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3 Tremendous Comebacks Thrill Vugraph Spectators

Perhaps there has never been such an exciting single day in the history of world bridge. There have been totally fascinating single matches – remember Norway vs. Netherlands for the Bermuda Bowl in 1993? But the difference here was that there were three incredible comebacks. Only five of the teams that led at the end of the first day's action managed to win their matches.

United States II, down 51 going into yesterday's final 32 boards, finally took the lead on Board 94 and advanced to the semifinals with a 2-IMP win over Canada in the Venice Cup. Norway trailed powerful Italy by 42 in their Bermuda Bowl match after the first 64 deals, but when it was all over Norway was in the semifinals. United States had a 29-IMP deficit against China in their Bermuda Bowl encounter, but an exceptional final 32 boards saw USA I overpower their opponents by 50 IMPs.

In another Venice Cup thriller, United States I held only a 1-IMP edge after the first day's play. Italy pulled close on several occasions yesterday, but USA I held on to win. France had an easy time with Netherlands and China led all the way against Great Britain.

Poland gave France some hiccups at times, but in the end France won their Bermuda Bowl battle by 22. USA II led all the way in eliminating Chinese Taipei.

All eight winners begin their 96-board semifinals today. In the Bermuda Bowl, the two American teams play each other, and France takes on Norway. In the Venice Cup, once again the American teams will oppose each other. In the other match, France will battle with China. The American teams must play each other because WBF regulations bar two teams from the same country from playing each other in the final.

Yesterday's most exciting match was the Venice Cup match between USA II and Canada. Sue Sachs, npc of the American team, thought her team's play was somewhat stale. She felt that drastic action was called for, so she shook up her lineup a bit. She recalled that Lynn Deas and Juanita Chambers had performed extremely well in the Marlboro Cup in China, so she put them together for the first 16 boards yesterday. Kerri Sanborn and Irina Levitina played in the other room. This apparently worked well, for the Americans gained 29 IMPs and then were only 22 points behind. For the last 16 boards, Sachs put Deas back with her regular partner, Beth Palmer, and the team found that it had regained its momentum. They gained 24 IMPs to win by 2.

In the Bermuda Bowl, USA I outscored China, 114-35 yesterday – they managed to turn the match completely around. Italy actually pulled ahead of Norway on Board 92, but Norway turned it around immediately, regaining the lead for good on Board 93.

Damiani bids welcome to Transnational players

José Damiani, *President of the World Bridge Federation*, welcomed all the contestants in the Transnational Open Teams as they took their places for their first match late yesterday afternoon. He thanked the players for their outstanding response to the new event and wished them a happy stay in Tunisia, "a charming country."

"An event like this enables us to once again carry through with our motto – Bridge for Peace," he said.

The entire list of all Transnational teams, including all members of each team, will be published in tomorrow's Daily Bulletin. Additional teams are expected from those teams eliminated in yesterday's quarterfinals of the Bermuda Bowl and the Venice Cup. Such teams will begin competition today.

VUGRAPH

Venice Cup - Semifinals 11h00

FRANCE - CHINA

Bermuda Bowl - Semifinals 14h00

USA I - USA II

Bermuda Bowl - Semifinals 17h00

FRANCE - NORWAY

Bermuda Bowl - Semifinals 21h30

To be decided

Bermuda Bowl - Results

Quarterfinals

Table	Match	1st 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
1.	USA I - China	32 - 30	18 - 41	45 - 48	32 - 37	51 - 10	63 - 25	241 - 191
2.	USA II - Chinese Taipei	62 - 29	35 - 32	34 - 22	44 - 42	5 - 40	33 - 14	213 - 179
3.	France - Poland	35 - 17	14 - 57	57 - 13	48 - 37	32 - 35	34 - 39	220 - 198
4.	Norway - Italy	37 - 45	4 - 38	33 - 51	52 - 34	52 - 5	51 - 44	229 - 217

Venice Cup - Results

Quarterfinals

Table	Match	1st 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	44 - 31	42 - 13	253 - 133
6.	USA I - Italy	56 - 35	14 - 30	33 - 32	39 - 44	35 - 27	37 - 22	214 - 190
7.	USA II - Canada	13 - 27	19 - 18	20 - 42	27 - 43	45 - 16	40 - 16	164 - 162
8.	China - Great Britain	35 - 38	27 - 35	75 - 0	8 - 35	18 - 28	68 - 21	231 - 157

Venice Cup Semifinals

3. France - China
4. USA I - USA II

Bermuda Bowl Semifinals

1. USA I - USA II
2. France - Norway

Prize giving

The prize giving ceremony will take place at 20.00 precisely on Saturday in the Forum Room on the first floor of the Sol Azur (the open room for the Bermuda Bowl and the Venice Cup). Following the ceremony, dinner will take place in the restaurant located on the third floor.

Kudos for China

Zia, a member of the USA I Bermuda Bowl team that came from behind to defeat China, had nothing but praise for his opponents at the conclusion of the match.

"It was a pleasure to play China. They play very well, and they are polite and charming in every way. They gave us a great run for the money. If we have to choose an opponent again, we'll choose United States II before we select China."

Victory banquet

All the captains of the Bermuda Bowl and Venice Cup teams are kindly invited to collect the invitations to the Victory Banquet for their teams on Wednesday, 29 October, between 11.00 and 18.00 at the Hospitality Desk. Please do this within that time because it is necessary to know the number of teams attending. We have to establish the number attending because the available space is limited.

Please take care of your invitation because you will not be allowed to enter the dining room without producing it to the staff at the door.

World Transnational Open Teams Schedule

Tuesday

11.00-12.30	Round 4
Break	
14.00-15.30	Round 5
15.50-17.20	Round 6
17.40-19.10	Round 7

Wednesday

13.30-15.00	Round 8
15.20-16.50	Round 9
17.10-18.40	Round 10
Break	
21.00-22.30	Round 11
22.50-00.20	Round 12

Thursday

11.00-12.30	Round 13
Break	
14.00-15.30	Round 14
15.50-17.20	Round 15
17.40-19.10	Round 16

Friday

11.00-12.30	Round 17
11.00-13.20	Semifinal, first half
12.50-14.20	Round 18
14.00-16.20	Semifinal, second half
Break	
21.30-23.50	Final, first segment

Saturday

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

World Transnational Open Teams Results After 3 Rounds

1	HANNA	CAN	68
2	JACKSON	IRE	65
3	NIEMINEN	FIN	64
4	SAHAL	FRA	63
5	ROUDINESCO	FRA	60
6	BURGAY	ITA	59
7	GOODMAN	GBR	59
8	BARONI	ITA	58
9	REKUNOV	RUS	58
10	SHARIF	FRA	58
11	VANDERGAAS	GBR	58
12	CHMURSKI	POL	57
13	TELSCHER	GBR	57
14	DUMITRESCU	ROM	56
15	EKEBLAD	USA	56
16	PINTO R	POR	56
17	GARDYNIK	POL	55
18	NISING	NOR	55
19	JASSEM	POL	54
20	AUKEN	DEN	53
21	KOUZNETSOV	RUS	53
22	MAYBACH	GER	52
23	OTVOSI	POL	51
24	PINTO E	POR	51
25	STRANDBERG	EST	51
26	GARZETTI	CHE	49
27	LAVAZZA	ITA	49
28	MILNER	USA/CAN	49
29	BAROUDY	LIB	48
30	BLAKSET	DNK	47
31	SFAR	TUN	47
32	RADISIC	YUG/CAN	46
33	KER	NZE	45
34	MALAGUTI	ITA	45
35	BELHASSEN	TUN	44
36	CADI-TAZI	MAR	44
37	HACKETT	GBR	44
38	MACI	ITA	44
39	CONVERY	ZAF/GBR	43
40	MOSCHINO	ITA	43
41	REID	GBR	42
42	WILLIAMS	USA	42
43	CHODOROWSK	POL	41
44	EILERTSEN	NOR	41
45	JEDIDI	TUN	41
46	MORSE	USA/CAN	41
47	FORT	CSK	40
48	GUILLET	FRA	40
49	SURIYA	THA	40
50	ZOBU	TUR	40
51	D'ORSI	USA	39
52	MACNAIR	GBR	39
53	BIZER	RUS/BRA	38
54	CERVI	ITA	38
55	DAEHR	GER	38
56	LEVENKO	EST	38
57	SEGERS	BEL	38
58	WESSELING	NTH/GBR	38
59	FORRESTER	GBR	37
60	RAUNTO	FIN	37
61	BURN	GBR	36
62	RIOS	CHE	36
63	SINGAPURI	IND	34
64	ZARROUK	TUN	34
65	HUMBURG	GER	32
66	NIKEL	RUS	32
67	PEDAK	EST	27
68	DIX	MAL	26
69	ANAND	IND	24
70	DAYAN	FRA	23
71	GAL	HUN	23
72	GRAY	ZAF	22
73	HAMEYET	MAR	22
74	LAKHDHAR	TUN	20

Fantastic? No, fantasy

by Sam Leckie, Scotland

When I read Terry Radjef's fascinating history article, I decided to fax my good friend Albert Benjamin to verify all the dates and facts (Albert unfortunately is not attending these championships, but he sends his best regards to his many friends). For those of you who don't understand, I didn't contact him because he is a historian but because he was present when most of that ancient action was taking place.

Indeed, not only did he confirm it all, but he added a fact about Hannibal's wait outside Rome. It was at that time that Albert ran his first duplicate tournament among the soldiers as they waited for reinforcements.

As he recalls it, he almost had his most embarrassing moment as a director during that tournament. Early in the game he was called over to a rock (that's what they played on in those days) to give a ruling. The bidding had started one spade – one heart.

"What now?" the soldiers asked him. These men worshipped him as a bridge god almost as much as they admired Hannibal as a leader. Albert could not admit that he was weak on the rules. In his inimitable style he smiled and replied,

"That's an easy one. You two just change places!"

Tales from the Bermuda Bowl

The late Jeremy Flint was the archetypal English gentleman. He was selected by the British Bridge League to represent Great Britain in the 1987 championships that were staged in Ocho Rios, Jamaica. Upon receipt of the official letter of invitation he telephoned the Secretary, Anna Gudge, and informed her that his acceptance was conditional upon his being assured that he would have a room with a bath and not a shower.

After a series of telexes Anna finally obtained a 100% assurance that he would get what he required. She telephoned Jeremy to tell him the news. He thanked her and confirmed that on that basis he was delighted to accept the invitation to represent Great Britain.

Plucking up courage Anna politely enquired if he could tell her why the provision of a bath was so important.

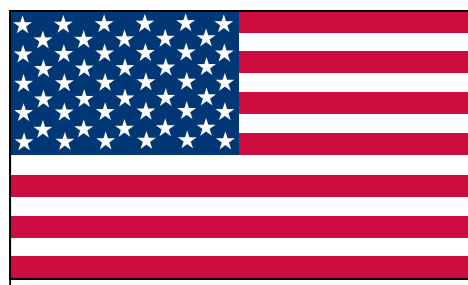
'My dear', answered Jeremy, 'It's quite simple. It is completely impossible to smoke a cigar in the shower!'

Great service

A group of bridge players went to the Malibu restaurant. They ordered extra garlic with their bread. Then they ordered extra garlic with their shrimp. They also asked for extra garlic for the sole and the house noodles.

When their dessert order came – ice cream – the waiter brought along a bowl of extra garlic.

At another restaurant, the waiter told a table of bridge players that he had been to California more than 300 times. "Trouble is," he said, "I always wake up."



Venice Cup United States II profiles

KATHIE WEI-SENDER. She is the Ambassador of Bridge for both the WBF and the ACBL. She also is the adviser to the China Bridge Association, and she has had much to do with the rapid advance of bridge in China. A Grand Master, she has won three world championships and also served as non-playing captain of another championship team.

KERRI SANBORN. She lives in New York and trades options on the American Stock Exchange. A four-time world champion, she spends her non-copious free time playing bridge with her husband Stephen, her favourite partner. She also likes golf and horses and her cats.

IRINA LEVITINA. Originally from Russia, she first made a name for herself as a chess player. She has won four Olympiads – three in chess and one last year in bridge. She is now a professional bridge player.

JUANITA CHAMBERS. Juanita's son Adam, age 11, just won his first masterpoint at the club with his mom. Juanita has won three world championships, a Pan American title and 20 North American championships. She lives in Schenectady NY, the same town as Lynn Deas, and she has been a tower of strength for Lynn during her illness.

BETH PALMER. She is an administrative judge for the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission. She is here with her husband, Bill Pettis, and their two-year-old daughter Julie who wishes her mommy. "Good luck, win lots of IMPs," before each session. Beth won the Venice Cup in 1987 and 1989 and also has a second and a third in the World Women's Pairs.

LYNN DEAS. She is playing at these championships from a wheelchair, the result of a progressively disabling disease called myasthenia gravis. She spent the early days of this tournament in a local hospital, but came back to take her place at the table. She maintains a cheerful spirit despite her disability. She presently rates as the most successful woman player in the world over the past decade with several world championships to her credit.

SUE SACHS. She is the team's non-playing captain. She was second in the 1966 world championships, then took a 25-year break from bridge to run a travel agency and raise four children. Now, with the agency sold, she has time again to play bridge and enjoy nine grandchildren. She has won eight North American championships. With her husband Dave she won the Master Mixed Teams in Albuquerque this summer.

Transnational Team Line-ups

	Mrs DAYAN	FRA	Mrs MAHRESI, Mrs FITOUSSI, Mrs PARIENTE
M	SEGRS	BEL	Mrs HARDEMAN, Mrs LAMOTE, LAMOTE
	BIZER	RUS/BRA	PROKHOROV, GOUDKOV, VOROBEI
	FORT	CSK	VOLHEJN, FILIP, VELECKY, LAUER, VORACEK
S	BLAKSET	DEN	HECHT-JOHANSEN, CHRISTIANSEN, BRUUN, BLAKSET, WERGE
	LEVENKO	EST	TRISHKIN, JUGANDI, KOIVUPUU
	PEDAK	EST	MARIPUU, LEY, LELLER, LOND, KOBOLT
	STRANDBERG	EST	LINNAMAGI, JUHKAMI, LINDMAA, KUUSK
	RAUNTO	FIN	Mrs KIPPILA, ELOKORPI, PESONEN
	NIEMINEN	FIN	Mrs KULMALA, LINDEN, MAKINEN, IMMONEN, MANNI
S	ROUDINESCO	FRA	DELMOULY, ADAD, AUJALEU, SCHNEIDER
	SAHAL	FRA	GEITNER, COUNIL, LEGRAS
	GUILLET	FRA	Mrs GUILLET, GERMAIN, Mrs CHAUVIRE
	SHARIF	FRA, LEB, GER, EGY	FAIGENBAUM, CHIDIAC, HAUSLER, PAWLK, CRONIER
	HANNA	CAN	FRASER, ROCHE, GREEN, THURSTON, DELOGU
	MAYBACH	GER	BUCHLEV, ENGEL, KIRMSE
S	HUMBURG	GER	GROMOELLER, MATTSSON, SCHNEIDER
	FORRESTER	GBR	MONACHAN, STEEL, KING
	MACNAIR	GBR	REES, LINDON, Mrs LINDON
	GOODMAN	GBR	POWNALL, KAY, DHONDY, PENCHARZ, SHARPLES
M	HACKETT	GBR/JAM	Mrs MAVROMICHAELIS, HACKETT, HACKETT, VERNON, MENDOZA
S	TELTSCHER	GBR/USA	PRIDAY, TRUSCOTT, Mrs TRUSCOTT, SACHS, Mrs SACHS
L	Mrs BURN	GBR	Mrs PENFOLD, Ms GODFREY, Mrs KERR, Mrs KING
S	ZARROUK	TUN/GRG	CHELLY, CHEKIR, GHEDIRA, AYECH, KHALED
L	BARONI	ITA/HUN	Mrs de BASIO, Mrs PISCITELLI, Mrs CAGGESE, Mrs FRANSOS, Mrs SACCAVINI
	LAKHDHAR	USIT/ITA	RADJEF, BROWN, JELLOULI, TRENALAHCE, KULENUVIC
M	CERVI	ITA	VIVALDI, CIVIDIN, ZENARI, PAOLUZI, GUERRA, ROSSANO
	GAL	HUN/ITA	WINKLER, LAKATOS, HOMONNAY, SZALAY, GULYAS,
	BURGAY	ITA/POL	DE FALCO, MARIANI, LESNIEWSKI, MARTENS
	MOSCHINO	ITA	GARBOSI, ABATE, CARUGATI, UGGERI,
	MACI	ITA	LONGINOTTI, RESTA, SALVI
	MALAGUTI	ITA	CAMERANO, ODDONE, Mrs DONATELLI, VIETTI, TORIELLI
L	Mrs REID	JASW/JAM	Mrs WIKLUND, Mrs FOWLES, Mrs BULLIS
S/M	BAROUDY	LIB/LBN	AWAD, Mrs FAYAD, EIDI, Mrs AWAD
	NISING	NOR	KRISTENSEN, SKOTNES, LUTKEN
	GARDYNIK	POL	PRZYBORA, KWIECIEN, PSZCZOLA
	JASSEM	POL	TUSZYNSKI, KOWALCZYK, WITEK
	CHMURSKI	POL	PUCZYNSKI, OLANSKI, GOLEBIEWSKI
	OTVOSI	POL	LASOCKI, ZAREMBA, BOREWICZ,
	CHODOROWSKI	POL	Mrs CHODOROWSKA, KOLTON, ZAJKIEWICZ
	PINTO.R	POR	CERQUINHO, FERREIRA, SILVA, BARBOSA, TORRES
	PINTO.E	POR	PINTO, GONCALVES, Mrs LIMA, Mrs CERQUINHO, MELO
	DUMITRESCU	ROM	CUCUIU, POPESCU, Mrs CEACARU, DOGARU, CATONE
	BELHASSEN	TUN	JALILA, SLIM, AISSA, MESTIRI
	SURIYA	THA/TUN	Mrs SOPHONPANI, SILABHUSIDI, NIMITYONGSKUL, Mrs NIMITYONGS
S/M	D'ORSI	BRA/NZ/USA	Mrs NUDELMAN, ANDERSON, Mrs GERARD, WIGNALL, Mrs FRANCIS
	KOUZNETSOV	RUS	DOUBININE, CHOUDNEV, PAVLOV
	NIKEL	RUS	Mrs DOUNAENKO, KHOKHLOV, TOKAREV,
	CONVERY	ZAF/GBR	GOWER, SCHAPIRO, GORDON, COPE
	GRAY	ZAF	Mrs NICK, POPPLESTONE, WESTON, SCHODER
	GARZETTI	CHL/CHE	BIGLER, WEISS, WUNDERLI
	RIOS	CHL/CHE	ANDERSSON, ZAHIR, TACIVE, CLARO
	SINGAPURI	IND/TUN	KARMARKAR, SHIVADSAM, THADINI, KLBI, BEAUMONT
	Mrs ZOBU	TUR	EKSIOGLU, EKSIOGLU, YILMAZ
	RADISIC	YOU/USA	Ms STOJANOVIC, VLAJNIC, ZIPOVSKI, KIKIC, KALCIC
	MILNER	USA	WEICHSEL, LEVIN, SONTAG, JACOBUS, GITELMAN
	KER	NZ	GRANT, KER, DRAVITZKI, JEDRYCHOWSKI, MIK
	EKEBLAD	USA	Mrs EKEBLAD, PASSELL, SEAMON, COKIN
	MORSE	USA	Mrs MORSE, RETEK, Mrs RETEK, COOK, Mrs ROGERS
S/M	DIX	MAL	BORG, CONSIGLIO, ATTARD, BONDI
	LAVAZZA	ITA	DI MAIO, PIETRI, RINALDI, PULGA
	VANDERGAAST	NTH/GBR	VAN DER GAAST, CALLAGHAN, MALYSA, VAN DER KAM
	WESSELING	NTH/GBR	DUCKWORTH, DE BOER, SNELLER
	DAEHR	GER	JUNG, MULLER, NEHMERT, DAEHR
	CADITAZI	MAR	BENSOUA, BELKOUCH, ORAIBI
	HAMEYET	MAR	RHALLAM, MARRAKCHI, KABBAJ, LALAMI
	JACKSON	IRE	WALSH, KEAVENEY, TIMLIN
	AUKEN	DEN	AUKEN, SCHEFFER, ANDERSEN, MOLLER
	WILLIAMS	GBR/USA	STUCKER, PRIDAY, TELTSCHER, QUERAN, GUYOT
	ANAND	IND	KALPANA, SUBHASH, ANIL, ANAL, SANTANU
	EILERTSEN	NOR	ISINGRUD, GRIME, OLSEN, HAGA, JOHANSEN
	REKUNOV	RUS/TUN	KAZANTSEV, KHOLOMEEV, KHIOUPPENEN
	JEDIDI	TUN	BELYFA, HASSINE, BACCOUR, ZMERLI, TOUIL
M	SFAR	TUN	KLBI, BACCAR, GUELLATY, REBAI, KLBI

S = Senior • M = Mixedr • L = Ladies

We would be grateful if all players would check that the above information is correct and let us know of any corrections. In particular, it is important that we know if your team qualifies for any of the special categories: Senior, Mixed, Ladies, and that the countries are correct. If possible, we would also like to have the players' first names, or at least their initials. Thank you.

How did he do it?

by Alan Truscott

On Board 34 of the Bermuda Bowl quarterfinal against China, Michael Rosenberg of USA I held the following:

♠ K 9 8 7 4
♥ Q 10 5
♦ 10
♣ Q 5 4 2

His opponents came to rest in INT on 1♣-1♦-INT, and he balanced with 2♠, vulnerable. Whether this should be judged as "bold" or "rash" depends on the outcome.

Board 34. N/S Vul. Dealer East.

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

East doubled 2♠, at which point Rosenberg would have been happy to cancel his balance and revert to INT. Looking at the North/South cards, it appears the penalty could easily be 500 or 800, but the gods were kind – the clubs and hearts were symmetrically arranged in the best possible way.

The ♦Q was led and allowed to win. East shifted to the ♣9, and dummy's 10 forced the ace. This was the moment of truth. A trump shift would have beaten the contract, but West led a heart. Once again a 10 forced an ace, and East returned a heart.

Dummy's king won and North led the ♦K, ruffing out the ace. The ♥Q was cashed, and a club was led to the king. Another diamond was ruffed, and the ♣Q was ruffed to reach this ending:

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

The last club was led from the closed hand, and East's three trump tricks shrank to two. He could score the ace and queen, but his 10 was dead no matter how he played. The contract was made for a gain of 13 badly needed IMPs. In the replay East/West scored a normal 120 in INT. Verdict: Rosenberg's 2♠ bid was bold, not rash. Next time, however...

Czech Bridge Association

The Czech Bridge Association thank Ceska Kooperativa, druzstejni pojistouna a.s. for help with participation in the the first World Transnational Open Teams.

Bermuda Bowl

Quarterfinal (set 4)

USA I vs China

Every Championship contains a number of noteworthy hands, but rarely do we see anything like the scintillating session of play which took place in the fourth stanza of the match between USA I and China. Those who were privileged to be in the VuGraph will remember it as perhaps the greatest ever exhibition of the game at this level.

Board 49. Love All. Dealer North.

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

Photograph courtesy of Koobik's new digital camera



Paul Soloway (USA I)

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Li</i>	<i>Soloway</i>	<i>Wang</i>	<i>Deutsch</i>
	Pass	Pass	INT
Pass	Pass	2♣	Pass
2♦	Pass	2♠	Pass
Pass	Dbl	All Pass	

Wang's decision to compete on the part score did not turn out well. Against two spades doubled South led the king of clubs, North playing the ten, and switched to ace and another spade. At this point the play record ceases and declarer came to six tricks for -300.

After the match Seymon Deutsch mentioned in passing that his side should have collected +500. Perhaps this can be achieved by forcing declarer at trick two.

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Mahmood</i>	<i>Wang X</i>	<i>Rosenberg</i>	<i>Fu</i>
	Pass	Pass	1♣
Pass	1♦	Pass	INT
Pass	2♣	Pass	2♦
Pass	2NT	All Pass	

The Chinese pair produced a straightforward Precision Club auction to 2NT.

Zia led the four of clubs which was taken by dummy's nine. He won the eight of diamonds with his ace and switched to the king of hearts. That did declarer no harm at all. He won and overtook the ten of diamonds when West ducked and cleared the suit. On the heart return he finessed the ten and claimed ten tricks. +180, but 3 IMPs for USA I.

Board 51. E/W Vul. Dealer South.

♠ 8 6 5		♠ Q 7 2									
♥ A 10 8 5		♥ K 7 3 2									
♦ J 8 5		♦ Q 10 9									
♣ A K 2		♣ 9 8 7									
♠ A J 10 9 4											
♥ Q 9 6 4											
♦ 7 3											
♣ J 5											
	<table border="1" style="margin: auto;"> <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										
♠ K 3											
♥ J											
♦ A K 6 4 2											
♣ Q 10 6 4 3											

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Li</i>	<i>Soloway</i>	<i>Wang</i>	<i>Deutsch</i>
			1♦
1♠	Dbl	2♠	3♣
Pass	3♣	Pass	4♣
Pass	4♦	Pass	5♦
All Pass			

South had an awkward decision to make at his third turn. He had a spade stopper, but there were certainly layouts where five of a minor would be better than 3NT, so he elected to bid out his shape.

It looked as if he was destined to go one down, but West led the ten of spades. After winning with the king and cashing the ace and king of diamonds declarer claimed his contract. +400.

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Mahmood</i>	<i>Wang X</i>	<i>Rosenberg</i>	<i>Fu</i>
			1♦
1♠	Dbl	2♠	3♣
Pass	3♣	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

After a similar start South preferred the nine-trick game. He would have made it at most tables, as West led a spade, but Zia was not prepared to give a trick on the lead and he selected the four of hearts.

There was nothing declarer could do, he had eight tricks and no more. +50 and 10 IMPs for USA I.

Zia drew a round of applause for his lead and on the next board it was the turn of his partner to wow the audience.

Board 52. Game All. Dealer West.

♠ K 10 6 2		♠ A Q J 8									
♥ Q 10 9 7		♥ J									
♦ 8 3		♦ A 6 5									
♣ A J 7		♣ K 10 8 5 4									
♠ 9 7 4											
♥ A 6 2											
♦ Q 9 4 2											
♣ 6 3 2											
	<table border="1" style="margin: auto;"> <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										
♠ 5 3											
♥ K 8 5 4 3											
♦ K J 10 7											
♣ Q 9											

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Li</i>	<i>Soloway</i>	<i>Wang</i>	<i>Deutsch</i>
Pass	Pass	1♣	Pass
1♦	Dbl	1♠	2♥
Pass	Pass	Dbl	Pass
3♣	All Pass		

South led the four of hearts and declarer won with the ace and played a club to his king. He exited with a club and North overtook his partner's queen and drew a third round of trumps with the jack. It looks as if declarer can arrive at eight tricks via three trumps, two spades, one heart and two diamonds, but he collected only seven, so USA I scored +200.

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Mahmood</i>	<i>Wang X</i>	<i>Rosenberg</i>	<i>Fu</i>
Pass	Pass	1♣	Pass
1♦	Pass	1♠	Pass
2♣	Pass	Pass	2♥
Pass	Pass	3♣	All Pass

Rosenberg won the opening lead of the three of hearts with the ace and took a winning spade finesse. He led the five of clubs from hand and South won with the nine. He played another heart which was ruffed with the eight of clubs. Now Michael Rosenberg played the five of diamonds and South instantly played the jack. When the queen of diamonds held the trick, declarer took another spade finesse and followed it with the ace of spades which South ruffed. He played another heart but declarer could not be denied. He ruffed with the four of clubs, cashed the ace of diamonds and ruffed his last spade in dummy. He then exited with the nine of diamonds and showed his cards. +110, 7 IMPs and another burst of applause.

The next board was a push, but it featured the same brilliant defence at both tables.

Board 53. N/S Vul. Dealer North.

♠ 10 6 5 3		♠ A 2									
♥ A K Q J 2		♥ 10 5 3									
♦ Q		♦ 10 7 5									
♣ K 5 4		♣ A Q 9 7 2									
♠ Q J											
♥ 9 7 6											
♦ K 9 8 6 4											
♣ 10 8 3											
	<table border="1" style="margin: auto;"> <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										
♠ K 9 8 7 4											
♥ 8 4											
♦ A J 3 2											
♣ J 6											

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Li</i>	<i>Soloway</i>	<i>Wang</i>	<i>Deutsch</i>
			1♠
Pass	3♣	Pass	4♣
All Pass			

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Mahmood</i>	<i>Wang X</i>	<i>Rosenberg</i>	<i>Fu</i>
			1♠
Pass	3♣	Pass	4♣
All Pass			

Both teams reached a normal four spades.

Li led the three of clubs and in no time at all Wang had cashed the queen and ace and played a third round. He went up with the ace of spades on the first round of the suit and played another club to promote his partners jack of spades.

Fantastic!

Seymon joked afterwards that once West had dropped the queen of spades under the ace he would have finessed on the next round! Of course he knew East would not have played the ace from ♠AJ2.

Zia led... the eight of clubs!

Rosenberg took the queen and cashed the ace, Zia playing the three. Of course he followed to the next round but just as in the other room the contract was now defeated by the promotion.

The audience could hardly wait for the next board, for it was already clear they were watching something special.

Board 55. Game All. Dealer South.

♠ 7 6 3								
♥ Q J 8 5								
♦ 6 4 3								
♣ 9 8 6								
♠ 9 8 5		♠ K Q 10						
♥ K 4 2		♥ 9 6						
♦ A 8 7		♦ K J 10 9 2						
♣ K 7 5 3		♣ A J 10						
	<table border="1"><tr><td>N</td><td></td><td>E</td></tr><tr><td>W</td><td></td><td>S</td></tr></table>	N		E	W		S	
N		E						
W		S						
	♠ A J 4 2							
	♥ A 10 7 3							
	♦ Q 5							
	♣ Q 4 2							

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Li	Soloway	Wang	Deutsch
Pass	Pass	1NT	1♣
2NT	Pass	3NT	All Pass

South led the two of spades against 3NT. Declarer needed to find the queen of diamonds, so when he played the jack from hand he was happy to see the queen appear on his left. He won with the ace and played a club to the ace. His contract was already secure and he finally arrived at eleven tricks; +660.

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Mahmood	Wang X	Rosenberg	Fu
Pass	2♦	Dbl	INT
3♦	All Pass		2♥

North tried an interesting manoeuvre over his partner's 13-15 notrump, pretending he had a five-card heart suit. It didn't keep East/West out of the auction, but it did enough to keep them out of game. Zia made ten tricks but lost 11 IMPs.

The very next board saw China pick up another 6 IMPs by reaching a game not attempted in the Open Room.

Board 56. Love All. Dealer West.

♠ 6 5 3								
♥ 10 8 5 4								
♦ A 9 6 3								
♣ Q 10								
♠ K Q 10 7 4 2		♠ A						
♥ K J 3		♥ A Q 7 2						
♦ 10 8		♦ K Q 5 4						
♣ 7 4		♣ 9 5 3 2						
	<table border="1"><tr><td>N</td><td></td><td>E</td></tr><tr><td>W</td><td></td><td>S</td></tr></table>	N		E	W		S	
N		E						
W		S						
	♠ J 9 8							
	♥ 9 6							
	♦ J 7 2							
	♣ A K J 8 6							



Low Stansby (USA I)

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Li	Soloway	Wang	Deutsch
1♠	Pass	2♦	Pass
2♠	Pass	2NT	Pass
3♠	Pass	4♠	All Pass

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Mahmood	Wang X	Rosenberg	Fu
2♠	Pass	2NT	Pass
3♣	Pass	3♦	Pass
3♥	Pass	3♠	All Pass

You pay your money and you take your choice. Do you open 1♠ or 2♠?

This time it worked better to open one, but maybe next time someone will have ♠jxxx.

There was no time for anyone to relax – the next board featured one of the most interesting play problems of the championships.

Board 57. E/W Vul. Dealer North.

♠ 8 3								
♥ A Q J 9 4 3								
♦ Q J 6 5								
♣ 4								
♠ A J 9 7 4		♠ Q 6 5						
♥ 8		♥ K 10 5						
♦ 10 7 4 3		♦ 9 8						
♣ J 9 7		♣ Q 10 8 3 2						
	<table border="1"><tr><td>N</td><td></td><td>E</td></tr><tr><td>W</td><td></td><td>S</td></tr></table>	N		E	W		S	
N		E						
W		S						
	♠ K 10 2							
	♥ 7 6 2							
	♦ A K 2							
	♣ A K 6 5							

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Li	Soloway	Wang	Deutsch
Pass	1♥	Pass	2♣
Pass	2♥	Pass	3♦
Pass	4♦	Pass	4♥
All Pass			

East led the five of spades and West won with the nine, cashed the ace and played a third spade. Soloway ruffed with the nine of hearts and soon collected +420.

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Mahmood	Wang X	Rosenberg	Fu
Pass	1♥	Pass	2NT
Pass	3♥	Pass	3♠
Dbl	4♥	All Pass	

Zia got in a lead-directing double so Rosenberg led the queen of spades. Declarer covered with the king, so Zia won, cashed the jack and played a third spade. Without pause for thought declarer once again ruffed with the nine and he too was home. Of course he may have suspected what was going on, but if East really has only two spades, then ruffing with the queen or jack appears to be the normal play – one that was made at other tables. We'll run the hand on GIB to check it!

Now it was the turn of the USA to gain a swing in the bidding.

Board 60. N/S Vul. Dealer West.

♠ 6 2								
♥ K J 8								
♦ K Q J 9 8								
♣ 6 4 2								
♠ J 8 3		♠ A 10 7 5 4						
♥ 10 6		♥ A 7 3						
♦ A 6		♦ 7 5 4						
♣ A K J 8 7 5		♣ Q 3						
	<table border="1"><tr><td>N</td><td></td><td>E</td></tr><tr><td>W</td><td></td><td>S</td></tr></table>	N		E	W		S	
N		E						
W		S						
	♠ K Q 9							
	♥ Q 9 5 4 2							
	♦ 10 3 2							
	♣ 10 9							

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Li	Soloway	Wang	Deutsch
1♣	1♦	1♠	2♦
Dbl	Pass	4♠	All Pass

South led the two of diamonds and declarer took it with the ace and tried a spade to the ten. That lost to the queen and South continued with the ten of diamonds. North won and switched to a heart. That ensured one down, +50.

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Mahmood	Wang X	Rosenberg	Fu
1♣	1♦	1♠	2♦
2♠	Pass	3♦	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

Rosenberg thought for a while over Zia's 3NT but eventually he came up with the winning answer. Declarer claimed with a flourish as soon as everyone followed to the first round of clubs. 10 IMPs for USA1.

Zia played the next hand beautifully – of course it was to flatten the board!

Board 62. Love All. Dealer East.

♠ 10								
♥ Q 8 6								
♦ K J 10 7 3 2								
♣ A 9 2								
♠ A Q 7 5		♠ J 6 4 2						
♥ 3 2		♥ A K 10 5						
♦ 4		♦ A 9 8 6 5						
♣ K J 10 7 5 3		♣ -						
	<table border="1"><tr><td>N</td><td></td><td>E</td></tr><tr><td>W</td><td></td><td>S</td></tr></table>	N		E	W		S	
N		E						
W		S						
	♠ K 9 8 3							
	♥ J 9 7 4							
	♦ Q							
	♣ Q 8 6 4							

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Li	Soloway	Wang	Deutsch
1♠	Pass	1♦	Pass
4♠	All Pass	3♠	Pass

Open Room

West Mahmood	North Wang X	East Rosenberg	South Fu
1♠	Pass	1♦	Pass
4♣	Pass	3♣	Pass
		4♣	All Pass

Zia won the opening lead of the six of hearts and cashed the ace of diamonds, noting the appearance of South's queen. He ruffed a diamond, South discarding a club, ruffed a club, and cashed the ace of hearts. He ruffed a heart, ruffed a club and then ruffed a heart with the ace of spades. He ruffed a club with the jack of spades and then played a diamond, ensuring that the queen of spades would be his game-going trick.

No doubt exhausted by some of their earlier efforts, the players contrived to produce a final board that was totally out of keeping with the rest of the match.

Board 64. E/W Vul. Dealer West.

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

Closed Room

West Li	North Soloway	East Wang	South Deutsch
1♦	Pass	2♣	4♥
5♣	Pass	6♣	6♥
Dbl	All Pass		

Give West the queen of clubs and six clubs is not bad, but might still be beaten by two rounds of hearts, depending on the lie of the trump suit. Of course if he had the queen, West might go back to diamonds. That was all academic here, as South was sufficiently impressed to save.

Li led the king of diamonds and switched his attack to spades. After getting a spade ruff there was still a club trick to come, so that was +800.

Open Room

West Mahmood	North Wang X	East Rosenberg	South Fu
1♦	Pass	2♣	4♥
5♣	Pass	6♣	All Pass

Rosenberg's response of two clubs was forcing to game.

Zia explained after the session that he made two errors on this board. The first was to bid five clubs, which promised a better hand than the one he actually had. Systemically he should have passed and then removed his partner's likely double to five clubs, which would have been more in accordance with his actual values. His other error was in not converting six clubs to six diamonds – he would still have gone down on this layout, but six clubs would have failed even if Rosenberg had held ♣AKQ75 – there would still have been no way to prevent North from scoring his jack of clubs after the defence start with two rounds of hearts.

China had won the segment 37-32, leaving them ahead 156-127, with 32 boards to go.

For all of the evening and most of the following day there was only one topic of conversation – did you see "the boards?"

Those who did will remember them for a long, long time.

1997 Official World Championship Book

The official book of these championships will be published in March of next year. Comprising some 250-280 pages, it will include:

- ✓ Extensive coverage of the Bermuda Bowl and Venice Cup
- ✓ A brief history of the Bermuda Bowl and Venice Cup
- ✓ Highlights of the Transnational Teams, including a full listing of all participants
- ✓ Many photographs
- ✓ A full listing of all the players in all three championships here in Hammamet

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Hammamet observations – VI

by Terry Radjef

On Sunday, five of us used a chauffeured car to go to Tunis to visit the Bardo Museum – allow about two hours to see the exhibits. We then stopped in Goulette for lunch – very good seafood, then we continued on to the Carthage ruins – a sight to behold! And finally Sidi Bou Said to shop and visit the Medina, the original city. It was an inexpensive super trip.

If you will, let us get back to the history of our host country.

In 146 B.C., Rome decided to annex the entire Carthaginian territory and to call it Provincia Africa. For six centuries North Africa was under Roman laws and customs. The height of Carthage's cultural and economic development was in the second century A.D. Most of the Bardo sculptures date from that period.

The Vandals came from Spain around 420-428 A.D. and took over Carthage, previously weakened by internal troubles. But the rapid decadence of their kingdom enticed Justinian, the Byzantine emperor of Constantinople, to intervene and kick them out.

The new invaders from Constantinople built walls around the cities to protect themselves from constant attacks from the local inhabitants, the Berbers. The Byzantines managed to hold on until the spread of Islam, which first covered Egypt, then arrived in the Maghreb (North Africa) in 647 A.D. By 698, with their major centre in Kairouan, the Arabs had completely conquered North Africa. Again Carthage was destroyed, but Tunis was built.

(To be continued)

In the Snack Bar at the Hotel Bel Azur

The Festival of Couscous

on Thursday, 30 October at 20.30

Menu

Tunisian Salads

♦ ♦ ♦

Brik with Tunafish

♦ ♦ ♦

Couscous with lamb
or with Osban
or with Fish

♦ ♦ ♦

Tunisian Cake

♦ ♦ ♦

Fruit of the Season

Price: 25 Tunisian Dinars

To book: at the Reception of the Hotel Bel Azur, Royal Azur and Sol Azur before 29/10/97.

Bermuda Bowl

Quarterfinal (set 5)

France vs Poland

France brought a 30 IMP lead into the fifth segment of their Bermuda Bowl quarter-final against Poland. However, most of that lead vanished in the first half an hour or so of play.

Board 2. N/S Vul. Dealer East.

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

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

	N	
W		E
	S	

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Romanski</i>	<i>Perron</i>	<i>Kowalski</i>	<i>Chemla</i>
Pass	1♠	Pass	pass
Pass	4♥	Pass	2♥
Pass	6♥	All Pass	4NT

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Levy</i>	<i>Balicki</i>	<i>Mari</i>	<i>Szymanowski</i>
Pass	1♠	Pass	1♥
Pass	2NT	Pass	2♦
Pass	4♥	All Pass	3♦

It worked out well for South to open his awkward hand with 1♥ because he got to describe his two-suiter and North, who also had a complex hand, had his enthusiasm dampened by the void in partner's second suit and lack of a fourth trump. In contrast, Perron/Chemla sailed into slam after Chemla passed the South hand in second seat.

6♥ was hopeless and Chemla ended up down two; -200.

In 4♥, Marek Szymanowski received the lead of the ♣Q, ducked, and a trump switch to the ten, jack and queen. Szymanowski unblocked the ♠K and played ace and ruffed a diamond. Next he cashed the ♠A and ruffed a club, bringing down the ace. He seemed to be well on his way now but something went wrong. A second diamond ruff and a spade ruff was followed by the ♦Q. East took his two diamonds and had only the ♥54 left. He led one through declarer's ♥97 and the bare eight scored the setting trick; one down for only 3 IMPs to Poland and a real opportunity missed.

Board 3. E/W Vul. Dealer South.

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

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

	N	
W		E
	S	

North	South
<i>Perron</i>	<i>Chemla</i>
2♣	1♦
2♥	2♦
3♦	2♠
Pass	3NT

Having bid a hopeless slam on the previous board, the French pair now missed a good one. 3NT made twelve tricks on a spade lead; +490.

North	South
<i>Balicki</i>	<i>Szymanowski</i>
2♣	1♦
2NT	2♠
4♦	3♦
4NT	4♠
6♦	5♠
	Pass

The non-regular partnership of Cesary Balicki and Marek Szymanowski bid smoothly to the top spot and Szymanowski soon chalked up +920; 10 IMPs to Poland.

Board 5. N/S Vul. Dealer North.

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

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

	N	
W		E
	S	

North	South
<i>Balicki</i>	<i>Szymanowski</i>
1♥	1♠
2♦	2NT
3NT	Pass

A number of pairs around the room reached a poor slam on this one. The Poles had no problem in stopping at a safe level and Szymanowski took eleven tricks on a low diamond lead; +660.

North	South
<i>Perron</i>	<i>Chemla</i>
1♥	2♣
2♦	2♠
2NT	3♠
4♣	4♠
6♣	Pass

For the third time in four deals the French pair judged an awkward slam deal wrongly. The best trump suit became the fourth suit after Chemla's 2♣ response and, despite his best efforts to emphasise the quality of his spades later in the auction, it is always difficult to play in the fourth suit. 6♣ could have been making on a good day but this was not one of those. Chemla was two down; -200 and 13 IMPs to Poland. The Poles were only 2 IMPs behind now.

Board 7. Game All. Dealer South.

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

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

	N	
W		E
	S	

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Romanski</i>	<i>Perron</i>	<i>Kowalski</i>	<i>Chemla</i>
1♣	1♥	Pass	Pass
4♣	All Pass	Pass	3♥

Paul Chemla's pre-emptive raise put Jacek Romanski under pressure. He competed with 4♣ and played there. The defence started with three rounds of diamonds, South ruffing, and Romanski had to go one down; -100.

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Levy</i>	<i>Balicki</i>	<i>Mari</i>	<i>Szymanowski</i>
1♣	1♥	Pass	Pass
2♦	Dbl	Pass	1♠
All Pass		Pass	3♥

Here Alain Levy was able to show his two-suited hand quite conveniently when Szymanowski chose to get in a lead-directing spade bid before supporting the hearts. The defence to 3♥ began with three rounds of clubs, the third round being ruffed with the ten and over-ruffed with the queen. Christian Mari switched to a diamond and Balicki played ace, king and a third diamond, ruffing, then a heart up. Levy won the ♥A and had to give a ruff and discard, not that this mattered. Balicki drew the last trump and had to pick the spade suit. He took the finesse and was one down; -100 and 5 IMPs to France.

Balicki might have got the spade right. The distribution was known and for the finesse to be onside East had to be 5-3-3-2 with ♠K, ♥Q and ♦J. Would he not then have bid 1♠ over 1♥?

Board 11. Love All. Dealer South.

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

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

	N	
W		E
	S	

Both North/Souths bid INT - 2♦ - 2♥. Chemla was left to play there and made exactly for +110. In the other room, 2♥ ran round to Mari who bal-

anced with 2♠. Balicki competed with 3♥ so Szymanowski was a level higher than Chemla. The lead was a spade and Szymanowski examined the hand. He could see a spade loser and two diamonds, plus at least one trump. More often than not there would be a second trump to lose and there might be a third diamond. Looking at all four hands we can see that both red suits are very kindly distributed but Szymanowski didn't know that. He tried the club finesse, which could have saved him two tricks had it succeeded. When it did not, he was down. He later played ace and jack of hearts from hand so lost two of those as well for two down; -200 and 7 IMPs to France.

Board 12. NIS Vul. Dealer West.

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

Both East/Wests played 4♠, but from different sides. Apolinary Kowalski was East and Chemla made no mistake, leading a low trump. Kowalski could not get two heart ruffs without giving up the lead and Chemla wasted no time in leading two more rounds of trumps when he got in. The contract was down two; -100.

In the other room, Levy was declarer from the West seat. Either black suit will defeat the contract but Balicki led a heart. Levy won in hand to play a diamond up and Szymanowski won the ace and switched to a low spade. Levy played a heart to the ace, cashed the ♦K discarding a club and embarked on a cross-ruff. South was powerless. After ruffing the fourth heart, Levy had to come off table with the last spade but now south had the choice of winning and putting him in hand with his last trump to cash the long heart or of leading ace and another club, giving a trick to dummy's ♣K. The contract was just made for +420 and 10 IMPs to France.

Board 13. Game All. Dealer North.

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

There were people in other matches going down in 4♥, though it appears to be unbeatable. If the defence take their club ruff, East's spade loser goes away on the ♣J and it is easy to ruff two diamonds. This is what happened in the Open Room where Mari was declarer. On a spade lead, the most threatening, declarer wins and goes about his business of ruffing two diamonds while drawing trumps. Then he must find the ♠10, but with no more entries to dummy he has to play South for the ten so makes his contract. In our Closed Room, the lead was a diamond. Kowalski did his thing in the red suits and duly got the clubs right. Nobody ever switched to spades so he got rid of the second spade on the clubs for an overtrick and 1 IMP to Poland.

The early Polish gains had been virtually wiped out. With 16 boards to play, France held the initiative, leading by 186-159.

Negotiating the Trump Break

by Patrick Jourdain (GB)

Alan Truscott's trivia quiz will no doubt ask which is the oldest team in the Transnationals. With four team members over 70 (we will leave you to guess which) his must certainly be in the running. But anyone who thinks that they will therefore have an easy ride, is in for a shock, witness this deal from the first round of the Transnationals:

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

West	North	East	South
	Dorothy		Alan
2♠	Dbl	Pass	3♥
Pass	4♥	All Pass	

The opening two spades showed exactly five spades and a side-suit of at least four cards, with the strength of a weak two.

In response to the take-out double the Truscotts use Lebensohl, so the call of 3♥ was the stronger way of bidding the suit. This encouraged Dorothy to raise to game.

West led a top spade, which was allowed to hold, and another won by the ace. Truscott took the club finesse, which lost, and East returned the nine of clubs. Truscott won in dummy and ruffed a club, East ditching a diamond. So West's second suit was clubs and he had four red cards.

Playing for West to have one trump and three diamonds, Truscott cashed one top trump, followed by his three diamonds, ending in dummy. When these held up he knew he was home. East was down to all trumps.

On a club lead from dummy East had no answer. South got to over-ruff and ruff a spade high, and East could only make one trump trick.

A good wine grows better with age.

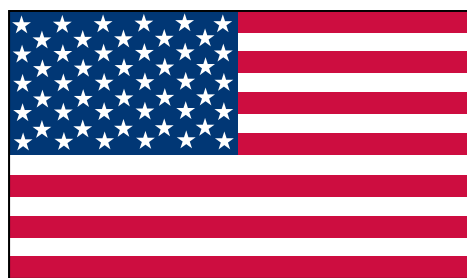
FAME AT LAST!

To all players in the Transnational Swiss Teams.

These championships could feature your 15 minutes of fame!

The Bulletin staff cannot be everywhere at once but we would be delighted to publish your brilliancies in the Bulletin so, if you or your opponents or, unlikely though it may seem, your partner, does something clever, give the details to Henry Francis, Brian Senior or Mark Horton. You can find us on the second floor, next to the Press Room.

The very best hands may also see their way into the official book of these championships so come on, give us your stories and we will make YOU famous.



Bermuda Bowl United States I profiles

by Hugh Ross, non-playing captain

CHIP MARTEL. He is a professor of computer science at the University of California. I believe he has studied bidding theory as much as anyone in the world, and he is an excellent bridge theorist. He has helped world bridge both by his work with the Laws Commission and his coaching of Junior teams.

ZIA. This man needs no introduction. His bridge talent and flair, his charm and wit have made him one of the celebrities of the bridge world. He is playing for the United States for the first time this year, but at heart he is still a Paki. He also has demonstrated considerable talent as a writer and a vugraph commentator.

MICHAEL ROSENBERG. Still speaking in the strong dialect of his Scottish origins. Michael is a successful options trader as well as the best analyst in the game today. A present holder of the Rosenblum Trophy, he is a most dangerous opponent.

SEYMON DEUTSCH. The Texas businessman's remarkable success at the national and international levels is matched only by his popularity. He already is a past winner of the Rosenblum and Olympiad titles, and now he is bidding to become the first mortal ever to win all three major world team championships.

PAUL SOLOWAY. He is one of the most respected bridge professionals in the United States. He is a totally practical player, and he knows how to get the best out of his partners. He is a true gentleman both at and away from the table. I expect him to earn 100,000 masterpoints during his lifetime.

LEW STANSBY. Lew is the taller half of the Martel-Stansby partnership, surely one of the most successful in the world over the past 15 years. He is a successful commodities trader. He has a delightfully dry wit, always thinking before he speaks. I have been fortunate to have been a frequent teammate of him and Chip in recent years.

Naturally Hugh did not write about himself, so your editor will take on that responsibility. Hugh doesn't look old enough, but he has already retired from computer work. He was a member of the American team that finally broke the Italian Blue Team hold on the Bermuda Bowl in Monte Carlo in 1976, and he has since added two more Bermuda Bowls. He loves to hike - he hikes five to eight miles a day in the parks in the San Francisco Bay area. His longest walk was 20 miles - and that included a climb of the 4000-foot Rose Peak.

Bermuda Bowl

Quarterfinal (set 6)

Norway vs Italy

Going into the final 32 boards, Norway held a 5-IMP lead over Italy, 178-173. Clearly it was anybody's ball game. As a matter of fact the battle went right down to the wire. Of course, while we watched the action at the vugraph tables, we kept an eye on the scoreboard for the other matches. Seven were not settled as the session began, and one – between United States II and Canada in the Venice Cup – actually was decided on the very last board.

Both Italy and Norway took a phantom save on the opening board.

Board 81. Love All. Dealer North.

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

	♠ J 7 5 2	
	♥ 6 5 4 3	
	♦ Q 2	
	♣ 8 6 4	

The auctions were identical.

West	North	East	South
Versace	Helness	Lauria	Helgemo
Groethem	Buratti	Aa	Lanzarotti
3♦	1♠	Pass	2♣
Pass	4♣	5♦	Pass
	Double	All Pass	

As you can see, 4♣ won't make, but neither Lauria nor Aa knew that. Both declarers lost the four expected tricks for a push at minus 300.

Board 82. N/S Vul. Dealer East.

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

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

Here Italy decided to take the sure plus by doubling 4♥ while Norway went for the vulnerable game – and succeeded.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Groethem	Buratti	Aa	Lanzarotti
2♥	3♣	1♥	Pass
4♥	Dbl	3♥	3NT
		All Pass	

The defence gathered in two trumps plus one trick in each side suit for plus 300.

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Versace	Helness	Lauria	Helgemo
3♥	4♣	1♥	Pass
Pass	5♣	4♥	4NT
		All Pass	

Helgemo was right when he bid 4NT – that contract will make. But Helness corrected to 5♣. The defence quickly cashed two spades, but that was all – 600 to Norway, good for 7 IMPs.

Board 83. E/W Vul. Dealer South.

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

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

Helgemo and Helness found a fascinating defence here. The contract at both tables was 3♣, and Norway fulfilled this contract in the Closed Room. In the Open Room, Helness led the ♦A, ruffed, and Versace led a club to the 10 and queen. After considerable thought – he didn't have a good hand to lead from – Helness tried a second club. Lauria went wrong when he finessed, losing to the king. Helgemo shot back a spade to partner's king. Helness returned a spade, leaving declarer with two losing diamonds. Down two – 8 IMPs to Norway.

Italy got overboard on this one, climbing all the way to 4♥ and going down 3. Norway stopped in a diamond partial and went down one – that was another 5 IMPs for Norway, who now led by 25, 198-173. A look at the scoreboard indicated that the USA II Venice Cup team was still gaining on Canada, now only 16 IMPs in arrears.

Italy got onto the scoreboard for the first time on Board 86.

Board 86. E/W Vul. Dealer East.

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

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

Italy got a normal heart partial and made three. However, Helgemo opened 1♠, got a 1 NT response and decided to pass! The defence quickly took the first five diamond tricks. Then a heart to the ace enabled Lauria to push a spade through. Italy inflicted a two-trick set to regain 6 IMPs.

Board 87. Game All. Dealer South.

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

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

12 more IMPs to Italy. In the Closed Room, Buratti and Lanzarotti stopped in 3♣ and were beaten just one trick. But this was the bidding in the Open Room:

West	North	East	South
Versace	Helness	Lauria	Helgemo
Pass	1♥	1♠	2♥
3♣	4♥	4♣	Pass
Pass	5♣	Pass	5♥
Pass	Pass	Dbl	All Pass

Lauria knew the defence was going to get club tricks because of the bidding, and he had two aces – hence the double. And that's the way it worked out – he won his two aces and there was no way declarer could avoid losing two clubs. The 500-point set pulled Italy within 9 IMPs of Norway.

There was no major action on the next three deals, although Italy did pick up 5 IMPs on Board 90 when Norway decided to open the bidding and went down two vulnerable tricks while Italy passed the board out.

Italy tied the match on Board 91.

Board 91. Love All. Dealer South.

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

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

In both rooms South opened 4♥ and West overcalled 4♣. That was the final contract in the Closed Room, and Buratti made his game. In the Open Room, however, Helgemo decided to bid again, so he played in 5♥ doubled. The defence started with two club tricks plus a club ruff. Versace cashed the ♠A and led a second spade to the king. A strange situation – declarer had no way to get back to his hand without losing an other trick. So he wound up down three – minus 500. 2 IMPs to Italy and the score was 201-201.

The Italian barrage continued on the next board.

Unlikely partnership

Felicity Reid of Jamaica and Muriel Fowles of Scotland are playing as a partnership in the Transnational Open Teams here. How did they ever find each other? Well, in 1987, when the world championships were held in Ocho Rios, Jamaica, Muriel was there and she became friends with Felicity, who incidentally is now president of the Central America-Caribbean Bridge Federation. They were in contact recently and decided to renew their partnership.

Board 92. N/S Vul. Dealer West.

♠ A ♥ A Q 7 6 5 ♦ J 8 3 2 ♣ A 8 7 ♠ J 6 5 4 3 ♥ 4 ♦ Q 6 ♣ Q J 5 3 2	<table border="1" style="border-collapse: collapse; width: 40px; height: 40px; margin: auto;"> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">N</td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">W</td><td style="text-align: center;">E</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td></td><td style="text-align: center;">S</td><td></td></tr> </table>	N			W	E			S		♠ K Q 10 9 8 ♥ K 9 8 ♦ A 10 9 4 ♣ K ♠ 7 2 ♥ J 10 3 2 ♦ K 7 5 ♣ 10 9 6 4
N											
W	E										
	S										
West <i>Versace</i>	North <i>Helness</i>	East <i>Lauria</i>	South <i>Helgemo</i>								
Pass 4♣	1♥ Dbl	1♠ All Pass	2♥								

On this auction, what you lead? A heart, of course. But it turned out that this lead gave Lauria his contract. He was able to get rid of his losing diamond on the ♥K, and that left him with only three losers – plus 590. The contract can be beaten – South has to lead a black suit and North has to shift to a diamond when he wins his ace. The same contract was played at the other table, but it wasn't doubled, so Italy suddenly was out front by 5 IMPs. The lead didn't last long.

Board 93. Game All. Dealer North.

♠ J 9 3 ♥ 8 ♦ A K 10 7 5 4 3 2 ♣ 4 ♠ Q 10 8 6 4 2 ♥ K Q 9 5 ♦ Q 8 ♣ 2	<table border="1" style="border-collapse: collapse; width: 40px; height: 40px; margin: auto;"> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">N</td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">W</td><td style="text-align: center;">E</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td></td><td style="text-align: center;">S</td><td></td></tr> </table>	N			W	E			S		♠ A K ♥ A J 10 4 2 ♦ J 6 ♣ 10 8 6 3 ♠ 7 5 ♥ 7 6 3 ♦ 9 ♣ A K Q J 9 7 5
N											
W	E										
	S										

Helgemo preempted 3♦, and everybody passed – plus 110. In the Closed Room Buratti opened 3♣ (showing diamonds), and Aa came right in with 3♥. Groetheim of course had no problem whatsoever raising him to game, and this came home easily, declarer losing only the obvious three minor suit tricks. The 12 IMPs put Norway ahead 213-206.

As Board 94 was placed on the table, it was noted that United States II Venice Cup had taken the lead over Canada for the first time in the match. Norway meanwhile were increasing their lead over Italy.

Board 94. Love All. Dealer East.

♠ 10 8 6 ♥ K 7 3 2 ♦ 3 2 ♣ Q J 7 4 ♠ 9 7 2 ♥ 9 4 ♦ 10 9 7 6 4 ♣ A 9 5	<table border="1" style="border-collapse: collapse; width: 40px; height: 40px; margin: auto;"> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">N</td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">W</td><td style="text-align: center;">E</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td></td><td style="text-align: center;">S</td><td></td></tr> </table>	N			W	E			S		♠ A K J 5 4 ♥ A J ♦ A J 5 ♣ K 10 6 ♠ Q 3 ♥ Q 10 8 6 5 ♦ K Q 8 ♣ 8 3 2
N											
W	E										
	S										

Both teams arrived in 4♣, but Norway made it and Italy did not. In the Open Room Lauria won the opening heart lead and led back a heart to Helgemo's queen. He probably would have been better off if he had immediately given up a diamond trick, planning to set up dummy's diamonds for a club pitch. But Helgemo switched to a club, and declarer no longer had any chances. He guessed the trump situation correctly, but

lost two diamonds, a club and a heart.

In the other room the opening lead was a diamond, so declarer had the timing necessary to set up diamonds (and one less diamond loser) for the club discard – making game. 10 more IMPs to Norway increased their lead to 17 with only two boards to go.

Norway put the nails in the coffin on next board.

Board 95. N/S Vul. Dealer South.

♠ Q 7 4 ♥ K J 10 6 5 ♦ Q 6 ♣ 7 5 2	<table border="1" style="border-collapse: collapse; width: 40px; height: 40px; margin: auto;"> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">N</td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">W</td><td style="text-align: center;">E</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td></td><td style="text-align: center;">S</td><td></td></tr> </table>	N			W	E			S		♠ A 9 8 6 3 ♥ A 8 3 ♦ K 5 2 ♣ 9 4 ♠ K 5 ♥ Q 4 2 ♦ 9 8 ♣ A K J 8 6 3 ♠ J 10 2 ♥ 9 7 ♦ A J 10 7 4 3 ♣ Q 10
N											
W	E										
	S										

Helgemo and Helness played in 3♦ making, while Aa and Groetheim played in 3♣ making. The additional 6 IMPs put the match beyond doubt. But the last board still was of major interest – especially since we still hadn't received the report on Board 95 from the Closed Room.

Board 96. E/W Vul. Dealer West.

♠ K 10 7 ♥ Q 6 5 2 ♦ Q 10 4 ♣ 7 6 3	<table border="1" style="border-collapse: collapse; width: 40px; height: 40px; margin: auto;"> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">N</td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">W</td><td style="text-align: center;">E</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td></td><td style="text-align: center;">S</td><td></td></tr> </table>	N			W	E			S		♠ 3 2 ♥ 10 8 7 ♦ A K J 9 8 7 6 ♣ 4 ♠ Q J 8 4 ♥ A K J 9 3 ♦ 5 3 ♣ 9 2 ♠ A 9 6 5 ♥ 4 ♦ 2 ♣ A K Q J 10 8 5
N											
W	E										
	S										

In the Closed Room Italy arrived in 5♣ on a quick auction-3♣-5♣. Of course, it's also an unusual auction. The opening 3♣ bid doesn't show clubs at all - it's a diamond pre-empt. But of course Lanzarotti had no trouble placing the contract with his excellent suit. After winning the first trick with the ♥A, Aa switched to a trump. With the ♦Q onside, Buratti had no problem making 12 tricks.

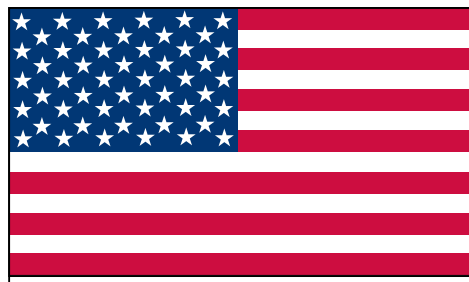
This was the auction in the Open Room:

West <i>Versace</i>	North <i>Helness</i>	East <i>Lauria</i>	South <i>Helgemo</i>
Pass 3♥	Pass 5♦	1♥ Pass	Dbl 6♣
All Pass			

Lauria cashed the ♥K, then did a lot of thinking. The commentators of course had discovered that the only way to beat the contract was to lead a diamond into North's announced strength in that suit. But the commentators were looking at all four hands. Would Lauria work it out? He thought about it for several minutes, then put a diamond on the table. As a result the slam was down one – a brilliancy to close an excellent match. Norway had advanced to the semifinals, 229-217.

Roudinesco book available

Jean-Marc Roudinesco's Dictionary of Suit Combinations is available from the author at the Royal Azur or at the the Transnational Teams. Price – 40 Tunisian dinars.



Venice Cup United States I profiles

TOBI SOKOLOV. Tobi is known as "Wheres", because her teammates are always asking "Where's Tobi?" The answer is usually that she's primping in front of a mirror, especially if the team is on vugraph. Tobi kept the team supplied with Diet Cokes through her persistence in seeking out every shop in Hammamet that used to carry it and buying out their entire supply. Tobi works as a real estate broker when not playing bridge. She represented the U.S. in the Salsomaggiore Olympiad and Beijing Venice Cup.

MILDRED BREED. She is a born-and-raised Texan, and she can be easily recognized by her accent and her down-home charm. She runs a bridge club in Texas, so plays pretty much full time. She represented the US in Salsomaggiore and in Beijing. Mildred is not a particularly adventurous traveller, nor does she enjoy trying exotic foods, but she has been a good sport about this trip.

JILL MEYERS. Jill is the team's fashion plate. She spent much of her time away from the table in the exercise room trying to lose the extra pound she gained in Hammamet. In addition to her Venice Cup title (Santiago, 1993) she holds the title for having spent the most money in Tunisia, requiring the purchase of two suitcases to take home her loot. When she is at home, Jill works in the film and television industry. (Those having seen Woody Allen's film "Everyone Says I Love You" might have noticed Jill's name on the trailing credits!)

RANDI MONTIN. She is the team's tranquilizer antidote to Jill's, Marinesa's, and Tobi's amphetamine highs. She hails from Napa Valley, California, where she works in sales at a major vineyard. Although usually the team is blessed with her excellent choices of wines, she is at a loss in Tunisia with no familiar wines available. Randi won the Pan American Games in Corpus Christi, Texas. Unfortunately, Randi spent the first week of the tournament suffering from stomach distress.

MARINESA LETIZIA is a bridge professional who hails from Louisville, Kentucky, but will soon be moving to New York. Marinesa has tons of unbridled energy and is always raring to go, even when the rest of the team is ready to pass out. She won the McConnell Cup in Albuquerque.

LISA BERKOWITZ. She resides in New Jersey, just outside of New York City. A former accountant, she now works as a bridge teacher. Her greatest enthusiasms, however, are reserved for her three children Dana, Michael, and David. Lisa won the Pan American Games in Corpus Christi.

SUE PICUS. Sue is serving as NPC for the first time. She previously won Venice Cup titles in Yokohama and Santiago, was second in Beijing, and won the McConnell Teams in Albuquerque. She lives in New York City where she works as a computer systems manager. After seeing how much more difficult it is to be a captain than a player, the constant support of "coach" Barry Rignal reinforced her decision to marry him in December.

Venice Cup Quarterfinal (set 4)

Canada vs USA II

Canada led by 87-52 at the half way point of their quarter-final match against USA2. And it was the Canadians who drew first blood at the start of the fourth set.

In the other room, Sanborn had the dubious pleasure of opening 1♦ on the South cards and playing there. She managed three tricks; -400 and 6 IMPs to Canada.

Board 1. Love All. Dealer North.

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

In the Closed Room, South, Kerri Sanborn opened INT and played there on a low club lead. She scored a fairly normal looking +180.

In the Open Room an American toy put some momentum into the auction and the Canadians got to game. For USA2, Beth Palmer opened the East hand with 2♥, showing a weak hand with at least 4-4 in the majors. Beverly Kraft overcalled 2NT and Rhoda Habert raised her to three. Lynn Deas led a low heart to the jack and queen and Kraft started on the diamonds. Palmer won the first diamond and played back a heart to the queen and king. Kraft ducked in the dummy, won the next heart and cleared the diamonds; making four. Plus 430 gave Canada 6 IMPs.

Board 5. N/S Vul. Dealer North.

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

Habert and Juanita Chambers each opened 1♥ as dealer and heard partner respond 1♠. Habert raised to 2♣ and Kraft passed. She made no fewer than twelve tricks after a diamond lead and continuation; +230.

Chambers raised to 3♠, giving Sanborn an easy 4♠ bid. She made only eleven tricks but +450 was worth 6 IMPs to USA2.

Board 7. Game All. Dealer South.

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

Kraft opened a weak notrump as dealer and Habert decided to run before a possible double came, responding 2♣. Kraft bid 2♥ and now the Americans were in a balancing auction. Palmer doubled and Deas bid 3♠, where she made eleven tricks; +150.

Board 8. Love All. Dealer West.

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

Does the West hand conform to your idea of a weak two bid? For most people the answer would be yes, and Lynn Deas, who plays a fairly random style, had no qualms about opening 2♦, multi. Palmer responded 2♠, to play opposite spades but interested opposite hearts, and that was that. A spade lead allowed declarer to make eleven tricks; +200.

The answer for Sharyn Reus was no. Her partnership play an always weak multi which could be pretty wild and Reus seems to have decided that this hand was too good, perhaps partly because of the good heart support. She passed and Dianna Gordon opened 1♦ in third seat. The full auction was: 1♦ - 1♠ - INT - 2♦ (enquiry) - 2♥ - 3♣ - 4♠. Here there were only ten tricks after a club lead; +420 and 6 IMPs to Canada.

Board 10. Game All. Dealer East.

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

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Reus	Chambers	Gordon	Sanborn
1♦ 1♥ All Pass	Dbl INT	Pass Pass Pass	1♠ Pass 2♦

1♠ was strong and the double showed values. Having already shown 5+ and a heart stopper, Chambers didn't think she had enough to bid again over 2♦. Sanborn made ten tricks; +130.

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Deas	Habert	Palmer	Kraft
1♥ 3♥ Pass	Pass Pass 3NT	1♦ INT Pass All Pass	Pass 3♦ Dbl

The Canadians did very well to get to 3NT. Habert won the heart lead and ran the ♦7, then led a second diamond. This time Palmer split her honours but Habert just won and cleared the suit and soon had nine tricks; +600 and 10 IMPs to Canada.

Board 12. N/S Vul. Dealer West.

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

Both tables reached 4♠, but from different sides. Reus/Gordon had a natural sequence, making East declarer. Sanborn led a diamond and Gordon ducked Chambers' jack. Chambers found the heart switch and the defence had their fourth trick established; -50.

Deas opened a Precision 2♣. Palmer asked with 2NT and Deas bid 3♠, showing a maximum with three spades. She was raised to 4♠ and Habert led the ♦K. That fetched the ten, reverse, from Kraft, and the six from Deas. Habert continued diamonds and Deas won and passed the ♠8. When Kraft won and continued diamonds, the defence's last chance had gone. Deas ruffed and ducked a spade but then had the rest; +420 and 10 IMPs to USA2.

Board 15. N/S Vul. Dealer South.

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

Sanborn opened INT and played there. When Reus led a club, Sanborn won and started on the hearts. But she was a tempo behind and the defence got two hearts, two clubs and four diamonds for down two; -200.

Kraft opened 1♥ and was soon playing in 2♥. The trump suit gave her the control she needed and she made eight tricks; +110 and 7 IMPs to Canada.

Board 16. E/W Vul. Dealer West.

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

In the Closed Room, Reus opened 1♦ and Gordon responded 2♣. Sanborn overcalled 4♥ and Reus competed. 5♣ was bid under pressure but it could have been based on a significantly better hand and Gordon took a shot at 6♣. There was a heart and a club to lose; -100.

Deas also opened 1♦. Palmer responded 3NT and Kraft, who knew the table was under severe time pressure, gambled a pass! She couldn't have asked for a better outcome. Not only did she resolve the time pressure issue, but when the ♥Q appeared on the first trick she had eight hearts to cash; four down for -400.

Canada gained on the set, 43-27, and could go to bed with a nice cushion; 130-79.