



DAILY BULLETIN

WORLD BRIDGE TEAM CHAMPIONSHIPS

Co-ordinator: Jean-Paul Meyer – **Chief Editor:** Brent Manley – **Editors:** Mark Horton, Brian Senior & Phillip Alder – **Layout Editor:** Akis Kanaris – **Photographer:** Ron Tacchi

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ONLY SO MUCH ROOM AT THE TOP



Vugraph commentators Patrick Huang, left, and Ni Wei-Ping, prior to a match on Tuesday. Ni is a television commentator on bridge and Go

Teams are near the halfway point of the qualifying stages of the three big events – Bermuda Bowl, Venice Cup and Senior Bowl – and it may be time for some of the perennial contenders to shift into a higher gear.

A case in point is the Nick Nickell team (USA 2) in the Bermuda Bowl. Even after a big win against Canada in the ninth match on Tuesday, the 2005 Bermuda Bowl silver medallists were still six places away from the eighth and last qualifying spot. Even further back was Sweden, one of several strong European teams in Shanghai.

Leading the way in the Bermuda Bowl was USA 1, 15 victory points clear of Poland. Norway is close behind, as are Australia and the Netherlands.

In the Venice Cup, USA 1 extended its VP lead to 30 over Denmark with three more victories. The Americans have yet to lose a match.

In the Senior Bowl, Italy replaced USA 1 at the top with three impressive wins over Sweden, Thailand and Australia. USA 1 took two of three matches, but the wins were by a total of 4 IMPs as the Americans slipped to third behind second-place Canada.



VUGRAPH MATCHES



Round 10 (11.00-13.20)

VG:	Table 27	USA 2 - New Zealand	(VC)
BBO 1:	Table 11	Italy - Argentina	(BB)
BBO 2:	Table 2	South Africa - Poland	(BB)
SWAN*:	Table 46	Sweden - USA 1	(SB)
OurGame:	Table 29	Germany - China Global Times	(VC)

Round 11 (14.20-16.40)

VG:	Table 6	Norway - USA 1	(BB)
BBO 1:	Table 22	Japan - Germany	(VC)
BBO 2:	Table 5	Sweden - Netherlands	(BB)
SWAN:	Table 26	France - Denmark	(VC)
OurGame:	Table 11	India - USA 2	(BB)

Round 12 (17.10-19.30)

VG:	Table 1	USA 2 - Italy	(BB)
BBO 1:	Table 4	Australia - Indonesia	(BB)
BBO 2:	Table 28	USA 2 - China Global Times	(VC)
SWAN:	Table 44	Poland - Denmark	(SB)
OurGame:	Table 25	Australia - France	(VC)

* This match will be broadcast at 20.30 Chinese time

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BB: Egypt - Indonesia Round 7	14
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BB: Italy - Norway Round 6	17
VC: England - USA 2 Round 7	23





TODAY'S PROGRAM



Bermuda Bowl

ROUND 10 11.00

Table	Home Team	Visiting Team
1	Canada	India
2	South Africa	Poland
3	Australia	China SMEG
4	Ireland	New Zealand
5	USA 1	Indonesia
6	Netherlands	Norway
7	Pakistan	Sweden
8	Egypt	Japan
9	Chinese Taipei	Brazil
10	USA 2	Trinidad & Tobago
11	Italy	Argentina

ROUND 11 14.20

Table	Home Team	Visiting Team
1	Trinidad & Tobago	Italy
2	Argentina	Chinese Taipei
3	Brazil	Egypt
4	Japan	Pakistan
5	Sweden	Netherlands
6	Norway	USA 1
7	Indonesia	Ireland
8	New Zealand	Australia
9	China SMEG	South Africa
10	Poland	Canada
11	India	USA 2

ROUND 12 17.10

Table	Home Team	Visiting Team
1	USA 2	Italy
2	Canada	China SMEG
3	South Africa	New Zealand
4	Australia	Indonesia
5	Ireland	Norway
6	USA 1	Sweden
7	Netherlands	Japan
8	Pakistan	Brazil
9	Egypt	Argentina
10	Chinese Taipei	Trinidad & Tobago
11	India	Poland

Venice Cup

ROUND 10 11.00

Table	Home Team	Visiting Team
21	Guadeloupe	South Africa
22	USA 1	Jordan
23	Canada	Brazil
24	Australia	England
25	Denmark	Egypt
26	Philippines	France
27	USA 2	New Zealand
28	Argentina	Croatia
29	Germany	China Global Times
30	Indonesia	India
31	Netherlands	Japan

ROUND 11 14.20

Table	Home Team	Visiting Team
21	India	Netherlands
22	Japan	Germany
23	China Global Times	Argentina
24	Croatia	USA 2
25	New Zealand	Philippines
26	France	Denmark
27	Egypt	Australia
28	England	Canada
29	Brazil	USA 1
30	Jordan	Guadeloupe
31	South Africa	Indonesia

ROUND 12 17.10

Table	Home Team	Visiting Team
21	Indonesia	Netherlands
22	Guadeloupe	Brazil
23	USA 1	England
24	Canada	Egypt
25	Australia	France
26	Denmark	New Zealand
27	Philippines	Croatia
28	USA 2	China Global Times
29	Argentina	Japan
30	Germany	India
31	South Africa	Jordan



TODAY'S PROGRAM

Senior Bowl

ROUND 10 11.00

Table	Home Team	Visiting Team
41	New Zealand	Canada
42	Germany	China
43	Poland	Italy
44	Australia	South Africa
45	Thailand	Denmark
46	Sweden	USA 1
47	China Hong Kong	Argentina
48	Egypt	India
49	Indonesia	USA 2
50	Guadeloupe	France
51	Japan	Brazil

ROUND 11 14.20

Table	Home Team	Visiting Team
41	France	Japan
42	Brazil	Indonesia
43	USA 2	Egypt
44	India	China Hong Kong
45	Argentina	Sweden
46	USA 1	Thailand
47	Denmark	Australia
48	South Africa	Poland
49	Italy	Germany
50	China	New Zealand
51	Canada	Guadeloupe

ROUND 12 17.10

Table	Home Team	Visiting Team
41	Guadeloupe	Japan
42	New Zealand	Italy
43	Germany	South Africa
44	Poland	Denmark
45	Australia	USA 1
46	Thailand	Argentina
47	Sweden	India
48	China Hong Kong	USA 2
49	Egypt	Brazil
50	Indonesia	France
51	Canada	China

Important Notice

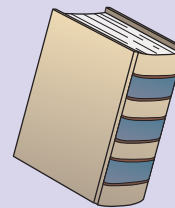


You are reminded you that, due to security measures to be taken tomorrow, entry to the venue will be difficult and may take some time.

Please ensure that you bring your badge, and it is strongly recommended that you arrive on site well before the normal time.



World Championship Book 2007



The official book of these championships will be available around the end of March. On publication the official retail price will be £22 Sterling plus postage. You can pre-order a copy at the championships at the reduced price of US\$30 (225 Rmb) including surface mail, by seeing Jan Swaan in the Press Room on the third floor of the Convention Centre.

There have been some problems with copies of last year's book being lost in the post. If you bought a copy in Verona and it has still not reached you, speak to Brian Senior in the Daily Bulletin Office, also on the third floor, and I will arrange to send another copy when I get home. I will be looking at a different way of sending out the individual copies this year in the hope of reducing these problems to a minimum.

The 2007 book will consist of 336 large pages. There will be substantial coverage of all events, including every board of the final and semi-finals of the Bermuda Bowl and Venice Cup, with full results listings, Butler rankings, photographs etc. Eric Kokish is taking a year off, alas, so principle analysts will be Brian Senior and Barry Rigal, with guest writers including John Carruthers (Senior Bowl) and Cathy Chua (BB and VC Round Robin stages). If you have a possible hand for inclusion, do feel free to contact John or Cathy, as appropriate.



RESULTS

Bermuda Bowl



ROUND 7

Home Team	Visiting Team	IMPs	VPs
1 Brazil	Argentina	56 - 20	23 - 7
2 Japan	Trinidad & Tobago	52 - 23	22 - 8
3 Sweden	Italy	17 - 69	4 - 25
4 Norway	Chinese Taipei	44 - 26	19 - 11
5 Indonesia	Egypt	39 - 33	16 - 14
6 New Zealand	Pakistan	40 - 39	15 - 15
7 South Africa	USA 2	20 - 7	18 - 12
8 Poland	USA 1	31 - 25	16 - 14
9 India	Ireland	41 - 26	18 - 12
10 Canada	Australia	28 - 55	9 - 21
11 China SMEG	Netherlands	24 - 44	10 - 20

ROUND 8

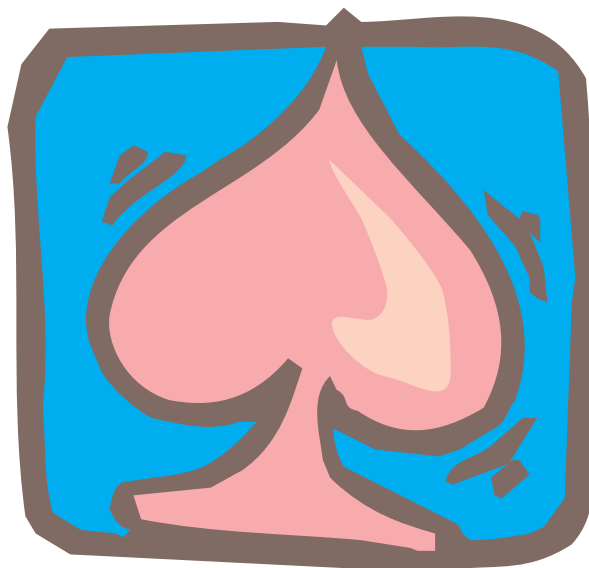
Home Team	Visiting Team	IMPs	VPs
1 South Africa	Canada	21 - 21	15 - 15
2 Australia	India	48 - 24	21 - 9
3 Ireland	Poland	12 - 27	12 - 18
4 USA 1	China SMEG	21 - 11	17 - 13
5 Netherlands	New Zealand	52 - 14	24 - 6
6 Pakistan	Indonesia	26 - 18	17 - 13
7 Egypt	Norway	23 - 10	18 - 12
8 USA 2	Argentina	23 - 39	11 - 19
9 Italy	Japan	28 - 32	14 - 16
10 Trinidad & Tobago	Brazil	42 - 20	20 - 10
11 Chinese Taipei	Sweden	17 - 62	5 - 25

ROUND 9

Home Team	Visiting Team	IMPs	VPs
1 Argentina	Trinidad & Tobago	50 - 47	16 - 14
2 Brazil	Italy	36 - 20	19 - 11
3 Japan	Chinese Taipei	57 - 30	21 - 9
4 Sweden	Egypt	46 - 34	18 - 12
5 Norway	Pakistan	40 - 17	20 - 10
6 Indonesia	Netherlands	45 - 42	16 - 14
7 New Zealand	USA 1	17 - 28	13 - 17
8 China SMEG	Ireland	68 - 30	23 - 6
9 Canada	USA 2	6 - 86	0 - 25
10 India	South Africa	27 - 36	13 - 17
11 Poland	Australia	41 - 21	20 - 10

Ranking after 9 Rounds

1	USA 1	181
2	Poland	166
3	Norway	161
4	Italy	158
5	Australia	151
6	Netherlands	148.5
7	Brazil	147
	China SMEG	147
9	Japan	144
10	Argentina	143
11	South Africa	138.5
12	Indonesia	133
13	Pakistan	130
14	USA 2	129
15	Egypt	128
16	New Zealand	126
17	Sweden	121
18	Chinese Taipei	105
19	Canada	101.5
20	Trinidad & Tobago	101
21	Ireland	96.5
22	India	96





RESULTS

Venice Cup



ROUND 7

	Home Team	Visiting Team	IMPs	VPs
21	China Global Times	Japan	52 - 19	23 - 7
22	Croatia	India	48 - 36	18 - 12
23	New Zealand	Netherlands	41 - 39	15 - 15
24	France	Germany	37 - 30	16 - 14
25	Egypt	Argentina	36 - 18	19 - 11
26	England	USA 2	19 - 26	14 - 16
27	USA 1	Indonesia	36 - 16	20 - 10
28	Jordan	Denmark	17 - 45	8 - 22
29	South Africa	Australia	16 - 47	8 - 22
30	Guadeloupe	Canada	11 - 73	2 - 25
31	Brazil	Philippines	65 - 30	23 - 7

ROUND 8

	Home Team	Visiting Team	IMPs	VPs
21	USA 1	Guadeloupe	69 - 31	24 - 6
22	Canada	South Africa	10 - 6	16 - 14
23	Australia	Jordan	45 - 26	19 - 11
24	Denmark	Brazil	27 - 39	12 - 18
25	Philippines	England	53 - 20	23 - 7
26	USA 2	Egypt	44 - 19	21 - 9
27	Argentina	France	40 - 27	18 - 12
28	Indonesia	Japan	48 - 35	18 - 12
29	Netherlands	Croatia	35 - 38	14 - 16
30	India	China Global Times	15 - 31	11 - 19
31	Germany	New Zealand	48 - 12	23 - 7

ROUND 9

	Home Team	Visiting Team	IMPs	VPs
21	Japan	India	36 - 41	14 - 16
22	China Global Times	Netherlands	82 - 26	25 - 3
23	Croatia	Germany	42 - 46	14 - 16
24	New Zealand	Argentina	27 - 52	9 - 21
25	France	USA 2	95 - 18	25 - 0
26	Egypt	Philippines	57 - 19	24 - 6
27	England	Denmark	23 - 32	13 - 17
28	Brazil	Australia	17 - 57	6 - 24
29	Guadeloupe	Indonesia	19 - 25	14 - 16
30	South Africa	USA 1	17 - 41	9 - 21
31	Jordan	Canada	35 - 24	17 - 13

Ranking after 9 Rounds

1	USA 1	189
2	Denmark	159
3	Germany	155
	USA 2	155
5	China Global Times	152
6	Australia	149
7	England	148
	France	148
9	New Zealand	146
10	Egypt	140
11	Argentina	137
	India	137
13	Croatia	131
14	Canada	125
	Netherlands	125
16	Japan	120
	Philippines	120
18	Indonesia	119
19	Brazil	118
20	South Africa	101
21	Jordan	88
22	Guadeloupe	78





RESULTS

Senior Bowl



ROUND 7

	Home Team	Visiting Team	IMPs	VPs
41	USA 2	Brazil	24 - 23	15 - 15
42	India	France	28 - 29	15 - 15
43	Argentina	Japan	20 - 23	14 - 16
44	USA 1	Indonesia	37 - 34	16 - 14
45	Denmark	Egypt	31 - 6	21 - 9
46	South Africa	China Hong Kong	30 - 57	9 - 21
47	Germany	Guadeloupe	69 - 20	25 - 4
48	China	Thailand	60 - 25	23 - 7
49	Canada	Australia	25 - 20	16 - 14
50	New Zealand	Poland	15 - 46	8 - 22
51	Italy	Sweden	54 - 19	23 - 7

ROUND 8

	Home Team	Visiting Team	IMPs	VPs
41	Germany	New Zealand	66 - 14	25 - 4
42	Poland	Canada	22 - 54	7 - 23
43	Australia	China	27 - 13	18 - 12
44	Thailand	Italy	4 - 32	8 - 22
45	Sweden	South Africa	43 - 8	23 - 7
46	China Hong Kong	Denmark	36 - 55	11 - 19
47	Egypt	USA 1	52 - 27	21 - 9
48	Guadeloupe	Brazil	13 - 58	5 - 25
49	Japan	India	25 - 20	16 - 14
50	France	USA 2	35 - 18	19 - 11
51	Indonesia	Argentina	41 - 8	23 - 7

ROUND 9

	Home Team	Visiting Team	IMPs	VPs
41	Brazil	France	36 - 34	15 - 15
42	USA 2	Japan	32 - 32	15 - 15
43	India	Indonesia	35 - 50	12 - 18
44	Argentina	Egypt	42 - 35	16 - 14
45	USA 1	China Hong Kong	37 - 36	15 - 15
46	Denmark	Sweden	28 - 56	8 - 22
47	South Africa	Thailand	19 - 75	3 - 25
48	Italy	Australia	42 - 20	20 - 10
49	New Zealand	Guadeloupe	16 - 62	5 - 25
50	Canada	Germany	75 - 6	25 - 1
51	China	Poland	45 - 38	16 - 14

Ranking after 9 Rounds

1	Italy	181
2	Canada	175
3	USA 1	164
4	Indonesia	159
5	Egypt	157
6	Australia	154
7	USA 2	153
8	Poland	150
9	Brazil	147
10	France	143
11	China	134
12	Japan	131
13	Germany	130
14	India	128
15	Denmark	124
16	Sweden	123
17	Argentina	116
18	China Hong Kong	115
19	Guadeloupe	109
20	Thailand	98
21	New Zealand	93
22	South Africa	53



BERMUDA BOWL

Round 4



Brazil

v

Sweden



by Brent Manley

Entering the second day of play in the Bermuda Bowl on Monday, Brazil and Sweden were both in need of a lift. The Swedes stood 19th out of 22 teams, and Brazil was not much better – tied for 17th. Each team was hoping to start a winning run to get back into the qualifying picture.

The South Americans were the ones whose wishes were granted as they fashioned a 48-18 win. The first misstep occurred early in the match.

Board 3. Dealer South. E/W Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Bertheau	Chagas	Nystrom	Villas Boas
Pass	INT	Pass	1♠
Pass	3♠	All Pass	2♠

Peter Bertheau started with the ♦K, ducked by Miguel Villas Boas. He won the diamond continuation with the ace, then played a spade to the queen and king. Declarer played the ♥Q on the low heart return, ducking when Fredrik Nystrom produced the king. The ♦J was ruffed with the ♠8. Declarer then played the ♣J, ducked all around. Villas Boas could have simply pulled trumps and taken another club finesse, but he ran the rest of his trumps, catching the opponents in a double squeeze. Bertheau had to release his heart guard in the end to keep from baring the ♣K, allowing Villas Boas to discard the ♣Q. When he played his last club to the ace, East had to find a discard from the ♦Q and the ♥J 9. That was a nice plus 170, but still potentially a loss because of the missed game.

West	North	East	South
Figueiredo	Efraimsson	Brenner	Morath
Pass	2♣	Pass	1♠
Pass	4♠	All Pass	2♠

Mauricio Figueiredo started with a low heart: queen, king, 5. Diego Brenner continued with a low diamond to the king and ace. A heart to the ace was followed by a heart ruff, and dummy's last spade went to the queen and king. Figueiredo continued with the ♦4 to the 3, jack and 7, and when Brenner played a third round of diamonds, Anders Morath discarded the ♣3, perhaps believing that West still had a low diamond and that East had underled the queen. The diamond ruff was the fourth trick for the defense, so instead of gaining 6 IMPs, the Swedes lost the same number.

Brazil more than doubled their lead with a slam swing on board 8.

Board 8. Dealer West. None Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Bertheau	Chagas	Nystrom	Villas Boas
1♦	Pass	1♥	1♠
2♣	Pass	2♦	Pass
3♣	Pass	4♦	Pass
4♥	All Pass		

The 1♠ overcall by Villas Boas served to slow down Bertheau and Nystrom, and the fact that Bertheau's opener was limited (they play a strong 1♣ system) also kept the Swedes from going past game. Nystrom made an overtrick for plus 650.

West	North	East	South
Figueiredo	Efraimsson	Brenner	Morath
1♦	Pass	1♥	Pass
3♥	Pass	3♠	Pass
4♣	Pass	4♦	Pass
4NT	Pass	5♦	Pass
6♥	All Pass		

Morath started with a trump, taken in dummy with the ace. A spade went to the king and ace, and another trump

was returned. Diego Brenner won the second heart in dummy with the king, played a diamond to his ace and followed with a spade ruff. Another diamond went to East's queen, and a third spade was ruffed. When Brenner played a club to his king and followed with the ♠Q, Morath could see that pitching a minor was fatal, so he let go of the ♠Q, hoping partner had the 10. Brenner held that card, however, and he was able to claim plus 980 and an 11-IMP swing to Brazil.

Board 10 typified the day Sweden was having.

Board 10. Dealer East. All Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Bertheau	Chagas	Nystrom	Villas-Boas
1♠	Dble	Pass	1♦
Pass	3NT	2♥	3♦
		All Pass	

Nystrom's 2♥ showed a "good" spade raise. That didn't deter Gabriel Chagas, who took his best shot at the vulnerable notrump game. With the ♦K onside and the suit 2-2, Chagas had an easy nine tricks

West	North	East	South
Figueiredo	Efraimsson	Brenner	Morath
1♠	Dble	Pass	1♦
All Pass		4♠	5♦



Bengt-Erik Efraimsson

The Swedes did not have a shot at 3NT in the closed room because Brenner simply raised his partner to game with his five-card trump support. Morath could have doubled for a plus (most likely 500), but he tried 5♦. It did not strain the defenders to come up with three tricks, however, and the contract was one down. That was 12 IMPs to Brazil.

The best board of the day for Sweden was too little too late, but it did allow Nystrom to show off as declarer – and Morath to make a crafty defensive play.

Board 13. Dealer North. All Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Bertheau	Chagas	Nystrom	Villas Boas
3♦	Pass	1♠	2NT
5♠	5♣	5♦	Pass
	All Pass		

Undeterred by the diamond cuebid, Villas Boas started with the ♦J. Nystrom won with the ace and put the ♠J on the table. Villas Boas won perforce and continued with the ♦K, then the deceptive ♣Q. Nystrom took the ♣A, ruffed a club, played a spade to dummy's king and ruffed a diamond. He then cashed two more trumps. The key to making the contract obviously was figuring out how to play hearts for no losers, if indeed it was possible.

The bidding helped somewhat, but it did not eliminate the possibility of a doubleton ♥Q. Nystrom considered his options for a long time before playing a heart to dummy's king and following, again after some thought, with the jack. When Chagas followed low, Nystrom backed his judgment by playing low from hand. That was good for plus 650.

West	North	East	South
Figueiredo	Efraimsson	Brenner	Morath
3♦	Pass	1♠	2NT
	5♣	5♠	All Pass

Morath started with the ♣K, and play followed a line similar to that in the open room (Morath played the ♦10 when in with the ♠A). At the critical point, however, when declarer played a low heart from hand, Morath produced the ♥10, brilliantly promoting the possibility that he started with the ♥Q 10 doubleton. Indeed, declarer fell for it, winning with the ♥K in dummy and playing the jack to his ace. When the queen didn't fall, it was one down and 13 IMPs to Sweden, a bright spot in an otherwise dismal set.

The Time Is Right

by Ron Klinger

Dealer South. N/S Vul.

♠ J 8 6 3
♥ 9 5
♦ A J
♣ A 9 8 3 2



♠ A K 4
♥ A K 10 8 7 2
♦ 9 8
♣ J 6

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

Lead: ♦5
Plan the play.

Bill Haughie (Australia Seniors) found a neat line of play on Board 5 of Round 5. This was the complete deal, directions reversed:

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

	N	
W		E
	S	

♠ A K 4
♥ A K 10 8 7 2
♦ 9 8
♣ J 6

Haughie needed to set up the ♠J for a club discard with entries precarious. He figured East would return a spade rather than a club after taking the first diamond and that would give him the chance for success.

East did shift to the ♠10 at trick 2, taken by the ace. After ♥A, ♥K, Haughie crossed to the ♦A to lead a low spade. It would not help East to ruff and so he threw a diamond. After the ♠K, Haughie returned a spade, setting up the jack. Now the club loser vanished.

At the other table West was silent and after 1♥ : Pass : 1♠, East jumped to 3♦, weak. Here declarer rose with the ♦A at trick 1 and played ♥A, ♥K, followed by ♠A, ♠K, ruffed. When Zoli Nagy shifted to the ♣Q, declarer had four losers.

Double-Dummy Lead

by Cathy Chua

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

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

	N	
W		E
	S	

♠ J 8 6 3
♥ 9 5
♦ A J
♣ A 9 8 3 2

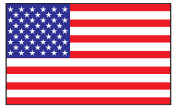
'Oh dear', said England's Heather Dhondy, as we patiently waited for the bus to take us back to our hotel. 'Apparently I should have made 4♥'. Much as one likes to pick fault with Deep Finesse, on this occasion it is not possible. Win East's opening diamond lead (West has made a pre-emptive action in diamonds) and play three rounds of hearts. If West, after cashing a diamond, doesn't shift to clubs, declarer can set up spades for the tenth trick. If West leads the ♣Q, declarer wins, crosses to a spade and sets up the endgame to throw East in with the bare ♣K to create the extra spade trick; if West tries the ♣10, declarer plays the jack and if East covers with the king it is ducked.

Deep Finesse had it right; 4♥ has to be played by South to protect the club holding. It takes an opening club lead from East to beat 4♥. West wins and shifts to a diamond, and the defence has unscrambled all of its tricks. In the three fields, only Liz Havas of Australia found that opening lead. Alas, virtue was its own reward, with 4♥ going down in the other room on the usual diamond lead. Like much of the field, Paula Schoor was playing for spades to behave: 3-3 with either hand having the long trump, or Qxxx with East who, in this layout, also needs to hold the long trump – perfectly reasonable.



BERMUDA BOWL

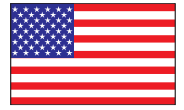
Round 1



USA 1

v

USA 2



by Phillip Alder

It would not shock many people if one of the Bermuda Bowl semifinals is between the two American teams. We were given an immediate glimpse in the opening round on Sunday.

USA 1 sent Steve Garner and Howard Weinstein to play North-South in the Open Room against Jeff Meckstroth and Eric Rodwell, and put Michael Rosenberg and Zia Mahmood East-West in the Closed Room against Bob Hamman and Hemant Lall.

The first board was a gentle push in two spades with an overtrick. USA 2 gained an overtrick IMP on the second deal. And USA 1 got on the board, defeating four hearts by two tricks in the Closed Room and going down only one in the Open.

Then a nebulous Precision one-diamond opening bid cost USA 2.

monds, Meckstroth went for the sure plus by doubling four spades. Declarer Garner lost one heart, one diamond and two clubs for down one.

Hamman's three-spade rebid gave Rosenberg the room to cue-bid four spades. Five diamonds made with an easy overtrick, giving 9 IMPs to USA 1.

On board five, Meckstroth opened two spades, weak, with five spades to the king-queen, five diamonds to the queen and three clubs to the jack-ten. This pushed his opponents into a vulnerable three clubs that went down two. In the other room, Zia went down one in two hearts, giving 6 IMPs to USA 2.

USA 1 gained two one-point swings in the next three deals to take a 13-7 lead at halftime.

Then came:

Board 4. Dealer West. All Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Rodwell	Garner	Meckstroth	Weinstein
1♦	1♠	Dbf	2♥ (a)
Pass	4♠	Dbf	All Pass

(a) A single spade raise

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Zia	Hamman	Rosenberg	Lall
1♦	1♠	Dbf	2♠
Pass	3♠	4♠	Pass
5♦	All Pass		

Rodwell's opening bid promised only two cards in the suit, and when he understandably did not rebid three dia-

Board 9. Dealer North. E/W Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Rodwell	Garner	Meckstroth	Weinstein
	Pass	1♣ (a)	Pass
1♦ (b)	INT (c)	Dbf	2♥ (d)
3NT	Pass	4♠	All Pass

(a) Sixteen-plus points

(b) 0-7 points

(c) Spades and diamonds or hearts and clubs

(d) Pass or correct

Closed Room

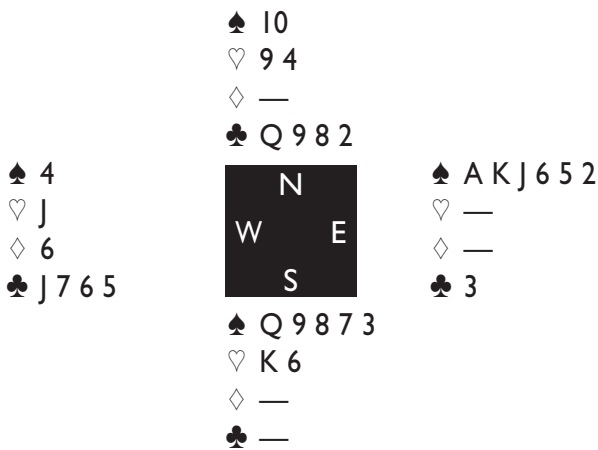
West	North	East	South
Zia	Hamman	Rosenberg	Lall
	Pass	1♠	Pass
INT	Dbf	Redbl	2♥
Pass	Pass	3♥	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

In the Open Room, Meckstroth's sequence, doubling the one-notrump Crash overcall, then bidding four spades, showed a strong hand.

Against four spades, South led the heart six, third-highest from an even number or lowest from an odd number. North won with his ace and shifted to the club king. Declarer (East) won with his ace, cashed the spade ace-king to get the bad news, then played four rounds of diamonds, discarding a club. The defense took three spades and two hearts for down two.

In the Closed Room, Hamman's takeout double gave Rosenberg room to investigate spades and notrump, eventually accepting three notrump.

North led the club king. Declarer (West) won with dummy's ace and played a heart to his queen, North winning with his ace and shifting to the diamond jack. Declarer won in the dummy and called for the heart ten, which South ducked. Now declarer ran his diamond tricks. This was the position with one round to go:



On the last diamond, North surprisingly discarded the heart four. This permitted West to exit with his heart jack and catch South in an endplay. Declarer took three spades, one heart, four diamonds and one club.



Eric Rodwell

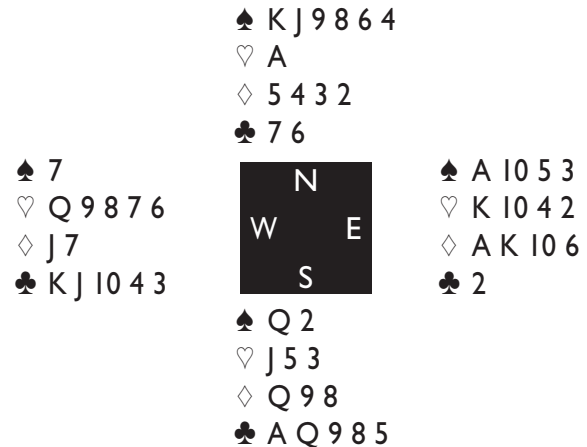
If North had pitched a club in the above position, declarer could not have got home. If he played his heart, South would take the trick and put his partner on lead with a heart. North would cash the club queen, then lead his spade.

Plus 200 and plus 600 gave 13 IMPs to USA 1.

On board 10 both East-West pairs reached an impossible four spades. Weinstein gained 3 IMPs for USA 1 by doubling.

USA 2 gained on the next deal:

Board 11. Dealer South. None Vul.



Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Rodwell</i>	<i>Garner</i>	<i>Meckstroth</i>	<i>Weinstein</i>
	1♣	4♣ (b)	1♣
	4♥		Pass
	All Pass		

(a) 6-plus spades, 4-plus points

(b) Splinter bid

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Zia</i>	<i>Hamman</i>	<i>Rosenberg</i>	<i>Lall</i>
			Pass
Pass	2♠	Pass	Pass
3♣	All Pass		

Weinstein's one-club opening was either natural or showed a balanced hand with 11-13 or 17-19 points. After Rodwell's typical one-heart overcall, his side was never missing the game. After a spade lead, declarer took ten tricks without trouble.

What should Rosenberg have done over Hamman's weak two-spade opening?

Some players doubled, which worked well here. Others overcalled two no-trump, which also resulted in a final contract of four hearts. The rest passed, putting pressure on West to balance. When Zia guessed to bid three clubs, that was that. (Perhaps two notrump in this position should show any two suits.)

North led the heart ace and shifted to the spade king. Declarer won in the dummy and called for a trump. To defeat

the contract, South had to rise with his ace and give his partner a heart ruff, but he played low. West put up his king and led back the club ten, South winning and returning a heart – too late. Declarer won in the dummy, ruffed a spade, played a heart to the king, ruffed another spade (South discarded a diamond), took dummy's top diamonds, then played a diamond to score his club jack with a coup en passant.

If South had ruffed the spade at trick eight, declarer probably would have overruffed and exited with either a trump or a heart, catching South in a diamond endplay.

Plus 420 and minus 110 gave 7 IMPs to USA 2, reducing their deficit to 15 IMPs.

The next board was flat, both East-West pairs going down one in five spades doubled, bid as a sacrifice over a five-club contract that was failing. But when nonvulnerable against vulnerable opponents, players tend to take out insurance.

Then came board 13, with the most imaginative play of the tournament so far:

Board 13. Dealer North. All Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Rodwell	Garner	Meckstroth	Weinstein
	3♠	Dbl	4♠
5♦	All Pass		



Steve Garner

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Zia	Hamman	Rosenberg	Lall
	2♠	Dbl	3♠
Dbl	Pass	5♣	Pass
5♦	Pass	5♥	Pass
6♦	All Pass		

In the Closed Room, Zia was in six diamonds. North led the spade three to dummy's ace. What did Zia do next?

In the Open Room, Garner's aggressive three-spade opening bid and Weinstein's raise left their opponents with no space to investigate.

Against five diamonds, North led the spade three. Declarer played a trump to his hand, ruffed his second spade (North playing his nine), and tried to cash the club ace, but North ruffed and returned a spade. Declarer ruffed, drew the missing trump and threw in South with a club. On the forced heart return, declarer guessed correctly, perhaps influenced by North's spade nine, putting in his nine to force out North's queen.

At the other table, Hamman opened with a weak two, requiring a stronger suit for a vulnerable three-bid. After Rosenberg doubled and Lall raised to three spades, Zia doubled in the hope that his partner could bid three notrump. But East jumped to five clubs and West continued with five diamonds. Then East, deducing that the double indicated a two-suited hand, bid five hearts, which West had to correct to six diamonds.

North led the spade three. Thinking that North had a six-card spade suit, West deduced that this lead was a suit-preference signal, indicating a club void. Backing his judgment, Zia won with the spade ace and called for a low heart!

When South played low, West put in his nine, knowing that if South had the queen, he would have taken the trick and given his partner a club ruff. North took his heart queen and returned a heart. Declarer won with his jack, ruffed a spade on the board, drew trumps and claimed, his club loser going on dummy's last heart.

Minus 600 and plus 1370 gave 13 IMPs to USA 1.

The same team gained another slam swing on the very next board.

Board 14. Dealer East. None Vul.

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

Open Room

West <i>Rodwell</i>	North <i>Garner</i>	East <i>Meckstroth</i> 1♥	South <i>Weinstein</i> 4♠
Dbf	All Pass		

Closed Room

West <i>Zia</i>	North <i>Hamman</i>	East <i>Rosenberg</i> 1♥	South <i>Lall</i> 4♠
Dbf	Pass	4NT	Pass
5♠	Pass	6♣	All Pass

The swing came from East's decision over his partner's card-showing double.

Meckstroth passed. Against four spades doubled, West led the heart six. East won with his ace, cashed the diamond king, and returned a heart. Declarer ruffed and led his spade queen. West went in with his ace and switched to the club two. Now declarer went down only two, losing one spade, one heart, two diamonds and one club.

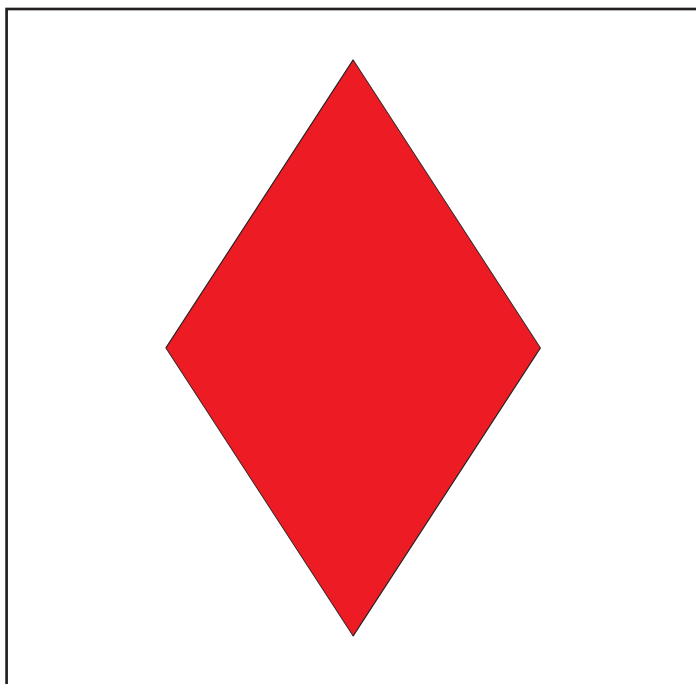
Rosenberg continued with four notrump, showing a two-suiter with a four-card minor. Zia forced to slam, and six clubs was reached.

South led the spade king. Declarer won with his ace, cashed the diamond king, crossed to dummy's club ace, discarded his second spade on the diamond ace, and played a club to his jack. When that held, East led a low heart from his hand to South's king. The play ended shortly thereafter.

Minus 300 and plus 920 gave 12 IMPs to USA 1.

On the penultimate deal, both East-West pairs bid well to seven spades for a flat board. And USA 2 gained an IMP on the final deal when Lall won 12 tricks in three notrump while Weinstein took only 11.

The final score was 54-15, or 24 victory points to 6, to USA 1.



The Expert Play

Chip Martel brought in a play found by Ralph Katz in the round six match of USA I against India.

Both tables played four hearts, Katz defending in the West seat after a strong no-trump and Stayman.

Board 12. Dealer West. N/S Vul

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

West	North	East	South
Pass	Pass	Pass	INT
Pass	2♣	Pass	2♥
Pass	4♥	All Pass	

On a low spade lead one might have thought that the natural line was to win in hand and lead a trump to the queen, guarding against a significant trump singleton with West. It is not so clear who might be short in hearts on the lead of the spade ten. As the cards lie this line would almost certainly have led to success.

Both declarers actually chose to win with the spade ace, lead a heart to the king, and duck a trump on the way back. At one table West won with his jack and exited with the diamond jack, but it did not matter what he did at this point. Declarer could strip off the spades and diamonds, exit with a trump, and claim.

Katz was defending in the other room and threw a spanner in the works for declarer, when he unblocked the heart jack under the king. Now when declarer played a second trump, it let George Jacobs draw two rounds of trumps and exit with a diamond. Declarer was forced to find the jack of clubs to make his game, and it was therefore poetic justice when he misguessed that card and went down.



BERMUDA BOWL Round 7



Egypt

v

Indonesia



A Hard Fight

by Brent Manley

Egypt and Indonesia, two teams struggling to gain ground in the qualifying stages of the Bermuda Bowl, met in round seven on Tuesday. What started out as a rather pedestrian set of deals finished with a flurry of IMPs.

The first significant swing of the match occurred on board 5.

Board 5. Dealer North. N/S Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Sadek	Tobing	El Ahmady	Asbi
5♦	INT	4♦	Dble
All Pass	Pass	Pass	Dble



Taufik Gautama Asbi

INT by Robert Tobing was of the weak variety. Waleed El Ahmady took advantage of the favourable vulnerability to bid the maximum with his eight-card suit. Tarek Sadek was happy to give his partner a boost to further the preempt after Taufik Asbi's value-showing double. Asbi was not tempted to bid on because his partner's hand was limited, so he settled for the plus score. The defenders took four tricks for plus 300.

West	North	East	South
Bojoh	Nadim	George	Heshmat
5♦	1♣	4♦	Dble
All Pass	Dble	Pass	5♠

The situation was not as clear to Tarek Nadim and Mohamed Heshmat of Egypt in basically the same auction. Obviously, Heshmat was disinclined to settle for a relatively small penalty, so he chanced a bid, instead of passing his partner's double. Off two top tricks, Heshmat needed some considerable luck in clubs. It was not forthcoming, so minus 100 was the result. That was 9 IMPs to Indonesia.

Two boards later, Indonesia enjoyed another useful swing.

Board 7. Dealer South. All Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Sadek	Tobing	El Ahmady	Asbi
1♣	Pass	1♥	Pass
1♠	Pass	INT	Pass
2NT	All Pass		

El Ahmady's pass of his partner's game invitation seems very conservative. Asbi led a low diamond, and dummy's 10 held. A club went to the 9 in declarer's hand. That was followed by a diamond to the ace and the ♣Q to North's king. North got out with the ♠10 to dummy's ace. Another club lead put North in again, and he exited with a spade. Declarer ducked the ♠J, claiming nine tricks after South

cash the $\diamond K$. That was plus 150 – not a happy score for Egypt, especially considering what happened at the other table.

West <i>Bojoh</i>	North <i>Nadim</i>	East <i>George</i>	South <i>Heshmat</i>
			Pass
$1\clubsuit$	Pass	$1\heartsuit$	Pass
$1\spadesuit$	Pass	INT	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

Jemmy Bojoh did not leave the decision to partner – he simply blew into game and trusted that Julius George could scramble home with nine tricks.

Heshmat led his fourth-best spade, and the 10 held when declarer played low from dummy. The $\diamond 9$ went to dummy's 10. When George called for a low club from dummy, Nadim played the $\clubsuit K$ and got out with the $\heartsuit 6$, which went to the 10 and king. The $\clubsuit Q$ was won by North's ace, and on the continuation of a heart, declarer rose with the ace and played the $\spadesuit 9$ from hand. South split his honors to prevent the overtrick, but the game was made and Indonesia had extended their lead to 22-3.

The following deal did not help the Egyptian cause.

Board 9. Dealer North. E/W Vul.

	\spadesuit 7 4		
	\heartsuit A Q 10 9 7 5 3		
	\diamond Q J 10		
	\clubsuit 8		
\spadesuit Q 10 6		\spadesuit A J 9 8 5 2	
\heartsuit K 6 4		\heartsuit J 8	
\diamond 8 6		\diamond K 2	
\clubsuit J 10 6 4 3		\clubsuit A K 2	
	\spadesuit K 3		
	\heartsuit 2		
	\diamond A 9 7 5 4 3		
	\clubsuit Q 9 7 5		

West <i>Sadek</i>	North <i>Tobing</i>	East <i>El Ahmady</i>	South <i>Asbi</i>
	$4\heartsuit$	Dble	All Pass

El Ahmady started with the $\clubsuit A$, switching to the $\spadesuit A$ and another spade. Tobin, in dummy with the $\spadesuit K$, made the percentage play in hearts – low to the queen – and when the suit proved to be 3-2 and the diamond finesse on, he was able to claim 10 tricks for plus 590.

West <i>Bojoh</i>	North <i>Nadim</i>	East <i>George</i>	South <i>Heshmat</i>
	$3\diamond$	$3\spadesuit$	Pass
$4\spadesuit$	All Pass		

Nadim's $3\diamond$ was a transfer preempt, showing a long heart suit. That did nothing to improve Bojoh's hand, making his raise to game rashly optimistic. Luckily for George, the Egyptian defense was rather soft, allowing declarer to escape for one down.

Heshmat led his singleton heart, taken by Nadim with the queen. Had he switched to the $\diamond Q$ at trick two, the defenders would have come to six tricks for plus 300 (two hearts, two diamonds and one trick each in the black suits). At trick two, however, Nadim played his singleton club. George rose with the $\clubsuit A$ and played the $\spadesuit A$ and a second spade. In with the $\spadesuit K$, Heshmat had nothing but minors left, so he got out with a low club. George put up the jack, but when Nadim showed out, declarer played the $\clubsuit K$ and exited with a club. There was nothing Heshmat could do after winning the $\clubsuit Q$ but cash the $\diamond A$ for a very unsatisfying – and 10-IMP-losing – plus 100.

Egypt finally broke through near the end of the match. Trailing 37-4, they came up with a surprising 9-IMP gain on board 13.

Board 13. Dealer North. All Vul.

	\spadesuit J 7		
	\heartsuit A Q 9 6 5 4 2		
	\diamond 7		
	\clubsuit J 9 5		
\spadesuit Q 10 5 4 3		\spadesuit A 8 6 2	
\heartsuit —		\heartsuit K 7	
\diamond A Q 9		\diamond K 10 8 5 3	
\clubsuit K 10 8 4 3		\clubsuit A 2	
	\spadesuit K 9		
	\heartsuit J 10 8 3		
	\diamond J 6 4 2		
	\clubsuit Q 7 6		

West <i>Sadek</i>	North <i>Tobing</i>	East <i>El Ahmady</i>	South <i>Asbi</i>
	$3\heartsuit$	Pass	$4\heartsuit$

All Pass

Amazingly, on a deal where 12 tricks in spades are available to East-West, they ended up defending $4\heartsuit$.

El Ahmady started with a low diamond to West's ace. The spade return was taken by East, who exited with a second spade. Tobing played the $\heartsuit J$, rising with the ace when Sadek showed out. Declarer exited with a heart to East, ruffing the return of the $\diamond 10$. He still had two clubs to lose for minus 200.

Considering the missed vulnerable slam, this looked like a very bad result for Egypt.

East-West at the other table came to the rescue, however.

West <i>Bojoh</i>	North <i>Nadim</i>	East <i>George</i>	South <i>Heshmat</i>
	$2\heartsuit$	$3\diamond$	$3\heartsuit$
$4\heartsuit$	$5\heartsuit$	Dble	Pass
$6\diamond$	All Pass		

Heshmat started with the $\heartsuit J$. Declarer had at least one spade loser no matter how the suit lay, so he had to ruff the opening lead. He cashed the $\diamond A$, played a spade to the ace, ruffed the $\heartsuit K$ with dummy's $\diamond Q$, then played a club to

his ace. The $\diamond K$ revealed that there would be no miracle in the trump suit, so he played a spade to South's king. Declarer was soon entering minus 200 on the scorecard.

That was a surprising 9 IMPs to Egypt. Had East-West found the correct strain for slam, it would have been a 15-IMP loss.

Another wild deal brought more IMPs to the Egyptians.

Board 14. Dealer East. None Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Sadek	Tobing	El Ahmady	Asbi
		$1\spadesuit$	$2\spadesuit$
$4\spadesuit$	$5\heartsuit$	All Pass	

Sadek and El Ahmady did well not to contest the auction further, although there is a profitable save at the six level for East-West. El Ahmady started with the $\diamond K$. Declarer discarded the $\spadesuit 10$ from dummy, winning the ace in hand, then pulled the lone trump before playing a club to the ace, no doubt planning to lead up to dummy's queen. When the $\clubsuit K$ fell, declarer claimed 12 tricks.

West	North	East	South
Bojoh	Nadim	George	Heshmat
		$1\diamond$	$3\clubsuit$
$3\diamond$	$4\heartsuit$	$4\spadesuit$	$5\heartsuit$
$5\spadesuit$	$6\heartsuit$	Pass	Pass
Dble	All Pass		

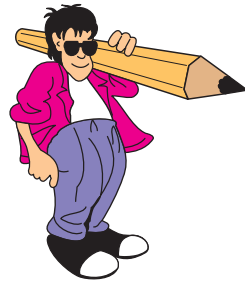
The opening lead was the same, declarer discarding the $\spadesuit 10$ from dummy and winning in hand. After pulling the outstanding trump, declarer played the $\spadesuit K$ from dummy. West won and switched to a low club, trying to give the impression he held the king. Declarer was not taken in however. Assuming no absurd defensive error, there was only one chance to make the contract – a singleton $\clubsuit K$ with East. North played the $\clubsuit A$ and was happily surprised to see the king appear, and he was soon claiming plus 1210 for a 12-IMP gain.

The score was now 39-25.

On the final deal of the match, Egypt picked up another 7 IMPs when the Indonesians went minus 200 in $2\spadesuit$ at one table and minus 100 in $3\clubsuit$ at the other.

The final score was 39-32 for Indonesia.

Championship Diary



An early breakfast gave us time to take a longer than usual look at Monday's Bulletin. Ireland's position at the foot of the Bermuda Bowl table was a big surprise, but then we discovered they had faced USA 1, USA 2 and Netherlands on day 1.

We have an important message for the captains of those teams who are at the wrong end of the table: If your team loses it is your fault; if they win it is in spite of you.

In yesterday's Bulletin Barry Rigal reported a deal from the BB match between USA 1 and USA 2. He has discovered that there are some small inaccuracies in his description of the bidding and the play. Interestingly enough an accurate account appears in the New York Times article – written by our proofreader!

As paid-up members of the impoverished authors society we are always keen to recommend that you read (after buying!) as many books as possible.

One not to be missed is: *Lone Wolff – Autobiography of a Bridge Maverick*, which will be published by Master Point Press in February 2008.



BERMUDA BOWL

Round 6



Italy

v

Norway



Fireworks!

by Mark Horton

You may have been lucky enough to witness some of the fantastic firework displays being staged every night but don't worry too much if you haven't as this match between two of the bridge superpowers provided just as much spectacular entertainment.

The spectators were still settling into their seats when the first deal arrived:

Board 1. Dealer North. None Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Helgemo</i>	<i>Bocchi</i>	<i>Helness</i>	<i>Duboin</i>
	Pass	1♦	Pass
2♣	Pass	2♦	Pass
2♠	Pass	3♣	Pass
3♠	Pass	4♣	Pass
4NT*	Pass	5♥*	Pass
5NT*	Pass	6♠*	Pass
7♣	All Pass		



Lorenzo Lauria

The Norwegians produced a natural auction where East was able to show a real preference for clubs that was enough for West to drive to the excellent grand slam.

North led the three of hearts and declarer won in hand, cashed the ace of clubs, played a diamond to the ace, ruffed a diamond, crossed to the king of spades and ruffed another diamond.

The position in the diamond suit meant there was no need to ruff any spades in dummy, +1440.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Versace</i>	<i>Saelensminde</i>	<i>Lauria</i>	<i>Brogeland</i>
	Pass	1♦	Pass
2♣	Pass	2♦	Pass
3♠	Pass	4♣	Pass
4♦	Pass	4♥	Pass
4♠	Pass	4NT	Pass
5♥	Pass	5♠	Pass
7♣	All Pass		

It was not surprising to see the Italians match their opponents in the bidding and the play was virtually identical, no swing.

Board 2 saw both teams reach a decent slam that was unbeatable and after a brief part score interlude this deal surfaced:

Board 4. Dealer West. All Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Helgemo</i>	<i>Bocchi</i>	<i>Helness</i>	<i>Duboin</i>
Pass	1♠	4NT*	Pass
6♣	Dble	Pass	6♦*
Dble	6♠	Pass	Pass
Dble	All Pass		

I was commentating in the VuGraph theatre and when Helness bid an imaginative 4NT (choose your own adjective) I predicted that Helgemo might take him seriously and bid 6♣.

When he did Bocchi may have wondered if they were all playing with the same deck.

On the obvious trump lead declarer rates to make only eight tricks, a small matter of -1100. However, the bidding is over only when the next three players pass, and when South saw fit to remove the double East/West had escaped in a manner that would have made Houdini proud.

East led the queen of diamonds and declarer ruffed and after deep thought played a heart to the ten. When that held he cashed the ace of hearts, ruffed a diamond, cashed the top hearts, discarding a club and a diamond and played a winning heart, ruffed and overruffed. Now he ruffed the ace of diamonds.

I had projected the play this far on VuGraph and pointed out that if West overruffed with the king of spades declarer would be home.

However, there was a counter and of course Helgemo found it.

He simply discarded a club. He ruffed the next heart, overruffed by declarer, who could do no better than play ace of spades and a spade. West could win and force declarer's last trump with the ace of clubs. That was one down, -200.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Versace</i>	<i>Saelensminde</i>	<i>Lauria</i>	<i>Brogeland</i>
1♠	Pass	1NT	2♥
Pass	4♥	4NT*	Pass
5♣	Dble	All Pass	

East was also willing to venture 4NT at this table. North led a club and declarer won and played a diamond. North took the king and played the nine of diamonds. South ruffed and exited with a trump, +800 and 14 IMPs to Norway.

At more than one table the final contract was 1♠ by West!

The next deal offered the players (and the commentators) no respite:

Board 5. Dealer North. N/S Vul.

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

	N	
W		E
	S	

♠ A J 8
♥ J 10 8 5 2
♦ J 6 4
♣ 5 4

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Helgemo</i>	<i>Bocchi</i>	<i>Helness</i>	<i>Duboin</i>
	Pass	Pass	Pass
1♦	2♦*	3♣	4♥
4NT*	Pass	5♣*	Pass
6♣	All Pass		

When East was able to introduce his club suit at the three level West checked for key cards and then bid the slam, +920.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Versace</i>	<i>Saelensminde</i>	<i>Lauria</i>	<i>Brogeland</i>
	Pass	Pass	Pass
1♦	1♠	2♣	2♠
4NT*	Pass	5♣	All Pass

Although North elected to conceal his heart suit the situation was not very different. However, having received the answer to his enquiry West was unwilling to go on to slam. South led the jack of hearts so declarer was +440, but that cost Italy 10 IMPs.

Board 8. Dealer West. None Vul.

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



Alfredo Versace

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Helgemo	Bocchi	Helness	Duboin
2♦*	Pass	3♥*	Dble
3♠	Pass	Pass	4♥
4♠	Dble	All Pass	

If you are a super-star the normal rules simply don't apply. When, having opened with a Multi, Helgemo went on to 4♠ I was immediately reminded of the legendary Rix Markus, another player who was always happy to keep bidding after preempting.

North led the seven of diamonds and the defence played three rounds of the suit, North ruffing and switching to a club for a fast +500.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Versace	Saelensminde	Lauria	Brogeland
2♠	Pass	Pass	Dble
Pass	2NT	Pass	4♥
All Pass			

Notice that East did not even raise to 3♠. Declarer lost to the major suit aces, +450 and 2 IMPs for Italy.

Board 9. Dealer North. E/W Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Helgemo	Bocchi	Helness	Duboin
	1♠	Pass	2♦*
Pass	2♥*	Pass	3♦
Pass	3♥	Pass	3♠
Pass	4♣	Pass	4♠
Pass	5♣	Pass	5♥
Pass	6♥	All Pass	

2♦ was a transfer to hearts, and 2♥ promised four or more clubs. At the end of the auction the cameraman was able to show both Italians offering an explanation to their respective screen-mates. Unfortunately there was no microphone so we can't be sure of the precise meaning of the

subsequent bids, but it clearly did not impart the fact that there was a fair play for all the tricks, +1010.

How expensive would that prove to be?

Closed Room

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

When the Norwegians fell well short of the target Italy picked up a badly needed 11 IMPs.

Board 10. Dealer East. All Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Helgemo	Bocchi	Helness	Duboin
		3♥	Pass
Pass	Dble	Pass	3NT
All Pass			



Giorgio Duboin

There was some discussion as the best bid on the North cards. You can decide if you prefer a direct 3♠. You might also consider if there is any case for passing the double on the South cards.

West led the queen of clubs and we immediately observed that declarer was unlikely to make a winning guess in spades.

He won in hand and played the jack of diamonds. West took the ace and continued with the jack of clubs. Declarer ducked that, discarding the jack of spades from his hand and won the next club discarding the three of diamonds.

Now came some more serious thinking – declarer could be sure of eleven of East’s cards – seven hearts, three clubs and one diamond – but what were the other two?

For the moment it didn’t matter, as declarer set out to develop a heart trick by playing the king of hearts.

If East wins this he has no good move – a spade is clearly hopeless and if East and South play some ping pong in the heart suit West will be squeezed – but Helness found the only way to set declarer a problem by ducking – earning cheers from the Norwegian supporters.

Declarer came to hand with a spade and played the jack of hearts.

If East wins that he can cash another heart but then the next heart will see West squeezed, so Helness ducked once more.

A great try, but now declarer could simply play a spade to dummy’s ace. When the queen fell he emerged with a couple of overtricks for +660.

A great hand featuring top-class play and defence.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Versace</i>	<i>Saelensminde</i>	<i>Lauria</i>	<i>Brogeland</i>
Pass	3♠	3♥	Pass
Pass	4♠	Pass	4♥*
		All Pass	



Erik Saelensminde

East led the ace of hearts and switched to the six of clubs. Declarer won in dummy perforce and played a diamond to the king. When that held he cross ruffed clubs and hearts and arrived at ten tricks, +620 to lose 1 IMP.

Board 11. Dealer South. None Vul.

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



Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Helgemo</i>	<i>Bocchi</i>	<i>Helness</i>	<i>Duboin</i>
Pass	1♦	Dble	Pass
1♠	Pass	2♠	Pass
4♠	All Pass		

North led the king of diamonds and South followed with the five (an odd card is described as encouraging and high/low would show an odd number). North cashed the ace of diamonds and South played the ten – presumably intended as a suit preference signal for hearts. However, no doubt thinking South had shown a doubleton diamond, North played a third round of the suit. Declarer ruffed, came to hand with a club, played two rounds of spades via the finesse, came back to hand with a club and played a trump. There were two clubs in dummy to take care of the losing hearts, +420.

For my money South should play the ten on the first round of diamonds and then the seven, trusting that North will then switch to a heart, which is enough to defeat the contract.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Versace</i>	<i>Saelensminde</i>	<i>Lauria</i>	<i>Brogeland</i>
Pass	1♦	Dble	Pass
1♠	Pass	INT	All Pass

South led his partner’s suit and North cashed five diamond tricks before switching to a heart. Declarer was down to AQ in both majors, so he only needed one major-suit finesse to work. It was the spade suit that delivered the seventh trick, +90 but 8 IMPs to Norway.

Board 12. Dealer West. N/S Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Helgemo</i>	<i>Bocchi</i>	<i>Helness</i>	<i>Duboin</i>
Pass	Pass	Pass	INT
Pass	2♣*	Pass	2♥
Pass	4♥	All Pass	

In the delicate 4-4 fit declarer won the opening lead of the jack of diamonds in hand and played a heart to the queen and ace. East returned the two of diamonds for the nine, ten and queen, and declarer played a heart to the king.

Declarer did not want to play a diamond and see someone ruff and exit with a spade so he rejected any idea of a total elimination and cashed two rounds of spades before cashing the king of diamonds. He exited with a heart and East won and played back a diamond. When declarer got the club right, playing West for the jack, he was +620.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Versace</i>	<i>Saelensminde</i>	<i>Lauria</i>	<i>Brogeland</i>
Pass	Pass	Pass	INT
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

West led the four of spades and declarer went up with dummy's ace and played a club. Do you blame East for going in with the ace and playing back the queen of spades?

Now declarer had enough minor suit tricks to arrive at the required number, +600.



Would South have got the suit right if East had played low?

We will never know.

Board 13. Dealer North. All Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Helgemo</i>	<i>Bocchi</i>	<i>Helness</i>	<i>Duboin</i>
Pass	Pass	1♣	1♥
2♥*	Pass	3♥*	Pass
3♠	Pass	4♣	Pass
5♣	All Pass		

When East/West established that they did not have a heart stop (little did they know) they pressed on to 5♣. That was quickly one down, -100.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Versace</i>	<i>Saelensminde</i>	<i>Lauria</i>	<i>Brogeland</i>
Pass	2♦*	3♣	3♠*
3NT	All Pass		

West's practical decision paid a huge dividend. North led the jack of hearts and South overtook it, cashed a second heart and switched to the jack of spades. Declarer claimed ten tricks, +630 and 12 IMPs that brought Italy to within a whisker of equality.

Board 14. Dealer East. None Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Helgemo	Bocchi	Helness 2♦*	Duboin Pass
4♥*	Dble	All Pass	

The Multi was getting a good outing in this match (I thought I would mention that as I am currently writing a book about it).

When North doubled (was 4NT a better shot?) South passed without a care in the world.

Declarer ruffed the club lead and after some thought played the king of spades. North won and tried a diamond. Declarer won with dummy's king of diamonds, ruffed a club and ruffed a spade.

A third club ruff was followed by a spade ruffed with the jack of hearts. Now declarer came to hand with a trump, cashed the ace of diamonds and played a spade to get rid of dummy's last diamond, the overtrick delivering +690.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Versace	Saelensminde	Lauria 2♥	Brogeland Pass
4♥	Dble	All Pass	

South led the jack of diamonds and declarer won in hand and played a spade to the jack and queen. He won the diamond return in dummy, ruffed a spade, ruffed a club and exited with a diamond. North won and played a club. Declarer ruffed in dummy and ruffed a spade with the jack of hearts. South, who had discarded a spade on the third round of diamonds, was now sure of a trump trick, but declarer had the rest, +590 for 3 IMPs to Norway.



Tor Helness

If the players were as exhausted as the commentators they were given no chance to relax by the penultimate deal:

Board 15. Dealer South. N/S Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Helgemo	Bocchi	Helness	Duboin
Pass	2♣*	4♣	1♥
5♣	5♦*	Pass	Pass
Pass	6♥	Pass	6♦
7♣	Pass	Pass	Pass
All Pass			Dble

For those of you who are interested in the Italian's methods the response of 2♣ asks for strength and distribution and if opener shows a maximum hand it becomes game forcing.

Normally 2♣ is bid with these type of hands:

5+♣ 11+ HCP

Balanced hand with or w/o a fit, 12+HCP

Limit 3 card raise in partner's suit

Strong hand with fit in this case they can have longer ♦ or ♥ not very good suit.

East's vigorous preemption and West's raise left North/South short of room and they were soon in the doomed slam (should/could East have doubled 5♦?).

However, as I predicted, West took out insurance and saved – four down, -800.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Versace	Saelensminde	Lauria	Brogeland
Pass	2NT*	4♣	1♥
7♣	Dble	All Pass	Dble

West stood not upon the order of his going but went at once.

Norway had preserved their record as the only undefeated team in the BB, winning 38-34 IMPs, 16-14 VP.

I leave you to judge for yourselves – was that the match of the tournament so far?

VENICE CUP

Round 7



England

v

USA 2



by Brian Senior

Going into the third day's play, both England and USA 2 were going strong near the top of the Venice Cup qualifying rankings and would be looking to consolidate their positions.

The session proved to be a relatively quiet affair with few significant swings, though this was not always the case in other matches.

Board 5. Dealer North. N/S Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Quinn	Brunner	Picus	Goldenfield
	INT	4♦	Dble
All Pass			

West	North	East	South
Dhondy	Bjerkan	Smith	Sanborn
	1♣	4♦	Dble
Pass	4♠	All Pass	

Cheri Bjerkan opened 1♣, potentially a three-card suit, and Kerri Sanborn made a negative double of Nicola Smith's pre-emptive overcall. Now I can sympathise with Heather Dhondy's not raising to 5♦ immediately, as once in a while opener will have a weak no trump with no four-card major and be about to pass 4♦ doubled, but when 4♣ came around she should surely have saved at this vulnerability.

Smith took the 1♣ opening sufficiently seriously that she led her doubleton heart rather than the singleton club, and that went to declarer's ace. Bjerkan led a spade to the king and ace. Dhondy played the king of diamonds which Smith overtook to lead her remaining heart as it was possible that Dhondy had the queen-ten. It didn't matter, of course. Bjerkan won, drew trumps and eventually conceded a club; +620.

At the other table, Michelle Brunner opened a weak no trump and that too attracted a 4♦ overcall. Goldenfield

doubled that and Brunner passed it out. I don't know whether the double was penalty or take-out. In my opinion, if it was penalty then 4♠ might have been a better choice; if take-out, then it should have been taken out (with which the late Edgar Kaplan would no doubt have heartily agreed).

The penalty was, of course, totally inadequate compensation for the cold vulnerable game. Rhona Goldenfield led the six of spades. Sue Picus won with dummy's ace, Brunner playing an encouraging ten. With the queen of clubs. Brunner took the ace, cashed the ace of hearts and queen of spades, then played a second heart; down one for -100 but 11 IMPs to USA2.

Board 9. Dealer North. E/W Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Quinn	Brunner	Picus	Goldenfield
	1♥	1♠	2♦
2♠	All Pass		

West	North	East	South
Dhondy	Bjerkan	Smith	Sanborn
	3♥	3♠	All Pass

Bjerkan opened 3♥ and Smith made the obvious 3♠ overcall, ending the auction. Sanborn led her heart, won by the queen. Bjerkan switched to her singleton club. Smith rose with the ace and played ace and another spade to the king. Sanborn was endplayed and exited with a low club to dummy's ten. Smith cashed the king of clubs, then played the king of diamonds to the ace, Bjerkan dropping the queen. A diamond to the ten now allowed Bjerkan to cash the ace of hearts, the setting trick; -100.

Brunner decided that she was too good for a favourable vulnerability 3♥ opening, so tried 1♥ instead. Fair enough, but maybe when partner bids 2♦ it is necessary to rebid 3♥ despite the low point-count, because the hand has been improved by the diamond bid? The play in 2♠ began as we

have already seen but, after winning the second club in dummy, Picus tried the ♠6 off the table. Brunner went in with the ace and led a diamond through; eight tricks for +110 and 5 IMPs to USA2.

Board 13. Dealer North. All Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Quinn	Brunner	Picus	Goldenfield
	3♥	Dble	Pass
4♥	Pass	4♠	Pass
5♥	Pass	6♦	Pass
6♠	All Pass		

West	North	East	South
Dhondy	Bjerkkan	Smith	Sanborn
	3♥	Dble	4♥
5♠	Pass	6♠	All Pass

Both East/West pairs did well to reach the excellent spade slam after North's heart pre-empt for a flat board at +1430. At the risk of becoming permanently persona non grata with the English ladies, however, I do not understand Goldenfield's pass over 3♥ doubled. That allowed Shawn Quinn to follow a nice auction with the West cards, while the simple and, to me, automatic raise to 4♥ made life much more difficult for Dhondy, and Smith did well to go on to 6♠ with her close to minimum double. In my experience, telling good opposition that you have a fit for partner does not help them nearly so much as leaving them extra bidding space.

With three deals to play USA 2 had held their opponents to just 5 IMPs, and led by 21-5, but now came a big swing to the English.



Board 14. Dealer East. None Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Quinn	Brunner	Picus	Goldenfield
		1♦	1♥
Dble	4♥	4♠	5♥
Pass	Pass	5♠	Pass
Pass	6♥	Pass	Pass
Dble	All Pass		

West	North	East	South
Dhondy	Bjerkkan	Smith	Sanborn
		1♦	1♥
1♠	2♠	4♥	5♦
Pass	5♥	All Pass	

Dhondy could bid a four-card spade suit so did so, and now Bjerkkan's 2♠ cuebid allowed Smith to show her heart shortage and spade support. Sanborn in turn cuebid 5♦, but neither of these actions did much to excite their respective partners and the bidding died in 5♥.

Quinn had to start with a double on the West hand and Brunner simply leaped to 4♥ to put pressure on her opponents. When Picus could bid 4♠, Goldenfield went on to 5♥ because of her substantial extra playing strength, and Brunner guessed that her two aces plus great trump length would be what was required for slam.

Of course, slam is a very lucky make, needing the club king to fall, but we are allowed to get lucky once in a while. It was +480 to Sanborn but +1210 to Goldenfield, and that meant 12 IMPs to England.

A smaller swing to each team on the last two deals saw USA 2 take a narrow win by 26-19 IMPs, 16-14 VPs.

Incidentally, you might think that anyone who reached 6♥ on that last deal got lucky, but it is not impossible to go down in 6♥. Firstly, what would you consider to be your best shot should West choose to lead the jack of clubs against the slam? Might you think of running it? And then we heard of one former world champion, who shall remain anonymous (as long as the cheques keep arriving), who received the lead of ace and another spade. He thought that his best chance to make the contract was what is known in England as a Chinese finesse – leading the queen of clubs in the hope that West would not cover. Ouch!