

DAILY BULLETIN

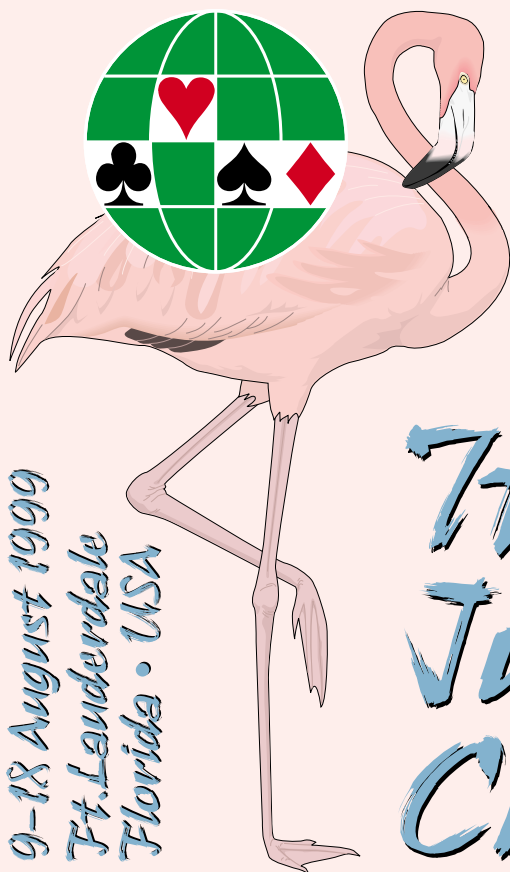
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BULLETIN 7

MONDAY, 16 AUGUST 1999

Today's Program

Semifinals (session 1)	10.30-12.50
Swiss Pairs (rounds 1-2)	11.00-13.10
Semifinals (session 2)	14.10-16.30
Swiss Pairs (rounds 3-5)	15.30-18.50
Semifinals (session 3)	17.00-19.20
Swiss Pairs (rounds 6-7)	21.00-23.10
Semifinals (session 4)	21.30-23.50



Italy vs Israel and USA 2 vs Denmark

It all seemed so cut and dried yesterday, but that all changed today with the announcement that **Chinese Taipei** had been disqualified. This opened up a major battle between Israel and **Norway** for the fourth qualifying spot. Israel scored a convincing victory over **Hong Kong** to make the top four.

The Italians, with their choice of their semifinal opponent, opted for **Israel**. They will take a hefty carryover into their 64-board match today. In their head-to-head match, **Italy** won by 27. Under the carryover formula, half of this – 13.5 IMPs – is carried over because **Italy** finished higher than **Israel**.

The other match will see **USA 2** playing against **Denmark**. They tied for second place, so the tie-breaking procedures went into effect. The first is quotient – total IMPs won divided by total IMPs lost – and that method worked. **USA 2** won 752 IMPs and lost 559 for a quotient of 1.344. **Denmark** won 780 and lost 601 for a quotient of 1.297. That means the American team officially finished second – and that made a difference in the carryover.

In their match against each other, **Denmark** was the winner by 16 IMPs. Since they finished below the Americans in the final standings, only one-third counts as carryover. So **Denmark** will begin the day today 5.33 IMPs ahead of **USA 2**.

Chinese Taipei disqualified

Panos Gerontopoulos, chairman of the WBF Youth Committee, received information that a member of the Chinese Taipei team was over the age limit. This was confirmed by checking the player's passports and then with the acting team captain. The Conditions of Contest were violated and the Chinese Taipei team was disqualified.

Because eight rounds of the round-robin had already been played, it was considered of great importance to preserve the integrity of the competition and to keep the playing field level. Therefore the disqualification of the team was delayed until the conclusion of the round-robin. This meant the Chinese Taipei players would continue to play their hardest.

Although it is unclear whether the Chinese Taipei players or their federation is responsible for this violation, the Chinese Taipei bridge team must take the responsibility. Further discipline, if any, will be determined by the World Bridge Federation Executive Council.

7th World Junior Teams Championship



RESULTS



ROUND ROBIN SESSION 15

	Match		IMPs		VPs	
1	USA 1	EGYPT	54	38	18	12
2	CHINA	CAC	53	49	16	14
3	CHN TAIPEI	ARGENTINA	50	55	14	16
4	AUSTRALIA	CANADA 1	42	62	11	19
5	HONG KONG	ISRAEL	32	56	10	20
6	DENMARK	USA 2	34	18	18	12
7	ITALY	NORWAY	56	41	18	12
8	BRAZIL	CANADA 2	43	37	16	14

FINAL ROUND ROBIN RANKING

Country	VPs
1 ITALY	304
2 USA 2	260
DENMARK	260
4 ISRAEL	243
5 NORWAY	231
6 ARGENTINA	225
7 AUSTRALIA	218.5
8 CHINA	216.5
9 CAC	211.5
10 HONG KONG	198.5
11 CANADA 2	197.5
12 CANADA 1	196
13 BRAZIL	194
14 EGYPT	177
15 USA 1	176.5
16 CHINESE TAIPEI	Disqualified



TODAY'S PROGRAM

SEMIFINALS

1	ITALY	ISRAEL
2	USA 2	DENMARK

Meet Gianarrigo Rona



His grandfather was a lawyer. His father was a lawyer. He is a lawyer. His son is a lawyer. And he hopes his grandson grows up to be a lawyer.

That certainly is a different kind of introduction to Gianarrigo Rona of Italy, who recently became president of European Bridge League, taking over from Bill Pencharz of Great Britain.

Ever since he became involved in bridge administration – and that goes all the way back to 1978 – Rona has

had a major interest in Junior bridge. He was president of the Italian Bridge Federation from 1986 to this year. The achievement that ranks highest in his opinion is the fact that he helped Junior bridge make a major stride four years ago. He convinced the Minister of Public Instruction that bridge should be taught in the schools.

"More than 5000 students a year take the bridge course now," said Rona. "In the four years we have been doing this, we have had more than 15,000 students."

Maybe that helps to account for the major success Italy has enjoyed so far in this tournament. As a matter of fact, Stelio di Bello, who is 18, is a product of the school lesson program.

Before he became an administrator, Rona was a player. "I started playing in 1968, and I climbed to the first category in Italy. I played in many international tournaments, and I competed in the World Pairs at the 1978 World Championships in New Orleans. Shortly after that was when I started to get more involved in administration and less involved in playing."

He became a director in the Italian Bridge Federation in the late Seventies, became vice president in 1984 and took over as president two years later. Now he is a member of the World Bridge Federation Executive Council as well as EBL president. At the world level, he has served on many important committees such as the Laws Committee and the Appeals Committee.

He also has served as non-playing captain for some of Italy's teams in world competition – Seattle in 1984, Miami in 1986 and Salsomaggiore, Italy, in 1992.

The Italian bridge population has come a long way since Rona took over. In 1986 the Italian Bridge Federation had 10,000 members. Now the organization has 35,000 active members.

Rona is married to Cippi. "Her name is Claudia, but we call her Cippi," said Rona. He has two children – Matteo (the lawyer) and Claudia, who teaches chemistry at the university level.

"I still do some law work, but I have a great organization," said Rona. "They take care of the law, so I work with bridge. Within the family I leave the law to my son."

Round 13

Norway vs China

by Barry Rigal

This match was all about reaching a series of marginal slams. Norway drew first blood.

The next swing was a judgment issue.

Board 6. Dealer East. E/W vul.

♠ J 8 4 2	♠ K Q 9 5	♠ 10
♥ J 5 4	♥ A K 2	♥ Q 8 7 6 3
♦ Q J 4 2	♦ 9 5	♦ K 10 7 6
♣ 6 2	♣ 9 7 5 3	♣ 10 8 4
	<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around;"> NE </div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around;"> WS </div>	
	♠ A 7 6 3	
	♥ 10 9	
	♦ A 8 3	
	♣ A K Q J	

In the Closed Room Jian Hou, South, treated his hand as a 16-18 notrump (it's a bit good, don't you think?) A simple Stayman auction led to 4♠. By contrast Boye Brogeland opened 1♣ and jumped to 4♠ over the 1♠ response. Now Oyvind Saur drove to 6♠, and he was able to cope with the 4-1 trump break easily enough. He got his 12th trick from the heart ruff. Board 9 saw the other side of the coin.

Board 9. Dealer North. E/W vul.

♠ J 10 4 3	♠ K 9 8	♠ Q 7 6 2
♥ J 9 7 6	♥ A 10 3	♥ K 8 2
♦ 4	♦ A Q J 5	♦ 9 3 2
♣ Q J 8 6	♣ A 5 3	♣ 10 7 4
	<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around;"> NE </div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around;"> WS </div>	
	♠ A 5	
	♥ Q 5 4	
	♦ K 10 8 7 6	
	♣ K 9 2	

Haomin Xu opened a 16-18 notrump with the North hand and was raised to 3NT. But Saur started with 1♦ and got to rebid 2NT after an inverted raise. Brogeland bid 3♦ and Saur tried 3NT. Brogeland might well have passed at this point - or he could have bid 4NT. Instead he cuebid 4♣, and that led inexorably to a hopeless slam.

Thank you, Jo Ann

Jo Ann Casen is very much a part of the vugraph show, but you never see her. She sits in the Open Room and relays all the necessary information about bids and plays to the computer operator in the vugraph room.

Board 11. Dealer South. None vul.

♠ A K 8 4	♠ Q J 10 7 6 5	♠ 3 2
♥ 10 8	♥ J 5 3 2	♥ A Q 9 4
♦ K 5	♦ 10	♦ 7 4
♣ A K 7 5 3	♣ Q 8	♣ J 10 9 6 4
	<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around;"> NE </div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around;"> WS </div>	
	♠ 9	
	♥ K 7 6	
	♦ A Q J 9 8 6 3 2	
	♣ 2	

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Ma	Saur	Wei	Brogeland
2♣		2♥	3♦
Dbl	Dbl	5♣	All Pass

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Kristoffersen	Xu	Charlsen	Hou
2♣		4♣	5♦
Dbl	All Pass		

5♣ went one down on the diamond ruff. But 5♦ was a disaster! Kristoffersen could take all his black suit winners and exit with the second top club. When he got in again with the ♦K, he could exit in clubs safely and sit back and wait for three heart tricks - and 800.

Another patented Thomas Charlsen weak two got in his opponents' way on Board 14.

Board 14. Dealer East. None vul.

♠ Q 2	♠ K 7 6	♠ 10 9 8 5 3
♥ 10	♥ A K 8 7 6 5 3 2	♥ Q 9
♦ A K 7 6 3	♦ J	♦ Q 10 9 8
♣ Q J 9 4 2	♣ 7	♣ 10 6
	<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around;"> NE </div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around;"> WS </div>	
	♠ A J 4	
	♥ J 4	
	♦ 5 4 2	
	♣ A K 8 5 3	

The Chinese bought the hand for 4♥, making six. Meanwhile in the other room:

West	North	East	South
Ma	Saur	Wei	Brogeland
		Pass	1♣
1♦	1♥	3♦	Pass
Pass	4♦	Pass	6♣
Pass	6♥	All Pass	

Brogeland's jump to 6♣ was sensible since he had a good hand for clubs if 4♦ was a cuebid for clubs, and he had enough for slam if Saur was setting hearts as trumps. That was a further 11 IMPs to Norway.

Two boards later there was even more to come.

Board 16. Dealer West. E/W vul.

♠ A Q 9 7 6	♠ K 8 5 4	♠ 10 3 2
♥ 7	♥ 2	♥ K Q J 9 8 4 3
♦ Q 3	♦ 9 8 5 4 2	♦ 6
♣ 10 8 6 5 2	♣ A K Q	♣ 4 3
	<div style="display: inline-block; border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; text-align: center;"> N W E S </div>	
	♠ J	
	♥ A 10 6 5	
	♦ A K J 10 7	
	♣ J 9 7	

Kristoffersen and Charlsen stole the pot by opening 2♠ and responding 3♥, non-forcing. That ended it for minus 200. In the other room it went:

West	North	East	South
Ma	Saur	Wei	Brogeland
Pass	1♦	3♥	4♥
Pass	4♠	Pass	4NT
Pass	5♦	Pass	6♦
All Pass			

A rather speculative bid, but a solid 920 added 12 more IMPs. That left Norway with 30-IMP lead. They upped the margin on the next deal.

Board 17. Dealer North. None vul.

♠ A 10 9	♠ 5	♠ Q J 3 2
♥ A K J 9 8	♥ Q 4 3	♥ 7 6 5 2
♦ J 9 7	♦ A K 8 6 4 2	♦ 3
♣ 6 3	♣ A 7 4	♣ Q 9 8 2
	<div style="display: inline-block; border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; text-align: center;"> N W E S </div>	
	♠ K 8 7 6 4	
	♥ 10	
	♦ Q 10 5	
	♣ K J 10 5	

While Kristoffersen stole the hand in 3♥ as West, Saur judged the auction well as North:

West	North	East	South
Ma	Saur	Wei	Brogeland
2♥	1♦	Pass	1♠
Pass	Pass	3♥	Pass
	4♦	All Pass	

Brogeland gave 5♦ a thought (you can make it on the club finesse), but even plus 130 was worth 7 IMPs.

The Norwegians attempted to hand some of their lead back by bidding 3NT with a "stopper" of Q-10 facing two small, then opening 3♦ with six to the 9-8 and a singleton ♥K as the only high card. That should have cost 1100, but Brogeland escaped for 800. But on the last deal the Chinese doubled a partscore and did not find the toughest defense. The 7 IMPs to Norway left Norway as the victor, 21-9.

An old-timer at age 13

Agustin Madala of Buenos Aires, Argentina,, who celebrated his 13th birthday on August 2, has been playing bridge longer than his partner, 25-year-old Luis Argerich.

"He started playing bridge as soon as he was big enough to hold the cards - that was when he was 8," said his proud father Adolfo. Luis, a computer analyst, didn't take up the game until four years ago. Agustin and Luis are members of the Argentina team that has ranked near the center of the standings throughout most of this tournament.

Agustin loves the game and he's good at it. "My father started teaching me and he's a good teacher," said Agustin. "He's a bridge professor and a tournament director." Luis added that Adolfo also is an accomplished commentator for South American vugraph shows.

Agustin plays a strong club with four-card majors.

Has he ever played with any top-ranked players?

"I played once in the National Selection Pairs with Carlos Cabanne," he said. Cabanne has been a major figure in Argentine bridge for dozens of years. "We came in third," Agustin added.

There's another good bridge player in the family. His 16-year-old brother Adolfo has played in the South American Junior Championships with Luis.

Agustin, who is entering his last year of primary school, hopes to be an architect some day. Or maybe a soccer star.

"He's very good in soccer," said his father. "They call him Maradala, a combination of his name and the name of our world famous soccer star, Maradona. He plays a little golf, too, but he's just started that."

Round 14

Denmark vs China

Both rooms found their Moysian fit in hearts on Board 2. They played that game instead of 5♣ in their 6-2 fit or 3NT. The notrump game comes in because of the location of the ♥A – duck spades until the third round and drive the ♥A. The club game is just as easy – you get a side suit pitch on the long heart. So much for that analysis – on to the real world.

Board 2. Dlr. East. N/S vul.

♠ 9 6 5		♠ A 8 4
♥ A 9 7 3		♥ K Q 10 8
♦ Q 8 6 2		♦ A J 7 4
♣ 9 8		♣ Q 2
♠ 10 2	<div style="display: inline-block; text-align: center;"> N W E S </div>	♠ K Q J 7 3
♥ J 6 5		♥ 4 2
♦ 10 3		♦ K 9 5
♣ A K J 6 4 3		♣ 10 7 5

In the Closed Room North found himself on lead. His spade holding was not as attractive as his partner's so he led a low trump. This made declarer's task easy. The third round of trumps was won and the spade shift came too late for the defense.

In the Open Room the contract was declared from the normal side with the ♠K lead. Yu Wei won the second round, hoping for something good in the suit, and led the ♥K, which Morten Madsen ducked. He also ducked smoothly as the ♥J held the next trick.

However, his partner let him down when he won the third round of trumps and played the ♠9. Konow needed to overtake and lead another spade, forcing declarer to ruff or pitch – either way, the contract would have been set. Madsen did his best and led a diamond, but declarer was able to go up with the ace, pull the last trump and claim. What could have been a 10-IMP gain turned into a push.

On Board 5 Madsen uncharacteristically missed his chance to beat a game.

In the Closed Room, it wasn't clear to whom the hand belonged. Hagen and Bjarnarson went to 5♦ over the spade game that was going to make because of the spots in the trump suit. In the Open Room, however, the spade suit became what should have been a source of tricks for the defenders against 4♥.

Board 5. Dlr. North. N/S vul.

♠ K 5 2		♠ 9 7 6
♥ J 6		♥ Q 8 4 3
♦ K Q 6 4		♦ 8 3
♣ A 9 4 3		♣ K Q 7 2
♠ A Q 8 4 3	<div style="display: inline-block; text-align: center;"> N W E S </div>	♠ J 10
♥ A K 10 9 7		♥ 5 2
♦ –		♦ A J 10 9 7 5 2
♣ 10 6 5		♣ J 8

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Bjarnarson	Shen	Hagen	Chen
	1♦	Pass	INT
2♠	Pass	3♠	3NT
4♠	Pass	Pass	5♦
Pass	Pass	Dbl	All Pass

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Ma	Madsen	Wei	Konow
	INT ⁽¹⁾	Pass	3♦ ⁽²⁾
4♦	Pass	4♥	All Pass

⁽¹⁾ 12-14

⁽²⁾ to play

5♦ went off two vulnerable tricks, 500 to Denmark. In the Open Room the ♦A was trumped in dummy, followed by the ♥A and king. The ♣K held the next trick and a diamond was trumped to lead another club. But Madsen ducked again and declarer won the queen, felling the jack. However, he was in trouble when he played a club to the 10. Again, because of the spade spots, the contract would come home by playing a spade to the queen and king. When the other spade honor shows up doubleton, the 9 becomes the game-going trick. Madsen gave declarer a ruff-sluff with the ♦K, (Konow played the ♦J under it), taking dummy's last trump. The ♣9 would have produced the same result – down one – as long as Wei played a low spade off dummy. He did that and Madsen just needed to duck to his partner's jack or 10. But he went up with the king and the game came in. So Denmark gained only 2 IMPs when they could have won 11.

The next board was a lost slam opportunity for both sides.

Board 6. Dlr. East. E/W vul.

♠ A K J 10 7		♠ 5
♥ 6 3		♥ K Q 9 8 7
♦ J 10 9 2		♦ 4 3
♣ Q 8		♣ A K 10 4 2
♠ 9 4 2	<div style="display: inline-block; text-align: center;"> N W E S </div>	♠ Q 8 6 3
♥ J 10 5 4		♥ A 2
♦ Q		♦ A K 8 7 6 5
♣ J 7 6 5 3		♣ 9

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Bjarnarson	Shen	Hagen	Chen
		1♥	2♦
2♥	2♠	3♣	4♣
Pass	4♦	Pass	4♥
Pass	4♠	All Pass	

You have to hand it to Yinlei Chen – he sure gave it the old college try. In the Open Room the Danes never showed any slam interest.

On the next board China lost a chance in the Open Room. In the other room China had a power auction that revealed they were off the whole spade suit for notrump, so they rested in their minor. It also kept their opponents silent

Board 7. Dlr. South. Both vul.

<p>♠ J 10 ♥ K 9 7 5 ♦ 10 9 7 ♣ A Q 9 3</p>			
<p>♠ A 9 5 ♥ A 8 6 2 ♦ 6 4 ♣ J 7 6 5</p>			
<p>♠ K 8 7 6 3 2 ♥ 4 3 ♦ K Q 8 3 2 ♣ —</p>			
<p>♠ Q 4 ♥ Q J 10 ♦ A J 5 ♣ K 10 8 4 2</p>			
<p>Open Room</p>			
West	North	East	South
Yi Ma	Madsen	Yu Wei	INT ⁽¹⁾
Pass	Pass	2♠ ⁽²⁾	Pass
3♣	All Pass		

⁽¹⁾ 12-14

⁽²⁾ spades and a minor

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Bjarnarson	Shen	Hagen	Chen
Pass	2♣	2♠	INT
Pass	Dbl	Pass	Pass
Pass	3♠	Pass	3♣
All Pass			4♣

Yu Wei got a raise from his partner but still refused to bid on. Several sayings fit this hand – "6-5 come alive" and the newer "points schmoints". Both are true as a general rule.

A notrump game bid in both rooms but made in one produced the next swing.

Board 10. Dlr. East. Both vul.

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

Konow, South, decided to go after the spade suit and his counterpart, Chen Shen, North, went after the other black suit. Both players got a diamond lead. Konow won the diamond in dummy

and rode the ♣9. If spades were no worse than 4-3, he had only to lose one and knock out the ♦A for his nine tricks. That came to pass when he played a small spade off the dummy. East was quite helpless now. In order to get his tricks he had to give declarer one, so declarer ended up getting nine before the defense got their five.

In the other room the first two tricks were the same, but the declarers parted ways here, Chen went to dummy with the ♥A and played on clubs before working on spades. This seems like a give-up play, but maybe he miscounted his tricks.

Another game swing came on the very next board for Denmark. Both sides made 11 tricks in clubs but the Closed Room pair got to game.

Board 11. Dlr. South. None vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Ma	Madsen	Wei	Konow
2♣	2♠	3♣	Pass
4♣	All Pass		Pass

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Bjarnarson	Shen	Hagen	Chen
2♣	Pass	2♦	Pass
2♥	Pass	3♣	Pass
3NT	Pass	5♣	All Pass

There was virtually nothing to the play. The differences came in the bidding. In the Open Room West made a game try in clubs and East declined, whereas in the Closed Room, Hagen refused to play 3NT and jumped to 5♣.

Board 14. Dlr. East. None vul.

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

China got to 4♠, the wrong major suit game on Board 14 in the Open Room, but the Danish pair went on to 5♣ as a possible make. The same thing that allows 4♥ to make defeats 5♣ -- namely the division of the diamond suit. The Danish E/W got to 4♥ and made it, so Denmark gained 9 IMPs. On the next board Ma tried to create a swing for his side with a non-standard preempt.

Board 15. Dlr. South. N/S vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Ma	Madsen	Wei	Konow
2♠	Pass	3NT	1♣
			All Pass

West	North	East	South
Bjarnarson	Shen	Hagen	Chen
Pass	Pass	Dbl.	INT
2♠	All Pass		Pass

The auction was normal enough in the Closed Room and that contract just made. In the Open Room Wei no doubt thought he had a great hand opposite a source of tricks. When the dummy came down everyone got a chuckle. He was doomed from the start but managed to come up with eight tricks. That, however was not a huge loss.

More action came on the very next board. This one teetered on the brink both ways.

Board 16. Dlr. West. E/W vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Ma	Konow	Wei	Madsen
Pass	1♣	2♠	Dbl. (neg)
All Pass			

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Bjarnarson	Shen	Hagen	Chen
Pass	1♣	1♠	2♥ (non-forcing)
All Pass			

Shen in the Closed Room decided not to try for another fit since they were not doubled. This inelegant contract went off one trick. Wei meanwhile decided on one level higher. Madsen passed the negative double and now had to find six tricks. The opening club lead from Konow went to the jack. Next came the ♣A and ♣K, setting up the queen in the dummy but strongly suggesting a heart shift. Wei ruffed with the 7 and Konow with the 9. Konow went into a long think and finally led a heart. It was Wei's turn to think for a while. He was guaranteed only one loser (in spots) by playing low, but he finally called for the lady. Madsen was happy to trump that and get out with a fourth club. Wei pitched his diamond loser but had to give up another spade and a heart in the end for down one. Declarer would have succeeded if he had played low on the heart. Madsen would have been trumping air with a natural trump trick. It was only a 6-IMP loss for China but it could have been a 12-IMP gain.

The last board of the set ended with a gain for China.

Board 20. Dlr. West. Both vul.

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

Denmark in the Closed Room got to a notrump game with a simple auction. West opened INT, North sat still and East naturally raised to game. North led a heart and that was that -- down two when North shifted to a diamond instead of a club after cashing his hearts.

In the other room the notrump opening was overcalled with 2♥, West bid a Lebensohl 3NT showing the values for game but no stopper in hearts, and Ma pulled to 4♣. This was passed out and just made. That was 8 IMPs for China.

The final score of this hard-fought match was Denmark 19, China 11. Both sides had lost opportunities. As always, those who miss the least usually wind up the victors.

Round 15

Israel vs Hong Kong

The Israeli players didn't know it, but they were in a good position to qualify for a semifinal berth as this match got under way. They thought their chances were minimal - the announcement concerning the ineligibility of Chinese Taipei had not yet been made. Israel actually was already in fourth place and needed only to maintain that position. But many teams, especially Norway, still were in the running.

Things looked bad for Israel at the start - after three boards they were trailing by 19. This was Board 2.

Board 2. Dealer East. N/S vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Levin	Cheung	Shaham	Poon
		1♥	INT
Pass	2♥	3♣	3♠
Pass	Pass	4♣	All Pass

Amir Levin, West, with an ace and a fit probably should have raised partner to game. Eran Shaham had bid to the four level alone, and it was clear he had a highly distributional hand. He took 12 tricks.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Hon	Amit	Wong	Zack
		1♥	Dbl
2♣	2♠	3♣	3♥
Pass	4♠	5♣	Dbl
All Pass			

Here Hong Kong was pushed to the five level as a result of Asaf Amit's highly aggressive 4♠ bid. Chi Kwong Wong took the push and was immediately doubled by Yaniv Zack. Hon also made 12 tricks for a 10-IMP pickup.

Both teams got to 3NT on the next board - Hong Kong made it and Israel did not.

No recriminations

Your editors have watched a lot of bridge at this tournament. Disasters? There have been many. But not once have we seen a player criticize his partner for making a costly error.

Board 3. Dealer South. E/W vul.

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

In the Open Room Chi Keung Poon won the opening lead of the ♣Q with the king and led the ♠K, taken by the ace. East led the ♠9, ducked to the 10, and the diamond return also was ducked to the king. East continued diamonds to the ace, and declarer cashed dummy's top spades. Then a diamond to the queen let him claim 10 tricks - plus 430.

The opening lead again was the ♣Q in the Closed Room, and Zack immediately knocked out the ♠A. Wong led the ♠9, ducked, then continued with the ♣3, taken by declarer. He took a heart finesse to the 9 and cashed the ♠Q. He was not at all happy when West showed out - now he couldn't overtake the 10 without setting up a trick for East. He cashed the ♥A and ♥K, but the queen did not drop. Now he went into the tank for several minutes, finally getting out with a heart to the queen. Hon cashed his good clubs for down one and another 10-IMP pickup.

Israel got 10 back when Hong Kong got too high and was set in 6♠.

Board 6. Dealer East. E/W vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Levin	Cheung	Shaham	Poon
		Pass	2♠
Pass	3♦	Pass	4♣
Pass	4NT	Pass	5♦
Pass	6♠	All Pass	

Poon had to lose a heart of course, so it all came down to the spades. Poon decided to finesse to the jack and went down one.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Hon</i>	<i>Amit</i>	<i>Wong</i>	<i>Zack</i>
	Pass	1♠	2♥
Pass	3♥	3♠	Pass
4♠	Pass	Pass	Dbl
All Pass			

Clearly Wing Hon thought his partner had more for his 3♠ bid. He thought his two honors would be a major help to Wong. They were - but they weren't enough. He had to lose a heart, two diamonds and two clubs - 500 to Israel.

Hong Kong got another 6 on Board 9 when they stopped in a partscore while Israel went to the spade game and were beaten a trick. The next major swing occurred on Board 12.

West	North	East	South
<i>Levin</i>	<i>Cheung</i>	<i>Shaham</i>	<i>Poon</i>
	Pass	1♠	Pass
Pass	Dbl	2♦	2♥
All Pass			

After a small loss on Board 14 and small pickups on 16 and 17, Israel scored up the last major swing on Board 18.

♠ K Q J 10 5 4
 ♥ 10
 ♦ 5
 ♣ K J 10 9 3

♠ 9 7 6 3
 ♥ 8 4 2
 ♦ A Q J 10
 ♣ Q 7

♠ A 2
 ♥ A 9 7 5 3
 ♦ 9 8 6
 ♣ A 6 2

♠ 8
 ♥ K Q J 6
 ♦ K 7 4 3 2
 ♣ 8 5 4

N
 W E
 S

Board 18. Dealer East. N/S vul.

♠ J 7 5
 ♥ J 7 6 2
 ♦ 10 6 5 2
 ♣ K 8

♠ Q 9 4 2
 ♥ K 10
 ♦ A 9 3
 ♣ A Q 10 9

♠ K 10
 ♥ A Q 9 8 5
 ♦ K 4
 ♣ J 7 5 2

♠ A 8 6 3
 ♥ 4 3
 ♦ Q J 8 7
 ♣ 6 4 3

Both Easts played in 3NT. In the Closed Room Wong won the opening diamond lead with the king and led the ♠K to drive out the ace. Zack took his ace and continued diamonds, Wong winning the third round. He cashed the king, ace and queen of hearts, but the jack didn't fall. Next he tried the club finesse, losing to the king. Amit cashed his good heart and gave his partner the setting trick with a diamond.

♠ J 6
♥ A 6 5 4
♦ 10 9 8 4 3
♣ K 5

♠ Q 3
♥ 10 8 2
♦ J 5
♣ 10 9 7 6 3 2

♠ A K 9 7 4 2
♥ Q
♦ K Q 6 2
♣ 8 4

♠ 10 8 5
♥ K J 9 7 3
♦ A 7
♣ A Q |

In the Open Room Shaham ducked the opening diamond lead and won the second performance. He foresaw the problem of going after the spades first, and he was reasonably sure the diamonds were splitting 4-4. So he went after clubs first, finessing the jack. This lost and the $\diamond A$ was dislodged. Shaham took his top hearts, but when the jack failed to drop he led the $\spadesuit 10$ to the queen. When this held, he cashed the good clubs for his game and 10 IMPs.

This increased Israel's victory margin to 20-10. The Israelis were overjoyed when they learned that, because of the action against Chinese Taipei, they had now qualified to play in the semifinals.

Hong Kong was a bit aggressive bidding the E/W cards.

Round 14

Israel vs USA 2

by Barry Rigal

At the time it appeared that Israel needed to win this match big to have any real chance of qualifying - the news about Chinese Taipei was still a day away. But the deals started out quietly. The first nine deals saw only a couple of very small partscore swings - not at all what Israel needed. Board 10 was even less welcome.

Board 10. Dealer East. Both vul.

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

Israel declared 3NT from the North seat. Tom Carmichael led a diamond in response to his partner's weak jump overcall (!) and declarer won in hand. He led the ♣9 which was easy for Tom to cover. Declarer tried to set up the clubs, but the defense set up the diamonds first - down one.

By contrast Chris Willenken declared 3NT as South and won the diamond lead with the king (an error; the jack would have been better). He passed the ♣9, a card that it was very hard for East to cover, don't you think? Now declarer played four rounds of spades, pitching two clubs and eventually the ♦Q from hand. Had he left himself a sure entry to hand, he could have pitched three clubs from hand and made the hand easily. This was the ending:

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

Let the hotel know

When you check out, be sure to inform the hotel so that they will know you have left. Several persons checked out yesterday without informing the hotel, causing some measure of confusion.

Eran Shaham cashed the ♦A, East pitching a heart, and exited with the ♥K, which Willenken ducked. He won the next heart (a club shift would have set the hand), called for the last heart and exited with the ♣J to endplay East. Contract made.

Shaham picked up a partscore swing a couple of boards later.

Board 12. Dealer West. Both vul.

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

A 2♥ opening (showing a weak hand with both majors) by Joel Wooldridge ended the auction, for minus 100. But Shaham as West declared 2♠ on a similar auction and on a diamond lead guessed to put in the queen. There certainly is a case for running it to the 10. Willenken took the queen with the king and shifted to a trump to the king, and Eric Greco led a low diamond. Shaham proved he was strong enough to survive this particular game of chicken by running it to the 10. Then he cashed the ♣A and ruffed a diamond, went to the ♣K, cashed the ♠Q and ruffed a club. The ♠A was his eighth trick.

But just as Israel was starting to get back into the match, USA 2 put them away with two hammer blows.

Board 13. Dealer North. Both vul.

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

Both tables declared 3NT from West after South had opened 1♣ and both Norths interestingly led a heart rather than a club. Shaham won and used his spade entry to take a diamond finesse. Essentially he needed the ♦K doubleton onside to make. Wooldridge put up the ♥Q at trick one - a fine play. When it held the trick, he had two entries to dummy, which meant he could

bring in the diamonds for five tricks.

Board 14. Dealer East. None vul.

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

USA 2 bid 2♦ - 4♥ for 11 surprising tricks. Dummy was unbelievably good - I wish I found that sort of hand for a weak two more often! But Israel bid 2♠ - 3♠ - All Pass - one down, to add insult to injury when the defense did very well. ♥A lead, ♠Q ducked all around, then a club to the ace for a second heart and the ruff.

Israel closed the match to a 17-13 loss when a couple of Greco experiments backfired.

Board 16. Dealer West. E/W vul.

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

On a hand where Israel had declared 3♦, Greco-Willenken bid 1♣ - (1♠ overcall) - 2♥ - 2NT - 3♥. Greco tried 3NT now, sharply doubled by Shaham, and Israel collected 500 points. Then a pushy game on a two-way finesse went down, and Israel had achieved respectability - but USA 2 had locked up their qualifying spot.

Another former ACBL president

We have already chronicled the fact that three former ACBL presidents are here at the Championships - **Joan Gerard, Barbara Nudelman, Bobby Wolff.**

There's a fourth here as well - **Richard Anderson**, who was president last year. He's not an official here - just a proud father. His daughter, 16-year-old Erin, is a member of the Canada 2 team. "She's becoming a fine player," said the proud father and the present president, **Val Covalciuc**, arrived yesterday.

The semifinal began Sunday!

by Grand Danois

An American comment in the restaurant to my colleague Peter Lund after the Captains Meeting Sunday: "Well, as we expected, our match against Denmark in Round 15 showed up as the first 20 boards of the semifinal." The match was very well played and tight, and the Danish 18-12 victory resulted in a carryover of 5.3 IMPs to Denmark.

Everyone expected Board 9 to be a push, but ...

Board 9. Dealer West. E/W vul.

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

We checked the results from all tables. At six tables E-W played INT, 2♠ or 3♠. Eight tables were in 4♠ down one, while 4♠ was made at only two tables.

4♠ goes down with best defense, but in the vugraph match between Italy and Norway Saur got the chance to make it. After ♣K to the ace declarer drew two rounds of trumps and played a heart toward dummy. South went up with the ace, cashed the ♣Q and erred by playing a low heart. Saur didn't believe this gift - he chose to play North for the queen-third, so he asked for the ♥K and went one down.

In the Closed Room Furio di Bello won the ♣K lead with the ace and returned a club to South, who cashed the ♥A and continued with a low heart. Same offer, but here it was accepted. The ♥J won the trick and the contract.

In the match between Denmark and USA 2, Madsen and Konow made no mistakes and got their four tricks against Willenken's 4♠, but in the Closed Room Nøhr as declarer received a gift which he gladly accepted. South led the ♣K to the ace, and after the ♠K Nøhr was happy to see North follow to the next spade trick, as South had opened the bidding with a 12-14 NT. But South showed out, and East tried a heart to the jack. North won the club shift with the jack and, not sure of the club distribution, he escaped with a low diamond.

Nøhr counted on his fingers. South had already shown 12 HCP (including the ♥Q), so there was still room for the ♦Q. However, he did right by playing the ♦J from his hand and made his contract.

On the Internet

As fast as the action is completed in this tournament, it is transferred to the Internet on the World Bridge Federation site for the world to read. Handling this chore most efficiently here is **Thanassis Matziaris** of Greece. Thanassis has performed the same function previously at several world championships.