

Chief Editor: **Henry Francis** (USA) • Editors: **Mark Horton** (Great Britain), **Brian Senior** (Great Britain) • Layout Editor: **Stelios Hatzidakis** (Greece)

US dominates Bermuda race; France has Venice edge

The United States teams are doing very well in both the Bermuda Bowl and the Venice Cup. United States I and United States II are running 1-2 in the Bermuda Bowl, and in the Venice Cup United States I and United States II are placed second and third behind France, in first place for the third straight day.

Bermuda Bowl

USA I lost one of their matches yesterday – to Italy 17-13 in Match No. 9. However, they had strong games in their other two matches, blitzing Tunisia, 25-2, and defeating Chile, 19-11. USA II surprised Brazil, taking the lead at the outset and going on to a 25-4 blitz in Match No. 7. The defending champions then topped both Tunisia, 19-11, and Chile, 17-13.

Norway slipped a bit early in the day, edging by New Zealand, 16-14, then losing to France, 18-12. However, a 25-2 blitz against South Africa enabled them to hold onto third place, only 4 VPs behind USA I and 3 behind USA 2. Surprising Australia continued their strong run, losing a squeaker to Chile but then toppling strong Italy, 21-9. They closed the day with a 23-7 victory over Venezuela.

Poland, Italy, China and France round out the top eight – the number of teams that will qualify for the quarterfinals. Chinese Taipei, Brazil and Canada are within striking distance. Brazil suffered a dismal day, losing a blitz to USA II, losing to India and tying Canada.

It was a high-scoring morning and afternoon – there were nine matches in which more than 100 IMPs were scored.

Venice Cup

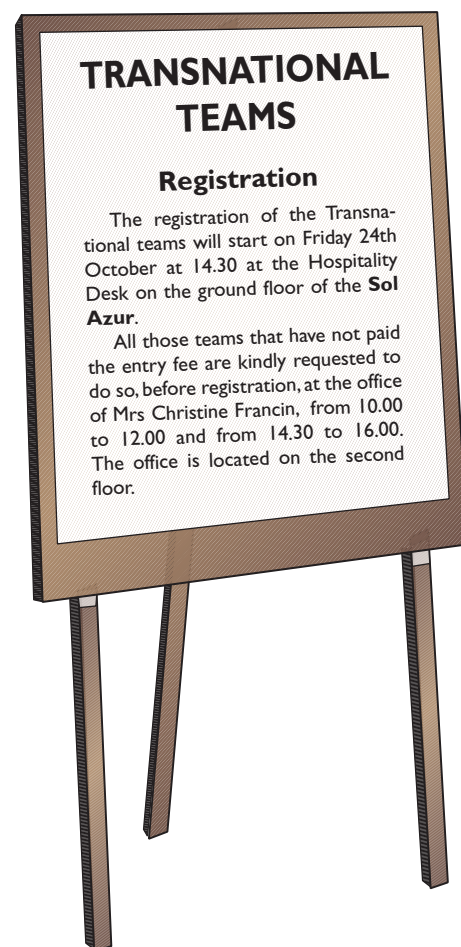
France maintained its hold on the top spot despite a 22-8 loss to USA I. They scored victories over both South Africa and Argentina, but both were close matches.

In the meanwhile USA I leaped into second place, only 5 Victory Points out of first, with a blitz against Tunisia and a 19-11 victory over Chile. They were slowed down in Match No. 9, losing to Italy, 17-13.

Another 3 VPs back are USA II. Non-playing captain Sue Sachs learned yesterday that ailing Lynn Deas will return to the team today and intends to play in Match No. 12. Lynn is hoping to play five of the remaining round-robin matches. According to Juanita Chambers, her teammate, Lynn is eating well, is in good spirits, has the infection under control, has got her temperature back to normal, and is eager to play. Lynn will play from a wheelchair because myasthenia gravis has immobilised her.

Great Britain scored three strong triumphs, over Chinese Taipei, Australia and India, and is trailing USA II by only a single Victory Point. Germany went into the third day hoping to pile up at least 70 Victory Points to make a big leap up the standings. They won all three of their matches, but their VP total was only 62. That was good enough to place them sixth, one point behind Canada.

China and the Netherlands round out the top eight, but Italy, South Africa and Argentina are well within range.



Bermuda Bowl - Results

Round 7

Table	Match	IMPs	VPs
1.	USA I - Tunisia	98 - 27	25 - 2
2.	USA II - Brazil	80 - 25	25 - 4
3.	India - China	29 - 57	9 - 21
4.	Canada - Denmark	49 - 43	16 - 14
5.	Chile - Australia	55 - 48	16 - 14
6.	Italy - South Africa	95 - 13	25 - 0
7.	Venezuela - France	57 - 58	15 - 15
8.	Norway - New Zealand	49 - 45	16 - 14
9.	Chinese Taipei - Poland	32 - 27	16 - 14

Round 8

Table	Match	IMPs	VPs
1.	Chile - USA I	40 - 61	11 - 19
2.	Tunisia - USA II	24 - 41	11 - 19
3.	Brazil - India	48 - 57	13 - 17
4.	China - Canada	39 - 39	15 - 15
5.	Poland - Denmark	56 - 13	24 - 6
6.	Australia - Italy	45 - 17	21 - 9
7.	South Africa - Venezuela	28 - 73	6 - 24
8.	France - Norway	41 - 28	18 - 12
9.	New Zealand - Chinese Taipei	53 - 67	12 - 18

Round 9

Table	Match	IMPs	VPs
1.	USA I - Italy	30 - 39	13 - 17
2.	USA II - Chile	29 - 20	17 - 13
3.	India - Tunisia	39 - 19	19 - 11
4.	Canada - Brazil	28 - 28	15 - 15
5.	Denmark - China	16 - 40	10 - 20
6.	Venezuela - Australia	21 - 58	7 - 23
7.	Norway - South Africa	71 - 5	25 - 2
8.	Chinese Taipei - France	34 - 33	15 - 15
9.	New Zealand - Poland	19 - 81	3 - 25

Bermuda Bowl - Program

Round 10

11h00

1.	Venezuela - USA I
2.	Italy - USA II
3.	Chile - India
4.	Tunisia - Canada
5.	Brazil - Denmark
6.	Poland - China
7.	Australia - Norway
8.	South Africa - Chinese Taipei
9.	France - New Zealand

Round 11

14h30

1.	USA I - Norway
2.	USA II - Venezuela
3.	India - Italy
4.	Canada - Chile
5.	Denmark - Tunisia
6.	China - Brazil
7.	Chinese Taipei - Australia
8.	New Zealand - South Africa
9.	France - Poland

Round 12

18h00

1.	Chinese Taipei - USA I
2.	Norway - USA II
3.	Venezuela - India
4.	Italy - Canada
5.	Chile - Denmark
6.	Tunisia - China
7.	Poland - Brazil
8.	Australia - New Zealand
9.	South Africa - France

Bermuda Bowl Rankings after 9 rounds

1	U.S.A. I	172
2	U.S.A. II	171
3	NORWAY	168
4	AUSTRALIA	163
5	POLAND	159
6	ITALY	151
7	CHINA	145
8	FRANCE	143
9	CHINESE TAIPEI	135
10	BRAZIL	130
11	CANADA	128
12	DENMARK	120
13	VENEZUELA	120
14	CHILE	117
15	INDIA	115
16	NEW ZEALAND	111
17	SOUTH AFRICA	82
18	TUNISIA	75

Smoking in Hammamet

The tournament is normally non-smoking, unless if, by special agreement of the concerned players at a table, the tournament director is requested to allow it.

The tournament director will, however, be entitled to forbid smoking if the room becomes too smoky.

On submitting their lineups, team captains will be requested to add an S to the names of the smoking players. No cigars or pipes. Only players are allowed to smoke.

The same smoking policy will apply next year at the World Championships in Lille, France.



From 1999, all WBF events will be non-smoking.

Press cocktails and Press trip

The Tunisian Bridge Federation cordially invites all members of the IBPA as well as local Tunisian journalists to join them for cocktails in the Roy Azur on Friday morning, 24 October, at 11 a.m. Present will be Jose Damiani, president of the World Bridge Federation; Hosni Zouari, president of the Tunisian Bridge Federation, and Omar Sharif, who is visiting these championships.

On Saturday, the Tunisian Bridge Federation invites all members of the IBPA to take part in a Press trip. The bus will depart at 9 a.m. from the Sol Azur. On the trip the group will visit the Bardo Museum, Carthage and Sidi Bou Said, where lunch will be served. The bus will return at about 3 p.m.

If you wish to go you must register with Elly Ducheyne in the Press Room by noon Friday at the latest.

Venice Cup - Results

Round 7

Table	Match	IMPs	VPs
10.	France - USA I	36 - 71	8 - 22
11.	Chinese Taipei - Great Britain	19 - 63	6 - 24
12.	Australia - China	6 - 96	0 - 25
13.	India - Colombia	44 - 68	10 - 20
14.	South Africa - Canada	36 - 59	10 - 20
15.	Argentina - Brazil	82 - 21	25 - 3
16.	Italy - Netherlands	20 - 77	4 - 25
17.	USA II - New Zealand	61 - 66	14 - 16
18.	Tunisia - Germany	8 - 112	0 - 25

Round 8

Table	Match	IMPs	VPs
10.	South Africa - France	26 - 45	11 - 19
11.	USA I - Chinese Taipei	44 - 19	20 - 10
12.	Great Britain - Australia	32 - 20	17 - 13
13.	China - India	49 - 48	15 - 15
14.	Germany - Colombia	56 - 33	20 - 10
15.	Canada - Argentina	57 - 21	22 - 8
16.	Brazil - Italy	37 - 80	6 - 24
17.	Netherlands - USA II	18 - 48	9 - 21
18.	New Zealand - Tunisia	70 - 25	24 - 6

Round 9

Table	Match	IMPs	VPs
10.	France - Argentina	39 - 29	17 - 13
11.	Chinese Taipei - South Africa	41 - 27	18 - 12
12.	Australia - USA I	20 - 40	11 - 19
13.	India - Great Britain	26 - 48	10 - 20
14.	Colombia - China	28 - 22	16 - 14
15.	Italy - Canada	49 - 13	22 - 8
16.	USA II - Brazil	49 - 16	22 - 8
17.	Tunisia - Netherlands	31 - 43	13 - 17
18.	New Zealand - Germany	22 - 34	13 - 17

Venice Cup - Program

Round 10

11h00

10.	Italy - France
11.	Argentina - Chinese Taipei
12.	South Africa - Australia
13.	USA I - India
14.	Great Britain - Colombia
15.	Germany - China
16.	Canada - USA II
17.	Brazil - Tunisia
18.	Netherlands - New Zealand

Round 11

14h30

10.	France - USA II
11.	Chinese Taipei - Italy
12.	Australia - Argentina
13.	India - South Africa
14.	Colombia - USA I
15.	China - Great Britain
16.	Tunisia - Canada
17.	New Zealand - Brazil
18.	Netherlands - Germany

Round 12

18h00

10.	Tunisia - France
11.	USA II - Chinese Taipei
12.	Italy - Australia
13.	Argentina - India
14.	South Africa - Colombia
15.	USA I - China
16.	Germany - Great Britain
17.	Canada - New Zealand
18.	Brazil - Netherlands

Venice Cup Rankings after 9 rounds

1	FRANCE	165
2	U.S.A. I	160
3	U.S.A. II	157
4	GREAT BRITAIN	156
5	CANADA	150
6	GERMANY	149
7	CHINA	148
8	NETHERLANDS	140
9	ITALY	139
10	SOUTH AFRICA	135
11	ARGENTINA	134
12	NEW ZEALAND	129
13	AUSTRALIA	115
14	INDIA	115
15	COLOMBIA	112
16	CHINESE TAIPEI	110
17	BRAZIL	102
18	TUNISIA	87




VUGRAPH

Bermuda Bowl - Round 10 11h00
Italy - USA II

Bermuda Bowl - Round 11 14h30
USA I - Norway

Bermuda Bowl - Round 12 18h00
Poland - Brazil

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Venice Cup

Round 3

Tunisia vs South Africa

Let's look at the Venice Cup features the two African countries in the field, South Africa and the host nation, Tunisia. The teams swapped game swings early in the match.

Board 2. North/South Game. Dealer East.

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

For Tunisia, Neila Guellaty and Hedia Baccar bid simply: 1♥ - 2♥ - 4♥. Gail Gersowsky, for South Africa, led a low diamond to dummy's ten. Guellaty led a heart to the queen, then played three rounds of spades, pitching a club. Now she tried to cash two diamonds but when North, Shirley Murray, could ruff, there was no recovery. Careless play in the ending led to two down; -100.

For South Africa, Anastasia Nestoridis and Judy Osie also had a free auction: 1♥ - 2♥ - 2NT - 3NT. Najet Sfar led the ♣J and Nestoridis ducked in dummy and won her ace. She cashed the ace and queen of diamonds followed by the ace and king of spades. Now came a heart to the king and when South showed out declarer finessed the ♦10, cashed the ♦K and led a heart to her queen. Finally, a club to the queen allowed her to cash the ♠Q for an excellent +460; 11 IMPs to South Africa.

But Tunisia bounced straight back on the next board.

Board 3. East/West Game. Dealer South.

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

In the Open Room, Baccar opened INT after a pass by South and was soon in 3NT after a Stayman sequence. Murray led the ♥K and Baccar won the ace and played the ♦9 to the ten and king. Then, inaccurately, she ducked a diamond. Back came a low club, run to the jack. Murray played the ♥8 and Baccar rose with the jack and took a second club finesse. Then she cashed two more clubs, squeezing North. Murray threw a heart then bared her ♠K, but Baccar read the position correctly. After cashing the ♦A, she led a low spade to the king and ace then finessed the ♠10 to make an over-trick; +630.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Osie	Jellouli	Nestoridis	Sfar
			Pass
1♣	1♥	Dbl	Pass
1♠	Pass	3♣	Pass
4♠	All Pass		

Osie had an awkward bid in response to the negative double and solved it by bidding her three-card spade suit. If the double had already guaranteed four spades, then perhaps Nestoridis should have bid INT now to show the hearts. Perhaps she had not promised four spades, because she invited game in spades and, with substantial extra high-card strength but nothing in hearts, Osie had little option but to go on to 4♠.

Declarer won the heart lead and promptly played a spade to the ten and king. However, there just weren't enough tricks and she drifted two down; -200 and 13 IMPs to Tunisia.

Board 8. Love All. Dealer West.

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

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Osie	Jellouli	Nestoridis	Sfar
1♥	Pass	1♠	Dbl
INT	2♦	2♠	3♦
3♠	All Pass		

The South Africans were pushed a level too high when their opponents found the diamond fit. The ♦A lead solved one of declarer's problems but there was no way of avoiding three spade losers and the ♣A; one down for -50.

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Baccar	Murray	Guellaty	Gersowsky
1♥	Pass	1♠	Pass
INT	Pass	Pass	2♣
2♠	All Pass		

The lead was the ♥J and Guellaty won and played a spade to the eight and jack. Gersowsky switched to ace and another club and declarer won and played a second spade to the ace. Now South must underlead the diamond to put declarer to a guess but she played a third club instead. North did not ruff so Guellaty won and played on hearts, ruffing the fourth round. Rather than guess the diamonds, she simply exited with a spade, forcing Murray to lead up to dummy's ♦K; +110 and 4 IMPs to Tunisia.

Board 10. Game All. Dealer East.

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

In the Closed Room, Jellouli opened the North hand INT in fourth seat and Sfar responded 2♠, transfer to clubs. 2♠ was doubled for the lead and now Jellouli leaped to 3NT on the strength of her club fit. With a suit likely to provide six running tricks, Sfar had no reason to remove 3NT but Jellouli's lack of quick side-tricks meant that 3NT was hopeless. After a spade lead she tried to establish the extra tricks she required by playing on hearts but all that meant was that she was three down when the defenders took their tricks; -300.

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Baccar	Murray	Guellaty	Gersowsky
		Pass	Pass
Pass	1♣	Pass	1♦
1♠	Pass	2♠	3♣
Pass	Pass	3♣	All Pass

Murray led the ♥K and Baccar ducked. Passive defence allows declarer to establish an extra trick in one of the red suits for a discard for her other red loser but Murray found the perfect answer. She underled her top club to Gersowsky's queen and back came a heart through the jack. The ♥10 forced the ace and declarer played a trump to the ace. Murray played queen and a fourth heart for partner to ruff out the nine and now there was no pressure in the endgame. Murray had to come to a diamond trick for one down; -100 and 9 IMPs to Tunisia.

Board 12. North/South Game. Dealer West.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Baccar	Murray	Guellaty	Gersowsky
1♣	1♦	1♥	5♦
5♥	Dble	All Pass	

Gersowsky's huge pre-emptive leap effectively prevented any East/West slam hunt but it also persuaded Murray that she needed to double 5♥. That was expensive because 5♥ would have ended the auction for a quiet -510. The double increased the score to -850 when Guellaty took the trump finesse after a club lead. Would that be a good or a bad result for South Africa?

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Osie	Jellouli	Nestoridis	Sfar
1♣	1♦	1♥	3♦
4♦	Pass	4♥	Pass
5♥	Pass	6♥	All Pass

Sfar's more modest 3♦ raise gave Osie room to

show her diamond shortage. Slightly pessimistically, Nestoridis signed-off in 4♥ but now Osie went on with a highly aggressive 5♥ bid, asking for good trumps. Nestoridis had those and duly raised herself to six. That was +1010 to South Africa and 4 IMPs to them instead of nine to Tunisia had the slam not been bid.

Board 14. Love All. Dealer East.

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

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

In the Open Room, Tunisia had a free run to 3♣: 1♣ - INT - 3♣. Murray led a heart to the jack and Gersowsky switched to her singleton trump. Baccar won and played a low trump to dummy's nine, then passed the ♣J to the queen. Murray played a second heart through and the defence took its red tricks then played a second diamond and sat back and waited for the ♣K; two down for -100.

That gave Tunisia a slight chance for a gain because there is a thin 5♦ available for North/South. This was the auction in the Closed Room:

West	North	East	South
Osie	Jellouli	Nestoridis	Sfar
		Pass	1♦
1♣	2♦	Pass	3♦
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

Quite why Jellouli should imagine that her spade holding constituted a stopper is difficult to imagine. She was swiftly disabused of this notion as the defence cashed the first seven tricks; three down for -150 and 6 IMPs to South Africa.

Board 15. North/South Game. Dealer South.

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

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

Both Wests played 3♣ after North had made a take-out double of 1♣ and they had made a game try of 3♣, declined by East. Osie had an easy ride after Jellouli led the ♦K, won the diamond return and switched to a club. She was able to ruff a club so lost only a spade, a club and a diamond; +170.

Baccar had a rougher ride when Murray led a low spade. She won in dummy and played ace and ten of clubs to South's king. Gersowsky continued trumps, Murray won the ace and played a third round. Baccar won the trump in hand and cashed the ♣Q, getting the bad news. Now she smoothly led the ♦5 and caught Murray napping. When she played low the ten scored and Baccar could come back to hand and give up a club; +140 but an IMP away.

South Africa had the edge on the boards we have not seen and ran out winners by 21-9 VPs. The host nation were still waiting for their first victory.



Appeals Committee:

Steen Møller (Chairman, Denmark), John Wignall (NZ), Bill Pencharz (GB), Eric Kokish (Canada), Naki Bruni (Italy).

Venice Cup Round 3; South Africa vs Tunisia

Board 20. Game All. Dealer West.

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

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

West	North	East	South
Osie	Jellouli	Nestoridis	Sfar
2♥	Pass	Pass	2NT
Pass	3♦	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

Facts:

The TD was called to the table at the end of play. 2♥ was alerted (weak). 3♦ was alerted by North and explained as "transfer", and since it was a transfer into the opponents' suit, it was Stayman. South however explained to West that 3♦ was natural and forcing. West led a small spade.

Appeals No. 1

reported by Hans Folke (Denmark)

Result on the board: nine tricks; North/South +600.

TD's ruling:

The TD ruled that West had been misinformed and West claimed she would have led a heart had she received the same explanation as East.

The contract would then have failed, and the TD adjusted the score to 3NT, down one.

Appellant:

North/South appealed.

The TD:

The TD had used Laws 40C and 75 and recited the laws for the Committee.

Asked by the Committee, the TD said that there had not been a detailed analysis of the hand, but that South surely would have gone down after a heart lead.

The players:

The captain of the North/South pair agreed that there had been a misinformation, and that without this misinformation West would probably have led a heart, but claimed that South would have made her contract anyway.

The non-appealing side pointed out that after West's 2♥ bid South was bound to play the spade suit which would leave no play for nine tricks.

The committee:

The committee was of the unanimous opinion that although the contract - double dummy - could have been made, the line of play as suggested by the non-appealing side was not likely to be found.

The committee's decision:

The Committee ruled the TD's decision to stand and upheld the result 3NT, down one.

The Committee found that in fact this was a frivolous appeal, but due to possible inexperience of the appealing team, the deposit was returned.

Your choice, gentlemen!

by Knut Kjaernsroed

The very first board of the third round match between Italy and Norway produced some neat declarer play by Alfredo Versace:

Love All. Dealer North.

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

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

The bidding went:

West	North	East	South
Helgemo	Versace	Helness	Lauria
	INT	Pass	Pass
2♣	Pass	Pass	Dble
Pass	2 NT	All Pass	

Lauria's double was for takeout, and the contract did not look at all safe. Helness started with the queen

of spades which held the trick and another spade was taken by the king. The queen of hearts was ducked all around and a second heart was captured by Helness' king. He switched to a low diamond won by the six and another heart was taken by Helgemo who drove out the ace of spades. Versace now played the queen of diamonds to Helness' ace, and this was the end position:

♠ 7	♠ -
♥ -	♥ -
♦ -	♦ J 9
♣ A Q 10 9	♣ K 7 4

♠ J	♠ -
♥ -	♥ -
♦ -	♦ J 9
♣ J 5 3 2	♣ K 7 4

Helness had to exit with a club, ducked to the nine, but when Versace now cashed the ace of clubs the defenders were trapped. If Helness did not unblock his king, he would have to lead diamonds to the table, and when he in actual fact did unblock, Versace endplayed Helgemo by leading a spade to the knave and got a club back into the tenace.

Bermuda Bowl MAUSAHI OF

Some days it isn't worth getting out of bed in the morning. For most of this match Brazil didn't seem to do anything seriously wrong yet they were hammered by a USA2 team who were playing both well and in luck.

Board 3. East/West Game. Dealer South.

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

Open Room

West <i>Fonseca</i>	North <i>Hamman</i>	East <i>Mello</i>	South <i>Wolff</i>
1♠	Pass	Pass	2♥
2♠	3♣	Pass	3♥
Pass	4♣	All Pass	

1♣ was strong, after which Bobby Wolff bid and rebid his hearts but, not surprisingly, Bob Hamman was not prepared to play anywhere other than in his eight-card suit. Even 5♣ is possible from the South seat unless the defence knock out the ♦A early. Here, Fonseca led ace and a second spade so eleven tricks were routine; +150.

In the other room, Marcelo Branco opened 1♥ and Jeff Meckstroth overcalled 2♠, intermediate. The Brazilians had a toy here and Gabriel Chagas used it, a 2NT transfer to clubs. A typical hand for this would be a six-card suit with 7-10 HCP so Branco could not afford to pass. He repeated his hearts, showing a good hand, and now Chagas gave in, fearing that 4♣ would be taken as a stronger hand. Despite the favourable opening lead of ace and another spade, 3♥ did not play well. East, Eric Rodwell could over-ruff the third spade and dummy was completely useless. Branco made five hearts tricks, ♠K and ♦A for two down; -100 and 6 IMPs to USA2.

Board 4. Game All. Dealer West.

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

In the Closed Room, Meckstroth opened 1♦, Precision-style, as dealer and this ran round to Branco who bid 2♠, intermediate. That ended the auction and Meckstroth led ♦K followed by a low diamond to the ace. Once East had shown up with the ♦A, he was very unlikely to also have ♠Q so Branco later got the trumps right and made exactly; +110.

In the Open Room, Cristiano Fonseca opened 1♣ and Roberto Mello scraped up a 1♠ response. That didn't cause Wolff any problem in the auction as he was



Bobby Wolff (USA)

able to overcall a natural 2♠, where he played. The problem came in the play. Again the defence began with king and another diamond to the ace. Mello switched to a low club and Wolff won the ace and led a heart, Fonseca ducking. Wolff had seen the ♦A, as at the other table, but here East had responded. Was his other high card the ♠Q? After some thought, Wolff took the spade finesse so had two spade losers and six in all; -100 and 5 IMPs to Brazil.

There had been nothing untoward up to now but the next few boards saw Brazil fall way behind in the match. Board 5 saw Fonseca/Mello bid a thin game which had to fail while Meckstroth/Rodwell stopped at a safe level; 6 IMPs to USA2. Then:

Board 6. East/West Game. Dealer East.

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

Closed Room

West <i>Meckstroth</i>	North <i>Chagas</i>	East <i>Rodwell</i>	South <i>Branco</i>
		INT	3♣
Dbl	Pass	4♥	Pass
6♥	All Pass		

Rodwell's INT was 13-16 and the double was negative. Rodwell showed a good INT opener with strong hearts by jumping to game and Meckstroth made the practical man's bid of 6♥. After a club lead, Rodwell drew trumps, tested the diamonds, and finally got the spades right; +1430.

There is an alternative winning line, namely to play a spade to the king and ace. You can afford to rise with the ♠Q if North returns the suit as he will then be squeezed in spades and diamonds. It would be more difficult, of course, without the pre-empt.

Open Room

West <i>Fonseca</i>	North <i>Hamman</i>	East <i>Mello</i>	South <i>Wolff</i>
		1♥	3♣
4♣	Pass	4♥	Pass
5♦	Pass	5♥	All Pass

Fonseca cuebid to show a good raise but Mello didn't have a convenient cuebid available so, with his moderate hand, signed-off in 4♥. Fonseca went on and surely Mello should have appreciated that his partner could not go to the five-level without a spade control, given his own good cards. When he again signed-off, the slam was missed; 13 IMPs to USA2.

Perhaps Fonseca might also have done better. Though this partnership normally shows aces before kings, over 4♥ the sequence 4♠ - 5♣ - 5♦ is so attractive that perhaps this was a time for a little flexibility.

Board 8. Love All. Dealer West.

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

Closed Room

West <i>Meckstroth</i>	North <i>Chagas</i>	East <i>Rodwell</i>	South <i>Branco</i>
1♣	Pass	1♦	2♠
Dble	Pass	3♣	Pass
3♠	Pass	3NT	All Pass

1♣ was strong and 1♦ negative. Meckstroth doubled 2♠ for takeout and followed up with 3♠ for further description. Well judged by Meckwell to stop in 3NT. The spade lead went to the ace and Rodwell unblocked the clubs then played ♥Q. The defence was powerless and he soon had nine tricks; +400.

Open Room

West <i>Fonseca</i>	North <i>Hamman</i>	East <i>Mello</i>	South <i>Wolff</i>
2♦	Pass	2♥	Pass
3♥	Pass	3♣	Pass
4♣	Pass	5♣	All Pass



Bob Hamman (USA)

THE BRAZILIAN

Round 7

2♦ was multi and 3♥ showed a 20+ three-suiter with short spades. 3♠ enquired and 4♣ showed the seven controls, leaving Mello with an obvious raise to 5♣. Three rounds of hearts swiftly doomed the contract to one down; -50 and 10 IMPs to USA2.

It is difficult to be critical of the Brazilian auction. West's minor-suit queen-jacks are wasted in a club contract. Swap them for the ♥A or ♥K and 6♣ would be excellent.

Board 9. East/West Game. Dealer North.

♠ A J 8 ♥ 5 3 ♦ K Q 9 ♣ Q J 10 5 3	<table border="1" style="margin: auto;"> <tr><td style="padding: 2px;">N</td><td style="padding: 2px;">E</td></tr> <tr><td style="padding: 2px;">W</td><td style="padding: 2px;">S</td></tr> </table>	N	E	W	S	♠ Q 10 5 4 ♥ 10 8 7 ♦ J 5 ♣ 9 8 7 2	♠ 9 6 3 ♥ J 6 4 ♦ A 8 4 3 ♣ A K 6
N	E						
W	S						

In the Closed Room, Chagas/Branco bid the North/South cards INT - 3NT and Meckstroth doubled. Whether that asked specifically for hearts or merely for the weaker major I don't know, but it did the job as Rodwell duly led a heart and Meckstroth took the first five tricks; -100.

In the Open Room, Bob Hamman opened 1♦, denying a four-card major in their Blue-style club system. Wolff responded 1♥ with his awkward hand (they have no forcing diamond raise), safe in the knowledge that a raise would usually be based on a five-card suit. When Hamman rebid INT, Wolff invited with 2NT and Hamman went on to game. 1♥ was bid more to overcome an awkward constructive problem than to inhibit a heart lead but, when Fonseca didn't fancy a double of 3NT, it earned USA2 a game swing as Mello appeared to have an obvious spade lead. Five rounds of clubs caused problems for West and Hamman emerged with an overtrick; +430 and 11 IMPs.

Board 10. Game All. Dealer East.

♠ 3 2 ♥ Q 8 4 ♦ Q J 8 7 3 ♣ A 6 3	<table border="1" style="margin: auto;"> <tr><td style="padding: 2px;">N</td><td style="padding: 2px;">E</td></tr> <tr><td style="padding: 2px;">W</td><td style="padding: 2px;">S</td></tr> </table>	N	E	W	S	♠ - ♥ K 9 5 3 2 ♦ K 5 2 ♣ 10 9 8 5 2	♠ Q 10 9 6 4 ♥ A J 10 6 ♦ - ♣ K Q J 7
N	E						
W	S						

After a pass by East, both Souths opened 1♠ and rebid 2♥ over the INT response, but there was a difference. Branco's bidding followed standard lines, guaranteeing five spades, and Meckstroth passed over 2♥ but then doubled Chagas' 2♠ preference for penalties. 2♠ doubled went two down for 500 to USA2.

In the other room, Wolff's bidding was ambiguous regarding the relative lengths of his majors and Fonseca chose to overcall 2♠ over 2♥. That ended the auction and, after a heart lead and club switch, declarer effectively played the hand on a cross-ruff with South, making only his six trump tricks; down two for -200 and 12 IMPs to USA2, who led by 58-9 after ten boards. It didn't get better for Brazil.

Board 11. Love All. Dealer South.

♠ A J 7 2 ♥ Q ♦ K 9 7 ♣ J 10 8 7 6	<table border="1" style="margin: auto;"> <tr><td style="padding: 2px;">N</td><td style="padding: 2px;">E</td></tr> <tr><td style="padding: 2px;">W</td><td style="padding: 2px;">S</td></tr> </table>	N	E	W	S	♠ 9 6 ♥ K 10 9 7 6 5 4 3 ♦ A 6 3 ♣ -	♠ K Q 10 8 4 ♥ J 2 ♦ Q 10 4 ♣ A K Q
N	E						
W	S						

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Fonseca</i>	<i>Hamman</i>	<i>Mello</i>	<i>Wolff</i>
Pass	1♠	4♥	1♣
Pass	Dbl	All Pass	Pass

The 4♥ pre-empt made it almost impossible for Hamman/Wolff to find their spade fit. 1♣ was strong and, though Hamman bid 1♠, this was not natural but showed three controls. There was a strange inevitability about the subsequent North/South actions as Wolff passed over 4♥ and Hamman doubled for takeout because he didn't have a really long suit to bid. At equal vulnerability it seemed that Wolff should pass the double as he had no guarantee of a spade fit, but the penalty was quite inadequate, a mere one down for -100.

That looked like an excellent result for Brazil and, indeed, in the other room Branco could open 1♠, getting the partnership suit into the game immediately. Chagas responded 3♠, showing an invitational raise, and now came the 4♥ overcall. Branco had an easy 4♠ bid and Meckstroth competed with 5♥. Chagas went on to 5♠, ending the auction. But for the club void, 5♠ would have been the winning decision but, Meckstroth led ♥A and received the ten from Rodwell, reverse suit preference. He promptly switched to a club and the ruff meant one down; -50 and 4 IMPs to USA2.

Board 12. North/South Game. Dealer West.

♠ J 7 6 5 4 2 ♥ 10 9 4 ♦ 10 9 ♣ 8 7	<table border="1" style="margin: auto;"> <tr><td style="padding: 2px;">N</td><td style="padding: 2px;">E</td></tr> <tr><td style="padding: 2px;">W</td><td style="padding: 2px;">S</td></tr> </table>	N	E	W	S	♠ A K ♥ A K 7 6 5 2 ♦ 7 6 ♣ K Q 3	♠ Q 10 9 8 ♥ - ♦ A K Q 8 5 4 ♣ A 9 2
N	E						
W	S						

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Meckstroth</i>	<i>Chagas</i>	<i>Rodwell</i>	<i>Branco</i>
Pass	Pass	1♣	1♦
Pass	Pass	Dbl	1♠
2♥	3♣	4♥	4♠
Pass	Pass	5♥	All Pass

1♣ was strong and Meckstroth's pass over the overcall showed a negative. Rodwell reopened with a double and Branco showed his second suit. Now both sides established a fit and the music finally came to a stop at 5♥ by West. There was nothing to the play; one down for -50.

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Fonseca</i>	<i>Hamman</i>	<i>Mello</i>	<i>Wolff</i>
Pass	Pass	1♥	Dbl
4♥	Pass	Pass	Dbl
Pass	4♠	5♥	5♠
Pass	Pass	Dbl	All Pass

The natural opening meant that the bidding got up high much more quickly here. Wolff doubled 1♥ where some might have preferred a 2♦ overcall and, sure enough, there was a big heart raise and he was obliged to double a second time. Wouldn't you prefer to have shown long diamonds first then doubled for takeout when the inevitable heart raise came back to you? Anyway, it all worked out very well because Hamman responded 4♠, Mello went on to 5♥ with high hopes of making it, and Wolff competed with 5♠. Pity poor Mello who held a mere 19-count and felt that he had to double. He found the best lead of a club but Hamman could simply play three rounds of diamonds to get rid of his second club and Mello was ruffing with a trump trick; +850 and 13 IMPs to USA2.

Things settled down a bit after that with Brazil creeping a little closer, including Chagas making an unlikely 3NT on Board 19. Then came a chance to save a couple more VPs on the final deal.

Board 20. Game All. Dealer West.

♠ K 3 ♥ 4 3 ♦ A 10 9 ♣ A J 9 8 5 2	<table border="1" style="margin: auto;"> <tr><td style="padding: 2px;">N</td><td style="padding: 2px;">E</td></tr> <tr><td style="padding: 2px;">W</td><td style="padding: 2px;">S</td></tr> </table>	N	E	W	S	♠ Q 8 ♥ A K 6 5 ♦ K J 5 3 ♣ 10 7 3	♠ J 5 ♥ Q 10 9 ♦ Q 7 6 4 2 ♣ K Q 6
N	E						
W	S						

Both Wests reached 3NT after South had bid spades. The lead was ♠J, covered by the queen. In the Closed Room the spade overcall had come at the three-level and when Branco ducked Meckstroth could see that he had no play for his contract. Clearly he would lose five or six spade tricks if he gave up the lead so instead of playing on clubs he played a diamond to the ace and ran the ♦9. He had eight tricks now and -100 seemed a fair result, as East/West always seem fated to reach a doomed game.

In the other room, Wolff's overcall had only been at the one-level. He chose to win the ♠A at trick one and now Fonseca could shut him out of the game and make his contract. Wolff switched to a low heart to the nine and ace and Fonseca ran ♠10. Hamman won the ♣Q and continued with ♥Q and all Fonseca had to do was duck this trick then give up another club to North. But he misread the position and won the second heart. Now, when he conceded the second club, Hamman could lead ♥10 and Wolff overtook and cashed his last heart for down one; just another push.

The final score was 80-25 IMPs to USA2, which converts to a very healthy 25-4 VP win.



Bermuda Bowl

Round 5

USA I vs China

Round 5 featured a pretty dull set of boards, with most of the action coming early in the set. USAI started with a bang.

Board 1. Love All. Dealer North.

<p>♠ A K J 8 3 ♥ K 9 ♦ 4 2 ♣ Q 10 6 3</p> <p>♠ Q 6 4 ♥ A Q 10 6 3 ♦ 9 8 6 ♣ 7 4</p>	<table border="1" style="border-collapse: collapse; width: 40px; height: 40px; margin: 0 auto;"> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">N</td><td></td><td style="text-align: center;">E</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">W</td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr><td></td><td style="text-align: center;">S</td><td></td></tr> </table>	N		E	W				S		<p>♠ 9 7 ♥ J 8 7 2 ♦ K Q J 10 7 3 ♣ A</p> <p>♠ 10 5 2 ♥ 5 4 ♦ A 5 ♣ K J 9 8 5 2</p>
N		E									
W											
	S										

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Stansby</i>	<i>Liu</i>	<i>Martel</i>	<i>Sun</i>
	1♠	2♦	2♣
Dble	Pass	3♦	All Pass

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Wang Weimin</i>	<i>Rosenberg</i>	<i>Li</i>	<i>Zia</i>
	1♠	2♦	Dble
3♦	Pass	Pass	3♣
Pass	4♠	All Pass	

What should South call over the 2♦ intervention? Sun made a simple 2♣ raise and Stansby doubled to get his hearts into the game. Martel settled for the solidity of his diamond suit and 3♦ ended the auction. The defence dropped a trick so that was +130.

In the Open Room, Zia preferred a negative double, hoping to be able to follow with 2♣ to show a better spade raise, but Wang's diamond raise left Zia forced to show his spade support at the three-level and Rosenberg went on to game, hoping for a slightly better hand.

The lead was ♣A followed by ♦10 to dummy's ace. The lead was surely a singleton and the lack of heart bidding strongly suggested the actual heart layout. So East sounded to be 2-4-6-1 and Rosenberg had to decide between the spade finesse and trying to drop the doubleton queen in the hand which rated to have more of the high cards. After some thought he led the ♠10 and ran it and was soon scoring up +450 and 11 IMPs for his team.

USAI picked up 3 IMPs on the next board for a better partscore, then came another big swing.

Board 3. East/West Game. Dealer South.

<p>♠ J 10 8 5 3 ♥ J 10 9 8 6 ♦ 7 ♣ A Q</p> <p>♠ K Q 7 ♥ 3 ♦ J 8 6 4 ♣ K J 10 5 3</p>	<table border="1" style="border-collapse: collapse; width: 40px; height: 40px; margin: 0 auto;"> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">N</td><td></td><td style="text-align: center;">E</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">W</td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr><td></td><td style="text-align: center;">S</td><td></td></tr> </table>	N		E	W				S		<p>♠ 9 2 ♥ Q 7 5 4 2 ♦ K 2 ♣ 9 7 6 4</p> <p>♠ A 6 4 ♥ A K ♦ A Q 10 9 5 3 ♣ 8 2</p>
N		E									
W											
	S										

Both North/South pairs began 1♦ - 1♠ - 3♦. Liu continued with 3♥ but, on getting preference to 3♣, tried 3NT. Rather surprisingly, given the known 5-3 fit and his weak clubs, Sun passed that.

At the other table, Rosenberg simply bid 3NT over 3♦. Martel led a club against Liu and declarer won and cashed the ace and king of hearts then, when the queen

failed to oblige, tried ace and queen of diamonds, a second try for a doubleton honour. No luck. Liu did not have the entries to establish and cash any of his suits and ended up three down; -150.

Rosenberg, who had not bid the suit, received a heart lead. He played ace and queen of diamonds, losing to the king. Back came a second heart and now he cleared the diamonds. Wang switched to a club and when the queen scored Rosenberg knocked out the ♥Q, making ten tricks; +430 and 11 IMPs to USAI, ahead by 25-0 after only three boards.

Board 4. Game All. Dealer West.

<p>♠ Q J 10 2 ♥ 9 6 5 ♦ J 9 8 6 ♣ 3 2</p> <p>♠ A 9 ♥ A Q 4 2 ♦ A 5 4 2 ♣ K 10 6</p>	<table border="1" style="border-collapse: collapse; width: 40px; height: 40px; margin: 0 auto;"> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">N</td><td></td><td style="text-align: center;">E</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">W</td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr><td></td><td style="text-align: center;">S</td><td></td></tr> </table>	N		E	W				S		<p>♠ 8 ♥ 10 8 7 3 ♦ K Q 10 7 3 ♣ A 8 5</p> <p>♠ K 7 6 5 4 3 ♥ K J ♦ - ♣ Q J 9 7 4</p>
N		E									
W											
	S										

China struck back when Liu/Sun found a good sacrifice over their opponents' game on a hand where even seven can be a lucky make for East/West.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Stansby</i>	<i>Liu</i>	<i>Martel</i>	<i>Sun</i>
1♦	Pass	1♥	1♠
3♥	3♣	4♦	4♠
Dble	All Pass		

With his balanced hand, it seemed clear for Stansby to double 4♠, though the potential double fit may have given him pause for thought. He led ace and another spade and Sun won on table to play a club to the nine and ten. Now Stansby cashed ♥A so that was only one down; -200.

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Wang</i>	<i>Rosenberg</i>	<i>Li</i>	<i>Zia</i>
1NT	Pass	3♣	3♠
3NT	All Pass		

3♣ was a transfer to diamonds. Zia bid his spades but Rosenberg was too balanced to want to save and had some hopes of beating the contract. After all, he had both a good lead and what might prove to be a diamond stopper. There was nothing to the play. Careful discarding by Zia meant that it was not completely safe for declarer to take the heart finesse so he settled for his nine top tricks; +600 and 9 IMPs to China.

Board 6. East/West Game. Dealer East.

<p>♠ 9 7 2 ♥ K 8 7 6 ♦ A Q 5 3 2 ♣ 3</p> <p>♠ Q ♥ A 10 5 3 ♦ 9 7 6 4 ♣ J 10 8 2</p>	<table border="1" style="border-collapse: collapse; width: 40px; height: 40px; margin: 0 auto;"> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">N</td><td></td><td style="text-align: center;">E</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">W</td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr><td></td><td style="text-align: center;">S</td><td></td></tr> </table>	N		E	W				S		<p>♠ A K 10 4 ♥ Q J 9 4 2 ♦ 10 ♣ Q 7 6</p> <p>♠ J 8 6 5 3 ♥ - ♦ K J 8 ♣ A K 9 5 4</p>
N		E									
W											
	S										

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Stansby</i>	<i>Liu</i>	<i>Martel</i>	<i>Sun</i>
2♥	Pass	2♦	Pass
Pass	3♦	Pass	Dble
3♥	All Pass	Pass	Pass

2♦ was Flannery, four spades and five hearts, less than reversing values. Liu led his singleton club and Sun cashed two rounds and gave him a ruff. There was nowhere for the diamond and heart losers to go; one down for -100.

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Wang</i>	<i>Rosenberg</i>	<i>Li</i>	<i>Zia</i>
Pass	2♠	1♥	2♥
3♥	Pass	Pass	Pass
All Pass		Pass	Dble

2♥ was Michaels, spades and a minor and, theoretically either weak or strong. The auction panned out nicely for Zia to show that he actually held this middling hand. He was able to pass 2♠ but then make an action double of 3♥ to show that he was good for his previous bidding. Had Wang made a pre-emptive heart raise on the previous round, this possibility would not have been available. Rosenberg had a close decision over the double but finally decided to pass.

Zia led ♣A and Li dropped the queen. For Li to be the one with the club singleton, Rosenberg had to have passed the double with something close to 3-4-3-3 shape, unlikely unless his hearts were very strong. The actual layout looks more likely and Zia should probably continue clubs, leading to one down, as we saw at the other table. But he switched to ♦8 and Rosenberg won the ace and returned the ♦2. Declarer should be in control now as the auction surely tells him what is going on but he didn't seem to appreciate the position. He ruffed with the ♥Q and led ♥2 to the ace, when it would have been better not to touch trumps at all. With his trump holding fatally weakened, there was no way home from here as Rosenberg could over-ruff the fourth spade or second club. Instead of +730 and 12 IMPs to China, it was -200 and 3 IMPs to USAI. A big opportunity missed by the Chinese.

Board 14. Love All. Dealer East.

<p>♠ Q 7 5 ♥ 10 9 6 ♦ Q 7 ♣ K Q J 8 7</p> <p>♠ 10 4 ♥ A Q J ♦ 10 8 6 4 2 ♣ 9 4 2</p>	<table border="1" style="border-collapse: collapse; width: 40px; height: 40px; margin: 0 auto;"> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">N</td><td></td><td style="text-align: center;">E</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">W</td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr><td></td><td style="text-align: center;">S</td><td></td></tr> </table>	N		E	W				S		<p>♠ A K 2 ♥ K 8 7 3 2 ♦ A 9 ♣ A 6 5</p> <p>♠ J 9 8 6 3 ♥ 5 4 ♦ K J 5 3 ♣ 10 3</p>
N		E									
W											
	S										

For Martel/Stansby, this was an easy board: 1♥ - 2♥ - 3NT, making the nine top tricks for +400.

The Chinese pair missed the game in the other room. Li opened 1NT, 16-18, which looks wrong to me with a maximum, all in aces and kings, plus a five-card major. Wang passed 1NT but Rosenberg made a balancing double, showing either clubs, diamonds and a major, or a good two-of-a-major bid. Li might have salvaged the board had he redoubled to show his maximum but he passed and Zia bid 2♣, for correction. Again, Wang might have saved his side had he doubled, but he just competed with 2♦ and there the matter rested. Wang won the club lead and played two rounds of diamonds so made exactly; +90 but 7 IMPs to USAI.

The final score was 47-15 IMPs, 22-8 VPs in favour of USAI, who had performed pretty well in both rooms.

Venice Cup

Round 5

USA II vs Germany

by Tony Gordon

This clash between two of the favourites began with USA II lying in fourth place and Germany in ninth position. Germany were first out of the starting blocks.

Board 1. Love All. Dealer North.

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



Photograph courtesy of Kodak's new digital camera

Juanita Chambers - (USA II) Shares a joke with her screenmate

If you are going to play this hand in a slam, then you should play it in hearts rather than diamonds since there is no club discard available in the latter; however, the favourable heart position means that the diamond slam will also come home.

In the Open Room, Rauscheid's spade splinter was enough to catapult Nehmert into slam. The trump lead solved her main problem and she was soon claiming her contract.

In the Closed Room, after the strong club opening and positive response, the German interference kept hearts out of the picture. The Americans came to rest in 5♦ and Germany had gained a further 13 IMPs.

crossed to hand with a diamond and discarded dummy's last club on the ♥K. East could ruff the next round of diamonds, but that was the last trick for the defence. One down and +100 to Germany.

Levitina did not double 4♣ in the Closed Room and she also led the ♥Q. Auken ruffed in dummy and continued with a trump to Kerri Sanborn's queen. Sanborn switched to diamonds and Auken won in dummy and played a second round of trumps. She eventually lost four trumps and a heart for two down. A flat board, but a missed opportunity for Germany.

At half-time Germany led 39-0, but they did not score a single IMP in the second half.

On Board 11, North/South reached 4♥ in the Open Room and 4♣ in the Closed Room. The defence held four cashing aces, but the Germans went to bed with an ace in the Open Room and USA II opened their account with a 10-IMP gain.

Two boards later, Germany missed a laydown slam in the Open Room and the USA had another 13 IMPs.

Board 17. Love All. Dealer North.

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

West	North	East	South
Nehmert	Chambers	Rauscheid	Palmer
	3♦	3♥	3NT
All Pass			

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Sanborn	Auken	Levitina	von Arnim
	2NT	Pass	3♣
Pass	3♦	4♦	5♦
Dbl All Pass			

In the Open Room, Rauscheid could have bid 4♦ to show both majors but she elected to show her hearts and then pass out 3NT. Nehmert tried a low club as her opening lead, but Palmer went up with dummy's Jack and claimed ten tricks when it held.

In the Closed Room, Auken's 2NT was a pre-empt in an unspecified minor with less than two of the three top honours and von Arnim's 3♣ was pass or correct. When Auken corrected to 3♦, Levitina, who was effectively facing the same problem that confronted Rauscheid in the Open Room, cuebid to show both majors. Sanborn would have struggled in 4♣, but von Arnim tried 5♦ in front of her and Sanborn doubled to end the auction. The contract would have stood no chance if Levitina had led or switched to her singleton club, but she began with the ♠A and switched to the ♥Q. Now declarer could get home if she ruffed out the ♠K and then end-played West in clubs. However, Auken won the ♥K and then drew three rounds of trumps and subsequently had to lose two club tricks for one down and 11 IMPs to USA II.

When the smoke had cleared, USA II had won the second half 46-0 and the match 46-39. The 16-14 VPs victory kept USA II in fourth place and left Germany still outside the top eight.

Board 6. East/West Game. Dealer East.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Nehmert	Chambers	Rauscheid	Palmer
		1♥	2♥
3♥	3♣	4♥	4♣
Pass Dbl All Pass			

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Sanborn	Auken	Levitina	von Arnim
		1♥	2♥
3♥	3♣	Pass	4♣
All Pass			

The first four bids in each room mirrored those at many other tables. At those tables, the Souths usually went on to game, as did von Arnim in the Closed Room, so Palmer would probably have bid 4♣ even if Rauscheid had not essayed 4♥ in the Open Room.

Rauscheid doubled 4♣ and led the ♥Q. Chambers ruffed the heart lead in dummy and crossed to hand with a club ruff. She now led a trump and Rauscheid erred by going up with the king. Rauscheid continued by cashing the ♠A and exiting with a second heart. Chambers could not afford to ruff again, so she discarded a club from dummy and let Nehmert win her ace. When Nehmert switched to the ♠J, Chambers won in dummy,

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Nehmert	Chambers	Rauscheid	Palmer
	1♠	2♦	2♠
3♦ All Pass			

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Sanborn	Auken	Levitina	von Arnim
	1♠	2♦	Dbl
2♥	2♠	3♥	4♠
All Pass			

In the Open Room, Juanita Chambers and Beth Palmer surprisingly let Andrea Rauscheid and Pony Nehmert play in 3♦. Rauscheid lost the four obvious tricks for +110 to Germany.

In the Closed Room, Daniela von Arnim was more aggressive with the South cards and Sabine Auken was soon in game. Irina Levitina led the ♦K and declarer took the trump finesse to bring home her game; +420 and 11 IMPs to Germany.

Board 4. Game All. Dealer West.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Nehmert	Chambers	Rauscheid	Palmer
	Pass	3♣	Pass
1♥	Pass	5♣	Pass
4NT	Pass		
6♥ All Pass			

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Sanborn	Auken	Levitina	von Arnim
	Pass	2♦	2♠
1♣	3♠	Pass	4♣
3♦	Pass	5♣	Pass
Pass All Pass			

Bermuda Bowl

Round 6

Italy vs France

The VuGraph was packed for this all European clash. As is so often the case, the first board was significant. It contained points of interest both in bidding and play.

Board 1. Love All. Dealer North.

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

	♠ 5 3 2		
	♥ 9		
	♦ Q 8 5 4 2		
	♣ K Q J 2		

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Multon	Lanzarotti	Mouiel	Buratti
	2♦	Pass	2♥

All Pass

Italy stole the pot in the Closed Room. West led the ten of clubs and East took the ace and switched to spades. Declarer did well to emerge with six tricks; -100.

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Duboin	Perron	Bocchi	Chemla
	Pass	INT	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

The North hand is not the sort that Perron opens a weak two on so Italy had a free run to arrive in a normal looking 3NT.

Chemla led the queen of clubs and Bocchi won with the ace and returned the suit. Perron calmly discarded the eight of spades!

Chemla switched to the two of diamonds (in principle fourth best), covered by the three and nine and taken by the jack. Everything now turned on how declarer tackled the spade suit. He knew that the position that existed was actually possible, but in reality either player could hold the queen of spades and there was nothing wrong with his play of low to the jack, save that it lost to the queen, whereupon he was three down.

Full marks to the French for their defence which put them in the lead by 6 IMPs.



Massimo Lanzarotti (Italy)
"How could I tell?"

Board 2. North/South Game. Dealer East.

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

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

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Multon	Lanzarotti	Mouiel	Buratti
		1♦	Pass
1♥	Pass	1♠	Pass
INT	Pass	Pass	Dbl
2♣	Pass	Pass	Dbl
Pass	2♠	All Pass	

Multon was due to make eight tricks in his contract of INT so Buratti did well to protect. His second double promised spades and diamonds. The opening lead was the ace of clubs. It looks as if declarer must lose at least four tricks, but the scoreboard shows he made ten; +170.

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Duboin	Perron	Bocchi	Chemla
		INT	Pass
2♠	Pass	2NT	Pass
3♥	Pass	4♣	All Pass

Two spades showed clubs and the reply promised a good fit. West agonised for a long time before bidding three hearts. It had the effect of pushing his side one level too high. South led the jack of diamonds and North won with the ace and switched to a trump. Declarer could only ruff one of his losing hearts so he was one down; -50.

Italy had halved their deficit to 3 IMPs.

France recorded the first major gain on the very next hand.

Board 3. East/West Game. Dealer South.

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

	♠ 10 4 3		
	♥ K Q 4 3		
	♦ 8 7 2		
	♣ 10 9 4		

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Multon	Lanzarotti	Mouiel	Buratti
			Pass
Pass	Pass	INT	Pass
2♦	Pass	2♥	Pass
2♠	Pass	3♣	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Duboin	Perron	Bocchi	Chemla
			Pass
Pass	1♠	INT	2♠
Dbl	Pass	2NT	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

In the Closed Room the French were given a free run to 3NT. South led the nine of clubs which North took with the king. We know declarer made nine tricks but the play record is silent as to how he did it.

Perhaps North switched to a diamond?

More likely is that North switched to a spade and play developed in a similar way to that in the other room, which we'll now go to.

In the replay Perron tried a light third in hand opening but the Italians were not inconvenienced and the final contract was the same.

South led the three of spades and when declarer played dummy's nine, Perron followed with the eight and Bocchi won with the jack. He took a losing club finesse and Perron played another spade. After winning with the ace of spades, declarer took his club tricks ending in dummy. Perron discarded the five of diamonds and the two of hearts. Declarer came to hand with a diamond and could now get home by cashing the ace of hearts, removing North's exit card, and exiting with the queen of spades, forcing North to lead away from the queen of diamonds.

To the surprise of the audience and the groans of the Italian supporters he exited with his spade before cashing the ace of hearts. Perron took his tricks and played the ten of hearts. One down and 12 IMPs to France who led 18-3.

Both teams reached a good slam on Board 5 but the next board saw France increase their lead.

Board 6. East/West Game. Dealer East.

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

	♠ A Q 8 7 4		
	♥ Q 7 6		
	♦ A 3		
	♣ 8 7 5		

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Multon	Lanzarotti	Mouiel	Buratti
		Pass	INT
2♦	3♣	Pass	3♠
4♦	Dbl	4♥	Dbl
All Pass			

West transferred to show hearts and then introduced his second suit.

There was nothing to the play in four hearts doubled and the contract failed by one trick; -200.

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Duboin	Perron	Bocchi	Chemla
		Pass	1♠
2♥	3♣	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

West was very cautious in the Open Room. If he had no way of showing a two-suiter on the first round of bidding, he surely should have risked four diamonds on the second. Chemla was soon claiming ten tricks; +430 and a new score line, France 25 Italy 3.

Board 8. Love All. Dealer West.

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

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Multon	Lanzarotti	Mouiel	Buratti
Pass	1NT	Pass	2♣
Pass	2♥	Pass	2♣
Pass	2NT	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Duboin	Perron	Bocchi	Chemla
Pass	1♥	Pass	2♣
Pass	2♥	Pass	3♦
Pass	3♣	Pass	4NT
Pass	6♣	Pass	6NT
All Pass			

It is no crime to miss 6NT on this board, but the friendly layout in the red suits meant that twelve tricks were easily available; 11 IMPs, 36-3.

Board 12. North/South Game. Dealer West.

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



Frank Multon (France)
"How should I know?"

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Multon	Lanzarotti	Mouiel	Buratti
4♥	4NT	Pass	5♦
Pass	Pass	5♥	Dbl
All Pass			

West opened a red blooded four hearts and North came in to show the minors. East might have raised the ante at once, but by following the route he took he made it unlikely that his opponents would go on to a possibly making slam.

The play was quickly over, the defenders collecting all their tricks for +500.

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Duboin	Perron	Bocchi	Chemla
1♥	2NT	3♥	3♠
Pass	4♣	All Pass	

Should West have saved? Once again the play was simple, ten tricks +620; 3 more IMPs for France.

There now followed a series of rather dull boards, not exactly what the Italian supporters were hoping for. There was one piece of good news for them towards the end of the match.

Board 18. North/South Game. Dealer East.

♠ A Q 10 8 4 2											
♥ Q 10 8 5 3											
♦ 4											
♣ 10											
♠ 9 6		♠ K 5 3									
♥ 4		♥ K 9 7									
♦ A Q J 7		♦ 6 3 2									
♣ 9 8 7 6 4 3		♣ K Q J 5									
	<table border="1" style="text-align: center; width: 40px; height: 40px;"> <tr><td></td><td>N</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td></td><td>E</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td>S</td><td></td></tr> </table>		N		W		E		S		
	N										
W		E									
	S										
	♠ J 7										
	♥ A J 6 2										
	♦ K 10 9 8 5										
	♣ A 2										

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Multon	Lanzarotti	Mouiel	Buratti
3♣	4♥	All Pass	1♥

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Duboin	Perron	Bocchi	Chemla
2♠	3♣	Dbl	4♥
4NT	Pass	5♣	Dbl
All Pass			

The Italians won this particular bidding contest. In the Closed Room, notwithstanding the 'better minor' style of the French, the players we have canvassed would all have bid more than three clubs on the first round, opinion being divided between four and five. Declarer was not hard pressed to make 11 tricks; +650.

In the other room West started by showing a club suit and North cuebid to show the majors. East doubled to show good clubs and that made it easy for West to go on over four hearts. Would you have gone on to five hearts on the North/South cards?

Not easy, you will agree. The contract failed by one trick and Italy had clawed back 11 IMPs.

The remaining boards were without incident and the final score in favour of France was 39-27 IMPs, 17-13 VP. It had been an impressive performance from Chemla/Perron.

Hammamet observations

by Terry Radjef

Competitors, administrators and all other bridge enthusiasts who converged on Hammamet last week were officially welcomed during Sunday's opening ceremonies. Since that time, the heartwarming welcomes have come in many forms from every member of the hotel staff. Sometimes it's a smile as you walk by, sometimes it's a friendly "yes" or "On s'en occupera tout de suite, Monsieur!" (We'll take care of it right away, sir!)

Where in the world would most of the employees, when told that they had to give up their weekly day off for the next two weeks because of our World Championships, still be in a good mood? In spite of the language barrier, we can acknowledge that hospitality with a smile even when some bridge disaster is gnawing at us.

We will try in this column to help you with some of the problems of daily life at the hotel or when you want to go to town to visit and shop. You may address your questions to Terry Radjef and drop them off in the Daily Bulletin office on the second floor above the main playing room.

Here are some tidbits I have gathered in the past four days.

I suggest you keep with you at all times the white pass card they gave you upon registration. It allows you to charge food and drink to your room. If you have misplaced it, you can get another at the front desk with your room key and a photo identification.

Any time you change money into Tunisian currency, keep the receipt until you are out of the country. Change small amounts at a time because you can't change back into your usual currency until you are at the airport. At that time, if you have dinars left over, you can convert them but you will be asked for your receipts. There is a limit on what you can change back - 30% of the total amount you changed, as proved by your receipts.

Que sera, sera...

by Knut Kjaernsrod

Droris Day may well have a point that what happens, happens, but I assume that you sometimes can give fate a hand. Take a look at hand Board 13 from the opening round of the Championship:

Game All. Dealer North.

♠ 8 4											
♥ 10 9											
♦ Q J 7 5 3 2											
♣ 9 7 5											
♠ K 10 5		♠ Q 9 3 2									
♥ A K 7 6 5		♥ J 4 3 2									
♦ 10 9 4		♦ K									
♣ 6 4		♣ J 8 3 2									
	<table border="1" style="text-align: center; width: 40px; height: 40px;"> <tr><td></td><td>N</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td></td><td>E</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td>S</td><td></td></tr> </table>		N		W		E		S		
	N										
W		E									
	S										
	♠ A J 7 6										
	♥ Q 8										
	♦ A 8 6										
	♣ A K Q 10										

Quite a few Souths ended in 3 NT scoring 660 on the lead of a low heart to the nine, jack and queen. That may seem an inevitable result when hearts are not played from the top, since South has no alternative to starting with the ace of diamonds. But try the effect of ducking the heart nine!

Would you have avoided leading the queen of diamonds from the table?

Jagged times for Jaggy

Who can blame Jaggy Shivdasani of India for feeling as if he is snake bitten? Four times in the first four matches he was on the wrong end of major swings. The first came in the Round 2 match against United States I.

Round 2. Board 16. East/West Game. Dealer West.

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

In the match we reported in the Daily Bulletin, both Canada and Australia played in 4♥, making seven. At most tables East/West arrived in 6♥, which always was made with an overtrick. But against Jaggy the Americans bid all the way to the grand slam – which of course made because of the fortuitous position of the ♠K.

Round 2. Board 19. East/West Game. Dealer South.

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

This was even worse. At most tables the final contract was 6♣, and of course this made because declarer was forced to play for the drop in the trump suit – no entry to dummy. But it was different at Jaggy's table, where Zia and Michael Rosenberg decided to double 6♣. On the auction the double called for a spade lead, so West led a spade to the ace, and the spade continuation went to declarer's king. And suddenly declarer had an entry to dummy!

He ruffed a spade and took the club finesse! Cur-tains!!!

Round 4. Board 8. Love All. Dealer West.

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

Jaggy thought his luck had changed on this deal. His opponents from Poland stopped in the diamond game, and it was clear that the slam had a good chance of making. But of course it didn't work out that way. His teammates did in fact get to 6♦, and the opening lead was a trump. That was a good lead for the defence, but declarer could still survive as long as a second trump wasn't led. But declarer, hoping for a reasonable split of the clubs, himself drew the second round of trumps. Now there were not enough trumps left to ruff the remaining low clubs, and the contract went down one.

Round 4. Board 15. North/South Game. Dealer South.

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

We saved the worst for last. Poland bid all the way to 6♣, and Jaggy, West, doubled. That left Santu Ghose with a tremendous problem on opening lead. Should he lead a heart? Maybe partner was void. Or did partner have a good holding in diamonds? After long thought, Ghose led . . . a heart! With the favourable lie of all cards, declarer was able to take all 13 tricks for the unlikely score of 1860. If Ghose had chosen a diamond instead, the contract would have been beaten three tricks on three diamonds and an uppercut.

In fact that's what happened at the other table where India stopped in 4♣. The defence led four rounds of diamonds, setting up a trump trick to beat the game contract one trick, while 6♣ doubled was making with an overtrick.

Helgemo strikes again!

by Knut Kjaernsrod

Geir Helgemo is indisputably one of the top players in the world, and he quite frequently produces IMPs out of thin air. His opening lead on this board from the Monday match against Italy contributed greatly to Norway's impressive 22-8 win:

North/South Game. Dealer North.

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

The Italians, Versace/Lauria produced the following auction to end in the good contract of 6♣:

North	South
1♣	1♠
2♥	2NT
3♥	3♣
4♣	4♦
4♥	4NT
5♠	6♣
Pass	

If I interpreted the Italian auction correctly, 2♥ was artificial and a series of cuebids followed by RKCB led to the slam. Which card would you put on the table at trick one?

Helgemo found the only card to give Lorenzo Lauria a problem – the ten of hearts!

Lauria pondered for a considerable amount of time, and he finally concluded that Geir was clever enough to underlead the ace and so called for dummy's king. Tor Helness took his ace and quickly fired back a low heart to beat the slam; 17 IMPs to Norway.

Concerning e-mail

E-mail facilities are available in the Press Room, as promised. However, the primary purpose of the Press Room is to provide a work area for working journalists. For this reason, only one computer will be set aside for e-mail messages. That means you will sometimes have to wait your turn.



The **International Bridge Press Association** is a club of some 500 of the world's bridge journalists and media people. Others can join as Associate Members. The main service to members is a monthly Bulletin edited by Patrick Jourdain, who is here in Hammamet. The Bulletin contains news, and topical bridge hands suitable for newspaper columns. Special editions go out within 48 hours of the end of all European and World Championships.

IBPA members may use the facilities of the Press Room at major championships such as this one, where there are computers, fax, internet and e-mail services. There are annual awards and clipping prizes for the journalists. A Handbook is available to all members with details about the membership.

The annual subscription is US\$60 or the equivalent in other currencies. New members also pay an initiation fee. Members who join now have membership through the end of 1998 for one year's subscription. Application forms can be obtained from the Press Room, located on the second floor of the Conference Area in the Sol Azur, above the Open Room.

The treasurer, Evelyn Senn, can usually be found in the Press Room from 10 a.m. to 11.30 a.m. and from 1.30 p.m. to 3.30 p.m. each day.