

Daily News

World Bridge Championships
Paris FRANCE

22ND OCT - 3RD NOV
2001



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Issue No. 14

PDF version, courtesy of WBF

Saturday evening, 3 November 2001

USA II give Rose a Birthday to Remember



José Damiani congratulates the winners

Contents

Bermuda Bowl Final	2
Transnational Teams Final	2
The Crucial Deal	2
President's Closing Speech	3
Bermuda Bowl - Session 5 (Norway v USA II)	4
Dani At The Bat	6
Venice Cup - Session 6 (France v Germany)	7
The Norwegian Vikings	9
La Fayette nous voilà!	10
Championship Diary	11
A Shining Rose	12
The Louis Vuitton French Ladies Team	13
Bermuda Bowl - Session 7 (Norway v USA II)	14

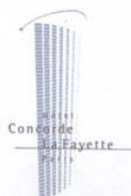
USA II, comprising **Rose Meltzer, Kyle Larsen, Chip Martel, Lew Stansby, Alan Sontag** and **Peter Weichsel**, won the Bermuda Bowl today, defeating **Norway's Terje Aa, Boye Brogeland, Glenn Grøtheim, Geir Helgemo, Tor Helness**, and **Erik Sælensminde**.

Norway made a good start in the first of today's sessions and built up a useful lead. However, **USA II** came back and at the end of the first sixteen boards Norway's lead was only 2 IMPs. In the final session the Americans had the better of some heavy exchanges and finally won by 21 IMPs.

Martel, Stansby, Sontag and Weichsel have all won before, but it is a first for Larsen. The same is true for the amazing, history making, Rose Meltzer, the first woman to win a Bermuda Bowl - and on her birthday. What a present!

Transnational Teams

Malcolm Brachman's team, representing **USA** and **Brazil**, **Eddie Wold, Mike Passel, Michael Seamon, Geoff Hampson, Diego Brenner** and **Gabriel Chagas** are the new World Transnational Champions. In the final they defeated **France**, captained by **Cyril Bureau** with **Danièle Gaviard, Patrick Sussel, Philippe Selz** and **Vanessa Reess**.



Bermuda Bowl

Final						
		Carry-over	Sessions 1-6	Session 7	Session 8	Total
USA II	NORWAY	0 - 1	195 - 194	42 - 44	49 - 26	286 - 265

Transnational Teams

Final						
		Carry-over	Session 1	Session 2	Session 3	Total
BRACHMAN	BUREAU	0 - 0	33 - 24	41 - 9	46 - 9	120 - 49

The Crucial Deal

Trailing by just 2 IMPs going into the last 16 deals of the 2001 Bermuda Bowl final, USA II had turned that deficit into a 12 IMP lead with seven deals to go. The next deal was to decide the match.

Board 122. Dealer East. All Vul.

♠ 9 ♥ AKQ106 ♦ A4 ♣ A10542	<table border="1" style="margin: auto; border-collapse: collapse;"> <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		♠ KQ86 ♥ 972 ♦ J1092 ♣ K9 ♠ AJ107 ♥ J854 ♦ Q765 ♣ 7	♠ 5432 ♥ 3 ♦ K83 ♣ QJ863
	N											
W		E										
	S											

In the Closed Room, Martel/Stansby stopped in 4♥, making twelve tricks for +680. On vugraph, Terje Aa and Glenn Groetheim bid to the heart slam. If the slam made, it would be a 13 IMP swing to Norway and they would be back in the lead by a single IMP. If, on the other hand, the slam were to be defeated, the 13 IMPs would go the other way and USA2 would lead by 25 IMPs with only six boards to play.

Peter Weichsel knew that dummy was precisely 4-4-4-1, singleton club, with 8-10 HCP, including one ace but no king. All that he knew about declarer's hand was that it was suitable for a strong club opening and that declarer was happy to bid a slam on the information he had about dummy.

What would you lead from the North hand? The audience waited while Weichsel went to the bathroom and the rest of the players took the opportunity to stretch their legs. When he came back, Weichsel found the killing lead of the two of hearts. On a non-heart lead, declarer can ruff all four of his small clubs in dummy and has twelve tricks, but after the trump lead the 5-2 club split left him without recourse. The slam was one down and USA II had a 25-IMP lead. As the final margin of victory was just 21 IMPs, Weichsel's lead won the match and the trophy for his team. On a non-heart lead, Norway would have won by 5 IMPs.



The Bermuda Bowl



The Venice Cup

Statistics

Your illustrious Bulletin photographer has estimated some interesting statistics involving his role within the Daily News.

Photos taken: More than 2000

Useable Photos: about 150

Charging of Batteries: More than 80 charges

Time spent waiting for, or travelling on, Hotel lifts: More than 6 hours

Sleeping: Not enough

Stairs climbed: More than 3000

Number of little bacon bits eaten for breakfast: More than 5000

Number of working pepper pots in Breakfast room: Zero

Number of times told Bulletin Editor not to exaggerate: One Million



José Damiani
President of the WBF

PRESIDENT'S CLOSING SPEECH

Paris, France - 3rd November 2001

We made it!

We, that is to say, you and us, yes we made it.

We did what we said we would and nowadays that is not always so easy.

Thanks to the incredible devotion of all our staff, including Christine, Anna and Carol, whether French or international, and despite all the difficulties, I believe that we can say today that these Paris World Bridge Championships have been a success.

A success from the point of view of participation, as everybody was here finally, even our Pakistani friend, Zia, as well as the Indonesians (who qualified in the quarter-finals) and the Americans who achieved extraordinary results getting a gold medal in the Bermuda Bowl, the Seniors Bowl and the Transnationals and a bronze in the Venice Cup, with a special mention for Rose Meltzer, the only woman ever to have been on a winning Bermuda Bowl team, who is also celebrating her birthday today. We also had an unexpectedly high number of transnational teams. A success in terms of the crowd of spectators in the BridgeVision with Jean-Paul Meyer who coordinated the commentaries from Eric Kokish, Barry Rigal, Philippe Cronier, Michel Bessis and Pierre-Yves Guillaumin, with Elisabeth Antelme, Elisabeth Piganeau, Patrice Piganeau, Odile Beineix behind the scenes, and Bernard Delange, Paul Binisti and Bernadette Pasquier doing the video - the room had to be enlarged twice to accommodate about 10.000 people over the two weeks - with Marc Hodler, the IOC Vice President, as a famous kibitzer. A success with respect to the media coverage with many TV, radio and press reports. Thanks to Mark Horton, Brent Manley, Brian Senior, Stelios Hatzidakis, Ron Tacchi, Guy Dupont, George Georgopoulos for the Bulletin and our press people Elly Ducheyne, Agnes Fabre and Helene Vivier.

Mercure Création as well as E-Bridge broadcast the final stages through Internet.

My sincere thanks go to all of you, the workers, in all the different fields:

Anna-Maria Torlontano, Monique Callon, Denise Gabriel and Micheline Merot in hospitality, Ton Kooijman, François Evrard and Patrick Flodrops in charge of Operations and particularly Mark Newton, assisted by Vincent Lataire, without whose expertise we would not have had the Press and Bulletin rooms. And, of course, not forgetting Chris Diment on the systems desk, Jan and Corrie Louwerse on the Line-ups, Claude Dadoun and Harvey Fox on the scoring and results, Annie Chekroun, Anna-Maria Orlandi, Nadia Protogène and Brigitte Piquet on the Duplication, and Pascal Ferrandini who was responsible for the transport with Jean Paul Noel.

We have tried to do our job, which is to organize our world events for the love of our sport and the pleasure of the players.

We sincerely hope that we will defeat terrorism in order to

meet again in future in a more "relaxed" atmosphere.

However, the fighting spirit was very much in evidence here, as was the fair play.

Even though the competition was rigorous, it is amazing to highlight the fact that we held only three appeals, which shows that our new policy promulgated in Lausanne is working, helped by our formidable team of Tournament Directors under the leadership of Bill (Kojak) Schoder, Max Bavin, Bertrand Gignoux, Richard Grenside, Jean-Louis Pennec, Guillermo Poplawski and Antonio Riccardi.

As you can see, these people come from all over the world though here, of course, the French Bridge Federation, its President Bernard Liochon, its management committee and Jean-Claude Beineix its CEO, all played a special role.

During the whole fortnight, I have been very touched by the expressions of sympathy, congratulations and gratitude that you have been so kind to give me.

Thank you. Thank you very much for your appreciation that I have shared with my colleagues on the WBF Executive Council.

Next year, we are going to organize the 4th edition of the IOC Grand Prix as an attraction in Salt Lake City prior to the opening of the Winter Olympic Games, from 2nd to 6th February.

We are pinning a lot of hopes on this presentation to the Executive Commission of the IOC. They will certainly decide our future. Again, if we have been working so hard in this direction, it is because we believe that it will considerably help the national federations and, moreover, you the champions in your image and living.

Later, in August, we will hold the next World Championships in Montreal, Canada.

I invite all of you to come. Montreal is the perfect transition between two worlds - American and Europe - with friendly people who will welcome you very warmly.

Let me now extend my congratulations to all of you and especially to the medallists in all the events, Seniors Bowl, Transnationals, Venice Cup and Bermuda Bowl.

We said from the beginning that these Championships are dedicated to the victims of terrorism. I would add today that they are also dedicated to the victims of the war all over the world. For this reason, we will not use the national flags as they would have to be flown at half-mast, nor will we play the anthems.

These Championships were organized for you and we will now proceed with the presentation of medals that some of you have so very richly deserved. To show that our family is united, we will make the presentations under the WBF flag and our motto "Bridge for Peace".

SESSION 5

Bermuda Bowl / Final



Norway v USA II



At the midway point in the final of the Bermuda Bowl, Norway had a very healthy lead of 164-85 IMPs. There were still plenty of boards left over which to make a comeback but the Americans really wanted to cut the deficit quickly.



Chip Martel, USA

would make it awkward to get backwards and forwards to take three heart ruffs. Brogeland/Saelensminde were probably not too worried at stopping in five making twelve tricks; +680. However, when Lew Stansby made a limit raise, Chip Martel drove to slam on his own and without revealing very much about his hand. Geir Helgemo tried to cash the ace of clubs and it was plain sailing for Martel after that. He ruffed the club and played ace of hearts and ruffed a heart, played a spade to hand and ruffed another heart, then pitched the last heart on the king of clubs. Martel now drew trumps before knocking out the ace of diamonds; +1430 and 13 IMPs to USA2.

Board 7. Dealer South. All Vul.

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

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

Board 6. Dealer East. E/W Vul.

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

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

West	North	East	South
Stansby	Helness	Martel	Helgemo
3♠	Pass	4♦	Pass
4♠	Pass	6♠	All Pass

West	North	East	South
Brogeland	Larsen	Saelensminde	Meltzer
3♥	Pass	4♣	Pass
4♠	Pass	5♣	Dble
5♠	All Pass		Pass

Six Spades is by no means secure; a trump lead, for example,

West	North	East	South
Stansby	Helness	Martel	Helgemo
Pass	Pass	1♥	Pass
2♦	Pass	2♥	Pass
3♦	All Pass		

West	North	East	South
Brogeland	Larsen	Saelensminde	Meltzer
1♦	Pass	1♥	Pass
2♦	Pass	3♣	Pass
3♦	Pass	3NT	All Pass

Martel/Stansby stopped safely in 3♦ when Stansby did not open the West hand. A successful diamond guess meant an overtrick; +130.

After Boye Brogeland had opened the West hand at the one level, there was no question of the Norwegians stopping short of game. Rose Meltzer led a spade to Erik Saelensminde's jack and he played a diamond to the king and ten. The ♦Q to pin the jack would have produced an overtrick but Saelensminde guessed to play for Larsen to have falsecarded from ♦J105 and continued with a low card, losing to the jack. He had no chance from here and was three down for -300; 10 IMPs to USA2.

Although Saelensminde's play was unsuccessful, consider that South appeared to have led from length, suggesting that she might be shorter in other suits - and restricted choice considerations applied equally to the ♦5-2 as to the ♦J-10.

Board 9. Dealer North. E/W Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Stansby	Helness	Martel	Helgemo
Pass	INT	Pass	2♥
All Pass	2♠	Pass	3NT

West	North	East	South
Brogeland	Larsen	Saelensminde	Meltzer
Pass	1♣	Pass	1♠
Pass	2♥	Pass	2♠
All Pass	3♠	Pass	3NT

Meltzer received a diamond lead from Brogeland and had no real chance of success. She won the ten with her king and played to the jack of spades. The contract was eventually down three for -150.

Tor Helness opened a slightly off-centre INT and the less revealing auction helped him a little as he received a club lead into his tenace. The hand is not easy to play but the spades lie favourably if declarer guesses to play king, then jack to the ace and a third round - though that is not in itself sufficient to bring in nine tricks. Helness chose to lead a diamond at trick two and Stansby won the king with his ace to lead a club through. Helness won and played the king of hearts from his hand. Martel gave that a good look before eventually ducking. Now Helness cashed the king of clubs, throwing dummy's small diamond, and continued with three rounds of spades. Stansby won the third round and played a heart through to Martel's jack. Martel had the setting tricks in his hand at this moment but appears to have simply miscounted the tricks, because he played back a diamond and dummy had enough winners to bring declarer's total to nine; +400 and 11 IMPs to Norway.

Board 10. Dealer East. All Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Stansby	Helness	Martel	Helgemo
3♣	4♥	1♠	2♥
4NT	Pass	4♠	Pass
5NT	Pass	5♥	Pass
6♠	All Pass	6♥	Pass

West	North	East	South
Brogeland	Larsen	Saelensminde	Meltzer
4♥	5♥	1♠	3♥
7♠	All Pass	6♥	Pass

When Martel could rebid his spades freely at the four level, Stansby took charge by asking for key cards then inviting seven. Martel's 6♥ denied the ability to bid the grand himself and also denied either minor-suit king. Stansby had no reason to bid the grand now and signed off in six. Martel won the heart lead while throwing a diamond from hand, then laid down the ace of spades. He had got the trumps wrong but in a safe manner. Martel continued by ruffing the small heart, cashing the king of spades and playing on clubs. Whether Helgemo ruffed in at some point or waited to be thrown in with the queen of spades, Martel had avoided the diamond finesse; +1430.

Meltzer's weak jump overcall added momentum to the auction. Brogeland began by showing a good 4♠ raise and Saelensminde invited seven over Larsen's 5♥ barrage bid. Looking at so many key cards, it was no surprise when Brogeland accepted the invitation. Saelensminde also won the heart lead and laid down the ace of spades. He failed to find the endplay, perhaps not having sufficient enthusiasm to look for it when he was already down in a grand slam. Eventually taking the diamond finesse led to two off for -200 and 17 IMPs to USA2.

Board 12. Dealer West. N/S Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Stansby	Helness	Martel	Helgemo
Pass	1♥	Pass	INT
Pass	2NT	Pass	3♣
Pass	3♦	Pass	4♦
Pass	4NT	Pass	5♦
All Pass			

West Brogeland 2♦ Pass	North Larsen Dble 3NT	East Saelensminde Rdbl All Pass	South Meltzer 3♣
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Brogeland's 2♦ opening showed at least 4-4 in the majors with a weak hand. The double showed high cards and the redouble asked for partner's longer major. East/West could have escaped into 2♣ without too much pain so the Americans did the right thing when they bid to their vulnerable 3NT instead of trying for a penalty. Saelensminde led the jack of hearts to the ace and Bogeland switched to a low spade to declarer's king. Larsen cashed the ace of clubs then led the ten of diamonds to the queen and king. He played on clubs now for ten tricks; +630.

Helgemo/Helness had the auction to themselves but did not make the best of use of this freedom. Helgemo's 3♣ was artificial and so was 3♦. When Helgemo responded 4♦ to that Helness explained that this bid did not exist in the system. Martel led a club against 5♦ and Helness won and played ace of diamonds followed by a diamond to the jack. A heart was ducked so that his king won, and he next played the ♠K from hand. Stansby won that and, after some thought, returned a spade. Although dummy's heart loser now vanished, there was just too much work to do and the contract had to fail by a trick; -100 and a gift 12 IMPs to USA2.

Board 15. Dealer South. N/S Vul.

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

West Stansby	North Helness	East Martel	South Helgemo
INT	Pass	2♥	Pass
3♠	Pass	4♠	All Pass

West Brogeland	North Larsen	East Saelensminde	South Meltzer
1♥	Pass	1♠	Pass
2♠	Pass	4♠	All Pass

The Norwegian strong no trump methods got the normal game played by East, where a heart lead was automatic. In fact, the Americans dropped a trick when Meltzer switched to a diamond after taking two top hearts and the third heart disappeared on the clubs; one down for -50.

The weak no trump scored when Stansby broke the transfer and was raised to game. Given a blind lead - would you consider a lead-directing double of the transfer with the South cards - Helness not unnaturally led the jack of clubs. Stansby drew trumps and threw two hearts on the clubs; +420 and 10 IMPs to USA2.

The Americans had won the set by 68-49 and, trailing by only 154-192, were right back in the match.

Dani At The Bat

The Americans in Paris (could make a good title for a movie) have been following the World Series of Baseball. To mark that and Germany's historic Venice Cup Victory we present with apologies our version of Ernest L. Thayer's immortal baseball poem, Casey at the Bat.

*The outlook wasn't brilliant for the German six that day,
The score stood minus forty-six, with but sixteen boards to play
And then when Andrea failed at first, and Barbara did the same,
A pall-like silence fell upon the patrons of the game.*

*A straggling few got up to go immured in deep distress.
The rest clung to that hope which springs eternal in the human breast.*

*They thought, "if only Dani could but get a whack at that,
We'd put up even money now, with Dani at the bat."*

*So upon that stricken multitude, grim melancholy sat;
For there seemed but little chance of Dani getting to the bat.*

*But Pony let drive a single, to the wonderment of all.
And Sabine, the much desired, tore the cover off the ball.*

*And when the dust had lifted,
and men saw what had occurred,
there was Sabine safe at second and Pony a-hugging third.*

*Then from five hundred throats and more there rose a lusty yell;
it rumbled through the VuGraph, it rattled in the dell;*

*It pounded through on the mountain and recoiled upon the flat;
for Dani, mighty Dani, was advancing to the bat.*

*There was ease in Dani's manner as she stepped into her place,
there was pride in Dani's bearing and a smile lit her face.*

*And when, responding to the cheers, she lightly doffed her hat,
no stranger in the crowd could doubt t'was Dani at the bat.*

*A thousand eyes were on her as she rubbed her hands with dirt.
A thousand hands applauded when she wiped them on her shirt.*

*Then, while the writhing pitcher ground the ball into her hip,
defiance flashed in Dani's eye, a smile curled her lip.*

*And now the leather-covered sphere came hurtling through the air,
and Dani stood a-watching it in haughty grandeur there.*

*Close by the sturdy batsman the ball unheeded sped –
"That ain't my style," said Dani.*

*"Strike one!" the Director said.
From the benches, black with people, there went up a muffled roar,
like the beating of the storm waves on a stern and distant shore.*

*"Kill him! Kill the Director!" shouted someone on the stand,
and it's likely they'd have killed him had not Dani raised her hand.*

*With a smile of Christian charity, great Dani's visage shone,
she stilled the rising tumult, she bade the game go on.*

*She signalled to the pitcher, and once more the dun sphere flew,
but Dani still ignored it, and the Director said, "Strike two!"*

*"Fraud!" cried the maddened hundreds, and echo answered "Fraud!"
But one scornful look from Dani and the audience was awed.*

*They saw her face grow stern and cold, they saw her muscles strain,
and they knew that Dani wouldn't let that ball go by again.*

*And now the pitcher holds the ball, and now she lets it go,
and now the air is shattered by the force of Dani's blow.*

*Oh, somewhere in this favoured land the sun is shining bright.
The band is playing somewhere, and somewhere hearts are light.
And, somewhere men are laughing, and little children shout,*

*and there is lots of joy in Germany –
mighty Dani has pulled it out.*

SESSION 6

Venice Cup / Final

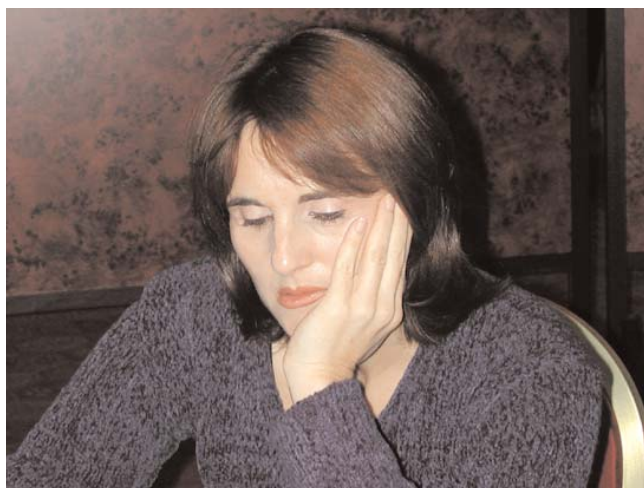


France v Germany



Making it Count

The dramatic conclusion to the Venice Cup Final is brought to you by Linda Lee of Masterpoint Press.



Daniela von Arnim, Germany

With sixteen boards to go in the Venice Cup, the score looked very rocky for the squad from Germany. The mostly French audience cheered as the players were named and play began. But the German ladies had come to play. They showed all of us how to come from behind, winning the set by 49 IMPs to win the world title by 2. The way to win is to find the courage to stay within yourself and simply play your very best.

The action started at Board 1. The auction in the closed room was very simple: West opened 1NT fourth in hand to buy the contract and failed by one trick, 50 points for Germany. In the open room the auction got very confused very quickly.

Board 1. Dealer North. None Vul.

<p>♠ 4 2 ♥ 9 5 4 ♦ A 8 5 3 2 ♣ A Q 10</p> <p>♠ K Q 8 ♥ K Q 3 2 ♦ Q J 10 ♣ K 6 4</p>	<table border="1" style="border-collapse: collapse; width: 40px; height: 40px;"> <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		<p>♠ 7 6 5 3 ♥ A J 10 ♦ 6 ♣ J 8 7 3 2</p>
	N										
W		E									
	S										
<p>♠ A J 10 9 ♥ 8 7 6 ♦ K 9 7 4 ♣ 9 5</p>											
<p>West Bessis Dble 2NT 4♣ All Pass</p>	<p>North Auken 1NT Rdble Pass</p>	<p>East D'Ovidio Pass 2♣ 3NT Pass</p>	<p>South von Arnim Pass 2♥ Dble Dble</p>								

Auken's redouble showed some five-card suit other than clubs. Von Arnim wanted to compete over 2♣ and meant 2♥ as pass or correct. The French now lost their way in this complex auction and ended up in 4♣ doubled which failed by two tricks. That was 6 IMPs to Germany, who had started their comeback. The French lead was down to 41.

Board 4 was the first brilliancy by Von Arnim and although it only earned a single IMP it was a portent for the hands to come. The French ladies in the closed room had sold out to 2♠ played by West (Rauscheid) which failed by one trick, 100 to France. In the closed room Von Arnim competed to 3♥ and it was now up to her to make it and save the board.

Board 4. Dealer West. All Vul.

<p>♠ 8 4 ♥ K 8 6 ♦ 7 6 3 2 ♣ A 6 3 2</p> <p>♠ Q J 9 5 3 ♥ Q 4 3 ♦ K J 10 9 ♣ 4</p>	<table border="1" style="border-collapse: collapse; width: 40px; height: 40px;"> <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		<p>♠ K 7 6 ♥ 10 5 ♦ Q 5 4 ♣ K Q 10 8 7</p> <p>♠ A 10 2 ♥ A J 9 7 2 ♦ A 8 ♣ J 9 5</p>
	N										
W		E									
	S										
<p>West Bessis Pass 1♠ Pass All Pass</p>	<p>North Auken Pass Dble 2NT</p>	<p>East D'Ovidio Pass 2♠ Pass</p>	<p>South von Arnim 1♥ Dble 3♥</p>								

Bessis led the ♣4 which von Arnim won in dummy with the ♠A. She now ducked the ♠10 to West's jack. Bessis returned the ♦J and Von Arnim made the key play of ducking this to break up the defenders' communication. Bessis continued with the ♦9 won by Von Arnim's ♦A. The key to the hand was to guess the heart position. Von Arnim reasoned that West had at most the KJ of diamonds and no club honours. It seemed that West had to have the ♥Q to justify her overcall so after a lot of thought Daniele took the backwards heart finesse, leading the ♥J from her hand, and was rewarded when the hearts lay perfectly for this play. After running the ♥J declarer had only to ruff a spade in dummy, cash the ♥K and guess the safe route off dummy by ruffing a diamond to draw the last trump.

The partisan audience sportingly applauded this inspired play by their opponents.

Board 5 brought 6 more IMPs for Germany when both sides reached 3♦ and the French had some problems on the play. Board 8 put Von Arnim on play again on a difficult hand.

Board 8. Dealer West. None Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Bessis	Auken	D'Ovidio	von Arnim
1♦	1♠	Pass	2♣*
Dble	3♣	All Pass	

In the closed room West opened the hand 1♦ and this became the final contract, making for +90.

In the open room the auction got more heated when Von Arnim overcalled her chunky four-card spade suit. South's 2♣ call was not forcing but Auken competed to 3♣ and it was now up to Von Arnim again. Bessis cashed the top two diamonds and correctly read D'Ovidio's ♦8 as a request for a spade shift. Von Arnim won the ♠A and played a heart to her ♥Q and Bessis' ♥J. The spade return went to the jack and queen, declarer ruffing. Declarer led a heart to Bessis' ♥10. After throwing a heart on the ♠A, Von Arnim now had to locate the ♣Q. Did she have enough clues? D'Ovidio had already shown up with the ♠Q and Bessis had shown a strong hand in the auction. But this was the one that got away when Von Arnim cashed the ♠A, misguessing the suit. Down one for 1 IMP away and a missed opportunity for German who still trailed by 35 with half the boards played.

Board 9 brought 12 more IMPs to Germany when the French side climbed all the way to 4♠ doubled down two tricks in the Open room in a competitive auction while the German East-West bought the hand in a quiet auction in 2♠. The once great lead had been cut to only 23 IMPs. The audience knew that this was now going to be a fierce battle.

Germany picked up an IMP for an overtrick on the next board, then Board 11 found Von Arnim on play with another queen to find.

Board 11. Dealer South. None Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Bessis	Auken	D'Ovidio	von Arnim
Pass	1♥	Pass	1♠
Pass	2♠	Pass	3♣
Pass	3♥	Pass	3NT
Pass	4♦	Pass	4NT
Pass	5♥	Pass	6♠

In the closed room the French had already made 6♣ and Von Arnim had to find the ♣Q once again to avoid a loss which would surely end any chance for her team. The opening lead was the ♦Q won by the ♦A and now D'Ovidio, unaware of the critical importance of the club suit switched to the ♣3. After drawing trumps Von Arnim led the ♣J off dummy, believed D'Ovidio's club peter, and dropped the ♣Q to make her contract and win 2 IMPs for the German side. They were still trailing by 20 IMPs with 5 boards to go.

Board 12 produced a lead problem for the French that was destined to have major consequences.

Board 12. Dealer West. N/S Vul.

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

You see the following auction:

West	North	East	South
Pass	1♣ ⁽¹⁾	Pass	1♠
Pass	1NT	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

⁽¹⁾ Strong and artificial

What would you lead from ♠KQ93 ♥A32 ♦864 ♣752 after the above auction, knowing that your choice may decide the Venice Cup? It seemed as if D'Ovidio would guess correctly between the minor suits and lead a diamond, which would have beaten the game and pushed the board with the closed room. However, she kept fingering different spades and after several false starts and despite all the French supporters trying to 'think' her into a diamond lead by psycho-kinesis, the ♠3 became the lead and declarer was able to bring the game home. The lead was down to 8.

Board 13 and Board 14 were pushes and with only two deals left it seemed the French might just hang on.

Board 15, however, gave von Arnim one more chance to bring home the Cup.

Board 15. Dealer South. N/S Vul.

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

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Rauscheid	Cronier	Nehmert	Willard
2♠	Dble	Pass	Pass
All Pass			3♦

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Bessis	Auken	D'Ovidio	von Arnim
2♠	Dble	Pass	Pass
Pass	3♠	Pass	3♦
All Pass			3NT

The auction started out the same way in both rooms but the Germans, who had been the more aggressive bidders throughout the match, continued on to 3NT while the French stopped in 3♦. Von Arnim showed some values with her 3♦ bid and Auken liked her chunky suits and took a positive view of the value of the ♠K. The French had made +130 in the closed room. The spotlight was now on Bessis. If she could find a club lead the French could cash out for one down and would have a lock on the Venice Cup. On the lead of a heart or a club the Germans would have at most eight tricks without giving up a spade and the French would have another chance to defeat the contract. However, Bessis could not really be faulted for making the natural spade lead.

Now it was von Arnim's turn in the hot seat yet again. She had eight top tricks and the only hope for her contract was to bring the heart suit in for four tricks, correctly guessing the ♥J. After winning the opening lead with the ♠K in dummy von Arnim played off three rounds of diamonds, East discarding a heart. At this point nine of West's cards were known, six spades and three diamonds, and East had become a strong favourite to hold heart length. Von Arnim cashed one more diamond on which East let go a club, and then made the odds-on play of a heart to the ♥9 to make her contract and give Germany the lead by 2 IMPs. Some might argue that the technically correct play was to cash only three rounds of diamonds which would allow declarer to cash the ♥A before taking the heart finesse. But that is a quibble when one considers the courage needed to count out the hand and take a first-round finesse against a jack on the penultimate board of a very long and important match. Unfortunately for the French supporters the last board was flat and there was no opportunity for any final heroics from the French ladies. The Germans had come from behind outscoring their opponents 51 to 2 in the final stanza.

The Norwegian Vikings

by Jon Sveindal

TOR HELNESS (b 1957) of Oslo, stockbroker, "Grand old man" of the successful Norwegian squad. Wife Gunn (also international for Norway) is here, as well as their two sons Jonas (15) and Fredrik (11) who spend long hours following the game in the VuGraph room. Amongst Tor's merits are silver and bronze in Bermuda Bowl, three bronzes in European Ch.ships, bronze from World Teams. He has also won several prestigious invitational events with his partner.

GEIR HELGEMO (b 1970) of Trondheim. Bridge celebrity #1 in Norway, and a bridge professional. Runs a daily column in Norway's biggest paper, "Verdens Gang". Rose from junior fame to world superstardom. Has several North American titles under his belt in addition to his World Individual Championship, two Bermuda Bowl medals and two medals from European teams. Co-author of several bridge books.

TERJE AA (b 1961) of Trondheim. Post office employee - married with two daughters. Successful internationally with his partner Glenn with two bronzes from Europeans, bronze and silver in Bermuda Bowl.

GLENN GRØTHEIM (b 1959) of Trondheim. Engineer working as an electricity broker. Married with two boys. Apart from his merits with Terje he has an additional bronze from Europeans. Put together "The Viking Club" - a relay precision system - which was published some ten years ago. An English edition was recently made available.

(REIDAR) BOYE BROGELAND (b 1973) of Bergen. Degree in economics and business administration, but being another junior celebrity who made it big with the big guys, he is of course a bridge professional. Publisher and editor of "Bridge i Norge", an independent bridge magazine. His cohabitor, Tonje Aasand, is prima inter pares among his many fans in Tenerife. While being rated the most prominent junior player from 1996 to 1999, Boye won two bronzes in the Europeans Championships, and a bronze medal in a Bermuda Bowl. His open merits are in partnership with.

ERIK "SILDA" SÆLENSMINDE (b 1964) of Bergen. The only one of the players who does not respond to anything but his nickname, meaning "The Herring". In fact, apart from "Coach", he is the only one with a nickname! Bridge professional whose carrier was boosted when he partnered Boye.

The Team: Nice guys and friends!

EINAR ASBJØRN BRENNE (NPC) of Trondheim. 54-year-old banking consultant, in charge of the team since 1997. Married with one daughter. A talented young player who took a long break and returned to the game as a very successful captain for Norway.

ROLF E. "COACH" OLSEN (Coach!) of Oslo. The 34-year-old accountant started coaching when Brenne took over, and his trustworthy and endless efforts for the team are praised by the others.

La Fayette nous voilà !

Par Guy Dupont

Le titre envolé sur la 626ème donne...

Et voici la 94ème et avant-dernière donne de la finale de la Venice Cup (la 626ème jouée depuis le début du championnat) qui fit basculer le titre. Au moment de l'aborder, la France avait 7,5 imp d'avance sur l'Allemagne.

Donne 15. Sud donneur, Nord-Sud vulnérables.

♠ AV 8 7 6 5 ♥ 8 ♦ V 9 7 ♣ V 10 7		♠ 10 3 ♥ V 7 6 3 2 ♦ 6 2 ♣ ARD 2	♠ D 9 4 2 ♥ R 9 4 ♦ R 5 4 3 ♣ 6 5
--	--	---	--

En salle fermée:

Ouest	Nord	Est	Sud
<i>Nehmert</i>	<i>Cronier</i>	<i>Rauscheid</i>	<i>Willard</i>
2 ♠ (Fin)	Contre	Passe	3 ♦

Entame: 8 de Cœur. Et dix levées: 130.
Au bridgevision:

Ouest	Nord	Est	Sud
<i>Bessis</i>	<i>Auken</i>	<i>d'Ovidio</i>	<i>Von Arnim</i>
2 ♠ Passe (Fin)	Contre 3 ♠	Passe Passe	3 ♦ 3 SA

3 ♦ est ici encourageant. Malgré ses 15 points seulement, Sabine Auken reparle, espérant pouvoir jouer la manche à SA: son Roi de Pique sec pourrait avoir un rôle important à jouer, sur une entame dans cette couleur...

Sur une entame à Trèfle, la France aurait été championne du monde. Mais Véronique Bessis entame, sans qu'on puisse le lui reprocher, du 7 de Pique. Après le Roi, Daniela Von Arnim tire quatre tours de Carreau (en terminant au mort), constatant qu'Ouest a fourni trois fois (Est a, pour sa part, défaussé le 2 de Cœur, puis le 2 de Trèfle). Elle réfléchit un bon moment et finit par bien décider: le 5 de Cœur est joué, pour le 9 de sa main. Les neuf levées sont au bout du compte. Rideau! La couronne a changé de tête.

Entre deux pages

Chip Martel est un homme qui peut faire plusieurs choses à la fois. On l'a vu à la table de bridge, durant ce championnat, lisant parfois un roman de science fiction pendant qu'il était mort, où que l'adversaire réfléchissait. " J'ai déjà lu deux livres et trois pages de Flag in Exil, de David Weber, depuis que je suis arrivé à

Paris, dit-il. Mais pas plus de 300 pages à la table de bridge ". Un petit problème à deux jeux qu'il eut à résoudre, entre deux pages, dans la 5ème séance de la finale de la Bermuda Bowl:

Donne 10. Est donneur, tous vulnérables.

♠ A 7 5 4 ♥ A 5 ♦ 6 5 ♣ AR 10 4 2		♠ RV 10 8 6 3 ♥ - ♦ AD 9 8 3 ♣ D 5	
Ouest	Nord	Est	Sud
<i>Stansby</i>	<i>Helness</i>	<i>Martel</i>	<i>Helgemo</i>
3 ♣ 4 SA 5 SA 6 ♠	4 ♥ Passe Passe (Fin)	1 ♠ 4 ♠ 5 ♥ 6 ♥	2 ♥ Passe Passe Passe

Sud entame du Roi de Cœur. Comment jouez-vous?
(Solution en fin de rubrique)

Le dernier mot

Henri Szwarc, l'un des joueurs français les plus titrés, participait au transnational. " Il y avait du squeeze suicide dans l'air, dans ce championnat, dit-il. En deux jours, l'adversaire a eu l'occasion de m'en offrir trois ! ".

L'un d'eux se produisit alors qu'il était opposé à Mahmood-Rosenberg, au 13ème tour (dans la rencontre Chang/Rand).

Donne 9. Nord donneur, Est-Ouest vulnérables.

♠ R 5 2 ♥ RV 10 4 ♦ V 8 3 ♣ 10 8 3		♠ A 9 8 ♥ D 6 3 ♦ A 10 4 ♣ R 9 4 2	♠ D 10 7 6 3 ♥ 9 8 2 ♦ D 5 2 ♣ V 7
Ouest	Nord	Est	Sud
<i>Zia</i>	<i>Szwarc</i>	<i>Rosenberg</i>	<i>Romik</i>
Passe (Fin)	1 ♣ 1 SA	Passe Passe	1 ♦ 3 SA

Ouest entame du 6 de Pique, pour le Valet et le Roi, et Szwarc décide de laisser passer. Zia rejoue le 2 de Pique (petite facétie, histoire de tromper son monde), une carte en pair-impair du résidu qui, selon toutes les apparences, semble marquer un résidu de trois cartes dans la couleur – et donc une couleur d'entame probablement répartie 4-4, en conclut Szwarc. Celui-ci es-

time donc pouvoir prendre de l'As au deuxième tour. Puis il défile quatre coups de Trèfle, notant la défausse d'un Cœur en Ouest et des deux 2 rouges en Est (celui-ci voulant à son tour brouiller les pistes du déclarant, mais mieux eut valu garder la Dame de Carreau troisième).

Nord ressort alors à Pique, espérant que la défense, après deux tours dans la couleur, devra le gratifier d'un retour favorable à Cœur ou à Carreau. Mais cela ne se déroule pas du tout comme prévu: Rosenberg encaisse non pas deux, mais trois levées de Pique, et Zia défausse ! Toutefois le déclarant va retomber sur ses pieds. La position, quand Est tire son dernier Pique:

♠ -		♠ 7									
♥ D 6 3		♥ 9 8									
♦ A 10		♦ D 5									
♣ -		♣ -									
♠ -	<table border="1" style="border-collapse: collapse; width: 60px; height: 60px; margin: auto;"> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">N</td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">O</td><td style="text-align: center;">E</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td></td><td style="text-align: center;">S</td><td></td></tr> </table>	N			O	E			S		♠ 7
N											
O	E										
	S										
♥ RV		♥ 9 8									
♦ V 8 3		♦ D 5									
♣ -		♣ -									
♠ -		♠ 7									
♥ A 7		♥ 9 8									
♦ R 9 7		♦ D 5									
♣ -		♣ -									

Sur le 7 de Pique assassin, Sud sèche l'As de Cœur, mais Ouest doit se résoudre à affranchir la Dame de Cœur (s'il sèche le Roi), ou une levée de Carreau.

On a voulu tromper Monsieur Henri. Mais il a eu le dernier mot.

Solution du problème

Un jeu d'enfant pour Chip Martel, qui adopta une ligne à 100% pour gagner son chelem à Pique.

Le danger: une répartition 3-0 des atouts et le Roi de Carreau mal placé, mais on peut y faire face. Il prit l'entame de l'As de Cœur (en défaussant un Carreau) et tira l'As d'atout. Sud eut-il défaussé? Martel aurait capturé la Dame d'atout en Nord. Mais, en l'occurrence, ce fut Nord qui défaussa.

♠ -		♠ RV 10 8 6 3									
♥ D 9 3 2		♥ -									
♦ V 10 7 4 2		♦ A D 9 8 3									
♣ V 7 6 3		♣ D 5									
♠ A 7 5 4	<table border="1" style="border-collapse: collapse; width: 60px; height: 60px; margin: auto;"> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">N</td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">O</td><td style="text-align: center;">E</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td></td><td style="text-align: center;">S</td><td></td></tr> </table>	N			O	E			S		♠ RV 10 8 6 3
N											
O	E										
	S										
♥ A 5		♥ -									
♦ 6 5		♦ A D 9 8 3									
♣ A R 10 4 2		♣ D 5									
♠ D 9 2		♠ RV 10 8 6 3									
♥ RV 10 8 7 6 4		♥ -									
♦ R		♦ A D 9 8 3									
♣ 9 8		♣ D 5									

Qu'à cela ne tienne: il poursuivit en coupant le 5 de Cœur, puis il encaissa le Roi de Pique, joua Dame de Trèfle, Trèfle pour le Roi et As de Trèfle. Sud refusa de couper, mais le déclarant coupa un Trèfle (toujours pas surcoupé...), puis il remit Sud en main à l'atout, pour le contraindre à livrer le Roi de Carreau ou à revenir dans coupe et défausse.

Dans l'autre salle, les Norvégiens avaient vu trop grand: ils ont joués 7 ♠, pour moins deux!

Championship Diary

Germany's celebrations went on long into the night and severely depleted the reserves of the Daily News. The German players received countless e-mails from their supporters. They included warm congratulations from the German Bridge Federation - and permission to spend a small fortune on new outfits for tonight's ceremony.

Among the messages was one from Karin Caesar and Marianne Mogel who completed Germany's winning Venice Cup team in Beijing in 1995.

For the second week of the Championships we were lucky enough to have a piano in the Daily News office. We heard bravura performances from Eric Rodwell, Kojak, David Levy, Ray Lee and Jovi Smederevac.

We can recommend the web site www.topornot.de

Despite the name it has nothing to do with bridge, although we have already spotted one bridge player on the site, and perhaps you may find others.

France Soir published a photograph attributed to Ron Tacchi in today's issue. Having attained celebrity status Tacchi is now demanding his own changing room.

Au Revoir Paris

Everyone will leave this romantic city with different memories. For those who were privileged to work here they will surely be of the willingness of everyone to support each other, regardless of department.

In the **Daily News** office, **Jean Paul Meyer**, *Sir CoOrdinatalot* was as ever the perfect Chef d'équipe.

Brent Manley, *Sir Runalot*, provided some hard hitting reporting and **Brian Senior**, our *Knight of the Doleful Countenance*, was alleged to have been caught smiling. Rest assured, it was only wind!

Guy Dupont was our *Chevalier Rouge*, his French page being a daily highlight.

Patrick Jourdain, *Sir Pressalot*, tracked down some memorable deals.

Stelios Hatzidakis, *Sir Cutandpastealot* made our humble offerings look good with his splendid layout and **George Georgopoulos**, *Sir Informalot* kept the world advised via the Internet.

Ron Tacchi, *Sir Roundalot*, has obviously been cloned, as he appears to be in several different places at once.

We also acknowledge invaluable help from **Mark Newton**, *Sir PutITinalot*, **Harvey Fox**, *Sir Programmealot* and our own *Queen Guinevere*, **Anna Gudge**.

Our Knights of the Square Table hope to meet again in Montreal.

Mark Horton
Duke of Plaza Toro

A Shining Rose

Sitting in the Stade de France enjoying the late afternoon sunshine your Editor interviewed the delightful Rose Meltzer, only the third woman to represent the U.S. in the Bermuda Bowl and the first ever to win her way there through a team trials format. In view of the revelation made at the end of this interview, it was deliberately held back until today.

Before we talk about your exploits at the bridge table, tell me something about your family life.

I live in California with my husband Clifford, who is the President of a company specialising in technology. I have two grown up sons, aged 30 & 32 - both still single but with no shortage of girlfriends!

I was a Chemist by education, but I've retired to concentrate on my volunteer work. I give piano lessons - I went to Juilliard where one of the piano teachers was Adam Zmudzinski's father. How's that for a coincidence?

Yes indeed. So how did your bridge playing career begin?

I learnt at Columbia University - I thought there must be something in it if people stayed up all night playing - but it was only because my mother's bridge group was one short that my interest developed.

But it was some time before it turned into a passion?

I started playing duplicate in the early seventies and I played in the Women's game with my great friend Jo Morse. When Cliff decided to leave Cisco Systems to develop his own company he was worried about the fact that he would not be able to spend quite so much time with me and he wanted me to keep busy, so I was thinking of playing more when my great friend Rita Shugart started nagging me to get involved in the Open game.

Yes, but how did you get involved with your present team?

Rita introduced me to Peter Weichsel and Kyle Larsen and it sort of flowed on from that. My team is so supportive. Peter and my partner, Kyle, along with teammates Alan Sontag, Chip Martel & Lew Stansby have helped me enormously, bridge-wise.

Did success come right from the start?

Not at all! The early going wasn't easy. We made our first appearance as a team in the Spingold at the 1999 Summer NABC in San Antonio and lost in the round of 64. Then we went to the 1999 Fall NABC in Boston and we didn't even make it to the second day of the Reisinger.

How depressing was that?

Very! But one swallow does not make a summer and in January 2000, I went to Bermuda with Peter & Alan and the Polish stars Adam Zmudzinski & Cezary Balicki to play in the Orbis World Transnational Open Teams.

How did it go?

Only four teams out of 73 would qualify for the knockout phase and when and we lost our first two matches I went upstairs crying, and called my husband. I told him I just didn't think the bridge gods were on my side. Cliff encouraged me to stay with it and promised, "The bridge Gods will turn around."

He was right because we went on to win the event.

As I recall that was the start of a golden run?

I guess you could say that. We finished second in the Open Swiss Teams at the 2000 Spring NABC in Cincinnati, advanced to the semifinal round of the USBC, were runners-up in the Flight A Grand National Teams at the 2000 Summer NABC in Anaheim - and won the Spingold Knockout Teams at the same event. (Rose is the first woman to win the Spingold since Edith Freilich did it in 1963)



Brent Manley, Rose Meltzer and Alan Truscott

How did you feel at the moment of victory?

I was so excited. Winning the Spingold was even more exciting than winning the World Transnational Open Teams I owe a lot to the support of my husband and my friends.

And then you played in the US trials?

That was one of the most emotionally draining contests I have ever taken part in. I like to call it the 'Jaws of Death' team trial. Winning the repechage final was a fantastic thrill.

How do you relax between sessions?

I read, especially mysteries and historical novels. Robert Ludlum, John le Carré and Barbara Kingsolver are among my favourite authors. I sometimes play chess & backgammon and if possible prefer to miss the evening session so I can enjoy a glass of wine with dinner. Before you ask, my favourite food is spaghetti and meatballs.

So you are not a fan of late-night playing times?

No, I much prefer the European style where the sessions start at 10.00 and 15.00, leaving the evenings free, but the ACBL likes to organize a lot of events at Championships and that means some late night finishes.

What about events with prize money?

I am not against it but I think the Cavendish style events are best.

Do you get nervous?

Every time I sit down to play. But once the cards are out of the board the adrenalin starts flowing and I'm a tiger.

And when things go wrong?

I try hard to keep my concentration. Deep breaths help and so does getting up for a glass of water. The most important thing is not to worry about your mistakes.

Are you disappointed not to be in Bali?

My husband is working in Australia and was planning to meet up with me there, so to a certain extent the answer has to be yes, because Paris is not the obvious stopover if you are flying back to California.

No, but maybe you will get a surprise next week?

Well, when you are involved with bridge you never know what is around the corner. Whatever happens I would like to pay tribute to Fred Gitelman who has been an outstanding coach and Jan Martel, one of the select band of women who have captained an Open team in World Championship play.

Bridge has brought me so much happiness and friendships and I consider myself one of the luckiest people in the world.

Thanks Rose - and good luck.

A victory in the Bermuda Bowl continues Rose's history-making march in Open competition. It just so happens that her birthday is today 3 November - but her team-mates have no idea. It will be quite a party!

The Louis Vuitton French Ladies Team

They have dreamt of it for years, now they've nearly succeeded. A strong formation, an average age of 42 years, they only needed a world title. It has been their during 94 boards of a 96 Final. It will be for the next time.

"We send love from our hearts, and spades, diamonds and clubs too "Thomas and Olivier were very young when they sent this message to their mother Veronique Bessis, five-times European Champion. The children are now grown, and today are members of the French Junior team. Bridge is a family affair with the Bessis. Michel, the father, captain of the ladies team at the last European championships, is a well-known champion he is a regular commentator on bridge vision.

The Genius

She is considered by the experts as being the most gifted player of her generation. **Catherine d'Ovidio** has already participated in four European championships, and has won three gold medals and one silver. Married, she has one daughter, Elodie, 22. Catherine works as a credit controller for a gas company. She started playing bridge at the Le Raincy club in Ville-momble, which is also where another gifted player, Michel Perron, began his bridge playing career.



French team, is married to an Englishman and has been living in London for many years. Daughter of Sandra Girardin, a great French player, she is also the sister-in-law of the champion Thierry de Sainte Marie.

The southern sun

An exemplary team-mate, **Babeth Hugon** teaches bridge the Bridge Club de la Côte d'Azur in Nice, one of the largest clubs in the south-east of France. She received numerous mes-

sages of encouragement from her students by email. But her most loyal supporter is Indy, her dog who appears regularly on the web to bark his support. With the warmth of the north and a bouquet of flowers for each of the players to celebrate their qualification after the round robin, Patrick Grenthe, the captain from Lille, takes good care of his players. In order to ensure that they could play in the best possible conditions and to maintain a team spirit, he insisted that they all, even those living in Paris, stay at the hotel throughout the championship. He knows his players very well as he was with them, and the coach, when four of them reached the semi-finals in the Open selection this season.

The tom-boy

Bénédicte Cronier has been playing for some years in the Open, the highest level of the French elite: few women to date have succeeded in gaining a place. Bénédicte has three European titles and a world silver medallist. She also won Ladies Generali Masters. Parisien, mother of two children, she is married to Philippe Cronier, European champion, journalist and teaching director of the bridge university of the FFB.

Hereditary, my dear Watson

Sylvie Willard is one eight daughters of Irénée de Heredia, a well-known international director, who forbade his children from playing bridge until they had passed their baccalauréat. Mission accomplished, Sylvie became one of our greatest players: five-times European champion and world silver medallist. She is married to François Willard, international bridge director and a keen bowls player, just like their son, Fabrice, who was European Junior bowls champion.

Like a fish in water

Catherine Fishpool, selected several times for the

From a mining community in northern France

Pierre-Jean Louchart, PJ to his friends, is the other northerner in the team, national first league player, works in the IT department of the FFB. His kindness and gentle disposition have made him indispensable to the team in these world championships.

Cutting board

Alain Cotti, the mascot scorer of the French ladies, named "cutting board" because of the piece of wood he uses on hich to record the scores. This native of Provence has accompanied the Tricolors in all their international competitions for many years.

SESSION 7

Bermuda Bowl / Final



Norway v USA II



With 32 boards to play in the Bermuda Bowl final, USA II and Norway were tied at 195. Few could have envisioned this score when the Norwegians were ahead 164-85. The Americans mounted a strong charge in the fifth and sixth sessions to pull even. Thus it was, in essence, a 32-board match starting with the seventh session.



Geir Helgemo, Norway

After East/West at both tables overbid to 4♥ on the first deal (both one down), Norway earned a 3-IMP swing by bidding and making INT on Board 2 in the closed room while the deal was passed out in the open room.

Norway gained another 8 IMPs on Board 3 when Tor Helness worked out the right line of play to land 2NT, while Peter Weichsel in the other room was two down in the same contract.

Board 3. Dealer South. E/W Vul.

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

The auction was the same in both rooms.

West	North	East	South
Sontag	Saelensminde	Weichsel	Brogeland
Helgemo	Martel	Helness	Stansby
			Pass
1♥	Pass	1NT	Pass
2♥	Pass	2NT	All Pass

In the closed room, Boye Brogeland led the ♠J to Weichsel's queen. Weichsel played a heart at trick two, playing the king when

Brogeland followed low. Erik Saelensminde won the ace and returned a spade to set up South's suit. Weichsel had no play for the contract from there, as the ♥Q provided an entry to the good spades. Weichsel was two down for -200.

In the open room, Lew Stansby also started with the ♠J, but Helness made a better guess in hearts, playing to the jack at trick two. Chip Martel won the ace and returned a spade, ducked to the 9. The ♠K came back, and Helness won the ace. He then went into a protracted study (which ultimately cost his team a time penalty of 2 IMPs) before working out the correct line. He cashed the ♣Q and played a club to the ace, followed by the ♥K and another heart, ending playing Martel, who had pitched a club on the second round of hearts and hand only red cards at the point he won the ♥8. He had to give Helness his eighth trick in diamonds.

Norway added to their IMP total when Brogeland managed to land a difficult notrump game.

Board 4. Dealer West. All Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Sontag	Saelensminde	Weichsel	Brogeland
Pass	1♣	Pass	1♠
Pass	2♣	Pass	2♦
Pass	3♣	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

Alan Sontag led the ♥3 to the ace, and Weichsel returned a low heart, taken by Sontag with the queen. Sontag knew he would not be in again, so he switched to the ♠10. Brogeland ducked to Weichsel's queen, and the spade return was taken in dummy. Brogeland then played a club to his ace, cashed the ♥K and exited with the ♠J. Weichsel could have defeated the contract by returning the ♦Q, blocking the suit, but he got out with a low diamond and Brogeland had his nine tricks: three diamonds, two clubs, three spades and a heart.

West	North	East	South
Helgemo	Martel	Helness	Stansby
Pass	Pass	1♣	1♠
Pass	1NT	Pass	2♦
Pass	2♣	All Pass	

The Americans never came close to game, and although Stansby made his contract, it was a 10-IMP loss for USA II.

The Americans finally scored on Board 6 when Weichsel-Son-

tag made a vulnerable 5♣ that could have been defeated with a different opening lead while Stansby-Martel were -300 in 4♠ doubled. That was a 7-IMP gain for USA II.

Norway got it back and more on the following deal.

Board 7. Dealer South. All Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Sontag	Saelensminde	Weichsel	Brogeland
Pass	Pass	1♠	Pass
2♦	Pass	3♦	All Pass

Sontag had no trouble taking 11 tricks.

West	North	East	South
Helgemo	Martel	Helness	Stansby
2♦	Pass	2NT	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

Two Notrump was an inquiry; 3♦ indicated that Geir Helgemo had the best hand possible for his original bid. Stansby could have defeated the contract with a club lead, but he selected the ♥Q, and Helness took all the tricks for plus 720. Norway had another 11 IMPs.

USA II picked up 7 IMPs on Board 10 to draw to within 16.

Board 10. Dealer East. All Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Sontag	Saelensminde	Weichsel	Brogeland
1♠	Pass	1♦	Pass
		3♦	All Pass

Brogeland started with the ♠A and Weichsel had no trouble

taking nine tricks for +110.

West	North	East	South
Helgemo	Martel	Helness	Stansby
1♠	Pass	1♦	Pass
2♠	Pass	2♦	Pass
		4♠	All Pass

This auction marked the difference between the two pairs in the open room. While Stansby and Martel maintained a conservative approach, Helgemo and Helness were very aggressive - as can be seen on this deal.

Helgemo had no play for the contract, and in fact he went down two after Martel led the ♥Q to the king and ace. Stansby cashed the ♦A and gave Martel a ruff. When he was in with the trump ace, Stansby was able to play another diamond to promote his partner's ♠Q.

USA II pulled to within 8 IMPs when Weichsel brought home nine tricks in 3NT while Helgemo was two down on the same deal in 4♥.

Board 13. Dealer North. All Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Sontag	Saelensminde	Weichsel	Brogeland
2♥	Pass	Pass	1♠
3NT	2♠	2NT	Pass
	All Pass		

Brogeland led the ♠5 to the queen and king, and Weichsel entered dummy in hearts to run the ♣9 to Brogeland's jack. Brogeland played the ♦K next, and Weichsel simply won the ♦A and played another diamond. The ♦10 was his ninth trick for +600.

West	North	East	South
Helgemo	Martel	Helness	Stansby
2♥	Pass	Pass	1♠
4♥	Pass	2♠	Pass
	All Pass		

Martel led the ♠3 and Helgemo played low from dummy with hardly a thought. Stansby took some time to make his play, but he finally inserted the 9 and made the killing switch to a trump. Now Helgemo had no way to take 10 tricks, and he finished two down desperately trying to make it.

Norway was up 14 going into the final board, but the USA pulled to within 4 IMPs thanks to a vulnerable game swing. The margin became 2 IMPs when Norway was assessed a 2-IMP time penalty. The match was going right down to the wire.



Il y a des choses que l'on ne pourra jamais cloner.

Il y avait un mouton qui regardait passer une élégante berline. Il y avait aussi un mouton qui regardait passer un break aux lignes dynamiques, mais il n'y avait qu'une voiture, la nouvelle A4 Avant. Avec 8 airbags, l'ESP, la climatisation automatique, l'ABS et le BAS de série, c'était une voiture unique que personne ne pourrait cloner car "on n'imite pas ce qui est inimitable", se dit le mouton.



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