

World Championships - Report #8

Bermuda Bowl Semis: Norway beat Italy by 5imps and USA2 beat Poland by 36imps.
Venice Cup Semis: France beat USA2 and Germany beat Austria.

Italy were 46imps down with 8 boards to play. Then an impressive hand (ref Bulletin 11 p15) on which Lauria found an ultra-light lead directing bid, with Versace squeezing dummy to beat 3NT, was followed by a minus 1100 by Terje Aa of Norway to put Italy back in the match. On the last hand, Lauria thought for a long time but failed to find the winning line to make 4S and win the match.

Thus the fourth and fifth seeds (approximately) will meet in the Final.

e-bridge, having said No Vugraph until November 7, have put the hands from the the Semis on their site at <http://www.e-bridgemaster.com/paris2001/index.asp>.

(SF sets 1,2,4 = USA 2 vs Poland and SF sets 3 & 5 = Italy vs. Norway).

We have no idea what they'll do for the Final, if anything.

The French site www.ffbridge.asso.fr says that they're providing Vugraph of the Final (Nov 1-3) online with live video. It is expected to be a mix of the Open and Women's Finals but might be in French (SA = NT, Pique = spade, Coeur = heart, Trefle = club, if my memory serves me correctly).

The Italian site <http://www.federbridge.it/FIGB/indice.html> is expected to cover the Playoff for 3rd, providing hand-by-hand results but no hand records not any Vugraph. Italian: SA senza atout - No Trump (NT), P picche - Spades, C cuori - Hearts, Q quadri - Diamonds, F fiore - Clubs.

Jude Goodwin-Hanson provides information at www.greatbridgelinks.com.

The Transnational Teams's rosters are now online.

Progress scores after 11 of the 15 qualifying matches:

1 st	Ventin (Spain, but incl Buratti - Lanzarotti from Italy)	206 VPs
4 th	Grinberg (Israel) --- Top Four Teams Qualify ---	194
9 th	M Reid, R Jedrychowski, M Mayer, M Cornell (NZ)	186
11 th	M Chang Forrester Robson Zia M Rosenberg B Wolff	186
13 th	Michael Courtney (Aus) C Wigoder R Brock D Burn	182
16 th	Hackett X3, D Mossop, T Rees (Eng) M Lair (USA)	180
32	S Blackstock, S Henry, D Smith, D Ackerley (NZ)	167
55	E Otvosi (Aus) M Borewicz K Lasocki G Matula (Pol)	151
66	J & C Rothfield (Aus) A & D Truscott + 2 (USA)	140
69/74	Prescott, Noble, Brown. Bilski (Aus) P Gordon (?)	136