

DAILY BULLETIN

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WHEN YOU WISH UPON A STAR....

In the Bermuda Bowl, **Switzerland's** overnight lead was occasionally threatened by **USA2**, but the holders always managed to keep them in check before cruising to victory. In the final they will meet **Norway**, who won a thrilling encounter against **Italy**.

Israel had to withstand a determined counterattack by **China** in the Venice Cup before securing their place in the final while **Türkiye** managed to overcome **Norway**.

In the d'Orsi Trophy **Denmark** won all three sessions against **Poland** to advance to the final where they will meet **USA1** who edged out **USA2**.

France and **USA2** were always in control against **Romania** and **Belgium** in the Wuhan Cup.

The Transnational Quarterfinals saw **Knottenbelt** and **Barr** get the better of **Paco** and **Payen**, while the other two matches were close, **Slow Horses** and **Amistad** eventually getting the better of **Rosenthal** and **Orca**.

In the BAM, **Poland Open** and **Vinciguerra** tied for first in the race to qualify for today's Final A followed by **Sweden Senior**.

All the finalists might be dreaming of a golden moment on Saturday – and who could blame them!

Closing Ceremony and Prize Giving

The Closing Ceremony and Prize Giving Ceremony will take place on **Saturday at 20.00** in the Salle des Ministres and be followed by a 'Cocktail Dinatoire'.



Don't rain on my parade

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BB, VC, DOT, WUC	WTOT Semifinals	BAM Finals A & B
Finals S1-3	10.00	10.00-12.25
10.00-12.15	13.00	13.25-15.50
13.15-15.30	15.20	16.10-18.50 (A only)
16.00-18.15	17.40	

BBO Matches				
	BBO1	BBO2	BBO3	BBO4
10.00	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD
13.15	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD
15.50	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD

Bermuda Bowl

	NORWAY	208
	CHINA	202

	NORWAY
	SWITZERLAND

	USA2	183
	USA1	171

Team	1	2	3	4	5	6	tot
NORWAY	31	17	45	22	34	46	195
ITALY	21	56	12	36	38	12	175

Team	P	1	2	3	4	5	6	tot
SWITZERLAND	1	34	56	44	51	18	46	250
USA2		50	16	20	50	29	6	171

	POLAND	180
	ITALY	223

	USA2
	ITALY

	SWITZERLAND	220
	ISRAEL	182

Venice Cup

	POLAND	185
	ISRAEL	215

	ISRAEL
	TURKIYE

	TÜRKIYE	230
	USA2	215

Team	P	1	2	3	4	5	6	tot
ISRAEL	7	72	30	47	15	25	25	221
CHINA		30	57	12	14	36	59	208

Team	1	2	3	4	5	6	tot
NORWAY	35	29	41	13	17	26	161
TURKIYE	37	51	15	48	20	19	190

	FRANCE	178
	CHINA	236

	NORWAY
	CHINA

	SWEDEN	189
	NORWAY	231

d'Orsi Trophy

	POLAND	186
	NETHERLANDS	154

	DENMARK
	USA1

	DENMARK	216
	ITALY	156

Team	P	1	2	3	4	5	6	tot	
	POLAND	1	17	52	36	18	10	32	166
	DENMARK		23	21	39	38	23	47	191

Team	P	1	2	3	4	5	6	tot	
	USA1	1	36	9	37	22	33	8	146
	USA2		32	12	20	10	29	28	131

	USA2	232
	NORWAY	181

	USA2
	POLAND

	USA1	214
	SWEDEN	164

Wuhan Cup

	GERMANY	176
	BELGIUM	231

	USA2
	FRANCE

	FRANCE	288
	CHINA	190

Team	1	2	3	4	5	6	tot	
	BELGIUM	15	30	18	24	33	25	145
	USA2	53	25	27	34	34	30	203

Team	1	2	3	4	5	6	tot	
	ROMANIA	1	20	20	25	25	29	120
	FRANCE	9	58	32	35	21	31	186

	USA2	216
	USA1	164

	ROMANIA
	BELGIUM

	ROMANIA	191
	ITALY	189

WTOT Brackets Knock-out

	PACO	106
	RABONO CALAMIS	20

	AUPALETI	78
	TPE SENIORS	68

	PACO	63
	DINKIN	61

	AUPALETI	63
	PAYEN	64

	FRANCE SENIORS	51
	DINKIN	64

	IRELAND OPEN	50.5
	PAYEN	53

	KNOTTENBELT	89
	LAWRENZO	73

Team	1	2	3	4	tot
PACO	18	37	43	20	118
KNOTTENBELT	38	24	77	18	157

Team	1	2	3	4	tot
PAYEN	8	23	19	35	85
BARR	14	39	48	20	121

	FINLAND	31
	INDIA OPEN	67

	PORTUCOLE	49
	KNOTTENBELT	91

	BARR	81
	INDIA OPEN	56

	REASON	56
	PORTUCOLE	60

	BARR	80
	AUSTRIA	58

	TEAM BLACK	66
	SLOW HORSES	74

	KNOTTENBELT	
	SLOW HORSES	

	AMISTAD	
	BARR	

	AMISTAD	79
	BUUS AND BOTT	71

	SLOW HORSES	96
	INDIA MIXED	41

	AMISTAD	109
	NO COKE	27

	INDIA MIXED	87
	PARTYPACK	75

Team	P	1	2	3	4	tot
ROSENTHAL		28	6	28	34	96
SLOW HORSES	1	3	31	37	34	106

Team	1	2	3	4	tot
ORCA	28	38	33	25	124
AMISTAD	37	30	33	27	127

	NO COKE	89
	BRENO	31

	POWERSHARK	21
	ROSENTHAL	95

	AUSTRALIA OPEN	77
	GILLIS	80

	CHINA SENIOR	37
	ROSENTHAL	100

	ORCA	83
	GILLIS	41

	CHINA SENIOR	89
	CAMELS	47

	ORCA	104
	SANTOSHA	37



Bermuda Bowl SFI

Switzerland v USA2




by Martin Cantor

The Tortoise and the Hare?

The Great Shuffler has mostly been kind to us all, whether commentators, kibitzers or players, with no shortage of interesting deals. This match proved no exception.

Board 2. Dealer East. N/S Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Moss	Kalita	Grue	Klukowski
—	—	1♦	Pass
1♠	2♣	3♠*	4♠*
Pass	5♣	All Pass	

Time was when, if the opponents opened and responded, you would give up on game your way unless you had



Pierre Zimmermann, Switzerland


extreme distribution. But in these days of ever lighter openings and responses that just ain't the case no more. In fact Grue has a perfectly respectable opener (they open most eleven counts), and ♠A10953 is pretty much a mandatory response these days. The Polish Swiss weren't fazed, and bid their suit to game. Grue led two top diamonds, the second was ruffed and even though Grue showed out on the first trump Kalita could claim, with six trumps in hand, two spade ruffs, and three top hearts.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Zimmermann	Meckstroth	Nowosadzki	Zia
—	—	1♦	Pass
1♠	2♣	2♠	4♠*
5♠	Pass	Pass	Dbl
All Pass			

The auction started in the same way. Zia's splinter may have emboldened Zimmermann, but more likely he was planning to save anyway at the colours. As we can see, it was the best kind of save - the kind that makes. Meckstroth led his singleton ♦Q, and after the splinter declarer didn't even need to apply restricted choice to get the trumps right and claim eleven tricks. 600 + 650 is worth 15 IMPs and a hare-like start for the Swiss.

Board 3. Dealer South. E/W Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Moss	Kalita	Grue	Klukowski
—	—	—	1♣*
INT	Pass	4♦*	Pass
4♥	All Pass		
1♣ Polish			
4♦ Hearts			

There are two spades and a heart to lose off the top, together with a potential club loser. You could try the club finesse, but why would you when you can discard one on the diamonds? You also need to keep an eye on trump

control in case of bad splits. Kalita led a diamond, taken by dummy's king for a heart to the ♥K, and a second heart, also ducked. Klukowski took the third round of trumps and played a club, which Grue finessed. I still can't see why. Next came a diamond to the ace, diamond ruffed, South's last trump drawn, declarer's last trump cashed (spade spade club) and, in a last ditch effort, ♣10 finessed. Unsuccessfully, and two light.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Zimmermann	Meckstroth	Nowosadzki	Zia
—	—	—	1♦
INT	2♦	3♦*	Dble*
Pass	Pass	4♥	All Pass

Zia led the ♠A and switched to a diamond, taken in hand. From there the play was relatively straightforward. Play trumps, Zia taking the second, watch him cash the other top spade, and claim ten tricks for 13 more IMPs to race even further ahead. A couple of boards later the score had risen to 34-1, but after that the tortoise started to come into its own.

Board 11. Dealer South. None Vul.

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

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Moss	Kalita	Grue	Klukowski
—	—	—	Pass
1♦	Pass	1♥	Pass
2♥	Pass	2♠	Pass
4♥	Pass	4♠*	Pass
5♣*	Pass	6♥	All Pass

A case of points schmoits here; once Moss opened, and Grue identified a 4-4 heart fit, it seems only a lack of controls was going to keep him out of slam. It needed some good fortune, for sure, but it got it. South led the obvious ♦J and a spade went away. Grue was pleased to see both opponents follow to the two top trumps, then he played ♣K, ♣A, ♣J ruffed, in a rare mistake by Klukowski, with the ♥Q. He now exited the ♠K but Grue could win and claim, as he could ruff the club good and ruff one losing spade, discarding the other on the ♦K. The winning line, as the cards lie, is of course to finesse the second round of clubs, but declarer's line also caters for ♣Q any length in South, or any 3-3 break.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Zimmermann	Meckstroth	Nowosadzki	Zia
—	—	—	Pass
1♦	Pass	1♥	Pass
2♥	Pass	2NT	Pass
3♥	Pass	4♦	Pass
4♥	All Pass		

Was Nowosadzki worried about a three card raise? When he bypassed 2♠, and subsequently 4♣, there was neither room nor incentive for Zimmermann to proceed. Mind you, the excellent VuGraph operator informed us that the bidding was paused for a discussion, with a TD, about possible mis-explanations on the previous board, so maybe the players were distracted. Whatever the reason, and I am perfectly willing to ascribe it to good judgment, EW had stayed out of a playable but very far from laydown slam. Zia led the ♦9; was he playing 3rd & 5th? or more likely he was being Zia, as Meckstroth put the queen on it. Not that it mattered as Nowosadzki ruffed, cashed the top trumps, played a club to king, a diamond ruffed, the ♣A and the ♣J ruffed by Zia and a claim for eleven tricks, but a loss of 11 IMPs which, together with a few part scores had brought the score to 34-30 for the Swiss. A few more small scores saw the Americans take the lead 34-37 as the last board appeared. Would the Swiss hares produce a final surge?

Board 16. Dealer West. E/W Vul.

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

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Moss	Kalita	Grue	Klukowski
INT*	Pass	2NT*	3♦
3♠	Pass	4♥	Pass
4♠	Pass	5♠	Pass
5NT	Pass	6♠	All Pass

INT 14-16 1/2NV, 12-16 3NV

The Convention Card says '2N ♦ 2NT Puppet.' Might Klukowski have doubled for the ruff? Was he worried they could make 6NT, and think or hope that Kalita might find the club lead anyway? Without the double I can't see any reason to find it. If he had led the ace of his partner's suit the sight of dummy's clubs and partner's ♦2 would surely have been enough for one down (an

opening club takes it off three, or four if declarer plays the ♣A at trick 1). In the event Kalita led a trump, Grue drew them, played the ♣Q to the king, ace and a diamond discard from South at which point he could claim all the tricks. Strangely this is a much better slam, single dummy, than the previous one, needing just the club finesse and a decent break in the suit.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Zimmermann	Meckstroth	Nowosadzki	Zia
1♠	Pass	2♣	3♦
Dble	Pass	3♠	Pass
3NT	Pass	4♣	Pass
4♦	Pass	4♥	Pass
4♠	All Pass		

The Swiss pair made some low level slam moves, but neither saw enough potential to take them beyond game. Theoretically they were right, as we saw above, but theory and practice don't always coincide. As we see here. Not only did the Swiss stay out of a slam made at the other table, to add insult to injury they went two light in game, a four trick difference. Meckstroth led the ♣2, declarer put the ace up, and Zia ruffed to return a diamond. Meckstroth took the jack and ace, cashed the ♣K, and led another one for Zia to ruff again. At which point Zimmermann could finally claim the rest Two down meant 17 IMPs to USA2, the slow starters who had put on a most un-tortoise-like sprint at the end to win the segment 34-54. So maybe they now count as the hares, who in the remaining five segments have to beware of the Swiss tortoise.



Jeff Meckstroth, USA2

Fake News

by Mark Horton

If Zia sends you a deal you can be sure it will be interesting!

This one is from the fourth session of the quarterfinals:

Board 24. Dealer West. None Vul.

♠ 3 ♥ A J 7 5 3 ♦ A J 9 7 4 3 ♣ 8	<div style="background-color: #004d00; color: white; padding: 10px; width: 60px; margin: 0 auto;"> N W E S </div>	♠ J 8 ♥ K Q 10 8 6 ♦ Q 5 ♣ K J 10 2
♠ K Q 7 4 ♥ — ♦ K 8 6 ♣ Q 9 7 6 4 3		

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Demuy	Meckstroth	Kranyak	Zia
1♦	1♠	2♣	4♦*
5♥	5♠	Dble	All Pass
4♦ Splinter!			

Looking at the South hand Zia envisaged a possible (making) save in spades at some point but was anxious to avoid a diamond lead. That prompted him to try the effect of 4♦, rather than a real splinter in hearts.

When East led the ♥K it only required West to be the one holding the ♣K for 5♠ doubled to be as Zia described it, a 'doddle'. When East turned up with it the result was one down, -100.

It earned him what he described (with tongue in cheek) as a rare 'nice bid' from his partner!

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Moss	Spector	Grue	Wolpert
1♦	2♠	2♣	4♠
5♥	All Pass		

North led the ♠A and declarer emerged with 12 tricks, +480 and 9 IMPs, part of a 54 IMP burst by USA2 at the start of the fourth quarter.

Zia's *Bridge-A Love Story* contains an example of a 'fake splinter' – now he has an example for volume 3!



A bridge dynasty: The Rimstedts Part I



by Christina Lund Madsen

This article was originally produced by request of the French Bridge Federation's magazine L'As de Trèfle, in which it will appear later this year. The FFB has kindly given the WBF their blessing to let us publish it in this bulletin first.

The Rimstedts are known worldwide for their massive bridge talent. At first glance they are a loving and supportive Swedish family, playing outside in the grass at summertime, the older sisters teaching their younger brothers to play bridge. Beneath the picturesque surface they are stubborn and fierce competitors who love nothing more than beating the other family members in any discipline. Welcome to the Rimstedt universe.

two older sisters Sandra and Cecilia.

"I was so overly happy", Cecilia recalls. "It was a surprise to everyone because they were so young at the time."

Ola and Mikael already have more titles than they can count (they quit studying after high school), yet this was their first grown-up title. For Mikael it is without competition the highlight of their bridge career - so far.

She then adds dryly:

"Obviously I had no idea how it was actually going to be."

Ann & Magnus

As all the world's greatest love stories, this one begins at the bridge table.

"We began playing with each other after Magnus asked if I wanted to play a tournament. We were not in love yet, it happened along the way."

Did you have any romantic interest in Ann at the time?

"I don't recall, it is so long ago." Magnus says in his characteristic sarcastic tone.

Unlike Magnus, Ann always planned to have four children.

"It wasn't a dream having two at once. It was tough the first years. I had enormous help from Sandra and Cecilia, they were so big."

What was the most challenging for you as a mother of 4 small children?

"Sandra and Cecilia had just started school and I had a constant bad conscience that I could not be there for the girls because I had to take care of the boys. They were thankfully old enough for me to explain to them I didn't have time, but I always had a bad conscience."

As all parents know, the years with young children are the most challenging for the relationship. Ann and Magnus were no exception.

How many years have you been together?

Ann: "42 minus 3 years break from 2003-2006."

Magnus: "We are not married, that is why my name is not Rimstedt. We have lived in sin for many years."

How did you find your way back to each other?

Ann: "I fell in love all over. I did not want to go back to how it was. But he was like a new person. He was already the father



The twins in Orlando in 2018

Orlando, Florida, 2018. Family, fans and followers are waiting outside the playing area after the last session of the World Open Pairs. When the twins exit, a spontaneous applause erupts. The boys have done it. Shocked the world by winning their first World Championship as adults – if you can call 23 year-olds adults.

Amid all the hugging and champagne are two who are possibly happier than Ola and Mikael Rimstedt themselves; their

when I had to tell him," Ann Rimstedt recalls.

"It was an accident for me and planned for Ann. Then two came at the same time, so it was double accident for me," Magnus complains while Ann is laughing.

Becoming an older sister is also one of Cecilia's most powerful childhood memories.

"It was a very strong and good feeling when I was told mamma was having twins. I thought that was amazing."

Facts:**Ann Rimstedt & Magnus Eriksson**

Ann Rimstedt, (born 1960). Been unmarried to Magnus Eriksson for 42 years apart from a 3-year break in the middle. Has been working at the switchboard at the local hospital all her life. Proud mother of the four children she always dreamt of. Holds several Swedish titles.

Magnus Eriksson (born 1963). Working as a consultant within telecom. Never married nor took the name Rimstedt, yet his company is called Rimfar (*Rimfather. CLM*). He claims it was the only name available. Won many Swedish championships and came second in even more. Represented Sweden on the national team. Never wanted more than two children.

of my children, so it was amazing to fall in love with him anew."

How did the children handle the separation?

"It was a little tough for Cecilia foremost. She was affected by it and had a minor depression. She was also in her teenage years, which is sensitive."

"Ola and Mikael just thought it was fun they got to live in two different places," Magnus adds.

Why did you never marry?

Ann: "I have asked several times. Every time Magnus says: "You survived this far, I am sure you will manage a while yet.""

One time she thought the impossible moment had finally arrived. They were on their way to Hawaii to babysit their grandchildren during the American Nationals and spent a few days in San Francisco on the way.

"When we crossed the Golden Gate Bridge and were just in the middle, Magnus said: "Now I have to get down on my knees." Then my heart stopped and I thought "Now it is happening, in the middle of Golden Gate Bridge." Then he said: "I have to tie my shoes.""

Magnus laughs. "And then we had our honeymoon in Hawaii with all the children and babysitting grandchildren. That was just wonderful."

When and how did you teach the children to play bridge?

Magnus: "We didn't. Absolutely not. We never played at home. There was a bridge festival in Sweden with beginner classes for kids. Sandra and Cecilia played with Jenny Ryman (*now Wolpert, married to Gavin Wolpert and living in the US. CLM*)

and her sister when they were 7-8 years old. They visited each other and when the girls were not around, Sandra and Cecilia forced Mikael and Ola to play when they were four years old."

Already from the beginning the twins were rather unimpressed and showed glimpses of the aggressive style characterizing their bridge today. Magnus recalls a hand:

"Ola opened 2 diamonds showing a good hand. Then Mikael jumped to 7NT. Sandra doubled, and Ola redoubled and took 13 tricks. I think they were 5 at the time."

Later on Magnus added his children to the teams he played on in Sweden and Ann played women's bridge with both girls and even won the Swedish women's pairs with Sandra.

"I won the Swedish women pairs with my mother when I was 21 years old. 25 years later I won with my daughter when she was the same age."

How does it feel to win with your children?

Magnus: "Amazingly fun. We have won the Swedish league twice. Afterwards our family team was off to play the Champions Cup. I forgot how that went..."

Have you ever wished or do you ever wish they had chosen a different career path?

Ann shakes her head.

"I don't see any other way. Somehow it seemed destined. If they hadn't thought it was fun we never would have pushed them. It was their own choice all the way through.

Magnus adds:

"Both Cecilia and Sandra have an education. Sandra used to work for the United Nations in New York for some years. Cecilia is a teacher. She used her pedagogy as a bridge teacher instead."

How did you feel when Sandra moved to NYC?

Ann: "She had done a good deal of travelling already before then, spent months in Australia and Asia. The pandemic hasn't made it easier. But she is home every summer and every Christmas."

What is the best part about being the parents of four international bridge stars?

Magnus thinks.

"I hear from many how well they act at the table. It is quite usual for bridge players to behave badly. That is actually what I am most proud of."

What is the worst?

"Things have changed over the years, Christina. They used to be known as my children, now I am known as their father. Yet if we look at most of the events we played together I had the kids after myself in the butler ranking. Just because they are world champions doesn't mean they are the best in the family."

Ann laughs.

"You don't get to see them enough because they are out playing. Apart from that I don't see anything bad, you are proud all the time. I simply rejoice in all their success; it is so much fun and we get to watch them on BBO. But it is not their bridge performance I am most proud of. When I hear they are such pleasant human beings, my heart swells. Then I have succeeded as a mother."



Sandra - the Adventurer

Sandra is the eldest of the Rimstedt siblings and the first to leave the nest, which she did as quickly as she could fly. At 20 she went backpacking in Australia, New Zealand and South East Asia. After a stop in Norway, she moved to the exotic part of South Sweden to study at Lund University, where she got a bachelor in economics in between travelling the world for junior bridge tournaments.

She met Shane Blanchard at the American Nationals in Boston, and after a few years of long-distance relationship, Sandra moved to New York City. As a talented and charming Scandinavian, she immediately became a popular partner at the NYC bridge club scene.

Yet being a bridge pro had never been Sandra's dream – unlike her siblings.

"Later on I wanted to do something more related to my education. I got a job at the Swedish UN-representation in New York. It was... fantastic. Extremely exciting environment, I learnt so much and developed personally. I would have liked to continue my work there but then I became pregnant. And I always had the bridge, which I loved."

Facts:

Sandra Rimstedt

Born in 1987. Bridge pro since 2009. Has a bachelor in Economics and worked for the United Nations in New York from 2013-15. Holds 6 international medals, including European gold in Womens Pairs in 2015, along with a number of American titles. Been living in New York since 2011 (?) and moving to Florida this summer. Has two sons, Odin 6 years old and Oliver 3 years old with Shane Blanchard, American bridge player.

After her first pregnancy with her son Odin in 2016, she only made her living playing bridge, and the same after her second son, Oliver, was born in 2019.

"It seemed natural for me to continue playing bridge. It was much more flexible, and it was fun. In New York City you don't work 100%, you work 200%, even though I worked for an organization."

When your children are grown, would you like to go back to a "real" job again?

"Perhaps. If I can combine it with bridge. I feel much stronger for it than before. Yet I love to play bridge and teach."

How come you were so busy leaving home?

She thinks for a while.

"I don't know. I have always been a bit adventurous. I always thought Sweden was a little boring. It is perfect going back for summer and then return home."

Home is for Sandra USA. After many years in NYC Sandra is departing on a

Sandra won her first World Championship in Wroclaw in 2022.(CLM)

Yet Sandra's best bridge memories are not her biggest victories. Her fondest bridge memory she shares with her mother.



Sandra doing goat yoga

new adventure when she and the family will move to Florida after the summer.

"We love the beach, we love the sun and we can always move back. I think it will be a simpler life style there and a better family life. New York is fun, but very stressful."

What were you like as a teenager?

"I took a lot of care of my brothers. Maybe my responsibility was part of the reason I wanted to fly away. I was perhaps a bit rebellious."

How do you see your role in the family?

"I am definitely the one who brings us together. The creator. I take the initiative to make things happen."

What interests do you have outside of bridge?

"Wine. I have decided that drinking wine with my friends is a hobby. I also like yoga. When I was 13 I was a Swedish gymnastics champion. I love music, dancing and theater."

Sandra is the only one of the four siblings who is "only" a European Champion (apart from all the other American, Swedish and junior titles). "She is the black sheep," as her father says with his usual sarcasm.

(This interview was made just before

"I won the Swedish women's pairs with my mother 25 years after she won with her mother. That was special!"

Another favorite memory was when she at the age of 20 played the European junior championships with a 12-year-old Ida Grönkvist in the Swedish U21-team.

"It was like introducing my younger sister to bridge. We played on a team with Ida's brother Mikael as well. The idea was just for them to learn and enjoy themselves and get hooked on the game. We surpassed expectations. In one of the first matches we played France, one of the favorites, and we won by 25-5. We were one IMP away from qualifying for the World championships."

Perhaps one of the reasons for the team's success was the lack of pressure. Sandra is known for her coolness no matter what her partner presents her with, yet she hides a humbleness unlike her siblings beneath her ice princess-appearance.

"I always try to maintain a poker face, but I play a lot worse when I am nervous. Many become better, but I don't do as I normally do. It is the same if I have to give a lecture or when I competed in gymnastics as a child."

What is your biggest dream?

"Saving the world." She laughs. "I'm

joking. That my children will grow up in a world free of war and the threat of climate change.”

Cecilia the Sensitive

Unlike her older sister, Cecilia always knew she was going to become a bridge pro. She first attracted the attention of the world when she together with Sara Sivelind won the world junior pairs in 2006, only 17 years old. This is the first and so far only time in world bridge history that a female partnership has won an open world title.

In 2004 Cecilia went to the American Nationals for the first time, barely 16 years old. A Swedish woman, Jill Mellström, was very helpful finding small sponsors willing to pay the expenses for Swedish juniors to enable them to go to the US. In 2009 Cecilia and Sandra with Emma Sjöberg (now Övelius) as the third were hired by an American woman, Hansa Narasimhan, in their first real professional deal. Since that year Cecilia has been a bridge pro. She was 20 years old at the time.

“I played with Hansa at the three nationals in 2009 and during the time I began making contacts of my own. In Reno in 2010 I played with a different client and once you are there being seen...”

Despite graduating as a teacher in math and science in 2013, Cecilia has only worked within bridge throughout her life. Besides playing professionally,

Facts:

Cecilia Rimstedt

Born in 1988. Bridge pro since 2009. Graduated as a math and science teacher in 2013 but only worked as a bridge teacher. Holds nine international medals including world junior pairs in 2007 and Venice Cup in 2019. Playing bridge professionally since 2009. Has two boys (William born 2013, Alexander born 2016) from her marriage to Patrik Johansson, who she divorced in 2017. Married American bridge player Kevin Dwyer in 2022.

she taught her own bridge class at a club in Gothenburg until 2019, when her professional playing commitments became too much to combine with teaching.

When did you decide to become a bridge pro?

“It was never a decision, it was the goal since I was little. When I was 10 they asked me at school what I wanted to become and I said: “I am going to be a bridge pro.””

Which significance do you think your parents had on your choice of career?

“It was obviously thanks to them I was introduced to bridge. That I became a bridge pro probably less so. I don’t think they believed it would be so at first, though they always supported me in doing what I wanted. But I also think they were happy I had a backup-plan.”

If you were to imagine a life without bridge, how would it look?

She laughs. “I don’t understand the question.”

Cecilia’s bridge career was not the only thing that came early to her. In 2003 at the age of 14 she met Patrik Johansson (later Rimstedt – who doesn’t want that name?), a Swedish junior player, who she married and had two children with. They divorced in 2017 and Cecilia just this year married American bridge pro Kevin Dwyer.



Which consequences did your divorce have for your bridge life?

“Bridge became more important for me partly as a job, but also partly for me to find myself. I have always been with Patrik, a large part of me was my relation to Patrik, and when that disappeared was perhaps when I discovered that bridge is who I am and what I want.”

What do you do when you don’t play bridge?

She laughs again.

“Good question. I obviously try to focus on my children. I focus on my social life and enjoy spending time with my friends, though it is hard here in Kungsbacka since my friends are not here. I have to travel to see them. I also enjoy watching musicals. We always do that when I visit my sister in New York.”

How was it for you when Sandra moved to the US in 2012?

“At the time we were not very close. Oddly enough we became much closer after she moved.” She giggles. “I was happy she was happy but at the time there was more... friction in our relation. That is completely gone now. Today we have a

great relation.”

Sandra is also the one in the family Cecilia feels closest to, and the feeling is mutual - if you can make Sandra admit it.

Who in your family are you closest to?

“Cilla. I would never have said her in the past, yet I would today. No, I have to say one of the brothers. I say Ola. That is funnier,” Sandra says with a mischievous smile.

Back to Cecilia.

How would you describe your role in the family?

“When we grew up, I was probably the most emotional. I have very strong feelings and express them. If I was happy, I was very happy, if I was angry, I was very angry. Today I would say I am the most competitive. Everything is a competition within the family, and I am probably the initiator.”

Cecilia is a decent ping pong-player, and nothing brings her more joy than beating her father and brothers.

“A long time ago Ola, Micke, dad and I played, and we were all sort of good at it. However, I am the only one of us to ever win the club championship in men’s single in BTK Ratic (that was the name of our club).”

Do you also compete so fiercely within bridge?

“Not when it comes to important events. Then we are always happy if it goes well for the others. But if we play less important events, it is very important it goes badly for the others.”

to be continued tomorrow...



Bermuda Bowl SF2
Norway v Italy



by Marc Smith

Norway won the round robin, and then came back from a fourth-quarter deficit to squeak past China by just 6 IMPs in their quarterfinal. None of the top three teams chose to play Italy, so they were left to take on Poland in their quarterfinal. They trailed after only two deals during the 96-board contest and slowly built a lead to power away to an impressive 43-IMP victory. Everything suggests that this semifinal should be a close-run affair. The Norwegians led 31-21 after the first stanza. Let's take a look at the action in an exciting second segment.

As usual, we start with a couple of problems. Firstly, with neither side vulnerable, you are South holding:

♠ A Q 6 3
♥ 3
♦ A J 9 2
♣ 9 8 7 2

West	North	East	South
Pass	1♦	1♠	2♠*
3♥	Dble	Pass	?

Your 2♠ cue-bid shows a limit raise or better in diamonds. What action, if any, do you take now?

Next, with only your side vulnerable, you are sitting in the West seat with:

♠ K 8 7 4
♥ 4
♦ A K 10 5 3
♣ 10 5 3

West	North	East	South
Pass	Pass	1♠	Pass
?			



Giacomo Percario, Italy

You decide not to open in first seat. What do you now bid when partner opens 1♠?

While you mull those over, we head for the middle of the stanza with the match score having advanced only to 33-29 in favour of the Scandinavians. Then both West players offered their opponents a chance for a big score...

Board 24. Dealer West. None Vul.

♠ 9 5
♥ A Q 9 6
♦ K 8 6 5 3
♣ K 4

♠ 7 4
♥ K J 10 8 7
♦ Q 7 4
♣ A 10 6



♠ K J 10 8 2
♥ 5 4 2
♦ 10
♣ Q J 5 3

♠ A Q 6 3
♥ 3
♦ A J 9 2
♣ 9 8 7 2

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Aa	Sementa	Livgard	Versace
Pass	1♦	1♠	3♣*
3♥	Pass	Pass	Dble

All Pass

We have discussed previously how much better it is to get into the auction early on moderate hands, rather than trying to back in with them later. Neither of the West players in this match opened either 1♥ or 2♥ in first seat non-vulnerable, but either of those options, imperfect though they may be, would have been less dangerous than what they actually did.

Antonio Sementa opened 1♦, and Alfredo Versace's jump to 3♣ after East's 1♠ overcall showed some sort of limit raise in diamonds. (2♣ would have been natural and a one-round force.) Now, having passed initially, Terje Aa thought he should wander into the auction at the three-level. Versace re-opened with a double in the pass out seat, and Sementa did not have his most challenging decision of the tournament.


A spade lead would have restricted declarer to just four tricks without the option, but Sementa understandably led the suit his side had bid and supported. Versace won with the ♦A and there are a number of ways to skin a cat from here. Versace switched to his trump, and Sementa played three rounds of the suit, Aa winning and drawing North's last trump. In order to make a second club trick, declarer needs to play that suit now, while he still has a trump. Instead, Aa led a spade to the jack and queen. Now the defence was back in control. Three rounds of

never mentioned their nine-card diamond fit. Indeed, it was Sementa who bid that suit here. Thus, Brogeland was lured into bidding 3NT despite the obvious deficiency in his hand.

Percario was not deterred and duly tabled the $\diamond K$. It was then only a question of how many Brogeland would go down. When he took his ace before the fourth round of diamonds, the defenders had four diamonds and two aces: N/S -200 and 8 IMPs to Italy, retaking the lead by a single IMP.

The match score had advanced to 54-48 in favour of the Italians by the time the penultimate deal of the stanza arrived at the tables.

Board 31. Dealer South. N/S Vul.

<p>\spadesuit J 10 9 7 3 \heartsuit K 8 3 2 \diamond Q 7 4 2 \clubsuit —</p> <p>\spadesuit A K Q 8 \heartsuit Q \diamond J 6 3 \clubsuit A K 7 4 3</p>		<p>\spadesuit 4 2 \heartsuit J 10 7 5 \diamond A 9 5 \clubsuit J 10 9 5</p> <p>\spadesuit 6 5 \heartsuit A 9 6 4 \diamond K 10 8 \clubsuit Q 8 6 2</p>	
--	---	--	--

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Percario	Bakke	Donati	Brogeland
—	—	—	Pass
1 \clubsuit	Pass	1 \heartsuit	Pass
2 \spadesuit	Pass	2NT*	Pass
3 \clubsuit *	Pass	3 \diamond *	Pass
3 \spadesuit *	Pass	3NT	All Pass

Giacomo Percario started by showing a good hand with both black suits. Giovanni Donati's 2NT was then the start of a relay sequence which told him that his partner had exactly a 4-1-3-5 shape.

Looking at all four hands, you may be forgiven for thinking that there is nothing in the play, as declarer appears to have nine top tricks via five clubs, three spades and a diamond. However, there are a number of points of interest. Brogeland led a spade against Donati. If declarer has only four club tricks, then it looks as if he will need a trick from the Q-J-10 of hearts to bring his tally to nine. However, entries are a potential problem and thus declarer cannot afford to touch clubs too early, as he may need entries in both directions in that suit. Donati thus began by leading the $\heartsuit Q$ from dummy at trick two.

When the defenders allowed the $\heartsuit Q$ to win, declarer was in clover, so he laid down the $\clubsuit A$. With the position in that suit now revealed, it was not rocket science to untangle the tricks: E/W +430.

When a contract seems destined to make, often the best you can do is give declarer a guess. An excellent defence by Alfredo Versace did exactly that on this deal.


Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Aa	Sementa	Livgard	Versace
—	—	—	Pass
1 \clubsuit	Pass	1 \diamond	Pass
1 \spadesuit	Pass	1NT	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

Versace opened the $\heartsuit 4$, covered by queen and king, and Sementa returned the suit to declarer's ten and Versace's ace. Versace's switch to the $\diamond 10$, a surround play, crushing the $\diamond J$ and neutralising the $\diamond 9$ was then the killing defence. Declarer covered with the jack and allowed Sementa to win with the $\diamond Q$. He then ducked again when a second diamond came back, but Versace won and played a third diamond, removing declarer's only entry to his hand before he had tested the clubs.

Of course, declarer could have run the $\clubsuit J$ on the first round of the suit to score up his game but, when he played a club to the ace and North showed out, he was one down. Chapeau, Alfredo! E/W -50 and 10 IMPs to Italy.

Board 32. Dealer West. E/W Vul.

<p>\spadesuit 2 \heartsuit Q J 9 8 7 \diamond J 6 4 \clubsuit Q J 8 7</p> <p>\spadesuit K 8 7 4 \heartsuit 4 \diamond A K 10 5 3 \clubsuit 10 5 3</p>		<p>\spadesuit A Q J 9 3 \heartsuit A K 10 3 \diamond Q \clubsuit A 6 2</p> <p>\spadesuit 10 6 5 \heartsuit 6 5 2 \diamond 9 8 7 2 \clubsuit K 9 4</p>	
---	---	---	--

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Aa	Sementa	Livgard	Versace
Pass	Pass	1 \spadesuit	Pass
2 \diamond *	Pass	2 \heartsuit *	Pass
3 \diamond	Pass	3 \heartsuit	Pass
4 \spadesuit	All Pass		

The Norwegians never really got to grips with this combination. I suspect that many players would open the West hand, after which reaching slam would be almost inevitable, but not Aa. His partner's 1 \spadesuit opening then left him with the last of the problems posed earlier. I am a great believer in describing your hand as accurately as possible when you find a fit. You might, perhaps start with a 4 \heartsuit splinter, but this hand looks just a little too good for that. I suspect that, for most, a fit jump to 3 \diamond as a passed hand would be the obvious start on this West hand.

Aa started with 2 \diamond , which their system card describes as either natural and forcing for one round or 3-7 HCP with a spade fit. If opener is not interested facing the weak hand, he can simply rebid 2 \spadesuit , but Livgard had a good hand, so he relayed with 2 \heartsuit . Aa's 3 \diamond was now, presumably, natural

but, as far as I can tell, he had still said nothing about his spade fit. When Livgard now bid his hearts, Aa jumped to 4♠ and Livgard did not know enough to bid on. I'll leave you to decide for yourself whether stopping in game on this combination is a system problem or an error of judgement by someone. Declarer had no problem making 13 tricks: E/W +710.

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Percario	Bakke	Donati	Brogeland
Pass	2♦*	Dble	3♥*
Dble	Pass	4♥	Pass
4♠	Pass	5♥	Pass
6♦	Pass	6♠	All Pass

For the Italians, Percario also did not open the West hand, but they were faced with a completely different scenario after Bakke opened his 'obvious' weak two via a Multi on the North hand. Donati started with a double on his good hand and Brogeland, who could be fairly sure that his opponents could make something at least fairly high, braved a pass-or-correct jump to 3♥ on his miserable collection of junk.

Percario's value-showing double let his partner know that he had a maximum for his initial pass and, when he then bid spades on the West hand, Donati was never likely to stop short of at least the small slam. E/W +1460 and another 13 IMPs to Italy to close the stanza.

Italy won the second set 56-17 to take a 29-IMP lead (77-48) in the match. I suspect there is much more troubled bridge to go over the water before we know which of these teams will be playing in the final.



Geir Helgemo, Norway

Editor's Log 310823



Since the opening day of the Championships we have received a stream of visitors, almost all of them requesting a copy of a Convention Card. So many that I remarked that if we had charged every one of them 10 Dirham we could retire. 'Only in Morocco', said Ron.



While checking some obscure point about the Oscars I noticed that in 1930 Gary Cooper, Marlene Dietrich and Adolphe Menjou starred in the film *Morocco* which recounts the story of a cabaret singer and a Legionnaire. Having resisted the temptation to use any reference to the better known *Road to Morocco*, I might succumb to temptation and weave another story around a film with a very tempting title from a bridge point of view, *Going Down in Morocco!*



Herman De wael is one of the world's leading vexillologists. How annoying that on the night our hotel staged a quiz that required you to name the flags of 100 countries he was late back from dinner.



Germany's Annaig Della Monta was first to reserve a copy of the Marrakech 2023 World Championship book!

If you have any questions for the President of the World Bridge Federation or the WBF in general, please send them to: markhorton007@hotmail.com or bridgebulletins@gmail.com

They will be answered in a Press Release in the final Bulletin.

WBF WOMEN'S BRIDGE

B Bridge Base
O N L I N E

1st Prize
courtesy of
WBF President
Jan Kamras

WBF Women's Online
Autumn Festival on BBO

November 6-12, 2023
(Monday to Sunday)



Women's Online
Bridge Festival
Free Entry to the
National Women's Pairs
in the next
WBF Pairs Championships



Overall & Daily
BB\$ Prizes
Sponsored by BBO

7 Games per day
Pairs
Indiv Robot
Indiv Human
with times to suit
every World zone

WBF Master points
& BBO points
Awarded

More information will be published [here](#)
in due course.

Prizes

Courtesy of WBF President, Jan Kamras:

- ✓ Free Entry to the National Women's Pairs in the next WBF Pairs Championships for winner and partner of choice from the same NBO.
- ✓ WBF Online Master Points for the Festival's top 20 players.
- ✓ Signed certificates from the WBF for the top players in each event.

Courtesy of BBO:

- ✓ BB\$ prizes for overall leaders.
- ✓ BB\$ Daily Prizes. An opportunity to win prizes even if the top prize is no longer attainable.
- ✓ BBO Points awarded based on the size of the field.
- ✓ Free Celebration Fun Tournament with Video chat and Quiz to congratulate the winners for all participants on a date after the Festival.

Winner of WBF Women's
Spring Festival 2023 was
Deborah Smith, New Zealand
Congratulations!
Click [here](#) for interview with
Deborah.

Anna Maria Torlontano, who
championed Women's Bridge for
its development, instigated the
WBF/BBO online Women's Bridge
Festival. To play in the Festival is
an opportunity to network, form
partnerships and teams and then
compete to the highest level in
Bridge. **DO PLAY!**

RealBridge & BAMSA: Teacher & Coach Conference 7+8 Oct '23

RealBridge and BAMSA (Bridge: A MindSport for All) have arranged a short online conference on **7/8 October 2023** for bridge teachers, coaches and mentors.

The speakers are from around the world. Some material will be pre-recorded and subtitled. The entire conference will be recorded and made available subsequently.

What is it all about? The last 5 years have seen a decline in newcomers to the game, and also a drop in participation by existing players. There are a number of reasons for this.

But the last few years have also shown that there are many new opportunities. Communication is easier, faster, and more affordable. Engagement channels such as Facebook, Zoom and Twitch are readily available and better understood. Practitioners are more open to hearing ideas from other people. There is more understanding of, and openness to, collaboration and cooperation.

Topics

- Information on new approaches to teaching
- Channels, ideas and tools to market the game and the services
- Benefits of providing or earning accreditation
- How teachers can become the best version of themselves through personal development
- Youth players: organizational considerations, successes, issues, attitudes of schools
- Best ways to teach children and youth: practices, techniques, interactions, differences from adult teaching
- Approaches to coaching: supporting and overseeing the entire development of a player (as distinct from instructional teaching)
- The presentations will mainly be case studies.

What do we hope you will achieve by taking part in this event?

- Obtain insights into latest trends, to inspire you
- Recognize opportunities and pitfalls
- Exchange views on shared challenges
- Network and collaborate
- Meet people you have heard about
- Understanding what can be achieved within typical budgets and timescales

Out of scope

- Demonstrations of bridge-specific software
- Fundraising

Practicalities

Where and when? Dates: 7 & 8 October 2023, depending on time zones. Each session is 3 hours.

Details here, and how to participate as a speaker or attend:

https://realbridge.online/teacher-coach-conference-2023.html#conference_timetable

Teacher and Coach Conference Organised by RealBridge & BAMSA

A short online practitioner conference on 7 & 8 October 2023.
For bridge teachers, coaches and mentors.

Speakers from around the world. Some material will be pre-recorded
and subtitled.

A free event. Please sign up to get updates and the joining instructions.
More information here:

realbridge.online/teacher-coach-conference-2023



Bermuda Bowl SF3

Switzerland v USA2

Norway v Italy



Venice Cup SF3

Israel v China

Norway v Türkiye






by Jos Jacobs

For the last session on Wednesday, we could only hope that the BBO broadcasts would be resumed after the earlier interruptions. And yes, after a shaky start, all our eight tables were visible again for the thousands of kibitzers worldwide. As the championships are approaching their final stages, it looked a good idea to me to report about both the BB and VC semifinals, even more so because the readers are entitled to something extra after we could hardly report anything about the second session of the day. Apart from this, there always is the practical point that whenever a particular hand causes a problem, it is quite likely that this problem, or a similar problem, will arise at more than one table. So on some of the deals below, I will show you auctions from more than one table. Here is the first example of what I just said, already on the second board:

Board 2. Dealer East. N/S Vul.

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



Xiuting Yu, China

As you can see, E/W are bound for 11 tricks in spades as soon as they get the lead, but the defence can cash three top tricks first. These were the two auctions in the Switzerland v. USA2 match.

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Zia	Nowosadzki	Meckstroth	Zimmermann
—	—	2NT*	Pass
3♣*	Pass	3♦*	Pass
3♥	Pass	3♠	Pass
4♣*	Pass	4♠	Pass
4NT	Pass	5♦*	Pass
5♠	All Pass		

- 2NT 19+ - bad 22 balanced
- 3♣ Stayman
- 3♦ No major
- 4♣ Cue
- 4NT RKCB
- 5♦ 1 keycard

With South on lead, both a pedestrian top heart and a more sophisticated low diamond would do the job for the defence – and so it proved. Zimmermann led a diamond to North's ace and a heart came back sort of automatically. One down, Switzerland +50.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Klukowski	Fleisher	Kalita	C Martel
—	—	1♣*	Pass
1♠	Pass	2♦*	Pass
2♥	Pass	2♠	Pass
3♥	Pass	3♠	Pass
4♣*	Pass	4♠	All Pass

- 1♣ 15+PC, 5(4)+4♣ (4 only if 4414) or 18+PC, any shape
- 2♦ Game forcing relay, 18+PC, 3+♥/♠
- 4♣ Cue

The Swiss produced a well-controlled Polish Club auction which kept them nicely out of any danger. When North led a club, declarer had an overtrick. Switzerland +450 and 11 IMPs to them to increase their lead to 32. Were they threatening to run away?

On the next board, we entered the slam sector:

Board 3. Dealer South. E/W Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Manno	Bakke	Di Franco	Brogeland
—	—	—	1♠
3♥	4♠	5♥	5♠
Pass	Pass	Dble	All Pass

Well, 5♠ looks pretty cold but according to BBO, West led a top heart and declarer ruffed, played a spade to the ace and a diamond to the jack, king and ace and thus suddenly was one down after all when East, having won the ♦A, cashed a club and gave partner a diamond ruff. Italy +100.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Helgemo	Donati	T Grude	Percario
—	—	—	1♠
2♥	4♠	5♣	5♠
6♣	Dble	All Pass	

In the other room, the Norwegian E/W bid on to the slam which looks a good contract. However, when North led a spade to partner's ace, South had little trouble in



Noga Tal, Israel

finding the heart return. North ruffed and that was one down, another +200 to Italy, 7 IMPs.

Would you bid a shaky game on board 5, below?

Board 5. Dealer North. N/S Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Manno	Bakke	Di Franco	Brogeland
—	1♦	Pass	1♥
1♠	2♣	Pass	2♥
Pass	2NT	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

North showed a doubleton heart at most by bidding 2♣ but his spade stopper looked a bit better after West's overcall. Still, if the hearts are not 3-3, making nine tricks would require a lot of work and/or good fortune for declarer. On a spade lead by East, declarer's ♠J won and three rounds of hearts followed. That was +660 to Norway.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Helgemo	Donati	T Grude	Percario
—	1♦	Pass	1♥
1♠	2♣	Pass	2♥
All Pass			

The Italians at the other table can hardly be blamed for being a bit more careful. This time, two overtricks were easy for them as well. Italy +170 but 10 IMPs to Norway.

In a slightly different auction, the Israeli women also reached 3NT in N/S:

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Y Huang	N Tal	Ran	D Tal
—	1♦	Pass	1♥
1♠	2♣	Pass	3♥
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

Spade lead by East to the ♠J here as well, Israel +660.


Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Asulin	Yu	Levi	Ya Liu
—	1♦	Pass	1♥
1♠	INT	Pass	2♥
All Pass			

With the INT rebid showing 11-15 hcp, South was not interested. China +170 but 10 IMPs to Israel.

A few boards later, an interesting 3NT contract came by. I think the board below is a good example of a hand that is far less routine than it might look at first glance. Only when you look at it more closely, you would see why:

Board 9. Dealer North. E/W Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Zia	Nowosadzki	Meckstroth	Zimmermann
—	1♣	Dble	Pass
2♦	Pass	2NT	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

South hit upon the lead of the ♠10. This looked a pleasant lead for declarer because it would clarify the spade position for him but it also was an effective attack on declarer's communications. North won the ace and returned the suit, the jack winning. Meckstroth next advanced the ♦Q. South covered with the king, dummy ducked and now, Zimmermann found the fine shift to a low heart. North won the queen and returned the suit, dummy's ♥A winning perforce. Two top diamonds came next but when they did not break, declarer crossed to his ♠K and tried the ♥J, hoping to endplay North with his ♥K. All would have been well if North would not have held the 13th spade... One down, Switzerland +100.

In the other room, West made himself the declarer, often a good idea because the stronger defender's hand will be on lead.

Closed Room


West	North	East	South
Klukowski	Fleisher	Kalita	C Martel
—	1♣	Dble	Pass
2NT	Pass	3NT	All Pass

And so it proved once again. North led the ♦10 to the queen, king and ace and suddenly, declarer had an easy job. Spade to dummy's ♠J, ♦5 to the ♦6 in hand (!) and another spade up. North rose with his ace and returned the suit but now declarer could win dummy's ♠K and try a low club to his nine. When North won the ♣Q, he could cash the 13th spade but Klukowski had his nine tricks. Switzerland another +600 and 12 IMPs to them.

Two boards later, another swingly board came by. This

time, all our matches were involved...

Board 11. Dealer South. None Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Zia	Nowosadzki	Meckstroth	Zimmermann
—	—	—	2♠*
Pass	3♥	Pass	3NT
Pass	4♥	All Pass	

South's 2♠ opening bid was Muiderberg but also a massive maximum. The final contract was normal enough but it should have gone down from the start: ♦A, diamond ruff and two clubs. However, when East led a low spade, declarer had 12 tricks when both majors behaved. Switzerland +480.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Klukowski	Fleisher	Kalita	C Martel
—	—	—	1♠
Pass	2♥	Pass	2NT
Pass	3♥	Pass	4♥
All Pass			

Martel judged his hand worth an opening at the one-level, as many would have done, I think, but East had basically the same problem as his American counterpart. When Kalita led the ♣K and Klukowski overtook this with his ace, the hand was quickly over, the way I suggested above. One down, another +50 and 11 more IMPs to Switzerland.

In the other BB match, we saw, not surprisingly, the same problem after mainly the same auctions.

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Manno	Bakke	Di Franco	Brogeland
—	—	—	1♠
Pass	2♥	Pass	2♠
Pass	3♥	Pass	4♥
All Pass			

When Di Franco (also) led a spade, Bakke had 12 tricks. Norway +480.

In the Closed Room, Grude found an alternative way to beat the contract.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Helgemo	Donati	T Grude	Percario
—	—	—	1♠
Pass	2♥	Pass	2♠
Pass	3♥	Pass	4♥
All Pass			

He simply led the ♦A and followed this with the ♦Q. Helgemo ruffed and continued ♣A and a club, needless to say. Norway another +50 and 11 IMPs to them.

In one of the Venice Cup matches, a Chinese defender fell off the right track.

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Y Huang	N Tal	Ran	D Tal
—	—	—	1♠
3♣	3♥	Pass	4♦
Pass	4♥	All Pass	

After West's overcall, it was easy for East to lead the ♣K and now, the focus was on West. She duly overtook with her ace and cashed the ♣Q next but then, she had to choose between another club or her singleton diamond. When she opted for a club, declarer could ruff high and score 11 tricks after all. Israel +450.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Asulin	Yu	Levi	Ya Liu
—	—	—	1♠
Pass	2♥	Pass	2♠
Pass	4♥	All Pass	

On this uninformative auction, East found the lead of the ♦A and another. West ruffed and duly returned the ♣A and another for one down. Israel +50 and 11 IMPs to them as well.

On the penultimate board, the question was: to sacrifice or not to sacrifice?

Board 15. Dealer South. N/S Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Zia	Nowosadzki	Meckstroth	Zimmermann
—	—	—	1♦
Pass	1♥	1♠	3♥
3♠	4♥	4♠	Dble
All Pass			

Well done by the Americans, two down and +300 to Switzerland.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Klukowski	Fleisher	Kalita	C Martel
—	—	—	INT
Pass	2♣	2♠	Pass
3♠	3NT	Pass	4♥

All Pass

When the Swiss subsided, they had to concede +620 and thus lost 8 IMPs in the process.

In the other BB match, they had different ideas.

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Manno	Bakke	Di Franco	Brogeland
—	—	—	1♣
Pass	1♦*	1♠	3♥
3♠	4♣	4♦	Pass
4♠	Pass	Pass	Dble

All Pass

1♦ Hearts

The Italians took the sacrifice and were allowed to play there. Down two, Norway +300.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Helgemo	Donati	T Grude	Percario
—	—	—	INT
Pass	2♦*	2♠	2NT*
3♠	4♦*	Dble	4♥
4♠	Dble	Pass	5♥

All Pass

2♦ Hearts

2NT Hearts

4♦ Retransfer

The Norwegians also took the sacrifice but they were not allowed to play there. Percario had already shown his maximum transfer accept and decided not to sit partner's double. As a consequence, the Italians were the ones to go down at this table, too. Norway another +100 and 9 IMPs to them.

In the VC, Norway and Türkiye almost copied the latter two auctions. This way, Norway scored 9 IMPs on the same deal in both their matches.

The scores in our matches at the halfway point:

Bermuda Bowl:

Switzerland v. USA2 135-90

Norway v. Italy 93-89

Venice Cup:

Israel v. China 156-99

Norway v. Türkiye 105-103

My "predictions": two close finishes and two easy wins for the current leaders 😊 but certainly another exciting day in prospect.





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Bermuda Bowl SF 4
Switzerland v USA2



by David Bird

I have watched Switzerland only once, and they were below par on that occasion. They are clearly firing on all cylinders in this semifinal, with a sturdy lead against the USA2 superstars. I hope to see plenty of evidence of their true form in this session.

Board 18. Dealer East. N/S Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Moss	Kalita	Grue	Klukowski
—	—	1♠	2♠*
3♠	4NT*	Pass	5♦
Dble	All Pass		

South's 2♠ was a Michaels Cue-bid, showing hearts and an unspecified minor. 4NT asked for the minor, and West's double closed the auction. Details of the play need not detain us. Declarer picked up (a) the trumps and (b) +750.



Michał Nowosadzki, Switzerland

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Zimmermann	Meckstroth	Nowosadzki	Zia
—	—	2♠*	Pass
4♠	All Pass		

The defenders scored the first six tricks. Klukowski led the ♦10 to the jack, three heart tricks were taken, the ♣J to the king, and a club ruff. Declarer then dropped the ♠K, and it was +150 and a 12 IMP swing to Switzerland.

Board 20. Dealer West. All Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Moss	Kalita	Grue	Klukowski
1♣	Pass	1♥	1♠
Dble*	Pass	INT	All Pass

West's double showed 3-card heart support. The ♠8 was led. Declarer consulted his notes on the 'Rule of 11' and called for dummy's ♠10. Four diamonds and three spades gave him +90, and I marked my sheet with a small 'x', to remind me that it would be useless for the bulletin.


Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Zimmermann	Meckstroth	Nowosadzki	Zia
1♣	Pass	1♦*	1♠
Pass	Pass	Dble	All Pass

What did I know? Two deals later, in the Open Room, Hedy Grey sent me a message: 'Take a look at Board 20 in the Closed Room.' I certainly will!

Zimmermann led the ♥4 to the jack and ace. Zia played the ♠J to West's queen, and the ♣6 switch was won with dummy's king. The ♠7 was run to the 10, and the ♥9 was taken with dummy's 10. We were now in overtrick territory. A heart to the king was followed by the ♠8 to West's ace. A diamond to the ace and the ♥6 return, allowed Zia to ditch a diamond loser on dummy's 13th club. That was two overtricks and a rare score of +560. I quickly covered my small 'x' with a huge filled-in tick.

Board 21. Dealer North. N/S Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Moss	Kalita	Grue	Klukowski
—	Pass	1♥	Dble
3♥	All Pass		

After a trump lead to the ace, declarer lost one trick in each suit, scoring +140. After my previous faulty 'x', I held back for a moment.


Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Zimmermann	Meckstroth	Nowosadzki	Zia
—	Pass	2♥*	Pass
3♥	Pass	Pass	Dble
All Pass			

Zia hoped for more than 6 points opposite and contested with a bold double. I don't blame Meckstroth for passing, when partner couldn't speak directly over 2♥. The same trump lead led to minus 530 and 9 IMPs away.

We had to wait a full two boards before the next big swing:

Board 23. Dealer South. All Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Moss	Kalita	Grue	Klukowski
—	—	—	1♣
Pass	1♥*	Pass	1♠*
Pass	4♠	All Pass	

Moss led the ♣10, Klukowski winning with the ace. A club ruff was followed by the ♠A and a spade to the king, East playing the ♥2. Declarer ruffed another club, West throwing the ♦6. He could then have made the game by playing on diamonds, to ditch a heart, or by leading the ♥10.

No, he ruffed another club, allowing West to shed a diamond. Klukowski did play diamonds then, but Moss ruffed the third round, played the ♠Q and a heart to partner's queen. Declarer still had a club to lose and was one down.

Closed Room


West	North	East	South
Zimmermann	Meckstroth	Nowosadzki	Zia
—	—	—	1♣
Pass	1♥	Pass	1♠
Pass	4♠	All Pass	

It would be a battle of the card-play giants. Would Zia (two months older than me!) outshine his counterpart?

He won the diamond lead with the ace, cashed the ♣A and ruffed a club. The ace and king of trumps came next, and it seemed that the board might be a push. No, when the ♣9 was led Zimmermann erred by ruffing with a master trump, instead of throwing a diamond. He cashed the ♠Q, switched to a heart and Zia had his +620, It was 12 IMPs to USA2.

We were kept waiting a full two boards before the next double-digit swing.

Board 25. Dealer North. E/W Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Moss	Kalita	Grue	Klukowski
—	Pass	1♦	2♣
2♥	Pass	2NT	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

South led the ♣5 to the jack and ace, Grue clearing the diamond suit. Klukowski persisted with a club to the king. When the diamonds were cashed, North ditched a spade and a club. Declarer then crossed to the ♠K, saw the ♠J covered with the queen, and claimed +630.


Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Zimmermann	Meckstroth	Nowosadzki	Zia
—	Pass	1♦	2♣
2♦*	Pass	2NT	Pass
3NT	All Pass		
2♦	Hearts		

Meckstroth led the ♣2, won with dummy's ace. When a diamond was led, Zia jumped in with the ace and cleared the club suit. Nowosadzki took his diamond winners, North discarding two spades, and then had to guess the spade suit. He played a spade to the ace and led the ♠J. When this was not covered, he put up the ace. That was minus 100 and 12 IMPs to USA2.

We were not kept waiting this time.

Board 26. Dealer East. All Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Moss	Kalita	Grue	Klukowski
—	—	INT	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

It was a miracle board for Grue and Moss. The INT opening may have been normal, with a 5-card major, but Moss's spurning of Stayman was inspired. 3NT could not be beaten, but 4♠ had four top losers!

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Zimmermann	Meckstroth	Nowosadzki	Zia
—	—	1♠	Pass
2♠	Pass	2NT	Pass
4♠	All Pass		

Zia led the ♣8 to the ace. Nowosadzki won with the ace, drew trumps and cashed his remaining club winners. The ♦J was taken with North's queen for a heart switch. The defenders then took their top tricks for one down and 12 IMPs to USA2.

The Americans had clawed back 29 IMPs from the overnight deficit. Sadly for them, the party lights were then extinguished. Switzerland claimed 30 IMPs to 0 on the remaining six boards. If you would like to see how this retribution was inflicted, please refer to the website, or the wonderful BBO archive. Even hapless bulletin reporters have to take lunch some time!


Grand Designs



by Mark Horton

Securing information from the Transnational Open is not a simple matter, but Ben Thompson sent details of an exciting deal from Round 5:

Board 5. Dealer North. N/S Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Saurer	Cooper	Fischer	Thompson
—	1♠	Pass	2NT*
Pass	3♦*	Pass	3♥*
Dble	Pass*	5♥	5NT
Pass	6♠	7♥	7♠
All Pass			

- 2NT Invitational+ with 4+♠
- 3♦ Extras (15+) no shortage
- 3♥ Cue
- Pass Denies first round heart control
- 5NT RKCB
- 6♠ 2 keycards +♠Q

Ben was considering bidding 7♣ over 6♠, but when East bid 7♥ that option disappeared.

In the other room, Michael Strafner and Simon Weinberger had no trouble flattening the board.

49 of the 72 pairs bid a grand slam, one of them getting the added benefit of being doubled.

Video Corner

Pete Hollands tells us he is doing daily recap videos of the Championships.

Here is the link to the day 11 recap:
<https://youtu.be/gguF2liER-o>

BAM Rankings after Day 2

1	VINCIGUERRA	118.00
	POLAND OPEN	118.00
3	SWEDEN SENIOR	116.60
4	NO COKE	105.01
5	NORWAY SENIOR	105.00
6	GEMIGNANI	104.00
7	USA E GETTA	103.80
8	GERMANY MIXED	103.20
9	REASON	102.01
10	FRANCE WOMEN	101.00
	BV WALDSOLMS	101.00
12	ALICE	100.70
13	PORTUCOLE	100.01
	FRANCE SENIORS	100.01
15	POLAND MIXED	100.00
	POLAND WOMEN	100.00
17	GILLIS	99.01
18	EL GHRARI	98.20
19	DRINTEAM	97.00
	NZ OPEN	97.00
21	CHINESE TAIPEI MIXED	95.20
22	INDIA MIXED	95.01
	INDIA OPEN	95.01
	AUPALETI	95.01
25	UAE MIXED	95.00
26	BRENO	94.51
27	PARTYPACK	93.01
28	DINKIN	92.01
29	SANTOSHA	90.21
30	PIEDS NOIR AND CO	90.20
31	POWERSHARK	90.01
	TEAM BLACK	90.01
33	AUSTRIA	88.01
	CHINA SENIOR	88.01
35	CAMELS	87.01
	FINLAND	87.01
37	LAWRENZO	85.01
38	THE DARK KNIGHT	85.00
	USA WOMEN	85.00
40	RABONO CALAMIS	84.01
41	MADRID	84.00
42	MATILDAS PLUS 2	83.00
43	ULI	82.00
	INDIA SENIORS	82.00
45	MASARAHLOU	81.20
45	NZ MIXED	81.20
47	4FUN	81.00
48	COME TO HK CHINA	79.20
49	CANADA MIXED	76.00
50	4JACKS	75.00
51	PORTO	73.00
52	PIERCE	72.80
53	MEXICO	69.00
	RIAD	69.00
55	MO ROCCO	68.00
56	INDIA WOMEN	67.00
57	KUWAIT	61.80
58	OUIDAI	59.80

BAM

A total of 26 teams qualify to Final A: a minimum of 23 and a maximum of 25 from the Qualification, and one to three teams from WTOT quarter finals.

Final A will be played over three sessions of, respectively, 16, 16 and 18 boards each, full Round Robin (twenty-five matches of two boards each).

A linear carry-over will be awarded to the qualifiers, the winner of the qualification receiving 6 VPs (three boards) and the last qualifier receiving 0 VPs.

Teams that drop into the final of the MGPO will be assigned the median carryover score of the teams that qualified on day two, that is, ex aequo with the team in the middle of the ranking or half-way between the two teams in the middle of the ranking.

Final B will be played over two sessions of 16 boards each (movement to be decided). Teams willing to play Final B MUST register, either at the registration desk, or telling one of the scorers in the playing area (Denis Dobrin). Time schedule:

10.00-12.25

13.25-15.50

16.10-18.50 (Final A only)

Maurizio Di Sacco

WBF Operations Director



"Bridge for Peace"

Pairs Event

There will be a Pairs tournament on Saturday, 2nd September.

2 sessions will be played, the first one starting at 10.00.

Registration must be done manually at the hospitality/ reception desk in the venue before 9.45 am. Friday 1st September

Championship specials

The new **dealing machines** used to duplicate the boards during these championships are sold for **€2650**. The **cards** in play are sold for **€80/100** decks. (You can alternatively get new decks for €85/100 decks when you purchase a machine.)

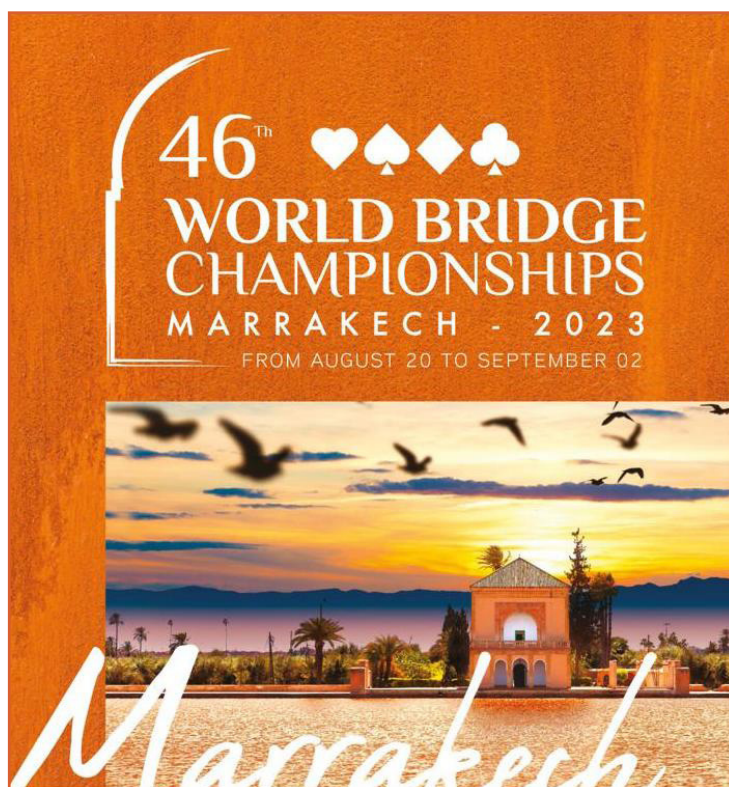
This offer is on so long as supply lasts, but no longer than September 2. Email anna@jannersten.com to order. Note that you cannot get anything here in Marrakech. That is for customs reasons. Shipping will be from Sweden (afterwards) and charged at cost.



World Championship Book 2023 pre-order

The book of the Marrakech World Championships edited by Mark Horton can be **pre-ordered in the Daily Bulletin Room located on level -1.**

It will cost €35, US\$35 or £30. Purchasers will be able to collect the book at a future championship of their choice, or have it mailed to them (at an additional cost of €10, US\$10 or £10).



Publication is expected to be before the summer of 2024. The reporters will include David Bird, Brian Senior & Barry Rigal. All payments must be in cash.