



Co-ordinator: Jean-Paul Meyer – Editor: Brent Manley – Assistant Editors: Mark Horton & Brian Senior  
Proof-Reader: Phillip Alder – Layout Editor: George Georgopoulos – Photographer: Ron Tacchi

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# BRACKETS TAKING SHAPE



Robots do battle in the 9th Annual World Computer Bridge Championship

There is still a lot of time left for teams to make their run at qualifying spots in the Bermuda Bowl, Venice Cup and Seniors Bowl, but for some hopefuls, there is no time like the present to get going.

As case in point is the Bermuda Bowl entry from the Netherlands - silver medal winners in Istanbul in last year's Olympiad. After nine matches, the Dutch find themselves in 17th place. They are not that far out of a spot in the top eight in terms of Victory Points. The difficulty is all the teams ahead of them.

It's a different story in the Seniors Bowl, where the Dutch are in first place, just ahead of Indonesia.

In the Venice Cup, China has a lead even greater than Italy's in the Bermuda Bowl. The Chinese, Venice Cup runners-up in Monte Carlo, have racked up 183.25 Victory Points to 158 for France, lying second, and USAI in third place. The Chinese pitched a rare shutout in match 8, knocking off Pakistan 33-0.

A fourth competition, matching opponents not made of flesh and blood, got underway on Tuesday as the World Computer Bridge Championship kicked off with six programs competing, including Jack, which has won the tournament the last three years.

## VUGRAPH MATCHES

**Bermuda Bowl – ROUND 10 – 10.00**  
**Portugal v China**

**Seniors Bowl – ROUND 11 – 14.00**  
(Boards 1-16)  
**Italy v USAI**

**Bermuda Bowl – ROUND 11 – 14.00**  
(Boards 17-20)  
**USAI v Brazil**

**Bermuda Bowl – ROUND 12 – 17.30**  
**Italy v Sweden**

## Contents

Bermuda Bowl, Venice Cup, Seniors Bowl Programme	2
Bermuda Bowl Results	3
Venice Cup Results	4
Seniors Bowl Results	5
2005 World Computer Bridge Championship, IX	5
Bermuda Bowl — Round 5, Russia v Egypt	6
Nunn Too Good	8
The Gold Standard	9
Spaghetti Western	9
2006 World Bridge Championships — Verona, Italy	10
Bermuda Bowl — Round 6, USA2 v USAI	12
Venice Cup — Round 7, Pakistan v Singapore	15
Venice Cup — Round 2, England v USAI	18
Rulings and Appeals	20

**PROGRAMME****Bermuda Bowl****ROUND 10 10.00**

Table	Home Team	Visiting Team
1	GUADELOUPE	USA1
2	RUSSIA	JAPAN
3	BRAZIL	CANADA
4	JORDAN	ITALY
5	SWEDEN	CHINESE TAIPEI
6	AUSTRALIA	ENGLAND
7	NETHERLANDS	NEW ZEALAND
8	INDIA	USA2
9	CHINA	PORTUGAL
10	POLAND	ARGENTINA
11	EGYPT	SOUTH AFRICA

**Venice Cup****ROUND 10 10.00**

Table	Home Team	Visiting Team
12	FRANCE	CANADA
13	AUSTRALIA	EGYPT
14	USA1	VENEZUELA
15	BRAZIL	NETHERLANDS
16	NEW ZEALAND	INDIA
17	CHINA	ARGENTINA
18	SINGAPORE	AUSTRIA
19	PAKISTAN	GERMANY
20	PORTUGAL	SWEDEN
21	JAPAN	USA2
22	MOROCCO	ENGLAND

**Seniors Bowl****ROUND 10 10.00**

Table	Home Team	Visiting Team
23	DENMARK	SWEDEN
24	BRAZIL	NEW ZEALAND
25	USA1	ISRAEL
26	CANADA	NETHERLANDS
27	PAKISTAN	ITALY
28	USA2	MOROCCO
29	PORTUGAL	INDONESIA
30	AUSTRALIA	POLAND
31	BANGLADESH	FRANCE
32	GERMANY	EGYPT
33	GUADELOUPE	JAPAN

**ROUND 11 14.00**

Table	Home Team	Visiting Team
1	ITALY	ENGLAND
2	CHINESE TAIPEI	JORDAN
3	SWEDEN	AUSTRALIA
4	CHINA	NETHERLANDS
5	NEW ZEALAND	INDIA
6	U.S.A.2	PORTUGAL
7	SOUTH AFRICA	POLAND
8	ARGENTINA	EGYPT
9	U.S.A.1	BRAZIL
10	JAPAN	GUADELOUPE
11	CANADA	RUSSIA

**ROUND 11 14.00**

Table	Home Team	Visiting Team
12	CANADA	AUSTRALIA
13	INDIA	USA1
14	VENEZUELA	BRAZIL
15	NETHERLANDS	NEW ZEALAND
16	GERMANY	CHINA
17	ARGENTINA	SINGAPORE
18	AUSTRIA	PAKISTAN
19	ENGLAND	SWEDEN
20	USA2	MOROCCO
21	EGYPT	FRANCE
22	JAPAN	PORTUGAL

**ROUND 11 14.00**

Table	Home Team	Visiting Team
23	SWEDEN	BRAZIL
24	ITALY	USA1
25	ISRAEL	CANADA
26	NETHERLANDS	PAKISTAN
27	POLAND	USA2
28	MOROCCO	PORTUGAL
29	INDONESIA	AUSTRALIA
30	JAPAN	FRANCE
31	EGYPT	GUADELOUPE
32	NEW ZEALAND	DENMARK
33	GERMANY	BANGLADESH

**ROUND 12 17.30**

Table	Home Team	Visiting Team
1	GUADELOUPE	CANADA
2	ITALY	SWEDEN
3	ENGLAND	CHINESE TAIPEI
4	JORDAN	AUSTRALIA
5	NETHERLANDS	U.S.A.2
6	INDIA	CHINA
7	PORTUGAL	NEW ZEALAND
8	POLAND	EGYPT
9	SOUTH AFRICA	ARGENTINA
10	RUSSIA	U.S.A.1
11	BRAZIL	JAPAN

**ROUND 12 17.30**

Table	Home Team	Visiting Team
12	BRAZIL	INDIA
13	NEW ZEALAND	VENEZUELA
14	CHINA	AUSTRIA
15	SINGAPORE	GERMANY
16	PAKISTAN	ARGENTINA
17	SWEDEN	USA2
18	ENGLAND	JAPAN
19	MOROCCO	PORTUGAL
20	FRANCE	AUSTRALIA
21	EGYPT	CANADA
22	USA1	NETHERLANDS

**ROUND 12 17.30**

Table	Home Team	Visiting Team
23	CANADA	ITALY
24	PAKISTAN	ISRAEL
25	USA2	INDONESIA
26	PORTUGAL	POLAND
27	AUSTRALIA	MOROCCO
28	FRANCE	EGYPT
29	JAPAN	GERMANY
30	GUADELOUPE	BANGLADESH
31	DENMARK	BRAZIL
32	NEW ZEALAND	SWEDEN
33	USA1	NETHERLANDS

## No Need To Go Hungry

Playing bridge can make you hungry. Luckily, there are several options at the Centro de Congressos. There is a cafeteria with hot food on the ground floor of the facility, and there is a snack bar on the first floor with sandwiches, snacks, soft drinks and cakes.

## Symmetrical Playing Cards

The WBF will be selling symmetrical cards. They will be available at the Hospitality Desk from Monday, 24th October. Minimum quantity will be 10 decks at €1 per deck.

**RESULTS****Bermuda Bowl****ROUND 7**

	Home Team	Visiting Team	IMPs		VPs	
1	NETHERLANDS	ARGENTINA	25	61	8	22
2	INDIA	PORTUGAL	26	55	9	21
3	USA I	SOUTH AFRICA	44	46	15	15
4	JAPAN	POLAND	15	57	6	24
5	CANADA	EGYPT	45	49	14	16
6	ITALY	GUADELOUPE	70	10	25	3
7	CHINESE TAIPEI	RUSSIA	29	47	11	19
8	AUSTRALIA	BRAZIL	60	50	17	13
9	JORDAN	USA 2	18	83	3	25
10	CHINA	SWEDEN	27	53	10	20
11	NEW ZEALAND	ENGLAND	47	47	15	15

**ROUND 8**

	Home Team	Visiting Team	IMPs		VPs	
1	ARGENTINA	INDIA	36	34	14.5	15
2	EGYPT	USA I	54	35	19	11
3	SOUTH AFRICA	JAPAN	58	84	10	20
4	POLAND	CANADA	17	77	3	25
5	BRAZIL	ITALY	44	23	19	11
6	GUADELOUPE	CHINESE TAIPEI	38	61	10	20
7	RUSSIA	AUSTRALIA	33	46	12	18
8	ENGLAND	USA 2	52	32	19	11
9	SWEDEN	NEW ZEALAND	25	45	11	19
10	PORTUGAL	NETHERLANDS	45	45	15	15
11	CHINA	JORDAN	99	26	25	1

**ROUND 9**

	Home Team	Visiting Team	IMPs		VPs	
1	JAPAN	EGYPT	34	32	15	15
2	CANADA	SOUTH AFRICA	43	12	21	9
3	ITALY	RUSSIA	54	8	24	6
4	CHINESE TAIPEI	BRAZIL	27	45	11	19
5	AUSTRALIA	GUADELOUPE	24	34	13	17
6	USA 2	SWEDEN	50	15	22	8
7	ENGLAND	CHINA	24	40	12	18
8	NEW ZEALAND	JORDAN	95	15	25	0
9	NETHERLANDS	INDIA	20	18	15	15
10	PORTUGAL	ARGENTINA	41	22	19	11
11	USA I	POLAND	50	21	21	9

**Ranking after 9 rounds**

1	ITALY	180
2	EGYPT	164
3	USA 2	157
4	BRAZIL	155
5	CHINA	150
6	PORTUGAL	149
7	ARGENTINA	145.5
8	AUSTRALIA	141
9	USA I	140
	ENGLAND	140
11	CANADA	135
	JAPAN	135
13	NEW ZEALAND	133.5
14	INDIA	130
	RUSSIA	130
16	CHINESE TAIPEI	124
17	NETHERLANDS	123
18	SWEDEN	121
19	GUADELOUPE	111
20	POLAND	105.5
21	SOUTH AFRICA	105
22	JORDAN	68

**Shopping**

There are several stalls on the ground floor selling, amongst other things, bridge books, wine and objets d'art. Well worth a visit. When you come into the building through the main entrance, turn right and keep walking; not going up the slope to the first floor.



## RESULTS

## Venice Cup

## ROUND 7

Home Team	Visiting Team	IMPs	VPs
12 USA2	EGYPT	48 35	18 12
13 ENGLAND	FRANCE	35 56	10 20
14 PORTUGAL	AUSTRALIA	28 45	11 19
15 AUSTRIA	VENEZUELA	35 39	14 16
16 GERMANY	NETHERLANDS	20 70	4 25
17 ARGENTINA	INDIA	38 33	16 14
18 CANADA	CHINA	15 58	5 25
19 SINGAPORE	PAKISTAN	80 31	25 4
20 MOROCCO	USA I	37 69	7 23
21 BRAZIL	SWEDEN	36 40	14 16
22 JAPAN	NEW ZEALAND	38 52	12 18

## ROUND 8

Home Team	Visiting Team	IMPs	VPs
12 FRANCE	PORTUGAL	23 55	7 23
13 INDIA	AUSTRIA	45 45	15 15
14 VENEZUELA	GERMANY	63 55	17 13
15 NETHERLANDS	ARGENTINA	57 23	22.5 6.5
16 CHINA	PAKISTAN	33 022.25	6.25
17 CANADA	SINGAPORE	62 21	24 6
18 USA I	JAPAN	86 23	25 2
19 MOROCCO	BRAZIL	33 63	8 22
20 SWEDEN	NEW ZEALAND	35 44	13 17
21 AUSTRALIA	USA2	29 42	12 18
22 EGYPT	ENGLAND	37 40	14 16

## ROUND 9

Home Team	Visiting Team	IMPs	VPs
12 ENGLAND	AUSTRALIA	37 27	17 13
13 PORTUGAL	EGYPT	35 30	16 14
14 AUSTRIA	NETHERLANDS	23 24	15 15
15 GERMANY	INDIA	42 21	20 10
16 ARGENTINA	VENEZUELA	3 52	4 25
17 SINGAPORE	CHINA	33 28	16 14
18 PAKISTAN	CANADA	14 8	16 14
19 SWEDEN	USA I	22 10	18 12
20 BRAZIL	JAPAN	37 18	19 11
21 NEW ZEALAND	MOROCCO	28 14	18 12
22 USA 2	FRANCE	11 47	7 23

## Ranking after 9 rounds

1 CHINA	183.25
2 FRANCE	158
3 USA I	157
4 ENGLAND	150
5 USA 2	145
6 SWEDEN	142
CANADA	142
NEW ZEALAND	142
9 NETHERLANDS	141.5
10 GERMANY	136
11 PORTUGAL	135
12 BRAZIL	133
13 SINGAPORE	128
14 JAPAN	127
15 AUSTRALIA	125
16 AUSTRIA	122
17 INDIA	120
VENEZUELA	120
19 EGYPT	113
20 PAKISTAN	112.25
21 MOROCCO	111
22 ARGENTINA	107.5

## Quote of the Day

The difference between genius and stupidity is that genius has its limits.

Barry Crane





**RESULTS****Seniors Bowl****ROUND 7**

	Home Team	Visiting Team	IMPs	VPs
23	BANGLADESH	CANADA	35 34	14.5 15
24	EGYPT	PAKISTAN	46 37	17 13
25	INDONESIA	BRAZIL	79 15	25 2
26	POLAND	NEW ZEALAND	102 22	25 0
27	MOROCCO	DENMARK	42 33	17 13
28	NETHERLANDS	PORTUGAL	65 29	23 7
29	AUSTRALIA	ITALY	67 28	24 6
30	USA2	ISRAEL	37 52	12 18
31	FRANCE	GUADELOUPE	25 29	14 16
32	SWEDEN	GERMANY	55 23	23 7
33	JAPAN	USA1	17 44	9 21

**ROUND 8**

	Home Team	Visiting Team	IMPs	VPs
23	DENMARK	BANGLADESH	76 11	25 -0.5
24	ITALY	INDONESIA	18 32	12 18
25	ISRAEL	POLAND	37 24	18 12
26	NETHERLANDS	MOROCCO	45 25	20 10
27	USA2	AUSTRALIA	54 19	23 7
28	SWEDEN	PORTUGAL	37 39	15 15
29	USA1	GERMANY	55 20	23 7
30	GUADELOUPE	CANADA	36 81	5 25
31	FRANCE	PAKISTAN	43 13	22 8
32	BRAZIL	EGYPT	30 53	10 20
33	NEW ZEALAND	JAPAN	21 61	6 24

**ROUND 9**

	Home Team	Visiting Team	IMPs	VPs
23	JAPAN	BRAZIL	30 25	16 14
24	BANGLADESH	NEW ZEALAND	16 9	16 14
25	INDONESIA	NETHERLANDS	34 11	20 10
26	POLAND	ITALY	9 34	9 21
27	MOROCCO	ISRAEL	21 6	18 12
28	PORTUGAL	USA 2	28 18	15 13
29	AUSTRALIA	SWEDEN	30 33	14 16
30	FRANCE	USA 1	13 35	10 20
31	CANADA	GERMANY	15 49	7 23
32	PAKISTAN	GUADELOUPE	2 40	6 24
33	EGYPT	DENMARK	21 30	13 17

**Ranking after 9 rounds**

1	NETHERLANDS	175
2	INDONESIA	172
3	USA 1	155
4	POLAND	152
5	SWEDEN	147
6	DENMARK	146
7	USA 2	142
8	FRANCE	140
9	PORTUGAL	139
10	AUSTRALIA	137
	JAPAN	137
12	CANADA	136
	ISRAEL	136
14	ITALY	134
	PAKISTAN	134
16	EGYPT	130
17	MOROCCO	126
18	GERMANY	124
19	GUADELOUPE	113
20	BANGLADESH	112
21	NEW ZEALAND	94
22	BRAZIL	60

**2005 World Computer Bridge Championship, IX**

The ninth annual World Computer Bridge Championship started yesterday. This year's championship is dedicated to the memory of Alan Truscott, who inspired this event.

The top bridge-playing programs, or robots, from around the world are competing. Can Jack (The Netherlands) extend its three-year reign as champion? Will last two years, Bridge Baron (USA), or the 2002 finalist, Wbridge5 (France), or the 2001 finalist, MicroBridge (Japan), or the 2000 finalist, Q-Plus Bridge (Germany), or strong contender Blue Chip Bridge (U.K.) overtake Jack?

The format is a 40-board round-robin team event with the top two robots advancing to a 64-board final.

For round-robin results as well as the history of this championship, go to [computerbridge.com](http://computerbridge.com). The final will be broadcast on Bridge Base Online, October 29th.

See the action live in room D-2 near the press room on the ground floor.

**ROUND 5**

**Bermuda Bowl**



**Russia v Egypt**

**The House Of Sand And Snow**

by Mark Horton

You could hardly find two more contrasting countries than Egypt, with its vast tracts of sand and lazing sunshine, and Russia, with its snow and ice. Both command a special place in history and it should be no surprise that each attracted the attention of both Napoleon and your humble scribe.

There was plenty to keep the audience entertained — but most of the IMPs went in the direction of the Egyptian team.

Board 2. Dealer East. N/S Vul.

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

It was interesting to see the contrasting bidding styles of the North/South pairs on this deal:

**Open Room**

West	North	East	South
<i>Kholomeev</i>	<i>El Ahmady</i>	<i>Zlotov</i>	<i>Sadek</i>
Pass	1♠	Pass	1♣
Pass	3NT	All Pass	2NT

In his pre-match interview with Chip Martel, Tarek Sadek had explained that his partnership used to play complex methods but now use very simple ones. They led to an easy contract here, but on vugraph while Paul Chemla was full of praise, Barry Rigal pointed out that if the ♥K was the ♠Q and the spade finesse was wrong, then 3NT would go down. As it was, declarer quickly claimed ten tricks and +630.

**Closed Room**

West	North	East	South
<i>Nadim</i>	<i>Gromov</i>	<i>Hesmat</i>	<i>Dubin</i>
Pass	2♣	Pass	1♣*
Pass	2NT*	Pass	2♦*
Pass	3♦*	Pass	3♣*
All Pass			4♠

This time the Precision auction and a few relays saw North/South reach the major-suit game. Here declarer lost a heart, a spade and a diamond; +620, no swing.

Board 3. Dealer South. E/W Vul.

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

**Open Room**

West	North	East	South
<i>Kholomeev</i>	<i>El Ahmady</i>	<i>Zlotov</i>	<i>Sadek</i>
Pass	5♣	All Pass	3♣

It was suggested on vugraph that West might have come in with Three Diamonds, or later with Five Diamonds. How easy it is to be a paper tiger! Anyway, there was nothing to the play, declarer losing a diamond and a spade; +400.



*Andrei Gromov, Russia*

**Closed Room**

West	North	East	South
Nadim	Gromov	Hesmat	Dubinin
			Pass
1♦	Dbl	1♥	3♣
4♥	5♣	Dbl	Pass
5♦	Dbl	5♥	Pass
Pass	Dbl	All Pass	

Once South eschewed the opportunity of a pre-emptive opening, the auction took a totally different course. With a double fit and no defence, West was not prepared to sit for his partner's double of Five Clubs, and he ensured a swing for his side when he removed it. When South led the seven of spades it turned out to be a decision worth 15 IMPs.

On Board 5 both East/West pairs bid these cards to Four Hearts:

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

via the sequence:

West	North	East	South
	Pass	1♥	Pass
2♥	Pass	4♥	All Pass

The ace of hearts was with South and North held the king of clubs, so ten tricks were easy.

Board 7. Dealer South. All Vul.

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

**Open Room**

West	North	East	South
Kholomeev	El Ahmady	Zlotov	Sadek
			3♠
Pass	Pass	Dble	All Pass

What do you make of East's double of Three Spades? Would, as was suggested by a member of the audience, a bid of Four Clubs have shown clubs and hearts? (One was suggested East should try 3NT!?) When West — perfectly reasonably — passed, Egypt were assured of another huge result.

Declarer won the opening spade lead in dummy and drew trumps, discarding two diamonds from dummy. Then South played the eight of hearts, covered by the ten, queen and king. With West having the jack of diamonds, there was nothing the defenders could do to prevent nine tricks; +530.

**Closed Room**

West	North	East	South
Nadim	Gromov	Hesmat	Dubinin
			2♦*
Pass	2♥	3♣	All Pass

This was a comfortable spot for East/West. Indeed, if the defenders start with two round of spades and then take the ace of clubs, North must switch to a top heart to break up the impending double squeeze. Here, South cashed one spade and switched to the nine of hearts — well done — but it was still 13 IMPs to Egypt.

Board 12. Dealer West. N/S Vul.

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

**Open Room**

West	North	East	South
Kholomeev	El Ahmady	Zlotov	Sadek
Pass	2♦*	Pass	2♥
Pass	2♠	Dbl	Pass
4♥	Pass	Pass	4♠
Pass	Pass	Dbl	All Pass

When Four Spades was doubled, South wore the expression of a man who was about to mount the scaffold. Of course, North easily made all the tricks for +1390. Of course, that was not necessarily a good result for North/South.



Egypt and Russia on the vugraph

**Closed Room**

West	North	East	South
<i>Nadim</i>	<i>Gromov</i>	<i>Hesmat</i>	<i>Dubin</i>
2♦	2♠	Dbl	5♥*
Pass	6♣*	6♦	Pass
Pass	Dbl	6♥	6♠
Pass	Pass	7♥	Pass
Pass	Dbl	All Pass	

Do you think South gave his partner every reason to bid the Grand Slam? After all, he did make two forcing passes to show he had first-round control in both red suits. Whatever, declarer made eight tricks, —1100 but a gain of 7 IMPs.

Of course, when it came to this board there was no shortage of stories from other matches, which will be told in tomorrow's bulletin.

Board 13. Dealer North. All Vul.

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

**Open Room**

West	North	East	South
<i>Kholomeev</i>	<i>El Ahmady</i>	<i>Zlotov</i>	<i>Sadek</i>
	1♥	Pass	2♥
2♠	Pass	3♠	Pass
4♠	All Pass		

North led the ten of clubs and, when declarer put up dummy's king, South ducked. The eight of clubs came next, ducked by South, allowing North to win with the nine. North cashed the red aces and exited with a diamond. Declarer won in hand and had to guess trumps. When he laid down the ace of spades he was —100.

**Closed Room**

West	North	East	South
<i>Nadim</i>	<i>Gromov</i>	<i>Hesmat</i>	<i>Dubin</i>
	2♦*	Pass	3♥
3♠	4♦	4♠	All Pass

North led the nine of clubs and when declarer put up dummy's king South took the ace and returned the suit. Now declarer carried on with clubs, getting rid of both his losing diamonds. A spade to the queen was followed by a heart and declarer had eleven tricks; +650. That was another 13 IMPs to Egypt, who now led 50-8.

They went on to win 23-7VP—a severe blow to the fancied Russian team — but a result that put Egypt in a strong position.

**NUNN TOO GOOD**

by Ron Klinger

A lead problem for you:

Dealer East : N/S Vul.

West	North	East	South
		Pass	2♠
Dble	Pass	3NT	All pass

What would you lead as South from this hand:

♠ K J 10 5 3 2
♥ Q 3
♦ J 2
♣ 6 4 2

The deal comes from the Bermuda Bowl, Round 2, Board 18:

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

3NT was reached 20 times, ten times by West and ten times by East. When East declared, three Souths led a spade, giving declarer his ninth trick. Three Souths led a heart and each East failed. However, after a heart lead the contract can be made, especially if South has opened a weak 2♠ or a multi 2♦. Declarer can cash the ♠A, the hearts and the diamonds, and endplay North with a club to the queen. North figures to have the ♣A-K, once South turns up with the ♥Q, ♦J and presumed ♠K and ♠J. As long as South has not opened with a five-card spade suit, North will be endplayed.

Four Souths, including Tony Nunn of Australia, led a club. 'I was not brave enough to lead the ♥Q,' said Nunn. Just as well, since only a club lead by South defeats 3NT for sure. North captures dummy's honour and shifts to the ♠4 (or another non-club card). Now there is no way for declarer to succeed.

**Swan Games  
Internet broadcast**



Seniors Bowl	Denmark v Sweden	10.00
Bermuda Bowl	Italy v England	14.00
Venice Cup	Sweden v USA2	17.30



# The Gold Standard

Raymond Brock

England's youngest player in the Open series, David Gold, found a way to make 3NT on this deal from Round 1 that defeated many more experienced players:

Board 4. Dealer West. All Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Kempczynski</i>	<i>Gold</i>	<i>Penture</i>	<i>Townsend</i>
Pass	1NT	2♥	2NT*
Pass	3♣*	Pass	3NT
Dble	All Pass		

South's sequence showed a raise to 3NT without a heart stop. Declarer didn't receive any help in the play, with a heart lead, but West's final double was very revealing.

The jack of hearts was ducked and the continuation won with the ace as dummy discarded a spade. A low diamond to the queen followed, which was won with the king. West cleared the hearts, declarer discarding a diamond from dummy, and when declarer continued with a club to the nine, West won with the king and returned the three of spades. Declarer won with the ace and cashed his club winners, West discarding a spade and East a heart.

Then came a diamond and when West played low, declarer put in the eight! He had correctly formed the assumption that East had very little and was therefore more likely to be 3-6-1-3 than 3-6-2-2.

Did you spot a defensive error?

West should duck the nine of clubs, giving declarer the chance to go wrong by coming to hand to repeat the club finesse, in which case he would inevitably go down.



# Spaghetti Western

by Mark Horton

Do you recall the series of Western adventures that catapulted Clint Eastwood to stardom? The last of them was 'The Good, the Bad and the Ugly.' International Popular Bridge Monthly, now incorporated into Bridge Magazine, ran a series presenting bridge deals that fitted into each of the three categories. To which one of the three do you think this little gem from the Round 4 Bermuda Bowl match between India and Jordan belongs?

Board 3. Dealer South. E/W Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
1♥	INT	2♦*	1♦
Pass	Pass	Dble	3NT
			All Pass

When I asked North/South about the bidding North — with tongue in cheek — said that he didn't redouble in case his partner ran.

East led the five of spades to dummy's ace. Declarer called for the queen of clubs, covered in turn by the king(!), two and ace. When East continued with a spade, declarer won and advanced the queen of diamonds. When East played low, North recalled Zia's advice: 'If they don't cover, they don't have it.' However, when he kept his own counsel by playing low from dummy, he was able to collect a total of twelve tricks and +850.

## LOST WALLET

A Portuguese man has lost his wallet in the vugraph theatre and is hoping for its return. He doesn't care about the money. If you find the wallet, please turn it in to the Hospitality Desk.

# World Bridge Championships



Verona, Italy • 9-24 June 2006



## VERONA

Verona, the second most important city of the Region Veneto after Venice, is well known all over the world for its magnificent Arena and, of course, for the everlasting love story of Romeo and Juliet. This delightful city offers many other attractions, and is visited by tourists from all over the world. Visiting Verona and, indeed, its province and the entire region, means entering an area of beautiful landscapes with an unsurpassed artistic heritage while at the same time discovering vivid cultural and gastronomic traditions in a region known also for its excellent wines. This location is able to suit the needs of the most discerning traveller.



Verona is situated in a strategic position, from where other important Italian artistic towns are easy to reach:

Venice: Km. 114  
Padova: Km. 84  
Milan: Km. 161  
Bologna: Km. 142  
Florence: Km. 320



### How to reach Verona

**By car:** A4 motorway (Milan-Venice) exit 'Verona Sud' or A22 motorway (Brennero-Modena) exit 'Verona Nord'.

**By train:** The main railway station is 'Verona Porta Nuova', where the lines from Milan-Venice and Rome-Brennero intersect. There are ordinary or Intercity (aster) trains from all main northern Italy stations almost every hour. (For further information: Tel +39 892021 - [www.trenitalia.it](http://www.trenitalia.it)).

**By air:** The airport 'Valerio Catullo' of Verona Villafranca is situated 10 km from the city centre. There is a shuttle-bus service from and to the airport every 20 min. (For further information: Tel +39 0458057911 - [www.aeroporto.verona.it](http://www.aeroporto.verona.it)).

### Hotel

1850 rooms in 52 different hotels are already available for all the participants of the World Bridge Championship in June 2006. The offer is extremely flexible both in terms of hotel category and fare.

*In order to receive a discount on entry fees, players MUST make their hotel reservations at WBF approved hotels through the official agency, High Performance Travel, and provide evidence of such booking at the time of entry purchase.*

For further information and reservations:  
High Performance Travel HPT (Felice Marabini)  
Tel: +39 0459 693 322 - Fax: +39 0459 693 321  
Web Site: [www.hpt.it/bridge](http://www.hpt.it/bridge) - E-mail: [hpt@hpt.it](mailto:hpt@hpt.it)

## CHAMPIONSHIP PROGRAMME

JUNE 2006

World Titles will be awarded for each Championship, including the IMP Pair

Friday	9	Par Contest - Opening Ceremony
Saturday	10	Mixed Pairs - qualifying 1 & 2
Sunday	11	Mixed Pairs - qualifying 3 & 1 session final
Monday	12	Mixed Pairs - 2 & 3 session final Mixed Pairs Plate
Tuesday	13	Rosenblum/McConnell
Wednesday	14	Rosenblum/McConnell
Thursday	15	Rosenblum/McConnell
Friday	16	Rosenblum (64) /McConnell (32) Swiss Plate Senior Teams
Saturday	17	Rosenblum (32) /McConnell (16) Pairs Qualifying Senior Teams
Sunday	18	Rosenblum (16) /McConnell (8) Pairs Qualifying Senior Teams
Monday	19	Rosenblum (8) /McConnell (4) Pairs Qualifying/Semi final Senior Teams
Tuesday	20	Rosenblum (4) /McConnell (2) Pairs Semi final /IMP Pairs Senior Pairs
Wednesday	21	Rosenblum Final Pairs Semi final /IMP Pairs Senior Pairs
Thursday	22	Pairs Final /IMP Pairs Senior Pairs
Friday	23	Pairs Final /IMP Pairs Senior Pairs
Saturday	24	Pairs Final / IMP Pairs Closing Ceremony

For Information and Registration

World Bridge Federation  
José Damiani - President  
40 Rue Francois 1er - 75008 Paris, France  
Tel. 0033.1.53230315 - Fax 0033.1.40701451  
E-mail: [cfrancin@comm-unity.fr](mailto:cfrancin@comm-unity.fr)

### Playing Area

The championship will take place inside the 'Europa' Conference Centre, an area of 10,000 square meters situated in the modern complex 'Veronafiore', only 3 km away from the city centre. ([www.veronafiore.it/](http://www.veronafiore.it/))



# VIRTUAL CHAMPIONSHIP

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

From June 2005 World Bridge House is online on the web. The new website contains all information regarding the World Bridge Championship together with curiosities and information about the host country, Verona and Italy in general.

From April 2006 World Bridge House, an innovative multimedia communication project, will turn your navigation into a fascinating virtual visit to the World Championship and Verona.

The big international house of all bridge players will in fact offer visitors the opportunity to:

- follow in real time all the phases of the Championship in a realistic simulation of the matches as they occur.
- access all information regarding Italian culture, tourism and leisure time.



Visit World Bridge House and sign up for free to receive our special Newsletters directly to your e-mail address.

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



ALL FARES ARE PER NIGHT PER ROOM, BREAKFAST AND TAXES INCLUDED

Category	Junior Suite	Double	Double (Single use)	Single
De Luxe		480 €	360 €	
5 Stars	560 €	300 €		230 €
4 Stars Sup.		175 €	155 €	140 €
4 Stars		160 €	145 €	130 €
3 Stars Sup.		150 €	140 €	120 €
3 Stars		140 €	130 €	110 €
2 Stars		95 €	85 €	75 €

Less expensive accommodation options will be possible



## Services and Bus

AMT (the local public transportation company) and 'Verona Trade Fair' will provide shuttle-bus connections between Verona downtown, the hotels and the playing area.

**ROUND 6**

**Bermuda Bowl**



**USA2 v USA1**



**Brothers In Arms**

Mark Horton was on hand to interview Jeff Meckstroth and Geoff Hampson before their Bermuda Bowl match.

After revealing that the match had generated so much excitement that it was being beamed live to the Oval Office at the White House, Horton asked Jeff who would win the World Series? 'Houston Astros 4-2' — (you read it here first!)

Then a key question - Have you visited the Casino yet?

'Not yet — but they are keeping my seat warm.'

Finally — with a prize for giving the answer I have in mind — Who is England's best player?

After considerable thought Jeff replied, 'I would have to say Tony Forrester.'

'Well, Tony will be very pleased — but I'm afraid it was a trick question and the answer I was looking for was Wayne Rooney (England's football star who was celebrating his twentieth birthday).'

Then it was Geoff's turn. Do you have any good stock market tips?

'Several tips, but no good ones.'

Do you read bridge books — and what's your favourite?

'Victor Mollo's collection of characters.'

Geoff's prize-winning question was: Do you have a favourite Bridge Magazine?

'International Popular Bridge Monthly.'

An excellent choice, now incorporated into *Bridge Magazine*, but the answer Mark was looking for — in deference to our editor — was *The ACBL Bridge Bulletin*.

The sixth-round match between the two American teams attracted considerable interest, in no small measure because USA2 were comfortably in qualifying position early in the round-robin, while USA1, the defending champions, were not

among the top eight in the standings. Both teams expected to be among the qualifiers at the end, however.

After a quiet first board, USA2 earned swings on the second and third boards, and both swings involved decisions by Bob Hamman of USA1.

Board 2. Dealer East. N/S Vul.

♠ A K 8 7 5 ♥ 10 ♦ Q 7 3 ♣ K 7 4 2	♠ Q 4 2 ♥ 8 7 6 4 ♦ K 10 6 5 ♣ J 10	<table style="border: 1px solid black; width: 100%; height: 100%; text-align: center; margin: 0 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		♠ J 10 9 6 ♥ J 9 ♦ J 4 2 ♣ A 6 5 3
	N											
W		E										
	S											
♠ 3 ♥ A K Q 5 3 2 ♦ A 9 8 ♣ Q 9 8												

West	North	East	South
Rodwell	Greco	Meckstroth	Hampson
1♠	Dble	Pass	1♥
4♠	Pass	3♠	4♥
All Pass		Pass	Dble

Eric Rodwell ruffed the second round of hearts, cashed the high spades and put North in with his trump winner. After a club switch, Rodwell played the ♣A and ♣K, then threw Geoff



Eric Rodwell, USA1



Eric Greco, USA2



Hampson in with the choice of breaking diamonds or providing a ruff-sluff. That was minus 300, and Rodwell could only hope that the phantom save was taken in the other room as well. East/West, as you can see, have four tricks against 4♥ so long as they don't play diamonds for declarer.

West	North	East	South
Rubin	Hamman	Ekeblad	Soloway
2♣	Dble	4♣	4♥*
Pass	Pass	4♠	All Pass

Soloway's 1♣ was strong, artificial and forcing. The 2♣ bid showed a two-suiter. Soloway's pass of 4♠ was forcing, but Hamman apparently didn't see it that way. The resulting plus 100 provided USA2 with a 5-IMP swing.

Hamman was also involved in the swing on the next deal.

Board 3. Dealer South. E/W Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Rodwell	Greco	Meckstroth	Hampson
1♠	Dble	Pass	Pass
Pass	2NT	Pass	INT
All Pass			3NT

With the source of tricks in the diamond suit, Eric Greco had an easy decision to raise his partner's INT response to the takeout double.

Rodwell started with the ♠Q, taken in hand by Hampson. He played a low diamond to the ten and queen, and won the spade return with the king. A second low diamond from hand fetched the king. Hampson won and returned to hand with the ♦J, playing a club next. When the ♣K popped up, Hampson was home with an overtrick.

West	North	East	South
Rubin	Hamman	Ekeblad	Soloway
1♠	2♦	Pass	Pass
All Pass			3♦

Hamman might have cuebid spades to see if Paul Soloway had a spade stopper, but he went quietly, chalking up 10 tricks in diamonds for a 7-IMP loss. USA2 had jumped out in front 12-0.

USA1 picked up an overtrick IMP on the next deal, then pulled closer with a useful score on Board 5.

Board 5. Dealer North. N/S Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Rubin	Hamman	Ekeblad	Soloway
2♦	Pass	Pass	INT
2♠	Pass	2♥	Pass
	Pass	3♦	All Pass

Ron Rubin's 2♦ showed diamonds and a major. Russ Ekeblad checked to see which major in case it was hearts, but he preferred diamonds when Rubin revealed his second suit.

Hamman started with the ♣10, won in dummy. Rubin played a second high club to discard a heart from hand, and he over-ruffed when Soloway ruffed the ♣Q low. The ♠A was followed by a low spade. Soloway overtook Hamman's ♠10 to return a diamond. Rubin won in hand with the queen, ruffed a spade, ruffed a club low and ruffed another spade. He had eight tricks in with the trump ace still to come; plus 110 for USA2.

West	North	East	South
Rodwell	Greco	Meckstroth	Hampson
Dble	Pass	1♦	INT
Pass	Rdbl	Pass	2♣
	Pass	Dble	All Pass

At unfavourable vulnerability, Hampson's INT overcall with minimum values was dangerous to say the least. Further, one of the vugraph commentators noted Hampson's possession of both majors, making a takeout double of 1♦ his preferred call with the South hand.

As it was, North/South landed in Meckstroth's best suit (the Precision 1♦ opener often features short diamonds and a five-card club suit).

Rodwell started with the ♥10, which went to South's ace. Declarer played the ♣J from hand, taken by Meckstroth with the queen. He switched accurately to the ♦J, covered by the king and ace. The ♦Q was next, and a third round was taken by Meckstroth with the nine. He then played the ♠7 to the king and Rodwell's ace. He considered his next play for some time before continuing with the ♠J. That was not optimum for the defense — Rodwell's fourth diamond would have produced three down. If Hampson ruffs high in dummy, Meckstroth could discard his other spade, while if Hampson discarded from dummy, Meckstroth could ruff with one of his low trumps for an extra trick.

As it was, USA1 came out plus 500 for a 9-IMP gain. They trailed by only 2 IMPs at that point.

Both North/South pairs overcame interference to reach their slams on the following deal.

Board 12. Dealer West. N/S Vul.

♠ A K 10 ♥ A K 3 2 ♦ 2 ♣ K 6 5 4 2	<table style="margin: auto; border: 1px solid black; background-color: black; color: white; 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	♠ J 7 4 2 ♥ J 10 9 8 7 4 ♦ 9 6 ♣ 9	♠ 8 6 5 ♥ — ♦ K Q J 10 7 4 ♣ A Q 7 3
N						
W      E						
S						

West <i>Rodwell</i>	North <i>Greco</i>	East <i>Meckstroth</i>	South <i>Hampson</i>
Pass	1♣	2♥	3♦
3♥	3NT	Pass	4♣
Pass	4♥	Pass	4NT
Pass	6♣	All Pass	

Hampson and Greco play a version of Precision with similarities to the Meckstroth/Rodwell system, so 1♣ was strong and artificial, the rest of their bids natural. Over 6♣, Hampson appeared to be considering one more bid, but he finally passed, providing sighs of relief for the USA2 partisans in the vugraph theatre.

West <i>Rubin</i>	North <i>Hamman</i>	East <i>Ekeblad</i>	South <i>Soloway</i>
	1♣	3♥	4♦
4♥	Pass	Pass	5NT
Pass	6♣	All Pass	

Ekeblad started the barrage one level higher than Meckstroth did, but it did not slow down Soloway, who knew there was a slam in some strain, as indicated by his 5NT bid. He was happy with Hamman's choice. It is worth noting, as Paul Chemla of the vugraph panel pointed out, that 6NT is the best contract for North/South, the strength of the diamond suit allowing for even a 4-0 club split (provided diamonds don't also break horribly, that is).

USA1, trailing 15-14, took the lead for the first time on Board 18.

Board 18. Dealer East. N/S Vul.

♠ A J ♥ K 7 2 ♦ K 6 4 ♣ A Q 7 5 2	<table style="margin: auto; border: 1px solid black; background-color: black; color: white; 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	♠ K 10 5 2 ♥ A J 9 6 3 ♦ A 7 5 ♣ K	♠ Q 8 3 ♥ Q 10 5 ♦ Q J 9 8 2 ♣ 8 6
N						
W      E						
S						

West <i>Rodwell</i>	North <i>Greco</i>	East <i>Meckstroth</i>	South <i>Hampson</i>
		Pass	Pass
1♣	Dble	1♦	1♠
INT	Pass	3NT	All Pass

Greco's double showed the majors, and Rodwell's INT rebid showed a better hand than the INT opener (14-16). With his five-card diamond suit, Meckstroth did not hesitate in bidding the game.

Greco started with a low heart, taken by Rodwell with the king in hand to keep the entry to dummy intact. On the low diamond from Rodwell, Greco played the ♦A and cleared the heart suit with the ace and another. Rodwell ran diamonds, discarding the ♠J from his hand and watching South's discards. On the play of the last diamond, Rodwell discarded a club from his hand. Holding the singleton ♠A and ♣A Q 7 5, Rodwell knew South was down to one spade and four clubs. Based on the bidding and the play to that point, Rodwell knew North had at most one club.

Making sure of his contract. Rodwell played a spade to the ace, removing South's last spade, and then played the ♣A. Even if North followed low, Rodwell could be sure of another club trick by playing a low club from hand. South could win and cash the ♣K but would have to play a club to Rodwell's queen on the final trick.

As it happened, Greco's ♣K fell under the ace and Rodwell could claim a very well-played game contract.

At the other table, Rubin and Ekeblad were less ambitious — and less successful in the play.

West <i>Rubin</i>	North <i>Hamman</i>	East <i>Ekeblad</i>	South <i>Soloway</i>
		Pass	Pass
1♣	Dble	1♦	Pass
INT	Pass	Pass	2♠
Pass	Pass	3♦	All Pass

Soloway started with the ♥8, and the defense came to five tricks with the ♥A, ♦A, a heart ruff and two black-suit kings. Minus 50 meant 10 IMPs to USA1, now leading 24-15.

The final margin was increased to 29-15 when both USA1 pairs scored plus 90 on the final board of the set — 2♣ making two by Meckstroth and INT making one by Hamman.

The loss did not hurt USA2 in the standings, but the win did move USA1 closer to a qualifying spot in the round-robin.



**ROUND 7** Venice Cup  
**Pakistan v Singapore**

During the early days of these tournaments we like to cover a few matches featuring teams who are not likely to reach the knockout stages, as the qualifiers have a good chance of being written up next week. I have to be careful about using this introduction – a few years ago I used it for a match involving the South African Venice Cup team, and they take great delight in reminding me at every possible opportunity that they actually qualified quite comfortably on that occasion. Anyway, good luck to both Pakistan and Singapore, but I suspect that they are on the qualification lists of few people here in Estoril.

The match began with a series of major swings so that 54 IMPs changed hands over the first five deals.

Board 1. Dealer North. None Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Chai	Azwer	Choo	Saigol
	Pass	1♣	1♠
3♥	3♠	4♥	Pass
4NT	Pass	5♦	Pass
5♥	Pass	6♥	All Pass

West	North	East	South
Rasheed	Lam	Bokhari	Endo
	Pass	2♦	Pass
2♠	Pass	2NT	Pass
3♥	Pass	4♥	Pass
4NT	Pass	5♣	Pass
5♦	Pass	6♥	Pass
7♥	All Pass		

Neither North player was willing to open such a weak hand despite the seven-card suit.

Jane Choo's strong-club opening attracted an artificial overcall and that forced Greta Chai to jump to 3♥ to show her positive, 2♥ being only semi-positive for this pair. Zeenat Azwer introduced her long spades and Choo agreed hearts. Chai checked on key cards then settled for 5♥, but Choo went on to slam. Seven was never really in the picture; +1010.

Shirin Bokhari opened a multi then showed a strong balanced hand. Three Hearts was natural and Bokhari raised to

game. Now Samia Rasheed used RKCB, checked on the queen of trumps and, on discovering that partner held that card, bid the grand slam, trusting that there would be no club loser.

Not everyone who bid seven in other matches made it, playing two rounds of clubs without drawing trumps. Rasheed, however, received a spade lead, went up with the ace and drew two rounds of trumps, then played on diamonds for thirteen easy tricks when both red suits divided evenly; +1510 and 11 IMPs to Pakistan – the perfect start.

Board 2. Dealer East. N/S Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Chai	Azwer	Choo	Saigol
		2♣	2♠
All Pass			
West	North	East	South
Rasheed	Lam	Bokhari	Endo
		1♣	1♠
Pass	2♦	Pass	4♠
All Pass			



Ze Ying Lam, Singapore

Rehana Saigol made a simple overcall of Choo's Precision 2♣ opening and that meant that game was missed when Zeenat Azwer had no reason to bid with the North cards; +200. In the other room, the opening bid was 1♣ and Kimiko Endo also made a simple overcall. Here, however, there was room for Ze Ying Lam to introduce her long diamonds without committing her side past the two level. Hearing a two-over-one response was all that Endo needed to bid the spade game. The defence just came to two aces; +650 and 10 IMPs back to Singapore.

Board 3. Dealer South. E/W Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Chai</i>	<i>Azwer</i>	<i>Choo</i>	<i>Saigol</i>
1♠	Pass	2♦	Pass
3♣	Pass	3NT	All Pass
West	North	East	South
<i>Rasheed</i>	<i>Lam</i>	<i>Bokhari</i>	<i>Endo</i>
1♠	Pass	2♦	Pass
2NT	Pass	4♠	All Pass

Chai could bid out her shape without promising extra values, so did so and Choo judged that her ♥10 was sufficient to justify a 3NT bid rather than a less committal 3♥, which could on occasion have forced partner to go beyond 3NT when that was the correct spot. Saigol led a heart to the queen and ace, and Choo set about the diamonds, coming to ten tricks when they behaved as required; +630.

Rasheed could not rebid 3♣ in her methods and preferred a limiting 2NT to repeating the mediocre spade suit. I find Bokhari's leap to 4♠ a little odd now, but perhaps there is some systemic inference of which I am unaware. Lam led a club to the ace and back came a second club. Rasheed won the king and played a diamond, ducked, then the ♦Q, throwing a club as Lam won with the ace. Now came the card to cause declarer a problem, the queen of hearts. Rasheed took with dummy's ace and had to decide whether to play for diamonds to break evenly, or hearts. In practice, she chose to play the ♥10, Endo winning with the king and continuing the suit to give Lam a ruff; down one for -100 and 12 IMPs to Singapore. Rasheed would have succeeded by playing two rounds of diamonds to ditch both her hearts. Lam ruffs but that is all for the defence. This also succeeds with trumps three-three if diamonds divide evenly or North has the shortage.

Board 4. Dealer West. All Vul.

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

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Chai</i>	<i>Azwer</i>	<i>Choo</i>	<i>Saigol</i>
1♣	Pass	1NT	Pass
2♠	Pass	3♠	Pass
4♠	All Pass		
West	North	East	South
<i>Rasheed</i>	<i>Lam</i>	<i>Bokhari</i>	<i>Endo</i>
1♠	Pass	2♠	Pass
4♠	All Pass		

At both tables, North led a low club to dummy's ten. Declarer cashed the top spades, then played ace and another diamond, North playing low. Chai got it right, going up with the queen, Rasheed wrong, finessing the ten; 12 IMPs to Singapore.

It was open to both declarers to take two diamond finesses through South, which looks better than ace and another for a guess. Both Norths had led the ♣3, third and fifth, and neither declarer wished to run the risk of taking a diamond finesse at trick two and finding that clubs were six-one, South having followed with the five at both tables.

Board 5. Dealer North. N/S Vul.

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

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Chai</i>	<i>Azwer</i>	<i>Choo</i>	<i>Saigol</i>
Pass	Pass	1♦	Dble
Pass	1NT	Pass	3♣
Pass	3♥	Pass	3♠
Pass	3NT	All Pass	



West	North	East	South
Rasheed	Lam	Bokhari	Endo
	Pass	INT	Dble

All Pass

Choo's Precision 1♦ opening kept her side out of trouble as North/South now bid to 3NT. After a spade lead, Azwer made twelve tricks for +690, just losing one club trick.

Bokhari's weak no trump was doubled and Rasheed saw nowhere to run. Endo led out ace, king and ten of clubs – perhaps a low club at trick two is better as declarer had not unblocked the queen to ensure a dummy entry. Bokhari won with the ♣J and led a heart to her king before exiting with a low diamond to the bare ace. Endo cashed one club winner (the seven) to make it clear which other suit interested her, then switched to the ♥J. Lam took her ace and switched to spades to collect all the remaining tricks; five down for -100 and 9 IMPs to Singapore.

On Board 7, Lam did something very good for her side when she raised a 15-17 no trump to 2NT rather than use Stayman, holding:

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

There was a four-four heart fit and 4♥ was doomed to fail on a club lead and ruff, while 3NT was quite cold. Alas, Endo checked back for a major-suit fit on her way to 3NT and played in 4♥ down one after all for a flat board.

Board 8. Dealer West. None Vul.

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

♠ 7 6 5 4 3 2		
♥ 9 7 4		
♦ 9 3		
♣ K 6		

West	North	East	South
Chai	Azwer	Choo	Saigol
1♣	1♥	Dble	1♠
2♦	2♠	3♣	4♠
5♦	Dble	Pass	5♠
Dble	All Pass		

West	North	East	South
Rasheed	Lam	Bokhari	Endo
1♦	1♠	Pass	4♠
5♦	Dble	All Pass	

Azwer made a transfer overcall of Chai's strong club and Saigol started quietly by just completing the transfer. She jumped to 4♠ at her next turn, however, then removed

Azwer's penalty double of 5♦ to 5♠. Right she was! Five Spades doubled was just one down, with one loser in each side suit; -100.

At the other table, Lam overcalled 1♠ after a natural opening bid on her right and Endo made the normal pre-emptive raise to 4♠. Rasheed had little option but to bid 5♦ on her own and Lam, with a strong hand for her overcall, doubled. This is a partnership thing, of course, but I approve of the double to show that we should be doing something in this auction, and would expect partner to remove to 5♠ with her actual hand. Endo, however, passed, which may well have been correct in her partnership style, and that was +650 for Rasheed and 11 IMPs to Pakistan.

Board 15. Dealer South. N/S Vul.

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

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

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

West	North	East	South
Chai	Azwer	Choo	Saigol
Pass	3♠	Pass	2♠
All Pass			4♠

West	North	East	South
Rasheed	Lam	Bokhari	Endo
Pass	2♠	Dble	1♠
All Pass			4♠

Both Souths declared in 4♠. Against Saigol, the defence began with a spade to the ace, two top hearts and a second trump. Of course, ruffing out the clubs and using the ♠10 as an entry to cash them, makes ten tricks, but declarer muddled the play and finished two down for -200.

Against Endo, the defence led three rounds of hearts. She ruffed the third round and played ace then ruffed a diamond, three rounds of clubs, ruffing, and ruffed another diamond. Now a club was ruffed with the eight and the last diamond with the ten. The defence could only come to the ace of trumps; +620 and 13 IMPs to Singapore.

Singapore came out on top by 80-31 IMPs, converting to 25-4 VPs, boosting them into the top half of the table.

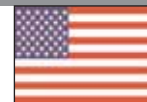


**ROUND 2**

**Venice Cup**



**England v USA I**



by Tony Gordon

This was an error-strewn encounter that resulted in a narrow win for England.

The first board set the trend when England missed the chance for a game swing.

Board 1. Dealer North. None Vul.

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

**Closed Room**

West	North	East	South
Brunner	Rosenberg	Goldenfield	Stansby
Pass	1♥	Pass	1♠
Pass	2♣	Pass	2NT
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

South has an awkward bid at her second turn and JoAnna Stansby opted for an aggressive 2NT, which Debbie Rosenberg naturally raised to game. Michelle Brunner led her fourth-highest club and declarer tried dummy's ten. When this held the trick, turned her attention to diamonds. The ♦K would have led to an easy ten tricks, but she played a low diamond to her jack and West's queen. Brunner exited with a spade to dummy's ace. Declarer continued diamonds but Rhona Goldenfield ducked the king and won the next round before switching to the ♠J, which was covered by the queen and king. Back came a heart and declarer hopefully ducked in dummy, but East won with the king and could have doomed the contract by returning an entry-destroying club, but she tried an optimistic spade instead and a grateful declarer could unscramble her nine tricks for +400 to USAI.

**Open Room**

West	North	East	South
Picus	Smith	Levin	Dhondy
Pass	1♥	Pass	1♠
Pass	2♣	Pass	2♥
Pass	2NT	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

At the other table Heather Dhondy preferred to give false preference at her second turn and this resulted in North becoming declarer in 3NT. When Jill Levin understandably led a diamond Nicola Smith's main problem was solved and she

emerged with ten tricks for a 1-IMP gain to England.

The first big swing went to England on Board 3 when USAI over-competed in the Open Room and suffered a 1400 penalty to give England 14 IMPs; and 6 more IMPs came their way on Board 6 when USAI went down in 3NT while England stopped in a safe partscore. However, it was England's turn to misjudge the auction on Board 7 to allow USAI to recover 9 IMPs and leave England ahead by 21-11.

Board 9. Dealer North. E/W Vul.

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

**Open Room**

West	North	East	South
Picus	Smith	Levin	Dhondy
	2♠	2NT	All Pass



Debbie Rosenberg, USA

2NT was not without hope, but stood no chance as the card lay. Declarer won the opening lead of the ♠Q with the ace and cashed the ♦AK, but the queen did not appear. She conceded a diamond and Dhondy switched to a heart. Levin took the third round with the ace, throwing low clubs from her hand, and cashed the ♦J before trying the club finesse. When that failed the defence had four major-suit winners to cash, so declarer ended three down for +300 to England.

**Closed Room**

West	North	East	South
Brunner	Rosenberg	Goldenfield	Stansby
	Pass	1♣	1♥
3♣*	All Pass		

\* Pre-emptive

When Rosenberg did not open the North hand in the other room, England alighted safely in 3♣. There were no problems in the play and Goldenfield scored +110 for a 9-IMP gain to England that stretched their lead to 17 IMPs. However, the Americans hit back on the very next board:

Board 10. Dealer East. All Vul.

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

**Closed Room**

West	North	East	South
Brunner	Rosenberg	Goldenfield	Stansby
Pass	INT*	1♠	Pass
All Pass		Pass	3NT

\* 10-14

A low spade lead would have defeated the contract, but Goldenfield opted for the ♥J, systemically asking for an unblock of the ten. If declarer wins in hand and plays on clubs she will come to nine tricks, but she won in dummy and played a spade to the jack. If East ducks this she regains the tempo lost by the opening lead, but she doubtless did not expect declarer to have only three spades for this line of play and East won with the king. There was no winning defence at this point and her ♣K exit merely speeded up the play. Declarer played three rounds of clubs, won the heart switch with the ace and lost a second spade to East. Goldenfield could cash a heart, but declarer had the rest for +600 to USAI.

**Open Room**

West	North	East	South
Picus	Smith	Levin	Dhondy
		1♠	All Pass

Smith's protective INT would have shown 11-15 HCP, so 1♠ was passed out at the other table. After a trump lead Levin was one down for +100 to England but a gain of 11 IMPs for USAI.

Two boards later, England missed a non-vulnerable game to lose another 6 IMPs and the match was all square with four boards left to play.

Board 14. Dealer East. Love All.

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

**Open Room**

West	North	East	South
Picus	Smith	Levin	Dhondy
		Pass	Pass
1♦	1♥	1♠	2♥
2♠	3♥	Pass	Pass
3♠	All Pass		

The defence began with a heart to the king and a trump switch, and Levin played a diamond to the eight and queen. Trumps were continued, so declarer ruffed a heart, crossed to the ♣A and ruffed another heart before exiting with a club to Smith's king. Two rounds of hearts would have ensured two down, but Smith switched to the ♦6 after cashing the ♥A; however, declarer rose with the king and went two down after all for +100 to England.

**Closed Room**

West	North	East	South
Brunner	Rosenberg	Goldenfield	Stansby
		Pass	Pass
1♠	Pass	3♠	All Pass

Play began in a similar fashion against the same contract in the other room. After a high heart, Rosenberg switched to a trump; declarer won in hand and ran the ♦7 to Stansby's queen. However, after South played a second round of trumps the play diverged as Brunner now repeated the diamond finesse. Stansby took her ace and switched to a club, which Brunner ducked. Any suit other than hearts would defeat the contract at this point, but Rosenberg played the ♥K and now Brunner could ruff in dummy, come back to the ♣A and trump another heart before ruffing a club to hand to draw the last trump. Dummy's ♦K10 took the last two tricks to give Brunner nine tricks and England +140 and a lead of 6 IMPs with two boards remaining.

USAI pulled back 3 IMPs on the penultimate board but the last board was flat, so England won the match by 3 IMPs (36-33), which converted to a 16-14 VP victory.

## Sports News

### American Football

NY Jets 14-27 Atlanta

### Cycling

Italian cyclist Dario Frigo has been handed a six-month suspended sentence and 12,000 Euro fine for doping during the 2001 Giro D'Italia. Frigo was forced to pull out of the 2001 Giro after Italian police found drugs in his hotel room. Similar sentences were given to riders Giuseppe Di Grande and Alberto Elli after the duo were found guilty of using banned substances.

### Cricket

India defeated Sri Lanka by 152 runs in the first match of their one-day international series. India 350-6, Sri Lanka 198.



### Formula 1

Formula One will switch to a knockout qualifying system next season as the sport seeks to improve its appeal. Qualifying will now take part in three phases, with five cars dropping out after a first 15-minute session and another five following a second stint. The remaining 10 cars will then compete for pole position in a 20-minute finale designed to maximise TV excitement.



Tyre changes is also making a return after being scrapped this season, despite objections from some teams. The return to slick tyres and a move to run a single tyre supplier were also passed for a provisional introduction in 2007.

A proposal for a radical new rear wing concept, designed to facilitate overtaking, also won the support of teams for 2007 subject to further input from their technical directors.

## Championship Diary

When England met USA2 on vugraph in the Bermuda Bowl they took a 10 IMP lead on the first board. As Board 4 was being completed Jean-Paul Meyer commented that it had taken USA2 no time at all to take the lead (the score was about to become 10-18).

Perhaps he had failed to notice that one hour of the match had already elapsed!

If you hear Tacchi sneezing you can be sure he has been overindulgent the night before!

The first person to produce a list of guests at the vugraph commentators' ball is England Captain Alan Mould.

Unfortunately, Count Squeeze is unable to attend at all, but his wife is here, a Squeeze without the count.

She has also brought along her twin sons, a Double Squeeze and her daughter who is an 'exotic dancer', Strip Squeeze.

Mr. & Mrs Transfer are here, with their son Jacoby. They have also brought their American cousin, Texas. The cousin lived in Johannesburg for many years and is now called South African Texas.

Mr. & Mrs Club have bought their young daughter, Short Club, their boy scout son, Prepared Club, their body builder son Strong Club, their Italian relation, Neapolitan Club, and their Alaskan cousin Blue Club.

Mr. & Mrs. Major have brought their son, little Major.

Mr. & Mrs. Sykes have bought their son Ferdinand Sykes, who can be a lot of fun.

## Rulings and Appeals

*Grattan Endicott*

The WBF Code of Practice applies in all events at these Championships. The attention of captains is drawn particularly to the fact that the appeals committee bases the hearing of each appeal on the expectation that the ruling of the director is free of significant error and appropriate to the facts. An appeals committee will only change the ruling made by the director if wholly convinced by the appellant that such is not the case. For this reason, captains who are inclined to appeal a ruling are asked to bear these considerations in mind:

1. The Chief Tournament Director is at the top of his profession and the team of directors he has assembled include a number of senior directors with exceptional experience of world championships.

2. If any question arises as to the application of the law to the facts of a case there is a consultation among these directors.

3. In reaching decisions that involve bridge judgement the Directors consult a number of expert players for their opinions.

Consequently only the strongest arguments will overturn rulings that are never made on impulse or without proper consultation. From some early appeals here in Estoril it seems that appellants are inclined to appeal too readily without fully appreciating the amount of work that goes into the director's rulings.