥ and Gromova made a negative double. At her next turn Gromova was willing to accept that her opponents held the hearts and therefore her side had a big spade fit. She saved again when Molson went on to 5♥ and nobody troubled to double her. The defence took the four tricks that were their due; -100.

Lebedeva overcalled 4♥. It may not be everybody's choice but it worked as Montin was unwilling to assume that her partner held spades. Four Hearts made with an overtrick and that was +650 and 11 IMPs to Russia.

There was some potential in the final board of the set but there was no swing so the midpoint of the match was reached with the score 131-127 in favour of Russia.



Victoria Gromova, Russia

Four Editors

In the mad world of the Daily Bulletin Room, laughter is always the best medicine. The manic sketches of Monty Python are always high on our list. The whole world probably knows the one about the dead parrot – ‘Norwegian Blue, beautiful plumage’. Less well known is the classic ‘Four Yorkshire men.’ Here is our version, best read in a Yorkshire accent.

The Players:

Ron Tacchi - North;
 Brian Senior - East;
 Mark Horton - South;
 Brent Manley - West;

The Scene:

Four well-dressed men are sitting together in a hotel bar in Istanbul. ‘Farewell to Thee’ is played in the background on Hawaiian guitar.

North:

Aye, very passable, that, a very passable bit of kebab.

East:

Nothing like a good glass of Château Musar, eh, Mark?

South:

You’re right there, Brian.

West:

Who’d have thought thirty year ago we’d all be sitting here drinking Château Musar eh?

North:

In them days we was glad to have the price of a cup of tea.

East:

A cup of cold tea.

West:

Without milk or sugar.

South:

Or tea.

North:

In a cracked cup, as well.

West:

Oh, we never had a cup. We used to have to drink out of a plastic beaker.

East:

The best we could manage was a rolled up daily bulletin.

South:

But you know, we were happy in those days, though we were poor.

North:

Because we were poor. My old Dad used to say to me, “Money doesn’t buy you happiness, son”.

West:

Aye, he was right.

North:

Aye, he was.

West:

I was happier then and I had nothing. We used to do the Bulletin in a room with great big holes in the roof.

East:

Room! You were lucky to have a room! We used to work in a tent, just the two of us, no computer, no layout editor, and we were both huddled together in one corner for fear of the tent being struck by lightning.

South:

You were lucky to have a tent! We used to have to work in a corridor!

North:

Oh, we used to dream of working in a corridor! It would have been a palace to us.

North:

You were lucky. We used to have to get up at six in the morning, go straight to the Bulletin Room, photocopy the Bulletins and make sure they were in the lobby in time for breakfast every day for £10 a week.

East:

Luxury. We used to have to get up at four in the morning, write all the Bulletins out by hand, clean the Press Room, (and the toilets) take them to every hotel within twenty miles and be ready to start again at eight o’clock if we were lucky! All that for £5 a week and no per diem.

South:

Well, of course, we had it tough. We worked twenty-four hours a day on the Bulletin for £1 every four years.

West:

Right. I had to get up in the morning at ten o’clock at night half an hour before I went to bed, drink a cup of sulphuric acid, work twenty-nine hours a day in the Bulletin Room, and pay to come to work.

North:

And you try and tell the Editors of today that they won’t believe you.

All:

They won’t!

Now you can see why the editors appreciate contributions from the players and other journalists during the championships. We thank you for all your help.
 Editor

The Role Of A (Double) Co-ordinator

by Jean-Paul Meyer

You have read humorous piece on the role of a photographer, of a bulletin editor and of a captain. This will not be the case. The essential reason is: a co-ordinator has no sense of humour.

Bulletin co-ordinator is there, I am sure you guessed, to co-ordinate. Co-ordination is not only useful between (hard) workers: Chief editor, editors, photographer, layout editor and IT consultant., the main co-ordination must be available between the Bulletin and the WBF secretarial team so the right announcements appear in due course and no mixing up happens between advertisements that should appear and the one whose best place is in the waste paper basket.

Coordination involves also the relationship with the printer, who has done here, by the way, a magnificent and quite reliable job.

If you think this a complete sinecure, let me tell you a small secret: Bulletin One was due to be available on Saturday October 23 at 8.00 PM and have 12 pages, we managed to deliver, after much sweat 4 pages by midnight.

The best moment of the day is when I am told that all was sent to the printer, that means a few hours of quiet.

Then comes for the Bulletin co-ordinator the worst moment of the day: breakfast when every single bridge player he meets asks him "Why?... How could you?...or, I already pointed out the seven errors competition you run every day in the bulletin!"

The last task of the co-ordinator is to TRY to keep quietness in the Bulletin room.

Would I disclose problems of noise coming from members of the Bulletin team, that would be insider information and I would not go that far, fearing an SEC inquest. There is a poster on the front door of the room " Staff only" but I cannot ask everyone to understand English and specially the crowd of very good friends of the editors of the Bulletin. At the same time , how could I object if these visitors use a computer in the room even if they regularly choose MY computer, the one which is, of course, assigned to the least useful worker.

The role of the rama co-ordinator is quite different:

He has to work on the choice of match for the rama, and during the round robin, the choice seems easy with so many matches available. You are just wrong, because you will be told we have seen such team much too often, nobody cares how they are playing, they are much too slow or they are much too fast, they claim every contract before you can even see the diagram, or why haven't you invited team so and so to the rama yet....They are the ones that everyone wants to see.

During the closing stages, the wording is different but



amounts to the same: "I 1.00 AM and a women is match, aren't you turning mad?" You are not even offered the time to answer that this is the only match being played, it is not a good motive.

Once your program is chosen, you must advise – no preferential order, all should be informed first - the line-up desk - the conventions desk who provides systems for the commentators, who should of course have been informed first, the Bulletin co-ordinator so that he could inform the Bulletin editor, BBO, E-Bridge and many others.

I need to have a good team of three English speaking commentators, no problem...Not having more than three and keeping a seat for the Turkish commentator requires some diplomacy at times. Speaking of the Turkish commentator it was not always the same one, I understand that some were quite good such as Zorlu, but about another one a Turkish player told me "How can you bear such poor comments?" My fault of course, as I had not realized that the rama co-ordinator should have taken Turkish courses before coming to Istanbul!

The Indonesian Contract Bridge Association

Would like to thank



Grudge Match

Round 9 of the Transnational Mixed Teams saw the 'grudge match' between the two Irish teams. This match may have no great bearing on the destination of the medals but, as one can understand, it was important to the eight players involved. The 'Chumps' team achieved something of a triumph on our featured deal against the 'Cleary' team.

Board 1. Dealer North. None Vul.

	♠ A 8 5 3 2					
	♥ —					
	♦ 10 9 4 2					
	♣ 8 7 6 5					
♠ K 10 9 7 6 4	<table border="1" style="border-collapse: collapse; width: 80px; height: 80px; margin: auto;"> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">N</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">W E</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">S</td></tr> </table>	N	W E	S	♠ Q	
N						
W E						
S						
♥ K 10 5		♥ A 9 8 7 3 2				
♦ Q 8		♦ J 5				
♣ 4 3		♣ K J 10 9				
	♠ J					
	♥ Q J 6 4					
	♦ A K 7 6 3					
	♣ A Q 2					

West	North	East	South
O'Lubaigh	O'Brien	Finn	Kirby
	Pass	1♥	INT
Dble	Rdbl	2♣	Pass
2♥	2♠	Pass	Pass
Dble	All Pass		

Mary Finn's 1♥ opening was based to some extent on her distribution so that it was normal for her to remove INT redoubled to show her second suit. When Sean O'Lubaigh gave preference to hearts, B.J. O'Brien competed in his five-card spade suit and O'Lubaigh doubled, thinking that Christmas had come a few weeks early. May I wish for him that his actual Christmas presents next month prove to be a little more satisfying than the one he received here.

Finn led the jack of diamonds and O'Brien won, ruffed a heart, took the club finesse, ruffed a heart, played a club to the ace and ruffed a third heart. A diamond to the ace was the seventh trick and there was still the ace of trumps to come. That was +470 and left West more than a little shell-shocked.

Mobile Phones

No one is allowed to have a mobile phone in the playing rooms. The line-up desk is accepting phones of those who brought them to the playing area. The best solution, of course, is not to carry a mobile phone.

— Ton Kooijman



2005 EBL Open Championships Tenerife

In June 2005 the EBL presents the 2nd Open European Championships in Tenerife.

Players interested in competing will be pleased to know that various discounts will be available on the entry fees.

Only those contestants staying in one of the Mare Nostrum hotels will automatically be entitled to the discounts that are available.

Taking part in one event will attract a discount of 10% on the official entry fee. Furthermore, participation in multiple events will increase the discount to 15% (2nd event), 25% (3rd event), up to a maximum of 30% for more than three events.

Cash prizes will be awarded to those who participate in several events based on their final overall position.

By the introduction of discounts on entry fees and the awarding of cash prizes, the European Bridge League is offering excellent conditions for participants in the 2nd Open European Championships.

World Championship Book 2004



The official book of these 2004 World Championships will be published around the end of March, price £22-00. You can order a copy in advance during the championships at the special reduced price of US\$30-00 or 25 Euros, inclusive of surface mail, by going to the Press Room and filling in one of the forms available there and handing it, along with your preferred currency, to Jan Swann, who is in charge of the Press Room.

As always, the chief analysts will be Eric Kokish, Brian Senior and Barry Rigal. The book will consist of 336 large pages, and will feature every deal of the finals and semi-finals of both Open and Women's events, plus extensive coverage of the earlier stages, and also the Senior, University and Transnational events. There will be a full listing of all the teams taking part, a full results service, and many photographs.

WOMEN

USA v Russia

FINAL-4

In the third set of the Women's series of the World Bridge Olympiad, the USA had let a 47-IMP lead slip away, and they actually trailed by 4 starting play in the fourth of six sets.

It looked promising for the Americans after the first board.

Board 1. Dealer North. None Vul.

♠ 10 6 3		♠ 8 7 5 4									
♥ 9 7 6		♥ 4									
♦ A J 8 5		♦ Q 6 4 3 2									
♣ J 10 6		♣ A Q 8									
	<table border="1"> <tr><td>N</td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td></td><td>E</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td>S</td><td></td></tr> </table>	N			W		E		S		
N											
W		E									
	S										
	♠ A J 2										
	♥ K J 10 3										
	♦ 10 9										
	♣ 9 5 4 3										
	♠ K Q 9										
	♥ A Q 8 5 2										
	♦ K 7										
	♣ K 7 2										

West	North	East	South
Meyers	Gromova	Montin	Ponomareva
Pass	Pass	Pass	1♣
Pass	1♥	Pass	2♣
All Pass	2♦	Pass	4♥

Tatiana Ponomareva's 1♣ opener was variable – this time it was strong. The 1♥ response showed 7+ high-card points and at least four hearts. The 2♣ relay elicited a response indicating a minimum with four hearts. Thus was the contract played by North. Montin made the normal diamond lead, and declarer could not avoid four losers for one down.

West	North	East	South
Vasilkova	Seamon-Molson	Karpenko	Sokolow
Pass	Pass	Pass	1♥
Pass	2♣	Pass	4♥
All Pass			

Irina Vasilkova inexplicably started with a low diamond from the West seat, and Tobi Sokolow could not be prevented from taking 10 tricks. Natalia Karpenko played the ♦Q at trick one. Sokolow won the king, pulled trumps and three rounds of spades, then played dummy's ♦10 to West's jack. No matter where the ♣A was, Sokolow was going to make 10 tricks. Plus 420 was good for a 10-IMP gain. USA had the lead again, 131-127.

They gave it right back on the next board.

Board 2. Dealer East. N/S Vul.

		♠ K 6										
		♥ A 9 5										
		♦ K 9 7										
		♣ A K 10 9 7										
	<table border="1"> <tr><td>N</td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td></td><td>E</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td>S</td><td></td></tr> </table>	N			W		E		S		♠ Q J 8 4 2	
N												
W		E										
	S											
		♥ K Q 8										
		♦ A 6 4										
		♣ 6 4										
		♠ A 9 7 5										
		♥ 7 4 2										
		♦ Q J 2										
		♣ J 8 2										
West	North	East	South									
Meyers	Gromova	Montin	Ponomareva									
INT	Dble	Pass	Pass									
2♥	3♣	Pass	3NT									
All Pass												

Jill Meyers' semi-psychic INT response did not slow down the Russians. Meyers ran when Ponomareva passed North's double, a takeout of spades, but Victoria Gromova simply bid her long suit to reach the top spot. The defense started with hearts, but there was no way to deny declarer her vulnerable game, and she finished with an overtrick for plus 630.

West	North	East	South
Vasilkova	Seamon-Molson	Karpenko	Sokolow
Pass	INT	Pass	Pass
		1♠	
		All Pass	



Maria Lebedeva, Russia

Interestingly, Vasilkova's pass seemed to slow down Janice Seamon-Molson, who made a very conservative INT bid in the balancing position. The missed game cost USA 10 IMPs and thrust the Russians back into the lead.

As they had done the previous night, the Russians ran off a string of IMPs that increased their lead to 29 before the set was completed. If not for a run of 29 IMPs on the final three boards, the Americans would have been buried.

Board 5 was another disappointing result for American partisans.

Board 5. Dealer North. N/S Vul.

<p>♠ K 8 6 5 ♥ Q 5 4 ♦ K Q 2 ♣ K 9 6</p>	<table border="1" style="border-collapse: collapse; width: 60px; height: 60px; margin: auto;"> <tr><td></td><td>N</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td></td><td>E</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td>S</td><td></td></tr> </table>		N		W		E		S		<p>♠ 10 7 ♥ A J 10 9 7 3 2 ♦ 10 4 3 ♣ Q</p>	<p>♠ A 2 ♥ 8 ♦ J 9 8 6 ♣ 10 8 5 4 3 2</p>
	N											
W		E										
	S											

West	North	East	South
Vasilkova	Seamon-Molson	Karpenko	Sokolow
4♥	1♣	2♥	3♣
	All Pass		

A diamond lead would have gotten the defense off to a good start, but Sokolow played the ♠A and a spade to her partner's king. Now when Seamon-Molson played a third round, Karpenko was able to ruff with the 9, marking North with the ♥Q. Now declarer had 11 tricks – plus 450.

There was a mini-disaster at the other table.

West	North	East	South
Meyers	Gromova	Montin	Ponomareva
3NT	1♣	3♥	Pass
	All Pass		

Gromova started with the ♦K, ducked, and she continued with the ♦Q. A third diamond knocked out the ace, and Meyers played the ♥K, then a low heart, considering her next play for some time before putting up the ace. When the ♥Q did not drop, Meyers desperately played the ♠10, but Ponomareva put in the ace and cashed the ♦9, on which Meyers played a low club. Now when South played a club, Meyers had to go in with the ace, and it was her last trick. Down five and 12 IMPs to Russia.

There were more bad results for USA coming. On board 7 Meyers and Montin stretched for 3NT on two misfit hands, going down two for minus 200. The Russians at the other table stopped in a more sensible 3♦, but that

contract also failed but only by one – another 3 IMPs to Russia.

On the next deal, Seamon-Molson and Sokolow bid to a no-play 3NT, and it took good play by Seamon-Molson to go down only one.

A string of pushes followed, then another 10 IMPs went to Russia on this deal.

Board 12. Dealer West. N/S Vul.

<p>♠ 9 ♥ A J 10 2 ♦ 7 6 ♣ A J 9 7 6 5</p>	<table border="1" style="border-collapse: collapse; width: 60px; height: 60px; margin: auto;"> <tr><td></td><td>N</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td></td><td>E</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td>S</td><td></td></tr> </table>		N		W		E		S		<p>♠ A J 4 2 ♥ 4 ♦ K J 8 5 ♣ K 8 4 2</p>	<p>♠ Q 10 8 7 3 ♥ 9 8 7 5 ♦ 10 4 2 ♣ 3</p> <p>♠ K 6 5 ♥ K Q 6 3 ♦ A Q 9 3 ♣ Q 10</p>
	N											
W		E										
	S											

West	North	East	South
Vasilkova	Seamon-Molson	Karpenko	Sokolow
2♣	Pass	2♦	Pass
2♥	Pass	3NT	All Pass

Sokolow started with the ♥K, taken by the ace. Karpenko tested clubs, then played the ♥J to establish her ninth trick. Plus 400.

West	North	East	South
Meyers	Gromova	Montin	Ponomareva
1♣	Pass	1♠	Pass
2♣	Pass	2♦	Pass
2♥	Pass	3♣	Pass
3♥	Pass	3NT	All Pass

Ponomareva started with a low heart, giving Randi Montin a major problem. If she inserted the jack or 10 and it lost, a spade switch could be enough to scuttle her contract. After long thought she played the ace and tried to guess the diamond suit. As the diamonds lay, that was impossible. Montin played a diamond to the jack and queen, won the ♣10 shift with dummy's jack, then played a diamond to the king and ace. South cashed the top two hearts and got out with a low diamond to partner's 10. One down and 10 IMPs to Russia.

Another 13 IMPs went to Russia when Sokolow and Seamon-Molson got to a slam off two cashing aces, and the Russians were poised to bury their opponents.

Luckily for the USA, the team was able to win 27 IMPs over the last three boards to put themselves in position for a rally in the fifth set.

This was one of the swings.

Board 14. Dealer East. None Vul.

<p>♠ 9 8 7 ♥ J 7 4 2 ♦ K 6 ♣ A 9 7 4</p>	<table style="border: 1px solid black; width: 60px; height: 60px; margin: auto;"> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">N</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">W</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">E</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">S</td></tr> </table>	N	W	E	S	<p>♠ A 10 6 3 2 ♥ Q 8 5 ♦ Q J 8 5 ♣ 6</p>	<p>♠ K J 4 ♥ K 6 3 ♦ A 7 2 ♣ Q 10 5 2</p>
N							
W							
E							
S							
West	North	East	South				
<i>Meyers</i>	<i>Gromova</i>	<i>Montin</i>	<i>Ponomareva</i>				
Pass	INT	Pass	1♣				
		All Pass					

Montin started with a low spade to the 9 and queen. The ♣A was dislodged, and a spade was returned by West, ducked by East to maintain communication. The East hand came under pressure on the run of the clubs, and North ended with nine tricks for plus 150.

The Vugraph play record showed an auction of 1♣ by South (Sokolow) and INT by her partner, followed by 3NT from Sokolow. More likely it was 2NT by North with her intermediates.

At any rate, the defense started with a low spade to the queen, and another spade, ducked, when West came in with the ♣A. The contract has no legitimate play, but Karpenko in the East seat discarded two hearts, and when Seamon-Molson threw East in with a third round of spades, West discarded two hearts as well. That was plus 400 and 10 IMPs to USA.

On the penultimate board, the Russians in the open room languished in a 5-1 spade fit, going three down vul-

nerable (and it should have been more) while Seamon-Molson and Sokolow uncovered their 10-card club fit, taking 11 tricks for plus 150. That was 11 more IMPs to the Americans.

This was the final deal of the set.

Board 16. Dealer West. E/W Vul.

<p>♠ J 3 2 ♥ K Q 9 4 ♦ 8 6 3 ♣ 10 6 2</p>	<table style="border: 1px solid black; width: 60px; height: 60px; margin: auto;"> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">N</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">W</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">E</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">S</td></tr> </table>	N	W	E	S	<p>♠ A K 8 7 5 ♥ J 3 2 ♦ K 10 4 2 ♣ 3</p>	<p>♠ Q 6 4 ♥ A 8 7 ♦ J 9 7 ♣ K J 7 5</p>
N							
W							
E							
S							
West	North	East	South				
<i>Vasilkova</i>	<i>Seamon-Molson</i>	<i>Karpenko</i>	<i>Sokolow</i>				
Pass	2♦	Pass	2♥				
Pass	2♠	Pass	4♠				
All pass							

Karpenko started with a low diamond, and Seamon-Molson took full advantage of the non-heart lead. She won in hand, took a club finesse, pitched a losing heart on the ♣A and played three rounds of trumps. When the suit split 3-3, Seamon-Molson could claim plus 420.

West	North	East	South
<i>Meyers</i>	<i>Gromova</i>	<i>Montin</i>	<i>Ponomareva</i>
Pass	1♠	Pass	2♣
Pass	2♦	Pass	2♥
Pass	2♠	Pass	4♠
All Pass			

Montin started proceedings with the ♣7, and Gromova was certain the ♣K was with West, so she went up with the ace, ruffed a club, played a diamond to the ace, and ruffed another club. A diamond went to dummy's queen for another club, no which Meyers discarded her last diamond. Now declarer was two down and the Americans could feel that they had a bit of momentum with 32 boards to go.

Thank you!

New Bridge Assets would like to thank all the players and officials for their cooperation during the Olympiad. Filming for television is difficult at the best of times and we hope we have not been too obtrusive. Thank you all.

— David Turner, executive producer



Cameras on Randi Montin, USA

All Events Transnational In Verona in 2006



Ata Aydin, José Damiani and Gianarrigo Rona

For the first time, all events at the World Bridge Championships in Verona, Italy, will be transnational – all pairs and teams may be made up of players from any combination of countries.

The confirmation of the new conditions by World Bridge Federation President José Damiani, was part of the press conference yesterday, hosted by the International Bridge Press Association. Damiani was joined on the podium by Gianarrigo Rona, president of the European Bridge League; Ata Aydin, president of the Turkish Bridge Federation; WBF Vice President Panos Gerontopoulos, and Per Jannersten of the IBPA.

The Verona tournament is scheduled for June 6-24 in 2006.

Good organization.

Damiani congratulated the Turkish Bridge Federation for the excellent work of organizing the tournament in Istanbul, but also for the extensive press and television coverage of the tournament locally. “Bravo,” said Damiani, “tres bien.”

Despite concerns on the part of some players about travelling to Istanbul, Damiani said, there has been record participation in the Open and Women’s series of the Olympiad, the International Senior Cup and in the World Transnational Mixed Teams. The entries for the mixed event numbered 130 in Istanbul compared to 68 the last time it was held – in Maastricht four years ago.

Targeting the young.

The WBF president said the organization’s priority is to develop bridge among young people – and he said that there will be a relationship between the number of teams allowed to come from various zones and those zones’

participation in the World Junior Bridge Championships.

According to Damiani, these are the number of teams that will qualify from each zone for the Bermuda Bowl and Venice Cup: Zone 1, 6; Zone 2, 3; Zones 3 & 4, 2 each; Zone 5, 1; Zone 6, 3; Zones 7 & 8, 2 each, plus one for the host country. This could be reconsidered, however, if some zones do not have participation in the World Junior Bridge Championships. The next World Junior Bridge Championship is in Sydney, Australia, next August.

Intellympics.

Damiani also confirmed that the Intellympics – a mind-sports competition under the authority of the International Olympic Committee – is advancing

For the 2007 Bermuda Bowl and Venice Cup, Damiani said, Brazil and China are being considered, and China is a potential host for a World Junior Championship.

Turkish Bridge Federation.

Atay made statements in England and in Turkish, and he thanked the Turkish press for covering the Istanbul tournament. He said he was aware of the “difficult moments” in Istanbul and Turkey that apparently discouraged some players from coming, and he acknowledged the determination of the WBF, led by Damiani, to keep the commitment.

He also thanked the other members of his federation and “all Turkish citizens” for contribution to the success of the World Bridge Olympiad.

Also at the press conference, press room manager Jan Swaan was presented with a commemorative plate from the IBPA for his work in accommodating the bridge journalists.



Jan Swaan, center, receives thanks from the IBPA

WBF Presentations

During a dinner hosted by the President of the World Bridge Federation, José Damiani, at the Çýrađan Palace Hotel Kempinski Istanbul on Thursday evening, a number of people were honoured.

To TurkCell, represented by Mr Muzaffer Akpinar, a WBF Award of Distinction.



Gianarrigo Rona

To Koç Group represented by Mr Temel Atay and Mrs Sevinç Atay, a WBF Award of Distinction.

Mazhar Jafri, the longest serving member on the WBF Executive Council was awarded the WBF gold medal for 25 years of service.

Mr Ata Aydin, President of the Turkish Bridge Federation was awarded a WBF Plaque.

Highest WBF Honour

The final presentation referred to the WBF Committee of Honour. This was formed in 1972 for the purpose of recognising the unselfish efforts of individuals in making a significant contribution to the enhancement and growth of bridge throughout the world.

Nominations to the Committee must be made by a minimum of three members

of the WBF Executive Council from three separate Zones. Election to the Committee requires an affirmative vote from three-quarters of the Executive Council members, the detailed requirements being set out in article 3.3 of the By-Laws. Nomination may only be made in even numbered years. The Committee of Honour may not exceed eleven living members.

When the Committee was formed in 1972, only three persons received the required nominations and votes. They were: Geoffrey L. Butler (GB), Waldemar von Zedwitz (USA) and Charles L. Solomon (USA).

In 1974 the then WBF President, Julius Rosenblum (USA), was unanimously elected whilst Albert Morehead (USA) and Baron de Nexon (France) were posthumously elected.

In 1976 Ben O. Johnson (USA) and André Lemaitre (Belgium) were elected to the Committee. In 1978 there

were two more nominations, each receiving the unanimous support of all six Zones at that time represented on the Executive Council, as a result of which General Alfred M Gruenther (USA) and Jaime Ortiz-Patiño (Spain) were elected.

In 1984 three more persons were elected: Richard L. Goldberg (USA), Nils E. Jensen (Sweden) and Edgar Kaplan (USA).

In 1986 Robert Howes (USA) and Ernesto d'Orsi (Brazil) were elected.

In 1988, José Damiani (France) was elected.

In 1994 Robert S. Wolff (USA) was elected

In 1998, in Lille Jean-Claude Beineix (France), Mazhar Jafri (Pakistan) and John Wignall (New Zealand) were elected.

In 2002, in Montreal, Joan Gerard (USA), Panos Gerontopoulos (Greece) and George Retek (Canada) were elected.

Following the death of Charles Solomon, Julius Rosenblum, Ben Johnson, André Lemaitre, General Gruenther, Waldemar von Zedwitz, Geoffrey Butler, Edgar Kaplan, Richard Goldberg, Robert Howes and Nils. E Jensen, the living members of the Committee of Honour are, as follows:

- Jean-Claude Beineix - France
- José Damiani - France
- Joan Gerard - USA
- Panos Gerontopoulos - Greece
- Mazhar Jafri - Pakistan
- Ernesto d'Orsi - Brazil
- Jaime Ortiz-Patiño - Spain
- George Retek - Canada
- John Wignall – New Zealand
- Robert S. Wolff - USA

It was with great pleasure that Jaime Ortiz-Patiño, President Emeritus of the World Bridge Federation announced that Gianarrigo Rona had been elected a member of the WBF Committee of Honour, thereby filling the existing vacancy.