

# 45TH WORLD 2021 BRIDGE



## TEAM CHAMPIONSHIPS



### DAILY BULLETIN

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## Who will tip the Scales in their Favour?



Tournament Directors: Sanjeh Chakraborty, Jacob Duschek, Marc van Beijsterveldt, Roberto Zaleri, Rahmi Iyilikci, Kuba Kasprzak, Antonio Riccardi, Gordon Rainsford, Jeanne van den Meiracker, Miltos Koutougkos, Laurie Kelso, Waleed El Menyawi

In the Bermuda Bowl the match between USAI and Switzerland is proving to be a classic encounter in which it is hard to predict a winner. Meanwhile, the Netherlands took total command against Norway, who may well concede.

In the Venice Cup, England appeared to be in trouble against Turkey, but hit back to ensure that the final set has the potential to be a thriller. The match between Sweden and Poland is another cracker where predicting the winner is impossible.

India continued where they left off on Wednesday in the d'Orsi Trophy, building up a significant lead over France but the other match between Denmark and Poland is too close to call.

In the Wuhan Cup, France has a substantial lead over Germany, while the match between USAI and Italy is still in the balance.

It promises to be a day to remember!

SALONMAGGIORE TERME 2022  
MARCH 27TH APRIL 9TH



## Conditions of Contest

The Championship Committee has decided to shorten the play-offs for the bronze medals from 64 to 48 boards.

The following regulations apply:

### 16.2.2 Quarter-finals, Semi-finals, Final and Play off

The seating rights for each stanza will be automatically assigned by the scoring system, using random draw. The following restrictions will apply:

#### 16.2.4 Three stanzas

- One team will have seating rights in two stanzas and the other in one.
- If a team gets seating rights in stanza one, the other will get seating rights in stanza three.
- If a team gets seating rights in stanza three, the other will get seating rights in stanza two.

## SEMIFINALS

### BERMUDA BOWL

	R1	R2	R3	R4	R5	R6	TOT		R1	R2	R3	R4	R5	R6	TOT
SWITZERLAND	6	66	35	27	39		173	NETHERLANDS	32	45	54	27	34		192
USA1	42	10	51	43	9		169	NORWAY	12	37	16	5	8		78

### VENICE CUP

	R1	R2	R3	R4	R5	R6	TOT		R1	R2	R3	R4	R5	R6	TOT
POLAND	24	51	45	18	12		150	ENGLAND	30	28	22	41	35		156
SWEDEN	15	76	39	16	27		173	TURKEY	34	37	59	18	43		191

### D'ORSI TROPHY

	R1	R2	R3	R4	R5	R6	TOT		R1	R2	R3	R4	R5	R6	TOT
INDIA	16	57	37	57	37		204	DENMARK	30	69	23	32	13		167
FRANCE	21	19	61	14	41		156	POLAND	38	42	45	23	33		181

### WUHAN CUP

	R1	R2	R3	R4	R5	R6	TOT		R1	R2	R3	R4	R5	R6	TOT
FRANCE	52	64	57	13	42		228	USA1	13	26	58	31	37		165
GERMANY	20	47	26	30	31		154	ITALY	13	44	6	37	42		142



## Barry Rigal, Bermuda Bowl, QF6

**NETHERLANDS vs ITALY**

Italy led by 6 IMPs going into the final 16-board stanza. Both Italian pairs included a COVID replacement; Giovanni Donati for Lorenzo Lauria, Antonio Sementa for Giorgio Duboin. Both partnerships had plenty of experience but not necessarily the same level as the original pairs. There again both players were battle fresh. The Dutch would field their more experienced quartet, Van Prooijen-Verhees and De Wijs-Muller playing the relay club known as Tarzan.

Both declarers were doubtless happy to bid 3♠ - until they saw the dummy. In the modern game no self-respecting South would contemplate a double of 3♠ given the expected dross they rated to be facing. After a heart lead declarer won in hand and tried an optimistic ♠K. South won, unblocked diamonds and continued with a low heart. Declarer pitched his diamond, ruffed the diamond continuation and drove out the ♠Q. In the end he had three club losers, for down three and -150. No swing – but would this count as a missed opportunity?

Board 81. Dealer North. None Vul.

♠ K J 10 9 5 4 ♥ K ♦ Q 9 ♣ A 9 7 2		♠ 6 ♥ A J 9 8 4 ♦ 10 8 3 ♣ 5 4 3	♠ Q 8 2 ♥ 7 ♦ K J 7 6 5 4 2 ♣ J 10 ♠ A 7 3 ♥ Q 10 5 3 2 ♦ A ♣ K Q 8 6
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Board 82. Dealer East. NS Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Versace	De Wijs	Donati	Muller
Verhees	Sementa	Van Prooijen	Madala
—	3♦	Pass	Pass
3♠	All Pass		

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Versace	De Wijs	Donati	Muller
—	—	Pass	1♦*
Pass	1NT	2♣*	Pass
2♥	3♣	Pass	Pass
3♥	All Pass		



Giovanni Donati, Antonio Sementa, Alessandro Piana, Agustin Madala, Alfredo Versace

## Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Verhees	Sementa	Van Prooijen	Madala
—	—	Pass	1♣
Pass	1♦	1♠	Pass
Pass	2♣	All Pass	

Sementa's 1♦ response was apparently forced on him as no number of clubs described his hand. Odd...When Van Prooijen overcalled in spades the heart fit was lost and Madala was able to resist the temptation to correct to diamonds. Verhees led a trump, and declarer passed the ♠9 at once. The defenders won cheaply and managed to continue to go passive thereafter, and when Madala led a heart to the king they could avoid opening up diamonds and hold Madala to his seven top winners.

In the other room Donati could show the majors, 5-4, at his second turn. Not surprisingly Versace competed to 3♥. After repeated club leads declarer set up diamonds and emerged with 10 tricks on the extremely friendly lie of the cards. 2 IMPs to Italy up 135-127.

On the next board Muller's strong club at favourable on a balanced 15-count might have got his side in danger facing a 13-count with game definitely the limit in theory. In practice De Wijs could show extras and let his partner out at 3NT – but then a ridiculously favorable lie of the cards coupled with a helpful lead saw the Dutch register +520. A push against 1NT-3NT in the other room.

Netherlands gained 2 IMPs when leading from ♥532 worked better than leading from ♠987 on a blind auction to 3NT. The margin was back to 6 IMPs at 135-129.

The swing on the next deal was partly system, partly judgment. Verhees decided not to force to a non-vulnerable game when he had what he deemed a safe partscore alternative, Versace was looking at a full opener opposite and a good club builder. Without a spade stopper he might well have reasoned that he wasn't that likely to buy a good spade stop, running clubs AND a way to develop a red suit since he had no aces there?

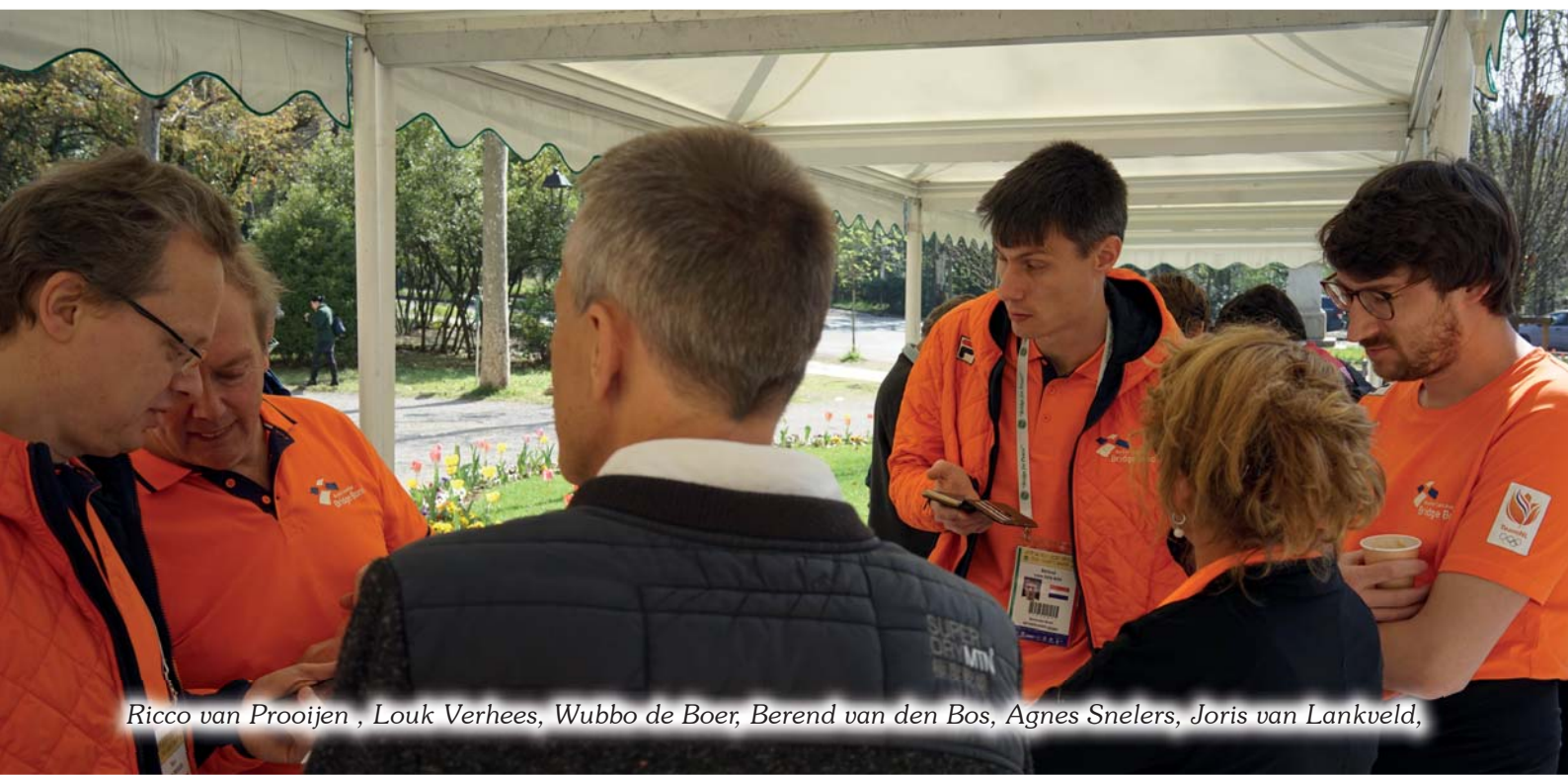
## Board 85. Dealer North. NS Vul.

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



## Open Room

West	North	East	South
Versace	De Wijs	Donati	Muller
—	Pass	1♣	Pass
1♦	Pass	2♣	Pass
2♥	Pass	3♣	Pass
3♠	Pass	3NT	All Pass



Ricco van Prooijen, Louk Verhees, Wubbo de Boer, Berend van den Bos, Agnes Snelers, Joris van Lankveld,



## Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Verhees	Sementa	Van Prooijen	Madala
—	Pass	2♣	Pass
2♦*	Pass	3♣*	All Pass

2♦ relay

3♣ no major minimum

Verhees was correct. Even with spades 4-4 3NT was basically no-play barring a miracle in clubs. Which was not forthcoming. 3♣ took ten painless tricks, and Netherlands had closed the gap to 134-135. They took the lead on the next deal, bidding to 6NT rather than 6♦:

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

If diamonds break you gain 2 IMPs for playing 6NT, if they are 4-1 offside you might (on a passive heart lead) make 6NT at most one time in four, but that number rises on an initial black-suit lead. If diamonds are 4-1 onside you are favourite to have a trump coup, I think. Today this was all irrelevant as diamonds did break.

The next deal saw the perils of (relatively) unfamiliar partnerships.

## Board 87. Dealer South. All Vul.

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

## Open Room

West	North	East	South
Versace	De Wijs	Donati	Muller
—	—	—	1♠
Pass	Pass	2NT	Pass
3♣	Pass	3♥	Pass
3NT	Pass	4♣	All Pass

## Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Verhees	Sementa	Van Prooijen	Madala
—	—	—	1♠
Pass	Pass	2NT	All Pass

Madala's spade lead set 2NT easily (of course if declarer wins in hand and leads a low club up you had better fly with the ace but Van Prooijen actually led the ♣K at trick two). In the other room Donati meant 2NT as natural but I wonder if Versace was taking a safety play when he acted over it. Donati's final call was based on a series of partnership confusions. He had responded to 3♣ to show four hearts but I believe Versace thought that in their methods over an opening 2NT, 3♥ would have denied hearts. Over the 3NT call Donati was worried his partner had a club sign off so tried a pass/correct call which was not interpreted as such.

4♣ saw a spade lead come through the king and things did not get much better thereafter for Versace, who stole one trick to come to six tricks and down four. 7 IMPs to Netherlands, leading by 8 now at 143-135.

## Board 88. Dealer West. None Vul.

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

## Open Room

West	North	East	South
Versace	De Wijs	Donati	Muller
1♠	Dble	Rdbl	Pass
2♠	All Pass		

## Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Verhees	Sementa	Van Prooijen	Madala
2♠	All Pass		

De Wijs led a low club to trick one; Versace put up the ♣K and doubtless muttered the Italian equivalent of 'You think you are playing with bambini?'. He ruffed a club at trick two used the ♥Q and ♦A to ruff

two more clubs and elope with nine tricks.

Against Verhees's 2♠ opener Sementa led an uninspired but accurate diamond. Declarer won the second diamond and misguessed spades, used the ♥Q to repeat the spade finesse, but when the defenders took the first club he had six losers, one in each black suit and two in each red suit. Those 5 IMPs reduced the margin to 143-140.

Board 89. Dealer North. EW Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Versace</i>	<i>De Wijs</i>	<i>Donati</i>	<i>Muller</i>
—	Pass	1♠	Dble
3♠	Dble	Pass	4♣
Pass	4♥	All Pass	

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Verhees</i>	<i>Sementa</i>	<i>Van Prooijen</i>	<i>Madala</i>
—	Pass	1NT	Pass
2♣	Dble	2♥*	3♣
Pass	Pass	3♠	All Pass

Sementa's insouciant double of 2♣ got his side into the auction and 3♠ on Madala's trump lead could take no more than eight tricks. In the other room De Wijs's 4♥ call was a suggestion of an alternative contract; their agreement was that if you double 3♠ with four hearts then you are obliged to bid again. Whether this hand qualifies for these actions is more subjective than objective I suppose. Donati led a top spade then found the thoughtful low club shift. declarer needed to rise with the ace, ruff a spade with the ♥J and draw trumps to come to 10 tricks. When he led a heart to the jack and queen, the defenders took their club ruffs. Down two, and 5 IMPs to Italy, leading 145-143.

The Netherlands tied the match when they defended a 3NT more accurately than their counterparts and saved two overtricks. All square at 145-145 with six deals to go. Fasten your seatbelts...

Board 91. Dealer South. None Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Versace</i>	<i>De Wijs</i>	<i>Donati</i>	<i>Muller</i>
—	—	—	Pass
Pass	1♦	Pass	1♥
Pass	2♦	Pass	2♥
Pass	Pass	Dble	Pass
3♣	3♥	Pass	4♥
All Pass			

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Verhees</i>	<i>Sementa</i>	<i>Van Prooijen</i>	<i>Madala</i>
—	—	—	Pass
Pass	1♦	Pass	1♥
Pass	2♦	Pass	2♠
Pass	3♥	All Pass	

At the Young Chelsea Bridge Club in London, where I was brought up, TTASL (Teach Them a Sharp Lesson) insisted that if the opponents reopened you from partscore you had to bid game or double them; if they sacrificed against your game you had to bid slam or double them. I had no idea that The White House in Amsterdam followed the same rules.

Whereas Madala had come to 10 tricks easily enough in 3♥, Muller received the defence of two rounds of clubs and a top diamond. He ruffed, crossed to a top heart to find the bad news then had a virtual claim by unblocking spades, ruffing a diamond, then running the spades. West's trumps are coupé whatever he does.

(Note that if declarer overtakes the second spade and runs spades, West discards three times then rises with the ♥A and exits with a low heart. In the two-card ending the lead is in dummy and West scores the ♥10 by force.)

At the table, though, Muller did overtake the second spade and led a heart. West flew the ace and played a second diamond and with trumps blocked declarer



was down. 6 IMPs to Italy instead of 6 IMPs the other way; Italy led 151-145.

Board 92. Dealer West. NS Vul.

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

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



Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Versace</i>	<i>De Wijs</i>	<i>Donati</i>	<i>Muller</i>
Pass	1♠	Pass	1NT*
Pass	2♦	Pass	2♥*
Pass	3♦*	Pass	4♥
All Pass			

3♦ 5=4=3=1 precisely



Alfredo Versace

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Verhees</i>	<i>Sementa</i>	<i>Van Prooijen</i>	<i>Madala</i>
Pass	1♠	Pass	2♣
Pass	2♦	Pass	2♥
Pass	2♠	Pass	2NT
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

Sementa-Madala had no easy way to show a 5-6 with responder (not such a terrible problem in abstract?). After a spade lead declarer won in hand and ducked a heart. The J♦ ran round to the queen and declarer ducked a heart. When the ace did not appear he won the club return and had three clubs, three spades, and a trick from dummy's spades, but that was only eight tricks.

In 4♥ Muller won the diamond lead and won the ♣A then played to ruff clubs with the ♥8 and ♥10. He lost two overruffs to East and the ♥Q to West but that was a painless 12 IMPs and the lead at 157-151.

Board 94. Dealer East. None Vul.

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

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



Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Versace</i>	<i>De Wijs</i>	<i>Donati</i>	<i>Muller</i>
—	—	3♦	Dble
4♠	Dble	All Pass	

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Verhees</i>	<i>Sementa</i>	<i>Van Prooijen</i>	<i>Madala</i>
—	—	3♦	Dble
4♠	Dble	Pass	4NT*
Pass	5♣	All Pass	

Looking at the North hand I guess one could double whether it was penalty or takeout. The Italians tend to be far more oriented towards action doubles than most; Madala removed to 4NT to cover all bases and Sementa bid 5♣. He drew trumps and cashed the top hearts, perhaps hoping that if the queen did not fall ♦A and another diamond might achieve an endplay?



That wasn't necessary today.

In the other room the defenders cashed two hearts, a club, overtaken for the  $\diamond A$  and another club. Versace elected not to risk playing a diamond up – and who can blame him. He laid down the  $\spadesuit K$  and had to lose two trump tricks now for -500 and 3 IMPs to Netherlands, up 160-151.

Board 95. Dealer South. NS Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Versace</i>	<i>De Wijs</i>	<i>Donati</i>	<i>Muller</i>
—	—	—	1 $\spadesuit$
Pass	1NT*	Pass	2 $\heartsuit$
Pass	2 $\spadesuit$ *	Pass	3 $\clubsuit$ *
Pass	3 $\heartsuit$ *	Pass	4 $\clubsuit$ *
Pass	4 $\heartsuit$	Pass	4 $\spadesuit$
Pass	4NT	Pass	5 $\spadesuit$
Pass	6 $\heartsuit$	All Pass	

3 $\clubsuit$  5=4=2=2 or 7=4=1=1

3 $\heartsuit$  Anti-relay

4 $\clubsuit$  Maximum 5 controls

4 $\spadesuit$  Still extras in context

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Verhees</i>	<i>Sementa</i>	<i>van Prooijen</i>	<i>Madala</i>
—	—	—	1 $\spadesuit$
Pass	2 $\clubsuit$	Pass	2 $\heartsuit$
Pass	3 $\heartsuit$	Pass	3 $\spadesuit$
Pass	3NT*	Pass	4 $\clubsuit$ *
Pass	4 $\diamond$ *	Dble	Pass
Pass	4 $\heartsuit$	All Pass	

The natural auction ran into a snag that all of us might have difficulty overcoming. The player with the  $\diamond KJ$  had no way of knowing whether the double of 4 $\diamond$  was based on the  $\diamond AQ$  or just one honor. He did know his partner had no control (yes there is a case here for playing redouble as the  $\diamond Q$  I suppose, with

pass a control and bidding denying a control).

Equally I suppose Madala would have known to bid on over 4 $\heartsuit$  if he had the  $\diamond Q$  once his partner showed a control.

In the other room Muller had such a strong non-1 $\clubsuit$  opener that he broke discipline to bid on over the 4 $\heartsuit$  signoff, even though he had already promised extras. He knew that De Wijs's decision to ask with 3 $\heartsuit$  rather than sign off directly guaranteed at least a minimum interest in slam. When Versace led a diamond, it was relatively easy to play the  $\diamond J$ . Since it was unclear if dummy or declarer had a diamond control, underleading an ace here would be a distinctly swingy action – albeit one that might be called for by state-of-the-match issues).

Both tables made 12 tricks and Netherlands had an insurmountable lead now at 173-151.

On the final deal of the match Muller as South went to 4 $\spadesuit$  at once, while Madala on a very different start bid only 3 $\spadesuit$ .

Board 96. Dealer West. EW Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Versace</i>	<i>De Wijs</i>	<i>Donati</i>	<i>Muller</i>
1 $\diamond$	Pass	1 $\heartsuit$	4 $\spadesuit$
All Pass			

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Verhees</i>	<i>Sementa</i>	<i>Van Prooijen</i>	<i>Madala</i>
1NT	Pass	2NT*	3 $\spadesuit$
Pass	Pass	Dbl.	Pass
4 $\heartsuit$	All Pass		

4 $\spadesuit$  drifted two down, while 4 $\heartsuit$  could have been set on repeated spade leads. Madala chose to play his partner for something like  $\heartsuit Q$  and  $\diamond KJ$  by shifting to a diamond. Not a success today, and Netherlands had a further 11 IMPs to make it seem as if they were comfortable winners – but that was far from the case. However, they had taken almost all their chances in the final set and fully deserved their victory.





Marc Smith, Venice Cup, QF5

**DENMARK vs POLAND**

Poland completely dominated the round robin stage of the Venice Cup competition, eventually leading the field by close to 50 VPs. They finished more than 90 VPs ahead of the quarter-final opponents they selected, Denmark, but that superiority has been far from evident since the quarter-final match got underway. On the first day, Denmark led by 3 IMPs after the first session, by 2 IMPs after the second, and trailed by 3 IMPs at the overnight break. In the opening session today, Denmark won 30-9 to give them an 18-IMP advantage coming into this fifth stanza. Could the favourites fight back and reclaim their number one seeding, or will the Danes score a famous victory and march onwards into the semi-finals?

As usual, we begin with a problem. With both sides vulnerable, you are sitting North holding:

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

West	North	East	South
—	—	—	Pass
1♠	?		

What action, if any, do you take?

While you consider that, we open with the very first deal of the stanza, which seemed to set the tone:

Board 1. Dealer North. None Vul.

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

At both tables, North started proceedings with a Multi. Both East players decided that their hand did not quite meet the standards required for a double (usually showing either 12-15 balanced or some very strong hands), a decision which was to prove fatal for one of the partnerships.

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Koch-Palmund	S.Baldysz	T.Bilde	C.Baldysz
—	2♦*	Pass	2♥*
3♣	Pass	3NT	All Pass

**World Championship Book  
Salsomaggiore 2022**

The official book of these World Championships in Salsomaggiore will be released on or before the start of the World Bridge Series later this year. It will comprise approximately 300 full colour pages. The principal contributors will be **Brian Senior, Barry Rigal, Mark Horton, Marek Wojcicki, Daniel Gulyas & Ron Tacchi**. The book will include many photographs from the championships, a full list of results and extensive coverage of the major championship events. The official retail price will be £25, US\$35 and €30. The book will be distributed by **Master Point Press** and available from bridge suppliers around the world. Please order from your local bridge supplier, and not from MPP, which will not be handling individual orders.

Cathy Baldysz responded with a 'pass-or-correct' 2♥, and Charlotte Kock-Palmund climbed in with a fairly sporting 3♣ overcall. With both majors well-stopped, Trine Bilde had an easy 3NT bid.

Declarer captured the ♠K with her ace at trick one and played on clubs. South took the second round and continued spades, declarer allowing North to win. The heart switch then ensured declarer four tricks in that suit and Bilde was soon claiming: E/W +430.

## Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Sarniak	Rasmussen	Kazmucha	L.Bilde
—	2♦*	Pass	3♥*
Pass	3♠	All Pass	

Sacrificing on balanced hands is fraught with danger, as the penalty often exceeds expectations. All Lone Bilde knew was that she had a bad hand and so did her partner, so getting the bidding up as high as possible quickly seemed like a good idea. And quite right she was too, as her pass-or-correct jump to 3♥ effectively shut West out of the auction. Rasmussen now revealed her suit, but backing in at this level with only three hearts justifiably seemed too risky for Anna Sarniak. 3♠ lost the obvious six tricks: E/W +100 but 10 IMPs to Denmark.

The Danes picked up a couple of partscore swings: a doubled game that could not be beaten cost the Poles 5 IMPs, then failing to find a ruff against a 5♣ sacrifice let the Danes out for -500 with 4♠ making 650 for 4 more. Then came something more substantial, when both North players were faced with the bidding posed above:

Board 7. Dealer South. All Vul.

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

## Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Sarniak	Rasmussen	Kazmucha	L.Bilde
—	—	—	Pass
1♠	Pass	1NT	Pass
2♦	Pass	2♥	All Pass

I suppose you could make a case for Pass, Double, 2♥ and, perhaps, even 1NT on the North hand. For the Danes, Helle Rasmussen chose to pass and soon found herself defending a heart partscore. Only a diamond lead legitimately holds declarer to eight tricks, although the overtrick got away after Bilde had opened with a club. Not that it mattered: E/W +140.

## Open Room

West	North	East	South
Koch-Palmund	S.Baldysz	T.Bilde	C.Baldysz
—	—	—	Pass
1♠	2♥	Pass	Pass
Dble	All Pass		




Danuta Kazmucha



When Sophia Baldysz chose to overcall on the North hand, the Poles were in deep trouble. The auction followed the inevitable path and Trine Bilde led a top club. A spade to the king was followed by the ♥K, which was allowed to hold, so Koch-Palmund continued with the ♠A and then the ♠10. North and East both pitched a club, but declarer had no answer when West then switched back to clubs. She pitched a diamond, allowing East to score the ♣K. The defenders still had three more trump tricks to come and, although there was no way for the Danes to make the ♦K in the endgame, declarer still had to settle for just four tricks. E/W +1100 and a massive 14 IMPs to Denmark, and they were not finished yet.

Board 10 looked thoroughly innocuous:

Board 10. Dealer East. All Vul.

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

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Sarniak</i>	<i>Rasmussen</i>	<i>Kazmucha</i>	<i>L.Bilde</i>
—	—	Pass	1♣
Pass	1♥*	Pass	2♠
Pass	4♠	All Pass	

Rasmussen's 1♥ response was a transfer, and Bilde's jump to 2♠ showed a minimum opening bid with four-card spade support. With both black suits behaving for declarer, Bilde was soon claiming eleven tricks: N/S +650. You would expect this to be a flat board at your local club so, at World Championship level...

Open Room


West	North	East	South
<i>Koch-Palmund</i>	<i>S.Baldysz</i>	<i>T.Bilde</i>	<i>C.Baldysz</i>
—	—	Pass	1♣*
Pass	2♣*	Pass	2♦*
Pass	2♥*	Pass	3♥
Pass	3♠*	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

Unsurprisingly, 1♣ was the Polish variety (natural clubs, weak no-trump hand type, any 17+), and the 2♣ response was game-forcing with 5+♣. Cathy Baldysz showed a weak no-trump with 2♦, and Sophia advanced with 2♥, which she alerted. Whether 2♥ was some sort of relay, I cannot tell you, but it seems one thought it was and the other expected it to show four hearts.

Well, you can see how the auction went, and it is not a good advertisement for the system if one of the best Women's pairs in the world cannot locate a 4-4 major-suit fit in what should be an everyday situation. Perhaps they were affected by the bad board 15 minutes earlier, or simply from playing 3-4 matches a day at the highest level of concentration for more than a week. The Danes duly cashed their five winning diamonds: N/S -100 and another 13 IMPs to Denmark.

With just 22 boards remaining in the match, the Danish lead was now 59 IMPs, 167-108. However, the Poles were not quite ready to throw in the towel, and they struck back immediately.

Board 11. Dealer South. None Vul.

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

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Sarniak</i>	<i>Rasmussen</i>	<i>Kazmucha</i>	<i>L.Bilde</i>
—	—	—	Pass
1♠	2♣	Pass	Pass
Dbl	3♣	3♠	All Pass

Rasmussen started with a 2♣ overcall. When that was passed back to Sarniak, she doubled back in, understandably, but giving the Danes a second chance to get to one of their cold games. Rasmussen rebid her suit and Kazmucha competed to the three-level on the East hand, which just about shut the door on any thoughts South might have had about advancing.

There was more bad news for Danish supporters when the defense began with two high clubs, declarer ruffing. North then won the first round of trumps and



continued with a third high club, rather than switching to a heart to get her partner in for a diamond ruff. South won the second round of trumps and played a diamond, won in dummy. When Sarniak then played a heart, South had only the bare ace left, so that was the fourth and last trick for the defense. N/S -140.

There are two possible game contracts for N/S. 3NT needs diamonds 4-3, whilst 5♣ needs either hearts 3-3 on West to hold both the king and queen.

## Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Koch-Palmund</i>	<i>S.Baldysz</i>	<i>T.Bilde</i>	<i>C.Baldysz</i>
—	—	—	Pass
1♠	Dble	2♠	3♦
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

Sophia Baldysz started with a double of West's 1♠ opening, and this tempoed much better for N/S. East raised spades immediately, but South was not to be shut out with a six-card suit and two aces. They say diamonds are a girl's best friend, and that was certainly what Sophia wanted to hear, so she took a shot at 3NT. East led a spade and declarer claimed her ten top tricks: N/S +430 and 11 IMPs back to Poland.

Sloppy defensive play allowed 2♠ to make when the same contract was failing at the other table, and another 5 IMPs landed in the Polish column, then came another big opportunity.

## Board 15. Dealer South. NS Vul.

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

## Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Koch-Palmund</i>	<i>S.Baldysz</i>	<i>T.Bilde</i>	<i>C.Baldysz</i>
—	—	—	Pass
1♠	Pass	2NT*	Pass
3♦*	Pass	4♣	Pass
4♦	Pass	4♠	All Pass

Holding a balanced 15-17, quite why Koch-Palmund did not open 1NT is unclear. Bilde showed a game forcing raise with a Jacoby 2NT and the 3♦ continuation was alerted and not explained, but it presumably showed extra values without a shortage. An exchange of cue-bids told West that the ♥K was missing, and she gave up when East made a non-forcing bid, although quite when Bilde had shown more than the 12-13 HCP promised by her initial 2NT response is not obvious to this writer.

North presented declarer with her twelfth trick by leading a heart, dummy's ♥Q scoring at trick one. Not that it mattered, since the diamonds were coming in to produce a discard for the heart loser anyway. E/W +480.

## Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Sarniak</i>	<i>Rasmussen</i>	<i>Kazmucha</i>	<i>L.Bilde</i>
—	—	—	Pass
1NT	Pass	2♣*	Pass
2♠	Pass	3♥*	Pass
3♠	Pass	3NT*	Pass
4♣	Pass	4♦	Pass
4♥	Pass	4NT	Pass
6♦	Pass	6♠	All Pass

Sarniak did start with 1NT and Stayman uncovered the spade fit. Kazmucha's 3♥ bid agreed spades and she then showed serious slam interest with 3NT. Cue-bids confirmed that all the side suits were controlled and some form of Blackwood then carried the Polish pair to the decent slam.

Rasmussen avoided the heart lead, but the ♦7 did not fare much better, as it solved any possible problems declarer might have had in that suit. The play did not take long: E/W +980 and another 11 IMPs to Poland.

The final deal of the stanza again saw the Poles playing a two-level contract at both tables. This time, though, it was not with the same suit as trumps in both rooms. Both declarers were successful, so that was another 6 IMPs recovered, leaving the score with 16 boards remaining 167-141 in favor of the Danes. 26 IMPs is a substantial lead, but the match is far from finished and the barrels of Carlsberg will have to remain on ice for a few more hours.

**Herman De wael, Wuhan Cup, QF6****BELGIUM vs GERMANY**

When the WBF decided in 2018 that they would add a fourth series to the World Team Championships, the European Bridge League hastily arranged a qualifying event in Lisboa, Portugal (the other series had seen their qualifying in the European Championships held earlier in Budapest). Belgium has always had two very good mixed pairs (Valérie and Alain Labaere, Isabelle and Bernard Dewasme-Dehaye), but when they formed a team, thirteenth place was all that was achieved. For this second edition of the Wuhan Cup, the same team was formed, joined by a third pair, Tine Dobbels and Gunther Dauwe. No-one was surprised that this team achieved second place in the European Qualifiers and the third place in the round-robin here. Both times, France was ahead of them.

The quarter-final against Germany started with a 14-IMP win, followed by a 6-IMP loss, and a tied set of 16. Then misfortune struck when all players were asked to provide a negative test. Surprisingly, two Belgian (male) players gave a positive. Panic struck – would Herman have to play? – but it was quickly realized that the trainer, Patrick Bocken, was a fine player.

When one re-test proved negative, just one player, Bernard Dehaye, was barred from playing. The fourth set was won by 13 and the fifth lost by 26, leaving Germany in the lead by 5 IMPs.

For the final set, Patrick Bocken would be partnering Isabelle Dewasme, while Valérie and Alain starting their sixth session of the quarterfinal.

On the first board (17) North held  $\diamond$ KJ76542. Isabelle for Belgium had a  $2\clubsuit$  opening showing a weak two in diamonds, so the German West played the hand in  $2\spadesuit$ . The German North opened the hand with  $3\diamond$ , so the Belgian West had to play it a level higher in  $3\spadesuit$ . Both went down, but that was 3 IMPs to Germany.

An extra overtrick on board 18 gave another IMP to Germany, now leading by 9.

Over the next few deals, the contracts were 3NT+4, 3NT+3 and 3NT+2 at both tables.

Board 23 was played in 2NT by the Belgians, in 3NT by the Germans. There were only 7 tricks, which meant 3 IMPs to Belgium.

A partscore swing on board 24 gave the Germans 4 IMPs, but overtricks gave the Belgians 3 IMPs over the next two boards, leaving the Germans 7 IMPs in front. All could still happen, and it did on board 27:

Board 27. Dealer South. None Vul.

$\spadesuit$  K 10  
 $\heartsuit$  K Q 5  
 $\diamond$  Q J 10 9 6 4  
 $\clubsuit$  9 5

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



$\spadesuit$  6 5 4 3  
 $\heartsuit$  —  
 $\diamond$  A K 8 7 3  
 $\clubsuit$  A J 3 2

$\spadesuit$  A Q J 8 7  
 $\heartsuit$  J 9 8 7 6 4  
 $\diamond$  —  
 $\clubsuit$  10 8

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Von Arnim	Dewasme	Häusler	Bocken
—	—	—	Pass
Pass	1 $\diamond$	Pass	1 $\heartsuit$
Pass	2 $\diamond$	Pass	2 $\spadesuit$
Pass	3 $\heartsuit$	Pass	4 $\heartsuit$
Pass	Pass	Dble	All Pass

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Alain	Grünke	Valérie	Eggeling
—	—	—	Pass
Pass	1 $\diamond$	Pass	1 $\heartsuit$
Pass	2 $\clubsuit$	Dble	4 $\heartsuit$
All Pass			

In the closed room Paul Grünke's  $2\clubsuit$  must have indicated 3-card heart support, so Marie Eggeling was able to bid game straight away.

In the open room, where Isabelle Dewasme and Patrick Bocken had had only a half-day's worth of system discussion, it befell on South to indicate the surplus values.

And whereas Valérie Labaere in East had had the chance to indicate something worthwhile over the conventional  $2\clubsuit$ , Helmut Häusler needed to express this by doubling the final contract.

Aided by Valérie's double, Alain led  $\clubsuit$ K, and he continued with the  $\clubsuit$ Q. He did not seem to mind continuing with the  $\clubsuit$ 4. Eggeling did not make the mistake of ruffing this on the table and took this trick in hand. She played a trump up to the table and Alain ducked. Valérie jettisoned her  $\clubsuit$ A. Declarer now

cashed king and ace of spades, and overtook, but now had to play from hand. She played a third, fourth and even the fifth spade, but Alain refused to ruff. Forced to play trumps eventually, Alain could cash the ace, and exit with a trump to dummy. He was now able to overruff dummy at trick 12. One down and +50 to Belgium.

In the other room, Patrick Bocken was faced with the same contract, but doubled. Daniela Von Arnim led ♣K and ♣6, leaving her partner to direct the play at trick three. Häusler decided to start with the ♦A. Patrick Bocken ruffed this, and he too played a trump towards the table, getting the news of the bad heart break. He too played two rounds of spades, ending in hand (which Deep Finesse tells us is the fatal flaw – you must cash dummy’s spades and play a diamond off the table). He too cashed three more spades, West refusing to ruff.

But then West mistakenly ducked the trump return, and the ♥10 did not provide the setting trick. +590 and 12 IMPs to Belgium.

Suddenly the Belgians were leading again, by 5 IMPs, with five boards to go. Isabelle made an extra overtrick on board 28, and playing game in a 4-4 heart fit rather than a 5-5 club one means another 2 IMPs when there are 11 tricks in both strains.

That left Belgium 8 IMPs ahead with two to play.

Board 31. Dealer South. NS Vul.

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

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Alain</i>	<i>Grünke</i>	<i>Valérie</i>	<i>Eggeling</i>
—	—	—	1♠
Pass	1NT	Pass	2♥
Pass	4♥	All Pass	

Grünke and Eggeling did not press on in either bidding or play. +650 to N/S.

When the players left the room (after completing board 32 as well, they were able to follow the play in the Open Room, which had only just arrived at this

bidding:

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Von Arnim</i>	<i>Dewasme</i>	<i>Häusler</i>	<i>Bocken</i>
—	—	—	1♠
Pass	2♣	Pass	2♥
Pass	3♥	Pass	3♠
Pass	4♣	Pass	4♠
Pass	5♦	Dble	Pass
Pass	5♥	Pass	6♣
Pass	6NT	All Pass	

2♣ was not forcing to game, but in their half-day system discussion, they had agreed that 3♥ was forcing. So Bocken made the cue bids of 3♠ and 4♠. When he heard 4♦, he thought he had enough to be bidding 6♥. But then 5♦ was doubled, and he had to pass to deny a control. He was hoping for a redouble that would show the ace, but it did not arrive. Again, he should simply have bid 6♥, but he decided on one more extra chance – partner might have five clubs, after all. 6♣ made Isabelle believe the heart fit was not what it should be, and she bid the slam in no-trumps. That was a 13-IMP swing to Germany, whereas a 6♥ bid (a contract that was made at every table it was bid at) would have put the Belgians 21 IMPs ahead and into the semifinal.

Still, a 5 IMP lead was not a secure one for Germany, but the Belgians went overboard at both tables on 32. Either one of those alone would already have been too much, so there is no need to assign any blame on the four (or should we say seven) valiant Gallic warriors. One thing is certain though – without the string of infections in other teams, they would never have known that Bernard was infected (he shows no symptoms whatsoever), and they would probably have made it into the semifinals.

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## David Stern, BERMUDA BOWL, SF2


**NETHERLANDS vs NORWAY**



In the quarterfinals, Norway (Bakke-Brogeland, Helness-Helgemo, Livgard-Aa) beat USA2 by fifty-nine IMPs after being thirty-one ahead with sixteen boards remaining.

The Dutch (Muller-De Wijs, Van den Bos-Van Lankveld, Van Prooijen-Verhees) came into the last set of the quarterfinals six IMPs adrift, eventually winning the last set by 39 IMPs to reach the semi-finals.

At the end of the first sixteen boards of this semi-final the Netherlands held a twenty IMP lead, 32-12, thirteen of which were gained on the very last board of that set.

Both Dutch pairs play Tarzan strong club, their opponents' systems are mostly natural with some transfers, some relays and a very weak and slightly variable 1NT opening thrown into the mix.

Board 17. Dealer North. None Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Helgemo</i>	<i>De Wijs</i>	<i>Helness</i>	<i>Muller</i>
—	Pass	Pass	Pass
1♠	Pass	2♠	Pass
4♠	All Pass		

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Van Lankveld</i>	<i>Bakke</i>	<i>Van den Bos</i>	<i>Brogeland</i>
—	Pass	Pass	Pass
1♠	Pass	2♠	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

In the open room, Helgemo, after opening 1♠ and hearing his partner raise to 2♠ simply bid 4♠. Unluckily for him, the defence started with a singleton heart to the ace, a heart ruff and two spades to see the contract fail by one trick. Without the heart ruff, dummy's ♠9

would ensure that declarer would only lose two spades and make the contract. Netherlands +50.

In the closed room Van Lankveld, West for the Netherlands, opted to bid 3NT over his partner's spade raise offering him a choice of contract. Holding a 3-4-3-3, that decision was easy. The defence started with a low club, won by declarer with dummy's queen and followed by a low spade to his ten. When North ducked this trick, declarer knocked out the ♥A and claimed one spade, three hearts, two diamonds and three clubs for nine tricks. To beat the hand, North must win the spade and switch to diamonds. After that, declarer won't be able to establish hearts and spades before the defence can take five tricks. Netherlands +400 and 10 IMPs.


Netherlands 42 — Norway 12.

The next board the Netherlands played 2♦ making ten tricks for +130 while the Norwegians opted for no-trumps making ten tricks, for +180 and two IMPs.

Netherlands 42 — Norway 14.

East-West at both tables found trouble on the next board.

Board 19. Dealer South. E/W Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Helgemo</i>	<i>De Wijs</i>	<i>Helness</i>	<i>Muller</i>
—	—	—	1♦
1♥	Pass	Pass	Dble
Pass	Pass	Rdbl	Pass
1NT	Dble	Pass	Pass
Rdbl	Pass	2♣	Dble
All Pass			



## Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Van Lankveld	Bakke	Van den Bos	Brogeland
—	—	—	Pass
2♥	Pass	Pass	Dble
All Pass			

In the open room, Helness-Helgemo showed respect for their opponents after South doubled 1♥ for takeout and North passed for penalties. East then redoubled to suggest a better spot and when Helgemo bid 1NT and saw that doubled and come back to him, he redoubled for rescue. Two Clubs isn't a pretty spot. South started with his singleton heart, won in dummy by declarer who played a spade, won by North. The defence started on trumps to try and deny declarer any spade ruffs in dummy; declarer winning cheaply in dummy. A diamond saw North rise with the king and continue clubs, won by South who played a third round. Declarer wound up with a late spade, a heart a diamond and three clubs for down 2, Netherlands +500.

In the closed room, execution came quicker when West opened 2♥ after South decided not to open. I suspect that this would be a minority view in a bidding forum - of the twelve tables on BBO, ten Souths elected to open the bidding, but I can't help but respect Brogeland's position on matters such as this, and anything else to do with bridge. Van Lankveld opened 2♥, passed around to Brogeland who had an easy reopening double, and everybody passed. Declarer made five heart tricks on spade forces from the defence and one club trick for two down so Norway +500 and a flat board.

Both tables missed a lucky game on the next deal.

## Board 20. Dealer West. All Vul.

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

## Open Room

West	North	East	South
Helgemo	De Wijs	Helness	Muller
1NT	Pass	2♥*	Pass
2♠	Pass	3NT	Pass
4♠	All Pass		

## Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Van Lankveld	Bakke	Van den Bos	Brogeland
1NT	Pass	2NT*	3♣
Pass	Pass	Dble	Pass
3♥	Pass	3♠	Pass
4♠	All Pass		

2NT Asks/shows 5/4 card majors.

It's so easy to know what to do when you see all four hands. With the club blockage, 3NT is a breeze. Without seeing all four hands, you wouldn't want to play 3NT ahead of 4♠. The Dutch went two down while the Norwegians went one down handing the Norwegians 3 IMPs.

Netherlands 42 — Norway 17.

## Board 21. Dealer North. N/S Vul.

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

## Open Room

West	North	East	South
Helgemo	De Wijs	Helness	Muller
—	1♦	1♠	Dble*
3♠	All Pass		

## Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Van Lankveld	Bakke	Van den Bos	Brogeland
—	1♣*	1♠	Dble*
2♠	3♣	3♠	4♥
4♠	All Pass		

In the open room, De Wijs opened 1♦ over which Helness overcalled 1♠. Muller made a negative double and Helgemo pre-emptively raised to 3♠ which ended the auction. This went one down with declarer losing a spade, two hearts, one diamond (after South switched to the jack) and two clubs for Norway -50.

In the closed room, Bakke opened a 2+ 1♣ and after the opponents kept bidding spades, N/S found





their heart fit and bid 4♥. With careful play and a good guess in trumps, perform after South gets forced in spades, 4♥ can make. E/W however took out cheap insurance bidding 4♠ and escaped the double so -100 for Netherlands and 2 IMPs to Norway.

Netherlands 42 — Norway 19.

Both teams bid a solid 6♦ on the next board taking all the tricks when North held ♣K85:

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

Board 23 saw an overtrick IMP to the Netherlands in 4♠.

The next deal saw Norway row the boat out a bit too far:

Board 24. Dealer West. None Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Helgemo</i>	<i>De Wijs</i>	<i>Helness</i>	<i>Muller</i>
1♣	Pass	1♠	Pass
2♦	Pass	2♠	Pass
3♣	Pass	3♠	Pass
3NT	Pass	4♣	Pass
4♦*	Pass	5♣	Pass
6♣	All Pass		

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Van Lankveld</i>	<i>Bakke</i>	<i>Van den Bos</i>	<i>Brogeland</i>
1♣	Pass	1♠	Pass
2♦	Pass	3♠	Pass
4♠	All Pass		

finally relenting and supporting clubs. He tried to get off the treadmill with 5♣ but Helgemo certainly had a good hand and bid 6♣. Declarer ducked the heart lead, won the second heart, and ruffed a heart in dummy. Had the diamond finesse worked he might have been able to ruff one diamond low and one diamond high and make the contract, but that was not to be. Two down and Netherlands +100.

In the closed room, West, holding so many values outside of the spade suit, was happy to raise partner on his void rather than describing his hand. South led his singleton club which declarer won with the king and advanced the ♠K won by South who played a heart. Declarer ducked that, allowing the defence to score their club ruff, but he was in control, winning the diamond with the ace, playing the ♥A, ruffing a heart and drawing trumps. Netherlands +420 and 11 IMPs.

Netherlands 54 — Norway 20.

Board 25 was an overtrick IMP to Norway followed by a change of fortune.

Board 26. Dealer North. E/W Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Helgemo</i>	<i>De Wijs</i>	<i>Helness</i>	<i>Muller</i>
—	—	1NT	Pass
2♥*	Pass	3♠*	Pass
4♦*	Pass	4♥*	Pass
4♠	Pass	4NT*	Pass
5♠*	Pass	6♠	All Pass

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Van Lankveld</i>	<i>Bakke</i>	<i>Van den Bos</i>	<i>Brogeland</i>
—	—	1NT	Pass
4♥*	Pass	4♠	All Pass

In the open room, Helness kept bidding spades

In the closed room Van Lankveld, West for




Netherlands, bid 4♥ transfer to 4♠ showing no interest in slam and they played it there making twelve tricks after a low heart lead from South.

I suspect Helgemo also had little interest in slam, but when partner showed a four-card acceptance, he decided to have a sniff at it. Partner cooperated and then asked for key cards with Helgemo showing the ♠Q based on his holding of a sixth spade. The defence led a spade, declarer drew trumps and played the ♥8 from his hand, rising with the king when North ducked. The slam bonus was worth 13 IMPs to Norway.

Netherlands 54 — Norway 33.

Board 27. Dealer South. None Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Helgemo</i>	<i>De Wijs</i>	<i>Helness</i>	<i>Muller</i>
—	1NT	Pass	2♠*
Pass	2NT	Pass	3♠
Pass	3NT	All Pass	
2♠	To Play		

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Van Lankveld</i>	<i>Bakke</i>	<i>Van den Bos</i>	<i>Brogeland</i>
—	1♣	1♦	1♥*
Pass	1♠	Pass	2♦
Pass	2♠	Pass	2NT
All Pass			

1♥ Transfer to spades

If one works from Muller-De Wijs's system card, the 1NT showed 15-17 HCPs. The natural auction thereafter led to 3NT with their combined twenty-four count. East led a low diamond, won with the ♦10 in dummy. Declarer then played three rounds of spades on which East dropped the ♦J. West continued


diamonds to East's ace and the ♥Q came back giving the defence a spade a diamond and three hearts. Netherlands -50.

In the closed room, Brogeland had no reason to push the boat out too far on his 11 count and, knowing he had a 5-3 spade fit, and perhaps wary of the diamond suit bid on his right merely invited partner with 2NT. Equally North may have taken a negative view of his diamond holding and have rejected the invitation that he might have accepted in the absence of the opponents' 1♦ bid. That was Netherlands -120 and 5 IMPs to Norway.

Netherlands 54 — Norway 38.

A flat board and then some more action.

Board 29. Dealer North. All Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Helgemo</i>	<i>De Wijs</i>	<i>Helness</i>	<i>Muller</i>
—	Pass	1♣	1♠
Dble*	3♦	Pass	4♠
All Pass			

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Van Lankveld</i>	<i>Bakke</i>	<i>Van den Bos</i>	<i>Brogeland</i>
—	Pass	1♣	1♠
Dble	2♥	Pass	2NT
Pass	3♦	Pass	3♥
Pass	4♠	All Pass	

In the open room, De Wijs's fit-showing jump in support of spades must have been music to South's ears. He held a good hand and a high diamond honour. In the closed room, Bakke-Brogeland underwent an exploratory auction but wound up in the same contract.

In the open room Helgemo led the ♥Q won by his partner's ace followed by a club switch. Declarer ducked the first club, won the second club and ruffed



a club. Declarer then played ♠K and ♠10 around to West's queen and another heart. Declarer ruffed, cashed trumps and eventually played a diamond to the king and was relieved to see the ♦QJ fall. That was Netherlands +620

In the closed room, West started with his doubleton club, ducked by declarer who won the second round and played a spade to the king and ran the ♠10. When this lost to the queen, the defence played a heart to East's ace and a club for North to ruff with the ♠7 ahead of dummy's ♠3. That was four tricks and Netherlands +100 and 12 IMPs.

Netherlands 66 — Norway 38.

Some bad luck for Norway on the next board.

Board 30. Dealer East. None Vul.

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

Both tables had uncontested auctions to 4♠. Helgemo chose to lead a heart which made South's life easy. Declarer won the ace and cashed three rounds of spades finishing in dummy. This was followed by the ♥K and ♥Q pitching two clubs and the ♥10 which East refused to ruff. Declarer ruffed a club to hand and played a diamond to the ace, ruffed by East, who continued clubs. Declarer, West and dummy only had diamonds left so declarer lost two diamonds and a trump for Netherlands +420. Having pitched hearts on declarer's trumps, West had to find a discard on the ♥10 and chose a club, keeping ♦KQ32 and ♣A3. Had he chosen to pitch a diamond and declarer played the same way, a diamond to the ace would have seen declarer fail.

In the closed room, Brogeland, South declaring 4♠ was not blessed with a heart lead but the more worrisome diamond lead. He rose with the ace, ruffed by East after which the defence won two clubs, two diamonds and another diamond ruff for three down and Netherlands +150 and 11 IMPs.

Netherlands 77 — Norway 38.

An overtrick IMP in a solid slam bid in both rooms brought the last deal of the set:

Board 32. Dealer West. E/W Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Helgemo</i>	<i>De Wijs</i>	<i>Helness</i>	<i>Muller</i>
1♣	1♥	2NT	All Pass

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Van Lankveld</i>	<i>Bakke</i>	<i>Van den Bos</i>	<i>Brogeland</i>
1♣	1♦	2♠*	Pass
3♣	All Pass		

In the open room with 11 points each, Helgemo-Helness chose to stop in 2NT as well they might. The defence was friendly, establishing a second diamond trick and the ♥Q for declarer allowing him to make nine tricks for Norway +150.

In the closed room, E/W reached 3♣ on the lead of the ♦7. Declarer played the queen and South won the king and switched to the ♠J. Declarer played low, North ruffed and continued with the ♦J. Declarer played ♣A and another club won by South who continued spades. Declarer cashed spades pitching a heart from dummy and exited with a heart, claiming six tricks, Netherlands -300 and 10 IMPs to Norway.

Netherlands 77 — Norway 49.

Netherlands gained 8 IMPs on a set in which 82 IMPs turned over. With sixty-four boards to play, this is anybody's match for the taking.


**David Stern, VENICE CUP, QF4**
**ENGLAND vs FRANCE**

After the Tuesday turmoil, and I promise not to discuss it here, it's back to business as we follow England (Brock-Brown, Dhondy-Senior) playing France (Clement-Levy, Willard(Gombert)-Halfon) in the fourth of six 16 Board stanzas with the scores standing at 110 to 128, respectively.

Board 17 saw both tables square off in four spades with England gaining an overtrick IMP.

England 111 — France 128

Both tables missed an opportunity on the next deal:

Board 18. Dealer East. N/S Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Willard</i>	<i>Brown</i>	<i>Halfon</i>	<i>Brock</i>
—	—	Pass	1♦
Pass	1♠	Pass	2♣
Pass	2♥*	Pass	3♦
Pass	3♥	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Senior</i>	<i>Levy</i>	<i>Dhondy</i>	<i>Clement</i>
—	—	Pass	1♦
Pass	2♣	Pass	3♣
Pass	3♠	Pass	4♦
Pass	4♥	Pass	4♠
Pass	5♣	All Pass	

In the open room auction Brown, North for England, elected to respond 1♠ over her partner's 1♦ opening and over partner's 2♣ rebid, bid 2♥,

fourth suit forcing, after which South showed heart values settling in 3NT for +660.

In the closed room Levy-Clement for France agreed clubs and then made efforts to describe their hands. North having raised clubs then showed spades or at least values in spades.

The solution to this hand in the closed room may be exclusion Blackwood over partner's 2♣ response if that is in your arsenal. Holding the South hand, it's unlikely that you would want to stop short of 5♣. If partner shows two key cards and no queen of clubs, you will be in good shape to make slam if she holds the ♥A and ♣A and even if she holds ♣A and ♣K you should make on a 2-2 trump break or singleton queen. Anyway, that is all speculation as France scored +620 in 5♣. That was an overtrick IMP to England.

In the broadcast matches, Sobolewska for Poland in the Wuhan Cup bid Exclusion Blackwood over partner's 2♣ response to reach slam as did Sarniak for Poland in the Venice Cup. Four of the eight Venice Cup quarterfinal tables reached 6♣.

It's likely both teams would have been disappointed with what was a definite opportunity to pick up IMPs.

England 112 — France 128

Board 19. Dealer South. E/W Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Willard</i>	<i>Brown</i>	<i>Halfon</i>	<i>Brock</i>
—	—	—	1♦
1♥	Pass	1♠	Pass
2♦*	Pass	2♥	Pass
3♥	Pass	3NT	All Pass



## Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Senior	Levy	Dhondy	Clement
—	—	—	1♦
1♥	Pass	Pass	Double
Pass	2♣	All Pass	

In the open room, holding by far the best hand at the table, Brock, South for England, opened 1♦. Willard, West for France overcalled her six-card heart suit and after hearing 1♠ from her partner bid 2♦ perhaps being aspirational in spades or hearts. Halfon tried to sign off in 2♥ and when her partner raised to 3♥, East believed West held a much better hand for this bidding, tried for 3NT.

I have always been very fond of Sally Brock and more so now after seeing her pass 3NT holding five quick tricks and having solid defence for any other contract that the defence may try. In practice, maybe she didn't need to double when the contract failed by four tricks when the defence took five clubs and three outside top tricks - +400 for England.

In the closed room, N/S reached the par spot playing a club partial for France +110 and 7 IMPs to England.

England 119 — France 128

## Board 20. Dealer West. All Vul.

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

## Open Room

West	North	East	South
Willard	Brown	Halfon	Brock
Pass	1♣	1♥	Pass
2♥	2♠	3♥	4♥*
Pass	4♠	All Pass	

## Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Senior	Levy	Dhondy	Clement
Pass	1♣	1♥	1♠*
2♥	3♠	Pass	4♣
Pass	5♣	All Pass	

In the open room, the defence started with hearts and declarer ruffed the second one, then playing a low spade ducked to West who continued with hearts to force declarer. After ruffing, Brown cashed the ♠A and played on clubs - ♣K and ♣A - with West ruffing the second round with the master trump. East chose to continue the heart force, not realising the strength of declarer's clubs and dummy's four diamonds went away on the four high clubs in declarer's hand. Declarer ruffed her losing diamond at trick thirteen. East had some clues to play a diamond – indeed, could a diamond play cost? I'll leave it to readers to ponder those questions. England +620.

Easy to say sitting here looking at all four hands, but East might have been able to solve the problem by waiting to ruff clubs to see how good declarer's clubs were. Nothing was going to disappear too quickly from dummy.

In the closed room South's bid of 1♠ denied four spades. After North showed spades and a good hand, South opted to play in clubs notwithstanding that it was one level higher. With clubs 4-1 and declarer being forced at every opportunity, she ran out of trumps and ended down three and England +300 and 14 IMPs. We had a new leader.

England 133 — France 128

Two flat boards (same contract same tricks) saw the score unchanged. On board 23 France made 1NT in the open room while England went one down in the closed room and that was 5 IMPs to France to level the match at 133 IMPs apiece.

Sometimes it just pays to let the opponents find their own problems:

## Board 24. Dealer West. None Vul.

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

## Open Room

West	North	East	South
Willard	Brown	Halfon	Brock
1♥	2♠	4♥	4♠
5♦	Pass	5♥	All Pass



## Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Senior	Levy	Dhondy	Clement
1♥	1♠	2NT*	4♠
5♣	5♠	6♥	All Pass

With the heart finesse working and the favourable diamond layout, six hearts is a 'great' spot. This was more obvious in the open room where North preempted 2♠ over Willard's 1♥ opening. Willard's 5♦ possibly had two meanings being either an aspirational bid towards slam or lead suggestion if the opponents sacrificed. France +480.

In the closed room, N/S for France kept bidding spades in the hope of forcing the opponents to make a wrong decision. Unfortunately, it ended up forcing them to make the right decision of bidding the slam on this lay of the cards. England +980 and 11 IMPs.

England were only one of two tables to reach and make slam in the Venice Cup while four others took +300 and +500 against spade sacrifices and two played in 5♥.

England 133 — France 133

France's woes continued on the next deal:

Board 25. Dealer North. E/W Vul.

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

## Open Room

West	North	East	South
Willard	Brown	Halfon	Brock
—	1♦	Pass	2♣*
Pass	3♣	Pass	3♦
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

## Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Senior	Levy	Dhondy	Clement
—	1♦	2♠	3♣
Pass	4♣	Pass	4♦
Pass	4♥	Pass	5♦
Pass	6♣	All Pass	

The open room had a natural auction to 3NT. Declarer only had eight top tricks, but the 'normal' spade lead from East handed her the ninth when she rose with the queen. It looks as though declarer can develop a ninth trick in diamonds or spades but she will have to lose the lead in clubs allowing a heart switch to beat the contract – England +400.

In the closed room where they reached 6♣, it appears as though both North and South felt their partner had a better hand than they held. With South declaring, Senior, West for England had no problem leading a high heart. That saw declarer lose one trick in each suit for -150 and 11 more IMPs to England.

England 144 — France 133

Two more of those same contract same tricks hands followed.

Time for a quiz. You hold:

♠ 6 2    ♥ J 5 2    ♦ 9 4 2    ♣ Q J 8 7 4

and you hear the following auction:

West	North	East	South
Willard	Brown	Halfon	Brock
1♠	Pass	2♠	Pass
2NT	Pass	3♦	Pass
4♠	All Pass		

West	North	East	South
Senior	Levy	Dhondy	Clement
1♠	Pass	2♠	Pass
4♠	All Pass		

What would you lead? I suspect that a poll favourite would be the ♣Q. What if I told you that there is a four-trick difference on another lead – of course you would change your selection, but to what? - I'll put you out of your misery.

Board 28. Dealer West. N/S Vul.

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

A trump lead will see the contract fail by three tricks



after three rounds of trumps sees dummy despatched to the garbage bin. A flat board at both tables when both Brown and Levy led the high club, allowing declarer to make eleven tricks.

(Clearly the players have no time to read the Bulletin. The danger inherent in leading from a QJ combination was discussed earlier in the Championships. Editor)

IMPs in this match were flowing like Peroni in the local restaurants; and there were more to come.

Board 29. Dealer North. All Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Willard</i>	<i>Brown</i>	<i>Halfon</i>	<i>Brock</i>
—	1♣	Pass	1♦
Pass	1NT	Pass	2♦
All Pass			

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Senior</i>	<i>Levy</i>	<i>Dhondy</i>	<i>Clement</i>
—	1♣	Pass	1♦
Pass	1♥	Pass	3♦
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

The open room auction was only marginally, conservative with Brock taking the low road with her six-card suit, perhaps assuming that more than 23 points were required for game; how vieux jeu! The conservatism was rewarded when there were exactly five losers in 2♦ and England +90.

In the closed room Clement, South for France took the opposite view to Brock and 'upgraded' her nine points and six card suit to a jump rebid but not game force. North, holding 13 HCPs bid 3NT expecting partner to hold ten or eleven points and/or a slightly better diamonds. A low club lead from East saw the defence gather a spade, a heart a diamond and four clubs for England +300 and 9 IMPs.

England 155 — France 133

Sometimes it's better to just stay in bed:

Board 31. Dealer South. N/S Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Willard</i>	<i>Brown</i>	<i>Halfon</i>	<i>Brock</i>
—	—	—	2♦*
3♣	Pass	3♦	Pass
3♠	Pass	5♣	All Pass

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Senior</i>	<i>Levy</i>	<i>Dhondy</i>	<i>Clement</i>
—	—	—	2♠
3♣	Pass	3NT	All Pass

Willard-Halfon in the open room reached the 'par' spot of 5♣ which presented no problems when trumps broke 2-2 and declarer was able to establish diamonds and cross back to dummy with the third club.

In the closed room, Senior-Dhondy had a 'normal' auction to 3NT with neither player knowing nor concerned about heart stoppers. They also right sided the hand with East declaring and South led the ♠10 thereafter allowing declarer to make thirteen tricks when North discarded two diamonds on the run of the clubs +520 and 3 IMPs.

England 167 — France 133

Being down 5-57 on the set, we can assume that the sight of the last board would have been a relief for the French, but it resulted in yet 6 more IMPs to England when Willard-Halfon again bid a failing 4♠ in a seven-card fit and limited values.

It would be unkind not to note that it seemed that Willard-Halfon struggled on this set, but that this could have been the result of the distress of the past twenty-four hours. My sympathies to these two ladies. And there were certainly some mishaps at the other table as well.



**Ron Tacchi, WUHAN CUP, SF3**

**USA1 vs ITALY**


After two of the six sessions in the semi-final Italy have a lead of 18 IMPs, but with 64 boards to go not a reason for the American team to panic.

Attanasio and Manara play precision whilst Baroni and Gandoglia play five-card majors with 2/1. With the American pairs appearing to field Covid substitutes it seems probable that both pairs would be playing five-card majors 2/1.

Board 3. Dealer South. E/W Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Attanasio</i>	<i>Rosenthal</i>	<i>Manara</i>	<i>Z-Campanile</i>
—	—	—	1♣
1♠	Dble	2♥	Pass
2♠	3♣	All Pass	


The Two Heart bid was not alerted, and I could find no help as to its meaning from the convention card, but I assume it must have meant some sort of support for spades (correct. Ed). East seemed to allow the opposition to win the auction without a fight. It does seem strange that she did not support her partner's spades on the next round. West's opening lead was the four of spades, which ran round to declarer's queen. The ace of spades dealt with dummy's losing diamond, and then a trump was led to dummy's queen. East took her ace and switched to her singleton heart – though a forcing return of either a spade or a diamond should have seen the contract defeated. Declarer rose with the ace of hearts and played another round of trumps taken by West's king. The ♥ K was cashed and a heart was ruffed by East with her final trump, but that was the last trick for the defence, as dummy was now high. Contract just made.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Willenken</i>	<i>Gandoglia</i>	<i>Lin</i>	<i>Baroni</i>
—	—	—	1♣
1♠	Dble*	1NT	Pass
2♦	2♥	3♦	3♥
3♠	4♣	4♦	Pass
4♠	Pass	Pass	Dble
All Pass			

An arduous auction with, perhaps, some bids, like chickens, coming home to roost. Would North have given a better description of his hand with Two Hearts. Having seen three free bids from partner South thought that the opposition was too high and produced a red card. The singleton jack of diamonds was led, and declarer took the trick in dummy to lead a trump at once. West covered South's ♠7 with the ♠9. When the ace of diamonds held the next trick, declarer was well on his way to fulfilling his contract. A diamond to dummy was followed by another one, which South ruffed and declarer overruffed. The denouement was a club to the king and yet more diamonds. All South could do was to take her two trump tricks at her leisure and the ace of hearts. 14 IMPs to USA1.

Board 6. Dealer East. E/W Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Attanasio</i>	<i>Rosenthal</i>	<i>Manara</i>	<i>Z-Campanile</i>
—	—	Pass	Pass
2♣*	2♥	Pass	Pass
Dble	Pass	3♠	Pass
4♠	All Pass		





Two Clubs was Precision showing 6♣ or 5♣ and four of a major. I must confess I would have found a red card at the end of the auction had I been sitting South; partner is marked with some clubs so that even if they run to Five Clubs that is not going to play well. Perhaps a missed opportunity. The play was a sorry sight to behold and to just say the contract finished four off is the kindest thing.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Willenken	Gandoglia	Lin	Baroni
—	—	Pass	Pass
1♣	1♥	Dble	2♥
Dble	Redble	Pass	Pass
3♣	Dble	All Pass	

After a flurry of red cards West found himself in Three Clubs doubled. North led the queen of hearts and declarer perforce took with his ace. The queen of clubs was ducked by North and for declarer there was the welcome sight of the jack falling from South. Another top club saw North take his ace and switch to a small diamond. The BBO report shows that declarer took this with the king in hand when the ♦7 would have sufficed. It did not matter, as now declarer drew trumps and crossed to the ace of spades and cashed the ♥K, discarding a losing diamond. He gave up a diamond and a spade at the end for an overtrick and 15 IMPs to USA1.

Board 11. Dealer South. None Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Attanasio	Rosenthal	Manara	Z-Campanile
—	—	—	Pass
Pass	1♥	1NT	2♠
Pass	3♥	All Pass	

If I were to trawl the results for this session I am prepared to wager that the opening bid on the North hand will be 4♥ more often than 1♥. The good news was that 3♥ was the limit of the hand and so declarer just lost the obvious trick in each suit and brought the contract home.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Willenken	Gandoglia	Lin	Baroni
—	—	—	Pass
Pass	4♥	Dble	Pass
4♠	All Pass		

At this table my prediction came true and so it appeared that a small loss was on the cards but the effect of the 4♥ bid was to cause East to double for takeout (maybe 5♦ was a better bid) and poor West had to bid Four Spades; again with the South hand I might have risked a double – a lot depends on what North can have for a non-vulnerable third-in-hand 4♥ – so perhaps I might not, but it was an opportunity missed. It was only 2 IMPs to Italy when the contract failed by four tricks.

Board 15. Dealer South. N/S Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Attanasio	Rosenthal	Manara	Z-Campanile
—	—	—	Pass
Pass	1♥	Pass	4♦
Pass	4♥	All Pass	

To beat the contract out of hand East needs to start with her doubleton club and provided West can read this as such and duck the first round East will get a ruff as on the first round of trumps she will rise with the ace, play a club to her partner's ace, and get a ruff to defeat the contract. Unhappily East commenced with the ace of trumps and South minded her work and just lost the three outstanding aces.

## Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Willenken	Gandoglia	Lin	Baroni
—	—	—	Pass
Pass	1♥	Pass	3♦
Pass	3♥	Pass	4♣
Pass	4♥	All Pass	

At this table, as is usual, the team with the momentum in the match does the right thing and the lead was the ♣6 which partner ducked smoothly, encouraging with the ♣10. Willenken explained that he knew his partner had to have two aces to have a chance for him to set the game. She could have no more than two trumps, and with a 5-5 pattern or more extreme shape she would undoubtedly have acted at favourable vulnerability. So for his side to have a chance East needed her precise hand. Now the scenario explained above came to fruition, East cashing the ♦A after taking the ♥A. This was a very nice play – though one might miss the reason why without a careful review. East knew her partner needed either the ♥A or ♣A and the suit preference signal would tell her which. Lin saw the low diamond and played a second club in obedience to her partner's signal. The contract failed by one trick, 12 IMPs to USA1. Other than Kwecien-Starkowski no one else in the field held hearts to ten tricks after a club lead.

## Board 16. Dealer West. E/W Vul.

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



## Open Room

West	North	East	South
Attanasio	Rosenthal	Manara	ZCampanile
1♣*	Pass	1♥*	Pass
2♣	Pass	2♠	Pass
4♠	All Pass		

1♣ was strong and the 1♥ response showed 7+ points with a maximum of two Italian controls. South led the ♦5 and declarer inserted dummy's jack and saw North take the trick with his ace and return a diamond to the ♦9, ♦10 and king. Trumps were drawn in two rounds ending in hand. This was the crossroads, declarer led the ♣10 and now had to choose between the jack and the king. Unfortunately she played South for the queen and so went down. I vividly remember being given a piece of advice from a world champion who is gracing the championships with her presence, that if there was no evidence as to the position of the ace play for it to be on your left. (Might you also use restricted choice to argue that if the opening leader had both minor suit queens they might have led a club? Editors).

## Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Willenken	Gandoglia	Lin	Baroni
1♣	Pass	3♠	Pass
4♠	All Pass		

The same contract and the same opening lead but this time declarer played low from dummy and saw North take his ace. Now it did not matter about the club guess as declarer had only one loser in diamonds. Another 12 IMPs to USA1.

This concluded a dreadful stanza for the Italians, who had lost the session 58-6 and were now 34 IMPs behind. However, USA1 must not get complacent, it is only the halfway stage – three more sessions to come.



Irene Baroni e Alessandro Gandoglia

**Mark Horton**

# NO QUARTER, ASKED OR GIVEN

Right from the start it was apparent that the match between USAI and Switzerland might prove to be a classic. It occurred to me that even at this early stage it might provide a 'Last Board' story, but for the moment we must be content with the events of the third session:

Board 2. Dealer East. NS Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Hampson</i>	<i>Zimmermann</i>	<i>Greco</i>	<i>Piedra</i>
—	—	1♦*	Dble
Pass	1NT	Pass	4♠
All Pass			

1♦ 2+♦

West led the ♦4 and declarer took East's ten with the ace, drew trumps and played a club, East winning with the nine and returning the jack to West's ace. A diamond forced declarer to win with the king and he could not avoid the loss of two hearts, -100.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Klukowski</i>	<i>Nickell</i>	<i>Gawrys</i>	<i>Katz</i>
—	—	Pass	1♠
Pass	1NT	Dble	Rdbl
Pass	2♠	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

East led the ♦2 and declarer won in dummy, cashed four spades and then played a heart for the king and ace. East switched to a club, but the defenders could only take three tricks in the suit and declarer claimed, +600 and 12 IMPs for the USA.

Board 4. Dealer West. All Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Hampson</i>	<i>Zimmermann</i>	<i>Greco</i>	<i>Piedra</i>
Pass	Pass	1♣*	1♠
Dble*	Pass	2♥	Pass
2NT	Pass	3♦	Pass
3♥	Pass	3NT	All Pass

North led the ♣7 and declarer won with the queen and ran the ♦8. When that held he played the ♥J for the queen and ace, cashed the ♦A and claimed 11 tricks, +660.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Klukowski</i>	<i>Nickell</i>	<i>Gawrys</i>	<i>Katz</i>
Pass	Pass	1♥	Pass
1♠	Pass	3♦*	All Pass

3♦ strong non-forcing

South led the ♦7 and declarer easily took ten tricks, +130 but a loss of a further 11 IMPs.

Board 6. Dealer East. EW Vul.

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



## Open Room

West	North	East	South
Hampson	Zimmermann	Greco	Piedra
—	—	Pass	2♦*
3♣	Pass	3NT	Pass
Pass	Dble	All Pass	

## 2♦ Multi

South led the ♥9 and declarer won perforce with dummy's ace and played the ♣K, followed by the queen. North took that and exited with the ♥10, declarer winning and trying the ♠2. South took that with the king and when North pitched the ♣6 he switched to the ♦3. North cashed his red winners for -800.

## Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Klukowski	Nickell	Gawrys	Katz
—	—	Pass	2♠
3♣	All Pass		

Declarer came to nine tricks, and +110 translated into 14 IMPs.

## Board 7. Dealer South. All Vul.

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

## Open Room

West	North	East	South
Hampson	Zimmermann	Greco	Piedra
—	—	—	Pass
Pass	Pass	1NT	Pass
2♦*	Pass	2♥	Pass
3♣*	Pass	3NT	All Pass

## 3♣ diamonds

South led the ♠3 and declarer won with the queen and played the ♥7 for the jack and queen, North returning the ♠2. Declarer took the ace and played a club to dummy's queen and the ♥3, North taking the ace and playing a spade. South took two tricks in the suit and had only to exit with a diamond to tangle declarer's entries. When he went with the ♥2, declarer could win with the ten and claim, +600.

## Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Klukowski	Nickell	Gawrys	Katz
—	—	—	Pass
2♥*	Pass	3♦*	Pass
4♥	All Pass		

North led the ♠5 and declarer went up with dummy's ace and cashed the top clubs, discarding a spade. His next move was to run the ♦J, but North won and returned the ♠J, declarer ruffing, cashing the ♦A and ruffing a diamond. When declarer continued by ruffing a club South pitched the ♦K. He ruffed the diamond exit and played a heart, -100 and another 12 IMPs for the USA.

## Board 15. Dealer South. NS Vul.

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

## Open Room

West	North	East	South
Hampson	Zimmermann	Greco	Piedra
—	—	—	Pass
Pass	1♥	Pass	2NT*
Pass	3♥	Pass	4♥
All Pass			

East led the ♣6 and when declarer put up dummy's king West followed with the seven. Declarer continued with a heart to the king and East won and switched to the ♠2. Declarer won with the ace, drew trumps, and played on clubs, +620.

## Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Klukowski	Nickell	Gawrys	Katz
—	—	—	Pass
Pass	1♥	Pass	2NT*
Pass	3♥	All Pass	

East led the ♣4 and when the king was covered by the ace there was no longer any chance of restricting declarer to nine tricks. +170 meant a loss of 10 IMPs.

USAI had won the set 51-35, but they trailed 103-107.

Festival International de  
**Bridge**  
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*Le rendez-vous des amoureux du Bridge.*

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