



43rd WORLD BRIDGE TEAM CHAMPIONSHIPS

LYON, FRANCE • 12th-26th AUGUST 2017



43rd BERMUDA BOWL
21st VENICE CUP
9th D'ORSI SENIOR TROPHY

11th FUNBRIDGE.COM WORLD
TRANSNATIONAL OPEN TEAMS

**DAILY
BULLETIN**

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Issue No. 11

Wednesday, 23rd August 2017

A WING AND A PRAYER

Today's Programme

BB,VC, OT Semi-finals	Funbridge Transnational Qualification
11:00 - 13:20	10:00 - 11:30
14:30 - 16:50	11:50 - 13:20
17:20 - 19:40	14:30 - 16:00
	16:20 - 17:50
	18:10 - 19:40



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Transnational Tension in Lyon

At the half way mark in the semi-finals, our hosts are making a determined effort to reach their first Bermuda Bowl final for 20 years. They have built up a significant lead against their opponents, New Zealand, who will need a minor miracle to turn the match around. The remaining five matches are all still in the balance. In the FunBridge Transnational Open Teams, MagicDogs had a great day and are clear of the pack.

BAM - Grand Prix Ville de Lyon

We remind you that teams willing to register for the Board-A-Match to be played on Thursday and Friday must do it on the WBF website not later than 10.00 pm Wednesday 23rd. The entry is free of charge for all players competing in the Transnational Open Teams, who can form any team they wish, while a fee is due for new entries.



The daily starting time is already known to be 10.00 am on both playing days, while the full schedule will be published only when the final number of entries will be known at www.worldbridge.org.



The **Prize Giving & Closing Ceremony** of the 2017 World Bridge Championships will take place on Saturday 26 August. It is open to all players competing in the Bermuda Bowl, Venice Cup, d'Orsi Trophy and Funbridge Transnational Teams. It will be held here at the Cité Centre De Congrès, the exact time and venue to be announced once the number attending is known.

In order to get a ticket **you must register at the Hospitality desk** by the main entrance **no later than 25 August. No ticket - no entry!**







Bermuda Bowl



	P	I	2	3	4	5	6	T
 FRANCE	39	42	21	25	31	41	199	
 CHINA	52	15	20	11	23	26	147	



	P	I	2	3	4	5	6	T
 NETHERLANDS	6	35	39	21	27	34	14	176
 NEW ZEALAND	21	46	24	22	35	46	194	

- FRANCE** Thomas BESSIS, Francois COMBESCURE, Cedric LORENZINI, Jean-Christophe QUANTIN, Jerome ROMBAUT, Frederic VOLCKER, Lionel SEBBANE captain
- CHINA** Yunlong CHEN, Jianming DAI, Jianwei LI, Lixin YANG, Bangxiang ZHANG, Jie ZHAO, Jihong HU captain, Gang CHEN coach
- NETHERLANDS** Simon DE WIJS, Bob DRIJVER, Bauke MULLER, Bart NAB, Berend VAN DEN BOS, Joris VAN LANKVELD, Wubbo DE BOER captain, Ton BAKKEREN coach
- NEW ZEALAND** Ashley BACH, Matthew BROWN, Michael CORNELL, Geir-Olav TISLEVOLL, Michael WARE, Michael WHIBLEY, Derek EVENNETT captain
- SWEDEN** Fredrik NYSTROM, Mikael RIMSTEDT, Ola RIMSTEDT, Johan SYLVAN, Johan UPMARK, Frederic WRANG, Per Gunnar ELIASSON captain, Jan LAGERMAN coach
- USA2** Martin FLEISHER, Joe GRUE, Chip MARTEL, Brad MOSS, Jacek PSZCZOLA, Michael ROSENBERG, Jan MARTEL captain
- USA I** Ralph KATZ, Robert LEVIN, Jeff MECKSTROTH, Nick NICKELL, Eric RODWELL, Steve WEINSTEIN, Jill LEVIN captain, Eric O. KOKISH coach
- BULGARIA** Victor ARONOV, Diana DAMIANOVA, Georgi KARAKOLEV, Vladimir MIHOV, Ivan NANEV, Julian STEFANOV, Victor ARONOV captain, MARTA NIKOLOVA coach



	P	I	2	3	4	5	6	T
 FRANCE	44	42	46					132
 NEW ZEALAND	5	25	10					40



	P	I	2	3	4	5	6	T
 SWEDEN	43	37	11	16	36	27	170	
 USA2	41	51	43	32	21	5	193	

	P	I	2	3	4	5	6	T
 USA I	36	34	49	21	60	26	226	
 BULGARIA	72	12	11	40	46	58	239	



	P	I	2	3	4	5	6	T
 BULGARIA	42	36	22					100
 USA2	18	49	39					106



Venice Cup



	P	I	2	3	4	5	6	T
 SWEDEN	26	48	23	40	20	34	193	
 ISRAEL	30	34	43	6	36	11	160	



	P	I	2	3	4	5	6	T
 RUSSIA	21	24	53	42	32	27	199	
 ENGLAND	43	58	32	8	42	37	220	

- SWEDEN** Pia ANDERSSON, Kathrine BERTHEAU, Ida GRONKVIST, Emma OVELIUS, Cecilia RIMSTEDT, Sandra RIMSTEDT, Kenneth BORIN captain, Carina WADEMARK coach
- ISRAEL** Adi ASULIN, Hila LEVI, Michal NOSACKI, Nathalie SAADA, Dana TAL, Noga TAL, Joseph ENGEL captain
- RUSSIA** Victoria GROMOVA, Anna GULEVICH, Elena KHONICHEVA, Tatiana PONOMAREVA, Diana RAKHMANI, Maria YAKOVLEVA, Tatiana DIKHNOVA captain
- ENGLAND** Sally BROCK, Fiona BROWN, Catherine DRAPER, Sandra PENFOLD, Nevena SENIOR, Nicola SMITH, Derek PATTERSON captain, David BURN coach
- INDONESIA** Rury ANDHANI, Lusje Olha BOJOH, Suci Amita DEWI, Kristina Wahyu MURNIATI, Conny SUMAMPOUW, Julita Grace TUEJE, Hendra RAILIS captain, Bill MONDIGIR coach
- POLAND** Cathy BALDYSZ, Zofia BALDYSZ, Katarzyna DUFRAT, Natalia GAWEL, Aleksandra JAROSZ, Justyna ZMUDA, Mirosław CICHOCKI captain
- CHINA** Yan HUANG, Yan LIU, Yan LU, Qi SHEN, Nan WANG, Wen Fei WANG, Jianxin WANG captain, Xiaojing WANG coach
- NETHERLANDS** Carla ARNOLDS, Merel BRUIJNSTEEN, Laura DEKKERS, Magdalena TICHA, Wietske VAN ZWOL, Martine VERBEEK, Alex VAN REENEN captain, Hans KELDER coach



	P	I	2	3	4	5	6	T
 INDONESIA	62	12	27	12	18	21	152	
 POLAND	18	47	38	36	26	6	171	



	P	I	2	3	4	5	6	T
 CHINA	70	5	13	19	28	48	183	
 NETHERLANDS	9	22	39	10	5	49	134	

	P	I	2	3	4	5	6	T
 SWEDEN	12	23	52					87
 ENGLAND	42	56	19					117

	P	I	2	3	4	5	6	T
 CHINA	42	30	52					124
 POLAND	23	50	18					91

d'Orsi Trophy

	P	I	2	3	4	5	6	T
 USA2	34	17	45	26	42	39	203	
 JAPAN	25	37	54	16	31	3	166	

	P	I	2	3	4	5	6	T
 AUSTRALIA	55	7	33	9	33	36	173	
 SWEDEN	32	36	70	36	26	38	238	

USA2 Michael BECKER, David BERKOWITZ, Allan GRAVES, Neil SILVERMAN, Alan SONTAG, Jeff WOLFSON, Steve GARNER captain

JAPAN Tadashi IMAKURA, Masayuki INO, Kyoko OHNO, Akito OMASA, Akihiko YAMADA, Kazuhiko YAMADA, Hiroaki MIURA captain

AUSTRALIA Terry BROWN, Peter Walter BUCHEN, Pauline GUMBY, Avi KANETKAR, Warren LAZER, Bruce NEILL, George BILSKI captain, LALITA KANETKAR coach



SWEDEN Mats AXDORPH, Christer BJARING, Sven-Ake BJERREGARD, Bengt-Erik EFRAIMSSON, Anders MORATH, Johnny OSTBERG, Tommy GULLBERG captain, Carina WADEMARK coach



ITALY Andrea BURATTI, Amedeo COMELLA, Giuseppe FAILLA, Aldo MINA, Ruggero PULGA, Stefano SABBATINI, Pierfrancesco PAROLARO captain



USA I Dennis CLERKIN, Jerry CLERKIN, Marc JACOBUS, Mike LEVINE, Mike PASSELL, Eddie WOLD, Bob MORRIS captain



FRANCE Nicholas DECHELETTE, Pierre-Yves GUILLAUMIN, Georges IONTZEFF, Jean-Jacques PALAU, Pierre SCHMIDT, Philippe TOFFIER, Eric GAUTRET captain

INDIA Ramawatar AGRAWAL, Subhash DHAKRAS, Dipak PODDAR, Keshav Sakharan SAMANT, Jitendra SOLANI, Ramamurthy SRIDHARAN, Dipak PODDAR captain, Anal SHAH coach

	P	I	2	3	4	5	6	T
 ITALY	42	14	20	70	22	26	194	
 USA I	35	25	45	12	41	30	188	

	P	I	2	3	4	5	6	T
 FRANCE	81	10	13	24	14	20	162	
 INDIA	20	26	34	33	18	44	175	

	P	I	2	3	4	5	6	T
 USA2	17	32	41					90
 SWEDEN	25	23	34					82

	P	I	2	3	4	5	6	T
 INDIA	14	40	35					89
 ITALY	11	61	30					102

World Championship Book 2017 – Lyon

The official book of these championships should be ready around the end of February next year. It will consist of approximately 350 large full colour pages and will include coverage of all the championship events, with particular emphasis on the latter stages of the Open and Women's Teams. There will be a full results service and many colour photographs.

The principle analysts, as in recent years, will be John Carruthers, Barry Rigal, Brian Senior and GeO Tislevoll.

On publication, the official retail price will be US\$35 plus whatever your local bookseller charges for postage. For the duration of the championships, you can pre-order via Jan Swaan in the Press Room at the reduced price of 25 Euros, or 30 US\$, including postage (surface mail).

Alternatively, you can pay the same prices via Paypal to Brian Senior at bsenior@hotmail.com, which is also an option for a limited period after the end of the championships.

Dealing machines and cards

The Duplimates used for the duplication during the championship are sold for EUR 1999. You are advised to order early as the number of machines is limited. Contact Jannerstens at Forum 4 (just outside the playing room), or drop a line to per@jannersten.com.

The (new) cards that you play with (if you participate) will be sold after usage for EUR 180 per 240 decks.

The (new) cards used during the European Championships in Montecatini are available for instant delivery for EUR 165 per 240 decks.

Other quantities on request in the bookstall.



VuGraph SCHEDULE

The VuGraph Theatre is located in the Auditorium Pasteur

11:00		14:30		17:20	
USA2-SWEDEN (OT)	VG1	USA2-BULGARIA (BB)	VG1	VG1	
ITALY-INDIA (OT)	BBO2	ITALY-INDIA (OT)	BBO2	BBO2	
SWEDEN-ENGLAND (VC)	BBO3	SWEDEN-ENGLAND (VC)	BBO3	BBO3	
FRANCE-NEW ZEALAND (BB) FB/BBO5		FRANCE-NEW ZELAND (BB)	FB/BBO5	FB/BBO5	
USA2-BULGARIA (BB)	FB/BBO6	USA 2-SWEDEN (OT)	FB/BBO6	FB/BBO6	
POLAND-CHINA (VC)	OG8	POLAND-CHINA (VC)	OB/BBO8	OG/BBO8	

TO BE ANNOUNCED

courtesy of



Le (bon) coin francophone

Jean-Paul Meyer



LES VAINQUEURS DES TOURNOIS FRANÇAIS

INTERNATIONAUX DE FRANCE

MIXTE GOLD

Jennifer Mounier - Jean-Yves Grand - Orvault

MIXTE PLATINUM

Camille Cros - Philippe Dujardin - Bordeaux et Nancy

OPEN PLATINUM

Claire Seguiniol - Philippe Kasler - Trois Forêts et Blue BC

OPEN GOLD

Alain Taieb - Marc Merdjimekian - Saint Maximin



Alain Taieb et Marc Merdjimekian
Gagnants du Gold Open

Nous devons présenter nos excuses à ces deux joueurs pour avoir précédemment attribué la victoire aux gagnants de la finale C. **Alain Taieb** est classé en deuxième série promotion et son partenaire en deuxième série Carreau Ils sont suivis sur le podium **Monique Gencel**, seule représentante féminine dans les 10 premiers et **Guy Maignan**, deuxièmes séries promotion de Granges (près de Valence) A la troisième place **Jean-Pierre Bonifay** et **Richard Caparros**, également classés en deuxième série promotion à Peynier, un club voisin de celui des vainqueurs.

HANDI BRIDGE

Avec le concours de VITAMINE BRIDGE et LA NOUVELLE DONNE, la fédération française de bridge avait mis un point d'honneur de mettre en vedette les mérites du bridge pour l'amélioration de la vie des handicapés. Un tournoi avait été organisé dans le cadre de ces championnats du monde Il ne manqua pas d'attirer l'attention des media. **Patrick Grenthe** avait tenu à participer, avec pour partenaire une victime d'un accident.

La victoire revint à une paire mixte : **Gérard Fouqueret et Corine Mathey**.

CHAMPIONNAT INTERNATIONAL SCOLAIRE

120 paires s'affrontaient pendant deux journées. Pour être éligible, il faut avoir moins de 14 ans et ne pas avoir appris le bridge à l'école pendant plus de 2 ans. La suprématie chinoise fut évidente avec 9 paires dans les 10 premiers.

Pour vos archives notez le nom des vainqueurs de cette première édition : **Zhao Yuhe et Li Ruixi**.



Zhao Yuhe et Li Ruixi avec leur initiatrice

LE POINT APRES LES QUARTS DE FINALE

Les quarts de finale avaient été déterminés par le choix des équipes les mieux placées dans les poules, cela ne se passa pas toujours comme prévu.

BERMUDA BOWL

La **France** avait choisi la Chine et domina son sujet, après avoir perdu le premier segment de 13, elle ne lâcha plus rien gagnant les cinq suivants pour remporter une nette victoire (+52)

Les Pays-Bas avaient fait le choix de la **Nouvelle-Zélande** pour un match très disputé, avec 32 donnes à jouer ce sont les Européens qui menaient de 15, il avaient encore 14 IMP d'avantage avant le dernier segment, remporté par les Néo-Zélandais de 32. A noter que l'écart de 18 en faveur des All Blacks aurait été supérieur de 6 IMP sans une pénalité pour jeu lent.

Le choix de **USA2** par la Suède se révéla peu judicieux, les Scandinaves eurent beau reprendre 12 lors du dernier segment, ils s'inclinèrent nettement de 23.

Pour les USA 1 (**Meckstroth - Rodwell**) il ne restait que la **Bulgarie**, après un très mauvais départ des Américains (moins 36) la situation semblait redressée puis qu'ils abor-

daient les 16 dernières donnes à plus 19 c'était sans compter avec le finish Bulgare (+32) qui gagnait donc de 13. A noter que l'équipe Bulgare comptait en son sein la seule joueuse présente en quart de finale **Diana Damianova**.

VENICE CUP

Deux choix malheureux, celui de la Russie éliminée par l'Angleterre après une farouche bataille. Avec 32 donnes à jouer, un seul IMP séparait les deux équipes mais finalement les Anglaises gagnaient les deux derniers segments de 10 IMP chacun.

L'Indonésie semblait avoir pris la bonne option en retenant la Pologne, qu'elle dominait 62-18 dans le premier segment mais les Indonésiennes relâchaient cette avance dès le deuxième segment et finalement perdaient de 19.

Le match Suède Israël était indécis jusqu'au 16 dernières donnes où les premières nommées s'envolaient dans l'ultime segment pour gagner de 33.

Il n'y avait guère de match entre la Chine et les Pays-Bas, battus de 49 IMP.

D'ORSI TROPHEE

Beaucoup estimaient les deux équipes américaines imbattables, USA 2 éprouvaient les pires difficultés contre le Japon, ne prenant l'avantage que lors des 16 dernières donnes abordées avec un écart de 1 IMP. Le score final était de 37 pour USA 2.

Un seul segment remporté 70-12 suffisait à l'Italie pour construire sa victoire de 6 petits points contre USA 1.

En dépit d'un bon début (+23) les Australiens devaient se mordre les doigts d'avoir choisi la Suède car ils s'inclinaient de 55.

Pour débiter, la France vivait un rêve contre l'Inde pour débiter avec un avantage apparemment décisif de 61 après 16 donnes, appréciable pour des favoris. Si nous avions frappé un grand coup nous devions en subir cinq successivement de moindre ampleur et perdre le match sur le fil de 13 points. Quelle déception pour une équipe, qui avait brillé dans la poule, d'être ainsi éliminée en quart de finale par des adversaires, très certainement à sa portée.

LA DONNE DU JOUR

Elle met à nouveau en vedette Cédric Lorenzini, qui, décidément, crève l'écran ici.

QF 4 Donne 25. Donneur Nord. EO vul.

♠ 2		
♥ D 3		
♦ A R D 9 2		
♣ A R 5 4 3		
♠ R D V 6		♠ 10 9 8 5
♥ R 9 6 5 4		♥ 10 7 2
♦ —		♦ 7 6 5 4 3
♣ 10 9 6 2		♣ D
	<div> <div>N</div> <div>O</div> <div>E</div> <div>S</div> </div>	
	♠ A 7 4 3	
	♥ A V 8	
	♦ V 10 8	
	♣ V 8 7	

Certes 3 SA serait plus facile mais voulant explorer les possibilités de chelem (en théorie un contrat de 6 Carreaux est presque acceptable) Lorenzini - Quantin finirent à 5 Carreaux, joués par Nord.

Est entame du 10 de Pique pour l'As et une carte (nous en reparlerons) d'Ouest.

Comme le déclarant vous jouez un tour de Trèfle, super cette Dame qui tombe au premier tour, comme le déclarant vous rejouer atout... beaucoup moins gai ce partage 5-0 des atouts. La partie s'arrête !

Si vous jouez comme le déclarant français, vous jouez quatre tours de Carreaux pour suivre et observez le désarroi visible à la table d'Ouest. Il a dû défausser cinq fois, 3 Cœurs sans douleur, aucun Trèfle et donc deux Piques et c'est ici que nous revenons à la première levée. Le déclarant Indien avait fourni (par économie le 6) et maintenant il regrette, il défausse deux honneurs mais bloque la couleur. Nord fait l'impasse à Cœur, elle perd mais la défense ne peut encaisser qu'une levée de Pique...juste fait un peu par la grâce d'un flanc défaillant mais aussi avec un bon diagnostic de Nord.

Consulté GIB, le programme qui joue à quatre jeux, nous apprendra que la seule ligne de jeu gagnante consiste à laisser le 10 de Pique réaliser la levée. Cela réduira le compte et permettra le squeeze à 3 couleurs d'Ouest. Dans l'autre salle, l'Inde jouera 6 Carreaux moins 3 11 pour la France.

Sur cette donne aux 12 tables, on joua à peu près aussi souvent 3 SA avec une levée supplémentaire, 5 carreaux fait à tous les coups- souvent sur entame à Cœur et 6 carreaux, naturellement sans succès.

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Bermuda Bowl Quarter-final - Segments 2 and 3

USA I v Bulgaria



Jos Jacobs

After the first 16 of the 96 scheduled boards in this quarterfinal, Bulgaria were enjoying a 72-36 lead. What would happen next? Would there be a US comeback or would the Bulgarians extend this fine lead?

On the first three boards of the set they extended it by 2 IMPs

Board 4. Dealer West. All Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Mihov	Rodwell	Karakolev	Meckstroth
Pass	Pass	Pass	2NT
Pass	3♥	Pass	3♠
Pass	4♥	Pass	6♥
All Pass			

Given a free run, Meckwell had no trouble to reach the proper contract, of course. USAI +1430.



Steve Weinstein, USA I

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
R. Levin	Stefanov	Weinstein	Nanev
3♦	Pass	4♦	Dble
Pass	4♠	All Pass	

When Levin opened an aggressive 3♦, he had already consumed a lot of useful N/S bidding space. Weinstein's annoying raise made it even more difficult for the Bulgarians to investigate. When North did not consider his hand strong enough to offer both majors, they landed in the wrong denomination as the trumps broke 5-1. By ruffing diamonds and a club in hand, declarer could just land his contract. Bulgaria +620 but 13 IMPs to USAI.

Two boards later:

Board 6. Dealer East. E/W Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Mihov	Rodwell	Karakolev	Meckstroth
—	—	1♥	1♠
2♥	2NT	3♥	3♠
All Pass			

North's 2NT showed a spade raise and East's 3♥ was not invitational. This explains the sell-out to 3♠, with 4♥ a likely make on the minor-suit squeeze against North.

West led the ♥3 to East's king, and when the ♥A came next, declarer could ruff in dummy and lead a club. East ducked and the queen lost to West's ace. West returned the ♦K but dummy won the ace, led the ♣J to East's king and a ruff, played a spade to dummy's jack, cashed the ♠A and discarded a diamond on the ♣10 for his contract. USAI +140.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
R. Levin	Stefanov	Weinstein	Nanev
—	—	1♥	1♠
3♦	3♥	4♥	4♠
Dble	All Pass		

West's 3♦ showed a Bergen-type raise: 7-9 and four-card support. North's 3♥ showed a sound spade raise.

E/W found a good defence. Heart to the king and a diamond back to West's king and dummy's ace. Club to the queen and West's ace followed by a diamond. East played three rounds of the suit, West scoring a small trump when declarer discarded a losing heart on the 4th diamond. As the last heart could be ruffed in dummy now, declarer had the balance but he was down two, +300 and 10 IMPs to USAI.

Boards 23 and 24 were two spectacular hands, a cold small slam and a not so cold grand slam, duly bid and made at both tables for no swing.

On board 28, we saw an unexpected partial elimination when both E/W pairs found the sacrifice in diamonds against a vulnerable 4♥:

Board 12. Dealer West. N/S Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Mihov	Rodwell	Karakolev	Meckstroth
Pass	Pass	4♦	4♥
5♦	Dble	All Pass	

Declarer can always escape for down three even if he has to open up the spade suit himself, by simply ducking the first round of the suit. If South plays the ♠7, North will have to overtake and if South goes up with the ♠10, declarer can duck and guess right later on.

At the table, we saw an amusing variation. Declarer ruffed the second heart and led a club to South's jack. Rather than cash his ♣K first, South exited with his trump but now, declarer won in hand and led another club to South...Down three the alternative way, USAI +500.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
R. Levin	Stefanov	Weinstein	Nanev
Pass	Pass	4♦	4♥
5♦	Dble	All Pass	

When the defence did not lead hearts but rather a top club first, followed by a trump, declarer could win and return a club but now was forced to open up spades by himself later on. When he called for the king in dummy when South followed with the seven, he was down four. Bulgaria +800 and 7 precious IMPs to them.

Two boards later, the Americans missed a difficult chance in defence.

Board 14. Dealer East. None Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Mihov	Rodwell	Karakolev	Meckstroth
—	—	Pass	INT
Pass	3♥	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

North's 3♥ had shown minors with spade shortness. Meckstroth won the ♥Q lead with his ace and led a low diamond. When West split his honours, declarer had an easy overtrick. USAI +430.



Georgi Karakolev, Bulgaria

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
R. Levin	Stefanov	Weinstein	Nanev
Pass	2NT	Pass	INT
Pass	3NT	Pass	3♦
		All Pass	

After South's 14-16 INT, North showed his minors with 2NT and here as well, West led a top heart rather than a spade. Declarer won his king and led a low diamond,

inserting dummy's eight when West played low. East won the nine and had he continued the ♠K now, the E/W spade spots are just good enough to beat the contract. Declarer cannot come to nine tricks now without letting in the defence once more. When East, after a long huddle, continued a heart, declarer could win the ace and establish his diamonds, losing just two tricks in each red suit. Bulgaria +400 and 1 IMP to USA1 rather than 10.

On the next deal, a slight misdefence proved costly as the choice of denomination also played its part:

Board 15. Dealer South. N/S Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Mihov	Rodwell	Karakolev	Meckstroth
—	—	—	1♦
1♥	3♦	All Pass	

If you take a superficial look at this hand, you will see that declarer has five losers. One heart loser might disappear on a high club if the defenders don't take their tricks in time and that's exactly what happened. USA1 +110.

Please note that Rodwell could have opened 2♣ in Precision style but did not, showing a balanced type of hand instead.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
R. Levin	Stefanov	Weinstein	Nanev
—	—	—	2♣
2♥	3♣	All Pass	

Opposite partner's opening bid, North did not want to introduce his meagre suit at the three-level.

When declarer won the spade lead with the ace, led a club to dummy's jack and a club back, finessing the nine in hand, West could win the ten and continue spades. In again with the ♣A, the defence cashed their four heart tricks and the ♦A for down three, another +300 and an unexpected 9 IMPs to USA1.

As the last board was flat, the set ended 34-12 to USA1. The Bulgarian lead had been reduced to 14 with one third of the match gone.

Over now to the third set.

USA1 levelled the match on the first board of the set:



Jeff Meckstroth, USA 1

Board 1. Dealer North. None Vul.

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

In the Open Room, the Bulgarian relays had led to the proper contract of 6♥. The 5-0 trump break was too much for declarer who thus had to concede one down, like all other BB declarers. In the VC and OT, we saw a few people reaching even 7♥, which proved far too high. Once, 6♥ was made on the lead of the ♥2 by North, which gave declarer a cheap trick...

A few pairs all over the place were in 6NT, which made easily when the clubs behaved. In the BB, the "odd table out" was the Closed Room in our match.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Nickell	Karakolev	Katz	Mihov
—	Pass	1♣	2♦
Dble	3♦	Dble	Pass
4♦	Pass	5NT	Pass
6♣	All Pass		

5NT looks very much like "pick a slam" and that's exactly what Nickell did. USA1 +920 and 14 IMPs to bring the score to 84-84.

On the next board of what turned out to be a quiet set of boards USA1 even gained the lead. This time, it was all about pre-empting and countermeasures to it.

Board 2. Dealer East. N/S Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Nanev	Rodwell	Stefanov	Meckstroth
—	—	3♥	All Pass

Even on a spade lead, declarer can succeed in 3♥ if he wins the ace and takes an immediate club finesse. When the king comes down next, a spade can be pitched on a top club as South has to ruff with a sure trump trick.

Meckstroth made life easy for declarer by leading the ♣K. Bulgaria +140.

In the other room, Karakolev adopted the modern philosophy against three-level pre-empts.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Nickell	Karakolev	Katz	Mihov
—	—	3♥	Pass
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

In 4th position, 3NT may be 12-18 hcp. with or even without a stopper in the pre-empted suit.

When East led a heart to dummy's queen, prospects for declarer were not too good. He led a spade to his king and went after the diamonds. When East won the ace perforce and immediately continued a low club, the contract was no fewer than four down. USA1 +140 and 6 more IMPs, nearly the biggest swing of the remainder of the set.

Two boards later, Meckstroth found a brilliant lead to save a lot of IMPs for his team:

Board 4. Dealer West. All Vul.

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

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Nickell	Karakolev	Katz	Mihov
Pass	Pass	Pass	INT
All Pass			

When West led a heart, declarer could duck this twice to preserve his only entry to dummy's diamonds. He immediately won the spade continuation and played ♦A and ♦J, running it to East's queen. When the diamonds broke, he had 7 tricks. Bulgaria +90.

In the Open Room, the stakes were a bit higher.



Open Room

West	North	East	South
Nanev	Rodwell	Stefanov	Meckstroth
1♦	Pass	INT	Dble
All Pass			

Now what should South lead? He is almost endplayed at trick 1 but Meckstroth found a fine solution. He led the ♦A and struck gold...one down by means of four diamond tricks and three outside aces. USAI +200 and 3 IMPs to them rather than 7 away...

On board 13, the Bulgarians overbid to a no-play slam for a loss of 13 IMPs and this was board 15:.

Board 15. Dealer South. N/S Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Nanev	Rodwell	Stefanov	Meckstroth
—	—	—	1♦
Pass	1♥	Dble	Pass
2NT	All Pass		

When East found a double over 1♥ somewhere, West could take action. North led a heart through dummy's doubleton ace and South returned the suit but with North entryless, the hearts did not take part in the play of this hand any more. Nanev simply played a diamond to hand and led a spade to dummy's ten and South's king. Bulgaria +120.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Nickell	Karakolev	Katz	Mihov
			1♦
Pass	1♥	Pass	INT
Pass	2♥	All Pass	

When both West and East judged their hands unsuitable for any action, North was left to play 2♥ which was easily made on the ♠10 lead from East when declarer found the ♥A doubleton in East. Bulgaria +110 and 6 IMPs back to them.

At the halfway point of the match, USAI had taken a 24-IMP lead after winning the 3rd set by a rather convincing margin: 49-11. The score now stood at 119-95 to USAI.

Don't mess with Jeff

Brent Manley

In this deal from the third quarter-final match between Bulgaria and USA I in the Bermuda Bowl, Jeff Meckstroth bid boldly and played well to land a doubled contract for big gain against a tough opponent. USA I was ahead by just 2 IMPs with one deal to play. This was the dramatic finish to the set.

Board 11. Dealer South. None Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Rodwell	Karakolev	Meckstroth	Mihov
—	—	—	3NT*
Pass	4♣	Pass	4♦
Pass	Pass	4♥	Pass
Pass	Dble	All Pass	

3NT Gambling: solid minor suit.

Mihov started with the ♦A and could have defeated the contract by switching to a spade, but he continued with the ♦K, North discarding a club. Meckstroth ruffed and played a club to dummy's jack, followed by a low heart. North played low and Meckstroth won with the ♥J. He played a second club to dummy's queen and played dummy's other low heart. Karakolev won the ♥A and exited with his last club. Meckstroth overtook the ♣K with the ace and cashed the ♣8, pitching a spade. He then ruffed a diamond with the ♥6, leaving him with the ♥K 10 doubleton and two low spades.

Meckstroth entered dummy with a spade to the ace and called for a low diamond. He could not be prevented from scoring his final two trumps for plus 590 and a 14-IMP gain because at the other table, Bobby Levin played 3NT from the North seat after Steve Weinstein opened 1♦ and rebid the suit.

The opening lead by Nanev was a low club from the ♣K64. Stefanov, West, won the ♣A and continued with the ♣Q. East, aware that the suit was about to block, overtook with the ♣K, making Levin's ♣9 good. He finished with nine tricks for plus 400.

The 17-IMP gain put the score after five of the six quarter-final sessions to 200-181 in favor of the Americans.



Brian Senior

Bermuda Bowl Quarter-final - Segment 6

Netherlands v New Zealand



Netherlands led New Zealand by 14 IMPs, 162-148, going into the final 16 deals of their Bermuda Bowl quarter-final. On Board 81 both E/W pairs bid to a thin and, as the cards lay, hopeless 4♥. Both were down three for a push at -150. The second board saw a big chance for the trailing team.

Board 82. Dealer East. N/S Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Brown	De Wijs	Whibley	Muller
—	—	2♠	Pass
3♠	Dble	All Pass	

West	North	East	South
Nab	Bach	Drijver	Cornell
—	—	Pass	1♣
Dble	1♦	2♥	Pass
2♠	4♣	Pass	4♦
4♠	Pass	Pass	5♣
All Pass			

For New Zealand, Michael Whibley opened a weak 2♠ as East, trading on the favourable vulnerability, and Matthew Brown raised to 3♠, doubled for take-out by Simon De Wijs. With plenty of high cards but no shape, Bauke Muller judged to pass and see what size of penalty he could collect. Muller led the six of spades, suit preference, so Whibley won in hand and led dummy's ♥K to the ace. De Wijs returned the jack of diamonds, Muller winning the king and leading a second trump to dummy's queen. Whibley played queen then nine of hearts, De Wijs winning the ten and playing a low club. Muller thought a while then put in the queen and returned another trump. Declarer won the ten and could have got out for down one by drawing the last trump, cashing the heart and leading towards the ♦Q but in practice led a low diamond off the table so lost an extra trick; down two for -300.

Bob Drijver, for the Netherlands, passed as dealer so Michael Cornell opened 1♣ as South and Bart Nab doubled. Ashley Bach transferred to hearts and Drijver transferred to spades. Nab duly completed the transfer and

Bach jumped in clubs so the New Zealanders got to the cold club game. Nab led the king of spades, ruffed in dummy. Cornell led the jack of diamonds, going up with the ace when Drijver played low in tempo, then led the six of hearts to the queen and ace. He could draw trumps and set up a second heart trick so made 12 for +620 and 8 IMPs to New Zealand, closing to 156-162.

On Board 83 the NZ N/S stretched to a thin and poor 3NT, down one for -50 while the Netherlands stopped safely in INT where they came to nine tricks for +150 and 5 IMPs. The Dutch lead was back up to 167-156.

Board 86. Dealer East. E/W Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Brown	De Wijs	Whibley	Muller
—	—	2♣	Pass
2♦	Pass	2♥	Pass
2♠	Pass	3♥	Pass
4♥	All Pass		

West	North	East	South
Nab	Bach	Drijver	Cornell
—	—	2♣	Pass
2♦	Pass	3♥	Pass
3NT	Pass	4♥	All Pass

For New Zealand, Whibley and Brown followed a Kokish auction. Brown couldn't find a sensible way forward over Whibley's third bid, confirming a heart single-suiter. He raised to game which was, of course, consistent with a bad hand, and found that the ♥K and ♠Q were exactly what partner needed; +680.

Drijver jumped to 3♥ at his second turn and Nab responded 3NT, which may have shown some values but was not sufficient to excite Drijver, who signed off in 4♥ for a flat board.

This was a tough problem, and few pairs playing a strong 2♣ system would be able to bid slam with confidence.

Board 87. Dealer South. All Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Brown	De Wijs	Whibley	Muller
—	—	—	Pass
1♠	2♦	3♦	Pass
4♠	All Pass		

West	North	East	South
Nab	Bach	Drijver	Cornell
—	—	—	Pass
1♠	2♦	3♦	Pass
4♠	All Pass		

Identical auctions saw the two Easts cue-bid to show constructive raises via a 3♦ cue bid and West jump to the spade game. Both Norths led two rounds of diamonds, declarer ruffing.

For Netherlands, Nab led the ten of clubs, overtaking with dummy's jack. Cornell won the king and switched to a heart and Nab had no choice but to finesse. That lost to the king and there was the king of spades to come; down one for -100.

Brown led a low spade towards dummy at trick three and De Wijs played low. The ♠Q won and Brown played a low spade back to his ace, dropping the king. Now he took the club finesse and Muller was powerless. Though he ducked and declarer repeated the finesse, the ♠J was an entry to

the long clubs so Brown had an overtrick for +650 and 13 IMPs to New Zealand. They had the lead at 170-167.

Had De Wijs won the spade at trick three, what could he have done? A heart lead from his side is of no benefit, while a club merely establishes dummy's side suit while there is a spade entry to those winners. A ruff and discard? Ruff in hand and play on clubs and, if a fourth diamond is played, ruff with the ace then draw trumps and cash the clubs. Well played, Matthew Brown.

Board 88. Dealer West. None Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Brown	De Wijs	Whibley	Muller
1♠	Pass	2♦	Pass
2♥	Pass	3♣	Pass
3♠	Pass	4♠	Pass
5♣	Pass	5♦	Pass
5♥	Pass	5♠	All Pass

West	North	East	South
Nab	Bach	Drijver	Cornell
1♠	Pass	2♦	Pass
2♥	Pass	2NT	Pass
3♠	Pass	4♣	Pass
4♦	Pass	4♠	Pass
6♠	All Pass		

The E/W cards are close to producing a slam and may do so on a helpful opening lead. Brown and Whibley agreed spades then Brown started cue-bidding at the five level but Whibley's diamond control was not what he was looking for so when Whibley next signed off in 5♠, he respected that decision and passed it out. Brown won the spade lead and took the ruffing diamond finesse. Though that lost, two of declarer's losers went away so there was only one more to be lost; 11 tricks for +450.

The Dutch pair started cue-bidding a level lower and Nab just jumped to slam after seeing one cue bid followed by a sign-off. Bach led the four of clubs, third and fifth, round to the jack and king. Nab crossed to the king of spades and ran the king of diamonds, pitching a heart from hand. Bach won the ♦A and returned the ♣3 so Nab called for the nine and when that lost to the queen he was down one, the heart loser going on the ♦Q; -50 and 11 IMPs to New



Bob Drijver, Netherlands

Zealand. In the space of two boards the match had been turned on its head. New Zealand now led by 181-167 with eight boards to play.

Board 91. Dealer South. None Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Brown	De Wijs	Whibley	Muller
—	—	—	Pass
1♣	3♠	Dble	All Pass

West	North	East	South
Nab	Bach	Drijver	Cornell
—	—	—	Pass
2NT	Pass	3♦	Pass
3♥	Pass	3NT	All Pass

Brown opened 1♣ and passed Whibley's negative double. Whibley cashed the ace of hearts, Brown following with the queen, then switched to a trump. Brown won the ace and returned a low club to dummy's king. De Wijs played a diamond, Brown winning the king and returning the jack of hearts followed by a low club. De Wijs won the ♣A and conceded a second diamond, eventually being able to set up a third club trick to go with four trump winners. He was down two for -300, worth a modest swing to the Netherlands if they could bid and make game in the other room.

Nab opened 2NT with the West hand and Drijver transferred to hearts then offered him a choice of games. Nab chose 3NT, of course, against which Bach led the queen of spades. Nab won the ace and cashed the ace and king of diamonds, Bach pitching the ♥4. Next, Nab played the queen then jack of hearts and Bach's spade discard was a surprise and caused him to pause for some time before proceeding. We can see that allowing the ♥J to hold the trick then exiting with a club, with or without first cashing the ♠K, would endplay South, who would eventually have to lead to dummy to give at least nine tricks, but Nab did not know that the clubs were so favourable for him. He overtook the second heart, cashed the red winners then played a spade to the king and another spade. That meant only eight tricks so down one for -50 and another 8 IMPs to New Zealand, who led by 190-167.

The Netherlands' last chance was Board 94. They had to gain a big swing to have any chance to save the match.

Board 94. Dealer East. None Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Brown	De Wijs	Whibley	Muller
—	—	Pass	1♠
4♥	4♠	Pass	Pass
Dble	Pass	5♥	All Pass

West	North	East	South
Nab	Bach	Drijver	Cornell
—	—	Pass	2♠
4♥	4♠	Pass	Pass
Dble	All Pass		

Muller opened the South hand with 1♠ and Brown overcalled 4♥. That bullied De Wijs into bidding 4♠ and when that came back to Brown he doubled. Whibley now judged to bid 5♥ which ended the auction. De Wijs led king then queen of spades. Brown ruffed and played ace and another heart and the two-two break meant that the ♥K was the only loser; 11 tricks for +450.

Cornell opened a constructive weak two bid and Nab too overcalled 4♥ then doubled Bach's 4♠. Drijver, however, passed out the double. Nab led the ace of diamonds then switched to his trump. Cornell won in dummy and led the eight of diamonds, Drijver thinking for some time before covering with the nine. The ♦10 forced the king and Nab got out safely with his remaining diamond. Cornell ruffed with the jack then crossed to dummy with a trump to lead the nine of clubs. To get the maximum, Drijver needed to cover this, thereby netting two clubs and two hearts for the defence, but he played low and Cornell ran it. Nab won the ♣A and got out with a club to the king, but now Cornell could cross to dummy with a trump and lead a heart to the king and ace. After cashing the ♥Q, Nab was endplayed forced to give a ruff and discard. Cornell was only down two for -300 and 4 more IMPs to New Zealand, who led by 194-167.

Though there were two boards still to be played, the match was effectively over. New Zealand had won by 194-176, the Dutch having pulled a few IMPs back on the last two boards when it was too late to affect the result. They would play their first Bermuda Bowl semi-final over the next two days, 96 boards played in 6 x 16-board sets against France, the host nation.

Lose One and Win Two

Micke Melander

In one of the quarter-finals of the d'Orsi Trophy, Australia played Sweden and this astonishing board was played in the middle of the second segment.

Board 22. Dealer East. E-W Vul.

♠ A J 6
♥ 4
♦ A J 9 3
♣ J 10 8 4 3

♠ Q 10 2
♥ 7 6 5 3
♦ K 8
♣ A 9 7 2

N
W E
S

♠ 5
♥ A K J 8 2
♦ Q 10 7 2
♣ K 6 5

♠ K 9 8 7 4 3
♥ Q 10 9
♦ 6 5 4
♣ Q

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Lazer</i>	<i>Morath</i>	<i>Gumby</i>	<i>Bjerregård</i>
—	—	1♥	1♠
2♠	2NT*	4♥	All Pass

2NT Good raise in spades

In this room Gumby stood no chance at all to make the contract when Bjerregård led the eight of spades, North winning with the jack and shifting to the ten of clubs. Declarer won with the king and could note the queen being played from South.

Declarer tried a diamond to dummy's king and North took the ace and safely exited with the six of spades.



Bengt-Erik Efraimsson

Declarer ruffed, cashed the ace and king of trumps, noting a loser in hearts also existed. He cashed the queen of diamonds and cross-ruffed diamonds and spades. But there was no way of escaping from the loss of a trump and a club for one down.

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Axdorph</i>	<i>Buchen</i>	<i>Efraimsson</i>	<i>Brown</i>
—	—	1♥	Pass
2♦*	Dble	3♦	3♠
4♥	All Pass		

2♦ Good raise in hearts.

Far more interesting was the play in this room, where Brown led the five of diamonds, which went to the eight, jack and declarer's queen. It now looks like an easy game if trumps are 2-2. Declarer cashed the ace and king of hearts to learn that this wasn't the case when North pitched a club on the second round.

Efraimsson now played a diamond to dummy's king and North took the ace and switched to the six of spades, South winning with the king and cashing the queen of hearts to reach this end position with three tricks already captured for each side:

♠ Q 10
♥ 7
♦ —
♣ A 9 7 2

♠ A J
♥ —
♦ 9 3
♣ J 10 8

♠ —
♥ J 8
♦ 10 7
♣ K 6 5

♠ 9 8 7 4 3
♥ —
♦ 6
♣ O

W N E S

Declarer stands no chance of making the contract if South now exits with the queen of clubs, but Brown didn't do that. He exited with the eight of spades. That went to the ten and jack and declarer ruffed with the eight of hearts. He went into the tank, thinking over the situation and realised that if he ruffed a diamond he would win another trick but still lose a club in the end for one down. He never concluded until it was far too late that he should have given up that ruff and instead cashed his jack of hearts to squeeze North in three suits.

That would have been a very elegant, but odd, way to lose one but gain two tricks. Now it was just another “boring” push, barely noticed by anyone!

	Venice Cup Semi-final - Segment I <h2 style="margin: 0;">China v Poland</h2>	
Brian Senior		

China had won the first set of their quarter-final against the Netherlands by 61 IMPs, lost the next two sets, then pulled away again to win by 49 IMPs. By contrast, Poland had been 44 IMPs down to Indonesia after 16 boards, but had then won the next four sets and held on in the face of an Indonesian last-set fightback to win by 19. The semi-finals would, like the quarters, be played over 6 x 16-board sets, with no carry-over from the round robin stage.

On Board 1, both N/S pairs played in 4♦. Accurate defence meant that China were down one for -50, while a Chinese defender was pseudo-squeezed to let the contract home for +130 and 5 IMPs to Poland. The Polish lead did not survive a single deal.

Board 2. Dealer East. N/S Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
C. Baldysz	Lu	Z. Baldysz	Liu
—	—	Pass	Pass
2♣	2♥	Dble	Rdbl
2♠	3♦	4♠	5♦
Pass	Pass	5♠	Pass
Pass	Dble	All Pass	

West	North	East	South
Shen	Zmuda	Wang	Dufrat
—	—	Pass	Pass
2♣	2♥	Dble	Pass
2♠	3♦	4♠	5♦
All Pass			

Both Wests stretched to open a Precision-style 2♣ in third seat and both Norths overcalled 2♥. For China, Wenfei Wang made a negative double and, after a pass from Katarzyna Dufrat, Qi Shen showed her spades. Justyna Zmuda, North, showed her second suit so that, when Wang now raised to 4♠ on the double fit, Dufrat could bid 5♦, ending the auction. Wang led a club to her partner's king and Shen switched to a spade, Zmuda winning the ace and drawing trumps. There was a heart and a spade to be lost

so the contract was down one for -100.

Zofia Baldysz also made the negative double and Yan Liu redoubled to show values. The auction now went back to that at our first table except that Zofia, seeing little defence and knowing she had a double fit with her partner, took the save in 5♠, doubled by Yan Lu, who led the king of diamonds then switched to a heart to the jack and ace. Liu returned the ♥9 for the ten and king and when Lu won the next trick with the ace of spades she could cash a heart for down two; -300 and 9 IMPs to China, who led by 9-5.

Board 4. Dealer West. All Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
C. Baldysz	Lu	Z. Baldysz	Liu
Pass	Pass	1♠	Pass
INT	All Pass		

West	North	East	South
Shen	Zmuda	Wang	Dufrat
Pass	Pass	1♠	Pass
INT	Pass	Pass	2♥
All Pass			

Both E/Ws bid 1♠ – INT – Pass, round to the South hand. With her opponents having a none-fit auction, Liu wisely left them to it, while Dufrat made a dangerous balance with 2♥ and played there.

Lu led the five of diamonds against INT, Liu winning the ace and switching to the ten of hearts to the queen and ace. Lu continued with a second heart, so Liu won the jack and king then, seeing that she would have no entry if she established the long heart, switched back to diamonds. Cathy Baldysz ducked this to the queen, won the diamond continuation and cashed the ♥8 (Liu had pitched her fifth heart on the third diamond). Next, Cathy led a club to the ten and queen, won the club return in dummy and overtook the third club. The three-three split meant she could cash the thirteenth club, after which a successful spade finesse provided her seventh trick for +90.

Shen led the ten of spades against 2♥, Wang winning the

queen and ace then playing a third round for a ruff. Shen returned a low club in response to her partner's suit-preference signal so Wang won the king and returned the jack to the queen and ace. Shen played a third club to her partner's ten and now Wang switched to a low diamond. That was ducked to Shen's king and she played the thirteenth club, Wang's uppercut with the ♥9 was just what Shen was looking for and ensured that she would win a trump trick for down three, -300, and 5 IMPs to China. They led by 14-6.

Board 5. Dealer North. N/S Vul.

		♠ J 8 7 2		
		♥ 6 4		
		♦ K J 10		
		♣ 10 6 4 3		
♠ 6 5 3		<div style="display: inline-block; background-color: #4f81bd; color: white; padding: 5px; text-align: center;"> N W E S </div>	♠ A Q 10 9 4	
♥ A Q J 10 2			♥ 8	
♦ 7 4 2			♦ A 5 3	
♣ J 5			♣ A 9 7 2	
		♠ K		
		♥ K 9 7 5 3		
		♦ Q 9 8 6		
		♣ K Q 8		

West	North	East	South
C. Baldysz	Lu	Z. Baldysz	Liu
—	Pass	1♠	Pass
2♠	Pass	4♠	All Pass

West	North	East	South
Shen	Zmuda	Wang	Duftrat
—	Pass	1♠	Dble
2♦	Pass	2♥	Pass
2♠	Pass	4♠	All Pass

The Poles had a simple uncontested auction to 4♠, against which Liu led the king of clubs. Zofia won the ace and led a heart to the queen. When that held she took a diamond pitch on the ace of hearts then led a spade to the nine and king. Liu cashed the queen of clubs then continued with her last club. Zofia discarded a diamond from dummy so Lu won the ♣10 and returned a diamond. Zofia won the ace, cashed the ace of spades, which looks normal enough but proved to be fatal to her chances. She then discarded dummy's last diamond on the nine of clubs. She could ruff her diamond loser now but had no way to pick up the trumps without loss so was down one for -50. Had she not cashed the ♠A, there would have been a trump in dummy to lead to the ten, but why play for trumps to be four-one?

Duftrat doubled the opening bid so Shen could transfer to show hearts then show the spade support over Wang's 2♥ completion. Wang jumped to 4♠ and Duftrat led the five of hearts. Wang called for the queen, took a diamond pitch on the ♥A, then played the jack of hearts, discarding her second diamond loser as Zmuda pitched a club. Duftrat won the ♥K and returned a diamond to Wang's by now bare ace. Wang ducked a club, Duftrat winning the queen



Wen Fei Wang, China

and returning a diamond for Wang to ruff. Ace of clubs and a club ruff was followed by the winning ten of hearts. Not appreciating that declarer had no remaining losers, Zmuda ruffed and was over-ruffed. Wang laid down the ace of trumps now and must have been very happy to see the king fall on her left. She ruffed her last club, though it was by now a winner, and was over-ruffed, but had the remaining tricks for +420 and 10 IMPs to China; 24-6.

The boards ran very quietly for a while and the score had moved on only to 27-7 when the players reached Board 12.

Board 12. Dealer West. N/S Vul.

		♠ K 7		
		♥ 9 3		
		♦ 6		
		♣ A K J 10 9 6 4 3		
♠ J 5 3		<div style="display: inline-block; background-color: #4f81bd; color: white; padding: 5px; text-align: center;"> N W E S </div>	♠ A 9 2	
♥ A 8 5 2			♥ K J 6 4	
♦ J 8			♦ K 10 5 4 3	
♣ Q 7 5 2			♣ 8	
		♠ Q 10 8 6 4		
		♥ Q 10 7		
		♦ A Q 9 7 2		
		♣ —		

West	North	East	South
C. Baldysz	Lu	Z. Baldysz	Liu
Pass	5♣	All Pass	

West	North	East	South
Shen	Zmuda	Wang	Duftrat
Pass	2♣	Dble	Rdbl
2♥	4♣	All Pass	

Lu opened with the big pre-empt of 5♣ which, on another day, could have caused her opponents terrible problems. Today, however, the opposition were outgunned and all the high-level opening achieved was to get Lu a minus score. Zofia led a low diamond. Lu put in the queen, cashed the ace for a heart pitch, then ruffed a diamond and played ace, king and jack of clubs. Cathy won and cashed the two defensive aces for down one and -100.

Zmuda opened at the two level and Wang had just enough for a take-out double. Dufrat redoubled to show values and must have been more than a little disappointed to see her partner jump to 4♣ over Shen's 2♥. There are four losers in a club contract and the defence was in position to get them all when Wang led the six of hearts, third and fifth. Shen won the ace and switched to the three of spades, but Wang read this as showing a top card in the suit. So when Zmuda played low she won the ace and played a second spade. Zmuda won the king, cashed the top clubs, then crossed to the ace of diamonds and got rid of her losing heart on the queen of spades. There was still a club to be lost but that was all; +130 and 6 IMPs to Poland, closing to 13-27.

Board 13. Dealer North. All Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
C. Baldysz	Lu	Z. Baldysz	Liu
—	Pass	1♦	Pass
1♥	Pass	1♠	Pass
2♠	All Pass		

West	North	East	South
Shen	Zmuda	Wang	Dufrat
—	Pass	1♦	1♥
Dble	2♦	3♠	Pass
4♠	All Pass		

Given a free run, the Polish E/W bid only to 2♠ on what turned out to be a perfectly fitting combined 21-count. Liu led the two of spades, dummy's queen being allowed to hold the trick. Zofia led the jack of clubs to the king and ace, cashed the ♣Q then ruffed a third club, came back to hand by playing ace of diamonds and a diamond to the king, then ruffed her last club. When all that passed off peacefully, she had ten tricks for +170.

At the other table, Dufrat made a 1♥ overcall and Shen

transferred to spades. Wang liked her distribution sufficiently to jump to 3♠ over Zmuda's cuebid raise, and Shen went on to game. Shen, of course, could see that she had nothing wasted facing marked heart shortage, making her 8 HCP far better than they might otherwise have appeared. Dufrat led the king of hearts and promptly switched to a trump. Wang won dummy's queen and played the jack of clubs to king and ace, queen of clubs and a club ruff. She ruffed a heart back to hand, ruffed the last club and cashed the king and ace of diamonds before playing a third heart. Wang ruffed with the nine of spades and the ♠A was her tenth trick; +620 and 9 IMPs to China; 36-23.

Board 14. Dealer East. None Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
C. Baldysz	Lu	Z. Baldysz	Liu
—	—	1♣	Pass
1♠	2♥	2♠	All Pass

West	North	East	South
Shen	Zmuda	Wang	Dufrat
—	—	1♦	Pass
2♥	Pass	3♠	Pass
4♠	All Pass		

Again China bid to game, while Poland stopped off in partscore.

Zofia opened 1♣, Polish, and showed a four-card raise over the heart overcall. Cathy did not look for game so that was that. Her heart length would have been a worry, as she would have seen that Zofia was in danger of running into over-ruffs in the suit. Lu led the three of diamonds to the jack and king. Cathy cashed the king and queen of spades then led a diamond, running the nine to Liu's queen. Back came the jack of hearts, Lu winning the ace and playing ace and another club. Cathy ruffed and led a spade to the ace, drawing the missing trump, and had the rest for +170.

Wang's 1♦ promised only two or more cards, Precision-style, and Shen had the perfect method for her hand, a 2♥ response to show five-five in the majors with 6-10 HCP. Liking not only her spade support but also the promising heart holding, Wang invited game with a jump to 3♠ and Shen accepted the invitation. Dufrat led the six of spades, Wang rising with the king to lead a heart to her king,

winning that card when Zmuda ducked with the North hand. A second heart lost to the queen and Zmuda returned a low heart, ruffed by Dufrat's seven. Dufrat returned a club to the ace and Zmuda continued with a fourth heart, but Wang could ruff with the ace, draw the outstanding trump and ruff dummy's last heart low. She had ten tricks now, so China had +420 and another 6 IMPs to lead by 42-13.

Board 15. Dealer South. N/S Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
C. Baldysz	Lu	Z. Baldysz	Liu
—	—	—	2♦
4NT	Pass	5♦	All Pass

West	North	East	South
Shen	Zmuda	Wang	Dufrat
—	—	—	2♦
Dble	2♥	Dble	Pass
4NT	Pass	5♥	Pass
5♠	Pass	5NT	Pass
6♦	All Pass		

Liu opened with a multi on the South cards and Cathy overcalled 4NT, both minors. Zofia chose diamonds and was left to play there. Liu led the ten of spades to dummy's bare ace. Zofia drew trumps ending in hand then passed the queen of spades to the king, throwing a heart from dummy. Lu returned a heart but Zofia could win and lead the ten of clubs to the king and ace, give up a club and ruff two clubs; 11 tricks for +400.

Dufrat too opened with a multi and Shen doubled. Wang doubled Zmuda's pass-or-correct response to show values and now Shen jumped to 4NT, minors. The remainder of the Chinese auction looks very murky, so I strongly suspect a misunderstanding. Whatever the two players intended, the outcome was that they reached a very poor slam. Zmuda led the two of hearts, low from a doubleton in Polish style. Shen rose with the ace, cashed the ace of spades and played two rounds of diamonds ending in dummy then led the queen of spades and discarded the ♥Q. That lost and there was an unavoidable club loser so the slam was down one for -50 and 10 IMPs to Poland.

After 16 boards, China led Poland by 42-23 IMPs. Meanwhile, in the other semi-final it was England 42 Sweden 12.

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Misplay this Hand with Me: Heart Failure

Mark Horton

Having survived the quarter-final phase in the World Championships in Lyon our semi-final opponents are formidable. Early on in the match I pick up this collection:

♠ K 7
♥ K 9
♦ A 10
♣ K Q J 9 6 4 3

With only our side vulnerable the player on my right opens 2♦ and when my partner has nothing to say East bids 2♥. Upon enquiry I discover that West's bid promises a weak hand with hearts which, at this vulnerability could be based on a five-card suit and very weak. I consider bidding 2NT, but eventually decide to make the obvious bid of 3♣. When partner responds 3♠ I go on with 3NT which is passed out, leaving us with this auction:

West	North	East	South
2♦*	Pass	2♥	3♣
Pass	3♠	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

West leads the seven of diamonds and I get the following dummy:

♠ A Q 10 8 5 3
♥ 10 8 2
♦ J 8 2
♣ 2

N
S

♠ K 7
♥ K 9
♦ A 10
♣ K Q J 9 6 4 3

When I play low from dummy East plays the jack and I win with the ace. Assuming the spades come in I still need to find a trick, so I play the king of clubs. East wins with the ace and switches to the three of hearts. If West has a heart suit headed by the AQJ if have no hope. Playing the king wins if East has the ace, but that would give West a suit at best headed by the ♥QJ and if as seems likely it is a five card suit then leading it would be a plausible alternative. If West has started with ♥AQxxx or ♥AJxxx then playing low will block the suit, but not really help as the defenders will be able to score three hearts a diamond and a club. If West has the ♥AQxxxx or ♥AJxxxx then playing the king will block the suit and the player on my right is certainly good enough to play the three from ♥J3 or ♥Q3.

I tend to find this type of calculation somewhat wearing these days, and after turning things over once more I decide to play low. West wins with the jack, but the next card I see is the five of hearts and East produces the ace, cashes the king of diamond and plays a third heart, leaving me three down.

This was the full deal:

Dealer West. N/S Vul.

♠ A Q 10 8 5 3
♥ 10 8 2
♦ J 8 2
♣ 2

♠ J 9 2
♥ Q J 6 5 4
♦ 9 7 4
♣ 8 5

N
W E
S

♠ 6 4
♥ A 7 3
♦ K Q 6 5 3
♣ A 10 7

♠ K 7
♥ K 9
♦ A 10
♣ K Q J 9 6 4 3

Post mortem

Looking back I think my analysis was sound, but I forgot that in the cases where East held a doubleton heart honour playing the king works at the same time, while catering to the actual hand.

In the other room West did not open and after North started with 2♠ South raised to game, taking 12 tricks after a friendly trump lead, to pick up 14 IMPs.

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d'Orsi Trophy Semi-final Segment I

USA2 v Sweden

Italy v India



John Carruthers

To say that France's defeat at the hands of India was shocking does not do it justice. After the first 16 of 96 boards, France led 81-20, and India looked out of its league. A few ignorant souls, myself among them, thought the match was over. However, the Indians were not daunted and whittled away at the lead, winning each of the five remaining sets to eventually overtake the French in the last stanza. With six boards to play, India led by a single IMP. They added 12 more over those six boards to send the 2012 winners in Lille off to sample Lyon's renowned cuisine. Their opponents today, Italy, dispatched another favourite, USA1 (some of them winners in 2013) by 6 IMPs, hanging on after establishing a useful, but not commanding, lead.

USA2 had a very tough time against Japan, winners in 2008, leading by just 1 IMP with 16 deals to play, but they dominated the final set 39-3, to win by 37. Sweden was the only semi-finalist to have a stress-free quarterfinal match, having led Australia by 70 after four sets and coasting home to win by 65, despite being behind after the first 16. Sweden has been knocking on the door in recent World Senior Championships - can they open it this time? They'll have to do it against the best Senior pair in the world, Alan Sontag and David Berkowitz, to get a chance in the final.



David Berkowitz, USA 2

Berkowitz was minimum for his vulnerable-against-not three-diamond bid (would two notrump have been good/bad here?), but Sontag was nevertheless a little frisky with his six-diamond bid. On a very good day, he might have had 12 tricks in diamonds anyway (if Berkowitz had had, say, one more red card and the king of hearts instead of the king of diamonds). Speaking of frisky, both East and West took wide liberties with the vulnerability. They can be nailed for five tricks in five spades doubled, (with a club ruff, one spade, two hearts and one diamond) which, as we shall see, would have won USA2 12 IMPs. Even pedestrian defence would have netted plus 300 and 9 IMPs.

As it was, East led a spade, putting the matter to rest – the defence had one spade, one heart and one club for plus 500. When East came in with a heart, he knew the spade layout precisely, so could cash one spade and shift to a club.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Becker	Efrainsson	Graves	Axdorph
–	–	Pass	Pass
1♣	2NT*	3♦*	5♦
All Pass			
2NT Hearts and diamonds			
3♦ Limit raise in clubs			

Becker was able to see the singleton club in dummy when the Swedes declared five diamonds from the South hand, so it was easy to shift to spades after he'd led the ace of clubs to trick one. Plus 100 to USA2, but a 9-IMP loss after the poor result at the other table.

Board 2. Dealer East. N/S Vul.

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

USA2 v. Sweden
Open Room

West	North	East	South
Björing	Berkowitz	Östberg	Sontag
–	–	Pass	Pass
2♣*	2♥	Dble	Pass
2♠	3♦	4♠	5♦
Pass	Pass	5♠	6♦
All Pass			
2♣ 11-15, 6+ clubs or 5+ clubs and 4M			

Italy v India
Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Mina</i>	<i>Poddar</i>	<i>Pulga</i>	<i>Solani</i>
—	—	Pass	Pass
Pass	1♥	Pass	INT
Pass	2♦	Pass	3♦
Pass	3♠	Pass	4♦
All Pass			

Poddar and Solani stopped accurately in four diamonds, making plus 130 when Pulga led a spade to hold them to ten tricks. Solani evaluated his five low black cards very nicely opposite Poddar's bidding, despite the six-card trump support.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Samant</i>	<i>Buratti</i>	<i>Agrawal</i>	<i>Failla</i>
—	—	Pass	Pass
Pass	1♥	Pass	INT
Pass	2♦	2♠	Dble*
3♣	3♦	4♣	4♦
Pass	5♦	All Pass	

Dble Power double

Power double or not, it still looks odd to see South commit it on this deal. Perhaps there was an element of tactics involved as well. Agrawal led his fifth-best club to the king, but Samant did not heed the warning and attempted to cash another club at trick two. That was all the help



Christer Bjäring, Sweden

Buratti needed: he ruffed, drew the trumps and led the queen of hearts. He was soon tapping in “=” on the BridgeMate for plus 600 and plus 10 IMPs.
It was a great start for Sweden and Italy.

Board 6. Dealer East. E/W Vul.

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

♠ 10 5

♥ K J 7 5

♦ J 7 6 4

♣ K 4 3

USA2 v. Sweden
Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Bjäring</i>	<i>Berkowitz</i>	<i>Östberg</i>	<i>Sontag</i>
—	—	2♦*	Pass
2♥*	Dble*	2♠	Pass
Pass	2NT*	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

2♦ 4-9, weak 2 in spades or hearts
2♥ Pass or correct
Dble 13-15 balanced or any 18+
2NT 18-20 balanced

The Swedes put up an almost-superb defence against Berkowitz. Östberg, who, of course, sits East, led the jack of clubs, to the three, five (encouraging) and the ace. Berkowitz ran the diamonds – East pitched three encouraging spades and a club; West ditched two low hearts (also encouraging); declarer threw a heart from the dummy. Declarer led a heart to dummy's jack and Bärings's queen. West shifted to the jack of spades; With the spades 6-2 and East having discarded three of them, Berkowitz had to win this and play another heart – the defence could then have taken just two tricks in each major. When Berkowitz ducked the spade, East alertly overtook it and went back to clubs. Declarer had to lose one spade, two hearts and two clubs when then happened, minus 50. Even had East had seven spades, winning the ace immediately would have meant that West would have had no more when in with the next heart.

To defeat three no-trump legitimately, East had to hang on to four spades on the run of the diamonds, discarding just two spades and two clubs or two spades, one club and one heart. Then when West shifts to a spade upon winning with the queen of hearts, declarer would have been presented with a Morton's Fork: if he ducks the jack of spades, the defence shifts back to clubs, taking one spade and two each in clubs and hearts; if declarer wins the spade ace on the first round of the suit, the defence takes three spades and two hearts.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Becker	Efrainsson	Graves	Axdorph
—	—	2♠	Pass
Pass	Dble	Pass	3♥*
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

3♥ Shows values

Here, Graves chose his fourth-highest club. That went to the queen and ace. Here also, declarer ran the diamonds, East pitching three encouraging spades and the jack of clubs, West two hearts and dummy a heart. Declarer also led a heart to the jack. Becker won and continued with clubs, as did Graves when he was allowed to hold the ten of clubs. That was nine tricks and 10 IMPs to Sweden.

Italy v India
Open Room

West	North	East	South
Mina	Poddar	Pulga	Solani
—	—	2♠	Pass
Pass	2NT	All Pass	

At this table, Pulga led the queen of spades and continued with the king when it was allowed to hold the trick. Poddar let that hold as well and a third spade went to the ace.

Declarer then risked his contract by leading a heart, but all was well when East did not hold the ace (it seems everyone opens one spade with six to the king-queen-nine and an outside ace these days, so Poddar thought he was safe). Declarer put in dummy's jack, losing to the queen. West shifted to a club and declarer won and played another heart - when the ten appeared, he made nine tricks for plus 150.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Samant	Buratti	Agrawal	Failla
—	—	2♠	Pass
Pass	2NT	All Pass	

Agrawal led the king of spades, continuing with the queen when allowed to hold the trick. When Buratti ducked that as well, East shifted to clubs, holding declarer to eight tricks and plus 120 for 1 IMP to India.

The other boards were rather dull (not that these two were endlessly fascinating), with no slam swings, or huge numbers and just one double-digit swing in each match. For those of us who wanted action, we'd have to wait until a future set.

India led Italy, 14-11, and Sweden led USA2 by 25-17.

IBPA Outing



Journalists and WBF officers in front of the Lumiere Museum. Next to Gianarrigo Rona is Max Lumiere, the grandson of Louis Lumiere who together with his brother Auguste invented the Cinematographie. Max showed us around and gave expert explanations. This visit was followed by an wonderful lunch at the Marguerite restaurant and a bus tour through the old part of Lyon.

IBPA Vice-president Dillip Gidwani on behalf of all of us expressed his warm appreciations for this tasteful outing.

Elisabeth van Ettinger, IBPA Secretary

Funbridge Transnational - After Round 10

1	THE MAGICDOGS	147.43	39	TEAM PHARMASERVICE	106.70	77	DELFT	92.40
2	JINSHUO	134.70	40	RIEHM	105.94	78	LEGRAS	92.08
3	PIEDRA	133.79	41	PANCHINA	105.80	79	MEPHISTO	91.84
4	GERMANY OPEN	133.33	42	AUSSIE OTHERS	104.91	80	ISIDORO	91.19
5	ZIMMERMANN	132.79	43	LALL	104.63	81	RIDOLFO	90.83
6	POLAND	130.58	44	MARK WU	104.62	82	FRAPEI	89.91
7	ZHIYIJIA	129.88	45	FILIPPO 5	104.45	83	PROF RIMBUS	89.47
8	YBM	129.63	46	USA1 SENIORS	104.11	84	CHINA SENIOR	88.43
9	KASIMIR	127.50	47	NORDEN	104.06	85	PMA	87.64
10	MCALLISTER	127.27	48	MOET	103.80	86	FRANCE JUNIORS	86.74
11	MAZURKIEWICZ	127.20	49	MA DALTON	103.78	87	FINIKIOTIS	86.36
12	BRULIBU	124.91	50	INDONESIA LADIES	103.39	88	CHAD	85.76
13	TEAM VENTIN	122.02	51	RAF	103.04	89	LE BOSAKR	85.73
14	AUSTRALIA SENIORS	121.31	52	CROATIA	102.43	90	OLD YOUNG TEAM	85.59
15	TOSCA	120.03	53	BLUE NOTE	102.35	91	PLATINUM CEM	84.95
16	CHINA OPEN	119.87	54	KITKUTIM	102.21	92	LES COUILLUS	84.81
17	PERCY	119.10	55	RAPTORS	102.18	93	NATAF	83.68
18	MON BAZILOU	118.76	56	MARILLE	102.15	94	CHEVAL	83.44
19	PD TIMES	118.20	57	INDIA OPEN	101.17	95	TEAM DOWNUNDER	83.33
20	POLAND UNIVERSITY	117.86	58	JAPAN SENIOR	100.73	96	FRANCORUSSE	82.31
21	TENUKI	117.84	59	LEVOY	100.64	97	IMPS	80.12
22	CHINA XHJT	117.42	60	RUSSIA	100.44	98	AOTEAROA	79.96
23	PGRENTHE	117.41	61	MAGIC EYES THAILAND	100.28	99	LES GRANDS CRUS	79.68
24	BLACK	117.37	62	THOMPSON	99.60	100	MARVELOUS	78.29
25	ADAD	117.33	63	PAYEN	99.20	101	BANGALORE	76.67
26	MACABI DACORDAR	116.21	64	FORMIDABLES	98.56	102	ROUSSEAU	75.89
27	SWISSHUN	115.64	65	MORAN	97.22	103	CUBE STRASBOURG	74.68
28	INDONESIA SMIX	115.32	66	GAIA	97.08	104	PARIS AZ	73.82
29	PESSOA	113.48	67	NONAME	96.59	105	PROMISE	73.18
30	POLISH SENIORS	112.87	68	RENSON	96.49	106	SPAM	71.77
31	MINISTRY OF BRIDGE	110.92	69	PAKISTAN	96.32	107	AUSTRALIAN WOMEN	69.33
32	DAMESY	109.55	70	OHMCONNECT	96.28	108	SOUTH PERTH	65.38
33	QUAGGAS	109.46	71	PUNCH	96.25	109	MOAD	64.77
34	DUMBOVICH	109.04	72	INDONESIA OPEN	95.81	110	PONCOL JAKARTA	64.52
35	GRENTHE	108.88	73	WACH	95.45	111	ENGLISH DISCARDS	63.14
36	BELL	108.57	74	MOSSOP	94.39	112	CBLT THAILAND	48.12
37	LEOPARCK	108.07	75	MERRET	93.93			
38	OBJECTIVITY	106.91	76	GILLIS	93.16			



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Bermuda Bowl Quarter-final - Segment 4

USA I v Bulgaria



Jos Jacobs

USAI had ended the first day with a 24-IMP lead after being 36 down earlier in the day.



Ivan Nanev, Bulgaria

Board 18. Dealer East. N/S Vul.

♠ A Q 7 5
♥ A J 9 8 7
♦ J 7 5 2
♣ —

♠ 2
♥ Q 4
♦ K Q 8 3
♣ A O 10 6 5 3



♠ J 9 4
♥ K 10 5 3
♦ A 9 6
♣ K 9 2

♠ K 10 8 6 3
♥ 6 2
♦ 10 4
♣ | 8 7 4

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Stefanov</i>	<i>Rodwell</i>	<i>Nanev</i>	<i>Meckstroth</i>
—	—	INT	Pass
3NT	Dble	Pass	Pass
4♣	Pass	5♣	All Pass

Rodwell's brave take-out double backfired when the Bulgarians ran to their proper contract. When North discarded hearts early on the run of the trumps, the impending red-suit squeeze was no longer necessary. Bulgaria +400.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Weinstein	Karakolev	R. Levin	Mihov
—	—	Pass	Pass
1♣	1♥	INT	Pass
2♣	Dble	Rdbl	2♠
2NT	Pass	3NT	All Pass

E/W were not on firm ground here. They avoided any minor-suit contract but settled for 3NT instead, despite

the lack of a spade stopper. Down two. Bulgaria another +100 and 11 IMPs.

And next:

Board 19. Dealer South. E/W Vul.

♠ A J 10 8 6
♥ 8 4
♦ 7
♣ A 10 7 5 3

♠ K Q 7 2
♥ J 2
♦ A K 9 6 4
♣ 9 2



♠ 5 4
♥ A Q 9
♦ Q 8 5 2
♣ K Q | 6

♠ 9 3
♥ K 10 7 6 5 3
♦ J 10 3
♣ 8 4

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Stefanov</i>	<i>Rodwell</i>	<i>Nanev</i>	<i>Meckstroth</i>
—	—	—	2♥
Dble	Pass	3NT	All Pass

“Bid what you think you can make” proved to be still a good approach. Naney could be sure about a spade stopper with partner and 3NT presented no problems when South led the \diamond rather than a spade. Bulgaria +630.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Weinstein	Karakolev	R. Levin	Mihov
—	—	—	2♥
All Pass			

The weak two at its most effective: both opponents holding just about an opening bid but no more than that. Down two, USAI +100 but 11 more IMPs to Bulgaria to reduce the gap to just 2 IMPs.

Board 21. Dealer North. N/S Vul.

♠ 5
♥ Q 10 5
♦ A 9 8 2
♣ K | 7 5 3

♠ Q J 7 3
♥ 9 7 2
♦ Q
♣ O 10 9 4 2

W N E S

♠ A 10 9 8 6
♥ A J 6
♦ 7 6 5 4 3
♣ —

♠ K 4 2
♥ K 8 4 3
♦ K J 10
♣ A 8 6

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Stefanov	Rodwell	Nanev	Meckstroth
—	Pass	1♠	Dble
3♥	3♠	4♠	Dble
All Pass			

Three hearts was a weak spade raise, 3♠ asked for minors and 4♠ was just too high in South's opinion. Meckstroth led a trump and continued a trump, sacrificing his trump trick, when he won trick 2 with the ♦K. Nicely done, one down, USAI +100

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Weinstein	Karakolev	R. Levin	Mihov
—	Pass	Pass	1♦*
Pass	2♣	2♠	3♣
3♠	Dble	Pass	3NT
Dble	All Pass		

Well, this time N/S had a spade stopper alright but no nine tricks... On a spade lead, declarer simply cashed out for one down, felling the ♦Q and finessing the ♣Q in the process. USAI +200 and 7 IMPs back to them.

Halfway the set, we got a demonstration of the difference between a simple and a high-brow approach, one might say.

Board 24. Dealer West. None Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Stefanov	Rodwell	Nanev	Meckstroth
Pass	INT	Pass	2♣*
Pass	2♦*	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

Over the 14-16 NT, Nanev did not overcall and led his longest suit for an easy one down when declarer took an early diamond finesse which lost to the queen. Bulgaria +50.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Weinstein	Karakolev	R. Levin	Mihov
Pass	INT	2♠	3♦*
Pass	3♥	Pass	3NT
All Pass			



Eric Rodwell, USA I

At the other table, Levin as East did overcall after the 14-16 NT, showing spades and a minor. When South transferred to hearts, 3NT soon became the final contract against which East led his secret weapon, a low diamond – only to find out that he had just presented declarer with his 9th trick. Unlucky but 10 IMPs to Bulgaria who thus managed to level the match at 127 all.

The next board looked like a slam:

Board 9. Dealer North. E/W Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Stefanov	Rodwell	Nanev	Meckstroth
—	1♣*	Pass	1♥*
Pass	2♦*	Pass	2♥
Pass	3♦	Pass	3♥
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

In the Meckwell Precision, Rodwell found out that South was not looking at spades (one possible meaning of the 1♥ response) but rather at the minimum for an 11-13 balanced hand response. Hence his lack of further interest, though a minor suit slam would have been playable, albeit slightly odds-against. USAI +460

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Weinstein	Karakolev	R. Levin	Mihov
—	1♣*	Pass	1♥*
Pass	2♦	Pass	2♥*
Pass	3♣	Pass	3♦
Pass	4♣*	Pass	4♥*
Pass	4♠*	Pass	5NT*
Pass	6♦	All Pass	

Strong Club for the Bulgarians as well but South's 2♥ confirmed a balanced 8-11 hand. The rest was natural with a few cue bids but the contract could not stand the 5-0 trump break, even though the ♣Q behaved friendly. USAI another +50 and 11 IMPs to them.

Two boards later, we saw a typical Meckwell approach:

Board 27. Dealer South. None Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Stefanov	Rodwell	Nanev	Meckstroth
—	—	—	Pass
1♦*	1♥	Dble*	4♥
Pass	Pass	Dble	All Pass

As soon as he got the chance, Meckstroth raised to 4♥ without further ado. Bulgaria +100.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Weinstein	Karakolev	R. Levin	Mihov
—	—	—	2♦*
Pass	3♥	All Pass	

When Mihov opened his 6-10 major two-suiter, Karakolev could judge the situation much better. With two of the three N/S kings well-placed for declarer, 3♥ just came home when the trumps behaved nicely. Bulgaria +140 and 6 IMPs to them.

The score at the end of the set, won by Bulgaria 40-21, read: 140-135 to USAI with 32 boards to play.

Black or Blue?

Herman De Wael

At the start of the Transnational teams, I watched the starting list and noticed two Belgian Flags (for the vexillologically challenged among you: a vertical tricolour of black, yellow and red). I noticed two teams with that flag.

The first team was called Chad, and I immediately thought of the Central African country. That would mean the flag was almost correct, as Chad's flag is a tricolour of blue, yellow and red. But no, the team was indeed Belgian, and the name came from the initials of the four players: Caroline, Hervé, Alain and Damien. Their first combination of the letters had produced DACH, but they did not think that was a good idea.

The other team was called Brulibu, and after seeing the players, I had no difficulty in deciphering the meaning of that name. The team contained two players from BRUssels, one from LIège, and a Belgian who has recently moved to BUcuresti. And guess what the flag of Romania is? (Blue – yellow – red).

The Brulibu team are doing fine in the Funbridge Transnational Swiss teams, regularly playing at tables with one digit, and Olivier Neve, our Belgian/Romanian saw a way to an unmakeable contract on Tuesday morning:

Board 24. Dealer West. None Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
	Olivier		
Pass	1♠	Pass	1NT
Pass	3♣	Pass	4♣
Pass	4♦	Pass	5♣
Pass	6♣	All Pass	

Olivier took the heart lead in hand and played the ♦9 to the queen.

This produced the hoped-for result: West thought that declarer was going for a cross-ruff and attacked trumps. With the queen out of the way, Olivier was now able to pin the nine by returning the ♣10 off the table.

Eight other pairs (out of 112) tried 6♣, but none made it.