Issue: 8 27th October 1997

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Big day for China and France in both events

United States I, winner in the round-robin, may be regretting having chosen China as their Bermuda Bowl quarterfinal opponent. China took the lead at the outset, but the Americans made several comebacks. But after each comeback China put on another spurt. The Chinese picked up 14 IMPs on the very last board to lead USA I, 156-127, after 64 boards. The play in yesterday's last segment, which was on vugraph, was superb on the part of both teams. They will play the last 32 boards today starting at 11.00.

By contrast France, victor in the Venice Cup round-robin, seems assured of victory in their match against the Netherlands. France got off to a roaring start, and even though their pace slowed down, they still led Netherlands, 167-89. It's almost impossible to overcome a 78-IMP lead – although it has been done.

United States II, second in the round-robin, has a healthy 50-point lead over Chinese Taipei. However, Chinese Taipei showed its resiliency last year in the World Team Olympiad, so the Americans are taking nothing for granted. USA II is the defending champion in the Bermuda Bowl.

The France-Poland match has been a see-saw battle. France led after the first 16-board segment, but Poland was on target in the second 16, taking a 25-point lead. Then it was France's turn in the third segment, going up by 19. France added 11 more in the fourth segment to lead, 154-124.

Norway made a comeback against Italy in the fourth segment, but they still had a 42-IMP deficit to make up, I26-I68. They had been 63 IMPs in arrears after 48 boards. Italy manufactured its huge lead with a 38-4 second segment.

In Venice Cup play, China had an amazing, almost unbelievable, set against Great Britain. In the third segment, China scored 75 IMPs while holding the Britons scoreless. That's right, a 75-0 set. Strangely enough, this turned around radically in the fourth set – the Britons outscored the Chinese, 35-8. Britain had a slight edge in each of the first two segments, but China still held the lead, 145-108.

The fortunes of the two United States teams were quite different. United States I, the winner of the American Trials, held the tiniest possible lead against Italy, I42-I41. This was a very tight-fisted match – each of the four segments to date has been a close battle.

However, USA II is having a hard time in its battle against Canada. Canada swept to a 14-IMP lead in the first segment, lost a point in the second, then added 22 in the third and 16 more in the fourth. Canada leads, 130-79, and their chances of making the semifinals are bright indeed.

The vugraph at 11.00 will feature the Bermuda Bowl match between Poland and France. The match for the 14.00 show will be announced based on the standings after the morning's 32 boards.

VUGRAPH

Bermuda Bowl - Quarterfinals | | 1h00

FRANCE - POLAND

Transnational Open Teams

This afternoon the first round of the World Transnational Open Teams Championship will get underway at 17.00.

Teams must register before 11.00 in the tournament secretary's office on the second floor in the Congress Centre. This includes the players who played in the Bermuda Bowl or the Venice Cup and did not qualify for the quarterfinals.

Players who will be eliminated in the quarterfinals today my register until 18.00 and start playing tomorrow morning. But there are restrictions concerning the composition of the teams then (see Conditions of Contest).

Ton Kooijman

Bermuda Bowl - Results

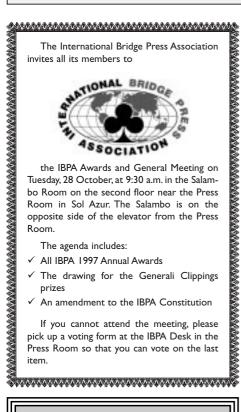
Quarterfinals

| Table | Match | Ist Session Boards 1-16 | 2nd Session Boards 17-32 | 3rd Session Boards 33-48 | 4th Session Boards 49-64 | 5th Session Boards 65-80 | 6th Session Boards 81-96 | Total IMPs |
|----------|---------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------------------|-----------------------------|------------|
| I. USA | I - China | 32 - 30 | 18 - 41 | 45 - 48 | 32 - 37 | | | 127 - 156 |
| 2. USA | II - Chinese Taipei | 62 - 29 | 35 - 32 | 34 - 22 | 44 - 42 | | | 175 - 125 |
| 3. Franc | e - Poland | 35 - 17 | 14 - 57 | 57 - 13 | 48 - 37 | | | 154 - 124 |
| 4. Norw | ay - Italy | 37 - 45 | 4 - 38 | 33 - 51 | 52 - 34 | | | 126 - 168 |

Venice Cup - Results

Quarterfinals

| Table Match | Ist Session Boards 1-16 | 2nd Session Boards 17-32 | 3rd Session Boards 33-48 | 4th Session Boards 49-64 | 5th Session Boards 65-80 | 6th Session Boards 81-96 | Total IMPs |
|--------------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|------------------------------------|-----------------------------|------------|
| 5. France - Netherlands | 70 - 17 | 36 - 12 | 43 - 43 | 18 - 17 | | | 167 - 89 |
| 6. USA I - Italy | 56 - 35 | 14 - 30 | 33 - 32 | 39 - 44 | | | 142 - 141 |
| 7. USA II - Canada | 13 - 27 | 19 - 18 | 20 - 42 | 27 - 43 | | | 79 - 130 |
| 8. China - Great Britain | 35 - 38 | 27 - 35 | 75 - 0 | 8 - 35 | | | 145 - 108 |

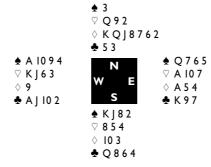


Thanks

The Indian Ladies team would like to thank AIR INDIA for their help and assistance in providing the tickets to enable us to participate in the World Championships.

An impressive unblock

Board 19. E/W Vul. Dealer South.

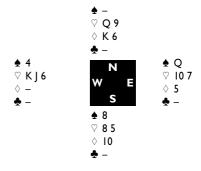


Chip Martel and Lew Stansby achieved a very neat coup on this hand by breaking the rules at the right minute. They were playing their match against South Africa. To start with, after Cope opened I , Stansby jumped to 40. The textbooks might have suggested 30 as the appropriate level at which to preempt. But look how much more difficult the extra level of preemption made it. If you bid 30, East will double and West will bid 40, getting to 4♠ easily enough. As it was, the 4♦ preempt let Bosenberg double, but when Cope bid 47, Rosenberg converted to 54, and the spade fit had vanished forever.

Mind you 5♣ was not a bad spot on the lead of the singleton spade by Stansby. Cope took Martel's jack with his ace and led a club to the king and a club to the iack, holding the trick. Now a heart to the 10 would have saved the day, but Cope could not know whether Stansby had a small trump. He actually led a heart to the ace, drew all the trumps, and led the €10 from his hand. Martel could not afford to duck this twice, or Cope would turn his attention successfully to hearts. So he took the first spade. What now?

The obvious answer is to play back the \$10, the correct count card, but that runs a risk. Declarer can win and run all the spades, and if North reduces to a singleton diamond and two hearts he can be thrown in with the diamond to lead hearts. So Martel shifted to his \$\partial 3\$, and Cope took the ace and cashed all the spades.

This was the ending.



On the last top spade from dummy Stansby had a complete count of the West hand. Since West had four clubs, four hearts and four spades, there was nothing left but than one diamond, and Martel's deception was exposed. So Lou threw his $\Diamond K$ away, unblocking to avoid the endplay, and declarer had to lose two tricks in the ending whatever he did.



Hammamet observations – V

by Terry Radjef

e have been in this country for more than a week. By now, most of us have established new living habits that are more compatible with the new environment. I thought you might be interested in a little history about a country you're never going to forget.

The first trade post in Tunisia was established by the Phoenicians in 1110 B.C. Imagine! That was 2500 years before Columbus discovered America. Before that Africa was populated by nomad shepherds of probably Indo-European origin. Later the Phoenicians founded Carthage, a perfect location for seafarers. Carthage reached the height of its development in the fifth century B.C.. The Carthaginese built several beautiful and imposing cities – and they scared Rome when they looked to conquer Sicily.

The first Punic War lasted 23 years (264-241 B.C. and was won by Rome. Hannibal's father saved the people of Carthage from disaster. He became emperor and was followed by Hannibal. Hannibal conquered more than half of Spain in the first 20 years of his reign, thus scaring the Romans into starting the second Punic War.

But Hannibal ran over the Romans, and with his army and 37 elephants crossed the Alps and made it to the walls of Rome. There he awaited reinforcements to help him take the city. The reinforcements never arrived, so Rome had time to regroup and eventually defeat Hannibal's army.

Carthage, the country, was invaded by the Romans who decided to destroy the city in 146 B.C. However, the city was rebuilt a century later (to be continued).

Active ethics

On one of the boards in their match against Canada, the United States II women's team called a board a push when they noted that the result at each table was 100. George Holland, non-playing captain of the Canadian team, called the attention of the Americans that they were PLUS at both tables and should have scored the board as plus 5 IMPs instead of a push.

Child care centre

When Hugh Ross, non-playing captain of the United States I Bermuda Bowl team, sends his players off to play on vugraph, he says it's like sending kids to a child care centre. All of a sudden he's FREE – he can even watch the match on vugraph if he wants to.

The Bidding Dictionary

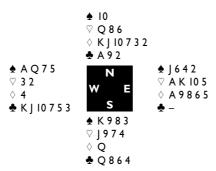
Alan Truscott's comprehensive Bidding Dictionary was a popular item in Rhodes last year. Alan has a few copies available here, which can be purchased in the Press Room for the reduced price of \$25.

Late Night Bridge

e have all been spoilt by the friendly schedule of the qualifying stage where play ended at a very civilised 8.50 p.m every evening. The first day that play went on to near midnight we watched an interesting battle on a board where both declarer and the defender seem to have misjudged the play. Clearly, it was just too late at night for accurate play.

Quarterfinals Set 4

Board 14. Love All. Dealer East.



| West | North | East | South |
|------|----------|------|-------|
| | | I♦ | Pass |
| I♠ | 2♦ | 3♠ | Pass |
| 4♠ | All Pass | | |

Declarer had one thing going for her in the play, nobody knew about her long club suit.

North led the \$10 and, on the face of it you are better to cover, because you would prefer to leave the defence with \$983 than \$K98\$. However, declarer played low from the dummy and won the queen. At trick two she led the \$K\$, covered by the ace and ruffed in dummy. Now came ace and a low diamond. If South discards on this trick, there is the possibility that declarer will simply cross-ruff clubs and hearts from this point and make all her small trumps; ten tricks in

At the table, South ruffed in with the $\clubsuit 8$. The winning line is to over-ruff with the ace and go back to the club/heart cross-ruff as before. What you cannot afford is to try to ruff any more diamonds as South will be able to ruff in with the $\clubsuit 9$ and cash the $\clubsuit K$, leaving you short of tricks. But declarer did not over-ruff the diamond instead she pitched a low club. Though it appears to give up the trump trick, the $\clubsuit 9$ is the best play now. Declarer does not have sufficient trumps left to make on a cross-ruff and neither does she have enough trumps to set up and cash the clubs, so down she goes. South actually underled the $\clubsuit Q$ and declarer won the jack, cashed the top hearts and cross-ruffed . A heart back is no better. Declarer just goes back to the cross-ruff and makes seven trump tricks to go with the $\heartsuit AK$ and $\diamondsuit A$

A matter of age

Hugh Ross, npc of the USA I team, was fretting with Zia because Zia kept taking his pens. Zia replied, "Some of the captains before you not only provided me with pens – they found women for me."

Ross' reply: "Yes, but it was easier then - you were a lot younger."

1996 World Championship Book a super bargain

We saw the 1996 World Championship Book for the first time yesterday, and we were impressed! This is the book that details the action in the World Team Olympiad in Rhodes, Greece, last year. The book is perhaps the best-looking such text in the history of world championships. It has a most attractive cover, and the layout is pleasant and easy to read. The back cover carries pictures of the flags of all the competing countries – in colour.

This book also is the biggest world championship book ever produced. It contains 406 pages — most such books have been in the middle 200s. Eric Kokish, the chief editor, is a strong believer in complete detail and complete analysis. There is no question that this book meets Kokish's standards — as it should, since he was the editor.

The text is replete with excellent photographs, making the material much more pleasing to look at. The hands are well set up and easy to follow. The semifinals and finals are covered in exquisite detail, and there are excellent condensations of the deals from the quarterfinals and the round-robins.

Other special features include a 12-page history of the World Team Olympiad, a 15-page report on the World Transnational Mixed Teams (a first-time event), a complete list of all members of all the teams, scorecards for each segment of the finals, listing of all the WBF and tournament personnel, and a special glossary of short-form expressions used throughout the reports on play that were used to save space and to make the hands easier to follow.

The writers are some of the best-known bridge writers in the world – Kokish, Brian Senior, Richard Colker, Barry Rigal and Henry Francis.

As we said, this is a BIG book. It is equal in size to many big-city telephone directories. So you probably will be surprised to learn of the price for this book that is a must for your bridge library. If you sign up here at this tournament, you may purchase the book for only \$29.95 plus \$5.05 for shipping and handling.

This is a true bargain. Following the play of the experts will be exciting for top-flight players, instructive for the intermediate and near-expert. There is enough in this book to overcome boredom for many weeks. It is not a book to read in one sitting. It is a book to be enjoyed a few hands at a time.

Drop by the office of the WBF secretary (Sol Azur, second floor) and place your order today.



All participants, officials and visitors should confirm their departure dates and flight details to the Tunis Air desk situated in the lobby of the Sol Azur. Please confirm at least 24 hours prior to departure.

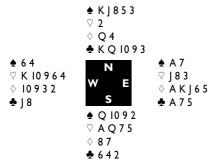
Bermuda Bowl

Quarter-final (set 2)

Poland vs France

rance entered this segment 18 IMPs in the lead, and they quickly added 6 more on the first three boards. But that was the last of the good news for France.

Board 20. Game All. Dealer West.



Open Room

| West | North | East | South |
|----------|--------|----------|--------|
| Romanski | Mouiel | Kowalski | Multon |
| Pass | I♣ | INT | 2♣ |
| Pass | 4♠ | All Pass | |

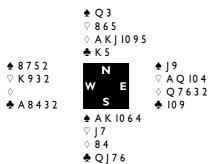
This contract had no chance - four top losers.

Closed Room

| West | North | East | South |
|----------|---------|------|------------|
| Levy | Balicki | Mari | Zmudzinski |
| Pass | I♠ | DЫ | INT |
| 2♡ | 3♣ | 3◊ | 4♠ |
| 5◊ | Pass | Pass | DЫ |
| All Pass | | | |

It seems that France went to $5 \diamondsuit$ as a save, but they came very close to making the doubled game. After winning the club opening lead Christian Mari went down although it looks as if he could make it with the favorable heart position. The table report from the Closed Room was impossible to follow, but the result was down one -7 IMPs to Poland.

Board 21. N/S Vul. Dealer North.



Open Room

| West | North | East | South |
|----------|--------|----------|--------|
| Romanski | Mouiel | Kowalski | Multon |
| | 1♦ | Pass | I♠ |
| Pass | 2◊ | Pass | 3♣ |
| Pass | 3◊ | All Pass | |

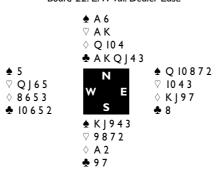
Hervé Mouiel and Frank Multon bid well to a very reasonable contract that probably would make with an ordinary distribution of the trumps. But the 5-0 break proved a bit too much to handle, and Mouiel suffered a one-trick defeat. This seemed like a reasonable result, but there was more action in the Closed Room.

Closed Room

| West | North | East | South |
|----------|---------|------|------------|
| Levy | Balicki | Mari | Zmudzinski |
| | 1♦ | IΫ | I♠ |
| 4◊ | DЫ | Pass | Pass |
| 4♡ | Pass | Pass | DЫ |
| All Pass | | | |

Alain Levy liked his hand after Mari overcalled in hearts — he had a void in the opponents' suit, four good trumps and an ace. But that proved to be not nearly enough. Repeated trump leads prevented Mari from getting many ruffs, and he wound up two down — minus 500 and 12 more IMPs to Poland. Poland had closed to within 3 IMPs. And they took the lead on the next board.

Board 22. E/W Vul. Dealer East.



Open Room

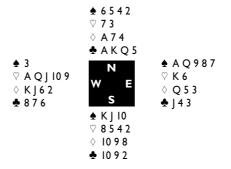
| West | North | East | South |
|----------|--------|----------|--------|
| Romanski | Mouiel | Kowalski | Multon |
| | | Pass | Pass |
| Pass | 2◊ | Pass | 3◊ |
| Pass | 4♣ | Pass | 4♠ |
| Pass | 5♣ | All Pass | |

Closed Room

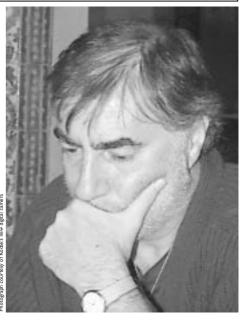
| West | North | East | South |
|------|---------|----------|------------|
| Levy | Balicki | Mari | Zmudzinski |
| | | Pass | Pass |
| Pass | I♣ | Pass | I♠ |
| Pass | 2◊ | Pass | 2NT |
| Pass | 3♣ | Pass | 3NT |
| Pass | 4♣ | Pass | 4◊ |
| Pass | 6♣ | All Pass | |

Twelve tricks were there for the taking without a trump lead. Cezary Balicki and Adam Zmudzinski had a good sequence to 64, and they were rewarded with 11 IMPs when Mouiel and Multon rested in the club game. Poland took the lead, 49-41.

Board 27. Love All. Dealer South.



Neither team found a contract they could make



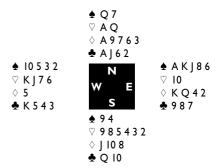
Hervé Mouiel

here. In fact Levy and Mari wound up in their 3-3 club fit – not exactly a rousing success. The French suffered a three-trick defeat. But Poland had problems, too.

| West | North | East | South |
|----------|--------|----------|----------|
| Romanski | Mouiel | Kowalski | Multon |
| | | | Pass |
| I♡ | DЫ | Redbl | Pass |
| Pass | I♠ | DЫ | Pass |
| 2♦ | Pass | 3NT | All Pass |

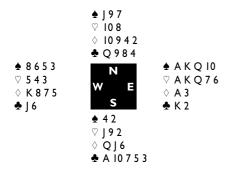
The defence was quick. Multon led a club, and Mouiel made sure of setting the contract by cashing four clubs and the $\lozenge A$. If he had been a little less impulsive, he could have led a spade after taking the clubs, and Poland would have been two down. As it was Poland gained another 3 IMPs.

Board 28. N/S Vul. Dealer West.



Both teams got to 4♠ here, and Romanski almost made it. He got a spade opening lead, and he bravely allowed it to ride to the 10. He led a diamond, and Mouiel correctly ducked, so the king won. Romanski led the ♥10, losing to the queen, and Mouiel got out of his hand with the ♠Q. Romanski won this and ruffed a diamond - and he was at the crossroads. If he led a low heart, it would drop North's ace and now the two good hearts would enable him to pitch two clubs and make his contract. But he led the jack. Of course the ace came up and he ruffed. He crossed to his hand with a diamond ruff and pitched a club on the ♥K. Then he put North in with the ♦A, but North still had a diamond to get out with. Romanski finally had to lose two clubs for a push board.

Board 30. Love All. Dealer East.



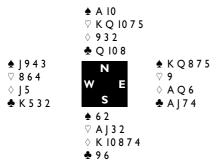
Poland was one of only two teams to get to the spade slam on this deal – the other was USA I in the Bermuda Bowl. This was the Polish auction:

| West | North | East | South |
|------------------------|--------|----------------|----------|
| Romanski | Mouiel | Kowalski | Multon |
| | | ♣ (1) | Pass |
| I $\diamondsuit^{(2)}$ | Pass | INT(3) | Pass |
| 20(4) | Pass | 2♠ | Pass |
| 3NT(5) | Pass | 6♠ | All Pass |

- (I) Polish Club
- (2) Negative
- (3) Forcing for one round
- (4) Transfer to spades
- (5) Showing the distribution and the point count, taking into consideration the original negative bid

Kowalski felt he knew all he needed to know after Romanski jumped to 3NT – he leaped forthwith to the spade slam. France stopped in 4% (!), making five, so Poland picked up another 11 IMPs and now led by 20, 67-47. But Poland still wasn't through.

Board 32. E/W Vul. Dealer West.



Open Room

| west | North | East | South |
|------------|----------|----------|------------|
| Romanski | Mouiel | Kowalski | Multon |
| Pass | Pass | I♠ | Pass |
| 2♠ | DЫ | Redbl | 3♡ |
| 3♠ | Pass | 4♠ | All Pass |
| Closed Roo | om | | |
| West | North | East | South |
| Levy | Balicki | Mari | Zmudzinski |
| Pass | IΫ | I♠ | 2♠ |
| Pass | 3♡ | Pass | Pass |
| 3♠ | All Pass | | |
| | | | |

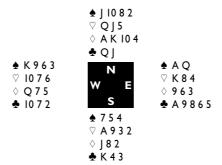
The key bid in the Open Room was Romanski's 3\(\frac{1}{2}\). That convinced Kowalski that Romanski had four spades – and of course 5-4 trump suits often play much better than 5-3s. So he carried on. All he needed was either the diamond finesse or the club finesse. The diamond failed, but he chalked up his game when the \$\(\phi\)Q was onside. Levy and Mari stopped in a partial 11 more IMPs for Poland. But France appealed because of different explanations of 2\(\phi\). The director changed the resut to 4\(\phi\) making, but the Appeals Committe reverted to \$\(\phi\). They also penalized Poland 3 IMPs, so Poland led 74 - 79.

Catching the Weak No Trump

by Svend Novrup

he Danish team took nine rounds to get going but even during those three first days there were some nice hands from a Danish point of view. On two occasions the Danish North/South-pair caught a weak INT opener to make a substantial gain on the board, even if there was a critical moment on one of the two – the redoubled one. We will get back to that in a minute. First from Denmark against China in Round 9. Denmark have never lost to the Chinese in five previous meetings.

Board 6. E/W Vul. Dealer East.



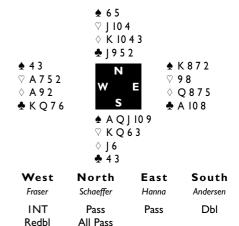
Closed Room

| West | North | East | South |
|-----------------|--------------|-----------------|--------------|
| Auken | Li | Koch-Palmund | Wang |
| Pass | INT | I♣ | Pass |
| Open Roo | m | All Pass | |
| West | North | East | South |
| Wang | Christiansen | Fu | Blakset |
| Pass | DЫ | INT All Pass | Pass |

That Li made his contract in comfort in the Closed Room is no surprise when you study the happenings in the Open Room. Blakset was happy to pass his partner's double and lead a heart to the jack and king. The $\clubsuit 9$ ran to the jack. North cashed the $\heartsuit Q$ and carefully cashed the $\diamondsuit K$ to be certain that South would know what to do after cashing the last two heart tricks. Following the red winners North got out with a club and as there was no entry to the West hand, East in the end had to concede a club to South or a spade to North. Down three and 800 for Denmark, winning 12 IMPs on the board.

Maybe it was not so difficult to defend with 22 high card points but two rounds earlier another Danish pair showed a willingness to double INT with a combined total of 18 high card points. This time they were redoubled.

Board 16. E/W Vul. Dealer West.



On this board we withhold the bidding from one room as the Canadian North/South had a misunder-standing leading to 2° down two; 100 to Denmark.

After Andersen's double, West's redouble showed a doubleton spade, after which East took his chances in INT redoubled, knowing his side had the balance of the strength.

North led a spade to the $\clubsuit9.A$ heart came back to the 10, another spade was won by the 10, the $\heartsuit K$ won trick four, and West won the following trick with the $\heartsuit A$ to lead a diamond toward dummy. North realised that his $\diamondsuit10$ might be finessed later if he won the $\diamondsuit K$ so he correctly ducked, and this was the decisive moment. If West had put up the $\diamondsuit Q$ and continued with three club tricks and the $\diamondsuit A$ before exiting with his last heart, South would have been endplayed to present dummy with a spade trick.

This was not easy to know, however. Declarer ran the diamond to South's jack, and South cashed his heart trick. As declarer had thrown a club and a diamond from dummy, South could now have netted 1000 with a diamond return, but he was more than happy to cash the \$A, making sure of 400 and a gain of 11 IMPs.

IBPA Excursion

More than 30 members of the press had a most enjoyable excursion on Saturday. They saw beautiful Roman mosaics at the Bardo Museum, hit some golf balls at the attractive Golf de Carthage Club, went to Sidi Bou Said and ate a splendid lunch overlooking the cool, clear waters of the Mediterranean.

The International Bridge Press Association wishes to thank the Tunisian Bridge Federation, the Groupe des Orangers and the Office National du Tourisme Tunisien for organising and hosting a memorable day.

A T-shirt to be proud of

by Jean-Paul Meyer

Catherine Saul, a member of the French woman's team, came to the break room first in a new T-shirt after her team won the round-robin.

From behind all you could see were the French colours - blue, white and red. But on the other side you could see a picture of the Venice Cup and a colourful dog saying,

"Two countries only can win the Venice Cup... The other one is yours."

So French ambitions are clear.

Bermuda Bowl

Quarterfinal (set 1

USA I vs China



Wei min Wang (China)

SAI topped the qualifying table and therefore earned the right to select their quarterfinal opponents. They chose to play China. Would that be a wise decision?

At Love All, you hear your opponents bid: Pass - I \clubsuit - INT - $2 \heartsuit$ - $2 \clubsuit$ - Pass. You hold:

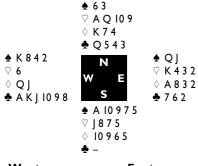
• KQJ87 ♥ K63 ♦ KQ2 • **•** 74

Do you fancy a penalty double?

Whether a penalty double was an option or not, Zia didn't fancy it and passed the deal out. $2 \triangleq$ went four down for 200 to USA1. At the other table Martel/Stansby started the same way but stopped in $2 \heartsuit$, down one for -50; 4 IMPs to USA1.

Neither North/South pair were close to bidding the perfect fit 6 % on Board 3.Then China got on the scoreboard.

Board 4. Game All. Dealer West.

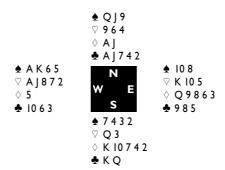


| West | East |
|---------|-----------|
| Wang W. | Li |
| I♣ | I♡ |
| I♠ | INT |
| 2♣ | Pass |
| West | East |
| Zia | Rosenberg |
| I♣ | I♡ |
| I♠ | 3♣ |
| 3◊ | 3NT |
| Pass | |

What is your choice over I♠? Li bid a quiet INT and passed Wang's next bid when he might have considered a 3♣ raise. That was O.K. Wang made an overtrick; +130.

Michael Rosenberg gave jump preference to clubs. Unlike some partnerships, he knew he was facing real clubs for this sequence. Zia tried for game via fourth suit forcing and Rosenberg duly bid 3NT. South, Zhong Fu, found the excellent lead of a low heart. Jing Wang Xiao put in the queen and Rosenberg took the king then led a club to the ace followed by a spade to the queen and ace. Fu was unsure about the heart position, his partner's Smith Echo with the ♣5 not being sufficiently clear. Fu switched to a diamond to the queen, king and ace, but it didn't matter. Declarer didn't have nine tricks without the clubs and Wang knew what to do when he gained the lead; one down for -100 and 6 IMPs to China.

Board 5. N/SVul. Dealer North.



Open Room

| West | North | East | South |
|----------|---------|-----------|-------|
| Zia | Wang X. | Rosenberg | Fu |
| | INT | Pass | 2♣ |
| Pass | 2♦ | Pass | 2NT |
| All Pass | | | |

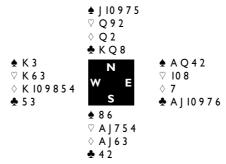
INT was 13-15 and Fu made the borderline decision to try for game. When he found that there was no spade fit, Fu bid 2NT and Wang passed. Rosenberg led a diamond and declarer had only one line — win the \lozenge J, cash \lozenge A, club to the king, \lozenge K, overtake the \clubsuit Q. When clubs were 3-3 that was eight tricks; +120.

Closed Room

| West | North | East | South |
|---------|----------|------|--------|
| Wang W. | Stansby | Li | Martel |
| | INT | Pass | Pass |
| 2♣ | DЫ | 2♦ | Pass |
| 2♡ | All Pass | | |

Here INT was 12-14 so Chip Martel had no reason to bid on. Weimin Wang bid $2\frac{4}{5}$, Landy, and eventually played $2\sqrt[3]{5}$. Wang had no problem in making eight tricks; +110 and 6 IMPs to China.

Board 8. Love All. Dealer West.



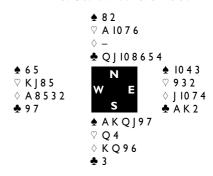
Closed Room

| West | North | East | South |
|---------|---------|------|----------|
| Wang W. | Stansby | Li | Martel |
| 1♦ | I♠ | 2♣ | DЫ |
| Pass | 2♡ | 3♣ | All Pass |

This Chinese pair open very light and it is normal for responder to go cautiously. The style worked well here and Li had it easy in $3\frac{1}{2}$; +130.

In the Open Room, Zia opened a natural weak $2 \lozenge$ and played there. The lead was the \P and Zia won in hand and played a second spade to dummy. Next he led a heart to the king, followed by a club to the king and ace. He tried to cash the \P Q but Fu ruffed so he had to over-ruff. Now he exited with a heart, obliging the defence to lead a diamond to prevent a ruff in dummy. Fu duly won the heart and switched to the \lozenge 6 and Zia sat in thought. If South had started with jack or queen to three diamonds, or queen, jack to four, it would be correct to play low; if South held the \lozenge A, it would be correct to go king. Zia finally played low and now he had three trump losers and six in all; -50 and 5 IMPs to China.

Board 9. E/W Vul. Dealer North.



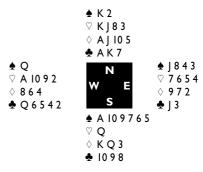
Both Souths declared 4. Martel had an easy ride when Wang W. led a heart away from the king, jack. He took only one diamond ruff so held himself to ten tricks; +420.

Zia found the most taxing lead of a trump. Fu won and ruffed a diamond then led the ΦQ off the dummy. Rosenberg won and led the $\Diamond J$ to the king and ace. Zia thought a while but finally returned a diamond; +420 and a push.

Had Rosenberg returned a low diamond instead of the jack, surely declarer would not have put in the nine. Assuming the play of an honour, Zia could win and return a diamond, establishing a second diamond winner for the defence and declarer would have to fail. Should Rosenberg have got it right? Perhaps he feared that declarer might have something like ∇Kx and ∇Kxx and that a low diamond play might see Zia under some pressure in the endgame. It looks as though this doesn't quite stand up to analysis, however.

So, should the contract be defeated? No. Declarer went wrong at trick three. Usually, he will need two heart tricks, and that means playing West for the \heartsuit J. After ruffing the diamond declarer should play a low heart off the dummy, playing the queen whether the king appears or not. His plan is to finesse the ten later.

Board 10. Game All. Dealer East.



Once upon a time, everyone would have opened the

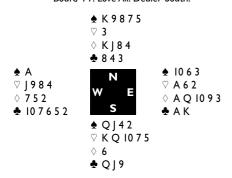
South hand with a weak two bid. Not any more. Martel did open 2♠. Stansby raised to 4♠ and Martel made an overtrick; +650. This was the Chinese auction:

| North | South |
|---------|-------|
| Wang X. | Fu |
| | I♠ |
| 2NT | 3♠ |
| 4♣ | 4♠ |
| 4NT | 5◊ |
| 6♠ | Pass |

2NT was a balanced game-force. Wang heard his partner rebid the spades then he cuebid but, despite the sign-off, took control and bid the slam. $6 \clubsuit$ is a dreadful contract, of course, but it made without difficulty when Zia underled his $\heartsuit A$; +1430 and 13 IMPs to China.

But would Fu have made it anyway? If declarer divines the spade position he has all the dummy entries he needs for a trump coup against East. And with the sidesuits breaking favourably, nothing can go wrong.

Board II. Love All. Dealer South.



China led 30-10 going into this board and it seemed that they were destined to increase their lead by going plus in both rooms.

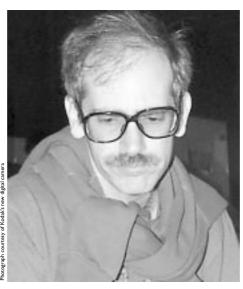
In the Closed Room, Martel opened with a Flannery 2♦ as South and Stansby responded 2NT, looking for game. That was doubled by East and when Martel showed his club fragment Stansby settled for 3♣, knowing that his diamond honours would be largely wasted. As Stansby perhaps already suspected, even 3♣ proved to be a level too high. There were five top losers and the defence made no mistake; -100.

Open Room

| West | North | East | South |
|------|---------|-----------|----------|
| Zia | Wang X. | Rosenberg | Fu |
| | | | IΫ |
| Pass | I♠ | 2◊ | 2♠ |
| 3◊ | Pass | 3NT | All Pass |

Rosenberg's 3NT bid would not be everyone's choice with no spade stop and not even a running suit, and it seemed that he would be punished when Fu led the ΔQ to dummy's ace. Rosenberg led a low diamond to his ten then played the $\Diamond Q.$ Wang X. won the diamond and played the ♠9, which held the trick. Now Wang switched to a club. Rosenberg won and played ace and another diamond and Wang won and played a second club. Now Rosenberg cashed the long diamond and South had a problem. He was down to ♠J4 ♡KQ ♣Q. The spade plays seemed to indicate that declarer had the \pm K10 left, and who had the missing small club? Fu threw another heart, on the basis that if declarer held the ♠K then North had the ♡A. Disaster! Rosenberg now cashed three heart tricks for an unbelievable +400 and 7 IMPs to USA1.

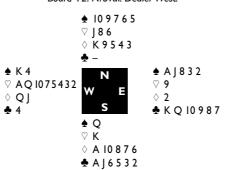
Let's go back to the point where North cashed the $\del{9}$ 9 then switched to a club. What was going through his mind? Simple. He assumed that declarer had $\del{10}$ 10xxx for his 3NT bid. That left South with only the bare jack at this point and if he played another spade South might



Chip Martel (USA I)

have an awkward lead to the next trick, hence the repeated club plays. Well, the vugraph audience enjoyed it even if the Chinese did not.

Board 12. N/SVul. Dealer West.



There are plenty of bidding decisions for the various players to make on this deal. Firstly, what should West open? Wang W. tried $4\frac{4}{2}$, a good 4° bid. Li converted to 4° and Martel bid 4NT, a minor-suit takeout. Stansby bid 5° and Li doubled, ending the auction. The defence took their top tricks and the bad breaks in the black suits left declarer one trick short; -200.

Zia opened I \heartsuit . Should East respond 2Φ and bid out his shape, effectively driving to game on a potential misfit, or should he bid I Φ , avoiding the game-force but leading to a distortion of his distribution? Rosenberg chose 2Φ and that kept Fu out of the auction. Zia was soon in $4\heartsuit$ and the friendly lie of the major suits meant that he had no worries there; +420 and 6 IMPs to USAI.

There was one more significant swing to come.

| West | East |
|--------------------|---------------|
| ♠ A Q 9 8 6 | ♠ J 10 |
| ♡ K Q | ♡ A 7 5 |
| ♦ K 10 | |
| ♣ K Q 9 6 | ♣ 4 3 |

Wang W. and Li bid I♠ - INT - 2NT - 3♦ - Pass, after Li had passed as dealer. That contract made no less than twelve tricks when the ♠A was not cashed at the start; +170. It looks as though East/West may have had a misunderstanding regarding the 3♦ bid. Clearly West did not think it was forcing, but what about East? If it was not forcing, it looks rather timid facing an invitational raise. In the other room Rosenberg had a weak 2♦ opening in his bag and used it. Zia enquired, discovered Rosenberg held a minimum, then bid 3NT. The cards and defence were again very friendly and Zia made twelve tricks; +490 and 8 IMPs to USA1.

After 16 boards, USA1 had a narrow lead, 32-30.



Canada profiles

MARY PAUL. She is an accountant and a bridge teacher, and she also authored Partnership Bidding. She also is the recorder for District 2 of the ACBL in Canada. She has represented Canada in all Olympiads, except 1976 and 1996, since 1968. She also has competed in several Venice Cup events, earning a bronze medal in Perth, Australia, in 1989. She has won the Canadian National Teams twice — the only woman ever to win the event.

FRANCINE CIMON. She teaches computer technology in high school and is responsible for the school's computer department. She has a bachelor of physics degree. She has represented Canada in six Olympiads and five Venice Cups since 1976. She has twice earned a bronze medal.

SHARYN REUS. She is married to Tony The Tuna Reus, a very talented bridge player, and she is very proud of their lovely 12-year-old daughter Lindsay. She works as a bookkeeper and income tax preparer when not playing bridge and doing bridge-related things. At the moment she is very involved with OKbridge. She played in her first Olympiad in 1972 at the age of 22 and has played in nearly every team and pair Olympiad since. She also has represented Canada in four Venice Cups and has two bronze medals to her credit. She has been partnered by Dianna Gordon of Toronto for 21 years (her comment: "You'd think we would be wired by now").

DIANNA GORDON. She is a travel consultant. She has represented Canada in world championship play almost every year since 1974. In 1982 she won the World Mixed Pairs championship in partnership with George Mittelman. She also placed third in two Olympiads.

BEVERLY KRAFT. She is Eric Kokish's bride, the mother of four children and the grandmother of three. At present she and her family are living in Jakarta, Indonesia, where Eric is working closely with the Indonesian Bridge Federation to improve the quality of the Indonesian bridge team. In addition to assisting Eric with his many literary endeavours, she won several NEC tournaments in the Eighties and the Canadian Invitational IMP Pairs. She placed third last year in the Olympiad.

RHODA HABERT. She is a high school English teacher. She has represented Canada at the world level on a number of occasions. She finished third in the Rhodes Olympiad and has had many high finishes in North American play. She loves to play poker!

GEORGE HOLLAND, non-playing captain. He is executive vice president of Eastern Canada's largest real estate developer and property manager. He has played for Canada several times in world play. He made his debut as a non-playing captain in Rhodes last year and came away with a bronze medal.

Bermuda Bowl

Round 15

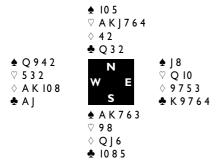
Denmark vs Norway

by Knut Kjaernsroed (Norway)

A Battle of Vikings

he Nordic participants in these championships met in Round 15 of the Bermuda Bowl roundrobin. It turned out to be a match with real Viking spirit, with the noise of swords and shields producing a number of interesting hands. Denmark started well.

Board I. Love All. Dealer North.



Closed room

| West | North | East | South |
|----------|-------|-----------|-----------|
| Andersen | Aa | Schaeffer | Groetheim |
| | IΫ | Pass | I♠ |
| Pass | 2♡ | Pass | 3♡ |
| All Pass | | | |

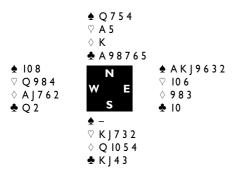
Lauge Schaeffer found the brilliant lead of a small club, and Aa had no chance. ♣A, ♣K and a club ruff. Then when Aa took the trump finesse, he was two off. In the Open Room Soeren Christiansen had other ideas of an opening bid.

| West | North | East | South |
|---------|--------------|---------|----------|
| Helgemo | Christiansen | Helness | Blakset |
| | 2◊ | Pass | 2♡ |
| DЫ | Pass | 2 NT | All Pass |

20 was of course Multi and Helness' 2 NT was a transfer to 3♣. Helgemo took the chance of passing hoping he would not see a double. He avoided the double, but the defense collected their eight tricks, and that was 6 IMPs to Denmark.

But then the Norwegians donned their helmets and produced a fantastic string of 61 unanswered IMPs and it could have been still more.

Board 4. Game All. Dealer West.



In the Open Room the bidding went:

| Telephone and the second secon | | _ | |
|--|--------------|----------|---------|
| West | North | East | South |
| Helgemo | Christiansen | Helness | Blakset |
| Pass | I♣ | 3♠ | DЫ |
| Pass | 3 NT | All Pass | |

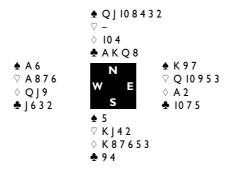
Tor Helness avoided the spade lead and did very well to serve the $\lozenge 3$. When Christiansen called for the 10, Helgemo misread the position and produced the knave. Declarer quickly collected his nine tricks but it still turned out a heavy loss for the Danes.

| West | North | East | South |
|----------|-------|-----------|-----------|
| Andersen | Aa | Schaeffer | Groetheim |
| Pass | 2♣ | 3♠ | 4♠ |
| Pass | 4 NT | Pass | 5 NT |
| Pass | 6♣ | All Pass | |

The opening lead was the A, ruffed. A low diamond was led, Andersen played low, the king won and now Aa was home. He ruffed a spade, ruffed a diamond and played a club to the king. West later got an overruff with the &Q, but that was the only trick for the defense. I3 imps to Norway.

The very next board created the same swing due to careful defence by Helness-Helgemo:

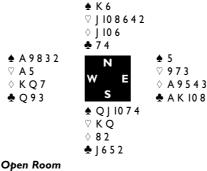
Board 5. N/S Vul. Dealer North.



Both tables reached 44, and in the Open Room Helness doubled. He cashed the $\Diamond A$ and shifted to a low trump won by the ace. Helgemo returned a club taken by the ace, and when Helness got his **♠**K the defence had reached a crucial point. He found the only card to beat the contract – the $\Diamond 2$. If he plays any other card, Helgemo will be squeezed in the minors. Christiansen played the rest of his trumps but the defenders' signal system worked. Helgemo discarded his $\triangledown A$ and took the setting trick with the \clubsuit J.

Then came two slam swings.

Board 6. E/W Vul. Dealer East.



| West | North | East | South |
|---------|--------------|---------|---------|
| Helgemo | Christiansen | Helness | Blakset |
| | | 1♦ | 2♠ |
| DЫ | Pass | 3♣ | Pass |
| 3♠ | DЫ | Pass | Pass |
| 4♠ | Pass | 4 NT | Pass |
| 6◊ | All Pass | | |

Helgemo resisted the temptation to go for 2♠ doubled which would have netted only 500 - instead he went on to slam. Helness played it in a very accurate style. He won the opening lead of the ♠Q, played the king of trumps and then ducked a heart. A heart came back to the ace. He cashed the Q, ruffed a spade and ruffed his heart in dummy. After a spade ruff, South was squeezed in spades and clubs on the last trump.

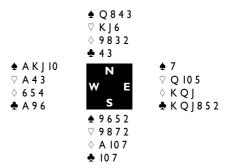
In the Closed Room, Aa-Groetheim employed a new system gadget invented just before the championships, and this helped the defenders go astray:

| West | North | East | South |
|----------|-----------|----------|-----------|
| Andersen | Aa | Schaefer | Groetheim |
| | | I♦ | 2♡ |
| 2♠ | Pass | 3◊ | Pass |
| 3♡ | Pass | 4♣ | Pass |
| 4◊ | All Pass! | | |

South's 2° was a weak jump in one of the majors. West bid 2♠ natural, and since he assumed South had hearts, 3% was asking for a stopper. 4% was intended as slam invitational, but East misinterpreted the bid and passed. 15 IMPs to Norway.

On Board 7 the Norwegian pair in the Open Room had a slight misunderstanding and reached another vul-

Board 7. Game All. Dealer South.



| West | North | East | South |
|---------|--------------|---------|----------|
| Helgemo | Christiansen | Helness | Blakset |
| | | | Pass |
| I NT | Pass | 2♣ | Pass |
| 2♠ | Pass | 3♡ | Pass |
| 3♠ | Pass | 4♣ | Pass |
| 4♡ | DЫ | 6♣ | All Pass |

3♥ was showed slam interest in clubs, and 4♣ was meant to be RKCB. Helgemo thought he showed his heart control, but Helness read it as four aces and went straight to the slam. On the heart lead he went up with the ace and pulled trumps in two rounds. He then pondered for a long time but finally played ♠A, ♠K and the ♠J covered. That gave him two heart pitches so he made his slam. He afterwards uttered that it would have taken months to get over losing to a doubleton ♠Q in North's hand!

In the Closed Room, the bidding was less eventful.

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After West's 4NT bid, Lauge Schaeffer found no additional values and the result was 11 tricks, 13 more IMPs to Norway.

The Danes later earned some IMPs by bidding a couple of thin games that made but they could not prevent Norway from emerging the winner by 22-8 which virtually secured Norway a place in the quarterfinals and put the Danish chances of doing the same in real jeopardy.