

DAILY BULLETIN

Editor: Mark Horton

Lay-out Editor: Monika Kümmel

Journalists: David Bird, Martin Cantor, Jos Jacobs, Christina Lund

Madsen, Marc Smith, Ron Tacchi

Photos: Moughit Chhabni, Ron Tacchi

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FIFTEEN AND COUNTING

Which do you consider the more remarkable, the fact that **Sweden** has won their first 15 matches or that they are nevertheless 3.71 VP behind the leaders of the Venice Cup **Poland**. These two teams, along with third placed **Türkiye** are setting a pace which the remainder of the field have thus far been unable to match. The gap between first and eighth is a staggering 72.93 VP.


In the Bermuda Bowl, **Norway** now leads from **Poland** and **Switzerland**, the latter confirming that there are no easy matches as they lost 20-0VP to **UAE**. The gap between first and eighth is only 18.24 VP.

Poland continues to lead the way in the d'Orsi Trophy table, followed by **USA1** and **USA2**. The number this time is 35.54 VP.

In the Wuhan Cup **Germany** had a big day to surge to the top ahead of **Italy** and **USA1**. The top eight are covered by 25.25 VP.

Unforeseen circumstances mean that we are desperately in need of experienced BBO operators right away. If we can't find any to fill these job vacancies we will probably have to reduce the number of tables we are able to show to the watching world. If you can help please report to Hospitality as you enter the building as quickly as possible so you can get your assignments for today.

WANTED



BBO operators needed

The WBF needs YOU

Start times	
10.00-12.15	
13.15-15.30	
15.50-18.05	

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Director, please! Arbitre s'il vous plait!

BBO Matches				
	BBO1	BBO2	BBO3	BBO4
10.00	BB USA2-Poland	BB Israel-New Zealand	VC Poland-Türkiye	DOT USA1-India
13.15	BB Israel-India	BB Belgium-Italy	VC Sweden-Israel	WUC Chinese Taipei-Colombia
15.50	BB USA1-Switzerland	VC Poland-China	DOT Denmark-Italy	WUC USA2-France

Draw for Today's Matches

Bermuda Bowl

Round 16

 MOROCCO	 INDIA
 EGYPT	 HONG KONG CHINA
 IRELAND	 CHINA
 PANAMA	 NORWAY
 USA2	 POLAND
 ISRAEL	 NEW ZEALAND
 CHILE	 ITALY
 USA1	 BRAZIL
 CANADA	 SOUTH AFRICA
 UAE	 AUSTRALIA
 BELGIUM	 SWITZERLAND
 SINGAPORE	 NETHERLANDS

Venice Cup

Round 16

 BARBADOS	 GERMANY
 ARGENTINA	 CANADA
 FRANCE	 MOROCCO
 EGYPT	 UAE
 NORWAY	 HONG KONG CHINA
 POLAND	 TURKIYE
 NEW ZEALAND	 ISRAEL
 AUSTRALIA	 CHINA
 BRAZIL	 USA1
 SOUTH AFRICA	 INDIA
 SWEDEN	 DENMARK
 CHINESE TAIPEI	 USA2

Round 17

 EGYPT	 MOROCCO
 IRELAND	 POLAND
 USA2	 NEW ZEALAND
 USA1	 PANAMA
 ISRAEL	 INDIA
 NORWAY	 BRAZIL
 CHINA	 CHILE
 CANADA	 SWITZERLAND
 BELGIUM	 ITALY
 SINGAPORE	 UAE
 SOUTH AFRICA	 AUSTRALIA
 NETHERLANDS	 HONG KONG CHINA

Round 17

 ARGENTINA	 BARBADOS
 FRANCE	 HONG KONG CHINA
 NORWAY	 TURKIYE
 AUSTRALIA	 EGYPT
 POLAND	 GERMANY
 UAE	 CHINA
 MOROCCO	 NEW ZEALAND
 BRAZIL	 DENMARK
 SWEDEN	 ISRAEL
 CHINESE TAIPEI	 SOUTH AFRICA
 USA1	 INDIA
 USA2	 CANADA

Round 18

 MOROCCO	 IRELAND
 USA2	 INDIA
 ISRAEL	 BRAZIL
 PANAMA	 CANADA
 NORWAY	 EGYPT
 USA1	 SWITZERLAND
 CHILE	 NEW ZEALAND
 BELGIUM	 AUSTRALIA
 SOUTH AFRICA	 CHINA
 UAE	 NETHERLANDS
 ITALY	 SINGAPORE
 HONG KONG CHINA	 POLAND

Round 18

 BARBADOS	 FRANCE
 NORWAY	 GERMANY
 POLAND	 CHINA
 EGYPT	 BRAZIL
 UAE	 ARGENTINA
 AUSTRALIA	 DENMARK
 NEW ZEALAND	 TURKIYE
 SWEDEN	 INDIA
 USA1	 MOROCCO
 SOUTH AFRICA	 USA2
 ISRAEL	 CHINESE TAIPEI
 CANADA	 HONG KONG CHINA

Draw for Today's Matches

d'Orsi Trophy

Round 16

 COLOMBIA	 ITALY
 CANADA	 SWEDEN
 SOUTH AFRICA	 CHINESE TAIPEI
 GUADELOUPE	 BELGIUM
 DENMARK	 HONG KONG CHINA
 USA2	 NETHERLANDS
 MOROCCO	 POLAND
 NORWAY	 CHINA
 ARGENTINA	 FRANCE
 REUNION	 ISRAEL
 USA1	 INDIA
 AUSTRALIA	 PAKISTAN

Wuhan Cup

Round 16

 COLOMBIA	 ITALY
 CHINESE TAIPEI	 USA2
 INDIA	 USA1
 MOROCCO	 BELGIUM
 DENMARK	 FRANCE
 EGYPT	 AUSTRALIA
 TUNISIA	 ARGENTINA
 CHINA	 GERMANY
 CANADA	 ISRAEL
 UAE	 NEW ZEALAND
 BARBADOS	 SINGAPORE
 ROMANIA	 POLAND

Round 17

 CANADA	 COLOMBIA
 SOUTH AFRICA	 HONG KONG CHINA
 DENMARK	 NETHERLANDS
 NORWAY	 GUADELOUPE
 USA2	 ITALY
 BELGIUM	 CHINA
 CHINESE TAIPEI	 MOROCCO
 ARGENTINA	 INDIA
 USA1	 POLAND
 AUSTRALIA	 REUNION
 FRANCE	 ISRAEL
 PAKISTAN	 SWEDEN

Round 17

 CHINESE TAIPEI	 COLOMBIA
 INDIA	 FRANCE
 DENMARK	 AUSTRALIA
 CHINA	 MOROCCO
 EGYPT	 ITALY
 BELGIUM	 GERMANY
 USA1	 TUNISIA
 CANADA	 SINGAPORE
 BARBADOS	 ARGENTINA
 ROMANIA	 UAE
 ISRAEL	 NEW ZEALAND
 POLAND	 USA2

Round 18

 COLOMBIA	 SOUTH AFRICA
 DENMARK	 ITALY
 USA2	 CHINA
 GUADELOUPE	 ARGENTINA
 BELGIUM	 CANADA
 NORWAY	 INDIA
 MOROCCO	 NETHERLANDS
 USA1	 ISRAEL
 FRANCE	 CHINESE TAIPEI
 REUNION	 PAKISTAN
 POLAND	 AUSTRALIA
 SWEDEN	 HONG KONG CHINA

Round 18

 COLOMBIA	 INDIA
 DENMARK	 ITALY
 EGYPT	 GERMANY
 MOROCCO	 CANADA
 BELGIUM	 CHINESE TAIPEI
 CHINA	 SINGAPORE
 TUNISIA	 AUSTRALIA
 BARBADOS	 NEW ZEALAND
 ISRAEL	 USA1
 UAE	 POLAND
 ARGENTINA	 ROMANIA
 USA2	 FRANCE

Venice Cup RR 10

France v Sweden

Just Four

by Martin Cantor

The editor likes to make a film reference in his article titles or text, but this being a Venice Cup match it needs a big crowbar to lever my 'only four boards' together with The Four Just Men (1939 and subsequent TV series). I have just four deals to tell you about from this match:

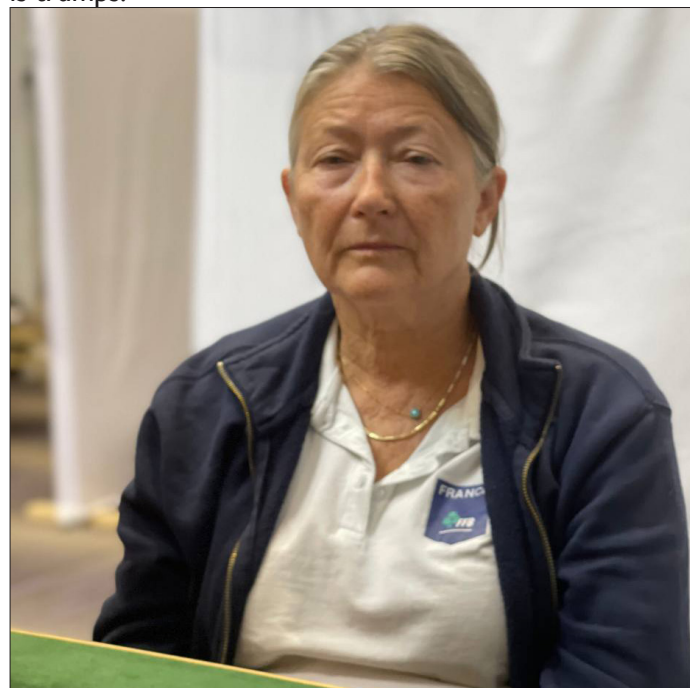
Board 19. Dealer South. EW Vul.

♠ 9 8 7 ♥ J 7 6 ♦ A 8 7 ♣ K 7 5 3	♠ A Q 4 ♥ K 10 5 4 ♦ 5 2 ♣ 10 8 4 2	<div style="background-color: #004d00; color: white; padding: 10px; margin: 0 auto; width: 60px; height: 60px; display: flex; flex-direction: column; align-items: center; justify-content: center;"> N W E S </div> ♠ K J 10 6 2 ♥ A 8 3 ♦ 9 4 ♣ A Q J	♠ 5 3 ♥ Q 9 2 ♦ K Q J 10 6 3 ♣ 9 6
--	--	--	---

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Övelius	Rolland	Grönkvist	Puillet
—	—	—	3♦
Pass	Pass	3♠	All Pass

Looking at this single dummy, you hope to get a losing red card away on the ♣K, and to play trumps from dummy, quite possibly twice. Dummy, however, is not over-endowed with entries, the only sure one being attacked at the first trick when South leads the obvious top diamond. You might get lucky and find clubs 3-3, so your first priority is trumps.



Sabine Rolland, France



Emma Övelius, Sweden

Grönkvist won trick one and played the ♠7 off table. Rolland could have made life harder, given the lack of entries, had she risen with the ace. But from her point of view the ♣K is a sure entry, and rising with the ace could be very wrong if partner has the ♠10 for example. Rolland did take the next trump, and led a diamond to partner, who tried to cash another. However, declarer could ruff and draw the last trump, at which point she has her nine tricks. Even an overtrick can be important, so, with a 3-3 club break in reserve, she exited a small heart. When Puillet won this and continued the suit with the ♥9 rather than playing a boss diamond or the ♥2, she exposed her partner to a squeeze in the round suits when declarer played the last trump.


Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Tartarin	Hallqvist	Rossard	Johansson
—	—	—	3♦
Pass	Pass	3♠	Pass
4♠	All Pass		

A tough decision for Tartarin. In favour of the raise is the vulnerability, and the fact that your HCP include an ace and a king. Against is the 4333 shape. Preempts work, in the sense here that 3♠ covers a multitude of hand types. On a very good day, 4♠ might make, but this wasn't that day. The first trick was the same as in the other room, but when dummy's ♠9 hit the table Hallqvist shot up with the ace (I wonder whether there is something subtly psychologically different between the 7 and the 9, even

when the holding is visible?). At this point declarer's goose was well and truly cooked. The defence cashed diamonds, declarer tried to drop the ♠Q, and now when clubs failed to break she was two tricks short for a swing of 9 IMPs to Sweden.

Board 21. Dealer North. All Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Övelius	Rolland	Grönkvist	Puillet
—	1♦	Pass	1♥
Pass	1♠	Pass	2♣*
Pass	2NT	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

As the cards are you can't make 3NT on correct defence. Grönkvist led the ♥3 which led Rolland badly astray. You can see the logic in her finessing the 10, aiming for five in hearts, three in diamonds and one in a black suit. But the finesse can wait a round, when you have a sure entry in diamonds, and you have to wonder whether Grönkvist would really lead from Jxxx(x) in dummy's bid suit. With West on lead at trick 2, any black suit spot card can lead to four down. The defence did not err from here. She led a club, to the king and ace, and the ♣J, ducked, then the ♣10. Declarer now set up the diamonds with dummy's jack going to the ace, allowing Övelius to cash the long clubs, spade to partner's ace and one back to the king and Sweden had eight tricks and +400.


Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Tartarin	Hallqvist	Rossard	Johansson
—	1♣*	Pass	1♥
Pass	1NT	Pass	2♣
Pass	2♦	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

Neither 2♣ nor 2♦ were alerted on VuGraph, but it looks like two-way checkback. Rossard led the ♠8, covered by the 9, 10 and queen. Hallqvist went for the diamonds immediately, leading the king, taken by Tartarin for a club switch to king and ace. The ♣J was ducked, for reasons I fail to understand, since the defence now have three tricks in the bag and they have the ace and king of spades to cash, while if you take the ♣Q you have two already, three diamonds, and can play for four hearts. Rossard

now accurately switched the point of attack to the ♠A, but, perhaps from declarer's line of play unable to credit partner with the ♠K, reverted to clubs and declarer was home when the ♥J dropped. 14 IMPs for Sweden.

Board 26. Dealer East. All Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Övelius	Rolland	Grönkvist	Puillet
—	—	Pass	Pass
Pass	1♣	1♠	Pass
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

Whether because of the four card spade suit, or because her style expects a better hand for a second seat vulnerable weak two, Puillet passed and the auction proceeded as you can see. Grönkvist led the ♥A and switched to the ♣10, Övelius playing the king, ace and another to declarer's jack, at which point the vugraph reported "10 tricks claimed". As we can see, with diamonds not breaking, there are only eight tricks, and that is what the official score shows, 3NT-1.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Tartarin	Hallqvist	Rossard	Johansson
—	—	Pass	2♦*
Pass	2NT*	Pass	3♣*
Dble	3NT	All Pass	

2♦ 6M 6-9 or FG with ♦

Johansson had no qualms about opening a multi to show a weak two in a major, despite holding four cards in the other major. Hallqvist asked, and according to the convention card 3♣ showed any maximum, though I find it hard to believe that valuation. Whatever it showed, and despite West's double, Hallqvist thought she had enough with eight likely tricks in her own hand for the notrump game. In response to her partner's double Rossard led the ♣10 and Tartarin switched to a diamond in an attempt to disrupt communications. Declarer cashed a couple of those, East's spade discard revealing the bad break, then set her club trick up, putting Tartarin on play again. She played a spade, taken by the ace, and when declarer played her other two top diamonds Rossard parted with a heart then another spade, giving declarer her ninth trick with the ♠9, along with 12 IMPs.

Board 32. Dealer West. EW Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Övelius	Rolland	Grönkvist	Puillet
Pass	INT	Pass	2♣*
Pass	2♠	Pass	3♠
Pass	4♠	All Pass	

Gronkvist led the obvious ♥K, so everything depended on declarer's play of the diamonds. As early as trick 2 she led the ♦6 to the queen and West's king. Two rounds of hearts followed, the second ruffed, then three rounds to draw trumps ending in dummy (club discard from West). Now she finessed the ♦10 to East's jack, and with the club ace still to come for the defence she was one down.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Tartarin	Hallqvist	Rossard	Johansson
Pass	1♦	1♥	Dble
Pass	3♠	Pass	4♠
All Pass			

Although within their notrump range, Hallqvist preferred to open 1♦, which allowed Rossard to show her suit, before NS ended in the same 4♠ contract, with the same ♥K lead. That was ducked, the jack that followed taken by the ace. Three rounds of trump ending in hand, then the ♦A and a small one, and when East's jack appeared, declarer was home and dry, shortly thereafter claiming ten tricks and the same number of IMPs.

Sweden deserved their 14-51 / 2.28-17.72 win for that very common bridge reason - they made fewer mistakes. Just four boards accounted for 45 of their 51 IMPs.



“Bridge to the People” Foundation research update

Marek Malysa

In December 2022, we published our first official report, “[Playing bridge dementia prevention or Therapy as Well](#)”, in the International Journal of Psychiatry. We continue teaching bridge to people with Mild Cognitive Impairment in five Welfare Houses and two more Alzheimers Centers.

Unexpected support for dementia research came from India. ‘IBPA Personality of the Year 2022’, 14 years old Anshul Bhatt sent me an email with the proposal to do the same study there. Analyse and methodology he proposed are perfect. Welcome to our team Anshul. Welcome to the world of science.

At the same time, we started research to identify those parts of the brain working while playing bridge using EEG with 16 electrodes. We will also measure emotions, eye changes and register facial mime. The same we will do while playing chess, video game, reading and resting. We all expect bridge to engage the brain the most. All research runs in the Biomedical Engineering Department of the Gdańsk University of Technology, supported by neuroscientists.

Parallely, in Toruń at Nicolaus Copernicus University, cognitivists will record and analyse brain pictures of four bridge players playing live at the table with four EEG 64 electrodes each. They will also do “eye tracking” and “gaze studies”. University will soon cooperate with RIKEM AIP from Japan within the project “AI against dementia”.

I want to thank our supporters from the world of bridge: Jan Kamras, the President of the WBF, EBL, Israel Bridge Federation, Polish Insurance Company (PZU) and private sponsors Dr Patricia Cayne, Chen Yeh, Daniel Zagorin and a few others. For all bridge players ready to support the promotion of our game with severe scientific research results, don't hesitate to contact me to donate.

My email address: marekmalysa4@gmail.com



Chen Yeh



Dr Patricia Cayne



Daniel Zagorin

What's it like to be a coach?

Here's a typical day in the life of Thomas Bessis.

Live my life of USA2 coach

- 7.33 AM : My wife wakes up to go jogging in 153 degrees.
« I'm not coming today sweetheart, maybe tomorrow»
- 8.47 : Time to wake up and shower.
- 9.12 : Breakfast with opponent's Convention Cards for the day.
I highlight a couple of things in green, after all I have to pretend I work a bit.
- 9.35 : I look at my badge with the American flag. Still weird.
- 9.49 : I get to the playing area.
Always the same question: where the hell is Zia's cushion ?
- 9.55 : We find Zia's cushion. Some woman had slept with it.
- 9.56 : Zia wants to change half of the system and starts sharing his ideas with Meck
Meck seems absolutely delighted.
- 10.17 : Back to the room
Refresh. Nothing. Refresh. Nothing. Refresh. Win 13.
- 11.54 : Back to the playing area. 4 boards left in the Closed Room, 2 in the Open Room.
I decide to wait in front of the Open Room.
- 12.03 : Won 2 on board 15. Still nobody's out.
- 12.06 : I enter the Open Room and find out Brad and Joe are not there.
How the hell did that happen?
- 12.07 : I decide to go in front of the Closed Room and wait there.
- 12.11 : I check in the Closed Room. Meck and Zia already gone.
- 12.16 : I finally find everyone.
We won comfortably, so nobody actually notices I wasn't there.
- 12.43 : Lunch with Zia by the pool. He gets some olives, signs a few autographs, sells a couple of books. The routine of a superstar?"



One of the few times Thomas made it to the comparison in time



Thomas and his green pen exhausted after a long day of highlights

- 1.06 PM : Getting ready for the second match.
Chip smiles. Marty walks. Brad laughs. All good.
- 1.12 : Need to make copies of our opponent's C.C. for the next days.
Jan Martel tells me it's probably not that useful as we already have 17 different summaries of each pair's system, but I don't care. I brought my green highlighting pen for a goddamn reason, and I intend to use it.
- 3.18 : Time to compare.
Win 8. Win 12. Win 13. Lose 4. Chip's moustache goes nuts.
- 3.21 : Marty noticed this hair madness and wants to go for a walk.
- 3.25 : We've said bad things about 27 different bridge players.
- 3.27 : Marty and I are lost.
- 3.38 : Here we go again. Have to take care of Mr Mahmood's sensitive bottom.
- 4.21 : I feel I deserved a swim in the pool.
- 5.59 : Win 12. Lose 5. Win 19. Mecks tells me I've been fantastic today.
- 6.03 : Marty wants to go for a walk. Zia wants to go for a glass of wine.
I find some lame excuse for Marty and join Zia.
- 7.22 : Here comes my most important task of the day. Pick the wine.
I'm in an adventurous mood and go Moroccan. Zia approves. Phew.
- 8.52 : Back to the hotel.
- 9.43 : Padel with Brink Drijver and Joe.
Joe breaks a couple of rackets, but at least it's not on Brad's head.
- 11.42 : Back to the room. Quick shower, Netflix on.
Irene falls asleep after 3 minutes, me after 7.
Need to recharge the batteries for these mashuganas.

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National Simultaneous	November 12
IMP Pairs	November 13,14
Open Pairs	November 15,16,17
Teams	November 18

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Venice Cup RR 11 France v Poland



by Marc Smith

The French Women's team were lying in fourth place after three days of play, but today presented a big challenge, as their first two matches were against the two leading teams. First up were the defending Venice Cup champions, Sweden, and then came Poland, the European champions. In their first match of the day, the French went down 14-51, collecting just 2.28 VPs and slipping down to sixth place. Meanwhile, the Polish women began their day with a 65-37 win over New Zealand.

Only one problem today. With neither side vulnerable, you are East holding:

♠ 3
♥ A 10 5 4 3
♦ A K Q 9 5 3
♣ 5

West	North	East	South
Pass	Pass	1♥	1♠
3♥*	3♠	4♥	5♣
Pass	5♠	?	
3♥ Preemptive			

What action, if any, do you take?

Opening the bidding will usually put your side in a good position to compete effectively. This deal proved to be an exception.

Board 4. Dealer West. All Vul.

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

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Bessis	Dufrat	Avon	Zmuda
Pass	2♥*	2NT	All Pass

Katarzyna Dufrat's 2♥ opening showed hearts and a minor. After Danielle Avon's natural 2NT overcall, there was no reason for Justyna Zmuda to expect that her side had a big fit: surely partner's second suit will be clubs most of the time.

Zmuda led a heart to the deuce, seven and a deceptive king from declarer. Now came a spade toward dummy. There was nothing to indicate that Zmuda had to rush in

with the ♠A and switch to diamonds, so dummy's ♠K won. Having reached dummy, declarer took the club finesse and was soon claiming her eight winners. E/W +120.

Open Room

West	North	East	South
C Baldysz	Tartarin	S Baldysz	Puillet
Pass	Pass	1♣*	1♦
Pass	2♥*	Dble	3♦
3♠	4♦	4♠	Dble
All Pass			

- 1♣ Polish multi-way
- 2♥ Fit-showing, hearts and diamonds

Anne-Laure Tartarin did not open on the North hand, so South was able to get diamonds into the auction. Tartarin advanced with a fit-showing jump to 2♥ and Sophia Baldysz doubled. Carole Puillet retreated to 3♦ and Cathy Baldysz came alive with a skinny competitive 3♠. Was Cathy going to lead a club against 4♦? Would Sophia have raised to game had North passed 3♠? The effect of the French competitive bidding was to push the Poles too high, and Puillet doubled to maximize the gain.

Cathy ran the heart lead to her jack, played a club to the queen, and advanced the ♠Q. South took the ♠A and played two rounds of diamonds, forcing dummy to ruff. A trump to the king revealed the bad break, so declarer played a second club. When the ♣K appeared, Cathy claimed nine tricks, conceding two more trumps. E/W -200 and 8 IMPs to France.

The lead did not last long, when the Poles bid to a 100% game but the French landed in one that turned out to be a 50-50 guess.



Anne-Laure Tartarin, France

Board 5. Dealer North. N/S Vul.

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

♠ J 10 6 2
♥ K Q 8
♦ 9
♣ A 7 6 3 2

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Bessis	Dufrat	Avon	Zmuda
—	1♣*	Pass	1♠
Pass	2♦*	Pass	3♣
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

Dufrat began with a multi-way Polish Club, and Zmuda's 1♠ response was a natural positive (4+♠, 7+ HCP). Dufrat's 2♦ was then an artificial game-force, showing the 18+ variation of the 1♣ opening. Zmuda now bid her clubs, denying a fifth spade, so Dufrat bid what looked like the obvious game.

The defence led a diamond, but declarer had only the ♥A to knock out. She then had four hearts, the ♣A and a pair of Ace-Kings for nine tricks: N/S +600.

The natural French system found the heart fit right away, but that turned out to be something of a poisoned chalice.

Open Room

West	North	East	South
C Baldysz	Tartarin	S Baldysz	Puillet
—	1♥	2♠	2NT*
Pass	3♠	Pass	4♣*
Pass	4♦*	Pass	4♥
All Pass			

Sophia Baldysz's weak jump overcall did not unduly inconvenience the French pair. South agreed hearts and showed at least invitational values with 2NT, and they even exchanged a couple of cue-bids on the way to game.

Defence is the most difficult part of the game, in part because the odds are often stacked against you. Sometimes the best you can do is to give declarer a chance to go mis-guess, which is exactly what the Poles did here. Sophia got off to a good start by leading a spade, Cathy ruffing with a low trump. Cathy then continued with the ♥A and a second round of hearts.

Tartarin won in dummy, crossed to her hand with a high diamond, and she was at the crossroads. Declarer must now decide which defender holds the ♣K. She needs to ruff a diamond in dummy, but entries are a problem. If declarer takes her diamond ruff now, how does she get back to hand to draw trumps? If West holds the ♣K, declarer can take her ruff and simply play the ♣A and a

second club. If East holds the ♣K, though, she will win the club trick and give her partner a second spade ruff for one down.

If East holds the ♣K, declarer must, therefore, take the club finesse before ruffing her diamond loser. That's what Tartarin did: she ran the ♣Q. When Cathy won with the ♣K she returned her last trump, cutting declarer's communications, and thus Tartarin was left with a diamond loser at the end. One down: N/S -100 and a hard-earned 12 IMPs to Poland.

Board 8. Dealer West. None Vul.

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

♠ K J 10 8 5 2
♥ Q J 8
♦ —
♣ A K Q 9

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Bessis	Dufrat	Avon	Zmuda
Pass	Pass	1♦	1♠
Pass	3♠	4♥	4♣
5♦	Pass	Pass	5♠
All Pass			

Danielle Avon opened 1♦ in third seat. I don't know if Veronique Bessis did not have a weak (2♦) raise available after South's 1♠ overcall but, had she bid now it would surely have changed the latter auction. Katarzyna Dufrat made a pre-emptive raise to 3♠ and now Avon backed in with 4♥, showing her big two-suiter. Justyna Zmuda bid a fourth spade, and now Bessis competed to 5♦ with her double fit. Having pushed Zmuda to the five-level, who



Danielle Avon, France

is supposed to take the six-level sacrifice for the French?

There were just two aces to be lost in Zmuda's 5♠. N/S +450.

Open Room

West	North	East	South
C Baldysz	Tartarin	S Baldysz	Puillet
Pass	Pass	1♥	1♠
3♥*	3♠	4♥	5♣
Pass	5♠	6♦	6♠
Dble	All Pass		
3♥ Preemptive			

Sophia Baldysz chose to start with 1♥, which changed the whole tempo of the auction, as Cathy pre-empted to 3♥ on the West cards. The French also got to 5♠, leaving Sophia with the problem posed at the top of this article. Her decision to take the push to 6♦ was set to gain a few IMPs for the Poles, as 6♦ loses just one club and two hearts for -300. When Puillet then pressed on to 6♠ on the South cards, the Polish windfall became a veritable bounty. N/S -100 and 11 MPs to Poland, whose lead was now piling up after the slow start.

There was one more major swing still to come.

Board 13. Dealer North. All Vul.

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

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Bessis	Dufprat	Avon	Zmuda
—	Pass	1♠	4♣
4♠	All Pass		

Justyna Zmuda really stuck it to Veronique Bessis with her vulnerable 4♣ overcall. Bessis had enough to bid game, but there was no room to investigate possibilities beyond. Zmuda led her singleton diamonds against 4♠, so Avon made twelve tricks: E/W +680.

Open Room

West	North	East	South
C Baldysz	Tartarin	S Baldysz	Puillet
—	Pass	1♠	2♣
3♦*	Pass	3♥	Pass
3♠	Pass	4♣	Pass
4♦	Pass	4♥	Pass
4♠	Pass	6♦	All Pass
3♦ Game forcing			

Spades seemed to be agreed at the three-level, then came a series of control-showing bids. When Cathy apparently tried to end the auction in 4♠, Sophia then jumped to slam in diamonds. Well judged. (*Lena Leszczyńska told me that Sophia told her that she bid 6♦ because she wanted to please her mother who loves to declare! Editor*)

Although an opening heart lead would have beaten 6♦, why would North lead a heart from ♥10932 rather than her partner's suit? Tartarin duly led a club, Cathy winning with the ♣A and ruffing a club. She then ran the ♦10, which was allowed to win. A spade to the queen was followed by the ace and king of trumps. Now declarer played on spades and North could take her trump winner whenever she liked. Declarer's heart loser eventually disappeared on dummy's spade winner.

Of the 24 tables in the Venice Cup, no other pair reached 6♦. Six pairs played in 6♠, five of them going down, as South did have an obvious heart lead against slam. E/W +1370 and another 12 IMPs to Poland.

Poland won the match 54-17, giving the French exactly the same 2.28 VP that they had scored in their opening match today. They dropped to seventh place, but they then regrouped to finish the day with a 20-16 win against USA1. The most difficult day of their eight-day qualifying competition is also now finished, and it would be somewhat surprising if they were not still playing when the knockout matches start in a few days' time.

As for the Swedes and the Poles. These are two young teams with a serious future. They occupy the top two places here at the midway point of qualification, more than a match clear of the field but separated by just a single VP. They finished first and second at the European Championships in Madeira. It will surprise no one if they do battle it out against each other over a long match at some point in these championships.



Justyna Zmuda, Poland

The Only Way

by Barnet Shenkin

You may sometimes be rewarded for watching a match right to the end. Here is the final deal from the R12 encounter between Switzerland and Netherlands in the Bermuda Bowl.

Board 32. Dealer West. E/W Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Klukowski	De Wijs	Kalita	Muller
1♣*	1♦	Dble*	1♠
Pass	3♠	Pass	4♠
Dble	All Pass		
1♣ Polish Club			
Dble Hearts			

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Molenaar	Drijver	Verbeek	Brink
1♣	1♦	Dble	1♠
Pass	3♦	Pass	3NT
Pass	4♠	Pass	Pass
Dble	All Pass		

The ♥J was led to the queen and both declarers cashed the ♥A and ruffed a heart, West pitching a diamond. The contract can no longer be made. This did not look right to me, and I examined the board with the following results:

In the BB 14 declarers went down and only 1 made the contract - that was Warren Spector who played undoubled. For USA 1. In the Venice Cup, 2 declarers were successful and 9 went down. In the d'Orsi 2 declarers made the contract and 7 went down. In the Wuhan 5 declarers made the contract and 5 went down. Interesting - while there are only play records from VuGraph, the only sure winning line is to play a diamond at trick 2 (or 3. Editor) and finesse the queen. Now cash the ♦A and ruff a diamond and West cannot prevent declarer from making 10 tricks either by ruffing hearts in dummy or setting up dummy's diamonds. If declarer does not take the diamond finesse but instead ruffs a diamond West can gain the upper hand

in the end game by ruffing in with the J at the right time-when declarer either ruffs his second diamond or is trying to ruff his second heart in dummy.

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

Declarer is in dummy after making 5 tricks. If he ruffs a diamond with the ♠6 West overruffs cashes one high trump then plays a club. South can ruff one heart but still has a heart loser. If he comes off dummy with a club and plays a heart, West ruffs in with the jack, plays 2 high trumps and a club with same result. So, the only genuine winning play is to take a diamond finesse.

(If West's spades were ♠AKJ8 declarer would have to ruff the third diamond with the ♠10 or ♠Q – and that also works on the actual layout, as declarer will be able to ruff two hearts in dummy and eventually score a trick with the ♠7. Editor)

World Transnational Open Teams

Dear friends,
Registration is required to play the Transnational Open Teams starting on Monday August 28th. The event is free of charge for players taking part in the Bermuda Bowl, Venice Cup, D'Orsi Trophy and Wuhan Cup, You are welcome to play as the same team, or form new teams. However, if you add a player who has not yet played, that player needs to pay an entry fee. You can register online or at the Registration/ Hospitality desk on site. The deadline for putting in entries is **Sunday August 27th at 7 pm.** Have a nice and lucky day,
 Maurizio Di Sacco
 WBF Operations Director



"Bridge for Peace"



by Christina Lund Madsen

There are many couples who play together - or avoid playing together - or stopped playing. Christina wants to see what some of them have to say

Geta and Radu Mihai, Romania Mixed team

Geta (54) and Radu (59) Mihai from Romania were part of the Romanian team that won their country's first international medal in a teams' competition with bronze in the Mixed Teams in Wuhan 2019. Last year they won silver in Madeira and in 2019 they also won a bronze medal in the mixed pairs in Istanbul. We try to discover what the secret is behind their success.

How long have you been together?

Radu: "That is a difficult question, I have to count. 37 years. It has to be right cause I am a math teacher. We got married in 1990 after four years of testing." They both laugh.

How did you meet?

Radu: "I lived in Bucharest and a friend, and I went to a beach by the beach in the city. We went there looking for girls." He laughs heartedly. She was a very successful chess player, a national champion. I was also interested in chess and I played with my friend on the beach. She came together with a guy, who was her trainer. He asked us if we would let her play with us. We agreed because she was very attractive (*he laughs again*) and we thought we would be in a good position after, because I would beat her.

She beat me awfully the first time, then she beat me again, and then I asked her out and she said yes." They look at each other.

Radu: "There is actually another funny story. When I was a student, I was going to the center of Bucharest in a park, where a lot of people were playing chess or some other games, and a homeless guy came to me and asked if I wanted to play chess with him. I was a little bored, so I said yes, ok. He

asked if I wanted to play for a bit of money for the winner. I played with the guy and unexpectedly he beat me. I gave him money, he asked if I wanted revenge, I said yes, he beat me again and so on and I left the place with empty pockets. I later discovered he was a former chess player.

Some months later I was walking with Geta in the same park, and we met the guy again. He asked me if I was interested in playing again. I said: "I am a little tired, but I will let you play against my girlfriend." They played a game together. After some moves it was clear it was a tough game, lots of kibitzers gathered around the table, and after 20 minutes Geta beat him. I asked: "Do you want revenge?", he said yes, they played again, and she beat him again.

When and how did bridge become a part of your lives?

Radu: "I knew bridge before and I was passionate about it, but in Romania it was very difficult to play bridge. It was a forbidden game during Ceaușescu's dictatorship. One of his sons was a bridge player and had a lot of bridge playing friends and Ceaușescu was worried about clever people meeting together to conspire against him. So, in 1983 he forbade the game.

So we only played in our houses, we had no access to information, it was very difficult to learn bridge. When we were young, 18-20 where you can learn the most, we had no info, no books, nothing. I had a friend who received the Polish bridge publication, and I took a Romanian/Polish dictionary and translated it word for word. The vocabulary was not so large because it was bridge language, and that was our only source of knowledge about bridge. We tried to learn something from the publication. After 1990 when Ceaușescu was killed, slowly democracy came to our country and we got access

to information, but the competitions were still very difficult for us. Prize money and entry fee was prohibited. Hotel and travelling to international competitions were way too much money for us at the time. We had some guys who had money but were poor players, so Romanian teams were very weak.

Slowly things changed, but also our age increased, so we lost the best time for us to learn the game.”

How come strongest are mixed?

Radu: “I don’t know. All the strongest pairs in Romania are mixed players.”

When did you begin to play together?

Radu: “Geta started playing after she met me. I convinced her to abandon chess.”

How did you feel about that?

Geta: “It was ok. I liked bridge. There is much more life in the game, things happen more quickly. At chess you can sit 5-6 hours at a game. And I got some good results from the beginning, which encouraged me.”

What is the worst part about playing with your husband?

Geta: “He is nervous at the table when I make mistakes. He cannot always control his reactions.”

What is the best part?

Geta: “He is very good at counting and makes a lot of contracts.”

Radu: “She bids, and I make.”

What is the worst part about playing with your wife?

Radu: “She has difficulty learning a complicated system. I think she never learns the system completely. Sometimes she loses her concentration. But she is lucky, usually these moments are not so bad for us. 😊”

What is the best part?

Radu: “She was a former chess player and was educated like an athlete. Her behaviour at the table is perfect. She never gets mad. When it is important, she is good at focusing 100%. She treats bridge like a sport. It is not for fun for her.”

Do you have any children?

Geta: “One son who is 27 years old.”

How did you juggle this with bridge?

Radu: “He is 27. He doesn’t need assistance.” He laughs.

“One time when he was little, I think we could have gone to jail if someone knew. We left him at home in his bed and went to the bridge club. When we came back home, we found him out of bed crawling around in the living room. We did not realize how stupid it was to leave him alone. After that we brought him to tournaments at the seaside where it was fun for him and there were other children he could play with.

“Now he begins to be a little interested, but I don’t think he will ever become a bridge player.”

If you had to choose, would you rather stay married or play bridge together?

Geta: “To be married to him. Of course.”

Radu: “You had to ask me to leave the room.” Geta laughs loudly.

“It is the same answer for me. We can just play chess or some other board game.”

I ask them to leave one at a time to hear how they would describe each other.



How would you describe Geta in 3 words?

Radu: "Pretty. Clever. Serious. What more can you hope for in a girl?"

What would you think he said about you?

Geta: "Fighter. Good mother. Good cook."

Describe Radu in 3 words:

Geta: "Intelligent, addicted to games, he likes all games. Good father."

What would you think she said about you?

Radu: "Clever. I don't know. My imagination stops here. Fun. Unserious. I think I guessed one." He looks at Geta.

When in your relationship did you struggle the most, if you want to share that with us?

Radu: We had some struggles at the bridge table at the beginning. I was the teacher, she was the pupil and there have been some tough moments at the bridge table. Sometimes when I was looking at some girl, we had another tough moment.

Which was your best bridge moment?

Geta: "Winning the bronze medal in the mixed teams in Wuhan. It was Romania's first ever medal in a major teams' competition. We had already won a bronze in pairs, but this was more important."

Radu: "I think winning silver in Madeira. For me it was the best moment because I think the European Championships are stronger than the world championships."

Tell us about your future bridge plans.

Radu: "After this tournament we will go to Jordan and Eilat in Israel in the fall. Earlier this year we were in England, and we just went to Finland for a small tournament. Last year we went to Denmark.

We try to go to countries we have not been to before and combine the visit with a bridge tournament. We have been to all countries in Europe except Cyprus, Estonia, Luxembourg and Liechtenstein. Iceland was the best experience. Not because of the bridge, but because of the country. It was wonderful."

I stupidly ask what they dream about. They roll their eyes a bit, because clearly they dream about winning the World Championships. That is why we are here after all.

WCB 2023 pre-order

The book of the Marrakech World Championships edited by Mark Horton can be pre-ordered in the Daily Bulletin Room located on level -1.

It will cost €35, US\$35 or £30.

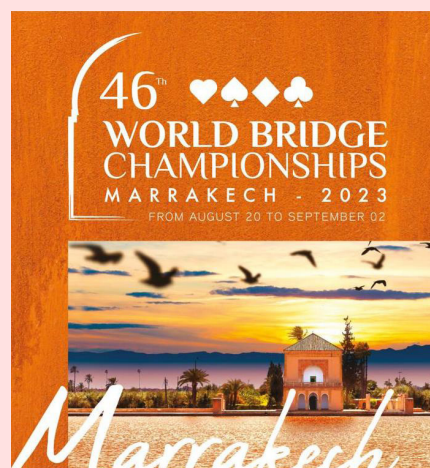
Purchasers will be able to collect the book at a future championship of their choice, or have it mailed to them

(at an additional cost of €10, US\$10 or £10).

Publication is expected to be before the summer of 2024. The reporters will include David Bird,

Brian Senior & Barry Rigal.

All payments must be in cash.



Video Corner

Pete Hollands tells us he is doing daily recap videos of the Championships.

Here is the link to the day 4 video recap:

<https://youtu.be/DCqEnGkXmE4>

Pete Hollands started playing when he was 14 and is now professional bridge player & teacher (www.bridgevid.com) who has represented the Australian open team. He runs a popular YouTube channel (Pete Hollands Bridge) where you can play tournaments and compare with him. He won two silver medals in the 2013 World Junior Championships.



RR 12

Poland v Israel (VC)

Colombia v. Romania (WUC)





by Jos Jacobs

For Wednesday evening's round, I once again turned my attention to the Venice Cup. The teams ranked 2nd and 5th were scheduled to play each other so I was happy with this alternative, because I thus could leave the BB top match between Switzerland and The Netherlands to neutral observers. Looking at the schedule even more closely, I also noticed that in the mixed event a match between two teams among the current top eight was scheduled: Colombia (8th) v. Romania (3rd).

So I will focus on the VC match in this report but a few excursions to the Wuhan Cup are also in sight.

In the VC match, we saw a quiet start, Poland leading 1-0 when this board, the fourth of the set arrived.

Board 20. Dealer West. All Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Asulin</i>	<i>S Baldysz</i>	<i>Levi</i>	<i>C Baldysz</i>
1♣	Pass	2♣*	Pass
4♣	Pass	4♠*	Pass
5♣	All Pass		

For Israel, this board was easy. Inverted minors and an unwelcome spade cuebid led to a quick sign-off. Just made, Israel +600.

In the other room, their Polish Club variation had the Polish in some trouble.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Kazmucha</i>	<i>N Tal</i>	<i>Sarniak</i>	<i>D Tal</i>
1♣*	Pass	1♦*	Pass
1♥	Pass	2♣	Pass
5♣	Pass	6♣	All Pass

East's 1♦ response showed minors (among other things) and her 2♣ rebid confirmed this. East understandably thought that her as yet undisclosed ♠AK might be of some value so she bid one for the road. Not at this table:

North led a pedestrian ♦K and continued with the ♦A when partner played the ♦7, showing an odd number. One down, Israel another +100 and 12 IMPs to open their account.

Elsewhere in this Bulletin, you can no doubt read about two of the world's top pairs who both ended up in 6♣ in their match, down one for a push. In the mixed match between Colombia and Romania, they had even better (?) ideas, however.

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Stegarioiu</i>	<i>J Castillo</i>	<i>Ionita</i>	<i>Ochoa</i>
1♣	1♠	2♥	4♠
5♣	All Pass		

When East stayed relatively quiet, West was not tempted. Romania +600.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Bernal</i>	<i>Boboc</i>	<i>Barrera</i>	<i>Marina</i>
1♣	Pass	2♣*	Pass
2♥	Pass	3♣	Pass
6♣	All Pass		

At the other table, West could not resist temptation. North led the ♦A and, upon seeing partner's ♦4, shifted to a spade. Colombia a shock +1370 and 13 IMPs to them as well...

On the next board, the popular contract was 4♠. To my surprise, the Polish E/W languished in 2♥ to lose another 6 IMPs v. Israel but in my other match, we saw a very imaginative defence against 4♠ by the same Romanian pair who just let through 6♣.

Board 21. Dealer North. N/S Vul.

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

In the Open Room, North led the ♦J against 4♠. Declarer won the ace and advanced the ♥J. When South won the

ace and continued a diamond, declarer could win, draw two top trumps and play on hearts. Romania +420.


In the Closed Room, North for Romania, Boboc, led a low trump away from her ♠Q74. Suddenly, declarer was in big trouble as she had no clear idea about what might be going on. There had been no adverse bids to guide her either.

She thus decided to win dummy's king, cash two top diamonds, ruff her losing diamond with dummy's last trump and play a heart from dummy. On a different layout, this line might have succeeded but as it was, South rose with his ♥A, crossed to partner's ♣A and got a ruff with his lone ♠J when North continued her last diamond. That was three tricks for the defence with North's ♠Q still to come. Romania another +50 and 10 IMPs back to them.

After all this excitement, the boards settled down a bit. The remainder of the Poland v. Israel match very much reminded me of what I had seen the day before: a procession of partscore swings caused by differences in auction and approach rather than lucky or unlucky choices in play. So what you are going to get, dear reader, are rather many auctions and rather few comments but keep in mind: yesterday, I got a good training in these departments already 😊.

Here is the first:

Board 23. Dealer South. All Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Asulin</i>	<i>S Baldysz</i>	<i>Levi</i>	<i>C Baldysz</i>
—	—	—	Pass
Pass	INT	Pass	2♠
Pass	2NT	Pass	3♣
All Pass			


Locating a very good club fit and a maximum INT opening hand does not necessarily mean that game is on or even worth a try. Very well judged by the mother-daughter combination. Nine tricks, Poland +110.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Kazmucha</i>	<i>N Tal</i>	<i>Sarniak</i>	<i>D Tal</i>
—	—	—	Pass
Pass	INT	Pass	2♠
Pass	2NT	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

The Israelis started their auction the same way but with the good fit located, South overstretched a little, I think. Still, ♠107x instead of ♠107 might have been a more useful asset. Down two Poland another +200 and 7 IMPs to them

Board 24. Dealer West. None Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Asulin</i>	<i>S Baldysz</i>	<i>Levi</i>	<i>C Baldysz</i>
Pass	1♥	Pass	2♥
All Pass			

On the very next board, the Baldysz family again showed fine judgement. North certainly was nowhere near a bare minimum but on the other hand, she was looking at a tremendous amount of losers. One overtrick, Poland +140.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Kazmucha</i>	<i>N Tal</i>	<i>Sarniak</i>	<i>D Tal</i>
Pass	1♥	Pass	3♣*
Pass	3♦	Pass	4♥
All Pass			




Dana Tal, Israel

What should I say? A maximum Bergen raise opposite a non-minimum opener leads to a game being bid. One down, Poland another +50 and 5 IMPs to them.

And two boards later:

Board 26. Dealer East. All Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Asulin</i>	<i>S Baldysz</i>	<i>Levi</i>	<i>C Baldysz</i>
—	—	Pass	1♥
Pass	INT	Pass	2♥
All Pass			

Well, West might have ventured an overcall over South's 1♥ but the amount of losers in her hand does not make any action attractive. When she sold out to 2♥ and led a spade, declarer quickly came to eight tricks. Poland +110.

Closed Room


West	North	East	South
<i>Kazmucha</i>	<i>N Tal</i>	<i>Sarniak</i>	<i>D Tal</i>
—	—	Pass	1♥
Dble	Pass	2♠	All Pass

In the replay, West found an action over South's 1♥ and this led to a touch-and-go contract for the Poles. The 3-3 trump break does not help the defence, nor does North's actual holding of ♠J105. Even the hearts are placed well for declarer because this is what happened:

South led the ♥A, causing a crash, and continued a low heart, causing the break-up of North's trump assets. Nicely responding to partner's ♥2, North returned a club, thus reducing South to just ♠A7. South now played another low heart but declarer called for dummy's ♠Q and when this held, cashed three rounds of diamonds, discarding her own last heart. Next, she played a low spade from dummy and ducked the ♠10 by North. At this point, the defenders were down to one trump each: North the jack and South the ace. Effectively, North was endplayed at this point. Whatever she would return, the ♠A would be the only other trick for the defence. Poland another +110 and 6 IMPs out of thin air, this time.

Near the end of the set, two more minor swings turned up. This was the first:

Board 30. Dealer East. None Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Asulin</i>	<i>S Baldysz</i>	<i>Levi</i>	<i>C Baldysz</i>
—	—	1♣	1♥
Pass	1♠	Pass	INT
Dble	2♠	3♣	Pass
Pass	3♦	Pass	3♠
All Pass			

Double dummy, making nine tricks in spades would be on the cards by playing a spade from dummy towards your king at first opportunity. At the table, this is a less likely line, apparently. East led her heart to dummy's ace and a spade went to declarer's jack and East's ♠Q. At this point, ♦A and another would set the contract but East, uncertain about North's diamond length, tried a low diamond first, the correct play if North would have held only four diamonds. Declarer, however, called for dummy's ♦K and led another spade. West went up with her ace and that was the beginning of the end of the defence, the ♦A and the ♥K being their only other tricks, of course. Just made, Poland +140.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Kazmucha</i>	<i>N Tal</i>	<i>Sarniak</i>	<i>D Tal</i>
—	—	2♣	2♥
Pass	2♠	Pass	2NT
3♣	All Pass		

In the other room, the auction got underway from one level higher, so there was less room for N/S to exchange useful information. They thus sold out to 3♣ which, even on a spade lead by South, proved unbeatable. Poland thus scored another +110 and ...yes, 6 more IMPs.

Then came another case of having to judge the optimum level. In retrospect, the board made me think of an old bridge book: "Bid boldly, play safe" by Rixi Markus, the famous Austrian, Romanian or English bridge player and champion from the post-war era.

Board 31. Dealer South. N/S Vul.

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



Open Room

West	North	East	South
Asulin	S Baldysz	Levi	C Baldysz
—	—	—	Pass
1♥	2♣	2♠	Pass
3♦	Pass	3♠	Pass
4♠	All Pass		

Once the ♠A is with North, not unexpectedly in view of her overcall, 4♠ seems a reasonable place to be. So West did well to go boldly to 4♠, leaving it to her partner to safely land this contract. An initial diamond lead might have been very unpleasant for declarer but South led a club, partner's suit. Declarer won the ace, ruffed a club and played three rounds of diamonds, discarding her heart loser. Next, she ruffed a heart in hand and ruffed another club with dummy's last trump. When she led a good diamond from dummy next, North ruffed this with the ♠10, thus creating a well-known optical illusion. At this point, declarer is looking at three probable losers: a club and two trumps. So what's wrong with discarding the ♣10 on this trick, thus restricting your further losses to just the ♠AJ? Your ♠98 will protect you against the dreaded (dreadful?) trump promotion. But no, declarer overruffed with the ♠Q, led the ♠K to North's now blank ace and then lost two tricks to South's ♠J7 as well when North continued clubs. So on the penultimate board of what no doubt was another hot and tiring day, Poland registered another +50.

In the replay, the Polish E/W did not bid so boldly.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Kazmucha	N Tal	Sarniak	D Tal
—	—	—	Pass
1♥	Pass	1♠	Pass
2♦	Pass	2♠	All Pass

So they had less reason to play safe but emerged with two overtricks nevertheless for another +170 and 6 more IMPs to Poland.

The final results of the matches:

Poland v. Israel 48-20 or 16.42 – 3.58 VP.

Colombia v. Romania 44-40 or 11.2 – 8.8 VP.

All our four teams thus stayed within their top eight, though both losing teams lost one position (temporarily?).

How well does the qualifying round predict the final outcome of the tournament?

Herman De wael

The current formula of the Bermuda Bowl and adjacent tournaments was inaugurated in 1997 (in Hammamet, Tunisia). In that year all the teams were put into a single Round Robin, with the top eight qualifying.

Since then we have had 13 Bermuda Bowls and as many Venice Cups. We've added the d'Orsi Trophy, of which there have been 10 editions (but only 9 in which the Round Robin led up to quarterfinals), and the Wuhan Cup, with so far just two held.

In how many of these 37 championships did the top qualifier actually win the title? Have a guess before reading on ...

We are looking at 38 top qualifiers (Norway and Poland were tied at the end of the Round Robin in 2001). Seven of those 38 did not survive their first knock-out match (the quarterfinal). 12 teams lost in the semifinal, and 8 lost in the final. That left 11 top qualifiers who went on to win the event.

Did you guess it would be 29%?

As said, 11 out of the 37 champions had finished on top of the Round-Robin. 10 winners had been second in the qualifiers. 5 had been third, 3 were fourth, 4 were fifth, one each had been sixth and seventh, and the French women won two Venice cups after qualifying in the final, eighth, spot.

Of course no one won a title after finishing ninth or lower, so the first target is to be met on Sunday.

Championship specials

The new **dealing machines** used to duplicate the boards during these championships are sold for €2650. The **cards** in play are sold for €80/100 decks. (You can alternatively get new decks for €85/100 decks when you purchase a machine.)

This offer is on so long as supply lasts, but no longer than September 2. Email anna@jannersten.com to order. Note that you cannot get anything here in Marrakech. That is for customs reasons. Shipping will be from Sweden (afterwards) and charged at cost.





Bermuda Bowl RR12
USA2 v Norway



by Ron Tacchi

At the end of this twelfth-round session, the halfway point will have been passed. We have a top of the table Bermuda Bowl clash between the leaders USA 2 and second-placed Norway.

Board 20. Dealer West. All Vul.

<p>♠ — ♥ A J 10 2 ♦ 10 8 3 ♣ A K Q J 6 3</p>	<p>♠ J 10 7 3 2 ♥ 7 6 4 3 ♦ A K 6 ♣ 8</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; background-color: #006400; color: white; padding: 5px; width: 60px; margin: 0 auto; text-align: center;"> N W E S </div>	<p>♠ A K 9 ♥ 5 ♦ Q J 5 2 ♣ 10 9 7 5 2</p>
--	--	---

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Helgemo</i>	<i>Meckstroth</i>	<i>Grue</i>	<i>Zia</i>
1♣	1♠	2♠*	4♠
6♣	All Pass		

I assume the Two Spades bid was equivalent to an inverted minor-suit rise, the pair's convention card is on the sparse side. I like Helgemo's slam bid; from the auction it seems that partner's values will not be in spades and thus he must have some in diamonds. Doubly unlucky on this hand as if the diamond honours had been split the lead may well have been a spade and then the slam would have rolled home. Meckstroth did not take long to table the ace and king of diamonds to beat the slam by one trick.



Geir Helgemo, Norway

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Moss</i>	<i>Bakke</i>	<i>Grue</i>	<i>Brogeland</i>
1♣	Pass	2♣*	Pass
3♠*	Pass	5♣	All Pass

Moss and Grue play a different system depending on the vulnerability. First in hand Vulnerable the One Club opener is natural, non-vulnerable it is Precision style. So here it was natural and Grue's raise was inverted. The BBO table talk suggested that 3♠ was a splinter. Grue raised to game, and they rested there and saw Bakke take his ace and king of diamonds but that was the end of the defence: 12 IMPs to USA 2.

Board 21. Dealer North. N/S Vul.

<p>♠ A 10 9 6 5 3 ♥ J 10 ♦ A K Q 8 ♣ 10</p>	<p>♠ Q 7 4 ♥ 4 3 ♦ J 10 5 2 ♣ A Q 9 2</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; background-color: #006400; color: white; padding: 5px; width: 60px; margin: 0 auto; text-align: center;"> N W E S </div>	<p>♠ K 8 ♥ K Q 9 8 6 ♦ 6 3 ♣ K J 7 6</p>
---	--	--

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Helgemo</i>	<i>Meckstroth</i>	<i>Grue</i>	<i>Zia</i>
—	Pass	1♥	Pass
1♠	Pass	2♣	Pass
2♦*	Pass	3♦	Pass
4♦	Pass	4♠	Pass
5♦	All Pass		

It appears as though a wheel fell off the bidding wagon as a *Burn's Law* breaking contract was the resting place. I suspect the Three Diamonds bid was the root of the problem. When the defence started with the ace of clubs and switched to a heart declarer was able to get out for one down.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Moss</i>	<i>Bakke</i>	<i>Grue</i>	<i>Brogeland</i>
—	Pass	1♥	Pass
INT*	Pass	2♦*	Pass
2♥*	Pass	3♥*	Pass
4♦	Pass	4♥	Pass
4♠	All Pass		



Jeff Meckstroth, USA2

The opening 1♥ bid was limited to 15 points when non-vulnerable (it would be unlimited vulnerable). INT was a game-forcing relay. I could guess at the subsequent relay bids, but that is what they would be, just guesses, though I always like an auction where the suit is mentioned for the first time as the last bid. Bakke led the ♦5 taken in hand with the king. The ♥10 went to the king and the suit continued, Brogeland taking the ace and switching to a small club to his partner's ace. Another diamond was won in hand and declarer crossed to dummy with the ♠K, cashed the ♣K discarding his losing diamond and played another trump. When they split 3-2 he could claim his contract. 10 IMPs to USA 2.

Board 29. Dealer North. All Vul.

♠ K 10 9 ♥ K 7 6 5 ♦ 10 4 ♣ 10 9 7 6	<div style="background-color: #006400; color: white; padding: 10px; width: 60px; margin: 0 auto;"> N W E S </div>	♠ — ♥ A Q 10 2 ♦ 9 7 ♣ A K Q 5 4 3 2	♠ A J 5 3 2 ♥ 9 8 3 ♦ A K J 8 ♣ 8 ♠ Q 8 7 6 4 ♥ J 4 ♦ Q 6 5 3 2 ♣ J
---	---	---	--

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Helgemo	Meckstroth	Grude	Zia
—	1♠	2♣	4♠
Pass	Pass	5♣	Pass
Pass	5♠	All Pass	

Meckstroth judged well to bid on as Five Clubs was a making contract. The defence cashed their three top tricks at the onset of the defence and sat then back and waited for their trump trick to take the contract two off.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Moss	Bakke	Grue	Brogeland
—	1♠	2♠*	4♠
5♣	Pass	6♣	All Pass
2♠ 4OM + ♠'s			

Another raise to Six Clubs where the bidder had reason to believe his partner's values would not be in the spade suit. At least the great shuffler was fair in that he gave each team one such example. Another coincidence was that the defender cashed the ace and king of diamonds to beat the contract. 7 IMPs to Norway.

Board 32. Dealer West. E/W Vul.

♠ A K J 2 ♥ J 4 ♦ K 2 ♣ 10 9 7 6 5	<div style="background-color: #006400; color: white; padding: 10px; width: 60px; margin: 0 auto;"> N W E S </div>	♠ 8 ♥ K 7 5 3 2 ♦ J 8 7 ♣ Q J 4 2	♠ 9 5 4 ♥ 9 ♦ A Q 10 9 6 4 3 ♣ A 3 ♠ Q 10 7 6 3 ♥ A Q 10 8 6 ♦ 5 ♣ K 8
---	---	--	---

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Helgemo	Meckstroth	Grude	Zia
1♣	1♦	1♥	1♠
Pass	2♦	3♣	Pass
Pass	3♦	All Pass	

Grude led the ♠8 and Helgemo took three tricks and continued the suit, declarer ruffing with the ♦10 and Grude overruffing with the jack. On the switch to the queen of clubs, declarer won in dummy with the king and took a successful trump finesse. When the king dropped under the ace declarer had the rest of the tricks and so made his contract.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Moss	Bakke	Grue	Brogeland
1♣	1♦	Dble	1♠
Pass	3♦	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

Moss's opening bid was again natural as he was vulnerable. Brogeland landed in a thin 3NT and received the lead of the ace of spades from Moss who then switched to a small club, taken in hand. Declarer then played a small diamond to the queen, cashed the ace and played a third round to establish the suit with the ace of clubs as an entry and so took his nine tricks for his game and 7 IMPs to Norway.

At the end of the match USA 2 had run out winners 13.52-6.48 VPs, enough to ensure they remained at the top of the standings, but more importantly it might give them a psychological advantage should they meet again at a later stage.

Bermuda Bowl RR 13
USA2 v Italy

by David Bird

The team may be called USA2, but they are top of the leaderboard, some 34VPs ahead of USA1, who are in 10th place. Italy are currently 11th, 8VPs behind Belgium in the last qualifying place for the knock-outs.

My colleague, Marc Smith, has twice reported on USA2 and felt robbed when the mega-stars, Zia and Meckstroth, sat out both matches. Tapping these words in, some 30 minutes before the start of the present match, I am hoping that such misfortune does not befall me.

Board 1. Dealer North, Non Vul.

<p>♠ AK95 ♥ A10632 ♦ 53 ♣ 65</p>	<table border="1" style="border-collapse: collapse; width: 60px; height: 60px; margin: auto;"> <tr><td></td><td style="text-align: center;">N</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">W</td><td></td><td style="text-align: center;">E</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td style="text-align: center;">S</td><td></td></tr> </table>		N		W		E		S		<p>♠ 104 ♥ K974 ♦ J876 ♣ Q72</p>	<p>♠ QJ72 ♥ QJ5 ♦ AKQ2 ♣ 1094</p>
	N											
W		E										
	S											
		<p>♠ 863 ♥ 8 ♦ 10942 ♣ AKJ83</p>										

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Percario	Grue	Donati	Moss
—	INT	Pass	Pass
2♣*	Pass	2♥	Dble
Pass	2♠	All Pass	

Donati led the ♥7 to Percario's ace, declarer winning the ♦5 switch with the king. He played the ♠J to West's king and won the next diamond with the queen. The ♥Q was covered with the king and ruffed in dummy. Declarer then ran the ♠8 to East's 10 and won a third heart with the jack. After a club to the ace and a diamond to the ace, he ran the ♣9, ruffed by West. A trump and a second club brought Grue's total to eight, for +110.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Zia	Sementa	Meckstroth	Versace
—	1♣	Pass	1♠*
2♦*	Pass	3♥	Dble
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

Did you note who was occupying the East-West seats? Marc will no doubt be annoyed, but it's not my fault. 1♠ was a transfer to INT, often based on a minor-suit hand. Zia's 2♦ showed a good major-suit hand; 2♣ would have shown a weaker such hand. Versace's second-round double was based on shape, and he may have been alarmed to hear 3NT opposite. No, partner had a decent hand and 3NT

was a respectable contract.

The ♥4 was led to West's ace and the ♥3 return was covered by the queen and king. Sementa won the third round of hearts and played the king and queen of diamonds, to see what spot-cards would appear. He then played the ♣10 to dummy's ace and returned to the ♦A to run the ♣9 successfully. That was nine tricks for 400, worth 7 IMPs to Italy.

Board 7. Dealer South. All Vul.

<p>♠ A873 ♥ J764 ♦ 962 ♣ 72</p>	<table border="1" style="border-collapse: collapse; width: 60px; height: 60px; margin: auto;"> <tr><td></td><td style="text-align: center;">N</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">W</td><td></td><td style="text-align: center;">E</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td style="text-align: center;">S</td><td></td></tr> </table>		N		W		E		S		<p>♠ 2 ♥ K109853 ♦ K103 ♣ KQ5</p>	<p>♠ KJ9 ♥ AQ2 ♦ AQ74 ♣ 1083</p>
	N											
W		E										
	S											
		<p>♠ Q10654 ♥ ♦ J85 ♣ AJ964</p>										

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Percario	Grue	Donati	Moss
—	—	—	Pass
Pass	INT	2♦*	3♥*
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

Donati's 2♦ indicated an unspecified major, or a 17+ major/minor hand. Moss bid 3♥ to show shortage and Grue closed shop with 3NT. He won the ♥10 lead with the queen, continuing with the ♠9 to West's ace. Hearts were continued, Grue winning the third round.

Declarer had two tricks now, and the defenders were poised to take three more heart tricks for one down. Turning a blind eye towards the four spade winners in dummy, Grue led the ♣8, drawing the queen and ace. Now came the spade tricks! Donati came down to the ♥K, ♦K and ♣K. Reading the situation perfectly, Grue played a diamond to the ace. The ♦K reluctantly appeared, and the game was made. Well played!

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Zia	Sementa	Meckstroth	Versace
—	—	—	Pass
Pass	INT	2♥	3♥*
4♥	4♠	All Pass	

Versace's 3♥ was invitational with spades. I was surprised by Zia's 4♥, topped by 4♠ from North. Would Sementa have bid the game if Zia has passed? Probably, but he did

have a 4-3-3-3 16-count and could expect the ♥K to be offside.

On to the play. Meckstroth led the ♥10, Sementa winning with the queen. The ♠J was allowed to win. Declarer then ran the ♣8 successfully, Meckstroth disappointed not to see the ♣10 from partner. A second club went to the queen and ace, Sementa then clearing the club suit. Eleven tricks were claimed for +650. So, only a 2-IMP swing to Italy, but plenty of interest.

Did the IMPs then start to flow? They did not, apart from the odd 1- or 2-IMP dribble. Six boards passed by that no respectable reporter would dream of inflicting on anyone. Then... the thunder and lightning began!

Board 14. Dealer East. None Vul.

♠ Q	♠ A 9 2	♠ K J 10 8 7 6 4 3
♥ K Q 6 5	♥ 3	♥ 7
♦ 10 9 8 7 6	♦ A Q J 4 2	♦ K 5
♣ 6 4 2	♣ K 9 8 3	♣ J 7
	<div style="background-color: #006400; color: white; padding: 5px; display: inline-block;"> N W S E </div>	
	♠ 5	
	♥ A J 10 9 8 4 2	
	♦ 3	
	♣ A Q 10 5	

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Percario	Grue	Donati	Moss
—	—	4♣	4NT*
Pass	5♣	Pass	5♥
Dble	All Pass		

The convention card is silent on the meaning of 4NT. Maybe it was used to show two different strengths of 5♥. I don't blame Percario for doubling, but the contract was impregnable. Declarer won the spade lead in dummy and drew trumps. That was +650 for USA-2.



Giacomo Percario, Italy

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Zia	Sementa	Meckstroth	Versace
—	—	4♣	5♥
Pass	5NT	Pass	6♣
Pass	6♥	All Pass	

If 5NT meant pick-a-slam, Sementa would have passed 6♣ – a make on the lie of the cards. No, some other meaning must have been intended. He went back to 6♥, which went one down undoubled. It was 12 IMPs to USA2, instead of a possible 9 IMPs the other way.

Board 15. Dealer South. N/S Vul.

♠ —	♠ K J 10 9 8 5 3 2	♠ 6
♥ A 7 6 5 2	♥ K Q 3	♥ J
♦ A K Q 8 5 2	♦ J	♦ 10 7 6 3
♣ 7 3	♣ A	♣ K Q 8 6 5 4 2
	<div style="background-color: #006400; color: white; padding: 5px; display: inline-block;"> N W S E </div>	
	♠ A Q 7 4	
	♥ 10 9 8 4	
	♦ 9 4	
	♣ J 10 9	

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Percario	Grue	Donati	Moss
—	—	—	Pass
1♦	4♣	5♣	5♠
5NT	Pass	6♦	6♠
Dble	All Pass		

The diamond slam would have been unbeatable, so Moss's Vul-against-not 6♠ sacrifice was well judged. Donati led the ♥J to partner's ace, ruffed the return, and played a diamond. It was +500 to Italy

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Zia	Sementa	Meckstroth	Versace
—	—	—	Pass
1♦	3NT*	4♣	4♥*
Dble	4♠	4NT*	5♠
All Pass			

Sementa's 3NT showed a strong four-level overcall in an unspecified major. Meckstroth could not have done more now, it seems to me. He showed a good club suit and then competed to the five-level in the minors. You can decide whether Zia had enough to bid 6♦, which was cold.

Worse was to come in the defence against 5♠. Meckstroth led the ♥J to the ace, Sementa dropping a deceptive ♥Q. Needing two tricks more, Zia sought information by leading the ♦Q. The ♦J came from declarer and Meckstroth played the ♦3. Zia switched to the ♣7 and the heart ruff was lost. It was +650 to Italy and 15 IMPs to Italy.

What had gone wrong? Barnet Shenkin and I, commentating, concluded that Meckstroth had given

a (reverse) count signal on the $\diamond Q$, while Zia had been expecting a suit preference signal.

Board 16. Dealer West. E/W Vul.

\spadesuit K Q 9 3	\spadesuit 10 6 4 2
\heartsuit A J 4 2	\heartsuit 7 3
\diamond 6	\diamond A 10 3
\clubsuit K 9 6 2	\clubsuit Q J 8 4
\spadesuit 8 7	\spadesuit A J 5
\heartsuit K Q 9 8 6	\heartsuit 10 5
\diamond K 7 4	\diamond Q J 9 8 5 2
\clubsuit 7 5 3	\clubsuit A 10

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Percario	Grue	Donati	Moss
Pass	2 \diamond	All Pass	

In 1st and 2nd seat, non-vulnerable, Grue's 2 \diamond shows 10-15 points, a three-suiter with diamond shortage and at least 4 clubs. Moss opted to pass this. Grue won the $\clubsuit Q$ lead with the king, continuing with the $\diamond 6$ to the 9 and king. Percario switched to the $\heartsuit K$ (best), and declarer won with the ace. He then crossed to the $\spadesuit A$ to play the $\diamond Q$. That was ten tricks

for +130, but would the Italians be more ambitious?

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Zia	Sementa	Meckstroth	Versace
Pass	1 \clubsuit	Pass	1 \spadesuit *
Pass	INT	Pass	2 \clubsuit *
Pass	2 \diamond *	Pass	3 \spadesuit *
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

With 25 points between them, along with a fair share of the tens and nines... yes, they would. As we saw before, 1 \spadesuit was a transfer to INT. After some further practice of their system, they arrived in 3NT.

Sementa won the $\clubsuit Q$ lead with dummy's ace and ran the $\clubsuit 10$ to East's jack. He won the $\spadesuit 10$ switch with the ace, cashed three more spade tricks and two clubs. With his trick total now up to seven, he played a diamond to the queen and king. Zia returned a diamond to East's ace. Sementa then claimed nine tricks. Meckstroth would either have to lead a diamond to dummy's stranded jack, or assure declarer of two heart tricks by opening that suit. It was +400 and 7 well-earned IMPs to Italy.

Italy won the match by 33-18 IMPs, 13.97-6.03 in VPs. More than 3000 kibitzers were in agreement that even the many deals where few IMPs were exchanged had been a pleasure to watch.



★★★★

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Results

Bermuda Bowl

Round 13

			IMPs		VPs	
1	NORWAY	CHINA	31	30	10.31	9.69
2	USA2	ITALY	18	33	6.03	13.97
3	POLAND	BELGIUM	33	53	5.00	15.00
4	IRELAND	PANAMA	68	26	18.33	1.67
5	INDIA	SINGAPORE	49	23	16.09	3.91
6	EGYPT	SOUTH AFRICA	19	73	-0.02	18.52
7	CANADA	CHILE	59	36	15.56	4.44
8	HONG KONG CHINA	AUSTRALIA	32	49	5.61	14.39
9	ISRAEL	USA1	47	34	13.52	6.48
10	NEW ZEALAND	UAE	63	15	18.97	1.03
11	NETHERLANDS	MOROCCO	78	13	20.00	0.00
12	BRAZIL	SWITZERLAND	14	71	0.23	19.77

Round 14

			IMPs		VPs	
1	IRELAND	ITALY	25	29	8.80	11.20
2	POLAND	SINGAPORE	72	26	18.77	1.23
3	INDIA	SOUTH AFRICA	55	29	16.09	3.91
4	PANAMA	USA2	28	35	7.97	12.03
5	EGYPT	NETHERLANDS	7	51	1.45	18.55
6	MOROCCO	HONG KONG CHINA	56	24	17.03	2.97
7	CHILE	BELGIUM	22	50	3.58	16.42
8	ISRAEL	CHINA	34	31	10.91	9.09
9	NORWAY	CANADA	52	7	18.66	1.34
10	UAE	BRAZIL	31	26	11.48	8.52
11	USA1	NEW ZEALAND	33	31	10.61	9.39
12	SWITZERLAND	AUSTRALIA	53	31	15.38	4.62

Round 15

			IMPs		VPs	
1	INDIA	NETHERLANDS	65	25	18.09	1.91
2	NORWAY	NEW ZEALAND	51	45	11.76	8.24
3	EGYPT	ITALY	1	55	0.48	19.52
4	ISRAEL	PANAMA	53	16	17.72	2.28
5	IRELAND	HONG KONG CHINA	27	37	7.20	12.80
6	USA2	CHINA	12	67	0.39	19.61
7	SOUTH AFRICA	CHILE	63	33	16.73	3.27
8	POLAND	MOROCCO	62	12	19.16	0.84
9	USA1	BELGIUM	33	27	11.76	8.24
10	SWITZERLAND	UAE	5	66	0.00	20.00
11	CANADA	BRAZIL	26	57	3.12	16.88
12	AUSTRALIA	SINGAPORE	22	68	1.23	18.77

Venice Cup

Round 13

			IMPs		VPs	
21	USA2	BARBADOS	55	27	16.42	3.58
22	CANADA	INDIA	54	11	18.44	1.56
23	HONG KONG CHINA	SWEDEN	39	69	3.27	16.73
24	FRANCE	EGYPT	41	10	16.88	3.12
25	GERMANY	CHINESE TAIPEI	51	9	18.33	1.67
26	ARGENTINA	USA1	40	42	9.39	10.61
27	BRAZIL	NEW ZEALAND	58	15	18.44	1.56
28	NORWAY	ISRAEL	46	22	15.74	4.26
29	POLAND	AUSTRALIA	47	16	16.88	3.12
30	TURKIYE	SOUTH AFRICA	57	14	18.44	1.56
31	UAE	MOROCCO	49	32	14.39	5.61
32	CHINA	DENMARK	58	9	19.07	0.93

Round 14

			IMPs		VPs	
21	BARBADOS	CANADA	9	28	5.20	14.80
22	HONG KONG CHINA	CHINESE TAIPEI	42	57	6.03	13.97
23	GERMANY	USA1	11	62	0.75	19.25
24	EGYPT	NORWAY	33	33	10.00	10.00
25	ARGENTINA	USA2	17	57	1.91	18.09
26	FRANCE	ISRAEL	52	22	16.73	3.27
27	NEW ZEALAND	SWEDEN	21	35	6.25	13.75
28	POLAND	MOROCCO	76	29	18.87	1.13
29	UAE	BRAZIL	37	55	5.40	14.60
30	SOUTH AFRICA	CHINA	34	35	9.69	10.31
31	AUSTRALIA	TURKIYE	33	41	7.71	12.29
32	DENMARK	INDIA	34	27	12.03	7.97

Round 15

			IMPs		VPs	
21	HONG KONG CHINA	BARBADOS	37	44	7.97	12.03
22	GERMANY	USA2	48	19	16.58	3.42
23	ARGENTINA	ISRAEL	26	59	2.83	17.17
24	POLAND	EGYPT	46	5	18.21	1.79
25	FRANCE	CANADA	25	15	12.80	7.20
26	NORWAY	MOROCCO	39	33	11.76	8.24
27	USA1	NEW ZEALAND	58	32	16.09	3.91
28	UAE	TURKIYE	25	64	2.03	17.97
29	AUSTRALIA	SWEDEN	15	62	1.13	18.87
30	DENMARK	SOUTH AFRICA	49	31	14.60	5.40
31	BRAZIL	CHINA	38	29	12.55	7.45
32	INDIA	CHINESE TAIPEI	59	19	18.09	1.91

Results

d'Orsi Trophy

Round 13

			IMPs		VPs	
41	PAKISTAN	COLOMBIA	55	19	16.59	2.41
42	SWEDEN	ISRAEL	50	7	18.44	1.56
43	HONG KONG CHINA	USA1	16	55	2.03	17.97
44	SOUTH AFRICA	GUADELOUPE	25	28	8.09	10.91
45	ITALY	AUSTRALIA	41	26	13.97	6.03
46	CANADA	FRANCE	32	21	13.04	6.96
47	ARGENTINA	MOROCCO	43	36	12.03	7.97
48	DENMARK	POLAND	42	36	11.76	8.24
49	USA2	NORWAY	40	54	6.25	13.75
50	NETHERLANDS	REUNION	37	39	9.39	10.61
51	BELGIUM	CHINESE TAIPEI	9	58	0.93	19.07
52	CHINA	INDIA	37	18	14.80	5.20

Round 14

			IMPs		VPs	
41	COLOMBIA	SWEDEN	15	35	5.00	15.00
42	HONG KONG CHINA	AUSTRALIA	14	49	2.55	17.45
43	ITALY	FRANCE	45	30	13.97	6.03
44	GUADELOUPE	DENMARK	28	48	5.00	15.00
45	CANADA	PAKISTAN	34	44	7.20	12.80
46	SOUTH AFRICA	POLAND	9	57	1.03	18.97
47	MOROCCO	USA1	13	68	0.39	19.61
48	USA2	CHINESE TAIPEI	30	20	12.80	7.20
49	BELGIUM	ARGENTINA	24	32	7.71	12.29
50	REUNION	CHINA	29	31	9.39	10.61
51	NORWAY	NETHERLANDS	29	32	9.09	10.91
52	INDIA	ISRAEL	48	42	11.76	8.24

Round 15

			IMPs		VPs	
41	HONG KONG CHINA	COLOMBIA	43	28	13.97	6.03
42	ITALY	PAKISTAN	19	42	4.44	15.56
43	CANADA	POLAND	12	46	2.69	17.31
44	USA2	GUADELOUPE	70	31	17.97	2.03
45	SOUTH AFRICA	SWEDEN	31	60	3.42	16.58
46	DENMARK	CHINESE TAIPEI	10	39	3.42	16.58
47	FRANCE	MOROCCO	72	3	20.00	0.00
48	BELGIUM	NETHERLANDS	24	47	4.44	15.56
49	NORWAY	USA1	55	17	17.85	2.15
50	INDIA	REUNION	32	60	3.58	16.42
51	ARGENTINA	CHINA	10	56	1.23	18.77
52	ISRAEL	AUSTRALIA	61	15	18.77	1.23

Wuhan Cup

Round 13

			IMPs		VPs	
61	POLAND	COLOMBIA	20	21	9.69	10.31
62	USA2	NEW ZEALAND	74	6	20.00	0.00
63	FRANCE	BARBADOS	98	0	20.00	0.00
64	INDIA	MOROCCO	64	19	18.66	1.34
65	ITALY	ROMANIA	57	43	13.75	6.25
66	CHINESE TAIPEI	ISRAEL	45	34	13.04	6.96
67	CANADA	TUNISIA	63	51	13.28	6.72
68	DENMARK	ARGENTINA	30	35	8.52	11.48
69	EGYPT	CHINA	48	20	16.42	3.58
70	AUSTRALIA	UAE	76	40	17.59	2.41
71	BELGIUM	USA1	19	54	2.55	17.45
72	GERMANY	SINGAPORE	46	17	16.58	3.42

Round 14

			IMPs		VPs	
61	COLOMBIA	USA2	44	62	5.40	14.60
62	FRANCE	ROMANIA	30	10	15.00	5.00
63	ITALY	ISRAEL	45	34	13.04	6.96
64	MOROCCO	DENMARK	11	64	0.57	19.43
65	CHINESE TAIPEI	POLAND	25	24	10.31	9.69
66	INDIA	ARGENTINA	30	49	5.20	14.80
67	TUNISIA	BARBADOS	57	40	14.39	5.61
68	EGYPT	USA1	15	40	4.08	15.92
69	BELGIUM	CANADA	41	12	16.58	3.42
70	UAE	GERMANY	8	55	1.13	18.87
71	CHINA	AUSTRALIA	8	47	2.03	17.97
72	SINGAPORE	NEW ZEALAND	40	55	6.03	13.97

Round 15

			IMPs		VPs	
61	FRANCE	COLOMBIA	85	15	20.00	0.00
62	ITALY	POLAND	50	22	16.42	3.58
63	CHINESE TAIPEI	ARGENTINA	36	44	7.71	12.29
64	EGYPT	MOROCCO	71	38	17.17	2.83
65	INDIA	USA2	27	42	6.03	13.97
66	DENMARK	USA1	20	62	1.67	18.33
68	BELGIUM	AUSTRALIA	41	47	6.24	11.76
69	CHINA	BARBADOS	52	29	15.56	2.44
70	SINGAPORE	UAE	24	37	6.48	13.52
71	CANADA	GERMANY	6	60	0.48	19.52
72	NEW ZEALAND	ROMANIA	21	48	3.74	16.26

Rankings after Round 15

Bermuda Bowl

1	NORWAY	199.67
2	POLAND	196.27
3	SWITZERLAND	194.78
4	ISRAEL	193.21
5	INDIA	187.11
6	USA2	186.64
7	NEW ZEALAND	184.11
8	NETHERLANDS	181.43
9	BELGIUM	178.86
10	ITALY	176.01
11	CHINA	169.40
12	IRELAND	164.79
13	USA1	163.07
14	SOUTH AFRICA	146.25
15	BRAZIL	144.93
16	AUSTRALIA	142.08
17	CANADA	141.90
18	SINGAPORE	128.81
19	UAE	105.99
20	HONG KONG CHINA	100.19
21	MOROCCO	97.94
22	EGYPT	97.20
23	CHILE	65.54
24	PANAMA	35.82

Venice Cup

1	POLAND	244.91
2	SWEDEN	241.20
3	TURKIYE	216.55
4	NORWAY	197.64
5	USA2	193.66
6	FRANCE	189.07
7	CANADA	177.56
8	CHINA	171.98
9	ISRAEL	171.36
10	BRAZIL	166.41
11	DENMARK	163.90
12	USA1	153.59
13	GERMANY	144.52
14	INDIA	141.16
15	NEW ZEALAND	138.44
16	AUSTRALIA	119.35
17	ARGENTINA	115.32
18	EGYPT	115.25
19	CHINESE TAIPEI	111.40
20	HONG KONG CHINA	105.82
21	SOUTH AFRICA	92.76
22	MOROCCO	87.23
23	UAE	86.18
24	BARBADOS	45.45

d'Orsi Trophy

1	POLAND	206.25
2	USA1	201.43
3	USA2	185.85
4	ITALY	185.83
5	SWEDEN	182.01
6	DENMARK	181.36
7	FRANCE	174.04
8	BELGIUM	170.85
9	NETHERLANDS	170.73
10	CHINESE TAIPEI	168.59
11	NORWAY	166.85
12	ARGENTINA	161.61
13	ISRAEL	159.60
14	CANADA	158.93
15	AUSTRALIA	157.16
16	CHINA	156.46
17	INDIA	150.73
18	PAKISTAN	136.00
19	HONG KONG CHINA	117.07
20	REUNION	106.10
21	MOROCCO	76.47
22	SOUTH AFRICA	72.02
23	GUADELOUPE	70.26
24	COLOMBIA	61.24

Wuhan Cup

1	GERMANY	203.71
2	ITALY	195.93
3	USA1	191.26
4	CHINESE TAIPEI	189.14
5	USA2	188.35
6	FRANCE	185.74
7	ROMANIA	179.40
8	CHINA	178.44
9	AUSTRALIA	173.20
10	ARGENTINA	157.93
11	DENMARK	157.21
12	COLOMBIA	154.46
13	BELGIUM	153.90
14	POLAND	147.76
15	INDIA	146.39
16	ISRAEL	130.63
17	EGYPT	128.54
18	SINGAPORE	123.72
19	CANADA	121.72
20	NEW ZEALAND	121.49
21	UAE	112.39
22	TUNISIA	94.70
23	MOROCCO	73.02
24	BARBADOS	71.47