

Thursday September 21st (Evening)

Bulletin 4

Editors: Brian Senior & Patrick Jourdain

TEAM USA WINS

The USA won the inaugural Warren Buffett Cup with a round to spare. After a bad start to the final day, USA came on strong either side of the lunchbreak to clinch a richly deserved victory with a score of +23.

Though there have to be winners and losers, I think we would all agree that everyone involved this week has been a winner, and let us all hope that the tournament will be held again in USA in two years time, when the Europeans will be looking for revenge. (Or maybe we will feel that we have gained sufficient revenge when Europe beat USA in the Ryder Cup this weekend?)

Team USA



Team EUROPE

Results Round-Up

The scoring for the Warren Buffett Cup follows a Plus and Minus system, however, if we want to look at the contributions of each individual player, it is easier to award points for each win or draw. In the Individual phase, this is very straightforward, as there was one point for a win. In the Pairs phase, there were two points for a win – one point per player. In the Teams phase there were three points for a win, which translates to three-quarters of a point per team member (and an ugly 0.375 per draw). Here, I simply award one point for a win and a half for a draw. You can decide for yourself how valid is the scoring below, which will give a different result to that produced by the official scoring system, but it at least gives a rough guide to the contributions made by each player to his or her team's cause. 11 points would be average.

	<u>Teams</u>	<u>Pairs</u>	<u>Individual</u>	
Team Europe	W-D-L	W-D-L	W-D-L	Points
Sabine Auken	2-1-3	2-1-2	1-4-6	9
Daniela von Arnim	2-1-3	2-1-2	2-3-6	9.5
Norberto Bocchi	6-0-0	2-0-3	3-3-5	12.5
Giorgio Duboin	6-0-0	2-0-3	4-3-4	13.5
Jason Hackett	2-0-4	0-3-2	2-5-4	8
Justin Hackett	2-0-4	0-3-2	4-3-4	9
Paul Hackett	–	–	0-2-4	1
Tom Hanlon	6-0-0	2-1-2	3-1-7	12
Geir Helgemo	2-0-4	2-3-0	3-4-4	10.5
Tor Helness	2-0-4	2-3-0	2-5-4	10
Jan Jansma	2-1-3	2-2-1	3-3-5	10
Hugh McGann	6-0-0	2-1-2	1-4-6	11.5
Louk Verhees	2-1-3	2-2-1	0-4-1	7.5
(Louk Verhees/Paul Hackett)				(8.5)
Team USA				
David Berkowitz	1-0-5	2-1-2	6-4-1	11.5
Larry Cohen	1-0-5	2-1-2	4-3-4	9
Fred Gitelman	3-1-2	1-2-2	4-4-3	11.5
Bob Hamman	3-0-3	2-1-2	4-7-0	13
Geoff Hampson	3-1-2	1-2-2	6-2-3	12.5
Bobby Levin	3-1-2	2-3-0	6-4-1	15
Jill Levin	1-0-5	3-0-2	4-3-4	9.5
Zia Mahmood	3-0-3	0-3-2	4-5-2	11
Jill Meyers	1-0-5	3-0-2	7-1-3	11.5
Paul Soloway	3-0-3	2-1-2	6-3-2	13
Roy Welland	3-0-3	0-3-2	4-5-2	11
Steve Weinstein	3-1-2	2-3-0	5-3-3	13.5



**The Warren
Buffett Cup
2006
Organising
Committee:**

**Joe Moran,
Paul Hackett,
B.J. O'Brien
and
Paul Porteous**

Individual Match I

By Patrick Jourdain

We gave the action in yesterday's Bulletin for one match on Board 2. But there was more to tell:

Board 2. Dealer East. N/S Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
R. Levin	Helness	Berkowitz	Jason H.
–	–	Pass	1♦
1♥	Pass	2♦(i)	Pass
4♦(ii)	Pass	4♠(iii)	Pass
5♥	Pass	5NT(iv)	Pass
6♣	Pass	6♥(v)	All Pass

- (i) Good Raise
- (ii) Splinter, ambitious opposite a Passed hand
- (iii) Cuebid
- (iv) Pick a slam
- (v) No, not that one, I meant hearts or spades

The rest of the field were trying for overtricks in four of a major, so Bobby Levin had his work cut out in Six Hearts.

The defence led a diamond. He ruffed, took ace of clubs and a club ruff, before trying a spade to the nine. When that worked he breathed a sigh of relief and continued with ace and another trump. His two small clubs disappeared on the spades. If you bid 'em up you must play 'em up. Six Hearts made was a win on the board for the USA.

At two other tables there was an interesting defensive problem in the battle for 11 tricks:

West	North	East	South
Bocchi	Gitelman	Duboin	Hamman
Cohen	Helgemo	Weinstein	Verhees
–	–	Pass	1♦
1♥	Pass	2♦	Pass
4♥	All Pass		

Identical auctions at comparison tables led to Four Hearts by West. The play also started the same way: diamond lead ruffed, heart jack loses to the king, a second diamond ruffed, and a spade to the jack loses.

That was the end of 12 tricks, but what about 11?

You might expect South to continue automatically with a third diamond. But that actually makes declarer's task an easy one. In effect, you have assisted a dummy reversal. Declarer would ruff, lay down the queen of hearts, overtake the king of spades in order to draw the last trump with dummy's ace, on which one club goes away, and two more disappear on the spades.

Both Hamman and Verhees were up to spotting this point. They carefully avoided assisting declarer with a third diamond. Instead, Verhees made the smart play of returning a spade, complicating declarer's communications.

Larry Cohen had ten easy tricks, but what was the best way to make the extra one? South was already marked with 13 points. If he also had the queen of clubs he might have opened INT. Furthermore, as he had long diamonds, he was quite likely to be short in both majors.

So Cohen eventually decided to win the second spade in dummy with the ten, ruff the third diamond himself, lay down the heart queen, cash the top clubs disposing of his last diamond, and then overtake the spade king. When South was unable to ruff Cohen was able to draw the last trump and claim 11 tricks.

At the other table Hamman spotted the same point as Verhees, but instead returned a trump. Bocchi, no doubt going through the same logic as Cohen, found the way to the overtrick. He put up the queen of hearts, overtook the king of spades, ruffed the third diamond in his own hand, ditched the last diamond on the top club, and played a spade to dummy. When this held he could draw the last trump to claim 11 tricks. This was a very well earned tie on the board.



The Warren Buffett Cup

Individual Match 4

The fourth match of the Individual phase started off with this wild board which, not altogether surprisingly, produced several different results and a lot of action around the room.

Board 19. Dealer South. E/W Vul.

<p>♠ A 9 6 ♥ Q J 2 ♦ Q J 10 9 5 2 ♣ 8</p>	<table border="1" style="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 Q 10 8 5 3 2 ♥ 5 ♦ 8 ♣ K 10 3 2</p>	<p>♠ – ♥ AK 10 9 6 ♦ AK 3 ♣ AQJ74</p>
	N											
W		E										
	S											

West <i>Helness</i>	North <i>Hampson</i>	East <i>Duboin</i>	South <i>Weinstein</i>
–	–	–	Pass
Pass	4♠	5♠	Pass
5NT	Pass	6♣	Pass
6♦	Pass	6♥	All Pass
West <i>Mahmood</i>	North <i>Jansma</i>	East <i>Cohen</i>	South <i>Bocchi</i>
–	–	–	Pass
2♦	2♠	3♠	Pass
3NT	4♠	5♠	Pass
6♦	All Pass		

Around the room, there were three passers with the West hand, two weak two bids, and one 1♦ opener.

Tor Helness was a passer. Geoff Hampson opened 4♠ and Giorgio Duboin chose the 5♠ cuebid as his way of launching the big two-suiter. Helness offered a choice of contracts via 5NT and Duboin chose first clubs (in case he was facing the minors), then hearts. The grand was never a serious consideration; +1460.

Zia was a weak two opener – I would have picked him as my first choice for this action and he did not disappoint me. Jan Jansma made a simple overcall, perhaps following the old rule about not pre-empting over an opposing pre-empt. When Larry Cohen cuebid 3♠, Zia first showed his spade stopper in case that was what partner had in mind, then settled for the small slam when Cohen made a grand slam try. It was difficult with a queen-high trump suit and another missing ace-king, but the West hand is a maximum for a 2♦ opening, so could Zia have made some kind of non-committal grand slam try over 5♣ – 5NT perhaps?

Anyway, 6♦ made all thirteen tricks for +1370, but that was a win for Europe on the board.

West <i>McGann</i>	North <i>Gitelman</i>	East <i>Hanlon</i>	South <i>Welland</i>
–	–	–	Pass
1♦	4♠	6♠	7♠
Pass	Pass	Dble	All Pass
West <i>Berkowitz</i>	North <i>Helgemo</i>	East <i>Meyers</i>	South <i>Jason H.</i>
–	–	–	Pass
2♦	4♠	7♦	All Pass

David Berkowitz was the other weak two opener. Geir Helgemo overcalled 4♠ and Jill Meyers decided that 7♦ had to have play and that it would be difficult to enlist partner's help in a slow exploration of the grand; +2140.

Hugh McGann was the only player to see a one-level opening in the West cards. I confess that I would have opened 1♦ if my systemic alternative was to pass, but maybe that is why I am writing bulletins rather than being written about in them?

When Fred Gitelman made the pre-emptive 4♠ overcall, Tom Hanlon drove to seven, asking McGann to pick a denomination. However, when Roy Welland saved in 7♠, McGann was not willing to risk 7NT and now Hanlon doubled.

It is easy to say that East 'must hold' the ♥AK, ♦AK, and ♣A, plus a spade void, for the 6♠ bid, but it takes a degree of partnership trust to assume 13 tricks in no trump with the West cards. And what about East. Logically, West's failure to double 7♠ marks him with the ♠A, as he has offered you the option of bidding on. Must he not also have a supply of tricks somewhere, so that perhaps East can bid 7NT?

Seven Spades cost only 1400, so that was a win for USA.

West <i>Justin H.</i>	North <i>B. Levin</i>	East <i>v Arnim</i>	South <i>Hamman</i>
–	–	–	Pass
Pass	4♠	4NT	Pass
5♦	Pass	5♠	6♠
7♦	7♠	Dble	All Pass
West <i>J. Levin</i>	North <i>Auken</i>	East <i>Soloway</i>	South <i>Verhees</i>
–	–	–	Pass
Pass	4♠	5♠	6♠
Pass	Pass	7♣	Pass
7NT	All Pass		

The third match saw two passers with the West cards. Both Norths opened 4♠, but the two Easts chose different bids with which to launch their two-suiters. Daniela von Arnim started with 4NT then cuebid 5♠ when Justin Hackett chose diamonds. Bob Hamman saved in 6♠ but now Justin had a huge hand

on the auction to date and went on to 7♦. However, when Bobby Levin bid 7♠, von Arnim doubled because she did not have the ace of spades, so could not afford to pass as that would have invited partner to bid on and he might have assumed that she did hold the spade stopper.

Again, 7♠ doubled went for 1400.

Paul Soloway started with a 5♠ cuebid and Louk Verhees saved in 6♠. When Jill Levin passed that, Soloway trusted her to have good values so tried 7♣. Levin decided that if partner could bid any grand slam then 7NT rated to be a good spot, and so it proved; +2220 and a win for USA. Well done to the only pair to reach the top spot.

Patrick Jourdain reports on another deal from this session.

In the fourth session of the Individual, regular partners Hanlon and McGann of Team Europe found themselves facing each other, but on this deal it was the USA that won the board:

Board 21. Dealer North. N/S Vul.

<p>♠ A K Q ♥ Q 6 ♦ A Q 9 3 ♣ K Q 5 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 ♥ J 7 ♦ 7 4 2 ♣ J 9 6 2</p>	<p>♠ 6 4 3 2 ♥ K 10 8 4 ♦ K J 10 8 ♣ A</p>																			
	N																														
W		E																													
	S																														
<p>♠ 10 5 ♥ A 9 5 3 2 ♦ 6 5 ♣ 10 8 7 3</p>																															
<table style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <th style="text-align: left;">West</th> <th style="text-align: left;">North</th> <th style="text-align: left;">East</th> <th style="text-align: left;">South</th> </tr> <tr> <td>McGann</td> <td>Gitelman</td> <td>Hanlon</td> <td>Welland</td> </tr> <tr> <td>–</td> <td>1♦</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>1♥</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Dble</td> <td>2♥</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>3♥</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Dble</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>3♠</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>4♥</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Dble</td> <td>All Pass</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table>	West	North	East	South	McGann	Gitelman	Hanlon	Welland	–	1♦	Pass	1♥	Dble	2♥	Pass	3♥	Dble	Pass	3♠	Pass	Pass	4♥	Pass	Pass	Dble	All Pass					
West	North	East	South																												
McGann	Gitelman	Hanlon	Welland																												
–	1♦	Pass	1♥																												
Dble	2♥	Pass	3♥																												
Dble	Pass	3♠	Pass																												
Pass	4♥	Pass	Pass																												
Dble	All Pass																														

Three Hearts was pre-emptive rather than game try, but implying a fifth heart. This was a typical point-a-board auction with each player seeking to buy the hand and the finally someone doubles for penalty.

McGann led a top spade and switched to a trump which declarer was allowed to win cheaply in his own hand. That was good news for declarer as it implied the trumps were 2-2. If so he had a chance of making the contract. Dummy would have two trumps left to cope with two of his clubs, but he would need a diamond winner to take care of the last one. So, even though West was surely marked with the ace of diamonds it would be necessary to play him for the queen as well.

Having worked this out Welland led a diamond to the ten. When that held he was in command. A second spade was won by West, who played a second trump. Welland was actually able to win this in the South hand to lead another diamond at once, but even if the defence had engineered that he had to win in dummy a spade ruff would have solved the problem.

Four Hearts doubled and made was enough to win the board for the USA.

Today's Play Problem

By John Carruthers

Dealer North. All Vul.

♠	10 4 2
♥	Q 9 3
♦	K 10 6 2
♣	K Q J

	N	
W		E
	S	

♠	8 5
♥	A K 10 7 4 2
♦	3
♣	A 10 9 3

West	North	East	South
–	Pass	1♠	2♥
Pass	2♠	3♠	4♥
All Pass			

West leads the three of spades, an obvious singleton. East wins the ace and king of spades, then cashes the ace of diamonds before leading the ♠Q. You ruff with the ace of hearts and cash the king – five, three and six. When you next lead the ♥2, West follows with the eight. Do you play the nine or the queen, and why?

Trivia Quiz 4

Previous Names

What were the previous names of these countries?

1. Thailand
2. Ethiopia
3. Zambia
4. Belize
5. Myanmar
6. Vanuatu
7. Lesotho
8. Surinam
9. Bangladesh
10. Mali

Trump Promotion

Jill Meyers found the killing defence on this deal from Match 6 of the Individual, only to find that she still lost the board!

Board 31. Dealer South. N/S Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Auken</i>	<i>Meyers</i>	<i>Justin H.</i>	<i>Cohen</i>
–	–	–	Pass
1♦	2♠	3♦	All Pass

Meyers led out three rounds of spades for Larry Cohen to ruff and, in response to her suit-preference signal, Cohen switched to a club. Declarer could have saved the day by rising with the ace of clubs and picking up the trumps – she rates to get trumps right on the auction – but this was Board-a-Match scoring and it could cost the board to fail to take a winning finesse.

Declarer ducked the club switch and Meyers won her king. Now she worked out that there was almost certainly no further defensive trick to come outside the trump suit, so led a fourth round of spades, giving declarer a useless ruff and discard.

Declarer was helpless. If she ruffed low in dummy or not at all, Cohen would ruff with his nine, forcing the king and leaving the queen as a later winner. But if declarer ruffed with the jack or ten in dummy, Cohen could simply discard and his trumps would once again be good for an eventual trick.

Three Diamonds was one down on this fine defence, but at the other table East had bid 2NT over the 2♠ bid and 3NT sailed down after a spade lead.

Trivia Quiz 4

Solutions

1. Siam
2. Abyssinia
3. Northern Rhodesia
4. British Honduras

5. Burma
6. New Hebrides
7. Basutoland
8. Netherlands (or Dutch) Guiana
9. East Pakistan
10. French Sudan

Today's Play Problem

Solution

The question you must ask yourself is, 'How did East know to cash the ace of diamonds?' Suppose that you had held:

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

Or similar, he would have just given you an unmakeable contract. It might also not have occurred to him to do so if he had not been looking at the jack of hearts. So you should play the queen.

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

Match Seven

Europe had started the final day very well and increased their overall score to +13, but in the final match of the morning session USA mounted a fight-back.

Board 37. Dealer North. N/S Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Bocchi	J. Levin	McGann	Meyers
–	Pass	Pass	Pass
2♣	Pass	2♦	Pass
2♥	Pass	3♦	Pass
3NT	Pass	4♥	All Pass
West	North	East	South
Weinstein	Justin H.	Berkowitz	Hanlon
–	Pass	Pass	Pass
2♣	Pass	2♦	Pass
2♥	Pass	3♥	Pass
4♥	All Pass		

Both Wests opened 2♣ and forced to game with their 2♥ rebid, reaching 4♥.

Jill Levin and Justin Hackett both led a trump so Norberto Bocchi and Steve Weinstein both won, drew trumps and had eleven tricks for +450 and a halved board.

Board 38. Dealer East. E/W Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Bocchi	J. Levin	McGann	Meyers
–	–	1♥	Pass
2♥	3♣	4♥	5♣
Dble	All Pass		
West	North	East	South
Weinstein	Justin H.	Berkowitz	Hanlon
–	–	1♥	Pass
2♥	3♣	3♦	4♣
4♥	5♣	Dble	All Pass

After identical starts, Hugh McGann jumped to game with the East cards where David Berkowitz preferred to make a game try of 3♦. The final contracts were, however, identical, with both North/South pairs finding the save against a cold game the other way.

McGann led out the top hearts and Levin ruffed the second round, then played the ♣J to dummy's king and ruffed the last heart, drew the last trump while crossing to dummy, and led a diamond up.

Bocchi split his honours so Levin covered, losing to the ace, and the defence played two more rounds of diamonds. There was a spade to lose at the end for down two; –300.

Berkowitz cashed the king of hearts but then switched to a trump at trick two, not wanting to help declarer to make his elimination play. Justin went up with dummy's king to ruff a heart, crossed to dummy with a trump, and ruffed the last heart. Now he played ace and another spades, and was the same two off for –300 and a second halved board.

Board 39. Dealer South. All Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Bocchi	J. Levin	McGann	Meyers
–	–	–	1♦
Pass	1♠	Pass	2♣
Pass	2♥	Pass	3♥
Pass	3NT	All Pass	
West	North	East	South
Weinstein	Justin H.	Berkowitz	Hanlon
–	–	–	1♣
Pass	1♠	Pass	2NT
Pass	3♠	Pass	3NT
Pass	4♣	Pass	4♦
Pass	4NT	Pass	5♣
Pass	5NT	Pass	6♥
Pass	7NT	All Pass	

Perhaps the fact that Levin/Meyers are regular partners helped on this deal, or maybe it was Hanlon's ugly 2NT rebid that set his side on the slippery slope. The Americans perhaps left some values unbid, but I would be much happier to stop in 3NT than try to make a grand slam.

7NT was hopeless on this lie of the cards and drifted two down for –200. Events at the other table suggested that getting too high may have been doubly expensive.

McGann led the ten of clubs against 3NT and Levin won the ace to run the nine of spades to his jack. McGann continued with a second club to declarer's king and Levin cashed all the spades, throwing clubs and hearts from the dummy.

Finally, she judged to take the diamond finesse and Bocchi had two clubs to cash to hold the contract to nine tricks; +600 and what might well have been a losing board on another day proved to be a win to USA.

Board 40. Dealer West. None Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Bocchi	J. Levin	McGann	Meyers
Weinstein	Justin H.	Berkowitz	Hanlon
1♥	Pass	2NT	Pass
3NT	Pass	4♥	All Pass

Both Easts showed good heart raises and both Wests showed extra values but no shortage or second suit. And, with a minimum 2NT response, both Easts signed off in 4♥, ending the auction.

Levin led a trump to declarer's jack and Bocchi drew the last trump then cashed the spades and played a club to the king and ace. Levin switched to a diamond now, to the nine and ten, so there was no possibility of a defensive error; ten tricks for +420.

Justin led a spade. Weinstein won and led a club to the king and ace and Justin did not spot the danger. He exited passively with a second spades so

Weinstein was able to win, draw trumps and play queen and another club to establish the long club in dummy for a diamond discard; eleven tricks for +450 and another board to USA.

Board 41. Dealer North. E/W Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Bocchi	J. Levin	McGann	Meyers
–	Pass	Pass	1NT
Pass	2♦	Pass	2♥
Pass	3NT	Pass	4♥
All Pass			

West	North	East	South
Weinstein	Justin H.	Berkowitz	Hanlon
–	Pass	Pass	1NT
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

Tom Hanlon opened 1NT and was raised directly to game by Justin Hackett, who suspected that his side needed a couple of winning boards to save the match.

Steve Weinstein led a low club and Berkowitz played the king then returned the queen. Hanlon won the third club and played the ♥Q, ducked, and a low heart to the ten. Berkowitz won the ace and led a diamond, so Weinstein won and cashed the clubs; down two for –100.

Meyers also opened 1NT but Levin transferred then jumped to 3NT to offer a choice of games. Bocchi led the jack of clubs and Meyers took her ace immediately to play trumps, McGann holding up until the third round. McGann played two rounds of clubs, forcing dummy to ruff, but Meyers could draw the last trump and cash the spades for ten tricks; +420 and a winning board for USA, sealing the match win.

Board 42. Dealer East. All Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Bocchi	J. Levin	McGann	Meyers
–	–	1♣	Dble
Rdbl	1♦	Pass	Pass
Dble	Pass	1♥	Pass
2NT	All Pass		
West	North	East	South
Weinstein	Justin H.	Berkowitz	Hanlon
–	–	1♣	Dble
Rdbl	1♦	Pass	Pass
2NT	Pass	3♦	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

Both auctions started in the same fashion, but then Weinstein chose to jump to 2NT where Bocchi preferred to look for a penalty. Berkowitz committed his side to game now by cuebidding 3♦, while McGann didn't fancy defending 1♦ doubled so removed to 1♥ then passed Bocchi's jump to 2NT.

Justin led a diamond against 3NT. Hanlon won the

ace and returned the $\diamond 6$ to the queen, ducked. Weinstein led a spade to dummy then continued with dummy's other top honour and picked up four spade tricks. Hanlon covered the third spade so the fourth round was won in dummy, and Weinstein played a club. Hanlon grabbed his ace and led a diamond through and that was down one for -100.

Against 2NT, Levin led a heart, knowing that there were powerful diamonds on her right. Bocchi ducked that to Meyers' king and Meyers switched to a diamond, for the queen and king. Levin reverted to hearts so Bocchi won the queen and played the $\clubsuit K$ to Meyers' ace.

Meyers played ace and another diamond now and Bocchi put in the eight, losing to the ten. However, that was it for the defence – Bocchi was always going to get the spades right; +120 and a win for Europe, but too little too late to save this particular match, which ended 4-2 to USA.

The defence could have defeated 2NT as the play went. When Meyers switched to a low diamond, Bocchi actually needed to play low to make his contract, thereby losing three quick diamond tricks but only a club and a heart apart from that.

On Bocchi's actual play of the $\diamond Q$, North could have ducked to preserve defensive communications, and declarer could not have found an eighth trick without allowing South to gain the lead – and now there are four diamonds to be cashed.

Mind you, there are not many players who would even consider ducking with North's hand, let alone actually find the play.

Individual Session 5

By Patrick Jourdain

The final morning began with two bits of bad news for the event. The father of one of the players had been taken dangerously ill whilst on holiday in Canada. Louk Verhees of the Netherlands booked a flight to Vancouver and would leave after the first set with his place being taken by the non-playing captain of Team Europe, Paul Hackett.

Then, en route between hotel and playing area, the police escort for the Team bus of three Garda motor-cyclists suffered an accident when one was struck by a lorry. We are relieved to report that the damage was a broken arm when it could have been so much worse.

On the previous three days the Garda had provided a cheerful and highly competent escort, and our best wishes go to the injured man, Mick "Johnson" Twomey, for a speedy recovery.

In the first round of the morning the outcome of every match hinged on the final board. When the penultimate deal arrived, the margin in each match was no more than a single board. Although it did not affect the score, with INT-1 the result recorded at all tables, there were some interesting differences in style:

Board 29. Dealer North. All Vul.

\spadesuit A K 7 5		\spadesuit 6 4 3									
\heartsuit Q 5		\heartsuit A 10 9 3									
\diamond Q 10 8 7		\diamond A K 2									
\clubsuit A 6 4		\clubsuit K 8 7									
\spadesuit 9 2	<table border="1" style="border-collapse: collapse; width: 40px; height: 40px; 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		\spadesuit Q J 10 8
	N										
W		E									
	S										
\heartsuit K J 6 2		\heartsuit 8 7 4									
\diamond J 9 4		\diamond 6 5 3									
\clubsuit J 10 9 3		\clubsuit Q 5 2									

West	North	East	South
Berkowitz	Bocchi	Zia	v. Arnim
McGann	Weinstein	Helness	Soloway
Verhees	Gitelman	Justin	R. Levin
Hamman	Helgemo	J. Levin	Auken
Welland	Duboin	Myers	Jansma
Jason	Cohen	Hanlon	Hampson
–	INT	All Pass	

So, from the East seat, would you lead a passive spade or an active, fourth-highest heart?

Particularly at point-a-board, one might expect the passive spade chosen by Zia, but his counterpart at the comparison table, Tor Helness, selected the low heart.

And how would you tackle the hand as declarer on the spade lead from Zia?

Norberto Bocchi tried the well-known yet frequently successful ploy of winning in dummy and playing on his weakest suit, leading a heart to the queen.

Zia was up to this trick, though. He won the heart, continued a spade and later, when in with a diamond, switched to the ten of hearts.

Berkowitz overtook to switch to the jack of clubs, and the defence cashed four hearts, two diamonds and a club for the ubiquitous one off.

Where East led a heart this result came rather quicker... the king won, a low heart came back to the queen and ace, and West, when in with the third or fourth heart, switched to the jack of clubs.

Now came the final board. The first question was would North/South reach game?

Board 30. Dealer East. None Vul.

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

Two pairs reached game, Gitelman/Bobby Levin and Duboin/Jansma. Here are their auctions:

West	North	East	South
<i>Welland</i>	<i>Duboin</i>	<i>Meyers</i>	<i>Jansma</i>
–	–	1♦	1♠
Pass	1NT	2♦	2♥
Pass	3♦	Pass	3NT
Pass	4♥	All Pass	
West	North	East	South
<i>Verhees</i>	<i>Gitelman</i>	<i>Justin</i>	<i>R. Levin</i>
–	–	1♦	1♠
Pass	1NT	2♣	2♥
Pass	3♣	Pass	3NT
Pass	4♥	All Pass	

All declarers picked up the trump layout. Only Sabine Auken, who was in 3♥, then misguessed the spades by finessing the ten. The others all played spades from the top and so made ten tricks.

Closing Speech of Joe Moran –

(Chairman of the Organising Committee)

President Of the WBF Jose Damiani, President of the CBAI Doreen McInerney, President of the IBU Florence Boyd, President of the EBU Denis Robson, Captain of the USA Donna Compton, Captain of Europe Paul Hackett, Players and Guests.

It is my privilege, on behalf of the organising committee, to welcome you to this our banquet. A banquet is defined as a celebratory feast & I know you will agree when I say that we all have something to celebrate this evening. The performance of the players who treated us to a feast of World Class Bridge, & the voluntary workers who literally worked their socks off to show all of us that they could & did run all aspects of this tournament with efficiency & professionalism, only equalled by their charm and desire to please.

A lot of people helped to get this idea of the ground. Paul Hackett & B.J. O'Brien, Al Levy & Bob Hamman

who planted the seeds, Denis Robson, chairman of Byrom PLC, who made Ryder Cup tickets available, & our sponsors, who gave us money to oil the wheels of Finance – oh, we did give them some Ryder Cup Tickets as a token of our appreciation. Paul Porteous and I decided, after much questioning of B.J. & Paul, to run with it – Paul Porteous, with his professional and committed team of Valerie Mathers & Hilary Dowling-Long, worried about the financial aspect and I fretted over the amount of work I'd have to do. Maybe it was the other way around. However ,BJ, your powers of persuasion worked, the acorn was planted and this week the oak was visible for all of us to see and appreciate

A huge thank you to the Captains & you the players of the American & European teams; you were billed as World Class & you proved you are. We thank your coach driver who, with the aid of the Garda & the two charming hostesses, Mary & Gilda, got you to the venue on time.

To Fred Gitleman and Willem, who gave us BBO, to Jonathan Davis and Ivan who gave us a wonderful web site, to our Bulletin editors, Brian Senior & Patrick Jourdain, to all our vugraph commentators from home and abroad, to you all we say a sincere thank you.

We have this week seen World Class Players but we are also very proud that we have also seen a World Class TD – Fearghal O'Boyle & your assistants who made this event run so smoothly. Thank you, thank you.

The venue has been universally praised. I would like to thank the President and members of the five constituent clubs who forewent their weekly game to facilitate us. A special thank you to the trustees ,Briain Healy and Martin Keane who ensured that the renovations & decorations were brought in in time – just in time!

To the scorers & table hosts, to the burly but charming crowd control men, to the security personnel we say congratulations on a job well done& thank you.

The catering staff – I use the term to cover the many & varied tasks they undertook – were fantastic. I would love to mention them all by name, but time does not permit – but I must mention the charming head girl, Ms Carmel Giubaud Boyle herself. Any words of mine would understate the debt of gratitude we owe you.

A special thank you to our spectators who came in person & through BBO to share this week with us. And to our friends in the press who, thanks to the work of George Ryan, John Comyn and Seamus Dowling, are starting to finally appreciate that this is a World Class Game with 520 Bridge clubs all over this country.

Finally on behalf of the Organising Committee, thanks to every one of you and have a great evening!