



HCL

42nd WORLD BRIDGE TEAMS CHAMPIONSHIPS 2015

CHENNAI, INDIA Sep 26th - Oct 10th

42nd Bermuda Bowl
20th Venice Cup | 8th d'Orsi Trophy
10th Transnational Open Teams

DAILY BULLETIN

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Issue No. 14

Saturday, 10th October 2015

THE SMILES TELL THE STORY

ATTENTION!
Play starts at 10:00

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France, winners of the Venice Cup: Joanna Zochowska, Vanessa Réess, Deborah Campagnano, npc Laurent Thuillez, Bénédicte Cronier, Sylvie Willard and Elisabeth Hugon.



Winners of the d'Orsi Senior Trophy: Hemant Lall, Reese Milner, Michael Rosenberg, npc Petra Hamman, Zia Mahmood, Bob Hamman, Mark Lair and coach Jacek Pszczola.

There's nothing like winning to put a smile on your face. Just ask France, winners of the Venice Cup, and USA I, who captured the d'Orsi Senior Trophy on Friday. There will be more glee today when the winners of the Bermuda Bowl and World Transnational Open Teams are determined. Sweden and Poland are still fighting for the Bermuda Bowl. The team captained by Pierre Zimmermann and Bulgaria Open are in the WTOT final. Both events conclude today.



Corrections

In the printed version of the Friday Daily Bulletin, there were two significant errors. On page 4 in the report on the review from the Poland-England Bermuda Bowl match, West's opening bid in the diagram should have been 1♠.

In the World Transnational Open Teams brackets, two match results were reported incorrectly. Germany was listed as the winner in the quarterfinal match with the Zimmermann team, which won 132-26. Also, Formidables was incorrectly listed as the winner over YBM, the actual winners at 113-100. Zimmermann and YBM advanced to the WTOT semifinal round.



The editors regret the errors, which were not duplicated in the online version of the Daily Bulletin.

Prize-giving

The Prize-giving Ceremony will be held in the **RAJENDRA HALL (Closed Room)** at **precisely 19:30 today, 10th October 2015.**

Would the captains of all teams please go to the "Victory Banquet Desk" (located at the Hospitality Desk) to collect the invitation cards for their teams.

Anti Doping Tests

There will be Anti-Doping testing in both the Open and Women's categories.

All players including those "sitting out" from the Open and Women's Teams participating in the Knock Outs must be available for testing immediately following the end of the three sessions (i.e. at 13.20, 16.50 and 19.40) on Friday and at the end of all three sessions on Saturday.

A list of players who are selected for testing will be published on information sheets which will be on a notice boards outside the playing area. Players must not leave the area without checking these sheets.

Paolo Walter Gabriele & Jaap Stomphorst
WBF Medical and Prevention Commission



IMPORTANT NOTICE FOR THE WINNING TEAMS

**Bermuda Bowl, Venice Cup, d'Orsi
Senior Trophy and
World Transnational Open Teams**

PRIZE GIVING CEREMONY

The captains of the three medal-winning teams – gold, silver and bronze - in each category should ensure that they and their players go to the **RAJENDRA HALL** where the ceremony is to be held no later than 7.20 pm.

Rows will be assigned to teams in each category and the positions will be indicated on the assigned seats, starting with the third row from the stage. Please leave the first seat in the row free for the girl who will carry the flag of your country.

SCHEDULE

Bermuda Bowl

Finals

Segment 7 10:00 - 12:20
 Segment 8 13:20 - 15:40

Transnational

Final and Play-Off

Segment 1 10:00 - 12:20
 Segment 2 13:20 - 15:40

Final

Segment 3 16:00 - 18:20

RESULTS

Transnational Semi-Finals

Team	1	2	3	Tot
ASKGAARD	32.0	42.0	18.0	92.0
BULGARIA OPEN	53.0	14.0	35.0	102.0
ZIMMERMANN	81.0	44.0	0.0	125.0
YBM	12.0	16.0	0.0	28.0

RESULTS SWISS PAIRS

- 1 DAS - MUKHERJEE
- 2 VENKATARAMAN - GOEL
- 3 BHANDARI - TEWARI
- 4 GRIFFITHS - MILNER
- 5 KUSHARI - SAHA



The winners of the Swiss Pairs




In re Collusive cheating and the World Bridge Federation

- 1 Law 73B2 of the Laws of Duplicate Bridge states as follows:
The gravest possible offense is for a partnership to exchange information through prearranged methods of communication other than those sanctioned by these Laws.
- 2 The WBF has established a Disciplinary Code that has application in the case of reprehensible conduct. Reprehensible conduct includes ‘... *illicit actions or behaviour ... including violations of the Laws of Bridge, cheating ...*’ The existing code was established in October 2011; a new code was approved in October 2015 and comes into effect on 1st January 2016.
- 3 Additionally the WBF has issued guidelines to Zonal Authorities and NBOs for the imposition of sanctions for players that have admitted or been found guilty of cheating. The guidelines are intended to achieve consistency in both approach and application to such matters.
- 4 Historically, complaints have arisen by virtue of suspicious actions taken at the table. Those were usually investigated without notifying those suspected of wrongdoing; that then enabled monitoring to take place and to gather evidence against them. The information obtained would then be studied and analysed and, if appropriate, an expert would be enlisted to provide an opinion as to the likelihood of improper methods being used. With advances in technology and extensive video broadcasting becoming economically viable, many followers of bridge view players participating in top-flight competitions. Concerns over some players’ methods, and suspicion of them using improper methods, has led to a flurry of analysis with accusations of cheating against certain partnerships being publicised via the Internet and on social media sites.
- 5 Consequent upon allegations being made, 3 Federations withdrew their teams from the Bermuda Bowl World Team Championships held in Chennai. The bridge playing community generally has supported the method used to focus attention on a perceived problem of cheating and claim justification by the resulting team withdrawals.
- 6 The WBF is rightly concerned that the present method used to «out» alleged cheaters has been utilised without those so accused having been given an opportunity to have the matters dealt with in accordance with any recognised due process. This is contrary to the norms associated with natural justice and the right to a fair trial before a competent tribunal. The majority of the accused players all participated in a zonal qualifying event. The Zonal Organisation and some NBOs have instigated investigations into those players accused of wrongdoing.
- 7 A proposal has been made for a panel or commission to be established for the purpose of receiving complaints/concerns with regard to potential improper actions being taken by a partnership. A panel of expert players would be selected from amongst the High Level Players Commission with a task of providing a preliminary view based upon an analysis of the suspicious circumstances measured against the accepted probabilities of success.
- 8 The process previously used by the WBF first required there to be a complaint made during play and for a discreet monitoring process to be undertaken. The method was greatly enhanced with video coverage that enabled greater scrutiny of players’ actions.
- 9 A potential concern is that it could encourage a proliferation of complaints and the possibility of some being ill founded or based on malice. It is imperative that potential evidence that might be collected is reliable and admissible. Provided adequate safeguards are put in place, there is no reason to doubt the provenance of such evidence. The evidence generated would be the basis for pursuing a charge of reprehensible conduct and ensuring a fair process where those accused are given every opportunity to challenge the case against them.
- 10 The purpose of the proposals is to eradicate, as far as is possible, collusive cheating. This is where a partnership has discussions and makes arrangements to convey information other than by fair means and those permitted by the Laws of Duplicate Bridge.

What safeguards are necessary?

- 11 It will be necessary to ensure some safeguards are put in place. All members of such a Commission and any panel of players, that is sought to make use of, should be required to enter into a confidentiality agreement. It is not appropriate for such members to discuss the work that they undertake with bridge players that are not part of the Commission.
- 12 The role of the Commission should be clearly defined and should act within any terms of reference that are determined for it. Its task should be to demonstrate whether or not a *prima facie* case exists against any partnership and for the matter then to be prosecuted by the appropriate authority; this may be the WBF, a Zonal Authority or a NBO.
- Subsequent action taken**
- 13 A meeting took place with the High Level Players Commission last night. The proposals above were discussed and accepted as a positive move forward to address the current problems. It was agreed that the members of the Commission would enter into a confidentiality agreement to ensure that matters under discussion remained and were discussed only within the group; outside transmission of any details was not acceptable.
- 14 A dedicated secure email account will be established for members of the group. Details of complaints will be submitted on a *pro forma* sheet accessible via the WBF website.
- 15 It is anticipated that the group will be fully established to deal with complaints at the beginning of next year to coincide with the implementation of the new Disciplinary Code.



David R Harris
General Counsel
World Bridge Federation

9th October 2015

**BBO and OURGAME SCHEDULE**

The finals from the
Bermuda Bowl and the
Final and Play-Off of the Transnationals
will be shown

VuGraph 10:00

Poland v Sweden

**World Championship Book 2015**

The official book of these championships will be available around April next year. It will cover all the best of the action from all the different championships, including a full listing of participants and results and many photographs, and will be in full colour throughout. The writers are Brian Senior, Barry Rigal, John Carruthers and GeO Tislevoll.

On publication, the official retail price will be US\$35-00 or £22-00 (plus postage from some retailers). If you pre-order and pay in Chennai the special price is US\$30-00 or 2000 Rupees, post free, and the books will be sent out as soon as I have them. To order, see Jan Swaan in the Press Room on the ground floor.

Readers who are not present in Chennai can share in this special offer by emailing me at:

bsenior@hotmail.com

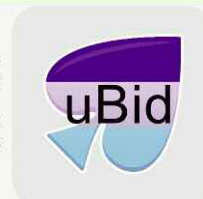
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Brian Senior

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STATEMENT BY THE WORLD BRIDGE FEDERATION

The WBF wishes to express its commitment to ensure that the sport of bridge is conducted in a fair manner with respect to **all** those involved within it. The WBF is recognised by the IOC as an International Sport Federation and is expected to uphold the highest standards of sport. It must administer the sport within recognised norms and strive to uphold the ideals of the Olympic Charter.

At the Sport Accord Convention in Sochi in April of this year, International Sport Federations were asked to adopt a declaration supporting Integrity in Sport. The WBF Executive Council has unanimously agreed to do so and the Declaration can be found on its website.

The WBF is under a duty to have in place appropriate rules and regulations for the orderly conduct of its affairs and the organisation of the sport. As a continuing part of that process, the WBF has been updating its Disciplinary Code; the latest approved version will have effect from 1st January 2016. In addition the WBF has issued guidance to all Zonal Authorities and National Bridge Organisations for the sanctions to be imposed for those who cheat.

The WBF wishes to make it abundantly clear that it will not allow cheating within the sport of bridge. Those who decide that they wish to obtain an unfair advantage by cheating should be aware that they will be pursued without exception; if found to have cheated they will be subject to severe sanctions that will result in them not being a part of bridge for a very long time.

However, the WBF does not approve of the current lynch mob mentality and approach that is being utilised by a small number of people. Regardless of any potential culpability, it is a requirement in any civilised society that those accused of any wrong doing are given details of what is alleged, the evidence that is said to support such allegations, and the opportunity to answer those matters. The WBF is aware that some players have been threatened with public exposure if they do not immediately agree with the direction of those who accuse them. It should be stressed that the people offering such “deals” have no legitimacy – they are without any legal standing in respect of the organisation of the sport of bridge.

At present the WBF is aware of investigations being undertaken by Zonal Authorities and NBOs. In some cases there are multiple investigations being carried out against the same pair. The WBF does not wish to expand the direct examinations into these matters ahead of any determinations. If the way in which these matters have unfolded results in false accusations having been made, those responsible for doing so may find themselves subject to investigation.

The WBF will continue in its efforts and honour its obligations to act in a responsible manner as an International Sport Federation. The concept of Integrity in Sport includes fair play and the elimination of cheating but not to the exclusion of proper processes and people’s basic rights. The WBF acknowledges the significant time and effort contributed by players, workers and officers in their devotion to identify those who may have acted improperly. That work may be the basis for disciplinary proceedings undertaken within a proper process and presented to, and considered and determined by, a competent tribunal. The WBF will not tolerate cheating, neither will it stand by and watch kangaroo courts claim some legitimacy when they have none.

David R Harris
General Counsel
World Bridge Federation

9th October 2015



WBF: Cheaters will be thrown out

By Brent Manley



At the head table for the WBF Press Conference: IBPA President Patrick Jourdain, WBF General Counsel David Harris, WBF President Gianarrigo Rona, Bridge Federation of India President N.R.K. Moorthy and WBF Secretary Georgia Heth.

After the plaudits and thanks for a highly successful World Championship were recorded, the customary wrap-up press conference by World Bridge Federation officials quickly turned to the issue that has been simmering in the consciousness of players for more than a month – cheating at high levels in bridge.

Although WBF General Counsel David Harris said the WBF “does not approve of the way these matters got into the public domain,” the organization is committed to putting an end to what WBF President Gianarrigo Rona called “a cancer that has to be eliminated.”

Harris emphasized that the WBF must assure that the process for dealing with alleged cheaters is “proper” and fair. Rumors and gossip, he said, have not helped the situation. He said a number of players accused of cheating have not had the opportunity to defend themselves. “In my mind,” he added, “they are innocent until proven guilty.”

That said, Harris added, those who are convicted of collusive cheating will be punished. “Cheating will not be tolerated,” he said. “Cheaters will be pursued and they will be caught.” Those found guilty, he said, “will not be part of our game. They will be away from our game for a very long time.”

WBF Secretary Georgia Heth, who has extensive experience in such matters, said the process is important. “We want to be sure that when we catch them they stay caught.”

When members of the audience were invited to ask questions, magazine editor Jan van Cleeff asked about Polish players Cezary Balicki and Adam Zmudzinski, whose invitations to play for Poland in Chennai were rescinded. If the two are found guilty of cheating, asked van Cleeff, what would happen regarding the silver or gold medal the Polish team will earn in the 2015 Bermuda Bowl? Heth said that question cannot be answered at this time.

Van Cleeff also asked if the widely reported accusations of cheating by Boye Brogeland served as “a wake-up call” about the cheating issue.

Heth interjected that cleaning up bridge has been a priority of Rona since he became WBF president. “That has been one of Gianarrigo’s main concerns,” she said.

Asked whether names of the accused will be made public when the WBF undertakes prosecution, Harris said that when a prima facie case against a pair has been established and the accused have had a chance to respond “names will be made public.”

Heth noted that there is an advantage to not making names public too soon. “They may be cheaters,” she said, “but they’re not stupid.” If cheaters learn they are being watched, she said, they will quit their activity.

Responding to the statements at the press conference, Zia Mahmood said he hopes the WBF will take swift and decisive action against cheaters. “The world is looking to the WBF to be the leader in this field,” he said. “Players are upset about this and it’s clear that past policies have failed.”

Before the meeting turned to the topic of cheating, Rona led off by saying he was very pleased with the championships in Chennai. “We have achieved a great success,” he said. Rona said he was especially happy to see the turnout for the World Transnational Open Teams, which attracted 141 teams this year, not far off the record 151 at the tournament in Veldhoven, Netherlands, in 2011.

Rona praised the local organizers and the Bridge Federation of India, whose president, N.R.K. Moorthy, shared the podium with him. “We are all aware of what it takes to organize an event like this,” Rona said. “I want to congratulate my Indian friends for what they did and what they had to offer us. The championships ran without any problems.”

Moorthy said he, too, was happy at the turnout for the WTOT and the games that attracted more than 200 pairs in each of the three days that they ran. “I am really happy and proud to have this event in Chennai, in India,” he said.

Bermuda Bowl Final S2 & S3



Sweden v Poland



By Mark Horton

Sweden's only previous appearance in the final was in 1953 when they lost to North America. Poland's was in 1991 when they went down to Iceland.

One thing was certain, there would be a new name on the trophy.

Board 19. Dealer South. EW Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Klukowski	Upmark	Gawrski	Nystrom
3♦	3♥	Dble	3♠
Pass	Pass	Dble	All Pass



The Open Room

I have been hoping to get the chance to use a line from a song by Noel Coward which runs, 'Mad Dogs and Englishmen go out in the Middy Sun.' It also contains the line, 'In Hong Kong, they strike a gong, and fire off a noonday gun.'

When North overcalled East was ready with a broadside. West led the king of diamonds and declarer ruffed in dummy and ran the queen of spades. When it held he tried the three of hearts and West won with the queen and found the excellent switch to the jack of clubs. When that held he played a second club and East won with the ten and overruffed by the ten. West exited with the queen of diamonds and East pitched a heart. Declarer took the ace and conceded four down, -800.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Sylvan	Kalita	Wrang	Nowosadzki
Pass	Pass	2NT	2♠*
3NT	All Pass		Pass
2♠	5+♠ and 5(4)+♣/♦	5-11	

South led the four of spades and declarer took North's queen with the king and played the nine of diamonds. South correctly put up the ace, but when North pitched the seven of clubs declarer was in with a shout, albeit a very difficult one.

South switched to the seven of hearts for the two jack and ace and declarer played the five of spades. South took the ace of spades and returned the nine, declarer winning with the jack as North pitched the three of hearts. Declarer cashed the ace and king of clubs and then exited with the five of spades.

Well, not quite, as South, not wishing to be endplayed, astutely ducked. Declarer tried the ten of clubs, but North won, cashed the king of hearts and exited with a club. Declarer could win and cash the ten of hearts, but had to surrender the last trick to North, one down, -100 and 14 IMPs to Poland.

Declarer was on the right lines, but he had missed an important detail.

Having taken the jack of spades declarer must play the ten of clubs. North cannot afford to win, as then the jack of clubs will be an entry to dummy's diamonds. Now declarer cashes a top club and then plays his last spade. South cannot afford to win, but now declarer plays a heart to the queen and king. He wins the heart return and exits with a heart, North having to win and return a club into declarer's tenace.

That would have held the loss on the deal to 5 IMPs.

Board 20. Dealer West. All Vul.

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



Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Klukowski</i>	<i>Upmark</i>	<i>Gawrys</i>	<i>Nystrom</i>
1♥	Pass	2♣	Pass
2♠	Pass	3♥	Pass
4♣	Pass	4♥	All Pass

The Poles missed the target on this deal by a wide margin. Declarer won the diamond lead with dummy's nine and played a spade, South putting up the ace and rereturning a diamond. Declarer won in hand, ruffed a spade and drew trumps, +680.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Sylvan</i>	<i>Kalita</i>	<i>Wrang</i>	<i>Nowosadzki</i>
1♥	Pass	2♣	Pass
2♦	Pass	3♠*	Pass
4♦	Pass	4♥*	Pass
4NT*	Pass	5♠*	Pass
6♦	All Pass		

3♠ Splinter
 4♥ Cue bid
 4NT RKCB
 5♠ 2 keys plus the ♦Q



Jacek Kalita, Poland



Frederic Wrang, Sweden

Declarer won the club lead with dummy's ace and played a spade. South won and returned a club and declarer ruffed high, drew trumps and played hearts, for +1370 and 12 deserved IMPs to Sweden.

Board 26. Dealer East. All Vul.

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



Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Klukowski</i>	<i>Upmark</i>	<i>Gawrys</i>	<i>Nystrom</i>
1♣*	Pass	1♦*	2♦
3NT	All Pass		

1♣ 12-14 PC, balanced or 4-4-1-4 distribution or 15+ PC, natural; or 18+PC, any
 1♦ 0-6 PC, any; 7-11 PC, unbalanced without 4 in a major suit

West's decision turned out badly - North led the eight of spades and the defenders took five spades and the ace of diamonds, two down, -200.

However, with 4♥ appearing to be doomed it appeared unlikely to be expensive, and if NS were to reach 4♠ in the other room it might even turn out to be a triumph.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Sylvan</i>	<i>Kalita</i>	<i>Wrang</i>	<i>Nowosadzki</i>
2♣*	Pass	2♦*	Dble
2♥	Pass	3NT*	Pass
4♥	All Pass		
2♣	20-21BAL or 25+BAL or FG ANY		
2♦	Relay		

North led the nine of diamonds and South took the ace and returned the ten for North to ruff. When North switched to the king of spades South failed to overtake it and Sweden had been handed 13 IMPs, now only 10.5 behind.

Board 28. Dealer West. NS Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Klukowski</i>	<i>Upmark</i>	<i>Gawrys</i>	<i>Nystrom</i>
1♠	Pass	2♠	Pass
4♠	All Pass		

North led the seven of diamonds and declarer won with dummy's ace and played a club to the ten and king. Back came a diamond and declarer ruffed and played the ace of spades followed by the jack to dummy's queen and South's king.

Declarer ruffed the diamond return but could not avoid the loss of a heart and a club, one down, -50.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Sylvan</i>	<i>Kalita</i>	<i>Wrang</i>	<i>Nowosadzki</i>
1♠	Pass	2♠	Pass
4♠	All Pass		

The play followed an identical course for the first six tricks, but then South made a huge mistake by returning the seven of clubs. Declarer won with the ten, cashed the ace, ruffed a club and claimed, +420 and 10 IMPs to Sweden.

Board 29. Dealer North. All Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Klukowski</i>	<i>Upmark</i>	<i>Gawrys</i>	<i>Nystrom</i>
	1♦	Pass	1♥
Pass	2♥	Pass	3♦
Pass	3♥	Pass	4♥
All Pass			

West led the queen of clubs and declarer won with dummy's ace, played a heart to the king and a heart, West taking the ace and exiting with a heart. Declarer won in hand and played a spade to the ten, soon claiming the rest, +680.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Sylvan</i>	<i>Kalita</i>	<i>Wrang</i>	<i>Nowosadzki</i>
	1♦	Pass	1♥
Pass	2♥	Pass	4♦*
Pass	4♠*	Pass	4NT*
Pass	5♠*	Pass	6♥
All Pass			
4♦	Splinter		
4♠	Cue bid		
4NT	RKCB		
5♠	2 keys + the ♥Q		

Here West led the seven of diamonds and declarer won and played the king of hearts, West taking the ace and returning the jack of diamonds. Declarer ruffed, crossed to the nine of hearts, ruffed a diamond, played a club to the ace, ruffed the queen of diamonds, played a spade to the ace and drew the outstanding trump.

When he ran the ten of spades West's queen was the setting trick and Sweden collected another 13 IMPs.

Should declarer's suspicions have been aroused by the diamond lead? When West subsequently turned up with the ace of hearts did it suggest he was looking to make a safe lead that did not risk surrendering a potential trick in a side suit?

Sweden took the set 57-36 to lead 94-85.5.

Set 3

Board 2. Dealer East. NS Vul.

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

	N	
W	S	E

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Klukowski</i>	<i>Warne</i>	<i>Gawrys</i>	<i>Bergdahl</i>
Pass	Dble	2♥*	Pass
All Pass		Pass	3♦*
2♥	6-10 PC, 5+♥ & 5+♣/♦		
3♦	Values		

Doubtless South was planning to bid 3NT over a possible 3♥ by partner, but the opportunity did not arise.

West led the four of diamonds and declarer won with the nine and played a club to the jack and king. A heart to the nine lost to the ten and West continued with the ace of diamonds and a diamond. Declarer won, played a spade to the ten, and then played the nine of spades to West's jack. He took the heart return with the ace, cashed two trumps and played a spade to the queen for nine tricks, +110.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Sylvan</i>	<i>Jassem</i>	<i>Wrang</i>	<i>Mazurkiewicz</i>
2♥*	Dble	2♦*	Pass
All Pass		Pass	3NT
2♦	5-9, 6+major or strong with ♦		
2♥	Relay		

West led the ten of hearts and when East put up the queen declarer ducked. The diamond exit went to the queen and declarer continued with the king and then the jack to West's ace. He won the heart return with the jack, cashed two diamonds, played a spade to the ten and the king of clubs. West took the ace and tried the jack of spades, but declarer won with dummy's queen and cashed two more winners for +600 and 10 IMPs that put Poland ahead by 0.5.

Board 4. Dealer West. All Vul.

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

	N	
W	S	E

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Klukowski</i>	<i>Warne</i>	<i>Gawrys</i>	<i>Bergdahl</i>
1♦*	Pass	2♦	Pass
3♣	Pass	3♠	Pass
3NT	All Pass		
1♦	12-17 PC, 5+♦ (4 when 4441 or 5♣ - 4♦, 11-14 PC)		
2♦	Inverted raise		

North led the king of spades and continued the suit, declarer winning the third round (throwing two hearts from hand) and playing the ace of diamonds and a diamond, +600.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Sylvan</i>	<i>Jassem</i>	<i>Wrang</i>	<i>Mazurkiewicz</i>
1♣	1♠	2♣*	3♠
4♦	Pass	4♠*	Pass
5♣*	Pass	6♦	All Pass
2♣	Transfer to diamonds		
4♠	Cue bid		
5♣	Cue bid		



Michal Klukowski, Poland



Fredrik Nyström, Sweden

Declarer won the king of spades lead with dummy's ace, played a diamond to the king and the jack of diamonds, eventually going up with dummy's ace.

He cashed the king of clubs and then ran the jack, claiming the rest when it lost to North's queen.

13 IMPs for Sweden, who had regained the lead.

Board 9. Dealer North. EW Vul.

♠ A K 6 ♥ A 10 6 2 ♦ A Q 8 6 ♣ 3 2	<table style="border: 1px solid black; width: 80px; height: 80px; 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		♠ 3 ♥ Q 8 5 ♦ 9 7 4 3 ♣ K J 9 7 5	♠ J 9 ♥ J 9 4 ♦ J 10 5 ♣ A Q 8 6 4 ♠ Q 10 8 7 5 4 2 ♥ K 7 3 ♦ K 2 ♣ 10
	N											
W		E										
	S											

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Klukowski</i>	<i>Warne</i>	<i>Gawrys</i>	<i>Bergdahl</i>
3NT	Pass	Pass	3♠
	All Pass		

North led the jack of spades and declarer ducked, won the next spade with the king, pitching a diamond from dummy, cashed the ace of hearts and played a heart to the nine, queen and king. South switched to the king of diamonds and declarer won and played a heart, North winning with the jack and playing the jack of diamonds. When it held he cashed the ace of clubs, one down, +100.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Sylvan</i>	<i>Jassem</i>	<i>Wrang</i>	<i>Mazurkiewicz</i>
3NT	Pass	Pass	3♠
	All Pass		

Here declarer won the second spade and played a club to dummy's jack. A diamond to the queen saw North follow with the jack and declarer played another club, North taking the ace and exiting with the five of diamonds for the four, king and ace. Declarer exited with a diamond and North, endplayed, tried the nine of hearts, which ran to declarer's ten.

After cashing the eight of diamonds declarer played the two of hearts for the queen and king. South returned the seven of hearts, but declarer had a full count and put up the ace, +600 and 12 IMPs to Sweden.

Board 11. Dealer South. None Vul.

♠ A J 3 ♥ 8 ♦ A J 10 9 7 5 ♣ K 10 9	<table style="border: 1px solid black; width: 80px; height: 80px; 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		♠ 10 ♥ A J 6 3 2 ♦ 8 ♣ A J 7 5 4 3 ♠ K 9 7 ♥ K Q 4 ♦ K 6 4 3 2 ♣ Q 8	♠ Q 8 6 5 4 2 ♥ 10 9 7 5 ♦ Q ♣ 6 2
	N											
W		E										
	S											

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Klukowski</i>	<i>Warne</i>	<i>Gawrys</i>	<i>Bergdahl</i>
1♦*	2NT*	Dble*	4♥
Pass	Pass	Dble	All Pass
1♦	12-17 PC, 5+♦ (4 when 4441 or 5♣ - 4♦, 11-14 PC)		
2NT	♥+♣		

West led the eight of hearts and East won with the queen and returned the four of diamonds, West winning with the ace and cashing the ace of spades, on which East played the seven. When West exited with the jack of diamonds declarer ruffed in dummy and pitched a club from hand. He could cross ruff in the black suits, establishing them both, so that when he played a winning club in the four card ending East could only score the king of hearts, one down, -100.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Sylvan</i>	<i>Jassem</i>	<i>Wrang</i>	<i>Mazurkiewicz</i>
1♦	2NT*	3♣*	3♥
4♠*	Pass	5♦	Pass
Pass	Dble	All Pass	
3♣	Good raise in diamonds		
4♠	Cue bid		

If North was hoping South had some values for 3♥ he was quickly disabused. After cashing the ace of hearts, he tried the ace of clubs and a club, but when South could not ruff

declarer could claim, +550 and 10 IMPs.

Board 12. Dealer West. NS Vul.

♠ J 10 8 3 ♥ — ♦ K 8 7 6 3 ♣ 8 6 5 3	<table border="1" style="border-collapse: collapse; width: 80px; height: 80px; 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	♠ Q 7 4 2 ♥ 10 5 2 ♦ 5 ♣ K Q 10 9 4	♠ A 6 ♥ A J 8 7 4 ♦ A 9 2 ♣ A 7 2
N						
W E						
S						
		♠ K 9 5 ♥ K Q 9 6 3 ♦ Q J 10 4 ♣ J				

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Klukowski</i>	<i>Warne</i>	<i>Gawrys</i>	<i>Bergdahl</i>
Pass	Pass	1♥	Pass
1♠	Pass	2NT	Pass
3♣*	Pass	3NT	All Pass

I'm not sure about the precise meaning of 3♣ - it might be some form of checkback.

Even though South led the four of diamonds 3NT was hopeless. When declarer tried ducking a club North won and continued the suit, easily restricting declarer to just six tricks, -150.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Sylvan</i>	<i>Jassem</i>	<i>Wrang</i>	<i>Mazurkiewicz</i>
Pass	Pass	1♥	Pass
Pass	2♣	All Pass	

East led the ace of hearts and when West discarded the three of diamonds he cashed the ace of spades and exited with a spade, declarer winning with dummy's king and playing the jack of clubs. East won, played the jack of hearts for West to ruff, ruffed the ten of spades return, played the eight of hearts for West to ruff, ruffed the spade return and cashed the ace of diamonds for +300 and yet another double digit swing to Sweden, who ended the day well ahead, 154-103.5.

A Delhite joins the Team

By Brent Manley

The Daily Bulletin team is multi-national, with six countries represented: Austria, Belgium, England, France, Italy, the Netherlands and the USA. For this tournament, the group has added a writer from India.

He is T.C. Pant, a bridge player and software expert from New Delhi who has been reporting on the doings of the India players.



T.C. Pant

Pant, 60, is a retired vice president of the software company RO Systems Ltd. Born in Agra, he has lived in New Delhi since 1976. Residents of that city, he says, are known as Delhites.

Pant has visited all the Asian countries in various capacities related to bridge, including manager of the Indian team at the World Bridge Teams Championships in Sao Paulo, Brazil, in 2009. He has also assisted with scoring software for tournaments.

He has also been to WBF tournaments in Maastricht, Monte Carlo and Lille. During his work career, he lived in the Netherlands for six years. Pant plays bridge about twice a week now that he is retired.

Pant is married to another software expert, Sheela. They have two daughters, Bhavana, a biotech engineer, and Swati, who works for HCL Technologies, the primary sponsor of this tournament.

At the tournament in Chennai, Pant has had a great time, especially listening to all the banter in the Daily Bulletin office. Pant has worked hard as a bridge reporter at this tournament, but he usually has a different role. "I'm a technical management guy," he says. India's first bridge world championship has gone well in his view, and he had praise for the organizers and the team that selected the Grand Chola Hotel as the venue: "They have done a good job."

Duplimates



The Duplimate dealing machines that will be taken back to Sweden after the Championships have already been pre-ordered. You can, however, buy a new (not used) Duplimate for Euro 2200 + shipping from Sweden till the end of the Championships. Please email bridge@jannersten.com for details.

When you're hot you're hot (OT F2&3)



USA I v Sweden



By Brent Manley

On the first day of the d'Orsi Senior Trophy match between USA I and Sweden, the Americans charged out to a 59-19 lead in set one and ended play on Thursday with a lead of 109 IMPs. It seemed the Americans could do no wrong.

The opening set was covered in yesterday's edition. Here is one deal from the second set to show how well things were going for USA I.

Segment 2

Board 23. Dealer South. All Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Eliasson	Rosenberg	Ostberg	Zia
			2♦*
2♠	Pass	3NT	All Pass

The board was played 12 times in the Seniors, Bermuda Bowl and Venice Cup. The contract was 3NT six times. Three times, South led a heart, allowing declarer to take 12 tricks rather easily. Zia Mahmood was one of three who started with a club against 3NT, in his case the four.

Johnny Ostberg won the trick with the ace, went to hand with a spade and ran the ♦Q. Michael Rosenberg took the ♦K and returned a low club to Zia's jack. Three more clubs put declarer one down. At the other table:

West	North	East	South
Milner	Bjerregard	Lall	Morath
			Pass
1♠	Pass	2♦	2♥
3♦	Pass	3NT	All Pass

Anders Morath started with the ♥10 and was soon writing minus 690 in his scorecard. It was a 13-IMP loss,

one of several big swings to USA I, who took the second of the three sets 57-12.

There was more bad news for Sweden in the third and final set of the day.

Segment 3

The score was 113-61.3 for USA I when the players sat down for set three. The early results were not encouraging for the Swedes.

Board 2. Dealer East. NS Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Zia	Wenneberg	Rosenberg	Sellden
		2♦*	Pass
2♥	Dbl	Pass	3NT
All Pass			
2♦	Weak two-bid in a major		

Zia started with a sneaky ♥6. Goran Sellden played low when Rosenberg contributed the queen. Declarer's demise started on the heart return. Sellden played the ♥9, losing to Zia's 10. A low diamond was taken by Sellden with the queen and he continued with a spade to dummy's 9. When that held, declarer played a diamond to his jack, which also held, and he continued with a spade to the jack and queen. Zia took the third round of diamonds with the ace and exited with a spade. Declarer played the ♠10 then cashed the ace. Dummy had only the ♣K Q 4 left. Sellden tried a low club from dummy, but Rosenberg played the ♣10 and continued with a club to Zia's jack and dummy's king. Zia took the setting trick with the ♣A.

At the other table:

West	North	East	South
Bjerregard	Hamman	Morath	Lair
		Pass	1♦
Pass	1♠	2♥	Dbl*
Redbl	3♣	Pass	3♦
All Pass			

Sven-Ake Bjerregard led the ♠10 to the queen and ace, and Mark Lair played his singleton club at trick two. Bjerregard took the ♣A and played a spade. Lair cashed dummy's high clubs, pitching spades, and led a heart to Morath's king. Lair ruffed the ♣9 with the ♦Q, West discarding, and continued with the ♦9, ducked. West ruffed the ♥9 with the ♦5 and was overruffed by dummy's 8. There was not much more to the play as Lair was able to claim plus 130 and a 6-IMP swing.

On the next board, Bob Hamman showed his skill as declarer.

Board 3. Dealer South. EW Vul.

♠ 3 ♥ A K 6 5 ♦ A 10 6 5 3 2 ♣ 5 3	<table border="1" style="width: 100%; height: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">N</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">W</td><td style="text-align: center;">E</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td style="text-align: center;">S</td></tr> </table>	N		W	E		S	♠ K 9 7 6 5 2 ♥ J 10 9 3 ♦ K 8 ♣ A	♠ A 4 ♥ Q 2 ♦ Q J 7 4 ♣ Q 9 6 4 2
N									
W	E								
	S								

West	North	East	South
Zia	Wenneberg	Rosenberg	Sellden
Pass	1♥	1♠	Pass
3♣*	3♦	Pass	3♠
Pass	4♦	All Pass	

3♣ Fit-showing jump

Rosenberg cashed the ♣A and continued with the ♥J, taken by declarer in dummy. He played the ♦Q, going up with the ace and claiming 10 tricks when the king did not fall. The play was much more interesting at the other table.

West	North	East	South
Bjerregard	Hamman	Morath	Lair
Pass	1♦	1♠	Pass
3♦	3♥	3♠	5♦
Pass	Pass	Dbl	All Pass

Morath led the ♠7, taken by Hamman in dummy with the ace. He played ♦Q to the ace, then a heart to the queen, followed by a spade ruff, the ♥A, ♥K and a heart ruff. He then exited dummy with a diamond. Morath won with the trump king and could cash his ♣A but then had to play a spade. Hamman ruffed in dummy and discarded his other club for plus 550 and a 9-IMP gain.

As the cards lay, it didn't matter which opponent held the ♦K. If it was West, his choices on winning the trump king would have been to give declarer the ruff-sluff right away or play a club, transferring the task to his partner.

After two boards, USA 1 had scored 15 IMPs to none for

Sweden. It got worse for the Swedes on the next deal.

Board 4. Dealer West. All Vul.

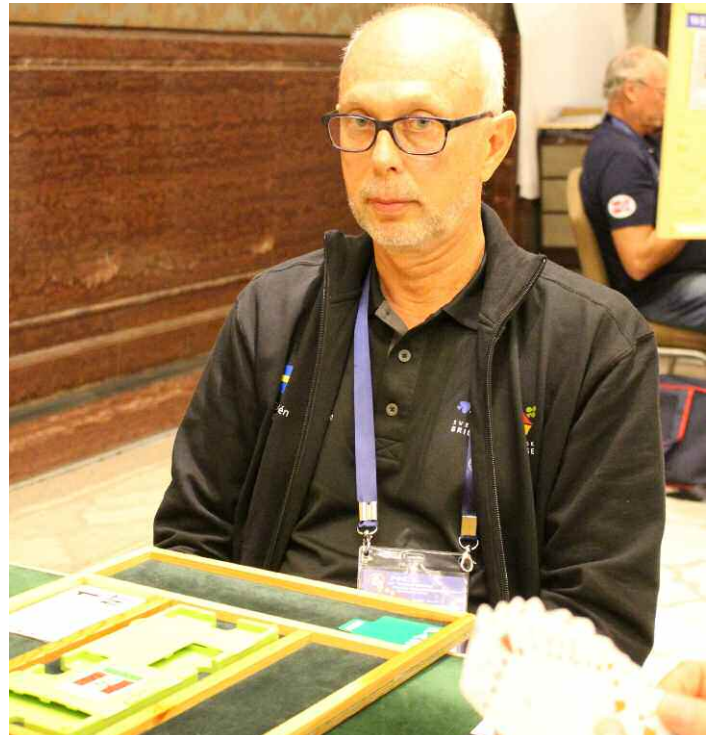
♠ 3 ♥ A 9 8 ♦ K J 9 6 ♣ A 10 7 6 4	<table border="1" style="width: 100%; height: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">N</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">W</td><td style="text-align: center;">E</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td style="text-align: center;">S</td></tr> </table>	N		W	E		S	♠ K Q 10 8 6 ♥ 6 4 3 ♦ 5 4 ♣ Q 8 2	♠ A 7 2 ♥ J 10 2 ♦ A 10 7 3 2 ♣ K J
N									
W	E								
	S								

West	North	East	South
Zia	Wenneberg	Rosenberg	Sellden
1♣	1♠	2♦	3♠
4♣	Pass	4NT	Pass
5♦	Pass	5♥	Pass
5♠	Pass	6♦	All Pass

Sellden led a spade: 3, queen, ace. Rosenberg played a diamond to the king and ran the jack to South's queen. On the heart return, Rosenberg went up with the ace and played a club to his jack. When that held, he played the ♣K, ruffed a spade to dummy and cashed the ♣A. When both opponents followed, Rosenberg could claim 12 tricks for plus 1370.

At the other table, the E/W auction petered out at 5♦. Bjerregard took all 13 tricks, but it was a 12-IMP loss.

USA 1 had scored 27 IMPs to none for Sweden, and that was not the end of the misery.



Goran Sellden, Sweden

Board 5. Declarer North. NS Vul.

	♠ A K 10 8 5 2					
	♥ K Q 9 3 2					
	♦ 7					
	♣ K					
♠ Q 7 4 3	<table border="1" style="width: 100%; height: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <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	♠ 6	
N						
W E						
S						
♥ J 10 4		♥ 8 6				
♦ 10 8 5		♦ A K J 3 2				
♣ Q 7 3		♣ A J 10 9 5				
	♠ J 9					
	♥ A 7 5					
	♦ Q 9 6 4					
	♣ 8 6 4 2					

West	North	East	South
Bjerregard	Hamman	Morath	Lair
	1♠	2NT	Pass
3♣	4♥	All Pass	

2NT 5-5 or better in the minors

Hamman might have contented himself with a free bid of 3♥, but he took the bull by the horns and bid what he thought he could make. Morath cashed his minor-suit aces, continuing with the ♣J, Hamman ruffed, played two rounds of trumps, ending in dummy, and ran the ♠J, then the 9, claiming plus 650 when it held.

West	North	East	South
Zia	Wenneberg	Rosenberg	Sellden
	1♠	2NT	Pass
3♣	3♥	All Pass	

Wenneberg took the same 11 tricks, but the missed game meant another 10 IMPs to USA 1. The score was 37-0 in the third set. Sweden outscored the Americans 19-6 the rest of the way, but the deficit was still imposing with 48 boards to play on Friday. This was one of Sweden's gains.

Board 9. Dealer North. EW Vul.

	♠ J 9					
	♥ J 9 4					
	♦ J 10 5					
	♣ A Q 8 6 4					
♠ A K 6	<table border="1" style="width: 100%; height: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <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	♠ 3	
N						
W E						
S						
♥ A 10 6 2		♥ Q 8 5				
♦ A Q 8 6		♦ 9 7 4 3				
♣ 3 2		♣ K J 9 7 5				
	♠ Q 10 8 7 5 4 2					
	♥ K 7 3					
	♦ K 2					
	♣ 10					

West	North	East	South
Bjerregard	Hamman	Morath	Lair
	Pass	Pass	3♠
3NT	All Pass		

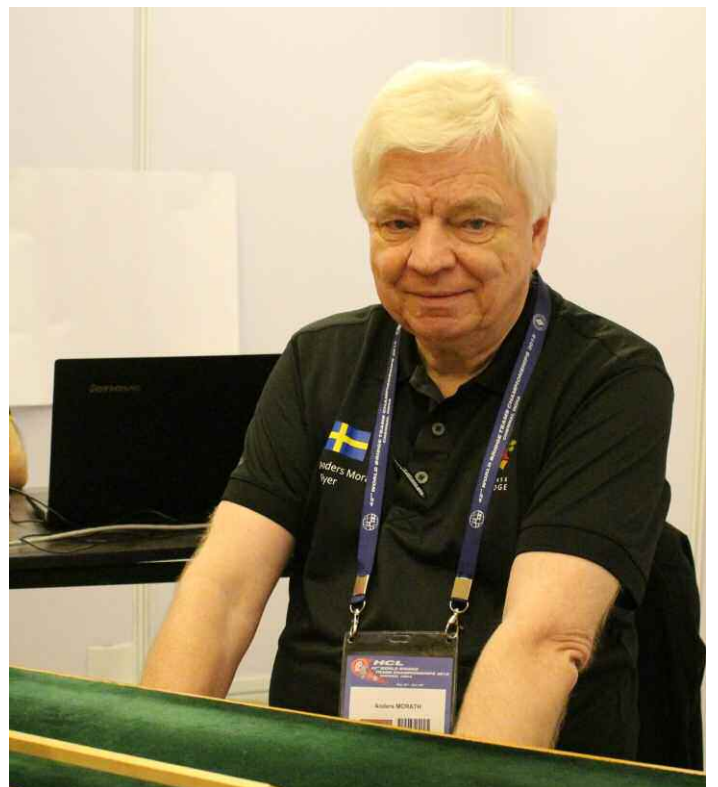
Hamman led the ♠J, which held when Bjerregard played low. The spade continuation went to declarer's king. At trick three, he led a club, putting in the jack when Hamman played low. The ♦7 was run to Hamman's 10, and he cashed the ♣A then exited with the ♦5: 3, king, ace. Bjerregard cashed two more diamonds then played the ♥10, playing low from dummy when Hamman covered with the jack. Hamman got out with a heart, dummy's 8 holding when Lair declined to cover with the king. Bjerregard cashed the ♣K to discard a heart, leaving him with two bare aces, good for the eighth and ninth tricks. That was plus 600 to Sweden.

At the other table, the Swedes judged well in the auction.

West	North	East	South
Zia	Wenneberg	Rosenberg	Sellden
	Pass	Pass	3♠
3NT	4♠	Pass	Pass
Dbl	All Pass		

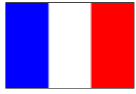
Zia led the ♣3 and Sellden put in the queen. Rosenberg won the ♣K and played the ♦7 to Zia's queen. Sellden won the club exit with the ace and discarded his ♦K. Declarer then ruffed a club with the 7, Zia discarding a diamond, then played a spade to dummy's jack. The ♠9 went to Zia's king and he cashed the ♠A before trying the ♦A. Instead of ruffing, Sellden discarded a heart, and now Zia had to play the ♥A, establishing declarer's king, or play a diamond to dummy's good jack. Either way, it was minus 300 and 7 IMPs to Sweden.

That was the best result of the round for Sweden, who would face a big challenge when the match resumed on Friday. Considering how far behind they were, Sweden had a lot of work to do.



Anders Morath, Sweden

Venice Cup F3



France v USA2



trump then led a diamond to the jack and a second round to the queen and king. she had the rest now for +420 and 11 IMPs to USA2; 72-74.

By Brian Senior

A third of the way through the Venice Cup final, France led USA2 by 74.67-61 IMPs, but the Americans virtually wiped out the deficit on the first board of set three.

Board 1. Dealer North. None Vul.

<p>♠ K Q 7 4 ♥ 7 3 ♦ A J 9 8 4 3 ♣ 7</p>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 40px; height: 40px; margin: 0 auto; background-color: #4CAF50; color: white; display: flex; flex-direction: column; align-items: center; justify-content: center;"> N W E S </div>	<p>♠ 10 9 2 ♥ K Q 10 9 6 5 ♦ - ♣ J 10 5 4</p>	<p>♠ J 8 6 5 ♥ A 2 ♦ Q 5 2 ♣ A Q 3 2</p>
--	--	---	--

West	North	East	South
Deas	Reess	Palmer	Zochowska
-	2♦	2♥	Dble
4♠	All Pass		

West	North	East	South
Cronier	Sokolow	Willard	S-Molson
-	2♦	Pass	3♥
All Pass			

Both Norths opened with a multi.

Willard passed with the East hand, presumably planning to make a take-out double if 2♥ came back to her, but Molson's 3♥ response, pass or correct, convinced her that there would be some spade length on her left so, with a minimum for any action, she was unwilling to bid at that level and the Americans had stolen the contract.

Cronier led her singleton club to the jack and ace. Sokolow played low on the club continuation and Cronier ruffed. The diamond return was ruffed and Sokolow played on trumps and could ruff her third spade in dummy and claim nine tricks for +140.

In the other room, Palmer could act immediately as her methods included a 2♥ overcall as take-out of hearts. Zochowska doubled to show some values but that did not dissuade Deas from jumping to 4♠, ending the auction.

Reess led the queen of hearts, which Deas won with the ace and led a spade. Zochowska rose with the ace of spades, cashed the jack of hearts, and exited with her remaining trump. Deas won and drew the last missing

Board 2. Dealer East. N/S Vul.

<p>♠ K J 7 4 ♥ 10 6 ♦ A 7 5 4 ♣ A J 8</p>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 40px; height: 40px; margin: 0 auto; background-color: #4CAF50; color: white; display: flex; flex-direction: column; align-items: center; justify-content: center;"> N W E S </div>	<p>♠ A Q 10 9 ♥ 7 5 ♦ 8 3 2 ♣ K Q 4 3</p>	<p>♠ 8 2 ♥ K Q 8 4 2 ♦ 6 ♣ 10 9 7 5 2</p>
---	--	---	---

West	North	East	South
Deas	Reess	Palmer	Zochowska
-	-	2♦	Pass
2♥	Dble	Pass	3♥
Pass	4♣	Pass	5♦
Dble	All Pass		

West	North	East	South
Cronier	Sokolow	Willard	S-Molson
-	-	Pass	1♦
Pass	1♠	2♦	Dble
3♣	Dble	All Pass	

Molson opened 1♦ as South and Sokolow responded 1♠. Now Willard cuebid to show at least five-five in the unbid suits and Molson doubled to show good diamonds. When Cronier gave preference to 3♣, Sokolow doubled for penalties and that ended the auction.

Sokolow led the seven of hearts to the king and ace and Molson switched to the king of diamonds. By playing on crossruff lines without touching trumps, Cronier was able to get out for just one down for -100.

Palmer opened the East hand, 2♦ being a multi, and that silenced Zochowska. Deas responded 2♥, pass or correct, and Reess doubled for take-out, pushy, but she did have the right shortage. Zochowska could have passed out the double and collected +300, but she felt that she was too good to settle for a non-vulnerable penalty and instead cuebid 3♥. Had the French pair managed to find their way to 3NT, they would have found that the cards lay so kindly that the combined 22-count would have produced ten tricks. However, when Reess bid 4♣ and Zochowska jumped to 5♦, that attracted a double from Deas.

Deas led the ten of hearts to the queen and ace and Zochowska led her club up. Deas grabbed the ace and

played a second heart to Palmer's king. Declarer was allowed to win the heart continuation as Deas pitched a club, so Zochowska played diamonds, Deas holding up until the third round, then winning and returning a club. Zochowska ruffed that, drew trumps and too the spade finesse so was just one down for -200 and 7 IMPs to USA2, who led by 79-74.

Board 3. Dealer South. E/W Vul.

♠ 3 ♥ A K 6 5 ♦ A 10 6 5 3 2 ♣ 5 3	<table style="margin: auto; border: 1px solid black; background-color: #4CAF50; 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	♠ K 9 7 6 5 2 ♥ J 10 9 3 ♦ K 6 ♣ A	♠ A 4 ♥ Q 2 ♦ Q J 8 4 ♣ Q 9 6 4 2
N						
W E						
S						

West	North	East	South
Deas	Reess	Palmer	Zochowska
-	-	-	Pass
Pass	1♦	1♠	2♠
3♠	5♦	All Pass	

West	North	East	South
Cronier	Sokolow	Willard	S-Molson
-	-	-	1♦
Pass	1♥	1♠	Pass
3♣	5♦	All Pass	

Both N/S pairs bid to the normal contract of 5♦.

Molson won the spade lead and ran the queen of diamonds, losing to the king. Willard made no mistake, cashing the ace of clubs then exiting with a heart, and there was no way to avoid the second club loser; down one for -50.

Reess too received a spade lead. She won and led a diamond to her ace. She had started on the winning line - heart to the queen, ruff a spade, three rounds of hearts, ruffing, then exit with a diamond - and because there is a singleton club honour the defence has to concede a ruff and a discard and the contract. But Reess had been playing a lot of boards with few sessions off and was very tired. She played the second diamond immediately and seemed to have missed her chance. Now Palmer needed to cash the club before exiting and down the contract would go, but she too was tired and instead returned a spade. Now Reess woke up and, after ruffing the spade, eliminated hearts before playing a club and was charmed when Palmer had to give the ruff and discard. The contract was just made for +400 and 10 IMPs to France, who had regained the lead immediately after losing it at 84-79.

Board 5. Dealer North. N/S Vul.

♠ Q 7 4 3 ♥ J 10 4 ♦ 10 8 5 ♣ Q 7 3	<table style="margin: auto; border: 1px solid black; background-color: #4CAF50; 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	♠ 6 ♥ 8 6 ♦ A K J 3 2 ♣ A J 10 9 5	♠ J 9 ♥ A 7 5 ♦ Q 9 6 4 ♣ 8 6 4 2
N						
W E						
S						

West	North	East	South
Deas	Reess	Palmer	Zochowska
-	1♠	2NT	Pass
3♣	4♥	All Pass	

West	North	East	South
Cronier	Sokolow	Willard	S-Molson
-	1♠	2NT	Pass
3♣	3♥	Pass	3♠
All Pass			

Both Easts overcalled the Unusual 2NT to show their minor two-suiter and West gave preference to clubs. Sokolow, as North, now bid 3♥ and Molson, not being sure that this would deliver a five-card suit, gave preference to 3♣, which Sokolow passed. Probably 3♥ should show five, with a hand containing only four hearts being more likely to double for take-out, but this isn't a common auction, so if you haven't discussed it recently...

Willard cashed the ace of diamonds then switched to clubs, cashing the ace and, when the king appeared from declarer, continuing with a second round. Sokolow ruffed, crossed to the ace of hearts and ran the jack then nine of spades so had 11 tricks for +200.

Whether Reess was unsure about 3♥ showing five and wanted to make certain, or simply judged her hand worth a game bid, she jumped to 4♥ over 3♣ and Zochowska passed. Palmer cashed the ace of diamonds and ace of clubs



Tobi Sokolow, USA 2

but then switched to her singleton spade. Reess played the jack, ducked by Deas, drew trumps ending in dummy and led the nine of spades to her ten. She too had 11 tricks but here that was worth +650 and 10 IMPs to France; 94-79.

Board 6. Dealer East. E/W Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Deas	Reess	Palmer	Zochowska
-	-	Pass	1♦
1♠	2♠	Pass	3♦
Pass	5♦	All Pass	

West	North	East	South
Cronier	Sokolow	Willard	S-Molson
-	-	Pass	1♦
2♠	3♦	All Pass	

Deas made a simple overcall and that left room for Reess to cuebid to show a constructive raise to at least 3♦. When Zochowska showed her minimum by rebidding 3♦, Reess raised her to the diamond game. Cronier made a weak jump overcall in the other room and Sokolow bid a quiet 3♦. Molson had no reason to bid on over that so the Americans stopped in partscore.

Though the spade loser went away on the hearts, there were three inescapable losers so Molson chalked up +130 while Zochowska was down one for -50 and 5 IMPs to USA2, closing to 84-94.

Two flat boards followed but then...

Board 9. Dealer North. E/W Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Deas	Reess	Palmer	Zochowska
-	Pass	Pass	3♠
3NT	All Pass		

West	North	East	South
Cronier	Sokolow	Willard	S-Molson
-	Pass	Pass	3♠
3NT	4♠	Dble	All Pass

When South opened 3♠ and West overcalled 3NT, Reess passed the North hand while Sokolow saved in 4♠. I can't say that I like this action very much, but then people soon learn not to raise my pre-empts on a doubleton.

Cronier led a top spade against 4♠ doubled, switching to a club, on which Molson rose with dummy's ace. She passed the jack of diamonds to Cronier's queen and Cronier cashed the aces of diamonds and spades then played a second club. Molson ruffed, drew the missing trump, and played hearts successfully for a trick; down three for -500.

Whether the save was worthwhile would be decided at the other table, where Deas received the lead of the jack of spades against her 3NT contract. Deas ducked but, of course, won the spade continuation. She led a club to the jack followed by the nine of diamonds to the king and ace and a second club up. Reess rose with the ace but was in some difficulty and could see that she would continue to be so unless Zochowska turned up with the right cards. Reess therefore led her low heart, hoping to find her partner with the king-ten-other or ace-ten-other. It was not to be. Deas played low from the dummy and, after some thought, Zochowska put up the king. Deas won the heart and ducked a diamond and had ten tricks for +630 and 4 IMPs to USA2; 88-94.

Board 11. Dealer South. None Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Deas	Reess	Palmer	Zochowska
-	-	-	Pass
1♦	2NT	3♣	4♥
5♣	5♥	Dble	All Pass

West	North	East	South
Cronier	Sokolow	Willard	S-Molson
–	–	–	Pass
1♦	2NT	3♣	4♥
5♦	All Pass		

Both Wests opened 1♦, though Deas was playing Precision so did not promise genuine diamonds, and both Norths showed a heart/club two-suiter. East cuebid to show a good diamond raise and West therefore bid 5♦ over South's jump to 4♥. Now Sokolow took the push to 5♥ because of her eleventh card in the two suits, and was doubled, while Reess passed because her suits were poor and she had two aces on defence to 5♦.

As the cards lay there was nothing to the play in 5♦ and Cronier soon claimed 11 tricks for +400. The direction of the swing would be decided by the size of the penalty in the other room.

Deas cashed the ace of diamonds against 5♥ doubled, then switched to her trump, ducked to the queen. Palmer switched to a spade, Deas putting in the jack and pushing a club through. When her ten held the trick, she continued with the nine. Reess won the ace, cashed the ace of hearts and ruffed a club. That was down three for –500 and 3 IMPs to USA2; 91-94.

Board 12. Dealer West. N/S Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Deas	Reess	Palmer	Zochowska
Pass	Pass	1♣	1♥
Pass	3♣	Pass	3♥
All Pass			

West	North	East	South
Cronier	Sokolow	Willard	S-Molson
Pass	Pass	1♥	Pass
1♠	Pass	2NT	All Pass

Willard opened 1♥ as East as she judged her hand a little too strong for a 15-17 no trump. Cronier responded in hope of finding a better spot but 2NT was not really what she had in mind.

Molson led the queen of diamonds. Willard won the ace and returned the nine but Molson correctly played low to hold declarer to three diamond tricks. Willard ducked a

club at trick three, hoping for a helpful return from the defence. This was not the club layout she was hoping for as Sokolow could overtake her partner's bare jack and continue clubs, establishing four winners in the suit for the defence. Willard won the club return and saw the bad break. She cashed the king of diamonds then exited with a diamond to Molson, who played the king of spades to try to force an entry in her partner's hand. When Willard won the ace and returned a spade that worked out very nicely for the defence. Sokolow won the spade and cashed three clubs before playing a heart so Willard made only the heart ace and was down two for –100.

Palmer opened a strong club as East and must have been glad to be playing an artificial method when she saw a natural 1♥ overcall on her left and fit-jump, showing clubs and hearts, on her right. She, of course, kept very quiet and was more than happy to defend 3♥.

Deas led the jack of spades. Palmer won the ace and continued with the six to declarer's king. Zochowska overtook the jack of clubs with the queen so Palmer won her ace and played ace then nine of diamonds to the ten, king and ruff. Declarer threw her spade away on the club king then led a heart to the nine – a sort of good news, bad news play, as the jack proved to be onside but the suit split five to zero. Zochowska ruffed a winning diamond to get back to dummy then threw the last diamond on the ten of clubs. With four tricks to play and the lead in dummy the timing was right for her to make both heart honours so the contract was just one down for –100 and 5 IMPs to USA2.

The third set and first day's play ended with France ahead but by less than an IMP, at 96.67-96. There really would be all to play for on the following day, when a further 48 boards would decide who would be the 2015 Venice Cup champions.

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River of no Return (BB F4)



Poland v Sweden



By Mark Horton

Poland went into the fourth set of the match with a lot to do, but with 80 deals still to play they might have kept in mind the old Polish proverb, 'Do not push the river it will flow by itself.'

On the other hand to stay in the match they would surely have to prevent any further IMPs from flowing their opponent's way.

Board 18. Dealer East. NS Vul.

♠ J 4 2 ♥ A 3 ♦ 10 8 5 ♣ K J 9 4 3	<table style="margin: auto; border: 1px solid black; background-color: #4f81bd; 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	♠ K 10 6 3 ♥ 7 6 2 ♦ 9 6 4 ♣ A 10 7	♠ Q 8 5 ♥ K J 10 9 8 4 ♦ — ♣ Q 8 5 2
N						
W E						
S						
	♠ A 9 7 ♥ Q 5 ♦ A K Q J 7 3 2 ♣ 6					

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Jassem</i>	<i>Warne</i>	<i>Mazurkiewicz</i>	<i>Bergdahl</i>
		2♦*	Dble
3♥*	Pass	Pass	4♦
Pass	5♦	All Pass	
2♦	weak multi, 4-9 non vul, 6-11 vul		
3♥	Pass or correct		

The defenders started with three rounds of hearts and declarer ruffed high and played all his remaining trumps. Alas, there was no squeeze, one down, -100.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Sylvan</i>	<i>Kalita</i>	<i>Wrang</i>	<i>Nowosadzki</i>
		2♦*	3NT
All Pass			

South's practical overcall left West to find a lead.

Given there was a good chance the overcall was in part based on a long diamond suit you could make a case for West to start with the ace of hearts but he opted for the two of spades and when East put in the eight declarer wrapped up twelve tricks and 13 IMPs.

Board 19. Dealer South. EW Vul.

♠ Q J 7 ♥ Q 7 ♦ A K Q 8 5 3 2 ♣ 9	<table style="margin: auto; border: 1px solid black; background-color: #4f81bd; 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	♠ — ♥ K 9 8 6 5 ♦ J 10 6 ♣ A J 8 6 4	♠ 10 9 4 3 2 ♥ J 3 ♦ 9 7 ♣ Q 7 5 3
N						
W E						
S						
		♠ A K 8 6 5 ♥ A 10 4 2 ♦ 4 ♣ K 10 2				

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Jassem</i>	<i>Warne</i>	<i>Mazurkiewicz</i>	<i>Bergdahl</i>
			1♠
2♦	4♠	5♦	Dble
All Pass			

North led the ten of spades and declarer ruffed in dummy and played a heart. South went in with the ace to play a trump and declarer won in dummy, played a heart to the queen, ruffed a spade, ruffed a heart and claimed twelve tricks, +950.

Could Sweden find a way to the unbeatable slam?

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Sylvan</i>	<i>Kalita</i>	<i>Wrang</i>	<i>Nowosadzki</i>
			1♠
Dble	4♠	5♦	5♠
Pass	Pass	Dble	All Pass



Michal Nowosadzki, Poland


I don't believe this auction, but the Poles were assured of a good result.

West led the king of diamonds, East following with the jack, and switched to the queen of spades, declarer winning as East pitched the four of clubs.

The two of hearts was taken by West's queen and he switched to the nine of clubs, East taking the ace and giving West a ruff for two down, -300 and 12 IMPs to Poland.

Had West started with his singleton club 500 would have been theoretically possible, which would have saved a couple of IMPs.

Board 20. Dealer West. All Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Jassem</i>	<i>Warne</i>	<i>Mazurkiewicz</i>	<i>Bergdahl</i>
1♦	Pass	1♥	Pass
2♥	Pass	4♥	All Pass

South led the nine of diamonds and declarer won with dummy's ace and played the queen of hearts, North taking the ace and South following with the three.


Imagining that South would be able to ruff, North continued with the ten of diamonds and the grateful declarer won with the jack, drew trumps and claimed, +620 - a massive result.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Sylvan</i>	<i>Kalita</i>	<i>Wrang</i>	<i>Nowosadzki</i>
1♦	Pass	1♥	Pass
3♥	Pass	4♥	All Pass

South led the eight of clubs and declarer won with the ace and played a heart to the queen and ace. North cashed the ace of spades and continued the suit, scoring a ruff on the third round and exiting with a trump. The eventual diamond trick meant the contract was two down, -200 and 13 IMPs to Poland, who had picked up 35 IMPs on three consecutive deals.

Board 28. Dealer West. NS Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Jassem</i>	<i>Warne</i>	<i>Mazurkiewicz</i>	<i>Bergdahl</i>
1♥	2NT*	4♥	Pass
Pass	Dble	Pass	4NT*
Dble	Pass	Pass	Rdbl*
Pass	5♦	Pass	Pass
Dble	All Pass		
	2NT Minors		
	4NT Take out		

South resisted the temptation to defend 4♥ doubled. If East had led his partner's suit declarer would have been able to pitch the king of spades on the ace of hearts and then take the diamond finesse and land his contract, but East started with the ace of spades and then switched to the nine of clubs, leaving declarer with no chance. He took West's queen with the ace and played two rounds of diamonds, one down, -200.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Sylvan</i>	<i>Kalita</i>	<i>Wrang</i>	<i>Nowosadzki</i>
1♥	2NT*	4♥	Pass
Pass	Dble	All Pass	

North led the ace of clubs and switched to the king of spades. Declarer won with dummy's ace and came to hand with the jack of spades. Dummy's diamonds went on the top clubs and declarer ruffed a diamond. Playing spades now should lead to an overtrick - there are some pretty lines where declarer ruffs a spade with the ten of hearts, ruffs a diamond and plays the eight of hearts, holding South to just one trump trick, but declarer played a heart and South took the ace and returned a diamond forcing dummy to ruff.

The timing was wrong now, so South was sure to score the queen of hearts. Still +590 and 9 badly needed IMPs to Sweden.

However, Poland had picked up a few bits and pieces and at the end of the set the score was 165.5-164 in favour of Poland.



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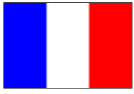
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Venice Cup Final I



France v USA2



By Brian Senior

France began the 96-board Venice Cup final with a tiny 1.67 IMP carry-over in their favour (I will drop the .67 for convenience in the running score). That lead survived the first deal but not the second.

Board 2. Dealer East. N/S Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Deas	Cronier	Palmer	Willard
–	–	Pass	1♠
Pass	2♥	Pass	2♠
Pass	2NT	Pass	4♥
All Pass			

West	North	East	South
Reess	Chambers	Zochowska	Glasson
–	–	Pass	1♠
Pass	2♥	Pass	3♥
Pass	4♥	All Pass	

For USA2, Beth Palmer led the jack of clubs. Benedicte Cronier won the ace and cashed the queen, led a heart to the ace, then ruffed her low club and led a heart to the jack. After cashing the heart king, on which Palmer discarded a low spade, Cronier also cashed the king of clubs, on which she pitched a second low spade. Cronier played a spade next and Palmer hopped up with the king to lead a low diamond through dummy's king-jack. Cronier misguessed, calling for the jack, and was down one for 50.

For France, Joanna Zochowska also led the jack of clubs. Play followed almost identical lines, though Juanita Chambers took a first-round heart finesse. Zochowska's two discards were one spade and one diamond. When she went in with the spade king and returned a low diamond, Chambers got it right, putting up the king and making her

contract for +420 and 10 IMPs to USA2.

France gained 6 IMPs on Board 4 when their E/W pair stopped out of a thin and doomed game bid by the Americans, but the score had moved on to 18-7 in favour of USA2 when this next deal arrived on the table.

Board 7. Dealer South. All Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Deas	Cronier	Palmer	Willard
–	–	–	1♣
Pass	1♥	1♠	Dble
2♥	4♥	4♠	Pass
Pass	5♥	All Pass	

West	North	East	South
Reess	Chambers	Zochowska	Glasson
–	–	–	1♣
Pass	1♥	1♠	Dble
2♠	4♥	4♠	All Pass

For USA2, Joann Glasson opened 1♣ then made a support double, and Chambers bid the heart game but then left her opponents to play in 4♠. Glasson led a trump. Zochowska won in hand and played the ten of clubs, won by Chambers' queen. She played back the three of hearts, Glasson winning the queen and playing a second trump. A club ruff, bringing down the king, was followed by a diamond to the queen then the jack of clubs, pitching a heart from hand and losing to the ace. Glasson cashed the ace of diamonds and that was down one for -100.

Sylvie Willard also opened 1♣ then made a support double. Lynn Deas made the more encouraging cuebid raise as West but otherwise the auction was essentially the same as in the other room up to the point where Cronier took the push to 5♥, where she played. Palmer led the ace of spades and continued with the queen, which Cronier ruffed. She could have made her contract now by the simple expedient of drawing trumps and taking the double diamond finesse, the fourth diamond going away on the ace of clubs if need be. But she had an elimination play in mind

and attempted to cash the king and queen of clubs without touching trumps, and that was an embarrassing one down in what would have been a cold contract for a lesser player. Cronier was one down for another -100 and 5 IMPs to USA2, who led by 23-7.

Board 8. Dealer West. None Vul.

♠ A Q 8 5 4 3 2 ♥ 3 ♦ K Q J ♣ 9 3	<table border="1" style="border-collapse: collapse; width: 60px; height: 60px; 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		♠ K 9 ♥ A K J 9 5 4 2 ♦ 10 7 ♣ 6 2
N											
W	E										
	S										
	♠ J 6 ♥ - ♦ A 9 6 5 4 3 2 ♣ A K 8 5										

West	North	East	South
Deas	Cronier	Palmer	Willard
1♠	Pass	2♥	3♦
3♠	Pass	4♠	Dble
All Pass			

West	North	East	South
Reess	Chambers	Zochowska	Glasson
1♠	Pass	2♥	3♦
3♠	Pass	4♥	All Pass

When the respective West players rebid 3♠, Palmer raised to 4♠ while Zochowska preferred to repeat her own suit. Four Spades, in which the missing trumps divided two-two, was doubled, while 4♥, in which the missing trumps split five-zero was not.

Glasson led the ace of clubs against 4♥ and Chambers dropped the queen, promising the jack, so Glasson



Bénédicte Cronier, France



Lynn Deas, USA 2

continued with a low club. Chambers won and switched to her diamond. Glasson won the ace and returned a diamond for Chambers to ruff. Zochowska ruffed the club return, crossed to the ace of spades and led a heart to the jack. The finesse was successful but there was still a trump to be lost, so the contract was down two for -100.

Cronier led the eight of hearts against 4♠ doubled. Willard ruffed and cashed the king of clubs to get a count signal then continued with the club ace and ace and another diamond. Cronier ruffed the diamond and that was two down for -300 and 5 IMPs to France; 12-23.

Board 9. Dealer North. E/W Vul.

♠ K J 9 4 ♥ J 9 3 ♦ A K 10 ♣ 6 4 2	<table border="1" style="border-collapse: collapse; width: 60px; height: 60px; 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		♠ A 2 ♥ 8 5 2 ♦ 6 4 2 ♣ J 10 9 7 5
N											
W	E										
	S										
	♠ Q 6 ♥ A 10 4 ♦ J 9 5 ♣ A K Q 8 3	♠ 10 8 7 5 3 ♥ K Q 7 6 ♦ Q 8 7 3 ♣ -									

West	North	East	South
Deas	Cronier	Palmer	Willard
-	Pass	Pass	INT
All Pass			

West	North	East	South
Reess	Chambers	Zochowska	Glasson
-	Pass	Pass	INT
Pass	Pass	2♣	Dble
2♠	3♣	Pass	Pass
3♠	All Pass		

Both Souths opened with a strong no trump. Willard was left to play there, while at the other table Zochowska overcalled 2♣ in fourth seat to show the majors. Glasson doubled to show clubs and that enabled Chambers to compete over Reess's 2♠. However, Reess was willing to be pushed up a level and the dummy in 3♠ proved to be highly suitable.

Chambers led the jack of clubs against 3♠, ruffed in dummy. Reess led a spade to the nine and when that forced the ace she had no difficulty in coming to 11 tricks for +200.

Deas led her fourth-best spade against 1NT and than ran to declarer's queen. Willard cashed out for plus one and +120 was worth 8 IMPs to France; 20-23.

Board 12. Dealer West. N/S Vul.

♠ A 8 7 ♥ 10 6 ♦ 9 8 3 ♣ A K Q 6 4	<table style="margin: auto; border: 1px solid black; background-color: #4CAF50; 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	♠ Q 6 ♥ Q 8 3 ♦ A K Q J 5 2 ♣ J 5	♠ J 4 3 ♥ A K 9 5 2 ♦ 10 7 ♣ 8 7 2
N						
W E						
S						
♠ K 10 9 5 2 ♥ J 7 4 ♦ 6 4 ♣ 10 9 3						

West	North	East	South
Deas	Cronier	Palmer	Willard
1NT	Pass	3♣	Pass
3♦	Pass	3NT	All Pass

West	North	East	South
Reess	Chambers	Zochowska	Glasson
1♣	1♥	2♦	Pass
3♦	Pass	3NT	All Pass

Deas opened 1NT, 14-16, and Palmer responded 3♣, puppet Stayman. When Deas denied a five-card major, Palmer closed proceedings with a bid of 3NT. Cronier led the five of hearts and, of course, Deas made the normal percentage play of a low card from the dummy. The defence took the first five tricks for down one and -50.

Reess opened 1♣ and Chambers overcalled 1♥. Zochowska showed her diamonds and, on collecting a raise from Reess, bid 3NT. Played from the East hand and on this auction the contract had much better chances for success. Glasson led the four of hearts and Chambers ducked completely, allowing declarer to win the first trick, hoping that her partner would get in in time with a diamond to defeat the contract. Zochowska cashed the clubs then the diamonds and had all 13 tricks for +520 and 11 IMPs to France, who had the lead at 31-23.

Board 14. Dealer East. None Vul.

♠ K 8 6 ♥ 7 4 ♦ J 9 ♣ J 8 6 4 3 2	<table style="margin: auto; border: 1px solid black; background-color: #4CAF50; 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	♠ A Q J 10 3 2 ♥ 5 3 2 ♦ Q 8 5 ♣ 7	♠ 9 7 5 4 ♥ K Q 10 ♦ A K 4 3 2 ♣ Q
N						
W E						
S						
			♠ - ♥ A J 9 8 6 ♦ 10 7 6 ♣ A K 10 9 5			

West	North	East	South
Deas	Cronier	Palmer	Willard
-	-	2♠	4♣
4♠	4NT	Pass	5♣
Pass	5♥	Pass	6♥
All Pass			

West	North	East	South
Reess	Chambers	Zochowska	Glasson
-	-	2♦	3♥
3♠	4♦	4♠	5♣
Pass	5♥	Pass	6♥
All Pass			

Both N/S pairs did well to get to the good heart slam in the face of pre-emption from their opponents.

Palmer opened a natural weak two bid so Willard could make an aggressive Leaping Michaels 4♣ overcall, hearts and clubs and Cronier checked on key cards then drove to slam. I am guessing that with no suit agreed facing a two-suiter, responder shows her key cards out of six, both kings being counted, but I could be wrong. Anyway, Cronier signed off in 5♥ over the 5♣ response but Willard, presumably because of the spade void, went on to slam.

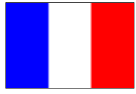
Zochowska opened a multi 2♦ and Glasson overcalled 3♥. According to their system notes 3♥ should be an intermediate jump overcall with six or more hearts, making it an interesting choice with the actual hand. When Chambers admitted to heart support Glasson raised to the small slam.

Reess led a spade, which Glasson ruffed. She led a club to the queen then played three rounds of diamonds, a questionable line of play. Reess ruffed her partner's winning diamond to lead a club and, when declarer discarded a spade from dummy, Zochowska could ruff and the slam was down one for -50.

Palmer led the ace of spades, which Cronier ruffed. She cashed the queen of clubs and led the ten of hearts to dummy's jack then ruffed a club, getting the bad news in that suit. She continued by drawing trumps and playing a diamond to the ace, then ducking a diamond, and the three-two break meant that she had 12 tricks for +980 and 14 IMPs to France.

After 16 boards, France led by 45.7-23.

Venice Cup Final S2



France v USA2



By Brian Senior

France led the Venice Cup final by 45.67-23 (we'll drop the .67 in the running score during the set) after 16 deals, but the Americans reduced their deficit on the first board of set two when they bid and made a heart game that was missed in the other room. The decision was what to bid with this hand when partner makes a Michaels Cuebid to show both majors after a 1♣ opening on your left. You hold, nobody vulnerable:

♠ 10 2
 ♥ J 7 5 2
 ♦ J 9
 ♣ A K 10 9 4

Juanita Chambers jumped to 4♥, Benedicte Cronier to only 3♥, and found that ten tricks were available. Two boards later, it was France's turn to pick up a medium-sized swing.

Board 19. Dealer South. E/W Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Sokolow	Cronier	S-Molson	Willard
-	-	-	Pass
3♦	3♥	All Pass	

West	North	East	South
Reess	Chambers	Zochowska	Glasson
-	-	-	Pass
3♦	3♥	Dble	All Pass

Both Wests opened a classic pre-empt and both Norths overcalled. For France, Joanna Zochowska doubled 3♥, while USA2's Janice Seamon-Molson did not.

Molson led the king of clubs then switched to her singleton diamond, Benedicte Cronier taking a spade

discard on the ace. Cronier ducked a club to the nine and Molson returned a low heart for the queen and king. Cronier ducked another club to the ten and Molson returned a spade to dummy's ace. Cronier ruffed a spade to get to hand and conceded a fourth club trick. Molson forced her with a spade and declarer was unable to draw trumps and cash the winning club as she would run out of trumps in the process so Molson came to three trump tricks for down three and -150.

Zochowska led the ace of clubs and switched to the king of spades to dummy's ace. Chambers ducked a club to the nine, so Zochowska made the same low heart play as we saw at the other table. Chambers won the heart and returned the jack, won the spade return and continued with the nine of hearts. Zochowska won the ten and got off play with her last trump but here declarer could not be forced so had an extra side-suit trick for down two and -300; 4 IMPs to France, who led by 49-29.

Board 20. Dealer West. All Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Sokolow	Cronier	S-Molson	Willard
1♥	Pass	2♣	Pass
2♠	Pass	3♥	Pass
4♦	Pass	4♠	Pass
6♥	All Pass		

West	North	East	South
Reess	Chambers	Zochowska	Glasson
1♥	Pass	2♣	Pass
2♦	Pass	3♦	Pass
3♥	Pass	4♥	Pass
5♦	All Pass		

I suppose you would like to play this one in 6♦. In practice, one E/W got to diamonds, the other to the six level, but neither to the optimum spot. The French pair got to diamonds because Reess chose to rebid 2♦, while diamonds were only bid as a cuebid after Tobi Sokolow's 2♠ rebid.

Chambers led a spade against 5♦. Glasson won the ace and switched to a trump but, with the spade king established and her communications opened up, Reess had no trouble in taking the spade ruff she required to bring her total to 12 for +620.

Cronier led the ten of clubs against 6♥. Sokolow won the ace, pitching a spade from hand, and led the ten of spades off the table. Willard won the ace and returned a diamond. Sokolow won in hand, ruffed her low spade and drew trumps; 12 tricks for +1430 and 13 IMPs to USA2, who closed to 42-49.

Board 22. Dealer East. E/W Vul.

♠ J 8 7 5 4 3 2 ♥ 5 2 ♦ 9 8 ♣ 8 5	♠ A Q 9 ♥ K 3 ♦ 6 2 ♣ K J 10 9 6 4 <div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 40px; height: 40px; margin: 5px auto; background-color: #4F81BD; color: white; display: flex; flex-direction: column; align-items: center; justify-content: center;"> N W E S </div> ♠ K 6 ♥ Q J 4 ♦ A K J 10 7 3 ♣ A 7	♠ 10 ♥ A 10 9 8 7 6 ♦ Q 5 4 ♣ Q 3 2	
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West	North	East	South
Sokolow	Cronier	S-Molson	Willard
–	–	1♦	1♥
Pass	2♣	2NT	3♣
3♠	4♣	All Pass	

West	North	East	South
Reess	Chambers	Zochowska	Glasson
–	–	2NT	Pass
3♥	Pass	3NT	Pass
4♥	Pass	4♠	All Pass

Molson opened 1♦ and rebid 2NT. Though Sokolow competed with 3♠ over Willard's 3♣, Molson had only a doubleton spade and had no reason to bid on over Cronier's 4♣. Molson led three rounds of diamonds against 4♣, dummy's queen being ruffed and over-ruffed. Cronier played the king of clubs, Molson winning the ace and exiting with her remaining club. Cronier won in hand and ruffed out the hearts and had the rest for +130.

Zochowska opened a slightly off-centre 2NT with the East cards and that led to a totally different auction. Reess transferred to spades and Zochowska rebid 3NT to deny three spades. Reess, of course, converted to 4♠ via a retransfer. The unrevealing auction saw Glasson make the disastrous lead of the four of diamonds, dummy's eight winning the trick. Zochowska led a spade to her king the played ace and king of diamonds, discarding a heart loser from the dummy. Chambers ruffed and cashed the ace of spades then led her low heart to Glasson's ace. But that was all for the defence as declarer's club loser went away

on the diamonds for a tremendous +620 and 13 IMPs to France. The French lead was back up to 62-42.

Had Chambers risen with the ace at the second trick and cashed the defensive heart winners, her queen of spades would have been the setting trick, but that was far from obvious.

France increased their lead to 67-42 but then USA2 struck back.

Board 26. Dealer East. All Vul.

♠ Q ♥ A K Q J 9 6 ♦ K Q J ♣ A 9 4	♠ K J 10 8 7 ♥ 10 8 ♦ 9 ♣ 10 7 6 5 2 <div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 40px; height: 40px; margin: 5px auto; background-color: #4F81BD; color: white; display: flex; flex-direction: column; align-items: center; justify-content: center;"> N W E S </div> ♠ A 9 6 4 ♥ 5 4 ♦ A 10 8 7 6 3 ♣ 3	♠ 5 3 2 ♥ 7 3 2 ♦ 5 4 2 ♣ K Q J 8	
--	---	--	--

West	North	East	South
Sokolow	Cronier	S-Molson	Willard
–	–	Pass	Pass
2♣	Pass	2♦	Dble
2♥	Pass	2♠	Pass
3♣	Pass	3♥	Pass
4♥	All Pass		

West	North	East	South
Reess	Chambers	Zochowska	Glasson
–	–	Pass	Pass
2♣	Pass	2♦	Dble
2NT	Pass	3NT	All Pass

Sokolow/Molson had a Kokish auction in which the 2♥ rebid was two-way and 3♣ showed a heart single-suiter (3♠ would have shown hearts and clubs). When Molson admitted to some heart support Sokolow, looking at a minimum 2♣ opener, simply raised herself to game. Cronier led her singleton diamond. Willard won the ace and returned the ten. Cronier ruffed and needed only to play a low spade to collect a second ruff to defeat the contract – but she instead played the king of spades and Willard failed to overtake. When Sokolow could ruff the second spade she had dodged a bullet and had ten tricks for +620.

Reess opened a strong and artificial 2♣ and chose to rebid 2NT, supposedly 21-22 balanced, over the double of the fewer-than-two-controls 2♦ response. Zochowska raised to 3NT and Chambers led her diamond in response to the double. Glasson won the ace and switched to a low spade and the defence cashed six of those for down two and –200; 13 IMPs to USA2, 55-67.

Board 28. Dealer West. N/S Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Sokolow	Cronier	S-Molson	Willard
1♠	2♥	2♠	Dble
4♣	Pass	Pass	Dble
All Pass			

West	North	East	South
Reess	Chambers	Zochowska	Glasson
1♠	Pass	2♠	3♦
4♣	5♦	Dble	All Pass

Cronier overcalled 2♥ and that encouraged Willard to double 2♠ for take-out then 4♣ to show extra values, which she certainly had. Cronier had no interest in playing anything at the five level and passed in hope that her partner would turn up with sufficient to beat 4♣. She led the eight of diamonds. Sokolow won dummy's ace and led a spade to the jack followed by the ace of spades and, when the king fell, continued with the ten of clubs from hand. Cronier won the bare king and played a diamond, so Sokolow ruffed and crossed to the queen of spades to lead a club to her jack. The four-one trump split meant that she had to lose a club and there was also a heart to lose so only ten tricks for +590.

Chambers did not overcall but Glasson did, and now Chambers had a clear 5♦ bid over 4♣. Zochowska doubled that and Reess led her singleton heart, ducked to declarer's seven. Glasson led the queen of diamonds from hand and Zochowska won her ace to lead a low spade. Reess won two spades and the ace of clubs then played a second club. Glasson ruffed in the dummy and led a diamond to her ten and had nine tricks for -500 but +3 IMPs for USA2; 58-68.

Board 30. Dealer East. None Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Sokolow	Cronier	S-Molson	Willard
-	-	1♦	1♥
Pass	1♠	Pass	2♠
All Pass			

West	North	East	South
Reess	Chambers	Zochowska	Glasson
-	-	1♦	1♥
Dble	INT	2♣	All Pass

When South overcalled 1♥, Reess made a negative double while Sokolow did not. Where her right-hand-opponents had implied four spades, Chambers responded INT on the North cards and Zochowska bid 2♣ as East and played there. Where West had not shown spades, Cronier responded 1♠ on the decent four-card suit to her partner's overcall and was raised to 2♠, where she played.

Glasson led the king of hearts against 2♣. Zochowska won the ace, cashed the ace of diamonds and ruffed a low heart then a low diamond. A second heart ruff was followed by the queen of diamonds, ruffed in dummy. Zochowska ruffed a third heart in hand and led another diamond. Glasson ruffed in with the king and returned her remaining trump to hold declarer to nine tricks for +110.

Molson led the queen of diamonds against 2♠. Sokolow won the ace and switched to the jack of clubs. Molson won the ace and switched to her heart in search of a ruff, but Sokolow failed to read the position when Cronier followed with the seven, perhaps imagining that her partner would have started with a heart had it been a singleton. She switched back to clubs, so Cronier won the king, crossed to hand with a top spade and ruffed her last club. Next she played king and another spade and, after taking two spade tricks, Sokolow had to lead to dummy's hearts and Cronier had the rest for +110. A defensive crossruff would have defeated the contract by at least a trick.

France gained 6 IMPs on the deal and ended the second set in the lead by 74.67-61.

The Transnational Qualifier

By Patrick Jourdain (Wales)

Round 12 of the Transnational Qualifier contained an amazing five potential slam deals with two of considerable interest and one worth a mention.

Consider Board 23 for both bidding and play. These were the East-West cards:

Dealer South. Both Vul

♠ Q J 10 8 4	<div style="background-color: #4CAF50; color: white; padding: 10px; width: 60px; margin: 0 auto;"> N W E S </div>	♠ A K 3 2
♥ A J 9 7 6		♥ Q 10 8 3
♦ Q J 10		♦ A 5
♣ —		♣ Q 6 2

West	North	East	South
Lewis		Jourdain	
			Pass
1♠	2♣	3♣*	3♦
3♥	Pass	4♦*	5♣
5♥	Pass	6♥	All Pass
3♣	Raise to at least 3♠		
4♦	Cuebid		

Despite having agreed spades initially I offered hearts as trumps for the slam as it was clear the diamond loser could go on the fifth spade. If partner had four good hearts that suit might provide an extra trick. Even with 5-5 hearts did prove a better spot than spades.

Superficially the slam is on one of two finesses but South's 3♦ bid suggests that finesse is losing. However, when North led a top club declarer Marshall Lewis realised the slam was virtually cold by using a dummy reversal.

He ruffed the club with the jack of hearts and led the six at trick two. Dummy has the entries to ruff all three clubs, draw trumps, and later discard the diamond on the fifth spade.

It was a shock when North showed out on the first trump. Suddenly dummy's trumps didn't look quite good enough and Lewis was forced to play low. South might have held up but actually won the king and played a second trump.

Lewis was back in business. He won in dummy, and ruffed the second club. Dummy's two aces should provide the two entries to ruff the third club and draw trumps. But when he tried to cross to the ace of spades South ruffed and led a third trump. The "solid" slam was two down with the 4-0 breaks in both majors.

These were the North-South cards:

♠ 9 7 6 5	<div style="background-color: #4CAF50; color: white; padding: 10px; width: 60px; margin: 0 auto;"> N W E S </div>	♠ —
♥ —		♥ K 5 4 2
♦ 8 7 3		♦ K 9 6 4 2
♣ A K J 10 9 7		♣ 8 5 4 3

Note South's lead-directional 3♦ bid. However, had North led a diamond, the slam is easy. Declarer can happily draw trumps using the finesse and set up diamonds for 12 tricks.

The same applies if you choose Six Spades. It is easy on a diamond lead and impossible on the forcing top club lead.

(If West is in 6♠ he can ruff a club lead and lay down the ♠Q. He crosses to dummy with a spade, ruffs a club, cashes the ♠J, crosses to the ♦A, draws the outstanding trump and runs the queen of hearts for twelve tricks. Editors.)

Three boards later I faced a poorer prospect of Six Hearts as East on these cards:

♠ K 5 3	<div style="background-color: #4CAF50; color: white; padding: 10px; width: 60px; margin: 0 auto;"> N W E S </div>	♠ A J 8
♥ A 8 7 6 5 4		♥ K Q J
♦ A 10 4		♦ Q 9 6 3
♣ Q		♣ A 10 4

Not particularly good but the lead from South was the ♠2. That improved matters considerably. If trumps are breaking, you can eliminate clubs on the way to drawing trumps, cashing the spades and guaranteeing the slam with a diamond to the ten.

That plan died when the spades proved to be 7-0 and North ruffed the opening lead and made a diamond later.

Three boards later along came the best of the slams, which I present as a play problem in Six Hearts on a diamond lead from North:

Board 29 Dealer North. Both Vul.

♠ 4 2	<div style="background-color: #4CAF50; color: white; padding: 10px; width: 60px; margin: 0 auto;"> N W E S </div>	♠ K
♥ K Q J 10 9 2		♥ A 8 3
♦ A 5 2		♦ K J 7 6 3
♣ A Q		♣ K 10 9 3

Many pairs reached 6♥.
This was perhaps the most entertaining auction:

West	North	East	South
Helgemo		Helness	
	2♠	Dble	4NT*
Dble	5♦*	Pass	5♠
6♥	All Pass		
4NT RKC			
5♦ 0 key cards			

North leads the ten of diamonds.
More than one declarer won the opening lead in hand and drew a round of trumps, both defenders following. They then played a spade, intending to ruff a spade for the twelfth trick.

This was the full deal:

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

South unexpectedly produced the ace and led a diamond for North to ruff.

There are two winning lines and as Helgemo knew that the ace of spades was with South (from the keycard response) it was not too difficult to find one of them.

After drawing two rounds of trumps, he unblocked the clubs, crossed to dummy with a heart, cashed the king of clubs and ruffed a club. He then played off all his trumps, the last of which saw South down to ♠A8 ♦Q9. If a spade is discarded South is thrown in with the ace of spade to lead into the diamond tenace.

The other is to simply play off all your trumps reducing dummy to ♠K ♦K ♣K1093. (It's not essential to keep the ♠K.)

South will have been forced down to ♠A ♦Q ♣J654 and after unblocking the clubs declarer crosses to dummy with a diamond and throws South in with a spade to lead into the club tenace.

I prefer the first line as it caters for North having started with ♣Jxx.

A final point - if North has the ace of spades it is still easy to make the contract. Cash all your hearts reducing dummy to ♦KJ ♣K1093. Unblock the ♣AQ and play two rounds of diamonds to endplay South.

Pierre at the Pool

By Jan van Cleeff

On paper, the quarter-final in the World Transnational Open Teams between Zimmermann and Germany looked promising, but Pierre Zimmermann had different thoughts.

Board 29 Dealer North. All Vul.

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

When Franck Multon opened with 1♦ and rebid 2♥ over South's 1♥, Pierre went all the way to 6♥. The slam was not exactly cold, but Pierre likes challenges, especially when his opponents might resign if he could manage to make 12 tricks. The margin at this stage already was overwhelming and the swimming pool was waiting.

Against 6♥, West led a low heart to the jack. Pierre cashed the ♦A, finessed the ♠10, ruffed a diamond in hand, played a spade to the ace, ruffed another diamond, played a club to the ace and ruffed the last diamond in hand. Declarer cashed his ♠K and pitched a club from dummy. When he played the ♣K there was nothing left for defense but the trump ace. You may guess where Pierre told me this story.



Pierre Zimmermann relaxing at the swimming pool.

Bermuda Bowl

Finals

Team	c/o	1	2	3	4	5	6t	7	8	Tot
SWEDEN	0.0	37.0	57.0	60.0	10.0	7.0	19.0			190.0
POLAND	10.5	39.0	36.0	18.0	61.0	45.0	27.0			236.5

Play-Offs

Team	c/o	1	Tot	2	Tot	3	Tot	4	Tot	5	Tot	6	Total
USA2	3.3	48.0	51.3	49.0	100.3	52.0	152.3	48.0	200.3	18.0	218.3	34.0	252.3
ENGLAND	0.0	34.0	34.0	48.0	82.0	56.0	138.0	27.0	165.0	42.0	207.0	36.0	243.0

Venice Cup

Finals

Team	c/o	1	Tot	2	Tot	3	Tot	4	Tot	5	Tot	6	Total
FRANCE	1.7	44.0	45.7	29.0	74.7	22.0	96.7	18.0	114.7	42.0	156.7	23.0	179.7
USA2	0.0	23.0	23.0	38.0	61.0	35.0	96.0	23.0	119.0	23.0	142.0	29.0	171.0

Play-Offs

Team	c/o	1	Tot	2	Tot	3	Tot	4	Tot	5	Tot
ENGLAND	0.0	19.0	19.0	45.0	64.0	44.0	108.0	13.0	121.0	44.0	165.0
NETHERLANDS	5.7	20.0	25.7	16.0	41.7	34.0	75.7	38.0	113.7	26.0	139.7

d'Orsi Trophy

Finals

Team	c/o	1	Tot	2	Tot	3	Tot	4	Tot	5	Tot	6	Total
USA1	0.0	59.0	59.0	57.0	116.0	43.0	159.0	52.0	211.0	33.0	244.0	19.0	263.0
SWEDEN	2.3	17.0	19.3	12.0	31.3	19.0	50.3	41.0	91.3	15.0	106.3	20.0	126.3

Play-Offs

Team	c/o	1	Tot	2	Tot	3	Tot	4	Tot	5	Tot
USA2	4.0	39.0	43.0	12.0	55.0	36.0	91.0	32.0	123.0	24.0	147.0
POLAND	0.0	35.0	35.0	58.0	93.0	49.0	142.0	50.0	192.0	16.0	208.0



PALLADIUM | HIGH STREET PHOENIX
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A rich legacy of creating iconic landmarks.

RED SEA INTERNATIONAL

21 Bridge FESTIVAL

EILAT - ISRAEL

NOVEMBER 12-22, 2♥15



Tournament Program

Mixed Pairs	November 12,13
M.P. Pairs	November 14
National Simultaneous	November 15
IMP Pairs	November 16,17
Open Pairs	November 18,19,20
Teams	November 21

Participants from All Over the World

Including European and World Champions.

Entrance Fee

€16 per session.

Total Prize Money in Excess of €25,000

Special Accommodation Packages

Daily Social Events



Further information and registration:

Organizing Committee: David & Alon Birman, 50 Pinkas St., Tel Aviv, Israel

Tel.: +972-3-6058355, +972-50-6698655, Email: birmand@inter.net.il, www.bridgeredsea.com





2016 Asia Bridge Open

Congress

(Apr 15th – Apr 24th, 2016 Beijing, China
Beijing Ditan Gymnasium)



Events and Schedule

Open Teams, Ladies Teams, Senior Teams, Junior Teams, Youngsters Teams, Girls teams	Apr 20-24
Open Pairs, Ladies Pairs, Senior Pairs, Youth Pairs	Apr 18-19
Mixed Pairs	Apr 19
Individual	Apr 17
CCBA Open Teams	Apr 16-19
IMP Pairs	Apr 20-21
Swiss Teams	Apr 22-23
Pairs event in every evening	Apr 16-24

Entry Fees

Event	Entry Fee	Event	Entry Fee
1. Open Teams	US\$1000	7. Open Pairs	RMB800
2. Ladies Teams	US\$1000	8. Ladies Pairs	RMB600
3. Senior Teams	US\$600	9. Senior Pairs	RMB600
4. Junior Teams	US\$400	10. Youth Pairs	RMB400
5. Youngsters Teams	US\$200	11. Mixed Pairs	RMB600
6. Girls teams	US\$400	12. Individual	RMB300
Players who are not from China Mainland having registered in the team events as well as players from China Mainland having registered in CCBA Open Teams can participate in the Pair events of the same category of the team event and individual event without paying entry fees.			
13. CCBA Open Teams	RMB3000	15. Swiss Teams	RM800
14. IMP Pairs	RMB400	16. Pairs event in every evening	RMB400

Prize:

Total prize: RMB 500,000 and above

CCBA Open Teams, Open Pairs, Ladies Pairs, Senior Pairs, Youth Pairs, Mixed Pairs, IMP Pairs, Individual, Swiss Teams: The prize money will be RMB 300,000 and above in total.

Pairs event in every evening: in addition to RMB 20,000 as the prize money, 70% entry fee will be reward to the top 1/3 pairs.

Hotel



Hainan Hotel 4 Stars

(Headquarter hotel, 2 minutes to the venue by walking)



Sheraton Beijing Dong Cheng Hotel 5 Stars

(14 minutes to the venue by walking)

Contact person:

Mr. Gu Yi

EMAIL:

aboc2016@163.com

For more information please

go to: www.zgqpw.com.cn

(The website is under construction)