

EUROPE TAKES LEAD

Europe did well in the Teams yesterday to take the overall lead with +9 going into the Individual phase. Norberto Bocchi/Giorgio Duboin & Tom Hanlon/Hugh McGann completed a perfect series of six wins out of six in the Teams phase to score +18. Auken/von Arnim & Jansma/Verhees were -3 in the Teams, and Helgemo/Helness & the Hacketts -6.

For USA, Hampson/Gitelman & Levin/Weinstein finished at +3, while Hamman/Soloway & Mahommod/Welland finished level, and Berkowitz/Cohen & Meyers/Levin -12.

The first round of the Individual was tied but USA picked up 4 points in Round 2 with a win and two draws, to close to only -5, then Round 3 was tied to leave the position unchanged. USA then won Round 4 with two wins and a loss to close to -1. After three days play, it is that close: Europe +1 USA -1. There is all to play for tomorrow.

In the Individual, Bobby Levin has 3.5 out of 4, while David Berkowitz, Paul Soloway and Roy Welland have 3 out of 4. Bob Hamman is also undefeated with 2.5 out of 4.

For Europe, Giorgio Duboin has 3 out of 4, and is the only undefeated player.

Results

Teams

Bocchi/Duboin & Hanlon/McGann	6-0	Levin/Weinstein & Hampson/Gitelman
Auken/Von Arnim & Jansma/Verhees	6-0	Berkowitz/Cohen & Meyers/Levin
Helgemo/Helness & Hackett/Hackett	0-0	Hamman/Soloway & Welland/Zia

Individual (Points per Player after 4 Matches)

Sabine Auken	1	Jill Meyers	2.5
Daniela von Arnim	1	Jill Levin	1.5
Jan Jansma	2	Larry Cohen	1
Louk Verhees	1.5	David Berkowitz	3
Justin Hackett	2.5	Steve Weinstein	2
Jason Hackett	1	Bobby Levin	3.5
Geir Helgemo	1.5	Paul Soloway	3
Tor Helness	2.5	Bob Hamman	2.5
Norberto Bocchi	2	Geoff Hampson	2
Giorgio Duboin	3	Fred Gitelman	2.5
Tom Hanlon	1.5	Roy Welland	3
Hugh McGann	1	Zia Mahmood	1.5

Overall Match Score: **Europe +1** **USA -1**

Teams Round Five

At the end of the second day's play, USA led the overall match with +3 to Europe's -3, a narrow advantage which could be negated if Europe could win two of the three matches in the Wednesday morning session.

With Auken/von Arnim and Jansma/Verhees winning their match, but Helgemo/Helness and the Hacketts losing their's, it came down to the third match, between Europe's team-heroes to date, Bocchi/Duboin & Hanlon/McGann, who had a 100% record on Tuesday, facing the most successful of the American teams, Gitelman/Hampson & Levin/Weinstein.

Board 1. Dealer North. None Vul.

♠ 10 ♥ KJ964 ♦ 1062 ♣ AQ75	<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		♠ A86 ♥ Q5 ♦ AJ9874 ♣ 109	♠ J9542 ♥ 83 ♦ KQ5 ♣ K82
	N											
W		E										
	S											
	<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			
	N											
W		E										
	S											
		♠ KQ73 ♥ A1072 ♦ 3 ♣ J643										

West	North	East	South
<i>Gitelman</i>	<i>Hanlon</i>	<i>Hampson</i>	<i>McGann</i>
–	1♦	1♠	Dble
2♦	2NT	Pass	3♣
Pass	3♦	All Pass	
West	North	East	South
<i>Duboin</i>	<i>Levin</i>	<i>Bocchi</i>	<i>Weinstein</i>
–	1♦	1♠	Dble
Pass	2♦	Pass	2NT
All Pass			

Tom Hanlon' 2NT was good/bad, in this case a weaker way of bidding 3♦. Hugh McGann did as he was asked and Hanlon unwound into 3♦, where he played.

Geoff Hampson led the eight of hearts and Hanlon took dummy's ace to lead a diamond to the jack and queen. A second heart was won with the king and Fred Gitelman switched to the ten of spades. Hanlon won the ace and played ace and another diamond. Hampson won and switched to king and another club; one off for -50.

Bobby Levin could repeat his diamonds a level lower but Steve Weinstein thought that he was worth 2NT over that, perhaps figuring that 2NT might be just as good a spot as 2♦ anyway.

Giorgio Duboin led the ten of spades to dummy's ace and Weinstein continued with the ♠8 to the nine and queen, followed by a club to Duboin's queen. Duboin switched to a diamond, on which Weinstein rose with the ace to lead the ♠6 to the jack and king. He cashed the ♠7 then exited with a club, which ran to Bocchi's king. Bocchi cashed the long spade then led a heart through and that was two down for -100 and a win for Europe.

Board 3. Dealer South. E/W Vul.

♠ 9842 ♥ 104 ♦ J3 ♣ AQ865	<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		♠ Q65 ♥ K5 ♦ KQ1096 ♣ K73	♠ AKJ1073 ♥ AJ92 ♦ 87 ♣ 4
	N											
W		E										
	S											
	<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			
	N											
W		E										
	S											
		♠ – ♥ Q8763 ♦ A542 ♣ J1092										

West	North	East	South
<i>Gitelman</i>	<i>Hanlon</i>	<i>Hampson</i>	<i>McGann</i>
–	–	–	Pass
Pass	1NT	Dble	Pass
2♠	Pass	3♠	Pass
4♠	All Pass		
West	North	East	South
<i>Duboin</i>	<i>Levin</i>	<i>Bocchi</i>	<i>Weinstein</i>
–	–	–	Pass
Pass	1♦	1♠	Dble
3♠	Pass	4♠	4NT
Dble	Rdbl	Pass	5♥
Pass	5NT	Dble	6♦
Dble	All Pass		

Hampson's double of 1NT showed either one minor or both majors and 2♠ was pass or correct. Hampson was well pleased to find support for his main suit so tried for game and Gitelman accepted the invitation.

Hanlon led the queen of diamonds then the ♦6 to McGann's ace. McGann switched to a club and Gitelman won his ace and led the ♥4, on which Hanlon played the king. Gitelman won the ♥A and returned a low heart, which McGann ducked, so the ten scored. Gitelman drew trumps and had the rest for +650.

Levin's 1♦ opening led to a quite different auction. Weinstein made a negative double then bid 4NT for take-out but something went wrong from there and the Americans alighted in 6♦ doubled.

Bocchi led his singleton club so got a ruff immediately and there were two aces to come; down two for -300 but a win for USA.

West Duboin – All Pass	North Levin Pass	East Bocchi Pass	South Weinstein INT
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Board 4. Dealer West. All Vul.

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

West Gitelman Pass 3♥ Pass Pass West Duboin Pass 1♦ All Pass	North Hanlon Pass 4♣ 4NT 6♣ North Levin Pass 2♦	East Hampson 2♥ Pass Pass All Pass East Bocchi Pass Pass	South McGann Dble 4♥ 5♠ South Weinstein 1♣ 3NT
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Both Souths opened INT. Bocchi let that go in pass-out seat and Duboin led the five of spades. Bocchi won the spade and switched to a diamond, which Weinstein ducked. He won the next diamond and played ♣Q then a club to the ace, and had six tricks for down one; -100.

Hampson overcalled 2♦, diamonds and a major, and Gitelman converted to 2♥, pass or correct. Hanlon led a trump, which Gitelman won in hand and played the ♦Q, which McGann won. He switched to the king of spades. Gitelman won the ace, cashed the ♥Q, unblocked the ♦K, and drew trumps before cashing the two diamond winners; eight tricks for +110 and a win for USA.

West Helgemo – Pass Pass West Soloway – Pass 2♥ Rdbl	North Welland Pass Pass Pass North Justin Pass Pass Pass All Pass	East Helness Pass Dble Pass East Hamman Pass Dble Pass	South Mahmood INT All Pass South Jason INT Pass Dble
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Six Clubs is an excellent contract and the Irish pair sailed into it despite the opposing bidding for a painless +1370. With only a simple overcall by West to worry about, the Americans might have been expected to explore and also reach the slam, but it wasn't as simple as that. There was no momentum in this auction and Weinstein had only four clubs plus a dubious diamond holding, so was unwilling to risk getting past 3NT at this form of scoring. He made eleven tricks for +660 but that was a win for Europe.

Board 5. Dealer North. N/S Vul.

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

West Gitelman – Pass 2♥	North Hanlon Pass Pass All Pass	East Hampson Pass 2♦	South McGann INT Pass
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There was more life on this deal in another match. Tor Helness doubled INT to show a maximum pass and Geir Helgemo decided to defend.

Had Helgemo led a spade, that would have been just fine, but he chose the ♣5, third and fifth. Zia won the ten with his king and played the ♠K, which Helness won to switch to a diamond. Zia won the first diamond and led a club to the eight, so had seven tricks for +180.



Geir Helgemo

As it turned out, that result was irrelevant, as in the other room Paul Soloway played 2♥ redoubled after Hamman had doubled INT to show hearts and a minor. Soloway removed to 2♥ and redoubled when Jason Hackett doubled for take-out.

The play followed the same lines as we have already seen and Soloway had the handy score of +640 and an overkill win for USA.

Board 6. Dealer East. E/W Vul.

♠ K Q 6 2 ♥ A K Q 6 5 ♦ 7 4 ♣ 8 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		♠ A 10 4 ♥ J 10 9 4 ♦ 10 2 ♣ A K 9 6	♠ 9 3 ♥ 8 3 2 ♦ K Q J 8 ♣ Q J 5 2
	N											
W		E										
	S											
♠ J 8 7 5 ♥ 7 ♦ A 9 6 5 3 ♣ 10 7 3												
West <i>Gitelman</i> – 1♥ West <i>Duboin</i> – 1♥ INT	North <i>Hanlon</i> – Pass North <i>Levin</i> – Pass All Pass	East <i>Hampson</i> Pass 2♥ East <i>Bocchi</i> Pass 1♠	South <i>McGann</i> Pass All Pass South <i>Weinstein</i> Pass Pass									

The East hand is an easy raise in the American five-card major style and Hampson's 2♥ ended the auction.

Hanlon led the jack of hearts, which Gitelman won. He played a diamond to dummy, ducked, and a spade to the king and ace. Hanlon played a second trump, the nine, to Gitelman's ace, and declarer played ♠Q and ruffed a spade then the ♦Q off the dummy. McGann won the ♦A, cashed the jack of spades and switched to a club. Hanlon won two clubs and exited with a third round and still had a trump to come; down one for –100.

Bocchi preferred a transfer response, denying spades, and Duboin rebid INT, where he was left to play. Bobby Levin cashed the ace of clubs and promptly switched to a low spade for the jack and king. He ducked Duboin's club play so dummy's jack scored, and now Duboin played the ♦K, ducked, then played four rounds of hearts.

Levin won the fourth heart and cashed the ♣K, then crossed to Weinstein's ♦A. Weinstein played a spade to the queen and ace but, after cashing the ♠10, Levin had to give the last trick to dummy's ♣Q; just made for +90 and a win for Europe.

Board 8. Dealer West. None Vul.

♠ J 9 8 4 ♥ J 7 4 2 ♦ 8 ♣ A 10 6 5	<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		♠ Q 10 5 2 ♥ K 10 ♦ 9 2 ♣ J 9 4 3 2	♠ 6 ♥ A Q 9 8 5 3 ♦ A K 4 3 ♣ 8 7
	N											
W		E										
	S											
		♠ A K 7 3 ♥ 6 ♦ Q J 10 7 6 5 ♣ K Q										
West <i>Gitelman</i> Pass 2♥ Pass West <i>Duboin</i> Pass 4♥ Pass Dble	North <i>Hanlon</i> Pass Pass 4♠ North <i>Levin</i> Pass Pass 4NT All Pass	East <i>Hampson</i> 1♥ 4♥ Dble East <i>Bocchi</i> 1♥ Pass Dble All Pass	South <i>McGann</i> 2♦ Dble All Pass South <i>Weinstein</i> 2♦ Dble 5♦									

After identical starts to the two auctions, Duboin made the pre-emptive leap to 4♥ while Gitelman was content with a simple raise. Hampson jumped to game facing the simple raise, so the two South players were at the same level for their second calls, but with somewhat different information about the opposing hands.

Both Souths doubled 4♥. In response, Hanlon bid 4♠ and stuck it out there when Hampson doubled. Levin preferred to forget about spades and responded 4NT to offer a choice of minors. Duboin doubled 5♦, ending the auction.

Hampson led king then a low diamond against 4♠ doubled. Gitelman ruffed and switched to the jack of hearts to the king and ace and Hampson played the ♥Q, ruffed.

Hanlon played the ♣Q, which Gitelman won to and returned the suit to dummy's king. Hanlon drew trumps ending in hand and tried to cash the clubs, conceding one more trick to the ten for down two; –300.

Duboin led a heart against 5♦ doubled. Bocchi won the ace and switched to his spade, which ran around to dummy's ten. Bocchi ducked the diamond lead now but won the second round and switched to a club. Duboin won the ace and gave his partner a spade ruff.

There was another top trump to be lost so that was three down for –500 and Europe had another winning board.

Board 9. Dealer North. E/W Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Gitelman</i>	<i>Hanlon</i>	<i>Hampson</i>	<i>McGann</i>
–	1♠	2♥	Pass
3♦	All Pass		
West	North	East	South
<i>Duboin</i>	<i>Levin</i>	<i>Bocchi</i>	<i>Weinstein</i>
–	2♠	3♥	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

For Hanlon, the North hand was a 1♠ opening. When Hampson overcalled 2♥, Gitelman responded 3♦, encouraging but not forcing, and Hampson passed.

Hanlon led a trump round to declarer's nine and Gitelman returned the ♦10 to keep control and avoid premature discards from dummy. McGann won the ♦K and switched to the jack of spades to the queen and king, and Hanlon returned the ♠9 to Gitelman's ten. Declarer drew trumps, cashed the ace of spades, and played a club to the king and ace, then queen and another club. McGann let the ♣8 win the third round, not that it mattered, and the ♥A was the overtrick; +130.

For Levin, the North hand was a weak two opening, which would be the mainstream approach. When Bocchi overcalled 3♥, it was automatic for Duboin to try 3NT, which ended the auction.



Giorgio Duboin

Levin led the six of diamonds, which cost a trick as Weinstein could not read the lead and put up his king. Duboin played a club to the king and ace, then queen and another club and had ten tricks for +630 and another European win.

Board 12. Dealer West. N/S Vul.

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

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

The West hand fell below Gitelman's tolerance level for a weak two bid, even at favourable vulnerability, so the Americans had a peaceful transfer auction to 2♥.

McGann led the ♥8 round to Hampson's king and declarer led the ♠9 from hand. Fearing ♠QJ109 in declarer's hand, McGann hopped up with the king and switched to a club for the king and ace. Hampson ran the ♠Q now, throwing dummy's club loser, but that lost to the ace and Hanlon played a diamond through.

McGann won the ♦10, cashed the ace and played a third round for Hanlon to ruff. Hampson ruffed the club return in dummy and ruffed dummy's last diamond with his queen. That left him with two trump losers; down two for –100.

Duboin was quite happy to open 2♥ with the West cards and Bocchi responded 2♠, relay. When Weinstein doubled, Duboin went back to 3♥ to show a bad weak two, and now Levin competed to 3♠, which Bocchi was very happy to double.

Bocchi led a heart, ducked, and a second round to dummy's ace. Levin cashed the ace and king of spades then took a diamond finesse, followed by a club to the jack and ace. Bocchi cashed two trumps and played back a club, but he could only make his long trump from here; down one for –200 and another board to Europe.

Board 13. Dealer North. All Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Gitelman</i>	<i>Hanlon</i>	<i>Hampson</i>	<i>McGann</i>
<i>Duboin</i>	<i>Levin</i>	<i>Bocchi</i>	<i>Weinstein</i>
–	2♥	Pass	Pass
2NT	Pass	3NT	All Pass

This time there was no dispute about the suitability of the North hand for a weak two opener and, after identical auctions, both Norths led the ♥10, ducked to South's king.

Both Souths switched to a low spade and both declarers won in hand then played on diamonds.

Levin won the first diamond and switched to the nine of clubs to the queen, king and ace. He ducked the second diamond but won the next round and played his remaining club. Weinstein had two clubs to cash for down one; –100.

Hanlon ducked the first diamond but won the second and he too switched to the nine of clubs to the queen and king.

However, Gitelman ducked this trick and McGann returned the ten. Gitelman won and knocked out the remaining diamond honour.

Hanlon had no entry to his partner's hand to cash the club winner. He exited with a heart and Gitelman could cash his red winners and squeeze McGann in the black suits for his ninth trick; +600 and a nicely played win for USA.

Despite this deal, the Europeans had won the match comfortably by 7-3 with four flat boards.

At the end of the fifth session of the teams, the match was once again exactly level. In the sixth and final session, all three European teams won their matches so, going into the Individual, Europe led with +9 to USA's –9.

However, there are a lot of points available in the Individual, so the match is still wide open.

Today's Play Problem

By John Carruthers

IMPs. Dealer South. N/S Vul.

♠ 9 6 5 4 3 ♥ AK 8 ♦ Q 5 4 3 2 ♣ –	<table border="1" style="margin: auto;"> <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 2 ♥ 9 6 3 ♦ AK 6 ♣ AK Q 4 2	
N						
W E						
S						

West	North	East	South
–	–	–	INT
Pass	2♥(i)	Pass	2♠
Pass	3♣(ii)	Pass	3♦
Pass	3♥	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

- (i) Transfer to hearts
- (ii) Transfer to diamonds

Your system worked to perfection on this deal. West leads the jack of diamonds and East follows with the seven. How do you play?

Player Profile

The Official Programme has a very short profile of one of the Hackett twins. This is the full profile.

Justin Hackett (Eng)

WM Rank 42, Justin was born in 1970 in Manchester, England. At only 27, Justin's contribution to the bridge world was recognised at the highest level in 1997 when he was invited to Buckingham Palace in recognition of his distinction in the field.

An avid Manchester United fan, Justin had considered turning professional in another sport 'I wanted to be a footballer. I was torn between bridge and football and I ended up playing bridge'. However, early victories on the bridge circuit spurred the twins on;

'We played in Athens in our first match and we got a silver medal. Since then we've gone from strength to strength.'

Among Justin's achievements are the 1994 European Junior Championship and the 1995 World Junior Championship. Now married to Barbara Stawowy-Hackett (WLM Rank 51), he works as a bridge consultant. With many national and worldwide wins,

he continues to represent England with his twin brother and is contributor to Bridge Magazine and co-author of several books. With Jason, he finished ninth in the World Open Pairs Championship in Verona earlier this year.

TEMPLEOGUE BRIDGE CENTRE

Templeogue bridge centre in which the contest for the Warren Buffet cup is taking place was opened in 1999. The site was provided by the County Council but there was no financial input from central government. The project was financed entirely by its members, who number more than 1,000, and live within a two kilometres radius of the club.

Five clubs which joined the new centre kept their identity in the new complex. Bridge, mainly match-pointed pairs, is played Monday to Friday evenings. The main playing area designed to accommodate 60 tables, is usually filled to capacity. Morning sessions attract 30 to 35 tables. There is parking for 150 cars. Following seven years of use the centre was recently given a face-lift, including new furnishings and fittings, both inside and out. The extension in use as the Vu-graph theatre was completed just in time for this event. It will be used mainly for teaching and coaching.

The two floors above the playing area comprise the headquarters of the Contract Bridge Association of Ireland. The site's close proximity to the motorway makes it an ideal venue for staging national championships, a number of which are held here.

It is no coincidence that Joe Moran, head of the organising committee for the Warren Buffett cup, along with his associates, Brian Healy and Martin Keane, is responsible for building the bridge complex. The centre is run almost entirely voluntarily. Among the volunteers on duty this week, providing the many essential services are numerous members of the local clubs.

Trivia Quiz 3 Money

What is the currency of the following countries?

1. Egypt
2. Thailand
3. France
4. South Africa
5. Russia
6. Turkey
7. Bulgaria
8. India
9. Malta
10. Vietnam

What a Beauty!

By Patrick Jourdain

This deal from the third session of the teams produced fine plays from both the womens pairs; first, a smart defence by Jill Meyers, and then, at a different table, great declarer play by Daniela von Arnim.

The popular contract was Four Spades by North, reached here by the Hackett twins:

Board 6. Dealer East. E/W Vul.

♠ Q 10 9 8 7												
♥ J 6 5 3												
♦ -												
♣ K J 10 2												
♠ A J 4	♠ K											
♥ Q 10 8 7	♣ 9 4											
♦ A	♦ Q 10 9 6 5 3 2											
♣ Q 6 5 4 3	♣ A 8 7											
	<table border="1" style="border-collapse: collapse; width: 40px; height: 40px; margin: 0 auto;"> <tr><td></td><td style="text-align: center;">N</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">W</td><td style="text-align: center;">E</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td></td><td style="text-align: center;">S</td><td></td></tr> </table>		N		W	E			S			
	N											
W	E											
	S											
	♠ 6 5 3 2											
	♥ A K 2											
	♦ K J 8 7 4											
	♣ 9											

West	North	East	South
Meyers	Justin	Levinj	Jason
-	-	2♦	Pass
Pass	2♠	Pass	4♠
All Pass			

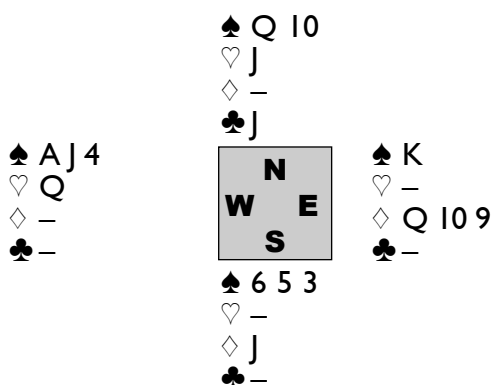
A heart lead from East would allow the defence a chance to set up an early trick in the suit but the actual diamond lead worked equally well. Justin Hackett put in the jack and ruffed out West's ace, but in order to reach the South hand to play on clubs he had to play a heart to hand himself. He now ran the nine of clubs to the ace. Jill Levin won and played a second heart. This was taken by the king, and the king of diamonds led. If West ruffs low declarer can over-ruff and ditch the losing heart on the club king. But Jill Meyers was well aware of this danger. She smartly ruffed with the ace of trumps and cashed her winning heart whilst declarer still had a heart in each hand. Partner's king of trumps later sunk the game.

Now the declarer play, but with the systemic difference that put South at the helm. Your reporter tells the players they are not allowed to eat until they have supplied a story for the Daily Bulletin. After this tale I told Dani she had earned her meal-ticket for the remainder of the event:

West	North	East	South
Gitelman	Auken	Hampson	von Arnim
-	-	Pass	1♠
Pass	4♦	Pass	4♠
All Pass			

Playing Canapé you start with the shorter suit. You would think you can't get much weaker than this for an opening major suit bid, but, as you will see later, the SIX of spades proved vital to declarer's success.

Von Arnim found herself in Four Spades with three top losers and plenty of work to do. Played by North as we could see earlier the defence can get their heart trick before declarer can get the loser away on the club king. Played by South only the double-dummy start of a low trump allows the defence this chance. In the real world Fred Gitelman, West, began with a low club to partner's ace and a heart came back. Dani won the ace and ruffed a diamond, seeing the bare ace come down. She cashed the king of clubs ditching her losing heart and then returned to hand with a heart to lead the king of diamonds. Gitelman gave this a long look, but eventually and correctly decided it was best not to ruff. He threw a heart, as did dummy. On the next diamond West discarded a club and dummy ruffed. Next came a club ruff followed by a further diamond ruff with West discarding his last club. This was the ending with the lead in dummy:



At this point Dani led the heart from dummy. Suppose first East does not ruff. Then declarer makes a small trump and leads another diamond. The defence will only make their two top trumps. So Hampson ruffed with the king of trumps and Dani discarded her last diamond. Gitelman was left all trumps and you might think he was guaranteed two tricks from his holding of AJ4. But you can see what happened when Hampson had to play a diamond. Dani ruffed in hand with that crucial SIX.

Now poor Gitelman had a choice of three poisons. He could ruff high and be forced to lead away from the jack into dummy's Q10, or he could ruff with the jack and find that dummy would over-ruff and lead a club ruffed by declarer's FIVE, or he could under-ruff the six with the four and South would be on lead to ensure dummy made another trump trick!

What a beauty! (I am referring to the deal, of course).

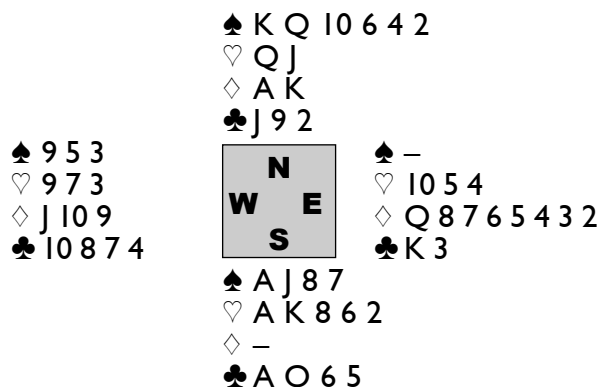
Four Spades making was enough to win the board for Europe.

Grand Extra

By Patrick Jourdain

Here is another auction of interest from the grand slam first reported yesterday:

Board 4. Dealer West. All Vul.

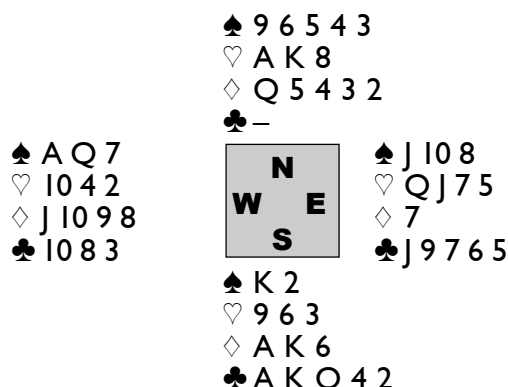


West	North	East	South
Helgemo	Berkowitz	Helness	Cohen
-	1♣(i)	3♦	3♥
4♦	Pass(ii)	5♦	7♦(iii)
Pass	7NT	All Pass	

- (i) Strong Club
- (ii) Pass is stronger than bidding
- (iii) I am void, Pick a grand

When Larry Cohen showed the void diamond and asked partner to pick a grand Berkowitz had the ideal hand for Seven No Trump.

Today's Play Problem Solution



This is a truly simple yet elegant deal. You have many chances to make 3NT:

- Diamonds are 3-2
- Clubs are 4-4
- Spade king is onside
- Maybe residual squeeze chances

Unfortunately, as you can see, none of these chances pans out. Nevertheless, there is a solution: duck the opening diamond lead in both hands! Now you can win the continuation, cash all your minor-suit winners in hand, cross to a heart and take the remaining red-suit winners.

Ron Sukoneck, of North Carolina, USA, found the winning play at the table.

Trivia Quiz 3 Solutions

1. Egyptian Pound
2. Baht
3. Euro
4. Rand
5. Rouble
6. Turkish Lira
7. Lev
8. Rupee
9. Maltese Pound
10. Dong

Individual Round One

At the end of the Teams phase, Europe are on +9 and USA -9, but there are 132 points still up for grabs as there are a total of 132 Individual matches to play, so nothing is decided yet.

Board 1. Dealer North. None Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Hampson</i>	<i>v Arnim</i>	<i>J. Levin</i>	<i>Hanlon</i>
<i>Jansma</i>	<i>Soloway</i>	<i>Justin</i>	<i>Meyers</i>
–	Pass	Pass	1NT
Pass	3NT		

Two straightforward auctions saw Tom Hanlon and Jill Meyers both declare 3NT. Against Meyers, Jan Jansma led the three of spades to the nine and queen. Meyers took the diamond finesse then ran

the ten of hearts, on which Justin Hackett went up with the ace to return the ten of spades to the jack and king. Jansma switched to diamonds now, Meyers finessing again then leading a heart to the jack and queen. Jansma persevered with diamonds, leading the king to dummy's ace and, when Meyers next played a club, Jansma could win the ace and cash the ♦9 for one down; -50.

Geoff Hampson led a diamond against Hanlon, who won the jack and took a finesse of the queen of spades, losing to the king. Hampson switched to a heart to Jill Levin's ace and back came a second heart, which Hanlon won with the king. He cashed the spades then took the diamond finesse before leading a club to establish nine tricks; +400 and win for Europe.

Board 2. Dealer East. N/S Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Hampson</i>	<i>v Arnim</i>	<i>J. Levin</i>	<i>Hanlon</i>
–	–	Pass	1♦
2NT	Pass	3♦	Pass
3♠	Pass	4♥	All Pass
West	North	East	South
<i>Jansma</i>	<i>Soloway</i>	<i>Justin</i>	<i>Meyers</i>
–	–	Pass	1♦
1♥	Pass	1♠	2♦
3♠	Pass	4♠	All Pass

Hampson showed a heart/club two-suiter with his 2NT overcall and Levin cuebid then bid 4♥ after Hampson had completed the picture of his hand by showing the spade fragment.

Hanlon led the king of diamonds, which Levin ruffed. She proceeded to lead a heart to her ace then a spade to dummy's nine. When that held Levin was well-placed. She continued by playing ace of clubs and ruffing a club, then playing her remaining heart. Hanlon won the ♥K but that was all for the defence; twelve tricks for +480.

Jansma started with a simple overcall then strongly supported Justin's spades. Justin ruffed the diamond lead in dummy and ran the ♥Q to Meyers' king. He won the heart return in hand and ruffed a diamond then played off the top clubs, throwing a diamond

from hand. He next ruffed a club with the ace of trumps, crossed to the ♠K and led a winning heart, ruffed by Meyers, who cashed a diamond but that was all for the defence; ten tricks for +420 but a win to USA.

Board 3. Dealer South. E/W Vul.

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

West <i>Hampson</i>	North <i>v Arnim</i>	East <i>J. Levin</i>	South <i>Hanlon</i>
–	–	–	Pass
1♦	1♥	1♠	2♦
3♠	Pass	4♠	All Pass
West <i>Jansma</i>	North <i>Soloway</i>	East <i>Justin</i>	South <i>Meyers</i>
–	–	–	Pass
1♦	1♥	1♠	2♥
3♠	Pass	4♠	All Pass

Hanlon's 2♦ bid was a transfer so the auctions were effectively the same.

Against Justin, Meyers led the jack of clubs, which declarer won in dummy to play a heart. Soloway went in with the queen and returned a club, won in hand to take a heart ruff. Justin played ace of spades and a spade to the king then ruffed her last heart. There was a trump and a diamond to lose; ten tricks for +620.

Play followed the same lines at the other table. The only variation was that von Arnim played low on the heart lead so it was Hanlon who won the defensive heart trick; flat at +620.

Board 4. Dealer West. All Vul.

♠ KJ 9 4 ♥ K 9 6 5 4 2 ♦ 5 4 ♣ 9	<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		♠ Q 7 5 3 ♥ AJ 8 3 ♦ AQ 8 ♣ 4 3	♠ 10 ♥ – ♦ KJ 10 9 3 ♣ AKJ 10 8 7 5
	N											
W		E										
	S											

♠ A 8 6 2	♥ Q 10 7
♦ 7 6 2	♣ Q 6 2

West <i>Hampson</i>	North <i>v Arnim</i>	East <i>J. Levin</i>	South <i>Hanlon</i>
Pass	1♦	5♣	Dble
All Pass			
West <i>Jansma</i>	North <i>Soloway</i>	East <i>Justin</i>	South <i>Meyers</i>
Pass	1♦	5♣	All Pass

Both East players decided that the practical approach was to overcall 5♣ and shut out the major suits. Hanlon doubled while Meyers passed with the South cards.

Meyers cashed the ace of spades then switched to a diamond to Soloway's ace. He returned a club and Justin finessed, losing to the queen. The queen of hearts was covered by the king and ace and ruffed, and Justin drew the outstanding trumps then played king and jack of diamonds; down two for –200.

Hanlon led the two of diamonds to von Arnim's ace. She switched to a trump and Levin finessed, losing to the queen. Now Hanlon cashed the ace of spades then switched to the queen of trumps to the king, ace and ruff. As before, declarer drew trumps but eventually had to concede a diamond trick; again down two but the double meant –500 and a win for Europe.

Board 5. Dealer North. N/S Vul.

♠ 3 ♥ QJ 9 7 3 ♦ AQ 9 8 5 ♣ 7 2	<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 8 7 5 4 ♥ 8 4 ♦ 4 2 ♣ A 8 4	♠ AQ 6 ♥ 10 6 5 ♦ K 10 6 ♣ KJ 10 9
	N											
W		E										
	S											

♠ KJ 2	♥ AK 2
♦ J 7 3	♣ Q 6 5 3

West <i>Hampson</i>	North <i>v Arnim</i>	East <i>J. Levin</i>	South <i>Hanlon</i>
–	Pass	1♣	Pass
1♥	Pass	1NT	Pass
2♥	Pass	Pass	Dble
Pass	2♠	3♥	Pass
4♥	All Pass		
West <i>Jansma</i>	North <i>Soloway</i>	East <i>Justin</i>	South <i>Meyers</i>
–	Pass	1♣	Pass
1♥	Pass	1NT	Pass
2♥	2♠	3♥	All Pass

Jansma/Justin were about to stop in 2♥ when Soloway competed with 2♠. Justin competed to 3♥ and there the matter rested. Soloway led a spade so Jansma took dummy's ace and played a heart. The ♥J

scored so he tried a club now, the nine losing to the queen, and Meyers cashed the top hearts then exited with a diamond. There was the ace of clubs to lose; nin etricks for +140.

Hampson/Levin had stopped in 2♥ when Hanlon balanced with a double and now the Americans decided to teach him a lesson by bidding their thin game.

Hampson won the diamond lead and played a heart, won the diamond return and played another heart. Again a diamond came back so he won, cashed a couple of rounds of trumps, then had to decide whether to take the spade finesse or guess the clubs for his tenth trick. After some thought he went for the spade finesse so was down one for -50 and another board to Europe.

Board 6. Dealer East. E/W Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Hampson</i>	<i>v Arnim</i>	<i>J. Levin</i>	<i>Hanlon</i>
–	–	1♣	Pass
1♦	Pass	2♣	Pass
3♣	Pass	3♥	Dble
3♠	Dble	Pass	Pass
3NT	All Pass		
West	North	East	South
<i>Jansma</i>	<i>Soloway</i>	<i>Justin</i>	<i>Meyers</i>
–	–	1♣	Pass
1♦	Pass	2♣	Pass
2♠	Dble	3♣	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

Both Wests eventually declared 3NT. Von Arnim led a heart, and Hanlon allowed dummy's queen to win the trick. Hampson cashed the top clubs and, when they failed to break evenly, took the diamond finesse and cashed out the diamonds. He exited with a heart now but the defence had the rest for down one; -100.

Soloway also led a heart, but Meyers won and returned the suit. Again declarer cashed the top clubs then ran the diamonds and once again the defenders had no difficulty in keeping four more winners; down one for -50 and a flat board. That completed a 4-2 win for Europe in this match, but the session was shared, with a win, a draw and a loss for each team.

Win Some, Lose Some

By Patrick Jourdain

In the fourth session of the Teams, Steve Weinstein and Bobby Levin faced Sabine Auken and Daniela von Arnim, Weinstein earned a swing for the USA on the first of our three deals, but Bobby Levin found the winning lead on the third:

Board 18. Dealer East. N/S Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>von Arnim</i>	<i>Levin</i>	<i>Auken</i>	<i>Weinstein</i>
–	–	2♠(i)	Dble
Pass	3♣(ii)	Pass	3♠
Dble(iii)	Rdbl(iv)	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

- (i) Weak
- (ii) Levin & Weinstein do not use Lebensohl, preferring to keep 2NT to seek a minor, so the 3♣ bid was natural with a wider range of strength
- (iii) I don't want a spade lead
- (iv) Clever idea by Bobby Levin to show a spade stop but get South to be declarer

Steve Weinstein was in Three No Trump as South. Dani led the ♠9 round to the bare king and declarer played ace and another club. On this East pitched a discouraging ♦9, a card that the defence needed later. A second spade was taken by dummy's ace and the clubs cleared, East now throwing a spade. West switched to a heart, to the king and ace. Weinstein cashed the two winning clubs, throwing a diamond from hand, and West could only throw one heart and one diamond. Next came a diamond to the king and ace. West was able to exit with a diamond, but found herself on play a trick later, endplayed into leading away from the jack of hearts into declarer's Q10.

If East's diamonds are retained, and West carefully throws a middle one, then the defence can leave East with the wining diamond, and the endplay fails.

The Women had their revenge on the very next board:

Board 19. Dealer South. E/W Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>von Arnim</i>	<i>Levin</i>	<i>Auken</i>	<i>Weinstein</i>
–	–	–	Pass
1♥	Pass	2♣(i)	Pass
2NT(ii)	Pass	3NT	All Pass

- (i) Artificial game force
- (ii) 11-13 Balanced

Von Arnim was declarer in Three No Trump as West. Bobby Levin as North made his standard lead of a fourth highest spade. On this occasion that cost a trick because declarer was able to play low from dummy and obtain three tricks in the suit.

Weinstein put on the ace and returned the suit, missing the needed club switch. Later Dani set up a tenth trick in hearts in a contract where some tables had failed.

On the next deal N/S can make 11 tricks in spades but more than one table doubled Five Diamonds, and the outcome there looked to depend on the lead:

Board 22. Dealer East. E/W Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>von Arnim</i>	<i>Levin</i>	<i>Auken</i>	<i>Weinstein</i>
–	–	Pass	4♠
Pass	Pass	Dble	Pass
5♦	Dble	All Pass	

If North leads a spade declarer can make Five Diamonds, but Bobby Levin led ace and another club and was able to cash a club trick when in with the ace of trumps.

The play on the same deal was more exciting at another table:

West	North	East	South
<i>Gitelman</i>	<i>Verhees</i>	<i>Hampson</i>	<i>Jansma</i>
–	–	Pass	4♠
Pass	Pass	Dble	Rdbl
5♦	Dble	All Pass	

Jansma said afterwards his intention in re-doubling was to show extra values, but realised it was reasonable to interpret it as meaning a desire to defend rather than to invite North to proceed to Five Spades.

Against Five Diamonds doubled, Verhees led a spade, giving declarer the chance of making his contract if he starts by clearing trumps, and relies on the defence being unable to take three clubs. But, when dummy ruffed, Jansma dropped his lowest spade. This was because he had a club honour and nothing in hearts. However, it persuaded Gitelman that South probably held the ace of clubs. Furthermore, declarer decided that a man who opened Four Spades was unlikely to have a four-card major on the side. In which case he could save a trick by playing on hearts before trumps.

Having reasoned thus, declarer unblocked the hearts, took a second spade ruff and played the king of hearts, ditching a club from hand.

Unlucky! North ruffed and cashed the ace of clubs to put the sacrifice back to defeat.



Jan Jansma