Cruise control: Italy makes it look easy

Halfway through the qualifying round-robin phase of the Bermuda Bowl, the powerful team from Italy seems to be on a mission to erase the disappointment of losing in the semi-final round of the contest two years ago in Paris.

Like a well-oiled machine, Italy is dismantling one opponent after another on their march to the top qualifying spot.

The picture is not as clear in the other two events as Chinese Taipei clings to a lead of 1VP in the Venice Cup after eight qualifying rounds. Right behind them are USA I and China.

In the Senior Bowl, where the end of the round-robin will be the end of the event, France has the lead with 125 VPs, followed by Australia at 114.5 and USA I at 114. Several teams are within shouting distance of the title with nine rounds to play.

The Italian team features four regulars - Norberto Bocchi, Giorgio Duboin, Lorenzo Lauria and Alfredo Versace - plus the World Open Pairs champions from Montreal last year - Claudio Nunes and Fulvio Fantoni.

The team started slowly, actually losing in the second round to Poland and barely getting by Egypt in round three, but they have been rolling since then, averaging nearly 50 IMPs per match.

After 11 rounds, Italy are at the top of the qualification standings with 222 VPs. USA II at 212.5 and USA I at 205.5 are right behind Italy.

While Italy’s success so far is not surprising, there have been some unexpected developments, including the lacklustre showing by Sweden, a favorite to qualify for the knockout phase of the event. After 11 rounds, the Swedes were mired in 16th place after losing three in a row to end Wednesday...Continued on page 4
## Program

### Bermuda Bowl

**ROUND 12**  
10.30

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

### Venice Cup

**ROUND 9**  
10.30

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Table</th>
<th>Home Team</th>
<th>Visiting Team</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Venezuela</td>
<td>Canada</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>Pakistan</td>
<td>Indonesia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>Germany</td>
<td>Netherlands</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>Brazil</td>
<td>England</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>India</td>
<td>USA I</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td>Egypt</td>
<td>China</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18</td>
<td>USA II</td>
<td>Italy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19</td>
<td>Sweden</td>
<td>South Africa</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>Chinese Taipei</td>
<td>Australia</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Senior Bowl

**ROUND 7**  
10.30

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Table</th>
<th>Home Team</th>
<th>Visiting Team</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Indonesia</td>
<td>Polynesia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>France</td>
<td>Israel</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Jordan</td>
<td>Guadeloupe</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Egypt</td>
<td>Japan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Brazil/Arg</td>
<td>Italy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>USA I</td>
<td>Pakistan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Monaco</td>
<td>USA II</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Australia</td>
<td>Denmark</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**ROUND 8**  
15.30

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Table</th>
<th>Home Team</th>
<th>Visiting Team</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Jordan</td>
<td>France</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Guadeloupe</td>
<td>Australia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>USA I</td>
<td>Egypt</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Pakistan</td>
<td>Brazil/Arg</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Italy</td>
<td>Japan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>USA II</td>
<td>Denmark</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Israel</td>
<td>Indonesia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Polynesia</td>
<td>Monaco</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## Bermuda Bowl

### ROUND 8

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Home Team</th>
<th>Visiting Team</th>
<th>IMPs</th>
<th>VPs</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>POLAND</td>
<td>NEW ZEALAND</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>39</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EGYPT</td>
<td>USA II</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>URUGUAY</td>
<td>INDIA</td>
<td>49</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOUTH AFRICA</td>
<td>NORWAY</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>71</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PAKISTAN</td>
<td>BRAZIL</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>37</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MONACO</td>
<td>AUSTRALIA</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CANADA</td>
<td>ITALY</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>48</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CHINA</td>
<td>BULGARIA</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CHINESE TAIPEI</td>
<td>SPAIN</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>INDONESIA</td>
<td>USA I</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BERMUDA</td>
<td>SWEDEN</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>53</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### ROUND 9

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Home Team</th>
<th>Visiting Team</th>
<th>IMPs</th>
<th>VPs</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NEW ZEALAND</td>
<td>EGYPT</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>49</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>USA II</td>
<td>URUGUAY</td>
<td>53</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>INDIA</td>
<td>SOUTH AFRICA</td>
<td>55</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NORWAY</td>
<td>PAKISTAN</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>37</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BRAZIL</td>
<td>MONACO</td>
<td>55</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AUSTRALIA</td>
<td>CANADA</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>89</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ITALY</td>
<td>BULGARIA</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>POLAND</td>
<td>CHINESE TAIPEI</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>58</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SPAIN</td>
<td>INDONESIA</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>38</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>USA I</td>
<td>BERMUDA</td>
<td>81</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SWEDEN</td>
<td>CHINA</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>39</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### ROUND 10

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Home Team</th>
<th>Visiting Team</th>
<th>IMPs</th>
<th>VPs</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>URUGUAY</td>
<td>NEW ZEALAND</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOUTH AFRICA</td>
<td>USA II</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PAKISTAN</td>
<td>INDIA</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MONACO</td>
<td>NORWAY</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CANADA</td>
<td>BRAZIL</td>
<td>47</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BULGARIA</td>
<td>AUSTRALIA</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CHINA</td>
<td>ITALY</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>46</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CHINESE TAIPEI</td>
<td>EGYPT</td>
<td>42</td>
<td>35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>INDONESIA</td>
<td>POLAND</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BERMUDA</td>
<td>SPAIN</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SWEDEN</td>
<td>USA I</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>36</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### ROUND 11

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Home Team</th>
<th>Visiting Team</th>
<th>IMPs</th>
<th>VPs</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NEW ZEALAND</td>
<td>SOUTH AFRICA</td>
<td>56</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>USA II</td>
<td>PAKISTAN</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>INDIA</td>
<td>MONACO</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NORWAY</td>
<td>CANADA</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BRAZIL</td>
<td>BULGARIA</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AUSTRALIA</td>
<td>ITALY</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>URUGUAY</td>
<td>CHINESE TAIPEI</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>41</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EGYPT</td>
<td>INDONESIA</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>POLAND</td>
<td>BERMUDA</td>
<td>51</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SPAIN</td>
<td>SWEDEN</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>USA I</td>
<td>CHINA</td>
<td>48</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## Senior Bowl

### ROUND 5

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Home Team</th>
<th>Visiting Team</th>
<th>IMPs</th>
<th>VPs</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>FR. POLYNESIA</td>
<td>EGYPT</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>90</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>USA I</td>
<td>USA II</td>
<td>48</td>
<td>41</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ITALY</td>
<td>ISRAEL</td>
<td>59</td>
<td>53</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DENMARK</td>
<td>FRANCE</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>81</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PAKISTAN</td>
<td>BYE</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AUSTRALIA</td>
<td>JAPAN</td>
<td>48</td>
<td>33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BRAZIL/ARG</td>
<td>INDONESIA</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>49</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MONACO</td>
<td>GUADELOUPE</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>116</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### ROUND 6

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Home Team</th>
<th>Visiting Team</th>
<th>IMPs</th>
<th>VPs</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>JAPAN</td>
<td>USA I</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>58</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ITALY</td>
<td>PAKISTAN</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BRAZIL/ARG</td>
<td>EGYPT</td>
<td>65</td>
<td>31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>USA II</td>
<td>INDONESIA</td>
<td>48</td>
<td>37</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>POLYNESIA</td>
<td>FRANCE</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>72</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ISRAEL</td>
<td>GUADELOUPE</td>
<td>79</td>
<td>49</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DENMARK</td>
<td>BYE</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AUSTRALIA</td>
<td>MONACO</td>
<td>54</td>
<td>34</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
At this stage of the competition, however, virtually no team can be counted out. The local team from Monaco enjoyed some early success in the round-robin but then fell on hard times dropping back in the standings. On Wednesday, however, the Monagasque squad started a comeback with a convincing 36-6 win over the talented team from Norway, runners-up in the 2001 Bermuda Bowl.

In the Venice Cup, many observers are waiting for the defending champions from Germany to make their move. After eight rounds, the German ladies were tied with Canada for the final qualifying spot, having lost six of eight matches with nine to go.
Italy are on everyone’s list as potential champions, and there has been a certain measured tread to their play during the early rounds, like a Ferrari completing a few warmup laps prior to race day. When they met Pakistan in Round 5 of the Bermuda Bowl they appeared to be using cruise control.

With the red suit kings behaving so nicely, this was a simple +640, and an obvious opening for the Italians.


<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>West</th>
<th>North</th>
<th>East</th>
<th>South</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>♠ K Q J 10 9 8 7</td>
<td>♦ 10 8 5 2</td>
<td>♢ 7 2</td>
<td>♣ ♦ 6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>♠ A Q J 4</td>
<td>♦ 7 3</td>
<td>♢ Q J 3</td>
<td>♣ ♠ A Q J 10 2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

West North East South

- ♠ 5
- ♦ A Q J 6
- ♢ A 10 9
- ♣ K 9 8 7 4

Siddiqui Fantoni Jafer Nunes

Pass

1♠ 2♠ 3♠ Pass

Dble Pass 4♠ Pass

5♠ Pass 6♠ All Pass

Pass

When Duboin bid Five Clubs, Paul Chemla, commenting on VuGraph, pointed out that as his previous bid had shown clubs and extra values he almost certainly had to have excellent red cards. Bocchi reached the same conclusion and added a sixth club. When North led the king of spades declarer knew he was on to a winner, as now South had to have one of the red suit kings. When he turned up with both declarer had all the tricks and 13 IMPs.


<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>West</th>
<th>North</th>
<th>East</th>
<th>South</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>♠ Q 8 5 2</td>
<td>♦ J 3</td>
<td>♢ A Q 2</td>
<td>♣ ♠ A J 7 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>♦ A Q J 7 6</td>
<td>♣ K 9 7 6</td>
<td>♠ K 9 7 6</td>
<td>♡ Q 9 6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>♣ 7 6 3</td>
<td>♢ 7 6 3</td>
<td>♠ ♣ 7 6 3</td>
<td>♡ ♤ 7 6 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>♠ 8</td>
<td>♦ 8</td>
<td>♣ ♠ 8</td>
<td>♡ ♠ ♦ 8</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

West North East South

- ♠ 4
- ♦ Q 4 2
- ♢ K 10 9 4
- ♣ K 10 5 3 2

Sultan Siddiqui, Pakistan

Two Clubs promised the majors, and East took that very seriously indeed. When declarer failed to negotiate the spade suit he was three down, -150.

Two Clubs was inverted - but surely short of what was required - and North was clearly expecting more.

East led the five of hearts and West eventually put up the ace
and switched to the six of spades. That was clearly the indicated
play, as East would certainly have led a heart from ♢K10xx rather
than a spade from ♣A10xx. The defenders quickly cash out for
one down and 6 IMPs.


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

West North East South
Siddiqui Fantoni Jafer Nunes
   Pass
   INT

All Pass

The Italians like to open all sorts of hands 1NT. West led the
ten of hearts and when the king held declarer found his luck was
in when the spades produced five tricks, +90.

Board 23. Dealer South. All Vul.

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

West North East South
Duboin Allana Bocchi Fazli
   Pass
   2NT
   All Pass

```
   ♠  10  8  6  4
   ▽  9  3
   ◇  Q  7  6
   ♠  10  6  4  3
   ♠  Q  7
   ▽  A  K  J  7  4
   ◇  K  8  4
   ♠  K  9
```

West North East South
Siddiqui Fantoni Jafer Nunes
   Pass
   2NT*
   All Pass

There was nothing to the play, declarer losing three aces, +420.
When North bounced into game, Bocchi was put in an awkward position. Double was the 'flexible' alternative, (a favourite comment of bidding panellists) but it left Duboin with nowhere to go. He took his best option by passing, but that gave Pakistan 5 IMPs. Hurrah!


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

Neither side had any difficulty in bidding this slam, but you might enjoy an insight into the sophisticated methods of the Italian pair:

Two Spades showed a minor suit and after the waiting bid of 2NT, Three Spades showed hearts. South’s double allowed West to pass and now East revealed his minor was diamonds.

Italy had cruised to victory by 50-6 IMPS, 25-5VP.

The contract is 6NT.

The contract is 6NT.

I asked David to compute the odds, suggesting the best line is to test the hearts and then finesse in clubs. It did not take him long to reply:

'I don’t see this. If you’re going to take the club finesse at the end anyway, you might as well take it at the beginning. Then, five rounds of clubs may squeeze an opponent with four hearts and ♦️Q10 (or any 4+ diamonds). Besides, if North has the stiff ♦️Q, you will need the heart entry to pick the suit up (you should not play for him to have falsecarded from ♠️Q10 or ♦️Q9, because he has no need to do this - you are going to finesse anyway). The best line appears to me to be ♠️K, ♦️A, ♣️Q, club finesse. If this works and both follow, run clubs and hope for the best. If it works but North shows out, attempt to run hearts and squeeze South in the minors. You will make when South has ♦️Q and either: clubs run and hearts run; or clubs run and the red-suit squeeze works; or hearts run and the minor-suit squeeze works. This all adds up to around 44% - 6NT was not a great contract, of course.

Dealmaster Pro and Deep Finesse indicate that on a double-dummy basis, the contract will make around 56% of the time - but this involves dropping North’s doubleton ♦️Q whenever he has it, so the true odds are roughly as I have suggested. Of course, if South is going to be squeezed (in the minors or the reds), North has misdefended by winning the first trick, but this is an imponderable.

Merci, David!

Lost and Found

A special ring was found in ladies toilets of the Sporting, if it is yours call to Antonio Riccardi , the TD

Also found a pair of earrings in the rama room. If you lost it go to hospitality desk , second floor of Sporting.
World Bridge Olympiad
Istanbul
Turkey
23 October - 6 November 2004

Istanbul - a fabulous city where East meets West, the bridge between Europe and Asia, a thriving metropolis of 12 million people - exotic yet distinctly western.

Istanbul has been the seat of three great empires - Roman, Byzantine and Ottoman and a meeting place for peoples of many religions and cultures who came together and learned to live in peace and harmony.

Ultra-modern amenities, the splendours of the Ottoman past and the honoured traditions of Turkish hospitality combine to make Istanbul a fascinating city, one that will impress all visitors with treasured and lasting memories. Istanbul will reward you with the comfort of home while offering sights, sounds and smells that carry you swiftly to another culture, another time.

This vibrant, exciting city is really accessible from all part of the world, served by more than 50 airlines. Every major European Airport is 2-3 hours away. There are frequent direct flights to Istanbul from most European cities, and all the important cities in the world.

Istanbul is a treasure trove of sight seeing possibilities, and has many wonderful places that should not be missed - for example Tokapi Palace: the residence of the Sultan for 4 centuries, a city within the city; the Blue Mosque; St Sophia; the Basilica Cistern; the spice market; Rumeli Castle and many other historic monuments - followed, of course, by a shopping expedition to the Grand Bazaar.

The World Bridge Olympiad will be held in the heart of Istanbul at the Grand Cevahir Hotel and Convention Centre which is a truly luxurious deluxe hotel. It combines a state of art convention centre with an extremely comfortable hotel, ideal for such a prestigious Championship. Accommodation will also be available in hotels nearby which will include 2 and 3 star hotels as well as the more expensive 4 and 5 star hotels, so that as wide a range of rates as possible can be offered to players coming to the Championships.

Five major Championships will be staged during the course of the two weeks, with the most important being the 12th Open and Women’s World Team Olympiad. The 2nd Senior International Cup will be held during the first week as will the 2nd World University Teams Bridge Cup. The 3rd World Transnational Mixed Teams Championship will be held during the second week, enabling players eliminated from the Olympiad to participate in this enjoyable and challenging event. Details of these events are as follows:

12th World Team Olympiad
Open and Women’s Series

Please note that it is extremely important for each NBO to send a team to enhance our Olympic Image and also to ensure that all NBOs will be eligible to qualify for the 2005 Bermuda Bowl and Venice Cup.

• Entry fees : US $ 3,000 per team

• It is anticipated that the Round Robin stage will initially be organized with different groups and NBOs are requested to confirm their participation as early as possible but in any case no later than 15 May 2004 in order that the draw can be made early, which will be of advantage to all participants.

• Names of the players will be needed by 01 July 2004 in order that the programme can be prepared.

• The Round Robin stage will be played from Sunday 24 October to Saturday 30 October.

• Players eliminated from the World Team Olympiad may play free of charge in the 3rd World Transnational Mixed Teams Championship.

2nd Senior International Cup

• Entry fees: US$ 3,000 per team (includes the entry fee to the World Transnational Mixed Teams held during the second week)

• This event is for national teams who will compete in a Round Robin to be played from Sunday 24 to Saturday 30 October (i.e. during the first week of the Olympiad.)

• Each WBF Member NBO is entitled to send one national team to compete in the Senior International Cup.

• Players competing in the Senior International Cup must be at least 55 years of age on the first day of this competition.

• NBOs are requested to confirm that they will be sending a team to participate in the Senior International Cup by 15 May 2004 and names of the players must be submitted to the WBF no later than 01 July 2004.

• Players who participated in the Senior International Cup may play free of charge in the 3rd World Transnational Mixed Teams Championship.
3rd World Transnational Mixed Teams Championship

This event has been a successful and exciting Championship since its inception in Rhodes when 86 teams competed. We feel sure that many players would enjoy participating in this challenging event, which gives them the opportunity of pitting their bridge skills against some of the greatest players in the World as well as having the chance to watch the exciting final stages of the World Team Olympiad on the expert View-Graph presentation.

- Entry fees:
  > free for the eliminated players
  > US $800 for a new team

If a team is composed of players eliminated from the Olympiad together with players who have not competed in the Olympiad, the players who have not competed will be charged US $150 per head if it is a team of six, or $200 per head if it is a team of four.

- Teams must consist of at least two women and two men from any country, playing in Mixed partnerships.

- The Transnational Mixed Teams will be played during the second week of the Championships starting on either Monday 01 or Tuesday 02 November. The exact dates will be announced as soon as they are known. The knock out phase will start on either Thursday 04 or Friday 05 and end on Saturday 06 November.

- Teams wishing to enter this event should contact their NBO as soon as possible to request nomination. In any event entries should be made before 15th August 2004, although late entries may be accepted provided there is sufficient space at the venue.

2nd World University Teams Bridge Cup

It is very important that each of the main NBOs should make every effort to send a team to this tournament as the staging of this event is an important part of the WBF strategy in support of its IOC policy and its aim to obtain Government and Olympic Committee recognition for bridge as a sport in as many countries as possible.

- Played under the auspices of the FISU (Fédération Internationale des Sports Universitaires)
- Entry to World University Teams Bridge Cup is free
- This event is for University teams who will compete in a Round Robin to be played from Sunday 24 to Saturday 30 October (i.e. during the first week of the Olympiad.)
- Minimum age 17, maximum 28

Accommodation: very inexpensive accommodation will be arranged for this event.

NBOs are requested to confirm that they will be sending a team to participate in the World University Teams Bridge Cup by 15 May 2004 and names of the players must be submitted to the WBF no later than 01 July 2004.

Please assist us by ensuring that you respect the deadlines for entries, team names and payments of entry fees which are as follows:

- Entry of Teams for the Olympiad Open and Women’s Series: 15 May 2004
  - Player’s names for the Open and Women’s Series: 01 July 2004
- Entry of Teams for the Senior International Cup: 15 May 2004
  - Players’ names for the Senior International Cup: 01 July 2004
- Entry of Teams for the World University Teams Bridge Cup: 15 May 2004
  - Players’ names for the World University Teams Bridge Cup: 01 July 2004
- Entry of Team for the World Transnational Mixed Teams (including registration of player’s names) (late entries will be accepted provided there is sufficient space at the venue): 01 September 2004
- Payment of entry fees for the Team Olympiad and Senior International Cup: 01 August 2004
- Payment of entry fees for the World Transnational Mixed Teams: 01 September 2004

All NBOs are reminded that national teams should be selected in accordance with the WBF Eligibility Regulations published in the WBF Directory, on the WBF Website at www.worldbridge.org and on www.ecatsbridge.com. Both these Websites will carry updated information about the Olympiad as it becomes available.

Entries for all events must be made through the National Bridge Federations and sent to:

Mr José Damiani
President, World Bridge Federation
40 Rue François 1er
75008 Paris
France

Or by fax to: +33 1 40 70 14 51
or email to: cfrancin@worldbridgefed.com

Payment of entry fees should be made by bank transfer to:
Banque de Baecque Beau 30118 - Ag 00001
3, rue des Mathurins
75009 PARIS - France
Account No. : 03203 Q1065

If bank transfer is not possible, please contact Mrs Christine Francin at the WBF office, who will discuss possible alternative arrangements for payment.
After two days play the Australian Senior team was lying third, just 2 VPs behind the leaders. Round Five saw them face Japan, also well in touch in seventh position.


West North East South

Walsh Yamada Haughie Ohno

Pass 1NT

Pass 3NT All Pass

South

Ohno Pass Pass

Pass Pass Pass

A J 752

West

Walsh

1NT

All Pass

North

Yamada

Pass

Pass

1NT

East

Haughie

1NT

1NT

South

Ohno Pass All Pass

Both Easts declared 3NT and both received a low diamond lead on which they played the ace. For Japan, Masaru Naniwada continued with king then nine of diamonds to the ten. Gabi Lorentz switched to a spade but Nanwada was in control, being able to establish the diamonds and get to them when the K was onside; ten tricks for +430.

Bill Haughie preferred to play on hearts when North showed out on the second diamond and tried leading to the ten at trick two. Kyoko Ohno took the K and returned the nine to dummy’s queen. Haughie played dummy’s club and Akihiko Yamada split his honours. Haughie won the A and cashed the spades then led to the heart ace. Down to three clubs and a losing heart, he exited with a low club and Yamada had to win the nine. He could cash a spade but had kept too many clubs so now had to concede the last trick to declarer’s jack; nine tricks for +400 but 1 IMP to Japan.


West North East South

Walsh Yamada Haughie Ohno

1 NT

All Pass

Lorentz showed a weak no trump while Yamada’s sequence promised 15-17, making the subsequent decisions automatic. After a heart lead and spade switch, Lorentz took both heart and club finesses to come to eleven tricks for +210. Ohno received a spade lead to the ten and king. She ran the jack of hearts to the king and back came the J for queen, ducked. A heart to the nine won and now Ohno gave up a spade. She did not take the club finesse so held herself to ten tricks for +430 and 6 IMPs to Japan.


West North East South

Walsh Yamada Haughie Ohno

Pass 1NT

3NT All Pass

South

Ohno 1NT

All Pass

West

Nakatani

Lester

Naniwada

3NT All Pass

East

Naniwada

3NT All Pass

South

Lorentz

All Pass

Lorentz showed a weak no trump while Yamada’s sequence promised 15-17, making the subsequent decisions automatic. After a heart lead and spade switch, Lorentz took both heart and club finesses to come to eleven tricks for +210. Ohno received a spade lead to the ten and king. She ran the jack of hearts to the king and back came the J for queen, ducked. A heart to the nine won and now Ohno gave up a spade. She did not take the club finesse so held herself to ten tricks for +430 and 6 IMPs to Japan.

Follow the 36th Bermuda Bowl, the 14th Venice Cup and the 2nd Senior Bowl on Internet through the WBF official web site:

www.worldbridge.org
How should you handle the West cards after South's take-out double? The two Wests were actually in quite different situations because Haughie had virtually guaranteed four clubs while Naniwada might have had only two.

Alan Walsh jumped to 4♣ and Haughie raised himself to game, leaving Ohno with no option but to bid 5♦. With his right-hand-opponent having been forced to bid under pressure, Walsh could not justify bidding again, despite his extra distribution. He led the jack of hearts but there was nothing to the hand; +600.

Tadayoshi Nakatani could not afford to jump quite so aggressively at his first turn and contented himself with a raise to 3♠, however, that worked very well a sit allowed him to show the spades at his next turn and now it was an easy matter for Naniwada to go on to 5♠ over 5♦. Five Spades doubled was down only one for -100 but 11 IMPs to Japan.

My own preference, for what it is worth, would be to bid 4♠ facing a four-card club opener but with the intention of then bidding 4♦ over four of a red suit. Nakatani’s sequence looks just fine opposite potentially short clubs.
Both Norths opened with a weak no trump but the respective Easts chose very different approaches to showing their potentially very powerful hand. Naniwada made a simple overcall in spades while Haughie preferred to show any strong two-suite. The first approach found an easy raise to game from Nakatani while Walsh had to find a sensible response in an undiscussed sequence. His 4♦ bid was intended and taken as pass or correct so 4♥ was again the final contract.

Ohno led a spade while Lorentz chose a club, so +710 for Haughie and +680 for Naniwada; 1 IMP to Australia.

There is one slim chance for declarer in 4♥, given that the clubs are both offside, namely that the ♦9 will become established for a club discard. Both Souths led the ace and king of diamonds then switched to the five of clubs for the jack and queen. Lester duly cashed the ace of clubs now for down one; -100. Yamada tried to cash the ♦Q instead and that was ten tricks for +620 and 12 IMPs to Australia. Haughie followed with the ♦4, so with Ohno’s switch being systemically third or fifth, there should have been no possibility of confusion, unless I misread the Japanese convention card.

Despite this mishap, Japan led 25-18 at half-time. The second half saw Australia come through to win by 48-33 IMPs, 18-12 VPs.

La Compagnie Monégasque de Banque, sponsor officiel du Championnat du Monde de Bridge 2003, est heureuse de vous rencontrer dans son point d’accueil au Sporting d’Hiver, à côté du Salon François Blanc, de 9h30 à 11h00 et de 15 heures à 16h30, chaque jour. Notre personnel se tient à votre disposition pour vous fournir tout renseignement concernant son activité de Private Banking.

* * * *

Compagnie Monégasque de Banque, official sponsor of the World Bridge Championship 2003, will be delighted to see you at its “meeting point” located at the Sporting d’Hiver, near the Salon François Blanc, from 9.30 to 11.00 a.m. and from 3.00 to 4.30 p.m., every day.

Our staff is at your disposal to give you any detail you may need about our Private Banking activity.

* * * *

La Compagnie Monégasque de Banque, sponsor ufficiale del Campionato Mondiale di Bridge 2003, sarà lieta di incontrarLa nel suo “punto accoglienza” allo Sporting d’Hiver, vicino al Salone François Blanc, dalle 9.30 alle 11.00 e dalle 15.00 alle 16.30 di ogni giorno.

I nostri consulenti sono a Sua completa disposizione per fornirLe qualsiasi chiarimento sulla nostra attività di Private Banking.

You can help

Scorers are needed. If you can assist, please see the Hospitality Desk at the Sporting d’Hiver on the second floor. Note that scorers are paid by the teams they work for.

WBF Systems Committee

There will be a Meeting of the WBF Systems Committee on Saturday at 1:45 p.m. in the Jardin d’Hiver (WBF Meeting Room) in the Hotel Hermitage.
Members of USA II in the Bermuda Bowl felt, with some justification, that their opponents on Monday (USA I) had more than their share of luck, particularly regarding a couple of slams.

In an interesting match against Egypt on Wednesday, USA II pretty much got back to even with Lady Luck as they took the measure of their opponents. If USA II could have skipped board 31, it would have been a rout, as Bobby Wolff and Dan Morse had an exceptional set.

The first four boards were more or less routine as USA II held a 3-0 lead. On the fifth board, they were the lucky ones for a change.


<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>West</th>
<th>North</th>
<th>East</th>
<th>South</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Naguib</td>
<td>Wolff</td>
<td>A. Sadek</td>
<td>Morse</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Pass</td>
<td>1♦</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2NT</td>
<td>Pass</td>
<td>3♣</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3♦</td>
<td>Pass</td>
<td>4♥</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>All Pass</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Morse must have regretted missing the odds-on slam, breathing a sigh of relief when the nasty trump split materialized. Only two rounds of clubs at the beginning would allow the slam to make - South gets the ruff, plays the other three hearts from his hand, enters dummy with a diamond and pulls the last trump, shedding the ♦J. That would be 12 tricks (and poor defense, obviously). Morse recorded plus 650.

Tarek Sadek and Waleed El Ahmady (apologies for the mis-spelling of his name in the Wednesday edition) did better in the auction, but the result was not satisfactory to Egyptian partisans.


<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>West</th>
<th>North</th>
<th>East</th>
<th>South</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Naguib</td>
<td>Wolff</td>
<td>A. Sadek</td>
<td>Morse</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Pass</td>
<td>1♣</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2♣</td>
<td>Pass</td>
<td>3♣</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4♣</td>
<td>Pass</td>
<td>4♦</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>All Pass</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Sherif Naguib and Ashraf Sadek didn’t even sniff at the slam, and in fact made only 11 tricks for plus 650. Pratap and Landen did much better with the East-West cards.
2003 WORLD WORLD TEAM CHAMPIONSHIPS

Monte Carlo, Monaco

returned the ♠2, giving Pratap pause. Was South's ♠8 a singleton? At that point, VuGraph commentators were predicting that declarer would go down, ruffing with an honor in hand and then playing a spade to dummy's 10 at some point.

Pratap did think about his play for some time, but he eventually ruffed with the ♣K, cashed the queen and played a spade to the ace in dummy. He then finessed against the ♦K with confidence, scoring up his small slam when the finesse worked as expected.

Wolff and Morse were having a great set in the closed room, with one great result after another. The following board was one of their successes.


West North East South
◆ K Q 6
▼ 9 4
♦ J 5
♣ A K J 10 8 6

West North East South
◆ 10 9 2
▼ K Q J 2
♦ 10 8 7 4
♣ 9 4

West North East South
◆ A 10 8 7
▼ A 10 6 3
♦ K 9
♣ Q 7 2

That was a well-earned push for Egypt. Despite that good result, they were still trailing by 30 IMPs going into board 31, the last one played on VuGraph. Number 32 had been played earlier to allow the closed room to catch up. It was a 6-IMP gain for USAII - Wolff and Morse defeated 1NT two tricks for plus 200 while Pratap and Landen had earned plus 50 when El Ahmady and Tarek overbid to 3NT.

The final deal was very bad for USA II.


West North East South
◆ A Q 9 3
▼ 10 7
♦ 9 8 7 3
♣ 8 5 2

West North East South
◆ K J 10 6 5 2
▼ A Q 3 2
♦ 10 6
♣ 6

West North East South
◆ 8 7
▼ J 9 8 5
♦ ---
♣ A K J 10 7 4 3

There was no stopping this contract. Ashraf needed only a club ruff in dummy to come to 11 tricks for plus 400. Those who were left in the VuGraph room were shocked at what happened in the replay.

West North East South
◆ 3♠
▼ Pass
♦ 5♦
♣ All Pass

VuGraph commentators were certain Pratap would run from the double. Whether the diamond game would be bid wasn’t part of the conversation. Considering that East didn’t really have a club stopper, it was a very surprising decision for him to sit for the double. He said later that the double, indicating spade values, increased the chances that he would find something useful in clubs in the dummy.

Dummy’s club holding would certainly have been useful in a diamond contract, but not in 3NT. El Ahmady started with the ♦8 to the king and ace, and Tarek shifted to the ♣8. The defenders took the first nine tricks for plus 1100, earning 17 IMPs for their side and turning a rout into a relatively close match.

The final score was 36-23 for USA II.

Tarek sadek, Egypt
Le petit écho de Monaco
par Guy Dupont

La grande famille d’Elly

Interview express - et exclusive - d’une grande dame du bridge (qui a été honorée mardi soir par la WBF et son président, José Damiani), la Néerlandaise Elly Ducheyne, qui dirige la salle de presse des championnats du monde depuis 30 ans, et qui a décidé de se retirer après Monaco :

Le Petit Echo : Vous souvenez-vous de votre première Bermuda Bowl ?
Elly : C’était en 1974, à Venise. Mais ne me demandez pas qui avait gagné…

LPE : Votre meilleur souvenir ?
Elly : Incontestablement, Sao Paulo, en 1985. Une organisation et une ambiance exceptionnelle. Il faut dire que l’hôtel où se déroulait la Bermuda Bowl et la Venice Cup, et où logeaient TOUS les joueurs et organisateurs, se prêtait parfaitement à cette réussite.

LPE : Le plus mauvais ?
Elly : Ocho Rios, en Jamaïque, en 1987. J’ai assuré ma fonction alors que j’étais malade. J’ai pu tenir grâce à Kathie Wei, qui venait tous les jours m’administrer des remèdes chinois et des massages, alors qu’elle avait autre chose à faire. Ce qui ne l’a pas empêchée de remporter la Venice Cup, cette année là !

LPE : Quel est le journaliste le plus pénible ?
Elly : Il n’y en pas ! La salle de presse représente véritablement le cœur des championnats. L’atmosphère y est vraiment chaleureuse. Avec les journalistes du monde entier qui la fréquentent, et malgré tous les problèmes de communications ou d’horaires auxquels ils peuvent être confrontés, nous formons une grande famille. C’est pour cela que j’ai pu tenir si longtemps. Ah ! Ils vont me manquer !

Le magicien du Sporting

Un petit problème de déclarant. Il s’est posé dans le match Italie/Monaco de la Bermuda Bowl, au 7e tour. Prenez place en Nord, dans le siège de Bocchi:

Sud donneur, Nord-Sud vulnérables.

♠ 6
♥ R 5 4 2
♦ A 10 6 4 2
♣ A 2

N
W
E
S
♠ DV 8 7 4 3
♥ A 9 6
♦ R
♣ V 10 5

O
N
E
S
Tognetti
Bocchi
Rothier
Duboin
1 ♠
Passe
2 ♦
3 ♠
Passe
3 SA (Fin)

Vous jouez donc 3 SA, en Nord. Est entame du Roi de ♦, pour votre As. Comme vous n’avez guère les moyens de gaspiller vos communications, vous décidez d’encaisser l’As de ♦. Si tant est que cela puisse vous aider, vous voyez apparaître le 8 en Est, et le 5 en Ouest. Comment poursuivez-vous ?

La présence à la table de Norberto Bocchi est une des (nombreuses) composantes de son talent. Suivez le cheminement de son raisonnement : "Comme je joue contre des Monégasques, adeptes du bridge français, ceux-ci ont généralement tendance à se donner le compte, en défense. Puis-je tirer quelque conclusion de la répartition des ♦ chez mes adversaires, à la vue du 5 et du 8 ? Le 5 chez le partenaire à 3 ♦, possède tous les symptômes d’une troisième meilleure, en pair-impair, et le 8 pourrait être éventuellement une carte obligée. Mais dès lors...

Transnational Teams

The World Open Transnational Teams Championships will start on Monday Nov. 10 at 6 p.m.

Teams who have not yet registered should go to the Salle Auguste (WBF President’s Office) in the Hotel Hermitage and register as soon as possible with either Anna Gudge or Christine Francin.

It is important that any teams currently playing in the championships who intend to play in the Transnational Teams should come and register their names; this is so that we can know the approximate number of competing teams.

Of course, teams subsequently qualifying for the semifinals will be able to withdraw. Please note that there is no entry fee for players from the Bermuda Bowl, Venice Cup or Senior Bowl - if they are joined by other players who have not competed in these events, those players will be required to pay that proportion of the entry fee.

All teams, whether registering on site or pre-registered, must confirm their entry and, if they have not already done so, must pay the entry fee to Christine Francin as soon as possible, but certainly no later than 3 p.m. on Monday, Nov. 10.

The entry fee may be paid in either US Dollars ($800) or Euro (720). This may be paid in cash, or by travellers cheques, payable to the World Bridge Federation. We regret that we are not able to accept credit cards.

The WBF Office will be open for the Registration of Transnational Teams at the following times:
2 p.m. to 6 p.m. from Thursday to Saturday;
10:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Sunday, Nov. 9, and
10:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. hours on Monday, Nov. 10.
Please do not try and register at other times!
que les ♦ sont 4-2, je ne puis gagner si la Dame est quatrième. Alors, autant la chercher seconde… ”.

Ainsi, Bocchi déposa-t-il bravement le 2 de ♦ sur la table, à la troisième levée. "Magique : la Dame était bien seconde en Est. Et quand celui-ci entreprit d'affranchir ses ♦, le champion italien se trouva à la tête de ses neuf levées.

- Arrêtez de donner le compte ! marmonna Michel Guglielmi, le capitaine non joueur monégasque, qui assistait à la rencontre, à l'intention de ses ouailles.

Un coup qui rapporta 14 imp aux Italiens, car, dans l'autre salle, le même contrat avait chuté de trois levées.

Un chelem qui a fait parler

Un autre problème de déclarant. Installez-vous, cette fois, en Est.

Tour 4, donne 23, Sud donneur, tous vulnérables.

Les enchères, au bridgevision, dans la rencontre Monaco/Chine

Dans la rencontre Chine/Monaco, la donne s'est soldée par une égalité : 6SA moins un dans une salle, et 6 ♦ chuté par la Chine dans l'autre.

A propos : comment jouez-vous 6 ♦, après la même entame ? Le Chinois Wang a cédé à une tentation malsaine, en voulant couper un ♦.

Après le Roi de ♦, le mieux était de jouer ♦ pour le Valet, de purger les atouts, et d'affranchir éventuellement un ♦ (si la couleur n'avait pas été partagée).

Peu de paires, toutefois, ont appelé un chelem sur la donne. Pour Hamman-Soloway, ce ne fut pas un succès, en parvenant à 6 ♦...