



BULLETIN

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THE INTERNATIONAL BRIDGE PRESS ASSOCIATION

Editor: John Carruthers

This Bulletin is published monthly and circulated to around 400 members of the International Bridge Press Association comprising the world's leading journalists, authors and editors of news, books and articles about contract bridge, with an estimated readership of some 200 million people who enjoy the most widely played of all card games.

No. 514

Year 2007

Date November 10

IBPA Personality of the Year Zia Mahmood

Zia learns he has just been
named IBPA Personality of the
Year - or has he just beaten
Hamman?



From the commendation by Patrick Jourdain

The IBPA Personality of the Year for 2007 is a member of our organisation, a bridge journalist, married with two children, though not many people know those facts. He is one of the world's best card players but has never won an Open World title, an oversight which may be rectified in a few days' time (*just prior to the KO round in Shanghai - Ed.*). What the bridge world does know is that he is certainly a Personality, so much so that it is a surprise he has not won our Award in the past.

You will guess who it is when I tell you that this man can name three different countries as his home. This past year he can be proud of an achievement that occurred away from the bridge table. When the country of his birth was devastated by earthquake he felt he must do something about it. With the support of the bridge community he initiated a fund-raising exercise for \$150,000 that has resulted in the building of a school in the earthquake-ravaged part of Pakistan. The school was opened by José Damiani mid-year and takes its first students this term. The WBF contributed significantly to the project. Included was a raffle with, as prize, a game with Zia himself against world champions in Nashville that led to Hamman and Wolff renewing their partnership for one deal.

Our winner, who I ask to come forward to receive his certificate, is the world's most charismatic bridge player: Zia Mahmood of Pakistan, Great Britain and the USA.

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IBPA Awards 2007

Precision Best Bid Hand of the Year

**Winner: Valio Kovachev (Bulgaria),
Journalist Mark Horton (England), Bulletin 511.12**

Shortlist:

Magne Eide & Sven-Olai Hoyland (Norway), Mark Horton, 512.5

Debasish Roy & Pritish Kushari (India), R. Jayaram, 509.6

Sunit Chokshi & KR Ventakaram (India), T. C. Pant, 503.10

Steve Garner & Howard Weinstein (USA), Brian Senior, 501.13



Mark Horton accepts his journalist's award from Phillip Alder. Dessy Popova accepts on behalf of Valio Kovachev



Alfredo Versace and Irina Chodorowska (for Marek Wojicki) accept their awards from Barry Rigal

C&R Motors Declarer Play of the Year

**Winner: Alfredo Versace (Italy),
Journalist Marek Wojicki (Poland), Bulletin 500.13**

Shortlist:

Vladimir Marashev (Bulgaria), Mark Horton, 500.6

Tony Forrester (England), Andrew Robson, 502.11

Gert-Jan Paulissen (Netherlands), Andrew Robson, 507.12

Jack Zhao (China), Jack Zhao, 508.13

Khaldoun Sanadiki (Syria), Brian Senior, 511.11

Gidwani Family Trust Defence of the Year

**Winner: Giorgio Duboin (Italy)
Journalist Patrick Jourdain, Bulletin 501.04**

Shortlist:

Cezary Balicki & Adam Zmudzinski (Poland), Mark Horton, 507.13

David Birman & Gilad Altschuler (Israel), Donna Compton, 509.15

Sidney Lazard (USA), Suzi Subeck, 510.02

Liu Jing (China), L Tse, 512.08



Barry Rigal presents Giorgio Duboin and Patrick Jourdain with their awards



Panos Gerontopoulos presents Thomas Bessis with the award for Best Junior Deal of the Year

Brazilian Junior Deal of the Year

**Winner: Olivier & Thomas Bessis (France),
Journalist John Carruthers, Bulletin 511.06**

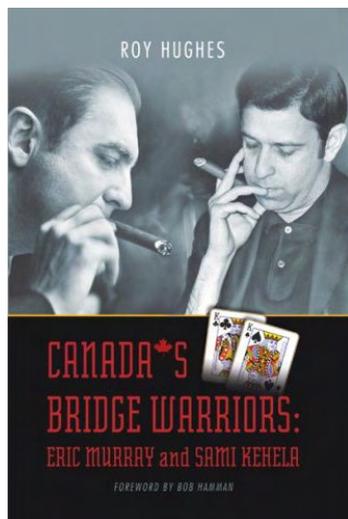
Shortlist:

John Kranyak (USA), Barry Harper, 500.07

Adam Edgton (Australia), Ron Klinger, 502.06

Marion Michielsen (Netherlands), Jack Zhao, 503.05

Rosaline Barendregt (Netherlands), Kees Tammens, 508.05



Master Point Press Book of the Year

Winner: Roy Hughes (Canada) for "Canada's Bridge Warriors: Eric Murray and Sami Kehela" and Sami Kehela"

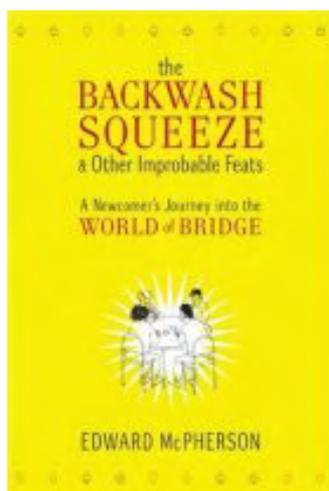
Shortlist:

David Bird (England), "Off-Road Declarer Play"
Mel Colchamiro (USA), "How You Can Play Like an Expert"

Enda Murphy (Ireland), "Silver for Ireland"
Julian Pottage (Wales), "Back Through the Pack"

Alan Truscott Memorial Award

Edward McPherson (USA) for "The Backwash Squeeze & Other Improbable Feats"



IBPA Personality of the Year



Zia Mahmood is embraced by WBF President José Damiani as Patrick Jourdain readies to present the award

Annual General Meeting of the International Bridge Press Association

Monday October 8th 2007 1200 – 1330 SHANGHAI

Attending:- Phillip Alder (USA), Jean-Claude Beineix (Fra), Jan van Cleeff (Net), Irena Chodorowska (Pol), José Damiani (Fra), Maureen Dennison (Eng), Mario Dix (Malta), Seamus Dowling (Irl), Kay Downes (Irl), Margaret Parnis England (Malta), Sven-Olov Flodqvist (Swe), Joan Gerrard (USA), Panos Gerontopoulos (Gre), Ghassan Ghanem (Jor), Hans-Olof Hallen (Swe), Mark Horton (Eng), David Jackson (Irl), Britt Jannersten (Swe), Per Jannersten (Swe), Patrick Jourdain (Wales), Knut Kjaernsrod (Nor), Ray Lee (Can), Peter Lund (Den), Goran Mattsson (Ger), Zia Mahmood (USA), Barbara Nudelman (USA), Michael O'Connor (Ire), Paul Porteous (Irl), Barry Rigal (USA), Richard Solomon (NZ), David Stern (Aus), Jon Sveindal (Nor), Jan Swaan (Net), Ron Tacchi (Fra), Anna Torlontano (Ita), Bep Vriend (Net), John Wignall (Aus).

1: Patrick Jourdain called the meeting to order

2: Jourdain paid homage to deceased members Luigi Filippo d'Amico and Daniel Auby and others. As well as past members Paul Magerman and Tim Seres, he made mention of Marc Hodler who, though not an IBPA member, had done much to promote bridge as an Olympic sport and enabled several NCBOs to join their Olympic committees. Also dying during the past year were Jimmy Arthur and Linda Stern, husband and wife respectively of long term members.

3: The minutes of the AGM held on 19th June, 2006 in Verona were approved as published in the Bulletin.

4: Officers' Reports: President – Patrick Jourdain

It has been a relatively quiet year for us with no officer or appointee retiring. Our Chairman, Per Jannersten has come to the end of his year of responsibility within Rotary International but meanwhile he has been hosting our website free of charge, for which we thank him. New procedures for receiving credit card payments have gone well and that is the main use of the site to members. The membership file, which was well out-of-date, is now brought up-to-date at least quarterly.

The website design, however, has made little progress, so your Executive has decided to ask Jude Goodwin-Hanson of Canada to look at a redesign with particular view to adding many links in and out which would be useful to journalists plus a Content Management System that will allow those with appropriate authority to update their part of the website. Ron Tacchi is the member of our Executive responsible for dealing with photos. I want to thank all our sponsors for their contributions. There is one change of name: Dilip Gidwani no longer works for ITES and has made the contribution in the name of his Family Trust. Also in their absence, we thank Rose Meltzer, Ernesto d'Orsi, George Rosenkranz and Ray Lee. The WBF also supports us with an annual grant.

The Press Room in Shanghai is excellent and efficiently managed as always by Jan Swaan. Thank you. I also wish to thank our hard-working officers, in particular Mario Dix, who

must find the joint task of being Treasurer and Membership Secretary a heavy burden to bear particularly as he continues working long after he told us he was retired.

Secretary – Maureen Dennison: There has been very little for your secretary to do during 2006/7. I am away from home quite a lot – 4 times a year for 3 weeks - so if I am 2 or 3 weeks replying to any query from a member, please excuse me. I deal with anything as soon as possible on my return.

5: Appointees' reports:

IBPA Membership Secretary - Mario Dix: Membership has continued to decline, but at least at a slower rate than in recent years. Just before this event began our membership comprised of 315 members of which 210 take the reduced internet subscription and 105 take the printed version.

We are pleased to welcome 9 new Members: Michael Akeroyd, Finn Bradness, Ned Buchelev, Mel Colchamiro, Karre Kristiansen, Danny von Arneim, and also some new Members who have joined here, Gunnar Andersson, Anant Bhagwat and Olle Persson

Treasurer – Mario Dix: The accounts for the year ending 31st December 2006 and the budget for the year 2008 were presented to the meeting.

Welcome. I trust that you all have a copy of The Auditor's report, the balance sheet and a copy of our income and expenditure and a copy of our budget for next year. As mentioned on our income statement, the US\$ extreme exchange rate volatility does cause some significant swings to our accounts which are showing a larger profit than is the reality. But as I mentioned last year, IBPA is a Montana registered tax free non profit making organization, and we have no reason to change this status; and so our accounts will always be expressed in US\$.

The "split" between subs for the current year and future years is not as accurate as we would wish. This is partially because most credit card payments made in the second half of 2006 have been deemed to relate to future years, whereas in reality some of them were just from people paying late in 2006. We are now working on a system that we hope will avoid these anomalies for future years. We are in real cash terms running at and projecting a slight loss as per the budget forecasts. Apart from our membership numbers slipping slightly, our income is further diminished by more members moving over to the internet reduced subscription, which is actually what we want. This is because the postage costs are increasing quite a lot for the printed version. Further, our bulletin editor and "hands provider" charges will also increase when expressed in dollars. As it is clearly rising postal costs, it only seems fair that those who receive the printed bulletin should bear the brunt of most of our rising expenditure and thus we are proposing an increase of 9% from GBP 46 to 50 in subscriptions for those Members, and a smaller 4% increase, after 4 years, for the internet version from GBP 25 to 26. Any possible deficit in the current year will most likely more than be covered by another apparent currency gain. Also the budget deficit forecast for 2008 does not take into account the subscription increases that I have just mentioned as these have not yet been approved by the Members.

I will be pleased to answer any questions.

6: Because of increased costs, particularly postal, it was agreed that subscriptions for 2008 should be increased by 8% for the printed version – that is £46 to £50 – and that the internet subscription should be increased by 4% from £25 to £26.

7: The meeting was asked to approve the Accounts subject to auditor's report.

8: Elections: Already elected for a two year term to 2008 is: President: Patrick Jourdain (Wales); Chairman: Per Jannersten (Sweden); Exec Vice-President: Jan van Cleeff (Net); Organisational Vice-President: Dilip Gidwani; Secretary: Maureen Dennison (England); Treasurer: Mario Dix (Malta). Proposed for annual election are: Hon. General Counsel: Bill Pencharz (Eng); Hon. Auditor: Julius Butkow (South Africa) Carried unanimously.

Automatically continuing without election are the President Emeriti: Tommy Sandmark (Nor); Henry Francis (USA).

9: Election of Executive members:

Executive members whose term expires and are available for a 3-year term to 2010: Chris Diment (Australia); Panos Gerontopoulos (Greece); Brent Manley (USA).

Carried unanimously.

Already elected to 2008: Julius Butkow (RSA); John Carruthers (Can); Barry Rigal (USA).

Already elected to 2009: Christer Andersson (Swe); Peter Lund (Denmark); Ron Tacchi (Fra).

Note: Appointees in post: Awards Chairman: Barry Rigal (USA); Editor: John Carruthers (Can); Membership Secretary: Mario Dix (Malta); Sponsored Members: Irena Chodorowska (Pol).

10: The IBPA Annual Awards (see elsewhere)

11: Any other business: Barry Rigal raised the matter that at the European Youth Championships despite the presence of Dutch journalists reporting to their newspapers from the Press Room no deals featuring the gold medallists had appeared in the Daily Bulletin or been sent to the IBPA Bulletin. Rigal felt there was a moral obligation on the part of IBPA members using the Press Room to submit at least one deal to the Daily Bulletin, and also to the IBPA Bulletin.

Mario Dix raised the matter of possibly widening IBPA membership to include bridge teachers. They could already join as Associate members if they wished so we would need to offer them a service to encourage them. That would either come from space in the Bulletin or the website. Seamus Dowling said he was a bridge teacher but saw nothing in having an international version of national bridge teachers associations. Jon Sveindahl said he would not like the atmosphere of a club for journalists to be damaged. Per Jannersten said any extra service would have to be free or cost very little as the extra members could not be expected to provide much extra income. Ron Tacchi suggested that if membership was widened it could be to all bridge professionals, then our initials would remain the same. The President said the organisation could not allow any other group to have a vote as IBPA had substantial assets that must remain for the benefit of bridge journalists.

Ron Tacchi asked about an IBPA Pairs event. The President consulted those present but none thought there was spare time in the schedule for them to play in such an event.

Our Liaison Officer, Panos Gerontopoulos, would enquire about a Press Conference and any hospitality for the Press. Two members said bags and programmes had run out for journalists who were not players. The President said he would make enquiries.

Patrick Jourdain (President)



Shanghai lies in eastern China on the Huangpu River (a tributary of the Yangtze River), near the Yangtze's mouth to the East China Sea. Shanghai (Chinese for 'on the sea') commands the entrance to the Yangtze River Basin, a large, populous, and economically productive region in central China. Shanghai is China's most important port, commercial hub, and industrial center. Shanghai has hot, rainy summers and dry, cool winters.

Shanghai is an independently-administered municipal district of 6,341 sq km. It includes nine counties and 12



The Oriental Pearl Tower, near the playing site in the Pudong area.

urban districts of the city proper. The urban districts cover 2,057 sq km, of which about 300 sq km is built-up and densely populated. This area is expanding as a result of many construction projects in Shanghai. The municipality includes about 30 islands in the Yangtze River and along the coast of the East China Sea. The largest, Chongming Dao, constitutes one of Shanghai's nine counties.

Shanghai is one of the most populous cities in the world, and the largest in China. At the turn of the century, Shanghai's population

was reported to be on the 10 million mark, but in December 2003, the Mayor of Shanghai announced that it had surpassed 20 million!

The venue was the Shanghai International Convention Centre, located in the heart of the financial and trade district in Pudong, near the Oriental Pearl Tower (see photo at left) and directly across the Huangpu River from the historic Bund. It is the cleanest, most futuristic-looking city in the world, with architecture incomparable in terms of modernity, beauty, individuality and diversity.

The Bermuda Bowl Various Scribes

Based on their performance over the past few years, Italy and USA2 (Nickell) were installed as everyone's hot favourites, with Norway and USA1 (Jacobs) not far behind. China, Netherlands, Sweden and Poland were given an outside chance by the pundits. Everyone else had to be considered a longshot at best, but one was mindful that Iceland had won in Yokohama.

USA1 v USA2 - Phillip Alder

RRI. Board 9. Dealer North. EW Vul.

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

Open Room

| West | North | East | South |
|------------------|------------------|--|------------------|
| <i>Rodwell</i> | <i>Garner</i> | <i>Meckstroth</i> | <i>Weinstein</i> |
| — | Pass | 1 ♣ ¹ | Pass |
| 1 ♦ ² | INT ³ | Double | 2 ♥ ⁴ |
| 3 NT | Pass | 4 ♠ | Pass |
| Pass | Pass | | |
| | | 1. 16+ points | |
| | | 2. 0-7 points | |
| | | 3. Spades and diamonds or hearts and clubs | |
| | | 4. Pass or correct | |

Closed Room

| West | North | East | South |
|------------|---------------|------------------|-------------|
| <i>Zia</i> | <i>Hamman</i> | <i>Rosenberg</i> | <i>Lall</i> |
| — | Pass | 1 ♠ | Pass |
| 1 NT | Double | Redouble | 2 ♥ |
| Pass | Pass | 3 ♥ | Pass |
| 3 NT | Pass | Pass | Pass |

In the Open Room, Meckstroth's sequence, doubling the one-no-trump Crash overcall, then bidding four spades, showed a strong hand.

Against four spades, South led the heart six, third-highest from an even number or lowest from an odd number. North won with his ace and shifted to the club king. Declarer (East) won with his ace, cashed the spade ace-king to get the bad news, then played four rounds of diamonds, discarding a club. The defence took three spades and two hearts for down two.

In the Closed Room, Hamman's takeout double gave Rosenberg room to investigate spades and no trump, eventually accepting three no trump.

North led the club king. Declarer (West) won with dummy's ace and played a heart to his queen, North winning with the ace and shifting to the diamond jack. Declarer won in the dummy and called for the heart ten, which South ducked. Now declarer ran his diamond tricks. This was the position with one round to go:

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

On the last diamond, North discarded the heart four. This permitted West to exit with the heart jack and catch South in an endplay. Declarer took three spades, one heart, four diamonds and one club.

If North had pitched a club in the above position, declarer could not have got home. If he played his heart, South would take the trick and put his partner on lead with a heart. North would cash the club queen, then lead his spade. Plus 200 and plus 600 gave 13 IMPs to USA1.

"I Shoulda Stood in Bed" – Barry Rigal

The title of this article is attributed to Joe Jacobs, boxing manager, who was commenting on a miserable World Series game he was attending in Detroit on a cold October day. It refers to the feeling that luck is truly against you. Eric Rodwell doubtless felt this way when it came to scoring up the following deal. (See *top of next column*.)

Rodwell won the spade lead and crossed to a top diamond to ruff a spade. Now the club ace was rudely ruffed, and when a spade came back Rodwell knew that the heart queen had to be on his left. Otherwise, a heart play would have left him with no chance.

RRI. Board 13. Dealer North. Both Vul.

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

| West | North | East | South |
|----------------|---------------|-------------------|------------------|
| <i>Rodwell</i> | <i>Garner</i> | <i>Meckstroth</i> | <i>Weinstein</i> |
| — | 2 ♠ | Double | 3 ♠ |
| 5 ♦ | Pass | Pass | Pass |

Accordingly, Rodwell ruffed the spade return and ran his trumps, coming down to a four-card ending where South wanted to keep two clubs and three hearts but could not do so:

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

On the last trump, North threw a spade, East a club, and South a club. So Rodwell exited with a club and guessed hearts when South returned the suit.

At the other table...

| West | North | East | South |
|------------|---------------|------------------|-------------|
| <i>Zia</i> | <i>Hamman</i> | <i>Rosenberg</i> | <i>Lall</i> |
| — | 2 ♠ | Double | 3 ♠ |
| Double | Pass | 5 ♣ | Pass |
| 5 ♦ | Pass | 5 ♥ | Pass |
| 6 ♦ | Pass | Pass | Pass |

At the other table, Hamman opened with a weak two, requiring a stronger suit for a vulnerable three-bid. After Rosenberg doubled and Lall raised to three spades, Zia doubled in the hope that his partner could bid three no trump. But East jumped to five clubs and West continued with five diamonds. Then East, deducing that the double indicated two places to play, bid five hearts, which West had to correct to six diamonds.

North led the spade three. Thinking that North had a six-card spade suit, West deduced that this lead was a

suit preference signal, indicating a club void. Backing his judgment, Zia won with the spade ace and called for a low heart!

When South played low, West put in his nine, knowing that if South had the queen, he would have taken the trick and given his partner a club ruff. North took his heart queen and returned a heart. Declarer won with his jack, ruffed a spade on the board, drew trumps and claimed, his club loser going on dummy's last heart. Minus 600 and plus 1370 gave 13 IMPs to USA1.

Note that even if the heart nine had lost to the ten, Zia could still play North for the queen. In that scenario, he would only fail if North returned the heart queen upon winning the ten, and if hearts were not 3-3.

Polish Power Play - Mark Horton

Poland were looking good for a spot in the knock-out rounds and this deal from their clash with Italy was a good indication of the way they had been playing:

RR2. Board 1. Dealer North. Neither Vul.

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

Open Room

| West | North | East | South |
|---------------------|---------------|----------------|------------------|
| <i>Jassem</i> | <i>Bocchi</i> | <i>Martens</i> | <i>Duboin</i> |
| — | 1 ♣ | Pass | 1 ♥ ¹ |
| Double ² | 3 NT | 4 ♥ | Pass |
| Pass | Double | Pass | 5 ♣ |
| Double | Pass | Pass | Pass |

1. Spades
2. Hearts

Against five clubs doubled, East unerringly led a trump. Declarer won in dummy and played a diamond, East winning with the queen and leading another trump. That meant the contract was two down, minus 300.

Closed Room

| West | North | East | South |
|--------------|---------------|----------------|-----------------|
| <i>Nunes</i> | <i>Gawrys</i> | <i>Fantoni</i> | <i>Chmurski</i> |
| — | 1 ♣ | Pass | 1 ♦ |
| 1 ♥ | 5 ♣ | Pass | Pass |
| Pass | | | |

Here East had no particular reason to lead a trump and his choice of the queen of hearts gave declarer an opportunity he was not slow to take advantage of.

North won in hand and ran the ten of spades to West's king. North won the trump return in dummy, ruffed a spade high and exited with a diamond. He ruffed the heart return high, ruffed a diamond, ruffed a spade high and crossed to dummy with a trump to reach the two winning spades that took care of the losing diamonds, plus 400 and 12 well-earned IMPs to Poland.

Keeping Things Under Control - Barry Rigal

This was the most interesting board from Trinidad and Tobago's 21-9 win over host China:

RR2 Board 12. Dealer West. NS Vul.

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

Both tables played in four hearts. The T&T declarer made ten tricks, but in the other room, Bobby Persad led the ace of diamonds followed by the queen. Declarer took the king and ran the queen of clubs to the king. He ruffed the diamond return as Mohan Seepersad pitched a spade, then cashed the ace of clubs, dropping West's ten. This was the position:

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

What should declarer do? He can afford one more loser. At the table, South led the nine of clubs and Persad ruffed with the eight of hearts, overruffed with the queen. When declarer led the nine of hearts from dummy and East played the two, what was declarer to do?

If he overtook, East's seven would become a trick; when he ducked he was locked in dummy to force himself, before letting East in for the fatal third force.

So, what is the winning line? In the diagrammed ending declarer should lead a heart to the queen! The trump in dummy protects him from a club play, and on any other defence he could draw trumps and cash the clubs.

Brazil v Sweden – Brent Manley

RR4. Board 8. Dealer West. Neither Vul.

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

| West | North | East | South |
|------------------|---------------|------------------|--------------------|
| <i>Bertheau</i> | <i>Chagas</i> | <i>Nyström</i> | <i>Villas Boas</i> |
| 1 ♦ | Pass | 1 ♥ ¹ | 1 ♠ |
| 2 ♣ ² | Pass | 2 ♦ | Pass |
| 3 ♣ | Pass | 4 ♦ | Pass |
| 4 ♥ | Pass | Pass | Pass |

1. In this case natural, but could have been artificial.
2. Four hearts and an unbalanced hand (2♥ would be a balanced hand with four hearts).

The one spade overcall by Villas Boas and subsequent bidding revealed the spade duplication and served to slow down Bertheau and Nyström. That Bertheau's opener was limited (they play a strong club system) also played a part in the Swedes not going past game. Nyström made an overtrick for plus 650 and thought nothing of it.

| West | North | East | South |
|-------------------|-------------------|----------------|---------------|
| <i>Figueiredo</i> | <i>Efrainsson</i> | <i>Brenner</i> | <i>Morath</i> |
| 1 ♦ | Pass | 1 ♥ | Pass |
| 3 ♥ | Pass | 3 ♠ | Pass |
| 4 ♣ | Pass | 4 ♦ | Pass |
| 4 NT | Pass | 5 ♦ | Pass |
| 6 ♥ | Pass | Pass | Pass |

Morath started with a trump, taken in dummy with the ace. A spade went to the king and ace, and another trump went to dummy's king, and declarer played a diamond to his ace and followed with a spade ruff. Another diamond went to East's queen, and a third spade was ruffed. When Brenner played a club to his king and followed with the heart queen, Morath could see that pitching a minor was fatal, so he let go of the spade queen, hoping partner had the ten. Brenner held that card, however, and he was able to claim plus 980 and an 11-IMP swing to Brazil.

Teamwork – Brent Manley

When Miguel Villas Boas chose to get his hand off his chest with one bid (see top of next column), Peter Bertheau showed spade support, but subsided over Fredrik Nyström's diamond cue bid.

RR4. Board 13. Dealer North. Both Vul.

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

| West | North | East | South |
|-----------------|---------------|----------------|--------------------|
| <i>Bertheau</i> | <i>Chagas</i> | <i>Nyström</i> | <i>Villas Boas</i> |
| — | Pass | 1 ♠ | 2 NT |
| 3 ♦ | 5 ♣ | 5 ♦ | Pass |
| 5 ♠ | Pass | Pass | Pass |

Undeterred by the diamond cuebid, Villas Boas started with the diamond jack. Nyström won with the ace and put the spade jack on the table. Villas Boas won the trick and continued with the king of diamonds, then the deceptive queen of clubs. Nyström took the club ace, ruffed a club, played a spade to dummy's king and ruffed a diamond. He then cashed two more trumps.

The key to making the contract obviously was figuring out how to play hearts for no losers, if indeed it was possible. The bidding helped somewhat, but it did not eliminate the possibility of a doubleton queen of hearts. Nyström considered his options for a long time before playing a heart to dummy's king and following, again after some thought, with the jack. When Chagas followed low, Nyström backed his judgment by playing low from hand. That was good for plus 650.

| West | North | East | South |
|-------------------|-------------------|----------------|---------------|
| <i>Figueiredo</i> | <i>Efrainsson</i> | <i>Brenner</i> | <i>Morath</i> |
| — | Pass | 1 ♠ | 2 NT |
| 3 ♦ | 5 ♣ | 5 ♠ | Pass |
| Pass | Pass | | |

Morath started with the king of clubs, and play followed a line similar to that in the open room (Morath played the diamond ten when in with the spade ace). At the critical point, however, when declarer played a low heart from hand, Morath produced the ten, brilliantly promoting the possibility that he started with the queen-ten doubleton.

Indeed, declarer fell for it, winning with the heart king in dummy and playing the jack to his ace. When the queen didn't fall, it was one down and 13 IMPs to Sweden, a bright spot in an otherwise dismal set.

Norway v Italy – Mark Horton

RR6. Board 4. Dealer West. Both Vul.

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

Open Room

| West | North | East | South |
|----------------|---------------|----------------|---------------|
| <i>Helgemo</i> | <i>Bocchi</i> | <i>Helness</i> | <i>Duboin</i> |
| Pass | 1 ♠ | 4 NT | Pass |
| 6 ♣ | Double | Pass | 6 ♦ |
| Double | 6 ♠ | Pass | Pass |
| Double | Pass | Pass | Pass |

Helness bid an imaginative (choose your own adjective) four no trump. I predicted that Helgemo might take him seriously and bid six clubs. When he did, Bocchi may have wondered if they were all playing with the same deck.

On the obvious trump lead declarer rates to make only eight tricks, a small matter of minus 1100. However, the bidding is over only when the next three players pass, and when South saw fit to remove the double East-West had escaped in a manner that would have made Houdini proud.

East led the queen of diamonds and declarer ruffed and after deep thought played a heart to the ten. When that held, he cashed the ace of hearts, ruffed a diamond, cashed the top hearts, discarding a club and a diamond, and played a winning heart, ruffed and over-ruffed. Now he ruffed the ace of diamonds.

I had projected the play this far on VuGraph and pointed out that if West over-ruffed with the king of spades, declarer would be home. However, there was a counter, and of course Helgemo found it. He simply discarded a club. He ruffed the next heart, over-ruffed by declarer, who could do no better than play ace of spades and a spade. West could win and force declarer's last trump with the ace of clubs. That was one down, minus 200.

Closed Room

| West | North | East | South |
|----------------|--------------------|---------------|------------------|
| <i>Versace</i> | <i>Sælensminde</i> | <i>Lauria</i> | <i>Brogeland</i> |
| 1 ♠ | Pass | 1 NT | 2 ♥ |
| Pass | 4 ♥ | 4 NT | Pass |
| 5 ♣ | Double | Pass | Pass |
| Pass | | | |

East was also willing to venture four no trump at this table, although with rather more reason. North led a club and declarer won and played a diamond. North took the king and played the nine of diamonds. South ruffed and exited with a trump, plus 800 and 14 IMPs to Norway.

At more than one table the final contract was one spade by West!

RR6. Board 10. Dealer East. Both Vul.

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

Open Room

| West | North | East | South |
|----------------|---------------|----------------|---------------|
| <i>Helgemo</i> | <i>Bocchi</i> | <i>Helness</i> | <i>Duboin</i> |
| — | — | 3 ♥ | Pass |
| Pass | Double | Pass | 3 NT |
| Pass | Pass | Pass | |

There was some discussion as to the best bid with the North cards. You can decide if you prefer three spades. You might also consider if there is any case for passing the double on the South cards.

West led the queen of clubs and we immediately observed that declarer was unlikely to make a winning guess in spades. He won the club ace and played the jack of diamonds. West took the ace and continued with the jack of clubs. Declarer ducked that, discarding the jack of spades from his hand, and won the next club, discarding the three of diamonds.

Now came some more serious thinking - declarer could be sure of eleven of East's cards - seven hearts, three clubs and one diamond - but what were the other two? For the moment, it didn't matter, as declarer set out to develop a heart trick by playing the king of hearts.

If East wins this he has no good move - a spade is clearly hopeless, and if East and South play some ping pong in the heart suit West will be squeezed - but Helness found the only way to set declarer a problem by ducking - earning cheers from the Norwegian supporters.

Declarer came to hand with a spade and played the jack of hearts. If East wins that, he can cash another heart, but then the next heart will see West squeezed, so Helness ducked once more. A great try, but now declarer could simply play a spade to dummy's ace.

If East had shown out on the spade ace, the diamonds would have behaved. If he had followed with a small spade and showed out on the king of diamonds West could have been thrown in to lead away from his ten of diamonds. A great hand featuring top-class play and defence. When the queen of spades actually fell under the ace, Duboin emerged with a couple of overtricks for plus 660.

Closed Room

| West | North | East | South |
|---------|--------------|--------|-----------|
| Versace | Saelensminde | Lauria | Brogeland |
| — | — | 3 ♥ | Pass |
| Pass | 3 ♠ | Pass | 4 ♥ |
| Pass | 4 ♠ | Pass | Pass |
| Pass | | | |

East led the ace of hearts and switched to the six of clubs. Declarer won in dummy perforce and played a diamond to the king. When that held he cross ruffed clubs and hearts and arrived at ten tricks, plus 620 to lose 1 IMP.

The Expert Play – Brent Manley

Chip Martel advised us of a play found by Ralph Katz in the round six match of USAI against India. Both tables played four hearts, Katz defending in the West seat after a strong no trump and Stayman.

RR6. Board 12. Dealer West. NS Vul

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

| West | North | East | South |
|------|---------|--------|-------|
| Katz | Kushari | Jacobs | Roy |
| Pass | Pass | Pass | 1 NT |
| Pass | 2 ♣ | Pass | 2 ♥ |
| Pass | 4 ♥ | Pass | Pass |
| Pass | | | |

On a low spade lead one might have thought that the natural line was to win in hand and lead a trump to the queen, guarding against a significant trump singleton with West. However, it is not so clear who might be short in hearts on the lead of the spade ten. As the cards lie this line would almost certainly have led to success.

Both declarers actually chose to win with the spade ace, lead a heart to the king, and duck a trump on the way back. At one table, West won with his jack and

exited with the diamond jack, but it did not matter what he did at this point. Declarer could strip off the spades and diamonds, exit with a trump, and claim.

Katz was defending in the other room and threw a spanner into the works when he unblocked the heart jack under the king. Now when declarer played a second trump, it let George Jacobs draw two rounds of trumps and exit with a diamond. Declarer was forced to find the jack of clubs to make his game, and it was therefore poetic justice when he misguessed that card and went down.

Changing The Odds - GeO Tislevoll

This hand occurred in the match between Egypt and Norway in the Bermuda Bowl. A beautifully-thought-out card played by Geir Helgemo was not rewarded when Walid el-Ahmady played for the position that he had decided on before Helgemo's play.

RR8. Board 28. Dealer West. Neither Vul.

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

| West | North | East | South |
|---------|-----------|---------|-------|
| Helgemo | el-Ahmady | Helness | Sadek |
| Pass | 1 ♠ | Pass | 2 ♦ |
| Pass | 2 ♥ | Pass | 3 ♥ |
| Pass | 4 ♣ | Pass | 4 ♦ |
| Pass | 4 ♥ | Pass | 6 ♥ |
| Pass | Pass | Pass | |

In the closed room, Erik Saelensminde-Boye Brogeland played in four hearts. On a diamond lead declarer played safely, rising with the ace, drawing trumps, and losing two spade tricks. Ten tricks, for plus 420.

The slam is not good, but the strong Egyptian pair is never afraid of bidding tough slams, and when playing their cards well they can often get away with murder.

Three hearts was a slam try, and after two cue bids, when North bid only four hearts at his fourth turn, one has to wonder where South's final effort came from.

Anyway, six hearts was a terrible contract, but it soon developed some kind of play when Tor Helness found the only lead to give declarer a chance. The lead of a diamond (he led the nine, actually) might look like a bad choice, but you could easily change North-South's cards a little and find a diamond lead being the best. In

fact, it could have been the only lead to set the contract on some layouts. Not here!

El-Ahmady played a low diamond from dummy and won the trick with the ten. After two high trumps from hand he was thinking for some seconds, not more than eight to ten seconds. That pause was enough for Helgemo to figure out North's hand completely, because what could declarer possibly be thinking about? For sure, it was all about the spades.

Declarer had to draw the last trump - if not, West would get a diamond ruff - and therefore he needed to guess the spades and find the suit 3-3, since only one trump would be left in dummy. Many players would probably have covered the spade jack from dummy, but that is normally not good play in this sort of position.

And of course, Helgemo didn't cover, but that was not the beautiful play, that was a normal play for a top player. But when declarer drew the third trump and played the jack of spades Helgemo put in the nine!

Why was this so clever? Firstly, if el-Ahmady thinks West has the queen, he would surely have covered from queen-nine doubleton, so that cannot be the case. To cover with that holding would have been the correct play if his partner has, as little as say ace-seven-five-two.

Secondly, when the nine was played from West on the jack, declarer had a new option. The spades don't necessarily have to split 3-3 any more. If West has ace-nine doubleton, and East queen-six-three-two, declarer can put up the king. Then he gives up a spade trick to West's ace, and later he can ruff out East's queen using dummy's last trump!

Originally it looked like a 50-50 choice about where the spade queen and ace were placed, but the play of the nine under the jack made the odds clearly favour playing the king of spades. That however, did not influence el-Ahmady. He laughed at Helgemo appreciatively (not out loud, of course, he is too much the gentleman for that) and let the spade jack run for a huge plus 980. Nice defence, but still, the Norwegians lost 10 IMPs.

Clubbed To Death - Mark Horton

RR1 I. Board 28. Dealer West. NS Vul.

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

Hoping to relax for a few minutes, Tacchi and I made our way to the VuGraph theatre to watch the end of the Round 11 match between USA1 and Norway in the Bermuda Bowl. We should have known better, as we immediately witnessed two sensational deals that must be reported.

Open Room

| West | North | East | South |
|-----------|---------|--------|---------|
| Weinstein | Helness | Garner | Helgemo |
| Pass | Pass | 1 ♦ | Pass |
| 1 ♥ | Pass | 3 ♣ | Pass |
| 3 ♠ | Pass | 6 ♥ | Pass |
| Pass | Pass | | |

As you can see, despite the 4-1 trump break, six hearts is cold because the club king is onside.

However, Tor Helness had his own ideas about that and he rained on Howard Weinstein's parade by leading the five of clubs! After a suitable pause - as Reese would have said, to show that he suspected a trap - declarer went up with the ace of clubs - and down went the contract.

Closed Room

| West | North | East | South |
|-----------|-----------|-------------|--------|
| Brogeland | Rosenberg | Sælensminde | Zia |
| Pass | Pass | 1 ♦ | Pass |
| 1 ♥ | Pass | 3 ♠ | Double |
| 4 ♥ | Pass | Pass | Pass |

Although East-West failed to derive the maximum benefit from their team-mate's brilliant lead, Norway still picked up 11 IMPs.

By a remarkable coincidence, on the very next deal the USA had a chance to turn the tables, although this time it was in the other room.

RR1 I. Board 29. Dealer North. Both Vul.

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

Open Room

| West | North | East | South |
|------------------|---------|--------|---------|
| Weinstein | Helness | Garner | Helgemo |
| — | Pass | 1 ♦ | 1 ♠ |
| 2 ♣ ¹ | Pass | 2 ♦ | 2 ♠ |
| 3 ♦ | Pass | Pass | Pass |
| 1. Hearts | | | |

South led a trump. Declarer won in hand and advanced the queen of hearts. South covered and declarer quickly racked up 11 tricks, plus 150.

Closed Room

| West | North | East | South |
|-----------|-----------|--------------|-------|
| Brogeland | Rosenberg | Saelensminde | Zia |
| — | Pass | 1 ♠ | 2 ♠ |
| Double | Pass | 3 ♠ | Pass |
| 3 ♠ | Pass | 3 NT | Pass |
| Pass | Pass | | |

A swing was guaranteed when the Norwegians bid to three no trump. The VuGraph commentators had noticed that a low club lead would force declarer to rely on the heart finesse, and there was no doubt that declarer would take it and bring home his game.

However, they had reckoned without South's ability occasionally to conjure up IMPs out of thin air. Zia did indeed lead a club - but he selected the king!

Declarer assumed that South had the club king-queen. He won in hand, took six rounds of diamonds and played a club. Zia had already discarded the club ten so North took three tricks in the suit and played a spade back. One down, minus 100 and 6 IMPs to USA1.

China SMEG v Indonesia – Phillip Alder

RR17. Board 22. Dealer East. EW Vul.

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

Open Room

| West | North | East | South |
|------|--------|--------|-------|
| Shi | Tobing | Zhuang | Asbi |
| — | — | Pass | 1 ♠ |
| Pass | 2 NT | Pass | 3 ♠ |
| Pass | 4 ♠ | Pass | 4 ♥ |
| Pass | 5 ♥ | Double | 6 ♠ |
| Pass | Pass | Pass | |

Closed Room

| West | North | East | South |
|-------|-------|--------|-------|
| Bojoh | Sun | George | Wang |
| — | — | Pass | 1 ♠ |
| Pass | 2 NT | Pass | 3 ♠ |
| Pass | 4 ♠ | Pass | 4 ♥ |
| Pass | 4 ♠ | Pass | Pass |
| Pass | | | |

It is interesting that both Norths could respond with a natural and game-forcing two no trump (although Tobing was showing 13-15 and could have bid three no trump to announce 16-18; presumably he wished to save space).

Both Souths felt obliged to show their second-round heart control despite a minimum opening bid. Although, if four diamonds denied any club control, four hearts had the advantage of also promising a club control. Maybe Sun thought four spades confirmed no club control and that his partner was required to move with one. In the open room, Asbi's jump to six spades looks optimistic.

In the closed room, West led a low club: four, ten, ace. Declarer drew trumps in three rounds with aid of a winning finesse, then ducked a diamond. East returned his club queen, so South claimed, saying that he would win and play a club to dummy's eight - 12 tricks.

There was much more at stake in the open room. West led the heart jack. Declarer won with dummy's ace, cashed the spade ace, took the trump finesse and, not knowing the lovely club position, played a diamond to dummy's jack, hoping West had the king and queen. But East took dummy's jack with his queen and returned the club ten.

South won with his ace and cashed the spade king. Then, with a shrug of the shoulders, he tabled the club king. He perked up considerably when the queen appeared. A club to dummy's eight and the club jack permitted a diamond discard. Six spades bid and made. Minus 480 and plus 980 gave Indonesia 11 IMPs.

Did anything occur to you? When declarer led the low diamond at trick four, West almost certainly missed a chance to defeat the contract. If he had inserted his diamond king, declarer would surely have assumed that he had the king and queen. Probably South would have ruffed a heart, cashed the spade king, and played a diamond to the jack, going down one. This analysis was pointed out by Patrick Huang, commentator par excellence.

China v Norway – Mark Horton

RR18. Board 6. Dealer East. EW Vul.

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

Open Room

| West | North | East | South |
|------------------|------------|--------------------|---------------|
| <i>Brogeland</i> | <i>Shi</i> | <i>Sælensminde</i> | <i>Zhuang</i> |
| — | — | Pass | 1 ♣ |
| Pass | 3 ♣ | Pass | 6 ♣ |
| Pass | Pass | Pass | |

West led the queen of spades. Declarer won in dummy and played a diamond. West won and played back a diamond, so declarer was able to ruff, cash one top trump and play on cross-ruff lines, plus 920.

Closed Room

| West | North | East | South |
|-------------|-------------------|-----------|------------------|
| <i>Zhao</i> | <i>Tundal</i> | <i>Fu</i> | <i>Grøtheim</i> |
| — | — | Pass | 1 ♣ ¹ |
| Pass | 2 ♥ ² | Pass | 2 ♠ ³ |
| Pass | 2 NT ⁴ | Pass | 3 ♦ ⁵ |
| Pass | 4 ♣ | Pass | 6 ♣ |
| Pass | Pass | Pass | |

- 16+
- 8+, 5/4, 4/5 minors
- Relay
- 5 clubs, 4 diamonds, 8-11
- Slam try in clubs

The play was more or less identical at this table after the same opening lead of the queen of spades, no swing.

Six clubs is an excellent contract, virtually cold unless a trump is led. In that case, West can play a second trump when in with the ace of diamonds, preventing the crossruff. This happened at three tables in the Venice Cup and declarer relied on the heart finesse, going one down.

As my forte is not mathematics (as my fan well knows), I cannot tell you if that is the best line. Suppose instead declarer plays to ruff two diamonds in hand and two hearts in dummy. If the queen of hearts falls (as it does here), you are home and if it does not, you may achieve a squeeze. For example, just give East the queen of hearts - this will be the three-card ending:

| | | |
|-------|-------|--------|
| | ♠ 6 | |
| | ♥ — | |
| | ♦ 6 | |
| | ♣ 9 | |
| ♠ Q 2 | | ♠ 10 8 |
| ♥ — | | ♥ Q |
| ♦ 10 | | ♦ — |
| ♣ — | | ♣ — |
| | ♠ A 9 | |
| | ♥ 9 | |
| | ♦ — | |
| | ♣ — | |

When declarer plays the last trump East has to discard a spade. The nine of hearts goes from the South hand, and West has no answer. Giovanni Watulingas of Indonesia played along those lines to bring home the slam in the

match against New Zealand (they stopped in five clubs in the other room).

Swings Needed - Brian Senior

With two rounds to play, those teams in the top eight were looking for nice flat boards, while the chasing pack was looking for something a little more likely to produce swings. Board 2 of Round 20 featured some wild distribution that would have pleased those needing action. Sure enough, the contracts were many and varied.

RR20. Board 2. Dealer East. NS Vul.

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

Poland v Brazil

Open Room

| West | North | East | South |
|-------------------|---------------|----------------|-----------------|
| <i>Figueiredo</i> | <i>Gawrys</i> | <i>Brenner</i> | <i>Chmurski</i> |
| — | — | 1 ♠ | 3 ♣ |
| Pass | Pass | Pass | |

Closed Room

| West | North | East | South |
|---------------|---------------|----------------|--------------------|
| <i>Jassem</i> | <i>Chagas</i> | <i>Martens</i> | <i>Villas Boas</i> |
| — | — | 1 ♠ | 3 ♣ |
| 3 ♠ | Pass | 4 ♠ | Pass |
| Pass | Pass | | |

Here both Souths went for the weak jump overcall. For Brazil, Mauricio Figueiredo passed with the West cards so three clubs became the final contract.

Figueiredo led the spade three and Diego Brenner won with the queen then continued with the ace. Bartosz Chmurski ruffed the second spade and played ace of clubs, getting the bad news, then the club jack to Brenner's queen. The successful diamond finesse meant that Chmurski had nine tricks despite the bad trump split; plus 110.

Krzysztof Jassem competed with three spades on the West hand and Krzysztof Martens chose to ignore the likely bad breaks and raised himself to game.

Miguel Villas Boas led a top club, which Martens ruffed in dummy. He now led a heart towards the king. Gabriel Chagas took the heart ace and returned a spade, won with the ace, and Martens led the club queen to the king, ruffed in dummy. Chagas discarded a diamond. Martens

continued by ruffing a diamond, Chagas putting in the queen, then cashed the top spades and heart king.

The fall of the heart queen was what Martens was hoping for and he now played a heart to dummy. Chagas ruffed but was down to nothing but diamonds. He played the diamond ace and Martens discarded a club loser, leaving Chagas to lead to dummy's diamond king and the heart winners. Well done, with both North and East refusing to take a ruff and declarer coming out on top; ten tricks for plus 420 and 11 IMPs to Poland.

If Martens had played a heart from dummy after the club ruff, he'd have made eleven tricks, but not so elegantly.

At the close of the Round Robin, there were a few surprises. The standings:

| | | |
|----|---------------------|--------------|
| 1 | Italy | 375 |
| 2 | USA1 | 362 |
| 3 | Netherlands | 349.5 |
| 4 | Norway | 348 |
| 5 | Australia | 342 |
| 6 | Sweden | 332 |
| 7 | China SMEG | 331 |
| 8 | South Africa | 326.5 |
| 9 | Brazil | 326 |
| 10 | Japan | 323 |
| 11 | USA2 | 321 |
| 12 | Poland | 320 |
| 13 | Indonesia | 312 |
| 14 | Egypt | 311 |
| 15 | Argentina | 301 |
| 16 | Chinese Taipei | 299.5 |
| 17 | Ireland | 293.5 |
| 18 | Pakistan | 292 |
| 19 | India | 285 |
| 20 | New Zealand | 268 |
| 21 | Canada | 263.5 |
| 22 | Trinidad & Tobago | 215.5 |

As the Round Robin winner, Italy chose South Africa as its quarterfinal opponent and USA1/Australia as its bracket-mates after the other choices were made. Netherlands would play Sweden and Norway would battle host China in the other side of the bracket.



**The
Bermuda
Bowl**

Results from the quarterfinal matches were:

| | | | |
|--------------|-------|------------|-------|
| South Africa | 184.7 | Italy | 167 |
| USA1 | 216 | Australia | 124 |
| Netherlands | 274 | Sweden | 107.7 |
| Norway | 208 | China SMEG | 116 |

The decimals are due to the carryover formula and/or time penalties.

Norway v Netherlands – Brian Senior

SF2. Board 21. Dealer North. NS Vul.

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

Open Room

| West | North | East | South |
|------------------|----------------|--------------------|--------------|
| <i>Brogeland</i> | <i>Drijver</i> | <i>Sælensminde</i> | <i>Brink</i> |
| — | Pass | 2 ♣ | Pass |
| 2 ♦ | Pass | 3 ♣ | Pass |
| 3 ♦ | Pass | 3 ♠ | Pass |
| 4 ♥ | Pass | 6 ♠ | Pass |
| 7 ♠ | Pass | Pass | Pass |

Closed Room

| West | North | East | South |
|----------------|----------------|---------------|----------------|
| <i>de Wijs</i> | <i>Helness</i> | <i>Muller</i> | <i>Helgemo</i> |
| — | Pass | 1 ♣ | Pass |
| 1 ♥ | Pass | 1 ♠ | Pass |
| 2 ♥ | Pass | 2 ♠ | Pass |
| 3 ♦ | Pass | 3 ♥ | Pass |
| 3 NT | Pass | 6 ♠ | Pass |
| Pass | Pass | | |

Sælensminde opened with a strong and artificial two clubs, then showed his clubs, game forcing. Three spades showed the four-card spade suit. Now, four clubs and four diamonds would have been natural, leaving four hearts as the only bid available as a general spade slam try (three hearts over three clubs would have been natural). When Sælensminde jumped to six spades, Brogeland trusted him to have strong trumps and excellent controls - still, seven spades was a brave bid.

Brink led a trump to declarer's ten. Sælensminde played ace then ruffed a club low and cashed the diamonds. The combination of four-one spades and four-two clubs was too much to overcome. The contract was three down for minus 150.

Muller opened one club, 16+, and the one heart response showed 9+ with four or more spades. If you would like a translation of the remainder of the auction, I'm afraid you will have to ask a Dutchman or, much better, wait until the World Championship book comes out next March (and the Muller-de Wijs convention card is silent on the matter). Anyway, it ended with a majestic leap to six spades by Muller.

Helgemo led the six of hearts to the king and ace. Muller played ace, ruffed a club, cashed three top diamonds, throwing two hearts and a club, then led a low spade to hand. He ruffed a club with the eight, ruffed a heart, and ruffed another club with the jack. That gave seven trump tricks and five top winners in the side-suits; plus 980 and 14 IMPs to the Netherlands.

USA1 v South Africa – Phillip Alder

SF4. Board 22. Dealer East. EW Vul.

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

Open Room

| West | North | East | South |
|-------------------|------------------|-------------|------------|
| <i>Holman</i> | <i>Rosenberg</i> | <i>Cope</i> | <i>Zia</i> |
| — | — | 1 ♠ | Pass |
| 1 NT ¹ | Pass | 2 ♣ | Pass |
| 2 NT | Pass | 4 ♠ | Pass |
| 1. Forcing | | | |

Closed Room

| West | North | East | South |
|-------------------|--------------|---------------|----------------|
| <i>Weinstein</i> | <i>Gower</i> | <i>Garner</i> | <i>Apteker</i> |
| — | — | 1 ♠ | Pass |
| 1 NT ¹ | Pass | 2 ♠ | Pass |
| Pass | Pass | | |
| 1. Semi-forcing | | | |

When Garner rebid two spades in the closed room, Weinstein had no reason to act again. South led the heart jack, then continued with a low heart. Declarer ruffed North's heart queen, played a diamond to dummy's queen, ruffed a heart in his hand to bring down the ace, overtook his diamond king with dummy's ace, and called for the heart king, ruffed and over-ruffed. East cashed his club ace and exited with a club, waiting for two tricks from the ace-queen-ten of spades to end plus one.

There was more at stake when Holman overbid with two no trump. Against four spades, South led the heart

jack. Perhaps declarer should have covered that to make it harder for North to shift. (If North tries to cash his heart queen, declarer ruffs, takes the spade ace and continues with the spade queen, hoping to pin the jack. Then East would take five spades, five diamonds and one club for an overtrick.)

When declarer played low from the dummy and his jack held, Zia knew the heart layout. At trick two, he found the best play, switching to the diamond two: five, three, four. (Here a club works also, but that would have been less than successful if East had started with ace-jack-empty-fourth of clubs.) Declarer played a spade to his queen, cashed the spade ace and continued with a third spade. But North took the trick and played a second diamond, cutting declarer off from the dummy. Cope

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overtook his king with dummy's ace, threw a club on the diamond queen, and played another diamond, North trumping with his spade six. Declarer had to lose one spade, one heart and two clubs to go down one. Very nicely defended. Plus 140 and plus 100 gave 6 IMPs to USA I.

A word about Michael Rosenberg's defence here as well; had he covered the diamond from dummy, declarer would have been forced to make the normal play from hand of ace then queen of spades. Rosenberg presented him with a losing option of leading a spade to the ten.

Norway had dominated the Netherlands in their semifinal, the score only approaching respectability in the final set: Norway 278 – Netherlands 248. USA I won a nail-biter against South Africa 207-199. Among others, if a Garner-Weinstein slam needing to bring in ace-king-jack to eight diamonds opposite none had failed, the South Africans would have been in and the Americans out.

The Final – USA I v Norway – Phillip Alder

F2. Board 23. Dealer South. Both Vul.

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

Open Room

| West | North | East | South |
|------------------|---------------|--------------------|------------------|
| <i>Brogeland</i> | <i>Garner</i> | <i>Sælensminde</i> | <i>Weinstein</i> |
| — | — | — | Pass |
| 1 ♠ | Pass | 2 ♦ | Pass |
| 2 ♥ | Pass | 2 NT | Pass |
| 3 NT | Pass | Pass | Pass |

Closed Room

| West | North | East | South |
|------------|----------------|------------------|----------------|
| <i>Zia</i> | <i>Helness</i> | <i>Rosenberg</i> | <i>Helgemo</i> |
| — | — | — | Pass |
| Pass | Pass | 1 ♦ | Pass |
| 1 ♠ | Pass | 2 ♦ | Pass |
| 2 ♥ | Pass | 3 ♣ | Pass |
| 3 NT | Pass | Pass | Pass |

Sælensminde misguessed the play, but understandably so. He ducked the club lead and took the second trick with West's club king. Declarer overtook dummy's diamond jack with his queen, a play that he could not afford as the cards lay, but which needed diamonds 3-3 or the doubleton king onside. Weinstein won with his

king and cleared the clubs. Now East cashed his two top diamonds, getting the bad news, and led a low heart to catch South's king, but that gave declarer only seven tricks.

A rather more complicated line would have succeeded: allow the diamond jack to win (South must duck as well); lead a spade - if North wins he must lead to declarer's advantage, so when South wins, he knocks out the club ace; declarer cashes the diamond ace and leads the heart queen, king, ace and a high spade; North wins and has only majors left - he must give West an entry to the dummy. On that line declarer scores three spades and two in each of the other suits.

In the closed room, where Rosenberg's careful three-club bid would have been great if West had had queen-doubleton or queen-third of clubs, North led the heart six. Declarer played low from the dummy and scooped up South's king with his ace. The diamond jack won the second trick, so declarer continued with a heart to the jack, the diamond ace, and the diamond queen. South, after winning with his king, shifted to a spade, giving his side two tricks there, but declarer claimed the balance. Plus 200 and plus 630 gave 13 IMPs to USA I.

F2. Board 28. Dealer West. NS Vul.

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

Open Room

| West | North | East | South |
|------------------|---------------|--------------------|------------------|
| <i>Brogeland</i> | <i>Garner</i> | <i>Sælensminde</i> | <i>Weinstein</i> |
| Pass | 1 ♠ | Pass | 2 ♥ |
| Pass | 2 ♠ | Pass | 3 ♥ |
| Pass | 3 NT | Pass | Pass |
| Double | Redouble | Pass | Pass |
| Pass | | | |

Closed Room

| West | North | East | South |
|------------|----------------|------------------|----------------|
| <i>Zia</i> | <i>Helness</i> | <i>Rosenberg</i> | <i>Helgemo</i> |
| Pass | 1 ♠ | Pass | 2 ♥ |
| Pass | 3 ♣ | Pass | 3 ♦ |
| Pass | 3 ♠ | Pass | 4 ♠ |
| Pass | Pass | Pass | |

In the open room, Weinstein's two-heart response was game-forcing. So, when Brogeland gambled a double of three no trump, Garner, with 19 high-card points,

scrambled to find his blue card, happy as can be to place it into the bidding tray. Was there ever a more contented redouble? After a heart lead to West's jack and a diamond shift, declarer rose with his ace and took his ten top tricks for plus 1400.

On a different day, East would have had a couple of hearts and a couple of entries. Nevertheless, the fifth heart was a liability in Brogeland's hand - it was possible Saelensminde had no hearts as well.

Against four spades, Rosenberg led a diamond. Declarer Helness won with dummy's nine, drew trumps and conceded a diamond trick for plus 680, but a loss of 12 IMPs. USA 1 was now ahead by 28.5.

Two boards later the redouble struck again!

F2. Board 30. Dealer East. Neither Vul.

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

Open Room

| West | North | East | South |
|------------------|-------------------|---------------------|------------------|
| <i>Brogeland</i> | <i>Garner</i> | <i>Saelensminde</i> | <i>Weinstein</i> |
| — | — | Pass | 1 ♠ |
| Pass | 1 NT ¹ | Pass | 2 ♣ ² |
| Pass | 2 ♦ ³ | Pass | 2 ♥ ⁴ |
| Pass | 3 NT | Pass | Pass |

1. Semi-forcing
2. Natural or strong and artificial
3. Eight-plus points, forcing to game
4. Three-plus hearts and 16-plus points

Closed Room

| West | North | East | South |
|------------|----------------|------------------|----------------|
| <i>Zia</i> | <i>Helness</i> | <i>Rosenberg</i> | <i>Helgemo</i> |
| — | — | Pass | 1 ♠ |
| Pass | 1 NT | Pass | 2 ♦ |
| Pass | 3 ♦ | Pass | 3 ♥ |
| Pass | 3 NT | Pass | Pass |
| Double | Redouble | Pass | Pass |
| Pass | | | |

Against Garner's three no trump in the open room, Saelensminde led the heart queen. Declarer won with his king, ran the diamond ten, winning, and played a diamond to dummy's jack. West took the trick and returned a heart. Garner won with his jack and played a spade to dummy's queen, Brogeland winning with his king and clearing the hearts. Declarer took his two diamond tricks ending in

his hand, then played a spade to dummy's ten. Unlucky – West won with his jack and cashed three tricks, two hearts and the club ace, for three down.

Against three no trump redoubled, Rosenberg led a spade, Zia winning with his jack and shifting to his low club. Helness won with his king, ran the diamond queen, winning, then played the diamond ten and rose with dummy's ace. Declarer cashed dummy's spade ace and continued with another spade. Zia won with the king and took his two winners, the diamond king and club ace, but then he had to lead a heart, so Helness claimed. Plus 150 and plus 800 gave Norway 14 IMPs.

USA 1 retained a small lead, 88.5-81 at the close of the set.

The Final (Continued) - Brent Manley

This deal required some very good card play by South in both rooms.

F4. Board 2. Dealer East. NS Vul.

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

Open Room

| West | North | East | South |
|----------------|---------------|------------------|------------------|
| <i>Helgemo</i> | <i>Garner</i> | <i>Helness</i> | <i>Weinstein</i> |
| <i>Zia</i> | <i>Tundal</i> | <i>Rosenberg</i> | <i>Grøtheim</i> |
| — | — | Pass | Pass |
| 2 ♠ | Double | Pass | 3 NT |
| Pass | Pass | Pass | |

In the closed room, Zia started with the queen of spades: jack, six, ace. A low club went to the ten and queen, and Grøtheim won the diamond continuation with the queen. He played another low club from hand, taken by Zia with the ace. Zia cashed the spade ten, then played a diamond to dummy's ace. Grøtheim then called for the heart jack from dummy, letting it ride when Rosenberg played low. A heart to the king drew the ten from Zia, and declarer had his nine tricks via three hearts, two clubs, three diamonds and a spade.

The play went a bit differently in the open room. Helgemo started with the king of spades, ducked by Weinstein in case Helgemo's two spades was based on a five-card suit. Helgemo switched to a diamond, which went to declarer's queen. Now a club to the ten and queen brought another diamond to dummy's ace. A club to the jack and ace meant

Weinstein had only one club trick, but he worked out a way to get home anyway. He won the third round of diamonds in dummy, then thought for a long time before played the heart jack, letting it run. He then played a heart to the king and cashed the spade ace, pitching dummy's diamond. Helness also pitched a diamond, but then Weinstein played a club to dummy's king and threw Helness in with the fourth round of the suit, getting the blocking heart nine out of his hand. Helness was left on lead at trick 12 with the queen-seven of hearts, looking at dummy's ace-eight. Well done at both tables for a push.

The Final (Conclusion) - Brent Manley

F7. Board 12. Dealer West. NS Vul.

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

Open Room

| West | North | East | South |
|----------------|---------------|----------------|------------------|
| <i>Helgemo</i> | <i>Garner</i> | <i>Helness</i> | <i>Weinstein</i> |
| 1 ♦ | Pass | 1 ♠ | Pass |
| 4 ♠ | Pass | Pass | Pass |

Weinstein's opening lead was the sneaky queen of diamonds. Helness studied the card suspiciously before ducking. Weinstein switched to the club queen at trick two. Helness covered, Garner won with the ace and could have assured the defeat of the contract with a heart switch, but that play was not at all clear.

On the return of the club eight, Weinstein took the nine with the jack and himself could have defeated the contract by playing the diamond ace (declarer must ruff in hand, thus cannot pull trumps and cash the good clubs). However, Weinstein played a third club. Helness ruffed high in dummy, then pulled trumps, ending in hand, and ran his good clubs, squeezing South in diamonds and hearts for plus 420.

At the other table, Zia-Rosenberg declared three no trump, a truly miserable contract, which went one off on less than optimal defence, but it was good enough for a 10-IMP gain.

Norway ended this set in comfortable position to win the Bermuda Bowl. There was no miracle comeback in the final 16 boards, and Norway ran out easy winners, 334-245.5.



Bermuda Bowl Winners (from left): Vegard Brekke (coach), Glenn Grøtheim, Ulf-Håkkon Tundal, Geir Helgemo, Boye Brogeland, Erik Sælensminde, Tor Helness, Sten Bjertnes (NPC)

Silver — Steve Garner, George Jacobs, Ralph Katz, Zia Mahmood, Michael Rosenberg, Howard Weinstein. Non-playing captain: Jan Martel. Coach: Chip Martel.

Bronze — Ton Bakkeren, Huub Bertens, Sjoert Brink, Bas Drijver, Bauke Muller, Simon de Wijs. Non-playing captain: Eric Laurant. Coach: Anton Maas.

The Venice Cup Heather Dhondy

Having successfully negotiated the round robin, it was time for England to face China in the quarter-finals. We were neck and neck for the first four sets out of six, but eventually the Chinese proved too strong and we were eliminated. One of the earlier sets produced a very special play from Michelle Brunner:

QF2. Board 26. Dealer East. Both Vul.

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

| West | North | East | South |
|-------------------------|--------------------|--------------------------|--------------------|
| <i>Michelle Brunner</i> | <i>Liu Yi Qian</i> | <i>Rhona Goldenfield</i> | <i>Wang Wenfei</i> |
| — | — | Pass | Pass |
| Pass | 1 ♣ ¹ | Pass | 1 ♦ ² |
| Pass | 2 ♠ | Pass | 2 NT |
| Pass | 3 ♣ | Pass | 4 ♣ |
| Pass | 5 NT | Pass | 7 ♣ |
| Pass | Pass | Pass | |

1. Precision Club (16+)
2. Negative (0-7)

The Precision auction propelled the Chinese side to an optimistic seven-club contract. You will note that the entryless dummy more or less forces declarer into the winning line of dropping the singleton king of trumps off-side to land a rather jammy contract.

Enter Michelle, who, on seeing partner's lead of the jack of hearts covered by the queen in dummy, ducked!

Declarer, who was mightily relieved to gain a surprise entry, had no hesitation in taking advantage of it to play her percentage shot in trumps of taking the finesse! Whoops!

How was this brilliancy found? Should declarer have been fooled? Let's think about it.

One club was strong and one diamond negative. The jump to two spades was natural and forcing, showing a strong hand. Two no trump and three clubs were both natural. Over partner's natural four clubs, showing support, North jumped to five no trump, grand slam force. Whether they disagreed about the meaning of five no trump or the responses, I'm not sure, but one thing that Michelle could be certain of is that declarer had a source of running tricks in spades for this action. Therefore there would be no danger in giving declarer a cheap trick in hearts since they would soon be disposed of on spades in any case.

From Michelle's point of view, a jump to seven clubs holding only the queen in trumps left room for partner to have a trump honour and there was a significant danger that it would be singleton. With plenty of time to think about it, we can all see that it can't cost, and may gain on this layout. However, the really impressive thing is that it had to be done smoothly and in tempo so as to give nothing away. If you duck slowly, declarer will be suspicious. Should she have been suspicious anyway?

It is unusual to lead from a king-jack-ten holding against a grand slam. If you don't want to lead a trump, then a spade into the solid suit would seem to give nothing away. On the other hand, a lead from jack-ten would be perfectly normal. Therefore, you should not expect the queen of hearts to hold the first trick. Nevertheless, it is a huge leap of logic to then deduce that West has ducked in order to persuade you to take a losing line in trumps. This brilliancy was undoubtedly the play of the tournament.

Venice Cup Winners: Jill Levin, Irina Levitina, Jill Meyers, Hansa Narasimhan, Debbie Rosenberg, JoAnna Stansby. Non-playing captain: Gail Greenberg.

Senior Bowl Winners: Roger Bates, Grant Baze, Bart Bramley, Rose Meltzer, Alan Sontag, Lew Stansby. Non-playing captain: Kyle Larsen. Coach: Patty Magnus.

World Transnational Open Teams Winners: Michel Bessis, Thomas Bessis, Fulvio Fantoni, Franck Multon, Claudio Nunes, Pierre Zimmermann.

The Senior Bowl

John Carruthers

Alan Sontag has been in six World Championship finals; he has won all six, a fantastic record. On this deal from the Senior Bowl final in Shanghai, he demonstrated that this was no mere coincidence, recovering from an earlier, non-optimal defensive play to deflect declarer from the winning line.

F4. Board 27. Dealer South. Neither Vul.

♠ K 8 6
♥ 5 4 3
♦ K Q 9 6 5
♣ 7 4

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

♠ A 10 9 5 2
♥ K 10 8 6
♦ 8
♣ A 5 3

| West | North | East | South |
|--------|-------|--------|---------|
| Bates | Lasut | Sontag | Manoppo |
| — | — | — | 1 ♠ |
| Pass | 2 ♠ | Double | Pass |
| 2 NT | Pass | 3 ♣ | Pass |
| Pass | 3 ♦ | Pass | 3 ♠ |
| Double | Pass | Pass | Pass |

Roger Bates led the heart nine; that could have been from length, so Alan Sontag won the ace. He shifted to the club two, three, eight, four, and Bates continued with the club queen. Manoppo won the ace and led a diamond up, Bates rising with the ace and continuing with the club jack, ruffed in dummy.

Eddy Manoppo now found himself in a position to make the hand, provided West had two diamonds and a heart remaining, in addition to his putative five-card spade holding. He cashes the two high diamonds in the dummy, crosses to the heart king, and leads a spade up, effectively neutralising Bates' spades and holding him to one trump trick.

However, on the diamond king and queen, Sontag dropped the ten and jack, convincing South that West had another diamond remaining. Thus he tried to cash the diamond nine and Bates' trump holding was revived from the dead. Plus 100 to East-West instead of the minus 530 they were due.

Declarer could not have made three spades if West had had another diamond rather than a heart, since he'd be in the wrong hand to neutralize West's trumps. That, however, does not detract from East's stellar defence. Of course, the heart jack at trick one would have ensured a one-trick set.

New World Championship Schema

The World Bridge Federation, at its Executive meetings in Shanghai, and related in its Press Conference and in a meeting with the IBPA Editor, confirmed the new plan for the World Bridge Championships. Those familiar with the old structure will recognize that some of its elements have been retained. The new scheme will be put into effect in 2008.

The World Bridge Championships will operate on a four-year cycle.

In the odd-numbered years, beginning in 2009, the following events will be held:

- Bermuda Bowl
- Venice Cup
- Senior Bowl
- World Transnational Open Teams (WTNOT)

These events will collectively be known as the **World Bridge Team Championships** and will be for national teams qualifying in the various WBF Zones, except for the WTNOT, which will be open to all teams, national or transnational.

In the even-numbered years beginning in 2010 (and every four years thereafter), the **World Bridge Series** will be held, consisting of:

- Rosenblum Cup (World Knockout Teams)
- McConnell Teams (Women's KO Teams)
- Senior KO Teams
- World Open Pairs
- World Women's Pairs
- World Senior Pairs
- IMP Pairs



All these events will be transnational, having no national restrictions.

In the other even-numbered years (the same years as the Summer Olympics), beginning in 2008, the **World Mind Sports Games** will be held. These games will be held under the aegis of IMSA and will consist of bridge, chess, go and draughts (and Chinese chess next year in Beijing). The events held in the World Bridge Games (previously known as Olympiads) will be:

- National Open Teams
- National Women's Teams
- National Youth Teams, Pairs & Individual (all Under-28)

Each member of the WBF is entitled to a team in each series. The Youth Teams is a new event next year. In addition, as usual (but not included in the medal roll of the WMSG), these events will be held:

- Senior Teams (one national team per country)
- World Transnational Mixed Teams (no quotas)

In addition, for next year, the World Junior Team Championships (for the Ortiz-Patiño Trophy; Under-26) and the World Schools Team Championship (for the Damiani Cup; Under-21) will be held concurrently with the World Mind Sports Games (under-28). As teams are knocked out of these two events, they may join play in the Youth Teams and as teams are eliminated from the Youth Teams, they will be eligible to join the World Youth Pairs, then the Individual. Details are still being worked on.

At the World Mind Sports Games, all youth and women's competitors will be offered free room and board in the media village apartments to encourage participation. It is also possible youth flight costs will be covered.

The Youth cycle will be run on a four-year basis, starting in 2008 with the World Mind Sports Games (see above). Then, in 2009 and 2011 (and other odd-numbered years), the following events will be held: World Youth Championships - Under-26 (and Under-21 if there are enough players to divide the field).

- World Youth Pairs
- World Youth Individual
- World Youth Teams

All these events will be transnational.

In 2010, the World Junior Teams will be held, consisting of:

- Ortiz-Patiño Trophy (under-26)
- José Damiani Cup (under-21)

The next three World Championship sites will be Beijing, China, São Paulo, Brazil, and St. Petersburg, Russia.

After 2008, all World Youth Championships will revert back to the summer timeframe.

Also, for 2008 only, the senior age will remain at 58. For 2009 it will advance to 59 and for 2010 to 60.

The WBF will celebrate its 50th anniversary in 2008. Special plans will be announced in due course.