

## Marlboro Bermuda and Venice Cup

Beijing, China

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Editor: Henry Francis and Brian Senior

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## 1995 Marlboro Bermuda Bowl Semi Final End

Final

Canada vs USA II

Boards	16	32	48	64	80	96	Result
Sweden	20	35	23	10	21	48	157
Canada	28	41	47	17	57	28	218

Boards	16	32	48	64	80	96	Result
France	17	22	17	41	44	12	153
USA II	31	28	46	27	51	38	221

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## 1995 Marlboro Venice Cup Semi Final

Final

Germany vs USA I

Boards	16	32	48	64	80	96	Result
France	30	5	13	26	45	45	164
Germany	36	64	65	50	26	16	257

Boards	16	32	48	64	80	96	Result
China	11	27	28	51	31	37	185
USA I	24	55	53	43	4	40	259

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Appeal Case 9

by Richard Colker

Bermuda Bowl: Indonesia (E-W) vs. USA II (N-S).

Board 13. Game All. Dealer North.

Meckstroth

S 98

H 6

D 862

C AQ98754

Lasut

S QT76

H AQJ3

D AQ3

C J6

Manoppo

S AJ42

H 842

D JT75

C K2

Rodwell

S K53

H KT975

D K94

C T3

West	North	East	South
	3C (1)	Pass	Pass
Dbl	Pass	3S (2)	Pass
4S	All Pass		

(1) Alerted.

(2) After a delay.

Committee members: Jose Damiani (Chair), Jean-Claude Beineix, Jens Auken, Mazhar Jafri, John Wignall.

Facts: There was a delay before the tray was returned to the South-West side of the screen following West's double. N-S felt this could have influenced West's 4S bid.

Director's ruling: After the (alleged) hesitation on the North-East side of the screen it was determined that West had unauthorized information available to him, and an alternative action (pass) available. Based on Laws 16 and 12C2 the score was adjusted to -200 for N-S and +200 for E-W. This ruling was appealed by E-W.

Testimony: North testified that while the tray was still on the South-West side of the screen following East's pass of 3C, he wrote an explanation of his Alert to East, who ignored it until the tray was returned. At that point East began asking questions and was told that 2S would have shown either a diamond preempt or a bad 3C bid, so 3C showed a "good" preempt (either a good suit or a poorer suit with compensating outside values).

East thought for a while and then inadvertently pulled the 3NT card out of his bidding box, noticed his mistake, and then corrected his call to 3S. N-S estimated that the tray remained on the North-East side of the screen for at least 15-20 seconds, while E-W denied that it remained there that long.

Committee's decision: Although it had been largely accidental (due to the bidding box error), the Committee determined that there had been a delay by East before his 3S bid. In light of the possible unauthorized information from this delay, a pass by West was deemed to be a logical alternative to bidding 4S. However, it was also felt that West might still have bid 4S some percentage of the time even without the hesitation.

Both pairs were therefore assigned 50 percent of the score for E-W bidding 4S and making five (+320 to E-W, -320 to N-S). An additional 1 IMP penalty was also assessed against E-W for East not attending to North's explanation of his 3C bid when it was offered while the tray was still on the South-West side of the screen, which might have averted the problem entirely.

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Politicians Give the Press a Lesson  
By Patrick Jourdain

Following the quarterfinals of the Marlboro World Bridge Championships, Jose Damiani invited me to field a team of journalists against a foursome which included Ding Guengang, a senior member of the Politburo, and his son Yu Cheng. Damiani warned that they were excellent players.

Just how good is illustrated by this hand played by the Minister himself:

Board 6 (rotated): E/W Vul. Dealer West.

	S	KT8		
	H	KT9		
	D	652		
	C	AJT9		
S	Q3		S	A7642
H	Q72		H	AJ8654
D	KQJ94		D	7
C	653		C	8
	S	J95		
	H	3		
	D	AT83		
	C	KQ742		

West	North	East	South
Pass	Pass	1H	2C
2D	3D	Pass	3NT
Pass	Pass	Pass	

The call by Ding Junior of 3D suggested his father bid 3NT if he held a diamond stop, and the Minister obeyed, despite his singleton heart. Had I led my partner's suit, 3NT would have gone two light, but there would have been no story (at the other table East-West had reached 4H and gone two down). So I was lucky to make the wrong lead, DK, and give Ding Senior the chance to show his great skill in the play.

Declarer gave the matter due thought. He then won the first diamond, giving the defense no chance to find the heart switch, and started on the clubs.

Note that if declarer begins by running the S9, East will hold up. Declarer cannot play either major next because East will clear whichever major is played and have enough winners to beat the game when he gains the lead in the other major.

As this article is a candidate for the BOLS Bridge Press Prize, you may forgive a reference to the author's first BOLS Tip (was it really ten years ago?): "In 3NT, with eight winners and five losers, play off your long suit". Here declarer had only six winners, but playing off the clubs still worked.

East threw a heart on the second club, but on the third he had to give up a threat in one major. If he threw a spade, declarer could safely play on spades and use the fourth club later as an entry to play a heart to the 9. However, Friday correctly threw another heart, and as declarer had only one heart he could not yet begin the suit. On the fourth club East threw another heart, but on the last he gave up a spade.

Now the Minister led the S9 and let it run. East ducked,

and declarer followed with a LOW spade, fetching the queen, king and ace. Priday cleared the spades, but declarer was now back in hand with the jack to lead a heart. It made no difference whether I played high or low. Priday could win only two hearts and the established spade (on which declarer threw his diamond) and then East had to concede the ninth trick to dummy's heart. Well played indeed!

Double-dummy analysts might spot that, apart from the lead at trick one, we had another chance to beat the game.

On the run of the clubs East must keep all five of his spades, throwing four hearts. If declarer leads the S9 next, West must cover with the queen! This forces declarer to put on the king, and East ducks. Stuck in the wrong hand, declarer has to play another spade. East clears the suit and makes the rest when declarer plays a heart.

But as, on the clubs, East discards four hearts, declarer will probably start on that suit first. The defense must now be even more agile. On a heart to the 9, East must try to avoid being endplayed by winning the ACE and exiting with the jack.

Declarer may counter by letting the jack hold, so WEST MUST OVERTAKE EAST'S JACK WITH THE QUEEN! Declarer can make TWO heart tricks, but is stuck in dummy to lead away from the spades when West obtains the lead to cash his diamonds!

If Priday and Jourdain had found that defense we would titled this article Defense of the Year.

Our hosts won the 32-board match, 104-59.

Hosts: Ding Guengang, Ding Yu Cheng, Patrick Huang, C. H. Kuo. Press: Patrick Jourdain, Tony Priday, Alan Truscott, Phillip Alder, Barry Rigal.

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A LESSON FOR THE PRESS  
By Patrick Jourdain (GB)

"Ding Guangen, a senior member of the Politburo, would like a game of bridge against the Press after the quarterfinals finish," said Jose Damiani, taking my arm. "Ding will partner his son, Yu Cheng. They are both fine players, and their team-mates will be the two Chinese-speaking commentators, Patrick Huang and C.H. Kuo, so select a good team to represent IBPA."

My team was a five-man one: Alan Truscott, Tony Priday, Barry Rigal, Phillip Alder, and myself. You will note a bias: all are British, though the team is half what ought to be called British-American (in the same way that Michael Chang is Chinese-American), for Truscott and Alder have been adopted by New York, and Rigal is half-way there.

The 32-board match was to follow an excellent dinner given

for the Press by the Chinese Bridge Association. It crossed my mind that this might be a disadvantage for the IBPA team, but realized later it was of no consequence. My team would have been well beaten even if it had been stone-cold sober and wide-awake. The final margin was 104-59 in favor of our hosts.

A feature of the first half was Jourdain failing to find the right lead against the Minister's contracts. Here are two tests before you hear about the match.

- (a) Board 6: Dealer East: E/W Game  
As Dealer, you hold these cards:

	S Q3	H Q73	D KQJ93	C 732
West		North	East	South
			Pass	Pass
1H		2C	2D	3D
Pass		3NT	All pass	

What would you lead?

- (b) Board 10: Dealer East: Game all  
You hold, as East:

	S K65	H T743	D AQ82	C 83
West		North	East	South
			Pass	1D
Pass		2C	Pass	3C
Pass		6C	All pass	

What do you lead?

As almost the only success for our team came early in the match, I will start with that:

Board 4. Game All. Dealer West.

	S 9832		
	H JT		
	D T4		
	C T8752		
S Q64		S AJ5	
H K8543		H 96	
D 987		D AK632	
C A9		C K64	
	S KT7		
	H AQ72		
	D QJ5		
	C QJ3		

Table 1

West	North	East	South
Priday	Ding Sr	Jourdain	Ding Jr
Pass	Pass	1D	Dbl
1H	Pass	1NT	Pass
3NT	All pass		

Table 2

West	North	East	South
Kuo	Truscott	Huang	Rigal
Pass	Pass	1NT	Pass
2D	Pass	2H	Pass
3NT	All pass		

Against my 3NT Yu Cheng led CQ. When this held he played another. I took the spade finesse which lost, and he cleared the clubs. Now I played D AK and another. South won and at once led a low heart, but I had little choice but to rise with the king. When this held I had my nine tricks.

At the other table, where diamonds had not been bid, Rigal led DQ. Huang let this hold, but Rigal found an excellent switch to a low heart. Declarer ducked to Truscott's 10 and the heart continuation was won by dummy's king.

Huang realized there was no point in taking the spade finesse, because if it loses, West has five tricks, and if the king is with East he can play a spade later without West being able to gain the lead. So Huang played off his diamonds. (This is a theme which also occurs in a later deal.) Rigal threw a spade on the fourth diamond, but the last diamond squeezed him in three suits. If he throws a heart, declarer can safely set up a spade; if he throws a club, he can be endplayed. So Rigal smoothly bared his SK.

Huang was misled into believing South's shape was 4-4-3-2. He cashed the C A-K and threw South in with a heart. Rigal was able to claim the two hearts and the unexpected club to defeat the game.

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Board 6 was the first of the lead problems, but the deal is such a good one that I have decided to enter it for the BOLS BRIDGE PRESS PRIZE, and it occurs as a separate feature in the bulletin.

To digress, the BOLS TIPS Competitions are now over, and all members of IBPA are invited to submit their best article published in 1995 to reach Evelyn Senn by 10th December. The article must not exceed 800 words, and there can be at most two bridge diagrams. It must provide suitable material for other members' columns.

On the second lead problem, against 6C, I recalled the Tip about aggressive leads and chose a spade. The Tip was right, but the choice was wrong, as you can see from the full diagram:

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Board 10. Game All. Dealer East.
      S A972
      H KQ
      D T
      C AQJT65
S QJ84          S K65
H J965          H T743

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D 9653                    D AQ82  
 C 9                        C 83  
                           S T3  
                           H A82  
                           D KJ74  
                           C K742

On a spade lead the play was over in double-quick time. Mr. Ding won the lead, drew ONE round of trumps only with the ace, unblocked the hearts, crossed to dummy with the second trump, threw his losing diamond on HA, and gave up a spade. He still had two trumps in dummy to take care of his spades. Note that if declarer had erred by drawing a second trump before unblocking the hearts, the contract would have been defeated.

At the other table Rigal and Truscott took four rounds of relay bidding to reach 3NT, so our hosts gained 13 IMPs.

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 The half-time score was 58-31 against us. Drastic measures were required. So I rested the captain, and changed every partnership in my team. This was the best deal from the second half:        Board 20: Game All. Dealer West.

                          S KJT82  
                           H Q984  
                           D T87  
                           C 7  
 S 64                        S A953  
 H T763                    H A52  
 D KJ92                    D AQ4  
 C AK5                     C T83  
                           S Q7  
                           H KJ  
                           D 653  
                           C QJ9642

Table 1

West	North	East	South
Rigal	Ding Sr	Alder	Ding Jr
Pass	Pass	1NT	Pass
2C	Pass	2S	Pass
2NT	Pass	3NT	All pass

Table 2

West	North	East	South
Kuo	Truscott	Huang	Priday
Pass	Pass	1D	Pass
1H	Pass	1S	Pass
2NT	Pass	3NT	All pass

At the table where Alder declared as East, Yu Cheng led CQ. Alder won and led a heart. North put up the 8, Alder ducked and South's jack won. Yu Cheng did well to exit passively with a diamond. At this point, watching, I thought declarer, realizing the hearts were not breaking, might duck a spade. If the defense do not find the heart switch, South can be endplayed.

However, Alder ducked a second heart. Again, Yu Cheng exited with a diamond. Alder cashed the diamonds, throwing a spade from his hand, and now led a spade off dummy. North put up the 10, and Alder ducked. Yu Cheng gave this a brief look and then showed his class by overtaking with the queen and returning the suit. Declarer had no further chance. One down.

At the other table Kuo was declarer as West. Truscott led SJ which held, and another spade which Kuo ducked to the queen. Priday actually switched to a low club but Kuo naturally put up the ace and ducked a heart. Priday led CQ, which Kuo allowed to hold. When South continued with another club, it was all over. Kuo rattled off the diamonds, and the bridge correspondent of The New York Times found himself squeezed in the majors to concede declarer's ninth trick. Well played C.H.! And a further 12 IMPs to our hosts who won the match 104-59.

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China vs. United States, Venice Cup, Boards 17-32

Television viewers and the Vugraph audience saw some exciting bridge on boards 17 to 32 during the China-United States match. However, the set was not a happy one for China. The Americans carried a 27-14 lead into the set, but their lead was much larger at the close.

America got off to a fast start on the very first board when the Chinese checked for a slam and then found themselves too high at the five level.

Board 17. Love All. Dealer North.

S 9432

H 8754

D KJ97

C 2

S AKQ75

S JT8

H J

H AT2

D AT82

D Q64

C KT8

C A953

S 6

H KQ963

D 53

C QJ764

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Sanborn	Zhang	McCallum	Gu
	Pass	1C	1H
1S	3H	Pass	Pass
4H	Pass	4S	All Pass

Some Vugraph spectators were surprised that Sanborn didn't make a try for slam, but as the commentators pointed out, Sanborn has seen McCallum's opening bids before. Sanborn took exactly 10 tricks. At the other table:

## Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Wang	Munson	Sun	Simon
	Pass	Pass	Pass
1C	Pass	1NT	Pass
2S	Pass	3D	Pass
3S	Pass	4C	Pass
4D	Pass	4H	Dbl
Pass	Pass	Dbl	Pass
5C	Pass	5S	All Pass

Sun passed at her first turn, but Wang still thought there was a chance for slam. But she had to lose the same three tricks as in the other room, and the result was a 10-IMP gain for the Americans.

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China gained on of the biggest swings of the tournament on the next deal -- a swing of 2040 points.

Board 18. N/S Vul. Dealer East.

	S Q	
	H 6532	
	D 8	
	C AKQ9432	
S 98742		S J3
H AT4		H KQJ987
D KQ2		D AJ976
C T8		C --
	S AKT65	
	H --	
	D T543	
	C J765	

## Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Wang	Munson	Sun	Simon
		1H	1S
2H	3C	3D	4C
4H	5C	5H	Dbl
All Pass			

Simon cashed her top spades, Munson discarding her singleton diamond. If Simon had realized that her partner was now void of diamonds, she could have defeated the contract by shooting a diamond back. But she switched to a club and Sun wrapped up her doubled contract -- plus 650.

## Open Room

West	North	East	South
Sanborn	Zhang	McCallum	Gu
		4H	Pass
Pass	5C	Pass	6C
All Pass			

On the HK opening lead and with the SJ falling, Zhang quickly wrapped up 13 tricks -- plus 1390. That was a welcome 19 IMPs for China.

Three consecutive pushes followed, but the last one featured an excellent defense by Zhang and Gu.

Board 21. N/S Vul. Dealer North.

S	52		
H	T84		
D	KJ954		
C	AT3		
S	K986	S	AQJ3
H	972	H	AQ53
D	Q	D	A72
C	QJ76	C	92
S	T74		
H	KJ6		
D	T863		
C	K84		

West	North	East	South
Sanborn	Zhang	McCallum	Gu
	Pass	1NT	Pass
2C	Pass	2H	Pass
2NT	Pass	3S	Pass
4S	All Pass		

Gu got off to the best opening lead -- a diamond to the queen, king and ace. McCallum immediately went after the clubs, the queen losing to the ace. Zhang led a heart, ducked to the jack, and Gu accurately shot back a diamond. This was ruffed and McCallum crossed to her hand with a trump. She led another club, and Gu rose with the king. When she returned still another club, McCallum ruffed -- but now the good clubs were of no use to her. She cashed the SK and finessed a heart for down one and a push.

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There followed a series of boards of little swings and pushes, but America got a batch of IMPs on Board 26.

Board 26. Game All. Dealer East.

S	A6		
H	984		
D	Q872		
C	AQT5		
S	KQT87	S	942
H	3	H	KT765
D	AK	D	J54
C	KJ982	C	76
S	J53		
H	AQJ2		
D	T963		
C	43		

Sanborn bought the contract for 1S after opening 1C and hearing her partner respond 1H. The contract could have been set, but the defense slipped, and Sanborn actually scored an overtrick. At the other table, the Chinese arrived in 2C. The first three bids were the same, but Sun decided to bid 1NT over 1S, and Wang carried back to 2C.

This was not a happy contract --repeated heart leads forced Wang to lose control and she managed only six tricks for a 7-IMP loss.

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Board 29 also was an unhappy one for China.

Board 29. Game All. Dealer North.

	S T7642	
	H 93	
	D 9765	
	C A6	
S A98		S J
H T54		H KQJ872
D QJT8		D K3
C K85		C JT93
	S KQ53	
	H A6	
	D A42	
	C Q742	

Both sides arrived in 4H, and everything came down to the club guess -- it was an out-and-out guess because two of West's club were discarded on the diamonds. McCallum guessed it right and Sun guessed it wrong -- 12 IMPs to the United States.

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There's only one word to describe Board 31 -- disaster.

Board 31. N/S Vul. Dealer South.

	S T8653	
	H AJT95432	
	D --	
	C --	
S --		S J974
H K8		H Q6
D JT97654		D KQ32
C Q642		C K83
	S AKQ2	
	H 7	
	D A8	
	C AJT975	

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Sun	Munson	Wang	Simon
			1C
3D	4H	5D	6C
Pass	6H	Pass	Pass
Dbl	Pass	7D	Dbl
All Pass			

Since 6H would make on a likely minor suit lead, 7D doubled down five for 1100 actually should have been a good save. But it wasn't -- look at what happened in the Open Room.

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Sanborn	Zhang	McCallum	Gu

			1C
4D	4H	5H	Pass
5S	6H	Pass	6NT!!!
All Pass			

Gu started with six tricks, and that's all she could take -  
- down 600. So minus 1700 cost the Chinese 17 IMPs.

Board 32 was an anticlimactic 1 IMP to the U.S., so after  
16 deals the Americans led, 79-38.

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A MISSED CHANCE  
By Barnet Shenkin

Board 22 was interesting in that both countries had a  
chance to defeat different game contracts in each room

Board 22. E/W Vul. Dealer East.

	S KT864	
	H K942	
	D A5	
	C Q9	
S 732		S AQ9
H J5		H QT3
D T96		D J432
C T6543		C AJ8
	S J5	
	H A876	
	D KQ87	
	C K72	

West	North	East	South
Perron	Wolff	Chemla	Hamman
		1C	1D
Pass	1S	Pass	1NT
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

Hamman - Wolff carefully avoided the risky 4H contract to  
play an equally difficult 3NT. Perron led the C3 and Hamman  
tried the 9, hoping that Perron may have had JTxxx. When  
Chemla played the jack, Hamman ducked. Chemla now played  
very quickly the ace and another club.

Hamman was now able to set up three spade tricks along with  
his three diamonds and two hearts. "Only nine," Hamman said  
as he claimed his contract.

It appears that Chemla could defeat the contract by  
shifting to diamonds before cashing the CA to set up his  
fourth diamond as the setting trick. However, when Hamman  
cashes his fourth and fifth spades. Chemla cannot find two  
spare cards to throw. He can part with a club, but the  
second discard in any of three suits will give declarer his  
ninth. In fact to defeat the contract at either trick two  
or trick three Chemla must return a heart, playing his  
partner for the jack. He now has the tempo to make one  
heart along with his two spades and two clubs.

West	North	East	South
Nickell	Replinger	Freeman	Soulet
		1D	Pass
Pass	Dbl	Pass	2D
Pass	2S	Pass	2NT
Pass	3H	Pass	4H
All Pass			

Dick Freeman led the D2 and Robert Replinger won in hand to lead the C 9. Freeman rose with the ace to play a second diamond. Declarer won this and cashed his CQ before taking his HK and crossing to dummy with the HA to cash dummy's CK. He now took dummy's DQ before ruffing the last diamond and exiting with his last trump to endplay East

Very well played, but if East does not rise with the CA declarer would have to play another club . A second diamond would then break the communications as after taking the club ruff and diamond ruff in his hand, he could not get back to dummy to play a heart to throw in Freeman. The end result was 1 IMP to France, but both sides missed a chance.

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Watching on the Internet  
by Matthew Granovetter

I noticed a deal that would have been candidate for best-played hand of the tournament -- if declarer had attempted it.

Round 11. Board 7. Game All. Dealer South.

S 9742  
H --  
D AQ76  
C A8754

S QJ63	S T85
H KT83	H AJ952
D K32	D T4
C J9	C QT6

S AK  
H Q764  
D J985  
C K32

Soulet, for France vs. Argentina, played in 5D against a heart opening lead. Soulet ruffed and apparently led a spade to his hand, then a diamond to the queen followed by a duck in clubs. Back came a second heart, forcing dummy to ruff and guaranteeing West's trump trick. Soulet cashed the DA, played a club to hand and gave up a diamond. The defense now cashed two heart tricks for down two.

I'm not sure what I am about to propose is a better line, but what about a crossruff? Four black winners, four heart ruffs in dummy and two spade ruffs in hand = 10 tricks. This works against reasonable splits and requires West to hold the long spade or East to hold the D10.

On the actual hand, if East hasn't already given the show away by ruffing the fourth spade with the D10, the end game leaves everyone with three cards, declarer needing one more trick. South holds the D J9 and a club and now leads the club. West may be forced to ruff and win the trick, endplayed. However, if East has discarded his third club on the fourth spade, he can over ruff with the D4, and lead a heart to force a guess from declarer.

It would be a nice defense, but if declarer inserts the D9, he wins the prize.

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NICK AND DICK

By Alan Truscott

Or perhaps it should be Dick and Nick, since Dick Freeman

is the senior, in age and in bridge. He was born in 1933 in the Washington, D.C., area, and was a celebrity at the age of 10 as a child prodigy. He appeared repeatedly, with great success, as a Quiz Kid on radio, answering strings of mathematical questions that stumped nearly all adults.

He then entered the University of Chicago, began playing bridge, and graduated at the age of 15. ( Yes, FIFTEEN). He then returned to the United States capital and became the pride and sorrow of the tournament directors: In the days of manual scoring he could matchpoint and add a recap sheet far faster than anyone else, and far less legibly. He now lives in Atlanta, Georgia, is a senior vice-president of the brokerage house of Oppenheimer and Company, has been married to Louise for 32 years, and works out in an exercise room.

More than a quarter of a century ago, a tall young student from Greensboro, N.C., started showing up at tournaments in the Atlanta area and became a Freeman disciple. His name was, and is, Nick Nickell, and he is as effervescent as Freeman is serious. But they both take the game seriously.

Nickell is 48, has been married to Carol for two years, plays golf, and is the president of Kelso and Company in Raleigh, N.C. He specializes in leveraged buy-outs, which are incomprehensible to the man in the street but certainly involve vast sums of money.

In the past four years, playing together with Bob Hamman, Bobby Wolff, Jeff Meckstroth and Eric Rodwell as teammates, they have won five major North American team titles: the Spingold Knockout Teams three times and the Reisinger Board-a-Match Teams twice. Nickell has won the Blue Ribbon Pairs playing with Hamman, and Freeman owns five other titles including the Vanderbilt Knockout Teams.

In Beijing they are finding their first Bermuda Bowl experience invigorating and exciting -- sometimes too exciting. They barely qualified for the playoffs, with some

help from the Canadians who beat Brazil in the last round to give the Americans a margin of 2 Victory Points in fourth position. And their quarterfinal match with Indonesia was close for the first 80 boards. Now they are battling France in the semifinal.

They have had many deals they enjoy recalling. Freeman, indeed, remembers virtually every spot card. This was a bidding success against China in Round 13:

Board 12. N/S Vul. Dealer West.

	S T642		
	H J3		
	D 3		
	C AT7653		
S 3		S AKJ9875	
H K87542		H A	
D K65		D QT972	
C 942		C --	
	S Q		
	H QT96		
	D AJ84		
	C KQJ8		

West	North	East	South
2D (1)	Pass	2NT (2)	Pass
3C (3)	Dbl	4S	5C (4)
Pass	Pass	5D	Dbl
5S	Dbl	All Pass	

- (1) Multi.
- (2) Clarify please.
- (3) Minimum with hearts.
- (4) I have the strength, so partner must have club length.

This is an accurate save against the vulnerability. East was not content to defend and played five spades doubled with no chance. In the replay four spades succeeded, for a large swing.

Nick-Dick are specialists in pushing the opponents one level too high. This is Deal 7 from Round 7 against Canada:

Board 7. Game All. Dealer South.

	S KT4		
	H 54		
	D KQ42		
	C A762		
S 983		S A6	
H AQJ93		H K72	
D A8		D T95	
C Q94		C KJT53	
	S QJ752		
	H T86		
	D J763		
	C 8		

West	North	East	South
	Nick		Dick

			Pass
1H	Dbl	1NT (1)	2S
3C (2)	Pass	4H	4S (3)
Pass	Pass	4NT (4)	Pass
5H (5)	All Pass		

- (1) An artificial bid, showing either club length, or heart support with club strength.
- (2) If you have clubs, I can help you.
- (3) An accurate save, costing 500 whether the defense chooses to score a diamond ruff or prevent a heart ruff. This is made possible by Nick's aggressive takeout double, made at few tables.
- (4) A request to choose a contract. This gives the game away: Nick now knows that East has club length plus a heart fit.
- (5) Perhaps the wrong choice. With equal fits, there is an advantage in choosing as a trump suit the one missing the ace. West is looking at the heart ace.

Nick had listened to the bidding with considerable interest and now knew exactly what to do. He led the CA and gave his partner a ruff. West had to lose either a diamond or a spade for down one. The field was in 4H making an overtrick against opponents who were less active in the bidding and less well-informed about the winning lead.

On the following deal the defense to a partscore against Canada had to be perfect:

Round 11. Board 11. Love All. Dealer South.

	S JT52	
	H A2	
	D KJ2	
	C Q532	
S 9743		S A
H T53		H KJ74
D A543		D 987
C 64		C AKJ87
	S KQ86	
	H Q986	
	D QT6	
	C T9	

West	North	East	South
	Dick		Nick
			Pass
Pass	Pass	1C	Pass
1D	Pass	1H	Pass
Pass	Dbl	2D	2S
All Pass			

Nick won the club lead with the jack, cashed the ace and led the 8. South ruffed with the SK and Dick gave up a diamond. A diamond was led to the king and a diamond was returned to the ace. A heart lead was now the obvious move, but would have been wrong: South would have won in dummy and been able to cash a diamond winner. Dick worked out

that his partner was likely to have the SA and gave him the lead with that card. The CK was led, and when South ruffed with the SQ, Dick was able to shed his last diamond.

The S8 was led and covered with the 9 and 10. The ending was:

	S T5	
	H A2	
	D K	
	C --	
S 74		S --
H T53		H KJ7
D --		D 9
C --		C 7
	S 6	
	H Q986	
	D --	
	C --	

South needed four tricks but had no way to get more than three. One down, and 5 IMPs to the U.S. In the replay E-W failed by two tricks in 2NT.

Will Nick-Dick be world champions by the end of the week? We'll have to wait and see. They are certainly playing well enough to deserve the title.

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US and Canada lead in open; German, US women far ahead

The featured matches on Vugraph at 10.30 this morning will be the two Marlboro Bermuda Bowl battles -- Canada vs. Sweden and United States vs. France. The selection for the second segment will be made based on the relative standings in the various matches.

The finalists in the Marlboro Venice Cup are all but settled. Germany has what appears to be an insurmountable lead -- 141 IMPs -- against France. And the United States has a comfortable lead -- 58 IMPs -- against host China. Note that the lead is comfortable, not insurmountable -- there have been many comebacks over the years where a team has come back from deficits greater than 58. Nevertheless, there is an excellent chance that the final will be a replay of the 1993 Venice Cup final in Chile --Germany vs. United States. In 1993 the winner was the United States.

In contrast, neither Marlboro Bermuda Bowl match is settled, although the two North American teams, Canada and the United States, both have good leads. The Canadians, who have played consistently well throughout the tournament, are in front of Sweden by 45 IMPs. And the Americans, who have had their problems throughout the round-robin and the quarterfinals, apparently have found their stride -- they lead France by 35.

Bob Hamman already has gone on record that he wants to forge a turnaround from the 1980 and 1992 Olympiads, in both

of which France topped an American team spearheaded by Hamman and Bobby Wolff.

The France-Germany match has everyone confounded. France topped their group in the round-robin and were strong in the quarterfinals. But their match was over almost before it started -- Germany had a 64-5 second quarter and a 65-13 third quarter to lead by 117 at the halfway mark.

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Press Conference

World Bridge Federation President Jose Damiani will conduct a press conference Thursday at noon in Room 3008. Immediately following the conference there will be a cocktail party in Room 2206 in celebration of Panos Gerontopoulos of Greece being named IBPA Bridge Personality of the Year.

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The Semi-finals - Set 1

The Vugraph show started with two matches, France v USA 11 (BB) and China v USA 1 (VC). While showing two matches may or may not be good for the audience, it is completely hopeless as far as trying to put together a comprehensive match report is concerned. Hopefully, however, I have managed to pick out the highlights of what was generally a pretty quiet set of boards.

Board 2. N/S Vul. Dealer East.

S T8765

H AQ86

D T4

C QJ

S J3

S A92

H 95

H 742

D K93

D AQJ8

C KT9743

C A62

S KQ4

H KJT3

D 7652

C 85

In France v USA 11, both Easts opened 1NT. Perron was facing a strong no trump and transferred to clubs then converted to 3C over what I imagine was a discouraging 2NT response. He made eleven tricks; +150. Wolff was facing 13-17 and he jumped to 3C, invitational. Hamman bid 3NT and Michel Lebel led the HJ. The French cashed four hearts ending with North and Cronier switched to the D10. Hamman won, cashed CA, then carefully cashed out the diamonds to get a clue how to play the next round of clubs. When Cronier showed up with shorter diamonds, the odds were to play for clubs 2-2 and Hamman duly did so to make his game and chalk up 6 IMPs for his team.

-----

Board 3. E/W Vul. Dealer South.

S AT7

H 7

D 7632  
 C AK985  
 S Q932                      S K854  
 H JT                              H KQ853  
 D A854                          D T9  
 C J74                            C Q2  
 S J6  
 H A9642  
 D KQJ  
 C T63

USA 11 picked up a further 6 IMPs on the next board. In the Closed Room, Rodwell opened the South hand and Meckstroth eventually played 2NT on a low spade lead to his ten. That start put Meckstroth ahead of the game and he ended up with nine tricks; + 150.

In the Open Room, Lebel did not open the South hand. Cronier opened 1C in third seat and Hamman overcalled 1H. Lebel passed that, waiting for the reopening double, but with Cronier holding such a bare opening and facing a passed hand, the double never came. Lebel led DK against 1H and continued with the queen when Hamman ducked. Hamman won the second diamond and played a spade to his king, Lebel following with the six, then switched his attention to the trump suit. Lebel ducked two rounds of trumps and Hamman led a low club off the dummy, Cronier winning to play a diamond, ruffed by Hamman and establishing dummy's eight. Hamman played CQ and Cronier was trapped. He won and cashed the SA but the defense just had two trumps to come; +80.

Suppose Cronier cashes the second club before exiting with a diamond. Declarer ruffs the diamond and plays either a heart or a spade. It doesn't matter which so long as Lebel gets the blocking SJ out of the way before putting him back in with his last trump, using declarer as a stepping stone to the SA for one down.

-----  
 Board 6. E/W Vul. Dealer East.

S 42  
 H 8  
 D 62  
 C QT987532  
 S 8                              S T976  
 H AJ5432                      H T  
 D T743                          D AKJ98  
 C AJ                              C K64  
 S AKQJ53  
 H KQ976  
 D Q5  
 C --

It's time to look in on the Venice Cup match now. In the Closed Room, Pollack doubled East's 1D opening with her shapely hand, heard a free 2C bid from Picus over West's 1H response, and leaped to 4S. That was doubled and there was just too much work to do. She lost two diamonds, two hearts

and a spade; -300.

In the Open Room, Gu Ling preferred a 3C Ghestem bid. Sanborn doubled to show values and Zhang Yalan passed, suggesting a place to play. But Gu could hardly pass 3C doubled and converted to 3S. Zhang passed that but, when McCallum doubled, changed her mind and, after considerable thought, ran to her eight card suit. 4C was promptly doubled and that was three down; -500 and 5 IMPs to USA 1 when it might have been 5 IMPs to China had Zhang been willing to pass 3S doubled.

-----  
Board 9. E/W Vul. Dealer North.

	S AT8	
	H K874	
	D K63	
	C J42	
S --		S KQ9764
H AT652		H Q3
D AQ4		D J75
C KT965		C A8
	S J532	
	H J9	
	D T982	
	C Q73	

This was probably the most interesting deal in the set. In the Venice Cup match, Sun Ming declared 3NT as West. She received a low heart lead to the jack and ace and returned a heart. Now the defense switched to clubs and, with only one trick in each suit, could not find a way to beat the contract. +600 looked a pretty good score for China but they were destined to lose 1 IMP on the board.

In the other room, Kerri Sanborn played 4H. The lead was a diamond to her queen. She led a heart to the queen and, when that held, played on clubs, ruffing the third round. Now she crossed to the DA, cashed the HA, and had to lose only two trumps and a diamond; +620.

In the Bermuda Bowl, France played in 2S, by West! Meckstroth opened 1NT as North and Michel Perron made a transfer overcall to clubs with the West hand. Paul Chemla decided that 2S suited him very nicely and he presented Perron with the dummy. Perron had three trump losers but no real problem in coming home with eight tricks; +110.

In the other room, North did not open and Bobby Wolff found himself at the helm in the rather more normal contract of 3NT, also from the West seat. Cronier led a low diamond and Wolff won the queen and played a heart to the queen. Declarer rates to get home now as the cards lie if he switches his attention to clubs. He seems to be a trick short but the defender is likely to have to give him a ninth trick in the endgame.

Wolff continued hearts, playing ace and another. Cronier switched to a club and Wolff won the ace and played a second club to the ten and jack. Now Cronier took some time but eventually worked it out, cashing the SA to squeeze declarer. If Wolff pitched a diamond, Cronier could lead the suit to establish a fifth defensive trick while he still controlled the hearts, while a club or a heart discard would allow North to cash the HK and exit with his last club, coming to the DK at trick thirteen. Well defended; -100 and 5 IMPs to France.

-----  
Board 12. N/S Vul. Dealer West.

	S AQT	
	H Q954	
	D JT7	
	C 765	
S 9763		S KJ852
H 3		H 76
D K96		D AQ54
C AQ984		C J2
	S 4	
	H AKJT82	
	D 832	
	C KT3	

This one was flat in 4S+1 in France v USA 11, but there was a swing in the Venice Cup match. Wang opened 1S as East and Pollack overcalled 2H. Now Sun simply jumped to 4S, ending the auction. Wang made +450.

In the other room, Karen McCallum preferred to open a rather loose weak 2S. Gu overcalled 3H and Sanborn bid 4C, spades plus good clubs. This left room for Zhang to bid 4H and, of course, when this came back to Sanborn, she 'saved' in 4S. Particularly knowing how weak a McCallum weak two bid could be, it was awfully tempting for Zhang to double 4S and she did so. McCallum also took eleven tricks but that was +690 and 6 IMPs to USA 1.

-----  
Board 13. Game All. Dealer North.

	S 932	
	H QJ972	
	D 4	
	C Q432	
S K76		S QT85
H AT853		H 64
D A82		D K953
C KJ		C 875
	S AJ4	
	H K	
	D QJT76	
	C AT96	

The popular contract around the room was 1H doubled by West, going one, two or three down. And that is what happened in the China v USA 1 Open Room. Gu opened a

Precision diamond as South and reopened with a double when Sanborn's 1H overcall came back round to her. Zhang led her singleton and Sanborn won in hand and played the SK. Gu won her ace and returned DQ and Zhang misjudged the position, ruffing. She returned a spade to the ten and jack and Sun played a third diamond, Zhang again ruffing. Sanborn won the spade return and played ace and another trump, forcing Zhang to lead clubs for her; one down for -200.

That didn't look such a great result for the Chinese pair. Two down looks about average on this deal. While Zhang's ruff of the second diamond was probably an error, the diamond return itself was inferior. If Zhang does not ruff the diamond, declarer can win the king and play a third round, establishing dummy's nine. The D9 effectively becomes another trump on this line.

Best is for South to play HK when in with the spade. Not only does this not bring the diamond pips into play, it clarifies the situation for North. Of course, if declarer ducks the HK, South still has to switch to clubs not diamonds next.

In the other room, Rozanne Pollack chose a really bad time to open an off-centre no trump (14-16) on the South cards. Sun doubled and Sue Picus redoubled, her way of showing a five card suit and a desire to run. Pollack did as requested and Picus bid 2H, also doubled. Unfortunately, declarer and her screenmate had had a misunderstanding about the last double and she did not play the hand to best advantage, going two down when she could certainly have made at least one more trick had she expected the actual trump stack. That meant Picus was two down for -500 and 12 IMPs to China. After sixteen boards, USA 1 led China by 27-14 and USA 11 led France 31-17.

\*\*\*\*\*

Canada v Sweden (Set 3 Open)

After 32 boards, Canada led Sweden by 69-55 in their Marlboro Bermuda Bowl semi-final. Set three started with both East/West pairs finding the good 4S save over 4H on Board 1, each conceding -300; no swing.

Board 34. N/S Vul. Dealer East.

	S J4	
	H AQ	
	D KJT953	
	C 962	
S KQ8652		S A93
H K63		H J9542
D --		D AQ82
C KQT8		C 4
	S T7	
	H T87	
	D 764	
	C AJ753	

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Bjerregard	Molson	Morath	Baran
		1H	Pass
1S	2D	2S	Pass
4D	Pass	4S	All Pass

## Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Kokish	Wirgren	Silver	Bennet
		1H	Pass
1S	2D	2S	Pass
4D	Pass	4S	Pass
5D	Pass	5S	All Pass

The two auctions were identical all the way up to West's decision over 4S. Bjerregard decided to respect Morath's sign-off while Kokish felt he had to make one more try. Though Bjerregard made eleven tricks after a diamond lead, allowing him to get two diamond discards for hearts, 5S proved to be one too high in the other room, where Wirgren led a safe club. There was nowhere for the two hearts losers to go now and Kokish was one down; 11 IMPs to Sweden, 66-69.

-----  
Canada got the points back in smaller doses.

Board 35. E/W Vul. Dealer South.

	S T842	
	H J2	
	D 86	
	C AJ842	
S AKQ		S 73
H 73		H QT98654
D 42		D AT7
C QT7653		C 9
	S J965	
	H AK	
	D KQJ953	
	C K	

## Open Room

West	North	East	South
Bjerregard	Molson	Morath	Baran
			1D
2C	Pass	2H	3D
All Pass			

## Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Kokish	Wirgren	Silver	Bennet
			1D
Pass	1S	Pass	2NT
Pass	3C	Pass	3S
Pass	4S	All Pass	

Where Bjerregard overcalled, North/South never got their spades into the game, playing in 3D. Bjerregard led two top spades, discovered that his partner had an even number, and

switched to a diamond. That was the end of the defense;  
+110.

Had he realized that the even number was two, Bjerregard could have cashed his third spade, enabling Morath to pitch his singleton club. Now a club ruff leads to one down.

In the Closed Room, Kokish did not overcall and now the Swedes found the spade fit, but the lure of game proved too strong and they were one too high; -50 and 4 IMPs to Canada, 73-66.

-----  
Board 36. Game All. Dealer West.

	S T98	
	H K32	
	D AQ	
	C A9852	
S 54		S AKQ7
H 985		H QJT74
D 876		D JT32
C KT764		C --
	S J632	
	H A6	
	D K954	
	C QJ3	

Open Room

	West	North	East	South
	Bjerregard	Molson	Morath	Baran
	Pass	1C	1H	Dbl
	Pass	1NT	Pass	2NT
	All Pass			

Closed Room

	West	North	East	South
	Kokish	Wirgren	Silver	Bennet
	Pass	1C	1H	Dbl
	Pass	1S	Pass	Pass
	2H	All Pass		

Around the room, several North/South pairs were going down in what is a pretty good 3NT game because of the 5-0 club break. The Canadians did well to stop in 2NT in the Open Room and Molson played carefully to make it, winning the heart lead in hand to lead a low club to the queen; +120.

In the Closed Room, Wirgren's 1C was either strong or a mini no trump and the 1S rebid consistent with the latter. Still, Bennet's decision to defend 2H seems a trifle conservative. This would have worked well but after leading three rounds of trumps the defence lost its way and allowed Silver to come home with his contract; +110 and 6 IMPs to Canada, 79-66.

-----  
The next two boards were flat and Sweden picked up 3 IMPs for an extra undertrick on Board 7. Then came a triumph for the good old weak no trump.

Board 40. Love All. Dealer West.

S QT7  
 H K9873  
 D A9  
 C K52  
 S 542                      S K963  
 H AQ                        H 5  
 D KQ3                      D JT8542  
 C JT974                    C 63  
 S AJ8  
 H JT642  
 D 76  
 C AQ8

## Open Room

West	North	East	South
Bjerregard	Molson	Morath	Baran
1C	1H	Pass	4H
All Pass			

## Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Kokish	Wirgren	Silver	Bennet
1NT	Pass	2C	Pass
2D	Pass	Pass	Dbl
Pass	2H	All Pass	

After the two-way Swedish club opening, it was routine for North/South to reach their game; +450.

In the Closed Room, however, the combination of weak no trump and Stayman response left the Swedes in a balancing auction. Wirgren might have viewed to bid more than 2H but it was all rather murky. Sweden scored +200 but that meant 6 IMPs to Canada; 85-69.

In the Venice Cup, the Chinese ladies gained 11 IMPs when again the weak no trump struck. This time East passed and 1NT became the final contract. Even better, it was allowed to make after a heart lead into the ace, queen and heart continuation when in with the DA. This was, however, nearly all the good news the Chinese had in the set as USA 1 forged ahead.

-----  
 Board 41. E/W Vul. Dealer North.

S 92  
 H AQ76  
 D KJ  
 C AQ754  
 S KQJ8543                      S --  
 H KJ9                            H 842  
 D 74                             D QT953  
 C T                                C KJ986  
 S AT76  
 H T53  
 D A862  
 C 32

## Open Room

West	North	East	South
------	-------	------	-------

Bjerregard	Molson	Morath	Baran
	1NT	Pass	Pass
2S	3C	Dbl	Pass
4S	Pass	Pass	Dbl
All	Pass		

## Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Kokish	Wirgren	Silver	Bennet
	1NT	Pass	Pass
2C	Pass	Pass	Dbl
2S	Dbl	All	Pass

In the Closed Room, Kokish showed an unspecified single suiter and Silver, suspecting which the suit was, decided to pass. When Bennet doubled for takeout, Kokish thought it best to run to the safety of his seven card suit. But it wasn't so safe after all.

Wirgren doubled for takeout, ending the auction, and led the S9. Bennet ducked, of course, and Kokish lost the obvious seven tricks; -500. But that was as nothing compared to the carnage in the Open Room.

Bjerregard made a natural overcall and Molson decided to take a second bid on the North hand. His side were in trouble when Morath made a penalty double but were saved when Bjerregard to ok a flyer at 4S. Baran doubled that with relish. Molson did very well, finding the best lead of DK.

He led a second diamond to the ace and now Baran also did well, switching to the H10 to the jack and queen. Molson took both his aces then played a third heart. Bjerregard won and tried the SJ but Baran won and played a diamond, ruffed and overruffed. There was still S10 to come; five down, -1400 and 14 IMPs to Canada. They now led by 99-69. Sweden gained an overtrick IMP on Board 10, then:

-----  
Board 43. Love All. Dealer South.

S QJT96

H --

D QT98

C 8753

S 52

S 74

H Q2

H AK98764

D A6532

D 4

C KQJ9

C A64

S AK83

H JT53

D KJ7

C T2

## Open Room

West	North	East	South
Bjerregard	Molson	Morath	Baran
			1H
Pass	1S	Pass	2S

All Pass

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Kokish	Wirgren	Silver	Bennet
			1C
1D	1H(i)	2H	2S
3H	Dbl	4C	Pass
4H	All Pass		

(i) Spades

As you can see, East/West are cold for 4H and Kokish/Silver duly reached it in the Closed Room. But the Baran/Molson methods shut East/West out completely in the Open Room. Baran opened his four card heart suit and his side bid peacefully to 2S. The defence did its best, taking two diamond ruffs, but that was still +110 and 11 IMPs for Canada; 110-69.

-----  
Board 44. N/S Vul. Dealer West.

	S K854	
	H QJT3	
	D 97	
	C AJ9	
S J96		S A32
H 4		H 85
D AKT632		D QJ84
C T82		C Q753
	S QT7	
	H AK9762	
	D 5	
	C K64	

The swing here was only a minor one but there was plenty of action. Sitting West, Kokish opened with a natural weak two in diamonds. Wirgren found a desperately thin takeout double and Silver jumped to 5D. The winning action is to double that, but Bennet can hardly be blamed for bidding 5H. The spade position meant that 5H had to go one down; -50. A good board for the weak 2D opening? Nota bit of it.

In the Open Room, Bjerregard, who did not have that option, opened 3D instead. Molson passed but again Morath leaped to 5D. Here, 5H is less understandable, though still tempting. Baran bid it and Molson, expecting a better hand, raised to six, also a little pushy. 6H lost the same three tricks as 5H so that was -100 and 2 IMPs to Sweden; 71-110. The next two boards were flat then Sweden moved a little closer.

-----  
Board 47. N/S Vul. Dealer South.

	S K432	
	H Q9	
	D KT763	
	C J3	
S QT85		S 97
H T85		H AKJ64

D 54	D J982
C A654	C T7
S AJ6	
H 732	
D AQ	
C KQ982	

## Open Room

West	North	East	South
Bjerregard	Molson	Morath	Baran
			1NT
Pass	2C	2H	Pass
Pass	2S	All Pass	

## Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Kokish	Wirgren	Silver	Bennet
			1NT
Pass	Pass	2H	Pass
Pass	Dbl	Pass	3C
All Pass			

No trump range made a difference again. Baran's 1NT was strong and Molson was worth a try for game so used Stayman. Morath came in with a dangerous looking overcall and now Molson could see that game was quite unlikely. His 2S showed only four cards and was non-forcing. With no heart stopper, Baran judged that 2S was high enough. In fact, it was to prove one too high. Morath cashed two top hearts then switched to a diamond. Molson won the queen and led a club to the jack and a second club to the ace. Bjerregard led a third club and Molson discarded a diamond as Morath ruffed. Now came a third heart. Molson ruffed but had two trump losers to come; -100.

Bennet's no trump was 14-16 so Wirgren decided he was not worth a move. Silver balanced with 2H and Wirgren doubled for takeout. Bennet bid 3C and, with the fall of the C10, that proved to be a very comfortable contract; +110 and 5 IMPs to Sweden, 78-110.

The set ended with a 6 IMP pick-up for Canada when Molson/Baran bid and made a normal looking game which was missed in the other room. That made the half-time score 116-78 to Canada who had played pretty well at both tables.

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Bridge on Chinese national TV

The Marlboro Bermuda Bowl and the Marlboro Venice Cup will be featured on Chinese national TV for the rest of this week for at least two hours a day. Not only that, but CNN also has expressed interest in the world championships that are being staged here in Beijing.

The Chinese national TV coverage began yesterday when the second segment of the Marlboro Venice Cup match between China and the United States was featured from 13.45 until 16.00. Today the final segment will be captured on camera,

but it will be time-delayed and shown from 23.07 until 01.12 on Channel 3.

The hours of play have been adjusted to allow for the TV shows. The first segment still starts at 10:30, but the second now will be at 13.45, with the third at 16:35. The last segment still will be at 21.00.

The TV schedule for the rest of the week is as follows:

Wednesday -- 14.00 to 16.10 on Channel 3.

Thursday -- 14.15 to 16.20 on Channel 2 and 21.25 to 23.40 on Channel 3. Friday -- 14.00 to 16.10 on Channel 2..

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IPBA presents annual awards  
to 3 journalists and 3 players

At a special meeting of the International Bridge Press Association, the three major awards offered by the organization were presented.

The Precision Award for the best defense went to Zia and journalist Alan Truscott. On hand to make the presentation was Chen Zalan of the China Bridge Association, standing in for Kathie Wei-Sender, who donated the award. This was Truscott's article:

The most brilliant defensive play at the American Contract Bridge League's Summer North American Championships in San Diego occurred on the diagrammed deal from an early round of the Spingold Knockout Team Championship. The hero was Zia Mahmood, a colorful Pakistani expert who lives in Manhattan but is usually playing bridge somewhere else.

S AJT64

H K52

D AT6

C T7

S Q73

S 985

H J983

H 74

D 973

D KJ54

C AK9

C Q863

S K2

H AQT6

D Q82

C J542

West	North	East	South
1C	Pass	1S	Pass
1NT	Pass	2D	Pass
2H	Pass	3NT	All Pass

North's 2D bid was new minor forcing, asking South for information about his major suit holdings. West therefore led a diamond, since that was the only suit that had not been genuinely bid. Zia was East.

First, consider how the play would proceed with normal defense. South plays low from dummy and East wins the king and returns the suit. South sees that he can make at most eight tricks unless he brings in at least three spade tricks, so he plays for West to have the SQ and finds he has ten tricks. That sequence was followed when Zia's teammates held the North/South cards.

As East, Zia knew that spades were favorably placed for South, so he tried to confuse the issue for declarer. When the D6 was played from dummy he played the unexpected jack instead of the routine king. This play was not going to cost anything, whoever held the queen.

When South won with the queen, he was now convinced that the DK was on his left, which meant that he could take three diamond tricks, not two. This offered the prospect of taking seven tricks in the red suits plus two spade winners, so he played three top hearts. When the jack failed to drop he confidently finessed the D10. He was considerably deflated when Zia produced the king and shifted to the CQ, defeating the contract.

The thoughtful queen play made no difference in this case, though it would have paid off if West's club holding had been A-J-9. But it was the deflection play of the DJ that led South down the garden path to defeat.

The Romex Award for the best bidding sequence, donated by George Rosenkranz, was won by Alfred Sheinwold, the journalist, and Larry Cohen and David Berkowitz, the players. Edgar Kaplan accepted the award in the absence of the winners. This was Sheinwold's report:

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 Bridge textbooks tell you to look for a trump suit of eight or more cards. If you can't find one, play the hand at notrump, they advise.

Dave Berkowitz and Larry Cohen found an exception to the rule early in the 1994 ACBL North American Championships.:

Board 9. E/W Vul. Dealer North.

	S Q8		
	H J7		
	D Q9874		
	C AT73		
S 743		S 9652	
H KT83		H AQ962	
D AJ		D 2	
C J864		C 952	
	S AKJT		
	H 54		
	D KT653		
	C KQ		

West	North	East	South
Treadwall	Cohen	Gookin	Berkowitz

	Pass	Pass	1NT(1)
Pass	2NT	Pass	3S (2)
Pass	4S (3)	All Pass	

- (1) 14-16 HCP (Precision)
- (2) Looking for a fit. North probably has 9 or 10 points and the hand belongs in game, but North doesn't have four spades (no Stayman) and the two short suits look dangerous.
- (3) He wouldn't have bid 3S on a four-card suit, would he? If South has only four spades, they must be headed by the A-K-J. Besides, Sonny Moyse became famous rooting for 4-3 trump fits. Maybe bridge players of the 21st century will celebrate the 4-2 fit.

Dave Treadwell, playing with Robert Gookin, muttered something about 'When in doubt' as he led a trump. Berkowitz won his jack and led the DK.

He had to set up the diamonds while he had a trump in dummy to stop the hearts. We can all see that the defenders can take two hearts, a diamond and a diamond ruff, but nobody pointed this out to Treadwell and Gookin. So they took their two hearts and got out with a second trump. Now Berkowitz drew trumps and claimed his game.

To start the ball rolling, let's call the 4-2 fit the Larry Cohen trump fit. Your reporter certainly doesn't want his name on it.

The Le Bridgeur Award, donated by Le Bridgeur, the French bridge magazine, was won by Phillippe Cronier and journalist Patrick Jourdain. The award was presented by Jean Paul Meyer, editor of Le Bridgeur, to Cronier and Jourdain. This was Jourdain's presentation:

Philippe Cronier had a chance to show his skill on Board 14 of the first qualifying session of the European Open Pairs.

Dealer East; Vul None.

	S J7		
	H A974		
	D 852		
	C QT42		
S AKQT53		S 98642	
H 82		H QJT3	
D 7		D AQ3	
C J865		C 9	
	S --		
	H K65		
	D KJT964		
	C AK73		

West	North	East	South
Crestey	Salama	Maarek	Cronier
		Pass	1D
2S	Pass	4S	Dbl

Pass        4NT        Pass        5D  
All Pass

When Cronier made a consultative double over 4S, Maurice Salama judged well to bid the competitive 4NT, suggesting that his partner choose between the minors. With six cards in diamonds Cronier selected the sounder spot, but he still had to read the cards well.

West led a top spade. Cronier ruffed, crossed to HA and led D8. East put up the best defense by going up with DA and exiting with a heart. South won and played a third heart. East won and exited with a fourth round of the suit. South ruffed and took stock.

West was marked with only three cards in the red suits and was likely to have six spades. The signal from East at trick one and the fact that West had not bid 3S both argued the spades were 6-5. That meant West must have four clubs. But Cronier needed to cross to dummy for the second trump finesse. The solution needed courage -- on the first round of clubs he led a small one to the TEN!

The rest was plain sailing. A finesse in trumps picked up East's queen, and South could claim.

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