

World Championships - Report #7

First, a correction. Fordham-Prescott played in the Round 17 (last) match for Australia, not Fordham-Noble. The Australian npc submitted the line-up correctly, and an on-site Vugraph commentator made an unfortunate remark about Australia and the integrity of the tournament in the mistaken belief that Australia were not in contention and were giving Italy an easy ride in their struggle to avoid having to clash with the mighty USA2 team in the Quarter-Finals.

At halfway (48 boards) in the Semi-Finals of the Bermuda Bowl, Italy 74 trail Norway 93 and Poland 72 trail USA2 84. At halfway in the Venice Cup Semis, France 130.5 lead USA2 45 and Germany 128 lead Austria 108. USA2 won the Seniors Bowl.

The Bermuda Bowl is a bit like our 2001 NOT Semi-Finals, with Norway replacing Marston and USA2 replacing Chua. Also, Peter Weichsel of USA2 lost his Semi-Final in the 1997 NOT, so it's understandable that your team hasn't won the NOT recently. ☺ Another similarity to the 2001 NOT is that the Italians made a huge comeback against Marston in January, like their huge finish against USA1 here (see below).

The Italian site <http://www.federbridge.it/FIGB/indice.html> is a useful source of info, especially if you can read Italian. They give the contracts and results board by board for Italy's matches, without Vugraph. Guide to Italian suit symbols: SA senza atout - No Trump (NT), P picche - Spades, C cuori - Hearts, Q quadri - Diamonds, F fiore - Clubs.

e-bridge is in disarray, and now says no Vugraph until November 7th. Apparently Eric Kokish ceased being employed by e-bridge on October 25th. Our inside info is that Eric was the driving force behind e-bridge including their online Vugraph. Also, e-bridge terminated the services of Jude Hanson-Goodwin in September when e-bridge ceased providing Headline Newpages. Jude now provides info at www.greatbridgelinks.com.

So e-bridge and Bridgeplaza (the latter due to lack of sponsorship, I believe) have closed down their Vugraph operations for the time being. What else is there?

The French site www.ffbridge.asso.fr is expected to vugraph the Final Nov 1-3 online with live video (but will it be the Women's Final if France qualify?). You might want to check in advance whether your computer can access their videos.

The exciting Quarter-Final was Italy vs USA1, the clash of the two favourites. See Bulletin 8 (pp 15-18) for the 3rd set and see Bulletin 9 (pp 12-15) for the dramatic 5th and 6th sets.

BD = Bocchi-Duboin, LV = Lauria-Versace, DF = De Falco-Ferraro
MR = Meckstroth-Rodwell, HS = Hamman-Soloway, NF = Nickell-Freeman

Set Lineups

1 BD-HS LV-NF Italy by 29, less 5 C/F means Italy lead by 24

- 2 BD-MR LV-NF Italy by 28, lead by 52
- 3 BD-MR LV-HS Italy lose by 43, lead by 9
- 4 LV-MR, DF-HS Italy lose by 8, lead by 1 imp
- 5 BD-HS, LV-MR Italy by 57-0 to lead by 58!!
- 6 LV-HS, BD-MR Italy by 67-9 to win by 116 imps!!

For those who want reassurance that the experts are fallible, page 17 of Bulletin 8 in pdf is worth a look - Lauria and Versace's misdefence would not be found by most club players. The interview with superstar Norberto Bocchi on page 14 of the same Bulletin might be worth reading too.

The Transnational Teams has 74 teams. Team rosters do not seem to be available online. Some progress scores after 7 matches:

2 nd	M Reid	NZ	138 VPs
4 th	Hackett	Eng/USA	126
6 th	Courtney	GBr (Aus?)	124
35	Blackstock	NZ	106
57	Prescott	Aus	93
66	Otvosi	Pol. (Aus)	87
71	Rothfield	Aus/USA	74
74/74	Tunisia		70

Datums for all 17 matches of the qualifying:

Open

1/57	Terry Brown - Geroge Bilski (Australia)	120 bds	+1.032 imps/bd
2/57	Groetheim - Aa (Norway)	200 bds	+0.636 imps/bd
27/57	Terry Brown - Phil Gue (Aust)	120 bds	-0.037 imps/bd
41/57	Peter Fordham - Mike Prescott (Aust)	280 bds	-0.221 imps/bd
46/57	George Bilski - Barry Noble (Aust)	60 bds	-0.323 imps/bd
50/57	George Bilski - Phil Gue (Aust)	60 bds	-0.495 imps/bd

Women

1/55	V Bessis - C d'Ovidio (France)	220 bds	+0.996 imps/bd
4/55	S Brock - Margaret Courtney (England)	200 bds	+0.664 imps/bd
38/55	Alida Clark - Marilyn Chadwick (Aust)	180 bds	-0.163 imps/bd
39/55	Deb Moir - Jan Cormack (Aust)	280 bds	-0.231 imps/bd
47/55	Liz Havas - Barbara Travis	220 bds	-0.522 imps/bd

Seniors

1/23	Bobby Wolff - Dan Morse (USA)	180 bds	+1.124 imps/bd
2/23	Fred Hamilton - John Sutherlin (USA)	180 bds	+0.741 imps/bd

END.