Americans win Venice Cup; France lead Bermuda battle

The United States women regained the Venice Cup championship last night, defeating a powerful China team, 244-184. The match was close most of the way, but the Americans came on very strong over the second half of the match.

Meanwhile the French Bermuda Bowl team opened up a 50-IMP lead on the United States after 128 boards. The Americans have only 32 boards left in which to overcome that lead. The United States II team are the defending champions, and France won the World Team Olympiad last year. (Since the big news is about the Venice Cup champions, we will devote most of our space tonight to that event.)

“I beat David,” exulted Lisa Berkowitz, who was winning her first world championship. Her husband David is one of the highest ranked players in North America. “I’m the first one in my family to win a world championship — but I won’t be the last,” said Lisa.

“And I beat Fred,” said Marisena Letizia, who was winning her second world gold (McConnell Cup in 1994). Fred is her very close friend Fred Stuart, another major star in the American sky. Marisena led a toast to their captain, Sue Picus. “It really was a great team effort,” added Marisena. “I’ve never been on a team that worked so well together.”

“Winning a gold is a helluva lot better than winning a bronze,” said Mildred Breed. “No doubt about it — this is the highlight of my bridge career.”

“This is a lot better than Yokohama,” said Randi Montin, who was fourth in the Venice Cup in 1991. This was her first world title, although she also won the Pan-American Championship.

“I’m thrilled, I’ve never been so excited,” said Tobi Sokolow, who also is a first-time winner. She also was highly impressed by the team’s solidarity. Jill Meyers was supremely happy at being a champion again. She won the Venice Cup in Chile in 1993.

Picas, the non-playing captain, said this is the toughest of the five world medals she has won. She has won two Venice Cups and the McConnell Teams, and she also was second in the Venice Cup in Beijing two years ago.

There’s one more person on the team — a Tunisian they adopted. Wejdane Majeri was their recorder, and she was so friendly and helpful that the team adopted her as their team mascot. The team insisted on Wejdane joining them for the picture-taking.

The team appeared before the vugraph audience after winning. The applause as they entered the vugraph room was deafening. Joan Gerard, a WBF representative from the United States, presented each woman with a bouquet of flowers. Then four other North American representatives — Cecil Cook, Dan Morse, Virgil Anderson and George Retek — joined Joan in presenting each member of the team with a glass of champagne to celebrate.

Meanwhile the Chinese team for the second straight year had to resign themselves to finishing second. One of the pairs, as they met their teammates to compare scores, said in unison, “I’m sorry.” Nevertheless the Chinese put on a courageous exhibition. They have definitely proven that China has become a world power in bridge.

Jassen vs. Burgay in Transnational final

The team captained by Krzysztof Jassen will play a 32-board final against the team captained by Leandro Burgay in the Transnational Open Teams. Jassen defeated Hanna, 67-66, and Burgay eliminated Gardynik, 76-44. Gardynik will be awarded the bronze medal because they finished higher in the Swiss standings than Hanna.
### Bermuda Bowl - Results

**finals**

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<thead>
<tr>
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<th>Match</th>
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### Venice Cup - Results

**finals**

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</table>

### World Transnational Open Teams Schedule

**Saturday**

11.00-13.20 Final, second segment
14.00-16.20 Final, third segment

### 3rd Marina Calcutta

**A big money event**

**April 11 and 12, 1998**

The Marina Bridge Club Scheveningen, The Netherlands

Approximately 100 hands, Butler (pairs on an IMP basis)
40 pairs (top players)
Prizes 90% of entry fees

**First prize approximately Dutch Guillers 20,000**

Entry fee DG 2000 per pair (company sponsors additional DG 500)
Contact also for hotel accommodations:
Jan van Cleeff
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2512 GA The Hague, The Netherlands
Telephone: +31 70 360 5902
Fax: +31 70 364 0841
email: jvcleeff@xs4all.nl

### Venice Cup

**France profiles**

**PASCALE THUILLEZ** is playing on the national team for the second time – she also represented France in the European Teams at Montecatini, where France finished second. She's married and has three children at home. She has had many regional successes.

**CATHERINE de GUillebon**, Thuielle's partner, has been a senator's assistant, a history and French teacher and a producer's assistant for television. She now teaches and directs bridge in a club near Paris. This is her second major international appearance for France.

**VERONIQUE BESSIS** is the French woman who has had the most success in international competition. She has won five European titles. She is a professional player and teaches the game in Paris. She has played for years with CATHERINE SAUL, who has won two European team titles and one pairs. At Montecatini Bessis and Saul finished first in the Butler classification. She works at the French Bridge Federation.

**SYLVIE WILLARD**, a professional bridge player, has won four European championships, three with Bessis, her former partner; and one with BENEDICTE CRONIER in Villamoura two years ago.

**Louis Vuitton**, a famous maker of luxurious products, is the team’s sponsor.
## World Transnational Open Teams Results After Semifinals

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<th>Place</th>
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## May the Force be with you!

by Peter Lund (Denmark)

The Aukens team must be one of the favourites in the Transnational. This deal illustrates an important principle – when you have length in the trump suit, consider the possibility of a forcing defence.

### E/W Val. Dealer South.

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

### Open Room

- **Pass 2 H**
- **2 H**
- **2 H**
- **Dbl**
- **Pass 4 H**
- **All Pass**

### Closed Room

- **Pass 2 H**
- **Pass 3 H**
- **Pass 4 H**

**Guided by the lead-directing double, Kirsten Steen Møller’s opening salvo was the K. Laaye Schaffer took his ace and returned the 4, ruffed by declarer, who played a heart to the ace and took a losing spade finesse. Now Kirsten found the killing defence of a third diamond, offering a ruff and discard! This ensured that she would make two more heart tricks and declarer soon conceded one down.**
China vs France

In the Open Room, Lu declared 4D without opposition. Bessis led the 3D and won in hand with the jack and played a club. Bessis played low and, after some thought, Lu called for the king. She needed to draw trumps now to make the contract, but, unaware of the danger, she continued with a second club. Saul elected to cover the jack with the queen and Bessis chose to leave her partner on lead, thereby losing the crucial diamond ruff. Saul switched to a trump and Lu played low from hand and won the ace over West's queen. The rest was plain sailing. She now gave up a heart. Although Bessis could have won and given Saul a diamond ruff, declarer was in control. She won the trump return with the jack and ruffed her last club in dummy. She then ruffed a heart to hand and drew trumps. +420 to China.

In the Closed Room, Syville-Willard declared 4D after Gu Ling had entered the auction with a delayed 2NT bid for Zhang Yalan to ruff. A heart to Gu’s ace and a second ruff quickly put the contract one down. +50 and 10 IMPs to France.

In the Open Room, Sun Ming opened a strong club and Veronique Bessis overcalled 1D after Lu Fan’s negative response. Sun made a negative double and Catherine Saul raised preemptively to 3D. Lu joined in with a negative double of her own and Sun viewed, perhaps unwisely, to defend. Sun began with a club and then switched to a trump. Bessis won a club to the queen, king and ace. Sun now tried to cash a heart, but Bessis ruffed in hand and ruffed a club in dummy. One more ruff in each hand established her 3D and she could have drawn trumps at this point and made an overtrick; however, she continued by ruffing dummy’s last heart low and ruffing her master club with dummy’s 4A. Now she simply let Sun trump a diamond and claimed the last two tricks with her KJQ, +730 and 13 IMPs to France.

However, France gave back most of those IMPs two boards later.

---

**Board 56. Love All, Dealer West.**

**West**  | **North**  | **East**  | **South**
---|---|---|---
**Bessis** | **Sun** | **Saul** | **Lu**
**Pass** | 1♣ | Pass | 1♣
**1♣** | Dbl | 3♣ | Dbl
**All Pass**

**Open Room**

West  | North  | East  | South  | South
---|---|---|---|---
**Gu** | **Cronier** | **Zhang Yalan** | **Willard**
**Pass** | 1♣ | All pass

In the Closed Room, Benedicte Cronier opened a strong NT and Bessis switched to 2NT. After three pushes, French hopes were raised by a large gain on Board 52.

---

**Board 55. Game All, Dealer South.**

**West**  | **North**  | **East**  | **South**  | **South**
---|---|---|---|---
**Bessis** | **Sun** | **Saul** | **Lu**
**Pass** | 3♣ | Dbl | 3♣ | Pass
**3♣** | All pass

**Closed Room**

West  | North  | East  | South  | South
---|---|---|---|---
**Gu** | **Cronier** | **Zhang Yalan** | **Willard**
**Pass** | 5♣ | All pass

---

**Board 54. E/W, Vol. Dealer East.**

West  | North  | East  | South  | South
---|---|---|---|---
**Bessis** | **Sun** | **Saul** | **Lu**
**Pass** | 3♣ | Dbl | 3♣ | Pass

---

**Closed Room**

West  | North  | East  | South  | South
---|---|---|---|---
**Gu** | **Cronier** | **Zhang Yalan** | **Willard**
**Pass** | 5♣ | All pass

---

In the Open Room, Gu Ling had entered the auction with a delayed 2NT bid for Zhang Yalan to ruff. A heart to Gu’s ace and a second ruff quickly put the contract one down. +50 and 10 IMPs to China.

---

**Board 53. Game All, Dealer South.**

**West**  | **North**  | **East**  | **South**  | **South**
---|---|---|---|---
**Bessis** | **Sun** | **Saul** | **Lu**
**Pass** | 3♣ | Dbl | 3♣ | Pass

---

**Closed Room**

West  | North  | East  | South  | South
---|---|---|---|---
**Gu** | **Cronier** | **Zhang Yalan** | **Willard**
**Pass** | 5♣ | All pass

---

In the Closed Room, Willard’s full-blooded preempt and Cronier’s raise kept China out of the auction. Gu led her singleton diamond and Willard won the ace and continued with the jack, Zhang Yalan took her king and switched to the 3K which Willard won with the 4A. Willard now led the 3Q and when the ten appeared on her left she rose with the ace and discarded a loser on dummy’s J10 for one down and +100 to China.

In the Open Room, Lu could not open 4D even if she had wanted to since she was playing Namysts. She opened 3D and Sun responded 3D, forcing. Saul made a takeout double and Willard jumped to 4D to end the auction. Sun cashed her two minor suit aces and continued with a second diamond. Bessis ruffed, cashed 4K and then led a trump to the ace. One down and 5 IMPs to China when France would have gained 11 IMPs if Bessis had taken the winning view in trumps.

---

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

West  | North  | East  | South  | South
---|---|---|---|---
**Bessis** | **Sun** | **Saul** | **Lu**
**Pass** | 1♣ | Pass | 1♣
**1♣** | Dbl | 3♣ | Dbl
**All Pass**

---

In the Open Room, Sun Ming opened a strong club and Veronique Bessis overcalled 1D after Lu Fan’s negative response. Sun made a negative double and Catherine Saul raised preemptively to 3D. Lu joined in with a negative double of her own and Sun viewed, perhaps unwisely, to defend. Sun began with a club and then switched to a trump. Bessis won a club to the queen, king and ace. Sun now tried to cash a heart, but Bessis ruffed in hand and ruffed a club in dummy. One more ruff in each hand established her 3D and she could have drawn trumps at this point and made an overtrick; however, she continued by ruffing dummy’s last heart low and ruffing her master club with dummy’s 4A. Now she simply let Sun trump a diamond and claimed the last two tricks with her KJQ, +730 and 13 IMPs to France.

However, France gave back most of those IMPs two boards later.
**Open Room**

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<th>South</th>
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<td>Bessis</td>
<td>Sun</td>
<td>Saul</td>
<td>Lu</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pass</td>
<td>4♦</td>
<td>Dbl</td>
<td>Pass</td>
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<tr>
<td>5♠</td>
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**Closed Room**

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<td>Zhang Yalan</td>
<td>Willard</td>
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<tr>
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<td>INT</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pass</td>
<td>3♣</td>
<td>Pass</td>
<td>4♣</td>
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<tr>
<td>All pass</td>
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</table>

Lu’s 3♠ preempt fared worse than Willard’s 1♣ opening, but only because Bessis escaped undoubled in 5♦ in the Open Room. Willard made ten tricks for +620 to France in the Closed Room while Bessis went three down in the Open Room for +150 to China. 7 IMPs to France.

Both West’s reached 4♣ after North had overcalled in clubs, but there was a significant difference. In the Closed Room, Willard had supported her partner’s clubs and Cronier naturally led a club. Declarer ran this to her queen and had ten tricks. +620 to China. In the Open Room, Lu had passed over 2♣ and Sun led the ♦10 instead of a club. This held the trick, and a second diamond and a club through soon sealed declarer’s fate. +10 and 12 IMPs to China. China won the set 30-23 and increased their lead to 73 IMPs.

**Helgemo’s advice**

Shortly after Norway’s defeat by France in the semifinal, Glenn Grotheim informed his captain that he would like to play all the boards in the bronze medal playoff in order to promote his new book on his system of Relay Precision. His teammate, Geir Helgemo, said, “If you are trying to promote the book it might be better if you don’t play at all!”

---

**Silesia Celebrations**

*by Patrick Jourdain (GB)*

The team which led virtually throughout the Transnational Swiss all come from the same bridge club, Silesia, in Gliwice, Poland. The team is led by Krzysztof Jassem, 32, a lecturer in computer science at Poznan University. Jassem first came to the attention of the bridge world as a member of the Polish Junior team in Hasselt in 1984 and Plovdiv in 1988.

Jassem partners Piotr Tuszynski, 42, who trades options and stocks. He is an Olympiad champion from Poland’s win in Seattle in 1984. Their teammates are Marek Witek, 37, who owns a small road construction company, and Ireneusz Kowalczycyk, 47, an engineer. This pair won the Juan-les-Pins Pairs Championship this year.

The team earned their trip to Hammamet by winning the First Division of Poland in 2006, the prize being substantial support from the Polish Bridge Federation to the Transnational Teams. The leader in the Swiss after 16 rounds is guaranteed a medal for there is no playoff between the losing semifinalists – the team higher placed in the Swiss is awarded the third place. This is an excellent idea (also used in the World Mixed Teams) and perhaps might also be used in the Bermuda Bowl and Venice Cup, now that there is only one round-robin instead of two.

In their match against the British team led by Peter Goodman, Jassem and Tuszynski bid this excellent grand slam whilst their opponents reached only game:

**Love All, Dealer West.**

_♦ A Q 9 8 5_  
_♥ A Q J 4_  
_♥ J 10 4 3 2_  
_♥ J 7 3 2 1_  
_♥ J 10 9 8 7 6 5 4_  
_♥ J 10 9 8 6 5 3_  

**Table 1**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>West</th>
<th>North</th>
<th>East</th>
<th>South</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Kowalczycyk</td>
<td>Goodman</td>
<td>Witek</td>
<td>Powall</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pass</td>
<td>1♣</td>
<td>2♦</td>
<td>Pass</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3♦</td>
<td>4♦</td>
<td>Pass</td>
<td>4♦</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>All Pass</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Thank you, Bulletin helpers**

Brian Senior, Mark Horton and I have very much enjoyed putting out these Daily Bulletins. Our facilities are excellent and the bridge has been exciting.

It is necessary to have contributions from others to round out world championship coverage. Our special thanks go to the following regular contributors: Tony Gordon, Barry Rigal, Knut Kjærnsrud and Terry Radje. We also appreciate the articles we received from various occasional contributors.
### China vs USA I

#### Venice Cup

China started the set up by 12 IMPs, 73-61. That lead didn’t last for long.

**Board 49. Love All. Dealer North.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>North</th>
<th>South</th>
<th>West</th>
<th>East</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>S.</td>
<td>Zhang Yalan Gu Ling</td>
<td>Berkowitz</td>
<td>Letizia</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The Chinese pair found a rather better trump fit, giving them an opportunity to win the board. But they got a level too high – reasonably enough as 5♣ needs little more than the ♣A outside. When it was offside Lu had to go one down for a push. USA1 picked up two more IMPs on the next board to scarp into the lead. The boards were pretty dull for a while. The match was an exact tie midway through the set, then China moved back into the lead.

**Board 57. E/W Vul. Dealer North.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>North</th>
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<th>West</th>
<th>East</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>S.</td>
<td>Zhang Yalan Gu Ling</td>
<td>Berkowitz</td>
<td>Letizia</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

A curious looking contract. Zhang cashed a top heart and switched to a trump. Lisa Berkowitz elected not to run, which could have been more cards than hearts given the previous negative double. Both declarers made ten tricks; +420 for Gu but +590 for Breed and 5 IMPs to USA1.

### Board 51. E/W Vul. Dealer West.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>North</th>
<th>South</th>
<th>West</th>
<th>East</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>S.</td>
<td>Zhang Yalan Gu Ling</td>
<td>Berkowitz</td>
<td>Letizia</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

When Mildred Breed doubled the INT overcall, Sun Ming redoubled for rescue but redoubled again when 2♥ got doubled. Now Lu bid hearts, the partnership’s best fit, and Tobi Sokolow doubled. He intended this to be for penalties but Breed was not so sure and removed to 3♣. Sun led a heart to the jack and ace and Breed ducked a spade to East. Lu played ace and another trump to prevent spade ruffs but now Breed just switched to Plan B. She won the second club in dummy and led a low diamond. Lu won the king and Breed carefully unblocked the ten. She won the spade return, played a diamond to the queen and claimed; +130. The lack of dummy entries would have made 2♥ doubled, though the double must be more cards than hearts given the previous negative double. Both declarers made ten tricks; +420 for Gu but +590 for Breed and 5 IMPs to USA1.

#### Board 62. Love All. Dealer East.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>North</th>
<th>South</th>
<th>West</th>
<th>East</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>S.</td>
<td>Zhang Yalan Gu Ling</td>
<td>Berkowitz</td>
<td>Letizia</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

A curious looking contract. Zhang cashed a top heart and switched to a trump. Lisa Berkowitz won in hand and ruffed a heart. She came back to the ♠A to ruff another heart then cashed a second club. From there she could only take two trump tricks; one down for -100.

### Open Room

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>North</th>
<th>South</th>
<th>West</th>
<th>East</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>S.</td>
<td>Zhang Yalan Gu Ling</td>
<td>Berkowitz</td>
<td>Letizia</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Both Easts started with a Precision 2♠. The difference came later when Sun decided that she hadn’t bid all of her hand yet. Over 4♣ she doubled for a second time, while Berkowitz was content with just one effort in the other room.

Sun was right in a sense, because 4♣ proved to be unbeatable and East/West have a cheap save in 5♣. Alas, Lu chose to declare doubled, though the double must be more cards than hearts given the previous negative double. Both declarers made ten tricks; +420 for Gu but +590 for Breed and 5 IMPs to USA1.

#### Board 53. N/S Vul. Dealer South.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>North</th>
<th>South</th>
<th>West</th>
<th>East</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>S.</td>
<td>Zhang Yalan Gu Ling</td>
<td>Berkowitz</td>
<td>Letizia</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

After a fairly dull set of deals, USA1 had moved into a narrow lead. They won the set by 35-14 and the overall score was 96-87 in their favour.
On the whole, this was not a very interesting set. There were just four major incidents.

Board 52. Game All. Dealer West.

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

Closed Room

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>West</th>
<th>North</th>
<th>East</th>
<th>South</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Multon</td>
<td>Meckstroth</td>
<td>Mouiel</td>
<td>Rodwell</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 ♠</td>
<td>1 ♠</td>
<td>2 ♠</td>
<td>2 ♠</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pass</td>
<td>Pass</td>
<td>Dbl Pass</td>
<td>Pass</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2NT</td>
<td>Pass</td>
<td>3NT All Pass</td>
<td>All Pass</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

North led the ♥ Q, and when South followed with the 7, switched to the ♦ 6. West cashed all his minor suit winners ending in hand and led a spade. No luck there; -100.

Open Room

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>West</th>
<th>North</th>
<th>East</th>
<th>South</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Hamman</td>
<td>Perron</td>
<td>Wolff</td>
<td>Chemla</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 ♦</td>
<td>1 ♦</td>
<td>2 ♦</td>
<td>2 ♦</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pass</td>
<td>Pass</td>
<td>Pass</td>
<td>Pass</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2NT</td>
<td>Pass</td>
<td>3NT</td>
<td>All Pass</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Perron was not put off a heart lead by Hamman’s opening bid. Alas, he selected the two of hearts and after everyone followed to a round of clubs, Hamman claimed the 7, switched to the ♦ 6. West cashed all his minor suit winners ending in hand and led a spade. No luck there; -100.

Board 59. Love All. Dealer South.

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

Perron was not put off a heart lead by Hamman’s opening bid. Alas, he selected the two of hearts and after everyone followed to a round of clubs, Hamman claimed the contract; 12 IMPs for USA1.

Board 61. Game All. Dealer North.

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

Michel Perron (France)

Both teams reached a normal 4♠, but as you can see the 4-1 trump break is certain to spell defeat for declarer. Chemla and Rodwell both went through the motions, but whereas -50 was recorded in the Open Room, the result posted from the Closed Room was +420.

Zia and the rest of the commentary team could think of no possible explanation, even with the help of the play record. Eventually they surmised there must have been a revoke, and a short while later they discovered that exactly what had happened; 10 unexpected IMPs for USA1.

Board 63. N/S Vul. Dealer South.

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

Hamman’s first response promised three ‘controls’. After a natural sequence he thought his hand was too good to simply pass 3NT, and Wolff certainly had the right hand to leap to 6♣. With only a singleton club Hamman converted to 6NT.

On this layout the contract had a play on either a spade or a heart lead (North must unblock the ♦ K on the second round of the suit) and was cold on a club lead. Of course Chemla led the ♥ Q and the hand was over. Wolff went through the motions but had to concede one down. 12 IMPs to France.

Board 65. Game All. Dealer South.

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

A simple matter of judgment decided the outcome on this board.

In the Open Room West took no part in the auction and declarer eventually came to 11 tricks.

In the replay Multon considered he was too good to pass 3NT. Facing a passed partner East might have passed 4NT, but he was only the ♥ 10 short of being in a making contract. His partner’s ♦ K could have been the ♦ K or the ♥ Q, so he could perhaps consider himself to be a little unlucky. 11 IMPs for USA1 who won the set 39-17 to edge ahead 121-112.

Closed Room

<table>
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<tr>
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<td>3♠</td>
<td>3NT Pass</td>
<td>All Pass</td>
</tr>
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<tr>
<td>Pass</td>
<td>1♠</td>
<td>Pass</td>
<td>Pass</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2NT</td>
<td>Pass</td>
<td>2♠</td>
<td>Pass</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3NT</td>
<td>Pass</td>
<td>3♠</td>
<td>Pass</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Multon marked time with his bid of 2NT, but when Mouiel rebid clubs he knew the hands did not fit well and he settled for game. North led the ♥ 4 which was allowed to run to South’s queen. Declarer won the heart return and cashed his winners in that suit, discarding two clubs and a spade. He took a winning club finesse and cleared the clubs. He ended with ten tricks; +630.

Board 66. Game All. Dealer North.

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

Tunisian honesty

Kathie Wei-Sender lost her wallet yesterday. She went back to the last place she had been and inquired if anyone had turned it in. The waiter who found the wallet returned it to her with a smile. Absolutely nothing was missing.
Photograph courtesy of Kodak's new digital camera

Alain Levy (France)

This was another fascinating set of deals which kept the vugraph audience on the edge of their seats from start to finish. USA2 led by 9 IMPs going in but that was nothing with scope for swings on almost every deal.

jeff meckstroth didn’t bother to show his clubs, preferring a simple diamond raise. christian mari found an aggressive responsive double and so alain levy became declarer in 4€ as west. here, the lead was a diamond. levy won the ♠A, cashed the ♠A and crossed to the ♦A to ruff dummy’s small diamond. now he exited with a trump. meckstroth cashed the ♦Q but was then ended-played; +420 for a well-played push.


Open Room

Closed Room

West North East South
Hamman Mouiel Wolff Multon
Pass Pass 3♣ All Pass

1♣ 3NT 10 5

4♣ would have been down very quickly on the obvious heart lead so the americans did very well to get to 3NT after having found their spade fits. multon led a low heart to the ten and jack. Wolff led a spade to the ace then passed the ♠10. the ♠8 was covered by jack and queen and Wolff followed up with the king and then jack of spades. multon had the lead but what was he to do with it? Realising that he almost certainly could not defeat the contract, he took what looked like his best chance and laid down the ♠A. declarer had nine tricks now, two hearts, three spades and four diamonds, using the ♦9 as an entry to take another diamond finesse. Nicely done and a tremendous result for Hamman/Woff. USA2 gained 1.2 IMPs to regain the lead.

Board 68. Game All. Dealer West.

Open Room

West North East South
Levy Meckstroth Mari Rodwell
Pass Pass Dbl Pass

1♠ 4♦ All Pass

Both Easts played 4♠. multon led the ♦8 to mouiel’s ace. mouiel switched to the ♣J to declarer’s ace. Wolff led the ♦J and mouiel won and this time tried a spade switch. Wolff rose with the ace, drew trumps ending in dummy and took two diamond pitchings on the clubs; +620.

eric rodwell led a spade in the other room. mari won dummy’s jack and led a club, meckstroth taking his ace. back came a diamond to the ace and now mari’s problem was how to get to dummy to take his discards on the clubs. as we can see, the winning line is to play the ♦K then ♦J from hand to force an entry. But that only works because the ace is doubleton. mari

France vs USA II

Bermuda Bowl final (set 5)

FRANCE vs USA II

1997 World Bridge Championships

Saturday, 1 November 1997

Herve Mouiel showed a diamond raise with reasonable clubs with his 1♣ bid. Bobby Wolff did not bid at this stage but Bob Hamman doubled again and now Wolff bid 4♠. frank multon led a club. Wolff rose with the ace and played the ♠A followed by the ♠K. Now he played a low club to Mouiel’s king. Mouiel cashed the ♠K then exited with a club. Wolff threw a heart on the ♦Q, played a spade to hand and ruffed his little diamond. Next he played ace and another heart and the defence could only get one heart trick. Mouiel won the queen and had to give a ruff and discard; +420.


Open Room

West North East South
Levy Meckstroth Mari Rodwell
Pass Pass 3♣ All Pass

1♦ +620

jeff meckstroth didn’t bother to show his clubs, preferring a simple diamond raise. christian mari found an aggressive responsive double and so alain levy became declarer in 4€ as west. here, the lead was a diamond. levy won the ♠A, cashed the ♠A and crossed to the ♦A to ruff dummy’s small diamond. now he exited with a trump. meckstroth cashed the ♦Q but was then ended-played; +420 for a well-played push.


Open Room

Closed Room

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Hamman Mouiel Wolff Multon
Pass Pass 3♣ All Pass

1♣ 3NT 10 5

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Board 68. Game All. Dealer West.

Open Room

West North East South
Levy Meckstroth Mari Rodwell
Pass Pass 3♣ All Pass

1♦ +620

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France vs USA II

Bermuda Bowl final (set 5)
tried the \( \spadesuit K \) but got not a flicker from either Meckstroth or Rodwell. Now he changed tack, playing three rounds of diamonds. Meckstroth won the diamond, Rodwell pitching a club, and played a spade through. Mari won the ace and ruffed his fourth diamond, Rodwell throwing another club. Now Mari threw his \( \spadesuit Q \) on the \( \spadesuit K \) then played the \( \spadesuit Q \) to Meckstroth’s ace. But Rodwell was out of clubs now and a club through promoted his \( \spadesuit 8 \) to defeat the contract; -620 and another 12 IMPs to USA2.

### Closed Room

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>West</th>
<th>North</th>
<th>East</th>
<th>South</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Hamman</td>
<td>Moul</td>
<td>Wolff</td>
<td>Multon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dbl</td>
<td>Pass</td>
<td>Pass</td>
<td>1( \spadesuit )</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1( \spadesuit )</td>
<td>2( \spadesuit )</td>
<td>4( \spadesuit )</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Wolff’s \( \spadesuit 1 \) opening was strong and \( \spadesuit 1 \) a semi-positive (they play \( \spadesuit 1 \) as the negative response). The French pair got up to \( \spadesuit 4 \) very quickly, via a fit-showing-jump from Multon, and Wolff doubled. But there was no defence to \( \spadesuit 4 \); doubled; +590 for Mouiel.

### Open Room

<table>
<thead>
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<tbody>
<tr>
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<td>Meckstroth</td>
<td>Mari</td>
<td>Rodwell</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1( \spadesuit )</td>
<td>2( \spadesuit )</td>
<td>5( \spadesuit )</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The natural \( \spadesuit 1 \) opening worked better here than had the strong club. It allowed Levy/Mari to find the spade fit and get up to \( \spadesuit 4 \) fast, putting Rodwell under pressure. He didn’t like it, but he could hardly not bid \( \spadesuit 5 \). After all his opponents could have had nine spades between them instead of eight, his partner could have had six hearts, and also he hated his diamond holding for defence. Levy doubled \( \spadesuit 5 \) to discourage any further enterprise from his partner. The defence quickly took their three top tricks; -100 and 12 IMPs to France.

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>West</th>
<th>North</th>
<th>East</th>
<th>South</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Pass</td>
<td>Pass</td>
<td>1( \spadesuit )</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1( \spadesuit )</td>
<td>2( \spadesuit )</td>
<td>4( \spadesuit )</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1\( \spadesuit \) was strong and the double showed either one minor, both majors, or just a big heart. Levy transferred to spades, though it took a long time for Mari to convince himself that this was their agreement. Rodwell’s pass of \( \spadesuit 2 \) suggested that he had the majors so Meckstroth leaped to \( \spadesuit 4 \) on the next round. It was too late, however, as the French pair had already found their club fit. \( \spadesuit 4 \) made exactly; +400.

### Board 71. Love All. Dealer West.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>West</th>
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<th>East</th>
<th>South</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Levy</td>
<td>Meckstroth</td>
<td>Mari</td>
<td>Rodwell</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1( \spadesuit )</td>
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</tr>
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### Closed Room

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<th>South</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Hamman</td>
<td>Moul</td>
<td>Wolff</td>
<td>Multon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1( \spadesuit )</td>
<td>2( \spadesuit )</td>
<td>4( \spadesuit )</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Hamman/Wolff were allowed a free run in the Closed Room. \( \spadesuit 6 \) is a little worse than the diamond finesse but is by no means an unreasonable spot. Multon led his singleton diamond and Wolff had no option but to finesse. Multon got a diamond ruff now and there was a spade to lose at the end for two downs; -100 and 11 IMPs to France, who led by 2 IMPs.
Board 78. Love All. Dealer East.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>West</th>
<th>North</th>
<th>East</th>
<th>South</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Hamman</td>
<td>Mouiel</td>
<td>Wolff</td>
<td>Multon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1♣</td>
<td>Pass</td>
<td>2♣</td>
<td>Pass</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4♠</td>
<td>All Pass</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Both Norths reached a fair 3NT. If the defense cannot take five heart tricks on the go it needs the club finesse. The lead at both tables was a spade and both declarers won and ran the ♦. Wolff ducked that. Multon led his second club with high hopes but these were dashed when Hamman showed out. Multon cashed out for three off now; +300. Mari took the ♦Q immediately and returned a spade. After cashing the spades, Levy played ace and another heart to the king for four down (a low heart switch nets six down); -400 and 3 IMPs to France.

Press conference

The WBF press conference will be held at the Royal Azur at 13.00 today. 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.
France consolidated their position in the sixth session of the final. There were few swings, but all the important ones went in their direction.

**Board 84. Game All. Dealer West.**

\[
\begin{array}{c}
\text{West} & \text{North} & \text{East} & \text{South} \\
F & A & 4 \& & 2 \& & 7 \& & 6 \& & 107 \\
N & A & J & 9 \& & 2 \& & 8 \& & J & 3 \\
E & A & 2 \& & 6 \& & 5 \& & 3 \\
S & 109 \& & 10 \& & 8 \& & 5 \& & 3 \\
\end{array}
\]

North led the \( \spadesuit 10 \) to the jack, queen and ace and when declarer played a diamond to the king South won and a second trump. Declarer won in dummy with the king and played ace of hearts and ruffed a heart. He came to seven tricks and was -100.

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

\[
\begin{array}{c}
\text{West} & \text{North} & \text{East} & \text{South} \\
F & J & 9 \& & 7 \& & 5 \& & 3 \\
N & K & 10 \& & 9 \& & 4 \& & 2 \\
E & 10 \& & 6 \& & 3 \& & 2 \\
S & Q & 8 \& & 5 \& & 3 \& & 2 \\
\end{array}
\]

Rodwell also led the \( \clubsuit 3 \) and Meckstroth took his ace and cashed the ace of spades before exiting with the queen of clubs. Given his partnerships' style of overcalls, there is a chance Mari would have gone wrong if Meckstroth had switched to the seven of spades, but now he was able to cash all his clubs and play a low diamond to the ten and jack. When South returned the four of diamonds, declarer could play the queen and claim. One IMP for USA11.

**Board 85. N/S Vul. Dealer South.**

\[
\begin{array}{c}
\text{West} & \text{North} & \text{East} & \text{South} \\
F & A & K & Q \& & 9 \& & 8 \& & 6 \& & 4 \\
N & J & 1 & & 6 \& & 5 \& & 3 \\
E & 10 \& & 9 \& & 8 \& & 7 \& & 6 \& & 5 \\
S & Q & J & & 8 \& & 7 \& & 6 \& & 5 \& & 4 \\
\end{array}
\]

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

\[
\begin{array}{c}
\text{West} & \text{North} & \text{East} & \text{South} \\
F & A & Q & 10 \& & 5 \& & 4 \\
N & K & 5 \& & 4 \& & 3 \\
E & 6 \& & 5 \& & 4 \& & 3 \\
S & Q & J & & 8 \& & 7 \& & 6 \& & 5 \& & 4 \\
\end{array}
\]

Rodwell went the whole hog at his table but his luck was out. Levy doubled and led the eight of diamonds. South won and cashed the queen of clubs. Then he returned the four of diamonds and overruffed by the king and ace. Declarer tried the ten of diamonds, but South won and forced declarer with a club. That meant five down, -500.

When Meckstroth overcalled, Mari introduced his spades. He showed a distributional hand on the next round, although he was perhaps a little short of values for that action. Levy resisted the temptation to double 2NT but could not resist taking a shot at 3\( \spadesuit \) on the next round. He was probably hoping for +500 but as it was things were not so simple.

Mari led the three of clubs and Levy won with the ace and cashed the ace of spades. He then went back to clubs and Mari won and switched to the ten of diamonds. Meckstroth won and could now have got home by playing a low heart from dummy and finessing the eight. He then returns to dummy with another diamond finesse and ruffs a club. He takes two spades ending in dummy and ruffs his last club. Now a heart to the king leaves West endplayed.

It was not to be. He ruffed a club, and played a heart to the king and ace. Levy won and returned a diamond which prevented any possible trump reduction. One down, -200 and 7 Imps to France.

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

\[
\begin{array}{c}
\text{West} & \text{North} & \text{East} & \text{South} \\
F & A & K & Q \& & 9 \& & 8 \& & 6 \& & 4 \\
N & J & 1 & & 6 \& & 5 \& & 3 \\
E & 10 \& & 9 \& & 8 \& & 7 \& & 6 \& & 5 \\
S & Q & J & & 8 \& & 7 \& & 6 \& & 5 \& & 4 \\
\end{array}
\]

**Board 91. Game All. Dealer East.**

\[
\begin{array}{c}
\text{West} & \text{North} & \text{East} & \text{South} \\
F & A & Q & 10 \& & 5 \& & 4 \\
N & K & 5 \& & 4 \& & 3 \\
E & 6 \& & 5 \& & 4 \& & 3 \\
S & Q & J & & 8 \& & 7 \& & 6 \& & 5 \& & 4 \\
\end{array}
\]

South led the \( \diamondsuit 3 \) and North took the ace and returned the five. Declarer put in the jack and went after the clubs. He emerged with ten tricks, +630.
France had taken a healthy 38-IMP lead during the previous set, and they increased that margin on the very first board.

Board 97. Game All. Dealer North.

At both tables there was a competitive auction, N-S bidding diamonds and E-W bidding hearts. France finally bought the contract at one table for $4\spadesuit$ doubled - +590. As the other table they went on to $5\spadesuit$, and the Americans bought the contract in both rooms, but they went for $4\spadesuit$. He lost the obvious four tricks - minus 50.

In the Closed Room Nickell won the opening heart lead and led a club to the king and took a losing finesse in $3\spadesuit$, so Wolff was down one.

Both North-Souths refused to let their opponents escape here. Hamman and Mari both found themselves down three tricks – minus 800 for a push.

Hamman’s $2\spadesuit$ showed a good hand with an unidentified major suit. On his second turn he felt his hand was worth a jump, so he played in $3\spadesuit$. He ducked the $Q$ opening lead. A club continuation would have worked out well, but Perron shifted to a trump. Hamman knocked out the trump ace, and ruffed the spade return. After drawing two rounds of trumps, he misguessed the clubs by leading the 9, losing to the 10. Perron led another spade for Hamman to ruff. In the end game, Hamman lost a diamond and another club for down two. France bought the contract at $2\spadesuit$ in the Closed Room and scored up nine tricks for an 8-IMP pickup. France’s lead now was up to 59.

Board 98. N/S Game. Dealer East.


Board 104. Love All. Dealer West.

Board 106. Game All. Dealer East.


Board 109. Love All. Dealer West.

USA II bought the contract in both rooms, but they were set both times. There were five natural losers in $3\spadesuit$, so Wolff was down one.

In the Closed Room Nickell won the opening heart lead led a club to the king and took a losing finesse in spades. On the heart continuation he got rid of a club, and he pitched a diamond on the next heart. He won the diamond switch and led the $K\spadesuit$, ruffed by West. The play report ended here, but the final result was minus 200 for another 6 IMPs to France.

The Americans made their first gain of the set here. The defense was able to take two diamonds and a ruff, two trumps, a heart and two clubs – plus 500.11 IMPs to USA II.