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Thursday, 1 November 2001

Norway Survive Halloween Fright



KOJAK PRACTICES THE ANTHEMS

In Victor Mollo's classic Bridge in the Menagerie, Karapet the Unlucky was always wary of Walpurgis night - what we call Halloween (in case you haven't realised that was yesterday evening). Was it the dark forces that are supposed to prevail on the night of 31 October that caused **Italy** to lose to **Norway** in what was surely one of the most dramatic matches in the history of the Bermuda Bowl?

46 IMPs behind with only eight boards remaining, **Italy** mounted a counterattack that saw them close to within 8 IMPs. They then missed a succession of chances to take the lead. When the last deal flashed up on to the screen, play had already finished at the other table and the Norwegian players were in the room. They had gone down in a game. A part score would see the match tied and mean extra boards. When the Italians bid the game the Norwegians were sure declarer would make his contract. Fate decreed otherwise, and it is **Norway** who meet **USA II** in the final.

The Americans withstood everything **Poland** tried and by reaching the final they ensured a place in history for **Rose Meltzer**, the first woman to reach the final in the modern era.

In the Venice Cup, it was **Germany** who prevailed against **Austria** to set up what should be a classic final against **France**.

VUGRAPH MATCHES

Bermuda Bowl – Final (Session 1) – 13.20

USA II v NORWAY

Venice Cup – Final (Session 2) – 16.10

France v Germany

Final (Session 3) – 21.00

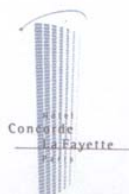
To be decided

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The Victory Banquet

The time of the Victory Banquet was mistakenly stated as 17.00 hours in yesterday's Bulletin. The time is correctly printed on the invitations, and it will be at 19.00 hours.



Bermuda Bowl

Semi-finals								
	Carry-over	Session 1	Session 2	Session 3	Session 4	Session 5	Session 6	Total
1 POLAND USA II	3 - 0	8 - 33	50 - 30	11 - 21	27 - 38	33 - 23	1 - 24	133 - 169
2 NORWAY ITALY	16 - 0	21 - 19	24 - 41	32 - 14	53 - 26	14 - 36	34 - 53	194 - 189

Venice Cup

Semi-finals								
	Carry-over	Session 1	Session 2	Session 3	Session 4	Session 5	Session 6	Total
3 FRANCE USA II	15.5 - 0	24 - 16	64 - 8	27 - 21	36 - 38	66 - 26	29 - 39	261.5 - 148
4 GERMANY AUSTRIA	16 - 0	27 - 45	31 - 27	54 - 36	47 - 48	29 - 29	36 - 22	240 - 207

Bermuda Bowl

Final								
	Carry-over	Session 1	Session 2	Session 3	Session 4	Session 5	Session 6	Total
1 USA II NORWAY	0 - 1							

Play-off					
	Carry-over	Session 1	Session 2	Session 3	Total
1 POLAND ITALY	0 - 4.3				

Venice Cup

Final								
	Carry-over	Session 1	Session 2	Session 3	Session 4	Session 5	Session 6	Total
1 FRANCE GERMANY	5.5 - 0							

Play-off					
	Carry-over	Session 1	Session 2	Session 3	Total
1 USA II AUSTRIA	0 - 5.5				

Photos

Your illustrious Daily News photographer has taken thousands of photos taking up gigabytes of disk space. If you are interested in some of these photos for personal use then come and see him in the Bulletin Room and he will arrange to have them sent to you on CD for a small charge to cover postage and cost of CD production.

Hands

All the pre-dealt hands used in these World Championships have been put into a database by our illustrious Daily Bulletin photographer, together with a front end program to display or paste the hand onto the Clipboard. If you would like a copy of this please see him in the Bulletin Room and he will arrange to send you an installation CD with an updated program which will be multi-lingual and have the facility to print out sessions for a small charge to cover postage and the production costs of the CD.

Transnational Teams

RESULTS AFTER 11 MATCHES

Team	Country	VPs
1 VENTIN J.	SPA	.206
2 BUREAU	FRA	.206
3 ZIMMERMAN	FRA	.198
4 GRINBERG	ISR	.194
5 ZELIKOVSKI	NTH .ISR	.194
6 GROMOV	RUS	.192
7 KOWALSKI	POL	.189
8 ISMIR	FRA	.189
9 REID	NZL	.186
10 CRONIX AZS	POL	.186
11 CHANG M.	USA .GBR	.186
12 BRACHMAN	USA	.183
13 COURTNEY	GBR	.182
14 KIRAN N.	IND	.182
15 CICHOCKI M.	POL	.180
16 HACKETT	ENG .USA	.180
17 LARA M.	POR .GER	.179
18 BAKER	USA	.179
19 NIMHAUSER	FRA	.178
20 JAGNIEWSKI	POL .GER	.178
21 AUKEN J.	DEN	.178
22 WOJCICKI	POL	.175
23 RAND	ISR	.171
24 MOZA	FRA	.171
25 PORTAL	FRA	.170
26 KOLPORTER	POL	.169
27 (ENERGOM)	POL	.168
28 MOERS J.	GLP	.168
29 BERGHEIMER	FRA	.168
30 MARKOWICZ	POL .ISR	.167
31 KAPLAN L.	FRA	.167
32 BLACKSTOCK	NZL	.167
33 POPLILOV	ISR	.167
34 BURAS K.	POL	.167
35 STOBIECKI	POL	.165
36 KHIOUPPENEN	RUS	.165
37 WOOLSEY	USA	.164
38 MARMION	FRA	.164
39 PARMADI	IDN	.164
40 MANOPPO	IDN	.163
41 YIU CHAN	HGK	.163
42 BLUMENTAL	FRA	.161
43 KHVEN M.	RUS	.161
44 MUZZIO	ARG	.160
45 YAN HUEI	CHN	.159
46 ERAN S.	ISR	.159
47 PRIDAY T.	GBR	.158
48 LEWACIAK	POL	.157
49 DURMUS U.	GBR .NOR	.157
50 VILLABOAS	BRA	.157
51 MORIN	FRA	.156
52 WILDAVSKY	USA .CAN	.156
53 HARPER	GBR	.155
54 MOHTASHAMI	FRA	.152
55 OTOVSI	POL	.151
56 FRANCOLINI	FRA	.151
57 JUVENIA	POL	.149
58 FREED G.	USA	.148
59 HANNAH A.	FRA	.148
60 KIRILENKO	RUS	.147
61 GRESH	FRA	.146
62 GRIME P.	NOR	.145
63 CORSICA	FRA	.144
64 MANSSELL	ZAF	.142
65 PIOTRONSKI	POL	.140
66 ROTHFIELD	AUS .USA	.140
67 HAMEED T.	BAH	.139
68 HENG A.K.	SIN	.137
69 PRESCOTT	AUS	.136
70 VOLDUIRE	FRA	.135
71 DENNISON	FRA	.130
72 ACHTERBERG	SWI .FRA	.127
73 JELLOULI	TUN	.127
74 VALK A.J.	NTH .BEL	.125

Championship Diary

Herman de Wael, now back home, reports that Paul Fauconnier, WBF World Master, who represented Belgium in four World and seven European Championships, has died.

It was suggested that once the Transnational event started there would be plenty of room in the VuGraph. That must have been a comfort to the people who had to stand yesterday, as the room was once again packed to capacity.

Yesterday Lille was at home to Manchester United in the Champions League. Given the choice between playing bridge and watching a football match any sensible person would obviously prefer the former. Alternatively, you could celebrate with your recently married wife the fact that she had just qualified for the Venice Cup Final. Ron Tacchi wanted to show you a picture of Justin Hackett's ticket but we are short of space.

Every team has its supporters, but we doubt any have as many as the German Women. If you visit the site: <http://home.t-online.de/home/joerg-fritsche/bali/index.htm> you will discover why. You can read the content in both German and English.

Transnational Schedule

Thursday 1 November

11.00	Match 12
14.00	Match 13
15.50	Match 14
17.30	Match 15

Friday 2 November

10.30	Semi-Final Session 1
13.20	Semi-Final Session 2
17.10	Final Session 1

Saturday 3 November

10.30	Final Session 2
13.20	Final Session 3

New Books

Bulletin Editor, Brian Senior has produced two books based on this year's International Bridge Championships. These are:

The 2001 Zonal Championships

includes action and results from all of this year's Zonal Championships.
124 A4 pages - US\$15 or FF100

The 2001 World Junior Championships

68 A4 pages - US\$10 or FF70

Books available from Brian in the Bulletin Room or Room Number 2313 in the Concorde-Lafayette.

SESSION I Venice Cup / Semi-final
France v USA II

France began the first session of their semi-final Venice Cup match against USA II with a carryover of 15.5 IMPs. In the early going, it looked as though that might be the margin at the end of the 16-board set.

The bidding and play were nearly identical on the first four boards - same contracts, same number of tricks each time. The first swing was a small one - 4 IMPs to the Americans - on Board 5.

Board 5. Dealer North. N/S Vul.

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

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

West	North	East	South
Bessis	Breed	D'Ovidio	Quinn
3♦	All Pass	Pass	1♣

Even on the lead of a club declarer does not look to have more than eight tricks, but Mildred Breed left nothing to chance by starting with the ♠9. Shawn Quinn cashed her two spade winners, then switched to the ♥K, followed by the ♥J, ducked by Veronique Bessis. Declarer ruffed high on the next trick - a spade from Quinn - went to dummy with the trump ace and cashed the ♣A but there was nothing she could do with the losing heart and USA II recorded +50.

West	North	East	South
Hamman	Cronier	Jackson	Willard
1♦	Pass	Pass	1♣
2♦	Dble	1♠	Pass
	All Pass		

Petra Hamman's more conservative approach netted her side the small swing. She took the same eight tricks as Bessis to chalk up +90.

Both sides missed a chance for a much larger swing on the next deal.

Hotel Information

For those participants staying in de-luxe and standard rooms, breakfast in the Room Neuilly will be extended to 10.00 am

We remind players that they must check their departure dates with the hotel and extend these if necessary.

Board 6. Dealer East. E/W Vul.

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

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

The East/West pairs took a similar route to the spade game.

West	North	East	South
Bessis	Breed	D'Ovidio	Quinn
2♠	3♦	1♣	2♦
4♠	All Pass	Pass	Pass

West	North	East	South
Hamman	Cronier	Jackson	Willard
1♠	2♦	1♣	1♦
4♠	All Pass	Pass	3♦

The contract can be defeated if North leads her singleton club. When she gets in with the ♠Q, she can lead to her partner's ♦A and receive a club ruff. The ♦K would be the setting trick. Neither Breed nor Benedicte Cronier found the defense, however, making life easy for Hamman and Bessis by starting with a low diamond. There was no communication with the South hand any more, so declarer got home at both tables for another flat board.

Both sides bid to a good 6♥ on Board 7, both making 12 tricks for +1430, but France dropped another 4 IMPs on the next deal.

Board 8. Dealer West. None Vul.

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

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

West Bessis 2♠ All Pass	North Breed Pass	East D'Ovidio 3♠	South Quinn 4♥
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Only a major defensive breakdown could let Quinn take more than nine tricks, and Bessis and Catherine D'Ovidio did not err, defeating 4♥ one trick for +50.

West Hamman 2♠ Pass	North Cronier Pass 3NT	East Jackson 3♠ All Pass	South Willard Dble
-------------------------------------	--	--	---------------------------------

Joan Jackson led a spade to Hamman's ace. A spade to the king and a third spade cleared the suit, and Cronier stole a trick with a heart to the jack. She could have cashed out for down two, but she played another heart. Jackson won the ace, then cashed the ♣A and played a club to her partner's king. When it was over, Cronier was down four for -200.

A miscommunication in the bidding by Breed and Quinn produced the first major swing.

Board 9. Dealer North. E/W Vul.

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

West Bessis INT Pass	North Breed Pass Dble Dble	East D'Ovidio 1♣ 2♣ 3♣	South Quinn 1♥ Pass All Pass
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Breed's double showed the unbid suits, which she explained to D'Ovidio on their side of the screen. Quinn, however, did not alert, so she apparently did not interpret the double as responsive, thus North/South went quietly on a deal on which they can make game in spades.

Quinn started with a low heart against the club contract, and D'Ovidio put up the queen. A diamond from dummy was next, and Breed rose with the ace to return a heart. D'Ovidio won the ace, cashed the ♣A and the ♣K and played on diamonds. The defense had a trump and a spade coming. France was +130.

West Hamman Pass 3♣	North Cronier Pass 1♠ 4♠	East Jackson 1♣ 2♣ All Pass	South Willard 1♥ 2♠
-------------------------------------	---	--	-------------------------------------

Cronier and Sylvie Willard bid their way to the good game –

all Cronier had to do was make it. Jackson started with the ♦K to Cronier's ace, and she immediately led a heart to the jack and queen. A diamond was returned, and Cronier put up the ten, ducked by Jackson. Next came Cronier's second heart, and Jackson won the ace perforce. She played the ♣A and a club to the queen and king, ruffed by declarer. A diamond was ruffed in dummy, and Cronier took the right view in spades, playing to the nine in her hand. She was soon claiming +420. France was ahead, 26.5-8.

France earned another 13 IMPs on Board 13, but they could just as easily have lost 13.

Board 13. Dealer North. All Vul.

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

West Bessis Dble 3♠	North Breed 2♦ ⁽¹⁾ 2♥ Pass	East D'Ovidio Pass Pass 4♠	South Quinn Pass Pass All Pass
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⁽¹⁾ Weak two-bid in either major

Quinn's pass seems to have been based on the assumption that her partner's suit was spades. D'Ovidio's simple raise to 4♠ was somewhat conservative considering her assets: trump support, a singleton and an ace. Her decision on this deal was the right one - West can do no better than 11 tricks. Bessis won the ♥Q lead in hand with the ace, cashed two high spades, learning of the bad break. She then ruffed a heart and played a diamond to the queen. Breed ruff but the defenders had only one more trick coming. Bessis was +650.

West Hamman 2♣ 2♠ 5♦ 6♥	North Cronier Pass 2♥ Pass Pass	East Jackson Pass Pass 4♥ 6♣ 6♠	South Willard Pass Pass Pass Dble All Pass
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The good slam needed no more than 2-2 spades, but luck was with the French this time. Cronier led the ♣2, taken by the ace in dummy. Hamman took the same 11 tricks as Bessis for down one and 13 IMPs to France, whose lead had grown to 39.5-9.

USA II earned a couple of overtrick IMPs on Board 14 – Jackson made 12 tricks in 3NT while Bessis took only 10 in the same contract – and they scored another 5 IMPs by going +100 at both tables on the next deal.

The set ended at 39.5-16 for France with a long way to go to the finish.

SESSION 3

Bermuda Bowl / Semi-final



USA II v Poland



It has been many years since a woman participated in the Bermuda Bowl, and no one can remember a woman ever getting to the semi-final round of the event. Rose Meltzer of USA II, therefore, is breaking new ground - and making the most of her opportunity. As play began for the third semi-final session of the Bermuda Bowl, USA II led the favored Polish team 63-61.

The Americans wasted no time adding to their margin - and it could have been more.

Board 1. Dealer North. None Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Meltzer	Balicki	Larsen	Zmudzinski
	1♠	Dble	2♦
3♣	Pass	3NT	Dble
All Pass			

Perhaps Adam Zmudzinski was counting on clubs breaking badly for declarer, considering his singleton. The double worked out badly, however - Kyle Larsen had 10 tricks and soon was scoring up +650. The auction at the other table was vastly different - and declarer landed in a contract that could have been defeated.

West	North	East	South
Martens	Martel	Lesniewski	Stansby
	Pass	1♣ ⁽¹⁾	3♦
Pass	Pass	Dble	Pass
5♣	All Pass		

⁽¹⁾ Polish club: possibly strong

Lew Stansby started off with the ♦Q, taken by Marcin Lesniewski in hand. He cashed the ♣A and played the ♣9 to dummy's king, followed by dummy's singleton heart. Chip Martel could have sunk the contract by playing low, but he played the ♥A and switched to the ♠K. Lesniewski ducked and won the spade continuation. He ruffed a heart, returned to hand with the ♣J and played a third round of hearts. When the king appeared, Lesniewski ruffed and claimed for +400 (discarding the losing spade in dummy on the good ♥Q). It was a 6-IMP loss, but it could have been 12.

Both pairs got too high on the following deal - and both went

down, although it looked in the Open Room as though Lesniewski was going to get it right.

Board 4. Dealer West. All Vul.

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

East played 5♥ at both tables after 1♣ openings by West. Meltzer's 1♣ opening was natural, Krzysztof Martens' was the Polish Club. Eventually, both West's got around to Blackwood, officially getting the partnership too high.

Full details of the play in the closed room were unavailable, but Larsen finished down one for -100.

On Vugraph, Lesniewski had a chance to make the contract, but it didn't work out. Stansby started with the ♦J, taken by the ace. Lesniewski then ruffed a diamond and led a club to the king. Martel ducked smoothly, and Lesniewski cashed the ♦K, pitching a club, and exited dummy with a low club. Martel won the ♣J, thought about his play for awhile, and continued with the ♦Q. Lesniewski ruffed with the ♥9, and the Vugraph analysts predicted that the defense would prevail if Stansby declined to overruff. Stansby did ruff with the queen, and now Lesniewski could make it by taking the right view in hearts. He played a heart to the king and another to the ace, however, and was down one.

The following deal featured a tortuous auction that landed Lesniewski/Martens in the wrong spot, but the opening lead rescued declarer.

Board 7. Dealer South. All Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Meltzer	Balicki	Larsen	Zmudzinski
INT	2♥	3NT	1♠ All Pass

Larsen's 3NT bid was a bold stroke – and it worked like a charm, especially when Cezary Balicki led the ♥5 to the king, and Zmudzinski unblocked the queen. All of a sudden, Meltzer had 11 tricks and +660. At the other table, the auction took its toll on East and West.

West	North	East	South
Martens	Martel	Lesniewski	Stansby
INT	2♥	3♥	1♠ Dble
Pass	Pass	Rdbl	Pass
3♠	Pass	5♦	All Pass

Neither Pole would own up to having a heart stopper, although the two hands combined could stop the suit once. Martens' 3♠ bid seemed to be offering Lesniewski one last chance to bid 3NT, but he just couldn't do it with a singleton king. After a protracted huddle during which he appeared to be undergoing the tortures of the damned, Lesniewski finally bid the diamond game. The next question was whether Stansby could avoid the lead of the ♥Q, which would give the game away. On the auction, it seemed impossible that he would lead anything else, and in fact that is what he led. After all that, Lesniewski used the heart suit – of all things – to discard two of his losing clubs. Eleven tricks made for +600 and a loss of 2 IMPs.

The Americans picked up 11 IMPs on this deal because of a warning from a Polish auction.

Board 8. Dealer West. None Vul.

		♠ A K J						
		♥ K Q 7 2						
		♦ A 8 5						
		♣ J 8 4						
♠ Q 9 8 2	<table border="1"> <tr><td>N</td></tr> <tr><td>W</td></tr> <tr><td>S</td></tr> <tr><td>E</td></tr> </table>	N	W	S	E	♠ 10 5		
N								
W								
S								
E								
♥ 10 9	♥ A J 8 4 3							
♦ K 10 9 6 2	♦ Q 7 4 3							
♣ A 5	♣ 7 6							
		♠ 7 6 4 3						
		♥ 6 5						
		♦ J						
		♣ K Q 10 9 3 2						
West	North	East	South					
Meltzer	Balicki	Larsen	Zmudzinski					
Pass	1♣	Pass	1♦					
Pass	INT	Pass	2♣					
Pass	2♥	Pass	3NT					
All Pass								

One Club was Polish and the INT rebid showed a balanced hand of 18 or more high-card points.

Larsen didn't fancy leading a heart on the auction, so he found the killing diamond lead. From there, declarer could do no better than two down for -100. It wasn't as clear in the Open Room that a heart lead might be dangerous.

West	North	East	South
Martens	Martel	Lesniewski	Stansby
Pass	1♣	1♥	Dble
Pass	2NT	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

Lesniewski knew Martel had heart values but it didn't have to be four of them, so he made the normal-looking lead of a low heart. Martel won and played a club to dummy's king, which was ducked. Martens could not hold up a second time, and when he was in with the ♣A, he switched futilely to the ♦K. Martel won and cashed his club winners. Martens discarded down to the doubleton ♠Q, so Martel ended up with an overtrick. That was an 11-IMP gain for USA II.

On the following deal, the Americans' best opportunity for a big gain slipped through their fingers and turned into a significant loss.

Board 13. Dealer North. All Vul.

		♠ 9 7						
		♥ J 5						
		♦ A Q J 8 5 4						
		♣ J 6 2						
♠ Q 5 4 3	<table border="1"> <tr><td>N</td></tr> <tr><td>W</td></tr> <tr><td>S</td></tr> <tr><td>E</td></tr> </table>	N	W	S	E	♠ A K J 10 2		
N								
W								
S								
E								
♥ K 4 2	♥ A 7							
♦ 10	♦ K 9 7 6 2							
♣ A 8 7 5 3	♣ Q							
		♠ 8 6						
		♥ Q 10 9 8 6 3						
		♦ 3						
		♣ K 10 9 4						
West	North	East	South					
Martens	Martel	Lesniewski	Stansby					
	Pass	1♠	Pass					
3♦	Pass	4♣	Pass					
4♦	Dble	4♥	Pass					
4♠	All Pass							

Stansby led the ♦3 to the ace, and Martel switched to a low spade. Lesniewski won the ace and cashed the king. He was then able to establish a long club in dummy via ruffs and claim 12 tricks.

West	North	East	South
Meltzer	Balicki	Larsen	Zmudzinski
	Pass	1♠	Pass
3♥	Pass	3NT	Pass
4♦	Pass	4NT	Pass
5♣	Pass	6♠	All Pass

The Americans got to the good slam but didn't make it. Zmudzinski led his singleton diamond to the ace, and Balicki switched to a trump. Larsen won in hand and, possibly planning a crossruff, played his ♣Q to the ace and ruffed a club. When he attempted to cash the ♦K, which he would do in trying the crossruff, Zmudzinski ruffed. That was a winner Larsen needed for his slam, and although Larsen could overruff in dummy, he finished a trick short for one down. Instead of winning 13 IMPs for the slam swing, the team lost 13.

Both pairs reached slam on the following deal, but Lesniewski had to sweat more to make his.

Board 14. Dealer East. None Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Meltzer	Balicki	Larsen	Zmudzinski
		1♥	Pass
1♠	Pass	1NT	Pass
2♦	Pass	2♥	Pass
6♥	All Pass		

The club lead from South made Larsen's job relatively easy once the reasonable splits in the red suits came to light. He needed only to ruff one club in dummy to claim his slam; +980 for USA II.

West	North	East	South
Martens	Martel	Lesniewski	Stansby
		1♥	Pass
1♠	Pass	2♦	Pass
2NT	Pass	3♣	Pass
3♦	Pass	3NT	Pass
4♦	Pass	4♥	Pass
4NT	Pass	5♥	Pass
6♦	All Pass		

Stansby started with a low spade and Lesniewski won in dummy, cashed two high diamonds, followed by a heart to his jack. Stansby won the queen and got out with his ♦J. Lesniewski, without the resources for two club ruffs – he couldn't afford to ruff with one of dummy's face cards, anyway, unless the heart finesse worked – had no choice but to take the club finesse. When it held, he could breathe more easily with +920. It was still a 2-IMP loss, but it would have been 14 if the club finesse had been wrong.

Both teams were assessed late penalties of 2 IMPs, and the final net score of the set was 21-11 in favor of USA II, still with high hopes of a Bermuda Bowl upset.

IBPA Handbook

IBPA members are reminded that if they wish their photograph to appear in the IBPA Handbook then they should accost Ron Tacchi, the illustrious photographer of the Daily Bulletin, and ask him to take a snap

A Choice of Improbabilities

by Alan Truscott

The Transnational Teams was not going well for the Truscotts, and the final blow, from a match against Hong Kong players, saw Dorothy with this hand as East:

♠ A 8 7 5 4 2
♥ J 8 7 2
♦ –
♣ J 6 3

She heard this:

West	North	East	South
A.T.	Steve Wong	D.T.	Chan Yiu
	1♣ ⁽¹⁾	1♠	2♦
Pass	4♣ ⁽²⁾	Pass	4♦
5♦	Pass	6♦	All Pass

⁽¹⁾ Strong, Precision

⁽²⁾ Splinter

Partner leads the spade king. What do you do? You must decide whether South has bid the slam with three spade losers or with two. Both are wildly improbable, but one of them must be true. Overtaking, and playing partner for a singleton, seems far-fetched. If it is wrong, you have destroyed the defence. But if it is right, you may survive by playing low: South will still have two spade losers to deal with.

Unfortunately the whole hand was:

Dealer North. N/S Vul

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

Once the spade king held, we were helpless. I shifted to a club, and South briskly ran all his minor-suit winners to squeeze Dorothy in the major suits.

Notice that South was right, up to a point, to bid six diamonds. Unless the spades are blocked he will not make five, so he might as well go for it. Our team mates were in Five Diamonds from the North side, and were somewhat lucky to make that. The lead of the spade ace held them to five.

This contributed substantially to our plunge into the Transnational basement. I am sure that all the teams keeping us company were equally unlucky.

Bridge is a difficult game of chance.

La Fayette nous voilà !

Par Guy Dupont

La dernière séance

Tout était en place, au bridgevision, pour que le spectacle fut complet. Il fut grandiose. Quand les Italiens s'assirent à la table pour la sixième et dernière séance des demi-finales de la Bermuda Bowl, ils avaient un retard de 24 points sur leurs rivaux norvégiens. Petit à petit, ils grignotèrent leur retard et le suspense ne tarda pas à devenir insoutenable. Il y avait du drame dans l'air du rama. La Dame de Cœur joua des tours à Versace. Sur la donne 13, il la chercha à gauche. Elle était à droite. L'eut-elle capturée? L'Italie était en finale. Et sur la dernière des 96 donnes, tout pouvait encore basculer. On eut l'impression qu'elle dura une heure. Le contrat de 4♠, joué par Lauria, était dans les cartes. Mais il chuta. Il rejouera encore longtemps la donne dans sa tête. Il était écrit que la Norvège, partie si fort dans ce match, disputerait la finale de la Bermuda Bowl contre les Etats-Unis 2.

La partie de bras de fer

Le plus beau coup de la prodigieuse dernière séance de la demi-finale entre la Norvège et l'Italie, est sans nul doute celui-ci:

Donne 9. Nord donneur, Est-Ouest vulnérables.

♠ 8 6 5 ♥ 9 8 7 5 ♦ DV 9 6 5 ♣ 4	<table border="1" style="margin: auto;"> <tr><td></td><td>N</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>O</td><td></td><td>E</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td>S</td><td></td></tr> </table>		N		O		E		S		♠ V 9 3 ♥ A 4 2 ♦ R 8 4 ♣ A DV 6	♠ A 4 2 ♥ R 10 6 3 ♦ A 10 3 ♣ 7 5 3
	N											
O		E										
	S											

Ouest	Nord	Est	Sud
<i>Grotheim</i>	<i>Lauria</i>	<i>Aa</i>	<i>Versace</i>
2♣	Passe	1 SA	Passe
3♦	2♦!	Passe	Passe
	Passe	3 SA	(Fin)

La séquence est significative de la partie de bras de fer engagée par les Italiens. Lauria monte au créneau en short, en déclarant 2♦. Le début de la séance ne lui paraît pas favorable et il lui semble indispensable de provoquer quelques swings. Cette intervention va s'avérer décisive pour lui en procurer un.

Dans l'autre salle, où l'on n'a pas jugé indispensable de mettre le nez à la fenêtre, en Nord, Est n'a eu aucune difficulté à gagner 3 SA, sur l'entame à Cœur.

Ici, voyez plutôt ce que va provoquer l'entame du 3 de Carreau faite par Versace. Nord fournit le Valet, et Aa prend déjà la bonne décision en refusant la levée (s'il encaisse, la défense sera en mesure de réaliser quatre levées de Carreau et l'As de Pique - pas question d'envisager de gagner sans faire sauter l'As de Pique). Lauria insiste à Carreau, pour le 8 et le 10 de Sud, qui encaisse l'As. Aa a bien joué : les deux derniers Carreaux de Nord sont inexploitable. Il va pouvoir affranchir ses Piques.

Toutefois, il y a un os! Et de taille. Que défausser du mort sur l'As de Carreau? Ô horreur : celui-ci est bel et bien squeeze! Si le déclarant écarte un Cœur, Sud rejoue le Roi de Cœur, pour affranchir cette couleur. Et s'il jette un Pique (ce qu'il fit à la table) ou un Trèfle, il man-

quera encore une levée et il restera à s'en remettre à l'impasse au Roi de Cœur. Mais le Roi n'était pas au rendez-vous et Aa chuta.

Une petite lueur d'espoir commençait à poindre dans le camp italien...

La question mortelle

Un bridgeur doit savoir faire feu de tout bois. Démonstration, avec Catherine d'Ovidio, dans la troisième séance des demi-finales de la Venice Cup, opposant les Etats-Unis 2 à la France.

Donne 4, Ouest donneur, tous vulnérables.

♠ R ♥ A 10 7 ♦ A R 7 4 ♣ R D 8 5 4	<table border="1" style="margin: auto;"> <tr><td></td><td>N</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>O</td><td></td><td>E</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td>S</td><td></td></tr> </table>		N		O		E		S		♠ AV 8 6 ♥ R 9 8 6 2 ♦ 9 ♣ 10 9 7	♠ 10 9 7 2 ♥ DV 4 3 ♦ V 10 3 ♣ 3 2
	N											
O		E										
	S											

Ouest	Nord	Est	Sud
<i>Bessis</i>	<i>Jackson</i>	<i>d'Ovidio</i>	<i>Hamman</i>
1♣	Passe	1♥	Passe
2♦	Passe	2♥	Passe
4♥	Passe	4♠	Passe
4 SA	Passe	5♥	(Fin)

Juste une petite précision : sur la réponse au Blackwood, Nord, qui se trouve du même côté de l'écran qu'Est, s'enquiert de la nature de ce Blackwood, et sur la réponse de Catherine d'Ovidio, " 5 clés ", la questionne à nouveau pour confirmer que l'enchère signifie bien " 2 clés sans la Dame d'atout ". Affirmatif.

Le décor est planté. Comment auriez-vous joué, sur l'entame du 10 de Pique?

Ayant pris du Roi, la déclarante poursuivie par As de Carreau et Carreau coupé, puis Trèfle pour le Roi et l'As. Nord contre-attaqua à Carreau, pour le Roi (Est défaussant un Trèfle de sa main). La Dame de Trèfle fut encaissée, puis un Trèfle fut coupé du 8 de Cœur et surcoupé du Valet, et Sud ressortit à Pique, pour l'As (et la défausse d'un Carreau du mort).

Le moment de vérité approchait. Catherine d'Ovidio encaissa le Roi de Cœur et rejoua Cœur pour... le 10! Onze levées et 650 dans la colonne.

Dans d'autres salles (et notamment en salle fermée), les déclarants au même contrat, après un début semblable, tirèrent plutôt Roi et As de Cœur en tête, et chutèrent. Pourquoi Catherine préféra-t-elle imaginer quatre atouts en Sud. Parce qu'elle se remémora la question de Nord pendant les enchères : "... sans la Dame d'atout? ". Certes, les conclusions qu'elle pouvait en tirer étaient à ses risques et périls. Toutefois, qui aurait poussé le machiavélisme en Nord au point de poser la question avec la Dame de Cœur en main?

Bien sûr, si la question de Nord sur la Dame d'atout avait été connue de Sud, celle-ci n'aurait pas manqué de couper de la Dame plutôt que du Valet (ce qu'elle aurait pu faire, néanmoins), afin de brouiller les pistes.

SESSION 4

Venice Cup / Semi-final



Austria v Germany



At the half-way point in their semi-final match, Germany led their long-time rivals Austria by 128-108 IMPs. Set four saw plenty of action on vugraph. Germany had added an IMP to their lead when Board 3 hit the table.



Maria Erhart, Austria

Maria Erhart did something very good for her side when she found an off-centre take-out double that, I confess, would not have occurred to me. That allowed Jovanka Smederevac to jump in hearts and force her opponents to an uncomfortable level. The lead against 4♣ was a heart to Erhart's ace. She switched accurately to a low spade, the key to the defence, and that went to the jack and ace. Smederevac won the first club lead and played king and another spade. Sabine Auken ruffed and drew trumps before taking the diamond finesse; down one for -100.

In the other room, Terry Weigkricht and Doris Fischer were allowed a free run and settled in the safer looking spot of 2♠. Pony Nehmert led her singleton club to the jack and ace but Andrea Rauscheid did not give her a ruff, switching instead to a trump. Weigkricht finessed and Nehmert took her king and switched to ace and another heart. Weigkricht had the rest now for +130 and 6 IMPs to Austria.

Note that a club ruff at trick and a spade switch could have netted six tricks for the defence.

Board 3. Dealer South. E/W Vul.

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

West V Arnim	North Erhart	East Auken	South Smederevac
1♦	Dble	2♣	3♥
4♣	All Pass		

West Weigkricht	North Nehmert	East Fischer	South Rauscheid
1♠	Pass	INT	Pass
2♦	All Pass		

Board 5. Dealer North. N/S Vul.

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

West V Arnim	North Erhart	East Auken	South Smederevac
2♠	Pass	1♣	Pass
3♠	Pass	3♥	Pass
		4♥	All Pass

West Weigkricht	North Nehmert	East Fischer	South Rauscheid
2♣	Pass	1♣	Pass
3♣	Pass	2♥	Pass
4♥	All Pass	3♥	Pass

Neither pair's strong club methods coped well with this deal - and, indeed, it caused plenty of problems in other matches also. Von Arnim showed a positive with one minor in a balanced hand then set hearts as trumps, but Auken expected club wastage and made a rather cautious sign-off in 4♥. Weigkricht showed five controls then showed her clubs. She had no clear cuebid available at her third turn so simply raised to 4♥ and Fischer too took the cautious view, fearing too much wastage; no swing.

Board 7. Dealer South. All Vul.

♠ Q 4 3 ♥ A Q 8 2 ♦ 10 9 6 ♣ 9 4 3	<table border="1" style="border-collapse: collapse; width: 40px; height: 40px; margin: auto;"> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">N</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">W E</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">S</td></tr> </table>	N	W E	S	♠ 8 2 ♥ K 9 6 ♠ J 7 5 3 ♣ 8 7 6 5 ♠ K 10 9 ♥ 10 7 5 ♦ A 4 ♥ K Q J 10 2
N					
W E					
S					

West	North	East	South
V Arnim	Erhart	Auken	Smederevac
Pass	2♦	Pass	1♦
Pass	3♠	Pass	3♣
All Pass			4♠

West	North	East	South
Weigkricht	Nehmert	Fischer	Rauscheid
Pass	2♥	Pass	INT
Pass	3♦	Pass	2♠
Pass	4♣	Pass	3♠
Pass	4♠	All Pass	4♦

The Austrian canapé auction rather pinpointed the heart weakness and Auken had a fairly easy time in finding the best opening lead. The ♥9 went to the ace and Von Arnim returned a low heart to the king. A third heart to the queen was followed by a passive diamond exit, leaving Erhart with the queen of trumps to find. She won the ace and tried the king of clubs, in the hope of getting an honest count signal from Von Arnim. Whatever she saw didn't help because she continued with ace and another spade and was one down; -100.

I would have thought that the cuebidding sequence in the other room had also indicated that a heart lead would be the most effective one, but it was a little more difficult from the west hand and Weigkricht actually chose a club. Rauscheid won the ♦A, crossed to the ♠K and took heart discards on the clubs, picking up the trumps along the way as Weigkricht ruffed in on the fourth round; +710 and 13 IMPs to Germany.

Board 8. Dealer West. None Vul.

♠ 9 8 4 3 ♥ A Q 6 ♦ K 9 7 4 ♣ 10 7 ♠ Q 10 7 ♥ 8 3 2 ♦ 10 8 6 ♣ A K 9 3	<table border="1" style="border-collapse: collapse; width: 40px; height: 40px; margin: auto;"> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">N</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">W E</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">S</td></tr> </table>	N	W E	S	♠ A K J 5 2 ♥ K J 10 5 4 ♦ 5 ♣ 6 2 ♠ 6 ♥ 9 7 ♦ A Q J 3 2 ♣ Q J 8 5 4
N					
W E					
S					

West	North	East	South
V Arnim	Erhart	Auken	Smederevac
Pass	Pass	1♠	2NT
Dble	4♦	4♥	Pass
4♠	5♦	Dble	All Pass

West	North	East	South
Weigkricht	Nehmert	Fischer	Rauscheid
Pass	Pass	1♠	2NT
Dble	4♦	Pass	Pass
Dble	Pass	4♥	All Pass

The two auctions were identical as far as 4♦ but then Auken judged to show her second suit immediately while Fischer preferred to wait until her partner doubled. I doubt that these choices affected the outcome significantly, rather, it was another case of Erhart taking a solo action that was not found at the other table when she went on to 5♦.

Auken led a top spade against 5♦ doubled but could not read her partner's play of the seven and switched to a heart, losing the defensive trick in that suit. Erhart won and crossed to dummy with a trump to play a club up. Daniela Von Arnim won and Erhart soon claimed one down; -100.

Where 4♠ might have proved to be hard work due to the 4-1 trump split, 4♥ posed no major difficulty for Fischer. She won the spade lead in dummy and played a heart up. Nehmert took the ace to deal her partner a spade ruff, but with the heart finesse marked on the auction there was only one diamond to come from here; +420 and 8 IMPs to Austria.

Board 9. Dealer North. E/W Vul.

♠ A J 9 3 ♥ A ♦ K 7 2 ♣ Q 10 7 5 4	<table border="1" style="border-collapse: collapse; width: 40px; height: 40px; margin: auto;"> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">N</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">W E</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">S</td></tr> </table>	N	W E	S	♠ Q 8 6 ♥ J 8 7 3 ♦ Q 9 8 5 ♣ K J ♠ K 10 ♥ 10 5 4 ♦ A J 10 4 ♣ A 9 8 3 ♠ 7 5 4 2 ♥ K Q 9 6 2 ♦ 6 3 ♣ 6 2
N					
W E					
S					

West	North	East	South
V Arnim	Erhart	Auken	Smederevac
Dble	Pass	1♦	1♥
Dble	INT	Pass	Pass
3♣	Pass	Pass	2♥
3♠	Pass	3♥	Pass
5♣	All Pass	4♣	Pass

West	North	East	South
Weigkricht	Nehmert	Fischer	Rauscheid
Dble	Pass	1♦	2♥
5♣	4♥	Pass	Pass
	Pass	6♣	All Pass



Pony Nehmert, Germany

Again Erhart found a combination of calls that would not have occurred to many of us, creating difficulties for her opponents. In the circumstances, Auken/Von Arnim did very well to get to the club game. But bidding to game proved not to be good enough. In the other room, Weigkricht doubled the weak jump overcall then, rather than make a second double at her next turn, bravely bid her clubs at the five level. Fischer may have been looking at a weak no trump, but all her cards looked to be working and she added the sixth club. Weigkricht won the heart lead and played the ♣Q to the king and ace. A second club lost to the jack and Nehmert's spade switch saved Weigkricht the worry of finding the queen of diamonds - which you was heavy favourite to do anyway. That was +1370 for Austria and +620 for Germany; 11 IMPs to Austria.

Board 10. Dealer East. All Vul.

♠ 9 ♥ 7 2 ♦ A J 8 7 6 3 2 ♣ 7 5 3	<table border="1" style="margin: auto;"> <tr><td></td><td>N</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td></td><td>E</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td>S</td><td></td></tr> </table>		N		W		E		S		♠ K J 5 2 ♥ Q 8 3 ♦ K 10 9 ♣ A 10 4	
	N											
W		E										
	S											
♠ Q 4 3 ♥ J 10 6 5 ♦ - ♣ K Q J 9 6 2		♠ A 10 8 7 6 ♥ A K 9 4 ♦ Q 5 4 ♣ 8										
West	North	East	South									
V Arnim	Erhart	Auken	Smederevac									
2♥	3♦	Pass	5♦									
Pass	Pass	Dble	All Pass									

West	North	East	South
Weigkricht	Nehmert	Fischer	Rauscheid
2♣	Pass	1♦	1♠
3NT	All Pass	2NT	Pass

The Austrian run continued with another double-figure swing. Fischer's 1♦ opening silenced Nehmert and the Austrians overbid to the bad no trump game. Rauscheid led the ace of hearts to take a look at dummy then switched to a low diamond. Nehmert won the ace and returned a diamond, ducked. Now Rauscheid just cashed out for down one; -100.

Erhart found the courage (it is called something else when the result is -1100) to overcall 3♦ and Smederevac raised to game. You or I might have been tempted to redouble with the South hand when Auken doubled, but then we are not as used to playing with Maria and Smederevac was happy to put down a rather suitable dummy in 5♦ doubled. Auken led a spade and Erhart won the ace and gave up a club. Unable to attack trumps to good effect, the defence was powerless to prevent Erhart from ruffing two clubs in dummy for +750 and 12 IMPs to Austria, who had moved into the lead by a single IMP.

Board 11. Dealer South. None Vul.

♠ Q 10 ♥ 8 3 ♦ J 6 5 2 ♣ Q J 10 9 7	<table border="1" style="margin: auto;"> <tr><td></td><td>N</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td></td><td>E</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td>S</td><td></td></tr> </table>		N		W		E		S		♠ A J 8 4 ♥ A J 9 7 5 ♦ K 3 ♣ K 5	♠ K 9 7 3 2 ♥ - ♦ Q 10 9 8 ♣ 6 4 3 2
	N											
W		E										
	S											
		♠ 6 5 ♥ K Q 10 6 4 2 ♦ A 7 4 ♣ A 8										

West	North	East	South
V Arnim	Erhart	Auken	Smederevac
Pass	2NT	Pass	1♥
Pass	3♦	Pass	3♣
Pass	3♠	Pass	3♥
Pass	4NT	Pass	4♦
Pass	5NT	Pass	5♠
All Pass		Pass	7♥
West	North	East	South
Weigkricht	Nehmert	Fischer	Rauscheid
Pass	2NT	Pass	1♥
Pass	3♠	Dble	3♥
Pass	Rdbl	Pass	4♣
Pass	4♦	Pass	4♥
Pass	4NT	Pass	5♦
Pass	6♥	All Pass	

The Austrian lead did not survive the next deal as Erhart/Smederevac bid to the hopeless grand slam. Two No



Jovanka Smederevac, Austria

Trump was a forcing heart raise and 3♣/♦ showed values in the bid suits. After an exchange of cuebids, Erhart took control, asking for aces then inviting seven by bidding 5NT. Smederevac decided that her sixth trump was an extra trick and bid the grand - down one for -50.

Nehmert also began with a forcing heart raise and Rauscheid showed a decent hand with no particular distributional feature to show. A series of cuebids again led to North asking for key cards but she then settled for the small slam, having been warned that the second round of spades would be a problem; +980 and 14 IMPs to Germany.

Board 14. Dealer East. None Vul.

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

West V Arnim	North Erhart	East Auken	South Smederevac
INT	All Pass	1♥	Pass
West Weigkricht	North Nehmert	East Fischer	South Rauscheid
2♦	Pass	1♠	Pass
3♦	Pass	2♥	Pass
		3NT	All Pass

The West hand was a bad one for the German methods and semi-forcing INT response was the best solution that Von Arnim

could find. With no attractive rebid, Auken passed, only to find that the combined 24-count was delivering a cold game, duly bid by Austria in the other room. Both declarers took nine safe tricks for 6 IMPs to Austria.

Board 15. Dealer South. N/S Vul.

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

West V Arnim	North Erhart	East Auken	South Smederevac
INT	Pass	Pass	Pass
Pass	2♦	Pass	2♣
Pass	Pass	Dble	All Pass
West Weigkricht	North Nehmert	East Fischer	South Rauscheid
1♦	Pass	1♥	Pass
INT	Pass	3NT	All Pass

The two flat 12-counts do not fit well together and it was no surprise that Weigkricht could not find a way to come to nine tricks; down one for -50 after a club lead.

Von Arnim's mini no trump kept her side at a safe level and Germany was already booked for a modest gain when Smederevac came in with an overaggressive 2♣ overcall to show both majors. Two Diamonds asked for the overcaller's longer major and when Smederevac showed this Auken doubled. Von Arnim gave that a long look but eventually did the right thing by passing.

It looks as though the contract can go for 800 if the defence is accurate, but the actual 500 was still quite enough for the Germans. Von Arnim led the jack of clubs, Rusinow, and Smederevac did well to cover. Now Auekn was on lead and wasn't sure that it was a good idea to play another club. She switched to a spade and Smederevac put in the jack. Von Arnim thought for some time before, surprisingly, playing the king. Smederevac won the ♠A and played a heart to the ten and ace. Von Arnim played a trump and Auken won the queen and returned her low club. That was an important play and there was another important play to come as Von Arnim switched to the queen of diamonds. The defence had their seven tricks now for +500 and 11 IMPs to Germany.

Note that without the diamond play from West there is a danger that declarer can draw trumps and play three rounds of hearts to endplay East and force her to lead up to the king of diamonds.

Austria gained just 1 IMP on the set and trailed by 156-175 with 32 boards to play the next day.

SESSION 6

Bermuda Bowl / Semi-final



Italy v Norway



When you're putting a match on Vugraph, particularly the deciding set of an important phase of the tournament, you hope for high drama and a relatively close score. Italy and Norway, in the deciding set of their Bermuda Bowl semifinal battle, delivered just what the organizers wanted. In a riveting match that wasn't settled until the last deal was played, Norway survived a series of reverses near the end to advance to the championship round against the surprising USA II squad.

Norway entered the set ahead by 24 IMPs, and the set began quietly, with three straight pushes on relatively routine deals - 4♠ making an overtrick, a slam bid at every table in the Bermuda Bowl and Venice Cup semifinals and a normal game with a normal opening lead to defeat it a trick.

Norway picked up an IMP on Board 4 when Tor Helness took 12 tricks in 4♥ while Alfredo Versace took only 11 in 3NT on the same cards.

An enterprising bid by Versace helped his team to a 5-IMP gain on the following deal.

Board 5. Dealer North. N/S Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Duboin	Helness	Bocchi	Helgemo
	Pass	Pass	1♥
Dble	Pass	1♠*	2♥
Dble	Pass	2NT	Pass
3♣	Pass	3NT	All Pass

Geir Helgemo's rebid of 2♥ gave Duboin the room to show his extra values with a second double, and Norberto Bocchi was soon playing the notrump game. Geir Helgemo led a low heart to the 7, jack and king. Bocchi played a club from his hand, ducking when Helgemo played the queen. There was no way to prevent declarer from taking a ninth trick from there, and Italy scored +400.

West	North	East	South
Grotheim	Lauria	Aa	Versace
	Pass	Pass	1♥
Dble	Pass	2♣	3♥
All Pass			

Versace's jump in hearts prevented the Norwegians from as-



Tor Helness, Norway

sessing their full strength and they went quietly, although Terja Aa took some time to pass. Glenn Grotheim started with the top two spades and gave Aa a spade ruff. The defense still had three tricks to come, so Versace was -200, but it was still a 5-IMP gain for Italy, now within 20 IMPs.

The difference in opening leads led to a 13-IMP gain for Norway on the next deal.

Board 6. Dealer East. E/W Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Duboin	Helness	Bocchi	Helgemo
	Pass	Pass	Pass
1♥	Pass	INT ⁽¹⁾	Pass
3♥	Pass	4♥	All Pass

⁽¹⁾ Spades

Tor Helness got matters over quickly, starting with the ♦K. The defenders took the first four tricks in the minors for +100.

West	North	East	South
Grotheim	Lauria	Aa	Versace
1♥	Pass	Pass	Pass
3♥	Pass	1♠	Pass
		4♥	All Pass

Lorenzo Lauria didn't fancy starting with either of the minors, so he went with a passive heart. Grotheim won and ran off four more trumps before taking his only legitimate chance with spades. When that suit was just right for declarer, he finished with 11 tricks and +650.

Norway was back on top by 33 IMPs.

Versace and Lauria overbid on the next deal to give up another big swing.

Board 7. Dealer South. All Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Duboin	Helness	Bocchi	Helgemo
Pass	1♦	1♥	Pass
4♣	4♠	All Pass	1♠

All the bidding by the Italians kept the Helness and Helgemo from getting into trouble. Ten tricks was the limit, but that was where the Norwegians stopped, and they recorded +620. At the other table, Grotheim and Aa stayed out of the auction - to their benefit.

West	North	East	South
Grotheim	Lauria	Aa	Versace
Pass	1♠	Pass	3♥
Dble	4♣	Pass	5♣
Pass	5♠	All Pass	

The 3♥ bid, a spade raise, was unlucky for the Italians since it gave Grotheim the chance to double for the lead. After Aa started with the ♥A and another heart, Lauria had no chance unless Grotheim played a third round of hearts. He played the ♦8, and Lauria was one off.

That was 12 more IMPs for Norway, whose lead had increased to 186-141. A berth in the Bermuda Bowl final seemed a near certainty.

Not so fast - there was still a lot of bridge to play, and Italians did not earn their status as one of the top teams in the world by giving up.

Norway picked up an IMP on the next board, but then the

roof nearly caved in on them, starting with the following deal.

Board 9. Dealer North. E/W Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Duboin	Helness	Bocchi	Helgemo
3♥	Pass	INT	Pass
	Pass	3NT	All Pass

The 3♥ bid offered a choice of games and showed a four-card spade suit. Helgemo started with a low heart, and there was nothing to the play after that. He needed only to play on spades to take 10 tricks for +630.

West	North	East	South
Grotheim	Lauria	Aa	Versace
2♣	Pass	INT	Pass
3♦	2♦	Pass	2NT
	Pass	3NT	All Pass

Versace led the ♦3 to the 2 and jack, and Aa agonized over his play for several minutes before playing low. Another diamond came back, and Aa made another spectacular play by inserting the 8. It looked as though he was going to make the contract because Versace was the one with the ♠A. Versace had other ideas, however. When he cashed the ♦A, dummy was squeezed. Whatever Aa discarded on the ♦A would cost him a trick. When Aa pitched a spade from dummy, Versace cashed the ♠A and exited with a spade. He had only to wait for his heart trick. Plus 100 was worth 12 IMPs to Italy.

The next deal was good for even more IMPs for Italy, the reigning World Team Olympiad champs.

Board 10. Dealer East. All Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Duboin	Helness	Bocchi	Helgemo
Pass	1♣	Pass	Pass
Pass	2♦	1♥	1♠
All Pass		Pass	3NT

In the semifinals of the Bermuda Bowl and the Venice Cup, this deal was played in 3NT at all but one table. Every declarer went down, including Helgemo. Giorgio Duboin started with the ♥J, ducked all around, and continued with a heart to declarer's queen. Helgemo continued with a club to dummy's 10 and East's jack and, with diamonds splitting badly, he was soon one down.

The one table at which 3NT was not the contract was in the open room on Vugraph – and it was a stunning development.

West	North	East	South
Grotheim	Lauria	Aa	Versace
Pass	2♦	Pass	Pass
2♠	Pass	Dble	Redbl
All Pass		Pass	Dble

Lauria's 2♦ opener showed a balanced hand of 18-20 high-card points. Aa's decision to enter the auction (showing the majors) opposite a passed partner seems suicidal. Indeed, the Italians were happy to exact a fitting punishment for Aa's rash action.

Lauria led the ♠A and continued the suit. Grotheim played the ♦8 to North's queen, and a heart was returned. Versace got in with the ♥Q and continued with the ♠J to dummy's queen.

Grotheim tried another diamond, taken by Lauria with the king. A second heart but Versace in, and he picked up dummy's last trump with the 10. On this trick, Grotheim was in difficulty, and he had to discard a club. If Lauria had kept all four clubs, the defense could have inflicted a six-trick set for +1400. Lauria, however, threw a club himself and ended up having to give Grotheim a trick in the end. Even so, it was -1100 for the Norwegians, now gasping for air after the 15-IMP loss.

The margin was now 19 IMPs. It seemed that only moments before it had been 46.

Italy's run continued on Board 11 when Versace and Lauria bid a good slam that Helness and Helgemo didn't even sniff at in the other room. The 11-IMP swing put the margin at 8 IMPs.

Either side could have gained on the next deal, but both played notrump partials, taking 10 tricks on a favourable lie of all the important cards. There were four boards to go, and Norway was hanging on by a fingernail.

Norway got some breathing room on Board 13.

Board 13. Dealer North. All Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Duboin	Helness	Bocchi	Helgemo
Pass	1♥	Pass	2♣
Pass	2♥	Pass	4♥
All Pass			

Bocchi led the ♣5, and though Helness guessed hearts to bring his trick total to nine, he still needed a successful guess in spades. He didn't work it out, however, and was one down. Good guesses were also needed in the other room, and things worked out much worse for Italy.

West	North	East	South
Grotheim	Lauria	Aa	Versace
Pass	1♥	Pass	2♣
Pass	2♥	Pass	2NT
Pass	3♦	Pass	3♥
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

Grotheim led the ♠J, and Versace thought about his play for some time before putting up the queen – his first wrong guess. With the diamond suit wide open, declarer couldn't afford to play low, so he won the ace. Next came three rounds of clubs, ending in dummy, and it came time to guess hearts. When Versace played a low heart from dummy, the Italian partisans in the Vugraph audience thought he might put in the 9, bringing home the contract. Instead, he played the king and another heart to the jack. Aa won the queen and the defenders were good. Down four added 7 IMPs to the staggering Norwegians' IMP bank. With three boards to go they were ahead by 15.

The margin shrank to 5 on the next deal.

Board 14. Dealer East. None Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Duboin	Helness	Bocchi	Helgemo
Pass	Pass	Pass	4♥

Duboin started with the ♦J, which went to Bocchi's ace. Boc-

The Polish Bridge Union wants to thank the **Prokom Software Company** (the largest software company in Poland, listed on the Warsaw Stock Exchange) and the **CA-IB** (a member of the Bank Austria/Creditanstalt Group) for their generous support for the PBU.

chi played back a spade, ruffed by Helgemo. Declarer entered dummy with a club to the ace to take the losing heart finesse. Another club came back, and there was no way Helgemo could come to more than nine tricks and he was -50.

West	North	East	South
<i>Grotheim</i>	<i>Lauria</i>	<i>Aa</i>	<i>Versace</i>
Pass	1♠	Pass	1♥
Pass	4♥	All Pass	3♥

Grotheim led the ♦Q to the 5, ace and 9. Aa won and got off lead with the ♥3, and Versace put in the queen. Grotheim played the ♣9 to the jack, 2 and king. Versace cashed the ♥A and played the 10 to Aa's jack. Aa could have insured defeat of the contract by returning a club, cutting communication with dummy's winners. When he exited with a diamond, Versace went up with the king and ran the rest of his trumps, squeezing Grotheim, who took away any guess Versace might have had by discarding all his diamonds. Plus 420 was a 10-IMP gain for Italy, who seemed to have enough momentum to pull out a victory and make it to the final of a world championship for the second straight year.

The penultimate board was a push, as Norway played a cold 3NT for +600 and Italy, skating on the edge, went past 3NT to a beatable 5♣.

Board 15. Dealer South. N/S Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Duboin</i>	<i>Helness</i>	<i>Bocchi</i>	<i>Helgemo</i>
Pass	1♠	2♥	1♣
Pass	3NT	All Pass	Pass

On the lead of the ♥J, Helness had nine tricks. He didn't try for overtricks and scored up +600.

West	North	East	South
<i>Grotheim</i>	<i>Lauria</i>	<i>Aa</i>	<i>Versace</i>
Pass	1♠	2♥	1♣
Pass	3♥	Pass	3♣
Pass	4♦	Pass	4♣
All Pass			5♣

Aa had a chance to double for a diamond lead, which would have scuttled the contract, but he passed and Grotheim made the normal lead of a heart. Versace claimed soon after for +600.

With one board to go, Norway clung to a 5-IMP lead.

Board 16. Dealer West. E/W Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Duboin</i>	<i>Helness</i>	<i>Bocchi</i>	<i>Helgemo</i>
Pass	1♠	Pass	2♦
Pass	2♥	Pass	4♠
All Pass			

Bocchi led the ♥K, which Helness ruffed in dummy. He played the ♦Q, covered by the king and ruffed, then ruffed a heart to dummy. Helness discarded his last two heart losers on the top diamonds, then played dummy's now-singleton ♠10 to his king and Bocchi's ace. Another heart tapped declarer, who could have succeeded even from there, but he went down. The play record does not describe subsequent plays.

The contract can be made on the lead of the ♥K if declarer ruffs in dummy, cashes the ♦A (pitching a heart) and ruffs out the king, then ruffs another heart to dummy to take another discard on the ♦J. He then plays the ♠10 to his king and East's ace, and it doesn't matter if East taps declarer with a heart. Dummy's diamonds are all good, and declarer can set about making East ruff, losing three trump tricks but nothing more. The Norwegians from the closed room, having finished well ahead of the open room, were on hand to watch the final deal on Vugraph. It was Lauria's turn at bat with a berth in the final at stake.

West	North	East	South
<i>Grotheim</i>	<i>Lauria</i>	<i>Aa</i>	<i>Versace</i>
Pass	1♠	Pass	2♦
Pass	2♥	Pass	2♠
Pass	2NT	Pass	4♠
All Pass			

Aa considered his lead for some time before starting with the ♣10. Lauria pondered his line of play for a long time before finally rising with dummy's ace, playing the 9 from hand. Lauria played the ♦Q and ruffed when Grotheim covered with the king. A heart ruff was next, followed by the ♦A for a heart pitch and the ♦J for a club pitch. Lauria then played a low club from dummy to his king. Aa ruffed and it was his turn to think. The Vugraph audience could see that if he played the ♠A and the ♠J that Lauria would have two inescapable heart losers, but he seemed to be pondering some other move. Finally, to the great relief of the Norway partisans, Aa plunked his spades honors on the table, earning his team a trip to the Bermuda Bowl final against USA II. They surely used the entire rest of the day Wednesday to recuperate from the exhausting match.



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