



43rd WORLD BRIDGE TEAM CHAMPIONSHIPS

LYON, FRANCE • 12th-26th AUGUST 2017



43rd BERMUDA BOWL

21st VENICE CUP

9th D'ORSI SENIOR TROPHY



11th FUNBRIDGE.COM WORLD
TRANSNATIONAL OPEN TEAMS

**DAILY
BULLETIN**

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USA II ARE THE LIONS OF LYON

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USA 2, winners of the Bermuda Bowl, with officials: Gianarrigo Rona, Martin Fleisher, Chip Martel, Jan Martel (NPC), Michael Rosenberg, Brad Moss, Jacek Pszczola, Patrick Grenthe, Joe Grue, José Damiani





Winners of the Funbridge Transnational Teams: Team MAZURKIEWICZ
Krzysztof Jassem, Piotr Gawryś, Michał Klukowski, Marcin Mazurkiewicz (pc)



After a wonderful match that contained many thrilling deals it was **USA II** who emerged as the new Bermuda Bowl Champions, beating **France** by just 2 IMPs. **Bulgaria** defeated **New Zealand** in the play-off for the bronze medals.

There was also a close finish to the Funbridge World Transnational Open Teams which saw **Mazurkiewicz** hold off a strong challenge by **Jinshuo** while **Percy** convincingly won the third place play-off with **Zimmermann**.



Bermuda Bowl

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

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

FRANCE Thomas BESSIS, Francois COMBESCURE, Cedric LORENZINI, Jean-Christophe QUANTIN, Jerome ROMBAUT, Frederic VOLCKER, Lionel SEBBANE captain

CHINA Yunlong CHEN, Jianming DAI, Jianwei LI, Lixin YANG, Bangxiang ZHANG, Jie ZHAO, Jihong HU captain, Gang CHEN coach

NETHERLANDS Simon DE WIJS, Bob DRIJVER, Bauke MULLER, Bart NAB, Berend VAN DEN BOS, Joris VAN LANKVELD, Wubbo DE BOER captain, Ton BAKKEREN coach



NEW ZEALAND Ashley BACH, Matthew BROWN, Michael CORNELL, Geir-Olav TISLEVOLL, Michael WARE, Michael WHIBLEY, Derek EVENNETT captain



SWEDEN Fredrik NYSTROM, Mikael RIMSTEDT, Ola RIMSTEDT, Johan SYLVAN, Johan UPMARK, Frederic WRANG, Per Gunnar ELIASSEN captain, Jan LAGERMAN coach



USA2 Martin FLEISHER, Joe GRUE, Chip MARTEL, Brad MOSS, Jacek PSZCZOLA, Michael ROSENBERG, Jan MARTEL captain



USA1 Ralph KATZ, Robert LEVIN, Jeff MECKSTROTH, Nick NICKELL, Eric RODWELL, Steve WEINSTEIN, Jill LEVIN captain, Eric O. KOKISH coach



BULGARIA Victor ARONOV, Diana DAMIANOVA, Georgi KARAKOLEV, Vladimir MIHOV, Ivan NANEV, Julian STEFANOV, Victor ARONOV captain, MARTA NIKOLOVA coach



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

	P	I	2	3	4	5	6	T
 USA1		36	34	49	21	60	26	226
 BULGARIA		72	12	11	40	46	58	239



	P	I	2	3	4	5	6	T
 FRANCE		44	42	46	55	0	0	187
 NEW ZEALAND		5	25	10	8	0	0	48



		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	T
	FRANCE	33	28	35	28	45	36	27	44	276
	USA 2	33	38	25	49	11	30	55	37	278

		1	2	3	4	5	6	T
	BULGARIA	29	51	35	23	48	17	203
	NEW ZEALAND	22	9	26	41	46	43	187

	P	I	2	3	4	5	6	T
 BULGARIA		42	36	22	29	30	23	182
 USA2		18	49	39	38	40	32	216

Funbridge Transnational

	P	I	2	3	T
 MAZURKIEWICZ		28	36	41	105
 BRULIBU		35	42	8	85

	P	I	2	3	T
 PERCY		19	41	34	94
 THE MAGICDOGS		27	1	32	60

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

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

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



THE MAGICDOGS Gary COHLER, Fred GITELMAN, Daniel KORBEL, Sylvia SHI, Sheri WINESTOCK



ZIMMERMANN Geir HELGEMO, Lorenzo LAURIA, Krzysztof MARTENS, Franck MULTON, Alfredo VERSACE, Pierre ZIMMERMANN

PIEDRA Bartlomiej IGLA, Fernando PIEDRA, Howard WEINSTEIN, Adam WILDAVSKY



JINSHUO Tong JIANG, Chuancheng JU, Jacek KALITA, Michal NOWOSADZKI, Zheng Jun SHI, Xiaofeng ZHANG, Dade WANG captain



CHINA XHJT Jingsheng BIAN, Xueliang CAO, Hua HUANG, Xiangyang WANG, Shikan ZHOU captain



	P	I	2	3	T
 ZIMMERMANN		38	12	54	104
 PIEDRA		34	37	19	90

	P	I	2	3	T
 JINSHUO		24	41	26	91
 CHINA XHJT		22	7	36	65

		I	2	3	T
	MAZURKIEWICZ	35	8	37	80
	PERCY	25	27	15	67

		I	2	3	T
	MAZURKIEWICZ	46	18	25	89
	JINSHUO	37	26	16	79

		I	2	T
	ZIMMERMANN	7	35	42
	PERCY	48	54	102

		1	2	3	T
	ZIMMERMANN	19	25	26	70
	JINSHUO	11	31	34	76

Cumulative Medal Table for all World Championships

Country	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Total
USA	91.84	74.97	508	217.61
France	20.5	30.67	35.2	86.37
Italy	38.27	18	12.33	68.6
China	12.5	20.67	24.33	57.5
Poland	18.98	22.16	16.25	57.39
Netherlands	15	12.67	23	50.67
England	15.83	17.13	12.94	45.9
Sweden	9.67	6.83	16.57	33.07
Norway	5.67	7	10.25	22.92
Germany	5.58	6	10.15	21.73
Canada	1.25	8.87	8.73	18.85
Denmark	4	2.5	12	18.5
Israel	9.19	4.17	5	18.35
Austria	6.73	6.17	2	14.9
Brazil	4.33	3	6	13.33
Russia	2.33	3.5	6.33	12.17
Indonesia		6	3	9
Bulgaria	1.2	2	5	8.2
Australia		4	4	8
Argentina	0.17	2	4.2	6.37
Monaco	1.3	3	2	6.3
Japan	1.5	2		3.5
Chinese Taipei	1	1.83	0.33	3.17
Iceland	2.67		0.33	3
India			3	3
Turkey	0.17	1	1.17	2.33
New Zealand	1	1		2
Pakistan		2		2
South Africa		2		2
Venezuela		1	1	2
Hong Kong			2	2
Scotland	1	0.37	0.58	1.95
Egypt	1.5			1.5
Switzerland	0.83	0.67		1.5
Greece	1		0.25	1.25
Croatia	1			1
Hungary	1			1
Serbia	1			1
Latvia		1		1
Uruguay		0.5	0.5	1
Belgium			1	1
Singapore			1	1
Romania			0.75	0.75
Czech Republic	0.5			0.5
Ireland	0.5			0.5
Belarus		0.17		0.17
Thailand		0.17		0.17
total	279	274	283	836

(47 different countries)

Explanation: Every medal is counted equally (teams, pairs and individual), and medals gained by multi-national participants are divided.

Competitions are counted from eight categories: Open, Women, Mixed, Seniors, Juniors, Girls, Youngsters and Kids.

All World Championships since 1950 are counted.

Thanks to their fine performances during the Youth Championships earlier this week, China passed England, the Netherlands and Poland, and are now the fourth most successful nation in World Championship history.

WBF PRESIDENT FAREWELL

LYON – FRANCE

12TH – 26TH AUGUST 2017

Mr. José Damiani, WBF President Emeritus, Mr. Patrick Grenthe President of the French Bridge Federation, Mr. Kevin Beckers, IOC Sport Department, Authorities, dear colleagues of the WBF, dear players, ladies and gentleman, dear friends,

And so, the curtain falls and once again we come to the end of a World Championship and I am delighted that it has proved to be so successful, even more successful than we dared hope or expect.

I think that you will all agree with me that these 43rd World Bridge Team Championships and the 5th World Youth Open Bridge Championships have been a resounding success. The venue was wonderful, the hotels and surrounding restaurants catered to all the various needs and the City of Lyon shone like a jewel in the beautiful weather we have enjoyed during our time here.

We have seen more innovations in technology with the new Tablets, thanks to Traian Chira, which offered to the players different services and have enabled several matches in the round robin and all the matches in the KO stage to be recorded and broadcast live on internet for the world to enjoy. The new live streaming broadcasting and the new youth minisite offered to the spectators and kibitzers to live this championship at home as well as the ones who were here in the venue. The meeting rooms and office space have been exceptional too and far more spacious than we are accustomed to. Indeed it seems that this marvellous venue has been specially created for such a great bridge event.

Lyon was an inspired choice by our hosts, the French Bridge Federation under the leadership of their President, Mr Patrick Grenthe, to whom we owe special thanks, with the assistance of the FFB team of Jean-Claude Thuillier, Secretary General, Patrick Bogacki, 1st Vice President, Jean-Daniel Chalet and Pierre Saguet, Vice Presidents and Guy Auer, Treasurer. The Local Organizing Committee under the leadership of Jean-Philippe Daublain, Didier Monvernay and ably assisted by a dedicated team of staff and a quantity of extremely helpful volunteers, have ensured that everything ran smoothly. A special thank you to the On-site Organizer Jean-Louis Counil who did a fantastic job.

I was impressed by the tremendous success achieved by the side events organised by the FFB involving about 3.000 players, including the marvellous tournament played by 300 school pupils, less than 12 years age, coming from everywhere in the world. But I was touched by the special event organised for the Handibridge: congratulations dear Patrick it is great what you and your colleagues are doing for these unfortunate people giving them the opportunity to enjoy bridge and life with all the other players without any discrimination.

Patrick Grenthe has been awarded with the WBF Gold Medal, but I am pleased to award the French Federation with the WBF Honour Plaque.

The Opening Ceremony was held in the beautiful City Hall and hosted by the Mayor of Lyon, Mr Georges Képénékian and attended by Mr Alain Galliano, Vice-President of Great Lyon Métropole and Mr Yann Cucherat, deputy Mayor of Lyon. We owe our thanks to the Métropole and the City of Lyon and the Region of Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes for their cooperation, for their essential support, as well as the Ministry of Sports of France, the European Olympic Committees, GAISF, ARISF, IMSA for their patronage and to IOC President Tomas Bach for his welcome message to all the participants.

I am pleased also to express my gratitude to Philippe Gueisbuhler and Matteo Vallini, from GAISF and Kevin Beckers from IOC who visited the Championship and congratulated us for the impressive organisation of the event.

The 43rd World Bridge Team Championships have run tremendously well but the 5th World Youth Open Bridge Championships have proved a wonderful addition. It has been heart-warming to see so many smiling young faces, at least one of whom was only 8 years old, showing so much enthusiasm and sang-froid when faced with the challenges of the competition and obviously thoroughly enjoying it. I believe that the future of our beloved game of Bridge will be safe in their hands.

I would like to thank my colleagues on the Executive Council and all the members of the Championships Committee for doing such a very good job.

We must also thank our many sponsors whose contribution was invaluable to the success of this event: Arteloge, Funbridge.com, Flam's, Zimmerman Immobilier, Winter Games 2018, Nouvelle Donne, Bridge Diffusion, Lyon Capital, Le Bridgeur, Vitamine Bridge, Casino Lyon/Pharaon, Crowne Plaza Lyon-Cité Internationale, Accorhotels, Marriott Lyon-Cité Internationale, Groupe Delta, SnapCar, Pierre Mignon Champagne, Restaurant & Brasseries Bocuse, Paul Bocuse Restaurant, ADM, Calli Cartes, Cado Communications, Curti Design, LPA, Subaru, CoarSport, LBS, PI-ME Editrice, BBO, Jannersten and Ourgame.

A large part of the success of these championships has to be credited to our marvellous staff, who did an excellent and exemplary job as always.

I would like to send special thanks to Max Bavin who has retired as Head TD and has been awarded the WBF Gold Medal in recognition of his services over many years. I would like also to welcome Matt Smith to his new position as Head TD and to congratulate him.

I will now call on the various departments of these Championships to please stand to receive well deserved applause.

First of all I would like to thank all the French volunteers, the “men in blue”. You have done a truly wonderful job and made our stay here in Lyon most memorable.

Our thanks go to Simon Fellus, Services Coordinator; Maurizio Di Sacco, Operations Director; Alvin Levy, Chairman of the World Computer Championship; Ata Aydin, the “deus ex machina” of the Youth Championship; Paolo Clair, Services Coordinator for the Youth Championship; Mark Newton as Manager of Master Points; our Reviewers P.O. Sundelin with the assistance of Herman De Wael; our Tournament Directors lead by the Head Tournament Director, Matt Smith and Co-Head TD Antonio Riccardi, Dimitri Ballas Head TD for the Youth Championship, Jeanne van den Meiracker, Bertrand Gignoux and Laurie Kelso, Chief TDs, Bernardo Biondo, Slawek Latala, Rui Marques and Marc van Beijsterveldt, Assistant Chief TDs, Mihaela Balint, Anthony Ching, Waleed El-Menyawi, Gustavo Chediak, Rahmi Iyilikci, Jakub Kasprzak, Jacek Marciniak, Marieke Quant, Gordon Rainsford and Yunijan Tang, TDs, and Christian Bordonneau and Henri Defranchi, Assistant TDs; the Secretariat with Marina Madia, Carol von Linstow and Odile Beineix; the Treasury with Marc De Pauw ably assisted by Dirk De Clercq, Assistant Treasurer; Protocol run by Sevinç Atay with Mark Horton and Silvia Valentini; Bridgerama under the Coordinator Jean-Paul Meyer, with Barry Rigal, Chief Commentator, Marek Wojciki, David Stern, Commentators, Chicco Battistone, Technical Manager, Giulio Crevato-Selvaggi, Broadcasting Operator with Giusy Di Dio, Eria Franco and Fabio Lo Presti, Keyboard Operators; Hospitality and Information with Silvia Valentini, Chief Hospitality, Gildana Caputo, Chief Registration, and Virginia Chediak, Branka Grguric, Joanna Kowalczyk, Matilde Faini, Arianna Testa, Assistants; the Medical and Anti-Doping with Bruno Federico and Jaap Stophorst; the Main Office with Armand Trippaers, Coordinator, Gianni Bertotto, Chief and Assistants Alessandro Clair, Kristian Kantarevic, Damien Lévêque, Alice Redjem, and Alex van Dongen; Technology under the chairmanship of Alvin Levy, Gianni Baldi, Coordinator; Hans van Staveren and Duccio Geronimi, IT Managers, Fotis Skoularikis, TMS Manager, Gianluca Barrese, Denis Dobrin, Manolo Eminent, Peter Eidt and Marcin Waslowicz, Scoring, Traian Chira, Internet Broadcasting Coordinator; Adriana Aguilar, Margherita Chavarria, Jurica Maricic, Camilla Paolini, Michela Salvato and Bas van Beijsterveldt, Keyboard Operators; Communication lead by Anna Gudge, Communication Manager, Mark Horton, Live News Editor, Francesca Canali, Live News Lay-out Editor and Photographer, Mario Chavarria Kaifmann, Film Director, Cristian Cuchian, Editing, Sandra Leal, Graphic and Assistant Editing, Alberto Benetti, Fernando Lema and Carlotta Venier, Interviewers, and Fabio Poleggi, Film Operator; PR with Lindsey Weinger, Sponsorship Director; the Press Room run by Jan Swaan, Chief; IPBA with Barry Rigal, President, Dilip Gidwani, Vice-President and Jan van Cleeff, Executive; the Daily Bulletin under Jean-Paul Meyer,

Coordinator, Mark Horton, Editor, Barry Rigal and Brian Senior, Co-Editors, Monika Kümmel, Lay-out Editor, Ron Tacchi, Photos, David Bird, John Carruthers and Jos Jacobs, Journalists, the Youth Daily Bulletin with Brent Manley, Editor, Micke Melander, Murat Molva and David Stern, Co-editors, Jade Barrett and Donna Lombardini, Journalists, Akis Kanaris, Lay-out Editor; the Duplicating Team that have produced over 98,000 boards run by Monica Gorreri, Chief, with Franco Crosta, Michelle Donnadieu, Fernanda Joanitti, Annie Marx, Giulia Pisconti, Alessandra Sarritzu, Carlo Vecchio and Paolo Vecchio, Operators; Fu Qiang, Manager and You Yiping, Operator of Ourgame; Solweig Henry and Didier Monvernay, Coordinators of the French Bénévoles; Jean-Francois Préaux, Transport Coordinator. Last but not least, I want to thank my colleagues and friends of the Executive Council involved in the management of the championship and that I have not yet mentioned, Ata Aydin, Giorgio Duboin, Paolo Clair, David Harris, Georgia Heth, John Wignall and the HLPC Chairman Philippe Cronier.

To all of you goes our most grateful appreciation.

Of course, the greatest contribution to the success of these Championships has to be you, the players, the true protagonists, and to express to all of you our gratitude. With your behaviour, creating an unforgettable atmosphere, you guaranteed the success of this event showing, once again, the values of fair play, friendship, harmony, solidarity, and the rejection of any discrimination, which are within sport in general and bridge in particular.

On behalf of the WBF, the Staff and personally, I want to express our gratitude and to thank all of you who have participated. I believe the best way to demonstrate our appreciation is for the WBF Officers and Staff to stand and applaud you.

Let me repeat that it is our privilege, our pride and our duty to serve you and our beloved discipline. We did our best to be up to the task and to ensure that these Championships were successful and we hope, dear Friends, that we have succeeded in providing one that will have met your expectations.

Dear friends, going back home I will bring with me the memory of this great event, of you, of the old and new friends I met, and the enrichment of another extraordinary experience. And I am confident that you too will share my sentiments.

Bridge for Peace is our motto, our flag. We are all together to defeat hatred by playing the Card of Peace and we are proud of it.

Thank you. Enjoy this night. I wish you a safe return journey.

Un abbraccio to you all

Gianarrigo Rona

Roll Of Honour

Bermuda Bowl

Gold: USA2:

Martin Fleisher, Joe Grue, Chip Martel, Brad Moss, Jacek Pszczola, Michael Rosenberg, Jan Martel (npc)

Silver: FRANCE:

Thomas Bessis, François Combescure, Cedric Lorenzini, Jérôme Rombaut, Jean-Christophe Quantin, Frédéric Volcker, Lionel Sebbane (npc)

Bronze: BULGARIA:

Victor Aronov, Diana Damianova, Georgi Karakolev, Vladimir Mihov, Ivan Nanev, Julian Stefanov, Marta Nikolova (npc)

Chip Martel won his fourth Bermuda Bowl, after 1985, 1987 and 2001, He also won the Open Pairs in 1982 and the Senior teams in 2016, and has a total of 11 world medals.

Jacek Pszczola has 10 medals in world championships.

It is the sixth medal for Michael Rosenberg who, like Chip Martel, won a Bermuda Bowl after a Senior World Title. His son Kevin won the World Junior teams earlier this week.

Joe Grue has previously won three World Junior team titles, as well as a silver at the 2013 Bermuda Bowl.

Thomas Bessis and Cedric Lorenzini won their fourth world medals, they had won gold at the Transnational teams of 2007.

This was the third bronze medal at world championships for Victor Aronov and Georgi Karakolev and Vladimir Mihov. Ivan Nanev also has those three bronzes, but additionally a silver from the 2015 Transnational. Julian Stefanov also has 2 silvers and 2 bronzes.

New World Grand Masters:

Martin Fleisher, USA
Thomas Bessis, France

Bermuda Bowl



USA2: Jan Martel (NPC), Joe Grue, Brad Moss, Michael Rosenberg, Martin Fleisher, Chip Martel, Jacek Pszczola



*France
Jerome ROMBAUT, Francois COMBESCURE, Frederic VOLCKER, Jean-Christophe QUANTIN, Cedric LORENZINI,
Thomas BESSIS, Lionel SEBBANE captain*



*Bulgaria:
Ivan NANEV,
Julian STEFANOV,
Georgi KARAKOLEV,
Diana DAMIANOVA,
Vladimir MIHOV,
Victor ARONOV(C),
MARTA NIKOLOVA
(coach)*

Roll Of Honour

Venice Cup

Gold: CHINA:

Huang Yan, Liu Yan, Lu Yan, Shen Qi, Wang Nan, Wang Wenfei, Hu Jihong (npc),
Wang Xiaojing (coach)

Silver: ENGLAND:

Sally Brock, Fiona Brown, Catherine Draper, Sandra Penfold, Nevena Senior, Nicola Smith,
Derek Patterson (npc), David Burn (coach)

Bronze: SWEDEN:

Pia Andersson, Kathrine Bertheau, Ida Grönkvist, Emma Ovelius, Cecilia Rimstedt,
Sandra Rimstedt, Kenneth Borin (npc), Carina Wademark (coach)

This was the 11th medal for Wang Wenfei. She previously won the 2009 Venice Cup.
Wang Nan adds a gold to two bronzes (Mixed Pairs 2014 and Women Teams 2016)

Nicola Smith has now won 18 medals, Sally Brock 13. and Nevena Senior seven

New World Grand Masters:

Yan Huang, China
Catherine Draper, England

Venice Cup



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



England:
Derek Patterson (NPC),
Nevena Senior, Catherine
Draper, Sally Brock, Nicola
Smith, Sandra Penfold,
David Burn (Coach), Fiona
Brown,



Sweden:
Kenneth Borin (NPC), Ida Gronkvist,
Kathrine Bertheau, Carina Wademark
(Coach), Pia Andersson,
Emma Ovelius, Cecilia Rimstedt,
Sandra Rimstedt,

Roll Of Honour

d'Orsi Trophy

Gold: USA2:

Michael Becker, David Berkowitz, Allan Graves, Neil Silverman, Alan Sontag, Jeff Wolfson, Steve Garner (npc)

Silver: ITALY:

Andrea Buratti, Amedeo Comella, Giuseppe Failla, Aldo Mina, Ruggero Pulga, Stefano Sabbatini, Pierfrancesco Parolaro (npc)

Bronze: SWEDEN:

Mats Axdorph, Christer Bjäring, Sven-Åke Bjerregård, Bengt-Erik Efraimsson, Anders Morath, Johnny Östberg, Tommy Gullberg (npc), Carina Wademark (coach)

Alan Sontag has now won eight world championship medals, all of them gold. He previously won two Bermuda Bowls (1983 and 2001), two Transnational teams (2000 and 2013), one Rosenblum (2006) and this is his third D'Orsi Trophy (after 2005 and 2007).

Michael Becker previously won the Bermuda Bowl in 1983. David Berkowitz won the Transnational teams in 2013. Allan Graves won bronze in the 1982 Rosenblum, playing for his native Canada.

Anders Morath has now won 5 medals at World championships.

d'Orsi Trophy



USA2: Allan Graves, Steve Garner (NPC), Jeff Wolfson, Alan Sontag, Neil Silverman, Michael Becker, David Berkowitz



Italy
Andrea Buratti,
Stefano Sabbatini,
Aldo Mina,
Ruggero Pulga,
Amedeo Comella,
Giuseppe Failla,
Pierfrancesco Parolaro,
PC

Sweden
Sven-Ake Bjerregard
Tommy Gullberg Captain
Johnny Ostberg,
Bengt-Erik Efraimsson,
Carina Wademark (Coach),
Anders Morath,
Christer Bjaring,
Mats Axedorph



Roll Of Honour

Transnational Open Teams

Gold: MAZURKIEWICZ:

Piotr Gawryś, Krzysztof Jassem, Michał Klukowski, Marcin Mazurkiewicz (pc) (POL)

Silver: JINSHUO:

Jiang Tong, Ju Chuancheng, Shi Zhengjun, Zhang Xiaofeng (CHN), Jacek Kalita, Michał Nowosadzki (POL), Wang Dade (npc)

Bronze: PERCY:

Peter Crouch, David Gold, Andrew Robson, Anita Sinclair (ENG), Marion Michielsen (NED), Zia Mahmood (USA)

After a remarkable set of coincidences, the six players who won the previous Bermuda Bowl were all in the final of the Transnational. Poland had not qualified at the previous Europeans so was not able to defend their title, and the six players were divided over two teams in the transnationals.

This was the 12th world medal for Piotr Gawryś. He had previously already won a Bermuda Bowl, an Olympiad, a Transnational, as well as a World Mixed Teams and an Individual World Title.

Jacek Kalita now has seven World medals, Michał Nowosadzki six.

Zia Mahmood won his 12th world medal, Marion Michielsen her 7th.

World Transnational Open Teams



MAZURKIEWICZ:

Marcin Mazurkiewicz (pc)
Piotr Gawryś,
Michał Klukowski,
Krzysztof Jassem,



JINSHUO:

Jiang Tong, Michał Nowosadzki, Jacek Kalita, Ju Chuancheng, Zhang Xiaofeng, Shi Zhengjun

PERCY:

Zia Mahmood
Marion Michielsen
David Gold,
Anita Sinclair
Andrew Robson
Peter Crouch



The Unluckiest Man in Lyon?

Mark Horton

While I was waiting for the fifth session of the finals to finish Pierre Zimmermann came over and informed me that he was officially the unluckiest man in Lyon. This is how he thought he had achieved that accolade in the semi-final of the Funbridge Transnational Teams:

Board 9. Dealer North. E/W Vul.

♠ —	♠ J 10 9 2	♠ 6 5 3
♥ Q 7 6	♥ K 9 8 4	♥ J 10 5 2
♦ K Q 9 8 6 4 3	♦ A J 10 7 5	♦ 2
♣ J 7 5	♣ —	♣ A 9 8 6 4
	<div style="display: flex; align-items: center; justify-content: center;"> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; margin: 0 10px;"> N W E S </div> </div>	
	♠ A K Q 8 7 4	
	♥ A 3	
	♦ —	
	♣ K Q 10 3 2	

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Kalita	Lauria	Nowosadzki	Versace
—	Pass	Pass	1♠
3♦	Pass	Pass	Dble

West's jump to Three Diamonds looked like it was going to encounter a grizzly fate, but in reality only a heart lead is theoretically sure to deliver +800.

North led the jack of spades and declarer ruffed and returned the queen of hearts, South winning with the ace and playing the ace of spades. Declarer ruffed and exited with the nine of diamonds, which opened up the possibility of three down (a top diamond or a second heart is best). North won with the ten and continued with the ten of spades, declarer ruffing and playing the six of hearts. North does best to duck this, but he went up with the king and played a fourth spade. Declarer ruffed, crossed to dummy with a heart and pitched a club on the ten of hearts, which meant he finished with seven tricks, -300.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Zimmermann	Ju	Martens	Shi
—	1♦*	Pass	1♠
3♦	Pass	Pass	4♦*
Pass	4♠	Pass	5♦*
Pass	5♥*	Pass	7♣
Pass	7♠	All Pass	
1♦	Precision		
4♦	Cue bid		
5♥	Cue bid		

You can see that Pierre is not shy in the bidding, but rather than reopen with a double, South preferred to cue-bid. When his partner signed off he came again to confirm his first round control and when his partner made a cue bid in hearts he was sufficiently impressed to offer a choice of grand slams. Whatever the merits of this action, South was doubly rewarded by the fates. The absence of the club ace was compensated by a void and four-card trump support. Not only that, but West could not make the traditional lead of a trump, which would prevent declarer adopting the line he took at the table, of ruffing four times in dummy.

However, let's imagine for a moment that a trump could be led.

Declarer would take in hand, ruff a club, come to hand with a heart, ruff a club, pitch a club on the ace of diamonds, ruff a diamond, ruff a club, ruff a diamond and draw the outstanding trumps to reach this position:

♠ —	♠ —	♠ —
♥ K 9	♥ K 9	♥ J 10
♦ J	♦ J	♦ —
♣ —	♣ —	♣ A
	<div style="display: flex; align-items: center; justify-content: center;"> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; margin: 0 10px;"> N W E S </div> </div>	
♠ —	♠ Q	♠ —
♥ Q 7	♥ 3	♥ —
♦ K	♦ —	♦ —
♣ —	♣ Q	♣ —

When declarer cashes his last trump West must throw a heart. Having served its purpose, the jack of diamonds goes from dummy, and East is without resource.

Perhaps Pierre was not so unlucky after all - if he had been dealt a spade he might easily have been on the wrong side of not only a somewhat fortuitous auction but also the most brilliant deal of the Championships!



IOC and GAISF Officials visit Lyon 2017

On Friday 25th, at La Cité Internationale de Lyon, venue to the 43rd World Bridge Championships, we had the pleasure to receive the visit of Mr. Kevin Beckers-Vieujant of the IOC Sport Department and of Mr. Philippe Gueisbuhler and Mr. Matteo Vallini from GAISF (Global Association of International Sport Federations).



Kevin Beckers-Vieujant and Simon Fellus

Mr. Philippe Gueisbuhler and Mr. Matteo Vallini attended the Press Conference that is traditionally held on the day before the end of each Championship. Our welcome guests were guided by the WBF Secretary Simon Fellus through the playing area and the WBF departments: the duplication room, the main office, the playing area, the press and bulletin rooms.



Mr. Philippe Gueisbuhler and Mr. Matteo Vallini at the Press Conference

They were truly impressed by the size of the Bridge event and declared that they didn't anticipate such an exceptional level of organisation.

We thank Mr. Gueisbuhler, Mr. Vallini and Mr. Beckers-Vieujant for their interest in our sport which confirmed, once again, the belonging of Bridge within the Sport Family.

On ne change pas une équipe qui gagne

Once again we have come to the end of a Championship. It has been the usual roller-coaster of ups and downs, but the advantage of repeatedly working with the same team is that you quickly discover each other's foibles and learn how to cope with the inevitable stress that arises during 15 days of close confinement. *Allez savoir pourquoi!*

The legendary **Jean-Paul Meyer** not only coordinated our efforts but found the time to write a daily report for our many French readers. Bien joué mon ami! **Brian Senior** was my left-hand man (I know what you are thinking, but in the office he was sitting on my left), who (as usual) produced a stream of top-class articles - make sure you get the Championship Book he edits that will be published next year. **David Bird**, **John Carruthers** and **Jos Jacobs** made outstanding contributions from the comfort of their own homes (*plus ça change, plus c'est la même chose*) and we also received valuable contributions from **Micke Melander** and **Brent Manley**. **Barry Rigal**, burdened by his role as President of the IBPA (not to mention his duties as Chief Commentator!), still found time to draw attention to many excellent deals. **Ron Tacchi**, despite being struck down by what might be described as airconditionus interruptus, continued to fulfil his role as photographer, writer and manager of the sausage and coffee clubs, without which several departments (not only our own) might well have ground to a halt.

Herman De Wael and **Jan Swaan** were our main proof readers, so you know who to blame if you find a mistake.

The efforts of all these people, some of whom worked without a break from 08.00 to 21.00, would have been in vain without the skills of our layout editors, **Monika Kümmel** (*Daily Bulletin*) and **Francesca Canali** (*Live Bulletin*). It is perhaps their misfortune to have known the Supreme Editor for such a long time that they can cope with his sometimes eccentric behaviour. The DB provides a permanent record but the Live Bulletin allows you to embrace the championships 'as they happen'.

It has been a pleasure to produce them both and work with you all.

On n'est point toujours une bête pour l'avoir été quelquefois

Mark Horton

Le (bon) coin francophone

Jean-Paul Meyer



EN ATTENDANT LE GRAND DENOUEMENT

C'est évidemment le résultat de la Bermuda que tous les Français attendaient mais, ils avaient une petite satisfaction avec la deuxième place de l'équipe MON BAZILOU dans le Grand Prix de Lyon : Philippe Chottin, David Harari, Philippe Kasler et Bernard Doussot. Ils n'étaient précédés que par Simon Gillis et sa garde rapprochée norvégienne Brogeland, Lindqvist, et Salseminde.

UN PEU DE PUBLICITE

Nous comprenons fort bien qu'une ou deux pages quotidiennes en Français ont pu vous laisser sur votre faim si l'anglais n'est pas votre truc. Vous trouverez dans le numéro du 15 septembre du magazine **LE BRIDGEUR** un compte-rendu de ces championnats du Monde très complet par **Pierre Schmidt**, illustré de nombreuses photos de **Francesca Canali**. Trouvez tous les renseignements sur le site www.lebridgeur.com.

JAMAIS DEUX SANS TROIS.



Chip Martel

L'Américain **Chip Martel** est un habitué de la Bermuda Bowl, finaliste à Lyon, il était assuré d'une médaille or ou argent. En consultant le palmarès, ses adversaires français ont constaté qu'il avait été trois fois vainqueur (1985, 1987 et 2001) et deux fois finaliste (1989 et 2007, cette fois là comme coach), ainsi les joueurs français lui rappelaient volontiers le dicton « Jamais deux sans trois. »

UNE FINALE POLOGNE CONTRE CHINE VRAIMENT ?

Sur le papier, la finale du Transnational oppose une équipe polonaise de **Marcin Mazurkiewicz** à la formation chinoise Jinshuo.

En fait, deux joueurs polonais **Michal Nowosadzki** et **Jacek Kalita** se cachent parmi les membres de l'équipe de Pékin.

Ces deux noms et ceux de leurs adversaires **Piotr Gawrys**,

Krzysztof Jassem, **Michal Klukowski** et leur capitaine, cela ne vous rappelle-t-il pas quelque chose ?

Tout simplement ces 6 joueurs adversaires, ici à Lyon, étaient coéquipiers lors de la précédente Bermuda Bowl en 2015 en Inde et, ensemble, ils avaient gagné ! Le monde (des champions de bridge) est petit.

UN COMMENTATEUR HORS DU COMMUN



Zia Mahmood

Sans être avoir par trop la dent dure, nous dirions que les quatre responsables anglophones du commentaire au Rama avaient de solides qualités d'analystes mais ne faisaient pas mourir de rire l'assistance par leurs pointes d'humour.

Toutefois, les choses changèrent pendant la trop courte demie heure pendant laquelle **Zia Mahmood** prit le micro.

Florilège de quelques unes de ses interventions que l'écrit rend de manière incomplète.

A propos de l'entame aventureuse d'un Roi isolé par une joueuse :

« Je veux absolument faire sa connaissance, pour l'épouser. Une femme capable d'une telle entame ne peut être qu'admirable »

A propos de la marque :

« La marque est une erreur, la première levée de chute rapporte seulement 200 et les suivantes 300, ce n'est évidemment pas juste, au bridge il faudrait mieux récompenser le courage et ceux qui prennent des risques en contrant. Je vais écrire une pétition en faveur de 300 pour la première chute ou même plus et pas grand chose pour les levées suivantes. »

A propos de ses favoris dans la finale :

« Je suis en faveur de la victoire des deux équipes, celle de mon ancien partenaire **Michael Rosenberg**, il le mérite maintenant qu'il ne joue plus en face de moi, quant aux Français, maintenant qu'ils ont renoncé à montrer en flanc toutes leurs distributions, ils ont une chance de gagner. De toutes manières ces deux équipes sont de tels amis que je suis certain qu'ils préfèrent tous la victoire de leur adversaire. Ils parlent ensemble, boivent ensemble, dinent ensemble, et tout le reste. »

LES DONNES DU (DERNIER) JOUR

La Coupe du Président.

Philippe Brunel

La Coupe du Président, individuel festif, avait réuni, à l'initiative de la FFB, 108 participants autour du thème du vin. Gaëtan Bouvier, meilleur sommelier de France, a délecté les joueurs, toutes les six donnes, de Cerdon rosé et de Baume de Venise blanc et rouge... le tout agrémenté des pâtisseries fines de Romaric Boilley. Un régal ! Cependant, l'ouverture des papilles a parfois eu quelque effet sur la précision des cartes jouées.

♠ 9 8	♠ D 7 3 2	♠ AV
♥ R 7 5 2	♥ 6	♥ A D 9 4 3
♦ D 6 5	♦ A R 7 3 2	♦ V 10 4
♣ V 7 4 3	♣ A 10 9	♣ R 8 6
	♠ R 10 6 5 4	
	♥ V 10 8	
	♦ 9 8	
	♣ D 5 2	

Contrat : 4 Piques. (Nord donneur, Est intervient à Cœur, puis contre le cue-bid de Nord à 3 Coeurs.) Qu'auriez-vous entamé en Ouest ?

Au son des enchères, les points sont plus ou moins répartis entre les deux camps. Il faut donc s'attendre à une main distribuée chez l'un ou l'autre des adversaires. Vraisemblablement, vous n'aurez le droit qu'à une seule levée de Cœur. Essayez de garder la main à l'entame pour dégager, à la deuxième levée, un honneur chez votre partenaire. L'entame du Roi de Cœur, suivie d'un retour Trèfle limitait le déclarant à 10 levées. L'entame paresseuse du 5 de Cœur lui laissait le temps d'affranchir ses Carreaux pour 11 levées !

Mais, soyez sans crainte, quelque fut l'entame, il suffisait de participer pour repartir avec une excellente bouteille de champagne.

ETES-VOUS TOUJOURS DANS LE COUP ?

Jean-Paul Meyer

Pour connaître la réponse à cette question, nous vous proposons un test:

Finale de la Bermuda Bowl, vous êtes vert contre rouge et vous possédez :

♠A6 ♥A862 ♦A972 ♣982

On ouvre à votre gauche d'un Pique, votre partenaire passe, 1 SA à votre droite

Envisagez-vous une action, si oui laquelle ?

Vous avez pris votre décision ? Aux deux tables, on a contré.

L'ouvreur et votre partenaire ont passé et le répondant a déclaré 2 Carreaux.

A vous. C'est plus facile, votre partenaire a des points

pour son deuxième passe.

Vous devez contrer à nouveau. Punitif cette fois.

Le décor

Board 15. Donneur Sud.Vul. N/S

♠ R 9 8 4	♠ 7 2	♠ A 6
♥ D 5 4	♥ 10 9 3	♥ A 8 6 2
♦ 5 3	♦ R D V 10 8	♦ A 9 7 2
♣ D 10 5 4	♣ V 7 3	♣ 9 8 2
	♠ DV 10 5 3	
	♥ RV 7	
	♦ 6 4	
	♣ A R 6	

Si vous avez été « dans le coup » et si vous et votre partenaire êtes d'intraitables défenseurs, vous avez encaissé deux de chute :500.

Si vous avez passé, on ne vous poursuivra pas dans les couloirs, mais vous perdrez quelques 8 précieux IMP.

ETES-VOUS TOUJOURS DANS LE COUP

(séance de rattrapage)

Tous vulnérables, on ouvre avant vous d'un Trèfle, vous possédez le bijou suivant : ♠965432 ♥9 ♦A1054 ♣V8

Quelle est votre action ?

Brad Moss, qui doit apprécier les quintes flush, a nommé UN PIQUE et a permis à son camp de jouer et gagner 4 Piques. Pas obligatoirement un modèle d'orthodoxie.

15 IMP POUR LA FRANCE

Jean-Paul Meyer

Jérôme Rombaut reçut lors de la finale la main suivante :

♠:AD10942 ♥:A ♦:A ♣:AD874



Jérôme Rombaut

Il est, seul vulnérable, et a entendu Un Carreau d'ouverture de son adversaire de gauche.

Sachant qu'il y aura quatre tours d'enchères

1.) Combien de fois nommera-t-il ses Piques (tuyau : se référer à Brad Moss ci-dessus serait une erreur) ?

2.) Combien d'enchères fera-t-il (rappel de 1 Trèfle à 7 SA, il existe 35 enchères mais « passe », « contre », ou « sur-contre » sont des déclarations) ?

Le décor complet :

♠ R	♠ A D 10 9 4 2	♠ V 8 7 5
♥ DV 7	♥ A	♥ 10 8 5 4 3
♦ RV 10 9 6 5 3	♦ A	♦ D 2
♣ R 6	♣ A D 8 7 4	♣ V 9
	♠ 6 3	
	♥ R 9 6 2	
	♦ 8 7 4	
	♣ 10 5 3 2	

Et les réponses:

1.) ZERO il n'a jamais nommé ses Piques

2.) UNE SEULE ENCHERE : 6 Trèfles

La preuve:

O	N (JR)	E	S
—	—	P	P
1♦	contre	P	1♥
2♦	contre	P	2♥
3♦	contre	P	4♣
P	6♣		

Dans l'autre salle la paire US eût un accident en se contentant de 3 Piques plus deux : 15 IMP pour les Bleus.

LE SEPTIEME SEGMENT OU LE MYSTERE DES 53 POINTS DISPARUS

En ce samedi matin Français et Américains avait rendez-vous pour les 32 dernières donnes de la Bermuda Bowl 2017.

Les Tricolores étaient partis se coucher avec 19 points d'avance et la situation américaine était loin de s'améliorer. La première donne leur offrait 2 IMP supplémentaires avec une manche chutée aux deux tables mais d'une levée de plus par leurs adversaires. Et ensuite, Brad Moss contre 4 Piques contrés plongeait précipitamment de l'As de Pique et capturait le Roi sec de son partenaire, le contrat devrait encore chuter mais Brad jouait la mauvaise couleur 790 pour la France d'où il convenait de déduire 100 points seulement à 5 Coeurs contrés +12, Moss et Grue cherchaient à se venger de leur mésaventure précédente en contrant méchamment 3 Trèfles, encore raté 470 et 11 points Français et un écart de 44 pour la France

Et pourtant 53 IMP vont disparaître au cours des 13 donnes suivantes:

La plus malheureuse est sans doute la suivante:

Donne 8. Donneur Ouest. Pers. Vul.

♠ DV 5	♠ 10 8 7 3	♠ A 9 2
♥ AR 10 8	♥ 9 7 6 4	♥ D
♦ A	♦ 8 3	♦ RD 10 9 5 4
♣ DV 10 5 4	♣ 9 7 6	♣ AR 2
	♠ R 6 4	
	♥ V 5 3 2	
	♦ V 7 6 2	
	♣ 8 3	

Grue et Moss, apparemment réveillés, demandent et gagnent le meilleur contrat 7 Trèfles

Mais chuter 7SA, comme la paire française, est assez malchanceux. L'entame Pique de Nord ruine les derniers espoirs, même à cartes ouvertes du squeeze à 3 couleurs de Sud

Au rayon des initiatives plus malheureuses que mal jouées est cette entame contre 6 Coeurs, dans 532 à Pique.

Cela permet au déclarant avec V4 au mort et AR986 de faire cinq levées ce qu'il n'aurait probablement pas cherché à réaliser sur une autre entame. Comme on s'est contenté de jouer la manche de l'autre côté c'est un écart de 26 avec le manque à gagner.

Et puis cette enchère spectaculaire mais compréhensible.

Donne 14. Donneur Est. Pers. Vul.

♠ DV 9 8 4 3	♠ A 10 7 2	♠ K 6
♥ D 9 7	♥ —	♥ AV 8 2
♦ RV 9	♦ 10 6 5 4 3	♦ A 7
♣ V	♣ AD 9 8	♣ 10 7 6 3 2
	♠ 5	
	♥ R 10 6 5 4 3	
	♦ D 8 2	
	♣ R 5 4	

Est ouvre d'un Trèfle, Sud intervient, personne vulnérable à un Cœur, rien à redire 2Coeurs en Ouest (Texas Pique) 2 piques en Est jusqu'à Nord qui « invente » de contrer punitif qu'Est s'empresse de surcontrer ; Nord pourrait éviter le désastre en se sauvant à 2SA, pour les mineures - on ne chute que de deux levées à 3 Carreaux, il tient et Joe Grue aligne 9 levées engrangeant 840.

NOTE, 15 jours de compétition au plus haut niveau génère une fatigue compréhensible. Il serait injuste de juger les uns et les autres sur un segment malheureux.



d'Orsi Trophy RR - R13



Poland v USA I

John Carruthers

One of the surprises of the tournament so far had been the poor showing of the Polish Seniors, perennial contenders as they are. Nevertheless, a slow climb up the leaderboard had them in ninth place, just a bit less than 6 VPs out of a knockout qualifying place just before this match. Conversely, USA I was in the fourth qualifying spot, but was by no means secure, being less than a match ahead of ninth.

The match was low-scoring and contained some pretty interesting pushes and near-pushes. The first board featured an avoidance play with a difference: one declarer had to take it through West, the other through East.

Board 1. Dealer North. None Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Russyan	J. Clerkin	Zaremba	D. Clerkin
—	1♣*	1♠	2♣*
Pass	3♣	Pass	3♦
Pass	3♥	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

1♣ Precision
2♣ 5+ clubs, 8+ HCP



Mike Passell, USA I



Marc Jacobus, USA I

When Denny Clerkin declared, it was a struggle for him to make his contract. Russyan led the eight of spades to the jack and queen, ducked by Clerkin. Zaremba cashed the ace of spades and knocked out Clerkin's king with the suit-preference four. Not having the luxury of misguessing clubs to a putative queen in the East hand, Clerkin led a club to the ace and ran the nine to West (East pitching his lowest diamond). Russyan shifted to the four of diamonds. Clerkin won with dummy's ace and ran the clubs. East pitched, in order, a heart, a spade and ... the king of diamonds. We can see that he can put declarer to a heart guess by coming down to a doubleton queen of hearts. However, Zaremba could see the ace-king-jack of hearts in the dummy and could not see the queen of diamonds in declarer's hand. If West had held that card, declarer was going one off and throwing a heart would have given Clerkin an unwarranted play for the contract. That was plus 600 to USA I.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Passell	Kowalski	Jacobus	Romanski
—	INT	2♣*	2♠*
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

2♣ Majors
2♠ Spade stop

Jacobus led the queen of spades. Kowalski won with dummy's king, then also took the avoidance play in clubs, but his avoidance was through West. That happened to result in five clubs tricks. Jacobus' hand was shredded along the way: he could see the queen of diamonds in the dummy, so was inclined to retain the king and another diamond, even though Kowalski discarded his low diamond on the fifth club. In practice, Passell ditched low hearts on the fourth and fifth clubs, and Jacobus did as well. Declarer was thus able to run hearts from the top and when Jacobus came down to a singleton ace of spades, declarer ducked a

spade and had the jack of spades and the ace of diamonds at the end. He made 12 tricks for plus 490 and a 3-IMP gain.

So, where one declarer battled to make his contract, the other made three overtricks in a breeze.

The next few boards were flattish, mostly part-scores, until:

Board 8. Dealer West. None Vul.

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

I was interested to discover how the East players would engineer the auction after a one-heart opening by West. Neither, as one BBO commentator suggested, would agree hearts to use Roman Key Card Blackwood.

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Russyan</i>	<i>J. Clerkin</i>	<i>Zaremba</i>	<i>D. Clerkin</i>
1♥	Pass	2♠	Pass
3♣	Pass	3♠	Pass
4♠	Pass	4NT*	Pass
5♥*	Pass	7♠	All Pass
4NT RKC for spades			
5♥ 2 key cards, no spade queen			

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Passell</i>	<i>Kowalski</i>	<i>Jacobus</i>	<i>Romanski</i>
1♥	Pass	4NT*	Pass
5♥*	Pass	7NT	All Pass
4NT Ordinary Blackwood			
5♥ 2 aces			

When Partner opens the bidding and has two aces, you can count 12 tricks, provided spades provided seven of them. The thirteenth can come from the king of hearts, the queen of diamonds or the queen of clubs. It would be extraordinarily unlucky to find your ox with none of those cards. Even so, the queen of hearts and the minor-suit jacks would still give you a great play. So, agreeing hearts to use RKC would be an error, for what would you do if partner responded that he held two key cards? Note that Jacobus and Passell had a clear agreement that an immediate four no-trump bid asked for quantitative aces, not key cards for hearts.

It was a noble push.

The next board was a bit odd ...

Board 9. Dealer North. E/W Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Russyan</i>	<i>J. Clerkin</i>	<i>Zaremba</i>	<i>D. Clerkin</i>
—	Pass	1♣*	Dble
Pass	2♠	All Pass	

1♣ Polish Club: natural, strong or a 12-14 notrump

Zaremba led the queen of hearts. Jerry won in dummy, led a club to the ace and then the queen of clubs, covered and ruffed. He led the ace and another diamond, ruffing in hand, then cashed the jack of clubs, throwing a heart from the dummy. When declarer led another club from hand, he was assured of his contract. Even if the defence could ruff or overruff the club and lead trumps, he'd still make another trump and the king of hearts. As it was, they could not do that, so he was allowed to make two more ruffs and the king of hearts for a pretty solid plus 140.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Passell</i>	<i>Kowalski</i>	<i>Jacobus</i>	<i>Romanski</i>
—	Pass	1♦*	Pass
1♠	Pass	1NT	Pass
Pass	2♣	Pass	2♦
Pass	2♠	Pass	2NT
All Pass			

1♦ 2+ diamonds, 11-15

The diamond opening bid shut South out temporarily and altered the tempo of the auction completely. North/South then jockeyed themselves into an inferior spot. Passell led a low club, since strong-club players often have clubs when they open one diamond. Romanski put in the queen and was allowed to hold the trick. He led the ten of hearts, covered by the jack and won by the ace. A spade to the jack lost to the ace and Jacobus shifted to the seven of diamonds. Declarer put in the ten, losing to the jack and Passell played another low club. This time the jack lost to the king and another diamond went to the queen. West cashed the king of spades and exited with his remaining diamond to the nine and ace.

Declarer had had to discard a diamond from hand on the second club, but his remaining diamond was still a threat against East. This was the layout when declarer led a spade to dummy's queen:

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

On the spade play, East had to discard his remaining club. But when declarer cashed the ace of clubs, East was squeezed: he let go his king of diamonds, so declarer discarded his lowest heart. The defence had taken five tricks and a finesse of the nine of hearts would have seen declarer's hand take the rest. But Romanski misread the ending, leading a heart to the king to go one off. Minus 50 and minus 140 at the other table added up to 5 IMPs to the USAI team. That made the score 12-5 USAI.

Board 11 showed, once again, that the side that strikes first has a huge tactical advantage.

Board 11. Dealer South. None Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Russyan	J. Clerkin	Zaremba	D. Clerkin
—	—	—	—
5♣	All Pass	Pass	Pass

North/South are cold for five hearts and never entered the auction. On the ace-of-hearts lead, South played the king, so obtained his spade ruff. The ace of diamonds meant one off, minus 50, poor compensation.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Passell	Kowalski	Jacobus	Romanski
—	—	—	2♥*
3♣	4♥	4♠	5♥
Pass	Pass	5♠	All Pass
2♥	5+ hearts and 5+ of any other suit, 7-11		

Here, Jacobus had to make a delicate and excellent decision to bid on to five spades just to flatten the board. The opening bid of two hearts had put North/South in an excellent position. A heart to the ace and a low diamond back ensured one off when Jacobus ducked, knowing that North would have doubled with two aces. That was a hair-raising push to keep the score at 15-5 to USAI.

On Board 12, USAI bid game in both rooms, going down two tricks each time, once doubled, to give Poland the lead 16-15. Poland won 5 more on Board 13 when the USA got to three notrump, down two, on a board that was passed out at the other table, 21-15 to Poland. That made three games bid by the USAI team on two boards, all three of them two off.

The last swing came on Board 14, when Zaremba mis-sorted his hand and missed a good four-heart game bid easily at the other table, gifting 11 IMPs to USAI. That made it 26-21 to USAI, where it ended.

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 Final - Segment 4



USA 2 v Italy

John Carruthers

At the half-way mark, USA2 led Italy 86-72.

Board 17. Dealer North. None Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Comella	Berkowitz	Sabbatini	Sontag
—	Pass	Pass	1♦*
1♥	Dble*	2NT*	Pass
4♥	All Pass		

1♦ 11-15, 2+ diamonds
 Dble 4/5 spades
 2NT Good 4-card heart raise

Four Hearts looks makeable with the king of hearts and ace of clubs onside and diamonds 3-3 doesn't it? However, which ten tricks will declarer take?

Berkowitz led the obvious queen of clubs. Sontag won with his ace and played the ace of spades and another to Berk's king. North continued with the jack of clubs, won by declarer's king. Comella played a diamond to the ace, cashed the king, and ruffed the third diamond with the nine of hearts. He tried the nine of clubs to tempt a cover, but Berkowitz played low and he had to ruff anyway to gain entry to the dummy. The jack of hearts went four, two, three and we had arrived at:

		♠ 8 7 4		
		♥ —		
		♦ —		
		♣ 10		
♠ —			♠ —	
♥ A Q 10			♥ 8 6	
♦ —			♦ 10 7	
♣ 8			♣ —	
		♠ 10 3		
		♥ K 7		
		♦ —		
		♣ —		

Declarer knew the location of every card but the ten of clubs and the seven of hearts. If those cards were reversed

from their actual locations, he had to lead a heart, drawing the last two trumps, and ruff his club. If it were the actual situation, he had to lead a good diamond to force South to ruff, draw the last trump and ruff his club. He misguessed, leading a heart, and had to lose a club at the end; minus 50.

Declarer could have got home in a number ways. One was to win the king of clubs, cross on a diamond and draw trumps with the aid of the finesse. Then a diamond to the king and a diamond ruff would have left the diamonds good and a trump in dummy for a club-ruff access. Another was the ruffing finesse in clubs, if diamonds had not broken favourably. Yet another was the diamond finesse.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Becker	Buratti	Graves	Failla
—	Pass	Pass	1♣*
1♥	Dble*	3♦*	3♠
Pass	4♠	All Pass	
1♣	2+ clubs		
Dble	Spades		
3♦	Diamonds and 4+ hearts		

On a very good day, one might make four spades; this was an average day. West led the jack of diamonds. At trick four, declarer was off one and the king of clubs meant down two, minus 100 and 4 IMPs to USA2, now leading 90-72.

Two pushes followed, then ...

Board 20. Dealer West. All Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Comella	Berkowitz	Sabbatini	Sontag
1♦	Pass	2♣	Pass
2♦	Pass	3♦	Pass
3♠	Pass	5♦	All Pass

That was well-bid to the top spot: plus 600. At the other table:

Closed Room


West	North	East	South
<i>Becker</i>	<i>Buratti</i>	<i>Graves</i>	<i>Failla</i>
—	—	Pass	INT
Pass	2♣*	Pass	2♠
Pass	4♠	All Pass	

Becker also found the queen of hearts lead. Failla won, also led the queen of spades and another to the ace, then the ten of clubs, whereupon Mike Becker showed his class, winning with his ace and leading the jack of hearts. Graves won with his king and returned the eight of hearts. Declarer ruffed high, Becker pitching a club. Since declarer could not yet draw trumps, since he needed a club trick, he then led the queen of clubs. Graves won with his king and led another club to give Becker a ruff. That was brilliantly done for plus 50 and 10 IMPs to USA2, now leading 15-0 in the set and 101-72 overall.

We can see that ducking the first heart would have led to success. However, declarer would have looked foolish if the defence had then played ace, king and ruffed a club.

USA2 won 4 more IMPs over the next four boards to lead 105-72, when misfortune(?) struck them ...

Board 28. Dealer West. N/S Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Comella	Berkowitz	Sabbatini	Sontag
2♠	Dble	4♠	4NT*
Pass	5♣	All Pass	

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Becker	Buratti	Graves	Failla
1♠	2♥	4♠	Dble
All Pass			

I don't see that anyone did anything so wrong here but the net result was minus 200 and minus 300 for 11 IMPs to Italy to edge closer in the match: 105-83.

After another push ...

Board 30. Dealer East. None Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Comella	Berkowitz	Sabbatini	Sontag
—	—	1♦	1♥
1♠	Pass	2♥	Pass
3♦	Pass	3♠	Pass
4♠	All Pass		

Berkowitz led the two of hearts. Sontag played three rounds of the suit. Comella discarded a diamond on the third. South led a fourth heart and declarer ruffed with the ace of spades, then drew all four rounds of trumps. He now had to guess diamonds to make his contract and duly did so; well done and plus 420.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Becker	Buratti	Graves	Failla
—	—	1♦	1♥
Dble	Pass	4♠	All Pass

Failla also led three rounds of hearts. Graves ruffed, cashed the ace and king of clubs, the ace and king of diamonds, then gave up a diamond to the queen. He won the trump return and had a high cross-ruff for the last four tricks. That was even better done, but no style points were available, so plus 420 as well.

The score was still 105-83.

On the next board, self-inflicted disaster (not misfortune) struck USA2 ...

Board 31. Dealer South. N/S Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Comella	Berkowitz	Sabbatini	Sontag
—	—	—	Pass
2♥	Pass	Pass	Dble
Pass	Pass	2NT	Pass
3♦	Dble	All Pass	

It's difficult to see where Berkowitz thought their defensive tricks were coming from with Sontag being a passed hand. North followed the 'lead trumps against low-level doubled contracts' dictum by leading one here, but no matter, declarer won with his queen and led the king of clubs. Berkowitz ducked, to no avail: declarer crossed to dummy with a trump and led the queen of clubs, discarding on it. Comella was soon writing plus 570 in his scorecard, 10 tricks.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Becker	Buratti	Graves	Failla
—	—	—	Pass
Pass	1♥	Dble	All Pass

Graves and Becker showed that they, too, were unafraid to double a low-level contract. In their case, at least, the penalty passer had six trumps. Despite that, it looks as though declarer can make seven tricks fairly handily, but the defence showed that he cannot. Graves led the queen of clubs to the king and ace. Buratti led a spade to the king and Becker's ace. Becker shifted to a low diamond. Graves won with his king and cashed the jack of clubs; Becker pitched his deuce of spades. East gave West a spade ruff, came in on the ace of diamonds and gave another spade ruff. West persisted with the queen of diamonds ruffed in the dummy. Eight tricks had gone and the defence had taken six of them. Becker still had jack-ten fourth of hearts remaining and had to make one of them. That was very well done for plus 200. That held the loss to 9 IMPs!

The score was now 105-92 USA2. They won 5 IMPs on Board 32 to lead 110-92 with 32 boards to play.

USA2 maintained their lead over the last two segments of the match, never comfortable, but eventually winning 159-145. Both teams had played well, the USA slightly better. Congratulations to Mike Becker, David Berkowitz, Allan Graves, Neil Silverman, Alan Sontag, Jeff Wolfson and NPC Steve Garner. That makes Alan Sontag 8-0 in World Championship final matches.

Dealing machines and cards

Everything, including the duplication, has been a success here in Lyon thanks to an extraordinary good venue and hospitality.

The machines used for the duplication were sold out early on but new ditto and cards used during the championship are available for discounted prices at

bridge-shop.com





David Bird

Bermuda Bowl Final - Segment 5

France v USA2



The first half-dozen boards of this match were drab and I began to worry that there might not be enough worthy material for my last report of the championships. Then (wow!) the IMPs started to fly. Let's see some action.

Board 8 Dealer West. None Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Martel	Rombaut	Fleischer	Combesure
Pass	Pass	Pass	2NT
Pass	3♣	Pass	3♥
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

With spades implied by North's 4-card Stayman bid, Martel led the ♦2 to East's jack. Combesure won immediately with the ♦A and played the ♣A, the jack falling from West. Three more rounds of clubs were played, South throwing two spades and West three spades. A finesse of the ♥Q won and the ♥A then dropped the king. Declarer had nine tricks and no cause to complain about his luck. Perhaps declarer at the other table would be blessed with similar fortune.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Volcker	Moss	Bessis	Grue
Pass	Pass	Pass	1♣*
Pass	1♦*	Pass	1NT
Pass	2♣*	Pass	2♥
Pass	3♣	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

I must tell you (not for the first time) that Grue and Moss play Precision when non-vulnerable. The ♦2 was led but at this table declarer took a look at two rounds of the suit before winning with the ace on the third round.

Leaving the club suit to look after itself for a few moments, Grue led the ♥J from his hand. This would establish a ninth trick if five club tricks were coming in. If they were not, he would need the ♣J to fall singleton and hearts to break 3-3.

The cards did not reward this line of play. East won with the ♥K, cashed a diamond and returned a spade. The heart suit refused to break and the clubs provided only four tricks instead of five. It was one down and 10 IMPs to France.

Board 9 Dealer North. E/W Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Martel	Rombaut	Fleischer	Combesure
—	1♦	Pass	1♠
Pass	2♠	Pass	5♦*
Pass	5♥*	Pass	6♠
All Pass			

On this board East somewhat spoiled the party by not having a void in his hand. Our slight disappointment was brushed aside by South's rare usage of Exclusion RKCB in partner's suit. North's 5♥ showed 0 keycards outside diamonds (it's advisable not to play 1430 responses to Exclusion bids) and 6♠ was reached.

Martel led the ♣5, declarer throwing a diamond from dummy and East winning with the ace. Combesure then claimed on the trump switch. +980.

The vast crowd of BBO kibitzers were naturally wondering if lightning would strike twice.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Volcker	Moss	Bessis	Grue
—	1♦	Pass	1♠
Pass	2♠	Pass	5♦*
Pass	5♥*	Pass	6♠
All Pass			

It did, as you see! Declarer won the ♦Q lead in dummy, crossed to the ♠A and ruffed a club. After crossruffing in the minors, he ended with a double-squeeze for an overtrick. West had to guard dummy's ♦J and East had to guard declarer's ♣K. Neither could retain a heart guard and that was +1010 for a hard-earned 1 IMP swing.

**Thomas Bessis, France**

Board 10 Dealer East. Both Vul.

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

	♠ 10 6 5	
	♥ 10 9 7 6	
	♦ J 6 4	
	♣ Q 9 4	

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Martel</i>	<i>Rombaut</i>	<i>Fleischer</i>	<i>Combesure</i>
—	—	1♠	Pass
2♦	Pass	2♥	Pass
3♦	Pass	3NT	All Pass

A diamond slam was there on a 3-2 break, but it seemed difficult to reach. Declarer won the club lead and picked up a quick +720 when both the long suits broke favourably.

How would the French E/W tackle the hand?

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Volcker</i>	<i>Moss</i>	<i>Bessis</i>	<i>Grue</i>
—	—	1♠	Pass
2♦	Pass	2♥	Pass
2♠*	Pass	2NT*	Pass
3♦	Pass	3♠	Pass
3NT	Pass	4♣	Pass
4♦	Pass	4♥	Pass
6♦	All Pass		

It seems that 2NT showed 5-4-2-2 shape, whetting Volcker's appetite for a diamond slam. Bessis cooperated

with two cue-bids and 6♦ was reached. Moss cashed the ♥A and switched to a club, declarer claiming the slam when trumps proved to be 3-2.

The run of big boards continued without any pause for breath.

Board 11 Dealer South. None Vul.

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

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Martel</i>	<i>Rombaut</i>	<i>Fleischer</i>	<i>Combesure</i>
—	—	—	Pass
1♥	1♠	2NT	2♥*
Pass	3♠	Dble	All Pass

Combesure showed a sound spade raise but Fleischer reckoned that his trump holding justified a penalty double of 3♠. No game was available to E/W, so perhaps he had taken a good view.

Rombaut won the heart lead and played a club to the queen and ace. A trump return was essential now and Martel found it, East winning with the jack. Declarer won the commendable ♦J switch with dummy's ace and played a second diamond to his queen. He ruffed a heart with the ♠5, returned to his hand with a club ruff and led the ♥10 towards dummy's bare ♠10.

If East had discarded a club, he could not have been prevented from scoring three trump tricks for one down. When instead he ruffed with the ♠Q, all was lost. He cashed the ♠A and declarer claimed the remaining tricks for +530.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Volcker</i>	<i>Moss</i>	<i>Bessis</i>	<i>Grue</i>
—	—	—	1♦
1♥	1♠	INT	2♠
3♥	3♠	All Pass	

After a heart to the declarer's ace and a club to the queen and ace, West returned the ♠9 as at the other table. Bessis won with the ♠J and played a second round of hearts. Now declarer was OK. He ruffed in the dummy and ran the ♠10 to East's queen. Winning the diamond switch in hand, he drove out the trump ace and had nine tricks. It was only +140, though, because Bessis had not doubled the contract.

France duly gained another 9 IMPs.

Right, was that the end of the big boards? Not quite. Try this one for size.

Board 12 Dealer West. N/S Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Martel	Rombaut	Fleischer	Combesure
Pass	1♣	Pass	1♠
3♦	3♠	Pass	4♠
All Pass			

With diamonds bid over his second suit, Combesure made no move towards a slam. East won the ♦Q lead with the ace and returned the ♥8. After some time declarer decided to rise with the ♥A. He then played two top clubs to dispose of the ♥Q. The trump ace followed by a finesse against the ♠Q (indicated after West's overcall) gave him +650.

News reached us from the Closed Room that the Americans had reached 6♠! They had lost the previous four boards 31-1 and were surely due to add a further large number to this deficit.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Volcker	Moss	Bessis	Grue
Pass	1♣	1♥	1♠
4♦*	4♠	Pass	5♥
Pass	6♠	Pass	Pass
7♥	Dble	All Pass	

Volcker's four-level fit jump caused the French pair to overreach. We can all see that West's 7♥ was an unsuccessful venture but I will leave you to judge if it was wise or not. Grue led the ♠K, continuing with the ♣3 to partner's king. The double-dummy return of a low club would have given the Americans +1100. Moss cashed the ♣A instead and then all roads led to +800.

It was only 4 IMPs to the USA but without the 7♥ sacrifice it would have been 13 IMPs the other way. France took the set 45-11 to lead by 13 IMPs with 48 boards still to play.



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Bermuda Bowl Final - Segment 6

France v USA2



the ♡A. The two-two break was very good news and the fortunate spade position meant that the ruffing finesse against the jack brought that suit in without loss; 12 tricks for +1370 and 15 IMPs to France, who led by 184-156.

Board 83. Dealer South. E/W Vul.

♠ K J 10 6 5	♠ 7 4 2	♠ 9 8
♥ 5	♥ K 8 4 3 2	♥ A 10 9 7 6
♦ Q 9 8 2	♦ J	♦ 7 6
♣ Q J 5	♣ A 10 7 2	♣ 9 8 6 3
	<div>North West East South</div>	
	♠ A Q 3	
	♥ Q J	
	♦ A K 10 5 4 3	
	♣ K 4	

West	North	East	South
<i>Pszczola</i>	<i>Rombaut</i>	<i>Rosenberg</i>	<i>Combescuré</i>
—	—	—	2NT
Pass	3♦	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

West	North	East	South
<i>Lorenzini</i>	<i>Moss</i>	<i>Quantin</i>	<i>Grue</i>
—	—	—	1♣
Pass	1♠	Pass	INT
Pass	2♦	Pass	2♥
Pass	3♦	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

Both Souths got to 3NT and received the lead of the jack of spades. For France, Combescuré won the ♠Q and led a low diamond from hand. Pszczola went in with the ♦Q and continued with the king of spades, but Combescuré had nine tricks for a painless +400.

For USA2, Grue ducked the opening lead and, seeing his partner's discouraging nine, Lorenzini switched. Had that switch been to a heart, Quantin could have won the ace and pushed a spade through before the diamonds had been established and defeating the contract, but Lorenzini couldn't do that and actually switched to the queen of clubs. Grue won the ace and ran the jack of diamonds, which Lorenzini ducked. Now Grue switched his attention to hearts, Quantin winning the ace and returning not a spade but a club to the king. Grue cashed the ace and king of diamonds and jack of hearts then exited with a diamond. Lorenzini could win and cash the jack of clubs, but then had to lead a spade and Grue had the rest for +400 and a flat board.

**Jérôme Rombaut, France**

Board 84. Dealer West. All Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Pszczola	Rombaut	Rosenberg	Combesure
1♣	Pass	1♥	Pass
3♦	Pass	3♥	All Pass

West	North	East	South
Lorenzini	Moss	Quantin	Grue
1♣	1♠	Pass	2♣
Pass	2♠	Pass	3NT
Pass	4♠	All Pass	

Given a free run, Pszczola/Rosenberg bid to 3♥ on the E/W cards, against which Combesure led the six of diamonds to the ten and jack. Rosenberg played the ten of hearts and, when that held the trick, switched his attention back to diamonds, leading the seven to the king and ace. Rombaut returned a spade to his partner's ace and Combesure, seeking to ensure two trump winners, forced dummy with the queen of diamonds. Rosenberg duly took the ruff, cashed the ace of clubs and played a second club. Combesure won and returned the ten of spades, declarer ruffing in dummy and cashing the ♥A. Combesure had his two trump winners so the contract was down one for -100.

In the other room, Moss overcalled 1♠ on the six-card suit headed by the nine, not a bid that would appeal to everyone, and this was a great success as Grue drove to game. Quantin led the jack of hearts to the king and ace and Lorenzini continued with a second heart round to dummy's eight. Moss threw a club on this trick and now played the ace of spades, queen of hearts for a second club pitch, and a diamond to the ten and jack. The queen of clubs was covered by king and ace and ruffed and now Moss played a trump to Quantin's queen. That was it for the defence – Moss could ruff the club return, play a trump to dummy and lead a diamond. When the king popped up, he had ten tricks for +620 and 11 IMPs to USA2; 167-184.

Board 86. Dealer East. E/W Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Pszczola	Rombaut	Rosenberg	Combesure
—	—	1♣	1♥
1♠	Pass	INT	2♦
All Pass			

West	North	East	South
Lorenzini	Moss	Quantin	Grue
—	—	INT	2♦
2♠	Pass	Pass	Dble
All Pass			

Combesure overcalled 1♥ then came again with 2♦ and was left to play there. He made ten tricks after the lead of the ten of clubs; +130.

**Michael Rosenberg, USA 2**

Quantin's INT opening led to a quite different auction in the other room. Grue overcalled 2♦, showing hearts, and Lorenzini made a completely normal competitive bid of 2♠ with the West cards. When that came back to Grue he doubled for take-out and Moss left it in. Moss led the jack of hearts, ducked, and a second heart to his partner's ten. Grue cashed the ♥A, Moss pitching a club, then played a club ace and another club for Moss to ruff. He returned a diamond to dummy's ace. Lorenzini played the king of clubs for a diamond discard so Moss ruffed and still had two more trumps to come for down three and -800; 12 IMPs to USA2, closing to 179-184.

Board 88. Dealer West. None Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Pszczola	Rombaut	Rosenberg	Combesure
2♠	3♣	3♠	3NT
All Pass			

West	North	East	South
Lorenzini	Moss	Quantin	Grue
Pass	2♣	Pass	2♦
Pass	2♥	Pass	2NT
Pass	3♣	Pass	3♥
Pass	4♥	All Pass	

Moss opened a Precision 2♣ then showed the hearts in response to Grue's inquiry. Two No Trump was a forcing relay and when Grue then admitted to heart support Moss went on to the heart game. Quantin led the ten of spades to the jack and queen. Lorenzini cashed the ace of spades then switched to a diamond so Quantin won the ace and returned the ♦10 to dummy's king. Moss led a heart to the king then a second heart, but could find no good reason to finesse. Playing the ace meant down one for -50.

Pszczola could open the West hand - 2♠ to show spades and a minor, weak - and Rombaut overcalled 3♣. Had Rosenberg passed, Combesure would have had an easy 3♥ bid and Rombaut an equally easy raise, after which West's opening bid would have been sufficient to persuade declarer to play East for queen to three hearts. Rosenberg's 3♠ was therefore very important, as it took away that easy 3♥ bid and forced Combesure to guess. His guess was to bid 3NT and that ended the auction. Pszczola led a low spade to the nine and jack and Combesure did

indeed get the hearts right. He did not then cash the hearts, which would have tested Pszczola's discarding skills, but preferred to play the ♦J in hope of finding the ace on his left. When it was Rosenberg who won the ♦A and led the ten of spades through, the contract was down one for -50; no swing.

Board 89. Dealer North. E/W Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Pszczola	Rombaut	Rosenberg	Combesure
-	Pass	1♥	INT
Dble	All Pass		

West	North	East	South
Lorenzini	Moss	Quantin	Grue
-	Pass	1♥	Dble
1♠	Pass	2♦	Pass
2♥	All Pass		

What is your poison with the South cards, a take-out double or a INT overcall? Neither is ideal, in that the heart stopper is non-positional - you'd prefer KJx in hearts, for example - while the lack of a fourth spade is bad news for a double. I would expect a majority of experts to choose INT, as did Combesure, but he found himself doubled by Pszczola and in some trouble, while Grue's take-out double saw him on defence to a heart part-score.

Grue led the king of clubs against 2♥, switching to the jack of spades on sight of dummy. Quantin won the ♠K and ♠Q then played a diamond, Grue rising with the ace and cashing the ace of clubs before exiting with a diamond. Quantin won in dummy and ruffed a club, ruffed his remaining small diamond, and pitched the king of diamonds on the ♠A. He led a heart to the ten and had only one trump to lose so had eight tricks for +110.

Pszczola led the seven of clubs against INT doubled. Combesure won the ace and ducked a diamond so Pszczola won and played the queen of clubs to dummy's king. A diamond to the ace and a third diamond established an extra winner in the suit. Rosenberg won the diamond and played ♠K then ♠Q and, when he found himself to be still on lead he exited with a diamond. Combesure won and cashed the ♥A and was down two for -300 and 5 IMPs to USA2, who now led by 185-184.

Board 93. Dealer North. All Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Pszczola	Rombaut	Rosenberg	Combesure
—	Pass	1♦	Pass
1♠	2♦	2♥	4♥
4♠	Pass	Pass	5♣
Dble	All Pass		

West	North	East	South
Lorenzini	Moss	Quantin	Grue
—	Pass	1♦	Pass
1♠	INT	2♦	2♥
Dble	Pass	2♠	Pass
4♠	All Pass		

Both Norths showed their two-suiter though via different bids. Grue merely competed with 2♥, suggesting a lead in the process, then left his opponents in peace to bid to their spade game. The defence needs to find its diamond ruff to beat 4♠ but that is not easy to achieve. Moss led a low heart and Lorenzini called for the king, hoping to sow some confusion in his opponents. Grue won the ace and switched to a trump and Lorenzini could win and draw those before playing on diamonds for ten tricks and +620.

In the other room, Combesure jumped to 4♥ then, when Pszczola bid 4♠, came again with 5♣, promptly doubled by Pszczola to complete the auction. Pszczola led a diamond to the jack and ace, Combesure discarding a spade from dummy. He ran the ten of clubs then ruffed a diamond, cashed the ace of clubs and gave up a spade. Pszczola won and returned the ♠10 to his partner's king. Rosenberg got out with a diamond, ruffed in dummy. Now Combesure led dummy's ten of hearts and Rosenberg covered with the jack. Combesure won with the ace and Pszczola needed to unblock the queen if the defence was to come to two heart tricks. When he retained the queen, Combesure led a second heart and Pszczola had to win the queen and give a ruff and discard. That was nicely played by Combesure, even if the defence might have done better. He was only one down for -200 and 9 IMPs to France, avoiding the extra undertrick gaining 6 extra IMPs.

There were small swings yet to come in the set but it ended with France ahead by 205-186. There were two more 16-board sets to play on the third and final day.

Championship Diary

Quora is a site where questions are asked, answered, edited and organized by its community of users. Yesterday's questions included this one:

What is the best way to become a better duplicate bridge player?

This was the answer provide by Mark Hangartner:

Partner. Find a partner who wants to play with you (very important), plays a bit better than you, and is prepared to work together with you on your game.

Opponents. Play quite often against opponents who are better than you, and ideally will answer questions about bidding and play.

Bidding Conventions. Only agree to play conventions you and your partner understand. If possible practice these away from the table together.

Read. Develop some technical skills such as counting out the distribution of every hand. There are many good books with problems that will help with these. Try to train your mind to recognise these situations when they come up at the table.

Watch. Sometimes it can be better to watch a good player, guessing the decisions they will make before they make them, than play a tournament. BBO is particularly good for this as top matches are broadcast live.

Be good. Be kind to yourself and partner while you are learning, celebrate your successes and congratulate opponents when they do well. Try to be a friendly and ethical player all the time. Remember it is a game to be enjoyed.

When I posed the question to the people in the room Brian Senior immediately suggested that the answer was to partner him at the bridge table - which perhaps leads neatly on to the next question posed on Quora Digest - What is the most painful situation humans can feel?

Game's inventor par excellence Maureen Hiron tells me that board, card and dice games have NEVER sold so well (which keeps her bank manager happy). It seems even in this electronic age people began to miss the social aspect of face-to-face gaming and are returning to this in droves. So - to take advantage of the current situation, and if bridge aficionados want bridge to grow back again towards its former popularity, it's up to the players themselves to encourage newcomers of every age to take up this great game.

In this bulletin we include a report on Round 13 of the Seniors RR by John Carruthers - it was mislaid, but, like a lost masterpiece it has been rediscovered for your enjoyment on the way home.

Swings and Arrows

The penultimate session of the Bermuda Bowl was a classic, full of dramatic deals.

Board 2. Dealer East. N/S Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Grue	Bessis	Moss	Volcker
—	—	1♣*	1♦
Dble*	4♠	Pass	Pass
Dble	All Pass		

1♣ Strong

Dble Game forcing, no better bid

East led the king of diamonds and declarer won with ace and played the queen of spades. East went up with the ace and must have winced when West followed with his majesty. When the next card to settle on the table was the queen of hearts declarer could draw trumps and claim, +790.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Combescure	Pszczola	Rombaut	Rosenberg
—	—	1♥	Pass
2NT*	4♠	5♥	All Pass

South the six of spades and declarer won with dummy's king as North followed with the queen and played a heart, North taking the ace and returning the jack of spades. South ruffed with the outstanding trump and played a diamond, One down, but 12 IMPs for France.

Board 3. Dealer South. E/W Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Grue	Bessis	Moss	Volcker
—	—	—	Pass
Pass	1♥	2♦	Pass
Pass	Dble	Pass	3♣
Dble	All Pass		



Frédéric Volcker, Joe Grue, Thomas Bessis and Brad Moss

West led the ten of diamonds and declarer won performe with dummy's ace and played the two of hearts, East going up with the king and returning the five. Declarer cross-ruffed the next three tricks and played a spade to the king and ace. He ruffed the diamond return in dummy, ruffed a heart, played a club to the queen, cashed the ace of clubs and played the queen of hearts. West could ruff and cash the king of clubs but had to surrender the last trick to the queen of spades, +470.

There may be ways to make an overtrick, but in this situation with nine tricks in sight there is no need to take any risks.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Combesure	Pszczola	Rombaut	Rosenberg
—	—	—	Pass
Pass	1♥	2♦	Pass
Pass	Dble	Pass	2NT*
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

West led the ten of diamonds and declarer won with dummy's ace and tried the two of hearts. West won with the ace and played another diamond, ducked to declarer's jack as a heart went from dummy. The jack of clubs was covered by the king and ace and East took the queen of hearts with the king and played the king followed by the eight of diamonds. The eight of clubs was covered by the nine and queen and declarer played the two of spades. Ducking that would have led to two down, but East went in with the ace and cashed the seven of diamonds, +50 and another 11 IMPs for France, suddenly ahead 230-186.

Board 4. Dealer West. All Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Grue	Bessis	Moss	Volcker
—	—	2♣*	Pass
2♦*	Pass	2♥*	Pass
2♠*	Pass	2NT	Pass
3♦*	Pass	3♥	Pass
3♠	Pass	3NT	Pass
4♦	Pass	4NT	Pass
5♣	Pass	5♦	Pass
5♠	Pass	6♥	All Pass
2♦	Waiting, game forcing		
2♠	Waiting		

The early part of the auction was Kokish orientated. After the transfer to hearts, systems guru Al Hollander thinks 3♠ forced 3NT, but is unsure about what followed.

A diamond lead defeats 6♥, and declarer would still have some work to do after a club or a trump, but South started with the two of spades for the jack, queen and ace. Declarer played a diamond for the nine, ten and jack, North returning the king of clubs to declarer's ace. Declarer played four rounds of trumps and when North pitched a spade the ten came upon the next round of the suit, +1430.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Combesure	Pszczola	Rombaut	Rosenberg
Pass	1♦	Dble	Pass
1♥	Pass	2♦*	Pass
2NT	Pass	3♠	Pass
4♠	All Pass		

Declarer won the diamond lead with the ace, ducked a spade to the ten, took the king of clubs return with the ace and cashed the top spades, +650 but 13 IMPs to USA II.

Board 8. Dealer West. None Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Grue	Bessis	Moss	Volcker
1♣*	Pass	1♥*	Pass
1♠*	Pass	2♠*	Pass
2NT*	Pass	3♥*	Pass
3NT	Pass	4♠*	Pass
4NT*	Pass	5♣*	Pass
7♣	All Pass		
1♣	Strong		
1♥	12+ not hearts unless 3532 with balanced shape then 2♣ after 1♠		
1♠	Relay		
2♠	5+♦ not 5332		

Although 3NT is not alerted on the BBO screen it may have been a further relay.

After a spade lead declarer could win with dummy's ace, cash a top club, cross to the ace of diamonds, draw trumps and establish the diamonds, +1440.



Brian Senior

Bermuda Bowl Final - Segment 8

France v USA2



Having trailed by 44 IMPs early in the penultimate set of the Bermuda Bowl final, USA2 came back strongly to dominate the rest of the set and take a 9 IMP lead into the final 16-board set. One would rather have a 9 IMP lead than a 9 IMP deficit, but the lead could be wiped out in just one board so the match and the world championship were still too close to call going into the final session.

Board 113. Dealer North. None Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Moss	Lorenzini	Grue	Quantin
—	2♦	Pass	4♦*
Pass	4♥	All Pass	

West	North	East	South
Volcker	Fleisher	Bessis	Martel
—	2♦	Pass	2♠
Pass	3♣	Pass	4♥
Dble	All Pass		

Joe Grue led the ten of clubs, Lorenzini rising with dummy's ace and running the ten of hearts. Grue won the queen and returned the ten of spades. Lorenzini again rose with an ace. He led a low club off the table, Brad Moss winning the queen, cashing the queen of spades, then switching to the queen of diamonds. Lorenzini won the ace, drew trumps and led a diamond to the jack. That lost to the king and there was the ♦10 to be lost so down two for -100.

For USA2, Marty Fleisher also opened with a multi. Chip Martel inquired, discovered that his partner had a maximum with hearts, and jumped to 4♥. Now Frederic Volcker doubled for take-out, ending the auction. Would this create a swing to France? Volcker led his trump, Martel ducking to Thomas Bessis's queen, and Bessis switched to the seven of diamonds, Volcker winning the queen. He switched to the king of spades so Martel won the ace, drew trumps, squeezing Volcker out of one card from each black suit, and led the nine of clubs to the ten, jack and queen. Volcker played two rounds of spades but Martel could ruff,

lead a club to the ace and ruff a club, and the ♣J was established for his ninth trick; no swing at -100.

Both East/Wests played 3NT on Board 114, USA2 picking up an IMP for an extra overtrick, +460 against +430; 242-232.

Board 115. Dealer South. E/W Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Moss	Lorenzini	Grue	Quantin
—	—	—	1♥
Pass	1♠	Pass	2♣
Pass	2♦	Pass	2♠
Pass	2NT	Pass	3♣
Pass	3♦	Pass	3♠
Pass	4♥	All Pass	

West	North	East	South
Volcker	Fleisher	Bessis	Martel
—	—	—	1♥
Pass	1NT	Pass	2♣
Pass	Pass	Dble	Pass
2♦	2♥	Pass	3♣
All Pass			

Fleisher's 1NT response was semi-forcing and could have included four spades as Fleisher/Martel play Flannery and often bypass a four-card spade suit in response to 1♥. Fleisher passed the 2♣ rebid but then competed with 2♥ at his next turn, showing that he had a doubleton heart but four clubs. Martel converted to the four-four fit, against which Volcker led the jack of spades round to declarer's queen. Martel led a heart to the jack, Bessis winning the ace and returning his trump to the ten, jack and ace. Martel played a second club to his king then started on the hearts, pitching spades from dummy. Volcker could ruff in and cash the ♣Q but the ace of diamonds was the last winner for the defence so Martel had nine tricks for +110.

In the other room, Lorenzini responded 1♠ and Quantin's rebid was Gazzilli, either natural or any 16+. Two Diamonds

showed game values facing the strong variety and now 2♠ showed 16+ with three spades. Eventually, Lorenzini chose the heart game. The four-one club split was always going to be a problem for declarer, but Brad Moss led a low diamond from the ace and Quantin had no reason to get the suit right, playing low from dummy and losing to the queen. Grue returned a spade so Quantin put in the queen and led a heart to the jack and, when that held, took the ruffing diamond finesse, throwing his low spade. The diamond lost to the ace and there was still a heart and a club to be lost, one club going away on the established diamond. USA had +50 and 4 IMPs to lead by 246-232.

Board 116 was flat in 3NT+1 by N/S, then...

Board 117. Dealer North. N/S Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Moss	Lorenzini	Grue	Quantin
—	Pass	1♠	Dble
4♠	4NT	Pass	5♦
All Pass			

West	North	East	South
Volcker	Fleisher	Bessis	Martel
—	Pass	Pass	INT
Pass	2♣	Pass	2♥
Pass	3♠	Pass	3NT
Pass	4♥	All Pass	

Given a free run, Martel and Fleisher had no trouble in reaching the heart game. With both red suits splitting three-two, there were no problems in the play and Martel chalked up a quick and easy +650, with the diamond loser going away on the long clubs.

Grue and Moss open the bidding very aggressively, particularly at those vulnerabilities where they are playing Precision Club. Grue opened the East hand and found Moss with a hand on which he could make a big preemptive raise of Quantin's double. What should Lorenzini do on the North cards? A responsive double would have collected +500 when Quantin left it in, but how likely was it that Quantin would turn up with two spade tricks in such a balanced hand? Lorenzini judged to commit to his side declaring the contract and bid 4NT for take-out, Quantin responding 5♦, preference between the minors. That ended the auction but with diamonds as trumps there was no way

to avoid a loser in the suit and, with two aces also to be lost, Quantin had to go down one for -100 and 12 IMPs to USA2. They led by 259-232.

Board 118. Dealer East. E/W Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Moss	Lorenzini	Grue	Quantin
—	—	Pass	1♦
Pass	1♥	Pass	2♣
Pass	2NT	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

West	North	East	South
Volcker	Fleisher	Bessis	Martel
—	—	Pass	1♦
Pass	1♥	Pass	INT
Pass	2♣	All Pass	

Martel's INT rebid showed clubs and, with no great fit for either of his partner's suits, Fleisher took the mildly cautious approach of giving simple preference to 2♣. Bessis led the five of spades, ducked to declarer's queen, and this convinced Fleisher that the ♠K was likely to be on his left. He led a heart, Bessis winning the ace and returning a club to dummy's ace. Fleisher crossed to the ace of spades and took a spade pitch on the ♥Q then led the ♥J, throwing a diamond. Volcker ruffed the ♥J and played the king of spades, ruffed in dummy. In the wrong hand, Fleisher led a low diamond round to Bessis, who played another club. Fleisher put in the jack and led a second low diamond. Bessis again won and played a third club so Fleisher had to concede a third diamond and was down one for -50.

In the other room, Quantin made a natural 2♣ rebid and Lorenzini bid 2NT, which Quantin raised to game. Grue led the five of hearts to dummy's bare ace, and Lorenzini played a low diamond, Grue winning the ten while Moss followed with the seven, reverse Smith, and leading a spade to the king and ace. Lorenzini played a second diamond to the jack, king and ace and Moss returned the ♥6 to the queen and ten. That was a nice play by Grue, leaving open the possibility that Moss would have the diamond entry along with the ♥3 to lead through the jack. Lorenzini took a long time, over ten minutes, to lead to the next trick. Finally, he cashed the spades then took the club finesse and when clubs were three-three with the queen onside found

that he had nine tricks for +400 and 10 IMPs to France, closing to 242-259.

Lorenzini's extra chance playing in this fashion was that if Grue was 3-4-2-4 with the ♣Q he could be endplayed with the fourth club to give the last trick to the ♥J.

Board 119 was flat in 4♠ by N/S, just made for +620, but we didn't have to wait long for the next major swing.

Board 120. Dealer West. None Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Moss	Lorenzini	Grue	Quantin
1♠	Pass	3♠	Dble
4♠	Pass	Pass	5♥
All Pass			

West	North	East	South
Volcker	Fleisher	Bessis	Martel
Pass	Pass	Pass	2♣
2♠	Pass	4♠	5♥
All Pass			

Once again Moss/Grue opened a hand that was passed at the other table, and again the 1♠ opening caught partner with a hand on which he could raise pre-emptively, though Grue contented himself with 3♠ this time. Quantin doubled and Moss raised to 4♠. When that came round to Quantin he bid 5♥ and played there. In the other room, there was no opening bid from E/W so Martel got to open 2♣, strong and artificial, and now Volcker overcalled and Bessis raised to 4♠. Martel too bid 5♥ and was left to play there.

Volcker led his singleton club round to declarer's jack, solving a big problem for Martel, who laid down the ace of hearts and was delighted to see the bare king appear on his right. He drew the remaining trump with the jack and led a diamond to the king, losing two of those but having the remainder for +450.

Moss led a spade. Quantin won the ace and he too had no option but to lay down the ♥A. When the king fell he still had a problem. He could cross to dummy's ♥J to lead either a club to the jack or a diamond to the king, but it was West who had opened the bidding and, even in the Grue/Moss style of Precision, there was plenty of room for Moss to hold either or both of the key cards. Quantin eventually played ace then jack of clubs, which would have made the

contract had the king been on his left, only to find that Moss was ruffing. Moss played back a spade now and Quantin had no option but to play a diamond to the king, doomed though that play surely would be. The contract was down one for -50 and 11 IMPs to USA2. The lead was back up to 270-242.

Board 121. Dealer North. E/W Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Moss	Lorenzini	Grue	Quantin
—	Pass	Pass	1♥
Dble	3♣	3♠	Pass
4♠	5♥	Pass	Pass
Dble	All Pass		

West	North	East	South
Volcker	Fleisher	Bessis	Martel
—	Pass	Pass	1♥
Dble	3NT	4♠	Pass
Pass	5♣	Pass	5♥
Dble	All Pass		

The E/W 4♠ contract would have been beaten by a trick, but it was tough for N/S to judge that and both saved in 5♥, where they were doubled.

Moss led the king of diamonds, continued with the queen, then switched to the queen of spades. Grue won the ace and returned a second spade, Quantin choosing to ruff in the dummy. He cashed the ace of clubs then ruffed a club, Grue discarding a diamond, ruffed his winning king of spades and ruffed another club as Grue pitched his last diamond. Only now did Quantin ruff a diamond in dummy, with the ♥K. He ruffed another club then ruffed the winning diamond with the ♥10 and suffered an over-ruff so was down two for -300.

Volcker too cashed the king and queen of diamonds then switched to the ♠Q. Bessis won the ace and returned a spade. Martel won the king and led the queen of clubs to the king and ace, ruffed the ten of clubs, ruffed a diamond, bringing down the ace, and ruffed another club. Finally, he led a heart to the king then led the ♥10 and put in the jack and claimed the rest; down one for -100 but 5 IMPs to USA2, extending their lead to 275-242.

Board 122 was a flat 3NT+2 for N/S, then France recovered 6 IMPs on Board 123 when Bessis/Volcker were

allowed to play in 3♦ for +110 while Quentin/Lorenzini competed to 4♣ which should have been trivially defeated but was let through for another +130. USA2 led by 275-248 and there were five deals to play.

Board 124. Dealer West. N/S Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Moss	Lorenzini	Grue	Quentin
INT	Pass	2♣	Pass
2♦	Pass	3♠	Pass
3NT	Pass	4NT	All Pass

West	North	East	South
Volcker	Fleisher	Bessis	Martel
INT	Pass	2♣	Pass
2♦	Pass	3♠	Pass
3NT	Pass	5NT	Pass
6NT	All Pass		

This deal breathed new life into the French challenge. Both Wests opened INT but there was a slight difference as Volcker showed 15-17 while Moss promised only 14-16. The respective Easts both used Stayman then followed a Smolen sequence to show four-five in the majors and West chose 3NT. Now the extra point came into play as Bessis jumped to 5NT, pick a slam, while Grue bid only 4NT, invitational. Volcker chose to play in 6NT, while Moss saw nothing good about his hand and declined the slam invitation.

Moss made 12 tricks in 4NT, just losing to the ace of clubs; +490. Volcker took the spade finesse twice then led a club to the king and Fleisher ducked, hoping that declarer would then try a second club. All the duck did was to present Volcker with a completely irrelevant overtrick; +1020 and 11 IMPs to France, who trailed by 259-275.

Board 125 was another flat 3NT+2, this time for E/W, then USA2 picked up 3 IMPs for 2NT-2 by East as opposed to INT-4 by West. The opening lead made the contract much tougher when played by West. France trailed by 259-278 with two boards to play. The good news was that both those deals were slam deals. Alas, France missed the cold 6♥ on Board 127 – the contract needs little more than to avoid losing to the trump queen missing only three cards – but so did USA2.

The final deal:

Board 128. Dealer West. E/W Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Moss	Lorenzini	Grue	Quentin
INT	Pass	2♥	Pass
2NT	Pass	4♥	Pass
4♠	Pass	4NT	Pass
5♥	Pass	5NT	Pass
7♠	All Pass		

West	North	East	South
Volcker	Fleisher	Bessis	Martel
INT	Pass	2♥	Pass
3♠	Pass	4♣	Pass
4♦	Pass	4♥	Pass
4♠	Pass	4NT	Pass
5♥	Pass	6♣	Pass
6♠	All Pass		

Volcker opened INT then broke the transfer, co-operated with one cuebid, then showed his key cards. Bessis bid 6♣ to ask for third-round control and, not holding what was required, Volcker signed-off in 6♠, which made exactly for +1430. Moss too opened INT then broke the transfer and Grue splintered. Moss signed off but Grue was nowhere near finished yet. He asked for key cards then, on finding all were present, bid 5NT to invite the grand slam. Moss liked his source of tricks in diamonds so jumped to the brand slam in spades, the agreed suit. There were only 12 tricks so the contract was down one for -100 and 17 IMPs to France. At this moment, I suspect that Moss and Grue thought the match was lost, as they had got two slam deals wrong on the last two deals. They looked thrilled when they discovered the truth, that USA2 had held on to win by 2 IMPs, 278-276. Joe Grue, Brad Moss, Marty Fleisher, Chip Martel, Michael Rosenberg and Jacek Pszczola were the 2017 Bermuda Bowl champions. Congratulations also to npc Jan Martel and to the French team who contributed so much to a thrilling final.

Before we leave this match, do you share my view that an imaginative player like Brad Moss might have bid 7♦ on that final deal instead of 7♠? He knows there is a heart ruff in the dummy (assuming that 4♥ was indeed a splinter), and if partner has ace to three diamonds, there should be 13 tricks, as partner must surely have all his actual key cards to bid 4NT then 5NT. And if partner has a sixth spade and only a doubleton diamond, he will correct to 7♠. Anyway, just a thought.