

# Daily News

World Bridge Championships  
Paris FRANCE

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2001



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## Gold For USA II Seniors



The Gold medal winners in the Seniors Bowl

The first title of the Paris World Championships has gone to a team representing North America. **USA II** comprising **Grant Baze, Gene Freed, Garey Hayden, Joseph Kivel, Chris Larsen & John Onstott** took the crown by defeating **Poland**, who were represented by **Wit Klapper, Andrzej Milde, Jerzy Russyan, Stefan Szenberg, Włodzimierz Wala & Andrzej Wilkosz**, NPC **Włodzimierz Stobiecki**. **France** took the bronze medal by defeating **USA I**.

There were no surprises in the Bermuda Bowl and Venice Cup as the teams enjoying an overnight lead all consolidated their advantages. That was especially true in the case of **Italy**, who outscored **USA I** 124-9 IMPs over the last two sets.

In the semifinals, **Norway, Germany & France** all enjoy a significant carry over advantage.

The early leaders of the Transnational Teams were **Zimmerman** from **France** and **Mansell** from **South Africa**. As we go to press they were meeting each other in round three.

### VUGRAPH MATCHES

Venice Cup – Semi-final (Session 1) – 10.30  
**FRANCE v USA II**

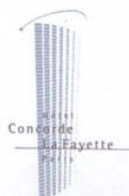
Bermuda Bowl – Semi-final (Session 2) – 13.20  
**ITALY v NORWAY**

Bermuda Bowl – Semi-final (Session 3) – 16.10  
**POLAND v USA II**

Semi-final (Session 4) – 21.00  
**to be decided**

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## Bermuda Bowl

### Quarter-finals

	Carry-over	Session 1	Session 2	Session 3	Session 4	Session 5	Session 6	Total
1 <b>POLAND</b> INDIA	0 - 1	33 - 18	61 - 12	53 - 21	64 - 10	21 - 30	47 - 13	<b>279</b> -105
2 <b>USA II</b> FRANCE	15 - 0	41 - 36	41 - 35	48 - 47	38 - 13	58 - 28	35 - 19	<b>276</b> -178
3 <b>NORWAY</b> INDONESIA	0 - 1.3	51 - 43	49 - 45	39 - 33	67 - 30	75 - 36	16 - 27	<b>297</b> -215.3
4 USA I <b>ITALY</b>	5 - 0	14 - 43	27 - 55	71 - 28	20 - 12	0 - 57	9 - 67	146 - <b>262</b>

## Venice Cup

### Quarter-finals

	Carry-over	Session 1	Session 2	Session 3	Session 4	Session 5	Session 6	Total
5 <b>FRANCE</b> S. AFRICA	16 - 0	39 - 11	24 - 23	63 - 46	43 - 35	22 - 17	47 - 0	<b>254</b> -132
6 ENGLAND <b>USA II</b>	16 - 0	27 - 41	33 - 22	38 - 63	27 - 60	32 - 54	38 - 25	211 - <b>265</b>
7 USA I <b>GERMANY</b>	1 - 0	35 - 49	3 - 57	55 - 32	57 - 31	10 - 68	35 - 27	196 - <b>264</b>
8 CHINA <b>AUSTRIA</b>	0 -5.7	14 - 28	43 - 56	45 - 26	14 - 43	14 - 42	27 - 37	157 - <b>237.7</b>

## Seniors Bowl

### Final

	Carry-over	Session 1	Session 2	Session 3	Total
9 POLAND <b>USA II</b>	0 - 0	16 - 41	35 - 47	21 - 20	72 - <b>108</b>

### Play-off

	Carry-over	Session 1	Session 2	Total
10 USA I <b>FRANCE</b>	0 - 7.3	29 - 53	32 - 45	61 - <b>105.3</b>

## Bermuda Bowl

### Semi-finals

	Carry-over	Session 1	Session 2	Session 3	Session 4	Session 5	Session 6	Total
1 POLAND USA II	3 - 0							
2 NORWAY ITALY	16 - 0							

## Venice Cup

### Semi-finals

	Carry-over	Session 1	Session 2	Session 3	Session 4	Session 5	Session 6	Total
3 FRANCE USA II	15.5 - 0							
4 GERMANY AUSTRIA	16 - 0							



## Welcome to the Transnational Teams from José Damiani, president of the WBF

*My friends - so many friends. First of all, I am sorry if I was rather abrupt when I welcomed you to our Championships last evening. I ask for your understanding - as a matter of fact I am sure all of you understood that the move from Bali to Paris was not so easy, and I have particularly asked for discipline and co-operation from all the players, which we have received in full measure up to now, and am sure that we will continue to receive until the end of the Championships.*

*One of the biggest difficulties we had to face was to find a venue large enough for the playing area, and even though we are delighted to welcome 74 teams, only 57 were registered in advance, so you can imagine that it would have been much easier to find the right solution if we had known how many of you would come. We will do our best under the circumstances to ensure that you are comfortable and that you enjoy the Championships.*

*But I want especially to thank you - to thank you so very much for being here in Paris. Bridge has shown, in the midst of these tragic circumstances its solidarity, and our family is even stronger than it was. If we all shared the horror felt by the Americans on 11th September, and indeed, still feel American, if we will never forget the tragedy, nonetheless we made the decision to show the world that we are able to react, that we are still standing and that we will continue to fight for our ideals - one of them being Olympism and the other our own belief in 'Bridge for Peace'*

*60 million bridge players in the world can represent a formidable lobbying group. As the most visible part of this group, it is up to us to show the way.*

*We believe in the educational value of our sport where respect of the rules and ethics of the competition does not preclude its conviviality and our wish for peace. Such are the values that we share throughout the world and that we wish to defend all together.*

*So - it is good to see you - all of you. In the Bermuda Bowl we were sad that the Pakistani players were obliged to withdraw, but here we can welcome the most famous Pakistani player of them all, Zia Mahmood, and add another country to the many nationalities who compete here.*

*The idea of Transnational events has already proved to be a success as in the first two editions we have been happy to get approximately the same number of teams, with many great Champions playing and, indeed, winning.*

*These championships are dedicated to the victims of terrorism, and also to you the players, because I assure you that you are our only concern, because we know you, and because we love you.*

*God bless our bridge family. The show goes on!*

# Transnational Teams

## RESULTS AFTER 2 MATCHES

Team	Country	VPs
1 ZIMMERMAN	FRA	.48
2 MANSELL	ZAF	.48
3 YANHUEI	CHN	.46
4 MOERS J.	GLP	.43
5 RAND	ISR	.42
6 MUZZIO	ARG	.41
7 KOWALSKI	POL	.41
8 BRACHMAN	USA	.39
9 FREED G.	USA	.39
10 (ENERGOM)	POL	.39
11 JAGNIEWSKI	POL GER	.39
12 DURMUS U.	GBR NOR	.38
13 GRESH	FRA	.38
14 LEWACIAK	POL	.37
15 ZELIKOVSKI	NTH ISR	.37
16 PIOTRONSKI	POL	.37
17 KIRILENKO	RUS	.37
18 HACKETT	ENG USA	.37
19 KIRAN N.	IND	.37
20 HANNAH A.	LIB	.36
21 BLUMENTAL	FRA	.36
22 BUREAU	FRA	.36
23 ERAN S.	ISR	.35
24 NIMHAUSER	FRA	.35
25 BLACKSTOCK	NZL	.35
26 REID	NZL	.35
27 MARMION	FRA	.34
28 CHANG M.	USA GBR	.34
29 CRONIX	AZS POL	.34
30 AUKEN J.	DEN	.32
31 LARA M.	POR GER	.32
32 BERGHEIMER	FRA	.32
33 FRANCOLINI	FRA	.31
34 COURTNEY	GBR	.31
35 ISMIR	FRA	.31
36 MOHTASHAMI	FRA	.30
37 KOLPORTER	POL	.30
38 GRINBERG	ISR	.29
39 VENTIN J.	SPA	.28
40 OTOVSI	POL	.28
41 WOOLSEY	USA	.27
42 HARPER	GBR	.27
43 VALK A.J.	NTH BEL	.27
44 BAKER	USA	.27
45 KAPLAN L.	FRA	.27
46 CICHOCKI M.	POL	.27
47 STOBIECKI	POL	.26
48 MOZA	FRA	.26
49 MARKOWICZ	POL ISR	.26
50 WOJCICKI	POL	.26
51 KHIOUPPENEN	RUS	.26
52 POPLIOV	ISR	.26
53 PRIDAY T.	GBR	.26
54 VILLABOAS	BRA	.26
55 PRESCOTT	AUS	.25
56 VOLDOIRE	FRA	.24
57 MORIN	FRA	.24
58 GROMOV	RUS	.24
59 DENNISON	FRA	.22
60 WILD AVSKY	USA CAN	.22
61 MANOPPO	IDN	.22
62 HAMEED T.	BAH	.22
63 GRIME P.	NOR	.21
64 CORSICA	FRA	.21
65 ROTHFIELD	AUS USA	.21
66 PARMADI	IDN	.19
67 BURAS K.	POL	.19
68 JUVENIA	POL	.17
69 HENG A.K.	SIN	.17
70 PORTAL	FRA	.17
71 ACHTERBERG	SWI FRA	.15
72 KHVEN M.	RUS	.13
73 JELLOULI	TUN	.12
74 YIU CHAN	HKG	.7

# The Seniors were right

by Christian Farwig

While some of the German ladies were waiting for the Metro to take them away from the Stade de France last Saturday, members of a Seniors team approached them and stated that the combination of beauty and wit as displayed by the German ladies team is very dangerous. Unfortunately, no more pleasantries were exchanged since the conversation was cut short by two of the husbands showing up. But being married to one of the ladies, I can confirm that they were right. At least in the domestic area.

But they also show their ferocity at the table, as proved by this masterpiece of Sabine Auken against the USA I team in the Venice Cup quarterfinal.

Board 11. Dealer South. None Vul.

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

The bidding went:

West	North <i>Auken</i>	East	South <i>Von Arnim</i>
			2♠ <sup>(1)</sup>
Dble <sup>(2)</sup>	2NT	3♥	3NT <sup>(3)</sup>
Dble	4♦	Dble	4♥
Dble	Pass	Pass	4♣
Pass	5♦	All Pass	

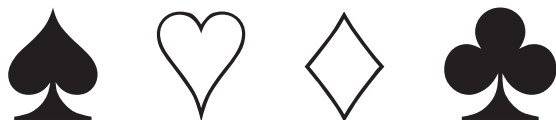
<sup>(1)</sup> Two-suiter in either minors or majors

<sup>(2)</sup> Majors

<sup>(3)</sup> Minors and maximum

After coming close to bidding a slam, v. Arnim - Auken ventured for the Diamond-game. The opening lead of a small heart was won by West, who returned a spade.

Sabine Auken now reasoned that the spade finesse was sure to win - something, which could not be said about the club finesse. So, as a precaution, she made the finesse and discarded a club on the spade ace. Now she ruffed a heart, lead a club to the ace, ruffed another heart and cashed the ace of diamonds to reach this position:



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

The fall of the king of diamonds from East confirmed her suspicion about the overall distribution and judging West to have a 5-4-2-2-hand, she rejected the club finesse and instead played club to the king to ruff her last spade. Now the second round of trumps brought West in to an unavoidable endplay and netted well deserved +600, a feat not duplicated by any other declarer on this hand.

## Transnational Schedule

### Tuesday 30 October

11.00	Match 4
14.00	Match 5
15.50	Match 6
17.30	Match 7

### Wednesday 31 October

13.00	Match 8
14.50	Match 9
16.30	Match 10
18.20	Match 11

### Thursday 1 November

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

### Friday 2 November

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

### Saturday 3 November

10.30	Final Session 2
13.20	Final Session 3

## Polish Power Play

Poland is in ominously good form. Here are two examples of how they score points. In Round 6 they faced Egypt, the surprise team that so nearly qualified.

Board 15. Dealer South. N/S Vul.

<p>♠ 7 ♥ J 5 4 3 ♦ J 6 2 ♣ K Q J 8 2</p>	<p>♠ 10 8 6 ♥ A Q 10 7 2 ♦ A Q 10 5 ♣ 10</p> <div style="text-align: center; border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: fit-content; margin: 0 auto;"> <table style="border-collapse: collapse; width: 100%;"> <tr><td style="width: 33%; text-align: center;">N</td><td style="width: 33%;"></td><td style="width: 33%;"></td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">W</td><td style="text-align: center;">E</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td></td><td style="text-align: center;">S</td><td></td></tr> </table> </div> <p>♠ A K J 9 ♥ 9 6 ♦ 9 8 3 ♣ A 7 6 4</p>	N			W	E			S		<p>♠ Q 5 4 3 2 ♥ K 8 ♦ K 7 4 ♣ 9 5 3</p>	
N												
W	E											
	S											
<b>West</b> <i>Zmudzinski</i>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b> <i>Balicki</i>	<b>South</b>									
Pass	1♥	Pass	1♣									
Pass	2♦	Pass	2NT									
Pass	3NT	All Pass										

Adam Zmudzinski led the king of clubs.

Looking at the array of points in his own hand, Balicki realised that his partner could hardly have an entry outside the club suit. Setting a trap, Balicki played the nine. In order of priority, that was discouraging, suit preference or from an odd number. Declarer, believing that with the singleton ten visible in dummy East would encourage with three clubs to the nine, was taken in and fatally won the second club.

In Round 16 Poland faced Brazil.

Board 10. Dealer East. All Vul.

<p>♠ A J 7 ♥ A 4 2 ♦ A Q J 9 6 ♣ 9 2</p>	<p>♠ Q 10 8 6 4 ♥ Q 9 8 3 ♦ 8 3 ♣ K 5</p> <div style="text-align: center; border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: fit-content; margin: 0 auto;"> <table style="border-collapse: collapse; width: 100%;"> <tr><td style="width: 33%; text-align: center;">N</td><td style="width: 33%;"></td><td style="width: 33%;"></td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">W</td><td style="text-align: center;">E</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td></td><td style="text-align: center;">S</td><td></td></tr> </table> </div> <p>♠ 9 3 2 ♥ K 10 ♦ K 10 5 4 2 ♣ Q 10 8</p>	N			W	E			S		<p>♠ K 5 ♥ J 7 6 5 ♦ 7 ♣ A J 7 6 4 3</p>	
N												
W	E											
	S											
<b>West</b> <i>Zmudzinski</i>	<b>North</b> <i>Chagas</i>	<b>East</b> <i>Balicki</i>	<b>South</b> <i>Brenner</i>									
INT	Pass	2♣	Pass									
2♦	Pass	3♣	Pass									
3♦	Pass	3♥	Pass									
3NT	All Pass											

North led a low spade for the nine and declarer's jack. Declarer ducked a heart to South and the club switch went to the king and ace. A diamond to the nine was followed by the ace of diamonds and the queen, North pitching a spade. The spade return went to dummy's king and declarer came back to hand with the ace of hearts. After cashing the ace of spades, these cards remained:

<p>♠ - ♥ 4 ♦ J 6 ♣ 9</p>	<p>♠ Q ♥ Q 9 ♦ - ♣ 5</p> <div style="text-align: center; border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: fit-content; margin: 0 auto;"> <table style="border-collapse: collapse; width: 100%;"> <tr><td style="width: 33%; text-align: center;">N</td><td style="width: 33%;"></td><td style="width: 33%;"></td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">W</td><td style="text-align: center;">E</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td></td><td style="text-align: center;">S</td><td></td></tr> </table> </div> <p>♠ - ♥ - ♦ 10 5 ♣ Q 10</p>	N			W	E			S		<p>♠ - ♥ J 7 ♦ - ♣ J 7</p>	
N												
W	E											
	S											

Now declarer could choose how to endplay South.

### Reminder to players in the World Transnational Open Teams Championship

All players, and especially those newly arrived, are reminded that the WBF Code of Practice is in force at these Championships. Directors' judgemental rulings are made after consultation with other Directors and with players of sound knowledge and known ability. It is not suggested that an appeal may not be made when there is a sound case for arguing that even after these careful consultations the ruling is incorrect, but the onus is on appellants to provide strong evidence to the appeals committee that the Director's ruling should not be allowed to stand. The appeals committee starts with an assumption that the Director's ruling is correct and will only set this assumption aside if satisfied that the players have shown sound reasons to do so. The WBF authorizes Directors to make rulings under Law 12C3, and to make weighted score adjustments in appropriate cases. Where made these rulings generally reflect the balance of opinions amongst those consulted. During the Championships to the end of the Quarter Finals it may be noted that only one appeal has occurred and it is believed the method in which rulings are now made has largely contributed to this as a result of the method and of the extended powers of the Directors in seeking an equitable adjustment.



**ROUND 14** Venice Cup By Tony Gordon (England)



# England v The Netherlands



*Femke Hoogweg, The Netherlands*

The Netherlands were in eighth place going into this match, but with England, Austria and France still to play, they would do well to reach the quarter-finals. For their part, England trailed leaders France by 36 VPs but would be keen to consolidate their second place.

Board 3. Dealer South. E/W Vul.

<p>♠ A 7 3 ♥ K 10 7 ♦ Q J 10 9 7 ♣ A 9</p>	<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		<p>♠ 10 5 2 ♥ A 8 ♦ K 3 ♣ K 8 7 6 5 3</p>	
	N											
W		E										
	S											
<p>♠ K J ♥ J 9 6 5 2 ♦ A 8 6 5 4 ♣ J</p>		<p>♠ Q 9 8 6 4 ♥ Q 4 3 ♦ 2 ♣ Q 10 4 2</p>										
<p><b>West</b> <i>Van Zwol</i></p>	<p><b>North</b> <i>Dhondy</i></p>	<p><b>East</b> <i>Hoogweg</i></p>	<p><b>South</b> <i>Smith</i></p>									
<p>Pass Pass</p>	<p>INT 2♣<sup>(1)</sup></p>	<p>Pass All Pass</p>	<p>Pass Pass 2♥<sup>(1)</sup></p>									

<sup>(1)</sup> Transfer

Femke Hoogweg led the ♦K against Heather Dhondy's 2♣, and then switched to a club to the jack and ace. Dhondy now played the ♦Q and discarded a heart from hand. When Wietske

Van Zwol took her ace she played a heart to her partner's ace and received a club ruff in return; however, Dhondy could now pick up the trump suit without loss and she emerged with nine tricks for +140 to England.

<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>
<i>Courtney</i>	<i>Vriend</i>	<i>Brock</i>	<i>V.d. Pas</i>
Pass	4♣	All Pass	2♠ <sup>(1)</sup>

<sup>(1)</sup> weak with 5 spades and 4+ in a minor

There was more at stake at the other table where Marijke Van der Pas and Bep Vriend reached 4♣. Margaret Courtney began with an aggressive ♦A, and then switched to the ♥5. Declarer played low from dummy and Sally Brock won with the ace. Either red card will defeat the contract at this point, but it must have seemed to Brock that her partner was void in clubs as she continued with the ♣3. This ran to the ace and Van der Pas then cashed dummy's other black ace. When the ♠J appeared on her left, she ducked the next round to Courtney's king. Courtney exited with a heart and when the ten held declarer could have ruffed out the ♦K and made the contract, but she won with the ♥Q, drew the last trump and conceded a club for one down. +50 and 5 IMPs to England.

After a dull first half, England led 8-7.

Board 13. Dealer North. All Vul.

<p>♠ Q 5 ♥ 9 ♦ 10 9 8 3 ♣ K Q 10 7 5 3</p>	<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		<p>♠ A 9 ♥ K 7 6 3 ♦ J 7 5 4 ♣ J 6 2</p>	
	N											
W		E										
	S											
<p>♠ K 8 6 2 ♥ A Q 10 8 4 ♦ A Q 6 ♣ A</p>		<p>♠ J 10 7 4 3 ♥ J 5 2 ♦ K 2 ♣ 9 8 4</p>										
<p><b>West</b> <i>Courtney</i></p>	<p><b>North</b> <i>Vriend</i></p>	<p><b>East</b> <i>Brock</i></p>	<p><b>South</b> <i>V.d. Pas</i></p>									
<p>1♥ 3♣</p>	<p>Pass Pass Pass</p>	<p>Pass Pass 2NT<sup>(1)</sup> 4♥</p>	<p>Pass Pass All Pass</p>									

<sup>(1)</sup> Limit raise

<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>
<i>Van Zwol</i>	<i>Dhondy</i>	<i>Hoogweg</i>	<i>Smith</i>
Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass
Pass	Pass	2♣ <sup>(1)</sup>	Pass
Pass	Pass	4♥	All Pass

<sup>(1)</sup> Drury



Sally Brock, England

A missed opportunity for both teams. Van Zwol drew three rounds of trumps and made twelve tricks when the  $\diamond K$  was doubleton on side. Courtney gained an IMP for England when she drew only two rounds of trumps and was able to ruff both losing spades in the dummy for thirteen tricks.

Board 15. Dealer South. N/S Vul.

<p><math>\spadesuit</math> 9  <math>\heartsuit</math> 10 7  <math>\diamond</math> A 9 8 7 5  <math>\clubsuit</math> A K 10 8 2</p>	<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		<p><math>\spadesuit</math> K 10 8 3  <math>\heartsuit</math> A 8 5 3 2  <math>\diamond</math> Q 2  <math>\clubsuit</math> Q 4</p>	
	N											
W		E										
	S											
<p><math>\spadesuit</math> 4  <math>\heartsuit</math> K Q J 6  <math>\diamond</math> J 6 4  <math>\clubsuit</math> J 7 6 5 3</p>		<p><math>\spadesuit</math> A Q J 7 6 5 2  <math>\heartsuit</math> 9 4  <math>\diamond</math> K 10 3  <math>\clubsuit</math> 9</p>										
<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>									
Courtney	Vriend	Brock	V.d. Pas									
Pass	4 $\spadesuit$	All Pass	3 $\spadesuit$									

Courtney cashed two rounds of hearts and switched to a club. There was no way for declarer to avoid two trumps losers, so she was one down for +100 to England.

<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>
Van Zwol	Dhondy	Hoogweg	Smith
Pass	2 $\diamond$	Pass	1 $\spadesuit$
Pass	2NT	Pass	2 $\spadesuit$
All Pass			4 $\spadesuit$

Van Zwol began with the  $\heartsuit K$ , but then switched to her trump. Nicola Smith won the  $\spadesuit J$  and followed with the  $\spadesuit A$ . She now cashed dummy's top clubs, discarding her last heart, and ruffed a club, before exiting with a trump to East. If Hoogweg were to play a diamond, the defence would lose their diamond trick, but when she tried the  $\heartsuit A$  instead, Smith ruffed and exited with another spade. Hoogweg continued hearts, but when declarer ruffed with her last trump Van Zwol was squeezed in the minors. +620 and 12 IMPs to England.

Both teams bid the grand slam on board 18, but another big swing went England's way on the final board.

Board 20. Dealer West. All Vul.

<p><math>\spadesuit</math> K 7 5  <math>\heartsuit</math> Q 8  <math>\diamond</math> K 10 9 5  <math>\clubsuit</math> A 10 8 5</p>	<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		<p><math>\spadesuit</math> J 4 2  <math>\heartsuit</math> 9 6 5 4 3 2  <math>\diamond</math> Q J  <math>\clubsuit</math> J 6</p>	
	N											
W		E										
	S											
		<p><math>\spadesuit</math> A Q 9 8 3  <math>\heartsuit</math> K 7  <math>\diamond</math> A 8 7 6 2  <math>\clubsuit</math> 9</p>										

<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>
Courtney	Vriend	Brock	V.d. Pas
1 $\clubsuit$	2 $\clubsuit$	Pass	2 $\spadesuit$
Pass	3 $\clubsuit$	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

Courtney led the  $\diamond 10$  against 3NT and Van der Pas took her ace and played a club to the king. The  $\spadesuit 10$  was covered by the jack, queen and king, and Courtney continued with the  $\diamond 5$  to Brock's queen. A club to Courtney's ace allowed her to cash two more diamond winners, so Van der Pas was one down for +100 to England.

<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>
Van Zwol	Dhondy	Hoogweg	Smith
1 $\diamond$	2 $\clubsuit$	Pass	2 $\spadesuit$
Pass	3 $\clubsuit$	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

Van Zwol elected to lead the  $\heartsuit Q$  and Smith won in hand with the king and advanced the  $\spadesuit 9$ . It was difficult for Van Zwol to realise that she had to rise with the ace and switch to a diamond, and when she ducked, the hand was over. When dummy's king held the trick, Smith turned her attention to spades. The  $\spadesuit 10$  was covered by the jack, queen and king, and Van Zwol continued hearts. However, declarer now had nine tricks by way of 4 spades, 3 hearts, a club and a diamond. +600 and 12 IMPs to England who won the match by 51-11 IMPs, 23-7 VPs, to stay in second place.

# La Fayette nous voilà !

Par Guy Dupont

## Réflexions stupides

Pourquoi faire si long? Pourquoi faire si court? Des quarts de finale en 96 donnes, c'est à la fois trop et trop peu pour les kibitz et pour les joueurs. Trop, dans trois rencontres sur quatre de la Bermuda Bowl, puisqu'à 32 donnes de la fin, on notait un écart supérieur à 50 points au bénéfice de la Pologne sur l'Inde (+149), de la Norvège sur l'Indonésie (+54) et des Etats-Unis 2 sur la France (+52). Sans doute n'était-ce pas "irratrappable", mais disons qu'on n'y croyait plus beaucoup. D'ailleurs, les écarts s'accroissent encore dans la cinquième séance. En revanche, il semblait, pour notre plus grand plaisir, que l'on aurait pu continuer le match Etats-Unis 1 - Italie (sorte de finale avant la lettre, opposant les tenants du titre aux champions olympiques) une semaine durant, voire un mois, puisque l'écart n'était que de 1 point, après 64 donnes. Toutefois, tout cela est très relatif, et le bridge sait nous ménager bien des surprises, puisque l'Italie se déchaîna dans les deux dernières séances, en l'emportant par 57 à 0, puis par 67 à 9 !

Pareil pour la Venice Cup : trois rencontres semblaient "pliées", à 32 donnes de la fin. L'avantage de la France sur l'Afrique du Sud était de 70 points, celui des Etats-Unis 2 sur l'Angleterre de 45, et celui de l'Autriche sur la Chine de 42. Et la cinquième séance confirmait la tendance. Le match Allemagne - Etats-Unis 1, pour sa part, entretenait encore le suspense, avec un avantage plus modeste de 18 points pour les Allemandes, à 32 donnes de la fin. Mais le suspense tourna court dans la cinquième séance, avec un bénéfice de 58 points en 16 donnes pour l'Allemagne. Espérons qu'il durera jusqu'au bout dans les demi-finales.



Sylvie Willard

## Un air de fête

Encadré par deux salons où avaient lieu deux réceptions de mariage avec flons-flons et musique à tout va, le bridgevision de dimanche soir, retransmettant la quatrième séance des quarts de finale, avait un air de fête peu habituel, mais peu propice à la concentration. Heureusement pour les joueurs, les bruits de la fête ne leur parvenaient pas.

Ce chelem, au son des violons yiddishs, ne fut demandé et réussi qu'à trois tables sur huit dans la Venice Cup (mais guère plus dans la Bermuda Bowl). Il n'y a pas justice : dans la rencon-

tre France - Afrique du Sud, il se traduit par une égalité, les deux paires Nord-Sud l'ayant appelé (l'autre paire étant Mmes Auken-Von Arnim).

Donne 12. Ouest donneur, N/S vulnérables

<p>♠ R 8 ♥ R 6 4 3 ♦ V 9 7 3 ♣ 10 7 6</p>	<p>♠ D 6 5 3 ♥ A D V 8 ♦ A D 8 6 ♣ A</p>	<table style="border: 1px solid black; width: 100px; height: 100px; margin: 0 auto; text-align: center; font-size: 2em;"> <tr><td></td><td>N</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>O</td><td></td><td>E</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td>S</td><td></td></tr> </table>		N		O		E		S		<p>♠ 7 4 2 ♥ 10 9 7 ♦ 10 4 2 ♣ R D 5 4</p>
	N											
O		E										
	S											
	<p>♠ AV 10 9 ♥ 5 2 ♦ R 5 ♣ V 9 8 3 2</p>											

Comment auriez-vous enchéri, avec votre partenaire préféré?

La séquence sud-africaine, en majeure quatrième :

Ouest	Nord	Est	Sud
<i>Bessis</i>	<i>Modlin</i>	<i>d'Ovidio</i>	<i>Mansell</i>
Passe	1 ♥	Passe	1 ♠
Passe	4 ♣	Passe	4 ♦
Passe	4 SA	Passe	5 ♣
Passe	6 ♠	(Fin)	

4 ♣ : Splinter

La séquence française, en majeure cinquième :

Ouest	Nord	Est	Sud
<i>Fihrer</i>	<i>Cronier</i>	<i>Swartz</i>	<i>Willard</i>
Passe	1 ♦	Passe	1 ♠
Passe	3 ♥	Passe	4 ♦
Passe	4 ♥	Passe	4 SA
Passe	5 ♣	Contre	6 ♠
(Fin)			

3 ♥ : Splinter à Trèfle

Une séquence similaire, si ce n'est que chez les Sud-Africaines, c'est Nord qui prend l'initiative de poser le Blackwood, et chez les Françaises, Sud.

Le jeu de la carte ne pose guère de difficultés. Il faut tout de même respecter un bon minutage, ce que n'ont pas manqué de faire Petra Mansell et Sylvie Willard.

Comment jouez-vous, sur l'entame du 10 de Trèfle, pour l'As, Pique pour le 9 et le Roi, et un retour d'Ouest à l'atout?

L'impatte à Pique ayant échoué, il vous faut réussir l'impatte à Cœur. Mais soignons les communications : Cœur pour le Valet, Carreau pour le Roi, Cœur pour la Dame, et Cœur coupé, Carreau pour la Dame, et Carreau coupé, Trèfle coupé, puis Dame de Pique pour purger le dernier atout, et l'on termine avec les deux As rouges. C'est propre.



### Un coup de Pepsicola pétillant

Vous n'avez pas fini d'entendre parler de cette donne dans vos chroniques de bridge. Elle a donné lieu à quelques coups d'éclat. Ce fut le cas pour Jacek Pszczola, dit Pepsicola, dans la rencontre des éliminatoires Pologne – Indonésie, du 10ème tour, sous les yeux admiratifs des spectateurs du rama.

Donne 8, Ouest donneur, personne vulnérable.

	♠ V 6 4 3		
	♥ –		
	♦ DV 10 9 8 4		
	♣ 9 5 3		
♠ A D 9	N	♠ 10 8 5 2	
♥ 10 8 4 3	O E	♥ A R 9 6 5	
♦ R 2	S	♦ A 5	
♣ 8 7 6 2		♣ A V	
	♠ R 7		
	♥ DV 7 2		
	♦ 7 6 3		
	♣ R D 10 4		

Ouest	Nord	Est	Sud
<i>Kwiecen</i>	<i>Manoppo</i>	<i>Pszczola</i>	<i>Lasut</i>
Passe	Passe	1 ♥	Passe
2 ♣ <sup>(1)</sup>	3 ♦	4 ♥	(Fin)

<sup>(1)</sup> Drury fitté

Ouest entame du Roi de ♣. Comment Pepsi a-t-il gagné?

Ayant fait la levée de l'As de Trèfle, il encaissa l'As de Cœur, découvrant le cactus, puis rejoua Trèfle. Ouest prit et contre-attaqua à Carreau, pour le Roi. Pepsi coupa un Trèfle, tira l'As de Carreau pour éliminer la couleur, joua Pique pour la Dame (il était condamné à réussir l'impasse) et coupa son dernier Trèfle. Il lui restait à jouer Pique pour l'As, et à ressortir à Pique : Nord était en main (Sud n'aurait rien gagné à couper - il abandonna son dernier Carreau), mais la trappe ne tarda pas à se refermer sur Lasut. Que son partenaire revint à Pique ou à Carreau (Est fournissant le 10 de Pique), il dut, à trois cartes de la fin, couper d'un honneur avec D-V-7 de Cœur - sinon, le mort aurait remporté la levée en coupant - et se jeter, tête baissée, dans la fourchette Roi-9 du déclarant. Ainsi Est n'abandonna-t-il qu'une levée d'atout à la défense. Là, zut ! se dit Sud en lui même.

Brillante fin de coup. Pszczola fut un peu aidé par l'enchère de barrage de Nord à 3 ♦, lui permettant de mieux imaginer la main de Sud. Dans le silence adverse, le coup est sans doute un peu plus difficile à gagner. Le déclarant peut, en effet, imaginer deux distributions en Sud pour réussir dix levées : soit la main réelle, 2-4-3-4 avec le Roi second à Pique, soit une main de type 3-4-3-3, qui permet de gagner, cette fois, avec Roi-Valet de Pique troisième (le Roi sans le Valet ne suffit pas, Sud pouvant le débloquent au second tour de la couleur, ou même au premier). Mais si on espère la seconde distribution (ce qui fut le cas pour nombre de déclarants), autant jouer sur la double impasse à Pique, mais elle conduit à la chute.

Norberto Bocchi fut un des rares à gagner également 4 ♥ dans le silence adverse. Il prit l'entame du Roi de Trèfle (Nord ayant fourni une petite carte indiquant un refus) et monta aussitôt au mort par le Roi de Carreau, pour rejouer Trèfle. Attentif alors à la carte de Nord, qui montra son résidu en pair-impair, il se forgea une juste idée de la distribution adverse, et réussit ensuite son contrat tout aussi brillamment que Pszczola.

### The Labours of Hercules

by Barry Rigal

A spectacular deal at the end of the fourth session of the quarterfinals saw the West players at various tables struggle mightily.

Board 14. Dealer East. None Vul.

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

Both tables reached Six Spades by West in USA I - Italy. How should you play on a club lead?

After winning the club lead both Hamman and Versace played a low diamond. When North mistakenly played low there was a glimmer of hope. The ace of diamonds was followed by the ace and king of hearts and a heart ruff. Then came a club ruff, heart ruff, one round of trumps and then a diamond, hoping North was 1-4-2-6.

This was the ending:

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

North was helpless. He had to lead a club and let declarer ruff in dummy and pitch his losing diamond. A diamond ruff to hand enabled declarer to claim tricks 12 & 13 with the ♠AK. Flat Board!

**CALLING ALL JOURNALISTS!**

The **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING** and presentation of the annual awards will be today at 09.15 sharp in "Renoir Matisse" on the mezzanine level.

We hope to see as many of you as possible.



## The French Team Open Soci t  G n rale

Despite having only two weeks in which to prepare, the French Open team performed splendidly in the **Paris Bermuda Bowl**, reaching the quarterfinals.

### MICHEL AB CASSIS

Michael Abecassis, 49, divorced, two children (Valentine and Victor) and one dog (Prune).

He graduated as a doctor of medicine, but stayed in this profession for one year only because of his passion for bridge. This incurable disease has left numerous traces: European Pairs Champion in 1991 and 1993, second in 1997. He has also been accumulating French national titles. He is making his third appearance in the French Open Team at European Championships after Brighton in 1987 (with Philippe Soulet) and Killarney in 1991 (with JCQ).

He also is an excellent Poker player, his speciality being the Omaha high-low, and just came fourth in Las Vegas at the recent World Championships.

He is gifted with much imagination and judgement, but can sometimes be too much of a perfectionist (he has been known to stop and think for half an hour before taking a decision). It is a pleasure, however, to see this intelligent, but sometimes nervous man, playing here and becoming more and more relaxed as the tournament progresses.

### PATRICK ALLEGRINI

Patrick Allegrini, 44, bachelor, is a bridge professional who runs the Concorde Bridge Club in the city where he was born, Marseilles. His passion for the game dates from very long ago, from the time he was playing chess (he was the best player in the apartment house where he lived) in the backroom of a little restaurant in Marseilles. He found this game not very sociable so he offered to be a fourth with three old fishermen. This really was like in a play by Marcel Pagnol, "Tu me fends le coeur !" he would say when he had drunk too much Pastis, but he is sober as a judge. Nicknamed the Chechnian because his style of play is so far away from the "standard fran ais," this warrior from the mountains feels like a sheep when he sees the aggressive systems he is confronted with here.

He is a great cook, especially of fish, a lover of football and women and this is the second time he is playing for the French Open Team.

### FRANCK MULTON

Franck Multon, 36. married, one daughter, Laura (10).

A bridge professional who runs a club in his home town of Nice, "Le Colonial". Already at the age of 15, he preferred playing bridge over going to school. As his father was also a player, he had



from left: Franck Multon, Philippe Soulet, Jean-Christophe Quantin, Jean-Jacques Palau, Patrick Allegrini, Michel Ab cassis

to go to a different club in order to avoid him! As a Junior, he became European Champion as well as Runner-up in the World Championship. Later, he became an Olympic Champion in 1996 and a World Champion in 1997.

Thanks to his wife, Cath rine, he is always very well dressed. She not only is the master of the house, but also a runner-up at the European Pairs championships. Franck himself is very much like the Beau Brummel of bridge who radiates a friendly and easy-going atmosphere around him. He loves good food (his favourite restaurant is

Charlot the First in Cagnes sur Mer) and has a healthy appetite. At the table, he is a "killer", this lover of team sports has only one shortcoming, he hates losing.

### JEAN-JACQUES PALAU

Jean-Jacques Palau, 48, divorced, one son, Guillaume

He has adopted Nice on the C te d'Azur as his home, though he was brought up in Africa (he learnt to play bridge in Madagascar). He likes good food, folk music (among others Pete Seeger) and lounging on his sofa at home watching football. He works for a large French bank.

He too is nicknamed the Chechnian because he and Patrick Allegrini make up a pair that plays in a hair-raising style. He is a pairs specialist who has won Juan-les-Pins three times.

He has the demeanour of a quiet man who never smiles, but he has a wonderful dry sense of humour.

### JEAN-CHRISTOPHE QUANTIN

Jean-Christophe Quantin, 35, bachelor.

Bridge professional, who became Editor of the "Le Bridgeur" magazine some months ago. He was born in Royan, a small seaside resort on the Atlantic, where his family has run for several generations the best patisserie in the region, particularly famous for its chocolate specialities.

JCQ already has a rich career behind him: European Junior Champion, runner-up in the World Junior Championship, two gold medals and one silver medal at the European Pairs Championships with Michel Ab cassis (1991, 1993, 1997). This is the third time he is playing in the French Open Team at a European Team Championship. He finished second in Turku, 1989, playing with Christian Mari.

He loves movies and big cigars (will he become the Orson Welles of bridge later?), he is discreet yet passionate at the same time. He is the complete player, and an excellent partner too, but his main virtue is....his table presence.

## PHILIPPE SOULET

Born in Marseilles, 47, married, two children (Alexandre and Diane).

He also is a bridge professional, he runs one of the biggest clubs in Paris: France Bridge.

He is simultaneously a journalist, a writer, an organiser of simultaneous tournaments and he really is a one-man bridge show. He is a tireless worker (average 16 hours per day) so during these championships he can afford to relax a little.

His record is impressive: two World Championships, in 1980 and 1982, European Champion in 1983, bronze medal in Beijing in 1995. He is very pleased to be back in the French Open Team after an absence of five years. It reminds him of the time when he was young (he was already playing with Michel Abécassis in the 1974 European Junior Championships in Copenhagen) and is delighted to have regained a place in this team of friends. He is a bridge player from the tips of his fingers to the tips of his toes (his lucky number is 1) but he is also a lover of art and Bordeaux wines, who knows better than most where to find a good bargain. His enthusiasm makes him a great team-mate.

## HERVÉ MOUIEL - TEAM COACH

Hervé Mouiel - Team Coach, Married, two children, Jérémie et Rudy.

Hervé was elected by the players because of his long international experience (twice Olympic Champion, in 1992 and 1996, and winner of the Bermuda Bowl in 1997) and because of his tremendous desire to win. He accepted the invitation because he finds it a pleasure to coach a team of good friends but also because he thinks that the team has the potential to win the championship. "If not," he says, "I would never have accepted the job." He suffers more from every bad board than if he had been playing himself, but his most important work has been done before the championships started. This consisted of analysing the opponents' systems and preparing defences against them. He also is a friend to each individual "as we come closer to the end of the tournament, the more important the psychological side of the coaching job becomes. We are fortunate in that we now have a Bridge Federation who provide us with the means to succeed. For about ten years now, if you are to win a European or a World Championship you have to be and act like a professional!"

## GÉRARD TISSOT - NPC

Gérard Tissot, 58, married, two children (Frédéric and Rodolphe), two grandchildren (Elliott and Jules).

A bridge professional after retiring from business (he was director and pilot at a helicopter company), this lonely mountain bear now lives in a little village in the Haute-Savoie, somewhere between Geneva and Chamonix.

He was elected by the players to become captain (he was captain of the Ladies Team in Maastricht) and he has all the qualities to do this job well. He has played bridge at top level in the past, becoming French champion six times. He has been an international Tournament Director since 1976, and so helps his players avoid lodging useless appeals.

He very much loves skiing (his son is trainer of the French National Skiing Team), going through the gates of the giant slalom with the same ease as he goes through the matches here.

## Asking for Tens

By Patrick Jourdain (Wales)

Glenn Grotheim, of the Norwegian team, is inventor of the Viking Club. It has a sophisticated relay method. On the deal below from their Round Robin match against Brazil it got as far as locating which jack partner held.

"Have you ever found about tens?", I enquired, attempting a put-down. "No," replied a crestfallen Glenn, but he had a thoughtful look, so the next version of the system may well remedy that defect.

"What was the swing on the board?" "They didn't know about the jack of clubs," he replied, "so had to settle for Seven Diamonds. We were able to bid Seven Notrumps with confidence. Still it was a lot of hard work for 2 IMPs."

### Bermuda bowl Round robin Round 10 Norway v. Brazil

Board 14. Dealer East. None Vul.

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

### South

Glenn Grotheim

- 1♦ (11-15 HCP, 1+ ♦s)
- 2♣ (both minors, at least 9 cards)
- 2♥ (4♦ - 5♣)
- 3♥ (3-1-4-5 shape)
- 3NT (one ace)
- 4♠ (2 kings of the same colour)
- 5♦ (1 queen)
- 5♠ (♠Q)
- 6♦ (1 jack)
- 6♠ (♠J)
- Pass

### North

Terje Aa

- 1♥ (Nat or any Game force)
- 2♦ (game-forcing relay)
- 2♠ (relay for exact shape)
- 3♠ (relay for aces)
- 4♣ (relay for number of kings)
- 4NT (relay for queens)
- 5♥ (relay for which queen)
- 5NT (relay for jacks)
- 6♥ (relay for which jack)
- 7NT (we forgot to cover tens)

If this has inspired you to investigate further, check the web-site showing the full system: [www.vikingclub.net](http://www.vikingclub.net)

**Follow the 35th Bermuda Bowl, the 13th  
Venice Cup and the 1st Seniors Bowl on  
Internet through the WBF official web site:**

**[www.bridge.gr](http://www.bridge.gr)**

SESSIONS 5 & 6

Bermuda Bowl / Quarter-Final



USA I v Italy



The United States has a long and rich history in the Bermuda Bowl. The team captained by Nick Nickell is part of that history. In fact, they entered the Paris tournament as the defending Bermuda Bowl champions and were among the favorites to contend for another medal.

That is one of the reasons why their quarterfinal defeat by the Italian Olympiad champions was such a shocker - not the defeat itself but the thoroughness of the thrashing.

USA I had fallen behind early in the 96-board match but had rallied in the third and fourth sets to pull to within 1 IMP of Italy. Thus the Vugraph match Monday morning held considerable interest.

It was no contest. Italy outscored USA I 57-0 in the fifth set and followed that with a 67-9 drubbing in the final set for a shocking 262-146 victory. Think about it - the team of Bob Hamman-Paul Soloway and Jeff Meckstroth-Eric Rodwell scored all of 9 IMP over 32 boards.

It wasn't that the Americans played badly - the Italians were just that good. It was a remarkable performance and earned the team revenge for their quarterfinal loss to the same team in Bermuda in 2000.

The score was 138-137 in favor of Italy when the fifth set started and in the early going it looked as though it was going to be a close match.

The teams pushed the first two boards as Meckstroth-Rodwell and Giorgio Duboin-Norberto Bocchi bid to a normal 6♥ which went down on a bad trump break. Next was another push on a normal 3NT with only eight tricks.

On Board 3, both North-South pairs bid well to reach game, then played accurately to make it.

Board 3. Dealer South. E/W Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Duboin	Hamman	Bocchi	Soloway
1♥	1♠	3♥	Pass
Pass	Dble	Pass	Pass
All Pass			4♠

Bocchi led the ♦9, ducked to Giorgio Duboin's jack. A heart was returned to the ace, and Hamman played a spade to the queen and Duboin's king. The ♣K was returned, and when trumps

proved to be 3-3, Hamman ducked a diamond to West and claimed 10 tricks.

West	North	East	South
Meckstroth	Versace	Rodwell	Lauria
1♥	1♠	3♦ <sup>(1)</sup>	Pass
3♥	Dble	Pass	Dble
Pass	4♦	Pass	3♠
All Pass			4♠

<sup>(1)</sup> Heart raise

Rodwell also started with the singleton diamond, but Alfredo Versace put in the queen, losing to the king. A heart was returned to the ace, and a spade went to Meckstroth's king. When Meckstroth returned a low club, Versace put in the queen and soon was claiming his game.

The first of four major swings that buried USA I occurred on the next deal.

Board 4. Dealer West. All Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Duboin	Hamman	Bocchi	Soloway
Pass	Pass	Pass	1♦
Pass	1♥	Pass	2NT
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

The 2NT bid showed a hand with extras and long diamonds. Duboin led the ♠J. Soloway won in hand, played a heart to dummy and took the diamond finesse. When he cashed the ♦A and West showed out, Soloway abandoned diamonds and could scramble only four more tricks. That was one down and plus 100 to Italy.

West	North	East	South
Meckstroth	Versace	Rodwell	Lauria
Pass	Pass	Pass	1♦
Pass	1♥	Pass	2NT
Pass	3NT	All Pass	





Eric Rodwell, USA

Lorenzo Lauria might have had the same problems Soloway did, but he benefited from a more favourable lead. Meckstroth started with the ♣10 (Rusinow), which went to Rodwell's queen and Lauria's king. Lauria started diamonds from his hand, cashing the ace and following with the queen. Rodwell won the ♦K, cashed the ♣A and then went into a long huddle. Finally, apparently in the hope that Meckstroth had led from a four-card club suit, Rodwell cashed the ♦J and continued with a third round of clubs. Lauria was able to claim at that point for plus 600. Italy's lead had grown to 13 IMPs.

The Italians added another double-digit swing on the next deal.

Board 5. Dealer North. N/S Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Duboin	Hamman	Bocchi	Soloway
	1♣ <sup>(1)</sup>	2♥ <sup>(2)</sup>	2NT
4♥	Pass	Pass	Dble
All Pass			

<sup>(1)</sup> Strong and artificial  
<sup>(2)</sup> Majors

Duboin took advantage of the vulnerability to bid the maximum with his good heart fit. Hamman and Soloway could take only four tricks for plus 100.

West	North	East	South
Meckstroth	Versace	Rodwell	Lauria
	1♣	Pass	1♦
Pass	2♥	Pass	2♠
Pass	3♣	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

The artificial auction landed the Italians in a precarious spot - 3NT can be defeated with a heart lead, while 5♣ is cold. The problem for USA I was that Meckstroth had a natural diamond lead, not a heart. On the lead of the ♦5, Lauria was soon claiming plus 660.

Italy's lead had grown to 161-137.

Both pairs bid to 3NT and took 10 tricks on the next deal, but Italy scored again on Board 7.

Board 7. Dealer South. All Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Duboin	Hamman	Bocchi	Soloway
Dble	Pass	3NT	2♠
			All Pass

Soloway started with the ♠7 to the 10 and jack. That was all the help Bocchi needed, and he rang up plus 600 for Italy.

West	North	East	South
Meckstroth	Versace	Rodwell	Lauria
Dble	Pass	3NT	2♠
			All Pass

Lauria avoided the spade lead, giving Rodwell no chance to make his contract. Lauria started with the ♦6, which went to the king and ace. Back came the ♠10 to the jack and queen. Lauria got out with another diamond, taken by Rodwell with dummy's queen. Desperately hoping to put South on lead, Rodwell played a third round of diamonds. Versace won the ♦J and scuttled with the contract with another spade through Rodwell's hand. That was 12 more IMPs for Italy, now leading 173-137.

Both North-South pairs missed game on Board 8, taking 11 tricks in 3♠.

Pushes is not what the USA needed, and the next deal didn't help matters.

Board 9. Dealer North. E/W Vul.

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

Both East-West pairs conducted complicated, artificial auctions - a total of 26 bids between the two - and both managed to make West declarer in a heart contract. The difference was that Bocchi-Duboin were in slam, while Meckstroth-Rodwell stopped in game.

Duboin got the lead the ♠J against his slam. Duboin won, cashed the ♥A and played another heart, claiming plus 1430 when the friendly lie was discovered.

Meckstroth saved an IMP by taking all the tricks. Versace led the ♥9, ducked to Meckstroth's 10. Meckstroth cashed the ♣K and ♠A and ruffed a spade low, following with the ♥Q, pinning North's jack. Meckstroth then cashed the ♣A, pitching a diamond, and ruffed a club. He was soon claiming plus 710, but it was still a 12-IMP loss. Italy was rolling, 185-137. The Vugraph audience could not believe that powerful USA I was being shut out. Even when an Italian misplayed, it didn't seem to hurt the cause.

Board 11. Dealer South. None Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Meckstroth</i>	<i>Versace</i>	<i>Rodwell</i>	<i>Lauria</i>
Pass	1♠	Dble	1♣
2♦	2♥	Pass	2NT
Pass	3♣	All Pass	

Meckstroth led the ♥8 to the jack, 7 and 3. Lauria followed with a club to the queen. He then led the ♠Q to the ace and finessed in clubs again. Meckstroth followed on the second round of clubs with the 10, apparently convincing Lauria that he had started with a doubleton. At this point, Lauria had nine tricks via five clubs, three hearts and a spade, but he made the curious play of the ♦9 from his hand. Meckstroth won the ♦10 and continued the suit. Rodwell cashed his two diamonds, gave Meckstroth a

heart ruff and took a diamond ruff with the ♣K. Nine tricks had turned into eight and USA I scored plus 50. Could it be a small gain? Not on this day.

West	North	East	South
<i>Duboin</i>	<i>Hamman</i>	<i>Bocchi</i>	<i>Soloway</i>
Pass	1♠	Pass	1♦
Pass	2♦	All Pass	2♣

Soloway did what he could in the 4-2 fit, but he was short of ammunition and finished one down for minus 50 and another push.

The following deal represented only a 4-IMP swing for Italy, but it shows how accurate the Italian card play was.

Board 14. Dealer East. None Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Meckstroth</i>	<i>Versace</i>	<i>Rodwell</i>	<i>Lauria</i>
<i>Duboin</i>	<i>Hamman</i>	<i>Bocchi</i>	<i>Soloway</i>
1♠	Pass	1♥	Pass
		2♥	All Pass

The auction was the same in both rooms.

Soloway started with the ♠K, making things easy for Bocchi, who lost one spade, two hearts and two diamonds for plus 110.

Lauria started with the ♥Q. Rodwell won the ace and played a diamond from his hand. Lauria went up with the queen, but Versace overtook with the king to play the ♠9 through. Rodwell ducked, Lauria won the queen and continued with a diamond to Versace's 9. Another spade was played and Rodwell went up with the ace. He could have made his contract from that point by finessing in clubs, ruffing a club and exiting with a spade to Lauria's king. Rodwell could then ruff the club return and play a low heart from hand, endplaying South.

Rodwell did not read the diamond situation accurately, however. After winning the ♠A, he played a club to the queen and ruffed a diamond. Lauria overruffed, cashed his spade winner and exited in clubs. He still had a trump trick coming and Rodwell was down.

Italy tacked on another 6 IMPs on Board 15 when Meckstroth and Rodwell overbid to 3NT, down one, while the Italians in the other room played 1NT making 10 tricks.

The devastating session finished with a push and the Italians had a 185-137 lead. The Americans had 16 boards to try to put together a rally. They had gone to bed Sunday night with momentum apparently on their side, but everything had changed with the new day.

The start to the final set was not what USA I wanted: Versace and Lauria bid and made 4♣ at their table for plus 450 while Meckstroth and Rodwell could collect only plus 300 from 2♣

doubled. Another 4 IMPs to Italy.

After being held scoreless for 17 straight boards in sets five and six, the Americans finally put some points on the board.

Board 2. Dealer East. N/S Vul.

<p>♠ A 7 4 ♥ 10 3 ♦ K Q 8 6 4 3 ♣ 4 3</p>	<p>♠ 9 6 3 ♥ Q J 9 5 4 ♦ 5 ♣ K Q J 5</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 40px; height: 40px; margin: 0 auto; display: flex; flex-direction: column; align-items: center; justify-content: center;"> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; width: 100%;">N</div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; width: 100%;">W</div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; width: 100%;">S</div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; width: 100%;">E</div> </div>	<p>♠ K Q J 10 ♥ 8 7 2 ♦ J 2 ♣ 10 8 7 2</p>	<p>♠ 8 5 2 ♥ A K 6 ♦ A 10 9 7 ♣ A 9 6</p>
---	--	--	---

West	North	East	South
<i>Duboin</i>	<i>Meckstroth</i>	<i>Bocchi</i>	<i>Rodwell</i>
Pass	2♦	Pass	INT
Pass	3♦	Pass	2♠
Pass	4♥	All Pass	3♥

Rodwell had 10 easy tricks for plus 620. At the other table, Hamman and Soloway found an unusual save.

West	North	East	South
<i>Hamman</i>	<i>Versace</i>	<i>Soloway</i>	<i>Lauria</i>
3♦	3♠ <sup>(1)</sup>	Pass	INT
4♠	Pass	Dble	4♣
All Pass		Pass	Dble

Versace led the ♣K, overtaken by Lauria with the ace. He knew his partner was short in diamonds, possibly void. Lauria cashed two high hearts and gave his partner a diamond ruff. Versace cashed the ♣Q, but that was it for the defense - Hamman could use his diamonds to pick up North's trumps. Down three, minus 500, and 3 IMPs to the Americans. They needed the IMPs in bigger bunches, but it was a start.

On Board 4, Hamman got busy with the diamond suit again, and it appeared he had helped his team to another gain. It did not turn out that way, however.

Board 4. Dealer West. All Vul.

<p>♠ - ♥ Q 10 9 5 3 ♦ K J 10 9 4 3 2 ♣ 9</p>	<p>♠ K 8 6 5 2 ♥ A 8 ♦ 6 ♣ K Q 10 7 4</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 40px; height: 40px; margin: 0 auto; display: flex; flex-direction: column; align-items: center; justify-content: center;"> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; width: 100%;">N</div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; width: 100%;">W</div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; width: 100%;">S</div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; width: 100%;">E</div> </div>	<p>♠ J 9 7 4 ♥ 6 2 ♦ Q 5 ♣ J 8 5 3 2</p>	<p>♠ A Q 10 3 ♥ K J 7 4 ♦ A 8 7 ♣ A 6</p>
--	---	--	---

West	North	East	South
<i>Hamman</i>	<i>Versace</i>	<i>Soloway</i>	<i>Lauria</i>
4♦	Pass	Pass	Dble
Pass	4♣	All Pass	

Versace took only 11 tricks, but it was easy to see that if he had been in slam he would no doubt have made his contract. There was hope, therefore, among USA partisans that there was a 13-IMP gain in the offing. It was not to be. Meckstroth and Rodwell climbed all the way to 7NT, which had no play, so Italy added another 13 IMPs to their IMP total instead of losing 13.

On the next deal, 13 tricks were made by both declarers in a spade contract. Neither got past 4♠, however. It was another lost opportunity for USA I.

On this deal, a reasonable bid by Soloway turned out badly for his team, as the Americans' fortunes grew worse by the minute.

Board 7. Dealer South. All Vul.

<p>♠ 9 8 ♥ 6 5 ♦ A Q 10 9 4 ♣ A 8 3 2</p>	<p>♠ 3 2 ♥ 9 7 4 2 ♦ J 8 7 6 5   ♣ 9 5</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 40px; height: 40px; margin: 0 auto; display: flex; flex-direction: column; align-items: center; justify-content: center;"> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; width: 100%;">N</div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; width: 100%;">W</div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; width: 100%;">S</div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; width: 100%;">E</div> </div>	<p>♠ Q J 7 5 4 ♥ 10 8 ♦ K 3 ♣ K J 10 6</p>	<p>♠ A K 10 6 ♥ A K Q J 3 ♦ 2 ♣ Q 7 4</p>
---	--	--	---

Meckstroth and Rodwell reached 4♥ by South, but on the trump lead from Duboin Rodwell had only nine tricks. He could engineer a club ruff to enter dummy, then double finesse in spades, but the only way to do that would be to use a trump, and he would not be able to avoid losing a spade.

West	North	East	South
<i>Hamman</i>	<i>Versace</i>	<i>Soloway</i>	<i>Lauria</i>
2♦	2♥	2♠	1♥
Pass	4♥	All Pass	3♠

After Soloway's spade bid, Hamman naturally started off with that suit. Unfortunately for USA I, that gave Lauria all the timing he needed to make the contract. The opening lead went to the jack and ace, and Lauria cashed two high hearts, then got out with a club. Soloway won, played the ♦K and a diamond, but Lauria ruffed, and played another club. When he got to dummy with the club ruff, he was able to finesse in spades and ruff his loser. That was 10 tricks for Lauria and 12 IMPs to Italy. The surprising IMP total was now 224 for Italy, 140 for USA I.

Matters only got worse from there, as Hamman and Soloway underdefended a doubled spade contract, defeating it only two tricks when the same contract was down three in the other room. Meckstroth and Rodwell bid to a no-play club slam while Lauria and Versace stopped in 3NT, taking 10 tricks.

Just about everything the Americans did turned out poorly, while the Italians could hardly pull a wrong card - from the bid box or from their hands.

The final score was Italy 262, USA I 146.

SESSIONS 1, 2 & 3 Seniors Bowl / Final



USA II v Poland



Session One

Board 8. Dealer West. None Vul.

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

For USA2, Grant Baze and Gene Freed got all the way to 1♠ on the North/South cards, making a trick more than they were entitled to for +170. For Poland, Jerzy Russyan and Wit Klapper bid it 1♣ - 1♦ - 4♣ - Pass, where 1♣ was Polish - natural, a weak no trump type, or strong and artificial - and 1♦ was 0-6 or some stronger hands with one or more minors. Gary Hayden led the eight of hearts to the ten and jack, ducked by Russyan. John Onstott returned his remaining heart to declarer's ace and Russyan cashed all six trumps. The pressure had the desired effect, as Hayden threw away all his diamonds and Onstott came down to ♦A-J doubleton. All that Russyan had to do was to cross to the king of hearts to play a diamond up but he carelessly played a low diamond from hand instead and there was no recovery; down one for -50 and 6 IMPs to USA2 when it might have been 9 IMPs to Poland.

Board 9. Dealer North. E/W Vul.

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

It looked as though Klapper had got back the points given away on the previous deal when he made a big winning decision on this one. He opened a Polish 1♣ as North and it went 1♠ - Dble - 2♣ back to him. Despite the strong probability of a 4-4 heart fit, he jumped to 3NT. After a spade lead into his tenace, Klapper played on hearts. Onstott won and switched to the ♦10 and Hayden cashed out the diamonds for +400 to Poland. With



Chris Larsen and Joseph Kivel, USA II

4♥ losing the three diamonds, a ruff and the ♥A, that looked like 11 IMPs in for Poland but Baze and Freed also managed to find their way to 3NT and came home with an overtrick; +430 and 1 IMP to USA2.

Board 10. Dealer East. All Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Hayden	Klapper	Onstott	Russyan
		Pass	Pass
1♣	1♠	Dble	Rdbl
2♥	Pass	Pass	2♠
3♥	3♠	All Pass	

Onstott cashed the ace of clubs and switched to a low heart to Hayden's ace. Hayden cashed the queen of clubs and continued with the ♣K, which Klapper ruffed with the ten as Onstott discarded a diamond. Klapper played on trumps and Onstott won the second round to play a diamond. Klapper could cross to the king of hearts, draw the last trump and get back to dummy



with a diamond to pitch his heart loser on a club; +140.

It looks as though the defence can do better. Firstly, if Hayden plays back a small club instead of the king, declarer still has to ruff high but now the suit is not established. If declarer now plays on trumps, Onstott wins the first round and plays a heart, and how is declarer to avoid another major-suit loser? But even after the clubs have been established, if Onstott wins the first spade, leaving a blockage, and returns a heart to the king, declarer cannot draw trumps without losing a fifth trick.

However, the fate of 3♣ hardly mattered, as at the other table Stefan Szenberg and Andrzej Wilkosz had bid the East/West cards to 4♥ and brought it home for +620 and 13 IMPs to Poland.

Board 12. Dealer West. N/S Vul.

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

This was the first of a run of three consecutive boards featuring a borderline slam contract. Baze/Freed duly bid to 6♣ for +1430. Could the Poles match that?

<b>North</b>	<b>South</b>
<i>Klapper</i>	<i>Russyan</i>
1♣	1♠
2♦	2♥
4♣	All Pass

One Club was Polish and 1♠ a natural positive response. Two Diamonds was artificial and game-forcing and 2♥ showed up to 11 HCP, balanced and with only four spades. Klapper took the slightly cautious view to settle for game and that was 13 IMPs to USA2.

Board 13. Dealer North. All Vul.

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

Szenberg/Wilkosz stopped in 3NT, scoring +690, so there was an opportunity for another big swing to USA2.

<b>West</b>	<b>East</b>
<i>Hayden</i>	<i>Onstott</i>
2♣	1♦
2NT	2♦
Pass	3NT

Two Clubs was game-forcing, usually natural but possibly the start of a strong diamond raise. When Onstott showed a minimum semi-balanced hand with his third call, Hayden called it a day, when I would have been tempted to have one try with 4♦. With both minors coming in, that was another +690 and a push board.

Board 14. Dealer East. None Vul.

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

Perhaps concerned at having just missed a making slam, Szenberg/Wilkosz promptly bid to 6♣ on this one and found that they had to lose two diamond tricks; -50. Another chance then for USA2 and one that they gladly took. Hayden opened 1♠ and Onstott simply raised to 4♣ over Klapper's 2♣ overcall. Hayden gave that a look but did the right thing when he passed; +450 and 11 IMPs to USA2. They ended the first set ahead by 41-16 IMPs.

Session Two

Board 17. Dealer North. None Vul.

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

<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>
<i>Russyan</i>	<i>Baze</i>	<i>Klapper</i>	<i>Freed</i>
	Pass	1♣	Pass
1♥	Pass	2♦	Pass
2NT	Pass	3♣	Pass
3NT	Pass	4♣	Pass
4NT	Pass	6♥	All Pass

One Club was polish and 2♦ showed a game-force. Two No Trump promised extra values but only four hearts in a balanced hand. Two further relays elicited the information that Russyan was 3-4-3-3 and had two key cards for hearts. Alas, the 4-1 trump split left declarer with no chance; one down for -50. The good news for Poland was that Chris Larsen and Joseph Kivel also bid to the good but doomed slam for the same -50 and a push.

Board 19. Dealer South. E/W Vul.

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

<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>
Russyan	Baze	Klapper	Freed

2♥      5♦      All Pass

<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>
Larsen	Wilkosz	Kivel	Wala

1♥      1♠      3♥      Pass  
 Pass      Dble      Pass      4♠  
 All Pass

The weak two in diamonds worked perfectly for the Americans when Baze could raise straight to game. Russyan led the ten of hearts to dummy's ace and Freed tried a diamond to the queen and king. He ruffed the heart continuation, played a diamond to the ace and led the jack of spades. Had the club finesse been offside, Russyan's failure to cover the spade might have been expensive but not on the actual deal. Freed established the spades, gave up a diamond and claimed; +400.

Not having a weak 2♦ in his armoury, Włodzimierz Wala passed as dealer and the auction followed very different lines. When Wilkosz could make a competitive double of 3♥, Wala felt that he had more than sufficient to jump to game. However, after a diamond lead, Wilkosz could not find a way home; down one for -50 and 10 IMPs to USA2.

Board 20. Dealer West. All Vul.

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

<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>
Russyan	Baze	Klapper	Freed
Pass	Pass	1♦	Pass
1♥	Dble	Pass	2♣
All Pass			

<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>
Larsen	Wilkosz	Kivel	Wala
Pass	Pass	Pass	1♦
Pass	1♥	Pass	2NT
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

With no opposition bidding to help him with the lie of the cards, Wala did not find a winning line in 3NT and was down two for -200. At the other table, Klapper opened in third seat and Russyan scraped up a response. When Baze doubled for take-out, Freed allowed his lack of a trump fit to outweigh the high-card strength of his hand and bid a quiet 2♣, where he played for +130 and 8 IMPs to USA2. Of course, with the benefit of the East/West contributions to the auction, the Americans would have been very likely to bring home 3NT had they reached it.

Board 22. Dealer East. E/W Vul.

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

<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>
Russyan	Baze	Klapper	Freed
		Pass	2♥

Dble      All Pass

<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>
Larsen	Wilkosz	Kivel	Wala
		Pass	2♦
Dble	2♥	Pass	Pass
3♥	Dble	Pass	Pass
Rdbl	Pass	3NT	All Pass

Russyan doubled Freed's natural weak two bid for take-out and Klapper passed for penalties. Russyan cashed two top spades then switched to his trump. That went to the ten, jack and ace, and Freed exited with the jack of clubs. Russyan put the queen on that, though it is very unlikely that declarer actually has the king-jack for this play. Still, that need not have mattered, because clearly Klapper could have afforded to overtake to push a diamond through. The combination of defensive plays to this trick cost a doubled undertrick. Russyan exited with ace and another club, ruffed by Freed, who this time exited with the jack of dia-

monds. Russyan could do no better than play three rounds of diamonds. Freed won, crossed to the king of hearts and took a ruff; three down for -500.

Larsen doubled the multi opening then cuebid on the next round - presumably a second double would have shown greater heart length. Kivel played 3NT, where he made an overtrick for +630 and 4 IMPs to USA2.

With 6♣ eminently playable on the East/West cards, the weak two bids had done their work well, allowing neither set of opponents to explore the hand at all.

Board 23. Dealer South. All Vul.

	♠ 10 2		
	♥ 9 7 5 2		
	♦ A J 10		
	♣ Q 8 7 4		
♠ 6	N	♠ K J 8 3	
♥ K Q 8 6	W	♥ A 3	
♦ K Q 9 3	E	♦ 8 5 4	
♣ A J 10 6	S	♣ K 9 5 2	
	♠ A Q 9 7 5 4		
	♥ J 10 4		
	♦ 7 6 2		
	♣ 3		
<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>
Russyan	Baze	Klapper	Freed
Dble	All Pass		2♠

Having just been doubled on the previous deal, Freed mimed fear of another penalty double as he put the 2♠ card onto the bidding tray and, sure enough, another take-out double was left in by Klapper. Russyan led the king of diamonds to dummy's ace and Freed led the ♠10 to the jack and queen then played a diamond up. Russyan found the best defence now when he switched to a low heart to his partner's ace. Two more hearts allowed Klapper to pitch his remaining diamond. The ensuing ruff not only gave the defence a trick but also took out the dummy entry for the second spade finesse. The contract was two down for another 500 to Poland.

Alas, the bidding record from the other table is missing, but the contract was 3NT by East/West, failing by a trick for 100 to Poland and 12 IMPs.

Board 24. Dealer West. None Vul.

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

<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>
Russyan	Baze	Klapper	Freed
Pass	1♠	2♦	Dble
Pass	3♠	All Pass	
<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>
Larsen	Wilkosz	Kivel	Wala
Pass	1♠	2♦	2♥
3♦	4♠	All Pass	

Unfortunately for the Americans, Freed misread his partner's second call and thought that it had been only 2♠, hence his pass. When Klapper led a low club, Russyan did not put up his king, so Baze made an eleventh trick for +200.

There were no such difficulties at the other table, where Wilkosz blasted into 4♠. He did not get the present in the club suit but +420 was still worth 6 IMPs to Poland.

Board 25. Dealer North. E/W Vul.

	♠ J 10 6 5		
	♥ J 9		
	♦ Q 4 3		
	♣ Q 10 9 2		
♠ A K Q 7 2	N	♠ 9	
♥ A 10 3 2	W	♥ Q 8 6 5	
♦ K 9 6	E	♦ A 10 7 2	
♣ K	S	♣ A J 5 4	
	♠ 8 4 3		
	♥ K 7 4		
	♦ J 8 5		
	♣ 8 7 6 3		
<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>
Russyan	Baze	Klapper	Freed
1♣	Pass	Pass	Pass
2♦	Pass	1♥	Pass
3♣	Pass	2NT	Pass
3♥	Pass	3♦	Pass
4♦	Pass	4♣	Pass
5♥	Pass	4♥	Pass
		6♥	All Pass

<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>
Larsen	Wilkosz	Kivel	Wala
1♠	Pass	Pass	Pass
3♦	Pass	2♦	Pass
4♥	All Pass	3♥	Pass

In the Polish auction, 1♣ was Polish and 2♦ game-forcing. Two No Trump showed extras but only four hearts in a balanced hand. Klapper showed his 1-4-4-4 shape then accepted Russyan's slam invitation. The American auction never got close to slam - not that you would worry too much about not being in it, until you found that it had been bid and made at the other table.

Klapper won the spade lead and played ace and another heart, covered all round. Freed guessed to try a diamond now but it didn't matter; +1430 and 13 IMPs to Poland.

Board 26. Dealer East. All Vul.

♠ 8 5 4 2 ♥ A K J ♦ 8 4 2 ♣ A 9 5	<table border="1" style="border-collapse: collapse; width: 40px; height: 40px; 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 10 7 6 ♥ 9 ♦ A Q ♣ K Q 8 7  ♠ – ♥ 10 7 6 4 ♦ 10 7 6 5 3 ♣ J 10 6 3
	N										
W		E									
	S										

West	North	East	South
<i>Russyan</i>	<i>Baze</i>	<i>Klapper</i>	<i>Freed</i>
1♠	Pass	2♦	Pass
2NT	Pass	3♣	Pass
3NT	Pass	4♣	Pass
4NT	Pass	6♠	All Pass

West	North	East	South
<i>Larsen</i>	<i>Wilkosz</i>	<i>Kivel</i>	<i>Wala</i>
2♣	Pass	4♥	Pass
4♠	Pass	4NT	Pass
5♥	Pass	6♠	All Pass

In the by-now-familiar Polish methods, Russyan showed his shape and extras, then two key cards for spades. The Americans got to slam just as confidently via a splinter raise of clubs by Kivel. However, they soon got back into spades. Both declarers played ace and another spade to avoid any possibility of a defensive ruff; a push at +1430.

Board 32. Dealer West. E/W Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Russyan</i>	<i>Baze</i>	<i>Klapper</i>	<i>Freed</i>
Pass	2NT	Pass	3♥
Pass	3♠	Pass	3NT
Pass	4♠	All Pass	

West	North	East	South
<i>Larsen</i>	<i>Wilkosz</i>	<i>Kivel</i>	<i>Wala</i>
Pass	1♣	Pass	1♠
Pass	2NT	Pass	3♣
Pass	3♠	Pass	4♠
Pass	5♣	Pass	5♠
All Pass			

Baze/Freed stayed safely at the four level and Baze came home with an overtrick; +450.

I am not at all convinced that Wilkosz was entitled to make another move over Wala's 4♠ sign-off, having already shown his big balanced hand and spade support. With three top losers, Wilkosz had put his side in some jeopardy, and when Larsen led a club to his partner's ace the defenders had made a good start to cashing them. However, Kivel could not see that his partner held the ♥K and not instead the ♥Q. He switched to a diamond, giving Wala three tricks in that suit and a pitch for one of his hearts. Wala won, played a spade to dummy, then unblocked the diamond, crossed to the king of clubs and took his pitch on the ace of diamonds. Now he played a heart and the defence went wrong when Larsen ducked, forcing Kivel to win the ace. Back came a spade and Wala won, ruffed a heart and crossed back to dummy with another spade. Now came the critical moment in the hand. A small heart lead would have brought down the king and the Poles would have survived their little adventure, but Wala tried the effect of leading the jack to try to pin the ten. That meant that he had to concede a heart at the end for down one and 11 IMPs to USA2.

With 16 boards to play, USA2 held a useful but not insurmountable lead of 88-51 IMPs.

Set Three

Board 33. Dealer North. None Vul.

♠ 3 2 ♥ 10 8 6 4 2 ♦ A 5 4 2 ♣ 8 5	<table border="1" style="border-collapse: collapse; width: 40px; height: 40px; 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 K Q 7 5 ♥ K Q J 5 ♦ Q 10 9 6 ♣ –  ♠ J 9 ♥ A 3 ♦ 8 7 3 ♣ A Q 10 4 3 2  ♠ 10 8 6 4 ♥ 9 7 ♦ K J ♣ K J 9 7 6
	N										
W		E									
	S										

West	North	East	South
<i>Russyan</i>	<i>Kivel</i>	<i>Klapper</i>	<i>Larsen</i>
Pass	1♠	2♣	Pass
	Dble	All Pass	

West	North	East	South
<i>Hayden</i>	<i>Wilkosz</i>	<i>Onstott</i>	<i>Szenberg</i>
Pass	1♠	2♣	2♠
	4♠	All Pass	

When partner opens a five-card 1♠ bid and right-hand-opponent overcalls 2♣, which is the more significant feature of the South hand, the four-card trump support for partner, or the juicy



club holding? Larsen liked the club holding enough to pass and then pass again when the reopening double came around to him. In contrast, Szenberg gave a simple spade raise, after which Wilkosz raised himself to game.

Four Spades was easy and Wilkosz soon chalked up +450. Which way the swing would go would be decided at the other table, with the defence favourite to come out on top.

Larsen led a spade against 2♣ doubled and Kivel won the queen and switched to the ♥K. Klapper won the ace and exited with the jack of spades. Kivel won, cashed the jack of hearts, and switched to the nine of diamonds to the jack and ace. If the ♦9 was top or third highest, as it looks to be, then Larsen might have divined the diamond position when declarer played low without a flicker. In that case, he would have done better to play the king on the first round. As it was, the diamonds were blocked and there was no way back to the North hand. Klapper ruffed a heart and was over-ruffed, but after cashing the king of diamonds Larsen had to lead a spade for a ruff and discard. Klapper ruffed in dummy while throwing his losing diamond from hand then ruffed a diamond and was over-ruffed. The timing was such that he had another endplay on Larsen and escaped for just two down; -300 and 4 IMPs to Poland.

Board 36. Dealer West. All Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Russyan</i>	<i>Kivel</i>	<i>Klapper</i>	<i>Larsen</i>
2♥	2♠	Pass	3♥
4♦	Pass	Pass	4NT
Pass	5♥	Pass	6♠
All Pass			

West	North	East	South
<i>Hayden</i>	<i>Wilkosz</i>	<i>Onstott</i>	<i>Szenberg</i>
Pass	1♠	Pass	2NT
3♦	4♦	Pass	4NT
Pass	5♠	Pass	6♥
Pass	6♠	All Pass	

Russyan opened 2♥ to show a weak hand with at least 5-5 in hearts and any other suit then came again to show his exceptional distribution. Hayden, who did not have such a weapon in his armoury, passed as dealer then contented himself with a simple 3♦ overcall, implying hearts also to explain the lack of an earlier pre-empt. Both Norths declared 6♠ on the lead of the queen of diamonds and both, sadly, were found wanting.

Kivel won the diamond, cashed the ace of spades then played a spade to the king and drew the remaining trumps. He contin-

ued with ace and another club and looked distinctly unhappy when Russyan showed out. Kivel ducked the club but nothing good developed for him and he was one down for -50. Wilkosz, who had slightly less information from the auction, went down in similar fashion at the other table.

When spades show up to be 4-0, declarer should immediately play to ruff a club and can then come back to hand once with the ace of hearts and once with a diamond ruff to take the spade finesse and draw the last trump.

Board 38. Dealer East. E/W Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Russyan</i>	<i>Kivel</i>	<i>Klapper</i>	<i>Larsen</i>
1♦	Dble	Pass	Pass
All Pass		1♥	3NT
West	North	East	South
<i>Hayden</i>	<i>Wilkosz</i>	<i>Onstott</i>	<i>Szenberg</i>
2♦	Dble	Pass	1♣
All Pass		Pass	3♣

Kivel and Larsen would have been a little concerned that their lead was shrinking, having collected only +300 on Board 33 and then gone down in a slam that should have been made. They settled their nerves a little by bidding to the low point-count 3NT on this deal, missed by the Poles at the other table. After the lead of the queen of diamonds to his king, Larsen came to eleven tricks for +460 and 7 IMPs against the Poles' +150 from the other room.

Board 39. Dealer South. All Vul.

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

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

**West** **North** **East** **South**  
*Russyan* *Kivel* *Klapper* *Larsen*

2♦ Pass 2♠  
 Pass 3♥ All Pass

**West** **North** **East** **South**  
*Hayden* *Wilkosz* *Onstott* *Szenberg*

Pass 1♠ Pass 4♥  
 Pass 4♥ Pass 4♠  
 Pass 5♥ All Pass

This was a great opportunity missed by Poland. The Americans stopped in partscore, where they made ten tricks after a spade lead to the queen and ace; +170. All Wilkosz/Szenberg had to do was to bid to 4♥ and make it for a big gain and, sure enough, given a free run they did get to game - but then went a level too high. Perhaps, if South cannot bear to pass over his partner's 4♥ sign-off, then the 4♦ splinter is not the best approach to take. Certainly, it looks foolish to go on to the five level and find that you have three top losers; -100 and 7 IMPs to USA2 instead of 10 to Poland.

Board 41. Dealer North. E/W Vul.

♠ A K J 9 3  
 ♥ K 7  
 ♦ A 2  
 ♣ A K J 7

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

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

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

**West** **North** **East** **South**  
*Russyan* *Kivel* *Klapper* *Larsen*

2♣ Pass 2♥  
 Pass 2♠ Pass 3♣  
 Pass 4♣ Pass 4NT  
 Pass 5♦ Pass 7♣  
 All Pass

**West** **North** **East** **South**  
*Hayden* *Wilkosz* *Onstott* *Szenberg*

2♣ Pass 2♥  
 Pass 2♠ Pass 3♣  
 Pass 4♣ Pass 4♦  
 Pass 4♥ Pass 4♠  
 Pass 4NT Pass 5♦  
 Pass 7♣ All Pass

Two smooth auctions effortlessly reached the excellent and cold grand slam. Where Larsen took a simple approach and asked for key cards as soon as he found a fit, Szenberg preferred to start a cuebidding sequence, but with the same end result; +1440 and a push.

Board 43. Dealer South. None Vul.

♠ Q J 9 5 2  
 ♥ Q 9  
 ♦ Q J 10 4 2  
 ♣ A

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

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

♠ A  
 ♥ A 8 6 2  
 ♦ A 8  
 ♣ K Q J 10 6 2

**West** **North** **East** **South**  
*Russyan* *Kivel* *Klapper* *Larsen*

Pass 1♠ Pass 2♥  
 Pass 3♦ Pass 3NT  
 Pass 4NT Pass 6♣  
 All Pass

**West** **North** **East** **South**  
*Hayden* *Wilkosz* *Onstott* *Szenberg*

Pass 1♠ Pass 2♥  
 Pass 3NT All Pass

I am sure that facing a different South hand North could regret not going more slowly, but on the actual deal Wilkosz's terminal jump to 3NT was much more successful than Kivel's slower approach. It is surely impossible for South not to bid the club slam facing an invitational sequence in the American auction.

In 6♣, Larsen won the spade lead and tried a heart to the queen. That lost to the ace and back came a club. He was two down from here after ruffing out the ♠K; -100.

Meanwhile, 3NT was quite secure and that is all that Wilkosz made; +400 and 11 IMPs to Poland.

But the boards were running out and the Poles had wasted the best of their opportunities. USA2 won the set by 21-20 and the match by 108-70 IMPs. Grant Baze, Gene Freed, Garey Hayden, John Onstott, Joseph Kivel and Chris Larsen were Seniors Champions of the World!

As soon as the match result was confirmed, the happy American players were called to the podium and introduced to the waiting audience. It was an emotional moment for the Americans, after all that has happened in the last few weeks, and after being presented they, along with the whole crowd including WBF President Jose Damiani, gave an enthusiastic rendition of 'God Bless America'. I am sure that we detected a few tears amongst all the smiles.

**Smoking is forbidden  
 in the corridors outside  
 the playing area.**

**Smokers should go  
 outside to the Terrace.**