It's USA II vs. France and China vs. USA I

United States II, the defending Bermuda Bowl champions, will take on France in the 160-board Bermuda Bowl final today. In the Venice Cup, United States I will oppose China. The Americans are trying to regain the Cup they won in 1993. They lost to Germany in 1995. China will try to improve on their runner-up status achieved in the World Team Olympiad in Rhodes last year.

United States II is exactly the same team that won in Beijing two years ago – Bob Hamman, Bobby Wolff, Nick Nickell, Dick Freeman, Jeff Meckstroth and Eric Rodwell. They are captained by Walt Walvick and coached by Kit Woolsey. They solidly trounced USA I in the semifinal, 276-157, a remarkable turnaround. When these teams played in the U.S. Trials, USA I, captained by Hugh Ross, wiped out USA II. USA I also won their head-to-head match here in the round-robin. But it was all USA II yesterday.

The match between France and Norway was closer, but it was clear very early that France was going to be the winner. The final score was 220-157, a solid victory indicating that France is ready for the Americans again. In previous final encounters, France defeated the Americans in Valkenburg in 1980 and in Salomaggiore in 1992. Playing for France are Paul Chemla, Michel Perron, Christian Mari, Alain Lévy, Hervé Mouiel and Frank Multon, with Jean-Louis Stoppa as npc.

By far the best match was the one that featured the two American Venice Cup hopefuls. USA I, captained by Sue Picus, went into the final 32 boards up by 12 – and that’s how far ahead they were going into the very last board. United States II, captained by Sue Sachs, had an outside chance to overcome that deficit, but they fell 5 IMPS short, losing a thriller, 173-168. Playing for USA I are Jill Meyers, Randi Montin, Tobis Sokolow, Mildred Breed, Marinessa Letizia and Lisa Berkowitz.

China followed up its powerful performance against Great Britain with an equally impressive showing against round-robin champion France, 241-220. The match actually wasn’t that close – France recorded a major gain on the very last board. China will try to improve on their silver medal finish in last year’s Women’s Team Olympiad in Rhodes. Playing for China are Sun Ming, Lu Yan, Zhang Yalan, Gu Ling, Zhang Yu and Wang Wen Fei, with Hu Ji Hong as non-playing captain.

Qualifying change for Bermuda Bowl and Venice Cup

At its meetings in Hammamet, Tunisia, the Executive Council changed the Format for the Bermuda Bowl and Venice Cup. The effect of the amendment is that:

"Any country represented in the next Rosenblum teams (Lille 1998) or by two pairs in the World Open Pairs, will recover its right to compete in the next Bermuda Bowl. Similarly, a country represented in the next McConnell teams, or by two pairs in the World Women’s Pairs, will recover its right to compete in the Venice Cup."

Victory banquet

The following teams from the Bermuda Bowl and Venice Cup are asked to collect IMMEDIATELY the invitations for the Victory Banquet for their teams:

- Australia, Argentina, Brazil
- Colombia, Chinese Taipei, Chile
- New Zealand – (Venice Cup)

The deadline for collecting these invitations will be today (Thursday) at 12.30 because it is essential that we know the number of persons attending as 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 | 1st 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
--- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | ---
1. USA II - USA I | | 50 - 13 | 55 - 39 | 51 - 30 | 16 - 31 | 26 - 8 | 78 - 36 | 276 - 157

Venice Cup - Results

Semifinals

Table | Match | 1st 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
--- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | ---
3. USA I - USA II | | 29 - 42 | 16 - 43 | 24 - 25 | 52 - 16 | 54 - 17 | 30 - 23 | 173 - 168

VUGRAPHE

Bermuda Bowl - final 11h00
France - USA II

Venice Cup - final 14h00
China - USA I
final 17h00
to be decided
final 21h30
to be decided

Hammamet observations VIII
by Terry Radjef

In 1830 the French began their conquest of Algeria, the neighbour to the west. To influence the beys, they became the main creditors of Tunisia. Slowly but surely, they took over control, then the management of the country's infrastructure.

Taking advantage of one of many foreign incursions across the border, the French came to the rescue. But then they forced the bey to sign the Bardo Treaty in 1881. The treaty authorised France to occupy the country in order "to protect it from any further incursions."

The French, just like the Romans 2000 years earlier, proceeded with the spectacular development of the road system, the ports of Bizerte, Tunis and Sfax, the railroads to transport the phosphate, and several industries which opened the country to the modern world.

On the other hand, salaries were extremely low, unemployment very high, and many farmers were kicked off their land. The frustrations of the Tunisians led to the creation of a movement for independence led by a young lawyer, Habib Bourguiba. He campaigned using a pragmatic platform which became increasingly more popular. However, the Tunisians remained faithful to the French during World War II, many enlisting in the Allied forces. Some may remember the Tunisian campaign of 1942-1943.

At the end of the war, Habib Bourguiba was forced into exile in Egypt. The independence process, begun in 1954, resulted in a sovereign Tunisia on 25 July, 1957, even though the French troops didn't leave until October 1963.

(To be continued)

Bermuda Bowl China profiles

WANG XIAOJING teaches mathematics at the University in Nanjing. He likes all kinds of sports – he's a true football fan. He has represented China in international bridge since 1993 and was 5th in the 1995 Bermuda Bowl.

FU ZHONG is an engineer in a systems engineering company in Beijing. He is Wang Xiaojing's partner, He played on Youth teams several years ago, and he was 5th in the 1995 Bermuda Bowl.

WANG WEIMIN lives in Shanghai. He played on the Youth team a few years ago. He placed 3rd in Pacific Asia Congress 1996, 2nd in Pacific Asia Championships 1997.


SUN SHAOLIN is an engineer in computer engineering. He likes to read novels about Chinese Martial Art. He was 3rd in Pacific Asia Congress 1996, 2nd in Pacific Asia Championships 1997.

LIU CHUAN lives in Chengdu where the Marlboro China Cup took place earlier this year. He is Sun’s partner. He placed 3rd in Pacific Asia Congress 1996, 2nd in Pacific Asia Championships 1997.
After 12 Rounds, NickNickell is president of Kelso & Company, a New York City investment banking firm. He limits his bridge to ACBL national tournaments and, when eligible, to ACBL team trials and world championships. He met his current partner, Dick Freeman, while attending the University of North Carolina in the late 1960s. They began playing seriously about ten years ago and now have the 1995 Bermuda Bowl and seven ACBL national championships to their credit. Nick also won the ACBL’s prestigious Blue Ribbon Pairs, partnered by Bob Hamman. Nick is easy-going, loves a good laugh and is rarely seen without a smile on his face. When not at the table, he can sometimes be seen trying to get behind a wall (rejoicing in glee when he gets a lea ner) or engaging in a serious game of liar’s poker.

Home is his wife, Carol, and their 11-month-old son, Joey. Nick also wins the world championship when it comes to bragging about Joey. Dick Freeman of Atlanta, Georgia, is a senior vice-president of Oppenheimer & Co., a worldwide financial concern. For those of you who have not kept abreast of developments in stock exchanges (what a drop early this week!) during the past ten days, Dick currently has a very unpopular occupation. He learned bridge at the University of Chicago, from which he graduated at the tender age of fifteen. He moved to Washington D.C., where he furthered his bridge education under the tutelage of the great Al Roth. Like Nick, he limits his bridge playing to ACBL NABCs and world championships. He is married to Louise and has two children and two grandchildren. His favorite win of all time was the 1963 ACBL Mixed Teams with Louise and two of his mentors from college, Manny Hochfeld and Gloria Turner. According to legend, he is the world’s fastest human matchpointer. Today’s computers can undoubtedly matchpoint faster. Ten years ago, the smart money would have been on Dick.

Walt Walvick, an attorney from McLean, Virginia, is trying his hand as non-playing captain for the first time. In his role, he has the unenviable task of attempting to fill the shoes of the late bridge immortal, Edgar Kaplan, who captained the team to victory in the 1995 Bermuda Bowl. He plays bridge only occasionally. He won the Swiss Plate in Miami in 1988, finished third in the 1992 Mixed Pairs with his wife Kathie in Geneva and has won two ACBL national championships. His greatest joy in life is his family. His wife Kathie has a third in another world championship, his stepson, Mike Cappelletti Jr., is a successful young bridge professional in the United States that begins Monday night. He has been happily married since 1995 to Donna, who has rapidly established herself as one of the top negotiators in dealings with local merchants. Eric and Donna live in Chicago, Illinois, in a happy family that includes two children each from prior marriages. Eric enjoys piano, sports, reading, movies and his family. The only disappointment about this wonderful tournament is the lack of an accessible piano, which has deprived players all over the world of regaling to Eric play in the wee hours of the morning.

BOBBY WOLFF is a semi-retired bridge writer and bridge administrator. His current column, The Aces on Bridge, appears in about 150 newspapers worldwide. He is a past president of both the WBF and ACBL. Like his regular partner Bob Hamman, he is one of the legends of bridge. He is the holder of ten world championships. In ten Bermuda Bowl appearances, he has an amazing record of seven wins and three seconds to the Italian Blue team. In his leisure time, Bobby has been known to dabble in sports betting and enjoys watching Financial Advisor and Enthusiast. He has been on Dick Freeman’s case all week about the declining value of his portfolio.

JEFF MECKSTROTH, a bridge professional, is “Meck” of Meckwell, one of the most successful partnerships in the world during the last decade. His four world titles include the 1981 and 1995 Bermuda Bowls, the 1988 Olympiad and the 1986 Open Pairs. He has won approximately 30 ACBL national championships. He is married with 12 and 14-year-old sons and lives in Tampa, Florida. In his limited free time away from the tables, he loves playing golf, fishing with his boys, reading books, watching movies and sports. Jeff’s favorite tournaments are at sites that include casinos, where he sometimes can be found playing blackjack. Viva Hammamet.

ERIC RODWELL, also a bridge professional, is the “well” of Meckwell. He claims one more major title than Jeff, the 1992 Pan American Pairs. Always in demand, he and Jeff will leave Hammamet on Sunday in time to arrive at a regional tournament in the United States that begins Monday night. He has been happily married since 1995 to Donna, who has rapidly established herself as one of the top negotiators in dealings with local merchants. Eric and Donna live in Chicago, Illinois, in a happy family that includes two children each from prior marriages. Eric enjoys piano, sports, reading, movies and his family. The only disappointment about this wonderful tournament is the lack of an accessible piano, which has deprived players all over the world of regaling to Eric play in the wee hours of the morning.

BOB HAMMAN is the 59-year-old president of Dallas, Texas, based SCA Promotions, Inc., a company that insures contingent sporting events such as a golfer scoring a hole-in-one. What more is there to say about Bob? Fiercely competitive, he has been the highest ranked player in the world since 1985, is a nine-time world champion and has won countless ACBL national championships. The other members of the Hamman household, his wife Petra and son Christopher, are expert bridge players in their own right. Petra having won a major ACBL national championship. One could rightly accuse Bob of being a workaholic. According to Petra, the short time they spent together in Paris before this tournament was Bob’s first vacation in recorded history.
Transnational Team Line-ups

ANAND IND KALPANA, SUBHASH, ANIL, ANAN, SANTANU
AUKEN DEN/GER AKUN, SCHIEFFER, ANDERSEN, MOLLER
BAJZIKI POL ZMUDZINSKI, KOWALSKI, ROMANSKI, SZYMANOWSKI, ZAKAREWSKI
BARONI ITA De BASSO, RISSELLI, CAGGESE, FRANCONI, SACCARVINI
BAROUNDI TUN JALAM, SLLIM, ABASS, MESTIRI
BIJER RUS/BRD PROKHOROV, GOUDKOV, VorOBEI
BLASSET DEN HECHT-OHANNSEN, CHRISTIANSEN, BRUN, BLASKET, VERGE
BURGAY ITA/POL De FALCO, MARIANI, LESENEWSKI, MARTENS
CADAT IZ MAR BENSODA, BELKOUCH, ORABII
CERVI ITA MAL VIVALDI, CIVIDIN, ZENARI, PAOLUZZI, ROZANNO
CHMURSKI POL PUCZYNSKI, OLANSKI, GOLEBIOWSKI
CHODOROWSKI POL CHODROWSK, KULTON, ZAJKIEWICZ
CONVERY ZAF/GRA WEVER, SCHAFFRO, GORDON, COPE
D’ORSI BRA/USA/ZN, MS NUDERMAN, ANDERSON, GERARD, WIGNALL, FRANCIS
DAEH ROY JUNG, LERH. MERTHEM, DAEBER
DIX MAL MS BORG, CONSILIO, ATTARDBONDIO, ATTARDBONDIO, CONSIGLIO
DIELTRE SCU NISGURD, GRIME, OLESEN, HAGA, JAHANSEN
EKEBLAD USA EKELAND, PASSELL, SEAMON, COKIN
FORRESTER GBR SENIOR, MONNACHAN, STEEL, KING
FORT CYSK VOLHEIN, FILIPJEVECLC, LAUER, VORACEK
GAR HUN WINKLER, LAKATOS, HOMMONAY, SZALAY, GULYAS
GARDYNIK POL PRZYBYRA, KWIENICZ, ZCZZOLLA
GARZETTO CHL BIGLER, WEISS, WUNDERLI
GOODMAN GBR POWNALL, KAY, DHONZY, PENCHARZ, SHARPLES
GRAY ZAF/USA NICK, POPPLESTONE, WESTON, SCHODER
GUILLET FRA M GUILLET, GERMAIN, CHAUVIRE
HACKETT GBR/VEN MAVROMICHALIS, HACKETT, HACKETT, VERNOON, MENDOZA
HAYMEST USA HAYMEST, RARAKHAILI, KABALI, LAJAL
HANNE CAN FRASER, ROCHE, GREEN, THURSTON, DELOGU
HUMBURG GER S GROMMELOER, MATTSSON, SCHNEIDER
JACKSON IRE WALS, KEAVENY, TIPPLEN
JAINJEM POL TUSZYNKI, KOWALCZKY, WITEK
JEDIDI TUN BELYFA, HASSINE, BACCOUR, ZMURLI, TOUIL
KER NE ZE GRANT, KER, DRAVITZKI, JEDDYCHOWSKI, MIK
KOZNETSOV RUS DUBINOINE, CHODINEV, PAVLOV
LAKHDHARI USIT/TUN RAZIF, BROWN, JELLOOUI, TRENTALACE, KULENUVIC
LAVAZZA ITA DAIJO, PIETRI, RINALDI, PULGA
LEVENKO EST TRISHKIN, JUGANDI, KOIVUPUU
MACI ITA LONGNOTT, RESTA, SALVI
MACNAIR GBR REES, LINDON, LINDON
MALAGUTI GBR CAMERANO, ODDONE, DONATELLI, VITTORI, TORELLI
MAYSJEB GER MICHUR, ENGEL, KIRMSE
MILNER USA/CAN WEICHSEL, LEVIN, SONTAG, JACOBUS, GITELMAN
MORSE USA/CAN MORD, RETEK, COOK, ROGERS
MOSCHINO ITA GARBOSI, ABATE, CARUGATI, UGGERI
BURN GBR L PENFOLD, GODFREY, KERR, KING
RED JAM/GER L WILKIND, FOVELS, BULLIS
ZOBU TUR EKSIOGLU, ESIOGLU, YILMAZ
NIEMINEN FIN KULMALA, LINDEN, MAKINEN, IMMENEN, MANNI
NIKUEL RUS DOUNAENKO, KHOKHLOV, TOKAREV, ZABIN
NISING NOR KRISTENSEN, SKOTNIS, LUTKEN
OTYSKI POL LASOYI, ZAREMA, BOREVICH
PEDAK EST MARIPUU, LELY, LELLEP, LUND, KOBOL
PIETTOE PO/BRD PINTO, CINHENA, LIMA, CERQUINHO, MELO
PINTOR POR CERQUINHO, FERREIRA, SILVA, BARBOA, TORRES
RAUNTO FIN KIPPIILA, ELOKORI, PAOLUZI
REKUNO RUS KAZANTSEV, KHOLOMEEV, ZABIN
RIOS CHL ANDERSON, ZAHAR, TADY, CLOE
ROUDINESCO FRA S DELOU, ADAD, JAUL¥E, SCHNEIDER
SAHAL FRA GEITNER, COUNIL, LEGRAS
SEGERS BEL M HARDEMAN, LAMOTTE, LAMOTTE
SFAR TUN M KLIBI, BACCAR, GUELLATY, REBAI, KLIBI
SHARKUL TRA FARTI, HOFE, CHIDIAS, CROSNER, PAULK, SPEL
SILABHUSIDI THA SURYA, SOPHONPANI, NICHTONGSKUL, NICHTONG, VALLAPA
SINGAPURI IND KARMARKAR, CHHIDSAM, THADIN, KLIBI, BEAUMONT
STRANDBERG EST LINDAMAGI, JUHKAMI, LINDMAA, KULISK
TELTSCHE GBR/USA FRIDAY, TRUSSCOTT, TRUSSCOTT, SACHS, SACHS
VANDERGAEST NLD/BRD VANDERGAEST, CALLAGHAN, MALAYSIA, VANDERKAM
VLAJIC YO RADISO, STANOJANOVIC, ZIVOSPCI, KIJC, KALIC
WESSELING NTH/GBR DUCHWORTH, DEBOER, SNELLER
WILLIAMSO SGB/FRA STUCKER, FRIDAY, TELTSCH, QUERAN, GUYOT
ZARROUK TUN S CHELLY, CHEKIR, GHETRA, AYECHE, KHALED

S = Senior, M = Mixed, L = Ladies

You deal as South at Love All.

[AKQJ1098543] – 2
[AKQJ1098543] – 4
[AKQJ1098543] – 6
[AKQJ1098543] – 8

Press Conference

A special press conference for bridge journalists will be held on Friday at 14.30 in the Royal Azur. All IBPA members and press are invited.

This is as wild as it gets

by Sandra Landy

Do you bid? If so what? If you decide to pass, what do you lead?

This is as wild as it gets.

The hand from the World Transnational Open Teams was dealt at the table in the match Mrs Burn (GB) v Rios (Chile). If it had turned up amongst the swingy boards in the semifinals, everybody would have said the computer had gone mad.

[401x484]N
[401x460]S

West North East South

Pass 1

Pass 4

Pass 6

Dbl

West North East South

Pass 1

Pass 4

Pass 6

Dbl

All pass

Only an original trump from North beats the contract. Not easy to find after two doubles from partner. A diamond is won by the ace after two doubles from partner. It was North who had to find the lead to six spades doubled.

So Burn wisely bid 7c; going only one down when West had no club to lead. If you pass you have to work out that with all these eight-card suits around, the ace of hearts won’t stand up but the ace of diamonds might! In the other room the auction was swifter and it was North who had to find the lead to six spades doubled.

This is as wild as it gets.

1997 World Bridge Championships

Thursday, 30 October 1997
You be the judge!

by Barry Rigal

Quarterfinal, Board 78. Love All. Dealer East.

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

When Chip Martel of United States I finished playing this hand, he was not sure whether he had made a play that had gained 5 IMPs or lost 8 IMPs. You be the judge.

Both tables featured East opening 1 © and West becoming declarer in 3NT. On a top heart lead declarer seemed to have no chance to escape for less than three down, and indeed Rosenberg and Zia duly collected 150.

At the other table Li led a top heart, ducked all around, and continued with a second heart, noting that his partner had three hearts. Declarer, Martel, cashed around, and continued with a second heart, noting that he seemed to have no chance to escape for less than discard cost 8 IMPs, the difference between the actual 3 and 2 IMPs. Would W. Wang still have played a club? If so, the club was on suit preference – impossible on the spades at the end for one down.

When Martel pitched a club on this trick, Wang had his assumption that was suit preference – impossible on the spades at the end for one down. Alas, W. Wang was not on the same wavelength. He assumed that was suit preference – impossible on the spades at the end for one down. Martel risked an overcall of 4 ©. East, Chip Martel, led the ©. It was a big disappointment to Balicki to see his partner putting him in with a low heart, and he therefore switched to ace and found the bad news when Li pitched the 10. East might have bare ace, but the more likely and relevant holding was when he had a doubleton. Balicki could see what was going to happen ©, spade to the king, spade ruff and a diamond loser. So he tried something unusual: without hesitation he played low from dummy!

When Stansby won the ©, he assumed the play of a low card from dummy meant that declarer must have the king doubleton. He therefore switched to ace and another diamond. Balicki quickly claimed ten tricks for a swing of 1 IMP to Poland!

Deflecting the Inevitable

by Patrick Jourdain (GB)

One of the hallmarks of a great player is to recognise when he faces doom and to think of a way to divert the opponents from their line of success. In the last match of the round-robin between Poland and USAI there was just such a moment.

Cezary Balicki avoided the noose by deflecting the attention of Lew Stansby:


A 8 7 6
Q K 8 7 6 3
K J
K 4

Vugraph Quips

Part of the way through one of the semifinal sessions, a cat began to mew rather loudly outside the playing room. Zia promptly called out, “Don’t worry Seymour, we’re still trying!”

Venice Cup

China profiles

SUN MING is manager of a systems engineering company in Beijing. She has been representing China in international championships since 1980. She has won the Far East Championships six times, was third in the Venice Cup in 1991, fourth in the Venice Cup in 1995 and second in the World Team Olympiad last year.

LU YAN, an architectural engineer from Chengdu, is playing for China for the first time in a world championship. She and Sun Ming have worked up a fine partnership in the 10 months they have been playing together. She won the Far East Championship this year.

GU LING, a financial analyst in a trust and investment company in Guangzhou, has won six Far East championships. In the Venice Cup she was third in 1991 and fourth in 1995. Her best performance came last year in Rhodes when she was second in the World Team Olympiad. Prior to her bridge days, she was an outstanding swimmer.

ZHANG YALAN, an engineer from Guangzhou, has partnered Gu Ling since 1980. She shares Gu Ling’s record in Far East, Venice Cup and World Team Olympiad events. She is very interested in music.

WANG WENFEI was a star in GO, a kind of Chinese chess, as a teenager. Nowadays her hobby is reading. She was second in the World Team Olympiad last year and won the Far East Championship this year.

ZHANG YU lives in Hangzhou, a very beautiful city in southeast China. Her hobby is bowling. She has been playing as Wang Wenfei’s partner for the past two years. She was second in the World Team Olympiad in Greece in 1996 and won the Far East Championship this year.

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**USA I vs Italy**

*by Tony Gordon*

In the Open Room, the Italians quickly reached the cold 3NT, but the Americans sacrificed for two down and +300 to Italy. In the Closed Room, Francesca De Lucchi's 2NT in response to Annalisa Rosetta's 1NT was either natural or weak with heart support or 9-11 with 2 or 3-card heart support. It would appear that this ambiguity made it difficult for the Italians to judge whether or not to compete further and they sold out to 3NT. Lisa Berkowitz made 3 tricks on a heart lead for +660 and 8 IMPs to USA I.

A 2-IMP gain on Board 85 stretched the Americans' lead to 15 IMPs and 5 more came on Board 87 when Italy went one down in both rooms. Two boards later Italy recovered some badly needed IMPs.

In the Open Room, the Americans competed over the doomed 3NT and went one down in 4♠ for +50 to Italy. In the Closed Room, Francesca De Lucchi's 2NT in response to Annalisa Rosetta's 1NT was either natural or weak with heart support or 9-11 with 2 or 3-card heart support. It would appear that this ambiguity made it difficult for the Italians to judge whether or not to compete further and they sold out to 3NT. Lisa Berkowitz made 3 tricks on a heart lead for +660 and 8 IMPs to USA I.

A 2-IMP gain on Board 85 stretched the Americans' lead to 15 IMPs and 5 more came on Board 87 when Italy went one down in both rooms. Two boards later Italy recovered some badly needed IMPs.

**Board 81. Love All, Dealer North.**

- **West:** [A K Q 10 8]
- **North:** [Q 7]
- **East:** [K 5]
- **South:** [A J 3 2]

**Board 82. NIS Vul, Dealer East.**

- **West:** [Q 2]
- **North:** [10]
- **East:** [A Q 7 5]
- **South:** [A Q J 5 3 4 3]

**Board 83. Pass, Dealer South.**

- **West:** [9 7 6 5]
- **North:** [J 8 4 3]
- **East:** [K 9 8 3]
- **South:** [9]

**Board 84. Dbl, Dealer North.**

- **West:** [A K 4 3]
- **North:** [K 9 7 6 5 2]
- **East:** [9]
- **South:** [10 2]

**Board 85. Dbl, Dealer South.**

- **West:** [K 6]
- **North:** [K 10 9 8 6 2]
- **East:** [10 9 7 4]
- **South:** [A Q J 9 8 5 3 2]

**Board 86. Pass, Dealer North.**

- **West:** [9]
- **North:** [8]
- **East:** [A K 10 7 5 4 3 2]
- **South:** [4]

**Board 87. Pass, Dealer South.**

- **West:** [Q 10 8 6 4 2]
- **North:** [K 9 5]
- **East:** [Q 8]
- **South:** [2]

**Board 88. Dbl, Dealer North.**

- **West:** [7]
- **North:** [7]
- **East:** [A K 10 4 2]
- **South:** [J 6]

**Board 89. All Pass, Dealer North.**

- **West:** [Q 7]
- **North:** [K Q 8 2]
- **East:** [Q 9 2]
- **South:** [Q 9 5 4 3]

**Board 90. Dbl, Dealer South.**

- **West:** [10 7 2]
- **North:** [10 7 2]
- **East:** [J 10 8 7 6 5]
- **South:** [A J]

**Board 91. All Pass, Dealer South.**

- **West:** [J 10 5 2]
- **North:** [A 9 6 3]
- **East:** [A 4]
- **South:** [K 8 6]

**Board 92. 2NT, Dealer North.**

- **West:** [J 5 4]
- **North:** [K Q 3]
- **East:** [J 10 8 7 6 5]
- **South:** [A J]

**Board 93. All Pass, Dealer North.**

- **West:** [J 9 3]
- **North:** [8]
- **East:** [A K 10 7 5 4 3 2]
- **South:** [4]

**Board 94. Pass, Dealer South.**

- **West:** [Q 10 8 6 4 2]
- **North:** [K 9 5]
- **East:** [Q 8]
- **South:** [2]

**Board 95. Pass, Dealer North.**

- **West:** [7]
- **North:** [7]
- **East:** [A K 10 4 2]
- **South:** [J 6]

**Board 96. Dbl, Dealer South.**

- **West:** [Q 7]
- **North:** [K Q 8 2]
- **East:** [Q 9 2]
- **South:** [Q 9 5 4 3]

**Board 97. Pass, Dealer North.**

- **West:** [10 7 2]
- **North:** [10 7 2]
- **East:** [J 10 8 7 6 5]
- **South:** [A J]

**Board 98. Dbl, Dealer South.**

- **West:** [J 5 4]
- **North:** [K Q 3]
- **East:** [J 10 8 7 6 5]
- **South:** [A J]

**Board 99. All Pass, Dealer North.**

- **West:** [J 9 3]
- **North:** [8]
- **East:** [A K 10 7 5 4 3 2]
- **South:** [4]

**Comments from Chemla**

After observing China’s Venice Cup team in action against their countrymen, Paul Chemla observed, “God, I’m glad those Chinese ladies don’t play in the Bermuda Bowl!”

**Open Room**

- West: [A K Q 10 8]
- North: [Q 7]
- East: [K 5]
- South: [A J 3 2]

**Closed Room**

- West: [Q 2]
- North: [10]
- East: [A Q 7 5]
- South: [A Q J 5 3 4 3]

**Open Room**

- West: [9 7 6 5]
- North: [J 8 4 3]
- East: [K 9 8 3]
- South: [9]

**Closed Room**

- West: [A K 4 3]
- North: [K 9 7 6 5 2]
- East: [9]
- South: [10 2]

**Open Room**

- West: [K 6]
- North: [K 10 9 8 6 2]
- East: [10 9 7 4]
- South: [A Q J 9 8 5 3 2]

**Closed Room**

- West: [9]
- North: [8]
- East: [A K 10 4 2]
- South: [J 6]
USA I vs USA II

This is the sort of game you want to be in when it makes, but on a bad day you might even go down when the heart finesse is onside. +170


Closed Room

West North East South
Stansby Hamman Martel Wolff

2♣ Dbl

Bobby Wolff’s decision to double the opening bid paid off when Bob Hamman had an easy jump to game. East led the ace of clubs and switched to a trump, taken in dummy by the king. Declarer played the queen of diamonds and when it was covered by the king he let that card win. West played a second spade but declarer won in dummy, played a diamond to the ace and ruffed a diamond. It’s clear that declarer now has the contract made, but the play record now ceases and the result was posted as one down. Perhaps there had been a revoke!

It was only the following day that we were able to discover the truth – Bobby Wolff had entered the wrong result! So, +620.

Open Room

West North East South
Rodwell Rosenberg Meckstroth Mahmood

INT 2♣ Pass 1♥

There was no problem at the other table as Rodwell Rosenberg Meckstroth Mahmood opened the bidding. Meckstroth’s response was game forcing and (we think!) the rebid of 2NT promised a minimum and any 5-3-3-2. Another relay established 3-5-2-3, so with 3NT not looking appealing, Meckstroth decided to try for the ten trick game.

Rosenberg led his singleton club and after long thought declarer lost only to the two aces, +650 and 12 IMPs.

Board 59. Love All, Dealer South.

Closed Room

West North East South
Stansby Hamman Martel Wolff

2♣ Pass 4♠ Pass 3♣

Once Stansby elected to double Wolff’s relay bid it was always likely that East/West would miss their heart fit. Three clubs could be defeated in several ways and after the opening lead of the ten of diamonds there was no chance of a defensive mistake. -50.

Open Room

West North East South
Rodwell Rosenberg Meckstroth Mahmood

1♥ Pass 2♥ Pass 4♥

As the vugraph commentators predicted, Rodwell opened the bidding; Meckstroth’s response was game forcing and (we think!) the rebid of 2NT promised a minimum and any 5-3-3-2. Another relay established 3-5-2-3, so with 3NT not looking appealing, Meckstroth decided to try for the ten trick game.

Rosenberg led his singleton club and after long thought declarer won in dummy and played the king of hearts. When that was ducked he played the nine of hearts. North won and cashed the ace of diamonds. Zia thought declarer won in dummy and played the jack of hearts. East covered, so he played a few trumps and then went to dummy to play the ten of diamonds. +420 recovered 6 IMPs.

No problem here in reaching game. West led the eight of diamonds so Zia went up with the ace and played the jack of hearts. East covered, so he played a few trumps and then went to dummy to play the ten of diamonds. +420 recovered 6 IMPs.

Board 63. N/S Vul. Dealer South.

Closed Room

West North East South
Stansby Hamman Martel Wolff

Pass 1♥ Pass 2♥ 3♥

Once again the play was dull, declarer losing two spades, two hearts and a club; -200.

Open Room

West North East South
Rodwell Rosenberg Meckstroth Mahmood

1♥ Pass 2♥ Pass 4♥

As the vugraph commentators predicted, Rodwell opened the bidding; Meckstroth’s response was game forcing and (we think!) the rebid of 2NT promised a minimum and any 5-3-3-2. Another relay established 3-5-2-3, so with 3NT not looking appealing, Meckstroth decided to try for the ten trick game.

Rosenberg led his singleton club and after long thought declarer won in dummy and played the king of hearts. When that was ducked he played the nine of hearts. North won and cashed the ace of diamonds. Zia encouraged with the nine and Rosenberg played a second diamond, putting his partner in to get his club ruff.

Well defended and another half dozen IMPs.

USA I had won this low scoring session 31-16 and led 172-113 overall.


Closed Room

West North East South
Stansby Hamman Martel Wolff

1♥ Dbl

USA I1 outbid their opponents again a few boards later.

Board 58. N/S Vul. Dealer West.

Closed Room

West North East South
Stansby Hamman Martel Wolff

1♥ 2♣ 2NT Dbl 3♥ Pass

No problem here in reaching game. West led the eight of diamonds so Zia went up with the ace and played the jack of hearts. East covered, so he played a few trumps and then went to dummy to play the ten of diamonds. +420 recovered 6 IMPs.

Open Room

West North East South
Rodwell Rosenberg Meckstroth Mahmood

1♥ Pass 1♥ INT 2♥

No problem here in reaching game. West led the eight of diamonds so Zia went up with the ace and played the jack of hearts. East covered, so he played a few trumps and then went to dummy to play the ten of diamonds. +420 recovered 6 IMPs.

USA I had won this low scoring session 31-16 and led 172-113 overall.

Nick Nickell (USA II)
VENICE CUP

USA I vs USA II

At the halfway point in the battle of the American Ladies’ teams, USA2 had a useful but not yet decisive lead of 41 IMPs, 110-69. USA1 needed to pull back some points in the last set of the day to help them sleep well. The first swing of the set duly went in favour of the trailing team.


**East**
- **North**
- **South**

**Pass**
- **Pass**
- **Dbl**

Irina Levitina, for USA2, opened 1 clover, Precision, and Mildred Breed doubled. North, Tobi Sokolow, cuebided the club length and partner had to also have some clubs or that she did not overcall in the pass-out seat but she had a hand. Meyers won the }K and switched to a spade to Chambers won the queen and played back the ]K. This was a slight surprise as both 4 and 4 would have sounded natural. Without any club control she just bid 5 clover and played there, making exactly: +600.

**North**

**South**

**Pass**
- **Pass**
- **Dbl**

Chambers opened 1 clover then jump-shifted in diamonds. When Sokolow raised those, Breed had no convenient cuebide as both 4 and 4 would have sounded natural.

**North**
- **South**

**Pass**
- **Pass**
- **Dbl**

Palmer opened a strong club and Chambers made a natural positive response. Chambers got to show all three of her suits and now Palmer took a long time before shouting the slam. Montin led a spade and Chambers won the ace and continued with a club to the king before shooting the slam. Montin led a spade and Chambers won the ace and continued with a club to the king. Meyers continued spades and Chambers won the king. She ruffed a club high, then played }K and }9 to the queen. A third diamond to the jack was followed by three rounds of hearts, declarer ruffing the third round. As Montin had pitched a heart on the diamonds, when Chambers now played a winning club and Meyers ruffed, she had to give the last trick to dummy’s established heart; one down for -100 and 12 IMPs to USA1.

**Board 52. Game All. Dealer West.**

**Board 53. N/S Vul. Dealer North.**

**North**

**South**

**Pass**
- **Pass**
- **Dbl**

Chambers opened 1 clover in second seat and was left to play there, making nine tricks for +110. West had five spades and it was a slight surprise that she did not overcall in the pass-out seat but she had club length and partner had to also have some clubs or be quite weak for her pass over 1.

Chambers also opened 1 clover but this was Precision. She rebid 1NT with her awkward hand over the 1 negativ and then played a heart. Montin led a low heart, Chambers won the queen and played back the }K. This was ducked and now Chambers tried a low club from hand. Meyers won the }K and switched to a spade to the ace. Montin returned a spade and Meyers won the king and led a low one to Montin’s eight, allowing her to cash the }A before leading a fourth spade; one down for -100 and 5 IMPs to USA1.

Chambers could have made her contract by continuing to play on hearts to get to dummy then taking the club finesse.

**Board 54. E/W Vul. Dealer East.**

**North**

**South**

**Pass**
- **Pass**
- **Dbl**

Chambers opened a Precision 2 clover and Palmer made a constructive raise to 3 clover. Meyers bid her hearts and Montin raised to game. North/South had already done their bidding on the deal and were prepared to take their chances on defence. But there was no defence, 4 clover made an overtrick for +650.

**Closed Room**

**West**

**North**

**East**

**South**

**Pass**
- **Pass**
- **Dbl**

Sokolow opened at the one-level and Breed bid her spades. Now Sokolow was able to get both her suits into the game via a takeout double. Breed redoubled, showing three spades, and Levitina bid her hearts. Breed
showed her club support and when Sanborn jumped to 4♠ Sokolow could see that her side would not have much defence to that contract so saved in 5♠. But it wasn’t completely clear to East/West that 5♠ was bid as a save as they had bid 4♣ more on shape than high cards. 5♠ slipped by undoubled, enabling USA1 to make a healthy profit on the board. Levitina led the ♦9 and continued with the ♠9, overtaken by the jack. Sanborn returned the ♠2 but Sokolow could ditch a heart on that while Levitina ruffed. A low spade switch would have led to four off but Levitina tried a heart in response to her partner’s suit preference lead and now the contract was only three down; -150 and 11 IMPs to USA1.

There were no more major swings in the set, but a couple of minor ones came along at the end.

**Board 63. N/S Vul. Dealer South.**

| ♠ | 9 | 7 | 6 | 3 |
| N | A | 8 | 3 |
| W | Q | 1 | 0 | 7 | 4 |
| E | ♦ | K | 5 | 2 | 5 |
| S | ♣ | J | 8 | 5 |
| ♦ | K | 6 |
| ♣ | J | 9 |
| ♦ | K | 2 |

The board was played the wrong way round in the Open Room, making Montin West. She opened a mini-trump in second seat and Meyers just blasted 3NT. The opening diamond lead beat that easily enough; two down for -100.

**Closed Room**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>West</th>
<th>North</th>
<th>East</th>
<th>South</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sanborn</td>
<td>Sokolow</td>
<td>Levitina</td>
<td>Breed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pass</td>
<td>1♣</td>
<td>2♣</td>
<td>Pass</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2♥</td>
<td>3♠</td>
<td>4♥</td>
<td>4♣</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5♠</td>
<td>All Pass</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Here it was Sokolow, in third seat, who got to open. Levitina overcalled 2♣ and the competitive auction finally ended in 5♠. This is a better contract than 3NT, as there are eleven tricks available if the defence don’t establish their spade trick immediately. But Breed led a diamond to Sokolow’s ace and back came the necessary low spade. declarer could draw trumps and knock out the heart but she was one down and the swing was only 2 IMPs to USA2.

**Board 64. E/W Vul. Dealer West.**

| ♠ | 5 |
| N | A | 8 |
| W | K | 10 |
| E | ♦ | 9 |
| S | ♣ | 7 |
| ♦ | A |
| ♣ | K |
| ♦ | Q |
| ♣ | J |
| ♦ | 9 |
| ♣ | J |
| ♦ | 3 |
| ♣ | A |

Here Levitina bid 2♣ rather than making a negative double. That encouraged Sanborn to bid 3♠ freely and the game was reached. On the auction, there was no reason for Sokolow to avoid the disastrous club lead to ♦6 so she probably did well to go on to 5♠. She got the trumps right so was just one down; -100 but 2 IMPs to USA1.

At the end of a great set for USA1, they had pulled back to trail by only 3 IMPs with 32 boards still to play. The overnight score: USA1 123 USA2 126. There would be all to play for the next day with a place in the Venice Cup final at stake.

**Venice Cup**

**USA I vs USA II**

This was the one close match out of the four semifinals overnight, with USA2 leading by just 3 IMPs. As it turned out, it was to remain tight right down to the wire.

**Board 66. NIS Vul. Dealer East.**

| ♠ | ♦ | ♣ | ♠ |
| N | ♠ | ♠ | ♠ |
| W | ♦ | ♦ | ♣ |
| E | ♠ | ♣ | ♠ |
| S | ♣ | ♠ | ♣ |
| ♠ | ♠ | ♠ | ♠ |
| ♠ | ♠ | ♠ | ♠ |
| ♠ | ♠ | ♠ | ♠ |
| ♠ | ♠ | ♠ | ♠ |
| ♠ | ♠ | ♠ | ♠ |
| ♠ | ♠ | ♠ | ♠ |

Both East/West pairs handled this awkward deal well.

**Board 67. E/W Vul. Dealer South.**

| ♠ | 10 | 9 | 8 |
| N | ♠ | ♠ | ♠ |
| W | ♠ | ♠ | ♠ |
| E | ♠ | ♠ | ♠ |
| S | ♠ | ♠ | ♠ |
| ♠ | ♠ | ♠ | ♠ |
| ♠ | ♠ | ♠ | ♠ |
| ♠ | ♠ | ♠ | ♠ |
| ♠ | ♠ | ♠ | ♠ |
| ♠ | ♠ | ♠ | ♠ |
| ♠ | ♠ | ♠ | ♠ |

It was the turn of the North/South pairs to have a bidding test and neither handled it very well, though USA2 would not be too worried about that.

Montin/Meyers bid 1♣ - 1NT - 2♥ - 4♠. Lynn Deas and Randi Montin passed the ♦9 next, losing to the king. The play record ends there with declarer failing by one trick when it appears that a fourth heart would net down two; -50.

Sanborn/Levitina bid 1♠ - 1NT - 2♠ - 3♥ - 4♠. That looks a bit nearer the mark with the North cards, though we can imagine that not everyone would raise to more than 2♠. Breed didn’t want to lead out the hearts, given that hearts was declarer’s second suit. She led the ♦9 instead and Sokolow won the ace. Now Sokolow had trouble putting her partner with the ace and king of hearts. As you can see that there is a danger of dummy’s hearts going on the diamonds, perhaps East should switch to a heart anyway, but that didn’t have to be right. Sokolow switched to a club. Sanborn won the king, pitched dummy’s hearts on the diamonds, then ruffed a heart. Next she threw two more hearts on the ace and queen of clubs. Breed could ruff the ♦Q but trumps were now 2-2 and declarer was in control; +420 and 10 IMPs to USA2.

**Open Room**

**West**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Meyers</th>
<th>Chambers</th>
<th>Montin</th>
<th>Palmer</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>♦</td>
<td>2♠</td>
<td>Pass</td>
<td>Dbl</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>♠</td>
<td>Pass</td>
<td>Pass</td>
<td>All Pass</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Despite having seven running spades, Meyers took a slightly cautious line in the auction and waited for the second double before repeating her spades. Chambers led a low club which Meyers ran round to her queen. She drew trumps and had ten tricks; +170.

**Closed Room**

**West**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sanborn</th>
<th>Sokolow</th>
<th>Levitina</th>
<th>Breed</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1♠</td>
<td>2♣</td>
<td>2♥</td>
<td>3♠</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2♥</td>
<td>3♣</td>
<td>4♥</td>
<td>4♣</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5♠</td>
<td>All Pass</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Both East/West pairs handled this awkward deal well.

**Board 68. E/W Vul. Dealer West.**

| ♠ | 5 |
| N | A | 8 |
| W | K | 10 |
| E | ♦ | 9 |
| S | ♣ | 7 |
| ♦ | A |
| ♣ | K |
| ♦ | Q |
| ♣ | J |
| ♦ | 9 |
| ♣ | J |
| ♦ | 3 |
| ♣ | A |

Beth Palmer didn’t bother offering 4♣ as a possible contract, preferring to take the pressure off her partner. Both declarers made eleven tricks; +400 for a push.

**Board 70. E/W Vul. Dealer East.**

| ♠ | K |
| N | 9 | 8 | 6 |
| W | ♦ | J |
| E | ♠ | ♦ | ♠ |
| S | ♣ | ♠ | ♠ |
| ♠ | ♠ | ♠ | ♠ |
| ♠ | ♠ | ♠ | ♠ |
| ♠ | ♠ | ♠ | ♠ |
| ♠ | ♠ | ♠ | ♠ |
| ♠ | ♠ | ♠ | ♠ |
| ♠ | ♠ | ♠ | ♠ |

It was the turn of the North/South pairs to have a bidding test and neither handled it very well, though USA2 would not be too worried about that.

Montin/Meyers bid 1♠ - 1NT - 2♣ - 4♠. Lynn Deas and Randi Montin passed the ♦9 next, losing to the king. The play record ends there with declarer failing by one trick when it appears that a fourth heart would net down two; -50.

Sanborn/Levitina bid 1♠ - 1NT - 2♠ - 3♥ - 4♠. That looks a bit nearer the mark with the North cards, though we can imagine that not everyone would raise to more than 2♠. Breed didn’t want to lead out the hearts, given that hearts was declarer’s second suit. She led the ♦9 instead and Sokolow won the ace. Now Sokolow had trouble putting her partner with the ace and king of hearts. As you can see that there is a danger of dummy’s hearts going on the diamonds, perhaps East should switch to a heart anyway, but that didn’t have to be right. Sokolow switched to a club. Sanborn won the king, pitched dummy’s hearts on the diamonds, then ruffed a heart. Next she threw two more hearts on the ace and queen of clubs. Breed could ruff the ♦Q but trumps were now 2-2 and declarer was in control; +420 and 10 IMPs to USA2.
In the Closed Room, Montin/Meyers bid 1NT – 1NT – 3NT – 2NT – 2NT. Nobody saw fit to intervene at any stage so Montin played there on a trump lead. There were two losers in each side suit; one down for -50.

Open Room

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>West</th>
<th>North</th>
<th>East</th>
<th>South</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sokolow</td>
<td>Sanborn</td>
<td>Breed</td>
<td>Levitina</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pass</td>
<td>Pass</td>
<td>Dbl</td>
<td>1NT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>–</td>
<td>–</td>
<td>1NT</td>
<td>All Pass</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The board was placed on the table incorrectly in the Open Room. Sokolow dredged up a takeout double, which resulted in her partner declaring 3H. That contract looks quite easy. You expect to lose two diamonds and a club but should have all the information you need by the time you come to the spade guess. But Irina Levitina led the ♠A, collecting the queen from Kerri Sanborn, and switched to a devilish ♦10. Considering the bidding, Breed paid Levitina a big compliment by thinking for quite a while before rising with the ♦A. Many of us would have assumed the heart to be a singleton and risen immediately. Having generated a heart loser, Breed needed to pick up the trumps. She did just that, leading to the ace and returning the jack to pin North’s ten.

Both Souths played 3NT. Deas played ace, king and a third heart: +460.

In the Open Room, Sanborn had opened 1NT, Breed overcalled 2NT to show both majors, and Levitina had shown a heart stopper. Breed led the ♦J! Sanborn did not like the look of that at all. Though she didn’t know it, the hand was only a matter of overtricks, but ducking would have given Breed bragging rights for a while. Hearts could hardly be 6-2, the only time that ducking would gain, so Sanborn eventually put up the queen and looked mightily relieved when it held; +520 and 2 IMPs to USA1.

Closed Room

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>West</th>
<th>North</th>
<th>East</th>
<th>South</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Deas</td>
<td>Meyers</td>
<td>Palmer</td>
<td>Montin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1NT</td>
<td>1NT</td>
<td>2NT</td>
<td>3NT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pass</td>
<td>Pass</td>
<td>4NT</td>
<td>Pass</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Montin made a huge decision for her side when she converted to 4NT, perhaps just assuming that Meyers, who had to be very short in spades, had to have some heart tolerance. A spade lead didn’t cause Montin any problems. She took the ace and king, then ruffed a spade, ruffed a club and ruffed her last spade.西With the ♦J onside, the defence was powerless; +620.

Board 75. Love All, Dealer South.

Both Souths played 3NT. Deas played ace, king and a third heart: +460.

In the Open Room, Sanborn had opened 1NT, Breed overcalled 2NT to show both majors, and Levitina had shown a heart stopper. Breed led the ♦J! Sanborn didn’t like the look of that at all. Though she didn’t know it, the hand was only a matter of overtricks, but ducking would have given Breed bragging rights for a while. Hearts could hardly be 6-2, the only time that ducking would gain, so Sanborn eventually put up the queen and looked mightily relieved when it held; +520 and 2 IMPs to USA2.

Board 76. N/S Vul. Dealer West.

With 16 boards to play, USA1 had moved into the lead by 154-142.

Board 77. E/W Vul. Dealer North.

Both Souths played in 3NT after West had overcalled in spades and North had shown a weakish hand with long diamonds. West led spades and both declarers ducked until the third round. They then got the diamonds right but had nothing better than the heart finesse for their ninth trick; one down for a dull push.

Closed Room

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>West</th>
<th>North</th>
<th>East</th>
<th>South</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Deas</td>
<td>Meyers</td>
<td>Palmer</td>
<td>Montin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2NT</td>
<td>3NT</td>
<td>All Pass</td>
<td>3NT</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The Precision 2NT opening got the auction up to the 2NT level before Monsin had a chance to bid. With 2NT non-forcing, is this a kind of pre-balancing situation? If so, Meyers did well to go 3NT. I suspect, however, that she assumed a sound hand for the vulnerable overcall. Even a spade lead doesn’t threaten the contract as the cards lie, but the 2NT opening actually attracted a club lead, putting declarer under no pressure at all. Meyers made ten tricks; +630.

Open Room
Sheelu Thadani of India’s Venice Cup team gave her opponents fits on this deal.

Frustrated defender

East, Pramila Shivdasani, had a tough problem over the preempt. She couldn’t double, which of course would be primarily for takeout – only two spades. So she had to bid 4NT for the minors even though she had only four diamonds. But Thadani had five clubs, so India found a good home.

Thadani won the opening ♥K lead and shot back a spade. North now tried the ♥K. She took this and led the ♥Q. When North played low, she rose with the ace and threw South in with the king. South was forced to lead a spade or a diamond. She led a spade and Thadani got rid of the losing heart in dummy as she ruffed in hand. She took a diamond finesse and went down only one.

At the other table, the same contract was doubled and was set three tricks – a 10 IMP gain for India.

Deutsch congratulates USA II

Seymon Deutsch of the defeated USA I Bermuda Bowl team, wanted to take a moment to congratulate his opponents. He said that the USA II team had played so well that he doubted if his squad could ever have won the match. He was proud to be part of his team – even in defeat – and he was pleased with the way they had kept trying, right up to the end.
France still had a remote chance against China in the Venice Cup as the last 16 boards of the semifinal were played. But the major interest was in the Venice Cup match between the American teams, USA I captained by Sue Picus, led USA II, captained by Sue Sachs, by only 12 IMPs, 154-142. The Bermuda Bowl finalists were a foregone conclusion – USA II, the defending champions, against France, winners of last year’s World Team Olympiad.

The final 16 started slowly. Board 81 was a push when USA I went down one in 10 and USA II also went down, though they were in 2♠. Both teams made 4♠ with an overtrick on the next deal. Only 1 IMP changed hands on Board 83, but the play in the Open Room was highly interesting.

**Board 83. E/W Vul. Dealer South.**

West North East South

Sokolow Levitina Breed Sanborn

Pass 2♣ Pass 2♣ Pass 3NT All Pass

Mildred Breed led the ♡2 to the king and ace and Irina Levitina crossed to the ♢A. When she continued with a second heart, Tobi Sokolow won and continued diamonds. Breed took the queen and cleared the suit, setting up the 7. At first it might appear declarer now is going down a trick – she’s lost two tricks and East still has a good diamond and two top spades. But Levitina had an answer for that. When she ran her clubs, this was what the position with one club left to cash:

- ♠ -
- ♦ Q10 9 4
- ♥ 10 7 6 5 4
- ♣ A K J 9 8 7

Certainly a reasonable contract. Beth Palmer led her diamond singleton to declarer’s queen. Montin cashed two top trumps and discovered that Lynn Deas had four. She switched to clubs, finessing the queen, then led a trump to pick up East’s remaining spades. Next came a club to the ace, followed by the ♦A. The bad diamond split doomed the contract, down one.

**Board 84. E/W Vul. Dealer East.**

West North East South

Sokolow Levitina Breed Sanborn

Pass 2♠ Pass 2♠ Pass 3NT All Pass

- ♠ -
- ♦ Q10 9 4
- ♥ 10 7 6 5 4
- ♣ A K J 9 8 7

What does East pitch on that last club? A heart is impossible. A diamond is impossible. A spade is possible. It’s a business, but then Irina would lead the diamond. East would be forced to lead away from her hearts after winning the diamond and the ♦A. So Irina made her contract – for a 1-IMP loss! South played 3NT in the Closed Room, and the opening diamond lead was won by the 10. After the ♦A and another heart to the king, West shifted to a spade, and now Randi Montin had gained the necessary tempo.

USA I gained another IMP on Board 84 on an over-trick in a diamond partial, and Board 85 was a push – and she passed. Strangely enough, even with the atrocious diamond break, this contract went down only one for a push. The heart opening lead went to the ace, and a heart was ruffed. After cashing the trump queen, Levitina took the successful club finesse. She discovered she was going down when she cashed the trump ace, but she shifted to spades. After discovering the break, she led a club to the ace and East ruffed. But Irina had only one more loser – another trump.

**Board 87. Game All. Dealer South.**

- ♠ K J 10 9 8 7
- ♥ Q 8 4
- □ 8
- ♦ A 4 2

USA II closed the gap to 2 IMPs with a 12-IMP gain here. At both tables the contract was 4♣, and East led a heart at both tables. Jill Meyers went up with the ace and led a trump. Deas took this, led a heart to partner’s king and ruffed the heart return. declarer still had to lose a club for down one. However, Levitina ducked to West’s king, and now there was no way for the defence to score a ruff. Making four:

**Board 88. Love All. Dealer West.**

- ♠ 7 6
- ♥ K 4 3
- □ A
- ♦ A 3

USA II took over the lead here by setting contracts at both tables.

**Closed Room**

West North East South

Palmer Meyers Deas Montin

Pass 4NT Pass 1♠ All Pass

**Open Room**

West North East South

Sokolow Levitina Breed Sanborn

Pass 6♠ All Pass

Pity Kerri Sanborn. She had to try to figure out what 6♠ meant. Did it show a very good diamond hand? Was it a grand slam try? The bid was somewhat ambiguous. After some thought, Sanborn decided it was diamonds and she passed. Strangely enough, even with the atrocious diamond break, this contract went down only one for a push. The heart opening lead went to the ace, and a heart was ruffed. After cashing the trump queen, Levitina took the successful club finesse. She discovered she was going down when she cashed the trump ace, but she shifted to spades. After discovering the break, she led a club to the ace and East ruffed. But Irina had only one more loser – another trump.
she had to go down one trick. 4 IMPs to USA II, now leading 158-156. The margin increased to five on the next deal as a result of three overtricks in a notrump game. But USA I regained the lead on Board 90.

**Board 90. Game All. Dealer East.**

- K Q J 10 8 6
- 9 8 3
- 8 6 4
- 932
- K Q J
- A 5
- 10 6 4 2
- 10 5 0
- A Q 4 2
- 10 7 5
- A K 2
- 10 6 5 4 3
- J Q 7 3
- 7 4
- 7 5
- K 9 7 6 3
- 9 8 7 6 5
- 10 9 5
- 7 6
- 6
- 3 2
- 2

**Closed Room**

**West**

- 1♣ 2♣
- Pass
- 4♣ All Pass

**North**

- 2♣
- 3♥
- Pass
- 4♥

**East**

- Pass
- 3♥
- All Pass

**South**

- 3♥
- All Pass

Breed won the opening spade lead, cashed two top hearts, then overtook the jack with the ace. The ♠10 was allowed to hold, but the jack was covered by the king and taken with the ace. At this point declarer must exit with a spade to set up a minor suit squeeze against 13 IMPs to USA I, now leading by 169-161.

Both teams played in a heart partial on Board 91, had only one diamond – what if it was the queen? Finally, she had to go down one trick. 4 IMPs to USA II, now leading 158-156. The margin increased to five on the next-to-last board, both teams stopped in 2♣, but USA I made two overtricks to increase their lead to 12, 173-161, with one board to go. Nobody was leaving the vugraph theatre because the word was already out that there could be action.

**Board 96. E/W Vul. Dealer West.**

- ♦ 7 3
- ♦ K Q 8 7 6 5
- ♦ A K J 6
- ♦ Q
- ♦ 9 6 4
- ♦ Q 10 9 5 3
- ♦ A K Q 10 5 3
- ♦ J 8 2
- ♦ A 10 4 0
- ♦ 8 7 4
- ♦ J 9 6 2
- ♦ 10 8 5

A diamond slam is there for the taking for North/South, but how do you get there? It’s only natural for South to open ♠5. How is North to know that she has just the right stuff for the slam? Both Norths passed and both Souths made all 13 tricks.

**Board 94. Love All. Dealer East.**

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

Both Easts opened with strong bids, and both Wests showed good values. Yet neither team reached the laydown slam. Just a push. USA I still led by 10 IMPs.

**Board 93. Game All. Dealer North.**

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

Sokolow’s bid showed at least 5-5 in the minors. The defence quickly cashed two spades and Levitina ruffed the third. She led the ♦Q to the king, and Sokolow shot back the ♦10. Levitina thought this over. She knew East had only one diamond – what if it was the queen? Finally, she led the ♦K and cashed her last trump. South had to concede.

**Open Room**

- ♠ 2NT 3♣ Pass Pass
- ♠ Pass
- ♠ Pass
- ♠ Pass
- ♠ Pass
- ♠ Pass
- ♠ Pass
- ♠ Pass
- ♠ Pass
- ♠ Pass

Meyers took only eight tricks – down three, so USA I gained 7 IMPs – but they needed 12! So the Venice Cup finalist will be USA I, 173-168. It was noted that if Meyers had been doubled and had gone down three, the match would have ended in a tie. But chances are Meyers would have taken a better line of play to go down only two tricks.

**Closed Room**

- ♠ 1♣ 1♥
- ♠ 5♣ All Pass
- ♠ 4♥ 5♥ All Pass

Meyers and both Souths made all 13 tricks.

She had to go down one trick. 4 IMPs to USA II, now leading 158-156. The margin increased to five on the next deal as a result of three overtricks in a notrump game. But USA I regained the lead on Board 90.

**Board 90. Game All. Dealer East.**

- K Q J 10 8 6
- 9 8 3
- 8 6 4
- 932
- K Q J
- A 5
- 10 6 4 2
- 10 5 0
- A Q 4 2
- 10 7 5
- A K 2
- 10 6 5 4 3
- J Q 7 3
- 7 4
- 7 5
- K 9 7 6 3
- 9 8 7 6 5
- 10 9 5
- 7 6
- 6
- 3 2
- 2

Breed won the opening spade lead, cashed two top hearts, then overtook the jack with the ace. The ♠10 was allowed to hold, but the jack was covered by the king and taken with the ace. At this point declarer must exit with a spade to set up a minor suit squeeze against South. And Breed did exactly that! Levitina switched to exit with a spade to set up a minor suit squeeze against 13 IMPs to USA I, now leading by 169-161.

A diamond slam is there for the taking for North/South, but how do you get there? It’s only natural for South to open ♠5. How is North to know that she has just the right stuff for the slam? Both Norths passed and both Souths made all 13 tricks.

**Board 94. Love All. Dealer East.**

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

Both Easts opened with strong bids, and both Wests showed good values. Yet neither team reached the laydown slam. Just a push. USA I still led by 10 IMPs.

**Board 93. Game All. Dealer North.**

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

Sokolow’s bid showed at least 5-5 in the minors. The defence quickly cashed two spades and Levitina ruffed the third. She led the ♦Q to the king, and Sokolow shot back the ♦10. Levitina thought this over. She knew East had only one diamond – what if it was the queen? Finally, she led the ♦K and cashed her last trump. South had to concede.

**Open Room**

- ♠ 2NT 3♣ Pass Pass
- ♠ Pass
- ♠ Pass
- ♠ Pass
- ♠ Pass
- ♠ Pass
- ♠ Pass
- ♠ Pass
- ♠ Pass
- ♠ Pass

Meyers and both Souths made all 13 tricks.

A diamond slam is there for the taking for North/South, but how do you get there? It’s only natural for South to open ♠5. How is North to know that she has just the right stuff for the slam? Both Norths passed and both Souths made all 13 tricks.

**Board 96. E/W Vul. Dealer West.**

- ♦ 7 3
- ♦ K Q 8 7 6 5
- ♦ A K J 6
- ♦ Q
- ♦ 9 6 4
- ♦ Q 10 9 5 3
- ♦ A K Q 10 5 3
- ♦ J 8 2
- ♦ A 10 4 0
- ♦ 8 7 4
- ♦ J 9 6 2
- ♦ 10 8 5

Both Easts opened with strong bids, and both Wests showed good values. Yet neither team reached the laydown slam. Just a push. USA I still led by 10 IMPs.
China took a 46 IMP lead into the last set of their semi-final against France, and their position looked even more secure when the first swing of the set went in their favour.

**Board 82. N/S Vul. Dealer East.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>W</th>
<th>E</th>
<th>S</th>
<th>N</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>♠ Q 10 9</td>
<td>♦ 8 7 4</td>
<td>♣ Q 9 7 6</td>
<td>♥ K J 72</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>♠ A 6 5 4 3</td>
<td>♦ K 2</td>
<td>♣ A 3</td>
<td>♥ 8 5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>♠ A 4 3 2</td>
<td>♦ 8</td>
<td>♣ Q 10 9 6 5</td>
<td>♥ K J 10 6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

For China, Zhang Yalan and Gu Ling bid quickly to the third round of trumps when declarer ducked a club; -100 and 11 IMPs to France.

**Closed Room**

**West**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Gu Ling</th>
<th>North</th>
<th>East</th>
<th>South</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pass</td>
<td>1♣</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3√</td>
<td>4√</td>
<td>Pass</td>
<td>50√</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pass</td>
<td>5NT</td>
<td>Pass</td>
<td>60√</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pass</td>
<td>66</td>
<td>Pass</td>
<td>7√</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

All Pass

Quite why South should think that all her clubs would go away is unclear. Cronier had taken control and settled for the small slam so it seems undisciplined of Willard to go on to seven. Of course, the state of the match has an effect on everything, but perhaps partner has already allowed for that. The grand slam was two down and Willard would have been relieved to discover that she had only cost her side 2 IMPs.

**Board 83. E/W Vul. Dealer South.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>W</th>
<th>E</th>
<th>S</th>
<th>N</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>♠ ♦ Q 10 9 4 2</td>
<td>♥ A 10 8 4</td>
<td>♣ A K 9</td>
<td>♥ K J 9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>♠ ♦ 10 7 6 5 4</td>
<td>♥ K 7</td>
<td>♣ K 5 3</td>
<td>♥ 10 7 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>♠ ♦ Q J 8 3 2</td>
<td>♥ A 10 8 6</td>
<td>♣ A 8 5 2</td>
<td>♥ K 5 3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Both Norths played in 3NT. Saul led a diamond to the king and ace. Sun Ming played a heart to the ace and a second heart. Bessis won the first spade and led her second heart. Bessis played a third diamond, pitching a club, and Sun ruffed. Sun exited with a trump, picking up the queen.

**Board 84. E/W Vul. Dealer North.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>W</th>
<th>E</th>
<th>S</th>
<th>N</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>♠ ♦ K J 10 9 8 7</td>
<td>♥ Q 8 4</td>
<td>♣ A 4 2</td>
<td>♥ K 7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>♠ ♦ 5</td>
<td>♥ K J 10 6 2</td>
<td>♣ J 7 5 4 3</td>
<td>♥ K 2 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>♠ ♦ K 6 3</td>
<td>♥ Q 6 2 4 3</td>
<td>♣ A 10 2</td>
<td>♥ K 6 3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Both Norths declared 4 after West had overcalled in hearts over South’s one-of-a-minor opening. Gu Ling had only overcalled 1♣ and when Zhang Yalan led the ♥K, Bessis ducked this to Gu’s king. Back came another heart but Gu had no entry to give her partner a ruff when Zhang won the ♥A.

Bessis had made a weak jump overcall of 2NT so it was natural for Sun to rise with dummy’s ace on the heart lead. Saul won the first spade and led her second heart to partner’s king to get her ruff; one down for -100 and 12 IMPs to France.

**Board 85. Love All. Dealer West.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>W</th>
<th>E</th>
<th>S</th>
<th>N</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>♠ ♦ K J 10 9 8 5</td>
<td>♥ A J 4</td>
<td>♣ 9 4</td>
<td>♥ K 8 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>♠ ♦ J 9 7 5</td>
<td>♥ Q 4 2</td>
<td>♣ Q 10 8 7 5 2</td>
<td>♥ 9 6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Again both tables played 4 after this time by West. Sun led a heart against Bessis. The ♥K won and Bessis played a diamond. Sun took her ace and played a diamond back. Bessis played a third diamond, pitching a club, and Sun ruffed. Sun exited with a trump, picking up the queen.

**Board 86. E/W Vul. Dealer East.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>W</th>
<th>E</th>
<th>S</th>
<th>N</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>♠ ♦ 3 2</td>
<td>♥ A J</td>
<td>♣ A K 9 8 5</td>
<td>♥ 8 9 6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>♠ ♦ 6</td>
<td>♥ Q 4</td>
<td>♣ 9 7 5</td>
<td>♥ J 10 6 4 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>♠ ♦ K J 8 3</td>
<td>♥ 10 7 6 5 2</td>
<td>♣ A K Q 10 4</td>
<td>♥ 9</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Board 88. Love All. Dealer West.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>W</th>
<th>E</th>
<th>S</th>
<th>N</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>♠ ♦ 7</td>
<td>♥ K 4 3</td>
<td>♣ A 3</td>
<td>♥ A Q J 10 5 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>♠ ♦ A J</td>
<td>♥ 9 4</td>
<td>♣ K 8 3</td>
<td>♥ Q 4 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>♠ ♦ 10 8 7 5 2</td>
<td>♥ 10 8 2</td>
<td>♣ 9 8 6</td>
<td>♥ 9 6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Declarer had no way of avoiding two club losers so was down one; -50.

In the other room, Cronier led the ace of clubs, followed by the queen. Gu won the ♥K and played a diamond and Cronier took her ace to play a third club. Gu ruffed with the ten and Willard over-ruffed with the queen and switched to a heart. Gu took the ace, drew trumps and had a diamond left to get to dummy; +420 and 10 IMPs to China.

**Board 87. Game All. Dealer South.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>W</th>
<th>E</th>
<th>S</th>
<th>N</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>♠ ♦ K J 10 9 8 7</td>
<td>♥ Q 8 4</td>
<td>♣ A 4 2</td>
<td>♥ K 7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>♠ ♦ 5</td>
<td>♥ K J 10 6 2</td>
<td>♣ J 7 5 4 3</td>
<td>♥ K 2 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>♠ ♦ Q 6 4 2</td>
<td>♥ A 3</td>
<td>♣ A 10 2</td>
<td>♥ K 6 3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Lu/Sun bid: Pass - 1NT - 2NT - 3NT - 3NT, where 1NT was strong. The lead was a low diamond and Sun rose with the ace and cashed her top tricks; +460.

Cronier/Willard were more aggressive, as the match situation required. They bid: Pass - 2NT - 2NT - 3NT - 3NT. Here the lead was a club. Willard ruffled off six club tricks, coming down to four hearts and three diamonds in the dummy. That obliged Zhang Yalan to keep four hearts and three diamonds. Willard cashed a top diamond then played four rounds of hearts. The strip squeeze and throw-in left Zhang to lead away from the ♥Q to give declarer her twelfth trick; nicely done. Plus 990 was worth 11 IMPs to France, who trailed by 30 IMPs with seven IMPs to play.

**Board 89. N/S Vul. Dealer West.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>W</th>
<th>E</th>
<th>S</th>
<th>N</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>♠ ♦ K 10 J 7 5</td>
<td>♥ 6 5 4 3</td>
<td>♣ A 8 4</td>
<td>♥ K 7 5 4 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>♠ ♦ 9 6 3</td>
<td>♥ A 9 7 3</td>
<td>♣ J 10</td>
<td>♥ K 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>♠ ♦ A Q 5</td>
<td>♥ K J 7 0 4 2</td>
<td>♣ 2</td>
<td>♥ 10 8 6 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>♠ ♦ K 9 8 3</td>
<td>♥ A 9 8 6</td>
<td>♣ 9 8 6</td>
<td>♥ 9 8 3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Closed Room**

**West**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Gu</th>
<th>Cronier</th>
<th>Zhang Yalan</th>
<th>South</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1NT</td>
<td>2NT</td>
<td>3NT</td>
<td>Pass</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3NT</td>
<td>Pass</td>
<td>3NT</td>
<td>All Pass</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The Precision 1NT opening limited Gu’s hand so that Zhang had no reason to consider bidding on beyond 3NT. A low heart lead allowed her to make two overtricks; +460.

**Open Room**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>West</th>
<th>North</th>
<th>East</th>
<th>South</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bessis</td>
<td>Sun</td>
<td>Saul</td>
<td>Lu</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1♥</td>
<td>1♥</td>
<td>2♥</td>
<td>Pass</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3♥</td>
<td>Pass</td>
<td>3♠</td>
<td>Pass</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3NT</td>
<td>Pass</td>
<td>4♣</td>
<td>Pass</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5♣</td>
<td>All Pass</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Bessis’ French 1♣ opening meant that her hand was not quite so limited as at the other table. Saul, who knew that there was a club fit, went on over 3NT with a club slam try. 5♣ was hopeless. Bessis went a second one down when she ducked the opening spade lead and got dummy’s ace ruffed out; -100 and 11 IMPs to not quite so limited as at the other table. Saul, who a club slam try. 5} was hopeless. Bessis went a second contract as 6[, but +1370 meant that China lost 2 IMPs.

By the time that the clubs failed to divide evenly it was had to find two discards from dummy when she was drawing trumps. 

The sort of wild deal that the trailing team needed to win only 1 IMP to France. Both Souths opened 5 and both Norths had a look but then passed. Bessis cashed the ♦A then switched to a heart; Gu led a heart at trick one. That meant +440 for Willard but +420 for Lu. Slam needs only the ruffing heart finesse so is not a bad prospect for a trailing team but how was Cronier to know that?

The French interference over the strong club did not inconvenience the Chinese pair unduly. Gu to show her two-suiter and Zhang cuebid then took control with RKCB for diamonds. 6♣ is just as good a contract as 6♦, but +1370 meant that China lost 2 IMPs.

### Board 94. Love All Dealer East.

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

The sort of wild deal that the trailing team needed to win only 1 IMP to France. Both Souths opened 5 and both Norths had a look but then passed. Bessis cashed the ♦A then switched to a heart; Gu led a heart at trick one. That meant +440 for Willard but +420 for Lu. Slam needs only the ruffing heart finesse so is not a bad prospect for a trailing team but how was Cronier to know that?

### Board 96. EW/Vol. Dealer West.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>♠ 9 6 4</th>
<th>♦ 9 6 5</th>
<th>♣ 7 3</th>
<th>♢ 4 10 9 5 3</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>♠ 9 6 4</td>
<td>♦ 9 6 5</td>
<td>♣ 7 3</td>
<td>♢ 4 10 9 5 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>♠ 9 6 4</td>
<td>♦ 9 6 5</td>
<td>♣ 7 3</td>
<td>♢ 4 10 9 5 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>♠ 9 6 4</td>
<td>♦ 9 6 5</td>
<td>♣ 7 3</td>
<td>♢ 4 10 9 5 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>♠ 9 6 4</td>
<td>♦ 9 6 5</td>
<td>♣ 7 3</td>
<td>♢ 4 10 9 5 3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Willard led a diamond to the jack. Cronier tried to cash the ♠K but Zhang ruffed that, ruffed a heart, and ducked a club. Cronier won the ♠Q and gave dummy another heart ruff. Now Zhang drew trumps and played clubs from the top; one down for -100.

Zhang could have made it, of course, either by reading the club position or by playing for the ruffing diamond finesse. It seems strange that she did not go for the latter option, given the play to the first two tricks. By the time that the clubs failed to divide evenly it was too late to fall back on the diamonds because declarer had to find two discards from dummy when she was drawing trumps.

### Board 98. Love All Dealer West.

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<tr>
<th>♠ J 7 4 3</th>
<th>♦ 9 7 6 5</th>
<th>♣ A K 10 5</th>
<th>♢ Q 9 8</th>
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North/South already were heading for a good result because their teammates bought the hand for 3♣, making four – plus 170. But South, Dorthy Francis, your Daily Bulletin proofreader, showed that she can play the game, too.

She won the heart opening lead and ruffed a heart. When she led a club to her jack, East, of course showed out, and West, determined not to make things easy, ducked. Dorthy had a general idea of the distribution at this point – she feared West would be able to get rid of a spade if she tried to ruff another heart at this point. So first she cashed the ♦A, a most necessary play. Only then did she ruff her last heart on which West played an encouraging diamond.

She got out with a diamond, and East rose with the ace. A spade lead would have given Dorthy some problems here, but East decided to obey partner’s signal by continuing diamonds. West overtook the queen with the king and led the ♦J. With a clear picture of the distribution at this point, Dorthy did not ruff – instead she discarded a spade.

Now West was fixed. Down to all minor suit cards, he led a club, won in dummy with the 10. A spade to the 10 was ruffed by West, and Dorthy ruffed the diamond return in hand with her queen. She cashed the ace of trumps, dropping the now bare king, then took the ♦K for her ninth trick. That represented a gain of 7 IMPs.

### Important

All participants, officials and visitors should confirm their departure dates and flight details to the Tunis Air desk situated in the lobby of the Sol Azur. Please confirm at least 24 hours prior to departure.
**Appeal No. 7**

*Reported by Grattan Endicott (GB)*

**The Facts:**

The Facts: The Result: had ended. This board had been the last board of the

**The Result:**

4♣ by North. 

**The Facts:**

The Director was called to the table after the match. East complained that there had been different explanations of the 3♣ bid. North to East had not alerted and had described the bid as natural and non-forcing. South explained to West that the bid was a limited fit-jump. East complained that failure to give him this latter explanation had caused him not to lead a heart to beat the contract. North pointed out that 3♠ cannot be a fit-jump as then it would be game-forcing, which makes no sense. They use fit-jumps in limit situations.

**Tournament Director’s Ruling:**

The Director decided that there was no infractions and that the score should stand.

**Appellant:**

The Appellants were E/W.

**The Players:**

The East player said that he had expected, on the explanation North had given to him, to find six or seven hearts in dummy with little fit in the North hand and had thought he might be killing any holding in his partner’s hand by leading the singleton. He felt that it was not material whether the 3♠ bid was a limit bid or not; he had been talked out of a natural heart lead and the damage was not related to the question of which was the correct explanation. He also questioned the Director’s ruling against the non-offending side when the facts were not clearly established. Upon the invitation of the Chairman, the Director repeated that he had considered North had given the correct explanation, since this was the logic of the hand. He also noted the late stage at which he had been called.

North thought it somewhat humorous that the Director’s ruling should be questioned. He said it was quite obvious that his hand was worth a lot more in spades than in hearts. He did not think that the question was an opening lead problem; after a club lead and a spade switch the East player should duck, when there is no way to make the contract. He had failed to duck, the return of the small trump had held in dummy and the heart finesses was immediately taken, giving 10 tricks.

South commented that their fit-showing jumps showed four-card support. North added to this that the bid is a limit bid. When he wishes to force he can begin with a double.

**The Committee:**

The Committee immediately agreed that the difference of explanation, which was trivial, had not affected the hand. There was comment that the bidding sequence could well indicate little about the suit holdings except that North was determined to play in spades. East had simply defended badly. There was no damage and no possibility of damage and the explanation that the 3♠ bid could not be a limit bid had an obvious logic which the defenders could work out at the table. The Director had not been called when East saw the dummy.

**Committee’s Decision:**

The score of N/S +790 should stand. The slight discrepancy in South’s explanation had not contributed to any confusion and should not be penalised. There was discussion as to the possible retention of the deposit but it was decided to return it. The Committee did, however, think that it should express its commendation of the Director’s procedure and decision which it did not consider open to question.

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**Venice Cup – Round-robin Cross-table**

<table>
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<tr>
<th>FRANCE</th>
<th>U.S.A. I</th>
<th>U.S.A. II</th>
<th>CHINA</th>
<th>GREAT BRITAIN</th>
<th>CANADA</th>
<th>NETHERLANDS</th>
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<th>GERMANY</th>
<th>INDIA</th>
<th>AUSTRALIA</th>
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<th>ARGENTINA</th>
<th>SOUTH AFRICA</th>
<th>CHINESE TAIPEI</th>
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**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 12 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 11 19 288

**GREAT BRITAIN**

15 17 22 4 17 13 23 19 20 17 14 19 24 13 14 22 287

**CANADA**

18 10 16 17 13 15 8 13 21 14 11 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 11 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 11 20 0 13 16 21 7 20 15 14 7 13 14 16 21 3 7 23 14 24 253

**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 11 18 0 23 9 18 8 18 25 16 238

**SOUTH AFRICA**

11 8 9 10 11 10 15 14 11 12 5 25 11 12 21 18 21 224

**CHINESE TAIPEI**

7 10 5 13 6 10 15 20 18 17 13 23 22 18 8 1 11 217

**COLOMBIA**

8 20 5 16 17 1 13 0 10 20 7 7 12 9 22 15 24 206

**BRAZIL**

10 7 8 19 16 11 5 6 10 16 8 16 3 12 25 15 18 205

**TUNISIA**

15 8 14 11 8 9 13 15 0 3 7 6 14 9 19 6 12 169

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**FRANCE**

VPs

16 1997 World Bridge Championships

Thursday, 30 October 1997