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Issue No. 1

Monday, 3 November 2003

Damiani to Competitors: Play Fair!



Monaco's Bermuda Bowl team at the Opening Ceremony

With a strongly worded message for players to abide by the rules, World Bridge Federation President Jose Damiani declared the World Bridge Championships open on Sunday night. Play in the Bermuda Bowl, Venice Cup and Senior Bowl begin today. Thirty countries are represented in the three main events.

The President drew applause from the large crowd at the Hotel de Paris when he noted that documentation for certain brown-sticker conventions has fallen short of requirements "and you must recognize that this is totally unacceptable. We expect fair play from all of you."

Damiani congratulated the players, some of whom had to overcome serious challenges to make it to Monaco for the world championships. "I think it is little short of a miracle," the President said, "that we are all here."

Damiani was preceded at the podium by Patrice Leclercq, Ministre d'Etat for the Principality of Monaco.

Leclercq opened his remarks in French but also addressed the group in English. Noting that Monaco is represented by two teams - in the Bermuda Bowl and in the Senior Bowl - Leclercq said, "May the best win, but if it is a Monaco team I will be very satisfied."

VUGRAPH MATCH

Bermuda Bowl ñ ROUND 1 ñ 10.30
Australia v USA I

Bermuda Bowl ñ ROUND 2 ñ 13.20
Sweden v Norway

Bermuda Bowl ñ ROUND 3 ñ 16.10
Italy v Egypt

Bermuda Bowl ñ ROUND 4 ñ 21.00
China v Monaco

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Senior Bowl

The Senior Bowl will be played in Salle Bellevue at the Cafe de Paris. Note that on Tuesday, Nov. 4, the first session begins at 10 a.m. All Tuesday Senior schedules will be advanced by 30 minutes.



PROGRAM

Bermuda Bowl

ROUND 1 10.30

Table	Home Team	Visiting Team
1	New Zealand	China
2	USA II	Chinese Taipei
3	India	Indonesia
4	Norway	Bermuda
5	Brazil	Sweden
6	Australia	USA I
7	Italy	Spain
8	Bulgaria	Poland
9	Canada	Egypt
10	Monaco	Uruguay
11	Pakistan	South Africa

ROUND 2 13.20

Table	Home Team	Visiting Team
1	Chinese Taipei	New Zealand
2	Indonesia	USA II
3	Bermuda	India
4	Sweden	Norway
5	USA I	Brazil
6	Spain	Australia
7	Poland	Italy
8	Egypt	Bulgaria
9	Uruguay	Canada
10	South Africa	Monaco
11	China	Pakistan

ROUND 3 16.10

Table	Home Team	Visiting Team
1	New Zealand	Indonesia
2	USA II	Bermuda
3	India	Sweden
4	Norway	USA I
5	Brazil	Spain
6	Australia	Poland
7	Italy	Egypt
8	Bulgaria	Uruguay
9	Canada	South Africa
10	Monaco	Pakistan
11	Chinese Taipei	China

ROUND 4 21.00

Table	Home Team	Visiting Team
1	Bermuda	New Zealand
2	Sweden	USA II
3	USA I	India
4	Spain	Norway
5	Poland	Brazil
6	Egypt	Australia
7	Uruguay	Italy
8	South Africa	Bulgaria
9	Pakistan	Canada
10	China	Monaco
11	Chinese Taipei	Indonesia

Venice Cup

ROUND 1 10.30

Table	Home Team	Visiting Team
12	Venezuela	Australia
13	Pakistan	China
14	Germany	Italy
15	Brazil	South Africa
16	India	Chinese Taipei
17	USA I	Sweden
18	England	USA II
19	Netherlands	Egypt
20	Indonesia	Canada

ROUND 2 13.20

Table	Home Team	Visiting Team
12	China	Venezuela
13	Italy	Pakistan
14	South Africa	Germany
15	Chinese Taipei	Brazil
16	Sweden	India
17	USA II	USA I
18	Egypt	England
19	Canada	Netherlands
20	Australia	Indonesia

Senior Bowl

ROUND 1 10.30

Table	Home Team	Visiting Team
1	France	Indonesia
2	Denmark	Monaco
3	Guadeloupe	Brazil/Arg
4	USA I	Australia
5	Egypt	USA II
6	Polynesia	Italy
7	Jordan	Japan
8	Pakistan	Israel

ROUND 2 15.30

Table	Home Team	Visiting Team
1	Australia	Egypt
2	USA II	Italy
3	Pakistan	Polynesia
4	Israel	Japan
5	Indonesia	Guadeloupe
6	Brazil/Arg	Denmark
7	Monaco	France
8	USA I	Jordan



José Damiani

President of the WBF

PRESIDENT'S OPENING SPEECH

Monte Carlo, Monaco - 3rd November 2003

Remarks of José Damiani, President of the World Bridge Federation, at the opening ceremony on Sunday evening.

M. Le Ministre

M. le Président

Mesdames, Messieurs,

Thank you - thank you all - or nearly all - for being here in Monaco. Considering the troubles we face with international travel and international problems, I think it is little short of a miracle. A miracle that owes everything to the cooperation between us, especially for those who needed visas, and they will know just how hard we had to work to obtain these so that they could be with us.

Once more, bridge will show that it works for peace even though occasionally one does wonder about solidarity within the world bridge community.

It is obvious that many countries, many federations, have financial problems and we are pleased that they found a good solution for their stay here in Monaco, which is quite beautiful but unfortunately also a little expensive.

Nonetheless, cheap accommodations were available and we are sure you will find that good, inexpensive food can also be found here. We are fortunate that many other federations and teams offer positive support to the organisation by staying in the hotels of the Société des Bains de Mer, which host the Championships in the Sporting d'hiver and the Bellevue.

I would like to offer my personal and sincere thanks to those who supported us in this way. On the other hand, those others who are able to support the organisation but choose not to do so must be warned. By serving only their own short-term interests instead of looking to the future and considering the good of bridge in general, they jeopardise the long-term future of the game.

In the same way, we must all respect our sport and, indeed, respect ourselves. It is very important that these Championships are played in an ethical and sportsmanlike manner, both for the players and for the many people who watch us, both here and through Internet.

This means that every effort must be made to follow the regulations, which are clear and precise, and that full disclo-

sure of systems and conventions is achieved using the examples given.

This time we have, regretfully, seen a problem with the way in which some of the Brown Sticker conventions were filed by some pairs. It seems that while the HUM systems disappear the Brown Sticker systems flourish but that the documentation of these methods has fallen short of our requirements, and you must recognise that this is unacceptable.

I ask all teams playing in future events to ensure that these systems regulations are followed a great deal more carefully than appears to have been the case on this occasion. This is where you, the champions, have the chance to set the standards that all can follow by ensuring that your systems are clear, and your ethics beyond reproach, ensuring that bridge is seen to be a sport of conviviality and fair play. Believe me, your efforts will be followed and appreciated by the 60 million bridge players all over the world who want to understand constructive bidding.

If bridge as a sport is to have any chance of attracting media attention, and the coveted TV coverage that is something we would all like to have, then it has to be understood by the spectators. Understanding bridge, at least to some extent, is also a condition needed in order to attract sponsors - sponsors such as those we are fortunate to have here today, with our friends from the Generali Group, the Monaco Principality, the Compagnie Monegasque de Banque, Louis Vuitton and the Société Général, all of whom I thank most sincerely, both personally and on behalf of all of you. They all contribute to the quality of the organisation for all of us, players and administrators alike.

There are, of course, some things that we don't and can't control ... we need to offer a prayer to the weather God to allow you fully to appreciate and enjoy this marvelous Monaco venue.

I wish you all good bridge, a good stay, and I am now happy to declare the 2003 World Championships open with the presentation of the teams which will take place now.

The March of Time

by Mark Horton

I want to ask you a simple question: Is the play of today's experts stronger than that of those who have participated in these great Championships down the years? As a corollary, what progress have we made in the areas of bridge relating to bidding and play?

In every sport I can think of the level of performance improves steadily. Faster, higher, stronger. In the vast majority of cases, a comparison is possible because we have accurate methods of measurement. Even in those where it is more difficult, such as football, it is safe to say that the level of technique has improved.

Have you ever stopped to consider what technique is?

The obvious answer is that it is mastering something that can be learned. It also requires one to have the ability to apply what has been learnt to situations that arise. For example, every expert understands the principles of elimination play, and will usually recognise when they should be applied. That is technique.

Imagine that I discover a new type of elimination. I will not be hailed as a great inventor, it is merely the application of technique. In a lesser sense, my choice of opening lead might be described as a matter of technique.

Technique in bridge has advanced.

To understand this you have to compare the situation today with that of some previous contest, say for example one of the matches from the famous era of Ely Culbertson.

Here is a deal from the 'Bridge Battle of the Century' in 1931.

Dealer East. None Vul

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Culbertson</i>	<i>Lenz</i>	<i>Culbertson</i>	<i>Jacoby</i>
Pass	3♣	Pass	1♣
Pass	5♣	3♠	4♠
All Pass		Pass	6♣

In those far off days a jump raise showed a good hand, so you can see that our thoughts on bidding have changed somewhat. South's bid of Four Spades carried no special significance, being designed to inhibit a spade lead.

It was assumed that a spade or club lead would have defeated

the contract. (East led the ace of hearts out of turn, and in those days you could call for a lead, so South asked West for a diamond and was home when dummy's jack held.)

However, our modern day expert would doubtless overcome either effort. You win the spade lead, draw trumps and lead a low heart from the table. East must duck, so you win, discard a heart on the second spade, ruff a spade, cash the ♦AK and exit with a heart, forcing East to give a ruff and discard. (A line of play noticed by a young man called Terence Reese.)

You might argue that Jacoby would have found the winning line and that one example proves nothing and you could be right. Perhaps it suggests that the reporters of the day were more accident prone than the modern generation.

I think we can all accept that today's players possess far more technical knowledge than their predecessors - new squeeze positions are still being discovered, but do they have any edge in creativity?

I suspect the answer is no. Creativity is not influenced by study or precedent, it is something the expert may have recourse to when faced with a difficult problem.

This is a famous modern example:

Hammamet, 1997, Round Robin Bermuda Bowl

Dealer East - All Vul

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Meckstroth</i>	<i>Helness</i>	<i>Rodwell</i>	<i>Helgemo</i>
3♣	Pass	1♥	Pass
4♣	Pass	3NT	Pass
		5♣	All Pass

There was an amusing moment during the bidding as when the tray was pushed back after the Four Club bid Meckstroth smiled and noted that someone on the other side of the screen had sighed pretty heavily. As you can see, East was right, as 3NT is stone cold - they played there in the other room.

Five Clubs looks hopeless, as declarer must surely lose a spade and two hearts.

North led a diamond, and without pause Meckstroth played dummy's ten! South won and returned a diamond. Now declarer could win, discarding a heart and play a heart to the queen and

king. That set up a ruffing finesse position against South's ace and in the fullness of time declarer could dispose of his losing spade.

That was good enough to win declarer the first of his IBPA awards for the best played hand of the year.

It is perhaps easier to be creative during the bidding. Every player here could surely produce a list of those from his or her own country that had or has a certain reputation for their use of imagination. For example, any list of English players would surely include Adam 'Plum' Meredith, who had a penchant for psyching in spades, Irving Rose and John Collings. Of the modern generation, the name that most readily springs to mind is that of the Swedish star Peter Fredin.

However, I doubt any of the older generation would come off second best in a discussion on that area of the game.

Bidding theory has advanced dramatically, but is it clear that the methods of today are better than those of yesteryear? What is clear is that the modern player has far more weapons at his disposal - and some might say therefore even more ways to shoot himself in the foot!

Let me try to draw a more obvious comparison, by comparing two legendary teams.

From the blue corner, Italy, represented by Averelli, Belladonna, Forquet, Garozzo, Pabis-Ticchi & D'Alenio. In the red corner, from the USA, Meckstroth, Rodwell, Hamman, Soloway, Freeman & Nickell.

The Italian players are rightly regarded as the greatest team in the annals of Bridge history. In the last twenty years, the American team, (originally with Bobby Wolff as Hamman's partner) have always been the team to beat. However, although the American's have recorded a huge number of victories, they have also been defeated many times. Does that make them inferior to the great Italians? What it demonstrates is that there are now many teams that are capable of defeating anyone, thereby making it much harder for any one team to dominate as totally as the Blue Team did. Who would be bold enough at these Championships to say with certainty whom the winners will be?

Let me try and answer the question I posed at the beginning of this article. In the last fifty odd years, interest in the Bermuda Bowl has increased dramatically, the conditions for the players and spectators (many of the latter following from all around the world thanks to the power of the Internet) have improved considerably and there are many more strong players today than there were in 1950. However, the individual player may not have attained a clearly higher level of proficiency in bridge.

Mobile phones

Mobile phones or other electronic equipment that could send or receive information are forbidden in the playing areas.

Be aware that there will be checks during the tournament. There will be random searches to assure compliance. Players will be asked to empty their pockets and show the contents of handbags or brief cases.

Jim Borin

1935 - 2003

Jim Borin, one of Australia's leading players, died in October. He was to have played on Australia's team in the Senior Bowl in Monte Carlo.

Born in England, he moved to Australia in 1961.

He operated the Borin Bridge School with his wife, Pam, and wrote a bridge column.

His record as a player was outstanding, including wins in the 1968 Australian Pacific-Asia Championships; 1962 and 1963 NSW Open Team; 1968, 1986 and 1989 Victorian Open Team; and the 1969, 1976, 1980, 1981 and 1987 Australian Open Butler.

The following comes from Keith McDonald, president of the Australian Bridge Federation.

"One of the photos of Jim Borin I have always liked was taken in 1968 of the Far East winners. It has the team with Jessel Rothfield and Jim holding the trophy. A reproduction is on page 192 of the History of Australian Bridge by Cathy Chua. The pervasive influence of Jim on Australian bridge is reflected in the index of the publication.

"His wide-ranging achievements will be remembered, no more so than by his many students. I am sure there will be a proliferation of student stories, and general bridge anecdotes, about the towering figure of Jim Borin.

"Jim was not only an exceptional player he was a bridge author, columnist and journalist, teacher, club proprietor.

"Jim was to play in the Seniors Team in Monaco. It is fitting that he will be listed in the official program as a member of the Australian team."

Team notes I

There have been several changes in team make-ups since the official program of the World Bridge Championships was printed.

Jim Borin, a member of **Australia's** Senior team, died last month (see above). Bill Haughie will now play with Alan Walsh on that team.

Nader Hanna is now non-playing captain of **Canada's** Bermuda Bowl team.

Spain's Bermuda Bowl team has two new members: Javier Graupera and Juan Pont, who replaced Amadeo Llopart and Luis Lantaron.

Two of **Egypt's** teams - the Bermuda Bowl and the Seniors - have undergone changes. Here are the current rosters:

Bermuda Bowl -- Mohamed Mohsen Kamel (NPC), Ashraf Sadek (C), Sherif Naguib, Waleed El Ahmady, Tarek Sadek, Adel Hassan El Kourdy, Samih Aziz Khalil.

Senior -- Mohamed Mohsen Kamel, Mohamed Sadek Radwan, Wael Wattar, Mohamed Shaker, Lotfy Abdel Samie, Amr Askalani.

M.K. Choudhary is NPC of **India's** Bermuda Bowl team as well as chief-de-mission of the India contingent.

World Youth Team Championship 2003

by Brian Senior

The recent World Youth Team Championship was held in Paris, at the French Bridge Federation headquarters. The holders, USA2, lost an epic semi-final to Italy by just half an IMP after being over 60 IMPs behind going into the last 16-board segment. Italy met Denmark in the final, the Danes having defeated Poland in their semi-final. The Italians led throughout the final and were never in any danger of losing. They took the gold medals, Denmark the silver, and USA2 the bronze after they beat Poland in the third-place play-off.

These are a few of the more interesting deals from the championship.

How to Read the Cards Properly

Here is a board from Round 9 of the Round Robin where declarer easily can make a mistake and go down.

Board 4. All Vul. Dealer West.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Chitngamakusol</i>	<i>Ellestad</i>	<i>Vichayapaibunnag</i>	<i>Jorstad</i>
Pass	1NT	2♠	2NT
Pass	3♣	Pass	3NT
Pass	4♥	All Pass	

Olav Ellestad opened 1NT 14-16 HCP and Vichayapaibunnag's overcall 2♠ showed spades and a minor. 2NT was a relay for 3♣ and 3NT promised four hearts and a spade stopper (well, it happened before that the bare king won a trick).

In 4♥ you seem to have a loser in every suit except trumps but the declarer must play very carefully not to be shortened in trumps. East led ♣K to the ace and Ellestad let East win trick two with ♠A. East cashed a club trick then declarer ruffed the club continuation. Ellestad played ace and king of trumps to find these were split four-one. Now East's distribution was clear like an open book: 5-1-2-5. Ellestad played East to have one of the high cards in diamonds and led ♦10 which ran to the queen. Note the

Appeals

Appeals will be heard each day at 9:30 a.m. and 6:30 p.m.

importance of keeping the queen of spades in hand, because if declarer had won ♠Q earlier West now could switch to a spade and force a ruff in dummy.

A Successful Operation

After a week of very serious bridge, it is perhaps understandable that a few of the players in the Swiss Pairs took things in a slightly more light-hearted manner than usual. Not that they didn't want to win, just that the way in which to achieve that goal involved a little more imagination than usual. The irregular Norwegian pairing of Gunnar Harr and Olav Ellestad tried a little operation during the first match of the competition, their victims being first-time partnership Michael Wilkinson (Australia) and Gareth Birdsall (England).

Board 8. None Vul. Dealer West.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Ellestad</i>	<i>Birdsall</i>	<i>Harr</i>	<i>Wilkinson</i>
Pass	1♦	Dble	Rdbl
1♥	Pass	Pass	Dble
1♠	Pass	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

Non-vulnerable, and facing a passed partner, Gunnar Harr decided to create a little diversion with one of the weaker take-out doubles we have seen this week. When Wilkinson redoubled, Ellestad decided to join in with a psychic bid of his own - perhaps he could get himself doubled in 1♠, which looked to have good chances, if he could get his opponents started with the doubling.

Sure enough, Wilkinson had an obvious double of 1♥ but, when Ellestad ran to his real suit, he did not fancy doubling that and made a rather heavy jump to the no trump game. Ellestad thought a little about doubling the final contract but wisely decided that if someone was a little light for his bid it was more likely to be his partner than anyone else so passed. Twelve tricks were easy, of course, and the Norwegians had carried out a most successful operation as their opponents missed the laydown slam.

A Touch of Inspiration

Canada defeated China Hong Kong in Round 11 but Henry

Wong outplayed his counterpart on this deal when he found a way home in a 4♠ contract that failed at the other table.

Board 14. None Vul. Dealer East.

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

Wong was East and received the lead of a low club, which he ran to Vincent Demuy's king. Demuy returned a club to dummy's jack and Wong led a heart to the queen then ruffed a heart. A spade to the king lost to the ace and Gavin Wolpert gave his partner a club ruff. Demuy exited safely with his last spade and Wong got that right, rising with the queen to drop the jack. Now he ran the rest of the trumps and North was squeezed in the red suits. Naturally, having got this far, Wong got the ending right for a fine +420 and 10 IMPs to China Hong Kong.

I am not sure that this is the best theoretical line, but who can argue with success? When you're hot, you're hot!

System Revisions

Following the registration of revisions and amendments to filed systems, the Chairman of the Systems Committee has authorised that the following revisions may be used with immediate effect unless otherwise stated. Except in the case of Modlin-Mansell (Venice Cup, South Africa), revised cards detailing the changes will be in the captains' pigeon holes.

Venice Cup amendments:

- South Africa: Modlin-Mansell: over INT, 2S = invitational. No new card filed
- Netherlands: Arnolds - Van Zwol. Changes. New card filed
- USA I: Kennedy - Wei-Sender - clarification filed

Bermuda Bowl amendments:

- Egypt: Khalil-El Kordi - New partnership, Green System. New card filed
- Egypt: Sadek - El Ahmady. Changes filed
- Brazil: Branco - Thoma. Modification filed
- Pakistan: Allana - Fazli. Changes. New Card filed
- Pakistan: Khan - Gheewala. Changes. New Card Filed
- Indonesia: Karwur - Panelewen. Modifications. New card filed

Monaco: Allavena - Tardy. New System. Opening 2♥ and 2♠ may NOT be played during the first four rounds. A strong or weak 2♥ or 2♠ must be used.

Le petit écho de Monaco

par Guy Dupont

Les supporters français sont déçus : pas d'équipe française à Monaco, ni dans la Bermuda Bowl (où la France avait été éliminée en quart de finale, lors de la dernière édition, à Paris), ni dans la Venice Cup (où la France avait laissé échapper le titre, pour deux points, sur l'avant dernière donne de la finale du dernier championnat). Ils se consolent avec la présence d'une équipe nationale dans la Senior Bowl (Adad, Aujaleu, Leenhardt, Mari, Lasserre, Poizat ; capitaine non joueur Yves Aubry), ainsi que de celles de Monaco dans la Bermuda Bowl (Allavena, Fissore, Catellani, Rothier, Tognetti, Tardy) et dans la Senior Bowl (Mme Seutet, Mme Varenne, Bravermann, Crovetto, Hornstein, Guinvarch), dont les membres sont d'actifs participants aux championnats français (certains ont même des titres nationaux).

En attendant les bons coups de ces championnats du monde, voici un petit quiz, histoire de se mettre en jambe :

1- Une donne du dernier championnat français par paires :

Ouest donneur, tous vulnérables.

♠ 10 9 3	<table border="1" style="text-align: center; width: 40px; height: 40px;"> <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 6 4
		N									
W			E								
		S									
♥ A R 8 6 5 2	♥ DV 9										
♦ 7	♦ DV 10 2										
♣ V 6 4		♣ A 8 3									

O	N	E	S
2♥	Passe	2 SA	3♠
Passe	Passe	4♥	(Fin)

Nord entame du 5 de ♠. Vous prenez de l'As. **Quelle carte jouez-vous à la deuxième levée ?**

2- Une problème qui fait, en ce moment, le tour des clubs français (un joueur présent à Monaco pourra peut-être nous donner sa véritable origine) :

Ouest donneur, tous vulnérables

	♠ V 8 4										
	♥ A R 7										
	♦ V 6										
	♣ RV 8 5 3										
♠ R D 7 3	<table border="1" style="text-align: center; width: 40px; height: 40px;"> <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		♠ 6 2
		N									
W			E								
		S									
♥ DV 10 8 5	♥ 9 6 3 2										
♦ R 7 2	♦ 9 8 5 4 3										
♣ 4		♣ 9 6									
	♠ A 10 9 5										
	♥ 4										
	♦ A D 10										
	♣ A D 10 7 2										

O	N	E	S
1♥	Passe	Passe	Contre
Passe	2 SA	Passe	3♣
Passe	3♥	Passe	3♠
Passe	4♣	Passe	4♦
Passe	4 SA	Passe	5♣ (3 clés)
Passe	6♣	(Fin)	

Sud joue 6 ♣. Ouest entame de la Dame de ♥. On joue, à jeux cachés, comme à jeux ouverts, après l'ouverture d'Ouest qui détient les forces manquantes à ♠ et à ♦. **Comment gagnez-vous ?**

Solutions

1- La situation n'est guère reluisante. Sud doit posséder une main forte, pour être intervenu, vulnérable, au palier de 3. Toutefois, même en espérant les deux gros honneurs à ♦ en Sud, vous devriez n'affranchir tout au plus qu'une levée dans la couleur, en forçant l'As ou le Roi par la coupe. Insuffisant.

Mais quand la technique est impuissante, essayez le bluff. Comme Christian Mari, Philippe Toffier, ou Jean-Jacques Palau, prenez votre meilleure chance en appelant le 2 de ♦ du mort, à la deuxième levée.

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

C'est maintenant à la place de Sud qu'il faut vous mettre. Que fournissez-vous sur le 2 de ♦ ? La plupart ont craqué, et plongé de l'As ou du Roi. C'est tout ce que souhaitait le déclarant. Sud a encaissé deux levées de ♠, et contre-attaqué à ♣, pour l'As, mais après deux tours d'atout, la Dame de ♦ a été présentée, forçant l'autre honneur de Sud, coupé, et il restait à remonter au mort à l'atout pour exploiter les ♦. Dix levées.

Quelques défenseurs, flairant cette fin, ont bravement fourni le 4 de ♦ sur le 2. Bel effort, mais pas récompensé : le 7 de ♦ du déclarant pousse au 9 de Nord, qui joue atout, pour le Valet. La Dame de ♦ force ensuite le Roi, coupé, puis après être remonté au mort à ♥, c'est le Valet de ♦ qui force l'As, coupé. Le déclarant rejoint une ultime fois le mort par l'As de ♣, défausse une perdante noire sur un ♦, et ressort à ♠ ou à ♣. Mais après avoir encaissé deux levées, Sud ou Nord ne peuvent que revenir dans

coupe et défausse. Dix levées.

Pour battre le coup, Sud devait intercaler le 8 de ♦. Cette fois, il n'y avait plus de remède pour le déclarant !

2- Première difficulté à surmonter : le Roi de ♥ est un leurre, et il convient de ne pas chercher à l'encaisser (car il ne procure pas de défausse satisfaisante), mais de lui accorder la valeur une petite carte. Une fois ceci établi, cela va déjà mieux.

Donc, As de ♥ et ♥ coupé, 10 de ♣ pour le Valet, Roi de ♥ coupé de l'As de ♣, Dame de ♣ croquée du Roi (purgeant le dernier atout), puis 8 de ♠ laissé filer. Ouest encaisse, mais, pour éviter de revenir dans coupe et défausse, il doit rejouer dans l'une des fourchettes à ♠ ou à ♦. S'il revient à ♠, le déclarant prend du Valet, joue ♦ pour l'As (en coup de Vienne), remonte au mort grâce au 7 de ♣ pris du 8, et tire ses deux derniers atouts.

♠ 4 ♦ V ♣ 3
♠ R 7 ♦ R
♠ As 10 ♦ D

Sur le 3 de ♣, la Dame de ♦ est défaussée, et Ouest est squeezé, contraint d'affranchir soit le Valet de ♦, soit le 10 de ♠.

Si Ouest préfère un retour à ♦ plutôt qu'à ♠, le déclarant prend du Valet, encaisse l'As de ♠, puis ses atouts, pour un squeeze inverse, avec, à deux cartes, le Valet de ♠ et le 6 de ♦ au mort, pour As-Dame de ♦ en main. Un bel exercice d'illustration du coup de Vienne.

Smoking policy

Smoking is not allowed anywhere on the second floor of the Sport d'Hiver, including playing rooms, lobby, bar, the Vugraph room and toilets.

At the Bellevue, where Seniors will be playing, smoking is not allowed on the first floor.

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