

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

Last-ditch qualifying battles in Bermuda, Venice races

Eleven teams are fighting for the eight quarterfinal places in the Bermuda Bowl. In the Venice Cup competition, nine teams are still in the running. Two matches remain today in each event.

Bermuda Bowl

The two United States teams appear to be shoo-ins to qualify. US I maintained their hold on first place with strong victories over France and South Africa after losing the morning match to New Zealand. For a time US II appeared poised to take over the top spot after triumphs over Chinese Taipei and New Zealand. But then they faced France, smarting from their afternoon defeat by US I. France had a fine set and whipped the Americans 21-9. That left US II in second place, 9.6 Victory Points behind.

Norway got back on track after a dismal day Thursday, winning big against India, Canada and Denmark. The Norwegians gained on both American teams and were only 6.4 VPs out of second place. Apparently there was a good reason for Norway's poor showing on Thursday – the whole team was suffering from some unexplained illness. But they were treated by a doctor yesterday morning – and the treatment must have worked.

France, Poland, China and Italy are all well positioned – they should qualify if they perform reasonably well in today's final two matches. But Chinese Taipei, in the last qualifying spot at the moment, is in danger. Australia, Denmark and Brazil are all within striking distance.

Venice Cup

This race is unbelievably tight at the top. For the fifth straight day France is in first place – but just barely. France defeated Netherlands and Brazil after losing to New Zealand to wind up with 262 Victory Points. But United States II, with Lynn Deas back in the lineup, scored powerful victories over Germany and South Africa after losing a squeaker to Great Britain. US II is now only 1 VP behind France.

But it doesn't end there. US I won two out of three, including a blitz against Colombia, to close only 1.7 VPs behind US II. And suddenly China is right there in the fight for the top qualifying spot. The Chinese trounced South Africa, Argentina and Italy to close with 259, only 3 VPs out of first and only .3 points out of third.

Netherlands, Canada and Great Britain rank fifth through seventh, but they are not far enough ahead of Italy and Germany to be confident about qualifying. But the real battle will be between Italy and Germany. Italy, a last-minute replacement for Israel, at the moment has a 4-point edge on Germany for the last qualifying position. Italy has a tough draw – they must face Great Britain and U.S. I. Germany's draw is a little easier – South Africa in the morning, but then first-placed France in the last match.



*The President of the
World Bridge Federation
and Mrs. José Damiani
Request the pleasure of the company of
All the Bermuda Bowl
& Venice Cup
Players, team officials and their partners
to Cocktails on the Upper Terrace
of the Royal Abur Hotel
from 7 p.m. to 8 p.m.
on Saturday, 25 October 1997
in the presence of
Marc Hodler
Vice-President of the International
Olympic Committee
and
Omar Sharif*

Bermuda Bowl - Results

Round 13

Table	Match	IMPs	VPs
1.	USA I - New Zealand	59 - 83	10 - 20
2.	USA II - Chinese Taipei	57 - 38	19 - 11
3.	India - Norway	23 - 40	11 - 19
4.	Canada - Venezuela	34 - 30	16 - 14
5.	Denmark - Italy	70 - 34	22 - 8
6.	China - Chile	50 - 31	19 - 11
7.	Brazil - Tunisia	73 - 34	23 - 7
8.	France - Australia	64 - 14	25 - 5
9.	South Africa - Poland	21 - 44	10 - 20

Round 14

Table	Match	IMPs	VPs
1.	France - USA I	42 - 65	10 - 20
2.	New Zealand - USA II	34 - 64	9 - 21
3.	Chinese Taipei - India	110 - 50	25 - 3
4.	Norway - Canada	60 - 23	23 - 7
5.	Venezuela - Denmark	48 - 88	7 - 23
6.	Italy - China	77 - 34	24 - 6
7.	Chile - Brazil	9 - 96	0 - 25
8.	Poland - Tunisia	90 - 36	25 - 4
9.	Australia - South Africa	46 - 78	8 - 22

Round 15

Table	Match	IMPs	VPs
1.	USA I - South Africa	73 - 34	23 - 7
2.	USA II - France	28 - 57	9 - 21
3.	India - New Zealand	60 - 14	24 - 6
4.	Canada - Chinese Taipei	51 - 91	7 - 23
5.	Denmark - Norway	29 - 64	8 - 22
6.	China - Venezuela	77 - 32	24 - 6
7.	Brazil - Italy	32 - 41	13 - 17
8.	Tunisia - Chile	36 - 43	14 - 16
9.	Australia - Poland	71 - 56	18 - 12

Bermuda Bowl - Program

Round 16

11h00

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

Round 17

14h30

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

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.

Bermuda Bowl Rankings after 15 rounds

1	U.S.A. I	284
2	U.S.A. II	274.4
3	NORWAY	268
4	FRANCE	257
5	POLAND	255
6	CHINA	251
7	ITALY	249.1
8	CHINESE TAIPEI	239
9	AUSTRALIA	233
10	DENMARK	232
11	BRAZIL	230
12	CANADA	204
13	VENEZUELA	199
14	INDIA	195
15	NEW ZEALAND	189
16	CHILE	165
17	SOUTH AFRICA	154
18	TUNISIA	136

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.

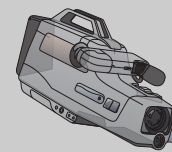
On submitting their lineups, team captains will be



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.



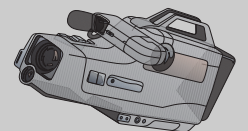
VUGRAPH

Bermuda Bowl - Round 16 11h00

Australia - USA I

Round 17 14h30

To be decided



Venice Cup - Results

Round 13

Table	Match	IMPs	VPs
10.	France - New Zealand	35 - 45	13 - 17
11.	Chinese Taipei - Tunisia	20 - 37	11 - 19
12.	Australia - USA II	41 - 15	20 - 10
13.	India - Italy	48 - 40	16 - 14
14.	Colombia - Argentina	44 - 59	12 - 18
15.	China - South Africa	60 - 34	20 - 10
16.	Great Britain - USA I	41 - 31	17 - 13
17.	Netherlands - Canada	40 - 38	15 - 15
18.	Brazil - Germany	20 - 42	10 - 20

Round 14

Table	Match	IMPs	VPs
10.	Netherlands - France	33 - 45	13 - 17
11.	New Zealand - Chinese Taipei	38 - 77	7 - 23
12.	Tunisia - Australia	16 - 54	7 - 23
13.	USA II - India	40 - 25	18 - 12
14.	Italy - Colombia	100 - 20	25 - 0
15.	Argentina - China	23 - 58	8 - 22
16.	South Africa - Great Britain	64 - 81	11 - 19
17.	Germany - USA I	25 - 59	8 - 22
18.	Canada - Brazil	60 - 39	19 - 11

Round 15

Table	Match	IMPs	VPs
10.	France - Brazil	64 - 40	20 - 10
11.	Chinese Taipei - Netherlands	49 - 48	15 - 15
12.	Australia - New Zealand	31 - 38	14 - 16
13.	India - Tunisia	85 - 24	25 - 3
14.	Colombia - USA II	18 - 69	5 - 25
15.	China - Italy	59 - 32	21 - 9
16.	Great Britain - Argentina	51 - 57	14 - 16
17.	USA I - South Africa	63 - 30	22 - 8
18.	Canada - Germany	45 - 56	13 - 17

Venice Cup - Program

Round 16

11h00

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

Round 17

14h30

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



Important

All participants, officials and visitors should confirm their departure dates and flight details to the Tunis Air desk situated in the lobby of the Sol Azur. Please confirm at least 24 hours prior to departure.

Venice Cup Rankings after 15 rounds

1	FRANCE	262
2	U.S.A. II	261
3	U.S.A. I	259.5
4	CHINA	259
5	NETHERLANDS	249
6	CANADA	245
7	GREAT BRITAIN	242
8	ITALY	236
9	GERMANY	232
10	INDIA	222
11	NEW ZEALAND	216
12	AUSTRALIA	211
13	ARGENTINA	207
14	CHINESE TAIPEI	206
15	SOUTH AFRICA	202
16	COLOMBIA	175
17	BRAZIL	172
18	TUNISIA	152

Special deal

Order the 1995 Bermuda Bowl and Venice Cup Book for \$20 American (shipping and handling included). This offer is valid only until 1 November 1997. Please see Elly Ducheyne in the Press Room and fill out the necessary form.

This book is about the championships in China in which the United States defeated Canada to win the Bermuda Bowl and in which Germany toppled the United States to win the Venice Cup.

17th Cairo Bridge Festival

Ramses Hilton Hotel
February 16-21 1998

\$35,000 in prizes

Open Pairs

3 sessions 16-17-18 February

Mixed Pairs

2 sessions 19 February

Swiss Teams

2 sessions 20-21 February

Gala Dinner & Prizегiving

21 February

The Champion of the Festival Cup will be presented by Omar Sharif.

Everybody is welcome!

A Helness throw-in

by Knut Kjaerstroed

Thor Helness read the cards well to land his somewhat shaky 3NT contract in Norway's match against Chinese Taipei.

♠ K 8 7 6 5
♥ 10 2
♦ Q 10 9 5
♣ K 2

♠ Q J 2
♥ A 6 5
♦ A K 3
♣ Q J 5 3

♠ A 9
♥ J 9 8 7
♦ J 6 4
♣ A 8 7 6

♠ 10 4 3
♥ K Q 4 3
♦ 8 7 2
♣ 10 9 4

N
W S E

He was East and the auction was simple:

West	North	East	South
Pass	Pass	INT	Pass
2♣	Pass	2♦	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

A spade lead would have beaten the game, but South started with the ♣10 which was ducked to North's king. He continued with a spade to the queen and Thor ducked a heart to South's queen. The ♠A was driven out, and Helness took his club tricks. Before the last one, this was the position:

♠ K 8 7
♥ 10
♦ Q 10 9
♣ -

♠ J
♥ A 6
♦ A K 3
♣ Q

♠ -
♥ J 9 8
♦ J 6 4
♣ 8

♠ 10
♥ K 4 3
♦ 8 7 2
♣ -

N
W S E

On the ♣Q North had to discard a spade. Helness then removed North's exit card with the ♥A and threw him in with the ♠J. North could collect his two tricks but then had to lead away from the ♦Q.



Appeal Committee:

Joan Gerard, Ernesto d'Orsi, Eric Kokish, Barbara Nudelman, Dan Morse.

Bermuda Bowl Round 6 Italy vs France

Board 2. North/South Game. Dealer East.

♠ 10 9 3 2
♥ J 9 6 5 2
♦ A Q
♣ 6 4

♠ 8
♥ A 10 8 3
♦ 8 4
♣ Q J 9 8 7 2

♠ A J 7 5
♥ 7 4
♦ 6 5 3 2
♣ A K 10

♠ K Q 6 4
♥ K Q
♦ K J 10 9 7
♣ 5 3

N
W S E

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

Result N/S +170

Facts:

The Director was first called to the table at the end of the auction. West asked him to note the slow double of INT by South and the length of time the tray had taken to return from the N/E side after East's second pass. At the end of the hand, the Director returned to the table; East/West complained of a failure to alert the two doubles on the S/W side of the screen and also suggested that South's second double was based upon the apparent hesitation by North. If the second double had been alerted, West asserted that he could have bid 3♣.

Tournament Director's Ruling:

The TD determined that the score should stand unaltered.

Appellant:

The decision was appealed by East/West.

The Players:

East/West argued that the failure to alert the doubles had inhibited West from bidding 3♣; they also argued that South had used unauthorised information in making his second double.

Appeal No. 3

reported by Grattan Endicott

There was disagreement whether South's first double had been alerted to West; South stated that he had alerted it and, upon request, demonstrated how he had done so not entirely in accordance with recommended procedure. West insisted that there had been no alert and that he had seen no alert. The Director had not been able to resolve this question of fact but noted that it was the responsibility of South to ensure that the alert was observed by West. The call had been alerted by North to East.

It was agreed that the second double had not been alerted to West. South stated that he did not feel it was necessary, having alerted the first double.

With respect to the allegation that unauthorised information had been used, N/S described South's first double, in view of its following passes of 1♦ and 1♠, as showing a good hand, two suited in diamonds and spades. North and East agreed that the delay in returning the tray after East's first pass was wholly due to time spent by both players in asking questions and giving explanations. Mr. Mouiel thought South had fully described his hand, by his own explanation of it, with the first double; he had perhaps believed the delay reflected a hesitation by North and had been prompted by this belief into the second double. South informed the Committee that when the opponents ran to 2♣ and stayed there it exposed their lack of strength and encouraged him to make the second effort.

The Committee:

The Committee considered that South had not sufficiently made sure that his first alert was noticed and was at fault also in not alerting the second double. However, the Committee was not persuaded that, behind screens, West had done enough to protect his own understanding of the auction: he had made assumptions and had asked no question.

The Committee was not attracted to the thought of ruling unauthorised information in the complex situation where South was alleged to have drawn an incorrect conclusion from the time spent by the board on the other side of the screen. There were indications that North must have some cards, however, bearing in mind the precise description of the South hand already given to North by the first double one might think a bid of 2♦ more appropriate than double (in which connection note that a double of 2♣ by North would have been for penalties).

What, in the Committee's view, remains unexplained, is the strange pass of 2♣ by North when he acknowledges that he has precise information as to South's suits and has four card support for the major and AQ in the other.

Committee Decision:

Neither ground for appeal is sufficiently sound to warrant a change of score. N/S are to be penalised, with no consequent benefit to E/W, 0.5 VP for South's failings in regard to the alerting of his doubles.

Transnational Teams Registration

Players who fail to qualify for the knockout stages of the Bermuda Bowl or Venice Cup and wish to enter a team in the Transnational Swiss Teams Championship should register their team as soon as possible.

Note that players in the Bermuda Bowl and Venice Cup do not have to pay an entry fee to take part in the Transnational Teams.

LOST!

One black fold-over clip-board with TACK in gilt on the front. Will anyone finding this please hand it in to the Pressroom.

Thank you

Thanks

The Polish Bridge Union would like to thank the following companies for their support and co-operation:

- The insurance company 'ATUT'
- The hotel 'Jan 111 sobieski'
- The computer company 'OPTIMUS'
- The clothing company 'BYTOM'

Venice Cup GREAT BRITAIN

Friday morning saw the vugraph show visit the Venice Cup for the first time. The match featured fourth-placed USA1, the champions of the United States, and seventh-placed Great Britain, the champions of Europe.

First blood went to the Americans, though the swing could easily have gone the other way.

Board 1. Love All. Dealer North.

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

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



Photograph courtesy of Kocak's new digital camera

Heather Dhondy (Great Britain)

That must be wrong as it is consistent with ♠J10x, whereas the play of the queen would leave Dhondy with nothing to lose by underleading her king on the next round. Sure enough, Dhondy continued with the ♠K, giving declarer a trump trick. She continued by cashing her two diamond winners then led a third spade. Declarer won and played a diamond and Dhondy ruffed and switched to the ♥5. Sokolow rose with the ace and needed to play a second heart to break up the impending squeeze. But she played another diamond and Dhondy ruffed and started to run the trumps. Alas, McGowan had not spotted the squeeze against dummy and bared her ♥K so dummy made a club at the end for five down; -50 but 4 IMPs to USA1.

Board 6. East/West Game. Dealer East.

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

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

A very difficult constructive bidding problem for East/West but the British pair had the methods to cope with the main issues.

West	East
Davies	Smith
2♠	2♦
3♥	3♦
4♠	4♦
5♦	4NT
	Pass

2♦ was a multi, weak in a major, strong in a minor or strong and balanced. 2♠ showed interest opposite hearts but not spades and 3♦ showed 8/9 playing tricks with diamonds. Davies showed her hearts but when Nicola Smith could only repeat her diamonds Davies cuebid the spade control. Smith checked on key cards and found two were missing so settled for 5♦.

West	East
Sokolow	Breed
1♥	1♦
3♥	3♣
6♣	3♠
Pass	6♦

The American methods were not so well suited to the problem. Breed had to open at the one-level but had no attractive rebid. She invented a club suit then used fourth suit forcing and now Sokolow jumped to 6♣, having no reason to imagine that her partner didn't have genuine clubs. Breed converted to 6♦, of course, but with the ♦K offside that had to fail, giving 12 IMPs to Great Britain.

A random swing, dependent on a finesse, but you would prefer to be able to have the British auction.

Board 8. Love All. Dealer West.

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

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

This one was made easy by the American methods in the Closed Room. Lisa Berkowitz opened a mini-no trump on the North cards and Smith overcalled 2♥. Letizia bid 4♥, transfer, and Berkowitz converted to 4♣. The defence took their tricks; +420.

West	North	East	South
Sokolow	McGowan	Breed	Dhondy
Pass	Pass	1♥	1♠
Dbl	Pass	2♥	2♠
Pass	Pass	3♥	Pass
Pass	3♠	All Pass	

In this room McGowan did not have an opening bid so North/South began with a simple overcall from Dhondy. McGowan might have bid 2♣ over Sokolow's negative double but you can understand why she passed. But now when Dhondy bid 2♠ over 2♥, surely she had shown at least intermediate jump overcall values and McGowan's pass looks a bit wet. Best would be a bid of 3♣, showing the main feature of the hand but clearly with spade support given the failure to bid clubs earlier. As it happens, that would have suited Dhondy very well. The defence against 3♣ began with three rounds of hearts and Dhondy ruffed high and drew trumps and now the diamond loser went away on the long club; +200 but 6 IMPs to USA1.

Board 11. Love All. Dealer South.

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

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

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

It seemed that the Americans were fated to lose on the board when Letizia/Berkowitz stayed out of game. They bid: 1♠ - 1♦ - INT - 2♣ - 2♦ - 2NT - Pass. Pat Davies led three rounds of spades and Marinesa Letizia played diamonds from the top and claimed nine tricks; +150.

In the other room Heather Dhondy opened 1♦, either five cards or, if only four, then 17+ balanced. Tobi Sokolow doubled and Liz McGowan bid 2♥, showing a raise to 3♦ with a reasonable heart suit. Perhaps Dhondy should be able to bid a forcing 2NT now to check back for a 5-3 heart fit, but she just raised to 4♥, probably assuming that McGowan would hold five of them.

4♥ was not without play but it would take some good guessing. The lead was a spade to the queen and king and Sokolow switched to the ♠K. McGowan won the ace and played ♥Q, ♥2 to the king, and a heart to the ten. So far so good, but now she finessed the ♦J and was one down; -50 and 5 IMPs to USA1.

Board 4. Game All. Dealer West.

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

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

This was one of the more entertaining boards of the round. In the Closed Room, Letizia opened a strong club in fourth seat and when Davies' 2♦ weak jump overcall came back to her she jumped to 4♠, where she scored +650.

In the Open Room, Sokolow opened 2♠ as dealer, showing a bad pre-empt in any suit. Mildred Breed guessed that her partner's suit might well be spades and passed this, leaving Dhondy with an interesting decision on the South cards. She decided that the best thing at the prevailing vulnerability was to pass, and collect a lot of hundreds. This would only be seriously wrong if her side had a slam.

McGowan led the ♠J to the king and ace. Dhondy cashed the ♠A and McGowan followed with the jack.

THE USA TODAY

Round 13



Marinesa Letizia, (USA 1)

Photograph courtesy of Kodak's new digital camera

2NT was a forcing heart raise and 3NT showed extra values in a balanced hand. 4♣ was Kickback, the response showing two key cards plus the trump queen, and 5♣ invited seven and asked for kings. It seems that Letizia might have bid 5NT now to show the ♠K, but perhaps it didn't occur to her. With a near minimum for her previous bidding she didn't want to bid beyond 6♥ and signed-off; +1010.

North	South
McGowan	Dhondy
	1♥
3♣	3♥
3♣	4♦
4NT	5♣
5NT	6♥
7♥	Pass

3♣ was a natural strong jump shift and 3♠ agreed hearts. Now 4NT and 5NT were essentially the same as 4♣ and 5♣ at the other table. Dhondy did not even have the luxury of knowing she was facing four-card heart support and it is perhaps not surprising that she chose to sign-off in 6♥ after a little thought. But McGowan had been thinking and realised that, while she couldn't be certain of 13 tricks, she might have bid seven on the previous round. She did so now, and that was 11 IMPs to Great Britain.

There is a lesson to be learned from this deal. Suppose that the Americans had appealed against the 7♥ bid, given that North had taken control and received a negative response from partner but only after some thought. It is quite possible that the 7♥ bid would be cancelled by an appeals committee. All credit to Sokolow and Breed for accepting the result in good spirit. The moral is not to make bids like 5NT without thinking because sometimes partner's tempo may remove some of your options on the next round.

Board 12. North/South Game. Dealer West.

♠ K 9 8 7 3											
♥ A 8 7 5 2											
♦ 6											
♣ J 4											
♠ 10 2		♠ 6 5 4									
♥ Q		♥ J 10 9 6 3									
♦ K Q J 9 8 7 5		♦ 3									
♣ K Q 3		♣ A 6 5 2									
	<table border="1" style="margin: 0 auto;"> <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 Q J											
♥ K 4											
♦ A 10 4 2											
♣ 10 9 8 7											

This was a dull board in the Closed Room and a great result for Smith/Davies. Davies opened 1♦ as dealer and Berkowitz passed. Smith responded 1♥, Davies

rebid 2♦, and that was that. Davies lost two trump tricks so that was +90.

In the Open Room, McGowan cuebid 2♦, showing both majors, over the opening bid. That silenced Breed and Dhondy jumped to 4♣. That contract can be made but it takes some care and not everybody managed it. Dhondy didn't have to worry about the play because Sokolow saved in 5♦. Dhondy doubled, of course, and the defence took their top tricks then led a third spade. Sokolow ruffed, crossed to the ♠A and played a diamond to her seven; two down for -300 and 9 IMPs to Great Britain.

Board 13. Game All. Dealer North.

	♠ A K J 10 6 4 2										
	♥ 8 3										
	♦ K J 9 8										
	♣ -										
♠ 9 8 7 3		♠ -									
♥ 4 2		♥ Q J 10 9 7 5									
♦ 7 2		♦ A Q 3									
♣ Q 10 6 3 2		♣ K 8 7 4									
	<table border="1" style="margin: 0 auto;"> <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										
	♠ Q 5										
	♥ A K 6										
	♦ 10 6 5 4										
	♣ A J 9 5										

Another close slam decision and again the winning action was to stop in game (actually, this one is significantly worse than the diamond finesse because of entry problems). The Americans dealt with the hand very easily. Berkowitz opened 4♦, showing a good 4♣ bid, Smith overcalled 4♥, and Letizia bid 4♣, ending the auction.

McGowan opened only 1♠ and Breed overcalled 2♥. Dhondy made a negative double and McGowan jumped to 4♣. Now Dhondy had a fair bit to spare for her double and made a slam try, cuebidding 5♣. McGowan cuebid in turn, 5♦, and that was all Dhondy needed to bid the slam. Perhaps McGowan might not have made the 'automatic' cuebid. She didn't have all that much to spare for her 4♣ bid and the 5♣ bid had hardly improved her hand.

Anyway, justice was done when there were two diamond losers; 13 IMPs to USA 1.

Board 16. East/West Game. Dealer West.

	♠ A Q										
	♥ Q 10 5 3 2										
	♦ 8 7										
	♣ A Q 9 7										
♠ 10 9 2		♠ K J 6 5 4									
♥ A 4		♥ J 9 8									
♦ Q 5		♦ 10 9 4 2									
♣ K J 10 8 4 2		♣ 5									
	<table border="1" style="margin: 0 auto;"> <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										
	♠ 8 7 3										
	♥ K 7 6										
	♦ A K J 6 3										
	♣ 6 3										

Remember Board 4? Again Sokolow opened with a pre-empt and was allowed to play there while her teammates were playing game on the opposing cards.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Davies	Berkowitz	Smith	Letizia
1♣	1♥	1♠	2♠
Pass	2NT	Pass	3♦
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

The Americans did well to overcome the East/West bidding and reach game. Smith led her singleton club to

the ten and queen. Then Berkowitz led a heart to the king and ace. Davies switched to the ♠10 for the queen and king and all Smith had to do was return a spade and down the contract would have gone. But she was not convinced that Davies would have the ♠9 and switched to a diamond. Berkowitz went up with the ace, cleared the hearts and eventually dropped the ♦Q to make nine tricks; +400.

On vugraph, Sokolow opened 3♣ on the West hand, supposedly a sound pre-empt. Should anyone bid over that? Again the vulnerability was no doubt a contributory factor in Dhondy's decision to go quietly. McGowan led a heart against 3♣ – nine, king and ace. Sokolow returned a heart to the queen and McGowan switched to a diamond. Dhondy won the king and ace of diamonds and continued with the jack. Sokolow ruffed with the eight, over-ruffed with the nine. Now McGowan switched to the ♠A, followed by the queen. Sokolow could see a possible spade ruff coming so threw her third spade on the ♥J before playing a club for the ten and queen. But that heart play was counter-productive because it meant that now McGowan could play a fourth heart and Dhondy could ruff with the six, promoting McGowan's ♠7 into a trick. That brought the contract up to four down; -400 and an unusual push.

Board 18. North/South Game. Dealer East.

	♠ Q 9 7										
	♥ K 6 5										
	♦ 10 6 5 2										
	♣ 6 5 2										
♠ A K J 10 4 3 2		♠ 8 6 5									
♥ 7		♥ A J 10 4 3									
♦ Q 8 7 3		♦ K									
♣ K		♣ A 9 7 3									
	<table border="1" style="margin: 0 auto;"> <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										
	♠ -										
	♥ Q 9 8 2										
	♦ A J 9 4										
	♣ Q J 10 8 4										

Another close slam hand on which it was right to stay low, but this time the slam is well over 80% so can be considered to be genuinely unlucky. Both our East/West pairs were equally poor in that they stopped in game, but neither will be complaining.

West	East
Davies	Smith
	1♥
1♠	2♣
4♣	4♥
4♣	Pass

Smith's immediate spade raise seemed to have put the British pair in some jeopardy but Davies splintered and respected the 4♣ sign-off.

West	East
Sokolow	Breed
	1♥
1♠	2♣
4♣	Pass

Breed did not raise spades, preferring to show her second suit. 2♣ is a wide-range bid and Sokolow might have gone more slowly now, just in case. However, she jumped to 4♣ and that was that.

This board produced swings in several matches but in USA 1 v Great Britain it was just a dull push.

The match ended in a 41-31 IMP, 17-13 VP win for Great Britain, leaving both teams in the qualifying positions but still with plenty of work to do.

Bermuda Bowl

Round 12

USA II vs Norway

by Barry Rigal

Meckstroth and Rodwell took on Helgemo/Helness in the Open Room and produced a very sound set. Allied to a good card from their team-mates, it resulted in a second successive blow to the Norwegians' hopes.

Board 3. East/West Game. Dealer South.

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

Different partnerships have different ideas about the right way to handle the South cards. Geir Helgemo opened a 15-17 no trump and Tor Helness transferred to spades then bid 3NT. The automatic club lead, led to a swift three down when Helgemo won the club and finessed in hearts – his best chance.

By contrast, Dick Freeman opened 1♦ and rebid 2♦ over the 1♠ response. When Nick Nickell raised to 3♦, Freeman tried 3♥ and Nickell bid 3NT. Erik Saelensminde led the ♥9 and when Nickell played the ace from dummy Boye Brogeland elected to play the queen. Nickell, charmed, crossed to hand in hearts and played a diamond to the eight, making no less than eleven tricks for an 11 IMP pick-up.

Then Jeff Meckstroth took a good view with:

♠ J872 ♥ J9652 ♦ A6 ♣ 62

His partner opened a Precision 1♦ and rebid INT to show 11-13 over Meckstroth's 1♥. Meckstroth ran to 2♥ and made it on an unchallenging defence, while INT was going two down in the other room.

Then it was Eric Rodwell's turn to be tested with a problem. He opened a mini-no trump at favourable vulnerability with:

♠ J764 ♥ A942 ♦ A9 ♣ J62

and Helgemo doubled for penalties. Meckstroth jumped to 3♠, pre-emptive, and Helness bid 4♥. What to do? Rodwell passed and led spades, setting up a force to beat the contract by a trick. The bad news was that, facing:

♠ AQ10953 ♥ 5 ♦ 53 ♣ Q1073

4♠ was cold – in fact it made eleven tricks in the other

room, so Norway had reduced the USA2 lead to 10 IMPs.

But it would be a while before there was any more good news for Norway, while USA2 put together a string of good results.

First of all, Helness had:

♠ J973 ♥ K ♦ AQJ6 ♣ 10632

and heard Rodwell open 4♥ in front of him, vulnerable against not. The auction came round to him and he passed it out, while Nickell doubled in the other room and eventually defended 5♥. The defence had three tricks available to them on the correct lead and duly took them at both tables for 12 IMPs to USA2.

Then Rodwell found himself in a testing contract:

Board 8. Love All. Dealer West.

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

West	North	East	South
Meckstroth	Helness	Rodwell	Helgemo
1♣	3♦	3NT	Pass
6NT	All Pass		

Helgemo led a diamond and after a lot of thought Helness took the ace and returned the suit. Helgemo could perhaps have worked out to pitch a spade on this (his actual choice of a heart was, in my opinion, a little naive). Rodwell took the club finesse, unblocked the spades and crossed to the ♥J to cash the remaining spades. In the ending he had to make a crucial discard from dummy on the fourth spade and to guess whether Helgemo had 4-5-1-3 shape or 4-6-1-2. He got it right by throwing a heart, and that was 11 IMPs to USA2 instead of the loss of a similar number.

Board 9. East/West Game. Dealer North.

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

This hand was a similar exercise for Norway, a loss which could just as easily have been a big pick-up.

Helness and Helgemo bought the hand in 3♥ down three after using their patented 2♦ opening to show both majors.

In the other room, Saelensminde was able to open a strong no trump on the East cards and played 3NT on a diamond lead. He won in hand and misguessed the clubs. Freeman shifted to a heart and declarer knocked out the ♦K. He now had nine tricks, but Freeman found the shift to the ♠A, allowing the defence to cash out for



Geir Helgemo, (Norway)

one down.

On Board 10, Meckstroth was at his devious best. See Jean-Paul Meyer's article below.

However, on the next board Rodwell was more successful in finding another queen than his counterpart. That was worth 10 IMPs to USA2 who were now leading by 50 IMPs after only twelve boards.

Fortunately for Norway, the USA2 flow of IMPs dried up at this point. Both North/South pairs flattened a series of boards with some substandard results – three down in 3NT with 4♠ cold, one down in 3NT with 4♣ cold, and staying out of a perfect fit grand slam which is about a 65% chance, amongst others. The Norwegians picked up a few partscore IMPs to reduce the damage to 43 IMPs, a 6-24 loss.

Meckstroth's big theft

by Jean-Paul Meyer

Jeff Meckstroth is under survey after stealing a contract. Norwegians Geir Helgemo and Tor Helness were the victims, a role they are not used to.

Round 12. Board 10. Game All. Dealer East.

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

The contract was 5♣ by West (yes, 3NT is much easier!) Helness led a low diamond, and Jeff played the 10 from dummy! Of course Helgemo's queen held the trick. Now South, a young, promising and confident player, played back a diamond. An suddenly there was no longer any efficient defence!

Meckstroth discarded a heart on the ♦A and led a heart to his queen. Helness won this and fired back a spade – but it was too late. Meckstroth rose with the ace and played the ♥J. South had to put up the ace, which Meckstroth ruffed in hand. He cashed the ♣A and crossed to the ♠K, and the ♥10 took care of his spade loser.

I tell you – this man is dangerous. We shall do everything possible to keep him under control.



Richard Freeman, (USA II)

The Trump Unblock

by Patrick Jourdain (GB)

Apolinary Kowalski of Poland was the declarer who found the brilliancy which eluded some of the world's finest players. It occurred on Board 13 of the Round 14 match between Poland and the hosts, Tunisia:

Round 14. Board 13. Game All. Dealer North.

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

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

West <i>Romanski</i>	North	East <i>Kowalski</i>	South
	Pass	Pass	1♣
1♠	Pass	INT	Pass
3♦	Pass	3♥	Pass
4♥	Dble	All Pass	

Kowalski was in four hearts doubled from the East seat. The play proceeded card for card, for the first six tricks, exactly as it did on vugraph between USA1 and France, and in the match between Denmark and Venezuela. South led a high club, ruffed in dummy. Declarer came to hand with the king of diamonds, and finessed the spade. Next came the ace of diamonds and a diamond, ruffed low and over-ruffed by South.

It has been suggested that, at this point, South should lead a club, but in practice all three Souths led a trump won by the ace in dummy, leaving this end-position with the lead in the West hand:

Declarer has made five tricks so far. When Zia was declarer, he ruffed a diamond low, ruffed a club, and played the winning diamond, but Perron, North, discarded his spade, and the game failed. When Vernon was declarer for Venezuela, he ruffed the diamond low, took another spade finesse and led a winner off the table. Now Koch-Palmund as North can defeat the game by ruffing high and leading a trump. Declarer is stuck in the East hand and has to concede two clubs at the end. But North made the mistake of ruffing low, and now declarer succeeded by over-ruffing, ruffing a club, and making his last trump en passant.

Kowalski found the solution in the diagrammed ending. He ruffed the diamond high, keeping his precious six of trumps! Then he repeated the spade finesse and led a winning diamond off the dummy. He needed only three more tricks. If North does not ruff high and lead a trump, declarer easily makes his three remaining trumps, ruffing in hand, ruffing a club in dummy, and finishing with the coup-en-passant.

The Tunisian North did very well, correctly ruffing with his king of trumps and leading his seven of trumps. But now Kowalski's great foresight became relevant. He was able to play the six of trumps from his own hand and win the trick in dummy with the eight! The ace of spades in North and his remaining trump made ten tricks.

Suicidal Unblock

by Villy Dam (Denmark)

Bermuda Bowl Round 12
Denmark v Chile

Board 4. Game All. Dealer West.

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

West	North <i>Koch-Palmund</i>	East	South <i>Auken</i>
Pass	Pass	1♣	1♦
1♥	2♦	2♥	All Pass

North, Dennis Koch-Palmund, followed Jens Auken's lead-directing overcall and led the ♦J. Declarer cashed three rounds of diamonds, throwing a club from hand. Then came a small heart. Auken took his ace-king and declarer unblocked dummy's queen in order to avoid being stranded in dummy and forced to lead a black suit away from the king. That was all that the Danes needed. Auken led a club to the ace and Koch-Palmund switched to a spade for the ace-queen. With five defensive tricks in the bag, Auken led a diamond and Koch-Palmund just showed his ♥10 to declarer - one down.

A Helness squeeze

by Knut Kjaernsroed (Norway)

In a previous article I showed how Tor Helness of Norway executed a throw in, and it seems right to complete the picture by showing a squeeze by the same man. He was North in the match against USA 2, and this was Board 14:

Board 14. Love All. Dealer East.

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

West <i>Meckstroth</i>	North <i>Helness</i>	East <i>Rodwell</i>	South <i>Helgemo</i>
	3♠	Pass	1♥
3♦	4NT	Pass	4♠
Pass	5♠	All Pass	5♦

Helness can hardly be blamed for making a slam try after his partner's opening, but he must have been rather disappointed to discover that three of Helgemo's points were the queen and knave of diamonds. Rodwell led the king of diamonds and continued the suit, ruffed. Communications between the hands were not too good, and after pondering for a while Helness decided to lay down the ace of spades and played another spade to Meckstroth's king. He won the club continuation with the ace, laid down the king of clubs and played all his trumps. Before the last one this was the position:

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

On the last trump Rodwell was squeezed out of his

fourth heart and Tor duly landed his contract with the heart king and a heart to the ten.

An equally interesting position would have arrived had he entered dummy with the ace of hearts and taken the spade finesse. On the run of the trumps this position would have arisen:

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

On the last trump, East is in a hopeless state. If he discards one of his clubs, Helness can simply establish his fourth club, and if Rodwell lets his ♥8 go, Tor can cash the king of hearts and play ace and another club. East would be forced to lead away from his second club honor and give an entry to the established hearts.

Bermuda Bowl

Round 12

USA I vs France

United States I, leading the pack in the Bermuda Bowl round-robin, and France, who won the World Team Olympiad last year, met in Match 14 yesterday in a battle of giants.

This match was loaded with action, but it didn't appear to be headed that way during the early boards. The first real action occurred on Board 4.

Board 4. Game All. Dealer West.

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

West	North	East	South
Rosenberg	Perron	Zia	Chemla
Pass	Pass	2♦	Dbf
3♦	Pass	Pass	3NT
Pass	4♠	Pass	5♣
All Pass			

3NT would go down on a red suit lead, there are four losers in 4♠, and Paul Chemla was headed for defeat in 5♣. Michael Rosenberg led a trump, but this did not help. Eventually declarer had to try the hearts, and with the ace over the king, the contract went one down.

At the other table the Americans arrived in 3NT by South, and West led a spade. Chip Martel quickly gathered in his nine tricks and 12 IMPs.

Board 6. East/West Game. Dealer East.

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

Both teams reached 5♦ here, the standard contract



Zia Mahmood (USA I)

throughout all matches. Naturally all the Easts doubled, figuring they were looking at three sure tricks. US I duly went down on a heart lead to the ace, but France actually made the game. Rosenberg led the ♠5 to the jack, and Chemla ditched a heart on the ♣A. Next came a club ruff followed by two more top spades on which he got rid of his losing heart. When he led a heart, Zia's ace was ruffed away, and Chemla ruffed another club. He cashed the last spade and then led the ♥K. Zia had no answer to this – the only tricks for the defence were the top diamonds. 12 IMPs to France.

Board 9. East/West Game. Dealer North.

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

Martel and Lew Stansby played in a quiet diamond partial for plus 130. It wasn't so quiet in the Open Room.

West	North	East	South
Rosenberg	Perron	Zia	Chemla
All Pass	Pass	3♣	3NT

Rosenberg led the ♣J, overtaken by the queen and the king continued after South ducked. Chemla won and cashed the ♦A followed by his top spades. Next he led the ♦7, covered by the 8. If he ducks this, he has enough tricks for his contract, but naturally he feared that Zia had a doubleton diamond and would cash lots of club tricks after winning the diamond. So he went up with the king and cashed the queen. He set up the long diamond, and it was Rosenberg's lead. If he puts a heart on the table, declarer has no way to get to the good tricks in dummy. But Rosenberg actually led a spade, and Chemla gratefully won and cashed the good diamond for his contract. 7 IMPs to France.

Board 12. North/South Game. Dealer West.

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

Both teams got to 4♥ here and both teams made it for a push. In the Closed Room the opening lead was a club from South, so declarer put up the queen and had 10 tricks – nothing to it. But in the Open Room Chemla led the trump jack – and Zia apparently was going down. He won the heart with the king, crossed to the ♥8 and led the ♦Q. Chemla won with the ace – and suddenly he had a problem. Who had the ♦K? Zia had given him the chance to go wrong. It looked to Chemla as if



Michael Rosenberg, (USA I)

Zia had the ♦K, so extreme action was called for. After some thought he led the ♣K! Curtains for the defence!

Board 13. Game All. Dealer North.

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

This board is covered elsewhere in this Bulletin – there were many interesting variations when East/West played 4♥.

Zia ruffed the ♣A opening lead, crossed to the ♦K and took a spade finesse – successfully. He cashed the ♦A and played the ♦J, covered by the queen, ruffed with the 5 and overruffed with the 9. Chemla got out of his hand with his last heart, and Zia took dummy's ace. He led a diamond and ruffed it with the 6. Next came a club ruff and the last diamond – but Perron did not ruff. Now Zia was stuck in dummy. He cashed the ♠A but still had to lose two clubs and trump king. See Patrick Jourdain's article on page 10 to see how Kowalski of Poland made 4♥ against strong defence.

Board 14. Love All. Dealer East.

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

Both teams played in 3NT here, and a cursory look at the hand indicates that no doubt declarer made 10 tricks unless the opening lead was a spade, in which case declarer

er makes nine tricks. But look again. Zia got a club lead, cashed two top hearts, led a diamond to the ace and then finessed the ♠8, playing for a 3-1 split. Perron quickly shifted to a spade on winning the queen, and defence quickly cashed out for down one –10 IMPs to France.

Board 15. North/South Game. Dealer South.

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

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Multon	Stansby	Mouiel	Martel
			1♠
	Pass	2♣	2♣
	Pass	5♣	All Pass

This contract came home, declarer losing only two diamond tricks.

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Rosenberg	Perron	Zia	Chemla
			1♠
	Pass	2♣	3♠
	Pass	4NT	Pass
	All Pass		

Clearly this is not a bad contract – all it needs is for one of the diamond honours to be onside. In fact, the opening lead of a small heart actually gave Zia an opportunity to make the hand – duck to the queen and strip the hand. But of course ducking would require advance knowledge of the actual layout, and Zia had no such knowledge. After reaching the point of leading a diamond, Zia threw up his hands in despair and went down one. 10 more IMPs to France

Board 16. East/West Game. Dealer West.

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

The momentum had been all to France up to this point, but suddenly everything turned around and the Americans were on a roll. It started with this board. In the Closed Room Martel played a quiet 3♣, down two tricks – reasonable since East/West can make 3♣. But things got a bit out of hand in the Open Room.

West	North	East	South
Rosenberg	Perron	Zia	Chemla
			2♥ ⁽¹⁾
	Pass	3♣	Dbf
	4♠	Pass	Pass
	All Pass		

⁽¹⁾ Shows spades

Rosenberg and Zia defended carefully and got all six of their tricks – one club, two diamonds, two hearts and one spade – to defeat the contract 500. Nine IMPs to the Americans.

Board 17. Love All. Dealer North.

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

The difference in the bidding approach on this deal was major.

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Rosenberg	Perron	Zia	Chemla
	1♦	Pass	1♥
	2♦	Pass	2♠
	3♣	Pass	3NT
	All Pass		

On a low spade lead, Chemla took all 13 tricks.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Multon	Stansby	Mouiel	Martel
	1♦	Pass	1♥
	2♣	Pass	2♠
	3♣	Pass	4♣
	4♠	Pass	6♦
	7♦!!!	All Pass	

East led a spade, and West covered the 10 with the king and Stansby ruffed. He crossed to the ♠K and led the ♠J, covered by the ace and ruffed. Now the ♠Q provided a resting spot for the losing heart. All Stansby had to do was ruff his third club before drawing trumps and he had all the tricks for a 14-IMP pickup.

Board 19. East/West Game. Dealer South.

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

Mouiel and Multon got to 6♣ here – not a bad contract but certainly far from odds-on. The diamond finesse has to work and declarer has to find the ♠Q. The diamond finesse worked, but Mouiel went wrong in clubs, finessing North for the queen. Zia and Rosenberg had an interesting auction in the Open Room.

West	North	East	South
Rosenberg	Perron	Zia	Chemla
			1♠
	2♣	3♣	3♠
	Pass	4♣	Pass
	4♥	?	

Zia spent considerable time considering all the angles. Finally he threw his hands in the air and put the Pass card in the bidding tray. With the cards lying perfectly this worked out very well indeed – Rosenberg emerged with 12 tricks for another 13 IMPs to America.

Board 20. Game All. Dealer West.

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

It appeared likely that both teams would get to 5♣ here, but it didn't work out that way.

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Multon	Stansby	Mouiel	Martel
			5♣
	2♣	3♥	
	All Pass		

Chemla lost only the two aces and chalked up plus 750. It appeared that France had finally broken the American run on the last board.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Rosenberg	Perron	Zia	Chemla
			4♥
	2♣	3♥	5♣
	4NT	Pass	Pass
	6♣!!!	Pass	Pass
	All Pass		

Clearly something went wrong here. Was there a misunderstanding about the 4NT bid? Whatever it was, France was in a hopeless contract. Rosenberg scored his two aces for plus 200 – another 14 IMPs for US II.

France had led by 27 IMPs going into Board 16. But US II scored 50 IMPs on the last five deals – and that includes a push on Board 18. Winning by 23 gave the Americans a crucial 20-10 victory.



Photograph courtesy of Kodak's new digital camera

Paul Chemla, (France)

No aces – just ONES

Lynn Deas of United States II has spent most of these championships in a local hospital fighting an infection resulting from her ongoing battle against myasthenia gravis, a progressive disease for which no cure has yet been found. Finally her fever abated and she was released from the hospital on Thursday afternoon. Naturally she was at the table for the evening session against Chinese Taipei – her first appearance.

All the participants here are used to the fact that there are no aces in the decks being used here – there are ONES instead. But ONES were something entirely new to Lynn. One time she laid her hand down as dummy after opening the bidding with a pass. She had a 13 count, but she hadn't counted the ONE when she was evaluating her hand. Her opponents reached for Lynn's convention card, trying to figure out why she would pass with a full opening bid.

Then this deal came up.

Round 12. Board 13. Game All. Dealer North.

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

South bought the hand for 4♣, and Lynn was on lead. She led the ♣3! Who ever heard of leading from a five-card suit headed by an ace-jack against a suit contract! But Lynn didn't realise this was what she was doing – she was leading from five to the jack - you know, J-7-4-3-1.

Beth Palmer was quite confused by this lead, but she finally went up with the king. She was surprised when the king held, but not too surprised to lead back a club. Lynn now realised what was happening and she won the queen with the ONE. A third club forced declarer to ruff.

At this point declarer could still make her contract – cross to the ♦A, lead the ♠J for a finesse, then lead the ♥J when the spade finesse works. But declarer was understandably shaken up by the impossible opening lead, and she cashed her two top spades. As a result she

had to lose two trump tricks to East for down one.

Lynn has to play from a wheelchair – the disease has paralysed her to a major extent. She has to lay sidewise to the table in order to play her cards. But she maintains fine spirit and she has demonstrated sufficient stamina to play two full sessions a day.

In recent months she has clearly shown that she is still playing as well as ever despite the way the disease is encroaching upon her physically. She played her full share of boards at the United States Women's Trials last summer, and she was a key member of the American team that won the women's championship at the Marlboro China Cup championships in Chengdu last month.

Lynn has been the most successful woman player in the world over the past decade, with four world championships to her credit. She is playing with Beth Palmer, with whom she has a longstanding successful partnership.

Lynn's teammates have been very supportive throughout her difficult time here. Juanita Chambers went to visit her at the hospital whenever there was time after a match. Juanita has been extremely helpful to Lynn at all tournaments the two have attended. She makes sure that Lynn gets to the places she wants to go and does the things she wants to do. It is a common sight to see Juanita wheeling Lynn in her wheelchair. During her hospital stay, Lynn had plenty of the food she likes – Juanita made sure of this by bringing special dishes to her regularly.

Non-playing captain Sue Sachs and teammates Kathie Wei-Sender, Palmer, Irina Levitina and Kerri Sanborn also visited Lynn and kept up her spirits by telling her of the successes of their team.

Juanita and Beth have done very well even though they have been forced to play a tremendous amount of bridge. Juanita suggests that maybe her name should be Juanita Ripken after the American baseball player who has broken the record for the most consecutive baseball games played in. She has played every board of every session to date, and she plans to keep right on going.

Beth has missed only one session, and she has been the swing woman – she has partnered four of her teammates – Juanita, Lynn, Irina and Kerri.

The team was under considerable pressure for a time because Irina was knocked out of the competition by one of those "bugs" that has affected some persons here. During that period, US II played as a four-woman team.

But now they're back to six.

Hammamet observations - III

by Terry Radjef

This hotel complex has excellent food and good service as you already know. However, to explore and get a change of scenery, our guys and gals have strayed from the resort to enjoy Tunisian cuisine from other sources.

The better known specialties are the Tunisian egg roll, which is called the "brik", and a main dish called couscous, served with a variety of meats and sauces. Couscous is rolled semolina (wheat), most often cooked by vapour. Grilled fish is excellent, but you have to be willing to battle the bones.

The restaurants I have heard mentioned are Les Vergers de Hammamet on the second floor of a corner street across from the hotel. I am told that they have Tunisian entertainment Fridays and Saturdays. Les Trois Moutons and Chez Achour are in downtown Hammamet. They have received good reviews. To get there, take a quick and easy taxi ride – the cost is about one dinar. There are plenty of taxis in Hammamet.

If you wave at a taxi and it already has a passenger, it may stop anyway and give the chance to share the ride. You can wave it off or board. If you board, then the fare is about half a dinar.

We are happy to see our own bridge-playing world movie superstar, Omar Sharif. It may be of interest to you that he starred in his first big international film in 1957. The film, *Gala*, was shot here in Tunisia, and several scenes were shot in the Medina of Hammamet. Others were shot at Sidi Broussaid, north of Tunis.

This film is about a legendary character of the Maghreb (North Africa), called J'ha or Goha, whose adventures thrill the audience. *Sinbad the Sailor in the Thousand and One Nights* is of similar vein.

Another stroke of genius

by Knut Kjaernsrod

Board 12 in Norway's match against France produced another spectacular defensive play from Geir Helgemo:

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

After a slam invitational auction, Michel Perron landed in 4NT as North. Tor Helness led the ♣J which rode to the ace, and a small spade was led to the 8. Without the slightest hesitation, Geir took the king! The heart continuation was taken by the ace. Then followed the ♠A and a spade to the 10, and a somewhat surprised Perron saw the knave appear on his right. The contract was not in danger, but Geir got his well deserved nod of approval.



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.