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THE HANDS OF TIME



The Duplication team with Monica Gorreri, José Julio Lurado, Franco Crosta, Bo-Lennart Grahs and H el ene Vivier

On the day when almost everyone will be turning their clocks back by one hour, many of the teams with hopes of making the top eight in their brackets will be wishing they could go back even more.

Unfortunately for them, time machines are the stuff of fiction, and teams on the bubble with three matches to go will have to rely on good play, good luck or, more likely, a combination of the two.

In the Bermuda Bowl, the make-up of the quarter-final bracket is wide open — at least half a dozen teams can still make the cut. Italy stayed on top, extending their lead, but runner-up Egypt suffered three losses and dropped to a tie for third with USA2. China moved into the runner-up spot despite losing to Italy 12-48 (8-22).

In the Venice Cup, France solidified their hold on the top spot, followed by China, Germany and the two U.S. teams. France, seemingly unstoppable, had another big day, knocking off Brazil, Venezuela and USA1 in convincing fashion.

In the Seniors Bowl, USA1 emerged as the new leader after three big wins. Indonesia, the leader at the end of play on Thursday, won two of three matches, but a 19-50 defeat (8-22) by Israel cost them in the standings.

In the World Computer Bridge Championships, Jack (Netherlands) finished atop the round-robin standings and will face Wbridge5 (France) in the 64-board final. Jack has won the tournament three years in a row. Play begins at 9:30 a.m. in Room D2 in the convention centre.

VUGRAPH MATCHES

Bermuda Bowl – ROUND 19 – 10.00

Sweden v Argentina

Bermuda Bowl – ROUND 20 – 14.00

USA2 v Brazil

Bermuda Bowl – ROUND 21 – 17.30

To Be Decided

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TIME CHANGE

Before you retire for the evening — or at 2 a.m. on Sunday, whichever comes first — don't forget to turn your watches and clocks back one hour, say from 11 p.m. to 10 p.m.

Also, please note that on Sunday, the first session of the three main events is scheduled for 11 a.m.



PROGRAMME

Bermuda Bowl

ROUND 19 10.00

Table	Home Team	Visiting Team
1	JAPAN	ITALY
2	CHINESE TAIPEI	CANADA
3	SOUTH AFRICA	NETHERLANDS
4	POLAND	INDIA
5	EGYPT	PORTUGAL
6	GUADELOUPE	USA2
7	CHINA	RUSSIA
8	BRAZIL	NEW ZEALAND
9	SWEDEN	ARGENTINA
10	ENGLAND	JORDAN
11	AUSTRALIA	USA1

ROUND 20 14.00

Table	Home Team	Visiting Team
1	JORDAN	SWEDEN
2	ARGENTINA	ENGLAND
3	USA1	CHINESE TAIPEI
4	JAPAN	AUSTRALIA
5	ITALY	CANADA
6	NETHERLANDS	EGYPT
7	INDIA	SOUTH AFRICA
8	PORTUGAL	POLAND
9	USA2	BRAZIL
10	GUADELOUPE	CHINA
11	NEW ZEALAND	RUSSIA

ROUND 21 17.30

Table	Home Team	Visiting Team
1	CHINESE TAIPEI	JAPAN
2	POLAND	NETHERLANDS
3	EGYPT	INDIA
4	SOUTH AFRICA	PORTUGAL
5	RUSSIA	USA2
6	BRAZIL	CHINA
7	NEW ZEALAND	GUADELOUPE
8	SWEDEN	ENGLAND
9	JORDAN	ARGENTINA
10	ITALY	USA1
11	CANADA	AUSTRALIA

Venice Cup

ROUND 19 10.00

Table	Home Team	Visiting Team
12	BRAZIL	CHINA
13	SINGAPORE	NEW ZEALAND
14	VENEZUELA	FRANCE
15	NETHERLANDS	AUSTRALIA
16	INDIA	EGYPT
17	ARGENTINA	SWEDEN
18	JAPAN	AUSTRIA
19	GERMANY	MOROCCO
20	USA2	CANADA
21	ENGLAND	PORTUGAL
22	PAKISTAN	USA1

ROUND 20 14.00

Table	Home Team	Visiting Team
12	PORTUGAL	USA2
13	CANADA	ENGLAND
14	USA1	SINGAPORE
15	BRAZIL	PAKISTAN
16	CHINA	NEW ZEALAND
17	FRANCE	INDIA
18	AUSTRALIA	VENEZUELA
19	EGYPT	NETHERLANDS
20	SWEDEN	GERMANY
21	ARGENTINA	JAPAN
22	MOROCCO	AUSTRIA

ROUND 21 17.30

Table	Home Team	Visiting Team
12	SINGAPORE	BRAZIL
13	NETHERLANDS	FRANCE
14	INDIA	AUSTRALIA
15	VENEZUELA	EGYPT
16	AUSTRIA	SWEDEN
17	GERMANY	JAPAN
18	MOROCCO	ARGENTINA
19	USA2	ENGLAND
20	PORTUGAL	CANADA
21	CHINA	USA1
22	NEW ZEALAND	PAKISTAN

Seniors Bowl

ROUND 19 10.00

Table	Home Team	Visiting Team
23	NEW ZEALAND	USA1
24	CANADA	DENMARK
25	BRAZIL	PAKISTAN
26	FRANCE	AUSTRALIA
27	GERMANY	USA2
28	GUADELOUPE	PORTUGAL
29	EGYPT	ISRAEL
30	JAPAN	NETHERLANDS
31	BANGLADESH	ITALY
32	SWEDEN	INDONESIA
33	MOROCCO	POLAND

ROUND 20 14.00

Table	Home Team	Visiting Team
23	AUSTRALIA	GERMANY
24	USA2	GUADELOUPE
25	ITALY	EGYPT
26	ISRAEL	JAPAN
27	NETHERLANDS	BANGLADESH
28	INDONESIA	MOROCCO
29	POLAND	SWEDEN
30	USA1	BRAZIL
31	NEW ZEALAND	CANADA
32	PAKISTAN	DENMARK
33	PORTUGAL	FRANCE

ROUND 21 17.30

Table	Home Team	Visiting Team
23	INDONESIA	POLAND
24	SWEDEN	MOROCCO
25	DENMARK	USA1
26	BRAZIL	CANADA
27	PAKISTAN	NEW ZEALAND
28	JAPAN	ITALY
29	BANGLADESH	ISRAEL
30	FRANCE	USA2
31	GERMANY	PORTUGAL
32	GUADELOUPE	AUSTRALIA
33	EGYPT	NETHERLANDS



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RESULTS**Bermuda Bowl****ROUND 16**

	Home Team	Visiting Team	IMPs	VPs
1	PORTUGAL	USA I	40 52	13 17
2	JAPAN	NETHERLANDS	58 32	20 10
3	INDIA	CANADA	73 28	24 6
4	USA 2	AUSTRALIA	50 51	15 15
5	CHINA	ITALY	12 48	8 22
6	NEW ZEALAND	CHINESE TAIPEI	23 83	3 25
7	SWEDEN	SOUTH AFRICA	25 79	4 25
8	ENGLAND	POLAND	20 56	8 22
9	JORDAN	EGYPT	48 50	15 15
10	ARGENTINA	RUSSIA	38 40	15 15
11	GUADELOUPE	BRAZIL	40 75	8 22

ROUND 17

	Home Team	Visiting Team	IMPs	VPs
1	AUSTRALIA	CHINA	37 40	14 16
2	ITALY	NEW ZEALAND	33 44	12 17
3	EGYPT	SWEDEN	9 41	8 22
4	SOUTH AFRICA	ENGLAND	45 31	18 12
5	POLAND	JORDAN	53 29	20 10
6	RUSSIA	GUADELOUPE	103 45	25 4
7	BRAZIL	ARGENTINA	50 52	15 15
8	USA I	INDIA	30 37	14 16
9	PORTUGAL	JAPAN	25 65	7 23
10	CANADA	NETHERLANDS	25 78	5 25
11	CHINESE TAIPEI	USA 2	49 44	16 14

ROUND 18

	Home Team	Visiting Team	IMPs	VPs
1	RUSSIA	BRAZIL	75 49	20 10
2	ARGENTINA	GUADELOUPE	49 75	10 20
3	NETHERLANDS	USA I	60 35	20 10
4	INDIA	JAPAN	58 23	22 8
5	CANADA	PORTUGAL	61 35	18 10
6	USA 2	ITALY	44 60	12 18
7	CHINA	CHINESE TAIPEI	62 37	20 10
8	NEW ZEALAND	AUSTRALIA	78 39	23 7
9	SWEDEN	POLAND	47 50	14 16
10	ENGLAND	EGYPT	69 30	23 7
11	JORDAN	SOUTH AFRICA	43 96	5 25

Ranking after 18 rounds

1	ITALY	333
2	CHINA	293
3	USA 2	291
	EGYPT	291
5	USA I	289
6	NETHERLANDS	288
7	ARGENTINA	287.5
8	BRAZIL	283
9	INDIA	282
10	SWEDEN	278
	RUSSIA	278
12	JAPAN	274
13	PORTUGAL	268
	SOUTH AFRICA	268
15	CANADA	267
16	ENGLAND	266
17	AUSTRALIA	262
18	NEW ZEALAND	249.5
19	POLAND	245.5
20	CHINESE TAIPEI	236
21	GUADELOUPE	195
22	JORDAN	171

**Transnational
Open Teams**

All teams registered in the World Transnational Open Teams are requested to come as soon as possible to the WBF Secretariat Office on the second floor of the Congress Centre in order to pay their entry fees and collect the receipt that will give them entry to the playing area.

If you reserved your hotel through Top Atlantico, you are entitled to a discount on the entry fee PROVIDED you bring a copy of your confirmation of reservation from Top Atlantico with you when you come to pay.

Teams who have paid in advance or teams of players from the Bermuda Bowl/Venice Cup or Seniors Bowl should also come to the WBF Secretariat and confirm their entry and obtain the necessary receipt.

The office will be open for Transnational entry fees payment between 10.00 - 12.00 and 14.00 - 17.00 on Saturday, Sunday and Monday.

RESULTS

Venice Cup

ROUND 16

	Home Team	Visiting Team	IMPs		VPs	
12	EGYPT	USA I	43	32	17	13
13	BRAZIL	FRANCE	38	65	9	21
14	AUSTRALIA	NEW ZEALAND	38	23	18	12
15	SWEDEN	PAKISTAN	53	55	15	15
16	JAPAN	CHINA	25	31	14	16
17	MOROCCO	SINGAPORE	56	15	24	6
18	USA 2	VENEZUELA	48	14	23	7
19	ENGLAND	NETHERLANDS	15	22	14	16
20	PORTUGAL	INDIA	37	45	13	17
21	CANADA	AUSTRIA	8	47	6	24
22	ARGENTINA	GERMANY	32	41	13	17

ROUND 17

	Home Team	Visiting Team	IMPs		VPs	
12	PAKISTAN	JAPAN	35	38	14	16
13	CHINA	MOROCCO	68	19	25	4
14	INDIA	USA 2	32	53	10	20
15	VENEZUELA	ENGLAND	27	45	11	19
16	NETHERLANDS	PORTUGAL	65	16	25	4
17	AUSTRIA	ARGENTINA	47	20	21	9
18	GERMANY	CANADA	39	8	22	8
19	USA I	AUSTRALIA	60	13	25	4
20	EGYPT	BRAZIL	51	36	18	12
21	NEW ZEALAND	FRANCE	37	48	13	17
22	SINGAPORE	SWEDEN	31	66	7	23

ROUND 18

	Home Team	Visiting Team	IMPs		VPs	
12	AUSTRIA	GERMANY	21	59	6	24
13	CANADA	ARGENTINA	50	61	13	17
14	FRANCE	USA I	68	31	24	6
15	AUSTRALIA	BRAZIL	53	28	21	9
16	NEW ZEALAND	EGYPT	63	18	25	5
17	SWEDEN	CHINA	52	48	16	14
18	JAPAN	SINGAPORE	62	37	21	9
19	MOROCCO	PAKISTAN	13	48	7	23
20	USA 2	NETHERLANDS	19	34	12	18
21	ENGLAND	INDIA	17	39	10	20
22	PORTUGAL	VENEZUELA	42	59	11	19

Ranking after 18 rounds

1	FRANCE	360
2	CHINA	337.25
3	GERMANY	333
4	USA I	318
5	USA 2	313
6	ENGLAND	301
7	NETHERLANDS	286.5
8	CANADA	277
9	AUSTRIA	271
10	JAPAN	256
11	AUSTRALIA	254
	NEW ZEALAND	254
13	SWEDEN	250
	PORTUGAL	250
15	BRAZIL	248
16	EGYPT	244
17	VENEZUELA	240
18	SINGAPORE	228
19	PAKISTAN	225.25
20	INDIA	222
21	ARGENTINA	215.5
22	MOROCCO	213



**BANCO
ESPIRITO
SANTO**

RESULTS**Seniors Bowl****ROUND 16**

	Home Team	Visiting Team	IMPs		VPs	
23	GUADELOUPE	GERMANY	20	55	7	23
24	USA I	BANGLADESH	43	18	21	9
25	CANADA	EGYPT	55	33	20	10
26	PAKISTAN	JAPAN	12	42	8	22
27	NEW ZEALAND	INDONESIA	34	51	11	19
28	DENMARK	POLAND	21	32	13	17
29	BRAZIL	MOROCCO	41	34	16	14
30	AUSTRALIA	NETHERLANDS	26	29	14	16
31	ITALY	USA 2	5	57	4	25
32	PORTUGAL	ISRAEL	40	32	17	13
33	FRANCE	SWEDEN	49	25	21	9

ROUND 17

	Home Team	Visiting Team	IMPs		VPs	
23	EGYPT	NEW ZEALAND	54	54	15	15
24	JAPAN	DENMARK	40	62	9.5	20
25	BANGLADESH	BRAZIL	32	51	11	19
26	INDONESIA	ISRAEL	19	50	8	22
27	POLAND	NETHERLANDS	38	20	19	11
28	MOROCCO	ITALY	40	65	9	21
29	SWEDEN	USA 2	11	55	5	25
30	PORTUGAL	AUSTRALIA	40	31	17	13
31	GUADELOUPE	USA I	17	68	4	25
32	CANADA	FRANCE	11	70	2	25
33	GERMANY	PAKISTAN	35	33	15	15

ROUND 18

	Home Team	Visiting Team	IMPs		VPs	
23	DENMARK	INDONESIA	14	35	10	20
24	BRAZIL	POLAND	33	36	14	16
25	NEW ZEALAND	MOROCCO	54	14	24	6
26	NETHERLANDS	USA 2	24	77	3	25
27	ITALY	PORTUGAL	38	31	16	14
28	ISRAEL	AUSTRALIA	63	34	22	8
29	GERMANY	FRANCE	30	60	8	22
30	SWEDEN	GUADELOUPE	57	50	16	14
31	USA I	EGYPT	60	12	25	4
32	CANADA	JAPAN	31	43	12	18
33	PAKISTAN	BANGLADESH	25	65	6	24

Ranking after 18 rounds

1	USA I	343
2	NETHERLANDS	318
3	FRANCE	315
4	INDONESIA	314
5	DENMARK	310
6	USA 2	309
7	POLAND	299
8	PORTUGAL	292
9	ISRAEL	281
10	JAPAN	278.5
11	AUSTRALIA	273
12	GERMANY	265
13	ITALY	264
14	SWEDEN	263
15	CANADA	261
16	PAKISTAN	244
17	BANGLADESH	234
18	EGYPT	219
19	NEW ZEALAND	217
20	MOROCCO	206
21	GUADELOUPE	201
22	BRAZIL	182

**Symmetrical
Playing Cards**

The WBF will be selling symmetrical cards. They will be available at the Hospitality Desk from Monday, 24th October. Minimum quantity will be 10 decks at €1 per deck.

**Swan Games
Internet broadcast**

Seniors Bowl	Germany v USA2	10.00
Bermuda Bowl	Italy v Canada	14.00
Seniors Bowl	Denmark v USA1	17.30

ROUND 10

Bermuda Bowl



Portugal v China



by Mark Horton

In the pre-match interviews, Sofia Pessoa said that the Portuguese were both surprised and delighted at their position — they hoped to maintain it until the end of the Round Robin.

Jack Zhao acknowledged that the Chinese Women's team is much stronger than the Open, but they are working on that!

The match featured a lively set of deals that proved testing for the players, commentators and your reporter.

Board 1. Dealer North. None Vul.

♠ A 10 ♥ 10 6 5 2 ♦ A 10 8 3 ♣ 9 7 5	<table style="border: 1px solid black; width: 60px; height: 60px; margin: auto;"> <tr><td></td><td style="text-align: center;">N</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">W</td><td></td><td style="text-align: center;">E</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td style="text-align: center;">S</td><td></td></tr> </table>		N		W		E		S		♠ 6 4 3 ♥ 3 ♦ Q 9 6 5 4 ♣ K J 6 3	♠ K Q J 8 5 ♥ A Q 7 ♦ K 2 ♣ 8 4 2
	N											
W		E										
	S											

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Castanheiro</i>	<i>Fu</i>	<i>Pessoa</i>	<i>Zhao</i>
Pass	1♥	Pass	1♠
Pass	INT	Pass	2♣*
Pass	2♠	Pass	4♠
All Pass			

West led the five of clubs and declarer tried dummy's queen. East took the king and switched to a diamond and declarer put up the king, losing to the ace. A second club now would



China v Portugal on the vugraph

have led to two down, but West played a diamond. East won and returned a trump, so declarer escaped, if that is the right word, for—50.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Dai</i>	<i>Paz</i>	<i>Yang</i>	<i>Luis</i>
Pass	Pass	Pass	INT
Pass	2♦*	Pass	2♥
Pass	3NT	Pass	4♥
All Pass			

A club lead would be just as fatal to Four Hearts, but West led a trump. Declarer won with dummy's eight and played a spade to the king and ace. He took West's club switch with dummy's ace, drew trumps and cashed his spades, discarding dummy's clubs. He was safe for ten tricks and the same number of IMPs.

Board 2. Dealer East. N/S Vul.

♠ 10 5 ♥ A 8 5 4 ♦ 10 5 ♣ J 8 6 3 2	<table style="border: 1px solid black; width: 60px; height: 60px; margin: auto;"> <tr><td></td><td style="text-align: center;">N</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">W</td><td></td><td style="text-align: center;">E</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td style="text-align: center;">S</td><td></td></tr> </table>		N		W		E		S		♠ 8 4 3 ♥ J 9 7 3 ♦ A 6 3 2 ♣ A Q	♠ K J 9 7 6 2 ♥ 6 ♦ K 9 8 ♣ K 10 4
	N											
W		E										
	S											

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Castanheiro</i>	<i>Fu</i>	<i>Pessoa</i>	<i>Zhao</i>
Pass	2NT*	INT	2♠
Pass	3♠	Pass	3♣*
Pass		All Pass	

2NT was forcing and Three Clubs showed a minimum. Even so, it was strange to see North not bid a vulnerable game when East was marked with most of her side's points.

West led the ten of diamonds and declarer was not hard pressed to take ten tricks, +170.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Dai</i>	<i>Paz</i>	<i>Yang</i>	<i>Luis</i>
Dble	3NT	1♦	1♠
		All Pass	

North bid what he hoped he could make, and right he was, as there is no lead to threaten 3NT. +630, and another 10 IMPs to Portugal.

Board 3. Dealer South. E/W Vul.

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

Both sides reached Six Hearts on this deal. When Fu & Paz led the ace of spades the declarers may have suspected the trump position, but even when South's nine appeared on the first round of the suit it was asking a lot for either of them to get it right. They didn't, so one down and a push.

Board 4. Dealer West. All Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Castanheiro</i>	<i>Fu</i>	<i>Pessoa</i>	<i>Zhao</i>
1♣	Pass	1♠	2♥
3♣	Pass	3♦	Pass
4♦	Pass	4♥*	Pass
5♦	All Pass		

When East bid Four Hearts, suggested by the commentators as last train, I think West should have done more than simply sign off in Five Diamonds; +620.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Dai</i>	<i>Paz</i>	<i>Yang</i>	<i>Luis</i>
2♣	Pass	2♦*	Pass
3♣	Pass	3♠	Pass
3NT	Pass	4♦	Pass
4♥*	Pass	4♠*	Pass
5♦	Pass	6♦	All Pass

Once West admitted to a heart control East was not stopping short of Six Diamonds; +1370 and 12 IMPs for China — back in the match.

Board 5. Dealer North. N/S Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Castanheiro</i>	<i>Fu</i>	<i>Pessoa</i>	<i>Zhao</i>
Pass	INT	Pass	2♣*
Pass	2♦*	Pass	2NT
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

I'm not sure why North accepted South's invitation, but it's amazing how often this sort of sub-standard game rolls home.

East led a spade. Declarer won in hand and played the ten of clubs to the jack. West won with the queen and had only to return a spade to leave declarer with no legitimate way to make the contract. However, he switched to a heart and declarer put up the king and had no further problems — there was an entry to pick up the clubs and another to enjoy them. +600.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Dai</i>	<i>Paz</i>	<i>Yang</i>	<i>Luis</i>
Pass	INT	Pass	2♣*
Pass	2♦*	Pass	2NT
Pass	3NT	All Pass	



Nuno Paz, Portugal

room. Once again a spade was led. This time declarer put up the king and advanced the jack of clubs. When that held he cleared the clubs. Now West could return either a spade or a diamond, but his partner, who had led the eight of spades, had discarded the six on the third club and, for whatever reason, when West switched to the ace of hearts declarer was home, another push where both sides had missed an easy chance.

There was a lot of discussion about Smith Peters during the play of this deal. It reminded me of something Groucho Marx said to one of his partner when he was asked how they should signal: 'Smile if you like my lead.'

Board 6. Dealer East. E/W Vul.

♠ K Q 10 5 3 ♥ 9 7 2 ♦ K ♣ 8 7 6 2	<table style="margin: auto; border: 1px solid black; background-color: black; color: white; padding: 5px;"> <tr><td style="padding: 2px;">N</td></tr> <tr><td style="padding: 2px;">W E</td></tr> <tr><td style="padding: 2px;">S</td></tr> </table>	N	W E	S	♠ 7 ♥ A K J 10 8 6 3 ♦ 5 2 ♣ Q J 10	♠ J 4 2 ♥ 4 ♦ A Q J 10 8 7 4 ♣ 9 5
N						
W E						
S						

Both Easts opened Four Hearts. If you decided to make a try with the West cards what should you do? Perhaps a bid of Five Clubs, expecting partner to show a diamond control would be best. Of course, if he has three low in diamonds you will look foolish.

Neither South led the ace of diamonds, so it was a push at +680.

Now for a deal where Fu & Zhao put up a brilliant defence —surely one worthy of consideration for an IBPA award.

Board 8. Dealer West. None Vul.

♠ Q 6 4 2 ♥ K Q J 3 2 ♦ 10 6 3 ♣ 3	<table style="margin: auto; border: 1px solid black; background-color: black; color: white; padding: 5px;"> <tr><td style="padding: 2px;">N</td></tr> <tr><td style="padding: 2px;">W E</td></tr> <tr><td style="padding: 2px;">S</td></tr> </table>	N	W E	S	♠ 5 ♥ 9 7 ♦ Q 9 4 2 ♣ A K J 10 7 2	♠ A 9 8 ♥ 10 6 4 ♦ A J 8 5 ♣ 9 5 4
N						
W E						
S						

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Castanheiro</i>	<i>Fu</i>	<i>Pessoa</i>	<i>Zhao</i>
INT	Pass	3NT	All Pass

North led the king of hearts and continued with the queen, West ducking twice. Now Fu realized there was no future in hearts, so he switched to the two of spades. South took the ace and was not tempted to go back to hearts, returning the

nine of spades.

West put in the jack and cunningly discarded the two of clubs. North won with the queen and completed a spectacular effort by switching to a diamond. One down, +50 and thunderous applause from the appreciative audience.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Dai</i>	<i>Paz</i>	<i>Yang</i>	<i>Luis</i>
1♠	2♥	Dbl	2♠*
Pass	3♥	4♣	All Pass

East/West stopped in a safe contract. South led a heart, declarer winning in dummy and playing the king of diamonds. North won, cashed a heart and switched to a trump. Declarer won, cashed the queen of diamonds, ruffed a diamond, ruffed a heart, ruffed a diamond and claimed +130, which was worth 5 IMPs.

Portugal led 44-18, but China were not finished.

Board 17. Dealer North. None Vul.

♠ 3 ♥ Q 8 6 3 ♦ J 10 3 ♣ J 7 6 5 4	<table style="margin: auto; border: 1px solid black; background-color: black; color: white; padding: 5px;"> <tr><td style="padding: 2px;">N</td></tr> <tr><td style="padding: 2px;">W E</td></tr> <tr><td style="padding: 2px;">S</td></tr> </table>	N	W E	S	♠ 5 4 ♥ A 7 2 ♦ K 9 6 5 4 2 ♣ 8 3	♠ A K ♥ J 5 ♦ A Q 8 7 ♣ A K Q 9 2
N						
W E						
S						

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Castanheiro</i>	<i>Fu</i>	<i>Pessoa</i>	<i>Zhao</i>
4♠	Pass	Pass	1♣*
Pass	5♣	All Pass	Dble



Jianming Dai, China

Anyone for a speculative lead-directing double on the West hand? It would be a shot with East on lead. West tried the queen of spades and declarer was able to win, draw trumps and claim when the diamond king proved to be onside; +400.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Dai</i>	<i>Paz</i>	<i>Yang</i>	<i>Luis</i>
	Pass	Pass	2♣*
4♠	Pass	Pass	Dble
All Pass			

Declarer was one down; —100, 7 IMPs for China.

Board 19. Dealer South. E/W Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Castanheiro</i>	<i>Fu</i>	<i>Pessoa</i>	<i>Zhao</i>
			Pass
Pass	1♠	Pass	2♣*
Pass	2♦*	Pass	2♠
Pass	3♣	Pass	3♦
Pass	3♠	All Pass	

After winning the club lead, West switched to a heart. Declarer won in hand and played a diamond, putting up the king when East played low. Now he had an easy route to ten tricks via a crossruff; +170.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Dai</i>	<i>Paz</i>	<i>Yang</i>	<i>Luis</i>
			Pass
Pass	1♠	Pass	2♠
Pass	3♣	Pass	4♠
All Pass			

East led a heart and declarer fatally went up with the ace, removing a vital entry from dummy. He played a club and West put up the ace and switched to a trump. Declarer finessed, East won and returned a trump and declarer had to go one down; —50.

If declarer wins the heart lead in hand and plays a diamond, East has to play low to have any chance, but if declarer guesses right and puts up the king he can come to ten tricks.

That was another 7 IMPs for China.

Board 20. Dealer West. All Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Castanheiro</i>	<i>Fu</i>	<i>Pessoa</i>	<i>Zhao</i>
1♠	Dble	2♥	2NT
Dble	Pass	Pass	3♣
4♣	Dble	Pass	Pass
4♥	All Pass		

South led the eight of diamonds. North won with the queen and switched to the king of clubs, catering for a singleton queen with East. Declarer won with dummy's ace, ruffed a club and played a diamond. North won and, perhaps in a hurry to score, played a third club rather than an essential trump.

Declarer ruffed, ruffed a diamond, cashed the top spades and played a spade. Now the winning play is to ruff with the six of hearts. When South cannot overruff you are home.

Of course, this depends on your view of the distribution. It was suggested that North might have started with ♥K10. That may be possible but, if declarer believes that, she must play a spade at the point where she ruffed a diamond. (If she plays a diamond South can discard a spade.) Then she gets home easily on a crossruff.

This is the real point of the deal. (At least I think it is.) Once North has not switched to a trump declarer surely needs to find spades 3-3. The correct line after ruffing the third club is to play three rounds of spades, ruffing, ruff a diamond and play a spade. I think this only needs you to find North with the king of hearts — the ten plays no significant role. You ruff high, ruff a diamond and play a spade to score your remaining trump honour en passant.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Dai</i>	<i>Paz</i>	<i>Yang</i>	<i>Luis</i> Open Room
1♣*	Pass	1♦*	Pass
1♠	Pass	2♥	All Pass

Nine tricks were never in doubt, +140. That gave China 6 IMPs and they had almost leveled the match, losing only 44-47 IMPs, 14-16, a result that kept both teams well in the hunt.

CROSS TABLES

2005 World Team Championships

After Round
18Bermuda
Bowl

Team	ARG	AUS	BRA	CAN	CHN	TPE	EGY	ENG	GLP	IND	ITA	JPN	JOR	NED	NZL	POL	POR	RUS	RSA	SWE	USA1	USA2	Pen	Team	Total	Rank
ARGENTINA		19	15	25	10	14	23		10	14.5	11	18		22	13	25	11	15	14		11	17	0.5	ARGENTINA	287.5	7
AUSTRALIA	11		17		14	23	14	21	13	15	7		6	15	7	19	22	18	14	11		15		AUSTRALIA	262	17
BRAZIL	15	13		14		19	3	15	22	20	19	15	20	10		25	11	10	25	16	11			BRAZIL	283	8
CANADA	5		16		14		14	16	25	6		7	25	5	21	25	18	16	21	5	18	10		CANADA	267	15
CHINA	20	16		16		20	12	18		9	8	18	25	19	20	11	14		17	10	23	17		CHINA	293	2
CHINESE TAIPEI	16	7	11		10		13	13	20	12	8		21	22	25	5	17	11	5	4		16		CHINESE TAIPEI	236	20
EGYPT	7	16	25	16	18	17		7	20		18	15	15		17	19		23	20	8	19	11		EGYPT	291	3
ENGLAND		9	15	14	12	17	23		18	18	13	25		7	14	8	11	25	12		6	19		ENGLAND	266	16
GUADELOUPE	20	17	8	5		10	10	12		9	3	11	19	8		11	14	4	19	10	5			GUADELOUPE	195	21
INDIA	15	15	10	24	21	18		12	21		16	22	16	15	19		9	14		14	16	5		INDIA	282	9
ITALY	19	23	11		22	22	12	17	25	14			25	21	12	14	21	24	17	16		18		ITALY	333	1
JAPAN	12		15	23	12		15	3	19	8			13	20	20	6	23	24	20	14	11	16		JAPAN	274	12
JORDAN		24	10	4	1	9	15		11	12	5	17		12	0	10	10	9	5		14	3	2	JORDAN	171	22
NETHERLANDS	8	15	20	25	11	8		23	22	15	9	10	18		22		15	10		12	20	25		NETHERLANDS	288	6
NEW ZEALAND	17	23		9	10	3	13	16		11	17	10	25	8		17.5	18		13	19	12	8	0.5	NEW ZEALAND	249.5	18
POLAND	4	11	5	3	19	25	11	22	19		16	24	20		11.5			7	15	16	9	8	0.5	POLAND	245.5	19
PORTUGAL	19	8	19	10	16	13		19	16	21	9	7	20	15	12			16		25	13	10		PORTUGAL	268	13
RUSSIA	15	12	20	14		19	7	4	25	16	6	6	21	20		23	14		21	17	18			RUSSIA	278	10
SOUTH AFRICA	16	16	4	9	13	25	10	18	11		13	10	25		16	15		9		25	15	18		SOUTH AFRICA	268	13
SWEDEN		19	14	25	20	25	22		20	16	14	16		18	11	14	1	13	4		18	8		SWEDEN	278	10
U.S.A.1	19		19	12	7		11	24	25	14		19	16	10	18	21	17	12	15	12		18		U.S.A.1	289	5
U.S.A.2	13	15		20	13	14	19	11		25	12	14	25	0	22	22	20		12	22	12			U.S.A.2	291	3

2005 World Team Championships

After Round
18Venice
Cup

Team	ARG	AUS	AUT	BRA	CAN	CHN	EGY	ENG	FRA	GER	IND	JPN	MAR	NED	NZL	PAK	POR	SIN	SWE	USA1	USA2	VEN	Pen	Team	Total	Rank
ARGENTINA		14	9	19	17	0	15	16	16	13	16			6.5	21	9	6	15		5	14	4	0.5	ARGENTINA	215.5	21
AUSTRALIA	16		18	21	12	7	12	13	4	7		13	20		18	13	19	20	25	4	12			AUSTRALIA	254	11
AUSTRIA	21	12		19	24	18	25	1	6	6	15			15	24	13	20	13		11	14	14		AUSTRIA	271	9
BRAZIL	11	9	11		14		12	12	9	6	19	19	22	24	15		8		14	20	9	14	2	BRAZIL	248	15
CANADA	13	18	6	16		5	22		8	8	23	13	21	12	12	14		24	22	15		25		CANADA	277	8
CHINA	25	23	12		25		16	17	14	11	19	16	25	25		22.25	24	14	14		10	25	0.8	CHINA	337.3	2
EGYPT	15	18	2	18	8	14		14	11	3		15	14		5	19	14	20	25	17	12			EGYPT	244	16
ENGLAND	14	17	25	18		13	16		10	17	10	22	17	14	17	21		15	20	16		19		ENGLAND	301	6
FRANCE	14	25	24	21	22	16	19	20		23		24	25		17	15	7	16	25	24	23			FRANCE	360	1
GERMANY	17	23	24	24	22	19	25	13	7		20			4	25	25	20	25		16	11	13		GERMANY	333	3
INDIA	14		15	9	7	11		20		10		14	14	6	10	15	17	16	11	9	10	14		INDIA	222	20
JAPAN		17		11	17	14	15	8	6		16		16	19	12	16	20	21	14	2	12	20		JAPAN	256	10
MOROCCO		10		8	9	4	16	13	5		16	14		23	12	7	17	24	15	7	6	7		MOROCCO	213	22
NETHERLANDS	22.5		15	6	18	5		16		25	24	11	7		21	20	25	20	16	1	18	16	0.5	NETHERLANDS	286.5	7
NEW ZEALAND	9	12	6	15	18		25	13	13	5	20	18	18	9			18		17	16	9	13		NEW ZEALAND	254	11
PAKISTAN	21	17	17		16	6.25	11	9	15	0	15	14	23	10			8	4	15		6	18	0.8	PAKISTAN	225.3	19
PORTUGAL	24	11	10	22		6	16		23	10	13	10	13	4	12	22		22	14	7		11		PORTUGAL	250	13
SINGAPORE	15	10	17		6	16	10	15	14	4	14	9	6	10		25	8		7		19	23		SINGAPORE	228	18
SWEDEN		5		16	8	16	4	10	5		19	16	15	14	13	15	16	23		18	14	23		SWEDEN	250	13
U.S.A.1	25	25	19	10	15		13	14	6	14	21	25	23	25	14		23		12		21	13		U.S.A.1	318	4
U.S.A.2	16	18	16	21		20	18		7	19	20	18	24	12	21	24		11	16	9		23		U.S.A.2	313	5
VENEZUELA	25		16	16	3	3		11		17	16	10	23	14	17	12	19	7	7	17	7			VENEZUELA	240	17

CROSS TABLE

2005 World Team Championships

After Round
18

Seniors
Bowl

Team	AUS	BAN	BRA	CAN	DEN	EGY	FRA	GER	GLP	INA	ISR	ITA	JPN	MAR	NED	NZL	PAK	POL	POR	SWE	USA1	USA2	Pen	Team	Total	Rank
AUSTRALIA		22	22	10	16	23				16	8	24	10	25	14	19	12	5	13	14	13	7		AUSTRALIA	273	11
BANGLADESH	8		11	14.5	-0.5	15	4	14	24	19			11	15		16	24	7	7	15	9	21	1.5	BANGLADESH	234	17
BRAZIL	8	19			11	10	16	10	21	2	5	5	14	16	6	10		14	10	5		0		BRAZIL	182	22
CANADA	20	15				20	2	7	25	22	5	18	12	19	9		16	18	11	16	15	11		CANADA	261	15
DENMARK	14	25	19			17	18	20	18	10	23	14	20	13	9	21		13	10	25		21		DENMARK	310	5
EGYPT	7	15	20	10	13		11	18	15	10			18	14		15	17	16	6	7	4	3		EGYPT	219	18
FRANCE		25	14	25	12	19		22	14	11	18	17	23	16	10	14	22	22		21	10			FRANCE	315	3
GERMANY		16	20	23	10	12	8		23	10	15	20	12	15	13	25	15	14		7	7			GERMANY	265	12
GUADELOUPE		6	9	5	12	15	16	7		16	16	11	15	15	9	6	24	1		14	4			GUADELOUPE	201	21
INDONESIA	14	11	25	8	20	20	19	20	14		8	18	25		20	19	14		24		15	20		INDONESIA	314	4
ISRAEL	22		25	25	7		12	15	14	22		17		12	4	15	20	18	13	15	7	18		ISRAEL	281	9
ITALY	6		25	12	16		13	10	19	12	13			21	9	12	22	21	16	25	8	4		ITALY	264	13
JAPAN	20	19	16	18	9.5	12	7	18	15	3				24		24	22	10	16	20	9	16		JAPAN	278.5	10
MOROCCO	4	15	14	11	17	16	14	15	15		18	9	6		10	6	14		9		6	7		MOROCCO	206	20
NETHERLANDS	16		24	21	21		20	17	21	10	25	21		20		19	18	11	23	18	10	3		NETHERLANDS	318	2
NEW ZEALAND	11	14	20		9	15	16	4	24	11	15	18	6	24	11			0	4	0		15		NEW ZEALAND	217	19
PAKISTAN	18	6		14		13	8	15	6	16	10	8	8	16	12			19	25	16	24	10		PAKISTAN	244	16
POLAND	25	23	16	12	17	14	8	16	25		12	9	20		19	25	11		13		15	19		POLAND	299	7
PORTUGAL	17	23	20	19	20	24				6	17	14	14	21	7	25	4	17		15	14	15		PORTUGAL	292	8
SWEDEN	16	15	25	14	5	23	9	23	16		15	4	10		12	25	14		15		17	5		SWEDEN	263	14
U.S.A. 1	17	21		15		25	20	23	25	15	23	20	21	24	20		6	15	16	13		24		U.S.A. 1	343	1
U.S.A. 2	23	9	25	19	9	25				10	12	25	14	23	25	15	20	11	13	25	6			U.S.A. 2	309	6



Renault Grand Espace and Traffic from left to right. Renault is a championship sponsor

World Championship Book 2005



The Official World Championship Book 2005, of these championships in Estoril, will be available next March. As always, we offer a substantial discount to anyone who would like to order and pay for their copy while at the championships.

On publication, the price will be US\$33 per copy plus postage. For the duration of these championships, you can order the book for US\$25 or Euros20, including postage (surface mail) to anywhere in the world. To order your copy, please see Jan Swaan in the Press Room on the ground floor of the building.



Principal analysts will be Eric Kokish, Barry Rigal and Brian Senior. There will be a complete listing of teams playing in all four championships, plus a full results listing and many photographs. Kokish will cover every board of the Bermuda Bowl and Venice Cup finals and there will be substantial coverage of the earlier stages, plus enhanced coverage of the Seniors Bowl and the best of the action from the Transnational Teams.

World Bridge Championships



Verona, Italy • 9-24 June 2006



VERONA

Verona, the second most important city of the Region Veneto after Venice, is well known all over the world for its magnificent Arena and, of course, for the everlasting love story of Romeo and Juliet. This delightful city offers many other attractions, and is visited by tourists from all over the world. Visiting Verona and, indeed, its province and the entire region, means entering an area of beautiful landscapes with an unsurpassed artistic heritage while at the same time discovering vivid cultural and gastronomic traditions in a region known also for its excellent wines. This location is able to suit the needs of the most discerning traveller.



Verona is situated in a strategic position, from where other important Italian artistic towns are easy to reach:

Venice: Km. 114
Padova: Km. 84
Milan: Km. 161
Bologna: Km. 142
Florence: Km. 320



How to reach Verona

By car: A4 motorway (Milan-Venice) exit 'Verona Sud' or A22 motorway (Brennero-Modena) exit 'Verona Nord'.

By train: The main railway station is 'Verona Porta Nuova', where the lines from Milan-Venice and Rome-Brennero intersect. There are ordinary or Intercity (aster) trains from all main northern Italy stations almost every hour. (For further information: Tel +39 892021 - www.trenitalia.it).

By air: The airport 'Valerio Catullo' of Verona Villafranca is situated 10 km from the city centre. There is a shuttle-bus service from and to the airport every 20 min. (For further information: Tel +39 0458057911 - www.aeroporto.verona.it).

Hotel

1850 rooms in 52 different hotels are already available for all the participants of the World Bridge Championship in June 2006. The offer is extremely flexible both in terms of hotel category and fare.

In order to receive a discount on entry fees, players MUST make their hotel reservations at WBF approved hotels through the official agency, High Performance Travel, and provide evidence of such booking at the time of entry purchase.

For further information and reservations:
High Performance Travel HPT (Felice Marabini)
Tel: +39 0459 693 322 - Fax: +39 0459 693 321
Web Site: www.hpt.it/bridge - E-mail: hpt@hpt.it

CHAMPIONSHIP PROGRAMME

JUNE 2006

World Titles will be awarded for each Championship, including the IMP Pair

Friday	9	Par Contest - Opening Ceremony
Saturday	10	Mixed Pairs - qualifying 1 & 2
Sunday	11	Mixed Pairs - qualifying 3 & 1 session final
Monday	12	Mixed Pairs - 2 & 3 session final Mixed Pairs Plate
Tuesday	13	Rosenblum/McConnell
Wednesday	14	Rosenblum/McConnell
Thursday	15	Rosenblum/McConnell
Friday	16	Rosenblum (64) /McConnell (32) Swiss Plate Senior Teams
Saturday	17	Rosenblum (32) /McConnell (16) Pairs Qualifying Senior Teams
Sunday	18	Rosenblum (16) /McConnell (8) Pairs Qualifying Senior Teams
Monday	19	Rosenblum (8) /McConnell (4) Pairs Qualifying/Semi final Senior Teams
Tuesday	20	Rosenblum (4) /McConnell (2) Pairs Semi final /IMP Pairs Senior Pairs
Wednesday	21	Rosenblum Final Pairs Semi final /IMP Pairs Senior Pairs
Thursday	22	Pairs Final /IMP Pairs Senior Pairs
Friday	23	Pairs Final /IMP Pairs Senior Pairs
Saturday	24	Pairs Final / IMP Pairs Closing Ceremony

For Information and Registration

World Bridge Federation
José Damiani - President
40 Rue Francois 1er - 75008 Paris, France
Tel. 0033.1.53230315 - Fax 0033.1.40701451
E-mail: cfrancin@comm-unity.fr

Playing Area

The championship will take place inside the 'Europa' Conference Centre, an area of 10,000 square meters situated in the modern complex 'Veronafiore', only 3 km away from the city centre. (www.veronafiore.it/)

VIRTUAL CHAMPIONSHIP

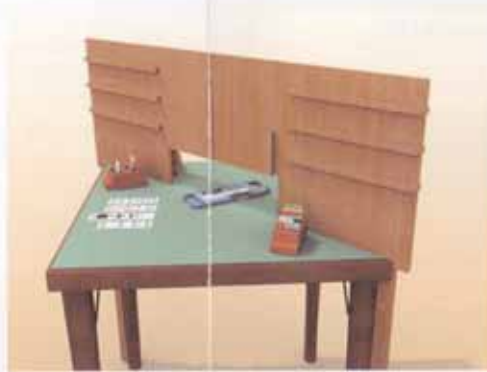
www.worldbridgehouse.com

From June 2005 World Bridge House is online on the web. The new website contains all information regarding the World Bridge Championship together with curiosities and information about the host country, Verona and Italy in general.

From April 2006 World Bridge House, an innovative multimedia communication project, will turn your navigation into a fascinating virtual visit to the World Championship and Verona.

The big international house of all bridge players will in fact offer visitors the opportunity to:

- follow in real time all the phases of the Championship in a realistic simulation of the matches as they occur.
- access all information regarding Italian culture, tourism and leisure time.



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ALL FARES ARE PER NIGHT PER ROOM, BREAKFAST AND TAXES INCLUDED

Category	Junior Suite	Double	Double (Single use)	Single
De Luxe		480 €	360 €	
5 Stars	560 €	300 €		230 €
4 Stars Sup.		175 €	155 €	140 €
4 Stars		160 €	145 €	130 €
3 Stars Sup.		150 €	140 €	120 €
3 Stars		140 €	130 €	110 €
2 Stars		95 €	85 €	75 €

Less expensive accommodation options will be possible



Services and Bus

AMT (the local public transportation company) and 'Verona Trade Fair' will provide shuttle-bus connections between Verona downtown, the hotels and the playing area.

ROUND 13

Bermuda Bowl



Italy v Egypt
Clash Of The Titans

When the leaders of the round-robin face the second-place team, it promises — in theory, at least — to be an interesting match. The Round 13 clash between Italy, No. 1 in the standings, and No. 2 Egypt did not disappoint. Egypt scored a swing on the first deal.

Board 1. Dealer North. None Vul.

♠ 10 7 ♥ A 10 4 2 ♦ K J 7 3 2 ♣ 3 2	<table style="margin: auto;"> <tr><td></td><td>N</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td></td><td>E</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td>S</td><td></td></tr> </table>		N		W		E		S		♠ K 6 ♥ J 6 5 3 ♦ 10 4 ♣ A 10 7 5 4
	N										
W		E									
	S										
♠ J 8 5 2 ♥ K ♦ Q 9 8 6 ♣ K J 8 6											

West	North	East	South
<i>Versace</i>	<i>El Ahmady</i>	<i>Lauria</i>	<i>Sadek</i>
Pass	1♠	Pass	3♣*
Pass	4♠	All Pass	

Lorenzo Lauria started with a low heart. Alfredo Versace won with the ace and switched to a low diamond, which could easily have been the right play — but not on this layout. The diamond switch eliminated the loser in that suit, and Walid El Ahmady emerged with 10 tricks for Plus 420.

West	North	East	South
<i>Dagher</i>	<i>Fantoni</i>	<i>El Kordi</i>	<i>Nunes</i>
Pass	1♠	Pass	2NT
Pass	4♠	All Pass	

Adel El Kordi made short work of the contract by starting with the ♦10. Fulvio Fantoni could not avoid losing one trick in each suit for Minus 50. That was 10 IMPs to Egypt. Italy got it back, and then some, on the third deal.

Board 3. Dealer South. E/W Vul.

♠ A Q 9 ♥ Q 9 ♦ K 10 9 5 2 ♣ A 10 3	<table style="margin: auto;"> <tr><td></td><td>N</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td></td><td>E</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td>S</td><td></td></tr> </table>		N		W		E		S		♠ K J 10 6 ♥ K 7 4 ♦ A 8 3 ♣ J 8 6
	N										
W		E									
	S										
♠ 3 2 ♥ A J 2 ♦ Q J 7 6 4 ♣ 9 7 4											

West	North	East	South
<i>Versace</i>	<i>El Ahmady</i>	<i>Lauria</i>	<i>Sadek</i>
INT	Pass	2♣	Pass
2♥	Pass	3NT	All Pass

Versace's 2♥ bid promised a four-card suit or a maximum INT opener with no major suit. El Ahmady's lead of the ♥8 was an unfortunate choice for the defense, in effect creating an extra trick in that suit for declarer that he could not get on his own. Tarek Sadek played the two and Versace won with the nine. On the play of the ♦3 from the West hand at trick two, El Ahmady let go of the ♥3, and Versace had no difficulty from there. He lost only one club, one diamond and one heart for Plus 630.

West	North	East	South
<i>Dagher</i>	<i>Fantoni</i>	<i>El Kourdy</i>	<i>Nunes</i>
INT	Pass	3NT	All Pass

Fantoni started with the ♥6, which made a huge difference for the defense. When Hany Dagher played low from dummy, Claudio Nunes inserted the jack, limiting declarer to just one heart trick. The contract fell apart when Dagher played the ♦K from hand. Declarer soldiered on despite North's discard, playing a diamond to dummy's eight and South's jack. Declarer ducked the club return to North's queen, and he ducked again when North continued with the ♥10. A third round of hearts went to South's ace. When another club came back, Dagher ducked again — if the club honors were split he could still make the contract. North won the ♣K, however, and cashed two hearts. That was three down, Minus 300 and 14 IMPs to Italy.

Egypt pulled to within one on the next deal and regained the lead on Board 5 thanks to spectacular play by Sadek.

Board 5. Dealer North. N/S Vul.

♠ 7 6 ♥ 10 7 6 5 2 ♦ Q 8 7 6 ♣ K 2	<table style="margin: auto;"> <tr><td></td><td>N</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td></td><td>E</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td>S</td><td></td></tr> </table>		N		W		E		S		♠ A K J 2 ♥ J ♦ A J 3 2 ♣ Q 6 4 3
	N										
W		E									
	S										
♠ 9 4 3 ♥ A 8 4 3 ♦ K 5 ♣ A 10 7 5		♠ Q 10 8 5 ♥ K Q 9 ♦ 10 9 4 ♣ J 9 8									

West	North	East	South
<i>Dagher</i>	<i>Fantoni</i>	<i>El Kourdy</i>	<i>Nunes</i>
Pass	1♦	Pass	2♣
Pass	2♠	Pass	2NT
Pass	3♦	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

Dagher led a low heart. When Nunes ducked the ♥Q and ♥K, he was doomed. El Kourdy cleared the suit with a third round of hearts, and when Dagher came in with the ♣K, he had two hearts to cash for one down.

Sadek did much better.

West	North	East	South
Versace	El Ahmady	Lauria	Sadek
	1♦	Pass	1♥
Pass	1♠	Pass	INT
Pass	2♣	Pass	3♥
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

Versace also started with the ♥5 to the jack, queen and four. When Lauria continued with the ♥K, Sadek considered his play for some time before correctly winning the ace. He then played the ♣A and a club to Versace's king, and when Versace continued with the ♠7, it was clear that Lauria had the ♥10 or nine — Versace obviously did not hold both.

Accordingly, Sadek won the spade continuation with the ace, cashed the ♣Q, played a club to the ten and led the ♥3 from hand. What could the Italians do? If Versace went up with the ♥10, Sadek's ♥8 would be the ninth trick. So he had to duck. Now when Lauria won the ♥9, he had the option of leading into a tenace in diamonds or spades. Either way, Sadek had nine tricks for Plus 600 and a 12-IMP gain. Sadek couldn't hear it, but the vugraph audience burst into applause on the play of the ♥3.

Egypt's lead lasted for a few more boards, but was gone after No. 7.

Board 7. Dealer South. All Vul.

♠ A 7 4 3	<table border="1"> <tr><td>N</td></tr> <tr><td>W E</td></tr> <tr><td>S</td></tr> </table>	N	W E	S	♠ K J 9 8 6
N					
W E					
S					
♥ J 10 7	♥ A 9 6 4				
♦ K J	♦ 7 3				
♣ A 8 4 2	♣ K 7				
	♠ Q 5 2				
	♥ 5 2				
	♦ Q 10 6 4 2				
	♣ Q 10 9				

The auction was the same at both tables.

West	North	East	South
Versace	El Ahmady	Lauria	Sadek
Dagher	Fantoni	El Kourdy	Nunes
			Pass
1♣	Pass	1♠	Pass
2♠	Pass	4♠	All Pass

In the Open Room, Sadek started with the ♣9, which went to Lauria's king. He played the ♠K from hand, and when North followed with the ten, Lauria continued with the nine, letting it ride (North's discard of the ♥3 made subsequent play much easier). Lauria picked up with ♠Q at trick three and played the ♥J from dummy, covered with the king and ace. A heart went to the jack and queen, and when El Ahmady exited with the ♥8, Lauria had the good ♥6 to use for a dia-

mond discard from dummy. That was 11 tricks for Plus 650.

In the Closed Room, Nunes started with the ♥2 (low from doubletons), to the seven, queen and ace. El Kourdy played a spade to dummy's ace, putting up the king on the second round when North discarded.

Now a heart went to dummy's jack and North's king. South ruffed the third heart with the master trump and exited a diamond. El Kourdy played the ♦K after some thought and was one down for a 13-IMP loss.

Board 10. Dealer East. All Vul.

♠ 9 7 6	<table border="1"> <tr><td>N</td></tr> <tr><td>W E</td></tr> <tr><td>S</td></tr> </table>	N	W E	S	♠ 10 8 4 2
N					
W E					
S					
♥ 9 7 5 3	♥ A 10 2				
♦ A 9 8 7	♦ 10				
♣ 3 2	♣ Q J 10 9 8				
♠ A K J 5 3	♠ Q				
♥ 6 4	♥ K Q J 8				
♦ 6 5 3	♦ K Q J 4 2				
♣ A 7 4	♣ K 6 5				

West	North	East	South
Versace	El Ahmady	Lauria	Sadek
		Pass	1♦
1♠	Pass	4♠	All Pass

Versace rejected the club finesse to take 10 tricks for Plus 620. North/South did a lot more bidding at the other table.

West	North	East	South
Dagher	Fantoni	El Kourdy	Nunes
		Pass	1♦
1♠	2♦	3♦	3♥
4♠	5♦	Pass	Pass
Dble	All Pass		

Fantoni and Nunes, with so many high-card points, judged well to save, earning a 3-IMP swing when Nunes finished



Claudio Nunes, Italy

Minus 500.

Egypt pulled even on Board 12 when the two East/West pairs took vastly different views of their cards.

Board 12. Dealer West. N/S Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Versace</i>	<i>El Ahmady</i>	<i>Lauria</i>	<i>Sadek</i>
Pass	Pass	1♣	Pass
1♥	Pass	1♠	Pass
INT	Pass	2NT	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

El Ahmady could have settled the issue by starting fourth best from his longest and strongest suit, but his opening lead was a low heart. Versace won with his ten and ran five club tricks, but the defenders discarded accurately to hold declarer to eight tricks. That was Minus 50.

West	North	East	South
<i>Dagher</i>	<i>Fantoni</i>	<i>El Kourdy</i>	<i>Nunes</i>
Pass	Pass	1♣	Pass
1♥	Pass	1♠	Pass
2♣	All Pass		

The contract made on the nose for Plus 90 and 4 IMPs to Egypt.

Another swing went to Egypt when Dagher made an



Adel El Kourdy, Egypt

inspired play in the trump suit on this deal.

Board 15. Dealer South. N/S Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Versace</i>	<i>El Ahmady</i>	<i>Lauria</i>	<i>Sadek</i>
Pass	Pass	2♥	INT
3♥	Pass	4♥	Pass
			All Pass

Sadek started with the ♣A, continuing with the king. Lauria ruffed and played a low diamond to the jack and North's ace. He won the spade return with the ace and played the ♥10 from hand, running it when Sadek played low. That was the third trick for the defense with the ♥A still to come. Egypt was Plus 50.

West	North	East	South
<i>Dagher</i>	<i>Fantoni</i>	<i>El Kourdy</i>	<i>Nunes</i>
Pass	1♥	Dble	1♣
3♥	Pass	4♥	Pass
			All Pass

Fantoni's 1♥ bid showed four or more spades.

The ♣10 went to South's queen, and Nunes made the sneaky play of a low spade from the doubleton queen. Dagher played the nine, covered by the jack and ace, and he continued with the ♥10. Nunes played low and, after considerable thought, Dagher went up with his king, collecting the singleton queen and earning a 10-IMP swing for his team, now in the lead 40-30.

Italy got 6 IMPs back when Fantoni and Nunes bid 3NT on Board 16 while Sadek and El Ahmady got no further than INT.

Another swing went to Egypt on the penultimate board of the match when El Ahmady was relieved of a guess in the trump suit.

Board 19. Dealer South. E/W Vul.

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

♦ A J 6 5
♣ Q 10 8 3

West	North	East	South
Versace	El Ahmady	Lauria	Sadek
			Pass
1♠	2♥	Pass	2♠
3♠	4♥	All Pass	

Versace won with the ♠J, cashed the king and exited with his ♥3. El Ahmady might have worked out the correct way to play trumps on his own, but he was able to claim when Lauria took the ♥A and continued the suit.

West	North	East	South
Dagher	Fantoni	El Kourdy	Nunes
			Pass
4♠	All Pass		

Fantoni started with the ♦K, continuing with the queen before switching to a heart. Dagher, in dummy for the only time, took his best shot by playing a club at trick four. He made the normal play of the king, finishing two down when that lost to Fantoni's ace. Still, it was a 6-IMP gain for Egypt.

Italy gained 5 IMPs on the final board when El Kourdy went four down in 3♦ in the Closed Room while Versace managed

Join the fight

Saturday begins National Cancer Awareness Weekend in Portugal. If you wish to show your solidarity in the fight against cancer, you are invited to visit the Hospitality Desk and take one of the small pins with the pink ribbons to wear. The pins are free of charge.

Correction

The photograph on page 6 of the Friday edition was misidentified. The player pictured was Carlo Mosca.

Fancy a Flutter

You are welcome to visit the Casino - all you need to do is show your badge and some form of identity.



To The Bidders Go The Spoils

by John Gowdy

We now get contributions from around the world — this one comes from a well-known Canadian.

Canada's Open team got off to a slow (!) start in the Bermuda Bowl, but has shown a lot of grit to fight back into the mix. Arno Hobart/George Mittelman — both with WBF medals in their trophy cases — started a new partnership and came to Portugal with high expectations. Their system, based on canapé with Polish overtones, has produced some solid results, but system will only take you so far at this level. Look at this competitive auction.

Hobart faced the first problem, holding:

♠ K Q J 4 3
♥ A 7 4 3
♦ —
♣ 10 8 3 2

Red against white, he saw RHO open 1♦. Some might consider double, but Arno bid 1♠. LHO made a negative double, partner bid 4♠, and RHO pushed on to 5♦. What now?

The meek pass — who wants to save red against white? But the brave? Hobart bid 5♠. Not a call everyone would make, but one that can pay big dividends. Partner is vul, so has great shape (we hope), and this may produce, on its best day, a double game swing.

Let's now look at Mittelman's hand:

♠ A 10 9 8 6 2
♥ 8
♦ K J 9 7
♣ K Q

He had taken the low road with a heavy 4♠, but when partner pressed on to 5♠ he visualized the hand. Partner clearly has five or six spades to the king, and must (should!) have a side ace. Surely he also has a diamond void, so 6♠ must be cold, and George bid it.

Moral: if you want to win, bid — bid the cold 22-point slams! The two hands:

♠ A 10 9 8 6 2
♥ 8
♦ K J 9 7
♣ K Q

	N	
W		E
	S	

♠ K Q J 4 3
♥ A 7 4 3
♦ —
♣ 10 8 3 2

ROUND 14

Venice Cup



China v England



by Mark Horton

When the vugraph audience was treated to a Venice Cup match between two of the leading teams, I was on hand to interview some of the players.

England's Nicola Smith revealed that although she had played in and won countless Championships she was still motivated by the excitement of a new partnership and rated her present one with Heather Dhondy her best yet.

Nicola is passionate about football and she refuted Brian Senior's suggestion that she supported Chelsea; like Terence Reese she cheers on Queens Park Rangers (and has a sneaking admiration for Liverpool.)

When asked to name her favourite male partner Nicola went for Raymond Brock — here as Captain of the English Open team.

China's Liu Yiqian was confident the next Venice Cup would be in Shanghai in 2007, but doubted China would field a team in the Senior Bowl — their players are all too young!

She thought it possible as many as 2,000,000 Chinese people could be following events here in Estoril.

She could not confirm the best beer in China is Tsingtao, but she did read the bridge column in The China Daily — published in Beijing and written by our proof-reader Phillip Alder.

She hopes that this time it will be **jin** — gold — for China.

The Great Shuffler delivered interesting deals that set the players some difficult problems.

Board 2. Dealer East. N/S Vul.

♠ 8 7 5 ♥ 10 8 6 3 ♦ A 6 ♣ A 10 8 2	<table style="border: 1px solid black; width: 60px; height: 60px; margin: auto;"> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">N</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">W E</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">S</td></tr> </table>	N	W E	S	♠ K J 10 3 ♥ K 9 5 2 ♦ J 4 ♣ Q 9 3	♠ Q 9 4 2 ♥ Q 4 ♦ 7 5 2 ♣ J 7 6 4
N						
W E						
S						
♠ A 6 ♥ A J 7 ♦ K Q 10 9 8 3 ♣ K 5						

Open Room	West	North	East	South
	<i>Dhondy</i>	<i>Liu</i>	<i>Smith</i>	<i>Wang</i>
			Pass	1♣*
	Pass	1♦*	Pass	2♦
	Pass	2NT	Pass	3NT

All Pass

3NT played by North is a very tough nut to crack, as only an impossible diamond lead allows the defenders to beat it.

East led the three of spades. Declarer won in hand with the nine and played a diamond to the queen. West ducked but declarer continued with the king of diamonds, so West won and returned a spade. Declarer won, crossed to hand with the seven of diamonds and played a heart to the jack. When that held she was home; +600.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Zhang</i>	<i>Goldenfield</i>	<i>Gu</i>	<i>Brunner</i>
		Pass	1♦
Pass	1♠	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

South gave her side a chance of matching the result at the other table but with West on lead she needed some help — and when West led a heart it was not forthcoming. Declarer tried the queen and when East covered with the king South took the ace and attacked diamonds. West won and switched to the eight of spades, covered by the queen, king and ace. Declarer cashed the queen of diamonds, crossed to dummy with a diamond and played a club to the king and ace.

It was hardly obvious that a club return now would produce a second undertrick, and when West exited with a heart declared cashed her winners, for —100 and 12 IMPs to China.

Board 3. Dealer South. E/W Vul.

♠ K J ♥ A K 8 3 ♦ Q 9 7 ♣ A J 10 2	<table style="border: 1px solid black; width: 60px; height: 60px; margin: auto;"> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">N</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">W E</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">S</td></tr> </table>	N	W E	S	♠ A Q 10 9 6 ♥ J 2 ♦ 5 ♣ Q 9 7 4 3	♠ 8 7 5 4 3 2 ♥ 10 6 5 4 ♦ 6 4 ♣ 6
N						
W E						
S						
			♠ — ♥ Q 9 7 ♦ A K J 10 8 3 2 ♣ K 8 5			

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Dhondy</i>	<i>Liu</i>	<i>Smith</i>	<i>Wang</i>
		2♥*	1♦
INT	Pass	Dble	4♦
Pass	Pass		All Pass

South's second bid made it impossible for East/West to discover their club fit. West cashed a top heart and when East produced the jack she continued the suit giving her partner a ruff. Now declarer could not be prevented from ruffing one club in dummy and discarding another on the ten of hearts, so the contract was two down; —300.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Zhang</i>	<i>Goldenfield</i>	<i>Gu</i>	<i>Brunner</i>
			1♦
INT	Pass	2♥*	4♦
Pass	Pass	4♠	All Pass

While considering the bidding in the Open Room the commentators had suggested that it was impossible for East to

bid Four Spades in this position. Well, in China the impossible simply takes a little longer.

South cashed a top diamond and switched to the five of clubs. (If she plays a second diamond, declarer ruffs and can make the contract by drawing four rounds of spades, then running the nine of clubs.)

Declarer won with dummy's ten and played the king of spades, getting a nasty shock when South discarded. (At this point declarer can make the contract by overtaking the king of spades and playing a club to the jack — a difficult line to find.)

She continued with the jack of spades, overtaking to play a club to the jack. North ruffed and led a diamond, forcing declarer to ruff. She played a club to the ace and North ruffed.

At this point North, who was down to ♠87 ♥10654, needed only to play a heart to ensure the defeat of the contract, but when she inexplicably played a spade declarer could claim ten tricks and 8 IMPs.

Board 4. Dealer West. All Vul.

♠ K Q 9 7 ♥ 7 4 ♦ Q J 8 7 ♣ 8 7 6	<table style="border: 1px solid black; width: 80px; height: 80px; margin: auto;"> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">N</td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">W</td><td style="text-align: center;">E</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td></td><td style="text-align: center;">S</td><td></td></tr> </table>	N			W	E			S		♠ J 10 4 ♥ Q 8 6 5 2 ♦ A 4 2 ♣ K J
N											
W	E										
	S										
♠ A 8 3 2 ♥ K ♦ 9 6 5 3 ♣ 9 4 3 2		♠ 6 5 ♥ A J 10 9 3 ♦ K 10 ♣ A Q 10 5									

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Dhondy</i>	<i>Liu</i>	<i>Smith</i>	<i>Wang</i>
Pass	Pass	1♥	Pass
1♠	Pass	Pass	Dble
Pass	INT	All Pass	

I wonder how much thought North gave to passing her partner's double? (Sabine Auken did just that in another match — after all it was not game — and collected +800.)

East led the jack of spades. Declarer won and played a club to the king and ace. East ducked the king of diamonds, took the next diamond and returned the ten of spades. West took her ace and played back a club so declarer won in dummy, cashed a winning club and the ace of hearts, and exited with a club to force West to surrender the rest of the tricks. A neat way to collect +180.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Zhang</i>	<i>Goldenfield</i>	<i>Gu</i>	<i>Brunner</i>
Pass	Pass	1♥	Pass
1♠	All Pass		

Here West was left to stew in One Spade. North led the queen of diamonds, declarer winning and playing a heart. South did well to go in with the ace and she cashed a diamond

and switched to a trump. North won with the queen, cashed the jack of diamonds and played a diamond, ruffed in dummy.

Declarer cashed the queen of hearts and ruffed a heart, but North overruffed and played the king of spades. Declarer won with the ace and played a club but South could take two clubs and play the jack of hearts so declarer was three down; —300 and 3 IMPs for England.

Board 9. Dealer North. E/W Vul.

♠ 8 6 ♥ A 10 7 ♦ J 10 8 7 6 ♣ K Q 10	<table style="border: 1px solid black; width: 80px; height: 80px; margin: auto;"> <tr><td></td><td style="text-align: center;">N</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">W</td><td></td><td style="text-align: center;">E</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td style="text-align: center;">S</td><td></td></tr> </table>		N		W		E		S		♠ Q J 9 4 ♥ K J 8 2 ♦ Q 9 5 ♣ 7 6
	N										
W		E									
	S										
♠ A 7 5 3 ♥ Q 4 3 ♦ 4 2 ♣ J 9 8 3		♠ K 10 2 ♥ 9 6 5 ♦ A K 3 ♣ A 5 4 2									

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Dhondy</i>	<i>Liu</i>	<i>Smith</i>	<i>Wang</i>
Pass	Pass	Pass	INT
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

Facing a 13-15 no trump North made the sort of game try in which you bid it, then let partner try to make it.



China v England on the vugraph

the king, cashed a top diamond, took dummy's two top clubs and played a diamond to the king. She gave up a diamond and after the defenders cashed their spades, she claimed the rest; +400.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Zhang	Goldenfield	Gu	Brunner
	Pass	Pass	INT

All Pass

In Acol land INT is 12-14, but with a ten count and a five-card suit some Norths would invite game (perhaps more so if vulnerable). This time declarer made ten tricks, but lost 6 IMPs.

Board 12. Dealer West. N/S Vul.

♠ 10 9 8 6 3 ♥ A 9 8 2 ♦ 10 8 3 ♣ K	<table border="1"> <tr><td></td><td>N</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td></td><td>E</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td>S</td><td></td></tr> </table>		N		W		E		S		♠ A Q J 5 ♥ — ♦ K Q 7 5 2 ♣ A Q 8 7
	N										
W		E									
	S										
♠ 7 ♥ K Q J 10 5 3 ♦ A 9 4 ♣ J 6 5		♠ K 4 2 ♥ 7 6 4 ♦ J 6 ♣ 10 9 4 3 2									

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Dhondy	Liu	Smith	Wang
2♥*	Pass	2NT*	Pass
3♠*	Pass	4♠	All Pass

Two Hearts was weak with both majors and 2NT a relay. Looking at the system notes, I am assuming that the reply showed a minimum 5-4, which is doubtless why East signed off.

However, could West have opened Two Hearts with ♠K10986 ♥9872 ♦A83 ♣2? Then Four Spades would not be quite the top spot and East would regret not making a try with Four Clubs. Declarer made eleven tricks; +450.

Discussing this deal with England's Captain Alan Mould, he sagely remarked that he would have bid Four Clubs if East/West could make a slam — otherwise he preferred Four Spades!

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Zhang	Goldenfield	Gu	Brunner
Pass	1♥	Dble	Pass
1♠	Pass	3♠	Pass
4♠	All Pass		

By the same token, was One Spade the right bid from West, or Three Spades the best way to describe the East hand? Plus, having bid One Spade, surely West owed East a cuebid over Three Spades? Okay, these are theoretical points, but next time around the cards may be disposed to present you with a chance to win some IMPs.

China was booked for a decent win — until the last board arrived at the table.

Board 16. Dealer West. E/W Vul.

♠ 9 8 7 5 4 ♥ 10 7 6 2 ♦ — ♣ 9 8 6 3	<table border="1"> <tr><td></td><td>N</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td></td><td>E</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td>S</td><td></td></tr> </table>		N		W		E		S		♠ K Q 10 6 ♥ A J 9 8 4 ♦ K Q 8 ♣ Q
	N										
W		E									
	S										
		♠ J 3 2 ♥ 5 3 ♦ A 9 6 5 3 2 ♣ J 7									

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Dhondy	Liu	Smith	Wang
Pass	1♣*	Pass	1♦*
Pass	2♣	Dble	Pass
2♠	Pass	3♠	4♣
4♠	Pass	Pass	Dble

All Pass

With such a good hand East had no convenient way to enter the auction over the Precision Club, but came in on the next round. I have no idea why South, having already limited her hand, did not mention her diamonds, but at her next turn she felt obliged to say something. Perhaps a deep meaning 3NT, implying diamonds and some clubs might have got the message across but, when she raised clubs, diamonds were out of the picture.

North cashed the king of clubs and switched to the four of diamonds, covered by the king and ace and ruffed by declarer, who played a spade, taken by North's ace. At this point the winning defence, which North must be kicking herself for missing, is to force dummy with a club, but when she continued with the jack of diamonds declarer could win, draw trumps, ruff a diamond and play the seven of hearts for a more than useful +790.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Zhang	Goldenfield	Gu	Brunner
Pass	1♣	Dble	1♦
Pass	3♦	All Pass	

Given a more or less free run it's not so easy to reach Five Diamonds — and many of those who did went down as, on a heart lead to the ace and a club switch, declarer was afraid to finesse in diamonds in case East could get a club ruff.

Declarer made eleven tricks and that gave England 14 precious IMPs.

China won by 32-22 IMPs, 17-13 VP, but both teams were on the way to the quarter-finals.

ROUND 16

Venice Cup



Austria v Canada



With two days to go in the qualifying stage, Canada lay in seventh place with a bit of a cushion to ninth, while tenth-placed Austria needed some solid results to lift them into the top eight. It proved to be a match of generally scrappy little boards, but the first significant swing was to be a huge one.

Board 3. Dealer South. E/W Vul.

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

♠ K J 8 4 3	<table border="1" style="border-collapse: collapse; width: 40px; height: 40px; margin: 0 auto;"> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">N</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">W E</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">S</td></tr> </table>	N	W E	S	♠ A Q 2
N					
W E					
S					
♥ 6 5 3		♥ Q 9 7 4 2			
♦ 2		♦ K 9 5 3			
♣ 9 7 4 2		♣ Q			

West <i>Kriftner</i>	North <i>Cimon</i>	East <i>Terraneo</i>	South <i>Lee</i>
1♥	Pass	2NT	Pass
3♣	Pass	3♦	Pass
4♣	Pass	4NT	Pass
5♣	Pass	6♥	All Pass

West <i>Eaton</i>	North <i>Grumm</i>	East <i>Clinton</i>	South <i>Weigkricht</i>
1♦	Pass	1♥	Pass
3♥	Pass	3♠	Pass
4♣	Pass	4♦	Pass
4♠	Pass	4NT	Pass
5♦	Pass	6♥	All Pass

It was almost impossible for Francine Cimon to find the killing start of ace and another diamond at the first table. On her actual club lead Suzanne Kriftner could win, draw trumps and play for the ♦ Q to be onside; +1430.

At our second table, the singleton diamond was on lead and Terri Weigkricht duly led it. Iris Grumm won and returned the suit for a quick one down; -100 and 17 IMPs to Austria.

Board 4. Dealer West. All Vul.

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

♠ K 10 2	<table border="1" style="border-collapse: collapse; width: 40px; height: 40px; margin: 0 auto;"> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">N</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">W E</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">S</td></tr> </table>	N	W E	S	♠ Q 9 8 7
N					
W E					
S					
♥ 10 6 4 3		♥ A K 8			
♦ K 4 3		♦ Q 8			
♣ 10 9 6		♣ 5 4 3 2			

West <i>Kriftner</i>	North <i>Cimon</i>	East <i>Terraneo</i>	South <i>Lee</i>
Pass	1♠	Pass	1NT
Dble	Pass	Pass	2♠
All Pass			

West <i>Eaton</i>	North <i>Grumm</i>	East <i>Clinton</i>	South <i>Weigkricht</i>
1♦	1♠	2NT	All Pass

Joan Eaton opened the West hand and Barbara Clinton jumped to 2NT, natural and invitational, over Grumm's 1♠ overcall. Weigkricht led the ♠2 to the ace and a spade came back to the eight and ten. Weigkricht cashed the king of spades, then switched to the six of clubs for the queen and king. Grumm cleared the spades now. 2NT can be made by relying on the diamond finesse, but Clinton had convinced herself that the king would be offside, in which case she risked going more down by trying to make her contract. She threw three diamonds on the spades and just cashed out at the end, keeping open the option of exiting with a club to force a diamond lead into the tenace if that looked appropriate, which it did not, as Grumm threw diamonds when the hearts were cashed; down two for -200.

Kriftner did not open the West hand but made a take-out double at her next turn. When Sylvia Terraneo converted that to penalties, Linda Lee went back to the safety of the known spade fit. Though Cimon could pick up the clubs without loss, she had to lose a trump trick as well as two hearts and three diamonds; down one for -100 and 7 IMPs to Austria, ahead by 24-1.

Canada nibbled away at the Austrian lead over the next few deals, closing to 6-24, but then Austria struck again.



Linda Lee, Canada

Board 9. Dealer North. E/W Vul.

♠ Q 5 4 2
♥ A J 7
♦ 5
♣ A K 7 5 4

♠ J 10 7 6
♥ 10 9 6
♦ A 7 4 2
♣ 9 3

♠ A K 9 3
♥ 5 3
♦ K Q
♣ Q J 10 8 2

♠ 8
♥ K Q 8 4 2
♦ J 10 9 8 6 3
♣ 6



West	North	East	South
Kriftner	Cimon	Terraneo	Lee
	1♣	1♠	Dble
2♠	All Pass		
West	North	East	South
Eaton	Grumm	Clinton	Weigkricht
	1♠	INT	2♦
All Pass			

Terraneo could not bear to pass over the 1♣ opening when holding 15 HCP but her hand did not quite suit any action. She chose the four-card 1♠ overcall and that worked very nicely as Kriftner could raise in competition to reach an excellent spot. (What would you do in the pass-out deal with that South hand?) Despite the bad breaks, Terraneo's contract had too much going for it and she made eight tricks for +110.

The Blue Club canapé opening style struck gold on this deal as Grumm's opening bid stole her opponents' trump suit. Clinton overcalled INT and Weigkricht competed in her longer suit. Eaton could hardly do anything in this scenario, so 2♦ was the final contract. Eaton led the ten of hearts. Weigkricht won with the jack and cashed the top clubs for a spade pitch, then played a trump to Clinton's queen. She ruffed the next lead of the ♣Q with the six and was over-ruffed, but from here there were just two top diamonds to be lost; +110 and 6 IMPs to Austria.



Iris Grumm, Austria

Board 10. Dealer East. All Vul.

♠ J 9
♥ A 10 7 3
♦ A Q J 10 3
♣ K 2

♠ K 10 7
♥ J 9 5 2
♦ 5 4
♣ J 9 8 6

♠ A 6 4 3 2
♥ 8 6 4
♦ K 9 6
♣ A Q

♠ Q 8 5
♥ K Q
♦ 8 7 2
♣ 10 7 5 4 3



West	North	East	South
Kriftner	Cimon	Terraneo	Lee
		1♠	Pass
Pass	Dble	Pass	INT
Pass	2NT	All Pass	
West	North	East	South
Eaton	Grumm	Clinton	Weigkricht
		INT	Pass
Pass	Dble	Pass	2♣
Pass	2♦	All Pass	

When Terraneo's 1♠ opening came around to her, Cimon doubled, then raised the INT response to 2NT. Lee was very minimum for a INT response to a balancing double – indeed, some would play this sequence as promising more than a poor seven-count and therefore respond 2♣ with the South cards. She quickly passed 2NT, but that was already too high. Kriftner led a club to the king and ace, and Terraneo switched to spades. When the diamond finesse failed, the defence had spades to cash for down two; -200.

Clinton opened an 11-14 no trump, doubled by Grumm. Weigkricht took a cautious run-out to 2♣, converted to 2♦ by Grumm. She won the heart lead in dummy and led a spade to the nine and ace. Clinton returned a spade to the king and Eaton switched to a club. After the two club tricks, the defence had only a diamond to come; +90 and 7 IMPs to Austria. The lead was up to 37-6.

Canada gained an overtrick IMP on Board 12, then Austria struck another big blow.

Board 13. Dealer North. All Vul.

♠ A 5 2
♥ 7 6 4 3
♦ Q 6
♣ Q 9 7 6

♠ K Q 8 6
♥ A K 10
♦ K J 2
♣ J 10 8

♠ 10 9 7 4
♥ J 9 8 5
♦ A 9 5 3
♣ K

♠ J 3
♥ Q 2
♦ 10 8 7 4
♣ A 5 4 3 2



West	North	East	South
Kriftoner	Cimon	Terraneo	Lee
	Pass	Pass	Pass
INT	Pass	2♣	Pass
2♠	Pass	3♠	Pass
3NT	Pass	4♠	All Pass

West	North	East	South
Eaton	Grumm	Clinton	Weigkricht
	Pass	Pass	Pass
1♣	Pass	1♥	Pass
INT	All Pass		

Kriftoner opened INT and it was natural for Terraneo to enquire then to raise the 2♠ response to invite game. Kriftoner, with a 4-3-3-3 maximum, offered the option of playing the no trump game but, of course, Terraneo went back to 4♠. With both major suits behaving very nicely for declarer, Kriftoner made an overtrick for +650.

Eaton opened 1♣ and rebid INT, as per her system. There was no reason for Clinton to move over that. A spade lead did nothing to challenge declarer. She returned the suit and now the defence played three rounds of clubs, after which Eaton had the rest; +180 but 10 IMPs to Austria.

Three quiet boards completed the set, leaving Austria with a 47-8 IMP, 24-6 VP win, as they took a big bite out of the gap between them and the top eight.

Merrimac Coup

This deal from the match between USA2 and Sweden in Round 12 of the Venice Cup featured sparkling defence at both tables.

Board 11. Dealer South. None Vul.

♠ A Q ♥ Q J ♦ 10 6 4 3 ♣ A K 8 5 3	<table border="1" style="margin: auto;"> <tr><td></td><td>N</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td></td><td>E</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td>S</td><td></td></tr> </table>		N		W		E		S		♠ J 9 6 ♥ 9 6 4 2 ♦ 7 5 2 ♣ J 10 4
	N										
W		E									
	S										
♠ 7 5 2 ♥ K 10 5 ♦ A Q J 8 ♣ Q 9 2	♠ K 10 8 4 3 ♥ A 8 7 3 ♦ K 9 ♣ 7 6										

At both tables, North declared 3NT on the lead of the seven of diamonds from Renee Mancuso and Marie Ryman respectively. Both declarers, Catharina Midskog for Sweden and Jo Ann Sprung for USA2, played low so West won the jack.

At trick two, Pam Wittes for USA2 switched to the king of hearts, a Merrimac Coup, the lead of an unsupported honour to break up declarer's communications. Midskog could no longer come to more than two spade tricks. She won the ♥A and played on clubs but was one down for Minus 50.

At the other table, Jenny Ryman cashed the ace of diamonds at trick two then switched to a club. Jo Ann Sprung won the club, unblocked the ace and queen of spades, and passed the queen of hearts. Ryman won the king of hearts and played a second club. Declarer had nine tricks but there was no way to disentangle them. She too was one down for Minus 50 and a flat board.

Two equally effective defences, one spectacular, one simple, but the same contract was successful when also played by North at a number of other tables.

Sports News

Cricket

India thrashed Sri Lanka in a one-day international yesterday. Sri Lanka 122 all out; India 123-2.

Cycling



The itinerary for the 2006 Tour de France includes 18 climbs, including a stage on the infamous Alpe d'Huez. The team time trial is axed and there will be three individual time trials, one on the eve of the final stage. The 1-23 July race will begin in Strasbourg, head towards Brittany and then on to the Pyrenees.

Ice Hockey - NHL

Philadelphia Flyers 5-4 Florida Panthers; Boston Bruins 2-1 Toronto Maple Leafs; New York Rangers 3-1 New York Islanders; Ottawa Senators 4-3 Montreal Canadiens; Detroit Redwings 5-2 Chicago Blackhawks; Pittsburgh Penguins 7-5 Atlanta Thrashers; Colorado Avalanche 6-2 Vancouver Canucks; Phoenix Coyotes 3-2 Calgary Flames.



Motor Sports

Last weekend, Formula 1 ace Michael Schumacher rode a Ducati MotoGP bike around the Mugello circuit in Italy. He reportedly lapped at "about" 1 minute and 50 seconds. Earlier this year, Valentino Rossi had won the pole position for the MotoGP at that circuit in 1:49.223.

Will Schumacher switch sports to find a new challenge?

Notice To Captains

After the final round this evening, there will a captains' meeting - at 8.15 for the Venice Cup and Seniors Bowl and at 8.45 for the Bermuda Bowl. All meetings will be held in the WBF Meeting Room on the first (second) floor of the convention centre. There is a chance of a delay in the case of appeals.

Teams ranked first, second and third will choose their opponents from among the teams ranked fifth through eighth. Seating rights will also be decided.

THE PRESIDENT'S DINNER



Members of the International Mind Sports Association attended the President's dinner on Thursday night. Clockwise from front left: **George Makrououlos** (chess), vice-president; **David Jarrett** (chess); **Jean-Claude Schupp**, honorary secretary of the IMSA; **Yuki Shigano** (go); **Erik Puyt** (go), general secretary of the IMSA, and **Wouter Van Beek** (draughts), treasurer of the IMSA.

Also guests at the dinner (right) were **Marc Hodler**, president of the WBF World Congress, and Madame Rona.

They were awarded gold medals by the WBF at the dinner. At the bottom from left: **Manuel d'Orey Capucho**, **Grattan Endicott**, **José Oliveira** and **Ernesto D'Orsi**.

