



BIL Xmas Pairs Tournament – December 20, 2004

All hands are taken from the 4th segment of the Italy-USA match in the recent Olympiad in Istanbul. As 16 boards would have been too many for this tournament, you actually played boards 9-16 followed by boards 3 and 4.

Bd: 9
Dlr: North
Vul: EW

	North	
	♠ AKJ32	
	♥ 974	
	♦ T7	
	♣ J84	
West		East
♠ QT54		♠ 76
♥ JT8		♥ AK653
♦ 86542		♦ Q9
♣ 5		♣ KT93
	South	
	♠ 98	
	♥ Q2	
	♦ AKJ3	
	♣ AQ762	

Open Room:

West	North	East	South
Welland	Lauria	Fallenius	Versace
	Pass	1♥	2♣
2♥	2♠	Pass	Pass
Pass			

Lead: ♥A
8 Tricks Claimed +110.

Lauria plays very carefully after Fallenius switches to a diamond after leading the ♥A, happy to make his eight tricks.

Closed Room:

West	North	East	South
Duboin	Rosenberg	Bocchi	Zia
	Pass	1♥	2♣
2♥	2♠	Pass	3♠
Pass	4♠	Pass	Pass
Pass			

Lead: ♥A
10 Tricks Claimed +420.

Bocchi also lead the top heart but kills the defence by switching to the ♣10. With queens well placed Rosenberg makes 10 tricks comfortably.

IMPS: Italy 0:7 USA

Bd: 10
 Dlr: East
 Vul: Both

North
 ♠ J96
 ♥ 642
 ♦ AJ95
 ♣ Q86



West
 ♠ T73
 ♥ AQT53
 ♦ 2
 ♣ KJ73

East
 ♠ AK85
 ♥ K98
 ♦ QT8
 ♣ T94

South
 ♠ Q42
 ♥ J7
 ♦ K7643
 ♣ A52

Open Room:

West	North	East	South
Welland	Lauria	Fallenius	Versace
		1♣	1♦
Dbl(1)	3♦	Pass	Pass
Dbl	Pass	3♥	Pass
Pass	Pass		

(1) 4+ hearts

Lead: ♦3
 9 Tricks Claimed +140.

Under no pressure Fallenius just takes his obvious nine tricks, conceding a diamond, spade and two clubs.

Closed Room:

West	North	East	South
Duboin	Rosenberg	Bocchi	Zia
		1♣	Pass
1♦(1)	Pass	1♥	Pass
1♠	Pass	1NT	Pass
4♥	Pass	Pass	Pass

(1) 4+ hearts

Lead: ♦3
 10 Tricks Claimed +620.

Bocchi plays the hand of the Olympiad! After the diamond lead and trump switch, he loses two clubs and, when the defence never switches to spades, achieves the following end position:

The ♥A forces Rosenberg to release a spade, otherwise Bocchi can cross to the top spade and lead the ♦Q pinning the ♦J.

Dummy now throws the ♠8 and now Zia is squeezed – if he throws a spade, Bocchi can cash the top spades and ruff a diamond to cash his third spade which is now good. If he throws a diamond, which is what he did, then Bocchi can cross to a top spade and ruff the ♦10 establishing the queen, and still have the second top spade as an entry.

Stunning play!

IMPS: Italy 10:7 USA

	Rosenberg	
	♠ J96	
	♥	
	♦ J9	
	♣	
Duboin		Bocchi
♠ T73		♠ AK8
♥ A5		♥
♦		♦ QT
♣		♣
	Zia	
	♠ Q42	
	♥	
	♦ K7	
	♣	

Bd: 11
Dlr: South
Vul: None

North
♠ AK652
♥ K52
♦ QJ8
♣ T7



West
♠ Q7
♥ A73
♦ 753
♣ AJ982

East
♠ JT93
♥ T98
♦ T42
♣ 654

South
♠ 84
♥ QJ64
♦ AK96
♣ KQ3

Open Room:

West	North	East	South
Welland	Lauria	Fallenius	Versace

			1NT
Pass	2♥	Pass	2♠
Pass	3NT	Pass	Pass
Pass			

Lead: ♣8
11 Tricks Claimed +460.

Closed Room:

West	North	East	South
Duboin	Rosenberg	Bocchi	Zia

			1♦
Pass	1♠	Pass	1NT
Pass	2♦	Pass	2♥
Pass	2NT	Pass	3NT
Pass	Pass	Pass	

Lead: ♣9
11 Tricks Claimed +460.

When dummy wins the first trick the heart break means an easy two overtricks at both tables.

IMPS: Italy 10:7 USA

Bd: 12
Dlr: West
Vul: N♠

North
♠ T4
♥ T976
♦ QJT8
♣ AQ8

West
♠ A9875
♥ KJ85
♦ 63
♣ 74

East
♠ 632
♥ A43
♦ AK94
♣ KT6



South
♠ KQJ
♥ Q2
♦ 752
♣ J9532

Open Room:

West	North	East	South
Welland	Lauria	Fallenius	Versace
Pass	Pass	1NT	Pass
2♣	Pass	2♦	Pass
2♥	Pass	Pass	Pass

Lead: ♦Q
9 Tricks Claimed +140.

Welland is unable to bid 2♠ as this would be a relay, so they rest in the inferior major suit fit but the contract makes comfortably.

Closed Room:

West	North	East	South
Duboin	Rosenberg	Bocchi	Zia
Pass	Pass	1♦	Pass
1♠	Pass	1NT	Pass
2♥	Pass	2♠	Pass
Pass	Pass		

Lead: ♦Q
10 Tricks Claimed +170.

Outside of their 1NT opening range means the Italians have an easy ride to their 8-card fit.

IMPS: Italy 11:7 USA

Bd: 13
Dlr: North
Vul: Both

North
♠ AJT8
♥ KQ75
♦ Q6
♣ QT4

West
♠ Q93
♥ JT6
♦ 9432
♣ 832

East
♠ 652
♥ 983
♦ A875
♣ J96

South
♠ K74
♥ A42
♦ KJT
♣ AK75



Open Room:

West	North	East	South
Welland	Lauria	Fallenius	Versace
	1♣	Pass	2♣
Pass	2♦	Pass	2NT
Pass	3NT	Pass	Pass
Pass			

Lead: ♥J
12 Tricks Claimed +690.

Surprisingly Versace signs off when Lauria shows a balanced 12-14 hand. In this case it is a good slam, needing either the spade finesse to work or both hearts and clubs to break 3-3. In this case every option works.

Closed Room:

West	North	East	South
Duboin	Rosenberg	Bocchi	Zia
	1♣	Pass	2♣
Pass	2NT	Pass	4NT
Pass	6NT	Pass	Pass
Pass			

Lead: ♥8
12 Tricks Claimed +1440.

After essentially the same sequence Zia invites and Rosenberg bids the good slam.

IMPS: Italy 11:17 USA

Bd: 14
Dlr: East
Vul: None

North
♠ Q87
♥ 65
♦ KJ52
♣ AJ54

West
♠ KJ95
♥ KQ9
♦ T4
♣ KQ72

East
♠ T32
♥ T842
♦ AQ8
♣ T86

South
♠ A64
♥ AJ73
♦ 9763
♣ 93



Open Room:

West	North	East	South
Welland	Lauria	Fallenius	Versace
		Pass	Pass
1NT	Pass	Pass	Pass

Lead: ♦2
7 Tricks Claimed +90.

The normal opening lead proves disastrous as it gives Welland his seventh trick.

Closed Room:

West	North	East	South
Duboin	Rosenberg	Bocchi	Zia
		Pass	Pass
1♣	Pass	1♦	Pass
1♥	Pass	Pass	1NT
Pass	Pass	Pass	

Lead: ♥K
7 Tricks Claimed +90.

Bocchi settles for a known 7-card fit despite having such anaemic shape. This allows Zia to balance with 1NT where the favourable heart and club positions allow him to make seven tricks. When the vulnerability is love all, it is always a race to see who can bid 1NT first!

IMPS: Italy 11:22 USA

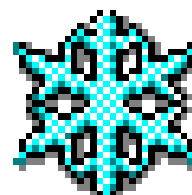
Bd: 15
 Dlr: South
 Vul: N♠

North
 ♠
 ♥ T853
 ♦ QJ65
 ♣ K9632

West
 ♠ T4
 ♥ Q972
 ♦ KT932
 ♣ T5

East
 ♠ AQ873
 ♥ AKJ
 ♦ 8
 ♣ AQ84

South
 ♠ KJ9652
 ♥ 64
 ♦ A74
 ♣ J7



Open Room:

West	North	East	South
Welland	Lauria	Fallenius	Versace
Pass	Pass	1♠	Pass
Pass	Pass		Pass

Lead: ♥6
 8 Tricks Claimed +110.

Surprisingly Versace does not open a weak 2♠ and so Fallenius plays in that suit! Despite the 6-0 break everything else is sitting well and Fallenius makes an overtrick easily.

Closed Room:

West	North	East	South
Duboin	Rosenberg	Bocchi	Zia
Pass	2♥	Db1	2♦
3♦	Pass	3NT	2♠
Pass	Pass		Pass

Lead: ♠5
 7 Tricks Claimed -100.

Despite keeping their weak two-bids well up to strength, Zia does open this with a Multi-2♦. When Duboin shows some values Bocchi goes for the obvious game but fails to make it in the endgame when he misses a simple squeeze.

Bocchi is on lead needing 3 tricks and has a complete count of the hand (he knows Zia only has spades left). If he cashes the ♠A then Rosenberg has no discard – a heart allows the ♥J to be overtaken; and a minor suit establishes a winner directly. Unusual for Bocchi to get this wrong, so maybe there is hope for us normal mortals.

IMPS: Italy 11:27 USA

	Rosenberg	
	♠	
	♥ T8	
	♦ Q	
	♣ K	
Duboin		Bocchi
♠ 4		♠ AQ
♥ Q9		♥ J
♦ 9		♦ 8
♣		♣ 8
	Zia	
	♠ KJ96	
	♥	
	♦	
	♣	

Bd: 16
Dlr: West
Vul: EW

North
♠ Q63
♥ AQ8
♦ 965
♣ AQT8

West
♠ AK985
♥ J732
♦ 4
♣ 953

East
♠ 72
♥ KT954
♦ KT83
♣ K4

South
♠ JT4
♥ 6
♦ AQJ72
♣ J762



Open Room:

West	North	East	South
Welland	Lauria	Fallenius	Versace
Pass	1♣	Pass	1♦
Pass	1NT	Pass	3♣
Pass	3NT	Pass	Pass
Pass			

Lead: ♥4
8 Tricks Claimed -50.

The 4-1 diamond break and failing club finesse doom this reasonable contract.

Closed Room:

West	North	East	South
Duboin	Rosenberg	Bocchi	Zia
Pass	1NT	Pass	Pass
2♣	Pass	3♥	Pass
4♥	Pass	Pass	Pass

Lead: ♥6
10 Tricks Claimed +620.

Hyper-aggressive bidding from the Italians puts the defence under pressure. When Rosenberg fails to find a diamond switch at trick 2, declarer has a vital tempo and comes home with ten tricks when the spades break nicely.

IMPS: Italy 22:27 USA

Bd: 3
Dlr: South
Vul: EW

North
♠ J42
♥ T7
♦ AK632
♣ K64

West
♠ A
♥ J8532
♦ J5
♣ QT982

East
♠ K8765
♥ K64
♦ Q97
♣ A7

South
♠ QT93
♥ AQ9
♦ T84
♣ J53



Open Room:

West	North	East	South
Welland	Lauria	Fallenius	Versace
Pass	1♦	Pass	Pass
Pass	2♠	Pass	1♠
Dbl	Pass	Pass	Pass

Lead: ♠A
7 Tricks Claimed -100.

An aggressive balancing double by Welland works well but the reasonably favourable lie of the cards means that Versace can come to seven tricks. A poor illustration of the Italian style of raising on 3-card suits when holding a weak doubleton. Interesting that Fallenius was not interested in competing with 1♠ opposite a passed partner.

Closed Room:

West	North	East	South
Duboin	Rosenberg	Bocchi	Zia
Pass	1♦	1♠	Pass
Pass	Pass	Pass	1NT

Lead: ♣10
7 Tricks Claimed +90.

Bocchi does overcall and gives Zia a simple 1NT bid. Although the defence can set up clubs, Zia establishes spades for his contract.

IMPS: Italy 22:32 USA

Bd: 4
 Dlr: West
 Vul: Both

North
 ♠ A
 ♥ A53
 ♦ AQT952
 ♣ AK7

West
 ♠ Q932
 ♥ Q986
 ♦ J7
 ♣ 963

East
 ♠ T876
 ♥ T4
 ♦ 843
 ♣ Q542

South
 ♠ KJ54
 ♥ KJ72
 ♦ K6
 ♣ JT8



Open Room:

West	North	East	South
Welland	Lauria	Fallenius	Versace
Pass	1♦	Pass	1♥
Pass	2♠	Pass	2NT
Pass	3♣	Pass	3♦
Pass	4♣	Pass	4♦
Pass	4♥	Pass	4♠
Pass	4NT	Pass	5♦
Pass	5♠	Pass	5NT
Pass	7♦	Pass	Pass
Pass			

Lead: ♦4
 12 Tricks Claimed -100.

Closed Room:

West	North	East	South
Duboin	Rosenberg	Bocchi	Zia
Pass	2♣	Pass	2♦
Pass	3♦	Pass	4♦
Pass	4♥	Pass	4♠
Pass	5♣	Pass	5♥
Pass	5♠	Pass	7♦
Pass	Pass	Pass	

Lead: ♦7
 12 Tricks Claimed -100.

Although the grand slam can be made looking at all four hands, perhaps the best two declarers in the world both went down, eventually taking the club finesse after trying to drop the major suit queens.

IMPS: Italy 22:32 USA

So USA win this little segment of ten boards, but Italy won the match in the end and went on to take the trophy.

How did you do?