

Fat Tuesday: Nearly Too Many IMPs To Count



Players can watch a great VuGraph show at the Sporting d'Hiver thanks to BridgeVision.

The first set of the day Tuesday produced one of those magical collections of boards that VuGraph commentators love because they have so much to talk about.

The leader board was also worth a look, as Italy were ahead in the Bermuda Bowl at the end of play on Tuesday, while Chinese Taipei held the lead in the Venice Cup and Denmark were setting the standard in the Senior Bowl.

For spectators, the real fun came in observing the results of the wild set of deals that produced some mind-boggling IMP totals as competitors in the three main events warmed to their tasks. Some were simply hot.

In the Venice Cup match between Brazil and Sweden, the South Americans prevailed 82-73. That's nearly 10 IMPs per board! Out of 16 deals, there were 12 double-digit swings. It was actually a disappointment for the audience in the VuGraph theatre when the final board came in as a push - the only one of the match.

In the Bermuda Bowl and Venice Cup, the teams are vying for qualifying spots. The top eight after the round-robin in those two events will move on to the quarterfinals. In the Senior Bowl, each round-robin match has more weight because when round-robin play is completed, the leader will be the winner.

The first VuGraph match of the day attracted attention because the two American teams were doing battle, with USA II

VUGRAPH MATCH

Bermuda Bowl – ROUND 8 – 10.30
Egypt v USA II

Venice Cup – ROUND 7 – 13.20
USA I v England

Bermuda Bowl – ROUND 10 – 16.10
Sweden v USA I

Bermuda Bowl – ROUND 11 – 21.00
Norway v Canada

Contents

Bermuda Bowl, Venice Cup & Senior Bowl Program	2
Bermuda Bowl & Senior Bowl Results	3
Venice Cup & Senior Bowl Results	4
USA I v Australia Bermuda Bowl Round 1	5
Egypt v Italy Bermuda Bowl Round 3	8
USA I v Israel Senior Bowl Round 3	10
USA I v USA II Bermuda Bowl Round 5	13
Transnational Teams	18
Le Petit Écho de Monaco	19

leading the field going into round five. Adding to the interest of the match is the fact that Bobby Wolff, a member of USA II, played for more than 25 years with Bob Hamman of USA I until they parted ways about five years ago. They did not face... **Continued on page 4**

PROGRAM**Bermuda Bowl****ROUND 8 10.30**

Table	Home Team	Visiting Team
1	Poland	New Zealand
2	Egypt	USA II
3	Uruguay	India
4	South Africa	Norway
5	Pakistan	Brazil
6	Monaco	Australia
7	Canada	Italy
8	China	Bulgaria
9	Chinese Taipei	Spain
10	Indonesia	USA I
11	Bermuda	Sweden

ROUND 9 13.20

Table	Home Team	Visiting Team
1	New Zealand	Egypt
2	USA II	Uruguay
3	India	South Africa
4	Norway	Pakistan
5	Brazil	Monaco
6	Australia	Canada
7	Italy	Bulgaria
8	Poland	Chinese Taipei
9	Spain	Indonesia
10	USA I	Bermuda
11	Sweden	China

ROUND 10 16.10

Table	Home Team	Visiting Team
1	Uruguay	New Zealand
2	South Africa	USA II
3	Pakistan	India
4	Monaco	Norway
5	Canada	Brazil
6	Bulgaria	Australia
7	China	Italy
8	Chinese Taipei	Egypt
9	Indonesia	Poland
10	Bermuda	Spain
11	Sweden	USA I

ROUND 11 16.10

Table	Home Team	Visiting Team
1	New Zealand	South Africa
2	USA II	Pakistan
3	India	Monaco
4	Norway	Canada
5	Brazil	Bulgaria
6	Australia	Italy
7	Uruguay	Chinese Taipei
8	Egypt	Indonesia
9	Poland	Bermuda
10	Spain	Sweden
11	USA I	China

Venice Cup**ROUND 6 10.30**

Table	Home Team	Visiting Team
12	Sweden	Venezuela
13	USA II	Pakistan
14	Egypt	Germany
15	Canada	Brazil
16	Indonesia	India
17	Netherlands	USA I
18	Australia	England
19	China	Chinese Taipei
20	Italy	South Africa

ROUND 7 13.20

Table	Home Team	Visiting Team
12	Venezuela	USA II
13	Pakistan	Egypt
14	Germany	Canada
15	Brazil	Indonesia
16	India	Netherlands
17	USA I	England
18	Sweden	China
19	Chinese Taipei	Italy
20	South Africa	Australia

ROUND 8 16.10

Table	Home Team	Visiting Team
12	Egypt	Venezuela
13	Canada	Pakistan
14	Indonesia	Germany
15	Netherlands	Brazil
16	England	India
17	Australia	USA I
18	China	USA II
19	Italy	Sweden
20	South Africa	Chinese Taipei

Senior Bowl**ROUND 5 10.30**

Table	Home Team	Visiting Team
1	Polynesia	Egypt
2	USA I	USA II
3	Italy	Israel
4	Denmark	France
5	Pakistan	Bye
6	Australia	Japan
7	Brazil/Arg	Indonesia
8	Monaco	Guadeloupe

ROUND 6 15.30

Table	Home Team	Visiting Team
1	Japan	USA I
2	Italy	Pakistan
3	Brazil/Arg	Egypt
4	USA II	Indonesia
5	Polynesia	France
6	Israel	Guadeloupe
7	Denmark	Bye
8	Australia	Monaco

RESULTS**Bermuda Bowl****ROUND 5**

	Home Team	Visiting Team	IMPs	VPs
1	NEW ZEALAND	SWEDEN	50 50	15 15
2	USA II	USA I	41 68	9 21
3	INDIA	SPAIN	8 91	0 25
4	NORWAY	POLAND	58 40	19 11
5	BRAZIL	EGYPT	44 74	8 22
6	AUSTRALIA	URUGUAY	72 12	25 2
7	ITALY	SOUTH AFRICA	74 19	25 3
8	BULGARIA	PAKISTAN	61 54	16 14
9	CANADA	MONACO	59 45	18 12
10	BERMUDA	CHINESE TAIPEI	38 82	5 25
11	INDONESIA	CHINA	43 34	17 13

ROUND 6

	Home Team	Visiting Team	IMPs	VPs
1	USA I	NEW ZEALAND	22 22	15 15
2	SPAIN	USA II	7 35	8 22
3	POLAND	INDIA	53 20	23 7
4	EGYPT	NORWAY	26 8	19 11
5	URUGUAY	BRAZIL	50 24	21 9
6	SOUTH AFRICA	AUSTRALIA	23 44	10 20
7	PAKISTAN	ITALY	6 50	5 25
8	MONACO	BULGARIA	40 18	20 10
9	CHINA	CANADA	27 38	13 17
10	CHINESE TAIPEI	SWEDEN	10 20	13 17
11	INDONESIA	BERMUDA	49 31	19 11

ROUND 7

	Home Team	Visiting Team	IMPs	VPs
1	NEW ZEALAND	SPAIN	49 14	23 7
2	USA II	POLAND	25 33	13 17
3	INDIA	EGYPT	27 17	17 13
4	NORWAY	URUGUAY	39 21	19 11
5	BRAZIL	SOUTH AFRICA	31 40	13 17
6	AUSTRALIA	PAKISTAN	21 48	9 21
7	ITALY	MONACO	48 3	25 5
8	BULGARIA	CANADA	28 13	18 12
9	USA I	CHINESE TAIPEI	46 10	23 7
10	SWEDEN	INDONESIA	49 14	23 7
11	BERMUDA	CHINA	36 32	16 14

**Bermuda Bowl
Ranking after 7 rounds**

1	Italy	146
2	Poland	132
3	Australia	129
4	Norway	128
5	USA II	126.5
5	USA I	126.5
7	Canada	117
8	Egypt	108
9	China	106
10	New Zealand	105
10	Chinese Taipei	105
12	Pakistan	103
13	Sweden	101
14	Bulgaria	98
15	Monaco	95
16	Indonesia	93
17	Spain	92
18	India	84
19	South Africa	83
20	Uruguay	78
21	Brazil	72
22	Bermuda	55

RESULTS**Senior Bowl****ROUND 3**

	Home Team	Visiting Team	IMPs	VPs
1	USA II	PAKISTAN	89 17	25 2
2	JAPAN	FR. POLYNESIA	115 55	25 4
3	DENMARK	INDONESIA	76 40	22 8
4	MONACO	BRAZIL/ARG	73 74	15 15
5	FRANCE	GUADELOUPE	88 75	17 13
6	ISRAEL	USA I	47 81	9 21
7	EGYPT	BYE	0 0	18 0
8	ITALY	AUSTRALIA	45 66	11 19

ROUND 4

	Home Team	Visiting Team	IMPs	VPs
1	FRANCE	BRAZIL/ARG	54 27	20 10
2	GUADELOUPE	DENMARK	19 74	5 25
3	FR. POLYNESIA	USA I	12 61	6 24
4	EGYPT	ISRAEL	17 91	2 25
5	INDONESIA	MONACO	70 15	25 5
6	BYE	ITALY	0 0	0 18
7	AUSTRALIA	PAKISTAN	93 29	25 4
8	JAPAN	USA II	57 59	15 15

Senior Bowl Ranking after 4 rounds

1	Denmark	79.5
2	USA I	78
3	Australia	77.5
4	France	75
4	Indonesia	75
6	USA II	74
7	Japan	70
8	Israel	69
9	Italy	63
10	Brazil/Arg	53.5
11	Egypt	47.5
12	Pakistan	43
13	Guadeloupe	35
14	Monaco	34
15	Fr. Polynesia	14

Venice Cup Ranking after 5 rounds

1	Chinese Taipei	98
2	Netherlands	94
3	USA I	92
4	China	88
5	USA II	87
5	Venezuela	87
7	Italy	78
8	England	77
8	Canada	77
10	Indonesia	76
11	Germany	75
12	Brazil	62
12	Australia	62
14	Sweden	60
14	South Africa	60
16	India	59
17	Pakistan	55
18	Egypt	54

RESULTS

Venice Cup

ROUND 3

Home Team	Visiting Team	IMPs	VPs
12 VENEZUELA	ITALY	47 14	23 7
13 PAKISTAN	SOUTH AFRICA	45 39	16 14
14 GERMANY	CHINESE TAIPEI	56 58	15 15
15 BRAZIL	SWEDEN	82 73	17 13
16 INDIA	USA II	27 57	8 22
17 USA I	EGYPT	71 44	21 9
18 ENGLAND	CANADA	49 48	15 15
19 NETHERLANDS	INDONESIA	37 52	12 18
20 CHINA	AUSTRALIA	46 60	12 18

ROUND 4

Home Team	Visiting Team	IMPs	VPs
12 SOUTH AFRICA	VENEZUELA	46 39	16 14
13 CHINESE TAIPEI	PAKISTAN	30 18	18 12
14 SWEDEN	GERMANY	20 13	16 14
15 USA II	BRAZIL	43 12	22 8
16 EGYPT	INDIA	45 9	23 7
17 CANADA	USA I	31 32	15 15
18 INDONESIA	ENGLAND	45 19	21 9
19 AUSTRALIA	NETHERLANDS	26 60	7 23
20 CHINA	ITALY	18 19	15 15

ROUND 5

Home Team	Visiting Team	IMPs	VPs
12 VENEZUELA	CHINESE TAIPEI	16 50	7 23
13 PAKISTAN	SWEDEN	31 31	15 15
14 GERMANY	USA II	39 43	14 16
15 BRAZIL	EGYPT	41 27	18 12
16 INDIA	CANADA	25 19	16 14
17 USA I	INDONESIA	15 28	12 18
18 ENGLAND	NETHERLANDS	29 33	14 16
19 SOUTH AFRICA	CHINA	5 64	2 25
20 ITALY	AUSTRALIA	43 29	18 12

...Front Page Continued

each other at the table in round five.

The all-American match produced some fireworks, ending at 68-41 for USA I. That IMP total was above the average for the matches in that first set of the day - round five for the Bermuda Bowl and round three for the Venice Cup.

In all, 2014 IMPs changed hands in 20 matches in the two events - an average of 100.7 per match or 6.29 IMPs per board.

USA II rebounded from their defeat in round five to clobber Spain in round six to stay in contention for a qualifying spot and were actually tied with their countrymen in the standings after seven rounds.

ROUND I

Bermuda Bowl



USA I v Australia



Taking a Punch

In the opening round of the Bermuda Bowl, USA I faced Australia. After two boards, the Aussies had a lead of 27-0, thanks to two slam swings. There were still 14 boards to play, however, and the Americans proved themselves resilient enough to come back for a 45-37 victory; 17-13 VPs.

These were the first two deals of the match.

Board 1. Dealer North. None Vul.

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

In the closed room, Richard Freeman and Nick Nickell conducted a short auction to a no-play grand slam. There was one chance - a singleton club honour - and the suit did not cooperate. Down one for minus 50.

West	North	East	South
Thomson	Nickell	Richman	Freeman
	Pass	Pass	2♣
Pass	2NT	Pass	3♠
Pass	6♠	Pass	7♠
All Pass			

In the open room, Ishmael Del Monte and Rob Fruewirth took their time and a dozen bids to find the right spot. There was nothing to the play, and Fruewirth scored up plus 980 for a 14-IMP gain.

West	North	East	South
Hamman	Del Monte	Soloway	Fruewirth
	Pass	Pass	2♣
Pass	2♦ (i)	Pass	2NT
Pass	3♣ (ii)	Pass	3♠
Pass	4♦	Pass	4♥
Pass	4♠	Pass	5♣
Pass	5♥	Pass	5♠
Pass	6♠	All Pass	

- (i) 5-8 HCP balanced, or 9+
- (ii) Asking for a five-card major

Board 2. Dealer East. N/S Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Thomson	Nickell	Richman	Freeman
1♠	4♠	1♦ (i)	Pass
		All Pass	

(i) Four or more hearts

On the second board, Nickell and Freeman again made quick work of the auction, arriving at their game contract with one bid. As you can see, Bobby Richman's decision to open the bidding with the East hand - plus Matthew Thomson's response of 1♠ made it very difficult for Nickell and Freeman to reach the excellent slam. The only possible loser looking at the North-South cards is in the trump suit. Indeed that was the only trick Nickell lost.



Bob Hamman, USA

West	North	East	South
Hamman	Del Monte	Soloway	Fruewirth
Pass	2♣	3♦	Pass
Pass	4♠	Pass	5♦
Dble	Pass	Pass	Rdbl
Pass	5♥	Pass	6♥
Pass	6♠	All Pass	

In the Open Room, Paul Soloway did not consider the East hand an opener, clearing the way for another good auction by the Australians. Soloway's 3♦ bid did not hamper Del Monte and Fruewirth, although the Aussie partisans in the vugraph audience had an anxious moment when Fruewirth bid 6♥. That contract in one match was down four tricks. Del Monte was never going to play anything but spades with his hand, however. He won the opening diamond lead with the ace and took a spade finesse, claiming for one loser when Soloway showed out. That was plus 1430 and another 13 IMPs to Australia.

The Americans started their comeback on Board 3 when Fruewirth and Del Monte overbid to 3♠, going down three, while their teammates scored plus 110 in 2♥.

Australia had a chance for another big swing on Board 4, but Del Monte and Fruewirth missed a chance for a big number against Hamman and Soloway.

Board 4. Dealer West. All Vul.

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

In the Closed Room, Thomson opened a weak 1NT and managed only five tricks for minus 200. In the Open Room, Del Monte let plus 800 slip through his fingers.

West	North	East	South
Hamman	Del Monte	Soloway	Fruewirth
Pass	1♦	Pass	1♠
Dble	Redbl	2♣	Dble
Pass	2♠	All Pass	

Del Monte's redouble showed three-card spade support. His removal of his partner's double of 2♣ is mysterious. Soloway was headed for minus 800 on any kind of reasonable defense. Instead of gaining 12 IMPs, the Australians lost 2.

Australia lost another 2 IMPs when Fruewirth made an unsuccessful guess at trick one in 3NT, the result being down two compared to down one at the other table.

A vulnerable game swing sent another 12 IMPs to USA I, pulling them to with 10 at 27-17. The next board brought the Americans even closer.

Board 8. Dealer West. None Vul.

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

Closed Room:

West	North	East	South
Thomson	Nickell	Richman	Freeman
Pass	Pass	1♠ (i)	Pass
1NT	Pass	Pass	Dble

All Pass

(i) Four or more diamonds

Nickell led the ♥9 and the defenders quickly had the contract two down for plus 300.

Del Monte had a chance to minimize the damage, but it didn't work out.

West	North	East	South
Hamman	Del Monte	Soloway	Fruewirth
Pass	Pass	1♦	Pass
1♠	Pass	Pass	Dble
Pass	2♥	2♠	3♥
All Pass			



Ishmael Del Monte, Australia

Soloway started with the top two clubs, continuing to Bob Hamman's queen. Hamman continued with the ♠7, ducked to Soloway's ten. Soloway played a low diamond, and Del Monte went up with the ace. He played a spade to his ace, ruffed a spade, cashed the ♦K and ruffed a diamond. When Del Monte played his fourth spade, Soloway pitched the ♦Q. Del Monte ruffed and played the ♦J, misguessing by ruffing with the ♥K in hand. Hamman had a trump trick coming and declarer was minus 50. That was 8 IMPs to USA I, now trailing 27-25.

The next three boards were relatively flat, although USA I picked up a couple of overtricks IMPs to pull into a 27-27 tie. They took the lead on Board 13.

Board 13. Dealer North. All Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Thomson</i>	<i>Nickell</i>	<i>Richman</i>	<i>Freeman</i>
Pass	INT	Pass	Pass

Richman was lucky to get out for down one in his weak INT after Freeman got off to the normal spade lead. At the other table:

West	North	East	South
<i>Hamman</i>	<i>Del Monte</i>	<i>Soloway</i>	<i>Fruewirth</i>
	Pass	Pass	Pass
1♥	Dble	2NT	4♠
All Pass			

Soloway's 2NT was a heart raise.

Fruewirth didn't deem his hand worthy of a weak two-bid, but he liked it better after partner's take-out double. He combined the luck of avoiding a penalty double with a nice play to hold the loss to minus 200.

Hamman started with a heart, taken with the ace at trick one. He played a spade to the queen and ace, and Hamman played a heart to Soloway's jack. A low club was returned to the king and ace. Fruewirth then cashed the ♠J and played dummy's ♥9, discarding his losing club on that trick as Soloway covered, no doubt wishing he had unblocked the suit. Fruewirth's play forced Soloway to break diamonds or surrender a trick to dummy's ♣J. As you can see, if Fruewirth had ruffed the heart, he was due to lose a club and three diamonds. It was strictly a moral victory, however, as USA I gained 7 IMPs to pull ahead at 34-27.

The next-to-last deal sealed the victory for the Americans.

Board 15. Dealer South. N-S Vul.

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

♠ 6 3 2	♥ 8	♦ 10 8 4 3	♣ A 6 5 4 3
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Hamman opened the West hand with a strong INT and was soon in 3NT, taking 11 tricks for plus 460.

At the other table, Thomson and Richman got way overboard.

West	North	East	South
<i>Thomson</i>	<i>Nickell</i>	<i>Richman</i>	<i>Freeman</i>
			Pass
1♣	Pass	2♦	Pass
2♥	Pass	2NT	Pass
3NT	Pass	6♥	All Pass

1♣ was artificial and strong (15+). Unfortunately, he had a bare minimum. Barring a calamity for the Americans on opening lead, which wasn't going to happen, the contract had zero chances. Indeed, it wasn't long before Thomson was recording minus 50. That was 11 IMPs to the Americans.



Nick Nickell, USA

ROUND 3

Bermuda Bowl



Egypt v Italy



Tough Going

Italy is one of the favored teams in the Bermuda Bowl, and it would not be surprising to see them wearing gold medals at the closing ceremony. Getting through in this year's field will not be easy, however, as demonstrated by Italy's third-round match against a very tough team from Egypt.

Italy won, but it was a hard fight, as the final score of 18-15 indicates. Egyptians, Tarek Sadek and Waleed Al Ahmady played brilliantly on VuGraph, drawing compliments from various commentators.

The Italians' first significant pickup came on Board 7, with Egypt ahead 2-1.

Board 7. Dealer South. All Vul.

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

This was the auction in the Closed Room, where Claudio Nunes and Fulvio Fantoni opposed Sherif Naguib and Ashraf Sadek.

West	North	East	South
Nunes	Naguib	Fantoni	A. Sadek
Pass	2♠	Dble	1♠
Dble	All Pass		4♠

Nunes led his singleton trump, solving that suit for declarer, but South still had five tricks to lose, ending up minus 500.

In the open room, Alfred Versace's ultra-sound pre-empt had the effect of silencing the opponents.

West	North	East	South
T. Sadek	Lauria	Al Ahmady	Versace
Pass	4♠	All Pass	3♠

Tarek led a low heart, and the defenders were able to keep declarer out of dummy, so he finished with only seven tricks and minus 300. The fact that he wasn't doubled made it a 5-IMP gain for Italy.

Two deals later, the Italians forged another gain on good bidding by Lorenzo Lauria and Alfredo Versace.

Board 11. Dealer North. E/W Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Nunes	Naguib	Fantoni	A. Sadek
Pass	1♥	Pass	INT
Dble	2♣	Pass	2♠
All Pass	2NT	Pass	3♣

Ashraf's 2♠ indicated that his hand had improved considerably after his partner's second bid. Even at that, the Egyptians did not get past the three level. East led the ♠A, making 11 tricks easy for declarer. Plus 150 was not a very satisfying result, however. The Italians in the Open Room didn't miss out.

West	North	East	South
T. Sadek	Lauria	Al Ahmady	Versace
Pass	1♥	Pass	INT
Pass	2♣	Pass	2♦
Pass	2♥	Pass	4♣
Pass	5♣	All Pass	

In the Italians' style, the 2♣ rebid could be made on a very strong hand and might be artificial. When the 2♥ bid revealed the 2♣ to have been natural, Versace liked his hand a lot, strongly suggesting game with his jump in clubs.

Al Ahmady led a trump, so Lauria had to play well to land the game. He ruffed a heart, played a second trump to his hand and ruffed another heart. Now a diamond to the king and ace left East on lead. He exited with a diamond to Lauria's jack, and de-

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clarer was able to ruff two more hearts, setting up his queen. He pitched a spade on dummy's $\diamond Q$ and claimed, giving up a spade. Note that had hearts not broken 4-4, Lauria would have been able to discard his losing heart on the $\diamond Q$ and then lead up to the $\spadesuit K$, hoping the ace was to his right.

Plus 400 was good for a 6-IMP gain, and Italy had increased their lead to 12-2.

Egypt was trailing 17-2 and was in danger of falling even farther behind on Board 13, but Tarek and Al Ahmady combined for an excellent defensive effort to earn 9 IMPs for their team.

Board 13. Dealer North. All Vul.

	\spadesuit 7 3 \heartsuit 9 3 \diamond 9 \clubsuit A K Q 8 7 5 3 2					
\spadesuit A 10 9 \heartsuit A K 8 7 \diamond K J 10 3 \clubsuit 8	<table style="margin: auto; border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> <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	\spadesuit K J 8 6 4 \heartsuit 10 6 5 2 \diamond Q 6 5 \clubsuit 4 3	
N						
W E						
S						
	\spadesuit Q 5 2 \heartsuit Q J 4 \diamond A 8 7 4 2 \clubsuit J 4					

West	North	East	South
Nunes	Naguib	Fantoni	A. Sadek
	5 \clubsuit	Pass	Pass
Dble	Pass	5 \spadesuit	All Pass

Fantoni did well to finish down one for minus 100. At the other table, Italy was in a position to more than make up for the minus score.



Ashraf Sadek, Egypt

West	North	East	South
T. Sadek	Lauria	Al Ahmady	Versace
	1 \clubsuit	Pass	1 \diamond
Pass	3 \clubsuit	Pass	3NT

All Pass

Tarek started with the $\heartsuit A$. Al Ahmady played the ten, upside down signalling with suit preference implications. When Tarek continued with the $\heartsuit K$, Al Ahmady played the six, indicating as strongly as his spots allowed that he had spade values.

After due consideration, Tarek switched to the $\spadesuit 9$. Al Ahmady won the $\spadesuit K$ and returned a low spade. Desperately, Versace put up the queen, but Tarek won the ace and the defenders ended up with the first seven tricks. That was down three for plus 300 to Egypt, now trailing by six at 17-11.

They closed the gap to 2 IMPs on the next board, which required good play by Tarek to land the contract.

Board 14. Dealer East. None Vul.

	\spadesuit A Q 4 3 \heartsuit K \diamond 10 9 4 2 \clubsuit J 10 9 7					
\spadesuit K J \heartsuit J 10 8 \diamond A Q \clubsuit A Q 8 6 3 2	<table style="margin: auto; border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> <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	\spadesuit 7 \heartsuit 9 7 5 4 3 2 \diamond K 6 3 \clubsuit K 5 4	
N						
W E						
S						
	\spadesuit 10 9 8 6 5 2 \heartsuit A Q 6 \diamond J 8 7 5 \clubsuit -					

In the Closed Room, the Italians landed in a no-play $4\heartsuit$ in a contested auction after Nunes opened the West hand with a strong 1 \clubsuit . Egypt chalked up plus 50. In the Open Room:

West	North	East	South
T. Sadek	Lauria	Al Ahmady	Versace
		Pass	2 \heartsuit (i)
3 \clubsuit	All Pass		

(i) Weak 2 \heartsuit or a weak 2 \spadesuit

On the lie of the cards, North/South can make 4 \spadesuit , losing only three diamond tricks. No doubt Lauria thought his partner's suit was hearts.

The issue for Tarek was how to take nine tricks in clubs.

Lauria started with the $\heartsuit K$, ducked all around. He switched to the $\diamond 10$, taken in hand by West with the ace. The bad news in trumps was revealed when West played the trump ace, and he stopped to consider his options. Finally, he put the $\spadesuit K$ on the table (as it happens, the jack would also do, but proper technique is to play the king). North could do no better than to play a second round of trumps, but Tarek won dummy's $\clubsuit K$, played a diamond to hand, ruffed his spade with dummy's low trump, and discarded a heart on the $\diamond K$. He lost two hearts, one spade and one club for plus 110, a 4-IMP gain.

Italy earned one more IMP on an overtrick, emerging with an 18-15 win against a tenacious opponent.; 16-14 VPs.

ROUND 3

Senior Bowl



USA I v Israel



Both USAI, a team which includes some of the champions from Paris 2001, and Israel, had solid if unspectacular first days here in Monte Carlo and were looking to put a little momentum into their challenge when they met on day two. The first half of the match saw plenty of swings. Unfortunately, one of the teams did not have a scorer and we were unable to get full details from that table.

derleading the ace of diamonds. Garey Hayden won the diamond and continued with a second round, hoping that to force dummy to ruff might promote a defensive trump trick. Not this time - Adrian Schwartz could ruff with the ace and overtake the queen then draw trumps and run the clubs for +480.

At the other table Pinhas Romik found the killing lead of a club. Yeshayahu Levit ruffed and could put his partner back in with the two red aces to receive two more ruffs; down two for -100 and 11 IMPs to Israel.

Board 1. Dealer North. None Vul.

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

Board 5. Dealer North. N/S Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Levit	Baze	Romik	Kasle
Hayden	Schwartz	Bates	Zeligman
	2♠	Pass	4♠
All Pass			

West	North	East	South
Levit	Baze	Romik	Kasle
	1♥	2♥	2♠
4♠	Pass	Pass	5♦
Pass	6♦	Pass	Pass
6♠	Dble	All Pass	

Both Norths opened with a weak two bid and were raised directly to game. East can make a safe black-suit lead or an aggressive red-suit lead. For USAI, Roger Bates chose aggression, un-

Romik showed spades and a minor and Gaylor Kasle a con-

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structive heart raise, over which Levit jumped to 4♠. When that came back around Kasle knew that his partner was short in spades and introduced his long diamond suit. Grant Baze didn't have much for his opening but what he did have was three aces and a diamond fit. He raised to 6♦, which of course should be defeated, but Levit could see that both sides had a double fit and he didn't like the look of his doubleton ♥Q one little bit. He saved in 6♠ and Baze doubled then led the ace of diamonds. Levit ruffed in dummy and led the ♠Q. Might North have had the ♥Q and not the ♣A for his raise to six? Kasle could have taken 800 by winning the first spade and switching to a club but he was not sure that his partner held the ace. Instead he ducked but won the second spade and led a heart to the ace. Baze didn't want to save declarer a possible club guess so just played back a diamond and Levit could draw trumps and knock out the club after taking a diamond pitch on the ♥J; down two for -300.

At the other table the music stopped in 4♠ doubled and again the club ruffs went missing. That was rather more serious this time, however, as the defence only came to three aces for -590 and 13 IMPs to USAI.



Pinhas Romik, Israel

Board 7. Dealer South. All Vul.

♠ 10 9 8 3 ♥ Q 10 4 ♦ Q 8 7 5 ♣ 10 3	<table style="border: 1px solid black; width: 80px; height: 80px; 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 J 8 2 ♦ 6 2 ♣ A J 7 6 4	♠ Q 6 5 ♥ 7 6 ♦ A K J 4 ♣ K 9 8 5
N						
W E						
S						

West	North	East	South
<i>Levit</i>	<i>Baze</i>	<i>Romik</i>	<i>Kasle</i>
Pass	Pass	Dble	Pass
1♠	2♦	2♥	Pass
3♥	Pass	4♥	All Pass

At the other table, Bates played in 3♥, just making for +140, so there would be a swing one way or the other once the Israelis got to game. Kasle cashed a top diamond and got a strong signal from Baze, so he underled his other diamond at trick two. Baze won the ♦Q and switched to a deceptive ♣3. Romik had little

option but to run that and Kasle won then king the reverted to diamonds, forcing declarer to ruff. Romik cashed the ♥A, then thought for some time before cashing the ♥K. That was down one for -100 and 6 IMPs to USAI instead of 10 IMPs to Israel. The bidding suggested that South was balanced and he would therefore hold one of the major-suit queens but probably not both as he could not have a strong notrump type, so a close decision.

Board 8. Dealer West. None Vul.

♠ 8 7 2 ♥ A K 10 5 ♦ 8 5 3 2 ♣ J 4	<table style="border: 1px solid black; width: 80px; height: 80px; 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 6 3 ♥ Q J 8 7 3 ♦ - ♣ A Q 7 5 2	♠ A Q ♥ 9 4 2 ♦ A K J 10 9 6 4 ♣ K
N						
W E						
S						

West	North	East	South
<i>Levit</i>	<i>Baze</i>	<i>Romik</i>	<i>Kasle</i>
1♦	Pass	1♥	1♠
3NT	All Pass		

Levit opened 1♦ then rebid 3NT, showing long and strong diamonds. The misfit left Romik with no reason to move on and the fall of the queen of diamonds meant that Levit made eleven tricks for +460. It looks as though the Americans had a difference of opinion as to the meaning of the same sequence at the other table, though I do not have the details, as they reached 6♥. This was beyond the ability of Bates to bring home for some strange

No Smoking

This is your reminder that the Sporting d'Hiver and the Bellevue are non-smoking areas. Despite that, the management of these facilities have complained about finding cigarettes on the floor and in other areas where smoking is forbidden.

If you wish to smoke you *must go outside* the building.
 Fines will be imposed for breaches of this regulation.

reason; down one for -50 and 11 IMPs to Israel.

Board 9. Dealer North. E/W Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Levit</i>	<i>Baze</i>	<i>Romik</i>	<i>Kasle</i>
	1♣	1♠	Pass
4♠	All Pass		

Would you just blast 4♠ as West because you hold five-card support for partner's overcall, or would you try to make a less committal bid and improve your chances of achieving a plus score? Levit went for the straightforward approach and reached the poor game. Kasle led a club and the eight forced Romik's king. He ducked a diamond and back came the queen of clubs from Baze. Romik won and eliminated the minor suits before playing to the ♠K and ace. Kasle played back a passive trump but Romik had seen more than enough to know how to play the hearts. He led the ♥9 and that was covered by ten, jack and ace; +620.

At the other table the Americans stopped in 2♠, making ten tricks for +170 but 10 IMPs to Israel.

Board 10. Dealer East. All Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Levit</i>	<i>Baze</i>	<i>Romik</i>	<i>Kasle</i>
		1♥	Pass
3♦	Pass	4♥	All Pass

Three Diamonds was a Bergen raise and Romik had an easy 4♥ call. Kasle led a spade to queen and ace and Romik had no reason to suspect the bad spade break. He played a diamond up and Kasle won the ace, noted Baze's ten, and gave his partner a spade

ruff. Baze switched to ace and another club to declarer's king and Romik crossed to dummy with a diamond, led the ♥Q, then thought. Finally, he decided to run the heart and was down one for -100. He explained afterwards that he would always have gone down had Kasle ducked the first diamond as he would have had no reason not to take the heart finesse, so it seemed reasonable to play the same way now.

Two rounds of clubs were led at the other table. With only one club loser, Bates could afford to lay down the ♥A and the fall of the king meant an overtrick; +650 and 13 IMPs to USAI.

USAI led at half-time by 39-36 IMPs. The second half went very much in favour of the Americans who ran out winners by 81-47 IMPs, 21-9 VPs.

And the winner is...

During these Championships the IBPA will be announcing their annual awards. If the criteria for selection were to rest on the frequency that a hand has been reported, then this effort would undoubtedly be a leading contender. It has already appeared in such distinguished publications as The Times, Daily Telegraph, The Lady, Country Life, Bridge Magazine, Le Figaro and, of course, the IBPA Bulletin.

Dealer East. N/S Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
	<i>Dix</i>		<i>Tacchi</i>
		Pass	1♥
Pass	2♦	Pass	2♠
Pass	3♥	Pass	4♣
Pass	4♦	Pass	4♥
Pass	5♥	Pass	6♥
	All Pass		

Declarer won the club lead in dummy and played a trump. When East produced the king declarer decided it was a true card and set about trying to avoid the loss of two trump tricks. Winning with the ace, Tacchi cashed the top clubs, discarding two spades from dummy. After unblocking the queen of diamonds declarer cashed the ace of spades, ruffed a spade and played the ace and king of diamonds. Then he ruffed a diamond in hand and played a trump towards dummy's eight. West could win, but then had to lead into declarer's trump tenace.

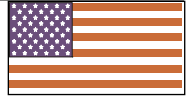
A brilliant play by Ron Tacchi - but there was no one there to take his picture!

ROUND 5

Bermuda Bowl



USA I v USA II



The Fireworks Show

Take a wild set of boards, mix in two aggressive teams and add a kind of sibling rivalry, bake at high temperature and you will have the kind of entertaining VuGraph match that was produced by the fifth-round Bermuda Bowl contest between USA I and USA II.

USA I are the two-time Bermuda Bowl champion Nick Nickell squad - Nickell, Richard Freeman, Jeff Meckstroth, Eric Rodwell, Bob Hamman and Paul Soloway (Bobby Wolff, now on USA II, was Hamman's partner in the team's first win in 1995).

USA II, on a roll since the fall of last year, are Wolff, Dan Morse, Adam Wildavsky, Doug Doub, Steve Landen and Pratap Rajadhyaksha.

The action started on the first board.

Board 1. Dealer North. None Vul.

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



Stephen Landen, USA

West	North	East	South
Rodwell	Wolff	Meckstroth	Morse
	3♦	Pass	5♦
Dble	Pass	5♥	All Pass

Wolff's offbeat preempt in diamonds did not slow down Meckstroth and Rodwell.

Against 5♥, Morse led the ♣J, taken in dummy with the ace. Meckstroth played the ♦10, angling for a ruff in dummy, and Wolff went up with the king. That gave Wolff the opportunity to give Morse a club ruff, but it wouldn't have been enough to defeat the contract. As it happened, Wolff returned the ♣Q, which Morse did not ruff. It wasn't long before Meckstroth was claiming for plus 480.

In the closed room, Landen and Rajadhyaksha didn't handle the interference as well.

West	North	East	South
Landen	Soloway	Pratap	Hamman
	Pass	2♥	Pass
2NT	3♦	3♠	5♦
Dble	All Pass		

There was no hope of defeating this contract, and Soloway duly chalked up plus 550 for a 14-IMP gain right off the bat.

USA II struck back on the second board.

Board 2. Dealer East. N-S Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Rodwell	Wolff	Meckstroth	Morse
	4♠	3♣	3♠
Pass		All Pass	

Meckstroth's 3♣ opener was described as a "sound" preempt. Careful defense was necessary for East-West to prevail. Rodwell led the ♣9 to the jack and ace, and Meckstroth switched to a low diamond. Morse put up the king, losing to the ace, and Rodwell switched accurately to the ♥K. That was it for Morse, who lost four tricks for one down. There was more action at the other table.

West	North	East	South
Landen	Soloway	Pratap	Hamman
2♥	3♥	1♣	1♠
5♥	Pass	4♥	4♠
Dble	All Pass	Pass	5♠

Landen started with the ♥K and USA II soon had four tricks in for plus 500. That was 9 IMPs to USA II.

On the next deal, Wolff played well to land a partscore that put his team into the lead.

Board 3. Dealer South. E-W Vul.

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

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

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

West	North	East	South
Landen	Soloway	Pratap	Hamman
Pass	2♣	Pass	Pass
Pass	3♣	All Pass	2♥

Landen and Pratap took all their tricks against this unlucky contract, and Soloway was three down for minus 150. Wolff did much better in the open room, thanks to a defensive slip.

West	North	East	South
Rodwell	Wolff	Meckstroth	Morse
Pass	1♣	Pass	1♥
Pass	1♠	Pass	INT
Pass	2♣	All Pass	

Meckstroth led the ♦J to the queen, king and ace, and Wolff shot the ♦3 right back. Meckstroth won the ♦10 and was at the crossroads. He needed to play spades, but after some thought he exited with a low heart. Wolff went up with dummy's ♥A, dropping his singleton king, cashed the ♥Q for a spade pitch, then played two more rounds of diamonds, discarding spades. Meckstroth ruffed the fourth diamond, but it was with a natural trump trick. Wolff lost three trump tricks, a diamond and a spade. Plus 90 gave USA II a 6-IMP gain and the lead by 1 IMP.

The lead was erased on the next deal when Landen in the closed room went down in a vulnerable 4♠ that was made in the open room. The IMPs were flying all over the place, and USA I had a 26-15 lead after four boards.

More IMPs went to USA I on board 5 when Landen and Pratap missed a useful 4♠ save against a vulnerable 4♥, giving up plus 620 at one table versus 300 at the other table. Another 8 IMPs to the Nickell squad.

USA II got 11 of it back on board 7 as Hamman and Soloway let a vulnerable 4♠ through for minus 620 while Wolff and Morse

were minus 100 in 5♥ down one.

Players are often heard to say they would rather be lucky than good. Meckstroth and Rodwell are obviously good. On the following deal they were very lucky.

Board 8. Dealer West. None Vul.

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

♠ Q J		
♥ J 10 9 6 4		
♦ 6		
♣ J 9 8 7 4		

♠ 9 4 3		
♥ K 8 5 2		
♦ 9 8		
♣ K 10 5 3		

Landen and Pratap had a reasonable auction to a good spot.

West	North	East	South
Landen	Soloway	Pratap	Hamman
INT	Pass	2♣	Pass
2♦	Pass	3♦	Pass
3♠	Pass	4♥	Pass
5♦	Pass	5♠	Pass
6♦	All Pass		



Dan Morse, USA

With the whole spade suit coming in, 13 tricks were trivial.

West	North	East	South
Rodwell	Wolff	Meckstroth	Morse
INT	Pass	2♠	Pass
2NT	Pass	3♠	Pass
4♦	Pass	4♥	Pass
5♦	Pass	7♦	All Pass

Wolff led a tricky ♠J, but Rodwell had no real option for avoiding a spade loser than to win the ace in hand, pull trumps and lead another spade. Wolff's ♠Q was a welcome sight to Rodwell, who recorded plus 1440 for an 11-IMP gain.

USA I earned another slam swing on board 12.

Board 12. Dealer West. N/S Vul.

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



Eric Rodwell, USA

West	North	East	South
Rodwell	Wolff	Meckstroth	Morse
Pass	1♥	Pass	1♠
Pass	2♦	Pass	3♠
Pass	3NT	Pass	4♠
Pass	5♠	All Pass	

Morse wisely declined Wolff's invitation to slam in spades. Indeed, the trump suit was the problem as Morse had two losers in the spade suit. The North-South hands are good for slam in three other strains, however - hearts, diamonds and notrump. It was a missed opportunity for USA I. At the other table, Hamman had no difficulty deciding on the proper level once Soloway opening the bidding with a strong 1♣.

West	North	East	South
Landen	Soloway	Pratap	Hamman
Pass	1♣	Pass	1♠
Pass	2♥	Pass	2♠
Pass	2NT	Pass	3♠
Pass	3NT	Pass	6♥

All Pass

All suits cooperated nicely, so achieving plus 1430 was no problem for Soloway. That was another 13 IMPs to USA I.

On the next board, Morse made a poor decision in a competitive auction, leading to a 5-IMP loss instead of a 9-IMP gain.

Board 13. Dealer North. All Vul.

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

In the closed room, Hamman and Soloway were never in the auction. Pratap opened 1♠ and Landen blew into the spade game. North-South had only three tricks and East-West had plus 620.

In the open room, the Rodwell-Meckstroth Precision 1♣ let Morse and Wolff find their heart fit.

West	North	East	South
Rodwell	Wolff	Meckstroth	Morse
Pass	Pass	1♣	1♥
Pass	4♥	4♠	Pass
Pass	5♣	Dble	5♥
Pass	Pass	Dble	All Pass

The defense was very accurate. Rodwell led his singleton club to Meckstroth's ace. The ♣6 (upside-down suit preference) was returned for a ruff. A spade put the lead back in Meckstroth's hand and he gave his partner a second club ruff with the trump ace still to come for plus 800. Morse might have avoided the big minus by passing. If Wolff had chosen to pass, which seems likely, 5♣ doubled would be down only one for minus 200. The differ-

ence would have been a 9-IMP gain for USA II.

Although down, USA II kept fighting, earning 12 IMPs on this deal near the end.

Board 14. Dealer East. None Vul.

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

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Landen</i>	<i>Soloway</i>	<i>Pratap</i>	<i>Hamman</i>
2♣	Pass	INT	Pass
3♥	Pass	2♦	Pass
		4♥	All Pass

Soloway got off to the aggressive lead of a low diamond, ducked by Landen to his queen. Taking the right view in trumps, he immediately played a low heart to dummy's 10, which held. He then played a spade to the jack, a heart to the jack and ace and a spade to the ace. Soloway ruffed, cashed the ♥K and exited with the ♦K. Landen won the ace, played a spade to the king, then finished off the hearts, catching North-South in a double squeeze

and taking the last three tricks with the A Q 9 of clubs. That was plus 450.

West	North	East	South
<i>Rodwell</i>	<i>Wolff</i>	<i>Meckstroth</i>	<i>Morse</i>
		INT	Pass
2♦	Pass	2♥	Pass
3♥	Pass	4♥	All Pass

Morse started with the ♣5 to the king and ace, and Meckstroth cashed the ♥A, followed by a low heart from hand. Wolff took the ♥Q with the king and switched to the ♠3, which went to the 6 and jack in dummy. A third round of trumps put Wolff in again, and he played the ♦7. It's clear that if Meckstroth ducks, he will get home with his contract. It also seems clear that Meckstroth didn't believe Wolff would lead away from the king in that situation. Meckstroth rose with the ♦A and played the ♣6 from hand. Morse had signaled count in clubs earlier with the ♣7, and now he followed with the 5 on Meckstroth's 6. Meckstroth could have made the contract, discarding one diamond on the ♣6 and another on the ♣Q then ruffing a diamond to dummy to pull the last trump. He would have ended with three hearts, three spades, three clubs and one diamond for 10 tricks.

Instead, Meckstroth ruffed the ♣6 in dummy and pulled the last trump, but when he exited with a diamond, expecting to endplay South, Wolff put in the ♦J and cashed out the suit. That was three down and 12 IMPs to USA II.

No more IMPs changed hands, and the final score of 63-41 reflected the swinging tone of the match.

It was far from the wildest match, however. That distinction belonged to Brazil and Sweden in the Venice Cup. Their match ended with Brazil on top 82-73, nearly 10 IMPs per board. Indeed, out of 16 deals, there were 12 double-digit swings.



Jeff Meckstroth, USA

World Championship Book 2003

The official book of these Championships should be available at the end of February 2004. The good news is that it will include a few more pages than previous years, the bad news is that, after keeping the same price for the last six years, there will be a 10% increase this time around to US\$33.

You can order an advance copy from Elly Ducheyne in the Press Room, which is in L'Hermitage Hotel, at a reduced price of 25 Euros, including surface mail to anywhere in the world.

The book will include comprehensive coverage of the knockout stages of the Bermuda Bowl and Venice Cup, with analysis from Eric Kokish, Brian Senior and Barry Rigal, plus a round-up of the best of the round robin stages. There will also be an expanded section covering the Senior Bowl, a section on the Transnational Teams, and all the results plus many photographs.

'Stand not upon the order of your going, but go at once.'

Macbeth. Act iii. Sc. 4.

When your contract appears to be in jeopardy you can sometimes survive by subjecting your opponents to an immediate test, exploiting, as Tony Forrester would say, 'the power of the closed hand.' Consider this deal from Round 3 of the Bermuda Bowl match between USAI and Bermuda.

Board 4. Dealer West. All Vul.

♠ 8 7 2 ♥ Q 10 4 3 ♦ 9 7 3 ♣ A 9 7	<table style="border: 1px solid black; width: 60px; height: 60px; margin: 0 auto;"> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">N</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">W</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">E</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">S</td></tr> </table>	N	W	E	S	♠ A K 5 3 ♥ A K 7 ♦ Q 8 5 ♣ J 8 5	♠ 10 9 4 ♥ 9 8 6 2 ♦ 10 6 4 ♣ Q 3 2
N							
W							
E							
S							
	♠ Q J 6 ♥ J 5 ♦ A K J 2 ♣ K 10 6 4						



Doug Doub, USA

West	North	East	South
<i>Wildavsky</i>	<i>Harvey</i>	<i>Doub</i>	<i>Douglas</i>
Pass	1♣	Pass	2NT
Pass	4NT	Pass	6NT
All Pass			

West	North	East	South
<i>Saunders</i>	<i>Wolff</i>	<i>Hall</i>	<i>Morse</i>
Pass	1NT	Pass	4NT
Pass	6NT	All Pass	

Declarer took the opening lead of the eight of spades with the jack and played three more rounds of the suit before advancing the jack of clubs. East covered with the queen and declarer had nowhere to go, -100.

Here North was declarer and he won the first trick with the ace of hearts and immediately advanced the jack of clubs like a man who was trying to sniff out the location of the queen. Can you blame East for failing to cover? Now declarer had an easy route to twelve tricks for +1440 and a big swing.

LOUIS VUITTON

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A Sure Thing

We had quite a problem yesterday, a complete bulletin less one page, and only a series of long match reports that could not be shortened. Then we remembered seeing a grubby piece of paper lying around in the office with two hands displayed.

A frantic search revealed the now scarcely legible hieroglyphics.

♠ 8 7 5
♥ A 8 6 4
♦ A Q J
♣ A 7 4



♠ A K Q J 10
♥ 5
♦ 10 9 8 3
♣ 8 6 2

Your problem is to make Four Spades against any adverse distribution of the enemy cards, given that West leads a heart, (they are not 8-0) and trumps are 4-1.

We confess it took us a moment or two - we are all getting older.

Can you find the answer?

The first correct submission to the Bulletin office will win a prize.

Transnational Teams

The World Open Transnational Teams Championships will start on Monday Nov. 10 at 6 p.m.

Teams who have not yet registered should go to the Salle Auguste (WBF President's Office) in the Hotel Hermitage and register as soon as possible with either Anna Gudge or Christine Francin.

It is important that any teams currently playing in the championships who intend to play in the Transnational Teams should come and register their names; this is so that we can know the approximate number of competing teams.

Of course, teams subsequently qualifying for the semifinals will be able to withdraw. Please note that there is no entry fee for players from the Bermuda Bowl, Venice Cup or Senior Bowl - if they are joined by other players who have not competed in these events, those players will be required to pay that proportion of the entry fee.

All teams, whether registering on site or pre-registered, must confirm their entry and, if they have not already done so, must pay the entry fee to Christine Francin as soon as possible, but certainly no later than 3 p.m. on Monday, Nov. 10.

The entry fee may be paid in either US Dollars (\$800) or Euro (720). This may be paid in cash, or by travellers cheques, payable to the World Bridge Federation. We regret that we are not able to accept credit cards.

The WBF Office will be open for the Registration of Transnational Teams at the following times:
2 p.m. to 6 p.m. from Wednesday to Saturday;
10:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Sunday, Nov. 9, and
10:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. hours on Monday, Nov. 10.

Please do not try and register at other times!

Appeals committees

Please note that, whenever possible, appeals will be held in the Jardin d'Hiver. If there is simultaneously a second appeal it will be heard in the Bouderie Room of the Hotel Hermitage.

Appeals will be held at 9:30 a.m. or 6:30 p.m. each day.

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Le petit écho de Monaco

par Guy Dupont

Deuxième sans forcer

La premier tour de la Senior Bowl fut plutôt serré. Hormis l'Italie, qui avait largement battu la Polynésie française, par 25 à 4, aucune autre rencontre n'avait été gagnée par plus de 17 points de victoire. Du coup, le Japon fut tout étonné de se retrouver en deuxième position, au classement général, avec un score de 18 points. Sans avoir joué. Il était bye.

Frères ennemis

Rencontre presque fraternelle, au troisième tour de la senior Bowl : la France est opposée à la Guadeloupe. Prenez place en Est, sur la donne 23, avec cette main :

- ♠ D 8 7 6 3
- ♥ AV 7 5 2
- ♦ 10 8
- ♣ D

Sud donneur, tous vulnérables.

Les enchères débutent :



Pierre Adad, le Général, France

O	N	E	S
Veron	Adad	Bonnet	Aujaleu
I ♥	Contre	4 ♥	1 ♣
Passe	Passe	?	5 ♣

Que dites-vous ?

Philippe Bonnet, avec son soutien de cinq cartes à ♥, a pensé qu'un contrat au palier de 5, même à égalité de vulnérabilité, pouvait être profitable à son camp. Et il défendit à 5 ♥. Mais Maurice Aujaleu en profita pour passer, une enchère encourageante pour le chelem à ♣. Pierre Adad saisit la balle au bond, sans la moindre hésitation, en déclarant 6 ♣, après deux Passe.

- ♠ A 2
- ♥ 9 4
- ♦ RV 7 4 3 2
- ♣ V 10 8

- ♠ V 10 9 5
- ♥ R D 10 6 3
- ♦ D 6
- ♣ 7 5



- ♠ D 8 7 6 3
- ♥ AV 7 5 2
- ♦ 10 8
- ♣ D

- ♠ R 4
- ♥ 8
- ♦ A 9 5
- ♣ A R 9 6 4 3 2

La réussite du chelem ne posait aucune difficulté, et la France encaissa un bénéfice de 13 imp, quand, dans l'autre salle, on s'était arrêté à 5 ♣.

Une donne qui ne saurait toutefois refléter la rencontre. Les Guadeloupéens, qui menaient de 8 imp à la mi-temps, furent rattrapés en seconde période, ne s'inclinant que par 17 à 13, face à leurs rivaux " hexagonaux ".

Rencontre au sommet

Quel plaisir de pouvoir suivre le match du jour au bridgevision, Etats-Unis 1 contre Etats-Unis 2, dans la Bermuda Bowl ! Il y a toujours un petit parfum de finale avant la lettre dans ce type de rencontre. Les images de Bernard Delange (mais pourquoi n'arrête-t-il pas de poser des câbles dans les couloirs - il est vrai interminables - de l'Hôtel Hermitage, encore après trois jours de compétition ?) et de son équipe vidéo, sont superbes. Les donnes aussi.

Ici, Meckstroth-Rodwell ont la baraka :

Donne 8, Ouest donneur, personne vulnérable.

- ♠ DV
- ♥ V 10 9 6 4
- ♦ 6
- ♣ V 9 8 7 4

- ♠ A 6 5
- ♥ D 3
- ♦ D 7 4 2
- ♣ A D 6 2



- ♠ R 10 8 7 2
- ♥ A 7
- ♦ A R V 10 5 3
- ♣ -

- ♠ 9 4 3
- ♥ R 8 5 2
- ♦ 9 8
- ♣ R 10 5 3

O	N	E	S
Rodwell	Wolff	Meckstroth	Morse
1 SA	Passe	2 ♠	Passe
2 SA	Passe	3 ♠	Passe
4 ♦	Passe	4 ♥	Passe
5 ♦	Passe	7 ♦ !	(Fin)

2 ♠ : Texas mineur.

2 SA : main minimum.

3 ♠ : Texas ♦.

4 ♥ : Blackwood 5 clés.

5 ♦ : 2 clés + la Dame d'atout.

Ben voyons, pourquoi se gêner quand Dame-Valet de ♠ sont secs chez l'adversaire ! Réussite tout de même un peu insolente pour les States number one qui encaissent un bénéfice de 11 imp, quand dans l'autre salle, les States number two se sont fort logiquement contentés de jouer 6 ♦.

Là, c'est une différence de style qui rapporte 5 imp à l'équipe number one, mais cela aurait pu lui en coûter davantage...

Donne 13, Nord donneur, tous vulnérables

	♠ 4		
	♥ 8 5 3 2		
	♦ R 10		
	♣ R DV 10 9 2		
♠ V 9 8 7 6		♠ A R D 5 3 2	
♥ V 9		♥ A 10	
♦ D 9 6 3 2		♦ 5 4	
♣ 4		♣ A 8 6	
	♠ 10		
	♥ R D 7 6 4		
	♦ A V 8 7		
	♣ 7 5 3		

En salle fermée, l'ouverture en majeure 5e permet de clouer le bec à l'adversaire :

O	N	E	S
Landen	Hamman	Rajadhyaksha	Soloway
	Passe	1 ♠	Passe
4 ♠	(Fin)		

620, sans émotion, pour Est-Ouest.

En salle ouverte, les enchères tournent au combat de rues, après une ouverture en ♠ fort :

O	N	E	S
Rodwell	Wolff	Meckstroth	Morse
	Passe	1 ♣	1 ♥
Passe	4 ♥	4 ♠	Passe
Passe	5 ♣	Contre	5 ♥
Passe	Passe	Contre	(Fin)

Le coup commence, cette fois, réellement pour Est au palier de 4, quand il annonce sa belle couleur à ♠. Mais après le courageux réveil de Bobby Wolff à 5 ♣, il devrait tourner à l'avantage des Etats-Unis 2, si Sud acceptait de jouer à ♣. On ne chute que d'une seule levée à ce contrat (- 200).

Au rama, après l'enchère de 5 ♥ de Sud, Paul Chemla, dans le rôle (frustrant pour lui) du commentateur, rend un vibrant hommage au Passe d'Eric Rodwell, qui a mis un temps fou à s'y décider (difficile de résister, en effet, à ne pas soutenir son partenaire, quand celui-ci débarque à 4 ♠, avec plein de jeu dans les mains, et que vous possédez vous-même cinq cartes dans sa couleur). Sacrée bonne décision !

La défense à 5 ♥ est trop coûteuse : après l'entame du singleton à ♣, Ouest se trouve en mesure de couper deux ♣. 800 pour Est-Ouest, et 5 imp pour les Etats-Unis 1 (qui remporteront finalement le match par 21 à 9).

Laws review subcommittee

There will be private meetings of the Laws Review Sub-Committee in the Bouderie Room of the Hotel Hermitage on the following schedule:

Thursday, Nov. 6, at 10:45 a.m. and 1:30 p.m.

Friday, Nov. 7, at 10:45 a.m. and 1:30 p.m.

Tuesday, Nov. 11, 10:45 a.m. and 1:30 p.m.

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