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CHAMPIONS CROWNED



Newly crowned champions: the Venice Cup winners, left, and the Seniors Bowl champions. Sylvie Willard, Bénédicte Cronier and Danièle Gaviard are now World Grand Masters, and Seniors Bowl winner Gary Hayden is the first Seniors Grand Master.

France and USAI will have the pleasure tonight of having gold medals draped around their necks as world champions.

The French Venice Cup team defeated Germany 191-136, while USAI rallied in the final set to win the Seniors Bowl 213-190.

Gold medals will go to Italy or USAI, who will play 32 boards to determine the Bermuda Bowl champion, and the winners of the Transnational Open Teams, who also conclude play today.

The Venice Cup winners are Bénédicte Cronier, Catherine D'Ovidio, Nathalie Frey, Danièle Gaviard, Vanessa Reess and Sylvie Willard.

The Seniors Bowl champions are Rose Meltzer, Gary Hayden, Alan Sontag, Peter Weichsel, Lew Stansby and Roger Bates.

At one point yesterday, the German women had taken the lead after trailing by as many as 48 IMPs. In the fourth of six sets, the Germans put together a string of pluses to go in front by 94-88. Two boards later, however, the French retook the lead and the momentum. The rest of the set – and the match – belonged to the French, and they were never headed again.

By contrast, the Seniors Bowl match stood at 161-161 with 16 boards to play. Indonesia took the lead early in the set, but

VUGRAPH MATCHES

Bermuda Bowl – Final – 11.00
Italy v USAI

Bermuda Bowl – Final – 14.00
Italy v USAI

the Americans came storming back, the key deal being a 15-IMP swing that resulted from a disastrous bidding misunderstanding by the Indonesians on Board 10.

In the Bermuda Bowl, Italy trailed by 31 IMPs after four sets, but they thumped their American opponents 74-35 over the next two stanzas to take an 8-IMP lead. The two teams are replaying their dramatic match from Monte Carlo in 2003, when USAI came from 21 IMPs down over the final two boards to win.

In the Transnational, Schneider leads Spector 38-5 with two sets to play today.



RESULTS**Bermuda Bowl Final**

Teams	Carry-over	Session 1	Session 2	Session 3	Session 4	Session 5	Session 6	Session 7	Session 8	Total
1 ITALY USAI	0 - 20	19 - 24	33 - 37	22 - 24	43 - 43	42 - 17	32 - 18			191 -183

Venice Cup Final

Teams	Carry-over	Session 1	Session 2	Session 3	Session 4	Session 5	Session 6	Total
2 FRANCE GERMANY	16 - 0	33 - 1	29 - 33	9 - 34	32 - 30	23 - 32	49 - 6	191 -136

Seniors Bowl Final

Teams	Carry-over	Session 1	Session 2	Session 3	Session 4	Session 5	Session 6	Total
3 USAI INDONESIA	1 - 0	10 - 26	20 - 58	57 - 20	44 - 25	29 - 32	52 - 29	213 -190

Transnational Quarter-Finals

		Session 1	Session 2	Total
7 777	SOFIA PESSOA	33 - 31	40 - 16	73 - 47
8 HUSSEIN	SCHNEIDER	57 - 43	10 - 38	67 - 81
9 SPECTOR	SHUGART	27 - 33	39 - 0	66 - 33
10 SHATO ROSENOVO	CHINA OPEN	21 - 52	4 - 25	25 - 77

Transnational Semi-Finals

		Session 1	Session 2	Total
7 777	SCHNEIDER	21 - 32	27 - 27	48 - 59
8 SPECTOR	CHINA OPEN	36 - 20	33 - 38	69 - 58

Transnational Final

		Session 1	Session 2	Session 3	Total
7 SCHNEIDER	SPECTOR	38 - 5			38 - 5

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FINAL 3

Bermuda Bowl



Italy v USA

All Quiet On The Estoril Front

by Mark Horton

The third set of the final was a quiet affair, with only 45 IMPs changing hands over the sixteen deals. Still, when these two sides meet there is always something to savour.

Board 1. Dealer North. None Vul.

<p>♠ K Q 5 2 ♥ A J 4 3 ♦ K 5 3 ♣ A Q</p>	<table style="border: 1px solid black; width: 60px; height: 60px; margin: auto;"> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">N</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">W E</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">S</td></tr> </table>	N	W E	S	<p>♠ A 9 8 3 ♥ 9 6 2 ♦ Q 7 2 ♣ 8 7 6</p>	<p>♠ J ♥ K 10 8 7 5 ♦ A 8 ♣ K 9 5 4 3</p>
N						
W E						
S						

Open Room

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

In isolation, Four Spades is not much of a contract, but the cards were disposed in such a way as to give declarer a chance, especially as South had a difficult lead. (Perhaps the jack of spades is the least of four evils – but declarer can still prevail.)

Here the start was ace of diamonds, diamond, and declarer won in hand and played two top spades from dummy, South discarding a club. Then came two more spades, declarer taking the marked finesse as South pitched a heart and a club, then a heart, ducked to North's queen. Declarer won the diamond return, played a heart to the jack, cashed the ace of hearts and exited with a heart to force South to make declarer a present of the club finesse; +420 – not a bad way to start the session for both declarer and the spectators.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Rodwell</i>	<i>Fantoni</i>	<i>Meckstroth</i>	<i>Nunes</i>
	Pass	Pass	2♥*
Dble	2NT*	Pass	3♣*
Dble	Pass	4♠	All Pass

South showed a limited heart-club two-suiter but it did not stop his opponents reaching game – indeed, I doubt any method can be devised to halt the Meckwell train.

South led ace and another diamond. Declarer won with dummy's king, cashed the top spades, played a diamond to the

queen, took a winning club finesse, cashed the ace of clubs, played a spade to the nine, ruffed a club, cashed the ace of hearts and claimed; +420.

As an aside, in the Venice Cup the French declarer went down in Four Spades – a combination of misreading the deal after the lead of the jack of spades and some fine defensive play by their opponents – while Germany played in 3NT from the West chair. That contract is pretty much a certainty on the bidding and lie of the cards, but when North led the jack of clubs declarer inadvertently won with the ace. Apparently she realised before she had released the card from her hand, but by law it was certainly played.

I mentioned this to Grattan Endicott – it seems illogical for declarer not to be allowed to change the card in this situation – and he told me that the Laws Commission has not yet addressed the matter of card play, so it will be brought up at a meeting in the future.

Board 8. Dealer West. None Vul.

<p>♠ 10 8 5 ♥ 7 4 ♦ Q 10 5 3 ♣ K J 7 4</p>	<table style="border: 1px solid black; width: 60px; height: 60px; margin: auto;"> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">N</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">W E</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">S</td></tr> </table>	N	W E	S	<p>♠ A 6 3 2 ♥ A K J 5 3 ♦ K J 4 ♣ 5</p>	<p>♠ 7 ♥ Q 10 6 2 ♦ 9 7 ♣ A 9 8 6 3 2</p>
N						
W E						
S						



Eric Rodwell, USA

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Versace	Hamman	Lauria	Soloway
Pass	1♣*	2♣	2♠
4♣	Pass	Pass	Dble
Pass	4♠	All Pass	

The pass and pull approach adopted by North usually suggests some slam interest, but the intervention had made life difficult and the American pair stopped in game. With nothing at stake, declarer did not go flat out and took eleven tricks; +450.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Rodwell	Fantoni	Meckstroth	Nunes
Pass	1♥	Pass	2♠*
Pass	3♠	Pass	3NT
Pass	4♣	Pass	4♦
Pass	4♥	Pass	4NT
Pass	6♠	All Pass	

In the context of having at least five spades and 10+ points, South showed a minimum hand and an even number of key cards.

West led a low club, and East won and returned the suit, forcing dummy to ruff. Declarer played a spade to the king, a heart to the ace, then a spade. When East discarded a club declarer won, crossed to the king of hearts and ruffed a heart with the jack of spades. When a diamond to the jack held declarer tabled his cards – he could draw the last trump and ruff a heart to establish his twelfth trick; +980 and 11 IMPs to Italy.



Alfredo Versace, Italy

Board 10. Dealer East. All Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Versace	Hamman	Lauria	Soloway
2♣*	Pass	2♦*	INT
2♠	3♣	All Pass	Dble

Are you surprised East didn't double Three Clubs? (A very aggressive West might also come again.) East led a heart, and West won, cashed the top spades and gave his partner a spade ruff. That was two down; -200 – no double, no trouble.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Rodwell	Fantoni	Meckstroth	Nunes
1♠	Pass	Pass	1♣*
2♥	3♣	Dble	INT
			All Pass

Here the defenders started with three rounds of spades, East ruffing and returning a heart. Now another spade from West promoted a trump trick for East; down three, -800 and 12 IMPs for USA I.

There was soon more double trouble for the trailing team:

Board 12. Dealer West. N/S Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Versace	Hamman	Lauria	Soloway
Pass	Pass	1♣*	4♠
Dble	All Pass		

West led a club. Declarer won, drew trumps and played a

diamond towards the king with gratifying effect; +790.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Rodwell	Fantoni	Meckstroth	Nunes
Pass	Pass	Pass	1♠
Pass	2♠	Pass	2NT
Pass	3NT	Pass	4♠
All Pass			

Two Spades promised 0-7 and 3NT was 4-3-3-3, not minimum. No problem making the contract but 5 IMPs for USA I.

Board 14. Dealer East. None Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Versace	Hamman	Lauria	Soloway
1♦	Pass	2♣	Pass
2♥	Pass	3♣	Pass
3♠	Pass	4♥	All Pass

North led the seven of hearts and declarer simply drew trumps and forced out the ace of clubs; +420.

The most challenging defence is to start with three rounds of spades, but declarer can still get home, by cashing winners and playing on cross-ruff lines, thanks to the ten of hearts being well placed.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Rodwell	Fantoni	Meckstroth	Nunes
		3♣	All Pass

Just in case there are any doubters out there, even Tacchi would open Three Clubs on the East hand. Enough said. Declarer made ten tricks; +130 and Italy picked up 7 IMPs so trailed by 31 IMPs overnight.



The Biggest Penalty ... So Far?

by Phillip Alder

What is the biggest penalty conceded so far during these championships?

Board 1. Dealer North. None Vul.

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

This was the first board of Round 10 in the Transnational Teams. At one table, which we will allow to remain unrevealed, North opened One Diamond, East overcalled One Spade, and South made a modern-style pre-emptive jump to Three Diamonds. West leapt to Four Spades, not cue-bidding Four Diamonds because his diamond cards were not pulling much weight on offense, and he did not wish to dissuade his opponents from ploughing higher.

At most tables, North passed over Four Spades, and it wasn't hard to defeat the contract. South led his singleton heart. North won with the ace and returned the jack as a suit-preference signal for diamonds. South ruffed, put his partner back on lead, and received a second ruff for one down.

At our table, though, North continued with Five Diamonds. I was told that East doubled, although it looks more natural for East and South to pass, and for West to express the opinion that his opponents have gone too high.

East led the ten of spades, West winning with the jack and switching to a heart to declarer's ace.

At this point North could have got out for three down by knocking out the ace of clubs, drawing one round of trumps, and carrying out a merry crossruff. But the North under our flickering candle decided that it could not cost to draw two rounds of trumps. He cashed the ace of diamonds, then played another diamond. What happened next?

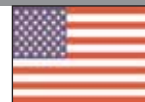
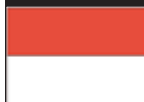
The defenders took the rest of the tricks! West drew trumps, put East in with a heart, scored his two top spades, and the East hand was high. That was a cool nine down, Minus 2300.

One observer said that West should drop the queen of diamonds under declarer's ace to make sure that North definitely leads another trump. Then, West would win with the nine, cash the king of diamonds, and play his last trump to guarantee 2000. Do you agree?

FINAL 4

Seniors Bowl

Indonesia v USAI



USAI had come back well in the third session, but Indonesia still led overnight by 104-88 IMPs. The morning session started very well for the Americans as they pulled even closer.

Board 1. Dealer North. None Vul.

♠ K 5 2 ♥ K 10 9 8 7 6 ♦ 10 4 ♣ 8 2	<table style="border: 1px solid black; width: 60px; height: 60px; 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 6 ♥ Q J 4 3 ♦ A Q 9 6 2 ♣ K 6	♠ Q J 10 4 ♥ 2 ♦ K 8 ♣ Q J 9 5 4 3
	N											
W		E										
	S											

West	North	East	South
<i>Sontag</i>	<i>Lasut</i>	<i>Weichsel</i>	<i>Manoppo</i>
	1♣	3♣	3NT
All Pass			

West	North	East	South
<i>Sacul</i>	<i>Hayden</i>	<i>Sawiruddin</i>	<i>Meltzer</i>
	INT	Dble	2♣
Pass	2♥	Pass	2NT
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

Peter Weichsel pre-empted over Henky Lasut's strong-club opening and Eddy Manoppo made the practical call of 3NT, ending the auction. Alan Sontag led the eight of clubs to the six, jack and ace, and Manoppo led a diamond to the queen and king. Had Weichsel woodenly returned a club, the contract would have been secure, but he could see that he would have no way to get to the established winners, so instead



USAI v Indonesia on vugraph

tried the effect of switching to the queen of spades. When that held, Weichsel continued with a low spade for the king and ace. Manoppo cashed the king of clubs then the diamonds, ending in dummy. He led the queen of hearts off the table but Weichsel showed out, so Manoppo rose with the ace and exited with a heart; down one for -50.

Gary Hayden opened INT and Munawar Sawiruddin showed a single-suiter by doubling. Rose Meltzer used Stayman then invited game in no trump, Hayden going on to 3NT. Sawiruddin led the queen of clubs and that proved fatal to the defence. Hayden won with the king and played ace and another diamond. Sawiruddin won with the king of diamonds and switched to a spade but it was too late, the finesse of the ten of clubs providing declarer's ninth trick; +400 and 10 IMPs to USAI.

Board 5. Dealer North. N/S Vul.

♠ K 10 ♥ Q 10 4 ♦ K J 10 8 7 6 ♣ 5 4	<table style="border: 1px solid black; width: 60px; height: 60px; 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		♠ 5 2 ♥ A 5 ♦ 9 3 2 ♣ A Q J 9 8 2	♠ Q 9 8 4 3 ♥ J 7 6 2 ♦ Q 5 ♣ 7 3
	N											
W		E										
	S											

West	North	East	South
<i>Sontag</i>	<i>Lasut</i>	<i>Weichsel</i>	<i>Manoppo</i>
	2♣	Pass	2♦
3♦	Pass	Pass	Dble
Pass	4♣	Pass	4♦
Pass	4♥	Pass	4♠
Pass	6♣	All Pass	

West	North	East	South
<i>Sacul</i>	<i>Hayden</i>	<i>Sawiruddin</i>	<i>Meltzer</i>
	1♣	Pass	1♥
2♦	Pass	Pass	Dble
Pass	3♣	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

Lasut opened a Precision 2♣ and limited his hand by passing over the 3♦ intervention after Manoppo's 2♦ relay. When Manoppo cuebid twice in search of slam, Lasut sufficiently liked his strong trumps and outside ace to jump to slam. Alas, after the diamond lead, there was no way to bring this home; one down for -100.

Gary Hayden and Rose Meltzer were never in the hunt for a slam and stopped off safely in 3NT. After a diamond lead, Meltzer took her ten top tricks for +630 and 12 IMPs to USAI, who moved into the lead.

Board 6. Dealer East. E/W Vul.

♠ A K Q 4 2
 ♥ 8 4
 ♦ J 10 6 2
 ♣ Q 5

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

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Sontag</i>	<i>Lasut</i>	<i>Weichsel</i>	<i>Manoppo</i>
		2♣	Pass
2♦	Pass	3♣	Pass
3♦	Pass	3♥	Pass
5♣	All Pass		

West	North	East	South
<i>Sacul</i>	<i>Hayden</i>	<i>Sawiruddin</i>	<i>Meltzer</i>
		2♣	Pass
2♦	2♠	3♠	4NT
Pass	5♠	Pass	Pass
Dble	All Pass		

Sontag/Weichsel had a free run to 5♣ after the Precision 2♣ opening and enquiry. Manoppo led a spade so Lasut took two of those, then switched to a diamond. Weichsel rose with the ace, drew two rounds of trumps and ruffed his spade loser before running the trumps. There was a show-up squeeze against South; +600.

After an identical start to the auction, Hayden overcalled 2♠ at the other table. Appreciating that her opponents were in the middle of a strong auction, Meltzer bid 4NT both to take away their bidding space and to help herself to count defensive winners should E/W continue to bid. Hayden was doubled in 5♠, ending the auction. Sawiruddin cashed a top club then switched to his singleton heart. Denny Sacul won with



Gary Hayden, USA

the ♥J and switched to a diamond. Sawiruddin won with the ace and returned a second diamond, which Hayden ran to his jack. It was now a simple matter to ruff the club loser in dummy, draw trumps and cash two diamonds for down two; -300 but 7 IMPs to USAI.

Board 7. Dealer South. All Vul.

♠ J 4 2
 ♥ K Q 7 6 2
 ♦ Q 7
 ♣ 8 6 5

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

♠ A Q 10 8
 ♥ A 9
 ♦ 10 9 8 6 5
 ♣ A 9

West	North	East	South
<i>Sontag</i>	<i>Lasut</i>	<i>Weichsel</i>	<i>Manoppo</i>
1♠	Dble	Pass	1♦
Pass	2♥	All Pass	INT

West	North	East	South
<i>Sacul</i>	<i>Hayden</i>	<i>Sawiruddin</i>	<i>Meltzer</i>
		2♣	1♦
1♠	Dble	All Pass	All Pass

Manoppo's 1♦ did not promise real diamonds, but Weichsel still could not bid the suit in a natural sense so passed. Manoppo rebid INT, converted to 2♥ by Lasut, where he played. Weichsel cashed a top diamond, then switched to his spade. Lasut rose with the ace of spades and drew three rounds of trumps, then knocked out the king of spades; +140.

Meltzer's 1♦ opening was standard and Sawiruddin also could not bid his long suit in a natural sense; where the 2♣ bid came from, only he will know - there is nothing obvious on their convention card to explain it. Meltzer started with the ace and another heart and Hayden took a third winner in the suit then switching to a trump. Meltzer won and returned a second trump. Sawiruddin could win in hand to play a spade up, and a spade ruff in hand was his eighth trick; +90 and 6 IMPs to Indonesia.

Board 8. Dealer West. None Vul.

♠ Q 5 3 2
 ♥ Q J
 ♦ K 10 8 5
 ♣ A 9 3

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

♠ 10 8 6
 ♥ 9 5 4
 ♦ Q J 3
 ♣ Q 8 4 2

West	North	East	South
<i>Sontag</i>	<i>Lasut</i>	<i>Weichsel</i>	<i>Manoppo</i>
1♠	Pass	1NT	Pass
2♣	Pass	2♦	Pass
2♥	Pass	4♥	All Pass

West	North	East	South
<i>Sacul</i>	<i>Hayden</i>	<i>Sawiruddin</i>	<i>Meltzer</i>
1♠	Pass	1NT	Pass
2♣	Pass	2♥	All Pass

Sacul/Sawiruddin had a natural auction to 2♥, Sacul being limited by his failure to open with a strong 1♣. Sawiruddin made a comfortable nine tricks for +140.

East's two-diamond rebid was multicolored: with hearts or a maximum with either two spades or club support. West said he was happy to make hearts trumps, and East aggressively jumped to game. Lasut led the jack of hearts. This piece of mild deception may or may not have been successful on another day, but not when declarer had this trump holding. Sontag crossed to the ace of spades and led the jack of clubs, Manoppo rising with the ace and switching to the jack of diamonds, which held the trick, then a trump. Sontag ruffed a spade, drew the last trump, and took his ten tricks; +420 and 7 IMPs to USA1.

Board 9. Dealer North. E/W Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Sontag</i>	<i>Lasut</i>	<i>Weichsel</i>	<i>Manoppo</i>
	Pass	1♦	Pass
1♥	1♠	Pass	4♠
5♦	Pass	Pass	Dble
All Pass			

West	North	East	South
<i>Sacul</i>	<i>Hayden</i>	<i>Sawiruddin</i>	<i>Meltzer</i>
	Pass	1♦	Pass
1♥	1♠	Dble	4♠
5♦	Dble	All Pass	

Both E/W pairs did too much on an inadequate trump fit – particularly embarrassing as 4♠ had four top losers. This sort of deal is the price you pay every now and then for having to open three-card minors, I guess.

Manoppo led a spade and Weichsel won in hand, throwing a heart from dummy, then played the ten of diamonds, which was allowed to hold the trick. Now Weichsel led to the ace

of clubs then played a low heart towards his ten. Lasut went in with the jack of hearts and returned a spade. Weichsel won the spade, throwing a club from dummy, then played a heart. Lasut won and cashed his third heart winner then led a club. Declarer won the ♣K and had just the two top trumps to lose; down three for -800.

Meltzer started with a top trump but switched to a heart. Hayden won with the jack, then played ace and queen of hearts. Meltzer could ruff but there was only the other top trump to come; again three down for -800 and a push board.

Board 12. Dealer West. N/S Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Sontag</i>	<i>Lasut</i>	<i>Weichsel</i>	<i>Manoppo</i>
Pass	Pass	1♣	Pass
1♦	Pass	2NT	Pass
3♣	Pass	3♦	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

West	North	East	South
<i>Sacul</i>	<i>Hayden</i>	<i>Sawiruddin</i>	<i>Meltzer</i>
Pass	Pass	2NT	Pass
3♣	Pass	3♦	Pass
3♥	Pass	3NT	All Pass

Both Easts played in 3NT but on different leads. Manoppo looked no further than his own long suit, the ♦2 going to ten and ace. Weichsel tried the ten of hearts, which was allowed to hold the trick, then ducked a club to Lasut's jack. Back came a diamond to the king and Weichsel continued with the ace of clubs, on which Lasut correctly unblocked the king. Manoppo could now win the next club and had four diamond winners to cash for down two; -100.

Meltzer tried to hit her partner's suit by leading the singleton heart. Sawiruddin put up the ♥Q and this was covered by the king and ace. He cashed the ♥10, discovering the five-one split, then ducked a club. Hayden won with the ♣J and cleared



the hearts, but Sawiruddin was in the right hand to duck the second club to South. He had ten tricks now and an eleventh appeared when the defenders discarded inaccurately on the run of the clubs; +460 and 11 IMPs to Indonesia.

Board 13. Dealer North. All Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Sontag</i>	<i>Lasut</i>	<i>Weichsel</i>	<i>Manoppo</i>
Pass	1♣	1♠	INT
Pass	3NT	All Pass	
West	North	East	South
<i>Sacul</i>	<i>Hayden</i>	<i>Sawiruddin</i>	<i>Meltzer</i>
	1♣	2♠	All Pass

Sawiruddin's weak jump overall bought the contract when Meltzer was unwilling to get involved facing what would often be a weak no trump. Meltzer led a club and Hayden won with the ace, then switched to a low trump, ducked to the jack. The queen of diamonds was covered by the king and ace, and Hayden returned a low club, Sawiruddin putting in the jack. He played ace and another trump and was grateful to see the even break, but there was still one trick to be lost in each side suit; down two for -200.

Weichsel made a simple overcall of the strong-club opening, allowing Manoppo to describe his hand with a INT bid, raised to game by Lasut. Sontag led a low diamond to dummy's bare ace and Manoppo started by cashing the ace of clubs, then playing a low spade to the queen, followed by a second club, losing to the jack as West threw a heart. Weichsel returned a low spade now and Manoppo erred by playing low from hand and winning with dummy's king. Had he won with the ♠J, he could have ensured the contract by playing to establish a diamond then getting the hearts right. Meanwhile, Sontag discarded a harmless-looking diamond. Harmless-looking, perhaps, but actually a fatal error. See what happens if declarer now crosses to the ace of hearts and plays the ♦Q. West's best defence is to return the queen of hearts. Declarer must win and cross to the ten of hearts to cash the diamond winner. Then he can get out with his losing diamond and use West as a stepping stone to the fourth heart trick. Now see the difference if West has kept an extra diamond, throwing a heart on the second spade. Again, declarer crosses to the ace of hearts and plays a diamond honour. West wins and exits with the queen of hearts, forcing declarer to win with the ace, cross to the ♥10 and cash the diamond winner. But now, when he puts West on lead with a diamond, the defender has

sufficient winners to defeat the contract.

All very pretty, but all rather academic, as Manoppo won with the ♠K and played a heart to his ten, after which he had no way to come to nine tricks. The contract was two down for -200 and 9 IMPs to USAI, when it could so easily have been 9 IMPs the other way.

Board 14. Dealer East. None Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Sontag</i>	<i>Lasut</i>	<i>Weichsel</i>	<i>Manoppo</i>
1♦		Pass	Pass
Pass	Dble	3♦	Pass
All Pass	Dble	Pass	3♠
West	North	East	South
<i>Sacul</i>	<i>Hayden</i>	<i>Sawiruddin</i>	<i>Meltzer</i>
1♦	INT	Pass	Pass
		3♦	All Pass

There is no ideal call on the North hand when right-hand opponent opens 1♦. Hayden overcalled INT, but that left him badly placed for further competition when 3♦ came back to him. Hayden cashed the ace of clubs, then led a second round to the king. Sacul ruffed dummy's last club and tried the jack of diamonds from hand. When that was ducked he had an overtrick for +130.

Lasut preferred to double the opening bid, as would I, and was prepared to double a second time, despite his less than ideal distribution, when the pre-emptive diamond raise came back to him. Should South now bid his longest suit or stretch a very little to cuebid 4♦? Certainly, had North been three-four in the majors, the four-four fit might have played a good deal better than the five-three with the long trump holding getting forced. And four of a major could easily be making if North does not have many wasted values in diamonds.

Anyway, Manoppo chose to bid 3♠ and played there. Sontag led his club, and Manoppo rose with the ace, crossed to hand with a diamond ruff and led a spade to the queen and king. Two rounds of clubs gave Sontag his ruff and there was a heart to come; +140 and 7 IMPs to Indonesia. Had the spade game been bid via a 4♦ cuebid, it would have been played by North and surely successful.

USAI won the set and now led by 135-129 with 32 boards to play. There was still everything to play for.

PRESIDENT: ESTORIL POSSIBLY BEST EVER



On the podium at the Presidential press conference, from left, Patrick Jourdain, president of the International Bridge Press Association; Herculo Ferreira, president of the Portuguese Bridge Federation; Antoine Bernheim, president of the Generali Group, one of the tournament sponsors; José Damiani, WBF President; Jimmy Ortiz-Patiño, President Emeritus of the WBF; Gianarrigo Rona, president of the European Bridge League; and Panos Gerontopoulos, WBF vice-president and press liaison.

One day from the end of the World Championships in Estoril, WBF President José Damiani had nothing but praise for all who have helped make the two-week tournament possibly 'the best championship we have ever had.'

In a wide-ranging press conference for bridge journalists attending the tournament, Damiani said feedback he has received from the players, reporters and officials has been completely positive. He said he was extremely pleased with the new scoring technology – the Bridgemate devices used at every table – with software developed by Tomas Brenning.

Other highlights of the tournament, according to the president:

- The continued presence of the Generali Group as a sponsor of the WBF for more than a decade.
- A 'totally amazing' turnout of 134 squads for the Transnational Open Teams, handled very deftly by the tournament staff.
- The sizeable number of champions from the U.S. and other nations who came for the Transnational.
- The exciting rematches of USAI and Italy in the Bermuda Bowl (2003) and France and Germany (from 2001) in the Venice Cup. "It is very exciting," said Damiani.
- Positive reaction to the schedule from the players.
- The complete lack of appeals in the Transnational Open Teams, which Damiani attributed to sportsmanship by the players and the quality of the tournament directors and their decisions. In response to a question later, Damiani said the code of practice promulgated by the WBF has provided for consultations by directors with each other and with champion players in many cases. "We have made a lot of progress in this area," he said.
- The excellent coverage of the Championships by the bridge press and the Portuguese news media during the fortnight.

There was other news from the session, including Damiani's announcement that the next Bermuda Bowl (and accompanying championships) will take place in Shanghai, China, in 2007. In 2009, the WBF will travel to São Paulo, Brazil, for the Bermuda Bowl.

The 8th World Bridge Championships in Verona has already been widely publicized for 2006, but Damiani said it is important to emphasize several points about that tournament:

- All events will be transnational.
- No brown sticker conventions will be permitted.
- There will be a new world championship – the IMP Pairs, which will follow the qualifying stages of the Open Pairs.
- Microsoft Chairman Bill Gates is expected to attend for the Mixed Pairs with Sharon Osberg.
- Omar Sharif is also planning to visit Verona.

Damiani said the tournament venue for 2008 is undecided at this point, although Beijing, China, is a possibility if a tournament of mindsports – the Intellympiad – can be arranged. If not, the 2008 tournament probably will be in Europe.

Responding to a question about a case involving two Italian players that came up during the European Open Championships in Tenerife this past summer, Damiani noted that all WBF events are invitational. Therefore, even if a pair or player is nominated by his or her bridge organization for participation, the WBF can decline to issue an invitation.

Updating the status of bridge in the Olympic Games, Damiani noted that the WBF is a member of the International Olympic Committee. He said, however, that bridge will not be part of the Winter or Summer Games, so the best option is the formation of a mindsports association under the auspices of the IOC.

On drug testing for players in Estoril, Damiani said four players each in the Bermuda Bowl and in the Venice Cup have been tested. There have been no problems since a player refused a test in Montreal.

Panos Gerontopoulos, WBF vice-president, responded to questions about efforts to get more young people involved in bridge. He outlined the various existing championships and events, including bridge camps, for young players, and he said there are efforts underway to try to have schools in various locations include bridge classes. Damiani noted that Indonesia has been highly successful in this area with 27,000 children learning bridge in schools in that nation.

Transnational Trump Coup

Many declarers were defeated in 4♠ on this deal from Round 12 of the Transnational Teams. England's Heather Dhondy brought it home, however, to gain 10 IMPs for her team. Dhondy was playing with her old partner from the days when Great Britain played as one nation in international bridge, Scotland's Liz McGowan.

Board 19. Dealer South. E/W Vul.

♠ 8 ♥ A Q 10 7 6 ♦ 9 4 ♣ J 9 7 6 4	<table style="border: 1px solid black; width: 60px; height: 60px; margin: auto;"> <tr><td></td><td style="text-align: center;">N</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">W</td><td></td><td style="text-align: center;">E</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td style="text-align: center;">S</td><td></td></tr> </table>		N		W		E		S		♠ A 10 6 5 ♥ K J 5 2 ♦ 8 7 6 5 ♣ 2	♠ Q J 9 4 2 ♥ 8 3 ♦ K Q 10 3 ♣ 10 5
	N											
W		E										
	S											

The defence began with three rounds of hearts, giving a ruff-and-discard. Dhondy ruffed in the North hand while pitching a club from South, then played the king of spades. East won and played a fourth round of hearts and again Dhondy ruffed in the North hand, throwing her remaining club. Now, suspecting from the line of defence that there might be a problem with the trump situation, she carefully ruffed a club, shortening herself, and laid down the queen of spades, discovering the four-one break. Thanks to her foresight, the bad break was not a problem. Dhondy crossed to dummy with a diamond and started playing winning clubs through East, who could ruff whenever he wanted to, but would be over ruffed, the remaining trump drawn, and winning diamonds cashed. Taking the club ruff before she had seen the bad trump split meant that Dhondy could also have survived a five-one diamond break.



Renault Grand Espace. Renault is a championship sponsor.

Transport Options To Lisbon Airport

By Train

From Estoril or Cascais train station to Cais do Sodre train station (terminal) and from there by bus or by taxi. Outside the train station at Cais Sodre there is taxi service, or take Bus 44 or Bus 45, both with stops at the Lisbon airport.



By Bus



Departing from the bus stops by the Estoril train station, using Scott Urb bus direct to the Lisbon airport. This bus operates daily from 6.13 a.m. and every hour until 7:13 p.m. After the departure at 7:13 p.m., there are another two at 8:58 p.m. and

9:55 p.m. The price of the ticket is 8 Euros.

By Taxi

Order at hotel reception. From Estoril to the Lisbon airport can cost between 30 Euros and 45 Euros.

Note that you should leave enough time for the journey, which can take more than an hour in congested traffic.

Delegations preferring private transport should contact Top Atlantico in the lobby of the convention centre. Please do so well in advance.

Championship Diary

There was plenty of muttering about the decision to show the last session of the Seniors Bowl on vugraph, rather than the Bermuda Bowl. We have no comment to make, but we did notice that 4052 were following the one table of the Bermuda Bowl on Bridgebase, while 308 were kibitzing the Seniors Final.

Slow play ruins the game for both spectators and players alike. In the quarter-finals of the Transnational one player took no less than 30 minutes to defend a contract – he won 10 IMPs for his side when the declarer took a losing line. However, justice was served when his team was subsequently fined 16 IMPs for slow play.

It is traditional for Tacchi and I to lose most of our per diem during a Championship by following a tip from our French racing correspondent, JPM. Yesterday, he pointed out Obrigado at 5-1 in the first race at Saint Cloud – unfortunately, just after it had obliged.

Tacchi was slightly under the weather yesterday. When I asked him if there was anything I could do he replied 'Bring me the head of....'

MULTI-NATIONAL

by Mark Horton

It can take quite a bit of work forming your squad for the Transnational event, especially when half your original team decides to go home.

That was the fate that befell the Israeli Senior team when three of their members departed at the end of the Senior Bowl. The notional captain, Nissan Rand, found an Egyptian pair, Ahmed Hussein & Tarek Sadek, but there was a price to pay, the captaincy being taken over by Hussein. However, their team of five quickly became four, when one of the Israelis withdrew. Undaunted, the search went on and in the fullness of time, South Africa's Craig Gower was added and, then linked to Canada's Ralph Cohen.

This hotchpotch squad proved to be rather formidable, and after twelve rounds they were in second place.

Here are a few examples of how they have been scoring their points:

Board 5. Dealer North. N/S Vul.

♠ A K 5 4 ♥ K 5 ♦ J 6 4 3 ♣ J 9 7	<table style="border: 1px solid black; width: 60px; height: 60px; margin: auto;"> <tr><td></td><td style="text-align: center;">N</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">W</td><td></td><td style="text-align: center;">E</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td style="text-align: center;">S</td><td></td></tr> </table>		N		W		E		S		♠ 10 8 6 2 ♥ A J 8 6 ♦ 8 2 ♣ K 5 3	♠ Q 3 ♥ 10 9 7 2 ♦ K 5 ♣ A 10 8 6 4
	N											
W		E										
	S											

Both tables reached INT via the same sequence, 1♦ – 1♥ – 1♠ – INT, and in the Open Room West led the seven of spades. Declarer won in dummy and played the jack of clubs, covered by the king and ace. East won the next club and exited with a diamond. Declarer won and claimed seven tricks; +90.

In the other room Nissan Rand led the ten of diamonds and declarer won in hand, East playing the eight. Declarer played a spade to the king and played the jack of clubs, covered by the king and ace. When declarer led another club East won



Tarek Sadek, Egypt

and played the nine of diamonds. When declarer ducked West cashed his diamond winners and South was in trouble; the defenders finished up taking four heart tricks as well, for down three and +300.

Board 12. Dealer West. N/S Vul.

♠ 10 7 5 2 ♥ 10 9 6 ♦ 8 3 2 ♣ Q J 3	<table style="border: 1px solid black; width: 60px; height: 60px; margin: auto;"> <tr><td></td><td style="text-align: center;">N</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">W</td><td></td><td style="text-align: center;">E</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td style="text-align: center;">S</td><td></td></tr> </table>		N		W		E		S		♠ K Q 8 ♥ K Q J ♦ A K Q ♣ 9 6 5 2	♠ A J 3 ♥ A 8 4 2 ♦ 10 4 ♣ K 10 7 4
	N											
W		E										
	S											

Both tables reached 3NT. When East led a low club at trick one declarer had no chance and was two down; –200.

In the replay East led the two of hearts and declarer won with the jack and unblocked the diamonds. He then played the queen of hearts and when East ducked that, he could establish the game-going trick in spades.

Board 19. Dealer South. E/W Vul.

♠ K 8 6 5 2 ♥ K ♦ 7 5 ♣ Q 9 8 7 3	<table style="border: 1px solid black; width: 60px; height: 60px; margin: auto;"> <tr><td></td><td style="text-align: center;">N</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">W</td><td></td><td style="text-align: center;">E</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td style="text-align: center;">S</td><td></td></tr> </table>		N		W		E		S		♠ Q 4 3 ♥ Q J 6 2 ♦ J ♣ A J 10 5 4	♠ A J 9 7 ♥ A 10 3 ♦ A K 9 8 4 3 ♣ –
	N											
W		E										
	S											

West	North	East	South
Cohen		Levit	
Pass	1♣	Dble	Pass
2♠	Pass	6♠	All Pass

North led the ace of clubs. Declarer ruffed in dummy, cashed the ace of diamonds, came to hand with the king of hearts and played a diamond towards the king. North discarded a club, so declarer won and ruffed a diamond with the six of spades. North found the excellent play of not overruffing, instead discarding a heart. However, declarer found an excellent counter by playing a spade to the jack, after which the contract was assured.

Sports News

Cricket

In the first test in Brisbane, Australia totalled 435 in their first innings, to which West Indies replied with 182-6 at the end of the second day's play.



Soccer - UEFA Cup



Hamburger 2-0 Viking; Slavia Prague 4-2 CSKA Sofia; Brondby 2-0 Maccabi Petah Tikva; Palermo 0-0 Lokomotiv Moscow; Lens 5-0 Halmstad; Sampdoria 0-0 Steaua Bucharest; Litex 2-1 Grasshoppers; Middlesbrough 3-0 Dnipro; Crvena Zvezda 1-2 Basel; Strasbourg 2-0 Tromso; Levski Sofia 1-0 Dinamo Bucharest; Heerenveen 0-0 CSKA Moscow; Rapid Bucharest 2-0 Rennes; Stuttgart 0-2 Shakhtar Donetsk; Bolton 1-0 Zenit St. Petersburg; Sevilla 3-0 Besiktas.

Athletics

The Balco steroid distribution case took a new turn with the indictment of chemist Patrick Arnold for his alleged part in the scandal on Thursday. Arnold is charged with being a "prohormone manufacturer", meaning he is suspected of designing and producing the performance-enhancing drugs. "We've taken another step in the effort to end the use of performance-enhancing drugs," said US attorney Kevin Ryan. Balco founder Victor Conte was given a four-month prison sentence last month.



Basketball

Phoenix ruined the home court return of LA Lakers coach Phil Jackson with a 122-112 win at the Staples Center. The Lakers won their NBA season opener on Wednesday in Jackson's first game back in charge after a year away. Kobe Bryant led the Lakers with 39 points, but they were outgunned by the Suns who had no less than seven players in double figures. Shawn Marion notched 30 points and 11 rebounds, Steve Nash had 12 and 17 assists and James Jones hit 17 points.

Former Lakers star Shaquille O'Neal sprained an ankle in the fourth quarter of Miami's 105-102 loss to Indianapolis.



Renault Scenic. Renault is a championship sponsor.

Missing 9 VPs On One Board

by Hans Olaf-Hallen

The Swedish Seniors team had this disastrous board in the last match of the Transnational Open Teams.

Board 4. Dealer West. All Vul.

♠ Q ♥ J 8 7 ♦ Q 6 5 ♣ A Q 7 6 5 3	<table style="border: 1px solid black; width: 60px; height: 60px; 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 ♥ 3 ♦ A K 9 4 3 2 ♣ J 9 8 4	♠ 10 9 2 ♥ A K Q 10 9 6 5 4 2 ♦ — ♣ K
	N											
W		E										
	S											
	♠ J 8 7 6 5 4 3 ♥ — ♦ J 10 8 7 ♣ 10 2											

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Pass	4♣	4♦	Dble
Pass	4♥	Pass	Pass
5♦	Pass	Pass	Dble
All Pass			

North's 4♣ showed solid hearts. We don't know why South doubled. Against 5♦ doubled, South led a spade. Declarer won and played four rounds of trumps. East later finessed in clubs and went one down. East should understand that South has no hearts and therefore play the ♣A. Even if South has the ♣K, declarer would be able to play the suit for enough winners later to discard his losing heart. The outcome on this lie of the cards would have been 12 tricks.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Pass	3NT	Pass	4♥
5♣ (!)	5♥	6♣	Dble
All Pass			

North's 3NT showed a solid major suit. South doubled 6♣ to stop his partner from bidding 6♥. West's 5♣ seems brave. As North I made the mistake of leading the ♥Q instead of the ♥2. Partner forgot to ruff and the slam was made.

The Hadi team gained 17 IMPs instead of losing a large number. We still won the match, but only 16-14 instead of 25-5, finishing 17th in the qualifying instead of 12th.

Who's Got The Queen?

by Barry Rigal

Consider the deal as a single dummy problem first. You are West.

Board 10. Dealer East. All Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
		1♠	Pass
2♦	Pass	2♥	Pass
4♥	Pass	5♦	Pass
6♥	Pass	Pass	Dble
6NT	Dble	All Pass	

Your partner reaches 6♥ and RHO, on lead, doubles 6♥ – unlikely to be Lightner unless he has forgotten the position (but South is an Austrian expert, this is unlikely).

Gunnar Hallberg declared 6NT doubled on a top club lead and won in dummy. Since hearts figured to be 5-0 as South would not risk a double on just a four-card suit here, the ♠Q figured to be with North – particularly since he had doubled the final contract. But Hallberg paused for reflection. The double of 6♥ must have been with the awareness that the opponents might retreat to 6NT; so maybe the double of 6NT was psychic – protecting his partner's spades? Backing his judgment, Hallberg passed the ♠J, and when the suit behaved he had his 12 tricks.

This was the full deal.

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

Eight Ever, Nine Never

by Dave Berkowitz

Board 1 of the final day of the Transnational Open Teams qualifying brought new meaning to an old adage.

Board 1. Dealer North. None Vul.

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

At the table we saw the auction went as follows.

West	North	East	South
	1♦	1♠	3♦
4♠	5♦	Dble	All Pass

The opening lead was a spade to the jack, followed by a heart. Perhaps a little dismayed by the contract, declarer tried to salvage something when he played the ♦A and another a diamond. The defense drew trumps and took the rest; down nine for Plus 2300

Mike Passell pointed out that against him, he would drop the ♦Q under the ace to give declarer an added incentive to play a disastrous second trump. Mike would play three rounds of diamonds, drawing trumps but giving declarer the jack; down only eight for 2000.

Eight ever, nine never probably does not refer to this type of deal. Imagine coming back to lose IMPs for Plus 2000.

As usual, after the play North was heard asking if East/West could make game in spades. They could not.



BANCO ESPIRITO SANTO

GOOD DEFENCE, BETTER OFFENCE

by Dave Berkowitz

Board 10. Dealer East. All Vul.

♠ A Q 8 6 5
♥ 6 3 2
♦ A 4 3
♣ 8 7

	N	
W		E
	S	

♠ 9 3
♥ J
♦ Q J 5
♣ A K Q J 10 6 4

After East/West bid and raise hearts, you get to a good 5♣. The opponents lead the ♥A and another heart. You ruff and lead the ♣A (West contributes the 9), then lead the ♠9 to the seven, queen and king. You wonder whether you can ever win a finesse.

East shifts to a diamond and you try to win with the queen, but it is covered. Looks like you can't find a king in the right place. This is the position as you look for your eleventh trick.

♠ A 8 6 5
♥ 6
♦ 4 3
♣ 8

	N	
W		E
	S	

♠ 3
♥ -
♦ J 5
♣ K Q J 10 6

Is there a way to make the game? Yes, if you consider those

mighty spade spots and the ♣8. Play the ♠A, dropping West's jack, and run the ♠8. If East covers the eight, ruff high, return to dummy with the club winner and discard your losing diamond on a good spade.

Even if West covered the ♠9 with the jack on the first round, you have the same ruffing finesse, and it doesn't help for West to have started with ♠J 10 x because trumps are 3-1, so you would not be able to cash the fourth spade without East ruffing in. Besides, who splits in spades from J 10 x on the first round?

The full deal:

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

	N	
W		E
	S	

Did you find the better offence?,

Quote of the Day

'It is an old, old story and yet it remains ever new; and every time it happens one's heart breaks into two.'

Heinrich Heine

World Championship Book 2005



The Official World Championship Book 2005, of these championships in Estoril, will be available next March. As always, we offer a substantial discount to anyone who would like to order and pay for their copy while at the championships.

On publication, the price will be US\$33 per copy plus postage. For the duration of these championships, you can order the book for US\$25 or Euros20, including postage (surface mail) to anywhere in the world. To order your copy, please see Jan Swaan in the Press Room on the ground floor of the building.

Principal analysts will be Eric Kokish, Barry Rigal and Brian Senior. There will be a complete listing of teams playing in all four championships, plus a full results listing and many photographs. Kokish will cover every board of the Bermuda Bowl and Venice Cup finals and there will be substantial coverage of the earlier stages, plus enhanced coverage of the Seniors Bowl and the best of the action from the Transnational Teams.



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