

Marlboro Bermuda and Venice Cup
 Beijing, China
 October 8th - 21st, 1995
 Issue 6, Friday, October 13th, 1995
 Editor: Henry Francis and Brian Senior

Appeals Committee

Friday
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 J.C. Beineix
 Richard Colker
 John Wignall
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Saturday
 Jens Auken
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 Richard Colker
 Joan Gerard
 Barbara Nudelman
 Becky Rogers

Appeal Case 2
 by Becky Rogers

Venice Cup: Israel (N-S) vs. Canada (E-W).
 Round-robin I, Match 6.
 Board 12. N/S Vul. Dealer West.

	Saxon		
	S 9		
	H J832		
	D KJ32		
Eaton	C AJ62	Clinton	
S AJT752		S K86	
H KQ6		H 54	
D T		D 98764	
C KQ4	Dan	C T93	
	S Q43		
	H AT97		
	D AQ5		
	C 875		

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

- (1) Shows 10-12 HCP or 15+ HCP
- (2) Agreed long hesitation; eventually alerted by North as takeout; not alerted by South

Committee members: Jens Auken (Chair), Jean-Claude Beineix, Mazhar Jafri, Kathie Wei, Barbara Nudelman,

Becky Rogers

Facts: West called the Director at the conclusion of the auction. All agreed there had been a lengthy hesitation on the other side of the screen at North's double.

The director instructed that play proceed. 4H failed by one trick : EW +100.

EW requested an adjustment saying the hesitation might suggest bidding over passing , and since South thought this was a penalty double, passing was an alternative. South told the Director that she had thought this was a penalty double, but on the basis of her S Qxx, she decided it may have been meant as takeout. North said their partnership agreement was that in a competitive auction such as this one when the opponents bid and raised a suit, a double was never penalty.

Director's ruling: Contract returned to 3S Dbl ; +530 awarded to EW.

Committee's ruling: The committee found that any information from the hesitation, although unauthorized, was available as well through the auction. South's 4H call and the bridge result of EW +100 were reinstated.

The committee then considered South's failure to alert and her indication to West that the double was for penalty. This misinformation removed the opportunity for West to chance making 4S. The committee ruled that the IMP difference on this board was to be adjusted by adding 3IMPs for EW.

Appeal Case 3
by Rich Colker

Bermuda Bowl: Argentina (N-S) versus Indonesia (E-W).
Board 12. N/S Vul. Dealer West.

(Lambardi, Pablo)

S 82
H 75
D AJ98543
C 94

(Lasut, Henky)

S QJT6
H T963
D 2
C J753

(Manoppo, Eddy)

S K54
H AQJ842
D QT
C A6

(Lucena, Carlos)

S A973
H K
D K76
C KQT82

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Pass	Pass	1C (1)	Dbl
Pass	2D	2H	3D
3H	4D	Pass	Pass
4H	All Pass		

(1) Precision.

Committee members: Jens Aukem (Chair), Ernesto d'Orsi, George Retek, Jean-Louis Derivery, Richard Colker, Jean-Claude Beineix.

Facts: The bidding tray remained on the North-East side of the screen for a lengthy time before being returned with North's 4D bid and East's Pass. The Director was called at that point.

Director's ruling: After determining that there was no evidence to apportion the time between North and East the Director ruled no unauthorized information. The result at the table stood (4H making four, +420 for E-W). This ruling was appealed by N-S.

Testimony: All players agreed to the facts as presented, and estimated the delay at something in excess of one minute. Neither South nor West claimed to have had any tangible clues as to who was responsible for the delay, but after some questioning East confirmed that the delay had been his. West claimed that he always intended to bid 4H if N-S competed to 4D and that the hesitation had no bearing on his action.

Committee's decision: The Committee discounted West's last statement as self-serving. It next considered whether it was possible to attribute the time in question to one or the other of the North or East players. North's 4D bid arguably showed no more than extra diamond length unsuitable for preempting at this vulnerability, given the strength already shown by East and South. North's 4D bid was thus not likely to have required long consideration after South's raise to 3D.

On the other hand the combination of extra values, no opportunity to describe his hand more completely (possibly holding a sixth heart, or a secondary spade or club suit which would be awkward to show) before the auction reached the four-level, and the announced danger of the opponent behind him having most of the adversely held values, were all reasons why East was likely to have had a problem over 4D.

Thus, it was agreed that East was likely to have taken the preponderance of the extra time, and West could have known this. Still, 4H on the West cards was an attractive bid which might very well have been taken by many players on the previous round of bidding, and there was strong sentiment for allowing the match to be determined by what

happened at the table--especially if there was any uncertainty as to whether or not there had been unauthorized information.

This combination of factors, coupled with the time pressure the Committee was working under (the appeal had not been lodged at the end of the seventh match, and the event was being held up for the Committee's decision which was needed to form the rankings for the pairings in matches 8 through 14), led to a decision to assign a score of zero on the board at that table, to be IMPed against the result at the other table.

Error corrected: Unfortunately, when the Committee's decision was conveyed to the Directing staff a miscommunication occurred, for which the Committee assumes full responsibility. As soon as this was discovered, members of the Committee went before the Laws Commission and asked for the ruling to be voided.

Since part of the miscommunication involved characterizing the Committee's decision as "throwing the board out," an act which by Law is not within either a Director's or a Committee's purview, the Laws Commission properly vacated the first ruling. The case was then sent back to the Committee for a new result to be assigned. The Committee instated the result which had been their original intent, as described above. The team captains were immediately informed of this change, and apologies were extended for any inconvenience which might have been caused by the error.

A Dilemma for Top-Level Bridge
by Rich Colker

Whether we realize it or not, a dilemma exists for the top-level game, and we are no closer to solving it now than we were last week, last month, or last year. The problem I am referring to is that Appeals Committees cannot decide top-level bridge cases in a way that is satisfactory for those who must live with the consequences of those decisions.

A primary reason for this is that the people who serve on such Committees must, of necessity, be drawn from the ranks of those who are not competitors at that level of play (or they themselves would be contesting the event and would not be eligible to serve).

It is not that they are not good, or even expert, players (which they often are), and it is not merely a matter of technical skill. Rather, it is that they do not possess the same cutting-edge judgment and evaluative abilities which distinguish the very top players in the world from the rest of us. Take Appeal Case 3 from this tournament as a case in point. (See the report on page 8 for details.)

Who can determine, with any degree of certainty, whether

the excessive time taken by the North and East players on the third round of the auction was more likely to have been attributable to East rather than North?

I have discussed this case with a number of the world's top players and appeals people, and the variety of perspectives on this case has surprised even me. Could North have been thinking about bidding 5D [w1](opposite a hand strong enough to double a Precision 1C opening)? Could North have been worried about going for a number at the four-level (vul vs not)? Could East have been thinking about bidding a second suit, or doubling? Could East have been worried about pushing N-S into a making 5D game?

Many of the people I've talked to claim that one or another of these assessments is the only possible one (although they don't agree on which), while others claim there is no way of telling who might have been thinking what. People sitting on Committees simply cannot be expected to divine the truth in such situations with any appreciable reliability, even if they themselves are top-level players. And certainly not given their status as mere mortals.

So what, then, is the solution to this dilemma? The answer, although far from obvious to most people, is embarrassingly clear once you think about it. It is, quite simply, to stop the hesitations in the first place. Having done that, the problem will go away.

And how do we stop them? By insuring the swift and certain punishment of those who hesitate unduly, and their partners who take advantage of these situations. Players at the top level fully realize the consequences of their actions and are capable of behaving accordingly. Those who can't or won't assume their proper responsibility will not survive for long.

It is important to remember that we are talking here about the top-level game, and only the top-level game. None of this applies to the vast majority of bridge players (although it wouldn't hurt if they too heeded this call and became more sensitive to their responsibilities in such situations).

Note also, that thinking is definitely a part of the game of bridge. However, breaks in tempo in sensitive situations (such as the competitive auction in Appeal Case 3) carry with them special requirements for top players to control their tempo, and for their partners to bend over backward to be ethically responsible whenever breaks in tempo do occur (as they will, invariably).

Until we all expect and demand the best of those capable of delivering it, the game is doomed to suffer problems such as those we have seen here.

Don't Cry For Argentina (They Are Doing Rather Well)

One of the surprise teams of these championships so far are Argentina in the Bermuda Bowl. Roughly two-thirds of the way through the qualifying stage they are leading Group W. One of the Argentine pairs, Pablo Lambardi and Carlos Lucena were good enough to call in at our office to show us a few hands where they had contributed to this success. First a defensive hand which we have seen before but on a different lead.

Round 5. Board 19. E/W Vul. Dealer South.

	S T63	
	H T42	
	D K8	
	C QT763	
S K74		S AJ95
H 98		H KJ76
D QJT653		D A9
C 85		C AJ4
	S Q82	
	H AQ53	
	D 742	
	C K92	

After three passes, East opened 1C and rebid 2NT over West's 1D response. West went on to 3NT and Lucena had to find an opening lead. A major suit gives the ninth trick immediately but, despite West's diamond bid, Lucena led the D2. Declarer played low from the dummy and Lambardi inserted the eight.

Looking at all four hands, it is easy to see that declarer can take all six diamonds by winning with the nine but it was almost impossible for him to read the position.

He won the ace, returned a second diamond and Lambardi was in. He switched to the C10 for the jack and king and Lucena returned the C9. Lambardi overtook that and declarer ducked. Now Lambardi found the heart switch to defeat the contract; an excellent defense.

Note that if North simply plays a third club declarer can play a strip squeeze, coming down to S AJ and H K and throwing South in with the HA. Of course, there is no guarantee that declarer will read the ending correctly, though he should at least be on the lookout for some similar position given the slightly unusual opening lead.

Round 6. Board 13. Game All. Dealer North.

	S Q8	
	H AQ	
	D AJ8752	
	C KQ7	
S AT6		S J7543
H T92		H J543
D KT43		D Q9

C 982

C J4

S K92
H K876
D 6
C AT653

North	South
Lambardi	Lucena
1C (i)	2C (ii)
2D (iii)	2S (iv)
2NT (iii)	3D (v)
3H (iii)	4C (vi)
4D (vii)	4H (vii)
4S (viii)	4NT (ix)
6C	Pass

- (i) Strong
- (ii) Four controls
- (iii) Relay
- (iv) Five clubs
- (v) Four hearts
- (vi) 3-4-1-5
- (vii) Cuebid
- (viii) In theory, a cuebid
- (ix) SK

Few pairs reached this thin but good slam. Having discovered that partner had four controls plus his precise shape, Lambardi started cuebidding.

Over 4H, he could not be completely sure that Lucena did not have the bare DK instead of the SK, in which case there would be two quick losers in 6C. Accordingly, he invented a spade control to leave room for partner to bid 4NT, showing the SK. Sure enough, that was exactly what Lucena did bid and Lambardi jumped to the slam.

Even opposite the actual South hand, with no extra value at all, 6C is a decent contract, but adding any jack would be enough to greatly increase its chance of success. There is no lead to break the slam, but the actual choice of a low spade to the two, six and eight made life very easy for Lambardi.

Round 9. Board 17. Love All. Dealer North.

	S 42	
	H K9862	
	D Q7643	
	C 5	
S J3		S AKT876
H AT753		H Q4
D T85		D K
C A97		C QJ32
	S Q95	
	H J	
	D AJ92	

C KT864

West	North	East	South
	Lambardi		Lucena
	Pass	1S	1NT(i)
Pass	2C	Pass	2S
2NT	3S	Pass	4S
All Pass			

(i) F1

In the other room, the same contract was reached and South led his singleton heart. Declarer went up with the HA but had no real chance from there and was one down.

Lucena also led his singleton, but here declarer ducked to Lambardi's king. The easy way to defeat the contract is to switch to the singleton club now, as this eliminates the late dummy entry to the hearts, or if declarer ducks, sets up a cross-ruff. But it was not clear to Lambardi what was required.

Partner did not have to have a natural trump trick for one thing. He dealt Lucena his heart ruff and now their was only one defense and Lucena rose to the occasion. He cashed the DA and exited with the CK. Though declarer had three club tricks now, he again had no entry to dummy to cash the HA and had to concede a club at the end for one down. A dramatic but essential switch.

France v Argentina (Round 11 Open)

Overnight leaders, Argentina had suffered a severe beating in their morning match against the Netherlands. They now faced the new leaders of Bermuda Bowl Group W, France in a match which had become a test of character as well as skill. There was little in the play in this match, it being largely decided in the bidding.

Board 2. N/S Vul. Dealer East.

	S J97	
	H 8432	
	D 843	
	C KJ7	
S KQ5		S T86
H AKQ976		H J5
D AT		D KQJ92
C 95		C AT4
	S A432	
	H T	
	D 765	
	C Q8632	

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Monsegur	Reiplinger	Mooney	Soulet
		1D	Pass
2H	Pass	2NT	Pass
4NT	Pass	5D	Pass
5H	All Pass		

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Perron	Muzzio	Chemla	Villegas
		1D	Pass
2H	Pass	3D	Pass
3S	Pass	4C	Pass
4D	Pass	4H	Pass
4NT	Pass	5D	Pass
6D	All Pass		

The French pair explored the hand much more thoroughly than their counterparts and deserved their swing; Monsegur was just guessing at the end in the Open Room. There was nothing in the play, both contracts making twelve tricks. That was 10 IMPs to France.

Board 3. E/W Vul. Dealer South.

	S J	
	H Q43	
	D AJ9874	
	C Q96	
S 53		S KT9642
H AK95		H T876
D Q2		D 3
C KT843		C 52
	S AQ87	
	H J2	
	D KT65	
	C AJ7	

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Monsegur	Reiplinger	Mooney	Soulet
			1NT
Pass	3C	Pass	3D
Pass	3S	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Perron	Muzzio	Chemla	Villegas
			1D
Pass	3D	All Pass	

Reiplinger's 3C response was a diamond transfer and 3S showed the shortage. After a club lead, Soulet had ten

tricks; +430. The 1D opening and limit raise didn't get the job done in the Closed Room. Villegas could not see how there could be a good game available with his uninspiring pattern so he passed. That was +130 and 7 IMPs to France. This seemed like a continuation of their morning match for Argentina and it was to get worse over the next few boards.

Board 5. N/S Vul. Dealer North.

	S T54	
	H 53	
	D AKT98653	
	C ---	
S A9863		S 7
H T4		H AKQ87
D ---		D J4
C KJ7653		C AT942
	S KQJ2	
	H J962	
	D Q72	
	C Q8	

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Monsegur	Reiplinger	Mooney	Soulet
	3D	3H	All Pass

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Perron	Muzzio	Chemla	Villegas
	3D	3H	Pass
3S	Pass	4C	Pass
4D	Pass	4H	Pass
4NT	Pass	5H	Pass
6C	All Pass		

Monsegur's pass of 3H in the Open Room seems an extremely deep position to take and it proved a costly one. Mooney was slightly casual about the play and emerged with just nine tricks; +140. Perron responded 3S in the Closed Room and when Chemla bid his clubs slam was always going to be reached. A slower approach might have found the grand slam but auctions of this type can often get murky and Perron's practical bid of 4NT made sure of 13 IMPs for his side.

Board 6. E/W Vul. Dealer East.

	S AQT93	
	H Q32	
	D K	
	C A864	
S 42		S J7
H KT976		H J5
D AJ763		D T852
C T		C KQ753

S K865
 H A84
 D Q94
 C J92

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Monsegur	Reiplinger	Mooney	Soulet
		Pass	Pass
2D	2S	Pass	3S
All Pass			

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Perron	Muzzio	Chemla	Villegas
		Pass	Pass
1H	1S	Pass	2H
Pass	3C	Pass	4S
All Pass			

Perron's simple 1H opening left room for Muzzio to make a natural game try, which Villegas accepted, while Monsegur's multi opening left the French less room at the other table and they stopped in 3S. Both Easts led the HJ.

Reiplinger won, drew trumps and led towards his HQ. Monsegur won and exited with a heart and Reiplinger won and played the DK. Monsegur ducked that so Reiplinger made ten tricks; +170. Muzzio ducked the heart lead and won the continuation in hand. He drew trumps and played a diamond towards his king but Perron rose with the ace and switched to the C10, ending his hopes. One down meant 6 IMPs for France who led 36-0.

 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	

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Monsegur	Reiplinger	Mooney	Soulet
			1D
Pass	1S	Pass	1NT

Pass	2C	Pass	2D
Pass	3D	Pass	3NT
Pass	4C	Pass	4S
Pass	5D	All Pass	

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Perron	Muzzio	Chemla	Villegas
			1D
Pass	1S	Pass	1NT
Pass	2C	Pass	2H
Pass	3D	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

This was another bidding test for the North/South pairs. Both rebids showed weak no trump types, possibly up to a poor 15-count, and 2C was an enquiry. Soulet merely showed a minimum with less than three spades while Villegas was also allowed to show his four card heart suit. That made an important difference later as Muzzio was willing to pass 3NT while Reiplinger preferred to look for a minor-suit game. 3NT was hopeless after a heart lead and Villegas ended up two down; -200.

Monsegur also led a heart against 5D. Soulet ruffed and led a diamond to the queen then ducked a club. 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. Monsegur played hearts so this contract was also two down for a flat board. The game which looks as though it will make is 5C, but that is pretty tough to reach. After two flat boards, Argentina finally got on the scoreboard.

Board 10. Game All. Dealer East.

	S 83	
	H T87	
	D QJT82	
	C A52	
S T2		S AK97
H AK95432		H J6
D A64		D 9
C T		C KQJ987
	S QJ654	
	H Q	
	D K753	
	C 643	

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Monsegur	Reiplinger	Mooney	Soulet
		2C	Pass
3H	Pass	3S	Pass
4H	Pass	4NT	Pass

5C	Pass	6H	All Pass
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Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Perron	Muzzio	Chemla	Villegas
		1C	Pass
1H	Pass	1S	Pass
2D	Pass	3C	Pass
4H	All Pass		

Mooney's 2C was natural, less than 17, and 3H a natural force. When Monsegur repeated his hearts, Mooney took control and drove to slam. Reiplinger led a spade and a second round when in with the CA but Monsegur could draw two rounds of trumps with the ace and jack and take two diamond pitches on the clubs; a rather fortunate +1430. It takes a diamond lead and continuation to break the slam, creating a trump trick for North.

Slam was never really in the picture in the Closed Room and Perron chalked up an easy +650 but Argentina picked up 13 badly needed IMPs.

Board 12. N/S Vul. Dealer West.

	S AKT84	
	H KJ8	
	D Q	
	C Q643	
S J62		S 97
H 932		H Q54
D A97643		D JT82
C A		C KT87
	S Q53	
	H AT76	
	D K5	
	C J952	

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Monsegur	Reiplinger	Mooney	Soulet
Pass	1S	Pass	2C
2D	3C	Pass	4S
All Pass			

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Perron	Muzzio	Chemla	Villegas
Pass	1S	Pass	2S
3D	Dbl	4D	All Pass

Soulet's chosen route got his side to game very easily. Not that 4S is much of a contract but it has one important thing going for it - it makes. Mooney led DJ and Monsegur

won his ace, cashed the CA and exited with a diamond.
 Shortly afterwards, Reiplinger claimed ten tricks; +620.

Villegas's simple raise did not get his side to game.
 Though Muzzio showed extras with his double of 3D, the DK
 looked of dubious value and Villegas decided to defend 4D.
 This drifted a couple off for +100 to Argentina but that
 meant 11 IMPs to France.

Argentina picked up a couple of minor swings on the next
 two boards then it was France's turn again.

 Board 15. N/S Vul. Dealer South.

	S A95	
	H 632	
	D Q9	
	C AKJT8	
S 87		S JT3
H K4		H QJT8
D JT742		D AK853
C 7642		C 3
	S KQ642	
	H A975	
	D 6	
	C Q95	

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Monsegur	Reiplinger	Mooney	Soulet
			1S
Pass	2C	2NT	3C
3D	4S	All Pass	

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Perron	Muzzio	Chemla	Villegas
			1S
Pass	2C	Dbl	3C
4NT	Dbl	5D	Pass
Pass	Dbl	All Pass	

The double fits meant that the diamond save was a cheap
 one; -300. As Soulet made an overtrick in the Open Room,
 that was 8 IMPs to France.

 Board 16. E/W Vul. Dealer West.

	S J	
	H 76	
	D QT863	
	C KQ972	
S T8643		S KQ975
H 83		H AKQJT92
D KJ74		D --

C J3	C A
S A2	
H 54	
D A92	
C T8654	

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Monsegur	Reiplinger	Mooney	Soulet
Pass	Pass	1C	Pass
1D	1NT	3H	5C
Dbl	Pass	6H	Dbl
All Pass			

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Perron	Muzzio	Chemla	Villegas
Pass	Pass	2C	Pass
2D	Pass	6H	All Pass

The book on how to bid that East hand hasn't been written yet and probably never will be. Chemla just closed his eyes and rebid 6H when he heard that Perron had no ace. Villegas led the SA and, on seeing his partner's jack, a second spade. A great lead and a tremendous result for Muzzio/Villegas.

Mooney started slowly, hoping to hear something useful, but the opposing preemption left him guessing and, predictably he guessed to bid 6H. Soulet decided that that might be going down after all it was clear that Mooney was guessing. And when Soulet led the SA it looked as though he was right. But at trick two Soulet tried to cash his other ace, a dubious decision given that declarer has over-ruled his partner's double in a clear forcing pass situation and has jumped to a slam. I guess Soulet just couldn't visualize Mooney's actual hand. Anyway, instead of picking up 3 IMPs, France lost 18. Suddenly, Argentina were back within striking distance.

Board 18. N/S Vul. Dealer East.

	S AT7	
	H 4	
	D A98642	
	C A52	
S K962		S QJ543
H QT8		H K65
D 7		D QJ
C T9876		C QJ3
	S 8	
	H AJ9732	
	D KT53	
	C K4	

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Monsegur	Reiplinger	Mooney	Soulet
		1S	2H
3S	4D	Pass	5D
All Pass			

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Perron	Muzzio	Chemla	Villegas
		Pass	1H
Pass	2D	Pass	3D
Pass	4NT	Pass	5H
Pass	6D	All Pass	

Either you open hands like that East one or you don't. As 12-counts go it is pretty disgusting and I'm sure that all the teachers present would tell their pupils to pass, whatever they might do themselves. Here it was good to open. Left to themselves, Muzzio/Villegas reached the excellent 6D when Muzzio launched into RKCB on discovering the diamond fit. The play was straightforward; +1390.

Soulet might have cuebid 4S on the way to 5D in the Open Room but he had convinced himself that East/West would have too many high cards for slam to be likely. Many of us would play the 3S raise as pre-emptive after the overcall but sometimes, as here, an old-fashioned limit raise can be more effective if based on shape as the opposition may assume it includes more high cards. Argentina gained 13 IMPs to close to 51-56. But the French were not done yet.

Board 19. E/W Vul. Dealer South.

	S 652	
	H Q	
	D AJT65	
	C K654	
S A4		S QT9873
H AK72		H J9853
D K872		D ---
C AQJ		C 32
	S KJ	
	H T64	
	D Q943	
	C T987	

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Monsegur	Reiplinger	Mooney	Soulet
			Pass
1C	2C	2S	5D
Dbl	All Pass		

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Perron	Muzzio	Chemla	Villegas
			Pass
2NT	Pass	4D	Pass
4H	All Pass		

In the Closed Room, the natural 2NT opening shut North/South out of the auction. Chemla's 4D asked Perron to pick a major and he duly did so. After a heart lead, Perron had twelve tricks; +680.

Reiplinger came in over the strong club in the Open Room, 2C showing at least five diamonds. Mooney showed his spades but when Soulet jumped to 5D it was difficult to introduce the hearts with any confidence. A shortage of entries to hand made it awkward for Soulet to pick up the trumps and lead up to the CK so he eventually lost a trick to the DK as well as the obvious four tricks in the side suits. Still, -500 was worth 5 IMPs to France.

Board 20. Game All. Dealer West.

	S J754	
	H 94	
	D KT72	
	C T65	
S T8		S AKQ2
H AQJT87		H 5
D A54		D Q963
C Q7		C 9842
	S 963	
	H K632	
	D J8	
	C AKJ3	

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Monsegur	Reiplinger	Mooney	Soulet
1H	Pass	1S	Pass
2H	All Pass		

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Perron	Muzzio	Chemla	Villegas
1H	Pass	1S	Pass
2H	Pass	2NT	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

Passing 2H could easily have been the winning action but there is a sizeable bonus for bidding and making vulnerable games at IMPs and I suspect Chemla's 2NT would be the majority decision here. Monsegur made nine tricks in 2H for +140. What about 3NT?

Villegas led a top club against 3NT and continued with the other on seeing dummy. Now he switched to the DJ and Chemla ducked to Muzzio's king. He cashed the C10 and exited with a low spade. Unwilling to play for a miracle in hearts, Chemla now made the key play of running the spade round to dummy's ten. He cashed the rest of the spades then took the heart finesse and cashed the HA. When the HK didn't fall, Chemla played DA and a diamond to his nine for a great +600 and 10 IMPs to France.

Their little flourish at the end brought the French lead up to 71-51 or 19-11 VPs, a fair result as they had certainly had the better of the match and only Board 16 had brought Argentina so close. The result left France well placed at the head of the group while Argentina were still in touch but in need of good results to get back into a qualifying place.

China vs. Italy

By Barry Rigal

China had some early lucky escapes in their 12th-round Vugraph match against Italy.

Board 2. N/S Vul. Dealer East.

	S K865	
	H AKJT7	
	D K	
	C J83	
S QJ3		S T742
H 42		H Q96
D A43		D QJT976
C KQ962		C ---
	S A9	
	H 853	
	D 852	
	C AT754	

Italy bid the pretty fair heart game given that West had opened a weak notrump -- 11-14). However, with the HQ and the C K-Q wrong, they lost 8 IMPs instead of winning 10. They were beaten two vulnerable tricks while China played in a heart partial, making three.

On Board 4 China misplayed in 2H to go down a trick.

Round 12. Board 4. Game All. Dealer West.

	S J5432	
	H AQ4	
	D KJT3	
	C 6	
S KT8		S AQ6
H 86		H KJ952

D AQ42	D 96
C 9832	C KQ7
S 97	
H T73	
D 875	
C AJT54	

Once again Italy got to game, and this time they had a real chance to make 3NT. The opening lead of the C10 to the queen was helpful. However, Buratti took a wrong view in hearts, leading the 8 and letting it ride to the 10. He could have picked up four heart tricks if he had inserted the jack. That would have been enough for the game. He actually wound up going down two for a 3-IMP loss.

Board 5. N/S Vul. Dealer North.

	S KT543	
	H J	
	D A765	
	C Q62	
S A82		S Q97
H 62		H AQT985
D QT82		D 43
C T873		C J4
	S J6	
	H K743	
	D KJ9	
	C AK95	

Here China again misplayed, this time in 2S to go down one -- some declarers were making 10 tricks in spade contracts on a heart lead and a minor suit squeeze on West.

Once again the Italians got to 3NT on the N-S cards, and the opening lead was a heart to the jack and queen, and Lauria ducked. The H10 also was allowed to hold, and Wang switched to diamonds -- a very good action. As a result Italy suffered another two-trick defeat.

Board 8. Love All. Dealer West.

	S J93	
	H K	
	D AQ5432	
	C AT6	
S T752		S ----
H A92		H QJ543
D J96		D KT7
C Q85		C 97432
	S AKQ864	
	H T876	
	D 8	
	C KJ	

6S is a reasonable slam, and the Italians were there. Versace got the helpful opening lead of the HA followed by a club to his jack. He ruffed a heart and then had to decide what to do next. Leading the CK then ruffing a heart goes down when the clubs are 6-2. Playing a low spade to his queen works whenever trumps are not 4-0. And even when they are, as here, you can still make if you can guess what to do next.

Brazil vs. United States II

This match was Brazil's for the taking -- but they didn't take it. Two hands that appeared to be notrump games making -- one doubled -- somehow all of a sudden went down -- and so did Brazil, 17-13.

The set of hands in this match must rank with the dullest in history. Board after board, the Vugraph show was dull. Oh sure, there were a few electrifying deals, but in general the bridge was ho-hum.

But it didn't start out that way -- the very first board was one of the most interesting of the set.

Board 1. Love All. Dealer North.

		S Q9764	
		H J5	
		D 9543	
		C J5	
S AJ85		S T32	
H 2		H QT9843	
D AQ		D JT2	
C AKQ862		C T	
		S K	
		H AK76	
		D K876	
		C 9743	
West	North	East	South
Cintra	Hamman	Aranho	Wolff
	Pass	Pass	1H
Dbl	Pass	Pass	1NT
Dbl	2D	Pass	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

Cintra doubled for takeout the first time, doubled for penalty the second time and finally bid 3NT. It appeared he was on the way to making it, but strange things can happen. The first trick proved to be a key play. Hamman led his fourth best diamond, and Wolff had a problem -- should he go up with the king or duck? As you can see, the duck works, but after some thought Wolff went up with the king.

Cintra took two top clubs, cashed the DQ, took another club and led a fourth club to Wolff's 9. Wolff hated having the lead, but he decided the SK was the least of evils. When

Cintra took his ace, of course he had two good clubs to run -- but what was he going to discard from dummy? This was the position:

	S Q976	
	H J5	
	D --	
	C --	
S J85		S T
H 2		H QT98
D --		D J
C 62		C --
	S --	
	H AK76	
	D 87	
	C --	

Cintra had no problem on the first club -- he pitched a heart. But he erred on his second discard -- he threw the diamond when the spade would have been better. Then he could have led a heart and put in the 10, and Wolff would have had to give him his ninth trick with the DJ. But he threw the diamond and then led a spade. Hamman won and led a heart so that Wolff could take the rest with his top hearts and good diamond. Down one.

This was a push because 3NT also was set at the other table. But declarer had far fewer chances because Branco played low on the opening diamond lead so that declarer never had a chance to get a third diamond trick.

Cintra and Aranho got a bit carried away on Board2 and climbed two tricks too high. Meckstroth and Rodwell managed to stop dead in 3C, making, while the Brazilians were in the club game, off two. So the Americans scored first blood -- 5 IMPs.

The next three boards were uneventful pushes, but Board 6 was interesting -- strange things often happen when there are eight-card suits around.

Board 6. E/W Vul. Dealer East.

	S --	
	H 83	
	D AKQJ5432	
	C J84	
S KJ8764		S 95
H T964		H AKJ2
D 6		D T97
C 53		C AQ96
	S AQT32	
	H Q75	
	D 8	
	C KT72	

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

Cintra	Hamman	Aranho	Wolff
		1C	1S
Pass	3D	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

As was pointed out by the commentators, the most devastating opening lead was also the most unlikely -- a diamond. Declarer would have to find seven discards from the South hand. But the club opening lead made it easy. East won and returned a heart -- but Wolff had no alternative -- he had to put up the queen. He cashed the SA, then ran the eight diamonds. East came down to the lone CQ, so Wolff wound up with 12 tricks.

At the other table, Rodwell opened 1NT and Branco bid 2D, showing spades and a second suit. Chagas decided diamond was a good place to play, so he passed, and Branco took 10 tricks but suffered an 8-IMP loss.

The next four boards were pushes, but Board 8 was interesting from a play point of view.

Board 8. Love All. Dealer West.

	S J9		
	H AKT		
	D A87532		
	C Q7		
S K6		S Q542	
H 63		H 98542	
D JT96		D KQ4	
C AKJ94		C 6	
	S AT873		
	H QJ7		
	D --		
	C T8532		

West	North	East	South
Cintra	Hamman	Aranho	Wolff
1NT	Pass	2C	Pass
2D	Dbl	Pass	2S
All Pass			

Cintra led the CA and switched to the SK. This was allowed to hold, so he led another and the jack held. Now Wolff played the DA and ruffed a diamond. He went back to a heart and ruffed another diamond. He led to another heart, cashed a third heart and led another diamond, making his last trump en passant. That was plus 140, offsetting the three-trick set suffered by Meckstroth in 3C in the Closed Room.

And now -- the hand that decided the match -- Board 11.

Board 11. Love All. Dealer South.

S KQ654
H KT64

D T
 C 843
 S 32 S AJT97
 H A75 H QJ2
 D A9765 D K82
 C QJ9 C KT
 S 8
 H 983
 D QJ43
 C A7652

West	North	East	South
Cintra	Hamman	Aranho	Wolff
			Pass
Pass	1S	Pass	1NT
Dbl	2H	Dbl	Pass
3D	Pass	3NT	All Pass

Wolff led the H9, and Hamman won the king. Hamman switched to a club, and Aranho overtook the 10 with the queen to begin his attack on spades. Hamman couldn't afford to split, so the jack won. Declarer went back to dummy with the DA to lead another spade, and again Hamman played low as the 7 won. Aranho played the CK, ducked, then took two heart tricks, ending in dummy.

He led a diamond to his king and now had eight tricks in the back -- two spades, two hearts, two diamonds and two clubs. If he cashed his SA, he would score up plus 550 for making his doubled contract. But apparently declarer had an aberration -- he thought he needed TWO more tricks. So he got out with a spade to Hamman's king, and the defense had the rest of the tricks for down one.

Since Chagas had suffered a two-trick defeat in 2H doubled in the other room, the Americans gained 9 IMPs instead of losing 6 -- a 15-IMP swing. And Brazil lost the match by only 10.

 Each team earned a small swing and a push on the next three deals, but Brazil made their biggest gain of the day on Board 15.

Board 15. N/S Vul. Dealer South.

S A9
 H KQJT93
 D Q2
 C A85
 S 532 S KJT64
 H 6 H A4
 D 763 D T854
 C K97643 C T2
 S Q87
 H 8752
 D AKJ9
 C QJ

Hamman and Wolff stopped in the heart game, and it was just as well they did. In order to make 12 tricks, you have to guess which black king is right after getting a spade opening lead. Wolff, believe it or not, opened that South hand with 1H, which occasioned Edgar Kaplan to observe, "Notice that Wolff has the 8-7 of hearts, which allows for a certain degree of solidity." Wolff ducked in dummy, so made only 11 tricks.

But Chagas and Branco got to the slam, and when the CK was captured, they scored up 1430 for a 13-IMP pickup.

 Another series of small exchanges and pushes followed, leading to the final board.

Board 20. Game All. Dealer West.

	S KQJ6	
	H KT8	
	D 7	
	C AK875	
S AT5		S 8743
H AQ3		H J7
D AT632		D KJ85
C 32		C JT6
	S 92	
	H 96542	
	D Q94	
	C Q94	

In the Closed Room, Meckstroth opened 1NT and played it there. The defense was unrelenting -- they took the first five tricks in clubs and shifted to a spade. When Meckstroth failed to guess the diamond situation, he was limited to his four top tricks and was beaten three vulnerable tricks.

At the other table, Hamman doubled Cintra's opening bid of 1NT, but Wolff didn't think was strong enough to sit for the double. He ran to 2H and made three, but that was 4 IMPs to Brazil.

That brought Brazil's total to 22, so they lost the match, 17-13, with an IMP score of 32-22.

Hasi Bare Strikes
 By Mark Horton

Who are the best women's pair in the World? Germany's Sabine Auken and Daniela Von Arnim would be certain to receive a lot of votes. Take a look at this deal from the seventh match of the Venice Cup round-robin:

Board 17. Love All. Dealer North.

S J732

H KJT632
 D J85
 C ---
 S KT S 96 54
 H Q84 H 7
 D 973 D AK64
 C A9764 C JT52
 S AQ8
 H A95
 D QT2
 C KQ83

This hand was reported in yesterday's bulletin. In the Bermuda Bowl encounter between USA II and Canada, neither declarer could manage to make 4H. In the match between Germany and South Africa in the Venice Cup, Von Arnim was sitting South and showed the men (not for the first time) how it should be done.

West led the CA, to the obvious annoyance of East. This was not lost on Danny, who reasoned East must be looking at the D AK. She ruffed the club, cashed the HK and came to hand with the trump ace. She discarded two diamonds on the C KQ and then found the very fine play of the S 8 which left West without resource.

If you want to know the meaning of Danny's nickname, hasi bare, I suggest you ask the German captain, Klaus Reps.

Defensive Deception by Barry Rigal

Henry Mansell found a fine defense to give declarer a losing option on this deal from the Round 6 Bermuda Bowl clash between South Africa and the Netherlands.

Board 1. Love All. Dealer North.

S J
 H KQ9754
 D 43
 C Q876
 S Q95432 S AKT76
 H AJ2 H T8
 D A6 D Q72
 C K4 C AJ9
 S 8
 H 63
 D KJT985
 C T532

West	North	East	South
Westra	Mansell	Leufkens	Cope
	2H	2S	3H
4H	Pass	4S	Pass
5C	Pass	5D(i)	Pass
6S	All Pass		

(i) 'Last Train' slam try

The opening lead of the H6 was ducked to North's queen. It looks as though declarer has no legitimate play other than the club finesse; but Mansell found the devious switch to the C8. This went to the nine, ten and king.

Now Leufkens, who knew South had significant length in diamonds, ruffed the heart loser in hand and ran the trumps. This was the ending:

	S -	
	H K	
	D -	
	C Q7	
S -		S -
H -		H -
D A6		D Q
C 4		C AJ
	S -	
	H -	
	D KJ	
	C 5	

The D6 was known to be a menace so when the DQ went to the king and ace Leufkens played to drop the CQ offside. One down!

THE INTERNATIONAL BRIDGE PRESS ASSOCIATION

The International Bridge Press Association is a club of some 500 of the world's bridge journalists and media people. Full membership is open only to those who are regular contributors, but Associate Membership is available to all.

IBPA's principal service to members is a monthly Bulletin edited by Patrick Jourdain, who is here in Beijing. The Bulletin contains bridge news from around the world, hands which are selected for their suitability for members to use in their bridge columns, and a forum for the journalists to exchange views and receive information. There are special issues dispatched within 48 hours of the conclusion of the World and European Championships with results and good copy. The Bulletin has several journalist Clippings Competitions which afford members the opportunity to win attractive prizes. And there are the Annual IBPA Awards.

Members of IBPA are entitled to the facilities of the Press Rooms at major championships, and to benefit from the hospitality shown to members of the Press.

The cost of membership is \$52 per annum, with a joining fee of \$16 for new members. The year starts 1st January. However, the Constitution allows new members to join from 15th October (this Sunday) without paying extra for the

remainder of the current year. New members and current members who wish to pay their 1996 dues are invited to contact the Treasurer, Evelyn Senn, who is here in Beijing. She is on duty in the Press Room most mornings from 9.30 a.m. to 12.30, and in the afternoon from 16.30 to 18.30. The Press Room is on the 3rd Floor of the Conference Centre, and follow the signs.

All members are invited to attend the Annual Awards Meeting on Monday morning (see notice below).

Watching on the Internet

We have always received submissions from various journalists present at the World Championships, but now that Internet is here, we are getting submissions from faraway places --like Israel. Both Pamela and Matt Granovetter offered some comments on the report of the France vs. United States I match that appeared in the Daily Bulletin.

First we'll hear from Pamela Granovetter.

I think Paul Chemla should not have gotten the blame on this deal from the U.S. I vs. France match.

Board 6. E/W Vul. Dealer East.

	S 83	
	H 64	
	D AK7	
	C AK7543	
S KQ942		S AJT75
H 32		H KQT9
D Q843		D T9
C J6		C Q2
	S 6	
	H AJ875	
	D J652	
	C T98	

The Bulletin writes that against Cayne's five club contract, Chemla, East, led the HK, won by the ace. A spade was led, won by Chemla's 10. Now Chemla was blamed for not playing the HQ and another heart for an uppercut. But with the CQ as a potential trick, he was not going to be happy to see his partner ruff with a lower card than the jack, exposing the location of the trump queen.

Shouldn't his partner have hopped up with a spade honor to lead a second heart himself? This would make it clear to East that West held a trump honor for a possible promotion. I think West was asleep at the switch.

And now let's hear from Matt Granovetter. He pointed out another case where Chemla should not have been blamed for

his defense -- Board 9. However, Barry Rigal already has exonerated Chemla.

Matt also noted that a number of swings in this match were based on sound vs. light opening bids. Here's his report:

Watching on the Internet, I noticed that a number of swings in the USA I - France match were based on sound vs. light opening bids. I quickly perused the opening bids and found the following:

Board 3.

Lebel opens 1NT on 14-count and six clubs, minus 200.
Burger 1C, plus 100.

Board 4.

Perron opens on 12, plus 100.
Lair opens on 12, minus 200.

Board 6.

Chemla opens on 12, minus 400.
Passell opens on 12, minus 200.

Board 12.

Perron opens 11, plus 200.
Lair passes 11, plus 420.

Board 13.

Cronier opens 2C on 18, minus 100.
Cayne opens 1H, plus 800.

Board 14.

Burger passes 11, plus 50.
Lebel opens 11, minus 150.

The only winning light opening was a 10-12 1NT by Passell on Board 5, which doesn't count in my book because that's a specific convention. Besides, it was the fact that Cayne-Burger play a sound opening-bid structure that allowed Cayne to make a winning jump to 4D:

Board 5. N/S Vul. Dealer North.

		S K97	
		H T632	
		D JT75	
		C K5	
S T6532		S AJ8	
H KQ85		H J974	
D 86		D 43	
C T3		C A987	
		S Q4	
		H A	
		D AKQ2	
		C QJ642	

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

Perron	Cayne	Chemla	Burger
	Pass	Pass	1D
Pass	1H	Pass	2C
Pass	2D	Pass	3C
Pass	4D !	Pass	5D

All Pass

Playing light openings, Cayne could never have made that 4D call. Light opening bids are very much in fashion and perhaps my short study here proves nothing. But 32 IMPs on these six examples in favor of sound opening bids is the type of statistic that often goes unnoticed. So your man on the Internet is pointing it out.

BEST EVER PLAYED ?

By Jean Paul Meyer

It is difficult to say a hand is the best ever played. What I can say is that Michel Lebel said it was the best hand HE had ever played. When such an experienced player says this, it means something.

Let's have a look at Board 11 from Round 10, France vs. United States I.

Board 11. Love All. Dealer South.

	S KQ654	
	H KT64	
	D T	
	C 843	
S 32		S AJT97
H A75		H QJ2
D A9765		D K82
C QJ9		C KT
	S 8	
	H 983	
	D QJ43	
	C A7652	

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

So Lebel, West, was declarer in 3 NT. A club was led and the king was allowed to hold. Lebel played the DK and let the D 8 ride. A third round went to the DA, and a fourth round of diamonds was played, North having discarded a heart and two spades.

In hand with the DQ, South exited with a small club. West had six tricks in the bag when he played his last diamond:

S KQ6
H KT6

```

          D --
          C 8
S 32          S AJT9
H A75        H QJ2
D 5          D ---
C J          C ---
          S 8
          H 983
          D ----
          C A76

```

On the D5 North discarded a spade, as did East, and South has to discard a heart. Now came a brilliant CJ:

```

          S KQ
          H KT6
          D ---
          C 8
S 32          S AJT
H A75        H QJ2
D --         D --
C J          C --
          S 8
          H 98
          D --
          C A76

```

South took the CA and another high club, but in the final position:

```

          S KQ
          H KT
          D --
          C --
S 3          S AJ
H A75        H QJ
D --         D --
C --         C --
          S 8
          H 98
          D --
          C 6

```

SOUTH HAS THE CHOICE FROM AMONG THREE EQUALLY BAD ACTIONS!

A club squeezes his partner.

A spade allows East to throw North in hand to play a heart away from his king.

A heart is ducked and declarer makes two heart tricks.

Yes, educated readers would have found a pedestrian way of winning the contract by taking the first trick in hand and playing a spade, which has to be ducked by North, and then attacking diamonds. But Lebel's play is so much nicer.

Many crucial matches as teams fight to qualify

Only two more matches remain in the round-robin, so you'd think there would be a fair number of teams who already are quite certain of qualifying for tomorrow's quarterfinals in the Marlboro Bermuda Bowl and the Marlboro Venice Cup. But that's not the case at all -- most positions in all groups are up for grabs.

Perhaps the most exciting is Group W of the Marlboro Bermuda Bowl. France, South Africa and Indonesia are well enough ahead that they should qualify unless they fall on their faces. But all five of the remaining teams have a chance at the fourth qualifying position. Last-place Australia is only half a match behind defending champion Netherlands, who stand fourth. Argentina, which started the day in first place, had a really bad day, scoring only 23 points in three matches and dropping all the way to fifth place.

In Group E, Sweden and China seem safe for qualification, but not so certain that they can afford to let down today. It's a four-way battle for the other two spots among Canada, United States II, Brazil and Italy. A 25-4 loss to Sweden dropped the Americans from first to fourth, and they are now in imminent danger of not qualifying. Italy, with three single-digit losses, also fell well off the pace. But Brazil, which ran into considerable difficulty in the early going -- they lost their first four matches -- now is only two points out of fourth. Brazil had strong wins against Italy and Colombia yesterday, but they lost a close one to the Americans.

Not even the first-place team is sure of qualification in Group W of the Marlboro Venice Cup. United States I is on top, but they are only 8.1 points ahead of South Africa, who stand fifth. Canada still has an outside chance of reaching the quarterfinals, but the battle seems to be among U.S. I, China, Germany, Brazil and South Africa.

In Group E France and United States II are the closest things to shoo-ins in the field. Both are about two matches ahead of fifth place. Japan also is well-placed, 19 points ahead of fifth-place Australia. The only real battle is for the fourth spot, and three teams still have a chance -- Great Britain, Australia and Venezuela.

Facts, not research
by Phillip Alder

This report will cover three deals. However, as I cannot find out the results at all the tables, it is possible other pairs duplicated these feats. Also, since I am non-playing captain of the USA II Venice Cup team, you will have to accept that this article features only players on my team.

First, try these problems.

1. Dealer North; Vul None.

S J965
H AKQT6
D A5
C A6

S A7
H 74
D K73
C KJT732

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

West leads the D2. What is your basic plan?

2. With only the opponents vulnerable, you pick up

S AQ H 97 D A C AKQ97652.

You deal and open 1C, Precision. With the opponents retaining a respectful silence, your partner responds 2D, a natural positive with at least eight high-card points and five or more diamonds. You rebid 3C; partner continues with 3D; you bid 4C; and she is still there with 4D. What now?

3. Dealer South; Vul N/S.

S Q83
H 8752
D K753
C Q7

S KT6
H AKT63
D 6
C KT54

West	North	East	South
			1H
2H (a)	3H	Pass	4H
All Pass			

(a) Michael's cuebid: at least 5-5 in spades and a minor

West leads the DA and, in answer to partner's queen, continues with the D9. Over to you.

Returning to the first problem for a moment, when you lead a trump to dummy's ace, West shows out. What difference does that make, if any?

Now to the solutions.

The first deal was declared by Amalya Kearse, who took full advantage of the non-spade lead. This was the layout:

Dealer North; Vul None

```

                S J965
                H AKQT6
                D A5
                C A6
S K8432          S QT
H 9832          H J5
D QT42          D J986
C --            C Q9854

                S A7
                H 974
                D K73
                C KJT732

```

Playing in 6C, Kearse won the first trick in hand with the DK, played a club to dummy's ace and ran the C6 when East didn't cover (not that that matters). Now came three top hearts, East ruffing the last and declarer over ruffing. Kearse cashed the CK, led a club to East's remaining queen and claimed. There were two winning hearts in the dummy for declarer's losing spade and diamond.

The second deal was embarrassing for several pairs, both North-South and East-West. This was the full distribution:

Dealer South; E/W Vul.

```

                S JT93
                H J2
                D KQJT96
                C 3
S 8542          S K76
H AKT           H QJ86543
D 7532          D 84
C JT            C 84

                S AQ
                H 97
                D A
                C AKQ97652

```

West	North	East	South
	Morse		Lilie
			1C
Pass	2D	Pass	3C
Pass	4D	Pass	4NT (a)
Pass	5D	All Pass	

(a) Roman Key Card Blackwood

Most pairs stopped in 5C. Some went down, but others were saved when the defense couldn't resist switching to spades after a couple of heart tricks.

How many pairs other than Jo Morse and Joyce Lilie reached 5D, the one game contract North-South can make?

Lilie used RKC in case Morse had the same hand with the HA extra. She could see the blockage in diamonds might cause problems if clubs were trumps. Well done!

Finally:

Dealer South: N/S Vul

	S Q83	
	H 8752	
	D K753	
	C Q7	
S AJ942		S 75
H Q		H J94
D A9		D QJT842
C AJ932		C 86
	S KT6	
	H AKT63	
	D 6	
	C KT54	

Jo Morse was playing in 4H, knowing West was 5-5 in the black suits from the bidding and early play.

After the DA and a diamond, Morse won with dummy's king, discarding the S6. She guessed to played a heart to her ace, dropping West's queen. This was followed by a club to dummy's queen, a heart to the ten and the HK, West being squeezed in the black suits.

When West discarded two spades, Morse led the S10 from hand. West couldn't afford to rise with the ace, so covered with the jack. After winning with dummy's queen, declarer continued with a spade to her king and West's ace, giving this end-position:

	S 8	
	H 8	
	D 75	
	C 7	
S 9		S --
H --		H --
D --		D JT84
C AJ93		C 8
	S --	
	H 63	
	D --	
	C KT4	

West exited with the S9, but Morse ruffed and played the CK, end-playing West into conceding a trick to the C10.

If West discards one spade and one club, this is the seven-card end-position:

	S Q83	
	H 8	
	D 75	
	C 7	
S AJ94		S 75
H --		H --
D --		D JT84
C AJ9		C 8
	S KT	
	H 63	
	D --	
	C KT4	

Declarer calmly plays the CK from hand, end-playing West. Whichever black suit she returns generates the tenth trick for declarer.

At the other table, West made the imaginative lead of the HQ, declarer winning with the ace and cashing the HK. Even though South now sneaked her singleton diamond past West's ace, the contract still couldn't make, giving USA II 12 IMPs.

Danger! Pedants At Work by Barry Rigal

Paul Chemla is a sufficiently imposing, not to say assertive, personality that one accuses him of a misdefense at one's peril. So on the following board, featured on page four of Bulletin 7, I think it only fair to point out that 5D is cold after the opening lead of the SA.

Board 9. E/W Vul. Dealer North.

	S 2	
	H KQJ976	
	D K763	
	C A7	
S K9643		S AJT85
H 85		H AT42
D T95		D Q4
C 863		C K9
	S Q7	
	H 3	
	D AJ82	
	C QJT542	

The passive defense of a spade continuation does not work if declarer reads everything correctly. Declarer ruffs the spade, plays DK and a second trump to dummy, then a heart to the king and ace. If East ducks the heart declarer simply draws the last trump and gives up a club. This is the ending:

	S --
	H QJ976
	D 7

C A7
 S 964 S T85
 H 8 H T42
 D T D --
 C 863 C K7

 S --
 H --
 D J8
 C QJT542

A club or a heart is tantamount to instant concession. On the play of a spade you ruff in hand, pitching a club, ruff a heart to dummy, draw the last trump and your hand is high!

Bermuda Bowl, Group W

Round 10

Team	VP	IMP	Team	VP	IMP
Netherlands	25	(71)	Argentina	3	(10)
France	22	(58)	USA I	8	(25)
Indonesia	21	(47)	Venezuela	9	(17)
South Africa	23	(62)	Australia	7	(21)

Round 11

France	19	(72)	Argentina	11	(51)
USA I	15	(55)	Netherlands	15	(53)
Australia	16	(67)	Indonesia	14	(59)
South Africa	24	(70)	Venezuela	6	(23)

Round 12

South Africa	21	(49)	Argentina	9	(20)
Indonesia	18	(51)	USA I	12	(38)
France	19	(62)	Australia	11	(42)
Venezuela	23	(63)	Netherlands	7	(25)

1	France	203
2	South Africa	196.5
3	Indonesia	193
4	Netherlands	176
5	Argentina	171
6	Venezuela	165.5
7	USA I	164
8	Australia	161

Bermuda Bowl - Group E

Round 10

Team	VP	IMP	Team	VP	IMP
USA II	17	(32)	Brazil	13	(22)
Canada	25	(77)	Italy	4	(23)
China	23	(62)	Colombia	7	(23)
Sweden	24	(63)	Egypt	6	(20)

Round 11

USA II	16	(44)	Canada	14	(41)
Brazil	21	(49)	Italy	9	(18)
China	19	(47)	Egypt	11	(29)

Sweden	25	(93)	Colombia	1	(16)
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Round 12

Sweden	25	(85)	USA II	4	(29)
China	22	(64)	Italy	8	(28)
Canada	19	(49)	Egypt	11	(28)
Brazil	25	(85)	Colombia	3	(33)

1	Sweden	210
2	China	206.7
3	Canada	194
4	USA II	190
5	Brazil	188
6	Italy	183.8
7	Egypt	131.5
8	Colombia	117.5

Venice Cup, Group W

Round 10

Team	VP	IMP	Team	VP	IMP
Brazil	18	(77)	South Africa	12	(62)
Canada	16	(42)	USA I	14	(38)
China	20	(70)	Israel	10	(44)
Germany	25	(91)	Colombia	3	(28)

Round 11

Brazil	22	(64)	Canada	8	(30)
USA I	19	(52)	South Africa	11	(33)
China	24	(81)	Colombia	6	(38)
Germany	16	(72)	Israel	14	(65)

Round 12

Germany	19	(59)	Brazil	11	(42)
China	21	(53)	USA I	9	(26)
Canada	19	(63)	Colombia	11	(44)
South Africa	21	(70)	Israel	9	(42)

1	USA I	202.1
2	China	199
3	Germany	198
4	Brazil	197
5	South Africa	194
6	Canada	178.5
7	Israel	155.6
8	Colombia	98.8

Venice Cup, Group E

Round 10

Team	VP	IMP	Team	VP	IMP
France	18	(45)	Australia	12	(31)
USA II	16	(46)	Venezuela	14	(39)
Great Britain	18	(39)	Argentina	12	(26)
Japan	17	(48)	India	13	(38)

Round 11

France	25	(74)	Venezuela	3	(13)
Australia	16	(47)	USA II	14	(44)

Great Britain	24	(64)	India	6	(17)
Japan	17	(51)	Argentina	13	(42)

Round 12

Japan	16	(44)	France	14	(40)
USA II	25	(83)	Great Britain	4	(28)
Venezuela	19	(52)	India	11	(34)
Argentina	15	(40)	Australia	15	(40)

1	France	227
2	USA II	220.5
3	Japan	192
4	Great Britain	175
5	Australia	173
6	Venezuela	168
7	Argentina	147
8	India	116.5
