

It's Italy vs USA 2

Italy and **USA 2**, both strong victors in the semifinals, will fight it out for the seventh biennial *World Junior Team Championship* in a 96-board match today and tomorrow.

Italy will have a huge edge as the match gets under way - 24 IMPs. **Italy** devastated **USA 2** in their round-robin match, 25-2, and that qualified Italy for the maximum carryover.

The Italians will be seeking their first Junior championship. The **United States** have one previous title - in 1991 at Ann Arbor, Michigan.

Italy defeated **Israel**, 145.5-89 in yesterday's 64-board semifinal. The Italians started with a 13.5-point carryover, increased their lead to 27.5 in the first quarter, then dropped a couple of IMPs in the second quarter. But they pulled away in the third quarter.

Denmark had a 5.3 carryover against **USA 2** and they added 2 IMPs in the first quarter. But it was all **USA 2** from that point on. The final tally: **USA 2** 236, **Denmark** 102.3

Israel and **Denmark** will battle for the bronze medal today.

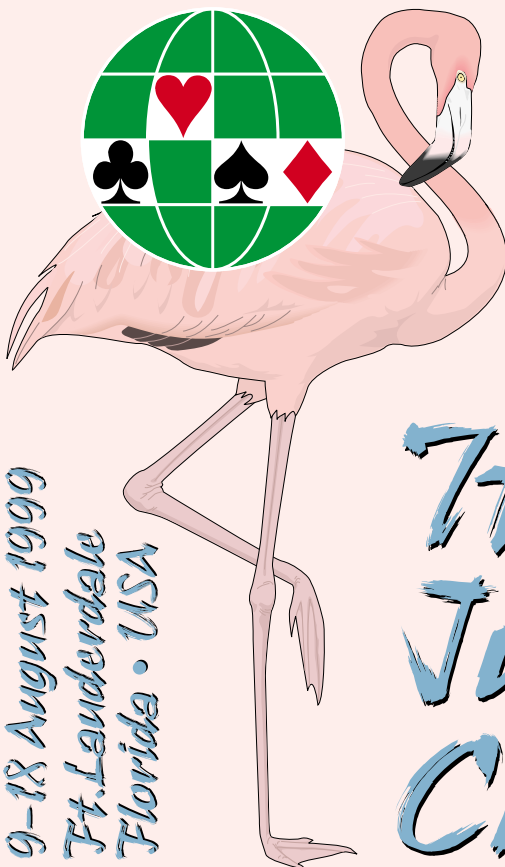
Boye Brogeland and **Chris Krisoffersen** of Norway led the Swiss Pairs after seven rounds. **Yu Wei** and **Yi Ma** of China were second in the 24-pair field.

BULLETIN 8

TUESDAY, 17 AUGUST 1999

Today's Program

| | |
|--|-------------|
| Final (session 1) & Playoff (session 1) | 10.30-12.50 |
| Swiss Pairs (rounds 8-9) | 11.00-13.10 |
| Final (session 2) & Playoff (session 2) | 14.10-16.30 |
| Swiss Pairs (rounds 10-12) | 15.30-18.50 |
| Final (session 3) & Playoff (session 3) | 17.00-19.20 |
| Swiss Pairs (rounds 13-14) | 21.00-23.10 |
| Final (session 4) & Playoff (session 4) | 21.30-23.50 |



Welcome to Jaime Ortiz-Patiño

We extend a warm welcome to **Jaime Ortiz-Patiño**, a great friend of Junior bridge and *President-Emeritus of the World Bridge Federation*.

During his presidency, Jimmy led the way for Junior bridge. He helped to organize the program and he lent his support every step of the way. Throughout his tenure, with all the matters that commanded his attention,

he never neglected Junior bridge.

When the first World Junior Team Championship was staged in Amsterdam back in 1987, his interest was so strong that he put up the trophy that today bears his name as the prize for the champion team.

His interest in Junior bridge has not diminished in any way since he stepped down from the presidency. He has attended all but one of the Junior team championships, and he has lent his help every time. He is here once again to lend a hand and to present the Jaime Ortiz-Patiño Trophy to the winners.

Panos Gerontopoulos
WBF Youth Committee chairman

7th World Junior Teams Championship

**RESULTS**

| SEMIFINAL 1 | | |
|--------------|--------------|-----------|
| Teams | ITALY | ISRAEL |
| Carryover | 13.5 | |
| 1st Quarter | 31 | 23 |
| Total | 44.5 | 23 |
| 2nd Quarter | 35 | 37 |
| Total | 79.5 | 60 |
| 3rd Quarter | 41 | 13 |
| Total | 120.5 | 73 |
| 4th Quarter | 25 | 16 |
| Final Result | 145.5 | 89 |

| SEMIFINAL 2 | | |
|--------------|------------|--------------|
| Teams | USA 2 | DENMARK |
| Carryover | | 5.3 |
| 1st Quarter | 46 | 48 |
| Total | 46 | 53.3 |
| 2nd Quarter | 70 | 27 |
| Total | 116 | 80.3 |
| 3rd Quarter | 83 | 10 |
| Total | 199 | 90.3 |
| 4th Quarter | 37 | 12 |
| Final Result | 236 | 102.3 |

**TODAY'S PROGRAM****FINAL**

ITALY

USA 2

PLAYOFF

ISRAEL

DENMARK

WBF SWISS PAIRS
Ranking after 7 Rounds

| | | | |
|----|-------------------------|--------------------------------|--------|
| 1 | Boye Brogeland | Christer Kristoffersen, Norway | 131.00 |
| 2 | Yu Wei | Yi Ma, China | 125.00 |
| | Pablo Ravenna | Esteban Pugliese, Argentina | 125.00 |
| 4 | Tony Yang | Jim Wu, Chinese Taipei | 124.00 |
| 5 | Oyvind Saur, Norway | Mike Nadler, Canada | 119.00 |
| 6 | Gunnar Harr | Thomas Charlsen, Norway | 116.00 |
| 7 | Jay Wong | Eric Wu, Chinese Taipei | 111.00 |
| | Gavin Wolpert | David Grainger, Canada | 111.00 |
| 9 | Diego Brenner | Bruno Pacheco, Brazil | 110.00 |
| 10 | Nils Kvangraven, Norway | Leigh Gold, Australia | 108.00 |
| 11 | Luis Argerich | Agustin Madala, Argentina | 107.00 |
| 12 | Y Chen | C Shen, China | 105.00 |
| 13 | Nicolas Croft | Luke Matthews, Australia | 103.00 |
| 14 | Paul Brayshaw | Kylie Robb, Australia | 102.00 |
| | Juanita Ochoa | Juan Carlos Castillo, Colombia | 102.00 |
| 16 | Ben Zeidenberg | Darren Wolpert, Canada | 97.00 |
| | Lisa Kow | David Brower, USA | 97.00 |
| 18 | Lik Cheung | C K Poon, Hong Kong | 94.00 |
| 19 | Federico Romanin | Luciano Redondi, Argentina | 92.00 |
| | Craig Barkhouse | Colin Lee, Canada | 92.00 |
| 21 | Ian Boyd, Canada | Kevin Bathurst, USA | 87.00 |
| 22 | Mike Kitces | Brian Meyer, USA | 86.00 |
| 23 | Naomi Lear | David Halasi, Canada | 82.00 |
| 24 | Hao-Min Xu | Jian Hou, China | 80.00 |

Tremendous help

Your *Daily Bulletin* editors, **Henry** and **Dorothy Francis**, has had tremendous help from several journalists – they have helped make the Bulletins diverse and interesting.

First there's **Barry Rigal**. He takes notes during the vugraph matches, where he is the chief commentator. Then he writes longhand at tremendous speed and hands in a report that Henry has trained himself to read. Barry's reports are inestimable contributions, not just here, but also at North American championships and other major tournaments.

Jody Latham, here to report on the tournament for the *ACBL Bridge Bulletin*, kibitzes matches and offers her notes to help prepare match reports.

Ib Lundby, better known as the Grand Danois, offers interesting articles to the *Daily Bulletin* on almost a daily basis.

Pow Wooldridge makes sure we get the standings and match results as quickly as possible.

And then there's **Stelios Hadjidakis**. He's the guy who makes the Bulletins look so good. We were happy to see him once again. He is our layout editor here, just as he has been at all recent world championships.

Round 15

Norway vs Italy

by Barry Rigal

The first half of the match was relatively close – there were only two big swings.

Board 6. Dealer East. E/W vul.

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

Thomas Charlsen and C. Kristoffersen stopped in 4♣ on this auction: 1♠ - INT - 3♣ - 3♠ - 4♦ - 4♣. The 4♣ bid looks a little timid, but it is hard to get the extras in the North hand across - maybe a jump to 5♣. Of course 6♣ is not laydown, but Mallardi D'Avossa had a relay auction after 1♠ - INT and found his way to 6♣. On a diamond lead the heart loser disappeared, so declarer cashed two top clubs and led a low club up. When clubs turned out to be 4-2 on his right, the play was easy. 11 IMPs to Italy, but they all came back to Norway on Board 10.

Board 10. Dealer East. Both vul.

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

After 1♦ - 4♥ doubled, Stelio di Bello as East guessed to bid 4♠. This is not a hopeless spot, but Furio diBello made an opti-

Pow is on the ball

There's a good reason why you got your scores and standings so fast during the round-robin. His name is Pow Wooldridge. Pow traced down the match records as quickly as possible after each match, compiled the standings and made the information available in a very short turn-around time.

Pow, who is doing this job as a volunteer, is the father of Joel Wooldridge of USA 2 team.

mistic try for slam, finishing in 6♠ down three. Since Oyvind Saur passed 4♥ doubled in the other room and collected 200, that was 11 IMPs to Norway.

Italy widened their lead when Board 12 came up.

Board 12. Dealer West. N/S vul.

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

The Norway North bid 4♣ in first seat – down two. D'Avossa opened 1♠ and competed to 3♠. On the ♥A and a diamond shift Boye Brogeland as West won and led a low club to the 3 and ace. Saur did not play a second club, so now the club ruff was gone, and when the ♣Q fell D'Avossa had plus 140 and 8 IMPs. Italy's lead slipped on the last deal.

Board 20. Dealer West. Both vul.

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

Both tables bid on to 4♣ over 4♥ (a contract unlikely to make except on the ♠A lead) and 4♠ was doubled in both rooms. On a club lead it looks as if all you need is the spade finesse. The 'technical' play of leading the ♠Q is all well and good. But here it promotes an extra trump for the defense when both black suits fail to split. D'Avossa fell into the trap and conceded 500 – 7 IMPs to Norway.

Birman coached Israel

The members of the Israeli team have pointed out that David Birman has been their coach for the past two years. He was not able to make the trip to Fort Lauderdale, but the Israelis feel it was coaching that made it possible for them to qualify for the World Junior Teams semifinals.

Boards 1-16

Denmark vs USA 2

Denmark went into the match with a 5.3-point lead on USA 2, the result of the carryover formula. That margin represented one-third of the 16 IMPs by which Denmark defeated USA 2 in their round-robin meeting. After three boards the Danish lead was up to 22.3 points.

Both teams played in INT on Board 2, but Denmark gained 5 IMPs by holding the American declarer to four tricks.

Board 2. Dealer East. N/S vul.

| | | | | | | | | | | | |
|--|---|---|--|---|---|--|--|--|---|--|--|
| <p>♠ J 10 9 7 ♥ J 10 9 ♦ 9 7 2 ♣ 9 4 2</p> | <table style="border: 1px solid black; width: 80px; height: 80px; margin: auto;"> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">N</td><td></td><td style="text-align: center;">E</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">W</td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr><td></td><td style="text-align: center;">S</td><td></td></tr> </table> | N | | E | W | | | | S | | <p>♠ K 2 ♥ Q 8 6 3 ♦ J 10 5 3 ♣ A 10 7</p> |
| N | | E | | | | | | | | | |
| W | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | S | | | | | | | | | | |
| <p>♠ A Q 5 ♥ 5 4 2 ♦ K Q 8 4 ♣ J 6 5</p> | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | <p>♠ 8 6 4 3 ♥ A K 7 ♦ A 6 ♣ K Q 8 3</p> | | | | | | | | | | |

Kaspar Konow led a diamond to the ace, and Chris Willenken immediately attacked spades, losing to the king. The defense took their three diamond tricks, ending in East, and Marten Madsen shifted to a heart, taken with the ace. A second spade went to the queen, and a heart return knocked out the king (declarer had pitched a heart on a diamond). Konow won the next spade and led a heart to partner's queen. Madsen took his ♥8 and still had to score his ♣A. Nine tricks for the defense.

At the other table, Mik Kristensen held onto all his hearts, pitching a club and a spade, so he was able to control the play and go down only one.

Willenken opened an offshape notrump on Board 3, a tactic that backfired.

Board 3. Dealer South. E/W vul.

| | | | | | | | | | | | |
|--|---|---|--|---|---|--|--|--|---|--|--|
| <p>♠ 9 7 ♥ J 9 8 4 ♦ A 2 ♣ K J 10 4 3</p> | <table style="border: 1px solid black; width: 80px; height: 80px; margin: auto;"> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">N</td><td></td><td style="text-align: center;">E</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">W</td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr><td></td><td style="text-align: center;">S</td><td></td></tr> </table> | N | | E | W | | | | S | | <p>♠ A Q 8 6 5 2 ♥ Q 7 ♦ J 6 4 ♣ 7 2</p> |
| N | | E | | | | | | | | | |
| W | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | S | | | | | | | | | | |
| <p>♠ J 10 4 3 ♥ A 6 3 2 ♦ 10 8 5 3 ♣ 8</p> | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | <p>♠ K ♥ K 10 5 ♦ K Q 9 7 ♣ A Q 9 6 5</p> | | | | | | | | | | |

Willenken opened INT in first seat and wound up in 3NT after a Stayman auction. Konow led and spade and the defense ran off the first six tricks. When Madsen led a heart, declarer

guessed wrong, going up with the king, and so was beaten four tricks.

This was the auction in the Closed Room:

| West | North | East | South |
|------------|-------|------------|------------|
| Wooldridge | Nohr | Carmichael | Kristensen |
| Pass | 1♥ | 2♠ | 1♣ |
| 3♠ | 4♣ | Pass | Dbf |
| All Pass | | | 5♣ |

Wooldridge underled his ♥A, so declarer had no trouble making 11 tricks, losing only a heart and a spade for a 12-IMP pickup. Even without the heart lead, chances are declarer would have made the right guess in the suit.

The Americans got on the scoreboard on the next deal.

Board 4. Dealer West. Both vul.

| | | | | | | | | | | | |
|--|---|---|--|---|---|--|--|--|---|--|---|
| <p>♠ 9 ♥ A K 10 8 3 ♦ K 10 3 2 ♣ Q 9 7</p> | <table style="border: 1px solid black; width: 80px; height: 80px; margin: auto;"> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">N</td><td></td><td style="text-align: center;">E</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">W</td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr><td></td><td style="text-align: center;">S</td><td></td></tr> </table> | N | | E | W | | | | S | | <p>♠ 10 ♥ J 7 2 ♦ A J 9 6 5 ♣ 8 4 3 2</p> |
| N | | E | | | | | | | | | |
| W | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | S | | | | | | | | | | |
| <p>♠ K Q J 7 6 4 3 ♥ 9 ♦ Q 7 ♣ K J 5</p> | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | <p>♠ A 8 5 2 ♥ Q 6 5 4 ♦ 8 4 ♣ A 10 6</p> | | | | | | | | | | |

Closed Room

| West | North | East | South |
|------------|-------|------------|------------|
| Wooldridge | Nohr | Carmichael | Kristensen |
| 1♠ | 2♥ | Pass | 4♥ |
| All Pass | | | |

Nohr won the ♠K opening lead and led a diamond to the king and ace. Carmichael returned a club, ducked to the king, and Wooldridge led another top spade. This guaranteed a trump trick for the defense, so the contract was set two tricks.

Open Room

| West | North | East | South |
|----------|-------|--------|-----------|
| Konow | Greco | Madsen | Willenken |
| 1♠ | 2♥ | Pass | 4♥ |
| 4♠ | Pass | Pass | Dbf |
| All Pass | | | |

Konow didn't know whether 4♥ would be a make, but he felt sure 4♠ would not be a big loser. Eric Greco cashed a heart and led a club to partner's ace. A club return established the setting trick while the defense still had the ace of trumps. 7 IMPs to USA 2.

Board 8 was strange in the Closed Room.

Board 8. Dealer West. None vul.

| | | | | | | | |
|---|--|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| <p>♠ Q 7 4 ♥ Q ♦ 9 4 2 ♣ Q 10 9 7 5 3</p> | <table style="margin: auto;"> <tr><td style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">N</td></tr> <tr><td style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">W</td></tr> <tr><td style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">E</td></tr> <tr><td style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">S</td></tr> </table> | N | W | E | S | <p>♠ A K 10 9 5 3 2 ♥ A J 8 4 ♦ J ♣ 4</p> | <p>♠ 8 6 ♥ K 10 9 7 6 3 ♦ K Q 7 6 5 ♣ -</p> |
| N | | | | | | | |
| W | | | | | | | |
| E | | | | | | | |
| S | | | | | | | |

Closed Room

| West | North | East | South |
|------------|--------|------------|------------|
| Wooldridge | Nohr | Carmichael | Kristensen |
| Pass | 1♣ | 1♠ | 2♥ |
| 2♠ | 3♣ | 4♠ | Pass |
| Pass | 5♣ (!) | 5♠ (!) | Dbl |
| All Pass | | | |

Kristensen led the ♦K and Wooldridge spread his dummy. Everyone at the table broke out laughing when they saw the six clubs. Carmichael was sure wishing he had passed instead of pushing on in spades. The defense switched to a trump at trick two, so Carmichael had to go down one, losing two hearts and a diamond.

At the other table Madsen jumped to 4♠ at his first turn and played it there, making four for an 11-IMP gain.

On Board 10 Wooldridge and Carmichael stretched a bit, as is their style, to bid 3NT.

Board 10. Dealer East. Both vul.

| | | | | | | | |
|--|--|---|---|---|---|---|--|
| <p>♠ Q 10 3 ♥ J 4 ♦ A K Q 7 6 4 ♣ 10 2</p> | <table style="margin: auto;"> <tr><td style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">N</td></tr> <tr><td style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">W</td></tr> <tr><td style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">E</td></tr> <tr><td style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">S</td></tr> </table> | N | W | E | S | <p>♠ 9 7 ♥ Q 9 3 ♦ J 10 8 ♣ A K J 7 4</p> | <p>♠ K J 8 6 5 4 ♥ A 7 2 ♦ 9 ♣ Q 8 3</p> |
| N | | | | | | | |
| W | | | | | | | |
| E | | | | | | | |
| S | | | | | | | |

The weak stoppers in both major suits and the lie of the major suits made it a given that this contract would succeed. In the other room the Danes stopped in 3♦, which made, but that still represented a 10-IMP gain for USA 2.

The Americans gained another 8 IMPs on Board 11 when Willenken went on to 5♥ over 4♠ in the Open Room, making 11 tricks. At the other table, Nohr chose to double 4♠ instead of bidding on, and the Danes could beat this contract only a single trick.

The American streak continued into Board 12.

Board 12. Dealer West. N/S vul.

| | | | | | | | |
|--|--|---|---|---|---|---|--|
| <p>♠ A K Q 9 7 3 ♥ Q ♦ K 9 7 5 ♣ Q 5</p> | <table style="margin: auto;"> <tr><td style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">N</td></tr> <tr><td style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">W</td></tr> <tr><td style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">E</td></tr> <tr><td style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">S</td></tr> </table> | N | W | E | S | <p>♠ 10 ♥ K 9 7 3 ♦ J 6 4 ♣ A J 9 7 2</p> | <p>♠ 4 2 ♥ J 10 6 5 2 ♦ 10 8 ♣ 10 6 4 3</p> <p>♠ J 8 6 5 ♥ A 8 4 ♦ A Q 3 2 ♣ K 8</p> |
| N | | | | | | | |
| W | | | | | | | |
| E | | | | | | | |
| S | | | | | | | |

Closed Room

| West | North | East | South |
|------------|-------|------------|------------|
| Wooldridge | Nohr | Carmichael | Kristensen |
| 1♠ | Pass | 1NT | Pass |
| 3♠ | Pass | 4♠ (!) | All Pass |

Carmichael with only one spade decided his ♥K and ♣A would be useful enough to make the spade game a good possibility, so he bid it. Wooldridge lost only a heart, a diamond and a trump – the ♥K let him get rid of a club from his hand.

In the other room the Danes played in 3NT, going down one on a heart opening lead – 11 more IMPs to USA 2.

But those 11 IMPs all went back to Norway on the next deal.

Board 13. Dealer North. Both vul.

| | | | | | | | |
|--|--|---|---|---|---|--|---|
| <p>♠ Q 5 ♥ A 8 5 4 3 ♦ A J 9 ♣ Q 9 4</p> | <table style="margin: auto;"> <tr><td style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">N</td></tr> <tr><td style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">W</td></tr> <tr><td style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">E</td></tr> <tr><td style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">S</td></tr> </table> | N | W | E | S | <p>♠ J 10 4 3 ♥ J 2 ♦ Q 3 ♣ A K J 10 5</p> | <p>♠ 9 7 ♥ K Q 10 9 7 ♦ 10 8 7 6 ♣ 8 2</p> <p>♠ A K 8 6 2 ♥ 6 ♦ K 5 4 2 ♣ 7 6 3</p> |
| N | | | | | | | |
| W | | | | | | | |
| E | | | | | | | |
| S | | | | | | | |

The Danes stole this one. This was the bidding in the Closed Room.

| West | North | East | South |
|------------|-------|------------|------------|
| Wooldridge | Nohr | Carmichael | Kristensen |
| Pass | 2♥ | Pass | 3♣ |
| Pass | 3♦ | All Pass | |

Nohr attempted to make this on a crossruff, but he fell one trick short.

Open Room

| West | North | East | South |
|-------|-------|--------|-----------|
| Konow | Greco | Madsen | Willenken |
| 2♥ | Pass | 1♣ | 1♠ |
| 3♠ | Pass | 3♣ | Pass |
| | Pass | 3NT | All Pass |

The opening spade lead rode to Madsen's jack, and he imme-

diately went after diamonds. Willenken ducked the $\diamond Q$, so Mad- sen had three diamond tricks to go with his five clubs, a spade and a heart for plus 630.

Carmichael showed amazing restraint on Board 15.

Board 15. Dealer South. N/S vul.

| | | | | | | |
|--|---|--|----------|---|--|--|
| <p>\spadesuit 6 3 \heartsuit A Q J 4 \diamond J 6 5 4 \clubsuit K 7 5</p> | <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 | <p>\spadesuit A K Q 9 8 4 \heartsuit 8 6 \diamond A 7 \clubsuit A 8 6</p> | |
| N | | | | | | |
| W E | | | | | | |
| S | | | | | | |
| <p>\spadesuit J 10 2 \heartsuit 5 2 \diamond Q 8 3 2 \clubsuit J 10 4 2</p> | | <p>\spadesuit 7 5 \heartsuit K 10 9 7 3 \diamond K 10 9 \clubsuit Q 9 3</p> | | | | |

Carmichael of course opened 1 \spadesuit and Wooldridge raised him to two with his meager holding. Instead of jumping to game, Carmichael bid 3 \clubsuit , asking for help in that suit. Wooldridge didn't have anything good enough to bid on, so he said 3 \spadesuit . Carmichael thought for a few seconds, then finally put the green card on the tray. He took the opening spade lead and led the $\diamond A$ and another. South took the king, and now Carmichael had his nine tricks. After the hand was over, he turned to your reporter and said, "I really didn't want to play a partscore on that one." But he did and he was right. Not surprisingly the Danes got to game in the other room - 5 IMPs to USA 2.

USA 2 was ahead going into the last board, but Nohr turned that around.

Board 16. Dealer West. E/W vulnerable.

| | | | | | | |
|---|---|--|----------|---|---|--|
| <p>\spadesuit K 10 9 8 2 \heartsuit 7 4 2 \diamond A 6 5 \clubsuit 6 5</p> | <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 | <p>\spadesuit Q 4 \heartsuit A K 10 8 5 \diamond Q J 8 4 \clubsuit A 4</p> | |
| N | | | | | | |
| W E | | | | | | |
| S | | | | | | |
| <p>\spadesuit 7 3 \heartsuit Q J 9 3 \diamond 9 3 2 \clubsuit K 9 8 2</p> | | <p>\spadesuit A J 6 5 \heartsuit 6 \diamond K 10 7 \clubsuit Q J 10 7 3</p> | | | | |

In the Open Room the Americans stopped in 3 \clubsuit , made exactly when East was able to score his $\spadesuit Q$ on a club overruff. This was the bidding in the Closed Room.

| West | North | East | South |
|----------------|----------------|----------------|------------|
| Wooldridge | Nohr | Carmichael | Kristensen |
| Pass | Pass | 1 \heartsuit | Dbl |
| 2 \heartsuit | 2 \spadesuit | 3 \heartsuit | Pass |
| 4 \heartsuit | 4 \spadesuit | All Pass | |

Carmichael started with the $\heartsuit K$, then switched to the ace and another club, Wooldridge winning and leading a third club. But Nohr wasn't having any part of this – he ruffed with the king! Then he led a spade and finessed the jack, and he had his game for 7 crucial IMPs.

Italy had best win-loss record

Not surprisingly, Italy had the best won-loss record in the qualifying round-robin. The Italians won 13 matches and lost only two – to Denmark 14-16 and to Canada 17-23. They scored five blitzes.

Denmark, third in Victory Points, had the second best won-loss record with 12-3. The Danes blitzed only two opponents. USA 2, which edged Denmark on quotient for second place in the round-robin, won only 10 matches, scoring a blitz twice. The Americans lost big only once, 2-25 against Italy. They lost by small margins in their other defeats.

Three other teams had winning records – Chinese Taipei, Argentina and Central America-Caribbean. Chinese Taipei won nine, lost five and tied one before they were disqualified because one of their players was over the age limit. Argentina was 9-6 - their problem was that their losses were by big margins, costing them heavily in the Victory Point scale.

CAC may have finished 10th, but they still had a winning record – eight victories and seven losses. They defeated all four North American teams (two from the United States and two from Canada) plus Israel, Argentina, Australia and Egypt – an excellent performance.

Interestingly, no team was badly outclassed - every team won at least four matches.

The final win-loss standings:

| Team | Wins | Losses | Ties | Blitzes |
|--------------------------------------|------|--------|------|---------|
| Italy | 13 | 2 | 0 | 5 |
| Denmark | 12 | 3 | 0 | 2 |
| USA 2 | 10 | 5 | 0 | 2 |
| Chinese Taipei ⁽¹⁾ | 9 | 5 | 1 | 2 |
| Argentina | 9 | 6 | 0 | 0 |
| CAC | 8 | 7 | 0 | 0 |
| Israel | 7 | 8 | 0 | 1 |
| Norway | 7 | 8 | 0 | 0 |
| China | 6 | 8 | 1 | 1 |
| Australia | 6 | 9 | 0 | 0 |
| Brazil | 6 | 9 | 0 | 0 |
| USA 1 | 6 | 9 | 0 | 0 |
| Hong Kong | 5 | 9 | 1 | 1 |
| Canada 1 | 5 | 9 | 1 | 1 |
| Egypt | 5 | 10 | 0 | 0 |
| Canada 2 | 4 | 11 | 0 | 0 |

⁽¹⁾ Disqualified

Two transnational pairs

Of the 24 pairs who are competing in the Swiss Pairs, only two pairs are transnational pairs. Nils Kvangraven of Australia is playing with Leigh Gold of Australia, and Oyvind Saur of Norway is partnered by Mike Nadler of Canada.

Canada has the biggest representation – four pairs. China, Argentina and the United States have three each. Fielding two pairs were Chinese Taipei, Australia and Norway. Hong Kong, Brazil and Colombia each have one.

Boards 1-16

Italy vs Israel

by Barry Rigal

Not much happened in the first few deals, although the Italians broke on top and increased their 13.5-point carryover lead.

Board 7. Dealer South. Both vul.

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

Both tables made 4♠, but Mallardi had the tougher task. He reached 4♠ after Amir Levin-Eran Shaham had the chance to double an artificial club call. On a club lead to the ace and the ♦J shift, declarer won in hand and drew two rounds of trumps. Since South, a passed hand, apparently had six decent clubs and the ♦J, he had no room for the ♥A. So Mallardi led a heart to the king for his 10th trick. Israel's one big pickup came on Board 9.

Board 9. Dealer North. E/W vul.

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

Bernardo Biondo-Riccardo Intonti, who had a generally excellent set in the Closed Room, stopped in 2NT (1♠ - INT - 2♣ - 2NT) - quite high enough in theory. With all the red-suit cards on-side and diamonds breaking 3-3, nine tricks were available although Intonti collected only plus 120. In the other room after 1♠ - Dbl - Redbl - INT - Dbl - Pass, the defense cleared spades and collected 800 in comfort. Italy got it all back on the next deal.

Board 10. Dealer East. Both vul.

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

After East passed, Biondo opened a 2♦ multi. Intonti bid a pass-or-correct 2♥ and Biondo corrected to 2♠. Levin's decision to pass twice with the West cards looks amazingly cautious - especially for a Junior. Biondo made 2♠ with an overtrick.

In the other room Mario D'Avossa opened 1♣ with the East cards and now E/W reached 3NT, played by East. He managed 10 tricks for 13 IMPs to Italy.

Intonti opened the door for Israel in the Closed Room on Board 12, but Mallardi managed to hold the losses very well.

Board 12. Dealer West. N/S vul.

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

Both tables bid 1♠ - INT - 3♣ - 4♠. Intonti doubled, rather randomly, and on the ♥J lead he decided to duck (probably an error though nothing mattered now). Declarer could finesse in clubs and when Intonti won the trick, a low spade was his only slim chance. He actually led the ♦A and then the ♥A, conceding 590.

Against the undoubled 4♠, Shaham avoided the heart lead, but his shot of the ♦10 was equally unsuccessful. Declarer answered with the ♦J and guessed well to put in the 9 on the way back. Now he had tricks for plus 420, a loss of only 5 IMPs.

The final swing to Italy came on Board 14.

Board 14. Dealer East. None vul.

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

Again both tables reached 4♠. Levin reasonably enough led a top heart, giving declarer a critical tempo to make winning 10 tricks look easy. Mallardi led the ♦J, ducked to the king. Declarer had to draw four rounds of trumps, and had the ♣A-K-Q on which to throw a diamond loser. Mallardi took the first heart and forced declarer with a club. When he won the next heart, he led a diamond, and East had the last two tricks for down one.

By the end of the first set, Italy had increased their lead to 21.5 IMPs.

Boards 17-32

Denmark vs USA 2

by Barry Rigal

Denmark started with a partscore swing on Board 18.

Board 18. Dealer East. N/S vul.

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

Joel Wooldridge-Tom Carmichael declared 3♥ doubled by North on a transfer-preempt auction. This was beaten one trick. Chris Willenken declared 3NT as East. A heart lead would make things easy, but Kaspar Konow led a spade. Declarer probably cannot succeed double dummy, but he can come close. (Best is to cash four diamonds and two spades, then lead a club toward the king.) Willenken cashed all the spades and diamonds and Konow erred by baring the ♣Q. Now if Willenken leads a club and ducks the queen, he makes. But he covered the queen with the king and went down.

Good news was scarce for Denmark thereafter as USA 2 put together a strong run. This board highlighted the weakness of a four-point INT range.

Board 22. Dealer East. E/W vul.

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

Gregers Bjarnarson opened a 12-15 notrump and Anders Hagen let Carmichael play 3♥, mercifully undoubled, down two. Greco opened a 14-16 notrump and declared 3NT on a top spade lead. He won the third spade and ran five clubs. Madsen could have made life tough by coming down to a spade, two hearts and two diamonds - there is still a guess in the ending. But he bared his ♦K, and Greco, who knew Madsen had the majors, played off the ♦A to make his contract.

A few boards later another bad hand for the 12-15 notrump came up.

Board 24. Dealer West. None vul.

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

When Bjarnarson opened 1NT, Carmichael showed diamonds or the majors with a 2♣ bid, then passed Wooldridge's 2♦ response. Hagen chose to drive the hand to game in 4♠. Carmichael doubled and accurately attacked diamonds to collect 500. In the other room a quieter auction saw Greco bring home 2♠.

At this point Denmark had fallen 50 IMPs behind. This board brought Denmark a ray of hope.

Board 28. Dealer West. N/S vul.

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

Carmichael declared 3NT as North after Hagen had opened 2♣. On a club lead Carmichael had to let West into the lead in spades, and now had five top losers on a club continuation. Willenken opened 3♣ in third position - double, all pass. That was minus 300 and 9 IMPs to Denmark.

Denmark then lost the IMPs back when USA 2 bid a moderate slam.

Winners to get invitation

The winners of the World Junior Teams championship will be invited to compete in the 5th Red Sea International Bridge Festival November 14-21 in Eilat, Israel. If the winners are interested, they should contact David Birman for details and arrangements. Birman's e-mail address is birmand@inter.net.il

Board 31. Dealer South. N/S vul.

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

Bjarnarson-Hagen had a strong club auction and Carmichael preempted to the four level at once. The Danes stopped at the four level, collecting 480. Since 7NT is makable on a minor suit squeeze, this looked poor.

Greco-Willenken reached 6NT as follows: 1♠ - 3♥ - 3NT - Pass - 6NT. On a heart lead the 3-2 spade split saw declarer home. It is hard to know which slam is best - but after the preempt none of them are fantastic. However, you do almost seem to fall into bidding one of them!

A good decision

Naomi Lear of Canada deliberately did not cash a trick that was hers to take - she correctly worked it out that she would squeeze her partner.

Board 7. Dealer South. Both vul.

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

| | | | |
|-------------|---------------|-------------|--------------|
| West | North | East | South |
| | <i>Halasi</i> | | <i>Lear</i> |
| | | | Pass |
| INT | Pass | 2NT | All Pass |

David Halasi of Canada led a heart to the 4, 7 and king, and declarer shot back a heart to the 10 and ace. Lear found the switch of the ♠10 - declarer ducked. She continued the suit, and Halasi took the jack and led the king. Clearly Lear could overtake, dropping the queen, and cash the 9. But she didn't. If she did, Halasi would have to throw a red card, and whichever one he threw would give declarer an extra trick. So Halasi switched to a club, and declarer was limited to seven tricks - three diamonds, two hearts and two clubs - so was beaten a trick.

Meet Val Covalciuc



What does it mean to be president of the American Contract League? That's the question we put to Val Covalciuc, who is here for the rest of the tournament.

"It means going to lots of regionals where I meet people and answer questions. It means finding ways to add new members and keep the ones we have. It means bringing the ACBL as far as possible into the electronic world. It means working with the Board of Directors to do everything possible to improve the ACBL."

So far this year Val has traveled to 11 regionals, two North American championship tournaments - and of course one World Junior Team Championship. "This is the only world championship I'll visit as president - the Bermuda Bowl is going to be in 2000," she said.

What's life like at regionals?

"I try to be hands on," she said. "I give chalk talks to novices and intermediates, host Intermediate/Novice receptions, go to all meetings, pay visits to Easybridge and TAP sites, and meet a lot of people."

"All my bridge dates are with the locals. But sometimes it's difficult to play because people are asking me so many questions. During the course of a session, about half the pairs will have a question for me when they come to my table. The most common question I hear is, 'How do you like living in Memphis?' I don't know, of course - I still live in Omaha. The other common question is, 'How can a president accomplish anything in just one year?' That one is a lot tougher to answer."

Here's something that happens at regionals that intrigues her. "I meet people at every regional who came to the games because of playing on the Internet. Many of them are joining the ACBL. One fellow told me he played on OK-bridge and would come to the regional if I guaranteed he could become an ACBL member. I guaranteed it."

"Lots of folks who have met each other playing bridge on their computers are making dates to play with each other face-to-face. They want to meet the person they know only through the computer."

Val is big on electronics. "I want to use electronics as much as possible to make things easier for everybody. We already are setting up private chat lines for some of our Board committees, like finance. Lots of items, like the calendar and masterpoint totals, already are online for our members, and there'll be a lot more. I want to set up closer connections with our volunteers and members through the Internet."

What will Val do when her year as president is up. "I'll go back to teaching bridge. And my husband Rick and I will start working bridge cruises together again. And yes, Rick and I will go to some tournaments too - tournaments in fun places."

Boards 17-32

Italy vs Israel

The first few boards were fairly routine, but Board 20 produced a double game swing and 16 IMPs for the Italians.

Board 20. Dealer West. Both vul.

| | | | | | | | |
|---|--|---|---|---|---|--|---|
| ♠ A ♥ 7 6 3 ♦ J 8 6 ♣ A K 10 7 5 2 | <table style="margin: auto; border: 1px solid black; background-color: black; color: white; padding: 5px;"> <tr><td style="padding: 2px;">N</td><td style="padding: 2px;">E</td></tr> <tr><td style="padding: 2px;">W</td><td style="padding: 2px;">S</td></tr> </table> | N | E | W | S | ♠ K Q 4 2 ♥ J 2 ♦ K 7 5 4 2 ♣ J 6 | ♠ 10 6 3 ♥ 10 9 ♦ A Q 10 3 ♣ 9 8 4 3 |
| N | E | | | | | | |
| W | S | | | | | | |
| | ♠ J 9 8 7 5 ♥ A K Q 8 5 4 ♦ 9 ♣ Q | | | | | | |

Closed Room

| West | North | East | South |
|----------|----------|---------|-------|
| Mallardi | Levinger | d'Vossa | Liran |
| 1♣ | 1♦ | INT | 2♥ |
| 3♣ | 3♠ | Pass | 4♠ |
| Pass | Pass | 5♣ | Dbl. |
| All Pass | | | |

Open Room

| West | North | East | South |
|--------------------|---------|----------|--------|
| Zack | Intonti | Amit | Biondo |
| 1♣ | Pass | INT | 2♣ |
| 2NT ⁽¹⁾ | Pass | 3♣ | 3♠ |
| Pass | 4♠ | All Pass | |

⁽¹⁾ bad competitive hand with clubs

Where Zack showed a bad competitive hand with clubs, Mallardi showed rather more by bidding at the three-level. Whether d'Vossa was bidding to make or save is a moot point. There were 11 easy tricks for Mallardi.

The next board of interest, Board 22, was a push at 3NT making at both tables. It is, however, a very instructional play hand and both declarers got it right.

Board 22. Dealer East. E/W vul.

| | | | | | | | |
|---|--|---|---|---|---|--|--|
| ♠ A 7 5 2 ♥ A Q 8 ♦ Q 9 4 ♣ K 10 8 | <table style="margin: auto; border: 1px solid black; background-color: black; color: white; padding: 5px;"> <tr><td style="padding: 2px;">N</td><td style="padding: 2px;">E</td></tr> <tr><td style="padding: 2px;">W</td><td style="padding: 2px;">S</td></tr> </table> | N | E | W | S | ♠ K Q J 8 3 ♥ K J 5 2 ♦ K 7 ♣ 9 3 | ♠ 9 4 ♥ 9 3 ♦ A 8 5 3 ♣ A Q 6 5 4 |
| N | E | | | | | | |
| W | S | | | | | | |
| | ♠ 10 6 ♥ 10 7 6 4 ♦ J 10 6 2 ♣ J 7 2 | | | | | | |

In both rooms the ♠K was led. In the Open Room Zack won the third round with Intonti showing heart interest by his carding. The club suit was run and Intonti pitched two hearts and a diamond, all in perfect tempo. Zack thought for some time and played the ♦A felling the king. Intonti was done for. If he pitched a spade, declarer could play the ♦A and another for an endplay on North.

Mallardi did it a bit differently. The first spade trick had the same spots played as in the other room -- ♠K, low, ♠10, but Mallardi won the first one. On the run of the clubs Levinger, North, pitched two hearts and a spade, declarer a heart and a spade and South a spade and a heart. Mallardi could now guarantee his contract by putting Levinger in with a spade. He got his spade tricks but had to give up a red suit king for a push.

Board 26 was a bidding triumph for Israel in the Open Room.

Board 26. Dealer East. Both vul.

| | | | | | | | |
|---|--|---|---|---|---|---|--|
| ♠ A 10 4 ♥ A 8 7 ♦ Q 9 5 ♣ K Q 9 6 | <table style="margin: auto; border: 1px solid black; background-color: black; color: white; padding: 5px;"> <tr><td style="padding: 2px;">N</td><td style="padding: 2px;">E</td></tr> <tr><td style="padding: 2px;">W</td><td style="padding: 2px;">S</td></tr> </table> | N | E | W | S | ♠ J 5 ♥ 10 9 6 2 ♦ J 7 4 3 ♣ A 5 3 | ♠ K 8 7 6 2 ♥ 3 ♦ K 8 6 2 ♣ J 8 7 |
| N | E | | | | | | |
| W | S | | | | | | |
| | ♠ Q 9 3 ♥ K Q J 5 4 ♦ A 10 ♣ 10 4 2 | | | | | | |

The Israelis bid to 4♠ and made it with the right play in diamonds. The Italians missed this one as did the two pairs in the other match. That was 10 IMPs to Israel.

Board 28 was defended beautifully by Israeli's Amit and Zack.

Board 28. Dealer West. N/S vul.

| | | | | | | | |
|--|--|---|---|---|---|--|---|
| ♠ Q 8 4 2 ♥ A 8 2 ♦ J 8 4 3 ♣ Q 2 | <table style="margin: auto; border: 1px solid black; background-color: black; color: white; padding: 5px;"> <tr><td style="padding: 2px;">N</td><td style="padding: 2px;">E</td></tr> <tr><td style="padding: 2px;">W</td><td style="padding: 2px;">S</td></tr> </table> | N | E | W | S | ♠ K 5 3 ♥ 9 5 ♦ K 7 6 2 ♣ K J 8 3 | ♠ J ♥ K 10 4 3 ♦ 10 5 ♣ A 10 9 7 5 4 |
| N | E | | | | | | |
| W | S | | | | | | |
| | ♠ A 10 9 7 6 ♥ Q J 7 6 ♦ A Q 9 ♣ 6 | | | | | | |

The auction was Pass - Pass - 3♣ - Dbl - Pass - 3NT. Seems like a reasonable auction from North's point of view. The ♣7 went to the queen and king. The spade suit offered the chance for the most tricks so Intonti led one - low from his hand, jack

and ace, followed by the ♠10, ducked and a spade to the king. Then a diamond to the ace and another spade. East had pitched two hearts and the ♦10. The ♣2 went through declarer, 8 and 9. Amit worked out the squeeze on the dummy and played the ♣A. He was conceding a club trick to Intonti but at the same time took one of dummy's tricks away. Declarer still only had eight tricks. It wasn't good enough for Amit to work this out. Zack had to go along with the plan – and it was hard to do looking at the ♥Q-J in the dummy. But his partner was forcing him to throw ALL of his hearts away. He was up to it – when Amit played the ♣10 Zack let go of his last heart, the ACE, and they beat the contract as a result.

Such a great defense should garner more than 4 IMPs but that's all they got. In the other room the Italian pair climbed all the way to 2♣ on this auction: Their auction of Pass - Pass - 1♣ - Dbl - Redbl - 1♦ - Pass - INT - Pass - 2♣ was much less spirited than the one in the other room. It went down for a quiet 50.

The last board of real interest was Board 31.

Board 31. Dealer South. N/S vul.

| | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|--|--|---|--|---|--|---|--|---|--|--|
| ♠ 8 5 ♥ K Q J 10 6 5 4 3 ♦ 9 4 ♣ 6 | <table border="1" 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 | | ♠ J 7 ♥ A 7 ♦ 8 7 2 ♣ K Q 9 8 5 2 |
| | N | | | | | | | | | | |
| W | | E | | | | | | | | | |
| | S | | | | | | | | | | |
| ♠ A K 10 6 4 2 ♥ 8 2 ♦ A K 3 ♣ A 3 | | ♠ Q 9 3 ♥ 9 ♦ Q J 10 6 5 ♣ J 10 7 4 | | | | | | | | | |

Amit - Zack got to an aggressive spade slam, made it and for this effort were rewarded with 11 IMPs because their counterparts stopped in game in the other room.

About the Danes

Four members of the Danish team are still studying at the university level, and the other two are university graduates.

Mik Kristensen, who is 26, majored in economics and now works in real estate and banking. His partner, **Mikkel Nohr**, 24, is finishing his last year as a law student.

Gregers Bjarnarson, 24, is continuing his studies in economics. His partner, **Anders Hagen**, 25, is working on his engineering degree.

Morten Madsen, 25, is a mathematician who works in banking. His partner, **Kaspar Konow**, is majoring in history.

Nohr, Kristensen and Madsen all were members of the 1997 team that won the World Junior Teams.

Their captain, **Kirsten Moeller**, has a fine bridge background. She was a member of the Danish women's team that won the Women's Team Olympiad in Venice in 1988, and she won the European Junior championship in 1970.

Boards 33-48 Italy vs Israel

by Barry Rigal

The boards ran quiet. The most interesting was Board 5.

Board 5. Dealer North. N/S vul.

| | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|--|---|---|--|---|--|---|--|---|--|---|
| ♠ K ♥ 4 3 2 ♦ Q 9 5 4 ♣ Q J 10 8 5 | <table border="1" 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 | | ♠ J 7 5 ♥ A K 10 9 ♦ 10 3 2 ♣ A 6 4 ♠ A 10 9 8 6 4 3 ♥ Q J ♦ K 7 6 ♣ 9 ♠ Q 2 ♥ 8 7 6 5 ♦ A J 8 ♣ K 7 3 2 |
| | N | | | | | | | | | | |
| W | | E | | | | | | | | | |
| | S | | | | | | | | | | |

Intonti was pushed to 3♥ after a INT opening.

| West | North | East | South |
|----------|-------|------|-------|
| | INT | 2♣ | Dbl |
| Pass | 2♥ | 2♠ | 3♥ |
| All Pass | | | |

Intonti won the ♣9 opening lead with the ace and cashed the ♥A-K to get the good news. Then he drew a third round of trumps and could have succeeded by ducking a spade to the king. Instead he ducked a club, won the club return and led the ♠Q to the king. He ruffed a club and had to find a way to handle the diamond suit.

He played the ♦2 to the jack and queen. When West returned the club, Intonti just pitched dummy's spade and forced a lead from the ♦9 for his ninth trick. Biondo guessed Board 8 very nicely.

Board 8. Dealer West. None vul.

| | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|--|---|---|--|---|--|---|--|---|--|---|
| ♠ Q ♥ A 10 7 5 4 ♦ 5 3 ♣ A K 9 8 4 | <table border="1" 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 | | ♠ K J 10 3 ♥ 9 6 3 ♦ K J 9 7 ♣ 7 2 ♠ 9 7 5 4 2 ♥ 8 2 ♦ 10 6 2 ♣ Q 10 3 ♠ A 8 6 ♥ K Q J ♦ A Q 8 4 ♣ J 6 5 |
| | N | | | | | | | | | | |
| W | | E | | | | | | | | | |
| | S | | | | | | | | | | |

Everyone was playing 3NT down two. Biondo heard the auction go 1♥ - Pass - Pass to him. He doubled, and over 2♣ his partner bid 2♠. He could have been forgiven for driving to game, but he cuebid 3♣. When his partner bid 3♦, he passed! Right on! 3♦ made plus 130 for a 6-IMP pickup.

Boards 33-48

Denmark vs USA 2

This set started quietly with no major swings through the first six boards - in fact four of them were pushes. But everything started falling apart for Denmark on Board 7, and the devastation never stopped.

Board 39. Dealer South. Both vul.

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

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| | N | |
| W | | E |
| | S | |

| | |
|-------------|-------------|
| ♠ 4 2 | ♠ 4 2 |
| ♥ K Q 7 | ♥ K Q 7 |
| ♦ 9 8 5 | ♦ 9 8 5 |
| ♣ A K 9 7 3 | ♣ A K 9 7 3 |

Closed Room

| West | North | East | South |
|------------|------------|-------|------------|
| Bjarnarson | Carmichael | Hagen | Wooldridge |
| Pass 1♠ | Pass | INT | 1♣ |
| Pass | 2NT | Pass | 3NT |
| All Pass | | | |

The Danes stopped in INT in the Open Room, making exactly seven tricks. Here the opening lead was the ♦A followed by a low diamond to dummy's jack. Carmichael led a heart to the king. Then cashed the ♣A and ♣Q. When he led another heart, East rose with the ace, and the defense got their two diamond tricks. But that was all - Carmichael claimed the rest for an 11-IMP pickup.

The Americans gained a slam swing on Board 9.

Board 41. Dealer North. E/W vul.

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

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| | N | |
| W | | E |
| | S | |

| | |
|-------------|-------------|
| ♠ 8 7 5 | ♠ 8 7 5 |
| ♥ K 7 6 4 2 | ♥ K 7 6 4 2 |
| ♦ Q 9 8 5 3 | ♦ Q 9 8 5 3 |
| ♣ - | ♣ - |

Open Room

| West | North | East | South |
|-------|--------|-----------|----------|
| Greco | Madsen | Willenken | Konow |
| 1♥ | Pass | 1♣ | Pass |
| 3♣ | Pass | 2NT | Pass |
| 3NT | Pass | 3♦ | Pass |
| | | 6♣ | All Pass |

Eric Greco's 3♣ bid was the key - it effectively solidified Chris Willenken's trump holding. Konow started with a spade to partner's ace and a spade came back to the queen. Willenken correctly guessed to play the ♣K first, and he drew trumps in three rounds. The successful diamond finesse gave him a parking place for his losing heart. Since Denmark stopped in 3NT at the other table, USA 2 gained 12 IMPs.

Seven more IMPs came the USA way on the next board - East at both tables was down two at 4♠ - but Denmark was doubled. Then America made 3NT with an overtrick on Board 45 while Denmark went down - 12 IMPs. Ten more IMPs came on the next board when USA 2 made 4♠ and Denmark went down.

That's the way it went. By the time Board 48 was played, the match was effectively over - the Americans led by more than 100 IMPs.

Appeals Committee

The Appeals Committee was busy yesterday, hearing a case in each of the semifinal matches. That makes a total of four appeals to date at this tournament.

Joan Gerard of the United States is the committee chairman, with **Steen Moeller** of Denmark as first vice chairman and **Panos Gerontopoulos** of Greece as second vice chairman. Committee members are **Barbara Nudelman** and **Bobby Wolff** of the United States, **Ernesto d'Orsi** of Brazil, **Jaime Ortiz-Patiño** of Switzerland, **Nissan Rand** of Israel, **George Retek** of Canada and **Gianarrigo Rona** of Italy.

It's interesting to note that three committee members are former presidents of the *World Bridge Federation* - **Patiño**, **d'Orsi** and **Wolff**.

Hospitality providers

Hasn't the hospitality at this tournament been just great? Here are some of the Friends of USA who made it all possible:

ACBL Educational Foundation, Randy Baron, Robert and Connie Blum, Richard Coren, Ellen and Robert Crawford, Harriet Eaton, Russell and Sheila Ekeblad, Mark and Eleanor Hanlon, George Jacobs, Garnet and Paul Lewis, Mike Levine, James Mahaffey and John Morris.

Also Henry Myers, Nick Nickell, Richard and Mabel Pavlicek, Jerry Rifkin, Phil Rothman, Patricia and Arthur Samuels, D.L. and Shirley Seals, Linda and Joseph Shay, Paul Swanson, Harry Tudor, Caroline and Stephen Warner and Jeff Wolfson.

Charlotte Blaiss and Harley Bress of the American Contract Bridge League have been in charge of handling the hospitality on the scene, with Felicity Reid of Jamaica as liaison.