

Marlboro Bermuda and Venice Cup
Beijing, China

October 8th - 21st, 1995

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Editor: Henry Francis and Brian Senior

Bermuda Bowl Final after 48 boards

Canada 77 USA 2 100

Venice Cup after 64 board

Germany 101 USA 1 100

Today's schedule

Bermuda Bowl

Canada vs. United States

Sweden vs. France (for third place)

Venice Cup

United States vs. Germany

China vs. France (for third place)

Bermuda final: U.S. vs. Canada

Venice final: U.S. vs. Germany

The Vugraph show will feature both final matches starting at 10:30. The plan is to have the closer match on the screen whenever feasible.

There were no surprises in the final two segments of the semifinals of the Marlboro Bermuda Bowl and the Marlboro Venice Cup. The open championship final will be a battle between two North American giants, United States and Canada. In the women's final, it will be a replay of the 1993 final in Chile --defending champion United States taking on silver medalist Germany.

Canada defeated Sweden, 218-157, and the United States toppled France, 221-153. In the Marlboro Venice Cup, the United States stopped China, 259-185, and Germany bested France, 257-164.

The Marlboro Bermuda Bowl final will consist of 160 boards -- 64 today, 64 tomorrow and 32 early Friday. The Marlboro Venice Cup final will be only 128 boards -- 64 today and 64 tomorrow. In the contests for third place, France will plays Sweden in the Bermuda and China will play France in the Venice -- both matches will be 32 boards starting at 10:30 today.

This is a first ever for Canada -- never before has Canada been in a Bermuda Bowl final. The only world title ever won by Canada came in Biarritz, France, in 1982 when Dianna Gordon and George Mittelman won the Mixed Pairs. Mittelman is a member of Canada's team here, and he is partnered by

Fred Gitelman. Gitelman finished second in the World Junior Championships in Ann Arbor, Michigan, in 1991.

Eric Kokish, editor of the World Bridge News and the principal contributor to the World Championship books printed each year, is partnered by Joey Silver of Fast Lane notoriety. Kokish and Silver combined magnificently in 1974 to win the Vanderbilt Knockout Teams at the American Contract Bridge League Spring Championships, but the partnership was generated only recently. The third pair, Boris Baran and Mark Molson, has performed very well throughout these championships.

Most of the members of the other three teams have been to the final before, and many of them have been winners. Bob Hamman, Bobby Wolff, Eric Rodwell and Jeff Meckstroth are four of the eight players in the world who have won all three major world titles -- Bermuda Bowl, Olympiad and World Open Pairs. However, it's the first time for Nick Nickell and Dick Freeman.

All but one of the Germans are veterans. The newcomer is Andrea Rauscheid. Sabine Auken, Daniela von Arnim, Pony Nehment, Marianne Moegel and Karin Caesar all were members of the team that placed second in Santiago in 1993.

New on the scene for the American women are Carol Simon and Rozanne Pollack. Karen McCallum, Sue Picus and Kerri Sanborn all were winners in 1993, and Kitty Munson was a Venice Cup champion in Perth, Australia, in 1989.

Meet the American women

Kerri Sanborn is the daughter of two San Diego bridge players, Richard and Muriel Mitchell. Currently ranked third in the world women's rankings, she is the owner of an endless list of North American and regional titles as well as several world championships. A longtime bridge professional, Kerri moved from California to New York City in 1988 to begin career trading stock options. Here she met her husband, Steve Sanborn, who was working for the same company. Together they live in a small town north of Manhattan called Stony Point.

Carol Simon is a systems developer for the New York Mercantile Exchange. She and her husband Al have a college-age daughter Lori. Currently they call Summit, New Jersey, home. A longtime personality on the American bridge scene, this is her first Venice Cup competition. After one exciting cab ride in China, Carol shared a secret desire -- she wanted to grow up to be a race car driver.

Karen McCallum lives in a crowded household in Exeter, New Hampshire, along with her husband Alex, daughter Justine, family friend Cenk Lomco and the family cats Muddles and Shili. When she can pull herself away from the bridge table, she is both editor and publisher of mystery novels

for readers and collectors. Entering this tournament she had won three world championships and 10th in the world women's rankings.

Catherine Anne "Kitty" Munson lives in New York City and works as an assistant vice president in the technology sector of the Bank of New York. She has high finishes in both the Rosenblum Cup and the World Mixed Pairs to go with her Venice Cup victory in Perth, Australia in 1989. While living in England she played for the British, winning the Common Market Teams and finishing third in the women's pairs in the European Championships before returning to her native United States. Other interests include spending time with her son Paul Bethe, gardening and art.

Sue Picus is a director of software development for Novell Corporation. She currently is the holder of both the Venice Cup and the McConnell Cup titles. A resident of New York City, she enjoys the theater and restaurant life of Manhattan and other major cities such as London. As are other players on this team, she is addicted to "Minesweeper" < a game found on most Windows releases.>

Rozanne Pollack lives in Warren, New Jersey, along with her husband Bill and daughters Andrea, 12, and Rebecca, 8. She is a doctor of sociological research and is employed as such. She also is a current holder of the McConnell Cup title. She enjoys reading and doing puzzles.

Steve Sanborn, npc, lives in Stony Point, New York, with his wife Kerri. Originally a consultant for corporate databases, Steve tried his hand at options trading in 1987 and found a new profession. His true passion is participation in team sports, particularly softball. This prohibits almost all trips to the Spring or Summer North American Championships. When Steve and Kerri were first married, the standing joke among his friends was that he was going to have to change his last name from Sanborn to Shuman.

Meet the French open team

Paul Chemla earned a high degree in literature. He would have been a wonderful teacher of French, Latin and Greek if only the school days did not begin at the same time as his days usually end. He loves opera, gastronomy, cigars and one-liners. Distinguishing feature: he is in discord with any type of team trials that force him to win a place on the national team -- he feels he is entitled to a place. For the rest, a perfect democrat.

Michel Perron, 44 and married, is the former cherubim of bridge in France, shining in the heaven of permanent glory for more that 20 years. Distinguishing feature: his opponents think he has eaten a metronome.

Robert Reiplinger, 52 and unmarried with one child, is a

financial expert and former professor at the Commercial University. This is his debut on the national team. Distinguishing feature: this man of bank balances, a lover of the grand crus, considers the 1995 vintage his most profitable balance.

Philippe Soulet, 41 and married with two children, directs a big bridge club in Paris. Since his childhood, he has kept his southern accent and his love of life. He has infallible insight and is a daring player with very good instincts. He probably is a descendant of Mozart and Escartefigue. Distinguishing feature: he plays as he breathes.

Philippe Cronier, 42, had no idea even as recently as three months ago that he would be playing on the French team in the Marlboro Bermuda Bowl. He had previous commitments, and anyway he was not a member of the team that finished second in the European Championships. Christian Mari declared in mid-July that he does not like Chinese food . . . and some other things. Philippe was European champion in 1983. He and his wife must have set some kind of record -- both are semifinalists in the world championships here. Philippe seems, in France, to be an orchestra man in bridge -- he plays, he writes magazine articles, he authors bridge books -- and he is considered to be one of the best bridge teachers in the country. Not only that, he plays the piano nearly every day and he studies statistics at the university.

Jean Paul Meyer, the npc for the first time, has set up a battle of the editors. Meyer is editor of 'Le Bridgeur' and Edgar Kaplan of the U.S. team of course is the long time editor of The Bridge World. Meyer was European Pairs champion in 1987 and played twice for France in the past. At present, he is vice president of the French Bridge Federation.

The German Ladies
by Klaus Reps

In Beijing we have six of the seven members of the German Ladies Team that won the silver medal two years ago in Santiago. However you might have noticed that we have two new names in our team.

One of them is Sabine Auken. But in this case it is only the name that is new. Due to her marriage to a very tall Danish guy, you probably all know, the former Sabine Zenkel lost her name, but not her playing skills. She lives now in Copenhagen/Denmark and gave birth to her son, Jens Christian, only some weeks before the European Championships - good timing ! Due to that fact her performance at the table became even better -- who would dare double a breast-feeding mother ?

Her partner is Daniela von Arnim. She lives in Heidelberg

together with a tall German guy, whom I probably know best. She works as a software designer in Karlsruhe together with George Nippgen (one of the Rosenblum Knockout Teams World Champions 1990).

When she comes home she always talks about conventions she wants to add to her system, many I have not even heard of. I wonder what they are doing the whole day?! She and Sabine have built one of the strongest partnerships in Germany and they are surely among the top three women pairs in the world.

A rather new face and name on the international bridge scene is Andrea Rauscheid. She lives in Heidelberg and works in a medical lab at Heidelberg University. She likes food very much as long as it is a lot. For Beijing she was specially trained. We practiced eating french fries at McDonald's with chopsticks. Unfortunately the restaurant closed before she could pick up the last cold french fry, so if you want to meet her, watch for the blonde girl sitting in the Western restaurant who enjoys her meal with knife and fork.

Her partner is the well-known Pony Nehmert. She lives in Wiesbaden and works there as a bridge professional. According to a British journalist who knows her very well, she is Mrs.Grumpy in the morning, but as the day proceeds her mood gets better and better. Sometimes she is even witty, but only when she pursues her two hobbies, shopping and shopping. Andrea and Pony form one of the very promising partnerships on the German women's team and they have done very well so far in these Championships.

Very well-known too are The Sisters. Marianne Moegel and Karin Caesar both live in Hannover and work in their spare time as directors of a travel agency, presidents of a hotel group in Spain, organizers of bridge cruises..... In addition to these jobs, they are both voluntary models for the German designer Jil Sander. Or does Jil Sander voluntarily design dresses for the sisters ? I just can't remember. Together the sisters have formed a partnership that has played at international level for some time now . They are an important part of the German team and took part (as well as Daniela and Sabine) in the last four Venice Cups.

Last but not least there is me, the German captain, Klaus Reps. I live in Heidelberg and work as a bridge professional because I don't like getting up early, and of which Daniela is extremely jealous. I am the captain of the German women's team for the second time and we reached the Venice Cup Finals for the second time now. I must be really clever !!

The German women have enjoyed their stay in Beijing very much and we are looking forward to the next Championships.

More from Edgar Kaplan

We find Edgar Kaplan's droll wit as a commentator quite refreshing. One the off chance you've missed a few sessions, here are his latest offerings.

Since I like to like the bids I make, I wouldn't have made that bid.

I am willing to open 1NT with a five-card major with the right hand. It just happens that I've never picked up the right hand.

Anyone who jumps in partner's suit with a singleton deserves what he gets.

Nobody doubles anything for penalties now a days.

One should never discard 200 points.

When my partner under leads ace-queen-jack, partner must want me to do something. Maybe he wants me to waste my brain power trying to figure out what he wants me to do.

Declarer has the opportunity to win 13 of the last nine tricks. Unfortunately he's already lost three.

I've never felt the need to raise my partner's suit with the singleton six.

It's really unsatisfactory to guess wrong, so might as well guess right.

Where there's eight there's nine.

MISSED CHANCES

By Barnet Shenkin

Board 22 of the semi-finals was one of the most interesting in the whole championships as, in each room, each team had a chance to defeat a different game contract.

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 Jack, ten fifth. 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 Reiplinger 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 CK. He now took dummy's DQ before ruffing the last diamond and exiting with his last trump to endplay East who had to give declarer a spade trick.

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, declarer could not get back to dummy to play a heart to throw East in.

It might seem that declarer could succeed a different way if the CA is ducked, and this is what Reiplinger had in mind. Declarer wins the CK and cashes two diamonds, pitching the CQ, and now has only two spades and a trump to lose. Not so.

If declarer draws two rounds of trumps before setting up the spades, East can win the first spade, cash HQ and force declarer to ruff a minor suit card, taking out the only entry to the spades prematurely. If he does not draw the trumps, East wins the first spade and plays DJ, allowing West to pitch a spade. When declarer plays a second spade, East wins and plays the third round, allowing West to ruff.

The end result was 1 IMP to France, but both sides missed a chance to gain a major swing.

We were all ready to roll with the above story when P.O. Sundelin came in and showed us that, of course, had declarer not been so tempted by the Morton's Fork play of the C9 at trick two in 4H, the contract was cold. Simply play the CQ instead.

Whatever East does you will now be in a position to eliminate both minors without using up all your entries to dummy so will be able to get over there at the crucial moment to endplay East with the third heart. The point is that East can no longer afford to duck the first club so the king becomes the extra entry. And if he does duck the club, you just lead a second round and the king becomes a winner so there is no need to ruff a club.

Press Conference

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

Bien Joue'

By Mark Horton

The French women had a tough time in their semifinal encounter with Germany, but on this board Catherine Saul found a play that escaped the notice of the Vugraph commentators.

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 QJ765		C 92
	S T74	
	H KJ6	
	D T863	
	C K84	

Catherine was declarer in the popular contract of 4S. She

got the opening lead of the D3, which went to the queen, king and ace. She played a club which South instinctively ducked (declarer has no hope if South goes up with the CK and forces dummy with a diamond.) North won with the CQ with the CA and switched to a heart (a diamond is still a winning defense.)

Thus far play has followed the line taken by the USA I declarer in their match against China and at this point declarer played low. South won with the HJ and forced dummy with a diamond which meant the contract had to go one down.

Catherine demonstrated a superior line. She went up with the HA and cashed the SA and SQ. Now she led her last club and South was helpless. She could win and force the dummy but declarer could ruff, draw the last trump and enjoy the clubs.

Needless to say, the way the match was going it proved to be a flat board -- there was a misdefense in the other room.

Semi-final Set 4.

There were several interesting deals in Monday evening's fourth set of the semi-finals.

Board 51. E/W Vul. Dealer South.

	S Q743	
	H Q	
	D J9432	
	C 953	
S K2		S AT98
H 8753		H KT2
D 7		D AK86
C QJT876		C 42
	S J65	
	H AJ964	
	D QT5	
	C AK	

Meckstroth/Rodwell reached 3C from the West seat on the lead of the HQ from Perron. Jeff Meckstroth ducked and Perron switched to a low spade, dummy's eight winning the trick. Meckstroth played a spade to the king, a diamond to dummy and cashed the SA and DK, pitching hearts. Now he played a club. Chemla won and played two rounds of hearts and Meckstroth ruffed high and made the key play, returning a low club to avoid the trump promotion. An excellently played +110. Perron gained his revenge on the next deal.

Board 52. Game All. Dealer West.

S T96
H AKJT32
D K6
C T6

S KQJ5	S A87
H 8	H 964
D J987	D QT
C J873	C AK954
	S 432
	H Q75
	D A5432
	C Q2

In France v USA 11, both Norths played 3H on the lead of two top clubs. The French East fell from grace when he continued with a third club, making things rather easy for Bobby Wolff.

Eric Rodwell switched to a low trump. Perron won in hand and played three rounds of diamonds, ruffing high. Then he led a low trump and finessed dummy's seven to give himself the extra entry required. Finally, he ruffed another diamond high and drew the last trump with the queen and cashed the last diamond; +140.

Board 58. Game All. Dealer East.

	S 764	
	H 764	
	D K842	
	C Q62	
S JT2		S AKQ9
H Q92		H AJ53
D QJ9765		D A
C 7		C K853
	S 853	
	H KT8	
	D T3	
	C AJT94	

Several East/Wests played 3NT which, on the face of it, should fail. Rodwell played from the East hand and Chemla led the CJ to the two and queen. But when Rodwell played on hearts, Chemla could not be sure who held the CQ and exited with a diamond on winning his HK. That was +600 for Rodwell.

In the other room, Lebel declared from the West seat. The auction had made the best lead unclear and Wolff began with H7 to the ten and queen. Lebel cashed the DA and made the fine play of the HJ from dummy.

This is a legitimate line, succeeding if South has both red kings as declarer can establish and cash a second diamond without North getting in to lead a club through. But Bob Hamman saw a way to beat the hand if West had a different holding, with only two spades missing the jack and strong diamonds.

He allowed the HJ to hold the trick! Had declarer held the hoped for hand, he would have been cut off from the

diamonds and eventually have to play four rounds of spades to give North the lead. But in real life, all Hamman's imaginative defense achieved was to give Lebel nine tricks - just another dull push!

In Canada v Sweden, Kokish/Silver stopped safely in 3D, making an overtrick. Fallenius played 3NT at the other table after Boris Baran, sitting South, had taken the opportunity to double a 2C enquiry bid from East. Marc Molson led CQ and Fallenius ducked. But Baran was taking no chances that the CQ was bare.

He overtook with the ace and continued the CJ. When Fallenius had to play on hearts, Baran was there with enough club winners to defeat the contract. 6 well deserved IMPs for Canada.

Slams played a big part in the set. Take these two back-to-back efforts from the France v USA 11 Open Room.

Board 55. Game All. Dealer South.

	S	K	
	H	QT974	
	D	AKT64	
	C	AQ	
S	42		S Q8653
H	KJ5		H A62
D	J9		D 83
C	976542		C JT8
	S	AJT97	
	H	83	
	D	Q752	
	C	K3	

West	North	East	South
Lebel	Wolff	Cronier	Hamman
			Pass
Pass	1C	Pass	1S
Pass	2H	Pass	2S
Pass	3D	Pass	4D
Pass	5C	Pass	5S
Pass	6D	All Pass	

You might have thought that the control showing response to the strong club would simplify matters but it didn't work out that way. Clearly Hamman just assumed that Wolff would have a control in his first suit, hence the grand slam try of 5S. There are a couple of lies which allow the slam to come home but justice was done this time; -100 and a badly needed swing to France who were struggling to catch up in the match.

Board 56. Love All. Dealer West.

	S	82	
	H	K653	
	D	7643	
	C	542	
S	AQT5		S K9643

H T7	H QJ982
D AKQ85	D --
C AQ	C JT3
S J7	
H A4	
D JT92	
C K9876	

By an eery coincidence, Hamman/Wolff had a chance for revenge on the very next board. This was the auction:

West	North	East	South
Lebel	Wolff	Cronier	Hamman
2C	Pass	2D	Pass
2NT	Pass	3H	Pass
4S	Pass	5D	Pass
6S	All Pass		

When Lebel broke the transfer, Cronier felt he was worth a slam try, which seems reasonable enough to me. But he was cuebidding a shortage and had bypassed clubs; surely, thought Lebel, he must have at least the HK. Whatever the rights and wrongs of this logic, Lebel bid the slam. Wolff knew Lebel must have a heart control. He led a club to the jack, king and ace, so Lebel did not even need the 4-4 diamond break; +980. How do you thing Hamman/Wolff felt at this moment? They would have felt a little better had they known this board was flat! Meckstroth/Rodwell also played 6S on the same defense.

Board 63. N/S Vul. Dealer South.

S 64	
H 8	
D AQT983	
C AJ62	
S 97	S J
H AJ97	H QT543
D 542	D KJ7
C QT54	C K873
S AKQT8532	
H K62	
D 6	
C 9	

This board was quite remarkable in that only in Canada v Sweden did both tables manage to stop in game. In all the other three matches one table played game, the other slam. Good news for the teams in game? Not a bit of it! Despite the fact that even 5S is too high on a trump lead, all three times that slam was played it came home. Now how do you like that?

France v USA 11 (Set 5 Open)

Going into the penultimate set of the semi-final matches, Canada and USA 11 held useful if not decisive leads over

Sweden and France respectively. We will concentrate on France v USA 11, but with occasional glances at the other match.

Board 66. N/S Vul. Dealer East.

	S	KQT643		
	H	3		
	D	K		
	C	AK654		
S	J95		S	7
H	K82		H	AJ97654
D	432		D	95
C	Q973		C	T82
	S	A82		
	H	QT		
	D	AQJT876		
	C	J		

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Meckstroth	Perron	Rodwell	Chemla
		3D	Dbl
4H	4S	All Pass	

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Lebel	Wolff	Cronier	Hamman
		3H	4D
4H	5S	Pass	6S
7H	Dbl	All Pass	

Over Rodwell's transfer pre-empt, Chemla's double merely showed diamonds, hence Perron's quiet 4S bid. There was no question of Chemla bidding on and the pre-empt had done its job very well; +680. Over the natural pre-empt, Bob Hamman bid his suit, leaving Bobby Wolff with an awkward call over Lebel's 4H. He solved his problem very effectively with a jump to 5S and Hamman gave him six. That contract would have made, of course, so Lebel's save actually saved an IMP for France. 7H-6; -1400. 12 IMPs to USA 11.

Board 68. Game All. Dealer West.

	S	943		
	H	A74		
	D	52		
	C	KJT75		
S	62		S	AJT7
H	T8		H	J52
D	KJT83		D	AQ9
C	9862		C	Q43
	S	KQ85		
	H	KQ963		
	D	764		
	C	A		

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Meckstroth	Perron	Rodwell	Chemla
Pass	Pass	1D	1H
Pass	2H	Pass	3D
Dbl	4H	All Pass	

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Lebel	Wolff	Cronier	Hamman
Pass	Pass	1C	Dbl
Pass	1NT	Pass	2H
Pass	3H	All Pass	

The Americans stopped safely in 3H in the Closed Room, making exactly; +140. I doubt that they saw this board as a potential loss, but Chemla/Perron bid to game in the Open Room. Jeff Meckstroth led S6 against 4H. Best is for East to duck as declarer has problems with entries, but the lead is easier to read from declarer's seat than from East's - particularly after East has thought for a long time before playing to trick one. Rodwell finally rose with the ace and returned the S7 and Chemla put in the eight! After that it was a simple matter to pitch a diamond on the CK and claim ten tricks; +620 and 10 IMPs to France.

Board 69. N/S Vul. Dealer North.

	S J	
	H J6432	
	D 965	
	C Q643	
S 972		S AK843
H KT75		H A98
D QT83		D AKJ2
C A8		C K
	S QT65	
	H Q	
	D 74	
	C JT9752	

In France v USA 11, this one was flat in 4S+1, while a number of pairs around the room were going down in slam, including Wirgren/Bennet for Sweden. Only one pair reached the top spot.

West	North	East	South
Kokish	Nilsland	Silver	Fallenius
	Pass	1S	Pass
2S	Pass	3C (1)	Pass
3H (2)	Pass	4D (3)	Pass
5D (3)	Pass	6D	All Pass

- (1) Short suit game try
- (2) Heart values
- (3) Natural

Nicely done and worth 14 IMPs to Canada.

 Board 70. E/W Vul. Dealer East.

S AQT4
 H 95
 D A762
 C A74

S 8632 S 75
 H Q84 H AKT73
 D JT9 D Q84
 C 952 C QT8

S KJ9
 H J62
 D K53
 C KJ63

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Meckstroth	Perron	Rodwell	Chemla
		1H	Pass
1S	Pass	1NT	Pass
2H	Dbl	Pass	3C
All Pass			

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Lebel	Wolff	Cronier	Hamman
		1H	Pass
Pass	Dbl	Pass	2H
Dbl	Pass	Pass	Rdbl
Pass	3S	Pass	4S
All Pass			

The Americans did very well in the Closed Room. By the time the critical decision arrived, Hamman knew he was facing extra values and a strong four card spade suit, enabling him to make the winning choice. 4S has no problems as the cards lie and Wolff soon chalked up +420.

Jeff Meckstroth showed one of the benefits of a strong club system when he responded super light in the Open Room - not that every strong club player would show such enterprise at this vulnerability. After this start 4S was out of the picture. Though Perron balanced, 3C+2 was the best the French could manage; +150 but 7 IMPs to USA 11.

 Board 71. Game All. Dealer South.

S QJ3
 H 832
 D 654
 C K864

S A82 S 96
 H KJ4 H AT965
 D A973 D T8
 C T75 C AQ92

S KT754

H Q7
D KQJ2
C J3

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Meckstroth	Perron	Rodwell	Chemla
			1S
Pass	1NT	2H	Pass
2S	Dbl	Pass	Pass
Rdbl	Pass	3H	Pass
3S	Pass	3NT	All Pass

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Lebel	Wolff	Cronier	Hamman
			1S
Pass	1NT	Pass	2D
Pass	2S	Dbl	Pass
2NT	All Pass		

The Americans did very well at both tables. In the Closed Room, Wolff led spades against 2NT. Lebel got the hearts wrong and Hamman cashed his spades then switched to the D2. Thinking that North had a diamond honor, declarer played South for CK and was one down; -100.

In the Open Room, the Americans reached game and Rodwell's hopes were raised when Chemla led DK instead of a spade. Rodwell won the ace and passed the C10 to Chemla's jack. He cashed DJ and Perron signalled with his higher remaining diamond so Chemla switched to spades, Rodwell winning the second round. Rodwell thought for a long while now; did Chemla have HQ or doubleton C K J for his opening bid? Eventually Rodwell took the club finesse then ran the H10 and had an overtrick. 12 IMPs to USA 11.

Board 72. Love All. Dealer West.

	S QT8754	
	H T5	
	D K642	
	C 4	
S 92		S A3
H 42		H QJ98
D QJT83		D A9
C Q963		C AJT82
	S KJ6	
	H AK763	
	D 75	
	C K75	

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Meckstroth	Perron	Rodwell	Chemla
Pass	Pass	1C	1H
Pass	1S	2C	2S
3C	3S	All Pass	

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Lebel	Wolff	Cronier	Hamman
Pass	2S	Dbl	4S
All Pass			

The strong club opening in the Open Room put a dampener on North/South's ambitions and they stopped safely in 3S, making an overtrick when the CA was ducked; +170. In the Closed Room, Wolff's weak two opening was raised to game over the takeout double. After a heart lead, the defense made no mistake; -50 and 6 IMPs to France. In Canada vs Sweden, Canada made 4S on the lead of the DA.

Board 75. Love All. Dealer South.

	S KQ97		
	H J6		
	D Q2		
	C AQJT3		
S AJ62		S T3	
H 932		H AQT854	
D AK		D 875	
C K985		C 62	
	S 854		
	H K7		
	D JT9643		
	C 74		

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Meckstroth	Perron	Rodwell	Chemla
			Pass
1NT	Pass	2D	Pass
2H	Dbl	Pass	3D
All Pass			

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Lebel	Wolff	Cronier	Hamman
			Pass
1NT	Pass	2D	Pass
2H	3C	4H	All Pass

We have seen so often at these championships how small differences in no trump range can create swings. Here, Eric Rodwell was facing a 14-16 no trump and was prepared to go quietly over Chemla's 3D, while Philippe Cronier was facing 15-18 and leaped to 4H on the second round.

Meckstroth led a heart against 3D and Rodwell won and switched to S10. The defense duly collected its spade ruff for one down; -50. Bobby Wolff led SK against 4H. Lebel won and returned the suit, establishing a discard for one of dummy's clubs before South could gain the lead. He had only three losers now; +420 and 9 IMPs to France.

There was also a swing in Canada v Sweden. Wirgren/Bennet stopped in 3H, high enough from the East seat, and made it exactly; +140.

Eric Kokish found himself in 3NT as West after North, Mats Nilslund had overcalled 1S. Nilslund led C10, zero or two higher.

Theoretically, Kokish needs to duck this, but there was a possibility of a blockage if the lead was to be believed. If he does duck, Nilslund must switch to a top spade to establish the fifth defensive trick for when South gets in to lead a second club. But Kokish won the club and finessed the HQ. Bjorn Fallenius won his king and led a spade; nine tricks and +400 to Canada; 6 IMPs.

Board 77. Game All. Dealer North.

	S A9	
	H K3	
	D AQJ2	
	C T8762	
S T7		S KQJ853
H AQ4		H 76
D KT9874		D 63
C A9		C QJ3
	S 642	
	H JT9852	
	D 5	
	C K54	

This was a disaster for France. In the Closed Room, Lebel/Cronier were going down in 3NT as East/West. Meanwhile, in the Open Room:

West	North	East	South
Meckstroth	Perron	Rodwell	Chemla
	1C	1S	Pass
2C	Pass	2S	3H
3NT	4H	Pass	Pass
Dbl	All Pass		

Chemla's 3H bid looks wild at the prevailing vulnerability - it would not have that much to commend it at favorable. What Perron expected for the bid is unclear but his 4H was not a success; four down for -1100 and 14 IMPs to USA 11.

Was the 4H bid clear? Facing queen, jack seventh or similar 4H might be no worse than the diamond finesse while 3NT could still be on for East/West so my sympathies are with Perron.

Board 78. Love All. Dealer East.

S AKT3
H K3
D K863

C KJT
 S QJ74 S 852
 H T874 H 9
 D A95 D JT7
 C 65 C AQ9843

 S 96
 H AQJ652
 D Q42
 C 72

Most tables saw North/South going down in 4H - you have to lose two diamonds and two clubs or one diamond, two clubs plus a trump promotion. 3NT is untouchable, however, and here are two successful auctions to that spot.

West	North	East	South
Meckstroth	Perron	Rodwell	Chemla
		Pass	2H
Pass	2NT	Pass	3NT (i)
All Pass			

(i) Maximum with good hearts

West	North	East	South
Kokish	Nilsland	Silver	Fallenius
		Pass	Pass
Pass	1C (1)	2C	2H
Pass	2NT	Pass	3C
Pass	3S	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

(1) Mini no trump or strong and artificial

The Swedes do not play a weak two opening in hearts, hence Fallenius's initial pass. He bid his hearts next time, of course, then took a slow route to 3NT to express doubt about the correct contract. Nilsland's club holding looked more suitable for notrump than for hearts so he passed. Well judged.

 Board 79. N/S Vul. Dealer South.

S 5
 H 7652
 D T7432
 C KT6

 S AJ7 S 82
 H Q43 H T8
 D KJ9 D AQ85
 C Q973 C J8542

 S KQT9643
 H AKJ9
 D 6
 C A

In our two matches, each featured one strong club pair sitting North/South and one natural pair. The strong

club'ers both reached 4S and when West did not make the mistake of leading a heart at any point, had to go one down.

Chemla and Mittelman each opened 1S and played there for +170 and 7 IMPs to France and Canada. This was a particularly good view on the part of Chemla who could have opened 2C to show a strong, but not game forcing hand, based on a major suit - which looks a fair description of that South hand.

Board 80. E/W Vul. Dealer West.

	S K8765	
	H Q4	
	D K972	
	C T9	
S QT42		S 93
H 763		H AKT852
D Q863		D 4
C 87		C K642
	S AJ	
	H J9	
	D AJT5	
	C AQJ53	

In France v USA 11, both Norths declared 4S after East had bid his hearts. There is a winning line after two top hearts and a diamond switch, or indeed a club switch, but neither declarer found the play of ace then jack of spades, preferring to rely on the finesse of the jack.

In Canada v Sweden, the same contract was again played at both tables, but this time that contract was 3NT. Open Room

West	North	East	South
Kokish	Nilsland	Silver	Fallenius
Pass	Pass	1H	2C
	2H	Pass	Dbl
Pass	2S	Pass	3C
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Bennet	Gitelman	Wirgren	Mittelman
Pass	Pass	2H (1)	3C
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

(1) 7-11, 5-5 or 6-4, hearts and a minor

I think Nilsland took a very big position when he bid 3NT in the Open Room and it did not pay off. Joey Silver led his hearts from the top with a broad grin on his face and that was two down; -100.

Gitelman also bid 3NT but here there had been no heart raise from West. It was still a serious gamble as there was

no guarantee that there would be nine tricks even if Gitelman survived the opening lead. At this table, fortune favored the brave.

Wirgren led a low heart and a couple of finesses later Gitelman had ten tricks stacked in front of him; +430 and 11 IMPs to Canada. You may have spotted that most of the swings we have mentioned were to Canada. At the end of the set the Canadians led 190-109 and were just 16 boards away from their first ever appearance in a Bermuda Bowl final. Meanwhile, USA 11 had crept a little further away from France and led 183-141; still not quite decisive but a healthy position to be in.

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. The defense led three rounds of hearts. It seems that there are six losers, but in fact the contract is cold. Try finding discards from the South hand and work through the play. For example, if South pitches two clubs on the third and fourth hearts, declarer cashes three spades and exits with a diamond, trapping North. Whatever the defense tries, the diamond blockage sees declarer home. +110; 6 IMPs to Canada.

 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 was 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 over ruffed. 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 (1)	2H	2S
3H	Dbl	4C	Pass
4H	All Pass		

(1) 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 defense 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, 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? Not a 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			

Notrump 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 notrump 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.

United States vs. France

France of course was hoping for a series of boards that would lend themselves to swings during the final 16 deals, but their hopes were smashed -- too many of the hands were ordinary. As a result the Americans advanced to the final where they will face Canada, their northern neighbors. This will be only the second time in history that two North American teams will battle in the Bermuda Bowl final.

The first time this occurred was in 1977 in Manila, the Philippines, when two United States teams faced off in the final. In those days, the defending champion automatically won an invitation to the next championship, and the United States won in 1976, so that was one team. And the other was the winner of the American trials. As a result of this situation, the WBF rules were changed and the defending champion no longer received an automatic invitation.

Even though France never closed in on the American over the

last 32 boards, there still was plenty of interesting bridge. As usual on Vugraph, they started the session with the last four boards. The first good action came on Board 95, the third board in play.

Board 95. N/S Vul. Dealer South.

	S J42		
	H 93		
	D T962		
	C K832		
S 3		S 876	
H AJ2		H KT87654	
D KJ753		D Q	
C J765		C Q9	
	S AKQT95		
	H Q		
	D A84		
	C AT4		

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Meckstroth	Perron	Rodwell	Chemla
			2D (1)
Pass	2H	Pass	2S
Pass	4S	All Pass	

(1) Multi

This was the kind of board the French wanted to see. Perron came home with 10 tricks, but the bidding went differently at the other table.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Soulet	Wolff	Reiplinger	Hamman
			1C
2H	Pass	3H	4S
5H !	Pass	Pass	Dbl
All Pass			

That's right -- Soulet decided to give the auction a bit of a push. Wolff and Hamman judged well to double rather than push on, but the 300-point set translated into 7 IMPs for France.

The next board could well have been a major swing to France, but it didn't work out that way.

Board 96. E/W Vul. Dealer West.

	S QT6		
	H AKQ82		
	D 76		
	C K85		
S J7		S 85	
H J7654		H --	

D Q982	D KT53
C Q2	C AJT9764
S AK9432	
H T93	
D AJ4	
C 3	

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Soulet	Wolff	Reiplinger	Hamman
Pass	1H	4C	4S
All Pass			

Reiplinger's preempt made it difficult for Hamman and Wolff to judge the strength of their fit, and they decided to rest in game. But in the other room:

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Meckstroth	Perron	Rodwell	Chemla
Pass	1H	2C	2S
Pass	3S	Pass	4C
Pass	4H	Pass	4NT
Pass	5D	Pass	6S
Pass	Pass	Dbl	All Pass

France's chances for a big gain were crushed because Rodwell had a void in hearts. The defense was quick, Meckstroth led a heart for Rodwell to ruff and Rodwell cashed the CA. That was 11 IMPs to the United States instead of what might have been 11 to France.

 France got to a pedestrian 2C on Board 81, the next deal played after Board 96. Soulet made plus 130, but the action was in the Open Room.

Board 81. Love All. Dealer North.

	S T9	
	H AK52	
	D AT432	
	C 53	
S A		S KJ764
H T63		H Q9874
D 98		D KJ
C AKQT942		C 8
	S Q8532	
	H J	
	D Q765	
	C J76	

West	North	East	South
Meckstroth	Perron	Rodwell	Chemla
	1D	2D	Pass
4H !	All Pass		

The defense started with the DA and a diamond was continued

to the king. Meckstroth led a spade to the ace and led a trump. Yes, he went up with the queen! When Chemla dropped the jack, Meckstroth was reasonably sure it was an honest card. So he began running the clubs. When the third club hit the table, Perron faced a dilemma -- no matter what he did he wasn't stop the game. If he ruffed low, Meckstroth would over ruff, ruff a spade back to dummy and continue running clubs. Perron actually ruffed high, cashed his other high trump and led another. But the 10 was in dummy -- and so were all the good clubs. Another 7 to the U.S.

 Meckwell bidding played a part in keeping the French out of game on Board 85.

Board 85. N/S Vul. Dealer North.

	S J984	
	H 84	
	D --	
	C KT98752	
S 7653		S AKT2
H K6		H QJ
D A98653		D 742
C Q		C J643
	S Q	
	H AT97532	
	D KQJT	
	C A	

In the Closed Room Hamman opened with 4H and lost the obvious three tricks. But this was how it went in the Open Room:

West	North	East	South
Meckstroth	Perron	Rodwell	Chemla
		1NT (1)	2D (2)
2NT	Pass	Pass	3H
All Pass			

- (1) Weak -- 10-12 HCP
 (2) Transfer to hearts

The notrump barrage was enough to convince Perron to pass 3H, so 10 more IMPs went to America.

France picked up 11 IMPs on Board 89 when they got to 4S, making, while Meckstroth and Rodwell stopped in 2NT.

 There wasn't much more action in this match, so the Vugraph switched over to the Marlboro Venice Cup match between China and the United States. The very first board on Vugraph produced a 15 IMP swing.

Board 90. Game All. Dealer East.

S KQ8
H Q986

D QJ632
 C Q
 S A954 S JT
 H J73 H 2
 D AT954 D K8
 C 3 C AKT96542
 S 7632
 H AKT54
 D 7
 C J87

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Sanborn	Sun	McCallum	Wang Hong
		1C	1H
Dbl	4C	5C	Pass
Pass	Dbl	All Pass	

The opening diamond lead went to the jack and ace, and McCallum cashed the top clubs. Then she led the D8 to the ace and the D10 back, covered by the queen. At this point she claimed, making 5C.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Liu	Munson	Wang Li Ping	Simon
3NT	All Pass		

This contract was not a success -- on the lead of the HA the defense took the first five tricks, and then more came when they set up spades and the clubs didn't run. Down four -- 1150 points and 15 IMPs.

 Surprisingly the Vugraph theater was well over half full -- there were close to 400 people watching even though none of the matches were close. Quite often the 600-seat auditorium has been completely filled, with another 100 or so bridge fans sitting on the stairs. The spectators saw a fair number of interesting hands -- but very little match competition.

And so it's on to the finals today!

1995 Marlboro Bermuda Bowl Semi Final End

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

1995 Marlboro Venice Cup Semi Final

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
