45 TH WORLD 2021 BRIDGE TEAM CHAMPIONGHIPG

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Three Steps to Heaven



BERMUDA BOWL, 3rd place: USA1



BERMUDA BOWL, 3rd place: NORWAY



VENICE CUP, 3rd place: ENGLAND



VENICE CUP, 3rd place: POLAND



D'ORSI TROPHY, 3rd place: DENMARK



D'ORSI TROPHY, 3rd place: FRANCE



WUHAN CUP, 3rd place: ITALY



WUHAN CUP, 3rd place: GERMANY

After the excitement of yesterday's semi-finals, especially the thrilling conclusion of the Poland-Sweden Venice Cup tie, attention is focused on the four finals. In the Bermuda Bowl Switzerland raced into an early lead but were then rocked by one of the most dramatic deals in the history of the tournament which resulted in the loss of 19 IMPs. That eventually saw the Netherlands move ahead, but Switzerland hit back to leave the match beautifully poised going into the final day. In the Venice Cup, Sweden is making an excellent job of defending their title and Turkey have a lot to do today. In the d'Orsi Trophy Poland is showing its pedigree by leading the way against the all-conquering Indian team, and they enjoy a healthy overnight lead.

The Wuhan Cup contest between France and USA1 was hard fought, although France pulled away a little towards the end of the third session.

Three sessions and 48 deals are left to determine the victors.













SEMIFINALS

BERMUDA BOWL

	R1	R2	R3	R4	R5	R6	TOT		R1	R2	R3	R4	R5	R6	TOT
SWITZERLAND	6	66	35	27	39	57	230	NETHERLANDS	32	45	54	27	34	0	192
USA1	42	10	51	43	9	19	182	H NORWAY	12	37	16	5	8	0	78

VENICE CUP

	R1	R2	R3	R4	R5	R6	TOT		R1	R2	R3	R4	R5	R6	тот
POLAND	24	51	45	18	12	63	213	+ ENGLAND	30	28	22	41	35	37	193
SWEDEN	15	76	39	16	27	42	215	TURKEY	34	37	59	18	43	45	236

D'ORSI TROPHY

	R1	R2	R3	R4	R5	R6	TOT		R1	R2	R3	R4	R5	R6	тот
INDIA	16	57	37	57	37	21	225	DENMARK	30	69	23	32	13	28	195
■ FRANCE	21	19	61	14	41	41	197	POLAND	38	42	45	23	33	51	232

WUHAN CUP

_	R1	R2	R3	R4	R5	R6	TOT		R1	R2	R3	R4	R5	R6	TOT
FRANCE	52	64	57	13	42	0	228	USA1	13	26	58	31	37	56	221
GERMANY	20	47	26	30	31	0	154	I ITALY	13	44	6	37	42	9	151

FINAL

BERMUDA BOWL

	c/o	R1	R2	R3	R4	<u>R5</u>	R6	TOT
SWITZERLAND	1.4	40	18	35				94.4
NETHERLANDS	0	36	37	24				97

VENICE CUP

	c/o	R1	R2	R3	R4	R5	R6	TOT
SWEDEN	0	54	39	15				108
C TURKEY	0	18	17	28				63

D'ORSI TROPHY

_	c/o	R1	R2	R3	R4	R5	R6	TOT
INDIA	0	29	34	24				87
POLAND	0	47	44	39				130

WUHAN CUP

	c/o	R1	R2	R3	R4	R5	R6	TOT
FRANCE	1	44	38	24				107
USA1	0	46	27	13				86





Marc Smith, Venice Cup, SF3



SWFDFN vs POLAND



After the excitement of yesterday's dramatic final set in their quarter-final against Denmark, the Poles began this match in a less frenetic fashion. However, that did not last long, and after a quiet opening stanza, all hell broke loose in the second segment, with 127 IMPs changing hands over the 16 deals. Sweden, conquerors of the host nation's representatives in their quarter-final, came out with their noses ahead by 16 IMPs, 91-75, coming into this third set. A large crowd, many of them staunchly partisan, settled down to watch the excitement as the match unfolded.

As usual, we begin with some problems. Firstly, with just the opponents vulnerable, you are sitting North holding:

\spadesuit	3
\Diamond	Q 10 9 6 4 2
\Diamond	J
•	QJ632

West	North	East	South
_	_	_	$1 \diamondsuit$
1 🛦	2		

What action do you take?

Next, with neither side vulnerable, you are East with:

\spadesuit	AQJ8
\Diamond	A K J 4 2
\Diamond	8
•	J 10 6

West	North	East	South
_	Pass	1♡	1NT
Pass	Pass	?	

What action do you take?

The action in this set began immediately. Preempting can be a two-edged sword. Yes, you may steal room from your opponents, stopping them from fully investigating their options. However, if you steal too much room, the result may be that they cannot investigate their options and all they are left with is a winning choice. Let's see what happened on Board 1...

Board 1. Dealer North. Nil Vul. **♠** J8 ♥ J752 ♦ 10764 AKO **4** ♠ AKQ10932 ♥ 10843 ♥ K96 ♦ 0 J 8 3 **4** 10652 ♣ J43 ↑ 765 \heartsuit A Q ♦ AK952 987

Open Room				
West	North	East	South	
Övelius	Kazmucha	Clementsson	Sarniak	
_	Pass	1 🖍	$2\diamondsuit$	
Pass	2♠*	3♠	Pass	
Pass	Dble	Pass	$4 \diamondsuit$	
All Pass				

A controlled auction (after what the editors consider to be a truly wild overcall) landed the Polish pair in a perfectly good contract that is only defeated by the 4-0 trump split. The defenders duly made two top spades and the \Diamond QJ, N/S -50

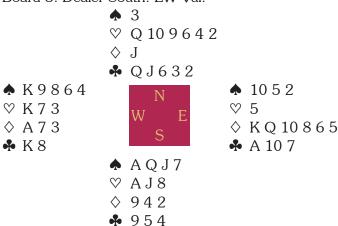
Closed Room				
West	North	East	South	
C.Baldysz	Larsson	S.Baldysz	Bertheau	
	1♣	4 ^	Dble	
All Pass				

In the replay, Jessica Larsson opened the North hand, and thus Sophia Baldysz went into pre-emptive mode with a two-way shot at game in her long major. Perhaps she could make 4 and perhaps it would be a good save against game for the Swedes. Not this time, as this was one of those deals on which no one can make anything above the three-level. Declarer had to lose three clubs and two hearts: N/S +300 and 8 IMPs to Sweden.

That two-edged sword returned just a couple of deals later, but this time it was the Swedes wielding it to detrimental effect.



Board 3. Dealer South. EW Vul.



Open Room

West	North	East	South
Övelius	Kazmucha	Clementsson	Sarniak
_		_	1♣*
1 ^	2♡*	Dble*	Pass
2 ^	3♣	3♦	3♡
All Pass			

Danuta Kazmucha was able to bid a non-forcing 2 % after West's $1 \spadesuit$ overcall. Too strong for a competitive $2 \spadesuit$ but not worth a 3 % cue-bid, Sanna Clementsson compromised with a responsive-type double, showing diamonds and at least spade tolerance. With a heart bid over her, Emma Övelius decided that she did not particularly like her hand and retreated to $2 \spadesuit$. Having limited her hand already, Kazmucha now had the headroom to introduce her second suit, and Clementsson did much the same. When Sarniak then competed to 3 %, though, neither Swede had anything more to say.

The defense started with diamonds, so declarer ruffed and ran the $\heartsuit Q$. Övelius won with the $\heartsuit K$ and switched to the $\diamondsuit K$, so the defenders found their ruff to nip the contract by a trick: E/W +50.

Closed Room

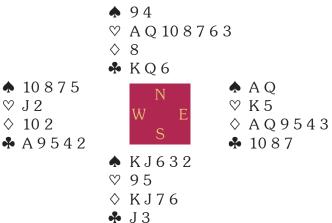
West	North	East	South
C.Baldysz	Larsson	S.Baldysz	Bertheau
		_	1 .
1	4♡	4 ♠	Dble
All Dage			

Jessica Larsson did not mess around on this deal: she jumped all the way to 4% at her first turn. This left East with no room for a subtle investigation of the right contract, and effectively forced Sophia Baldysz to close her eyes and bid $4\clubsuit$. No doubt delighted with this turn of events, Kathrine Bertheau duly wielded the axe.

First appearances can be deceptive, though, and it turned out that no one had bothered to sharpen the Swedish axe prior to this match. Larsson opened her singleton diamond, declarer winning in dummy to lead the $\clubsuit 10$. Bertheau won with the $\clubsuit A$, cashed the $\heartsuit A$, and continued with the $\heartsuit J$, but declarer ruffed in dummy and played a second round of trumps. Declarer knew the position so it mattered not whether Bertheau split her honors. She was destined to make just one more trump trick: E/W +790 and 12 IMPs to Poland.

Those IMPs went right back on the very next deal, when the Swedes bid to a low-percentage game on a misfitting combined 25-count. As the cards lie, there was no defense to 3NT or 4%, so stopping in a safe $3\diamondsuit$ cost the Poles a game swing. Sometimes, virtue just has to be its own reward in this game.

Board 11. Dealer South. None Vul.



Open Room

West	North	East	South
Övelius	Kazmucha	Clementsson	Sarniak
		_	Pass
Pass	1 %	2♦	2 ♠
Pass	3♡	All Pass	

The Poles again judged to stop out of game. However, the defenders had three side-suit aces to take and, with the trump finesse failing, 4% would have been one down: N/S +140.

Just because a game is going down, though, is no reason not to bid it. Yes, if you wield that familiar double-edged sword often enough, it will also bring substantial rewards.

Closed Room

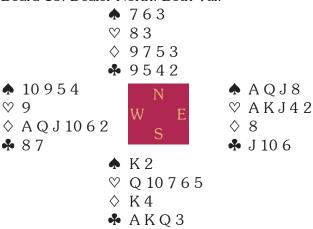
West	North	East	South
C.Baldysz	Larsson	S.Baldysz	Bertheau
		_	Pass
Pass	4♡	5♦	Dble
All Pass			



Whilst Kathrine Bertheau had initially come to the fight with a blunt axe, she must have spent time honing it while the flat boards slipped past, as it was now razor sharp. She led a heart to the ace, after which Larsson's club switch gave declarer a chance of making eight tricks. But Baldysz was unable to take it and finished four down: N/S +800 and 12 IMPs to Sweden.

With just a handful of boards left in the set, the Scandinavians' advantage was up to 35 IMPs, 129-94. As we have seen before, though, this Polish team are masters of the comeback.

Board 13. Dealer North. Both Vul.



Open Room

West	North	East	South
Övelius	Kazmucha	Clementsson	Sarniak
_	Pass	$1 \heartsuit$	1NT
All Pass			

Sanna Clementsson had to deal with the second of today's problems and she understandably saw no reason to stir the potential hornets' nest. I mean, are you even certain you can beat 3NT?

Perhaps you think West should have bid over 1NT (although perhaps she did not have a natural $2\diamondsuit$ bid available). Had West bid $2\diamondsuit$, though, would East really then have been galvanized into further action? I don't see why. The Swedes managed to beat 1NT by a trick: E/W +100.

I have no practical suggestions as to how you get to 4 after this start to the auction. (Playing double of 1NT as the majors by East would do the trick. Editors) Similarly, Anna Sarniak's 1NT overcall looks absolutely, bog-standard to me, so I am also unable to explain Kathrine Bertheau's pass at the other table:

Closed Room

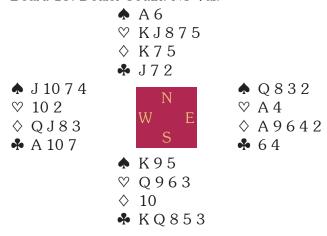
0.0000 1.00111				
West	North	East	South	
C.Baldysz	Larsson	S.Baldysz	Bertheau	
	Pass	$1 \heartsuit$	Pass	
1 ^	Pass	3 ♠	Pass	
4	All Pass			

Uncontested, reaching 4 is a trivial matter. North might have found a club lead, to hold declarer to ten tricks,

but there was no reason to choose one minor rather than the other. On the diamond lead, Cathy Baldysz had an easy eleven tricks: E/W +650 and 11 IMPs to Poland.

This late deal first provided North/South with an opportunity to display their bidding judgement, and then posed a defensive test for the West players.

Board 15. Dealer South. NS Vul.



Closed Room

West	North	East	South
C.Baldysz	Larsson	S.Baldysz	Bertheau
	_	_	Pass
Pass	1 %	Pass	2NT*
Pass	3♡	All Pass	

Having passed initially, Bertheau's jump to 2NT showed her strongest possible four-card heart raise. This was still not enough to encourage Larsson to bid game and, theoretically at least, she was right. East duly led a club and, to hold the contract to nine tricks, West needs to withhold the ♣A. East can then win the first round of trumps, cross to the ♣A, and get a club ruff. When Cathy Baldysz took her ace at trick one, that was the end of her entry: N/S +170.

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Övelius	Kazmucha	Clementsson	Sarniak
		_	Pass
Pass	1 %	Pass	2♣ *
Pass	$2\Diamond$	Pass	4♡
All Pass			

The Poles conducted a Drury auction and Kazmucha denied a sub-minimum opening with $2\diamondsuit$. That was all Sarniak needed to know, and she jumped to game. Clementsson found the club lead and the spotlight turned onto Övelius. When she fell from grace and took her ace on the first round, that was ten tricks: N/S +620 and another 10 IMPs to Poland.

The set finished 45-39 in favor of the Poles, which left Sweden with a 10-IMP lead, 130-120, at the midway point of the match. With 48 boards still remaining, this one is far too close to call.















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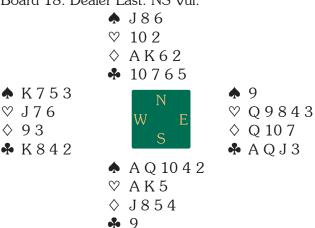


Halfway through the semi-finals it was still everybody's game in nearly all matches. The possible exceptions were The Netherlands who were 65 IMPs up in the BB and Turkey who were 50 IMPs up in the VC. Still, with 48 more boards to be played, even those matches were by no means decided yet.

For this report, I chose two of the closer matches. One in the d'Orsi Trophy and one in the Wuhan Cup. In the former, the Seniors category, Poland was leading Denmark by 3 IMPs, whereas in the latter, the Mixed category, USA1 was 34 IMPs up against Italy.

On the opening board, both Denmark and USA1 gained 6 IMPs for staying out of an unmakeable game so in the Seniors' match we immediately had a new leader. This was the next board.

Board 18. Dealer East, NS Vul.



If you look at this board superficially, there seem to be only three losers in $4 \spadesuit$. What is more, even though trumps are 4-1, the singleton is the nine which should be of some comfort for declarer if he (she) can incorporate it in the chosen line of play. Let's have a look.

USA1 v. Italy Open Room

West	North	East	South
Cima	Zur-Campanile	Dessi	Ginossar
_	_	1 %	1 ♠
2♡	2 ^	All Pass	

Ginossar was not playing in game but he followed the successful line to ten tricks. He won the heart lead and immediately cashed the other top heart and ruffed a heart in dummy. Next, he advanced the $\clubsuit J$ which held the trick, followed by the eight which was won by West's king. When West exited in diamonds rather than in clubs to force declarer's trumps, ten tricks were easy. USA1 +170.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Willenken	Gandoglia	Lin	Baroni
_	_	1 %	1 🛧
2 %	2 4	Pass	3♦
Pass	4 ^	Pass	Pass
Dble	All Pass		

In the other room, Willenken launched an interesting double when the opponents bid on towards game and also led a heart. \heartsuit AK, heart ruff. \diamondsuit A and \clubsuit 8 to the nine and ten. Next came a diamond to the king and a diamond to East's queen on which West discarded the encouraging \clubsuit 2. When East continued \clubsuit A and another, the hand went out of control for declarer, so she had to go one down.

In the Seniors match, Steen Schou for Denmark gained a tempo.

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Starkowski	Schou	Kwiecien	Hansen
		1 %	1 🖍
2 %	2 ♠	3♡	Dble
Pass	4 ♠	All Pass	

He won the heart lead, crossed to the $\Diamond A$ and ran the $\clubsuit J$. West immediately won his king and returned a trump, so from here, it was plain sailing for Schou. Denmark +620.

In the Closed Room, the defenders were awake.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
P Schaltz	Kowalski	D Schaltz	Romanski
		$1 \heartsuit$	1 ^
2 %	2 ♠	3♡	Dble
Pass	4 ♠	All Pass	



Heart lead, $\Diamond A$, trump to the ace, $\heartsuit K$ and heart ruff with the \$\int J\$. Now, the \$\int 8\$ ran to West's king but the club shift then fatally shortened declarer. One off, Denmark another +100 and 12 IMPs to them.

Back to USA1 - Italy again.

Board 19. Dealer South, EW Vul

Doard 19. Deale		Oulli. Lvv vui.		
		Q J 10		
	\Diamond	AJ765		
	\Diamond	10 4		
	•	Q87		
♠ K63		N	\spadesuit	8 5
♡ 10 4		W E	\Diamond	9 2
♦ AKQJ53			\Diamond	862
♣ A 10		[•	K96432
		A 9 7 4 2		
	\Diamond	K Q 8 3		
	\Diamond	97		
	•	J 5		

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Cima	Zur-Campanile	Dessi	Ginossar
_			Pass
$1 \diamondsuit$	1 %	Pass	$2 \diamondsuit^*$
Dble	2 %	Pass	3♡
All Pass			

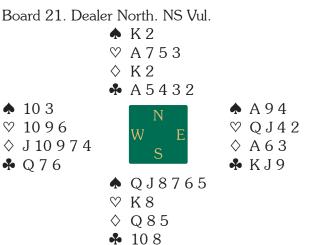
In the Open Room, we saw something close to a par result, $4\diamondsuit$ is makeable so down two for only -100 looked OK for the USA team.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Willenken	Gandoglia	Lin	Baroni
	_		Pass
2NT	Pass	3NT	All Pass

Willenken decided to open an off-shape 2NT as West. When Gandoglia led a natural enough heart, the Italians quickly collected another +200 and 7 IMPs.

Two boards later:



Open Room

West	North	East	South
Cima	Zur-Campanile	Dessi	Ginossar
_	1NT	Dble	Rdbl
2♦	Pass	Pass	3♠
All Pass			

If the defence leads two rounds of trumps in time, declarer cannot ruff the losing diamond in dummy. If the heart entry is gone, he cannot enjoy any established clubs either. In both cases, nine tricks in spades are the maximum. The Italians' defence met with these requirements. USA1 +140.

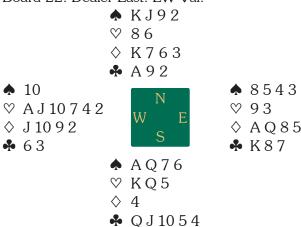
Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Willenken	Gandoglia	Lin	Baroni
	1 ♣	1NT	2\$
Pass	2NT	Pass	3♦
Pass	3♠	Pass	4 ♠
All Pass			

The Italians reached game in double transfer fashion and Willenken, too, led a heart. Declarer won and ducked a club to East who duly returned a heart to attack dummy's entries. Declarer's next move was the $\Diamond K$ from dummy, so East won the ace and... returned a low trump rather than A and another. This enabled declarer to ruff her losing diamond and make her contract. Italy +620 and 10 IMPs to them.

The next board produced a fine defence by the Polish in our Seniors' match.

Board 22. Dealer East. EW Vul.



Open Room

West	North	East	South	
Starkowski	Schou	Kwiecien	Hansen	
		Pass	1♣	
$1 \heartsuit$	Dble	Pass	3♠	
Pass	4 ♠	All Pass		



Against this normal contract, West led an equally normal $\lozenge J$. When this held, he continued the suit and declarer ruffed. On general principles, declarer first took a club finesse by running the $\clubsuit Q$. This held but when he continued a low club to dummy's nine, East suddenly won the $\clubsuit K$ and returned the suit for his partner to ruff. The $\heartsuit A$ then was the well-deserved setting trick. Poland +50.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
P Schaltz	Kowalski	D Schaltz	Romanski
		Pass	2♣*
Pass	2◊*	Pass	2 ^
Pass	4 ^	All Pass	

The same normal contract and lead in the Closed Room but when East immediately took her K at trick three, the chances of beating the contract were gone. Poland another +420, good for 10 IMPs.

A rather subtle deficiency in constructive bidding came to light on the next board.

Board 23. Dealer South. All Vul.

Board 23. De	ealer South. All Vul.	
	♠ KQ64	
	♥ Q92	
	♦ A 2	
	♣ QJ84	
↑ J52♡ 653◇ K984↑ A72	W E	♠ A 8 7♡ J 8◇ Q J 7 6 5♣ K 9 3
	♠ 10 9 3	
	♡ AK1074	
	♦ 103	
	♣ 10 6 5	

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Starkowski	Schou	Kwiecien	Hansen
_			Pass
Pass	1	1♦	$1 \heartsuit$
$2\Diamond$	Dble	Pass	2♡
All Pass			

After the E/W overcalls, the Danish had no trouble in ending up in the right partscore for +140.

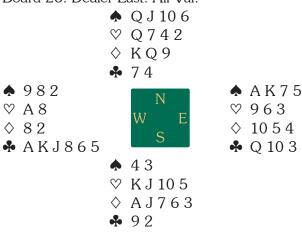
Closed Room

-		
North	East	South
Kowalski	D Schaltz	Romanski
		Pass
1 ♣	Pass	1 %
1 ^	Pass	1NT
	Kowalski 1♣	Kowalski D Schaltz 1♣ Pass

Left to their own resources, the Polish apparently had no way to locate the 5-3 heart fit. On the diamond lead by West (or by East had she been on lead), declarer had only six tricks. So another +100 and 6 IMPs to Denmark.

On board 26, North had a lead guess in both our matches.

Board 26. Dealer East. All Vul.



Open Room

West	North	East	South
Cima	Zur-Campanile	Dessi	Ginossar
_	_	Pass	Pass
1NT	Pass	3NT	All Pass

In the USA1 – Italy match, Migry Zur-Campanile led a normal enough $\mathbf{\Phi}\mathbf{Q}$ – Italy +600.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Willenken	Gandoglia	Lin	Baroni
	_	Pass	Pass
1♣	Pass	1 ♠	Dble
Rdbl	2 %	Pass	Pass
3 .	3♡	4	All Pass

On this interference, bidding 3NT was never an option for E/W. Three Clubs makes but both $3\heartsuit$ and $4\clubsuit$ don't. Italy beat par again by adding another +100 and 12 IMPs to their total.

In the Denmark-Poland match, Steen Schou hit the jackpot.

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Starkowski	Schou	Kwiecien	Hansen
_		Pass	Pass
2♣*	Pass	$2 \diamondsuit^*$	Pass
2NT	Pass	3NT	All Pass

He led the $\Diamond K$ for a quick one down. Denmark +100. In the other room, they all stayed very quiet.

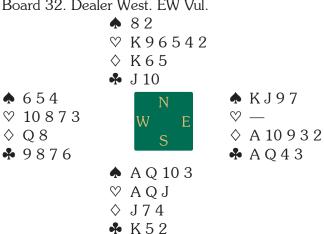


Closed Room

West	North	East	South
P Schaltz	Kowalski	D Schaltz	Romanski
_		Pass	Pass
1♣	Pass	1♡	Pass
2♣	All Pass		

Two overtricks, Denmark +130 and 6 IMPs to them The last board of the set also produced (or might have produced) the last swings.

Board 32. Dealer West. EW Vul.



In the Seniors' match, both teams reached 4% doubled by East and both Wests elected to lead the $\Diamond Q$ to solve declarer's main problem. So N/S +590 at both tables there for a flat board.

In the Mixed match, they had other ideas.

Campanile, Eldad Ginossar, Chris Willenken Open Room West North **East** South Cima Zur-Campanile Dessi Ginossar Pass 2 %Dble 4♡ **Pass Pass** Dble All Pass USBE

The defence started off well by leading the \clubsuit 9, thereby avoiding opening up diamonds. Declarer called for dummy's \$\int 10\$ which held the trick. Next came three top trumps from dummy followed by...a club to the jack and East's queen. East then fell from grace by cashing the $\Diamond A$ first before continuing another spade. Dummy's queen won and declarer's last club went on the A. A spade was ruffed in hand, the last trump was drawn and when the $\Diamond K$ brought down the gueen, declarer actually had achieved an overtrick for +690 to USA1.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Willenken	Gandoglia	Lin	Baroni
Pass	2 %	Dble	Rdbl
2NT	Pass	3♣	3NT
All Pass			

Well, on passive defence (as was shown in other matches) 40 should fail so Irene Baroni had done extremely well, in theory, to arrange to declare 3NT. West led a club to partner's ace and when East continued the AQ, declarer ducked. She won the next club and cashed her top hearts. When it turned out that she could not overtake in dummy, she had to concede down two. USA1 another +100 and 12 IMPs to them.

The scores after segment 4:

D'Orsi Trophy: Poland v. Denmark 148-154

Wuhan Cup: USA1 v. Italy 128-100

Photo: Amber Lin, Andrew Rosenthal, Migry Zur





Barry Rigal, Bermuda Bowl, SF5



USA1 vs SWITZERLAND

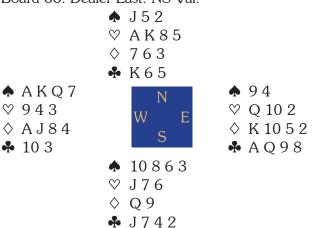


USAI led Switzerland 161-134. Each team would be fielding their front four. USA I had precision and Standard American albeit loaded with gadgets. The Swiss had one pair playing Polish, one playing Dutch Doubleton. (You are at liberty to guess which is which.)

Both N/S pairs missed a thin but making nonvulnerable game when each South did not make a game try with a 3=4=2=4 11-count after $1 \diamondsuit - 1 \heartsuit - 2 \heartsuit$. Game needed a 3-2 trump break and two finesses, but it got them all.

Switzerland broke on top in the set on the second deal.

Board 66. Dealer East. NS Vul.



Open Room

West	North	East	South
Levin	Drijver	Weinstein	Brink
_		Pass	Pass
1 ♠	Pass	1NT	All Pass

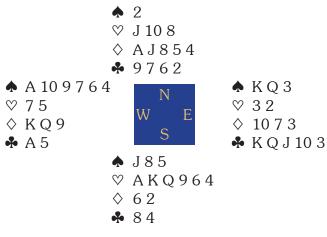
Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Klukowski	Greco	Gawrys	Hampson
	_	Pass	Pass
1NT	Pass	2 .	Pass
2 ♠	Pass	2NT	All Pass

Klukowski's 14+-17 no-trump (yes, like beauty, the plus is in the eye of the beholder) got his side to a decent game. I have great sympathy for Greco's lead of the $\Diamond 7$. Declarer won in hand and thoughtfully led a club to the gueen then cashed out. Had he run the ♣10, would Hampson have shifted to a heart, and would declarer have got the subsequent play right? In a similar position Weinstein did get the hearts right for +150 but Switzerland had 6 IMPs to make it 161-140.

On the next deal Brink found a bid that I suspect might not have occurred to many of us.

Board 67. Dealer South. EW Vul.



Open Room

West	North	East	South
Levin	Drijver	Weinstein	Brink
_	_	_	1 %
1 ^	2 %	3♡*	Pass
4	Pass	Pass	5♡
Dble	All Pass		

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Klukowski	Greco	Gawrys	Hampson
			1 %
1 ♠	3◊*	3♡	4♡
4	All Pass		

Fit jump

Brink's decision to save worked spectacularly well. He could be confident $4 \spadesuit$ rated to make but $5 \heartsuit x$ rated to cost 800 a fair amount of time on a trump lead. Not today; when a decision works this well maybe we shouldn't nitpick it. He won the trump lead and led a diamond to the king and ace, then ducked a spade. Back came a trump and when Brink won in hand and led a diamond up, Levin had to cash out for 300. With 4♠ cold for 650 that was 8 IMPs to Switzerland. They trailed 148-161.

On the next deal Greco and Drijver were in parallel



positions. Holding:

Board 68. Dealer West. All Vul. **♦** J 10 8 6 4 ♥ 52

♠ Q9753 A♦ 1064

♣ K 9 7 2

% 854

♠ A ♥ QJ10974 ♦ 98

♠ K2 ♥ K863 ♦ AKQ32 ♣ A 10

	1 4	
W		Е
	S	

♦ J75

♣ QJ63

Board 69. Dealer North. NS Vul.

♦ 10 ♣ AQ42 ♠ AJ732 ♥ Q 7 W ♦ A 7 3 **8** 8 7 5

♠ 86 ♡ AK2 ♦ KJ965 **4** 1063

9 ♥ 109865 ♦ Q842 **♣** KJ9

♠ K O 10 5 4

♥ J43

Open Room

- I				
West	North	East	South	
Levin	Drijver	Weinstein	Brink	
Pass	Pass	2 %	Dble	
Pass	2 ♠	Pass	2NT	
All Pass				

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Klukowski	Greco	Gawrys	Hampson
Pass	Pass	2◊*	Dble
2♡*	Pass	Pass	2NT
Pass	3♣	Pass	3♦
Pass	3♠*	All Pass	

2♦ Multi 3♠ To play

Drijver's pass of 2NT looks sensible enough, given that he had got the spade suit in already. Greco did not know the degree of spade fit and guessed that spades would play better than no-trump. He bought very badly for that decision. He ducked the ♠Q lead and Klukowski shifted to a diamond. declarer played ace and another club; Klukowski won to shift to spades, got the heart ruff and played a second spade. That meant two down, with 2NT having plenty of play today.

Levin started well with a club lead. Brink won and ran the diamonds then guessed to lead a low heart from hand. That got him out for down one when the defenders cashed the clubs ending in East and played a second heart. 3 IMPs to Switzerland, down 161-151.

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Levin	Drijver	Weinstein	Brink
_	1 ♠	Dble	Pass
2NT	Pass	3NT	Dble
All Pass			

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Klukowski	Greco	Gawrys	Hampson
	1 ^	All Pass	

I'm not sure where Weinstein's 3NT bid came from. Brink's double looks like one of those 'They can't do that to me! I have six count'em points...' but also perhaps an anti-spade lead? Drijver led a heart. Declarer played $\Diamond A$ and another diamond and the defenders cashed out for down one.

So how would 1 fare? Gawrys's trump lead made declarer's life rather easier, I think. Klukowski covered the \$\int 9\$ with the jack. Greco won and gave up a diamond then maneuvered to take two diamond ruffs while cashing three clubs, and still had a trump trick to come. +80 meant an IMP to Switzerland, down 161-152. USA took an overtrick IMP, then...

Board 71. Dealer South. All Vul. ♠ K10854 ♥ QJ5 ♦ KQ4 **\$** 83 ♠ AJ962 ♥ 10943 ♥ A8762 ♦ A 6 5 ♦ J873 ♣ AQ65 🎝 J ♠ Q73 ♦ 1092 ♣ K 10 9 7 4 2



Open Room				
West	North	East	South	
Levin	Drijver	Weinstein	Brink	
	_	_	Pass	
Pass	1 ♠	Dble	1NT	
2♠*	Pass	3♡	All Pass	

2. Invitational in hearts or any GF.

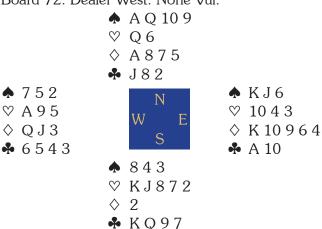
Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Klukowski	Greco	Gawrys	Hampson
_	_	_	Pass
Pass	14	Dble	2 ^
4♡	All Pass		

If I've read the auction right, Weinstein rejected a heart invitation here, on a hand where it looks to me as if he has a rather better hand than the one which accepted an invitation on the previous deal. After a spade lead Weinstein pitched a club from hand, gave up a club to South then crossruffed after cashing the \heartsuit A for 170. In the other room Greco led a top diamond and now the defenders had no chance for more than three tricks. Declarer cashed \heartsuit A and played a second diamond and had +620 and 10 IMPs. Switzerland had tied the match at 162-162.

Sometimes even the most ludicrous of actions succeeds when you are in heat. Gawrys's action on the next deal is justifiable only by the success it achieved.

Board 72. Dealer West. None Vul.



Open Room

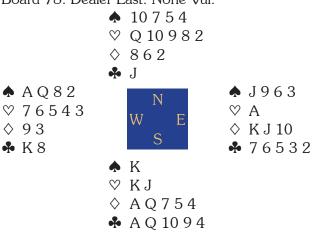
West	North	East	South
Levin	Drijver	Weinstein	Brink
Pass	1NT	Pass	$2 \diamondsuit^*$
Pass	2♡	All Pass	

Closed Room

Closed Room				
West	North	East	South	
Klukowski	Greco	Gawrys	Hampson	
Pass	$1 \diamondsuit^*$	Dble	Rdbl*	
1NT	Pass	Pass	Dble	
Pass	Pass	2♦	Pass	
Pass	Dble	All Pass		

With both spade honours onside $2 \diamondsuit$ was cold, while with hearts 3-3, $2 \heartsuit$ was similarly not under any pressure. Even if the double of $1 \diamondsuit$ simply showed a Polish Club opener, it would not be everybody's choice. That was 8 IMPs to Switzerland to give them the lead at 170-162. This essentially ended the significant IMP swings for the set. USAI closed the gap slightly, though, with this partscore swing.

Board 78. Dealer East. None Vul.



Open Room

West	North	East	South
Levin	Drijver	Weinstein	Brink
_	_	Pass	$1 \diamondsuit$
Pass	1♡	Pass	3♣
Pass	3♡*	Pass	3♠
Pass	$4 \diamondsuit$	All Pass	

3 % Asking for a spade stopper

3♠ No stopper, prepared to play four of a minor

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Klukowski	Greco	Gawrys	Hampson
		Pass	1♣*
Dble*	Pass	2 ^	Dble
Pass	3♦	3♠	All Pass

Hampson judged both the auction and defence very well. He led the $\bigstar K$, won the first diamond to play $\bigstar A$ and another for his partner to ruff, then got in with $\Diamond A$ to play $\bigstar Q$ to let Greco pitch his third diamond. Declarer ruffed high in dummy. Now Greco could overruff dummy in both minors and $3 \bigstar$ went down, while $4 \diamondsuit$ (well stopped South!) had some play. Levin led $\bigstar A$ and another spade. Declarer knocked out the $\heartsuit A$ and Weinstein deviously shifted to $\diamondsuit J$. That persuaded declarer to play Levin for the doubleton $\diamondsuit K$. He ducked the first diamond and laid down the ace, and that meant he had nine tricks rather than 10. 4 IMPs to USAI.

The final score of the set was 38-9 to Switzerland, leading by 2 IMPs with one set to go.





Mark Horton

DEATH IN VENICE

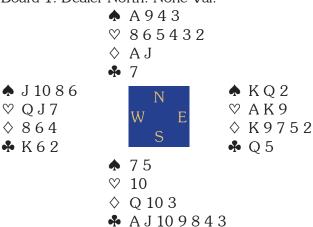
When you start the last session of a match needing to recover IMPs, the priority is that you score at least the number required. That happens quite often but fails to alter the outcome when the trailing team gives up IMPs.

Going into the last set England had to keep that in mind. My instinct was that they might have left themselves with too much to do.

In the other match Poland was again playing catchup. They had already done it in the previous round – could lightning strike twice?

For two of these four the dream would be over in just over two short hours.

Board 1. Dealer North. None Vul.



Open Room

West	North	East	South
Kuranoglu	Senior	Yavas	Dhondy
_	Pass	1NT	3♣
All Pass			

Declarer took the spade lead with dummy's ace and played a club to the eight and king. The favourable trump position meant she could not be denied nine tricks, +110.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Brock	Özbay	Brown	Özgür
_	Pass	1NT	Pass
Pass	2 %	Pass	3♣
Pass	3♡	All Pass	

East led the $\bigstar K$ and when it held she cashed the \heartsuit K and then played the $\bigstar 5$. Declarer took dummy's ace, ruffed a club and played a heart and West won and played the $\bigstar K$. Declarer ruffed and exited with

a heart, but the defenders just played spades and declarer finished with only six tricks, -150 and 5 IMPs.

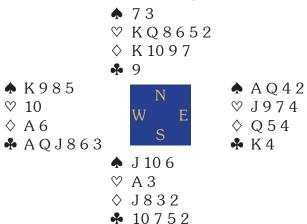
Is there a case for West to double?

On the deal that followed East held

- ♠ J \otimes Q J \otimes K Q J 9 7 6 4 2 ♣ 10 4 and in the Open Room East opened 5 \otimes , doubled by South with
- **♠** A Q 8 6 ♥ A 10 2 ♦ 3 **♣** A Q 8 5. Looking at
- ♠73 ♥K654 ♦A105 ♣K976

North elected to defend and that was -800, worth 4 IMPs when Brown opened $4\diamondsuit$ at the other table and NS came to rest in $4\heartsuit$.

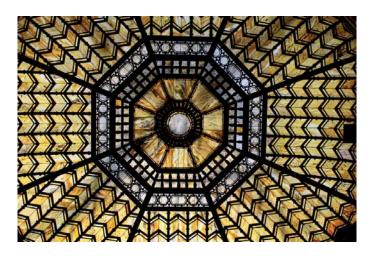
Board 21. Dealer North. NS Vul.



Open Room

West	North	East	South
Kuranoglu	Senior	Yavas	Dhondy
	2 %	Pass	Pass
3♣	Pass	3NT	All Pass

The defenders started with four rounds of hearts, +430.





Closed	Room		
West	North	East	South
Brock	Özbay	Brown	Özgür
_	$2 \diamondsuit^*$	Dble*	Rdbl*
Pass	2 %	Pass	Pass
Dble	Pass	2 ^	Pass
3♡*	Pass	3NT	Pass
4♣	Pass	4 •	Pass
4NT*	Pass	5♣*	Pass
5◊*	Dble	Pass	Pass
Rdbl*	Pass	5 ^	Pass
6 ♠	All Pass		
2\$	Multi		
Dble	13-15 balanced o	r various stro	nger hands
Rdbl	Bid your suit		3
4NT	RKCB		
5 .	1 keycard		
5♦	$\triangle O$?		

When North doubled 50 I think West's redouble promised first round control.

South led the $\Diamond 3$ and declarer took dummy's ace, drew trumps and played on clubs, soon claiming, +980 and 11 IMPs.

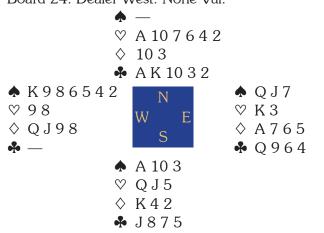
Meanwhile, in the other semifinal Poland appeared to be struggling, having lost another 16 IMPs over the first 5 deals.

On Board 23 South held

♠ AQ10963 ♥J2 ♦984 **♣**J5 opposite **♦**J4 ♥A1075 ♦AQ6 **♣**AQ94.

Sarniak and Kazmucha sailed into 4 after South opened a Multi $2\diamondsuit$ and North jumped to $4\clubsuit$. As the cards lay declarer easily came to 11 tricks, +650 and that was worth 10 IMPs when North responded 2NT and the Swedes stopped in $3 \spadesuit$.

Board 24. Dealer West. None Vul.



Open Room

Open Hoom				
West	North	East	South	
Kuranoglu	Senior	Yavas	Dhondy	
3♠	4♡	4	5♡	
Pass	6♡	Dble	All Pass	

With time running out North gambled - and lost. East led the $\Diamond A$ and could not be denied two more tricks, -300.

It was not unreasonable to bid 6%, but you must factor in that South did not bid 4NT, followed by $5\heartsuit$ over North's response, which would be one possible way to make a slam suggestion.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Brock	Özbay	Brown	Özgür
4	4NT*	Dble	5♣
Pass	Pass	Dble	All Pass

4NT Take out with a two suiter

East won the diamond lead with the ace and also scored a heart and a club for -100 giving Turkey 5 IMPs.

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Larsson	Kazmucha	Bertheau	Sarniak
3 ♠	4♣*	Pass	4 %
All Pass			

4 Clubs and Hearts

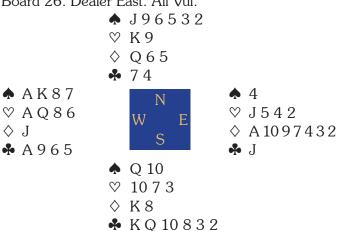
That was an effortless +420.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
C Baldysz	Clementsson	S Baldysz	Övelius
2◊*	2 %	Dble	4 %
4 ^	5 .	Pass	5♡
All Pass			

That was one too many, -50 and another 10 IMPs.

Board 26. Dealer East. All Vul.





Open Room				
West	North	East	South	
Kuranoglu	Senior	Yavas	Dhondy	
	_	Pass	1♣	
Dble	2 ^	3♦	Pass	
3NT	Pass	4♡	All Pass	

With no need to press for points East saw no merit in opening $3\diamondsuit$ and when she took the excellent view to remove 3NT she ensured a great result for her side. South led the **4**K and declarer won in dummy, ruffed a club, played a spade to the ace, ruffed a club (North pitching the $\Diamond 6$) cashed the $\Diamond A$, ruffed a diamond, cashed the AK and ruffed another club. A diamond exit saw North ruff and return a spade and declarer ruffed with the $\heartsuit J$, for 11 tricks, +650.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Brock	Özbay	Brown	Özgür
_		3♦	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

Needing to push for points East opened 30 and that left West with no real alternative to 3NT. North led the $\clubsuit 5$ and declarer won and ran the $\lozenge J$. South won and returned the $\spadesuit 10$, switching to the $\clubsuit K$ when it was ducked. Declarer ducked, won the next club and played the ♥A followed by the queen. North won and in due course when the $\Diamond A$ did not collect the gueen the contract was two down, -200 and 13 IMPs to Turkey.

Open Room

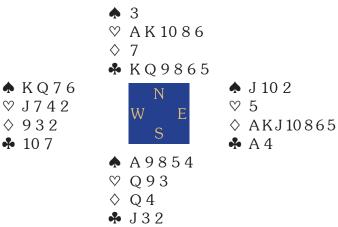
West	North	East	South
Larsson	Kazmucha	Bertheau	Sarniak
_	_	3♦	Pass
4♣	Pass	4♡	Pass
5♦	All Pass		

South led the \P K and declarer won and ran the \lozenge J. soon accepting one down, -100.

Closed	Room		
West	North	East	South
C Baldy	sz Clementsson	S Baldysz	Övelius
	_	Pass	Pass
1♣*	Pass	$1 \heartsuit^*$	Pass
4◊*	Pass	4♡	All Pass
1 ♣ 1♡ 4◊	Polish Club 7+, 4+♡ Splinter		

The combination of East's initial pass and the $1\heartsuit$ response propelled EW to the best game and declarer easily collected 11 tricks by cross ruffing after the lead of the **\Pi**K, another 13 IMPs for Poland.

Board 27. Dealer South. None Vul.



Open Room

West	North	East	South
Larsson	Kazmucha	Bertheau	Sarniak
	_	_	Pass
Pass	1♡	$2\diamondsuit$	2 %
3♦	4 ♣	5♦	Dble
All Pass			

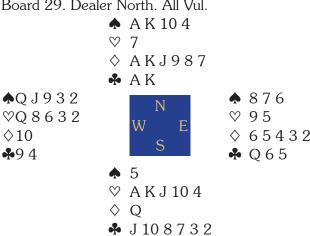
South led the ♥9 and North won and switched to the K ensuring -100.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
C Baldysz	Clementsson	S Baldysz	Övelius
_	_	_	Pass
Pass	1♣	3♦	Dble*
4♦	4♡	5♦	Dble
Pass	5♡	All Pass	

East led the $\Diamond A$ and when West followed with the nine she continued with the king. Declarer ruffed, collected West's trumps and played the ♣K, +450 and 8 important IMPs for Sweden.

Board 29. Dealer North. All Vul.



North



South

Open Roon	n		
West	North	East	South
Kuranoglu	Senior	Yavas	Dhondy
	2♣*	Pass	2 %
Pass	3♦	Pass	4♦
Pass	4NT*	Pass	5◊*
Pass	5♡*	Pass	5 ♠ *
Dble	7♦	All Pass	

 $\begin{array}{ll} 4 \text{NT} & \text{RKCB} \\ 5 \diamondsuit & 1 \text{ keycard} \\ 5 \heartsuit & \diamondsuit Q \\ 5 \spadesuit & \text{Yes} \end{array}$

The key to this auction was South's raise to $4\diamondsuit$. Declarer won the spade lead, crossed to the $\diamondsuit Q$, came to hand with a club and ran her trumps. By the time she cashed the last one, West, down to $\spadesuit Q92 \heartsuit Q86$, had to part with a spade. Then the $\clubsuit K$ turned the screw. West pitched another spade and declarer cashed the $\spadesuit K10$ for +2140.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Brock	Özbay	Brown	Özgür
_	2♣*	Pass	$2 \diamondsuit^*$
Pass	3♦	Pass	3♡
Pass	3♠	Pass	6♦
All Pass			

That meant a loss of 13 IMPs.

However, although England had scored more than the IMPs they required, they had given up another 42 and it was Turkey who advanced to the final.

Open Room

Open 1100	/111		
West	North	East	South
Larsson	Kazmucha	Bertheau	Sarniak
	$1 \clubsuit^*$	Pass	1♡*
Pass	1 ^	Pass	2 ♣
Pass	3♦	Pass	3NT
Pass	$4\diamondsuit$	Pass	4♡
Pass	4NT*	Pass	5 ♣ *
Pass	5♡	Pass	6 %
Pass	7♦	All Pass	

 $\begin{array}{lll} \textbf{1} & \textbf{Polish Club} \\ \textbf{1} \heartsuit & \textbf{7+, 4+} \heartsuit \\ \textbf{4NT} & \textbf{RKCB} \\ \textbf{5} & \textbf{1 keycard} \\ \textbf{5} \heartsuit & \diamondsuit Q? \\ \textbf{6} & \textbf{Yes} \\ \end{array}$

\bigcirc 1	1	D
	osea	Room

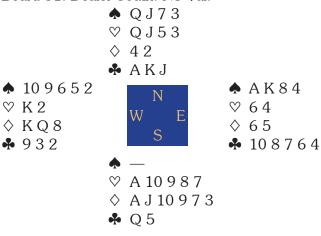
West

C Baldy	SZ	Clementsson	S Baldysz	Övelius	
		$2 \diamondsuit^*$	Pass	2♠*	
Pass		3♠	Pass	3NT	
All Pas	s				
2\$	4-9,	6♥/♠ or gar	ne forcing wit	h diamonds	
2 ♠	Pass or correct				
3♠	Gam	e forcing			

East

South's surprising 3NT meant the loss of 16 IMPs and Poland took the lead by 11 IMPs.

Board 31. Dealer South. NS Vul.



Open Room

West	North	East	South
Larsson	Kazmucha	Bertheau	Sarniak
		_	1 %
1 ^	2♠*	4	Pass*
Pass	5♣*	Pass	5◊*
Pass	6♡	All Pass	

2♠ Heart support Pass Forcing

Should North have gone for the substance rather than the shadow by doubling $4 \spadesuit$? With the $\heartsuit K$ offside the slam had to go one down.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
C Baldysz	Clementsson	S Baldysz	Övelius
_	_	_	$1 \diamondsuit$
1 ♠	Dble	3♦*	4 %
All Pass			

A painless +650 and 13 IMPs leaving Sweden with a 2 IMP lead.

The final deal was anticlimactic, Sweden playing in $1 \spadesuit$, Poland in 1NT.

1NT was unbeatable, +90. 1♠ could have been defeated by an impossible double dummy defence, but +80 meant the champions would have a chance to defend their title.





David Bird, BERMUDA BOWL, SF6

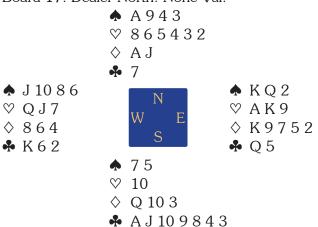


SWITZERLAND vs USA1



Only 10 IMPs separated these two great teams as the last session of their semi-final began. I expect the kibitzers were looking forward to it as much as I was.

Board 17. Dealer North. None Vul.



Open Room

West	North	East	South
R. Levin	Gawrys	Weinstein	Klukowski
_	Pass	1NT	Pass
Pass	Dble*	Pass	2 ♣
Dble	2 %	2NT	All Pass

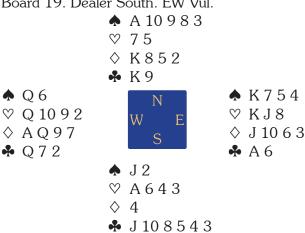
North's passed hand double showed the major suits. Michal Klukowski led the \$\int_{\text{J}}\$ to declarer's queen. When the AK was played, Piotr Gawrys took his ace immediately and switched to a heart. After winning with the king, Steve Weinstein cashed three spade tricks, throwing a diamond. A diamond was led from dummy, North rising with the ace and exiting with the ♦ J. Declarer won and cleared the diamond suit. That was nine tricks and +150. Would they reach game at the other table? Would I have included the deal in my report, if not?

Closed Room

Closed	ROOM			
West	North	East	South	
Brink	Greco	Drijver	Hampson	
	Pass	1♣*	Pass	
$1 \diamondsuit^*$	Dble	1NT*	3♣	
3NT	All Pass			
1♣	2+♣, 12-14 bala	anced or		
	18-20 balanced	or 12+ unbala	nced 4+🏶	
$1 \diamondsuit$	0-6 any/8-11			
1NT	Any 18-20 balan	iced		

Expecting his partner to be very short in clubs, Geoff Hampson led the ♠7. Bas Drijver won with the gueen and led a low diamond to North's jack. When the \$7 appeared on the table, declarer put up the queen, forcing South to capture. Were we about to witness a moment of magic? North had missed the chance to win the first round of diamonds with the ace. Yes, but if South continued with the &J now, he could discard the ace, setting up South's $\Diamond Q$ as an entry! "I had the card ready, partner," Eric Greco may have said later, but South exited with the $\Diamond Q$ to North's ace. That was nine tricks to Drijver and a pick-up of 7 IMPs.

Board 19. Dealer South. EW Vul.



Open Room

West	North	East	South
R. Levin	Gawrys	Weinstein	Klukowski
		_	Pass
$1 \diamondsuit$	1 ♠	2♠*	Pass
3♦	Pass	3NT	All Pass

The learned commentators observed that it would be best to play no-trumps from the West hand. Could Bobby Levin risk 2NT on his ♠Qx? Perhaps this would suggest a stronger hand. When he rebid $3\diamondsuit$, we wondered if East could bid $3\spadesuit$, or perhaps $3\heartsuit$ (he could not hold four hearts, since he had not ventured a negative double previously). He bid 3NT and the AJ lead meant two down. No, wait a minute! South has led the \$5. Will that give declarer a chance?

Weinstein would need to knock out three defensive stoppers to bring the total to nine and that was simply too much work to do. The matter was sealed when he rose with dummy's $\P Q$. North covered with the king and declarer ducked. He won the next club with



the ace and played the $\heartsuit K$. Klukowski took with the ace and continued with four club tricks. A diamond through the ace-queen then put the contract four down for -400.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Brink	Greco	Drijver	Hampson
		_	Pass
1♣*	1 ♠	2♠*	Dble
2NT	Pass	3NT	All Pass

1 - 2 + 4, 12-14 balanced or 18-20 balanced or 12+ unbalanced 4+♣

Drijver's 2 is not explained on their card, but presumably showed values with nothing else sensible to say. Brink was willing to bid 2NT on his AQx and the game was then played the right way round.

I see I have carelessly failed to save the play in my Bridgebase deals archive. I will have to resort to the hand records so kindly sent to me by Jos Jacobs every day, immediately after each session.

Right, Deep Finesse tells me that a heart lead and a spade switch will put 3NT at least two down. Either of the clubs will put it one down.

North led the \clubsuit 9, to the 4, 2 and queen. Declarer could then succeed (at double dummy) by playing diamonds from his hand, which would remove North's entry. Naturally, he preferred to play a heart to the 8. South won and returned the \(\blacktriangle J \), which won. He does

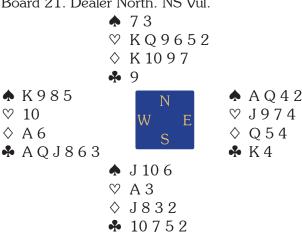


Michal Klukowski

best to switch to clubs now, but he played a heart. Declarer took a losing finesse of the $\Diamond Q$ and won the diamond return with the ace.

In the 3-card ending Brink had ♠K ♣A6 in the dummy opposite \$Q72 in his hand. The \$K\$ to North's ace would have forced him to lead from his & K9. He played ace and another club instead, hoping that South held the king, and went one down. It was still 7 IMPs to Switzerland.

Board 21. Dealer North. NS Vul.



Open Room

West	North	East	South
R. Levin	Gawrys	Weinstein	Klukowski
	$2 \diamondsuit^*$	Pass	$2 \heartsuit^*$
Dble	Pass	2NT	Pass
4♡	Pass	4 ^	All Pass

North's $2\diamondsuit$ was the multi, with $2\heartsuit$ a pass-or-correct response. North's suit had not yet been disclosed and I expected Levin to bid 3. No, he preferred a double and I could see the advantage of this when North was forced to reveal his suit by passing. East's 2NT may have been some variant of Lebensohl, and they came to rest in $4 \spadesuit$. After a diamond lead to the ace and two rounds of trumps, declarer claimed 12 tricks.

Closed Room

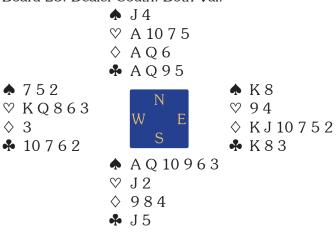
West	North	East	South
Brink	Greco	Drijver	Hampson
_	2 %	Pass	Pass
Dble	Pass	3♡*	Dble
$4 \diamondsuit^*$	Pass	4♡	Pass
4NT*	Pass	5♣*	Pass
5◊*	Pass	6♣*	Pass
6 ♠	All Pass		

Are these guys magicians? They reach six in the right suit, apparently introducing it only at the six-level. We can see that 4NT was RKCB, with one keycard shown, followed by a trump-queen ask. Drijver's 6♣ showed



the $\clubsuit Q$ and the $\clubsuit K$. The element of sorcery lies in the $4\diamondsuit$ and $4\heartsuit$ bids. You will hardly believe it, but I cannot help you there. It was 11 IMPs to Switzerland.

Board 23. Dealer South. Both Vul.



Open Room

West	North	East	South
R. Levin	Gawrys	Weinstein	Klukowski
		_	$2 \diamondsuit^*$
Pass	4♣*	Pass	4♡*
Pass	4♠ *	All Pass	

Another multi opening, this time by Klukowski. Gawrys's 44 response asked partner to transfer into his suit. So, once again the Switzerland pair was playing a contract the better way round, with North's tenaces protected from the lead. Would this pay off?

Weinstein led the $\heartsuit 9$ to the queen and ace. The $\clubsuit J$ was run successfully, and trumps were drawn in two more rounds. The $\clubsuit J$ lost to East's king and the heart return drew the jack and king. A diamond was returned through the tenace, but declarer now had two discards for his diamond losers. That was +650, a solid entry on their card.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Brink	Greco	Drijver	Hampson
_		_	2 ^
Pass	4 🖍	All Pass	

This time $4 \spadesuit$ was played by South, with the $\lozenge 3$ led. "Still an easy overtrick, with the $\heartsuit KQ$ onside" mumbles a bored-sounding GIB. It was not to turn out that way. Hampson chose to finesse the $\lozenge Q$, losing to the king, and suffered a diamond ruff on the return. What should Brink do next?

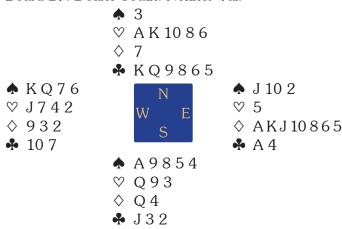
If he plays the $\heartsuit K$, declarer can win, draw trumps and set up a heart discard for his club loser. If instead West switches to a club, declarer can win with the ace, draw trumps and set up a club discard for the heart

loser.

Brink switched to a low heart! Unwilling to risk letting East in for a second diamond ruff, Hampson called for dummy's ace. He picked up the trumps OK, continuing with the $\heartsuit J$. Brink won with the queen and put a club through to the king. It was one down and another 13 IMPs to Switzerland, who were playing with a frightening intensity.

A chink appeared in the Swiss armour here:

Board 27. Dealer South. Neither Vul.



Open Room

West	North	East	South
R. Levin	Gawrys	Weinstein	Klukowski
		_	Pass
Pass	$1 \heartsuit$	3♡*	Dble
Pass	4 .	Pass	4 %
4NT*	5 .	Pass	6♡
All Pass			

Weinstein's $3\heartsuit$ asked partner to bid 3NT with a heart stopper. West's 4NT asked partner to bid five of his long suit. Klukowski thought for quite a while at his final turn, while we all wondered whether he would pass $5\clubsuit$ or correct to $5\heartsuit$. Playing in clubs seemed better to me. Eventually $6\heartsuit$ appeared on the screen, to gasps of amazement from all the kibitzers. East then cashed two aces for one down.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Brink	Greco	Drijver	Hampson
_			Pass
Pass	2♣	$2\Diamond$	2 ^
Pass	3♡	$4\diamondsuit$	4♡
5♦	Pass	Pass	Dble
All Pass			

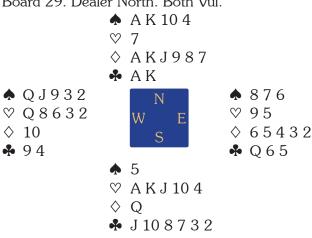
The \heartsuit K lead, \spadesuit A and a spade ruff put this one down, so Klukowski lost only 4 IMPs. Had he stopped in $5\heartsuit$, of course, this would have pulled in a worthwhile plus



score.

My fingers are tiring but there is still one more board that demands to be aired.

Board 29. Dealer North. Both Vul.



O_1	pen	Room

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West	North	East	South
R. Levin	Gawrys	Weinstein	Klukowski
_	1♣*	Pass	$1 \heartsuit^*$
Pass	1 ^	Pass	2NT*
Pass	3♦	Pass	3NT
Pass	4 \diamondsuit	Pass	4♡
Pass	4NT*	Pass	5♣*
Pass	5♡*	Pass	6♣*
Pass	7♦	All Pass	

1\$\text{\Phi}\$ was Polish club and 1\$\times\$ a positive response. 1♠ promised 18+ with at least four spades, possibly longer diamonds. South's 2NT showed 5-5 in hearts and clubs, strong, or 4-6 weak. The remaining bidding was natural, with RKCB putting the icing on the cake. Brilliant!

A heart lead might have proved awkward, but East was always going to lead a trump. Gawrys won with the gueen, crossed to the A and drew trumps. He then cashed his last trump, putting further pressure on Levin in the West seat. The AK came next, squeezing West with his ♠QJ ♥Q63. He threw the $\triangle Q$ and the grand slam was made.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Brink	Greco	Drijver	Hampson
_	1♣*	Pass	$1 \heartsuit^*$
1	2♦	Pass	2 %
Pass	2NT	Pass	3♣
Pass	3♦	Pass	3♠
Pass	4	Pass	6 %
Pass	6♦	All Pass	

Hampson's 1% response to the strong club showed 8+ points and fewer than 5 spades. The bidding climbed and climbed, but not quite high enough. It was yet another 13 IMPs to Switzerland, who had played magnificently. The final margin was 230-182 in their favour. Very well done!



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.





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