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US Venice battle is fierce; big leads in other matches

The teams leading three of the four semifinal matches have comfortable margins, but the battle between the two United States Venice Cup teams is very much up for grabs. USA II, captained by Sue Sachs, raced away to a fast 40-IMP lead over the first 32 boards, but USA I, captained by Sue Picus, played catchup over the last 16 boards of the day to close within 4 IMPs, 127-123.

In the other Venice Cup match, China leads by 73, 175-102 - a huge margin with only 32 boards remaining.

United States I in the Bermuda Bowl, captained by Hugh Ross, is almost as bad off. They trail their compatriots, the United States II team captained by Walt Walvick, by 59 IMPs, 172-113. The Norway-France slugfest is somewhat closer – France leads, 162-122.

In the U.S. Venice Cup encounter, the Sachs team stagnated after the first 32 boards, losing 1 IMP in the third segment. It was all Picus in the fourth segment – USA I had a 54-17 edge.

China, which solidly trounced a strong Great Britain team in the quarterfinals, is doing the same to France, the team that led throughout the Venice Cup round-robin. After a fierce 53-13 first segment, China opened the throttle wide again in the third segment to vault ahead by 67. The fourth segment was relatively quiet, but China added another 7 IMPs to their lead. They picked up 12 IMPs on a game swing on the very last board.

The Ross team finally gained back a little in the fourth segment, but they were outclassed for the first 48 boards. The highlight for the Walvick team was a board on which they earned 20 IMPs – making a doubled slam in one room and setting a vulnerable contract 800 in the other.

Norway showed in the third segment that they can't be taken for granted. After being walloped, 92-34, over the first 32 boards, they came up with a 65-IMP effort on Boards 33-48. However, France took command again in the fourth segment.

Polish team leads in Transnational

The Polish team captained by Jassem moved into first place after seven matches in the Transnational Open Teams. A Finnish team captained by Nieminen was second, 7 Victory Points behind the leaders. Another 9 VPs back was a Denmark-Germany team captained by Jens Auken.

Today will be a busy day for the competitors - five matches.

The event drew an excellent turnout -74 teams. The squad drawing the most attention is the one captained by Omar Sharif.

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Victory banquet

All the captains of the Bermuda Bowl and Venice Cup teams are kindly invited to collect the invitations to the Victory Banquet for their teams on Wednesday, 29 October, between 11.00 and 18.00 at the Hospitality Desk. Please do this within that time because it is necessary to know the number of teams attending. We have to establish the number attending because the available space is limited.

Please take care of your invitation because you will not be allowed to enter the dining room without producing it to the staff at the door.

Prize giving

The prize giving ceremony will take place at 20.00 precisely on Saturday in the Forum Room on the first floor of the Sol Azur (the open room for the Bermuda Bowl and the Venice Cup). Following the ceremony, dinner will take place in the restaurant located on the third floor.

Bermuda Bowl - Results

Semifinals

Table	Match	Ist Session Boards 1-16	2nd Session Boards 17-32	3rd Session Boards 33-48	4th Session Boards 49-64	5th Session Boards 65-80	6th Session Boards 81-96	Total IMPs
I. USA I	I - USA I	50 - 13	55 - 39	51 - 30	16 - 31			172 - 113
2. Norwa	ay - France	18 - 52	16 - 40	65 - 34	23 - 36			122 - 162

Venice Cup - Results

Semifinals

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Table Match	1st Session	2nd Session	3rd Session	4th Session	5th Session	6th Session	Total IMPs
	Boards I-16	Boards 17-32	Boards 33-48	Boards 49-64	Boards 65-80	Boards 81-96	
3. USA I - USA II	29 - 42	16 - 43	24 - 25	54 - 17			123 - 127
4. China - France	53 - 13	40 - 50	52 - 16	30 - 23			175 - 102

VUGRAPH

Venice Cup - Semifinals | | 1000

World Transnational Open Teams Schedule

Wednesday 13 30-15 00 Round 8 15.20-16.50 Round 9 17.10-18.40 Round 10 **Break** 21.00-22.30 Round 11 22.50-00.20 Round 12 **Thursday** 11.00-12.30 Round 13 Break 14.00-15.30 Round 14 Round 15 15 50-17 20 17.40-19.10 Round 16 Friday 11.00-12.30 Round 17 11.00-13.20 Semifinal, first half Round 18 12 50-14 20 14.00-16.20 Semifinal, second half Break 21.30-23.50 Final, first segment Saturday 11.00-13.20 Final, second segment

Final, third segment

14.00-16.20

How communications are handled

or those of you who do not know me, my name is Mark Newton and I am the IT Manager for this tournament. My responsibility is for the Press Room, Bulletin Room, and the secretariat's computer systems. The results, scoring and duplication systems are in the very capable hands of the French Federation, namely Claude Dadoun.

Hundreds of people have requested details about the computer set-up here. Well, not quite hundreds actually, we just had some space in the Bulletin! Still, here goes!

All the computers and most of the printers for the Press and Bulletin rooms were supplied by IBS which is a Tunisian branch of IBM. They are all 166Mhz Pentiums with either 2G or 4G Hard discs and 12 speed CD drives. The majority of the machines have 16M Ram with some of the Bulletin room machines having 32M and the main Server 64M of Ram. The machines are all connected to an internal network via 10baseT hubs. The cabling was installed specially for the event by the Hotel Group, and terminates in a patch-panel where the hubs and router are installed. The network is connected to the Internet via a permanent leased line of 64K to ATI which is the main Tunisian Internet Agency, and there via a 2M link to France and then on to the rest of the world. The internal network is connected to a server running NT4 and a web server is running on this for an Intranet for the event; this is the site HYPERLINK http://www.bridge.tn www.bridge.tn.

The computers are all running Windows 95 with MS Word 95 and have a program installed that allows the user to call up any board that has been dealt and insert it into a Word document in the format that the Bulletin uses. The macros that make it easy for hands to be filled in manually and put into Word are in a folder called 'Help yourself' and any press member can copy this for his own personal use. There is also a readme file to explain how to use these macros. At the end of the tournament, we hope to provide a Word file with all the hands in a format to make it easy to copy and paste into your articles. I wrote the program to do this whilst here, on the suggestion of Brian Senior.

Members of the press can submit articles for the Bulletin simply by saving them into a folder called 'For

Bulletin'. Similarly the result files are also placed in a folder called 'Results' which is available to everyone on the network. Most of the journalists are using the Intranet and browsing the web to get the information they require. Thanassis in the Bulletin Room is doing an excellent job of getting the information up quickly on to

The Bulletin is originally printed onto a special semitransparent paper which the local printing company can then use to make the plates directly. This is done in the small hours and by 7am your Bulletin is ready for you.

The photographs are all taken by Mark Horton with the Kodak digital camera and the image is then manipulated by Mark, ready for the Layout Editor Stelios to put into the pages using Quark Express Desk Top Publishing Software.

We are also pleased to have Bridge Plaza working here, putting information up on their own web site. If you have not seen this system at work then treat yourself and visit HYPERLINK http://www.bridgeplazza.com www.bridgeplaza.com, where you can see some of the hands as they were played and bid.

The backup and support that we have received from our hosts here has been superb. I have found everyone willing to make this a successful event and keen to learn about our needs. It is difficult to thank everyone in person but in particular I would like to thank Mr Mekni, the Directeur commercial for Les Orangers Yassine Najahi, the engineer who was responsible for most of the cabling and is always cheerful, despite being asked to do several things at once. The cry of "cables!" would strike fear into his heart! and last but by no means least Faouzi Abbes who is the IT manager of Les Orangers groups without whom I would not have been able to achieve such a set-up nor solve the many small problems we had in the first few days before most of you arrived. He has been of great help arranging and liaising with the various support staff and companies, all of whom are necessary to make a tournament like this work.

I have said before that an event like this is a bit like a swan, all serene on top but underneath the legs are thrashing about wildly. But with this tournament it feels more that we are swimming with the current rather than against it!

World Transnational Open Teams Results After 7 Rounds

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18	16	OTVOSI	POL	117
19	17	MILNER	USA/CAN	116
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Bermuda Bowl

Quarterfinal

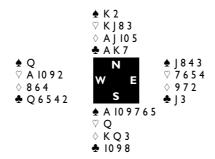
Norway vs Italy

by Knut Kjaernsrod (Norway)

Norway slammed the semifinal door for Italy

he quarterfinal match between Norway and Italy turned out to be a fierce battle where Italy had a commanding lead at the halfway point. Norway fought back in true Viking spirit and finally emerged winners by a margin of 12 IMPs. The Norwegians scored heavily on many of the slam hands. Helness/Helgemo bid this excellent six diamonds in the first session:

Board 10. Game All. Dealer East.



West	North	East	South
Duboin	Helness	Bocchi	Helgemo
		Pass	I♠
Pass	2♦	Pass	2♠
Pass	3♣	Pass	3◊
Pass	3♠	Pass	4♣
Pass	4NT	Pass	5◊
Pass	5♡	Pass	5♠
Pass	6≎	All Pass	

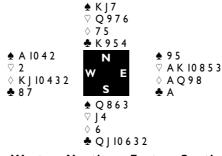
Helness interpreted the $4\clubsuit$ bid as a cuebid, and when Geir denied the queen of spades by bidding $5\clubsuit$, Helness knew that he had to own the king and queen of diamonds. Bocchi led a heart to the ace. Helness took the club shift, ruffed a heart, played a club to the king, discarded the losing club on the $\heartsuit K$ and ruffed a club. He then drew trumps and claimed.

In the Closed Room the Italians ended in $4 \triangleq$ and that was 12 IMPs to Norway.

A Romex candidate?

In Session 3 the same pair bid a fine grand slam:

Board 14. Love All. Dealer East.

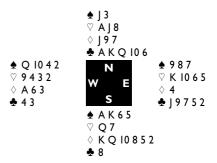


West	North	East	South
Helgemo	Lauria	Helness	Versace
∳ 3 ♣	Pass Pass	I♡ 2◊ 3♡	Pass Pass Pass
4≎	Pass	4NT	Pass
5 ♠	Pass	7◊	All Pass

3♥ showed 6-4 in the red suits and Helgemo's 5♠ showed two aces and the queen of trumps or extra length. Tor Helness could virtually count 13 tricks before dummy was put down and when the Italians stopped in six that was a further 11 IMPs.

In Session 5 they were on the slam track again:

Board 3, E/W Vul. Dealer South.



West North East	South
Duboin Helness Bocchi	Helgemo
	I♦
Pass 2♣ Pass	2♠
Pass 2NT Pass	3◊
Pass 3♥ Pass	3NT
Pass 4NT Pass	5♠
Pass 6♦ All Pass	

2♠ showed extra strength and 5♠ showed two aces and the queen of trumps. There was nothing to the play. Lauria/Versace stopped in 3NT making six, so Norway gained another 10 IMPs.

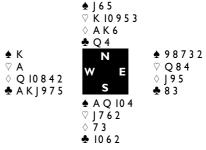
On the very last board of the match Lorenzo Lauria found an excellent switch at trick two.

Excellent card reading

by Knut Kjaernsrod (Norway)

n Session five of Norway's quarterfinal against Italy, Tor Helness made the right decision to land his 3[▽] contract:

Board 7. Game All. Dealer South.



West	North	East	South
Duboin	Helness	Bocchi	Helgemo
			Pass
I♣	I♡	Pass	2♡
3◊	Pass	Pass	3♡
All Pass			

The defence started with three rounds of clubs, the third round being ruffed with the ten. Tor took three rounds of diamonds, ruffing in dummy, and played a heart to the ace. A fourth diamond was ruffed with the queen, and Bocchi exited with a spade. Helness knew the exact shape of West's hand, and since Bocchi had shown the queen of hearts and the knave of diamonds, he could hardly have the spade king since he had passed throughout. Consequently he rose with the ace and captured Duboin's bare king; 7 IMPs to Norway since Brogeland/Saelensminde did well in the Closed Room by bidding and making $4 \circ$.



"Le Bridgeur" Award for Best Play –

Geir Helgemo (Norway)

Journalist: Edgar Kaplan (USA) (deceased)

The Bridge World June, 1997 page 20. IBPA: Bull 387 page 15, April. From the Hague Bulletin report by the IBPA Editor entitled The Three-way Finesse.

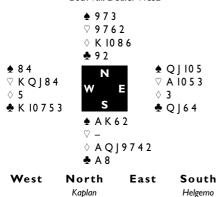
Here is Kaplan's write-up:

My team had a rather short run in the Vanderbilt, but there was a consolation prize at the finish: With a somewhat different team, Norinan Kay and I won the concluding Open Swiss Teams. Our teammates were Bart Bramley, Brian Glubok. Geir Heigemo and Waiter Schafer.

Helgemo is the young Norwegian who has been producing superb results for the last five years. The reason for this became clear when I played a match with him and he produced a brilliant dummy-play on this deal, which hinged on another eight-spot:

When an opposing weak two-bid is raised to game, the fourth player holding a good hand must guess well. Helgemo took a reasonable shot at six diamonds.

Both Vul. Dealer West.



All Pass
He ruffed the opening heart lead, happy to have escaped a club lead. The diamond ace removed the miss-
ing trumps, and it was now necessary to score three spade
tricks. The only obvious chance was a three-three split, but

Helgemo saw another possibility. He led a spade to the

6◊!

Pass

20

seven, a rare finesse against an eight on the first round.

East made a tricky play by winning with the jack and returning the five. Helgemo guessed what was happening: He played low from his hand, won with dummy's nine, and threw dummy's club loser on the fourth round of spades to make a slam that failed in the replay.

There were two psychological clues to this remarkable winning play. East's spade return was slightly suspicious, since he could obviously have led a heart. And if West had been able to win the third trick he might have done so, or at least hitched fractionally.

None of the experts who were shown South's problem found the solution, and all were in awe of Helgemo's effort. If East had returned an obvious heart at the fourth trick, South could still have succeeded by ruffing, crossing to dummy, and leading the spade nine.

Short list for Best Played hand:

Player	IBPA Location	Journalist
Goncalves	388.2	Pedro Matos
B. Cronier	387.5	Brian Senior
Helgemo	387.15	Edgar Kaplan
Tomescu	383.14	Vlad Racoviceanu
Holland	381.16	Mark Horton

Annual IBPA Awards

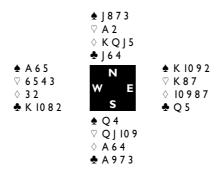
"The Sender" Award for Best Defence -

Gunnar Hallberg (Sweden)

Journalist: Robert Sheehan (UK) Swedish Count

Gunnar Hallberg, Swedish international and TGR regular, was East on this hand. He found the right play by using the most important tool of defence, counting the declarer's tricks.

None Vul. Dealer South.



South	West	North	East
INT ⁽¹⁾	Pass	2♣	Pass
2♡	Pass	3NT	All pass

(I) 12-14 HCP

West led: ♣2

Declarer played low from dummy on the club lead, East played the queen and declarer won the ace. Declarer played on hearts, East winning the third round with dummy discarding a spade. At this point many players would return a club. Now after West takes his king declarer has nine tricks.

Can you see any improvement for the defence? What Hallberg did when he won the king of hearts was to count declarer's tricks. South was bound to have the ace of diamonds – else why wouldn't he be playing on diamonds, rather than removing the ace of hearts as entry to them? Hence it was clear that South had seven tricks in the red suits to go with the ace of clubs, and a club return would obviously set up his ninth trick. South needed the queen of spades to make up his 12-14 INT, which meant that the defence couldn't make more than two tricks there.

So East returned a diamond. This innocuous looking play scrambled the declarer's entries. If he won in hand to lead a club, he would never be able to cash his fourth heart. If he cashed the fourth heart first, what was dummy to discard? One spade had already gone on the third heart, and if he discarded another the defence could take four spade tricks when they came in with the king of clubs. The only other choice was to discard a diamond, but that would leave declarer a trick short.

Incidentally, if declarer thinks the defence will play this well, he should try the jack of clubs at trick one – his only chance being that West has led from the king-

Short list for Best Defended hand:

Candidate	IBPA	Journalist
Weichsel	383.12	Ferguson
Johnson	389.11	Knut Kjarnsrod
Hallberg	385.12	Robert Sheehan
Spiljak	Rhodes 13	Alan Truscott
Leppard	386.14	Ron Klinger



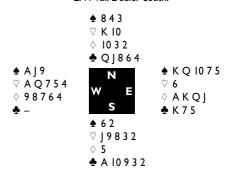
"Romex" Award for Best Auction –

Chip Martel & Lew Stansby (USA)

Journalist: Brent Manley (USA)

Chip Martel & Lew Stansby are known for their hard work when it comes to trying to build a better mouse-trap. One area where they have improved on standard methods is the Roman Key Card Blackwood response when you have a void. Usually 5NT shows two aces plue a void, six of a biddable suit for one or three aces with a void, and six of the trump suit for one or three aces and an unbiddable void. But what if the void is already defined?

E/W Vul. Dealer South.



On this deal Chip and Lew had a beautiful auction to get to the best spot.

West	North	East	South
			Pass
ΙŸ	Pass	I♠	Pass
2♠	Pass	2NT ⁽¹⁾	Pass
3♦(2)	Pass	4NT	Pass
6♣ ⁽³⁾	Pass	7◊	All pass
(1) Relay	(2) Natural	(3) Two ac	ces and a void

When the shortage is already defined – and here it must be clubs – you can use 5NT for one ace plus a void, $6\clubsuit$ for two aces and a void and $6\diamondsuit$ for three aces and a void.

Here Martel knew that if he played 7♠ he could not use his partner's diamond suit because of the blockage, since he would have to ruff clubs in dummy. So he settled for the diamond grand slam. Nicely bid.

IBPA Editor's note: Playing in diamonds, ignoring the lucky fall of the \Diamond K, you have to reverse the dummy to avoid promoting North's trump 10. On a trump lead, win, ruff a club, try a second diamond, ruff a club, spade to East, ruff a club, heart ace, heart ruff, draw the last trump.

Comment from Chip Martel: It's strange that we should be getting this award today for getting to a good diamond slam. Just yesterday in the quarterfinal match against China, we failed to get to three good diamond slams.

The Short list for Best Bid hand was:

IBPA	Journalist
385.11	Jos Jacobs
384.2	Brent Manley
392.9	Phillip Alder
382.5	Brian Callaghan
Monte.6	Riccardi/Levy
	385.11 384.2 392.9 382.5

IBPA Editor's note: The last named candidate was for "Call of the Year" rather than "Best Bid" as Peter Fredin's penalty double in Montecatini allowed the opponents to escape from a 4-0 spade fit, going, maybe, six light, into a successful grand slam.

IBPA Sporting Award goes to Lynn Deas



The IBPA presents its Sporting Award only on rare occasions when there is a total standout for this award. This year the IBPA felt it had such a candidate – Lynn Deas of the United States. The IBPA recognised her intense devotion to the game whereby she has played in many major championships, including this one, despite being confined to a wheelchair by the myasthenia gravis, a dread disease for which there is no known cure.

Lynn was unable to be present to receive her award – at present she is devoting all her limited strength to playing bridge. Day before yesterday she played all 32 boards as her team made a magnificent comeback to defeat Canada in the quarterfinals. Yesterday she was very much in the thick of it as her team took on the other United States team.

On hand to accept the award on behalf of Lynn was Kathie Wei-Sender, one of Lynn's teammates. Kathie, a former Personality of the Year and an Honorary Member of the ACBL, told of the exceptional efforts Lynn has made to continue her bridge career. Her speech was extremely emotional as she talked about Lynn, and the emotion carried over to the IBPA members present. She said that one of the things that really bothers Lynn is that lots of people think that her brain doesn't work because she has such a severe handicap. Clearly her performance here, in China and in the American Trials, proves that is far from the case.

Following is the tribute to Lynn that accompanied the award:

The world's top woman player, measured by WBF masterpoints, is the American star, Lynn Deas. In the past 10 years she has won four world titles: the Venice Cup in Jamaica in 1987, Perth, Australia in 1989 and Yokohama, Japan, in 1991, and the Women's Team Olympiad in Rhodes, Greece, last year. She also has won countless North American championships.

This has been accomplished in the face of a disabling health problem, which has become progressively worse during her decade of success. She suffers from myasthenia gravis, a muscular disorder for which there is no cure. For the past year she has been confined to a wheelchair. She has to play bridge, with all her accustomed brilliance, in a horizontal position.

When she arrived in Hammamet, she was immediately hospitalised with pneumonia, a far more serious development for her than it would be for a person in normal health. She was unable to compete until the next-to-last day of the round-robin.

For her dignity and cheerfulness in the face of this heavy burden, the International Bridge Press Association has named her as the recipient of its 1997 Sporting Award. This award has been in abeyance for many years.

"The Levendaal" Award for Best Play by a Junior –

Morten Lund Madsen (Den)

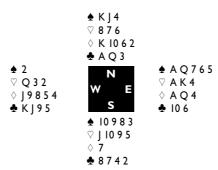
Journalist: Ib Lundby (Den)

DANISH DYNAMITE DEFENCE

From the Hamilton Daily Bulletin:

On Board 22 from the match against Brazil in round 6 the younger brother, Morten Lund Madsen, had a brilliant defence:

E/WVul. Dealer East.



West	North <i>Morten</i>	East	South Lars
		I♠	Pass
INT ⁽¹⁾	Pass	2NT(2)	Pass
3NT	All pass		

(I) Forcing

(2) 18-19 hcp

Against the same contract in the Closed Room North chose to lead a diamond, so the Danish West had an easy task. Morten found the heart lead (1st hurdle) thereby giving nothing away.

Declarer won in dummy, and after the diamond ace he continued with the queen. Morten ducked (2nd hurdle).

Declarer now shifted to the \$10 from dummy. Morten ducked again (3rd hurdle). A second club went to the queen, and declarer took the heart shift in hand and tried a spade to the queen — successfully, but Morten had unblocked the jack (4th hurdle). Finally declarer tried the \$A, and Morten fulfilled his brilliancy, unblocking the king (5th hurdle). This defence left declarer with no chance for an endplay. One off.

Can you make 3NT double dummy against best defence? I think the contract is always beatable. Do you agree?

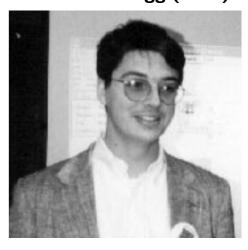
IBPA Editor's note: No. The play starts: ∇ , $\Diamond Q$ wins, $\clubsuit 10$ wins. Then, double-dummy, declarer succeeds by setting up spades: duck a spade, win a second heart, duck a spade.

The Short list for Junior Player of the year:

The Short list lor	Junior Flayer	or the year.
Candidate	IBPA	Journalist
Morton Madsen	392.2	lb Lundby
Wademark	391.2	Unnamed
Dupont	388.10	Stokman
Khiouppenen	Hamilton B9.3	Rosenblum
E. Hung	Sportilia 6.2	Unnamed



The 1997 Personality of the Year – Matthew Clegg (USA)



Matthew Tran Clegg, 33, yesterday was named the I997 IBPA Personality of the Year. The award was accepted for him by IBPA President Henry Francis.

Matt founded OKbridge, bridge on Internet, in 1991. The system now has almost 10,000 subscribers from more than 70 nations. Some of the world's leading players use the service to practice with distant partners. Bill Gates, America's wealthiest man, has tried OKbridge. Probably nothing in recent years has opened bridge to new players everywhere than OKbridge.

Internet is also suitable for the disabled and housebound. It attracts young players who prefer a computer keyboard to a bridge club. The Fifth Chair Foundation has been created to encourage talented young players on OKbridge by providing them with leading players as partners.

The OKbridge program is set up so that you can play with your favorite partner, join a table as a single, play pairs or teams, keep track of your records in both teams and pairs — even converse with the other players at the table. In addition, it is possible to be a kibitzer at the table of your choice.

Matt's wife Merja reports:

Matt was born in Davis, California, grew up in Rhode Island and in Athens, Georgia, and didn't come back to California until he went college at UC Riverside. After college he studied math at UC Berkeley where he got a Master's degree. He later switched to computer science and came to UC San Diego in 1991. He has been working on his PhD on "Distributed Real-Time Systems".

When he has time off from developing Okbridge and work on his Ph.D, he spends it with his daughter Anna, and Merja. Matt and Merja are learning how to sail. But no matter how busy Matt is, he would never skip an episode of Star Trek Voyager or Babyion5 on TV. Matt loves science fiction and anything to do with space and space research. (That's probably why he married an Alien!)

Matt met Merja when she came to the USA in 1989 from her native Finland to study with Matt's father, a geneticist. When she returned to Finland they kept in touch via Internet. This was the motivation for Okbridge. They were married in 1990.

Slovak Bridge Association

The Slovak Bridge Association would like to thank the Slovak bank IRB a.s. for sponsoring the participation of Slovak players in the first World Transnational Open Teams.

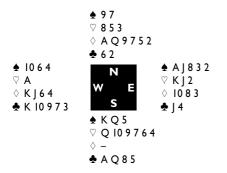
Venice Cup

Semifinal (set 1)

China vs France

rance topped the round robin and had a comfortable win in the quarter-final but the story was very different at the start of their semi-final match with China, the only non-European or North American team to make the semis in either event. China picked up a couple of overtrick IMPs on the first board then two major swings in quick succession.

Board 2. N/S Vul. Dealer East.



Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Wang	Cronier	Zhang Yu	Willard
		Pass	IΫ
DЫ	2♡	3♠	4♡
Pass	Pass	DЫ	All Pass

Even on a good day, $4\heartsuit$ would require a lot of good things to happen. The problem is the lack of dummy entries. The layout is not a particularly friendly one but things improved considerably for Sylvie Willard when Wang Wen Fei led a spade to Zhang Yu's ace. Zhang switched to the \clubsuit J and Willard rose with the ace and cashed her spade winners, pitching dummy's remaining club. She continued with a club ruff, threw a club on the \diamondsuit A and ruffed a diamond back to hand. Things had gone very nicely up to this point but when Willard ruffed her last club Zhang was able to over-ruff and there were still two more hearts to lose; -200.

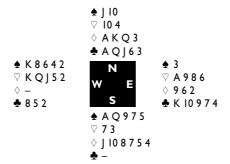
Open Room

West	North	East	South
Bessis	Zhang Yalan	Saul	Gu Ling
		Pass	I♡
Pass	2♡	2♠	4♡
4♠	Pass	Pass	Dbl
All Pass			

Should West double the $I\heartsuit$ opening? Her hand is pretty thin, with the bare ace hardly a great feature, so the answer is probably no. But, having passed, Veronique Bessis found that the auction went badly for her. Gu Ling's jump to $4\heartsuit$ left Bessis with a very committal decision to make, having not yet shown anything at all. She judged to bid $4\clubsuit$, a questionable choice perhaps, with three weak spades and fair defensive values. This time it was wrong to bid. As we have seen, $4\heartsuit$ is going down, and so is $4\clubsuit$.

Gu Ling led a heart to dummy's ace and Catherine Saul led a spade to the eight and queen. That left Gu on lead when anything she played would be to declarer's advantage. She exited with a heart to Saul's jack. Saul led the 4 and Gu won the ace and exited with a low club. Saul put in the ten but now tried to cash the 4 k. When that got ruffed she had to over-ruff. Saul played a diamond next and lost two of those plus another spade; two down for -300 and 11 IMPs to China.

Board 4. Game All. Dealer West.



Open Room

West	North	East	South
Bessis	Zhang	Saul	Gu
Pass	I♣	Pass	2◊
3◊	DЫ	4♡	Pass
Pass	5◊	All Pass	

Zhang Yalan opened a strong club and Gu's natural positive response of $2\lozenge$ made it very easy for Zhang to bid $5\lozenge$ when her opponents got to $4\heartsuit$. Bessis led the \heartsuit K and continued with the \heartsuit Q, overtaken by Saul to switch to her spade singleton. Gu knew that West had both majors so gave up on trying to make her contract and went up with the ace; one down for -100.

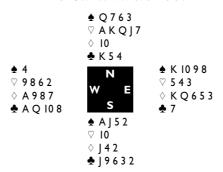
Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Wang	Cronier	Zhang Yu	Willard
Pass	I♣	Pass	I♠
2♡	DЫ	2♠	4♠
DЫ	All Pass		

Here I \clubsuit was natural or perhaps better minor if outside the no trump range. Cronier's double of the $2\heartsuit$ overcall showed, in principle, a decent hand with three spades. Obviously, such an agreement leaves some awkward hands, and this was one of them. Cronier could hardly do other than double but this convinced Willard to jump to $4\spadesuit$, which was doubled with some relish by Wang.

4♠ doubled was not a lot of fun — unless you were Chinese, of course. Wang cashed the ♡K then the ♡J. Next, she switched to the ♠2 and Willard rose with dummy's ace to take the spade finesse. Wang allowed the ♠] to hold and Willard continued with the ten, ducking it to Wang when Zhang Yu showed out. Declarer's trumps were good now but she had lost control. Wang continued hearts, forcing Willard to ruff, and she was never able to run the diamond suit. Declarer made one extra trick at the end when the defenders finally ran out of hearts, but that was still only six tricks in all; -1100 and 14 IMPs to China.

Board 5. N/S Vul. Dealer North.



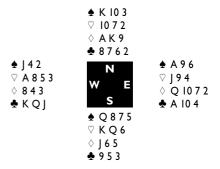
Both Norths opened $I \heartsuit$ and the respective Souths bid $I \clubsuit$. For China, Wang doubled to show the minors

and now Cronier raised to 3♠. With five good diamonds, Zhang Yu competed with 4♦, where she was allowed to play. Four rounds of hearts forced Zhang to ruff high. She then cashed her two remaining top trumps, leaving Willard with a trump trick. The contract went two down for -100.

In the Open Room, there was no double from West and Zhang Yalan, whose hand was limited by the failure to open a strong club, splintered with $4\diamondsuit$. Gu signed-off in $4\clubsuit$, a contract which is doomed to fail. Bessis led the \diamondsuit A and Saul dropped the king. Now Bessis switched to the \clubsuit Q, surrounding declarer's hypothetical jack. Gu put up the king and led a spade to the ace followed by a second spade to the queen and king. Now Saul played the \diamondsuit Q, forcing dummy to ruff. Declarer tried to run the hearts now and, when Saul ruffed the fourth round and she over-ruffed, she had to lose two clubs and a spade for down two; -100 and 5 IMPs to France.

When East plays the $\Diamond Q$, it is pretty clear that she does not have a club to lead. Declarer might have played the jack and a low spade to draw the trumps. If East now makes the mistake of returning a diamond, declarer wins the jack and dummy has five heart winners for the last five tricks. East beats the contract if she just leads a heart. Declarer has to win in dummy but cannot get to the $\Diamond J$ and West gets a club at the end.

Board 7. Game All. Dealer South.



It is by no means automatic for anyone to open the bidding on this deal but both Easts did so in fourth seat. Zhang Yu opened $1\lozenge$, Precision, and passed Wang's $1\heartsuit$ response. $1\heartsuit$ became the final contract and the lead was the \lozenge A, giving away the lie of that suit. Cronier switched to a club which Wang won in hand to lead a diamond towards the queen. Cronier won the \lozenge K and played another club and Wang took her minor-suit winners then led the thirteenth diamond. Willard ruffed that with the \lozenge 6 and Wang pitched a low spade. But Willard's ruff was at the expense of a natural trump trick and declarer could now manage three trump tricks plus the \clubsuit A for +110.

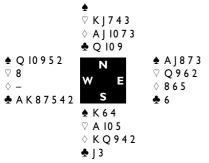
Saul also opened, but her choice was I♣.Again West responded I♥ and East passed. But Gu balanced with I♠ on the South cards and now Bessis tried INT, where she played. The lead was a low spade to the queen. Back came a second spade to the jack, king and ace. Bessis crossed to hand with a club to lead a diamond up but, when Zhang Yalan ducked smoothly, she put in the ten and lost to the jack. The defence

ROMANIAN BRIDGE TEAM

The Romanian Bridge Team thank S.C.C. ERBASU, CASTOR-SRL and BIMENS-S.A for help with participation in the first World Transnational Open Teams Championship.

unblocked the spades and attacked clubs. They were a tempo ahead and could establish the long club before declarer could set up the long diamond and, by the time she did so, she had no dummy entry with which to cash it. The contract had to go two down from here; -200 and 7 IMPs to China.

Board 9. E/W Vul. Dealer North.



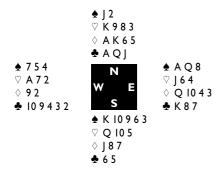
Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Wang	Cronier	Zhang Yu	Willard
	IΫ	Pass	2◊
3♣	3♦	Pass	3♡
3♠	4◊	4♠	5◊
5♠	Pass	Pass	6◊
Pass	Pass	DЫ	All Pass

The North/South auction tempoed nicely for Wang, who was able to show her clubs, then her spades, and finally her extra playing strength. When Zhang judged to double 6°, East/West had reached their par on the board. Wang led the \clubsuit K but switched to a spade. Though Willard found the \heartsuit Q, the suit did not run so she did not have sufficient tricks to avoid the loss of a second club in the endgame; one down for -100.

In the Open Room, Zhang Yalan opened $I \heartsuit$ and Gu Ling responded $2 \diamondsuit$, as in the other room. Bessis overcalled $3 \clubsuit$ and Zhang jumped all the way to $5 \diamondsuit$. When that came back to Bessis she had a tough decision. She had huge playing potential if a fit could be found but a low point-count and she was vulnerable against not. She elected to go quietly. Bessis led a top club and switched to her heart. When Saul put up the queen, declarer had enough winners to avoid the second club loser; +420 and 11 IMPs to China.

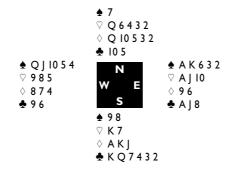
Board 12. N/S Vul. Dealer West.



Zhang Yalan had opened I♣, strong, then showed a balanced hand, so it was natural for Saul to lead a diamond. It looks easy to put up dummy's jack but Zhang did better than that, winning the lead with her king to preserve the ◇J as a later entry to dummy. She ran the ♣J at trick two and continued with a second spade to Saul's ace. Saul had no good play at this point. She

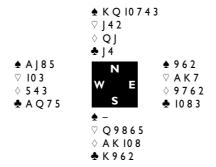
switched to a low club to declarer's queen and promptly found herself back on play with the $\lozenge Q$. The only hope seemed to be that West held the $\lozenge J$ so Saul exited with the $\clubsuit K$. But it was not to be. Zhang won the $\clubsuit A$ and crossed to the $\lozenge J$ to cash the spades. She came down to $\lozenge K$, $\lozenge A$, $\clubsuit J$ and now led a low heart. When Bessis did not take her ace, Zhang had the rest for +660 and a I IMP gain.

Board 14. Love All. Dealer East.



What is your call with the West cards when partner opens 1♠, showing five, and South overcalls 2♠? Wang raised to 3♠ while Bessis preferred 4♠. Both calls ended the auction and there was nothing to the play. Nine tricks in each room meant +140 for China but -50 for France; 5 IMPs to China.

Board 16, E/W Vul. Dealer West.



Playing standard methods, does that West hand constitute an opening bid? Yes, said Wang in the Closed Room. She opened 1♣ and Cronier overcalled 1♣. Zhang Yu passed and Willard tried 2♥, which ended the auction. Willard won the diamond lead on table and ran the ♠K, throwing a club. Back came a second diamond and again she won on table. Willard pitched another club on the ♠Q, ruffed a spade and played the ace then king of diamonds. That forced Wang to ruff so Willard had found the ♥10 and had only to lose two hearts and two clubs; +110.

Bessis did not rate the West hand as an opening bid. That left Zhang Yalan to open 2\(\Delta\), weak, and nobody had anything to say over that. Saul led a top heart.

Had she continued with two more rounds of hearts, giving Bessis her ruff, Bessis would have had to cash the A next to beat the contract. Passive defence allows declarer to play four rounds of diamonds, ditching both her clubs. Though West can ruff in, it is at the expense of a trump trick.

But Saul switched to the \$10 at trick two. Bessis won the queen and switched back to hearts, getting her ruff. Now she played ace and another club and was threatening to promote an extra trump trick if declarer misguessed when she led the fourth club. But Zhang avoided the problem. She ruffed the third club and played three rounds of diamonds, ruffing the third round. Only now did she play the \$Q\$ to Bessis' ace. Zhang ruffed the fourth club low but now Saul had to lead into the \$K10 at trick twelve. The position of the \$\delta\$ had been made to be irrelevant. Despite that nice little play, Zhang had gone down two for -100. France picked up 5 IMPs on the board, reducing the Chinese lead to 53-13 after 16 boards — a useful start for China.

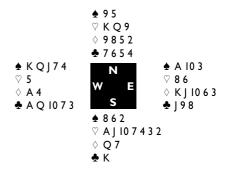
Showmanship



Omar Sharif

e have been waiting for Omar Sharif to provide us with some copy from the Transnational Teams, and once Zia refused to give him any of his hands he promptly went out and produced one of his own!

Love All. Dealer South.



West Sharif	North	East Faigenbaum	South
4 ♡	Pass	5♡	3♡
6 ◊	All Pass		Pass

Playing in a new partnership Omar was faced with the problem of dealing with South's pre-emptive opening

He had agreed that over $1\heartsuit$ a bid of $2\heartsuit$ would promise the black suits, so, hoping this was an analogous situation, he bid $4\heartsuit$. When his partner bid $5\heartsuit$ he thought it was possible that their might be a grand slam available, so he cuebid $6\diamondsuit$

You can imagine his feelings when the bidding tray came back displaying three green cards.

North led the two of diamonds and Omar, no doubt still recovering from the auction, went up with dummy's ten which was covered by the queen and ace.

He played two more diamonds leaving him with a loser in each red suit.

With a flourish he tossed his remaining cards onto the table, announcing 'I make the contract if the king of clubs is singleton.'

You see the point?

Declarer needs to get rid of both losing hearts in dummy, so it will not help him to simply find the club finesse onside. He needs to take four club tricks before North can ruff.

When we spoke to Omar about this hand, he pointed out that when the king of clubs appears West ought to cash one top spade in case South has produced a brilliant falsecard from &K654. If he shows out you can then play on spades instead.

Of course, if South was good enough to find that play he might also have produced a Lightner double with his spade void!

Bermuda Bowl

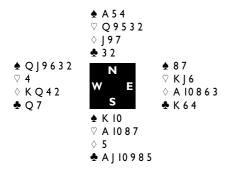
Semifinal (set 2)

USA I vs USA II

hile we were waiting for the gladiators to enter the arena for the second session of the semifinal, we discussed the possibility of the USA teams being designated in some way other than by numbers. Earlier this year, at the World Junior Championships in Hamilton, the Canadian teams, taking the colours of their flag, adopted the suffixes red and white. Unfortunately the American flag has three colours, but Erik Kokish found the perfect solution - USA Stars and USA Stripes!

This proved to be a set of big swings.

Board 17. Love All. Dealer North.



Open Room

West	North	East	South
Freeman	Deutsch	Nickell	Soloway
	Pass	Pass	I♣
2♠	DЫ	Pass	4♡
All Pass			

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Martel	Meckstroth	Stansby	Rodwell
	Pass	INT	DЫ
Redbl	Pass	2♣	DЫ
2♠	3♡	Pass	4♡
All Pass			

Both teams reached a thin four hearts, but with different declarers.

In the Closed Room the auction was straightforward and West led the queen of spades. South won and ran the eight of hearts to East's jack. East laid down the ace of diamonds and continued the suit. With no immediate entry to the dummy, declarer could not avoid losing a trick to the king of trumps. As soon as the defenders win a club trick they can force declarer with another diamond. USAII +50.

When Stansby opened a notrump, Rodwell doubled to show 14+. Martel's redouble commanded two clubs and the meaning of Rodwell's second double was not

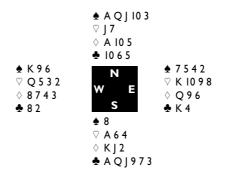


Nick Nickell (USA II)

clear from the convention card. Whatever, Meckstroth came in to the auction and was raised to game.

East led the eight of spades and declarer, with rather more information than had been available to Soloway, allowed that to run to his hand. He advanced the queen of hearts which was covered by the king and ace. He turned his attention to clubs, playing the ace and jack. West won and the defence played two rounds of diamonds. Declarer ruffed and played the ten of hearts. As East had the missing club he was able to ruff the next diamond and return to hand with a club ruff to draw the last trump, leaving dummy high. +420 and 10 IMPs.

Board 20. Game All. Dealer West.



Open Room

West	North	East	South
Freeman	Deutsch	Nickell	Soloway
Pass	I♠	Pass	3♣
Pass	3♠	Pass	3NT
Pass	4♣	Pass	4♡
Pass	5◊	Pass	6♣
All Pass			

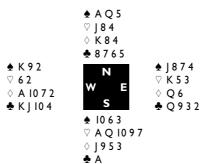
Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Martel	Meckstroth	Stansby	Rodwell
Pass	I♠	Pass	2♣
Pass	2NT	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

USA1 picked up 12 IMPs by bidding and making a thin slam in the Closed Room. Soloway used an old-fashioned force and that persuaded Deutsch to go on over 3NT. West led the two of hearts and declarer ducked the first round of the suit, won the second and ruffed the third. At this point the play record ceases, but we imagine declarer ran the ten of clubs and then drew the remaining trumps. There are plenty of ways to go wrong, but Soloway did not follow a losing line and he recorded +1370.

Slam was never in the picture in the other room.

Board 21. N/S Vul. Dealer North.



Open Room

West	North	East	South
Freeman	Deutsch	Nickell	Soloway
			IΫ
DЫ	Redbl	I♠	2◊
Pass	2♡	2♠	3♡
Pass	4♡	All Pass	

Against four hearts, West led the two of spades which was allowed to go to East's jack. He switched to the two of clubs, so declarer won and played a diamond to the king. He needed a favourable position in both red suits, but here there was nothing he could do. -100.

Closed Room

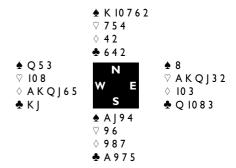
West	North	East	South
Martel	Meckstroth	Stansby	Rodwell
			IΫ
DЫ	2◊	2♠	3♡
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

Meckstroth's bid of two diamonds promised three card heart support, but when he suggested a nine-trick game Rodwell decided to go along with him. Right!

With clubs 4-4 and the three key cards well placed declarer actually came to ten tricks when the defenders parted with too many spades. +630 and 12 IMPs.

The next three boards appeared to offer little scope, but on one of them USATI had an accident in the Closed Room.

Board 23. Game All. Dealer South.



Open Room

West	North	East	South
Freeman	Deutsch	Nickell	Soloway
			Pass
1♦	Pass	IΫ	Pass
2NT	Pass	4♣	Pass
4♡	Pass	4NT	All Pass

Two notrumps promised a little more than West had and four clubs was Gerber. Perhaps East should have passed the response, but he thought 4NT would be safe so he signed off with that.

North led a spade and South won and cashed the ace of clubs before reverting to spades. Three down, -300.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Martel	Meckstroth	Stansby	Rodwell
			Pass
1♦	Pass	IΫ	DЫ
INT	3♠	4♡	All Pass

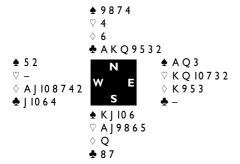
As is so often the case, 'Meckwell' managed to get



Bob Hamman (USA II)

into the auction, but they could not do any serious damage. Rodwell went for broke with the lead of the seven of clubs and thirteen tricks were scored. 14 out of the blue IMPs for USA1.

Board 25. E/W Vul. Dealer North.



Open Room

West	North	East	South
Freeman	Deutsch	Nickell	Soloway
	I ♣	I♡	Pass
2♦	3♣	4♣	4♠
5◊	Pass	6◊	DЫ
All Pass			

What a great effort to reach the laydown slam on the East/West cards. Only the foul heart break prevented an overtrick being recorded but that was still +1540.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Martel	Meckstroth	Stansby	Rodwell
	3♠	4♡	DЫ
All Pass			

Meckstroth's opening bid promised a solid suit somewhere. Stansby had a shrewd idea where, but it was hard to let his partner in on the secret. (In passing what do you think bids of 3NT and double by East should mean in this situation?) His choice of four hearts met with a cruel fate when Rodwell wielded his axe and everybody passed.

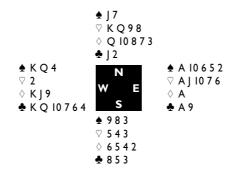
Should West run?

Whatever, declarer was doubtless charmed when he saw the dummy.

Rodwell led the eight of clubs which was ruffed. He took the queen of hearts with the ace and switched to the queen of diamonds. Declarer won in hand and tried the ten of hearts. Rodwell won and was allowed to hold the next trick with the eight of hearts. He exited with another heart and declarer won and played on diamonds. He ended up three down, -800 and a massive 20

IMPs for USAII, the biggest swing of the championships so far

Board 28. N/S Vul. Dealer West.



Open Room

West	North	East	South
Freeman	Deutsch	Nickell	Soloway
I♣	Pass	I♠	Pass
2♣	Pass	2♡	Pass
3♠	Pass	4♣	Pass
4♠	Pass	4NT	Pass
5♣	Pass	5◊	Pass
6◊	Pass	6♠	All Pass

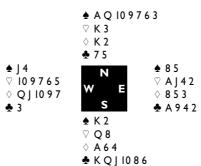
It's not clear what went wrong here, but 4NT was almost certainly RKCB and the response showed one or four key cards. Five diamonds was asking about the queen of spades and the rest of West's hand, and when he bid six diamonds East probably decided that the king of clubs was missing.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Martel	Meckstroth	Stansby	Rodwell
l ♣	1♦	I♠	Pass
2♠	Pass	4NT	Pass
5◊	DЫ	5♡	Pass
6♣	Pass	6◊	Pass
7♣	All Pass		

Even here North/South contrived to get into the bidding. North's double said don't lead a diamond, but West ended up as declarer, so he led the king of hearts. Martel won, ruffed a heart and played the king of clubs and a club to the ace. He was able to claim when the trumps behaved, but he had prepared the ground for a trump coup if South had happened to hold four trumps to the jack.

Board 31. N/S Vul. Dealer South.



Open Room

West Freeman	North Deutsch	East Nickell	South Soloway
Pass	4♡	Pass	INT 4 ≜
Pass All Pass	4NT	Pass	5♠

It was not unreasonable to look for a slam on the North/South cards, but there were not enough aces, and with South as declarer it was easy for the defence to find their club ruff. -100.

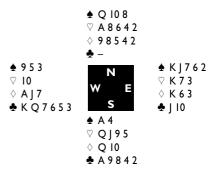
Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Martel	Meckstroth	Stansby	Rodwell
			♣
3◊	3♠	5◊	Pass
Pass	DЫ	All Pass	

Rodwell's pass over 50 asked partner to say 'double' and he did as he was told. North led a club and declarer won and played the ace of hearts before playing a trump. North won and mysteriously cashed the king of hearts before reverting to clubs. That possibly cost his side a trick, but declarer was still three down and that gave USA11 12 IMPs.

The action-packed session came to an end with a flat board, but it was not without interest.

Board 32. E/W Vul. Dealer West.



Open Room

West	North	East	South
Freeman	Deutsch	Nickell	Soloway
		I♠	Dbl
Redbl	4♡	Pass	Pass
DЫ	All Pass		

East led the jack of clubs. Declarer won, pitching a spade, and played the ten of diamonds. East won and played his remaining club. Declarer ruffed and cashed the ace of hearts before playing a second diamond. West switched to the nine of spades covered by the ten, jack and ace. North ruffed a club with the eight of hearts and was overruffed by the king. At this point the play record stops, but the contract failed by two tricks, so perhaps East exited with a spade. Although this gives a ruff and discard and dummy still has $\nabla QJ9$ and East only the $\nabla 7$, the defenders must make one more trick. Remarkable!

More mundanely, a trump has the same effect.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Martel	Meckstroth	Stansby	Rodwell
Pass	2◊	Pass	2♠
3♣	3◊	3♠	4♣
4♠	5◊	DЫ	5♡
Dbl	All Pass		

Another hyperactive auction from North/South, but this time something went wrong. Perhaps three diamonds was just too pushy. When West led the nine of spades, South won with the ace and passed the queen of hearts. East won and switched to a diamond. West won and returned the suit, leaving declarer in control. He was the same two down, a flat board.

USA11 had won the session 55-39 to lead 105-52 overall.

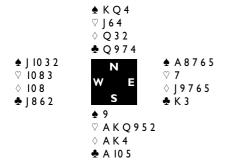
Bermuda Bowl

Semifinal (set 3)

Norway vs Italy

oing into the third set of 16 boards, France had a healthy 59-IMP lead, 93-34. However, Norway already has shown powerful recuperative powers in this tournament, so this could be an exciting set. Norway certainly started fast.

Board 33. Love All. Dealer North.



Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Brogeland	Mari	Saelensminde	Levy
	Pass	2♠	DЫ
3♠ All Pass	3NT	Pass	4♡

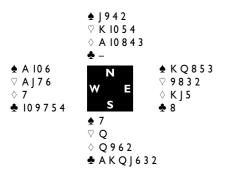
A very normal auction and a very normal result - 450 to France.

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Chemla	Aa	Perron	Groetheim
	INT	Pass	2◊
Pass	2NT	Pass	3♣
Pass	3NT	Pass	4♣
Pass	4♡	Pass	6♡
All Pass			

Notice that the first player to bid hearts was Aa, sitting North. Ordinarily it doesn't appear that this slam has a chance, but with North as declarer, the possibility exists that East, with nothing much to go on, may lead the \triangle A. And that's exactly what happened. Now the top spades allowed Aa to get rid of his losing clubs. I I IMPs to Norway.

Board 37. N/S Vul. Dealer North.



Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Brogeland	Mari	Saelensminde	Levy
	Pass	Pass	I♣
Pass	I♦	I♠	3♣
Pass	3NT	Pass	Pass
Dbl	Pass	Pass	4♣
DЫ	All Pass		

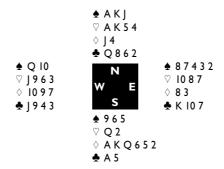
There was no way to avoid four losers because of the atrocious club break; 200 to Norway.

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Chemla	Aa	Mari	Groetheim
	Pass	Pass	 ♣ (strong)
Pass	2♦	Pass	5◊
All Pass			

The defence started well with the ♠K overtaken with the ace, followed by the ♡A. Now it is possible to shut out that solid club suit by forcing South to ruff with a second spade. When East gets in with the trump king, he can lead a third spade. But Chemla switched to a club, thinking there was a good chance his partner could ruff. But Aa ruffed instead and was now in control. He gave up a diamond trick and then was able to take the rest for down one. That was 3 IMPs to Norway when it could have been several to France.

Board 39. Game All. Dealer South.



Compare these two auctions.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Brogeland	Mari	Saelensminde	Levy
			INT
Pass	2♣	Pass	2◊
Pass	6NT	All Pass	

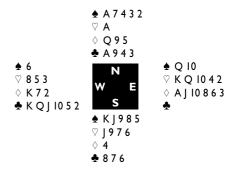
Open Room

West	North	East	South
Chemla	Aa	Perron	Groetheim
			I♣
Pass	IΫ	Pass	I♠
Pass	INT	Pass	2♣
Pass	2♦	Pass	2♡
Pass	2NT	Pass	3♣
Pass	3♠	Pass	3NT
Pass	4♡	Pass	4♠
Pass	5♡	Pass	5♠
Pass	6♣	Pass	6◊
Pass	6♡	Pass	7◊
All Pass			

This was a relay auction with Groetheim asking and Aa responding. When he bid $7 \circ$, Groetheim knew Aa's exact distribution and all his important high cards. The slam came home super easily when Perron led a spade, but it didn't matter – the Φ Q was always going to fall. 12 more IMPs to Norway who now trailed 101-67.

France made somewhat of a comeback against China in their Venice Cup match. France climbed to 7NT while China stopped in $6\lozenge-13$ IMPs to France, trailing China distantly at the time.

Board 40. Love All. Dealer West.

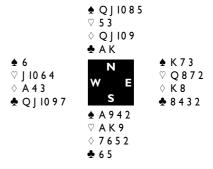


In the Closed Room Brogeland opened $3\frac{4}{9}$, played it there, made it with an overtrick. It was different in the Open Room.

West	North	East	South
Chemla	Aa	Perron	Groetheim
Pass	I♠	3♣	4♠
4NT	Pass	5≎	Pass
Pass	DЫ	All Pass	

3♣ showed a red two-suiter and 4NT asked partner to make the choice. Naturally Perron chose his six-card diamond suit. Declarer can make this contract if he takes the right view in the trump suit and knocks out the ♣A via a ruffing finesse. But Perron did not find this line. He ruffed the second spade, led to the ♡A, and North tried to cash his ♣A and saw it ruffed. Now Perron cashed his trump ace and led a diamond to the king. He still had to lose a heart and trump and was down one. The Norwegians were making inroads on the French lead

Board 41. E/W Vul. Dealer North.

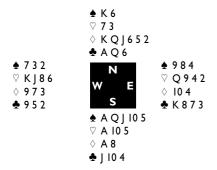


Both North-South pairs arrived in 4. This went down when France played the hand. Mari won the heart opening lead and immediately played the trumps in the accepted manner, cashing the ace and leading another just in case a diamond ruff was lurking. Strangely enough this was one time when a safety play wasn't safe. When Saelensminde won with his king, he shifted to the \lozenge K, led to partner's ace and got a ruff to set the contract one.

The early defence went the same way in the Open Room. Perron shifted to the ⋄K on winning his ♠K, then a second diamond to partner's ace. But Chemla wasn't on the same wavelength – he shifted to a club. Aa now had no further problems – he quickly wrapped up 10 tricks for another 11 IMPs. Norway now trailed by only 18, 101-83.

A strange point about this hand - if the defence get their diamond ruff too early, declarer will make the contract. In one match East found the $\lozenge K$ lead and quickly got a ruff. But now declarer was no long worried about ruff, so took the spade finesse and made the game.

Board 42. Game All. Dealer East.



Another grand slam hand!

Closed Room

Pass 1	th y
	•
Pass 2♦ Pass 2N	Т
Pass 30 Pass 30	7
Pass 3♠ Pass 4<	>
Pass 4NT Pass 54	b
Pass 5NT Pass 6	>
Pass 70 Pass 79	è
Pass 7NT All Pass	

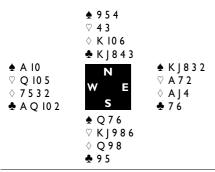
Nice bidding. Of course there was nothing to the play. But Norway didn't do as well, using a cuebidding sequence.

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Chemla	Aa	Perron	Groetheim
		Pass	I♣
Pass	2♦	Pass	2♠
Pass	2NT	Pass	3NT
Pass	4◊	Pass	4♡
Pass	4NT	Pass	5♣
Pass	5NT	Pass	6◊
Pass	Pass !!	Pass	

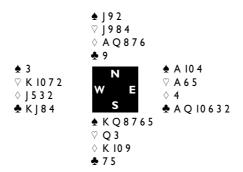
Aa took all 13 tricks but 13 IMPs to France.

Board 44. N/S Vul. Dealer West.



Both teams bid to the notrump game, and the commentators thought that was a perfectly natural result. But they didn't take into consideration the defence that Aa inaugurated – he led the ♦K! What a surprise attack! He continued with a second diamond, and Chemla finessed, losing to the queen. Groetheim accurately shift to a club, and Chemla tried the 10, losing to the jack. A heart lead might have been better at this point, but Aa led a diamond to dummy's ace. Chemla could have made his game at this point by finessing to the \$10, but not unnaturally he crossed to the A and finessed the jack, losing to the queen. Groetheim led his last club and Chemla had no choice - he had to finesse. This lost, and now he was locked out of his hand and to go down two. I IIMPs back to Norway.

Board 45. Game All. Dealer North.



Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Brogeland	Mari	Saelensminde	Levy
	Pass	I♣	I♠
DЫ	2◊	DЫ	3◊
Pass	3♠	All Pass	

This was not a success – down one, but at least Mari and Levy had kept the Norwegians out of clubs. The story was different in the other room.

Open Room

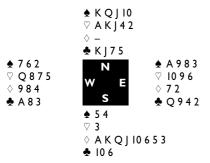
West	North	East	South
Chemla	Aa	Perron	Groetheim
	Pass	I♣	I♠
DЫ	2♣	3♣	Pass
5♣	All Pass		

Perron's 3♣ bid made it easy for Chemla to jump to game. There was nothing to the play – Perron lost the obvious two tricks to earn France a major gain.

The last three boards were on the dull side, Norway gained 5 IMPs on Board 31 and the other two were the only pushes of the set. Norway had cut heavily into France's lead, trailing now by only 28 IMPs, 127-99.

Transnational comedy

Love All. Dealer North.



The perfect contract is 50 by North, which could be

reached if North opens I♥ and South uses Blackwood. One imperfect contract is 3NT. Another is 6♦, which was played by South.This makes after a red-suit lead, but fails after a black-suit lead. Or does it?

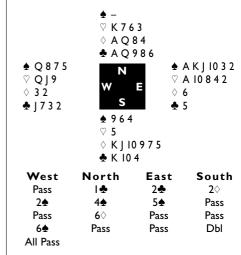
Knowing that the dummy was very strong in the side suits, West made an imaginative underlead – the ♣3 The only hope is that West has underled the ace, so South must play the king. "King", called South immediately. Another routine 920? Not quite. "Oh," said South after a two-second pause. "I thought that was a spade." Not unnaturally, West made no objection when South cancelled the king play, more or less in the same breath, and substituted a small club without having fully considered the situation.

Down two? Not quite. East omitted to play the queen, so another routine 920 after all.

Who's saving?

ohn Wignall of New Zealand, a vice president of the World Bridge Federation, and his partner arrived in 60 after a vigorous auction on this deal from the Transnational Open Teams. They climbed to the slam on their combined 22 high card points. The opposition were very much into the act. In fact, they wouldn't let 60 be played — they went on to 64, probably not at all sure whether they were bidding to make or save.

Board 8. Love All. Dealer West.



As you can see, no opening lead can stop the diamond slam — in fact, North-South will make seven if West leads anything but a heart. So $6 \clubsuit$ turned out to be a save — and a fine one it was.The defense quickly took their two aces, but that was all — down only one. But that was enough because Wignall's teammates were allowed to play $5 \clubsuit$ at the other table, making five for an 11-IMP pickup.

Later South was unhappy about her pass of 5♠. "I shouldn't have left the decision up to my partner," she said. "It was up to me to take action."

Hammamet observations – VII

by Terry Radjef

The Berbers continued to resist the Arabs even after the Byzantines had given up. Finally the last great leader of the resistance, El Kahna, a Berber heroine, was killed in 702 A.D. Rapidly the Berbers massively converted to Islam. One of the, Tarik Ibn Zyad, made the conquest of Spain in 711 with mostly Berber troops. The Straits of Djebel Tarik (Gibraltar) is named after him. He is the one who burned all the ships once his armada made it to the shores of Spain.

Ifriqiya, as North Africa was called then, went through several dynasties of monarchs, most claiming to have been descended from the prophet Mohammed. They rules until the end of the 16th century. The Golden period saw the building of sumptuous palaces, great cities and sturdy fortresses.

The more powerful Spaniards and Turks controlled the Mediterranean. The Turks prevailed in Tunisia in 1574 – Tunisia became a province of the Ottoman Empire for three centuries, ruled by beys.

The Tunisian beys were valiant defenders of the faith and aggressive traders, encouraging the extremely profitable piracy of the Christian ships. They were the heads of large families, always having to protect themselves from their successors-to-be, and at the same time entertaining large and sumptuous harems. The cost cost of maintaining such a lifestyle weakened the economic independence of the country. These mistakes led to the fall of the beylical regime.

(To be continued)

Bermuda Bowl - Round-robin Cross-table

	U.S.A. I	U.S.A. II	FRANCE	NORWAY	ITALY	POLAND	CHINA	CHINESETAIPEI	BRAZIL	DENMARK	AUSTRALIA	CANADA	INDIA	VENEZUELA	NEW ZEALAND	CHILE	SOUTH AFRICA	TUNISIA	VPs
U.S.A. I	•	20	20	24	13	18	22	18	23	16	21	15	19	17	10	19	23	25	323
U.S.A. II	10		9	24	15	23	20	19	25	15	16	23	19	16	21	17	25	19	315.4
FRANCE	10	21	•	18	17	20	17	15	8	18	25	22	17	15	17	15	21	20	296
NORWAY	6	6	12		22	15	15	20	П	22	24	23	19	16	16	17	25	25	294
ITALY	17	15	13	8		16	24	17	17	8	9	18	17	22	25	18	25	23	290
POLAND	12	7	10	15	14		16	14	13	24	12	18	22	20	25	18	20	25	285
CHINA	8	10	13	15	6	14		12	19	20	13	15	21	24	25	19	20	24	278
CHINESE TAIPEI	12	П	15	10	13	16	18	•	7	21	18	23	24	19	18	20	15	17	277
BRAZIL	7	4	22	19	13	17	П	23		П	П	15	13	25	19	25	16	23	274
DENMARK	14	15	12	8	22	6	10	9	19	•	12	14	15	23	23	23	22	17	264.1
AUSTRALIA	9	14	5	6	21	18	17	12	19	18		П	20	23	21	14	8	20	256
CANADA	15	7	8	7	12	12	15	7	15	16	19		15	16	21	21	14	13	233
INDIA	П	П	13	П	13	8	9	6	17	15	10	15		4	24	25	15	19	226
VENEZUELA	13	14	15	14	8	10	6	П	5	7	7	14	25		15	16	24	19	223
NEW ZEALAND	20	9	13	14	5	3	3	12	П	7	9	9	6	15		25	21	23	205
CHILE	П	13	15	13	12	12	П	10	0	7	16	9	5	14	ı	•	24	16	189
SOUTH AFRICA	7	5	9	2	0	10	10	15	14	8	22	16	15	6	9	6	•	20	174
TUNISIA	2	П	10	I	7	4	6	13	7	13	10	17	П	П	7	14	10		154

Venice Cup – Round-robin Cross-table

	U.S.A. I	U.S.A. II	FRANCE	NORWAY	ITALY	POLAND	CHINA	CHINESE TAIPEI	BRAZIL	DENMARK	AUSTRALIA	CANADA	INDIA	VENEZUELA	NEW ZEALAND	CHILE	SOUTH AFRICA	TUNISIA	No.
								_						-					VPs
FRANCE	•	8	18	20	15	12	17	14	24	16	25	13	17	19	23	22	20	15	298
U.S.A. I	22	-	9	12	13	20	16	14	22	21	19	9	18	22	20	10	23	22	291
U.S.A. II	12	21		20	8	14	21	16	16	18	10	14	10	21	25	25	22	16	289
CHINA	10	18	10		25	13	20	21	8	14	25	22	22	20	17	14	П	19	288
GREAT BRITAIN	15	17	22	4	•	17	13	23	19	20	17	14	14	19	24	13	14	22	287
CANADA	18	10	16	17	13	•	15	8	13	21	14	П	22	20	20	25	19	21	283
NETHERLANDS	13	14	9	10	17	15	•	25	25	14	9	16	16	15	15	17	25	17	272
ITALY	16	16	14	9	7	22	4		2	14	23	23	19	16	10	25	24	15	259.5
GERMANY	6	8	14	22	П	17	5	25		14	10	17	12	19	12	20	20	25	257
INDIA	14	9	12	16	10	9	16	16	16	•	15	16	25	18	13	10	14	25	254
AUSTRALIA	0	П	20	0	13	16	21	7	20	15	•	14	7	25	17	23	22	23	254
NEW ZEALAND	17	21	16	8	16	19	14	7	13	14	16	•	21	3	7	23	14	24	253
ARGENTINA	13	12	20	8	16	8	14	П	18	0	23	9	•	19	8	18	25	16	238
SOUTH AFRICA	П	8	9	10	П	10	15	14	П	12	5	25	Ш		12	21	18	21	224
CHINESE TAIPEI	7	10	5	13	6	10	15	20	18	17	13	23	22	18	•	8	I	П	217
COLOMBIA	8	20	5	16	17	I	13	0	10	20	7	7	12	9	22	•	15	24	206
BRAZIL	10	7	8	19	16	П	5	6	10	16	8	16	3	12	25	15		18	205
TUNISIA	15	8	14	П	8	9	13	15	0	3	7	6	14	9	19	6	12		169