

Past Winners Encompass Field

Piotr Gawrys of Poland, who won the first Generali Masters, has made an excellent start to the fourth staging of the event. By contrast the holder, Geir Helgemo, is at the opposite end of the field, having begun his attempt to retain the title by scoring zero matchpoints on the first round.

The runner-up at what is the quarter-way stage is Bobby Richman, the only representative of his Zone in the event. Justin Hackett, in third place, began in parallel with his twin, but opened a gap between them in the last few rounds.

Men's Ranking after 13 Rounds

1	GAWRYS	POL	408.0	65.38	27	PERRON	FRA	305.0	48.88
2	RICHMAN	AUS	392.0	62.82	28	BOCCHI	ITA	304.0	48.72
3	HACKETT Justin	GBR	374.0	59.94	29	WOLFF	USA	303.0	48.56
4	WESTRA	NTH	368.0	58.97	29	CRONIER	FRA	303.0	48.56
5	KOWALSKI	POL	359.0	57.53	31	ROBSON	GBR	302.0	48.40
5	BESSIS	FRA	359.0	57.53	32	COPE	SAF	301.0	48.24
7	HELNESS	NOR	348.0	55.77	32	KARLAFTIS	GRE	301.0	48.24
8	WANG	CHN	344.0	55.13	32	LEVY	FRA	301.0	48.24
9	FREEMAN	USA	340.0	54.49	35	DUBOIN	ITA	300.0	48.08
10	CHAGAS	BRA	337.0	54.01	36	FUCIK	AUT	298.0	47.76
11	MAHMOOD	PAK	336.0	53.85	37	SZWARC	FRA	293.0	46.96
12	MOUIEL	FRA	334.0	53.53	38	ALLEGAERT	USA	288.0	46.15
13	KHOLOMEEV	RUS	331.0	53.04	39	AUKEN	DEN	286.0	45.83
13	MARI	FRA	331.0	53.04	40	LANTARON	SPA	285.0	45.67
15	KOKISH	CAN	328.0	52.56	41	DELMOULY	FRA	282.0	45.19
16	FLODQVIST	SWE	327.0	52.40	42	MITTELMAN	CAN	279.0	44.71
17	MULTON	FRA	324.0	51.92	43	SHARIF	EGY	278.0	44.55
18	BOMPIS	FRA	323.0	51.76	44	MAAS	NTH	277.0	44.39
19	HACKETT Jason	GBR	321.0	51.44	44	MORSE	USA	277.0	44.39
20	JOURDAIN	GBR	320.0	51.28	46	LAMBARDI	ARG	276.0	44.23
21	QUANTIN	FRA	319.0	51.12	47	MARTENS	POL	274.0	43.91
22	ABECASSIS	FRA	316.0	50.64	48	ROUDINESCO	FRA	271.0	43.43
23	CHEMLA	FRA	314.0	50.32	49	STOPPA	FRA	270.0	43.27
24	SZYMANOWSKI	POL	309.0	49.52	50	SACUL	IDN	269.0	43.11
25	ZHONG	CHN	307.0	49.20	51	HELGEMO	NOR	264.0	42.31
26	BALDURSSON	ICE	306.0	49.04	52	SHIVDASANI	IND	262.0	41.99

Ten Down!

by Guy Dupont

The start of the 4th Generali Masters wasn't very good for the winner of the Third Generali, Geir Helgemo. In fact on the first two boards of the tournament, he went down ten tricks! And, more to the point, he scored two complete zeros against his adversaries who scored 48 points: 24 (top) + 24 (top). However, he does not have too much to reproach himself about.

Just look at the hands enjoyed by the spectators on View Graph ...

Board 1. Love All. Dealer North.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Quantin</i>	<i>Sharif</i>	<i>Helgemo</i>	<i>Allegaert</i>
–	1♣	Pass	1♦
1♥	2♠	4♥	5NT
Pass	7♣	Pass	Pass
7♥	All Pass		

Apparently 5NT was taken for a Grand Slam force by Omar Sharif, while Allegaert meant to say only “pick a slam” in clubs or diamonds. Quantin, convinced that there was a heart void in one of the opponent's hands took out insurance (the sponsor of this tournament – isn't he a specialist in insurance?). Alas for him, it was a phantom sacrifice.

Omar Sharif led the ♠7. Allegaert took the ace and followed this with the ace and king of diamonds. On the ace, Sharif played the ♣2. A third diamond was played by South. If he had ruffed with the queen of hearts, Quantin would go four down, but he dropped the ♣4. Five down, 1100 for North/South and 24/24.

The second hand was another unhappy one for East/West:

Board 2. N/S Vulnerable. Dealer East.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Quantin</i>	<i>Sharif</i>	<i>Helgemo</i>	<i>Allegaert</i>
–	–	Pass	1♦
2♣	Pass	2NT	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

South led the ace of hearts and followed this with the king of diamonds. Helgemo took the ace, cashed three spades and tried the club finesse. Five down again and another 24/24 for North/South.

There are some moments where bridge is really “trés sévère”.

Ernesto d'Orsi continues:

While the defending Champions of the Generali Masters went a total of 10 down on the first two boards, at table 13 the fortunes went the other way ... on board 1 the bidding went:

West	North	East	South
<i>Perron</i>	<i>Shivdasani</i>	<i>Morse</i>	<i>Chagas</i>
–	1♣	Pass	1♦
2♥	2♠	5♥	5NT
Pass	7♣	All Pass	

Chagas bid 5NT because he could no longer ask for aces with 4NT. 5NT (at that level) would be Blackwood. Apparently Shivdasani still thought that 5NT was GSF and with his 8-card solid suit bid 7♣. Morse simply led the suit partner had bid for one down.

On board two the bidding went:

West	North	East	South
<i>Perron</i>	<i>Shivdasani</i>	<i>Morse</i>	<i>Chagas</i>
–	–	Pass	1♦
2♣	2♦	2NT	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

Chagas led the ♥K and after seeing the two from his partner switched to the ♦K. Morse took the ace, finessed the ♣Q and when the smoke cleared he was four down, losing four hearts, three diamonds and one club.

Viewed from View Graph

by Barry Rigal

Board 4. E/W Vul. Dealer South.

<p>♠ A 10 5 3 ♥ 10 7 4 3 2 ♦ 3 ♣ J 10 6</p> <p>♠ K 9 7 ♥ 9 5 ♦ A 9 7 5 ♣ K 9 5 3</p>	<p>♠ J 6 4 2 ♥ A 8 6 ♦ Q 10 ♣ Q 8 7 4</p> <p>♠ Q 8 ♥ K Q J ♦ K J 8 6 4 2 ♣ A 2</p>
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West	North	East	South
<i>Levy</i>	<i>Kowalski</i>	<i>Martens</i>	<i>Mittelman</i>
–	–	–	INT
Pass	2♣	Pass	2♦
Pass	2♥	All Pass	

Not everybody was fully au fait with the Generali system by the end of round 2. Kowalski followed a Stayman sequence that was supposed to be invitational – but Mittelman passed anyway. Martens led the ♦Q and Levy continued the suit – not the best start for the defence as Kowalski won in dummy, throwing a club. However, when Kowalski led the ♥K Martens ducked, and now Apollinari made a serious error by playing a second trump (it is much better to lead a third diamond and throw a second club away on this; as the cards lie, it generates +170). Martens took his ♥A and led a club and Kowalski won the ♣A and led a diamond to pitch his club. But Levy won and returned a club and now all Kowalski could do was play a spade to the queen. When it lost, and a spade came back, Martens had to score his ♥8 in the ending for one down.

Board 6. E/W Vul. Dealer East.

<p>♠ 10 8 ♥ Q 6 ♦ K Q J 10 9 ♣ J 8 7 3</p> <p>♠ J 4 ♥ J 10 9 7 2 ♦ 7 2 ♣ A K Q 9</p>	<p>♠ A Q 6 2 ♥ A 8 5 ♦ A 8 6 ♣ 6 5 2</p> <p>♠ K 9 7 5 3 ♥ K 4 3 ♦ 5 4 3 ♣ 10 4</p>
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4♥ was the normal contract on this board, and Zia and Bocchi reached it at a normal rate:

West	North	East	South
<i>Zia</i>	<i>Estra</i>	<i>Bocchi</i>	<i>Chemla</i>
–	–	1♣	Pass
1♥	Pass	1♠	Pass
3♣	Pass	3♥	Pass
4♥	All Pass		

Westra led the ♦K, which went six, three, seven (a nice if routine false card from Zia). Westra unimaginatively continued with a second diamond, and Zia won and crossed to hand twice in clubs to finesse hearts, making the routine ten tricks for a just above average score.

Unremarkable, you may say. Yes, but Zia had given the defence a chance. If Westra shifts to a spade at trick two the defence can arrange a trump promotion in spades, whatever Zia does.

Board 8. Love All. Dealer West.

<p>♠ 9 8 6 ♥ A J 10 7 2 ♦ 7 5 ♣ 4 3 2</p>	<p>♠ Q ♥ 9 5 ♦ 10 8 4 2 ♣ A Q 10 9 6 5</p> <p>♠ 5 2 ♥ K Q 8 6 ♦ A K Q 9 ♣ K J 7</p> <p>♠ A K J 10 7 4 3 ♥ 4 3 ♦ J 6 3 ♣ 8</p>
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West	North	East	South
<i>Kowalski</i>	<i>Sharif</i>	<i>Mouiel</i>	<i>Jourdain</i>
Pass	Pass	1♦	3♠
Pass	Pass	Dble	Pass
4♥	All Pass		

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Sharif had full marks on Round 1 but thereafter ran into some bad luck. An excellent defence he found on this deal was not rewarded on the scoresheet.

Against 4♥ Sharif led ♠Q. Jourdain overtook and returned his singleton club. After receiving the club ruff, Jourdain continued with the ♠10. Sharif ruffed his partner's winner to give another club ruff.

Two down was below average for Sharif. Why? At seven tables, North opened 3♣. East overcalled Three No Trumps ending the auction, and South cashed seven spade winners and then a club.

Board 12. N/S Vul. Dealer West.

<p>♠ 10 9 7 5 2 ♥ Q 10 3 ♦ K Q 6 ♣ 10 4</p>	<p>♠ Q 8 ♥ A J 8 5 ♦ A J 5 4 2 ♣ K Q</p>	<p>♠ K J 3 ♥ 7 2 ♦ 10 8 ♣ J 9 7 6 5 3</p>	<p>♠ A 6 4 ♥ K 9 6 4 ♦ 9 7 3 ♣ A 8 2</p>
<p>West <i>Gawrys</i> Pass All Pass</p>	<p>North <i>Sharif</i> INT</p>	<p>East <i>Kokish</i> Pass</p>	<p>South <i>Abecassis</i> 3NT</p>

Finding a 4-4 major suit fit can sometimes be more difficult than it appears. When Omar opened an off centre INT rather than go through a reverse with uninspiring suits, Abecassis simply raised to 3NT without looking for a heart fit.

Kokish led a club, and Sharif was very short of entries to dummy to set up the diamonds. He also wanted to keep West off lead for fear of a spade switch – so he was rather awkwardly placed.

He solved his problem by leading a low diamond from hand at trick two, and when the ♦8 appeared from Kokish, he ducked in dummy !

Gawrys resisted the temptation to overtake ♦8 to play a spade (that leads to -490), and left Kokish on play. But now the spade honours were protected and Sharif could clear the diamonds and finesse in hearts to generate +460 and a decent score, since 4♥ by South is held to 11 tricks on a spade lead.

After the same auction at another table, declarer won the club lead in hand and crossed to a heart to play a diamond to the jack. He then cleared the diamonds, Justin Hackett discarding the ♣3.

Jourdain found the spade switch and now declarer's contract was at risk if he took the heart finesse. In the end he played a heart to the ace, but, as the clubs were blocked, nine tricks was a bottom.

Board 19. E/W Vul. Dealer South.

	<p>♠ A J 7 3 ♥ 10 5 ♦ 2 ♣ A J 8 7 6 3</p>		<p>♠ Q 10 6 5 ♥ J 7 3 ♦ J 9 8 ♣ 5 4 2</p>
<p>West <i>Mari</i> - INT 3♦</p>	<p>North <i>Bocchi</i> - Pass 3♥</p>	<p>East <i>Zia</i> - Pass All Pass</p>	<p>South <i>Perron</i> Pass 2♥</p>

Zia and Christian Mari combined to produce a double knock-out on consecutive boards, collecting two complete tops.

The second came when they defended on a partscore where the field had played game or a higher scoring partial – this was the first.

Mari's 3♦ would not have been much fun (the defence can collect at least 100) but Bocchi pressed on to 3♥ hoping Perron had a six-card major, not a good advertisement for disciplined pre-empters, since an undisciplined pre-empter would have been known to hold only a 5-card suit.

Mari led a top diamond and Zia signalled enthusiastically with the ♦J, calling for a spade switch. Mari got the message, playing the ♠K, but Perron had missed the point. If he ducks the ♠K and wins the next, to play the ♥10 and run it, he comes home with 9 tricks.

Instead he won the ♠A and played a club to the ten, hoping the black queens were with East. Disaster! Mari won the ♣Q and played a second spade, allowing Zia

to cash the ♠10 and ♠Q for Mari to discard his second club.

Now best defence (another club from Zia to let Mari ruff and cash ♥A and play a second heart and get two diamond tricks in the end) leads to four down. In fact Zia played back a diamond, and Perron escaped for three down – but still an unshared bottom.

Board 21. N/S Vul. Dealer North.

♠ K 9 7 6 5 ♥ K 10 6 ♦ K J 2 ♣ A K	♠ A J 10 3 2 ♥ Q 7 5 ♦ Q 8 6 ♣ 7 6	♠ Q 4 ♥ 8 4 3 2 ♦ A 5 ♣ 8 5 4 3 2	♠ 8 ♥ A J 9 ♦ 10 9 7 4 3 ♣ Q J 10 9
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West	North	East	South
Wolff	Zhong	Quantin	Helness
–	Pass	Pass	Pass
INT	All Pass		

Bobby Wolff must have felt that the whole world was against him on this deal – but it all worked out well in the end.

His hand is probably too good for a 15–17 INT, but he bid it anyway, and scored a double goal. First of all he kept the auction at the one level, (several pairs got too high) and secondly he concealed his spade suit.

To no avail: Fu Zhong led a heart! Helness won his ♥A and knew something odd was going on (who had the spades??).

He shifted to a diamond and Wolff made a good play to duck, winning the ♦A and playing the ♠Q which held the trick. Wolff nearly fell off his chair when Helness showed out on the second round of the suit, but he ducked the trick to Zhong as Helness pitched the ♣Q.

Unfortunately for Helness, the low diamond switch at trick two had left North with the impression that he had a top diamond. He tried the ♦Q and now Wolff could drive out the top spades and collect eight tricks by establishing the ♠8. That was an excellent result for him.

Board 24. Love All. Dealer West.

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

Marc Bompis and Michel Abecassis had one of the most remarkable auctions I have ever seen on this deal. The auction went on for six rounds – but no one bid their long suit until the very final call of the auction. They finished in a poorish slam, but it came home, so all sins were forgiven.

West	North	East	South
Kowalski	Abecassis	Chagas	Bompis
Pass	Pass	Pass	1♣
Pass	1♥	1♠	Dble
Rdbl	2♣	Pass	2♠
3♠	4♠	Pass	5♥
Pass	5NT	Pass	6♦
All Pass			

Bompis' 1♣ opening was designed to confuse everyone (it succeeded) and it looked as if North/South were headed to 3NT now, which would not have been a success, till Chagas intervened, for no obvious reason.



Gabriel Chagas considering intervention

Bompis showed extras and three trumps, and Abecassis denied five hearts when he bid 2♦; that meant his 4♠ bid showed a three–suiter, and his 5NT bid was a final attempt to put diamonds back on the agenda.

When Kowalski led a spade, Bompis ruffed in dummy, drew trumps ending in hand and ran the ♣J. Kowalski took the ace and returned a club, but Abecassis put on the ten and could claim his contract when ♣9 appeared.

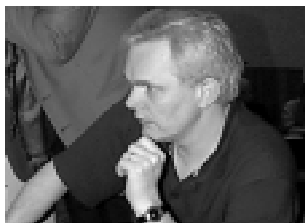
The editor adds:

At my table, in a simpler auction, diamonds were also bid for the first time at the six level:

West	North	East	South
Baldursson	Westra	Lambardi	Jourdain
Pass	Pass	2♠	Dble
4♠	4NT ¹	Pass	5♠ ²
Pass	6♦	All Pass	

1. Pick a suit
2. No, *you* pick a suit

Westra won the heart lead in dummy, drew trumps and led ♣J. Baldursson (*pictured right*) put on the ace and played another club.



Westra wisely put in the ten and used dummy's heart entry to take another club finesse – so he never had to risk the hearts.

Board 26. Game All. Dealer East.

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

West	North	East	South
Multon	Sharif	Zia	Auken
–	–	Pass	Pass
2NT	Pass	3♥	Pass
4♠	All Pass		

Multon and Zia did well to stay low here. Zia started things off well when he did not open a weak two. When Multon jumped to 4♠ to suggest no feature worth emphasising Zia gave it a lot of thought but decided not to try for slam.

Sharif led a low trump, and when Auken pitched the ♥2 Multon had a fair idea that Sharif had most of the values from his passive lead.

He could have led a diamond to the jack early on, but he hoped to create an endplay instead. He cashed his top diamonds and ruffed a diamond, then played off the top hearts and ruffed the last diamond. Then he played a trump and Sharif took the ace and exited with a third trump.

At this point Multon was down to three clubs and a trump in each hand, with the lead in West. He had an inferential count from trick 1 that Sharif had a 3–4–4–2 shape so he played the odds and ran ♣8 from hand. Whether Sharif covered or not, the defence were held to one club trick and Multon had his overtrick.

