

Marlboro Bermuda and Venice Cup
 Beijing, China
 October 8th - 21st, 1995
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 Editor: Henry Francis and Brian Senior

Bermuda Bowl Final

Boards	16	32	48	64	CUM	80	96	Result
Canada	25	23	29	36	113	9	35	157
USA II	34	31	35	14	114	58	34	206

Boards	112	128	Cum	144	160	Result
Canada	22	42	221			
USA II	56	34	296			

Appeal pending that might give 19 Imps to Canada

Venice Cup Final

Boards	16	32	48	64	Cum	80	96	Cum
USA I	29	35	36	18	118	57	36	211
Germany	24	12	65	18	119	23	45	187

Boards	112	128	Final
USA I	28	9	248
Germany	55	70	312

(Chyah's comment:

It was learned that Karen McCallum was sick in bed but dragged out to play the final 16 boards anyway; her partner is Kerri Sanborn. There was a lot of publicity concerning this decision. Later I learned that the USA pair playing at the other table was suffering from the same illness.)

Germany v USA The Final Countdown

Sixteen boards to go in the final of the 1995 Marlboro Venice Cup. 1993 runners-up, Germany lead the holders, USA by 3 IMPs, 242-239.

The Germans have to be hungrier than the Americans, whatever the Americans, most of whom have won before, might say, but will that hunger give them the extra edge to take them to victory or will it drag them down in nervous tension?

This final session will be a test more of character and nerve than of bridge ability. Both teams are dead tired after eleven days of hard toil; who will find that extra something when it really matters? As always, the Vugraph starts with the last two boards of the set in the Open Room.

Board 127. N/S Vul. Dealer South.

S K72

H 9	
D KQ762	
C KQ73	
S 986	S Q4
H J6543	H QT872
D 985	D J3
C 82	C T954
S AJT53	
H AK	
D AT4	
C AJ6	

Auken/von Arnim have a long involved relay sequence which even the German captain doesn't understand, and he has their system file in front of him. The end result is 7D; +1440. In the Closed Room, Sanborn opens 2NT and McCallum asks for aces and kings then jumps to 7NT; +2220 and 2 IMPs to USA. The German lead is down to 1 IMP. Board 128 is a dull 6NT for East/West and both pairs get there very comfortably; no swing. Both North/Souths go down in 4S on Board 113 when the CA is badly placed; no swing. Then Germany makes a move.

Board 114. N/S Vul. Dealer East.

S 953	
H KJT8	
D Q853	
C J2	
S AKT8	S QJ74
H A93	H Q76
D AK7	D 642
C A95	C 874
S 62	
H 542	
D JT9	
C KQT63	

In the Closed Room, Andrea Rauscheid shows her strong balanced hand and Pony Nehmert raises to 3NT. That contract comes home when the HK is onside; +400 to Germany. In the Open Room, Kitty Munson chooses to check for a spade fit and, on finding one, bids 4S. This time, declarer roots for the heart to be offside, holding her loss to just 2 IMPs, but of course things are not as Simon hopes. She plays the hand out but there is no miracle endplay and she is one down; -50 and 10 IMPs to Germany who lead 252-241.

Board 115. E/W Vul. Dealer South.

S AKQ	
H KT965	
D A	
C A953	
S 8	S 7532
H A742	H Q
D KJ964	D 8752

D KJT874 D 92
 C 7 C T3
 S -
 H AKT
 D AQ63
 C AQJ965

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Simon	Auken	Munson	von Arnim
	1H	Pass	2C (1)
3D	Pass	Pass	3H
Pass	3S	Pass	4C
Pass	5C	Pass	6C
All Pass			

(1) Artificial game force

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Rauscheid	McCallum	Nehmert	Sanborn
	1C	Pass	3S
Pass	3NT	Pass	4S
Pass	5C	Pass	6C
All Pass			

The artificial game force, coupled with Simon's well-timed pre-empt left the Germans awkwardly placed in the Open Room and seven was never in the picture. Meanwhile, Sanborn showed her spade shortage and club fit then checked for key cards. It seems that her sign-off in 6C now was unduly cautious, but perhaps I'm missing something. Anyway, that was a flat board. Had you asked Auken/von Arnim at this point, I think they would have been pretty happy to find they were ahead, let alone by 24 IMPs.

 Board 118. E/W Vul. Dealer East.

S K98
 H J7
 D Q96
 C QJ872
 S J764 S AQ532
 H T H K3
 D J52 D AT84
 C AT954 C 63
 S T
 H AQ986542
 D K73
 C K

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Simon	Auken	Munson	von Arnim
		1S	4H
4S	Pass	Pass	5H
Dbl	All Pass		

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Rauscheid	McCallum	Nehmert	Sanborn
		1S	4H
4S	All Pass		

Auken/von Arnim would have felt even less secure after this board as von Arnim took a solo phantom save over 4S. The defense was not sparkling. Simon led a spade to the queen and Munson continued with the SA, ruffed. Von Arnim played CK and Simon won and returned a second club. Von Arnim had two discards now but still had to lose one diamond; -100.

4S looks hopeless but Sanborn cashed the HA and switched to a low diamond. Nehmert played low from dummy and McCallum inserted the nine! With the HK providing a discard for the third diamond, Nehmert suddenly had no diamond loser and was home in her hopeless game; +620 and 12 IMPs to Germany. The lead was up to 276-241.

Board 119 was a flat partscore then the Germans put the match out of reach.

Board 120. Love All. Dealer West.

	S K54	
	H KQ654	
	D AK	
	C AQ7	
S J92		S Q876
H J7		H A9832
D J952		D 3
C K942		C J86
	S AT3	
	H T	
	D QT8764	
	C T53	

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Simon	Auken	Munson	von Arnim
Pass	1C (1)	1S (2)	Pass
2C (3)	Dbl	2H	3D
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

- (1) Strong
- (2) Majors or minors
- (3) For correction

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Rauscheid	McCallum	Nehmert	Sanborn
Pass	2C	Pass	2H (1)
Pass	2NT	Pass	3C
Pass	3H	Pass	4D
Pass	5C	Pass	5D
Pass	6NT	All Pass	

- (1) Two controls

The Americans drove to the hopeless slam in a desperate

search for points; this set had been going very badly at their table. 6NT was three down; -150.

Auken was only in 3NT. She won the heart lead and cashed her diamonds, getting the bad news when Munson pitched a club. She exited with a low heart and Munson won the eight to switch to her CJ to the queen. Auken played a spade to the ten, won the spade return and cashed her black winners then exited with the last club, forcing Simon to lead into the diamond tenace at trick twelve. A well played +400 and another 10 IMPs to Germany.

Board 121. E/W Vul. Dealer North.

	S	QT5		
	H	T543		
	D	K84		
	C	AT6		
S	K3		S	862
H	K9876		H	--
D	QJ763		D	T92
C	5		C	J987432
	S	AJ974		
	H	AQJ2		
	D	A5		
	C	KQ		

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Simon	Auken	Munson	von Arnim
	Pass	Pass	1C
Pass	1NT	Pass	2H
Pass	3C	Pass	3D
Dbl	3NT	Pass	4S
All Pass			

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Rauscheid	McCallum	Nehmert	Sanborn
	Pass	Pass	1S
Pass	2S	Pass	3H
Pass	4C	Pass	4D
Pass	4H	Pass	6H
All Pass			

McCallum/Sanborn were willing to have a go at anything now but this time slam was good, at least on the North/South cards. When you add the East/West hands into the equation, of course, slam is completely hopeless and Sanborn was three down in 6H; -150.

When things are going your way you can do nothing wrong and the Germans not only stayed out of slam in the other room, they picked the trump suit which divided evenly. Von Arnim made an overtrick in 4S and Germany had 12 more IMPs. Clearly, destiny had chosen Germany to have their day in the sun. They led 299-241 with only seven boards to play.

USA gained three modest swings, but there was one more major swing to come and it went to Germany.

Board 124. N/S Vul. Dealer West.

	S 76	
	H A6	
	D AQ8	
	C KJ9865	
S KQ92		S JT543
H 732		H KQ9
D J95		D 32
C 432		C AT7
	S A8	
	H JT854	
	D KT764	
	C Q	

McCallum opened the North hand 1NT and played in 3NT. A spade lead meant she had no chance; -50.

Auken opened a limited and natural 2C, von Arnim bid her hearts and Auken showed her diamond feature and maximum then the heart tolerance. Von Arnim chose to play 5D. Simon led a spade and von Arnim won and played the CQ. Munson won and played a spade and Simon played a despairing third spade. Declarer ruffed in hand, drew two rounds of trumps and ruffed a club before drawing the last trump; +600 and 12 IMPs to Germany.

At the end of a dynamic set, Germany looked comfortable winners; 312-248. But any German you meet will assure you that it was anything but comfortable. USA pushed them to the limit and it could have gone either way right up to the last dozen boards or so.

The French Ladies Team

The French team is composed of six very experienced players in three new partnerships. They all live in Paris, making the formation of effective new partnerships much easier.

Veronique Bessis, 44, has won four European Team Championships - 1983, 1985, 1987 and 1995. With her new partner, Catherine Saul, she missed out on the Ladies Pairs World Championship in Albuquerque by a very small margin. A graduate in mathematics, Veronique gave up teaching several years ago to take care of her husband and two sons and to teach bridge along with her husband, Michel, one of France's top players and teachers.

Claude Blouquit, 54, has represented France at seven international team events, starting in Lausanne in 1979. Vilamoura 1995 was her first gold after several silver and bronze medals. Claude first played with Colette Lise in the French trials, only three months before winning in Vilamoura. She is a successful bridge pro in Paris, winning

national titles with many different partners, not only in Ladies events but also Mixed and Open.

Benedicte Cronier is, at 34, the youngest team member. Her first international appearance was in the 1984 European Junior Team Championship, which France won. She has also two European Ladies Championships to her name, in 1987 and 1995. The attention required by her husband, Philippe and two children keeps her very busy but when she can get away she is a highly appreciated bridge pro and teacher, especially for beginners.

Colette Lise, 51, has also won two European titles, in 1983 and 1995. She also has a number of other medals. If you visit Paris you will find Colette working in Le Bridgeur, one of the most well known specialist bridge shops in the world. She is not the only member of her family to play good bridge; her daughter is already premiere serie.

Catherine Saul, 36, is a perfect bridge character who laughs when she wins and cries when she loses. She won the European title in 1985 in her first international appearance but, due to irregular partnerships, did not play again until this year -another win! She has also won the European Mixed Pairs with Jean-Christophe Quantin. Catherine is in charge of Le Friedland Bridge Club in Paris and has one daughter.

Sylvie Willard, 42, is one of the eight daughters of Irene de Heredia, the first French international tournament director, and is married to another international T.D. Sylvie has won four European Team Championships , all with Veronique Bessis, and has other medals including two in European Mixed Pairs events with Herve Mouiel. She has two children.

Max Coppolani, 64, first captained the team in the Santiago Venice Cup where they failed to make the knockouts. Since then things have gone much better - at least until they met the Germans here in Beijing. Max has been French Open Pairs champion and is currently executive manager of Unilever France. He is married to Marie-Paule, one of the team's biggest fans.

The Swedish Team

Anders Morath, known as 'Carrot', partly because of the former color of his hair, used to be the youngest player on the Swedish national team, but at 51 he is currently the oldest. He works as a computer programmer. Interests include books, classical music and New Age thinking.

Sven-Ake Bjerregard was 46 when he went to Beijing, but now he's 47. He works with IT in a retail company in Vasteras. In 1987 he started playing with Anders Morath, and the pair has been on the national team since 1988. A year ago he started with golf, and that is his greatest passion now.

Bjorn Fallenius, 38, emigrated to New York in 1989 to play bridge professionally. Now he is married and works as an options trader on the American Stock Exchange. He has been on the Swedish team since 1987 and has a 'record' of losing four semi-finals in world championships before Beijing -and here he lost again. Next time, he'll reach the final! Since 1990, his partner has been.....

Mats Nilslund, 45, who first played on the Swedish national team at the age of 19 (the European Championships in Estoril in 1969). He has since been on the team several times, with different partners. He lives in Malmo, is married and has two sons. When he doesn't play bridge or invent conventions or bidding systems (his favorite pastime), he makes a living by importing and selling flowers.

Anders Wirgren, 43, lives in Malmo and has worked full time with bridge for twelve years., as a writer, author and publisher He is married and is the proud father of two beautiful daughters (one and three years respectively). In 1968 he won the Swedish junior championship in chess, but gave that up two years later when he took up tournament bridge. In 1990, he got a new partner:

Johan Bennet, 41, the joker of the team, who is equally famous for his odd ideas as for his great analytical skill. He lives in Lund, is married and has two children. He is a computer specialist and has run endless simulations to refine his bidding system. He is also an excellent piano player and excels at solving crossword puzzles.

Tommy Gullberg, 52, is married and has two daughters. He has successfully served on the Swedish team as a player for many years, but now he serves the players, being in charge of the Open team for the last two years. Usually, he thinks it's O.K. to be a non-playing captain, but after seeing some of the Swedish results in the semi-final and play-off for the bronze medal, he surely wished he were back at the table again.

SILVER'S THOUGHTS ARE GOLDEN

By Alan Truscott

As the Bermuda Bowl contest starts, Joey Silver is thinking about gold medals for himself and his Canadian teammates. If they win, it will be the first world team title for Canada in history.

His thoughts have been golden in another way. He has been playing with skill and imagination, sometimes disconcerting the opposition with well-timed psychics and sometimes finding plays that eluded those at other tables. This item is Deal 44 from the Canada-South Africa quarterfinal:

Board 44. N/S Vul. Dealer West.

S 2
 H KQT852
 D KT42
 C 63

S AT6 S KQ954
 H 974 H A3
 D 876 D Q3
 C KQ54 C AJ92

S J873
 H J6
 D AJ95
 C T87

West	North	East	South
Kokish	Mansell	Silvers	Cope
Pass	2H	2S	Pass
3S	Pass	4S	All Pass

Cope led the HJ and Mansell overtook with the queen. At most tables, East won and made the normal spade play of trying to drop the jack in three rounds. Down one.

Silver was quite certain that Mansell would not have opened with a weak two-bid holding a seven-card suit headed by the king-queen, so he allowed the queen to win. There was a subtle reason: he wanted to find out what Mansell would lead if given the chance.

Mansell's choice was the HK, a neutral card. Silver took the ace and thought it over. He was sure that Mansell would have shifted to a minor-suit singleton if he had one. He now placed East with six hearts and some length in each minor suit, so the chance of a singleton spade was greatly increased. Backing his judgment, He cashed the SK, finessed the S10 and made his game.

Every other declarer failed. It was a golden thought by Silver.

Almost a million Chinese
 watch bridge on live TV

World Bridge Federation table action has been featured on live TV for the first time here in China at this tournament. It was learned yesterday at the press conference hosted by WBF President Jos Damiani that close to a million Chinese bridge fans have tuned in to watch at least some of the action that has been featured on Channels 2 and 3 over the past few days. There was some televised bridge in Geneva in 1990, but it was time-delayed.

The format for the Bermuda Bowl and the Venice Cup in future championships will remain just about the same as it has been here. However, the method of choosing the teams will change. Each zone will be entitled to one team. However, after that the results in the previous Olympiad

will be studied, and zones will be able to have additional teams only if some team in their zone finished in the top half of the standings.

That means there could be an odd number of teams from time to time. If this happens, Europe will provide the swing team to make the field an even number. Plans are also being made to set up some additional contest so that those eliminated from the two events will have something to play in afterwards. "Many players already have left Beijing," said Damiani. "We have to find some way to keep them interested."

Damiani expects approximately 60 teams in the open and 40 in the women's at next year's World Team Olympiad in Rhodes, Greece. A special event has been set up to take care of those eliminated early -- the first World Mixed Teams since the event was discontinued after the 1974 event. "That will give all players something to do during the second week," said Damiani.

Looking to the future, Damiani said that it is not certain that the 1997 Championships will go to Sun City, South Africa. The South African Council has informed the WBF that they not be sufficiently prepared to host a tournament of such magnitude. The WBF wants to hold the tournament in Zone 4, and India will be given strong consideration if South Africa declines.

France will be the host in 1998 -- either Cannes in the South or Lisle in the north. The WBF will celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Bermuda Bowl in 1999, and it is only fitting that Bermuda will be the host. Bermuda also hosted the 25th anniversary as well as the first. In 2000 the tournament may take place in Maastricht, the Netherlands, but this is far from settled. The WBF has received an application from Indonesia to hold the 2001 championships in Bali -- the World Junior Championships there were a total success. Montreal will be the host for the 2002 Games.

Canada has shown strong interest in hosting the World Junior Championships in 1997. A committee has been appointed to study the situation, and the WBF is hoping for a positive answer. If Canada doesn't work out, then Zone 5, specifically Venezuela, may be the host.

Bridge has been accepted as a sport by the International Olympic Committee, and now bridge will be a part of the expanded Goodwill Games. In addition the WBF is planning to stage a Worldwide Bridge Week, with the Worldwide Pairs being part of the program.

Damiani has been more than pleased with the help the WBF has had from Philip Morris as the sponsor of this tournament. "We have good relations with Philip Morris in Europe as well, and we have high hopes that Philip Morris

may be interested in sponsoring bridge worldwide."

Promotion - It is up to you!

Evelyn Senn

Treasurer/Secretary IBPA

When one of the Chinese journalists asked what was the best way to promote Bridge, I should have said:

In my opinion, the NCBO is the most important body to do this. Let's take my country, The Netherlands, as an example. In just a few years, the President of the Dutch Bridge Federation, the late Andre Boekhorst, managed to increase the membership from 20,000 to 100,000! He achieved this by organizing courses for bridge teachers, by encouraging the teachers to attend follow-up courses, by handing out prizes as numbers within the Federation grew - to the twenty-five thousandth member, at the 30,000 point, the 35,000 milestone and so on, by traveling through the country visiting bridge clubs all over the Netherlands -in short by working very, very hard. On September 24 1995, about 800 people gathered to celebrate the one-hundred thousandth member of the Dutch Bridge Federation - 100,000 members thanks to Andre.

Why did he not live to be there?
