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Issue: 14

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Ongeloflijk!! Incredible!!



The toast of The Netherlands – the ORBIS Venice Cup Champions

Orbis Venice Cup

The atmosphere was electric and with the Orbis Venice Cup title on the line, the players can be excused if the bridge was sometimes less than perfect. In what was surely one of the most sensational finishes to a match ever, it was **The Netherlands** who triumphed by the incredible margin of just 0.5 of an IMP. We salute the new holders of the title, only the fourth nation to have its name engraved on the cup. **Bep Vriend & Marijke van der Pas** played on the losing team in Perth in 1989. Both were making their fourth appearance in the competition. **Jet Pasman & Anneke Simons, Wietske Van Zwol & Martine Verbeek** were all appearing for the second time. **Ed Franken**, the Captain, and **Chris Niemeijer**, the coach, complete the winning squad.

Commiserations to the losers, **USA I, Renee Mancuso, Jill Meyers, Randi Montin, Shawn Quinn, Janice Molson, Tobi Sokolow**, and NPC **Jo Morse**. Meyers, Montin and Sokolow were defending the title they won in Hammamet in 1997.

Orbis Bermuda Bowl

The Party's over, but the Show goes on.

Despite the fact that they have been overwhelmed by **USA I, Brazil** will contest today's remaining 32 boards. That is a tribute to their fortitude and fighting spirit. The American team's total of 443 IMPs is already the highest ever recorded in a final, and there are still two sessions to play!

Orbis World Transnational Teams Championship

Teams from USA/Poland and USA/Canada are battling it out in the final. With 32 boards to go, **Meltzer** enjoys a lead of 17 IMPs over **Milner**.

Orbis World Computer Bridge Championship

GIB (USA) beat **WBridge5 (France)**, 178 - 77 IMPs, to win the ORBIS World Computer Bridge Championship. Play was curtailed after 48 of the scheduled 54 boards had been played.

VICTORY BANQUET

21 January 2000

All tickets for the banquet **MUST** be collected by team captains from the Victory Banquet Desk today, between 10 a.m. and 12 noon.

Only teams that have registered for the banquet will be issued with tickets!

CLOSING CEREMONY

N.P.C.'s of all 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place teams, and the winner of the Orbis World Computer Bridge Championship are requested to meet with the ceremony organizer in the Mid-Ocean Amphitheatre this afternoon at 4:30 p.m. for a briefing on the procedure and protocol of the event.

All other attendees are respectfully reminded to be seated in the amphitheatre by 6:45 p.m.

Thanking the main ones and all others

I think that most of players present at the **ORBIS World Championships** consider that both the VuGraph and Bulletins ran smoothly. It is not because, as coordinator for both, I have done anything special, in fact I had less to do than in previous events. That means that someone should be responsible for this achievement. As a matter of fact were many and I want to pay tribute to all of them.

Daily News

I am specially grateful to **Mark Horton**, the editor, present all the time and everywhere, writing a lot and speaking still more, having an unstoppable laugh the rest of the time. **Brian Senior** and **Brent Manley**, assistant editors, showed utmost competence and among other things gave you full reports of the matches of the day with precise details and best analysis.

Stelios Hatzidakis was responsible for the lay out and also for the giving the films to the printer in time so that the Bulletin was ready every morning at 8.00am

I want to give special credit to **Ron Tacchi**, English but living in France, not only for his good spirit in the Bulletin room, but also for the excellent photographs he provided us with every day.

Excellent assistance was provided by our Dutch friend **Lex de Groot** and we would have had many more errors without the expert proof reading from **Graham Fenton**.

If everything went smoothly, it is also due to the quality of the material provided by the WBF and Bermudan Federation, and the very useful technical help given by **Mark Newton**.

We got the results in time, shortly after the play had ended, so things, in fact were very easy.

VuGraph

Everyone was astonished by the quality of the VuGraph, and the French technique should be emphasized. Perhaps praise should not come from me, but nevertheless I will!

Thanks for the camera work to **Bernard Delange**, **Paul Binisti** and **Bernadette Pasquier**, (Zoomscope). Results came quickly, sequence, leads, details of play, running scores due to **Laurent Rigaud**, **Elisabeth Antelme**, **Babette Piganeau** and **Brigitte Piquet**.

The commentators were on the spot at every moment. By now you will surely never forget **Barry Rigal's** voice of which you had the benefit for hours. He was quick, and also right most of the time. Thanks to the very competent others, especially when they succeeded in uttering a word for a minute or so. They are **Bobby Wolff**, witty and thoughtful, **Eric Kokish**, systems expert and fast in analysis, **David Ezekiel** to whom the audience has been most grateful for the many moments of laughter they got.

Thanks, because of you all- and many others I must admit. One of them, and not least, being **José Damiani**. The Orbis Bermuda Bowl 2000 edition is an event to be remembered!

Jean-Paul Meyer

Limerick Competition Update

Today's two limericks are from David Rodney and Virgil Anderson

*There was a young girl from Bermuda
Who wanted to catch barracuda
A rod and canoe
She felt sure would do
Her fate was quite sad - the fish chewed her*

*There was a young girl from Bermuda
Whose skills were known to include a
Knack at a guess
Of a two-way finesse
As kibitzers cried "She's so good - ah!"*

I still have a large supply of limericks for publication. However I will share with you some of the attempted rhymes with 'Bermuda' which have not passed the stringent quality control checks we impose here in the Bulletin Room, the list includes:- sooner, Vancouver, Steen-Moller, peculiar and nature.

The original contest specified the first line 'There was a young girl from Bermuda', however not an inconsiderable number of people have submitted limericks with a different first line and so that they may have their brief moment of glory, this is one of many submitted by George Torney.

*This Bermudian girl was a beaut
Though oft she bid the wrong suit
The men asked her to play
Both at night and at day
Just because they found her so cute*

Spread the word

The ACBL has developed a program to introduce non-players to the game of bridge. Since its release last year, Learn to Play Bridge has been well received.

If you know of someone who might want to learn the game, you can take a diskette of the program, written by Canada's Fred Gitelman, home with you. Pick up your copies of Learn to Play Bridge at the Hospitality Desk or in the Daily Bulletin office.

The program is also available on the ACBL's web site, www.acbl.org, and can be downloaded free.

Attention

Hotel Checkout time is 12 noon. Cashiers will be on duty on Friday evening for settlement of accounts. Express checkout form will be delivered to all 'departing rooms'.

Strong leads from strong suits get strong results for strong players

by Alan Truscott

In the Transnational Teams, a player to whom I am connected by marriage picked up the following as West:

♠ Q 9 6 4 3
♥ A K J 10
♦ 4
♣ 10 9 2

With East-West vulnerable, the bidding was:

West	North	East	South
Pass	1♥	Pass	INT ⁽¹⁾
Pass	2♣*	Pass	2NT*
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

⁽¹⁾ A forced reply

The spade suit did not seem to offer much future, so West chose the heart jack, quite quickly. The complete deal was:

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

The play went briskly. The heart jack held, of course. The heart ten won the next trick, of course. A shift to the club ten followed, and when East won the diamond ace two more heart tricks provided a 10 IMP gain.

Is that the best opening lead of the Transnational? Thank you, Dorothy.

Two corrections

- Alan Truscott's quiz answers should have noted that the Australian Bermuda Bowl team was not the only team with no members born in the country represented. The Bermuda Venice Cup team had no players born in Bermuda.
- The description of the first Bermuda Bowl in an early issue of the Daily News wrongly stated that Britain finished second, behind the United States, in a three-team field. The European team, with two pairs from Sweden and one from Iceland, had that honour.

THE 1999 IBPA ANNUAL AWARDS

The 1999 IBPA Personality of the Year:

Marc Hodler (Switzerland)

Marc Hodler has a remarkable record: he has international significance in bridge, skiing and the Olympic movement.

He learned to play bridge, from his family in Berne, Switzerland, at the age of nine and read the first major book on the game, Culbertson's Blue Book, when it appeared in 1930. He represented his country in one European Championship and was President of the Swiss Bridge Federation from 1955 to 1985.

He learned to ski at the age of five, which he says was too late: future champions must start at two. He was President of the International Skiing Federation for an astonishing 47 years, from 1951 to 1998. This led him into the Olympic movement, based in Lausanne and he has been a member of the International Olympic Committee since 1963. His efforts to counter corruption within the movement bore fruit in 1998, when ABC News obtained some secret documents from Salt Lake City.

Mr. Hodler has worked hard to bring bridge into the Olympics. The first step is the international team contest now being staged annually in Lausanne. The second, he hopes, will be a similar demonstration event in Salt Lake City. Finally, perhaps in Turin in 2006, we can look forward to an official bridge event with gold, silver and bronze medals. That is an exciting prospect for us all.

The IBPA 1999 Award for Best Play:

Jeff Meckstroth (USA)

by Omar Sharif (Egypt)

See Bulletin 413, June '99

Omar Sharif's column in the London Observer on 6th June reports this deal, Board 9, in the second session of the Cavendish Pairs Qualifying:

It is not often that declarer makes a play that leaves me feeling that I still have a lot to learn about this game. However Jeff Meckstroth of the US is one of those masters of the game who occasionally produce a coup to take your breath away. With that huge hint, put yourself in his shoes as declarer on the following deal:

Dealer South. E/W Vul

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Cope</i>	<i>Johnson</i>	<i>Chu</i>	<i>Meckstroth</i>
2♦	2♥	Pass	1♥
2♠	3♣	Dble	3♥
All Pass			

Cope led ace and another trump on a very informative auction, after Meckstroth had opened on very light values – some would use harsher language than that! Meckstroth could immediately form the picture of West's hand as having four spades and six diamonds, with a probable singleton club honour (no club lead) and with the diamond honours split (no top diamond lead).

At trick three he led his singleton club, won the return of the queen of spades in dummy and advanced the queen of clubs, covered and ruffed. This was the ending - what would you do with the sight of all four hands?

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

South is on lead, needing six more tricks. As you can see, playing on diamonds does not work, East will take the trick and draw a round of trumps. Ruffing a spade in dummy brings you to eight tricks, but not to nine.

Meckstroth found the spectacular coup of leading the ten of spades from hand – be honest, would you have thought of it?

If West takes the trick and leads a spade back (a diamond is no better) declarer wins in hand, pitching a diamond from dummy. He plays the ace of diamonds, ruffs a diamond, ruffs a club and leads a losing heart, to endplay East into leading a club at trick 12 into the tenace in dummy.

In fact, at this point Cope decided his best chance was to duck the ten of spades, hoping his partner had the king. That simply let Meckstroth cash ♠K to pitch a diamond, then take ♦A, and ruff a diamond. Now he scored ♣J and ruffed a club for nine tricks, and put in an entry for the Best Played Hand of the Year. IBPA Editor: When West did not cover ♠10 declarer can make 10 tricks by following the line described earlier of an end-play on East. Presumably Meckstroth did not wish to take any risks once his contract was secure.

Others on the shortlist were: B410 P11 March Henrik Ron (Den) by Ib Lundby (Den); B411 P10 Apr. Brown (Australia) by Ron Klingler (Aus); B415 P7 Aug. Seamon (USA) second hand by ACBL staff; B415 P10 Aug. Piotr Tuszynski (Pol) by Krzysztof Jassem (Pol).

The Sender Award for Best Defence:

Andrew Robson (GB)

by Philip King (GB)

See IBPA Bulletin 407 page 5
From the Lederer Memorial Press Release

Dealer West. None Vul

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Erichsen</i>	<i>Robson</i>	<i>Charlsen</i>	<i>Zia</i>
1♥	Pass	1♠	Pass
2♦	Pass	3♣	Dble
3♠	Pass	4NT	Pass
5♦	Pass	6♠	All Pass

Zia led the king of clubs against East's Six Spades, (a heart going from the table) won by the ace and Charlsen played a diamond to the king and ace. At every other table where this happened North played a second club, anticipating that he would then make a trump trick. However, the declarers succeeded on a cross-ruff without even taking advantage of the heart position. One heart went on the good diamond, two top hearts were cashed and when the cross-ruff followed the defence never had a chance to over-ruff. The declarers made four outside winners and eight trumps.

By contrast Robson counted declarer's potential twelve tricks and switched to a trump away from Jxxx! Although it is possible to succeed Charlsen assumed that, with the switch, the trumps must be 3-2, and with two club ruffs, he needed one extra trick from either setting up diamonds, or a squeeze. But when he came to draw trumps they did not break, and the slam went two down.

The others to make the shortlist were: B405 page 15 Oct. Steve Eginton (GB) by Mark Horton (GB); B410 page 4 March Anna & Gudrun (Ice) by Barnet Shenkin (USA); B411 page 3 Apr. Glowacki (Pol) by Marc Smith (GB); B414 page 12 Jul. Popov (Bulgaria) by Malta Staff.

Bermuda Shorts

There is an interesting little footnote on page four of the programme of the original 1950 Bermuda Bowl - 'All playing cards used during this week are presented by the Phoenix Rexall Drug Store, Hamilton, Bermuda.' If you check the current telephone directory you will find that there is still a Phoenix Drug Store in Bermuda.

The Romex Award for Best Auction: Geir Helgemo and Tor Helness (Norway)

by Patrick Jourdain (GB)

See Bulletin 409 Page 2, February
From the Macallan Daily Bulletin

Board 21. Dealer North. N/S Vul

<p>♠ K Q 10 5 3 ♥ 7 4 ♦ K 8 7 5 3 ♣ 6</p>	<table style="margin: 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		<p>♠ A 9 7 ♥ A 5 ♦ A Q 9 6 ♣ A J 10 5</p>	<p>♠ J 8 ♥ Q 10 3 ♦ J 4 2 ♣ Q 9 8 3 2</p>
	N											
W		E										
	S											

<p>West Helgemo</p> <p>1♠ 3♦ 4♣ 5♦ 7♦</p>	<p>East Helness</p> <p>1♣ 2NT 4♦ 4NT 5NT Pass</p>
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4NT was Key Card Blackwood. 5♦ showed one keycard. 5NT guaranteed all first round controls and no trump loser. Helgemo realised any heart losers would disappear.

This effort gains in stature when you realise that three pairs stopped in game.

Others on the shortlist were: B410 page 14 March Bettina Kalkerup – Charlotte Koch-Palmund (Den) by Svend Novrup (Den); B413 page 7 June Titkin-Deloney (USA) by Harvey Bernstein (USA); Lille Special page 10, Sabine Auken & Daniela v Arnim (Ger) by Tony Gordon (GB); B411 page 7 Apr Collins & Cusworth (Australia) by Dick Cummings (Aus).

The Levendaal Award for Best Play by a Junior:

Martin Schaltz (Denmark)

by Ib Lundby (Denmark)

See Bulletin 408 page 7, January '99
Third generation

Lizzi and Jørgen-Elith Schaltz were some of the hot bridge names I read about and learned from, when I was a junior player. Lizzi won the European Ladies Team title several times, and her husband played on our national team as well. For a couple of years my partner was Peter Schaltz, their son, and in 1970 I was his captain when he and his team won the European Junior title in Dublin. Since then Peter has for many years played on our national team with different partners, among them his wife Dorte and his cousin Knud-Aage Boesgaard.

Dorte and Peter are still competing in the Danish first division, but their chances to represent Denmark again maybe have decreased a little. No problem at all - the third generation is ready to take over! Meet 14 years old Martin Schaltz in this fascinating hand from a recent club evening.

Dealer South. None Vul

<p>♠ J 10 7 3 ♥ K 9 7 4 3 2 ♦ 8 ♣ J 8</p>	<table style="margin: 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		<p>♠ A 6 ♥ 10 ♦ J 9 5 4 3 ♣ K 9 7 4 3</p>	<p>♠ Q 8 4 ♥ Q 6 ♦ A K 10 7 2 ♣ Q 10 2</p>
	N											
W		E										
	S											

South	West	North	East
INT	Pass	3NT	All Pass

West led his fourth best heart, won by dummy's queen, and after a diamond to the queen the next diamond trick told Martin that he had to work for it. So he did!

The ♦K took trick 3, and a heart to the 8 end-played West on the 9. He elected to play the ♠J which was taken by the ♠K, and a spade went to the 8 and the bare ace. Now it was East's turn to be thrown in! A low club went to the jack and queen, and before Martin cashed the ♠Q this was the picture:

<p>♠ 10 7 ♥ K 7 3 ♦ - ♣ 8</p>	<table style="margin: 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		<p>♠ - ♥ - ♦ J 9 5 ♣ K 9 7</p>	<p>♠ Q ♥ - ♦ A 10 7 ♣ 10 2</p>
	N											
W		E										
	S											

Look what happens to East when the ♠Q is played. If he throws a diamond, declarer will cash the ♦A and continue with a diamond, thereby making his third end-play. Therefore East had to throw a club, but it didn't help him very much. Instead Martin played a club to his ace, discarded a diamond on the ♥A and threw East in with the ♣K. Dummy's A-10 in diamonds took the two last tricks. 3NT made with an overtrick.

Two end-plays and a throw-in squeeze in the same hand... I guess that we will meet Martin at the international scene very soon.

Others on the short list were: B403 page 11 Aug. Julien Geitner (Fra) by Hervé Pacault (Fra); Lille Special page 16 Sep. Gavin Birdsall (GB) by Lille staff; B404 page 6 Sep. Oglobin (Poland) by Krzysztof Piatkowski (Pol); B416 page 3 Sep. 99 Eric Greco (USA) by Florida staff.

Press Conference

Following the IBPA awards ceremony, José Damiani, Jaime Ortiz-Patino, Panos Gerontopoulos and Marc Hodler were invited to the platform for a press conference. These were the highlights:

Mr. Hodler was asked if there would be problems in Salt Lake City for bridge journalists. He said there is a problem of numbers. At the Winter Olympics there are 9,000 to 9,500 people from the media. There are problems both of accreditation and accommodation for journalists and those who plan to attend should get in touch with the Press section of the IOC in Lausanne, who will be happy to help.

With full consultation with the IOC, the WBF constitution and by-laws will be changed in Maastricht to be in accordance with the Olympic rules. At present only sports played on snow and ice are eligible for the Winter Olympics, so the IOC also has to change some rules to allow for the inclusion of Mind Sports. Whereas if other sports moved it would entail the building of extra stadia, Mind Sports can be played in existing facilities, out of season, such as conference centers, hotel ballrooms and cinemas.

Asked about changes to the WBF Constitution, Panos Gerontopoulos confirmed that we are ready to follow the IOC Code. 28 players willingly co-operated with the drug testing procedure, and many more are happy to do so when necessary.

José Damiani said the WBF must be willing to accept the IOC Court of Arbitration. Also there will be close co-operation between all Federations and the IOC on the choice of teams.

An important decision was taken by the WBF to make a new zone of Africa, Zone 8, an area which has many IOC members. Also it means that the zones now cover the whole world.

Mr. Damiani was asked how many teams would play in Salt Lake City and how they would be picked. Originally it was to be six Open teams and two Women's teams, the latter being USA and Europe. He hopes to visit the site, which is reported to be marvelous, to see if the numbers can be increased. The ideal would be eight teams so as to represent every zone; that is, to have six Women's' teams, but also to have two Junior teams as they are the future of bridge: - sixteen teams in total if they can all be accommodated.

Mr. Damiani was asked to comment about the Transnational teams which is the toughest that has ever been contested. The concept was close to his heart and he invented it for two reasons. We have the prestigious VuGraph and are lucky to have CCTV covering the event but it needs people around. Also, the competition associates people from different countries. It was started in Rhodes with 86 teams, and there were 76 in Hammamet and here also 76. In view of the difficulty and the cost of getting into Bermuda, that is very good, and the competition has proved very attractive.

Orbis Venice Cup - Final Set 3

USA I v The Netherlands

USA1 had won the second set of the Orbis Venice Cup final, but still trailed by 15 IMPs going into Set 3. The deficit was increased to 21 when Meyers/Montin missed a normal but moderate game on Board 1 that was bid and made at the other table. And on Board 4 they again stayed out of a game which was bid at the other table.

Board 4. Dealer West. All Vul.

	♠ 10 5 2		
	♥ 6 5 2		
	♦ A Q J 10 5		
	♣ A 5		
♠ K Q 3		♠ 9 8 4	
♥ 3		♥ A Q 9	
♦ K 9 4 2		♦ 8 7 6	
♣ K J 10 8 2		♣ Q 9 7 4	
	♠ A J 7 6		
	♥ K J 10 8 7 4		
	♦ 3		
	♣ 6 3		
West	North	East	South
Quinn	Verbeek	Mancuso	v Zwol
1♦	Pass	INT	2♥
3♣	3♦	3NT	4♥
Dble	All Pass		

Martine Verbeek's Three Diamond bid promised heart support and Wietske van Zwol bid game over Renee Mancuso's Three No Trump. A club lead is the most challenging for declarer, but Shawn Quinn led a trump, expecting declarer to need ruffs to fulfill her contract. But the trump lead opened up declarer's communications and she was able to get to hand with a heart to take the diamond finesse, creating a winner on which to pitch her club loser. Declarer had to lose a heart and two spades; +790.

West	North	East	South
Simons	Meyers	Pasman	Montin
1♣	1♦	INT	2♥
All Pass			

Anneke Simons opened her longer minor, leading to a quite different auction. Jill Meyers could overcall immediately, and so had bid most of her hand before Randi Montin introduced her heart suit. Meyers might have raised the hearts, but she had a balanced hand with no heart honour and her partner was limited by the failure to double. Meyers passed and the thin game was missed; +170 but 12 IMPs to the Netherlands.

By the way, what do you think of Jet Pasman's diamond stopper? Certainly, her One

Bermuda Shorts

Could it be that the 'Royal Gazette' is using the same proof reader as the Daily News. The headline in that illustrious journal on page thirty-one of the January 19 edition reads thus: 'THE BERMUDA CALDENDAR'.

No Trump bid had a lot to do with creating an auction in which her opponents would not get to game.

Board 6. Dealer East. E/W Vul.

	♠ A J 8		
	♥ 9 5 3		
	♦ J 5		
	♣ 8 6 5 4 2		
♠ K Q 5 4		♠ 10 7 6	
♥ K		♥ A 8 2	
♦ A 10 8 7 6 4		♦ K Q 9 3 2	
♣ J 9		♣ A K	
	♠ 9 3 2		
	♥ Q J 10 7 6 4		
	♦ -		
	♣ Q 10 7 3		
West	North	East	South
Quinn	Verbeek	Mancuso	v Zwol
		INT	3♥
Dble	4♥	5♦	Pass
6♦	All Pass		

Six Diamonds is a decent spot on the East/West cards. Though the pre-emptive overall may suggest that the spade ace will be offside more often than not. Even with the spade offside, there might have been a doubleton jack. Not today; -100.

West	North	East	South
Simons	Meyers	Pasman	Montin
		INT	Pass
2♣	Pass	2♦	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

The Dutch pair did not explore the hand very thoroughly and stopped off in Three No Trump without even discovering the diamond fit. Three No Trump made 11 tricks, of course, and the Netherlands had another big pick-up. Would you feel that they deserved to gain 13 IMPs? Well, you are entitled to some good fortune in a long match.

Board 7. Dealer South. All Vul.

	♠ 8		
	♥ Q 10 5		
	♦ Q J 10 7 6 2		
	♣ A K 2		
♠ Q 9 5 3 2		♠ J 10 7 6 4	
♥ K J 7		♥ 9 4 3 2	
♦ A		♦ K 9	
♣ 10 8 5 4		♣ 7 6	
	♠ A K		
	♥ A 8 6		
	♦ 8 5 4 3		
	♣ Q J 9 3		
West	North	East	South
Quinn	Verbeek	Mancuso	v Zwol
			1♦
Dble	2♣	2♠	3NT
4♠	6♦	All Pass	

West	North	East	South
Simons	Meyers	Pasman	Montin
1♠	2♦	3♠	1♣
All Pass			3NT

Five Diamonds is unbeatable if played by South, as the defense can never get at their heart trick. That is, perhaps, a little fortunate, but it would have taken more than good fortune to make either of the contracts actually reached. Both were one down; no swing.

Board 9. Dealer North. E/W Vul.

	♠ 6 3		
	♥ J 9 8		
	♦ A 9 7 2		
	♣ 10 9 4 3		
♠ A J 9 8 2		♠ 7	
♥ 4		♥ A K Q 10 7 6 5 2	
♦ K 10 8		♦ J 4	
♣ A K Q 8		♣ J 2	
	♠ K Q 10 5 4		
	♥ 3		
	♦ Q 6 5 3		
	♣ 7 6 5		
West	North	East	South
Quinn	Verbeek	Mancuso	v Zwol
4NT	Pass	4♥	Pass
6♥	Pass	5♠	Pass
	All Pass		
West	North	East	South
Simons	Meyers	Pasman	Montin
	Pass	4♣	Pass
6♥	All Pass		

Justice turned a blind eye on this one, also. While Quinn/Mancuso reached the good slam from the wrong side and made all 13 tricks on a spade lead, the Dutch pair got it played with the diamond position protected. Pasman opened Four Clubs, showing a good Four Heart opening with a strong suit and Simons, after a lot of thought, jumped to Six Hearts - a good effort which deserved a better fate than to lose 1 IMP, as Meyers led ace and another diamond.

Board 10. Dealer East. All Vul.

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

What should you open the West hand after two passes? Simons opened One Diamond and was left to play there. She lost a

trick in each suit to score +110.

Quinn tried a 20-22 Two No Trump and was raised to game via a Stayman sequence. Verbeek led a low heart to the ten and duck (well done). After this start there was no way to come to nine tricks and the contract was actually two down; -200 and 7 IMPs to the Netherlands.

Board 11. Dealer South. None Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Quinn	Verbeek	Mancuso	v Zwol
1♦	2♣	All Pass	1♣

Verbeek stole the contract with her weak-jump response. The play was easy and she made an overtrick; +140.

West	North	East	South
Simons	Meyers	Pasman	Montin
1♦	1♠	Dble	Pass
INT	2♣	3♦	3♠
4♦	4♣	All Pass	

There was much more action here where Meyers bid a simple One Spade bid. It seemed that the bidding was never going to end as each side in turn competed in diamonds beyond the level to which they might have been expected to go. The deal proved to be a poor advertisement for the Law of Total Tricks. Four Diamonds would have been unbeatable and Meyers had nine tricks in Four Spades, making her -50 the best result possible for her side. Alas, that was still 5 IMPs to the Netherlands.

Board 12. Dealer West. N/S Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Quinn	Verbeek	Mancuso	v Zwol
Pass	1♥	Pass	1♠
Pass	2♣	Pass	2NT
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

Quinn led a diamond and now it is possible to make Three No Trump if declarer guesses correctly how to play. However, it seemed to be convenient to take a first-round spade finesse and when that lost and the spades proved to be 4-1 the contract drifted two down.

West	North	East	South
Simons	Meyers	Pasman	Montin
Pass	1♥	Pass	1♠
Pass	2♣	Pass	4♣
All Pass			

To beat Four Spades, the defense must make dummy ruff a club with the jack of spades. Simons found the lead of the queen of clubs and Pasman took the ace and returned the suit. Montin won the club king and ruffed her last club immediately. There were two spades and a heart to lose from here; -100 but 3 IMPs to USA1, who needed them.

Montin might have tried a heart towards the king at trick three, but it would not have been difficult for Simons to rise with the ace and play the jack of clubs. At least by playing the third club herself, Montin knew she would make if trumps divided evenly, while playing the heart might have led to complications if the ace was offside.

Board 14. Dealer East. None Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Quinn	Verbeek	Mancuso	v Zwol
1♠	INT	Pass	Pass
Pass	5♣	3♠	4♣
		All Pass	
West	North	East	South
Simons	Meyers	Pasman	Montin
1♠	Dble	4♣	4NT
Pass	5♣	All Pass	

What is your choice with the North hand when West opens One Spade in front of you? Nothing is ideal, but both double and One No Trump are perfectly reasonable calls. On this layout, the double worked much better.

Where Verbeek had overcalled One No Trump, van Zwol did not have a convenient way of showing both minors without committing her side to the five level, which she did not want to do. Unfortunately, when she bid her clubs and was raised to game, the hand with the top hearts was on lead and she had to go one down; -50.

Where Meyers had made a take-out double, Pasman raised all the way to Four Spades, and now it was convenient for Montin to bid

Four No Trump for the minors. It would have been plausible on this auction for Pasman to lead the ace of diamonds, thinking to give her partner a ruff. Had she done so, she would surely have continued with a second diamond, however, letting the contract through. The heart lead was just too tough and Pasman actually led her partner's suit. Meyers pitched two hearts on the top spades and soon had 11 tricks; 10 IMPs to USA1.

Board 15. Dealer South. N/S Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Quinn	Verbeek	Mancuso	v Zwol
1♥	2♣	Pass	2NT
3♦	3NT	4♣	Pass
Pass	Dble	All Pass	
West	North	East	South
Simons	Meyers	Pasman	Montin
Dble	3♦	All Pass	1♦

There were some interesting competitive decisions to be made on this deal. Firstly, should West overcall One Heart, or should she make a take-out double, losing the 5-3 heart fits but getting all three suits into the game. Simons was a doubler and Meyers made a limit raise in diamonds. Now, what about the East hand? Many players would have bid Three spades over Three Diamonds but, had Pasman done so, I suspect that Simons would have raised her to game and she might then have been doubled by Meyers. So the cautious pass worked out OK. Three Diamonds was comfortable enough despite the 4-0 trump split. Montin emerged with an overtrick for +130.

In the other room, Quinn chose the heart overcall. Verbeek showed a constructive diamond raise and van Zwol her heart stopper and minimum. Now Quinn bid Three Diamonds to get the black suits into the game. When Verbeek tried Three No Trump, Mancuso bid Four Spades with some hopes of making it.

Van Zwol led her trump, which was the best start for the defense as it began the process of cutting down declarer's potential for taking ruffs. Verbeek continued playing trumps and the contract drifted two down; -300 and 5 IMPs to the Netherlands.

This was an excellent set for the Netherlands, who gained 35 IMPs to extend their lead to 108-58. There was still a long way to go, but the Americans would want to pull back a few points in the last set of the day to help them to sleep more easily.

Orbis Venice Cup - Final Set 5

USA I v The Netherlands

At the half-way stage of the Orbis Venice Cup final, the Netherlands led by 32.5 IMPs. However, USAI struck on the first deal of the new day.

Board 1. Dealer North. None Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Simons	Mancuso	Pasman	Quinn
	Pass	2♥	Pass
2NT	Pass	3♥	Pass
4♥	All Pass		

Two Hearts was weak with hearts and a minor and the Three Heart response to the enquiry showed a maximum with clubs. Anneke Simons settled for game, expecting wasted club values; +450.

West	North	East	South
Sokolow	Vriend	Molson	v d Pas
	Pass	Pass	Pass
1♦	Pass	1♥	Pass
2♠	Pass	3♣	Pass
3♥	Pass	4♣	Pass
4NT	Pass	5♦	Pass
6♥	All Pass		

Janice Seamon-Molson did not open the East hand, not having a two-suited option in her armoury. Tobi Sokolow was able to show her strong hand and delayed heart support. When Molson could cuebid Four Clubs, she took control with RKCB, assuming her partner to hold the heart queen or some other compensation. Right she was. The lead was the two of spades. Molson won the ace and played ace of clubs and a high club ruff. Molson came back to hand with the ten of trumps and ruffed another club. Now she called for a low diamond. Bep Vriend thought for a while then went up with the ace, and Molson could ruff,

Prize Giving

The prize-giving ceremony will begin promptly at 19.00 in the VuGraph Auditorium. We request that everybody be seated by 18.50.

The teams who are to receive medals will be assigned seats.

The Ceremony will be followed by dinner and dancing in the Atlantic Room (the playing area).



Jet Pasman, The Netherlands

draw trumps and claim; +980. That was 11 IMPs to USAI.

Board 4. Dealer West. All Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Simons	Mancuso	Pasman	Quinn
1♠	Pass	INT	2♣
Pass	2NT	All Pass	

The Two Club overcall is ugly and got the fate it deserved when Renee Mancuso tried Two No Trump, hoping that her partner might be better for a vulnerable overcall. The spade lead held Mancuso to her five top winners; -300.

West	North	East	South
Sokolow	Vriend	Molson	v d Pas
1♠	Pass	INT	Pass
2♣	Pass	2♠	All Pass

Here it was West who bid the clubs opposite a forcing no trump response. Vriend led the ten of hearts to the king, van der Pas playing a discouraging four (odd-even signals). Sokolow played a spade to the jack and a second spade to the king and ace. Vriend switched to a club to the king. Van der Pas continued with the ace and two of clubs. Vriend ruffed and switched to the five of diamonds. Sokolow played low from dummy and van der Pas played a dangerous nine. She returned the low diamond for one down; -100 and 9 IMPs to the Netherlands.

Board 5. Dealer North. N/S Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Simons	Mancuso	Pasman	Quinn
	Pass	2♦	2♥
Dble	Pass	2♠	Pass
4♠	All Pass		

The lead was the queen of diamonds. Jet Pasman resisted any temptation to finesse the diamond ten. Instead she set about getting her heart ruff and eventually took the club ruff for her contract; +420.

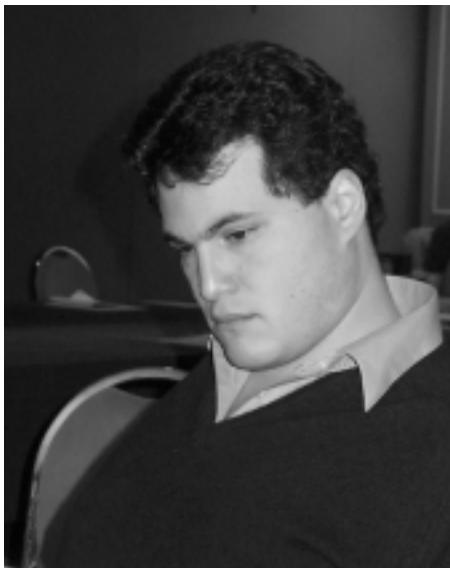
West	North	East	South
Sokolow	Vriend	Molson	v d Pas
	Pass	2♦	Dble
2NT	Pass	3♥	Pass
4♠	All Pass		

Molson opened a multi and van der Pas doubled, take-out of spades. Sokolow enquired and bid Four Spades on hearing that her partner held a weak two in the suit. Vriend led her singleton club and now declarer could not play the simple heart ruff line as she would be in danger of conceding two club ruffs. The opening lead ran to declarer's nine. Sokolow cashed the ace of spades then crossed to the diamond ace to run the jack of clubs. Vriend ruffed and led a low heart to the ace. Now the contract is defeated if van der Pas leads a club for Vriend to ruff, or cashes the heart queen and then gives the ruff. But van der Pas erred by returning a low heart. Vriend could win but there was no longer a club ruff; +420 and a push, but a missed chance by the Netherlands.

Declarer also erred. Had she cashed both top spades before crossing to dummy to play the club jack, she would have been OK.

Board 11. Dealer South. None Vul.

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



Joao Paulo Campos, Brazil

Rodwell scrambled home with eight tricks. Campos led the top two hearts, switching to the ♠10. Rodwell ruffed and played a club to the king. Rodwell played a diamond to his king, ducked by Campos. Another club lead put Campos on play, and he continued with spades. Rodwell won the ace, pitching a club, and played another diamond. Campos won and tapped Rodwell again in spades. Rodwell could pick up trumps and cash the ♥J, but there was a losing spade in dummy. Plus 90 to USA 1.

West	North	East	South
Hamman	Chagas	Soloway	Branco
			Pass
1♣ ⁽¹⁾	Pass	1♦ ⁽²⁾	INT
Pass	2♦	Pass	Pass
Dble	Pass	2♥	Pass
Pass	Dble	2♠	3♦
3♥	All Pass		

⁽¹⁾ Strong.
⁽²⁾ Negative.

Branco led the ♦K, ducked. Soloway won the next diamond and ruffed a diamond. He then played a spade from hand. Branco threw a low club, and Chagas took the ♠K with the ace and gave Branco a spade ruff. Alas, the ruff was with Branco's natural trump trick, so when Branco exited with a club, Soloway went up with the ace and picked up trumps, claiming for plus 140. 6 IMPs to USA 1.

Brazil suffered another loss on this deal.

Board 9. Dealer North. E/W Vul

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

Chagas and Branco bid the North-South cards to 3NT, finishing with 10 tricks for plus 430. There were fireworks in the Closed Room.

West	North	East	South
Campos	Meckstroth	Villas-Boas	Rodwell
	1♦ ⁽¹⁾	Pass	1♥
Pass	INT	Dble	Redble
2♣	Dble	All Pass	

⁽¹⁾ Precision.

Villas-Boas was unlucky to find his partner with 1 high-card point, but when you slip up against Meckstroth and Rodwell, they usually make you pay.

The cost for East-West on this deal was minus 800 and a 9-IMP loss.

There was a rare occurrence on the next deal: Chagas misplayed a makeable game.

Board 13. Dealer North. Both Vul

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

West	North	East	South
Campos	Meckstroth	Villas-Boas	Rodwell
	1♥	2♦	2NT ⁽¹⁾
Pass	4♥	All Pass	

⁽¹⁾ Heart raise.

Villas-Boas led the ♦K to Meckstroth's ace. Meckstroth cashed the ♥A, then played his singleton spade to dummy's king. In with the ♠A, Campos played a club to his partner's ace, which was followed by the ♦Q and the ♦2. Meckstroth ruffed with the ♥K and ruffed a spade to hand. When the ♠Q fell, Meckstroth had a parking place for his losing diamond and an entry in clubs to cash it. Plus 620.

West	North	East	South
Hamman	Chagas	Soloway	Branco
	1♥	2♦	2♠
Pass	2NT	Pass	3♥
Pass	4♥	All Pass	

Chagas also got the ♦K opening lead. Perhaps Chagas was tired – he and Branco have played nearly every set for two weeks – or he may have had a blind spot. In any case, he played three rounds of trumps, ending any chance for making the contract. Chagas played a spade to the jack and ace, but Hamman put Soloway in with the ♠A. Two winning diamonds followed for plus 100 and 12 IMPs to USA 1, who finished the session ahead by 79 IMPs.

Israeli Chutzpa

Pinhas Romik of Israel, a successful computer engineer, returned to International Bridge competition here in Bermuda in the Orbis World Transnational Teams Championship. Romik, founder and CEO of the E-Bridge Company, used to partner the famous Sam Lev playing for Israel in the seventies and eighties, twice winning European silver medals, and Bermuda Bowl bronze medals in 1976 and 1985.

Romik's Israel-Austrian team did very well until the tenth round of the Transnational event. In the ninth round, Pinhas exhibited great courage, in a match against one of the favourites, a team of Champions comprising Sabine Auken, Daniela Von Arnim, Bobby Wolff and Dan Morse.

Board 1. Dealer North. Love All

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Wolff	Rohan	Morse	Baratta
	Pass	Pass	1♠
Dble	Redble	2♦	3♠
Pass	4♣	All Pass	

Declarer lost a spade and two diamonds to record +420.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Rand	Auken	Romik	Von Arnim
	1♥	Pass	1♠
Pass	2♠	2NT	4♠
5♣	Dble	All Pass	

Auken opened boldly with One Heart, and when Von Arnim responded One spade, West had no obvious way into the auction. However, when North showed her spade support, Romik decided to show his minors!

South's bid of Four Spades did not deter West from bidding Five Clubs, and although this was doubled, the defence was limited to three tricks, a heart and two clubs. That meant a swing of 8 IMPs to the Israeli team, en route to an impressive win.

Calling all Journalists

Don't forget to pay your fax/telephone bill before you leave!

Ely Ducheyne
Chief, Pressroom

Orbis Transnational Open Teams Championship / Semi-Final

Milner v Mihov

Disappointed again

The young Bulgarian team was disappointed to have been knocked out of the Orbis Bermuda Bowl, but they have continued to play well, earning a semifinal berth in the Orbis World Transnational Open Teams against an American-Canadian squad.

The two teams played virtually even in the first of two sets, but the team led by Reese Milner prevailed, 85-70, to advance to the final against the American-Polish squad captained by Rose Meltzer-Johnson.

Playing on VuGraph, the Milner squad drew blood on Board 1.

Board 1. Dealer North. None Vul

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Stamatov</i>	<i>Levin</i>	<i>Popov</i>	<i>Jacobus</i>
	Pass	1♠	2♦
2NT ⁽¹⁾	4♦	Pass	Pass
4♠	Pass	Pass	5♦
Dble	All Pass		

⁽¹⁾ Spade raise.

Marc Jacobus lost four tricks for -300.

West	North	East	South
<i>Gitelman</i>	<i>Mihov</i>	<i>Moss</i>	<i>Nanev</i>
	Pass	1♠	INT
Dble	Redble	Pass	2♦
3♦	Dble	3NT	Pass
4♣	Pass	4♠	All Pass

Boris Popov could have defeated the contract with the lead of the ♥A, but there was no particular reason to do so. Brad Moss scored up plus 450 for a 5-IMP gain.

An even bigger swing went Milner's way on the next deal.

Board 2. Dealer East. N/S Vul

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Stamatov</i>	<i>Levin</i>	<i>Popov</i>	<i>Jacobus</i>
		1♥	1♠
Dble	Pass	INT	2♠
3♦	Pass	3NT	Pass
4♦	Pass	5♦	All Pass

After the spade lead, Jerry Stamatov was able to pitch his losing heart on the ♠K. He gave up a club trick for plus 420.

West	North	East	South
<i>Gitelman</i>	<i>Mihov</i>	<i>Moss</i>	<i>Nanev</i>
		INT	2♠
3♦	Pass	3NT	Pass
4♣	Pass	4NT	Pass
6♦	Pass	Pass	Dble
All Pass			

Ivan Nanev hoped his double would result in a heart lead since it forbade the lead of his suit or a trump. Vladimir Mihov selected the ♠10, however, removing any difficulty Fred Gitelman might have had. He covered with the queen, took the ♣K with the ace and pulled trumps. He could then claim, unblocking the ♠A, crossing to the ♣9, taking the heart discard and finessing the ♣7 to land the over-trick.

Gitelman could have succeeded after a heart lead, but the correct line might not have been worked out. To make the slam after a heart lead, Gitelman would have to win the likely spade return, play a diamond to the ace, followed by the ♣Q. South would have to cover, allowing Gitelman to drop the ♠10 with his jack to make his contract.

Plus 1190 was good for a 13-IMP pickup. Bulgaria got back into the match on this deal.

Board 6. Dealer East. E/W Vul

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Stamatov</i>	<i>Levin</i>	<i>Popov</i>	<i>Jacobus</i>
		Pass	Pass
Pass	1♥	1♠	2♥
2NT ⁽¹⁾	4♥	4♠	All Pass

⁽¹⁾ Spade raise.

Robert Levin might have considered saving, but he may also have fancied his chances against 4♠. Borislav Popov was not tested,

however, and he scored up plus 620.

West	North	East	South
<i>Gitelman</i>	<i>Mihov</i>	<i>Moss</i>	<i>Nanev</i>
		2♠	Pass
4♠	5♥	All Pass	

Mihov had less information, but he bid 5♥ as a two-way shot: it might make, and if it didn't perhaps the opponents could make their game. He was right, so Bulgaria scored 11 IMPs.

Milner got it back and more on the next deal, when Jacobus and Levin bid to 6♣ and while Nanev and Mihov stopped in 5♣.

The Bulgarians recovered 8 IMPs on the next deal when a weak two-bid by Gitelman preempted the wrong side.

Board 8. Dealer West. None Vul

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Stamatov</i>	<i>Levin</i>	<i>Popov</i>	<i>Jacobus</i>
	1♦	1♠	Pass
Pass	2NT	Pass	3♣
2♦	2NT	Pass	3♣
4♠	All Pass		

Popov took 11 tricks with ease, losing only a diamond and a spade.

West	North	East	South
<i>Gitelman</i>	<i>Mihov</i>	<i>Moss</i>	<i>Nanev</i>
		Pass	2NT ⁽¹⁾
2♥	Dble	Pass	2NT ⁽¹⁾
Pass	3♦	All Pass	

⁽¹⁾ Relay showing a bad hand.

After Gitelman's weak 2♥ bid, he and Moss had no chance to find their spade fit. Mihov took the seven tricks he started with for minus 100 – and an 8-IMP gain.

With three boards to go, Bulgaria had pulled to within 4 IMPs with another 8-IMP

Message from Norway

Please thank everyone over there for an excellent and fast results service. Of course one should like to ask for more VuGraph matches and maybe on-line, but this was a big step towards what I need as a journalist not able to be present at the Championships. TX ALL!

Ib Lundby

gain (Nanev made plus 120 in INT while Levin went down two in 3NT).

Bulgaria pulled to within 2 IMPs on Board 14 by taking 11 tricks in 4♣ while Gitelman managed nine tricks in 3NT. But for stellar play by Gitelman, Bulgaria would have recorded a double-digit swing.

Board 14. Dealer East. None Vul

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Stamatov</i>	<i>Levin</i>	<i>Popov</i>	<i>Jacobus</i>
		Pass	Pass
1♠	Pass	2♥	Pass
3♣	Pass	3♠	Pass
4♣	All Pass		

Stamatov lost only to the ♠K and the ♣Q for plus 450.

West	North	East	South
<i>Gitelman</i>	<i>Mihov</i>	<i>Moss</i>	<i>Nanev</i>
		Pass	Pass
1♠	Pass	2♥	Pass
3♣	Pass	3♦	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

Gitelman's 3NT contract was in deep trouble after the lead of the ♦K and the diamond continuation, but he played according to the textbooks and brought the nerve-wracking contract home. Gitelman won the second round of diamonds perforce and played a club to the king. His plan was to cash the top clubs. If the ♣Q did not fall, the spade finesse would be next with the added hope that South held no more than three to the king.

Gitelman was gratified and more than a little relieved when the ♣Q came tumbling down. His team still lost 2 IMPs, but it could have been 11.

That brought Bulgaria to within 2 IMPs at 72-70. Board 15 was a push, so Bulgaria still had a chance on the final board.

Board 16. Dealer West. E/W Vul

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Gitelman</i>	<i>Mihov</i>	<i>Moss</i>	<i>Nanev</i>
Pass	Pass	INT	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

Nanev led the ♥K, which was ducked. Moss ducked again when Nanev continued the suit. Nanev got off lead with the ♠7. Moss won in dummy and played a club to his king. When the ♣10 popped up on the next round of the suit, Moss was in control. North won the ♣A and got out with the ♦9. Moss won and followed with the ♥A and another heart. He had his nine tricks via two hearts, three clubs, two diamonds and two spades.

West	North	East	South
<i>Stamatov</i>	<i>Levin</i>	<i>Popov</i>	<i>Jacobus</i>
Pass	Pass	1♥	Pass
INT	Pass	2♣	Pass
2♥	Pass	2NT	Pass
3NT	Pass	Pass	Dble
All Pass			

Jacobus, listening to a tentative-sounding auction and wanting a heart lead, doubled the final contract. Levin led the ♥6, ducked to Jacobus's jack. Instead of continuing hearts, Jacobus switched to the ♠9. Stamatov went up with the ace and played a club to the king and another club to the 10, queen and ace. Levin played his other heart, ducked to the queen. A second spade was returned, and Stamatov played low. Levin won his ♠Q, and Stamatov was finished. He could not get nine winners before the defenders got five. Plus 200 was good for a 13-IMP gain, and a ticket into the TNOT final for the Milner squad.

It was small consolation to the Bulgarians in the Open Room that defeating 3NT would not have changed the result of the match. Plus 100 would still have been a 3-IMP loss, and they needed a 3-IMP gain – not possible with the cards they held.

Blackjacked - Twice!

by Sam Leckie - Scotland

This spectacular defense by Poland's Balicki Zmudzinski occurred in the final qualifying round of the Transnational Teams when Meltzer met Hackett.

Dealer West. All Vul

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Zmudzinski</i>	<i>Justin</i>	<i>Balicki</i>	<i>Jason</i>
Pass	1♣	Pass	1♠
Pass	2♠	Pass	2NT
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

Adam Zmudzinski led the ten of clubs on which Cezary Balicki played the jack, suggesting that he had a strong holding in hearts. Jason Hackett, having won the trick in dummy, played the ten of spades, but Balicki covered with the jack, forcing declarer to win with the ace. When declarer continued with a low spade, Zmudzinski hopped up with the king and switched to a low heart – the contract was now doomed.

If Declarer ducks hearts twice, then West would be able to set up the eight of spades while still holding the ace of diamonds.

If declarer takes the heart ace earlier, he only has eight tricks.

If East had not covered the ten of spades at trick two and West withholds the king, declarer could have continued with the queen of spades, thereby ensuring three spade tricks. Now it would be possible to duck two rounds of hearts and later finesse the jack of diamonds for the ninth trick.

Declarer could have made the contract by cashing his club winners after taking the ace of spades. No matter how the defenders discard, declarer always has a counter. Editor

In the other room North-South scored +110 in Two Clubs to gain 5 IMPs. Despite this, the Hackett team won the match 18-12VP.

Both teams reached the last four, and met in yesterday's semifinals.

SPECIAL OFFER!

World Championship Book Bermuda 2000

The official book of these championships will be published during the summer (probably June).

Principal analysts will be:

Eric Kokish (*The Final*)

Brian Senior (*The Semi-finals*)

Barry Rigal (*The Quarter-finals*)

with guest contributors including Henry Francis.

There will be a wealth of good hands, including every deal from the finals and semi-finals, photographs and statistics – including a complete listing of all participants in all four events.

On publication, the price will be \$30 plus p&p. For the duration of these championships, buy at the special price of \$25 with free postage and packing.

Please see Elly Ducheyne in the Press Room to place your order.

Championship Bags For Sale

There is a limited supply of the magnificent Orbis World Championship Bags for sale. These may be purchased from the Hospitality Desk from 10.30 a.m. this morning at the bargain price of \$35. They make a great reminder of the wonderful time we have spent in Bermuda, so hurry as stocks will not last for long.



Appeal Case 8



Appeal 8

Event: WTOTC, Round 5

Teams: Bulgaria (N/S) versus Poland (E/W)

Committee: Bobby Wolff (chairman, USA), Rich Colker (scribe, USA), Jean-Paul Meyer (FRA)

Board 1. Dealer North. None Vul

<p>♠ 9 7 6 5 ♥ K Q J 8 ♦ 9 6 ♣ 10 9 2</p>	<table style="margin: 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		<p>♠ Q 4 3 2 ♥ 9 ♦ Q 8 5 ♣ A K J 4 3</p>	<p>♠ K J 10 8 ♥ 7 5 4 2 ♦ J 7 4 ♣ 7 5</p>
	N											
W		E										
	S											
<p>West Puczynski</p>	<p>North Karaivanov</p>	<p>East Chveski</p>	<p>South Trendafilov</p>									
	1♣ ⁽¹⁾	Pass	1♦ ⁽²⁾									
1♥ ⁽³⁾	Pass ⁽⁴⁾	1♠	2♠ ⁽⁵⁾									
Pass	3♣ ⁽⁶⁾	Pass	3♦									
Pass	3♠ ⁽⁶⁾	Pass	4♣ ⁽⁷⁾									
Pass	4♦	Pass	4♥									
Dble	Pass	Pass	4♠									
Pass	5♣	Pass	5NT ⁽⁸⁾									
Pass	6♣ ⁽⁹⁾	Pass	7♣									

All Pass

⁽¹⁾ Clubs or certain balanced hands.

⁽²⁾ Transfer, showing 4+ hearts.

⁽³⁾ Takeout (see The Appeal, below).

⁽⁴⁾ Showed clubs.

⁽⁵⁾ Cuebid.

⁽⁶⁾ Likes diamonds.

⁽⁷⁾ Likes clubs.

⁽⁸⁾ Choice of suits (clubs or diamonds).

⁽⁹⁾ Break in tempo.

Result: 7♣ by North made seven, plus 1440 for N/S.

The Facts: The TD was called to the table at the end of the auction. East stated to him that it had taken North about 15-20 seconds to bid 6♣ over 5NT. The TD adjusted the result to 6♣ by North made six, plus 920 to N/S.

The Appeal: N/S appealed the TDs' ruling. In reviewing the auction for the Committee West stated that, although he had been Alerted to both the 1♣ and 1♦ bids, he bid 1♥ without asking about their meanings - intending it as natural. After passing the tray he finally inquired about the Alerted bids' meanings and learned that 1♦ showed hearts. He then explained to his screenmate (South) that his 1♥ bid was intended as natural but would be explained as takeout on the N-E side of the screen.

E/W told the Committee they believed South's 5NT bid could have been interpreted as Josephine (Grand Slam Force) and that North's hesitation suggested the 7♣ bid. Given that this was essentially a Hesitation Blackwood auction, they believed that

South should not be permitted to override his partner's decision.

When asked again about the timing of North's 6♣ bid East affirmed that it took 15-20 seconds ("No more, no less."). North told the Committee that his 6♣ bid was slow but perhaps was not as slow as East suggested - maybe 10 seconds or so. N/S further denied that 5NT could have been Josephine. First, it was not a jump (their partnership requirement for Josephine). South would have jumped to 5NT after his 4♥ bid was doubled if he had wanted to bid Josephine. Second, 5NT made no sense as Josephine in this auction. South cue-bid 4♣ only to hear North sign off in 5♣. Since South learned nothing from North's signoff that would have suggested investigating a Grand Slam - in fact, quite the opposite - 5NT could only be a "Choice of Slams" at the six level. Finally, N/S pointed out that had West not been negligent with his 1♥ bid, North would have had a 4♥ cue-bid available over South's 4♣ to unambiguously show heart shortness. (As it was, it could have suggested a 4♥ contract.)

The Committee Decision: The Committee noted several important points regarding both the bridge issues involved in the situation and the informational considerations from the tempo.

Regarding the bridge issues: First, two suits were bid and raised by N/S during the auction so that, from South's perspective, the appropriate strain was unclear.

Second, N/S's assertions that 5NT made more logical sense as "Pick a Slam" (rather than Josephine) were accurate, although this argument was somewhat self-serving and had to be viewed with appropriate scepticism.

Third, had South wished to investigate a Grand Slam the path he chose (first asking North to choose the proper strain; then raising his choice to seven) would be a logical one while other paths (such as re-cue-bidding 5♠) would have been more ambiguous.

Fourth, North showed clubs four times in the auction (by passing 1♥, then by bidding 3♣ and 5♣, and finally by choosing 6♣ when offered a choice of slams), for which AKJxx seems likely to be a minimum holding. Given this, South can easily count thirteen tricks - one spade, one heart, five diamonds (assuming that North either holds the ♦J or, if not, the suit splits three-two or the jack drops), five clubs and at least one spade ruff in the South hand.

Fifth, the North club holding in the previous point is made even more likely by North's failure to bid 3NT over 3♦ as he would have with a denser spade holding (e.g., ♠KQxx and correspondingly weaker clubs).

Sixth, North had minimum high-card values, club length and fit for South's suits which made it unlikely in the Committee's eyes that he would have thought seriously about bidding a Grand Slam - and thus was more likely to have been deciding between the minors for the six level. And seventh, West's negligence with his 1♥ bid contributed to some (unknown) extent to N/S's problems in the auction.

Regarding the tempo issue: First, all WBF events are supposed to be conducted under the new (1999) WBF Code of Practice. This provides, in part, that behind screens, "It is considered there can be no implications if a tray returns after 15 seconds or less. This period may be extended in the later stages of a complicated or competitive auction without necessarily creating implications."

By all accounts, North's 6♣ bid was made within (approximately) the 15 seconds specified by the COP. Thus, there should be no finding of unauthorized information. While the Committee was concerned that the COP has not been formally announced to the players in this event, according to the WBF's stated intentions and the Chief Tournament Director (William Schoder), the COP is nonetheless presumed to be in effect in all events here. (Plus, it was noted that the COP has been available on the Internet for some time now and has been disseminated by the WBF to all NCBOs well before the tournament began.)

More generally, even had the Committee found that the COP was not in effect, the fact that this was the eighth round of a complicated (and competitive) slam auction suggested being more lenient about breaks in tempo. Second, it is not clear that there was a true break in tempo here. Much of the previous auction (prior to North's 6♣ bid, especially after things turned competitive) had to have been conducted at a deliberate pace. Thus, the putative 15 seconds for the 6♣ bid may not have been significantly slower than the rest of the auction. While the act of North's thinking may have been obvious to East (perhaps from his facial expression, body language or other indicators), that is not a consideration behind screens (where such information is not transmitted to one's partner). A call cannot be taken in isolation and judged "out of tempo" merely because the player thinks for a time before calling behind screens. The time to return the tray must be significantly longer than normal and expected within the context of the auction (and must be unambiguously attributable to a specific player).

For these reasons the Committee was not convinced that a break in tempo occurred (either in fact or under the COP). Moreover, even if it did occur it seemed unlikely that it conveyed useful information to South that was not obvious from the authorized information from the auction itself. The Committee therefore restored the table result of 7♣ by North making seven, plus 1440 for N/S.

The Committee wishes to make two further points regarding this case and its implications. First, the TDs' adjustment of N/S's score seems out of keeping with the conditions of contest (in particular, the COP). In addition, their decision to adjust the score to plus 920 rather than plus 940 seemed rather odd. Wouldn't North make thirteen tricks without any jeopardy to the contract? Second, even though no score adjustment was made by the Committee in the present case, players should be aware that hesitations in slam auctions always involve some risk. While it is rarely possible to make difficult calls quickly, it is always possible to make easy calls more slowly and deliberately. This has the beneficial effect of giving one's screenmate less useful information regarding the ease of one's calls and additionally produces a more even tempo which avoids transmitting unauthorized information across the screen to partner. (It works even better without screens!) Also, in their COP the WBF states that it "considers it desirable that players should vary the tempo randomly when returning the tray under the screen." This acts effectively to further reduce the possibility of transmitting unauthorized information to partner.

As we enter the 21st century, players must develop good playing habits which will make bridge not only a more enjoyable game but one which will be decided at the table and not by Appeals Committees. Isn't that the Olympic Spirit?

Ladies on the Front Line



The faces at the work – tables outside the playing area must be very familiar by now because a group of three ladies have been there every single day throughout the Championships! Mary Jane Coelho, Greta Marshall and Jean Bath have manned their posts diligently and marshalled a great troop of volunteers to keep things running smoothly. They've recruited the necessary recorders, caddies and assistants for the Operations Director – many working on a daily basis – as well as handling innumerable inquiries. Also on hand without respite has been Tony Saunders, Ton's full time volunteer assistant. Thanks to them and their legion of helpers for a job very well done.

So many people have commented on the above effort that we feel it is very important to acknowledge this. Thanks

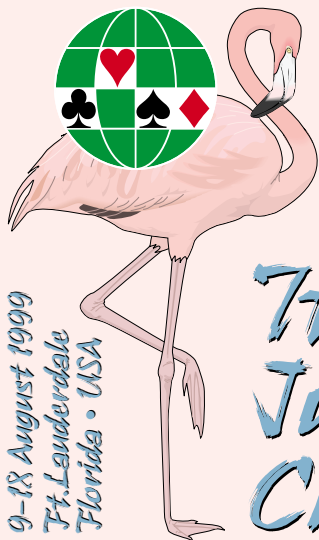
The next Blue Team?



Furio diBello, Andrea Mallardi, Giagio Rinaldi (*npc*), Gianarrigo Rona (*President of the European Bridge League*), Bernado Biondi, Mario d'Avossa, Stelio diBello, Riccardo Intonti.

In August last year, Italy won the World Junior Team Championship for the first time. To mark that victory, the Italian Bridge Federation invited the team to come to Bermuda to play in the Orbis World Transnational Teams Championship. This talented group of youngsters showed they are more than capable of carrying on the proud traditions of Italian Bridge by finishing seventh in the Championship.

Gianarrigo Rona, the President of the European Bridge League, is confident that the success of the team will persuade many more young people in Italy to study bridge, especially as Bridge can now be taught as a school subject in Italy.



9-18 August 1999
Ft. Lauderdale
Florida • USA

7th World Junior Teams Championship

Orbis World Computer Bridge Championship

Yes, computers can PLAY bridge, even though the bidding is still quite spotty from time to time – the human touch, perhaps. Witness this hand from the final match between GIB (USA) and WBridge5 (France).

Board 16. Dealer West. E/W Vul

<p>♠ 10 6 ♥ 10 9 2 ♦ 10 ♣ A J 10 9 5 3 2</p>	<table style="border: 1px solid black; width: 60px; height: 60px; 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		<p>♠ K Q 9 ♥ A Q J ♦ 9 6 4 3 2 ♣ 8 6</p> <p>♠ 8 7 3 2 ♥ 7 5 3 ♦ A K Q J 8 5 ♣ –</p>	<p>♠ A J 5 4 ♥ K 8 6 4 ♦ 7 ♣ K Q 7 4</p>
	N											
W		E										
	S											

West	North	East	South
GIB	Wbridge5	GIB	Wbridge5
Pass	1♦	Pass	1♥
Pass	INT	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

After the 10♦-lead, overtaken with the ♦J, the contract is ice-cold because of the 7-0 club break when East cashes his diamonds. South simply discards three clubs. In actual play he discarded a major-suit card and had to go one down: +50 to GIB.

At the other table, the bidding was:

West	North	East	South
Wbridge5	GIB	Wbridge5	GIB
Pass	INT ⁽¹⁾	2♦	3♦ ⁽²⁾
Pass	3♠ ⁽³⁾	Pass	4♠
Pass	Pass	Dble	All Pass

⁽¹⁾ 11-14, no 4-card major unless 4-3-3-3

⁽²⁾ Stayman, no stopper

⁽³⁾ Stuck!

Orbis World Transnational Open Teams Championship Round Robin Final Results

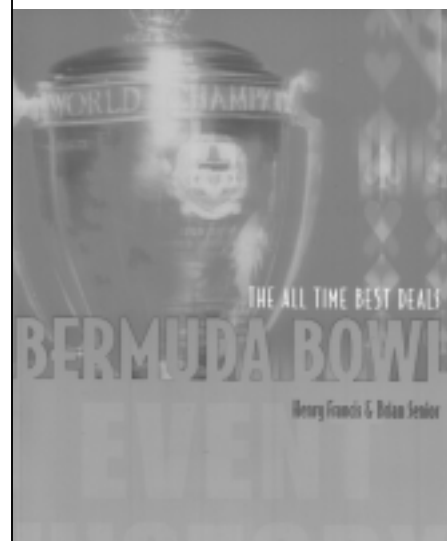
Team Name	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	Total	Rank
1 Meadowlark Bridge	■	10	0	0	9	0	3	6	28	8
2 Blue Chip Bridge	10	■	5	13	9	0	1	11	49	7
3 Micro Bridge 9	20	15	■	1	15	18	9	13	91	3
4 WBridge5	20	7	19	■	16	13	6	18	99	2
5 Q-Plus Bridge	11	11	5	4	■	8	13	14	66	5
6 Bridge Buff	20	20	2	7	12	■	4	5	70	4
7 GIB	17	19	11	14	7	16	■	16	100	1
8 Bridge Baron	14	9	7	2	6	15	4	■	57	6

East cashed the ♦A and shifted to the ♥3 for the ♥4, 9 and Q. Declarer now cashed the ♥J and led the ♣6, which was incorrectly ruffed by East. The return of the ♦K was ruffed with the ♠J after which the ♠A and ♠K were cashed, leaving this position with North on lead, needing five tricks:

<p>♠ – ♥ – ♦ – ♣ A J 10 9 5 3</p>	<table style="border: 1px solid black; width: 60px; height: 60px; 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		<p>♠ Q ♥ A ♦ 9 6 2 ♣ 8</p> <p>♠ 8 ♥ 7 ♦ Q J 8 5 ♣ –</p>	<p>♠ 5 ♥ K 8 ♦ – ♣ K Q 4</p>
	N											
W		E										
	S											

North now ruffed a diamond, crossed to the ♥A, cashed the ♠Q and endplayed West in clubs who had to give South the last two tricks. Pretty neat, what?

Bermuda Bowl



Copies of this definitive record of the world's greatest Championship, written by Henry Francis & Brian Senior, are on sale at the Island Embroidery stand in the lobby, priced \$25.00.

INVESTING IS OUR STRONG SUIT

A daily column on investing by Orbis Investment Management Limited

We hope that everybody has enjoyed these Championships. Being able to help host the event in Bermuda has been a privilege for us.

We are also grateful for the many individual expressions of thanks that we have received both from you in person as we have met you and from all the bridge fans around the world who have been avidly observing these events on the Internet. It has been delightful to meet so many people who are so passionate about their sport.

Hopefully you found our daily articles on investing interesting and informative. If you would like to receive a package of information about our funds or be placed on our mailing list we would be delighted for you to contact us using any of the methods listed below. You will also find contact forms that you may complete and leave at the Hospitality desk.

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Attention: Geoffrey Gardner,
Director of Fund Management