31st Friday 1997

Issue: 12

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

Both United States teams take 9-point leads in finals

After the first day of the finals of the Bermuda Bowl and the Venice Cup, both United States teams lead their opponents by 9 IMPs. It appears that we have two intensely contested finals to follow.

The Americans (USA II) in the Bermuda Bowl trailed through most of the day, but they came to life in the final set. They overcame a 13-point deficit with a 39-17 segment to go into the lead, 121-112. It was close all the way. France led after the first three segments by 1, 4 and 13. The bridge wasn't always the best, but it was intensely competitive.

In the Venice Cup final between United States I and China, the lead changed hands several times. The Americans got off to a fast start, inundating their rivals, 36-5 over the first 16 boards. But China turned this around in the second segment, 27-4, to close within eight IMPs. Another good set put China in front by 12 after 48 deals. And then it was the Americans' turn again – they outscored China, 53-14 in the last segment of the day. USA I picked up a slam swing – 14 IMPs – on the next-to-last board of the last set to shoot into the lead. The China North was faced with a tough opening lead in a slam. When she cashed her ace, the Americans scored up their slam.

The Venice Cup match, a 128-board battle, will conclude tonight. After the Bermuda Bowl finalists play another 64 boards today, they still will have 32 remaining to be played tomorrow. It's a really long match - 160 boards.

Transnational semifinals start today

The 32-board semifinals of the Transnational Open Teams will take place today starting at 11.00. The winners will clash in the final starting at 21.30 tonight. The 48-board event will conclude tomorrow with two sessions starting at 11.00.

Jassem, captain of the Polish team that finished first in the round-robin, chose Hanna of Canada as their semifinal opponent. The other semifinal pits Gardynik of Poland against Burgay, a team made up Italian and Polish players.

Teams that failed to qualify for the semifinals will play two matches today starting at 11.00 to determine overall placings.

Norway, United States II win bronze medals

Norway defeated United States I, 97-67, in a 32-board match to determine third place and the bronze medal in the Bermuda Bowl. Playing for Norway were Boye Brogeland, Erik Saelensminde, Geir Helgemo, Tor Helness, Glenn Groetheim and Terje Aa, with Einar Asbjon Brenne as non-playing captain.

The victor in the Venice Cup match for the bronze medal was won by United States II. They defeated France, winner of the round-robin, I 14-66, in a 48-board match. The American team was made up of Kathie Wei-Sender, Juanita Chambers, Lynn Deas, Kerri Sanborn, Beth Palmer and Irina Levitina, with Sue Sachs as non-playing captain.



Under Contract!

José Damiani, President of the World Bridge Federation and Michel Marmouget, President of the French Bridge Federation, sign the contract for the 1998 World Bridge Championships to be staged in Lille in August and September.

Press conference postponed

The press conference originally scheduled for today has been postponed to tomorrow. It will be held at the Royal Azur at 13.00. WBF *President* **José Damiani** and **Omar Sharif** will be present to offer some views and to answer questions from the journalists. Cocktails will be served after the conference.

Bermuda Bowl - Results										
finals										
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	7th Session Boards 97-112	8th Session Boards 113-128	Total IMPs
١.	USA II - France	28 - 29	21 - 24	33 - 42	39 - 17					121-112
2.	Norway - USA I	67 - 28	30 - 39							97 - 67

Venice Cup - Results										
	finals									
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	7th Session Boards 97-112	8th Session Boards 113-128	Total IMPs
3.	China - USA I	5 - 36	27 - 4	41 - 21	14 - 35					87 - 96
4.	USA II - France	27 - 31	38 - 6	49 - 29						114-66



Merci beaucoup

Coordinating the vugraph commentaries was fun and enjoyable. In our game our motto is Bridge for Peace, and there were many comments for peace among the United States, Canada, Italy, France and Great Britain.

Thanks then to Billy Eisenberg, Eric Kokish, Guido Ferraro, Brian Senior and Mark Horton. All of them are very talented – I knew this from the beginning. I soon learned the very high interest and concern they showed for their job. I already knew of their friendly character. It was a great pleasure to work with this team which I am sure pleased the vugraph audience.

I thank also the occasional commentators – David Burn, Jens Auken and Philippe Cronier – as well as our guest stars (in order of appearance) – Bobby Wolff, Omar Sharif and Zia.

I am also thankful for the job the French women, Anne Elisabeth and Veronique, did. Of course the camera team must be included – Bernard Delange and Paul fully deserve our thanks.

JEAN PAUL MEYER

World Transnational **Open Teams Schedule** Friday 11.00-12.30 Round 17 11.00-13.20 Semifinal, first half 12.50-14.20 Round 18 14.00-16.20 Semifinal, second half Break 21.30-23.50 Final, first segment Saturday 11.00-13.20 Final, second segment 14.00-16.20 Final, third segment

Hammamet observations – IX

by Terry Radjef

I June 1959. That's the day Tunisia solemnly announced the establishment of its First Constitution.

The stature of President Bourguiba as the Supreme Warrior carried the country through several economical and ideological crises. His charismatic personality led the people to elect him president for life in 1975 when, after three consecutive presidential terms, the Constitution did not allow him to serve a fourth term.

The new dynastic state brought the question of succession to the surface. Meanwhile, in spite of an increasing separation between the State the wheels of modernism, the country continues to develop its educational infrastructure, improve its economy and thus improve living standards.

In the Eighties, social crises, foreign affairs incidents, Islamic pressures, a drop in oil prices and the President's personal problems weakened his government and led to his replacement 7 November 1987.

Declared medically impaired, President Bourguiba was replaced by his prime minister, General Zine El Abidine Ben Ali. Even though the populace realised there was a need for change, there remained a nostalgia for the first President. Women in particular did not forget that he gave them their emancipation.

President Ben Ali has since devoted his efforts to strengthen individual freedoms and to liberalise and modernise an economic system that had become archaic.

The future of Tunisia is bright!

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For more information contact: Margaret Parnis England Tel: 00 356 330384 or 00 356 381928 fax: 00 356 316340 email: parnis@waldonet.net.mt

or

Mario Dix Tel: 00 356 330800 – Fax: 00 356 373683

	Vorld Tran Open Tean After 16	ns Resul	
Т	JASSEM	POL	305
2	GARDYNIK	POL	290
3	BURGAY	ITA/POL	288
4 5	HANNA AUKEN		286 281
5	CONVERY	DEN/GER ZAF/GBR	281
7	SHARIF	TRA	271
8	SAHAL	FRA	270
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10	HACKETT	POR GBR/VEN	267 264
12	VLAJNIC	YOU	261
13	LEVENKO	EST	259
14 15	REKUNOV VANDERGAAST	RUS	258 256
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17	MAYBACH	GER	256
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27	FORT	CSK	245
28	NIEMINEN	FIN	245
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32	HUMBURG	GER	242
33	Mrs BURN	GBR	241
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55 56	RIOS NIKEL	RUS	224 223
57	STRANDBERG	EST	220
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62	SINGAPURI	IND	214
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64	SEGERS	BEL	211
65 66	SILABHUSIDI GUILLET	ITHA FRA	211 210
67	DAEHR	GER	208
68	SFAR	TUN	204
69	RAUNTO	FIN	204
70 71	ZARROUK GRAY	TUN ZAF/USA	194 192
72	HAMEYET	MAR	192
73	DIX	MAL	191
74	WESSELING	NT/GBR	167

What a lead!

by Jean Paul Meyer

You hold:

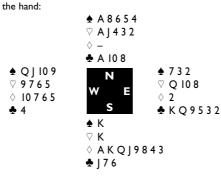
▲ Q | 10 9 **♡9765** 0765 ♣ 4

This was the bidding:

West	North	East	South
			2 ◇
Pass	2♡	Pass	3NT
Pass	7♢	All Pass	

 $2\Diamond$ is forcing one round. $2\heartsuit$ is a relay. 3NT shows an eight-card solid minor. What do you lead?

At the table, West chose her singleton, and this was



Perfect! However, in reality it wasn't necessary for West to be brilliant – she actually held \diamond | 7 6 5, not \diamond 10 7 6 5, so she was always going to defeat 70.

Note that if the same lead had been chosen against $6\Diamond$ at the other table, the declarer would have a reply. He could come back to hand with a major king, draw three rounds of trumps, cash the other king and put West in with her master trump. She would be forced to lead into dummy's major suit aces.

An innocent question

by Sam Leckie

n the late Sixties and Seventies, Dorothy Hayden was in many eyes the best woman player in the world. Now Dorothy Truscott, she is attending these Championships where she is a contestant in the Transnational Open Pairs.

In the Press Room the other day I reminded her of the time I played against her more than 20 years ago in the World Pairs. I was about to remind her of a hand she played when she stopped me in my tracks and said, "I remember you now. You've changed in size a little but you're rolling Scottish accent hasn't. I bet you're going to tell me about a 64 hand I played." I was quite amazed that she remembered.

With no other losers she had to play 64 with J 5 opposite A K 8 7 6 3. The correct percentage play is low to the jack. If this loses you cash the ace and king - an 85% chance. However, without hesitation Dorothy led the jack from dummy. I covered with the queen. She returned to dummy and passed the 5 - bingo!

I held Q 10 9 4, so the contract was made. I knew who she was, and I could not fathom why she played against the odds. When play was over I asked her why. She answered politely, "Did you not notice that your partner asked if I had opened I !! If he had held the queen he would have remembered that fact. Knowing you had the queen, the rest was easy."

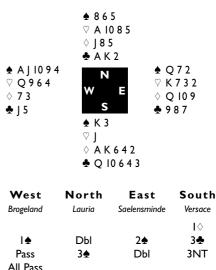
That's what champions are made up.

Hands off the long suit!

by Knut Kjaernsrod, Norway

n Norway's quarterfinal match against Italy Boye Brogeland - Erik Saelensminde did well to defeat this 3 NT:

Board 3. East-West Game. Dealer South.



With an opening spade lead declarer has nine easy tricks. However, Brogeland found the $\heartsuit 9$ and with the OQ being a guarded lady, declarer had to content himself with eight tricks.

The bidding in the Open Room was identical apart from East's double of $3 \oplus$. When Buratti lead the 10 \oplus , Glenn Groetheim won his contract and 10 IMPs for Norway.

On the next board Erik Saelensminde led a short suit, but it was not as short as declarer assumed.

Board 9. Game East-West. Dealer North

 ▲ A J 9 7 4 ♡ 8 ◊ 10 7 4 3 ♣ J 9 7 	 ▲ 8 3 ◇ A Q ◇ Q J ◆ 4 W S ▲ K IC ◇ A K ◆ A K 	E 0 2 2 2	Q 6 5 K 10 5 9 8 Q 10 8 3 2
West	North	East	South
	I♡	Pass	2 🜩
Pass	2 ♦	Pass	2♡
Pass	2♠	Pass	2NT
Pass	3♡	Pass	3♠
DЫ	4 🛧	Pass	4 \diamond
Pass	4♡	All Pass	

Erik chose the only card to give declarer a problem - the $\oint Q$ covered by the king and ace. Brogeland cashed the knave and continued the suit. Declarer ruffed with the $\heartsuit Q$ and that meant two trump tricks for East and one down. The contract was the same in the Open Room, but after the lead of a small spade Terje Aa ruffed the third spade low and soon claimed 10 tricks.

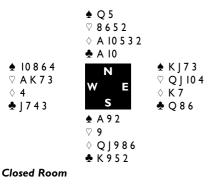
Bermuda Bowl

France vs USA II

e have the perfect line-up for the Bermuda Bowl final – Europe v America, and the Bermuda Bowl holders against the Olympiad champions. The French have done very well against USA in finals in the past and we could expect a close tough match this time.

Mouiel and then Wolff went down in contracts they really should have made on the first two boards, which left USA2 with a 4 IMP lead.And the next swing also went to USA2.

Board 3. E/W Vul. Dealer South.



West	North	East	South
Meckstroth	Mari	Rodwell	Levy
			Pass
Pass	I¢	Dbl	3 🛧
3♢	Pass	3♡	4 ◇
40	5◊	Dbl	All Pass

The 3 bid clearly showed diamonds but their card did not say whether it also promised clubs. It put too much momentum into the auction, however, and when Meckwell bid to $4\heartsuit$ Mari wasn't sure that he could beat it so went on to $5\diamond$. In fact, $5\diamond$ is not a bad spot, needing only the trump finesse. When the \diamond K was offside, Mari had to go one down; -100.

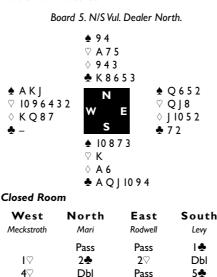
Open Room

West	North	East	South
Multon	Hamman	Mouiel	Wolff
			Pass
Pass	I¢	Dbl	Rdbl
2♦	Pass	2♡	3♢
3♡	Pass	Pass	4 ◇
All Pass			



Paul Chemla (France)

Wolff's redouble worked out better, slowing the auction down. Hamman got to play in 4, just making for +130 and 6 IMPs to USA2.



After the quiet start to the auction it probably didn't occur to Meckstroth that he was the one who should be saving. There was, of course, no defence to $5\clubsuit$ doubled: +750.

All Pass

Open Room

DЫ

West	North	East	South
Multon	Hamman	Mouiel	Wolff
	Pass	Pass	2 🜩
2♡	4♣	4 ♡	5 🙅
5♡	All Pass		

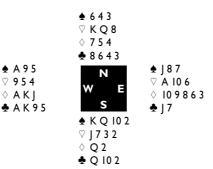
The natural 2 opening and 4 pre-emptive raise got the bidding up high fast in the Open Room. Eventhough his partner had bid 4%, Multon still did pretty well to bid 5%. Hamman led the $\clubsuit K$ so there was no spade ruff and Multon was just one down; -50 but 12 IMPs to France, who moved into the lead.

Barry Rigal brings us a little of the action from the other matches.

In the Venice Cup final, Berkowitz/Letizia, for USA1, reached $4\heartsuit$. This can go down on a spade lead, heart to the king, second spade, heart to the ace and a diamond switch to get the entry for the spade ruff. But South discarded an encouraging club and North played a club instead of a diamond so the contract made. (By contrast, in the BB third place play-off Brogeland for Norway pitched a discouraging club and North, Saelensminde, switched to a diamond and got his ruff. Thoughtful!)

Breed and Sokolow reached 5 \clubsuit and the Chinese sacrificed in 5 \heartsuit for -100 and 11 IMPs to USA1.

Board 9. E/W Vul. Dealer North.



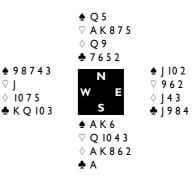
Open Room					
West	North	East	South		
Multon	Hamman	Mouiel	Wolff		
	Pass	Pass	I♠		
DЫ	Pass	2♢	Pass		
2♠	Pass	3♡	Pass		
3NT	All Pass				

final (set 1)

It looks right for Wolff to open 1 \bigstar for the lead in third seat but it worked out poorly this time. Hamman led a spade against 3NT and Multon ducked but won the second spade. He cashed three rounds of diamonds, relaxing when the queen appeared under the king. Now he exited with a spade and Wolff won and cashed the 13th spade. Wolff exited with a club and Multon won the ace, crossed to the \heartsuit A and ran the diamonds. At the end he found that his \clubsuit 9 was a winner, +630.

In the Closed Room Levy did not open in third seat and Meckwell bid quickly: 2NT - 3NT. Christian Mari found the killing lead, the $\heartsuit Q$, knocking out the dummy entry while the diamonds were still blocked. Meckstroth was two down; -200 and 13 IMPs to France.

Board 12. N/S Vul. Dealer West.



Both North/South pairs got to the grand slam for a flat board.

Open Room

•			
West	North	East	South
Multon	Hamman	Mouiel	Wolff
Pass	Pass	Pass	♣
Pass	♠	Pass	2♦
Pass	2♡	Pass	3♡
Pass	40	Pass	4♠
Pass	4NT	Pass	5 📥
DЫ	Pass	Pass	Rdbl
Pass	5NT	Pass	7♡
All Pass			

I subscription was strong and the response showed three controls. Hearts were soon agreed and when Hamman showed his diamond feature they were well on their way. Wolff cuebid $4\pm$ and Hamman bid 4NT, showing extras but nothing to cuebid. It seems that this should deny the K, though I cannot be sure of that. In that case, North has the two top hearts. As he would hardly bid $4\diamond$ without a top honour in the suit, South might have bid seven now. Wolff took a while longer but finally got there. He seemed confident and relaxed about the whole thing. When Multon asked what his redouble of $5\pm$ meant, Wolff just waved the A at him rather than give a written reply.

Meckwell tried to make life more awkward in the other room.



Alain Levy (France)

Open Room West South North Fast Meckstroth Mari Rodwell Levy DЫ Pass Pass 10 Pass 4NT 40 102 Pass 50 Pass 702 All Pass

Eric Rodwell decided to try a little joke in third seat, opening $I \Diamond$ Precision-style. Meckstroth's $I \heartsuit$ actually showed spades.When Mari could leap to $4\heartsuit$,Alain Levy used RKCB then bid the cold grand.

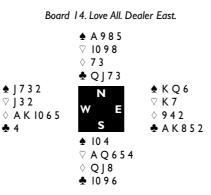
Board 13. Game All. Dealer North. ♠ Q J 9 6 4 3 ♥ Q 87 A J 8 ♣ 4 **•**7 🛦 A K 10 ♡ 642 ♡ **J** 10 5 Ξ 0 Q 9 3 👌 K 7 5 \Lambda 6 5 3 🕭 K Q | 9 8 7 852 V A K 9 3 0 10 6 4 2 10 2

In the Closed Room, Mari passed as dealer and Rodwell opened 2Φ , Precision. Meckstroth responded $2\Diamond$, enquiry. Mari overcalled 2Φ and when that got back to Meckstroth he tried 3NT. Mari led the ΦQ and Meckstroth won the ace, He played a diamond to the king and ace. Levy found the heart switch and that was one down; -100.

In the Open Room Bob Hamman did open the North hand, with a weak $2 \bullet$. Herve Mouiel did not think he was worth an overcall so passed, and Bobby Wolff raised pre-emptively to $3 \bullet$. When that got back to Mouiel he competed with $4 \bullet$, ending the auction.

Wolff led a top heart but then switched to the $\diamond 10.$ Mouiel had a brief flicker of hope but nothing good materialised and he was one down; -100 and 5 IMPs to USA2.

More from Barry Rigal. The other big American pickup in the Venice Cup final came on this deal. Breed/Sokolow bid 4 \pm as a sacrifice which went for 200. But would this prove to be a phantom? 3NT has only eight top tricks even after a spade lead. Lisa Berkowitz decided to follow a simple line. She played a diamond at trick two and when the defence failed to cash their hearts she had her contract; +600 and 9 IMPs to USA1. In the BB third place match, Zia cashed the \pm K and \pm Q, on which North pitched a discouraging \heartsuit 8. Now when Zia ran the remaining clubs North threw four spades and South a fatal two spades and two hearts. Zia came down to $\mathbf{A} \otimes \mathbf{C} = \mathbf{A} \otimes \mathbf{C} \otimes \mathbf{A}$ and played a heart. Brogeland won the king and played a diamond to the nine, jack and king. A second heart put Brogeland in again and he led a low diamond. But Zia ducked and now Saelensminde, down to \mathbf{A} -8 and \mathbf{A} J, had to let Zia make the $\mathbf{A} \otimes \mathbf{A}$ and $\mathbf{A} \otimes \mathbf{C}$ for his contract.

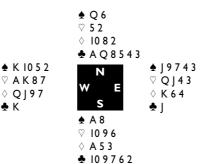


Rodwell opened a 14-16 no trump and Meckstroth responded 24 then passed the 20 response. That was a nice safe contract; +110.

In the other room Mouiel opened a 15-17 no trump. Multon bid $2\heartsuit$, a four-card transfer, and followed up with 2NT over the $2\clubsuit$ response. Mouiel bid $3\clubsuit$, asking for a singleton, and Multon bid $3\diamondsuit$, showing short clubs. Now Mouiel bid 3NT and played there. Wolff led a low heart which ran to Mouiel's king. Mouiel led the \bigstar K to Hamman's ace and back came a heart. Wolff cashed the hearts and Mouiel threw two diamonds from dummy and a diamond and two clubs from hand. Wolff exited with the \diamondsuit 8. Mouiel rose with the ace and tested the spades. When they did not divide evenly, he cashed the top clubs but nothing good happened and he was two down; -100 and 5 IMPs to USA2.

Something good could have happened in the ending. Mouiel's line would have been correct had North had the diamonds with the spade guard, but the third spade had squeezed South out of his club guard and had declarer next cashed the $\Diamond K$ he would now have squeezed North in the black suits to save a trick.

Board 16. E/W Vul. Dealer West.



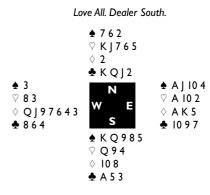
In the Closed Room, Meckstroth opened one of the least impressive strong clubs I have seen and Mari overcalled 2. Rodwell showed his spades and Levy leaped to 5. Meckstroth doubled that and Rodwell led a spade. The contract lost the five obvious tricks; -500.

That would represent a modest profit for France if Multon/Mouiel could bid and make 4♠ in the other room. Multon opened I◊ and there was no interference from Hamman/Wolff. Mouiel responded I♠. Multon raised to 3♠ and Mouiel went on to game. Wolff led a heart. Mouiel won in hand and led the ♠9. Wolff played low and.... So did Mouiel. The normal play but not what was required this time. The contract was one down, -100 and I2 IMPs to USA2.

A set of mixed quality saw France take a marginal advantage; 29-27 IMPs.

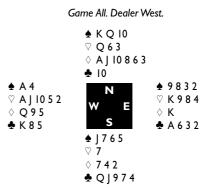
Madras Magic

The Indian Open team fared miserably throughout but there were times when my teammates outplayed their counterparts. This was Board 11 from our15th round match against New Zealand:



South, Jaggy Shivdasani of India, opened 1 \bigstar and after a 3 \diamond weak jump by West, North leapt to 4 \bigstar , doubled by East, who was no doubt unlucky to find the actual layout. East overtook the opening $\Diamond Q$ lead with the king, cashed the $\heartsuit A$ and punched dummy with a second diamond. Ruffing on the table, Jaggy passed the $\bigstar 7$ and when this held, continued with a second trump to the ten and queen. Two rounds of hearts were followed by a heart ruff. Two rounds of clubs ending on the table left the situation ripe for a coup with one of the winning hearts taking care of declarer's club if East chose not to ruff till forced.

This was the Board 20 from our 16th round match against France:



At both tables the contract was $4\heartsuit$ by West after North had overcalled 2 \Diamond . Both Norths led a high spade. The French declarer perhaps was not paying much attention to the hands in this late round-robin match and was trying to preserve his energies for the knockouts Whatever – he went down quickly by winning the \bigstar A immediately and cashing the top hearts at tricks two and three.

At the other table, Subhash Gupta for India ducked the opening lead as South gave a count signal. North cashed the $\Diamond A$ and continued with a second spade to the ace. Subhash cashed the diamond queen, ruffed a diamond, came up to the club king and led a second club towards dummy. When West pitched a diamond, he was marked with a 3-3-6-1 hand and Subhash duly took the heart finesse to bring home ten tricks.



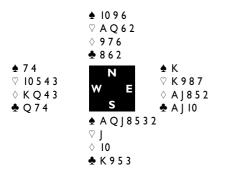
Chris Diment, who has served in various capacities at world championships since 1989, has been promoted to tournament director, a job he is now fulfilling at this tournament. Congratulations, Chris!

Venice Cup

USA II vs France

rance went into this set with a 4-IMP lead, 53-49. Early in the set France found several saves that paid off. The Americans got the first IMP on Board 33, but then France took over.

Board 34. N/S Vul. Dealer East.



Open Room

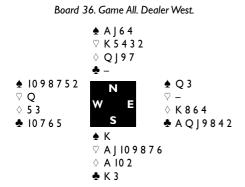
West	North	East I♡	South ∣♠
2 ♡	Pass	Pass	3♠
Pass	4♠	All Pass	

Paul Chemla made the key bid - 3. That induced Michel Perron to carry on to game. This came home when both the $\bigstar K$ and the $\bigstar A$ were onside.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Levy	Nickell	Mari	Freeman
		I¢	♠
Dbl	2♠	4 ♡	4♠
Pass 5◊	Pass All Pass	DЫ	Pass

Nick Nickell and Dick Freeman also reached the spade game, but Christian Mari decided to double. Alain Levy didn't like the prospects of beating 44, so he went on to 5 \Diamond . This escaped a double and went down two. A quick || to France, now up |4.



Another French save, this time at the seven level!

Open Room

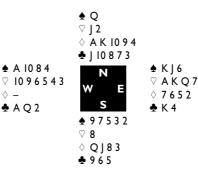
West	North	East	South	
Hamman	Perron	Wolff	Chemla	
Pass	IV	3 🛧	4♣	\heartsuit
5 뢒	Pass	Pass	5◇	\diamond
Pass	60	Pass	6♡	*
All Pass				

Of course there was no problem taking all 13 tricks with the $\mathbf{A}\mathbf{Q}$ dropping doubleton. The $\Diamond K$ was onside as well, but the diamonds never came into play

Closed Room West North East South Levy Nickell Mari Freeman IV 4NT Pass 2. 5 🜩 5♠ 6 🗭 60 Pass Pass 7. Dbl All Pass

Mari just kept bidding clubs, clubs and more clubs. Freeman and Nickell decided to defend and were able to collect 1400 - down five. But that represented a 2-IMP gain for France. And then it happened again two boards later.

Board 38. E/W Vul. Dealer East.



Closed Room

♦ –

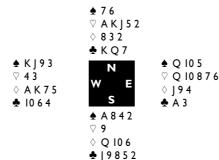
West	North	East	South
Levy	Nickell	Mari	Freeman
		INT	Pass
2 🛧	Pass	2♡	Pass
3 🛧	Pass	3♠	Pass
6♡	All Pass		

No opposition bidding, but Levy and Mari still missed the cold grand slam. This still represented a gain for France for this was the bidding in the Open Room:

West	North	East	South
Hamman	Perron	Wolff	Chemla
		INT	Pass
2♦	DЫ	2♡	4 \diamond
5♢	6 🙅	6♡	Pass
Pass	7♢	Dbl	All Pass

Bob Hamman and Bobby Wolff also failed to find the grand slam. Perhaps Hamman might have decided to look more favourably on his three controls, but he decided to defend 70 doubled. Chemla lost the obvious five tricks - minus 1100 for another 8 IMPs to France. The score now was 81-50.

Board 40. Love All. Dealer West.

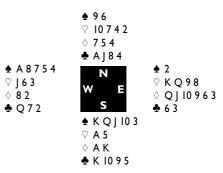


Perron opened $\mathsf{I}\heartsuit,\mathsf{got}$ a $\mathsf{I} \clubsuit$ response and won the contract at INT.Wolff opened a diamond, and Hamman won after Chemla played the 10. Hamman can set the contract at this point with a shift to spades, but his switch was to hearts. Now declarer had no trouble taking seven tricks.

final (set 3)

In the Closed Room, there was a lot of bidding before Nickell finally bought the hand for 24 doubled. Mari got off to the best start for the defence – \clubsuit A and another club. Nickell ducked a spade to Levy, and he drew the third round of trumps. Now Nickell had to lose three spades, two diamonds and a club for down one - good defence. Another 5 IMPs to France - 33 in a row. France was ahead, 86-50.

Board 41. E/W Vul. Dealer North.

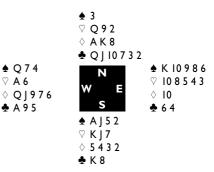


After being shut out for seven boards, the Americans finally got back on the scoresheet here. Freeman and Nickell got to 3NT, and after a club opening lead Freeman collected 12 tricks. It was different in the Open Room

West	North	East	South
Hamman	Perron	Wolff	Chemla
	Pass	Pass	2◊
Pass	2♡	Pass	2♠
Pass	2NT	Pass	3 📥
Pass	3♠	Pass	3NT
Pass	4♠	All Pass	

Apparently Perron was worried about the red suits hence his 44. A heart lead would have been best, but Hamman led a diamond. Declarer went after trumps immediately, and Hamman won the second. Wolff had shown a desire for a heart lead with his discard, so Hamman shifted to the \heartsuit 3. Chemla won this and drew all of Hamman's trumps. Now everything hinged on whether or not he guessed the $\clubsuit Q$. He didn't, so he was down one - 11 IMPs to USA.

Board 42. Game All. Dealer East.



This was a surprise gain for the Americans. Nickell and Freeman arrived in 3NT without much trouble plus 600. But the French were uncharacteristically conservative.

West	North	East	South
Hamman	Perron	Wolff	Chemla
		Pass	I¢
Pass	2 뢒	Pass	2NT
Pass	3 📤	All Pass !!	

Perron made his contract, but 10 IMPs went on the USA side of the ledger. The match had tightened up immensely – now France was ahead only 86-71.

The next three boards were pushes with nothing of major interest to report. But France was plus at both tables on Board 46 – only small pluses, but pluses nevertheless.

Board 46. Love All. Dealer East.

	 ▲ K 6 3 2 ♡ 5 2 ◇ A 8 4 ◆ 10 6 4 3 	
 ▲ A 8 4 ♡ K 9 6 ◊ Q 7 5 ▲ J 9 8 5 	N W E S ▲ J 10 9 ♡ A 7 3 ◊ 6 3 2 ▲ A Q 7 2	♠ Q 7 5 ♡ Q J I0 8 4 ◇ K J I0 9 ♣ K

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Levy	Nickell	Mari	Freeman
		IV	Pass
2♡	Pass	Pass	DЫ
Redbl	2♠	All Pass	

Nickell had to lose six tricks for down one.

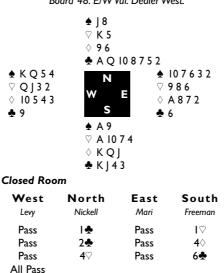
Open Room

West Hamman	North Perron	East Wolff	South Chemla
	Dees	I♡ 2☆	Pass
INT	Pass	ZV	Pass
2 ≜ 4♡	Pass All Pass	3♡	Pass

There was nothing to the defence – four obvious losers for down one and 4 IMPs to France. Wolff, with a minimum, might have been better off passing INT. And

Hamman took a somewhat aggressive stance on the wrong board.

Board 48. E/W Vul. Dealer West.



As you can see, a spade lead beats this contract, but it can make with any other lead. Mari led a diamond, so Nickell chalked up 920.

West North East Sou	th
West North East Sou	
Hamman Perron Wolff Cher	nla
Pass I 🕭 Pass I 🛇)
Pass 2 Pass 2	>
Pass 3 Pass 4	•
Pass 4° Pass 4	2
Dbl !!! Pass Pass 5	
All Pass	

Chemla no doubt wishes he had never made that spade cuebid – it gave Hamman the opportunity to double to suggest a lead. When the bidding came back to him, Chemla still wanted to bid the slam, but now he feared the spade lead. It was likely that an ace had to knocked out, and after a spade lead the defence could cash a spade to set the contract. He settled for $5 \pm$. This just made after a spade lead 11 IMPs to the Americans cut the margin after 48 boards to 13, 95-82.

Fred Gitelman in People

Fired Gitelman of Toronto recently was featured in the pages of *People* magazine. The article was entitled *The Art of the Deal*, and the heading showed Gitelman holding a huge reproduction of the jack of spades. Gitelman is aa star player for Canada who was on their silver medal team in the Bermuda Bowl in Beijing in 1995.

The article starts with a look at Gitelman's form of teenage rebellion. The article says the rebellion was not the usual kind – he took up bridge seriously while he was in high school. His parents were afraid he was going to become a cardsharp. "They didn't see how anything good could come of it," the article reports Gitelman as saying.

The point of the article is that Gitelman's obsession with bridge has paid off. He dropped out of the University of Toronto and created Bridge Master. This is a software package that helps players as they try to compete against a computer. Gitelman has sold more than 10,000 copies. The reviews of this software have been uniformly complimentary. Gitelman and his girlfriend Sheri Weinstock market the \$60 disk from their home.

Even more important, he impressed two of the rich-

est men in the world with his work.Warren Buffett, usually considered the most successful investor in the world, placed an order – and what did Gitelman do? He immediately asked Buffett for an endorsement. And he got one! "A terrific program for all skill levels," was Buffett's statement.

Buffett is very interested in bridge. He has played in all the special matches between Corporate America and the United States Congress. He also qualified for the final of the World Mixed Pairs with Jill Meyers in the 1994 World Championships in Albuquerque. He didn't play in the final because he had business appointments he had never expected to qualify. Incidentally Jill is on the American team that is playing in the final of the Venice Cup here.

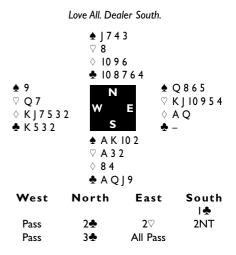
Buffett passed the software along to Bill Gates Sr., his frequent bridge partner. Gates in turn showed it to his son, Bill Gates Jr. Then in 1995 Bill Jr. "gave Gitelman a gig tuning up his company's online bridge games."

All this is very exciting to Gitelman. And his finish in the 1995 World Championship still is very much a part of him. The closing quote in the article said, "It's something to try to master the game, even though you know you never really can."

Raising on one point

(This item appeared in yesterday's Daily Bulletin, but was not easily understandable because the bidding did not match the positions of the players. It is repeated here in corrected form.)

A raise on nothing but five trumps and a jack paid off for North-South here in a match from the Transnational Teams. North's 2Φ bid took up some extra bidding room, so East-West missed their heart partial – or game.



North-South already were heading for a good result because their teammates bought the hand for $3\heartsuit$, 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 \Diamond 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, she 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 \pounds K for her ninth trick. That represented a gain of 7 IMPs.



facilities for either telephone calls or fax transmissions, please remember to pay either Elly Ducheyne or Jan Swaan for the services.

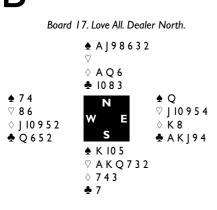
Venice Cup

oth teams missed a good slam on the first board

China vs USA I

R

of the session.



Closed Room

West Zhang Yu	North Meyers	East Wang	South Montin
	I.♠	2♠	3♡
4 ≜ All Pass	5♡	Pass	5♠

The Michael's cue-bid made life awkward for North/South. Three hearts clearly promised some support for spades and presumably West's 4♣ asked East to bid her minor. South's hand did not improve when North announced a heart control and perhaps five diamonds would have been a better choice.

Declarer claimed twelve tricks and was probably worried.

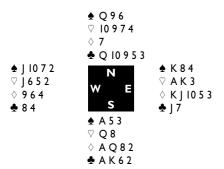
Open Room

West	North	East	South
Berkowitz	Zhang Ya	Letizia	Gu
Dese	♠	2 ≜	3♠
Pass	4♠	All Pass	

We are probably missing something, but was $3 \pm$ forcing? North clearly had no thoughts of slam when she simply raised to game.

Neither side got to grips with the next deal.

Board 18. N/S Vul. Dealer East.



Closed Room

West	North	East	South	Clo
Zhang Yu	Meyers	Wang	Montin	V
		INT	Pass	v Z
2 🐣	Pass	2 ♢	All Pass	

South had no way into the auction, as she could not double INT for penalties.

She started with the two top clubs and played a



Lisa Berkowitz (USA I)

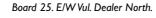
third round, declarer ruffing in dummy and discarding a heart from hand. That made no real difference to the outcome as declarer had to lose two spades, two diamonds and two clubs for one down, but if she had discarded a spade from hand instead she would have had a chance to make the contract thanks to the position in hearts.

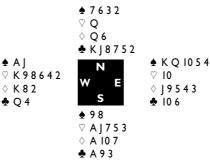
Open Room

West	North	East	South
Berkowitz	Zhang Ya	Letizia	Gu
		I \diamond	Dbl
Pass	∇	INT	Dbl
Pass	2 桊	All Pass	

East was lucky to get away with her rebid of INT. North should have passed her partner's double and if that had become the final contract East would not have enjoyed five rounds of clubs. It looks as if she can always be held to four tricks.

In 2Φ declarer quickly made 10 tricks to pick up a couple of IMPs.





Closed Room

ıg	Montin	West	North	East	South	
т	Pass	Zhang Yu	Meyers	Wang	Montin	
,	All Pass		Pass	Pass	IV	
on, as she could not		Pass	♠	Pass	INT	
		Pass	2 🛧	Pass	2 ◇	
clubs	and played a	Pass	3 🛧	All Pass		

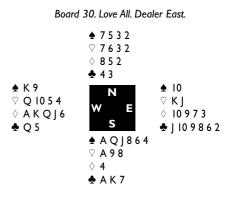
This was a straightforward contract with trumps 2-2

final (set 2)

so declarer made nine tricks, +110.

Open Room West North East South Zhang Ya Berkowitz Letizia Gu $|\heartsuit$ Pass Pass Pass 2 🗭 Dbl Pass 2♦ 3. Pass 3NT

There was no reason for West to lead anything other than the $\Diamond 2$ and it seemed likely South would go wrong by playing low. To warm applause she went up with the queen and collected 9 tricks and 7 IMPs.



Closed Room

All Pass

West	North	East	South
Zhang Yu	Meyers	Wang	Montin
		Pass	l≜
DЫ	Pass	2 🙅	2♠
DЫ	Pass	3♢	Pass
3NT	Pass	Pass	Dbl
4 \diamond	Pass	Pass	4♠
All Pass			

West cashed a diamond and switched to a heart. The contract failed by one trick but we cannot tell you why as their is no play record!

Perhaps it went as described below.

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Berkowitz	Zhang Ya	Letizia	Gu
		Pass	♣
Pass	I¢	Pass	I.♠
2 ♦	2♠	4 ◇	4♠
All Pass			

West came in on the second round after passing the precision club opening.

She led the A and East played the ten. If that was meant to direct West to hearts it went un-noticed and a second diamond was led. Declarer ruffed and cashed her top clubs. She then took the A and led a club.West discarded, so she ruffed and ruffed a diamond before exiting with a spade. West exited with a heart to the king and ace. South played the eight of hearts – the nine is more subtle – and after long thought West rose to the occasion in every sense of the word by going up with the queen.

A crocodile coup on Vugraph got deserved applause.

A dull, low-scoring set saw China outscore USAI 27-4 to trail 32-40.