

Editor: Brian Senior

Bulletin No. 3

Friday September 10<sup>th</sup>(evening)

# THE NEW CHAMPIONS ARE NORBERTO BOCCHI & TOBI SOKOLOW

Congratulations to Italy's Norberto Bocchi who, having stalked leader Andrew Robson all through the last session, finally overtook him on the very last board. Early leader Jens Auken stayed on well to take third place behind Robson, while the top ten was filled out by Antonio Sementa, the defending champion, Herve Mouiel, Steve Hamaoui, Bobby Wolff, Tor Helness, Alain Levy and Zia Mahmood.

Tobi Sokolow (USA) led the Ladies Championship from very early on and deservedly held on to win, Warm congratulations to her. Sokolow had just over a board to spare over the defending champion, Benedicte Cronier of France, while third was another former winner, Nicola Smith of England. The rest of the top ten: Gloria Ho, Betty Ann Kennedy, Sabine Auken, Daniele Gaviard, Veronique Bessis, Catherine D'Ovidio and Maria-Joao Lara.



**Norberto Bocchi**



**Tobi Sokolow**

May I just take this opportunity to thank everyone who has helped me to produce these Bulletins. That starts with those who have stayed long after play ended each day to physically produce them using photocopier and stapler, and a fair degree of patience, as always seems to be needed when trying to photocopy in bulk.

But also to all those players who have talked to me about interesting hands and, in particular, to Kees Tammens, who had no official place on the Bulletin team yet produced more material than many an official contributor has been known to do at some past championships. Thank you, Kees.

**Brian Senior**

# Men's Session Two

## By Kees Tammens

In which direction should the roving reporter look for the second session of the Men's Generali World Masters? Of course, the kibitzer follows potential winners of this splendid event.

The funny anecdotes the players create so often, and sure enough Zia provided another one: He tried to improve his motivation after his 45% first session by putting on some bets.

Board 4 could be of some interest for bidding theory.

### Board 4. All Vul. Dealer West.

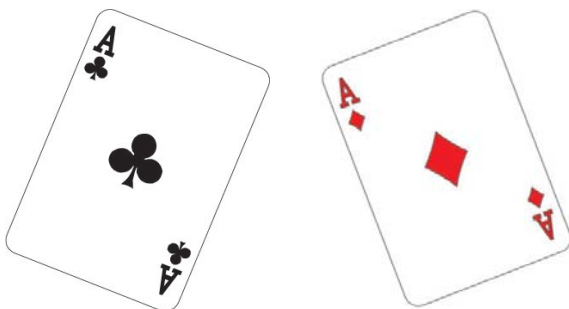
<p>♠ J 10 9 7 4 ♥ A Q J 10 4 ♦ 10 5 ♣ 3</p>	<p>♠ A 8 6 5 3 ♥ 2 ♦ A 6 ♣ K 10 9 8 6</p>		<p>♠ 2 ♥ 9 8 3 ♦ Q J 9 8 2 ♣ A 5 4 2</p>
	<p>W N E S</p>		
	<p>♠ K Q ♥ K 7 6 5 ♦ K 7 4 3 ♣ Q J 7</p>		

West	North	East	South
—	1♠	Pass	2♦
Pass	2♠	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

West's lead was the queen of hearts and declarer let this win the trick. The jack of hearts was the continuation and declarer won his king and played a club. East won the ace and returned a heart for one down but 16 MPs out of 24 to N/S as many fared worse, sometimes in 4♠ when South took the spade rebid too seriously.

As Bocchi mentioned, the rebid of 2♠ over 2♦ was really an awful thing to have to do. Maybe this is a reason to choose a 1♣ opening bid?

There was more action on the next board.



### Board 5. N/S Vul. Dealer North.

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

West	North	East	South
Versace	Kowalsky	Zia	Lantaron
—	Pass	Pass	1♦
INT	Dble	All Pass	

Apolinary Kowalsky's small diamond lead proved too much for declarer, Alfredo Versace, who played the nine, for the ten and ace. Versace gave up a club and finished two down as Luis Lantaron switched to king and another heart, making it easy for the defence to take four hearts and two diamonds to go with their club and ♠A;—300 and 17 MPs to N/S. This was not good for Zia's bets, of course, and it soon became even worse for the exuberant Pakistani.

### Board 7. All Vul. Dealer South.

<p>♠ J 4 ♥ 5 2 ♦ Q 9 4 3 ♣ Q 10 9 5 4</p>	<p>♠ K Q 8 5 3 2 ♥ A K 8 ♦ 10 7 ♣ A J</p>		<p>♠ 9 ♥ Q J 10 9 7 6 3 ♦ A J 8 6 2 ♣ —</p>
	<p>♠ A 10 7 6 ♥ 4 ♦ K 5 ♣ K 8 7 6 3 2</p>		

West	North	East	South
Zia	Wolff	Lantaron	Drumev
—	—	—	1♣
Pass	1♠	4♥	4♠
Pass	4NT	5♦	Pass
6♦	6♠	All Pass	

After the light but sensible 1♣ opening by Bulgaria's Christo Drumev, Lantaron of Spain came in fiercely with his twelve red cards. But this did not prevent Bobby Wolff, North, bidding to 6♠.

After a small diamond lead the contract made an over-trick for +1460 and a top score, but Zia comforted his partner with, 'Oh, that was indeed a very good play'.

Focussing my attention on Norberto Bocchi of Italy, one of the leaders, he scored two near tops in partnership with Jiansheng Jin from China.

### Board 9. E/W Vul. Dealer North.

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

West	North	East	South
Forrester	Bocchi	Jason H	Jin
—	Pass	Pass	1♥
Pass	2♥	Pass	3♣
Pass	4♥	All Pass	

Tony Forrester led out two top diamonds, the second being ruffed by Jin, who cashed one top heart then finessed the jack of clubs, losing to the queen. Jason Hackett needed to play a spade now but instead played a third diamond. Jin ruffed, cashed the ♥K, and played on clubs. Dummy's spades went away on the clubs and that was ten tricks for +420 and 20 MPs to N/S.

### Board 10. All Vul. Dealer East.

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



West	North	East	South
Forrester	Bocchi	Jason H	Jin
—	—	Pass	1♠
Pass	1NT	Pass	3♣
Pass	4♣	Pass	4♥
Pass	6♣	All Pass	

With the ace of diamonds known to be missing, 5♣ seemed to be sufficient, but the optimistic Italian had such huge trumps that he was prepared to gamble that there would not also be a heart loser — had South been 5-2-2-4, he might have held the ♠Q instead of one of the diamond honours, for example. Of course, Bocchi was right and Jin easily chalked up +1370 after a diamond lead for 16 MPs.

### Board 19. E/W Vul. Dealer South.

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

West	North	East	South
Gromov	Quantin	Bocchi	Ferraro
—	—	—	Pass
Pass	1♣	1♥	Dble
2♥	3♣	Pass	3♥
Pass	4♣	All Pass	

Would you consider ♥J32 to be a stopper? Anyway, 4♣ was a worse contract than 3NT.

Bocchi cashed the top hearts and played a third round. Declarer, Jean-Christophe Quantin could see that 3NT was an obvious make but had to do his best to make 4♣, and he succeeded in fooling West in the endgame to bring home his contract for +130 and 12 MPs.

The next board was interesting as a lead problem.

Norberto Bocchi



**Board 20. All Vul. Dealer West.**

♠ A 10 8		♠ Q 7 6
♥ 8 3		♥ J 7 5 4
♦ A K 4		♦ 9 8 7 6
♣ A K 6 4 3		♣ 9 2
♠ K J 9 4		
♥ A Q 10		
♦ 10 3		
♣ J 8 7 5		
	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; text-align: center;">           N W     E S         </div>	
♠ 5 3 2		
♥ K 9 6 2		
♦ Q J 5 2		
♣ Q 10		

West	North	East	South
Gromov	Quantin	Bocchi	Ferraro
Pass	1♣	Pass	1♥
Pass	2NT	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

An aggressive lead of either a heart or a spade would have prevailed but almost everyone led a diamond, even where South had responded in that suit at some tables, and Quantin's +600 was the popular result; 11 MPs.

The Italians are an emotional people and Italian bridge players are no exception.

**Board 22. E/W Vul. Dealer East.**

♠ 9 5 3		♠ A K Q 10 6
♥ A K Q 7 5		♥ 6 3 2
♦ A K 4		♦ 8 5 2
♣ 9 8		♣ A 3
♠ J 2		
♥ J 10 9 8		
♦ J 10 9 3		
♣ Q 5 4		
	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; text-align: center;">           N W     E S         </div>	
♠ 8 7 4		
♥ 4		
♦ Q 7 6		
♣ K J 10 7 6 2		

West	North	East	South
Gupta	Versace	Nunes	Freeman
—	—	INT	Pass
Pass	Dble	Pass	2♣
Pass	2♥	2♠	3♣
Dble	All Pass		

East and North sat the two Italians, Nunes and Versace, and after 3♣ doubled had gone one down for —100 and just 2 MPs there was a lot of noise.

The kibitzer was curious to see how the charge by Bocchi in the third session would continue and also anxious to find out if Zia has to pay out to all his betting partners. (Bocchi moved up to third

overall during this session, while Zia placed fifth in Session Three to move up to 17<sup>th</sup> overall.)

# Final Rankings

Place	Player	MPs	%
1	Norberto BOCCHI	1387.4	56.68
2	Andrew ROBSON	1376.5	56.23
3	Jens AUKEN	1353.2	55.28
4	Antonio SEMENTA	1317.5	53.82
5	Hervé MOUIEL	1308.2	53.44
6	Steve HAMAOU	1292.5	52.80
7	Bobby WOLFF	1283	52.41
8	Tor HELNESS	1279.4	52.26
9	Alain LEVY	1277.2	52.17
10	Zia MAHMOOD	1276.6	52.15
11	Alfredo VERSACE	1271	51.92
	Fulvio FANTONI	1271	51.92
13	David BIRMAN	1262.8	51.59
14	Patrick HUANG	1256	51.31
15	Ishmael DEL'MONTE	1255.7	51.30
16	Lew STANSBY	1251.5	51.12
17	Krzysztof MARTENS	1250.9	51.10
18	Luis LANTARON	1245.6	50.88
19	Tony FORRESTER	1243.8	50.81
20	John MOHAN	1239.3	50.63
21	Giorgio DUBOIN	1238.8	50.61
22	Dick FREEMAN	1236.1	50.49
23	Gabriel CHAGAS	1235.8	50.48
24	Andrej GROMOV	1233.5	50.39
25	Marc BOMPIS	1233.3	50.38
26	Jon BALDURSSON	1230.8	50.28
27	J-Cristophe QUANTIN	1230.6	50.27
28	Boye BROGELAND	1229.2	50.21
29	Paul CHEMLA	1224.9	50.04
30	Christo DRUMEV	1224.3	50.01
31	Michael CORNELL	1218.5	49.78
32	Rashid UL GHAZI	1217.8	49.75
33	Henri SZWARC	1211.5	49.49
34	Walid EL AHMADY	1210.8	49.46
35	Apolinary KOWALSKY	1210.2	49.44
36	Yalcin ATABEY	1210.1	49.43
37	Subhash GUPTA	1203.4	49.16
38	Piotr GAWRYS	1195.2	48.82
39	Bob HAMMAN	1194.5	48.80
40	Guido FERRARO	1182.2	48.29
41	Claudio NUNES	1180.5	48.22
42	Agustin MADALA	1177.2	48.09
43	Christian MARI	1172.1	47.88
44	Soldano DE FALCO	1170.9	47.83
45	Justin HACKETT	1162.2	47.48
46	Jan JANSMA	1160.2	47.39
47	Frank MULTON	1155.9	47.22
48	Eric KOKISH	1154.9	47.18
49	Fredrik NYSTROM	1125.6	45.98
50	Fred GITELMAN	1118.3	45.68
51	Jiansheng JIN	1064.1	43.47
52	Jason HACKETT	959.7	39.20



# Ladies Session Two

As we moved past the midway point in the Ladies Championship, Tobi Sokolow of USA led from Chinese Taipei's Gloria Ho. These two had a roughly two-and-a-half-board lead over the rest of the field, but that could all change very quickly.

## Board 16. E/W Vul. Dealer West.

	♠ J 10 5 3											
	♥ Q J 7 6 5 4 2											
	♦ 10											
	♣ Q											
♠ Q 8 6	<table><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		♠ 4 2	
	N											
W		E										
	S											
♥ A		♥ 10 8 3										
♦ A K Q 9 4		♦ J 8 2										
♣ K 10 6 3		♣ 9 8 7 5 2										
	♠ A K 9 7											
	♥ K 9											
	♦ 7 6 5 3											
	♣ A J 4											
<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>									
<i>D'Ovidio</i>	<i>Erhart</i>	<i>Ho</i>	<i>Winestock</i>									
1♦	3♥	Pass	4♥									
Dble	All Pass											

This auction was duplicated at all but table in the Ladies Championship and, of course, there were precisely ten tricks to be had for +590. No doubt a number of Norths were disappointed to find that their 'good' board resulted in only 7 MPs out of 12.

## Board 17. None Vul. Dealer North.

	♠ A 8 6 ♥ 5 3 2 ♦ 7 5 4 3 2 ♣ Q 4										
♠ Q 9 ♥ K 7 ♦ A Q 10 ♣ A K 10 9 7 3	<table><tr><td></td><td>N</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>W</td><td></td><td>E</td></tr><tr><td></td><td>S</td><td></td></tr></table>		N		W		E		S		♠ K 10 5 2 ♥ J 8 6 4 ♦ K J 9 8 ♣ 2
	N										
W		E									
	S										
	♠ J 7 4 3 ♥ A Q 10 9 ♦ 6 ♣ J 8 6 5										
<b>West</b> <i>D'Ovidio</i> — 2NT 3♦	<b>North</b> <i>Erhart</i> Pass Pass Pass	<b>East</b> <i>Ho</i> Pass 3♣ 3NT	<b>South</b> <i>Winestock</i> Pass Pass All Pass								

Catherine D'Ovidio chose a mildly off-centre 2NT opening in fourth seat and was raised to game

by Gloria Ho via Stayman. A heart lead would have been an inspired choice but Maria Erhart's actual choice of a diamond seemed entirely normal after dummy had sought a major-suit fit.

D'Ovidio won the diamond in hand and played clubs from the top. When Sheri Winestock took the third club she switched to the queen of hearts, more in hope than expectation, and the king was declarer's tenth trick. Plus 430 was again the normal result on the board, worth 6 MPs to each side.

## Board 18. N/S Vul. Dealer East.

	♠ A 8 5											
	♥ A 7 6 4											
	♦ 9 8 6 5 2											
	♣ A											
♠ J 10 9 4 2	<table><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 7 6	
		N										
W			E									
		S										
♥ 5 2	♥ K 10 9 8											
♦ K J 3	♦ —											
♣ K J 7	♣ Q 8 6 4 2											
	♠ 3											
	♥ Q J 3											
	♦ A Q 10 7 4											
	♣ 10 9 5 3											
<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>									
<i>D'Ovidio</i>	<i>Erhart</i>	<i>Ho</i>	<i>Winestock</i>									
—	—	Pass	Pass									
Pass	1♦	Dble	Rdbl									
2♠	Pass	Pass	3♦									
3♠	Dble	All Pass										

After a couple of almost flat boards, finally one on which there were several different contracts and results.

It would be a popular approach to play D'Ovidio's jump to 2♠ over the redouble as pre-emptive, at least in the English-speaking world, but not in this tournament and, possibly, not for a French player anyway.

When Winestock showed her diamond support, D'Ovidio took the push to 3♠ and Erhart made a hungry double on the strength of her three aces, including trump control, and singleton.

Erhart led the ace of clubs, on which Winestock played the ten, which could not have helped Erhart to find the correct switch. She eventually chose a low diamond, figuring that there would be little hope if partner did not hold the ace of that suit, and D'Ovidio ruffed in dummy then led the king of



**Board 21. N/S Vul. Dealer North.**

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

West	North	East	South
Tsur-C	Lara	Auken	Ho
—	Pass	Pass	1♥
Dble	INT	2♦	Pass
Pass	2♥	Pass	Pass
2♠	All Pass		

I like every call made by E/W on this deal, while I find some of the N/S actions a little strange, but perhaps it is all down to personal style. Anyway, the upshot of it all was that Tsur-Campanile declared 2♠ which, after the play to the first two tricks, looked to be a beautiful spot indeed.

Those first two tricks saw Lara lead a spade to the king and ace and declarer play a club to the ten. Tsur-Campanile took a long time to play to the next trick but finally cashed the ♠9. When Ho showed out, declarer switched her attention to clubs, playing three more rounds.

Alas, as declarer had put up the ♠10 at trick one, Lara could ruff in front of dummy and return a spade, and the trumps were all declarer could come to; down one for —50 but still 7 MPs to E/W, and 14-22 on the round for Ho, allowing Auken to close a little.

Declarer could have succeeded by not cashing the trump before playing out the clubs, but that was only better because of the five-one spade break.

Sabine Auken



Alternatively, she could have played on diamonds much earlier and the friendly lie of that suit would have seen her home.

Had declarer switched her attention to diamonds after cashing the ♠9, Lara would have won the first diamond and the defence played three rounds of hearts, forcing declarer to ruff. Declarer cashes two club winners then plays another diamond and South wins and plays a fourth heart which North ruffs with the eight in front of dummy then returns a trump. But now the established diamond can be cashed for declarer's eighth trick.

## Ladies Final Rankings

Place	Player	MPs	%
1	Tobi SOKOLOW	580	59.67
2	Bénédicte CRONIER	565	58.13
3	Nicola SMITH	550	56.58
4	Gloria HO	533	54.84
5	Betty Ann KENNEDY	527	54.22
6	Diana GORDON	526	54.12
7	Sabine AUKEN	519	53.40
8	Danièle GAVIARD	516	53.09
9	Véronique BESSIS	512	52.68
10	Catherine D'OVIDIO	496	51.03
	Maria Joao LARA	496	51.03
12	Migri ZUR-CAMPANILE	494	50.82
13	Daniela VON ARNIM	486	50.00
14	Sylvie WILLARD	485	49.90
15	Sharon OSBERG	484	49.79
16	Carla GIANARDI	476	48.97
17	Jill MEYERS	474	48.77
18	Matilda POPILOV	473	48.66
19	Janice SEAMON-MOLSON	471	48.46
20	Shawn QUINN	470	48.35
21	Kathie WEI SENDER	459	47.22
22	Monica CUZZI	451	46.40
	Bep VRIEND	451	46.40
24	Catharina MIDSKOG	436	44.86
25	Maria ERHART	432	44.44
26	Sheri WINESTOCK	423	43.52
27	Anneke SIMONS	421	43.31
28	Ewa HARASIMOWICZ	402	41.36

# The Final Session

Jon Baldursson played the first deal of Session Four nicely, though it proved not to be necessary on the actual lie of the cards.

## Board 1. None Vul. Dealer North.

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

West	North	East	South
Gupta	Chagas	Baldursson	Madala
—	Pass	1♠	3♣
3♦	Pass	4NT	Pass
6♠	All Pass		

Agustin Madala, the tournament's youngest player, led a top club then switched to a heart for the ten and jack. Baldursson cashed the king and queen of spades then ruffed a heart before cashing the ♠A. Next he played a diamond to the ace, cashed the ace of hearts and ruffed the last heart. A club ruff followed by the last trump would have squeezed South had he held any three diamonds along with the ace of clubs but, in practice, all this hard work proved to be unnecessary as the diamond honours were falling all along. Still, a nice +980 and 19 MPs for Baldursson and Subhash Gupta.

## Board 9. E/W Vul. Dealer North.

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

West	North	East	South
Zia	Ferraro	Baldursson	Kokish
—	1♥	Pass	2♦
Pass	2♥	Pass	4♥
All Pass			

Baldursson did not show up in quite such a good light on this deal where he was partnering the inimitable Zia Mahmood.

Eric Kokish's lead-inhibiting 2♦ response probably made no difference as East has a normal enough club lead anyway. That is what Baldursson chose, the queen, and Guido Ferraro won the ace in hand to lead a spade to the ten and Zia's ace. Zia switched to the seven of diamonds, suggesting a lack of interest in the suit, and Ferraro took his ace then played the jack of spades.

When Baldursson won the ♠K, Zia played the two, an attempt to give suit preference for clubs, but this was lost on his partner. Had Baldursson cashed the ♦Q, he would still have survived, as he could then have switched to a club to give the ruff,

## 10th Red Sea Bridge Festival

Eilat - Israel

14-21 November 2004

The venue is the  
Isrotel Royal Beach Hotel.

The **tournament schedule** includes a two-session IMP Pairs, three-session Open Pairs and two-session Teams, plus a one-day Invitational Master Tournament.

The tournament will open with a cocktail party and close with a prize-giving ceremony on the final evening. Every day there will be complementary cocktails, snacks etc.

The total **Prize Fund** is in excess of **US\$12,000**.

For further **information and registration**  
please contact:

The Organising Committee

**David Birman**

50 Pinkas Street

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Israel

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E-mail: [birmamand@inter.net.il](mailto:birmamand@inter.net.il)



# International Pairs Tournament "Città di Verona"

**Saturday 11th September 2004 - 14.30 hr.**

## Programme:

- 12.00 - Registration starts.
- 14.00 - Registration deadline (registration desk at the entrance of Salone Margherita).
- 14.30 - Start of the tournament ( two sessions of 18 boards each).
- 20.30 - Prize-giving

## Entries:

Entry-fee € 80 per pair.

All the players who participated in the Generali Masters are welcome. The entry is free for all pairs composed of two players who participated in the Generali Masters or composed of one Generali Master player and his/her spouse.

## Prizes:

As per attached leaflet.

## Special Prizes:

A special prize up to 500 USD will be awarded to all the participants in the Generali Masters, who have not won any prize in that event, who take part in the tournament (i.e.: if a player, not winning any prize in the Generali Masters, wins in the pairs tournament a prize lower than 500 USD, then the balance will be awarded).

but he instead led the  $\diamond 10$  to his partner's king and that was the end of the defence; +420 for Ferraro and 19 MPs instead of just 3 MPs for down one.

Going into the final session of the Men's event, Andrew Robson had a healthy lead over the rest of the field but his session started badly and that advantage soon all but disappeared. As the afternoon progressed Robson held on to his lead as Norberto Bocchi, Jens Auker and Alain Levy attempted to over-haul him. Then came the last board.

### Board 26. All Vul. Dealer East.

$\spadesuit$ K J 8		$\spadesuit$ A Q
$\heartsuit$ A 8 6		$\heartsuit$ K Q 9 2
$\diamond$ 10 5		$\diamond$ K 9 7
$\clubsuit$ A K 9 8 4		$\clubsuit$ Q J 6 3
$\spadesuit$ 9 6 5 4 3	$\begin{array}{ c } \hline N \\ \hline W & E \\ \hline S \\ \hline \end{array}$	
$\heartsuit$ J 7		
$\diamond$ A Q J 6 4		
$\clubsuit$ 2		
$\spadesuit$ 10 7 2		
$\heartsuit$ 10 5 4 3		
$\diamond$ 8 3 2		
$\clubsuit$ 10 7 5		

West	North	East	South
DelMonte	Drumev	Chemla	Robson
—	—	INT	Pass
2 $\heartsuit$	Pass	2 $\spadesuit$	Pass
2NT	Pass	3NT	All Pass

Robson held the slenderest of leads over Bocchi going into this final deal. Elsewhere, Bocchi was conceding 630 to collect 14 MPs. All Robson had to do to win the title was to equal or better that score, also on defence to 3NT.

Robson led the three of hearts to the ace and Drumev could have held the contract to ten tricks by doing anything else except what he actually did, namely underleading the club honours in hope of giving declarer a losing option.

But there was no losing option as South had nothing, and Paul Chemla won the club switch and made eleven tricks for +660, leaving Robson with only 2 MPs and second place in this tournament that he had been leading for so long. Very tough!

# President's Farewell Address



The 6th Generali World Masters is now over.

I am quite sure, according to what you so kindly said to me during the event, that you all enjoyed it, even though some of you were not lucky enough to get into the prize money.

If we are able to organize such a special tournament it is clearly thanks to the Generali Group and its President, my personal friend, but yours too, Antoine Barnheim. Antoine, I want to tell you how much the World Bridge Federation and all the players are grateful to you for your great support year after year. If there is one patron it is you, for every-

one from all over the world, coming from all the five continents, to show that peace and friendship can prevail. Thank you Antoine, thank you so much.

The Italian Federation and its President, Giannarigo Rona, another friend of ours, also deserves our thanks for their contribution to the success of this event, as well as Massimo Giorgetti, Assesori Della Regione, Luca Darbi and the Veneto region and the city of Verona.

I am hoping that, despite a tough schedule, you may have had time to appreciate Verona, where we will return in 2006. The thousands of players will then enjoy the beauty of the city and the region, the quality of the food and wine, as well as the friendliness of the Veronese people.

Some warm thanks must also go to the crew who prepared and took care of the Generali World Masters and, first of all, Maurizio di Sacco and all his helpers, Gianmarco Vespia, Giuseppe Battistone, Carmela Franco, Leonardo Cima, Duccio Geronimi and Michele Cammarata, as well as my assistant, Christine Francin and Jean-Claude Beneix.

Thanks to Jean-Paul Meyer, with Paolo Clair and Claudio Brunelli, for the commentary in the Rama. There is also Brian Senior for the Daily Bulletin, Francois Haddad and Herve Lustman for live vugraph, on Bridge Base Online, and Zoomscope, Bernard Delange and Bernadette Pasquier, for the images on site.

Special thanks also to Verona Fiera for their venue and to Lavazza for the coffee. And finally, thank you, thank you and congratulations to all of you who are the true actors in the show.

Thank You,

**Jose Damiani (WBF President)**