France win Bermuda Bowl despite American rally

France held off a strong American rally over the last 16 boards to win the Bermuda Bowl, 328-301. This was France’s second success in this event – their first victory came 41 years ago in 1956. They defeated the United States on that occasion also.

France clearly was a team of destiny. This year for the first time five European teams were qualified at the Europeans to play in the Bermuda Bowl – the first time that the European allowance had been raised to five. And France finished fifth! Now they’re world champions. The new champions are Paul Chemla, Christian Mari, Hervé Mouiel, Alain Lévy, Michel Perron and Frank Multon, with npc Jean-Louis Stoppa.

That makes two consecutive world titles for France – they defeated the Indonesia in the Olympiad final last year.

Both teams appeared before the vugraph audience and they were greeted with thunderous applause. The French team arrived one by one, and each got a standing ovation. Chemla got a huge cheer when he kissed Omar Sharif on both cheeks – they have been frequent partners over the years.

WBF President José Damiani translated the general feeling of the French players toward their American opponents: “They’re happy you didn’t play all the time the way you did in the last segment.”

Mari said that the Americans and French have played many times – sometimes they win and sometimes they lose – but the spirit and the sportsmanship is always top-grade.

Walt Walvick, non-playing captain of the American team, congratulated the French and then yelled, “Vive la France!” On his team were Eric Rodwell, Jeff Meckstroth, Bob Hamman, Bobby Wolff, Nick Nickell and Richard Freeman. This is the same team that won the Bermuda Bowl in China two years ago.

France carried a 51-IMP lead into the final set – a huge amount of IMPs to pick up in only 16 boards. But the Americans earned several major swings so that a couple of game swings could have made the difference. But the game swings didn’t come – the French were too steady – and the Bermuda Bowl mantle fell on French shoulders.

Burgay win Transnational Open Teams

The team captained by Leandro Burgay of Italy started fast and just kept going – after 32 boards of the 48-deal final they led 132-40. That seemed like too much for Krzysztof Jassem of Poland, and that team conceded without playing the last 32 boards.

On the winning team were Burgay, Dano DeFalco of Italy, Franco Mariani of Italy and Martin Lesniewski of Poland. The losing team: Jassem, Piotr Tuszynski, Ireneusz Kowalozyk and Marek Witek.
José Damiani
President of the World Bridge Federation

In a few minutes, after this ceremony, the Tunisian World Bridge Championships will be over. At that moment we will all have mixed feelings. We are very happy to have spent two weeks with you in this marvellous country, to have seen good bridge in the best spirit of a fair competition.

On the other hand we are sad, sad that this is the end of a wonderful story. Indeed, there is no doubt that you all say that these Championships were brilliant and that you want to come back here for ever.

Our Tunisian hosts deserve all the credit for that, starting of course with Mr Minister Slah Mbâoui, Minister of Tourism and Artisanat, who was the patron of the event and whom I would like to thank warmly for his exceptional support, together with the Office National du Tourisme Tunisien.

Clearly the President of the Fédération Tunisienne de Bridge, Hosni Zouari, has gained many white hairs in these days. He will be a very happy man tonight. We are glad to honour him and the Organising Committee.

Finally – and it is unusual for us – we want to reward the personnel and the management of the Groupe les Orangers through the Chairman, Mr Abdelhamid Khechine. We have had here all the facilities and help we needed to ensure the best conditions of play.

And we had also the best crew in all the fields:

Tournament Directors under the leadership of Bill Schoder – Kojak – or Maxavin
Vu-Graph Commentators organised by Jean-Paul Meyer with guest stars such as Zia Schoder – Kojak – or Maxavin
Vu-Graph Commentators organised by Jean-Paul Meyer with guest stars such as Zia

And everythi ng was sent to the Internet thanks to Panos Gerontopoulos, who is responsible for our WBF Web Site, and also to Bridge Plaza and Koen Gijisman.

Claude Dadoun was the man through whom we got all the results so quickly even in our rooms.

And everything was sent to the Internet thanks to Panos Gerontopoulos, who is responsible for our WBF Web Site, and also to Bridge Plaza and Koen Gijisman.

They all took advantage of the Daily Bulletin which was written every day by Henry Francis and his squad.

If the Appeals Committee did not have too much work, it was because of the fine preparation by Eric Kakah, Anna Gudge and Chris Diment on the systems, which were more simple, with no HUM systems and few brown stickers – which, however, did not affect the quality of the Bridge.

On behalf of my colleagues, I am more than happy to congratulate now the winners, the medallists, and to thank all of you, the players, for your participation which certainly gives you all the hopes for the future.

And you know that this future will be highlighted by our entry into the Olympic Winter Games as has been predicted by the Vice-President of the IOC, Mr Hodler, who visited us so kindly here as well as our first star, Omar Sharif, who will give the Trophy for the First Transnational Teams, while Mr Slah Mbâoui will honour with me the winners of the Bermuda Bowl and Venice Cup Gold Medals.

Next year we will meet again in Lille for the World Championships and then, in January 2000, the Bermuda Bowl goes Home... to Bermuda for its 50th Anniversary!
Hammamet, Tunisia 1997

Saturday, 1 November 1997

nance again I have been granted the great pleasure of presenting the members of the French Bermuda Bowl team, the new Bermuda Bowl champions. I will start with a brief description of our players. This will lead me to a history of French international bridge during the past 20 years or so. I am sure you will forgive me.

Here are a few characteristics of our six champs (not being completely mad, I will present them in alphabetical order).

We shall begin with Paul Chemla (he’s just lucky once again for, in the alphabetical order he would be completely outclassed by the Norwegian Terje Aas and many others). Well, Paul, 53 and unmarried, has undoubtedly been an international bridge figure since the early Seventies.

He was an accomplished student – he graduated from the celebrated Ecole Normal Superieure, one of the most famous, if not the most famous, high schools in France. He also has earned the title of Agrégé de Lettres. All this could have led to his becoming, one day or another, at least minister of National Public Education... but he decided to reserve his teaching talent for all bridge lovers.

Of course he gives no lessons or conferences. He believes the best way to understand bridge is to watch him when he is playing. This, and some other details, earned him the nickname of enfant terrible du bridge. He started shining at the international level around 1979 and now lives in Cannes (there are worse places around the world). Their two-and-a-half-year-old son Jeremie calls his father here every day to deliver him his latest instructions.

A really fantastic player, Christian won the European Championship as far back as 1974 in Herzlia and among other things the famous 1980 Olympiad in Valkenburg, facing Paul Chemla. He then retired from active competition from 1982 to 1989 (when he was second facing Jean-Christophe Quentin in Turku). He came back in 1995 and everybody knows what he has done since then.

What these six guys did for French international bridge these 20 years is incredible.

Axa – the champion!

O

The AXA French Open Team

by Pierre Schemeil

A really fantastic player, Christian won the European Championship as far back as 1974 in Herzlia and among other things the famous 1980 Olympiad in Valkenburg, facing Paul Chemla. He then retired from active competition from 1982 to 1989 (when he was second facing Jean-Christophe Quentin in Turku). He came back in 1995 and everybody knows what he has done since then.

HERVE MOUIEL, 48, had started medical studies but stopped three or four years later to concentrate (most successfully) on high-level bridge. A very, very talented player, he married Isabelle after the victory in Salsomaggiore to the delight of Jean-Claude Amsden (Dominque says he should inverse the order, but we don’t believe her).

MICHEL PERRON, 46. It is difficult to find the adequate word to describe his enormous bridge talent and he also has very good humorous qualities. He and his wife Martine live in Paris, and they are an example of calm and happiness.

Last but not least we find FRANK MULTON, 33, runs a bridge club in Nice with his wife Catherine and their six-year-old daughter. He too is a very impressive player and one of our best guarantees for the future.

And here they are, the seven of them, trying to beat the “enormous” USA team consisting of Nickle-Freiman and the two “monster” pairs – Hamman-Wolff and Meckstroh-Rodwell.

Although I like the Americans, I naturally wanted my team to win. This is the second lesson in modesty for your humble servant. I am supposed to be their “advisor”. However, Stoppa, after listening politely to two or three of my general opinions about captaincy, never really felt the need to seek my advice. Since then I have been forced to advise myself... just to see. Next time I must find some other way to start on the team. Supervisor? Maybe – but supervisor of what?

At the last minute we find some other way to start on the team. Supervisor? Maybe – but supervisor of what?

Finally we must thank once more the AXA Insurance Company, the second largest in the world, who strongly support our Open team year after year. We owe very much of our success to them.

Insurance and bridge have the same approach – analysis before synthesis, calculation of probabilities, checking before the contract.

AXA – the champion!

After my retirement from captaincy, it did not take me long to realise that my boys could do at least as well without me! True, we had two bad years – in 1991 and 1993 – but in the meantime Chemla-Perron and Lévy-Mouiel, helped by Pierre Adad and Maurice Aujelieu, brilliantly won the 1992 Olympiad under the very inspired captaincy of José Damiani himself.

That was not the end of it. Three years later I finally convinced JEAN-LOUIS STOPPA, a retired physician and a great international champion himself, to accept the captaincy of the French team. His success was complete – Mari-Bompis, Lévy-Mouiel and Swarc-Multon brilliantly won the Olympiad title in Rhodes last year. Stoppa, captain again in the Europeans at Montecatini... His success was complete – Mari-Bompis, Lévy-Mouiel and Swarc-Multon brilliantly won the Olympiad title in Rhodes last year. Stoppa, captain again in the Europeans at Montecatini, but he was a little less successful, probably because, apart from Chemla-Perron, there were two brand new partnerships – Mari-Lévy and Mouiel-Multon. Nevertheless our men managed to qualify at the last minute.

The AXA French Open Team

by Pierre Schemeil

Frank Multon, 33, runs a bridge club in Nice with his wife Catherine and their six-year-old daughter. He is a very impressive player and one of our best guarantees for the future.
The vugraph theatre was packed to the rafters for the final 16 boards of the Venice Cup final. The audience were hoping for a close encounter and they raised the roof when China, after picking up a couple of IMPs on the first deal, made big inroads into the American lead on the second board.

**Board 114. N/S Vul. Dealer East.**

West: Q 10 7 6
North: K 8
East: Q J 5 3
South: Q 10

West: A K 8 5
North: 3 2
East: Q J 10 5
South: 9 2

West: K J 7 3
North: 9 2
East: A 9 8 6
South: 7 4 3 2

Closed Room

<table>
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<tr>
<th>West</th>
<th>North</th>
<th>East</th>
<th>South</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2NT</td>
<td>Dbl</td>
<td>Pass</td>
<td>Pass</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rdbl</td>
<td>Pass</td>
<td>2NT</td>
<td>Pass</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3NT</td>
<td>Pass</td>
<td>All Pass</td>
<td></td>
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West's game-forcing Stayman bid of 2NT allowed North to get in a lead-directing double. That put paid to 3NT which had to go down on a diamond lead.

**Open Room**

West: A 7 6 2
North: AK
East: 3
South: A K

West: Q J 10 8 3
North: J 6 4 2
East: 7 3 2
South: 5

West: K 9
North: K 10 9
East: J 9 6 5 4
South: 8 7 4

Closed Room

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<th>West</th>
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<th>South</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pass</td>
<td>1NT</td>
<td>1NT</td>
<td>Pass</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2NT</td>
<td>3NT</td>
<td>3NT</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>All Pass</td>
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The inference was surely clearer this time, as South had already shown a stopper and North had not bid 3NT. Lady luck was smiling though, as West found the spades and collected all the other tricks they were due. 10 vital IMPs for USA!

**Board 115. E/W Vul. Dealer South.**

West: A 7 6 2
North: AK
East: 3
South: A K

West: Q J 10 8 3
North: J 6 4 2
East: 7 3 2
South: 5

West: K 9
North: K 10 9
East: J 9 6 5 4
South: 8 7 4

Closed Room

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

As you can see, the defence have three tricks and they collected them all. +620

**Open Room**

West: A Q 10 7 4
North: K 10 6 5
East: K 6
South: 6 2 4 3

West knew East had some values and she was tempted to try a speculative double. Her idea was clear, lead the singleton diamond, get in with the king of spades and put partner in for a diamond ruff. The singleton diamond in dummy must have been a disappointment and perhaps this caused the defenders to take their eye off the ball, as they allowed declarer to discard her losing heart on the queen of clubs. -990 and 9 IMPs

The match was already over when this deal appeared. It produced the biggest swing of the match.

**Board 125. Game All. Dealer North.**

West: A Q 10 7 4
North: K 10 7 2
East: K 6
South: 6 2 4 3

West led 2NT South went for the shadow rather than the substance, and the Chinese drove to a poor slam. East led the king of hearts and after winning with the 3A declarer could have got home by running the nine of diamonds and then picking up the trumps. Too tough, and she drifted two down.

**Open Room**

West: 1NT
North: 2NT
East: 3NT
South: All Pass

The Chinese did not escape. 2NT was a desperate attempt to improve things that didn't work. North led the K and continued with the six. declarer won and played a heart to the king and ace. South switched to her spade and Declarer put up the king, losing to the ace, and North cleared the diamonds. When West played a club, North went up with the king and cashed her winners before playing a club. South had the rest. +1800!

There would be no new name on the Venice Cup. USA! were the 1997 World Champions!
Transnational Tales

Aggressive bidding was backed up by fine declarer play on this deal from the Transnational Teams.

**Game All. Dealer West.**

- ♠ 742
- ♦ 7
- ♥ A K 10 9 7 3
- ♦ A 7 2
- ♥ A Q J 6 3
- ♦ Q J 10 7 3
- ♦ Q 4
- ♦ 6
- ♥ 8
- ♦ A K 8 6 5 2
- ♥ K 10 9 8 3

**West**

- Lannemae
- Guyet
- Long
- Queenan

**North**

- 2 ♠
- 2 ♠
- 3 ♠
- Pass
- Pass
- 5 ♠
- Pass
- Pass
- 6 ♠
- All Pass

**East**

- Pass
- Pass
- Pass

**South**

- Pass
- Pass
- Pass

---

Giles Queran’s 3♠ bid promised diamond support, and at his next turn he was able to indicate that he had a good hand with a club suit. When his partner showed support for clubs he decided to try for the slam bonus. Guided by the bidding, he elected to play West for a singleton club. +1370.

He was pleasantly surprised to discover that at the other table his team mates had been allowed to play in 3♠, recording +140!

**Love All. Dealer South.**

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

A simple auction saw South, one of the reigning World Pairs Champions, Mark Szynawski, partnered by another Polish star, Adam Zmudzinski, declaring 4♠.

They were opposed by two members of the all-British Women’s team, Greta King and Su Burn.

Greta found the trump lead, which went to the queen and king. Declarer crossed to dummy with a club and played a diamond to the eight, ten and king.

He won the trump return and went back to dummy with a heart to play the remaining diamond. Sue Burn calmly played the 9, and after much agonising, declarer guessed wrong, playing low from hand. Sue was able to get in a third round of trumps and the contract had to fail.

In the replay the defenders allowed declarer to establish the diamond suit. The swing of 10 IMPS put the British girls on course to finish as the leading women’s team.

---

**TRANSNATIONAL TREASURES**

by Tony Gordon

Two hands from the final round of the WTOTC produced imaginative declarer plays, but with contrasting results.

**N/S Val. Dealer North.**

- ♠ A J 7
- ♦ K Q J 10 8 7 6
- ♥ N W E S
- ♦ 9 7 6 4
- ♥ K 9 8 7 6 3
- ♦ 9 5 3 2
- ♥ 7 6 5 4
- ♦ K 7 3
- ♥ K Q 9 8 7 6 4
- ♦ K Q J 9 8 7 6
- ♥ A Q J 9 5 4 2
- ♦ A Q J 8 5 3
- ♥ A Q

**West**

- North
- East
- South

- Macnair
- Steel
- Rees
- King

- Pass
- Pass
- Pass
- All Pass

The first hand comes from the match between Macnair and Forrester and features Andrew Macnair of Great Britain who opened 4♣ last in hand and received the lead of the ♦K from Les Steel. Winning with the ace would result in losing a spade ruff if North held five spades, and playing low would lose a spade ruff if North held five spades and a red ace and continued the suit. However, there was another possibility... at trick one Macnair followed with the ♦J! Steel was lulled into continuing with a low spade, and now Macnair could win with dummy’s ten and discard his ♦A on the ♦A, thereby avoiding having it ruffed when Steel won the ♦A.

The full hand was as follows:

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

Unfortunately, a defensive error allowed 4♣ to make at the other table, so the board was flat.

The second hand comes from the match between Goodman and Ekeblad and features Michael Seamon of the USA.

**Transnational Spirit**

51 IMPS down going into the final segment of the Bermuda Bowl final, USA2 needed to get a good start. That is exactly what they achieved.

**Board 145. Love All. Dealer North.**

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

In the Closed Room, the French East/West pair played in 3♠, which failed by a trick when declarer misguessed the trumps: -50.

On vugraph, Hampton and Wolff got to 3NT. Wolff opened the East hand with 1NT, wide-range, and Hampton just blasted 3NT.

The defence cashed four rounds of spades and switched to a heart through the ace. Wolff won the ♦A and ran five rounds of diamonds. Now it was all down to the clubs and Wolff duly got them right. He cashed the ♦A and followed with the jack; +400 and 10 IMPS to USA2.

The Americans showed great spirit in the last set and closed to only 21 IMPS down at one stage but could not get any closer.
50 IMPs down overnight, USA2 still had time to get back into the match but a good start to the penultimate set was important. Alas, for American hopes, the first big swing went against them.


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<tr>
<th>West</th>
<th>North</th>
<th>East</th>
<th>South</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mari</td>
<td>Meckstroth</td>
<td>Levy</td>
<td>Rodwell</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1NT</td>
<td>Pass</td>
<td>2NT</td>
<td>3♣</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pass</td>
<td>2♣</td>
<td>Pass</td>
<td>5♥</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5♥</td>
<td>Pass</td>
<td>6♥</td>
<td>All Pass</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Christian Mari opened with 1NT when some would open with a strong two-level bid. That was important here as it meant that the French pair could locate the heart fit early. Jeff Meckstroth overcalled 1NT, either natural or, as here, 'comic'. 2NT was a forcing raise and Mari showed his heart fit early. Jeff Meckstroth overcalled 1NT, either natural or, as here, 'comic'. 2NT was a forcing raise and Mari showed his heart fit early. When Hamman cashed the hearts, dummy was squeezed so the contract was two down; -200.

Board 132. Game All. Dealer West.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>West</th>
<th>North</th>
<th>East</th>
<th>South</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Q 10 6 2</td>
<td>K 73</td>
<td>A Q 4</td>
<td>A Q</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A 83</td>
<td>A 10 6 5 4</td>
<td>K 3</td>
<td>K 82</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Bob Hamman had to open with a strong club bid as the heart fit was only unearthed at a high level. Michel Perron made a preemptive jump overcall of 3♠ and Paul Chemla continued the pre-emption, bidding 5♠. Now Hamman made a forcing pass then bid his hearts. Bobby Wolff raised to 6♣ and Hamman could do no more; +140 but 13 IMPs to France. Surely Wolff was worth a 6♣ cuebid over 5♥?

Perron's double then bid combination could have delivered a stronger hand than his actual one and Chemla tried for game. The lure of a vulnerable game was irresistible to Perron now and he went on to 3NT. Hamman led a low heart and Wolff won the queen and returned the suit to the ten and king. Chemla played the ♣Q, ducked, and a second spade to the king and ace. When Hamman cashed the hearts, dummy was squeezed so the contract was two down; -200.

The auction began the same in the other room but Rodwell passed Meckstroth's 2♣. That was a comfortable contract after the ♣Q lead and Meckstroth actually made an overtrick; +140 and 8 IMPs to USA2.


<table>
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<th>West</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>J 72</td>
<td>A J 6</td>
<td>J 8 5 4 3 2</td>
<td>K 7 6 5 4 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10 9 7 5 4 2</td>
<td>Q 10 8</td>
<td>Q 10 6 3</td>
<td>K 7 6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Q 10 6 3</td>
<td>K 8 3</td>
<td>K 9</td>
<td>Q 10 7 6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Wolff had an awkward blockage in diamonds – you have to duck twice to make four tricks despite the 2-2 split. Accordingly, Wolff looked elsewhere, leading a low heart at trick two. Perron won the ace and cleared the spades and Wolff played a second heart to his queen. Chemla ducked so Wolff crossed to a top club to play another heart. When he won his ♦K, Chemla tried the ♣K to simplify the defence. It certainly did that, as Wolff now had the rest; +210.

Closed Room

West | North | East | South |
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mari</td>
<td>Meckstroth</td>
<td>Levy</td>
<td>Rodwell</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dbl</td>
<td>3♣</td>
<td>Pass</td>
<td>INT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5♥</td>
<td>All Pass</td>
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Rodwell opened a mini-no trump and Mari doubled. Meckstroth's jump to 3♣ proved to be counter-productive. Levy bid his diamonds and Rodwell competed with 4♣. Now Mari jumped to 5♣. That has three losers, of course, but that assumes a heart lead. When Rodwell led a club, Levy could pitch a heart on the second club then give up a heart. He won the spade switch, ruffed a heart and led a low diamond from hand. When Rodwell played low, Levy rose with the queen and cashed the ♦A, making twelve tricks for +620 and 9 IMPs to France.

Board 136. Love All. Dealer West.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>West</th>
<th>North</th>
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<th>South</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>K 7 6 5 4 3</td>
<td>10 9 8 4</td>
<td>–</td>
<td>–</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>–</td>
<td>A 3 J 7</td>
<td>–</td>
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It looks as though 5♣ doubled should go three down after the lead of ace and another trump but, of course, Rodwell couldn't know that the ♣Q was singleton and when Levy led it at trick three he covered; two down for -300.
ruffing. Now he draws trumps and must lead dummy’s last diamond, discarding a heart. East is endplayed and has to give a ruff and discard. Declarer pitches his last heart while ruffling in dummy. A club towards the jack secures his tenth trick.

All of that proved to be academic as Wolff led his other singleton. There was no problem now and Perron soon chucked up his game; +240 and 3 IMPs to France.

Board 141. Game All Dealer North.

\[
\begin{array}{c|c|c|c}
\text{N} & \text{E} & \text{S} & \text{W} \\
\hline
\text{A K 8 4} & \text{Q 9 8} & \text{A 10} & \text{J 10 6} \\
\text{9 7} & \text{6 3} & \text{K 7 4} & \text{Q 8 7 6 5} \\
\end{array}
\]

In the Closed Room, Perron opened 1NT and played there, making nine tricks for +150. Meckstroth got to game in the Closed Room. Meckstroth opened the North hand with a strong club and Rodwell responded 2\[, ostensibly 8-10 balanced. Meckstroth jumped to 3NT and that ended the auction. On a spade lead declarer needs to pick up the club queen and, of course, take the heart finesse. But Levy chose a heart lead to the queen and ace and now Meckstroth had some options. He led the ♦Q from hand and Mari won and continued hearts. Meckstroth established the heart lead to the queen and ace and now Meckstroth played a spade to the king. Hamman played another spade for the uppercut. Wolff ruffed a low club bringing down the king. With that hand when partner makes a positive response, he also went down one trick on a low trump lead for a push.

His counterpart at the other table had a bid for a hand like this – 2\[. Virgil knows that it’s dangerous to open 2\[ on a two-suit, but he didn’t want to chance his hand like this – 2\[. Virgil first told Barbara Nudelman of the United States, Virgil was willing to cooperate. When the ♦A and led a second spade, but South ruffed in with the ♦6, so Virgil was forced to win with the ♦J. He got rid of three spades on the ♦J, the ♦A and the ♦K. But there was no way to take care of his ♦Q, so he went down one trick.

The bidding at the other table was interesting.

\[
\begin{array}{c|c|c|c|c}
\text{West} & \text{North} & \text{East} & \text{South} \\
\hline
\text{3} & \text{Pass} & \text{3} & \text{Pass} \\
\text{4} & \text{Pass} & \text{6} & \text{All Pass} \\
\end{array}
\]

After getting a positive response from partner Barbara Nudelman of the United States, Virgil first told about his spades, then leaped to 6\[ to give Barbara a choice of the majors at the six level. He almost made it, but he was done in by the bad spade break and the trump spot cards with South. South led the ♦A and continued the suit. Dummy’s jack was covered with the queen and Virgil ruffed. He cashed the ♦A and led a second spade, but South ruffed in with the ♦6, so Virgil was forced to win with the ♦J. He got rid of three spades on the ♦J, the ♦A and the ♦K. But there was no way to take care of his ♦Q, so he went down one trick.

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\[
\begin{array}{c|c|c|c|c}
\text{West} & \text{North} & \text{East} & \text{South} \\
\hline
\text{3} & \text{Pass} & \text{3} & \text{Pass} \\
\text{4} & \text{Pass} & \text{6} & \text{All Pass} \\
\end{array}
\]

As noted above, 2\[ was strong. 3\[ was natural. 3\[ showed his second suit. West, after much thought, raised to 4\[; of course was willing to cooperate. When you come right down to it, how can you stay out of slam with that hand when partner makes a positive response? He also went down one trick on a low trump lead for a push.

6-6 hands are difficult

Virgil Anderson of the United States, a member of the WBF Executive Council, was confronted with this hand in the Transnational Open Teams:

\[
\begin{array}{c|c|c|c|c}
\text{N} & \text{E} & \text{S} & \text{W} \\
\hline
\text{A K 8 4} & \text{Q 9 8} & \text{A 10 9 2} & \text{J 10 6} \\
\text{9 7} & \text{6 3} & \text{K 7 4} & \text{Q 8 7 6 5} \\
\end{array}
\]

His counterpart at the other table had a bid for a hand like this – 2\[. Virgil knows that it’s dangerous to open 2\[ on a two-suit, but he didn’t want to chance his hand like this – 2\[. Virgil first told Barbara Nudelman of the United States, Virgil was willing to cooperate. When the ♦A and led a second spade, but South ruffed in with the ♦6, so Virgil was forced to win with the ♦J. He got rid of three spades on the ♦J, the ♦A and the ♦K. But there was no way to take care of his ♦Q, so he went down one trick.

The bidding at the other table was interesting.

\[
\begin{array}{c|c|c|c|c}
\text{West} & \text{North} & \text{East} & \text{South} \\
\hline
\text{3} & \text{Pass} & \text{3} & \text{Pass} \\
\text{4} & \text{Pass} & \text{6} & \text{All Pass} \\
\end{array}
\]

After getting a positive response from partner Barbara Nudelman of the United States, Virgil first told about his spades, then leaped to 6\[ to give Barbara a choice of the majors at the six level. He almost made it, but he was done in by the bad spade break and the trump spot cards with South. South led the ♦A and continued the suit. Dummy’s jack was covered with the queen and Virgil ruffed. He cashed the ♦A and led a second spade, but South ruffed in with the ♦6, so Virgil was forced to win with the ♦J. He got rid of three spades on the ♦J, the ♦A and the ♦K. But there was no way to take care of his ♦Q, so he went down one trick.

The bidding at the other table was interesting.

\[
\begin{array}{c|c|c|c|c}
\text{West} & \text{North} & \text{East} & \text{South} \\
\hline
\text{3} & \text{Pass} & \text{3} & \text{Pass} \\
\text{4} & \text{Pass} & \text{6} & \text{All Pass} \\
\end{array}
\]

As noted above, 2\[ was strong. 3\[ was natural. 3\[ showed his second suit. West, after much thought, raised to 4\[; of course was willing to cooperate. When you come right down to it, how can you stay out of slam with that hand when partner makes a positive response? He also went down one trick on a low trump lead for a push.

Making declarer guess on the opening lead

George Retek of Canada, treasurer of the World Bridge Federation, also plays bridge well, as this hand from the Transnational Open Teams shows.

\[
\begin{array}{c|c|c|c|c}
\text{N} & \text{E} & \text{S} & \text{W} \\
\hline
\text{A K 8 4} & \text{Q 9 8} & \text{A 10 9 2} & \text{J 10 6} \\
\text{9 7} & \text{6 3} & \text{K 7 4} & \text{Q 8 7 6 5} \\
\end{array}
\]

Since North went to 7\[, Retek knew that North must hold the ♦A – so he led his small diamond! Declarer thought, “Who ever leads away from a king against a grand slam?” So of course he went up with the ace and attempted to negotiate a squeeze. This didn’t work because East was able to protect clubs. This was a 20-IMP pickup! At the other table the final contract was 7\[ again, and West made the more prosaic lead of a trump. After reversing the dummy in an attempt to set up a squeeze, declarer eventually decided to take the diamond finesse for his 13th trick, and of course it worked.

Special Transnational winners

Special congratulations are being given to the top finishers in three categories of the Transnational Open Teams:

- **Women’s**: Sue Burn, Sandra Penfold, Beryl Kerr, Gretta King and Kitty Godfrey.
- **Mixed**: Sabine Aukens, Jens Aukens, Kirsten Moller, Lauge Scheller and Morten Andersen.
- **Senior**: Jean-Marc Routinenco, Claude Delmouly, Pierre Adad, Maurice Augaleu and Marc Schneider.

Everybody is welcome!
Both teams wanted a quick decision and agreed to fight it out over only 32 boards. Norway took a commanding lead over the first half of the match, and the biggest swing came on this board:

Board 12. Game N/S. Dealer West.

Both teams wanted a quick decision and agreed to fight it out over only 32 boards. Norway took a commanding lead over the first half of the match, and the biggest swing came on this board:

Board 12. Game N/S. Dealer West.

In the Open Room the Norwegians produced this undisturbed bidding:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>West</th>
<th>North</th>
<th>East</th>
<th>South</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Zia</td>
<td>Saelensminde</td>
<td>Rosenberg</td>
<td>Brogeland</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pass</td>
<td>Pass</td>
<td>2 NT</td>
<td>Pass</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pass</td>
<td>3 NT</td>
<td>Pass</td>
<td>4 NT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pass</td>
<td>5 NT</td>
<td>Pass</td>
<td>6 NT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pass</td>
<td>7 NT</td>
<td>All Pass</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2NT showed a strong hand with heart support, 3NT asked for cuebids (second or first-round control), 4 NT was RKCB and 6 NT asked Erik to bid seven with a third-round control. Accurately bid and after the opening of the AQ, Saelensminde quickly took his 13 tricks.

In the Closed Room one of Groetheim-Aa system gadgets caused insurmountable trouble for the American pair:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>West</th>
<th>North</th>
<th>East</th>
<th>South</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Groetheim</td>
<td>Soloway</td>
<td>Aa</td>
<td>Deutsch</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 NT</td>
<td>Pass</td>
<td>3 NT</td>
<td>Pass</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pass</td>
<td>6 NT</td>
<td>All Pass</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2 NT showed a weak hand with one four-card major, and after Aa's jump to 3 NT, the N-S grand slam suit, Deutsch was left with an awkward decision. He also collected 13 tricks in notrump, but that was 16 IMPs to Norway.

The bidding in the Closed Room:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>West</th>
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<th>East</th>
<th>South</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Deutsch</td>
<td>Aa</td>
<td>Zia</td>
<td>Groetheim</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pass</td>
<td>3 NT</td>
<td>Pass</td>
<td>4 NT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pass</td>
<td>4 NT</td>
<td>Pass</td>
<td>4NT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pass</td>
<td>5 NT</td>
<td>Pass</td>
<td>6 NT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>All Pass</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Zia opened the AQ and there was nothing to the play. 980 for Norway. The American pair in the Closed Room only managed to bid 11 IMPs to the Vikings.

Board 12 showed the importance of not wasting intermediate cards.

Board 8. Love All, Dealer West.

In the Open Room, Zia opened 1NT with the West hand, doubled by Saelensminde and passed out. Erik led the AK and there was nothing to the play. 980 for Norway. The American pair in the Closed Room only managed to bid 4 NT, making 11 IMPs to the Vikings.

As led the 3 of trumps, and since Deutsch had to trump three of his losers with dummy's high spades, the Q8 finally emerged as the setting trick. Had Aa started with the 8 instead of the 3 of trumps, 12 tricks would have been the result.

The bidding in the Closed Room:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>West</th>
<th>North</th>
<th>East</th>
<th>South</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Groetheim</td>
<td>Soloway</td>
<td>Aa</td>
<td>Deutsch</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 NT</td>
<td>Pass</td>
<td>Pass</td>
<td>Pass</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dbl</td>
<td>Pass</td>
<td>INT</td>
<td>All Pass</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

It was more difficult to double after this auction and Aa escaped for minus 100. 5 IMPs to Norway.

In the Open Room, Zia opened 1NT with the West hand, doubled by Saelensminde and passed out. Erik led the ♦A and continued with the 2 as a suit preference signal for clubs. The ♦Q was run to South's king, and Boye and Erik collected the next six tricks for two down and 300 to Norway.

In the Closed Room, Zia-Deutsch in the Open Room bid quickly as E-W:

<table>
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<th>East</th>
<th>South</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Deutsch</td>
<td>Zia</td>
<td>Pass</td>
<td>Pass</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 NT</td>
<td>4 NT</td>
<td>Pass</td>
<td>9 NT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6 NT</td>
<td>All Pass</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

As led the 3 of trumps, and since Deutsch had to trump three of his losers with dummy's high spades, the Q8 finally emerged as the setting trick. Had Aa started with the 8 instead of the 3 of trumps, 12 tricks would have been the result.

Helgemo-Helness bid to 4 NT, making 11 and Norway ended up bronze medallists, winning by 97-67.