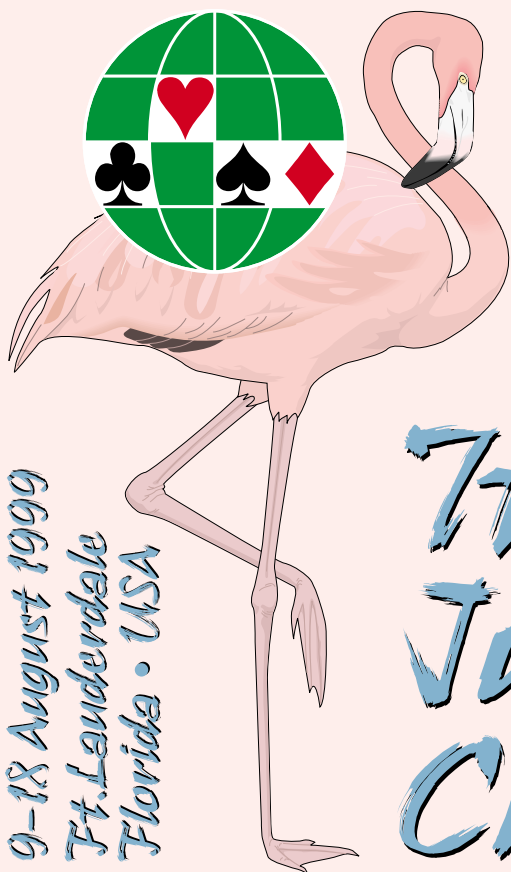


DAILY BULLETIN

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BULLETIN 10

WEDNESDAY, 19 AUGUST 1999



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Ft. Lauderdale
Florida • USA

Italians win championship

Italy is having quite a run. This afternoon they added the *World Junior Team Championship* to their list – their first victory in this event. They jumped into the lead early against **USA 2** and never looked back in the 96-board match. The final tally: **Italy 261, United States 2 166.**

Congratulations to the new world champions – **Bernardo Biondo** and **Riccardo Intonti** and their teammates **Mario d'Avossa** and **Andrea Mallardi**, plus non-playing captain **Giagio Rinaldi**. Congratulations also to **Furio** and **Stelio diBello** who contributed to the Italians' victory but who did not play a sufficient number of boards to qualify for the gold medals.

The runners-up also played very well – **Eric Greco** and **Chris Willenken** together with their teammates **Tom Carmichael** and **Joel Wooldridge**, plus **Bob Rosen**, their non-playing captain. This team also had a third pair who helped them reach the final – **David Wiegand** and **Chris Carmichael**, Tom's sister. However, they did not play often enough to qualify for silver medals.

The bronze medals go the Danes, the defending champions, who gave the vugraph fans the biggest thrill of the tournament by defeating Israel on the very last board in the battle for third place. Playing for **Denmark** were **Gregers Bjarnarson**, **Anders Hagen**, **Kaspar Konow**, **Mik Kristensen**, **Morten Madsen** and **Mikkel Nohr**. Their non-playing captain was **Kirsten Moller**.

Within the past year, Italian bridge players have won four major championships. It started with the Rosenblum Teams at the World Championships in Lille last year. Then the Italian Juniors were victorious in the European Juniors. The diBello brothers were the champs in the European Schools competition. And now Italy has added the World Junior Team Championship to its laurels.

7th World Junior Teams Championship



RESULTS



FINAL		
Teams	ITALY	USA 2
Carryover	24	
1st Quarter	67	31
Total	91	31
2nd Quarter	29	14
Total	120	45
3rd Quarter	45	22
Total	165	67
4th Quarter	16	53
Total	181	120
5th Quarter	40	35
Total	221	135
6th Quarter	40	31
Final Result	261	166

How we look to an outsider

Mary Ann Sullivan, who is one of the leaders of the other conference going on at this hotel – it's for computer people – was tremendously impressed by the bridge tournament.

"I'll tell you this – I'd rather be playing bridge for seven days than attend a conference. I had no idea bridge was so big. You have players here from all over the world. And they're playing the best kind of bridge – duplicate. It's great."

Clearly Mary Ann plays bridge, but only at the social level. She plays sometimes with her husband, and she also plays duplicate with some of the women in her home area.

"I talked to one of the young players. He was so enthusiastic about the game and this tournament. I think it's a wonderful way for youngsters to have a good time while using their minds at the same time."

She was surprised to hear there is a national organization in the United States and a world organization with more than 100 nations as members. She also was intrigued when she learned that bridge has been recognized as a sport by the International Olympic Committee.

We're planting seeds for the future – Patino

"We're planting seeds for the future with our Junior programs," said Jaime Ortiz-Patiño, one of the strongest promoters of Junior bridge and also President Emeritus of the World Bridge Federation.

"Yes, Junior bridge costs money because it's difficult to find sponsors for Junior events. But it's money well spent. We must concentrate on Junior bridge if we want our game to be healthy in the future."

Patiño, then president of the WBF, was quick to give the green light to Panos Gerontopoulos when Panos first came up with the idea of promoting Junior bridge. He has been an ardent supporter of the Junior movement ever since, and he donated the championship trophy that bears his name.

"We had only five teams at our first championship back in 1987, and now we have 16, representing all WBF zones. We have come a long way, but we still have a long way to go. I hope North America can make some major moves forward - the ACBL has been lagging behind the European Bridge League."

"The Olympic situation should be a plus for Junior bridge. It won't make much difference financially in countries like the United States and Great Britain, but in many countries Olympic recognition will mean subsidies and grants from the government to bridge, just like in other sports."

Patino believes the WBF Junior program is working well. *"Young people are playing bridge, and they are competing ethically. Our Juniors are very good sportsmen. Now let's move on from there."*

Patiño expressed heartfelt thanks to the American Contract Bridge League District 9 for the fine tournament that has taken place here. He especially singled out Jayne Thomas, the person who gets things done in District 9; ACBL President Val Covalciuc and ACBL CEO David Silber.

He also congratulated Gerontopoulos for staging another highly successful Junior event. *"Panos has been the moving force behind the Junior movement ever since it started. He is responsible more than any other individual for the great strides that have been made."*

But his heartiest congratulations went to the Junior players. *"They have made their countries proud of them. All have been exemplary. Special congratulations to the Italian team, new Junior World Team champions!"*

Closing Address by the Chairman of the WBF Youth Committee

Mr. President Emeritus of the World Bridge Federation

Mrs. President of the American Contract Bridge League

Mr. President of the European Bridge League

Mrs. President of the Central American & Caribbean Bridge Federation

Ladies and Gentlemen

Thank you all very much for coming to Fort Lauderdale and sharing some of your time with the world's top young players. Your presence here indicates the great importance that the world of bridge attaches to the Juniors. You emit the right signal to all sides: those who support Junior bridge see that they are not alone in their struggle; those who do not, have the chance to realize that they are on the wrong course.

In particular, I wish to thank very much indeed a person who has played a very important role in my life as well as in the development of Junior bridge. I am referring to our highly respected *President Emeritus Jaime Ortiz-Patiño* whom we are fortunate to have with us tonight. As we all know, Jimmy is the godfather of the *World Junior Team Championship* and the donor of the prestigious Trophy that bears his name. Above all, he is the person who changed the face of bridge during the ten years he was President of the WBF. He has never stopped being a unique source of inspiration, guidance and support to many people in the world of bridge. I am very proud to be one of them, and wish to thank Jimmy very much indeed for everything he has done for us.

I am very happy to convey to all of you the best wishes of our *President José Damiani*, who unfortunately could not be with us this year as he has always been in the past. The President has been following the developments here very closely, and he has asked me to congratulate the winners and all the other teams that made this tournament so successful. Mr Damiani is an enthusiastic supporter of Junior bridge and we can be sure of his best attention at all times.

Bridge needs to be developed among young people for a variety of reasons. Each of these reasons is very important and by itself sufficient to justify the effort we are putting into junior bridge. As we all know, young people are the future, and the future is the hope for everything we do. Young people bring fresh ideas into the game and thus they contribute a lot to its technical development. They also contribute more than anybody else to its quantitative development. Young people offer bridge the right image – the image of a dynamic activity, the image of a mind sport, the image of modern technology.

As bridge needs the youth, so the youth need bridge. We live at times when specialization in education is necessary. However, this should by no means lead young people to a restricted educational environment. Bridge offers an excellent

intellectual escape. It combines mathematical logic and technique with human characteristics which make it differ from most other pastimes. Bridge has no end. This is what makes it so interesting and attractive – and that is why some people accuse it of leading to addiction.

Nothing describes life better than passion, and people lacking passion do not get the best of life. Bridge can be a passion – but, unlike many other passions, it is a good one. Bridge brings people together, and makes them understand each other better. Thus, bridge is a social game as well as a mind sport.

All these positive characteristics of bridge have been finally recognized by the most genuine representative of the sports world: the Olympic movement. After years of intense efforts, bridge is at the doorstep of the Olympic Games. We have already got the status of recognition by the International Olympic Committee and look forward to participating in the 2002 Winter Olympic Games as a demonstration sport before assuming our permanent role in 2006. Junior bridge in particular is expected to lead the way that will bring our mind sport to the rank it deserves, side by side with the physical sports.

How much do we live up to expectation with the development of Junior bridge? The world was not made to be the same everywhere, so Junior bridge prospers in some areas while it is neglected elsewhere. This championship is the flagship of our program, and we are very glad that all geographical zones of the World Bridge Federation were represented. The level of play was a proof of how much Junior bridge has progressed in quality. As this is a tournament for the very top young players, no participation records are sought. However, this was not the case with the World Junior Pairs Championship which took place in the Czech Republic last month. There we were able to welcome nearly 400 Juniors for some 30 countries, in what was the largest Junior event ever held in the history of the game!

Despite these successes, there is a lot of work to be done in order to bring Junior bridge to acceptable levels worldwide. This is not an easy task for many local as well as national bridge organizations which have to face prejudice, other priorities or simply negligence on behalf of their governments. At the same time, the administrative structure of bridge allows the World Bridge Federation only an advisory role on local affairs. At international level, we are glad to be providing competitions for all Junior players, as well as social events like the Junior Camps. We hope that these activities may act as a source of motivation for local Junior bridge development, and inspiration for further expansion.

The *7th World Junior Bridge Championship* will go on record as a very successful event. This is the result of a number of appropriate decisions, excellent cooperation of all parties in-

volved during the preparatory stages, and exemplary attitude by the players during the tournament.

Picking Florida as the Championship location we aimed at holding the event in the center of an area where it is very important to see Junior bridge developing at much faster rates than today. This is part of North America – the birthplace of contract bridge where so many glorious pages have been written in the book of bridge history. Yet, Junior bridge has not received the best attention in recent years, and this has had very negative consequences for the game. Practically, we are also in Central America, and conveniently close to South America where so much bridge potential remains unexploited, thus hurting the progress of our game. It is imperative that every possible effort be made to change this situation and reverse the trend. We offer our cooperation and support, and hope that this event will mark the beginning of a new era in the desired direction.

The organization of this Championship was a joint effort of the American Contract Bridge League and the World Bridge Federation. The ACBL offered material, advice, human support and many helping hands. Above all, however, it offered the hearts of a number of very capable and dedicated people who were determined to make this tournament a success. That is why it was so. I would therefore like to thank first and foremost the ACBL, its *President Val Covalciuc* and *CEO David Silber*.

Very rarely have I seen such enthusiasm as that shown by the Chairman of the Organizing Committee. An experienced administrator with many organizational successes in her record, she embraced all of us like a mother would embrace her children before we even got here. She generated a lot of support for this tournament and gathered gifts and services that made our stay here nice and comfortable. Incredibly enough, once everything was ready here, she left to run another tournament as committed, but came back again to ensure that the conclusion of this championship would be as successful as the start. Thank you very much Jayne Thomas.

At the same time, I wish to express a word of thanks to the hospitable *Radisson Bahia Mar Beach Resort*, its General Manager **Kevin Quirk**, the Director of Sales **Mike Garcia** and the Banquet Manager **Trish Miracola**. They all stood by us at all times and ensured that all necessary facilities would be available to the Championship.

The Championship was fortunate to have a very capable team of Tournament Directors: **Chief Gary Blaiss**, Assistant Chief **Antonio Riccardi** and Directors **Rick Beye** and **Guillermo Poplawsky**. The organizational support offered by **Jeff Johnston** was of a very high standard indeed. We should thank the Scorer **Pow Wooldridge** and the impeccable duplication team of **Murry** and **Natalie Hayes**.

The Vugraph show was at the heart of the Championship, and it functioned very well thanks to **Kent** and **Chyah Burghard** on one hand, and the Commentators **Barry**

Rigal and **Eric Kokish** on the other. Of course, we should not forget the contribution of one of the world's greatest bridge personalities, **Bobby Wolff**.

The *Daily Bulletin* covered every aspect of the tournament and will remain on our shelf to remind us of all details even after many years. Thank you very much for an excellent job **Henry Francis**, **Dorothy Francis** and **Stelios Hadjidakis**. With the advent of technology, whatever happens here is known all over the world in a matter of minutes, thanks to the Internet and our Internet Editor **Thanassis Matziaris**.

To share success but be solely responsible for failures is not an advantageous role, but I am glad that this has been performed so well by my capable friend **Dimitri Ballas**, our Operations Director.

It is very hard to describe – and even if I try, I shall not do justice – to the tremendous effort put forward since the very beginning and for many months by **Charlotte Blaiss** for the success of this Championship. We just cannot thank her enough! Many thanks are also due to **Harley Bress** who assisted in the tournament preparations.

A tournament is not run only by the department heads. Behind them, there are many nameless heroes – sometimes called volunteers, some other times **Felicity Reid** – who run after whatever is needed. We thank them all very much!

Finally, let me share with you my gratitude for two dear friends and colleagues on the World Bridge Federation for many years, who have always been available to help in whatever field. Words are hard to express my gratitude to **Joan Gerard** and **Barbara Nudelman**; I shall just say that I am very lucky that these two wonderful and most capable Ladies consider me their friend.

Now that we have paid tribute to all people who have worked for the success of the Championship on this side of the bench, it is necessary to move to the other side. It is clear that no matter what effort the organizers have put forward, a tournament will never succeed without the cooperation of you the players. Once again, I am very glad to see that you have lived up to our expectation and played your part with excellence as you and your predecessors have done so many times.

Congratulations! When we see you being such wonderful people, we all feel that the effort was worthwhile. Thank you all for the pleasure of spending a wonderful week or so together, and thank you for helping bridge with your attitude, high ethics and sportsmanship. We all love you and our sadness for going away tomorrow is only comforted by the hope that we shall soon meet again in one of our future events.

Be well and happy, have a safe journey back home and let's make sure that we stay in touch through the Internet.

Panos Gerontopoulos

Final Boards 49-64

Italy vs USA 2

Except for one board, this segment was all USA 2. Italy picked up 15 IMPs on Board 61 while the Americans won three or more IMPs on seven boards. This cut Italy's margin to 61.

This was the one negative on an otherwise positive USA 2 card.

Andrea Mallardi led the ♠K, so Joel Wooldridge had to go down. He had to give up a heart trick to set up the suit, and of course Mallardi cashed the ♣A for a 15-IMP gain.

The Americans scored their own plus 990 on the last board.

Board 61. Dealer North. Both vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Greco	Intonti	Willenken	Biondo
Pass	2♣ ⁽¹⁾	Pass	2NT
Db1	3♠	Pass	4♥
	All Pass		

⁽¹⁾ At least nine cards in the majors – 5-4 or 4-5 – with 5-10 HCP.

Eric Greco's double did not work out well at all. His opening lead was the ♣A and he switched to a spade. Bernardo Biondo led the ♥6 and let it ride – making 11 tricks for plus 990.

It wasn't good for the Americans in the other room either.

West	North	East	South
Mallardi	Carmichael	D'Avossa	Wooldridge
Pass	1♥	3♦	Pass
Pass	3♥	Pass	3NT
Db1	4♠	Pass	5♦
Db1	Pass	Pass	6NT
	All Pass		

Board 64. Dealer West. E/W Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Greco	Intonti	Willenken	Biondo
4♥	Db1	All Pass	

Intonti's double was for takeout, but Biondo left it in. Making five was easy – Greco lost the two black aces.

At the other table:

West	North	East	South
Mallardi	Carmichael	D'Avossa	Wooldridge
4♥	Db1	Pass	4♠
Pass	Pass	Db1	All Pass

The defense started with a heart, and Mallardi switched to his singleton diamond. D'Avossa won and Mallardi scored a ruff with his singleton trump. Wooldridge still had to lose a club, a trump and another heart, so he was down three – minus 500. But that still represented a 10-IMP gain.

The biggest gain of the set occurred on Board 55.

17 medals for Madsen

The "lifetime" of a Junior player is short – limited of course by the inevitable fact that very soon after starting to play bridge the Junior becomes a senior.

Morten Lund Madsen of Denmark finished his Junior career here in Fort Lauderdale in a non-spectacular way as dummy without having made a bid on the last hand. However, he watched his partner score up a game that won third prize for Denmark.

In his Junior time, Morten has gathered an impressive collection of 17 medals in international competition.

World Teams – Bronze in Bali, gold in Hamilton, bronze in Fort Lauderdale.

World Pairs – Bronze.

European Teams – Silver in Papendale, Holland; bronze in Cardiff and silver in Vienna.

European Union – Gold and silver in teams, silver and bronze in pairs.

European University Teams – Gold and bronze.

Nordic Teams – Gold and silver in Schools, two silvers in Juniors.

No one has a similar collection. It will be hard for any Junior to match it in the future.

Board 55. Dealer South. Both vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Greco	Intonti	Willenken	Biondo
			Pass
INT	Pass	2♣	Pass
2♥	Pass	3NT	All Pass

Willenken didn't think he had enough to make a slam try and signed off in 3NT. Greco got a friendly spade opening lead, so he cashed the ♥A and took a losing finesse in diamonds. When the heart finesse worked later on, he racked up 12 tricks.

At the other table:

West	North	East	South
Mallardi	Carmichael	D'Avossa	Wooldridge
			Pass
1♣	Pass	1♠	Pass
3NT	Pass	4♦	Pass
4♥	Pass	5♦	Pass
5♥	Pass	6♠	All Pass

Wooldridge found the killing lead of the ♣10. D'Avossa ducked to Carmichael's king, and he shifted to a diamond. Declarer finessed and was immediately down one – 13 IMPs to USA 2.

The only other double-digit swing occurred on Board 63.

Board 63. Dealer South. N/S Vul.

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

Both Wests played in 4♠. When Greco was the declarer, North led the ♥8, completely clearing up the heart situation. He then picked up the other singleton king when he cashed his ace of trumps. Now he had to lose only two diamonds and a trump for plus 420.

North started with a club in the other room. Mallardi rose with the ace and then ruffed a club and cashed the ace of trumps, happy to see the king fall. He gave up a trump to the queen and the defense collected their two diamond tricks. But declarer had no hint of the situation in hearts, so led the queen for a finesse and went down one – 10 IMPs to USA 2.

USA 2 had cut the margin to 61 IMPs, but that still was a very steep mountain to climb in only 32 boards.

Final Boards 65-80

Italy vs USA 2

Italy started the set with a healthy lead over USA II - the score stood at 181-120. The first three boards were pushes including a slam. Board 68 was the first major pickup for Italy.

Board 68. Dealer West. All Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Greco	d'Vossa	Willenken	Mallardi
1♦	1♥	1♠	Dbl
Redbl	Pass	2♠	3NT
All Pass			

The redouble showed a 3-card spade fit, but Mallardi didn't care about that – he bid 3NT anyway. With partner holding the two minor suit kings for him he had nine easy tricks.

In the Closed Room Wooldridge-Carmichael had trouble when their opponents opened INT.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Biondo	Carmichael	Intonti	Wooldridge
INT	Pass	2♥	Pass
2♠	Pass	Pass	3♣
All Pass			

The weak notrump got the Americans in this room. They made the same nine tricks but not the game bonus for a 10-IMP loss.

On the very next board the Italians gave it back with an extra 2 IMPs.

Board 69. Dir. North. N/S Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
	2♥	Pass	Pass
Dbl	Pass	3♦	Dbl
Pass	Pass	3NT	Dbl
All Pass			

Both rooms effectively opened their seven-bagger as a weak two. Willenken ran to notrump so his heart values would be working. He let the heart lead ride to his king and took an immediate club finesse by running the 10. This was followed by another club to dummy and the ♥J was won with the ace, then a spade to the queen. Mallardi played back the ♦K but Willenken ducked that and won the continuation with the jack. He cashed the ♦A came to hand with the ♠A, cashed his heart and finessed again in clubs for his nine tricks.

The Italians in the other room were having their own problems on this deal.

West	North	East	South
	2♦ ⁽¹⁾	Pass	2♥ ⁽²⁾
Dbl	Pass	3♦ ⁽³⁾	Dbl
Pass	Pass	3♠	Dbl
All Pass			

⁽¹⁾ Either (a) a weak two in a major, (b) 22-23 balanced, or (c) 17+ with 3 suits

⁽²⁾ Pass or correct

⁽³⁾ lebensohl 7-10 HCP

Intonti decided that four to the 9 weren't worth playing at the three-level. He could have gone to 3NT like Willenken, but he judged to bid spades. This went down a trick and gave USA 2 +650 on the board and 12 desperately needed IMPs.

A couple of deals later, Greco-Willenken put on a neat defense against Italy's 4♥. Greco led the ♣4 from J-6-4. He caught partner with A-K-9-3 and declarer with Q-7-2. Willenken won the ace and led back a low one. Declarer could afford to duck and still make his game. Greco won his jack and gave his partner the king and his team 2 IMPs.

On the penultimate board of the set the Italians got to a grand that was missed by their counterparts.

Board 79. Dir. South. N/S Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Greco</i>	<i>d'Vossa</i>	<i>Willenken</i>	<i>Mallardi</i>
	2♣	Pass	1♠
Pass	2♥	Pass	2♦
Pass	3♦	Pass	3♥
Pass	4♣	Pass	4♠
Pass	5NT	Pass	7♣
All Pass			

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Biondo</i>	<i>Carmichael</i>	<i>Intonti</i>	<i>Wooldridge</i>
	2♣	Pass	1♠
Pass	3♦	Pass	3♣
Pass	4♥	Pass	4♠
Pass	5♥	Pass	5NT
Pass	6♣	All Pass	

We know the meanings of the Closed Room auction but not of the other room. 2♣ was game forcing, 3♣ showed not a great hand but a good hand. After that the bids were cuebids. The 5NT call was "pick a slam". Missing both top honors in trumps, Carmichael stopped short of the grand. It isn't known if 5NT instead of 5♥ would have been the grand slam force, but if it was he probably should have employed it as they did in the other room. Those 13 IMPs and a few more here and there meant the Italians had held on to their lead and added 6 IMPs to it. It now stood at 203-155. The Americans would need to start the final set of 16 with several big bangs in order to have any kind of a shot.

A valuable victory

Gianarrigo Rona of Italy, president of the European Bridge League, was very happy that his countrymen won the World Junior Teams championship.

"We needed something like this for the school movement," he said. "A few years ago we convinced school officials to allow bridge to be a school subject. Now that we have Junior champions, it is likely that many young people will want to study bridge."

"I am proud of the four players who won the gold medals - all four are very fine players. And the diBello brothers will be very good also as soon as they have a little more experience."

WBF Bronze Medal of Distinction Awarded



No matter how well organized bridge may be, it is usually a small number of individuals who make a difference in certain areas. The history of the game – in fact, history in general – is full of examples. They all lead to the same conclusion: there is no substitute for individual commitment. One can easily see the difference between areas serviced by a master plan and those where individuals devoted themselves. This is particularly true when it comes to dealing with people rather than products.

For a number of years Junior bridge did not enjoy the best of times in North America. Eventually, this was noticed and an effort got under way to reduce the negative consequences. Notwithstanding the support of the ACBL political and administrative structure, and the contribution of many people, it was the commitment of one individual that has made the difference over the past five years.

This person has done the utmost to ensure that North American Juniors come back and regain their rightful place on the map – a place they should have never lost. The commitment was universal: it covered all Juniors irrespective of how good or bad players they were, or of the role they could play on the national bridge scene. No effort was spared if it was in the right direction. And this direction was purely the future and prosperity of Junior bridge in North America.

The World Bridge Federation honors individuals who devote themselves to a cause over a long period of time. In this instance, we had a clear-cut choice. If there had been no award to cover this case, we would have to institute one for this person. Fortunately, there is the World Bridge Federation Bronze Medal of Distinction and we are very happy to award this to Charlotte Blaiss.

Final Boards 81-96

Italy vs USA 2

by Jody Latham

Italy, enjoying a 221-155 lead, sent the diBello brothers into action for the last 16 boards. They earned an immediate 4-IMP swing on Board 81.

more aggressive view than Wooldridge-Carmichael.

Board 81. None vul. North dealer.

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

West	North	East	South
3♣	INT	2♠	Dbl
Pass	Dbl	Pass	3♥
Dbl	4♥	Pass	Pass
	All Pass		

Furio diBello (South) had no trouble making 4♥ doubled, for plus 590.

At the other table, Eric Greco (North) played 4♥ not doubled for plus 420 – and Italy had its first gain.

Another 9 IMPs came Italy's way when Intonti-Biondo took a

Board 86. E-W vul. East dealer.

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

In the Closed Room, Wooldridge-Carmichael settled in 3♠ and Carmichael was soon claiming 11 tricks and plus 200.

In the Open Room, Intonti-Biondo drove to game:

West	North	East	South
1♣ ⁽¹⁾	1♦	Pass	Pass
Dbl	Pass	Pass	3♦ ⁽²⁾
4♥	All Pass	4♦	Pass

⁽¹⁾ 16+ high-card points.

⁽²⁾ Preemptive.

Biondo also claimed 11 tricks - and plus 650.