

| $43{ }^{\text {rd }}$ BERMUDA B |  |
| :---: | :---: |
| $21^{\text {st }}$ VENICE CUP | 11 ${ }^{\text {th }}$ FUNBRIDGE.com WORLD |
| $9^{\text {th }}$ D'ORSI SENIOR TR | TRANSNATIONAL OPEN TEAMS |

Coordinator: Jean-Paul Meyer • Editor: Mark Horton Co-Editors: Barry Rigal, Brian Senior
Journalists: David Bird, John Carruthers, Jos Jacobs Lay-Out Editor: Monika Kümmel • Photos: Ron Tacchi

Issue No. 14
Saturday, 26th August 2017

## CHINA AND THE USA UNITED IN VICTORY

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Today's Programme
10:00-12:20
13:00-15:20
BB Finals
Funbridge Transnational Finals \& Play-Off

15:40-18:00
Funbridge Transnational Play-Off

## Prize Giving \& Closing Ceremony

tonight at 19:15 in the Auditorium Lumière



China, winners of the Venice Cup: Yan Liu, Xiaojing Wang (Coach), Nan Wang, Wen Fei Wang, Zelan Chen (IMSA President), Yan Huang, Qi Shen, Yan Lu, Jianxin Wang (NPC)


USA 2, winners of the d'Orsi Senior Trophy: Allan Graves, Steve Garner (NPC), Jeff Wolfson, Alan Sontag, Neil Silverman, Michael Becker, David Berkowitz

China powered their way to their second Venice Cup title (the previous victory coming in 2009) by forcing England to concede after five sessions of what turned out to be a onesided final. Although Sweden lost three of the five sets against Poland they never gave up the lead they took in the first one to secure the bronze medals.
After a tremendous struggle USA 2 finally overcame the resistance of Italy in the final of the d'Orsi Trophy (the seventh time the title has gone to the USA) while Sweden powered past India to collect the bronze.
France and USA 2 have all to play for in what is proving to be a thrilling Bermuda Bowl final. The FunBridge Transnational Teams final will be between Mazurkiewicz, who defeated Percy and Jinshuo who squeezed past Zimmermann.

La Région
Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes

LA MÉTROPOLE । VILLE DE LYON

## Bermuda Bowl



|  | $\mathbf{P}$ | $\mathbf{1}$ | $\mathbf{2}$ | $\mathbf{3}$ | $\mathbf{4}$ | $\mathbf{5}$ | $\mathbf{6}$ | $\mathbf{T}$ |
| :--- | :--- | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: |
|  | RRANCE | 44 | 42 | 46 | 55 | 0 | 0 | 187 |

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 DEWIJS, 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

|  | I | $\mathbf{2}$ | $\mathbf{3}$ | $\mathbf{4}$ | $\mathbf{5}$ | $\mathbf{6}$ | $\mathbf{7}$ | $\mathbf{8}$ | T |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
|  | FRANCE | 33 | 28 | 35 | 28 | 45 | 36 |  | 205 |
|  | USA 2 | 33 | 38 | 25 | 49 | 11 | 29 |  | 185 |
|  | BULGARIA | $\mathbf{2 9}$ | $\mathbf{5 1}$ | $\mathbf{3 5}$ | $\mathbf{2 3}$ | $\mathbf{4 8}$ | $\mathbf{1 7}$ | $\mathbf{2 0 3}$ |  |

USAI Ralph KATZ, Robert LEVIN, Jeff MECKSTROTH, Nick NICKELL, Eric RODWELL,
BULGARIA Victor ARONOV, Diana DAMIANOVA, Georgi KARAKOLEV,Vladimir MIHOV, Ivan NANEV, Julian STEFANOV,Victor ARONOV captain, MARTA NIKOLOVA coach

|  |  | $\mathbf{P}$ | $\mathbf{1}$ | $\mathbf{2}$ | $\mathbf{3}$ | $\mathbf{4}$ | $\mathbf{5}$ | $\mathbf{6}$ | $\mathbf{T}$ |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | SWEDEN |  | 43 | 37 | 11 | 16 | 36 | 27 | 170 |
|  | USA2 |  | 41 | 51 | 43 | 32 | 21 | 5 | 193 |
|  |  | $\mathbf{P}$ | $\mathbf{1}$ | $\mathbf{2}$ | $\mathbf{3}$ | $\mathbf{4}$ | $\mathbf{5}$ | $\mathbf{6}$ | $\mathbf{T}$ |
|  | USAI |  | 36 | 34 | 49 | 21 | 60 | 26 | 226 |
|  | BULGARIA | 72 | 12 | 11 | 40 | 46 | 58 | 239 |  |


|  | $\mathbf{P}$ | $\mathbf{I}$ | $\mathbf{2}$ | $\mathbf{3}$ | $\mathbf{4}$ | $\mathbf{5}$ | $\mathbf{6}$ | $\mathbf{T}$ |
| :--- | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: |
|  | BULGARIA | 42 | 36 | 22 | 29 | 30 | 23 | 182 |
|  | USA2 | 18 | 49 | 39 | 38 | 40 | 32 | 216 |

## Venice Cup

|  |  | $\mathbf{P}$ | $\mathbf{1}$ | $\mathbf{2}$ | $\mathbf{3}$ | $\mathbf{4}$ | $\mathbf{5}$ | $\mathbf{6}$ | T |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | SWEDEN |  | 26 | 48 | 23 | 40 | 20 | 34 | 193 |
|  | ISRAEL |  | 30 | 34 | 43 | 6 | 36 | 11 | 160 |


|  |  | $\mathbf{P}$ | $\mathbf{I}$ | $\mathbf{2}$ | $\mathbf{3}$ | $\mathbf{4}$ | $\mathbf{5}$ | $\mathbf{6}$ | $\mathbf{T}$ |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | ---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | SWEDEN |  | 12 | 23 | 52 | 55 | 29 | 12 | 183 |
|  |  | ENGLAND |  | 42 | 56 | 19 | 34 | 33 | 21 |

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, Miroslaw 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

|  |  | $\mathbf{P}$ | $\mathbf{1}$ | $\mathbf{2}$ | $\mathbf{3}$ | $\mathbf{4}$ | $\mathbf{5}$ | $\mathbf{6}$ | $\mathbf{T}$ |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | INDONESIA |  | 62 | 12 | 27 | 12 | 18 | 21 | 152 |
|  | POLAND |  | 18 | 47 | 38 | 36 | 26 | 6 | 171 |
| $*:$ |  | CHINA | $\mathbf{P}$ | $\mathbf{1}$ | $\mathbf{2}$ | $\mathbf{3}$ | $\mathbf{4}$ | $\mathbf{5}$ | $\mathbf{6}$ |

## d'Orsi Trophy

|  | $\mathbf{P}$ | $\mathbf{1}$ | $\mathbf{2}$ | $\mathbf{3}$ | $\mathbf{4}$ | $\mathbf{5}$ | $\mathbf{6}$ | $\mathbf{T}$ |  |
| :--- | :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 0 | USA2 |  | 34 | 17 | 45 | 26 | 42 | 39 | 203 |
|  | JAPAN |  | 25 | 37 | 54 | 16 | 31 | 3 | 166 |
|  |  | $\mathbf{P}$ | $\mathbf{1}$ | $\mathbf{2}$ | $\mathbf{3}$ | $\mathbf{4}$ | $\mathbf{5}$ | $\mathbf{6}$ | $\mathbf{T}$ |
|  | AUSTRALIA |  | 55 | 7 | 33 | 9 | 33 | 36 | 173 |
|  | SWEDEN |  | 32 | 36 | 70 | 36 | 26 | 38 | 238 |


|  | $\mathbf{1}$ | $\mathbf{2}$ | $\mathbf{3}$ | $\mathbf{4}$ | $\mathbf{5}$ | $\mathbf{6}$ | T |  |
| :--- | :--- | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: |
|  | USA2 | 17 | 32 | 41 | 10 | 28 | 41 | 169 |
|  | SWEDEN | 25 | 23 | 34 | 20 | 30 | 2 | 134 |

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,

|  |  | I | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 6 T |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | USA2 | 27 | 31 | 28 | 24 | 30 |  | 9169 |
|  | ITALY | 15 | 29 | 28 | 20 | 34 |  | 9145 |

ITALY Andrea BURATTI,Amedeo COMELLA, Giuseppe FAILLA, Aldo MINA, Ruggero PULGA, Stefano SABBATINI, Pierfrancesco PAROLARO captain
USAI Dennis CLERKIN, Jerry CLERKIN, Marc JACOBUS, Mike LEVINE, Mike PASSELL, Eddie WOLD, Bob MORRIS captain

|  | INDIA | 19 | 2 | 3 | $\mathbf{4}$ | $\mathbf{5}$ | T |
| :--- | :--- | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: |
|  | SWEDEN | 40 | 30 | 17 | 57 | -144 |  |

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

| ITALY |  | 42 | 14 | 20 | 70 | 22 | 26 |  |  |  | I | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | T |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| USAI |  | 35 | 25 | 45 | 12 | 41 | 30 | 88 | - | INDIA | 14 | 40 | 35 | 6 | 11 |  | 142 |
|  | P | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | T |  | ITALY | 11 | 61 | 30 | 44 | 47 | 11 | 204 |


|  | FRANCE | 81 | 10 | 13 | 24 | 14 | 20 | 162 |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
|  | INDIA | 20 | 26 | 34 | 33 | 18 | 44 | 175 |

## Funbridge Transnational

|  | P | I | $\mathbf{2}$ | $\mathbf{3}$ | T |
| :--- | :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | MAZURKIEWICZ | 28 | 36 | 41 | 105 |
|  | BRULIBU | 35 | 42 | 8 | 85 |


|  | I | $\mathbf{2}$ | $\mathbf{3}$ | T |  |
| :--- | :--- | ---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | MAZURKIEWICZ | 35 | 8 | 37 | 80 |
|  | PERCY | 25 | 27 | 15 | 67 |

MAZURKIEWICZ Piotr GAWRYS, Krzysztof JASSEM, Michal KLUKOWSKI, Marcin MAZURKIEWICZ, Marcin MAZURKIEWICZ captain

PERCY

THE MAGICDOGS
ZIMMERMANN

PIEDRA
JINSHUO

CHINA XHJT

BRULIBU Jean Marie BACKES, Patrick BOCKEN, Zvi ENGEL, Olivier NEVE, Patrick BOCKEN

Peter CROUCH, David GOLD, Zia MAHMOOD, Marion MICHIELSEN, Andrew ROBSON, Anita SINCLAIR


Gary COHLER, Fred GITELMAN, Daniel KORBEL, Sylvia SHI, Sheri WINESTOCK
Geir HELGEMO, Lorenzo LAURIA, Krzysztof MARTENS, Franck MULTON, Alfredo VERSACE, Pierre ZIMMERMANN

Bartlomiej IGLA, Fernando PIEDRA, Howard WEINSTEIN,Adam WILDAVSKY
Tong JIANG, Chuancheng JU, Jacek KALITA, Michal NOWOSADZKI, Zheng Jun SHI, Xiaofeng

|  | PERCY |
| :---: | :---: |
| 霔 | ZIMMERMANN |

ZHANG, Dade WANG captain


|  | P | I | $\mathbf{2}$ | $\mathbf{3}$ | T |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| $*: \%$ | JINSHUO | 24 | 41 | 26 | 91 |
|  | CHINA XHJT | 22 | 7 | 36 | 65 |



Results are subject to official confirmation

## Grand Prix Ville de Lyon Final Ranking

| 1 | GILLIS | 125.40 | 24 | NONAME | 102.20 | 47 | LAST MINUTE | 89.40 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 2 | MON BAZILOU | 122.40 | 25 | PUNCH | 102.00 | 48 | RAF | 88.40 |
| 3 | CHINA OPEN | 119.00 | 26 | BRIDGEVID | 101.60 | 49 | BELL | 87.40 |
| 4 | CHAD | 116.20 | 27 | DHAMPUR SUGAR MILLS | 100.40 | 50 | QLJB | 86.90 |
| 5 | SWISSHUN | 114.40 |  | FORMIDABLES | 100.40 | 51 | LE BOSAKR | 86.60 |
| 6 | LALL | 113.40 | 29 | RIEHM | 99.90 | 52 | KINAHAEL | 85.60 |
| 7 | RUSSIA | 110.20 | 30 | RENSON | 98.80 | 53 | SPAM | 82.40 |
| 8 | PD TIMES | 110.00 | 31 | BLUE NOTE | 98.40 |  | BANGALORE | 82.40 |
| 9 | LEOPARCK | 109.40 |  | MEPHISTO | 98.40 |  | GAIA | 82.40 |
|  | YOUNGSTERS | 109.40 | 33 | AURELE | 98.00 | 56 | RIDOLFO | 81.60 |
| 11 | USA I SENIORS | 108.40 | 34 | PESSOA | 97.80 | 57 | ADAD | 81.40 |
| 12 | VICKY | 107.40 | 35 | MERRET | 97.40 | 58 | ADES COUILIUS |  |
| 13 | POLAND | 107.00 |  | MOAD | 97.40 |  |  |  |
| 14 | YBM | 106.20 | 37 | I LUCKY GUY | 96.80 | 59 | KITKUTIM | 80.20 |
| 15 | POLAND UNIVERSITY | 104.90 | 38 | NATAF | 95.80 | 60 | CHEVAL | 76.80 |
| 16 | FILIPPO 5 | 104.40 | 39 | BRENDA | 95.40 | 61 | FINIKIOTIS | 76.60 |
|  | INDONESIA SUPERMIX | 104.40 | 40 | OLD YOUNG TEAM | 93.40 | 62 | OHMCONNECT | 76.00 |
|  | INDONESIAN OPEN | 104.40 | 41 | CUBE STRASBOURG | 92.40 | 63 | PROMISE | 75.60 |
| 19 | SPAIN | 104.20 |  | QUAGGAS | 92.40 | 64 | SEURIN | 72.00 |
| 19 | MOSSOP | 104.20 | 43 | WACH | 91.40 | 65 | OBJECTIVITY | 65.00 |
| 21 | BLACK | 104.00 | 44 | NEYMAR | 90.40 | 66 | PONCOL JAKARTA | 62.80 |
| 22 | INDONESIAN MIXED | 103.40 |  | SEMI CROUSTILLANTS | 90.40 | 67 | RAPTORS | 62.60 |
| 23 | ADDICTS | 103.00 | 46 | PROF RIMBUS | 90.20 | 68 | LES GRANDS CRUS | 45.00 |

There will be a Daily Bulletin $n^{\circ} 15$, online only

## VuGraph SCHEDULE

The VuGraph Theatre is in the Auditorium Pasteur
10:00 and 13:00

| Bermuda Bowl Final | $\mathrm{VG} / \mathrm{BBO} / \mathrm{FB}$ |  |
| :--- | :--- | :--- |
| Transnational Final | $\mathrm{BBO} 5 / \mathrm{FB}$ |  |
| Transnational Play-Off | BBO $6 / \mathrm{FB}$ |  |
|  | $15: 40$ |  |
| Transnational Final | VG/BBO/FB |  |
| courtesy of |  |  |



BAM Winners:Team Gillis

## 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.

# Le (bon) coin francophone 

Jean-Paul Meyer

## UNE NOUVELLE MEDAILLE D'OR POUR LA FRANCE.

Il n'est ni première série, ni même d'un classement inférieur et pourtant il vient de remporter un titre de champion du Monde pour la deuxième année consécutive. Il s'agit de WBridge 5 le logiciel d’ Yves Costel.


Ce ne fut pas facile puisque lors de la finale en 64 donnes il n'a pris qu'un seul IMP d'avantage sur le Chinois Synrey - auquel il convient d'ajouter les 4 IMP acquis leur de leur match de poule. Ces logiciels, très au point à l'enchère, font des progrès au jeu de la carte sans parvenir encore à égaler les meilleurs joueurs du Monde.

## UN JOUEUR AMERICAIN A LA FOIS CELEBRE ET INCONNU.

Il aurait pu rester un joueur anonyme car ses résultats à Lyon, dans le Transnational, n'ont rien eu de transcendants. C'est pourtant un nom à la réputation mondiale dans le bridge. Il s'agit de William Bailey.
Qui est cet Americain de 52 ans? Il est l'inventeur de DEEP FINESSE, cet instrument gratuit sur Internet, pour trouver les lignes de jeu à cartes ouvertes et ainsi résoudre TOUS les problèmes à quatre jeux. C'est ce programme dont vous trouvez le résultat sur les relevés de donnes pour savoir combien vous feriez de levées contre la meilleure défense si vous connaissiez les 52 cartes
Dans le Transnational, bien que son équipe incluait la championne du monde Debbie Rosenberg, il n'a pas terminé mieux que 71 ème.

## LA PREMIERE JOURNEE DES FINALES

Duel au couteau en cette première séance de finale en Bermuda Bowl, 33 partout après 16 donnes, égalité à 96 pour les USA comme pour la France après 48 donnes (sur 128 à jouer), cette finale risque fort de se jouer sur les nerfs et la fatigue. Duel serré, également, en d'Orsi trophée entre les USA, favoris, et I’Italie; les premiers mènent 80 à 73 .
La Chine a pris un avantage non négligeable dans la Venice Cup 115 à 73 contre les Anglaises mais 42 points et 48 donnes à jouer laissent l'Angleterre nourrir des espoirs.
Vous trouverez par ailleurs les résultats après deux journées.

## GRAND PRIX DE LA VILLE DE LYON

Il s'agit de la dernière épreuve du programme, un tournoi par équipes en BAM, 0,1 ou 2 points par donne perdue, nulle ou gagnée. 68 équipes engagées les leaders sont anglais, Gillis et l'équipe Mon Bazilou, deuxième deux matchs avant la fin, était notre meilleure chance comme elle le fut dans le Transnational. L'équipe LEOPARCK gardait toutes ses chances.

## REMERCIEMENTS

Alors que les compétitions se terminent, je tiens à remercier pour leurs aides précieuses:
Côté bulletin :
Guy Dupont pour sa pêche quasi miraculeuse aux meilleures donnes.
Philippe Brunel pour ses donnes simples et éducatives.

## Côté Vu-Graph

Michel Sahal, pour son énorme travail de commentaires, présent à toutes les séances de la première semaine.
Henri Schweitzer, qui prit le relais la deuxième semaine, ensuite relayé par David Harari et Michel Bessis.
Ils ont tous enchanté les Francophones de l'auditorium.

## LE BUTLER DU TRANSNATIONAL

Pas moins de 292 paires classées - les deux premiers Chen Yeh et Yalan Zhang ainsi que Didier Thomazet et Pascal Ringuet n'ont joué que 40 donnes sur 150 mais pour ce dernier la performance est impressionnante puisqu'on le retrouve quatrième avec Mickael Courrias ayant joué 40 autres donnes soit une place de gagnant virtuel avec une moyenne de +1.42 IMP par donne.
Suivent les Suédois Johan Sylvan et Mikael Rimstedt puis les Hollandais, Danny Molenaar et Tim Verbeek, qui ont bâti leur moyenne en jouant les 150 donnes.
On retrouvera le classement complet dans le bulletin d'hier :

## CONFERENCE DE PRESSE

Le président mondial réélu Gianarrigo Rona dans sa traditionnelle conférence de presse de clôture rendit hommage à l'organisation française qui offrit, dit-il, les meilleures conditions de jeu qu'on ait connu au cours des 10 dernières années. Cela permit aux joueurs d'évoluer dans une ambiance sereine et amicale.
Il se félicita de la participation de 500 jeunes qui créèrent une ambiance différente. Dans les mêmes locaux un joueur Indien de 9 ans et un champion Italien de 90 ans se livrèrent au même jeu et purent parler le même langage.
Le Président émérite José Damiani, de son côté tint à témoigner de l'intérêt pour le bridge de toute la ville de Lyon, avec ses multiples panneaux et ses nombreux habitants, au courant de la France en finale.

## Une défense de champion du monde

## Guy Dupont

Dans les championnats du monde de la jeunesse, l'équipe de France des moins de 21 ans a décroché la médaille d'or, en battant en finale l'équipe chinoise de Shengxing, par 140 IMPs à 120 (en 56 donnes).

Prenez la place de Théo Guillemin, en défense, en Est, sur la donne 24 de la dernière séance (rotation des mains pour convenance)

Donneur Est, personne vulnérable

- RD 876
$\checkmark$ AR 7
$\diamond 93$
* AV 9


| S | $\mathbf{O}$ | $\mathbf{N}$ | E <br> Guillemin |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| Liu | Boulin | Yun | Passe |
| $1 \&$ |  | Passe | $1 \diamond$ |
| ISA | Passe | $2 \diamond *$ | Passe |
| $3 \diamond * *$ | Passe | $3 S A$ | (Fin) |

*Double deux
**Bicolore mineur au moins 4-4
Arthur Boulin, en Ouest, entame du 4 de Cœur, pour le 7 du mort, pris de la Dame par Théo Guillemin. A sa place, comment poursuivez-vous?
Un retour à Cœur serait vain, d'autant que vous avez diagnostiqué l'entame comme ne provenant pas d'une quatrième meilleure. Il faut aller chercher fortune ailleurs. Comme une contre-attaque dans les noires ne s'annonce guère enthousiasmante, vous fondez vos espoirs sur un retour à Carreau. Mais quelle carte choisir ?
Guillemin a tapé la carte juste : le Valet de Carreau.

|  | - RD 876 |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | $\bigcirc$ AR 7 |  |
|  | $\diamond 93$ |  |
|  | \& AV9 |  |
| - 5432 | N | - A 9 |
| $\bigcirc 9432$ |  | $\bigcirc$ D 1065 |
| $\checkmark$ A 105 |  | $\checkmark$ V 874 |
| - 105 | S | \& 873 |
|  | - V 10 |  |
|  | $\bigcirc \vee 8$ |  |
|  | $\checkmark$ R D 62 |  |
|  | *RD642 |  |

En plein dans le mille! Sur un retour d'un petit Carreau, le déclarant aurait gagné en laissant filer vers le 9. Mais le Valet était ici dévastateur, et la défense encaissa encore trois levées de Carreau et l'As de Pique. Moins un.
Certes, le déclarant chinois a pêché par gourmandise. Si, comme dans l'autre salle, sur l'entame à Cœur, il s'était résolu à appeler l'As, avant de faire sauter l'As de Pique, il aurait, comme Luc Bellicaud (associé à Raphaël Basler), réalisé onze levées.
Comme ne cesse de le répéter à ses troupes le capitaine, Christophe Oursel : « Quand l'adversaire vous donne une chance, sachez ne pas la manquer.

## Championship Diary

That bridge can hit the headlines (remember when Iceland won the Bermuda Bowl in Yokohama in 1991) is well known, but it doesn't happen that often. When news filtered through to New Zealand that the 'Bridge Blacks' had reached the semi-finals of the Bermuda Bowl there was a media fire storm, which included prime time television coverage.
Using the wonders of modern technology we managed to get permission to reproduce this clip broadcast on Prime TV, New Zealand, 24 August 2017, featuring Bridge Blacks Matthew Brown \& Michael Ware being interviewed by Carlotta Venier:
https://youtu.be/_7gfyzwcyOc


Yesterday Zia managed to find the time to commentate on VuGraph. He wanted to know who had led the K on the deal mentioned in the article Time Limit in yesterday's Bulletin - he wanted to play with them in a mixed event!

When I received an email from a new Bridge Magazine subscriber, Jim LaFave asking how he could pay I suggested he drop by the office to pay in cash. He quickly replied that alas he lived in the USA. Had time permitted I would have replied that I will be here until tonight.

If you have any last minute questions about any aspects of the championships, don't forget you can email them to:
markhorton007@hotmail.com
We will do our best to answer them interfrastically!

# WBF President: Lyon tournament 'one of the best' 

## Brent Manley

On Friday, as the 43rd World Bridge Team Championships in Lyon moved toward today's closing ceremony, World Bridge Federation President Gianarrigo Rona pronounced the tournament a rousing success.
"I believe we can consider these championships one of the best in the last 10 years," Rona said. He also described the record-setting Funbridge World Youth Open Championships as "a fantastic success."
The youth tournament, inaugurated in 2009, has grown every year. After drawing 30 teams and 98 pairs at the first youth tournament, the 2017 version featured 70 teams and 192 pairs. Players came from 29 countries.
Additionally, the French Bridge Federation hosted a tournament for school children that attracted 250 players, mostly from Europe but also from other countries, including Asian nations.
The nextWBF youth tournament is the 17th World Youth Bridge Team Championships, scheduled for next year Aug. I to II - in Wu Jiang, China, near Shanghai.

Jakarta, Indonesia, will feature bridge, Rona said, "This can be a first step to achieve our dream to have bridge in the Olympics. Bridge as a sport has the same dignity of all the sports, major and minor. This is another test we have to face to show we are proud and deserve to participate."
The WBF president noted that, under the guidance of AI Levy, another successful World Computer Bridge Championship was played in Lyon. Such a spectacle, Rona said, is important because technology is playing an increasing role in the organization and management of bridge tournaments. He said the WBF is considering doing away with bidding boxes and replacing them with tablets, and he said there may soon be a way for people to watch matches at home in the same way they watch the game in the VuGraph theater. Already, he noted, the Bridge Base Online broadcasts are attracting tens of thousands of viewers.
WBF President Emeritus Jose Damiani, who was part of the press conference, agreed with Rona that "it appears we


The WBF Press Conference hosted by Gianarrigo Rona, José Damiani and David Harris welcomes the SportAccord delegation.

Rona said a youth tournament running alongside a world championship - as in Lyon - will not work for next year because the IIth World Bridge Series, set for Sept. 22 through Oct. I, occurs at a time when most young players are in school.
Focusing on the tournament in Lyon, Rona thanked the French Bridge Federation for "marvelous co-operation," and he complimented the 180 -member WBF staff for doing "a great job."
Noting that next year's Olympics-style Asian Games in
made some progress in technology, and more technology means bridge "appears more modern." Damiani said he heard a lot of talk around Lyon about the presence of the World Championships in the city - and the fact that a French team was in the final of the Bermuda Bowl.
On plans for future World Championships, Rona said the WBF has received proposals from Morocco and China (possibly Shanghai) for 2019, plus Canada, Turkey and Belfast, Northern Ireland, for 2020.


# VENICE INTERNATIONAL BRIDGE FESTIVAL 

## Casinò Palace

## Lido di Venezia 8-11 November 2017

## Program

National Mixed \& Ladies Pairs Tournament
Wednesday 8 - from $4.00 \mathrm{pm}-2$ 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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## Bill Bailey's Brilliancy

## Brent Manley

When he was studying math and computer science at Harvard University in the 1980s, Bill Bailey played hearts and spades, both trick-taking card games. He thought of the games as easy, so not very interesting.


Bill Bailey

When a friend suggested that he check out bridge described to him as "the chess of card games" - Bailey did so. He bought a book for beginning bridge players and, again, thought he was examining an "easy" game.
Then he discovered something he didn't know existed: a newspaper bridge column. In the column, authors Charles Goren and Omar Sharif posed a problem involving an endplay that had Bailey stumped. "I couldn't work it out," he says. When he read the solution, he was impressed. "I was hooked by the cleverness of bridge," he recalls. For the next 10 to 12 years, Bailey read every bridge book he could get his hands on, starting with Frank Stewart's "Better Bridge for the Advancing Player," which introduced Bailey, now 52, to squeezes and other expert plays. That sealed the deal and set Bailey on an odyssey that resulted in the creation of one of the most important software developments in the history of bridge - the doubledummy solving Deep Finesse.
The program has become an essential tool for bridge analysts even while perplexing players who examine tournament hand records and grimace while trying to figure out how one should be able to make this or that contract (so says DF) even looking at all 52 cards. The easy solution, of course, is to enter the full deal into Deep Finesse.
Bailey kept up the intensive study of bridge even after being recruited by Oracle, the computer technology company, and moving to Palo Alto, California.
While working for Oracle for the next 10 years developing software for database engineering problems, Bailey read more and more about bridge.
When Bailey picked up "Adventures in Card Play," the classic work by Hugh Kelsey and Geza Ottlik, "It got me thinking about writing software for double-dummy analysis."
After 10 years with Oracle, Bailey quit to devote the next I8 months to writing a double-dummy analyzer. "My professional talent as a programmer," he says, "dovetailed nicely with my passion for bridge."
Up to that point, after studying the game for a decade and embarking on his software project, Bailey had not turned a single card in a bridge game.
A year into the writing of Deep Finesse, Bailey played bridge for the first time, urged to do so by a player who found out what Bailey was working on and expressed dismay that he had yet to play the game.
Down at the Palo Alto Bridge Club, Bailey was a fish out of water. "I didn't know how anything worked," he says. "I was speaking the bids, then when I used the bidding box I was
pulling the cards out one at a time."
Bailey says creation of a double-dummy analyzer is not difficult."Anyone with a computer science degree could do it." The key, he says, is creating "clever algorithms to make solving the hand fast."
A year into the project, Bailey had solved the hard part making Deep Finesse work quickly. After that came the user interface - putting the Ws and Ls on the cards depending on whether selecting the card is a winning or losing play.
In 1999, Bailey set up a booth at the American Contract Bridge League's North American Bridge Championships in San Antonio, Texas, to demonstrate Deep Finesse. The name, he recalls, came to him while he was playing at the Palo Alto Bridge Club one night.
He had been thinking about something along the lines of Deep Blue, the famous product of IBM's effort to create a computer program that would play chess better than the best human players.
At the bridge club, Bailey was declarer, and at one point he played a low card from hand and another low one from dummy. Dummy's card held the trick. "Nice deep finesse," said his partner. That was it: Bailey had found a name for his program.
For about six years, Bailey sold Deep Finesse for \$40, but decided to make it available at no charge. It remains free today.
After finishing Deep Finesse, Bailey moved back to Palo Alto to co-found NetLedger.com (now known as NetSuite) for online accounting software.
In his 14 years with the company, Bailey played no bridge, focusing on long hours with NetLedger and the family he and his wife, Susan, had started.
Two and a half years ago, he left Netledger and started "doubling down on becoming a bridge player." He recruited world champion Debbie Rosenberg to be his coach and has been playing regularly at clubs and tournaments.
Says Rosenberg, "Bill clearly started with a far, far better understanding of card play than anyone l've ever worked with, and he is improving rapidly. I'm loving working with him."
Bailey thinks of himself as an advanced player,"but l'm not an expert."
Max Schireson, of Palo Alto, is Bailey's regular partner and was playing with him in the Transnational BAM this week in Lyon. "We're having a lot of fun," Schireson said."Bill is learning a lot. He a really smart guy and a great partner."
Bailey says a second version of Deep Finesse - an internetbased application - is six months to a year from completion. He says the plans are to add a single-dummy extension with the ultimate goal of having a single-dummy display in which each card has a number indicating the percentage of success for playing that card. When it's available, it can be opened by any smartphone with internet access at deepfinesse.com/deal.
As is the current version of Deep Finesse, DF 2 will be free.
Bailey says he never imagined how popular the program would be with so many people, in particular bridge writers. He says he was really pleased to read a note in one of David Bird's books saying that the book would not have been possible without Deep Finesse. Frank Stewart, whose book inspired Bailey's love of bridge, has also praised Deep Finesse in print.
As he works to better himself as a player and improve his program, Bailey is enjoying life. Asked if he is having fun, he replied: "Are you kidding? Life is all peaches and cream right now!"


## David Bird

## Bermuda Bowl Final - Segment I

France v USA2

Two teams had proved themselves best after nearly two weeks of gruelling struggle. They met to contest the final of the world's greatest championship. France had won the round-robin and blitzed New Zealand in the semi-finals. USA2 perhaps had more experience. It was likely to be a close-fought match but I slightly favoured France, on the evidence that I had seen at the table.

Board 3 Dealer South. E/WVul.

$$
\text { A } 10953
$$

$\diamond$ A Q 953
$\diamond 9$
$\&$ Q 9

| ¢ Q J | N | ¢ K 8764 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| $\bigcirc 862$ | W E | $\bigcirc \mathrm{K}$ |
| $\diamond$ Q J 1072 | W E | $\diamond$ AK 8654 |
| \& 852 | S | 9 K |
|  | ¢ 2 |  |
|  | ¢ J 1074 |  |
|  | $\diamond 3$ |  |
|  | 2 AJ 107 |  |

Open Room

| West | North | East | South |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| Pszczola | Rombaut | Rosenberg | Combescure |
| - | - | - | 30 |
| Pass | 40 | 4 | Pass |
| $5 \diamond$ | Dble | All Pass |  |

Combescure was happy to open $3 \%$ with a side four-card major (applause from learned author) and Rombaut invited an indiscretion from East by raising to $4 \%$.
What was Rosenberg supposed to do on his shapely hand? It seemed very reasonable to bid $4 \diamond$, non-Leaping Michaels, to show diamonds and a major. Such bids are normally played as forcing but Pszczola didn't mind having to raise with his five-card support. North doubled $5 \diamond$ and South cashed the \& A , switching to his singleton spade. North won with the ace, cashed the $\vee \mathrm{A}$ and delivered a spade ruff. That was two down and +500 .
In the bronze-medal match the contracts had been $3 \diamond$ and $4 \diamond$, yielding a poor return for the N/S pairs. What would happen at the other table here?
Closed Room

| West | North | East | South |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| Lorenzini | Grue | Quantin | Moss |
| - | - | - | 39 |
| Pass | Pass | 3 | 3 |
| $4 \diamond$ | $4 \odot$ | $4 \infty$ | Pass |
| 5 | 5 | All Pass |  |

Wow! Moss rebid $3 \vee$ after pre-empting. Playing in $5 \vee$ a few moments later, he won the spade lead in dummy and
led the e Q , covered by the king and ace. A trump to the ace, East's king falling, then allowed him to score +510 for an eventful push board.
Fortune favoured the brave on Board 5:


François Combescure, France

Board 5 Dealer North. N/S Vul.

- QJIO 752
- J 5
$\diamond 2$
\& K Q 108

| - 8 | N | , AK |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| $\checkmark$ A 1063 |  | $\bigcirc$ Q 972 |
| $\checkmark$ AJ 7643 | W E | $\diamond$ K 108 |
| ¢96 | S | \& AJ 53 |
|  | ¢ 9643 |  |
|  | $\bigcirc \mathrm{K} 84$ |  |
|  | $\diamond$ Q 95 |  |
|  | \& 742 |  |

Open Room

| West | North | East | South |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Pszczola | Rombaut | Rosenberg | Combescure |
| - | $2 \diamond^{*}$ | 2NT | Pass |
| 3** | Dble | 38 | Pass |
| 34 | Pass | 3NT | Pass |
| $4 \bigcirc$ | Pass | 4NT | Pass |
| 5 | Pass | 68 | All Pass |

West had issued the mildest of slam tries by bidding 3s on the way to $4 \checkmark$, then declining to cue-bid in diamonds. His message was: 'You need to be really good to make a slam.'
Rosenberg's hand was really good and he was soon in $6 \bigcirc$. South led the $\$ 2$ to the queen and declarer's ace. The 4 A K disposed of dummy's club loser and declarer continued with the $\vee Q$, covered by the king and ace. North won the next trump with the jack and played the NK , ruffed in the dummy. After drawing the last trump, Rosenberg played South for the $\diamond \mathbf{Q}$, marked by North's $2 \wedge$ opening and the lead-directing double of $3 \%$.
The brave bidding, combined with a splash of luck, gave USA-2 a fine +980 .

## Closed Room

| West | North | East | South |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| Lorenzini | Grue | Quantin | Moss |
| - | $2 \Phi^{*}$ | Pass | $2 N T$ |
| $3 \diamond^{*}$ | Pass |  |  |
| $3 \boldsymbol{e}^{*}$ | Pass | $3 N T$ | All Pass |

After a Puppet Stayman sequence, Quantin liked his chances in 3 NT . He made +490 , on a spade lead, but that was a loss of 10 IMPs.
An apparent lack of bidding machinery cost USA2 on this deal:

Board 8 Dealer West. None Vul.
上 J 986
$\odot 96$
$\diamond$ J 3
\& AKJ 73

## - KQ 1054

$\bigcirc 10$
$\diamond$ K 986
\& Q 52

Open Room

| West | North | East | South |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| Pszczola | Rombaut | Rosenberg | Combescure |
| Pass | INT | Dble | 2 |
| 3 ®* $^{*}$ | Pass | 3NT | Pass |
| $4 \mathbf{4}^{*}$ | All Pass |  |  |

After North opens a IO-I2 point INT, what should West say at his second turn? The situation lends itself well to some version of Lebensohl. Playing the basic method, you can bid 24 to compete, 2NT followed by 3s to invite. This leaves a jump to 34 as natural and forcing - perfect for this West hand.
Whatever $3 \checkmark$ meant in the E/W system, it looked a bit ugly for West to follow it with 49. Three rounds of clubs, for a ruff, were followed by the $\vee \mathbf{A}$ and a trump switch. It was two down for 100 away.

## Closed Room

| West | North | East | South |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| Lorenzini | Grue | Quantin | Moss |
| - | $1 \diamond *$ | Pass | $1 \varangle$ |
| I\& | Pass | 2NT | Pass |
| 3NT | All Pass |  |  |

Grue and Moss play Precision when non-vulnerable. Against 3NT Moss led a heart, won with dummy's 10. Declarer crossed to the $\diamond Q$ to play the $\oslash \mathrm{K}$. He soon had nine tricks and II IMPs in the plus column.
This was the next big swing:
Board IO Dealer East. Both Vul.

- A 10832

ค J 73
$\diamond 64$

* Q J 6

47
$\checkmark$ A 9
K 98532
\& 10832

| N | - Q 94 |
| :---: | :---: |
| W | $\bigcirc$ Q 2 |
| W E | $\diamond$ A Q J 7 |
| S | \& K 954 |
| ¢ K J 65 |  |
| $\bigcirc \mathrm{K} 108654$ |  |
| $\diamond 10$ |  |
| \& A 7 |  |

Open Room

| West | North | East | South |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| Pszczola | Rombaut | Rosenberg | Combescure |
| - | - | $1 \diamond$ | $1 \varangle$ |
| $\mathbf{2} \nabla^{*}$ | 3 | Pass | $4 \oslash$ |

## All Pass

West had a choice of bids: $2 \boxtimes, 3 \diamond$, perhaps $4 \diamond$ (to inconvenience North). He opted to show a sound diamond raise and subsequently led the $\mathbf{~} 7$ against $4 \checkmark$. Combescure won in the dummy and led the $\vee 3$. When East did not rise with the $\vee \mathbf{A}$ to give his partner a spade ruff, declarer took the inference that he did not hold that card. He finessed the $\vee I 0$, forcing the ace. A diamond to East's ace permitted a spade ruff but declarer had his +620 .
Closed Room

| West | North | East | South |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| Lorenzini | Grue | Quantin | Moss |
| - | - | $1 \diamond$ | $1 \varnothing$ |
| $3 \diamond$ | 3 | Pass | $4 \varnothing$ |

## All Pass

After a similar auction, declarer again won the spade lead in dummy and called for the $\vee 3$. Moss judged to rise with the $\vee \mathrm{K}$, losing to West's $\vee \mathrm{A}$. The $\diamond 9$ to East's $\diamond \mathrm{A}$ was followed by a spade ruff. Declarer lost a total of three trump tricks and was one down for the loss of 12 IMPs.
I have space for one more deal and I'm going to choose a part-score. This may surprise you, yes, but I was very impressed by a bid chosen by Grue.

Board 16 Dealer West. E/W Vul.

- QJ 93
$\bigcirc 976$
$\diamond 76$

2. Q 1098

- K 76

QJ54
$\diamond A J 3$
\& AJ 74


- 10

8 AK 108
$\diamond$ K Q 10
-K6532
Open Room

| West | North | East | South |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| Pszczola | Rombaut | Rosenberg | Combescure |
| 1\& | Pass | $1 \hat{2}$ | Dble |
| Rdb\|* | Pass | $2 \boldsymbol{2}$ | All Pass |

West's Support Redouble showed a hand of any strength that contained three-card spade support. Combescure led the $\vee \mathbf{A}$, switching to the $\diamond \mathbf{Q}$, won with the ace. Rosenberg led a heart to his queen, South winning with the king and returning a third round of the suit. Rosenberg won with the $\oslash \mathrm{J}$, ruffed a club in his hand and led a diamond towards the jack. South rose and delivered a diamond ruff, followed by a club switch to the king and ace. Rosenberg had his +llo, for the loss of two trumps, two hearts and a diamond.
Closed Room

| West | North | East | South |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| Lorenzini | Grue | Quantin | Moss |
| le | Pass | 19 | Dble |
| Rdb\|* | INT | 2 | $3 \dot{2}$ |
| All Pass |  |  |  |

What a great little bid INT is! It shows stoppers in the black suits and no interest in partner's suggested red suits. 'I like a little more for a free INT bid,' would be a common view. As the cards lay here, South had reason to hope for a club fit now. He bid 3 and, after a trump lead, the contract was made. It was +110 at both tables and a useful swing of 6 IMPs.
The first segment finished with a score of $33-33$, backing the early views that this would be a close encounter. The 4000 early-rising BBO kibitzers were happy with the entertainment laid before them by these great players. No doubt there would be plenty 'more of the same' to come!



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## Bermuda Bowl Final - Segment 2 and 3

## France v USA2

In the first set, USA2 had scored well on part-score decisions, collecting a number of 5 to 7-IMP swings, whereas France did better when the stakes were higher. In this set, there were far less part-score battles so one might expect that France would take the lead after the first set had ended in a tie at 33-33.
On board 20, France scored a vulnerable game swing when North, with $\$ 48964 \diamond 3$ \&AKJl07432 opened 5\&, found a suitable dummy and made the contract when the killing heart lead was not found. On board 29, they returned the compliment when the French declarer failed to guess the $\diamond Q$ in a vulnerable $3 N T$ to go down three rather than make the contract. So USA2 led by II when the two closing boards arrived. This was the first:

Board 3I. Dealer South. N/S Vul.

- 75
$\bigcirc$ Q 108532
$\diamond 104$
- A 87


| N | ¢ 10864 |
| :---: | :---: |
|  | $\bigcirc 9$ |
| W E | $\diamond$ AKQ 75 |
| S | \% K Q 4 |
| (AKJ 32 |  |
| $\bigcirc$ J 764 |  |
| $\checkmark 62$ |  |
| 9 6 |  |

Open Room

| West | North | East | South |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| B. Moss | Bessis | Grue | Volcker |
| - | - | - | Pass |
| I $\diamond$ | $I \triangleleft$ | Dble* | $2 \uparrow$ |
| Pass | $3 \odot$ | Dble* $^{*}$ | Pass |
| 3NT | Pass | Pass | Dble |

All Pass
North led the $\$ 7$ and the fate of the contract was in the balance. South put up the king and the $\oslash \mathrm{J}$ came back, North contributing the queen. A club went to dummy's king. Two rounds of diamonds came next but when North rose with the 2 A at the second round of the suit, declarer had his nine tricks. USA2 +550 . This was good for 9 IMPs as the French had an uncontested auction in the Closed Room,

[^0]ending in 2NT after West had opened INT.
The final board of the set produced another big swing:
Board 32. Dealer West. E/W Vul.
, Q 6
คKJ5 3
$\diamond A K 1052$

- A 4


Open Room

| West | North | East | South |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| B. Moss | Bessis | Grue | Volcker |
| Pass | $1 \diamond$ | Pass | 19 |
| Pass | 2 | Pass | 3 |
| Pass | 3NT | Pass | $4 \diamond$ |
| Pass | 4 $\bigcirc^{*}$ | Pass | 4** |
| Pass | 5\%* | Pass | $6\rangle$ |
| All Pass |  |  |  |

A fully natural auction to a reasonable contract. On a club lead, trumps 3-2 and spades no worse than $4-2$ will do. France +920 .
Closed Room

| West | North | East | South |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| Combescure | Fleisher | Rombaut | C. Martel |
| Pass | 19 | Pass | 18 |
| Pass | INT | Pass | $2 \boxtimes$ |
| Pass | $2 \$$ | Pass | $3 N T$ |
| All Pass |  |  |  |

The INT rebid after the natural 18 and the $I \boxtimes$ transfer response showed $17-19 \mathrm{HCP}$ and strongly suggested a balanced hand. I suppose "balanced" is in the eye of the beholder... South could hardly move on after the standard transfer continuation. USA +460 but 10 IMPs back to France.
After the set, the score stood at 7I-6I to USA2.

## Segment 3

The third set was a well-fought contest with quite a number of part-score battles. USA2 rather had the better of this area of the game during the set, winning four and losing two of these little battles.
Below are the two major issues of this set.

Board 8. Dealer West. None Vul.
, J 85
$\checkmark$ AKQ 1062
$\diamond 65$
\& 82

- AQ962

ค J 93
」 102
94

Open Room

| West | North | East | South |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| Pszczoła | Lorenzini | Rosenberg | Quantin |
| $3 \diamond$ | Dble | $4 \diamond$ | Dble |
| All Pass |  |  |  |

After the pre-empt and the raise, Lorenzini did very well to sit Quantin's responsive-type double. Down two, France +300 .
In the other room, we saw a more quiet auction:
Closed Room

| West | North | East | South |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Volcker | Fleisher | Bessis | C. Martel |
| Pass | INT | Pass | 2\%* |
| $2 \triangleleft$ | 2 | $3 \diamond$ | $4 \bigcirc$ |

All Pass
$\diamond A K$ and a spade by West put the contract two down when declarer took the spade finesse and got a ruff. France another +100 and 9 IMPs to them.
Two boards later it was slam time again:
Board 10. Dealer East. All Vul.

- K 1085

คA6
$\diamond$ AK 983
\& Q

```
& 973
QQ1098
* QJ6
& 85 2
```



Open Room

| West | North | East | South |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| Pszczoła | Lorenzini | Rosenberg | Quantin |
| - | - | $2 \diamond *$ | Pass |
| 3 ®* $^{*}$ | $4 \uparrow$ | Pass | $4 N T$ |
| Pass | $5 \uparrow$ | Pass | $6 \uparrow$ |
| All Pass |  |  |  |

France v USA2

## Brian Senior

The final of the Bermuda Bowl was tied at the end of the first day's 48 boards - France 96 USA2 96. There were still 80 boards to play, 48 on day two, then a further 32 on day three. Traditionally, the final of the Bermuda Bowl, as here in Lyon, has been longer than those in the Venice Cup and D'Orsi Trophy to reflect the fact that this is the pinnacle of world teams bridge. Who would be faster out of their blocks on day two?


For France, Frederic Volcker opened a better minor i\& in third seat and Thomas Bessis doubled the overcall to show four or more spades. Michael Rosenberg's jump to 3\% was some kind of four-card heart raise and when Jacek Pszczola signed off in $3 \oslash$ Bessis doubled for take-out and found his partner with excellent spade support. Pszczola led the jack of diamonds to the queen and king. Rosenberg cashed the ace and ten of diamonds then led a club through to the king. There was also a heart to be lost so the contract was down one for -50 .
For USA2, Joe Grue opened Is in third seat, in principle showing five cards but, of course, with greater flexibility in third seat. That enabled Bard Moss to bounce to 4s over Cedric Lorenzini's overcall and that caught JeanChristophe Quantin with not only four-card heart support but also good playing potential. He bid $5 \triangleleft$ and the defence quickly took its three winners for another -50 and 3 IMPs to USA2, taking the lead at 99-96.

Board 50 was a flat 4e for E/W, just making at both tables, and on Board 51 both Easts declared 39. Grue gave Moss a ruff to beat 3s by a trick for +100 while Volcker failed to find the ruff in the other room so Rosenberg chalked up +140 for 6 IMPs to USA2. They led by 105-96.

Board 52. Dealer West. All Vul.

- 105
- K 6432
$\diamond 74$
\& K 942


| West | North | East | South |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Pszczola | Bessis | Rosenberg | Volcker |
| $1 \diamond$ | Pass | $2 \diamond$ | Pass |
| 30 | Pass | $3 \diamond$ | Pass |
| 39 | Pass | 49 | Pass |
| $5 \diamond$ | All Pass |  |  |
| West | North | East | South |
| Lorenzini | Moss | Quantin | Grue |
| I $\diamond$ | Pass | 20 | Pass |
| 2 | Pass | 24 | Pass |
| 34 | Pass | 49 | All Pass |

The Americans bid smoothly to the top spot after Rosenberg's game-forcing inverted raise. What 3e meant I cannot say, but there seemed never any danger of playing other than in diamonds, and Rosenberg's inability to show a heart control ensured that they would not get too high. Pszczola lost two hearts but that was that; +600 .
Quantin responded 2\&, game-forcing, then followed up with 2s to show his concentration of strength and Lorenzini raised. With what appeared to be a heart weakness for no trump purposes but the possibility of three top losers, Quantin chose to play the four-three spade fit. Had the defence started a forcing game by playing clubs, the contract would have proved to be unmanageable, and could have been down two. Grue's actual lead of a trump did not cause Quantin any problems at all, as he simply drew trumps then cashed the diamonds for ten tricks; +620 and I IMP to France, their first of the new day, 97-I05..


The two auctions were identical except that the two Wests used different bids to launch their two-suiter. Both Wests bid $5 \diamond$ over the opposing 44 . Facing a slam try, I would be tempted to bid slam on the East hand when looking at two aces and four trumps - but, of course, it is not a clear-cut decision and neither of our Easts went on to six. Both declarers played ace and another trump and had 12 tricks for a flat board at +480 .

Board 54. Dealer East. E/W Vul.

|  | $\begin{aligned} & \text { QJ } 105 \\ & \vee A 73 \\ & \diamond K 8 \\ & \text { J } 843 \end{aligned}$ |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| - 9762 | N | - 4 |
| $\bigcirc$ QJ |  | -K108642 |
| $\checkmark 10742$ |  | $\diamond 195$ |
| \& A 76 | S | 2K 92 |
|  | - AK 83 |  |
|  | $\bigcirc 95$ |  |
|  | $\diamond$ A Q 63 |  |
|  | - Q 105 |  |


| West | North | East | South |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| Pszczola | Bessis | Rosenberg | Volcker |
| - | - | 2 | Pass |
| 3 | Pass | Pass | Dble |
| Pass | 44 | All Pass |  |


| West | North | East | South |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Lorenzini | Moss | Quantin | Grue |
| - | - | $2 \checkmark$ | Dble |
| 2 | Dble | Pass | 24 |
| Pass | $3{ }^{3}$ | Pass | $4{ }^{1}$ |
| All Pass |  |  |  |

Both Easts opened with a multi $2 \wedge$. Grue doubled immediately while Volcker passed then doubled for takeout when Lorenzini's pass or correct 2 came round to him. Both N/Ss got to the spade game, though from different sides of the table.
Rosenberg led a low heart to the jack and ace. Bessis led a spade to the ace then a second spade to the queen, discovering the four-one split. He led a club to the ten and ace and Pszczola returned a trump to declarer's jack. Bessis led a club, Rosenberg winning the king and leading the 810 to his partner's queen. Pszczola played a fourth round of trumps but declarer had ten tricks for +420 .
At the other table, Lorenzini led the queen of hearts and Grue, too, won immediately and played two rounds of trumps. When he next led a club to the ten and ace, Lorenzini returned the §J and Quantin overtook and played the $\operatorname{SI} \mathrm{O}$. Grue could ruff that high in hand but Lorenzini could discard a club and, when Grue next played another club, Quantin won the king and gave him a ruff for the setting trick; -50 and 10 IMPs to France, taking the lead at 107-105.

Board 55. Dealer South. All Vul.

- A Q J 84

คA842
$\diamond$ J 94

- 10


| West | North | East | South |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| Pszczola | Bessis | Rosenberg | Volcker |
| - | - | - | $1 \diamond$ |
| Pass | $1 \uparrow$ | Pass | 3 |
| Pass | $4 \diamond$ | Pass | $4 N T$ |
| Pass | $5 \diamond$ | Pass | $6\rangle$ |

All Pass

| West | North | East | South |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Lorenzini | Moss | Quantin | Grue |
| - | - | - | $1 \diamond$ |
| Dble | 14 | 20 | Dble |
| Pass | 38 | Pass | $3{ }^{5}$ |
| 59 | Dble | Pass | 5 |
| Pass | 6 | All Pa |  |

The French N/S were given a free run and, when Bessis agreed diamonds, Volcker asked for key cards then bid the small slam.


## Cédric Lorenzini, France

The Americans were given a harder time of it when Lorenzini doubled the opening bid and later jumped to 5 in support of his partner's suit. I think Moss did very well to judge to go on to the diamond slam. He knew his partner had an opening hand with long diamonds and three-card spade support, and presumably extra distribution as he didn't want to defend 5 doubled.
Both Wests led the king of hearts so the club loser went away on the spades; no swing at +1390 .
On Board 56, the USA E/W made 3e on a five-three fit while France were one down in 3s on a four-three fit. Plus 110 and +50 meant 4 IMPs to the Americans and they were back in the lead by 109-107.

Board 57. Dealer North. E/WVul.

- A QJ 53
$\bigcirc 3$
$\diamond$ AKJ 85
- 8
. 87
-K105
$\diamond$ Q 97
\& A Q 963

- 10964
-8764
$\diamond 106$
\& 1052
, K 2
© A Q J 92
$\diamond 42$
- KJ 74

| West | North | East | South |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Pszczola | Bessis | Rosenberg | Volcker |
| - | $1 \checkmark$ | Pass | 18 |
| Pass | 2 | Pass | 2NT |
| Pass | 3 | Pass | 48 |
| Dble | $4 \checkmark$ | Pass | $4 \bigcirc$ |
| Pass | $4{ }^{1}$ | All Pass |  |


| West | North | East | South |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| Lorenzini | Moss | Quantin | Grue |
| - | $1 \diamond$ | Pass | $1 \triangleq$ |
| Pass | $2 \diamond$ | Pass | $3 \diamond$ |
| Pass | $3 \triangleq$ | Pass | $4 \diamond$ |
| Pass | $5 \diamond$ | Pass | $6 \diamond$ |

All Pass
Bessis opened $\mathrm{I} \diamond$ and jumped to $2 \Delta$ at his next turn. He continued by showing the fifth spade but, though Volcker was able to cuebid twice, rightly judged that he should not be the one to drive to slam, having already described a powerful hand. Rosenberg led the five of clubs, Bessis putting in the jack and losing to the queen. Though Pszczola strongly suspected that it might get ruffed, he continued with the knowing that this would bring declarer down to the same trump length as Rosenberg if he ruffed. That is what happened, and Rosenberg now drew all the trumps and cashed the top diamonds in hope of finding a doubleton queen. No luck there, so next he led a heart to the queen. That lost to the king and Pszczola had the $\diamond \mathrm{Q}$ to cash, but then had to lead either a club or a heart to dummy and Bessis had the rest for +420 .


Brad Moss, USA 2
Moss and Grue play strong club at some vulnerabilities and positions at the table, and this was one of them. The Is response showed a heart positive and now Moss proceeded to show his two-suiter. When Grue showed diamond preference Moss simply raised himself to game but Grue added a sixth to end the auction. Quantin led the ten of spades, which adds extra complications to declarer's choice of plays as this could be from either five spades or a singleton, in which case there is a risk of conceding a ruff. Against that, the defensive club trick had not been cashed so there was the possibility to get rid of the loser on the heart suit.
Moss won the spade in hand with the queen and cashed the ace of diamonds before leading a heart to the ace followed by the queen of hearts to the king and ruff. Should
declarer cash the other top diamond now? Moss decided not to do so, crossing to the king of spades and taking his club discard on the 8 J. Next he played dummy's remaining diamond and put in the jack! That is a big position to take, as losing to the doubleton queen could then see West ruffing a spade. Of course, the finesse is necessary if diamonds are four-one. In practice, they were three-two with the queen onside, so Moss had the overtrick for +940 and II IMPs to USA2; up by 120-I07.
Both E/Ws made +150 in no trump part-scores on Board 58 , then came another big swing board.

Board 59. Dealer South. None Vul.


Both Souths opened INT and both Norths followed the route prescribed by their agreed methods to show the minor two-suiter. Volcker committed to clubs now while Grue chose no trump.
Pszczola led a heart against 5\% but it didn't matter. Volcker won and took the club finesse so Rosenberg won the e K and cashed the top diamonds for a quick down one; -50.
Lorenzini also led a heart, but 3NT presented no difficulties to Grue, who won the $\vee J$ and ran the jack of clubs. That lost to the king and back came a heart. Grue won the ace and led the jack of diamonds round to Quantin's king. This time Quantin returned a spade. Grue won and knocked out the ace of diamonds so had ten tricks for +430 and IO IMPs to USA2; I30-I07.

Board 60. Dealer West. N/S Vul.

## - 5

PAQ1065
$\Delta A 64$

- J 1097
A Q J 1073
P J 3
$\checkmark$ Q 8
2 Q 85


| West | North | East | South |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Pszczola | Bessis | Rosenberg | Volcker |
| 19 | $2 \checkmark$ | 49 | Dble |
| All Pass |  |  |  |
| West | North | East | South |
| Lorenzini | Moss | Quantin | Grue |
| 24 | $3 \bigcirc$ | 49 | $5 \bigcirc$ |

## All Pass

Pszczola opened at the one level and Bessis made a simple overcall. Rosenberg made a pre-emptive jump to 4s and Volcker was unwilling to commit to the five level with only three low hearts so instead doubled to show values and Bessis, with only a bare minimum overcall, left it in. The defence had no difficulty in taking its five top winners so the contract was down two for -300 .
Lorenzini opened at the two level, 2s showing a six-card suit with I0-I4 HCP. Moss found a slightly pushy 38 overcall and Quantin too raised to 49. Now Grue had, I think, the right to expect a little more playing strength for his partner's three-level overcall and bid 5 P , ending the auction. Quantin led the two of spades to his partner's ace and Lorenzini returned his low trump to the ten and king. Quantin continued with a second trump so Moss won and


Thomas Bessis, France
drew the last trump. He had to concede a diamond so was down one for -I00 and 9 IMPs to France, who closed to 1|6-130


Both Wests doubled for take-out. Moss rebid is to show not only four spades but also genuine clubs, and that relieved Quantin of the obligation to find a response to his partner's double. Grue invited the spade game nut Moss declined the invitation. In the other room, Bessis did not bid over the double so Rosenberg bid his three-card diamond suit - normally, his partner would have support for spades and diamonds, so what else could he do? Everybody passed $2 \diamond$ with varying degrees of contentment. Quantin led the two of diamonds against 34, Moss winning the ace and ran the queen of spades then, when that held, played a heart towards the jack, Lorenzini winning the ace and returning a flamboyant king of spades. Moss won the A and gave up a diamond, won the spade return with dummy's nine, and played the 89 , running it round to Quantin's king while pitching the diamond loser from hand. Back came the jack of diamonds to the king and ruff, and now the play record ceases with Moss awarded nine tricks and his contract for +140 . However, if declarer plays a low club to dummy's jack, for example, cannot West win the king and return a club and eventually come to his trump for down one?
Two Diamonds was no fun at all, unless you were a defender. But then, if you get to a contract where you have fewer combined trumps than the defenders, why should it prove to be fun? Volcker led the jack of clubs and, when that was allowed to hold the trick, switched to a low trump to the ten and jack. Rosenberg led a spade to the king and ace and Bessis played the ©J, won by dummy's ace.

Rosenberg ruffed a spade then played a diamond but Volcker could win the ace and play another diamond to the king and the contract drifted three down for -300 and 4 IMPs to France; 120-130.

Board 62. Dealer East. None Vul.

|  | - 9843 |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | $\bigcirc 852$ |  |
|  | $\checkmark$ Q 94 |  |
|  | +187 |  |
| - AK 6 | N | Q QJ 107 |
| $\bigcirc 1043$ |  | $\bigcirc$ Q 9 |
| $\checkmark$ K 102 |  | $\checkmark$ AJ85 3 |
| -10965 | S | ¢ AK |
|  | - 52 |  |
|  | QAKJ 76 |  |
|  | $\checkmark 76$ |  |
|  | \& Q 432 |  |


| West | North | East | South |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Pszczola | Bessis | Rosenberg | Volcker |
| - | - | $1 \diamond$ | 18 |
| Dble | Pass | 3 | Pass |
| $4{ }^{1}$ | All Pass |  |  |
| West | North | East | South |
| Lorenzini | Moss | Quantin | Grue |
| - | - | $1 \diamond$ | 18 |
| 14 | Pass | 2 | Pass |
| 3 | Pass | 3NT | All Pass |

Pszczola made a negative double and Rosenberg made an invitational jump to 34, raised to game by Pszczola on his strong three-card holding. Superficially, 4appears to require a successful diamond view, but Rosenberg showed this not to be the case.Volcker led three rounds of hearts so Rosenberg ruffed, cashed the ace then king of diamonds followed by the top clubs, then exited with a third diamond. He could now play a high crossruff in the minors to ensure ten tricks for +420 .
I don't see anything on the Lorenzini/Quantin card to explain why is is the right call on the West hand but presumably it showed a negative double-type with fewer than four spades, and Quantin's 2 ' 'raise' showed a strong hand with four spades. Quantin could have bid $3 \bigcirc$ to ask for help in the suit but decided to follow an old adage that queen-doubleton is 'always a stopper'. It wasn't. Grue led the 8 K for count or unblock and cashed out the suit for a fast down one and -50 , so 10 IMPs to USA2, extending their lead to 140-I20.
The teams exchanged medium-sized swings to complete the set. On Board 63, Lorenzini/Quantin found a better part-score than Pszczola/Rosenberg so picked up 4 IMPs for +90 in INT against -50 in 2 V . Then on Board 64 Bessis/Volcker bid a fair $5 \diamond$ which was defeated when trumps were three-one offside, while Grue/Moss stopped in a safe part-score. Plus 130 and +50 gave USA2 5 IMPs, and at the midpoint in the match led by 145-124.


England led by 33-17 after 16 boards of their Venice Cup final with China.While that set had been relatively peaceful, it seemed that, early in set two, every deal provided scope for some sort of swing.


Nan Wang, China

Board I7. Dealer North. None Vul.

- J 2
$\checkmark$ AKJ 874
$\diamond K 8$
2 82

$$
\text { K } 8
$$

$\diamond$ Q 53
$\diamond$ J I O 932
$\& A Q 5$

Identical auctions saw Wenfei Wang and Catherine Draper at the helm in a heart part-score.
For England, Sandra Penfold led the six of clubs. Nevena Senior won the ace and switched to the jack of diamonds for the king and ace. Penfold cashed the $\diamond \mathbf{Q}$ then switched to a spade, which Wenfei ran to Senior's king.A switch back to clubs now saw the defence take two more tricks to bring their total to six and, though Wenfei subsequently brought in the trump suit without loss, she was one down for -50 .
For China, Nan Wang led the five of spades. Catherine Draper played low so Yan Huang won the king. She switched to the jack of diamonds for the king and ace and Nan switched back to spades. Draper rose with the ace and continued with the 9 , which Huang ruffed with the queen. Draper over-ruffed, led a heart to dummy's nine and ruffed a spade, then another heart to the ten and could take a discard on the established spade; eight tricks for +IIO and 4 IMPs to England, leading by 37-I7.

Board I8. Dealer East. N/S Vul.

- AQ 109

คA432
$\diamond 85$
\& K 82

- KJ3 2

PJ976
$\diamond A Q^{2}$

- A 6


Q Q 85
K 97643
\& Q 10

| West | North | East | South |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| Huang | Draper | N.Wang | Smith |
| - | - | Pass | Pass |
| INT | Pass | 2NT | Pass |
| $3 \mathbf{3 e}$ | All Pass |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |
| West | North | East | South |
| Senior | W. Wang | Penfold | Shen |
| - | - | Pass | Pass |
| I $\otimes$ | Dble | Pass | $2 \diamond$ |

## All Pass

Huang opened a $13-15$ no-trump and Nan transferred to clubs then passed the completion. Draper led the eight of diamonds to dummy's ten, ducked by Nicola Smith. Huang overtook the jack of diamonds then led a heart towards dummy, Draper playing low. Huang went up with the 9 K then came back to hand with the ace of clubs to play the ace of diamonds. Draper ruffed low and Huang discarded
dummy's heart loser. Draper played the $\vee A$ now and Huang pitched a spade from dummy. It looks as though North can cash the e K now then exit with another heart and sit back to make two spade tricks for down one, but declarer is credited with nine tricks for +110 so Draper must have got it wrong.
Nevena Senior opened a four-card 18 and Wenfei doubled then passed Qi Shen's $2 \triangleleft$ response. Senior led a heart, ducked to Penfold's king, and back came the 810 to declarer's queen. Shen led a low diamond from hand and Senior went in with the queen but failed to give her partner a heart ruff, instead playing ace and another club. Declarer won the eQ and played another diamond to Senior's ace. That was it for the defence; nine tricks for +110 and 6 IMPs to China, closing to 23-37.

Board 19. Dealer South. E/WVul.


Huang doubled Smith's natural $\mid \diamond$ opener and Draper passed the North hand. Nan responded $I \oslash$ and, after a diamond rebid from Smith, Huang raised to $2 \Omega$. Nan let that go but Smith competed one more time in diamonds and when Huang took the push to $3 \vee$ Nan went on to game. Smith led king, ace and queen of diamonds, Draper discarding a spade. Nan ruffed, cashed the king of hearts and continued with a low heart to the ten. She had just one trump loser now so ten winners for +620 .
Draper could have beaten the heart game by ruffing the third diamond with the jack of hearts. Partner will eventually come to two trump tricks. Should Smith have led a low diamond to trick three, forcing her partner to ruff with whichever heart she held and getting lucky when it proved to be the jack? She could have looked silly if Nan
had five hearts, I suppose.
In the other room, the $\backslash \diamond$ opening did not promise the suit. Wenfei responded Is after the double and Penfold doubled to show that she had four spades and some values. Senior jumped to $3 \vee$ to invite game and Penfold went on to game. Had Wenfei bid a four-card suit (or indeed had is been psychic on fewer than four spades), 4 would have been a good contract. As it was, the five-zero trump split proved to be just too much to overcome. Wenfei led a diamond so Shen won and played two more top diamonds, Wenfei discarding her heart as Senior ruffed in dummy. She led a spade to her queen, getting the bad news, followed by a heart to the king and a second heart to the ten, ruffed. Wenfei returned a trump and Senior had to concede a heart at the end so was down one for -100 and 12 IMPs to China, very close now at 35-37.

Board 20. Dealer West. All Vul.


England fought back immediately when Draper opened with a bigger pre-empt than Wenfei.
Wenfei's $3 \boldsymbol{c}$ opening was passed out and Penfold led the jack of hearts. Wenfei covered with the queen so Senior won the king and continued with ace and another. Penfold won the third heart but that was all; +130 .
Draper's $4 \%$ opening was raised to $5 \%$ and Nan led the king of spades. Draper won the ace of spades and cashed the top clubs, bringing down the queen. She had II tricks now, discarding a heart on the king of diamonds; +600 and 10 IMPs to England, up by 47-35.



Sandra Penfold, England
Board 21. Dealer North. N/S Vul.

- 1082

QQ984
$\diamond 6$
A Q 842


- 93
© AK753
$\diamond$ A 1072
- A Q 754
- J2
$\diamond$ J 943
\& K 5

| West | North | East | South |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| Huang | Draper | N. Wang | Smith |
| - | Pass | $1 \$$ | 14 |
| INT | $2 \searrow$ | Pass | 2 |
| All Pass |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |
| West | North | East | South |
| Senior | W. Wang | Penfold | Shen |
| - | Pass | 18 | 14 |
| INT | 24 | Pass | Pass |
| Dble | Pass | $3\rangle$ | All Pass |

England bought the contract in both rooms when Senior balanced with a double of 2 while Huang did not.
Huang led the ten of hearts against $2 \mathbf{1 a}$, Nan winning the king and switching to the three of spades, ducked by Smith and won by Huang's jack. Huang now led the jack of clubs, Smith winning the king and playing the jack of hearts. Nan won the ace and returned a low diamond to her partner's queen and Huang tried a second club, won by dummy's ace.

Smith played the queen of clubs, ruffed with the nine and over-ruffed, ruffed a diamond, ruffed a club and ruffed a second diamond. Finally, she played a winning heart, discarding her last diamond loser as Huang ruffed. The ace and seven of spades won the last two tricks for +110 .
Shen led the ace of spades against $3 \diamond$, continuing with a low spade. Penfold went up with the king, ruffed dummy's last spade and played three rounds of hearts, ruffing. From here she had to lose two clubs and an over-ruff, but had nine tricks for another +110 and 6 IMPs to England; 53-35.

Board 22. Dealer East. E/W Vul.


Senior opened INT, good II to I4, and Penfold's redouble was a puppet to $2 \boldsymbol{\&}$, a run-out on a weakish hand with a long suit. Senior duly did as requested and when 2s came round to Shen she competed with $2 \mathbf{1}$, which Wenfei converted to 2 NT, ending the auction. Penfold led the ten of clubs, Wenfei winning dummy's jack and leading a heart to Senior's king. Senior returned he remaining club, Wenfei putting in the queen. On winning the K , Penfold switched to the four of diamonds to the nine and ten. Wenfei cashed the and Senior was squeezed, guessing to pitch a heart. Wenfei could set up two hearts and a second diamond so had eight tricks for +120 .
At the other table, Huang opened $1 \diamond$ and Draper overcalled INT, soon becoming declarer in 2fter a transfer from Smith. Nan led her doubleton heart so Huang won the king and continued with ace and a third heart. Nan's diamond return went to the queen and ace and Draper cashed the top spades then played a diamond. Huang won the $\triangleleft K$ and cashed two trumps for one down and -50; 5 IMPs to China, 40-53.

Board 24. Dealer West. None Vul.

- AQJ 62

คK98
$\diamond$ A 93

- 108

| - 10 | N | -98543 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| $\bigcirc$ A 2 |  | $\bigcirc$ Q 3 |
| $\checkmark$ QJ 10872 | W E | $\checkmark 64$ |
| 2 AJ9 3 | S | - Q 542 |
|  | - K 7 |  |
|  | - J 107654 |  |
|  | $\checkmark$ K 5 |  |
|  | 2K76 |  |


| West | North | East | South |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Huang | Draper | N. Wang | Smith |
| । $\downarrow$ | 14 | Pass | 28 |
| 2NT | 4 | 5\% | Dble |
| All Pass |  |  |  |
| West | North | East | South |
| Senior | W. Wang | Penfold | Shen |
| $1 \diamond$ | 14 | Pass | $2 \bigcirc$ |
| 3 s | $4 \bigcirc$ | All Pass |  |

After identical starts to the two auctions Huang rebid 2NT with the West cards to show a secondary club suit with genuine diamonds, while Senior simply competed in diamonds. Both Norths jumped to the unbeatable heart game. Penfold, looking at two low diamonds, had no reason to consider bidding so passed over $4 \Omega$. Nan, knowing the there was an at least eight-card club fit, judged to save in 5e, promptly doubled by Smith.
Senior led her spade against $4 \backsim$, Shen winning in hand to lead the jack of hearts. Senior hopped up with the $\vee \mathrm{A}$ to


Qi Shen, China
play ace and another club, hoping to find her partner with the king, when she could receive a spade ruff. Shen won the second club and led a heart to the nine and queen. She had the rest for +420 . Senior surely reasoned that, on the bidding, if declarer had an ace/queen guess she would get it right, so playing partner for the K was the only chance.
Smith led the king of spades against $5 \boldsymbol{*}$ doubled, switching to the jack of hearts on sight of dummy. Nan played low so Draper won the king and returned the ace of spades, ruffed in dummy. Nan played the queen of diamonds so Draper won the ace and returned the suit to Smith's king. Smith returned a heart to dummy's ace. Nan ruffed a diamond and Smith had a club trick for down three and -500; 2 IMPs to England, who led by 56-40.

Board 9. Dealer North. E/WVul.

- K 72
-K 832
$\diamond$ KJ96 \& 107
QJ5
$\vee A 7$
$\diamond A 10532$
$\& 432$

| N | ¢ 1063 |
| :---: | :---: |
|  | -Q965 |
| W E | $\diamond$ Q 7 |
| S | \& AKQ 8 |
| ¢ A 984 |  |

ค J 104
$\diamond 84$
\& 1965
West
Huang
-
I
INT

North
East
N. Wang

Pass Pass
$18 \quad$ Pass
3NT All Pass

| West |
| :--- |
| Senior |
| - |
| 2 |

North
W. Wang
Pass
Pass

| East | South |
| :--- | :--- |
| Penfold | Shen |
| INT | Pass |
| 2NT | All Pass |

Penfold opened a weak no-trump and showed a minimum when Senior made a range inquiry. Shen led the jack of hearts against 2NT so Penfold played low from dummy and Wenfei won her king and returned the suit to dummy's ace. Penfold led a low diamond off the table, putting up the queen when Wenfei played low. Next she led a spade to the queen and king, won the club return and played a second spade to the jack. When that held Penfold cashed two more clubs and two hearts, coming to nine tricks for +150 .
Without necessarily making any obvious errors, the defence to 2NT had been pretty friendly. In the other room, Huang opened $I \diamond$, rebid INT and was raised to game. Here Draper led a low diamond to the seven, eight and ten. Huang returned a low diamond so Draper won the king and returned the ten of clubs. Huang won the ace and led a spade to the queen and king. Draper did the right thing now when she played a spade straight back and Smith ducked. Huang won the jack and played ace and another
diamond, Smith throwing the four then ten of hearts playing natural discards, but on winning the $\diamond$ J, Draper had a momentary aberration and returned a heart. Huang put up the queen, crossed to the $\vee A$ and cashed the fifth diamond. There were two club winners in the dummy so she had nine tricks in all and what had appeared to be a hopeless contract had come home for +600 and 10 IMPs to England instead of a likely 8 IMPs in the other direction. The English lead was down to 56-50.
On Board 27, England went down -50 in part-score at both tables so China scored 3 IMPs, then came something more substantial and a change of leader in the match.

Board 29. Dealer North.All Vul.


Wenfei's INT was 13-I5 so Shen had an obvious pass. Penfold led a club to the jack, ducked, and back came a second club to declarer's ace. Wenfei knocked out the $\vee A$ and Penfold cleared the clubs. Taking no risks, Wenfei cashed the heart then the ace and king of diamonds and had her contract for +90 .
Draper won the club lead in hand and played the king of hearts. Nan played the queen of clubs and Draper again won. She cashed the hearts and the three-three split meant that she had just to bring in the diamonds for four tricks to succeed. Left to yourself, you would lead low to the ten now, as that picks up queen-doubleton with East as well as the three-three breaks where you guess right. But on the thirteenth heart Nan discarded a small diamond. Now the doubleton queen was no longer a possibility and the main reason for playing East for the queen had vanished. Draper thought for a while but then led a diamond to the ace then ran the ten to the now bare queen and the defence had the remainder of the tricks for down three and -300. That was worth 9 IMPs to China, whi took the lead at 62-59.
Both N/Ss bid to 61 on Board 3I. The grand slam was excellent and would have made so it was flat at +1010 .

Board 3I. Dealer South. N/S Vul.


Nan opened a Precision $1 \diamond$ and Smith overcalled is. Huang decided that INT was the least bad option with her 10 HCP - she couldn't raise a possible two-card suit or make a negative double with only two hearts - and that ended the auction. Draper led a heart so Huang won and led a club to the king then played ace and another diamond to the jack to play a second club up. Believing partner's INT bid, Draper again failed to lead a spade after winning the A - not that this would have done more than save a couple of overtricks - so Huang made no fewer than II tricks for +210 .
Penfold opened a natural $\ \diamond$ and Senior cuebid to show an invitational diamond raise. Penfold made an aggressive jump to $4 \diamond$ and Senior, unsure that this was not forcing, cuebid to show a heart control. Penfold signed off in game but there were three top losers so the contract was down one for -50 and 6 IMPs to China.
After 32 boards, China led England by 68-59 IMPs.


## -15THCL—— INTERNATIONAL BRIDGE CHAMPIONSHIP

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## The Robots March On <br> Ron Tacchi

In the World Computer Bridge Championships after the completion of the Round Robin the scores were as follows:
I. Wbridge5 74.36
2. Synrey Bridge 69.65
3. Micro Bridge 65.87
4. RoboBridge 62.52
5. Bridge Baron $\quad 60.79$
6. Q-Plus Bridge $\quad 59.83$
7. Shark Bridge 26.98

The big surprise of the Round Robin was on the final round when Bridge Baron played Q-Plus. Bridge Baron needed less than 4 VPs to qualify for the knock-out phase but had a 'ludus horrilibis' and lost the match I7.II-2.89. So RoboBridge who were playing Bye in the last round were suddenly propelled into the knock-out phase.
In the ensuing semi-finals Wbridge5 defeated RoboBridge 194-109 over 64 boards. In the other Synrey Bridge beat Micro Bridge I30.8-92. An excellent result for the Chinese team as this was only their second appearance in the competition.
All hand and play records for the semi-final and final will be available at the www.computerbridge.com website in due course.
Al Levy, coordinator of the Computer World Championships, showed me this brilliant example from Round 6 of a good defence and equally good play.

Dealer West. Both Vul.
-K642
$\bigcirc 86$
$\checkmark 86$
\& Q 8632

- A 107
$\bigcirc 42$
$\diamond$ KJ732
\& K 75
- QJ95 3
-109 $\diamond$ Q 104
- J 104
- 8
©AKQJ753
$\diamond A 95$
\& 49

| West | North | East | South |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| $1 \diamond$ | Pass | i | $4 \vee$ |

West got off to an excellent start by leading a trump. Any other card, excluding the $\$ \mathrm{~A}$, would give away the contract. Declarer won and took another round of trumps (the robot computed that it would be unlikely to be able to ruff a diamond in dummy) and then led a small spade. West again made the right play of rising with the ace. The continuation was a diamond to East's queen which declarer ducked. East now played another small diamond taken by declarer's ace. On the run of the trump suit West discarded
 a club and (very slowly - a lot of computing power went into this decision) the two diamond honours, thus avoiding the throw in and taking the contract down. Extremely well defended by Bridge Baron to defeat the wiles of Micro Bridge.
In the final Wbridge5, created by Yves Costel, took a lead of over 35 IMPs after 48 boards of the 64 board final. In the last quarter Synrey from China, which was authored by Zhihui Shi and Yu Peng, staged a comeback but could not overcome the deficit and lost narrowly by 5.7 IMPs. Without the carryover the margin of victory would have been only I IMP.
After the completion of the match medals were awarded by Gianarrigo Rona, assisted by Sevinç Atay and AI Levy.

## Misplay this Hand with Me:

## Homage a Moyse

Mark Horton

The final of a World Championship can be a nervous affair, especially if you are in the glare of the VuGraph spotlight. Towards the end of a session I pick up the following hand as dealer, with neither side vulnerable:

Q QJ 107
© Q 9
$\diamond$ AJ 853

* AK

We have agreed to play Precision, so I start with Ie.West doubles which upon enquiry proves to promise a heart suit and my partner bids 18 which we play as suggesting a balanced hand without a heart stopper in the range of $9+$. When I show my suit with $2 \diamond$ partner raises me to $3 \diamond$.I am tempted to pass, but just to be on the safe side I bid 3s and that seems to have hit the target as partner raises me to 4 , leaving us with this auction:

| West | North | East | South |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| - | - | - | 19** |
| Dble* | 18* | Pass | $2 \checkmark$ |
| Pass | 3 - | Pass | 31 |
| Pass | 4. | All Pass |  |

West leads the king of hearts when dummy is revealed I see we have landed in a 'Moysian' fit:

```
- AK 6
81043
\(\diamond\) K 102
- 10965
N
S
- QJ 107
Q Q 9
AJ 853
AK
```

West leads the king of hearts and when East follows with the two he continues with the ace and jack. Wanting to be in a position to draw trumps when I obtain the lead I pitch a diamond and when West plays a fourth heart I ruff with dummy's ace of spades, East pitching the seven of clubs and set about the task of drawing trumps, East turning up with four of them, West discarding the last heart and the two of clubs as I part with a club and a diamond from dummy. I cash the ace of clubs but when both opponents follow with small cards it is time to make a decision about the diamonds. With little to go on apart from West's entry into the auction I play a diamond to the ten and when East produces the queen I am one down. This was the full deal:

|  | © AK 6 <br> Q 1043 <br> $\diamond$ K 102 <br> \& 10965 |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| - 52 | N | - 9843 |
| PAKJ 76 |  | $\bigcirc 852$ |
| $\checkmark 76$ |  | $\checkmark$ Q 94 |
| - Q 432 | S | * 187 |
|  | Q QJ 107 |  |
|  | $\bigcirc$ Q 9 |  |
|  | $\diamond$ AJ853 |  |
|  | \& AK |  |

## Post mortem

It is standard manoeuvre to take a discard in this type of situation to preserve trump control, but with such powerful trumps it was unnecessary. Declarer should ruff the third hearts, unblock the clubs, cash two diamonds ending in dummy, ruff a club and exit with diamond. In the four card ending declarer's combined trumps - AAK6 opposite $\uparrow \mathrm{QJ}$ ensure all the reaming tricks.

## 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.
d'Orsi Trophy Semi-final Segment 6
USA2 v Sweden

## John Carruthers

Sweden led by 4 IMPs with 16 boards to play. It had been a pretty well-played match by both sides. After six boards of the finall6, Sweden had increased its lead by $25 \%$, to lead 133-128, when disaster struck:

Board 23. Dealer South. All Vul.

$$
\begin{aligned}
& \text { J } 10974 \\
& \& \text { A } 10 \\
& \diamond \text { J } 972 \\
& \& 103
\end{aligned}
$$



Open Room

| West | North | East | South |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| Bjerregård | Berkowitz | Morath | Sontag |
| - | - | - | $1 / 8$ |
| Dble | Is | Dble | $2 \varnothing$ |
| Pass | Pass | Dble | All Pass |

Bjerregård must have had a brain cramp - how could Morath have had a penalty double when Bjerregård had three trumps? On the queen of clubs lead, Sontag ducked, arranged a club ruff with the ten of hearts and, when the queen of hearts dropped under his king, made nine tricks for plus 870.
Closed Room

| West | North | East | South |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| Becker | Östberg | Graves | Bäring |
| - | - | - | $1 \varangle$ |
| Pass | 19 | Pass | $\mathbf{2} \varnothing$ |
| All Pass |  |  |  |

Where the Swedes had made three doubles on the E/W cards, Graves and Becker made none, a more accurate

assessment. Bäring also made nine tricks, but lost 12 IMPs. It was conceivable to make six diamonds on the following board. However, even five clubs was problematic.

Board 25. Dealer North. N/S Vul.
© 5
A 103
$\diamond$ AJ 103
-KJ986

| - A 10972 | N | - KJ843 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| QQJ754 |  | $\bigcirc 92$ |
| $\checkmark 84$ | W E | $\diamond 762$ |
| - 5 | S | - Q 72 |
|  | - Q 6 |  |
|  | -K86 |  |
|  | $\diamond$ KQ 95 |  |
|  | - A 1043 |  |

Open Room

| West | North | East | South |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| Bjerregård | Berkowitz | Morath | Sontag |
| - | $1 \diamond *$ | Pass | $2 \mathrm{NT}^{*}$ |
| Pass | $34^{*}$ | Dble | Pass |
| Pass | $4 \AA^{*}$ | Pass | $5{ }^{*}$ |
| All Pass |  |  |  |

2NT 12-15 or 18+
34 Short spades
Berkowitz had his work cut out for him in five clubs and responded exceptionally well. Morath led the three of spades to Bjerregård's ace and he continued with spades, forcing Berkowitz to ruff. Declarer played the jack of clubs to the ace, a club to the king and then took two rounds of diamonds. When everyone followed, he played two rounds of hearts, the fourth suit in a row that had been led for two successive rounds. He tried to entice a ruff with the outstanding queen of clubs by taking two more diamonds - Morath naturally declining the invitation. No matter, East was put on play with it next to concede a ruff-sluff. Well done.
Closed Room

| West | North | East | South |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Becker | Östberg | Graves | Bäring |
| - | I $\diamond^{*}$ | Pass | $2 \diamond *$ |
| Pass | 24* | Dble | Pass |
| 3s | 4\% | Pass | $4 \bigcirc$ |
| Pass | $5 \diamond$ | All Pass |  |

I $\diamond$ II-I6; 5+ diamonds, unless $4 / 5$ in the minors or any 4-4-4-I with diamonds
$2 \triangleleft \quad 10+, 4+$ diamonds
2. Short spades

In diamonds, Ostberg could afford to lose a club and still have a pitch for the losing heart; plus 400; pushed board.
With the USA leading 20-I in the set and 148-133 overall, Morath/Bjerregård had a mixup with their two-way club to hammer the final nail into their own coffin.


Open Room

| West | North | East | South |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Bjerregård | Berkowitz | Morath | Sontag |
| Pass | Pass | 10* | Pass |
| $1 \diamond^{*}$ | 18 | Dble | Pass |
| $2 \diamond$ | All Pass |  |  |
| $\begin{array}{ll} \mid \& & (10) \mid \\ \mid \diamond & 0-7 \end{array}$ | I3(14) balaı | or any 17 |  |

It seems that opposite the strong option, West has a twonotrump bid, in which case game would have been easily reached. Could Morath have had some balanced 4-2-(4-3) 13 or 14 count? Bjerregård evidently thought so.
Berkowitz led his third-highest club, ducked to the king. Sontag returned a club to declarer. Bjerregård played a diamond to the king and another to the ace (oops) then overtook the jack of clubs with the queen. Sontag ruffed, cashed the queen of diamonds and led a heart: heart king, heart ace and heart ten, ruffed meant one off, minus 50 on a deal where E/W were cold for three notrump.
Closed Room

| West | North | East | South |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| Becker | Östberg | Graves | Bäring |
| Pass | Pass | 2NT | Pass |
| 3e** | Pass | $3 \boldsymbol{e}$ | Pass |
| 3NT | All Pass |  |  |

Bäring led a diamond. Graves took three rounds of diamonds then took a club finesse, finishing with ten tricks, plus 430 and a surprise 10 IMPs.
The score was 30-I USA2 on the segment and I58-I33 overall. The match ended I69-I34.
The other semifinal was over a lot earlier as Italy ran out easy winners over India 204-142.
It would be the USA against Italy in another World Championship final.What could be better?

## d'Orsi Trophy Final - Segment I

$\square$

## John Carruthers

Here's a bridge trivia question:Who is the only player to have been in seven World Bridge Championship finals and to have won all seven? Yes, that player is in this final - it's Alan Sontag, with two Bermuda Bowls, one Rosenblum, two Transnational Teams and two Senior Teams, with no second-place finishes. His team, USA2 (Mike Becker/Allan Graves, David Berkowitz/Alan Sontag, Neil Silverman/Jeff Wolfson), will play Italy (Andrea Buratti/Giuseppe Failla, Amedeo Comella/Stefano Sabbatini, Aldo Mina/Ruggero Pulga).

Board 2. Dealer East. N/S Vul.
a K J 9
$\bigcirc 82$
$\diamond \mathrm{K}_{\mathrm{Q}} \mathrm{J} 9$
\& K 1032


คK 107653
$\diamond 76$
4 AJ 86
Open Room

| West | North | East | South |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| Comella | Berkowitz | Sabbatini | Sontag |
| - | - | Pass | Pass |
| $3 \mathbf{3}$ | All Pass |  |  |

It was all over very quickly at this table. Neither the East nor the South hand met the requirements for a bid in their respective systems, giving West the opportunity for bold action. Comella lost just two spades, one heart and two clubs for minus 50, a very good result indeed.
Closed Room

| West | North | East | South |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| Becker | Buratti | Graves | Failla |
| - | - | $2 \diamond *$ | $2 \diamond$ |
| Pass | 3NT | All Pass |  |

Here, the natural weak two-bid allowed Failla in cheaply, if a little dangerously. Graves led a diamond. Buratti won with the nine and played the king. Had Graves ducked, they'd have had a slight chance to defeat three notrump (certainly if declarer played another diamond). Another chance would come later. In the event, East won with the ace of diamonds and, in response to West's encouraging spade discard on the second diamond, led a low spade. Becker put in the queen as a discovery play and Buratti won with his king and ran the minors, successfully finessing West for the club queen. This was the ending:


Allan Graves, USA 2
Declarer had taken eight tricks, so needed just one more. Although he didn't know it, he had the luxury of being able to play any card in his hand to make the contract. HadWest come down to two spades and two hearts, and East two spades, the ace of hearts and a good diamond, declarer would have had the option of trying to endplay West to give him a heart or a spade in the end. If he'd believed the ace of hearts to be offside and played a spade instead of a heart (not that he should do so), the defence would have prevailed. However, he'd have been safe on a heart exit. As it was, Buratti exited with the nine of spades to West's ace, ensuring a trick in one major or the other, no matter the layout.

Board 3. Dealer South. E/WVul.
© A 10953
๑AQ953
$\diamond 9$
\% Q 9

```
Q Q J
>862
Q J IO 7 2
& 85 
```



ค J 1074
$\diamond 3$
\& AJIO 7643

| Open Room |  |  |  |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| West | North | East | South |
| Comella | Berkowitz | Sabbatini | Sontag |
| - | - | - | $3 \boldsymbol{e}$ |
| Pass | $\mathbf{4 e}$ | $\mathbf{4} \diamond$ | Pass |
| $\mathbf{5} \diamond$ | Dble | All Pass |  |

The Italians were a trifle unlucky to run into that preempt and the subsequent double. Sontag led the ace of clubs and shifted to his spade, getting the ruff a moment later. The ace of hearts meant two off, minus 500 , not a great disaster if teammates could bid and make four hearts.
Closed Room

| West | North | East | South |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| Becker | Buratti | Graves | Failla |
| - | - | - | Pass |
| Pass | $1 \Delta$ | $2 \diamond$ | Dble |
| $3 \diamond$ | $3 \diamond$ | $4 \diamond$ | $4 \checkmark$ |

Graves led the ace of diamonds and, when Becker followed with the queen, continue with a low one. Declarer ruffed in the dummy, discarding a spade from hand. He ran the heart jack to East's king and Graves persisted with diamonds. This time, declarer discarded dummy's spade and ruffed in hand. When he cashed a high heart from hand, then led the queen of clubs, the rest were his after drawing the last trump. Plus 450 resulted in a loss of 2 IMPs.
With nothing but overtricks in game contracts for the next six boards, the score crawled to 15-2 for Italy, when

| Board 10. Dealer East. All Vul. |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | ¢ A 10832 |  |
|  | $\bigcirc 173$ |  |
|  | $\checkmark 64$ |  |
|  | 9 Q J 6 |  |
| ¢ 7 | N | ¢ Q 94 |
| $\bigcirc$ A 9 |  | $\bigcirc$ Q 2 |
| $\diamond$ K 98532 | W E | $\diamond$ A Q J 7 |
| \& 10832 | S | \& K 954 |
|  | ¢ K J 65 |  |
|  | $\bigcirc \mathrm{K} 108654$ |  |
|  | $\checkmark 10$ |  |
|  | \& $A 7$ |  |

Open Room

| West | North | East | South |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Comella | Berkowitz | Sabbatini | Sontag |
| - | - | 10* | 18 |
| 20* | 28 | Pass | 24 |
| 3\% | 34 | Pass | $4 \bigcirc$ |
| All Pass |  |  |  |
| $\begin{array}{ll} 1 \% & 2+ \\ 2 \% & \text { Dia } \end{array}$ |  |  |  |

Comella led his singleton spade. Sontag won with dummy's ace to lead a heart to the ten. West won and shifted to a club: queen, king, ace. Sontag drew the trumps, crossed to the jack of clubs, picked up spades and discarded his losing diamond on the fifth spade for plus 680.

Closed Room

| West | North | East | South |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Becker | Buratti | Graves | Failla |
| - | - | $1 \checkmark$ | 18 |
| 28 | Dble* | 3 - | Dble* |
| 4 | 48 | All Pass |  |

## I. Desire to declare

Becker also led the seven of spades. Failla won with dummy's ace and led a heart, misguessing with the king. Becker won and led a diamond to Graves' ace. East led a spade for West to ruff and the heart queen later resulted in one down, minus 100 and 13 IMPs to USA2, tying the match.

Board I2. Dealer West. N/S Vul.

- 8632
- J 93
$\diamond$ Q 2
- 10764

| @ KJ 107 | N | 4 5 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| $\bigcirc$ A Q 6 |  | $\bigcirc \mathrm{K} 10872$ |
| $\diamond$ J 1076 |  | $\diamond$ K 85 |
| -5 3 | S | - A Q 82 |
|  | - A Q 94 |  |
|  | $\bigcirc 54$ |  |
|  | $\diamond$ A 943 |  |
|  | \& KJ9 |  |



Open Room

| West | North | East | South |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| Comella | Berkowitz | Sabbatini | Sontag |
| 1\&* | Pass | 1 |  |
| INT | Pass | 3NT | Dble |
| IN | All Pass |  |  |
| 1\& $2+$ clubs |  |  |  |

Comella had a rather easy time of it on a spade lead to the ace and a spade continuation to the jack. He tried the jack of diamonds, which held the trick. A low diamond to the queen, king and ace followed. When Sontag returned a diamond, declarer took no more finesses, emerging with ten tricks and plus 430.
Closed Room

| West | North | East | South |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| Becker | Buratti | Graves | Failla |
| I $\diamond$ | Pass | I | Dble |
| Rdb\|* | Pass | $4 \searrow$ | All Pass |

Rdbl 3-card heart support
Graves, on the other hand, had a very stressful time of it in four hearts. Failla led a trump to the six, nine and ten. Declarer led a spade, rising with the king when South played low. A club finesse lost to South's king and he continued with another trump to dummy's ace. We can see that the diamonds are very favourably-placed for declarer, however, Graves could not: a diaond misguess might have led to defeat. However, when the jack of diamonds was covered by the queen, king and ace, prospects brightened. With no more trumps, South tried the ace of spades. Declarer ruffed, played the ace of clubs and ruffed a club, then discarded his last club on the jack of spades. South took his queen and led a low diamond. The moment of truth had arrived. Declarer had an almost-certain count: South was 4-2-(4-3) and North 4-3-(2-4). The minors were uncertain, but the majors were almost guaranteed on the bidding and defence so far. Thus, Graves rose with the ten of diamonds and discarded his low diamond on the ten of spades as all followed. A diamond ruff to hand and the king of hearts meant a sweaty plus 420 for a push.
That left the score at 15-I5. USA 2 then won 6 IMPs when Italy bid a four-spade game with four top losers. There was some danger in that Graves had to defend carefully to ensure they took them, which he did. On the last board of the set, the USA2 team made a partscore at both tables to win another 6 IMPs. They led 27-I5 after a very well-played set.
Nevertheless, we interested observers, impartial or not, were rooting for some blood soon.


Michael Becker, USA 2


[^0]:    Dealing machines and cards for EUR 1999. You are advised to order early as the number of machines is limited. Contact Jannerstens at Forum 4 (just outside the playing room), or I drop a line to per@jannersten.com.
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