



WHITE HOUSE 7TH EUROPEAN BRIDGE CHAMPIONS' CUP





6-9 NOVEMBER 2008, AMSTERDAM, THE NETHERLANDS

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IT'S PARIOLI-ANGELINI AGAIN!



Parioli-Angelini is the winner of the White House 7th European Bridge Champions' Cup. In the final the Italians booked a clear victory over STAR, Utrecht. The tally after 48 boards was 90 – 44. Until the final on Sunday, STAR had played a brilliant championship. On the last day, however, the Dutch National champions had to acknowledge the superiority of TCP Angelini, now a five-time winner of the Cup. Only twice in the past other clubs have won it: Allegra from Turin and Bamberg from Germany. All in all it once again proves the overwhelming dominance of Italian bridge.

Our special congratulations to Fulvio Fantoni who is also celebrating his birthday today.



This year Quantum from Bulgaria took the bronze medal by defeating Germany's Bamberger Reiter.

FINAL RANKING



1st place (4x12)

1	 BRIDGECLUB STAR	10	0	18	16		44
	 T.C.P. ANGELINI B.T.	11	29	2	48	12	90

3rd place (3x12)

2	 BRIDGECLUB BAMBERGER REITER	30	19	19			68
	 QUANTUM BC	32	42	20			94

5th place (3x12)

3	 STORSJÖBYGDENS BK	17	16	19			52
	 THE WHITE HOUSE	64	24	25			113

9th place (2x12, segments 2 and 3 only)

4	 BRIDGEFÉLAG REYKJAVÍKUR	0	1				1
	 DENMARK National Champion	0	37				37

BRILLANT DEFENCE

Lucky me, just in time to see Maarten Schollaardt set up a brilliant defence in the match White House against Denmark

E/EW	♠ K 4 3			
Brd. 22	♥ A 8 6			
	♦ K 8 4			
	♣ A J 7 4			
♠ A Q J 10 2		N	♠ 8	
♥ Q J 5 4		W	♥ K 10 7 3	
♦ J 3		E	♦ 7 6	
♣ 10 2		S	♣ K Q 9 8 5 3	
	♠ 9 7 6 5			
	♥ 9 2			
	♦ A Q 10 9 5 2			
	♣ 5			

After a competitive auction, with West opening with 1♠ and East responding 1NT, South became declarer in a contract of 4♦.

Schollaardt rejected the normal heart Queen lead, fearing it might cost a trick if dummy held the heart King-Ten. Expecting the spade King in dummy and judging partner to hold one or two spades only, he hit upon the spade Jack opening lead, hoping this would both deceive declarer and assure two spade tricks. In reality, the lead would have given the contract away had declarer dared put up the King. Understandably, however, the Danish South ducked. Similarly, the ♠10 was ducked next and Schollaardt finished the job by cashing the ♠A and continuing with the ♠Q.

Declarer ruffed with dummy's ♦K and went two down when he subsequently took a losing finesse against East's presumed ♦J.

BC STAR – TCP ANGELINI: HIGH STANDARD

After the first 12 boards of the final, Italy took the smallest of leads, 1 IMP.

Both tables started with a dull 7♥ claiming 20 tricks after the lead, but soon the deals turned more interesting

On board 5 Lauria-Versace bid a good non-vulnerable game for a six imp gain, but were somewhat unlucky when Brüggemann-Willemsens stayed out a non-vulnerable game on the next board, which went down at the other table because of bad breaks. The Italians were leading by 5 IMPs going into the last two boards of the set:

S/---	♠ 4 3		
Brd. 11	♥ -		
	♦ K 8 4 2		
	♣ K J 9 8 6 5 3		
♠ K 8 5		N	♠ A Q 10
♥ A Q 6 3		W	♥ 10 9 5 4 2
♦ Q J 9 5		E	♦ A 10 7 3
♣ 7 4		S	♣ A
	♠ J 9 7 6 2		
	♥ K J 8 7		
	♦ 6		
	♣ Q 10 2		

West	North	East	South
<i>Versace</i>	<i>Brüggemann</i>	<i>Lauria</i>	<i>Willemsens</i>
			2♣*
pass	2♦*	pass	2♦*
pass	3♣	dbl	4♣
dbl	pass	4♥	pass
pass	5♣	dbl	all pass

It's not that easy to end up in 4♥ after your opponents open the bidding with 2♣ showing both majors. Lorenzo Lauria elected to pass at his first turn and was glad to see Remco Brüggemann show his long clubs. He now doubled for take-out and Willemsens with his nice fit came to life. Versace could double for take-out and bid the heart game with knowledge of how the suit was divided. With no-one vulnerable Brüggemann took a very optimistic view by bidding once more.



Francesco Angelini

Versace led trump and Lauria had to return hearts, hoping that partner held the high pips in the suit. Henk Willemsens could have gone right here by playing the ♥7 but you can't blame him for putting up the Jack. Versace covered, Willemsens ruffed and continued with a spade to the Ten, Jack and King. Being afraid of endplaying his partner, Alfredo Versace lay down the Queen of diamonds. When that held the trick, he was torn between continuing with the Jack of diamonds and shifting to the ♣7. The latter was the right card but the Jack of diamonds hit the table. Now Willemsens could ruff two diamonds and he claimed eight tricks. This looked like a two-imp loss for the Dutch but Jacco Hop and Marion Michielsen saved the board.

West	North	East	South
<i>Hop</i>	<i>Fantoni</i>	<i>Michielsen</i>	<i>Nunes</i>
			pass
1♦	2♣	2♠*	3♣
3♥	5♣	dbl	pas
5♥	pas	pas	dbl

We don't know if Michielsen would have found the ♣A lead against 5♣ doubled, and which heart Fantoni would have played to the next trick when Michielsen shifts to a heart. Being doubled in 5♥ gave the Dutch team a four IMP swing and they now trailed by only one.

SHAKY GAME

Rob Walker-BG Olofsson of Sweden reached a shaky game in spades in yesterday's third session.

Semi 3

E/All

Brd 10

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Gromova</i>	<i>Walker</i>	<i>Ponomareva</i>	<i>Olofsson</i>
		pass	1♠
pass	2♦	pass	2♥
pass	2♠	pass	3♥
pass	4♠	all pass	

2♦ was game forcing. Rob Walker slightly regretted his choice in the second round of bidding when partner proved to have the major suits. However, as 3NT probably wouldn't be a walk in the park, Walker tried 4♠ instead.

In theory West can beat the contract immediately by leading the trump King, but in practice declarer can succeed after any other lead despite the bad trump break.

NEXT CHAMPIONS' CUP

The next (8th) edition of the European Bridge Champions' Cup will be held from 15th – 18th October 2009 in Paris. The exact venue still has to be decided.



BG Olofsson

West led a low club and BG Olofsson won in hand with the Queen. He cashed the two red Aces, ruffed a heart, and then cashed the King of diamonds and the club Ace. At this point declarer has to ruff a club to be able to take another heart ruff with dummy's last trump. However, when he tried to cash the Queen of diamonds he gave East a chance to be the heroine of the board by ruffing with the trump Ace and then play another spade. Having lost two tricks, declarer cannot avoid losing to the King of hearts and another trump trick.

In practice East erred by ruffing low – and declarer was back on track. He overruffed, ruffed a heart and led a diamond from dummy, ruffed and overruffed. Declarer exited with his last heart, but with only romps left East had to ruff her partner's king and return a trump. Olofsson made no mistake at this point, he advanced a low trump and secured his tenth trick in the trump suit en passant. Contract just made.

At the other table North declared 3♦ and took eight tricks; North-South -100. That was 12 IMPs to the Swedes and one of many contributions to their big win over Avalanche BC of Russia.



THE CRUCIAL APPEAL

In their semi-final, Bamberger Reiter and Parioli-Angelini fought a fierce battle. The score difference between the clubs was always small. When the match was over, the Germans had won by a margin of only seven IMPs. Still, it was by no means certain which team had qualified for the final as several appeals had yet to be decided. The appeal on board 13 of segment 4 turned out to be crucial:

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Elinescu</i>	<i>Fantoni</i>	<i>Wladow</i>	<i>Nunes</i>
	3♠	pass	pass
...dbl	pass	3NT	all pass



After a spade lead (ducked by North) declarer had no other option than to find the ♦Q in North and to finesse the ♥Q. That way he made nine tricks.

The Italian side objected. East's 3NT had been made after West had paused for a considerable time before doubling. Thus East had received unauthorized information.

The Appeals Committee ruled that there had indeed been too much unauthorized information, and it changed the table result to East-West 5♦, down one. This gave Parioli-Angelini 12 IMP gain on the board as Lauria-Versace had bid and made 3NT at the other table.

As the other appeals did not materially affect the result, the match was decided in favour of Parioli-Angelini by a margin of 5 IMPs.

A WORD FROM THE EDITOR

Your editor wishes to thank his team for the cheerful – and often effective - way the bulletin had been produced. Erik and Peter were always there, were the action was. Margriet designed all pages from early in the morning till late at night. Elisabeth made tons of great pictures and acted as internet vugraph operator almost at the same time. Lex checked every single word and card,

meanwhile turning our Dutch-English into English-Dutch. Last and not least, I wish to thank good old Bram, doing all the necessary logistics. He even took me by surprise today, arriving one minute earlier than the rest of us. As far as I remember, this had not happened before.

Hope to see you next year in Paris!

THE POWER OF THE WEAK NOTRUMP (part 2)

In the previous bulletin you might have seen some hands illustrating the power of the weak notrump as used by Hans Kelder and Marcel Winkel of STAR. Here is another example.

Semi-final, segment 3, board 8. STAR, Utrecht v. Quantum, Bulgaria:

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Aronov</i>	<i>Kelder</i>	<i>Stefanov</i>	<i>Winkel</i>
pass	1NT ¹	pass	2♠ ²
all pass			

- 1) 11-13
- 2) long or short spades

The North-South pair plays a funny little convention here: 2♠ shows shortness or length in spades. Or, as Marcel Winkel explained at the table: "You will find out when you double me." Apparently, Aronov and Stefanov were not interested in learning more, and the auction came to rest in the spade partscore. Declarer by the way went five light, but still a 5 IMP gain, because Michielsen-Hop bid and made 4♠ at the other table.

NOT SUCH AN EASY GAME

Het Witte Huis took an early lead against its Swedish opponents in the final for 5th and 6th place. This deal from segment 1 was quite helpful to the hosting bridge club:

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Jansma</i>		<i>Paulissen</i>	
			pass
pass	1♠	dbl	2♠
dbl	pass	3♦	pass
3♥	pass	4♥	all pass

North led the ♣J. After winning the Ace, Jansma crossed to his hand with a top heart, pitched a spade on the ♣K and played a diamond to the King and Ace. Jansma continued with a low diamond from dummy, South following small. North ruffed declarer's nine and continued in clubs, winning the trick when a spade was thrown from dummy. Next came a fourth round of clubs and declarer still did not ruff. Instead he pitched a diamond and joyfully remarked to his partner: "They are cashing out, Gert-Jan." This was the last trick for defense, as Jansma was always in the position to ruff three spades in dummy. Nicely played by Jansma. Thus far your editor has not found anyone else who made the heart game.



BULGARIA, QUANTUM; NANEV, Ivan, pc; VASSILEV, Ilia; STEFSANOV, Yulian; ARONOV, Victor; MIHOV, Vladimir; GUNEV, Rossen



DENMARK'S NATIONAL CHAMPION ; BLAKSET, Lars, pc; BLAKSET, Knut; ADAMSEN, Klaus; BRUUN, Mathias; FREDIN, Peter



FRANCE'S; NATIONAL CHAMPION; SALAMA, Maurice, pc; CHEMLA, Paul; LEBEL, Michel; MEYER, Jean-Paul



GERMANY; BC BAMBERGER REITER: GROMOELLER, Michael pc; KIRMSE, Andreas; ELINESCU, Michael; WLADOW, Entschö; PIEKAREK, Josef; SMIRNOV, Alexander



ICELAND; BRIDGEFELAG REYKAVIKUR: BALDURSSON, Jon, pc; JONSSON, Thorlakur; ARMANNSSON, Sverrir; JORGENSEN, Adalsteinn; EINARSSON, Bjarni



ITALY; ANGELINI B.T. T.C.P: ANGELINI Francesco; LAURIA, Lorenzo; FANTONI, Fulvio; NUNES, Claudio; VERSACE, Alfredo; BOVE, Ercole, pc



ITALY; A.B. SAN GIORGIO DEL SANNIO: FIORETTI, Francesco; MAGNANI, Carlo; PIZZA, Ettore; SELVAGGI, Giambattista; CUCCORESE, Claudio; CUCCORESE, Antonio; SIMEOLI, Carlo, npc



NETHERLANDS; BRIDGECLUB STAR: WILLEMSSENS, Henk, pc; MICHELSEN, Marion; HOP, Jacco; KELDER, Hans; WINKEL, Marcel; BRUGGEMANN, Remco



NETHERLANDS; THE WHITE HOUSE DE BOER, Wubbo, npc; SCHOLLAARDT, Maarten; JACOBS, Leon; VERHEES, Louk; VAN PROOIJEN, Ricco; JANSMA, Jan; PAULISSEN, Gert-Jan



NORWAY; A HEIMDAL BC, TRONDHEIM: AA, Terje, pc; AUSTBERG, Per Erik; SÆLENSMINDE, Erik; LUND, Børre; FURUNES, Jon-Egil



RUSSIA; AVALANCHE; GROMOV, Andrey, pc; GROMOVA, Victoria; DUBININ, Alexander; PONOMAREVA, Tatiana



SWEDEN; STORSJÖBYGDENS BK: ELMROTH, Gunnar, pc; TRAPP, Leif; AXNE; Olle; RUTHSTRÖM, Leif; WALKER, Rob; OLOFSSON, BG

4th EUROPEAN OPEN BRIDGE CHAMPIONSHIPS

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All info: www.eurobridge.org



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