

World Bridge News



EXECUTIVE EDITOR
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Last... but not least

This editorial will be my last as President of the World Bridge Federation, as I will step down after 16 years, at the end of the next World Bridge Series in Philadelphia in October, 2010. Let's review what we have accomplished in line with the objectives of the WBF.



The WBF is responsible for the Laws of Duplicate Bridge and these were updated in 1997 and 2007 by the Laws and Drafting Committees. This was necessary to adapt our rules to the new technologies such as screens, bidding boxes and trays, symmetrical cards, duplication, bridge-mates, and the Internet which is such a marvelous tool for all Mind Sports. In addition we maintain and update a very interesting Master's ranking.

It is our mandate to improve the quality and consistency of the Tournament Directors' rulings and Appeals Committee decisions to ensure that the players feel comfortable with those decisions. Thanks to a wonderful group of experts, we built the Code of Practice, which was very well explained and resulted in a steady decrease in the number of appeals. We also revisited our Constitution and By-Laws, updating them to comply fully with our new status as an International Recognized Sports Federation, based in Lausanne under the authority of Swiss Law, subject to compliance with Anti-Doping Regulations and to recognition of the Court of Arbitration. We have also created more balance on the Executive Council with the appointment of more women and a player representative.

The second purpose of the WBF is to organize the World Championships. I believe that we can be proud of the magnificent venues we found in almost all of our zones, taking care to accommodate both changing world politics and difficult economic times in resolving some critical situations. My sincere thanks go to the host countries and Generali our Corporate sponsor who contributed so much to the success of all the events, freeing the WBF to take care of the technical aspects of the Championships. Congratulations and thanks all our people - a truly international staff - who have worked throughout the years to make our events a showcase.

The third responsibility of the WBF is the promotion of our beloved game. For that, we defined a strategy: to gain official recognition of Bridge as a sport. Acceptance by the IOC, ARISF and Sportaccord has validated our status and helped many NBOs to gain acceptance by their National Olympic Committees, improving both their financial support and their image. In 1994 when I took this office, we had about 90 member countries; in 2010, we now have about 130, gathered in five IOC rings and eight zones, including the recently created African Zone. Unfortunately, too many Federations are not very active, and even the biggest ones can do better, in my view. I have visited all the Zones many times and met with many national Sports and Education Ministers in their countries. We have succeeded in introducing bridge in schools in some countries, and in arranging financial assistance when possible.

With regards to Bridge in Universities, we have developed a close working relationship with FISU.

Youth is the key to our future, and we have been proactive in investing heavily in this demographic group, including a million dollars of support for the 110 youth teams in Beijing in 2008. Although we pay special attention to the youth, we have never neglected the other sectors of our player community: in addition to staging open and women's world championships and events for the superstars (the Generali Masters, for instance), we provide major events for seniors, and for many other players by developing Transnational events which have become very popular.

And, of course, we did our best to enhance and extend publicity for Bridge. On some occasions, such as the IOC Grand Prix in Salt Lake City and the diverse events in Beijing, we received a great deal of media and TV coverage on site and around the world. We still believe that being associated with the other Mind Sports through IMSA and the World Mind Sports Games will give us more and more exposure.

I will try to continue to help in these fields, and I am very confident that my friend and successor, Gianarrigo Rona, will carry on flying the flag high and will maintain the harmony with our colleagues on the Executive, as well as the administrators of the NBOs.

In order to help us to leave the WBF in good health, I beg a favour from you: Please come to play and enjoy our designated hotels in Philadelphia. I would be so pleased to see all my friends there as you, the players, have always been my main concern.

José Damiani, WBF President

• THE 2009 WORLD BRIDGE CHAMPIONSHIPS	Page 2
• 1 st WORLD YOUTH CONGRESS	Page 16
• THE WBF WOMEN'S COMMITTEE	Page 18
• WORLD WIDE BRIDGE CONTEST	Page 19
• 2010 CALENDAR	Page 19
• 2009 WORLD RANKING	Page 20
• JOIN US IN PHILADELPHIA	Page 21



São Paulo, Brazil, August 29 - September 12, 2009



São Paulo 2009

THE WORLD BRIDGE CHAMPIONSHIPS

The 2009 World Bridge Championships were held in São Paulo, Brazil's leading commercial hub with a diverse population of 17 million people which has become an attractive tourist destination.

Although everyone's first thoughts about Brazil would include Carnival time in spectacular Rio de Janeiro which was the venue for Brazil's first (1969) and third (1979) hosting endeavors for the World Bridge Federation's annual events, Brazil had also staged the Championships in 1973 in the resort city of Guarujá and in 1985 in São Paulo.

It is remarkable that Ernesto d'Orsi has organized each of those events save the first, and all have been memorable. The latest edition, at the Hotel Transamerica was no exception; playing conditions and accommodation were comfortable and the technical aspects were handled immaculately; Brazilian hospitality can only be equaled but not surpassed, and no effort was spared to make visitors feel like family.

The World Teams Championship was originally a challenge match between Europe and America for the Bermuda Bowl, but in the 21st Century the World Bridge Championships in odd-numbered years feature a more comprehensive program that includes three major teams events with parallel formats and qualification on a zonal basis, and a fourth increasingly popular teams event open to all.

In São Paulo, in each of the three main events, the 22 teams played a complete round robin of 16-board matches, three a day for seven days, followed by 96-board quarterfinals and semifinals. The Bermuda Bowl final was a 128-board match played over three days, but both the Venice Cup and freshly-minted d'Orsi Senior Bowl finals were two-day 96-deal matches.



THE 39TH BERMUDA BOWL

THE ROUND ROBIN

Italy, with Antonio Sementa replacing Norberto Bocchi as Giorgio Duboin's partner, was the betting favorite, though there was plenty of support for defending champion Norway despite the absence of Helgemo/Helness, the traditional Italian arch-rival USA2 (with Ralph Katz stepping in to partner Nick Nickell following the death of Dick Freeman shortly after the American Trials, and Zia Mahmood replacing the late Paul Soloway to partner Bob Hamman), and the consistent Team Orange from the Netherlands. USA1, a seasoned team of non-professionals, had gone undefeated in their Trials and figured to contend for a place in the knockout, along with Russia, Germany, Bulgaria, China (sponsored by Long Zhu), Japan, Argentina, with Brazil, Chinese Taipei, India, and Chile starting as long shots to qualify.

USA1 and Brazil got off to dreadful starts and were never in contention. Argentina's fortunes followed the opposite curve: among the qualifiers for much of the round robin and in the end were involved in a battle with Germany and China Long Zhu for two places in the knockout stage only to fall short – three draws on the last day were not enough as their closest rivals recorded some big wins to get the job done. Russia, which seemed certain to qualify going into the last day, suffered two big losses in Rounds 20 and 21, but remained in the top eight despite some anxious moments.

RR17-Board 16 Dealer South Vul: E/W	♠ K 9 8 7 6 ♥ 10 8 6 ♦ A ♣ A K 10 2				
♠ 5 4 3 2 ♥ A K 7 5 4 ♦ Q 5 2 ♣ 9	<table border="1"> <tr><td>N</td><td>E</td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td>S</td></tr> </table>	N	E	W	S
N	E				
W	S				
	♠ - ♥ Q J 9 2 ♦ 10 8 3 ♣ Q J 8 6 5 3				
	♠ A Q J 10 ♥ 3 ♦ K J 9 7 6 4 ♣ 7 4				

When Italy and Pakistan met in Round 17, Italy stood second, 1 VP behind Norway, while Pakistan was mired in 17th position, going nowhere. There is always something to play for in a World Championship match, however, with the respect of one's opponents and pride of performance ranking high on such a list. The Italians will surely remember Pakistan's Hasan Askari for years to come after his performance on this deal.

Both N/S pairs did well to reach 6♠ on their combined 25 HCP, assisted to a certain degree by the busy heart bidding of E/W.

Open Room				
West	North	East	South	
Fantoni	Hussain	Nunes	Mazhar	
—	—	—	1♦	
1♥	1♠ ⁽¹⁾	4♥	4♣	
5♥	6♠/			
(1) At least 5 spades				
Closed Room				
West	North	East	South	
Askari	Sementa	Mohiuddin	Duboin	
—	—	—	1♦	
1♥	Dble ⁽¹⁾	4♥	4♣	
Pass	5♣ ⁽²⁾	Pass	5♦	
Pass	5NT ⁽³⁾	Pass	6♠/	
(1) 4/5 spades (2) Club control, odd number of Key Cards (3) Slam drive, but no first-round heart control				

In the Open Room Mirza Shauq Hussain got the lead of the ♣Q from East and took note of West's nine. Declarer could not afford to concede a heart if the clubs were foul, so he cashed the ♦A, crossed to a trump, cashed the ♦K, ruffed a diamond, drew trumps ending in dummy, and claimed, +1430.

At the other table, Askari, mindful of concealing the threat of a club ruff from declarer, led two rounds of hearts against Giorgio Duboin. With his communications fluid now, Duboin's best line of play was a high cross-ruff, which required only that the ♦A (5-1 diamonds) and ♣AK (5-2 clubs) could be cashed: one diamond, two clubs, five trumps in North and four trumps in South. If declarer follows that line, however, he will go down when West ruffs the second club.

There is a somewhat inferior (as it requires 3-3 diamonds or doubleton queen) but ultimately successful line available: ♦A, ♠J, ♦K, diamond ruff, ♠A, high diamonds through West; if West ruffs, over-ruff and draw West's last trump in hand to finish diamonds; if West discards, dispose of losers and draw trumps.

After ruffing the second heart Duboin led a club to the king and cashed the ♦A before committing himself; Askari followed in tempo with the ♦Q. If that were a true card the winning line was the cross-ruff, which Duboin had been intending to adopt all along; the ♦Q had apparently provided an extra piece of evidence for him. He called for the ♣A and was sorely disappointed to see it ruffed on his left. With murder in his heart (as Terence Reese wrote in "Play Bridge with Reese" many years ago), Duboin congratulated Askari for his well-judged false card.

It would make a better story if Pakistan had upset Italy on the final deal, but Italy prevailed 20-10 despite losing 17 IMPs on this slam swing.

For the Quarterfinals, Italy had earned the right to choose its opponents and selected Russia; Norway chose China, Bulgaria Germany, leaving USA2 with the Netherlands. Finishing fourth brings no reward. Italy also was entitled to select the other Quarterfinal match to

Final Round Robin rankings

1	Italy	390	12	USA 1	301.50
2	Norway	385	13	Chile	298
3	Bulgaria	382	14	India	296
4	USA2	368	15	New Zealand	294
5	Netherlands	361	16	Egypt	288
6	Germany	360	17	Brazil	283
7	Russia	359	18	Australia	276
8	China Long Zhu	358	19	Pakistan	232.50
9	Argentina	346	20	Morocco	225
10	Japan	330	21	Mexico	183.50
11	Chinese Taipei	328	22	Guadeloupe	172.50



complete its bracket and opted for Bulgaria/Germany, carefully leaving both Norway and USA2 in the other half, delaying a possible encounter with one of those traditional rivals until the Final.

THE QUARTERFINALS (96 boards)

Italy (Giorgio Duboin/Antonio Sementa, Fulvio Fantoni/Claudio Nunes, Lorenzo Lauria/Alfredo Versace, NPC Maria Teresa Lavazza, Coach Massimo Ortensi) carried forward 6.50 IMPs against Russia (Andrei Gromov/Alexander Dubinin, Vadim Kholomeev/Jouri Khyuppenen, Georgi Matushko/Jouri Khokhlov), and figured to be thankful to have those IMPs in the bag. Indeed, Russia took the lead after two sets and were behind by less than the carryover difference after four. The fifth segment decided the match as Italy picked up 40 IMPs and Russia could make no headway in the final set; Italy by 48.50.

	c/o	1	2	3	4	5	6	Total
1 Italy	6.50	27	32	45	33	56	35	234.50
7 Russia		32	39	30	38	16	31	186

Norway (Boye Brogeland/Espen Lindqvist, Eric Saelensminde/Per-Erik Austberg, Glenn Groetheim/Ulf Tundal, NPC Sten Bjertnes, Coach Harald Skjaeran) could not have been unhappy to face the team finishing 8th in the round robin, based on that result and China's history of getting no further than the quarterfinals of the Bermuda Bowl, but China Long Zhu (Jianming Dai/Lixin Wang, Zhong Fu/Jie Zhao, Weimin Wang/Zejun Zhuang, NPC Gang Chen, Coach Jihong Hu) had performed well against the stronger teams and had three solid experienced partnerships; a fierce battle was certainly a live possibility. Norway's tiny carryover advantage of 2.50 IMPs didn't stand up for long as China Long Zhu won each of the first three sets – the third by a wide margin – to build a significant halftime lead of 69.50. The next morning Norway had its first good set and recouped 29 IMPs, but China Long Zhu picked up 7 in the 5th set and led by 47.50 with 16 boards to play. China's knockout matches are always dramatic and tend to include sessions with huge gains and others with heavy losses. Inevitably, the 6th set was in

keeping with China's *modus operandi* and Norway scored early and often, but when the music stopped China Long Zhu could breathe easier; Norway had gained 45 IMPs and had taken the lead with two deals to play, but China Long Zhu gained 5 IMPs on Board 95 and hung on to win by 2.50 IMPs.

	c/o	1	2	3	4	5	6	Total
8 China Long Zhu		44	31	50	27	33	12	197
2 Norway	2.50	30	17	6	56	26	57	194.50

A practice match had been arranged in Sao Paulo between USA2 (Nick Nickell / Ralph Katz, Bob Hamman / Zia Mahmood, Jeff Meckstroth / Eric Rodwell, NPC Donna Compton, Coach Eric Kokish) and Netherlands (Bas Drijver/Sjoert Brink, Bauke Muller/Simon de Wijs, Huub Bertens/Ton Bakkeren, NPC Eric Laurant, Coach Anton Maas) to help both teams get themselves "played in" for the main event, and the Orange men had earned bragging rights in that encounter. The Americans started with a 5-IMP lead and built it to 36 after two sets. Netherlands got most of those IMPs back in Set 3, but USA2 was back in business the next morning and established a 35-IMP cushion with 16 boards remaining. The Dutch had much the better of the exchanges down the home stretch, but the Americans held on to prevail by 14.

	c/o	1	2	3	4	5	6	Total
4 USA 2	5	46	39	11	47	45	21	214
5 Netherlands		26	28	44	23	37	42	200

Bulgaria (Julian Stefanov / Victor Aronov, Roumen Trendafilov / Kalin Karaivanov, Dyan Danailov / Georgi Karakolev, NPC Vladislav Isporski) started with the maximum carryover of 16 IMPs against Germany (Josef Piekarek / Alexander Smirnov, Michael Elinescu / Entscho Wladow, Michael Gromoeller / Andreas Kirmse, NPC Helmut Hausler) but the match was tied after two segments. Bulgaria had a strong third set, gaining 33 IMPs and built the lead to 46 with one session remaining. Germany rallied to recoup 20 IMPs but ran out of boards, Bulgaria winning by 26.

	c/o	1	2	3	4	5	6	Total
6 Germany		35	25	37	60	32	56	245
3 Bulgaria	16	22	22	70	59	46	36	271

This deal, from the fourth set, helped USA2 right its foundering ship against Netherlands:

QF4-Board 59
Dealer South
Vul: None

♠ 8 7 5 4
♥ 9
♦ K 7 5 3 2
♣ 10 8 5

♠ K Q J
♥ J 10 7
♦ 8 6
♣ A K Q J 6

♠ A 9
♥ K Q 8 5
♦ A J 10 9
♣ 9 4 3

♠ 10 6 3 2
♥ A 6 4 3 2
♦ Q 4
♣ 7 2

Open Room			
West	North	East	South
Rodwell	Drijver	Meckstroth	Brink
—	—	—	Pass
1♣ ⁽¹⁾	1♦	1NT	Pass
3NT	Pass	4NT	Pass
5NT	Pass	6NT /	
(1) Strong			
Closed Room			
West	North	East	South
Bakkeren	Nickell	Bertens	Katz
			Pass
1♣	Pass	1♥	Pass
2NT	Pass	3♣ ⁽¹⁾	Pass
3♦ ⁽²⁾	Pass	4♣	Pass
4NT	Pass	6NT /	
(1) Relay; (2) 5 clubs			

It takes a diamond lead to beat 6NT and Drijver's brave 1♦ overall seemed to be just what was required to get the job done in the Open Room, but the Americans had bid notrump five times without suggesting a long suit, and Brink thought he might score the ♦Q if he led something else; why not try to force a heart guess at Trick 1 if the ♥K were in dummy and the ♥Q in Drijver's hand? His lead of the ♥3 was not a big success this time; +990.

Although it's often best to lead aggressively against a slam this strategy is not as common against notrump slams when both the opponents' hands are relatively balanced. Here, where declarer had a club suit that seemed to be running, Nickell felt that even if leading a diamond conceded a trick it would probably not be the slam-fulfilling trick, and though hearts would not be breaking well for declarer, the defense would



Final-Board 61
Dealer North
Both Vul.

♠ 9 7 4
♥ 10 6
♦ Q 9 7 5
♣ A 8 7 3

♠ Q J 5 2
♥ J 9 3 2
♦ K J 6
♣ 10 6

♠ K 10 8 3
♥ K Q 7
♦ A 10 4
♣ K Q 2

♠ A 6
♥ A 8 5 4
♦ 8 3 2
♣ J 9 5 4

awake to the implications; he led ace and another heart, came in with the trump ace and gave Katz a heart ruff; the ♣A was the setting trick. One down, -100, gave 12 IMPs to USA.

Although there weren't many IMPs exchanged in the final segment the boards were quite lively. This was one of the flat boards that left both teams lamenting a huge missed opportunity.

Both North players opened with a one-bid and saw no reason to dislike their hand later in the auction facing four-card support and some high cards. As E/W were vulnerable, however, it was not completely clear – especially in the Open Room – which side “owned” the hand, and the West players both believed that their second double was penalty rather than an attempt to cancel the lead-directing message they intended with their first double. The fact that both Hamman and Lauria led the ♣K seems to indicate they felt (1) West might have strong diamonds (with South short in that suit) and a club void, or (2) West had diamonds and was doubling for penalty, in which case the club lead could hardly cost.

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Rodwell	Lauria	Meckstroth	Versace
—	Pass	1♣ ⁽¹⁾	Pass
2♦ ⁽²⁾	Pass	3NT /	

(1) Strong; (2) 8-10 balanced

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Nunes	Katz	Fantoni	Nickell
—	Pass	1♣	Pass
1♦ ⁽¹⁾	Pass	1NT ⁽²⁾	Pass
2♣ ⁽³⁾	Pass	2♦ ⁽⁴⁾	Pass
2NT ⁽⁵⁾	Pass	3♥	Pass
3NT ⁽⁶⁾	Pass	4♠ /	

(1) 0-11, 4+H; (2) 15-17 balanced <4♥; (3) Relay
(4) Maximum; (5) 7-9 Relay; (6) 4♠/4♥

Final-Board 121
Dealer North
EW Vul.

♠ A K 10
♥ Q J 8 5 3 2
♦ 10 7 6 5
♣ -

♠ J 9 8 4 3
♥ A 10
♦ -
♣ 10 9 7 6 5 2

♠ Q 7 5 2
♥ -
♦ K J 4 3 2
♣ K Q J 3

♠ 6
♥ K 9 7 6 4
♦ A Q 9 8
♣ A 8 4

Both declarers eventually finessed against the king-jack of diamonds for +1210. It's easy to take exception with East's lead or with West's second double (the BBO commentators were quick to tell the viewers that they would lead a club because the second double canceled the lead-directional message of the first) or with the lack of a clear partnership agreement for this situation, but the competitive nature of the auction and the possible need for E/W to protect their equity when N/S were taking an “insurance” sacrifice had created enough mystery to make this a difficult situation.

Meckstroth could have investigated spades but partnership style is to reach 3NT as soon as possible with 4333, giving nothing away in the auction. Here 3NT was cold and yielded an overtrick on a heart lead and early club switch; +630.

The careful exploratory auction by Fantoni / Nunes revealed that they were four-three in hearts, and Nickell, a morning person all his life, was wide

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Zia	Sementa	Hamman	Duboin
—	1♥	Dble	2NT ⁽¹⁾
4♠	5♥	5♠	6♦
Dble	Pass	Pass	6♥
Dble /			

(1) 4-card ♥ support; limit raise or strong

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Versace	Rodwell	Lauria	Meckstroth
—	1♥	Double	3♣ ⁽¹⁾
4♠	Pass	Pass	5♦
Dble	6♥	Pass	Pass
Dble /			

(1) FG ♥ raise

USA led by 35 IMPs with seven deals to play. Had Lauria led a diamond the American lead would have been down to 19 IMPs, with momentum at Italy's back.



39th Bermuda Bowl
Gold: USA2

Above, left to right:
Zia Mahmood,
Bob Hamman,
Eric Rodwell,
Coach Eric Kokish,
Jeff Meckstroth,
NPC Donna Compton,
NPC Donna Compton,
Nick Nickell, Ralph Katz





THIRD-PLACE PLAYOFF (48 boards)

Summoning the fortitude to play off for third place the day after losing in the semifinals is always a tall order, but the Bulgarian team was apparently far less disheartened than China Long Zhu for the occasion and earned the bronze medals with a convincing victory.

	c/o	1	2	3	Total
Bulgaria	16	49	69	52	186
China Long Zhu	14	31	39	84	

THE 17th VENICE CUP

THE ROUND ROBIN

With the English women's team that won the 2008 World Championship in Beijing notably absent in São Paulo, the favorites for the 2009 Venice Cup were France, USA1, China (like the Chinese Open team, sponsored by Long Zhu), USA2 and Germany. Among the other contenders Italy, Denmark, Sweden, Spain, Canada, Argentina, Indonesia, and Egypt were probably the most likely to challenge for a place in the knockout stage. Though there were some strong players on several of the remaining teams, there wasn't enough depth in their rosters to fight their way through to the top eight over a long week of intense competition.

With three matches to play, France, USA1 and China Long Zhu were virtually safe, with USA2, Germany and Spain in decent shape. There were still five teams with reasonable chances to qualify: Denmark 290, Indonesia 284, Italy 283, Sweden 281, Egypt 279. Argentina, with 270, needed a serious parlay to sneak into the quarterfinals. Of those teams Italy showed its might with three big wins to qualify easily, moving past both Germany and Spain to finish 5th. Indonesia and Egypt fared terribly, losing all three matches heavily. Argentina won its first two but not by enough; then lost its final match, so it came to Denmark and Sweden. Both those teams suffered blitzes in Round 19 but won

their last two matches; the difference was that Denmark's two wins were 16-14 while Sweden's were 21-9 and 25-0. Sweden had been out of the top eight since Round 5 but their blitz of Barbados vaulted them past Denmark and Indonesia when it mattered most.

The Round Robin Rankings

1	China Long Zhu	411
2	France	389
3	USA1	377
4	USA2	354
5	Italy	348
6	Germany	347
7	Spain	345
8	Sweden	333
9	Denmark	331
10	Indonesia	328
11	Argentina	320.50
12	Australia	314
13	Egypt	304
14	New Zealand	303
15	Canada MPP	301
16	Japan	296
17	Jordan	291.50
18	Brazil	275.50
19	Venezuela	247.75
20	Pakistan	247
21	Morocco	230
22	Barbados	165.50

On this deal from Round 10, Renee Mancuso of USA2 found a rare technical play to bring home a game that was made with far less complexity at the other table on different defense.

In the Open Room, Quinn, rather than speculate with a spade lead, attacked with a low heart, gambling on finding Wittes with an important singleton. Declarer, Arrigoni, won the king and worked on diamonds; with the honors split she was in no danger. In fact, when Wittes came down to two clubs and the ♠J in the endgame, Arrigoni exited with a spade and took the last two tricks with the ace-jack of clubs, thus avoiding the finesse in coming to 10 tricks, +430.

In the Closed Room, Saccavini was able to overcall at the one level, getting Paoluzi off to the best lead of a low spade. Mancuso knew she could not succeed if Saccavini held both high diamonds, but found a line that would work if the diamond honors were divided and the opponents could be convinced to continue spades. She ducked the ♠10; then ducked the low-spade continuation to South's nine. Although this risked a potentially fatal heart switch Mancuso expected the defense to persist with their known source of tricks, and Paoluzi played a third spade. Mancuso won her king and switched to hearts, but it was too late. Mancuso won and drove out the ♦A and settled for nine tricks, spurning the club finesse; +400; tough way to lose an IMP.

For the quarterfinals, China Long Zhu selected Sweden, the last qualifier. France had been blitzed by 7th-place Spain in the Round Robin, so looked elsewhere and chose 5th-place Italy, against whom there would be a carry-over advantage. USA1 opted for Spain, leaving USA2 with a tough opponent in Germany. As both American teams had qualified and would avoid each other in the Round of 8, the Conditions of Contest dictated that the winners of their matches would meet one Semifinal. Thus the winner of China Long Zhu vs Sweden would face the winner of Italy vs France.

RR10-Board 31
Dealer South
NS Vul.

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

Open Room			
West	North	East	South
Olivieri	Wittes	Arrigoni	Quinn
—	—	—	Pass
Pass	Pass	1NT	Pass
2♦ ⁽¹⁾	Pass	2♥	Pass
3♣	Pass	3NT /	
(1) Hearts			
Closed Room			
West	North	East	South
Sutherland	Saccavini	Mancuso	Paoluzi
—	—	—	Pass
Pass	Pass	1♦	Pass
1♥	1♠	Pass	Pass
2♣	Pass	3NT /	



17th Venice Cup,

Bronze:
France

Left to right:
Danièle Allouche-Gaviard,
NPC Julien Gaviard,
Bénédicte Cronier,
Elisabeth Hugon,
Sylvie Willard,
Catherine d'Ovidio,
Coach Thomas Bessis,
Véronique Bessis

France (Véronique Bessis / Elisabeth Hugon, Bénédicte Cronier / Sylvie Willard, Danièle Gaviard / Catherine d'Ovidio, NPC Julien Gaviard, Coach Thomas Bessis), with the sons of two of the players exercising an extreme variation of role reversal, started with a small lead of 8.50 IMPs against traditional rival Italy (Gianna Arrigoni / Gabriella Olivieri, Gabriella Manara / Caterina Ferlazzo, Simonetta Paoluzi / Ilaria Saccavini, NPC Guido Resta, Coach Dano De Falco). Each team won two of the first four sets by small margins, France increasing its lead to 11.50, but the fifth set was conclusive as France gained 43 IMPs to take a commanding lead. Italy dropped another 10 in the last set and France moved on to the Semifinals with a 64.50-IMP win.

THE QUARTERFINALS (96 boards)

China Long Zhu (Ming Sun / Hongli Wang, Dong Yongling Dong / Yan Ru, Yi Qian Liu / Wenfei Wang, NPC Chuancheng Ju, Coaches Jihong Hu and Yafu Lin) might have had some concerns about Sweden's stretch run (two big wins in the last two rounds) carrying forward into the knockout, but there was the matter of a maximum 16-IMP carryover to factor into the equation. The Chinese brain trust must have suffered some angst after Sweden (Pia Andersson / Celia Rimstedt, Katherine Bertheau / Catarina Midskog, Sandra Rimstedt / Emma Sjoberg, NPC Tommy Gullberg, Coach Madeleine Swanstrom) won the first set by 47 IMPs, but China Long Zhu righted its junk immediately and won each of the next four sets convincingly to carry a an 81-IMP lead into the final session; China Long Zhu won by 77.

	c/o	1	2	3	4	5	6	Total
1 China Long Zhu	16	16	42	38	63	46	38	259
8 Swede	63	13	5	43	17	41		182

Spain, trailing by only 50 IMPs with 32 boards remaining, surprisingly elected to withdraw.

	c/o	1	2	3	4	5	6	Total
3 USA1	12	31	34	46	66	-	-	189
7 Spain	21	81	13	24	wd	-	-	139

USA2 (Pam Wittes / Shawn Quinn, Renée Mancuso / Peggy Sutherlin, Connie Goldberg / JoAnn Sprung, NPC Danny Sprung) enjoyed a 7-IMP advantage against Germany (Sabine Auken / Daniela von Arnim, Pony Nehmert / Ingrid Gromann, Barbara Hackett / Annaig Della Monta, NPC Bernard Ludewig, Coach Josef Harsanyi) but Germany gained 22 IMPs in the first set to take a 15-IMP lead. The teams exchanged strong efforts in the next two segments, leaving Germany ahead by 20 at the half, but the second day belonged to the Americans. Riding a 43-IMP wave in Set 4, USA added 15 IMPs in Set 5 and another 10 in Set 6 to prevail by 48.

	c/o	1	2	3	4	5	6	Total
4 USA2	7	37	44	19	55	65	31	258
6 Germany	59	25	43	12	50	21		210

	c/o	1	2	3	4	5	6	Total
2 France	8.50	47	31	29	21	71	45	252.50
5 Italy	54	19	21	31	28	35		188

THE SEMIFINALS (96 boards)

The two teams that had fared best in the Round Robin could not meet the Final because both American teams had qualified for the knockout and had avoided one another in the Quarterfinals. France carried forward one-third of the 3 IMPs by which they had beaten China Long Zhu in their Round Robin match and won each of the first four segments by small amounts to lead by 23.33 with 32 boards to play. But in Set 5 the Chinese team arose from its slumber and scored 76 IMPs to France's 23, assuming a useful 30-IMP lead. France fought back in Set 6 but could recoup only 6 IMPs and China Long Zhu moved on to the Final with a 23+-IMP win. France won five of the six sets but that would be small consolation.

USA1 (Lynn Baker / Karen McCallum, Lynn Deas / Beth Palmer, Irina Levitina / Kerri Sanborn, NPC Sam Dinkin, Coach Eric Kokish) began with a 12-IMP carryover advantage and tacked on 10 IMPs in the first set, but Spain (M Carmen Babot / Maria Panadero, Ana Frances / Carmen Cafranga, Nuria Almirall / Marta Almirall, PC) rallied in the second segment, gaining 47 to forge a 25-IMP lead. The Americans turned the match around in the next two sets, picking up 75 IMPs.

17th Venice Cup

Silver:
USA1

Left to right:
NPC Sam Dinkin,
Coach Eric Kokish,
Lynn Deas,
Beth Palmer,
Kerri Sanborn,
Irina Levitina,
Lynn Baker,
Karen McCallum





17th Venice Cup

Gold:
China Long Zhu

Left to right:
Yiqian Liu,
NPC Chuancheng Ju,
Hongli Wang,
Coach Jihong Hu,
Wenfei Wang,
Ming Sun,
Yongling Dong,
Coach Yafu Lin,
Yan Ru

	c/o	1	2	3	4	5	6	Total
1 China Long Zhu		21	29	36	38	76	45	245
France	1.33	32	36	38	40	23	51	221.33

The other Semifinal was devoid of drama. USA1 started with a small carry-over lead and won each of the first four sets, two of them quite convincingly, to build a 100-IMP lead. It's surprising that USA2 would not try to take a chunk out of that lead in Set 5, but the team elected to resign, saving its energy for the Bronze-medal Playoff the next day. It would be USA1 vs China Long Zhu for the 2009 Venice Cup title.

	c/o	1	2	3	4	5	6	Total
USA1	4.50	49	27	66	33	---	---	179.50
USA 2		32	20	17	11	wd	---	80

THE FINAL (96 boards)

Whether their pressure-packed Semifinal win over France would strengthen the Chinese players' resolve and build their confidence or add to their fatigue (China Long Zhu had been relying on its front four almost exclusively in the knockout) were intangibles, as was the extra rest USA1 enjoyed when their countrymen conceded early. The Pacific Asia champions started with maximum carryover of 16 IMPs, and got off to a strong start, gaining 25 IMPs in the first set. After two virtually flat sets, the first segment of the second day was again a big one for China Long Zhu, adding 27 IMPs to their lead. When the Americans could make no

inroads in Set 5 the margin had mounted to 73 IMPs. USA1 played on and won its first segment to conclude the match, but by only 1 IMP. China Long Zhu, with a powerful display, had earned China's first Gold Medal in a WBF Team event. There figure to be more where that came from.

	c/o	1	2	3	4	5	6	Total	
China Long Zhu		16	52	33	20	45	36	18	220
USA 1		27	32	19	18	33	19	148	

THE PLAYOFF FOR THIRD PLACE (48 boards)

France gained 30 IMPs in the first segment, gave back 15 in the second, and salted away the Bronze Medal by picking up another 30 in the final set; France by 46+ IMPs.

	c/o	1	2	3	Total
France	1.5	48	31	59	139.50
USA 2		18	46	29	93

THE (5th) D'ORSI SENIORS BOWL

Since its third edition in Estoril in 2005, the Seniors Bowl has been treated with the same structural respect as the Bermuda Bowl and Venice Cup. As the premier zonal-qualifying event for the world's long-tenured experts, the

biennial Senior Bowl merits the name recognition of a long-serving, multi-faceted Bridge personality: Ernesto d'Orsi; in São Paulo the event was given the new title of the d'Orsi Seniors Bowl.

It is unfortunate that in this challenging economic climate not all countries find themselves in a position to properly fund a full slate of teams at both the zonal and world stages, and when corners must be cut it is most often the Seniors whose financial support is reduced or eliminated completely. Such was the case in 2009, most notably in the case of the Netherlands, a perennial medal threat and a qualifier for São Paulo at the Pau Europeans in 2008. When the players felt they could not participate without some funding from their federation, they were forced to decline the WBF's invitation to participate, and their place was taken by England, a worthy stand-in expected to contend for a medal. China, which qualified third in the PABF Zonals in Macau, was in a similar position, but when no other Zone 6 country could manage the trip to São Paulo, the host zone was granted an additional team: Uruguay was invited to make up the numbers.

Although there was no clear favorite for the title, the 2009 field was quite deep, with about two-thirds of the teams entertaining realistic hopes of qualifying for knockout play. The betting favorites for the title were both USA teams, Poland, England and Indonesia, with Sweden, Canada, and Japan also enjoying support from the pundits and punters.



THE ROUND ROBIN

With one day left England had established a useful lead at the top, followed by quietly solid Belgium, Poland, the two USA teams, unsung Egypt, and Sweden. Indonesia was 8th with 286.5, but Canada, Japan, Italy and Turkey, in that order, were still very much in the picture. Japan gave it a great run in its last three matches with 22, 24 and 18, and would have slipped past Indonesia had their PABF zone-mates faltered slightly; Indonesia scored 21, 19 and an anxious 15 to hang on to the last qualifying position.

Final rankings

1	England	402
2	Belgium	378
3	Poland	371
4	USA1	365
5	USA2	361
6	Egypt	352
7	Sweden	344
8	Indonesia	341
9	Japan	340
10	Italy	330
11	Canada	323
12	Turkey	313
13	Australia	310
14	India	302.50
15	Argentina	299
16	Pakistan	284
17	Brazil	277
18	South Africa	266
19	Barbados	244
20	New Zealand	241.50
21	Uruguay	226
22	Venezuela	175

Egyptians won the match at the table by 11 IMPs, the carryover proved decisive. All of the first three sets were virtual draws. In Set 4 the English made some headway but their lead was just 26 IMPs and Egypt clawed back 15 IMPs in the 5th segment and it was still anyone's match going into the last deal, with England clinging to a 10-IMP lead. This was Board 96...

QF6-Board 96
Dealer West
EW Vul.

♠ 10 9 8 6 5
♥ A K 7 2
♦ Q 10 5
♣ 2

♠ A K 2
♥ 6 5 3
♦ A 8 3 2
♣ A K J

♠ J 7 4
♥ Q 10 8
♦ K 9
♣ Q 9 8 7 3

♠ Q 3
♥ J 9 4
♦ J 7 6 4
♣ 10 6 5 4

tie the match, five to win it. Holland led the ♣K, saw Hallberg's three, and switched to a trump, ducked to the queen. The club return was ruffed low in dummy and now Kamel could not come to a fourth trick; even if he had started diamonds East could win and play either a trump or a diamond with profit. However, had Kamel ruffed the second club high he would have had time for a diamond winner or a second club ruff in dummy, with the nine of trumps playing a role in some variations; had Kamel not ducked the trump at Trick 2 he would have had the timing to make the equivalent of three trumps and a diamond. Kamel finished with only three tricks for -250, limiting Egypt's gain to 9 IMPs; England by 1 IMP.

	c/o	1	2	3	4	5	6	Total
1 England	12	45	25	42	37	41	35	237
6 Egypt		45	23	41	26	56	45	236

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Shaker	Price	Askalan	Simpson
1♦	1♠	Pass	Pass
1NT	Pass	3NT /	

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Holland	Wattar	Hallberg	Kamel
1♦	2♦ ⁽¹⁾	Pass	2♥ /

(1) Hearts and spades

USA1's roster (Bobby Wolff / Dan Morse, John Swanson / John Solodar, Fred Hamilton / Arnie Fisher, NPC Betty Ann Kennedy) included four past Bermuda Bowl champions, USA2's (Carolyn Lynch, Mike Passell, Dan Gerstman, John Sutherlin, David Berkowitz / Mark Lair, NPC Lisa Berkowitz) only one, but both teams were stuffed with players still active and successful in open competition. It would not have been surprising had carryover decided this match too, with USA2 starting with 10.67 IMPs in its account. The match started well for USA2, who added 32 IMPs in the first two sets before USA1 rallied to recoup 22 IMPs in Set 3. On the second day, USA2 again started well, gaining 11 IMPs in Set 4 and 30 in Set 5 to lead by 61+ with 16 boards to play; somewhat remarkably, USA1 resigned.

	c/o	1	2	3	4	5	6	Total
5 USA 2	10.67	49	40	29	41	53	---	222.67
4 USA 1		28	29	51	30	23	wd	161

England, hoping to avoid Poland and USA until the Final, selected Egypt for its Quarterfinal opponent for starters; when Belgium chose Indonesia, the English opted to play the winner of that match in the Semifinals should they survive. Poland selected Sweden, leaving the American teams to face off in the other Quarterfinal match.

In the Open Room, Price's 1♠ overcall did not do any damage to his opponents and Shaker/Askalan coasted into 3NT. Price sensibly elected to lead a high heart rather than a low one, and Shaker took a heart, two diamonds, five clubs, and three spades for +660. The deal seemed fairly straightforward with only overtricks at stake, so England was in excellent shape.

THE QUARTERFINALS (96 boards)

England (Paul Hackett / Ross Harper, Gunnar Hallberg / John Holland, David Price / Colin Simpson, NPC Peter Baxter) carried forward a useful 12-IMP advantage against Egypt (Amr Askalan / Mohamed Shaker, Mohsen Kamel / Wael Wattar, Yehia Khalil / Marwan Kheder, NPC Lofty Abdel Samie), and though the

The auction was of a different species in the Closed Room, where Wattar's two-suited cue bid made it awkward for Holland to bid again and for Hallberg to protect, so the Egyptian pair stole the hand at 2♥, ensuring a big swing for their side, the vulnerability giving them a last-minute shot at remaining in the event. Kamel's 2♥ was due to fail by several tricks, but his target – though he couldn't know it – was only four tricks to

Both Poland (Julian Klukowski / Victor Markowicz, Jacek Romanski / Apolinary Kowalski, Krzysztof Lasocki / Jerzy Russyan, NPC Włodzimierz Wala) and Sweden (Olle Axne / Leif Trapp, Anders Morath / Sven-Olov Flodqvist, Hans-Olof Hallen / Borje Dahlberg, NPC Asa Axne, Coach Yvonne Elg) had its share of stars in its ranks, but Poland had



5th d'Orsi Senior Bowl
Bronze: Indonesia

Above, left to right:
Munawar Sawiruddin,
Henky Lasut,
Bambang Hartono,
NPC Santje Panelewen,
Denny Sacul,
Eddy Manoppo,
Arianto Kamadjajanegara

greater depth and started as favorites, down just an IMP and a third in carry-over. The first two sets left Sweden in a very deep hole as Poland gained 87 IMPs. Sweden stopped the onslaught in Set 3 but regained only 5 IMPs, and when Sets 4 and 5 combined netted Poland another IMP Sweden conceded, 82+ behind with 16 boards remaining.

	c/o	1	2	3	4	5	6	Total
3 Poland		50	81	3	34	52	---	247
7 Sweden	1.33	28	15	35	50	35	wd	164.33

Sawiruddin, NPC Santje Panelewen) and small gains in the first two sets augured well for the Europeans, but Indonesia took the lead with a strong third set and turned on the afterburners on the second day. 70+ IMPs behind with one set left the Belgians congratulated their opponents and retired.

	c/o	1	2	3	4	5	6	Total
8 Indonesia		22	29	40	62	58	---	211
2 Belgium	15.50	29	30	15	25	26	wd	140.50

58 IMPs over the first two sets to lead by 43.50. England took a big chunk out of that lead in Set 3 and tied the match in Set 4. The fifth segment decided the match, England gaining 32 IMPs. Indonesia could get back only 6 IMPs in the last set and England moved on to the Final with a 22.50-IMP victory.

	c/o	1	2	3	4	5	6	Total
England	14.50	17	3	45	31	56	38	204.50
Indonesia		38	40	14	22	24	44	182

Belgium (**Famarz Bigdeli / Hubert Janssens, Jacques Stas / David Johnson, Alain Kaplan / Bogdan Bollack**) enjoyed near-maximum carryover against traditional Seniors contender Indonesia (**Bambang Hartono / Arianto Kamadjajanegara, Henky Lasut / Eddy Manoppo, Denny Sacul / Munawar**

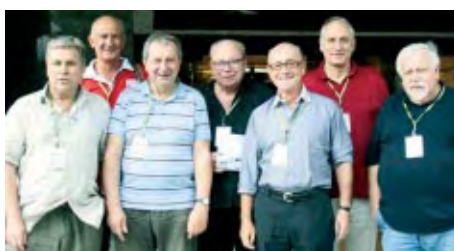
THE SEMIFINALS (96 boards)

Everything was going according to plan for England, though battle-tested Indonesia would be a worthy opponent. The English started with near-maximum carryover, but their opponents gained

USA2 enjoyed an 11-IMP carryover lead against Poland but lost the lead in the first set as Poland picked up 24 IMPs. The Americans got a couple of IMPs back in Set 2, reclaimed the lead with a big (33-IMP) third session and held their ground in Set 4. 23 IMPs down, Poland gained 21 in Set 5 to trail by just 2 with 16 boards remaining. Poland had much

5th d'Orsi Senior Bowl
Silver: Poland

Below, left to right:
Jacek Romanski,
NPC Wlodzimierz Wala,
Jerzy Ruszjan,
Julian Klukowski,
Victor Markowicz,
Apolinary Kowalski,
Krzysztof Lasock





the best of it, outscoring USA2 by 39 IMPs to win going away by 37.

	c/o	1	2	3	4	5	6	Total
USA 2	11	28	34	55	33	48	27	236
Poland		52	32	22	32	69	66	273

It would be England vs Poland for the d'Orsi Seniors Bowl crown.

THE FINAL (96 boards)

England had not started well in its Semifinal and the first set of the Final brought no joy either as Poland posted a 59-1 win to build on its 3.67-IMP carry-over. England made a good start on getting back in the match in Set 2 by recouping 34 IMPs and after two more sets had virtually tied the match. Again, the 5th segment was decisive as England gained 33 IMPs, and when Poland could get back only 8 in the last set, England claimed the Gold medal by 23+ IMPs.

	c/o	1	2	3	4	5	6	Total
England		1	57	37	25	41	26	187
Poland	3.67	59	23	31	5	8	34	163.67

THE PLAYOFF (48 boards)

Indonesia earned the Bronze medal by defeating USA2 by an IMP a board.

	c/o	1	2	3	Total
Indonesia	0	49	39	37	125
USA 2	0	14	26	37	77

THE (7th) GENERALI WORLD TRANSNATIONAL OPEN TEAMS



68 teams entered this event, which started after the conclusion of the Quarterfinals of the three main events.



5th d'Orsi
Senior Bowl
Gold: England

Top, on the right,
left to right:
David Price,
Paul Hackett,
Colin Simpson,
NPC Peter Baxter,
Gunnar Hallberg,
John Holland,
Ross Harper

In addition to several strong national teams that did not reach the Semifinals the field included a selection of new arrivals, including front line professional teams from America (**Welland**), Poland (**Apreo Logistic**), France/Norway/Poland (**Zimmermann**) and USA/Norway (**Mark Gordon**). The teams played a 15-round Swiss of 10-board matches to qualify 8 teams for the Knockout stage. Non-qualifiers could play in a new three-session Board-a-Match team event in the days before the Closing Ceremonies.

Swiss Qualifying Results

1	Zimmermann	295
2	Apreo Logistic Poland	276
3	Deutschland	271
4	Russia	260
5	Brazil	256
6	Orhan	251
7	Sweden Seniors	250
8	Welland	249
9	Texan Aces	248
10	Dhondy	247
11	USA 1 (Bermuda Bowl)	246
12	Japan	245
13	India	244
14	JuanValdez	242
15	Rossard	240
16	Ferlema	239
17	Brum	238
18	Caminito	237
	Mark Gordon	237
20	Bekkouche	236
21	Cornell	235
	Nader	235

Of the 8 qualifiers only one – the Orhan team from Turkey – might be deemed a long shot. Hard luck for the Texan Aces (India), who missed by a single Victory Point, and Dhondy (England) another VP

behind. Given the choice of matches that would yield its Semifinal opponents, the Zimmermann team opted to face the winner of the Russia/Welland match, and hoped that would not be a reward accruing instead to the Orhan team.

QUARTERFINALS (32 boards)

Because at least one of the matches did not involve teams that had met in the Swiss the Conditions dictated that there would be no carryover in any of the Quarterfinal matches. As it transpired, all four of the seeded teams won their matches comfortably.

Zimmerman (**Pierre Zimmermann / Franck Multon, Cezary Balicki / Adam Zmudzinski, Geir Helgemo / Tor Helness**), with two big sets, dispatched the Cinderella Orhan team (**Orhan Ekinci, Ermin Basaran, Faik Falay, Ergun Korkut**) by 506 IMPs.

	1	2	Total
1 Zimmermann	62	38	100
6 Orhan	34	10	44

Apreo Logistic Poland (**Piotr Gawrys / Jacek Psczcola, Jacek Kalita / Krzysztof Kotorowicz, Krzysztof Buras, Grzegorz Narkiewicz**) used the same formula to crush Sweden Seniors (**Olle Axne / Leif Trapp, Anders Morath / Sven-Olov Flodqvist, Hans-Olof Hallen / Borje Dahlberg**); the margin was 88 IMPs.



7th Generali World Transnational Open Team

Bronze:
Team Deutschland

Alexander Smirnov,
Michael Gromoeller,
Andreas Kirmse,
Josef Piekarek

	1	2	Total
2 Apreo Logistic Poland	69	53	122
7 Sweden Seniors	11	23	34

Deutschland (Michael Gromoeller, Andreas Kirmse, Josef Piekarek, Alexander Smirnov) playing without the team's dynamic doctors – Elinescu / Wladow – was not seriously threatened by the Brazilian Bermuda Bowl team (Gabriel Chagas / Mauricio Figueiredo, Diego Brenner / Marcelo Branco, Miguel Villas Boas / JP Campos), winning by 69 IMPs.

	1	2	Total
3 Deutschland	49	69	119
5 Brazil	25	25	50

Russia (Andrei Gromov / Alexander Dubinin, Vadim Kholomeev / Jouri Khyuppenen, Georgi Matushko / Jouri

Khokhlov) had a huge first half against Welland (Roy Welland / Steve Garner, Crystal Henner-Welland / Mike Kamil) and easily survived dropping 13 IMPs in the second; Russia by 38.

	1	2	Total
4 Russia	69	27	96
8 Welland	18	40	58

THE SEMIFINALS (32 boards)

As both Semifinals featured teams that had met in the Swiss there would be carryover in both matches.

Both Zimmermann and Russia have a history of faring well in the Transnationals and their match figured to be close, but Zimmerman added

30 IMPs to its 8-IMP carryover in the first half and ran out a comfortable winner by 59 to reach the final.

	c/o	1	2	Total
Zimmermann	8	43	34	85
Russia		13	13	26

The Polish team, a blend of veteran experience and youthful talent, enjoyed a useful 8-IMP carryover edge against the consistent Germans, and this match also was expected to be fiercely contested. Apreo Logistic Poland had a good first half to run its lead to 27, then held off a German comeback in the second, earning a 19-IMP victory.

	c/o	1	2	Total
Apreo Logistic Poland	8	47	33	88
Deutschland		28	41	69

7th Generali World Transnational Open Team

Silver:
Apreo Logistic Poland

Left to right:
Krzysztof Kotorowicz,
Grzegorz Narkiewicz,
Krzysztof Buras,
Jacek Kalita,
Jacek Pszczola,
Piotr Gawrys





7th Generali World Transnational Open Team

Gold:
Team Zimmermann

Left to right:
Geir Helgemo,
Adam Zmudzinski,
Cezary Balicki,
PC Pierre Zimmermann,
Tor Helness,
Franck Multon



THE FINAL (48 boards)

Although Zimmermann was a small favorite, in no small measure due to a five-and-a-half-IMP carryover cushion, both teams were in good form and featured three strong partnerships. Apreo Logistic Poland took a small lead after winning the first set by 7 IMPs, but lost those IMPs back in Set 2. Apreo Logistic Poland won the final segment by 3 IMPs but the number of tricks taken on the final deal was at issue and it took some time before the official result could be confirmed: Zimmermann by 2.50 IMPs

	c/o	1	2	3	Total
Zimmermann	5.50	27	36	27	95.50
Apreo Logistic Poland		34	29	30	93

The third place medal was awarded to Deutschland thanks to its superior placing in the Swiss; there was no Playoff in the Transnational.



Joan Gerard receiving the flag from Ernesto d'Orsi, for the 2010 World Bridge Series Championships, to be held in Philadelphia, USA.

SÃO PAULO CITY CUP BOARD-A-MATCH TEAMS

Twenty-two teams entered this new three-session event.

Remarkably, the event produced a three-way tie at 77 wins, with a fourth team one board behind. The tie was broken in favor of the Oyzum team (Ernesto Muzzio / Alejandro Bianchedi, Marta Putz / Dragan Markovic). The Mark Gordon team (Joe Grue / Curtis Cheek, Pratap Rajdhyaaksha / Mark Gordon) from America was second; USA1 Bermuda Bowl (Fred Stewart /

Kit Woolsey, Adam Wildavsky / Douglas Doub) was third.

THE RANKINGS

1	Oyzum	77.0
	Mark Gordon	77.0
	USA 1	77.0
4	Texan Aces	76.0
5	Rossard	73.0
	Dhondy	73.0
7	Platero	71.7
8	Julia	70.0
9	Jones	65.0
	Belgium	65.0



World Bridge News is grateful to Tatiana Barreto and Carol Folhasi for many of the photographs used in this report.

World Bridge News regrets that photos of the Gold Medal Women's team and Silver Medal Open team representing England in Beijing in 2008 were captioned as "Great Britain" in the 2009 Edition. The outstanding achievement of those English teams deserves proper recognition.



1st World Youth Congress

The 1st World Youth Congress, held at the Yeditepe University Campus in Istanbul attracted participants from 29 countries.

SWISS / KNOCKOUT TEAMS CHAMPIONSHIP



1st: Japan / Czech Republic:
Noriaki Koike (Japan)
Michal Kopecky (Czech Rep.)
Milan Macura (Czech Rep.)
Hiroaki Miura (Japan)
NPC, Ine Gielkens (Netherlands)

The main event kicked off with a Swiss qualifying stage (13 10-board matches), with eight of the 40 teams surviving to the Knockout phase, and produced these qualifiers:

- 1 USA-Blue 282
- 2 Japan/Czech Republic 236
- 3 Netherlands-Red 230.5
- 4 France 226
- 5 Greecoura 222.5
- 6 Poland 218
- No Name 218
- 8 Italy-Red 216.5

In the quarterfinals, USA-Blue had its hands full with Greecoura, staving off a strong comeback by the Greek team to prevail by a single IMP, 46-45. None of the other matches in the first KO round produced such drama: Japan/Czech Republic defeated Poland 76-53; Netherlands-Red dispatched No Name (Turkey) 91-44; Italy-Red thrashed France 71-17.

The 32-board semifinals featured strong teams from three countries with multiple entries in this event, and a transnational team from Japan/Czech Republic. Italy-Red cruised to a 72-45 win against USA-Blue, but the other semifinal was packed with suspense.

Netherlands-Red finished the first half 30 IMPs ahead and retained a 16-IMP lead with just two deals remaining. However, on the penultimate board, Netherlands played 6♦ on a 3-3 fit (with 6♥ cold) and conceded 17 IMPs. Suddenly Japan-Czech Republic led by 1 IMP! This was the very last deal of the match:

Board 30
Dealer East
None

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

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

♠ A 8 6 3 2
♥ J 5 2
♦ K 6
♣ A 8 4

After a 12-14 1NT opening from South (Milan Macura), Tim Verbeek declared 2♥ from the East seat. Macura chose the aggressive lead of the ♦K.

Put yourself in declarer's shoes. Recognizing the danger of the diamond ruff, would you dare risk playing three rounds of trumps, hoping to limit your losers to only one trick in each suit to score an overtrick and +140, or would you just look for a way to make your contract for +110? Verbeek took the normal line of play, of course, conceded the ruff, and just made his contract for a push, as Netherlands had conceded -100 in the other room at 1NT-2.

Japan-Czech Republic had reached the final.

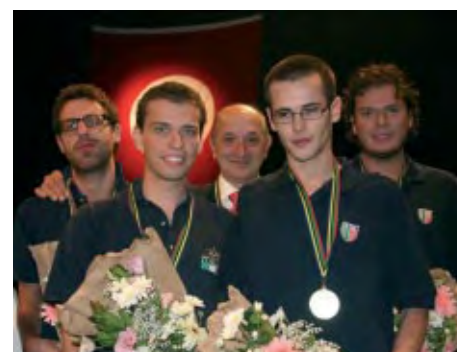
FINAL				
	1st	2nd	3rd	Total
Japan-Czech	28	23	44	95
Italy Red	47	26	7	80

3/4			
	1st	2nd	Total
USA Blue	33	53	86
Netherlands Red	39	38	77

In the 48-board Final Italy started strong and led by 22 IMPs after two sets. But Japan-Czech Republic again showed its grit by storming back in the last segment to win 95-80 to become the 1st World Youth Congress Swiss/KO Champions.

USA-Blue won the playoff for 3rd place with a 86-77 victory over Netherlands-Red.

BOARD-A-MATCH (BAM) TEAMS CHAMPIONSHIP

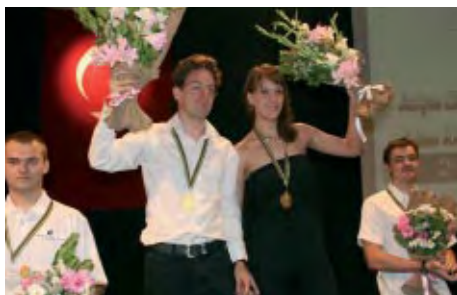


1st: Italy Green:
Giuseppe Delle Cave
Robin Fellus
Eugenio Mistretta
Giuseppe Mistretta
NPC, Dario Attanasio

This was the second World Championship event in the 1st World Youth Congress, open to all new teams or teams already eliminated from the Swiss/KO event. 34 teams participated.

The scoring format is quite exciting, as the target is just to "win the board" against the pair playing against your teammates. There is plenty of strategy involved, quite apart from bidding technique, card play and defense, and it is perhaps the purest form of scoring on offer. After six sessions, Italy-Green was the ultimate winner with 59 boards won. Ckis Skawina (Poland): Artur Janezco, Michal Kania, Adam Krysa, Agnieszka Szczypczyk, Lukasz Witkowski, Justyna Zmuda, and USA-Red: Zachary Brescoll, Alex Hudson, Adam Kaplan, John Marriott, Cameron Shunta, npc Howard Weinstein, coach Jim Sternberg, tied with 57, but the tiebreak formula favored of Ckis for the Silver medal.

MATCHPOINT PAIRS CHAMPIONSHIP



1st: Tim Verbeek & Marion Michielsen (Netherlands)

94 Pairs entered this event, played over three qualifying sessions and four final sessions. At the conclusion of the final, there was no doubt about who had won; Marion Michielsen / Tim Verbeek from the Netherlands topped the field by a huge margin, with Justyna Zmuda/ Adam Krysa (Poland) second, Aymeric Lebatteux / Nicolas L'Huissier (France) third. The winners Michielsen / Verbeek had many good boards and played steadily throughout, but the hand of the Matchpoint Pairs Championship was played by another player, also from The Netherlands:

Board 16
Dealer West
EW

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

N
W E
S

♠ A K 10 7 6 3 2
♥ 10 7 4
♦ 6
♣ Q 6

This hand, from MP Pairs Final Session 3, could well qualify for the "The hand of the tournament".

There was a diversity of results, ranging from 4♥ making with overtrick(s), 4♠, 5♠, 6♠ preempts, all the way up to 6♥ going down or just making.

Jamilla Spangenberg (Netherlands) was the only declarer who was able to bid and make 6♥. Here is how she played:

West	North	East	South
Sigrid	Ozer	Jamilla	Serdar
1♦	Pass	1♥	3♠
4♥	4♠	5♥	5♠
Pass	Pass	6♥	All pass

South led his top spades, Jamilla ruffing the second round. She went on to play the ♣A and ruffed a club, noting the fall of the queen. Next came the ♦A and a diamond ruffed high for general security reasons. When South did not follow suit, the entire distribution of the hand became clear: South was all too likely to hold 7-3-1-2. Jamilla continued accordingly: ♥A and another diamond ruffed with the jack, heart to the nine which held, the last trump drawn and dummy's diamonds were good. Brilliant. (This hand was reported by Jos Jacobs in the Daily Bulletin).

IMP PAIRS CHAMPIONSHIP

36 pairs participated in this four-session event, which was won by Magdalena Ticha / Frantisek Kralik from the Czech Republic. Antonio Borzi / Andrea Mortarotti of Italy were second, Cédric Margot / Jérôme Amiguet of Switzerland third.

Board 11
Dealer West
NS

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

N
W E
S

♠ K 8 7 2
♥ K 8 6 5
♦ J 10 6
♣ 10 2

West	North	East	South
Kautny	Bayakhchev	Hoepfler	Agarwal
Pass	Pass	1♠	Pass
2♦	Pass	2♥	Pass
3♣	Pass	3NT	All pass

After the first session of the IMP Pairs Final, Leonid Bayakhchev - Mohit Agarwal were leading the field. Here is a nice defensive effort from them in the second session:

E/W were very ambitious, but imperfect defense might have allowed 3NT to slip home. Agarwal got off to the best lead of the ♣10, which went to declarer's queen. Hoepfler tried a spade at Trick 2 but South jumped on this with his king to continue the club attack. North subsequently won the spade ace to play the third round of clubs, establishing two club tricks to ensure defeat of the contract and gain 5 IMPs against the datum.



1st
Magdalena Ticha
Frantisek Kralik
(Czech Rep.)

2nd
Antonio Borzi
Andrea Mortarotti
(Italy)

3rd
Cédric Margot
Jérôme Amiguet
(Switzerland)



The WBF Women's Committee

2009 was an exciting year for Women's Bridge. There was the **Venice Cup**, always a wonderful Championship, held this year in Brazil, and you will see the report from this elsewhere in World Bridge News. I would like to congratulate the Chinese Long Zhu Women's Team on their victory, one which created no less than four World Grand Masters! Their wonderful achievement generated a great deal of excitement.

Earlier in the year, the **Women's Online Bridge Festival** attracted players from 67 countries; everyone seemed to enjoy it enormously. **Shirley Koelman** won the Individual event, **Maud Khouri / Lily Khalil** topped the Pairs field, and **Gerti Zentner** earned the Overall Combined title.

The next Women's Online Bridge Festival will be held from 12th-18th April, 2010. To be put on the mailing list for more information about this and other women's events, please email anna@ecats.co.uk.

In October, we had the **Women's Bridge Jamboree** in Rome where we were delighted to welcome about 120 players, not only from Europe but also from Australia, Ecuador, USA and Jordan, with big groups coming from Cyprus and Turkey. Attendance was gratifying,

especially considering the current economic climate worldwide.

A variety of sponsors supported this gala event generously with prizes, gifts and trophies/cups/plaques. Special thanks to our Italian sponsors: **CONI** (Italian National Olympic Committee), **the Italian Bridge Federation, Maria Teresa Lavazza, Francesca Angelini, Ezio Fornacari**; our gratitude to Turkey's **Sevinç Atay**. I was honoured to offer the Silver Cup for the Jamboree's Overall Champion. Also, EBL master points were awarded.

The atmosphere was simply incredible, the players showing such enthusiasm, warmth and satisfaction with the arrangements, which included not only many sessions of competitive Bridge, but also a variety of social and cultural outings, which included Rome by night; a Papal Audience in the marvellous Saint Peter's Square; a full day's excursion in the historical part of Rome with a professional guide and, on the last day, three hours of shopping in the new commercial centre EURSHOP.

Emily Garden (Scotland) won the Individual; **Fabrizia Bettiol / Nicola Tessitore** (Italy) won the Pairs; the Jamboree's Overall Champion was **Fabrizia Bettiol**,

with **Belis Atalay** from Turkey the runner-up.

My special reward came in multiple instalments: when I said good-bye to each of the participants, between a smile and a kiss the inevitable questions were: "when is the next Jamboree, and where will it be?" In my opinion the Jamboree was a major promotion for Women's Bridge, particularly for the "average" women players, who have traditionally been given limited consideration by their NBO's. We believe they will return home with a universally favourable impression of their experience in Rome. Don't you think that many other women, as a result, could be impressed and attracted to competitive bridge beyond their immediate circle? One last thing: I had nearly forgotten... during these six days we were kissed by the sun! The day after our women departed, Rome was inundated by a fierce rain and storm!

Then, on 1st December, the **Women's Online Bridge Tournaments** started again - three tournaments every day played on BBO. We are delighted to report that these are going very well, and will continue until the end of April with a break of seven days from 12th-18th April for the World Women's Online Bridge Festival.

<http://www.wbfwomensbridgeclub.org/index.html>

Information
about Women's Bridge,
results and activities
can be found
on our website at:



**3rd World Women's Online
Bridge Festival
will be held from
April 12th-19th 2010**

If you want information about Women's Bridge, just email anna@ecats.co.uk and tell her your first name and last name, and your country and she will add you to the mailing list for Women's Bridge. If you want to play in the Women's Tournaments then please fill in the **registration form**. If you have questions, please look at our **help/FAQ** pages where you will find answers to many of your questions.



World Wide Bridge Contest

The 2009 Worldwide Bridge Contest was held at the beginning of June with over 10,000 pairs competing from some 49 different countries.

On **Friday** the winners came from Mexico – **T. Abadi / Rosita Castaneda** with 73.83%, followed by **Harvey Schwartz / Paul Kirby** from the USA with

73.70% and **Connie Almy / Tony Kasday** from Costa Rica with 71.36%.

The winners on **Saturday** were **Luigi Ottavio / Marco Casalini** from Italy with 73.49%, with **Barbara Zander / Thomas Green** from the USA in second place with 71.58%, just ahead of **John Cunningham / Monica Harris** from Ireland with 71.48%.

The **2010** Worldwide Bridge Contest will be on **Friday 4th and Saturday 5th June.**

To enter, please contact
Anna Gudge:

tel. +44 1787 881920
fax +44 870 123 1955
email anna@ecats.co.uk

The 2010 Calendar

2010	DATE	EVENT	CONTACT
March	11/21	ACBL Spring NABC, Reno - NV, USA	www.acbl.org
May	1/8	III Sudamericano Transnacional de Bridge, Mar Del Plata, Argentina	www.confsudbridge.org
	21/29	PABF Championships, Hamilton, New Zealand	www.gabsi.or.id
June	4/5	World Wide Bridge Contest, all over the world	www.ecatsbridge.com
	18/02	July 50 th European Team Championships, Ostend, Belgium	www.eurobridge.org
July	22/1	Aug. ACBL Summer NABC, New Orleans -LA, USA	www.acbl.org
August	2/9	5 th World University Championships, Kaoshiung, Chinese Taipei	www.worldbridge.org
October	1/16	2010 World Bridge Series, Philadelphia -PA, USA	www.worldbridge.org

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WBF Women's Top 50, 2009

Wen Fei Wang
First in 2009
Women's ranking

Name	First name	NBO	CAT	M.P.
1 Wang	Wen Fei	CHN	WGM	3071
2 Auken	Sabine	GER	WGM	2919
3 Wang	Hongli	CHN	WGM	2898
4 Levitina	Irina	USA	WGM	2879
5 Sun	Ming	CHN	WGM	2486
6 D'Ovidio	Catherine	FRA	WGM	2466
7 Willard	Sylvie	FRA	WGM	2297
8 Arnim	Daniela Von	GER	WGM	2283
9 Gu	Ling	CHN	WLM	2248
10 Meyers	Jill	USA	WGM	2165
11 Liu	Yi Qian	CHN	WGM	2133

12 Zhang	Yalan	CHN	WLM	2126
13 Cronier	Bénédicte	FRA	WGM	2110
14 Sanborn	Kerri	USA	WGM	2105
15 Nehmert	Beate Pony	GER	WGM	2042
16 Levin	Jill	USA	WGM	1957
17 Sokolow	Tobi	USA	WGM	1865
18 Vriend	Bep	NLD	WGM	1822
19 Seamon-Molson	Janice	USA	WGM	1809
20 Quinn	Shawn	USA	WGM	1798
21 Dhondy	Heather	ENG	WGM	1765
22 Smith	Nicola	ENG	WGM	1684
23 Bessis	Véronique	FRA	WLM	1658
24 Allouche	Danièle	FRA	WGM	1573
25 McCallum	Karen	USA	WGM	1527
26 Rosenberg	Debbie	USA	WGM	1443
27 Brock	Sally	ENG	WGM	1430
28 Deas	Lynn	USA	WGM	1423
29 Breed	Mildred	USA	WGM	1404
30 Pasman	Jet	NLD	WGM	1401
31 Hackett	Barbara	GER	WLM	1396

32 Simons	Anneke	NLD	WGM	1392
33 Stansby	JoAnna	USA	WGM	1378
34 Palmer	Beth	USA	WGM	1318
35 Gromova	Victoria	RUS	WGM	1221
36 Letizia	Marinesa	USA	WGM	1188
37 Narasimhan	Hansa	USA	WGM	1173
38 Ponomareva	Tatiana	RUS	WGM	1170
39 Arnolds	Carla	NLD	WGM	1168
40 Picus	Sue	USA	WGM	1145
41 Zwol	Wietske Van	NLD	WGM	1083
42 Baker	Lynn	USA	WLM	1044
43 Sutherland	Peggy	USA	WLM	953
44 Montin	Randi	USA	WGM	907
45 Mancuso	Renee	USA	WLM	902
46 Pas	Marijke Van Der	NLD	WGM	879
47 Radin	Judi	USA	WGM	866
48 Zhang	Yu	CHN	WLM	866
49 Wang	Liping	CHN	WLM	807
50 Alberti	Anja	GER	WLM	806

WBF Grand Masters 2009 Women's Category *

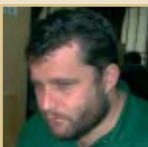
Name	First name	NBO	P.P.
1 Meyers	Jill	USA	42.5
2 Auken	Sabine	GER	39.5
3 Sanborn	Kerri	USA	36.5
4 Levitina	Irina	USA	36
5 Arnim	Daniela Von	GER	34.5
6 Smith	Nicola	ENG	33
Deas	Lynn	USA	33
Wang	Wen Fei	CHN	33
9 Sokolow	Tobi	USA	31
10 Wang	Hongli	CHN	30
11 D'Ovidio	Catherine	FRA	29.5
12 Levin	Jill	USA	28
McCallum	Karen	USA	28
Willard	Sylvie	FRA	28
15 Radin	Judi	USA	27.5
Nehmert	Beate Pony	GER	27.5
17 Picus	Sue	USA	26.5
Sun	Ming	CHN	26.5
Quinn	Shawn	USA	26.5
20 Wei-Sender	Kathie	USA	25.5

20 Vriend	Bep	NLD	25.5
22 Landy	Sandra	ENG	25
23 Seamon-Molson	Janice	USA	24
Palmer	Beth	USA	24
25 Mitchell	Jacqui	USA	22.5
Cronier	Bénédicte	FRA	22.5
Brock	Sally	ENG	22.5
28 Letizia	Marinesa	USA	22
29 Breed	Mildred	USA	21.5
30 Kennedy	Betty Ann	USA	20.5
Greenberg	Gail	USA	20.5
32 Montin	Randi	USA	20
33 Davies	Pat	ENG	19
34 Liu	Yi Qian	CHN	18.5
35 Pas	Marijke Van Der	NLD	17.5
36 Fischer	Doris	AUT	17
Allouche	Danièle	FRA	17
Rosenberg	Debbie	USA	17
39 Erhart	Maria	AUT	16.5
Weigkricht	Terry	AUT	16.5
41 Sanders	Carol	USA	15.5

Simons	Anneke	NLD	15.5
Pasman	Jet	NLD	15.5
Reim	Andrea	GER	15.5
45 Farell	Mary Jane	USA	15
Zwol	Wietske Van	NLD	15
47 Chambers	Juanita	USA	14.5
Arnolds	Carla	NLD	14.5
49 Dhondy	Heather	ENG	14
Stansby	JoAnna	USA	14
51 Pollack	Rozanne	USA	13.5
52 Narasimhan	Hansa	USA	12
Gromova	Victoria	RUS	12
Ponomareva	Tatiana	RUS	12
55 McGowan	Elizabeth	SCO	11
Gordon	Dianna	CAN	11
57 Steiner	Carlyn	USA	10.5
D'andrea	Marisa	ITA	10.5
Capodanno	Luciana	ITA	10.5
60 Schulle	Kay	USA	10
Osberg	Sharon	USA	10

* ranked by Placing Points

WBF Open Top 50, 2009

Fulvio Fantoni
First in 2009
Men's ranking

Name	First name	NBO	CAT	M.P.
1 Fantoni	Fulvio	ITA	WGM	4151
2 Duboin	Giorgio	ITA	WGM	4146
3 Nunes	Claudio	ITA	WGM	4145
4 Lauria	Lorenzo	ITA	WGM	4003
5 Versace	Alfredo	ITA	WGM	3955
6 Meckstroth	Jeff	USA	WGM	3498
7 Hamman	Bob	USA	WGM	3382
8 Rodwell	Eric	USA	WGM	3280
9 Nickell	Frank (Nick)	USA	WGM	2721
10 Helgemo	Geir	NOR	WGM	2618
11 Mahmood	Zia	USA	WGM	2609

12 Helness	Tor	NOR	WGM	2564
13 Bocchi	Norberto	ITA	WGM	2538
14 Katz	Ralph	USA	WGM	2052
15 Fu	Zhong	CHN	WGM	2044
16 Balicki	Cezary	POL	WGM	1969
17 Groetheim	Glenn	NOR	WGM	1831
18 Sementa	Antonio	ITA	WGM	1816
19 Zhao	Jie	CHN	WLM	1792
20 Chagas	Gabriel	BRA	WGM	1786
21 Gromov	Andrei	RUS	WLM	1772
22 Brogeland	Boye	NOR	WGM	1710
23 Pszczola	Jacek	USA	WGM	1700
24 Dubinin	Alexander	RUS	WLM	1695
25 Zmudzinski	Adam	POL	WGM	1642
26 Martel	Chip	USA	WGM	1641
27 Zhuang	Zejun	CHN	WLM	1594
28 Saelensminde	Erik	NOR	WGM	1565
29 Rosenberg	Michael	USA	WGM	1516
30 Stansby	Lew	USA	WGM	1510
31 Hackett	Justin	ENG	WIM	1475

32 Levin	Bobby	USA	WGM	1465
33 Tundal	Ulf	NOR	WLM	1421
34 Piekarek	Josef	GER	WIM	1413
35 Hackett	Jason	ENG	WIM	1410
36 Multon	Franck	FRA	WGM	1391
37 Gawryls	Piotr	POL	WGM	1365
38 Dai	Jian Ming	CHN	WLM	1257
39 Fredin	Peter	SWE	WLM	1255
40 Shi	Haojun	CHN	WLM	1255
41 Yang	Li Xin	CHN	WLM	1250
42 Branco	Marcelo	BRA	WGM	1218
43 Muller	Bauke	NLD	WGM	1218
44 Weinstein	Steve	USA	WLM	1182
45 Martens	Krzysztof	POL	WGM	1125
46 Jassem	Krzysztof	POL	WLM	1125
47 Lindkvist	Magnus	SWE	WLM	1089
48 Aa	Terje	NOR	WLM	1075
49 Smirnov	Alexander	GER	WIM	1075
50 Sontag	Alan	USA	WGM	1072

WBF Grand Masters 2009 Open Category *

Name	First name	NBO	P.P.
1 Hamman	Bob	USA	104.25
2 Garozzo	Benito	ITA	75.5
3 Wolff	Bobby	USA	70.25
4 Forquet	Pietro	ITA	58
5 Meckstroth	Jeff	USA	56.25
6 Rodwell	Eric	USA	55.75
7 Lauria	Lorenzo	ITA	47.5
8 Versace	Alfredo	ITA	42
9 Chagas	Gabriel	BRA	41
10 Stansby	Lew	USA	38.5
11 Martel	Chip	USA	38
Duboin	Giorgio	ITA	38
13 Branco	Marcelo	BRA	35
14 Nickell	Frank (Nick)	USA	33.25
15 Fantoni	Fulvio	ITA	31
Nunes	Claudio	ITA	31
17 Bocchi	Norberto	ITA	30
18 Helness	Tor	NOR	29
19 Chemla	Paul	FRA	28
20 Helgemo	Geir	NOR	27.5
21 Mahmood	Zia	USA	26.75
22 Eisenberg	Billy	USA	25.5

23 Balicki	Cezary	POL	24.5
Zmudzinski	Adam	POL	24.5
25 Rosenberg	Michael	USA	23.75
26 Lawrence	Michael	USA	23.5
27 Perron	Michel	FRA	23
28 Ross	Hugh	USA	22
29 Mouiel	Hervé	FRA	21
30 Mari	Christian	FRA	19.5
Sontag	Alan	USA	19.5
32 Lebel	Michel	FRA	18.5
33 Gawryls	Piotr	POL	18
Franco	Arturo	ITA	18
35 Martens	Krzysztof	POL	17.5
Groetheim	Glenn	NOR	17.5
Weichsel	Peter	USA	17.5
38 Katz	Ralph	USA	17.25
39 Cintra	Gabino	BRA	17
40 Rubin	Ira	USA	16.5
41 Mello	Roberto	BRA	15.5
42 Deutsch	Seymon	USA	15
Levy	Alain	FRA	15
Passell	Mike	USA	15
45 De Falco	Dano	ITA	14.5

Assumpcao	Pedro Paulo	BRA	14.5
Brogeland	Boye	NOR	14.5
48 Multon	Franck	FRA	14
Sementa	Antonio	ITA	14
Kantar	Edwin	USA	14
51 Hamilton	Fred	USA	13.5
Saelensminde	Erik	NOR	13.5
53 Levin	Bobby	USA	13
Pszczola	Jacek	USA	13
55 Meltzer	Rose	USA	12.5
56 Bates	Roger	USA	12
Kwiecien	Michal	POL	12
58 Branco	Pedro Paulo	BRA	11.5
Muller	Bauke	NLD	11.5
Larsen	Kyle	USA	11.5
61 Rubin	Ron	USA	11.25
62 Tuszynski	Piotr	POL	11
Lesniewski	Marcin	POL	11
64 Fu	Zhong	CHN	10.5
65 Fonseca	Christiano	BRA	10
Westra	Berry	NLD	10
67 Krejns	Hans	NLD	9.5
68 Siniscalco	Guglielmo	ITA	4

* ranked by Placing Points

Join us in Philadelphia

Pennsylvania, USA

1st to 16th October

2010



2010 World Bridge Series Championship



Make your plans now to join bridge players from about 100 nations at the 2010 World Bridge Series in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, USA from **October 1st to 16th, 2010**. The World Bridge Federation (WBF - www.worldbridge.org) and United States Bridge Federation (USBF - www.usbf.org) are pleased to announce that the world bridge championship will return to the United States for the first time in 16 years.



A variety of Championships will be open to all bridge enthusiasts, with Transnational entries permitted in all events - except junior - (see schedule and entry fees). Pre-registration is highly encouraged (www.worldbridge.org/registration), with **significant discounts provided for players staying at a designated host hotels** (see Host Hotels). For Championship events, game times will be 10:30 am and 3:30 pm, allowing for a leisurely dinner and other entertainment at night. Various regional events will be offered at the same game times. Elegant Opening and Closing ceremonies will also be open to all (with no additional fee for Championship event entrants), as well as a live vu-graph show.

Thousands of the world's best bridge players will compete for eleven world titles. In addition, to attract players of varied skill levels, Regional Championships will be staged throughout the tournament, awarding both WBF and ACBL master points. Furthermore, an exciting Junior program for players under 21 and under 26 years old will further encourage widespread participation in the world's greatest card game.

Don't miss the bridge tournament of 2010, in America's birthplace of "life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness".

**Philadelphia will be great!
Make your plans now.**



Schedule of play

FRIDAY OCTOBER 1

6:30pm
OPENING CEREMONY

SATURDAY OCTOBER 2

- **MIXED PAIRS**
Qualifying 1 & 2

SUNDAY OCTOBER 3

- Mixed Pairs
Qualifying 3 & Final 1
- Mixed Pairs Plate 1

MONDAY OCTOBER 4

- Mixed Pairs - Final 2 & 3
- Mixed Pairs Plate 2 & 3

TUESDAY OCTOBER 5

- **ROSENBLUM / MCCONNELL (RR)**

WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 6

- Rosenblum / McConnell (RR)

THURSDAY OCTOBER 7

- Rosenblum / McConnell (RR)

FRIDAY OCTOBER 8

- Rosenblum (64) / McConnell (32)
- Swiss Plate**
- **SENIORS TEAMS**

SATURDAY OCTOBER 9

- **OPEN AND LADIES PAIRS**
Qualifying 1 & 2
- Rosenblum (32) / McConnell (16)
- Seniors Teams

SUNDAY OCTOBER 10

- **WORLD YOUTH BRIDGE TEAM CHAMPIONSHIPS
RR (5 matches)***
- Rosenblum (16) / McConnell (8)
- Open and Ladies Pairs
Qualifying 3 & 4
- Seniors Teams

MONDAY OCTOBER 11

- Rosenblum (8) / McConnell (4)
- Open and Ladies Pairs qualifying (5) / Semi Final [pairs from the Rosenblum (32/16) or McConnell (16/8) may drop into the semi finals]
- Seniors Teams
- World Youth Bridge Teams Championships
RR (5 matches)*

TUESDAY OCTOBER 12

- **SENIORS PAIRS** - Qualifying 1 & 2
- **IMP PAIRS** - Qualifying 1 & 2**
- Rosenblum (4) / McConnell (2)
- Open and Ladies Pairs Semi Final 2 & 3
- World Youth Bridge Teams Championships
RR (5 matches)*

WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 13

- Rosenblum Final
- Open and Ladies Pairs Semi Final 4 & 5
- IMP Pairs - Qualifying 3 & 4
- Seniors Pairs - Qualifying 3 & 4
- World Youth Bridge Teams Championships RR (2 matches)
& QF(40)*

THURSDAY OCTOBER 14

- **MIXED SWISS TEAMS** – Qualifying 1 & 2
- **WORLD YOUTH BRIDGE INDIVIDUAL
CHAMPIONSHIP ***
- Open and Ladies Pairs / IMP Pairs - Final 1 & 2 (pairs from the QF/SF & F of the Rosenblum and SF/F of the McConnell may drop into the finals)
- Seniors Pairs - Final 1 & 2
- World Youth Bridge Teams Championships - SF (48)*

FRIDAY OCTOBER 15

- Open and Ladies Pairs / IMP Pairs Final 3 & 4
- Seniors Pairs - Final 3 & 4
- Mixed Teams Qualifying 3 & Final 1 & Swiss Cup (1)
- World Youth Bridge Teams Championships - F (48)*
- World Youth Bridge Individual Championship*

SATURDAY OCTOBER 16

- Open and Ladies Pairs / IMP Pairs Final 5
- Mixed Teams - Final 2 & Swiss Cup (2)
- World Youth Bridge Teams Championships - F (16)*
- World Youth Bridge Individual Championship*

5.00 pm: CLOSING CEREMONY

* 18 teams in each event, pre-qualified for Ortiz-Patiño Trophy, Damiani Cup and 4 teams for the Girls World Championships. The World Youth Individual Championship is for players eliminated from the Round Robin & Quarter Final of the World Youth Team Championships - new players will be accepted.

** The Swiss Plate / IMP Pairs qualifying are free of charge for teams knocked out of the Rosenblum/McConnell. or pairs eliminated from the Open or Ladies Pairs respectively. Other teams or pairs may also participate in these events on payment of an entry fee.

All events are Open and TRANSNATIONAL, other than those for the World Youth Bridge Teams Championships. Championship events will start at approximately 10.30 and 15.30 each day with the evenings free. All schedule of play & drop in regulations etc are subject to revision under the Conditions of Contest.

Registrations may be made through WBF site:
<http://www.worldbridge.org/tourn/Philadelphia.10/Asp/Registration.asp> (from 1/01/2010)
and through USBF site: www.usbf.org

Entry fees

Starting Date October		Regular Entry fees US\$	Discounted Entry Fees * US\$
2 nd	Mixed Pairs (<i>including Mixed Pairs Plate</i>)	450	350
5 th	Rosenblum	1500	1200
	McConnell	1500	1200
8 th	Swiss Plate Teams (<i>free for Rosenblum & McConnell players</i>)	300	250
	Senior Teams	1200	1000
9 th	Open pairs qualification & Semi Final (<i>IMP pairs qualifying rounds are free to pairs who do not qualify for the Open pairs Semi-finals</i>)	750	600
	Ladies Pairs qualification & Semi Final (<i>IMP pairs qualifying rounds are free to pairs who do not qualify for the Ladies pairs Semi-finals</i>)	750	600
10 th	Ortiz-Patiño Trophy	1500	N/A
	Damiani Cup	1000	N/A
12 th	Senior Pairs	600	500
	IMP Pairs direct qualifications	300	250
14 th	IMP Pairs final	350	300
	Open & Ladies Pairs finals	350	300
	Special World Championship Event - Mixed Teams: 3 session qualification and 2 session final or Swiss Cup	600	400

* Discounted entry fees: for those who are staying in the designated hotels

- Teams entitled to discounted entry fees: at least 4 team members must stay in the designated hotels for the duration of the event(s) they are registered to play in.
- Pairs entitled to discounted entry fees: both members of the pair must stay in the designated hotels for the duration of the event(s) they are registered to play in.
- Pre-registrations will be allowed up to September 15th. Players paying registration fees on the site will still be entitled to discounted fees if staying in the designated hotels for the duration of the event(s) they are registered to play in.
- Two juniors playing together and entering the Mixed Pairs get a 50% discount; teams made up of all Junior players may enter the Rosenblum or McConnell free of charge.
- Players who only participate in the Regional Tournaments and not the World Championship events, will be able to purchase tickets if they wish to attend the Opening or the Closing Ceremony.



PAYMENTS CAN BE MADE:

- by bank transfer to the WBF cfrancin@worldbridgefed.com
- on line on the WBF site
- on site by credit card or cash in US\$



The **Philadelphia Marriott Downtown**, headquarters hotel, commands a towering presence in the heart of America's original capital. Surrounded by rich revolutionary history and culture, the **Philadelphia Marriott Downtown Hotel** exceeds the expectation of both business and leisure travellers. Bridge players will enjoy the hotel's close proximity to the **Pennsylvania Convention Center** and vacationers can

take in the sights of **Independence Hall** and the **Liberty Bell** located within 8 blocks. A collection of Philadelphia's finest restaurants are located within easy walking distance of

the hotel, in addition to the City's best shopping and entertainment venues.

Welcome to Philadelphia, one of the world's most dynamic city destinations, where big-city excitement meets hometown charm. Famous as the birthplace of "life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness", Philadelphia offers more than cobblestone streets and historic landmarks. This "city of neighbourhoods", known for its walkability and easy-to-navigate streets, is chock-full of cultural, culinary, artistic and ethnic treasures. Downtown Philadelphia is highly accessible with many direct worldwide flights to the Philadelphia International Airport (15 minutes away), **Newark (about 90 minutes)**, or **New York City (about 2 hours)**. **Atlantic City is only an hour away**, and Washington, DC is about a two hour drive or an easy train ride.



Hotel information

1• **Marriott Philadelphia Downtown (Deluxe hotel)**

1201 Market Street
Philadelphia, Pa. 19107
Tel: 1800-266-9432 (for the US)
1-506-474-2009 (for outside the US)
Room rate: US \$148.00 single/double + 15.2% taxes
One (1) bedroom suites are available

- **This is the Host Hotel**
- **Play will be in this hotel and the Convention Center that is connected to it**

Reservation: <https://resweb.passkey.com/go/WBS2010>
Passcode is: WBS

2• **Courtyard by Marriott Downtown**

21 Juniper Street
Philadelphia, Pa. 19107
Tel: 1800-266-9432 (for the US)
1-506-474-2009 (for outside the US)
Room rate: US \$144 + 15.2% tax
Less than 1/2 block from Host Hotel
Reservation:
<https://resweb.passkey.com/go/WBS2010>
Passcode is: WBS

3• **Hilton Garden Inn**

1100 Arch Street
Philadelphia, Pa. 19107
Tel: 1-800 - stayHGI (for the US)
1-215-923-0100 (for outside the US)
Room Rate: US \$116.00 + 15.2% tax
1 1/2 blocks from Host Hotel
Directly across street from convention center
Reservation:
<http://hiltongardeninn.hilton.com/en/gi/groups/personalized/PHLGIGI-WBB-20091109/index.jhtml>
Passcode is: WBS

The World Bridge Federation and the United States Bridge Federation would greatly appreciate players making their reservation at this hotel, since an exceptional rate has been negotiated, both for the accommodation in such a luxurious hotel, and for the provision of a very high-quality and comfortable playing area. The rate has been obtained with the expectation of a very large number of rooms being taken for the event as all bridge play will be at the Philadelphia Marriott and at the Convention Centre connected to this Hotel.



All these hotels are completely smoke free.