



III Sudamericano Transnacional de Bridge Mar del Plata, Argentina. 1 al 8 de Mayo de 2010.

Editor: John Carruthers

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SOUTH AMERICAN CHAMPIONS! CARACCI & ALMIRALL



JM Robles, Benjamin Robles, Adolfo Madala, Joaquín Pacareu, Marcelo **Caracci**, with help from Rafael de la Barrera, defeated Brazilians Leão **Carvalho**, Marcos Thoma, Manuel Peirão, Mauricio Figueiredo, Federico Kladt and Sergio Aranha in the final of the South American Open Team Championship, 177-81.

Nuria **Almirall**, Carmen Cafranga, Mari Carmen Babot and Marta Almirall of Spain beat Agota **Mandelot**, Florencia Attaguile, Leda Pain, Sylvia Mello, Paulinha David and Heloisa Nogueira of Brazil in the final of the Women's Championship, 171-106.



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FOTOS DEL FESTIVAL

Llévese un recuerdo de este Festival, todos los días a la salida de los matches vea los contactos y elija las que le gusten. Pídale a la fotógrafa que le tome la foto con su equipo y/o compañero.

Venta de Tabillas

Cartas con código de barras
& Bidding Box

Secretaria Sra. Patricia Bigi

Campeonato Brasileiro Aberto de Bridge – 2010

Data: 04 a 12/09 de 2010

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THE SOUTH AMERICAN TRANSNATIONAL TEAMS CHAMPIONSHIP THE FINALS

The results of the final matches were:

OPEN	C.O.	1°	2°	3°	4°				
CARACCI		54	54	33	87	44	131	46	177
CARVALHO	1.33	26	28	26	64	15	69	12	81
WOMEN'S									
AMIRALL	0.5	13	14	64	78	50	128	43	171
MANDELOT		24	24	24	48	48	96	10	106

In the early days of South American bridge, Argentina dominated South American Championships and thus international representation. In the 1970's, Brasil gained dominance and won the World Team Olympiad in 1976, the World Open Pairs in 1978 and 1990 and the Bermuda Bowl in 1989. Lately though, Chile has been making noises about joining the elite two. Four players, Marcelo Caracci, JM Robles, Benjamin Robles and Joaquín Pacareu, have dominated South American bridge over the past three years. Those four have won the last three South American Team Championships, and Benjamin Robles and Pacareu won the South American Pairs two years ago.

This year, Marcelo Caracci had to return to Santiago de Chile yesterday for a family wedding (he has his priorities in order!), so the team conscripted a couple of substitutes, Adolfo Madala and Rafael de la Barrera. They barely skipped a beat, handily defeating a strong team from Brasil led by Leão Carvalho in the four-session final to perform the hat trick.

For most South Americans, 10:30 a.m. is way too early to be trying to concentrate on good bridge. While we Norte Americanos tend to eat dinner earlier and arise earlier in the morning, in this part of the world, we learn to take things easier...and later. However, South America is joining the rest of the world in beginning their bridge championships in mid-morning.

Would that have an effect on the first board of the second session of the finals, begun at 10:30?

Board 1. Dealer North. Neither Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>B Robles</i>	<i>Carvalho</i>	<i>Pacareu</i>	<i>Aranha</i>
—	Pass	1♦	1♠
Pass	1 NT	Pass	Pass
Double	2♥	Pass	Pass
Double	Pass	Pass	Pass

As we were entering the playing area for the start of the session, I told Leão Carvalho that I wanted him to give me a Daily Bulletin hand in the first five boards. He said to me, "That's too much pressure!" Then the first board came along.

What do you make of this bidding? As nearly all expert pairs do, Robles-Pacareu play that West's first double meant that he had a penalty double of one spade - this is really the only logical way to play this bid. Many pairs play that when North pulls the double, as he did here, East's double would show three trumps (not necessarily four) and suggest (but not command) a pass by West.

Whatever it would have meant in their system, Pacareu passed and Robles doubled. This was a very questionable action since if partner could not double, what defence do you have against hearts? The ace of spades. You need partner to have five defensive tricks to beat the contract – surely, he'd have doubled himself with that much.

In any case, Pacareu avoided the deadly (for him) trump lead, often the best start (although not this time) against a low-level doubled contract, and started the spade king. At the appearance of the dummy and when this held the trick, Pacareu knew his partner had three trumps and five spades. He shifted to the seven of clubs, king (good for declarer!), queen, two. Carvalho next led the spade queen from dummy and ruffed out the ace when Robles played that card.

Next, Carvalho played a heart to the ace and discarded his second club on a high spade as East ruffed. Pacareu next cashed the heart king and played another club, upon which declarer discarded a diamond loser.

West had won the nine of clubs at the previous trick and shifted to the diamond king. Declarer won the ace and led the diamond nine to East's jack. The ace of clubs was ruffed by declarer and the queen of hearts cashed, drawing West's last trump.

When declarer played the diamond ten to East's queen, East had to surrender a diamond trick back to declarer for down one, plus 100 to East-West. It was a lot of work for that extra 50 points. Was East's pass over two hearts forcing on West? That's a good point to discuss with your partner.

So, what happened at the other table on this board? Although no details are available, the contract was the same (!), but East led a trump, leading to plus 470 for North-South and 11 IMPs to the Caracci team.

In the women's match, South for Almirall was doubled in one spade and went two off for minus 300 while their teammates went one down in two no trump for minus 50 and an 8-IMP loss.

While there were many other interesting deals in the final, time constraints force us to save them for another occasion. Look for our articles on this event in the International Bridge Press Association Bulletin (www.ibpa.com), in the ACBL Bulletin and at www.confbridge.org.



Rafael de la Barrera - Open Teams Winner

BUTLER WINNERS



Villegas - Angeleri

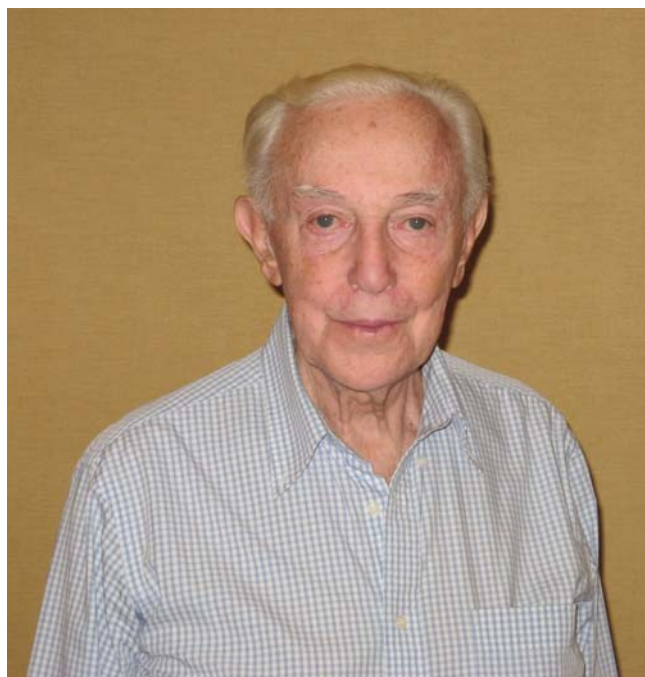
Butler PAREJAS

Place	Pair	Average VP per Match
1	Angeleri & Villegas	18.90
2	Robles & Caracci	18.50
3	Sampaio & Amaral	18.21
4	N. Almirall & M. Almirall	17.47
5	Iglesias & Uberti	17.40
6	Oliveira & Proto	17.27
7	Thoma & Figueiredo	17.14
8	Babot & Cafranga	17.07
9	Poncioni & Palmeiro	17.06
=10	C. Monsegur & M. A. Monsegur	17.00
=10	Iacaprora & Garateguy	17.00

Sheraton Parejas Libres May 7, 2010

1	Pasquino – Cañesky	59.47
2	Chagas – Pellegrini	57.95
3	Clara - Ana Roth	57.01
4	Edgar – Cabrera	56.06
5	Safra – Roberto	55.87
6	Gamio – Reygadas	55.30
7	Pasquini - de Lemos	55.11
8	Ojeda – Ortega	54.55
9	Benvenuto – Zumel	53.41
10	Sultán – Bianchedi	53.22

AN HOUR WITH MARCELO LERNER



As a bit of a bridge historian it is always a pleasure for me to meet and talk to great players from earlier days. One such player is Marcelo Lerner, who won the 1957 South American Open Team Championship in Chile, playing for Argentina.

DB: Greetings, Marcelo, please tell us about your early international bridge experiences.

ML: After we won in Chile in 1957, we were invited to play in the 1958 Bermuda Bowl in Lake Como, Italy. In those days, there were only three teams, and in fact, this was the first time a non-European or non-American team played. Europe was represented by the Blue Team from Italy and the USA had Crawford-Becker, Roth-Stone and Rapée-Silodor. Both of those were marvellous teams.

DB: What about the travel to Italy?

ML: We had two days flying time with stopovers. We first flew to Recife and from there across the Atlantic to Dakar. After Dakar we flew to Madrid then to Rome.

DB: And from there to Como?

ML: We spent a couple of days in Rome sightseeing, then we took a train to St. Moritz in Switzerland, where we had been invited to play in a 'friendly' against the Swiss team and a team from Italy. We won, so our confidence was high going into the Bermuda Bowl.

DB: And in the Bermuda Bowl?

ML: We were very unschooled. We played against the Italian systems, which were all new to us, this Neapolitan Club and the Roman Club, without really having any

preparation at all. And those two teams were the best in the world, so we finished third.

DB: How was the experience?

ML: The bridge was a learning experience. Everything else was wonderful. For example, the prize-giving was done by the Prince of Liechtenstein.

DB: What do you see as the major differences between then and now at the top level?

ML: Nowadays the young players know much more than we did then. They are familiar with all the systems. They still need to play and practice to gain experience, but they are much better off than we were in that regard. Also, in those days, we played in tuxedos!

DB: What about your later experiences?

ML: I played the 1964 Olympiad in New York for Argentina, and the 1965 Bermuda Bowl in Buenos Aires. After that, I did not play too much internationally because my practice as a medical doctor took up too much of my time.

DB: Can you tell us about the famous scandal from your viewpoint?

ML: We knew nothing at all at the time. When we played against Great Britain, the Non-Playing Captain, Ralph Swimer, and the President of the British Bridge League, Gerald Butler, were at the table taking notes, but this was not unusual in any way. Reese and Schapiro were gentlemen and we did not suspect anything at all. Later it turned out that Swimer and Butler had been charting Reese-Schapiro's finger signals and when they compared notes, it turned out that they could call the number of hearts in the hand they had not watched when they referred to the number of fingers displayed.

DB: And what have been your experiences since then?

ML: I played with Agustin Madala when he was 10 years old! Even then he was a marvellous player – we played in the Argentine Team Championship and came second. Last year my team won the Argentine and South American Senior Team Championships and competed at the World Championship in São Paulo.

DB: So you won your first South American Championship in 1957 and your latest in 2009. Do you have a favourite hand to tell us about?

ML: I'll show you a hand from Como. To set the stage, Jean Besse was kibitzing John Crawford, the self-confessed 'best player in the world' at the time. Since Jean Besse was actually a candidate for the best player in the world (with Reese, Schenken, Fourquet and Belladonna), there was a bit of an antipathy between the two.

Dealer South. NS Vul.

♠ Q 10 3 2
 ♥ J 10 5 4 3
 ♦ 10 7 4 3
 ♣ —

♠ K 5 4
 ♥ A Q 8 7 2
 ♦ Q
 ♣ K 5 4 3

♠ J 9 8 7
 ♥ K 9
 ♦ A 8 5
 ♣ J 9 7 6

♠ A 6
 ♥ 6
 ♦ K J 9 6 2
 ♣ A Q 10 8 2

West	North	East	South
John	carlos	Al	Marcelo
Crawford	Cabanne	Roth	Lerner
—	—	—	1 ♦
1 ♥	2 ♦	2 ♥	5 ♦
Pass	Pass		

ML: In those days, our bidding was not so scientific as it is today. We bid what we thought we could make. Crawford led the queen of trumps, and when the dummy came down, he remarked, "It looks like I made the best lead."

Basically, my contract has no play at all, but I decided to make the best of it. Roth (Crawford and Roth were not a regular partnership, but in those days, the Americans mixed their partnerships quite a bit), followed with the five of diamonds and I won the king. Perhaps I could build a spade trick for a heart discard, so I led the six of spades, four, queen, seven. A spade to the ace followed and since my spade play had been so successful, I tried the queen of clubs; Crawford played low! What was I supposed to do; I discarded a heart. I led the ace of clubs and ruffed a club, then ruffed a spade back to hand to ruff another club. They were four-four! Now it was simple matter to lead a trump, ruff the spade return, draw the remaining trump and concede a heart. Plus 600!

Crawford was apoplectic. He made all kinds of excuses: when Roth did not play the diamond ace, he placed it in my hand; when Roth did not have the spade ace, he must have the club ace; Roth raised to two hearts, so I had no hearts; and so on. Jean Besse, always a perfect gentleman, simply smiled softly and nodded.

Jean Besse later wrote a very long article for the French magazine "Le Bridge" about this deal. He was not very complimentary to Crawford.

DB: Marcelo, thanks very much for your time. We appreciate it.

Marcelo Lerner, in addition to being a great player, is a fine gentleman and a very gracious interview subject. It was a great pleasure speaking with him.

SCENES FROM THE III SUDAMERICANO TRANSNACIONAL



Watching BBO in the Lobby Bar of the Sheraton Mar del Plata



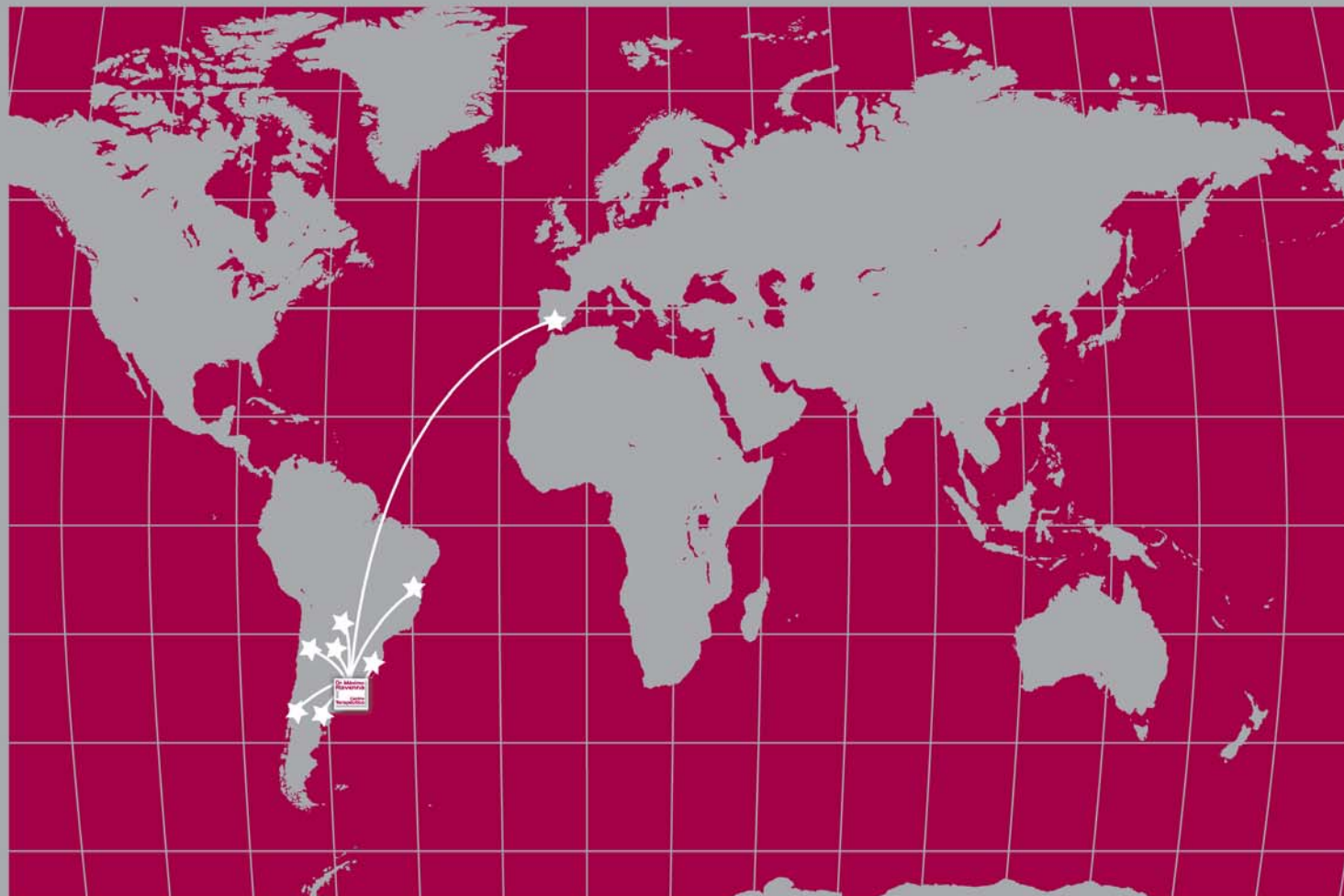
Los Cuis con Alas (a.k.a. The Winged Guinea Pigs)



Germán & Adrián - "We used to be friends."

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