

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

# Both United States teams take 9-point leads in finals

After the first day of the finals of the Bermuda Bowl and the Venice Cup, both United States teams lead their opponents by 9 IMPs. It appears that we have two intensely contested finals to follow.

The Americans (USA II) in the Bermuda Bowl trailed through most of the day, but they came to life in the final set. They overcame a 13-point deficit with a 39-17 segment to go into the lead, 121-112. It was close all the way. France led after the first three segments by 1, 4 and 13. The bridge wasn't always the best, but it was intensely competitive.

In the Venice Cup final between United States I and China, the lead changed hands several times. The Americans got off to a fast start, inundating their rivals, 36-5 over the first 16 boards. But China turned this around in the second segment, 27-4, to close within eight IMPs. Another good set put China in front by 12 after 48 deals. And then it was the Americans' turn again – they outscored China, 53-14 in the last segment of the day. USA I picked up a slam swing – 14 IMPs – on the next-to-last board of the last set to shoot into the lead. The China North was faced with a tough opening lead in a slam. When she cashed her ace, the Americans scored up their slam.

The Venice Cup match, a 128-board battle, will conclude tonight. After the Bermuda Bowl finalists play another 64 boards today, they still will have 32 remaining to be played tomorrow. It's a really long match - 160 boards.

## Transnational semifinals start today

The 32-board semifinals of the Transnational Open Teams will take place today starting at 11.00. The winners will clash in the final starting at 21.30 tonight. The 48-board event will conclude tomorrow with two sessions starting at 11.00.

Jassem, captain of the Polish team that finished first in the round-robin, chose Hanna of Canada as their semifinal opponent. The other semifinal pits Gardynik of Poland against Burgay, a team made up Italian and Polish players.

Teams that failed to qualify for the semifinals will play two matches today starting at 11.00 to determine overall placings.

## Norway, United States II win bronze medals

Norway defeated United States I, 97-67, in a 32-board match to determine third place and the bronze medal in the Bermuda Bowl. Playing for Norway were Boye Brogeland, Erik Saelensminde, Geir Helgemo, Tor Helness, Glenn Groetheim and Terje Aa, with Einar Asbjon Brenne as non-playing captain.

The victor in the Venice Cup match for the bronze medal was won by United States II. They defeated France, winner of the round-robin, 114-66, in a 48-board match. The American team was made up of Kathie Wei-Sender, Juanita Chambers, Lynn Deas, Kerri Sanborn, Beth Palmer and Irina Levitina, with Sue Sachs as non-playing captain.



## Under Contract!

**José Damiani**, *President of the World Bridge Federation* and **Michel Marmouget**, *President of the French Bridge Federation*, sign the contract for the 1998 World Bridge Championships to be staged in Lille in August and September.

## Press conference postponed

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

# Bermuda Bowl - Results

## finals

Table	Match	1st Session Boards 1-16	2nd Session Boards 17-32	3rd Session Boards 33-48	4th Session Boards 49-64	5th Session Boards 65-80	6th Session Boards 81-96	7th Session Boards 97-112	8th Session Boards 113-128	Total IMPs
1.	<b>USA II - France</b>	<b>28 - 29</b>	<b>21 - 24</b>	<b>33 - 42</b>	<b>39 - 17</b>					<b>121 - 112</b>
2.	<b>Norway - USA I</b>	<b>67 - 28</b>	<b>30 - 39</b>							<b>97 - 67</b>

# Venice Cup - Results

## finals

Table	Match	1st Session Boards 1-16	2nd Session Boards 17-32	3rd Session Boards 33-48	4th Session Boards 49-64	5th Session Boards 65-80	6th Session Boards 81-96	7th Session Boards 97-112	8th Session Boards 113-128	Total IMPs
3.	<b>China - USA I</b>	<b>5 - 36</b>	<b>27 - 4</b>	<b>41 - 21</b>	<b>14 - 35</b>					<b>87 - 96</b>
4.	<b>USA II - France</b>	<b>27 - 31</b>	<b>38 - 6</b>	<b>49 - 29</b>						<b>114 - 66</b>

## VUGRAPH

Bermuda Bowl - final 11h00

**France - USA II**

Bermuda Bowl - final 14h00

**France - USA II**

Bermuda Bowl - final 17h00

**France - USA II**

Bermuda Bowl - final 21h30

**China - USA I**

## Merci beaucoup

Coordinating the vugraph commentaries was fun and enjoyable. In our game our motto is Bridge for Peace, and there were many comments for peace among the United States, Canada, Italy, France and Great Britain.

Thanks then to Billy Eisenberg, Eric Kokish, Guido Ferraro, Brian Senior and Mark Horton. All of them are very talented - I knew this from the beginning. I soon learned the very high interest and concern they showed for their job. I already knew of their friendly character. It was a great pleasure to work with this team which I am sure pleased the vugraph audience.

I thank also the occasional commentators - David Burn, Jens Auken and Philippe Cronier - as well as our guest stars (in order of appearance) - Bobby Wolff, Omar Sharif and Zia.

I am also thankful for the job the French women, Anne Elisabeth and Veronique, did. Of course the camera team must be included - Bernard Delange and Paul fully deserve our thanks.

**JEAN PAUL MEYER**

## World Transnational Open Teams Schedule

### Friday

11.00-12.30

11.00-13.20

12.50-14.20

14.00-16.20

Break

21.30-23.50

Round 17

Semifinal, first half

Round 18

Semifinal, second half

Final, first segment

### Saturday

11.00-13.20

14.00-16.20

Final, second segment

Final, third segment

## Hammamet observations - IX

by Terry Radjef

1 June 1959. That's the day Tunisia solemnly announced the establishment of its First Constitution.

The stature of President Bourguiba as the Supreme Warrior carried the country through several economic and ideological crises. His charismatic personality led the people to elect him president for life in 1975 when, after three consecutive presidential terms, the Constitution did not allow him to serve a fourth term.

The new dynastic state brought the question of succession to the surface. Meanwhile, in spite of an increasing separation between the State the wheels of modernism, the country continues to develop its educational infrastructure, improve its economy and thus improve living standards.

In the Eighties, social crises, foreign affairs incidents, Islamic pressures, a drop in oil prices and the President's personal problems weakened his government and led to his replacement 7 November 1987.

Declared medically impaired, President Bourguiba was replaced by his prime minister, General Zine El Abidine Ben Ali. Even though the populace realised there was a need for change, there remained a nostalgia for the first President. Women in particular did not forget that he gave them their emancipation.

President Ben Ali has since devoted his efforts to strengthen individual freedoms and to liberalise and modernise an economic system that had become archaic.

The future of Tunisia is bright!

## 4th Malta Bridge Festival

31 January to 6 February 1998

Prize Pool

minimum **US\$15,000** guaranteed

The tournament will be played at the fabulous San Gorg Corinthia, St. Julians.

### Open Pairs

31 January - 1 February

### Mens Pairs & Ladies Pairs

2 February

### Play with the Experts

3 February

### Mixed Teams

4 February

### Swiss Teams

5 & 6 February

### Gala Dinner and Prize Giving

6 February

For more information contact:

**Margaret Parnis** England

Tel: 00 356 330384 or 00 356 381928

fax: 00 356 316340

email: [parnis@waldonet.net.mt](mailto:parnis@waldonet.net.mt)

or

**Mario Dix**

Tel: 00 356 330800 - Fax: 00 356 373683

## World Transnational Open Teams Results After 16 Rounds

I	JASSEM	POL	305
2	GARDYNIK	POL	290
3	BURGAY	ITA/POL	288
4	HANNA	CAN	286
5	AUKEN	DEN/GER	281
6	CONVERY	ZAF/GBR	272
7	SHARIF	TRA	271
8	SAHAL	FRA	270
9	ROUDINESCO	FRA	270
10	PINTO R	POR	267
11	HACKETT	GBR/VEN	264
12	VLAJNIC	YOU	261
13	LEVENKO	EST	259
14	REKUNOV	RUS	258
15	VANDERGAAST	NL/GBR	256
16	MILNER	USA/CAN	256
17	MAYBACH	GER	256
18	CHMURSKI	POL	255
19	GAL	HUN	255
20	JACKSON	IRE	254
21	CHODOROWSK	POL	252
22	FORRESTER	GBR	251
23	CERVI	ITA	249
24	GOODMAN	GBR	248
25	ANAND	IND	248
26	BAROUDY	LBN/FRA	247
27	FORT	CSK	245
28	NIEMINEN	FIN	245
29	MACNAIR	GBR	245
30	LAVAZZA	ITA	243
31	Mrs ZOBU	TUR	243
32	HUMBURG	GER	242
33	Mrs BURN	GBR	241
34	MACI	ITA	241
35	BALICKI	POL	241
36	PINTO E	POR/BRA	240
37	KOUZNETSOV	RUS	239
38	OTVOSI	POL	239
39	EILERTSEN	NOR	239
40	EKEBLAD	USA	238
41	MOSCHINO	ITA	236
42	KER	NZE	235
43	BLAKSET	DEN	235
44	DUMITRESCU	ROM	235
45	BARONI	ITA	234
46	NISING	NOR	234
47	TELSCHER	GBR/USA	234
48	JEDIDI	TUN	234
49	MORSE	USA/CAN	230
50	CADI TAZI	MAR	227
51	Mrs REID	JAM/GBR	227
52	LAKHDHAR	USIT/TUN	226
53	GARZETTI	CHL	224
54	D'ORSI	BRA/USA/NZ	224
55	RIOS	CHL	224
56	NIKEL	RUS	223
57	STRANDBERG	EST	220
58	PEDAK	EST	219
59	WILLIAMS	USGB/FRA	218
60	MALAGUTI	ITA	216
61	BIZER	RUS/BRA	216
62	SINGAPURI	IND	214
63	BELHASSEN	TUN	213
64	SEGRS	BEL	211
65	SILABHUSIDI	ITHA	211
66	GUILLET	FRA	210
67	DAEHR	GER	208
68	SFAR	TUN	204
69	RAUNTO	FIN	204
70	ZARROUK	TUN	194
71	GRAY	ZAF/USA	192
72	HAMEYET	MAR	191
73	DIX	MAL	191
74	WESSELING	NT/GBR	167

## What a lead!

by Jean Paul Meyer

You hold:

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

This was the bidding:

West	North	East	South
Pass	2♥	Pass	2♦
Pass	7♦	All Pass	3NT

2♦ is forcing one round. 2♥ is a relay. 3NT shows an eight-card solid minor. What do you lead?

At the table, West chose her singleton, and this was the hand:

♠ A 8 6 5 4 ♥ A J 4 3 2 ♦ — ♣ A 10 8	<table border="1"> <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		♠ 7 3 2 ♥ Q 10 8 ♦ 2 ♣ K Q 9 5 3 2
	N										
W		E									
	S										
♠ Q J 10 9 ♥ 9 7 6 5 ♦ 10 7 6 5 ♣ 4	<table border="1"> <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 ♥ K ♦ A K Q J 9 8 4 3 ♣ J 7 6
	N										
W		E									
	S										

Perfect! However, in reality it wasn't necessary for West to be brilliant – she actually held ♦ J 7 6 5, not ♦ 10 7 6 5, so she was always going to defeat 7♦.

Note that if the same lead had been chosen against 6♦ at the other table, the declarer would have a reply. He could come back to hand with a major king, draw three rounds of trumps, cash the other king and put West in with her master trump. She would be forced to lead into dummy's major suit aces.

## An innocent question

by Sam Leckie

In the late Sixties and Seventies, Dorothy Hayden was in many eyes the best woman player in the world. Now Dorothy Truscott, she is attending these Championships where she is a contestant in the Transnational Open Pairs.

In the Press Room the other day I reminded her of the time I played against her more than 20 years ago in the World Pairs. I was about to remind her of a hand she played when she stopped me in my tracks and said, "I remember you now. You've changed in size a little but you're rolling Scottish accent hasn't. I bet you're going to tell me about a 6♣ hand I played." I was quite amazed that she remembered.

With no other losers she had to play 6♣ with J 5 opposite A K 8 7 6 3. The correct percentage play is low to the jack. If this loses you cash the ace and king – an 85% chance. However, without hesitation Dorothy led the jack from dummy. I covered with the queen. She returned to dummy and passed the 5 – bingo!

I held Q 10 9 4, so the contract was made. I knew who she was, and I could not fathom why she played against the odds. When play was over I asked her why. She answered politely, "Did you not notice that your partner asked if I had opened 1♣? If he had held the queen he would have remembered that fact. Knowing you had the queen, the rest was easy."

That's what champions are made up.

## Hands off the long suit!

by Knut Kjaernsrod, Norway

In Norway's quarterfinal match against Italy Boye Brogeland – Erik Saelensminde did well to defeat this 3 NT:

Board 3. East-West Game. Dealer South.

♠ 8 6 5 ♥ A 10 8 5 ♦ J 8 5 ♣ A K 2	<table border="1"> <tr><td></td><td>N</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td></td><td>E</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td>S</td><td></td></tr> </table>		N		W		E		S		♠ Q 7 2 ♥ K 7 3 2 ♦ Q 10 9 ♣ 9 8 7
	N										
W		E									
	S										
♠ A J 10 9 4 ♥ Q 9 6 4 ♦ 7 3 ♣ J 5	<table border="1"> <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 3 ♥ J ♦ A K 6 4 2 ♣ Q 10 6 4 3
	N										
W		E									
	S										
West Brogeland	North Lauria	East Saelensminde	South Versace								
1♠	Dbl	2♣	1♦								
Pass	3♠	Dbl	3♣								
All Pass			3NT								

With an opening spade lead declarer has nine easy tricks. However, Brogeland found the ♥9 and with the ♦Q being a guarded lady, declarer had to content himself with eight tricks.

The bidding in the Open Room was identical apart from East's double of 3♣. When Buratti led the 10♠, Glenn Groetheim won his contract and 10 IMPs for Norway.

On the next board Erik Saelensminde led a short suit, but it was not as short as declarer assumed.

Board 9. Game East-West. Dealer North

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

Erik chose the only card to give declarer a problem – the ♠Q covered by the king and ace. Brogeland cashed the knave and continued the suit. Declarer ruffed with the ♥Q and that meant two trump tricks for East and one down. The contract was the same in the Open Room, but after the lead of a small spade Terje Aa ruffed the third spade low and soon claimed 10 tricks.

**Bermuda Bowl**

**final (set I)**

**France vs USA II**

**W**e have the perfect line-up for the Bermuda Bowl final – Europe v America, and the Bermuda Bowl holders against the Olympiad champions. The French have done very well against USA in finals in the past and we could expect a close tough match this time.

Mouiel and then Wolff went down in contracts they really should have made on the first two boards, which left USA2 with a 4 IMP lead. And the next swing also went to USA2.

**Board 3. E/W Vul. Dealer South.**

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

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

The 3♣ bid clearly showed diamonds but their card did not say whether it also promised clubs. It put too much momentum into the auction, however, and when Meckwell bid to 4♥ Mari wasn't sure that he could beat it so went on to 5♦. In fact, 5♦ is not a bad spot, needing only the trump finesse. When the ♦K was offside, Mari had to go one down; -100.

**Open Room**

West	North	East	South
Multon	Hamman	Mouiel	Wolff
Pass	1♦	Dbl	Pass
2♦	Pass	2♥	Rdbl
3♥	Pass	Pass	3♦
All Pass			4♦

Wolff's redouble worked out better, slowing the auction down. Hamman got to play in 4♦, just making for +130 and 6 IMPs to USA2.

**Board 5. N/S Vul. Dealer North.**

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

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

After the quiet start to the auction it probably didn't occur to Meckstroth that he was the one who should be saving. There was, of course, no defence to 5♣ doubled; +750.

**Open Room**

West	North	East	South
Multon	Hamman	Mouiel	Wolff
2♥	Pass	Pass	2♣
5♥	4♣	4♥	5♣
	All Pass		

The natural 2♣ opening and 4♣ pre-emptive raise got the bidding up high fast in the Open Room. Even though his partner had bid 4♥, Multon still did pretty well to bid 5♥. Hamman led the ♣K so there was no spade ruff and Multon was just one down; -50 but 12 IMPs to France, who moved into the lead.

Barry Rigal brings us a little of the action from the other matches.

In the Venice Cup final, Berkowitz/Letizia, for USA1, reached 4♥. This can go down on a spade lead, heart to the king, second spade, heart to the ace and a diamond switch to get the entry for the spade ruff. But South discarded an encouraging club and North played a club instead of a diamond so the contract made. (By contrast, in the BB third place play-off Brogeland for Norway pitched a discouraging club and North, Saelensminde, switched to a diamond and got his ruff. Thoughtful!)

Breed and Sokolow reached 5♣ and the Chinese sacrificed in 5♥ for -100 and 11 IMPs to USA1.

**Board 9. E/W Vul. Dealer North.**

<p>♠ 6 4 3 ♥ K Q 8 ♦ 7 5 4 ♣ 8 6 4 3</p>	<p>♠ J 8 7 ♥ A 10 6 ♦ 10 9 8 6 3 ♣ J 7</p>
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Paul Chemla (France)

**Open Room**

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

It looks right for Wolff to open 1♠ for the lead in third seat but it worked out poorly this time. Hamman led a spade against 3NT and Multon ducked but won the second spade. He cashed three rounds of diamonds, relaxing when the queen appeared under the king. Now he exited with a spade and Wolff won and cashed the 13th spade. Wolff exited with a club and Multon won the ace, crossed to the ♥A and ran the diamonds. At the end he found that his ♠9 was a winner, +630.

In the Closed Room Levy did not open in third seat and Meckwell bid quickly: 2NT - 3NT. Christian Mari found the killing lead, the ♥Q, knocking out the dummy entry while the diamonds were still blocked. Meckstroth was two down; -200 and 13 IMPs to France.

**Board 12. N/S Vul. Dealer West.**

<p>♠ 9 8 7 4 3 ♥ J ♦ 10 7 5 ♣ K Q 10 3</p>	<p>♠ Q 5 ♥ A K 8 7 5 ♦ Q 9 ♣ 7 6 5 2</p>	<p>♠ J 10 2 ♥ 9 6 2 ♦ J 4 3 ♣ J 9 8 4</p>
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Both North/South pairs got to the grand slam for a flat board.

**Open Room**

West	North	East	South
Multon	Hamman	Mouiel	Wolff
Pass	Pass	Pass	1♣
Pass	1♠	Pass	2♦
Pass	2♥	Pass	3♥
Pass	4♦	Pass	4♣
Pass	4NT	Pass	5♣
Dbl	Pass	Pass	Rdbl
Pass	5NT	Pass	7♥
All Pass			

1♣ was strong and the response showed three controls. Hearts were soon agreed and when Hamman showed his diamond feature they were well on their way. Wolff cuebid 4♣ and Hamman bid 4NT, showing extras but nothing to cuebid. It seems that this should deny the ♣K, though I cannot be sure of that. In that case, North has the two top hearts. As he would hardly bid 4♦ without a top honour in the suit, South might have bid seven now. Wolff took a while longer but finally got there. He seemed confident and relaxed about the whole thing. When Multon asked what his redouble of 5♣ meant, Wolff just waved the ♣A at him rather than give a written reply.

Meckwell tried to make life more awkward in the other room.



Alain Levy (France)

**Open Room**

West	North	East	South
Meckstroth	Mari	Rodwell	Levy
Pass	Pass	1♦	Dbl
1♥	4♥	Pass	4NT
Pass	5♥	Pass	7♥
All Pass			

Eric Rodwell decided to try a little joke in third seat, opening 1♦ Precision-style. Meckstroth's 1♥ actually showed spades. When Mari could leap to 4♥, Alain Levy used RKCB then bid the cold grand.

**Board 13. Game All. Dealer North.**

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

In the Closed Room, Mari passed as dealer and Rodwell opened 2♣, Precision. Meckstroth responded 2♦, enquiry. Mari overcalled 2♠ and when that got back to Meckstroth he tried 3NT. Mari led the ♠Q and Meckstroth won the ace. He played a diamond to the king and ace. Levy found the heart switch and that was one down; -100.

In the Open Room Bob Hamman did open the North hand, with a weak 2♠. Herve Mouiel did not think he was worth an overcall so passed, and Bobby Wolff raised pre-emptively to 3♣. When that got back to Mouiel he competed with 4♣, ending the auction.

Wolff led a top heart but then switched to the ♦10. Mouiel had a brief flicker of hope but nothing good materialised and he was one down; -100 and 5 IMPs to USA2.

More from Barry Rigal. The other big American pickup in the Venice Cup final came on this deal. Breed/Sokolow bid 4♠ as a sacrifice which went for 200. But would this prove to be a phantom? 3NT has only eight top tricks even after a spade lead. Lisa Berkowitz decided to follow a simple line. She played a diamond at trick two and when the defence failed to cash their hearts she had her contract; +600 and 9 IMPs to USA1. In the BB third place match, Zia cashed the ♠K and ♠Q, on which North pitched a discouraging ♥8. Now when

Zia ran the remaining clubs North threw four spades and South a fatal two spades and two hearts. Zia came down to ♠K ♥64 ♦Q93 and played a heart. Brogeland won the king and played a diamond to the nine, jack and king. A second heart put Brogeland in again and he led a low diamond. But Zia ducked and now Saelensminde, down to ♦A-8 and ♠J, had to let Zia make the ♠K and ♦Q for his contract.

**Board 14. Love All. Dealer East.**

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

Rodwell opened a 14-16 no trump and Meckstroth responded 2♣ then passed the 2♦ response. That was a nice safe contract; +110.

In the other room Mouiel opened a 15-17 no trump. Multon bid 2♥, a four-card transfer, and followed up with 2NT over the 2♣ response. Mouiel bid 3♣, asking for a singleton, and Multon bid 3♦, showing short clubs. Now Mouiel bid 3NT and played there. Wolff led a low heart which ran to Mouiel's king. Mouiel led the ♠K to Hamman's ace and back came a heart. Wolff cashed the hearts and Mouiel threw two diamonds from dummy and a diamond and two clubs from hand. Wolff exited with the ♦8. Mouiel rose with the ace and tested the spades. When they did not divide evenly, he cashed the top clubs but nothing good happened and he was two down; -100 and 5 IMPs to USA2.

Something good could have happened in the ending. Mouiel's line would have been correct had North had the diamonds with the spade guard, but the third spade had squeezed South out of his club guard and had declarer next cashed the ♦K he would now have squeezed North in the black suits to save a trick.

**Board 16. E/W Vul. Dealer West.**

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

In the Closed Room, Meckstroth opened one of the least impressive strong clubs I have seen and Mari overcalled 2♣. Rodwell showed his spades and Levy leaped to 5♣. Meckstroth doubled that and Rodwell led a spade. The contract lost the five obvious tricks; -500.

That would represent a modest profit for France if Multon/Mouiel could bid and make 4♣ in the other room. Multon opened 1♦ and there was no interference from Hamman/Wolff. Mouiel responded 1♠. Multon raised to 3♠ and Mouiel went on to game. Wolff led a heart. Mouiel won in hand and led the ♠9. Wolff played low and... So did Mouiel. The normal play but not what was required this time. The contract was one down, -100 and 12 IMPs to USA2.

A set of mixed quality saw France take a marginal advantage; 29-27 IMPs.

# Madras Magic

The Indian Open team fared miserably throughout but there were times when my teammates outplayed their counterparts. This was Board 11 from our 15th round match against New Zealand:

**Love All. Dealer South.**

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

South, Jaggy Shivdasani of India, opened 1♠ and after a 3♦ weak jump by West, North leapt to 4♣, doubled by East, who was no doubt unlucky to find the actual layout. East overtook the opening ♦Q lead with the king, cashed the ♥A and punched dummy with a second diamond. Ruffing on the table, Jaggy passed the ♠7 and when this held, continued with a second trump to the ten and queen. Two rounds of hearts were followed by a heart ruff. Two rounds of clubs ending on the table left the situation ripe for a coup with one of the winning hearts taking care of declarer's club if East chose not to ruff till forced.

This was the Board 20 from our 16th round match against France:

**Game All. Dealer West.**

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

At both tables the contract was 4♥ by West after North had overcalled 2♦. Both Norths led a high spade. The French declarer perhaps was not paying much attention to the hands in this late round-robin match and was trying to preserve his energies for the knock-outs Whatever – he went down quickly by winning the ♠A immediately and cashing the top hearts at tricks two and three.

At the other table, Subhash Gupta for India ducked the opening lead as South gave a count signal. North cashed the ♦A and continued with a second spade to the ace. Subhash cashed the diamond queen, ruffed a diamond, came up to the club king and led a second club towards dummy. When West pitched a diamond, he was marked with a 3-3-6-1 hand and Subhash duly took the heart finesse to bring home ten tricks.

## Congratulations, Chris!

Chris Diment, who has served in various capacities at world championships since 1989, has been promoted to tournament director, a job he is now fulfilling at this tournament. Congratulations, Chris!

Venice Cup

final (set 3)

USA II vs France

France went into this set with a 4-IMP lead, 53-49. Early in the set France found several saves that paid off. The Americans got the first IMP on Board 33, but then France took over.

Board 34. N/S Vul. Dealer East.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
2♥	Pass	1♥	1♠
Pass	4♠	Pass	3♠
		All Pass	

Paul Chemla made the key bid - 3♠. That induced Michel Perron to carry on to game. This came home when both the ♠K and the ♠A were onside.

Closed Room

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

Nick Nickell and Dick Freeman also reached the spade game, but Christian Mari decided to double. Alain Levy didn't like the prospects of beating 4♠, so he went on to 5♦. This escaped a double and went down two. A quick 11 to France, now up 14.

Board 36. Game All. Dealer West.

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

Another French save, this time at the seven level!

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Hamman	Perron	Wolff	Chemla
Pass	1♥	3♣	4♣
5♣	Pass	Pass	5♦
Pass	6♦	Pass	6♥
All Pass			

Of course there was no problem taking all 13 tricks with the ♠Q dropping doubleton. The ♦K was onside as

well, but the diamonds never came into play.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Levy	Nickell	Mari	Freeman
Pass	1♥	2♣	4NT
5♣	5♠	6♣	6♥
Pass	Pass	7♣	Dbl
All Pass			

Mari just kept bidding clubs, clubs and more clubs. Freeman and Nickell decided to defend and were able to collect 1400 - down five. But that represented a 2-IMP gain for France. And then it happened again two boards later.

Board 38. E/W Vul. Dealer East.

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

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Levy	Nickell	Mari	Freeman
2♣	Pass	INT	Pass
3♣	Pass	2♥	Pass
6♥	All Pass	3♠	Pass

No opposition bidding, but Levy and Mari still missed the cold grand slam. This still represented a gain for France for this was the bidding in the Open Room:

West	North	East	South
Hamman	Perron	Wolff	Chemla
2♦	Dbl	INT	Pass
5♦	6♣	2♥	4♦
Pass	7♦	6♥	Pass
		Dbl	All Pass

Bob Hamman and Bobby Wolff also failed to find the grand slam. Perhaps Hamman might have decided to look more favourably on his three controls, but he decided to defend 7♦ doubled. Chemla lost the obvious five tricks - minus 1100 for another 8 IMPs to France. The score now was 81-50.

Board 40. Love All. Dealer West.

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

Perron opened 1♥, got a 1♠ response and won the contract at INT. Wolff opened a diamond, and Hamman won after Chemla played the 10. Hamman can set the contract at this point with a shift to spades, but his switch was to hearts. Now declarer had no trouble taking seven tricks.

In the Closed Room, there was a lot of bidding before Nickell finally bought the hand for 2♣ doubled. Mari got off to the best start for the defence - ♣A and another club. Nickell ducked a spade to Levy, and he drew the third round of trumps. Now Nickell had to lose three spades, two diamonds and a club for down one - good defence. Another 5 IMPs to France - 33 in a row. France was ahead, 86-50.

Board 41. E/W Vul. Dealer North.

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

After being shut out for seven boards, the Americans finally got back on the scoresheet here. Freeman and Nickell got to 3NT, and after a club opening lead Freeman collected 12 tricks. It was different in the Open Room.

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

Apparently Perron was worried about the red suits - hence his 4♠. A heart lead would have been best, but Hamman led a diamond. Declarer went after trumps immediately, and Hamman won the second. Wolff had shown a desire for a heart lead with his discard, so Hamman shifted to the ♥3. Chemla won this and drew all of Hamman's trumps. Now everything hinged on whether or not he guessed the ♣Q. He didn't, so he was down one - 11 IMPs to USA.

Board 42. Game All. Dealer East.

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

This was a surprise gain for the Americans. Nickell and Freeman arrived in 3NT without much trouble - plus 600. But the French were uncharacteristically conservative.

<b>West</b> Hamman	<b>North</b> Perron	<b>East</b> Wolff	<b>South</b> Chemla
Pass	2♣	Pass	1♦
Pass	3♣	All Pass !!	2NT

Perron made his contract, but 10 IMPs went on the USA side of the ledger. The match had tightened up immensely – now France was ahead only 86-71.

The next three boards were pushes with nothing of major interest to report. But France was plus at both tables on Board 46 – only small pluses, but pluses nevertheless.

Board 46. Love All. Dealer East.

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

**Closed Room**

<b>West</b> Levy	<b>North</b> Nickell	<b>East</b> Mari	<b>South</b> Freeman
2♥	Pass	1♥	Pass
Redbl	2♠	All Pass	Dbl

Nickell had to lose six tricks for down one.

**Open Room**

<b>West</b> Hamman	<b>North</b> Perron	<b>East</b> Wolff	<b>South</b> Chemla
INT	Pass	1♥	Pass
2♠	Pass	2♦	Pass
4♥	All Pass	3♥	Pass

There was nothing to the defence – four obvious losers for down one and 4 IMPs to France. Wolff, with a minimum, might have been better off passing INT. And

Hamman took a somewhat aggressive stance on the wrong board.

Board 48. E/W Vul. Dealer West.

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

**Closed Room**

<b>West</b> Levy	<b>North</b> Nickell	<b>East</b> Mari	<b>South</b> Freeman
Pass	1♣	Pass	1♥
Pass	2♣	Pass	4♦
Pass	4♥	Pass	6♣
All Pass			

As you can see, a spade lead beats this contract, but it can make with any other lead. Mari led a diamond, so Nickell chalked up 920.

**Open Room**

<b>West</b> Hamman	<b>North</b> Perron	<b>East</b> Wolff	<b>South</b> Chemla
Pass	1♣	Pass	1♥
Pass	2♣	Pass	2♦
Pass	3♣	Pass	4♣
Pass	4♥	Pass	5♣
Dbl !!!	Pass	Pass	
All Pass			

Chemla no doubt wishes he had never made that spade cuebid – it gave Hamman the opportunity to double to suggest a lead. When the bidding came back to him, Chemla still wanted to bid the slam, but now he feared the spade lead. It was likely that an ace had to knocked out, and after a spade lead the defence could cash a spade to set the contract. He settled for 5♣. This just made after a spade lead 11 IMPs to the Americans cut the margin after 48 boards to 13, 95-82.

# Raising on one point

(This item appeared in yesterday's Daily Bulletin, but was not easily understandable because the bidding did not match the positions of the players. It is repeated here in corrected form.)

A raise on nothing but five trumps and a jack paid off for North-South here in a match from the Transnational Teams. North's 2♣ bid took up some extra bidding room, so East-West missed their heart partial – or game.

Love All. Dealer South.

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

<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>
Pass	2♣	2♥	1♣
Pass	3♣	All Pass	2NT

North-South already were heading for a good result because their teammates bought the hand for 3♥, making four – plus 170. But South, Dorthy Francis, your Daily Bulletin proofreader, showed that she can play the game, too.

She won the heart opening lead and ruffed a heart. When she led a club to her jack, East of course showed out, and West, determined not to make things easy, ducked. Dorthy had a general idea of the distribution at this point – she feared West would be able to get rid of a spade if she tried to ruff another heart at this point. So first she cashed the ♠A, a most necessary play. Only then did she ruff her last heart, on which West played an encouraging diamond.

She got out with a diamond, and East rose with the ace. A spade lead would have given Dorthy some problems here, but East decided to obey partner's signal by continuing diamonds. West overtook the queen with the king and led the ♦J. With a clear picture of the distribution at this point, Dorthy did not ruff – instead she discarded a spade.

Now West was fixed. Down to all minor suit cards, she led a club, won in dummy with the 10. A spade to the 10 was ruffed by West, and Dorthy ruffed the diamond return in hand with her queen. She cashed the ace of trumps, dropping the now bare king, then took the ♠K for her ninth trick. That represented a gain of 7 IMPs.

## Fred Gitelman in People

Fred Gitelman of Toronto recently was featured in the pages of *People* magazine. The article was entitled *The Art of the Deal*, and the heading showed Gitelman holding a huge reproduction of the jack of spades. Gitelman is a star player for Canada who was on their silver medal team in the Bermuda Bowl in Beijing in 1995.

The article starts with a look at Gitelman's form of teenage rebellion. The article says the rebellion was not the usual kind – he took up bridge seriously while he was in high school. His parents were afraid he was going to become a cardsharp. "They didn't see how anything good could come of it," the article reports Gitelman as saying.

The point of the article is that Gitelman's obsession with bridge has paid off. He dropped out of the University of Toronto and created Bridge Master. This is a software package that helps players as they try to compete against a computer. Gitelman has sold more than 10,000 copies. The reviews of this software have been uniformly complimentary. Gitelman and his girlfriend Sheri Weinstock market the \$60 disk from their home.

Even more important, he impressed two of the rich-

est men in the world with his work. Warren Buffett, usually considered the most successful investor in the world, placed an order – and what did Gitelman do? He immediately asked Buffett for an endorsement. And he got one! "A terrific program for all skill levels," was Buffett's statement.

Buffett is very interested in bridge. He has played in all the special matches between Corporate America and the United States Congress. He also qualified for the final of the World Mixed Pairs with Jill Meyers in the 1994 World Championships in Albuquerque. He didn't play in the final because he had business appointments – he had never expected to qualify. Incidentally Jill is on the American team that is playing in the final of the Venice Cup here.

Buffett passed the software along to Bill Gates Sr., his frequent bridge partner. Gates in turn showed it to his son, Bill Gates Jr. Then in 1995 Bill Jr. gave Gitelman a gig tuning up his company's online bridge games."

All this is very exciting to Gitelman. And his finish in the 1995 World Championship still is very much a part of him. The closing quote in the article said, "It's something to try to master the game, even though you know you never really can."



## Attention journalists!

If you have used the Press Room facilities for either telephone calls or fax transmissions, please remember to pay either Elly Ducheyne or Jan Swaan for the services.

Venice Cup

final (set 2)

China vs USA I

Both teams missed a good slam on the first board of the session.

Board 17. Love All. Dealer North.

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

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Zhang Yu	Meyers	Wang	Montin
4♠	1♠	2♣	3♥
All Pass	5♥	Pass	5♠

The Michael's cue-bid made life awkward for North/South. Three hearts clearly promised some support for spades and presumably West's 4♠ asked East to bid her minor. South's hand did not improve when North announced a heart control and perhaps five diamonds would have been a better choice.

Declarer claimed twelve tricks and was probably worried.

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Berkowitz	Zhang Ya	Letizia	Gu
Pass	1♠	2♣	3♠
	4♠	All Pass	

We are probably missing something, but was 3♠ forcing? North clearly had no thoughts of slam when she simply raised to game.

Neither side got to grips with the next deal.

Board 18. N/S Vul. Dealer East.

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

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Zhang Yu	Meyers	Wang	Montin
2♣	Pass	INT	Pass
		2♦	All Pass

South had no way into the auction, as she could not double INT for penalties. She started with the two top clubs and played a



Lisa Berkowitz (USA I)

third round, declarer ruffing in dummy and discarding a heart from hand. That made no real difference to the outcome as declarer had to lose two spades, two diamonds and two clubs for one down, but if she had discarded a spade from hand instead she would have had a chance to make the contract thanks to the position in hearts.

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Berkowitz	Zhang Ya	Letizia	Gu
Pass	1♥	INT	Dbl
Pass	2♣	All Pass	Dbl

East was lucky to get away with her rebid of INT. North should have passed her partner's double and if that had become the final contract East would not have enjoyed five rounds of clubs. It looks as if she can always be held to four tricks.

In 2♣ declarer quickly made 10 tricks to pick up a couple of IMPs.

Board 25. E/W Vul. Dealer North.

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

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Zhang Yu	Meyers	Wang	Montin
Pass	Pass	Pass	1♥
Pass	1♠	Pass	INT
Pass	2♣	Pass	2♦
Pass	3♣	All Pass	

This was a straightforward contract with trumps 2-2 so declarer made nine tricks, +110.

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Berkowitz	Zhang Ya	Letizia	Gu
Pass	Pass	Pass	1♥
2♦	2♣	Dbl	Pass
All Pass	3♣	Pass	3NT

There was no reason for West to lead anything other than the ♦2 and it seemed likely South would go wrong by playing low. To warm applause she went up with the queen and collected 9 tricks and 7 IMPs.

Board 30. Love All. Dealer East.

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

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Zhang Yu	Meyers	Wang	Montin
Dbl	Pass	Pass	1♠
Dbl	Pass	3♦	2♣
3NT	Pass	Pass	Pass
4♦	Pass	Pass	4♠
All Pass			

West cashed a diamond and switched to a heart. The contract failed by one trick but we cannot tell you why as their is no play record!

Perhaps it went as described below.

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Berkowitz	Zhang Ya	Letizia	Gu
Pass	1♦	Pass	1♣
2♦	2♠	Pass	1♠
All Pass		4♦	4♠

West came in on the second round after passing the precision club opening.

She led the ♦A and East played the ten. If that was meant to direct West to hearts it went un-noticed and a second diamond was led. Declarer ruffed and cashed her top clubs. She then took the ♠A and led a club. West discarded, so she ruffed and ruffed a diamond before exiting with a spade. West exited with a heart to the king and ace. South played the eight of hearts – the nine is more subtle – and after long thought West rose to the occasion in every sense of the word by going up with the queen.

A crocodile coup on Vugraph got deserved applause.

A dull, low-scoring set saw China outscore USA 1 27-4 to trail 32-40.