



DAILY BULLETIN

WORLD BRIDGE TEAM CHAMPIONSHIPS

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Issue No. 13

Friday, 12 October 2007

A LONG DAY'S JOURNEY



The Tournament Directors Team including the three Chinese Directors: Yunjian Tang, Cao Zhihua and He Jiangno

The fortnight is coming to a close as six teams in search of gold try to summon new sources of energy and concentration to complete their respective marathons. Each of the three major championships features close matches to this point.

The Venice Cup and Senior Bowl will conclude today, but in the Bermuda Bowl, USA 1 and Norway will continue their fight with 32 more boards on Saturday. After 48 of their 128 deals, the Norwegians hold the lead 117-108.5.

In the Venice Cup, USA 1 and Germany are halfway through, and the Americans are ahead 98-66.6.

USA 2 in the Senior Bowl are up 98-82 over Indonesia starting play today.

Two bronze medals were awarded on Thursday as the Netherlands defeated South Africa 141-86.3 in the Bermuda Bowl playoff, and USA 1 defeated Brazil 109-107 in a tight Senior Bowl match. The Americans had a 12-IMP carryover in that match.

The playoff for the bronze medal in the Venice Cup is scheduled for today.



VUGRAPH MATCHES



Final & Play-Off Session 4 (11.00-13.20)

VG:	Table 1	USA 1 - Norway (Final)	(BB)
BBO 1:	Table 21	USA 1 - Germany (Final)	(VC)
BBO 2:	Table 41	USA 2 - Indonesia (Final)	(SB)
OurGame:	Table 22	France - China Global Times (Play-Off Session 1)	(VC)

Final & Play-Off Session 5 (14.20-16.40)

To Be Decided

Final & Play-Off Session 6 (17.10-19.30)

To Be Decided

In the World Transnational Open Teams, quarterfinal play got under way Thursday afternoon with the top qualifier – Team Russia – playing Zuomeicheng. Other WTOT quarter-final matchups were Markowicz – Germany Open, Jackson – Zimmerman and Burgay – Gordon. The Gordon team tied with Indonesia Open for the eighth qualifying spot, but advanced on IMP quotient.

Team Russia is Adam Zmudzinski and Cezary Balicki of Poland and Russians Andrei Gromov, Victoria Gromova, Alexander Dubinin and Tatiana Ponomareva.

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SF6: USA 1 v South Africa (BB)	
& France v Germany (VC)	12
VC: USA 1 v Germany - Final Session 1	18





RESULTS



Bermuda Bowl

Final

	Carry-Over	Boards	Boards	Boards	Boards	Boards	Boards	Boards	Boards	Total
		1 - 16	17 - 32	33 - 48	49 - 64	65 - 80	81 - 96	97 - 112	113 - 128	
I USA I	Norway	16.5 - 0	10 - 36	62 - 45	20 - 36	-	-	-	-	108.5 - 117

Play-Off

	Carry-Over	Boards	Boards	Boards	Total	
		1 - 16	17 - 32	33 - 64		
I South Africa	Netherlands	2.3 - 0	35 - 51	17 - 63	32 - 27	86.3 - 141

Venice Cup

Final

	Carry-Over	Boards	Boards	Boards	Boards	Boards	Boards	Total
		1 - 16	17 - 32	33 - 48	49 - 64	65 - 80	81 - 96	
I USA I	Germany	0 - 7.6	26 - 42	43 - 5	29 - 12	-	-	98 - 66.6

Senior Bowl

Final

	Carry-Over	Boards	Boards	Boards	Boards	Boards	Boards	Total
		1 - 16	17 - 32	33 - 48	49 - 64	65 - 80	81 - 96	
I Indonesia	USA 2	0 - 1	40 - 42	29 - 31	13 - 24	-	-	82 - 98

Play-Off

	Carry-Over	Boards	Boards	Boards	Total	
I USA I	Brazil	12 - 0	36 - 29	28 - 46	33 - 32	109 - 107



TODAY'S PROGRAM

11.00, 14.20, 17.10



Bermuda Bowl

Final Sessions 4-6

Home	Visiting
I USA I	Norway

Senior Bowl

Final Sessions 4-6

Home	Visiting
41 Indonesia	USA 2

Venice Cup

Final Sessions 4-6

Home	Visiting
21 Germany	USA I

Play-Off Sessions 1-3

Home	Visiting
22 France	China Gl.T.

Transnational Open Teams

Semi-Final Sessions 1-2

TBA (11.00, 14.20)

Final Session 1

TBA (17.10)



RESULTS

Transnational Open Teams



Swiss Final Ranking after 15 Rounds

Rank	Teams	VPs			
1	RUSSIA	291.0			
2	MARKOWICZ	272.3			
3	JACKSON	272.0	74	PALERMO	223.0
4	BURGAY	267.0	75	PEAKE	222.0
5	ZIMMERMANN	265.0		JIANPING CONSTRUCTION	222.0
6	ZUOMEICHENG	263.0		PEKING UNIVERSITY	222.0
7	GERMANY OPEN	260.3		YANAGISAWA	222.0
8	GORDON	258.0	79	SHANGHAI THINK CLUB	221.0
	INDONESIA OPEN	258.0		THAILAND/RBSC	221.0
10	CHINA SMEG	257.0	81	PETRA	220.0
11	ZALESKI	255.0		TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO	220.0
12	LAVAZZA	252.0	83	MANT	219.0
	SEAMON-MOLSON	252.0		SHANGHAI EPC	219.0
14	CHINA LIGHT INDUSTRY	251.0	85	LIAONING	218.0
	LANP PECH	251.0		SHANGHAI OCEAN	218.0
	SII-06 STAR	251.0		SHANGHAI YOUTH 1	218.0
17	HUBEI DONGFENG	250.0	88	CHINA KINGDOM	217.5
18	MAHAFFEY	249.0	89	AUKEN	217.0
	ZHEJIANG ZHENGYUAN	249.0		HUBEI YICHANG	217.0
20	POPOVA	248.0		GERMANY JUNIORS	217.0
	GUANGDONG	248.0	92	CSO	215.0
	GABSI	248.0		LEONINA	215.0
23	TEXAN ACES	247.0		SHAN FENG	215.0
24	ZHEJIANG JINGFAN	246.0	95	ANHUI	214.0
	AUTO-HIT WARSZAWA	246.0		BEIJING MANGUANFENGYUN	214.0
26	HOFFMAN	245.0		EGAN	214.0
27	VENTIN	244.0	98	WONDERS INFO	213.0
	YANG JING	244.0	99	GILL	211.0
	GRANT	244.0		SHNT CLUB	211.0
30	CHATEAU ROSSENOVO	243.0		INDIA RED	211.0
31	DENNOR	242.0	102	BEIJING-HONGKONG	210.0
	HUSSEIN-CHAGAS	242.0		BLUEMAROON	210.0
	PUDONG LUOGEBEIER	242.0	105	STERN	209.0
	SOLOMON	242.0		TONGJI UNIVERSITY	209.0
35	HENAN FENGSHEN	241.0		CHEN	209.0
	MOSCOW	241.0	109	HUATIE HAIXING	208.0
37	ZHANG	239.0	110	FIREWORKS	207.0
38	JIANGSU	237.0	111	NAKAMURA	206.0
	SHANGHAI JIAHENG	237.0		O'ROURKE	206.0
	ZHEJIANG HUAMEN	237.0	113	HUBEIXINYI CLUB	205.0
41	ROSSARSKI	236.0		SHANGHAI GOODWAY	205.0
	SHANXI	236.0		TIANJIN	205.0
43	HINGE	235.0	116	WELLWISE	204.0
	TAICANG BA	235.0		HEILONGJIANG YAXUAN	204.0
	YUNNAN DIKUANG	235.0	118	BEIJING ZHU YE	203.0
	DJARUM BLACK	235.0	119	JIEFANG-HEJI CLUB	201.0
47	XINYUANKONGGU	234.0		SHANGHAI YOUTH 3	201.0
48	PUDONGPUFA CLUB	233.0		LIANHUA	200.0
	RIGHT CALL	233.0	121	TRIJET	200.0
	GERMANY SENIORS II	233.0		YANG XI MENG	200.0
	HERBST	233.0	124	CHITLANGIA	198.0
52	BEIJING BEI DI KE	232.0		SCTT	198.0
	GROSS	232.0	126	XIAMEN	195.0
	NADAR	232.0	127	NINGBOYONGGUAN	194.0
	POLISH SENIORS	232.0		NANIWADA	194.0
56	COMPTON	230.0	130	TIANJIN UNION	193.0
	DELANEY	230.0		THAILAND/CBLT	193.0
	HAI LV TEAM	230.0	132	HAPPY BRIDGE	191.0
	HESEN FUND	230.0	133	WEIYU JUNIOR MIDDLE SCHOOL	190.0
	INDONESIA LADIES	230.0	134	FAIRY TALE	189.0
61	SWE-DANES	229.0		XINJIANG	189.0
	SHANGHAI KEJU	229.0	136	KOREA-CHINA	188.0
	SHENZHEN QIAOYOU CLUB	229.0		SECOND CHANCE	188.0
	CHINESE TAIPEI LADIES	229.0	138	SHANGHAI YOUTH 5	186.0
65	GERMANY SENIORS I	228.0	139	SHANGHAI YOUTH 2	182.0
66	CHINA LIUPANSHUI	227.0	140	ANDREW	180.0
	DUTCH LADIES	227.0	141	SH PANYU MIDDLE SCHOOL	179.0
	TSEP	227.0	142	QING HAI	178.0
69	SHANGHAI SHENGTAOSHA	225.0	146	SHANGHAI YOUTH 4	161.0
	SVER	225.0			

Correction



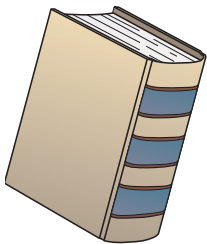
The front-page account of the France–Germany match in the Venice Cup that appeared in the Thursday Daily Bulletin incorrectly stated that Germany had earned a 14-IMP swing on a deal in the last set by bidding 6♦. It was the French team that bid the slam and got the swing.

Homeward Bound



If you are staying at one of the designated hotels, you can get a shuttle to the airport on Sunday 14 October. You must register at the hospitality desk no later than 12.00 noon on Friday 12 October.

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.

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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.

Online Women's Bridge Festival

The World Bridge Federation and Bridge Base Online present the Women's Bridge Festival Pairs and Individual Championships in April 2008.

Make new online friends and enjoy a new and exciting bridge competition in a warm and inviting atmosphere!

Full details of this great event will be on the WBF web site at www.worldbridge.org at the end of November, so log on to find out all about it.

A Political Triumph

by Phillip Alder

Earlier this week a 32-board match was played between politicians and bridge executives. One team contained Ding Guan'gen and Lee Jing, members of the Chinese Politburo, Jos, Damiani and his son-in-law, Don-George; the other Joan Gerard, Jeff Polisner, Patrick Choy and John Wignall.

This deal was defended perfectly by Ding Guan'gen and Polisner.

Dealer North. Both Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Polisner	Simeoni	Gerard	Damiani
	1♣	Pass	1♥
Pass	2♣	Pass	4♥
All Pass			

At one table, Choy (South) responded 1♥ to his partner's opening bid of 1♣, then cautiously rebid 3♥ after Wignall rebid 2♣. At the other table, Damiani considered the vulnerability and took a shot at game.

Both Wests led the spade six, declarer taking East's ten with his king and returning the singleton diamond king.

Each West, after winning with the ace, smartly cashed the club ace and played another club. Not that it mattered, but the declarers put up dummy's king, only to see East ruff. Back went a heart to West's ace, and he cashed the club queen to defeat the contract.

The match was won by the team of Guan'gen, Jing, Damiani and Simeoni.

BERMUDA BOWL Semi-Finals 2

Norway v Netherlands and USA 1 v South Africa

by Brian Senior

The first set of the Bermuda Bowl semi-finals saw Norway extend its 9-IMP carry-over advantage against Netherlands to 14, winning the set by 43-38, while USA1 took the first set against South Africa by 40-16, to take a 40-25 overall lead. There was plenty of action in the second set, though the swing on its first deal was somewhat random.

clarer in 4♥. When Glen Holman, South for South Africa, led a club, it was heavy favourite to be a singleton so, when Steve Garner won in dummy and led a heart, Tim Cope hopped up with the ace to give his partner a ruff, leading the ♣10 to ensure a spade switch; down one and 10 IMPs to South Africa.

Board 17. Dealer North. None Vul.

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

Board 18. Dealer East. N/S Vul.

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

All four East/West pairs reached a contract of 4♥. Perhaps 3NT is a little better, and indeed, this was reached by France in the Venice Cup to gain a game swing, but 4♥ is the contract that most pairs would reach, I think.

At three tables, West was declarer and North led a diamond twice and a club once. After a diamond lead, the contract was secure, of course, but also the North player who led a club did not appreciate how good his choice of opening lead had been and, when declarer won with the ♣9 and led a low heart, he ducked, so there was no ruff for South. Norway picked up an overtrick IMP in that match.

For USA1, Garner/Weinstein play transfer responses to their 1♣ opening and this had the effect of making East de-

Norway v Netherlands

West	North	East	South
<i>Brogeland</i>	<i>Drijver</i>	<i>Saelensminde</i>	<i>Brink</i>
		Pass	Pass
INT	Pass	2♣	Pass
2♦	Pass	2NT	Pass
3NT	All Pass		
West	North	East	South
<i>Wijs</i>	<i>Helness</i>	<i>Muller</i>	<i>Helgemo</i>
		Pass	Pass
1♣	Pass	1♦	1♥
INT	2♥	Dble	Pass
3♣	Pass	3♠	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

Boye Brogeland opened INT and Erik Saelensminde invited game via Stayman, Brogeland accepting with his 17-count. Bas Drijver led the ten of diamonds. Brogeland played low from dummy and won with the king. He led a low club to the king then a spade to the jack, losing to the queen. Drijver switched to the ten of hearts to Sjoert Brink's king, ducked. Brogeland won the next heart, cashed the spades and prayed for a lucky diamond lay-out. When the ♦Q fell under the ace, he finessed the eight and had nine tricks for +400.

Simon de Wijs opened 1♣, then showed his strong no trump type by rebidding INT. Bauke Muller drove to game via a cuebid and de Wijs eventually settled for 3NT. Here the lead was the ♥7 to the king. De Wijs ducked until the



Erik Saelensminde, Norway

third round of hearts, but now needed a lot of good fortune if he was to bring home his contract. He cashed the top diamonds, getting the good news that he had a third trick in that suit, then played a club to the king. When that scored, he needed only to pick up the spades for four tricks but, knowing that the ♣A was with North, it seemed likely that Geir Helgemo would hold the ♠Q for his overcall. De Wijs ran the ten of spades to the queen and was one down for -50 and 10 IMPs to Norway.

USAI v South Africa

West	North	East	South
<i>Eber</i>	<i>Rosenberg</i>	<i>Bosenberg</i>	<i>Zia</i>
		Pass	Pass
INT	All Pass		

West	North	East	South
<i>Weinstein</i>	<i>Cope</i>	<i>Garner</i>	<i>Holman</i>
		Pass	Pass
1♣	Pass	1♥	Dble
Rdbl	Pass	2♥	Pass
2♠	Pass	3♦	Pass
3♥	Dble	Pass	Pass
Rdbl	Pass	3♠	Pass
4♠	All Pass		

For South Africa, Neville Eber opened INT and was left to play there. He received the ten of diamonds lead and, after playing low and getting the spade right, had ten tricks for +180.

Howard Weinstein opened 1♣ and Steve Garner bid 1♥ to show four or more spades. After a long and complex auction, during which the Americans were warned off 3NT as their opponents had both shown interest in hearts, Weinstein became declarer in 4♠.

Cope led the seven of hearts to Holman's jack, ducked. Holman switched to the seven of clubs for the eight, ten and king, and Weinstein cashed the top diamonds, getting the good news, then played spades successfully. However, he had only nine tricks, and had to settle for down one; -50 and 6 IMPs to South Africa.

Board 19. Dealer South. E/W Vul.

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

Norway v Netherlands

West	North	East	South
<i>Brogeland</i>	<i>Drijver</i>	<i>Saelensminde</i>	<i>Brink</i>
			2♣
			Pass
Dble	3♦	4♦	
6♣	All Pass		

West	North	East	South
<i>Wijs</i>	<i>Helness</i>	<i>Muller</i>	<i>Helgemo</i>
			Pass
1♣	Pass	1♥	2♦
3♣	Pass	3♠	Pass
4♦	Pass	4♥	Pass
4NT	Pass	5♣	Pass
6NT	All Pass		

Brink opened 2♣, either strong and artificial or, as here, weak with diamonds. Brogeland doubled then, when Saelensminde cuebid to ask for a major, leapt to 6♣, ending the auction. After a diamond lead, Brogeland had 13 tricks for +1390.

Helgemo did not have the option to open the South hand, so the Dutch East/West had an easier time of it - South's 2♦ overcall had little effect on the auction. They bid smoothly to 6NT and made all 13 tricks on a heart lead; +1470 and 2 IMPs to Netherlands.

USAI v South Africa

West	North	East	South
<i>Eber</i>	<i>Rosenberg</i>	<i>Bosenberg</i>	<i>Zia</i>
			3♦
			Pass
Dble	4♦	5♦	Pass
6♦	Pass	6♠	Pass
7NT	Dble	All Pass	

West	North	East	South
<i>Weinstein</i>	<i>Cope</i>	<i>Garner</i>	<i>Holman</i>
			2♦
			Pass
Dble	3♦	4♦	Pass
4NT	Pass	5♠	Pass
7♣	Pass	7♥	All Pass

Zia opened 3♦ and Michael Rosenberg raised to 4♦ after Eber's double. This caused Eber/Bosenberg no end of problems and, after an exchange of cuebids, Eber finally jumped to 7NT. Rosenberg felt reasonably confident that he could beat that, so he doubled and cashed the ace of hearts; down one for -200.

Holman opened a weak 2♦ and Cope raised to 3♦. The Americans had an extra level of bidding to explore the best contract but something went horribly wrong. Cope wisely did not double 7♥ as his partner would have been on lead to a 7♠ run-out and a heart lead was by no means assured. Holman led his singleton. Garner won with the ten of clubs to play a heart to the jack and ace. Cope gave his partner a club ruff, but Garner won the return and ran the nine of hearts to hold his loss to two down; -200 and 'just another dull push.'

Board 21. Dealer North. N/S Vul.

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

Norway v Netherlands

West	North	East	South
<i>Brogland</i>	<i>Drijver</i>	<i>Saelensminde</i>	<i>Brink</i>
	Pass	2♣	Pass
2♦	Pass	3♣	Pass
3♦	Pass	3♠	Pass
4♥	Pass	6♠	Pass
7♠	All Pass		

West	North	East	South
<i>Wijs</i>	<i>Helness</i>	<i>Muller</i>	<i>Helgemo</i>
	Pass	1♣	Pass
1♥	Pass	1♠	Pass
2♥	Pass	2♠	Pass
3♦	Pass	3♥	Pass
3NT	Pass	6♠	All Pass

Saelensminde opened with a strong and artificial 2♣, then showed his clubs. Three diamonds was asking rather than showing, and 3♠ showed the four-card spade suit. Now, 4♦ would perhaps have been natural, leaving 4♥ as the only bid available as a general spade slam try (3♥ over 3♣ would have been natural). When Saelensminde jumped to 6♠, Brogland trusted him to have strong trumps and excellent controls – still, 7♠ was a brave bid.

Brink led a trump to declarer's ten. Saelensminde played ace then ruffed a club low and cashed the diamonds. The combination of four-one spades and four-two clubs was too much to overcome. The contract was three down for -150.

Muller opened 1♣, 16+, and the 1♥ response showed 9+ with four or more spades. If you would like a translation of the remainder of the auction, I'm afraid you will have to ask a Dutchman or, much better, wait until the World Championship book comes out next March. Anyway, it ended with a majestic leap to 6♠ by Muller.

Helgemo led the six of hearts to the king and ace. Muller played ace, ruffed a club, cashed three top diamonds, throwing two hearts and a club, then led a low spade to hand. He ruffed a club with the eight, ruffed a heart, and ruffed another club with the jack. That gave seven trump

tricks and five top winners in the side-suits; +980 and 14 IMPs to Netherlands.

USAI v South Africa

West	North	East	South
<i>Eber</i>	<i>Rosenberg</i>	<i>Bosenberg</i>	<i>Zia</i>
	Pass	1♣	Pass
1♦	Pass	2♠	Pass
3♠	Pass	4♣	Pass
4♦	Pass	4NT	Pass
5♣	Pass	5NT	Pass
7♠	All Pass		

West	North	East	South
<i>Weinstein</i>	<i>Cope</i>	<i>Garner</i>	<i>Holman</i>
	Pass	1♣	Pass
1♥	Pass	4♦	Pass
4♠	Pass	5♥	Pass
6♠	Pass	Pass	Dble
All Pass			

For the second time in three deals, Eber/Bosenberg bid to a grand slam. This time, the contract had play – until the poor breaks become apparent. Eber received a heart lead and drifted two down for -100.

Garner opened 1♣ and heard Weinstein respond 1♥ to show spades. He splintered, then went on over the sign-off, and Weinstein closed proceedings with a jump to 6♠. Holman doubled, suspecting that his club holding might make the play difficult.

Cope led a club. Weinstein won with the ace, ruffed a club low, cashed the diamonds, played a heart to the ace, and took a second low ruff, but was over-ruffed. For a moment, it may have seemed that Weinstein had messed up the play, but the over-ruff had given him trump control and he could afford to win the heart return, ruff the fourth club high and return to hand with a ruff to draw trumps and cash the clubs; +1210 and 16 IMPs to USAI.

The action slowed for a while. After 11 boards the set scores were 22-18 to Norway and 27-22 to South Africa.

Board 28. Dealer West. N/S Vul.

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

Norway v Netherlands

West	North	East	South
<i>Brogeland</i>	<i>Drijver</i>	<i>Saelensminde</i>	<i>Brink</i>
1♦	Pass	1♥	3♠
4♠	5♣	5♥	5♠
Pass	Pass	6♥	Dble
All Pass			

West	North	East	South
<i>Wijs</i>	<i>Helness</i>	<i>Muller</i>	<i>Helgemo</i>
1♦	Pass	1♥	1♠
2♠	3♠	4♣	4♠
Dble	Pass	5♥	All Pass

Helgemo overcalled 1♠ and, when Helness could raise pre-emptively to 3♠ over de Wijs's strong heart raise, went on to 4♠. De Wijs doubled that, but Muller removed to 5♥, ending the auction. Four spades would have gone one down courtesy of the diamond ruff. Helgemo cashed a top spade, then switched to the king of clubs; down one for -50.

Brink overcalled 3♠, adding extra momentum to the auction. Brogeland felt that he was too strong to bid only 4♥, so cuebid 4♠, and Drijver bid 5♣ for the lead on the way to 5♠. Saelensminde signed-off in 5♥ but, when Brogeland made a forcing pass over 5♠, went on to 6♥, perhaps being unclear which side was saving. Brink assured him that he was the saver and 6♥ doubled was a quick two down after Brink had led the ♦K, ♠A and a second club; -300 and 6 IMPs to Netherlands.

USA1 v South Africa

West	North	East	South
<i>Eber</i>	<i>Rosenberg</i>	<i>Bosenberg</i>	<i>Zia</i>
1♦	Pass	Pass	Dble
1♥	1♠	4♥	4♠
5♥	All Pass		



Glen Holman, South Africa

West	North	East	South
<i>Weinstein</i>	<i>Cope</i>	<i>Garner</i>	<i>Holman</i>
1♦	Pass	1♥	Dble
4♦	Pass	4♥	4♠
Pass	Pass	5♥	Pass
Pass	5♠	All Pass	

Chris Bosenberg made the slightly surprising decision to pass his partner's 1♦ opening but, when Eber introduced hearts over Zia's double, jumped to 4♥. That convinced Eber to go on to 5♥ over 4♠, ending the auction. Rosenberg led a spade, won by Zia who switched to clubs; down one for -50.

Garner responded 1♥ and Weinstein rebid 4♦, hearts and diamonds. Holman, who had doubled 1♥, now introduced his spades and, when Garner took the push to 5♥, it was natural for Cope in turn to go on to 5♠, ending the auction. Weinstein led the king of diamonds and continued the suit for down two; -200 and 6 IMPs to USA1.

Board 29. Dealer North. All Vul.

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

Norway v Netherlands

West	North	East	South
<i>Brogeland</i>	<i>Drijver</i>	<i>Saelensminde</i>	<i>Brink</i>
	Pass	1♦	1♥
Dble	Pass	2♦	Pass
6♦	All Pass		

West	North	East	South
<i>Wijs</i>	<i>Helness</i>	<i>Muller</i>	<i>Helgemo</i>
	Pass	1♦	1♠
2♣	Pass	2♦	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

Saelensminde opened 1♦ and Brink overcalled 1♥ to show spades. Brogeland doubled to show hearts and, when Saelensminde rebid his diamonds, leapt majestically to the diamond slam. Saelensminde won the spade lead, throwing a club, and played ace of diamonds then a diamond to the jack. He lost to the ♦Q, but had the rest for +1370.

Helgemo made a natural 1♠ overcall and de Wijs bid 2♣, 8+ with hearts. Two hearts would have been invitational or better with clubs, the point of the switch being to permit a non-forcing 2♥ bid via 2♣ (2♥ over 2♦ would be less than

invitational values). When Muller showed a minimum hand with long diamonds, de Wijs gave up on slam, jumping to 3NT, where he made all 13 tricks after winning the spade lead; +720 but 13 IMPs to Norway.

USA1 v South Africa

West	North	East	South
<i>Eber</i>	<i>Rosenberg</i>	<i>Bosenberg</i>	<i>Zia</i>
	Pass	1♦	1♠
2♥	Pass	3♣	Pass
3NT	Pass	4♦	Pass
4♠	Pass	5♣	Pass
6♦	All Pass		

West	North	East	South
<i>Weinstein</i>	<i>Cope</i>	<i>Garner</i>	<i>Holman</i>
	Pass	1♦	2♠
3♣	Pass	3♠	Pass
6♥	All Pass		

Eber/Bosenberg had a natural auction in which Bosenberg judged to go on over his partner's 3NT sign-off and 6♦ was then reached after an exchange of cuebids. Bosenberg got the trumps right for +1390.

If the Garner/Weinstein auction looks dark and mysterious, there is a simple explanation – it is dark and mysterious! Weinstein started with an insufficient bid of 2♣, which would have shown hearts, but that broke his concentration and he corrected to 3♣, which was a strong diamond raise. By the time that Garner cuebid 3♠, Weinstein had realised his error and leapt to 6♥ to make sure that his heart bid was taken seriously. There were 13 tricks in 6♥ after a spade lead and +1460 was worth 2 IMPs to USA1.

Board 31. Dealer South. N/S Vul.

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

Norway v Netherlands

West	North	East	South
<i>Brogeland</i>	<i>Drijver</i>	<i>Saelensminde</i>	<i>Brink</i>
	Pass	Pass	Pass
INT			2♠
All Pass			

West	North	East	South
<i>Wijs</i>	<i>Helness</i>	<i>Muller</i>	<i>Helgemo</i>
			Pass
1♣	Pass	1♦	Pass
INT	Pass	Pass	2♠
Pass	Pass	2NT	Pass
3♣	3♠	All Pass	

Not too much excitement here. Brogeland opened INT and Brink balanced with 2♠, ending the auction. Brogeland led the jack of diamonds to dummy's queen, and Brink overtook the ♦10 then led the ♦9, ruffed low and over-ruffed. He led a club to the queen and ace, and Brogeland cashed the ace of spades before playing a club to the king. There was just a heart to lose from here; +140.

De Wijs opened a strong club and rebid INT. Now Helgemo balanced with 2♠, but Muller was unwilling to go quietly when his side had to have the balance of the high-card strength. He competed with 2NT, looking for a fit in a minor. De Wijs chose clubs, of course, and Helness competed with 3♠. Again the lead was the jack of diamonds and Helgemo played three rounds, ruffed low and over-ruffed. Helgemo played the ten of clubs. Muller covered with the jack and Helgemo ducked. Muller cashed the ♣K then played a diamond, which de Wijs ruffed with the ace. He cashed the ace of hearts and there was still the ♠Q to come for down one; -100 and 6 IMPs to Netherlands.

USA1 v South Africa

West	North	East	South
<i>Eber</i>	<i>Rosenberg</i>	<i>Bosenberg</i>	<i>Zia</i>
			Pass
INT	Pass	Pass	2♦
Pass	2♥	Pass	2♠
All Pass			

West	North	East	South
<i>Weinstein</i>	<i>Cope</i>	<i>Garner</i>	<i>Holman</i>
			Pass
1♣	1♥	3♣	Dble
Rdbl	3♠	Pass	4♠
Dble	All Pass		

Everything was peaceful enough at our first table, where Zia showed diamonds and a major, and converted to 2♠ when Rosenberg looked for the major. Eber tried the queen of hearts, but Zia put up the king and soon had eight tricks for +110.

There was more action in the other room, where Cope came in over the 1♣ opening and Holman made a competitive double of the pre-emptive club raise, then raised the 3♠ response to game. Weinstein doubled the final contract and Garner led a diamond. Cope won in dummy to lead a heart up. Weinstein put in the jack and the king won. Now Cope gave up a heart. The defence was able to take two clubs and the ♠A and promote a second trump trick by leading a third round of hearts; down two for -500 and 12 IMPs to USA1.

A strong finish enabled USA1 to win the set by 45-27, extending the lead to 85-52. Meanwhile, Netherlands won the set by 34-30 but still trailed Norway by 72-82.

Senior Moment

Take a look at this deal from Round 9 of the Transnational Championship:

Board 21. Dealer North. None Vul.

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

As you can see, 3NT is a routine affair for North/South, but at one table it was reached in an unusual, strictly senior way.

Open Room

West	North	East	South
	1♣*	Pass	1♦*
Pass	2♦*	Pass	2♥*
3♣	2NT!	Pass!	3♣*
Pass	3♠	Pass	3NT

All Pass

- 1♣ Polish
- 1♦ Negative
- 2♦ GF
- 3♣ Enquiry

No one said a word and my informant, who was South, claims he was the only one of the four who realized anything unusual had happened!



Sportsmanship

Glen Holman of the South African Bermuda Bowl team came in to tell us about a piece of great sportsmanship from USAI's Howard Weinstein in the last set of their semi-final match.

Board 84. Dealer West. All Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Holman	Garner	Cope	Weinstein
Pass	2♣	Pass	2♠
Pass	3♥	Pass	3NT
Pass	4NT	Pass	5NT
All Pass			

Steve Garner's 2♣ opening was strong and artificial, and Howard Weinstein's 2♠ showed three controls. The auction was now forcing to 4NT and three natural bids reached that level, over which Weinstein's 5NT was explained as pick-a-slam. Garner guessed to pass, leaving his partner in a tricky contract, but one which could be made.

Holman led his fourth-best diamond to dummy's ace. Weinstein thought for some considerable time, then played a spade to his ace, getting the bad news as Holman threw a diamond. Weinstein thought for a long time before leading the eight of hearts and, when Holman played low, put in the ten, losing to the jack. Tim Cope returned the ♥Q to dummy's ace and, after some minutes more thought, Weinstein cashed the ♥K.

Play to this point had taken a very long time, and Cope lost concentration to the extent that he dropped the five of spades on this trick. When he noticed, he corrected his play to the five of hearts. Declarer could have made his contract now by using the penalty card, leading the jack of spades from dummy and requiring East to follow with the five, but Weinstein, who appreciated that he had played at what was a long way from a normal tempo throughout the deal, showed the highest sportsmanship by telling Cope he could pick up the low spade with no penalty.

Weinstein went one down in his contract. The match was still very much alive at this point and could have been decided in South Africa's favour by Weinstein's generosity. How many of us would be willing to risk a world championship for our sporting principles?

So Close!

by Brian Senior

Going into the final deal of their semi-final match against China Global Times in the Venice Cup, USA1 led by 9 IMPs.

Board 96. Dealer West. E/W Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
W. Wang	Meyers	Liu	Levin
1♣	Pass	1♦	Dble
2♣	3♠	Pass	4♠
All Pass			

The Americans bid their game and, after the auction, Jill Meyers had no difficulty in getting the spades right; +420. Surely, that was the match for USA1?

This was the auction at the other table:

West	North	East	South
Rosenberg	H. Wang	Stansby	Sun
1♣	Pass	Pass	Dble
3♣	Pass	3♥	Pass
3NT	Pass	Pass	Dble
All Pass			

What would you lead from the North hand? A spade would give declarer an opportunity to take the first eight tricks for a mere one down and 6 IMPs to USA1. If the defence cashes four diamonds then switches to a heart, they can only come to three heart tricks and seven in all; +800, a gain of 9 IMPs to bring the scores level, just sufficient for China to win by virtue of their 0.3 IMP carry-over.

Hongli Wang led the jack of hearts! Debbie Rosenberg must have felt ill at this moment. She played low from dummy and Wang continued with the seven of hearts to Ming Sun's king. Sun's choice of switch would decide the match, because a diamond would allow the defence to take the first eight tricks, netting them +1100 and 12 IMPs for a win by 3 IMPs. Now there would have been a story. Alas, she selected a spade and Rosenberg won and ran the clubs, down one, 6 IMPs to USA1, and a 'comfortable' win by 15 IMPs, 216-201.

Bridge can be a cruel game. Had this deal been the first of the set it would by now have been forgotten, but it was the final deal and so it is seen to have decided the match – a

match which was, of course, 'decided' many times on earlier deals. So, it is clear that South found the wrong switch at trick three, but was she to blame for the failure to take the maximum number of tricks?

Firstly, we have to appreciate that Ming Sun did not know what her target was. Yes, it was essential to defeat the contract, but would that be sufficient to win the board? She did not know, or even have reason to suspect, that game was on for North/South. If all that was required was to defeat the contract, then probably a diamond honour was the correct play – a spade could be disastrous if declarer held her actual hand plus the queen of spades. But what if the size of the penalty was critical?

When the jack of hearts wins trick one and declarer drops the nine, both North and South know that declarer holds one of the singleton nine or doubleton ten-nine, with the doubleton nine-eight also being a possibility from North's point of view. North is known to hold at least two more hearts and, from a purely practical point of view, it does not matter which order they are played in. At this point it is very difficult for North, on the final board of a stressful match, to look at things from partner's perspective, but if she does so, she will see that South may have a problem deciding on her switch. Is not North's second heart play suit preference?

Wang actually played the heart seven at trick two, no doubt just playing the automatic higher of two remaining cards. With nothing else to go on, Ming Sun took that to be suit preference for spades. And, in my view, she was correct to do so.



Wenfei Wang, China Global Times

SEMI-FINAL Session 6

BB: USA I v South Africa and VC: France v Germany

by Mark Horton

I was trying to keep an eye on two matches, one in each of the two main events. The boards were not exceptional, but they offered a lot of opportunities for thoughtful card play.

Board 17. Dealer North. None Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
von Arnim	d'Ovidio	Auken	Gaviard
	1♥	Pass	Pass
Dble	2♣	Pass	2♥*
All Pass			

2♥ was a poor spot.

East led the nine of spades, and declarer won and played a club. East took the queen and switched to a trump. West



Anja Alberti, Germany

won and played back a spade. Declarer won and played another club, East winning and playing the jack of hearts. Declarer won and tried the king of clubs. East ruffed and played a spade, and West won and cashed the jack of clubs followed by a spade (it's better to play the spade first as that leads to three down) ruffed and over-ruffed, two down, -100.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Willard	Meuer	Cronier	Alberti
	1♥	Pass	Pass
Dble	2♣	Pass	2♥
Dble	All Pass		

West's second double paid a significant dividend.

After East led a spade, declarer played three rounds of the suit, West winning, cashing the ace of hearts and switching to a club. Declarer tried the king, but East won and played the jack of hearts. Declarer won and played a club, and East won and played a diamond, leaving declarer no way to avoid -500, 9 IMPs to France, putting them back in the lead.

Board 20. Dealer West. All Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
von Arnim	d'Ovidio	Auken	Gaviard
Pass	2♣*	Pass	2♦*
Pass	2NT	Pass	3♣*
Pass	3♥	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

East led the five of clubs for the queen and ace, and declarer immediately ran the ten of clubs. That was followed by a club to the king. The contract was in no danger and declarer was content to cash her winners, +660.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Willard</i>	<i>Meuer</i>	<i>Cronier</i>	<i>Alberti</i>
Pass	2♦*	Pass	2♥*
Pass	2NT	Pass	3♣*
Pass	3♥*	Pass	4♣*
Pass	4♠*	Pass	6NT
All Pass			

Declarer's prospects of making twelve tricks were increased considerably when East led the ten of spades. She won in hand with the jack, West discarding the five of diamonds, and played a spade to the ace, on which West discarded the four of hearts.

Taking the heart suit in isolation (without the discard) the best line for four tricks is to play a heart to the ten – a 16.39% chance.

Declarer ran the eight of hearts and East won with the jack. It did not matter what she did now as the hearts behaved and declarer was +1440, those 13 IMPs putting Germany ahead.

Board 21. Dealer North. N/S Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Holman</i>	<i>Garner</i>	<i>Cope</i>	<i>Weinstein</i>
	Pass	1♣	INT
Pass	2♣*	Pass	2♦*
Pass	2NT	All Pass	

The cards are so well placed that you can always make nine tricks on the North/South hands, but you cannot crime South for refusing to accept the invitation.

He won the diamond lead in hand and ran the queen of hearts. East took the king and played back the jack of diamonds. When that held, he switched to a spade. Declarer took the queen and cashed three heart tricks. Needing only one club trick for his contract, declarer played one to the king, +120.



Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Zia</i>	<i>Gower</i>	<i>Rosenberg</i>	<i>Apteker</i>
	Pass	INT	Dble
2♦*	Dble	All Pass	

North led the four of spades, and when declarer played low from dummy, South put in the nine, losing to West's jack. Declarer played a club to the ten, and South won with the jack and switched to the seven of hearts. North put up the ace and now does best to go back to spades. No, he played a club. Declarer won with dummy's ace and ruffed a club. A spade went to South's queen, and he returned the queen of hearts to dummy's king. Declarer played the queen of clubs, pitching his spade (a heart works better). North also pitched a spade and South cashed the jack of hearts, then played the ace of spades, which ensured the contract went three down, -500 and 9 IMPs to South Africa, who trailed 174-181.

Board 22. Dealer East. E/W Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Holman</i>	<i>Garner</i>	<i>Cope</i>	<i>Weinstein</i>
		1♦	Dble
2♦	3♠	All Pass	

As on the previous deal, the cards were so disposed that it was easy to make a game, but it was impossible to bid it.

Declarer won East's trump lead in dummy and played a club to the queen and ace. East tried two rounds of diamonds, and declarer ruffed and ran the ten of hearts. When that held, ten tricks were plain sailing, +170.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Zia</i>	<i>Gower</i>	<i>Rosenberg</i>	<i>Apteker</i>
		1♦	Dble
2♦	2♠	2NT	Pass
3♦	3♥	All Pass	

I cannot for the life of me work out why South did not go back to spades (or why North bid 3♥), but it cost South Africa 6 IMPs as declarer did not find a way make 3♥.

East started with two rounds of diamonds and declarer ruffed and ran the ten of hearts. When that held he played the queen of spades and when that won he switched to the king of clubs and East won and played ace and another spade. If declarer unblocks dummy's honours on these two tricks he makes nine tricks as he preserves a vital entry to his hand, but when he failed to do so West ruffed and switched to a club.

Declarer finessed, and East won and could have put the contract two down by playing the queen of hearts, locking declarer in dummy. When he played back a club, declarer escaped for one down, -50 and the loss of 6 IMPs.

Board 24. Dealer West. None Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Holman</i>	<i>Garner</i>	<i>Cope</i>	<i>Weinstein</i>
1♠	Pass	INT	Pass
3♦	Pass	3♥	Pass
3♠	All Pass		

Having made a sub-minimum response, East passed what was surely a forcing bid. With two trumps, a doubleton diamond and a possibly useful king it turned out badly, as there were always ten tricks, +170.



Sylvie Willard, France

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Zia</i>	<i>Gower</i>	<i>Rosenberg</i>	<i>Apteker</i>
1♠	Pass	INT	Pass
3♦	Pass	3♥	Pass
3♠	Pass	4♠	All Pass

The Americans made no mistake, +420 and another 6 IMPs, extending their lead to 19.

Something similar happened in the Venice Cup, the French duplicating the South African auction to lose 6 IMPs.

Board 25. Dealer North. E/W Vul.

♠ K Q 6 4 3 ♥ 4 2 ♦ 10 5 2 ♣ J 6 5	♠ J 10 9 5 2 ♥ 3 ♦ K Q J 9 7 ♣ K 10 <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: fit-content; margin: 5px auto;"> N W E S </div> ♠ A 8 ♥ A Q 9 7 6 ♦ 8 6 ♣ A 9 4 2	♠ 7 ♥ K J 10 8 5 ♦ A 4 3 ♣ Q 8 7 3
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Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>von Arnim</i>	<i>d'Ovidio</i>	<i>Auken</i>	<i>Gaviard</i>
1♠	Pass	1♥	Pass
All Pass	2♦	Dble*	3♦

A trump lead is best, but not unreasonably East led the ace of spades, then switched to a diamond. Declarer won in hand and ruffed a spade with the ace of diamonds. She drew trumps and played a heart, but East took the ace, cashed the ace of clubs and exited with a club. Declarer could not avoid the loss of two more tricks, one down, -50.

There is a way to make 3♦, but it is hardly obvious. Declarer must discard from dummy on the second round of spades!

Say the defence play another trump. Declarer wins in hand and plays a heart, and East has no good move.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Willard</i>	<i>Meuer</i>	<i>Cronier</i>	<i>Alberti</i>
	2♠*	3♥	All Pass
2♠	5+♠ 4+minor	3-10	

South led her singleton spade. Declarer won in hand with the ace and played ace of hearts and a heart, South winning as North discarded the king of diamonds. The defenders switched to that suit, playing three rounds, declarer ruffing and playing a low club. South cost her side a trick by going

in with the queen but the contract was still three down, -300 and 8 IMPs to Germany, back in the lead.

Board 26. Dealer East. All Vul.

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

♠ A 5
♥ 10 6 3
♦ K J 8 6 5
♣ K 10 4

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Holman</i>	<i>Garner</i>	<i>Cope</i>	<i>Weinstein</i>
Pass	1♥*	Pass	1♣
3♦	4♠	Dble	Pass*
All Pass			

1♥ Spades

There was some misunderstanding as to the meaning of East's double – he clearly intended it to show hearts, while West thought it was for take out.

East led the ten of diamonds. Declarer won in hand and played a spade to the ace and a spade. East took the king and switched to a club. Declarer was two down, -200.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Zia</i>	<i>Gower</i>	<i>Rosenberg</i>	<i>Apteker</i>
1♣	1♠	Pass	Pass
Pass	2♠	Dble	INT
All Pass			

South Africa did extremely well to stop in 2♠ and declarer played carefully for eight tricks, +110 and 7 IMPs.

Board 27. Dealer South. None Vul.

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

♠ 9
♥ K 10 8 7 5 3 2
♦ —
♣ A Q 6 3 2

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Holman</i>	<i>Garner</i>	<i>Cope</i>	<i>Weinstein</i>
2♠	3♣*	3♠	1♥
Pass	6♦	All Pass	4♥

3♣ Diamonds

Cometh the hour, cometh the man.

Garner's jump to a slam that made when the queen of diamonds appeared on the second round was a potential match winner.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Zia</i>	<i>Gower</i>	<i>Rosenberg</i>	<i>Apteker</i>
All Pass			

Although I am not a fan of the 4♥ bid it can work well to adopt this strategy on a two suited hand.

West led the ten of clubs and declarer won with dummy's king and discarded his spade on the ace of diamonds.

He ruffed a spade and played the eight of hearts.

When West played low – a mistake as it happens – East had to win and and played a club for West to ruff with the nine of hearts. Declarer ruffed the spade return and had to guess the denomination of West's last heart, was it the jack or the ace?

When declarer played the ten of hearts he was one down, -50 and 14 IMPs that gave USA 1 a 26-IMP cushion.

It's worth recording what happened in the Venice Cup:

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>von Arnim</i>	<i>d'Ovidio</i>	<i>Auken</i>	<i>Gaviard</i>
2♠	3♦	4♠	1♥
Pass	6♦	All Pass	5♣

+920.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Willard</i>	<i>Meuer</i>	<i>Cronier</i>	<i>Alberti</i>
All Pass			

As in the other match one table bid the slam, the other played in 4♥.

Here too West led the ten of clubs, and declarer won in dummy and discarded a spade on the king of diamonds. She ruffed a diamond – a significant difference – and played the eight of hearts. West did not win, but here it did not matter. East took the queen and gave West a club ruff. Back came a diamond and East ruffed with the ace of hearts and played a club for West to ruff.

Those 14 IMPs put France just 1 IMP behind.

Board 28. Dealer West. N/S Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Holman</i>	<i>Garner</i>	<i>Cope</i>	<i>Weinstein</i>
Pass	Pass	1♦	Pass
1♠	Pass	2♣	All Pass

Not for the first time in this set the cards were favourably placed.

North led the queen of hearts and declarer won in hand and led a spade. When the ace came up it was easy enough to come to ten tricks, +170.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Zia</i>	<i>Gower</i>	<i>Rosenberg</i>	<i>Apteker</i>
Pass	Pass	INT	Pass
Pass	Dble	Pass	2♥
All Pass			

When the defenders started with three rounds of trumps, declarer won in dummy and took a club finesse. West won and played a spade, but a second club finesse worked and declarer was home, +110, those 7 IMPs keeping South Africa's hopes alive.

Board 30. Dealer East. None Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Holman</i>	<i>Garner</i>	<i>Cope</i>	<i>Weinstein</i>
		3♠	Dble
4♠	All Pass		

There was nothing to the play, +480.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Zia</i>	<i>Gower</i>	<i>Rosenberg</i>	<i>Apteker</i>
		2♠*	Dble
4♠	Pass	Pass	Dble
Pass	4NT*	Pass	5♦
Dble	All Pass		

When South made a second double, North looked for a fit. He found one, but 5♦ was booked for four down. However, it did not quite work out like that.

West led the eight of spades, and East won and switched to his heart. Declarer put up the ace and played the queen of diamonds. West won and could have played back a heart for East to ruff. Then the queen of clubs would have produced +800.

Obviously the position was unclear, and when West exited with the ten of diamonds, declarer had escaped for two down, -300 and a useful 5 IMPs.

This deal just about settled the women's match:



Craig Gower, South Africa

Open Room

West <i>von Arnim</i>	North <i>d'Ovidio</i>	East <i>Auken</i>	South <i>Gaviard</i>
4♠	Pass	3♠	Dble
All Pass		Pass	Dble

That was +790.

Closed Room

West <i>Willard</i>	North <i>Meuer</i>	East <i>Cronier</i>	South <i>Alberti</i>
4♠	All Pass	3♠	Dble

That gave Germany 7 IMPs. They gave nothing away on the last two boards and had reversed the result when these two teams met in the Estoril final.

Board 31. Dealer South. N/S Vul.

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

	N	
W		E
	S	

♠ 10 7 6
♥ J 9 3 2
♦ K Q 8 4 3 2
♣ —

Open Room

West <i>Holman</i>	North <i>Garner</i>	East <i>Cope</i>	South <i>Weinstein</i>
1♣	1♠	Dble	Pass
Pass	3♥	Pass	3♦*
All Pass			3♠

3♦ ♦+♠

East led a club, and declarer ruffed and tried the king of diamonds. When West played low, declarer ruffed and cross-ruffed clubs and diamonds. That line led to eight tricks, the best declarer could achieve, -100.

Closed Room

West <i>Zia</i>	North <i>Gower</i>	East <i>Rosenberg</i>	South <i>Apteker</i>
1♣	1♠	2♦	Pass
3♣	3♠	4♣	2♠
Pass	Dble	All Pass	Pass

When North found the unfortunate lead of the ace of spades, declarer escaped for one down. Mind you it is not easy to lead a trump or a heart, either of which should result in two down.

-100 gave South Africa 5 IMPs and they needed less than a game swing to score another upset victory.

Board 32. Dealer West. E/W Vul.

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

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

	N	
W		E
	S	

♠ K 8 3 2
♥ A K 8 6
♦ K Q 7 5
♣ 5

Open Room

West <i>Holman</i>	North <i>Garner</i>	East <i>Cope</i>	South <i>Weinstein</i>
1♣	Pass	Pass	Dble
3♣	3♠	Pass	4♠

All Pass

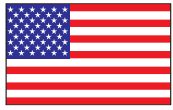
East led a club and West played two rounds. Declarer ruffed, played a spade to the queen and ducked a spade to the ace. Ten tricks were certain, as was USA 1's place in the final.



USA 1 - South Africa in the VuGraph

VENICE CUP

Final - Session I



USA 1

v

Germany



by Brent Manley

In the opening set of their Venice Cup final match with USA 1, Germany started with a carryover advantage of 7.6 IMPs, and they extended the lead on the first deal.

Board 1. Dealer North. None Vul.

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

In the closed room, Mirja Schraeverus-Meuer opened INT (15-17) and blasted into game over her partner's range-asking 2♠ bid. The opening lead of a low heart from East made nine tricks easy.

West	North	East	South
Von Arnim	Stansby	Auken	Rosenberg
	INT	2♥	Dble
Pass	2NT	All Pass	

Sabine Auken and Daniela Von Arnim are not hesitant to bid, and Auken's 2♥ showed that suit and a minor. She also led a heart against the notrump contract, – plus 150 but a 6-IMP loss.

The Germans play a canapé system in which they often open four-card majors holding a minor suit. That paid off on the second deal.

Board 2. Dealer East. N/S Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Narasimhan	Meuer	Levitina	Alberti
1♦	2♠	Pass	Pass
3♥	All Pass	Dble	Pass

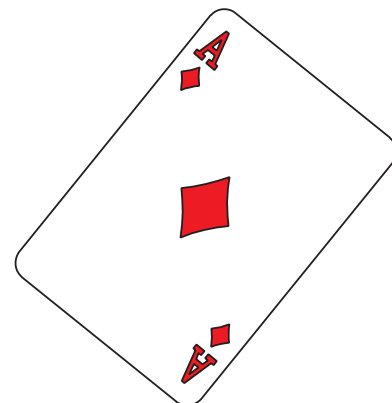
Meuer's 2♠ overcall showed a hand with at least six spades and 12-16 high-card points. Against Hansa Narasimhan's 3♥, Meuer started with the ♣A, switching to the ♠A at trick two. Anja Alberti's play of the ♠J from the South hand may have been interpreted as suit preference because Meuer switched to the ♦A at trick three and continued the suit to the 8, 9 and 10. Narasimhan ruffed the ♠8 in dummy, ruffed a club to hand, cashed the ♠K and played the ♦7. Meuer ruffed in with the ♥8, forcing the ♥K. Narasimhan then cashed the ♥Q and played a heart to the ace. The ♥J was the fourth trick for the defense. Plus 140 to East-West.

West	North	East	South
Von Arnim	Stansby	Auken	Rosenberg
1♥	1♠	Pass	Pass
Pass	Dble	4♥	Pass
All Pass		Pass	4♠

Auken's aggressive raise of her partner's opening put it to her opponents, and Rosenberg did well to pull JoAnna Stansby's double of 4♥, contract that was virtually certain to make.

Against the vulnerable game, Auken started with the ♥K, switching to the ♦6 at trick two. That went to the 9, 10 and ace. Stansby entered dummy with a club to the queen, and Von Arnim played low on the ♠J. Stansby went up with the ♠A after some thought, dropping the queen on her left. A spade went to the 10 and king, and Von Arnim underled her ♥A to get a club ruff. The diamond trick to come meant plus 200 for Germany and a 2-IMP gain.

USA 1 gained 6 IMPs on the following deal in unexpected fashion.



Board 5. Dealer North. N/S Vul.

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

In the closed room, Irina Levitina opened 3♣ with the East hand. That was followed by 4♥ from South, 4♠ from West and two passes to South. Strangely, Alberti took no further action. Levitina easily came to 10 tricks for plus 420.

Rosenberg and Stansby had an accident, but they came out of it on the plus side.

West	North	East	South
<i>Von Arnim</i>	<i>Stansby</i>	<i>Auken</i>	<i>Rosenberg</i>
	Pass	3♣	4♥
4♠	Pass	Pass	Dble
Pass	4NT	Pass	6♦
Dble	6♥	Pass	Pass
Dble	All Pass		

The meaning of Stansby's 4NT is not clear, but it obviously excited her partner, who apparently thought 4NT showed a two-suiter with the minors. Von Arnim cashed the top diamonds but was out of tricks at that point. What must have looked like a 13-IMP loss to Stansby and Rosenberg turned out to be a 6-IMP gain.

There was a double-digit swing on the next deal – and it went to Germany.

Board 6. Dealer East. E/W Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Von Arnim</i>	<i>Stansby</i>	<i>Auken</i>	<i>Rosenberg</i>
	4♠	INT	2♣*
3♠*	All Pass	5♣	Pass
5♦			

Rosenberg's 2♣ bid showed the majors, and Von Arnim's 3♠ was a splinter bid. Stansby started with the ♥9, taken in dummy with the queen. The ♦J was ducked all around, and Stansby won the diamond continuation with the ace, then played a third round of trumps to stop any heart ruffs. This cost an overtrick because Von Arnim finessed in clubs and discarded her losing spade and heart when clubs broke 3-3. Plus 620 to Germany.

West	North	East	South
<i>Narasimhan</i>	<i>Meuer</i>	<i>Levitina</i>	<i>Alberti</i>
		1♣	Pass
1♦	1♠	2♣	3♣
Pass	3♠	All Pass	

Alberti's 3♣ bid served to talk Narasimhan and Levitina out of competing past 3♠. They defeated 3♠ two tricks, but it was an 11-IMP loss. USA 1 was trailing at that point 33.6-6. More IMPs came Germany's way on this deal.

Board 8. Dealer West. None Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Von Arnim</i>	<i>Stansby</i>	<i>Auken</i>	<i>Rosenberg</i>
	1♥	Dble	Rdbl*
2♣	2♠	Dble	Pass
3♣	Pass	3♦	All Pass

Rosenberg's redouble was explained as showing a doubleton spade with a hand good enough to compete – or a very good hand. Auken's negative double followed by the bid of her own suit showed a strong hand, and Von Arnim made an excellent decision to pass. Rosenberg led her doubleton spade and ruffed with the ♦Q on the third round of spades, but there was only the ♣A to come for the defense from there – plus 110 for Germany.

West	North	East	South
<i>Narasimhan</i>	<i>Meuer</i>	<i>Levitina</i>	<i>Alberti</i>
	2♠	3♦	Pass
1♣	Pass	3NT	All Pass
3♥			

The ♠J went to declarer's queen. Levitina cashed the ♦K before entering dummy with the ♥A to take a losing diamond finesse. Meuer run her spades and the defenders were able to endplay dummy to hold declarer to five tricks and four down for minus 200 – 7 more IMPs to Germany.

On the next deal, USA 1 gained only 1 IMP, but it was a fine display by Stansby as declarer.

Board 9. Dealer North. E/W Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Narasimhan	Meuer	Levitina	Alberti
	1♥	Pass	2♦
Pass	2♥	Pass	3♦
All Pass			

If this auction was accurately recorded, it is curious indeed. In any event, declarer had to lose two diamonds, one heart and one spade for plus 110.

West	North	East	South
Von Arnim	Stansby	Auken	Rosenberg
	2♥	Pass	3♥
All Pass			

Auken started off with the best lead – a diamond. Von Arnim cashed the queen and ace and exited with a low spade. Stansby went up with the king, played a club to the queen and cashed the ♣A to discard her diamond. She then played the ♦K. Von Arnim ruffed with the 5♥, which was overruffed with the 7. Stansby got out with the ♠J,



Irina Levitina, USA 1

ducked to Von Arnim's ace. On the trump return, Stansby went up with the ace, ruffed her spade, ruffed a club to hand and exited with a trump. It was a well-earned plus 140.

The Americans picked up 12 IMPs when Auken opened 3♠, which was doubled for takeout. Stansby, holding five spades to the A-10, sat for it and collected plus 500 while North-South at the other table tried 3NT, failing by a trick.

The final deal of the match involved the exchange of just 2 IMPs, but it could have been a 13-IMP swing to USA 1.

Board 16. Dealer West. E/W Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Von Arnim	Stansby	Auken	Rosenberg
Pass	1♥	Pass	1♠
Pass	2♣	Pass	2♦*
Dble	3♣	Pass	4♣
Pass	4♦	Pass	4♠
Pass	5♣	All Pass	

Stansby and Rosenberg missed a pretty good slam that just happens to go down – so long as East leads a diamond, as suggested by West's double of the fourth-suit bid. North-South duly scored up plus 600.

West	North	East	South
Narasimhan	Meuer	Levitina	Alberti
Pass	1♥	Pass	1♠
Pass	2♣	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

Narasimhan led the ♦7. When dummy's king held, Alberti should have been looking for ways to set up heart tricks without letting East into the lead. The proper way to go about that would have been to play a low heart from dummy at trick two, inserting the 9 if Levitina played low. Instead, Alberti inexplicably cashed dummy's top clubs, making certain that even if she was lucky enough to have West win the third round of hearts, there was no way she was ever getting to them before the defenders took a lot of tricks. Alberti was headed for a well-deserved minus 200 – except that, on the ♣K, Narasimhan discarded a low heart! In one play, declarer went from two down to two overtricks and a 2-IMP gain.

Germany ended the first set ahead by 49.6-26.