

DAILY BULLETIN

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BULLETIN 3

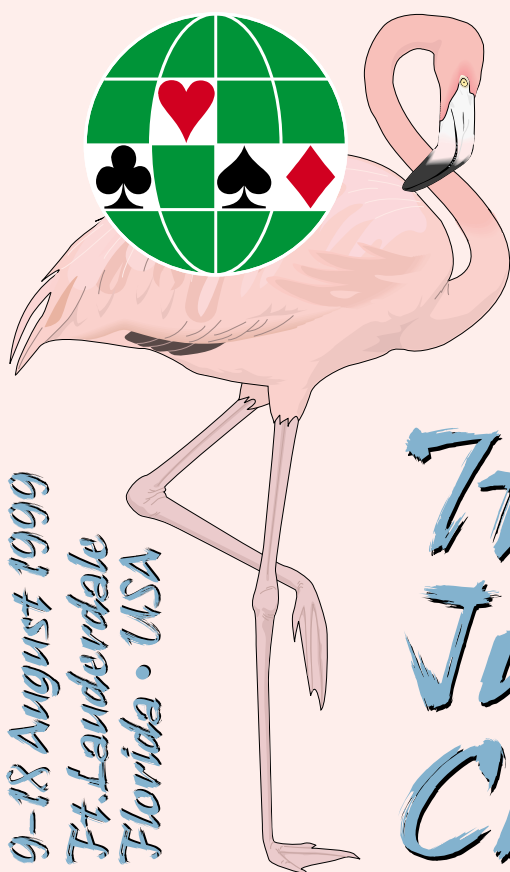
THURSDAY, 12 AUGUST 1999

Today's Program

Round-Robin (session 6)	10.30-13.20
Round-Robin (session 7)	15.00-17.50
Round-Robin (session 8)	21.00-23.50

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9-18 August 1999
Ft. Lauderdale
Florida • USA

China gains on Italy

China had an excellent set against **Australia** last night, crushing the Down Unders, 24-6. However, they gained only 3 Victory Points on **Italy** – the Italians continued their winning ways with a 21-9 victory over **Argentina**. **Italy** now has 108 VPs out of a possible 125 and enjoys a 12.5-point lead over runner-up **China**.

Denmark, the defending champion, has begun to make its move. The Danes blitzed **CAC**, 25-5 and took a solid hold on third place, only 6.5 points behind **China**. **Hong Kong** also is coming on strong. Its 24-6 victory over **Egypt** vaulted them into fourth place, 7.5 points behind **Denmark**.

The top four teams at the end of the 15-match round-robin will move forward into the semifinals next Monday. The final will take place Tuesday and Wednesday.

A large batch of teams are within easy striking distance of the top four. This group includes **Chinese Taipei**, **Argentina**, **Brazil**, **Norway**, **Australia** and **USA 2**.

Today **Italy** will face the two **Canadian** teams and **Chinese Taipei**. **China's** foes will be **Chinese Taipei**, **Argentina** and **Brazil**, the three teams closest to the top four. **Denmark** will take on **Argentina**, **Norway** and **Australia**, three more teams vying for a semifinal berth.



VUGRAPH MATCHES

Argentina - Denmark	10.30
CAC - Egypt	15.00
Israel - Canada I	21.00

7th World Junior Teams Championship



RESULTS



ROUND ROBIN SESSION 5

Match		IMPs		VPs	
1	USA 1 CHINESE TAIPEI	21	98	1	25
2	AUSTRALIA CHINA	36	80	6	24
3	HONG KONG EGYPT	64	17	24	6
4	DENMARK CAC	89	30	25	5
5	ITALY ARGENTINA	68	40	21	9
6	BRAZIL CANADA 1	51	21	21	9
7	CANADA 2 ISRAEL	39	25	18	12
8	NORWAY USA 2	47	51	14	16



TODAY'S PROGRAM

ROUND ROBIN SESSION 6

1	NORWAY	USA 1
2	USA 2	CANADA 2
3	ISRAEL	BRAZIL
4	CANADA 1	ITALY
5	ARGENTINA	DENMARK
6	CAC	HONG KONG
7	EGYPT	AUSTRALIA
8	CHINA	CHINESE TAIPEI

ROUND ROBIN SESSION 7

1	BRAZIL	USA 1
2	CANADA 2	ITALY
3	NORWAY	DENMARK
4	USA 2	HONG KONG
5	ISRAEL	AUSTRALIA
6	CANADA 1	CHINESE TAIPEI
7	ARGENTINA	CHINA
8	CAC	EGYPT

ROUND ROBIN SESSION 8

1	USA 1	HONG KONG
2	DENMARK	AUSTRALIA
3	ITALY	CHINESE TAIPEI
4	BRAZIL	CHINA
5	CANADA 2	EGYPT
6	NORWAY	CAC
7	USA 2	ARGENTINA
8	ISRAEL	CANADA 1

RANKING AFTER SESSION 5

Country	VPs
1 ITALY	108
2 CHINA	95.5
3 DENMARK	89
4 HONG KONG	81.5
5 CHINESE TAIPEI	79
6 ARGENTINA	77
7 BRAZIL	76
NORWAY	76
9 AUSTRALIA	74
10 USA 2	72
11 ISRAEL	67
12 CANADA 2	65
13 EGYPT	63
14 CAC	60
CANADA 1	60
16 USA 1	44

TOMORROW'S PROGRAM

ROUND ROBIN SESSION 9

1	CANADA 1	USA 1
2	ARGENTINA	ISRAEL
3	CAC	USA 2
4	EGYPT	NORWAY
5	CHINA	CANADA 2
6	CHINESE TAIPEI	BRAZIL
7	AUSTRALIA	ITALY
8	HONG KONG	DENMARK

ROUND ROBIN SESSION 10

1	CAC	USA 1
2	EGYPT	ARGENTINA
3	CHINA	CANADA 1
4	CHINESE TAIPEI	ISRAEL
5	AUSTRALIA	USA 2
6	HONG KONG	NORWAY
7	DENMARK	CANADA 2
8	ITALY	BRAZIL

ROUND ROBIN SESSION 11

1	CHINA	USA 1
2	CHINESE TAIPEI	EGYPT
3	AUSTRALIA	CAC
4	HONG KONG	ARGENTINA
5	DENMARK	CANADA 1
6	ITALY	ISRAEL
7	BRAZIL	USA 2
8	CANADA 2	NORWAY

Round 4 **ITALY vs USA 2**

There's only one word to describe this match – incredible! Half the hands are worthy of coverage. Leading the list is Board 14 where Joel Wooldridge of USA 2 made the opening lead that would have defeated the contract perhaps 99 times out of 100. But Bernardo Biondo guessed against the odds and was right - 14 IMPs to Italy.

Board 14. Dealer East. None vul.

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

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Wooldridge	Intonti	Carmichael	Biondo
Pass	INT	Pass	1♦
Pass	2♠	Pass	2♥ ⁽¹⁾
Pass	3♠	Pass	3♥ ⁽²⁾
Pass	4♠ ⁽⁴⁾	Pass	4♦ ⁽³⁾
All Pass			6♣

- ⁽¹⁾ Six or more clubs.
- ⁽²⁾ One heart or no hearts.
- ⁽³⁾ First or second-round control of diamonds.
- ⁽⁴⁾ First or second-round control of spades.

The first time clubs was bid was when Biondo set the final contract. Wooldridge was reasonably certain that Riccardo Intonti's control in spades was the king, not a singleton. He decided to put Biondo to the guess at trick one and led the deuce of spades.

It was the classic situation – king in dummy and jack with declarer. It is rare indeed that a player underleads a side ace against a slam, but Wooldridge thought this was the time. And he was right. Biondo thought it over for a while, realized that Wooldridge could have been thinking along these lines, and calmly called for the king! With 11 tricks elsewhere, this play earned him the slam bonus – and a lot more, as we shall see when we examine the action in the Open Room.

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Mallardi	Willenken	D'Avossa	Greco
Pass	1♥	Pass	1♣
Pass	2♠	Pass	2NT
Pass	3♣	Pass	3♦
Pass	4♣	Pass	4NT
Pass	5♦	Pass	6♣
All Pass			

Matteo Mallardi started with a diamond, a lead that gave nothing away. Eric Greco drew two rounds of trumps, cashed two top hearts and ruffed a heart, took the rest of his diamonds and cashed two more clubs. He had pitched a spade on the ♥K of course, and now he was faced with the spade guess. He had jack-small in his hand and king-10 on the board. When he led the spade, Mallardi knew the situation and played low. Agonizing moments later Greco called for the 10, his partner stating "That's my play", and suffered a one-trick defeat.

This was the most dramatic board of the set, but there was lots more action.

Italy got off to a fast start by taking action over a preempt when the Americans did not.

Board 1. Dealer North. None vul.

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

The auction started the same way in both rooms – North opened 3♠ and South raised the ante by bidding 4♠. In the Closed Room, neither Tom Carmichael nor Wooldridge took any action, so the contract went down one quiet trick. But in the Open Room Mallardi doubled in the fourth seat and Mario D'Avossa leaped to 6♦. D'Avossa quickly claimed all 13 tricks and gave Italy a quick 13-IMP lead.

Something went wrong with the American bidding process in the Open Room on Board 4.

Board 4. Dealer West. Both vul.

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

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Wooldridge	Intonti	Carmichael	Biondo
2♥ ⁽¹⁾	Pass	2♠	Pass
Pass	3♣	Pass	3♠
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

⁽¹⁾ Both majors – either 4-5 or 5-4

Intonti had nine top tricks, and he set up a 10th in diamonds.

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Mallardi	Willenken	D'Avossa	Greco
Pass	1♣	1♦	1♥
2♦	Pass	Pass	Dbl
Pass	3♣	Pass	3♦
Pass	3♠	Pass	4♣
All Pass			

Apparently the Americans were worried about the diamonds, but of course the two half stops were enough to make the difference. This contract went one down, and that was another 12 IMPs to Italy.

It was 12-IMP time again for Italy on Board 5.

Board 5. Dealer North. N/S vul.

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

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Wooldridge	Intonti	Carmichael	Biondo
	1♣	INT ⁽¹⁾	Dbl
3♣ ⁽²⁾	3NT	All Pass	

⁽¹⁾ Either hearts and clubs or spades and diamonds.

⁽²⁾ Pass or correct.

Carmichael led a diamond, and Intonti crossed to the ♣K. The heart finesse failed, and a spade came back to the jack and king. Intonti took his ace and 10 of hearts and led the ♣9, finessing the jack. Since West had discarded a club on a heart, Intonti now had three hearts, four clubs and two diamonds for his game.

Don't be alarmed by the alarm

Today the city of Fort Lauderdale will be testing the hotel's fire alarm system and emergency generating system throughout the day, starting at 9 a.m.

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Mallardi	Willenken	D'Avossa	Greco
	1♣	Dbl	1♥
1♠	3♥	Pass	4♥
All Pass			

Mallardi led the ♠Q, ducked, and switched to a diamond. Greco went up with the ace and led a low heart. D'Avossa rose with the king and cashed the ♦K before switching back to a heart. Greco drew the last trump, cashed the ♦J, and attacked the club situation. He began by cashing the king. When he led the 9, West covered with the 10 and Greco went into deep thought. East had made a takeout double and had shown up with only 10 HCP. Did he have the ♣Q? It seemed likely, considering the bidding. So he went up with the ace and down went his contract.

The Americans were a bit more aggressive than their foes on Board 9, and that led to a 7-IMP swing in their favor.

Board 9. Dealer North. E/W vul.

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

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Wooldridge	Intonti	Carmichael	Biondo
	1♥	Pass	2♦
Pass	2♥	Pass	3♦
All Pass			

Intonti could see no good reason to continue after Biondo rebid his diamonds, so he passed. Biondo made exactly nine tricks.

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Mallardi	Willenken	D'Avossa	Greco
	INT	Pass	2♦
Pass	2♥	Pass	2♠
Pass	2NT	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

Greco bid his four-card spade suit at his second turn instead of showing his diamonds, and that was enough to get Chris Willenken interested. He suggested notrump, and Greco was happy to carry on to game.

The opening club lead went to the queen and ace, and Mallardi continued with the ♣J to the king. Willenken drove out the ♦A and Mallardi cashed his top spades to hold Willenken to nine tricks.

Carmichael and Wooldridge got to a sub-minimum notrump

game on Board 11. With a little help from the defense, the game came home.

Board 11. Dealer South. None vul.

♠ K 7 6 ♥ A J 8 ♦ A 9 5 2 ♣ Q 4 3	<table style="margin: auto; border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> <tr><td style="padding: 2px;">N</td></tr> <tr><td style="padding: 2px;">W E</td></tr> <tr><td style="padding: 2px;">S</td></tr> </table>	N	W E	S	♠ 3 ♥ K 5 ♦ Q 10 8 7 6 4 ♣ K 9 5 2	♠ Q 8 5 4 ♥ 10 6 4 3 ♦ 3 ♣ A J 10 8
N						
W E						
S						
		♠ A J 10 9 2 ♥ Q 9 7 2 ♦ K J ♣ 7 6				

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Wooldridge	Intonti	Carmichael	Biondo
Pass	2♥	Pass	2♣ ⁽¹⁾
2NT	Pass	3♣	Pass
3NT	All Pass		Pass

⁽¹⁾ Spades and hearts - 5-4 or 4-5.

Carmichael and Wooldridge had talked over how they were going to handle some of the Italian devices, but they had not covered this particular situation. Wooldridge meant it to show some general strength, but he told his screenmate his partner might think it was for the minors. When the tray came to the other side, Carmichael told his screenmate he wasn't sure what the bid meant - it might be general strength or it might be for the minors. He bid 3♣ and Wooldridge corrected to 3NT.

Wooldridge won the opening spade lead with the king and took a finesse to the ♣J. A heart finesse to the 8 lost to North's king, and North surprised by continuing with the ♣K. Wooldridge of course took the ace, unblocking his queen, and took the heart finesse. He gave up a diamond, then won the diamond continuation. After cashing the ♥A, he picked up clubs by finessing the 8. He cashed the fourth club, then put South on lead with the ♥Q. South could cash the ♠A, but then had to give Wooldridge the ♠Q for his ninth trick.

The Italians stopped in 3♦ in the other room, just making. Board 12 was perhaps just as exciting as Board 14.

Board 12. Dealer West. N/S vul.

♠ K 8 3 2 ♥ A K Q 10 6 2 ♦ 8 7 ♣ 5	<table style="margin: auto; border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> <tr><td style="padding: 2px;">N</td></tr> <tr><td style="padding: 2px;">W E</td></tr> <tr><td style="padding: 2px;">S</td></tr> </table>	N	W E	S	♠ A J 10 7 6 5 4 ♥ 9 ♦ A 9 6 4 2 ♣ -	♠ - ♥ 8 7 5 4 ♦ 5 3 ♣ K Q 10 9 8 3 2
N						
W E						
S						
		♠ Q 9 ♥ J 3 ♦ K Q J 10 ♣ A J 7 6 4				

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Wooldridge	Intonti	Carmichael	Biondo
1♥	2NT	4♥	5♦
5♥	5♠	6♣	6♦
Pass	Pass	Dbl	All Pass

Of course Carmichael's double was Lightner, asking for an unusual lead. Wooldridge's problem was to decide what was unusual. He knew he couldn't lead a trump, and hearts were out of the question because that was the Americans' suit. It had to be a club or a spade. Carmichael had bid clubs, so it seemed that a spade was the most likely choice.

However, after some thought Wooldridge led a club. Biondo won the ace and got rid of his losing heart, then claimed all 13 tricks for plus 1740. If Wooldridge had led a spade, of course, Carmichael would have ruffed and the ♥A would have been the setting trick.

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Mallardi	Willenken	D'Avossa	Greco
1♥	4♠	5♥	5♠
Dbl	All Pass		

The Americans got a little back here. Willenken made an overtrick when he was able to put his heart loser on the ♣A when East led the ♣K. His only loser was a trump for plus 1050. But that still was a 12-IMP pickup for Italy. If the Americans had defeated the diamond slam, they would have gained 15 IMPs, a swing of 27 IMPs on an opening lead.

USA 2 bought the contract at both tables on Board 16, but the IMPs went to Italy.

Board 16. Dealer West. E/W vul.

♠ Q 7 5 ♥ A K Q 10 9 3 ♦ J 5 ♣ 7 2	<table style="margin: auto; border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> <tr><td style="padding: 2px;">N</td></tr> <tr><td style="padding: 2px;">W E</td></tr> <tr><td style="padding: 2px;">S</td></tr> </table>	N	W E	S	♠ A J 3 2 ♥ 5 ♦ K 9 7 6 ♣ K 8 5 4	♠ K 9 6 ♥ J 7 6 2 ♦ 10 3 ♣ Q J 6 3
N						
W E						
S						
		♠ 10 8 4 ♥ 8 4 ♦ A Q 8 4 2 ♣ A 10 9				

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Wooldridge	Intonti	Carmichael	Biondo
1♥	Dbl	2♥ ⁽¹⁾	3♦ ⁽²⁾
Pass	Pass	3♥	All Pass

⁽¹⁾ Less than a constructive raise with four trumps.

⁽²⁾ Primarily a lead director.

Wooldridge was able to take only six hearts and a spade for down two - minus 100.

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Mallardi	Willenken	D'Avossa	Greco
1♥	DbI	2NT ⁽¹⁾	3♦
Pass	4♦	Pass	5♦
Pass	Pass	DbI	All Pass

⁽¹⁾ Heart fit, invitational to game.

After cashing a top heart, Mallardi switched to a club. Greco won, drew trumps and ruffed a heart. He lost a spade to the queen, and he ducked to East's queen on the club return. Now the good fourth club in dummy let Greco get rid of his last spade, so he suffered only a one-trick set for a 5-IMP loss.

Board 17 was tame in the Closed Room, wild in the Open.

Board 17. Dealer North. None vul.

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

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Wooldridge	Intonti	Carmichael	Biondo
	Pass	Pass	1♦
1♥	1♠	Pass	INT
All Pass			

Biondo took nine tricks after the lead of ♠K.

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Mallardi	Willenken	D'Avossa	Greco
	Pass	Pass	INT
Pass	2♣	DbI	Redbl
All Pass			

Things had not been going well for USA 2, so Willenken decided to shoot it out for a possible major gain at 2♣ doubled and redoubled. The opening spade lead went to the queen, and Mallardi cashed the ♠K. He shifted to a trump to the 9, jack and king. The ♥K went to Mallardi's ace, and he continued with a heart to declarer's queen. Willenken passed the ♦Q, losing to the king, and Mallardi sent back a diamond to the jack. Willenken now led the ♥J, ruffed by D'Avossa and a diamond was sluffed from dummy. D'Avossa led the ♠A and declarer ruffed in dummy with the ace. He still had to lose two more trump tricks for down two - minus 600 for another 12-IMP loss.

Another unusual hand pattern occurred on Board 18, and it caused a great deal of hilarity in the Closed Room.

Board 18. Dealer East. N/S vul.

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

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Wooldridge	Intonti	Carmichael	Biondo
1♠	3♥	Pass	Pass
DbI	4♥	Pass	3NT
5♦	All Pass	4NT	Pass

After the opening lead of the ♥Q was made, Carmichael spread his hand. All four players, the timer, the recorder and this reporter all broke out into laughter loud enough to get shushes from other tables. Wooldridge quickly claimed 12 tricks.

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Mallardi	Willenken	D'Avossa	Greco
	Pass	Pass	Pass
1♠	3♥	4♦	Pass
4♠	Pass	5♣	DbI
5♦	DbI	All Pass	

There was some consternation when D'Avossa ruffed the opening heart lead. When he also trumped the first round of spades, everyone knew the contract was a sound one. He finessed the ♦Q, losing to the king. The ♣K went to the ace and declarer crossruffed for an overtrick - 8 IMPs.

What a wonderful day!



Alligators, cattails, airboats - the visit to the Everglades yesterday was a thrill for all. Most of the Juniors and officials climbed aboard the buses and not long afterward they were sweeping through the flora of the Everglades. Especially exciting was the visit to the alligator handler who frolicked with the gators as if he was playing with his pet dog.

After that the buses took the Juniors to the Sawgrass Mills Outlet for a couple of hours of unabashed shopping. Only then did they head back to the hotel to get ready for yesterday's only match.

Round 5

AUSTRALIA vs CHINA

By Barry Rigal

On vugraph we saw Yu Wei and Yi Ma have a great set against Luke Matthews and Nicholas Croft of Australia.

Board 2. Dealer East. N/S vul.

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

This looks like an easy game for N/S, but Wei opened 1♦ and when South passed, Ma made a preemptive raise to 3♦. Everyone passed but plus 200 lost 10 IMPs since the Chinese bid unopposed to 3NT for plus 660.

Two boards later the Chinese bid more than their counterparts.

Board 4. Dealer West. Both vul.

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

A quirk of notrump ranges (13-15 as opposed to 11-14) meant Ma reached 3NT on the ♦J lead. He correctly won the ♦A and played the odds by ducking a club. He won the spade shift and ducked a second club. Now the defense had five tricks before he had nine winners.

That was the end of the good luck for Australia. A run of huge results saw China build up enough IMPs for a 25-point win before a late recovery by Australia.

Some of it came from a combination of bad luck and poor guesswork. Take Board 6 for example.

ACBL leaders to visit

Val Covalciuc, ACBL president, will join us on Sunday, and David Silber, CEO of the ACBL, will arrive on Tuesday.

Board 6. Dealer East. E/W vul.

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

In the Closed Room Kylie Robb and Leigh Gold stopped reasonably in 3♠. Game is a poor bet. When Wei opened a Multi 2♦ and reached 4♠ on the ♥9 lead to the jack and queen, declarer needed some help. He received it in the form of a spade shift. (In fact, on further analysis a club shift stands out to set up declarer's possible club loser before it goes on the heart.) Now declarer needed only the diamond finesse.

Then even more befell the Australians.

Board 9. Dealer North. E/W vul.

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

In the Closed Room a strong notrump had kept E/W quiet and N/S finished in 3♣, quietly two down. In the Open Room the Chinese reached 3NT after North had opened 1♣ and rebid 2♣. Matthews doubled 3NT for a club lead. Croft read it as Lightner and led a spade. That caused 25 IMP swing. One cannot say who was wrong, but one can say that it was expensive!

Still worse was to come.

Her fourth Junior championship

Charlotte Blaiss, hospitality chairman here, is attending her fourth straight World Junior Team championship. In 1993 she went to Aarhus, Denmark, as a spectator, in 1995 she was in charge of the ACBL teams from the United States in Bali, and she did the same in Hamilton, Ontario, two years ago.

Board 11. Dealer South. None vul.

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

Both tables reached 3NT by West, and Gold on an unhelpful auction won the third heart and played diamonds from the top since he knew he could fall back on the spades. In the Open Room Matthews had shown his approximate major suit shape so declarer won the third heart and finessed in diamonds. Another 10 IMPs to China.

Board 14. Dealer East. None vul.

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

The Australians recovered a little when another quirk of notrump ranges (South showed 15-18 rather than 15-17) saw Croft in 3NT while Jian Hou stopped in 1NT in the other room. It's a great textbook hand. On the ♦2 lead the suit must be 4-4. So don't duck the diamond and give the defense a chance to shift to spades. Win the ♦A and drive out the ♣A. With the diamond split and clubs behaving, you have nine tricks.

Suffice it to say that nine tricks were made, but the sequence of play and defense will not win any awards!

Board 19. Dealer South. E/W vul.

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

The Australians recovered 7 more Imps and pulled back to a 24-6 loss when Croft's valuation of the South cards proved to be more effective than his counterpart's in the Closed Room. Hou opened 1♥, and after Pass - 2♥ - Double, he jumped to 4♥. Everyone passed and he played it well to escape for minus 50.

After 2♥ - Pass - 4♥ in the Open Room, Wei doubled. Ma bid 4♠ and had to go three down when the cards split poorly. Unlucky, but the initial preempt had done the trick.

Don't take him too seriously

Tournament Director Rick Beye is proud of his haircut – not a hair longer than a quarter of an inch. He says he's willing to do the same for anyone who's interested. The good news: we don't think he's serious. The bad news: maybe he is!

The right contract

by Barry Rigal

On Board 4 of Match 4, the Brazilians got to the right contract against Norway for a big gain.

Board 4. Dealer West. Both vul.

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

Brazil found 3NT on the N/S cards, and of course there are eight top tricks. The defense can set up the diamond suit, of course, but in so doing they have to give declarer his ninth trick.

However, this is how the Norwegians bid the hand:

West	North	East	South
	1♣	1♦	1♥
Pass	2♣	Pass	2♦
Pass	2♠	Pass	3♣
Pass	4♣	Pass	5♣
All Pass			

Despite West's failure to bid 2♦ (or double that call at his next turn), Oyvind Saur could not direct his side to 3NT. Had he bid 3♦ over 3♣, he would have hit the jackpot. As it turned out, this contract was set two tricks, so 12 IMPs went on the Brazilian side of the ledger.