



## BULLETIN

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## 2017 World Champions



**Bermuda Bowl:** USA – Marty Fleisher, Chip Martel, Jan Martel (npc), Michael Rosenberg, Brad Moss, Jacek Pszczola, Joe Grue, José Damiani



**Venice Cup:** China – Wang Xiaojing (coach), Shen Qi, Huang Yan, Wang Wenfei, Wang Jianxian (npc), Lu Yan, Wang Nan, Liu Yan



**d'Orsi Trophy:** USA – Steve Garner (npc), Neil Silverman, David Berkowitz, Alan Sontag, Jeff Wolfson, Mike Becker, Allan Graves

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**FunBridge World Transnational Teams:**  
 Krzysztof Jassem, Piotr Gawrys,  
 Michal Klukowski, Marcin Mazurkiewicz

## 43<sup>rd</sup> World Bridge Teams Championships

Lyon, France

August 12-26, 2017

Medal Winners



### 43<sup>rd</sup> Bermuda Bowl

1. **USA2** (Martin Fleisher, Joe Grue, Chip Martel, Brad Moss, Jacek Pszczola, Michael Rosenberg, Jan Martel npc)
2. **France** (Thomas Bessis, François Combescure, Cédric Lorenzini, Jean-Christophe Quantin, Jérôme Rombaut, Frédéric Volcker, Lionel Sebbane npc)
3. **Bulgaria** (Victor Aronov, Diana Damianova, Georgi Karakolev, Vladimir Mihov, Ivan Nanev, Julian Stefanov, Victor Aronov pc, Marta Nikolova coach)

### 21<sup>st</sup> Venice Cup

1. **China** (Huang Yan, Liu Yan, Lu Yan, Shen Qi, Wang Nan, Wang Wen Fei, Wang Jianxin npc, WangXiaoqing coach)
2. **England** (Sally Brock, Fiona Brown, Catherine Draper, Sandra Penfold, Nevena Senior, Nicola Smith, Derek Patterson npc, David Burn coach)
3. **Sweden** (Pia Andersson, Kathrine Bertheau, Ida Grönkvist, Emma Övelius, Cecilia Rimstedt, Sandra Rimstedt, Kenneth Borin npc, Carina Wademark coach)

### 9<sup>th</sup> d'Orsi Trophy

1. **USA2** (Michael Becker, David Berkowitz, Allan Graves, Neil Silverman, Alan Sontag, Jeff Wolfson, Steve Garner npc)
2. **Italy** (Andrea Buratti, Amedeo Comella, Giuseppe Failla, Aldo Mina, Ruggero Pulga, Stefano Sabbatini, Pierfrancesco Parolaro npc)
3. **Sweden** (Mats Axdorph, Christer Bjäring, Sven-Åke Bjerregård, Bengt-Erik Efraimsson, Anders Morath, Johnny Östberg, Tommy Gullberg npc, Carina Wademark coach)

### 11<sup>th</sup> FunBridge World Transnational Open Teams

1. **Mazurkiewicz** (Piotr Gawrys, Krzysztof Jassem, Michal Klukowski, Marcin Mazurkiewicz)
2. **Jinshuo** (Jiang Tong, Ju Chuancheng, Jacek Kalita, Michal Nowosadzki, Shi Zheng Jun, Zhang Xiaofeng, Wang Dade npc)
3. **Percy** (Peter Crouch, David Gold, Zia Mahmood, Marion Michielsen, Andrew Robson, Anita Sinclair)



**David Bird, Chandler's Ford, Hamps.**  
**John Carruthers, Kingsville, ON**  
**Mark Horton, Sutton Benger, Wilts.**  
**Jos Jacobs, Maarn, Netherlands**  
**Ron Klinger, Northbridge, NSW**  
**Brent Manley, Arlington, TN**  
**Micke Melander, Stockholm**  
**Barry Rigal, NYC**  
**Brian Senior, Nottingham**  
**Ron Tacchi, Vaupillon, France**

This year's World Championships were played in France's self-proclaimed culinary capital of Lyon and consisted of four main events: the Bermuda Bowl, the Venice Cup, the d'Orsi Trophy and the Funbridge Transnational Teams. The first-named three were run along similar lines, the 22 eligible teams contesting a round robin with eight qualifiers for 96-board knockout matches, the only exception being the 128-board Bermuda Bowl final.

Winning the round robin carried a huge reward: not only would the successful teams in each event be able to choose their quarterfinal opponents, they would also choose the other quarterfinal match to be placed in their bracket, subject to the proviso that if both US teams made it that far, they would meet in one semifinal match. There would be no ties after the regulation 96-board (two-day) or 128-board (three-day) k.o. matches were complete: the team winning the round-robin match between the two tied teams would be the winner; if that match had also been tied, the team finishing higher in the qualifying portion of its event would be declared the winner. In effect, that gave the team winning the round-robin match a fraction of an IMP carryover.

The TNT was run as a 10-board, 15-round Swiss over three days with eight qualifiers for knockout play. Their k.o. matches were 48 boards in length, each match being played in a single day.

The Computer Bridge World Championship was played alongside the main events.

## The 43<sup>rd</sup> Bermuda Bowl



The Bermuda Bowl is emblematic of world bridge supremacy. Since 1950, when the first Bowl was played in Hamilton, Bermuda (hence the trophy's name), the USA (sometimes playing as North America, occasionally as the Aces) has won 18 and Italy 15. Only seven other nations have won it (Great Britain, France, with two, Brazil, Iceland, Netherlands, also twice, Norway, and Poland).

This year, we had two powerful American teams and very good, mostly-young, teams from France, Sweden, and the Netherlands. A winner from outside that group was always possible, however unlikely. If that were to happen, the champion would probably be another European qualifier: the veteran Bulgaria team, Monaco (with Helgemo/Helness), or perhaps Italy, with a combination of youth and experience. The rest of the field was given scant chance to win.

**RRI - USAI v. Monaco (David Bird)**

**Board 4. Dealer West. Both Vul.**

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Rodwell	Helness	Meckstroth	Helgemo
1♦ <sup>1</sup>	1♠	Double	Redouble
INT	Pass	3NT	Double
Pass	Pass	Pass	
1. 2+ diamonds, (10)11-15			

Helness led the ten of hearts, covered by the king and ace. South switched to the ten of spades, which was allowed to win. The contract can now be beaten only by the double-dummy switch to a low club! (If declarer wins the nine of clubs with the queen, takes five diamond tricks and plays a spade to the ace, North can lead the jack of clubs to pin the ten.)

Helgemo gave us some hope that he would find this brilliancy by thinking for a while, but eventually switched back to hearts, hoping Helness and Rodwell both had two. Rodwell ducked the heart to win in dummy, knocked out the ace of spades and took a club trick later. With the diamond king onside and the suit 3-3, Meckwell had landed yet another 22-point three notrump and had plus 750 to prove it.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Multon	Levin	Zimmermann	Weinstein
Pass	Pass	1♣	1♥
1♠ <sup>1</sup>	2♠	Pass	Pass
Double	Pass	3♣	Pass
3♦	Pass	Pass	Pass
1. Diamonds			

At this table, the 22-point three-diamond contact was given no chance. Levin led the ten of hearts; Multon won with the queen and led a club to the king, allowed to win. He ran the jack of diamonds, played a diamond to the queen and led the ten of clubs, ducking North's jack. Levin did well to switch to a low spade, declarer winning South's ten with the queen. A spade to the ace, followed by the jack of spades, put the contract one down. That was 13 IMPs to USAI.

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

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

West	North	East	South
Rodwell	Helness	Meckstroth	Helgemo
—	—	INT	Pass
2♦	Pass	2♥	Pass
3NT	Pass	4♥	Pass
Pass	Double	Pass	5♦
Double	Pass	Pass	Pass

I was surprised when Meckstroth neither broke the transfer, nor control-bid four diamonds over three notrump – I was informed that their partnership never breaks the transfer. I was even more surprised when Helness ventured a double of four hearts – Partner might have a stack of trumps, yes, but the auction was not particularly limited. North/South knew what they were doing: South would be welcome to pass on a stack of trumps, otherwise, he should consider a sacrifice somewhere. Helgemo chose five diamonds and was doubled there. A heart lead would have forced the dummy and would have collected an eventual 500. After the ten-of-diamonds lead, Helgemo was able to set up the spades and reduce the damage to 300. Would this be a good board? It depended on whether four hearts could be made. Against this contract South was surely more likely to lead a spade than a killing diamond.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Multon	Levin	Zimmermann	Weinstein
—	—	1♥	Pass
4♥	Pass	Pass	Pass

Levin played low on the eight-of-spades lead and declarer won with the nine. Weinstein rose with the ace when a trump was played and switched to the six of diamonds, North's queen forcing the ace. Zimmermann drew one more round of trumps, continued with his two remaining spade winners, then threw North on lead with a diamond. Levin would now have to open the club suit or give a ruff-and-sluff, so it seemed that the contract would be made.

However, when Levin exited with the ten of clubs, declarer quite reasonably misread the position. He covered with the queen and then had to lose two club tricks for one down. It was 9 IMPs lost instead of 8 IMPs gained.

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

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Rodwell</i>	<i>Helness</i>	<i>Meckstroth</i>	<i>Helgemo</i>
Pass	Pass	1♦ <sup>1</sup>	Pass
1♥	Pass	INT	Double
2♥	Double	Pass	Pass
Pass			

1. 2+ diamonds, (10)11-15

East/West did nothing wrong during their stroll in the jungle, but two tigers pounced on them and the damage was 500 in the minus column. Helness led his singleton club and the defenders scored two club ruffs, a further trump trick and two ace-king combinations. We noted that four spades was a possible make. Perhaps this could be reached after a one-club opening from East?

**Closed Room**

West	North	East	South
<i>Multon</i>	<i>Levin</i>	<i>Zimmermann</i>	<i>Weinstein</i>
Pass	Pass	1♣	1♦
Double <sup>1</sup>	2♣	Pass	2♠
Pass	3♠	Pass	4♠
Pass	Pass	Pass	

1. Hearts

Well, they managed to bid it. Could they make it? Multon led the jack of hearts, covered by the queen and ace and ruffed by declarer. Weinstein led the jack of clubs, conceding a club trick, and Zimmermann returned another heart. To make the contract, declarer needed to win with the queen of hearts and (after one top trump, if he likes) set up the diamonds. He can then ruff the club return, cross to his remaining top trump and play good diamonds.

Weinstein gave the defenders a chance by ruffing the second round of hearts. He then played the ace-king

of spades and led a diamond to the nine and jack. A low club return from Zimmermann would have been lethal. It would have forced dummy's penultimate trump, leaving East free to ruff the fourth round of diamonds. Zimmermann preferred to play the jack of spades before the low club. Declarer was then in control and could enjoy the rest of the diamond suit. A 420-sized bite was taken out of the 500 penalty from the other room and the IMP loss was minimal.

**RR2 - USA2 v. China (Jos Jacobs)**

**Board 32. Dealer West. EW Vul.**

<p>♠ K Q 10 7 3 ♥ 5 4 ♦ 8 5 ♣ J 9 5 2</p> <p>♠ A 8 5 ♥ 10 6 ♦ K 9 6 2 ♣ A K 10 3</p>	<p>♠ J 4 ♥ K Q J 9 ♦ Q J 3 ♣ Q 8 7 6</p> <p>♠ 9 6 2 ♥ A 8 7 3 2 ♦ A 10 7 4 ♣ 4</p>
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The last board of the round was a touch-and-go three notrump. On the actual layout, three notrump is cold because the long spade suit has no entries. Still, you have to play well to make nine tricks, so it is no surprise that quite a number of declarers went down in three notrump.

Very often, playing well comes down to counting well and this board is no exception. You win the third round of spades and play a heart. If South wins with his ace on the first or second round of the suit, you are home, as there is ample time to establish two more tricks in diamonds, bringing your total to one spade, three hearts, three top clubs and two diamonds, nine in all.

So South has to duck the hearts twice. If you continue hearts now, South establishes his hearts with his ace of diamonds still there as an entry but ... with two hearts in the bag, it's time to test the clubs. Cash the ace of clubs and cross to dummy's queen of clubs. If they break 3-2, you can continue diamonds to set up the last two tricks needed in that suit but if they don't break, South has to find a discard!

If South pitches a heart, you can safely drive out the ace of hearts first and later establish two diamond tricks. If South discards a diamond (unlikely as the cards lie), you attack diamonds first. Please note that after a heart discard, the South hand can be counted as 3=5=4=1 when North discards on the third heart. This enables you later to finesse the ten of diamonds, if necessary.

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Dai</i>	<i>Martel</i>	<i>Yang</i>	<i>Fleisher</i>
1NT	Pass	2♣	Pass
2♦	Pass	3♣	Pass
3♠	Pass	3NT	Pass
Pass	Pass		

Three rounds of spades were followed by two rounds of hearts. When dummy led the queen of diamonds after the second heart, South ducked. The jack of diamonds was then taken by South's ace and a diamond came back, giving declarer a premature decision. When Dai went up with his king, the contract was one down. USA2 plus 100.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Grue</i>	<i>Li</i>	<i>Moss</i>	<i>Zhang</i>
1♦	1♠	Double	2♥
Pass	2♠	Double	Pass
3NT	Pass	Pass	Pass

Joe Grue followed the line suggested above and thus recorded plus 600 and 12 IMPs in.

**RR10 – France v. USAI (David Bird)**

**Board 22. Dealer East. EW Vul.**

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Nickell</i>	<i>Lorenzini</i>	<i>Katz</i>	<i>Quantin</i>
—	—	2♦ <sup>1</sup>	Pass
4♦ <sup>2</sup>	Pass	4♥	Pass
4NT <sup>3</sup>	Pass	5♥ <sup>4</sup>	Pass
7♠	Pass	Pass	Pass

1. Flannery: 4 spades and 5+ hearts, 11-15 HCP
2. Short hearts and good for spades
3. RKCB for spades
4. Two key cards, no spade queen

The two-diamond opening by Ralph Katz was a convention much scorned in certain quarters – Flannery, showing at least 4-5 shape in the majors. 'The most useless convention ever invented,' Terence Reese used to say. 'It deals with a hand shape that causes no

problems whatsoever for natural bidding.' Be that as it may, it worked pretty well here. The king-of-hearts lead was won and a round of trumps allowed an early claim.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Volcker</i>	<i>Rodwell</i>	<i>Bessis</i>	<i>Meckstroth</i>
—	Pass	1♥	3♣
3♠	5♣	6♠	Pass
7♠	Pass	Pass	Pass

Volcker had plenty to bid the grand over partner's jump to six spades and it was a commendable pushed board. Let me see how many Bermuda Bowl pairs reached the grand slam – 20 of 22. Very well done.

**RR11 – Brazil v. Italy (Jos Jacobs)**

The following board was, by far, the most spectacular board I have seen this week. A 4=9=0=0 shape with a solid nine-card suit would surprise even most goulash players. The scoresheets in all three events proved this quite clearly. Only one North/South pair, in the d'Orsi Trophy, registered plus 1770 in seven hearts doubled, by locating the queen of spades successfully. A very popular score was plus 1310 in six hearts doubled. There were not many instances of the sacrifice in seven clubs for minus 300. One East/West pair was allowed to lose their minus 300 in five diamonds doubled.

This Brazil-Italy match was the only one of the 33 matches in progress in which both tables played in seven clubs doubled, down two, the par result on the board. Here are the two auctions.

**Board 11. Dealer South. Neither Vul.**

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Donati</i>	<i>Chagas</i>	<i>Gandoglia</i>	<i>Villas-Boas</i>
—	—	—	1♥
2♣	2♥	3♦	4♥
5♦	Double	6♣	6♥
7♣	Double	Pass	Pass
Pass			

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Thoma	Di Franco	Ravenna	Manno
—	—	—	1♥
2♣	2♥	4♥	6♥
Pass	Pass	7♣	Double
Pass	Pass	Pass	

**RR13 – Italy v. USA2 (David Bird)**

**Board 5. Dealer North. NS Vul.**

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Grue	Di Franco	Moss	Manno
—	1♥	1♠	2♠ <sup>1</sup>
4♠	5♥	Double	Pass
Pass	Pass		
1. 3-card limit raise+			

Moss led the singleton queen of clubs to declarer's ace. Ace and another trump would have seen West discarding the king of spades. After winning with the king of hearts, East could then have underled the ace of spades to receive a club ruff for one down. Declarer's diamond loser would be discarded on the clubs.

However, hoping to enter a big number in his plus column, Di Franco ran the jack of diamonds at trick two. Grue won and delivered a club ruff. No benefit would accrue from underleading the ace of spades after this start. East cashed the ace of spades and later scored his king of hearts for two down, plus 500 to USA2.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Donati	Pszczola	Gandoglia	Rosenberg
—	1♥	1♠	2♠
4♥	5♥	5♠	Pass
Pass	Double	Pass	Pass
Pass			

Possibly misled by West's four-heart bid, Gandoglia bid 'five over five'. Rosenberg led the queen of hearts, Pszczola winning with the ace and playing his top two clubs. It looked as if all roads would lead to two down, but a surprise was in store for us. Declarer ruffed,

drew trumps and played the king of hearts, discarding a diamond from dummy. A heart ruff and a club ruff in his hand completed the elimination preparation and only the diamond suit remained to be played.

Gandoglia led the two of diamonds, allowing South's ten of diamonds to win. Rosenberg continued innocently with the queen of diamonds and this won too. The ace of diamonds gave him a third diamond trick and that was three down. It was a second plus 500 to USA2 and a swing of 14 IMPS.

**RR16 – Italy v. Sweden (David Bird)**

This was the best deal that I have seen for a while:

**Board 18. Dealer East. NS Vul.**

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Nyström	Di Franco	Upmark	Manno
—	—	3♣	Pass
Pass	3♠	Pass	4♠
Pass	Pass	Pass	

Upmark found a strong opening lead, the seven of hearts. Nyström beat dummy's jack with the queen. Various continuations were possible and we will look at them in a moment, but West understandably switched to his singleton club. Di Franco won with the ace of clubs and cashed his two top diamonds. It was not possible to score five spades, four diamonds and the ace of clubs because declarer could not draw trumps ending in the dummy. So, Di Franco played the king and ace of trumps, dropping West's queen. He continued with the queen of diamonds, discarding his remaining heart loser. East ruffed with the nine of spades and cashed a club trick, but declarer could then ruff one club with the six of spades and discard another on the jack of diamonds for plus 620. At the other table:

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Donati	O. Rimstedt	Gandoglia	M. Rimstedt
—	—	3♣	Pass
Pass	3♠	Pass	4♠
Pass	Pass	Pass	

Gandoglia preferred to lead the king of clubs and Ola Rimstedt won with the ace. He cashed the king of diamonds, then led the nine of hearts to the jack and queen. If Donati had cashed the ace of hearts, followed by a diamond or another heart, there would have been no way home. When he chose to play a second diamond, declarer won with the ace and was still in the hunt.

Rimstedt played the ace and king of trumps, West's queen appearing, and drew the last trump with the jack. He then led a second round of hearts to the eight and West's ten. Although declarer had no entry to the dummy and had three club losers in his hand, Donati (with the ace of hearts and three diamonds) was endplayed. When he played the ace of hearts, Rimstedt discarded a club. West's next red card revived the dummy and away went declarer's remaining club losers. Splendid!

So, let's go back to the play in the Open Room and ask if the defenders could have beaten the contract after the inspired heart lead to the jack and queen. Suppose that West had continued with the ace of hearts (preventing the heart discard that originally saw declarer home) and a third heart. Declarer could have succeeded by ruffing with the jack of spades. East would have been welcome to discard a diamond. Declarer could have played the king of spades, followed by the ace and king of diamonds. If East had ruffed the second high diamond and cleared the clubs, there would have been two trump entries to dummy. If, instead, East had not ruffed the second diamond, declarer would have led the ten of spades or eight of spades (unblocking) to the ace of spades. He would then have cashed red-suit winners until East ruffed with the nine of spades. That would have set up the six of spades as an entry for the remaining winners.

There is only one successful defence to four spades: after a heart lead, West must cash two hearts and switch to a club. East will then have a club to cash when he scores a ruff with the nine of spades.

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

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

There are 12 top tricks. Playing in seven spades may allow you to discard the diamond losers on the clubs. In seven clubs, you will probably need the diamond finesse. Let's see how these teams fared.

#### Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Nyström</i>	<i>Di Franco</i>	<i>Upmark</i>	<i>Manno</i>
—	1♦	Pass	2♣
Pass	2♦	Pass	2♠
Pass	2NT	Pass	3♥
Pass	3♠	Pass	4♣
Pass	4♦	Pass	5♥
Pass	5NT	Pass	7♣
Pass	Pass	Pass	

The auction is difficult to read, particularly the two-notrump bid. Presumably they knew of the 4-4 spade fit. Five hearts has the whiff of Exclusion Blackwood about it and perhaps seven clubs was merely offering an alternative spot.

Manno won the spade lead and subsequently took three heart ruffs in his hand, attempting to ruff out the ace of hearts. When this failed, he finessed the jack of diamonds successfully and picked up a somewhat fortunate plus 2140.

#### Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Donati</i>	<i>O. Rimstedt</i>	<i>Gandoglia</i>	<i>M. Rimstedt</i>
—	1♦	Pass	1NT <sup>1</sup>
Pass	2♦ <sup>2</sup>	Pass	2♠ <sup>3</sup>
Pass	4♠	Pass	5♥ <sup>4</sup>
Pass	5NT <sup>5</sup>	Pass	6♣ <sup>6</sup>
Pass	6♦ <sup>7</sup>	Pass	7♠
Pass	Pass	Pass	

1. Game-forcing relay
2. No shortage or 4=4=4=1
3. Clubs and spades
4. Voidwood
5. 1 or 4 key cards
6. Asks for spade queen
7. Spade queen, no useful kings outside

It was a splendid auction by the Rimstedt twins. Right, let's see how many other Bermuda Bowl pairs managed to reach seven spades. The Rimstedts were the one and only pair to do it! Four pairs landed in the less-good seven clubs. Fifteen pairs made a small slam and two stopped in five clubs.

#### RR19 – Egypt v. Sweden (Brian Senior)

After 18 of 21 matches of the qualifying round robin in the Bermuda Bowl, Sweden looked to have ensured a place in the knockouts. In Round 19 they faced Egypt, who lay eighth, and were a very long way from being secure. However, while this match was a little more important to the Egyptians than to the

Swedes; it still mattered to the latter because, the higher the qualifying position, the better the draw once the knockouts began. Egypt set off with a bang.

**Board 1. Dealer North. Neither Vul.**

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

**Open Room**

West	North	East	South
Sadek	O. Rimstedt	el-Ahmady	M. Rimstedt
—	3♣	3♠	Pass
4♥	Pass	5♥	Pass
6♥	Pass	Pass	Pass

**Closed Room**

West	North	East	South
Sylvan	Pascal	Wrang	Heshmat
—	Pass	1♠	Pass
2♥	2NT	4♦	5♣
6♣	Pass	6♦	Pass
6♥	Pass	Pass	Pass

Pascal led the ten of clubs to his partner's king, ruffed by Sylvan. Declarer drew trumps in two rounds then led a spade to the queen and king. Heshmat returned the ten of diamonds, on which Sylvan played low and ruffed in dummy. Next he cashed the ace of spades, but the five-one split was bad news. Sylvan could take the ruffing spade finesse but was a trick short; down one for minus 50.

Ola led his singleton spade. Sadek thought for a while before rising with the ace and setting about a minor-suit crossruff. So: club ruff, diamond ruff, club ruff, diamond ruff with the ten, club ruff, diamond ruff with the ace. Now, drawing trumps and giving up a diamond makes the contract, but Sadek preferred to ruff a spade with the queen then ruffed a fourth diamond with the six of hearts. Mikael over-ruffed, after which Sadek could ruff the return, draw trumps (which were now one-one) and cash the ace and queen of diamonds for 12 tricks and plus 980; 14 IMPs to Egypt.

If South does not over-ruff the fourth diamond, declarer has no way back to hand without shortening his trumps once more and South comes to the last two tricks for down one.

**RR19 – Monaco v. Brazil (David Bird)**

With three round-robin matches still to be played, Monaco were just out of the top eight places that would qualify for the knockout stage. How would they fare against Brazil, who were 10 VPs or so behind them?

**Board 5. Dealer North. NS Vul.**

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

**Open Room**

West	North	East	South
Thoma	Helness	Ravenna	Helgemo
—	1♥	Double	2♥
Double	Pass	6♠	Pass
Pass	Pass		

I have every sympathy for Ravenna's leap on the second round. Even if you have some auction where Exclusion Blackwood in hearts becomes possible, how would you find out about the diamond situation? At least he avoided any possible disagreement as to whether three spades would have been forcing after the responsive double!

**Closed Room**

West	North	East	South
Multon	Chagas	Martens	Villas-Boas
—	1♥	3♣ <sup>1</sup>	3♥
4♠	Pass	5♥	Pass
6♠	Pass	Pass	Pass

**1. Spades and diamonds**

Martens' control-showing bid of five hearts informed Multon that Martens did not hold first-round club control. Although Multon's hand was not particularly splendid, he might well have bid six clubs himself, on the way to six spades. Then, six diamonds by Martens could conceivably have edged them towards the big prize.

After seven days of play, 21 matches, 336 boards, the qualifiers were (decimals truncated from the scores):

1.	France	273
2.	Netherlands	265
3.	USA1	262
4.	Sweden	254
5.	USA2	249
6.	Bulgaria	247
7.	China	234
8.	New Zealand	224

It would be France-China, Netherlands-New Zealand, USA1-Bulgaria and Sweden-USA2 in the quarterfinals.

### Quarterfinals, Segment I – Netherlands v. New Zealand (Ron Klinger)

There were nine declarers in three notrump on Board 21 in the quarterfinals, but only one was successful. This was the deal:

#### Board 5. Dealer North. NS Vul.

<p style="text-align: center;">♠ A Q 5 ♥ 10 6 5 2 ♦ 8 2 ♣ K Q 9 6</p> <p>♠ K 10 9 6 ♥ J 8 ♦ K 3 ♣ 10 8 5 3 2</p> <p style="text-align: center;">♠ J 7 2 ♥ 9 4 ♦ A Q 7 6 5 4 ♣ A 7</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">♠ 8 4 3 ♥ A K Q 7 3 ♦ J 10 9 ♣ J 4</p>
---	---

West	North	East	South
<i>Brown</i>	<i>van den Bos</i>	<i>Whibley</i>	<i>van Lankveld</i>
—	1♣	1♥	2♣ <sup>1</sup>
Double <sup>2</sup>	Pass	2♠	Double <sup>2</sup>
Pass	2NT	Pass	3NT
Pass	Pass	Pass	

1. Diamonds
2. Takeout

Three notrump can be defeated on any lead, but the task for the defence is tougher when East leads a top heart. If East leads the ace of hearts: four – eight – two, then double dummy, a low heart is needed at trick two. Declarer cannot set up the diamonds without letting East gain the lead. If declarer plays the ace of diamonds, West unblocks his king.

In practice, East led the ace of hearts: four – jack – two. Now declarer can succeed, but only if he does everything right. Van den Bos did. East switched to the eight of spades: two – six – queen. North played the eight of diamonds: nine – four! – three. East continued with the three of spades: jack – king – ace and North led the two of diamonds. Judging that West would probably not have been enthused enough to double for takeout with the king of spades and at most three outside jacks, van den Bos rose with the ace of diamonds and was instantly rewarded.

He now had ten tricks. To rub salt into the wound, he cashed the diamonds, catching West in a spade-club squeeze for the extra overtrick, plus 660 and plus 12 IMPs. At the other table it went one club-one heart-two diamonds-double-pass-two hearts-pass-pass-pass. East went one down, minus 50, after the ace of clubs lead, a club to the king and the queen of clubs, ruffed high.

### Quarterfinals, Segment I - Sweden v. USA2 (David Bird)

#### Board 12. Dealer West. NS Vul.

<p style="text-align: center;">♠ J 4 3 ♥ A 9 6 4 ♦ 9 8 ♣ A 9 7 5</p> <p>♠ Q 10 9 6 2 ♥ — ♦ A K Q 7 ♣ K J 4 3</p> <p style="text-align: center;">♠ A 8 ♥ K Q J 8 5 3 ♦ J 10 3 ♣ Q 10</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">♠ K 7 5 ♥ 10 7 2 ♦ 6 5 4 2 ♣ 8 6 2</p>
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#### Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Pszczola</i>	<i>O.Rimstedt</i>	<i>Rosenberg</i>	<i>M.Rimstedt</i>
1♠	Pass	1NT	2♥
Double	2♠	Pass	2NT
Pass	4♥	Pass	Pass
Pass			

Pszczola cashed two top diamonds and switched to the ten of spades. Mikael Rimstedt covered with dummy's jack, drawing the king and ace. West now held the sole guards in both spades and clubs. Rimstedt played the king and queen of trumps, ruffed his diamond loser with the ace of hearts and ran the remaining trumps. To retain his king of clubs guarded, West had to reduce to just one other card. If that had been the nine of spades, he'd have been thrown in with a spade to lead from the king of clubs. Pszczola discarded the nine of spades in the hope that East held the eight of spades. Declarer then scored the eight of spades for his tenth trick and plus 620.

After two rounds of diamonds, West needed to switch specifically to the queen of spades, so that East would be able to guard the suit with his king.

We were eager to see what would happen at the other table. Perhaps East/West would sacrifice in spades.

#### Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Nyström</i>	<i>Moss</i>	<i>Upmark</i>	<i>Grue</i>
1♠	Pass	2♠	3♥
Double	3♠	Pass	4♥
Pass	Pass	Pass	

No, they ended in the heart game as well. What further splendours awaited us?

Nyström led the ace of diamonds, his partner signalling discouragement with the six of diamonds, Realizing that he would have to switch to spades anyway, if he cashed another diamond next, Nyström switched

brilliantly to the nine of spades at trick two! When Grue allowed this to win, West cashed the queen of diamonds and played the six of spades, drawing the four, seven and ace.

Not overjoyed at this sharp defence, Grue tried the queen of clubs from hand. It was covered by the king and ace and he then surrendered a trick to the jack of clubs. That was one down and Sweden collected what might be described as a well-deserved 12-IMP gain.

### Quarterfinals, Segment 2 – France v. China (Brian Senior)

#### Board 22. Dealer East. EW Vul.

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

#### Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Chen</i>	<i>Rombaut</i>	<i>Zhao</i>	<i>Combescore</i>
—	—	1♥	2♠
3♥	4♠	Pass	Pass
Pass			

#### Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Volcker</i>	<i>Li</i>	<i>Bessis</i>	<i>Zhang</i>
—	—	1♥	2♠
2NT <sup>1</sup>	4♠	Pass	Pass
Double	Pass	Pass	Pass

1. Good 4-card heart raise

Against four spades undoubled, Chen led the king of diamonds. Combescore ducked, so Chen continued with the eight of diamonds and was delighted to see declarer put in the jack. That lost to the queen and Zhao returned the ten of diamonds for Chen to ruff. Chen cashed the ace of clubs, then switched to a heart and a moment later collected a second diamond ruff for down three and plus 150.

Volcker led the seven of hearts versus four spades doubled. Bessis won with the king and switched to a low diamond to the king and ace. Zhang led a club, Volcker winning and returning a diamond. Bessis won with the ten, cashed the queen, then led his last diamond for Volcker to ruff. That was down two for plus 300 and 4 IMPs to France.

### Quarterfinals, Set 5 – USA I v. Bulgaria (Brent Manley)

On this deal, with the match tied, Jeff Meckstroth bid boldly and played well to land a doubled contract for a big gain.

#### Board 75. Dealer South. Neither Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Rodwell</i>	<i>Karakolev</i>	<i>Meckstroth</i>	<i>Mihov</i>
—	—	—	3NT <sup>1</sup>
Pass	4♣	Pass	4♦
Pass	Pass	4♥	Pass
Pass	Double	Pass	Pass
Pass			

1. Gambling: solid minor suit.

Mihov started with the ace of diamonds and could have defeated the contract by switching to a spade, but he continued with the king of diamonds, North discarding a club. Meckstroth ruffed and played a club to dummy's jack, followed by a low heart. North played low and Meckstroth won with the jack of hearts. He played a second club to dummy's queen and played dummy's other low heart. Karakolev won with the ace of hearts and exited with his last club. Meckstroth overtook the king of clubs with the ace and led the eight of clubs, pitching a spade when North erred in not ruffing. Meckstroth then ruffed a diamond with the six of hearts, leaving him with the king-ten doubleton of hearts and two low spades.

Meckstroth entered dummy with a spade to the ace and called for a low diamond. He could not be prevented from scoring his final two trumps for plus 590 and a 14-IMP gain because at the other table, Bobby Levin played in three notrump from the North seat after Steve Weinstein had opened one diamond and rebid the suit.

The opening lead by Naney was a low club from the king-six-four of clubs. Stefanov, West, won with the ace of clubs and continued with the queen of clubs. East, aware that the suit was about to block, overtook with the king of clubs, making Levin's nine of clubs good. He finished with nine tricks for plus 400.

*Continued on page 14 ...*



# IBPA Column Service

Tim Bourke, Canberra

Members may use these deals as they wish, without attributing the author or IBPA.

This month's Column-Service deals are based on boards from actual play in the recently-completed World Championships in Lyon, France.

## 869. Dealer West. NS Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
3♣	Pass	Pass	3NT
Pass	Pass	Pass	

This was Board 18 from Round 16 in Lyon. At all of the tables broadcast, West opened with three clubs and, at 63 of 66 tables, the final contract was four spades. If West leads the king of clubs against that contract, declarer wins with the ace, plays a trump to the ace and a second trump, intending to finesse. Luckily, the queen of trumps appears, so declarer takes this with the king and draws the last trump with the jack. Then, after cashing the ace and king of diamonds declarer plays a low heart to the jack. East takes the trick with his queen and, as he is down to red-suit cards only, he gets off play with a diamond to avoid conceding an overtrick. Declarer makes ten tricks – five trumps, four diamonds and the ace of clubs.

Four spades can be defeated if West leads a heart. Declarer plays dummy's jack and East must take the queen and ace of hearts before exiting with the three of clubs. Declarer can do no better than cash the ace and king of diamonds followed by the king and ace of trumps so that he can play a good diamond. Alas, it is West who has the third trump and he ruffs in, then cashes a club winner for down one.

If East plays a third heart instead of the club, declarer ruffs with the ten of spades as West discards a diamond. Declarer continues with the ace and king of diamonds. West can do no better than ruff the latter and play

the king of clubs. Declarer wins with the ace of clubs and plays the king and ace of trumps. As this draws the outstanding trumps, declarer throws his remaining clubs on dummy's three red-suit winners.

At three tables, South balanced with three notrump over three clubs (two of them in the Australia-Netherlands Bermuda Bowl match). The play at the diagrammed table was routine: declarer ducked the king of clubs, won the next club with the ace and cashed the ace-king of diamonds. He then took the standard avoidance play of passing the jack of spades to East's queen. East exited with a diamond and declarer had nine tricks: four spades, four diamonds and a club.

## 870. Dealer East. Both Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
—	—	Pass	1♣ <sup>1</sup>
1♥	Double <sup>2</sup>	Pass	3♦ <sup>3</sup>
Pass	4♥ <sup>4</sup>	Pass	4♣
Pass	Pass	Pass	

1. 2+ clubs; includes all balanced 12-14/18-19 hands
2. 4+ spades; transfer if Opener is 12-14 balanced
3. 4-card spade raise, 18-19 balanced
4. Re-transfer

This was from Round 7 and, most of the time, North declared four spades on the lead of the ten of hearts. The above auction is from the England-USA Venice Cup match, with Sally Brock of England as South and Fiona Brown as North. Sylvia Shi and Beth Palmer of the USA sat West and East respectively. West led the queen of clubs and declarer was given a chance to show some good technique when East followed with an encouraging five. South played the eight of clubs

from hand, won the club continuation with the ace, cashed the ace of trumps and led the two of trumps to dummy's ten. After both defenders had followed to the trumps, declarer ruffed the seven of clubs. Next, she played the two of hearts to the ace and a heart back to her king. While she planned to ruff the jack of hearts in dummy if West followed low, she took another course when West played the queen of hearts: she discarded a diamond from dummy. This ended play West, who then cashed the ace of diamonds.

East does better to play the king of clubs at trick one. Declarer wins with the ace and draws trumps, ending in dummy, and leads a low club. East rises with the ten and plays a diamond to declarer's ten and West's queen. After ruffing the club exit, declarer cashes the ace and king of hearts, then ruffs the jack of hearts in dummy. Now she plays a diamond to the king and ace but West is endplayed: declarer throws dummy's last diamond loser and ruffs in hand.

### 871. Dealer South. Neither Vul.

	♠ A 8 5		
	♥ J 9 6 4		
	♦ K 7 5		
	♣ A 10 5		
♠ J 9 6 2		♠ Q 10 7	
♥ 7 3		♥ K 5 2	
♦ 10 8 3		♦ A Q 9 4 2	
♣ K J 8 2		♣ 9 7	
	♠ K 4 3		
	♥ A Q 10 8		
	♦ J 6		
	♣ Q 6 4 3		
<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>
—	—	—	INT
Pass	2♣	Pass	2♥
Pass	4♥	Pass	Pass
Pass			

After a weak notrump opening, this was the auction at one table from Round 9. West led a low trump and dummy's nine of hearts held the trick. When declarer played a low diamond from dummy at trick two, East rose with the queen and shifted to a spade. Declarer took this in hand with the king to play the jack of diamonds. East won the trick with the ace and continued with the queen of spades.

After winning the trick in dummy with the ace, declarer called for the king of diamonds to get rid of his remaining spade. Now his entry position forced him to turn his attention to the club suit by leading dummy's five of clubs to his queen. West took this with the king and played the jack of spades. Declarer ruffed this with the ten then led a low club to West's two and dummy's ten, which held. All that remained was to lead a trump to East's five and his queen. After cashing the ace of trumps to draw East's last trump,

declarer claimed the last two tricks as dummy was now high.

Note that declarer managed to play both minor suits optimally for a total of three tricks.

*(As a bit of journalistic licence, I moved the ace of diamonds from West to East. – T.B.)*

### 872. Dealer North. Both Vul.

	♠ K Q 10 8 3		
	♥ J 9 2		
	♦ K Q 6 2		
	♣ 6		
♠ J 9 7 4 2		♠ 6 5	
♥ A 5		♥ K 10 4	
♦ 7		♦ J 10 5 4 3	
♣ A Q 10 5 4		♣ J 9 3	
	♠ A		
	♥ Q 8 7 6 3		
	♦ A 9 8		
	♣ K 8 7 2		
<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>
—	1♠	Pass	2♥
Pass	2♣	Pass	3NT
Pass	4♥	Pass	Pass
Pass			

At one table where this deal occurred in Round 19, West led the seven of diamonds. Declarer played low from dummy and took East's ten with the ace. At trick two, declarer led a low trump. West rose with the ace of trumps and exited with the five of trumps. East won the trick with the king and got off play with the ten of hearts to declarer's queen.

Declarer cashed the ace of spades at trick five then crossed to the dummy with a diamond to the king (West threw a club). Next he played the king and queen of spades throwing two clubs from hand. As the spades did not break, declarer played dummy's club to his king. West took the ace and queen of clubs to set the contract.

There was no hurry to cash the queen of spades: instead, declarer needed to find out how the spades were breaking without releasing that card. So, after cashing the king of spades, declarer should have ruffed the eight of spades. This would have revealed that West had begun with 5=2=1=5 shape, making it 5-to-3 that the ace of clubs was on declarer's left. So declarer should then have played with the odds and cashed his remaining trump, discarding the six of diamonds from dummy and reducing everyone to four cards. West would have had to keep two spades and the ace-queen of clubs.

Declarer plays the nine of diamonds to dummy's queen and West has to throw a club, probably a fatalistic queen. A club to the king and ace would then have seen West left on play with the jack-nine of spades alone. Declarer would have won the last two tricks with dummy's queen-ten of spades.

## Quarterfinals, Segment 5 - USA I v. Bulgaria (Jos Jacobs)

Board 80. Dealer West. EW Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Stefanov</i>	<i>Levin</i>	<i>Nanev</i>	<i>Weinstein</i>
1♦	Pass	2♣	Pass
2♦	Pass	2♥	Pass
2♠	Pass	3♣	Pass
3NT	Pass	4♣	Pass
4♦	Pass	4NT	Pass
5♥	Pass	6♣	Pass
Pass	Pass		

South led a spade to declarer's ace. Nanev led a club to the ace and took a successful heart finesse. So far, so good. When the king of clubs brought the bad news, declarer had to accept two down, since he could not strip North of all his exit cards to execute a trump endplay; USAI plus 200.

At the other table, Meckstroth thought that a few low hearts in dummy would be enough for an interesting adventure and right he was:

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Rodwell</i>	<i>Karakolev</i>	<i>Meckstroth</i>	<i>Mihov</i>
1♦ <sup>1</sup>	Pass	2♣	Pass
2♦	Pass	2♥	Pass
2NT	Pass	3♣	Pass
3♦	Pass	6♥	Pass
Pass	Pass		

1. 2+ diamonds, (10)11-15

The play was as spectacular as it was necessary. South started with a spade lead to the ace. Meckstroth led a club to the ace and a heart to the queen. A low club was ruffed by South in front of dummy with the eight of hearts. South continued with spades, leading the king, which declarer had to ruff with the ten of hearts. As there was little transportation between the hands, declarer's chances were gloomy. He could not repeat the heart finesse without losing the link to dummy's diamonds, so he had to play the ace of hearts, felling the king. Declarer drew trumps and, with diamonds

3-3, had plenty of tricks. USAI had a miraculous plus 1430, good for 17 IMPs and a 19-IMP lead with 16 boards to play. The score read 200-181 to USAI.

## Quarterfinals, Segment 6 - USA I v. Bulgaria (Jos Jacobs)

Board 87. Dealer South. Both Vul.

<p>♠ K 8 ♥ K 6 ♦ A K 10 9 5 4 3 ♣ 6 4</p> <p>♠ A 7 6 4 2 ♥ A Q J 5 4 ♦ 7 ♣ 10 2</p>	<p>♠ Q J 3 ♥ 7 2 ♦ J 6 ♣ A Q J 9 5 3</p> <p>♠ 10 9 5 ♥ 10 9 8 3 ♦ Q 8 2 ♣ K 8 7</p>
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It looks as if the defence has four tricks against four spades if North plays a club after winning a diamond trick, but this is an illusion. Declarer can win the club switch with dummy's ace and play the ace of spades and another. North wins with his king and is helpless. He can play a club to partner's king but on the heart shift, declarer wins with the ace and dummy's jack of spades provides the entry to the clubs on which all declarer's heart losers disappear. If, instead, North plays a second round of diamonds, declarer's job is even easier: he ruffs in hand and leads a low spade, giving up a club trick later. (And if the position of the black kings is reversed? - Ed.)

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Mihov</i>	<i>Levin</i>	<i>Karakolev</i>	<i>Weinstein</i>
—	—	—	Pass
1♠	2♦	3♣	3♦
3♥	4♦	4♠	Pass
Pass	Pass		

With all that said, let's look at the play and defence at both tables. Levin tried two rounds of diamonds but declarer ruffed and led a low spade to Levin's king. When Levin tried the king of hearts next, it was all over; plus 620 to Bulgaria.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Rodwell</i>	<i>Stefanov</i>	<i>Meckstroth</i>	<i>Nanev</i>
—	—	—	Pass
1♠	2♦	2NT <sup>1</sup>	Pass
3♣	3♦	4♠	Pass
Pass	Pass		

1. Clubs

Stefanov cashed just one top diamond and then shifted to a low heart away from the king! Declarer won with his queen and led a low spade, North taking his king

and continuing with a top diamond. Declarer ruffed, cashed dummy's queen and jack of spades and led a heart to the jack. That led to one down as declarer could not avoid the loss of a club trick later.

The quarterfinal scores were:

France	199-147	China
New Zealand	194-176	Netherlands
Bulgaria	220-199	USA I
USA2	193-170	Sweden

### Semifinals, Segment 2 – USA2 v. Bulgaria (Jos Jacobs)

#### Board 22. Dealer East. EW Vul.

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

#### Open Room

West	North	East	South
Martel	Stefanov	Fleisher	Nanev
—	—	Pass	Pass
1NT	2♠ <sup>1</sup>	3♦ <sup>2</sup>	Pass
4♥	Pass	Pass	Pass

1. Spades and a minor
2. Hearts

South wisely refrained from doubling four hearts, as one never knows whether or not there are more-playable contracts around. North led a spade to dummy's ace and the jack of hearts was covered by the king and ace, declarer getting the bad news. The queen of clubs came next; North won with the ace and returned a spade. South ruffed and led a diamond through. This process was then repeated, so the defence got three diamonds, the ace of clubs and three trump tricks, South scoring another trump trick in the end. That was down four, plus 400 to Bulgaria.

#### Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Mihov	Moss	Karakolev	Grue
—	—	1♥	Pass
2♣	2♥ <sup>1</sup>	Pass	2♠
3♥	Pass	4♥	Double
4NT	Double	Pass	Pass
Pass			

1. Spades and diamonds

Moss decided to have a look at dummy and led the ace of diamonds. Upon seeing Grue's seven of diamonds, discouraging, he shifted to a spade, won by dummy's ace, but it was already too late. A club was led to declarer's king and North's ace and another spade came back, South discarding a heart. Declarer cashed his two club winners, North following.

From the auction, declarer then knew that North had 5=0=5=3 and played accordingly: declarer cashed two more spades, the second one squeezing South positionally in the rounded suits. South either had to throw one of his two club winners or reduce his hearts to the king-ten doubleton. When he threw a club, declarer led a heart to his queen and exited with his last club, forcing South to lead away from his king of hearts. Well played, for the rarely seen score of plus 810, which together with the plus 400 was worth 15 IMPs to Bulgaria.

### Semifinals, Segment 3 – USA2 v. Bulgaria (Mark Horton)

Have you noticed how often a player makes an overcall hoping that it will help partner if he happens to be on lead, but then fails to start with that suit himself when he has to fire the opening salvo? In the match between USA2 and Bulgaria in the Bermuda Bowl, this principle came back to haunt one of the players with a vengeance:

#### Board 44. Dealer West. NS Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Martel	Karakolev	Fleisher	Mihov
1♣ <sup>1</sup>	2♠	Double	Pass
4♥	Pass	6♣	Pass
Pass	Pass		

1. 2+ clubs

On the surface, six clubs looks hopeless, but when North led the ten of hearts, Chip Martel had a chance to prove otherwise. He won with the queen of hearts when South followed with the four, led a club to dummy's ace and cashed the king of clubs, on which he saw North pitch the seven of diamonds. This was the critical point of the deal – declarer played a heart

from dummy and, when South followed with the three, he put in the eight. When North pitched the two of spades, I suspect Martel knew he was home. He unblocked the ace of diamonds, crossed to dummy's queen of clubs, pitched a spade on the king of diamonds, played a heart to the jack, cashed the ace and exited with the six of spades. South had to win and his forced return of a diamond gave declarer the ruff and discard he required.

By now you will have realised that an opening spade lead would have spelt declarer's downfall.

### Semifinals, Segment 4 – USA2 v. Bulgaria (David Bird)

Board 53. Dealer North. NS Vul.

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

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Grue	Nanev	Moss	Stefanov
—	Pass	1♠	Pass
2♣ <sup>1</sup>	Pass	2♦ <sup>2</sup>	Pass
2♥ <sup>3</sup>	Pass	3♦ <sup>4</sup>	Pass
3♥ <sup>5</sup>	Pass	4♦ <sup>6</sup>	Pass
4♥ <sup>7</sup>	Pass	4♠	Pass
Pass	Pass		

1. Game-forcing start to a relay sequence
2. Maximum (in the context of a non-1♣ opening)
3. Relay
4. 6 or 7 spades
5. Relay
6. 7 spades; short clubs, thus 3=2, 2=3 or 3=3 in the red suits
7. Puppet to 4♠

That was an impressive glimpse into the nightmare world of relay bidding!

A lead of the jack of hearts allowed declarer to win with the queen of hearts and make plus 480, eventually playing a club towards the king for a diamond discard.

At the other table, the Bulgarians bid slam and, after Rosenberg led the ace of clubs, declarer had to decide on a line of play.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Karakolev	Pszczola	Mihov	Rosenberg
—	Pass	1♠	Pass
2♦	Pass	3♠	Pass
4♣ <sup>1</sup>	Double	4♥ <sup>2</sup>	Pass
4♠	Pass	4NT <sup>3</sup>	Pass
5♣ <sup>4</sup>	Pass	5♦ <sup>5</sup>	Pass
6♦ <sup>6</sup>	Pass	6♠	Pass
Pass	Pass		

1. Control
2. Heart control; second-round club control
3. RKCB
4. 1 or 4 key cards
5. Trump queen ask
6. Queen of spades and king of diamonds

Rosenberg led the ace and another club. If trumps were 2-2 and diamonds 3-2, declarer could have made his slam by discarding a diamond on this trick. He could then have set up the diamond suit with a high ruff and returned to dummy with the ace and queen of trumps. However, that seemed to be a low-percentage shot, so Mihov preferred to throw a heart on the king of clubs and run all the trumps bar one, leaving queen-eight-four of hearts and the ace-king of diamonds in the dummy opposite his jack of spades, ace of hearts and three low diamonds. North held the diamonds securely and South still had the king of hearts well-protected. When the ace of hearts and a diamond to the king followed by a heart ruff failed to bring down the king of hearts, it was one down: 11 IMPs to USA2.

Mihov's line was slightly inferior to the line requiring good breaks, about 25% compared to 27%. Additionally, declarer would have needed to guess the layout correctly when a defender false-carded with the jack or queen of diamonds, from queen-jack-third, under the king.

The semifinal scores were:

France	187-48	New Zealand
USA2	216-182	Bulgaria

### Final, Segment 1 - France v. USA2 (David Bird)

Board 10 Dealer East. Both Vul.

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

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Pszczola</i>	<i>Rombaut</i>	<i>Rosenberg</i>	<i>Combescur</i>
—	—	1♦	1♥
2♥ <sup>1</sup>	3♥	Pass	4♥
Pass	Pass	Pass	

1. Limit-raise or better in diamonds

West had a choice of bids: two hearts, three diamonds or, perhaps four diamonds to inconvenience North. He opted to show a sound diamond raise and subsequently led the seven of spades against four hearts. Combescur won in the dummy and led the three of hearts. When East did not rise with the ace of hearts to give his partner a spade ruff, declarer took the inference that he did not hold that card. He therefore finessed the ten of hearts, forcing the ace. A diamond to East's ace permitted a spade ruff, but declarer had his plus 620.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Lorenzini</i>	<i>Grue</i>	<i>Quantin</i>	<i>Moss</i>
—	—	1♦	1♥
3♦	3♥	Pass	4♥
Pass	Pass	Pass	

After a somewhat similar auction, declarer again won the spade lead in dummy and called for the three of hearts. Moss judged to rise with the king of hearts, losing to West's ace of hearts. The nine of diamonds to East's ace was followed by a spade ruff. Declarer lost a total of three trump tricks and was one down for the loss of 12 IMPs.

**Final, Segment 8 – France v. USA2  
(Brian Senior)**

**Board 120. Dealer West. Neither Vul.**

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Moss</i>	<i>Lorenzini</i>	<i>Grue</i>	<i>Quantin</i>
1♠	Pass	3♠	Double
4♠	Pass	Pass	5♥
Pass	Pass	Pass	

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Volcker</i>	<i>Fleisher</i>	<i>Bessis</i>	<i>Martel</i>
Pass	Pass	Pass	2♣
2♠	Pass	4♠	5♥
Pass	Pass	Pass	

Volcker led his singleton club round to declarer's jack, solving a big problem for Martel, who laid down the ace of hearts and was delighted to see the bare king appear on his right. He drew the remaining trump with the jack and led a diamond to the king, losing two of those, but having the remainder for plus 450.

Moss led a spade. Quantin won with the ace and he too had no option but to lay down the ace of hearts. When the king fell, declarer still had a problem. He could cross to dummy's jack of hearts to lead either a club to the jack or a diamond to the king. However, it was West who had opened the bidding and, even in the Grue/Moss style of Precision, there was plenty of room for Moss to hold either or both of the key cards. Quantin eventually played the ace, then jack, of clubs, which would have made the contract had the king been on his left, only to find Moss ruffing the jack. Moss played back the king of spades and Quantin had no option but to play a diamond to the king, doomed though that play surely would be. The contract was down one for minus 50 and 11 IMPs to USA2.

On the penultimate board of the event, both Moss/Grue and Volcker/Bessis missed a great slam, on ♠A ♥AJ10732 ♦Q83 ♣K85 opposite ♠K972 ♥K954 ♦K94 ♣AJ, for a push. The final deal (with USA2 leading by 19 IMPs):

**Board 128. Dealer West. EW Vul.**

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Moss</i>	<i>Lorenzini</i>	<i>Grue</i>	<i>Quantin</i>
1NT	Pass	2♥ <sup>1</sup>	Pass
2NT <sup>2</sup>	Pass	4♥ <sup>3</sup>	Pass
4♠	Pass	4NT <sup>4</sup>	Pass
5♥ <sup>5</sup>	Pass	5NT <sup>6</sup>	Pass
7♠	Pass	Pass	Pass

**Alert explanations on next page ...**

# The 21<sup>st</sup> Venice Cup

Brian Senior

## Semifinal, Segment 3 – China v. Poland

### Board 35. Dealer South. EW Vul.

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

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

♠ 8  
 ♥ A K Q 9 2  
 ♦ A Q 5 2  
 ♣ K 10 9

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

1. Transfer
2. Super-acceptance
3. Splinter
4. RKCB
5. 2 key cards, no spade queen
6. Grand slam try; guarantees all key cards and trump queen; asks West to bid a king

#### Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Volcker	Fleisher	Bessis	Martel
1NT	Pass	2♥ <sup>1</sup>	Pass
3♠ <sup>2</sup>	Pass	4♣ <sup>3</sup>	Pass
4♦ <sup>3</sup>	Pass	4♥ <sup>3</sup>	Pass
4♠	Pass	4NT <sup>4</sup>	Pass
5♥ <sup>5</sup>	Pass	6♣ <sup>6</sup>	Pass
6♠	Pass	Pass	Pass

1. Transfer
2. Super-acceptance
3. Control-showing
4. RKCB
5. 2 key cards, no spade queen
6. Grand slam try; guarantees all key cards and trump queen; asks for third-round club control

With neither the queen of clubs nor a doubleton, Volcker signed-off in six spades, which made exactly, for plus 1430.

Moss liked his source of tricks in diamonds so jumped to the grand slam in spades, the agreed suit. There were only 12 tricks, so the contract was down one for minus 100 and 17 IMPs to France. At that moment, I suspect that Moss and Grue thought the match was lost, as they had got two slam deals wrong on the last two boards. Indeed they would have, had Bessis/Volcker got to slam on Board 127. They looked thrilled when they discovered the truth, that USA2 had held on to win by 2 IMPs, 278-276. Joe Grue, Brad Moss, Marty Fleisher, Chip Martel, Michael Rosenberg and Jacek Pszczola were the 2017 Bermuda Bowl champions. Congratulations also to npc Jan Martel and to the French team (Thomas Bessis/Frédéric Volcker, François Combescure/Jérôme Rombaut, Cédric Lorenzini/Jean-Christophe Quantin, with Lionel Sabanne, npc) who contributed so much to a thrilling final.

Before we leave this match, do you share my view that an imaginative player like Brad Moss might have bid seven diamonds on that final deal instead of seven spades? He knew there was a heart ruff in the dummy (assuming that four hearts was indeed a splinter), and if partner had ace to three diamonds, there should have been 13 tricks with diamonds no worse than 4-2. And if partner had a sixth spade and only a doubleton diamond, he would have corrected to seven spades. Anyway, just a thought. (See *Robson/Gold's auction in the TNT writeup*. - Ed.)

#### Open Room

West	North	East	South
Jarosz	Huang	Gawel	N.Wang
—	—	—	1NT <sup>1</sup>
Pass	2♥ <sup>2</sup>	Double	Redouble <sup>3</sup>
Pass	2♠	3♥	Pass
Pass	3♠	Double	Pass
Pass	Pass		

1. 13-15
2. Spades
3. Honour-doubleton in support of spades

Gawel led the ace of hearts and continued with the king, ruffed by Huang. Declarer led a club to the queen, ruffed a heart and led a diamond up, Gawel winning with the ace and continuing with the queen to dummy's king. Huang ruffed a diamond, led a club to the ace and ruffed another heart. Finally, a spade to the ace was followed by another heart ruff with the jack of spades and the king of spades was the ninth trick for plus 530.

#### Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Shen	Zmuda	W.Wang	Dufrat
—	—	—	1NT <sup>1</sup>
Pass	4♥ <sup>2</sup>	Double	4♠
Pass	Pass	Pass	

1. 15-17
2. Transfer to spades

In the other room, I'm not sure which feature of the hand, which contains no ten or nine and only one honour combination, justified the upgrade, so let's say it was done for tactical reasons. Shen led the ten of hearts, Wng winning with the queen and switching to the ace and a low diamond. Dufrat went up with the king and ruffed a heart, led a club to the queen and ruffed another heart, led a club to the ace and took a third heart ruff. Now she conceded a club. Wang won the king and played a diamond but Dufrat could ruff that in dummy and ruff the thirteenth club with the ace of spades. By then West was known to have been 4=2=4=3 and had already

under-ruffed twice so, at trick 12, declarer led her low spade for a finesse of the jack; that was ten tricks for a very nicely-played plus 420. It seemed harsh for Dufurat to lose 3 IMPs for her efforts.

### Semifinal, Segment 5 – England v Sweden

#### Board 80. Dealer West. EW Vul.

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

#### Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Brock</i>	<i>S. Rimstedt</i>	<i>Brown</i>	<i>Övelius</i>
Pass	Pass	1♣ <sup>1</sup>	INT
Pass	2♣	Pass	2♥
Pass	2NT	Pass	3♠
Pass	4♠	Pass	Pass
Pass			
1. 2+ clubs			

#### Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Grönkvist</i>	<i>Draper</i>	<i>C. Rimstedt</i>	<i>Smith</i>
Pass	Pass	Pass	INT
Pass	2♣	Pass	2♠
Pass	4♠	Pass	Pass
Pass			

Both Souths declared four spades and received a diamond lead. In the Closed Room, Smith played low from dummy and Cecilia Rimstedt put in the eight. Smith won with the jack and played the jack of spades, followed by the queen. The four-one split required a rethink and she continued with the queen of clubs. Rimstedt won with the ace and played another trump. Smith won in dummy and led the nine of hearts, running it when Rimstedt failed to cover. Smith could then continue with the ten of hearts to the queen, then the ace for a diamond pitch. She ruffed the fourth heart with the ace of spades, cashed the ace of diamonds, and had ten tricks for plus 420.

That had been a rather lucky recovery. Övelius showed that there was a better way to play the hand. She too received a diamond lead to the eight and her jack, but Övelius led a diamond to the ace at trick two, then led a heart to the queen, cashed the ace of hearts and ruffed a heart low. A spade to hand allowed her to ruff the last heart with the ace of spades, cash the ten of spades, and claim ten tricks for plus 420 and a pushed board.

# The 9<sup>th</sup> d'Orsi Trophy

John Carruthers

### Semifinal, Segment 6 – USA2 v. Sweden

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

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

#### Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Bjerregård</i>	<i>Berkowitz</i>	<i>Morath</i>	<i>Sontag</i>
—	1♦ <sup>1</sup>	Pass	2NT <sup>2</sup>
Pass	3♠ <sup>3</sup>	Double	Pass
Pass	4♣	Pass	5♣
Pass	Pass	Pass	
1. 2+ diamonds, 11-15			
2. 12-15 or 18+			
3. Short spades			

Berkowitz had his work cut out for him in five clubs and responded exceptionally well. Morath led the three of spades to Bjerregård's ace and West continued with spades, forcing Berkowitz to ruff in hand. Declarer played the jack of clubs to the ace, led a club to the king, then took two rounds of diamonds. When everyone followed, he played two rounds of hearts, the fourth suit in a row that had been led for two successive rounds. He tried to entice a ruff with the outstanding queen of clubs by taking two more diamonds – Morath naturally declining the invitation. No matter, East was put on play with it next to concede a ruff-sluff for plus 400. Well done.

#### Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Becker</i>	<i>Östberg</i>	<i>Graves</i>	<i>Bäring</i>
—	1♦ <sup>1</sup>	Pass	2♦ <sup>2</sup>
Pass	2♠ <sup>3</sup>	Double	Pass
3♠	4♣	Pass	4♥
Pass	5♦	Pass	Pass
Pass			

1. 11-16; 5+ diamonds, unless 4/5 in the minors or any 4-4-4-1 with diamonds
2. 10+, 4+ diamonds
3. Short spades

In diamonds, Östberg could afford to lose a club and still have a pitch for the losing heart; plus 400; a pushed board.

### Final, Segment 4 - USA2 v. Italy

#### Board 54. Dealer East. EW Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Comella</i>	<i>Berkowitz</i>	<i>Sabbatini</i>	<i>Sontag</i>
—	—	2♦ <sup>1</sup>	Dble <sup>2</sup>
2♥ <sup>3</sup>	Dble <sup>4</sup>	Pass	2♠
Pass	3♠	Pass	4♠
Pass	Pass	Pass	

1. Weak 2 in either major
2. 13-15 balanced or any 18+
3. Pass or correct
4. Cards

Comella led the queen of hearts. Sontag won, led the spade queen, then another spade to the ace. When East showed out, declarer was in jeopardy. He led the ten of clubs, to the six, three and king. Sabbatini continued with the king of hearts, then the ten. South ruffed high, drew trumps and led another club. West could take his ace when he wished, but declarer had the rest for plus 420.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Becker</i>	<i>Buratti</i>	<i>Graves</i>	<i>Failla</i>
—	—	Pass	INT
Pass	2♣	Pass	2♠
Pass	4♠	Pass	Pass
Pass			

Becker found the queen of hearts lead anyway. Failla won in dummy and also played the queen of spades and another to the ace. Declarer led the ten of clubs here as well, whereupon Mike Becker showed his class, winning with his ace and continuing with the jack of hearts. Graves overtook with his king and returned the eight of hearts. Declarer ruffed with the king of spades, Becker pitching a club. Declarer could not yet draw trumps, since he needed a club trick, so he then led the queen of clubs. Graves won

with his king and led another club to give Becker a ruff. That was brilliantly done for plus 50 and 10 IMPs to USA2.

We can see that ducking the first heart would have led to success. However, declarer would have looked foolish if the defence had then played the ace, king and a third club for a ruff with trumps 3-2.

#### Board 62. Dealer East. Neither Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Comella</i>	<i>Berkowitz</i>	<i>Sabbatini</i>	<i>Sontag</i>
—	—	1♦	1♥
1♠ <sup>1</sup>	Pass	2♥	Pass
3♦	Pass	3♠	Pass
4♠	Pass	Pass	Pass

1. Denies 4/5 spades

Berkowitz led the two of hearts. Sontag played three rounds of the suit – Comella discarded a diamond on the third. South led a fourth heart and declarer ruffed with the ace of spades, then drew all four rounds of trumps. He now had to guess diamonds to make his contract and duly did so; well done and plus 420.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Becker</i>	<i>Buratti</i>	<i>Graves</i>	<i>Failla</i>
—	—	1♦	1♥
Double	Pass	4♠	Pass
Pass	Pass		

Failla also led three rounds of hearts. Graves ruffed, cashed the ace and king of clubs, the ace and king of diamonds, then gave up a diamond to the queen. He won the trump return, his sixth trick, and had a high cross-ruff for the last four tricks. That was even better done, but no style points were available, so plus 420 as well.

Both teams had played well, the USA slightly better. Congratulations to Mike Becker, David Berkowitz, Allan Graves, Neil Silverman, Alan Sontag, Jeff Wolfson and NPC Steve Garner. That makes Alan Sontag 8-0 in World Championship final matches.

# The 9<sup>th</sup> FunBridge Transnational Teams

Mark Horton

The last board of the bronze medal playoff in the FunBridge Transnational Teams between the Percy and Zimmermann teams produced a deal designed to test the bidding methods of the very best:

## Board 32. Dealer West. EW Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Versace</i>	<i>Michielsen</i>	<i>Lauria</i>	<i>Mahmood</i>
1NT	Pass	2♥ <sup>1</sup>	Pass
3♦ <sup>2</sup>	Pass	3♥ <sup>3</sup>	Pass
3♠	Pass	4♣ <sup>4</sup>	Pass
4♦ <sup>4</sup>	Pass	4♥ <sup>4</sup>	Pass
4NT <sup>5</sup>	Pass	5♦ <sup>6</sup>	Pass
5♥ <sup>7</sup>	Pass	5NT <sup>8</sup>	Pass
7♠	Pass	Pass	Pass

1. Spades
2. 4-card support for spades, diamond values
3. Re-transfer
4. Control-showing
5. RKCB
6. 0 or 3 key cards
7. Spade queen ask
8. Spade queen and one outside king

The logical interpretation of this auction is that West showed a good hand for spades with diamond values and, after an exchange of control-showing bids, asked for key cards and the queen of spades. When East bid five notrump, West might have considered bidding seven diamonds, offering an alternative en route to seven spades.

At the other table ...

West	North	East	South
<i>Robson</i>	<i>Multon</i>	<i>Gold</i>	<i>Helgemo</i>
1NT	Pass	2♥ <sup>1</sup>	Pass
3♠ <sup>2</sup>	Pass	4♣ <sup>3</sup>	Pass
4♦ <sup>3</sup>	Pass	4NT <sup>4</sup>	Pass
5♥ <sup>5</sup>	Pass	6♣ <sup>6</sup>	Pass
7♦	Pass	Pass	Pass

1. Transfer
2. 4-card support
3. Control-showing
4. RKCB
5. 2 key cards, no spade queen
6. Grand slam try; asks for third-round club control

When East made a grand slam try with six clubs, West knew that the queen of clubs would be a great card. Even though he didn't have it, his diamonds were so strong that, if they were trumps, there was sure to be a discard available on the fifth round of spades. Hence his majestic leap to seven diamonds.

North led a spade. Declarer won, cashed the ace of hearts, ruffed a heart, drew trumps and claimed, for a well-deserved 19 IMPs that cemented the victory of team Percy.

# The 21<sup>st</sup> World Computer Championship

Ron Tacchi

In the World Computer Bridge Championships, the leading scores in the seven-team Round Robin were: Wbridge5 74.36, Synrey Bridge 69.65, Micro Bridge 65.87, RoboBridge 62.52. In the ensuing 64-board semifinals, Wbridge5 defeated RoboBridge 194-109 and Synrey Bridge beat Micro Bridge 131-92. In the final, Wbridge5, created by Yves Costel, topped Synrey, 111-105. Details can be found at

[www.bridgebotchampionship.com](http://www.bridgebotchampionship.com).

Al Levy, coordinator of the World Computer Championships, showed me this example from Round 6 of good defence and equally good play; Micro Bridge faced Bridge Baron.

## Dealer West. Both Vul.

<p>♠ K 6 4 2 ♥ 8 6 ♦ 8 6 ♣ Q 8 6 3 2</p> <p>♠ A 10 7 ♥ 4 2 ♦ K J 7 3 2 ♣ K 7 5</p>	<p>♠ Q J 9 5 3 ♥ 10 9 ♦ Q 10 4 ♣ J 10 4</p> <p>♠ 8 ♥ A K Q J 7 5 3 ♦ A 9 5 ♣ A 9</p>
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West	North	East	South
<i>BB</i>	<i>MB</i>	<i>BB</i>	<i>MB</i>
1♦	Pass	1♠	4♥
Pass	Pass	Pass	

West got off to an excellent start by leading a trump. Any other card but a trump or the ace of spades would

have given away the contract. Declarer won, took another round of trumps (the robot computed that it would be unlikely to be able to ruff a diamond in dummy) and led a low spade. West again made the right play of rising with the ace. West shifted to a low diamond to East's queen, which declarer ducked. East continued with the four of diamonds, taken by declarer's ace. On the run of the trump suit, West discarded a club and (very slowly – a lot of computing power went into this decision) the two diamond honours, thus avoiding the throw-in and taking the contract down. That was extremely well-defended by Bridge Baron to defeat the wiles of Micro Bridge.

## NEWS & VIEWS



### IBPA Secretary

Herman De Wael (Belgium) has resigned as Secretary of the IBPA and Elisabeth van Ettinger (Netherlands) has taken over the post. The IBPA thanks Herman for his valued service.

### IBPA Membership Secretary

Katie Thorpe (Canada) has been appointed Membership Secretary of the IBPA, taking over from Dilip Gidwani (India), who continues as Organisational V.P. and Bulletin Production Manager.

### WBF President

In an election held at a meeting of the WBF Executive Council in Lyon, WBF President Gianarrigo Rona was elected for a third four-year term, through the World Bridge Series in 2022.

### New WBF Grand Masters

After Lyon, Thomas Bessis (France), Catherine Draper (England), Marty Fleisher (USA), and Huang Yan (China) had earned WBF Grand Master status.

### 5<sup>th</sup> World Youth Open Championships Winners

**Junior Teams:** USA (Adam Grossack, Zachary Grossack, Christian Jolly, Adam Kaplan, Kevin Rosenberg, Anam Tebha)

**Girls Teams:** Shengxing Team I (Chen Yunpeng, Ge Chenyun, Lu Yajie, Lu Yijia, Ruan Xinyao, Xu Jiaming, Kong Xiaochen npc)

**Youngsters Teams:** France (Raphaël Basler, Luc Bellicaud, Arthur Boulin, Méric Dufrêne, Maxence Fragola, Théo Guillemin, Christophe Oursel npc)

**Kids Teams:** China RDFZ Galaxy (Cai Zhenhao, Chen Jingfan, Niu Yuanzhe, Wang Zhaofeng, Zhang Boxin, Zhao Fangchen, Hu Jichao npc, Li Jie coach)

### Like Father, Like Son

Kevin Rosenberg of the USA won the World Junior Open Team Championship in Lyon. Kevin's father, Michael Rosenberg, was on the winning Bermuda Bowl team for the USA. Kevin's mother, three-times World Champion Debbie Rosenberg, did not win a medal in Lyon.

### IMSA News

The International Mind Sports Association has admitted Mahjong (Mahjong International League (<http://mahjong-mil.org/>)) as the sixth member organisation. Also, the IMSA Elite Mind Games contract with the City of Hui'an, China has been extended by three years.

[www.ibpa.com](http://www.ibpa.com)



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Whenever your contact details change, please amend them as appropriate in the database found at: [www.jannersten.org](http://www.jannersten.org) or inform the Membership Secretary, Katie Thorpe: [thorpe.katie@gmail.com](mailto:thorpe.katie@gmail.com)



# IBPA ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Sunday morning, 20th August 2017 – Lyon, France

## Minutes

0. **Attendance:** 35 (see list below).
1. **Remembrance** of members deceased since last AGM: Anna-Maria Torlontano, Sandra Landy, and our President Emeritus Henry Francis. Brent Manley delivers a personal remembrance including a story about Henry during his time as Tournament Director in New York.
2. **Minutes** of the AGM held on 10th September 2016 in Wroclaw, Poland - Approved.
3. **Officers' Reports:** President, Chairman, Secretary (attached).
4. **Appointees' Reports:** Editor (attached in Lyon), Membership Secretary: we have 167 members who have paid but are still chasing those that haven't.
5. **Treasurer**  
Accounts for the year ending 31st December 2016 is presented to the meeting. The deficit is 2,946\$.  
Budget for 2018: Approved.  
Proposal regarding subscriptions for the year 2018 : they should go up by 2% per year, so to be 43USD for 2018 – Approved.
6. **Elections:**  
The officers are elected to the 2018 AGM: President: Barry Rigal (USA); Chairman: Per Jannersten (Sweden); Executive Vice-President: David Stern (Australia); Organisational Vice-President: Dilip Gidwani (India); Treasurer: Richard Solomon (New Zealand).  
The secretary, Herman De Wael (Belgium) has indicated he wishes to resign for personal reasons. Elisabeth van Ettinger (Netherlands) has agreed to take over the position.  
Proposed for annual election are: Hon. Auditor: Richard Fleet - Approved. Hon. General Counsel: David Harris - Approved.  
David Harris recounts that during the past year, the bank accounts have been moved to accounts under the personal names of Barry Rigal and Per Jannersten. He has received written statements that settle this situation.
7. **Election of Executive members:**  
Proposed for a 3-year election to 2020: John Carruthers (Canada), Marek Wojcicki (Poland), Gavin Wolpert (USA)  
Before the election, the President wishes to thank Marek for trying to broaden our exposure in Eastern Europe.  
The executive members are elected.
8. **The IBPA Annual Awards:** Barry Rigal presented the awards.
9. **Any other competent business**  
Jan Swaan would like to see a list with the services that IBPA provides in order to attract new members, and asks what the IBPA is planning to adapt to the technology of the future. He proposes that a small working group discusses these things. The president agrees that such a group shall be formed and he asks Jan to be a part of it.

### List of attendees to the AGM:

Christer Andersson, Sevinç Atay, Yves Aubry, Jade Barrett, Mark van Beijsterveldt, Peter Buchen, Francesca Canali, Mirek Cichocki, Jan van Cleeff, José Damiani, Marc De Pauw, Herman De Wael, Elisabeth van Ettinger, Patrice Foulon, Dilip Gidwani, David Harris, Josef Harsanyi, Maureen Hiron, Mark Horton, Per Jannersten, Slawek Latala, Fernando Lema, Al Levy, Marshall Lewis, Jerry Li, Brent Manley, Micke Melander, Barry Rigal, Piet Spruit, David Stern, Jan Swaan, Ron Tacchi, Marina Witvliet, Marek Wójcicki, Michael Yuen (35).

# World Bridge Calendar

<b>DATES</b>	<b>EVENT</b>	<b>LOCATION</b>	<b>INFORMATION</b>
<b>2017</b>			
Sep 2-13	56 <sup>th</sup> International Festival	Pula, Croatia	www.pulabridgefestival.com
Sep 8-10	Menpora & Governor KEPRI Cup	Batam, Indonesia	bert_toar@hotmail.com
Sep 8-17	Guernsey Congress	St. Peter Port, Channel Is.	www.ebu.co.uk
Sep 8-17	Brazilian Open	Bahia, Brazil	www.bridgesaopaulo.com.br
Sep 12-17	15 <sup>th</sup> HCL International	New Delhi, India	www.hcl-bridge.com
Sep 15-17	Vilnius Cup	Vilnius, Lithuania	www.vilniuscup.lt
Sep 19-24	5 <sup>th</sup> Euro University Championships	Fuengirola, Spain	www.fuengirola2017.eusa.com
Sep 29-Oct 1	11 <sup>th</sup> Minsk Cup	Minsk, Belarus	www.sportbridge.by
Sep 30-Oct 4	21 <sup>st</sup> International Bridge Festival	Azores Is., Portugal	www.fpbridge.pt
Sep 30-Oct 7	New Zealand National Congress	Hamilton, NZ	www.nzbridge.co.nz
Oct 6-8	Northern Lights Bridge Festival	Siglufjörður, Iceland	www.bridge.is
Oct 9-15	EBU Overseas Congress	Halkidiki, Greece	www.ebu.co.uk
Oct 16-19	2 <sup>nd</sup> Merit International Bridge Festival	Kyrenia, North Cyprus	www.bridgemerit.com
Oct 18-26	Australian Spring Nationals	Sydney, Australia	www.abf.com.au
Oct 25-29	36 <sup>th</sup> Jordan International Festival	Amman, Jordan	www.jordanbridgefederation.com
Oct 28-Nov 11	Hainan Nanshan Bridge Festival	Sanya, China	www.ccba.org.cn/hainan2017
Nov 6-12	20 <sup>th</sup> International Festival	Madeira, Portugal	www.fpbridge.pt
Nov 8-11	Lido International Festival	Venice, Italy	www.festivaldelbridge lidodivenezia.com
Nov 9-11	4 <sup>th</sup> Marbella International	Marbella, Costa del Sol, Spain	www.marbellabridge.com
Nov 9-11	16 <sup>th</sup> European Champions Cup	Riga, Latvia	www.eurobridge.org
Nov 9-19	23 <sup>rd</sup> Red Sea International Festival	Eilat, Israel	www.redseabridge.com
Nov 20-23	Euro Small Federations Championship	Monte Carlo, Monaco	www.eurobridge.org
Nov 23-Dec 3	ACBL Fall NABC	San Diego, Ca	www.acbl.org
Nov 29-Dec 3	UAE National Day Bridge Festival	Dubai, UAE	amir.mekky@hotmail.com
Nov 30-Dec 3	18 <sup>th</sup> Int'l Schools & Jr. Championships	Hluk, Czech Republic	www.bkuh.eu/mistrovstyj
Dec 1-3	Babenberger International	Klosterneuberg, Austria	www.bridgeaustria.at
Dec 2-10	2 <sup>nd</sup> International Festival	Barcelona, Spain	www.sunwaybridgefestival.com
Dec 6-12	2 <sup>nd</sup> SEABF Championships	Jakarta, Indonesia	bert_toar@hotmail.com
Dec 17-23	IMSA Elite Games	Huai'an, China	www.imsaworld.com
<b>2018</b>			
Jan 10-21	Summer Festival of Bridge	Canberra, Australia	www.abf.com.au
Jan 27-Feb 2	59 <sup>th</sup> Bermuda Regional	Southampton, Bermuda	www.bermudaregional.com
Feb 14-18	Commonwealth Nations Championships	Broadbeach, Australia	www.abf.com.au
Feb 16-24	57 <sup>th</sup> Gold Coast Congress	Broadbeach, Australia	www.abf.com.au
Feb 17-23	2 <sup>nd</sup> European Winter Games	Monte Carlo, Monaco	www.eurobridge.org
Feb 23-25	International Festival	Cannes, France	www.festivalsdusoleil.com
Mar 8-18	Spring NABC	Philadelphia, PA	www.acbl.org
Mar 27-Apr 1	123 <sup>rd</sup> Easter Regional	Toronto, ON	www.unit166.ca
Apr 26-30	Australian Autumn Nationals	Adelaide, Australia	www.abf.com.au
Apr 27-May 6	Lambourne Jersey Festival	Jersey, Channel Is.	www.ebu.co.uk
May 4-13	International Festival	JuanOles-Pins, France	www.festivalsdusoleil.com
May 10-23	68 <sup>th</sup> South American Championships	Bahia, Brazil	www.comandatuba2018 casbridge.org
Jun 6-16	54 <sup>th</sup> European Team Championships	Ostend, Belgium	www.eurobridge.org
Jun 29-Jul 10	Biarritz International Festival	Biarritz, France	www.festival-bridge-biarritz.com
Jul 26-Aug 5	Summer NABC	Atlanta, GA	www.acbl.org
Jul 27-Aug 5	24 <sup>th</sup> Swedish Bridge Festival	Örebro, Sweden	mme@svenskbridge.se
Jul 29-Aug 3	Chairman's Cup	Örebro, Sweden	mme@svenskbridge.se
Aug 9-18	17 <sup>th</sup> World Youth Team Championships	Wu Jiang, China	www.worldbridge.org
<b>Sep 22-Oct 6</b>	<b>11<sup>th</sup> World Bridge Series</b>	<b>Orlando, FL</b>	<b>www.worldbridge.org</b>
Sep 29-Oct 6	New Zealand National Congress	Hamilton, NZ	www.nzbridge.co.nz
Oct 25-28	9 <sup>th</sup> World University Championships	Xuxhou, China	www.worldbridge.org
Nov 22-Dec 2	Fall NABC	Honolulu, HI	www.acbl.org