

Daily News

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Saturday, 3 November 2001

Germany Pip France in a Classic



From left: Jörg Fritsche, Daniela von Arnim, Christoph Kemmer, Pony Nehmert, Barbara Hackett, Andrea Rauscheid, Katrin Farwig & Sabine Auken.

Those who were privileged to be in the VuGraph yesterday witnessed one of the greatest days in the history of Bridge.

In a final of epic proportions, the pride of **Germany**, **Sabine Auken**, **Daniela von Arnim**, **Andrea Rauscheid**, **Pony Nehmert**, **Katrin Farwig** and **Barbara Hackett** defeated la belle **France**, represented by **Catherine D'Ovidio**, **Véronique Bessis**, **Sylvie Willard**, **Bénédicte Cronier**, **Catherine Fishpool** and **Babette Hugon**.

After the fourth session yesterday morning **France** appeared to be in disarray, having seen almost all their overnight lead vanish in the face of a tremendous **German** rally. However, they redoubled their efforts and in the next stanza they appeared to put the match beyond Germany's reach. However, in a final set of boards that might have been scripted by Steven Spielberg, a series of brilliant plays saw **Germany** gradually reduce the deficit. On the penultimate deal **Daniela von Arnim**, who had already made one outstanding play to keep the match alive, brought the audience to its feet with a second brilliancy to take the trophy back to **Germany** for a second time.

It was a tribute to the stamina of the teams that they both played four-handed throughout the final.

Despite their disappointment, the **French** supporters watching VuGraph and their players afterwards applauded and congratulated their opponents in what must be the greatest match in the history of this event. It was certainly the most sporting.

VUGRAPH MATCHES

Bermuda Bowl – Final (Session 7) – 10.30

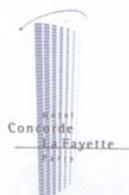
Norway v USA II

Bermuda Bowl – Final (Session 8) – 13.20

to be decided

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Bermuda Bowl

| Final | | | | | | | | | |
|--------|--------|------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| | | Carry-over | Session 1 | Session 2 | Session 3 | Session 4 | Session 5 | Session 6 | Total |
| USA II | NORWAY | 0 - 1 | 27 - 54 | 18 - 37 | 14 - 40 | 26 - 32 | 69 - 28 | 41 - 3 | 195 - 195 |

Venice Cup

| Final | | | | | | | | | |
|--------|---------|------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-------------|
| | | Carry-over | Session 1 | Session 2 | Session 3 | Session 4 | Session 5 | Session 6 | Total |
| FRANCE | GERMANY | 5.5 - 0 | 76 - 36 | 27 - 15 | 15 - 23 | 29 - 68 | 61 - 25 | 2 - 51 | 215.5 - 218 |

Transnational Teams

| Semi-finals | | | | | |
|-------------|--------------------------|------------|-----------|-----------|------------------|
| | | Carry-over | Session 1 | Session 2 | Total |
| 1 | BRACHMAN KOWALSKI | 0 - 2 | 27 - 31 | 58 - 16 | 85 - 49 |
| 2 | GRINBERG BUREAU | 4.3 - 0 | 30 - 31 | 17 - 36 | 51.3 - 67 |

Transnational Teams

| Final | | | | | | |
|----------|--------|------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|---------|
| | | Carry-over | Session 1 | Session 2 | Session 3 | Total |
| BRACHMAN | BUREAU | 0 - 0 | 33 - 24 | - | - | 33 - 24 |

**Today's
Transnational
Schedule**

10.30 Final Session 2
13.20 Final Session 3

Thanks to the VuGraph

by Jean-Paul Meyer

You cannot hold a good championship without a VuGraph. The more efficiently it works, the better it is for players, spectators and journalists. With computers, cameras and screens all on the boat towards Bali, we could have fears when it was decided the championships would be played in Paris. Then, on Monday morning October 21st at the Stade de France when the first hand was played everything was working in time as if nothing unusual had happened. Moreover, everything next had to be transferred in the night at Saturday 27th to the Concorde Lafayette.

A hard task for the workers but everything was done in due time thanks **Jean-Claude Beineix's** effectiveness.

Perhaps it not for me to say, but the French **Bridgevision** gave a brilliant performance producing thousands of results and startling images. The cameramen often got laughs from the audience with well thought out and amusing shots.

A lot of people have to be thanked; I present them in a non specific order:

Computer operators: **Elisabeth Antelme, Patrice Piganeau, Odile Beineix, Brigitte Piquet.**

The lady with the microphone: **Babette Piganeau.**

VuGraph crew: **Bernard Delange, Bernardette Pasquier Paul Benisti.**

English commentators: **Richard Colker, Eric Kokish, Barry Rigal** and for a few sessions our guest star **Bobby Wolff.**

French commentators: **Michel Bessis, Philippe Cronier and Pierre-Yves Guillaumin.**

Thanks also to MOST of the scorers filling out the slips with results, MOST of them being right and to the **caddies** who both walked and used trolleys to transfer information as fast as possible.

Transnational Tale

In an event studded with World Champions there are many good stories waiting to be told. Here is one such involving one of the legends of French bridge, Henri Szwarc.

Board 15. Dealer South. N/S Vul.

| | | | | | | |
|--|--|-------------|---------------|---|--|---|
| <p>♠ Q J 9 4 3 ♥ 5 ♦ 9 7 3 ♣ K 8 4 3</p> | <table style="margin: auto; border: 1px solid black; 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 | <p>♠ 8 6 ♥ K Q J 8 7 ♦ K 10 5 4 ♣ 10 2</p> | <p>♠ A 2 ♥ 10 9 4 3 ♦ J 8 2 ♣ A 7 6 5</p> |
| N | | | | | | |
| W E | | | | | | |
| S | | | | | | |
| West | North | East | South | | | |
| | <i>Romik</i> | | <i>Szwarc</i> | | | |
| Pass | 2♣ | 2♥ | INT | | | |
| Pass | 3NT | All Pass | 2♠ | | | |

West led his singleton heart and declarer put up dummy's ten and took the jack with the ace. The queen of clubs was covered by the king and ace and declarer took two more rounds of the suit. He then played a spade to the ace and exited with the seven of clubs, discarding a heart from his hand.

West took the trick and switched to the queen of spades. Declarer ducked that, so West tried a diamond for the ten and queen. Declarer cashed the king of spades to leave this position:

| | | | | | | |
|--|--|---|----------|---|--|--|
| <p>♠ J 9 ♥ - ♦ 9 7 ♣ -</p> | <table style="margin: auto; border: 1px solid black; 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 | <p>♠ - ♥ K Q ♦ K 5 ♣ -</p> | <p>♠ - ♥ 9 4 ♦ J 8 ♣ -</p> |
| N | | | | | | |
| W E | | | | | | |
| S | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | |
| | ♠ 10 | | | | | |
| | ♥ 6 | | | | | |
| | ♦ A 6 | | | | | |
| | ♣ - | | | | | |

Now declarer exited with a heart to endplay East. Amusingly he could also have exited with the ten of spades, although that depended on West holding the nine of diamonds.

Follow the 35th Bermuda Bowl,
the 13th Venice Cup and the 1st Seniors Bowl
on Internet through the WBF official web site:

www.bridge.gr

Championship Diary

You may be interested to know that in Bali it is only 12°C and raining!

One of the more intriguing statistical exercises of the event is to calculate the number of World Champions competing in the Transnational. We make it thirty-six. Do you agree?

We should have known better than to let Patrick Jourdain proof read the Daily News following his birthday celebrations. One more tent story, not quite as good as the previous ones but close enough for government work.

A bridge player became lost in the Sahara desert. Realizing his only chance for survival was to find civilization, he began walking. Time passed, and he became thirsty. More time passed, and he began feeling faint. He was on the verge of passing out when he spied a tent about 500 meters in front of him. Barely conscious, he reached the tent and called out, "Water...".

A Bedouin appeared in the tent door and replied sympathetically, "I am sorry, sir, but I have no water. However, would you like to buy a tie?" With this, he brandished a collection of exquisite silken neckwear.

"You fool," gasped the man. "I'm dying! I need water!"

"Well, sir," replied the Bedouin, "If you really need water, there is a tent about two kilometres south of here where you can get some."

Without knowing how, the man summoned sufficient strength to drag his parched body the distance to the second tent. With his last ounce of strength he tugged at the door of the tent and collapsed.

Another Bedouin, dressed in a costly tuxedo, appeared at the door and enquired, "May I help you, sir?"

"Water..." was the feeble reply.

"Oh, sir," replied the Bedouin, "I'm sorry, but you can't come in here without a tie!"

Transnational Prize Winners Special Categories

Mixed Team - Lara (237 VP)

Maria Lara, M. Capucho, M. Yuen, Irina Levitina
Portugal / Germany / USA

Senior Team - Freed (233 VP)

Gene Freed, Grant Baze, Joseph Kivel, Chris Larsen
USA

Women's Team - Huei (225 VP)

Y. Huei, Yanhong Wang, Wenfei Wang,
Yu Zhang, Jian Wang, Zhen Zhi
China

Six Clubs Revisited

The table recording at major championships is sometimes not all that it might be, and sometimes also a journalist misreads what is actually an accurate recording. Whatever the cause on this particular occasion, the play described on the 6♣ hand from Austria v Germany in yesterday morning's bulletin bore no relation to reality. Here is how the hand was actually played.

Board 9. Dealer North. E/W Vul.

| | | | |
|---|--|--|--|
| ♠ A J 9 3 ♥ A ♦ K 7 2 ♣ Q 10 7 5 4 | ♠ Q 8 6 ♥ J 8 7 3 ♦ Q 9 8 5 ♣ K J | <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; text-align: center; width: 80px; margin: 0 auto;"> N W E S </div> ♠ K 10 ♥ 10 5 4 ♦ A J 10 4 ♣ A 9 8 3 | ♠ 7 5 4 2 ♥ K Q 9 6 2 ♦ 6 3 ♣ 6 2 |
| West | North | East | South |
| <i>Weigkricht</i> | <i>Nehmert</i> | <i>Fischer</i> | <i>Rauscheid</i> |
| | Pass | 1♦ | 2♥ |
| Dble | 4♥ | Pass | Pass |
| 5♣ | Pass | 6♣ | All Pass |

Pony Nehmert led a heart to Terry Weigkricht's bare ace. Weigkricht played the queen of clubs to the king and ace. Superficially, the slam depends on a winning guess for one of the missing queens, but Weigkricht found something rather better. She continued with three rounds of spades, ruffing out the queen, then ruffed a heart back to hand. The winning spade was now led and North was powerless; whether or not she ruffed in, the last heart went from dummy. When she discarded, Weigkricht's club exit ended played North to either give a ruff and discard or open up the diamond suit. Either way, there was no longer a guess. Nicely played.



Patrick Jourdain celebrates his birthday on Thursday

Paul Fauconnier

Paul Fauconnier, le joueur international belge vient décéder à Liège, il y a deux jours.

Nous avons retrouvé Paul dans tous les grands championnats internationaux et dans les grands festivals. Figure emblématique du Perron Liégeois, Paul alliait talent et gentillesse.

Ses plus beaux résultats, il les a obtenus avec **Christ-ian Wanufel** avec qui il a joué de nombreux championnats d'Europe et avec qui, il a, également, remporté de nombreux titres de champion de Belgique. Excellent professeur, il a formé de nombreux élèves dans la cité ardente.

Qui ne se rappelle la sympathique paire belge, le verre de bière à la main ?

L'année 2001 a vu Paul subir les événements les plus dramatiques qu'un homme peut connaître.

Au début de l'année, il a perdu sa fille, renversée par une moto, à Paris. Malgré son courage, Paul n'a pu surmonter cette épreuve. La maladie, insidieuse, l'a rattrapé et dépassé. Notre champion a subi un accident cérébral dont, malheureusement, il ne s'est pas remis. Il nous a quittés à 58 ans.

Colette Grosfils

The Other Lady In The Open

Kiran Nadar from India is the other lady from the Open teams that made into the quarter finals rather comfortably with a score of 263 VPs. Kiran Nadar played 220 boards to Rose Meltzer's 160 and ended up 36th on the Butler score list as against Rose's 32nd place. This was India's maiden entry into a Bermuda Bowl quarter - final. After all the suspense about the Championship being held at all, for Kiran Nadar to have come through the Indian Open Teams Selection trial process and finally get to play in the Bowl was creditable itself - but to make it to the quarter final was an icing to the cake.

Ms Kiran Nadar has made her bones in the Indian National Bridge scene with three wins in the Tolani National Masters Teams, which is again an open event. She has been a runner - up in the Open Indian Nationals Teams and a winner in the inaugural SAARC pairs event played in Mumbai. Her current partner since 6 years is Satyanarayana who has been a member of her team since it was formed. She has enjoyed the Bridge in Paris and she applauds Mr Jose Damiani's efforts to have made the Championships happen. She is delighted that the Indian team has been invited to participate in the Olympics in Feb 2002, based on the good showing in the Bermuda Bowl 2001 Edition. She made a case for poorer third world countries whose teams had a huge expense to incur for Championships that were played in excellent but expensive hotels. It was unfortunate, she said, that the Championship had to be moved from Bali since the costs for the Indian team would have been less than half what they spent in Paris. She also laments the fact that Bridge in India is probably a dying sport due to a lackadaisical approach (coupled with a traditional stigma that card games hold) from sport administrators and Bridge officialdom in our country. She feels that a win in a major International competition for an Indian team would give the game, a much needed impetus back home.

Team Profile – German Ladies

Sabine Auken, wife and mother of two children, and until a few months ago working in the marketing of an ethical investment fund. For some years she has been living in Copenhagen, Denmark. The list of her bridge-successes with Daniela von Arnim in the last 17 years would exceed the pages of this journal. She also is the team's 'Dragon'. But in this Championship only once has she smashed her system-map (which is thick enough) on the floor shouting 'Will you ever start concentrating?'



Daniela von Arnim lives in Heidelberg and is working as senior systems analyst for a small consultancy firm. At this time she is pregnant, with the baby to be born in April 2002. As her husband, Klaus Reps, is also one of Germany's top players, you all will have to watch out for the small von Arnim in a few years.



Pony Nehmert, our 'Oldie, but Goldie' from Wiesbaden, is a bridge-teacher. Her friend Michael Yuen from Canada was our Chief Scorer in the Round Robin, and not only there he did do a fine job. Now, for some more details of her private life ... well, here her censor stopped me. So ask the coach in private if you would like to know.



Andrea Rauscheid also lives in Heidelberg. She works half days as medical lab assistant, half days she teaches bridge and whole nights you can meet her dicing in Heidelberg's pubs. And since Wednesday evening she became a World Grandmaster. She won her first title in 1995 in Beijing, but that was like presenting a Ferrari to a new-born baby. She had to wait until now to have collected enough Placement Points to be allowed to 'drive' it.



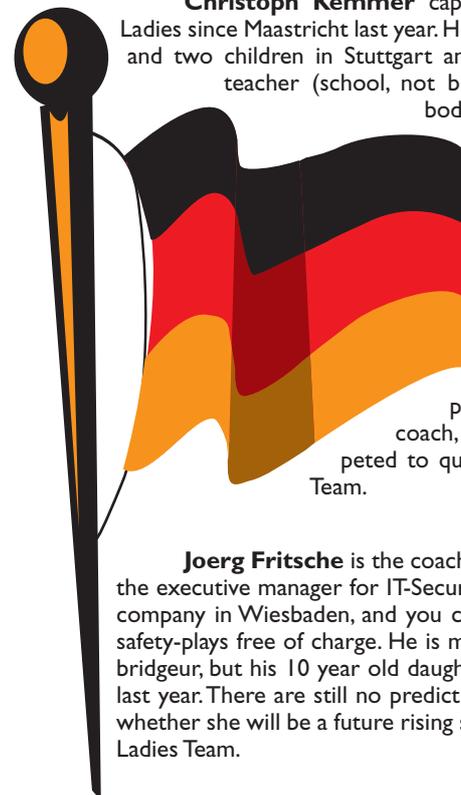
Katrin Farwig is a pharmacist and a certified tournament director living in Wiesbaden. Like the rest of the team members, she is young, pretty and happily married (this of course only applies to the female members, the male ones only claim the last attribute). We are not sure yet, whether she will be aiming for the Nobel Prize in pharmacy in future or continue her bridge career.



Barbara Hackett is a senior systems analyst and since September a member of the Hackett Family. Together with her husband Justin she is living in Manchester, England. And she is the only member of the team who must admit that her husband is a better bridge player than she is (although all the other husbands and friends sometimes unsuccessfully try to claim it for themselves).



Christoph Kemmer captains the German Ladies since Maastricht last year. He lives with his wife and two children in Stuttgart and is working as a teacher (school, not bridge). Not everybody in the team was always happy with his line-up, but especially in this championship success proved him to be right so far. He has had one international appearance as a player and, like the coach, has always competed to qualify for the Open Team.



Joerg Fritsche is the coach of the team. He is the executive manager for IT-Security at an insurance company in Wiesbaden, and you can consult him for safety-plays free of charge. He is married with a non-bridgeur, but his 10 year old daughter started to play last year. There are still no predictions possible, as to whether she will be a future rising star of the German Ladies Team.

SESSION 3

Bermuda Bowl / Final



Norway v USA II



Leading by 94-47 after 32 boards, Norway pitched shut out for 15 deals of the third segment, only conceding IMPs on the very last deal of the set. But, for all that, anyone who was in the vugraph theatre on Thursday evening would surely vote for Alan Sontag as being the star of the show. The man cannot sit still for a second. If his body is not moving then the head will be doing so, and if the head is stationary the face will be constantly changing expression. Getting up from the table at every available opportunity - including while declarer and waiting for the defenders to come up with their next play - grinning, frowning, playing with his scorecard, his played cards, his lucky gold piece, anything that came to hand; Alan had the audience in fits of laughter throughout the session. He also played some pretty decent bridge, as one would expect from a previous World Champion.

Board 1. Dealer North. None Vul.

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

| | | | |
|-------------|--------------|-------------|--------------|
| West | North | East | South |
| Sontag | Aa | Weichsel | Groetheim |
| | 1♦ | INT | 2♣ |
| All Pass | | | |

| | | | |
|-------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| West | North | East | South |
| Brogeland | Martel | Saelensminde | Stansby |
| | 1♦ | INT | 2♣ |
| 2NT | All Pass | | |

Both Souths were able to bid 2♣ to show the majors. Brogeland competed to 2NT with the West cards while Sontag went quietly, and now Terje Aa passes out the misfit and found that 2♣ was just the right spot for North/South.

On a trump lead, Glenn Groetheim played 2♣ by putting in dummy's jack to tempt a cover and winning Peter Weichsel's queen with his ace. He crossed to a top diamond to lead a heart up and Weichsel won the ace, then played queen then a low spade. Sontag won and returned a trump and Groetheim just took a diamond ruff and pitched a diamond on the ♥K, making nine tricks when ten were actually available had he ruffed out the spades; +110.

Two No Trump was too much for Erik Saelensminde at the other table. He won the spade lead in hand and played ace then queen and a third heart to the king. There were only three tricks in each major, however, for down two; -100 and a flat board.

Board 2. Dealer East. N/S Vul.

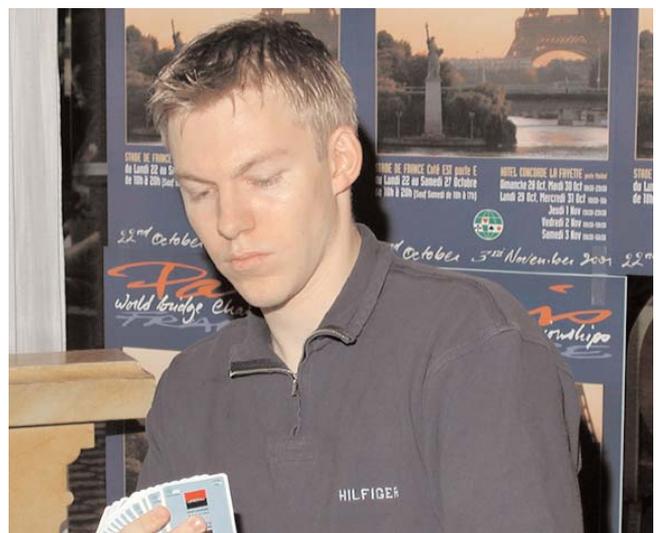
| | | | |
|-------------|-------------|-----------|--|
| | ♠ A 8 6 | | |
| | ♥ A Q J 6 4 | | |
| | ♦ 9 6 4 | | |
| | ♣ Q 7 | | |
| ♠ K Q 9 7 5 | | ♠ J 10 | |
| ♥ K 9 7 | | ♥ 10 3 2 | |
| ♦ Q 8 2 | | ♦ A K J 5 | |
| ♣ 10 9 | | ♣ A K 8 6 | |

| | | | |
|--|-------------|--|--|
| | ♠ 4 3 2 | | |
| | ♥ 8 5 | | |
| | ♦ 10 7 3 | | |
| | ♣ J 5 4 3 2 | | |

| | | | |
|-------------|--------------|-------------|--------------|
| West | North | East | South |
| Sontag | Aa | Weichsel | Groetheim |
| | | INT | Pass |
| 2♥ | Dble | Pass | Pass |
| 3NT | Pass | 4♥ | Pass |
| 4♠ | All Pass | | |

| | | | |
|-------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| West | North | East | South |
| Brogeland | Martel | Saelensminde | Stansby |
| | | INT | Pass |
| 2♣ | Pass | 2♦ | Pass |
| 3♠ | Pass | 3NT | All Pass |

Have you ever seen a deal on which two partners both transferred to the same suit? That is what happened on vugraph. Sontag transferred to spades and that gave Aa an opportunity to double to show his hearts. When that came back to him, Sontag jumped to 3NT. On the other side of the screen, Weichsel described this as 'If he has remembered, that denies a heart stopper', with the emphasis on the If. Weichsel could see that even if his partner did have a heart stopper the lead through it would be



Boye Brogeland, Norway

very threatening in either 3NT or 4♠. Accordingly, he in turn made a transfer bid to get Sontag to play the spade game. Aa led out the ace then queen of hearts but it mattered not; +420.

In the Closed Room, Boye Brogeland's sequence showed five spades and three hearts and quite by chance avoided the lead-directing double. After a club lead, the contract was secure for +430 and a flat board.

Board 4. Dealer West. All Vul.

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

| West | North | East | South |
|----------|-------|----------|-----------|
| Sontag | Aa | Weichsel | Groetheim |
| Pass | Pass | Pass | INT |
| All Pass | | | |

| West | North | East | South |
|-----------|----------|--------------|---------|
| Brogeland | Martel | Saelensminde | Stansby |
| Pass | Pass | 1♦ | INT |
| Dble | Pass | 2♣ | Pass |
| 2♦ | All Pass | | |

After Weichsel's third-seat pass, Groetheim opened INT and played there. Sontag, of course, led from his four-card heart suit and Groetheim put up the ten. He continued by running the ♠10 and Sontag promptly switched to a low diamond to the ace. Groetheim won the diamond return and claimed eight tricks for +120.

Saelensminde is of the school that believes in opening light in third seat when there is a sensible reason to do so, and this East hand was not that far short of a normal Norwegian opening bid in any case. Brogeland doubled the INT overcall and gave preference to 2♦ when Saelensminde ran from his partner's double. The contract was never in jeopardy and the defence actually dropped a trick to let Saelensminde score +110; 6 IMPs to Norway.

Board 6. Dealer East. E/W Vul.

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

| West | North | East | South |
|--------|-------|----------|-----------|
| Sontag | Aa | Weichsel | Groetheim |
| 2NT | 3♠ | Pass | 2♠ |
| | | All Pass | |

| West | North | East | South |
|-----------|----------|--------------|---------|
| Brogeland | Martel | Saelensminde | Stansby |
| 2NT | Pass | Pass | 2♠ |
| 3♥ | All Pass | 3♦ | Pass |

The two auctions began in identical fashion but then Aa made a surprising competitive bid of 3♠ to buy the contract. Sontag led a low club and there was some percentage in running that because even if it lost there would then be a pitch for declarer's losing heart. However, Groetheim went up with the ace and played a spade. Sontag won the queen and played the ♣Q to dummy's king. Groetheim played a second spade to the ace and Sontag played the ♣J, ruffed. Now Groetheim played the ♠K and Sontag dropped the ♣5 instead of the ♠3. We will never know whether he would have noticed his error but Weichsel asked him 'No spades, partner?', as is permitted in North American tournaments. But this is an area of the laws where the ACBL is out of step with the rest of the world and under WBF regulations the question established the revoke. Sontag was obliged to play the club and the resulting one-trick penalty made the difference between one down and just making; +140.

In the other room, Chip Martel led the king of clubs against 3♥ but didn't like the look of Lew Stansby's nine, which looked to be discouraging. He switched to a diamond and continued that suit when in with the ace of hearts. Brogeland made ten tricks for +170 and 7 IMPs to Norway.

Board 7. Dealer South. All Vul.

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

| West | North | East | South |
|----------|-------|----------|-----------|
| Sontag | Aa | Weichsel | Groetheim |
| Pass | 1♠ | Pass | 1♦ |
| All Pass | | | INT |

| West | North | East | South |
|-----------|--------|--------------|---------|
| Brogeland | Martel | Saelensminde | Stansby |
| Pass | 2♣ | Pass | INT |
| Pass | 2NT | All Pass | 2♥ |



Lew Stansby, USA

The Closed Room auction to 2NT looks entirely normal within the context of a weak no trump opening bid, but 2NT was uncomfortably high on two hands that did not fit together particularly well. Stansby won the heart lead with dummy's queen and led a diamond to the queen, which was ducked smoothly by Brogeland. Stansby continued with the queen of clubs, covered by king and ace, and now tried the $\diamond J$ to pin a doubleton ten offside. When that lost to the king and a heart was returned, dummy's last entry had gone and there was no way to get to the long diamond. Stansby ended up down three for -300.

Groetheim's 11-13 rebid kept his side at a much safer level. He too won the heart lead and took a diamond finesse but Sontag won to lead a second heart, on which Weichsel unblocked the ten – not that this mattered. Groetheim tried the effect of a spade to the ten and ace now, not knowing how favourably the minor suits were lying. The effect was that Sontag whistled back a spade and Weichsel cashed three more tricks in the suit. Groetheim had to pitch two clubs from hand but he was OK. Weichsel switched to a club and Groetheim took his seven tricks for +90 and 9 IMPs to Norway.

Board 8. Dealer West. None Vul.

| | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|--|---|---|--|---|--|---|--|---|--|---|
| <p>\spadesuit A K Q 8 3 \heartsuit 4 \diamond Q 5 4 \clubsuit A K Q 3</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>\spadesuit J \heartsuit A J 7 5 2 \diamond A J 10 6 \clubsuit 8 5 2</p> |
| | N | | | | | | | | | | |
| W | | E | | | | | | | | | |
| | S | | | | | | | | | | |
| <p>\spadesuit 10 5 \heartsuit K Q 10 6 3 \diamond 3 2 \clubsuit J 10 9 4</p> | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | <p>\spadesuit 9 7 6 4 2 \heartsuit 9 8 \diamond K 9 8 7 \clubsuit 7 6</p> | | | | | | | | | | |

| West | North | East | South |
|----------------|---------------|----------------|-----------|
| Sontag | Aa | Weichsel | Groetheim |
| Pass | 1 \clubsuit | 1 \heartsuit | Dble |
| 2 \spadesuit | Dble | 3 \heartsuit | Pass |
| 4 \heartsuit | Pass | Pass | Dble |
| All Pass | | | |

| West | North | East | South |
|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| Brogeland | Martel | Saelensminde | Stansby |
| 2 \heartsuit | Dble | 3 \diamond | Pass |
| Pass | 4 \spadesuit | 5 \heartsuit | 5 \spadesuit |
| All Pass | | | |

Sontag's 2 \spadesuit was described as 'Probably a fit bid' at the other side of the screen. After Aa had judged to make a take-out double, there was no chance that the Norwegians would get to the spade game.

Indeed, Groetheim did well to find the double of 4 \heartsuit to increase the penalty for two down to -300.

That looked to be a good result for Sontag's imaginative effort but all it achieved was to hold the American loss on the board to 8 IMPs. When Martel was willing to bid to 4 \spadesuit on his own, it wasn't easy for Stansby, with his five-card support, to avoid bidding on to the doomed 5 \spadesuit .

There was no way to avoid the loss of two diamonds and one heart; -50.

Board 9. Dealer North. E/W Vul.

| | | | | | | | | | | | |
|--|--|---|---|--|---|--|---|--|---|--|---|
| <p>\spadesuit 10 \heartsuit 9 7 \diamond K 4 2 \clubsuit Q J 10 9 7 6 4</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>\spadesuit K 7 3 \heartsuit A Q 10 6 3 2 \diamond A 5 \clubsuit 8 3</p> |
| | N | | | | | | | | | | |
| W | | E | | | | | | | | | |
| | S | | | | | | | | | | |
| <p>\spadesuit A 5 2 \heartsuit K J 8 5 4 \diamond 10 9 8 3 \clubsuit K</p> | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | <p>\spadesuit Q J 9 8 6 4 \heartsuit - \diamond Q J 7 6 \clubsuit A 5 2</p> | | | | | | | | | | |

| West | North | East | South |
|----------------|---------------|----------------|----------------|
| Sontag | Aa | Weichsel | Groetheim |
| 4 \heartsuit | 3 \clubsuit | 3 \heartsuit | 3 \spadesuit |
| 5 \heartsuit | Pass | Pass | 4 \spadesuit |
| All Pass | All Pass | | |

| West | North | East | South |
|-----------|---------------|----------------|----------------|
| Brogeland | Martel | Saelensminde | Stansby |
| Dble | 3 \clubsuit | 3 \heartsuit | 4 \spadesuit |
| All Pass | All Pass | | |

It may appear that both Norths made the same opening bid, but in reality Aa was showing a bad pre-empt in either minor, while Martel's bid was natural. Despite having support for partner's minor, both Groetheim and Stansby focused exclusively on spades. While Sontag took the push to 5 \heartsuit , Brogeland made a tremendous decision when he judged to double 4 \spadesuit . Apparently it

just felt right at the time and Boye had the courage to follow his instincts – when you're hot...

Both contracts failed by a trick for two +100s to Norway and 5 IMPs.

Board 16. Dealer West. E/W Vul.

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

| West | North | East | South |
|----------|-------|----------|-----------|
| Sontag | Aa | Weichsel | Groetheim |
| Pass | 1♠ | Pass | 1NT |
| Pass | 2♣ | Pass | 2♦ |
| Pass | 3♠ | Pass | 4♣ |
| Pass | 4♦ | Pass | 4♥ |
| Pass | 5♥ | Pass | 6♠ |
| All Pass | | | |

| West | North | East | South |
|-----------|--------|--------------|---------|
| Brogeland | Martel | Saelensminde | Stansby |
| Pass | 1♠ | Pass | 2♥ |
| Pass | 2♠ | Pass | 3♠ |
| Pass | 4♣ | Pass | 4♦ |
| Pass | 4NT | Pass | 5♥ |
| Pass | 6♠ | All Pass | |

Up to this point the set score was 40-0 in favour of Norway, but finally there was some joy for the beleaguered Americans. Both the natural American auction and the Norwegian relays reached the good spade slam, but the opening leads differed, as did declarer's chosen lines of play.

Aa received a club lead to the seven and ace, and back came a second club, which he ruffed. He played a diamond to the king then ace of hearts and ruffed one. Ace and another diamond, ruffed, left declarer a trick short because of the 4-0 trump split; down one for -50.

Martel got a diamond lead to dummy's king. He played the ♣Q and Brogeland won the ace and switched to the eight of spades. Martel won in hand and played ace of diamonds and ruffed a diamond low, ruffed a club and played a heart to the queen, cashed the ace and ruffed another club. A diamond, ruffed with the king, and one more ruff in hand allowed Martel to make his nine of spades; +980 and 14 IMPs to USA II.

Aa was unlucky, of course, but might he have played a spade to hand after unblocking the diamond? Now he sees the 4-0 break in time and recognises the need to take the heart finesse.

After 48 boards, Norway were looking good, leading USA II by 132-59 IMPs.

French Slam

By Patrick Jourdain (Wales)

This slam, made with a squeeze by Catherine D'Ovidio, is described on the French page by Guy Dupont, but it deserves a wider audience, so here is another report. It arose in the third session of the semifinal between France and USA II.

Board 13. Dealer North. All Vul.

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

| West | North | East | South |
|--------|---------|----------|----------|
| Bessis | Jackson | D'Ovidio | Hamman |
| Pass | Pass | 1♠ | Pass |
| 3♠ | Pass | 3NT | Pass |
| 4♣ | Pass | 4♦ | Pass |
| 4♥ | Pass | 4♠ | Pass |
| 5♦ | Dble | 6♠ | All Pass |

3NT was a serious slam try. This was followed by cuebids.

South, Petra Hamman, led her singleton diamond. North won and returned a heart to declarer's ace.

There are several lines now which work. Drawing trumps and ruffing out the clubs succeeds because the trumps are 2-2 and the clubs 4-3. Very lucky!

D'Ovidio quite naturally looked for something better. She began by leading a second diamond. South ruffed with six and dummy over-ruffed with the queen. Declarer returned to hand with a round of trumps. Both defenders followed, but who had the last trump?

If this was North, declarer could cash the king of diamonds and cross-ruff safely. But did she need to take this risk?

D'Ovidio realised there was an alternative line that required only that South, who had shown up with the singleton diamond, held the long clubs, a heavy odds-on shot.

She started on clubs to isolate the menace. At trick five she led the queen of clubs, covered by king and ace, ruffed a club, drew the last trump, ruffed a diamond, ruffed a club, laid down the king of diamonds and then played the last trump. North was known to be keeping the last diamond, so would not be able to keep hearts. Provided South had the club guard, as she did, she would be squeezed. It was a double squeeze ending, though as the cards lay, only South was squeezed.

D'Ovidio's line was an excellent one. It was unlucky perhaps to find that other, inferior, choices were also working.

At the other table USA II made 12 tricks in Four Spades, so France won 11 IMPs.

Germany's Pony Nehmert also made this slam on a similar line - which goes some way to the Venice Cup finalists. Editor

Polish Team Profiles

CEZARY BALICKI



He was born in 1958, and like so many bridge stars was a talented chess player who has now become a professional bridge player. He was chief editor and publisher of the Polish bridge magazine "Forum" for a couple of years.

Balicki's list of international championship medals is impressive. He started with a bronze in the World Pairs Championship in Geneva in 1990. That was followed by silver in the 1991 Bermuda Bowl in Yokohama 1991, and again in the Rosenblum in Albuquerque in 1994. He finally got his hands on a World title by taking the Gold medal in the 2nd Transnational World Teams in Bermuda 2000. He is a regular on the North American scene and captured the 1997 Spingold and 2001 Vanderbilt trophies, while losing the 1998 Spingold final to Nick Nickell's team by only 1 IMP. He has been no less successful in Europe, with two gold medals in the European Teams Championships, in Turku in 1989 and Menton in 1993. His European set is completed by a silver medal in Montecatini in 1997 and a bronze in Killarney in 1991. He won the prestigious Macallan Pairs in London in 1994 and finished third in the same event a year later.

Cezary has a fine sense of humor and readily sees the funny side of the game. He likes to tell the story of when he was playing in the prestigious Dunhill Cup in Bonn. During a vital last round match with Finland he was declarer in 6NT, and after the opening lead he had eleven tricks and two possible chances for a twelfth. He could finesse in diamonds or play a club from two small towards the king, ten, small. He decided on the latter plan for two reasons: first, the club ace might be onside, but second, even if the king lost to the ace there was a chance that if the defender did not also hold the queen of clubs, he would switch, allowing Balicki the chance to take the diamond finesse anyway. Alas, the defender held ♣AQJ75 and the slam went four down. Needless to say, the diamond finesse was right!

Michal has a fine sense of humor and readily sees the funny side of the game. He likes to tell the story of when he was playing in the prestigious Dunhill Cup in Bonn. During a vital last round match with Finland he was declarer in 6NT, and after the opening lead he had eleven tricks and two possible chances for a twelfth. He could finesse in diamonds or play a club from two small towards the king, ten, small. He decided on the latter plan for two reasons: first, the club ace might be onside, but second, even if the king lost to the ace there was a chance that if the defender did not also hold the queen of clubs, he would switch, allowing Balicki the chance to take the diamond finesse anyway. Alas, the defender held ♣AQJ75 and the slam went four down. Needless to say, the diamond finesse was right!

MICHAL KWIECIEN



He was born on the first of March 1957, is an automotive engineer and businessman from Lublin. Married with two daughters, he plays for a bridge club in Leszno - Unia Winkhaus. He learned to play with friends at secondary school and considers the most compelling aspect of bridge to be the moment of victory. He regards defense as the most difficult part of the game, whilst looking for good play and calmness in the ideal partner. His hobbies are skiing and travel, and he sees bridge as

being an excellent way to pursue both.

Kwecien's biggest bridge successes include first place in the World Open Pairs Championship at Lille in 1998, second place in the European Open Teams Championship at Montecatini in 1997, third place in the World Transnational Open Teams at Hammamet in 1997, all of them with Jacek Pszczola. He also won gold in the European Junior Teams Championship at Salsomaggiore in 1982 with his former partner Marek Wojcicki. He has been playing with Jacek Pszczola since 1993, and the pair finished at the top of a world-class field in the 2001 Cavendish Calcutta in Las Vegas.

In Maastricht in 2000 Michal was chosen by random selection for a doping test. He says he was so anxious that he was not able to provide a sample for four hours, despite drinking several liters of water. He described it as the most stressful moment of the Olympiad for him. However, to illustrate how demanding bridge at the highest levels can be at the table, he cites the following hand from the recent trials to select the Polish team for the 2001 European Championships in Tenerife. After a few hours of tough play he was really tired when he picked up this hand:

♠QJ74 ♥AJ9 ♦KJ108 ♣83

| West | North | East | South |
|-------------------|----------|----------|------------|
| Kwecien | Martens | Pszczola | Lesniewski |
| 1♣ ⁽¹⁾ | 1♥ | Dble | 2♥ |
| 4♠ ⁽²⁾ | All Pass | | |

⁽¹⁾ Denies four spades

⁽²⁾ Forgetting he had opened 1♣ and thinking the double promised spades!

MARCIN LESNIEWSKI



He was born on the third of July 1948. His elder brother taught him how to play bridge in high school, and after an early career as a mathematician he eventually became a professional player. He enjoys all kinds of sports, films and music. He considers bridge to be the only element in life where there is some justice, and for him, declarer play is the hardest skill to master. The perfect partner instils confidence by constant good play. One of his favorite partners is his wife, Ewa Harasimowicz.

Marcin collected two medals at Albuquerque in 1994, gold in the World Pairs Championship and silver in the World Mixed Pairs Championship. He won the European Pairs Championship in 1989, the European Mixed Pairs Championship in 1992 and the European Teams Championship in 1993, and was a gold medalist at the 1st World Transnational Teams Championship in 1997.

He has also distinguished himself as the captain of several Polish teams but prefers playing. Most recently, he finished fourth in the 2001 European Pairs Championship in Sorrento, and was on the winning team in the 2001 version of the prestigious British Spring Foursomes.

KRZYSZTOF MARTENS

He was born on the twenty-fourth of May 1952. A member of a bridge-playing family, he was taught to play the game at home by his parents. Another chemical engineer and businessman, he is also a professional bridge player and coach, having regular assignments with the national teams of several countries. His most recent engagement was

as coach of the German Women's team which took the bronze medals at the Maastricht Olympiad in 2000. After each victory his simple advice to the team was, 'Next opponents please!' He enjoys the psychological elements of the game and considers bidding to be the most difficult area to master. He believes that knowledge and the ability to keep calm and concentrate are essential requirements for the perfect partner. His interests outside the game are journalism and politics.

He is the author of the book *Szkola Wistu* (The School of Defense), and co-author of the book *The Bidding System of Martens-Przybora*. He has been a member of the European Bridge League Systems Committee since 1996, and was a member of the Board of the Polish Bridge Union between 1980 and 1984. He was placed tenth on the list of the top Polish sportsmen of 1991. His gold medals have come in the 1984 Olympiad, the 1st Transnational World Teams Championship in 1997, and at the European Teams Championships of 1981, 1989, and 1993 - each time with a different partner! He took silver in the 1991 Bermuda Bowl and bronze in 1989. He was also a bronze medalist at the European Teams Championship in 1991.

He is now a globetrotter, moving swiftly from one country to another in search of victories. His most recent successes were fourth place in the 2001 European Pairs Championship in Sorrento, and a win in the 2001 British Spring Foursomes, both with Marcin Lesniewski.

**JACEK PSZCZOLA**

He is sometimes referred to by Western journalists as 'Pepsi Cola' is one of the younger generation of Polish bridge wizards, having been born on the tenth of January, 1967. Married with one son and living in Lublin, he graduated as a mining machine engineer, and now works in the oil industry. He represents the Unia Winkhaus Bridge club in Leszno. He learned to play bridge with a couple of friends whilst on a school vacation.



He enjoys the competitive element of bridge and considers the opening lead to be the most difficult area of the game to master. He believes that it is impossible to find

the ideal partner; the most important skill being the ability to get your partners to play their best.

When he is not playing bridge you will find him on the basketball court.

A former Polish Junior Champion, he won the World Open Pairs Championship at Lille in 1998, finished second in the European Open Teams Championship at Montecatini in 1997, and took third place in the World Transnational Open Teams at Hammamet in the same year. He also won the prestigious Polish bridge event, Festival Solidarnosci, in Slupsk, 1995. He made a successful debut in America in 1999 at the North American Bridge Championships in Boston, taking sixth place in the prestigious Reisinger Teams.

Jacek has partnered Michal Kwiecen for seven years and together they topped a star-studded field in Las Vegas in the 2001 Cavendish Calcutta.

ADAM ZMUDZINSKI

He is the regular partner of the player we featured first, Cezary Balicki. Born in 1956, he comes from a musical family. His father was a famous Polish composer and conductor. Adam is himself a talented pianist and lists classical music as his hobby, alongside motor sports. His grandfather taught him to play bridge when he was five years old. He is attracted by the dynamic possibilities within the game and considers the most difficult aspect to be making good decisions. His partner must have

excellent technical skills and good manners.

Zmudzinski's list of bridge medals is impressive. He started with a bronze medal in the World Pairs Championship in Geneva in 1990. That was followed by silver in the 1991 Bermuda Bowl in Yokohama 1991 and silver again in the Rosenblum in Albuquerque in 1994. He finally got his hands on a World title by taking the gold medal; in the 2nd Transnational World Teams in Bermuda 2000.

Like Balicki he frequently travels to America and has won both the Spingold and the Vanderbilt. He has been no less successful in Europe, with two gold medals in the European Bridge Teams Championships, in Turku in 1989 and Menton in 1993. His set is completed by a silver medal in Montecatini in 1997 and a bronze in Killarney in 1991.

He won the Macallan in London in 1994.



Appeal No. 3 (!)



Although numbered 3, this appeal is only the second to be heard from all the events at these Championships. ('Appeal item no 1' was not an appeal but an item referred to the appeals committee concerning late arrival of a player at the table).

France v Poland

Appeals Committee: John Wignall (Chairman, New Zealand), Richard Colker (Scribe, USA), Ernesto d'Orsi (Brazil), Joan Gerard (USA), Steen Möeller (Denmark)

Transnational Teams Round 4
Board 8. Dealer West. None Vul.

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

| | | | |
|-------------------|--------------|-------------------|--------------|
| West | North | East | South |
| Gora | Rimbaud | Figlus | Bellefroid |
| 1♣ ⁽¹⁾ | Pass | 1♦ ⁽²⁾ | Pass |
| 1♥ ⁽³⁾ | Pass | 1♠ | Pass |
| 3NT | All Pass | | |

⁽¹⁾ Alerted; Polish Club (variant)
⁽²⁾ Alerted; Negative
⁽³⁾ Could be three cards

Contract: Three Notrump, played by West.

Result: 10 tricks, E/W +430.

The Facts: At the end of the auction North asked East what type of hand West might hold for his 3NT bid. East, who spoke only Polish, was unable to communicate to North (who spoke only French and English) exactly what his agreement was. The Director was called by North, who asked if he could ask West about the meaning of his 3NT bid. The Director denied the request saying that North could ask only his screenmate and left the table. At the end of the hand North again called the Director, explaining that he had been told by East that West had at least three hearts and longer clubs (perhaps 8 or so playing tricks). Afraid of providing declarer with his ninth and game-going trick, North led a passive ♠Q allowing the contract to make.

The Director: Ruled that no damage occurred from a failure to explain the full meaning of West's 3NT bid (Law 40C). In addition, it was noted that section 24.2(b) of the General Conditions of Contest require questions (and answers) to be made in

writing, which might have helped alleviate the problem.

The Ruling: The table result of 3NT made four, E/W +430, was allowed to stand.

Relevant Laws: Law 40C, GCC §24.2(b).

NIS appealed.

Present: North, East and the E/W captain (who helped to translate for East).

The Players: North confirmed the language problem between himself and East and called the Director hoping he would be allowed to get the information he needed about the 3NT bid from West. When this was denied and the Director had left the table he was able to determine from East (with difficulty) that West held at least three hearts and a longer club suit, probably with about eight playing tricks. Since East was weak North inferred declarer would have to play everything out of his own hand and so decided not to risk giving declarer his ninth trick by under-leading his ♦A. He stressed that East's explanation had strongly induced the more passive spade lead from him.

East, partly with the help of translation by his team captain, explained to the Committee that West's 1♣ opening was a variation of the Polish Club showing one of four hand types: a balanced 12-15 HCP, a balanced 18-21 HCP, any game force, or any unbalanced opening hand with a long (five-plus card) club suit. Since West would have bid (or rebid) notrump at the appropriate level with either of the balanced hand types and would have made a forcing rebid over East's 1♥ response (1♥ had been non-forcing) with a game-forcing hand, 3NT logically showed a hand with hearts (3+), longer clubs (5+), in a hand not worth an initial game force but with enough playing strength opposite spade length/strength to provide a play for 3NT. He tried to convey all this to North but was limited by the language difficulties.

The Committee: Believed that West had misbid when he rebid a non-forcing 1♥ instead of 2♥ over East's negative 1♦ response. In addition, the Committee believed that East's explanation that West should hold a long club suit was the only logical explanation of the 3NT bid which was consistent with E/W's systemic agreements. Therefore, the Committee found that no misinformation had been given to North.

The Committee Decision: Director's ruling upheld.

Deposit: Returned.

Hands

All the pre-dealt hands used in these World Championships have been put into a database by our illustrious Daily Bulletin photographer, together with a front-end program to display or paste the hand onto the Clipboard. If you would like a copy of this please see him in the Bulletin Room and he will arrange to send you an installation CD with an updated program which will be multi-lingual and have the facility to print out sessions for a small charge to cover postage and the production costs of the CD.

A Bridge Mystery

By Michael Courtney

What do you think of these two deals?

♠ J 7 5
♥ 8 2
♦ Q J 8 6 4
♣ J 8 3

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| | N | |
| W | | E |
| | S | |

♠ Q 6 2
♥ A K 9
♦ A K 7 3
♣ Q 7 5

You get a heart lead in this ambitious 3NT. Hopeless? Not really all you need is 2-2 diamonds! The recommended line is to win the heart king; cash two top diamonds in your hand and pray that they are 2-2.

When they break simply cash the spade queen, then the club queen. After they hold you claim. The idea is that the defenders will withhold their black honours to prevent entry to the apparently isolated diamond winners.

♠ A 6 2
♥ Q J 10 9 4 2
♦ A 7
♣ 8 5

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| | N | |
| W | | E |
| | S | |

♠ 7 3
♥ A
♦ K 9 5 3 2
♣ A 9 6 4 2

You play 3NT on a spade lead. Looks difficult but ducking two spades will succeed if they continue the suit. The snap with the major suit aces does the trick unless the heart king is with a five card spade suit.

So what do you think of those two deals? Yawn perhaps - the idea that falsecards must deceive by two cards rather than one (now that players play count signals) was well portrayed in works by Reese and Bird in the late eighties. The unblocking discard on the second deal is also hardly "new-in-bridge".

But these deals were published in 1912! Royal Auction Bridge by Ernst Bergholt is arguably the best book on card-play ever written (apologies to Reese and Ottlik). What I want to know is this:

Who was Ernst Bergholt?

In particular, what country did he come from? I have only seen his books in English, but much negative evidence suggests that he was not permanently resident there. If anyone does know more of this remarkable author please contact Michael Courtney.

French Bridge Federation and e-bridge Inc Sign Cooperation Agreement

Paris, November 2, 2001

e-bridge and the French Bridge Federation (FFB) have signed a cooperation agreement to provide French bridge players with the online services available on e-bridge.

While e-bridge already provides a comprehensive package of bridge services to bridge lovers, social and tournament players over the Internet (through its web site: www.e-bridgemaster.com), e-bridge's management team believes that the scope and prestige of the company's services will be greatly enhanced by working closely with the National Bridge Organisations (NBOs).

Speaking for e-bridge, Pinhas Romik, Founder, Chairman and CEO of e-bridge stated that: "As a general policy e-bridge is interested in maintaining strong cooperation relationships with the NBOs. FFB is very advanced in the use of the Internet, and there are many French players who already play online. FFB pioneered the use of computers connected through Minitel (French Internet) many years ago, before The Internet was formally recognized. This cooperation agreement should help to make e-bridge's services more easily accessible to the French players. Also, top French players will have an opportunity to compete against some of the other leading international players who are already subscribers to e-bridge. This will be another step for e-bridge to develop a truly global bridge community on the Internet."

Bernard Liochon, President of FFB, said: "The French Federation will promote the e-bridge system to its members, and we hope that there will soon be French members who will join the e-bridge site." Jean-Claude Beineix, the General Manger of FFB, said: "The e-bridge system answers the needs of French players to have an easily accessible online game. Since The Internet is becoming more and more popular in France, we have decided to enter into a cooperation agreement with e-bridge that will facilitate the access of French players to Internet services, with the active involvement of the French Bridge Federation."

e-bridge has had in place for more than a year a similarly structured highly successful cooperation with ACBL.

FFB is a non-profit organisation with approximately 100,000 registered members. At least 25% of Federation members are Internet-connected.

e-bridge Inc is a private company created to provide high-quality social and tournament bridge and complete coverage of all aspects of the game over the Internet. e-bridge provides full Internet coverage of major bridge events worldwide (for events calendar see www.e-bridgemaster.com/news/eventc_hub.asp). Although most of e-bridge's services are open only to paid subscribers, e-bridge also has several sections that are open to general public use.

SESSION 4 Venice Cup / Final
France v Germany

Germany, trailing France at the halfway point of their Venice Cup final match, needed a fast start in the fourth session to keep from being left for dead. Fate seemed to have had other ideas, however, as the Germans suffered an 11-IMP loss on the first board of the set. From that point, however, they came up with a series of major swings to knock the deficit from 49.5 to 9.5 with 32 boards to play.

It didn't look like things were going to go Germany's way at the outset, however.



Sylvie Willard, France

Board 1. Dealer North. None Vul.

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

| West | North | East | South |
|-----------|---------|---------|----------|
| Rauscheid | Cronier | Nehmert | Willard |
| | Pass | 1♠ | 2♥ |
| 3♣ | 3♥ | 3NT | Pass |
| 4♦ | Pass | 5♣ | All Pass |

Pony Nehmert's 3NT would probably have made, but Andrea Rauscheid overruled her. The result was a hopeless club game. It didn't take long for Sylvie Willard and Benedicte Cronier to record +50.

| West | North | East | South |
|-------------------|-------|----------|-------------------|
| Bessis | Auken | D'Ovidio | Von Arnim |
| | Pass | Pass | 2♦ ⁽¹⁾ |
| 3♥ ⁽²⁾ | Pass | 3NT | All Pass |

⁽¹⁾ Weak two-bid in hearts or hearts and a minor.

⁽²⁾ At least 5-5 in the minors.

Veronique Bessis was not inclined to overrule Catherine D'Ovidio, who knew that Bessis was distributional and bid 3NT anyway. Daniela von Arnim started with the normal-looking ♥J, and D'Ovidio was likely to make her contract as long as she didn't touch the diamond suit. When she won the ♥Q and immediately played on clubs, she looked like a player who was going to guess the spade position after cashing six club winners. She ended up plus 460 when von Arnim discarded both of her spades on the run of the clubs. The defenders got only the ♦A and ♠A. That was 11 IMPs for France, who increased their lead to 61 IMPs.

Germany struck back right away, however, as Sabine Auken and von Arnim bid to a vulnerable diamond slam while Cronier

and Willard stopped in game – 13 IMPs to the Germans. A second straight slam swing occurred on the next deal.

Board 3. Dealer South. E/W Vul.

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

| West | North | East | South |
|-----------|---------|---------|----------|
| Rauscheid | Cronier | Nehmert | Willard |
| | Pass | 2♣ | Pass |
| 1♦ | Pass | 3♥ | Pass |
| 2♥ | Pass | 4NT | Pass |
| 3♠ | Pass | 6♥ | All Pass |
| 5♠ | Pass | | |

Cronier got off to the best lead for the defense - a spade from the king – but with clubs and trumps both breaking favourably, Rauscheid had no trouble taking 12 tricks for +1430.

| West | North | East | South |
|--------|-------|----------|-----------|
| Bessis | Auken | D'Ovidio | Von Arnim |
| 1♦ | Pass | 2♣ | Pass |
| 3NT | Pass | 4♦ | Pass |
| 4♥ | Pass | 5♣ | Pass |
| 5♦ | Pass | 5♥ | All Pass |

This is the kind of auction that appears in the bridge magazines under the heading, Who's fault is it? The 3NT rebid, which apparently showed the 4-4-4-1 shape with extra strength, didn't help matters, taking up so much room - and D'Ovidio was obviously concerned about her doubleton spade. At any rate, the auction ended much too soon for French partisans, and Germany had scored another 13-IMP swing. A 61-IMP margin had shrunk to 35 in two deals.

Two pushes followed, but Germany added another 10 IMPs on the following deal.

Board 6. Dealer East. E/W Vul.

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

| West | North | East | South |
|--------|----------|----------|-----------|
| Bessis | Auken | D'Ovidio | Von Arnim |
| 1♥ | Pass | 1♣ | Pass |
| INT | All Pass | 1♠ | Pass |

There was no chance the French women were going to get higher than the one level, although Bessis took nine tricks after the lead of the ♣J by Auken. Von Arnim won the ♣Q and played the ♥4 to the 5, 7 and jack. Bessis played dummy's ♠K, ducked by von Arnim, and then followed with a heart to her 10. Auken won the ♥Q and exited with the ♠10, covered in dummy and ducked again by von Arnim, who took the third round of spades and played the ♦Q to declarer's ace. Bessis had three spades and two tricks in each of the other suits for plus 150.

| West | North | East | South |
|-----------|----------|---------|---------|
| Rauscheid | Cronier | Nehmert | Willard |
| 2♣ | Pass | 2♠ | Pass |
| 3NT | All Pass | INT | Pass |

At the vulnerability, Rauscheid did not fancy fooling around with invitations, so she bashed into the game. A club lead would have made life difficult for declarer, but Willard started with the ♦Q. Nehmert won the ace and played a spade to her king, ducked. The ♥J was next, and Cronier won the queen. A club shift

might have defeated the contract, but Cronier continued with the ♦10, ducked by declarer. A third round of diamonds made it clear that was not the best suit for the defenders to have attacked. The defenders took two hearts and two aces, but Nehmert had her game and +600. Germany had reduced the French margin to 25 IMPs.

This was another costly deal for France.

Board 7. Dealer South. All Vul.

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

| West | North | East | South |
|--------|----------|----------|-----------|
| Bessis | Auken | D'Ovidio | Von Arnim |
| INT | Pass | 2♦ | Pass |
| 2♥ | Pass | 3♦ | Pass |
| 3NT | All Pass | | |

Auken started with the ♣3, which went to the 10, king and ace. Bessis made an excellent play by entering dummy with a diamond to the queen and leading a low heart to her jack. Had Auken ducked, as she considered briefly, Bessis could have survived by playing a heart to the king and a third round, giving her four hearts, four diamonds and two clubs. Auken won the ♥A, however, and continued clubs, giving Bessis no chance for nine tricks. She did well, in fact, to guess spades and avoid two down.

| West | North | East | South |
|-----------|----------|---------|---------|
| Rauscheid | Cronier | Nehmert | Willard |
| INT | Pass | 2♦ | Pass |
| 2♥ | Pass | 3♦ | Pass |
| 3NT | All Pass | | |

Cronier also got off to the killing club lead, but she started with the 7, which made it difficult for Willard to appreciate how damaging the lead had been to declarer. When Rauscheid played the ♥J to Willard's queen, Willard apparently envisioned West with a stronger holding in clubs than the actual A-Q-5. In hopes her partner held something in spades, including the 8, Willard switched to the ♠10, a move that on another day would have produced the desired result. On this occasion, however, it helped declarer out of a major jam. Whereas a club return would probably have produced two down, declarer now had an overtrick - and Germany had 12 more IMPs. France was ahead by only 13.

When Cronier and Willard bid to 6♥ off the ace and king of trumps (Auken-von Arnim stopped in 4♥), Germany trailed by only 2 IMPs.

France recovered 5 IMPs when Rauscheid-Nehmert overbid to 4♠, one down for -100, while Bessis-D'Ovidio played in 2♦, mak-



Catherine d'Ovidio, France

ing an overtrick for plus 110. It was a small gain, but at least it stopped the bleeding.

It looked as though France might engineer a game swing on the following deal, but a bidding misunderstanding produced a minus.

Board 11. Dealer South. None Vul.

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

| West | North | East | South |
|-----------|---------|---------|----------|
| Rauscheid | Cronier | Nehmert | Willard |
| Pass | Pass | INT | Pass |
| 2♦ | Pass | 2♥ | All Pass |

Ten tricks can be made, even on a club lead (one declarer in the Bermuda Bowl did just that), but Nehmert was not in game and she took only nine tricks after Willard started off with a low club.

| West | North | East | South |
|--------|----------|----------|-----------|
| Bessis | Auken | D'Ovidio | Von Arnim |
| Pass | 1♠ | INT | Pass |
| 2♦ | All Pass | | Dble |

The double was alerted as not being for penalty. Von Arnim explained that her partner would pull the double with a weaker, distributional hand. Auken didn't have to bother after Bessis bid

2♦, obviously intended as a transfer to hearts. D'Ovidio didn't see it that way, however, as she passed. On the defense she received, Bessis could have made her contract, but it didn't happen. Auken led the ♥10 to declarer's king. Bessis led a spade from hand and, not surprisingly after Auken's 1♠ opener, misguessed by putting in the king. Von Arnim gave Auken a heart ruff, returning the jack in hopes of preventing a club switch after the ruff. Auken got out with a club anyway, and Bessis rode it to her queen. She then played a spade to Auken's queen, and the ♣K drove out the ace. At this point, Bessis could have made her contract by playing the ♦A and another diamond. She could have played a further round of the suit to hold her losses to two spades, two diamonds and a heart ruff for +90.

Instead, she cashed the ♦A and played on the plain suits, allowing Auken to get two more heart ruffs. That was -50 and 5 more IMPs to Germany, back to within 2.

More pre-emptive bidding by the Germans resulted in another swing for them on the following deal.

Board 14. Dealer East. None Vul.

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

| West | North | East | South |
|-----------|----------|---------|---------|
| Rauscheid | Cronier | Nehmert | Willard |
| 2♦ | 2♠ | 2♣ | Pass |
| Pass | Pass | 3♥ | 4♠ |
| 5♥ | All Pass | 5♣ | Pass |

Nehmert took 11 tricks after the lead of the ♠A. The only way to defeat 6♣ by East, as you can see, is a diamond lead - not easy to find with the South hand.

| West | North | East | South |
|--------|-------------------|----------|-----------|
| Bessis | Auken | D'Ovidio | Von Arnim |
| 2♦ | 2♥ ⁽¹⁾ | 2♣ | Pass |
| 4♥ | 4♠ | Dble | 4♣ |
| Dble | All Pass | Pass | Pass |

⁽¹⁾ Spades or the minors.

Whichever hand Auken held, von Arnim had great support and was comfortable raising to the four level. All the bidding seemed to slow the French women down, and they settled for the plus score rather than speculating that they had 11 tricks. Only five tricks were available, however, and +300 represented another 5-IMP loss for France.

The team picked up game swing on the last deal, but it was a rough set as Germany outscored France 61-25 to make a match of it.

For No Reward

Having just won an award for the best auction of 2001, your Editor was provided with an early opportunity to lay claim to the prize in 2002 with a deal from the Transnational semifinals in the match between Grinberg and Bureau.

Board 14. Dealer East. None Vul.

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

In the Closed Room East/West for Bureau bid to Six Hearts, a contract that had no chance at all.

This was the auction in the Open Room:

| West | North | East | South |
|--------------------|-------|-------------------|----------|
| Barel | | Aviram | |
| | | 1♥ | Pass |
| 2♥ | Pass | 2♠ ⁽¹⁾ | Pass |
| 2NT ⁽²⁾ | Pass | 3♠ ⁽³⁾ | Pass |
| 4♣ ⁽⁴⁾ | Pass | 4♦ ⁽⁵⁾ | Pass |
| 4♥ ⁽⁶⁾ | Pass | 6♣ | All Pass |

⁽¹⁾ Promising a short suit somewhere

⁽²⁾ Forced

⁽³⁾ Spade shortage, slam interest

⁽⁴⁾ Natural

⁽⁵⁾ Cue bid

⁽⁶⁾ Promising a high honour

Alas, when North led the king of diamonds, the 4-1 trump break spelt defeat, but it was a bravura performance in the bidding.

New Books

Bulletin Editor, Brian Senior, has produced two books based on this year's International Bridge Championships. These are:

The 2001 Zonal Championships

includes action and results from all of this year's
Zonal Championships.

124 A4 pages - US\$15 or FF100

The 2001 World Junior Championships

68 A4 pages - US\$10 or FF70

Books available from Brian in the Bulletin Room or
Room Number 2313 in the Concorde-Lafayette.

A French world champion remembers

Forty-one years ago, a young French businessman travelled from Paris to Torino, Italy, to participate in the first World Bridge Olympiad. Few observers would have given the French team a chance, but when the event concluded they were the winners of the newly created championship.



Gerard Bourchtoff

Only two members of the team survive, and one of them – Gerard Bourchtoff – has been a regular spectator at the World Championships in Paris this week.

Bourchtoff remembers the excitement of the trip to Italy to play against three famous teams from the U.S., the Italian Blue Team and another fine squad from Great Britain.

The American teams featured captains well known throughout the bridge world – Sam Stayman, Charles Goren and John Crawford. Among the U.S. competitors were world-famous figures such as Helen Sobel, Howard Schenken, George Rapee and Lew Mathe.

Bourchtoff, in fact, remembers overhearing one of them saying, "The only question is which one of us will be second." Obviously, they figured one of them would win.

Imagine the surprise when Bourchtoff, Claude Delmouly (the other surviving member of the team), Roger Trezel, Pierre Jais, Pierre Ghestem and Rene Bacherich walked away with the title.

The format was a round-robin, the French team defeated all the other teams except for Goren, which won in a close match. Their largest margin was against Italy.

"I was full of joy," Bourchtoff recalls, "because I was not a professional."

Indeed, after the World Championships, Bourchtoff played bridge only occasionally. His time was taken up with his business, which was associated with the paper industry. He has not played at all for the past 20 years.

Bourchtoff still loves the game, however, and he is a keen reader of the game, but he does not have the stamina to play long sessions.

"The head is still good," he says, "but the body.....after 16 boards I'm tired."

Bridge, Bourchtoff says, has changed a lot since 1960. Today, he says, the bidding is too complicated: "There are too many conventions."

In any case, Bourchtoff says, he much preferred the play to the bidding when he was active. "The bidding," he says, "is for business. The card play is more beautiful."

La Fayette nous voilà !

Par Guy Dupont

La couronne change de tête à deux donnes de la fin !

Quelle tristesse pour les Françaises ! Avant d'aborder la dernière séance de 16 donnes, elles possédaient une avance de 47 points. Un écart qui paraissait confortable. Mais les Allemandes entrèrent dans la partie avec une formidable rage de vaincre et remontèrent leur handicap point par point. Leur bridge était agressif et de qualité. Face à elles, on eut dit que les Françaises jouaient un peu la peur au ventre, qu'elles avaient perdu le bridge sûr et pétillant qui avait été le leur jusqu'alors. En tête depuis le début de la finale - on a envie d'écrire depuis le début du championnat, tant elles ont dominé les éliminatoires, puis leur quart de finale et leur demi-finale - elles possédaient encore 8 points d'avance quand se présenta la 95ème et avant-dernière donne. Tout bascula alors sur une manche à SA demandée au rama par les Allemandes, qui n'était pas dans les cartes, mais que Daniela Von Arnim mena à bon port. Ainsi, au moment d'aborder la dernière donne, la couronne venait de changer de tête, pour 2,5 points ! Une issue cruelle pour nos valeureuses Françaises qui n'ont jamais été aussi près de donner à la France sa première médaille d'or dans une épreuve féminine. Cruelle, mais c'est le sport. Et félicitons sportivement les Allemandes. Mais sûr que la prochaine médaille d'or n'échappera pas aux Tricolores !

Chip, hip, hip ! Hourra !

La 3ème séance de la finale de la Bermuda Bowl fut sévère (et souvent bien malheureuse) pour les Etats-Unis 2, qui, au moment d'aborder la 16ème et dernière donne, n'avaient pas encore marqué le moindre imp. Cette ultime donne allait toutefois leur permettre d'inaugurer leur colonne. Et de quelle façon ! Aux commandes, Chip Martel.

Donne 16. Ouest donneur, E/O vulnérables.

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|--|---|--|---|---|--|---|---|
| ♠ 10 8 6 3 ♥ 9 6 ♦ 10 8 5 ♣ A 10 6 3 | <table style="border: 1px solid black; width: 60px; height: 60px; margin: auto;"> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">N</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">O</td><td style="text-align: center;">E</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td style="text-align: center;">S</td></tr> </table> | N | | O | E | | S | ♠ — ♥ RV 5 4 3 ♦ D 7 4 3 ♣ R 8 5 4 |
| N | | | | | | | | |
| O | E | | | | | | | |
| | S | | | | | | | |
| | ♠ R 7 4 ♥ A D 10 8 7 ♦ R ♣ DV 9 7 | | | | | | | |

Les résultats tombaient au bridgevision: aucun de ceux qui avaient appelé le chelem à Pique ne l'avait, jusqu'alors, réussi. La séquence norvégienne au rama:

| Ouest | Nord | Est | Sud |
|--------|------|----------|----------|
| Sontag | Aa | Weichsel | Grotheim |
| Passe | 1 ♠ | Passe | 1 SA |
| Passe | 2 ♣ | Passe | 2 ♦ |
| Passe | 3 ♠ | Passe | 4 ♣ |
| Passe | 4 ♦ | Passe | 4 ♥ |
| Passe | 5 ♥ | Passe | 6 ♠ |
| (Fin) | | | |

Beaucoup de relais et d'enchères artificielles pour parvenir au bon contrat, fragilisé cependant par la malheureuse répartition 4-0 des atouts (à cartes cachées, le chelem est plus facile à jouer, si on se laisse aller à faire l'impasse au 10 de Pique, ou si on coupe un Carreau après avoir présenté le Valet et forcé la Dame, pour promouvoir le 9 - deux managements plutôt surréalistes).

Sur l'entame d'Est à Trèfle, pour le Valet et l'As, et un retour à Trèfle coupé, Aa joua Carreau pour le Roi, As de Cœur et Cœur coupé, As de Carreau et Carreau coupé, puis de nouveau Cœur coupé et Carreau coupé (du Roi de Pique). Il rentra alors en main à l'As de Pique, mais, très mauvaise nouvelle, Est défaussa, et il dut concéder un atout à l'adversaire. Une de chute.

Et l'information parvint soudain au bridgevision: dans l'autre salle, Chip Martel avait gagné le chelem !

Voyons tout cela de plus près:

| Ouest | Nord | Est | Sud |
|-----------|--------|--------------|---------|
| Brogeland | Martel | Saelensminde | Stansby |
| Passe | 1 ♠ | Passe | 2 ♥ |
| Passe | 2 ♠ | Passe | 3 ♠ |
| Passe | 4 ♣ | Passe | 4 ♦ |
| Passe | 4 SA | Passe | 5 ♥ |
| Passe | 6 ♠ | (Fin) | |

Saelensminde entama à Carreau. Après le Roi, Martel présenta la Dame de Trèfle. Brogeland encaissa de l'As et contre-attaqua du 8 de Pique. Nord prit de la Dame (intercaler le 9 pouvait paraître dangereux), et, constatant la chicane d'Est, poursuivit par As de Carreau et Carreau coupé, Trèfle coupé, puis, la clé du coup, Cœur pour la Dame. Ouf !

Il lui restait à tirer l'As de Cœur et à terminer en double coupe, en étouffant l'infortuné Ouest: Trèfle coupé, Carreau coupé du Roi de Pique, Trèfle ou Cœur coupé du 9 de Pique, puis As et Valet de Pique.

Un coup de 14 bienvenu pour inaugurer la colonne américaine.

Bien ficelé

Parmi les rares paires à avoir atteint 6 ♠ sur cette donne de la 3ème séance des demi-finales, il n'y eut qu'un déclarant - c'était dans la Bermuda Bowl - à avoir chuté:

Donne 13, Nord donneur, tous vulnérables.

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

La séquence des Françaises, dans leur demi-finale contre les

Etats-Unis 2 (dans l'autre salle, on s'était contenté de la manche à Pique):

| Ouest | Nord | Est | Sud |
|--------|---------|----------|--------|
| Bessis | Jackson | d'Ovidio | Hamman |
| | Passe | 1 ♠ | Passe |
| 3 ♠ | Passe | 3 SA* | Passe |
| 4 ♣ | Passe | 4 ♦ | Passe |
| 4 ♥ | Passe | 4 ♠ | Passe |
| 5 ♦ | Contre | 6 ♠ | (Fin) |

3 SA: proposant le chelem et déclenchant les contrôles.

Sud entame du 3 de Carreau, pour l'As de Nord, qui contre-

attaque du Valet de Cœur. Comment jouez-vous ?

Catherine d'Ovidio prit de l'As, et avança un petit Carreau dans l'intention de le couper, mais Sud coupa du 6 de Pique, et le mort surcoupa de la Dame. Revenue en main par l'As de Pique, la déclarante joua la Dame de Trèfle, pour le Roi et l'As, puis elle coupa un Trèfle. Un deuxième tour d'atout fut encaissé, un autre Carreau fut coupé du dernier atout du mort, et un deuxième Trèfle fut coupé (isolant la menace). Mme d'Ovidio défila alors ses atouts et encaissa le Roi de Carreau, mais Sud ne supporta pas la pression, victime d'un squeeze ♥-♣. 1430 pour ce coup bien ficelé.

Et observons que si Sud avait eu trois atouts et seulement cinq cartes à Cœur, le coup eut été encore gagnant sur cette même ligne de jeu, grâce à un double squeeze ♥-♣ contre Sud, et ♥-♦ contre Nord.

Equipe de France féminine Louis Vuitton

Depuis longtemps le bridge français en rêvait, elles ont failli réussir. Une solide formation, moyenne d'âge 42 ans, des pointures, il ne leur manquait qu'un titre mondial. Il était leur pendant 94 des 96 donnes de la finale. Ce n'est que partie remise!

"On t'embrasse de tout notre coeur, et pique, carreau, trèfle aussi!"

Thomas et Olivier étaient tout-petits lorsqu'ils adressaient ce message à **Véronique Bessis** leur maman, quintuple championne d'Europe. Les enfants sont devenus grands, ils sont aujourd'hui membres de l'équipe de France Junior. Le bridge est une affaire de famille chez les Bessis. Michel, le père, était capitaine de l'équipe féminine aux derniers championnats d'Europe, champion reconnu, il commente régulièrement les matches au bridgevision.

La surdouée

Elle est considérée par les experts comme la joueuse la plus douée de sa génération. **Catherine d'Ovidio** a déjà participé à quatre championnats d'Europe, avec trois médailles d'or et une médaille d'argent à la clé. Mariée, elle a une fille, Elodie, 22 ans. Catherine travaille au service contentieux d'un propanier.

Pour la petite histoire, elle a commencé le bridge au club "Le Raincy", à Villemomble, club qui a également vu débiter Michel Perron, un autre surdoué.

Comme un garçon

Bénédicté Cronier évolue depuis plusieurs saisons en première division Open, le plus haut niveau de l'élite française: peu de femmes à ce jour ont réussi à s'y faire une place.

Bénédicté compte trois titres de championne d'Europe et un titre de vice-championne du monde. Elle a également gagné le dernier Masters Generali Féminin.

Parisienne, mère de deux enfants, elle est mariée à Philippe Cronier, champion d'Europe, journaliste et directeur pédagogique de l'université du bridge de la FFB.

Héritaire, mon cher Watson!

Sylvie Willard est l'une des huit filles de Irénée de Heredia, célèbre arbitre international, qui interdisait la pratique du bridge à ses enfants avant qu'ils n'obtiennent leur bac. Cette mission accomplie, Sylvie est devenue l'une de nos plus grandes joueuses: quintuple championne d'Europe et vice-championne du monde.

Elle est mariée à François Willard, arbitre international de bridge et amateur de bowling... tout comme leur fils, Fabrice, qui fut champion d'Europe junior dans cette discipline.

Comme un poisson dans l'eau

Plusieurs sélections en équipe de France pour **Catherine Fishpool** qui, marié à un Anglais, vit à Londres depuis de nombreuses années. Fille de Sandra Girardin, une grande joueuse française, elle est également la belle-sœur du champion Thierry de Sainte Marie.

Le soleil du midi

Co-équipière exemplaire, **Babeth Hugon** enseigne le bridge au Bridge Club de la Côte d'Azur, à Nice, l'un des plus grands clubs du Sud-Est de la France. Elle reçoit de nombreux messages d'encouragements de ses élèves par internet. Mais son plus fidèle supporter reste: Indy, son chien qui se manifeste régulièrement sur le web pour lui aboyer son soutien.

La chaleur du Nord

Patrick Grenthe, Un bouquet de fleurs pour chacune des joueuses pour fêter la qualification lors du Round Robin, le capitaine Lillois est au petit soin pour ses joueuses.

Afin qu'elles évoluent dans les meilleures conditions et pour entretenir l'esprit d'équipe il a tenu à ce que toutes les joueuses, même les Parisiennes, logent à l'hôtel du début à la fin de l'épreuve.

Des joueuses qu'il connaît particulièrement bien puisqu'il est arrivé aux portes des demi-finales de la sélection Open, cette saison, avec quatre d'entre elles et le coach!

Fils des terrils et des corons

Pierre-Jean Louchart, "PJ", l'autre Ch'ti de l'équipe, joueur de première série nationale, travaille au service télématique de la Fédération Française de Bridge. Sa gentillesse et sa disponibilité ont apporté à cette équipe un soutien indispensable.

"Planchette"

Alain Cotti, scoreur fétiche des Françaises, surnommé "Planchette" à cause du support de bois qui lui sert d'appui pour relever les scores. Ce Provençal bon teint, accompagne les Tricolores dans toutes les compétitions internationales depuis plusieurs années.



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