

Co-ordinator: Jean Paul Meyer – Editor: Mark Horton – Assistant Editors: Brent Manley & Brian Senior French Editor: Guy Dupont – Layout Editor: Stelios Hatzidakis – Photographer: Ron Tacchi

Issue No. 8 PDF version, courtesy of EBL Monday, 29 October 2001

They Think It's All Over



A winning smile from the Lavazza girls

Several of the quarter-final matches are all but decided. **Poland** are virtually assured of a semi-final berth and they appear likely to face **USA II** unless **USA I** defeat **Italy** in what is proving to be an epic encounter. **Norway** are strongly placed against **Indonesia**.

In the Venice Cup, **France** appear to be safe, and **Austria** and **USA II** are in strong positions.

At one point **Germany** looked home free against **USA I** but the Americans have dug deep and there is all to play for today.

Poland And USA II Lock Horns

USA edged in front towards the end of the first session of the final of the Seniors Bowl.

Playing Area

Seniors Bowl & Closed Room of the Bermuda Bowl & Venice Cup play in the Salons Concorde today.

VUGRAPH MATCHES

Venice Cup – Quarter-final (Session 5) – 10.30

USA I V ITALY

Bermuda Bowl – Quarter-final (Session 6) – 13.20 to be decided

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Bermuda Bowl & Venice Cup Final Butler Ranking 19 $$

Transnational Teams

Play starts today at 18.30. The full schedule appears on page 3 of today's Daily News.













Bermuda Bowl

Quarter-finals						
	Carry-over	Session I	Session 2	Session 3	Session 4	Total
I POLAND INDIA	0 - 1	33 - 18	61 - 12	53 - 21	64 - 10	211 - 62
2 USA II FRANCE	15 - 0	41 - 36	41 - 35	48 - 47	38 - 13	183 -131
3 NORWAY INDONESIA	0 - 1.3	51 - 43	49 - 45	39 - 33	67 - 30	206 -152.3
4 USA I ITALY	5 - 0	14 - 43	27 - 55	71 - 28	20 - 12	137 -138

Venice Cup

Quarter-finals								
		С	arry-over	Session I	Session 2	Session 3	Session 4	Total
5	FRANCE	SOUTH AFRICA	16 - 0	39 - 11	24 - 23	63 - 46	43 - 35	185 -115
6	ENGLAND	USA II	16 - 0	27 - 41	33 - 22	38 - 63	27 - 60	141 -186
7	USA I	GERMANY	I - 0	35 - 49	3 - 57	55 - 32	57 - 31	151 -169
8	CHINA	AUSTRIA	0 - 5.7	14 - 28	43 - 56	45 - 26	14 - 43	116 -158.7

Seniors Bowl

Semi-finals							
		Carry-over	Session I	Session 2	Session 3	Total	
9 USA I	USA II	12 - 0	20 - 40	16 - 45	30 - 15	78 - 100	
10 FRANCE	POLAND	11 - 0	22 - 33	14 - 14	7 - 33	54 - 80	

Final							
		Carry-over	Session I	Session 2	Session 3	Total	
9 POLAND	USA II	0 - 0	16 - 41			16 - 41	

Play-off					
		Carry-over Session	I Session 2	Total	
I USA I	FRANCE	0 - 7.3			

Transnational Teams

The World Open Transnational Teams Championship will start today. Play will be in the Hotel Concorde Lafayette and will start at 18.00 hours.

Teams who have not yet registered should go to the Hotel Concorde Lafayette and register their names with Monique Callon or Micheline Merot.

All teams, whether registering on site or pre-registered, must confirm their entry and, if they have not already done so, must pay the entry fee to either Mrs Callon or Mrs Merot at the Hospitality Desk as soon as pos
The World Open Transnational Teams

sible, but certainly no later than 15.00 hours today.

The entry fee may be paid in either US Dollars (\$800) or French Francs (6,000). This may be paid in cash, or by travellers cheques or cheque, payable to the World Bridge Federation. We regret that we are not able to accept credit cards.

The Hospitality Desk will be in the Hotel Concorde Lafayette and the opening hours will be:

Monday 29 October 10.30 - 15.00 hours

Deliverance

By Barry Rigal

t is relatively unusual to take a finesse in the auction, but even more unusual to reject one. That was what happened to Peter Weichsel of USA II in his team's 14th round Bermuda Bowl match against Australia. Weichsel held these cards as East:

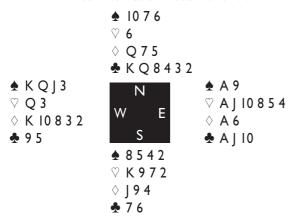
This was the auction:

West	North	East	South
$ \diamondsuit^{(1)} \rangle$	3♣	3♡	Pass
3♠	Pass	4♣	Pass
4♡	Pass	??	

(I) Precision

At this point, Weichsel paused, by his estimation, for 10 minutes; we know him to be a deliberate player. Finally, he bid the heart slam. This was the full deal:

Board 8. Dealer West. None Vul.



As Weichsel told me, he figured partner Alan Sontag to hold 4-2 in the majors, with 4-2-5-2 the most likely shape, and with 11-13 high-card points. If dummy delivered the expected honour in hearts and two low clubs, he would be well placed if dummy had the \heartsuit K. He could cash the top hearts and hope to pitch clubs on dummy's spade winners.

But what if dummy had the $\triangledown Q$, not the king? Much would depend on the opening lead. If clubs appeared to be 7-1, Weichsel would simply finesse in hearts. If, as happened at the table, a high club was led, he could assume the suit was 6-2. In that case he would win the $\clubsuit A$, cash the $\triangledown A$ and run the spade suit to pitch his club losers. Assuming North held three spades, Weichsel would succeed if North had a singleton heart or the doubleton $\triangledown K$, in which case North would have to ruff with his trump trick.

And so it proved: Weichsel said that when dummy delivered what he had expected, the play took no time at all. On the lead of the \clubsuit 7, Weichsel cashed the \heartsuit A, ran four spade tricks and claimed. In the other room, $4\heartsuit$ made +420, so this was a 22-IMP swing.

Transnational Schedule Monday 29 October 18.30 Match I 20.20 Match 2 22.10 Match 3 **Tuesday 30 October** 11.00 Match 4 Match 5 14.00 Match 6 15.50 17.30 Match 7 Wednesday 31 October Match 8 13.00 14.50 Match 9 16.30 Match 10 18.20 Match 11 Thursday I November Match 12 14.00 Match 13 15.50 Match 14 17.30 Match 15 Friday 2 November 10.30 Semi-Final Session I 13.20 Semi-Final Session 2 17.10 Final Session I Saturday 3 November 10.30 Final Session 2 13.20 Final Session 3

Championship Diary

The Daily News is obviously very popular. In view of the number of approaches we have received for copies Patrick Jourdain has kindly agreed to rent his copy out - its up to you to negotiate a rate.

The overnight move from the Stade de France to the Hotel Concorde La Fayette was completed with the minimum of fuss. By some miracle (called Newton, Gudge, Tacchi et al) the Press Room was up and running before play started.

Hugh Grant is to star in a new movie entitled Two Weddings and a $\mbox{VuGraph}.$

The marvellous line up desk operators, Jan & Corrie Louwerse are ever present at major championships. They are so efficient that nothing controversial ever happens. Perhaps they could pass on their secret?

ROUND 15

Bermuda Bowl

Poland v Italy

Welcome to Ron a Rama

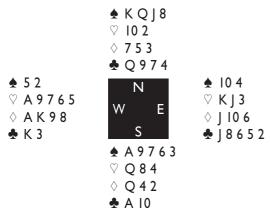
The VuGraph presentation is splendid, with more screens than most multiplex cinemas. The commentary is expert, but with so many nationalities being represented in the audience it is not so easy for the commentators to inject a note of humour that can be universally understood.

We'll try to do it for them in this report, using ideas suggested by our photographer Ron Tacchi.

Some sporting contests are considered to be of extra special significance. England v Germany at football and Australia v New Zealand at Rugby are just two examples. Ever since the final of the Maastricht Olympiad matches between Italy and Poland have carried the weight of expectation. These two juggernauts met in Round 15 and attracted a capacity crowd.

Bocchi & Duboin have been tinkering with their system, not necessarily the best idea before a major championship. Still, the first deal does not look too testing:

Board I. Dealer North. None Vul.



Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Versace	Balicki	Lauria	Zmudzinski
	Pass	Pass	I♠
Dble	2NT*	Pass	3♠
All Pass			

Not everyone would be happy with the idea of having to bid Two Hearts on the West hand over a possible response of Two Clubs, but you have to do something with those cards.

The defenders have made a slight error, allowing declarer to escape for one down.

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Martens	Bocchi	Lesniewski	Duboin
	Pass	Pass	♠
2♡	2NT*	3♡	3♠
4♡	4♠	Pass	Pass
Dble	All Pass		

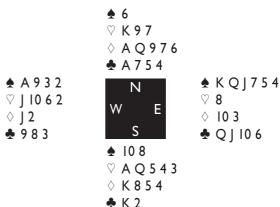
Marten's overcall represents the other side of the coin on

this deal. Kokish said 'you hate to do it but I guess you have to'. Martens took his partner's raise seriously (although perhaps East would double 2NT with a decent hand) and looked headed for a minus (Four Hearts is not hopeless, but you would not exactly be a favourite). However, Bocchi also took his partner's raise at face value (in some partnerships South could double to make a game try) and gave the Poles the chance to collect a number.

He's here The Phantom of the Opera.

West led the ace of diamonds and when East played the jack he switched to the ace of hearts and a heart to the king. Back came a diamond and declarer was booked for -500 and 9 IMPs to Poland.

Board 3. Dealer South. E/W Vul.



Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Versace	Balicki	Lauria	Zmudzinski
			ΙŸ
Pass	2♦	Pass	2♡
Pass	3♣	Pass	3◊
Pass	4♡	All Pass	

Six Diamonds is obviously excellent, and certainly better than Six Hearts this time.

We don't know if South considered bidding Four Diamonds rather than three, but getting to a slam with perfect cards is frequently difficult.

Even in Vaupillon they would bid Two Spades with that East hand.

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Martens	Bocchi	Lesniewski	Duboin I♡
Pass	2♣*	2♠	Dble
3♠	4♣	Pass	4◊
Pass	4♡	Pass	4NT
Pass	6♡	All Pass	

This time the auction made it clear that North/South had



Cezary Balicki, Poland

nothing wasted in spades, but they picked the wrong slam. -50 and 11 IMPs to Poland, now ahead 20-0.

Vaupillon, twin city Warsaw.

Board 4. Dealer West. All Vul.

	oard 4. Dealer vv	est. Ali vui.
	♣ -♡ K Q J 9 7◇ A K J♣ A 10 9 2	6
♠ J 6 5 3 ♡ A 8 5 ◇ 4 3 ♣ Q 6 5 4	N W E S ♠ A Q 9 7 4 ♥ 10 2 ♦ 7 6 2 ♣ 8 7	♠ K 10 8 2 ♡ 4 3 ♦ Q 10 9 8 5 ♣ K 3
	± , 0 /	

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Versace	Balicki	Lauria	Zmudzinski
Pass	♣*	1♦	I♠
Pass	2♡	Pass	2♠
Pass	3♣	Pass	3♡
Pass	4 ♦	Pass	4♡
Pass	4♠	Pass	5♡
All Pass			

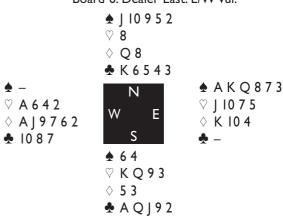
When North rebid Two Hearts he was showing a strong hand. However, the Poles got too high - North's void in South's suit was a critical factor. East led the three of hearts, but when declarer played low from dummy West carefully withheld his ace to ensure one down, +100.

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Martens	Bocchi	Lesniewski	Duboin
Pass	10	Pass	INT*
Pass	2♣	Pass	2♡
Pass	4♡	All Pass	

INT promised spades and Two Clubs was a relay, promising either clubs or any 16-18. South's Two hearts was weak, so Bocchi had no qualms in settling for game. He came to eleven tricks, for +650 and 11 Italian IMPS.

Board 6. Dealer East. E/W Vul.



Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Versace	Balicki	Lauria	Zmudzinski
		I♠	INT*
2♦	Pass	2♡	Pass
3♦	Pass	4♣	Dble
4♡	Pass	6◊	Pass
Pass	7♣	Dble	All Pass

South's INT overcall is a popular convention in Poland, promising 8-15, at least 4-5+, major+minor.

There is no obvious way in which one can determine the merits of North's action in deciding to save.

He's back, The Phantom of the Opera.

The contract failed by five tricks, -1100.



Norberto Bocchi, Italy



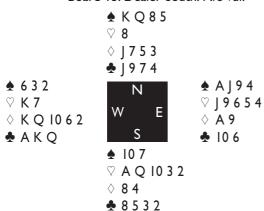
Giorgio Duboin, Italy

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Martens	Bocchi	Lesniewski	Duboin
		I♠	2♣
Dble	5♣	Pass	Pass
Dble	All Pass		

Having to double twice with the West hand is hardly descriptive. Five Clubs was less expensive, so Italy took the lead for the first time.

Board 15. Dealer South. N/S Vul.



Both sides went in search of nine tricks. The bidding was different but the play was identical.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Versace	Balicki	Lauria	Zmudzinski
			Pass
INT	Pass	2♦	Pass
2♡	Pass	3♡	Pass
3♠	Pass	3NT	All Pass

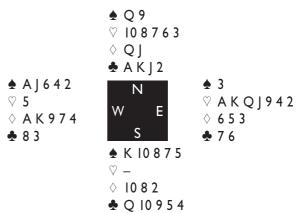
Open Room

West	North	East	South
Martens	Bocchi	Lesniewski	Duboin
			Pass
INT	Pass	2◊*	Pass
2♡	Pass	2♠	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

After winning the opening club lead with the queen Martens spent a very long time considering his play to trick two. To some it appeared he was meditating but to others he was clearly trying to remember if he had turned the gas off at his home in Warsaw.

Eventually he played a diamond to the ace and a heart. South put up the ace and played back a club. Martens won with the ace and now played a low diamond from his hand - a fine safety play to guard against a bad break. North played low so the nine won and declarer had ten tricks, +430.

Board 16. Dealer West. E/W Vul.



The bidding in both rooms saw East/West reach the optimum contract.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Versace	Balicki	Lauria	Zmudzinski
I♠	Pass	2♡	Pass
2♠	Pass	3♦	Pass
4 ♦	Pass	4♡	All Pass
Open Room			
West	North	East	South
Martens	Bocchi	Lesniewski	Duboin
I. ♠	Pass	2♡	Pass
2♠	Pass		

The defenders started with two rounds of clubs and switched to a diamond. Declarer won, and expecting to be able to table his hand, played a heart to the ace. He crossed to the ace of spades, ruffed a spade, went back to dummy with a diamond and ruffed another spade. Now he could claim, a perfect example of elopement.

In Vaupillon the only kind of elopement they have heard of is when the farmer's daughter runs off with squire's son.

It was Italy who ran away with this match, defeating Poland 18-12VP.

We call that an overture in Vaupillon.

Bridge Magazine IMPpresents Herman's Bridge Team Ratings

After the Round Robin of the Bermuda Bowl, the ratings have become:

The first number is the rating, in VP, the second is the number of (16-board) matches that are taken into account for the rating.

I United States	21.07	148	59 Bahrain	11.69	25	14 Czech Republic	16.42	68
2 Italy	20.98	177	60 Thailand	11.61	62	15 Sweden	16.25	96
3 Poland	20.23	175	61 Latvia	11.51	65	16 South Africa	16.03	83
4 Norway	19.82	186	62 Lithuania	11.35	40	17 Australia	15.39	106
5 Indonesia	19.82	86	63 Uruguay	11.24	37	18 Finland	15.22	90
6 Netherlands	18.88	110	64 Malaysia	11.05	70	19 Belgium	15.21	31
7 France	18.66	159	65 Colombia	11.00	46	21 Chinese Taipei	14.92	82
8 Russia	18.55	124	66 Mexico	10.80	23	22 Switzerland	14.76	7
9 Sweden	18.26	155	67 Luxembourg	10.79	87	23 Brazil	14.49	80
10 Israel	18.14	128	68 Zimbabwe	10.72	3	24 Argentina	14.43	59
II England	17.97	129	69 Philippines	10.69	70	25 Egypt	14.23	63
12 Spain	17.53	40	70 Liechtenstein	10.45	99	26 Indonesia	14.19	59
13 Brazil	17.47	110	71 China Macao	10.38	48	27 Japan	14.18	91
14 China	17.46	111	72 Tunisia	10.30	41	28 Mexico	14.17	29
15 Denmark	17.44	139	73 Bangladesh	10.24	36	29 Russia	14.09	73
16 Austria	17.28	110	74 San Marino	10.24	99	30 New Zealand	13.47	84
17 Belgium	17.17	102	75 Venezuela	10.16	48	31 Hungary	13.31	56
18 Bulgaria	17.10	99	76 Sri Lanka	9.74	25	32 Greece	13.14	73
19 Chinese Taipei	17.02	100	77 Trinidad and Tobago	9.40	28	33 Croatia	13.01	72
20 Greece	17.00	99	78 Bermuda	9.34	34	34 Scotland	13.00	76
21 Iceland	16.78	137	79 French Polynesia	9.23	6	35 Turkey	12.86	47
22 Germany	16.66	99	80 Singapore	9.21	70	36 Chile	12.49	16
23 Hungary	16.55	99	81 New Caledonia	9.01	14	37 Iceland	12.47	45
24 India	16.46	93	82 Jordan	9.01	21	38 Northern Ireland	12.33	25
25 Argentina	16.46	82	83 Reunion	8.93	41	39 Monaco	12.20	11
26 Scotland	16.16	112	84 Martinique	8.33	35	40 Wales	12.11	73
27 Australia	15.84	147	85 Kenya	8.16	31	41 San Marino	12.11	29
28 Lebanon	15.72	99	86 Mauritius	8.16	31	42 India	12.10	102
29 Japan	15.71	101	87 Paraguay	8.05	14	43 Portugal	12.09	7
30 Turkey	15.68	99	88 Guyana	8.00	12	44 Morocco	11.96	21
31 Wales	15.41	112	89 Jamaica	7.96	22	45 Colombia	11.76	43
32 Portugal	15.38	99	90 Cyprus	7.93	45	46 Singapore	11.64	24
33 South Africa	15.29	70	91 Bolivia	7.80	14	47 China Hong Kong	11.52	74
34 Egypt	15.23	63	92 Tonga	6.99	14	48 Peru	10.83	12
35 New Zealand	15.10	150	93 Barbados	6.07	18	49 Venezuela	10.79	63
36 Ireland	14.95	152	94 Malta	5.07	39	50 Bolivia	10.71	16
37 Czech Republic	14.64	99	95 Ecuador	4.80	14	51 Ireland	10.67	55
38 Finland	14.44	130	96 Tanzania	4.64	31	52 Thailand	10.29	38
39 Morocco	14.26	22	97 Botswana	1.25	19	53 Uruguay	10.19	12
40 Romania	14.05	99	98 Palestine	-1.77	22	54 Bermuda	9.98	12
41 Croatia	13.97	99	99 Costa Rica	-4.94	12	55 Pakistan	9.77	57
42 Canada	13.87	38				56 Tunisia	9.68	19
43 Northern Ireland	13.62	29		_		57 Trinidad and Tobago	9.29	6
44 Estonia	13.51	40	Ladies' ratings after		Round	58 Malaysia	8.99	4
45 Switzerland	13.19	99	Robin of the Venice Co	ıb:		59 Zimbabwe	8.86	3
46 Yugoslavia	13.04	57	I United States	20.76	129	60 Reunion	8.72	26
47 China Hong Kong	13.03	94	2 France	20.65	118	61 Jordan	8.62	33
48 Belarus	13.01	12	3 Germany	20.49	126	62 Sri Lanka	8.62	38
49 Ukraine	12.99	77	4 Netherlands	19.64	127	63 Bahrain	8.06	18
50 Pakistan	12.90	74	5 Austria	19.57	118	64 Faroe Islands	7.71	14
51 Guadeloupe	12.69	86	6 England	19.54	97	65 Philippines	7.24	29
52 Monaco	12.66	45	7 China	19.16	124	66 Paraguay	6.83	12
53 Chile	12.65	29	8 Canada	18.83	86	67 South Korea	6.57	38
54 Syria	12.63	29	9 Israel	17.52	97	68 Barbados	6.29	8
55 Slovenia	12.45	99	10 Italy	17.30	99	69 Jamaica	6.11	38
56 Faroe Islands	12.34	23	II Poland	17.29	75	70 Guadeloupe	4.27	13
57 Côte d'Ivoire	12.01	14	12 Norway	16.88	95	71 Mauritius	3.11	3
58 Peru	11.98	14	13 Denmark	16.62	113	72 Martinique	-0.83	5

Bermuda Bowl By Patrick Jourdain (Wales) **ROUND 16**

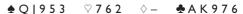
France v Russia

Multon, West, after South's 1♦, had an awkward call to make. His decision to overcall on a four card suit would, I believe, be the popular choice, but it led to a game that was short of tricks

On a spade lead Four Hearts went two off. Meanwhile Two Spades by Gromov collected nine tricks for 6 IMPs to Russia.

(3NT will also fail when the spades do not break).

Board 3 provided interest in both bidding and play. Suppose you hold as dealer:



You open One Spade and partner responds Two Hearts. What do you rebid?

In the Closed Room Tim Zlotov raised to Three Hearts, whereas on VuGraph Soulet rebid Two Spades. That led to different final games:



curiosity from the VuGraph match in Round 16 was that the

A final contract on the first six boards was 40 at one table or

the other. It was also notable for the number of 24 point fits

which were flat boards in hopeless voluntarily-bid games failing

by between one and three tricks. Conservative bidders would

both tables. Board 2 was one of the failing ones, but it provided

Board I was the dullest of the Four Hearts, just making at

have had a chance to pick up a number of small swings.

Jean Christophe Quantin, France

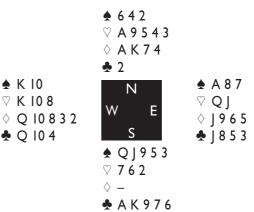
Board 2. Dealer East. N/S Vul.

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

Closed Room

Closed Mooni			
West	North	East	South
Multon	Kholomeev	Quantin	Zlotov
		Pass	I♦
ΙŸ	Pass	2♦	Pass
3NT	Pass	4♡	All Pass
Open Room			
West	North	East	South
Petrunin	Abecassis	Gromov	Soulet
			2♠
All Pass			

Board 3. Dealer South. E/W Vul.



Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Multon	Kholomeev	Quantin	Zlotov
			l 🏚
Pass	2♡	Pass	3♡
Pass	4♡	All Pass	
Open Room			
West	North	East	South
Petrunin	Abecassis	Gromov	Soulet
			♠
Pass	2♡	Pass	2♠
Pass	4♠	All Pass	

In the Closed Room Kholomeev, with three card spade support, might have offered a choice of games, but instead raised to a hopeless Four Hearts, missing ace, king of spades and two certain trump tricks. 50 to France.

By contrast, on VuGraph, after Soulet rebid his spades, he found himself in a game that had chances because he could throw his heart losers on dummy's diamonds (something Zlotov could not do when hearts were trumps!)

Petrunin led a diamond. This was won in dummy, declarer throwing a heart. Soulet then led a club to the ace and went into



Philippe Soulet, France

long thought. He must have been waiting to see the signals in the club suit, but this provided nothing as both defenders contributed their smallest club. Soulet was trying to decide whether to cash his king of clubs before ruffing a club. In the end he started with a low club ruffed, a diamond ruff and another club ruff. He then led a trump off the table, East playing small.

At this point something curious happened. Soulet paused for thought, clearly trying to decide whether to finesse the nine. Eventually he did so, to groans from the French audience as it now looked as if he would lose trump control. However, Petrunin, West, also gave the trick long thought, before winning with the king! It was unclear what he had in mind (for lengthy analysis, see later!), but it certainly made declarer's life easier. He won the diamond continuation in dummy, throwing another heart, cashed his top heart, returned to hand with a diamond ruff, and led a high spade from his hand. When this was won by the hand with a third trump, the defence could not get a club ruff, and declarer claimed 11 tricks. 11 IMPs to France.

For the analysts, let us go back to the position where Petrunin won the first trump with the king and suppose he had simply won with the ten. If he cashes the king declarer still has two trumps left, and is in control, ruffing to get back to hand to play winning clubs. The defence makes only three trump tricks.

If West after winning the ten of trumps, exits with a diamond, declarer can succeed with an elopement: win the diamond, ruff a diamond, ace of hearts, ruff a heart, exit with the high club. West has to ruff, and now South, left with the bare queen of trumps gets to make it for his game-going trick, even though East is down to two trumps! South actually makes four outside winners, and six trump tricks, four in his own hand and two in dummy.

However, if West wins the ten of trumps and plays a heart, declarer is an entry short for the elopement. He will win the heart, cash the winning diamond, and return to hand with a ruff (for which suit, see later). Now if he plays a winning club West will ruff, force South with a red winner and South is on lead at trick I I to concede two trumps to East. So South must instead play a trump when he is in. West is on lead, and whatever suit South returned to hand with (a heart ruff, or a ruff of the fourth diamond) West can play now the same suit. East throws his losing club and has a winner in the other red suit at the end.

So my conclusion is that Petrunin could beat the game provided he won the ten of trumps and played specifically a heart.

On Board 4 North held as dealer with Both Vulnerable:

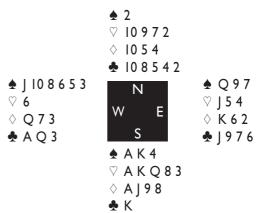
♠A 2 ♥ A K 10 9 7 6 4 ♦ A 3 **♣** 10 7

Abecassis opened Two Clubs, heard this doubled to show clubs, and this was Passed back to him. What would you call?

He chose Four Hearts. Partner contributed the king of diamonds, but nothing else of use, so the contract was virtually hopeless again. It was a flat board, but at the other table South had shown some spade values in the auction (he held: \clubsuit J 10 9 8 7 6 5 3 \heartsuit 8 \diamondsuit K 6 5 \clubsuit 6 4) and one has more sympathy with the Four Heart call. Four Spades makes, but no-one found it.

On Board 5 Four Hearts was cold, but there was still a big swing:

Board 5. Dealer North. N/S Vul.



Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Multon	Kholomeev	Quantin	Zlotov
	Pass	Pass	♣
I♠	Pass	2♠	Dble
3♦	Pass	3♠	4♡
Pass	Pass	4♠	Dble
All Pass			

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Petrunin	Abecassis	Gromov	Soulet
	Pass	Pass	2♦
Pass	2♡	Pass	3♡
Pass	4♡	All Pass	

In the Closed Room the one level opening made it easy for the French to locate the sacrifice. Four Spades doubled went only one down for 100 to Russia. Perhaps West should have entered the auction over the artificial Two Diamonds, but when he did not, France had a clear run for +620 and a further 11 IMPs.

Board 6 was the familiar Four Hearts at both tables, the cards did not lie as favourably as they needed to, and it was a flat board in two off. Board 7 broke the mould: the contract reached at both tables was Four Spades. This included the following decision by Gromov, holding:

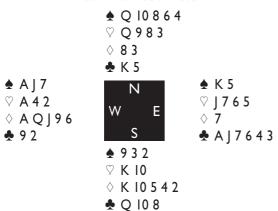
Last to speak with Both Vulnerable he opened One Spade and partner responded with a Drury Two Clubs showing a good raise to Two Spades. What do you call? Gromov bid an immediate Four Spades! Partner held ten points, but the defence meanly cashed four aces, for another flat board in a failing game.

Board 8 repeated the story except that this game, 3NT on 24 points, was three off at both tables. These results where the more cautious bidders pick up IMPs rarely get a mention, but in this match they would have some had useful gains.

Board 9 was played in Two Hearts at both tables with Russia picking up a couple of IMPs in overtricks.

The last board of the first half of the match was flat, but it proved fascinating, with a great display by Petrunin as declarer:

Board 10. Dealer East. All Vul.



Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Multon	Kholomeev	Quantin	Zlotov
		Pass	Pass
INT	Pass	2♣	Pass
2♦	Pass	3♣	Pass
3◊	Pass	3NT	All Pass

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Petrunin	Abecassis	Gromov	Soulet
		Pass	Pass
INT	Pass	2♦	Pass
2♦	Pass	3♦	Pass
3♡	Pass	3♠	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

After Stayman Quantin, East for France, bid a natural Three Clubs, whereas Gromov had an artificial sequence in which he implied one four-card major with a long minor. West asked which, and on discovering the minor was clubs ended in Three Notrumps.

Both Norths led a spade, won by West's jack. How do you think declarer should play?

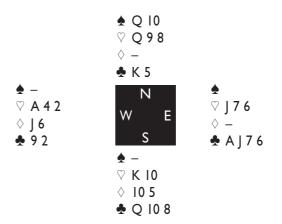
I don't like Multon's choice. He led the nine of clubs, and ducked when North played the king. He won the next spade in dummy, finessed the queen of diamonds, and then played ace and another. When neither minor came in, he looked to be two down but gained a trick at the end for 100 to Russia.

Petrunin's play looks superior to me. After a spade lead best defence will usually prevent you making use of dummy's clubs. So Petrunin decided to maximise his chances of bringing in the diamonds. At trick two he crossed to dummy with a spade and finessed the nine of diamonds. This brings home the game whenever South has three or four diamonds including the ten (Note that declarer has avoided giving the defence the chance to knock-out the ace of hearts entry.)



Dimitri Zlotov

When the nine held, declarer continued with the ace and queen of diamonds. North discarded a heart, dummy threw a second club, and South won the king. A third spade cleared the suit for North, dummy releasing a heart. This was the ending with West on lead:



The winning play, very difficult to spot, is for West to cash the ace of hearts. This puts South in a Morton's Fork. If he does not unblock the king of hearts, he gets thrown in with it to lead a club. Then later he is thrown in with a club to give declarer two diamond tricks at the end. Alternatively, if South does unblock his heart king, West can simply cash his winning diamond, and lead a heart. North can only make two spades and dummy has the jack of hearts and the ace of clubs for the game.

Petrunin, who had done very well so far, at this point led a low club, putting in the jack when North played small. South, Soulet, won and exited with a low club to dummy's ace. Now, when Petrunin led a low heart off the dummy, Soulet spectacularly played his heart KING! That finished declarer. If he ducked Soulet could cash a club and exit with a heart. When he won, North could claim three winners to go with the diamond and club the defence had already made. So, one off, and a flat board, but a fascinating duel.

The half-time score was 22-8 to France. In the second half (not seen by your reporter) France held on for an 18-12 win in Victory Points.

LA FAYETTE NOUS VOICI

par Jean-Paul Meyer

Au revoir au stade de France, bonjour à l'hôtel Concorde La Fayette où joueurs, matériel, ordinateurs et caméras du bridge-vision se sont transportés dans la nuit qui fut la plus longue et pas seulement parce que les pendules avaient reculé d'une heure!.

La journée du dimanche était consacrée au début des quarts de finale de la Bermuda Bowl et de la Venice Cup ainsi qu'à la demi-finale de la Seniors Bowl. Aujourd'hui débutera vers 18 heures le transnational par équipes.

DANS LES COULISSES Logistique

Si vous êtes spectateur de ces championnats du monde, vous ignorez peut-être l'envers du décor dont le bon déroulement nécessite une centaine de personnes au travail de huit heures du matin jusqu'à trois heures la nuit dernière lors du déménagement. Je vais certainement en oublier entre les responsables de la duplication qui prépare des centaines d'étuis pour que les mêmes donnes soient jouées à toutes les tables, les serveurs du rama, commentateurs, cameramen -ou women- n'est-ce pas Bernadette?, mais aussi les opérateurs au clavier et caddies responsables de la fourniture des résultats enregistrés à chacune des tables. Il y a les arbitres, les responsables de l'enregistrement des scores, le comité d'appel, ceux de la rédaction et la reproduction du bulletin quotidien. Il convient également de gérer la salle de presse, le bureau où les capitaines apportent leur line-up, la composition de leur équipe. l'approvisionnement en eau, assuré par Château d'eau, en café, offert par les cafés Lavazza, le bureau d'accueil avec les hôtesses sollicitées à chaque minute par les questions les plus opportunes ... et les autres. Le transport des joueurs, surtout en première semaine assuré par des bus mais aussi par les véhicules mis à disposition par Audi affichant le sigle de la fédération mondiale et du championnat de manière analogue à ceux utilisés pour Roland Garros.

La réunion des capitaines

Réunion discrète sinon secrète des capitaines après chaque phase. Le règlement permet, par exemple, après la poule éliminatoire au leader de choisir son adversaire pour la phase suivante parmi les équipes classées de la 5^{ème} à la 8^{ème} place.

Dans l'épreuve féminine les Françaises se précipitent sur l'équipe qui paraît constituer le maillon faible, l'Afrique du Sud, puis de manière plus étonnante les USA I choisissent l'Allemagne A leur tour les Chinoises optent pour l'Autriche, il restera à l'Angleterre le soin d'affronter les USA 2

Dans l'épreuve open, où deux joueuses, une pour les USA 2 et une pour l'Inde, sont encore en course la Pologne opte pour l'Inde et la Norvège pour l'Indonésie du coup des deux équipes américaines doivent affronter l'une la France, l'autre l'Italie.

Chez les seniors où le règlement impose, comme dans les autres épreuves aux équipes américaines de se rencontrer en demi-finale les choses sont simplifiées, on verra France Pologne

Il faudra tenir compte du **carry-over**, c'est à dire du report d'une partie de l'écart du match de la poule.Pour ces matches en 96 donnes seuls les avantages d'USA2 sur la France, I5 IMP, de l'Angleterre sur les USA 2 et de la France sur l'Afrique du Sud 16 IMP sont de quelque importance.

Chez les seniors USA1 et France partent avec une douzaine de points d'avance.



Tor Helness, Norvège

BRILLANCE VIRTUELLE

Donne 15. Donneur Sud. N/S Vul.

♠ A 10 8 7 5 3 ♥ K 8 7

♣ A Q 5 2

♦ 94 ♥ A Q J 10 9 6 5

♦ Q 8 5
♣ 7

N O E S

♥ 432 ♦ A J 9 7 3 2

♣ K | 8 3

♠ K Q J 6 2 ♡ –

♦ K 10 6 4
♣ 10 9 6 4

Après une ouverture de 4 cœurs Nord – Helness, pour la Norvège, jouait 6 Piques, Est, Lesniewski, pour la Pologne fit l'entame malheureuse de l'As de Carreau. Le contrat est maintenant sur table. Si vous êtes amateur de problèmes à quatre jeux, vous devriez découvrir la solution qui aurait permis au déclarant de rentrer dans l'histoire du bridge en menant son contrat à bien.

Coupez l'entame coupez un Cœur, coupez un Carreau sans encaisser le Roi maître, coupez maître un cœur revenez en main à l'atout pour couper le dernier Cœur et tirez tous les atouts de la main de Nord. Avant le dernier, à 5 cartes, Est a gardé 2 Carreaux et trois trèfles. Sur le dernier il doit garder un seul Carreau et trois Trèfles, jouez un petit trèfle de la main de Nord Est est en main et doit rendre les trois dernières levées soit à Nord à Carreau (plus l'As de Trèfle) soit à Sud sous la forme de trois levées de Trèfle.

A notre connaissance le coup ne fut réussi à aucune des 44 tables de l'épreuve, constat peu étonnant.

Superbe n'est-il pas vrai?

SESSION I

Venice Cup / Quarter-Final



France v South Africa

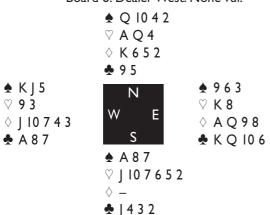


If there was a surprise qualifier in the Venice Cup then it was South Africa.

They started their quarter-final match with France 16 IMPs down, courtesy of a heavy defeat in the round robin match between the two teams.

The first set of the quarter-final started quietly and the score had only reached 7-2 to France after seven deals. Then South Africa took the lead in the set:

Board 8. Dealer West. None Vul.



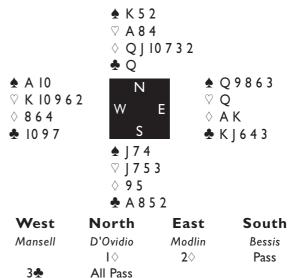
West	North	East	South
Mansell	D'Ovidio	Modlin	Bessis
Pass	Pass	♣	Pass
1♦	Pass	2♦	2♡
2♠	3♡	Pass	Pass
4 ♦	All Pass		
West	North	East	South
Willard	Swartz	Cronier	Fihrer
Pass	Pass	1♦	2♡
3♦	3♡	All Pass	

Joan Fihrer came in immediately with the South hand and a simple competitive auction led to her declaring 3%. Though the heart finesse failed, the favourable spade position meant that nine tricks were not a problem; +140.

Veronique Bessis only introduced her hearts at her second turn. Catherine D'Ovidio competed to 3°, but Petra Mansell was in a bidding mood and competed aggressively to 4¢. D'Ovidio led a low trump and Mansell put in the queen then led a spade to the jack and queen. Back came the nine of clubs, covered all round, and Mansell drew the missing trumps with the aid of repeated finesses. Next she cashed the clubs and, on the last one, bared her king of spades, before exiting with a spade. Mansell had convinced herself that the two major-suit aces were offside and she was hoping for some defensive error. Well, she got one to allow her to recover when both aces were actually onside.

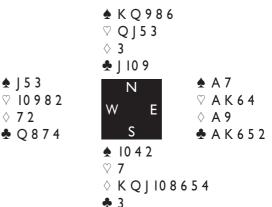
Had D'Ovidio kept two spades, she would have had the $\bf \pm 10$ for the last trick, but she bared it to keep two hearts and had to give the last trick to the $\heartsuit K$; +130 and 7 IMPs to South Africa.

Board 9. Dealer North. E/W Vul.



In the Closed Room, Benedicte Cronier overcalled 1♠ and was left to play there, making nine tricks for +140. In the Open Room, Merle Modlin made a two-suited overcall, showing the black suits, and Mansell played in the 5-3 club fit on the lead of the queen of diamonds. She won and played the ♥Q to the ace and back came a second diamond. I would have expected declarer to play two rounds of spades now but Mansell instead tried a low club off the dummy, her ten losing to the queen. It looked as though Mansell was in trouble now but she recovered well. D'Ovidio played a diamond and Mansell ruffed high in dummy, Bessis pitching a spade. Mansell played ace and another spade to D'Ovidio's king and back came a heart to the jack and king. Mansell cashed three hearts and threw all dummy's spades away, then ruffed the last heart with dummy's jack and finessed her ♣7; just made for +110 but 1 IMP to France.

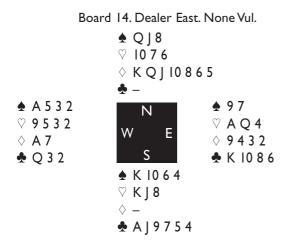
Board II. Dealer South. None Vul.



Pre-empting to the limit paid off in a big way on this deal. In the Closed Room, Joan Fihrer opened only $3\Diamond$ on the South cards - would $4\Diamond$ have been natural? – and the French pair coped effortlessly with the pressure. Cronier doubled in fourth seat and

cuebid $4\lozenge$ over Sylvie Willard's $3\heartsuit$ response. When Willard could only sign off in $4\heartsuit$, Cronier called it a day; +420.

On VuGraph, Bessis opened $4\Diamond$ and that ran round to Modlin, who doubled. It was impossible for a player who had made a fourth-seat double to pass her partner's $4\Diamond$ response - after all, two queens could be sufficient to produce a playable slam - and Modlin went on with a $5\Diamond$ cuebid. Mansell signed off in $5\Diamond$ at just under the speed of light and played there on a diamond lead. She won the ace of diamonds, cashed the ace of hearts, then thought for a few seconds and, with a visible shrug, continued with the king of hearts. Declarer could eventually ruff the diamond loser in hand but had to lose two trumps and a spade for down one; 50 and 10 IMPs to France.



Fihrer/Swartz played a peaceful $2\lozenge$, making nine tricks for +110. Bessis/D'Ovidio were more optimistic, bidding the North/South cards: $1\clubsuit$ - $1\diamondsuit$ - $3\diamondsuit$ - 3NT, where we believe $3\diamondsuit$ to have been forcing. Mansell led the five of hearts.

Everything lies very favourably for declarer but the defence has one chance to break the contract. If East rises with the ace of hearts and sees the fall of the eight from declarer, she should be able to read her partner's lead as being from four small cards. A heart return is not good enough as the defence can only come to three aces plus the long heart. However, what if East switches to a low club? Declarer cannot rise with the ace as the defence can then cash two clubs to go with their three aces, so she must put in the nine or jack. So West will win the queen of clubs and can now switch back to hearts for an eventual one down.

Alas, Modlin did not pass the first hurdle because she put in the queen at trick one and Bessis won the king. She played a spade to the queen then the $\Diamond K$, pitching a club as Mansell won. Mansell did the best she could by switching to a low club for the king and ace then went up with the ace on Bessis's low spade play and led the two of hearts to the ace. Declarer was favourite to get it right if Modlin returned a club now but in practice she played a heart and Bessis had the rest for +430 and 8 IMPs to France.

Bessis/D'Ovidio bid and made a vulnerable game on the next board, missed at the other table, and the set ended with France ahead by 55-11, including the carry-over score.

CALLING ALL JOURNALISTS!

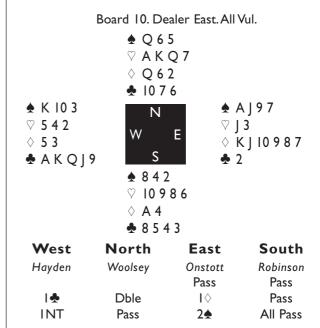
The **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING** and presentation of the annual awards will be on Tuesday 30th October at 09.15 sharp in "Renoir Matisse" on the mezzanine level.

We hope to see as many of you as possible.

QUEENS COUNT

By Maureen Dennison

In the first set of the Senior's semi-final, Kit Woolsey found a quiet defensive play to put declarer, John Onstott, off his stroke. This was the hand:



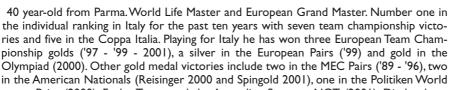
South led \heartsuit 10 and Woolsey carefully took with \heartsuit K, cashed the \heartsuit A and switched to a low diamond.Well, of course, with only seven points in the heart suit, he had to have the diamond ace for his double. Declarer put up the king – wrong! I know it was only worth I IMP but what a nice way to earn it!

Seniors Bowl

	Pair		Country	IMPs/B	
	MORSE D.	WOLFF B.	USA I	+1.124	180
2	HAMILTON F.	SOTHERLIN J.	USA I	+0.741	180
3	SZENBERG S.	WILKOSZ A.	POLAND	+0.601	80
4	HAYDEN G.	onstott j.	USA 2	+0.466	180
5	KIVEL J.	LARSEN C.	USA 2	+0.446	200
6	BAZE G.	FREED G.	USA 2	+0.386	180
7	RISK R.	GERIN D.	GUADELOUPE	+0.350	100
8	KLAPPER W.	RUSSYAN J.	POLAND	+0.311	280
9	ADAD P.	aujaleu m.	FRANCE	+0.257	220
10	DELMOULY C.	SCHNEIDER J-M.	FRANCE	+0.235	120
П	WALA W.	WILKOSZ A.	POLAND	+0.224	200
12	BARONI F.	ricciarelli M.	ITALY	+0.211	260
13	ROBINSON S.	WOOLSEY K.	USA I	+0.193	200
14	LEENHARDT F.	MARI C.	FRANCE	+0.175	200
15	GERIN D.	PICARD P.	GUADELOUPE	-0.001	120
	DERIVERY J-L.	PICARD P.	GUADELOUPE	-0.006	100
17	GIGLI G.	LATESSA A.	ITALY	-0.114	220
18	SHAKA M.	MESDARY S.	EGYPT/S.AF	-0.306	180
19	ASKALANI A.	Mohsen Kamel M	EGYPT/S.AF	-0.411	180
	JOFFE M.	SULCAS N.	EGYPT/S.AF	-0.429	180
21	BOULOGNE J.	MONDOR F.	GUADELOUPE	-0.526	140
22	MUSTAFA A.	A.SALMAN Y.	BAHRAIN	-1.069	280
23	MOHAMMAD A.	OBAIDALI A.	BAHRAIN	-1.535	280

Mabel Bocchi's direct line today is with another of the Italian superstars, Norberto Bocchi.

INTERVIEW





Pairs (2000), Forbo Teams and the Australian Summer NOT (2001). Die-hard supporter of Juventus, he loves sport in general, good food and flashy cars. Addicted to stock market dabbling, with varying fortune...

For love I'd be willing to give up ...?

Everything, absolutely everything.

And to win this world championship?

Almost everything.

If you weren't a bridge player, what would you like to be?

A journalist, in fact, to be more precise, a special envoy who follows important world events from the front line.

Knowing you rather well, I don't think you'd have a very great future in that.

I wouldn't say so. You just have to know how to write, and I suppose I'm not too gifted on that score; you must have no fear of death and that's something which terrifies me; and get on and off planes as if they were buses... I'd go by car. In fact I'd be a "very special" envoy.

To what extent do these six adjectives apply to you: sensitive, superficial, good-natured, tolerant, lazy, selfish?

Nice choice! Well, I am very lazy and very good-natured (maybe too good-natured, to the point of being a fool), superficial and sensitive to an average extent, and not at all selfish or tolerant.

On the subject of being good-natured, I've the feeling that recently this quality leaves a little to be desired...

My good nature is the same as always, it's my tolerance and patience which have been a bit lacking lately.

And when something really pisses me off big time, which fortunately is a rare occurrence, I just go crazy...

Yes, I've seen you in action and can vouch for that. But why this deterioration?

Until just a short time ago I deluded myself that my life was like a fairytale where everyone is good and cares for one another. Although realising that life in general isn't like that at all (just watch the news on t.v.), I naively thought that I'd created my own circle of friends and relationships that went beyond all that. Then some unexpected betrayals broke the spell and my blind faith in humanity was transformed into great diffidence.

What do you see in your future?

Death... I forgot to mention that I'm also pessimistic. No, I'm joking, because fortunately for me I'm certainly not a pessimist and it's just my hypochondria which gets to me now and then.

Now and again!?

Well, maybe often, but I am improving. But let's get back to my future where I see myself with two beautiful sons, actually I'd prefer

daughters, and preferably accompanied by their splendid mother to share the dream with me.

It's said that money doesn't bring happiness? So what does it bring?

That's true, you can't be happy with money alone, but you must admit that it does help. In fact if you don't have enough, this can sometimes ruin the good things you do have, such as love, serenity, health.

And with money you can surround yourself with beautiful cars, comfortable houses, designer clothes... all things that you love. Purely aesthetical reasons or something else?

Let me immediately crush those doubts that some may have about me being interested in particular status symbols because that's totally untrue and actually something I detest. The answer is very simple: I like beautiful things because they help me to improve my life, making things more convenient, because almost always the superior quality of material goods, and also services, means a higher cost. I must also add that I'm not at all mean, a bit of a spendthrift in fact...

And what if your financial situation, today more than comfortable, were to change for some reason?

I'd adapt without too much trouble.

What do you look for in a woman?

Understanding and complicity, qualities I've rarely found.

And in a friend?

Disinterest and continuity.

What would you like to change about yourself?

I'd like to be less presumptuous and moody: my relations with those dear to me would certainly be better, and Giorgio Duboin's life too!

Being so presumptuous, do you know your own limits?

What limits?

Follow the 35th Bermuda Bowl, the 13th Venice Cup and the 1st Seniors Bowl on Internet through the WBF official web site:

www.bridge.gr

SESSION 3

Bermuda Bowl / Quarter-Final



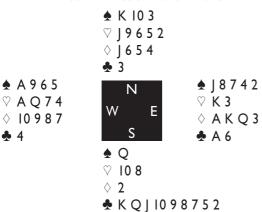
USA I v Italy



When you're down by a fair margin, you don't want to waste time getting back into the match. USA I found themselves in that position beginning round three of the Bermuda Bowl quarter-final round.

Despite a carryover of 5 IMPs against Italy, the Americans were down 98-46 after 32 boards. They started their comeback on Board I of the third set.

Board I. Dealer North. None Vul.



West	North	East	South
Duboin	Meckstroth	Bocchi	Rodwell
	Pass	I♠	5♣
Dble	All Pass		

Eric Rodwell's leap in clubs was duplicated at nearly every table in all the competitions (one cautious soul went all the way to 44 and earned 5 IMPs for his efforts). Duboin couldn't know that his partner had such a good hand, so he took the virtually sure plus, which turned out to be 500. It looked like a possible I-IMP gain (East-West can take 12 tricks in spades). Bob Hamman had other ideas.

West	North	East	South
Hamman	Lauria	Soloway	Versace
	Pass	 ♣ ¹)	5♣
6♣	Pass	6♠	All Pass

⁽¹⁾ Strong, artificial and forcing

Alfredo Versace's 5 bid took up a lot of bidding space, but it was to Hamman what a proverbial red flag is to a bull. Hamman committed to slam, which was cold on a fortunate lie of the spade suit. Plus 980 was good for a 10-IMP gain, just the kind of start USA I wanted.

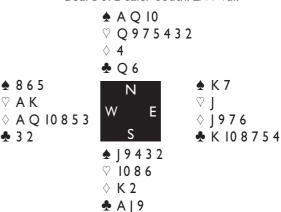
They kept it up on Board 2 when Norberto Bocchi stretched to bid INT over partner's I♠ opening with four high-card points and ended in a hopeless 3NT. Rodwell and Jeff Meckstroth, who had a very good set, made no mistakes on defense and held declarer to seven tricks. At the other table, Hamman played a more sensible INT, also taking seven tricks. That was another 5 IMPs to USA I.

Deal 3 produced another 6 IMPs for USA I.



Alfredo Versace, Italy

Board 3. Dealer South. E/W Vul.



In the closed room, Lorenzo Lauria overcalled 4% when Hamman started with 1% as West. Lauria could not avoid his four losers, finishing one down for -50.

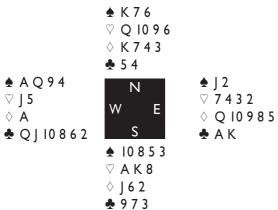
West	North	East	South
Duboin	Meckstroth	Bocchi	Rodwell
			INT ⁽¹⁾
3♦	4♡	5◊	Pass
Pass	Dble	All Pass	

Rodwell led a heart, and Bocchi took dummy's two hearts, pitching a spade, before trying to sneak a spade through. Meck-

stroth hopped up with the ace and exited with a diamond. Bocchi claimed at that point as making or down one depending on where the A was. It was with Rodwell, so USA I scored +200.

On Board 4, Hamman and Soloway bid a vulnerable game that Duboin and Bocchi missed, adding another 10 IMPs to their score. Suddenly, a 52-IMP deficit was now at 21. Board 5 was a push, but USA I picked another 6 IMPs on the next deal.

Board 6. Dealer East. E/W Vul.



West	North	East	South
Hamman	Lauria	Soloway	Versace
		Pass	Pass
2♣ ⁽¹⁾	Pass	2�(2)	Pass
2♡(3)	Pass	3♣	All Pass

- (I) Natural, limited
- (2) Inquiry
- (3) Showing a four-card major

Soloway didn't ask which major Hamman had (if it was hearts, perhaps Soloway didn't like the support he was going to put down as dummy), and his non-forcing 3♣ bid worked out very well. Hamman took 10 tricks for +130.

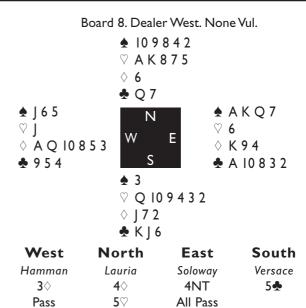
West	North	East	South
Duboin	Meckstroth	Bocchi	Rodwell
		Pass	Pass
♣	Pass	1 🔷 (1)	Pass
♠	Pass	INT	Pass
2♣	Pass	3♣	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

(I) Hearts

Three Notrump is a very reasonable game to bid. If the Δ K had been onside, Bocchi would have taken nine tricks. Rodwell wowed the Vugraph audience by starting with the \heartsuit A, switching to the Δ 8 at trick two. Bocchi ducked, Meckstroth won the king and went back to hearts. That was one down. On the first six boards, the Americans had outscored the Italians 37-0. The defending Bermuda Bowl champs were right back in the match.

The run ended on Board 7 when Bocchi and Duboin went for only 500 in 5♥ doubled while Lauria and Versace were allowed to play a vulnerable 4♠, making for +620. That was a badly needed 3 IMPs to Italy.

The Italians scored another 8 IMPs on the next board to increase their lead to 26.



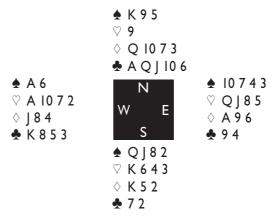
Another good save by the Italians. The Americans took three tricks for +50.

West	North	East	South
Duboin	Meckstroth	Bocchi	Rodwell
Pass	Pass	I ♣	Ι♡
3♦	4◊	4♡	Pass
5◊	All Pass		

Everyone at the table with the exception of Duboin did a lot of thinking during the auction. The last to pause was Bocchi, who considered boosting Duboin to slam in diamonds before finally signing off. The contract just made for +400.

The next board was a push, but Meckstroth had to work hard to make his contract, and he did so with excellent card reading.

Board 9. Dealer North. E/W Vul.



Lauria managed eight tricks in $2\clubsuit$ for +90 despite the fact that East/West started a forcing defense with the $\heartsuit Q$ lead.

West	North	East	South
Duboin	Meckstroth	Bocchi	Rodwell
	I $\diamondsuit^{(1)}$	Pass	10
Pass	2♣	Pass	2◊
All Pass			
(I) Precision			

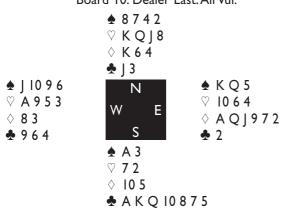


Bob Hamman, USA

Bocchi started with the $\heartsuit Q$ and continued the suit. Meckstroth ruffed and led the $\clubsuit 9$ to the queen and ace. A club was returned, and Meckstroth inserted the queen. Next he played his low spade to dummy's jack and took another club finesse. When Meckstroth played the $\clubsuit A$, Bocchi ruffed in with the $\lozenge 6$. Meckstroth discarded a spade from dummy instead of overruffing with the $\lozenge K$, and Bocchi continued with a heart to his partner's ten. Meckstroth ruffed again and, now down to two trumps in hand, ruffed a diamond to dummy. He thought about his next play for several minutes before making the right choice — the $\heartsuit K$, ruffed in hand with the ten.

The Italians went up by 38 when Bocchi made an inspired lead on this deal.

Board 10. Dealer East. All Vul.



West	North	East	South		
Hamman	Lauria	Soloway	Versace		
		1♦	2♣		
Pass	2♦	Dble	3◊		
Pass	3NT	All Pass			

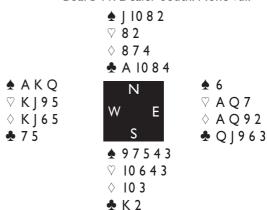
Soloway led a diamond, and it was quickly over. Lauria had nine top tricks for +600.

West	North	East	South
Duboin	Meckstroth	Bocchi	Rodwell
		1♦	2♣
Pass All Pass	2NT	Pass	3NT

Bocchi earned a swing for his side by starting with the ΦQ and unblocking the king on the next trick after Meckstroth ducked. All Meckstroth could do from there was cash out — he would have ended up two down if he had tried to sneak a heart through.

Things went sour again for Italy on Board II, however, in an unpredictable manner.

Board II. Dealer South. None Vul.



West	North	East	South		
Duboin	Meckstroth	Bocchi	Rodwell		
2♣ (I)	Pass	2NT(2)	Pass		
3♣	Pass	3♦	Pass		
3♠	Pass	4◊	Pass		
4♡	Pass	4♠	Pass		
4NT	Pass	6◊	All Pass		

- (I) Balanced 17-19
- (2) Slam interest with both minors

This contract didn't take long to play. Bocchi had nothing he could do with his club losers, and he was quickly one down for minus 50.

The result from the closed room was not known on this deal immediately and the Vugraph audience was in suspense, wondering whether the Americans would be able to stay out of the slam (not an easy assignment). Finally, Kokish said: "I've got good news and bad news for you Italian fans. The good news is that Hamman and Soloway bid slam. The bad news..."

West	North	East	South		
Hamman	Lauria	Soloway	Versace		
 ♣ (1)	Pass	I♠	Pass		
INT	Pass	3 ♠ ⁽²⁾	Pass		
3NT	Pass	5NT	Pass		
6◊	Pass	6NT	All Pass		

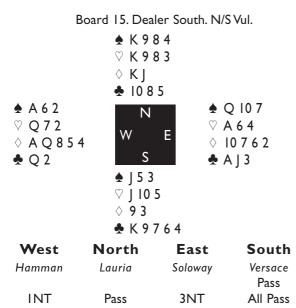
- (1) Strong, artificial and forcing
- (2) Showing shortness

When Kokish reported "the bad news," of course, it was not difficult to figure out what it might be. Yes, Hamman had made 12 tricks in notrump with the East/West cards. It seems that as Hamman was running red suits, Lauria was clinging to spades, convinced that Hamman held the A K Q 9. To keep from being endplayed, Lauria discarded the A! Imagine Lauria's chagrin when Hamman led a club to Versace's king. That's a tough way to lose 14 IMPs.

The Italians, leading 112-88, suffered another vulnerable game

swing (Bocchi and Duboin didn't get to $4\heartsuit$ – Hamman and Soloway did) on Board 13, but they picked up 5 IMPs when Hamman went down six in 2NT while Meckstroth managed 10 tricks in $4\diamondsuit$ (he was in 3NT doubled at one point with nine, likely 10 tricks if he worked out not to finesse in diamonds with seven to the A K J opposite a singleton).

Board 15 capped a miserable set for the Italians as Duboin made an uncharacteristic error and Rodwell took full advantage.



Lauria led a spade to the ten, jack and ace. The $\clubsuit Q$ went to the king, and a spade came back. North later got in with a diamond and had two spades to cash, but that was it for the defense, and Hamman recorded +400.

West	North	East	South
Duboin	Meckstroth	Bocchi	Rodwell
			Pass
♣	Pass	I♠	Pass
INT	Pass	3NT	All Pass

The I♣ bid apparently is necessary if the West hand is too strong for a INT opener (Duboin and Bocchi play a mini-INT) and a rebid of INT after a I♦ opening shows a different range. At any rate, the normal contract was reached, and Meckstroth started with a low spade. Duboin put up the queen and played a diamond to the ace and another diamond. Meckstroth won the trick and, having noted his partner's encouraging signal in spades at trick one, continued with a low spade at trick three. Rodwell put up the jack and Duboin made a serious error by playing low.

That gave Rodwell the chance to find the killing defense of a heart switch through declarer's queen. While Rodwell thought about his play, Vugraph commentator Barry Rigal pointed out that Rodwell would not only have to find the right switch, but he would have to do so on the assumption that his world-class opponent had made a serious error.

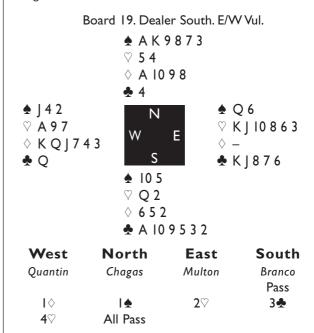
Eventually, however, Rodwell came up with the winning play, leading the $\heartsuit 10$ (Rusinow style) through Duboin's hand. Duboin took dummy's $\heartsuit A$ and cashed his diamonds, but when the club finesse failed he was down one (it would have been two but Meckstroth discarded a heart on the run of the diamonds).

That was another 10 IMPs to USA I, and after a push on the last board, the Americans had completed a 71-28 beating to draw to within 9 IMPs with 48 boards to play.

Battle of Wits

By Patrick Jourdain (Wales)

This deal from the Round 13 match between France and Brazil was a good battle of wits between Multon as declarer and Chagas/Branco in defence:



Branco led the ten of spades and Chagas began with the king and ace. At many tables North now tried to cash the ace of diamonds, planning to continue with the third spade. That plan was short-lived. Chagas avoided this trap, continuing at once with the third spade. Multon solved his immediate problem by ruffing high and playing a trump to the seven. He then led the king of diamonds off the table. Chagas knew that if declarer had held a diamond he would have discarded it on the third spade, so he smoothly played low. Multon, taken in, ruffed the diamond, crossed to dummy, drawing trumps, and then led the queen of clubs.

If South wins this he is endplayed, forced to set up an extra trick for declarer in one of the minors. So Branco did very well when he allowed dummy's bare queen to hold. Now Multon was at the crossroads. He had nine obvious tricks, and there may have been a hitch from South that gave away the position of the ace of clubs. So, although he had earlier placed the ace of diamonds with South, Multon now decided to make a loser-on-loser play of leading the queen of diamonds and, when Chagas played low again, he threw a losing club from hand.

When the diamond held Multon was home.

Transnational Matchmaking

If you are looking for partners or teammates in order to compete in the Transnational event please go to the press room at 13.00 today when Nissan Rand will endeavor to solve your problem. Individuals looking for partners are especially welcome.

FINAL BUTLER RANKING

Bermuda Bowl

Venice Cup

	Pair		Country	IMPs/B			Pair		Country	IMPs/B	
- 1	BILSKI George	BROWN Terry	AUSTRALIA	+1.032	120	- 1	BESSIS V.	D'OVIDIO C.	FRANCE	+0.966	220
2	GROETHEIM Glen	AA Terje	NORWAY	+0.636	200	2	AUKEN Sabine	VON ARNIM D.	GERMANY	+0.777	300
3	HELGEMO Geir	HELNESS Tor	NORWAY	+0.635	240	3	CRONIER B.	WILLARD S.	FRANCE	+0.745	220
4	BALICKY Cezary	ZMUDZINSKI A.	POLAND	+0.591	220	4	BROCK Sally	COURTNEY M.	ENGLAND	+0.664	200
	KWIECEN Michal	PSZCZOLA Jacek	POLAND	+0.566	240	5	JIAN Wang	ZHEN Zhi	CHINA	+0.595	240
6	HAMMAN Bob	SOLOWAY Paul	USA I	+0.501	240	6	BAKER Lynn	LEVITINA Irina	USA I	+0.593	120
7	LASUT Henky	MANOPPO Eddy	INDONESIA	+0.498	300	7		SMEDEREVAC J.	AUSTRIA	+0.509	100
	MARTEL Chip	STANSBY Lew	USA 2	+0.495	280	8		TERRANEO S.	AUSTRIA	+0.466	160
	SONTAG Alan	WEICHSEL Peter	USA 2	+0.472	280	9	MEYERS Jill	MONTIN Randi	USA I	+0.461	280
10	BOCCHI Norbert	DUBOIN Giorgio	ITALY	+0.470	280	10	BRUNNER M.	GOLDENFIELD R.	ENGLAND	+0.440	240
П		ALLEGRINI P.	FRANCE	+0.463	160	П	YANHUI Sun	YANHONG Wang	CHINA	+0.427	220
	LAURIA Lorenzo	VERSACE Alfred	ITALY	+0.381	240	12		OLIVIERI G.	ITALY	+0.406	220
	FREEMAN Dick	NICKELL Nick	USA I	+0.309	160		FISHPOOL C.	HUGON E.	FRANCE	+0.359	240
	DALAL Rajesh	GUPTA Subhash	INDIA	+0.308	240	14		SANBORN Kerri	USA I	+0.350	220
	MECKSTROTH J.	RODWELL Eric	USA I	+0.279	280		MANSELL Petra	MODLIN Merle	SOUTH AFRI	+0.299	280
	HAYASHI N.	MAEDA Takashi	JAPAN	+0.226	200		HAMMAN Petra	JACKSON Joan	USA 2	+0.263	160
	CORNELL Mich.	MAYER Malcolm	NEW ZEALAN	+0.163	260		WENFEI Wang	YU Zhang	CHINA	+0.261	220
	BROGELAND Boye	SAELENSMINDE E	NORWAY	+0.157	240		SHIMAMURA K.	FUKUDA Shoko	JAPAN	+0.250	280
	MARTENS K.	LESNIEWSKI Ma.	POLAND	+0.146	220		FISCHER Doris	WEIGKRICHT T.	AUSTRIA	+0.221	280
	NAGUIB Sherif	SADEK Ashraf	EGYPT	+0.114	200		DHONDY Heather	SMITH Nicola	ENGLAND	+0.157	240
	YADLIN Doron	YADLIN Israel	ISRAEL	+0.085	280		PASMAN Jet	SIMONS Anneke	NETHERLAND	+0.156	240
	KHOLOMEEV V.	ZLOTOV Dmitri	RUSSIA	+0.075	240		KLAR Robin	SCHULLE Kay	USA 2	+0.130	260
	QUANTIN J.C.	MULTON F.	FRANCE	+0.023	280		MELECH H. ASSUMPCAO A.M.	NAVEH N.	ISRAEL BRAZIL	+0.117 +0.093	180 240
	HERBST Ilan	HERBST Ofir	ISRAEL	+0.010	280		ADRAIN Di	NOGUEIRA H. HULETT Margie	SOUTH AFRI	+0.078	240
	PRABHAKAR	VENKATARAMAN K	INDIA	-0.005	220		VAN DER PAS M.	VRIEND Bep	NETHERLAND	+0.076	240
	CHAGAS Gabriel	BRENNER Diego	BRAZIL	-0.003	260		DEMME Ina	THORPE C.	CANADA	+0.076	180
	BROWN Terry	GUE Phillip	AUSTRALIA	-0.017	120		DORIA Lucia	AMARAL Marina	BRAZIL	+0.015	240
	GROMOV Andrei	PETROUNINE AI.	RUSSIA	-0.057	220		CAMPANILE Z.	POPLILOV D.	ISRAEL	-0.007	320
	ABECASSIS M.	SOULET Ph.	FRANCE	-0.068	240		FIHRER Joan	SWARTZ Ch.	SOUTH AFRI	-0.010	160
	MADALA Ag.	RAVENNA Pablo	ARGENTINA	-0.000	240	31	•	REUS Sharyn	CANADA	-0.027	260
	MUZZIO Ernesto	VILLEGAS M.	ARGENTINA	-0.077	260	32		SOFYAN Elita	INDONESIA	-0.040	300
	LARSEN Kyle	MELTZER Rose	USA 2	-0.075	120		BREED Mildred	QUINN Shawn	USA 2	-0.052	260
	DE FALCO Dano	FERRARO Guido	ITALY	-0.101	160		DE LUCCHI F.	ROSETTA A.	ITALY	-0.053	240
	DUBININ Alex.	KRASNOSSELSKI	RUSSIA	-0.107	220		FARWIG Katrin	HACKETT B.	GERMANY	-0.065	160
	EL AHAMADI W.		EGYPT		260	36	NEHMERT Beate	RAUSCHEID A.	GERMANY	-0.110	220
	NADAR Kiran	SADEK Tarek SATYANARAIN B.	INDIA	-0.145 -0.152	220	37	HOOGWEG Femke	VANZWOL W.	NETHERLAND	-0.121	200
	FIGUEIREDO M.		BRAZIL	-0.132 -0.169	180	38	CHADWICK M.	CLARK Alida	AUSTRALIA	-0.163	180
		CAMPOS P. Joao BOUVERESSE JP.		-0.169	240	39	CORMACK Jan	MOIR Deborah	AUSTRALIA	-0.231	280
	MOERS Jeanine	•	GUADELOUPE			40	HAYASHI Makiko	YAMADA Yuko	JAPAN	-0.251	180
	EL KOURDY A.	SALIB Samir	EGYPT	-0.217	220	41	FERLAZZO C.	MANARA G.	ITALY	-0.257	200
	PRESCOTT Mich.	FORDHAM Peter	AUSTRALIA	-0.221	280	42	SETOGUCHI N.	OTA Hiroko	JAPAN	-0.285	220
	BLACKSTOCK S.	HENRY Stephen	NEW ZEALAN	-0.226	260	43	REDERMEIER A.	SMEDEREVAC J.	AUSTRIA	-0.333	120
	SHIMIZU Seiya	TAKANO Hideki	JAPAN	-0.231	240	44	CIMON Fr.	LACROIX M.	CANADA	-0.393	240
	AVIRAM Yoram	BAREL Michael	ISRAEL	-0.271	120	45	MANDOWSKY T.	Tagliavia M.	VENEZUELA	-0.440	240
	KARWUR Franky	SACUL Denny	INDONESIA	-0.356	300	46	BIRMAN D.	LIEBERMAN R.	ISRAEL	-0.513	180
	HANAYAMA T.	HIRATA Makato	JAPAN	-0.480	240	47	BERNAZZANI M.	PACHECO M.	VENEZUELA	-0.521	140
	BRANCO Marc.	VILLAS-BOAS M.	BRAZIL	-0.482	180		HAVAS Elizab.	TRAVIS B.	AUSTRALIA	-0.522	220
	LAU Lauwrence	SZE Alan	HONG KONG	-0.529	220		KARMARKAR M.	SINGAPURIN Y.	INDIA	-0.610	220
	LAI Dicky	ZEN Derek	HONG KONG	-0.545	220		DEWI S.A.	WAHYU Chrisina	INDONESIA	-0.625	200
	KEMPCZYNSKI A.	PELLETIER JC.	GUADELOUPE	-0.585	220		MANDELOT A.	PAIM Leda	BRAZIL	-0.726	200
	LEBLONDET P.	VERON Daniel	GUADELOUPE	-0.662	200		LAKHANI Geeta	RAYTHATHA A.	INDIA	-0.792	240
	CHOY K.I.	NG Thomas	HONG KONG	-0.754	240		HIRSCHHAUT F.	TACHE Nina	VENEZUELA	-0.822	240
	ACKERLEY David	SMITH Scott	NEW ZEALAN	-0.762	160		CHOTHIA Feroza	SICKA Bimal	INDIA	-1.079	220
53	AGUIRRE Cr.	estevarena j.	ARGENTINA	-0.767	180	55	KORENGKENG I.	RIANTINI	INDONESIA	-1.166	140

