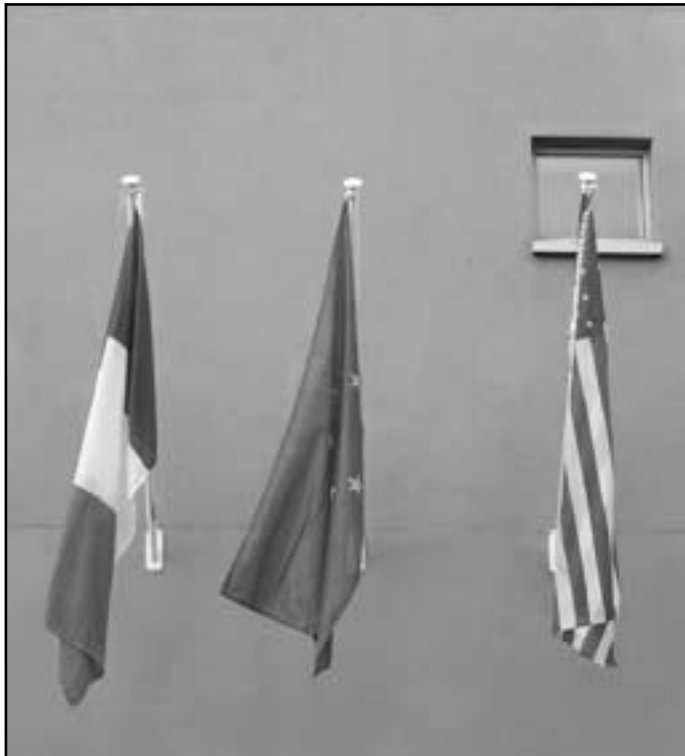


DRAMATIC FIGHTBACK



The Irish, European Union and USA Flags on the front of the CBAI Headquarters building

For most of the day the European team was leading their American opponents, only to see a last gasp comeback from USA to leave the match position a tie after the Pairs stage.

Europe took an eight-point lead in the first set and extended that lead to twelve after two sets. USA came back in set three to close to only four points behind but Europe again moved away to lead by eight with one set to play. The last set of the day saw the Americans come on strong to leave the match exactly level.

For Europe, there were two winning pairs, Tor Helness and Geir Helgemo, who were +4 against Zia Mahmood and Roy Welland, and Louk Verhees and Jan Jansma, who were +2 against Geoff Hampson and Fred Gitelman.

+2 against Norberto Bocchi and Giorgio Duboin.

USA also had two winning pairs. Bobby Levin and Steve Weinstein were +4 against the Hacketts, while Jill Meyers and Jill Levin were

Two matches finished level, those featuring Tom Hanlon and Hugh McGann against Bob Hamman and Paul Soloway, and Sabine Auken and Daniela von Arnim against David Berkowitz and Larry Cohen. The combined score for the two Ladies pairs was +2 on the day.

Results

Sabine Auken/Daniela von Arnim
 Tor Helness/Geir Helgemo
 Tom Hanlon/Hugh McGann
 Louk Verhees/Jan Jansma
 Jason Hackett/Justin Hackett
 Norberto Bocchi/Giorgio Duboin

Tied with
Plus 4 versus
Tied with
Plus 2 versus
Minus 4 versus
Minus 2 versus

David Berkowitz/Larry Cohen
 Zia Mahmood/Roy Welland
 Bob Hamman/Paul Soloway
 Geoff Hampson/Fred Gitelman
 Bobby Levin/Steve Weinstein
 Jill Meyers/Jill Levin

Europe

0 - 0 USA

Pairs Round One

The first Warren Buffett Cup got underway yesterday morning with the Pairs event. We have all played Board-a-Match, or Point-a-Board as we call it in England, in Team events, but to do so in a Pairs format would have been a first for most if not all the players – not that it makes much difference to the tactics, I guess.

Board 1 produced a swing in all three match-ups.

Board 1. Dealer North. None Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Soloway	Auken	Hamman	v Arnim
–	1♠	2♦	2NT
Pass	3♠	All Pass	

Auken/von Arnim play an aggressive opening style, but it was still a good effort on von Arnim's part to only invite game on the South cards with four-card support and 13 HCP. Of course, there is not the same premium on bidding thin games at BAM scoring as when playing IMPs.

For those readers new to this form of scoring, each pair is comparing against one other pair, and it is a simple 1 for a win, 0.5 for a draw, 0 for a loss on the board, irrespective of the size of the difference. That being so, you want to be in game or slam when it is better than 50%, stay out of it when it is less than 50% – very simple. And, if you could guarantee that the same contract would be reached at the other table, you would want to double it if it was going off more than 50% of the time. Of course, all of that is based on a perfect world and a long-term view of matters. What you want in the shorter term is to judge or guess your decisions better than the player who holds your cards at the other table.

Anyway, Bob Hamman led the king of diamonds against 3♠ then played two more rounds of the suit, Auken over-ruffing the nine with her king. She led the jack of hearts to the king and ace then cashed the top clubs before playing a second heart to the queen, ruffing a heart with the six, and playing a spade to the ace. She ruffed the last heart and conceded two trump tricks for nine tricks; +140.

At the comparison table, David Berkowitz/Larry Cohen reached 4♠ on the North/South cards, one down for –50 and a win for Europe.

West	North	East	South
Welland	Bocchi	Mahmood	Duboin
–	1♣	1♦	2♦
Pass	2♠	Dble	Rdbl
Pass	3♠	Pass	4♠
Dble	All Pass		

Norberto Bocchi's 1♣ opening allowed room for Zia Mahmood to overcall 1♦ and he next showed extra values by doubling Bocchi's 2♠ rebid. That was sufficient to persuade Roy Welland to double the final contract. Once again, there were two spades and two diamonds to be lost; down one for –100.

At the other table, Meyers/Levin played 4♠ undoubled for –50, so a win to USA.

The same swing occurred in the third match-up when the Hackett twins doubled 4♠ while Levin/Weinstein did not, for a win to Europe.

Double dummy, 4♠ can be made after the normal start of three rounds of diamonds. Declarer over-ruffs the third diamond and takes the heart finesse and can play four rounds of hearts with two ruffs, plus three rounds of clubs with a ruff. Down to just ♠AJ7 in dummy, he concedes trick eleven to West, who is endplayed and gets only one trump trick. Is that line a possibility if the contract has been doubled?

Board 2. Dealer East. N/S Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Welland	Bocchi	Mahmood	Duboin
–	–	Pass	1♠
Pass	2♦	Pass	2♠
Pass	3♦	Pass	3♥
Pass	3♠	Pass	4♣
Pass	4♥	Pass	5♦
Pass	6♥	All Pass	

Bocchi transferred to hearts then, when Duboin admitted to some tolerance for the suit, cuebid 3♠.

Though Bocchi signed off at his next turn, Duboin liked his controls sufficiently to make another slam try and now Bocchi simply jumped to 6♥. With Meyers/Levin stopping in game at the other table, that was a winning board for Europe.

The Italians were the only pair to get to slam, but Sabine Auken found another way to win the board.

West	North	East	South
Soloway	Auken	Hamman	v Arnim
–	–	Pass	1♠
Pass	2♦	Pass	3♦
Pass	3♥	Pass	4♣
Pass	4♥	All Pass	

Auken also began with a transfer response but von Arnim was systemically able to show her shape despite having only a limited opening. When Auken repeated her hearts, von Arnim was prepared to cuebid once but then settled for game.

The lead was the ten of spades. Auken won the ace and cashed the top hearts then crossed to dummy with a diamond to ruff a spade. Back to dummy with a second diamond, Auken led the jack of spades next and, when Paul Soloway played low, ran it, discarding her club loser; +710 and a win.

Board 3. Dealer South. E/W Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Welland	Bocchi	Mahmood	Duboin
–	–	–	Pass
1♣	2♦	Dble	2♥
Pass	Pass	Dble	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

At five tables out of six, Board 3 was played in partscore – four times in 3♥ by North/South (making only once), and once in 3♦ by East/West, down one. Here, Roy Welland opened 1♣ and Zia doubled the two-suited overcall. When he doubled for a second time, Welland perhaps expected slightly more values than his actual nine-count, and jumped to 3NT.

The nine-count proved to be all that was required. Welland won the heart lead and crossed to the ace of clubs to take the diamond finesse. After running

the diamonds, he could lead towards the ♣Q, ducking to establish his ninth trick, because of N/S's bidding, which marked North with the king once South had played two red kings; +600. At the comparison table, Meyers/Levin made 3♥, for a win to USA.

Auken/von Arnim defeated 3♦ by a trick while Hanlon/McGann defeated 3♥ by two, for another win to Europe, while the board was tied at 3♥ down one in the third match.

Board 4. Dealer West. All Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Welland	Bocchi	Mahmood	Duboin
1♣	Pass	1♥	Pass
2♣	Pass	2♠	Pass
2NT	All Pass		

The best East/West result on this deal saw the Hacketts stop in 3♣ down one, to win the board for Europe against 3♣ down two by Levin/Weinstein. USA levelled the board by winning the other match up, though not in a very impressive manner – INT down two against INT down three.

In our featured match-up, Helgemo/Helness were three down in INT. Meanwhile, the above auction saw Roy Welland at the helm in 2NT, one of life's less appealing contracts.



Norberto Bocchi

Norberto Bocchi led the five of hearts to the nine and jack as Welland pitched a club from hand. The ten of spades switch was covered by queen, king and ace, and Welland led a club to his jack, losing to the bare queen. Welland won the heart return with the ace and played a club to the ace, and that was his last trick; down five for -500 and a win to Europe.

Board 7. Dealer South. All Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Weinstein	Verhees	Levin	Jansma
–	–	–	Pass
1♠	2♥	Pass	Pass
2♠	2NT	Pass	3♣
Pass	3♦	Pass	3♥
Pass	Pass	Dble	All Pass

At the comparison table, Hampson/Gitelman for USA over-reached with the North/South cards and played 4♥ down two.

Louk Verhees overcalled 2♥ then bid 2NT at his next turn to show a second suit but significantly shorter than the first one. When he next showed that the second suit was diamonds Jan Jansma judged that the six-one fit would be more comfortable to play than the four-three fit.

Bobby Levin, looking at what had to be an awkward trump holding for declarer, doubled.



Bobby Levin

Levin led his spade and Verhees won dummy's ace, then led a diamond to the jack and king. Levin switched to a low club for the queen and king, and Verhees played a heart to the queen then a diamond to his ace. When that was ruffed, Verhees was in trouble.

Levin played ace then jack of clubs, on which Verhees threw a diamond, and now Levin was endplayed, forced to either lead into the heart tenace or give dummy a club trick on which declarer's diamond loser would disappear.

That was a good recovery to get out for one down, but Levin's double had flattened the board for USA.

Board 11. Dealer South. None Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Welland	Bocchi	Mahmood	Duboin
–	–	–	1♦
3♣	Dble	Pass	3♠
All Pass			

The popular contract around the room was 3♦ by South, just making. Welland's jump overcall forced an awkward decision on Giorgio Duboin after Bocchi's negative double, and he solve dit by bidding the four-card major.

Welland found the best start to the defence, ace and another club, which Duboin ruffed. Duboin crossed to the ace of hearts to run the ♦Q to Welland's bare king, and back came a low club, ruffed by Zia as Duboin pitched a diamond.

The significance of the low club lead did not escape Zia, of course, and he returned a diamond. Duboin put in the nine, ruffed by Welland. Another club was ruffed by Zia's ten and Duboin discarded another diamond.

Zia returned a heart round to dummy's ten and Duboin ruffed dummy's remaining low heart high then claimed seven tricks, just losing to the queen of trumps, for down two, -100 and a win for USA.

At the end of the first 11-board set, Europe had a useful 8-point lead in the overall match.

Pairs Round Two

For Round 2, there were new table opponents for each pair, but they were still comparing with the same opposing pair as before.

Board 12. Dealer West. NIS Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Cohen</i>	<i>Helness</i>	<i>Berkowitz</i>	<i>Helgemo</i>
1♦	Pass	1♠	Pass
2♠	Pass	Pass	Dble
Pass	3♣	All Pass	

At the comparison table, Daniela von Arnim's weak no trump opening on the West cards stole the pot. Von Arnim went two down for -100, but that would prove to be a good investment if Tor Helness could bring home 3♣.

David Berkowitz led the ten of spades, which Helness won in dummy to lead a low club to his queen. Berkowitz ducked so Helness played a second club to the ten and king, and now Larry Cohen switched to the ten of hearts.

Helness put in the jack, which held the trick, and continued by cashing the ♥K, crossing to the king of diamonds, and pitching his spade loser on the ace of hearts. When he continued with a diamond to the jack, there were just two trumps to be lost; +130 and a win for Europe.

Jan Jansma also bought the contract by opening a weak no trump, for the same two down. This was the auction at his companion table:

West	North	East	South
<i>Gitelman</i>	<i>Bocchi</i>	<i>Hampson</i>	<i>Duboin</i>
1♦	Pass	1♠	Pass
2♠	Pass	Pass	Dble
Pass	2NT	Pass	3♦
All Pass			

Where Helness had been happy to bid his five-card club suit, Bocchi preferred a two-places-to-play 2NT, and Duboin chose the lower of his two four-card suits, ending the auction.

The four-four fit looks more secure than a five-two fit that is breaking four-two, but the defence was a little easier with the North hand exposed as dummy.

Fred Gitelman led the king of spades and Duboin won the ace to play the ♣3, Gitelman going in with the king to play the ♠Q then his remaining club. Geoff Hampson won the club and played a club back, which Duboin ruffed with the ten, losing to the queen. However, that was it for the defence; +110 and another win for Europe.

In the third match-up, neither North/South pair balanced, so East got to play 2♠ at both tables. Levin was one down, Hackett two, for a win to USA.

Board 17. Dealer North. None Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Gitelman</i>	<i>Bocchi</i>	<i>Hampson</i>	<i>Duboin</i>
–	Pass	Pass	1♦
1♥	2NT(i)	3♥	4♠
5♥	Dble	All Pass	

(i) Spades and clubs, invitational plus

At the comparison table, Jill Meyers made an overtrick in 4♠ doubled, so USA would win the board if Gitelman/Hampson avoided disaster. That they achieved very well, with Gitelman happy to go on to the five level with his undisclosed two-suiter once he found a heart fit. Bocchi had described his distribution well so it was clear to double 5♥ to warn of the wasted heart values and minimum hand, and now it was impossible for Duboin to over-rule his decision.

Bocchi led his diamond to the jack and ace and Gitelman, appreciating what the combination of double and diamond lead had to mean, played ace and another trump to ensure that there would be no defensive ruff. Bocchi won the ♥K and switched to the eight of spades. Duboin won that and switched in turn to clubs so the defence took their tricks for down two; -300, a result matched by Berkowitz/Cohen and Auken/von Arnim for a flat board.

The Hacketts left Hamman/Soloway to play peacefully in 4♠+1, while Levin/Weinstein found the 5♥ save but Hanlon/McGann went on to 5♠, making, to flatten the board.

Board 18. Dealer East. NIS Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Weinstein	Hanlon	Levin	McGann
–	–	1♥	Pass
1♠	4♣	All Pass	

At the other table, Hamman/Soloway were down on ein 5♣ by North for –100. Here, Tom Hanlon made a heavy pre-emptive overcall of 4♣ and was left to play there.

Levin’s lead of the jack of spades was covered all around, and Hanlon drew two rounds of trumps then cashed the ♠10 before playing a heart to the nine and jack. Levin was endplayed. He tried to cash the ace of diamonds but Hanlon could ruff that and cross to dummy with a club to pitch a heart on the ♦K; +130 and a win for Europe.

West	North	East	South
Gitelman	Bocchi	Hampson	Duboin
–	–	1♥	Pass
1♠	2♣	2♦	Dble
Pass	3♦	Pass	3♥
Pass	3NT	All Pass	



Geoff Hampson

The Italians did even better. Bocchi started with a simple overcall and, when Duboin showed some values, enquired about a diamond stopper. Duboin in turn showed concern about hearts, and Bocchi knew that all the suits were covered so tried 3NT.

Hampson led ace then queen of hearts, which established Bocchi’s ninth trick but also established the heart suit for the defence, so that all Bocchi could afford to do was to cash out his nine tricks for +600.

That was good enough for another European win, as Meyers/Levin played 5♣ down one at the other table.

In the other match-up, Helness/Helgemo bid and made 3NT at one table while Auken/von Arnim were doubled in 3♦ at the other, making with an overtrick for +570 and overkill by the Europeans.

Board 21. Dealer North. NIS Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Cohen	Helness	Berkowitz	Helgemo
–	2♥	Pass	3♥
Dble	All Pass		

A side four-card major is no bar to opening a weak two bid for the Norwegian pair and that was Helness’s choice on the North cards. When Helgemo made a pre-emptive raise to 3♥, Larry Cohen had only an 11-count, but the player with the shortage in the opponents’ suit has to strain to get involved and he duly doubled.

At any other vulnerability, Berkowitz would no doubt have bid 3NT, but at this score it looked right to try for 500 rather a non-vulnerable game.

There was little to the play. Helness lost two trumps, two diamonds and a trick in each black suit for down two; –500.

At the other table, the same contract was played undoubled, so Cohen’s enterprising double won the board for USA.

Elsewhere, Levin/Weinstein collected 500 from 3♥ doubled to win the board against 3NT+1 by the

Hacketts, and Verhees/Jansma took 500 to win the board against 2NT+2, so a point to each team.

Board 22. Dealer East. E/W Vul.

♠ 10 7 6		♠ QJ			
♥ K Q 6		♥ J 7 5 4			
♦ 2		♦ J 5 4			
♣ AKQ765		♣ 10 8 4 2			
♠ A 9 5 4	<table border="1" style="border-collapse: collapse; width: 40px; height: 40px; margin: auto;"> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">N</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">W E</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">S</td></tr> </table>	N	W E	S	
N					
W E					
S					
♥ A 10 8					
♦ A Q 10 9 6					
♣ 9					
♠ K 8 3 2					
♥ 9 3 2					
♦ K 8 7 3					
♣ J 3					

West	North	East	South
<i>Gitelman</i>	<i>Bocchi</i>	<i>Hampson</i>	<i>Duboin</i>
–	–	Pass	Pass
1♦	2♣	Pass	Pass
Dble	Pass	2♥	Dble
Pass	3♣	All Pass	

There were a couple of tables at which 3♣ was made, so Bocchi did not achieve that great a result here as he struggled to down two, but there was nothing he could have done about it.

Hampson led the queen of spades to the king and ace and Gitelman returned a low spade tot he jack. The diamond switch went to the king and ace and now came a spade ruff. Hampson exited passively with a diamond, for Bocchi to ruff, and declarer played ace of clubs and a club to the jack then a heart up. When Gitelman played low, Bocchi had two heart losers, so only seven tricks and –100.

At the other table, Meyers/Levin played 3NT by South and were three down for –150 and a win to Europe.

Europe won the second set by 4 points to stretch their overall lead to 12.



Fred Gitelman

Interviews & Entertainment

Yesterday saw plenty of publicity for bridge and, in particular, for the Warren Buffett Cup, with two interviews on Irish radio.

In the morning, Jill Meyers, Zia Mahmood and Tom Hanlon were interviewed by Ryan Tubridy for RTE Radio 1. Apparently the interview was going just fine but along fairly predictable lines with an interviewer who is a non-player, when he asked Zia how he started out in bridge.

The response came that as a young man Zia was interested in only two things, sex and girls. Not finding a sufficient supply of either, he tried the local bridge club and found that there were girls playing there who attracted his interest. Zia's claim was that afetr five years or so he started to get interested in bridge also!

It seems that the interveiwer started to get more interested in his subject after this. Trust Zia to bring life to any situation.

At lunchtime, Sabine Auken and, once again, Tom Hanlon, were interviewed by Sean Moncrieff for NewsTalk on FM106 Radio. The programme went out later in the afternoon.

It seems that The Buffett Cup is producing a lot of interest in Ireland and, judging from the audience on BBO, around the world, despite the awkward timing for much of the American market. This is in a large part due to the enthusiasm and hard work of our Irish hosts, for whom nothing is too much trouble.

As you will know, the organisers have arranged a different restaurant every night for us all. Sunday evening saw a visit to the Howth Yacht Club for drinks and nibbles, followed by dinner at the Abbey Tavern.

Especially for anyone who has never visited Ireland before, it must have been nice to see a little of the coastal scenery on the journey to Howth, a very pretty area of Ireland. I have been to too many tournaments around the world where I have seen the airport, the hotel, and the road in between the two, so it was good to get out and about for a while.

The entertainment in the tavern was typically Irish and of a very high standard. The Irish dancing in the Riverdance style was excellently performed and was followed by a band who gave us a fine sample of traditional Irish music.

Board 30

By Patrick Jourdain

In Session 3, Board 30 proved crucial in the set where Berkowitz and Cohen, playing against the twins, were comparing with the table where Daniela von Arnim and Sabine Auken were at the table with Steve Weinstein and Bobby Levin. There were points of interest in both bidding and play.

Board 30. Dealer East. None Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Weinstein	Auken	Levin	v Arnim
–	–	Pass	1♦
1♠	2♥(i)	Pass	Pass
Dble(ii)	3♦	3♠	Dble(iii)
All Pass			

- (i) Non-forcing
- (ii) Competitive
- (iii) Sharp

West	North	East	South
Jason	Berkowitz	Justin	Cohen
–	–	Pass	1♦(i)
1♠	2♥(ii)	3♠(iii)	Pass
Pass	4♦	Pass	4♠(iv)
Pass	5♦	All Pass	

- (i) Precision-style
- (ii) Forcing for one round
- (iii) Pre-emptive
- (iv) Cuebid

West	North	East	South
Gitelman	Helness	Hampson	Helgemo
–	–	Pass	1♦
1♠	2♥(i)	Pass	2NT
Pass	3♦	Pass	3♠
Pass	4♥	Pass	5♦
All Pass			

- (i) Forcing for one round

The par for the deal is +140 to North/South playing a heart partscore. East/West can be held to seven

tricks in spades, though it requires a perfect defence to manage it, so in theory, if they press on to Three Spades North/South might get +300.

There were some interesting differences in style at three tables featured. South always opened 1♦, though For Cohen/Berkowitz it was Precision, West overcalled 1♠ and North bid 2♥, irrespective as to whether it was forcing (Berkowitz and Helness) or non-forcing (Auken). In typical mode, Justin made a pre-emptive raise on the East cards whereas Levin initially passed and then competed when Weinstein re-opened with a double.

At two tables, North/South pressed on to Five Diamonds, apparently too high, whereas von Arnim doubled Three Spades, the theoretical best spot for her if they could take it two off. Let's see how the three managed in the play....

Auken led a club against Three Spades doubled. South played three rounds of the suit, choosing the TWO on the third round to ask for a diamond back. North ruffed with the singleton jack of trumps, and dutifully played a diamond to South's ace, and back came the singleton heart. That looked a sound defence, but Weinstein had the answer to keep his losses to one trick. He put on the ace, ruffed his winning club to reach dummy, and picked up the trumps with the finesse; 100 to N/S.

The defence to achieve two down is for South to play the singleton heart BEFORE giving North the club ruff. Declarer can win the ace, and prevent North from getting a ruff by playing ace and another trump, but only at the expense of South getting two trumps instead. South can win the second trump, underlead the diamond, and receive a heart ruff. The defence makes the two clubs, a heart, a diamond and two trumps.

So now let's put the spotlight on the two tables where South was in Five Diamonds. If West simply cashes his two aces, East's trump trick sets the game. But both Wests led a club from the queen. The jack won in dummy, and two more rounds of the suit disposed of dummy's spade. A heart came next, and both Wests rose with the ace to find the only play to give declarer a problem... the fourth club, in this position:

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

Both declarers ruffed the fourth club with the jack of trumps. At the table where Larry Cohen was declarer, Justin Hackett over-ruffed and returned a spade to the king and ace and a ruff in dummy. Dummy had only two trumps left. Cohen ruffed a heart. Now, if both red suits were breaking he could play ace and king of trumps and enjoy the hearts.

Knowing that West had at least nine black cards, Cohen delayed his decision by playing a low trump first. At this point if West had no hearts and $\diamond 10x$ left it would be necessary to finesse the nine of trumps and ruff another heart high to establish dummy. But Cohen accurately played for West to have one card in each of the red suits. He put on the trump king and led hearts from the top. One spade went away on the heart king, and when East ruffed the next he over-ruffed and ruffed his last spade. Five Diamonds was home. For the USA it was a win on the board and a win in the set by just half-a-point. Phew!

At the table where Helgemo was declarer in the diagrammed ending, he also ruffed the fourth club with the jack of trumps but Hampson, East, pitched a spade. Helgemo cashed the king of trumps and king of hearts ditching one of his spades, ruffed a heart to set up the suit, drew a second trump with the ace, ruffed a spade, and led a winning heart. East ruffed with his master trump, but declarer's last spade disappeared on this trick and he could claim the game.

Declarer continues with the king of spades to the two, $\diamond 6$ and nine, then ruffs a spade with the $\heartsuit 5$ as you follow with the three and partner with the jack.

Next comes the $\clubsuit 3$ to the two, king and six, followed by the $\clubsuit 4$ to the queen, five and seven.

You are on play with the queen of clubs. How do you defend and, more importantly, why?

Trivia Quiz I 15 Minutes of Fame

Andy Warhol stated that everyone would have their 15 minutes of fame. For what did the following gain their 15 minutes?

1. William Calley
2. Jan Pallach
3. Tommy Smith
4. Captain Robert Scott
5. Valentina Tereshkova
6. Pak Doo Ik
7. Gavriilo Princip
8. John Hinckley
9. Louis Washkansky
10. Tenzing Norgay

Today's Defence Problem

By John Carruthers

When Zia Mahmood gives you a problem, you'd better be on your toes, because it is sure to be subtle, difficult and instructive. See how you would do on this deal from the semi-final of the Spingold.

Dealer North. E/W Vul.

\spadesuit A K 8 6	
\heartsuit A 10	
\diamond K 10 7 3	
\clubsuit K J 4	
<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; display: inline-block; text-align: center;">N W E S</div>	\spadesuit 10 4 3 2
	\heartsuit 9 8
	\diamond A Q 9 8 3
	\clubsuit Q 6

West	North	East	South
–	1 \diamond	Pass	1 \heartsuit
Pass	2NT	Pass	4 \heartsuit
All Pass			

Partner leads the five of spades to dummy's ace, your four, and declarer's seven (you play fourth best leads and high from you is discouraging or an odd number/ low would be encouraging or an even number).

Grand Auction And Play

The final board of the fourth set, Board 44, was a good grand slam that was reached at only two of the six tables, namely Hamman and Soloway for Team USA and Bocchi/Duboin for Europe.

Board 44. Dealer West. N/S Vul.

\spadesuit 3		\spadesuit K 9 6 4	
\heartsuit J 9		\heartsuit A 10 6 5 3	
\diamond Q J 10 3 2		\diamond A	
\clubsuit K 8 7 3 2		\clubsuit 10 5 4	
<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; display: inline-block; text-align: center;">N W E S</div>	\spadesuit A Q J 8		
	\heartsuit K Q 8		
	\diamond 8 7 4		
	\clubsuit A Q 9		
\spadesuit 10 7 5 2			
\heartsuit 7 4 2			
\diamond K 9 6 5			
\clubsuit J 6			

West	North	East	South
Soloway	Helness	Hamman	Helgemo
2 \diamond (i)	Pass	3 \spadesuit (ii)	Pass
3NT(iii)	Pass	4 \clubsuit (iv)	Pass
4 \spadesuit (v)	Pass	4NT(vi)	Pass
5 \clubsuit (vii)	Pass	7 \spadesuit	All Pass

Solution To Defence Problem

- (i) Flannery, 11-16 HCP, 4♠ and at least 5♥
- (ii) Setting spades as trumps and slam interest
- (ii) Non-minimum
- (iv) Relay
- (v) Singleton diamond
- (vi) Roman Keycard Blackwood
- (vii) Three keys

Note that by setting spades as trumps rather than hearts, Hamman knew that Roman Keycard Blackwood would locate the king of spades.

West	North	East	South
Duboin	Levin	Bocchi	Weinstein
1♥	Pass	2♣(i)	Pass
2♥(ii)	Pass	2♠(i)	Pass
3♣(iii)	Pass	3♦(i)	Pass
3NT(iv)	Pass	4♣(v)	Pass
4♦(vi)	Pass	4NT(vii)	Pass
5♣(viii)	Pass	7♠	All Pass

- (i) Relay
- (ii) Shows four spades
- (iii) Minimum 4/5
- (iv) 4-5-1-3
- (v) Cuebid
- (vi) Cuebid which must be the singleton ace
- (vii) Roman Keycard Blackwood
- (viii) Three keys

A trump was led at both tables and when the eight won there was no problem in the play. Declarer was able to release the ace of diamonds, and use as entries back a trump, a heart and the ace of clubs to take two diamond ruffs and then draw trumps ditching dummy's clubs. The five hearts with six trump tricks and two outside aces added up to 13.

Declarer might have been more worried with a heart lead. You unblock the diamond, and play king of trumps and a trump to the ace. You ruff a diamond, but still need two more entries. You have either to risk a second heart or take the club finesse. As you can see from the diagram, both work, but the hand would have taken more time to play!

To complete the record here are the auctions that stopped in Six Spades:

Hanlon/McGann:

1♥ - 2♦ - 2♥ - 2♠ - 3♠ - 4♣ - 4♦ - 4NT - 5♦ - 5♥ - 6♠ - Pass

Von Arnim/Auken:

1♥ - 1♠ - 2♠ - 2NT - 4♦ - 6♠ - Pass

Cohen/Berkowitz:

1♥ - 2♣ - 2♠ - 3♠ - 4♦ - 4NT - 5♣ - 5♦ - 5♠ - 5NT - 6♠ - Pass

To have a chance to defeat 4♥ you must assume that declarer has six hearts and four clubs. If that is the case, you will win the ♦A, ♣Q and ♣A, and the fourth defensive trick will have to come from either hearts or clubs. Declarer will not have only three clubs as he would not have played this way, so assume that he has four. He cannot have ♣10953 or he would have drawn trumps, so partner must have either ♣A972 or ♣A1072. Which is it?

If declarer has the ♣10, you should return a spade and hope that partner has the queen of hearts. If partner has the ♣10, a trump is required.

Dealer North. E/W Vul.

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

As you can see, you must return a trump. Zia's point was that, with ♣A972, partner would have played the nine on the second round to deny possession of the ten. Therefore, when the nine does not appear, partner must have the ten. I told you he was subtle.

Trivia Quiz I Solutions

1. In 1968 Lieutenant William Calley led the soldiers at the My Lai massacre during the Vietnam war.
2. He burnt himself to death in Wenceslas Square, Prague, as a protest against the 1968 Soviet invasion of Czechoslovakia.
3. He was one of the American athletes who gave a black power salute while collecting his gold medal for the 200 metres at the 1968 Olympic Games.
4. He was the leader of the British expedition beaten to the South Pole by Roald Amundsen in 1912.
5. She was the first woman in space.
6. He scored the goal which allowed unrated North Korea to defeat Italy 1-0 in the 1966 World Cup.
7. He assassinated Archduke Franz Ferdinand of Austria and his wife Sophie in Sarajevo in 1914.
8. In 1981, he attempted to assassinate US President, Ronald Reagan.
9. In 1967, he received the first heart transplant.
10. In 1953, along with Edmund Hillary, he was one of the first to reach the summit of Mount Everest.