Marlboro Bermuda and Venice Cup
Beijing, China
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Editor: Henry Francis and Brian Senior

Appeals Committee

Sunday
Jens Auken
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Barbara Nudelman Becky Rogers

Monday
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Jean-Claude Beneix
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Canada vs. South Africa

It wasn't South Africa's day for the first 16 deals of their quarterfinal match against Canada. Almost without exception, whatever South Africa tried failed and whatever Canada attempted worked.

It started quietly -- both teams reached 2 S , and Canada picked up an overtrick IMP. The first major swing occurred on the next deal.

Board 2. N/S Vul. Dealer East.

S KT62
H AT42
D J95
C J5

| S A4 | S 9853 |
| :--- | :--- |
| H Q9 | H 853 |
| D KQ8632 | D 74 |
| C KQ3 | C $\quad$ T862 |

S QJ7
H KJ76
D AT
C A974

Closed Room

| West | North | East | South |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Gower | Gitelman | Convery | Mittelman |

West led a diamond, and Mittelman dislodged the SA. Another
diamond cleared the suit, but Mittelman of course got the hearts right -- he wasn't going to finesse into the hand that was ready to run diamonds. That was 630 to Canada.

Open Room

| West | North | East | South |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Baran | Mansell | Molson | Cope |
|  |  | Pass | $1 N T$ |
| 3D | Dbl | Pass | $3 H$ |
| Pass | 4 H | All Pass |  |

Up to a point, Cope handled this board very well. He won the diamond opening lead and immediately shot back a diamond. He won the CK switch and fired back a second club. He ruffed the third club in dummy and led the DJ, and Molson ruffed with the 8 after considerable thought. Cope over ruffed and led a spade to West's ace, and Baran returned a spade to the jack.

Now came the moment of truth -- what would Cope do in the trump suit? He led to dummy's ace and pondered for a few moments on the way back, finally finessing and losing to the queen -- one down and 12 IMPs to Canada. It seems that Cope had a bit of a hint from Molson's ruff of the DJ. If Molson really had H Q-8-5-3, would he ruff in? Probably not, so probably he did not have the queen.

A huge swing depended on a guess on Board 3. If Mansell guessed right in the heart suit, he would make 180. If he guessed wrong, he would be down 500.

Board 3. E/W Vul. Dealer South.

S 6
H J9643
D AT4
C K962

| S QT974 | S J8 |
| :--- | :--- |
| H Q82 | H AT |
| D Q7 | D KJ952 |
| C 873 | C AJT4 |

S AK532
H K75
D 863
C Q5

| West <br> Baran | North <br> Mansell | East <br> Molson | South <br> Cope <br> Pass |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Pass | Pass | $1 D$ | 1 1S |
| Pass | Pass | Dbl | Pass |
| Pass | $1 N T$ | Dbl | All Pass |

Molson led the SJ, and Mansell led the HK after winning. Molson continued a second spade to Mansell's king, and Mansell led a second heart -- low from West. He was at the crossroads -- it was crucial that he make the right guess.

After some thought he put in the 9, and the hand crashed. Molson won and led the CJ. Mansell won the queen and led a heart. Baran won, cashed three spades and led a club so Molson could take the rest of the tricks. Down three -minus 500. At the other table the Canadians got all the way to $2 N T$, but on a diamond lead they were able to come up with seven tricks and gain 10 IMPs on the board.

Canada picked up another 3 IMPs on Board 4 when South Africa went two off in 2D in the Closed Room and made 1NT in the Open. Board 5 was of interest only because of the tremendously long auction in the Closed Room -- 23 calls -to get to 2 H undoubled.

Board 5. N/S Vul. Dealer North.

S J9
H A43
D QJ764
C J93

| S 8 | S AT743 |
| :--- | :--- |
| H KQ95 | H J62 |
| D KT8 | D 532 |
| C Q7652 | C KT |

S KQ652
H T87
D A9
C A84

| West <br> Gower | North <br> Gitelman | East <br> Convery | South <br> Mittelman |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | Pass | Pass | 1 1S |
| Dbl | Pass | 1 NT | Pass |
| Pass | Dbl | Pass | Pass |
| $2 C$ | Pass | Pass | Dbl |
| Pass | Pass | Rdbl | Pass |
| $2 H$ | Pass | Pass | Pass |

It was the right contract, making exactly two. But it was still a loss of 3 IMPs because Mansell's 1NT was beaten two vulnerable tricks in the Open Room.

South Africa got too high in both rooms on the next deal.

Board 6. E/W Vul. Dealer East.

S 5
H T72
D 197643
C 642

| S K62 | S AQJ874 |
| :--- | :--- |
| H J93 | H 8654 |
| D Q82 | D K |
| C QJ98 | C 73 |

S T93
H AKQ

D AT5
C AKT5

Open Room

| West | North <br> Mansell | East <br> Molson | South <br> Cope |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :--- |
|  | 2 2S | Dbl |  |

(1) Lebensohl.
(2) Forced by 2 NT .
(3) Signoff in diamonds.
(4) I'm far too strong to pass.
(5) I'm going for the game -- with the hand I've got you don't need much.

Cope was almost right -- his hand was almost good enough. But there was no way to avoid losing a trump, a spade or a club as the cards were divided -- one down.

Closed Room

| West | North | East | South |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Gower | Gitelman | Convery | Mittelman |
|  |  | $1 S$ | Dbl |
| 2S | Pass | Pass | Dbl |
| Rdbl | $3 D$ | $3 S$ | All Pass |

There was no way to avoid losing three hearts, two clubs and a diamond, so this contract went quietly down two vulnerable tricks -- 6 more IMPs to Canada.

Canada gained an overtrick IMP on Board 7 and 5 IMPs on 8 by making 1NT in the Open Room and setting 1 H in the Closed Room.

However, Board 7 created amazing results in the two matches involving China.

Board 7. Game All. Dealer South.

S Q6543
H 96
D 9
C J 9743
S AKJ82 S T
H 742
H QT853
D 875
D JT63
C Q8
C T52
S 97
H AKJ
D AKQ42
C AK6

In the Marlboro Bermuda Bowl, China played in $2 S$ doubled
down 1100 in one room and in 5C down 100 in the other for a loss of 15 IMPs to France. It was the other way around in the Marlboro Venice Cup. Venezuela went for 800 in 1S doubled and for 100 in 4 S , which amounted to a 14-IMP gain for China.

Both South Africa and Canada got to 4 S on Board 9, and both went down one for a push. But South Africa finally broke into the scoring column on Board 10, even though it was only a single IMP for making an overtrick in 2S. Canada got back in the plus column by making 5 S in the Open Room while South Africa scored up 3NT in the Closed.

South Africa earned its only big swing of the opening set on Board 12, thanks to some unusual action in the Closed Room.

Board 12. N/S Vul. Dealer West.

S A984
H Q4
D J 73
C AJ52

| S QT6 | S J32 |
| :--- | :--- |
| H KJ953 | H 76 |
| D KT92 | D 864 |
| C 8 | C KQ943 |

S K75
H AT82
D AQ5
C T76
Closed Room

| West | North | East | South |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Gower | Gitelman | Convery | Mittelman |
| Pass | Pass | $1 S$ | Pass |
| $4 S$ | All Pass |  |  |

That's right -- Convery decided it was time to do something drastic, so he psyched $1 S$ on his miserable collection. Gower had no idea his partner was fooling around -- he jumped directly to game. Convery managed to take five tricks, so Canada was plus 250.

Open Room

| West | North | East | South |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Pass | 1 C | Pass | $1 H$ |
| Pass | $1 N T$ | Pass | $3 N T$ |

All Pass

Normal bidding in this room -- and normal play as well. The natural opening club lead was a help to declarer. He ducked a spade and won the spade continuation. Baran rose with the king when declarer led a heart, and declarer guessed correctly to rise with the ace when Baran led a third spade. The diamond finesse lost, but Mansell had nine tricks and South Africa had 8 IMPs.

Board 13, the first to appear on the Vugraph screen, saw EW in both rooms trying to save in 5 H -- which goes down one too many -- but in each case $N-S$ went on to 5 S , duly making for a push.

Canada picked up an overtrick IMP on the next deal, but interest perked up when Board 15 hit the table.

Board 15. N/S Vul. Dealer South.

S 32
H QJ
D 98542
C JT86
S KQ876 S A9
H KT3 H A9865

D - D KQT
C KQ753 C A42
S JT54
H 742
D AJ763
C 9

Open Room

| West <br> Baran | North <br> Mansell | East <br> Molson | South <br> Cope <br> Pass |
| :--- | :---: | :--- | :--- |
| 1C | Pass | 1H | Pass |
| 1S | Pass | 2D | Dbl |
| 2S | Pass | 3 C | Pass |
| 3H | Pass | $3 S$ | Pass |
| 4D | Pass | 4H | Pass |
| 5H | Pass | 6C | All Pass |

Good bidding to a good contract by the Canadians. The diamond opening lead set up a parking place for the possible losing heart, so the only loser was a trump to North -- plus 920. It was a bit different in the other room.

Closed Room

| West <br> Gower | North <br> Gitelman | East <br> Convery | South <br> Mittelman <br> Pass |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :--- |
| 1S | Pass | 2 H | Pass |
| 4H | Pass | 4 NT | Pass |
| 6D | Pass | 7 H | All Pass |

Mittelman led a trump to the queen and ace, and Convery thought he now was going to make a contract that he could not make with any other lead. At trick two he lead another trump and finessed the 10. Curtains!! A huge 14 IMPs to Canada.

The last board of the set saw both teams forced to make a guess at the five level, and at both tables they got it wrong.

Board 16. E/W Vul. Dealer West.

S AT732
H K2
D 84
C T874

S $6 \quad$ S K4
H AQT864 H J5
D QJ53
D K9762
C 96

C KQJ2

S QJ985
H 973
D AT
C A53

The auction was approximately the same at both tables. This was the Open Room bidding:

| West | North | East | South |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Pass | Pass | $1 D$ | 1 S |
| 2H | 4 S | Pass | Pass |
| 5D | Pass | Pass | Dbl |
| All Pass |  |  |  |

The only difference in the Closed Room was that North doubled instead of South. Both declarers suffered two-trick sets for a push. As you can see, $4 S$ didn't have a chance.

In America we'd say that South Africa had a Bad Hair Day. After 16 boards of their 96-deal match, they trailed, 58-9.

Vugraph vibrations

When the results for Board 9 of Round 11 came up on the Vugraph, the room reverberated with the cheers of Chinese fans. Why? Take a look.

Board 9. E/W Vul. Dealer North.

S AJ952
H T72
D A83
C T2
S K64 S T87
H A4
H J9
D 9
D KQT72
C AK87543
C Q96
S Q3
H KQ8653
D J654
C J

The Chinese E-W pair played in $3 N T$ and made it -- plus 600.

But Brazil somehow got to 5NT and were doubled. The Chinese defenders held declarer to just his seven clubs and HA to inflict an 800 -point set. That was one of the biggest swings of the tournament -- 16 IMPs to China. Certainly worth a home-town cheer or two.

The bidding given in problem 1 in "Facts, not Research" in Daily Bulletin \#7 was incorrect. Here repeat problem 1 with the correct bidding.

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 |
| :---: | ---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | 1 H | Pass | 2C |
| Pass | $3 N T$ | Pass | 4 C |
| Pass | 4 D | Pass | 4 S |
| Pass | 5 H | Pass | 6 C |
| All Pass |  |  |  |

West leads the D2. What is your basic plan?

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


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.

In the bidding for the second problem, the footnote should have read, "at least 5-5 in the black suits."

Diamonds both ways

Diamonds were a favorite on Board 1 of 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

This deal was played in diamonds $N$-S several times, the declarers taking five, six, seven or nine tricks according to the defense. But E-W also played in diamonds a couple of times, always making six tricks. Guess all kinds of diamonds are popular.

Deas takes over top spot in world women's rankings

Lynn Deas of the United States, three-time world women's champion, has moved into the \#1 ranking among the World Bridge Federation's women players. Bob Hamman of the United States, a competitor at this tournament with the United States II team, maintained his \#1 ranking among open players --- a position he has held since 1985. Figures released by the WBF show that Deas, who won the Venice Cup in 1987, 1989 and 1991, has 2356 points to 2223 for Sandra Landy of Great Britain, who ranked second. Hamman is one of the few players in the world to have won all three of the major world championship events --- the Bermuda Bowl, the Olympiad and the Open Pairs. The new rankings represent the present strength of players and is accomplished by subtracting $15 \%$ of a player's masterpoints each year -- excluding points won in that year, which remain at 100\%. As a result, players who do not play often will continually lose points. Placement points for overall placings are retained for life. The three WBF ranks, in descending order, are World Grand Master, World Life Master and World Master. The rank of World Grand Master is achieved by accumulating 10 or more WBF placing points (awarded to winners and very high finishers in WBF tournaments and zonal team championships) and winning at least one world title. The rank of World Life Master is achieved by winning 5 or more placing points. These titles
are lifetime. A player who wins 150 WBF masterpoints becomes a World Master but loses this rank if his total falls below 150 as a result of the annual percentage cut of $15 \%$. Here are the leaders and their totals:

| 1 | Lynn Deas | USA | 2356 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 2 | Sandra Landy | Great Britain | 2223 |
| 3 | Kerri Sanborn | USA | 2092 |
| 4 | Bep Vriend | Netherlands | 1951 |
| 5 | Beth Palmer | USA | 1915 |
| 6 | Nicola Smith | Great Britain | 1865 |
| 7 | Pat Davies | Great Britain | 1865 |
| 8 | Judi Radin | USA | 1834 |
| 9 | Kathie Wei-Sender | USA | 1719 |
| 10 | Karen McCallum | USA | 1615 |
| 11 | Sue Picus | USA | 1585 |
| 12 | Carol Sanders | USA | 1530 |
| 13 | Betty Ann Kennedy | USA | 1515 |
| 14 | Sally Horton | Great Britain | 1466 |
| 15 | Jacqui Mitchell | USA | 1333 |
| 16 | Gail Greenberg | USA | 920 |
| 17 | Marisa d'Andrea | Italy | 691 |
| 18 | Luciana Capodanno | Italy | 547 |
| 19 | Dorothy Truscott | USA | 441 |
| 20 | Marisa Bianchi | Italy | 246 |
| Open World Grand Masters |  |  |  |
| 1 | Bob Hamman | USA | 5318 |
| 2 | Eric Rodwell | USA | 4540 |
| 3 | Bobby Wolff | USA | 4293 |
| 4 | Jeff Meckstroth | USA | 4010 |
| 5 | Chip Martel | USA | 3897 |
| 6 | Lew Stansby | USA | 3887 |
| 7 | Gabriel Chagas | Brazil | 3480 |
| 8 | Piotr Gawrys | Poland | 3121 |
| 9 | Herv Mouiel | France | 2736 |
| 10 | Marcelo Branco | Brazil | 2571 |
| 11 | Michel Perron | France | 2387 |
| 12 | Hugh Ross | USA | 2309 |
| 13 | Krzysztof Martens | Poland | 2258 |
| 14 | Paul Chemla | France | 2192 |
| 15 | Michael Rosenberg | USA | 2099 |
| 16 | Peter Weichsel | USA | 2069 |
| 17 | Roberto Mello | Brazil | 1886 |
| 18 | Mike Lawrence | USA | 1831 |
| 19 | Henri Szwarc | France | 1484 |
| 20 | Pedro Paulo Branco | Brazil | 1463 |

## A PAIN IN THE BUTT?

Early on Saturday morning, some journalists in the Press Room were being driven crazy. They were quite unable to think because a person on the roof was hammering with a zeal likely to wake the dead.
"It's not a human being," observed Alan Truscott sourly. "It's not even a humanoid. It's a hammeroid.

USA 11 v Indonesia (Set 3 Open)

Indonesia led USA 11 by 76-60 after 32 boards of their Marlboro Bermuda Bowl quarter-final clash yesterday. For set three I sat down to watch Meckstroth /Rodwell face Lasut/Manoppo and it was all action from the first board to the last.

Board 33. Love All. Dealer North.

S Q975
H 86
D 864
C K653

| S AK2 | S 84 |
| :--- | :--- |
| H KT53 | H AQJ942 |
| D J73 | D AK9 |
| C A74 | C J2 |

S JT63
H 7
D QT52
C QT98

Open Room

| West | North | East | South |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Karwur | Nickell | Sakul | Freeman |
|  | Pass | 1 H | Pass |
| 3NT(i) | Pass | 5 H | Pass |
| $6 H$ | All Pass |  |  |

(i) Good balanced raise

Closed Room

| West <br> Meckstroth | North <br> Lasut | East <br> Rodwell | South <br> Manoppo |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 1NT (3) | Pass | 1C (1) | 1 H (2) |

(1) Strong
(2) Reds or blacks
(3) 8+ balanced
(4) 3-4-3-3
(5) RKCB
(6) No spade control
(7) Two plus HQ
(8) Kings?
(9) One king

Fast or slow, all roads seemed to lead to the poor and doomed slam. The respective declarers ran a lot of trumps at the defenders but both North/Souths discarded accurately. Sakul went two down, trying for an endplay, while Rodwell was only one down; 2 IMPs to USA 11.

The next two boards were flat then along came another bidding test for East/West.

Board 36. Game All. Dealer West.

S AT63
H Q63
D 98743
C 8

| S J974 | S KQ82 |
| :--- | :--- |
| H K7 | H A84 |
| D AK5 | D QT |
| C AKJT | C Q963 |

S 5
H JT952
D J62
C 7542

Open Room

| West <br> Karwur | North <br> Nickell | East <br> Sakul | South <br> Freeman |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 1C | Pas s | 1NT | Pass |
| 2C | Pass | 3C | Pass |
| 3D | Pass | 3S | Pass |
| 4D | Pass | 5C | All Pass |

Closed Room

| West | North | East | South |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Meckstroth | Lasut | Rodwell | Manoppo |
| 2NT (1) | Pass | 3 C (2) | Pass |
| 3D (3) | Pass | 3 H (4) | Pass |
| 3S | Pass | 4NT (5) | Pass |
| 5H (6) | Pass | 6 H (7) | Pass |
| 6NT | All Pass |  |  |

(1) 19-21
(2) Five card majors?
(3) No
(4) Asking for four spades
(5) RKCB
(6) Two, no SQ
(7) Choose 6S or 6NT

Karwur's 1C was strong and 1NT showed 8-13 balanced. 2C was an enquiry and now, I believe, 3 C showed a maximum with four clubs and a second suit. 3D may have asked for the second suit but, frankly I'm guessing. Whatever was going
on, it didn't get the job done. Nickell led ace and another spade so that was +600. Meckstroth's 19-21 2NT opening got his side to slam. Now they both did well, first Rodwell for offering a choice of slams and second Meckstroth for choosing no trump. The lead was a diamond and Meckstroth won in hand to lead a spade to the king. Now he carefully cashed a couple of clubs and found the clue he needed to get the spades right; +1440 and 13 IMPs to USA 11.

```
Board 37. N/S Vul. Dealer North.
    S KT7
                                H 96
                                D AJ652
                                C J87
S 6 S AJ98532
H KQT2 H 875
D KT987 D --
C 932 C KT6
S Q4
H AJ43
D Q43
C AQ54
```

Open Room

| West | North | East | South |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Karwur | Nickell | Sakul | Freeman |
|  | Pass | $3 S$ | Dbl |
| Pass | 3NT | All Pass |  |

Closed Room

| West | North <br> Lasut | East <br> Rodwell | South <br> Manoppo |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Meckstroth |  |  |  |
|  | Pass | $1 S$ | Dbl |
| Pass | 2D | 2 S | Pass |
| Pass | 3D | Pass | Pass |
| Dbl | Pass | $3 S$ | All Pass |

Sakul's pre-empt worked out better than Rodwell's shaded one opening. Though the black suits behaved pretty well, the 5-0 diamond break left Nickell short of tricks in 3NT and Sakul's excellent heart lead left the defense always ahead of the game; -100.

Rodwell opened a very light 1S, Manoppo doubled and now Meckstroth's pass was two way, either normal or possibly a good hand with short spades. When Lasut took the push to 3D, Meckstroth doubled for penalties but Rodwell could not be sure of beating that so ran to 3 S , ending the auction. Rodwell ruffed the diamond lead and played two rounds of trumps.

Manoppo won and led a low heart to dummy's king and Rodwell led the DK to the ace and ruff, then led a second heart.

Manoppo ducked and Rodwell rose with the queen, ruffed a diamond and played a third heart. Manoppo won and played his other heart and Rodwell discarded, forcing Manoppo to lead a club; one down for -50 and 4 IMPs to Indonesia.

Board 38. E/W Vul. Dealer East.

S 9874
H A7
D J6
C QJ952

| S AK53 |  | S QJ6 |
| :--- | :--- | :--- |
| H KT98 |  | H QJ6532 |
| D Q74 |  | D AK32 |
| C AT |  | C -- |
|  |  | S T2 |
|  | H 4 |  |
|  |  | D T985 |
|  |  |  |
|  | C K87643 |  |

Open Room

| West <br> Karwur | North <br> Nickell | East <br> Sakul | South <br> Freeman |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  |  | 1 H | Pass |
| 1S | Pass | 2 D | Pass |
| 3 C | Pass | 3 S | Pass |
| 5 H | Pass | 6 H | All Pass |

Closed Room

| West <br> Meckstroth | North <br> Lasut | East <br> Rodwell <br> 1H | South <br> Manoppo <br> Pass |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 2S | Pass | 4D | Pass |
| 4S | Pass | 5 C | Pass |
| 5H | All Pass |  |  |

When Denny Sakul opened 1H, Franky Karwur chose to go slowly, responding 1S, then using Fourth Suit Forcing. Hearing Sakul's approximate shape, he next made a general slam try of 5 H , which was accepted. There was nothing to the play; +1430. Jeff Meckstroth made game forcing raise in the Closed Room and Rodwell showed his club void. The way forward was unclear to Meckstroth and he chose to bid 4S, RKCB. But the one key card response didn't really solve his problem and he guessed to sign-off in 5H. Wrong; 13 IMPs to Indonesia.

Board 39. Game All. Dealer South.

S K7
H QT62
D K
C KQT632

| S A964 | S QT52 |
| :--- | :--- |
| H A75 | H 9 |
| D 985 | D AQT764 |
| C J87 | C A4 |

S J 83
H KJ843
D J32
C 95

Open Room

| West <br> Karwur | North <br> Nickell | East <br> Sakul | South <br> Freeman <br> Pass |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Pass | 1 C | 1 D | 1 H |
| 1 S | 2 H | 3 S | Pass |
| 4 S | All Pass |  |  |

Closed Room

| West <br> Meckstroth | North <br> Lasut | East <br> Rodwell | South <br> Manoppo <br> Pass |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Pass | 2C | 2D | Pass |
| 3C | Dbl | $3 S$ | Pass |
| 4S | All Pass |  |  |

Both East/Wests reached the thin game but could they make it? Effectively, the defense began the same way, once with a top club lead from North, once with a club from South to the jack, queen and ace. Both declarers led a spade to the ace and a second spade to the king. Both Norths played two more rounds of clubs to promote the SJ and there was a diamond to come; one down and no swing. Declarer has to lead the S10 and run it. Now he can ruff the third club with the queen and finesse the S9. It's a plausible play, given the likely club position, but not obvious.

Board 40. Love All. Dealer West.

|  | S Q42 |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | H JT98764 |  |
|  | D T7 |  |
|  | C Q |  |
| S AK97 |  | S 83 |
| H AK52 |  | H Q |
| D K |  | D QJ43 |
| C AKT5 |  | C J97432 |
|  | S JT65 |  |
|  | H 3 |  |
|  | D A98652 |  |
|  | C 86 |  |

In the Open Room, Karwur opened 2NT, 22-23, and Sakul bid 3S, transfer to 3NT, then passed that contract. Karwur made all thirteen tricks for +520 . In the Closed Room,

Meckstroth opened a strong club and Lasut made a weak jump overcall of 2 H . Rodwell doubled, 8+ balanced or any 6-7, and Meckstroth passed it out. Rodwell led a spade and Meckstroth dealt him his ruff but that was with a trump trick and Lasut's diamond loser went on the fourth spade; one down for -100 and 9 IMPs to Indonesia. Neither East/West pair could be that impressed with their result with 6C and 6NT cold their way.

Board 42. Game All. Dealer East.

S Q3
H 9854
D 832
C AQJT
S J9842 S T7
H Q72 H KT63
D AK4 D QT76
C $96 \quad$ C K75
S AK65
H AJ
D J 95
C 8432

Open Room

| West <br> Karwur | North <br> Nickell | East <br> Sakul | South <br> Freeman |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  |  | Pass | 1 C |
| Pass | 1 H | Pass | 1 S |
| Pass | 2 C | All Pass |  |

Closed Room

| West <br> Meckstroth | North <br> Lasut | East <br> Rodwell | South <br> Manoppo |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Pass | 1H | Pass | Pass |

Freeman's 1C might have been three cards but the 1 S rebid made 2C Nickell's best option anyway. 2C was a comfortable make; +90. Manoppo's 1D was Precision and Lasut had no knowledge of a club fit even had he been able to bid 2C to play. Rodwell led a diamond against 1NT and Meckstroth played three rounds of the suit. Now Rodwell found the killing heart switch without cashing the thirteenth diamond. Lasut won the ace and took the club finesse and Rodwell underled his hearts to Meckstroth's queen. A heart back meant two down; -200 and 7 IMPs to USA 11.

Board 43. Love All. Dealer South.

S QJT983
H T4
D Q

| S -- | S K62 |
| :--- | :--- |
| H QJ9865 | H AK2 |
| D J5432 | D A96 |
| C T6 | C K752 |

S A754
H 73
D KT87
C A93

Open Room

| West <br> Karwur | North <br> Nickell | East <br> Sakul | South <br> Freeman <br> Pass |
| :---: | :---: | ---: | :---: |
| Pass | $3 S$ | $3 N T$ | Dbl |
| 4H | Pass | Pass | 4 S |
| 5D | Pass | $5 H$ | All Pass |

Closed Room

| West <br> Meckstroth | North <br> Lasut | East <br> Rodwell | South <br> Manoppo <br> Pass |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 3D | Pass | 4 H | All Pass |

Do you open the West hand? Meckstroth did, with a transfer pre-empt, and Rodwell jumped to 4 H . Karwur did not open but now felt obliged to bid twice as the auction developed, getting his side too high.

Against 5H, the lead was the $D Q$ and declarer had no problem picking that suit. With the CA offside, Karwur was one down; -50.

A trump was led against Rodwell's 4 H . He won and drew a second round then led a low diamond off the dummy to the queen, ace and eight. Manoppo followed smoothly with the seven on the next diamond and Rodwell went into the tank.

If the CA was offside, he had to get this right; D K Q with North was quite possible, making a second round duck correct. Was he convinced by the echo from South, by restricted choice considerations, or just by gut feeling?

Whatever the reason, Rodwell put up dummy's jack and made his game; +420 and 10 IMPs to USA 11. Meckwell had a bidding misunderstanding on the next board, playing in a silly 3-2 fit for five down, but the normal game was one down at the other table so that was only 5 IMPs away.

The next deal saw a more serious blow to American hopes.
Board 45. Game All. Dealer North.

S A94
H 9
D JT654

| S K6 | S Q872 |
| :--- | :--- |
| H QJ743 | H AKT86 |
| D 87 | D AQ32 |
| C A753 | C -- |

S JT53
H 52
D K9
C K9842

## Closed Room

| West <br> Meckstroth | North <br> Lasut | East | Rodwell |
| :---: | :--- | ---: | :--- | | Manoppo |
| :---: |

1C was strong and 1H showed both red suits. Hearts were quickly agreed and Meckstroth cuebid 3S. Rodwell's 3NT said he had a serious slam try and, after an exchange of cuebids, $4 S$ was RKCB. Rodwell showed 0 or 3 key cards and Meckstroth jumped to slam.

6H needs little more than the diamond finesse but this was not the Americans' lucky day; -100. In the other room, East/West bid $1 \mathrm{H}-4 \mathrm{H}$-Pass to gain 13 IMPs for Indonesia. On the next board, Rodwell opened a 3-3-5-2 10-count and reached a 23 -point $3 N T$ which made when South made his normal lead. On a double dummy lead it would be beaten. Not surprisingly, the Indonesians didn't reach that one so USA 11 picked up 7 valuable IMPs.

Board 15 was a flat North/South game and the set ended with Rodwell again in game while his counterpart played in partscore.

Board 48. E/W Vul. Dealer West.

S A8
H 8754
D QT43
C Q87

| S T965 | S KJ73 |  |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| H Q32 | H A |  |
| D 82 | D K976 |  |
| C AT64 | C | KJ92 |

S Q42
H KJT96
D AJ5
C 53

| West | North | East | South |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Karwur | Nickell | Sakul | Freeman |
| Pass | Pass | 1D | $1 H$ |
| Pass | $2 H$ | Dbl | Pass |
| 2S | All Pass |  |  |

Closed Room

| West | North | East | South |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Meckstroth | Lasut | Rodwell | Manoppo |
| Pass | Pass | 1 D | 1 H |
| Dbl | 2 H | 4 S | All Pass |

1D was Precision at both tables. Karwur didn't think he had enough for a negative double but Sakul was maximum so doubled $2 H$ for takeout and Karwur declared $2 S$. He got a heart lead to dummy's ace and led a low diamond at trick two. This ran to Nickell's ten and he switched to a club, solving declarer's problem in that suit. Karwur lost two spades, two diamonds and a club ruff; +110.

Meckstroth scraped up a negative double in the Closed Room and Rodwell made the aggressive leap to 4S. I'm sure he knew this was a stretch before he saw dummy; after he saw it he was even more certain.

Manoppo led a heart and Rodwell won and led the C9 to dummy's ten. Lasut switched to a low diamond for the king and ace and Manoppo returned the DJ, overtaken by Lasut to play a club. Rodwell won in dummy to run the S10 to the queen. There was the $S A$ and a club ruff to come. When the smoke had cleared, Rodwell was three down; -300 and 9 IMPs to Indonesia.

The Indonesians won the set by 53-39 to lead 129-99 at the half-way point. Meckwell had managed one or two good results, but I suspect they were pleased to be only -14 on the set.

Watching on the Internet
by Matthew Granovetter, Israel

A typical discarding problem arose in a Venice-Cup match between China and South Africa.

Round 8. Board 14. Love All. Dealer East.

> S A96

H AJ943
D J 9
C 432
S Q853 S JT2

H K862 H 75
D KQ2 D T875
C Q8 C K965
S K74

D A643
C AJT7

| West | North | East | South |
| :---: | ---: | :---: | :---: |
| Mansell | Zhang | Modlin <br> Gu | Pass |
| Pass | 2 N | Pass | 2H |
| Pass | 3NT | All Pass |  |

The opening lead of the S3 went to the king, and Gu led the HQ, which held, and she overtook the H10 with the jack.

When she cashed the HA, East had to pitch. Unwilling to throw a spade, which might block things up there, she threw a club, and that produced three club tricks for declarer and her contract.

The only clue East has is the signals by West on the first two rounds of hearts. It appears that with the 8-6-2 spots available, West can tell East what to keep. The 8-spot, however, may be important if declarer holds Q-7-5, so only the 6 and 2 are truly "available" for signaling. "Switch in Time" methods are to give suit-preference after trick one when following suit to declarer's lead.

Thus, West would high-low in hearts to indicate spade preference or diamond preference if spades are not in the picture. Even playing Smith Echo, this is a situation where all the players know the spade position, so Smith Echo should be "toggled off" and the 6-2 echo should say: "I have better diamonds (perhaps even "longer" diamonds) than clubs.

## 2 Israel festivals

Israel will be host to two bridge festivals within the next few months.

The first will be the Red Sea International Bridge Festival in Eilat from Nov. 27 to Dec. 3. The schedule: two-session IMP Pairs, three-session Open Pairs and two-session Open Teams. Direct inquiries to David Birman, 50 Pinkas St., Tel Aviv 62261, Israel; Phone 972-3-605-8355; fax 972-3-546-5582.

The second will be the 30th Israel Bridge Festival at the Ramada Continental Hotel in Tel Aviv Feb. 15-24. A full set of events in planned, including Mixed Teams, Individual, Women's Pairs, Men's Pairs, IMP Pairs, Mixed Pairs, Open Pairs, Swiss Teams and Regional Simultaneous Pairs. The contact person again is David Birman.

Li Tieying, state councillor of the People's Republic of China with Vice Premier Minister ranking, was made an Honorary Member of the World Bridge Federation. The honor
was conferred by Jose Damiani, president of the WBF.

Sweden vs. Netherlands

When Boards 33 to 48 of the quarterfinals came into play, it was Sweden and the Netherlands on the Vugraph screen. Netherlands carried forward an 81-55 lead from the first 32 boards. But the Dutch were no longer in the lead after Board 48. Sweden erased 11 points from the lead on the very first board.

Board 33. Love All. Dealer North.

S Q975
H 86
D 864
C K653
S AK2 S 84
H KT53 H AQJ942

D J73 D AK9
C A74 C J2
S JT63
H 7
D QT52
C QT98

## Closed Room

| West <br> Kirchoff | North <br> Morath | East <br> Maas | South <br> Bjerregard |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | Pass | 1 H | Pass |
| 2C | Pass | 2 NT | Pass |
| 3C | Pass | 3 S | Pass |
| 4C | Pass | $4 D$ | Pass |
| 4NT | Pass | $5 S$ | Pass |
| 6H | All Pass |  |  |

Kirchoff and Maas got a trifle too high on this one, losing a diamond and a club. Fallenius and Nilsland had a more restrained auction.

| West | North | East | South |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Fallenius | Westra | Nilsland | Leufkens |
|  | Pass | 1H | Pass |
| 2NT | Pass | $3 C$ | Pass |
| 3D | Pass | $3 H$ | Pass |
| 4H | All Pass |  |  |

Nilsland took the same 11 tricks to pick up a quick 11 IMPs. But 9 went back to the Dutch on the very next deal.

Board 34. N/S Vul. Dealer East.

S A32
H A3
D 98
C AJ8764

| H Q52 | H J764 |
| :--- | :--- |
| D AKT7543 | D J |
| C - | C Q952 |

S QJ7
H KT98
D Q62
C KT3

In the Open Room Fallenius preempted 3D in third seat and was allowed to play it there. The defense made short work of this. Westra started by cashing the HA and continuing a heart to the king. He got his ruff and switched to the CA, ruffed. Fallenius cashed his top trumps and still had to lose a trump and the SA -- down 2.

At the other table Bjerregard opened 1C as South, and after Kirchoff jumped to 3D, Morath leaped to game in clubs. This suffered a two-trick defeat.

Board 4 was a major swing in every match -- perhaps the wildest deal of the tournament to date.

Board 36. Game All. Dealer West.

S AT63
H Q63
D 98743
C 8

| S J974 | S KQ82 |
| :--- | :--- |
| H K7 | H A84 |
| D AK5 | D QT |
| C AKJT | C Q963 |

S 5
H JT952
D J 62
C 7542

Open Room

| West | North | East | South |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Fallenius | Westra | Nilsland | Leufkens |
| 1C | Pass | $1 H$ | Pass |
| 1NT | Pass | $2 N T$ | Pass |
| 3C | Pass | $3 D$ | Pass |
| 3? | Pass | $3 N T$ | Pass |
| 4D | Pass | 4NT | Pass |
| 6C | All Pass |  |  |

As was pointed out by the Vugraph commentators, 6C was played from the right side. It would have been easy for South to find the singleton lead, but it isn't so easy for North to find the SA lead. As a matter of fact Westra didn't -- he led a diamond. That was it -- Fallenius drew trumps , guessed spades and claimed his contract.

Closed Room

| West | North | East | South |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Kirchoff | Morath | Maas | Bjerregard |


| $1 C$ | Pass | $1 S$ | Pass |
| ---: | :--- | ---: | :---: |
| $2 N T$ | Pass | $3 C$ | Pass |
| $4 C$ | Pass | $4 N T$ | Pass |
| $5 H$ | Dbl | $6 S$ | All Pass |

South led the HJ, and declarer immediately went after trumps. He led the queen, and when this was ducked, he followed up with the king. One down and 16 IMPs to Sweden.

The other swings on this deal were 13, 16 and 13 in the Marlboro Bermuda Bowl and 13,13, 17 and 12 in the Marlboro Venice Cup.

Board 37. N/S Vul. Dealer North.

S KT7
H 96
D AJ652
C J 87

| S 6 |  |  | S AJ98532 |  |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| H KQT2 |  |  | H 875 |  |
| D KT987 |  |  | D | -- |
| C 932 |  |  | C KT6 |  |
|  |  | S Q4 |  |  |
|  |  | H AJ43 |  |  |
|  |  | D Q43 |  |  |
|  |  | C AQ54 |  |  |

The Swedes played in game at both tables, going down each time. In the Open room Nilsland preempted $4 S$ and failed by two tricks. In the Closed Room Maas bid only 3S, and Morath came in with $3 N T$ in the passout seat. He suffered a onetrick setback, so 5 IMPs went to the Netherlands.

Board 38 was a push at 6 H , but Westra thought long and hard about saving in 7C. It would have been a worthwhile save -down 1100 would have been an $8-I M P$ gain. There was a very strange push in the Venezuela-China match -- 7H doubled down one. The setting trick was the ace of trumps!

It appeared that Morath had set up a big gain for Sweden on Board 39, but it didn't work out that way.

Board 39. Game All. Dealer South.

S K7
H QT62
D K
C KQT632

| S A964 | S QT52 |
| :--- | :--- |
| H A75 | H 9 |
| D 985 | D AQT764 |
| C J87 | C A4 |

S J83
H KJ843
D J32
C 95

In the Closed Room Morath bid 2 C in third seat and bought the hand, making exactly two. It's clear that $E-W$ can make some spades, and Fallenius and Nilsland actually got to game.

| West <br> Fallenius | North <br> Westra | East <br> Nilsland | South <br> Leufkens <br> Pass |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Pass | 1 C | 1 D | 1 H |
| Dbl | 2 H | 3 S | Pass |
| 4 S | All Pass |  |  |

Leufkens got off to the best opening lead -- the C 9 to the 10 and ace. Now Nilsland had to play the spades the right way or he was going down. He played them wrong for the lie, going to the ace and leading a second to North's king. Westra cashed the CK and gave his partner a ruff for the setting trick.

If Nilsland had led to the HA and led a spade toward his queen, not too likely a play, he would have succeeded. As it was, the board was a push.

Board 40. Love All. Dealer West.

S Q42
H JT98764
D T7
C Q

| S AK97 | S 83 |
| :---: | :---: |
| H AK52 | H Q |
| D K | D QJ43 |
| C AKT5 | C J97 |

S JT65
H 3
D A98652
C 86

Both teams missed the slam here, stopping in 3NT and making six. But a surprising thing happened in the Canada-South Africa match. Canada did well to get to 6C -- but they lost 13 IMPs despite making the slam! In the other room, Canada played in 4 S doubled $\mathrm{N}-\mathrm{S}$ and suffered a 1700-point set! In the China-France Marlboro Bermuda Bowl match, both teams did well -- they pushed the board with 920 each at 6C.

The Dutch got too high on Board 41 and suffered a two-trick set at 4 S . Sweden stopped in 3 S and made it when the defense slipped for an 8-IMP gain.

Board 43 was a milestone for Sweden -- they finally pulled into the lead.

Board 43. Love All. Dealer South.

H T4
D Q
C QJ84
S - S K62
H QJ9865 H AK2
D J 5432 D A96
C T6 C K752
S A754
H 73
D KT87
C A93

| West <br> Fallenius | North <br> Westra | East <br> Nilsland | South <br> Leufkens <br> Pass |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 3H | Pass | 3NT | Pass |
| 4 H | All Pass |  |  |

The opening lead of the $D Q$ went to the ace and Fallenius drew trumps. A diamond now brought the king from South and Fallenius had his game. But did you notice the N-S cards? With the SK and the CK onside and the C10 doubleton, 4S looks like a make. That's where Morath and Bjerregard arrived, and they made the game for a huge 13-IMP swing to Sweden. China in the Marlboro Bermuda Bowl also achieved a double-game swing on this deal against France.

The Dutch got all 13 back on Board 47 (this result was already in the books when Sweden went ahead because Board 13-16 are played early).

Board 47. N/S Vul. Dealer South.

S K6
H KT97
D AT93
C Q87
S AJ9732 S 854
H 54 H QJ8
D K8 D QJ7652
C $964 \quad$ C 2
S QT
H A632
D 4
C AKJT53

Open Room

| West | North | East | South |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Fallenius | Westra | Nilsland | Leufkens <br> 1 C |
| 2S | Dbl | 3 S | 4 H |
| All Pass |  |  |  |

The play was routine, declarer making 11 tricks, losing only a trump and the SA. But this was the auction in the Closed Room:

Closed Room

| West | North | East | South <br> 2 C |
| :---: | :--- | :--- | :---: |
|  |  |  | 4 H |
| 2 S | Dbl | 3 D | Pass |
| 4 S | 5 D | Dbl | Pas |
| Pass | 5 H | Pass | 6 H |
| All Pass |  |  |  |

Clearly declarer had to lose the same two tricks, so that was 13 for the Dutch.

On the final board of the set, the Dutch got too high and went down three tricks in a spade game. At the other table the Dutch bought the hand for 2 , making, but that was another 5 IMPs for Sweden.

So at the halfway mark of the match, Sweden had taken over the lead, 110-105.

> Chinese women in semifinal; three matches are still close

One quarterfinal match is over -- the Chinese women have advanced to the semifinal of the Marlboro Venice Cup as a result of the withdrawal by Venezuela. China skyrocketed ahead by 77 in the first 16 -board segment and added 40 in the second. They made further gains in the third and fourth and had outdistanced the South Americans by 159 IMPs by the end of the day.

Two Marlboro Bermuda Bowl matches and one Marlboro Venice Cup battle still are very much in doubt. The closest match is in the women's championship -- the clash between the two American teams. Going into the last two boards, U.S. II had a 35-point lead, but U.S. I closed out the set with two major swings, reducing the margin to only six, 166-159.

The United States, down 30 to Indonesia after 48 boards, staged a mild comeback to close to within 15 IMPs, 158-143. And the match that transfixes the Vugraph audience -- China vs. France -- is a real dogfight. China got off to an 11point lead over the first 16 and added 10 in the second. France picked up seven in the third, but China added four in the fourth in a see-saw battle of IMPs. Going into today's final 32 deals, China leads, 143-125.

Canada came out with guns blazing against South Africa. Canada scored 50 IMPs before South Africa got on the scoreboard -- and then they scored only a single IMP. South Africa made a mild comeback, but all the swings at the end of the fourth session went to Canada. The Canadians are solid favorites with a 70-IMP lead.

Netherlands vs. Sweden was very close for most of the day. Sweden took the lead at the beginning, then Netherlands surged ahead. At the halfway mark Sweden was out front by five, but the Dutch closed in again in the fourth segment.

The late boards all went to Sweden, however, making the Swedes odds-on with a 176-123 lead.

Germany and France appear comfortable in their Marlboro Venice Cup matches. Germany, down five after the opening set, came back with a 44-8 set and continued strong, taking a 49-IMP lead. France and South Africa were virtually even for the first 32 boards, but the roof fell in on the South Africans in the third segment -- France gained 50 IMPs. France now holds an almost insurmountable 76-IMP lead.

## France v China (Set 2 Open)

China led 54-43 after the first set and 77-56 after the second. The boards were not very lively and there was also some excellent tight bridge, hence the low IMP turnover. China had tacked on 4 IMPs in bits and pieces when the first lively deal came along.

Board 21. N/S Vul. Dealer North.

|  | S T3 |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | H KJ5 |  |
|  | D KQ4 |  |
|  | C A9632 |  |
| S K98654 |  | S AJ7 |
| H AQ97 |  | H T8632 |
| D 752 |  | D T963 |
| C -- |  | C 4 |
|  | S Q2 |  |
|  | H 4 |  |
|  | D AJ8 |  |
|  | C KQJT875 |  |

Open Room

| West | North | East | South |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Wang | Perron | Fu | Chemla |
|  | 1 C | Pass | 1 D |
| 1S | Pass | 2 S | 3 S |
| 4S | $4 N T$ | Pass | 6 C |
| All Pass |  |  |  |

Closed Room

| West | North | East | South |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Soulet | Hu | Reiplinger | Xu |
|  | 1 C | Pass | 2 C |
| 2S | 3 C | 3 S | 5 C |
| All Pass |  |  |  |

It is unrealistic to expect South to stop short of game once he hears his partner open the bidding, especially when that opening is 1C, albeit a possible short suit in a weak no trump type. Hu/Xu had the advantage of an inverted club raise so South did not have to distort his hand with his
first response. Xu made the obvious bid on the second round and the defense quickly took their three winners for one down; -100.

Chemla did not have a forcing club raise so invented a diamond response then cuebid on the next round. The winning action for Perron was to double 4 S but that was difficult. He had a diamond fit and Chemla sounded to be shapely as a more balanced type could just have doubled 2 S. 4NT offered a choice of minor suit games but, despite his bad spade holding, Chemla's mind was in bigger things.

Fu Zong led the SA against 6C and Wang Xiao was taking no chances that declarer might be 1-3-4-5. He dropped th e SK under the ace, clearly demanding a heart switch, which duly came. An intelligent way to avoid gaining 3 IMPs, don't you agree? No swing.

The biggest Chinese gain came on Board 26.

Board 26. Game All. Dealer East.

S 953
H KT65
D Q62
C 752

| S KT6 | S 874 |
| :--- | :--- |
| H AJ982 | H Q |
| D A93 | D KJ7 |
| C K8 | C AT964 |

S AQJ2
H 743
D T854
C QJ

Both Wests opened 1 H in third seat and the respective Easts bid 1NT. Reiplinger's 1NT was natural and non-forcing while Fu's was forcing, Precision style. Soulet passed while Wang made the aggressive 2NT rebid, promptly raised to game by Fu.

I can't actually see why a passed hand cannot afford to make a 2 C response as partner can hardly expect more than this, but perhaps both pairs play some form of Drury?

Reiplinger made eleven tricks in 1NT; +210. in 3NT, Fu received the lead of the CQ from Chemla, not that it made much difference. He won the CK and led low to the ace, cashed the C10 then took the heart finesse. Perron won and played back a diamond to the ten and ace. Fu cashed the heart winners then played a diamond to the king: ten tricks and +630 . 9 IMPs to China.

Board 30. Love All. Dealer East.
S QJ85

H 832
D AK
C A972

| S 72 | S A963 |
| :---: | :---: |
| H 94 | H AK7 |
| D QJ8764 | D T9 |
| C QJ5 | C T864 |

S KT4
H QJT65
D 532
C K3

In the Closed Room, the Chinese North/South pair were given a free run and stopped safely in $2 H$. Soulet led his doubleton spade and Reiplinger defended accurately to give him his ruff; +140. In the Open Room, Wang opened 3D in third seat. This was passed round to Chemla (South), who protected with 3 H , raised to game by Perron. Here, the lead was more critical and Wang did not disappoint the large home contingent in the Vugraph theatre. He also led a spade and shortly afterwards Chemla was one down; -50 and 5 IMPs to China.

The one significant French gain came on the final board of the set.

Board 32. E/W Vul. Dealer West.

S T7
H KT7
D AQT32
C JT2

| S KJ84 | S AQ32 |
| :--- | :--- | :--- |
| H A65 | H QJ |
| D J84 | D 97 |
| C AQ9 | C 87543 |

S 965
H 98432
D K65
C K6

In the Open Room, Wang opened 1NT, 13-15, and played there, making exactly; +90. Soulet also opened 1NT, but there was an important difference. His range was $15-18$ so it was normal for Reiplinger to move. He used Stayman and raised the $2 S$ response to game. A diamond lead and heart switch through the ace would defeat 4 S but that is a real double dummy lead. In practice, Hu led CJ and Soulet could establish the clubs for heart pitches so lost just one club and two diamonds; +620 and 11 IMPs to France - and all because of differing no trump ranges.

That's Teamwork

Eric Kokish is not only a man with a specific convention for every situation, he makes sure his teammates are similarly prepared. So when Canada met USA 11 in Round 11,

Boris Baran and Marc Molson were primed for action.

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 3962
D Q72
C Q8

Most East/Wests had real problems after 4D - 4H - 5D. Many pairs defended 5D doubled for +200, while USA 11 did reasonably well to record +440 in 5 C . But for Canada:

| West <br> Baran | North | East | South |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | Molson |  |  |
| 4NT (3) | Pass | 4C (2) | Pass |
| 6C 4) | All Pass | Pass |  |

(1) Pre-empt in a minor
(2) Hearts and a minor
(3) Slam try
(4) Minimum with clubs

Baran had no way to investigate his partner's precise holding and settled for the small slam. Although thirteen tricks were available, it was still 11 IMPs to Canada.

There have been some questions as to how to interpret part 5.1 of the supplemental conditions of contest. Let me try to how it should be understood. Using the Venice Cup as an example. The winners of China v Venezuela and France v South Africa cannot meet each other. If both the winners of these matches could meet opponents they did not play in the round-robin stage in the semi-finals then they will do so. If that is not possible, or still leaves a choice but there is only one group winner left, that team may choose its semi-final opponent. If even that is not possible, which means that both group winners plus two other teams from the same group have survived, then there will be a draw to decide which group winner will play which of the other two teams. Ton Kooijman

Italy needed a big win in their final qualifying match if they were to have a chance of making the knockout stages. Board 2 was just the tonic they needed.

Board 2. N/S Vul. Dealer East.

S J5
H AK862
D AQ98
C A9

| S KQT9 |  |  | S A64 |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| H Q9 |  |  | H T75 |
| D J762 |  |  | D K3 |
| C K74 |  |  | C QJ865 |
|  | S 8732 |  |  |
|  | H | J43 |  |
|  |  | D T54 |  |
|  |  | C T32 |  |
|  |  |  |  |


| West | North | East | South |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :--- |
| Lanzarotti | Meckstroth | Buratti | Rodwell |
|  |  | Pass | Pass |
| 1NT | Dbl | Pass | Pass |
| Rdbl | All Pass |  |  |

A top heart lead will produce +600 for the defense while a low heart lead, as Meckstroth discovered, generates -560.

Board 8. Love All. Dealer West.

S AKQ8
H KQJT6
D QT2
C 6

| S J952 |  |  | S T63 |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| H 42 |  |  | H 83 |
| D KJ93 |  |  | D A75 |
| C 974 |  |  | C AKJT8 |
|  |  | S 74 |  |
|  |  | H A975 |  |
|  |  | D 864 |  |
|  |  | C Q532 |  |
|  |  |  |  |

Board 8 was an exciting push. In the Closed Room, Versace played 4 H from the South seat on a club lead. Hamman did his best by winning and leading a low diamond to the king but Versace could guess the layout of the suit when Wolff continued it. By contrast, Lanzarotti did very well to give himself a chance when Meckstroth was declarer from North.

| West | North | East | South |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Lanzarotti | Meckstroth | Buratti | Rodwell |
| Pass | 1 C | Pass | 1D |
| Pass | 1 H | 2C | $3 H$ |
| Pass | 4 H | All Pass |  |

Lanzarotti led a top club and also found the low diamond switch. Now, when Buratti continued diamonds, Meckstroth got it right. Perhaps he thought that with the ace and king Buratti would have cashed them both? Board 13 was critical for USA 11's chances. Without a pick-up on this hand, the USA team was heading for an 11-19 or 12-18 loss, and Brazil would be heading for the quarter-finals.

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 |  |  | K9754 |

S Q52
H JT973
D JT6
C 62

Open Room

| West | North | East | South |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Lanzarotti | Meckstroth | Buratti | Rodwell |
|  | 1D | Pass | 1H |
| 1S | 2C | Dbl | 2D |
| Dbl | Pass | $2 S$ | Pass |
| 3S | All Pass |  |  |

Closed Room

| West | North | East | South |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Wolff | Lauria | Hamman | Versace |
|  | 2NT (1) | Pass | 3D (2) |
| $3 S$ | Pass | 4 S | All Pass |

(1) Majors or minors
(2) For correction

Doubtless Lanzarotti's poor spades led to his only offering an invitation - perhaps Buratti should have acvcepted because of the strength of his trumps. Anyway, 10 IMPs to the USA, plus a partscore swing on the last board on vugraph saw them recover to a 14-16 loss and a place in the final stages.

1995 Marlboro Bermuda Bowl Quarter Final after 64 boards

| Boards | 16 | 32 | 48 | 64 | Cum | 80 | 96 |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| France | 43 | 13 | 31 | 38 | 125 |  |  |
| China | 54 | 23 | 24 | 42 | 143 |  |  |


| Boards | 16 | 32 | 48 | 64 | Cum | 80 | 96 |
| :--- | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: |
| South Africa | 9 | 29 | 28 | 34 | 100 |  |  |
| Canada | 58 | 11 | 51 | 50 | 170 |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Boards | 16 | 32 | 48 | 64 | Cum | 80 | 96 |
| Sweden | 44 | 11 | 55 | 66 | 176 |  |  |
| Netherlands | 34 | 47 | 24 | 18 | 123 |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Boards | 16 | 32 | 48 | 64 | Cum | 80 | 96 |
| Indonesia | 46 | 30 | 53 | 29 | 158 |  |  |
| USA II | 31 | 29 | 39 | 44 | 143 |  |  |

1995 Marlboro Venice Cup Quarter Final - After 64 Boards

| Boards | 16 | 32 | 48 | 64 | Cum | 80 | 96 |
| :--- | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: |
| France | 54 | 7 | 68 | 42 | 171 |  |  |
| South Africa | 25 | 35 | 18 | 17 | 95 |  |  |
| Boards | 16 | 32 | 48 | 64 | Cum | 80 | 96 |
| China | 88 | 48 | 56 | 50 | 242 |  |  |
| Venezuela | 11 | 8 | 34 | 30 | 83 |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Boards | 16 | 32 | 48 | 64 | Cum | 80 | 96 |
| USA I | 49 | 18 | 30 | 62 | 159 |  |  |
| USA II | 71 | 18 | 48 | 29 | 166 |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Boards | 16 | 32 | 48 | 64 | Cum | 80 | 96 |
| Japan | 48 | 8 | 40 | 32 | 128 |  |  |
| Germany | 43 | 44 | 46 | 44 | 177 |  |  |

Surviving Team Rosters Bermuda Bowl

| France $\quad$ 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

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 <br>  <br>  <br>  <br>  <br>  <br> Wike Bjerregard, Johan Bennet, Anders |
| :--- | :--- |
| USA II Mats Nilsland, Bjorn Fallenius |  |

Suriving Team Rosters - Venice Cup

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

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

