

10th FORBO LINOLEUM BRIDGE TOURNAMENT

Scheveningen, Steigenberger Kurhaus Hotel, February 22-24, 2002

Organized by Events & Promotion Scheveningen under the auspices of the Dutch Bridge Federation

Bulletin 2

Sensational

Italy smoothly qualified, which did not surprise anyone. In the same group the Dutch first/second division players' team 'Gehakmolen' (i.e. Meat mincer) did a fine job finishing second. Sensational, and we will see them in tomorrow's A group together with a number of pre-tournament favorites. The Dutch team representing The Netherlands in the Nations Cup did not qualify for the A final. That came as quite a shock, as did the news about Indonesia, Poland and Sweden with the same sad news.

You will find all the results of today's qualifying rounds on the back page of this bulletin.



Last night's dinner was enlivened by Close Act's mystical and spectacular sound, light (and after some delay, smoke) show entitled "Malaya". Whatever the intended effect on the audience, it was reported to us that it struck enough terror in the heart of the normally fearless Guido Ferraro for him to leave the table and forego his dinner.

February 2002
Editors: Jan van Cleeff,
Lex de Groot &
Ed Hoogenkamp
Guest editor:
Patrick Jourdain
lay-out: Anita Schraag

Nations Cup Round 2 (cont'd.)

In this morning's Bulletin we reported on the first deal of the match between Italy and North America, where Bocchi brought home Four Hearts with a safety play, but at some risk to the contract. That proved to be a flat board when Weinstein made the same play but in a less risky situation.

The second board of the round gave rise to some exciting bidding at every table:

E/NS	♠ —										
	♥ Q93										
	♦ Q10932										
	♣ AK983										
♠ J75	<table style="margin: auto; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr><td></td><td>N</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td></td><td>O</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td>Z</td><td></td></tr> </table>		N		W		O		Z		♠ AKQ10982
		N									
W			O								
		Z									
♥ AJ1042	♥ K875										
♦ J87	♦ 6										
♣ 102	♣ 4										
	♠ 643										
	♥ 6										
	♦ AK43										
	♣ QJ765										

West	North	East	South
<i>Gitelman</i>	<i>Bocchi</i>	<i>Moss</i>	<i>Duboin</i>
		1♠	pass
2♠	2NT	4♠	4NT
pass	5♣	5♠	pass
pass	dbl	pass	6♣
pass	pass	6♠	dbl
pass	pass	pass	



Brad Moss: ...winning decision...



Norberto Bocchi: ...two-way 2NT...

The alerting rules in The Netherlands differ from those in Italy or North America, and the players have some difficulty adjusting to the various customs. These four have met often in American Nationals. The 2NT bid was alerted, and though neither opponent asked what it meant, a later enquiry revealed it was two-way, either natural (strong balanced) or both minors. (Note that Leaping Michaels can be used to show the other major and a minor.) South's 4NT was the strong way of bidding at the five level.

Duboin passed in tempo over 5♠, and North alerted. Duboin pointed out that Dutch rules were in use where there are no alerts over Three Notrumps. North doubled in tempo, but when East Passed, South went into long thought. As Five Spades is on the heart guess, and Six of a minor is cold the other way, the Italians improved their situation massively when Duboin removed to Six Clubs.

Bocchi later described Duboin's pass over Five Spades as forcing ("Always," he told us, "when red against green in five level competition.") If so, Duboin had not decided what he was doing on the next round, but his removal could hardly be inviting Seven.

When Six Clubs came back to Moss, he, in turn, also made the winning decision to proceed to Six Spades. Duboin, with no control in either major, doubled at once.

Huub Bertens felt that his hand was worth another bid at the three level. Ton Bakkeren made the excellent decision of passing his partner's double. The defence started with ♥A and heart ruff, ♠A and spade to the King, ♣A and another club for the King. Declarer played a diamond to the Ace and still had to concede a trick to the King of trumps: minus 500 and 12 imps to Holland.

North could have saved a trick by finessing against the ♦K (dummy could be re-entered again for a second finesse with a spade ruff).

This was another big swing:

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

Table 2

West	North	East	South
<i>Bakkeren</i>	<i>S'minde</i>	<i>Bertens</i>	<i>Brogelund</i>
1♦	2♦	pass	pass
pass	pass	3♣	pass
pass	pass	5♣	dbl
		pass	

Having passed as dealer, Bertens, East, felt justified in calling 5♣ over the vulnerable opponents' 4♥ bid (reached after North showed his major two-suiter with a 2♦ cuebid). South knew how to deal with that and straightforward defence led to a three-trick set for 500 points. At the time, this seemed like a reasonable result as 4♥ would certainly have been made. But watch what happened at the other table:

Table 1

West	North	East	South
<i>Malinowski</i>	<i>Paulissen</i>	<i>Tislevoll</i>	<i>Nab</i>
2♦	6♥(!)	1♣	1♥
dbl	pass	pass	pass

Here, Geo Tislevoll as East elected to open the bidding with 1♣ which set the stage for an exciting declarer play problem. North's "inspired" leap to 6♥ was, no doubt, based on the expectation of receiving a club lead and the hope that twelve tricks would somehow be available. West did not think so and after doubling he did indeed lead his ♣Q. Declarer ruffed, pulled trumps and then he was faced with the problem of playing the spade suit for no losers. Assuming the ♦A to be with the long diamonds, it would seem reasonable to look for the ♠K in the East hand which, so far, had only shown up with the ♥Q and (by inference) the Ace and King of clubs. Thus, taking the ruffing finesse was a real option, and necessary if East held something like ♠K10xx. So as not to run out of trumps, declarer could only afford to ruff spades twice while establishing the suit. He rewarded his partner's inspired leap to Six with equally inspired play when he simply ruffed two low spades and seeing the King appear to his left on the third round. After this, only one diamond trick was lost, for a score of +1660 and a net result of 1160 or 15 imps. Well done Bart Nab: when you're hot, you're hot!



Bart Nab: ... inspired play...

Young and fancy-free

Bart Groosman and Niek Brink, two promising Dutch juniors, were pressed into service at the eleventh hour Friday night. Two out of three of the registered Swedish teams were caught in a snowstorm and had to cancel, so the organisation was desperately looking for replacements. Like most juniors, Bart and Niek didn't have to think twice when asked to fill the vacancy. A junior wouldn't be a junior if he didn't have a healthy amount of bluff and vanity. We were not really surprised when Groosman played the following hand the way he did because, to quote him: 'I want to get into the daily bulletin.'
'And with a nice photo', he added with a smirk.

N/O/W ♠ K 108653 ♥ AK42 ♦ 2 ♣ 106	♠ 7 ♥ Q105 ♦ Q1074 ♣ AJ983 <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; display: inline-block;"> N W O Z </div>	♠ QJ9 ♥ J973 ♦ 653 ♣ Q75 ♠ A42 ♥ 86 ♦ AKJ98 ♣ K42
---	---	--

West	North	East	South
<i>Wijma</i>	<i>N.Brink</i>	<i>Brulleman</i>	<i>Groosman</i>
	pass	pass	1NT
2♠	3♠	dbl	3NT
pass	pass	pass	

3♠ asked for a spade stopper, double showed spade support and 3NT was typical 'junior no-nonsense style'. Redouble, showing a single stopper, would probably have been more appropriate. Against 3NT West led a low spade to the Jack, ducked by declarer. The ♠Q won the next trick, the ♠A the third. Maybe you and I would have won the first spade fearing a heart switch, but a junior is not bothered by silly considerations like that.

When declarer cashed his five diamond tricks, East discarded the ♥2, ♥4, ♠5 and the ♥A. Groosman concluded that East's distribution must have been 6-4-1-2. Knowing that East had three clubs and West a doubleton, he had to find the winning line in this suit. Basically, he had to choose between Qx and 10x in the West hand. Consequently, he played a club to the ace and, when both opponent followed low, he continued with the ♣J, reasoning that dropping the queen doubleton wouldn't be daily bulletin material while pinning the ten might be. Well, Bart, here you are. You did it. Plus photo!



Bart Groosman: ..."nice photo"...

Everybody happy, you might say. But while Bart and Niek are recklessly terrorising the field again, probably having forgotten all about this hand, we are left with some questions:

- Shouldn't West have overtaken the second spade to shift to a low heart?
- Shouldn't West have contributed the ♣10 to the first club trick? And consequently, would this affect declarer's decision in clubs? OK, ok, we know. We are behaving like old men. Ask any junior these questions and you'll always get the same answer: 'Who cares?'

Qualifier Match 4

After lunch Team Lavazza played their strongest line-up against the Dutch team Verkade in Section "A". The match was marked by two bad trump breaks in potential slam hands. On the first Lorenzo Lauria with the North cards went one step too far:

E / NS	♠ KQJ9764	
	♥ Q10853	
	♦ A	
	♣ —	
♠ A1083		♠ 5
♥ A964		♥ —
♦ KQ		♦ J765432
♣ AKQ		♣ J8752
	♠ 2	
	♥ KJ72	
	♦ 1098	
	♣ 109643	

West	North	East	South
<i>Boswijk</i>	<i>Lauria</i>	<i>Kranenborg</i>	<i>Versace</i>
		pass	pass
2♣	2♦	pass	3♥
dbl	4♥	5♦	pass
pass	5♥	6♣	pass
pass	6♥	dbl	pass
pass	pass		

West's 2♣ was two-way, either a weak two in diamonds or any big hand (22+). North's 2♦ showed both majors, and Versace made a pre-emptive raise. West doubled to show strong balanced. North and East then had a tussle. Lauria "won" the auction, but lost the points. Against Six Hearts doubled West led a top club. Versace ruffed, and played a trump to the king, West letting it hold. A spade was taken by the ace, and a second club reduced dummy to a trump less than West. Versace cashed three top spades as West followed suit then tried another trump. West ducked again and Versace switched back to spades, conceding a ruff, and two off. 500 to Verkade.

This was the auction at the other table:

West	North	East	South
<i>Duboin</i>	<i>Jansen</i>	<i>Bocchi</i>	<i>Verkade</i>
		2NT!	Pass
3♥	4♠	pass	pass
6♣	pass	pass	pass

Two Notrumps promised both minors and Three Hearts was an asking bid. North cut out the answer and Duboin chose what he thought was the safest slam. But with the clubs 5-0 he had to lose a diamond and a club. This was 11 IMPs to Verkade.

The Italians were fortunate to get the swing back three boards later:

N / NS	♠ Q54	
	♥ J108	
	♦ A974	
	♣ 1087	
♠ AK98		♠ J107632
♥ KQ43		♥ A52
♦ Q3		♦ —
♣ Q52		♣ AKJ3
	♠ —	
	♥ 976	
	♦ KJ108652	
	♣ 964	

West	North	East	South
<i>Boswijk</i>	<i>Lauria</i>	<i>Kranenborg</i>	<i>Versace</i>
	pass	1♠	pass
3♣	pass	3♦	pass
4♥	pass	5♣	pass
6♠	pass	7♠	pass
pass	pass		

