

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

All 4 Far East teams qualify;
France tops two divisions

On Vugraph -- Canada vs. South Africa, Bermuda Bowl, for first segment; France vs. China for second segment; third and fourth segments to be chosen according to the state of the matches.

Not only are the Chinese hosting one of the best world championships ever -- they're also playing great bridge. Both the Chinese Marlboro Bermuda Bowl team and the Chinese Marlboro Venice Cup team have qualified for the quarterfinals, which get under way at 10:30 this morning.

But what is making the Asian contingent positively delirious with happiness is the fact that Indonesia qualified in the Bermuda Bowl and Japan made it in the Venice Cup. All four teams from Zone 6, the Far East, are in the quarterfinals.

There are several other noteworthy items. France was tops in their group in both events. Canada's Bermuda Bowl team made the strongest showing of any team from the American Contract Bridge League by topping their group. Venezuela, the only South American team to survive, reached the knockout stage for the first time in history. South Africa made a great showing, qualifying in both events.

It is emphatically clear that Europe and North American no longer completely dominate world bridge. Europe was able to qualify only five of its eight contestants. North America still has four of its six entries in the field, but only one of them looked strong in the quarterfinals. The rest of the world earned seven of the 16 slots in the quarterfinals.

The final day of the round-robin was exciting because so many spots were up for grabs. United States II in the Bermuda Bowl lost its final match and feared they would finish fifth behind Brazil, but Canada defeated Brazil by enough to put the Americans two points ahead of Brazil. Italy was not able to make the necessary comeback after a disastrous Thursday.

Venezuela had a head-to-head match against Australia in the final Venice Cup battle, with the fourth spot at stake -- Venezuela won handily. United States I earned a Venice Cup spot with a strong 21-9 victory over Argentina in the final match. The Bermuda Bowl United States I team, which won the U.S. trials, didn't make it. United States II in the Venice

Cup had by far the second best Victory Point total, but that earned them only second place in their group -- France led the way with 269.

The quarterfinal matches will consist of 96 boards -- 64 today and 32 tomorrow. There is no carryover from the round-robin. Times for the 16-board segments today are as follows: 1030, 1320, 1610 and 2100.

Bermuda Bowl - Group W

[STANDINGS AFTER ROUND ROBIN - Top 4 Qualify]

1	France	231
2	South Africa	228.5
3	Indonesia	227
4	Netherlands	222

5	USA I	202
6	Venezuela	201.5
7	Argentina	187
8	Australia	167

Group W - Round 13

Team	VP	IMPs	Team	VP	IMPs
Indonesia	23	(49)	Argentina	7	(12)
USA I	17	(50)	South Africa	13	(39)
France	19	(55)	Venezuela	11	(37)
Netherlands	25	(72)	Australia	5	(24)

Group W - Round 14

USA I	21	(53)	Argentina	9	(22)
Indonesia	11	(22)	South Africa	19	(39)
Netherlands	21	(34)	France	9	(7)
Venezuela	25	(86)	Australia	1	(12)

Surviving Team Rosters

France Z1, Jean-Paul Meyer (npc), Paul Chemla,
 Michel Perron, Robert Reiplinger,
 Philippe Soulet, Michel Lebel,
 Philippe Cronier

Indonesia Z6, Yasin Widjadja (npc), Henky Lasut, Eddy
 Manoppo, Denny Sakul, Franky Karwur,
 S. Panelewen, G. Watulingas

Netherlands Z1, Jaap Trouwborst (npc), Enri Leufkens,
 Berry Westra, Jan Westerhof, Piet Jansen,
 Anton Maas, Erik Kirchhoff

South Africa Z4, Maurice Joffe (npc), Tim Cope, Henry
 Mansell, Chris Convery, Craig Gower, Leon
 Boolkin, Bernard Donde

Bermuda Bowl - Group E

[STANDINGS AFTER ROUND ROBIN - Top 4 Qualify]

1 Canada 240
 2 Sweden 239
 3 China 233.7
 4 USA 2 221

 5 Brazil 219
 6 Italy 216.8
 7 Egypt 154.5
 8 Colombia 136.5

 Group E - Round 13

Team	VP	IMPs	Team	VP	IMPs
USA II	17	(31)	China	13	(19)
Italy	17	(48)	Sweden	13	(36)
Canada	25	(71)	Colombia	4	(14)
Brazil	22	(49)	Egypt	8	(13)

 Group E - Round 14

USA II	14	(28)	Italy	16	(32)
Sweden	16	(33)	China	14	(28)
Canada	21	(30)	Brazil	9	(3)
Colombia	15	(37)	Egypt	15	(37)

 Surviving Team Rosters

Canada Z2, Irving Litvack (npc), Fed Gitelman,
 George Mittelman, Eric Kokish, Joey
 Silver, Mark Molson, Boris Baran

China Z6, Kaijian Pan (npc), Zhong Fu, Xiaojing
 Wang, Rongchang Chen, Zijian Shao, Ji
 Hong Hu, Hongjun Xu

Sweden Z1, Tommy Gullberg (N), Anders Morath, Sven
 Ake Bjerregard, Johan Bennet, Anders
 Wirgren, Mats Nilslund, Bjorn Fallenius

USA II Z2, Edgar Kaplan (npc), Nick Nickell, Richard
 Freeman, Bob Hamman, Bobby Wolff, Jeff
 Meckstroth, Eric Rodwell

Venice Cup - Group W

[STANDINGS AFTER ROUND ROBIN - Top 4 Qualify]

1 China 239
 2 Germany 236
 3 USA I 227.1
 4 South Africa 224

 5 Brazil 214
 6 Israel 201.6
 7 Canada 139.5
 8 Colombia 127.8

Group W - Round 13

Team	VP	IMPs	Team	VP	IMPs
China	23	(89)	Brazil	7	(48)
Germany	25	(81)	USA I	5	(28)
Israel	25	(58)	Canada	5	(8)
Colombia	20	(50)	South Africa	10	(24)

Group W - Round 14

USA I	20	(44)	Brazil	10	(20)
China	17	(27)	Germany	13	(18)
South Africa	20	(35)	Canada	10	(13)
Israel	21	(38)	Colombia	9	(11)

Surviving Team Rosters

China Z6, Houzou Tang (npc), Ming Sun, Yi Lan
Zhang, Yi Quian Liu, Hong Li Wang,
Ling Gu, Li Ping Wang

Germany Z1, Klaus Reps (npc), Sabine Zenkel Auken,
Marianne Moegel, Karin Caesar, Beate
Nehmert, Andrea Rauschield, Daniela
von Arnim

South Africa Z4, Di Adrain (npc), Merle Modlin, Petra
Mansell, Ruth Kaplan, Ghita Livingstone,
Bella Axelrod, Ursula Hammerschlag

USA I Z2, Steve Sandborn (npc), Karen McCallum,
Kitty Munson, Rozanne Pollack, Carol
Simon, Sue Picus, Kerri Sandborn

Venice Cup Group E

[STANDINGS AFTER ROUND ROBIN - Top 4 Qualify]

1	France	269
2	USA II	253.5
3	Japan	211
4	Venezuela	209

5	Great Britain	201
6	Australia	191
7	Argentina	169
8	India	155.5

Group E -- Round 13

Team	VP	IMPs	Team	VP	IMPs
France	24	(76)	Great Britain	6	(34)
USA II	21	(55)	Japan	9	(28)
Venezuela	18	(43)	Argentina	12	(27)
India	19	(52)	Australia	11	(34)

Group E -- Round 14

France	18	(51)	USA II	12	(35)
Japan	10	(18)	Great Britain	20	(41)
Venezuela	23	(64)	Australia	7	(25)
Argentina	10	(26)	India	20	(49)

Surviving Team Rosters

France Z1, Max Coppolani (npc), Veronique Bessis,
Catherine Saul, Sylvie Willard, Benedicte
Cronier, Claude Blouquit, Colette Lise

Japan Z6, Akio Kurokawa (npc), Etsuko Miyaishi,
Kyoko Shimamura, Kazuko Banno, Mizuko
Tan, Shoko Fukuda, Zenko Shimada

USA II Z2 Phillip Alder (npc), Mildred Breed,
Amalya Kearse, Jacqui Mitchell, Jo Morse,
Joyce Lilie, Tobi Deutsch

Venezuela Z5, Fida Hirshaut (pc), Ivy Smith, Alexandra
Pointkowski, M. Pacheco, A. Myakuni,
E. Solar

Today's schedule

Marlboro Bermuda Bowl

France vs. South Africa
China vs. Venezuela
United States I vs. United States II
Japan vs. Germany

Marlboro Venice Cup

France vs. China
South Africa vs. Canada
Sweden vs. Netherlands
Indonesia vs. United States II

Appeal Case 4
by Richard Colker

Bermuda Bowl: Colombia (E-W) vs. Sweden (N-S).
Board 5. N/S Vul. Dealer North.

(Morath, Anders)

S T54
H 53
D AKT98653
C --

(Nuez, Juan Manuel)

S A9863
H T4
D ---
C KJ7653

(Robledo, Andres)

S 7
H AKQ87
D 54
C AT942

(Bjerregard, Sven-Ake)

S KQJ2
H J962
D Q72

C Q8

West	North	East	South
	3D (1)	3H	Pass
4H	Dbl (2)	Pass	5D
Dbl	All Pass		

- (1) Alerted as showing a good suit (headed by AK or AQ).
 (2) Alerted by North as requesting a lead of an unusual suit (probably a void).

Committee members: Richard Colker (Chair); Jens Aukem, Jean-Louis Derivery, John Wignall, Jean-Claude Beineix.

Facts: South explained North's double of 4H as takeout, to any suit.

Director's ruling: It was determined that N-S's discrepant explanations constituted an infraction of Law 75. In addition, West had been prepared to play 4H, making no attempt at that stage to bid on, and then claimed he would have bid 6C (prepared to play 6H as well) had he known that North's double showed a side black-suit void.

However, he offered no convincing rationale as to how the correct knowledge would have justified his bidding on. Since no connection was demonstrated between the infraction and N-S's bad result, no score adjustment was made.

Testimony: West stated that had he known the correct meaning of North's double he would have bid 6C over 5D, since East could then be placed with either club or extra heart length. (With side spade rather than club length East would have doubled the first time. With extra heart length he could simply correct 6C to 6H--which would have good play because of East's long heart suit.)

Committee's decision: The Committee found no validity in the inferences West claimed could be drawn from the knowledge that North was void in one of the black suits, nor could it determine any connection between those inferences and his contention that the correct slam could therefore be bid and made. It was therefore decided that the result at the table should stand. The Committee could reach no consensus regarding the merits of N-S's appeal, so their deposit was returned.

Appeal Case 5
 by Richard Colker

Bermuda Bowl: Sweden (N-S) vs. China (E-W).
 Board 16. E/W Vul. Dealer West.
 (Nilsland, Mats)

S 83
 H KJ8
 D J863
 C KT72

(Xu Hong Jun)	(Hu Ji Hong)
S AKQ92	S T6
H --	H T96532
D K9742	D AQ5
C AQ8	C J6

(Fallenius, Bjorn)

S J754

H AQ74

D T

C 9543

West	North	East	South
1S	Pass	1NT (1)	Pass
3D	Pass	3H	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

(1) Forcing.

Committee members: Jos Damiani (Chair), Richard Colker,
Jens Auken, Rebecca Rogers, John Wignall.

Facts: On the North-East side of the screen East's 3H bid was described as "5+ good" (E-W considered a 6-card suit the same as a good 5-card suit). The C5 was won with the ace, a diamond was led to the queen, and the S10 (not covered) overtaken with the ace. Another diamond was then led to the ace, followed by another spade to the king. The SQ was then cashed (North discarding the H8), and a fourth spade led to South's jack (on which North pitched the HJ). The hand was now cold. North claimed he was damaged by the incomplete explanation of E-W's suit requirements for the 3H bid.

Director's ruling: The score stands. N-S appealed.

Testimony: North said that he understood East's explanation of his 3H bid to mean that the suit had to be at least 5-cards in length, but must always be a good one. He therefore decided that East must hold at least H QT9xx, and decided to discard his hearts to make as many tricks in the off suits on defense as possible, rather than playing for an "impossible" set.

Committee's decision: The Committee felt that, although East's explanation did fall short of full-disclosure, North should have asked and/or worked out for himself how to defend the hand correctly. The hand could always be beaten if South held either the CJ or H ATxx(x) by pitching a diamond on the fourth spade. The score at the table was allowed to stand, and the N-S players were cautioned to be more precise in their explanations of their agreements in the future. After some discussion, E-W's deposit was returned.

Indonesia vs. Argentina

This Round 13 Vugraph match was almost all Indonesia. They

held Argentina to only 12 IMPs to score a 23-7 victory to move into second place in Marlboro Bermuda Bowl Group W and guarantee themselves a spot in the quarterfinals. Board 1 was a push, but what a strange push!

Round 13. Board 1. Love All. Dealer North.

	S Q2	
	H A9	
	D J6532	
	C K432	
S AJT3		S K764
H J842		H 763
D Q		D AKT94
C JT87		C 5
	S 985	
	H KQT5	
	D 87	
	C AQ96	

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Monsegur	Sakul	Mooney	Karwur
	Pass	1D	Pass
1H	Pass	1S	Pass
2S	2NT	3D	Pass
4S	All Pass		

This went down two tricks when declarer misguessed the SQ. The Argentines climbed a bit too high. But the contract in the other room was weird.

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Lasut	Lambardi	Manoppo	Lucena
	Pass	Pass	1H
Pass	1NT	2D	All Pass !!

There was Manoppo in a 5-1 trump suit. The defense took the HK, HA, CQ and HQ in rapid succession. The A was ruffed, and declarer took the trump queen. He ruffed a heart and cashed out his winners for down two and a push.

The Argentines took more tricks on Board 2 -- 11 -- but lost 9 IMPs when they failed to get to the notrump game reached by Indonesia. Board 3 was interesting only because of the phenomenally long time it took to complete it on Vugraph.

After Lambardi made the opening lead, Lasut thought and thought. He wound himself up so that he almost looked like a pretzel. Commented Edgar Kaplan, "If it weren't for that finger going, I'd think he was asleep." Eventually the other players got up to wander a bit and they were gone for quite a while. Finally there were four people at the table and the play continued. Lasut made 2S with an overtrick when Argentina played 1NT in the Closed Room and made

exactly seven tricks.

Board 4. Game All. Dealer West.

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                S AJT64
                H T643
                D 65
                C A5
S K982          S --
H J72          H A98
D A7           D T9843
C J64         C KQT92

                S Q53
                H KQ5
                D KQJ2
                C 873

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Lasut was in a difficult 3C contract here, but he brought it home with an excellent play. Lambardi started the defense with the trump ace and another trump. Lasut called for a diamond, and when Lucena played low, he inserted the 7 to hold the trick. Lasut cashed the DA, ruffed a spade and ruffed a diamond. He got back to hand with a heart and drew the last trump. Then he led a diamond to South's king, conceded two hearts, and made his contract. This turned out to be a 6-IMP gain because Indonesia made 3S at the other table.

Mooney made a normal overcall on Board 7, but it cost his side 5 IMPs.

Round 13. Board 7. Game All. Dealer South.

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                S Q96
                H 53
                D AKJ964
                C Q9
S T754          S J2
H 87           H AKQT2
D Q2           D T8753
C 86432       C T

                S AK83
                H J964
                D --
                C AKJ75

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West	North	East	South
Monsegur	Sakul	Mooney	Karwur
			1C
Pass	2D	2H	Pass
Pass	Dbl	All Pass	

This did not fare at all well Mooney took only three tricks to suffer an 800-point set. This represented a loss of 5 IMPs because Argentina made 3NT with an overtrick at the other table.

Argentina ran into serious trouble in the Closed Room on

Board 12.

Round 13. Board 12. N/S Vul. Dealer West.

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

West	North	East	South
Monsegur	Sakul	Mooney	Karwur
Pass	Pass	1S	Dbl
2H	Pass	4S	Pass
5C	Pass	5D	All Pass

Of course Monsegur preferred diamonds, he had three of those and only one spade. But diamonds turned out very badly with the 4-1 split. Repeated club forces meant that declarer lost control and suddenly he found that he had taken only six tricks, down 25-0. This was the bidding at the other table:

West	North	East	South
Lasut	Lambardi	Manoppo	Lucena
2D (1)	Pass	2NT	Pass
3H	Pass	4S	All Pass

Manoppo ruffed the opening club lead, and his only problem was trumps. He elected to cash from the top, and when the queen fell he had his game for a 12-IMP pickup.

Board 13 made an otherwise dull set of boards worthwhile. Manoppo found an excellent defense against 1NT, but Lambardi found an excellent counter to score up his partial.

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

	S A2	
	H K9843	
	D A65	
	C Q32	
S K864		S QT7
H 62		H QJT7
D T987		D KQ4
C K54		C A86
	S J953	
	H A5	
	D J32	
	C JT97	

The auction was simple -- 1H by Lambardi, 1S by Lucena and 1NT by Lambardi. On this hand the play's the thing.

Manoppo led the HQ to the ace, and Lambardi immediately went after clubs, the queen holding. A second club went to Lasut's king, and he accurately shifted to a diamond, Manoppo winning the queen. Manoppo cashed the CA, then made the brilliant shift to the SQ, the play that gives declarer the greatest problem. But Lambardi won the ace and led a second spade, guessing correctly to put in the 9 from dummy to drive out the king.

Lasut made the best return, a diamond, but Lambardi rose with the ace and fired back the 10, putting Manoppo on lead. He got out with a heart to the king, but Lambardi put right back in with the H10. And Manoppo was endplayed, he either had to lead a spade, in which case dummy would take the last two tricks with the two black jacks, or he could lead a heart into declarer's tenace.

Nicely done by both defenders, but especially by Lambardi, the declarer. Indonesia picked up a game swing on Board 15 when the Argentine declarer took an inferior line in 3NT.

Lasut attempted to throw a little sand in his opponents' eyes on Board 17.

Round 13. Board 17. Love All. Dealer North.

	S AQ	
	H K98	
	D QJ98	
	C AKT6	
S 976		S KT852
H AT6		H J4
D K65432		D A7
C 7		C J852
	S J43	
	H Q7532	
	D T	
	C Q943	

Lambardi opened a strong club and Manoppo bid 1H, showing a two-suiter of the same color. Lasut was quite sure his partner's suits were black, but he passed to try to confuse the issue. But Lambardi reopened with 1NT and Argentina would up in 2NT when Lambardi passed his partner's invitational bid.

Board 18 was bizarre, there is no other adjective to describe it.

Board 18. N/S Vul. Dealer East.

S AK6
H T8
D T763
C A974

S Q75	S J832
H J72	H K654
Q 52	D K
C J532	C KQT8
S T94	
H AQ93	
D AJ984	
C 6	

Would you care to guess where this hand was played at each table? First the Closed Room.

West	North	East	South
Monsegur	Sakul	Mooney	Karwur
		1D	Pass
Pass	Dbl	Pass	2H
All Pass			

That's right -- Indonesia was playing in their 4-2 fit. But cards were favorable and Mooney was able to scramble home with eight tricks. Now what about the Open Room?

West	North	East	South
Lasut	Lambardi	Manoppo	Lucena
		Pass	1D
Pass	1S	Pass	2S
Pass	2NT	Pass	3D
Pass	3S !	All Pass	

Now here was Argentina playing a 3-3 fit! The opening lead was the CK, taken by the ace, and declarer immediately took the heart finesse. He cashed the HA, ruffed a heart, ruffed a club, cashed the DA just in case, ruffed a heart and ruffed a club. He scored his ninth trick with the trump ace to gain an IMP on a board where both sides played in a suit with a combined holding of six cards.

Australia v Venezuela (Round 14 Ladies)

Going into the final round of the qualifying stage, only Bermuda Bowl Group W seemed settled. In all the other three groups there were some crucial match-ups to decide who would qualify and who would be flying home early. We chose our main from the one group we have not featured at all to date, Venice Cup Group E.

The position was that France and USA 2 were safely qualified, looking a class above the other teams in the group. Japan was safe so long as they did not get blitzed by Great Britain, while the Brits needed either the aforementioned blitz or a good win over Japan coupled with a very suitable result between the two teams just above them, Australia and Venezuela.

As it turned out, Great Britain beat Japan but only 20-10, so Japan was safe and GB needed a 16-14 Australian win over Venezuela, or possibly a draw when IMP quotient would come

into play. Australia needed to beat Venezuela 17-13, i.e. by 9 IMPs.

 The boards in the first half of this match were very dull but there were still a few small swings. Australia gained 1 IMP on Board 1 then the respective Wests had a decision on the second board. You are vulnerable against not and have to decide whether to open in third seat holding:

S KQT9 H Q9 D J762 C K74.

Ayako Myakuni, for Venezuela, opened 1D and her partner played 2C+1 for +110. Australia's Margaret Bourke passed and passed again when LHO's 1H opening came round to her. 1H also made nine tricks for +140 and 6 IMPs to Venezuela. But Australia had the better of the early running. On Board 3, the Venezuelan North/South pair played 2D on a 4-4 fit, only to find that because they were both 3-3-4-3 there were only the same seven tricks available as the Australian declarer had in 1NT in the other room. 4 IMPs to Australia.

 Then came:

Board 4. Game All. Dealer West.

	S Q87	
	H AJ83	
	D KQ76	
	C A5	
S T		S KJ9432
H T942		H K7
D T832		D A5
C Q972		C K86
	S A65	
	H Q65	
	D J94	
	C JT43	

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Bourke	Hirschaut	Beech	Smith
Pass	1NT	2H	2NT
Pass	3C	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Myakuni	Lusk	Pacheco	Clark
Pass	1H	1S	2H
Pass	Pass	2S	All Pass

In the Open Room, Fida Hirschaut of Venezuela, opened a strong no trump and, after the transfer overcall, heard that her partner had a spade stopper but not four hearts. Obviously, she chose to play 3NT. But East simply had too many entries and Hirschaut had no good source of tricks so

this contract drifted two down; 200. In the Closed Room, Sue Lusk opened 1H and with her essentially balanced hand was happy to defend 2S despite finding a fit. Right she was as 2S had to go one down whatever declarer did; -100 and 7 IMPs to Australia, ahead 12-6.

Board 5. N/S Vul. Dealer North.

	S AJ5	
	H AJT	
	D Q6	
	C 97642	
S 874		S KQ2
H KQ9765		H 84
D J84		D 9752
C 5		C AQJT
	S T963	
	H 32	
	D AKT3	
	C K83	

The Venezuelan North/South pair bid 1C - 1D -1NT - Pass. Margaret Bourke balanced with 2H and was left to play there. Hirschaut led DQ, a great start for the defense, but switched to a low club at trick two. Bourke took dummy's ace and played the CQ, pitching a diamond when Smith ducked. The defense had lost its sixth winner so Bourke chalked up +110.

In the Closed Room, Sue Lusk opened a weak no trump as North and Pacheco made a rather obscure natural overcall of 2C. Myakuni might have converted to 2H but she didn't, perhaps fearing that this would be taken as constructive. 2C was not a success, going two down after a top diamond lead and spade switch to the ace; -100 and 5 IMPs to Australia. Australia gained an overtrick IMP on Board 6 and, after three flat boards, led 18-6 going into Board 10.

Board 10. Game All. Dealer East.

	S J843	
	H A4	
	D T94	
	C KT52	
S T9		S AK7
H KQT2		H J953
D AJ862		D 73
C 86		C AQ94
	S Q652	
	H 876	
	D KQ5	
	C J73	

Lydia Beech, for Australia, opened the East hand a weak no trump and played there, making +150. There was more action in the other room. Morella Pacheco opened 1C, possibly two cards, and rebid 1H over the 1D response. Myakuni raised to

3H and now Pacheco had to decide if she had something extra to justify going for the vulnerable game bonus. She decided she had but, rather than bid 4H, tried 3NT. With two weak doubletons, Myakuni might have gone back to 4H but, a little surprisingly, she passed. 4H is a lot better than 3NT and Pacheco didn't look very enthusiastic when dummy went down. Clark led the S2 to the jack and king and Pacheco attacked hearts. Lusk won the second round and appreciated that with spades breaking something else was needed. She switched to a low club. Declarer now has to go in with the queen and play for the D K Q onside, but she ducked. Clark won the jack and had to switch back to spades to break the contract. But she took the club switch too seriously and returned the suit, after all, if this was the layout why was declarer playing this way? Now Pacheco played on diamonds and emerged with ten tricks and a decidedly lucky 10 IMPs to Venezuela; 16-18.

Board 11. Love All. Dealer South.

	S JT532	
	H AKQJ	
	D -	
	C KJ72	
S Q4		S K76
H 74		H 9853
D KQJ8732		D T54
C 64		C AT8
	S A98	
	H T62	
	D A96	
	C Q953	

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Bourke	Hirschaut	Beech	Smith
			Pass
3D	Dbl	Pass	4D
Pass	4S	All Pass	

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Myakuni	Lusk	Pacheco	Clark
			Pass
3D	Dbl	3NT	Dbl
Pass	Pass	4D	Pass
Pass	4S	All Pass	

Beech passed over 3D doubled and Ivy Smith cuebid, leading to an easy 4S bid for Hirschaut. She ruffed the diamond lead, took a spade finesse, won the heart switch and took a second finesse. That should have led to an overtrick but the record states that she made only ten; +420.

Pacheco decided to get cute over the double, bidding 3NT. She ran, of course, when doubled and Clark passed 4D round to Lusk. She bid 4S, reasoning that partner had not done

anything over 4D so would be fairly balanced with not too much wastage. Lusk took the same line of two trump finesses and made her overtrick for +450 and 1 IMP to Australia.

Australia picked up another overtrick IMP on the next board to lead 20-16; still wide open.

Board 13. Game All. Dealer North.

	S A		
	H Q8		
	D Q9843		
	C AQT83		
S T97643		S KJ8	
H A64		H K52	
D AK7		D 52	
C J		C K9754	
	S Q52		
	H JT973		
	D JT6		
	C 62		

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Bourke	Hirschaut	Beech	Smith
	1D	Pass	Pass
1S	2C	3C	Pass
3S	All Pass		

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Myakuni	Lusk	Pacheco	Clark
	1D	Pass	Pass
1S	2C	3S	Pass
4S	All Pass		

After identical starts, Pacheco raised to 3S while Beech cuebid 3C. I confess that I would only have cuebid 2D as I don't see the East hand as a raise to the three level. But the swing came from the decisions of the respective Wests. Myakuni raised herself to 4S while Bourke settled for 3S. When you consider how much weaker a protective 1S overcall might be, it seems that Myakuni's action was more normal. More to the point, it was also more successful. Both players made ten tricks so Venezuela gained 10 IMPs and the lead; 26-20.

The Venezuelans gained 2 more IMPs on the next board then something rather more substantial.

Board 15. N/S Vul. Dealer South.

S QT9875
H A4
D Q
C AT87

S K3	S A64
H 8762	H Q95
D 6532	D A98
C 964	C QJ32
S J2	
H KJT3	
D KJT74	
C K5	

Both North/South auctions began 1D - 1S - 2D. Hirschaut now bid 3C and Smith had an easy 3NT call. The defense never got their DA so that made +660. Lusk rebid 3S over 2D. The post-mortem made it clear that she intended her bid to be forcing but Clark did not read it that way. She took a long time but finally passed it. Lusk made ten tricks; +170 but 10 IMPs to Venezuela. The lead was up to 38-20.

Board 16. E/W Vul. Dealer West.

S 83	
H KJ8	
D J863	
C KT72	
S AKQ92	S T6
H -	H T96532
D K9742	D AQ5
C AQ8	C J6
S J754	
H AQ74	
D T	
C 9543	

This time it was East/West's turn. Both pairs began 1S - 1NT - 3D. Lydia Beech bid 3H and Margaret Bourke converted to 3NT. At the other table, Pacheco gave preference to 3S and Myakuni raised to game. Smith led a club against 3NT. Beech rose with the ace and played a diamond to the ace then the DQ, getting the bad news. On the second and third diamonds, Smith pitched hearts. The play record suggests a comedy of errors here so I apologize to the players concerned if we have our facts wrong. It seems that declarer gave up a diamond, though the spade finesse looks indicated to me, and North switched to the HK, overtaken. South played a club and now declarer had nine tricks; +400.

Heart leads would cause serious problems in 4S, threatening declarer's trump control, but Lusk guessed to lead a club. Now it was easy for declarer who could win and play ace and ruff a club, play off the top trumps and give up a diamond; +450 and 2 IMPs to Venezuela.

Board 17. Love All. Dealer North.

S JT9653
H K4
D K73
C 54

S AKQ42	S 87
H Q986	H AJ2
D T	D A9852
C 976	C K32
S -	
H T753	
D QJ64	
C AQJT8	

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Bourke	Hirschaut	Beech	Smith
	Pass	1NT	Pass
2H	Pass	2S	Pass
3H	Pass	3S	All Pass

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Myakuni	Lusk	Pacheco	Clark
	2S	Dbl	All Pass

The Australians declared both contracts in the same denomination - rarely a recipe for success. In the Open Room, Fida Hirschaut passed as North and Beech/Bourke had a standard transfer auction to 3S, where the foul trump split doomed Beech to a one trick defeat; -50.

In the Closed Room, Sue Lusk opened 2S as North, described as weak with a five card suit or possibly six poor spades. Pacheco did well to find a double and Myakuni was not hard-pressed to pass. Ace and another diamond was a good start for the defense and Lusk was held to five tricks, three trumps and two clubs; -500 and another 11 IMPs to Venezuela who were coasting. Australia pulled back 6 IMPs on the next board when Smith responded 1S to her partner's 1H opening on:

S KT652 H T D T8765 C 42

Partner's rebid was 3H, which had to fail by one trick. At the other table, Clark passed and Lusk was allowed to make an unnecessary ninth trick in 1H. There was no swing on Board 19, and the match finished on a low note for Australia when Lusk uncharacteristically put a cold 4H on the floor to give Venezuela a further 12 IMPs. All that meant that Venezuela had won by 63-26 IMPs, 23-7 VPs. It looked easy at the end but remember that half-way through the match it was Australia who were qualifying so the Venezuelans could not relax at either table.

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.

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.

Versace followed the latter route and then played for the diamond finesse rather than 3-3 diamonds -- rightly, I thin. A very unlucky minus 11 instead of a plus 11.

Board 10. Game All. Dealer East.

S Q543	
H K93	
D T52	
C T43	
S 92	S J86
H A874	H T52
D K43	D AJ986
C J872	C 95
S AKT7	
H QJ6	
D Q7	
C AKQ6	

With that board preying on his mind, Versace had a chance to create a swing. Both tables reached 3NT by South, with 4S much easier. Lanzarotti led a diamond and beat the contract at once. Fu led a low heart and Versace won the queen, crossed to the SQ and led a diamond to the queen and king!! Can you blame him for continuing with a low heart? 13 IMPs to Italy.

Board 13. Game All. Dealer North.

S 2	
H Q9763	
D A64	
C 9752	
S A64	S QJ983
H AJT4	H 5
D KJ2	D Q873
C QT8	C A63
S KT75	
H K82	
D T95	
C KJ4	

The Italians reached 4S by East, and Shao found the excellent low heart lead. This set up a force and eventually led to a one-trick set. The Chinese played 3NT by West after a Stayman sequence, with Lauria leading a low diamond to the 9 and jack. The SA and a second spade disclosed the bad break -- perhaps Fu should play the S9 on the second round -- but he played the queen and Versace ducked. Now a diamond to the king and ace, a club to the king and a second club followed. Declarer could now make by cashing the top diamond, but he played for the 4-2 break by finessing the 8. Versace simply switched to a heart to the jack and queen, and a club back locked declarer in dummy for down two.

Board 16. E/W Vul. Dealer West.

S T	
H Q872	
D 98762	
C T62	
S A54	S KQ98762
H A3	H KJ954
D AKQJT3	D 5
C K8	C --
S J3	
H T6	
D 4	
C AQJ97543	

This was wild!

West	North	East	South
1C	1D !	1S	5C

6NT Pass ???

Wang took 10 minutes, it seemed, to finally bid 7S. This was a big swing inasmuch as 6D was played at the other table.

This final 13 IMPs led to a 22-8 win for China, moving Italy into fifth place and leaving China in second.

Super Coach!

Who is the best bridge coach in the world? Canada's Eric Kokish must have some claim on this title. He has coached six of the teams taking part in these championships and five have made it through to the knockouts - Canada, China, Indonesia and Netherlands in the Open and China in the ladies. The one team to spoil Eric's perfect record are the Canadian ladies - but watch out for them next year.

Life in the fast lane isn't always a bowl of cherries

Joey Silver of Canada has been turning in "Life in the Fast Lane" articles to the ACBL Daily Bulletins for more than 20 years. Sometimes the gambits work, sometimes they don't. He's tried a couple here in Beijing en route to Canada's first-place finish in its group in the Marlboro Bermuda Bowl. The first deal comes from Round 8.

Round 8. Board 6. E/W Vul. Dealer East.

S T87642

H 64

D 65

C K97

S AQ5

S 9

H QT53

H KJ972

D KQT

D J742

C AT3

C J65

S KJ3

H A8

D A983

C Q842

West	North	East	South
Fallenius	Silver	Nilsland	Kokish
		Pass	1NT (12-14)
Dbl	3H !!	All Pass	

No, that's not a misprint -- it's part of Life in the Fast Lane, Joey Silver style. He decided to steal the opponent's suit, figuring they probably had a game in the suit he bid. He did quite well in his 2-2 fit -- down only five. At the other table Canada got plus 50 for beating 2S, so Canada lost only 5 IMPs.

Here's another example.

Round 9.Board 8. Love All. Dealer West.

```

          S Q
          H AK963
          D K862
          C 984
S J873          S AK9542
H J754          H Q8
D T9           D AQJ
C A32          C 65
          S T6
          H T2
          D 7543
          C KQJT7

```

West	North	East	South
Wang	Silver	Fu	Kokish
Pass	Pass	1C (1)	2C (2)
Dbl	2S !!	All Pass	

- (1) Strong, artificial and forcing.
 (2) Natural.

Once again Silver attempted to steal the opponents' suit, and once again he succeeded. This time he managed to go down only four. Since his teammates bought the hand for a spade partial and made four, the Canadians lost only 1 IMP this time.

Truly, Life in the Fast Lane isn't always a bowl of cherries.

Pummel the Preempt

by Phillip Alder

Most pairs, given a free run, reach the right contract the majority of the time. Enter the preempt, stage right. It's primary aim, of course, is to disrupt the opponents' bidding. However, it is a two-edged sword. Sometimes it interferes with partner's auction; occasionally it bounces the opponents into a good contract they wouldn't have reached under their own steam. So, we all spend time devising countermeasures to this insidious weapon. And, every now and then, the preparation pays great dividends, as in Round 11 at these championships. This was board five:

```

Dlr: North          S T54
Vul: N-S           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	

If you fail to reach 7C, you might expect to loseimps. If you don't even get to 6C, surely you have a loss. And stopping in 5C must cost a bundle. But not, for example, in the Venice Cup match between France and Venezuela. There, the French made 5C plus two in one room and 4D doubled in the other to gain 15imps! Actually, only one pair in the whole tournament reached 7C, Walid El-Ahmady and Ashraf Sadek from Egypt. This was their sequence:

West	North	East	South
Walid		Ashraf	
	3NT (a)	4C (b)	Dbl (c)
Rdbl	4D	4H	Pass
4NT (d)	Pass	5C (e)	Pass
7C	Pass	Pass	Pass

- (a) A four-bid in a minor
- (b) Any major-minor two-suiter
- (c) Pass or correct
- (d) Roman Key Card Blackwood in hearts
- (e) Three key cards

This was an instant claimer for plus 1440. In the other room, this was the auction, with China sitting East-West:

West	North	East	South
	3NT	Pass	4C
Dbl	4D	5D	Pass
5S	Pass	6C	All Pass

Egypt gained 11imps.

Phillip Alder is selling copies of his new book, 'Get Smarter at Bridge', for US \$13 or 110 Yuans. To order, find him as he perambulates nervously around the building (he is the non-playing captain of the USA II Venice Cup team) or drop into the Press Room.

SELF-PROMOTION
By Patrick Jourdain

Pony Nehmert of Germany was one of the few to find the killing defense against this slam from round 11. The match was Germany v. Israel

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

West	North	East	South
Porat-Levy	Nehmert	TzurAlbu	Rauscheid
		1C	Pass
1H	Pass	1S	Pass
2D	Dbl	3C	Pass
3H	Pass	4D	Pass
4NT	Pass	5D	Dbl
6H	Pass	Pass	Pass

West	North	East	South
von Arnim		Auken	
		1S	Pass
2D	Pass	3C	Pass
3H	Pass	4H	All pass

In the German auction Sabine Auken's opening was canape, and the response of 2D was at least invitational in hearts. North led a spade. Daniela von Arnim won, led a low trump finding the bare queen, unblocked the jack, and led a club. North won and led a second spade. Declarer made 12 tricks by throwing the losing diamonds on the clubs and returning with DA to draw the last trump.

Against Ruth Porat-Levy's 6H Pony Nehmert led DQ. Declarer won and at once led a club. Nehmert won, and found the one deadly continuation, a second diamond. Declarer had to ruff this in dummy, and North's ten of trumps was promoted to the setting trick.

Surprise! Surprise!
 By Mark Horton

Bill Pencharz had a simple rule for all the teams which he captained. "It is essential at all times to be lucky!" Do you think this hand for the German women is what he had in mind?

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 A952	
C T8654	

West	North	East	South
Von Arnim		Auken	
Pass	Pass	4NT	Pass
5D	Pass	6H	Pass
Pass	Pass		

Sabine: "Wow, what a hand. If partner has the SA 7H should be cold. Time to ask for specific aces."

Dany: "Sabine has both minors. This hasn't come up for a long time so I hope she has remembered!"

Sabine: "What a pity, Dani has the wrong ace. Still I'm not going to stop short of slam - perhaps she will have something useful in spades."

Dany: "Whoops! She did forget and she thinks I've got the DA."

South: "Let's lead the SA and have a look at dummy."

Sabine: "Looks like I forgot the system. I'd better drop the SK and hope for the best. How am I going to explain this one to the team?"

North: "Well done partner, now just give me my ruff."

South: "So, East thought West had the DA. (Playing the diamond ace). Have I got a surprise for you!"

Sabine: "And have I got a surprise for you!"

(In the other room the contract was also 6H. Andrea Rauscheid also led the SA but she made no mistake at trick two and gave her partner a ruff.)

Grand Bidding
By Mark Horton

This was one of the most talked about hands of the 11th round.

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

Of the 32 pairs who held the East/West cards, only Ashraf Sadek and Walid El-Ahmady of Egypt bid to 7C. This was their auction:

West	North	East	South
El-Ahmady		Sadek	
	3NT	4C	Dbl
Rdbl	4D	4H	Pass
4NT	Pass	5C	Pass
7C	Pass	Pass	Pass

And here is the translation:

4C A major/minor two suiter, at least 5-5
 Rdbl I have clubs
 4H My shortage is in spades
 4NT Roman Key Card Blackwood for hearts
 5C Three key cards
 7C I can count them

STRIPED-TAILED APE STRIKES AGAIN
 By Alan Truscott

The computer played a small joke that was generally overlooked. On board 16 of round 11, East held five spades and seven hearts and could make 6S, on a 5-5 fit, against any lead, and 6H if the defense failed to find a spade lead and ruff.

In the next round, on Board 16, East held seven spades and five hearts.

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 A952	
	C T8654	

It can be seen that East-West are laydown for 7S or 7D, but only four pairs out of 32 got there. Mario Onorati and Alejandro Bianchedi for Venezuela, Bjorn Fallenius and Mats Nilslund for Sweden, and Jorge Barrera and Anton Cahn-Speyer for Colombia got to the obvious 7S. Mark Molson and Boris Baran for Canada got to the less obvious 7D.

Some either-or bids can confuse their users. It might seem unlikely that East would fail to bid spades on this deal, but it happened at one table:

West	North	East	South
2D (1)	Pass	2H (2)	5C
5D (3)	Dbl (4)	Pass (5)	Pass
Pass			

- (1) A two-way bid: either a weak two-bid in hearts, or an Acol two-bid in an unspecified suit.
- (2) A waiting bid to find out what West is up to. The weak two-bid seems unlikely.
- (3) This suggested a very long diamond suit, and a double to show general strength would no doubt have been better.
- (4) North knows that the opposition can make a slam somewhere, so she produces the Striped-Tailed Ape double. If they redouble, you beat a retreat.
- (5) What should East do? Bid spades in the face of a likely misfit? Redouble? She passed and the bidding ended.

That was 1150 to East-West, which was worth 7 IMPs and might have been much more. In the replay East-West reached 6NT.

Mercifully, I will reveal only one name. The Striped-Tailed Ape doubler was Jo Morse of the U.S.A. II team that qualified in the Venice Cup.

*****STB