USA I supplants Norway; France tops in Venice

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

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, 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.
Bermuda Bowl - Results

Round 10

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

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

Round 12

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

Bermuda Bowl - Program

Round 13

11h00

1. USA I - New Zealand
2. USA II - Chinese Taipei
3. India - Norway
4. Canada - Venezuela
5. Denmark - Brazil
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
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.**

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</tbody>
</table>

West North East South

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Card</th>
<th>Rank</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A K 7</td>
<td>Q 8 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7 5</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9 8 3</td>
<td>10 9 5 4 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>A 6 5 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>♦</td>
<td>♠</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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 Terrace 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.

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.

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.

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.


West North East South

Multon Hamoui Mouiel Caponi

1♥ Pass 1♣ Pass

INT Pass Pass DBL

Pass 2♥ Pass 2♥

He 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:

West North East South

♠ 6 ♥ 8 ♦ 9 ♣ 7 ♥ ♠ K 8 7 ▪ Q 8 7

♠ A Q J 10 9 ♦ K 6 3 ♠ J 6 ♠ 4 ♦ A Q 10

Moiel 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 Ostrik.

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

```latex
\begin{array}{cccccc}
\text{North} & \text{East} & \text{South} & \text{West} \\
\hline
\text{A} & \text{Q} & \text{J} & \text{9} \\
\text{K} & \text{Q} & \text{J} & \text{9} \\
\text{Q} & \text{J} & \text{9} & \text{A} \\
\text{K} & \text{Q} & \text{J} & \text{9} \\
\text{J} & \text{9} & \text{A} & \text{Q} \\
\text{A} & \text{Q} & \text{J} & \text{9} \\
\text{K} & \text{Q} & \text{J} & \text{9} \\
\text{Q} & \text{J} & \text{9} & \text{A} \\
\text{K} & \text{Q} & \text{J} & \text{9} \\
\text{J} & \text{9} & \text{A} & \text{Q} \\
\text{A} & \text{Q} & \text{J} & \text{9} \\
\text{K} & \text{Q} & \text{J} & \text{9} \\
\text{Q} & \text{J} & \text{9} & \text{A} \\
\text{K} & \text{Q} & \text{J} & \text{9} \\
\text{J} & \text{9} & \text{A} & \text{Q} \\
\end{array}
```

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.

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 might perhaps have led to a cheap sacrifice in ♦ 3♦. 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. ♦ 6♦ 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 difficult situations, 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.
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.


- A K 5 3 2
- K 7 J
- Q A 8 3
- K
- Q J 8 4
- A 5
- 10 7 6
- A 9 7 3
- 9 6
- Q 10 9 8 7 4 3
- K 5
- 8 4
- 10 7
- 2
- J 9 4 2
- Q J 10 6 5 2

Closed Room

West
Lanzarotti
North
Hamman
East
Buratti
South
Wolff

2
2
2
2
2
Dbl
Pass
Pass
All Pass

Open Room

West
Meckstroth
North
Versace
East
Rodwell
South
Lauria

1
2
2
2
Dbl
Pass
Pass
1NT
All Pass

1NT 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 spade 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 A and led a spade and exited with his low diamond to force a lead through to the A at trick twelve; +180.

In the Closed Room, Massimo Lanzarotti did not open the West hand and Bobby Wolff opened 1NT after three passes. Bob Hamman responded 2 , Drury, and Wolff bid 4 over Buratti's 2 overcall. The lead was the K.Wolff ruffed and crossed to the A. Wolff led the J to dummy's 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 4. Game All. Dealer West.

- A K 7
- Q 8 3
- 10 9 4 2
- 7 5
- J 6
- Q 8 2
- 10
- 8 7 5 3
- 9 8 3

- A 9 5 4
- A Q 6

- A K 5 6 2
- 10
- K 6
- K 10 4 2
- 10 9 5 4 3
- 9 8 3
- 2
- 9 4 2
- Q J 6

West
North
East
South

Lanzarotti
Hamman
Buratti
Wolff

Pass
1NT
Pass
2NT
All Pass

In the Open Room, Versace opened 1NT 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...
and two more clubs for three down; -500 and 9 IMPs to Italy.

Board 10. Game All Dealer East.

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\spades and was doubled for -800. 5 IMPs to USA2.

Board 20. Game All Dealer West.

Lorenzo Luria (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\spades 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 4Q and led the 4J to …. The king! Down one and 12 IMPs to Italy, who had moved into the lead.

Board 15. North/South Game. Dealer South.

In the Closed Room, the Italians had a free run to 5\spade by East after Hamman had passed as dealer. Wolff led a trump and Buratti won in hand and advanced the 4\spades. 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 4Q and when that worked Buratti was home; +600.

Open Room

Nick Nickell left (USA), Bob Hamman right (USA)
T his 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.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>West</th>
<th>North</th>
<th>East</th>
<th>South</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>♠ A Q 10 7 4 3</td>
<td>♥ 9</td>
<td>¥ 9 8 7</td>
<td>♦ A J 5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>♣ 8 6</td>
<td>♥ 10 6 2</td>
<td>¥ 5</td>
<td>♦ J 7 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>♥ 2</td>
<td>♥ 8 7</td>
<td>¥ J 7 3</td>
<td>♦ Q 9 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>¥ Q 6</td>
<td>¥ K 8 6 3</td>
<td>¥ Q 7 5</td>
<td>♦ Q 8 2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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 wood. Huang found the imaginative opening lead of the ♠ K 9 6 4. As a result, they scored up plus 630.

**Board 2. North/South Game. Dealer North.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>West</th>
<th>North</th>
<th>East</th>
<th>South</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>♠ Q 8 7 6 4</td>
<td>♥ 9 3</td>
<td>¥ K 10 7 2</td>
<td>♦ K 7 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>♣ K 5 3 2</td>
<td>♥ J 8 7 2</td>
<td>¥ J 5 3</td>
<td>♦ J 10 9</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>West</th>
<th>North</th>
<th>East</th>
<th>South</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>♠ A Q J 4</td>
<td>♥ A J 10 9</td>
<td>¥ J 7</td>
<td>♦ 9 7 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>♥ 10 6 2</td>
<td>♥ K 8 6 3</td>
<td>¥ Q 7</td>
<td>♦ Q 10 9 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>¥ Q 5</td>
<td>¥ Q 10 6 5</td>
<td>¥ A 6 5</td>
<td>♦ A K 7 6 4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Huang took both his ace and queen. Kuo followed to the diamond finesse working and the ♥ K 10 9 4 as a result they scored up plus 630.

**Board 9. Game All Dealer North.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>West</th>
<th>North</th>
<th>East</th>
<th>South</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>♠ K J 4</td>
<td>♥ 9 8 6 5 3</td>
<td>¥ Q 9 8 2</td>
<td>♦ Q 10 9 8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>♥ 6 3 2</td>
<td>♥ J 2</td>
<td>¥ A J 6</td>
<td>♦ J 10 8 6 3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The opening spade lead went to the 9 and Kuo led a diamond to make his contract and gain 3 IMPs. New Zealand got to a bad 3♥ NT 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.

**Board 12. North/South Game. Dealer West.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>West</th>
<th>North</th>
<th>East</th>
<th>South</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>♠ A 5 2</td>
<td>♥ K 5 3</td>
<td>¥ A Q 7 4</td>
<td>♦ 7 6 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>♥ K J 4</td>
<td>♥ 9 8 6 5 3</td>
<td>¥ 9</td>
<td>♦ J 2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

What do you think of Kuo’s overcall? It certainly must be in the running for the weakest ever call over all. Jedrychowski thought a long time before passing 3♥, and he was right – 4♥ 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.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>West</th>
<th>North</th>
<th>East</th>
<th>South</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>♠ A 10 9</td>
<td>♥ A 10 9</td>
<td>¥ A 10 9</td>
<td>♦ 6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>♥ 6 3 2</td>
<td>♥ K 10 7 4</td>
<td>¥ K J 9 5 3</td>
<td>♦ J 10 8 6 3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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 club and a club ruff, Lin correctly guessed the singleton ♦ K and raked 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 –
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.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>West</th>
<th>North</th>
<th>East</th>
<th>South</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Huang</td>
<td>Mek</td>
<td>Kuo</td>
<td>Jedrychowski</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2♣</td>
<td>Pass</td>
<td>2♠</td>
<td>Pass</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3♠</td>
<td>4♣</td>
<td>Pass</td>
<td>Pass</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4NT</td>
<td>5♠</td>
<td>Pass</td>
<td>Pass</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6♣</td>
<td>7♠</td>
<td>Dbl</td>
<td>All Pass</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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.

**Board 17. Love All. Dealer North.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>West</th>
<th>North</th>
<th>East</th>
<th>South</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Huang</td>
<td>Mek</td>
<td>Kuo</td>
<td>Jedrychowski</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>♠ A K 8 7 6 5 3</td>
<td>♦ K Q 10 7 6 3</td>
<td>♣</td>
<td>♢</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>♠ J 9 2</td>
<td>♦ 8 4</td>
<td>♣ A 9 2</td>
<td>♢ A Q 9 7 5 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>♠ 8 6</td>
<td>♦ A K 7</td>
<td>♣ J 10 8 4</td>
<td>♢ J 10 8 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>♠ J 9 3</td>
<td>♦ A 2</td>
<td>♣ A 4 2</td>
<td>♢</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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.

**Board 19. North/South Game. Dealer South.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>West</th>
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<th>East</th>
<th>South</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Huang</td>
<td>Mek</td>
<td>Kuo</td>
<td>Jedrychowski</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>♠ A J 8 5 4</td>
<td>♦ 9</td>
<td>♣ K 6 5</td>
<td>♢ A J 9 5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>♠ Q 10 9 7</td>
<td>♦ 10 7 6 4</td>
<td>♣ A Q J 2</td>
<td>♢ J 10 9 7 3 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>♠ 8</td>
<td>♦</td>
<td>♣ K Q 4 2</td>
<td>♢ 8 6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>♠ J 9 7</td>
<td>♦ K 10 7 3</td>
<td>♣ K 6 3</td>
<td>♢ K 8 5 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>♠ 6 5 3 2</td>
<td>♦ Q 8</td>
<td>♣ A Q 4</td>
<td>♢ 10 7 3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Jedrychowski won the ♠A opening lead with the ace and surprised the vugraph audience and the commentators by immediately finessing the ♠7. 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 tricks while the same contract was going down one at the other table. That was it – an 18-12 win for Chinese Taipei.

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**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.**

<table>
<thead>
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<th>West</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Huang</td>
<td>Mek</td>
<td>Kuo</td>
<td>Jedrychowski</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>♠ A J 4</td>
<td>♦ Q 7</td>
<td>♣ 10 8 6 5 4</td>
<td>♢ A K 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>♠ J 9 8</td>
<td>♦ 9 3</td>
<td>♣ 10 7 3</td>
<td>♢ A 9 7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>♠ 9 8 2</td>
<td>♦ 9</td>
<td>♣ 10 7 3</td>
<td>♢ K 10 8 6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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: 'Good 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 declarer 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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The vugraph round 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.

Omar got off to a fast start. Board 1. Love All. Dealer North.

Closed Room

West North East South
Helgemo Martel Helness Stansby
INT 2♣ Pass Pass 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.

Open Room

West North East South
Helgemo Martel Helness Stansby

Over 2♣ As 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 to 3NT, which didn’t have a chance after a diamond opening lead. 12 more IMPs to USA I.

USA I was lucky on Board 4.

Board 4. Game All. Dealer West.

Closed Room

West North East South
Zia Aa Rosenberg Groetheim
Pass Pass INT Pass
2♣ Pass 3♣ Pass
2♠ 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 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.

Closed Room

West North East South
Zia Aa Rosenberg Groetheim
1♥ Pass 3♦ Pass
3♣ Pass 4♣ 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.

Both North/Souths arrived in the heart game. In the Open Room Martel won the 4♠ opening lead and cashed two top trumps. Then he led the 5♣, taken with the ace. Helness neglected to cash his club – instead he tried the 3♣. 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


Open Room

West North East South
Helgemo Martel Helness Stansby
1♥ Pass 2♣ Pass
3♣ 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 at what happened in the Closed Room.

Board 8. Love All. Dealer West.

Closed Room

West North East South
Zia Aa Rosenberg Groetheim
1♥ Pass 3♦ Pass
2♣ Pass 4♣ All Pass

This is how the defence went in the Closed Room – diamond to the jack ruffed. 5♣ ducked, 2♠ taken with the ace, 3♠, small diamond, forcing declarer to use his last trump before getting a heart trick.

Board 17. Love All. Dealer North.

Open Room

West North East South
Helgemo Martel Helness Stansby
1♥ Pass 2♣ Pass
3♣ 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 at what happened in the Closed Room.


Open Room

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

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Board 17. Love All. Dealer North.

Closed Room

West North East South
Zia Aa Rosenberg Groetheim
1♥ Pass 3♦ Pass
2♣ Pass 4♣ 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.

Closed Room

West North East South
Zia Aa Rosenberg Groetheim
1♥ Pass 3♦ Pass
2♣ Pass 4♣ 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.
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 ♠4.

The Americans picked up a game swing on Board 18.

**Board 18. NIS Vol. Dealer East.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>♠</th>
<th>♦</th>
<th>☣</th>
<th>♥</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>♠K 9 7 3</td>
<td>♦K 10 6 5</td>
<td>☣J 5</td>
<td>♥K 10 5 2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Stansby gave this hand excellent play. He won the opening lead with the ace and took the losing heart. He won the spade return with his ace and opening club lead with the ace and took the losing heart against ♠5.

In the Open Room North was the declarer, so the contract went down quickly on the lead of the ♠4. When he tried to get a ninth in diamonds, Rosen- 

This would have been the right decision if there were a strong notrump with ♠Q 7, ♦K and the diamond ruff to beat the game. But Norway didn't find the spade game either.

Balicki-Zmudzinski immediately recovered these IMPs with interest, bidding a 5%-game which came in easily. Balicki actually emerged with 11 tricks. Balicki and Zmudzinski managed to stay out of slam on 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.

On the next board, Zmudzinski gave a little back by falling to come in over a strong notrump with ♠Q 7, ♦K J 9 8, ♣A 6 5, ♦J 6. He found he could not beat ♠NT, 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.

Balicki played ♠J 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 carefully 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.

Zmudzinski as South doubled Anderson for rescue, Schaffer ran to 1NT and Zmudzinski doubled again, ending the auction. He led a trump, and the defense played two more rounds. A low club (a good guess) went to Zmudzinski's ace, and he played a fourth round. A low club (a good guess) went to Zmudzinski's ace, and he played a fourth round. A low club (a good guess) went to Zmudzinski's ace, and he played a fourth round. A low club (a good guess) went to Zmudzinski's ace, and he played a fourth round. A low club (a good guess) went to Zmudzinski's ace, and he played a fourth round. A low club (a good guess) went to Zmudzinski's ace, and he played a fourth round. A low club (a good guess) went to Zmudzinski's ace, and he played a fourth round. A low club (a good guess) went to Zmudzinski's ace, and he played a fourth round.

Balicki and Zmudzinski managed to stay out of slam with 32 high card points while Aukland and Koch Palmund committed to a moderate slam and found the cards not cooperating. This was the Polish auction:

Board 1. Love All, Dealer North.

| ♠A Q 10 7 4 3 | ♦Q 9 | ☣9 8 7 | ♥A J 5 |

It started with Board 1, where Zmudzinski elected not to raise spades but instead to respond ♦2 to the ♦3 opening before jumping to ♦3. 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 falling to come in over a strong notrump with ♠Q 7, ♦K J 9 8, ♣A 6 5, ♦J 6. He found he could not beat ♠NT, 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 easily. Balicki actually emerged with 11 tricks. Balicki and Zmudzinski managed to stay out of slam on 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.

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Balicki-Zmudzinski immediately recovered these IMPs with interest, bidding a 5%-game which came in easily. Balicki actually emerged with 11 tricks.
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.

In the Closed Room the deal was passed out but the Argentinian East/West pair reached game in the Open Room! Espinosa-Paz opened $1\spadesuit$ in third seat and Suaya responded $3\heartsuit$, showing $10-12$ with heart support. Espinosa-Paz signed-off in $3\heartsuit$ but Suaya went on to $4\heartsuit$ anyway. The lead was $A5\spadesuit$, run to the queen, and Saul switched to $\spadesuit9$ 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 diamonds and just had to get the spades right to make her contract. Espinosa-Paz unblocked the diamonds and switched to $\spadesuit9$, which was again won by Saul. This time she switched to $\spadesuit4$ for the nine, jack and ace. Declarer played two rounds and claimed nine tricks; +140 and 6 IMPs to Argentina.

Both Easts played $\heartsuit3$ after North/South had bid and supported hearts. Monsegur led $\spadesuitJ$ for the queen and king and Lucchini switched to the $\spadesuit2$ as South's lead. Monsegur returned the $\spadesuitJ$ and De Guillebon won and played ace and another spade; +420.

Bessis led $\spadesuitA$ to the ten and South 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 $\heartsuitA$ to lead a low spade and Saul took the $\spadesuitK$ and played a second diamond, declarer rising with the ace. Declarer had the tricks now but not the communications. She cashed the $\heartsuitQ$ and crossed to the $\spadesuitK$ to ruff the last heart. But now she required there to be four clubs with the long spade. She cashed $\spadesuitQ$ and led $\spadesuit10$ but Bessis could ruff in with the jack, leaving dummy with a diamond loser; one down for -50 and 10 IMPs to France.

Both East/West pairs bid; $\spadesuitA$ - $\spadesuit10\spadesuitJ$ - $\spadesuit4\spadesuit2$ - $\spadesuit4\heartsuitNT$ - $\spadesuit3\heartsuitNT$. Lucrecia Monsegur led $\spadesuitK$ 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 open Room there was no overcall so Espinosa-Paz opened $\spadesuit1\spadesuitJ$ and Saul returned the $\spadesuitK$. Both Easts played $\spadesuitQ$ after North/South had bid and supported hearts. Monsegur led $\spadesuitJ$ for the queen and king and Lucchini switched to the $\spadesuit2$ as South's lead. Monsegur returned the $\spadesuitJ$ and De Guillebon won and played ace and another spade; +420. Bessis led $\spadesuitA$ to the ten and South 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 $\heartsuitA$ to lead a low spade and Saul took the $\spadesuitK$ and played a second diamond, declarer rising with the ace. Declarer had the tricks now but not the communications. She cashed the $\heartsuitQ$ and crossed to the $\spadesuitK$ to ruff the last heart. But now she required there to be four clubs with the long spade. She cashed $\heartsuitQ$ and led $\spadesuit10$ but Bessis could ruff in with the jack, leaving dummy with a diamond loser; one down for -50 and 10 IMPs to France.

Both Easts played $\spadesuitA$ after North/South had bid and supported hearts. Monsegur led $\spadesuitJ$ for the queen and king and Lucchini switched to the $\spadesuit2$ as South's lead. Monsegur returned the $\spadesuitJ$ and De Guillebon won and played ace and another spade; +420. Bessis led $\spadesuitA$ to the ten and South 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 $\heartsuitA$ to lead a low spade and Saul took the $\spadesuitK$ and played a second diamond, declarer rising with the ace. Declarer had the tricks now but not the communications. She cashed the $\heartsuitQ$ and crossed to the $\spadesuitK$ to ruff the last heart. But now she required there to be four clubs with the long spade. She cashed $\heartsuitQ$ and led $\spadesuit10$ but Bessis could ruff in with the jack, leaving dummy with a diamond loser; one down for -50 and 10 IMPs to France.

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Both East/West pairs bid; $\spadesuitA$ - $\spadesuit10\spadesuitJ$ - $\spadesuit4\spadesuit2$ - $\spadesuit4\heartsuitNT$ - $\spadesuit3\heartsuitNT$. Lucrecia Monsegur led $\spadesuitK$ 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 $\spadesuitA$ 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 $\spadesuitQ$ for the king and ace. What was needed was now a diamond through the queen but Bessis was afraid to lead away from her $\spadesuitJ$ in case Saul was missing the ten. She played a safe spade instead, not only giving declarer the $\spadesuitK$ 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.

Both East/West pairs bid; $\spadesuitA$ - $\spadesuit10\spadesuitJ$ - $\spadesuit4\spadesuit2$ - $\spadesuit4\heartsuitNT$ - $\spadesuit3\heartsuitNT$.

In the Closed Room the deal was passed out but the Argentinian East/West pair reached game in the Open Room! Espinosa-Paz opened $\spadesuit1\spadesuitJ$ in third seat and Suaya responded $3\heartsuit$, showing $10-12$ with heart support. Espinosa-Paz signed-off in $3\heartsuit$ but Suaya went on to $4\heartsuit$ anyway. The lead was $\spadesuitA5\spadesuit$, run to the queen, and Saul switched to $\spadesuit9$ for the nine, jack and ace. Declarer played two rounds and claimed nine tricks; +140 and 6 IMPs to France.

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Trivial Pursuits

Alan Truscott poses the following question:

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