


## The Blue Team (4)

The Italian Blue Team were, without question, the greatest team in the history of bridge. They dominated the bridge world for a decade and a half, took a short break, then returned to win three more Bermuda Bowls and an Olympiad. As these championships are being held in Italy, it seemed a perfect opportunity to honour the members of this fine team.

**G** **UGLIELMO SINISCALCO** was one of the original members of the Blue Team. A professor of civil engineering, he came from **Naples**. Siniscalco was part of all the successful Italian teams of the fifties before leaving the team after the 1959 Bermuda Bowl. This deal from an Italian championship showed Siniscalco at his best.

NS Game; Dealer: West

<p>♠ A Q 9 ♥ A 9 7 6 5 4 ♦ 7 5 4 ♣ 7</p>		<p>♠ 10 8 5 3 ♥ K Q 3 2 ♦ 3 2 ♣ J 10 3</p>	<p>♠ 6 4 2 ♥ J 10 8 ♦ Q 8 ♣ A K 5 4 2</p>
	<p>♠ K J 7 ♥ — ♦ A K J 10 9 6 ♣ Q 9 8 6</p>		

West	North <i>Chiaradia</i>	East	South <i>Siniscalco</i>
1♥	Pass	2♥	3♦
4♥	5♦	All Pass	

West led the ♣7 and Siniscalco paused to take stock. There would be no problem if he could cash five club tricks but the likely 3-1 break, in view of the lead, meant that there would be an awkward blockage. Siniscalco found the answer. Winning the ♣A, he led the ♥J. East covered with the king and declarer ruffed with the nine. He led the ♦6 to dummy's eight and continued with the ♥10. Again East covered and Siniscalco ruffed. Finally he crossed to the ♦Q and led the last heart and this time East could not cover so Siniscalco threw the blocking fourth club. Whatever West played, declarer soon had the lead and could draw trumps and cash all the clubs to make his game.

It was suggested that Siniscalco ran the risk of going down in a makeable contract if diamonds had been 4-1 and the ♠Q was onside - he would lose trump control and be unable to take advantage of the spade position. In view of the bidding, diamonds were unlikely to be 4-1 and if East did not have two top hearts the club pitch could be taken earlier so declarer would not be shortened too much. Finally, if East did have two heart honours, he could hardly also have the ♠Q as West would then not have an opening bid.

## Pan-European Team goes to Japan

The Japan Contract Bridge League has invited Europe, America and Asia to send one representative team each to participate in an international tournament which is to be held in Tokyo, November 19-26, 1995.

At its meetings here in Rome, the EBL Executive Committee has decided that the European team will be selected from among the participants in the Open series of the European Championships next June in Portugal.

Butler scoring will be arranged for all pairs playing a minimum number of matches. The first three pairs at the end of the tournament will be invited to form a Pan-European team to represent Europe in Japan. A non-playing captain will be appointed by the EBL.

Details will be circulated to the NCBOs and will be available in Portugal.