



II EUROPEAN BRIDGE CHAMPIONS CVP



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10th - 12th
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Daily Bulletin

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Bulletin 3

Sunday 12th October 2003

It's Parioli and Herkules again!

Yesterday, the Italian and Swedish teams here were the two who had already secured qualification for the semis on the first day, and today it's the same two teams who will go into the 48-board final. The Swedes were the more convincing of the two, blitzing Parioli in the morning to win their section and then giving away very little against a good Bulgarian side.

In fact, Plovdiv earned its qualification for the semis by a not so big margin. Having lost their match against De Lombard 18-12 in the morning, they had to score at least 10 V.P. to finish ahead of Heimdal Trondheim. It took them a long, long time, but they finally emerged with 12 V.P. from this match to go through.

Parioli had even more mixed fortunes yesterday, first losing heavily to Herkules, then taking a seemingly unassailable lead (67-9) against de Lombard in 12 boards, only to see it go down to 76-58 after 24. Though the Dutch rallied at the beginning of the final segment, the Italian experience prevailed near the end of the last 12 boards, however, as many of us would have expected. So they are the Swedes' worthy opponents again today, this time for the Cup.

In the lower half of the field, Heimdal Trondheim and Bridge Club Haifa had the better of the exchanges against their Polish and French opponents, so they will play for the 5th prize to be won.

Programme & Schedule of play

Sunday 12th October

- 10.00 Final & Play-Off (1st Session)
- 13.00 Final & Play-Off (2nd Session)
- 15.30 Final & Play-Off (3rd Session)
- 17.00 Final (4th Session)
- 20.30 Prize Giving & Victory Banquet

Content

Results: Round Robin 3rd Match / Semifinal	2
Lorenzo the Magnificent - <i>by Mark Horton</i>	3
Sweden vs Italy the friendly game - <i>by Peter Ventura</i>	5
The Semifinal: Herkules v. Plovdiv, 1 st session - <i>by Jos Jacobs</i>	7
Hidden Assets - <i>by Mark Horton</i>	10
Bridge Team Parioli vs. Club de Lombard - <i>by Alberto Benetti & Mauro Saglia</i>	11

Round Robin 3rd Match

Group A

Italy - Sweden 3-25

France - Poland 19-11

Group B

Norway - Bulgary 18-12

Israel - Netherlands 9-21

Rankings

Sweden	69
Italy	52
France	30
Poland	26

Rankings

Netherlands	60
Bulgary	46
Norway	41
Israel	33

Semifinal

A	Teams	1-12	13-24	25-36	Tot.
	Sweden	23	26	17	66
	Bulgary	1	14	13	28
	Netherlands	9	49	14	72
	Italy	67	9	25	101
B	Teams	1-12	13-24	Tot.	
	Norway	55	20	75	
	Poland	10	30	40	
	Israel	29	32	61	
	France	16	3	19	

Final

1st place

Sweden

Italy

3rd place

Bulgary

Netherlands

5th place

Norway

Israel

Lorenzo the Magnificent

by Mark Horton

A member of the influential Medici family, Lorenzo de' Medici became ruler of Florence, Italy, at the age of 20 years, with his younger brother, Giuliano. After his brother's assassination in 1478, Lorenzo ruled alone for a further 14 years, bringing great prosperity to the city.

I wonder if by any chance he might in some way be related to another 'Magnificent Lorenzo?'

When Parioli Angelini met Leszno in a Round 2 the match started quietly but burst into life when Lorenzo Lauria found himself involved in a fascinating series of deals.

Board 5, Dealer North, North-South Vulnerable

♠ A 4 2 ♥ 10 6 4 ♦ A 7 2 ♣ Q 9 8 7		♠ 9 6 ♥ K J 9 5 2 ♦ K 10 9 6 4 ♣ K	
♠ Q J 8 7 ♥ A 8 7 ♦ Q 8 3 ♣ 5 3 2	<div style="background-color: #4b7c59; color: white; padding: 5px; display: inline-block;"> W N S E </div>	♠ K 10 5 3 ♥ Q 3 ♦ J 5 ♣ A J 10 6 4	

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
<i>Versace</i>	<i>Pszczola</i>	<i>Lauria</i>	<i>Kwiecien</i>
—	Pass	Pass	1♣
Pass	1♦	1♥	Pass
2♥	Dble	Pass	2♠
Pass	Pass	3♦	Pass
3♥	All Pass		

South led a spade and North took the ace and switched to a club for the king and ace. South

played another club, forcing declarer to ruff. I imagined declarer would play a diamond to the queen and if North took the ace would then get both the red suits right as North would then have shown up with ten points. However, North would undoubtedly have countered this by smoothly ducking the diamond, after which declarer might well do the wrong thing. At this moment Lorenzo played a diamond to dummy's eight! North ducked, but not quite fast enough to deny possession of the ace and declarer now played hearts from the top, dropping South's queen. Excellent play, but there was more to come.

At the other table declarer did not divine the position and finished one down in the same contract.

Board 8, Dealer West, None Vulnerable

♠ A Q 10 9 8 3 ♥ J 5 3 ♦ 6 4 ♣ Q 9		♠ J 4 2 ♥ A K 7 ♦ A J 10 ♣ A 10 4 2	
♠ K 5 ♥ Q 9 6 4 ♦ K Q 5 2 ♣ K J 3	<div style="background-color: #4b7c59; color: white; padding: 5px; display: inline-block;"> W N S E </div>	♠ 7 6 ♥ 10 8 2 ♦ 9 8 7 3 ♣ 8 7 6 5	

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
<i>Versace</i>	<i>Pszczola</i>	<i>Lauria</i>	<i>Kwiecien</i>
1♦	2♠	Dble	Pass
3♥	Pass	3♠*	Pass
3NT	Pass	4NT	Pass
6NT	All Pass		

It matters not that West's decision to accept his partner's invitation saw his side reach a hazardous contract, for as we all know, 'The play's the thing.'

North led the four of diamonds and declarer won and continued with three more rounds of the suit, North discarding the three and eight of spades. If you make the assumption that hearts must be 3-3 (I'll come back to that) then at this stage you know North is 6-3-2-2. In that event it will not help you to find South with the queen of clubs, (in a different scenario you could also draw the inference that if North held two small clubs he might equally have led that suit.) Our hero cashed the king of clubs and followed with a low one, earning what might be termed 'a strong applaud.'

There are two things that are worthy of comment:

Imagine North had made the strange lead of the ace of spades. Declarer would still need to locate the queen of clubs, but as he can get a complete count and only needs three club tricks he might well play South for that card.

Secondly, imagine declarer had cashed his two top hearts at tricks two and three. If the defenders only produce low cards declarer (this one would!) should still do the right thing. However, suppose North were to drop the jack of hearts under the king (see the commentary to the next deal)? If declarer now finesses in hearts and discovers North's false card we are still in the scenario where we imagine the contract will be made. However, suppose declarer is lazy and imagining the heart position is established, decides North is 6-2-2-3. Is there not a chance he might play South for ♣Qxx.

At the time I thought declarer should have cashed the hearts first, but there are some entry problems, and who can argue with the skill of Lorenzo?

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
<i>Wojcicki</i>	<i>Fantoni</i>	<i>Poletylo</i>	<i>Nunes</i>
1♣	2♠	3♠	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

A solid result, but against players at the top of their game, simply not enough.

Elsewhere Herkules collected +800 from 2♠ doubled but lost IMPs when Ancey made 6NT. Lombard bid and made 6♣ on the East/West cards!

Board 9, Dealer North, North-South Vulnerable

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

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
<i>Versace</i>	<i>Pszczola</i>	<i>Lauria</i>	<i>Kwiecien</i>
—	1♥	2♣	4♥
Dble	Pass	4♠	All Pass

South tried to shut out the spade suit, but it was not to be. North led the three of hearts and South did his best by winning and continuing with the king, forcing declarer to ruff. A club to the king saw North produce the queen, a brilliant attempt to lay a false trail for declarer, (the theme of playing the card that you are about to be known to hold, in contrast to playing the card you are already known to hold, features in one of my forthcoming books.)

Declarer ruffed a heart and after thinking it over decided that if North did have a singleton club then there was nothing to be done. He resignedly played a club to the ace and when 'Pepsi' followed with the three there was a smile from Lorenzo, a flurry of cards, and to more great applause a warm handshake between the players.

The Poles had not played badly, indeed I suspect they would have beaten most teams, but then one does not face such a 'magnificent' opponent every day of the week.

Sweden vs Italy the friendly game

by Peter Ventura

Both Italy and Sweden had just the first place in the group to play for, as they already had a place in the semi-finals. Therefore this was more like a friendly game.-

The first 12 boards did not contain any huge swings, but Sweden were on their feet winning almost all part scores. Here is an exception – a 2 IMPs win for Italy.

Board 2, Dealer East, North-South Vulnerable

♠ J 8 5 2		♠ 4	
♥ A J		♥ 4	
♦ Q		♦ K 9 8 7 5 4 2	
♣ K 10 7 4 3 2	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: fit-content; margin: 0 auto;"> N W E S </div>	♣ Q 8 6 5	
♠ K 9 6 3		♠ A Q 10 7	
♥ Q 10 8 3 2		♥ K 9 7 6 5	
♦ A 10		♦ J 6 3	
♣ A 9		♣ J	

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
<i>Nyström</i>	<i>Angelini</i>	<i>Bertheau</i>	<i>Sementa</i>
—	—	4♦	All Pass

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
<i>Versace</i>	<i>Sylván</i>	<i>Lauria</i>	<i>Sundelin</i>
—	—	3♦	Pass
3NT	Pass	4♦	All Pass

With a 2-2 split in diamonds declarer has a good chance to collect nine tricks in 3NT. Lauria did not like his chances and went for a diamond contract instead. The jack of clubs was led at both tables and South got his ruff. When Sementa exited with a diamond Bertheau had to lose one more club. In the other room Lauria got a heart continuation and could play a low club towards the dummy. 2 IMPs to Italy.

In the match Norway/Bulgaria Furunes and Helgemo found themselves on a level far too high.

4♣ is not the ideal contract as the cards lay and Furunes went two down; 500 to Bulgaria. At the other table North/South let East/West play 3♦ and that was a big swing for Bulgaria.

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
<i>Iporski</i>	<i>Furunes</i>	<i>Kovatchev</i>	<i>Helgemo</i>
—	—	3♦	Pass
Pass	4♣	Pass	4♦
Pass	4♠	Pass	Pass
Dble	All Pass		

Board 3, Dealer South, East-West Vulnerable

♠ K J 7 3		♠ 10 9 6 4	
♥ 3 2		♥ J 10 4	
♦ A 4		♦ K 9 6 5 3	
♣ A Q 10 8 3	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: fit-content; margin: 0 auto;"> N W E S </div>	♣ J	
♠ A Q		♠ 8 5 2	
♥ A 9 8 5		♥ K Q 7 6	
♦ J 7		♦ Q 10 8 2	
♣ 9 7 5 4 2		♣ K 6	

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
<i>Nyström</i>	<i>Angelini</i>	<i>Bertheau</i>	<i>Sementa</i>
—	—	—	Pass
1♦	2♣	Pass	2NT
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
<i>Versace</i>	<i>Sylván</i>	<i>Lauria</i>	<i>Sundelin</i>
—	—	—	Pass
1♣	1♠	Pass	2♣
Pass	2♠	All Pass	

In the Closed Room Sylván overcalled 1♠ with only four cards and made nine tricks after a club lead.

With no five card major Nyström had to open 1♦ at the other table. After Angelini's aggressive 2♣ overall the Italians reached a sensible game. Nyström found a nice heart lead but the declarer can find a winning line anyway. Sementa won with the king and continued with a spade to queen and king. Declarer now entered the hand with ♣K but when he played another spade, instead of finessing in clubs, he was doomed to go down. Sementa did not have an entry to his hand and the defence took five tricks – one down. Nyström defended nicely by playing ♠Q on the second trick, since ♠A would have made life a lot easier for declarer. Five IMPs to Sweden.

Board 6, Dealer East, East-West Vulnerable

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

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
<i>Nyström</i>	<i>Angelini</i>	<i>Bertheau</i>	<i>Sementa</i>
—	—	Pass	Pass
1♠	Pass	2♥*	Pass
2NT	Pass	3♣	Pass
3♦	Pass	3NT	All Pass

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
<i>Versace</i>	<i>Sylván</i>	<i>Lauria</i>	<i>Sundelin</i>
—	—	Pass	Pass
1♠	Pass	2♠	All Pass

This was the only big swing in the first half of the match and it went to Sweden. In the Closed Room Sylván found the only lead to defeat a game in spades: ♥J. But when Versace/Lauria stopped in 2♠ Sylván got his heart ruff, holding the contract

down to nine tricks. In the Open Room Sementa could have given Nyström a hard time in his no trump game by playing ♦Q on Angelini's diamond lead. When Sementa erred by playing his ace then played the queen, Nyström simply could play low twice and make his contract as diamonds were blocked. 10 more IMPs to Sweden.

Board 12, Dealer West, North-South Vulnerable

♠ J 3 ♥ 10 8 5 4 ♦ A Q J 2 ♣ A 7 3	♠ Q 8 7 5 ♥ A Q 7 3 ♦ 7 5 ♣ Q 9 5	♠ K 9 2 ♥ 9 6 ♦ K 10 8 6 3 ♣ J 6 2						
♠ A 10 6 4 ♥ K J 2 ♦ 9 4 ♣ J 10 8 4	<table style="margin: auto; border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> <tr> <td style="border: none;"></td> <td style="border: none; text-align: center;">N</td> <td style="border: none;"></td> </tr> <tr> <td style="border: none; text-align: center;">W</td> <td style="background-color: #4CAF50; color: white; text-align: center; padding: 10px;">S</td> <td style="border: none; text-align: center;">E</td> </tr> </table>			N		W	S	E
	N							
W	S	E						

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
<i>Nyström</i>	<i>Angelini</i>	<i>Bertheau</i>	<i>Sementa</i>
INT*	All Pass		

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
<i>Versace</i>	<i>Sylván</i>	<i>Lauria</i>	<i>Sundelin</i>
1♦	Pass	3♦	Pass
Pass	Dble	Pass	3♠
All Pass			

Sylván found the take-out-double and that was the key to another swing for Sweden. Versace led ♥2 to the king and Sundelin now solved the spade suit for only one loser by playing spade up to the queen, then the ace on the heart continuation. When he later judged the club suit correctly as well he made an overtrick.

In the Open Room Bertheau, for once holding the West cards, opened INT (weak) and all passed. He won the spade lead and cashed all diamonds and in the end he even got an extra trick and that was worth 7 IMPs to Sweden who were in leading position by 36-8 at half time.

The Semifinal: Herkules v. Plovdiv, 1st session

by Jos Jacobs

After the Roud Robins, it would be De Lombard v. Parioli and Herkules v. Plovdiv. For reasons that will become clear once you know about the outcome, the first segment of the Lombard-Parioli match is shown elsewhere in this issue in Italian only. Below, you will find a reort about that same 1st segment of the other semifinal. If you look at the boards, it's difficult to imagine how the score in the other match could stand at 67-9 after only 12 boards. Most probably, God still is Italian...

On the very first board, the Bulgarians were punished severely for what might have been a slight inadequacy in their bidding methods.

Board 1, Dealer North, None Vulnerable

<p>♠ J 9 7 5 2 ♥ A 7 ♦ — ♣ AKQ 5 4 3</p>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: 40px; margin: 0 auto;"> N W E S </div>	<p>♠ 4 3 ♥ 9 6 5 2 ♦ J 6 3 ♣ J 8 7 6</p>
<p>♠ K 6 ♥ Q 10 8 ♦ Q 9 8 7 5 4 2 ♣ 10</p>		<p>♠ A Q 10 8 ♥ K J 4 3 ♦ A K 10 ♣ 9 2</p>

Open Room:

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
<i>Iporski</i>	<i>Bertheau</i>	<i>Kovatchev</i>	<i>Nyström</i>
—	1♠	Pass	2♣
Pass	3♦	Pass	3♥
Pass	3♠	Pass	4♣
Pass	4♠	Pass	6♠
All Pass			

South only made relay bids, on which North showed 8-10 high-card points (A=3, K=2 and Q=1) by bidding 3♦ and 5-3-0-5 or longer on the suits by bidding 4♠. After this, the shot at the final contract was made in full confidence and so it proved. An easy enough +980 with no chance of a grand as the spade finesse was wrong.

Closed Room:

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
<i>Sylván</i>	<i>Karaivanov</i>	<i>Sundelin</i>	<i>Trendafilov</i>
—	2♣	Pass	2♦
Pass	3♦	Pass	6NT
All Pass			

Surprisingly enough, North showed six clubs and five spades on this sequence and still South went for 6NT. Had he not realised that he would be the declarer in 6♠ as well? We will never know, but the 4-1 break in clubs meant that 6 NT was too difficult in practice.

Double-dummy, there is a simple (?) line. The diamond lead goes to Jack and Ace. You cross to dummy's ♣A, noting the fall of the ♣10, and then the ♠A and another endplays West.

Anyway, 11 IMP's to Herkules.

Two boards later, Herkules missed a great chance:

Board 3, Dealer South, East-West Vulnerable

<p>♠ 7 ♥ A K 10 8 ♦ A 5 ♣ J 10 9 8 3 2</p>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: 40px; margin: 0 auto;"> N W E S </div>	<p>♠ K J 10 8 4 ♥ Q ♦ 9 8 7 4 ♣ K Q 5</p>
<p>♠ 6 5 ♥ J 7 6 4 ♦ K 10 6 2 ♣ A 6 4</p>		<p>♠ A Q 9 3 2 ♥ 9 5 3 2 ♦ Q J 3 ♣ 7</p>

Open Room:

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
<i>Iporski</i>	<i>Bertheau</i>	<i>Kovatchev</i>	<i>Nyström</i>
—	—	—	Pass
2♣	Pass	2♠	Pass
3♣	All Pass		

On a diamond lead, declarer could not lose more than three clubs and a heart. Plovdiv +110.

Closed Room:

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
<i>Sylván</i>	<i>Karaivanov</i>	<i>Sundelin</i>	<i>Trendafilov</i>
—	—	—	Pass
2♣	2♠	All Pass	

Here too, someone bid 2♠ after the same 2♣ opening, but the timing was not quite proper. Holding three quick tricks, Sylván might have ventured a balancing double, but when he elected to pass, the Swedes had to be content with down three undoubled for +150 only, and just 1 more IMP.

Both teams had a chance to score a considerable gain on a real guessing board:

Board 8, Dealer West, None Vulnerable

<p>♠ A 10 4 ♥ 9 8 7 ♦ 10 9 8 7 5 ♣ 7 6</p>	<p style="font-size: 2em;">N W S E</p>	<p>♠ J 8 3 ♥ A Q 6 2 ♦ J 4 ♣ A 10 5 4</p>
<p>♠ K 9 6 5 2 ♥ K 10 ♦ A 2 ♣ Q 8 3 2</p>		<p>♠ Q 7 ♥ J 5 4 3 ♦ K Q 6 3 ♣ K J 9</p>

Four Spades would be the normal contract, but you have to guess very well without any clues to make it. Diamond lead (we will never know why North at one table led the ♦5 from his sequence) to the ace, three rounds of hearts shedding the red loser and a spade to the king. So far so good, but East wins and returns a diamond. You ruff and lead a spade to dummy's eight and South's queen. Not good enough, as the next diamond will fatally shorten you.

Try a spade to the nine instead. This works out well: it loses to the ♠10, but on the next round of spades, all higher outstanding trumps appear. So you will not be shortened as you can ruff the third round of diamonds with dummy's last trump, this not being the jack. After this, a club from dummy will see you home past South's ♣K. Unlikely, but effective.

In our match, 2 IMP's to Herkules when the Bulgarian declarer went two down and his Swedish counterpart only one.

Both teams missed another chance on board 10:

Board 10, Dealer East, All Vulnerable

<p>♠ J 6 4 3 ♥ A Q J ♦ A K Q 10 ♣ 7 5</p>	<p style="font-size: 2em;">N W S E</p>	<p>♠ A 10 9 8 ♥ 3 ♦ J 6 ♣ A K 10 8 6 2</p>
<p>♠ K 7 5 ♥ 10 8 2 ♦ 8 7 5 4 3 2 ♣ 9</p>		<p>♠ Q 2 ♥ K 9 7 6 5 4 ♦ 9 ♣ Q J 4 3</p>

Open Room:

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
<i>Iporski</i>	<i>Bertheau</i>	<i>Kovatchev</i>	<i>Nyström</i>
		2♦	Pass
2NT	3♣	Pass	Pass
4♥	All Pass		

On this start of the auction, ending up in 3NT looks impossible. It's even very difficult to double 3♣, though it will probably go down only two...

On the other hand, 4♥ will be in jeopardy with four black top losers.

Closed Room:

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
<i>Sylván</i>	<i>Karaivanov</i>	<i>Sundelin</i>	<i>Trendafilov</i>
		Pass	Pass
1♣	Pass	1♥	Pass
2♣	Dble	2♥	Pass
4♥	All Pass		

Here, 1♣ was either 11-13 or 17+ and 2♣ confirmed the strong NT-type. Still, the Swedes came nowhere near the proper final contract either, inspite of the silence of their opponents...

It did not matter all that much, as after 12 boards Herkules had a convincing enough 23-1 lead, which they nearly doubled in the 2nd segment to almost make sure of their qualification for the final at that early stage.



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Hospitality Desk*

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Hidden Assets

by Mark Horton

As we are in Rome I can't resist the temptation to suggest that on this deal from Round 3 the East players faced an 'eternal problem.' Should you reveal your assets, or keep everyone in the dark? At high levels an awful lot of points may be resting on your decision.

Board 18, Dealer East, North-South Vulnerable

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♦	A Q J 8 5																						
♣	9																						
	<table style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">♠</td><td style="text-align: center;">10 9</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">♥</td><td style="text-align: center;">A 4 2</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">♦</td><td style="text-align: center;">3</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">♣</td><td style="text-align: center;">A K Q J 10 6 3</td></tr> </table>	♠	10 9	♥	A 4 2	♦	3	♣	A K Q J 10 6 3														
♠	10 9																						
♥	A 4 2																						
♦	3																						
♣	A K Q J 10 6 3																						

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
<i>Nyström</i>	<i>Fantoni</i>	<i>Bertheau</i>	<i>Nunes</i>
—	—	1♠	2♣
4♠	5♣	5♠	6♣
6♠	Dble	All Pass	

When North bids Five Clubs East is faced with a classic problem; should he bid Five Diamonds, helping partner to judge what to do if the opponents bid on, or should he keep the diamond suit hidden?

This may not seem to be important, but imagine North had bid Seven Clubs? Would West find a diamond lead? It is also possible that showing your second suit might persuade North/South to go quietly when you can make eleven tricks in spades but not twelve.

You can readily make an argument for either action – this time West was not tested. South led the ace of hearts, and switched to the ace of clubs, +100.

You might ask what was so difficult, but then you may not have noticed the results in the match between Haifa and Rotterdam. Here are the auctions:

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
<i>Westra</i>	<i>O. Herbst</i>	<i>Ramondt</i>	<i>I. Herbst</i>
—	—	1♠	2♣
4♠	5♣	5♠	6♣
6♠	Dble	All Pass	

The auction here was the same as on Rama, but the outcome of the board was different when South, holding two aces which both would have survived, led his singleton diamond instead.

De Lombard +1740.

At the other table:

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
<i>D. Yadlin</i>	<i>Drijver</i>	<i>I. Yadlin</i>	<i>Schol-</i>
—	—	1♠	3♠
4♠	5♣	5♦	Dble
5♠	6♣	Dble	All Pass

This needs some more explanation. One might think 3♠ shows a solid suit and asks for a spade stopper, but in Rotterdam, other ideas galore. The latest state of affairs seems to be that 3♠ now shows a spade stopper and requests partner to bid 3NT if he holds any solid suit. If you don't believe this we can tell you that this alternative convention has been spotted in Rotterdam not too long ago and, what is more, it worked! The double of 5♦ also needs some explanation, as it definitely was not meant for penalties, but instead conveyed the message that South wanted NS to play a contract themselves. Like South at the other table, East at this one believed his two aces rather than the opponents' frivolities. He was soon to regret this as tjis slam proved really unbeatable. So the Dutch recorded a fully legitimate +1210 to add to the 1740 for a huge swing of 2950 or a rarely seen 21 IMP's.

By the way, there was far less excitement at the other table in my featured match:

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
<i>Angelini</i>	<i>Sylvan</i>	<i>Sementa</i>	<i>Sundelin</i>
—	—	1♠	2♣
4♠	5♣	All Pass	

That rather unenterprising effort cost the Italian club 11 IMPs.

Bridge Team Parioli vs. Club de Lombard

by Alberto Benetti & Mauro Saglia

Quando qualche neofita o qualcuno completamente digiuno di bridge, mi chiede quali siano le doti fondamentali che occorrono per diventare un campione nella nostra disciplina, rispondo sempre che la prima dote necessaria è la capacità di concentrazione continua e la forza di volontà che riesce a farci (perdonatemi il *ci*, in realtà la cosa non *mi* riguarda) sputare sangue o quasi su ogni carta giocata o su ogni dichiarazione fatta.

I due incontri disputati oggi dalla squadra del Parioli, hanno rafforzato questa mia convinzione.

I giocatori scesi in campo nel primo pomeriggio contro gli svedesi non sembravano neanche lontani parenti di quelli che avevano vinto ieri contro francesi e polacchi né di quelli che, nel tardo pomeriggio ed in serata, hanno affrontato gli olandesi. Il motivo è uno solo: contro il Bridge Club Hercules di Stoccolma si giocava solo per la gloria: le due squadre erano già matematicamente qualificate e, quindi concentrazione e voglia di vincere erano decisamente sotto tono.

Gli svedesi però, a mio avviso, avevano una motivazione in più rispetto ai romani: quella di poter vantare una vittoria contro *the italian champions*.

Senza voler nulla togliere ai loro indiscutibili meriti (stanno giocando un ottimo bridge dall'inizio di questo Campionato), sento di poter affermare tranquillamente che in Finale la musica sarà completamente diversa.

Comunque nel terzo turno del round robin i nostri rappresentanti hanno perso e hanno perso di brutto.

In semifinale i romani devono vedersela contro i campioni olandesi di Rotterdam che hanno dominato il loro girone senza perdere un colpo.

In aperta Lauria e Versace giocano in EO contro Barry Westra e Vincent Ramondt.

In chiusa Fantoni e Nunes sono NS contro Bas Drijver e Maarten Schollaardt.

Parioli Angelini comincia a guadagnare già al board 2 dove gli olandesi cadono in un parziale a quadri in chiusa ed in uno a cuori, con tanto di contro, in aperta.

Poi, nel board 3, Lauria dimostra a me e a tanti altri che la concentrazione e la forza di volontà sono sì fattori importanti ma che anche nel bridge, come in tutti gli altri sport, per arrivare ai vertici assoluti ci vuole anche tanta, tanta classe.

Board 3 - dich. Sud - EO in zona

	♠ R F 10 8 4		
	♥ D		
	♦ 9 8 7 4		
	♣ R D 5		
♠ 7		♠ A D 9 3 2	
♥ A R 10 8		♥ 9 5 3 2	
♦ A 5		♦ D F 3	
♣ F 10 9 8 3 2		♣ 7	
	♠ 6 5		
	♥ F 7 6 4		
	♦ R 10 6 2		
	♣ A 6 4		

Sala aperta

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
<i>Versace</i>	<i>Westra</i>	<i>Lauria</i>	<i>Ramondt</i>
—	—	—	passo
1♣	1♠	contro	passo
4♥	fine		

Sala chiusa

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
<i>Schollaardt</i>	<i>Fantoni</i>	<i>Drijver</i>	<i>Nunes</i>
—	—	—	passo
1♣	1♠	passo	passo
contro	fine		

Nel dopopartita Lauria dichiara che, con questo tipo di mani, bisogna subito porsi il problema se si voglia giocare 1 picche contratto e quindi passare in attesa della certa riapertura del compagno o contrare per cercare l'eventuale manche.

In zona contro prima lui sceglie sempre questa seconda opzione.

Semplice, no?

Comunque Fantoni, giocando 1 picche contratto fa 5 prese e paga 300. Versace, che non ha nessuna intenzione di lasciare che Lauria sia l'unico

protagonista di questo board, dopo l'attacco di Re di fiori che rimane in presa, neanche fa toccare terra al fante di picche di Westra che ha già inserito la dama dal morto. Cuori per l'Asso e fiori taglio, Asso di picche per lo scarto di una quadri e quadri per l'Asso, fiori taglio, cuori per l'otto di mano, Re di cuori e... "vi do un'atout".

Cinque cuori fatte in cinque secondi.

Ancora 5 IMP per i romani nel board 4 dove Alfredo, tanto per ribadire il concetto che quando siede ad un tavolo di bridge è sempre e comunque un superprotagonista, realizza un non facile contratto di 2 picche mentre il suo omologo in chiusa va un down, poi arriva il board 5, uno dei più singolari che mi sia mai capitato di vedere.

Board 5 - dich. Nord - NS in zona

	♠ A 10 8 3		
	♥ A 10 9 7 6		
	♦ F 9 5		
	♣ 5		
♠ D F 9 6 5 4 2		♠ —	
♥ D 5		♥ 4 3 2	
♦ 4 3		♦ A R 8 7	
♣ 8 4		♣ A 9 7 6 3 2	
	♠ R 7		
	♥ R F 8		
	♦ D 10 6 2		
	♣ R D F 10		

In chiusa Fantoni e Nunes chiamano 3 SA e Claudio mantiene l'impegno con tanto di presa supplementare.

In aperta Lauria apre di 1 fiori dopo il passo di Nord.

Sud interferisce di 1 SA e Versace dichiara 2 quadri. Nord, dopo l'alert di Lorenzo, chiede spiegazioni e il romano gli dice che Versace ha un maggiore lungo. A questo punto Westra contra e, alla richiesta di Lauria sul significato della sua dichiarazione, per far capire che è forte risponde facendo il gesto che fa Bracciodiferro subito dopo aver mangiato gli spinaci.

Lauria non si impressiona più di tanto e dichiara....2 PICCHE.

Nel dopogara non ho avuto modo di chiedere lumi sul significato di quest'ultima dichiarazione ma ritengo che sia una licita che invita il compagno a chiamare manche se ha le cuori o a passare se ha le picche.

Comunque veder dichiarare un palo dove si ha il vuoto fa un certo effetto.

Nord ritiene che i romani si siano allargati un po' e contra. Lauria passa con un'espressione che è una via di mezzo tra l'annoiato e l'indifferente, paga 300 e il team Parioli, nel board, guadagna 8 IMP.

Nel board successivo ne riperde 9 giocando parziali nei minori e cadendo in entrambe le sale. In chiusa con tanto di contro.

Gli italiani segnano un altro punto a loro favore nel board 7 al quale fanno seguito due board pari e, a tre mani dalla fine, il risultato è di 28 a 9 per Parioli Angelini.

Ora, sarà che la squadra italiana decide di innestare il turbo, sarà che la squadra olandese va in rottura prolungata, sarà che la luna inizia ad essergli sfavorevole, sta di fatto che gli italiani iniziano ad indovinare tutto e gli olandesi pochino assai. Gli ultimi tre board, infatti, tramutano, in questo turno, un'onorevole sconfitta in una disfatta disastrosa.

La cosa singolare è che gli olandesi, in questi ultimi board, hanno deciso di suicidarsi sempre e solo con le quadri.

Board 10 - dich. Est - tutti in zona

	♠ A 10 9 8		
	♥ 3		
	♦ F 6		
	♣ A R 10 8 6 2		
♠ F 6 4 3		♠ D 2	
♥ A D F		♥ R 9 7 6 5 4	
♦ A R D 10		♦ 9	
♣ 7 5		♣ D F 4 3	
	♠ R 7 5		
	♥ 10 8 2		
	♦ 8 7 5 4 3 2		
	♣ 9		

Sala aperta

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
<i>Versace</i>	<i>Westra</i>	<i>Lauria</i>	<i>Ramondt</i>
—	—	1♥	passo
4♥	contro(1)	passo	5♦
contro(2)	fine		

(1) non so se è una buona idea...

(2) la trovo un'ottima idea!

Sala chiusa

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
<i>Schollaardt</i>	<i>Fantoni</i>	<i>Drijver</i>	<i>Nunes</i>
—	—	passo	passo
ISA	passo	4♣(1)	passo
4♦(2)	passo	4♥	fine

(1) transfer per le cuori

(2) buon fit

In aperta, come si vede dal diagramma, Lauria e Versace incassano ben sette prese per un totale di 1400 da mettere nel carniere, invece in chiusa, dove gli olandesi giocano il normale contratto di quattro cuori, Claudio Nunes attacca da singolo di fiori, Fantoni gioca il Re che rimane in presa, studia un po' le cartine che vede ed incassa anche l'Asso per avere un quadro più chiaro della situazione.

Claudio, sul secondo giro di fiori scarta il cinque di picche.

Piccola picche di Fulvio, Re di Claudio, per l'Asso del compagno, su cui cade la Dama del dichiarante, ed ancora picche.

Drijver indovina perlomeno a tagliare di Re, batte un giro di atout e scopre. Un down.

Questo porta 17 IMP Alla squadra Parioli - Angelini.

Board 11 - dich. Sud - tutti in prima

	♠ A F 8 4		
	♥ 10 9 6		
	♦ 9 8 4		
	♣ 10 8 2		
♠ R 10 3 2		♠ D 7 5	
♥ A R D		♥ 5 4 3	
♦ 5 3		♦ R 10 2	
♣ R D 7 5		♣ A 6 4 3	
	♠ 9 6		
	♥ F 8 7 2		
	♦ A D F 7 6		
	♣ F 9		

In ambedue le sale la dichiarazione è stata la medesima.

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
—	—	—	passo
ISA	passo	3SA	fine

La mano, effettivamente, è infattibile salvo con l'attacco picche che non è così impossibile.

In aperta Westra, in Nord, seleziona lo sfortunato attacco così Alfredo Versace, in Ovest, che è al timone del contratto, si ritrova con la nona presa, incassando quattro fiori, tre cuori e due picche, giocando con tranquillità dal momento che il dieci di quadri, che accompagna il Re del morto, lo protegge, almeno per una volta, dall'eventuale ritorno nel colore.

In chiusa è tutta un'altra storia.

Fulvio si produce nell'attacco di nove di cuori che non regala e fin qui non è successo nulla.

Sulla piccola del morto Nunes studia per capire da cosa proviene il nove di Fulvio e decide di passare il Fante.

Schollaardt prende di Re, gioca picche per la Dama, poi saggia le fiori giocandone due giri, finendo al morto (tenendo saggiamente il cinque in mano), e gioca picche passando il dieci della mano.

Fantoni in presa con il Fante si trova al punto cruciale perché è vero che la mano sarebbe infatti infattibile ma ora, solo il ritorno quadri la batte.

Today's Vugraph Match

Italy - Sweden

A parte il ritorno picche che sarebbe proprio un regalo di Natale ed a tutti noi, oltre che sembrare estremamente prematuro, sarebbe dispiaciuto molto, tutti i ritorni neutri avrebbero rimesso "in pista" il dichiarante.

Tirando tutte le vincenti e costringendo Nunes ad un po' di scarti, basterebbe giocare quadri alla fine, passando il dieci, per farsi portare la nona presa di Re.

Il buon Fulvio 'sta cattiveria non ce l'ha fatta ed ha intavolato il nove di quadri.

Claudio, in Sud, ha preso di Fante il dieci del morto, rimettendo cuori.

Ora il dichiarante potrebbe *buttarsi* un down, incassando le sue vincenti ma, giustamente ha cercato di fare la mano; ha tirato la terza fiori poi ha chiuso gli occhi ed ha giocato quadri per il Re.

Quando li ha riaperti si è trovato sommerso da una slavina di quadri e da due down.

Altri 11 IMP per la squadra italiana.

Gli olandesi dovrebbero aver capito che oggi sarebbe saggio tenersi lontano dalle quadri, invece...

Board 12 - dich. Ovest - NS in zona

	♠ 8 3 2	
	♥ A 8 6	
	♦ D 2	
	♣ F 9 5 3 2	
♠ A F 10 6 4 ♥ D 10 2 ♦ R 8 3 ♣ R 7	<div style="display: inline-block; border: 2px solid green; padding: 5px; text-align: center;"> N W S E </div>	♠ 7 ♥ K F ♦ A 10 9 7 4 ♣ A D 8 6 4
	♠ R D 9 5	
	♥ 9 7 5 4 3	
	♦ F 6 5	
	♣ 10	

Sala aperta

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
<i>Versace</i>	<i>Westra</i>	<i>Lauria</i>	<i>Ramondt</i>
1♠	passo	2♦	passo
2♠	passo	3♣	passo
3♦	passo	3♥	passo
3SA	fine		

Sala chiusa

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
<i>Schollaardt</i>	<i>Fantoni</i>	<i>Drijver</i>	<i>Nunes</i>
1♠	passo	2♥ ⁽¹⁾	passo
2SA	passo	3♣	passo
3♦	passo	3SA	passo
4♣	passo	4♦	passo
4♠	passo	5♣	passo
6♦	fine		

(1) le quadri in mano forcing

Fortunatamente avevo un blocco per appunti nuovo di zecca ed ho potuto seguire tutto.

Il gioco in sala chiusa non ha sottoposto Alfredo che, ancora una volta, giocava la mano, ad un particolare stress.

Ha ricevuto l'attacco di sei di cuori, ha allineato undici prese ed ha scritto 660 dalla sua parte.

In chiusa Fantoni, certamente per dovere di ospitalità nei confronti degli avversari olandesi, si è uniformato ed ha attaccato ugualmente di sei di cuori. Il Fante del morto ha fatto la presa.

Malgrado Fulvio sia imperturbabile mi è sembrato che non fosse particolarmente contento.

Il dichiarante ha giocato due giri di quadri ed ha iniziato ad incassare le fiori, sperando nelle fiori divise, ma non era così.

Claudio ha tagliato il secondo giro di fiori, ha pensato un nanosecondo ed ha fatto incassare l'Asso di cuori al proprio compagno.

Dato che era l'ultima mano, mentre ci alzavamo, Fulvio, a voce sommessa, ha fatto un'affermazione in dialetto romanesco che si può interpretare in vari modi e che, di norma, indica problemi intestinali ma che, in questo caso, voleva dire che, dopo il rischioso attacco sotto Asso, aveva avuto molta paura.

Ancora 11 IMP per Parioli.

Il turno è terminato 67 a 9.

Da voci di corridoio raccolte sembra che la proposta avanzata da qualcuno, di sostituire, sulle divise della squadra olandese, il simbolo del tulipano con quello delle quadri verrà bocciata.