

Chief Editor: **Henry Francis** (USA) • Editors: **Mark Horton** (Great Britain), **Brian Senior** (Great Britain) • Layout Editor: **Stelios Hatzidakis** (Greece)

USA I supplants Norway; France tops in Venice

Three happenings highlighted the fourth day of the Bermuda Bowl and Venice Cup round-robins.

1. Lynn Deas, in the hospital here almost from the moment she arrived, left her hospital bed and returned to the bridge wars in her wheelchair.
2. Omar Sharif, who always is drawn to wherever bridge is being played, joined the commentators in the vugraph room and kept the audience amused with his quips and observations.
3. The Tunisian team in the Bermuda Bowl competition scored their first victory of the tournament, and it was against tough opposition. They defeated Canada, 17-13. The Tunisian women forged a tie against first-place France in Venice Cup play. Tunisia actually outscored France, 35-34.

Bermuda Bowl

The American teams are running 1-2. Norway was in first place when they faced USA I in yesterday's second match, but the Americans overpowered the Norwegians, 24-6, and took over first place. USA I defeated Chinese Taipei in the evening to maintain their hold on the top spot.

USA II started the day by losing a close one to Italy, 16-14, then came back with a 16-14 win over Venezuela. In their last match of the day, they trounced Norway, 24-6, to take over second place, 5.6 Victory Points out of first.

It was a bad day for Norway, but despite the two losses to American teams they held onto third place. However, they are far in arrears – 27 VPs behind USA I and only 2 VPs ahead of China and Australia, who are deadlocked for fourth place. France, Italy and Poland round out the top eight, and no other team is close to the leaders.

Venice Cup

France did not have a great day, losing to Italy, defeating Venezuela and tying Tunisia – but that was good enough to keep them in first place for the fourth straight day.

France's closest competitor, USA II, also had a bad day, losing to both Canada and France. Did we say a bad day? Not really! Lynn Deas rejoined the team after a long hospital stay, and she led her team to a 25-5 blitz against Chinese Taipei. Despite being confined to a wheelchair, and despite her difficult hospital siege, she was able to settle in and play good bridge, helping her team to second place.

Netherlands had a fine day with blitzes against Germany and Brazil and a win over New Zealand. The 66 VPs for the day moved them into third place, ahead of USA I, which lost to Colombia and China after beating India. Rounding out the top eight are Canada, China, Great Britain and Italy.

A major surprise – the defending champions from Germany are not among the leaders. At present they are ninth – but only 1 VP behind Italy.



**You can watch it all...
on your TV set**

You don't even have to leave your room to watch what's happening on vugraph. Just tune your TV set to Channel 27 for the hands and commentary. If you want to see how the players look as they play, it's right there on Channel 28.

Want to keep up on the results and standings? That's on your TV too – just put your dial on either Channel 29 or 30.

Of course you can still go to the vugraph room to see the big screens. But this means you have a choice – you can get up and walk to the vugraph room – or you can stay in bed and keep completely up to date.

Bermuda Bowl - Results

Round 10

Table	Match	IMPs	VPs
1.	Venezuela - USA I	41 - 50	13 - 17
2.	Italy - USA II	49 - 42	16 - 14
3.	Chile - India	24 - 73	5 - 25
4.	Tunisia - Canada	49 - 39	17 - 13
5.	Brazil - Denmark	18 - 39	11 - 19
6.	Poland - China	29 - 25	16 - 14
7.	Australia - Norway	13 - 60	6 - 24
8.	South Africa - Chinese Taipei	38 - 37	15 - 15
9.	France - New Zealand	43 - 34	17 - 13

Round 11

Table	Match	IMPs	VPs
1.	USA I - Norway	76 - 33	24 - 6
2.	USA II - Venezuela	43 - 39	16 - 14
3.	India - Italy	35 - 44	13 - 17
4.	Canada - Chile	68 - 40	21 - 9
5.	Denmark - Tunisia	65 - 53	17 - 13
6.	China - Brazil	48 - 31	19 - 11
7.	Chinese Taipei - Australia	44 - 29	18 - 12
8.	New Zealand - South Africa	78 - 50	21 - 9
9.	France - Poland	49 - 26	20 - 10

Round 12

Table	Match	IMPs	VPs
1.	Chinese Taipei - USA I	46 - 60	12 - 18
2.	Norway - USA II	18 - 61	6 - 24
3.	Venezuela - India	74 - 20	25 - 4
4.	Italy - Canada	44 - 30	18 - 12
5.	Chile - Denmark	20 - 58	7 - 23
6.	Tunisia - China	29 - 76	6 - 24
7.	Poland - Brazil	41 - 53	13 - 17
8.	Australia - New Zealand	66 - 39	21 - 9
9.	South Africa - France	37 - 67	9 - 21

Bermuda Bowl - Program

Round 13

11h00

1.	USA I	-	New Zealand
2.	USA II	-	Chinese Taipei
3.	India	-	Norway
4.	Canada	-	Venezuela
5.	Denmark	-	Italy
6.	China	-	Chile
7.	Brazil	-	Tunisia
8.	France	-	Australia
9.	South Africa	-	Poland

Round 14

14h30

1.	France	-	USA I
2.	New Zealand	-	USA II
3.	Chinese Taipei	-	India
4.	Norway	-	Canada
5.	Venezuela	-	Denmark
6.	Italy	-	China
7.	Chile	-	Brazil
8.	Poland	-	Tunisia
9.	Australia	-	South Africa

Round 15

18h00

1.	USA I	-	South Africa
2.	USA II	-	France
3.	India	-	New Zealand
4.	Canada	-	Chinese Taipei
5.	Denmark	-	Norway
6.	China	-	Venezuela
7.	Brazil	-	Italy
8.	Tunisia	-	Chile
9.	Australia	-	Poland

Bermuda Bowl Rankings after 12 rounds

1	U.S.A. I	231
2	U.S.A. II	225.4
3	NORWAY	204
4	CHINA	202
5	AUSTRALIA	202
6	FRANCE	201
7	ITALY	200.1
8	POLAND	198
9	CHINESE TAIPEI	180
10	DENMARK	179
11	CANADA	174
12	VENEZUELA	172
13	BRAZIL	169
14	INDIA	157
15	NEW ZEALAND	154
16	CHILE	138
17	SOUTH AFRICA	115
18	TUNISIA	111

Smoking in Hammamet

The tournament is normally non-smoking, unless if, by special agreement of the concerned players at a table, the tournament director is requested to allow it.

The tournament director will, however, be entitled to forbid smoking if the room becomes too smoky.

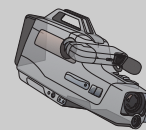
On submitting their lineups, team captains will be



requested to add an S to the names of the smoking players. No cigars or pipes. Only players are allowed to smoke.

The same smoking policy will apply next year at the World Championships in Lille, France.

From 1999, all WBF events will be non-smoking.



VUGRAPH

Venice Cup - Round 13 11h00

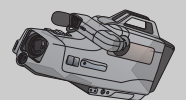
GREAT BRITAIN - USA I

Bermuda Bowl - Round 14 14h30

FRANCE - USA I

Bermuda Bowl - Round 15 18h00

AUSTRALIA - POLAND



Venice Cup - Results

Round 10

Table	Match	IMPs	VPs
10.	Italy - France	43 - 39	16 - 14
11.	Argentina - Chinese Taipei	28 - 63	8 - 22
12.	South Africa - Australia	23 - 74	5 - 25
13.	USA I - India	60 - 33	21 - 9
14.	Great Britain - Colombia	37 - 49	13 - 17
15.	Germany - China	52 - 17	22 - 8
16.	Canada - USA II	48 - 42	16 - 14
17.	Brazil - Tunisia	52 - 39	18 - 12
18.	Netherlands - New Zealand	44 - 40	16 - 14

Round 11

Table	Match	IMPs	VPs
10.	France - USA II	48 - 33	18 - 12
11.	Chinese Taipei - Italy	47 - 23	20 - 10
12.	Australia - Argentina	27 - 65	7 - 23
13.	India - South Africa	56 - 41	18 - 12
14.	Colombia - USA I	63 - 39	20 - 10
15.	China - Great Britain	71 - 17	25 - 4
16.	Tunisia - Canada	30 - 60	9 - 21
17.	New Zealand - Brazil	41 - 47	14 - 16
18.	Netherlands - Germany	72 - 19	25 - 5

Round 12

Table	Match	IMPs	VPs
10.	Tunisia - France	35 - 34	15 - 15
11.	USA II - Chinese Taipei	71 - 18	25 - 5
12.	Italy - Australia	69 - 29	23 - 7
13.	Argentina - India	14 - 114	0 - 25
14.	South Africa - Colombia	61 - 34	21 - 9
15.	USA I - China	46 - 61	12 - 18
16.	Germany - Great Britain	21 - 38	11 - 19
17.	Canada - New Zealand	47 - 64	11 - 19
18.	Brazil - Netherlands	27 - 75	5 - 25

Venice Cup - Program

Round 13

11h00

10.	France - New Zealand
11.	Chinese Taipei - Tunisia
12.	Australia - USA II
13.	India - Italy
14.	Colombia - Argentina
15.	China - South Africa
16.	Great Britain - USA I
17.	Netherlands - Canada
18.	Brazil - Germany

Round 14

14h30

10.	Netherlands - France
11.	New Zealand - Chinese Taipei
12.	Tunisia - Australia
13.	USA II - India
14.	Italy - Colombia
15.	Argentina - China
16.	South Africa - Great Britain
17.	Germany - USA I
18.	Canada - Brazil

Round 15

18h00

10.	France - Brazil
11.	Chinese Taipei - Netherlands
12.	Australia - New Zealand
13.	India - Tunisia
14.	Colombia - USA II
15.	China - Italy
16.	Great Britain - Argentina
17.	USA I - South Africa
18.	Canada - Germany

Venice Cup Rankings after 12 rounds

1	FRANCE	212
2	U.S.A. II	208
3	NETHERLANDS	206
4	U.S.A. I	202.5
5	CANADA	198
6	CHINA	196
7	GREAT BRITAIN	192
8	ITALY	188
9	GERMANY	187
10	NEW ZEALAND	176
11	SOUTH AFRICA	173
12	INDIA	169
13	ARGENTINA	165
14	COLOMBIA	158
15	CHINESE TAIPEI	157
16	AUSTRALIA	154
17	BRAZIL	141
18	TUNISIA	123

Endplayed Again!

by Patrick Jourdain (GB)

Tim Cope of South Africa read the cards well on this deal from their Round 10 encounter with Chinese Taipei:

Round 10. Board 4. Game All. Dealer West.

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

West	North <i>Bosenberg</i>	East	South <i>Cope</i>
1♥	Pass	INT	2♠
Pass	3♥	Pass	4♠
All Pass			

West's light opener did not prevent the South African pair from reaching game, and the club lead was not unhelpful. Cope won the club and began with a

trump to dummy and a club back to the ace. He then crossed to dummy with a second trump, took a diamond ruff in his own hand, ruffed a club in dummy, and ruffed another diamond felling West's king.

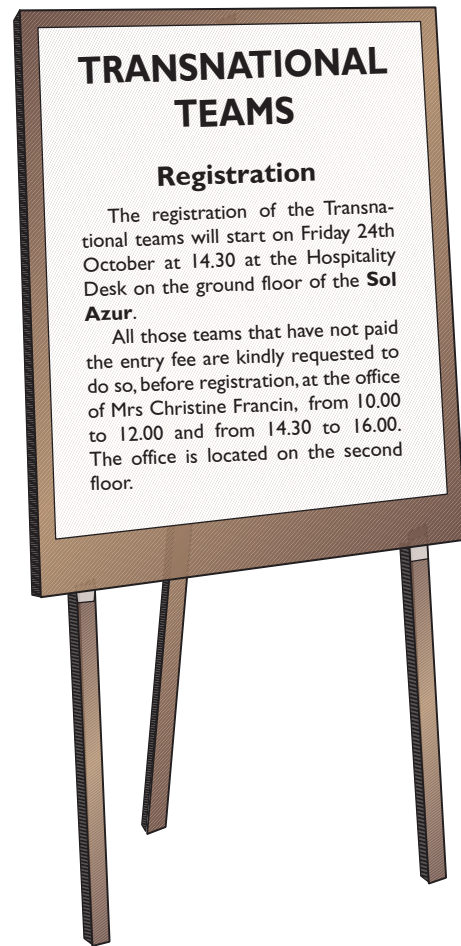
He now exited with a club to West knowing that West was down to five hearts. When West, endplayed, exited with a low heart, Cope had a decision to make. If West had ♥KJ10 it would be best to play low from dummy, but this would be a losing line if East's singleton was the ten or jack. Cope decided that West would probably have exited with an honour if he had all three, and so successfully put up the queen from dummy. When this felled East's ten he was able to run the eight to West's jack, endplaying poor West again.

This was 620 to South Africa. Alas, at the other table team-mates had lost 800 in three diamonds doubled, so there was still a small loss on the board.

There are other ways to make the hand, an interesting one being to use all dummy's entries to ruff diamonds. The play goes: win the club, cross to a trump, ruff a diamond, cross to a trump, ruff a diamond, ace of clubs, ruff a club (West's shape is now known), lead a high diamond covered by East and ruffed in hand, then exit with a club. West has to lead a heart to the queen. East can ruff when he wishes, but has only diamonds left to concede a diamond to dummy. The defence make a club, a trump and a diamond, but no heart.



*The President of the World Bridge Federation
and Mrs. José Damiani
Request the pleasure of the company of
All the Bermuda Bowl & Venice Cup
Players, team officials and their partners
to Cocktails on the Upper Terrasse
of the Royal Azur Hotel
from 7 p.m. to 8 p.m. on Saturday, 25 October 1997
in the presence of
Marc Hodler
Vice-President of the International Olympic Committee
and
Omar Sharif*



Hammamet observations – II

by Tony Radjef

Thank you for the favourable comments I received from y'all, as they say in Texas.

Before I get into table service and other tidbits, let me repeat that you may contact me directly for any questions you have. I'll do the best I can to find the answers.

The Mediterranean countries favour a tempo of life which in general is much slower than in English-speaking countries. The idea is that to enjoy life, a leisurely pace is best. As a prime example, they give themselves time to enjoy their meals. This is why restaurant service seems slow to us. However, the waiters are very attentive. They will take away your plate almost as soon as you cross your fork and knife.

Tipping is not required but is very much appreciated – 5 to 8% is considered a great tip.

Laundry lists and cleaning lists are above the safe in your room. You generally get your clothes back the next day, and the prices are reasonable. My shirts came back folded and looking great! I suggest you fill out the list, total the amounts and keep a copy.

When the elevator stops, look up at the green number on the side to make sure you are on the right floor. I've gotten off at the wrong floor several times.

The Royal Azur, Sol Azur and Bel Azur are on one big central telephone system. Each room has a different number. To call a Royal Azur room from the Bel Azur, just dial that room's four-digit number.

230 volts in the rooms requires a transformer 230/115 to be used. We found out the hard way – a curling iron melted right before our eyes.

1997 Official World Championship Book

The official book of these championships will be published in March of next year. Comprising some 250-280 pages, it will include:

- Extensive coverage of the Bermuda Bowl and Venice Cup
- A brief history of the Bermuda Bowl and Venice Cup
- Highlights of the Transnational Teams
- Many photographs
- A full listing of all the players in all three championships here in Hammamet

The price on publication will be \$30 per copy but for the duration of these championships you can make an advance purchase at the special rate of just \$25 to include postage and packing.

To take advantage of this special offer please see **Elly Ducheyne** in the Press Room.

Exercising control

by Barry Rigal

When Venezuela played France, Claudio Caponi snatched his chance for a real coup – he finished as declarer in a challenging spot after an awkward auction.

2♠ is an interesting spot on three rounds of clubs, since East is now threatening to discard his second heart on the fourth club. However, Caponi's 2♥ contract also looked in jeopardy after two rounds of clubs when Mouiel shifted to the ♥9, ducked to dummy's 10. Caponi took a spade finesse to the queen, then led a diamond. Multon took this with the ace to cash the ♥A and play a third club. When Caponi made the key play of throwing a spade on this, it left the following position:

Board 16. E/W Vul. Dealer West.

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



♠ A Q J 10 9
♥ K Q 6 3
♦ J 6
♣ 4 3

♠ 6
♥ J
♦ K 10 4
♣ J



♠ A J 10
♥ Q 6
♦ J
♣ –

West Multon	North Hamaoui	East Mouiel	South Caponi
1♣	Pass	1♠	Pass
INT	Pass	Pass	Dbl
Pass	2♦	Pass	2♥
All Pass			

Mouiel exited with a spade, and Caponi inserted the jack, then carried on with the ♠A, ruffed and overruffed. Now a club ruff to hand, and the last trump squeezed East in spades and diamonds. Contract made.

What might have been

by Barry Rigal

In the long watches of the night, Bob Hamman produced a "might have been" analysis which showed one of those positions that occur only in books by Otlík.

Board 20. Game All. Dealer West.

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

Diagram: N (North), W (West), E (East), S (South)

The match between India and United States II saw the Indian declarer play 4♣ from the South seat. On a diamond lead declarer won in dummy and passed the ♠10. West returned a club, and declarer took the 9, then passed the ♣Q successfully. Now a second trump went to the queen and king, and on a trump return won in dummy, this was the ending:

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

Diagram: N (North), W (West), E (East), S (South)

Declarer leads a heart to the 10 – and, believe it or not, West must DUCK this to beat the hand. If he takes it he must return a major suit, and East gets caught in a criss-cross squeeze. If West ducks, declarer can play the ♥A and another heart to ruff in dummy. But South now must play a minor suit, allowing West to ruff and disrupt the ending. Note that if East plays the ♥Q on the first lead of the suit, South wins and returns the ♥J, and again West must duck to beat the hand.



Confirm your airline tickets

Each delegation should confirm their plane departure reservations at the Tunis Air desk in the lobby of the Sol Azur.



Appeals Committee:

Steen Møller (Chairman, Denmark), Bill Pencharz (GB), Eric Kokish (Canada).

Venice Cup Round 7 France vs USA I

Board 2. North/South Game. Dealer East.

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

Diagram: N (North), W (West), E (East), S (South)

West	North	East	South
<i>Saul</i>	<i>Meyers</i>	<i>Bessis</i>	<i>Montin</i>
Pass	1♥	Pass	1♦
3♣	5♣	2♠	3♦
Pass	5♠	Pass	5♥
Pass	7♥	All Pass	5NT

Facts:

The TD was called to the table by West at the end of the next board. Before the lead South had written to West that 5♣ was probably Exclusion Blackwood. This information had been supplied to East during the bidding. West argued that if she had known this in the bidding she might have bid 6♣ after 5♥ knowing that her partner held at least four clubs. The TD applied Law 75.1 (Example 1), since the missing alert by South was an infraction of the Law, and "when this infraction results in damage to East/West, the Director shall award an adjusted score." The TD found that East/West had not been damaged.

Under Law 9 the players must summon the TD at once when attention is drawn to an irregularity, and West (and South too) ought to have called for the TD when South explained her uncertainty about the 5♣ bid – and not after the next board.

Result on the board: thirteen tricks; North/South +2210.

Appeal No. 2

reported by Hans Folke (Denmark)

TD's ruling:

The score stands.

Appellant:

East/West appealed.

The players:

West told the Committee that she had thought that the 5♣ bid was natural, showing 6-5 or 6-6 in the rounded suits, because it was not alerted by South. Otherwise she would have bid 6♣, which would perhaps have led to a cheap sacrifice in 7♠. She said that South looked uncertain about the bid, and she didn't want to ask – perhaps giving away information for the play.

North/South explained that they had never before had this use of Exclusion Blackwood in a competitive auction. 4♣ by North would have been natural. They suggested that if West was thinking of bidding she should have asked. South wasn't sure whether 5♣ was Exclusion Blackwood or Splinter; but in any case 5♥ was the correct bid, showing 0/3 key cards in the first case and a heart cuebid in the second. She forgot to alert 5♣ because of her uncertainty and in the confusion she forgot to alert her own 5♥ bid.

The committee:

The committee was of the opinion that West should have done more to protect herself before deciding what to bid over 5♥. They found that she should have called for the TD as soon as possible if she felt she was being prevented from taking action after 5♥.

The committee also found that it was far from obvious for West to bid 6♣, even if she had been alerted and been given the correct explanation. This was indicated by East's failure to double 5♣ or to bid 6♣ over 5♣ herself, as she also knew of the big club fit.

The committee felt that South, in accordance with Law 9, should have called the Director before the opening lead, explaining her uncertainty about the 5♣ bid. Not doing so can create uneasy situations harming the spirit of the game.

The committee's decision:

The committee ruled that the TD's decision stood and fined North/South half a VP for failing to alert and for not having sorted out the situation with the ambiguous 5♣ bid before play.

This penalty is in accordance with the WBF policy for penalising minor offences when they cause contentious difficulties, such as in this case.

Press cocktails and Press trip

The *Tunisian Bridge Federation* cordially invites all members of the IBPA as well as local Tunisian journalists to join them for cocktails in the *Royal Azur* on Friday morning, 24 October, at 11 a.m. Present will be **José Damiani**, *President of the World Bridge Federation*; **Hosni Zouari**, *President of the Tunisian Bridge Federation*, and **Omar Sharif**, who is visiting these championships.

On Saturday, the *Tunisian Bridge Federation* invites all members of the IBPA to take part in a Press trip. The bus will depart at 9 a.m. from the *Sol Azur*. On the trip the group will visit the *Bardo Museum*, *Carthage* and *Sidi Bou Said*, where lunch will be served. The bus will return at about 3 p.m.

If you wish to go you must register with **Elly Ducheyne** in the Press Room by noon Friday at the latest.

Bermuda Bowl MAITALLY OF

Two real heavyweights, the European champions and the Bermuda Bowl holders, met on vugraph in Round 10, with the Americans having the better of the early going.

Board 2. North/South Game. Dealer East.

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

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Lanzarotti	Hamman	Buratti	Wolff
		2♦ ⁽¹⁾	Pass
2♥	Dbl	3♥	Pass
Pass	3♠	Pass	4♣
All Pass			

⁽¹⁾ Multi

Andrea Buratti under-pre-empted with a hand which looks like a normal three-level opening and this allowed Hamman/Wolff space to find a tolerable spot. There are only three obvious losers in 4♣ but declarer's lack of entries to hand means that he cannot avoid a trump promotion one way or another. 4♣ was one down; -100.

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Meckstroth	Versace	Rodwell	Lauria
		3♦	Pass
3♥	3NT	All Pass	

Eric Rodwell's transfer pre-empt left Alfredo Versace no room to explore and he guessed to bid 3NT. Clearly, this can go several down on a heart lead to the ace and heart return, but Jeff Meckstroth switched to the ♠Q at trick two. Now Versace had a chance. The winning line is to win the spade and play ace and queen of diamonds, creating two dummy entries. If East continues spades, West cannot afford to overtake so declarer can duck and later knock out the ♠A to establish nine tricks. He is also O.K. if he wins the spade and plays ♠K - but only if West ducks. If he wins the club and switches back to hearts the contract is several down.

Anyway, all of that was academic because Versace ducked the ♠Q and Meckstroth promptly switched back to hearts. Versace won the ♥K and cashed the top

spades, Rodwell pitching a club. On seeing that spades were not breaking evenly, Versace played the ♠K but Meckstroth knew he could afford to win that and he duly did so and played a diamond through. Versace finessed, his only hope, and Rodwell had all the hearts to cash; five down for -500 and 9 IMPs to USA2.

Board 4. Game All. Dealer West.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Meckstroth	Versace	Rodwell	Lauria
1♥	Pass	INT	Pass
2♣	Pass	2♦	Dbl
All Pass			

INT was forcing and 2♣ could have been as few as two cards on a bad day (4-5-2-2 distribution). When Lorenzo Lauria doubled 2♦ for takeout, Versace had an easy enough pass and it appeared that the contract should go one or two down. However, the defence lost its way.

Lauria led a spade and Versace won the king and switched to the ♦2. Rodwell put in the eight and led his heart to Lauria's ace. Lauria cashed ♠A and led a spade to the ace and Versace exited with a diamond to dummy's king. Rodwell cashed the ♥K and ♠K and the contract hinged on which suit he ruffed at the next trick. If he chose a club, Versace would pitch his spade and make two trump tricks in the endgame for one down. But Rodwell correctly ruffed a heart, cashed the spade and exited with his low diamond to force a lead into the ♦AJ at trick twelve; +180.

In the Closed Room, Massimo Lanzarotti did not open the West hand and Bobby Wolff opened 1♠ after three passes. Bob Hamman responded 2♣, Drury, and Wolff bid 4♣ over Buratti's 2♦ overall.

The lead was the ♦K. Wolff ruffed and crossed to the ♠A to take the club finesse. Lanzarotti took his king and exited with a spade to dummy's king. Wolff led the ♦Q, covered and ruffed, then came the ♠A and a club ruff. The ♦10 was covered and ruffed, establishing the nine, and Wolff played ♣J, throwing dummy's small diamond. Buratti had the ♠Q but with the ♥K well-placed it didn't matter whether he ruffed or not as declarer could always lead up to the ♥Q for his contract. An excellent +620 and 13 IMPs for USA2.

Board 7. Game All. Dealer South.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Meckstroth	Versace	Rodwell	Lauria
			Pass
1♥	INT	Pass	2♣
Pass	2♦	Pass	2♥
Pass	2NT	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

2♣ was Stayman and 2♦ showed either four spades or a minimum without four spades. 2♥ enquired and 2NT showed the latter hand-type and now Lauria took an aggressive pot at game. Rodwell led hearts and Versace won the second round and led the ♦J to dummy's king, hoping for a miraculous bare queen with West. No such luck. Next he led a low spade and got some good news when the king appeared. He took the ace and returned a spade, ducking when Rodwell split his honours. It would seem that declarer's play marks West with the ♦Q, but Rodwell played safe and returned a club so Versace escaped for two down when a low diamond to the queen would have netted an extra trick for the defence; -200.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Lanzarotti	Hamman	Buratti	Wolff
			Pass
1♥	INT	Pass	2♦
2♥	Pass	Pass	2♣
All Pass			

In contrast to Lauria's drive to game, Wolff simply bid a natural and non-forcing 2♦ over INT. When Lanzarotti repeated his hearts, Wolff showed his spades and played in 2♣ on the lead of ♥K to the ace. Wolff ran the ♦J at trick two, ruffed the next heart and cleared the diamonds. With the ♠K falling, his spade pips were just good enough to allow declarer to scramble home with eight tricks; +110 and 7 IMPs to USA2.

The Americans had a useful lead of 33-6 at this point but now Italy started to come back.

Board 8. Love All. Dealer West.

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

In the Open Room, Versace opened 1♠ after a pass by West and Rodwell doubled. Meckstroth responded INT to the double and played there, making an over-trick; +120.

In the other room, Hamman had a hand worth a canape sequence in his methods so opened 1♥. Buratti overcalled 2♦ and Lanzarotti responded 2♥, an unassuming cuebid. Now Hamman thought he had an opportunity to show his main suit and bid 2♣. But Buratti doubled to show his extras and Lanzarotti was delighted to pass. A slightly strange looking auction from the Italian pair but highly effective. Buratti cashed the ♠K and switched to ace and another diamond and the defence had no difficulty in coming to two spades, two hearts

VuGraph Quips

Eric Kokish posed the question: Why are Australia doing so well in the Bermuda Bowl? Quick as a flash, Mark Horton opined "Perhaps because they are the only team not coached by Eric Kokish!"

When Huang and Kuo ran into a problem on one deal it was "Big trouble in little China!"

THE USADIA Y Round 10

and two more clubs for three down; -500 and 9 IMPs to Italy.

Board 10. Game All. Dealer East.

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

A systemic triumph for Lauria/Versace or, perhaps more accurately, an unlucky board for the Hamman/Wolff methods.

In the Open Room, Lauria opened INT, 15-17, and Versace bid 2♥, transfer. Lauria jumped to 3♠, showing four-card support but a minimum, and Versace suggested 3NT as an alternative spot. With his flat hand, Lauria was happy to accept the suggestion. Meckstroth led a diamond against 3NT and Lauria put in dummy's jack then played on spades. Meckstroth won the ♠A and switched to hearts, establishing Lauria's ninth trick; +600.

Wolff also opened INT but this was wide-range, Blue Club style, and Hamman had to start with a 2♣ enquiry. Wolff bid 2♠, showing a strong no trump with four spades, but Hamman did not have the same options as had Versace in the other room and simply raised to 4♠. Lanzarotti led a heart to the ace and Wolff had no option but to finesse on the heart return. When Lanzarotti won the ♥Q, he promptly switched to ace and another diamond so was able to give Buratti a diamond ruff when he got in with the ♠A; two down for -200 and 13 IMPs to Italy.

Board 13. Game All. Dealer North.

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

In the Closed Room, the Italians had a free run to 5♦ by East after Hamman had passed as dealer. Wolff led a trump and Buratti won in hand and advanced the ♥K. Hamman took the ace and returned a second trump and Buratti carefully played his eight and won with dummy's ten, leaving himself with a second diamond entry to the table. The obvious play now was to finesse North for the ♠Q and when that worked Buratti was home; +600.

Open Room

West Meckstroth	North Versace	East Rodwell	South Lauria
	1♠	Dbl	3♣
Pass	Pass	4♣	Pass
4NT	Pass	5♦	All Pass



Photograph courtesy of Kodak's new digital camera

Lorenzo Lauria (Italy)

Versace opened the North hand and Lauria made a normal pre-emptive raise over the double. Had Rodwell doubled again, Meckstroth would have been happy to pass and it would have been a question of two or three down. But Rodwell had such playing strength that he preferred to cuebid 4♠ and, over the 4NT response, bid his long suit.

Lauria led a spade, of course, and the king forced the ace which was ruffed. And that established spade trick in the dummy had a major role to play in the hand because, of course, it gave declarer a club guess instead of a simple finesse. Rodwell drew trumps, threw a club on the ♠Q and led the ♣J to The king! Down one and 12 IMPs to Italy, who had moved into the lead.

Board 15. North/South Game. Dealer South.

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

Open Room

West Meckstroth	North Versace	East Rodwell	South Lauria
			1♦
2♣	Dbl	2♥	Dbl
Pass	2♠	3♣	3♠
Pass	4♣	All Pass	

Versace's double was negative while Lauria's showed hearts. When Versace removed that double he had to have long spades and Lauria had an easy raise. The defence attacked diamonds early and the favourable breaks meant that Versace was able to throw his second heart on the long diamond and didn't need the heart finesse, though he was sure it was outside, of course.

In the other room Wolff opened 1♠ on the South cards and Lanzarotti overcalled INT, showing either a normal INT overcall or a weak hand with a long minor.

Hamman jumped to game and Buratti bid 4NT, trying to cater to whichever hand-type his partner held. The five-level rates to be dangerously high looking at the East hand, even given the favourable vulnerability, and so it proved. Lanzarotti corrected to 5♣ and was doubled for -800; 5 IMPs to USA2.

Board 20. Game All. Dealer West.

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

Closed Room

West Lanzarotti	North Hamman	East Buratti	South Wolff
Pass	1♣	2♠	Pass
2NT	Pass	3NT	4♣
All Pass			

It is unclear what was going on here as Hamman's 1♣ opening was strong and one or other of the Italians seems to have taken a wild gamble. That gamble paid off when Wolff decided to save in 4♣, fearing that the spades might be running and East/West actually have nine tricks. Hamman was declarer, of course, and the lead of the ♦9 into his tenace did him no harm. But there were still far too many losers to worry about. He won the ♦Q and played two rounds of clubs. The defence had two clubs, two hearts and a spade for two down; -200.

In the Open Room, Versace opened 2♦, showing a balanced 18-20, in second seat. Lauria bid 2NT, demanding 3♣, and passed the response. 3♣ should fail, of course, but it is as good a contract as is likely to be reached on the North/South cards. The lead was a spade away from the king and Versace won the queen and played a low heart. Rodwell went in with the ace of hearts and played back the nine and Meckstroth gave him a heart ruff. But that was at the expense of a trump trick and worse was to follow for the defence when Rodwell switched to a diamond into the ace-queen. From here, Versace had only to lose a trump trick; +110 and 7 IMPs to Italy.

Italy had come back well from their poor start and gained a narrow win; 16-14 VPs.



Photograph courtesy of Kodak's new digital camera

Nick Nickell left (USA), Bob Hamman right (USA)

Bermuda Bowl

Round 9

Chinese Taipei vs New Zealand

This was a wild match – 120 IMPs changed hands – six per deal. The lead rocked back and forth, with Chinese Taipei eventually the winner, 67-53, which translates to 18-12 in Victory Points.

New Zealand started fast, scoring the first 16 IMPs. The Kiwis made what looked like a phantom save on the first board, but a slip on the part of a Chinese Taipei defender turned the save into a plus.

Board 1. Love All. Dealer North.

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

Mik opened with 1♠ and Jedrychowski leaped to game over Kuo's 2♥ overcall. Huang went on to 5♥, was doubled and was set two tricks – minus 300. There was no opposition bidding in the Open Room, and it appeared that the contract was down after the diamond opening lead from East. Declarer put up the king, and Huang took both his ace and queen. Kuo followed to the second diamond with the 4 instead of the 10, so Huang shifted to a club. Declarer won and led a heart. East ducked! Now declarer was able to draw trumps and give up a diamond to make his contract and gain 3 IMPs.

Both sides went down two tricks at 2♦ on Board 2, but New Zealand doubled, thereby picking up another 7 IMPs. New Zealand gained on partials on the next two deals, but the pendulum then swung to Chinese Taipei. They bid an aggressive game on Board 5 and were lucky enough to find the ♠Q onside, the club honours split, the diamond finesse working and the ♥K onside. As a result they scored up plus 630.

Board 5. North/South Game. Dealer North.

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

The New Zealand South decided that his eight flat points weren't enough to make a move over a 15-17

notrump. New Zealand also took 10 tricks, but that was a 10-IMP loss.

Chinese Taipei stopped in a partial on the next deal, scoring 150 at 3♣. New Zealand climbed to a notrump game and was set a trick – 4 to Chinese Taipei. On the next board the New Zealand North-South suffered a bidding disaster.

Board 7. Game All. Dealer South.

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

West	North	East	South
Huang	Mik	Kuo	Jedrychowski
Pass	1♠	Pass	1♣ ⁽¹⁾
Pass	2♣ ⁽²⁾	Pass	2♦
Pass	2♠	Pass	3♥
Pass	3NT	Pass	4♥ ⁽³⁾
Pass	4NT ⁽⁴⁾	Pass	5♦ ⁽⁵⁾
Pass	6NT	All Pass	

- ⁽¹⁾ Polish club – often equivalent to a weak notrump
- ⁽²⁾ Asking for major
- ⁽³⁾ Feels hearts is a better contract than notrump
- ⁽⁴⁾ Signoff in notrump
- ⁽⁵⁾ Read 4NT as Blackwood and responded

It appears that Mik was trying to sign off – he was willing to play 3NT. But his partner took 4NT as Blackwood. Huang found the imaginative opening lead of the ♦3, but everything worked out well when Kuo put in the 9 to hold the trick. A second diamond guaranteed defeat of the contract – in fact, Jedrychowski suffered a two-trick defeat. Shen and Lin stopped in 3NT in the Closed Room – 13 IMPs to Chinese Taipei, who took over the lead by 1 IMP.

New Zealand picked up 3 IMPs on notrump overtricks on Board 8 and two more the same way on Board 9. Then they bid another aggressive notrump game on Board 10.

Board 10. Game All. Dealer East.

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

West	North	East	South
C. Ker	Shen	Dravitsky	Lin
1♦	1♠	Pass	Pass
INT	Pass	3NT	All Pass

The opening spade lead went to the 9 and Ker led a diamond to the queen, South ducking. Next came the ♥10, covered by the queen and won with the ace. A second diamond came next, taken by the king, and Lin fired back a spade. But when Shen took his top spades, declarer now had three diamonds, four hearts and two spades for his game. In the Open Room, Chinese Taipei played in 3♣, which was destined for a one-trick set – 12 IMPs to New Zealand.

New Zealand got to a bad 3NT on Board 11 and quickly took a two-trick beating when Huang and Kuo cashed out six heart tricks. New Zealand played in 3♥ at the other table – down one, for a 4-IMP gain for Chinese Taipei.

One of the weakest overcalls in bridge history occurred on Board 12.

Board 12. North/South Game. Dealer West.

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

West	North	East	South
Huang	Mik	Kuo	Jedrychowski
Pass	1♦	2♣	Dbt
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

What do you think of Kuo's overcall? It certainly must be in the running for the weakest overcall ever. Jedrychowski thought a long time before passing 3NT, and he was right – 6NT was bid at the other table and Lin could manage only 11 tricks. That was 13 IMPs on New Zealand's side of the ledger.

Board 13. Game All. Dealer North.

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

West	North	East	South
Huang	Mik	Kuo	Jedrychowski
1♥	1♣	Dbt	Pass
Pass	Pass	4♥	4♠
	Pass	5♥	All Pass

Jedrychowski passed on his first turn, but he came to life when his opponents got to game. His 4♠ bid pushed Chinese Taipei one level too high. However, at the other table, Chinese Taipei was allowed to play in 4♠. After a club opening lead to the ace and a club ruff, Lin correctly guessed the singleton ♠K and racked up his game. Now it appeared that Kuo had taken a good save in 5♥ – 11 IMPs for Chinese Taipei.

The next board was uneventful – a notrump push –

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the first and only push of the match. New Zealand gained 10 IMPs on Board 15 when they made 4NT in the Closed Room while Chinese Taipei was being set a trick in the Open Room. Then Board 16 had a surprise ending.

Board 16. East/West Game. Dealer West.

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

West	North	East	South
Huang	Mik	Kuo	Jedrychowski
2♣	Pass	2♠	Pass
3♠	Pass	4♠	Pass
4NT	Pass	5♦	Pass
6♠	7♦!!!	DbI	All Pass

Mik did not overcall over 2♣, but he came in over 6♠. This could have been a good save with a different layout – but not this time. Mik was able to take only six tricks for minus 1700 and a 7-IMP loss.

Next came the wildest hand of the tournament to date.

Board 17. Love All. Dealer North.

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

West	North	East	South
Huang	Mik	Kuo	Jedrychowski
Pass	1♦	Pass	Pass
Pass	3NT	All Pass	3♣

How often do you see a 7-6-0-0 hand? Both North/South pairs duly arrived in 6♠ certainly a reasonable contract. However, bidding the slam and making it are two different things. In the Open Room, the opening lead was a club. Declarer tried to ruff hearts, but when he ruffed the third heart with the 10, West was able to overruff and return a trump. Now declarer had to lose a second heart for down two.

In the Closed Room East led the ♥A – curtains for the defence. That was a quick 14 IMPs for Chinese Taipei.

Ker made an unusual opening bid on Board 18 and was punished to the tune of a 500-point set. But the result was not a plus for Chinese Taipei.

Board 18. North/South Game. Dealer East.

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

West	North	East	South
Huang	Mik	Kuo	Jedrychowski
2♣	Pass	2♠	Pass
3♠	Pass	4♠	Pass
4NT	Pass	5♦	Pass
6♠	7♦!!!	DbI	All Pass

Chinese Taipei gained a final 3 IMPs on the last board when they set 5♦ two tricks while the same contract was going down one at the other table. That was it – an 18-12 win for Chinese Taipei.



Photograph courtesy of Koah's new digital camera

Che-Hung Kuo (Chinese Taipei)

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Ker	Shen	Dravitsky	Lin
2♣ !!!	DbI	All Pass	Pass

That bid showed four or more clubs with four or more in one of the majors, or six clubs, with 3-8 high card points. This was beaten three tricks and looked like a big gain for Chinese Taipei. But this is what happened at the other table.

West	North	East	South
Huang	Mik	Kuo	Jedrychowski
Pass	1♦	Pass	Pass
Pass	3NT	All Pass	3♣

Kuo led the ♥3 to the ace, and he ducked the heart return when declarer put up the queen. A diamond to the ace was followed by a diamond to the jack and queen. Kuo switched to a club, declarer of course rising with the ace. Then declarer cashed his last two diamonds, ending in dummy – and Huang discarded a spade! That was all declarer needed – he was able to cash four spades to go with a heart, three diamonds and a club. That was worth 3 IMPs to New Zealand.

Jedrychowski, faced with a tough 4♠ contract on Board 19, actually wound up with an overtrick, thanks to his judicious use of jacks.

Board 19. North/South Game. Dealer South.

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

West	North	East	South
Huang	Mik	Kuo	Jedrychowski
Pass	1♦	Pass	Pass
Pass	3NT	All Pass	3♣

Jedrychowski won the ♦J opening lead with the ace and surprised the vugraph audience and the commentators by immediately finessing the ♣J. When this worked, everyone thought he would cash the top spades, but no – he crossed to the ♠K and finessed the ♠J. When he led the ♥9, East ducked, and suddenly he had 11 tricks for a 1-IMP gain.

Chinese Taipei gained a final 3 IMPs on the last board when they set 5♦ two tricks while the same contract was going down one at the other table. That was it – an 18-12 win for Chinese Taipei.

Nothing Clever

The British women maintain that they are doing nothing clever, just making fewer mistakes than their opponents. When pressed for a hand for 'Bridge Magazine,' Liz McGowan offered this hand as an example of excellent defence by her partner, Heather Dhondy. It comes from their round seven encounter with Chinese Taipei.

Board 13. Game All. Dealer North.

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

West	North	East	South
Dhondy	McGowan		
Pass	1♠	Pass	INT
	2♠	All Pass	

It looks as if 2♠ will be easily defeated, as the defence have two trumps, three diamonds and one club 'on top.' However when Liz ignored the late Barry Crane's dictum: 'God deals you AK of a suit so you don't have a lead problem' and started with a heart, declarer was able to take three rounds of the suit discarding a diamond.

She continued with a club so Liz went up with her ace and cashed two top diamonds before playing a fourth heart. Declarer ruffed in dummy with the eight of spades and Heather put on the jack of spades which declare took with the king. She ruffed a diamond and played dummy's remaining trump which ran to Liz's queen.

She played her last heart which Heather ruffed with the ace of spades. Then she played the queen of diamonds, securing a trump promotion for her partner's seven of spades.

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Bermuda Bowl

Round 11

USA I vs NORWAY

The vugraph match for Round 11 was the perfect confrontation – Norway, the first-place team after 10 matches, playing against United States I, right behind Norway in second place.

The match had a surprise commentator – none other than Omar Sharif. "I represent the ordinary player, so when I say something the chances are you will be able to understand me," Omar told the vugraph audience. During the course of the match there were many interesting exchanges between Omar and commentators Bill Eisenberg and Eric Kokish.

Norway got off to a fast start.

Board 1. Love All. Dealer North.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Helgemo</i>	<i>Martel</i>	<i>Helness</i>	<i>Stansby</i>
	1♦	Pass	1♥
INT	2♥	Dbl	Pass
2♠	Pass	Pass	3♥
All Pass			

It's close whether to play game or stop in a partial. The fine lie of the cards favours the game, but Martel and Stansby elected to stop at the three level. Perhaps that was good – they took only nine tricks.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Zia</i>	<i>Aa</i>	<i>Rosenberg</i>	<i>Groetheim</i>
	1♦	Pass	1♥
INT	2♥	Dbl	Pass
2♠	3♥	Pass	4♥
All Pass			

Over 2♠ Aa bid while Martel passed. That was the difference – Groetheim naturally carried on to game. He then picked up the trumps and scored 11 tricks to give Norway 7 IMPs on the opening deal. But the Americans got this back with interest on the next board.

Board 2. North/South Game. Dealer East.

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

Both North/Souths arrived in the heart game. In the Open Room Martel won the ♣K opening lead and cashed three top trumps. Then he led the ♦K, taken by Helness with the ace. However, Helness neglected to cash his club – instead he tried the ♠K. This did not work well. Martel won with the ace and cashed two top diamonds to get rid of the losing club. He still had to guess the spade situation – it certainly was possible that

Helness had the queen with the king. After a little thought, Martel called for a spade. When Helgemo played the 10, Martel put up the jack for his 10th trick.

At the other table, after the same early play, Rosenberg carefully cashed the ♣Q before switching to a spade. Now there was no way declarer could bring home 10 tricks, and 12 IMPs were placed on the American side.

USA I was lucky on Board 4.

Board 4. Game All. Dealer West.

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

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Zia</i>	<i>Aa</i>	<i>Rosenberg</i>	<i>Groetheim</i>
Pass	Pass	INT	Pass
2NT	Pass	3♣	Pass
3♦	Pass	3♥	Pass
4♣	Pass	4♥	All Pass

Clearly there was a misunderstanding somewhere on this deal – Zia and Rosenberg are not in the habit of playing in a 4-2 trump suit. Not surprisingly they suffered a three-trick set – minus 300. But they lost only 3 IMPs. Norway got to 3NT, and the cards did not lie well for them – they were soon down two vulnerable tricks after a spade opening lead.

Helgemo and Helness did well to get to 4♥ on Board 8, but they were in for a surprise when they compared scores.

Board 8. Love All. Dealer West.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Helgemo</i>	<i>Martel</i>	<i>Helness</i>	<i>Stansby</i>
1♥	Pass	2♦	2♠
Pass	3♣	Dbl	Pass
4♥	All Pass		

Not many of us would open that West hand with a one-bid – but Helgemo did. He lost two spades and a heart and scored up his game. But look a what happened in the Closed Room.

West	North	East	South
<i>Zia</i>	<i>Aa</i>	<i>Rosenberg</i>	<i>Groetheim</i>
2♥	Pass	2♠	Dbl
Redbl	2NT	Dbl	Pass
Pass	3♣	Pass	Pass
3♥	Pass	4♥	Pass
Pass	5♣!!	Dbl	All Pass

As you can see, this was not at all a good save. Zia and Rosenberg did well to get to the heart game, but they weren't about to try the five level. The defense took three trumps, two diamonds, a heart and a spade – down five for 1100 and a 12-IMP gain for USA I.

Zia and Rosenberg got to the right game on Board 10.

Board 10. Game All. Dealer East.

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

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Zia</i>	<i>Aa</i>	<i>Rosenberg</i>	<i>Groetheim</i>
		Pass	Pass
1♥	Pass	3♣	Pass
3♠	Pass	4♣	Pass
5♣	All Pass		

Eleven tricks are easy – declarer lost only the ace of trumps and a diamond. At the other table Helness and Helgemo arrived in 3NT, which didn't have a chance after a diamond opening lead. 12 more IMPs to USA I.

Norway got 8 IMPs back on Board 14 when Zia and Rosenberg got to 6♣ off two quick spade tricks while Helness and Helgemo made 4♥.

On Board 16, the Americans got to 3♠ making four, while Norway got to 4♠ making three – 6 IMPs to USA I.

Board 16. East/West Game. Dealer West.

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

This is how the defence went in the Closed Room – diamond to the jack ruffed, ♣K ducked, ♠A, ♠K, ♣Q taken with the ace, ♠Q, small diamond, forcing declarer to use his last trump before getting a heart trick.

Board 17. Love All. Dealer North.

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

This was a 10-IMP pickup for Norway when Zia led the ♠A against 5♦. In the Open Room North was the declarer, so the contract went down quickly on the lead of the ♠J.

The Americans picked up a game swing on Board 18.

Board 18. N/S Vul. Dealer East.

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

West	North	East	South
Helgemo	Martel	Helness	Stansby
		Pass	1♦
Pass	2♣	Pass	2♥
Pass	2♠	Pass	2NT
Pass	3♦	Pass	3♥
Pass	4♦	Pass	5♦
All Pass			

Stansby gave this hand excellent play. He won the opening club lead with the ace and took the losing heart finesse. He won the spade return with his ace and cashed two top diamonds. After cashing the ♠K and the top hearts, he successfully crossruffed for four additional tricks and his game. Norway was not as successful in the other room, going down one trick for a 12-IMP loss.

Board 20. Game All. Dealer West.

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

West	North	East	South
Helgemo	Martel	Helness	Stansby
Pass	Pass	Pass	1♠
Pass	2♣	Pass	2♦
Pass	2♠	All Pass	

The commentators and the vugraph audience expected Martel to jump to 3♠ on his third turn, but he took the conservative route, and the auction died at 2♠. This would have been the right decision if there were a spade loser, but there wasn't so Stansby had no problem taking 10 tricks.

But Norway didn't find the spade game either.

West	North	East	South
Zia	Aa	Rosenberg	Groetheim
Pass	Pass	Pass	1♠
Pass	2♣	Dbl	3♣
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

Rosenberg led the ♠Q, and declarer had only eight tricks. When he tried to get a ninth in diamonds, Rosenberg took his ace and cashed out clubs for one down. That was another 7 IMPs to US I. The Americans scored a 24-6 victory which rocketed them clearly into first place in the Bermuda Bowl round-robin standings.

Bermuda Bowl Round 8

Poland vs Denmark

by Barry Rigal

In what was generally a very tough set for North-South, with a series of marginal games and slams, Balicki and Zmudzinski produced a nearly perfect card against Schaffer and Anderson.

committed to a moderate slam and found the cards not cooperating. This was the Polish auction:

North	South
1♣	1♠
2♦ ⁽¹⁾	2♠ ⁽²⁾
2NT	3NT

- ⁽¹⁾ (18+ with 3 spades)
- ⁽²⁾ (10+, exactly 4 spades)

Both hands were absolutely maximum for these actions.

Then came another disastrous lead for the Albatross Club. (One would expect some bad luck with a name like that!)

Board 1. Love All. Dealer North.

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

It started with Board 1, where Zmudzinski elected not to raise spades but instead to respond 2♦ to the 1♣ opening before jumping to 4♠. This talked Schaffer out of leading the ♦J, whereupon 10 tricks were easy. Balicki actually emerged with 11 tricks.

However, at the other table the lead of the ♦J by Romanski went to Kowalski's queen. When Kowalski continued with the ♦A, Romanski followed with the 10, not the 4 – suit preference to show the ♠A. Now it was easy to arrange the diamond ruff to beat the game.

On the next board, Zmudzinski gave a little back by failing to come in over a strong notrump with ♠Q 7, ♥K Q J 9 8, ♦A Q 6 5, ♣J 6. He found he could not beat 1NT, but Kowalski-Romanski bid to 3♣ down one – 4 IMPs to Denmark.

Balicki-Zmudzinski immediately recovered these IMPs with interest, bidding a 5% game which came in with comfort. Then Balicki earned another swing – or perhaps it was the Danish system losing the IMPs.

Board 6. East/West Game. Dealer East.

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

After Schaffer opened 1♥ with the East hand, Zmudzinski overcalled 2♦. When Anderson raised to 2♥, Balicki jumped to 3NT. On a heart lead that made 10 tricks. However, a spade lead would have doomed the contract to two down.

Board 12. North/South Game. Dealer West.

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

Balicki and Zmudzinski managed to stay out of slam with 32 high card points while Auken and Koch Palmund

Board 14. Love All. Dealer East.

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

West	North	East	South
1♦ ⁽²⁾	Pass	1♣ ⁽¹⁾	Pass
			?

- ⁽¹⁾ 9-11 HCP balanced or 17+
- ⁽²⁾ 0-8 HCP

Zmudzinski as South doubled. Anderson redoubled for rescue, Schaffer ran to 1♥ and Zmudzinski doubled again, ending the auction. He led a trump, and the defence played two more rounds. A low club (a good guess) went to Zmudzinski's ace, and he played a fourth trump, squeezing Schaffer, who pitched a diamond (Balicki had pitched two diamonds). Now came the ♦K and a diamond to the ace. A low spade to the 9 and the ♠K allowed Zmudzinski to cash two more diamonds, and the ♠K meant 800 and 8 IMPs for the Poles. The Danes had earned a very respectable 460 in the other room.

That was the end of the real action, but in a rather strange mirror to Board 1 Schaffer and Anderson did have a chance for a pickup when Balicki made his one mistake of the set.

Board 19. East/West Game. Dealer South.

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

Balicki played 4♠ as North on an unopposed auction. He won the ♦J with the king to lead a spade to the king and a spade to the jack. That brought good news and bad news as Schaffer pitched the ♦2. Now Balicki erred by playing a diamond up, but Schaffer carelessly followed with a low diamond, so Anderson assumed his partner had the ♠A. He led the ♠Q, allowing declarer to scoop it up and draw the last trump for +420 and a flat board.

Poland, by winning 24-6, dealt a severe blow to their opponents' hopes of qualifying.

Venice Cup

Round 9

France vs Argentina

It is time we took a look at the leaders in the Venice Cup qualifying competition. On Wednesday evening, France took on middle-of-the-table Argentina.

The first major swing went to the South Americans when what looked to be a hopeless game was let through on Board 3. Then came a chance to build a serious lead.

Board 4. Game All. Dealer West.

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

In the Closed Room the deal was passed out but the Argentinian East/West pair reached game in the Open Room! Espinosa-Paz opened 1♥ in third seat and Suaya responded 3♦, showing 10-12 with heart support. Espinosa-Paz signed-off in 3♥ but Suaya went on to 4♥ anyway. The lead was ♠5, run to the queen, and Saul switched to ♦5 for the nine, jack and ace. Declarer played on trumps and Bessis won the second round and returned her last trump. Espinosa-Paz unblocked the diamonds and just had to get the spades right to make her contract. Alas, she finessed against South instead of taking the ruffing finesse and was one down; -100 and 3 IMPs to France.

Board 6. East/West Game. Dealer East.

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

Both East/West pairs bid: 1♣ - 1♠ - INT. Lucrecia Monsegur led ♦2 to Lucchini's ten. Lucchini cashed the diamonds and switched to a heart and the contract fell apart, no less than four down; 400 to Argentina.

In the other room, Bessis led a spade to the queen and Espinosa-Paz ducked a club. Saul won the jack and cashed ♦A before reverting to spades, leading the jack to declarer's ace. Espinosa-Paz ducked a second club which was again won by Saul. This time she switched to ♥Q for the king and ace. What was needed now was a

diamond through the queen but Bessis was afraid to lead away from her ♥J in case Saul was missing the ten. She played a safe spade instead, not only giving declarer the ♠K to which she had no entry but also allowing her to cash three club tricks for just one down; -100 and 7 IMPs to Argentina.

Board 7. Game All. Dealer South.

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

North	South
Lucchini	Monsegur

1♥	1♣
3♦	2♣
4♣	3NT
5♣	4NT
Pass	7♣

North	South
Saul	Bessis

1♥	1♣
3♣	2♠
4♣	3NT
4NT	4♦
7NT	5♣
	Pass

Both pairs bid smoothly to a cold grand slam but the French picked-up 2 IMPs for playing in no trump when Saul took control and could count 13 tricks.

Board 9. East/West Game. Dealer North.

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

Does South have enough to respond to North's 1♦ opening bid? Yes, said Bessis, and bid INT, where she played. Suaya led ♥9, which ran to declarer's ten. Bessis played a club and was delighted to see the ace appear. Suaya continued with ace and another heart and Bessis cashed the clubs and took ♦A for +120.

Monsegur passed the 1♦ opening and West, Pascale Thuillez balanced with a double. De Guillebon responded 1♥ and Monsegur introduced her clubs. Thuillez competed with 2♥ and that ended the auction. The defence began with a diamond to the ace and the ♦Q, ruffing out the king. But all that meant was that the defensive trumps were now 2-2 and De Guillebon promptly played two rounds and claimed nine tricks; +140 and 6 IMPs to France.

Board 12. North/South Game. Dealer West.

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

Both Easts played 4♠ after North/South had bid and supported hearts. Monsegur led ♥J for the queen and king and Lucchini switched to the ♦2, to the queen and king. Monsegur returned the ♥J and De Guillebon won and played ace and another spade; +420.

Bessis led ♥8 to the ten and king. Saul also switched to a diamond, but the seven. Again the queen lost to the king but the high spot card helped Bessis to avoid the diamond continuation. She switched back to hearts, leading the jack to the queen and ace, ruffed by Espinosa-Paz. She crossed to the ♠A to lead a low spade and Saul took the ♠K and played a second diamond, declarer rising with the ace. Declarer had the tricks now but not the communications. She cashed the ♠Q and crossed to the ♠K to ruff the last heart. But now she required there to be four clubs with the long spade. She cashed ♣Q and led ♣10 but Bessis could ruff in with the jack, leaving dummy with a diamond loser; one down for -50 and 10 IMPs to France.

Board 17. Love All. Dealer North.

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

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Thuillez	Lucchini	De Guillebon	Monsegur
1♠	Pass	1♦	1♥
2NT	Pass	2♣	Pass
	Pass	3NT	All Pass

Monsegur's overall attracted the lead of the ♥10, which she ducked to Thuillez's queen. Thuillez led the ♦9, covered by the ten and ducked in dummy, perhaps an error as it gives up on two honours being doubleton in the North hand. Monsegur overtook the diamond to switch to the ♠K, knowing that nothing else was going to put declarer under pressure. All that did on the actual layout was to speed up the play; ten tricks for +430.

In the open Room there was no overall so Espinosa-Paz/Suaya had a free run: 1♦ - 1♥ - 2♣ - 2NT - 3NT. This time the lead was a spade to the king and ace. Suaya also led ♦9 at trick two and Saul put in the ten, which was beaten by dummy's king. Suaya led a heart and Bessis took the king to return her remaining spade. Declarer won and did not want to cash her third spade winner because she had not yet established the diamonds and was afraid of creating too many defensive tricks. Instead, she ducked a diamond to the queen, but that wasn't good enough. Bessis cashed ♥A and exited with a diamond to dummy. After cashing the diamonds, declarer was trapped in dummy with nothing but clubs left and no way to get to her ninth trick, the ♠J. She had to go one down; -50 and 10 IMPs to France.

The overall score was 39-29 IMPs to France, converting to 17-13 VPs. France were still in the lead at the end of day three.

Trivial Pursuits

Alan Truscott poses the following question:

Which team, including the Captain, competing in these Championships, consists entirely of World Champions?