

Marlboro Bermuda and Venice Cup
 Beijing, China
 October 8th - 21st, 1995
 Issue 9, Monday, October 16th, 1995
 Editor: Henry Francis and Brian Senior

Today's Schedule

Bermuda Bowl
 Sweden v Canada
 France v USA 1

Venice Cup
 France v Germany
 China v USA

1995 Marlboro Bermuda Bowl Quarter Final

Boards	16	32	48	64	80	96	Result
France	43	13	31	38	38	33	196
China	54	23	24	42	31	19	193

Boards	16	32	48	64	80	96	Result
South Africa	9	29	25	34	34	56	187
Canada	58	11	46	50	36	71	272

Boards	16	32	48	64	80	96	Result
Sweden	44	11	50	66	21	35	227
Netherlands	34	47	24	18	15	44	182

Boards	16	32	48	64	80	96	Result
Indonesia	46	30	53	29	14	5	177
USA II	31	29	39	44	30	43	216

1995 Marlboro Venice Cup Quarter Final

Boards	16	32	48	64	80	96	Result
France	54	7	68	42	32	26	229
South Africa	25	35	18	17	17	13	126

Boards	16	32	48	64	80	96	Result
USA I	50	18	30	62	70	44	274
USA II	71	18	48	29	18	32	216

Boards	16	32	48	64	80	96	Result
Japan	48	8	40	32	60	5	193
Germany	43	44	46	44	32	20	229

Boards	16	32	48	64	Result	80	96
China	88	48	56	50	242	//	//
Venezuela	11	8	34	30	83	//	//

Appeal Case 7
 by Richard Colker

Bermuda Bowl: Netherlands (N-S) vs. Sweden (E-W).

Board 9. E/W Vul. Dealer North.

(Westra, Berry)

S T

H A942

D 92

C AJT982

(Fallenius, Bjorn)

(Nilsland, Mats)

S 8542

S AKQ93

H QJT76

H 3

D 753

D AJT6

C 5

C K74

(Leufkens, Enri)

S J76

H K85

D KQ84

C Q63

West	North	East	South
	Pass	1C (1)	Pass
1D (2)	3C	Pass	Pass
Dbl (3)	Pass	3S	All Pass

(1) Strong, 17+HCPs.

(2) Negative.

(3) After a hesitation. Described by West (to South) as takeout.

Committee members: Richard Colker (Chair), Rebecca Rogers, John Wignall, Barbara Nudelman, Mazhar Jafri.

Facts: The Director was called after the completion of the hand. N-S complained that West had hesitated unduly before doubling, and because of this East had bid only 3S.

Director's ruling: Applied to the present case Law 16A2 authorizes the Director to assign an adjusted score whenever it is determined that, following West's (alleged) hesitation, East selected from among logical alternatives an action which could have been suggested by the hesitation. The Directors did not feel that 3S met this criterion, so the result at the table was allowed to stand. N-S appealed this ruling.

Testimony: N-S stated that West's double took approximately one minute. They also stated that E-W were normally a very aggressive pair, and that stopping short of game on the East cards opposite a West hand good enough to balance (East's pass of 3C was not absolutely forcing) was unusual. They also cited evidence suggesting that people in the Vugraph room were surprised that East bid only 3S, and that 4S was the final contract at nearly all the other tables.

Finally, they pointed out that West's description of his double as "takeout" was not correct. (West confirmed that it could have been based on a balanced hand in the 5-7 HCPs range, and should more accurately have been described as

"value showing.")

East stated that he considered three alternative bids after West's double: 3S, 4C and 4S. 3S was selected because of its flexibility, including allowing for a possible 3NT contract. 4C was considered a better bridge bid than 4S because it allowed for a possible diamond contract. Finally, East felt that 3S also carried the implication of being a 5-card suit, since red suits of equal or longer length would be bid at the 3-level before a 4-card spade suit. (West seemed unaware of this inference.)

Committee's decision: This case was quite complex, the final decision resting on several delicate issues.

First, the testimony, together with East's club holding, suggested that East had good reason to attribute the hesitation on the other side of the screen to West.

Second, E-W were normally (and undisputedly) a very aggressive pair, and the 4S game was bid by most E-W pairs in the event.

Third, East's hand was strong enough (even though minimum in high cards) to produce a good play for 4S, even opposite many West hands containing only three spades and values too modest to raise 3S to four (e.g., SJ8x HQxxxx DQxx Cxx).

And finally, West's (presumed) huddle suggested that caution by East was more likely to be successful than aggression. It was therefore decided that East should be forced to take the more aggressive action of bidding 4C over West's double, which would land E-W in a 4S contract. The most likely result would be down one, so the score for 4S by E-W down one was assigned to both pairs (N-S +100, E-W -100).

110 IMPs on one board

Board 58 of the quarterfinals was a delight or a disaster to every team in both the Marlboro Bermuda Bowl and the Marlboro Venice Cup -- a total of 110 IMPs changed hands. That's an average of almost 14 IMPs per match. This was the deal:
Board 58. Game All. Dealer East.

	S 9	
	H AK9	
	D T	
	C AJT96543	
S Q873		S AKJT54
H JT8		H 43
D KQ9875		D A32
C --		C 87
	S 62	
	H Q7652	
	D J64	
	C KQ2	

The biggest swing occurred in the Canada-South Africa open match -- 22 IMPs, the biggest turnover of the tournament. This gain was enough to put the match just about beyond the reach of the South Africans.

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Kokish	Mansell	Silver	Cope
		1S	Pass
2D	3C	3S	5C
5S	6C	Pass	Pass
6S	All Pass		

Not unnaturally, Cope led the CK, and that was curtains for South Africa -- Silver made the slam with an overtrick. The slam can be beaten, of course -- Cope has to find the heart opening lead. But when he didn't -- and it certainly doesn't look attractive to lead a heart -- Canada racked up plus 1460. In the other room:

West	North	East	South
Gower	Molson	Convery	Baran
		1S	Pass
4S	5C	Pass	Pass
5D	Pass	5S	6C
Dbl	All Pass		

It's clear that this contract can be beaten as well, the defense has to cash a spade and a spade and a diamond. But look at the situation from East's point of view -- he sees a doubleton spade and three diamonds in dummy. After cashing a spade on opening lead, he has to decide whether to try to cash a second spade or a diamond. Fearing that declarer might have a void in diamonds, East tried for a second spade. And that was the end -- 1540 to Canada.. That's a plus of 3000, good for 22 IMPs.

Sweden gained 17 by making 6S and defeating 6S doubled. United States gained 11 by stopping in 5S, making seven, in one room, and going to 6C in the other, doubled and down one. In the fourth Marlboro Bermuda Bowl match, China scored 1250 by making 5S doubled with two overtricks -- but this was a 12-IMP loss. France was in 6S doubled, making with an overtrick for 1860.

The smallest exchange occurred in the Marlboro Venice Cup match between France and South Africa -- 9 IMPs. France doubled 6S in one room and beat it 200. In the other room France doubled 6C and beat it 200. South Africa lost 9 IMPs with the same contracts on which Canada gained 22. China made 5S doubled --1250 -- and defeated 6C doubled -- 16 IMPs. Both United States teams played in 5S making seven, but U.S. II was doubled -- 11 IMPs. The same was true in the Germany-Japan match -- both were in 5S making seven, but Germany played it doubled.

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 3NT 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.

China v France (Set 5 Open)

China led France by 143-125 overnight in their Marlboro Bermuda Bowl semi-final. There were 32 boards to go and they were all to appear on Vugraph as the match remained tight. The first three boards were fairly quiet, China picking up 2 IMPs to extend their lead to 145-125. Then came something more substantial.

Board 68. Game All. Dealer West.

	S QT84	
	H KQ	
	D K96	
	C Q964	
S J75		S AK92
H JT3		H A9864
D AT8742		D J3
C K		C 52
	S 63	
	H 752	
	D Q5	
	C AJT873	

Open Room

	West	North	East	South
	Perron	Wang	Chemla	Fu
	Pass	1D	1H	Pass
	2D	Pass	2H	All Pass

Closed Room

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

Xu	Cronier	Hu	Lebel
Pass	1C	2C	3C
4H	All Pass		

Chemla made nine tricks after a diamond lead; +140.

In the other room, Hu's 2C cuebid, showing five plus hearts and four plus spades, persuaded Xu to try game. The defense began with two rounds of clubs, forcing declarer to ruff.

He played two rounds of hearts and North switched to a spade, after which Xu could bring in the spades without loss; +620.

Best is for North to keep plugging away with clubs, forcing dummy to ruff and also leaving declarer short of entries to play spades successfully, but it is possible that he did not appreciate that declarer had only three trumps. Anyway, that was 10 IMPs to China; 155-125.

Board 5 was flat then France missed an opportunity for a useful gain.

Board 70. E/W Vul. Dealer East.

	S 532	
	H 32	
	D A87	
	C A9872	
S J94		S AKT
H K7654		H QJT98
D Q65		D T43
C K6		C JT
	S Q876	
	H A	
	D KJ92	
	C Q543	

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Perron	Wang	Chemla	Fu
		1H	Dbl
2NT	3C	Pass	Pass
3H	All Pass		

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Xu	Cronier	Hu	Lebel
		1H	Dbl
2NT	3C	3H	Pass
Pass	Dbl	Pass	4C
All Pass			

3H had to lose the obvious six tricks so Chemla was two down; -200. In the Closed Room, Cronier doubled 3H to show good values and suggest taking a penalty, but Lebel had too many clubs and too little defense to want to risk that so pulled to 4C where the fortunate spade position saw him home. That was +130 for France but -2 IMPs instead of +7 had they defended 3H doubled.

China led 157-125. Then the tide turned with a vengeance.

Board 71. Game All. Dealer South.

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                S 643
                H K7
                D J872
                C 8532

S 9752          S JT8
H Q4           H AJ95
D KQ6          D T54
C QT76         C KJ4

                S AKQ
                H T8632
                D A93
                C A9

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In the Open Room, Fu opened the South hand with a strong club and rebid 1NT over the negative response, playing there. Perron led a spade and Fu won and tried a heart to the king and ace. Back came a second spade and he played a H10 to Perron's queen.

Perron found the excellent switch to a low club for the king and ace and Fu played a third heart, Perron pitching a diamond. Chemla cashed the CJ then switched to a diamond, ducked. Perron cashed his clubs and Fu pitched a heart then a diamond, so was back to two down when a second heart pitch would have left him only one off; -200.

In the Closed Room, Michel Lebel opened 1H and was left to play there. This contract is also due to fail by one trick but East never led a diamond through and Lebel reached a position where West had nothing but diamonds remaining. A low diamond from hand now endplayed West to concede the last two tricks and the contract; +80 and 7 IMPs to France.

France gained 2 IMPs on overtricks on the next board, then:

Board 73. E/W Vul. Dealer North.

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                S AJ8652
                H Q4
                D KQ8
                C 84

S Q             S K93
H AJT862       H K3
D T943         D A752
C K2           C A965

                S T74
                H 975
                D J6
                C QJT73

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Open Room

	West	North	East	South
	Perron	Wang	Chemla	Fu
		1S	Pass	1NT
	2H	2S	4H	4S
	Pass	Pass	Dbl	All Pass

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Xu	Cronier	Hu	Lebel
	1S	Pass	1NT
Pass	2S	Pass	Pass
3H	Pass	4H	All Pass

The DK was led against 4H in the Closed Room. Xu won and immediately played HK and a heart to the jack; one down for -100. Would Michel Perron have got the hearts right at the other table? We will never know, of course, but had he played 4H successfully France would have gained 12 IMPs. When Fu took the save in 4S, they had those same 12 IMPs without the pressure. Chemla led king and another heart and Perron won and switched to a diamond. Wang won the second diamond and played ace other spade to be three down; -500. If the defense could arrange to cash their winners then play a third heart, declarer might well go for 800. China 157-146.

Board 74. Game All. Dealer East.

	S 3	
	H 9863	
	D AK984	
	C K65	
S AJ542		S T
H QT542		H KJ7
D T7		D QJ652
C J		C AQT4
	S KQ9876	
	H A	
	D 3	
	C 98732	

Both Easts opened 1D, both Souths overcalled 1S and both Norths responded 1NT. Fu rebid 2S on the South hand, Lebel preferred 2C. Both bids ended the auction. 2C scrambled home after a diamond lead, dummy's trump pips proving to be invaluable to Lebel; +90. Perron also led a diamond against 2S. Fu won and played a spade to the queen, ducked. Now he led a club, ducking when Perron's jack came up. Perron led a heart to the king and ace and Fu played a second club. Chemla won and cashed the rest of his clubs, enabling Perron to pitch his remaining diamond. On the diamond switch, Fu threw his last club so Perron ruffed cheaply and still had two trumps to come; -200 and 7 IMPs to France, trailing only 153-157.

Board 75. Love All. Dealer South.

	S 63	
	H QJ952	
	D J94	
	C QT3	
S K92		S QJT85

H 4	H 73
D AKQT876	D 3
C J7	C K9852
S A74	
H AKT86	
D 52	
C A64	

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Perron	Wang	Chemla	Fu
			1C
1D	Dbl	1S	2H
4H	Dbl	4S	Pass
Pass	5H	All Pass	

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Xu	Cronier	Hu	Lebel
			1H
2D	3H	Dbl	4H
5D	Pass	Pass	Dbl
All Pass			

Fu's strong club opening, I really don't see how any 5-3-3-2 hand can be worth upgrading, however good the controls, made it easy for the French to get spades into the auction in the Open Room.

Neither North nor South could be confident of beating 4S, indeed, it takes two rounds of hearts to shorten West's trumps followed by a diamond switch to cut off dummy to do so, by no means automatic, and when his partner could not double, it was understandable for Wang to save in 5H. No-one had a double of that but three down (declarer misguessed the club layout) was satisfactory enough for the French; -150.

In the Closed Room, the natural opening allowed North/South to get their hands off their chests without any temptation of going to the five level. Meanwhile, Hu's competitive double put temptation the way of Xu and he succumbed. At this table there was a double and it netted 300 for France who suddenly found themselves in the lead. These 10 IMPs made the score 163-157 in their favor.

Momentum is a strange thing and just when it seemed everything was going the way of France it turned, though it looked at one point as though the French were going to build on their new-found lead.

Board 76. N/S Vul. Dealer West.

S KQ753	
H J4	
D A42	
C QJ2	
S T92	S 86
H A987	H K

D Q9 D KJT63
 C A743 C T9865
 S AJ4
 H QT6532
 D 875
 C K

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Perron	Wang	Chemla	Fu
Pass	1S	Pass	2S
Pass	Pass	2NT	3H
Pass	3S	All Pass	

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Xu	Cronier	Hu	Lebel
Pass	1S	Pass	2H
Pass	2S	Pass	4S
All Pass			

3S was comfortable after a club lead to the ace. Wang won the diamond switch and pitched two diamonds on the clubs. Now he played a heart to the king and Chemla forced dummy to ruff a diamond. Wang played a second heart next and Perron ducked, forcing Chemla to ruff. He led another diamond and dummy ruffed, cashed the SA and ruffed a heart low; +170.

The lead in the Closed Room was also a club. Cronier also won the diamond switch and cashed his clubs, throwing the diamond losers. Now he ruffed a diamond and led a low heart off the table. There were groans from the Vugraph audience when Xu was seen to rise with the ace, crashing his partner's king. Xu cashed the DQ and gave Hu a heart ruff. Now the DK return was ruffed and Cronier cashed the SA before leading a heart. Everybody could see that all he had to do was to ruff low and claim, but how was he to know that the remaining trumps were not 1-1? Cronier ruffed high and the Chinese had escaped their defensive error, Xu making a trump trick for one down; -100 and 7 IMPs to China, back in the lead at 164-163.

 Board 77. Game All. Dealer North.

	S 98	
	H 6	
	D 862	
	C AQ98754	
S QT76		S AJ42
H AQJ3		H 842
D AQ3		D JT75
C J6		C K2
	S K53	
	H KT975	
	D K94	
	C T3	

The respective Norths each opened 3C and the Wests doubled in fourth seat. Hu jumped to 4S as East while Chemla gave Perron some leeway in case his balancing double was shaded, bidding only 3S. Both these bids ended the auction and the favorable lie meant that careful play, spurning the trump finesse, led to eleven tricks. +200 for Chemla but -650 for Hu; 10 IMPs to China; 174-163.

Board 14 was a flat game and Board 15 was also flat, but it need not have been.

Board 79. N/S Vul. Dealer South.

	S	AQT762		
	H	K864		
	D	AK		
	C	Q		
S	KJ54		S	--
H	QT5		H	932
D	75		D	9643
C	J873		C	KT9642
	S	983		
	H	AJ7		
	D	QJT82		
	C	A5		

Open Room

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

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Xu	Cronier	Hu	Lebel
			1D
Pass	1S	Pass	1NT
Pass	2C	Dbl	Pass
Pass	3H	Pass	3S
Pass	4C	Pass	4S
Pass	4NT	Pass	5H
Pass	6S	All Pass	

All around the room, people were going down in 6S. A popular line was that followed by Cronier. He received a diamond lead, which he won and laid down the SA to guard against any bare honors in the East hand. But now he found himself short of entries to dummy. He crossed to the CA to lead a second trump but Xu took his king and led a club, ruffed. Cronier was forced to fall back on the heart finesse now and when it failed he was one down; -100. This was Philippe's first board of the day and no doubt he wished at this point that he had stayed in bed.

The auction in the Open Room led to a different opening lead, the C10. With one dummy entry already gone, the play

of cashing the SA is no longer so attractive. Wang preferred a spade to the queen at trick two. He continued by cashing his top diamonds then he too had to rely on the heart finesse and was one down; no swing. But is Wang's play correct after the club lead?

The only declarer to make the slam in either event was Sue Picus of USA1 in the Venice Cup. She won the club lead and ran the S9 at trick two, after which she had no problem negotiating the rest of the play. Relative to the finesse of the queen, this line loses to bare jack offside but gains against bare king, equally likely, and also against the actual 4-0 break. So I suggest, that not for the first time in these championships, one of the women has shown the men how to play.

The last board of the set was a dull game; no swing. With 16 boards to play, China still led but only by 174-163. It was still anybody's match.

Correction

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
	1H	Pass	2C
Pass	3NT	Pass	4C
Pass	4D	Pass	4S
Pass	5H	Pass	6C
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:

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

S A7
 H 974
 D K73
 C KJT732

Playing in 6C, Kearse won the first trick in hand with the DK, played a club to dummy's ace and ran the C6 when East didn't cover (not that that matters). Now came three top hearts, East ruffing the last and declarer overruffing. 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.

China vs. France
 Boards 81-96

China went into the final 16 boards with a 174-163 lead over France. The Vugraph was jam packed, mostly with Chinese fans, as the final segment got underway. The crowd, numbering in many hundreds, was to be on the edge of their chairs for the next two-plus hours.

Because the match was on Vugraph, play started with Board 93 instead of 81. China gained an overtrick IMP at 4H, and the next two deals also provided little action. But China got a reaction from the crowd when they got to game on Board 96 while France rested in 3S.

Board 96. E/W Vul. Dealer West.

S JT43
 H J
 D J962
 C A875

S A76
 H 83
 D KT543
 C T94

S Q2
 H QT942
 D --
 C KQJ632

S K985
 H AK765
 D AQ87
 C --

West	North	East	South
Perron	Rong	Chemla	Shao
Pass	Pass	1C	Dbl
1D	1S	Pass	3C
Pass	4S	All Pass	

Chemla led the CK to the ace, and Ron led and passed the SJ to the ace. He ruffed the club return in dummy and tried to cash the DA, but Chemla ruffed. Rong ruffed another club and led the DQ, giving up a trick to Perron's king. Perron got out with a trump, but declarer had the rest for a 6-IMP pickup.

 France picked up 4 IMPs on Board 82 by making 3C while the Chinese declarer went down one at the same contract. Then came the first explosion of excitement.

Board 83. E/W Vul. Dealer South.

S J7
 H KT8642
 D AT8
 C T3

S T832
 H 953
 D KJ7
 C J54

S AKQ654
 H AJ
 D 96
 C AQ6

S 9
 H Q7
 D Q5432
 C K9872

West	North	East	South
Perron	Rong	Chemla	Shao
			Pass
Pass	2D (1)	Pass	2H
Pass	Pass	Dbl	Pass
2S	Pass	3H	Pass
3S	Pass	4S	All Pass

(1) Multi.

Rong led the C10, Chemla rose with the ace, cashed a trump, then led the HA and a second heart to the queen. Shao took

the CK and led a diamond. Chemla already had pinpointed that Rong had only the king in hearts, so he thought it likely he had the DA as well. He put in the jack and scored up his game. The Chinese were in the same contract in the other room, but declarer guessed the diamond wrong, rising with the king.

That was 12 IMPs to France, and the match now was exactly tied -- 181 all. But two boards later China leaped back into the lead.

Board 85. N/S Vul. Dealer North.

	S A743		
	H AT62		
	D Q75		
	C K4		
S K98		S QT652	
H 975		H KQ	
D JT32		D 9	
C 865		C AQJ93	
	S J		
	H J843		
	D AK864		
	C T72		

West	North	East	South
Perron	Rong	Chemla	Shao
	1D	1S	Dbl
Pass	2H	3C	4H
4S	Dbl	All Pass	

The contract the other table had been 3S, down one, so the Vugraph crowd could smell blood on this one -- there was a cheer that shook the rafters when Rong applied the double.

Shao got off to the best lead -- the DA -- and continued with a diamond to the queen, ruffed. Chemla drove out the HA with the king, but a second heart came back to his queen. Stuck for a lead, he cashed the CA and led the queen, losing to Rong's king.

Rong continued the forcing game, leading a heart for Chemla to ruff. Chemla finally went after trumps, covering the jack with the king and losing to Rong's ace.

Rong found the spade return to the 10, and he ruffed in when Chemla played the CJ. Now finally Rong led a third diamond, and Chemla was caught -- he had to lose another trick for down three -- minus 500. That was 10 IMPs to China -- they now led 191-181.

Perron and Chemla defended 2H accurately on Board 84 while the Chinese defenders slipped and allowed two overtricks -- 2 IMPs to France.

Board 87. Game All. Dealer South.

S AJ862

decided the match.

Board 91. Love All. Dealer South.

	S QJ6	
	H 853	
	D Q2	
	C K8653	
S 7543		S AK8
H JT		H AQ942
D 87654		D 93
C T9		C Q74
	S T92	
	H K76	
	D AKJT	
	C AJ2	

The auction in both rooms was simple. Lebel opened 1NT in the Closed Room and Cronier jumped to game. Shao also opened 1NT, but Rong raised only to 2NT. Shao was on a minimum, so he passed.

Lebel won the HJ lead with the king and immediately went after clubs. When he found the queen-third onside, he had 10 tricks -- plus 430. But since this was a non-vul deal, even not being in game didn't appear as if it was going to cost enough to be serious. If Shao matched Lebel's play, China would lose 6 IMPs but still be in the lead by three.

But that's not the way it worked out. Perron also got off to the HJ lead and Chemla ducked, allowing Shao to score his king. Shao considered his alternatives. If he took the club finesse and it failed, he was going down -- the French would take a club, three hearts (if the suit was 4-3) and two spades.

But if the hearts were 4-3, he could guarantee his contract by setting up a spade trick. In this scenario he would lose three hearts and two spades, scoring plus 120. Hearts 4-3 seemed more likely to him than the 50-50 club finesse, so he led a spade.

Curtains!!! Chemla was able to take five tricks in the majors to set the contract and put France in the lead by a single IMP, 194-193.

That was the match!! France went on to the semifinals by defeated China by just 3 IMPs, 196-193. The Chinese were happy and unhappy at the same time. They were sad they had lost, but they were glad that they had proved to the world that China has come of age in world bridge.

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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 is 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.

Board 33 Revisited

If you read our report on USA 11 v Indonesia in Sunday's bulletin, you will have seen that Eric Rodwell and Denny Sakul both played Board 33 in 6H and found that they could not make it after spade and heart leads respectively. The story was rather different in the Venice Cup match between the two American teams. The contract was again 6H at both tables but here the slam could not be beaten after the opening lead!

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	

At some point in the auction, North got to double West's club bid so the opening lead was the C10, ducked to the king. Now it doesn't matter what North returns. On a major suit return, declarer wins and rattles off the trumps. This is what happened at Kitty Munson's table. On the hearts, North showed that she was guarding spades so South gave up control of that suit and also discarded the C9, telling

North that she had that suit covered but also pinpointing for declarer the fact that she held the sole club guard. Now it was plain sailing. The size of declarer's diamond intermediates became irrelevant because the hand played as a double squeeze - with each defender forced to guard one black suit, nobody could keep three diamonds, so Munson pitched diamonds from dummy on the fifth and sixth hearts.. At the other table, the hand played as a simple minor-suit squeeze against South. On a non-club lead, declarer might get home by leading a low club off dummy at trick two. North will have to duck or else the minor suit squeeze will again be set up.

When are 13 high card points not really 13 high card points? That's easy -- when they're really low card points. Look at North's in the quarterfinals.

Board 56. Love All. Dealer West.

	S	QJT	
	H	QJ2	
	D	QJ72	
	C	KJ6	
S	876543		S 92
H	3		H KT8
D	T63		D 9854
C	T85		C A943
	S	AK	
	H	A97654	
	D	AK	
	C	Q72	

That's 13 points all right, but is it an opening bid? Weak notrumpers have no problem -- they bid 1NT. But is that hand really worth an opening suit bid?

Bobby Wolff thought it was, but he wasn't too happy when Bob Hamman went slamming. This was the bidding:

West	North	East	South
Lasut	Wolff	Manoppo	Hamman
1D	Pass	2H	Pass
2NT	Pass	5NT	Pass
6H	Pass	6NT	All Pass

After winning the opening diamond lead, Wolff stopped to consider his options. He finally decided he didn't have many. He cashed out dummy's spade and diamonds, then led a club to the jack and ace. He won the club return in hand and led the H10. Manoppo covered and Wolff won with the ace. Then the big moment had arrived -- if the hearts were 2-2 he was going to make his slam. But when Lasut, West, showed out, Wolff had to concede down one. Indonesia stopped in 5H making in the other room for an 11-IMP pickup.

France nips China by 2;
U.S. tops Indonesia

China has come a long, long way in bridge in just a few short years. The Chinese women have advanced to the semifinals of the Marlboro Venice Cup by devastating an experienced Venezuela team. And the Chinese Open team came within three IMPs of defeating a powerful French squad in the quarterfinals of the Marlboro Bermuda Bowl.

The Chinese were leading right up to the last few boards, but one misguess on a two notrump contract put an end to China's hopes for two world championships. However, the Chinese women have the talent and the experience necessary to go all the way. However, their semifinal opponent, United States I, is no pushover -- far from it. United States I came from far behind to win going away against United States II, 274-216.

At the halfway mark, US II had a 39-IMP lead. Three boards before the end of the fourth segment, they still were down 39. But when the fourth segment was over they were only six in arrears. Yesterday's fifth segment was the killer, US I outscored their American counterparts, 70-18.

The other Marlboro Venice Cup match will see two of Europe's finest teams, France and Germany, fighting it out. France won the European women's championship this year and Germany was runner-up in the Venice Cup in Chile two years ago. France defeated South Africa, 229-126, and Germany toppled Japan, 229-193.

There were two close matches in the Marlboro Bermuda Bowl. One, of course, was China vs. France. The other paired United States against Indonesia. Indonesia led most of the way, finally falling behind -- by a single IMP -- after 80 boards. But the final segment was all United States -- the Americans prevailed 43-5 to win, 216-177.

The Americans' semifinal opponent is France, and Bob Hamman for one is looking forward to it. He wants to turn the tables on the French -- the memories of the 1980 and 1992 Olympiads are still fresh in his mind. Both France and the United States already have had one tough match, and now they've got another.

The other Marlboro Bermuda Bowl semifinal will pit Canada against Sweden. Canada got off to a fast start against South Africa and never let up, winning 272-187. Sweden had a much tougher time with the Netherlands -- they were in a dead tie after 48 deals. But Sweden blew the match wide open with a 66-18 set in the fourth segment, and the defending champion Dutch never could effect a comeback.

Canada has been impressive throughout this tournament. They had the best record in the round-robin, and they were most convincing in their defeat of South Africa. This marks the

furthest Canada has ever gone in a Bermuda Bowl.

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.)

USA 11 v Italy - The Final Round
by Barry Rigal

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 4H 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	1C	Pass	1D
Pass	1H	2C	3H
Pass	4H	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		C 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	2S	Pass
3S	All Pass		

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Wolff	Lauria	Hamman	Versace
	2NT (1)	Pass	3D (2)
3S	Pass	4S	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 accepted 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.
