



## BULLETIN

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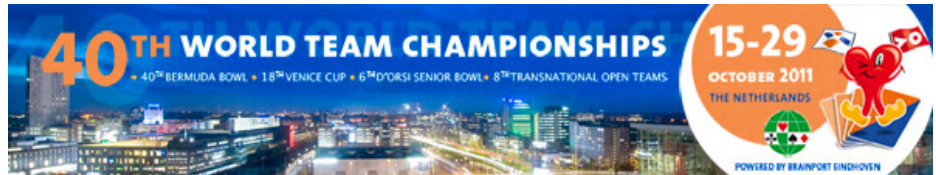
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It is no trivial matter to organise a bridge World Championship these days, both in terms of expense and logistics. One country which always does an admirable job is The Netherlands and such was the case here. Hans Melchers stepped up with the cash and the Dutch put forth a tremendous effort on relatively short notice. A large contingent of friendly, helpful and efficient volunteers was available to assist where needed.

The venue for the 40<sup>th</sup> World Team Championships this year was outside the town of Veldhoven, in a converted monastery with magnificent playing conditions, small but comfortable hotel rooms and pretty good restaurants. For variety, there were a number of eating options in the town, a short walk away, but if it were too far, as it was for some, a shuttle service and local buses were available.

Technologically, this was the most advanced championship yet. There were the usual screens, bidding boxes and BridgeMate scoring system. Lineups were done electronically (with no foreknowledge of the opponents' lineup), scorecard printouts were available to every player and captain with barcoded security badges, and match results and standings were available instantly and updated with each board played. Cameras recorded the bidding and play at six tables each match and will become de rigueur in the not-too-distant future.

Matches were broadcast on the Internet (with voice commentary) over BBO, StepBridge (NED) and OurGame (CHN). LiveVuGraph was available in English and in Dutch in separate auditoria. Excellent and very attractive Daily Bulletins were ably edited by Brent Manley and assisted by a large group of co-editors and writers.

Not that this was a perfect event. Veldhoven is about 25 minutes from the nearest train station and with few exceptions, if arriving internationally, one had to land in Schiphol, an hour and a half away. This disadvantage was somewhat ameliorated by frequent shuttles between Schiphol and Veldhoven. The organisers thought of everything.

The World Bridge Federation has got it exactly right with the current format, with the Bermuda Bowl, Venice Cup and d'Orsi Cup running in parallel, with 21 x 16-board matches, three a day, in the round-robin portion of the event, and 96-board knockout matches for the top 8 qualifiers of the 22 teams entered in each event. The Bermuda Bowl final is an extra 32 boards long. The only weak spot is the Transnational Teams, which does not begin until the quarterfinals in the other three events are over. This allows 12 extra teams to enter the TNT, but means two days' wait for non-qualifiers (42 teams) and necessitates compressing the knockouts somewhat. If the TNT were begun concurrently with the quarterfinals, a better event could be staged. Less desirably perhaps, drop-in teams knocked out of the quarterfinals could be allowed.

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# THE 40<sup>TH</sup> WORLD TEAM CHAMPIONSHIPS

Veldhoven, The Netherlands

October 15-29, 2011

**Phillip Alder, Hobe Sound, FL**

**Henry Bethe, Ithaca, NY**

**Tim Bourke, Canberra**

**John Carruthers, Kingsville, ON**

**Mark Horton, Bath, UK**

**Jos Jacobs, Maarn, NED**

**Patrick Jourdain, Cardiff**

**Ron Klinger, Northbridge, NSW**

**Fernando Lema & Ana Roth, Buenos Aires**

**Brent Manley, Memphis, TN**

**Micke Melander, Sundsbruck, Sweden**

**Barry Rigal, New York**

**Brian Senior, Nottingham, UK**

## 40<sup>TH</sup> BERMUDA BOWL

Italy was nearly everyone's pick for the 40<sup>th</sup> Bermuda Bowl, with USA1, Netherlands and Sweden thought to have good chances. There was plenty of talent in the rest of the field, however, and many thought this to be the toughest-ever Bermuda Bowl; this despite the absence of Norway, and Nickell and Diamond in the USA ranks, but it would still have to be considered an upset if anyone else won. No other team could boast three top-10-in-the-world pairs.

### RR1. USA1 v USA2 (BM)

**Board 6. Dealer East. EW Vul.**

♠ A Q J 3

♥ J 8 7

♦ K 4 3 2

♣ 10 4

♠ 9

♥ A K Q 10 9 4 3 2

♦ 10 5

♣ Q 5

♠ 10 2

♥ 6 5

♦ Q 9 8 6

♣ A K J 8 6

♠ K 8 7 6 5 4

♥ —

♦ A J 7

♣ 9 7 3 2

West	North	East	South
<i>Wooldridge</i>	<i>Levin</i>	<i>Hurd</i>	<i>Weinstein</i>
—	—	Pass	2♠
4♥	4♠	5♣	Pass
5♥	Pass	Pass	Pass

Levin started with the ace of spades, on which Weinstein played a suit-preference eight. Making sure there was no confusion, Levin played the king of diamonds at trick two and continued the suit for one down and plus 100 for USA 1.

To understand just how great a play the king of diamonds was, see what happened at the other table when Joe Grue, himself a terrific player, held Levin's cards...

West	North	East	South
<i>Stansby</i>	<i>Grue</i>	<i>Martel</i>	<i>Lall</i>
—	—	Pass	2♠
3♥	4♠	Double	Pass
5♥	Pass	Pass	Pass

Grue also started with the ace of spades – and he too switched to a diamond at trick two, but to a low one. Lall won the diamond ace but then guessed wrongly, trying to cash a second spade. Stansby ruffed and was able to claim 11 tricks for plus 650. Levin did not allow his partner to misguess.

**Board 9. Dealer North. EW Vul.**

♠ A K Q 10 8 6 5

♥ A K 9

♦ 9 6

♣ A

♠ 4

♥ Q 8 7 5 4

♦ Q 3

♣ Q 10 7 4 3

♠ J 9

♥ J 2

♦ A 7 5 4 2

♣ J 9 6 5

♠ 7 3 2

♥ 10 6 3

♦ K J 10 8

♣ K 8 2

West	North	East	South
<i>Wooldridge</i>	<i>Levin</i>	<i>Hurd</i>	<i>Weinstein</i>
—	2♣	Pass	2♦
Pass	2♠	Pass	3♠
Pass	3NT	Pass	4♣
Pass	4♥	Pass	4NT
Pass	5♣	Pass	5♦
Pass	5♥	Pass	6NT
Pass	Pass	Pass	

The auction made it clear to Hurd that his opponents' diamond control was in dummy, so he made the testing lead of the four of diamonds. Levin studied the dummy for some time before getting it right, rising with the king. The 2-1 split in spades meant that he could get to dummy's club king for his 12<sup>th</sup> trick. It was a well-earned plus 990.

At the other table, Grue played in six spades on a low club lead. After picking up trumps, he had to guess correctly in diamonds, which he did for plus 980 and a push.

Meanwhile, Iceland had raced out to a 45-0 start against archrivals Sweden and Peter Fredin was faced with the same lead against six spades as had Levin. There was no way Fredin was paying off to an Icelander underleading an ace in a slam against him, so his 'guess' was easy. Perhaps Levin had the same thought about

his fellow American. Jon Baldursson, for Iceland, faced a trump lead and guessed the diamonds correctly, as had Grue. Tough game.

### RR3 AUS v NZ (BS)

#### Board 6. Dealer East. EW Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Nunn		Hans	
—	—	1♦	1♥
1♠	2NT	Pass	3♥
4♣	Pass	Pass	Pass

Tony Nunn kicked off with the queen of hearts to declarer's bare ace. The most successful group of declarers led a diamond at trick two, putting up the king if North ducked. Of course, if North wins the ace and continues the suit, the contract can be defeated via a trump promotion.

Here, declarer led a club to dummy's king and Sartaj Hans ducked. That was all that was required to defeat the contract. Declarer could take a diamond pitch on the king of hearts and then took a spade finesse. However, Nunn could win and lead a club and collect his ruff for one down.

### RR4 RSA v USA2 (HB)

In our basic bridge instruction we are all taught "Second hand low", "Cover an honour with an honour"...and so on. In his book, "The Rodwell Files," the author demonstrates a large number of situations where these basic concepts are wrong, wrong, wrong.

#### Board 28. Dealer West. NS Vul.

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

Board 28 from Match 4 of the Round Robin provided an illustration showing that even if Eric Rodwell is missing his first Bermuda Bowl in many years, his spirit is here.

At most tables, East ended up playing in two or three no trump and received a club lead to the nine. All declarers played the king of diamonds, and most Norths won the second diamond to return a club. East would win the club and lead a spade, hoping to force an entry to dummy's diamonds.

This is a complex position, and one I was unfamiliar with before I read the book. South must work out that North has the king of spades to have won the diamond, otherwise he could see that the spade queen was an entry and would have ducked a second time.

Thus, if East leads a low spade toward the queen, South must insert the ten! "Second hand high." North-South are now in position to deny declarer an entry. South can duck the spade jack or fly ace on another low spade. (It is in fact adequate to fly with the ace the first time, provided you intend to play the ten if declarer plays another low spade.)

On the other hand, if East leads the spade jack, both South and North must duck – "Don't cover an honour with an honour."

And finally, if declarer leads a low spade and South has an honour without the ten, he must fly with the honour in case declarer has J10x – "Second hand high." Again.

When Chris Bosenberg was declarer, he played on diamonds and the defenders took the second diamond and played back a heart, giving Bosenberg a slim chance, which he was quick to pounce upon. He finessed, cashed the club ace, and exited with a low heart – a fine play. North won and returned a low heart, letting declarer repeat the finesse (South pitching his diamond and a club) and play a spade to the nine and king. That ensured the entry to dummy.

Now the blocking play of the spade ten would have been no good – North could win the king and return a spade, but declarer could play the jack. If South ducked he would later be endplayed with a third spade to lead clubs, if he won he would have to allow declarer the entry to dummy.

### RR5 ITA v CHN (MM)

It was remarkable how many top-class declarers misplayed the following board. However, like Severiano Ballesteros in golf, some made remarkable recovery shots, eventually pulling simple or double squeezes to get home. One such was Shi Haojun of China, playing against Italy.

**Board 13. Dealer North. Both Vul.**

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

West	North	East	South
Lian	Bocchi	Shi	Madala
—	3♣	3♠	Pass
4♣	Pass	4♠	Pass
4NT	Pass	5♠	Pass
6♠	Pass	Pass	Pass

Madala led the club ten and Shi took plenty of time before calling for dummy's ace. He then continued with the jack of spades from the table, a clear technical error, the six being the correct play with plenty of entries to dummy.

The queen of spades revealed that spades were 4-1 and declarer now had managed to create himself a loser in trumps. However, he could play for hearts 3-3 or to find the queen of diamonds. A ruffing finesse in clubs would set up a second trick for declarer in that suit.

Shi continued with the ten of spades and then played a heart to dummy's ace. The queen of clubs followed, covered by the king and ruffed by declarer. Madala discarding a diamond, leaving the following position:

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

Shi, continued with another heart to dummy's king and then called for the jack of clubs, discarding a diamond from his hand. Madala ruffed and returned a diamond in a futile attempt to break up the impending double squeeze. That was all Shi needed to be able to claim his contract and the 12 IMPs that accrued to China when Italy in the other room stopped in three no trump, taking twelve tricks.

Another declarer, a newly-minted Bermuda Bowl champion, who erred by leading the jack of spades on the first round of the suit and who recovered to execute the squeeze, wryly declared, "I played the hand like a moron." No one disagreed with him.

**RR5 ITA v CHN (BR)**

**Board 16. Dealer West. EW Vul.**

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

**Open Room**

West	North	East	South
Duboin	Li	Sementa	Liu
1♦	Pass	1♥	3♣
Double	Pass	4♥	Pass
Pass	Pass		

Over the last couple of months I have been burning the midnight oil with an intensive study of the vice squeeze (Americans spell it 'vise' which is far less picturesque). What – you don't recognize the manoeuvre? Well, Antonio Sementa demonstrated it nicely here.

Whereas four hearts had gone down without a fight in the other room (declarer winning the first club and cashing the heart ace, only to run into a trump overruff), Sementa ducked the first club then led out the ace of hearts, and overtook the jack of diamonds with the queen to play a second heart.

North won the heart king and exited in diamonds. Sementa won in hand and drew the trump, then tested diamonds, ruffing the fourth diamond back to hand when they did not break evenly. This was the ending:

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

At this point in the deal, declarer's last chance came in; the queen-jack of spades onside with the club guard (it does you no good to find the spade ace onside, since South can cash a club.) On the last trump South's spades were caught in the vice and declarer led a spade up to score trick 13 with the spade ten. Bravo!

Sementa later said that even if the club ace had been ruffed, he felt certain he'd pick up the remaining trumps with a finesse through North.

**RR6 AUS v NED (BS)**

**Board 29. Dealer North. Both Vul.**

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

West	North	East	South
Hans	de Wijs	Nunn	Muller
—	4♠	Pass	4NT
Pass	5♥	Pass	6♠
Pass	Pass	Pass	

Five Hearts showed two key cards without the spade queen. Tony Nunn cashed the ace of clubs then found a brilliant switch to the king of diamonds.

Simon de Wijs had to win dummy's ace, of course. He could take a diamond pitch on the king of hearts but that line would require a club ruff in dummy. Safe entries to hand were at a premium. The winning line requires declarer to assume that he can get to hand twice by ruffing hearts, once to take the club ruff, the second time to draw the remaining trumps. Not surprisingly, declarer went for a different line.

De Wijs cashed the queen of spades and then the top hearts for the diamond pitch, then led a diamond towards his hand. When Sartaj Hans was able to interrupt this process with a ruff and return a trump, there was no club ruff either, and the contract had to go two down.

**RR7 AUS v ITA (BS)**

When Australia met Italy with nine rounds to go in the qualifying battle, Italy was striding along in their accustomed position at the head of the table, whilst Australia was in the middle of the pack, just a shade under average. Nevertheless, they were within shouting distance, only 12 VP back of eight place. The Australian pairs combined nicely here:

**Board 13. Dealer North. Both Vul.**

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

West	North	East	South
Versace	Nunn	Lauria	Hans
—	1♥	Pass	1♠
Pass	2♦	Pass	3♣
Pass	3♠	Pass	4♣
Pass	Pass	Pass	
West	North	East	South
Del'Monte	Bocchi	Grosvenor	Madala
—	1♥	3♦	3♠
Pass	4♣	Pass	Pass
Pass			

Both Wests led the jack of diamonds. Lauria overtook with the queen and returned the ten of diamonds. Versace ruffed and returned his remaining spade. Hans won with dummy's king and took the club finesse. That lost and back came a club. Hans was almost certain from the carding that the clubs were five-two and that the defenders had their actual distributions. He won the club return and ran all the trumps. West was squeezed between clubs and hearts. A heart finesse now provided three heart tricks and ten in all; plus 620.

At the other table, Hugh Grosvenor allowed the jack of diamonds to hold the first trick. Ishmael Del'Monte switched to a heart and that broke up the squeeze (a defence which was also available at the other table, of course, after West won the king of clubs). Declarer could take a heart finesse, but there would never be more than two heart tricks and, with the club over-ruff threatening, there was no way home.

The same deal proved just as tricky in the USA 2 versus New Zealand match as well...

**RR7 USA 2 v NZ (PA)**

West	North	East	South
Grue	Newell	Lall	Reid
—	1♦ <sup>1</sup>	Pass	1♠
Pass	2♦	Pass	2♠
Pass	3♠	Pass	4♠
Pass	Pass	Pass	
1. Hearts			

West	North	East	South
Ware	Bathurst	Tislevoll	Zagorin
—	1♥	Pass	1♠
Pass	2♦	Pass	3♣
Double	Pass	Pass	Redouble
Pass	3♠	Pass	4♠
Pass	Pass	Pass	

In the New Zealand auction, after one diamond, showing hearts, one spade was natural and forcing for one round, but denied a very strong hand because South had not relayed with an artificial one-heart response. South's two-spade rebid was game-invitational, because an initial two-spade response would have shown six spades and a weaker hand.

Against Reid, Grue also led his singleton diamond jack. East overtook with his queen and switched to the club six. South won with his ace, played a heart to dummy's queen, discarded his diamond loser on the heart ace, and ducked a club to West's ten, leaving:

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

West continued with the club jack. How could declarer have got home?

South stayed alive by ruffing with dummy's spade king, but then he ruffed a heart and ruffed his last club. However, East overruffed and led a diamond for a trump promotion and down one. After ruffing high, declarer had to work out to drop West's doubleton jack.

In the other room, we saw yet another variation. West also led the diamond jack. East overtook with his queen, cashed the diamond ace, and played another diamond. When South discarded a club, West ruffed and shifted to a low heart, but Zagorin finessed dummy's queen, drew two rounds of trumps ending in the dummy, and discarded his club losers on the diamond king and heart ace. Plus 100 and plus 620 gave USA 2 a much-needed 13 IMPs.

### RR9 BRZ v USA1 (BR)

When the following deal appeared on VuGraph, the audience saw that the field had made nine tricks in three no trump. This was a little surprising since on a club lead it would appear that you needed to guess diamonds right to have any chance. Bobby Levin

demonstrated that this would not necessarily be the case.

### Board 11. Dealer South. Neither Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Weinstein	Brenner	Levin	Branco
—	—	—	Pass
Pass	Pass	1NT	Pass
2♣	Pass	2♦	Pass
3♥ <sup>1</sup>	Pass	3NT	Pass
Pass	Pass		
			1. 4 hearts and five spades

Sitting East, Levin declared three no trump after Steve Weinstein, West, had shown the majors and Marcelo Branco led a top heart. Levin won and immediately misguessed diamonds, won the club shift in hand and cleared diamonds.

As the cards lie, neither a heart shift nor a club continuation works for the defenders. If North reverts to hearts, declarer simply sets up the long heart; if North continues clubs, then South must unblock and be prepared to pitch his other high club on the run of the diamonds.

This is the ending:

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

South discards his club ten on the last diamond, dummy lets go a heart - and what does North pitch? A spade lead lets declarer run his spade queen, and a club lets declarer set up the heart in dummy. So North pitches his second heart. Declarer then plays the heart king and leads his last club. Whichever defender wins this trick has one more winner to cash but must then

lead a spade in a position where declarer will know which guess to make. (If the spade honours were reversed, South could win the club exit and lead a spade through the ace.)

### RR10 AUS v USAI (RK)

On this deal from Australia's round-10 match against USAI in the Bermuda Bowl, Sartaj Hans played skillfully to land a contract that failed at many tables.

#### Board 26. Dealer East. Both Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Hans	Fleisher	Nunn	Kamil
—	—	1♣	Pass
2NT	Pass	3NT	Pass
Pass	Pass		

Marty Fleisher led the four of spades, ducked by declarer and taken by Mike Kamil with the king. On the spade return, Fleisher played low on the jack. Hans took dummy's ace and king of diamonds and ran the club ten to North's jack. A low spade cleared the suit and put the lead in dummy.

Many of the unsuccessful declarers took a second club finesse, but Hans played a club to his ace, then cashed his two diamond winners. Fleisher could spare a heart on the third round of diamonds, but had to let go a spade on the final diamond. Now Hans exited with a club, leaving Fleisher in the lead. He could cash a spade, but then had to lead from the king-jack of hearts to give declarer his contract. Well done for plus 600.

### RR10 AUS v USAI (PA)

#### Board 29. Dealer North. Both Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Hans	Fleisher	Nunn	Kamil
—	Pass	Pass	Pass
1NT <sup>1</sup>	Pass	2♣	Pass
2♠	Pass	3NT	Pass
Pass	Pass		
1. 14 <sup>+</sup> -17 <sup>-</sup>			

West	North	East	South
Weinstein	Gosney	Levin	Edgton
—	Pass	Pass	Pass
1NT <sup>1</sup>	Pass	3♣ <sup>2</sup>	Pass
3♠ <sup>3</sup>	Pass	4♠	Pass
Pass	Pass		
1. 14 <sup>+</sup> -17			
2. Puppet Stayman			
3. Five spades			

Three no trump by West was unbeatable. Even if North had been psychic and led a major, later he could have been caught in a minor-suit squeeze-endplay.

Fleisher understandably led the diamond seven. Hans lost a spade finesse, but had nine winners: four spades, two hearts, two diamonds and one club.

Four spades was not so easy. Paul Gosney led a trump, Nabil Edgton smoothly ducking dummy's ten. Weinstein tried the diamond finesse, but it lost and North played his other trump. To make the contract now, declarer had to win with dummy's ace, which would have allowed him to ruff his diamond loser and benefit from North's having the club king.

When West finessed again in spades, South produced the king and returned his last trump (North discarding a diamond), killing the contract as the cards lay.

Declarer tried his hardest, playing a heart to his king, cashing the club ace and leading his second club, but North won with his king and returned a diamond. West won with his ace and cashed his trumps, but North kept his clubs, and the contract had to fail. That gave Australia 12 IMPs.

### RR15 POL v ISR (JC)

#### Board 6. Dealer East. EW Vul.

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

### Open Room

West	North	East	South
I Herbst	Narkiewicz	O Herbst	Buras
—	—	Pass	INT
Pass	4NT	Pass	6♦
Pass	Pass	Pass	

Krzysztof Buras did very well to make the most of a bad situation here. Unfortunately for him, Ofir and Ilan Herbst did just as well.

Ilan Herbst had a very obvious king of hearts lead and he looked no further. Buras won that immediately, drew trumps (West throwing a heart and a club), cashed the king and queen of clubs and played a spade to the ace. He then threw a heart on the club ace. These cards remained:

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

Buras could play East for the heart ten at this point by finessing the nine. However, his table presence and the early heart discard told him that West had length there, thus likely the ten as well as the queen. If he had started with four hearts to East's two, a heart play (the nine) could be made from hand anyway.

West had shrewdly kept all three of his spades. When Buras played the king and another spade, East went into deep thought. Eventually, he realised that even if declarer had jack to three spades, when East won the queen he'd be endplayed, and similarly if he played the queen and declarer held only two spades, a heart discard would leave East on play for a ruff-sluff. A count signal in spades indicated that West had three to the jack anyway.

So East played low on the third spade and Buras was down to his last gasp, that East had started life with a doubleton ten of hearts. When that did not eventuate, he was one off.

### Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Gawrys	Barel	Kalita	Zack
—	—	Pass	INT
Pass	4NT	Pass	Pass
Pass			

Here, Zack had promised 15-18, so was not tempted to go on. He made 12 tricks anyway and won 11 IMPs.

In six diamonds, Fred Hamilton for USA I in the d'Orsi Cup played exactly as Buras did and made his contract when West discarded a spade, forcing his partner to cover dummy's third spade and allowing Hamilton to discard a heart loser and force the ruff-sluff. Well played.

Near the end of the match, the Poles also showed their ability in defence:

### RR15 POL v ISR (JJ)

#### Board 14. Dealer East. Neither Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
I Herbst	Narkiewicz	O Herbst	Buras
Gawrys	Barel	Kalita	Zack
—	—	2♦	Pass
3♥	Pass	3♠	Pass
Pass	Pass		

After a simple auction, East declared three spades and South led his singleton diamond. Ophir Herbst won this in hand and went on to play the ace and another spade. North won and, rather than give partner a ruff, shifted to the heart jack, ducked by South. As declarer could not get back to hand to draw the last trump, he had to exit from dummy with a club. North won the ace (South giving count) and now gave his partner a diamond ruff.

What should South do now? He solved his problem as to which of the hearts and clubs would stand up by underleading his hearts in the hope that North knew better. When North won the heart ten, he knew his partner had the ace-queen but not the eight, so knew to play another heart. Plus 50 to Poland.

On the same auction, Kalita too was in three spades against the lead of the nine of diamonds. He too won in hand but, rather than play the ace and another spade, he ran the spade jack. North won his king and could now give partner a diamond ruff but the spade ace was still in dummy to take care of the third round of hearts if that became necessary. Nicely done, just made, and plus 140, 5 IMPs to Poland.



**RR17 USA 2 v BUL (AR & FL)**  
**Board 4. Dealer West. Both Vul.**

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

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

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

West	North	East	South
Wooldridge	Stefanov	Hurd	Aronov
1♥	Pass	2♦	Pass
2♥	Pass	2♠ <sup>1</sup>	Pass
3♦	Pass	3♥	Pass
4♥	Pass	Pass	Pass

1. Artificial game force

Joel Wooldridge played the ace of clubs on the lead of the seven and then tried the heart jack. That won, but Viktor Aronov took his ace at trick three and led a small spade, declarer getting it right, playing the jack. Julian Stefanov, North, won the trick with his ace. Stefanov shifted to the ten of diamonds, but declarer won the king, played a trump and claimed 10 tricks when diamonds failed to break.

At the other table:

West	North	East	South
Karaivanov	Grue	Trendafilov	Lall
1♥	Pass	2♦	Pass
2♥	Pass	3♣	Pass
3♦	Pass	3♥	Pass
4♥	Pass	Pass	Pass

Here the lead was the club five. Declarer played the queen and could no longer make the contract...Justin Lall won his king of clubs and shifted to his singleton diamond.

Declarer won the trick with dummy's diamond queen and played the heart jack, Lall playing low, but South won the next trump with his ace and switched to a spade. Here, declarer maximised his chance of avoiding the impeding ruff by playing the king. When Joe Grue won the spade ace and gave Lall a ruff, the spade queen meant two down and 13 IMPs for USA2.

The way Joe Grue and Justin Lall defended this hand made us think of something we read on the Internet: "A difficult defence superbly played in cooperation by both partners is one of the most fulfilling aspects of the game...and one of the best places to pick up huge wins. Defence sets a great partnership apart from

a good one." (*Principles of Bridge and Life*, by Dr. Bradley Lehman).

What Joel Wooldridge realised at trick one was that if the club finesse was on, there was no need to take it. The only combination of cards that could defeat him by playing the ace when he could have made the contract was the ace of hearts in South and the club king and ace-queen of spades in North. Whereas if the club king were offside, it might be advantageous to win immediately.

**RR16 SWE v USA1 (BM)**

When USA 1 met Sweden, they were both in a qualifying position, but both spots were precarious. It did not start well for Sweden.

**Board 17. Dealer North. Neither Vul.**

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

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

At both tables, North and South had long auctions to reach seven hearts from the North seat, Chip Martel playing the contract for USA1 and Fredrik Nyström for Sweden. West, Peter Fredin, had doubled a three-diamond cuebid along the way, so Björn Fallenius started with a diamond to dummy's singleton ace. Martel, warned about a poor diamond division by the three-level double, played one high trump then ruffed all four of his clubs in hand to emerge with a relatively easy 13 tricks.

Nyström, however, unwarned, played two high trumps, leaving him a trick short when nothing good happened in diamonds. Plus 1510 and plus 50 gave USA1 17-IMP swing. In the end, both teams qualified for the knockouts.

Here are the standings:

1. Italy 409
2. Netherlands 390
3. USA 2 372
4. Israel 355
5. USA 1 340
6. Sweden 335
7. China 334
8. Iceland 333

Although the qualifiers weren't decided until the final round-robin match, the closest non-qualifier was Japn,

5.5 VP behind. Italy chose China, Netherlands picked Iceland and USA 2 chose Sweden, leaving USA 1 for Israel.

### QFI ISR v USA 1 (BM)

In the Israel-USA 1 quarterfinal match, Israel started with a carryover of 2 IMPs. After a push on the first deal, the lead for Israel grew to 14-0. This was a tricky deal in both play and defence...

#### Board 2. Dealer East. NS Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Barel</i>	<i>Levin</i>	<i>Zack</i>	<i>Weinstein</i>
—	—	1♠	Pass
2♠	3♥	4♠	5♥
Pass	Pass	Double	Pass
Pass	Pass		

This is the kind of auction where it's difficult to tell who is saving (if anyone). With good trump support and the long club suit, Weinstein no doubt thought five hearts had good chances. The damage would have been mitigated had four spades been a maker, but it was usually not.

Zack took the top two spades before exiting with a heart, which Bobby Levin rode around to his eight, and Levin cashed the king of clubs and played a club toward the ace, Zack discarding a low spade. With no chance of setting up clubs, Levin played the diamond jack: queen, king, ace. He could then ruff a diamond or pick up the heart king, but not both. Down two meant minus 500. Could Chip Martel at the other table minimize the damage?

West	North	East	South
<i>Stansby</i>	<i>O Herbst</i>	<i>Martel</i>	<i>I Herbst</i>
—	—	1♠	Pass
2♠	Pass	4♠	Pass
Pass	Pass		

Ilan Herbst started with a low trump. Martel won and cashed a second high trump. He then played his singleton club to the queen and Ophir Herbst's king. Martel ruffed the club return (discarding a diamond is an interesting alternative) then tried the diamond ace (on which Ilan Herbst played the jack) and a second

diamond to the queen and North's king. The queen of hearts was next, covered by the king and ace, and another heart forced dummy to ruff. Declarer could set up the diamonds with one more lead, but there was no way to get to them, so he lost two hearts, two diamonds and a club for minus 100 - 12 IMPs to Israel.

This same board was incendiary in two other quarterfinal matches as well...

### QFI ITA v CHN (JJ)

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Hou</i>	<i>Bocchi</i>	<i>Shi</i>	<i>Madala</i>
—	—	1♣	Pass
1♦	1♥	1♠	INT
2♥	3♥	4♠	Pass
Pass	Pass		

Madala led the ace of clubs. After a long huddle he finally produced the only defence to give his side a chance: a trump. Dummy's ten held the trick, but what should declarer do next? Double-dummy, a club would have been the winning line as the king appears and the trumps are 2-2., but in real life, this line seemed too unlikely.

When declarer called for a low heart, Bocchi played the eight which was allowed to hold the trick. When a trump came back, declarer's last hope was to find the diamond king onside, so he played ace and another. Madala unblocked the jack under the ace and Bocchi could easily cash their remaining red suit tricks next. Down two, Italy plus 100.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Versace</i>	<i>Li</i>	<i>Lauria</i>	<i>Liu</i>
—	—	1♠	Pass
2♠	3♥	Double	4♥
4♠	Pass	Pass	Pass

Liu too led the club ace, but he then elected to cash the heart ace followed by a low club continuation, felling his partner's king. From there, declarer had no further problems. Italy plus 420 and 11 IMPs.

### NED v ICE (JJ)

In the Iceland versus Netherlands match, this board also produced a swing. Both Brink for the hosts and Einarsson for Iceland, defending four spades after their side had bid hearts, led the club ace and continued the suit, declarer ruffing.

Jonsson for Iceland then continued with the heart two, which Brink could win with the six to continue yet another club, ruffed by North with the spade queen and overruffed by declarer with the ace. This manoeuvre would have been impossible had declarer led the heart seven from hand.

Jonsson's next move was to cash one more top trump, followed by a heart ruff. He then cashed the queen of clubs (declarer shedding a diamond), and led a diamond to the ace. The last heart was ruffed with dummy's ten of spades, but as dummy now had only diamonds left, North could win the diamond continuation with his king and play another diamond to promote partner's precious eight of spades. One down.

At the other table, the Professor (Bauke Muller) showed the right way to play this hand. The lead and play to the first three tricks were the same, but when North ruffed the third round of clubs with his queen of spades, Muller discarded a diamond. North returned a trump and Muller won, ruffed a heart, cashed a club throwing his last diamond, crossed to the diamond ace and ruffed his last heart. His king-jack of spades were still there to control any trump promotion dangers, so ten tricks came home. That was 11 IMPs to The Netherlands.

A couple of boards later, China had a chance to gain IMPs when a lucky lie of the cards would have allowed a slam to make...

#### Board 4. Dealer West. Both Vul.

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

#### Open Room

West	North	East	South
Hou	Bocchi	Shi	Madala
1♦	1♥	Double	4♥
Pass	Pass	4NT	Pass
5♠	Pass	6♦	Pass
6♠	Pass	Pass	Pass

Hou ruffed the heart lead in dummy, cashed the ace of spades, crossed to the ace of clubs and successfully ran the diamond jack. Next came the ten of spades, covered by Bocchi with the queen after some consideration, revealing that he had a third trump.

Hou won the spade king and cashed the diamond ace, as it happens, the only card after which defeat was inevitable. Hou had apparently played for the diamond king being doubleton, but if that were so, why did Bocchi put up the spade queen from what at the table was clearly queen third? When a low club to the jack lost to the queen, Bocchi returned his last trump to put the contract down three. Italy plus 300.

Lauria and Versace did not venture beyond four spades, making ten tricks for plus 620 and 14 IMPs to Italy rather than 14 to China.

#### QF6 ITA v CHN (BR)

#### Board 25. Dealer North. EW Vul.

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

#### Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Lian	Bocchi	Shi	Madala
—	Pass	1♦	1♥
Double	2♥	2♠	Pass
3♥	Pass	3NT	Pass
4♣	Pass	4♠	Pass
Pass	Pass		

In the Closed Room, Madala led a heart. Shi won the king to lead a diamond to the king and ace, after which Madala ingeniously tried the club king – making it look as though he had short clubs and thus spade length. Declarer won and played two top trumps from hand, Bocchi winning the second and continuing with a top club ruffed in dummy, thus taking out an entry to the diamonds in the process. Declarer now was stranded in the middle of a crossruff, as neither minor could be set up any more. Down one in the end.

#### Open Room

West	North	East	South
Duboin	Shi	Sementa	Hou
—	Pass	1♦	1♥
2♣	3♥	Pass	Pass
3♠	Pass	4♠	Pass
Pass	Pass		

Again a heart lead to the king and a diamond: jack(!), king and ace and heart back, the standard defence. Duboin went on to play the ace of clubs and to take a club ruff with the six of spades, a luxury he could scarcely afford. Then came the queen of diamonds, which held the trick, much to Duboin's relief, a diamond ruffed with the jack, North pitching a club, as he needed to.

Next came a club ruff with dummy's three of spades, and a diamond ruffed with the queen and overruffed with the ace. North returned a trump, but all declarer had to lose was one more trump to North.

Since it does not help North to overruff the third diamond, since declarer will continue along his high crossruff line, let's revisit the ending:

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

At this point, with declarer having six tricks in the bag, he leads a club and if he is allowed to ruff with the spade three, the hand is over. Instead, North ruffs in with the four, and declarer over-ruffs and leads yet another diamond, ruffed high. Time for another ending.

<p>♠ A 8 2 ♥ 9 ♦ — ♣ —</p> <p>♠ K 5 ♥ — ♦ — ♣ 9 8</p> <p>♠ 7 ♥ Q 8 6 ♦ — ♣ —</p>	<p>♠ 10 3 ♥ — ♦ 10 8 ♣ —</p>
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Now declarer leads a club and has to be extremely careful. If North pitches his heart, declarer can neither ruff high nor low. If he ruffs low South over-ruffs and plays a heart ruffed and overruffed, with North taking the last two tricks. If he ruffs high and leads a diamond from dummy South ruffs in with the seven, and if West discards, North under-ruffs, leaving a trump coup in defence at trick 12!

However, in this ending, when North discards on the club, so does dummy. South ruffs in and now when he leads a heart declarer has a sort of smother coup to take two of the last three tricks. He ruffs low, is over-ruffed by the eight, and wins the trump ten. When he ruffs the last diamond in hand with the trump king North overruffs with the ace, and his trump two loses to the three!

The quarterfinal scores were:

Italy	205	China	178
Netherlands	233	Iceland	142
USA 2	213	Sweden	171
USA 1	221	Israel	98

The winning USA teams were mandated to play in the semifinals if they both survived to that stage, to avoid an all-American final.

### SF6 USA2 v USA1 (BM)

Board 25. Dealer North. EW Vul.

<p>♠ A Q 7 6 2 ♥ 4 ♦ K 6 ♣ A Q J 8 3</p> <p>♠ K 4 ♥ 9 8 ♦ A Q J 10 7 4 2 ♣ 5 2</p> <p>♠ J 10 9 8 ♥ J 7 5 2 ♦ 9 8 5 ♣ 10 4</p>	<p>♠ 5 3 ♥ A K Q 10 6 3 ♦ 3 ♣ K 9 7 6</p>
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West	North	East	South
<i>Weinstein</i>	<i>Hurd</i>	<i>Levin</i>	<i>Wooldridge</i>
—	1♠	2♥	3♠
3NT	4♣	Double	Pass
Pass	4♠	Double	Pass
Pass	Pass		

The defence was deadly accurate. Levin led his singleton diamond, ruffing out the king on the return. He then cashed the heart ace, continuing with the king. Hurd ruffed and played a low club from hand, hoping the club ten would be an entry for the spade finesse. Levin took the king of clubs, however, and continued with the heart queen, allowing Weinstein to discard his other club. Hurd had to lose another trick and was two down for minus 300.

West	North	East	South
<i>Grue</i>	<i>Fleisher</i>	<i>Lall</i>	<i>Kamil</i>
—	1♠	2♥	Pass
3NT	Double	Pass	Pass
4♦	Double	4♥	Double
Pass	Pass	Pass	

Kamil led the spade jack, ducked all around. A second spade went to the king and ace, and Fleisher played a low heart. Lall took the ace, went to dummy with the ace of diamonds and played a club up. Fleisher made the nice play of the jack. Lall won the king, but when he played a low club from hand, Kamil was able to win the ten and play a second trump. He conceded his natural trump trick, but Lall could not avoid losing three club tricks and the two spades for minus 500 - a 13-IMP gain for USA1.

The semifinal scores:

Netherlands	199	Italy	165
USA 2	217	USA 1	157

## F2 NED v USA 2 (PA)

### Board 30. Dealer East. Neither Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Verhees	Grue	v. Prooijen	Lall
—	—	4♥	Pass
4♠	Pass	Pass	Pass
West	North	East	South
Wooldridge	de Wijs	Hurd	Muller
—	—	4♥	Pass
6♠	Pass	Pass	Pass

With West unable to get to the dummy with best defence, it looked as though Louk Verhees had judged better than Joel Wooldridge. However...

Against four spades, Grue led the diamond six. When dummy's ten held, declarer discarded his clubs on the ace-king of hearts and took 12 tricks.

Against six spades, de Wijs led the spade six. West won with his jack and immediately led his club six, North rising with his ace and South dropping the nine. What count signals do the Dutch use? Upside-down: low with an even number, high with an odd number. De Wijs, believing this was a count situation, not suit-preference, now expected declarer to have three clubs. So, in desperation, he shifted to a low diamond. Dummy's ten won and the slam made. That was 11 IMPs to USA 2.

The final score was:

Netherlands 300 USA 2 255

Playoff:

Italy 167 USA 1 69

This Bermuda Bowl heralded a changing of the guard. Both the veteran favourites (Italy and USA 1) lost in the semifinals to younger, less-experienced teams. It may well have been the youngest Bermuda Bowl final ever. Additionally, young teams from Poland, Sweden, Israel, Australia and China served noticed that they will have to be reckoned with in the future.

Well done to The Netherlands. Not only are they a fabulous team, they are gracious and personable as well. They became only the third NBO to win more than one Bermuda Bowl and Bauke Muller became the only non-Italian or American to win a second.

## 18<sup>TH</sup> VENICE CUP

It does seem that in the Venice Cup, as in no other event, it's always a case of, "Round up the usual suspects." France, China, and the two USA teams were given the nod here, although the Netherlands, England, Germany or Sweden were thought to have a chance of staging an upset, even though a modest one, since they were all sound teams. Scant attention was paid to anyone else. Little did the pundits know that the biggest surprise since Italy bowed out to South Africa in 2007 awaited them.

### RR5 ENG v USA1 (PA)

#### Board 14. Dealer East. Neither Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Palmer	Senior	Deas	Dhondy
—	—	Pass	Pass
1♣ <sup>1</sup>	3♥	Double	4♥
Double <sup>2</sup>	Pass	4♠	Pass
Pass	Pass		

1. 16-plus points
2. To quote their notes, "Most doubles by opener are for takeout."

#### Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Smith	Migry	Brock	Stansby
—	—	Pass	Pass
1♣ <sup>1</sup>	1♥	1♠	2♣ <sup>2</sup>
2♥ <sup>3</sup>	4♥	Pass	Pass
4♠	Pass	Pass	Pass

1. Any 12-14 balanced with a five-card major, or natural, or 4=4=4=1 with 11-14 points
2. Good heart raise
3. A very good hand

Both sides ended in four spades by East. (Four hearts doubled can escape for down two, minus 300.)

Against Deas, Dhondy led the heart ace, then shifted to the club jack. Declarer won with her ace, played a spade to dummy's ace, and led the heart queen, covered and ruffed. Now East led a spade and put in dummy's jack. After a club disappeared on the heart jack, declarer played a diamond to her king, returned to dummy's

club king and ruffed a club. It mattered not whether South overruffed, as it was with a natural trump trick. Similarly, ruffing in front of the dummy would not avail her.

Against Brock, Stansby led the heart ace, then shifted to the diamond jack. Declarer won with dummy's ace and called for the remaining diamond, North ruffing with her only trump. On the club switch, East won with her ace and misguessed by playing a trump to dummy's ace. Now declarer called for dummy's heart queen.

When she covered, East could have ruffed, cashed the diamond king (optional), then led a trump. Suppose South covers with her ten. Declarer wins with dummy's jack to give this position:

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

East ruffs the heart jack(!) and leads a club. If South ruffs, dummy takes the last three tricks. If South discards, declarer wins with dummy's king and exits with the club nine. At trick 12, North must catch her partner's trumps in a coup.

At the table, East ruffed North's heart king, cashed the diamond king, ruffed a diamond, threw a club on the heart jack, and tried to cash the club king. However, South ruffed and led the diamond ten to guarantee another trump trick for down one. That gave 10 IMPs to USA 1.

### RR8 USA 2 v NED (MH)

#### Board 24. Dealer West. Neither Vul.

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

On this deal from the Netherlands-USA 2 match, Jet Pasma displayed the qualities of a champion.

The contract was four hearts at both tables. Clearly, declarer has many chances, but only Jet was successful. After the trump lead, she tried the spades by playing the ace and a spade to the queen. North won with the king and returned a trump. Now Jet cashed the ace of clubs, played a club to the queen and a third round through North. If the suit breaks, she is home and dry. If the defender with the doubleton trump also is the one with the doubleton club, the third top club will survive and the last club can then be ruffed with dummy's last trump. If either defender is able to ruff after all, the ace of diamonds might still be onside.

As you can see, the third top club survived, so after ruffing her last club, declarer could lead up to her king of diamonds, trying to make an overtrick. Even though the king lost to the ace, ten tricks were secure, thanks to her excellent technique. Netherlands plus 420.

At the other table, declarer started off by playing three rounds of trumps (the same line adopted by both declarers in the match between England & France) and thereafter failed to find a winning line (as the cards lie, if you assume the ace of diamonds is offside, South can be endplayed).

### RR12 NED v MOR (BR)

Reluctant as we are to intrude on private grief, we have no choice but to trespass on the mourning of our hosts and divulge the details of the largest penalty incurred at these or any other world championships.

#### Board 19. Dealer South. EW Vul.

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

#### Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Benchemsi</i>	<i>Arnolds</i>	<i>Guerraoui</i>	<i>Vriend</i>
—	—	—	INT
Pass	2♥	Double	Pass
Pass	Redouble	Pass	3♣
Pass	3♥	Double	Pass
Pass	Redouble	Pass	3NT
Pass	4♥	Double	Pass
Pass	Redouble	Pass	Pass
Pass	—	—	—

One can only admire the symmetry of the auction from North's perspective (and North's persistence)

- she did, after all, transfer into spades on each of the six occasions when required to bid (that must be some sort of record as well). Her partner outdid Saint Peter by a factor of two - he denied Jesus only three times.

In the other room East/West for the Netherlands (Dekkers and Michielsen) must have been temporarily happy with their plus 500; four spades doubled on a heart lead saw the defenders promote an extra trump trick - curiously, this can be achieved by repeated heart OR diamond leads. As it was, that held the loss to 21 IMPs (minus 3400 at our featured table).

### SF ENG v INO (MH)

“The Smiling Assassin.” Everyone has been impressed by the performance of the Indonesian women. On this deal from their semifinal against England, Grace Tueje played brilliantly:

#### Dealer South. NS Vul

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

#### Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Dewi</i>	<i>Senior</i>	<i>Murniati</i>	<i>Dhondy</i>
—	—	—	2NT
Pass	3♣ <sup>1</sup>	Pass	3♦ <sup>2</sup>
Pass	3♠ <sup>3</sup>	Pass	3NT
Pass	Pass	Pass	

1. Puppet Stayman
2. 1 or 2 four-card majors
3. 4 hearts

West led the four of spades and under no pressure declare took ten tricks, plus 630.

#### Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Brock</i>	<i>Bojoh</i>	<i>Smith</i>	<i>Tueje</i>
—	—	—	2♣ <sup>1</sup>
Pass	2♠ <sup>2</sup>	Double	3♣
Pass	3♦	Pass	3NT
Pass	6NT	Pass	Pass
Pass			

1. Almost game forcing
2. 3 controls

The Kaplan & Rubens Hand Evaluator suggests that the South hand is worth around 23 and a half points,

and South's upgrade meant North was happy to let her partner try for the slam bonus.

West led the four of spades covered by the seven, nine and ace. Declarer went after the clubs and things did not look good when East discarded the five of spades on the third round. A fourth round saw declarer pitch a diamond (a heart had gone on the third club) and East let go the six of spades. West switched to the six of diamonds and declarer put up dummy's ace and played a heart to the jack. When that held she cashed the last club, West discarding the six of hearts, dummy the three of spades and East the five of diamonds. These card remained:

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

Reading the position perfectly, declarer cashed the ace of hearts and, rejecting the finesse, played a diamond to the king. Now the queen of hearts put East to the sword, her spade discard allowing South to take the last two tricks for plus 1440 and 13 IMPs.

The results:

#### Round Robin:

1.	USA 2	391
2.	USA 1	389
3.	England	384
4.	China	368
5.	Sweden	365
6.	Indonesia	357
7.	Netherlands	355
8.	France	352

Again, although it went down to the last match, ninth place, Germany, were 7 VP adrift, a similar position to Japan in the Bermuda Bowl.

#### Quarterfinals:

Indonesia	238	USA 2	205
Netherlands	200	USA 1	172
England	226	Sweden	168
France	206	China	197

Only England, of the top four qualifying teams, won its first knockout match. Extraordinarily, both American teams lost – there would be no American team in the semifinals for the first time in the history of the Venice Cup (since 1974).

Semifinals:

Indonesia	185	England	177
France	162	Netherlands	141

Playoff:

Netherlands	109	England	91
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Final:

France	196	Indonesia	103
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The performance of the Indonesian team surprised and delighted all unbiased observers, happy to see an unheralded team battle its way into the lineup of the favourites. Meanwhile, this group of French women consolidated their position at the pinnacle of women's bridge. Félicitations.

### 6<sup>TH</sup> D'ORSI CUP

The Senior World Championship was thought to be more wide open than either of the other two main events. It was well known that the USA, Poland, Indonesia, France, Denmark and Japan had strong teams. But followers of The Netherlands, Canada, Australia and others had dreams as well.

#### RR3 AUS v USA I (RK)

In England, a "bobby dazzler" is a person or thing that is outstanding or excellent. On this deal from the third round robin session in the D'Orsi Senior Bowl, a play by my opponent, Bobby Wolff, was the real, dazzling thing. (*This is a variation on the BB deal reported earlier.*)

#### Board 6. Dealer East. EW Vul.

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

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

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

West	North	East	South
Haughie	Morse	Klinger	Wolff
—	—	1♦	Pass
1♠	Pass	1NT	Pass
4♠	Pass	Pass	Pass

Dan Morse led the heart queen to declarer's ace. William Haughie led a club to dummy's king, and Wolff took the ace, switching to the diamond three from his doubleton queen. Morse took the ace and continued the suit, Haughie going up with the king and dropping Wolff's queen. Now a spade went to the ten and Morse's queen. On the continuation of a diamond,

Wolff ruffed with the king, which promoted Morse's trump nine to the setting trick.

#### SFI POL v FRA (BS)

#### Board 3. Dealer South. E/W Vul.

♠ K Q 7 6 3  
♥ 7 3 2  
♦ A J 6  
♣ K 6

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

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

West	North	East	South
Grenthe	Kowalski	Vanhoutte	Romanski
—	—	—	1♣
Pass	1♠	Pass	1NT
Pass	2♦	Pass	2♥
Pass	2♠	Pass	3♠
Pass	4♠	Pass	Pass
Pass	—	—	—

West	North	East	South
Lasocki	Léenhardt	Russyan	Piganeau
—	—	—	1♦
Pass	1♠	Pass	1NT
Pass	2♣	Pass	2♦
Pass	3NT	Pass	4♠
Pass	Pass	Pass	—

In USA1 versus USA2, both Norths declared four spades and both went down after the lead of the ten of hearts, both eventually taking the heart finesse. The same contract was reached in both rooms of France versus Poland.

Russyan led the five of spades to the nine and queen and Leenhardt took the heart finesse at trick two, losing to the queen. Lasocki led the king of diamonds. Léenhardt won the ace, drew trumps and tried to split the hearts. When that suit failed to behave as hoped, he tried a club to the king and was one down when that suit too was unfriendly; minus 50.

Vanhoutte led the seven of diamonds to the queen and ace and Kowalski drew trumps in three rounds, ending in dummy. Now he led a diamond to his jack, West ducking, followed by a heart to the ace then the heart king. When the queen appeared, two more rounds of hearts pitching the diamond loser endplayed Vanhoutte to concede a trick to the king of clubs; plus 450 and 11 IMPs to Poland.

That was nicely played by Kowalski, taking advantage of the fact that he knew the diamonds were 4-2. What he had appreciated was that if the heart finesse was



working he did not need to take it – at least if the suit was 3-3 or 4-2. Had the queen not appeared, he could have played a third heart anyway. East could win cheaply and play the fourth heart but Kowalski would simply discard his diamond loser and the endplay would still ensure the contract.

In Italy-Netherlands, after a weak no-trump, Madala played four spades from the South hand on a top diamond lead and played in identical fashion to bring home 11 tricks.

### SF2 USA 1 v USA 2 & POL v FRA (BS)

On the following board, each match saw one pair in slam, the other in game.

#### Board 21. Dealer North. NS Vul.

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

#### Poland v France

West	North	East	South
<i>Grenthe</i>	<i>Klukowski</i>	<i>Vanhoutte</i>	<i>Markowicz</i>
—	Pass	2♣	Pass
2♦	Pass	2♠	Pass
3♠	Pass	4♣	Pass
4♦	Pass	4♥	Pass
4NT	Pass	5♣	Pass
5NT	Pass	6♦	Pass
6♠	Pass	Pass	Pass
West	North	East	South
<i>Kowalski</i>	<i>Léonhardt</i>	<i>Romanski</i>	<i>Piganeau</i>
—	Pass	1♣	Pass
1♠	Pass	3♦	Pass
3♥	Pass	3♠	Pass
4♣	Pass	4♠	Pass
Pass	Pass		

#### USA 2 v USA 1

West	North	East	South
<i>Wolff</i>	<i>Robinson</i>	<i>Morse</i>	<i>Boyd</i>
—	Pass	1♠	Pass
2♦	Pass	3♣	Pass
4♠	Pass	5♥	Pass
6♠	Pass	Pass	Pass

West	North	East	South
<i>Kozlove</i>	<i>Fisher</i>	<i>Kasle</i>	<i>Hamilton</i>
—	Pass	1♠	Pass
2♦	Pass	3♣	Pass
3♠	Pass	4♣	Pass
4♠	Pass	Pass	Pass

Vanhoutte opened with the French almost-game-forcing two clubs and got to slam despite the initial negative response. Romanski opened a Polish Club then showed a strong club opener with spade support opposite the natural response, but stopped in game. In the other match, both Easts opened one spade and received a two-diamond response. Kozlove next supported spades but was unwilling to cue bid having forced to game with a nine-count, so Kasle played in game. Wolff jumped to four spades at his second turn, the old delayed game raise, and this strong combination encouraged Morse to go on with a five-heart cue bid. Looking at the other two aces, Wolff bid the slam now. Both players in game made 12 tricks for plus 480.

Peter Boyd led the three of hearts against six spades, third and fifth leads. Dan Morse won the ace and played a club to the ace then a spade to hand. He threw dummy's heart loser on the king of clubs, cashed a second top trump then led the ten of diamonds, ducking when Boyd covered with the king.

How should Boyd defend to defeat the contract? A trump is no good as declarer wins and ruffs out the diamonds while there is still a trump entry to dummy. Boyd therefore returned a heart to force dummy to ruff. But that proved not to be good enough either. Morse ruffed the heart and ran all the spades to squeeze Robinson in the minors. At trick 12 he led his remaining diamond then thought for a while when Boyd played low. Unfortunately for the defence, the opening length lead was the clue as to the position of the missing heart, so Morse rose with the ace of diamonds, dropping the queen and making his slam for plus 980 and 11 IMPs to USA 1.

The winning defence is for South to return his remaining diamond. Declarer cannot ruff out the diamonds now as South is over-ruffing, and if he draws trumps he no longer has the entries to set up and cash the diamonds. And neither does he have the communications to take both a heart and a club ruff then get back to hand to draw the last trump.

Is there any way to make six spades after a heart lead? There is, but it takes a double dummy line of play. Declarer wins the heart and cashes both minor-suit aces before coming to hand with a trump to take the heart discard on the club king. The play diverges according to whether South retains the king of diamonds. If he does so, then declarer can ruff a heart, cross to hand with a spade, and ruff his low club. Now he plays a diamond and South is forced to win the

trick and give declarer a safe entry to hand to draw the last trump. If South unblocks the diamond, declarer can draw trumps and play the ten of diamonds. One of the jack-ten of diamonds is his twelfth trick.

Markowicz led a cunning five of diamonds. Vanhoutte grabbed the ace, fearing a ruff, and cashed the ace of clubs. With the ace of hearts intact in hand, he had the entries to take both the heart and club ruffs and get back to draw trumps; plus 980 and 11 IMPs to France.

### SF6 POL v FRA (PA)

Whatever your nationality, you probably have an expression for the sentiment that a contest is not over “until the fat lady sings,” a reference to the final aria of an opera, typically performed by an overweight soprano. Until she sings, do not assume everything is decided. Baseball great Yogi Berra’s maxim is also useful: “It ain’t over ‘til it’s over.” The fat lady and Yogi would have appreciated the last board of the D’Orsi Senior Bowl match between France and Poland. After 95 boards, the score was Poland 196.67 France 191. This was the final deal:

#### Board 96. Dealer West. EW Vul.

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

#### Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Lasserre	Kowalski	Poizat	Romanski
Pass	1♥	Double	Pass
INT	Pass	Pass	Double
Pass	2♣	2♦	3♣
Pass	Pass	Pass	

Apolinary Kowalski would have done best to pass out his partner’s double of one no trump. That contract would surely have failed by one trick. It is hard to argue with Jacek Romanski’s raise to three clubs with five-card support, but as we will see in a moment, he had a more successful choice.

East led the spade eight. North took the trick with his jack and played his diamond, East winning with his ace and leading a second spade. What next? It looked natural to declarer to ruff a diamond, cash the club ace, and play another trump. However, East won and gave his partner a spade ruff. Guy Lasserre switched to the heart queen, and a second round of hearts

stranded declarer in the dummy, forced to concede the last trick to East’s diamond queen. The defenders had taken one heart, two diamonds and two clubs for down one.

At trick four, declarer would have done better to duck a heart (he can even play his king). Then he would have had the communications to arrive at nine tricks one way or another. To win the match, the French North-South had to be at least plus 170. This was the bidding sequence:

#### Open Room

West	North	East	South
Russyan	Léenhardt	Lasocki	Piganeau
Pass	1♥	2♦	Pass
Pass	Double	Pass	Pass
Pass			

With a singleton in his partner’s suit, four reasonable trumps, and vulnerable opponents, it was sensible for Patrice Piganeau to go for a penalty. South led his heart, probably disappointed to see Krzysztof Lasocki take the trick with his ten. Declarer led his club king, South signalling an odd number with his two. So North, François Léenhardt, ducked the first club, took the second, and pushed through the diamond jack, covered by the queen and king. I was expecting South to continue with the diamond nine or seven to keep declarer out of the dummy. Instead, after a lot of thought, he led a low spade. North won with his ace and gave his partner a heart ruff. South then exited with a trump. East won and played a spade, but South took that trick and led his last trump. Declarer won and played another spade. After South won, he had to lead a club to dummy’s queen, on which East’s last spade evaporated, but the contract had gone down one, the defenders taking three spades, one diamond, one club and one heart ruff. Plus 50 and plus 200 was worth 6 IMPs to France and victory by 0.33 IMPs. Strains of a woman singing “La Marseillaise” could be heard in the background.

#### The results:

#### Round Robin:

1.	France	383
2.	Poland	382
3.	USA 2	370
4.	Denmark	368
5.	USA 1	360
6.	Australia	351
7.	Indonesia	351
8.	Germany	342

Unlike the Open and Women’s events, the Seniors did come right down to the wire. With one board to go in the Germany-Canada match and with India a 16-14 winner over USA 2, India was in a qualifying spot, 1 VP ahead of Germany. On the final board of

the Round Robin, Germany collected a penalty of 800 and 9 IMPs, vaulting them from 1 VP behind to one ahead of India. Naturally, there was nowhere else in the seven days that India could have picked up 2 VP.

#### Quarterfinals:

France	230	Germany	167
Poland	269	Australia	142
USA 2	229	Indonesia	181
USA 1	242	Denmark	220

#### Semifinals:

France	197	Poland	196.7
USA 2	176	USA 1	95

#### Playoff:

Poland	118	USA 1	36
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#### Final:

France	165	USA 2	160
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France had two very close knockout matches, winning their semifinal over Poland on a carryover fraction (0.3 IMP). The carryforward from the Round Robin was 2.7 IMPs to Poland, which represented one-third of the margin of victory in their Round Robin match (8 IMPs). It was one-third because France had finished ahead of Poland (by 1 VP) in the qualifying matches. Had Poland finished ahead of France, the carryover would have been one-half the margin, or 4 IMPs, more than enough for a Polish victory. The French margin beats the previous closest in World Championship play, Germany over Denmark by 0.5 IMP in the final of the 1993 World Junior Team Championship. There have been several 1.0 IMP wins, including two decided in committee.

## 8<sup>TH</sup> TRANSNATIONAL OPEN TEAMS

### TNT 1 (RK & TB)

Tim Bourke of Canberra, Australia, spotted this fine play in a Moysian fit on Board 3, Session 1 of the Transnational Open Teams.

#### Board 3. Dealer South. EW Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Jia</i>	<i>Rodwell</i>	<i>Yong</i>	<i>Meckstroth</i>
—	—	—	Pass
1♣	Pass	1♥	Pass
1♠	Pass	2♦ <sup>1</sup>	Pass
2NT	Pass	4♠	Pass
Pass	Pass		
	1. 4 <sup>th</sup> suit forcing		

North led the spade jack: seven, two, king. At trick two, West played the nine of hearts: two, three, king. South switched to the five of diamonds: seven, king, and declarer unblocked the ten from dummy. North returned the six of spades. To maintain trump control and to cater for a 4-2 trump break, declarer played the eight from dummy. South won with the nine and persevered with the three of trumps to dummy's queen. Declarer cashed the spade ace to draw the last trump. He continued with the two of diamonds, finessing his nine, and then played the diamond ace, dropping the jack, followed by the diamond queen. The clubs provided the rest of the tricks for plus 620 East-West.

It is a little hard to see but had South continued with a top spade at trick three the combination of poor lies (from declarer's standpoint) in spades and diamonds would have been too much for him to overcome. Of course, the auction had given him no chance to get this right. On the other hand, the winning line for declarer is to duck the spade jack at trick one! Now the defenders cannot do anything. Maybe a club shift is best to attack declarer's transportation but so long as he plays diamonds for two tricks one way or another, he is home.

### TNT 2 (BR & MM)

When this board appeared in the Transnationals round two, Micke Melander witnessed four spades by West on the jack of hearts lead to the ace – thereafter, the defence was impossible, as declarer can take two trumps and arrange to ruff two diamonds in hand, then give up a club, and the defence are helpless.

But what is best defence? And will it suffice? Ladies and Gentlemen, faites vos jeux.

#### Board 19. Dealer South. EW Vul.

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

For the record, with the queen of spades falling, declarer threatens to take six trump tricks, two hearts, a diamond and a club. With West declarer, the most threatening defence is for North to lead the heart jack and have South duck the queen. Now, to avoid a defensive cross-ruff, declarer must draw two rounds of trumps and lead a second heart to the nine to prepare a second entry to dummy to facilitate a possible second diamond ruff. If he leads a low heart to the king, leaving the ten in hand and the nine in dummy, a diamond return leaves declarer with too much to do.

So, South wins the heart ace at trick four. If he returns a spade declarer wins in dummy and plays the third heart himself, or if South plays a heart, declarer wins and draws the trump to duplicate the position. North is squeezed down to seven cards - either three clubs and four diamonds or vice versa. If he keeps three clubs, declarer ducks two clubs to establish the suit. If North retains four clubs and three diamonds, declarer effects a loser-on-loser play and plays the diamond ace and ducks a diamond, discarding a club! South wins and plays a heart, but declarer can arrange to ruff the heart in dummy, discarding another club from hand, then ruff a diamond.

In the three-card ending North is reduced to three clubs and can be endplayed with a low club to force a lead into West's tenace. Quite a few Wests played spade part scores, but 21 declarers made four spades here - a few doubled, of course, and 39 declarers went down in spade contracts. Incidentally, if South ducks the second heart also, declarer plays the ace of diamonds and ruffs a diamond, then ducks a club to endplay North to allow the second diamond ruff in hand.

### TNT QF (PDJ)

Dealer North. EW Vul.

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

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

West	North	East	South
Rodwell	Rosenberg	Meckstroth	Willenken
—	Pass	1♥	1♠
2NT <sup>1</sup>	4♠	Double	Pass
Pass	Pass		

1. Limit raise or better in hearts

West	North	East	South
Sontag	Fantoni	Berkowitz	Nunes
—	Pass	1♥	1♠
2♠ <sup>1</sup>	3♥ <sup>2</sup>	3♠ <sup>3</sup>	Pass
4♥	4♠	Double	Pass
Pass	Pass		

1. Limit raise or better in hearts
2. Limit raise or better in spades
3. The hand belongs to us

In the Transnational quarterfinal match between Angelini and Gordon, the latter gained 7 IMPs through an accurate defence by Berkowitz and Sontag against Fantoni & Nunes.

Unusual, I think, to have three consecutive bids of the opponents' suit in the same auction! Four hearts is easy and 11 tricks can be made due to the favourable diamond position. So the sacrifice in spades would show a profit if the loss could be held to three down and minus 500.

At both tables, the lead was the two of hearts to the king and a diamond switch from East. Meckstroth selected the two, to the ten, jack and king. Berkowitz chose the five which went to the three, eight and king. Both declarers led a trump, taken by East's ace and a second diamond allowed West to cash two tricks in the suit. That second diamond from East has suit-preference connotations and Rodwell would no doubt have switched to a club. However, East overtook the diamond eight with the nine, and after considerable thought played a trump enabling declarer to escape for three down, minus 500.

By contrast, the second diamond from Berkowitz was the two, implying values in clubs. Berkowitz had also had the chance to show a strong hand in the auction and had so far shown up with only the spade ace and the heart ace-king. Sontag put these two clues together to come up with the winning defence of underleading his ace of clubs. That allowed the defenders to cash both clubs and then obtain a club ruff for an 800 penalty and a swing of 7 IMPs. Well done!

The results:

Swiss Ranking:

1. China Open	279	9. Pigot	261
2. Parimatch	276	10. Het Witte 2	260
3. Teramoto	272	11. Consus Oil	259
4. Angelini	268	12. Gordon	259
5. Blund	267	13. Smirnov	256
6. Oz Open	264	14. Mahaffey	255
7. T' Onstein	262	15. Het Witte 1	253
8. Israel Juniors	261	16. Piedra	252

The biggest surprise was the absence of Monaco Z (Zimmermann et al, defending champions) from the qualifiers. They had started poorly and never got on track.

#### Round of 16:

China Open	83	Piedra	39
Parimatch	51	Consus Oil	1
Teramoto	83	Pigot	43
Angelini	70	Het Witte 2	22
Gordon	37	Blund	32
Oz Open	68	Het Witte 1	43
T' Onstein	55	Mahaffey	37
Israel Juniors	72	Smirnov	28

#### Quarterfinals:

Israel Juniors	114	China Open	57
Parimatch	105	T' Onstein	48
Oz Open	94	Teramoto	69
Gordon	72	Angelini	39

#### Semifinals:

Israel Juniors	65	Gordon	58
Oz Open	66	Parimatch	60

#### Final:

Israel Juniors	132	Oz Open	105
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It was the culmination of an incredible 12 months for the Israeli Junior Team. Last fall they won the World Junior Team title in Philadelphia; in the spring of this year they won the White House Junior International Teams; this summer they won the European Junior Teams. And now the World Transnational Open Teams. Mazel tov.



## The Roll of Honour 2011 World Championships

### Bermuda Bowl

1. The Netherlands – Sjoert Brink, Bas Drijver, Bauke Muller, Ricco van Prooijen, Louk Verhees, Simon de Wijs
2. USA 2 – Kevin Bathurst, Joe Grue, John Hurd, Justin Lall, Joel Wooldridge, Daniel Zagorin
3. Italy – Norberto Bocchi, Giorgio Duboin, Lorenzo Lauria, Agustin Madala, Antonio Sementa, Alfredo Versace

### Venice Cup

1. France – Véronique Bessis, Bénédicte Cronier, Cathérine d'Ovidio, Danielle Gaviard, Joanna Nève, Sylvie Willard
2. Indonesia – Lusje Olha Bojoh, Fera Damayanti, Suci Amita Dewi, Kristina Wahyu Murniati, Riantini, Julita Grace Tueje
3. The Netherlands – Carla Arnolds, Laura Dekkers, Marion Michielson, Jet Pasman, Anneke Simons, Bep Vriend

### D'Orsi Cup

1. France – Patrick Grenthe, Guy Lasserre, François Léenhardt, Patrice Piganeau, Philippe Poizat, Philippe Vanhoutte
2. USA 2 – Peter Boyd, Neil Chambers, Gaylor Kasle, Larry Koslove, Steve Robinson, John Schermer
3. Poland – Julian Klukowski, Apolinary Kowalski, Krzysztof Lasocki, Victor Markowicz, Jacek Romanski, Jerzy Russyan

### Transnational Open Teams

1. Israel Juniors – Alon Birman, Lotan Fisher, Gal Gerstner, Moshe Meyuchas, Dror Padon, Ron Schwartz
2. Oz Open – George Bilski, Nabil Edgton, Paul Gosney, Hugh Grosvenor, Sartaj Hans, Tony Nunn
3. Parimatch – Andrei Gromov, Yuri Khiuppenen, Jouri Khokhlov, Vadim Kholomeev, Mikhail Krasnosselski, Georgi Matushko



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## 2011 IBPA Awards

### The IBPA Personality of the Year

Pierre Zimmermann



Pierre Zimmermann receives his award from Patrick Jourdain in Veldhoven

Our Personality of the Year is the man that many bridge players are talking about and one that journalists have been writing about. As a bridge player, he has recorded two wins in the World Transnationals (in Shanghai and São Paulo), the Vanderbilt last year, and this year the Spingold in Toronto and the European Mixed Teams in Poznan.

You will know to whom I refer when I mention the more controversial matter of his formation of a team made up of four different nationalities which is seeking to represent Monaco in future World and/or European Championships.

This year our Personality has launched the Prince Albert Cup in Monaco with eight invited teams (his team lost on the final deal to a Russian team). He is planning a European equivalent of the Cavendish in Monaco and the equivalent of American majors such as the Reisinger in France. He is in discussions with the WBF that might be of assistance to that organisation.

Pierre Zimmermann is 56; he has five children aged from 10 to 21; his second marriage, to Christine, was 15 years ago. Pierre learned bridge at the École in Lausanne and founded the bridge club there; he persuaded the company Philip Morris to sponsor the students with bridge tuition. Zimmermann's father was a lawyer, but not wealthy, so he needed to find a job to finance his studies – thus he became assistant to the

Professors at the University. Upon leaving university, he worked for IBM in Zurich before moving to the PR company Hill & Knowlton (now part of WPP).

In 1990, Zimmermann founded his own real estate company, Régie Zimmermann, which buys property, mostly near Geneva or Lausanne, refurbishes it, and sells it, then often remains as manager of the property for the new owner.

Zimmermann enjoys golf (at which he professes to be avid, but terrible), opera, classical music and musicals such as *Les Misérables*.

Patrick Jourdain, IBPA President, 24<sup>th</sup> October 2011

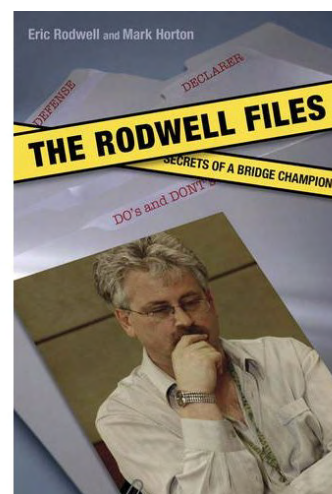


### The Master Point Press Book of the Year Award

*“The Rodwell Files”*

Authors: Eric Rodwell and Mark Horton

This year's candidates were of unusually-high quality in terms of originality of material. Nevertheless, one book was adjudged by the jury of Patrick Huang (Taiwan), Fernando Lema (Argentina), David Morgan (Australia), PO Sundelin (Sweden), Ron Tacchi (France) and Paul Thurston (Canada) to be superior to the others.



From the publisher's blurb:

Eric Rodwell's contributions to bidding theory are well-known, but in this ground-breaking book he reveals for the first time his unique approach to the play of the cards.

First, he describes and explains the process for

deciding on a line of play — using concepts such as +L positions, tightropes, trick packages and Control Units as well as exploring more standard themes such as counting winners, losers, and distribution. Included here too is a checklist of ‘defogging questions’ to get you back on track when your analysis gets bogged down. Then he moves on to a host of innovative ideas in card play, strategies and tactics that can be used by declarer or defenders, each one illustrated with real-life examples from top-level play. Many of these ideas will be new to anyone below the bridge stratosphere. Finally, under the heading ‘DOs and DON’Ts’, Rodwell talks about the mental side of the game: areas where players often go wrong in their approach to the problem at hand, areas that mark the key differences between an average player and a successful one.

The original ‘Rodwell File’, the collection of notes on which this book is based, has been in existence for more than twenty years, but it is only now that the author is prepared to allow his ‘secrets’ to become public knowledge.



Mark Horton and Eric Rodwell are presented the Master Point Press Book of the Year Award by John Carruthers

The 2011 shortlist :

Wladyslaw Izdebski, Roman Krzemien and Ron Klinger, *Deadly Defence*  
 Krzysztof Martens, *Guide Dog, Part I & II*  
 Victor Moillo, *The Hog Takes to Precision*  
 Barry Rigal, *Breaking the Bridge Rules, First Hand Play*  
 Eric Rodwell and Mark Horton, *The Rodwell Files*  
 Peter Winkler, *Bridge at the Enigma Club*

## The Alan Truscott Award

Roland Wald

The Alan Truscott Memorial Award is presented periodically to that person whose contribution to bridge, in the opinion of the IBPA Executive, would be most appreciated by Alan.



Alan Truscott circa 1964, The New York Times

This year the award goes to Roland Wald from London (ex-Copenhagen) who, in his spare time from teaching and playing, arranges for and organizes the commentators for Fred Gitelman’s BBO transmissions.



Roland Wald

## The Keri Klinger Award for Pressure Play

Michelle Brunner & John Holland

This is a new IBPA award in 2011 sponsored by Ron and Suzi Klinger in memory of their daughter Keri. It is awarded to an individual, pair or team who performs in admirable fashion under pressure. This past year, no one did that better than Michelle Brunner and John Holland from England.



Michelle Brunner

Despite being diagnosed with terminal cancer following her appearance in the 2007 Venice Cup in Shanghai, Michelle, with John as a partner, continued to play bridge at the highest level, winning a cap to represent England in the Camrose home internationals and reaching the final of the Gold Coast Teams in Australia against an elite Australian and international field.

Michelle won a Venice Cup and was twice a winner of the Gidwani Family Trust Defence of the Year Award.

John Holland



In the past 24 months, John won two World Championships, the 2009 and 2010 Senior Teams for the d'Orsi Cup, in São Paulo and Philadelphia respectively.

## The IBPA Auction of the Year

Winners: Venkatrao Koneru and Ira Chorush, USA

Journalist: Brent Manley, USA

IBPA Bulletin 553.12

The candidates:

Diamond/Platnick, IBPA Bulletin 550.19, Mark Horton (ENG)

Zia/Gold, IBPA Bulletin 552.2, Paul Lamford (ENG)

Zia/Gold, IBPA Bulletin 552.3, Paul Lamford (ENG)

Hackett/Holland, IBPA Bulletin 553.12, John Carruthers (CAN)

Koneru/Chorush, IBPA Bulletin 553.12, Brent Manley (USA)

## The Gidwani Family Trust Defence of the Year

Winners: Mike Kamil/Marty Fleisher (USA)

Journalist: Brent Manley (USA) IBPA Bulletin 553.4

The candidates:

Willenken/Rosenberg, IBPA Bulletin 550.9, John Carruthers (CAN)

Kamil/Fleisher, IBPA Bulletin 553.4, Brent Manley (USA)

Hoeyland, IBPA Bulletin 554.5, Jon Sveindal (NOR)

Alfrey/Robson, IBPA Bulletin 556.12, Roland Wald (DEN)

Krogsgaard/Kruse, IBPA Bulletin 556.15, Jens Otto Pedersen (DEN)

## The Rose Cliff Declarer Play of the Year

Winner: Geir Helgemo (NOR)

Journalist: GeO Tislevoll (NZ)

IBPA Bulletin 555.9

The candidates:

Rehder, IBPA Bulletin 551.11, Tim Verbeek (NED)

Sharon Gerstman, IBPA Bulletin 553.13, Dan Gerstman (USA)

Nakamura, IBPA Bulletin 554.6, Ron Klinger (AUS)

Helgemo, IBPA Bulletin 555.9, GeO Tislevoll (NZ)

Duboin, IBPA Bulletin 558.2, Jos Jacobs (NED)

## The Richard Freeman Junior Deal of the Year Award

Winners: Cédric Lorenzini/Christophe Grosset (FRA)

Journalist: Patrick Bogacki (FRA)

IBPA Bulletin 552.6

Chiu, IBPA Bulletin 550.17, Brian Senior (ENG)

Grosset-Lorenzini, IBPA Bulletin 552.6, Patrick Bogacki (FRA)

Fisher, IBPA Bulletin 555.13, Roland Wald (DEN)

Johansen, IBPA Bulletin 559.3, Brian Senior (ENG)

Birman, IBPA Bulletin 559.5, Ram Soffer (ISR)

Lorenzini, IBPA Bulletin 559, Brian Senior (ENG)