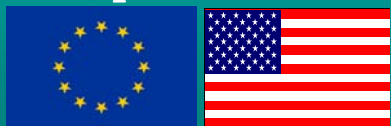


3rd Buffett Bridge Cup

13th - 16th September 2010

Europe v. USA



Miskin Manor,
South Wales



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Monday 13th September 2010

Bulletin No. 1

Schedule

Monday 13th September

10.30		Opening
11.00	12.30	Pairs Match 1
12.40	14.10	Pairs Match 2
		Break and team photographs
15.00	16.30	Pairs Match 3
16.40	18.10	Pairs Match 4
18.20	19.30	Pairs Match 5

The fastest draw in the West

THE draw for the world's favourite cup competition, the FA Cup, is a tense affair involving balls in a bag, picked out one at a time by two luminaries of the beautiful game. The minnows from the lower leagues watch with bated breath, hoping to net a big name - Manchester United or Arsenal - for a moment of glory.

The Pairs draw at the Buffett opening dinner was no less exciting. Players from both teams eagerly anticipated the slip of paper that would name the opposition pair with whom their scores will be compared. In the event, the draw was read out with such speed and panache that your Editor struggled to jot down the names.

EUROPE	compares scores with	USA
Fulvio Fantoni		Zia Mahmood
Claudio Nunes		Bob Hamman
Sabine Auken		David Berkowitz
Daniela von Arnim		Alan Sontag
Jason Hackett		Bobby Levin
Justin Hackett		Steve Weinstein
Geir Helgemo	*	Jeff Meckstroth
Tor Helness		Eric Rodwell
Giorgio Duboin		Fred Gitelman
Antonio Sementa		Geoff Hampson
Boye Brogeland		Jill Levin
Eric Saelensminde		Jill Meyers



Team USA at the St Mellons Golf Club: pictured (left to right):

Bob Hamman, Eric Rodwell, Zia Mahmood, David Berkowitz, Steve Weinstein, Alan Sontag, Geoff Hampson, Fred Gitelman, Jill Meyers, Bobby Levin, Jill Levin, Jeff Meckstroth, Donna Compton (NPC)



Non-playing captains Paul Hackett (Europe) and Donna Compton (USA) enjoy a joke with the on-site organiser, Wales's own Patrick Jourdain

* Production team's pick for the one to watch

STOP PRESS STOP PRESS STOP PRESS

News on recent achievements by this week's players:

Steve Weinstein and Bobby Levin were part of the team that recently won the USBF Team Trials and so will be USA I for the Bermuda Bowl in the Netherlands in 2011; they also won the final national swiss at the New Orleans NABC.

Jill Meyers won the Mixed Teams Championship at the American Nationals in New Orleans.

Fred Gitelman & Geoff Hampson have won the Spingold, the main event at the American Nationals in New Orleans. They were on John Diamond's team, which beat Rose Meltzer in the final 118-115. Meltzer's team featured two other Buffett Cup pairs: **Alan Sontag & David Berkowitz** and **Fulvio Fantoni & Claudio Nunes**.

Welsh Invitation Pairs

This annual event, in which eight "foreign" pairs are invited to play against eight top Welsh pairs, took place on 11th and 12th September.

No pair from outside the UK has yet won the Butler-scored competition, and only one pair has ever won it twice. This year Rex Anderson and David Greenwood from Northern Ireland were on a hat trick, and duly scored their third win.

2nd, 3rd and 4th places were all taken by the home side: Simon Richards and Trevor Towers; Paul Denning and Patrick Shields; and Peter Goodman and Adrian Thomas.

The playing conditions and hospitality at St Mellons Golf Club were excellent as always.



Many thanks to our guests for making the long journey to South Wales, and we wish you all a safe trip home.

Too much information

Since we have no Buffett hands to offer you in this Monday morning bulletin, here is a play problem from the Invitation Pairs to whet your appetite.

♠ J 8 3	♠ A K Q
♥ J 6 4 3 2	♥ K 8 7 5
♦ 8 2	♦ A 7
♣ K 7 5	♣ A J 10 2

As East you open a strong balanced hand (2NT, or 1♣ if you are playing a Strong Club system), and the auction leads to 4♥ by East.

South leads the ♦4. What is the best line?

At one table, a regular in the Welsh international team, guarding against a singleton ♥Q in the North hand, crossed to the king of clubs and played a heart towards his king. North won with the ace, cashed the ♦J and played a club. Declarer took the finesse, which lost to South's queen. Now when the ♥K failed to bring down the queen, he was one off.

At another table, a rather less illustrious Welsh player had the benefit of a 1♦ opening bid from North. The difficulty at this table was for East to get the strength of her hand across while allowing for partner's possible bust.

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
-	-	-	Pass
Pass	1♦	Dbl	2♦
Pass	Pass	2NT	Pass
3♦	Pass	4♥	All pass

With a known 9-card fit and all the outside aces, East thought 4♥ was a reasonable bet. With the knowledge (or so she thought) that North had a n opening hand, she won the diamond lead and returned a diamond, won by North. North switched to a spade, won with the ace, and declarer played a heart to the jack and Ace. A second spade was returned, and now it was a simple matter for declarer to cash the ♥K and ♠Q and exit a heart to endplay South.

Is this the percentage line, or is there a better one?

The hand does illustrate that light openings third in hand are not entirely without hazard.

