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# France win Bermuda Bowl despite American rally

France held off a strong American rally over the last 16 boards to win the Bermuda Bowl, 328-301. This was France's second success in this event – their first victory came 41 years ago in 1956. They defeated the United States on that occasion also.

France clearly was a team of destiny. This year for the first time five European teams were qualified at the Europeans to play in the Bermuda Bowl – the first time that the European allowance had been raised to five. And France finished fifth! Now they're world champions. The new champions are Paul Chemla, Christian Mari, Hervé Mouiel, Alain Lévy, Michel Perron and Frank Multon, with npc Jean-Louis Stoppa.

That makes two consecutive world titles for France – they defeated the Indonesia in the Olympiad final last year.

Both teams appeared before the vugraph audience and they were greeted with thunderous applause. The French team arrived one by one, and each got a standing ovation. Chemla got a huge cheer when he kissed Omar Sharif on both cheeks – they have been frequent partners over the years.

WBF President José Damiani translated the general feeling of the French players toward their American opponents: "They're happy you didn't play all the time the way you did in the last segment."

Mari said that the Americans and French have played many times – sometimes they win and sometimes they lose – but the spirit and the sportsmanship is always top-grade.

Walt Walvick, non-playing captain of the American team, congratulated the French and then yelled, "Vive la France!" On his team were Eric Rodwell, Jeff Meckstroth, Bob Hamman, Bobby Wolff, Nick Nickell and Richard Freeman. This is the same team that won the Bermuda Bowl in China two years ago.

France carried a 51-IMP lead into the final set – a huge amount of IMPs to pick up in only 16 boards. But the Americans earned several major swings so that a couple of game swings could have made the difference. But the game swings didn't come – the French were too steady – and the Bermuda Bowl mantle fell on French shoulders.

## Burgay win Transnational Open Teams

The team captained by Leandro Burgay of Italy started fast and just kept going – after 32 boards of the 48-deal final they led 132-40. That seemed like too much for Krzysztof Jassem of Poland, and that team conceded without playing the last 32 boards.

On the winning team were Burgay, Dano DeFalco of Italy, Franco Mariani of Italy and Martin Lesniewski of Poland. The losing team: Jassem, Piotr Tuszyński, Ireneusz Kowalozyk and Marek Witek.

### 11th WORLD TEAMS OLYMPIAD

The Executive Council, at its final meeting here in Hammamet, confirmed the dates of the **11th World Teams Olympiad** and the **2nd World Transnational Mixed Teams Championship** which will be held from 26th August through 9th September, 2000 in Maastricht, Netherlands.

### The Bermuda Bowl goes home

The Executive Council, at its final meeting here in Hammamet, approved the venue and dates for the next Bermuda Bowl and Venice Cup. The venue will be the Southampton Princess Hotel in Bermuda and the dates are from 8th to 22nd January 2000.

Although these dates are not at the usual time, the reason behind this decision is that the year 2000 will mark the 50th Anniversary of the Bermuda Bowl.

A Letter of Intent was signed today by **José Damiani**, *President of the WBF*, and **Mrs. Sheena Rayner**, *President of the Bermuda Bridge Federation*. The agreement will be signed at a later date.

## Press conference



**José Damiani**  
President of the  
World Bridge Federation

In a few minutes, after this ceremony, the Tunisian World Bridge Championships will be over. At that moment we will all have mixed feelings. We are very happy to have spent two weeks with you in this marvellous country, to have seen good bridge in the best spirit of a fair competition.

On the other hand we are sad, sad that this is the end of a wonderful story. Indeed, there is no doubt that you all say that these Championships were brilliant and that you want to come back here for ever.

Our Tunisian hosts deserve all the credit for that, starting of course with Mr Minister Slah Mâaoui, Minister of Tourism and Artisanat, who was the patron of the event and whom I would like to thank warmly for his exceptional support, together with the Office National du Tourisme Tunisien.

Clearly the President of the Fédération Tunisienne de Bridge, Hosni Zouari, has gained many white hairs in these days. He will be a very happy man tonight. We are glad to honour him and the Organising Committee.

Finally – and it is unusual for us – we want to reward the personnel and the management of the Groupe les Orangers through the Chairman, Mr Abdelhamid Khechine. We have had here all the facilities and help we need to ensure the best conditions of play.

And we had also the best crew in all the fields:

Tournament Directors under the leadership of Bill Schoder – Kojak – or Max Bavin

Vu-Graph Commentators organised by Jean-Paul Meyer with guest stars such as Zia

Bridge Vision girls as well as the Team of Duplication were led by the French Bridge Federation whom I want to thank through their President Michel Marmouget and Jean Claude Beineix.

Ton Koojiman was in charge of the management of the tournament and Elly Ducheyne took care of the Press Room while Mark Newton organized all the computers and the network. Jan and Corrie Louwerse looked after the line-up.

Claude Dadoun was the man through whom we got all the results so quickly even in our rooms

And everything was sent to the Internet thanks to Panos Gerontopoulos, who is responsible for our WBF Web Site, and also to Bridge Plaza and Koen Gijman.

They all took advantage of the Daily Bulletin which was written every day by Henry Francis and his squad.

If the Appeals Committee did not have too much work, it was because of the fine preparation by Eric Kokish, Anna Gudge and Chris Diment on the systems, which were more simple, with no HUM systems and few brown stickers – which, however, did not affect the quality of the Bridge.

On behalf of my colleagues, I am more than happy to congratulate now the winners, the medallists, and to thank all of you, the players, for your participation which certainly gives you all the hopes for the future.

And you know that this future will be highlighted by our entry into the Olympic Winter Games as has been predicted by the Vice-President of the IOC, Mr Hodler, who visited us so kindly here as well as our first star, Omar Sharif who will give the Trophy for the First Transnational Teams, while Mr Slah Mâaoui will honour with me the winners of the Bermuda Bowl and Venice Cup Gold Medals

Next year we will meet again in Lille for the World Championships and then, in January 2000, the Bermuda Bowl goes Home... to Bermuda for its 50th Anniversary!



WBF President José Damiani and Sheena Rayner, president of the Bermuda Bridge Association, signed a Letter of Intent for the Bermuda Bowl to take place in Bermuda 8 January 2000 to 22 January 2000 at this afternoon's press conference. The letter was signed as journalists attending the press conference looked on.

The year 2000 marks the 50th anniversary of the Bermuda Bowl – it was first played in Bermuda in 1950. The 25th anniversary Bowl also was played in Bermuda – in fact it was at the Southampton Princess, the same hotel that will be the 2000 host.

"I'm so pleased," said Sheena. "We're looking forward to showing the world of bridge just how wonderful Bermuda hospitality is."

Lynn Deas of the United States II team was presented with the Sporting Award sponsored by the International Bridge Press Association – the first time this award has been given in many years. IBPA President Henry Francis, who made the presentation, said this award is seldom given – only when there is a clear candidate. He told of the outstanding courage shown by Lynn in playing top-level bridge despite being confined to a wheelchair and being stricken with myasthenia gravis, an incurable debilitating disease. Lynn thanked Damiani for making everything as accessible as possible during her stay here.

Damiani told of the upcoming Super Bowl of bridge. "It won't be called that, but it will be something like that." The event will take place in China in December 2000 – perhaps it could be called the Millennium Games. The contestants will be the 1998 Rosenblum winner, the 2000 Olympiad winner and the Bermuda Bowl winner plus the Zonal champions – probably 10 teams. China plans to pick up the team's expenses.

The Par Contest in Lille next year will consist of 12 hands, with only outstanding stars invited to compete, just as in Geneva in 1990. A question was asked about the possibility of putting the hands on the Internet simultaneously. Damiani said this is possible if all necessary security measures are taken care of.

Damiani believes a special area will be set up in Lille to take care of players wanting to use e-mail facilities.

Alan Truscott asked about the possibility of a World Junior Knockout Teams on Internet. Damiani called this a good idea. Truscott said that he understood that Microsoft might be interested in being a sponsor. However, Damiani had spoken to Fred Gitelman about this, and it is Gitelman's impression that Microsoft is not interested in such a sponsorship at this time.





Jean-Louis Stoppa

Once again I have been granted the great pleasure of presenting the members of the French Bermuda Bowl team, the new Bermuda Bowl champions. I will start with a brief description of our players. This will lead me to a history of French international bridge during the past 20 years or so. I am sure you will forgive me.

Here are a few characteristics of our six champs (not being completely mad, I will present them in alphabetical order).



We shall begin with **PAUL CHEMLA** (he's just lucky once again for, in the alphabetic department he would be completely outclassed by the Norwegian Terje Aa and many others). Well, Paul, 53 and unmarried, has undoubtedly been an international bridge figure since the early Seventies.

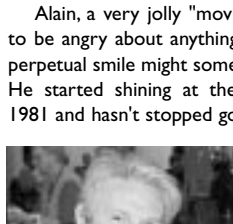
He was an accomplished student – he graduated from the celebrated Ecole Normal Supérieure, one of the most famous, if not the most famous, high schools in France. He also has earned the title of Agrégé de Lettres. All this could have led to his becoming, one day or another, at least minister of National Public Education... but he decided to reserve his teaching talent for all bridge lovers.

Of course he gives no lessons or conferences. He believes the best way to understand bridge is to watch him when he is playing. This, and some other details, earned him the nickname of enfant terrible du bridge. Personally I would not use the word terrible. Enfant suits him well enough. As such, if you know how to handle him, you'll find that he is finally a very nice guy.



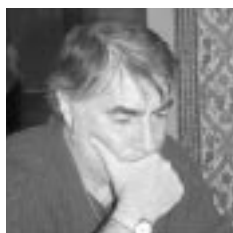
**ALAIN LEVY**, 48, who completed his medical studies before changing his mind, now teaches bridge in Paris and elsewhere at all levels. He lives with Anne-Frédérique, the sister of Veronique Bessis and a high-ranked player in her own right. They have a four-and-a-half-year-old son who follows his parents everywhere. No doubt we shall see him soon performing successfully at the bridge table.

Alain, a very jolly "movie-looking" guy, seems never to be angry about anything or at anyone (although his perpetual smile might sometimes hide his true feelings). He started shining at the international level around 1981 and hasn't stopped going up since that time.



**CHRISTIAN MARI**, 53, a mathematician, has lived for a few years in the north of France (but not too far from Paris) with Dominique and his bergers allemend (Dominique says we should inverse the order, but we don't believe her).

A really fantastic player, Christian won the European Championship as far back as 1974 in Herzlia and among other things the famous 1980 Olympiad in Valkenburg, facing Paul Chemla. He then retired from active competition from 1982 to 1989 (when he was second facing Jean-Christophe Quentin in Turkey). He came back in 1995 and everybody knows what he has done since then.



**HERVE MOUIEL**, 48, had started medical studies but stopped three or four years later to concentrate (most successfully) on high-level bridge. A very, very talented player, he married Isabelle after the victory in Salsomaggiore Olympiad and now lives in Cannes (there are worse places around the world). Their two-and-a-half-year-old son Jeremie calls his father here every day to deliver him his latest instructions.



**FRANK MULTON**, 33, runs a bridge club in Nice with his wife Catherine and their six-year-old daughter. He too is a very impressive player and one of our best guarantees for the future.



Last but not least we find **MICHEL PERRON**, 46. It is difficult to find the adequate word to describe his enormous bridge talent, and he also has very good humorous qualities. He and his wife Martine live in Paris, and they are an example of calm and happiness.

What these six guys did for French international bridge these 20 years is incredible.

I had the honour of captaining the French open teams from 1979 to 1989 in about 15 different international events (including the Juniors with Frank Multon). Each time, at least one of the six heroes, and more often three or four were present. The final result was 13 medals – three gold, four silver and six bronze – although they often played musical chairs as regards the partnership arrangements.

Of course during that period The Six were not alone. They have been helped by a few other French champs, especially Michel Lebel and Philippe Soulet. Lebel and Soulet apart from winning one Olympiad, a European championship and a few medals of all sorts while associated with one or more of our six latest supermen, won the 1982 Rosenblum Cup in their own right (with Albert Faigenbaum and Dominique Pilon). I must also cite Philippe Cronier and Jean-Christophe Quentin, who often shared the honour.



## The AXA FrenchOpen Team

by Pierre Schemel

After my retirement from captaincy, it did not take me long to realise that my boys could do at least as well without me! True, we had two bad years – in 1991 and 1993 – but in the meantime Chemla-Perron and Lévy-Mouiel, helped by Pierre Adad and Maurice Aujelieu, brilliantly won the 1992 Olympiad under the very inspired captaincy of José Damiani himself.

That was not the end of it. Three years later I finally convinced **JEAN-LOUIS STOPPA**, a retired physician and a great international champion himself, to accept the captaincy of the French team. His success was complete – Mari-Bompis, Lévy-Mouiel and Swarc-Multon brilliantly won the Olympiad title in Rhodes last year. Stoppa captained again in the Europeans at Montecatini but he was a little less successful, probably because, apart from Chemla-Perron, there were two brand new partnerships – Mari-Lévy and Mouiel-Multon. Nevertheless our men managed to qualify at the last minute.

And here they are, the seven of them, trying to beat the "enormous" USA team consisting of Nickell-Freeman and the two "monster" pairs – Hamman-Wolf and Meckstroth-Rodwell.

Although I like the Americans, I naturally wanted my team to win. This is the second lesson in modesty for your humble servant. I am supposed to be their "advisor". However, Stoppa, after listening politely to two or three of my general opinions about captaincy, never really felt the need to seek my advice. Since then I have been forced to advise myself... just to see. Next time I must find some other way to star on the team. Supervisor? Maybe – but supervisor of what?

Finally we must thank once more the AXA Insurance Company, the second largest in the world, who strongly support our Open team year after year. We owe very much of our success to them.

Insurance and bridge have the same approach – analysis before synthesis, calculation of probabilities, checking before the contract.

AXA – the champion!



Photograph courtesy of Kodak's new digital camera

Pierre Schemel (France)



Venice Cup

final (set 8)

China vs USA I



Ling Gu (China)

Photograph courtesy of Kodak's new digital camera

Board 115. E/W Vul. Dealer South.

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

Closed Room

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

As you can see, the defence have three tricks and they collected them all. +620

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Wang	Sokolow	Zhang Yu	Breed
Pass	Pass	Pass	1♠
2♥	2♠	3♠	4♠
Dbl	All Pass		

West knew East had some values and she was tempted to try a speculative double. Her idea was clear, lead the singleton diamond, get in with the king of spades and put partner in for a diamond ruff. The singleton diamond in dummy must have been a disappointment and perhaps this caused the defenders to take their eye off the ball, as they allowed declarer to discard her losing heart on the queen of clubs. -990 and 9 IMPs

The match was already over when this deal appeared. It produced the biggest swing of the match.

Board 125. Game All. Dealer North.

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

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Berkowitz	Zhang Ya	Letizia	Gu
Pass	1♣	2♥	3♣
Pass	3♠	Pass	3NT
Pass	4♦	Pass	4NT
Pass	5♦	Pass	5♠
Pass	6♣	All Pass	

When East bid 2♥ South went for the shadow rather than the substance, and the Chinese drove to a poor slam. East led the king of hearts and after winning with the ♥A declarer could have got home by running the nine of diamonds and then picking up the trumps. Too tough, and she drifted two down.

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Wang	Sokolow	Zhang Yu	Breed
Pass	1♠	2♥	Pass
2NT	Dbl	Pass	Pass
	All Pass		

The Chinese did not escape. 2NT was a desperate attempt to improve things that didn't work.

North led the ♦K and continued with the six. Declarer won and played a heart to the king and ace. South switched to her spade and Declarer put up the king, losing to the ace, and North cleared the diamonds. When West played a club, North went up with the king and cashed her winners before playing a club. South had the rest, -1800!

There would be no new name on the Venice Cup, USAI were the 1997 World Champions!

The vugraph theatre was packed to the rafters for the final 16 boards of the Venice Cup final. The audience were hoping for a close encounter and they raised the roof when China, after picking up a couple of IMPs on the first deal, made big inroads into the American lead on the second board.

Board 114. N/S Vul. Dealer East.

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

Closed Room

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

West's game-forcing Stayman bid of 2♦ allowed North to get in a lead-directing double. That put paid to 3NT which had to go down on a diamond lead.

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Wang	Sokolow	Zhang Yu	Breed
1♠	2♦	1♣	Pass
Dbl	All Pass	Pass	Pass

When Sokolow overcalled 2♦ it looked odds on that we would be watching a flat board, but when her partner reopened with a double, Zhang Yu made the winning decision. The defence started with three rounds of spades and collected all the other tricks they were due. +500 meant 11 IMPs to China and the match was very much alive.

However, on the very next board, China missed an opportunity in both rooms and the USA re-established control.

This is the sort of deal that is likely to appear in many magazines bidding challenge features. The problem for North/South is to reach five clubs rather than 3NT. Even 6♣ is in the picture, needing only a 2-2 split. There is a small inference from North's three club bid that she needs more than just a single heart stopper, as if she had solid clubs she would surely have bid 3♥. However, this is a very difficult problem, and you would not expect many pairs to get it right.

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Wang	Sokolow	Zhang Yu	Breed
Pass	1♣	1♥	Pass
2♥	3♥	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

The inference was surely clearer this time, as South had already shown a stopper and North had not bid 3NT. Lady luck was smiling though, as West found the unfortunate lead of the ♠Q. Now declarer could establish the clubs and claim nine tricks. 10 vital IMPs for USAI.

A slightly unlucky result for China made it clear that this was not going to be their day.

Board 117. N/S Vul. Dealer North.

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

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Berkowitz	Zhang Ya	Letizia	Gu
1♥	Pass	Pass	1♣
All Pass	Dbl	4♥	4♠

# Transnational Tales

**A**ggressive bidding was backed up by fine declarer play on this deal from the Transnational Teams.

Game All. Dealer West.

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

West	North	East	South
Lannemaë	Guyot	Long	Queran
1♠	2♦	2♣	3♠
4♥	Pass	Pass	4NT
Pass	5♣	Pass	6♦
All Pass			

Giles Queran's 3♠ bid promised diamond support, and at his next turn he was able to indicate that he had a good hand with a club suit. When his partner showed support for clubs he decided to try for the slam bonus. Guided by the bidding, he elected to play West for a singleton club. +1370.

He was pleasantly surprised to discover that at the other table his team mates had been allowed to play in 3♠, recording +140!

Love All. Dealer South.

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

A simple auction saw South, one of the reigning World Pairs Champions, Mark Szymanowski, partnered by another Polish star, Adam Zmudzinski, declaring 4♠.

They were opposed by two members of the all-British Women's team, Greta King and Su Burn.

Greta found the trump lead, which went to the queen and king. Declarer crossed to dummy with a club and played a diamond to the eight, ten and king.

He won the trump return and went back to dummy with a heart to play the remaining diamond. Su Burn calmly played the 9, and after much agonising, declarer guessed wrong, playing low from hand. Sue was able to get in a third round of trumps and the contract had to fail.

In the replay the defenders allowed declarer to establish the diamond suit. The swing of 10 IMPs put the British girls on course to finish as the leading women's team.



# TRANSNATIONAL TREASURES

by Tony Gordon

**T**wo hands from the final round of the WTOTC produced imaginative declarer plays, but with contrasting results.

N/S Vul. Dealer North.

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

West	North	East	South
Macnair	Steel	Rees	King
	Pass	Pass	Pass
4♥	All Pass		

The first hand comes from the match between Macnair and Forrester and features Andrew Macnair of Great Britain who opened 4♥ last in hand and received the lead of the ♠K from Les Steel. Winning with the ace would result in losing a spade ruff if North held five spades, and playing low would lose a spade ruff if North held five spades and a red ace and continued the suit. However, there was another possibility... at trick one Macnair followed with the ♠J! Steel was lulled into continuing with a low spade, and now Macnair could win with dummy's ten and discard his ♠A on the ♣A, thereby avoiding having it ruffed when Steel won the ♥A.

The full hand was as follows:

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

Unfortunately, a defensive error allowed 4♥ to make at the other table, so the board was flat.

The second hand comes from the match between Goodman and Ekeblad and features Michael Seamon of the USA.

E/W Vul. Dealer South.

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

West	North	East	South
Ekeblad	Dhondy	Seamon	Kay
Pass	3♦	4♣	Pass
			All pass

Seamon declared 4♣ after the above auction and Alan Kay, South, led the ♥Q and quickly switched to a trump. Dummy's ♠7 held the trick as Jeremy Dhondy showed out. Seamon crossed to the ♥A and ruffed a diamond and then paused for thought. With North having shown up with the ♥AK, South was more likely to hold the ♣K, so he wanted to avoid the club finesse if possible. Equally, South was more likely to hold the ♥K, in which case he could be endplayed, if, as the bidding suggested, he was now out of diamonds. Consequently, at trick five Seamon played the ♥Q from dummy. He hoped that Kay would win this trick, while he discarded his last diamond, and have no safe exit - a club would be into Seamon's tenace, a heart would allow Seamon to discard the ♣Q and a spade would allow Seamon to win and play ace and another spade to endplay Kay again. Unfortunately for Seamon it was Dhondy who produced the ♥K and his carefully laid plans were now in ruins. To make matters worse, it was also Dhondy who held the ♣K!

The full hand was as follows:

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

An atypical 3♦ bid to be sure, but it was just as much a surprise to Kay as it was to the opponents. In the other room the auction proceeded Pass - Pass - 1♦ - Dbl - 1♠ - 3♥ - 4♦ - Dbl - All pass. This contract went two down for +300 to the Goodman team.

# American Spirit

**5** IMPs down going into the final segment of the Bermuda Bowl final, USA2 needed to get a good start. That is exactly what they achieved.

Board 145. Love All. Dealer North.

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

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

In the Closed Room, the French East/West pair played in 3♣, which failed by a trick when declarer mis-guessed the trumps; -50.

On vugraph, Hamman and Wolff got to 3NT. Wolff opened the East hand with INT, wide-range, and Hamman just blasted 3NT.

The defence cashed four rounds of spades and switched to a heart through the ace. Wolff won the ♥A and ran five rounds of diamonds. Now it was all down to the clubs and Wolff duly got them right. He cashed the ♣A and followed with the jack; +400 and 10 IMPs to USA2.

The Americans showed great spirit in the last set and closed to only 21 IMPs down at one stage but could not get any closer.

**Bermuda Bowl**

**final (set 9)**

**France vs USA II**

**50** IMPs down overnight, USA2 still had time to get back into the match but a good start to the penultimate set was important. Alas, for American hopes, the first big swing went against them.

Board 131. E/W Vul. Dealer South.

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

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

**Closed Room**

West	North	East	South
Mari	Meckstroth	Levy	Rodwell
			Pass
1♥	INT	2NT	3♦
3♣	4♣	4♥	5♣
5♦	Pass	6♥	Pass
7♥	All Pass		

Christian Mari opened quietly with 1♥ when some would open with a strong two-level bid. That was important here as it meant that the French pair could locate the heart fit early. Jeff Meckstroth overcalled INT, either natural or, as here, 'comic'. 2NT was a forcing raise and Mari showed his spades. North/South competed up to 5♣ but Mari had a lot more bidding to do yet. He cuebid 5♦ and when that elicited a jump to slam from Alain Levy, Mari went on to seven; +2210.

**Open Room**

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

Bob Hamman had to open with a strong club bid so the heart fit was only unearthed at a high level. Michel Perron made a pre-emptive jump overcall of 3♣ and Paul Chemla continued the pre-emption, bidding 5♣. Now Hamman made a forcing pass then bid his hearts. Bobby Wolff raised to 6♥ and Hamman could do no more; +1460 but 13 IMPs to France. Surely Wolff was worth a 6♣ cuebid over 5♥?

Board 132. Game All. Dealer West.

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

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



Bobby Wolff (USA II)

USA2 pulled some points back when Chemla/Perron got too high in the Open Room.

**Open Room**

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

Perron's double then bid combination could have delivered a stronger hand than his actual one and Chemla tried for game. The lure of a vulnerable game was irresistible to Perron now and he went on to 3NT. Hamman led a low heart and Wolff won the queen and returned the suit to the ten and king. Chemla played the ♠Q, ducked, and a second spade to the king and ace. When Hamman cashed the hearts, dummy was squeezed so the contract was two down; -200.

The auction began the same in the other room but Rodwell passed Meckstroth's 2♣. That was a comfortable contract after the ♥Q lead and Meckstroth actually made an overtrick; +140 and 8 IMPs to USA2.

Board 134. E/W Vul. Dealer East.

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

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

The West hand is an awkward one in most systems and Hamman/Wolff's is no exception. Hamman opened 1♥ and Wolff responded INT. Now Hamman raised to 2NT, showing either six hearts or four hearts plus a five-card minor. Wolff passed and Chemla led a low spade.

Wolff had an awkward blockage in diamonds – you have to duck twice to make four tricks despite the 2-2 split. Accordingly, Wolff looked elsewhere, leading a low heart at trick two. Perron won the ace and cleared the spades and Wolff played a second heart to his queen. Chemla ducked that so Wolff crossed to a top club to play the other heart. When he won his ♥K, Chemla tried the ♦K to simplify the defence. It certainly did that, as Wolff now had the rest; +210.

**Closed Room**

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

Rodwell opened a mini-no trump and Mari doubled. Meckstroth's jump to 3♣ proved to be counter-productive. Levy bid his diamonds and Rodwell competed with 4♣. Now Mari jumped to 5♦. That has three losers, of course, but that assumes a heart lead. When Rodwell led a club, Levy could pitch a heart on the second club then give up a heart. He won the spade switch, ruffed a heart and led a low diamond from hand. When Rodwell played low, Levy rose with the queen and cashed the ♠A, making twelve tricks for +620 and 9 IMPs to France.

Board 136. Love All. Dealer West.

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

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

**Closed Room**

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

It looks as though 5♦ doubled should go three down after the lead of ace and another trump but, of course, Rodwell couldn't know that the ♥Q was singleton and when Levy led it at trick three he covered; two down for -300.

**Open Room**

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

2♣ was Precision-style. Hamman showed his second suit but then they sold out to 4♠ – correctly, given that, as we have seen, 5♦ doubled can go for 500. Had Wolff led his singleton heart, the play could have been very interesting. Declarer must duck and now East switches to his club. Declarer wins the club goes to dummy and plays ace and another diamond, pitching a heart then

ruffing. Now he draws trumps and must lead dummy's last diamond, discarding a heart. East is endplayed and has to give a ruff and discard. Declarer pitches his last heart while ruffing in dummy. A club towards the jack secures his tenth trick.

All of that proved to be academic as Wolff led his other singleton. There was no problem now and Perron soon chalked up his game; +420 and 3 IMPs to France.

Board 141. Game All. Dealer North.

♠ 8762	♠ Q 10 9	♠ A J 5 4
♥ Q 3 2	♥ A K 10 5	♥ 7 6 4
♦ A 10	♦ Q J 8	♦ K 4 3
♣ Q 9 8 7	♣ A J 2	♣ 6 5 4

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

In the Open Room, Perron opened INT and played there, making nine tricks for +150.

Meckwell got to game in the Closed Room. Meckstroth opened the North hand with a strong club and Rodwell responded 2♦, ostensibly 8-10 balanced. Meckstroth jumped to 3NT and that ended the auction. On a spade lead declarer needs to pick up the club queen and, of course, take the heart finesse. But Levy chose a heart lead to the queen and ace and now Meckstroth had some options. He led the ♦Q from hand and Mari won and continued hearts. Meckstroth established the diamonds and had ten tricks; +630 and 10 desperately needed IMPs to USA2.

Board 143. N/S Vul. Dealer South.

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

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

And there was more good news for the Americans on this deal. Chemla opened 1♣ in the Open Room. Perron responded 1♥ and Chemla rebid 2♣, ending the auction. Hamman led a top spade and switched to the ♥10 to dummy's ace. Chemla took a trump finesse then played a spade to the king. Hamman played another heart, ruffed by Chemla who played a third spade. Wolff ruffed and led a low diamond, ducked to the ten. Hamman led the fourth spade for the uppercut. Wolff ruffed with the king and Chemla over-ruffed. He had to lose two trumps and a diamond from here for two down; -200.

Rodwell had to open 1♦ in his strong club methods and he rebid 2♣ over the 1♥ response. Meckstroth gave preference back to 2♦, an altogether more attractive spot. Again the defence began with a top spade followed by the ♥10. Rodwell won the ♥A and led a club to his queen. He continued with the ♣A, then ruffed a low club bringing down the king. With diamonds 3-3, the defence could not get at him now and he scrambled home with eight tricks; +90 and 7 IMPs to USA2.

Those two gains just about kept American hopes alive. They would go into the final 16 boards trailing by 51 IMPs; 255-306.

## 6-6 hands are difficult

Virgil Anderson of the United States, a member of the WBF Executive Council, was confronted with this hand in the Transnational Open Teams:

♠ A Q J 8 4 2
♥ A K Q 10 9 2
♦ K
♣ -

His counterpart at the other table had a bid for a hand like this - 2♣. Virgil knows that it's dangerous to open 2♣ on a two-suiter, but he didn't want to chance the possibility that 1♠ would be passed out. So he opened 2♣ with some misgivings. This was the deal:

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

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

<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>
3♣	Pass	2♣	Pass
4♣	Pass	3♠	Pass
		6♥	All Pass

After getting a positive response from partner Barbara Nudelman of the United States, Virgil first told about his spades, then leaped to 6♥ to give Barbara a choice of the majors at the six level.

He almost made it, but he was done in by the bad spade break and the trump spot cards with South. South led the ♦A and continued the suit. Dummy's jack was covered with the queen and Virgil ruffed. He cashed the ♠A and led a second spade, but South ruffed in with the 6, so Virgil was forced to win with the ♥J. He got rid of three spades on the ♥J, the ♣A and the ♣K. But there was no way to take care of his ♠Q, so he went down one trick.

The bidding at the other table was interesting.

<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>
3♣	Pass	2♠	Pass
4♥	Pass	3♥	Pass
		6♥	All Pass

As noted above, 2♣ was strong. 3♣ was natural. 3♥ showed his second suit. West, after much thought, raised to 4♥. of course was willing to cooperate. When you come right down to it, how can you stay out of slam with that hand when partner makes a positive response? He also went down one trick on a low trump lead for a push.

## Special Transnational winners

Special congratulations are being given to the top finishers in three categories of the Transnational Open Teams.

**Women's:** Sue Burn, Sandra Penfold, Beryl Kerr, Greta King and Kitty Godfrey.

**Mixed:** Sabine Auken, Jens Auken, Kirsten Moller, Lauge Scheffer and Morten Andersen.

**Senior:** Jean-Marc Roudinesco, Claude Delmouly, Pierre Adad, Maurice Aujaleu and Marc Schneider.

## Making declarer guess on the opening lead

George Retek of Canada, treasurer of the World Bridge Federation, also plays bridge well, as this hand from the Transnational Open Teams shows.

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

♠ J	♠ A Q 10 9 4 2
♥ A Q 10 9 4 2	♥ 4 2
♦ 4 2	♦ A K Q 4
♣ A K Q 4	

<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>
Retek	Hardeman	C. Cook	Segero
Pass	INT <sup>(1)</sup>	Pass	2♥ <sup>(2)</sup>
Pass	3♥ <sup>(3)</sup>	Pass	2♣
Pass	7♥	All Pass	5♥ <sup>(4)</sup>

<sup>(1)</sup> 11-13 high card points.

<sup>(2)</sup> 5+ hearts, good suit.

<sup>(3)</sup> Control asking for clubs.

<sup>(4)</sup> Shows ♠A-K-Q.

Since North went to 7♥, Retek knew that North must hold the ♦A - so he led his small diamond! Declarer thought, "Who ever leads away from a king against a grand slam?" So of course he went up with the ace and attempted to negotiate a squeeze. This didn't work because East was able to protect clubs.

This was a 20-IMP pickup! At the other table the final contract was 7♥ again, and West made the more prosaic lead of a trump. After reversing the dummy in an attempt to set up a squeeze, declarer eventually decided to take the diamond finesse for his 13th trick, and of course it worked.

## 17th Cairo Bridge Festival

Ramses Hilton Hotel  
February 16-21 1998

\$35,000 in prizes

### Open Pairs

3 sessions 16-17-18 February

### Mixed Pairs

2 sessions 19 February

### Swiss Teams

2 sessions 20-21 February

### Gala Dinner & Prizegiving

21 February

The Champion of the Festival Cup will be presented by Omar Sharif.

Everybody is welcome!

**Bermuda Bowl****playoff****Norway vs USA I**

by Knut Kjaernsrod

Both teams wanted a quick decision and agreed to fight it out over only 32 boards. Norway took a commanding lead over the first half of the match, and the biggest swing came on this board:

Board 12. Game N/S. Dealer West.

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

In the Open Room the Norwegians produced this undisturbed bidding:

West	North	East	South
Zia	Saelensminde	Rosenberg	Brogeland
Pass	1♥	Pass	2 NT
Pass	3♥	Pass	3 NT
Pass	4♥	Pass	4 NT
Pass	5♥	Pass	6♦
Pass	7♥	All Pass	

2NT showed a strong hand with heart support, 3NT asked for cuebids (second or first-round control). 4 NT was RKCB and 6♦ asked Erik to bid seven with a third-round control. Accurately bid and after the opening of the ♠J, Saelensminde quickly took his 13 tricks.

In the Closed Room one of Groetheim-Aa system gadgets caused insurmountable trouble for the American pair:

West	North	East	South
Groetheim	Soloway	Aa	Deutsch
2♦	Pass	3♥	3 NT
All Pass			

2♦ showed a weak hand with one four-card major, and after Aa's jump to 3♥, the N-S grand slam suit, Deutsch was left with an awkward decision. He also collected 13 tricks in notrump, but that was 16 IMPs to Norway.

The result of the next board hinged on the opening lead.

Board 9. Game E/W. Dealer West.

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

In the Open Room Zia and Rosenberg bid quickly to 3NT, and Saelensminde held the decision in his hands. After careful consideration he led the ♥K, which effectively removed Zia's entry to dummy's diamonds and he



Erik Saelensminde (Norway)

had to go one down.

In the Closed Room Groetheim stopped in 1 NT and had ten tricks on the ♠6 lead.

The American weak notrump proved no advantage on Board 8.

Board 8. Love All. Dealer West.

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

In the Open Room, Zia opened 1NT with the West hand, doubled by Saelensminde and passed out. Erik led the ♥A and continued with the 2 as a suit preference signal for clubs. The ♦J was run to South's king, and Boye and Erik collected the next six tricks for two down and 300 to Norway.

The bidding in the Closed Room:

West	North	East	South
Groetheim	Soloway	Aa	Deutsch
1♦	1♥	Pass	Pass
Dbl	Pass	INT	All Pass

It was more difficult to double after this auction and Aa escaped for minus 100.5 IMPs to Norway.

The first hand of the second segment generated a Norwegian slam swing.

Board 17. Love All. Dealer North.

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

West	North	East	South
Deutsch	Aa	Zia	Groetheim
Pass	1♠	2♥	Pass
Pass	3♣	Pass	4♣
Pass	4♦	Pass	4NT
Pass	5♥	Pass	6♣
All Pass			

Zia opened the ♣A and there was nothing to the play. 980 for Norway. The American pair in the Closed Room only managed to bid 4♣, 11 IMPs to the Vikings.

Board 12 showed the importance of not wasting intermediate cards.

Board 12. N/S Game. Dealer West.

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

Zia-Deutsch in the Open Room bid quickly as E-W:

Deutsch	Zia
1♠	4♣
6♣	All Pass

Aa led the 3 of trumps, and since Deutsch had to trump three of his losers with dummy's high spades, the ♠8 finally emerged as the setting trick. Had Aa started with the 8 instead of the 3 of trumps, 12 tricks would have been the result.

Helgemo -Helness bid to 4♣, making 11 and Norway ended up bronze medalists, winning by 97-67.

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