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SHANGHAI 2007



DAILY BULLETIN

WORLD BRIDGE TEAM CHAMPIONSHIPS

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Saturday Evening, 13 October 2007

NORWAY'S SHOW OF STRENGTH



Norway – Bermuda Bowl champions!

All those close calls are forgotten now – Norway are world team champions for the first time. In an impressive performance, the Norwegians defeated USA 1 334-245.5 to win the Bermuda Bowl.

That makes up for this list of near misses in the Bermuda Bowl – second in Chile in 1993, third in Tunisia in 1997, second in Paris in 2001 and third in Monaco in 2003.

The champions are Boye Brogeland, Glenn Groetheim, Geir Helgemo, Tor Helness, Erik Saelendsminde and Ulf Tundal. Their non-playing captain is Sten Bjertnes, and the coach is Vegard Brekke.

With the victory, Brogeland, Groetheim and Saelensminde became WBF Grand Masters.

In the other championship settled on Saturday, the Zimmermann team overcame at 4-IMP deficit on the final deal of their match with Team Russia to win the World Transnational Open Teams 103-99. Zimmermann had lost the lead on the penultimate deal when Russia bid and made a slam that was defeated at the other table. On the final deal, Zimmermann stopped in 3♠, just making, while at the other table game was bid and defeated by two tricks for minus 200. The 8-IMP swing gave the title to Zimmermann, a Swiss-French-Italian squad.

Also at the tournament, Hansa Narasimhan and JoAnna Stansby, members of the winning Venice Cup team, became Women's Grand Masters.



Fulvio Fantoni, Michel Bessis, Thomas Bessis, Claudio Nunes, Pierre Zimmermann and Franck Multon

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RESULTS



Bermuda Bowl

Final

	Carry-Over	Boards	Boards	Boards	Boards	Boards	Boards	Boards	Boards	Total	
		1 - 16	17 - 32	33 - 48	49 - 64	65 - 80	81 - 96	97 - 112	113 - 128		
I USA I	Norway	16.5 - 0	10 - 36	62 - 45	20 - 36	21 - 54	26 - 37	29 - 35	23 - 41	38 - 50	245.5 - 334

Transnational Open Teams

Play-Off

	Carry-Over	Boards	Boards	Boards	Total	
		1 - 16	17 - 32	33 - 48		
I Zimmermann	Russia	0 - 6	61 - 21	27 - 35	15 - 37	103 - 99

Missed a Bulletin Issue?



You can find all the Daily Bulletins of the 38th World Bridge Team Championships on the WBF website. They are in pdf format and in color. Follow the link link to go to the direct 'download' page:

www.worldbridge.org/tourn/Shanghai.07/Bulletins.htm

There is also a comprehensive collection of all past WBF events' bulletins, since 1995, at:

www.worldbridge.org/download.asp



Correction

In the advertisement on page 14 of the Saturday Daily Bulletin, the venue for the 2008 Yeh Brothers Cup was listed incorrectly. The venue is Shenzhen, China.

Thank You

On behalf of all the journalists present in Shanghai, I would like to thank the WBF, the Chinese Contract Bridge Association and the Chinese Organizing Committee, for the facilities offered in the Press Room. Furthermore, we were very happy with the data provided by Swangames.

A thank you also to my Chinese assistants, Zhao Xin and Zhou Naiqi.

Jan Swaan, Press Room manager

Shuttle bus Schedule on Oct 14th

Oriental Riverside	Courtyard Marriot	Purple Mountain	Changhang-Merrylin	Intercontinental
6:00	5:30	9:00	7:00	7:15
7:00	7:15	10:00	8:00	8:15
8:00	20:00		16:30	
9:00				
10:00				
12:30				
20:00				

Notice:

1. Please leave the hotel 3 or 3 and half hours earlier than your flight time.
2. Please check the airport of your flight (to Pudong or to Hongqiao)
3. The time schedule above is the time for the shuttle bus to leave the hotel, please get on the bus on time.

PRESIDENT'S FAREWELL SPEECH

A truly great Championship!

Our delightful Chinese hosts have welcomed us with open arms and have provided us with a superb venue, warm hospitality and an event that we will remember for a long time to come.

You will, I know, wish to join me in thanking the Chinese Contract Bridge Association under the leadership of their President, Mr. Xiang Huai Cheng, their Honorary President Mr. Lanqin Li, and with the able assistance of my dear friends Chen Zelan and Fan Guang Sheng, for all they have done to ensure the undoubted success of the Championship. I would also like to thank the Chinese authorities, Mrs. Chen Zhi Li, State Councilor, Mr. Lui Peng, Minister of the General Administration of Sports of China, and, in particular, the Shanghai authorities and Mr. Han Zheng, Mayor of Shanghai.

We have been fortunate indeed to have had the sponsorship offered by the Shanghai Media & Entertainment Group under their President, Mr. Xue Pei Jian, Shanghai Zhong Fang Real Estate, and not forgetting Generali, which has been a most generous sponsor of bridge for many years. Our sincere appreciation goes to the Shanghai Sports Federation, Microsoft China, China Telecom, Dazhong Insurance and Shanghai Electric. And, too, all our other sponsors for their support.

You will all, I am sure, recognise the enormous amount of work involved in the organisation of our Bridge Championships; the technology involved, the hospitality – there are so many aspects, many of them unseen by you, the players. There are many staff who have worked long and hard throughout this fortnight, in every field and I am very pleased to have the chance to thank them all personally through the medium of this Bulletin.

The Hospitality Team – Martine Schupp.

The Bulletin Team, with its co-ordinator Jean Paul Meyer and Editor Brent Manley, Mark Horton, Barry Rigal and Brian Senior, photographer Ron Tacchi, proof-reader Phillip Alder, layout editor Akis Kanaris and Web Editor Dimitri Ballas.

Our Line-up team, Irena and Janek Chodorowski.

Scoring and Results – Tomas Brenning, Laila Leonhardt, and Carl Ragnarsson, using the Bridge Mate system developed by Ron Bowland. I know you all enjoyed the service provided by this new and exciting technology.

The Internet vu-graph broadcasts were provided by Bridge Base on Line and Swan Games

The Press Room, ably overseen by Jan Swaan.

Behind the scenes on the technical side, Harvey Fox co-ordinated the IT, ably assisted by Duccio Geronimi, keeping the computers linked and the Internet alive. Christine Francin, Anna Gudge and Carol von Linstow worked with in the WBF.



In the Vu-Graph, there was the Bridge Vision Team headed by Hervé Lustman, with Frédéric Volker and Godefroy de Tessières and the Vu-Graph team, led by Bernard Delange, with Bernadette Pasquier and Isabelle Barrière.

Fulvio Colizzi organized the equipment, and the duplication team of Monica Gorreri and Hélène Vivier, who dealt the many thousands of boards needed for the event and the team of caddies who distributed them amongst you so efficiently, led by Albert and Yvette Ohana.

The excellent Vu-Graph Commentators, who keep you so well entertained were Barry Rigal, Phillip Alder and Patrick Wang, with their co-ordinator Jean-Paul Meyer.

The World Bridge Federation is fortunate to have a very experienced team of Tournament Directors, led by its Chief, Max Bavin, Assistant Chief TDs, Richard Grenside and Antonio Riccardi together with Anthony Ching, Bernard Gignoux, Rui Marques, Jeanne van den Meiracker and Matt Smith.

We also have to thank the Appeals Committee, under the able Chairmanship of Joan Gerard: Chairman Emeritus, Robert S.

Wolff, Jens Auken, Richard Colker, Ernesto d'Orsi, Eric Kokish, Ton Kooijman, Jean-Paul Meyer, Dan Morse, Jeffrey Polisner, William Schoder, Brian Senior, Kathie Wei-Sender and John Wignall, for their work. A special mention too for Grattan Endicott, the co-ordinator.

Maurizio Di Sacco did an excellent job of overseeing the entire operation with care and skill, working tirelessly throughout the event. We are fortunate indeed to have such a professional and dedicated team.

A special mention, too, for the wonderful Pink Army of Shanghai volunteers.

Two other people who should not be forgotten are Mark Newton and Ton Kooijman. Although Mark decided to retire as our IT expert, a role he carried out with brio for over 10 years and for which we are immensely grateful, he will continue to run the Master Points programme. Ton, too, decided – if not to retire exactly – to reduce his workload but will be coordinating the operations in Beijing and we will very much look forward to seeing him there.

The bridge at the Championships has been – as we have come to expect from all of you – of a very high standard, with many close matches giving us plenty of excitement as we have watched in the excellent auditorium; I have been impressed as always with your ethics, deportment and sportsmanship and the spirit that you bring to our great sport.

It is with great pleasure that I congratulate the winners and the medallists.

But I do not forget those amongst you who do not come up to the podium – you too are winners for taking part in a great Championship, and I thank you all for joining us here in Shanghai.

For the future, we have the enormous challenge of the first World Mind Sports Games – combining Bridge, Chess, Draughts, Go and Chinese Chess – which for me, personally is the realisation of a dream as we bring young players from all over the world, indeed, I hope from every member country of the WBF to Beijing to compete. The event will include the Youth Teams, the Youth Pairs and Individuals and the Open and Women’s teams. The Senior Teams and the

Transnational Mixed Teams will also be held concurrently with the World Mind Sports Games. I am sure you will all be fighting hard to qualify for that Championship and that those of you who don’t make your national team will want to come and play in the Transnational Mixed Teams just so that you can be with us in that amazing city.

Thank you all for your attention – and we hope to see you next year!

BERMUDA BOWL Final - Session 7



Norway

v

USA 1



by Brent Manley

With two sets to play in the Bermuda Bowl, USA 1 was staring at a deficit of more than 80 IMPs and were in need of some momentum if they were going to overtake their Norwegian opponents to win the Bermuda Bowl.

The Americans got just what they wanted on the first board.

Board 1. Dealer North. None Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Helgemo	Garner	Helness	Weinstein
	1♣	Dble	Rdbl
3♥	Pass	Pass	Dble
Pass	3♠	Pass	4♠
All Pass			

Tor Helness led the ♣K to start, ducked by Steve Garner. Helness switched to a low diamond, and Garner won in dummy, cashing two more diamonds to discard his singleton heart. Next he played dummy’s other club, which went to the 10 and jack. Helness played the ♥7, ducked in dummy and ruffed by Garner. At this table, declarer had the advantage of the information provided by Helness’s take-out double and Helgemo’s jump in hearts. Garner cashed the ♠K then ruffed a club low, establishing the suit. He ruffed a heart to hand and played a winning club through Helness, who could ruff but was helpless to prevent an overtrick. That was plus 450 to USA 1.

West	North	East	South
Zia	Tundal	Rosenberg	Groetheim
	2♣	Pass	2♦
Pass	2♠	Pass	4♠
All Pass			

Ulf Tundal’s 2♣ was natural, and when Glenn Groetheim asked for more information with his 2♦ bid, he discovered the spade fit and bid the game. Michael Rosenberg started with a low diamond, and Tundal played three rounds of the suit to discard his heart loser. He then played a club to the ace and a club to Rosenberg’s queen. He ruffed the heart return and played a third club from hand, ruffing with dummy’s ♠10. If the play record is accurate, Zia Mahmood underrated this trick with the ♠9. Tundal lost his way from there, cashing dummy’s ♠A, ending his chances of making the contract. That was minus 50 and 11 IMPs to USA 1.

The Americans lost 7 of those IMPs back on the next deal as Howard Weinstein made a pushy game try and ended up minus 200 against accurate defense by Helgemo and Helness while Zia and Rosenberg were minus 100 at the other table.

More IMPs went to Norway on this deal.

Board 7. Dealer South. All Vul.

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



West	North	East	South
Helgemo	Garner	Helness	Weinstein
1♦	1♠	2♥	2♠
Pass	Pass	3♣	All Pass

Helgemo's decision to pass in what appeared to be a forcing auction earned another swing for his side. Helness had to lose one heart, one spade and one club, but he finished with plus 130.

West	North	East	South
Zia	Tundal	Rosenberg	Groetheim
1♦	1♠	2♥	2♠
3♦	Pass	4♣	Pass
4♥	All Pass		

There was no hope for this contract with the hearts breaking as they did. Minus 100 meant 6 more IMPs to Norway.

USA 1 had a few gains during the set, but they were all small ones. Norway was fashioning swings in double digits, including this deal.

Board 10. Dealer East. All Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Helgemo	Garner	Helness	Weinstein
Pass	1♠	Pass	1♦
Pass	2♥*	Pass	2♣
Pass	3♠	Pass	3♥
Pass	4♣	Pass	3NT
Pass	6♣	All Pass	4♦

Garner and Weinstein seem to have gotten lost in the auction, and the good grand slam was missed.

West	North	East	South
Zia	Tundal	Rosenberg	Groetheim
Pass	1♥	Pass	1♦
Pass	3♣	Pass	2NT*
Pass	4♣*	Pass	3♥*
Pass	4♠	Pass	4♥
Pass	7♣	All Pass	4NT

Groetheim's 1♦ opener was limited in the context of their Viking Club system, and South's rebid of 2NT showed

a maximum with four hearts. 3♣ relayed for more information, and 3♥ showed 1-4-4-4 shape. 4♣ was a natural slam try, and 4♥ showed five controls (A=2, K=1). There was no stopping them from there – another 13 IMPs to Norway.

This deal added another 10 IMPs in the Norway plus column.

Board 12. Dealer West. N/S Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Helgemo	Garner	Helness	Weinstein
1♦	Pass	1♠	Pass
4♠	All Pass		

Weinstein's opening lead was the sneaky ♦Q. Helness studied the card suspiciously before ducking. Weinstein switched to the ♣Q at trick two. Helness covered, Garner won with the ace and could have assured the defeat of the contract with a heart switch, but that play was not at all clear. On the return of the ♣8, Weinstein took the ♣9 with the jack and could have defeated the contract by playing the ♦A (declarer must ruff in hand, meaning he cannot pull trumps and cash the good clubs). After some thought, however, Weinstein played a third club. Helness ruffed high in dummy, then pulled trumps, ending in hand, and ran his good clubs, squeezing South in diamonds and hearts for plus 420.

West	North	East	South
Zia	Tundal	Rosenberg	Groetheim
2NT	Pass	3♣	Pass
3♦	Pass	3NT	All Pass

The system notes say that Zia and Rosenberg play regular Stayman over 2NT openers, so Zia's decision to deny holding a major can be interpreted only as Zia's trying to create a swing. It worked, but not as he had hoped. 3NT was a truly miserable contract. Tundal led a spade to Zia's queen. He played the ♣K next, taken by Tundal with the ace. A low heart went to the 2, jack and 8. Groetheim played the ♦Q, ducked, then another diamond went to the 7 and 8, and the ♦10 was returned to Zia's king. Zia then cashed his spades, ending in dummy, forcing Groetheim to discard his ♦A. On the play of the ♥Q, Groetheim covered, and Zia was able to claim one down with the ♥10 and ♦9. Still, it was another 10 IMPs to Norway, who ended the set ahead in comfortable position for a world championship.

Medal winners in Shanghai

Bermuda Bowl

Gold – Boye Brogeland, Glenn Groetheim, Geir Helgemo, Tor Helness, Erik Saelendsminde,, Ulf Tundal. Non-playing captain: Sten Bjertnes. Coach: Vegard Brekke.

Silver – Steve Garner, George Jacobs, Ralph Katz, Zia Mahmood, Michael Rosenberg, Howard Weinstein. Non-playing captain: Jan Martel. Coach: Chip Martel.

Bronze – Ton Bakkeren, Huub Bertens, Sjoert Brink, Bas Drijver, Bauke Muller, Simon de Wijs. Non-playing captain: Eric Laurant. Coach: Anton Maas.



Senior Bowl

Gold – Roger Bates, Grant Baze, Bart Bramley, Rose Meltzer, Alan Sontag, Lew Stansby. Non-playing captain: Kyle Larsen. Coach: Patty Magnus.

Silver – Henky Lasut, Anindara Lubis, Eddy Manoppo, Denny Sacul, Munawar Sawiruddin, Ferdinand Waluyan.

Bronze – Dan Gerstman, Gaylor Kasle, Dan Morse, Ron Smith, John Sutherland, Bobby Wolff. Non-playing captain: Donna Compton.

World Transnational Open Teams

Gold – Michel Bessis, Thomas Bessis, Fulvio Fantoni, Franck Multon, Claudio Nunes, Pierre Zimmermann.

Silver – Cezary Balicki, Alexander Dubinin, Andrei Gromov, Victoria Gromova, Tatiana Ponomareva, Adam Zmudzinski.

Bronze – Tomasz Gotard, Jacek Lesniczak, Josef Piekarek, Alexander Smirnov.



Venice Cup

Gold – Jill Levin, Irina Levitina, Jill Meyers, Hansa Narasimhan, Debbie Rosenberg, JoAnna Stansby. Non-playing captain: Gail Greenberg.

Silver – Anja Alberti, Daniela von Arnim, Sabine Auken, Barbara Hackett, Pony Beate Nehmert, Mirja Schraeverus-Meuer. Non-playing captain: Bernard Ludewig. Coach: Michael Yuen.

Bronze – Ling Gu, Yi Qian, Ming Sun, Honli Wang, Wenfei Wang, Yalan Zhang.



Thanks For Everything

Another great tournament is at an end, and I trust that most of those who have been in Shanghai for all or part of the fortnight have enjoyed the Daily Bulletins.

I would be remiss if I did not say thanks to all who worked so hard to assure that everyone had something interesting to read each morning of the tournament.

Special thanks go to editors Mark Horton and Brian Senior, proof reader Phillip Alder, excellent photographer and crisps provider Ron Tacchi, plus layout editor Akis Kanaris and web editor Dimitri Ballas. As in previous championships, Harvey Fox found time to assist in our editorial pursuits despite his work load in the IT Department.

As always, Jean-Paul Meyer was supportive and helpful. It is gratifying to be part of a team effort such as this.

Brent Manley, chief editor



Here are the four commentators who did most of the vugraph sessions during the championships: Phillip Alder, Barry Rigal, Mark Horton and Patrick Huang.

VENICE CUP

Final - Session 6



Germany

v

USA 1



by Mark Horton

Going in to the last session of the final Germany needed a set of deals that gave them the opportunity to play for swings. They also had to make sure they eliminated all the mistakes that had littered their play in the final so far.

After a dull as ditchwater deal – just the sort the American team was hoping to see – Germany got the first of several chances:

Board 18. Dealer East. N/S Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
von Arnim	Stansby	Auken	Rosenberg
		2NT*	Pass

3♦ All Pass

2NT promised 5-5 in the minors. 4-9 points and, when South was unwilling to protect, the Germans had stolen the pot.

A slight misdefence saw declarer emerge with seven tricks, -100.

West	North	East	South
Meyers	Schraverus	Levin	Alberti
		Pass	2♦*
2♠	Dble*	Pass	3♥
3♠	All Pass		

2♦ Multi
Dble Pass if you have spades

More than 50 points behind and with only 15 deals left, it is curious that the German pair did not attempt a game on this deal.

If you think it is reasonable to include a suit as strong as ♥AKQ765 in your multi then perhaps South should simply bid 4♥ over North's double. On the other hand North should certainly have gone on to 4♥.

3♠ went one down, -50 and, instead of gaining points, Germany had lost another 2 IMPs.

In many ways this deal summed up the way the final had gone – Germany failing to take any of the numerous chances that inevitably occur in any match, whilst the Americans consistently outbid and outplayed their opponents as well as taking full advantage of every mistake.

They had done this throughout the match and the pattern continued during the set as USA 1 added another 49 IMPs to their total over the next 11 deals.

Rather than show any of those error filled boards I'll end this short report by presenting the last deal of the match:

Board 31. Dealer South. N/S Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
von Arnim	Stansby	Auken	Rosenberg
1♣*	Pass	2♥*	Pass
2♠*	Pass	3NT*	Pass
4♣	Pass	4♥	Pass
4♠	Pass	6♣	All Pass

2♥ 5+, 4+ minors
2♠ Relay
3NT 5♣+4+ no singleton

West	North	East	South
Meyers	Schraverus	Levin	Alberti
1♥	Pass	1NT*	Pass
2♣	Pass	2♠*	Pass
3♠	Pass	4♥	All Pass

When East bid 2♠ to say she really liked clubs, West moved on with 3♠. If this had been anything other than the last board I'm sure Jill Meyers would have gone on over 4♥, but she knew her team had won – and the champagne might be getting warm!

TRANSNATIONAL OPEN TEAMS

Final - Session I

Zimmermann v Russia

by Brian Senior

The final of the World Transnational Open Teams Championship, between the France/Italy/Switzerland Zimmermann team and the Russia/Poland team Russia, was played in three sets of 16 boards each, 48 boards in all, one set on Friday and two on Saturday. The first set was a lively affair, beginning with:

Board 17. Dealer North. None Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Nunes	Dubinín	Fantoni	Gromov
	INT	Pass	Pass
Dble	Pass	2♣	Pass
Pass	Dble	Rdbl	All Pass

West	North	East	South
Ponomareva	M. Bessis	Gromova	T. Bessis
	1♦	Pass	2♦
All Pass			

Where Michel Bessis opened a better-minor 1♦, son Thomas raised to 2♦, natural and limited, and that ended the auction. Victoria Gromova led the eight of diamonds to the king and ace, and Tatiana Ponomareva switched to the king of spades, ducked, then spade queen to the ace. Michel led the ♠2 to Gromov's jack, Ponomareva pitching the ♣8, and Gromova played the fourth spade, dummy throwing a heart as West ruffed. Ponomareva returned a low heart to the queen, and the heart continuation went to the jack, king and ace. Declarer ruffed a heart, cashed the queen of diamonds, and played three rounds of clubs for a ruff in hand. Gromova had the last trick, however, so that was down one; -50.

Alexander Dubinin's weak no trump opening led to more action at the other table, Claudio Nunes doubling on the West cards. That did not appeal to Fulvio Fantoni and he removed to 2♣, redoubling for rescue at his next turn, which left Nunes in an ugly situation that he solved by pass-

ing. Andrei Gromov led the king of diamonds, which was ducked, then switched to the two of hearts to Dubinin's ace. Dubinin returned a second heart to Nunes' king, and he played the ♠K to North's ace. Dubinin played a third heart to declarer's queen, and Fantoni cashed the queen of spades, then played the queen of clubs, Dubinin taking his ace. He returned a diamond, costing the defensive trick in that suit but locking declarer in dummy to concede two more club tricks; down one for -200 and 6 IMPs to Russia.

Board 18. Dealer East. N/S Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Nunes	Dubinín	Fantoni	Gromov
		Pass	2♦
Dble	Rdbl	Pass	2♥
3♠	4♥	4♠	Pass
Pass	Dble	All Pass	

West	North	East	South
Ponomareva	M. Bessis	Gromova	T. Bessis
		Pass	2♥
2♠	4♥	All Pass	

Again, the French North/South had a very straightforward auction, Thomas opening a weak 2♥ and Michel brushing aside Ponomareva's overcall and raising to game. Gromov's Multi led to a more complex auction, Nunes doubling and Dubinin redoubling to show values. Nunes jumped in spades at his next turn and that was sufficient to convince Fantoni to go on to 4♠ over 4♥, doubled by Dubinin.

Ponomareva led the king of spades against 4♥. Thomas won with the ace and drew trumps in two rounds, then led the nine of clubs, running it when Ponomareva played low. Gromova won with the ♣Q and returned her remaining spade, which Ponomareva overtook to switch to the king of diamonds. Thomas won and crossed to hand with dummy's last trump to take a second club finesse, claiming when West's king appeared; +650.

Dubinin led a heart against 4♠ doubled. Gromov won and switched to a trump, so Dubinin won with the ace and continued with a second trump. Nunes lost the obvious five tricks for -300 but 8 IMPs to Zimmermann.

Board 19. Dealer South. E/W Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Nunes	Dubinin	Fantoni	Gromov
			Pass
1♥	Pass	2♣	Pass
2♦	Pass	2♥	Pass
3♣	Pass	3NT	All Pass

West	North	East	South
Ponomareva	M. Bessis	Gromova	T. Bessis
			Pass
1♥	Pass	1NT	Pass
2♣	Pass	2NT	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

Both Easts declared 3NT, the Russians after a forcing no trump auction. Fantoni's 2♣ response was game-forcing with clubs, balanced, or heart support, and 2♦ showed spades. Three Clubs completed the picture of the West hand and 3NT the logical conclusion from a hand that had already shown its heart support.



Thomas Bessis, France

Thomas led his fourth-best spade, which Gromova ducked to the king. Michel switched to the ♦8, declarer putting in the queen and playing a heart to the jack and king. Gromova won the diamond continuation and cashed the hearts, then judged it wise to cash out for +600.

Gromov also led the ♠2, ducked to the king, and Dubinin too switched to the ♦8. Nunes rose with the ace of diamonds and led the queen of hearts to Dubinin's king. Dubinin played a low diamond and Nunes guessed wrongly, his ten losing to the jack. Gromov found the club switch now and Nunes rose with the ace then cashed the hearts, but had no ninth tricks, so was down one for -100 and 12 IMPs to Russia.

Board 20. Dealer West. All Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Nunes	Dubinin	Fantoni	Gromov
1♠	Pass	2♦	Pass
2♠	Pass	3♦	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

West	North	East	South
Ponomareva	M. Bessis	Gromova	T. Bessis
1♠	Pass	2♦	Pass
2♠	Pass	2NT	Pass
3♣	Pass	3♠	Pass
4♥	Pass	4♠	All Pass

Fantoni forced to game with a natural 2♦ response, then rebid his suit, and Nunes bid the obvious 3NT, ending the auction. Dubinin led the ten of hearts to the jack and queen, ducked, but Nunes had to win the heart continuation. The contract depended on the diamonds and, when they split evenly, Nunes had nine tricks for +600.

Gromova rebid 2NT as East, 3♦ being non-forcing, and Ponomareva showed her second suit. Gromova could see that the heart position must be quite delicate for no trump, so showed spade tolerance, and Ponomareva took her seriously, making a heart cuebid. Gromova quickly signed off in 4♠ and Michel led the ♥4 to the queen and ace. Ponomareva cashed two diamonds to get rid of her rheart loser, then led the ♣2 to the nine and king. Michel returned his remaining club and Thomas gave him his ruff. There was a trump loser to come for down one; -100 and 12 IMPs to Zimmermann.

Board 22. Dealer East. E/W Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Nunes	Dubinin	Fantoni	Gromov
		Pass	1♠
Dble	Rdbl	2♥	2♠
Pass	Pass	3♣	Pass
3♥	All Pass		

West	North	East	South
Ponomareva	M. Bessis	Gromova	T. Bessis
		Pass	1♠
INT	Dble	2♣	Pass
Pass	Dble	All Pass	

What would be your choice as West over the 1♠ opening? Nunes chose to double for take-out and Dubinin redoubled, showing strength. With a minimum opening, Gromov rebid 2♠ over Fantoni's 2♥ and that was passed around to Fantoni, who competed with 3♣ then passed the preference to 3♥. The play record is missing, but we know



Fulvio Fantoni, Italy

that Gromov led the king of spades and Fantoni was one down; -100, which looks about right on this lay-out.

Ponomareva preferred to overcall INT and Michel doubled. Gromova ran to what she perceived to be the relative safety of 2♣ and Michel doubled again, ending the auction.

Thomas led his singleton heart. Michel won the ace and returned the ♥3, suit preference for diamonds. Thomas ruffed and switched to the ♦3 to Michel's queen. After taking a second ruff, Thomas switched to the ♠K to dummy's ace. Gromova played the jack of clubs round to Thomas's king, and he cashed the ♠Q then played a diamond. Declarer won with the ace and played a club up, losing to the ace; down two for -500 and 9 IMPs to Zimmermann.

Board 23. Dealer South. All Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Nunes	Dubinin	Fantoni	Gromov
			Pass
Pass	1♦	Pass	1♥
Pass	2♥	All Pass	

West	North	East	South
Ponomareva	M. Bessis	Gromova	T. Bessis
			Pass
Pass	1♦	Pass	1♥
All Pass			

You might not think that the decision to pass or to raise to 2♥ was a big deal, but the swing on the board was a significant one.

Ponomareva led the ♣8 against 1♥, and Thomas won in hand with the jack. He played a heart to the jack and queen, and Gromova played ace and another diamond. Thomas went up with the king, probably imagining that there was ace-doubleton on his right. When the queen fell on his left, he was comfortably placed. Thomas played a second heart, Ponomareva taking the king and switching to the ♠7. Thomas won in hand and played another heart to the ace, and could then win the return and cash the remainder of the tricks; making nine for +140.

Nunes led the ♣10 against 2♥, and Gromov went up with dummy's ace to lead a heart, Fantoni winning the queen. Fantoni led a second club to declarer's king, establishing

some defensive winners in the process. Gromov played a second round of trumps to West's king, and Nunes cashed the ace of hearts before playing the fourth round. That exhausted everyone of trumps so that when Gromov now played a diamond off the dummy Fantoni could grab his ace and the defence could cash three club winners; down two for -200 and 8 IMPs to Zimmermann.

Board 32. Dealer West. E/W Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Nunes	Dubinín	Fantoni	Gromov
1♥	Pass	2♣	Pass
2♦	Pass	2♥	Pass
3♣	Pass	4♣	Pass
6♣	All Pass		

West	North	East	South
Ponomareva	M. Bessis	Gromova	T. Bessis
1♣	Pass	2♥	Pass
2♠	Pass	3♣	Pass
3♥	Pass	3NT	Pass
4♣	Pass	5♣	All Pass

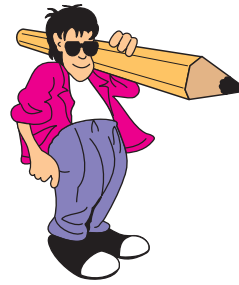
I don't have the Russian methods to hand, but 1♣ was strong and 2♥ some sort of minor-suit positive, over which 2♠ presumably enquired, 3♣ showed clubs, and 3♥ was natural. Ponomareva showed her club support but, holding a minimum with nothing to cuebid, Gromova felt unable to do other than sign-off in 5♣.

Nunes showed five plus hearts and 14+ HCP (or the equivalent in playing strength) and 2♣ was a natural game-force, or strong balanced, or strong with hearts. Two diamonds was a relay, and Nunes showed his club support at his next turn. Fantoni had nothing more to say, but Nunes could see that slam would have play facing nothing more than a good club suit and jumped to 6♣.

As the cards lay, there was nothing to the play. Both defences took their diamond winner then played a second round, and both declarers ruffed, drew trumps and played on hearts, having the possibility to ruff them out had they divided four-two. That meant +620 for Ponomareva but +1370 to Fantoni and 13 IMPs to Zimmermann.

Zimmermann won the set by 61-21 to lead overall by 61-27, Russia having a 6-IMP carryover advantage.

Championship Diary



Many of you will know Belgium's Herman De Wael, one of many absent friends who have been following the Championships via the Internet. Yesterday he sent this: Just a little story.

Geir Helgemo had already lost a Bermuda Bowl final and a World Junior Teams final, when he won the first World Junior Pairs in Gent in 1995 (incidentally with Boye Brogeland). I went up to Geir and congratulated him with the words 'at last'. It took him more than ten years to add a second world title, which he did last year in Verona. I went up to him and said 'at last again'.

So now I can at last say: 'Congratulations Geir. Again.' (feel free to use this or just communicate it to Geir.) (and I don't think I'm tempting fate sending it now already.)

I was looking for a joke to wind up this tournament's Championship Diary and wanted to test it out on the Bulletin Room. 'Stop me if you've heard this one.' I said.

'STOP'

We'll leave you with this thought (thank you Barry): If the Emperor who was in charge of the army at Xian was the Emperor Hu, would the money paid to these soldiers be Yuan Hu's army?

The Laws of Duplicate Bridge 2007



The Executive Council, at its 4th meeting here in Shanghai, yesterday approved and promulgated the new Laws of Duplicate Bridge 2007, the culmination of months of intensive work on the part of the WBF Drafting Laws Committee, ably led by John Wignall, Executive Vice-President.

The new Laws come into effect from 1st January 2008 and NBOs have until 30th September to bring them into force. All WBF events, whether World or Zonal, will be conducted under the new Laws from January 2008.

It is worthy of note that, thanks to modern technology and the largely unsung skills of Anna Gudge, the new Laws of Duplicate Bridge 2007 were available online on the WBF web site within an hour of receiving the approval of the Executive Council.

ITALIAN FESTIVAL OVER 58 2008

2ND EUROPEAN SENIORS CONGRESS

European Mixed Transnational Seniors Teams (MT)

Saturday 5/07	14.15	Qualification	-	Delayed Swiss 5 rounds, 7 boards
Sunday 6/07	14.15	Qualification	-	Delayed Swiss 5 rounds, 7 boards
Monday 7/07	10.00	Quarter Final	-	K.O., 2x8 boards
	13.30	Semi Final	-	K.O., 2x10 boards
	17.00	Final	-	K.O., 2x10 boards

European Mixed Transnational Seniors Pairs (MP)

Monday 7/07	14.15	Qualification	-	Mitchell, 18 boards
	17.00	Qualification	-	Mitchell, 18 boards
Tuesday 8/07	10.00	Final A	-	Barometer Howell, 18 boards
	14.00	Final A	-	Barometer Howell, 20 boards
	14.15	Final B, C, D	-	Mitchell, 18 boards

European Seniors Individual (IC)

Tuesday	8/07	17.00	Qualification	-	Mitchell, 18 boards
Wednesday	9/07	14.15	Qualification	-	Mitchell, 18 boards
		17.00	Final A, B, C, D	-	Mitchell, 18 boards

European Open & Ladies Transnational Teams (OT, LT)

Thursday 10/07	14.15	Qualification	-	French Patton, 5 rounds, 4 boards
	17.00	Qualification	-	French Patton, 4 rounds, 16 boards
Friday 11/07	14.15	Final A, B, C, D, E	-	French Patton, 5 rounds, 4 boards

European Open & Ladies Transnational Pairs (OP, LP)

Friday 11/07	17.00	Qualification	-	Mitchell, 18 boards
Saturday 12/07	14.15	Qualification	-	Mitchell, 18 boards
	17.00	Final A	-	Barometer Howell, 18 boards
		Final B, C, D	-	Mitchell, 18 boards
Sunday 13/07	10.00	Final A	-	Barometer Howell, 20 boards
	10.30	Final B, C, D	-	Mitchell, 18 boards

In the MT, at the end of the Swiss the top 8 teams qualify for the KO stage. The pairs that are members of the two finalist teams get a wild card for the Final A of the MP, provided that they are pre-registered.

In the MP, the Final A will consist of 20 pairs, the number of those qualified to be known only at the end of the Semi Final of the MT. The Final B, C and so on will consist of a number of pairs to be determined by the entries. Approximately, between 36 and 48 pairs will take part in each Final.

In the IC the top 36 players will play the Final A, whilst the other Finals will consist of between 36 and 52 players.

In the OT the Final A will consist of the top 6 teams at the end of the qualification stage. The other finals will consist of between 12 and 16 teams each.

The LT will be played with the same format of the OT whenever possible depending on the number of entries. Otherwise, a different format will be published by the Organization, keeping anyway the OT's schedule. If necessary, the LT will play together with the OT, with the title being awarded according to a separate ranking.

The OP will be played with the same format of the MP, as well as the LP.

Bridgemates will be in use.

Screens will be in use in the Finals A of MP, OP and LP, as well as at the KO stage of the MT.

The technical details are definitive, and all the competitions shown will be held, however the schedule might be slightly changed. The web sites of FIGB and EBL will be quickly updated should any change be made.

The event is fully transnational, and last year, in its first edition, attracted more than 500 Italian players and 20 overseas participants. We are looking forward for hosting some more of the former and many more of the latter in the magnificent town of Riccione, a seaside resort well known throughout Europe for its beaches, its excellent facilities, and its tradition of hospitality, not forgetting, of course, the beauty of its surrounding countryside.