

# 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 4

## Italy

### *Noblesse Oblige*



We never saw a closer finish than at the very last Forbo Linoleum International Teams tournament. With one round to go, no fewer than seven teams were in contention for first place: Bulgaria (105), Italy (103), North America (102), Netherlands Orange (101), Wijma (100), 't Onstein (98) and Polowan (97). When the final-round smoke cleared, Italy prevailed by one VP:

1. Italy 121: Maria-Theresa Lavazza, Giorgio Duboin, Norberto Bocchi, Lorenzo Lauria, Alfredo Versace and Guido Ferraro.
2. Polowan (USA/Poland) 120\*
3. 't Onstein (The Netherlands) 120\*

\* Tie broken on the basis of the 16-14 win by Polowan over 't Onstein.

It's your call, part two

SjoerT Brink showed us this hand he played in the round robin. Sitting South he picked up


W/All

♠AK4	♥J10952	♦87	♣A52
<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>
pass	1♦	2♣	2♥
pass	3♦	pass	??

Your call?


Brink was a bit worried about the clubs as he should be. If partner for example held ♣Qx, it looked like 3NT should be played by North. So Brink scientifically bid 3♠, expecting his partner to bid 3NT with the appropriate hand. Nice and careful bidding, we think. North obviously didn't have the hand Brink hoped for. He bid 4♥ and somewhat to Brink's surprise, East, with a passed hand, doubled. Brink, out of character, forgot to redouble.

Next problem, the play.

♠ J102
♥ A7
♦ KQJ1096
♣ J8

♠ AK4
♥ J10952
♦ 87
♣ A52

West leads the ♠8, for the 10, Q and your Ace. Plan the play. A hint: Brink summed up the hand afterwards as: 'It's basically a choice between red sevens.'

W/All

♠ 987653	♠ J102	♠ Q
♥ KQ83	♥ A7	♥ 64
♦ A43	♦ KQJ1096	♦ 52
♣ —	♣ J8	♣ KQ1097643
		
	♠ AK4	
	♥ J10952	
	♦ 87	
	♣ A52	

<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>
	<i>v Prooyen</i>		<i>Brink</i>
pass	1♦	2♣	2♥
pass	3♦	pass	3♠
pass	4♥	pass	pass
dbl	pass	pass	pass

Brink thought that the lead looked suspicious. Why didn't West lead his partner's suit, clubs? The real reason he couldn't surmise, though. He tried the ♦7 and ran into a cross-ruff in the black suits. ♦A, spade ruff, club ruff, spade ruff and another club ruff. With a heart trick still to be lost Brink was down 1100.

We will never know what would have happened had he elected to play a low heart, intending to insert dummy's seven-spot. If West had played the ♥3, ten tricks would have been easy. After winning the ♥7, declarer cashes the ♥A and plays on diamonds. The ♠J is an entry to dummy. However, if West plays the ♥8 on the first round of trumps, declarer has to win the ace and he must next play another trump to prevent a spade ruff. West wins and returns a spade, which is won in hand. West then ducks a diamond, wins the second diamond, and plays a third spade, cutting declarer's communication with the dummy. South now has to go down. He will lose either a club trick to East, or a ruff to West.

Incidentally, notice that the scientific approach backfired: blasting 3NT rather than bidding the more subtle 3♠ would have worked out just fine as West couldn't lead a club to begin with.

A-finals, round 2

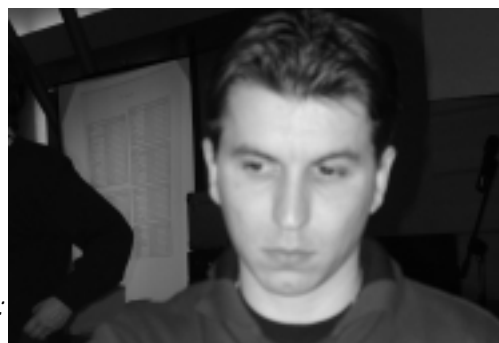
A tricky diamond

Bulgaria versus Angelini

S/-	♠ AJ96543		♠ K2
	♥ —		♥ KQ8732
	♦ J75		♦ 6
	♣ J73		♣ KQ98
♠ 10		♠ Q87	
♥ 109654		♥ AJ	
♦ Q842		♦ AK1093	
♣ A106		♣ 542	



Jerry Stamatov:  
... tricky...



from dummy and finessed in Spades. East won and returned his singleton diamond right away. Declarer won the Ace, but with two diamonds left in dummy, he had no easy task, though he made the best of it. He ran all his spades to reach this position:

Four spades is a good contract, but on the actual layout it can't be made. However:

Table 1

West	North	East	South
<i>Sementa</i>	<i>Karaivanov</i>	<i>Garozzo</i>	<i>Stamatov</i>
			1NT
pass	4♥*	dbl	4♠
pass	pass	pass	

\* Transfer to spades

♠ —		♠ —
♥ —		♥ —
♦ J7		♦ —
♣ J7		♣ KQ98
♠ —		♠ —
♥ —		♥ —
♦ Q8		♦ —
♣ A10		♣ KQ98
♠ —		♠ —
♥ —		♥ —
♦ K10		♦ —
♣ 54		♣ 54



Antonio Sementa led a heart for the Queen and Ace and Jerry Stamatov pitched a tricky diamond from dummy. Next came the Trump Queen for Garozzo's King, who continued with the ♣K. Fearing a Bath coup, and probably influenced by the Diamond discard, Benito switched to his singleton diamond. Declarer won the Ace, pulled the outstanding trump, cashed the ♦K, took a ruffing finesse in the suit (West covered) and crossed to his hand with the third trump to enjoy his established diamonds: NS plus 450.

Declarer, still not completely sure who owned the ♦Q, did well not to finesse in Diamonds and playing a low Club from dummy instead. When East played low, West erred by winning the ten and was forced to play into the Diamond tenace after cashing a second Club trick.

Table 2

West	North	East	South
<i>Nanev</i>	<i>Nunes</i>	<i>Mihov</i>	<i>Fantoni</i>
			1NT
pass	4♦*	pass	4♠
pass	pass	pass	

\* Also transfer to spades

Fulva Fantoni:  
...endplay...



West at this table also led a heart for the Queen and Ace, but Fantoni pitched a less brilliant Club

Maas versus Lauria

A-finals, Italy versus 't Onstein

As South you hold this blockbuster:

W/NS  
 ♠AKJ3 ♥QJ64 ♦AKQ ♣K9

With this hand Lorenzo Lauria was involved in this sequence:

Table 1

West	North	East	South
<i>Verhees</i>	<i>Versace</i>	<i>Jansma</i>	<i>Lauria</i>
1♣	pass	1♦*	dbl
2♣	2♠	pass	?

\* negative, or positive with diamonds

Lauria, looking at his King doubleton of Clubs, decided to bid 3NT instead of 4♠.

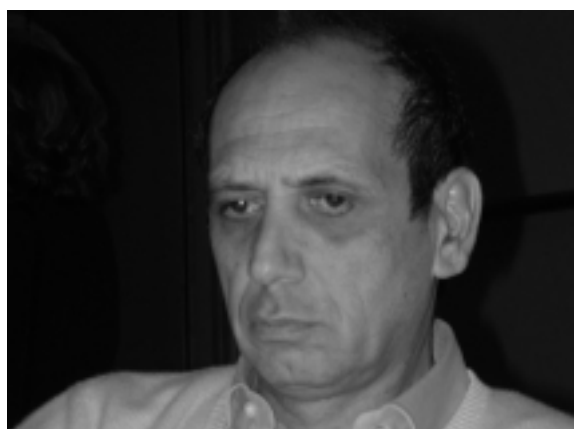
Table 2

West	North	East	South
<i>Duboin</i>	<i>Ramondt</i>	<i>Bocchi</i>	<i>Maas</i>
1♣	pass	1♦*	dbl
2♣	pass	pass	2♥**
pass	2♠	pass	2NT
pass	3NT	pass	pass
pass			

\* hearts  
 \*\* cue bid

Maas, as Lauria, did not like to be in spades. However, look at the full deal:

W/NS	♠ 8754		
	♥ K102		
	♦ 8652		
	♣ Q7		
♠ Q9			♠ 1062
♥ A5			♥ 9873
♦ J73			♦ 1094
♣ AJ8532			♣ 1064
	♠ AKJ3		
	♥ QJ64		
	♦ AKQ		
	♣ K9		



Lorenzo Lauria: ...Queen-doubleton...

Even if you finesse in trumps 4♠ is cold, but 3NT is a different kettle of fish. Against Maas West led a club for dummy's Queen, East giving count. Maas played a heart to the Queen. West won the Ace and cashed out in clubs: 3NT minus two.

You might remember Maastricht 2000 where Lorenzo Lauria dropped several Queen-doubletons which helped his country a lot to win the finals of the World Bridge Olympiad. It was the same all over again on this hand. Lauria put up the ♣Q at trick one and played his top spades. With Queen doubleton and the diamonds 3-3 Lauria claimed nine tricks.

Anton Maas: ... heart to the Queen...



### Razor sharp

As we learned on Friday night during the presentation of the teams playing in the Nations Cup, Gert-Jan Paulissen is known for his razor sharp post mortem analysis.

He showed us the following deal from the round robin which in his view, in retrospect of course, was virtually laydown. Paulissen admitted though, with a smile, that raising his actual game to the same level as his post mortems is an almost impossible task.

E/-			
<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>
		3♥	3NT
pass*	pass	pass	

\* in tempo

Plan your play try before reading on.

♠ 754  
♥ 3  
♦ AQJ1062  
♣ Q82



♠ A3  
♥ AKQ72  
♦ 75  
♣ K543

West leads the ♠K. You duck and win the continuation of the ♠10. East shows an even number of spades. So we assume he had a doubleton. You lead a diamond to the queen, which wins the trick, both opponents following suit. Take it from there (please take some time to analyse the hand, it's worth the trouble).

A few more assumptions can be made. West cannot have both the ace of clubs and the king of diamonds. With his solid spade suit he would at the very least have thought a while about doubling. If West has the ace of clubs and East the king of diamonds declarer will go down anyway if he repeats the diamond finesse after cashing his heart tricks. So, playing a club from dummy is

completely safe now. To declarer's relief, the ♣K wins the next trick. He repeats the diamond finesse and East wins the ♦K and returns a heart. The hand is an open book now. East has a 2-7-2-2 distribution so ducking a club to his bare ace and claiming the remainder is routine.

E/-	♠ 754		
	♥ 3		
	♦ AQJ1062		
	♣ Q82		
♠ KQJ1086			♠ 62
♥ -			♥ J1098654
♦ 983			♦ K4
♣ J1096			♣ A7
	♠ A3		
	♥ AKQ72		
	♦ 75		
	♣ K543		

Routine?, you might ask. Let me rephrase that: post mortem routine. (In real life declarer cashed his heart tricks and lost the repeated diamond finesse. Now it was East who claimed the remainder)



Gert-Jan Paulissen: ...a peek is worth two finesses...

## Brad and Fred show how

In the third and final round of the Nations Cup, 6♥ on board 18 was basically made on one of two finesses being right. In the match North America versus The Netherlands however, the good slam was missed by Bertens-Bakkeren. At the other table Fred 'Bridge Base' Gitelman and Brad Moss produced an interesting auction leading to the right spot:

E / NS	♠ J87		♠ KQ2
	♥ 83		♥ AJ1076
	♦ J8632		♦ AK10
	♣ K107		♣ AQ
♠ A94		♠ N	
♥ Q95		W	O
♦ 74		Z	
♣ J9863			
	♠ 10653		
	♥ K42		
	♦ Q95		
	♣ 542		

<b>West</b>	<b>East</b>
<i>Fred</i>	<i>Brad</i>
	2♣
2♦1)	2♥
2♠2)	2NT3)
3♦4)	3♥
4♠5)	6♥
pass	

1) non-negative; 2) Relay; 3) 24+, balanced; 4) transfer, maybe hearts; 5) 332 - 5 clubs

Spade lead for the King, ♦AK, diamond ruff, heart finesse wrong, club finesse right: twelve tricks.

## The Cruel Finesse

The award for unkindest finesse goes to Kirsten Steen Moller. She and Sabine Auken had bid accurately to Seven Diamonds with thirteen top tricks. The defender led a spade where Kirsten had AQx in dummy and a void in her own hand.

She thought for a bit and put in the Queen. When this held the opponents looked very unhappy, not realising the finesse was for her fourteenth trick.

"The finesse gains both ways, " Kirsten told us. If it loses their momentary happiness is destroyed when you ruff and claim."

## A word of thanks

On the occasion of this final edition of the FORBO International Tournament it is more than fitting that we express our gratitude and appreciation not only to the FORBO Krommenie Company, but in particular to Elly Ducheyne. One can hardly imagine the enormous amount of effort she has put into making this tournament such a big success year after year. Everybody with any problem at all, be it players from all over the world or other people of the organisation, could rely on her finding a solution - if one existed at all!

Therefore Elly, on behalf of the Bulletin Staff and *all* the players and *all* the other staff members: A Million Thanks!!!



*Elly with her grandchild Jurjen...*

## Forbo Final Round 4

The leading match after lunch was Italy versus Bulgaria. The two key deals came together. The first featured good declarer play by Ivo Karaivanov:

S/-	♠ J9762 ♥ AKJ9 ♦ Q74 ♣ 10					
♠ A83 ♥ 7642 ♦ J1096 ♣ A6	<table border="1" style="border-collapse: collapse; width: 40px; height: 40px; margin: auto;"> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">N</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">W O</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">Z</td></tr> </table>	N	W O	Z	♠ - ♥ Q1085 ♦ K3 ♣ KJ87432	
N						
W O						
Z						
	♠ KQ1054 ♥ 3 ♦ A852 ♣ Q95					

West	North	East	South
<i>Versace</i>	<i>Stamatov</i>	<i>Lauria</i>	<i>Karaivanov</i>
			1♠
pass	2NT	3♣	4♠
pass	pass	pass	

The response of Two Notrumps from Jerry Stamatov showed a splinter (shortage in any side suit) raise to at least Three Spades. Versace led the Ace of clubs and, seeing the singleton in dummy, switched to the Jack of diamonds. Karaivanov (lets call him Ivo to distinguish from his name-sake) played low and won the Ace. He ruffed a club, cashed two top hearts discarding a diamond, ruffed a heart, and then led his last club. Versace threw a heart. Ivo ruffed, and ruffed his last heart high, as West threw a diamond. With the clubs and hearts eliminated declarer now led a trump. His original plan, no doubt, was that East might hold the bare Ace of trumps, and three diamonds. In reality West won the Ace of trumps and exited with a trump. So now it came down to the diamond position. East had shown up with seven clubs, four hearts, and no trumps, so was marked with a doubleton diamond. Ivo duly got it right, playing a low diamond from the dummy. At the other table there had been no opposition bidding. Eventually declarer played for the King of diamonds to be onside, and went one off. This was 10 IMPs for Bulgaria.

This swing was returned on the next deal by a poor bid by one of Bulgarians. Although he did not have enough money to bribe your reporter, we will not reveal his name, as he needs the prize money to repair his car that broke down on the long journey from Bulgaria. Holding second in hand at red:

♠ 1042 ♥ KQ9853 ♦ K5 ♣ KJ  
he opened One Heart. His partner bid 1NT, he rebid Two Hearts, and his partner removed to Three Diamonds. Your reporter had already written down Pass when he continued with Three Hearts. That was doubled on his left, and when it came back he Passed again. That cost 800 when partner has an easy eight tricks and a possible nine in diamonds. The loss was 13 IMPs and Italy won the match 16-14. (The culprit later gave his reason for bidding Three Hearts as the fear that Three Diamonds was a game-try in hearts. The partnership is not a regular one.)



*Ivo Karaivanov:  
...good declarer play...*

## Bocchi's Rule

You hold:

♠ J10xx ♥ KJx ♦ J10x ♣ K108

Dealer to your left opens 1♦. Partner overcalls 2♣. You are playing transfer responses and bid 2♠ to show a good raise in clubs. Partner continues with a forcing and natural Two Hearts. What is your choice now?

Bocchi gave this problem some consideration, emerging with Three Notrumps. The defence led a diamond and dummy put down:

♠ Qx ♥ Axxx ♦ K ♣ AQ9xxx

Nine easy tricks. (Hamman's rule: with a number of choices, one of which is 3NT, choose that!)