



II EUROPEAN BRIDGE CHAMPIONS CUP



ROME
Tennis Club Parioli
10th - 12th
October 2003



Daily Bulletin

Editor: Jos Jacobs

Journalists: Alberto Benetti, Franco Broccoli, Gianluca Frola,
Mark Horton, Mauro Saglia, Peter Ventura

Lay-out Editor: Nicola Di Stefano - Printing: Roberto Luchin

Bulletin 4

Sunday 12th October 2003

The Champions Cup Stays In Italy!



Today's hot news will not be a great surprise: the 2nd European Cup has also been won by a team from Italy. Last year, the Cup went to Turin. **Lorenzo LAURIA** and **Alfredo VERSACE**, the two holders playing here, no doubt brought it with them to Rome and now have the honour and the pleasure of lifting it again, this time with **Francesco ANGELINI**, **Antonio SEMENTA**, **Claudio NUNES** and **Fulvio FANTONI** as their teammates. Our warmest congratulations on this victory go to them!

Today's final has been a very slow, but very steady affair. The first three segments all ended with an Italian advantage, be it always a small one. Yet, the three of them amounted to 40 IMP's when the last session started – few teams in the world can recoup a deficit like that against this formidable side and our friends from Stockholm were no exception. In fact, their deficit quickly went up when they lost two early swings. Still well done, **Per-Olov SUNDELIN**, **Pierre BERTHEAU**, **Fredrik NYSTROM** and **Johan SYLVAN**!

Parallel to the final, De Lombard from Rotterdam and the Bridge Club Plovdiv were playing 36 of these boards for the bronze. The first two segments both ended in draws, but in the decisive 3rd segment the Dutch turned a 1-IMP deficit against their Bulgarian opponents into a 39-IMP win as the segment score read 48-8 to them. Well done De Lombard Rotterdam: **Berry WESTRA**, **Bas DRIJVER**, **Maarten SCHOLLAARDT** and **Vincent RAMONDT**.

If there were a special prize, it could very well go to the wonderful Italian hospitality we all enjoyed here at the Tennis Club Parioli. Their bridge players hoisted the Cup, but their staff certainly are strong candidates for this type of Players Award.

Thank you!

Content

Results: Final 1 st -2 nd -3 rd place / Bridge Club Herkules - <i>by Peter Ventura</i>	2
Sweden vs Italy - the real match - <i>by Jos Jacobs</i>	3
Unheard Melody - <i>by Mark Horton with Antonio Riccardi</i>	8
Sweden – Bulgaria Semi-final – 2 nd session - <i>by Peter Ventura</i>	9
He Fell on his Sword - <i>by Mark Horton</i>	10

Results

Final

1st place	1-12	13-24	25-36	37-48	Tot
Sweden	12	21	8	2	43
Italy	23	33	25	41	122
3rd place	1-12	13-24	25-36	Tot	
Bulgaria	29	33	8	70	
Netherlands	26	35	48	109	



Final Rankings:

1st Italy - 2nd Sweden - 3rd Netherlands - 4th Bulgaria
5th / 6th Norway / Israel - 7th / 8th Poland / France

Bridge Club Herkules

by Peter Ventura

With only seven members (!) you can say BC Herkules is doing quite well here in this Champions Cup. Well, the members aren't just ordinary average players. From the list of members these four players are present here: PO Sundelin, Johan Sylvan, Peter Bertheau and Fredrik Nyström. The other three players are also all Swedish top-players: Sven-Ake Bjerregard, Tommy Gullberg and Magnus Magnusson.

BC Herkules has no long history, but on the other hand a very interesting. The club is only little more than five years old and it was created mainly for one purpose: to enter the Swedish national League. In Sweden everyone is treated very equally so even though BC Hercules without any doubts was a team for the first division they had to start in the very lowest division, the fourth! When they, with some difficulties, managed to advance up to the third division they marched on to the top

without any serious troubles. It took the team three years to reach the highest division, but finally there they won the first division as well. And as you know, the champion is qualified to play here...

A second purpose for the club is to offer coaching and training for Swedish players, but surprisingly few seems to need the support so far...

The club-members are searching for one more member, when seven is not the optimal number of players if you want to play team matches. There is in fact another reason to find an eighth member; The Swedish Bridge Federation will assumable in late October decide to only accept clubs with no less than eight members.

In the beginning the club had a sponsor but not for the last two or three years. The players therefore have to rely on their excellent bridge to win large amounts of money prizes to finance all expenses. After the solid performance here in Rome we'll not be surprised if a sponsor shows up in a near future.

Sweden vs Italy the real match

by Jos Jacobs

After yesterday's warming-up game, this morning the European Champions Cup Final was the main course when Herkules and Parioli met again. They would play four segments of 12 boards between 10.00 hrs. and 19.00 hrs, with a lunch interval and some smaller intervals between segments. It soon became dubious if the allotted time would be enough, as very slow progress was made, even though there did not seem to be very much in the initial boards.

Throughout the day, as we shall see, rather unexpectedly many IMP's changed hands due to differences in declarer play at each table. This certainly livened up the match for the Rama crowd, who for once could clearly see how much more difficult it is to play well when you cannot see all four hands. Take for example board 5:

Board 5, Dealer North, North/South Vulnerable

<p>♠ QJ ♥ AKQ3 ♦ A109873 ♣ 6</p>	<p>♠ AK105432 ♥ 5 ♦ J52 ♣ J10</p>	<table style="margin: auto; border: 1px solid black; background-color: #4b732d; color: white; padding: 5px;"> <tr><td style="padding: 2px;">N</td></tr> <tr><td style="padding: 2px;">W E</td></tr> <tr><td style="padding: 2px;">S</td></tr> </table>	N	W E	S	<p>♠ 96 ♥ J109 ♦ KQ4 ♣ 87432</p>
N						
W E						
S						
<p>♠ 87 ♥ 87642 ♦ 6 ♣ AKQ95</p>						

Open Room:

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
<i>Versace</i>	<i>Bertheau</i>	<i>Lauria</i>	<i>Nyström</i>
—	3♠	Pass	4♠
Dble	All Pass		

On the lead of the ♦K and a heart switch, Bertheau played carefully to ensure his contract by

not drawing trumps immediately. Herkules +790.

Closed Room:

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
<i>Sylvan</i>	<i>Fantoni</i>	<i>Sundelin</i>	<i>Nunes</i>
—	3♠	Pass	4♠
Dble	All Pass		

Here, East led a trump to the jack and king and declarer played a diamond. East won the queen and persisted with trumps, after which declarer could not avoid making 12 tricks in the black suits. Parioli +1190 and 9 IMP's from almost nowhere.

In the play-off for the bronze, something happened on the way to the Forum:

Open Room:

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
<i>Karaivanov</i>	<i>Westra</i>	<i>Trendafilov</i>	<i>Ramondt</i>
—	3♠	Pass	4♠
4NT	Pass	5♣	Dble
5♦	All Pass		

As you can see, EW can only take 10 tricks in the red suits, so Bulgaria lost 50 points.

Closed Room:

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
<i>Schollaardt</i>	<i>Iporski</i>	<i>Drijver</i>	<i>Kovatchev</i>
—	1♠	Pass	INT
Dble	2♠	3♣	Pass
3♦	Pass	3♠	Dble
3NT	Pass	Pass	Dble
All Pass			

The 1♠ opening worked very well for Plovdiv as it gave the Dutchies every opportunity to go wrong. 3♦ showed a strong hand of course,

and 3♠ was asking for a stopper. South's double of 3♠ showed no specific interest in a spade lead, so west went on to a confident enough 3 NT. This time, South's double showed specific interest in a club lead, but in spite of that EW sat it. As we saw before, for NS there are 12 tricks in the black suits for the taking, so we had 2000 on the board and 18 IMP's for Plovdiv.

After 12 boards, Parioli led by 11 whereas in the play-off Plovdiv were 3 IMP's up.

For the second segment, Angelini-Sementa were to replace Fantoni-Nunes and Versace-Lauria went to the Closed Room. On the first regular board of the set, the Italians missed a great chance:

Board 13, Dealer North, All Vulnerable

	♠ 9 2 ♥ 10 6 5 ♦ 10 9 8 4 2 ♣ K 6 5		
♠ K Q J 10 6 5 4 3 ♥ J 8 ♦ J 6 ♣ 2	<div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 40px; height: 40px; margin: 0 auto; display: flex; align-items: center; justify-content: center;"> W N E </div>	♠ A 7 ♥ K Q 3 ♦ 5 3 ♣ A J 10 7 4 3	
	♠ 8 ♥ A 9 7 4 2 ♦ A K Q 7 ♣ Q 9 8		

Open Room:

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
<i>Angelini</i>	<i>Bertheau</i>	<i>Sementa</i>	<i>Nyström</i>
—	Pass	2♣	2♥
4♠	Pass	Pass	Dble
Pass	5♥	Dble	All Pass

When South elected to double once more, his side was in trouble. Maybe, sitting it is best, as it only costs 170 extra points or 5 IMP's. When North went to 5♥ East had an easy double.

When west led the ♣2, however, for once, Sementa was not at his post when he played the 10 rather than the ace. This cost two undertricks: the two impending club ruffs. So a juicy 1100 changed into a mere 500 and a possible 10-IMP gain would probably turn into a small loss.

And so it proved:
Closed Room:

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
<i>Sylvan</i>	<i>Lauria</i>	<i>Sundelin</i>	<i>Versace</i>
—	Pass	2♣	2♥
4♠	All Pass		

West lost the three obvious tricks and that was it. Herkules +620 and 3 IMP's

Board 14, Dealer East, None Vulnerable

	♠ J 7 4 ♥ K Q 8 6 5 4 ♦ 10 5 ♣ Q 2		
♠ K 9 8 ♥ 7 3 ♦ 9 7 2 ♣ A K 10 5 3	<div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 40px; height: 40px; margin: 0 auto; display: flex; align-items: center; justify-content: center;"> W N E </div>	♠ A Q 5 3 ♥ A 9 2 ♦ A Q J 8 3 ♣ 6	
	♠ 10 6 2 ♥ J 10 ♦ K 6 4 ♣ J 9 8 7 4		

Open Room:

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

Solid Strong Club bidding to a solid contract.
Eleven tricks for Parioli, +460.

Closed Room:

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
<i>Sylvan</i>	<i>Lauria</i>	<i>Sundelin</i>	<i>Versace</i>
—	—	1♣	Pass
2♣	2♥	3♦	Pass
4♦	Pass	4♥	Pass
5♣	Pass	5♦	Pass
6♦	All Pass		

1♣ was ambiguous and 2♣ was a relay denying four-card majors. 3♦ was the strong variety and the rest of the auction was natural, though West's final raise to slam looks a bit like an inspired shot. Well, slam is sort of on the trump finesse, so not that bad a proposition, but this time it failed on a heart lead. The Italians had gained 11 IMP's to almost double their lead.

Board 16, Dealer West, East/West Vulnerable

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

Open Room:

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
<i>Angelini</i>	<i>Bertheau</i>	<i>Sementa</i>	<i>Nyström</i>
1♥	2♣	4♥	All Pass

Closed Room:

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
<i>Sylvan</i>	<i>Lauria</i>	<i>Sundelin</i>	<i>Versace</i>
1♥	2♣	3NT	Pass
4♥	All Pass		

At both tables in the Final, spades did not enter the scene. In the other match, the suit seems to have been found at both tables, but something went seriously wrong in the play at one of them.

On Rama, the issue was how to play 4♥. The lead was the ♠A, which is ruffed by declarer. Now, if declarer happens to play a low trump, down comes the ace and up goes declarer's tail as he cannot possibly go wrong from there any more.

On Rama, North started ruffing clubs in dummy and spades in his hand, cashing toe ♦AK in between, but the result of it was that he had shortened himself in both hands and lost control. Down one.

In the Closed Room, Lauria was at the helm and he showed the way, as he so often does. The ♣9 was led, won by the ace and a club was ruffed. Next came the ♦AK and another. West won the queen and led another spade, ruffed in hand. Another club was ruffed with the ♥J and a heart went to the king and ace. West could sooner or later overruff the last club to be ruffed in dummy. Ten tricks and +620 to Parioli.

After some very quiet partscore boards without any swings at all we saw an Italian disaster at both tables:

Board 21, Dealer North, North/South Vulnerable

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

Open Room:

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

The only thing that can be said about this auction is that Angelini did very well NOT to double the final contract as he apparently let it through in the end. Hercules +140. This was the minor disaster.

Over now to the major disaster:
Closed Room:

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
<i>Sylvan</i>	<i>Lauria</i>	<i>Sundelin</i>	<i>Versace</i>
—	1♣	Pass	1♥
Pass	1♠	Pass	3♥
Pass	4♥	Pass	Pass
Dble	All Pass		

As the 1♣-opening had effectively shut out east of the bidding, NS had a free run which they for once used till far beyond any safety limits. West quietly doubled and in the fullness of time the contract went three down, 800 to Hercules and a 14-IMP swing to open up the rally again.

The board below was the first hand of the after-lunch Rama show; as usual they start with the two last boards from any set when you are playing on Rama.

Bertheau must have had a blind spot here:

Please note:
If you didn't receive your Transfer Programmes copy you will find some available at the Hospitality Desk.

Board 23, Dealer South, All Vulnerable

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

Open Room:

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
<i>Angelini</i>	<i>Bertheau</i>	<i>Sementa</i>	<i>Nyström</i>
—	—	—	2♣
2♠	Dble	Pass	2NT
Pass	3♥	Pass	4♥
All Pass			

Lead: ♠9 to the ace, and ♠Q won by declarer. You unblock the ♣A, ruff the last spade and present the ♥J which is taken by East's ace. He returns a diamond. Now what's the problem? Bertheau won in hand (right), cashed the ♥K (quite effective) and now can afford to play a trump to get the trump queen out of the way. The ♦A will provide the entry to dummy's clubs.

When he played a diamond instead, a surprised west could ruff and continue spades, so declarer had to lose two more diamonds for down two and the worst start to the segment possible for Hercules.

After all, the board only cost them 3 IMP's when it also asked too much of Versace's abilities:

Closed Room:

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
<i>Sylvan</i>	<i>Lauria</i>	<i>Sundelin</i>	<i>Versace</i>
—	—	—	1♣
1♠	2♦	Pass	2♥
Pass	3NT	Pass	4♥
All Pass			

As 2♦ was a transfer to hearts South became the declarer in the same contract and West led the ♦J. A golden rule states that one should avoid top tricks to be ruffed away, so the logical play, following this rule, would be to win the ♦A in

hand. After that, you can play a spade, unblock the ♣A, ruff a spade in hand and run the ♥J, postponing the decision about playing low or the king in dummy. When Versace elected to win dummy's ♦K instead, he already must have placed the ♥A in West. Of course, when you play a heart to the king and a heart and this play comes off, the danger of losing an extra trick by means of a diamond ruff is gone.

As it was, East held the ♥A and was able to give his partner a second diamond ruff, declarer having offered a first ruff to West when he tried to return to his hand with a diamond to lead spades after winning the lead with the ♦K in dummy and next unblocking the ♣A. Hercules +100 and only 3 IMP's to the Italians who led 56-33 at halftime.

Si chiude un grande Campionato *Curtain Falls*

Cala il sipario sulla Coppa dei Campioni. Credo di poter dire che sia stata una edizione veramente significativa. Roma, il Tennis Parioli, l'ambiente intero, grazie anche al generoso supporto della Angelini Group, sono stati incantevoli.

The curtain falls on the Champions Cup. I am sure I can tell that it has been a real significant edition. Rome, the Tennis Club Parioli, the whole environment, thanks also to the generous support of the Angelini Group, have been delightful.

Voglio ringraziare ancora una volta i nostri Ospiti che ci hanno accolto con amicizia, calore e simpatia, facendoci sentire tutti parte di questo straordinario sodalizio. Voglio anche ringraziare tutti componenti dello Staff, indistintamente, dal primo all'ultimo: sono stati tutti perfetti ed hanno consentito a tutti noi di vivere un grande evento di bridge. Un abbraccio particolare al nostro inarrivabile On Site Organiser, Lino Bove, che è stato superlativo.

I would like to thank once again our hosts, who welcomed us so friendly, warmly and nicely, making us all feel part of this extraordinary social establishment. I would like to thank also all the staff members, without exceptions, each and everyone of them: they have been flawless and allowed us to live a great bridge event. A special "abbraccio" to our incomparable On Site Organiser, Lino Bove, an outstanding architect.

Un grazie infine a tutti i Campioni che si sono cimentati in questi giorni con grande fair-play, offrendoci uno spettacolo di gran classe con le loro performance, confermando ancora una volta che il bridge è uno sport vero.

L'immagine del bridge, grazie a loro, esce ancor più ingigantita da questa competizione che è riuscita a catturare l'interesse di tutti i media e a suscitare l'ammirazione delle maggiori Autorità del mondo sportivo e olimpico.

Last but not least thank to all the Champions who competed with extraordinary fair-play, offering a first class performance and strengthen once again the principle of bridge as a true sport. Thanks to them the image of bridge after this competition is even more visible and impressive, having captured the interest of all media and the appreciation of the highest sport and olympic authorities.

Spero che abbiate gioito del Vostro soggiorno qui a Roma.

I hope you enjoyed your stay here in Rome.

Arrivederci a Varsavia per la 3^a edizione della Coppa.

See you all in Warsaw for the 3rd edition of this Cup.

Un abbraccio affettuoso a tutti.

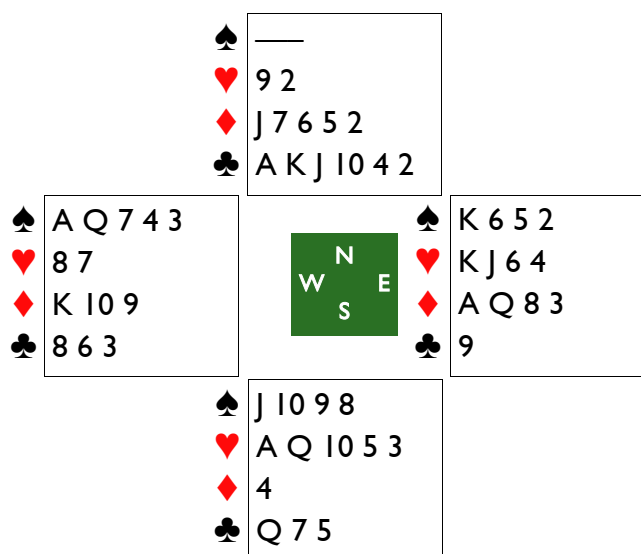
Gianarrigo Rona
EBL President

Unheard Melody

by Mark Horton with Antonio Riccardi

In order to be a world class director you must, in addition to having total understanding of the complex laws of bridge, be able to play to a high standard. Sitting on the coach last night EBL Chief director Antonio Riccardi mentioned a fascinating possibility on this deal from the third session of the semifinals:

Board 6, Dealer East, East/West Vulnerable



WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
<i>Versace</i>	<i>Westra</i>	<i>Lauria</i>	<i>Ramondt</i>
—	—	1♦	1♥
Dble*	2♣	2♠	3♣
4♠	5♣	Pass	Pass
Dble	All Pass		

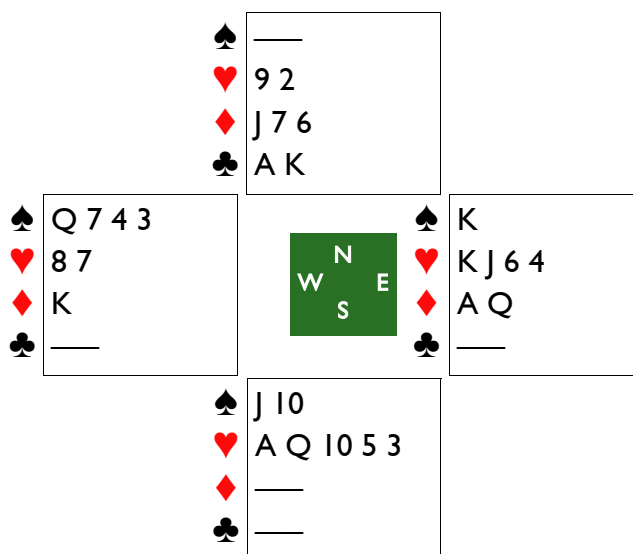
The VuGraph audience had already seen the result from the other table, Five Clubs doubled and made, +550. East found the best lead of a trump and declarer won in hand and played the nine of hearts, running it when East played low. (This was already a decisive error, but perhaps hard to see). Now declarer played a diamond and West won and returned a trump. Declarer won, ruffed a diamond, ruffed a spade and played some trumps. Eventually he played a second heart and when East played low again he paid West the compliment of

going up with the ace, so he was two down, -300, which more or less represented the end of the fighting challenge of the team from Rotterdam.

Let's return to trick one and see what Antonio spotted. If declarer puts up the queen of clubs and plays a diamond West must go in with the king in order to play a second trump. Declarer wins and makes the key play of advancing the jack of diamonds. East must cover and declarer discards a spade. This prevents the defence from getting in a third round of trumps. Declarer can ruff the spade return, ruff a diamond, ruff a spade and then play trumps to squeeze East in the red suits.

That is by no means the only possibility on this deal.

If declarer wins the first club in hand and plays a diamond at trick two, West will win and play a second trump. Declarer wins in dummy and plays the jack of spades. If West plays the ace declarer ruffs, ruffs a diamond, ruffs a spade and draws the last trump, at the same time squeezing East in three suits, for this will be the position:



A spade sets up a ruffing finesse, a heart gives declarer the suit via the double finesse and a diamond allows declarer to duck a diamond.

Best play is for West to refuse to cover the jack of spades. Now declarer must discard a diamond. East wins the king of spades and has no winning move. Suppose he plays a diamond. Declarer ruffs, plays a spade forcing West to cover, draws the last trump and can now arrive at eleven tricks via the combination of a heart to the ten and the ruffing spade finesse.

Sweden - Bulgaria Semi-final - 2nd session

by Peter Ventura

Sweden made a solid impression in the 1st session and was leading by 23 to 1 at the start of Session 2.

Board 14, Dealer East, None Vulnerable

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

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
<i>Sylvan</i>	<i>Iporski</i>	<i>Sundelin</i>	<i>Kovachev</i>
—	—	Pass	1♥
1♠	2♦*	2♠	3♦
Pass	4♥	Pass	4♠*
Pass	6♥	All Pass	

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
<i>Karaivanov</i>	<i>Bertheau</i>	<i>Trendafilov</i>	<i>Nyström</i>
—	—	Pass	1♥
2♥*	Dble	2♠	4♦
Pass	5♥	Pass	6♥
All Pass			

Iporski's 2♦ was an invitational raise in hearts and now Kovachev had no problem to reach the slam.

With as little as the king of hearts and ace second in diamonds the grand slam would be the spot to be, but on Bertheau's 5♥ Nyström at the other table made the right move to bid 6♥.

Just looking at North/South's cards 6♥ seems to be the perfect contract. You can discard two diamonds on high clubs and if hearts splits 2-1

there will be an easy way to twelve tricks. Even with a 3-0 trump split you'll succeed when diamonds split evenly. As you can see West can find the killing diamond lead to defeat the slam, but neither Sylvan or Karaivanov wanted to do so and the contract was made at both tables after a top spade lead.

On Board 23 Iporski had a good chance to give Bulgaria a nice swing. Signor Horton will write about it somewhere else in this bulletin.

Board 24, Dealer West, None Vulnerable

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

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
<i>Sylvan</i>	<i>Iporski</i>	<i>Sundelin</i>	<i>Kovachev</i>
Pass	1♦	Pass	1♥
2♣	2♦	3♣	3♦
All Pass			

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
<i>Karaivanov</i>	<i>Bertheau</i>	<i>Trendafilov</i>	<i>Nyström</i>
Pass	2♦	Pass	2♥
Pass	2NT	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

Ten tricks in 3♦ would have been a flat board, but when the Swedish youngsters reached 3NT some IMPs were going to be distributed. Trendafilov made no mistake by cashing ♠A, noticing partners ♠2, then ♣A and another club; three down and 7 IMPs to Bulgaria.

The Swedes kept on doing their work in the 2nd session and the score with only 12 boards to play was 49-15.

He Fell on his Sword

By Mark Horton

In Roman times a soldier committed suicide by falling on his sword (see Anthony & Cleopatra.) That is not an everyday occurrence at the bridge table, but on this deal from the semifinal between the teams from Stockholm and Plovdiv the Bulgarian declarer was involved in a form of suicide that is well known.

Board 23, Dealer South, All Vulnerable

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

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
<i>Karavainov</i>	<i>Bertheau</i>	<i>Trendafilov</i>	<i>Nyström</i>
—	—	—	Pass
Pass	2♦	3♣	Pass
Pass	3♦	All Pass	

If East leads his singleton heart Three Diamonds can be defeated - but only at double dummy! The defenders play three rounds of hearts, East ruffs and must exit with a low club!! I think not. So, the contract was made and the real interest lies in the events at the other table:

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
<i>Sylvan</i>	<i>Iporski</i>	<i>Sundelin</i>	<i>Kovatchev</i>
—	—	—	Pass
Pass	1♦	2♣	2♠
Pass	3♦	Pass	3♥
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

South's optimistic bidding placed his partner in a perilous position, but the gods were smiling. However, it was still up to declarer to take advantage of his good fortune.

East led the king of clubs and declarer won in hand and, after crossing his fingers, embarked on the diamonds. East's queen was a happy sight and declarer carried on with the suit to reach this position:

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

The run of the diamonds had started to put dummy under pressure.

With seven tricks in the bag the simple play is a club towards the ten. East can win, but declarer must make two more tricks whatever happens.

However, declarer cashed the last diamond and discarded a heart from dummy. He was not quite past the Rubicon, and would still have been okay if he had now played a heart, as West will have to give dummy the ace of spades at the end, but he played a club and East could win and play a heart, giving West the last four tricks.