



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. 12

Thursday, 24th August 2017

CHASING THE RAINBOW

Today's Programme

BB, VC, OT
Finals & Play-Off

Funbridge
Transnational
Quarter-finals

11:00 - 13:20
14:30 - 16:50
17:10 - 19:30

Grand Prix
Ville de Lyon

Starting Time
10:00



Contents

Brackets and Rosters	2
Ranking Funbridge Transnational	4
Le (bon) coin francophone	5
An Aside	7
The Rise of The Robot	7
QF S5&6: BB USA1 v Bulgaria	10
SF S1: BB France v New Zealand	17
For the lead, Partner	19
SF S3: VC China v Poland	20
Online only:	
SF S1-3: BB USA2 v Bulgaria	26

Bid long and prosper!



After 11 days the teams left standing face a simple equation: win one more match and become World Champions. The big six have reached their destination by different routes - in the *Bermuda Bowl* **France** brushed **New Zealand** aside with ease while **USA 2** had to work much harder to overcome **Bulgaria**. In the *Venice Cup* **England** eventually overcame a strong **Swedish** fight back, while **China** proved too strong for **Poland**. The *d'Orsi Trophy* saw **USA 2** play a near perfect last set to get past **Sweden** while **Italy** was in cruise control against **India**.



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	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
- USA1** 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	55	0	0	187
 NEW ZEALAND		5	25	10	8	0	0	48

 FRANCE	
 USA 2	



 NEW ZEALAND	
 BULGARIA	



	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
 USA1		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	29	30	23	182
 USA2		18	49	39	38	40	32	216

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
 SWEDEN		12	23	52	55	29	12	183
 ENGLAND		42	56	19	34	33	21	205

 ENGLAND	
 CHINA	





 SWEDEN	
 POLAND	

	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
 CHINA		42	30	52	25	40	47	236
 POLAND		23	50	18	38	21	7	157





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
- USA1** 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 Sakharam SAMANT, Jitendra SOLANI, Ramamurthy SRIDHARAN, Dipak PODDAR captain, Anal SHAH coach



	P	I	2	3	4	5	6	T
 USA2	17	32	41	10	28	41	169	
 SWEDEN	25	23	34	20	30	2	134	



 USA2	
 ITALY	
 SWEDEN	
 INDIA	

	P	I	2	3	4	5	6	T
 ITALY	42	14	20	70	22	26	194	
 USA1	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
 INDIA	14	40	35	6	11	36	142	
 ITALY	11	61	30	44	47	11	204	



Funbridge Transnational

	P	I	2	3	T
 MAZURKIEWICZ					
 BRULIBU					

	P	I	2	3	T
 PERCY					
 THE MAGICDOGS					

- MAZURKIEWICZ** Piotr GAWRYS, Krzysztof JASSEM, Michal KLUKOWSKI, Marcin MAZURKIEWICZ, Marcin MAZURKIEWICZ captain
- BRULIBU** Jean Marie BACKES, Patrick BOCKEN, Zvi ENGEL, Olivier NEVE, Patrick BOCKEN captain
- PERCY** Peter CROUCH, David GOLD, Zia MAHMOOD, Marion MICHELSEN, Andrew ROBSON, Anita SINCLAIR
- THE MAGICDOGS** Gary COHLER, Fred GITELMAN, Daniel KORBEL, Sylvia SHI, Sheri WINESTOCK
- ZIMMERMANN** Geir HELGEMO, Lorenzo LAURIA, Krzysztof MARTENS, Franck MULTON, Alfredo VERSACE, Pierre ZIMMERMANN
- PIEDRA** Bartłomiej IGLA, Fernando PIEDRA, Howard WEINSTEIN, Adam WILDAVSKY
- JINSHUO** Tong JIANG, Chuancheng JU, Jacek KALITA, Michal NOWOSADZKI, Zheng Jun SHI, Xiaofeng ZHANG, Dade WANG captain
- CHINA XHJT** Jingsheng BIAN, Xueliang CAO, Hua HUANG, Xiangyang WANG, Shikan ZHOU captain

	P	I	2	3	T
 ZIMMERMANN					
 PIEDRA					

	P	I	2	3	T
 JINSHUO					
 CHINA XHJT					

Funbridge Transnational - After Qualification

1	MAZURKIEWICZ	198.39	38	MA DALTON	158.70	75	AOTEAROA	140.75
2	ZIMMERMANN	196.95	39	MINISTRY OF BRIDGE	158.66	77	PAKISTAN	140.22
3	JINSHUO	195.22	40	OBJECTIVITY	157.95	78	ISIDORO	140.10
4	PERCY	190.94	41	PANCHINA	157.31	79	LE BOSAKR	140.03
5	THE MAGICDOGS	185.33	42	GRENTHE	157.18	80	WACH	139.82
6	CHINA XHJT	184.27	43	BLUE NOTE	156.68	81	GILLIS	139.27
7	PIEDRA	182.77	44	YBM	156.21	82	FILIPPO 5	138.73
8	BRULIBU	181.48	45	MAGIC EYES THAILAND	154.86	83	MEPHISTO	137.63
9	KASIMIR	181.20	46	PUNCH	154.74	84	CHEVAL	137.21
10	MCALLISTER	180.22	47	TENUKI	153.73	85	OLD YOUNG TEAM	134.80
11	DUMBOVICH	176.38	48	MOSSOP	153.46	86	INDONESIA OPEN	133.83
12	DAMESY	176.26	49	KITKUTIM	153.25	87	FRANCORUSSE	132.92
13	GERMANY OPEN	175.94	50	INDONESIA LADIES	151.96	88	NATAF	131.49
14	MON BAZILOU	175.84	52	LEOPARCK	151.11	89	BANGALORE	130.33
15	ADAD	175.79	53	GAIA	151.07	90	FRANCE JUNIORS	130.08
16	POLAND	174.46	54	NONAME	150.70	91	ROUSSEAU	128.70
17	AUSTRALIA SENIORS	174.32	55	CHAD	149.53	92	FINIKIOTIS	128.27
18	TEAM VENTIN	173.38	56	MERRET	149.28	93	AUSTRALIAN WOMEN	127.82
19	ZHIYIJIA	171.90	57	LES GRANDS CRUS	149.15	94	LEGRAS	127.59
20	SWISSHUN	169.65	58	MARK WU	149.04	95	PLATINUM CEM	127.18
21	MACABI DACORDAR	169.33	59	PAYEN	148.76	96	TEAM DOWNUNDER	125.65
22	TOSCA	168.79	60	PGRENTHE	147.63	97	PROF RIMBUS	125.31
23	CHINA OPEN	168.69	61	FRAPEI	147.47	98	PMA	124.60
24	CROATIA	167.59	62	FORMIDABLES	147.31	99	IMPS	123.83
25	RIEHM	166.48	63	CHINA SENIOR	147.29	100	LES COUILLUS	123.38
26	PESSOA	166.35	64	RIDOLFO	146.64	101	PARIS AZ	122.74
26	POLISH SENIORS	166.35	65	RAPTORS	146.46	102	SOUTH PERTH	122.68
28	PD TIMES	166.01	66	RENSON	146.40	104	CUBE STRASBOURG	120.90
29	BLACK	164.97	67	MORAN	146.03	105	MOAD	120.19
30	TEAM PHARMASERVICE	164.88	68	LEVOY	145.90	107	MARVELOUS	114.39
31	QUAGGAS	164.64	69	RAF	145.45	108	PONCOL JAKARTA	113.16
32	POLAND UNIVERSITY	164.36	70	AUSSIE OTHERS	145.40	109	SPAM	110.27
33	MARILLE	163.29	71	OHMCONNECT	144.43	110	PROMISE	104.12
34	INDIA OPEN	160.23	72	THOMPSON	143.00	111	ENGLISH DISCARDS	103.54
35	INDONESIA SMIX	160.12	73	NORDEN	142.67	112	CBLT THAILAND	88.67
36	JAPAN SENIOR	159.92	74	DELFT	142.56			
37	BELL	159.43						

VuGraph SCHEDULE

The VuGraph Theatre is located in the Auditorium Pasteur

11:00		14:30		17:10	
FRANCE-USA2 (BB)	VG/BBO1/FB	FRANCE-USA 2 (BB)	VG/BBO1	FRANCE-USA2 (BB)	VG1/BB
USA2-ITALY (OT)	BBO 2	USA2-ITALY (OT)	BBO 2	USA2-ITALY (OT)	BBO 2
SWEDEN-INDIA (OT)	BBO 3	SWEDEN-INDIA (OT)	BBO 3	SWEDEN-INDIA (OT)	BBO 3
MAZURKIEWICZ-BRULIBU (T)	BBO 4	PERCY-THE MAGICDOGS (T)	BBO 4	TO BE DECIDED (T)	BBO 4
SWEDEN-POLAND (VC)	BBO 5/ FB	SWEDEN-POLAND (VC)	BBO 5/ FB	SWEDEN-POLAND (VC)	BBO 5/ FB
N.ZEALAND-BULGARIA (BB)	BBO 6/ FB	N. ZEALAND-BULGARIA (BB)	BBO 6/ FB	N.ZEALAND- BULGARIA (BB)	BBO 6/ FB
ZIMMERMANN-PIEDRA (T)	BBO 7	JINSHUO-CHINA XHJT (T)	BBO 7	TO BE DECIDED (T)	BBO 7
CHINA-ENGLAND (VC)	BBO 8/ OG	CHINA-ENGLAND (VC)	BBO 8/ OG	CHINA-ENGLAND (VC)	BBO 8/ OG

courtesy of



Le (bon) coin francophone

Jean-Paul Meyer



CHAMPIONNAT DU MONDE JEUNES.

Si vous ne lisez pas l'autre Bulletin, celui consacré au Championnat jeunes, sachez que la France brille dans deux des quatre épreuves.

En effet les équipes Youngsters et Girls ont atteint la finale en dominant respectivement la Suède et le Chili et qu'elles affrontent en finale les équipes chinoises de Shensheng..

Dernière Minute:

Nos Youngsters champions du Monde, ils remportent la médaille d'or.

Nos girls sont médaillées d'argent.

BRIDGE OU JEU DES SEPT FAMILLES ?

Lors du 10ème tour du Transnational, l'équipe **Grenthe** rencontraitl'équipe **PGrenthe**. La première incluait, parmi ses membres, les deux fils (**Guillaume et Jérôme**) et la seconde, dans la famille Grenthe, le père, **Patrick**, Président de la Fédération française. S'il s'agissait un jeu des 7 familles, quelle carte demanderiez-vous ? Ici, il convenait de réclamer le père, gagnant du match 26-13. A noter que dans l'équipe **Adad**, se cachait une carte supplémentaire de la famille : **Sabine**, la belle fille. Pour dresser un tableau complet, précisons que la mère, **Dominique**, première série majeure était absente de Lyon et **qu'Aurélie**, la fille ne joue pas au bridge.

UNE AUTRE AFFAIRE DE FAMILLE ?

Le premier jour du Transnational on a vu dans les couloirs **Véronique** et **Michel Bessis**. Dans quelle équipe, allaient-ils jouer ? Réponse : aucune, ils venaient simplement soutenir leur fils **Thomas**. Mission parentale accomplie, semble-t-il, au vu du parcours de l'équipe de France Open, qui est en finale de la Bermuda Bowl après un parcours étincelant.

L'EQUIPE DE FRANCE OPEN A TABLE A L'HEURE

Forte de 139 IMP d'avance l'équipe de France se vit dispenser par l'abandon de l'adversaire Néo-Zélandais de jouer les 32 dernières donnes. A 14h30, elle fut à l'heure à table mais à celle du restaurant de son hôtel !

CHAMPIONNAT DES LOGICIELS

Etaient en compétition 7 programmes un américain BridgeBaron, Shark, danois, Qplus, allemand, Synrey, chinois, Microbridge, japonais, Robo, hollandais et Wbridge, français.

Ils débutaient par une poule qualificative pour les quatre premiers.

Il semblait que le Français, le Chinois, le Japonais et l'Américain seraient les lauréats de la poule, cependant Bridge Baron était étonnamment balayé au dernier tour

par Qplus (47-93) et, du coup, Robo accédait à la finale.

Classement de la poule : 1 Wbridge 74 - 2 Synrey 69 - 3 Microbridge 66-4 Robo bridge 62.5 5 Bridge Baron 61-6 Qplus 55 - 7 Shark,...loin

TRANSNATIONAL

Ce sont finalement 112 équipes qui se disputent pendant trois jours une place en quart de finale. Cette participation est assez loin du record (151 aux Pays-Bas en 2011). On décompte 150 joueurs français jouant dans 33 équipes. Avec un match restant à jouer, les espoirs de qualification pour nos couleurs étaient des plus minimes.

PROFILS :JEAN-LOUIS COUNIL

Jean-Louis Counil a été chargé de mission par la FFB de-



Jean-Louis Counil

puis septembre 2016 en vue de l'organisation de ces championnats du Monde. Il est clairement une des chevilles ouvrières de ce qui est reconnu par tous – une unanimité bien rare – comme un très grand succès.

Pour ce faire, JLC, cadre du centre national d'exploration spatiale, et représentant français auprès de la station spatiale internationale, a pris une année sabbatique.

L'inventaire de ses tâches est impressionnant, il va des négociations avec les hôtels, de l'élaboration du livret programme, de la gestion du site web dédié, de la négociation des contrats avec les partenaires, de l'hébergement de 250 jeunes jusqu'aux rapports avec le Palais des Congrès.

Quand on lui demande de dresser un bilan de son action, il déclare avec un large sourire que ce fut une aventure humaine extraordinaire, qu'il a vécu des moments d'angoisse car n'importe quelle « grosse tuile » pouvait arriver à tout moment mais que, finalement, tout a fonctionné. Il y eut des moments chauds, tel la fabrication des badges qui posa de gros problèmes des plus urgents à résoudre car la sécurité avait des exigences inflexibles. Il fallut gérer les flux passant de certains jours à 800 joueurs dans les locaux à 2200 à d'autres moments, comme lorsqu'il fallut obtenir

une réduction de 90 % d'une facture de frais imprévus. Respecter les horaires de départ des tournois, organiser la visite de 300 jeunes sur les péniches, être en mesure de fournir à temps 4800 sacs avec tous les documents, voici quelques –unes des missions assumées.

Sur le pont pendant des heures chaque jour, JLC n'en conclut pas moins, si c'est à refaire je suis partant immédiatement.

LA DONNE DU JOUR

Cercle restreint

Guy Dupont

Dans le match du 10e tour du Transnational, opposant l'équipe française Mon Bazilou, à l'équipe Russe de Gromov, nombreux sont les déclarants à avoir trébuché sur la donne 10. Aux 102 tables où elle a été jouée, la manche à Cœur n'a été appelée que 37 fois, et 32 fois elle a été chutée (souvent contrée, elle a même parfois chuté de deux ou trois levées). **Philippe Chottin** est un des membres du cercle restreint des déclarants à l'avoir gagnée.

Prenez sa place en Nord :

Donneur Est, tous vulnérables

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

O	N	E	S
Gromov	Chottin	Dubin	Kasler
—	—	1 ♦	Contre
Passe (Fin)	2 ♥	Passe	4 ♥

Est entame de l'As de Trèfle, encaisse As-Roi de Carreau et rejoue Carreau. Prenez les rênes.

Première (bonne) décision : Chottin a coupé de l'As de Cœur (Ouest défaussant un Pique). Il a ensuite présenté le Valet de Cœur, couvert de la Dame et du Roi, puis laissé courir un pernicieux- le jeu caché du déclarant est en Nord-9 de Trèfle, qui a fait la levée. La Dame de Trèfle a été couverte du Roi, coupé du 4 de Cœur (et surtout pas du 8, comme certains l'ont fait par erreur). Il était temps d'encaisser As-Roi de Pique, en défaussant deux Carreaux, et la botte secrète consistait alors à présenter le 8 de Cœur. L'adversaire était muselé : soit il couvrait, et Chottin éliminait les atouts (vive le 5 de Cœur !), avant de tabler avec le 10 de Trèfle maître, soit il fournissait un petit Cœur, et c'est la Dame de Pique qui exerçait un chantage final sur la défense – si Ouest ne coupait pas, ses deux atouts étaient croqués dans la fourchette 10-7.



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An Aside

Mark Horton

An aside is a dramatic device in which a character speaks to the audience. By convention the audience is to realize that the character's speech is unheard by the other characters on stage. It may be addressed to the audience expressly (in character or out) or represent an unspoken thought. An aside is usually a brief comment, rather than a speech, such as a monologue or soliloquy. Unlike a public announcement, it occurs within the context of the play. An aside is, by convention, a true statement of a character's thought; a character may be mistaken in an aside, but may not be dishonest.

It was frequently used by Shakespeare and more recently, by Ian Richardson's character Francis Urquhart in the 1990 BBC mini-series *House of Cards*, as well as Kevin Spacey's character Frank Underwood in the 2013 Netflix original series of the same name.

With so many deals being contested in the course of a major championship it is easy for something of interest to slip through the net. Making the long walk back from the broadcasting booth to the Bulletin office I bumped into Alan Sontag, who drew this one to my attention:

Board 23. 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	

At many tables West played in 4♠ and North always led a top diamond.

Aside: I was taught in my cradle that in this type of situation you need to get a count signal from partner. The simple (and obvious) way to do this is to lead the ace for attitude and the king for count.

If North continues with another top diamond declarer has more than one way to make 4♠, but the almost universal approach was for declarer to continue with a low spade at trick two. Looking at the records you see that 4♠ was made 5 times in the BB & VC, but only 3 times in the DT. One way to get home is to play a low spade at trick three. One way to go down is to run the ten of clubs instead.

A tough defence is for North to switch to a club at trick two. If declarer finesses, South wins and can switch to a heart. The way to avoid this is for declarer to go up with dummy's ace of clubs and then play a spade to the ace and a spade.

Aside: One player switched to the six of hearts at trick two! The trick came back later when declarer took a heart finesse to go one down. The ♥6 is certainly a better card than the ♥K that was found at another table.

In theory there is only one way to be certain of defeating 4♠, but you would be doing well to find it - North must underlead his diamonds at trick one so that South can win and switch to a heart.

Aside:

At one table the bidding went:

West	North	East	South
—	—	—	Pass
1♠	2♦	3♦*	Dble*
3♥	Pass	4♠	All Pass
3♦	Spade support		
Dble	Diamond honour		

The idea of doubling 3♦ to show a top honour is not a new one, but it can be a useful weapon to have in your armoury (I played it with the Rabbi). Here it works to perfection as North can now underlead in diamonds in complete safety - perhaps the nine is the best card, suggesting something in hearts?

North ledthe ace of diamonds. (Luckily declarer found a way to go down.

Exit North, pursued by South.

The Rise of The Robot

Ron Tacchi

The 21st annual World Computer-Bridge Championship, sponsored by the ACBL and WBF, has 7 robots competing for the gold medal. After the delivery of HP8200 i7 3.4 GHz desktop computers, network connections, and the installation of the robot competition interface software (Bridge Monitor), we were ready for the robots and dedicated developers, to arrive.

The schedule is a full Round Robin from Saturday, August 19, through till Tuesday. The Semi-finals being played on Wednesday, August 23, and the final on Thursday, August 24.

As an appetiser here is what they are capable of from last year's final between Wbridge5 and Micro Bridge.

A Devil of a Deal

With two boards to go Micro Bridge was up 17 IMPs.

Board 63. Dealer South. N/S Vul.

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

At one table Micro Bridge went down one in 3♣ by N, for -100. At the other table,

West	North	East	South
Micro Bridge	Wbridge5	Micro Bridge	Wbridge5
—	—	—	1♦
Pass	1♥	2♠	3♥
3♠	4♥	All Pass	

After the opening lead of the ♣10, E/W cashed their three outside winners, ♠A, ♦A, ♦K. While this was not the best order of taking their outside winners, it appeared that there was still a trump loser for down one, and the end of any chance of Wbridge5 come back. Appearances are deceiving as Wbridge5 now executed the Devil's Coup perfectly to make the contract. Winning the club return; it pitched the ♦Q on the remaining high club; ruffed a club; ruffed a spade; ruffed a diamond; cashed the ♠A and ruffed a spade. Finally it led the ♦9 and overruffed East's ♥J with the ♥K and then finessed against West's ♥Q, for +620 and 12 IMPs.

I heard on the French news this morning that they are making robots that will kill human beings, so beware if you play with a computer robot and make an egregious error. It could be the end of your bridge-playing career!

Here we have seven contestants: Synrey Bridge (China), Micro Bridge (Japan), RoboBridge (The Netherlands), Bridge Baron (USA), Wbridge5 (France), Q-Plus Bridge (Germany), and Shark Bridge (Denmark).

In Round 1 Bridge Baron executed a nice defence against RoboBridge.

Board 16. Dealer West. N/S Vul.

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

South won the opening lead of the ♣3 with the ace and returned the suit. West ought to have played North for a singleton but rose with the king, which was ruffed. Now the contract can be beaten, but it required accurate defence. Declarer took the diamond exit with the ace and ruffed a diamond. He next eliminated the hearts by cashing the ace king and queen. A trump from dummy towards the ten was won by North's ace, not cheaply with the jack to avoid the throw-in. He was then able to exit with the jack of trumps

to his partner's king who could then cash the setting trick of the queen of clubs.

An interesting hand arose in Round Robin Session 4:

Board 9. Dealer: North. E/W Vul.

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

One robot finished in 7♠ and was doomed to failure by the 5-0 break in the trump suit. Another somehow came to rest in 3NT and made three overtricks. The other four reached 6♠. Of these two received the lead of a club and were able to fulfil their contract with ease even after discovering the bad news of the trump distribution, as they merely took the diamond finesse and continued cashing them. If and when East ruffs in South wins the return, draws trumps and has sufficient tricks. In the two other encounters the robots in the West position both chose a heart lead after running simulations. This gave declarer a choice; one chose wisely the other not, so one succeeded and the other failed – apparently the decision as to which card to play was very close inside both computers. None of the robots considered seriously the lead which takes the contract off, viz. a diamond. What would you have done on the lead of a small diamond if you were declarer? Although in this instance it does not matter I suspect most humans would have risen with the ace, perhaps risking partner's wrath if it proves to be wrong. That's where computers have a huge advantage over human partners in that they never feel foolish. Regardless of the result, partner never shouts at them and calls them rude names.

After five rounds the positions are as follows:

1. Micro Bridge	69.61
2. Synrey Bridge	57.98
3. Wbridge5	55.90
4. Bridge Baron	51.94
5. RoboBridge	51.25
6. Q-Plus Bridge	45.99
7. Shark Bridge	27.39

Synrey Bridge only entered for the first time last year and just failed to qualify for the knock-out stage. This year they seem to have upped their game, though all the contestants have significant upgrades from last year. The final two rounds to be played will doubtless cause the order to change – all to play for.



VENICE INTERNATIONAL BRIDGE FESTIVAL

Casinò Palace

Lido di Venezia 8-11 November 2017

Program

National Mixed & Ladies Pairs Tournament

Wednesday 8 – from 4.00 pm - 2 session 20/22 boards

First prize **1.200 euro**

Entry Fee 25 euro per player (junior 15)

National Open Pairs Tournament

Thursday 9 – from 2.00 pm - 2 session 20/22 boards

First prize **1.500 euro**

Entry Fee 30 euro per player (junior 20)

International Open Teams Tournament

Friday 10 – from 2 pm - 7 qualification rounds

Saturday 11 – from 11.00 am - 5 final rounds

First prize **4.000 euro**

Entry Fee 260 euro per team (junior 160)

Thursday 9 - Evening with dinner in the Rooms of the Municipal
Casino Ca Vendramin on the Grand Canal

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Associazione Proloco Lido di Venezia
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Bermuda Bowl Quarter-final - Segments 5 and 6

USA1 v Bulgaria



Jos Jacobs

Over now to set 5, which turned out to be quite spectacular, with over 100 IMPs changing hands

Board 1. Dealer North. None Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Stefanov	R. Levin	Nanev	Weinstein
—	Pass	Pass	INT
Pass	2♣*	Pass	2♥
Pass	4♥	All Pass	

When E/W did not enter the auction at any time, the Americans were allowed to go down just one (no club lead from West) in a peaceful 4♥. Bulgaria +50.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Rodwell	Karakolev	Meckstroth	Mihov
—	Pass	Pass	INT
2♦*	Pass	2♥	Pass
2♠	Dble	4♠	Pass
Pass	Dble	All Pass	

Rodwell could show his diamond suit (!) and a major by bidding 2♦ so after Meckstroth's 2♥ enquiry E/W were quickly in game. North doubled and led a spade, but declarer could win, draw the last trump, establish a heart trick and cross-ruff the rest for ten tricks and +590 and 11 IMPs to USA1.

On Board 2, Bulgaria recouped 7 IMPs when the Americans went down in a part-score at both tables. Board 3 was a push but on board 4, we saw another double-figure swing.

Board 4. Dealer West. All Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Stefanov	R. Levin	Nanev	Weinstein
Pass	1♠	Pass	2♠
Dble	Pass	3♥	All Pass

When Stefanov, having a passed hand, made a balancing double over 2♠, Nanev cautiously bid 3♥, only to find out that the trump finesse was right, the trumps 2-2 and the diamonds 3-3. Not that you would need all this to make ten tricks (a working trump finesse only might already do

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.

the job for you) but the actual layout made declarer's life very easy. Bulgaria +170.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Rodwell	Karakolev	Meckstroth	Mihov
Pass	1♠	Pass	2♠
Dble	Pass	4♥	All Pass

In the Closed Room, the auction started the same way but Meckstroth as East did not show any inhibitions. He simply bid what he thought (or hoped) he could make and he made it too. USAI +620 and 10 IMPs to them.

Two boards later, we had our first slam of the set.

Board 6. Dealer East. E/W Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Stefanov	R. Levin	Nanev	Weinstein
—	—	1♦	Pass
2♣	Pass	2♦	Pass
3♦	Pass	3♠	Pass
3NT	Pass	4♦	Pass
4♥*	Dble	Pass	Pass
Rdbl*	Pass	4NT*	Pass
5♥*	Pass	5♠*	Pass
6♦	All Pass		

Once the 2♦ rebid over the natural GF 2♣ showed diamonds, the rest of the bidding was natural. Spade values, heart stopper, first round control in hearts, two keycards but no ♠K, the 6♦ reply to the 5♠ inquiry denying it. Declarer had all the time in the world to discard a losing heart on a top club, play a top trump, concede a spade, ruff a spade and draw trumps with the marked finesse for +1370 to Bulgaria.

Closed Room

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

According to their CC, Meckwell don't play 2♣ as GF. On a type of hand like this, it certainly was a disadvantage. USAI +620 but 13 IMPs back to Bulgaria to reduce the deficit to 14.

Two quiet boards and then another slam on board 9:

Board 9. Dealer North. E/W Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Stefanov	R. Levin	Nanev	Weinstein
—	INT	Pass	4♥*
Pass	4♠	Pass	4NT*
Pass	5♥*	Pass	6♠
All Pass			



Julian Stefanov, Bulgaria

If you think a slam is on opposite a weak INT, you can either go for it or investigate a bit. Just going for it led to a quick down two when declarer, ending in dummy after drawing trumps etc., played for his only chance of making it: leading the ♦Q hoping to pin the jack in West. Not today, down two, Bulgaria +100.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Rodwell	Karakolev	Meckstroth	Mihov
—	1♦	Pass	1♠
Pass	INT	Pass	2♦*
Pass	2♥*	Pass	2NT
Pass	3NT	Pass	4♠
All Pass			

**Georgi Karakolev, Bulgaria**

Over the 10-15 1 NT rebid by Karakolev, Mihov launched the forcing 2♦ reply but saw no reason to get over-excited later on. Bulgaria +480 and 11 more IMPs to them, when West did not cash his ♣A upon winning the ♦K.

Two boards later, both American pairs hit back, though they certainly appreciated the little help they got from their friends:

Board 11. Dealer South. None Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Stefanov	R. Levin	Nanev	Weinstein
—	—	—	1♦
Pass	1♥	Pass	2♦
Pass	2NT	Pass	3♥
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

After this natural auction, Stefanov made the fine lead of the ♣A followed by the queen. When East overtook the queen to return the suit, declarer suddenly had nine tricks. USAI +400.

Closed Room

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

When South opened a classic gambling 3NT and North did not sit for it, Meckstroth wanted to have the last word. On a diamond lead and a spade shift at trick 2, this would have been at least one down. But when South continued a diamond, declarer was in with a chance, even more so when North discarded a club on the ♦K. Meckstroth ruffed, crossed to dummy's ♣Q, led a heart to his jack, crossed to the ♣J and led another heart. North went in with the ace this time and returned his last club, but Meckstroth could overtake his king with dummy's ace, cash the ♣8 for a spade discard (ruffing it would not help the defence), ruff a diamond to reduce his trump length and play ♠A and another. His ♥K10 would produce the last two tricks. USAI another +590 and 14 IMPs to them where they could have lost 4...

Board 13. Dealer North. All Vul.

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

Open Room

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

When South, by bidding 3♦ (spade raise), preferred playing in spades to his own diamond suit, 4♠ was easily reached and as easily defeated when the defence kicked off with a spade to West's ace (well done!) and a spade back. Declarer won the ♠9 in hand and led his diamond but East jumped in with the ace, avoiding any risks. With dummy dead, declarer had to concede one down. Bulgaria +100.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Rodwell	Karakolev	Meckstroth	Mihov
—	1♠	2♣	5♦
All Pass			

At the other table, Mihov liked his diamonds so much that he immediately jumped to five of them.

A low spade away from the ♠AQx would have set this contract on a ruff but when West led a club, 11 tricks were soon there. Bulgaria another +600 and 12 IMPs back. The score now stood at 183-181 to USAI.

The last board of the set was very tricky. The easiest game contract seems to be 3NT, though this may go down as well when diamonds do not break, spades are with North

and the ♥K is wrong. Second best is 5♣, I think, though the 5-1 break requires some careful declarer play, not found at all tables.

It seems as if Nanev liked his clubs a little too much as this was the Bulgarian auction:

Board 16. Dealer West. E/W Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Stefanov	R. Levin	Nanev	Weinstein
1♦	Pass	2♣	Pass
2♦	Pass	2♥	Pass
2♠	Pass	3♣	Pass
3NT	Pass	4♣	Pass
4♦	Pass	4NT	Pass
5♥	Pass	6♣	All Pass

Spade lead to the ace, club to the ace and a successful heart finesse. So far, so good. When next the ♣K brought the bad news, declarer had to accept two down, since North could return spades after winning his trump tricks. USAI +200.

At the other table, Meckstroth thought that a few small hearts in dummy would be enough for an interesting adventure and right he was:

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Rodwell	Karakolev	Meckstroth	Mihov
1♦*	Pass	2♣	Pass
2♦	Pass	2♥	Pass
2NT	Pass	3♣	Pass
3♦	Pass	6♥	All Pass

The play was as spectacular as it was necessary. Spade lead to the ace, ♣A and a heart to the queen. Low club, ruffed by South in front of dummy with the ♥8 and the ♠K which declarer had to ruff with the ♥10. As there was no communication, declarer's chances were gloomy. He could not repeat the heart finesse without losing communication to dummy's diamonds. So he had to play ♥A felling the king, and the last heart, followed by the ♣K and all the diamonds plus the good ♠Q. USAI a miraculous +1430, good for 17 IMPs and a 19-IMP lead with just 16 boards to play. The score read 200-181 to USAI.

The final set.

Board 19. Dealer South. E/W Vul.

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



Robert Levin, USA I

Open Room

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

Once Karakolev could throw in a double over 2♣, 3NT could no longer be made. As declarer has to give up the lead twice in diamonds, going after the spades is the only option which might lead to success. Due to the lack of entries, spades have to be 3-3 as declarer can only lead spades from his hand. One down, Bulgaria +50.

Closed Room

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

When West led a low spade to East's ace, the damage for the defence had already been done. When Meckstroth continued $\diamond Q$ followed by $\diamond J$ to declarer's ace, Nanev only lost to the third round of diamonds and the $\clubsuit A$. Just made, Bulgaria +400 and 10 IMPs back.

Board 20. Dealer West. All Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Mihov	R. Levin	Karakolev	Weinstein
Pass	1 \diamond	1 \spadesuit	Dble*
2 \heartsuit	Dble	3 \clubsuit	Pass
3 \spadesuit	All Pass		

Two Hearts was the modern transfer raise in spades. South led a diamond. Dummy took the ace and led a spade, declarer winning the jack and noting the fall of



Eric Rodwell, USA 1

South's ten when North played low. A heart was taken by South's ace and when South exited in hearts, dummy won and led another spade, North winning his king this time.

When North cashed his $\diamond K$ and $\spadesuit A$ before playing another heart (keep in mind that dummy still had a spade left to protect against a forcing defence), declarer could win, draw the last trump and claim the balance when the $\clubsuit J$ made an early appearance. Bulgaria +140.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Rodwell	Stefanov	Meckstroth	Nanev
1 \diamond	Dble	1 \heartsuit	Pass
1 \spadesuit	Pass	4 \spadesuit	All Pass

Over the nebulous 1 \diamond , East showed his spades by bidding 1 \heartsuit . When West's rebid confirmed three of them, Meckstroth bid the spade game with confidence but with no luck. When the defence led two rounds of hearts, Rodwell could not control the play when trumps were 4-1: Trump to dummy's queen, $\spadesuit J$ to North's king, club to the ace, diamond finesse to North's king and now a heart! Either way, North would come to two more trump tricks now. Down two, Bulgaria another +200 and 8 more IMPs to them. Suddenly, the score stood at 205-199 to USA 1.

Board 22. Dealer East. E/W Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Mihov	R. Levin	Karakolev	Weinstein
—	—	1 \clubsuit *	Pass
1 \diamond *	Pass	2 \heartsuit	Dble
3 \heartsuit	Pass	3 \spadesuit	Pass
4 \heartsuit	All Pass		

Over the Strong Club and the 1 \diamond negative response, East rebid a GF 2 \heartsuit . After East's 3 \spadesuit , West might have realised that not only his $\heartsuit K$ but also the $\spadesuit Q$ might be very useful cards. When he did not, Bulgaria had to be content with +680.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Rodwell	Stefanov	Meckstroth	Nanev
—	—	1 \clubsuit *	Pass
1 \diamond *	Pass	1 \heartsuit	Dble
Rdbl	Pass	Pass	1 \spadesuit
2 \heartsuit	Pass	6 \heartsuit	All Pass

Once again, the Meckstroth approach of bidding what you hope to make, worked perfectly well. USAI +1430 and 13 IMPs to them to lead by 19.

Board 7. Dealer South. All Vul.

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

It looks as if the defence have four tricks against 4♠ if North plays a club after winning just one diamond trick but this is an illusion. Declarer can win dummy's ace and play ♠A and another. North wins his king and is helpless. He can play a club to partner's king but on the heart shift, declarer wins the ace and dummy's ♠J is the entry to the clubs on which all declarer's heart will disappear. If North plays an second round of diamonds instead, declarer's job is even easier: he ruffs in hand and leads a low spade, giving up a club trick later.

Open Room

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

With all the above said, let's look at the play and defence at both tables. Levin tried two rounds of diamonds but declarer ruffed and led a low spade to Levin's king. When Levin tried the ♥K next, it was all over. Bulgaria +620.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Rodwell	Stefanov	Meckstroth	Nanev
—	—	—	Pass
1♠	2♦	2NT*	Pass
3♣	3♦	4♠	All Pass

The Meckwell Jacoby style easily led to the same 4♠ contract but at this table, Stefanov cashed just one top diamond and then led a low heart away from his ♥Kx! Declarer won the queen and led a low spade, North taking his king and continuing a top diamond. Declarer ruffed, cashed dummy's ♠QJ and led a heart to the jack...

One down as declarer could not avoid the loss of a club trick, later on. Worth a prize for the best defended hand of the Championships, maybe?

Anyway, Bulgaria another +100 and 12 IMPs back. They were trailing by 8 now with 9 boards to play.

Board 24 was an IMP to USA but #25 and #26 were partscore swings, first to USAI and then to Bulgaria. So the difference was 10 to USAI when board 27 appeared:

Board 27. Dealer South. None Vul.

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

Open Room

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

Strong Club, weak jump, and natural GF 3♥ led to the normal 3NT contract in E/W.

Once again, it was the wrong moment for North to lead his second suit. South won the ♣K and returned a heart but declarer won in hand, unblocked his diamonds seeing the break and overtook the ♥J with the king to cash dummy's red winners. When dummy exited with another club, declarer's ♣Q quickly became the ninth trick for declarer. Bulgaria +400.

Closed Room

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

After a strong 2NT and a transfer to hearts, Meckwell landed in the same contract but Rodwell had nothing to guide him in the play when North led a Rusinow ♠J. Rodwell won the king, unblocked the top diamonds and played on hearts, overtaking with dummy's king to cash all his red winners. He then played ♠A and a spade, hoping for North having to bring a club trick but when South showed up with the top clubs, he had to accept one down when South had a number of red-suit winners to cash. Bulgaria another +50 to level the match with five to go!

Once you see North discarding on the second diamond, you might try the effect of an immediate low club from hand. When South wins the king and does not return a spade, you are close to a full count of the hand – enough to make nine tricks one way or another. The line of cashing your four red-suit winners and then exiting with a club to South is too much double-dummy...

The next two boards were flat, as was the penultimate one. On #30, Bulgaria had taken the lead by 5 IMPs when they scored one more doubled undertrick against an obvious 4♠ sacrifice and this was the last board:

Board 32. Dealer West. E/W Vul.

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

Open Room

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

Against silent opponents, the Bulgarian E/W reached the quite reasonable 5♦ contract – a priori, that is. North led a top heart on which South played the three. Had North switched to a club now, the defence would have taken four tricks by means of a club ruff but as it was, USA1 had to be content with just one down undoubled for +100. This did not look a good result for them, as was quickly proved at the other table:

I wonder if West's emaciated opening bid suggest that he thought his side was behind at this point? Editor

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Rodwell	Stefanov	Meckstroth	Nanev
Pass	2♥	Dble	4♥
All Pass			

North's opening bid, showing majors, proved very effective this time. West might have tried 5♦ which would have cost -500 at most but it was already too late for the Americans, in view of the result in the Open Room. (But had West bid 5♦, might South have bid 5♥?)

East led a top diamond and continued a trump but declarer had no problem in wrapping up 10 tricks by means of the more or less marked club finesse. Bulgaria +420 and 8 more IMPs to them to win the match 239-226.

So Bulgaria would advance into the semi-finals where they would have to face USA2...would they be able to repeat their performance?



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Bermuda Bowl Semi-final - Segment I



France v New Zealand

David Bird

This was to be my first look at the New Zealand team, who had performed so outstandingly. After a last-ditch successful attempt to lever themselves into the qualifying zone of the round-robin, they had beaten the mighty Netherlands in the quarter-finals.

In the Open Room, Bach and Cornell (the reigning joint world pairs champions) would face Lorenzini and Quantin (leaders in the round-robin Butler rankings). Everyone was looking forward to such an encounter.

Board 1 Dealer North. None Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Bach	Lorenzini	Cornell	Quantin
—	1♠	Dble	2♣*
Pass	2♦	3♣	Pass
Pass	3♦	All Pass	

South's 2♣ was a transfer bid and Lorenzini ended in a comfortable 3♦, scoring +130.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Combesure	Tislevoll	Rombaut	Ware
—	INT	Dble*	3♦
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

INT showed 14+-17 and East's double proclaimed a hand with shortage in one minor. It looks as if the New Zealand pair had a difference of opinion on what 3♦ promised. If South had diamonds that would offer good play for 3NT opposite a INT opening, he might have bid 3NT instead of 3♦.

It was an undignified start to such an important match. West cashed six club tricks and switched to the ♠Q. Declarer still had to establish the diamonds and that was three down for -150 and 7 IMPs away.

On Board 4, it is no exaggeration to say that history was made. Yes, it is the very first time in over four decades of writing about the game that I have reported the play in a INT contract. (Those of you who share my general

opinions of INT contracts may skip to the next board.)

Board 4 Dealer West. None Vul.

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

The board was completed first in the Closed Room and we will start there:

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Combesure	Tislevoll	Rombaut	Ware
Pass	Pass	1♠	Pass
INT	All Pass		

North led the ♦2 to South's ace and the ♦10 return went to North's queen. The suit was cleared with the ♦9 and Combesure took a successful finesse of the ♠Q. 'Jack of clubs, please.'

To beat the contract, South must block the club suit by covering with the ♣Q. When he played low, the ♣J was run and declarer scored three more club tricks, followed by the ♠A and a claim of +90.

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Bach	Lorenzini	Cornell	Quantin
Pass	Pass	1♠	Pass
INT	All Pass		

South won the diamond lead and switched to the ♥J. When this card won, Quantin switched back to the ♦10 and diamonds were cleared. Declarer now needed two spades and four clubs for the contract. South would be able to block the club suit if he held ♣Q-x-x. Bach therefore opted to finesse the ♣10, playing North for that holding. It's true that North might have opened the bidding if he held ♠Kxx ♥Ax ♦Qxxxx ♣Qxx (and declarer would need North to hold the ♠K). Still, maybe North held the ♥K instead of the ♥A. INT was two down for 7 IMPs away.

I'm feeling somewhat queasy after that board. Let's return to more palatable fare immediately.

Board 6 Dealer East. E/W Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Bach	Lorenzini	Cornell	Quantin
—	—	2♦*	Pass
2♠*	Dble	Pass	3♥
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

East's 2♦ was a multi, showing 3-7 points if it was the weak-two type. South's 3♥ response to the double showed some values, since he had 2NT (Lebensohl) available on 0-7 points.

Cornell led the ♠K against 3NT and this was allowed to win, Lorenzini following with the ♠6. East knew that his partner held the ♠J because declarer would presumably have won the trick if he held ♠AJ6. If West had begun with ♠J-8-4, a spade continuation would work well. However, might he not have unblocked the ♠J from that holding, knowing that declarer must hold a doubleton ace?

The situation was not easy for East to read. When he continued with the ♠Q, declarer won and turned to the heart suit in his quest for a ninth trick. The ♥J lost to the queen and West switched to the ♦10, won with the ace. Before playing another heart, declarer cashed out the diamond suit and was rewarded by the sight of the ♥10 appearing from East. He then knew he was safe to clear a heart trick for +600.

(After West had switched to diamonds instead of clubs, declarer would have succeeded even against ♥82 with East. He would have time to knock out West's three heart stoppers.)

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Combescur	Tislevoll	Rombaut	Ware
—	—	2♦*	Pass
2♠*	Dble	Pass	3♥
Pass	3♠*	Pass	4♦
Pass	4♥	All Pass	

2♦ Multi
2♠ Pass or correct

West led the ♠J, East overtaking and switching to his singleton diamond. Ware won in dummy and played a trump to the king and ace. East scored a diamond ruff and declarer still had two trump tricks to lose. That was two

down and 11 IMPs away.

New Zealand suffered another sizeable loss not long afterwards:

Board 9 Dealer North. E/W Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Bach	Lorenzini	Cornell	Quantin
—	Pass	2♦*	Dble
2NT	Pass	3♠*	Pass
All Pass			



Michael Cornell, New Zealand

East's 3♠ response to the 2NT enquiry showed a maximum hand with spades. That was maximum in the context of a 3-7 point range. If this was not enough to prompt West to bid 4♠, why had he made the relay response in the first place?

Cornell won the ♦K lead in dummy and led the ♣K to South's ace. He won the trump switch and crossed to the ♠K. One heart discard was taken on the ♣Q but North ruffed the next high club. Declarer overruffed and still made ten tricks when the ♥A was onside, as the bidding suggested.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Combescur	Tislevoll	Rombaut	Ware
—	—	2♦*	Pass
2NT*	Pass	3♦*	Dble
4♠	All Pass		

Combesure showed no such restraint. He jumped to 4♠, won the diamond lead and played the ♣K to the ace. South cashed a diamond winner, followed by ace and another heart to dummy's king. Declarer discarded the ♣10 on a good clubs and drew trumps for the contract and a swing of 10 IMPs.

We will end with a deal where the Bermuda Bowl semi-finalists were outbid by some of their counterparts in the Venice Cup.

Board 16 Dealer West. E/W Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Bach	Lorenzini	Cornell	Quantin
1♦	Pass	1♠	Pass
INT	Pass	3NT	All Pass

Lorenzini led the ♥3 to South's jack, Quantin returning the ♥4 to North's king. Three more rounds of hearts put the game one down.

The French E/W invested in two more rounds of bidding but reached the same final spot, missing the very playable spade game:

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Combesure	Tislevoll	Rombaut	Ware
1♦	Pass	1♠	Pass
INT	Pass	2♦*	Pass
2♠	Pass	3♣	Pass
3♦	Pass	3NT	All Pass

It was the same neat defence: the ♥3 to the jack and the ♥2 to the king, followed by three more heart tricks. That was one down for a flat board.

Three Bermuda Bowl semi-final pairs went down in 3NT and the fourth recorded +140 in 3♠. In the Venice Cup Poland and China went one down in 3NT, but Sweden and England shared a majestic +620 in 4♠.

At the end of this first segment, France led 44-5. After their splendid heroics to this point, the New Zealand team had faltered somewhat. A swift return to their previous levels would be needed to rectify the situation.

For the lead, Partner

Mark Horton

Have you noticed how often a player makes an overcall hoping that it will help partner if they happen to be on lead but then fails to start with that suit when they have to fire the opening salvo.

In the match between USA 2 and Bulgaria in the Bermuda Bowl this principle came back to haunt one of the players with a vengeance:

Board 12. Dealer West. N/S Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Martel	Karakolev	Fleisher	Mihov
1♣*	2♠	Dble*	Pass
4♥	Pass	6♣	All Pass
1♣	2+♣		

After West's 4♥ at one point East had a Pass card in his hand, but then returned it to his bidding box. Commentating on BBO Kit Woolsey outlined the danger - East might play West for real extra values - but the four small hearts plus the possibility that partner might be stretching suggested it was clear to pass. As declarer continued to ponder Kit pointed out that a good philosophy when having a close decision is to look at your trump suit.

Finally East made his choice - out came the 6♣ card!

On the surface that looks hopeless, but when North led the ten of hearts, declarer had a chance to prove otherwise.

He won with the queen, cashed dummy's ace and king of clubs and saw North pitch the seven of diamonds. This was the critical point of the hand - declarer played a heart and when South followed with the three he put in the eight. When North pitched the two of spades I suspect declarer knew he was home. He unblocked the ace of diamonds, crossed to dummy's queen of clubs, pitched a spade on the king of diamonds, played a heart to the jack, cashed the ace and exited with the queen of spades. South had to win and his enforced return of a diamond gave declarer the ruff and discard he required.

By now you will have realised that an opening spade lead would have spelt declarer's downfall.



Venice Cup Semi-final - Segment 3



Brian Senior

China v Poland

For most of the first two sets of their Venice Cup semi-final, Poland had trailed their Chinese opponents, but on the final board of set two they took the lead, albeit by the narrowest of margins, at 73-72. There would be another 48 boards to play the next day, but set three might at least decide which of the two teams would sleep the more easily.

The first board of the new set was flat in a club part-score for E/W, then came a small swing on the second deal.

Board 34. Dealer East. N/S Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Jarosz	Huang	Gawel	N. Wang
—	—	Pass	1♦
Pass	1♥	Pass	INT
Pass	2♣	Pass	2♥
Pass	2NT	All Pass	

West	North	East	South
Shen	Zmuda	W. Wang	Dufrat
—	—	Pass	Pass
1♦	Pass	1♠	Pass
2♠	All Pass		

For China, Nan Wang opened a Precision 1♦ on the South cards and her side had an uncontested auction to 2NT. Aleksandra Jarosz led the three of spades to dummy's jack. Wang led a club to her king then cashed the ♣Q and ♣A before leading a diamond towards her hand. When Gawel played low, Wang put in the ten, losing to the king, and Jarosz returned the king of hearts, ducked, followed by the queen of hearts. Wang won the ace and led a second diamond, Gawel winning the ace, cashing the ♣J, and playing a spade through. Wang won the ♠A and cashed two diamonds, so had eight tricks for +120.

Katarzyna Dufrat did not open the South hand which was, after all, only a flaky 11-count at adverse vulnerability. When Qi Shen opened 1♦ as West, it was her side who had an uncontested auction, alighting in 2♠. Dufrat led the king of clubs then switched to a heart, ducked round to

declarer's jack. Wenfei Wang ruffed a club then played the ♥K to Justyna Zmuda's ace and Zmuda returned a diamond for the jack, queen and king. Wenfei cashed the ♥Q for a diamond discard, led a diamond to the ace and took a second club ruff. Wenfei led a diamond, ruffed with the queen by Zmuda, who returned a heart for her partner to ruff. Another diamond was ruffed with the jack and the contract was one down for -50 but 2 IMPs to China and the lead at 74-73.

Board 35. Dealer South. E/W Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Jarosz	Huang	Gawel	N. Wang
—	—	—	INT
Pass	2♥	Dble	Rdbl
Pass	2♠	3♥	Pass
Pass	3♠	Dble	All Pass

West	North	East	South
Shen	Zmuda	W. Wang	Dufrat
—	—	—	INT
Pass	4♥	Dble	4♠
All Pass			

Nan opened INT, 13-15, and Yan Huang transferred to spades at the two level. Gawel doubled to show a good hand then bid her hearts and followed up with a third positive call, doubling for take-out when Huang competed with 3♠ and Jarosz left it in. I'm guessing that Nan's redouble of the initial transfer showed a top honour doubleton, but I wouldn't want to stake my life on it.


Gawel led the ace of hearts and continued with the ♥K, ruffed by Huang, who led a club to the queen, ruffed a heart and led a diamond up, Gawel winning the ace and returning the queen to dummy's king. Huang ruffed a diamond now, led a club to the ace and ruffed another heart. Finally, a spade to the ace was followed by another heart ruff with the ♠J and the ♠K was the ninth trick for +530.

In the other room, Dufrat's INT opening was 15-17. Well, I'm not sure which feature of the hand, which contains no

ten or nine and only one honour combination, justified the upgrade, so let's say it was done for tactical reasons. Zmuda also transferred to spades but did so at the four level. Wenfei doubled 4♥ but then left the completion to 4♠ unmolested.

Shen led the ten of hearts against 4♠, Wenfei winning the queen and switching to ace then a low diamond. Dufrat went up with the king and ruffed a heart, led a club to the queen and ruffed another heart, a club to the ace and took a third heart ruff. Now she conceded a club. Wenfei won the ♣K and played a diamond but Dufrat could ruff that in hand, ruff the thirteenth club with the ace of spades, and at trick 12 lead dummy's low spade for a finesse of the jack. And that was ten tricks for a very nicely played +420. It seemed harsh for Dufrat to lose 3 IMPs for her efforts. China led by 77-73.

Board 36. Dealer West. All Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Jarosz	Huang	Gawel	N. Wang
Pass	Pass	1♦	2♣
2♦	2♥	Pass	3♣
3♦	3♥	Pass	4♥
All Pass			


West	North	East	South
Shen	Zmuda	W. Wang	Dufrat
Pass	Pass	1♦	2♣
Dble	2♥	Pass	2♠
Pass	3♣	All Pass	

Jarosz was facing genuine diamonds, so judged that a slightly cautious simple raise was the best approach to the West hand but she then showed her maximum for that call by competing with 3♦ at her next turn. Huang simply overbid – how can the North hand be worth a second bid when partner has shown no interest in hearts? Nan clearly expected something better and raised to the hopeless 4♥. Gawel led ace then queen of diamonds then switched to a heart to the eight and king. Huang played a heart back to the jack and ace and Jarosz returned her singleton club. Gawel won the ace and returned a club for the ruff so the contract was two down for –200.

Wenfei's 1♦ opening promised only two diamonds so Shen had to start with a negative double. When Zmuda

introduced the hearts, Wenfei had no reason to bid on her balanced 12 HCP and the diamond fit was lost. Dufrat bid her spade feature but then accepted Zmuda's sign-off in 3♣. Shen led a diamond to her partner's jack and Wenfei switched to the jack of clubs. Dufrat won the ♣K, cashed the spades for a diamond discard, and ruffed her remaining diamond. A club towards her hand left Dufrat with just the ♣A and ♥A to be lost; +130 and 8 IMPs to Poland, who were back in the lead at 81-77.

Board 37. Dealer North. N/S Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Jarosz	Huang	Gawel	N. Wang
–	INT	Pass	2♥
Pass	2♠	Pass	Pass
Dble	Pass	3♦	All Pass

West	North	East	South
Shen	Zmuda	W. Wang	Dufrat
–	1♣	1♦	Pass
1♥	Pass	2♥	Pass
2♠	Pass	3♥	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

Many pairs would have a problem dealing with the E/W cards when North opens INT (13-15). If a double of the transfer shows the suit and pass then double is take-out, how do we show a penalty double of INT? Lebensohl in response to the delayed double might solve the problem – here East's 3♦ response would then show values and West could go on to 3NT – but many play a 2NT response to the double as two places to play, improving the chance of reaching the better minor-suit fit. Jarosz and Gawel did not have the methods to solve this problem and stopped in 3♦, where the friendly trump position meant that there were ten tricks for +130.

In the other room, Zmuda opened a Polish 1♣ and that left room for Wenfei to overcall 1♦, after which Shen was always bidding to game. Zmuda led the ace of clubs against 3NT and Dufrat encouraged. The Poles could have cashed out four tricks but the contract was never under threat. That being the case, Zmuda's continuation of a low club in itself cost an overtrick which would not have translated into an IMP. However, Shen won the ♣Q and cashed the top hearts and all the diamonds and found that South had

thrown too many spades so she had a third spade winner and 11 in all for +460 and 8 IMPs to China. The lead had changed hands once again, with China now ahead by 85-81.

Board 38. Dealer East. E/W Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Jarosz	Huang	Gawel	N. Wang
—	—	2♦	2♥
3♦	3♥	Pass	4♥
4♠	Pass	Pass	5♥
Pass	Pass	5♠	Dble
All Pass			

West	North	East	South
Shen	Zmuda	W. Wang	Dufrat
—	—	2♠	4♥
4♠	5♥	All Pass	

Wenfei's 2♠ opening was weak and two-suited, only promising five spades. When Dufrat overcalled 4♥, Shen bid 4♠ and Zmuda took the push to 5♥. Despite her extra distribution, Wenfei was not tempted to go on with her weak spade suit so 5♥ ended the auction. Shen led ace and another diamond, Wenfei ruffing and returning a spade. Dufrat won and played a trump to Shen's ace. There was the ace of clubs to come so the contract was two down for -100.

Gawel opened a multi and Nan's simple overcall gave room for Jarosz to introduce her eight-card diamond suit. When her opponents now bid up to 4♥, Jarosz bid 4♠ and Nan bid 5♥. When that came back round to Gawel, she looked at her extra distribution and went on to 5♠, hoping that one or other contract was making 11 tricks. Nan doubled and that was that.

Huang led the six of clubs, Huang winning the ace and ruffing a club, playing ace of diamonds for a heart discard then a second diamond, ruffed. A club ruff, diamond ruff and third club ruff left both E/W side-suits established, but declarer was not in a position to draw trumps and cash either one. Jarosz played a winning diamond. That was ruffed by the two, nine and ace. Nan returned a heart to declarer's ace so Jarosz played another winning diamond and ruffed it with the ten. Having convinced herself to play for the remaining trumps to be evenly divided, she now played the six of spades so Huang could win the ♠7 and ♠K

then cash a heart for down two and -500. That was worth 12 IMPs to China, extending their lead to 97-81. Had Jarosz judged to play for spades to be three-one, she could have discarded dummy's club on the fifth round of diamonds and made her contract, which would have been worth 13 IMPs in the opposite direction.

Board 39. Dealer South. All Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Jarosz	Huang	Gawel	N. Wang
—	—	—	INT
2♣	Pass	2♦	Pass
2♥	2♠	4♥	All Pass

West	North	East	South
Shen	Zmuda	W. Wang	Dufrat
—	—	—	INT
2♣	Pass	2♦	Pass
2♥	Pass	3♥	All Pass

Dufrat opened INT, 15-17, and Shen overcalled to show the majors, showed the fifth heart, then declined Wenfei's game invitation. Zmuda led the seven of hearts, Dufrat winning the ace and switching to the king then ace of clubs followed by the queen of spades. Shen won the ♠A, crossed to the ace of diamonds and pitched a spade on the queen of clubs. Next she played king and another diamond, ruffing, which established the suit, so she could now draw trumps ending in dummy and claim the rest for +170.

Nan's INT opening was 13-15 and Jarosz too showed both majors. Gawel inquired and, when Jarosz showed the fifth heart, jumped to game. Huang led the two of diamonds, Jarosz putting up dummy's ace and discarding a club on the ♦K then ruffing a diamond. With the diamonds established, all that was required was to draw trumps ending in dummy to cash them. Play the ♥10 at trick four and either the second or third heart must be won in dummy, achieving the desired effect. But Jarosz, perhaps still replaying the previous deal in her head, instead led a low heart to the queen and, when Nan ducked, had a problem. She continued by playing a spade to the ace and ruffing a spade, followed by a diamond, ruffed with the nine and over-ruffed. Jarosz gave up a club now, the jack losing to the king and, after some thought, Nan continued with the ace of clubs. Declarer ruffed, ruffed a spade with the ♥J, and

played a club off the table. That, however, promoted a trick for Huang's seven of hearts (Huang had pitched a club on the fourth diamond, of course), and that was the setting trick. A chance missed by Poland, and 7 IMPs to China when it might have been 10 to Poland. The Chinese lead increased again, to 104-81.

Board 41. Dealer North. E/W Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Jarosz	Huang	Gawel	N. Wang
—	Pass	Pass	Pass
1♥	Pass	2♣	Pass
2♦	Pass	4♥	All Pass

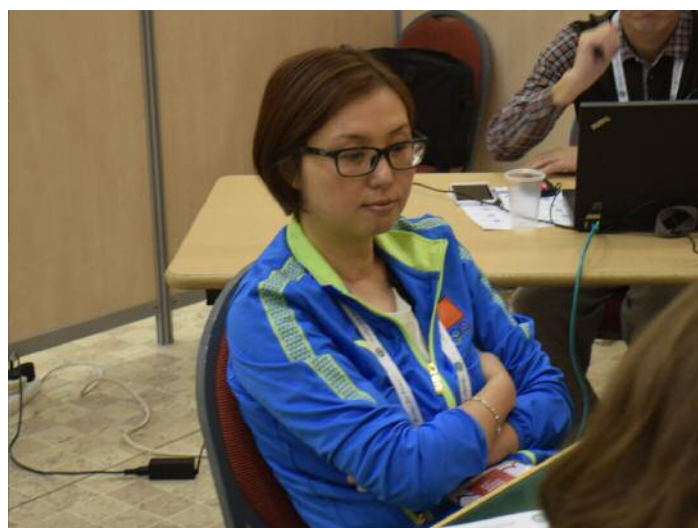
West	North	East	South
Shen	Zmuda	W. Wang	Dufrat
—	Pass	Pass	Pass
1♥	Pass	2♣	Pass
2♦	Pass	2♥	All Pass

Both Easts passed then used Drury. What West's 2♦ rebid meant is unclear and, given East's next call, possibly meant different things for the two pairs as Gawel jumped to game while Wenfei signed off in 2♥.

Zmuda led the queen of diamonds, ducked, and switched to the ten of hearts. Shen won dummy's ace and played a



Justyna Zmuda, Poland



Qi Shen, China

second heart, Dufrat winning the king and returning a diamond to declarer's ace. Shen played a club to the ten now, losing to the ace, so had a second club loser at the end and made nine tricks for +140.

Huang led the three of hearts against game. Jarosz rose with the ace and played a second heart, Nan winning the king and cashing the ace of clubs before switching to a diamond. Had Huang held the ♦A, she could have won this trick and given her partner a club ruff, which was of course Nan's plan when cashing the club. On the actual deal, Jarosz could win the ace, draw the missing trump, and pick up the clubs without further loss; ten tricks for +620 and 10 IMPs to Poland, who closed to 93-104.

Board 43. Dealer South. None Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Jarosz	Huang	Gawel	N. Wang
—	—	—	1♣
Pass	1♦	Pass	2♣
Pass	3♣	All Pass	

West	North	East	South
Shen	Zmuda	W. Wang	Dufrat
—	—	—	1♣
Dble	Pass	1♥	2♣
2♥	4♣	4♥	4♠
Dble	5♣	Dble	All Pass

Nan opened with a strong club then showed her long suit over the negative response. Huang showed a smattering of values with club support but Nan could not see how game could be good so passed and made ten tricks without breaking sweat; +130.

Dufprat opened a Polish 1♣ and Shen had the right shape for a take-out double, albeit a very minimum example of the call. That led to a quite different auction in which North again supported her partner's clubs but more aggressively and now E/W bid to the heart game. Dufprat got it wrong, offering 4♠ as an alternative contract on the way to 5♣, where she was doubled, when 4♥ was going a couple down. Again there was nothing to the play. With the ♦A offside there were three losers; down one for -100 and 6 IMPs to China. They led by 110-93.

Board 45. Dealer North. All Vul.

		♠ 7 5	
		♥ K	
		♦ 10 8	
		♣ K J 9 6 5 4 3 2	
♠ J 9 4			♠ A 6 2
♥ Q 4 3 2			♥ A J 9 7 5
♦ J 6 3 2			♦ 7 5
♣ Q 7			♣ A 10 8
		♠ K Q 10 8 3	
		♥ 10 8 6	
		♦ A K Q 9 4	
		♣ —	
West	North	East	South
Jaros	Huang	Gawel	N. Wang
—	3♣	3♥	Dble
All Pass			

West	North	East	South
Shen	Zmuda	W. Wang	Dufprat
—	3♣	3♥	3♠
Pass	4♣	All Pass	

Both Norths opened 3♣, the suit being too broken for a higher-level opening at this vulnerability, and both Easts overcalled 3♥. Now the two Souths took different decisions. Dufprat bid her spades so Zmuda had to go back to 4♣, where she played. Nan, by contrast, doubled for penalties and, of course, Huang trusted her partner and left it in.

Wenfei led the seven of diamonds against 4♣, Zmuda winning the ace and continuing with the king and queen to ditch her heart loser. Wenfei ruffed and played the ♥A so Zmuda ruffed and tried a low club. That lost to the ten and there were two black aces to be lost; down one for -100.

Nan led the ace of diamonds against 3♥ doubled and continued with the queen. She must have been very concerned at this point that the contract was unbeatable but, after some thought, she came up with the winning defence. Nan continued with a low diamond and Huang ruffed with the bare king. Gawel over-ruffed and played ♥J

then a second heart, allowing Nan's eight to hold the trick. Nan got off play by leading the ♦K, ruffed, and now Gawel drew the missing trump and led dummy's low club. Huang put in the jack so Gawel won the ace and played a club back to the queen and king. That established a winner on which to discard one spade but there was still a spade to be lost for a somewhat scary (from N/S's perspective) down one. China scored +100 and 7 IMPs and the lead was back up to 117-93.

On Board 46, the Polish N/S pair bid to a thin and very poor 3NT which failed by a trick for -50, while China stopped safely in 2♠ for +140 and 5 IMPs.

Board 47. Dealer South. N/S Vul.

		♠ Q 8 5	
		♥ K 5	
		♦ 7 6	
		♣ A K J 10 9 5	
♠ K 10 6			♠ A J 7 4 3 2
♥ A 4 3 2			♥ J 9 8 7 6
♦ K 10 9 8			♦ —
♣ 6 4			♣ Q 2
		♠ 9	
		♥ Q 10	
		♦ A Q J 5 4 3 2	
		♣ 8 7 3	
West	North	East	South
Jaros	Huang	Gawel	N. Wang
Shen	Zmuda	W. Wang	Dufprat
—	—	—	3♦
Pass	Pass	4♦	Pass
4♥	All Pass		

The final potential swing deal saw both E/Ws handle an opposing pre-empt successfully. Both Souths opened 3♦ and both Easts were willing to cue-bid to find the better major-suit fit despite their limited high-card strength. Both Wests chose hearts, as would we all, and that was that.

North cashed two top clubs then switched to a diamond. Both declarers ruffed in dummy and played ace and another heart. The even split was good news. North returned a second diamond so declarer again ruffed. Both played a spade to the king then ran the ten to bring in the suit without loss. The deal was flat at +420.

The set and the first day's play ended with China up by 124-91 IMPs. There would be a further 48 boards to play the next day.

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Bermuda Bowl Semi-final - Segments 1-3

USA2 v Bulgaria



By Jos Jacobs

Fresh (or maybe a little tired) from beating USA1 in the quarterfinals, Bulgaria started Tuesday's semi-finals against yet another USA squad. Contrary to Monday's rather wild sets of boards, the first session of the semis was reasonably quiet.

Board 3. Dealer South. E/W Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Pszczola	Karakolev	Rosenberg	Mihov
—	—	—	2♣
Pass	2♦	Pass	3♥
Pass	5♣	All Pass	



Joe Grue, USA 2

When the 2♦ standard relay over the 2♣ Precision provoked a special response by opener, showing what sort of extras he held, Karakolev had an easy raise to game with his two side aces, in spite of his lack of trump support. Bulgaria +400 when dummy's ♠J won the first trick and the trumps behaved.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Aronov	Grue	Damyanova	B. Moss
—	—	—	2♣
Pass	2♠	Pass	3♣
All Pass			

When Grue opted for an invitational 2♠ response, the chance of N/S getting to game was gone. South could do little else than rebid 3♣ and there it rested. USA2 +150 but 6 IMPs to Bulgaria.

Board 6 was about defence against a Multi..

Board 6. Dealer East. E/W Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Pszczola	Karakolev	Rosenberg	Mihov
—	—	2♦*	Pass
2♥*	Dble	2♠	All Pass
2♦	Multi		
2♥	Pass or correct		

When South could not act over 2♠, North, his side being not vulnerable, called it a day when this came round to him. One down when declarer went up with dummy's ace on South's lead of the ♥5. Bulgaria +100.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Aronov	Grue	Damyanova	B. Moss
—	—	2♦*	Pass
2♠*	2NT	Pass	3♣*
Pass	3♦*	Pass	3NT
All Pass			
2♦	Multi		
2♠	Pass or correct		

When Grue bid 2NT rather than double over West's 2♠ (the latter bid showing interest in a heart contract), South bid a Staymanlike 3♣ and 3NT was easily reached. East,

having no entry for her spades, led the ♠Q and when this held, tried the ♥10 which enabled declarer to establish a heart as his 9th trick in the fullness of time. USA2 +400 and 7 IMPs back to them.

A few boards later, we saw yet another example of the effectiveness, in the long run, of leading from your longest & strongest against the opponents' 3NT.

Board 9. Dealer North. E/W Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Pszczola	Karakolev	Rosenberg	Mihov
—	2♥	Pass	3♥
3NT	All Pass		



Vladimir Mihov, Bulgaria

North opened an aggressive natural weak two. When Mihov produced a polite raise, Karakolev had no trouble in leading the ♥Q. This ran to declarer's king but from here, the contract could no longer be made as the defence now had four heart tricks and the ♣A. One down, Bulgaria +100.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Aronov	Grue	Damyanova	B. Moss
—	2♥	Pass	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

At the other table, Grue opened the same aggressive weak two but when Moss passed, leading a heart had

become less obvious. Grue tried a spade rather than a heart, only to find out that his side could no longer beat the contract (but that might be because South switched to the ♥A when in with the ♣A. Editor). Bulgaria +660, losing only to the two rounded aces, and 13 IMPs to them.

The last board of the set proved too difficult for all four semifinalists. Would you be able, as E/W, to reach the very nice Moysian fit in spades and thus score the only possible E/W game, vulnerable? It's far from easy but when West opens 1♦, there is a chance, as the Bulgarians nearly showed.

Board 16. Dealer West. E/W Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Pszczola	Karakolev	Rosenberg	Mihov
Pass	Pass	INT	Pass
3♣*	Pass	3♦*	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

Once West passes as dealer, getting to the 4-3 spade fit is virtually impossible. You would end up in 3NT and go one down as South has an automatic heart lead. Bulgaria +100.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Aronov	Grue	Damyanova	B. Moss
1♦*	Pass	1♠	2♥
Dble	3♥	Dble	Pass
3♠	All Pass		

In the other room, West's double of 2♥ was support and East's double of 3♣ was invitational. With his minimum, West signed off in 3♠ but the Bulgarians were in the correct denomination. Ten tricks were easy enough when South led a club which declarer won with dummy's ten. After this, he could draw trumps and, after finding them 3-3, concede a diamond and two hearts in the end. To guard against a 4-2 trump break when playing 4♠, it will do to duck a round of diamonds early, before drawing trumps. Dummy's trumps will take care of defensive heart plays.

Bulgaria thus scored another +170 and 7 IMPs to win the set 42-18 and thus go into lunch on the first day with a lead of 24.

The first board of the second set immediately produced a 10-IMP swing.

**Brad Moss, USA 2**

Board 17 Dealer North. None Vul.

♠ J 7 6 5		♠ A K
♥ 6 3		♥ K J 4 2
♦ A K 8 7 5		♦ Q 10 9
♣ 6 5		♣ A 9 4 2
♠ Q 9 8 4 3 2	<div style="display: inline-block; background-color: #2e7d32; color: white; padding: 5px; text-align: center;"> N W E S </div>	♠ 10
♥ A 8 7 5		♥ Q 10 9
♦ J		♦ 6 4 3 2
♣ 8 3		♣ K Q J 10 7

Open Room

West	North	East	South
C. Martel	Stefanov	Fleisher	Nanev
—	Pass	1♣	Pass
1♥*	Pass	1NT*	Pass
2♥*	Pass	2♠	Pass
4♠	All Pass		

After a transfer and a retransfer Martel finally managed to make his partner the unlucky declarer in the quite reasonable spade game. If South has four hearts, game in hearts looks doomed whereas 4♠ still makes in that case if trumps are 3-2. The losing hearts can go on the ♦Q10 for just one loser instead of two.

Using 2♥ as a retransfer apparently loses the chance of finding a 4-4- fit in hearts. Which of the two possibilities is more frequent?

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Mihov	B. Moss	Karakolev	Grue
—	Pass	1♣*	2♣
2♠	Pass	2NT	Pass
3♥	Pass	4♣	Pass
4♥	All Pass		

After the Strong Club, the Bulgarians found their heart fit in quite natural fashion. Just made, Bulgaria +420 and the first 10 IMPs of the set to them.

On board 20, the stage was set for another sizeable swing but it remained unclear till the end to which side it would go.

Board 20. Dealer West. All Vul.

♠ A Q 5 4 3		♠ J 8
♥ K J 3 2		♥ 10
♦ 6		♦ Q 9 8 7 4 2
♣ 10 4 2		♣ A K 8 7
♠ 10 7	<div style="display: inline-block; background-color: #2e7d32; color: white; padding: 5px; text-align: center;"> N W E S </div>	♠ K 9 6 2
♥ Q 9 8 7 4		♥ A 6 5
♦ K 3		♦ A J 10 5
♣ J 9 5 3		♣ Q 6

Open Room

West	North	East	South
C. Martel	Stefanov	Fleisher	Nanev
Pass	1♠	2♦	3♦*
Dble	4♠	All Pass	

In the Open Room, Bulgaria did not bother about a possible penalty but simply bid their vulnerable game. The contract was just made when declarer took the standard safety-play in hearts: ♥K, ♥A and heart to the jack. He had to play this way as dummy had only one trump left. Well done, Bulgaria +620.

In the Closed Room, the Americans decided to go for a big penalty when they were offered the chance by Karakolev's rather off-shape diamond pre-empt..

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Mihov	B. Moss	Karakolev	Grue
Pass	Pass	3♦	Pass
Pass	Dble	All Pass	

South led a spade to North's queen and a trump came back, South playing the ten and dummy the king. With the ♣Q doubleton, declarer is set for just one off now if he draws trumps, losing two trumps, two spades and a heart. When declarer used his entry to dummy to lead the ♣J and run it, the roof fell in. South won the queen and returned the suit. Later, South could reach partner with the

♠A and obtain his club ruff. Down three and +800 or 5 IMPs to USA2 who were looking like losing 9 IMPs just a few tricks before...

Two boards later, E/W pairs declaring 4♥ would have to cope with unpleasant distributions.

Board 22. Dealer East. E/W Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
C. Martel	Stefanov	Fleisher	Nanev
—	—	Pass	Pass
INT	2♠*	3♦*	Pass
4♥	All Pass		

North showed spades and a minor with 2♠ and East's 3♦ was a heart transfer.

South wisely refrained from doubling, as one never knows whether there are any more playable contracts around. North led a spade to dummy's ace and the ♥J was covered by king and ace, declarer getting the bad news. The ♣Q came next but North won the ace and returned a spade. South ruffed and led a diamond through. This process was then repeated so the defence got three diamonds, the ♠A and three trump tricks, South scoring a trick in the end with his ♥108 over the nine. That was down four, +400 to Bulgaria.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Mihov	B. Moss	Karakolev	Grue
—	—	1♥	Pass
2♣	2♥*	Pass	2♠
3♥	Pass	4♥	Dble
4NT	Dble	All Pass	

When East opened and West made a GF natural reply, Moss could show his pointed two-suiter. Grue carefully gave preference for the lower level. His opponents, however, were not interested in a non-vulnerable penalty but preferred to bid their own vulnerable game. Joe Grue, on the other hand, was very much interested in a penalty and right he was, as we can judge from the result at the other table. West, looking at quite a number of hcp, immediately realised that South's double could only be based on a nasty trump holding and decided to try to restrict his losses by running to 4NT. Brad Moss had sort

of an automatic double but he also had a serious lead problem. Of course, he might be able to defeat the contract out of hand with three diamond tricks and the ♠A as a sure entry so he decided to have a look first and led the ♦A. Upon seeing partner's ♦7, he shifted to a spade, won by dummy's ace, but it was already too late. A club was led to declarer's king and North's ace and another spade came back, South discarding a heart. Declarer now cashed his two club winners, North following. From the auction, declarer knew now that North had 5-0-5-3 and played accordingly. Two more spades, the second one squeezing South positionally in the rounded suits. He would either have to throw one of his two club winners or reduce his hearts to ♥K10 doubleton. When he threw a club, declarer led a heart to his queen and exited with his last club, forcing South to lead away from his ♥K. Well played for the rarely seen score of +810, which together with the +400 was worth 15 IMPs to Bulgaria.

At this point, Bulgaria led by 46. This was the next board.

Both teams duly reached the phantom sacrifice against 4♠, down on a trump promotion, but not quite in the same way.

Board 23. Dealer South. All Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
C. Martel	Stefanov	Fleisher	Nanev
—	—	—	1♠
Pass	INT*	2♦	2♠
2NT	4♠	5♦	Pass
Pass	Dble	All Pass	

INT Forcing

Well, East might have found a more suitable dummy. Also, the club layout might have been less evil for declarer...

South led his singleton ♣7 to partner's ♣Q. Stefanov continued the ♥K, so Fleisher could win the ace and quickly draw trumps for down two and -500.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Mihov	B. Moss	Karakolev	Grue
—	—	—	2♠
Pass	4♠	5♦	Pass
Pass	Dble	All Pass	

**Martin Fleisher, USA 2**

After the same lead Moss returned his lowest club, away from the ace, for his partner to ruff. Well done! The ♥J continuation then put the contract down three for +800 and 7 very welcome IMPs to USA2.

The next board to be shown looks very much like a scoring mistake but it was not:

Board 13. Dealer North. All Vul.

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

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

	N	
W		E
	S	

Open Room

West	North	East	South
C. Martel	Stefanov	Fleisher	Nanev
—	Pass	Pass	2♣
Pass	2♦*	Dble	2NT
Pass	3♣	All Pass	

After the Precision style 2♣ opening, the Bulgarians settled for the proper contract of 3♣ which made with an overtrick. Bulgaria +130.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Mihov	B. Moss	Karakolev	Grue
—	Pass	Pass	1♣
Pass	2♦	Dble	3♣
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

North's 2♦ showed five spades and four hearts, 7-9 hcp. Holding the useful ♣A, Moss then tried 3NT which should have gone one down on any low diamond lead by East. However, when East led the ♦7 and West did not bother to play the ten but played the ♦2 instead, declare won a surprise ♦8 and immediately ran the ♥Q to West's king. The diamond return now was good for the second overtrick. USA2 an astonishing +660 and 11 IMPs to them.

USA2 had reduced the Bulgarian lead to 24 when the last board of the set appeared.

Board 16. Dealer West. E/W Vul.

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

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

	N	
W		E
	S	

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
C. Martel	Stefanov	Fleisher	Nanev
Pass	2♠	3♥	All Pass

North's 2♠ showed five spades and 4+ in a minor.

When East bid 3♥, South could not believe that North might hold diamonds so East was left to play in it when West did not find a raise. One overtrick when North underled his ♦A after winning his ♠K. USA2 +170.

**Victor Aronov, Bulgaria**

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Mihov	B. Moss	Karakolev	Grue
Pass	Pass	1♥	2♦
2♥	2♠	4♥	Pass
Pass	5♦	Pass	Pass
Dble	All Pass		

At this table, Moss had no opening bid available, which proved a tremendous advantage when Grue overcalled 2♦. West led a trump on which Grue went up with dummy's ace. That was one possible loser gone. After that, declarer could take a winning club finesse and ruff three hearts in dummy, losing only to the ♠A in the end. One overtrick, USA1 +650 and 13 more IMPs to them.

The score at the end of the set: 78-67 to Bulgaria.

The third and final set of the first day was very quiet. Two partscore swings, one to each side, on the first five boards and then something a little more serious:

Board 6. Dealer East. E/W Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
C. Martel	Karakolev	Fleisher	Mihov
—	—	2♦*	Dble
3♦	Pass	Pass	3♥
3♠	4♥	4♠	All Pass

N/S must have expected to beat the contract but when they did not lead trumps, declarer emerged with an overtrick. USA2 +650 as the defenders can never begin with three rounds of trumps.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Stefanov	Pszczola	Nanev	Rosenberg
—	—	2♠	3♥
4♠	Pass	Pass	Dble
Pass	5♥	Dble	All Pass

In the replay, Nanev could open his major/minor two-suiter but when Pszczola decided not to sit the double, USA2 had won 8 IMPs as the sacrifice went just two down on the ♦A lead by West.

A few boards later, the Bulgarians missed a game, or so it looked at first sight:

Board 9. Dealer North. E/W Vul.

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



Michael Rosenberg, USA 2

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Stefanov	Pszczola	Nanev	Rosenberg
—	Pass	Pass	Pass
1♥	Pass	2♣*	Pass
2♥	Pass	Pass	2♠
Dble	Pass	3♥	All Pass

East's 2♣ was Drury.

North led the ♦K which was declarer won immediately with his ace. When he went on to run the ♥Q, South won the king, cashed the ♣A and put North in with the ♦Q for a club ruff. Just made, +140 to Bulgaria.

Looking at this, I wondered what would have happened if declarer ducks the ♦K. The a priori danger here is that the defenders can set up a club ruff even if the suit is 3-2 by ducking a club now. On the actual layout, this defence

would not have been possible and declarer would have emerged with ten tricks.

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>C. Martel</i>	<i>Karakolev</i>	<i>Fleisher</i>	<i>Mihov</i>
	Pass	Pass	1♠
2♥	2♠	2NT*	Pass
3♣	Pass	4♥	All Pass

After a fit-showing 2NT, the Americans did in fact reach 4♥. When declarer followed the more normal line of immediately winning the ♦K lead, the defence went exactly as it had in the Closed Room. One down, Bulgaria +100 and 6 IMPs to them.

The next board was another case of Drury-like responses.

Board 10. Dealer East. All Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>C. Martel</i>	<i>Karakolev</i>	<i>Fleisher</i>	<i>Mihov</i>
—	—	Pass	Pass
1♥	Dble	2♦*	Pass
2♥	Pass	Pass	2♠
3♥	All Pass		

Over the double, 2♦ was a constructive single heart raise but when West showed no interest, 3♥ became the final contract. On a heart lead, declarer could afford a spade finesse to get rid of a club loser and produce two overtricks. USA2 +200.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Stefanov</i>	<i>Pszczola</i>	<i>Nanev</i>	<i>Rosenberg</i>
—	—	Pass	Pass
1♥	Pass	2♣*	Pass
3NT	Pass	4♥	All Pass

The Bulgarians had other ideas about their Drury. West thought he had a good hand and bid accordingly. When North led the ♠10, dummy inserted the jack. When this held, declarer had an overtrick for +650 and 10 IMPs to Bulgaria who were leading by 19 now.

USA2 scored 6 IMPs by staying out of a minor-suit game

basically on a finesse and then came as bizarre a board as I have seen for a long time:

Board 12. Dealer West. N/S Vul.

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

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Stefanov</i>	<i>Pszczola</i>	<i>Nanev</i>	<i>Rosenberg</i>
1♦	2♠	Dble*	Pass
4♥	All Pass		

In the Closed Room, Bulgaria had reached the normal 4♥ game contract in which they made 11 tricks for +450.

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>C. Martel</i>	<i>Karakolev</i>	<i>Fleisher</i>	<i>Mihov</i>
1♣	2♠	Dble*	Pass
4♥	Pass	6♣	All Pass

In the Open Room, Fleisher knew that his partner had a good hand despite his bad club suit. So he took a wild shot at 6♣ against which North led his singleton heart, the ten.

From the lead, declarer knew that South was likely to hold a blank spade top honour, probably the ace as North had not led a spade. So he played accordingly. He won the ♥Q in hand, cashed dummy's ♣AK, North following suit only once, and repeated the heart finesse, inserting his eight when South played low. ♦A, over to the ♣Q pulling South's last trump, ♦K for a spade discard, two more hearts and a spade to South's blank ace. On the forced ruff and discard, declarer's last spade went away for an unbelievable +920 and 10 IMPs to USA2.

Only a spade led by North destroys the endplay as there are no parking places for more than one spade loser.

The USA2 deficit thus was reduced to just 3 IMPs. The US team added 9 more IMPs on the last six boards to finish the day with a lead of 6 IMPs: 106-100. It had been a great recovery as at about halfway the day, they were no less than 46 IMPs down!