

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

Americans win Venice Cup; France lead Bermuda battle

The United States women regained the Venice Cup championship last night, defeating a powerful China team, 244-184. The match was close most of the way, but the Americans came on very strong over the second half of the match.

Meanwhile the French Bermuda Bowl team opened up a 50-IMP lead on the United States after 128 boards. The Americans have only 32 boards left in which to overcome that lead. The United States II team are the defending champions, and France won the World Team Olympiad last year. (Since the big news is about the Venice Cup champions, we will devote most of our space tonight to that event.)

"I beat David," exulted Lisa Berkowitz, who was winning her first world championship. Her husband David is one of the highest ranked players in North America. "I'm the first one in my family to win a world championship – but I won't be the last," said Lisa.

"And I beat Fred," said Marinesa Letizia, who was winning her second world gold (McConnell Cup in 1994). Fred is her very close friend Fred Stuart, another major star in the American sky. Marinesa led a toast to their captain, Sue Picus. "It really was a great team effort," added Marinesa. I've never been on a team that worked so well together."

"Winning a gold is a helluva lot better than winning a bronze," said Mildred Breed. "No doubt about it – this is the highlight of my bridge career."

"This is a lot better than Yokohama," said Randi Montin, who was fourth in the Venice Cup in 1991. This was her first world title, although she also won the Pan American Championship.

"I'm thrilled. I've never been so excited," said Tobi Sokolow, who also is a first-time winner. She also was highly impressed by the team's solidity.

Jill Meyers was supremely happy at being a champion again. She won the Venice Cup in Chile in 1993.

Picus, the non-playing captain, said this is the toughest of the five world medals she has won. She has won two Venice Cups and the McConnell Teams, and she also was second in the Venice Cup in Beijing two years ago.

There's one more person on the team – a Tunisian they adopted. Wejdane Majeri was their recorder, and she was so friendly and helpful that the team adopted her as their team mascot. The team insisted on Wejdane joining them for the picture-taking.

The team appeared before the vugraph audience after winning. The applause as they entered the vugraph room was deafening. Joan Gerard, a WBF representative from the United States, presented each woman with a bouquet of flowers. Then four other North American representatives – Cecil Cook, Dan Morse, Virgil Anderson and George Retek – joined Joan in presenting each member of the team with a glass of champagne to celebrate.

Meanwhile the Chinese team for the second straight year had to resign themselves to finishing second. One of the pairs, as they met their teammates to compare scores, said in unison, "I'm sorry." Nevertheless the Chinese put on a courageous exhibition. They have definitely proven that China has become a world power in bridge.

Jassen vs. Burgay in Transnational final

The team captained by Krzysztof Jassen will play a 32-board final against the team captained by Leandro Burgay in the Transnational Open Teams. Jassen defeated Hanna, 67-66, and Burgay eliminated Gardynik, 76-44. Gardynik will be awarded the bronze medal because they finished higher in the Swiss standings than Hanna.

VICTORY BANQUET

All the captains of the Transnational Teams, according to the names given yesterday in the playing rooms, are kindly invited to collect immediately the invitations to the Victory Banquet for their teams, at the Hospitality Desk, not later than 15.00 hours.

The tables at the restaurant are reserved only for the teams who are to be awarded, staff, delegations and VIPs.

The restaurant will be opened only after the end of the Prize-giving Ceremony.

Please take care of your invitation because you will not be allowed to enter the dining room without producing it to the staff at the door.

PRIZE GIVING

The prize giving ceremony will take place at 20.00 precisely in the Forum Room on the first floor of the Sol Azur (the Open Room for the Bermuda Bowl and Venice Cup). Following the ceremony, dinner will take place in the restaurant located on the third floor.

The teams who will receive prizes are kindly asked to take their seats not too far from the podium in order to reach it easily and quickly.

Bermuda Bowl - Results

finals

Table	Match	1st Session Boards 1-16	2nd Session Boards 17-32	3rd Session Boards 33-48	4th Session Boards 49-64	5th Session Boards 65-80	6th Session Boards 81-96	7th Session Boards 97-112	8th Session Boards 113-128	Total IMPs
1.	USA II - France	28 - 29	21 - 24	33 - 42	39 - 17	29 - 54	4 - 26	13 - 39	62 - 48	229-279
2.	Norway - USA I	67 - 28	30 - 39							97 - 67

Venice Cup - Results

finals

Table	Match	1st Session Boards 1-16	2nd Session Boards 17-32	3rd Session Boards 33-48	4th Session Boards 49-64	5th Session Boards 65-80	6th Session Boards 81-96	7th Session Boards 97-112	8th Session Boards 113-128	Total IMPs
3.	China - USA I	5 - 36	27 - 4	41 - 21	14 - 35	15 - 44	30 - 40	29 - 12	23 - 57	184-249
4.	USA II - France	27 - 31	38 - 6	49 - 29						114 - 66

World Transnational Open Teams Schedule

Saturday

11.00-13.20	Final, second segment
14.00-16.20	Final, third segment

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VUGRAPH

Bermuda Bowl - final 11h00

France - USA II

Bermuda Bowl - final 14h00

France - USA II

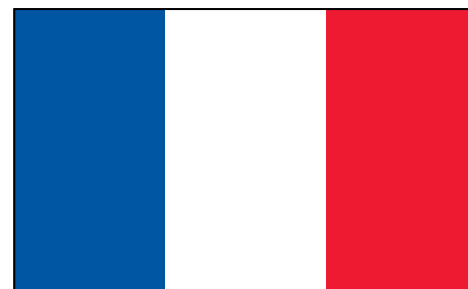


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Venice Cup France profiles

PASCALE THUILLEZ is playing on the national team for the second time – she also represented France in the European Teams at Montecatini, where France finished second. She's married and has three children at home. She has had many regional successes.

CATHERINE de GUILLEBON, Thuillez' partner, has been a senator's assistant, a history and French teacher and a producer's assistant for television. She now teaches and directs bridge in a club near Paris. This is her second major international appearance for France.

VERONIQUE BESSIS is the French woman who has had the most success in international competition. She has won five European titles. She is a professional player and teaches the game in Paris. She has played for years with **CATHERINE SAUL**, who has won two European team titles and one pairs. At Montecatini Bessis and Saul finished first in the Butler classification. She works at the French Bridge Federation.

SYLVIE WILLARD, a professional bridge player, has won four European championships, three with Bessis, her former partner, and one with **BENEDICTE CRONIER** in Villamoura two years ago.

Louis Vuitton, a famous maker of luxurious products, is the team's sponsor.

World Transnational Open Teams Results After Semifinals

1	JASSEM	POL	Final
-	BURGAY	ITA/POL	Final
3	GARDYNIK	POL	3rd
4	HANNA	CA	4th
5	AUKEN	DEN/GER	315
6	PINTO R	POR	309
7	ROUDINESCO	FRA	304
8	CONVERY	ZAF/GBR	304
9	VLAJNIC	YOU	298
10	MILNER	USA/CAN	296
11	SHARIF	TRA	294
12	SAHAL	FRA	293
13	CERVI	ITA	290
14	JACKSON	IRE	289
15	MACNAIR	GBR	289
16	LEVENKO	EST	285
17	VANDERGAAST	NL/GBR	284
18	GOODMAN	GBR	283
19	CHODOROWSK	POL	283
20	GAL	HUN	281
21	KOUZNETSOV	RUS	280
22	BAROUDY	LBN/FRA	280
23	HACKETT	GBR/VEN	278
24	TELTSCHER	GBR/USA	278
25	ANAND	IND	278
26	NIEMINEN	FIN	277
27	MAYBACH	GER	276
28	FORRESTER	GBR	276
29	PINTO E	POR/BRA	273
30	DUMITRESCU	ROM	273
31	NISING	NOR	270
32	BALICKI	POL	270
33	FORT	CSK	269
34	EKEBLAD	USA	269
35	OTVOSI	POL	268
36	Mrs BURN	GBR	268
37	CHMURSKI	POL	267
38	JEDIDI	TUN	267
39	KER	NZE	265
40	GARZETTI	CHL	265
41	MOSCHINO	ITA	265
42	MACI	ITA	265
43	BLAKSET	DEN	263
44	HUMBURG	GER	263
45	REKUNOV	RU	260
46	BARONI	ITA	260
47	BIZER	RUS/BRA	259
48	CADI TAZI	MAR	256
49	WILLIAMS	USGB/FRA	255
50	MALAGUTI	ITA	253
51	Mrs REID	JAM/GBR	249
52	SILABHUSIDI	THA	247
53	STRANDBERG	EST	246
54	NIKEL	RUS	246
55	LAVAZZA	ITA	245
56	Mrs ZOBU	TUR	244
57	RIOS	CHL	244
58	EILERTSEN	NOR	240
59	PEDAK	EST	240
60	LAKHDHAR	USIT/TUN	236
61	SEGERS	BEL	233
62	ZARROUK	TUN	233
63	MORSE	USA/CAN	232
64	DAEHR	GER	232
65	SFAR	TUN	228
66	D'ORSI	BR A/USA	226
67	HAMEYET	MAR	217
68	SINGAPURI	IN	216
69	BELHASSEN	TU	215
70	DIX	MAL	212
71	GUILLET	FR	212
72	RAUNTO	FI	206
73	GRAY	ZAF/USA	194
74	WESSELING	NT/GBR	169

1997 Official World Championship Book

The official book of these championships will be published in March of next year. Comprising some 250-280 pages, it will include:

- ✓ Extensive coverage of the Bermuda Bowl and Venice Cup
- ✓ A brief history of the Bermuda Bowl and Venice Cup
- ✓ Highlights of the Transnational Teams, including a full listing of all participants
- ✓ Many photographs
- ✓ A full listing of all the players in all three championships here in Hammamet

The price on publication will be \$30 per copy but for the duration of these championships you can make an advance purchase at the special rate of just \$25 to include postage and packing.

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1995 \$20 (including postage and packing)
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May the Force be with you!

by Peter Lund (Denmark)

The Auken team must be one of the favourites in the Transnational. This deal illustrates an important principle – when you have length in the trump suit, consider the possibility of a forcing defence.

E/W Vul. Dealer South.

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

♠ A Q J 6 2	♠ 10 8
♥ J 9 7 4 3	
♦ K	

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Møller</i>		<i>Schaffer</i>	
Pass	2♣	Pass	1♠
Pass	3♦	Dbf	2♥
Pass	4♥	All Pass	3♥

Guided by the lead-directing double, Kirsten Steen Møller's opening salvo was the ♠2. Lauye Schaffer took his ace and returned the 4, ruffed by declarer, who played a heart to the ace and took a losing spade finesse. Now Kirsten found the killing defence of a third diamond, offering a ruff and discard!

This ensured that she would make two more heart tricks and declarer soon conceded one down.

Open Room

West	North	East	South
	<i>Jens</i>		<i>Sabine</i>
Pass	2♣	2♦	1♠
4♦	Dbf	Pass	2♥
All Pass			4♥

Here West preferred to start with his singleton club, which gave Sabine a chance. She won with the king and took a losing spade finesse. West switched to a diamond, taken by his partner, and ruffed the club return. When he exited with a diamond, Sabine ruffed and played a heart to the king, then returned to hand with the ♠J. She knew East had four clubs and one heart and at least five diamonds. He had followed to two spades, playing the 3 and the 7.

Weighing the evidence, Sabine advanced the ♥J, running it when West played low. +420 and 10 IMPs.

Venice Cup

semifinal (set 4)

China vs France

by Tony Gordon

China had brushed aside Great Britain in the quarterfinals and with a 66-IMP lead over France after 48 boards they were threatening to do the same to France. If France were to stem the tide, now was a good time to start, but there was not enough in the cards for either side to post a large score on the set.

After three pushes, French hopes were raised by a large gain on Board 52.

Board 52. Game All. Dealer West.

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

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

N		E
W		S

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Bessis	Sun	Saul	Lu
Pass	1♣	Pass	1♦
1♠	Dbl	3♣	Dbl
All Pass			

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Gu	Cronier	Zhang Yalan	Willard
Pass	1♣	All pass	

In the Closed Room, Benedicte Cronier opened a natural 1♣ and was allowed to play there. She made an overtrick for +90 to France.

In the Open Room, Sun Ming opened a strong club and Veronique Bessis overcalled 1♠ after Lu Yan's negative response. Sun made a negative double and Catherine Saul raised preemptively to 3♣. Lu joined in with a negative double of her own and Sun viewed, perhaps unwisely, to defend. Sun began with ♦AK and then switched to ♥K. Bessis won ♥A and led dummy's club to the queen, king and ace. Sun now tried to cash a heart, but Bessis ruffed in hand and ruffed a club in dummy. One more ruff in each hand established her ♣9 and she could have drawn trumps at this point and made an overtrick; however, she continued by ruffing dummy's last heart low and ruffing her master club with dummy's ♠A. Now she simply let Sun trump a diamond and claimed the last two tricks with her ♠KJ. +730 and 13 IMPs to France.

However, France gave back most of those IMPs two boards later.

Board 54. E/W Vul. Dealer East.

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

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

N		E
W		S

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Bessis	Sun	Saul	Lu
Pass	2♥	Pass	1♠
Pass	4♣	Pass	2♠
Pass		All pass	

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Gu	Cronier	Zhang Yalan	Willard
Pass	2♥	Pass	1♠
2NT	4♣	Pass	2♠
		All pass	

In the Open Room, Lu declared 4♣ without opposition. Bessis led the ♦3 and Lu won in hand with the jack and played a club. Bessis played low and, after some thought, Lu called for the king. She needed to draw trumps now to make the contract, but, unaware of the danger, she continued with a second club. Saul elected to cover the jack with the queen and Bessis chose to leave her partner on lead, thereby losing the crucial diamond ruff. Saul switched to a trump and Lu played low from hand and won the ace over West's queen.

The rest was plain sailing. She now gave up a heart. Although Bessis could have won and given Saul a diamond ruff, declarer was in control. She won the trump return with the jack and ruffed her last club in dummy. She then ruffed a heart to hand and drew trumps. +420 to China.

In the Closed Room, Sylvie Willard declared 4♣ after Gu Ling had entered the auction with a delayed 2NT bid that showed the minors. Gu led the ♦7 and Willard won in hand with the queen. The danger of losing two diamond ruffs was clear, but Willard also played a club at trick two. Gu did not duck but rose with the ace and led ♦6 for Zhang Yalan to ruff. A heart to Gu's ace and a second ruff quickly put the contract one down. +50 and 10 IMPs to China.

France missed an opportunity on the next board.

Board 55. Game All. Dealer South.

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

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

N		E
W		S

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Bessis	Sun	Saul	Lu
Pass	3♦	Dbl	3♣
4♣	All pass		Pass

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Gu	Cronier	Zhang Yalan	Willard
Pass	5♣	All pass	4♣

In the Closed Room, Willard's full-blooded preempt and Cronier's raise kept China out of the auction. Gu led her singleton diamond and Willard won the ace and

continued with the jack. Zhang Yalan took her king and switched to the ♥K which Willard won with the ♥A. Willard now led the ♣Q and when the ten appeared on her left she rose with the ace and discarded a loser on dummy's ♦10 for one down and +100 to China.

In the Open Room, Lu could not open 4♣ even if she had wanted to since she was playing Namyats. She opened 3♣ and Sun responded 3♦, forcing. Saul made a takeout double and Willard jumped to 4♣ to end the auction. Sun cashed her two minor suit aces and continued with a second diamond. Bessis ruffed, cashed ♠K and then led a trump to the ace. One down and 5 IMPs to China when France would have gained 11 IMPs if Bessis had taken the winning view in trumps.

Board 56. Love All. Dealer West.

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

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

N		E
W		S

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Bessis	Sun	Saul	Lu
Pass	1♦	Pass	1NT
Dbl	Rdbl	Pass	Pass
2♣	Pass	Pass	Dbl
All pass			

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Gu	Cronier	Zhang Yalan	Willard
Pass	1NT	Pass	3NT
All pass			

In the Open Room, Bessis's double of Lu's 1NT showed the majors. Sun redoubled to show extras and Bessis retreated to 2♣. Sun made a forcing pass and then passed Lu's double. Sun led a trump and Bessis made five trump tricks and a diamond for two down and +300 to China. Since China could not make 3NT once West had shown her spades, this was the best result available.

In the Closed Room, Cronier opened a strong NT and was raised to game. Zhang Yalan led the ♣2 and dummy's ten held the trick. A diamond to the king and ace followed and Zhang Yalan knew she had to switch to a major. Unfortunately for China, but fortunately for France, she chose dummy's shorter major. Now Cronier had nine tricks for a 3-IMP gain to France.

Board 59. Love All. Dealer South.

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

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

N		E
W		S

Open Room

West Bessis	North Sun	East Saul	South Lu
Pass	4♥	Dbl	3♥
5♣	All pass		Pass

Closed Room

West Gu	North Cronier	East Zhang Yalan	South Willard
Pass	1♠	INT	2♥
Pass	3♥	Pass	4♥
All pass			

Lu's 3♥ preempt fared worse than Willard's 1♥ opening, but only because Bessis escaped undoubled in 5♣ in the Open Room. Willard made ten tricks for +420 to France in the Closed Room while Bessis went three down in the Open Room for +150 to China. 7 IMPs to France.

France were ahead by 7 IMPs on the set so far, but the last swing went to China.

Board 64. E/W Vul. Dealer West.

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



Open Room

West Bessis	North Sun	East Saul	South Lu
1♠	2♣	2♥	Pass
4♣	All pass		

Closed Room

West Gu	North Cronier	East Zhang Yalan	South Willard
1♠	2♣	2♥	3♣
4♣	All pass		

Both West's reached 4♣ after North had overcalled in clubs, but there was a significant difference. In the Closed Room, Willard had supported her partner's clubs and Cronier naturally led a club. Declarer ran this to her queen and had ten tricks. +620 to China. In the Open Room, Lu had passed over 2♥ and Sun led the ♦10 instead of a club. This held the trick, and a second diamond and a club through soon sealed declarer's fate. +100 and 12 IMPs to China.

China won the set 30-23 and increased their lead to 73 IMPs.

Helgemo's advice

Shortly after Norway's defeat by France in the semifinal, Glenn Grotheim informed his captain that he would like to play all the boards in the bronze medal playoff in order to promote his new book on his system of Relay Precision. His teammate, Geir Helgemo, said, "If you are trying to promote the book it might be better if you don't play at all!"

Silesia Celebrations

by Patrick Jourdain (GB)

The team which led virtually throughout the Transnational Swiss all come from the same bridge club, Silesia, in Gliwice, Poland. The team is led by Krzysztof Jassem, 32, a lecturer in computer science at Poznan University. Jassem first came to the attention of the bridge world as a member of the Polish Junior team in Hasselt in 1984 and Plovdiv in 1988.

Jassem partners Piotr Tuszynski, 42, who trades options and stocks. He is an Olympiad champion from Poland's win in Seattle in 1984. Their teammates are Marek Witek, 37, who owns a small road construction company, and Ireneusz Kowalczyk, 47, an engineer. This pair won the Juan-les-Pins Pairs Championship this year.

The team earned their trip to Hammamet by winning the First Division of Poland this year, the prize being substantial support from the Polish Bridge Federation to the Transnational Teams. The leader in the Swiss after 16 rounds is guaranteed a medal for there is no playoff between the losing semifinalists – the team higher placed in the Swiss is awarded the third place. This is an excellent idea (also used in the World Mixed Teams) and perhaps might also be used in the Bermuda Bowl and Venice Cup, now that there is only one round-robin instead of two.

In their match against the British team led by Peter Goodman, Jassem and Tuszynski bid this excellent grand slam whilst their opponents reached only game:

Love All. Dealer West.

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



Table 1

West Kowalczyk	North Goodman	East Witek	South Pownall
Pass	1♠	2♦	Pass
3♦	4♦	Pass	4♥
All Pass			

Table 2

West Dhondy	North Tuszynski	East Kay	South Jassem
2NT	4♦	5♦	5♥
Pass	6♦	7♦	Pass
Pass	7♥	All Pass	

Jeremy Dhondy's opening 2NT showed both minors. North's overcall showed both majors with better spades than hearts (normally 6-4). When South was prepared to go 5♥, North made a grand slam try, clearly promising first-round control of diamonds. South was therefore able to pass over East's 6♦ to show willingness to accept, and that was enough for North. There was no problem in the play.

Tuszynski showed good technique on this deal where their opponents put up a strong defence:

Game All. Dealer North.

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



Tuszynski, North, and Jassem had a simple auction: INT-2♣-2♥-4♥-Pass.

East led a diamond and West found the best defence of playing three rounds of the suit. In which hand should declarer take the ruff?

It looks natural to ruff in the North hand to keep the stronger holding intact in dummy where the long clubs are, but declarer saw the entry problems later if he did so. Instead he ruffed in dummy, and laid down only the ace of trumps before trying a club to the queen, which lost.

East persisted with a fourth diamond, and declarer's foresight was rewarded. He could take the second ruff in dummy, unblock the ♥Q, return to the ♠A to draw trumps and still run the clubs.

If declarer had taken his ruffs in the other hand he would have been in trouble. He cannot cross for the club finesse without using up the small trump he needs to take the next force. And even if he guesses to play clubs from hand, when he takes the second ruff in North, he has no entry to the South hand to draw trumps.

The caddies are the best

by Alan Truscott

The caddies working here under the guidance of Annie Chekroun are the best I have ever seen anywhere. This is surely due to the training they received from Ton Kooijman, who is both efficient and ubiquitous.

In the Transnational the caddies glide about unobtrusively, constantly on the move. They do not wait for a table to run out of boards, but move them one or two at a time as they become available. As a result, I have never had to wait for a board and never had to disturb others by shouting for a caddy.

Three cheers for the caddies!

Thank you, Bulletin helpers

Brian Senior, Mark Horton and I have very much enjoyed putting out these Daily Bulletins. Our facilities are excellent and the bridge has been exciting.

It is necessary to have contributions from others to round out world championship coverage. Our special thanks go to the following regular contributors: Tony Gordon, Barry Rigal, Knut Kjaernsrod and Terry Radjef. We also appreciate the articles we received from various occasional contributors.

Venice Cup

final (set 4)

China vs USA I

China started the set up by 12 IMPs, 73-61. That lead didn't last for long.

Board 49. Love All. Dealer North.

♠ A K Q 10 5
♥ 5 3
♦ A 8 6 5 4
♣ 3

♠ 8 2
♥ Q J 10 6 4
♦ K 10 9 2
♣ Q 5

♠ J 4 3
♥ 9 8
♦ J 7 3
♣ A J 8 7 4

♠ 9 7 6
♥ A K 7 2
♦ Q
♣ K 10 9 6 2

North Sokolow	South Breed
1♠	2♣
2♦	2♠
3♦	4♠
Pass	

Lu Yan led the ♥9 to dummy's ace. Tobi Sokolow played a diamond to the ace, a club towards the king. Lu rose with the ace and continued hearts. Sokolow won the ♥A, took a diamond pitch on the ♣K and ruffed a club. She cross-ruffed the minors now until Lu finally ruffed in with the ♠J in front of dummy. That was eleven tricks for +450.

North Zhang Yalan	South Gu Ling
1♠	2♣
2♦	4♠
Pass	

Marinesa Letizia led a trump. Zhang Yalan won in hand, played ace and another diamond, ruffing, then three rounds of hearts. The third heart was ruffed and over-ruffed and now Letizia played her last trump. With no trumps left in dummy and no entries to that hand, Zhang had to lose two diamonds and a club from here for one down; -50 and 11 IMPs to USAI. A great start for them.

Board 52. Game All. Dealer West.

♠ Q 8
♥ A K Q 8 2
♦ 9 6 5 2
♣ J 6

♠ 9 5
♥ J 10 6 5
♦ A Q J
♣ A 9 4 3

♠ K 6 4 2
♥ 9
♦ K 10 8
♣ K Q 10 7 5

♠ A J 10 7 3
♥ 7 4 3
♦ 7 4 3
♣ 8 2

Closed Room

West Berkowitz	North Zhang	East Letizia	South Gu
1♦	1♥	1♠	Pass
INT	Pass	2♦	All Pass

A curious looking contract. Zhang cashed a top heart and switched to a trump. Lisa Berkowitz won in hand and ruffed a heart. She came back to the ♣A to ruff another heart then cashed a second club. From there she could only take two trump tricks; one down for -100.

Open Room

West Sun	North Sokolow	East Lu	South Breed
1♦	1♥	1♠	2♥
Pass	Pass	Dbl	Pass
2NT	Pass	3♣	Pass
4♣	Pass	5♣	All Pass

The Chinese pair found a rather better trump fit, giving them an opportunity to win the board. But they got a level too high - reasonably enough as 5♣ needs little more than the ♠A onside. When it was offside Lu had to go one down for a push.

USAI picked up two more IMPs on the next board to scrape into the lead. The boards were pretty dull for a while. The match was an exact tie midway through the set, then China moved back into the lead.

Board 57. E/W Vul. Dealer North.

♠ A 9
♥ Q 9 7 3
♦ A 9 8 7 5
♣ Q 6

♠ 8 7 6 3
♥ 10 5 4 2
♦ J 6 2
♣ 9 5

♠ K Q 10
♥ K J 8 6
♦ K 4
♣ A 8 7 2

♠ J 5 4 2
♥ A
♦ Q 10 3
♣ K J 10 4 3

Open Room

West Sun	North Sokolow	East Lu	South Breed
Rdbl	1♦	INT	Dbl
Rdbl	Pass	2♣	Dbl
Pass	Pass	2♥	Pass
All Pass	Dbl	Pass	3♣

When Mildred Breed doubled the INT overcall, Sun Ming redoubled for rescue then redoubled again when 2♣ got doubled. Now Lu bid hearts, the partnership's best fit, and Tobi Sokolow doubled. She intended this to be for penalties but Breed was not so sure and removed to 3♣. Sun led a heart to the jack and ace and Breed ducked a spade to East. Lu played ace and another trump to prevent spade ruffs but now Breed just switched to Plan B. She won the second club in dummy and led a low diamond. Lu won the king and Breed carefully unblocked the ten. She won the spade return, played a diamond to the queen and claimed; +130.

The lack of dummy entries would have made 2♥ doubled an uphill struggle for declarer. Ah well, they will know what this sequence means next time.

The Closed Room auction was short and to the point. Letizia made the same INT overcall and Gu doubled. Lisa Berkowitz elected not to run, which could have been right but not this time. Gu led a low club to the queen and the defence continued clubs. Letizia won the third round and played the ♠K to Zhang's ace. Zhang switched to a low diamond, ducked to the queen, and Gu cashed her clubs. Now, however, she erred by returning a spade into the ♠Q10 and declarer got a fourth trick also for three down; -800 and 12 IMPs to China.

Again the boards ran quietly for a while. Then two consecutive pick-ups gave USAI the lead.

Board 62. Love All. Dealer East.

♠ 5 4
♥ J 8 4 3
♦ 10 7 6 2
♣ K 6 3

♠ A 7 6 3
♥ 7 5 2
♦ K 5 4 3
♣ A 8

♠ J 9 8
♥ -
♦ A Q 9 8
♣ Q J 9 7 5 2

♠ K Q 10 2
♥ A K Q 10 9 6
♦ J
♣ 10 4

Closed Room

West Berkowitz	North Zhang	East Letizia	South Gu
Rdbl	2♦	2♣	Dbl
Pass	Pass	Pass	2♥
Pass	4♥	3♣	3♥
		All Pass	

Open Room

West Sun	North Sokolow	East Lu	South Breed
Dbl	3♥	2♣	2♥
Dbl	All Pass	Pass	4♥

Both Easts started with a Precision 2♣. The difference came later when Sun decided that she hadn't bid all of her hand yet. Over 4♥ she doubled for a second time, while Berkowitz was content with just one effort in the other room.

Sun was right in a sense, because 4♥ proved to be unbeatable and East/West have a cheap save in 5♣. Alas, Lu chose to defend 4♥ doubled, though the double must be more cards than hearts given the previous negative double. Both declarers made ten tricks; +420 for Gu but +590 for Breed and 5 IMPs to USAI.

Board 63. N/S Vul. Dealer South.

♠ J 10 9 8 7 5 3
♥ A 10 6 2
♦ K
♣ 4

♠ K
♥ K J 8 7
♦ 9 4
♣ K J 9 6 3 2

♠ A Q
♥ 9 5 3
♦ A Q 6 5
♣ A Q 8 5

♠ 6 4 2
♥ Q 4
♦ J 10 8 7 3 2
♣ 10 7

Open Room

West Sun	North Sokolow	East Lu	South Breed
2♣	2♠	Dbl	Pass
3♥	Pass	4NT	Pass
5♣	Pass	6♣	Pass
			All Pass

Closed Room

West Berkowitz	North Zhang	East Letizia	South Gu
2♣	2♠	4♦	Pass
4♣	Dbl	6♣	Pass
			All Pass

Again both tables began with a natural 2♣ opening with their 'wonderful' hand. Both Norths overcalled 2♠ and the two Easts took effectively the same route to slam. Lu made a negative double then used RKCB, with hearts temporarily agreed, then bid 6♣ when she found one key card. Letizia's 4♦ was Kickback, also asking for key cards but with clubs agreed. She also found one key card and jumped to slam.

In the Open Room, Sun had shown a heart suit and there was nothing in the auction to suggest that defensive heart tricks were going anywhere. Sokolow led a safe spade and Sun was left having to play hearts for one loser. Having drawn trumps, she tried a low heart to the eight. Sokolow won the ten and ace of hearts for down one; -50.

In the Closed Room, the hearts had not been bid and dummy had blasted the slam without revealing anything about itself. Perhaps Letizia had a concealed side suit? Zhang cashed the ♥A at trick one and now the slam was home; +920 and 14 IMPs to USAI.

After a fairly dull set of deals, USAI had moved into a narrow lead. They won the set by 35-14 and the overall score was 96-87 in their favour.

Bermuda Bowl

final (set 4)

France vs USA II

On the whole, this was not a very interesting set. There were just four major incidents.

Board 52. Game All. Dealer West.

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

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Multon	Meckstroth	Mouiel	Rodwell
1♣	1♥	1♠	2♥
Pass	Pass	Dbf	Pass
2NT	Pass	3NT	All Pass

North led the ♥Q, and when South followed with the 7, switched to the ♣6. West cashed all his minor suit winners ending in hand and led a spade. No luck there; -100.

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Hamman	Perron	Wolff	Chemla
1♥	Pass	2♣	Pass
2NT	Pass	3NT	All Pass

Perron was not put off a heart lead by Hamman's opening bid. Alas, he selected the two of hearts and after everyone followed to a round of clubs, Hamman claimed his contract; 12 IMPs for USA 11.

Board 59. Love All. Dealer South.

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

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Multon	Meckstroth	Mouiel	Rodwell
Pass	2♣	Pass	INT
Pass	4♠	All Pass	2♠

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Hamman	Perron	Wolff	Chemla
1♦	1♥	Pass	1♣
Pass	3♠	Pass	1♠
All Pass			4♠



Michel Perron (France)

Photograph courtesy of Kodak's new digital camera

Both teams reached a normal 4♠, but as you can see the 4-1 trump break is certain to spell defeat for declarer. Chemla and Rodwell both went through the motions, but whereas -50 was recorded in the Open Room, the result posted from the Closed Room was +420.

Zia and the rest of the commentary team could think of no possible explanation, even with the help of the play record. Eventually they surmised there must have been a revoke, and a short while later they discovered that was exactly what had happened; 10 unexpected IMPs for USA 1.

Board 61. Game All. Dealer North.

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

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Multon	Meckstroth	Mouiel	Rodwell
1♥	Pass	1♣	Pass
2NT	Pass	2♠	Pass
3NT	All Pass	3♠	Pass

Multon marked time with his bid of 2NT, but when Mouiel rebid his clubs he knew the hands did not fit well and he settled for game. North led the ♦4 which was allowed to run to South's queen. Declarer won the heart return and cashed his winners in that suit, discarding two clubs and a spade. He took a winning club finesse and cleared the clubs. He ended with ten tricks; +630.

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Hamman	Perron	Wolff	Chemla
	Pass	1♣	Pass
1♠	Pass	2♣	Pass
2♥	Pass	2♠	Pass
3♦	Pass	3NT	Pass
4NT	Pass	6♣	Pass
6NT	All Pass		

Hamman's first response promised three 'controls'. After a natural sequence he thought his hand was too good to simply pass 3NT, and Wolff certainly had the right hand to leap to 6♣. With only a singleton club Hamman converted to 6NT.

On this layout the contract had a play on either a spade or a heart lead (North must unblock the ♠K on the second round of the suit) and was cold on a club lead. Of course Chemla led the ♦Q and the hand was over. Wolff went through the motions but had to concede one down. 12 IMPs to France.

Board 63. N/S Vul. Dealer South.

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

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Multon	Meckstroth	Mouiel	Rodwell
Pass	3♠	3NT	Pass
4♠	Dbf	Redbl	Pass
4NT	Pass	6♣	All Pass

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Hamman	Perron	Wolff	Chemla
Pass	3♠	3NT	Pass
Pass			All Pass

A simple matter of judgment decided the outcome on this board.

In the Open room West took no part in the auction and declarer eventually came to 11 tricks.

In the replay Multon considered he was too good to pass 3NT. Facing a passed partner East might have passed 4NT, but he was only the ♥10 short of being in a making contract. His partner's ♠K could have been the ♦K or the ♥Q, so he could perhaps consider himself to be a little unlucky. 11 IMPs for USA 1 who won the set 39-17 to edge ahead 121-112.

Tunisian honesty

Kathie Wei-Sender lost her wallet yesterday. She went back to the last place she had been and inquired if anyone had turned it in. The waiter who found the wallet returned it to her with a smile. Absolutely nothing was missing.

Bermuda Bowl

final (set 5)

France vs USA II



Alain Levy (France)

This was another fascinating set of deals which kept the vugraph audience on the edge of their seats from start to finish. USA2 led by 9 IMPs going in but that was nothing with scope for swings on almost every deal.

Board 65. Love All. Dealer North.

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

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

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Hamman	Mouiel	Wolff	Multon
	Pass	Pass	3♦
Dbl	4♣	Pass	4♦
Dbl	Pass	4♣	All Pass

Herve Mouiel showed a diamond raise with reasonable clubs with his 4♣ bid. Bobby Wolff did not bid at this stage but Bob Hamman doubled again and now Wolff bid 4♣. Frank Multon led a club. Wolff rose with the ace and played the ♠A followed by the ♦A. Now he played a low club to Mouiel's king. Mouiel cashed the ♠K then exited with a club. Wolff threw a heart on the ♣Q, played a spade to hand and ruffed his little diamond. Next he played ace and another heart and the defence could only get one heart trick. Mouiel won the queen and had to give a ruff and discard; +420.

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Levy	Meckstroth	Mari	Rodwell
	Pass	Pass	3♦
Dbl	4♦	Dbl	Pass
4♣	All Pass		

Jeff Meckstroth didn't bother to show his clubs, preferring a simple diamond raise. Christian Mari found an aggressive responsive double and so Alain Levy became declarer in 4♣ as West. Here, the lead was a diamond. Levy won the ♦A, cashed the ♠A and crossed to the ♥A to ruff dummy's small diamond. Now he exited with a trump. Meckstroth cashed the ♥Q but was then endplayed; +420 for a well-played push.

Board 66. NIS Vul. Dealer East.

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

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

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Hamman	Mouiel	Wolff	Multon
		Pass	1♦
1♠	3♦	Dbl	4♦
4♥	All Pass		

4♥ is a playable contract on the East/West cards. Though the defence will be able to take a club ruff on most layouts, they may not always achieve this. On the actual layout, declarer had no chance. Mouiel led the ace of diamonds and a second diamond, forcing Hamman to ruff. Hamman played the ♥J, ducked, then the ♥Q. Multon won the ♥A and returned a heart to the king. Hamman knocked out the ♠A but now Multon could draw the last trump and cash the diamonds; four down for -200.

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Levy	Meckstroth	Mari	Rodwell
		1♣	1♦
1♠	4♦	Pass	5♦
Dbl	All Pass		

1♣ could have just been any weak no trump so there was some danger of 5♦ doubled being let through (three rounds of spades sets up a discard for declarer's club loser). Levy led the ♠A, thought a little, and switched to a club. The defence had three tricks established now; one down for -200 and 9 IMPs to France. The match was all square.

Board 67. E/W Vul. Dealer South.

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

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Levy	Meckstroth	Mari	Rodwell
		INT	1♥
Pass	1♠	Pass	Dbl
Pass	2♣		3♣
All Pass			

A Meckstroth psyche picked off the East/West spade fit here and the French pair sold out to 3♣. Mari led the ♣Q to dummy's ace. Meckstroth led a diamond to the jack and queen and Mari returned a low diamond. Meckstroth ruffed that and led a low spade to the ten and jack. Mari led a second spade to Levy's ace and now what was required was another diamond, forcing dummy to ruff. The defence would now come to a diamond trick in the ending for one down. But Levy didn't know what was going on and played another spade. Meckstroth could ruff in hand and establish the hearts for his contract; +110.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Hamman	Mouiel	Wolff	Multon
			1♥
Pass	Pass	Dbl	Pass
1♠	Pass	2♣	Pass
3♣	Pass	3NT	All Pass

4♣ would have been down very quickly on the obvious heart lead so the Americans did very well to get to 3NT after having found their spade fit. Multon led a low heart to the ten and jack. Wolff led a spade to the ace then passed the ♦10. The ♦8 was covered by jack and queen and Wolff followed up with the king and then jack of spades. Multon had the lead but what was he to do with it? Realising that he almost certainly could not defeat the contract, he took what looked to be his best chance and laid down the ♥A. Declarer had nine tricks now, two hearts, three spades and four diamonds, using the ♠9 as an entry to take another diamond finesse. Nicely done and a tremendous result for Hamman/Wolff. USA2 gained 12 IMPs to regain the lead.

Board 68. Game All. Dealer West.

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

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

Both Easts played 4♥. Multon led the ♥8 to Mouiel's ace. Mouiel switched to the ♦J to declarer's ace. Wolff led the ♣J and Mouiel won and this time tried a spade switch. Wolff rose with the ace, drew trumps ending in dummy and took two diamond pitches on the clubs; +620.

Eric Rodwell led a spade in the other room. Mari won dummy's jack and led a low club, Meckstroth taking his ace. Back came a diamond to the ace and now Mari's problem was how to get to dummy to take his discards on the clubs. As we can see, the winning line is to play the ♥K then ♥J from hand to force an entry. But that only works because the ace is doubleton. Mari

Photograph courtesy of Kodak's new digital camera

tried the ♠K but got not a flicker from either Meckstroth or Rodwell. Now he changed tack, playing three rounds of diamonds. Meckstroth won the diamond, Rodwell pitching a club, and played a spade through. Mari won the ace and ruffed his fourth diamond, Rodwell throwing another club. Now Mari threw his ♠Q on the ♣K then played the ♥Q to Meckstroth's ace. But Rodwell was out of clubs now and a club through promoted his ♥8 to defeat the contract; -620 and another 12 IMPs to USA2.

Board 69. N/S Vul. Dealer North.

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

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Hamman	Mouiel	Wolff	Multon
	Pass	Pass	1♦
Dbl	1♠	2♥	4♣
All Pass			

Wolff led the ♥Q to the ace and Mouiel led the ♣Q to Hamman's ace. Hamman continued with two more rounds of hearts, Mouiel ruffing in dummy and pitching a diamond from hand. Mindful of the takeout double and line of defence, Mouiel led the ♠6 to the nine next. Then he threw two diamonds on the clubs and ruffed the last club. That was over-ruffed and declarer was forced with another heart lead. He had to lose a second trump trick for one down; -100.

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Levy	Meckstroth	Mari	Rodwell
	Pass	Pass	1♦
1♥	Dbl	3♥	4♣
All Pass			

The 1♥ overall did not offer the same clue regarding the 4-1 spade break as in the other room. Levy led a heart to the jack and ace and again declarer played the ♣Q at trick two. Levy also won and played two more rounds of hearts, giving the ruff and discard. Rodwell ruffed in hand and played the ♠Q, ducked, then the ♠J ducked, and finally his last spade. Levy won the ace and forced dummy to ruff a heart with its last trump. Declarer cashed his clubs but when Levy got the lead with his last trump he had a heart to cash for two down; -200 and 3 IMPs to France. Note that the ruff and discard defence was beating the contract even if declarer had the ♦K.

Board 70. E/W Vul. Dealer East.

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

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Hamman	Mouiel	Wolff	Multon
1♦	1♥	1♣	Pass
Pass	4♥	2♦	4♣
		Dbl	All Pass

Wolff's 1♣ opening was strong and 1♦ a semi-positive (they play 1♥ as the negative response). The French pair got up to 4♥ very quickly, via a fit-showing-jump from Multon, and Wolff doubled. But there was no defence to 4♥ doubled; +590 for Mouiel.

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Levy	Meckstroth	Mari	Rodwell
		1♦	Pass
1♠	2♥	4♣	5♥
Dbl	All Pass		

The natural 1♦ opening worked better here than had the strong club. It allowed Levy/Mari to find the spade fit and get up to 4♣ fast, putting Rodwell under pressure. He didn't like it, but could hardly not bid 5♥. After all, his opponents could have had nine spades between them instead of eight, his partner could have had six hearts, and also he hated his diamond holding for defence. Levy doubled 5♥ to discourage any further enterprise from his partner. The defence quickly took their three top tricks; -100 and 12 IMPs to France.

Board 72. Love All. Dealer West.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Levy	Meckstroth	Mari	Rodwell
Pass	Pass	1NT	Dbl
2♥	Dbl	2♣	Pass
3♣	4♥	5♣	All Pass

1NT was strong and the double showed either one minor, both majors, or just a big hand. Levy transferred to spades, though it took a long time for Mari to convince himself that this was their agreement. Rodwell's pass of 2♣ suggested that he had the majors so Meckstroth leaped to 4♥ on the next round. It was too late, however, as the French pair had already found their club fit. 5♣ made exactly; +400.

Closed Room

West	East
Hamman	Wolff
1♠	2♦
2♣	3♣
4♣	4♥
4♣	4NT
6♣	Pass

Hamman/Wolff were allowed a free run in the Closed Room. 6♣ is a little worse than the diamond finesse but is by no means an unreasonable spot. Multon led his singleton diamond and Wolff had no option but to finesse. Multon got a diamond ruff now and there was

a spade to lose at the end for two down; -100 and 11 IMPs to France, who led by 2 IMPs.

Board 74. Game All. Dealer East.

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

Both Wests played 4♥. A spade lead left Levy just having to pick up the hearts for one loser. He won the ♠A and ran the ♥6 to the king. Meckstroth cashed the ♦A then played a spade to Rodwell's king. Rodwell switched to his club, to the queen and king, and Levy ran the ♥9; +620. Mouiel found the lead of a club which worked great for the French. Hamman had nowhere to go now. He won in hand and played ace and another heart. Mouiel cashed his ♦A, didn't like what he saw and switched to a spade. Multon could make his ♥Q and cash the defensive spade trick; -100 and 12 IMPs to France.

Board 77. Game All. Dealer North.

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

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Hamman	Mouiel	Wolff	Multon
	Pass	Pass	1♣
1♥	Dbl	Pass	2♣
Pass	2♦	Pass	3♣
All Pass			

It is perhaps true that South could have held only five clubs and three or even four diamonds, but Mouiel's 2♦ bid still looks a bit strange. All it led to was 3♣ instead of 2♣. There were three trump losers and seven in all; -300.

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Levy	Meckstroth	Mari	Rodwell
	Pass	Pass	2♣
Pass	Pass	2♦	Pass
2NT	All Pass		

The Precision 2♣ opening got the North/South bidding over more quickly in the Open Room. Levy found himself in a by-no-means-secure 2NT on the lead of the singleton club to the queen and ace. Levy played the ♦Q and, when that held, the ♦5 to the ten. Next he played a club to his eight, Meckstroth pitching a diamond. The next play was the key one and it was a spade to the king! Levy finessed the ♠9 next and Meckstroth took his ace and switched to a heart. That went to the jack and ace and Rodwell returned another heart. Levy just played out the hearts and Meckstroth had to give dummy a diamond trick at the end for nine tricks; +150. That was still 4 IMPs to USA2 but it could have been much worse for France had Levy not made his contract.

Board 78. Love All. Dealer East.

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

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Hamman	Mouiel	Wolff	Multon
1♠	Pass	1♦	Pass
2♥	Dbl	2♣	Pass
4♠	All Pass	2♠	Pass

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Levy	Meckstroth	Mari	Rodwell
1♠	Pass	1♦	Pass
2♥	Dbl	2♣	Pass
3♦	Pass	3♣	Dbl
4♠	All Pass	3♠	Pass

Both pairs did well to reach the good game. Mouiel led a trump against Hamman. He won the queen and led a diamond, ducking when the jack came up. Multon's club switch went to the ace and Hamman just drew trumps and cashed his diamonds; +420.

Meckstroth led a club in response to the double of 3♣. Levy won the ace and led a low diamond. Rodwell put in the jack and Levy thought a long time before ducking. His problem was that if North had both the top hearts he could afford to win the diamond and be in a position to pick up ♠Q9xx in the North hand, but would go down on the actual diamond position if the heart honours were split. Finally, Levy decided to duck the ♦J. Rodwell switched to a heart and Meckstroth won the ace and returned a low heart. Levy could ruff in dummy, draw trumps and cash the diamonds; +450 and 1 IMP to France.

Board 79. N/S Vul. Dealer South.

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

West	North	East	South
Hamman	Mouiel	Wolff	Multon
Levy	Meckstroth	Mari	Rodwell
1♠	2♣	Pass	2NT
3♠	3NT	All Pass	

Both Norths reached a fair 3NT. If the defence cannot take five heart tricks on the go it needs the club finesse. The lead at both tables was a spade and both declarers won and ran the ♣J. Wolff ducked that! Multon led his second club with high hopes but these were dashed when Hamman showed out. Multon cashed out



Photograph courtesy of Kodak's new digital camera

Paul Chemla (France)

for three off now; -300.

Mari took the ♣Q immediately and returned a spade. After cashing the spades, Levy played ace and another heart to the king for four down (a low heart switch nets six down); -400 and 3 IMPs to France.

Board 80. E/W Vul. Dealer West.

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

The vugraph audience watched Levy open 1♠, Meckstroth overcall 2♣ and Mari close proceedings with a jump to 4♥. Rodwell led his club to Meckstroth's ace and the French supporters were full of gloom. Mari dropped the ♣7 and Meckstroth switched to the ♠Q! Suddenly there were loud cheers from the French fans. Mari won, drew trumps and cashed the clubs; +620. In fact, had he run all the trumps before taking the clubs he might have managed an overtrick as North is squeezed in three suits.

The auction started the same in the Closed Room but Wolff bid only 2♥ on the East cards. Now Hamman jumped to 3NT and Wolff left him to play there. A low club was led to the nine and Hamman cashed a top heart to check that they were not 4-0 then established the clubs. Mouiel switched to the ♠K, breaking up any squeeze, so Hamman took his eleven tricks; +660 and 1 IMP to USA2.

A great session had come to an end. At the half-way point in the final of the Bermuda Bowl, France led by 166-150 IMPs.



Photograph courtesy of Kodak's new digital camera

Jeff Meckstroth (USA II)

Don't ask all your stupid questions

by Hans Werge, Denmark

It is a well-known tactic to draw some inferences from your opponents, bidding. But did you really know, that it can also be very useful to act on the interest one opponent shows during and after the auction.

Peter Hecht-Johansen, a rather inexperienced Danish player, has come here to play The Transnational Teams Championship, forming a team with the Blakset brothers. At the same time, he would like to learn a lot about the game, which – as far as I (and other former Blakset-partners) know – is very likely to happen in that team!

Partnering Knut Blakset he was South in this bidding sequence, which led to a very reasonable 6♠ contract:

Love all. Dealer North

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

North	East	South	West
2♦	Pass	2NT	Pass
3♣	Pass	3♦	Pass
3♥	Pass	4NT	Pass
5♣	Pass	6♠	All Pass

2♦ was the Multi, and North showed a maximum with Spades and 0/3 aces. West asked an awful lot of questions before leading a diamond against the slam, and Peter Hecht-Johansen took the first trick with dummy's queen.

To reward East's interest in the game, South then played the ♠Q – curtain – and 980 for N/S.

At the other table, the opponents, Team Rios from Chile, – without any "information" – had handled the spade suit the normal way by playing spade to the ace and the ♠10 from dummy.

This was a comfortable way to win 14 IMP's, and Team Blakset won the match 16-14 thanks to this board.

I hope this will be a lesson for West – and for other players – not to show too much interest in getting to game. Wait until you have some good cards in your hand...

Press conference

The WBF press conference will be held at the Royal Azur at 13.00 today. WBF President **José Damiani** and **Omar Sharif** will be present to offer some views and to answer questions from the journalists. Cocktails will be served after the conference.

Bermuda Bowl

final (set 6)

France vs USA II

France consolidated their position in the sixth session of the final. There were few swings, but all the important ones went in their direction.

Board 84. Game All. Dealer West.

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

Closed Room

West Freeman	North Perron	East Nickell	South Chemla
1♣	Pass	1♦	Pass
1♥	Pass	1♠	Pass
INT	Pass	2♣	All Pass

North led the ♣10 to the jack, queen and ace and when declarer played a diamond to the king South won and played a second trump. Declarer won in dummy with the king and played ace of hearts and ruffed a heart. He came to seven tricks and was -100.

Open Room

West Levy	North Meckstroth	East Mari	South Rodwell
1♣	1♥	1♠	INT
Pass	2♥	Dbf	2NT
Pass	3♥	Pass	Pass
Dbf	All Pass		

When Meckstroth overcalled, Mari introduced his spades. He showed a distributional hand on the next round, although he was perhaps a little short of values for that action. Levy resisted the temptation to double 2NT, but could not resist taking a shot at 3♥ on the next round. He was probably hoping for +500 but as it was things were not so simple.

Mari led the three of clubs and Levy won with the ace and cashed the ace of spades. He then went back to clubs and Mari won and switched to the ten of diamonds. Meckstroth won and could now have got home by playing a low heart from dummy and finessing the eight. He then returns to dummy with another diamond

finesse and ruffs a club. He takes two spades ending in dummy and ruffs his last club. Now a heart to the king leaves West unplayed.

It was not to be. He ruffed a club, and played a heart to the king and ace. Levy won and returned a diamond which prevented any possible trump reduction. One down, -200 and 7 Imps to France.

Board 86. E/W Vul. Dealer East.

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

Closed Room

West Freeman	North Perron	East Nickell	South Chemla
		1♦	4♣
Dbf	Pass	4♦	All Pass

Four diamonds was not a happy contract. South led the king of clubs and declarer took the ace and ran the eight of diamonds. South won and cashed the queen of clubs. He then played the seven of ruffed by the four of diamonds and overruffed by the king and ace. Declarer tried the ten of diamonds, but South won and forced declarer with a club. That meant five down, -500.

Open Room

West Levy	North Meckstroth	East Mari	South Rodwell
		1♦	5♣
Dbf	All Pass		

Rodwell went the whole hog at his table but his luck was out. Levy doubled and led the eight of diamonds. Mari withheld his ace when declarer played low from dummy and that ensured two down, -300 and 13 more IMPs for France, beginning to move away again.

Board 90. Game All. Dealer East.

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

Closed Room

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

South led the ♥3 and North took the ace and returned the five. Declarer put in the jack and went after the clubs. He emerged with ten tricks, +630.

Open Room

West Levy	North Meckstroth	East Mari	South Rodwell
		Pass	Pass
1♣	1♥	1♠	Pass
2♦	Pass	3NT	All Pass

Rodwell also led the ♥3 and Meckstroth took his ace and cashed the ace of spades before exiting with the queen of clubs. Given his partnerships' style of overcalls, there is a chance Mari would have gone wrong if Meckstroth had switched to the seven of spades, but now he was able to cash all his clubs and play a low diamond to the ten and jack. When South returned the four of diamonds, declarer could play the queen and claim. One IMP for USA II.

Board 95. N/S Vul. Dealer South.

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

Closed Room

West Freeman	North Perron	East Nickell	South Chemla
			4♥
Pass	5♣	Pass	5♦
Pass	5NT	Pass	6♦
Pass	6♥	All Pass	

Five clubs was looking for a diamond control and when Chemla showed one, 5NT was Blackwood. A very useful convention on this hand! +1460 when West led the jack of clubs.

Open Room

West Levy	North Meckstroth	East Mari	South Rodwell
			3♦
Pass	4♣	4♦	4♠
5♦	6♥	All Pass	

Three diamonds promised 0-10 points and hearts. Meckstroth also went in search of a slam but as the auction was a level lower it was easier for East/West to get involved. We are guessing that 4♠ promised second round diamond control but whatever, it was too difficult for the French pair to find the save.

Of course they gained one IMP as they took the ace of diamonds.

This was just about the only opportunity that Levy and Mari had missed and France won the set 26-4 to lead 192-154.

Not decisive, but not a comfortable position for USA II, especially against their bogey team.



Christian Mari (France)

Bermuda Bowl

final (set 7)

France vs USA II

France had taken a healthy 38-IMP lead during the previous set, and they increased that margin on the very first board.

Board 97. Game All. Dealer North.

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

At both tables there was a competitive auction, N-S bidding diamonds and E-W bidding hearts. France finally bought the contract at one table for 4♥ doubled – +590. At the other table they went on to 5♦, and the Americans carried on to 5♥, also doubled. They took the same 10 tricks, but that was minus 200 – 12 IMPs to France for a 50-IMP lead.

Board 98. N/S Game. Dealer East.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Hamman	Perron	Wolff	Chemla
3♥	All Pass	1♥	Pass

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Levy	Nickell	Mari	Freeman
2♥	Pass	Pass	Dbl
Pass	4♠	All Pass	

USA II bought the contract in both rooms, but they were set both times. There were five natural losers in 3♥, so Wolff was down one.

In the Closed Room Nickell won the opening heart lead led a club to the king and took a losing finesse in spades. On the heart continuation he got rid of a club, and he pitched a diamond on the next heart. He won the diamond switch and led the ♠K, ruffed by West. The play report ended here, but the final result was minus 200 for another 6 IMPs to France.



Board 99. E/W Vul. Dealer South.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Hamman	Perron	Wolff	Chemla
Dbl	Redbl	Pass	1♠
INT	Dbl	All Pass	Pass

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Levy	Nickell	Mari	Freeman
Dbl	Redbl	Pass	1♠
INT	Dbl	2♦	Pass
Pass	Dbl	All Pass	Pass

Both North-Souths refused to let their opponents escape here. Hamman and Mari both found themselves down three tricks – minus 800 for a push.

Board 104. Love All. Dealer West.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Hamman	Perron	Wolff	Chemla
Pass	Pass	1♠	Pass
INT	Pass	2♠	Pass
3♦	Pass	Pass	Dbl
Pass	4♣	All Pass	

Perron considered passing 3♦ doubled, but finally he went for 4♣. He lost the obvious four tricks - minus 50.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Levy	Nickell	Mari	Freeman
Pass	Pass	1♠	Pass
INT	Pass	2♠	Dbl
All Pass			

The Americans made their first gain of the set here. The defence was able to take two diamonds and a ruff, two trumps, a heart and two clubs – plus 500. 11 IMPs to USA II.

Board 106. Game All. Dealer East.

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

West	North	East	South
Hamman	Perron	Wolff	Chemla
2♣	Pass	Pass	INT
3♥	All Pass	2♦	Pass

Hamman's 2♣ showed a good hand with an unidentified major suit. On his second turn he felt his hand was worth a jump, so he played in 3♥. He ducked the ♣Q opening lead. A club continuation would have worked out well, but Perron shifted to a trump. Hamman knocked out the trump ace, and ruffed the spade return. After drawing two rounds of trumps, he misguessed the clubs by leading the 9, losing to the 10. Perron led another spade for Hamman to ruff. In the end game, Hamman lost a diamond and another club for down two. France bought the contract at 2♥ in the Closed Room and scored up nine tricks for an 8-IMP pickup. France's lead now was up to 59.

Board 108. N/S Vul. Dealer West.

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

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Levy	Nickell	Mari	Freeman
Pass	Pass	1♦	Dbl
Pass	2♦	Dbl	Pass
4♦	Pass	Pass	4♥
All Pass			

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Hamman	Perron	Wolff	Chemla
Pass	Pass	1♦	Dbl
Pass	1♠	Pass	Pass
2♦ !!	2♥	3♣	3♦
Pass	4♦	Pass	4♥
All Pass			

America had a chance for a big gain here. Nickell and Freeman found their game, but Perron and Chemla were about to play in 1♠. But Hamman, who had not raised diamonds on his first turn, decided to reopen with 2♦, certainly a questionable decision. Now Perron and Chemla were able to sort out their strengths and shortages – and suddenly they had found their way to their vulnerable game for a push.