



上海中房置业
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DAILY BULLETIN

WORLD BRIDGE TEAM CHAMPIONSHIPS

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FEELING THE PRESSURE



The 11th edition of the World Computer-Bridge Championships is under way in Shanghai with eight contestants



VUGRAPH MATCHES



Round 19 (11.00-13.20)

VG:	Table 11	Japan - Poland	(BB)
BBO 1:	Table 4	Italy - Australia	(BB)
BBO 2:	Table 24	Netherlands - Canada	(VC)
SWAN*:	Table 9	Sweden - China	(BB)
OurGame:	Table 1	Egypt - USA 1	(BB)

Round 20 (14.20-16.40)

SWAN:	Table 30	Denmark - USA 2	(VC)
VG, BBO 1, BBO 2 and OurGame:	To be decided		

Round 21 (17.10-19.30)

SWAN:	Table 11	Sweden - Indonesia	(BB)
VG, BBO 1, BBO 2 and OurGame:	To be decided		

* This match will be broadcast at 20.30 Chinese time

With one day – three matches – left in the qualifying stages of the Bermuda Bowl, Venice Cup and Senior Bowl, pressure is mounting for teams still in the running for the knockout rounds.

Barring unexpected collapses, several teams are virtual locks to be playing in the quarterfinals on Sunday. By this evening, some of the contenders will be left to look back on missed chances and ahead to the next tournament.

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BB: Ireland v Norway - Round 12	7
SB: Italy v Canada - Round 13	10
VC: France v Denmark - Round 11	12
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TODAY'S PROGRAM



Bermuda Bowl

ROUND 19 11.00

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

Venice Cup

ROUND 19 11.00

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

ROUND 20 14.20

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

ROUND 20 14.20

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

ROUND 21 17.10

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

ROUND 21 17.10

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



TODAY'S PROGRAM

Senior Bowl

ROUND 19 11.00

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

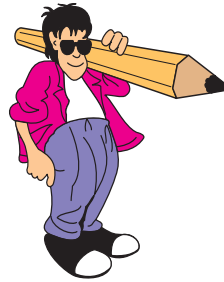
ROUND 20 14.20

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

ROUND 21 17.10

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

Championship Diary



In the middle of a complex discussion Tacchi interjected 'If I've told you once I've told you a million times, don't exaggerate.' The other day Barry Rigel penned an article in the Daily Bulletin, which mentioned that he was surprised the word gullible did not appear in the

dictionary.

It was only a matter of time before a yellow shirted staff member enquired, 'Why isn't it in the dictionary?'

Operations Director Maurizio Di Sacco has been studying Chinese. This may explain why when he asks for a cup of tea the waiter brings him a fork.

I have a really good entry for the Diary – at least I think I do. For once my notoriously illegible handwriting has defeated even me.

I'm told that you can actually follow more than one VuGraph match at once by going to www.bbotv.com/vugraph/kiosk/html

If you spotted the piece about doubles we are indebted to Richard Fleet, following the event on the Internet who reports the Granville double (a double of a cold contract) and mentions the related Granville sacrifice (costs more than the game but less than the doubled game – e.g. 500 to save 590).



Bill (Kojak) Schoder, far right, delighted those present at the President's dinner Thursday night (see page 20) with a piano solo. He is shown with fellow tournament directors after his performance.



RESULTS

Bermuda Bowl



ROUND 16

	Home Team	Visiting Team	IMPs	VPs
1	China SMEG	New Zealand	28 - 13	18 - 12
2	Poland	Indonesia	21 - 32	13 - 17
3	India	Norway	15 - 38	10 - 20
4	Canada	Sweden	6 - 31	9 - 21
5	USA 2	Egypt	42 - 24	19 - 11
6	Australia	Brazil	58 - 17	24 - 6
7	Ireland	Argentina	21 - 33	12 - 18
8	USA 1	Trinidad & Tobago	55 - 12	25 - 5
9	Netherlands	Italy	20 - 35	12 - 18
10	Pakistan	Chinese Taipei	10 - 34	9 - 21
11	South Africa	Japan	16 - 36	10 - 20

ROUND 17

	Home Team	Visiting Team	IMPs	VPs
1	Egypt	Pakistan	37 - 38	15 - 15
2	Chinese Taipei	Netherlands	14 - 36	10 - 20
3	Italy	USA 1	62 - 0	25 - 2
4	Trinidad & Tobago	Ireland	23 - 72	4 - 25
5	Argentina	Australia	19 - 67	4 - 25
6	New Zealand	USA 2	38 - 25	18 - 12
7	Japan	Canada	26 - 25	15 - 15
8	Sweden	India	25 - 23	15 - 15
9	Norway	Poland	47 - 17	22 - 8
10	Indonesia	China SMEG	31 - 26	16 - 14
11	Brazil	South Africa	42 - 31	17 - 13

ROUND 18

	Home Team	Visiting Team	IMPs	VPs
1	New Zealand	Indonesia	19 - 40	10 - 20
2	China SMEG	Norway	26 - 42	11 - 19
3	Poland	Sweden	17 - 59	5 - 25
4	India	Japan	36 - 23	18 - 12
5	Canada	Brazil	27 - 58	8 - 22
6	South Africa	Argentina	5 - 55	4 - 25
7	USA 2	Pakistan	13 - 20	14 - 16
8	Ireland	Italy	24 - 34	13 - 17
9	USA 1	Chinese Taipei	24 - 39	12 - 18
10	Netherlands	Egypt	44 - 19	21 - 9
11	Australia	Trinidad & Tobago	30 - 30	15 - 15

Ranking after 18 Rounds

1	Italy	335
2	USA 1	307
3	Netherlands	301.5
4	Australia	301
5	Norway	299
6	Sweden	286
7	China SMEG	285
8	Japan	279
9	South Africa	278.5
10	USA 2	274
11	Indonesia	273
12	Argentina	272
13	Poland	269
14	Egypt	268
15	Brazil	267
16	Pakistan	256
17	Chinese Taipei	253.5
18	Ireland	248.5
19	India	236
20	New Zealand	227
21	Canada	222.5
22	Trinidad & Tobago	167.5



Bernard Delange, camera operator in the VuGraph



RESULTS

Venice Cup



ROUND 16

	Home Team	Visiting Team	IMPs	VPs
21	Brazil	England	22 - 32	13 - 17
22	Jordan	Egypt	35 - 44	13 - 17
23	South Africa	France	18 - 24	14 - 16
24	Guadeloupe	New Zealand	33 - 56	10 - 20
25	Indonesia	Argentina	39 - 18	20 - 10
26	Canada	China Global Times	18 - 40	10 - 20
27	Australia	Japan	51 - 19	23 - 7
28	Denmark	India	31 - 23	17 - 13
29	Philippines	Netherlands	27 - 42	12 - 18
30	USA 2	Germany	23 - 21	15 - 15
31	USA 1	Croatia	68 - 8	25 - 2

ROUND 17

	Home Team	Visiting Team	IMPs	VPs
21	Argentina	USA 2	18 - 54	7 - 23
22	Germany	Philippines	41 - 24	19 - 11
23	Netherlands	Denmark	38 - 11	21 - 9
24	India	Australia	61 - 26	23 - 7
25	Japan	Canada	11 - 46	7 - 23
26	England	Indonesia	44 - 20	21 - 9
27	Croatia	Guadeloupe	55 - 23	23 - 7
28	New Zealand	South Africa	32 - 47	12 - 18
29	France	Jordan	54 - 24	22 - 8
30	Egypt	Brazil	53 - 17	23 - 7
31	China Global Times	USA 1	20 - 19	15 - 15

ROUND 18

	Home Team	Visiting Team	IMPs	VPs
21	England	Egypt	32 - 49	11 - 19
22	Brazil	France	8 - 20	12 - 18
23	Jordan	New Zealand	42 - 47	14 - 16
24	South Africa	Croatia	30 - 30	15 - 15
25	Guadeloupe	China Global Times	21 - 45	9 - 21
26	USA 1	Japan	13 - 8	16 - 14
27	Indonesia	USA 2	40 - 24	19 - 11
28	Australia	Netherlands	33 - 50	11 - 19
29	Denmark	Germany	28 - 40	12 - 18
30	Philippines	Argentina	67 - 14	25 - 3
31	Canada	India	46 - 7	24 - 6

Ranking after 18 Rounds

1	USA 1	344
2	Germany	328
3	China Global Times	322
4	France	314
5	Canada	298
6	England	290
	USA 2	290
8	Egypt	286
9	Netherlands	284
10	Denmark	283.5
11	Indonesia	279
12	Philippines	261
13	New Zealand	259.5
14	Australia	259
15	India	254
16	Brazil	250
17	Croatia	242
18	Argentina	236
19	South Africa	232
20	Japan	218
21	Jordan	190
22	Guadeloupe	169



Carol, Christine and Anna at the President's dinner. They are the unsung heroines of the WBF secretariat. Without them, not only would the championships come to an abrupt halt – they wouldn't even get started.



RESULTS

Senior Bowl



ROUND 16

	Home Team	Visiting Team	IMPs	VPs
41	Italy	South Africa	43 - 18	21 - 9
42	China	Denmark	8 - 11	14 - 16
43	Canada	USA 1	26 - 30	14 - 16
44	New Zealand	Argentina	17 - 46	8 - 22
45	Guadeloupe	Egypt	23 - 31	13 - 17
46	Poland	USA 2	12 - 40	8 - 22
47	Australia	Brazil	10 - 28	11 - 19
48	Thailand	France	31 - 18	18 - 12
49	Sweden	Japan	28 - 23	16 - 14
50	China Hong Kong	Indonesia	27 - 43	11 - 19
51	Germany	India	40 - 13	21 - 9

ROUND 17

	Home Team	Visiting Team	IMPs	VPs
41	Egypt	China Hong Kong	63 - 16	25 - 4
42	Indonesia	Sweden	41 - 36	16 - 14
43	Japan	Thailand	24 - 28	14 - 16
44	France	Australia	31 - 27	16 - 14
45	Brazil	Poland	25 - 29	14 - 16
46	South Africa	Guadeloupe	31 - 49	11 - 19
47	India	New Zealand	51 - 32	19 - 11
48	Argentina	Canada	22 - 39	11 - 19
49	USA 1	China	28 - 62	7 - 23
50	Denmark	Italy	38 - 35	16 - 14
51	USA 2	Germany	23 - 45	10 - 20

ROUND 18

	Home Team	Visiting Team	IMPs	VPs
41	South Africa	Denmark	21 - 58	6 - 24
42	Italy	USA 1	23 - 36	12 - 18
43	China	Argentina	42 - 48	14 - 16
44	Canada	India	56 - 14	25 - 5
45	New Zealand	USA 2	9 - 53	5 - 25
46	Germany	Brazil	6 - 56	4 - 25
47	Guadeloupe	China Hong Kong	8 - 46	6 - 24
48	Australia	Japan	33 - 27	16 - 14
49	Thailand	Indonesia	25 - 65	6 - 24
50	Sweden	Egypt	47 - 15	23 - 7
51	Poland	France	22 - 43	10 - 20

Ranking after 18 Rounds

1	Canada	353
2	Indonesia	317
3	Italy	314
4	France	313
5	USA 2	310
6	Poland	298
	USA 1	298
8	Brazil	294
9	China	291
10	Australia	286
11	Argentina	265
12	Egypt	264
13	Denmark	263.5
14	India	263
15	Germany	259
16	Japan	258
17	Sweden	255
18	China Hong Kong	227
19	Guadeloupe	221
20	Thailand	205
21	New Zealand	191.5
22	South Africa	143

World Transnational Open Teams Championship

Teams not already pre-registered (i.e., whose names appear on the WBF website as entered for the Transnational Teams) but who wish to play if they do not qualify for the semi-finals of the Bermuda Bowl, Venice Cup or Seniors Bowl, are asked to inform the Hospitality Desk outside the playing area as soon as possible.

It would be helpful if you could PRINT the names of the players in your team and the team name, and hand the list to the Hospitality Desk.

ALL TEAMS – whether or not they are required to pay an entry fee – will need to have a receipt from the WBF in order to participate in the event.

Payments may be made and receipts collected from Mrs Francin in the WBF Office on the 3rd floor. The office will be open for this purpose on:

- Saturday: 10.00 – 12.30 and 14.00 – 16.00
- Sunday: 10.00 – 12.30 and 14.00 – 16.00
- Monday: 10 – 12.30 and 14.00 – 18.00

BERMUDA BOWL

Round 12



Ireland

v

Norway



by Brian Senior

The Irish Open team came to Shanghai fresh from their best-ever finish in a European Championship, taking the silver medal in Warsaw last year, and looking forward to their first Bermuda Bowl. A Day One draw that saw them face Netherlands, USA1 and USA 2, all favourites to make the knock-outs, did them no favours and they started slowly. Ireland has gained some momentum in recent rounds, however, and had an excellent 45-10 IMP, 23-7VP win over the powerful Norwegian team in Round 12.

This was an excellent effort to flatten the board at -800 for four down in 6♠ doubled, both declarers losing three hearts and one trick in each minor. In the Bermuda Bowl, 14 pairs were allowed to play in 6♦ and, apart from this match, only twice did East/West find the save. The other four tables played in either 3NT or 5♦. For the record, the Norwegian 1♣ opening was strong and the Irish two-way, either 11-13 balanced or 17+ artificial.

Board 2. Dealer East. N/S Vul.

Board 8. Dealer West. None Vul.

♠ A Q J 9 6 5	<table border="1"> <tr><td>N</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td>E</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td>S</td></tr> </table>	N		W	E		S	♠ 10 7 3
N								
W		E						
		S						
♥ 10 4 3		♥ 9 8 7 6 2						
♦ 10 7	♦ 2							
♣ 9 7	♣ K Q 10 6							
	♠ K 8 4							
	♥ —							
	♦ A K Q J 6 4 3							
	♣ A J 2							
West	North	East	South					
Helgemo	Hanlon	Helness	McGann					
Carroll	Tundal	Garvey	Groetheim					
		Pass	1♣					
3♠	4♥	4♠	6♦					
Pass	Pass	6♠	Dble					
All Pass								

♠ Q 6 4 3	<table border="1"> <tr><td>N</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td>E</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td>S</td></tr> </table>	N		W	E		S	♠ J 5
N								
W		E						
		S						
♥ 10 4		♥ K 9						
♦ K Q J 4	♦ 9 3 2							
♣ A J 9	♣ 8 7 6 5 4 3							
♠ K 10 9 8 2		♠ A 7						
♥ A Q 7 5		♥ J 8 6 3 2						
♦ 7 6		♦ A 10 8 5						
♣ K 2		♣ Q 10						
West	North	East	South					
Helgemo	Hanlon	Helness	McGann					
1♠	Pass	Pass	Dble					
Pass	2♠	Pass	3♥					
Pass	3NT	All Pass						
West	North	East	South					
Carroll	Tundal	Garvey	Groetheim					
1♠	Pass	Pass	2♥					
Pass	2♠	Pass	3♥					
All Pass								



Tom Hanlon, Ireland

With the black kings rating to be in the opening bidder's hand, I guess you could say that Hanlon/McGann outbid Tundal/Groetheim on this one. I don't feel very strongly about South's choice of action in the balancing seat but have some preference for Hugh McGann's double. But double is not, in itself, stronger than a two-level overcall, so Hanlon's decision to force to game while Ulf Tundal merely invited also played an important part in the outcome.

Tor Helness led the jack of spades and Geir Helgemo let that run to Hanlon's queen, helping to preserve communications in case Helness gained the lead before he did. Hanlon had nine tricks courtesy of the club finesse; +400.

Three hearts looks to be in more jeopardy than 3NT but, with West on lead and unable to attack spades, there is no way seriously to threaten the contract. John Carroll led the

seven of diamonds, which Glenn Groetheim won in hand with the ten to play a heart to the ten and king. Tommy Garvey led the ♠J. Groetheim won with the ace, then played the queen of clubs to the king and ace, followed by two more rounds of clubs to ditch his spade loser. Carroll could ruff that, but the defence just had two more top trumps to come; +140 but 6 IMPs to Ireland.

Board 12. Dealer West. N/S Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Helgemo</i>	<i>Hanlon</i>	<i>Helness</i>	<i>McGann</i>
Pass	Pass	2♣	Pass
2♦	Pass	3♣	Pass
3♦	Pass	3NT	All Pass

West	North	East	South
<i>Carroll</i>	<i>Tundal</i>	<i>Garvey</i>	<i>Groetheim</i>
Pass	Pass	1♣	Pass
1♦	Pass	2NT	Pass
3♣	Pass	3♦	Pass
3NT	All Pass		



John Carroll, Ireland

Helness treated the East hand as a game-force and opened 2♣, then showed his club suit. Against the eventual 3NT contract, McGann led the five of hearts. Helness won with the ace and played king of clubs, then a low club. McGann won with the ♣10 and played the ♥8 to the king, and Helness ducked another club to the jack. McGann cashed the ♥Q, Helness pitching a diamond, then exited with his remaining club. By the time that Helness cashed the ace of diamonds, it was clear for McGann to unblock the king to avoid the endplay; down one for -50.

Garvey treated his hand as being just short of a game-force, so opened a two-way club, then rebid 2NT, then denied a major. Groetheim looked at his hand and probably didn't want to lead anything. His decision that the jack of clubs was the safest lead possible was swiftly shown to be a rather unfortunate choice. With only one club loser, Garvey quickly had nine tricks for +400 and 10 IMPs to Ireland.

Board 14. Dealer East. None Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Helgemo</i>	<i>Hanlon</i>	<i>Helness</i>	<i>McGann</i>
Pass	2♥	Pass	1♥
2♠	2NT	Pass	Pass
Pass	Pass	Dble	3♣
		3♠	All Pass

West	North	East	South
<i>Carroll</i>	<i>Tundal</i>	<i>Garvey</i>	<i>Groetheim</i>
1♠	Dble	Pass	1♥
Pass	Pass	4♠	5♣
		Dble	All Pass

Would you overcall that emaciated spade suit with minimum overcalling values and no pre-emptive effect? Clearly a matter of personal style, but here the overcall worked out very well as it added momentum to what was a quiet auction at the other table.

Garvey raised the overcall straight to game and caught Groetheim with sufficient distribution that he felt obliged to bid 5♣ as a two-way shot, hoping that one or other game was making. Though Carroll led a spade, he had to come to a heart ruff for down two; -300.

Where Helgemo did not overcall, he balanced at his next turn, but neither side had any reason to contemplate game

and Helgemo was left to play in 3♠. Declarer won the club lead, ruffed a club and played a diamond to the bare ace. He ruffed the club return and played ace and another spade, eventually conceding two more tricks due to the bad diamond break; +140 but 4 IMPs to Ireland.

Board 15. Dealer South. N/S Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Helgemo</i>	<i>Hanlon</i>	<i>Helness</i>	<i>McGann</i>
			2♣
2♥	Pass	3♣	Dble
3♥	3♠	4♥	4♠
5♥	All Pass		

West	North	East	South
<i>Carroll</i>	<i>Tundal</i>	<i>Garvey</i>	<i>Groetheim</i>
			2♣
2♥	Pass	4♥	All Pass

Both Souths opened with a natural but limited 2♣, Precision-style, and both Wests overcalled. Now Garvey raised directly to game and that shut his opponents out of the auction.

Tundal led the queen of clubs. Carroll won with the ace of clubs and ruffed a club high while Tundal threw a low diamond. Carroll drew two rounds of trumps, then led the ♦8 from hand. When Tundal put in the queen, Carroll ducked, losing to the bare king and, as he had hoped, Groetheim was endplayed. Nicely done for +420.

Helness did not raise to game, preferring a 3♣ cuebid. That gave McGann an opportunity to double and, when Helgemo bid only 3♥, Hanlon introduced his spades. Of course, McGann now competed with 4♠ over 4♥ and Helgemo, with excellent hearts but no defence, took the push to 5♥.

Again the lead was the queen of clubs to dummy's ace. Preparing for a different endplay, Helgemo cashed the ace of diamonds at trick two, hoping that South would fail to unblock with king-doubleton. He then drew trumps and exited with a diamond, but that was won in the North hand and in the fullness of time had to concede two spade tricks as well as two diamonds; down two for -100 and 11 IMPs to Ireland.

Senior Slam

Canada are riding high in the Senior Bowl standings. Their 25-4 destruction of South Africa in Round 14 included this slam, nicely bid by Joey Silver and John Carruthers.

Board 15. Dealer South. N/S Vul.

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

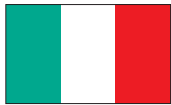
West	North	East	South
	<i>Silver</i>		<i>Carruthers</i>
			Pass
Pass	1♥	Pass	2♥
Pass	2♠	Pass	3♥
Pass	4♦	Pass	5♥
Pass	6♥	All Pass	

The initial raise to 2♥ looks pretty automatic and Silver's 2♠ was, initially, a long-suit game try. Holding no ace or king, Carruthers was unwilling to accept the game try so bid only 3♥. Now Silver made one more try, revealing in the process that he had had slam in mind all along. Carruthers reassessed the South hand and realised that he actually had a very good hand in the context of the auction. He jumped to 5♥ to show a hand too good to sign off but with no suitable cuebid, and that was sufficient to encourage Silver to go on to slam. With the ♦K outside the play presented no problem; +1430 and 13 IMPs to Canada.

In the Senior Bowl, only Thailand and China also reached the slam.



SENIOR BOWL Round 13



Italy

v

Canada



Quiet Time

by Brent Manley

At the start of play on Thursday, Canada and Italy stood atop the standings in the Senior Bowl. The Canadians were ahead by only 2 victory points, so when they met in round 13, the Italians were hoping to change places with their opponents when the 16 deals were concluded.

The match will not go down in the annals of bridge as terribly exciting – two of the 16 deals were passed out – but the players were more interested in IMPs than thrills. Ultimately, Canada emerged more pleased than the Italians.

Italy got the first big swing on the second board.

Board 18. Dealer East. N/S Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Piafsky</i>	<i>De Falco</i>	<i>Hoffer</i>	<i>Resta</i>
		1♠	Pass
2♣	Pass	3♣	Pass
3♠	Pass	4♣	All Pass

Guido Resta started with the ♦10. Dano De Falco rose with the ♦A and switched to the ♥6. Fred Hoffer had no choice but to try the finesse, which lost. He won the return of the ♥J with the ace, then played a spade to dummy, cashing both honors, then discarding his losing heart on the ♦Q. He still had to lose a trump and the ♣A, so minus 50 was the best he could do.

West	North	East	South
<i>Mariani</i>	<i>Silver</i>	<i>Burgay</i>	<i>Carruthers</i>
		1♠	Pass
INT	Pass	2♣	Pass
2♦	Pass	2♠	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

Joe Silver started with a low diamond, and dummy's king held. Carlo Mariani had to hope the ♣A was with North,

and his wish was granted. When Silver ducked two rounds of clubs, Mariani played a spade to the ace and cashed the king. The fall of the ♠Q meant he was home. Silver switched to a heart when in with the ♣A, but it was too late. Mariani went up with the ♥A, cashed the ♠J, overtook dummy's last club and claimed his nine tricks. Plus 400 and 10 IMPs to Italy.

Canada pulled to within 2 IMPs on this deal.

Board 21. Dealer North. N/S Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Piafsky</i>	<i>De Falco</i>	<i>Hoffer</i>	<i>Resta</i>
	1♥	Pass	2♦
2NT	Dble	4♠	All Pass



Don Piafsky, Canada

Resta's 2♦ was a weakish heart raise or natural and game-forcing. Don Piafsky showed his two-suiter, and Hoffer bid what he thought he could make.

Resta started with a low heart, ruffed in dummy. A club went to North's ace, and Hoffer guessed well to insert the ♦10 on the return of a low diamond. Resta won with the ♦J, cashed the ace and played a third round of the suit. At that point, had Hoffer played on spades and guessed well in the suit, he could have made his contract. Instead, he tried to unblock the ♣K, which was ruffed. The result was one down for minus 50.

West	North	East	South
Mariani	Silver	Burgay	Carruthers
	1♥	Pass	2♥
2♠	4♥	4♠	Pass
Pass	Dble	All Pass	

Silver started with a high heart, ruffed. Declarer played a club at trick two. Silver played the ace perforce and exited with a low diamond. Mariani misguessed by playing the king, and the defenders took three tricks in the suit. Mariani lost a trump trick from there and finished at minus 300 for 6 IMPs to Canada.

Canada took the lead for good on this deal.

Board 24. Dealer West. None Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Piafsky	De Falco	Hoffer	Resta
Pass	Pass	Pass	1♥
Dble	2♥	All Pass	

Perhaps De Falco was hoping the opponents would get in trouble in spades after his gentle raise to 2♥. Resta considered making a move, but he passed after long thought. Ten tricks are available, but Resta managed only nine – not that it mattered a lot considering the missed game.

West	North	East	South
Mariani	Silver	Burgay	Carruthers
1♣	1♠	Pass	2♥
Pass	3♥	Pass	4♥
All Pass			

Mariani led the ♦J (Rusinow) to Leandro Burgay's ace. The ♠10 was returned to the ace, and John Carruthers won the

spade continuation with the king. Carruthers played a club to his ace and a club to Mariani's king. He ruffed when Mariani continued with a club, then claimed when two rounds of trumps revealed the 3-2 split. That was plus 420 and 7 IMPs to Canada.

Two boards later, there was a surprising difference in the outcomes of the same contract with the same opening lead.

Board 26. Dealer East. All Vul.

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

The contract in both rooms was INT by East, and South at both tables led a low heart.

In the open room, Hoffer played dummy's 10 at trick one. When it held (De Falco playing the 9), declarer played a spade to his 9 and Resta's jack. A heart went to declarer's ace. Resta won the ♠Q with the king and continued with a third round of hearts. Hoffer persisted in spades, and when De Falco won with the ♠A he played a low diamond. Hoffer went up with the king and played a low club to the 8. De Falco won with the ♣K and tried his luck again in diamonds, but Hoffer put up the queen and was soon claiming his seventh trick for plus 90.

It seems that the defenders should have been attacking the entry to dummy's long spade, but North-South can lead clubs only twice without giving up an extra trick in that suit.

In the closed room, Carruthers also started with a low heart. Burgay played low, ducking when Silver played the 9. Silver shifted to the ♦5 at trick two, and Burgay played the king. Now a club went to dummy's 8 and Silver's queen. When Silver played another diamond, Burgay put in the 10. Carruthers won with the ♦J and played a diamond to his partner's ace. When the smoke cleared, declarer had two heart tricks, one in diamonds and one in clubs for three down and 9 IMPs to Canada.

In a match that featured so little in the way of fireworks, it was fitting that the last deal was passed out. The final score was 34-22 for Canada, who had solidified their hold on first place – at least to that point – in the Senior Bowl.



VENICE CUP

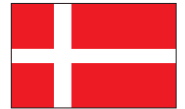
Round 11



France

v

Denmark



by Phillip Alder

The biggest match-up in the eleventh round of the Venice Cup pitched France, then fifth with 184 victory points, against Denmark, then sixth, one VP behind.

France sent Catherine d'Ovidio and Danièle Gaviard to play North-South in the Open Room against Stense Farholt and Maria Rahelt. In the Closed Room, Bénédicte Cronier and Sylvie Willard were East-West against Nadia Bekkouche and Trine Binderkrantz.

The match featured several big swings, beginning on the third board, where these were the East-West hands:

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

The French stopped in four notrump, but the Danes got to six notrump thus: 1♥-1♠-2♠-3♣-3NT-6NT-Pass.

The opening lead was a diamond around to the jack. Taking the safety play, Rahelt cashed her diamond king, played a heart to dummy's ace, and led a heart to her ten. This lost to North's jack, but declarer claimed four spades, four hearts, three diamonds and one club. That gave Denmark 13 IMPs and the lead by 19-0.

France got on the board on the next deal.

Board 20. Dealer West. All Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Rahelt	d'Ovidio	Farholt	Gaviard
Pass	Pass	INT	Pass
Pass	2♦ (a)	Pass	2♥
3♥	Pass	3♠	Pass
4NT	All Pass		

(a) Transfer

West	North	East	South
Willard	Bekkouche	Cronier	Binderkrantz
Pass	Pass	INT	Pass
2♠ (a)	Pass	3♣ (b)	Pass
3♦ (c)	Pass	3NT	All Pass

- (a) Transfer to clubs
- (b) No great love of clubs
- (c) Four-plus diamonds

The auction in the Open Room must set some sort of record. One moment East-West were content with a contract of one notrump, then ended in four notrump. Rahelt passed on the second round because she had no bid to describe her hand. A three-club response would have shown 4-5 in the minors, and three diamonds 5-4. D'Ovidio, thinking her partner had some values, balanced with two diamonds, a transfer. After Gaviard completed the transfer, Rahelt had her chance, cue-bidding to announce an unusual hand. Farholt showed her four spades, and Rahelt jumped to four notrump, believing that it showed a minor two-suit. East, not on the same wavelength, passed. (Note that five diamonds has no chance.)

Against four notrump, South led a heart of course. Declarer won and ran the diamond jack, losing to North's queen. Back came a heart and declarer could have taken seven tricks, but she went down four.

In the Closed Room, Willard described a minor two-suit, and Cronier chose three notrump. When South led from her stronger major, declarer was safe with two spades, two hearts and five clubs.

Plus 400 and plus 600 gave France 14 IMPs.

More points went the same way on the fifth board.

Board 21. Dealer North. N/S Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Rahelt	d'Ovidio	Farholt	Gaviard
	1♣	1♥	Pass
2♥	Pass	4♥	All Pass

West	North	East	South
<i>Willard</i>	<i>Bekkouche</i>	<i>Cronier</i>	<i>Binderkrantz</i>
	INT	Dble	Pass
Pass	Rdbl	Pass	2♣
Pass	Pass	Dble	All Pass

In the Open Room, Farholt had no difficulty in four hearts, losing one spade and one diamond to score up an overtrick.

At the other table, Bekkouche opened a weak notrump at unfavorable vulnerability -- not a good moment for partner to hold zero points. At least North-South found their eight-card fit, but East doubled anyway, going for the throat.

West led the club ace and continued with a second trump. East, after taking her club king, shifted to the heart queen. When that held, East led her last trump. Declarer could take one spade, one diamond, one club and a couple of ruffs, but that was down three.

Minus 450 and plus 800 gave France 8 IMPs.

More accurate partscore bidding gave France another 15 IMPs on the next three boards to take a 37-19 lead at half-time. But on the ninth deal Cronier had a mechanical error, accidentally pulling the wrong card from her hand. This let through a nonvulnerable game, giving Denmark 10 IMPs.

The next big swing occurred on this deal:

Board 26. Dealer East. All Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Rahelt</i>	<i>d'Ovidio</i>	<i>Farholt</i>	<i>Gaviard</i>
		Pass	Pass
1♣	Pass	2♥	Pass
Pass	Dble	Pass	4♠
All Pass			

West	North	East	South
<i>Willard</i>	<i>Bekkouche</i>	<i>Cronier</i>	<i>Binderkrantz</i>
		Pass	Pass
Pass	INT	Pass	2♥
Pass	2♠	Pass	2NT
Pass	3♠	All Pass	

In the Open Room, Rahelt opened one club in the third position, putting d'Ovidio in an awkward position with only two hearts. Some would overcall one spade, but she made

a textbook pass. Farholt responded with a weak jump response of two hearts, which is an unusual agreement by a passed hand. (The traditional interpretation is a fit-showing jump. East would be showing a maximum pass with five hearts and four or five clubs.) Once her partner balanced, Gaviard adopted modern team tactics: If there is the faintest aroma of game wafting across the table, bid that game.

Against four spades, West led her higher heart, covered by the jack, queen and ace. Declarer ran her spade nine, drew the trumps, and took her two heart tricks, discarding a club from the dummy. She lost only one diamond and two clubs to make her contract.

In the Closed Room, Bekkouche took a very cautious position. Yes, her partner was a passed hand, but she was vulnerable and had four-card spade support, a doubleton and five controls (an ace counts two controls and a king one). She surely should have bid four spades.

North won ten tricks, but France gained 10 IMPs.

More points went the Gallic way on the next deal.

Board 27. Dealer South. None Vul.

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



Stense Farholt, Denmark

West <i>Rahelt</i>	North <i>d'Ovidio</i>	East <i>Farholt</i>	South <i>Gaviard</i>
			Pass
1♥	Pass	1♠	2♦
Pass	2♥	3♥	3♠
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

West <i>Willard</i>	North <i>Bekkouche</i>	East <i>Cronier</i>	South <i>Binderkrantz</i>
			Pass
Pass	1♥	Pass	1♠
Pass	2♠	Pass	2NT (a)
Pass	3♠	Pass	4♠
All Pass			

(a) Artificial inquiry

In the Closed Room, Binderkrantz bid four spades once she found out that they had a 4-4 spade fit.

West led the heart queen and the way the cards lay, declarer had no chance. The play record is not given. One would expect her to take two heart winners, discarding clubs, then to take a winning spade finesse and cash the spade ace, getting the bad news. Now comes a diamond to dummy's ace and a diamond. When East plays low, declarer should duck, knowing West must have the king. In that way, South could escape for down two, but she actually went down four.

In the Open Room, East's one-spade response (instead of two hearts) picked off her opponents' suit. So d'Ovidio drove into three notrump.

After East led the heart seven and West put up her jack, how should North have planned the play?

Assuming the spade finesse is working, she has two spades and two hearts. In that case, five diamond tricks would see her home. But playing the ace and another diamond would make communications a problem.

D'Ovidio saw the right answer: At trick two, she ducked a diamond. Then she could win the heart continuation, cash the diamond ace, dropping the king, take the spade finesse, and run for home. Nicely played.

Plus 200 and plus 400 gave France a further 12 IMPs.

France gained another 8 IMPs when Rahelt opened three diamonds in third position holding:

- ♠ Q 4 2
- ♥ Q 8
- ♦ A K Q 9 7 4 3
- ♣ 2

This resulted in a missed three-notrump contract.

The French ran out winners by 67 IMPs to 29, or 24-6 in victory points.



Winning Defense

by Knut Kjaernsrod

Norway looked to be in serious danger of missing the quarterfinals, but have recovered well. Although they lost the middle match on Thursday against South Africa 21-9, on board 13 Geir Helgemo and Tor Helness prevailed with a fine defense.

Board 13. Dealer North. All Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
	1♥	Pass	2♦
Pass	2♥	Pass	4♥
All Pass			

Helness led the ♣3, which went to the queen and king. The heart continuation was taken by the ace, and declarer played a club to the 10 and discarded his diamond loser on the ♣A. A diamond went to the queen and ruff, followed by a spade to the jack and queen. Another trump was taken by dummy's queen, and Helgemo ducked smoothly when the ♠3 was led.

Declarer played the ♠9. Helness won with the 10. He played back a club, ruffed by North, and the South African declarer played the ♠K from hand, intending to nail Helgemo's assumed 8 in a ruffing finesse. Helness played low, declarer discarded, and the ♠A won the setting trick. That was 10 badly needed IMPs to Norway.



The King of Spades

The Round 14 match between Norway and South Africa featured two deals on which the key to success was to play the king of spades at the critical moment. South Africa's Tim Cope may be having nightmares about that card after getting both decisions wrong.

Board 4. Dealer West. All Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Helgemo	Cope	Helness	Holman
INT	Pass	2♣	Pass
2♠	Pass	4♠	All Pass

Cope led the queen of hearts and Glen Holman encouraged. Geir Helgemo found the best play for his contract, winning immediately to keep North in the dark regarding the heart length around the table, then leading ace and another spade. From North's point of view, declarer was surely missing the jack of spades for this play, so what could be more natural than to play low and hope for a misguess?

But that was exactly what Helgemo was playing for. A successful guess by putting in the ten and finding North with the jack would not help him to make his contract as South



Glen Holman, South Africa

would win with the ♠K and cash the hearts, leaving an unavoidable fourth loser in diamonds. Helgemo went for his only chance, putting up dummy's ♠Q and playing four rounds of clubs, pitching a heart loser from hand. Now the defence had only one heart, one spade and one diamond winner; +620.

Board 13. Dealer North. All Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Helgemo	Cope	Helness	Holman
Pass	1♥	Pass	2♦
All Pass	2♥	Pass	4♥

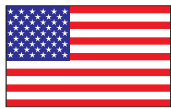
Tor Helness led the two of clubs against 4♥ and Cope put in the queen, losing to Helgemo's king. Back came the ten of hearts, which Cope won in hand to lead a club to the ten, after which the ♣A provided a parking place for his diamond loser.

Cope continued by ruffing a diamond, Helgemo putting up the queen, then leading low to the ♠J, losing to the queen. Helgemo returned a second trump. Cope won in dummy and led the three of spades, on which Helgemo played a smooth seven. Once again, putting up the ♠K would have been the winning action, but Cope put in the nine, losing to the ten. Helness returned a club, the ruff and discard being of no benefit to declarer, of course. Cope ruffed in hand and had to decide how to play the spades. This time, leading low and ruffing out the ace would have brought home the contract, but he instead tried leading the king, in an attempt to pin a bare eight in the West hand. Helgemo won with the ace of spades for down one.

The ♠K may not be Cope's favourite card right now, but he would have been happy with the result as South Africa won the match by 66-39 IMPs, 21-9 VPs, despite these two results. They gained three slam swings, 6NT making against 6♣ minus one on Board 10, a well bid 6♥ by Cope/Holman on Board 15, missed at the other table, and a safe 4♠ plus two by Craig Gower and Alon Apteker on Board 16 against 6♠ down two at the other table.

BERMUDA BOWL

Round 15



USA 2

v

China SMEG



by Mark Horton

Before I report the action from this match between two of the favourites, I can reveal that there is a rumour that Sir Andrew Lloyd Webber is writing a new musical about bridge. Those who watched this match on VuGraph will understand why he has chosen to call it 'Eric and the Amazing Technicolour Dream Shirt'.

Both teams were looking for a good result, but for different reasons. China SMEG wanted to consolidate their qualifying position whilst USA 2 desperately needed to move up the table.

Board 17. Dealer North. None Vul.

♠ 9 8 7 6 4 3 2
♥ —
♦ A J 2
♣ 8 7 6

♠ A Q J 10
♥ K Q 10 9 3
♦ K
♣ J 10 5

	N	
W		E
	S	

♠ 5
♥ J 6
♦ 10 7 6 5
♣ A K 9 4 3 2

♠ K
♥ A 8 7 5 4 2
♦ Q 9 8 4 3
♣ Q

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Meckstroth</i>	<i>Fu</i>	<i>Rodwell</i>	<i>Zhao</i>
	Pass	3♣	3♥
Dble	3♠	Pass	Pass
Dble	Pass	Pass	4♦
Pass	Pass	Dble	All Pass

When North passed, East put the ball into play and South could not resist dipping a toe into the water, only to discover that there was a shark waiting to bite.

Playing in either major would have been a real bloodbath, but 4♦ was no picnic either.

West led the jack of clubs (there must be some case for leading the king of diamonds when you know you have the other three suits totally controlled). East won and switched to a trump, which went to the king and ace.

Declarer ruffed a club and cashed the ace of hearts. If he had now played to ruff two hearts in dummy he could have scored eight tricks, but worried that a second heart might see East overruff, after which a trump return would leave declarer going for a fortune, he played the king of spades.

West won and played the queen of spades, enabling East to get rid of his remaining heart. Now there was no way to avoid three down, -500.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Wang</i>	<i>Hamman</i>	<i>Sun</i>	<i>Lall</i>
	3♠	Pass	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

In the stone age West could have doubled 3♠ for penalties, but that quaint idea went out around the time they invented the wheel.

North led the eight of clubs and declarer won with dummy's ace. With no idea that the contract was now on ice, he played the jack of hearts. South pounced with the ace of hearts and switched to a diamond. That was a fast two down, -100 and a 2 IMP start for USA 2.

Board 18. Dealer East. N/S Vul.

♠ J 8 7
♥ K 10 5 4
♦ A Q 2
♣ K 10 9

♠ A K 4
♥ Q 6 3
♦ 10 8 5 4
♣ Q 4 3

	N	
W		E
	S	

♠ Q 10 9 6 5
♥ J 9 8
♦ K 9 6 3
♣ 8

♠ 3 2
♥ A 7 2
♦ J 7
♣ A J 7 6 5 2



Zhong Fu, China SMEG

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Meckstroth	Fu	Rodwell	Zhao
		2♠	Pass
3♠	All Pass		
2♠	4-10, 5♠		

When East was able to open with a gadget, South, perhaps a wiser man after the previous board, was not tempted to overcall and West's defensive raise ended the auction.

South led the jack of diamonds. Declarer won with the king and drew trumps, quickly going two down, -100.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Wang	Hamman	Sun	Lall
		Pass	Pass
1♦	Pass	1♠	Pass
Pass	INT	2♠	All Pass

I'm not sure what to make of South's total inactivity on this deal, and when he elected to lead the two of hearts, declarer had been presented with his eighth trick, +110 and 5 IMPs to China SMEG.

Board 19. Dealer South. E/W Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Meckstroth	Fu	Rodwell	Zhao
			2♥*
Pass	3♥	3NT	All Pass
2♥	Weak, both majors		

You can make 3NT on the East/West cards – but only if West is declarer – and the combination of South's opening and North's raise made that impossible.

(Amusingly enough 2♥ can be made on this deal – but by East/West.)

South led the jack of hearts and declarer had no chance, -100.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Wang	Hamman	Sun	Lall
			Pass
Pass	1♦	INT	Pass
2♥*	Pass	2♠	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

Once again South led the jack of hearts and the contract had to fail.

It says that declarer went three down – don't ask me how – I have no idea.

5 IMPs to USA 2.

Board 20. Dealer West. All Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Meckstroth	Fu	Rodwell	Zhao
		2♦*	Pass
INT	Pass		
2♥	All Pass		

Over West's 14-16 NT there was no reason for North to get involved and East/West were able to play in 2♥.

North led the king of diamonds and, when South dropped the jack, he cashed the ace, getting the ten from South. If that was meant to have any suit-preference overtones, they were not evident to North, who switched to the ace of clubs – a possible three down was reduced to two down.

Declarer won the club continuation and played ace of hearts, queen of hearts and, when North ducked, he continued with the ten of clubs. When North ruffed two down was reduced still further to one down – luckily play was completed before any further disaster could ensue – declarer was -100.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Wang	Hamman	Sun	Lall
			3NT
1♦	INT	Pass	
All Pass			

West led the ace of hearts and continued with the queen, East following with the jack. When that held, he switched

to the five of spades for the ten, king and ace. Declarer ran the jack of diamonds and, when that held, he ran the queen of clubs. Now the contract was assured, and as the cards lie declarer could have made an overtrick, but he was happy to record +600 and pick up 11 IMPs.

Board 22. Dealer East. E/W Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Meckstroth</i>	<i>Fu</i>	<i>Rodwell</i>	<i>Zhao</i>
Pass	2NT	2♠	Pass
		All Pass	

East found the lead to hold declarer to his contract when he put the three of hearts on the table. Declarer won the first heart, played a spade to the jack and a diamond to the king. Five club tricks saw declarer home, +120.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Wang</i>	<i>Hamman</i>	<i>Sun</i>	<i>Lall</i>
1♦	INT	Pass	Pass
Pass	3♣	2♠	Pass
Pass	4♣	3♥	3NT
		All Pass	

Playing with a man who has made a living out of bidding 3NT at every available opportunity, South found a great moment to pay his partner a compliment. Played by South 3NT cannot be defeated, even if West leads an inspired heart.

However, North, who had seen his partner pass over 2♠ and perhaps deciding he was a club short of his previous bid, removed himself to 4♣.

Declarer ducked the heart lead, won the next round and played a spade. East took the ace and played a third heart, ruffed by declarer, who cashed a top club, played a spade to the king, and led a diamond. When the king held, he exited with a diamond and in due course was able to ruff two diamonds in dummy, +130 and a flat board.

Board 23. Dealer South. All Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Meckstroth</i>	<i>Fu</i>	<i>Rodwell</i>	<i>Zhao</i>
1♣*	Pass	1♦*	Pass
1♥	Pass	2♦*	Pass
2♠	Pass	2NT	Pass
4♥	All Pass		

2♦ promised 5-7 with a fit for hearts, but the potential for slam never came to light.

North led the queen of clubs, and when that held, switched to a diamond.

Declarer was not hard pressed to take twelve tricks, +680.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Wang</i>	<i>Hamman</i>	<i>Sun</i>	<i>Lall</i>
1♣*	Pass	1♦*	Pass
1♥	Pass	4♥	All Pass

Here North switched to a trump at trick two and declarer, not going flat out, scored +650 to lose an IMP.

Board 25. Dealer North. E/W Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Meckstroth</i>	<i>Fu</i>	<i>Rodwell</i>	<i>Zhao</i>
	Pass	Pass	Pass
2NT	Pass	3♦*	Pass
3♥	Pass	3NT	Pass
4♥	All Pass		
2NT	20-21		

North led the eight of diamonds. Declarer won in dummy and played a heart to jack. When that held, he played the ace of diamonds, discarding a spade from dummy. South ruffed and returned a club. Declarer won with the ace, cashed the ace of hearts and claimed +650.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Wang</i>	<i>Hamman</i>	<i>Sun</i>	<i>Lall</i>
	Pass	Pass	Pass
1♣*	Pass	1♥	Pass
2♦	Pass	2NT	Pass
3♥	Pass	3♠	Pass
4NT*	Pass	5♥*	Pass
6♥	All Pass		

When South led the three of clubs, the contract depended on no more than avoiding the loss of a trump trick. Declarer won the diamond return and played a heart to the jack, +1430 and 13 IMPs to China SMEG.

Although a spade or diamond lead might appear to be more testing, if declarer decides to rely on a club ruff in dummy, the appearance of North's queen will see him change tack and draw trumps.

Board 27. Dealer South. None Vul.

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



Open Room

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

South thought he had enough to double 4♥ – and the length of time he took to make a decision would not have been lost on declarer even had he passed.

North did very well to lead his trump, the only chance for the defence.

If South takes the ace and switches to his spade, which removes a vital entry from the dummy, declarer should not make more than nine tricks, but South let declarer win with the seven.

West took a club finesse, cashed the ace of clubs, ruffed a club, played a spade to the ace and ruffed dummy's last club. Now he played the jack of diamonds.

At the time I thought North made a mistake by covering, but I had forgotten that declarer had not yet lost any tricks. Even if he ducks and South wins, cashes the ace of hearts and exits with a heart, declarer can win and cash the last trump to catch North in a strip squeeze.

Once North had covered, no heroics were required and declarer had an easy route to ten tricks, +590.

There was some discussion as to the general wisdom of doubling with the South hand, especially when you are playing Meckwell.

Well, as someone remarked, they play the cards better than most – but they often have less material to work with!

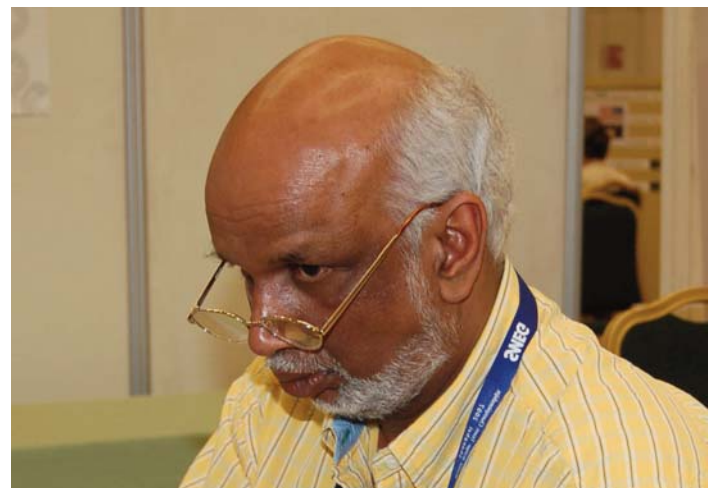
Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Wang</i>	<i>Hamman</i>	<i>Sun</i>	<i>Lall</i>
			Pass
Pass	3♠	Dble	All Pass

West took a good decision when he passed his partner's double.

East led the king of hearts. Declarer won in dummy and ran the nine of clubs. East won and played a heart, ruffed by declarer, who exited with the jack of clubs. East won and now does best to play a club. However, he decided to exit with the king of diamonds, which cost his side a trick as now declarer had to come to seven winners, -300 but still 7 IMPs to USA 2.

That was an important victory, 36-19 IMPs, 19-11 VP that kept USA 2 in the hunt.

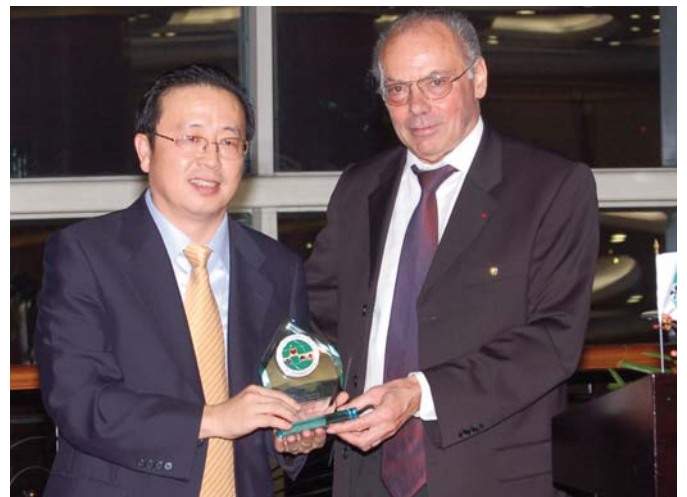


Hemant Lall, USA 2

The President's Dinner



At the WBF President's Dinner on Thursday night in Shanghai, Mr & Mrs José Damiani were pleased to welcome the President of the Chinese Contract Bridge Association, Mr Xiang Huai Cheng (*top left*) and Mrs Zhao Hui Zhi, CEO of North Star Group (*top right*), together with Mr Fan Guang Chen, Executive Secretary of the CCBA, pictured here receiving the WBF Award from the WBF President (*right*).



Also present was Mr Qiu Wei Chang, President of the Shanghai Bridge Association (*left*), who also received the WBF Award, and Mr Damiani's thanks for providing such impressive staff at the Championship, all dressed in their uniform pink polo shirts.

The President also gave the WBF Award to Mrs Chen Zelan (*right*) in recognition of her role in ensuring the success of the Championship.

Mr Damiani did not forget the members of his own Executive Council, honouring Patrick Choy (*bottom left*) for his work as liaison for these Championships. He also invited Mrs Kathie Wei-Sender (*bottom middle*) to receive an award for her outstanding work as Ambassador for Bridge. The final award was made to Mr Panos Gerontopoulos (*bottom right*) in recognition of his work for youth bridge, and his development of the WBF web site.

The dinner was a great success, with a relaxed and happy atmosphere. Bill (Kojak) Schoder, WBF Chief TD Emeritus, played the piano (see page 3).

