



Saturday, 15 January 2000

Jean Paul Meyer, Co-ordinator • Mark Horton, Editor
Brent Manley & Brian Senior, Assistant Editors
Stelios Hatzidakis, Layout Editor

Issue: 8

It's a Knockout!

After seven days of play and nearly 400 deals, the Orbis Bermuda Bowl and Orbis Venice Cup move into the quarterfinal rounds today. With the defenders, **France**, eliminated, a new champion is guaranteed in the former event but there is a chance for a repeat in the latter.

Top teams in both qualifying events were allowed to choose their opponents for the quarterfinal knockout phase. The match-ups, with carryover IMPs in parentheses, are:

Orbis Bermuda Bowl

Indonesia vs. Norway (+5.5)

Italy vs. USA I (+13.5)

Poland (even) vs. USA 2

Brazil (+6) vs. Sweden

Orbis Venice Cup

Canada (+4) vs. USA I

China vs. The Netherlands (+16)

Austria (+10) vs. Germany

France vs. Denmark (+16)

There were some disappointed former world champions in both events.

France, defending champions in the Orbis Bermuda Bowl, finished 10th out of 20 teams in the round-robin standings, 14 Victory Points out of eighth place, the final qualifying spot.

Norway led the Orbis Bermuda Bowl qualifiers with 345 VPs, just ahead of second-place **USA I**, with 340. **Poland** held down the third spot, followed by **Brazil**, which vaulted from eighth place on the strength of big victories against **China** and **Chinese Taipei**.

In the Orbis Venice Cup, **USA I**, which includes three members of the team which won the event in 1997, led qualifiers into the quarterfinal round, followed by **The Netherlands**, **Austria** and **Denmark**. Members of the winning team from 1997 now in the quarterfinal round are Jill Meyers, Randi Montin and Tobi Sokolow.

USA 2, whose lineup includes four previous winners of the event, had a chance to make the cut with a win over **Austria** and some help from other teams, but it didn't work out. They finished in ninth place. Sue Picus won the Venice Cup in 1991 and 1993 and was non-playing captain of the winning team last year. Lynn Deas and Beth Palmer won in 1987 and 1989, Deas won again in 1991 and Lisa Berkowitz won in 1997.

Three other former world champions less than pleased with their results are Pat Davies, Sandra Landy and Nicola Smith, winners of the Venice Cup in 1981 and 1985. They finished 11th, well out of the final qualifying spot.

IMPORTANT! Orbis World Transnational Open Teams

In order to assist the organizers, the deadline for Registration is Saturday noon. Teams containing at least one team-member from the losing Orbis Bermuda Bowl/Venice Cup quarter-finalists may register on Sunday between 16.00 and 18.00.

Captains of Transnational teams are requested to advise the Hospitality Desk of any changes in the names of players, as well as designating if their team is eligible for the Women's Mixed or Senior competitions.

The captain of the teams who have not paid their entry fees must pay before the start of play. Please see Christine Francin in the WBF Office Warwick room on the Mezzanine. The entry fee is \$600.

Players from the Orbis Bermuda Bowl and Venice Cup who wish to register a team for the Orbis World Transnational Teams may do so at Hospitality. There is no charge for players from either of these competitions who wish to participate in the Orbis World Transnational Teams, but if they are joined by players who have not competed, an entry fee is \$100 per player for each of those competitors who play on a six person team; \$120 for those who play on a five person team; \$150 for those who play on a four person team. The entry fee is payable to Christine Francin in the WBF Office (Warwick Room on the Mezzanine). Captains in possession of the receipt may proceed to the Hospitality Desk to register their teams.

The Warwick Room will be open for payments between 10 am and 12 noon and from 2.30 pm until 6 pm

ORBIS BERMUDA BOWL - RESULTS**Round - 18**

Country		Imps	Vps
1 Bermuda	Bulgaria	33 102	2 25
2 Pakistan	Chinese Taipei	12 77	3 25
3 New Zealand	Norway	62 47	18 12
4 Italy	Argentina	78 7	25 2
5 Brazil	China	78 34	24 6
6 Poland	Australia	67 44	20 10
7 South Africa	USA 2	44 52	14 16
8 Sweden	Canada	65 22	24 6
9 USA 1	Guadeloupe	36 18	19 11
10 France	Indonesia	27 50	10 20

Round - 19

Country		Imps	Vps
1 Bulgaria	Italy	13 28	12 18
2 Chinese Taipei	Brazil	13 83	2 25
3 Bermuda	Poland	28 50	10 20
4 Norway	South Africa	62 46	18 12
5 Argentina	Sweden	62 44	19 11
6 China	USA 1	29 48	11 19
7 Australia	France	19 42	10 20
8 USA 2	Indonesia	12 18	14 16
9 Canada	Guadeloupe	16 60	6 24
10 New Zealand	Pakistan	53 36	19 11

ORBIS VENICE CUP - RESULTS**Round - 18**

Country		Imps	Vps
11 Hong Kong	Australia	20 92	2 25
12 New Zealand	Great Britain	27 87	3 25
13 China	France	38 21	19 11
14 Canada	Bermuda	76 34	24 6
15 The Netherlands	USA 2	43 51	14 16
16 Argentina	Egypt	32 47	12 18
17 USA 1	Colombia	52 47	16 14
18 Indonesia	India	46 51	14 16
19 Austria	Germany	67 47	19 11
20 Brazil	Denmark	79 56	20 10

Round - 19

Country		Imps	Vps
11 Australia	Canada	84 16	25 2
12 Great Britain	Netherlands	23 63	7 23
13 Hong Kong	Argentina	50 52	15 15
14 France	USA 1	21 41	11 19
15 Bermuda	Indonesia	20 54	8 22
16 USA 2	Austria	14 48	8 22
17 Egypt	Brazil	34 63	9 21
18 Colombia	Denmark	42 85	6 24
19 India	Germany	23 65	6 24
20 China	New Zealand	73 34	23 7

ORBIS SENIORS TEAMS - FINALS

	Carry Over	1 st Session	2 nd Session	3 rd Session	Total
Poland	12	38	84	95	229
France		42	12	19	73

ORBIS SENIORS TEAMS - PLAY OFF

	Carry Over	1 st Session	2 nd Session	Total
North America	4.3	35	41	80.3
China		68	67	135

ORBIS BERMUDA BOWL - PROGRAMME**QUARTER FINALS**

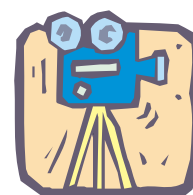
		Carry Over	1 st Session	2 nd Session	3 rd Session	4 th Session	Total
			10.30	13.20	16.10	21.00	
1 Indonesia	Norway	0 - 5.5					
2 Italy	USA 1	0 - 13.5					
3 Poland	USA 2	0 - 0					
4 Brazil	Sweden	6 - 0					

ORBIS VENICE CUP - PROGRAMME**QUARTER FINALS**

		Carry Over	1 st Session	2 nd Session	3 rd Session	4 th Session	Total
			10.30	13.20	16.10	21.00	
5 Canada	USA 1	4 - 0					
6 China	The Netherlands	0 - 16					
7 Austria	Germany	10 - 0					
8 France	Denmark	0 - 16					

VuGraph Matches

Saturday 15 January 2000

**Orbis Bermuda Bowl**

10.30 - Session 1
Norway v Indonesia

13.20 - Session 2
Brazil v Sweden

16.10 - Session 3
USA 1 v Italy

21.00 - Session 4
Poland v USA 2

Results & On line VuGraph

If you want to follow the results on the internet or see the online VuGraph simply go to:

www.bermudabowl.com

ORBIS BERMUDA BOWL FINAL ROUND-ROBIN RANKING

1	NORWAY	345
2	USA I	340
3	POLAND	334
4	BRAZIL	330
5	INDONESIA	329
6	ITALY	327.5
7	USA 2	322
8	SWEDEN	320
9	BULGARIA	309.5
10	FRANCE	306
11	ARGENTINA	267
12	NEW ZEALAND	259.5
13	CHINESE TAIPEI	254
14	SOUTH AFRICA	253
15	AUSTRALIA	252
16	CHINA	250
17	PAKISTAN	244
18	GUADELOUPE	228
19	CANADA	221
20	BERMUDA	161

ORBIS VENICE CUP FINAL ROUND-ROBIN RANKING

1	USA I	360
2	NETHERLANDS	356
3	AUSTRIA	349
4	DENMARK	348
5	GERMANY	336
6	FRANCE	335
7	CHINA	328.5
8	CANADA	318
9	USA 2	310.5
10	AUSTRALIA	289.5
11	GREAT BRITAIN	282
12	BRAZIL	268
13	ARGENTINA	259
14	EGYPT	254
15	INDONESIA	246
16	NEW ZEALAND	220
17	COLOMBIA	204.5
18	HONG KONG	197
19	INDIA	193
20	BERMUDA	189

Orbis Bermuda Bowl Butler

Name		Country	Boards	Imps/B
1 MECKSTROTH J.	RODWELL E.	USA I	320	0.712
2 BOCCHI N.	DUBOIN G.	ITALY	360	0.596
3 KWIECIEN M.	PSZCZOLA J.	POLAND	240	0.589
4 ANDERSSON L.	GULLBERG T.	SWEDEN	120	0.585
5 LASUT H.	MANOPPO F-E.	INDONESIA	340	0.557
6 CHAGAS G.	BRANCO M-C.	BRAZIL	340	0.515
7 DE FALCO S.	FERRARO G.	ITALY	280	0.514
8 FURUNES J-E.	HELNESS T.	NORWAY	240	0.511
9 BITRAN A.	VOLDOIRE J-M.	FRANCE	200	0.486
10 SILVERMAN N.	WOLFSON J.	USA2	120	0.477
11 MIHOV V.	NANEV I.	BULGARIA	260	0.475
12 VILLAS-BOAS M.	CAMPOS J-P.	BRAZIL	240	0.422
13 AUSTBERG E.	HELGEMO G.	NORWAY	240	0.413
14 MAHMOOD Z.	ROSENBERG M.	USA2	360	0.376
15 FREDIN P.	LINDKVIST M.	SWEDEN	320	0.329
16 FALLENUS B.	NILSLAND M.	SWEDEN	320	0.290
17 CORNELL M.	CROMBIE D.	N. ZEALAND	240	0.265
18 MARTEL C.	STANSBY L.	USA2	280	0.261
19 COPE T.	CHO W.	S.AFRICA	280	0.261
20 HAMMAN B.	SOLOWAY P.	USA I	200	0.257
21 BROGELAND B.	SAELENMINDE E	NORWAY	260	0.254
22 BOMPIS M.	DE STE MARIE	FRANCE	300	0.214
23 KOWALSKI A.	ROMANSKI J.	POLAND	220	0.187
24 PANELEWEN S.	TOBING R-P.	INDONESIA	200	0.148
25 JASSEM K.	TUSZYNSKI P.	POLAND	300	0.109
26 KARWUR F.	SACUL D.	INDONESIA	220	0.102
27 JANZ R.	FIGU DE MELLO	BRAZIL	180	0.082
28 POPOV B.	STAMATOV J.	BULGARIA	240	0.075
29 LAMBARDI P.	LUCENA C.	ARGENTINA	320	0.046
30 ABEDI N.	SIDDIQUI S.	PAKISTAN	180	0.039
31 LEE Jung-Fu	YEN Ding-Ming	CHINESE.TAI	160	-0.006
32 KARAINANOV K.	TRENDAFLOV R.	BULGARIA	260	-0.035
33 FREEMAN D.	NICKELL N.	USA I	240	-0.070
34 HARGREAVES M.	McORMOND G.	CANADA	260	-0.075
35 WU Ming-Hsuan	YEN Ding-Ming	CH.TAIPEI	140	-0.098
36 CAO Xueliang	YANG Lixin	CHINA	260	-0.116
37 ABEDI N.	JAFFER R.	PAKISTAN	140	-0.117
38 DELMONTE I.	RICHMAN B.	AUSTRALIA	280	-0.136
39 MARI Ch.	MULTON F.	FRANCE	260	-0.162
40 CHUAN Liu	ZHANG Qiang	CHINA	260	-0.167
41 GRAVES A.	MAKSYMETZ B.	CANADA	160	-0.177
42 BIANCHEDI A.	RIZZO L.	ARGENTINA	220	-0.177
43 HSIA Hsiou-Ch.	WU Chia-Hsin	CH.TAIPEI	280	-0.276
44 ROTHFIELD C.	ROTHFIELD J.	AUSTRALIA	160	-0.293
45 JACOB T.	MACE B.	N. ZEALAND	260	-0.297
46 CAMBEROS H.	SCANAVINO E.	ARGENTINA	220	-0.303
47 BOUVERESSE	J-PMOERS J.	GUADELOUPE	240	-0.322
48 BAGCHI K.	BROWNE S.	AUSTRALIA	320	-0.332
49 NEWELL P.	REID M.	N. ZEALAND	260	-0.362
50 CONVERY Ch.	GOWER G.	S.AFRICA	220	-0.415
51 GERIN D.	MATHIEU Ph.	GUADELOUPE	280	-0.439
52 SALIM M.	IQBAL S.	PAKISTAN	240	-0.447
53 GARNIER Ch.	VERON D.	GUADELOUPE	240	-0.455
54 FU Zhong	JU Chuan-Cheng	CHINA	220	-0.490
55 AMOILS L.	EBER N.	S.AFRICA	260	-0.492
56 LEE Jung-Fu	LIN Chih-Mou	CH.TAIPEI	120	-0.614
57 ATTANASIO D.	FAILA G.	ITALY	120	-0.659
58 HALL Ch.	TAUSSIG J.	BERMUDA	240	-0.693
59 GITELMAN F.	SILVER J.	CANADA	160	-0.698
60 GITELMAN F.	MAKSYMETZ B.	CANADA	100	-0.832
61 SYKES D.	WAKEFIELD J.	BERMUDA	260	-0.879
62 SOUSTER W.	VAUCROSSON Ch.	BERMUDA	220	-0.930

Orbis Venice Cup Butler

Name		Country	Boards	Imps/B
1 AUKEN S.	VON ARNIM D.	GERMANY	360	0.690
2 DEAS L.	PALMER B.	USA2	300	0.642
3 BESSIS V.	d'OIDIO C.	FRANCE	340	0.620
4 CILLEBORG D.	KOFOED T.	DENMARK	340	0.587
5 FISCHER D.	WEIGKRICHT T.	AUSTRIA	380	0.530
6 MANCUSO R.	QUINN S.	USA I	260	0.524
7 VAN DER PAS M.	VRIEND B.	NETHERLANDS	280	0.511
8 SEAMON-MOLSON	SOKOLOW T.	USA I	280	0.495
9 PASMAN J.	SIMONS A.	NETHERLANDS	240	0.469
10 ERHART M.	TERRANEO S.	AUSTRIA	180	0.439
11 DROGMULLER M.	STEEN MOLLER K	DENMARK	200	0.438
12 VAN ZWOLW.	VERBEEK M.	NETHERLANDS	240	0.427
13 MEYERS J.	MONTIN R.	USA I	220	0.424
14 GORDON D.	REUS S.	CANADA	320	0.385
15 GU LING	ZHANG YALAN	CHINA	260	0.360
16 CIMON F.	SALTSMAN B.	CANADA	340	0.341
17 WANG WENFEI	ZHANG YU	CHINA	240	0.329
18 DAVIES P.	SMITH N.	GT.BRITAIN	260	0.312
19 GIL L.	MANDELLOT A.	BRAZIL	240	0.253
20 AVON D.	LUSTIN C.	FRANCE	340	0.248
21 NEHMERT B.	RAUSCHHEID A.	GERMANY	220	0.245
22 GOLDBERG C.	POLLACK R.	USA2	280	0.186
23 ERHART M.	SMEDEVERAC J.	AUSTRIA	160	0.174
24 GARATEGUY C.	IACAPRATO M-E.	ARGENTINA	280	0.162
25 SUN MING	WANG HONGLI	CHINA	240	0.121
26 BEALE F.	SMART D.	AUSTRALIA	300	0.105
27 LUSK S.	TULLY T.	AUSTRALIA	220	0.075
28 GOMES I.	SAMIAIO M.	BRAZIL	240	0.044
29 BEECH L.	BOURKE M.	AUSTRALIA	240	0.043
30 LANDY S.	WALKER A.	GT.BRITAIN	220	0.013
31 KHALIL L.	KHOURI M.	EGYPT	320	-0.085
32 TEDJO S.	SYOFIAN E.	INDONESIA	160	-0.091
33 FARWIG K.	STAWOWY B.	GERMANY	180	-0.096
34 WEAL Su	YULE K.	N. ZEALAND	280	-0.124
35 DHONDY H.	McGOWAN E.	GT.BRITAIN	280	-0.220
36 BOJOH L.	MANDOLANG TUEJ	INDONESIA	340	-0.260
37 EISENSTEIN T.	MACIAS F.	COLOMBIA	280	-0.274
38 HOMSY M.	SHATILA S.	EGYPT	220	-0.279
39 DIVAKARAN P.	KRISHNA S.	INDIA	260	-0.300
40 DIEL D.	SMITH A.	BERMUDA	240	-0.329
41 MARKOS J.	SARWAT S.	EGYPT	180	-0.343
42 LUCCHINI G.	MONSEGUR L.	ARGENTINA	240	-0.352
43 BERKOWITZ L.	PICUS S.	USA2	180	-0.409
44 KUHU LASUT E.	SUOTH PONTOH S	INDONESIA	260	-0.413
45 AMARAL M.	TAJTELBAUM L.	BRAZIL	260	-0.421
46 JOHNSON J.	WAY M.	BERMUDA	280	-0.460
47 CHANG S.	NEUMAN N.	HONG KONG	180	-0.476
48 SAFRA C.	ESPINOSA P.	ARGENTINA	240	-0.504
49 ANGEL B.	BENEDETTI C.	COLOMBIA	260	-0.562
50 BOOTH C.	LEONG S.	HONG KONG	300	-0.590
51 BLACKHAM E.	CORNELL V.	N. ZEALAND	240	-0.602
52 NEWTON S.	WILKINSON J.	N. ZEALAND	240	-0.634
53 GRACIA E.	HO I.	HONG KONG	280	-0.640
54 DEORA H.	SHIVDASANI P.	INDIA	240	-0.644
55 LAKHAMI G.	SISKA B.	INDIA	260	-0.787
56 LECHTER Z.	RAMIREZ P.	COLOMBIA	220	-0.794
57 BUSSELL J.	KYME S.	BERMUDA	240	-1.077

Important Note

"There are lies, damned lies and statistics."
Read what you will into these figures – they don't tell you who played who, and some pairs played more than others.

Orbis Venice Cup - Round 15

China v Egypt

With two days to go in the round-robin stage, the Chinese women, one of the favourites, were lying eighth, just a point clear of ninth-placed Canada. Round 15 saw them face Egypt, a dangerous team, even if not in contention themselves. China had gained a couple of small swings when an opportunity for something bigger came along.

Board 4. Dealer West. All Vul.

♠ J 9 3		♠ 7
♥ A Q J 8 7		♥ K 9 6 3 2
♦ J 2		♦ 10 4 3
♣ 9 8 3		♣ A Q 7 2
♠ K Q 10 6 5	N	
♥ 5 4	W	E
♦ 8 7 6 5		S
♣ 10 5		
♠ A 8 4 2		
♥ 10		
♦ A K Q 9		
♣ K J 6 4		

West	North	East	South
Shatila	Sun	Homsey	Wang
Pass	Pass	Pass	1♣
Pass	1♥	Pass	INT
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

One Club was strong and One Heart a natural positive. The One No Trump rebid was natural – presumably Hongli Wang likes to have a five-card suit to bid it here. Samia Shatila led the king of spades to declarer's ace. Wang passed the ♥10, which scored, then played a spade towards the jack. Shatila won her queen and returned a spade. Wang won and led the nine of clubs to the queen and king then ran for home; +600.

West	North	East	South
Zhang	Maud	Gu	Lily
Pass	Pass	Pass	1♣
1♠	Dble	Pass	INT
All Pass			

The natural auction did not get to game and made only eight tricks on a passive lead; +120 but 10 IMPs to China.

Board 6. Dealer East. E/W Vul.

♠ K		♠ A 7 2
♥ A J 10 5 4 2		♥ 7 6 3
♦ Q 7		♦ A 6 4 3
♣ K 10 6 2		♣ J 8 4
♠ Q J 10 5	N	
♥ K 8	W	E
♦ K J 10 9 5		S
♣ 9 3		
♠ 9 8 6 4 3		
♥ Q 9		
♦ 8 2		
♣ A Q 7 5		

West	North	East	South
Shatila	Sun	Homsey	Wang
		Pass	2♠
All Pass			

Two Spades was weak and two-suited. These bids can be very effective on the right deal, but this was not the right deal. Shatila led the queen of trumps and Margaret Homsey won and switched to a diamond to the king. A second diamond was won by dummy's queen when Homsey had the misfortune to pull the wrong card, but declarer still lost control on repeated diamond leads and had to go one down; -50.

West	North	East	South
Zhang	Maud	Gu	Lily
		Pass	Pass
Pass	1♥	Pass	1♠
Pass	2♣	Pass	2♥
All Pass			

South passed and Lily Khalil and Maud Khouri had a straightforward auction to Two Hearts. Game makes courtesy of the heart finesse and even breaks in the key suits, and the Egyptians must have been mildly worried that +170 would not prove to be sufficient. Not to worry, it was actually a 6 IMP pick-up.

Board 8. Dealer West. None Vul.

♠ K 9		♠ 10 5 4
♥ J 7 6 3		♥ 10 9 4
♦ Q 7		♦ 10 9 6 5 2
♣ J 8 6 5 3		♣ A 9
♠ A 8 7 6	N	
♥ A	W	E
♦ A K J 8 4 3		S
♣ 7 4		
♠ Q J 3 2		
♥ K Q 8 5 2		
♦ -		
♣ K Q 10 2		

West	North	East	South
Shatila	Sun	Homsey	Wang
1♦	Pass	3♦	Dble
Rdbl	3♥	Pass	Pass
4♦	All Pass		

Three Diamonds was a pre-emptive raise and Shatila first redoubled to show a good hand then bid on to Four Diamonds. With Four Hearts looking to have only three losers on the North/South cards, playing Four Diamonds for +130 looked OK, however:

West	North	East	South
Zhang	Maud	Gu	Lily
1♣	Dble	Pass	3♥
Dble	Pass	5♦	All Pass

One Club was strong and Ling Gu did well to jump to game when Yalan Zhang doubled Three Hearts for take-out on the next round. The lead was a club to the ace. Gu unblocked the heart and proceeded to draw trumps and eliminate the hearts. When at a late stage she played the ace of spades, she found Maud dozing peacefully and failing to unblock the king. A club exit meant that North was endplayed with the king of spades to give a ruff and dis-



Lily Khalil, Egypt

card and the contract; +400 and 7 IMPs to China.

Board 9. Dealer North. E/W Vul.

♠ A K 9 7 5		♠ J 8
♥ K		♥ 10 8 4
♦ A K 5 4		♦ Q 10 8 6
♣ J 10 7		♣ K 8 6 2
♠ 10	N	
♥ Q 9 7 5 3	W	E
♦ 9 3 2		S
♣ A 9 5 4		
♠ Q 6 4 3 2		
♥ A J 6 2		
♦ J 7		
♣ Q 3		

West	North	East	South
Shatila	Sun	Homsey	Wang
1♣	Pass	Pass	1♠
Pass	2♦	Pass	2♥
Pass	2♠	Pass	2NT
Pass	3♥	Pass	4♣
Pass	4NT	Pass	5♣
Pass	6♠	All Pass	

One Club was strong and One Spade a natural positive. Perhaps there are inferences of which I am unaware in the Chinese auction, but it looks as though Ming Sun just did too much without any real encouragement from her partner. The slam was always hopeless, but Shatila led ace and another club to settle things immediately; -50.

West	North	East	South
Zhang	Maud	Gu	Lily
	1♠	Pass	4♣
All Pass			

No danger here of getting too high here. Played by North, a diamond lead meant 12 tricks; +480 and 11 IMPs to Egypt.

Board 10. Dealer East. All Vul.

	♠ A K 5 4 3		
	♥ 8 6		
	♦ J 9 6 3 2		
	♣ 10		
♠ Q J 6		♠ 9 8	
♥ K 9 3 2		♥ 7 4	
♦ K Q 4		♦ A 10 8 5	
♣ Q 4 3		♣ K J 9 8 6	
	♠ 10 7 2		
	♥ A Q J 10 5		
	♦ 7		
	♣ A 7 5 2		

West	North	East	South
Shatila	Sun	Homsey	Wang
Pass	1♠	Pass	1♥
INT	Dble	Dble	Rdbl
Pass	4♠	All Pass	3♠

West	North	East	South
Zhang	Maud	Gu	Lily
Dble	1♠	Pass	1♥
Pass	4♠	All Pass	2♠

The Egyptian declarer went down after a club lead when she tried to make her small trumps by ruffing and found that the unfavourable heart position left her a trick short; -100.

Sun received a heart lead. She finessed and Shatila won the king and switched to a club for the ace. Sun gave up a diamond, ruffed the club return and cashed the top spades. Next she ran the hearts and had a trump left in the dummy to take care of her last diamond; +620 and 12 IMPs to China.

Board 13. Dealer North. All Vul.

	♠ K 5 4 3		
	♥ A 7		
	♦ 6 5 2		
	♣ A K Q 5		
♠ 8 7		♠ AQJ10962	
♥ K J 5 2		♥ 10 8 6	
♦ Q J 8 7 4		♦ A 3	
♣ 9 4		♣ J	
	♠ -		
	♥ Q 9 4 3		
	♦ K 10 9		
	♣ 10 8 7 6 3 2		

West	North	East	South
Shatila	Sun	Homsey	Wang
Pass	INT	4♠	Pass
Pass	Dble	All Pass	

West	North	East	South
Zhang	Maud	Gu	Lily
Pass	INT	3♠	Pass
All Pass	4♣	Pass	6♣

Lily and Maud reached the hopeless club slam when Lily competed over the pre-emp-

tive overcall and Maud took her seriously. Six Clubs went three down, which looks to be one more than was compulsory, but -300 proved to be worth 10 IMPs to Egypt!

At the other table, Homsey went for a full-blooded overcall of Four Spades and when that got back to Sun she doubled. Wang led a low heart, which was not best for the defense. Homsey played low and Sun won her ace and switched to the ace of clubs. To beat the contract for certain, she needed to switch to a diamond now but, not being sure of the club position after seeing a rather vague three from Wang, continued with the club king. Homsey ruffed with the nine and led a heart to dummy's jack. She ran the eight of spades then led the seven. Now she took time out to decide who was more likely to hold the king of diamonds. If it was North, she wanted to stay in dummy to take the diamond finesse, while if it was South a squeeze would be required and that meant overtaking. After some thought Homsey overtook the spade and continued with ace and another. Sun won her king and switched to a diamond, but Homsey had made up her mind how she intended to play the hand and was not to be dissuaded from that decision. She went up with the ace of diamonds and ran the trumps and Wang had to surrender; +790.

Board 15. Dealer South. N/S Vul.

	♠ 5 3		
	♥ K 10 8 6 5 2		
	♦ K 7		
	♣ Q 8 6		
♠ K 8 2		♠ Q J 10 9 6	
♥ 4		♥ Q J 7 3	
♦ 10 9 8 6 4 2		♦ J 3	
♣ 9 3 2		♣ 10 7	
	♠ A 7 4		
	♥ A 9		
	♦ A Q 5		
	♣ A K J 5 4		

West	North	East	South
Shatila	Sun	Homsey	Wang
Pass	2♠	Pass	2♦
Pass	3♦	Pass	2NT
Pass	4♦	Pass	3♥
Pass	5♥	Pass	4♠
Pass	6♥	All Pass	6♣

West	North	East	South
Zhang	Maud	Gu	Lily
Pass	2♥	Pass	2♦
Pass	4♥	All Pass	3NT

Wang's Two Diamond opening was a multi, while Lily's was strong and artificial. China outbid their opponents to reach a slam which needed little more than hearts 3-2 or a bare honour, only to find that the trumps were 4-1 offside with no bare honour. That was 13 IMPs to Egypt. Six Hearts is a good contract but Six Clubs would have been better. Did anyone manage to get there in the other matches?



Ming Sun, China

Board 17. Dealer North. None Vul.

	♠ Q 10 6		
	♥ K 9		
	♦ J 10 9 4 3		
	♣ 9 7 4		
♠ A J 9 7 2		♠ 8 5 4 3	
♥ 5 4 2		♥ 10 8 7 3	
♦ 8		♦ Q 7 2	
♣ A 10 3 2		♣ 8 5	
	♠ K		
	♥ A Q J 6		
	♦ A K 6 5		
	♣ K Q J 6		

West	North	East	South
Shatila	Sun	Homsey	Wang
Pass	Pass	Pass	2♦
Pass	2♥	Pass	3♥
Pass	3♠	Pass	4♦
Pass	5♦	All Pass	

Wang showed a big three-suiter via her multi opening and Sun asked for controls, discovered that her partner held six or seven, and settled for Five Diamonds. It was all about the trump guess and Wang had no reason not to lay down the ace and king; down one for -50.

West	North	East	South
Zhang	Maud	Gu	Lily
2♠	Pass	Pass	2♣
Pass	5♦	All Pass	4♥

Maud was also in Five Diamonds, on a heart lead. She had heard sufficient opposition bidding to suspect that there might be some unbalanced distribution about. She won the heart ace, cashed the diamond ace, and crossed to the king of hearts to take the diamond finesse. Well done for +400 and 10 IMPs to Egypt.

The final score was 54-37 to Egypt, or 19-11 VPs - a serious blow to China's hopes of qualification, as they slipped to 9 VPs behind Canada in the battle for eighth place.

Orbis Bermuda Bowl - Round 15

USA 2 v Italy



Lew Stansby, USA 2

At this stage of the Championships, every match is important and the clash between two of the pre-tournament favourites in Round 15 of the Orbis Bermuda Bowl was no exception. If you subscribe to the theory that bidding is the key area of the game, this match offered a number of deals to support that view.

Board 8. Dealer West. None Vul

♠ A 8 7 6	♠ K 9	♠ 10 5 4
♥ A	♥ J 7 6 3	♥ 10 9 4
♦ A K J 8 4 3	♦ Q 7	♦ 10 9 6 5 2
♣ 7 4	♣ J 8 6 5 3	♣ A 9
	♠ Q J 3 2	
	♥ K Q 8 5 2	
	♦ -	
	♣ K Q 10 2	

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Mahmood	De Falco	Rosenberg	Ferraro
1♦	Pass	3♦	Dble
5♦	All Pass		

Zia bid what he hope he could make. We wonder if it crossed his mind to bid 3NT? Notice that despite their lack of aces, North-South can make Four Hearts, but they are hardly likely to bid it.

North led the king of spades, a perfectly reasonable choice in view of his partner's take out double. It also meant there was no chance of him being endplayed later, a fate that befell more than one player, some of them have paid the Daily News enough to ensure anonymity! The Italian pair plays odd/even signals and South discouraged with the two of spades. However, North continued with a second spade and now declarer was home. He could cover the nine of spades and after winning the trick with the ace, draw trumps and give up a

spade, establishing a parking place for the club loser. +400.

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Duboin	Stansby	Bocchi	Martel
1♦	Pass	2♦	Dble
2♠	Pass	3♦	All Pass

All you can say is that the Italians sort of won the bidding battle, but lost the war. They made ten tricks for +130, but lost 7 IMPs.

Board 15. Dealer South. N/S Vul

♠ K 8 2	♠ 5 3	♠ Q J 10 9 6
♥ 4	♥ K 10 8 6 5 2	♥ Q J 7 3
♦ 10 9 8 6 4 2	♦ K 7	♦ J 3
♣ 9 3 2	♣ Q 8 6	♣ 10 7
	♠ A 7 4	
	♥ A 9	
	♦ A Q 5	
	♣ A K J 5 4	

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Mahmood	De Falco	Rosenberg	Ferraro
2♣	2♥	Pass	2NT
Pass	3♥	Pass	3♠
Pass	3NT	Pass	4NT
All Pass			

There was nothing to the play, declarer quickly claiming eleven tricks for +660. On a 3-2 heart break, Six Hearts is just about laydown, and so for that matter is Seven Clubs. Could the American pair in the open room avoid the trap of playing in hearts?

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Duboin	Stansby	Bocchi	Martel
Pass	2♥	2♠	2♣
3♠	4♥	Pass	2NT
Pass	5NT	Pass	4♠
All Pass			6♣

Internet Viewers

Hi there,

Just wanted to let you know what a great website for viewing all the WBC. Wonderful being able to see AND print out the hands AND see the scores for each hand. I almost feel as tho I'm there - only the atmosphere and scenery missing.

Best wishes for a successful championships at, I'm sure, a superb venue.

A bridge player

The key to the auction was North's bid of 5NT, almost certainly inviting South to pick a slam. When South suggested that clubs might be the place to play, North eventually decided to agree. The contract still had to be made, but Martel made no mistake, winning the opening diamond lead in hand and ducking a spade. He could win the return, cash the ace of spades and ruff a spade, +1370 and 12 IMPs.

Board 17. Dealer North. None Vul

♠ A J 9 7 2	♠ Q 10 6	♠ 8 5 4 3
♥ 5 4 2	♥ K 9	♥ 10 8 7 3
♦ 8	♦ J 10 9 4 3	♦ Q 7 2
♣ A 10 3 2	♣ 9 7 4	♣ 8 5
	♠ K	
	♥ A Q J 6	
	♦ A K 6 5	
	♣ K Q J 6	

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Mahmood	De Falco	Rosenberg	Ferraro
Pass	Pass	Pass	2♦
Pass	2♥	Pass	3♥
Pass	4♦	Pass	4♥
Pass	4NT	Pass	5♣
Pass	5♦	All Pass	

Two Diamonds showed either 9-12, with at least a six card major, or as here, 4-4-4-1 with 17+. Two Hearts was pass or correct and Three Hearts showed the singleton spade and 21+. Should North now have bid 3NT? With a spade lead a virtual certainty that is not at all clear. On this layout the nine trick game is clearly better, but Five Diamonds was a reasonable spot. Of course, Ferraro had no reason to divine the trump position and he went one down, -50.

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Duboin	Stansby	Bocchi	Martel
Pass	Pass	Pass	2♣
Pass	2♦	Pass	2NT
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

Martel's decision to treat his hand as balanced was a winning one. West led a spade that went to declarer's king and Martel cleared the diamonds. East played back a spade to West's ace, but declarer had ten tricks and a matching number of IMPs.

USA 2 had put a big dent in the European Champions' hopes of qualifying.

Bermuda short

When I die, I want to die peacefully, in my sleep. Like my grandfather.

Not screaming in terror, like the passengers in his car.

The WBF's Newest National Federations

By Patrick Jourdain (Wales)

The European Bridge League, at meetings held in Malta last June, accepted applications from the English Bridge Union, Scottish Bridge Union and Welsh Bridge Union to be upgraded to NBO status, to take effect from 1st January 2000. These three had previously been represented within the EBL and WBF by the British Bridge League which therefore lost its NBO status at the same time.

At meetings here in Bermuda the World Bridge Federation also accepted the three new National Federations into membership. Thus each of the English Bridge Union, Scottish Bridge Union and Welsh Bridge Union will field teams in WBF events, starting with this year's Olympiad in Maastricht. The new Federations have a longer history than most members of the WBF. The Scottish Bridge Union, founded in 1933, is one of the oldest in the world. The English Bridge Union, formed in 1936, now has 28,000 members and is the fourth largest in Europe. Even the Welsh Bridge Union, created in 1948, now with 2,000 members, is larger than many Federations in Europe.

For the purposes of any bridge event under the auspices of the International Olympic Committee the three Federations will, if required, continue to compete as Great Britain. A new body, smaller than the British Bridge League, called Bridge Great Britain has been created for that purpose. BGB will also run the famous British team championship, the Gold Cup, the various British Simultaneous Pairs events (nine each year) and the four Home International series (Open, Ladies, Under 25s and Under 20s) held between the four parts of the United Kingdom (England, Scotland, Wales, Northern Ireland, plus the Republic of Ireland). The oldest and best known of these is the Open event for the Camrose Trophy.

The Camrose began in 1937, and apart from a break caused by the Second World War, has been staged annually since then, making the current season its 57th. (The European Championships began in 1932, but are now only staged bi-annually, so I believe the Camrose has been held in more years than any other international contest in the world – if you have a counter-claim please tell the Daily Bulletin.)

The Camrose is held over five weekends. Each weekend one country sits out, whilst the others play two head-to-head contests. Until this year only England and Scotland had ever won, but in the year 2000 it now seems almost certain that a new name will appear on the famous Trophy. Wales began the season last month by beating England 57-33, and last weekend beat Scotland 56-34, the first time in the 57 years that Wales had beaten both in the same season. Meanwhile the Republic of Ireland had beaten Northern Ireland by 53-37, and then England 58-30. This leaves Wales on 113 VPs and the Republic on 111, well clear of the others.

Two members of the Welsh team, Peter Goodman and Patrick Jourdain, delayed their arrival in Bermuda to compete in the Camrose last weekend, a date set before that of the World Championship. The first deal of last

weekend's contest with Scotland was a flat board, but it is still worth reporting as it featured an ending with menaces in every suit!:

Dealer North. None Vul

♠ A K Q 6	♥ J 4	♦ A 6 5 2	♣ Q 7 6
♠ 10 7 4 3 2	♥ Q 7	♦ K Q J 10	♣ K 10
♥ J 8 5	♥ 10 9 5 3	♦ 8 7	♣ J 9 8 2
♠ 9	♥ A K 8 6 2	♦ 9 4 3	♣ A 5 4 3

N	E
W	S

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Piper	Ratcliff	Duncan	Jourdain
Pass	1♠	Pass	2♥
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Goodman	Steel	Rees	Matheson
Pass	1♦	Pass	1♥
Pass	1NT	Pass	2♦
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

In the Open Room, as a rebid of 2NT would be forcing, 3NT showed 15-16 points and no wish to investigate alternative strains. On VuGraph South's Two Diamonds was an artificial enquiry. In both rooms East led a low club to West's king and West switched to ♦K which held.

In the Open Room West, on seeing his partner's signal, now went back to clubs. The declarer, Tony Ratcliff, won with the queen, and ran the heart jack. West took this and returned to diamonds. Declarer ducked the second diamond and won the third, East throwing a spade. With eight top tricks and threats in four suits declarer now had the unusual luxury of choosing between several squeezes, most of which work. West can be squeezed in spades and diamonds, East in hearts and clubs, or you have a variety of double squeezes to think about, though once a heart has been ducked and a spade has been discarded, no suit can be held by both defenders. Declarer actually began by testing the hearts. When West showed out, throwing a spade, he threw a spade from hand, and then squeezed East in hearts and clubs by playing off the winners in spades and diamonds.

On VuGraph, West, after winning the club lead and switching to diamonds, continued diamonds, and played the suit again when declarer, Les Steel, ducked. The third diamond was won by North, East being forced to throw a spade. To tighten the ending Steel crossed to

dummy with the ace of clubs, and led the nine of spades. When West played low, he let it run to East. As both defenders might guard hearts, his play of crossing with a club was very intelligent. If he crosses with a heart, the double squeeze can be destroyed by a heart switch when East is in with the spade.

East exited with a heart to dummy. Steel returned to hand with a club to the queen and when West showed out, he claimed. East had the club guard, West had the diamond guard, so when the spades were played neither would have room to keep the hearts guarded. Actually, only East was squeezed. No swing.

The analysts wondered what would have happened if West had covered the nine of spades. There are two points of interest. First the squeeze on East works perfectly well even though the timing seems to be wrong. Declarer can simply play off the top spades, being careful to start by throwing a heart from dummy. East, who has already thrown a spade, and needs to keep clubs, has to ditch a heart on the third spade. Declarer can throw a club from dummy and clear hearts. Alternatively, when the first two top spades are cashed, an eagle-eyed declarer will note the fall of East's jack and eight. He can then cash the top hearts and clubs, ending in hand and throw West in with the last diamond to lead away from the seven of spades. A cornucopia of endings!

Deep Finesse confirms that there is no winning defence.

Editor

Bermuda Bowl



Copies of this definitive record of the world's greatest Championship, written by Henry Francis & Brian Senior, are on sale at the Island Embroidery stand in the lobby, priced \$25.00.

Orbis Bermuda Bowl - Round 16

USA I v France

Out for revenge

The last time France and USA I faced each other in the Bermuda Bowl, the stakes were as high as they can get. It was the final in Hammamet, Tunisia, in 1997, and the French came away with a convincing victory. On Thursday, the two teams met again, in Round 16 of the Orbis Bermuda Bowl round-robin.

This time, USA I got the better of France with a 42-20 victory, at least mildly damaging their chances of qualifying for the quarterfinal round of the event.

Each team had several chances for major swings, but it was the Americans who capitalized more often, starting with this slam swing.

Board 2. Dealer East. N/S Vul

		♠ 8 7 2		
		♥ Q J 5 2		
		♦ Q 7		
		♣ A 8 6 2		
♠ K J 9 6 3			♠ A Q 5 4	
♥ K 10 9 7			♥ A 8	
♦ A K			♦ J 9 3	
♣ Q 7			♣ K 5 4 3	
			♠ 10	
			♥ 6 4 3	
			♦ 10 8 6 5 4 2	
			♣ J 10 9	
West	North	East	South	
Freeman	Bompis	Nickell	de Ste Marie	
1♠	Pass	2♠	Pass	
3♥	Pass	4♠	Pass	
4NT	Pass	5♠	Pass	
6♠	All Pass			

Richard Freeman's 3♥ could have been a mere game try and when Nick Nickell accepted by leaping to game, Freeman checked to make sure the partnership was not off two aces and bid the slam. There was nothing to



Thierry de Sainte Marie, France

the play and Freeman racked up plus 980. At the other table:

West	North	East	South
Multon	Meckstroth	Mari	Rodwell
1♠	Pass	1♣	Pass
2NT ⁽¹⁾	Pass	2♠	Pass
		4♠	All Pass

⁽¹⁾ Forcing, asking East to clarify his raise.

Something happened on the way to the slam. If Christian Mari meant his 4♠ bid to be encouraging, the message didn't get through to Franck Multon, who appeared to be giving thought to pressing on before finally passing. He made the same 12 tricks as Freeman and lost 11 IMPs in the process.

USA I gained 2 IMPs on the next board, but it could have been 9.

Board 3. Dealer South. E/W Vul

		♠ 8 7 3		
		♥ K J 10 8 5		
		♦ Q J		
		♣ A 8 6		
♠ 4			♠ Q J 10 6 5	
♥ 9 4 3			♥ Q 2	
♦ 10 8 5 4 2			♦ A 9	
♣ 9 7 3 2			♣ K 10 5 4	
			♠ A K 9 2	
			♥ A 7 6	
			♦ K 7 6 3	
			♣ Q J	
West	North	East	South	
Freeman	Bompis	Nickell	de Ste Marie	
Pass	2♦ ⁽¹⁾	Pass	2♥	
Pass	3NT	Pass	4♥	
All Pass			INT	

West	North	East	South
Freeman	Bompis	Nickell	de Ste Marie
Pass	2♦ ⁽¹⁾	Pass	2♥
Pass	3NT	Pass	4♥
All Pass			INT

⁽¹⁾ Transfer to hearts.

Freeman led his singleton spade, and although Thierry de Sainte Marie did not take the heart finesse, the defenders had the timing to hold him to 10 tricks. That was plus 420 to France. At the other table, Jeff Meckstroth and Eric Rodwell had Mari running from 1♠ redoubled, which probably would have produced two overtricks.

West	North	East	South
Multon	Meckstroth	Mari	Rodwell
Pass	1♠ ⁽²⁾	Dble	Pass
Pass	Redble ⁽³⁾	Pass	Pass
INT	Dble	2♣	Pass
Pass	Dble	All Pass	

⁽¹⁾ Precision.

⁽²⁾ Positive, 5+ hearts.

⁽³⁾ Balanced hand.

Rodwell led the ♣Q, ducked by Meckstroth to Mari's king. Mari followed with the ♠10, taken by Rodwell with the king. The ♣J was next, and after that held, Rodwell underled the ♥A to Meckstroth's king. Meckstroth played a third round of trumps then played the ♥J to the queen and ace. Rodwell continued with a third round of hearts, forcing Mari to use his last trump.

Mari then played the ♠Q, ducked by Rodwell, leaving this position:

		♠ 7		
		♥ 8 5		
		♦ Q J		
		♣ -		
♠ -			♠ J 6 5	
♥ -			♥ -	
♦ 10 8 5 4			♦ A 9	
♣ 9			♣ -	
			♠ A 9	
			♥ -	
			♦ K 6 3	
			♣ -	

Mari played a low spade, pitching a diamond from dummy when Rodwell covered with the 9. Had Rodwell exited with a diamond, the defense would have collected plus 800. Rodwell wasn't sure about the diamond position, however, so he played the ♠A at trick 10. Mari ruffed, played a diamond to his ace and cashed the good ♠J for his sixth trick and minus 500, holding the loss on the board to 2 IMPs.

On Board 8, 6NT was played from the wrong side at both tables, but neither South found the killing opening lead.

Board 8. Dealer West. None Vul

		♠ Q 10 9 8 7 2		
		♥ 9 8		
		♦ 5 3		
		♣ A 10 4		
♠ K 5			♠ A J 6	
♥ K Q 10 4			♥ A 6	
♦ A K J			♦ Q 10 9 6 4 2	
♣ K 9 7 5			♣ 8 6	
			♠ 4 3	
			♥ J 7 5 3 2	
			♦ 8 7	
			♣ Q J 3 2	

West	North	East	South
Freeman	Bompis	Nickell	de Ste Marie
1♣	2♠	3NT	Pass
6NT	All Pass		

Unable to see through the backs of the cards, in which case he would have led the ♣Q, de Sainte Marie led the ♠4 and Nickell wrapped up 13 tricks (de Sainte Marie no doubt discarded one too many hearts). At the other table:

West	North	East	South
Multon	Meckstroth	Mari	Rodwell
1♣	1♠	2♦	Pass
2♠	Pass ⁽¹⁾	3NT	Pass
4♦	Pass	4♥	Pass
4NT	Pass	5♠	Pass
6NT	All Pass		

⁽¹⁾ Alerted. Meckstroth explained that if he doubled, it would tell Rodwell not to lead a spade.

Considering that Meckstroth did not double 2♠, Rodwell was always going to lead a spade. Rodwell held onto his hearts, however and Mari had to settle for for 12 tricks and a 1 IMP loss.

Here is a lead problem. As East, you hold:

♠Q 10 9 7 ♥Q J 7 3 ♦K 9 7 ♣Q,

and you hear your right-hand opponent open a Precision 1♣. LHO bids 2♦ (balanced 8-10) and RHO follows with 2NT, raised to 3NT by South. Choose your opening lead.

If you picked a spade, write minus 11 IMPs on your scorecard. If your lead was a heart, you win 6 IMPs. The full deal:

Board 10. Dealer East. Both Vul

	♠ A J 8 2		
	♥ K		
	♦ J 3		
	♣ A K J 9 8 4		
♠ 6 5 4		♠ Q 10 9 7	
♥ A 10 9 8 2		♥ Q J 7 3	
♦ K 9 7		♦ Q 6 5 2	
♣ 6 3		♣ Q	
	♠ K 3		
	♥ 6 5 4		
	♦ A 10 8 4		
	♣ 10 7 5 2		

West	North	East	South
Freeman	Bompis	Nickell	de Ste Marie
		Pass	Pass
Pass	1♣	Pass	1♦
Pass	1♠	Pass	2♣
Pass	2♥	Pass	3♣
All Pass			

Marc Bompis had no trouble taking 11 tricks for plus 150. At the other table:

West	North	East	South
Multon	Meckstroth	Mari	Rodwell
		Pass	Pass
Pass	1♣ ⁽¹⁾	Pass	2♦ ⁽²⁾
Pass	2NT	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

⁽¹⁾ Precision.

⁽²⁾ Ostensibly 8-10 balanced.

Considering that he was actually a high-card point below the minimum for the 2♦ bid, Rodwell's bid of 3NT looks more than a bit aggressive. The contract meets Bob Hamman's criterion for efficacy, however, since it made.

A low heart lead, of course, would have allowed the defenders to take the first five tricks for plus 100, but Mari led the ♠10, which

Meckstroth ran to his jack. Declarer got the good news at trick two when his ♣A felled Mari's singleton queen. From there, Meckstroth unblocked spades and ran clubs. In the end, he played a diamond to the ace and a diamond to Multon's king. Multon surrendered a second overtrick when he underled his ♥A. Plus 660 and 11 IMPs to USA 1.

France responded with an 11-IMP gain on the following deal.

Board 11. Dealer South. None Vul

	♠ J 10 6 5		
	♥ K Q 10 9 5 2		
	♦ K		
	♣ 7 3		
♠ K Q 7		♠ 9 8 3	
♥ A J 6 4 3		♥ 6	
♦ 8 4		♦ J 10 9 7 6	
♣ Q 6 2		♣ A J 10 9	
	♠ A 4 2		
	♥ 8		
	♦ A Q 5 3 2		
	♣ K 8 5 4		

West	North	East	South
Freeman	Bompis	Nickell	de Ste Marie
			1♦
1♥	Pass	Pass	Dble
All Pass			

Freeman took four tricks, suffering a penalty of minus 500. At the other table, Mari came to his partner's rescue.

West	North	East	South
Multon	Meckstroth	Mari	Rodwell
			1♦
1♥	Pass	Pass	Dble
Pass	Pass	INT	Dble
2♣	Pass	Pass	Dble
All Pass			

Mari didn't fancy putting his hand down as dummy in a doubled heart contract, so he suggested playing in a minor. The 2♣ contract actually had plays, but it didn't work out for Multon.

Meckstroth led the ♦K, switching to the ♠J, Rodwell went up with the ace and returned the suit. Multon won the ♠K and cashed the ♠Q. Next he played the ♦8 to Rodwell's queen, and when Rodwell returned the ♦2, VuGraph commentators speculated that Multon could actually make his contract by ruffing with the ♠Q, cashing the ♥A and playing a club to the ace, followed by a club. He would then lose only one spade, one club and three diamonds.

Multon, however, discarded a heart on the trick. Meckstroth ruffed and returned the ♠10, allowing Rodwell to discard his heart. He later ruffed the ♥A with a low trump and still had the ♣K to come. Even at that, minus 100 was still good for a 9-IMP gain for France, trailing by only 11 at that point.

On the next deal, France had a chance for a gain if they could reach a game missed in the other room. The fly in the ointment was that Meckstroth and Rodwell stole the deal with one of their super-aggressive opening bids. Not that that was all bad for France, considering the end result.

Board 12. Dealer West. N/S Vul

	♠ J 9 8 3 2		
	♥ A 9 8 7 3		
	♦ A		
	♣ 7 4		
♠ K Q 10 4		♠ A 7	
♥ 10 6		♥ K 4 2	
♦ 8 6		♦ J 9 5 4 3	
♣ K Q 9 5 3		♣ A 6 2	
	♠ 6 5		
	♥ Q J 5		
	♦ K Q 10 7 2		
	♣ J 10 8		

West	North	East	South
Freeman	Bompis	Nickell	de Ste Marie
Pass	Pass	1♦	Pass
1♠	Pass	1NT	Pass
Pass	2♥	Pass	Pass
2NT	All Pass		

De Sainte Marie led the ♥Q and Nickell ended up with 10 tricks for plus 180. At the other table East-West never got into the auction.

West	North	East	South
Multon	Meckstroth	Mari	Rodwell
Pass	1♠	Pass	1NT ⁽¹⁾
Pass	2♥	Pass	2♠
All Pass			

⁽¹⁾ One-round force.

Ignoring the vulnerability and the threadbare spade suit, Meckstroth was right in there with an opening bid. The play went relatively quickly, but not pleasantly for North-South. Mari started with a low diamond to Meckstroth's ace. He played a low heart from hand at trick two, taken by Mari with the king. Next came the ♣A and a club to Multon's king, with the ♣Q after that. Meckstroth ruffed and played a heart to dummy's queen.

The ♦K was next for a heart pitch from the North hand. When Meckstroth played the ♦Q, Multon ruffed with the ♠Q and played back the ♣5, Meckstroth threw away his last heart as Mari ruffed with the 7, but Mari cashed the ♠A and got out with a diamond as Multon threw his last club. Meckstroth ruffed but had to lead away from his ♠J 9 into Multon's ♠K 10. That was down three, minus 300 and 3 IMPs to France.

At that point, France trailed by only 8, 27-19. USA 1 collected 5-IMP gains on three separate boards to increase the lead and end France's comeback hopes.

Transfers to the Airport

There will be a special transportation desk in the lobby located close to the elevators. Please make sure you arrange your transfer in good time.

Mr. Truscott, let's not kill Bridge!

By Carlo Mosca - NPC of the Italian Open Team

Bridge is tactics, strategy, technique, psychology. It is about intelligence and not a battle of regulations.

A system or convention affirms itself if effective and will inevitably disappear when it becomes obsolete and a losing one; all this at the games table and not at the judging one.

In recent years the most prevalent systems have been those of the natural type, those which are quick to specify fit situations and, more generally, the hand par before the opponents. Delay systems (strong clubs, relay systems, strong pass) have become less common, as have conventions which are ambiguous in showing the suit (such as 2♦ multi).

Also, purely destructive bidding, easily penalized, has practically disappeared. Throughout the years the INT opening has decreased its range of points from previously 16 - 18 to 12 - 14, and then to the current 9 - 12. This is for two good reasons: all interventions on level 1 (obstruction) are avoided and the probability of opening is increased (from 10 to 30% approx.).

This is a natural evolution and in the future things will continue to change. Therefore oppressive intervention by the rule-maker is completely useless.

A related matter is that of POINTS! What do they have to do with Bridge, which is a game of tricks? What counts is the suits, the distribution, the high value cards; POINTS are of lesser importance in our game. Do we allow the person with a driving licence to drive or the one who has filled up the gas tank?

Fear of unusual conventions is only mental laziness: a participant in a World Championship must study and work. Did Fischer challenge Spassky after only a few games with friends?

A good example is that which refers to the intervention of 3 - 4 cards with a longer side suit. I can talk about this since I invented it twenty-five years ago and have been playing it ever since in the European Championships. It is easy to demonstrate that it gives more information than that of the natural intervention. In fact, instead of showing five or six cards, it immediately shows eight or nine, with only "relative" ambiguity about the longer. This is the case for all participants, so there is no intent to cheat or deceive.

The truth is that with knowing two suits there is more chance of intervention, both in the constructive and in the defence phase. It is therefore much more effective than the natural intervention. However, instead of being encouraged it has been forbidden!

Bridge has now been imprisoned and only the desire for freedom can liberate it. If perhaps there is someone here in Bermuda who shares my way of thinking, please let me know and maybe we can play together in heaven!

*The Bermuda Bridge Federation
cordially invites
Members of the Press
to a
Cocktail Party
in the Wine Cellar (Mezzanine West)
on Tuesday, January 18th, 18.30-20.00*

Dress: Smart Casual

Tickets in the Press Room: Elly Ducheyne

Three Bermuda Bowls in Bermuda -- and they've been to all three!

By Henry Francis

Two Bermudians are especially excited about the 2000 Bermuda Bowl – it's the THIRD time they have watched a Bermuda Bowl championship in Bermuda.

That's right - Peter Willcocks and Graham Rosser, both of whom trace their bridge interest back to the Thirties and Forties, were spectators at the very first Bermuda Bowl back in 1950. When the Silver Anniversary Bermuda Bowl was held here in the Southampton Princess in 1975, once again they were on hand to cheer the American team. And now they're here for the Golden Anniversary! Rosser is taking an active part in the Championships – yesterday he was busy stuffing the gift bags that will be given to members of the Transnational Teams.

Willcocks was the first Bermudian ever to win a regional event in Bermuda – the Men's Pairs way back in the Sixties. Both Rosser and Willcocks still play, but not very often these days.

"We could give some of these teams a good run for their money if we put one of our old teams together," said Willcocks. "Just put Rosser with me and David Ezekiel, Bill Tucker and Tony Saunders and you'll see a team that can hold their own against the best." Most of you already know Ezekiel – he was the master of ceremonies who did such a great job at the opening ceremony.

Queen of the Nile

Egypt's Lily & Maud are one of the best known pairs in the Middle East and they are no strangers to World Championship competition. When their team faced Australia in Round 14 of the Orbis Venice Cup, Lily was taking a breather, so Maud partnered Josephine Morcos. The new partnership got off to a spectacular start.

Board 3. Dealer South. E/W Vul

♠ J 8 7 4 3		♠ Q 10 6 2									
♥ Q 9 7		♥ K J 6 5									
♦ J 6 3		♦ 8 4									
♣ A 9		♣ 6 4 2									
♠ A K	<table style="border: 1px solid black; width: 40px; height: 40px; margin: auto;"> <tr><td></td><td style="text-align: center;">N</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">W</td><td style="background-color: black; color: white; text-align: center;">S</td><td style="text-align: center;">E</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> </table>		N		W	S	E				♠ Q 10 6 2
	N										
W	S	E									
♥ 10		♥ K J 6 5									
♦ K 10 9 5		♦ 8 4									
♣ K Q J 10 8 7		♣ 6 4 2									
♠ 9 5		♠ 9 5									
♥ A 8 4 3 2		♥ A 8 4 3 2									
♦ A Q 7 2		♦ A Q 7 2									
♣ 5 3		♣ 5 3									

West	North	East	South
<i>Lusk</i>	<i>Maud</i>	<i>Tully</i>	<i>Morcos</i>
1♣	Pass	1♥	Pass
2♦	Pass	2♠	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

East's Two Spade bid was alerted and described as weak.

Three No-Trumps is not destined to make, indeed, North can lead any one of her thirteen cards except the jack of diamonds, and the contract will fail. None the less, North's spectacular opening lead of the queen of hearts made the hand very easy to defend!

11th World Bridge Teams Olympiad

**August 26 - September 9 2000
Maastricht, The Netherlands**

Due to the increasing numbers of NCBO's the **Bridge Olympiad 2000** in Maastricht is expected to be the biggest Olympiad Teams Tournaments ever organised. The **World Bridge Federation** is inviting all the NCBO's to participate in the matches for the **Olympic titles in the Open Teams and the Women's Teams**.

Players can also compete for the **Olympic title for the Mixed Transnational Teams**. This Mixed Transnational Team competition that will be organized in the second week of this fortnight event will probably be the biggest ever organized during the Bridge Olympiads.

The official invitations to the countries have been sent (including detailed hotel information) by the WBF.

The host for this WBF tournament is the Dutch Bridge Federation, with Maastricht being the host city.



Maastricht, the oldest city in the Netherlands, is one in which a rich, centuries-old past blends intriguingly with the dynamic atmosphere of modern, urban life. Maastricht's rich cultural heritage has been well preserved in over 1400 monuments, tangible reminders in stone of the glories of Medieval and Roman civilizations.

Maastricht, the most southerly situated city in Holland, has nearly 120,000 inhabitants. Known for centuries for its hospitality, friendliness and charm, Maastricht makes you feel at home from the very first day of your stay. And thanks to its relaxed atmosphere, its numerous pubs and pavement cafés, its excellent restaurants and smaller, more intimate 'eat-cafes', its wide variety of shops and department stores, and its romantic streets and picturesque squares, over 12 million visitors come for shorter or longer stays each year.

The Venue

The venue for the World Teams Bridge Olympiad is the **Maastricht Exhibition and Congress Centre (MECC)**, which is only 10-15 minutes from the centre of the city.

Hotel Accommodation

In the official WBF invitation, a large number of hotels are offered with different price categories. On top of that a variety of alternative accommodation will be available, including guest houses, self catering apartments and small hotels.



The Internet site for the Bridge Olympiad:
(www.bridgeolympiad.nl).



Hong Kong Ladies Team

Ashley Lung, the Hong Kong Ladies Team Captain is a watch dealer dealing in prestigious brands, who runs a shop in the centre of Hong Kong Island. He is a Hong Kong Grand Master and has won numerous championships both locally and overseas. He was a member of the Hong Kong Team who came second in the 1992 Olympiad Swiss Plate in Salsomaggiore. Since the 1988 Olympiad in Venice, Ashley has captained and participated in many WBF major events including the 1990 and 1994 World Team/Pair Championships in Geneva and Albuquerque and the 1992 and 1996 Olympiads in Salsomaggiore and Rhodes respectively. Bermuda 2000 is his first appearance in a Venice Cup. Ashley's wife, Ellen, is a nurse with radio-diagnostic speciality. His two boys, Alexander and Alfred are university students in the UK and Hong Kong.

Ella Graca, born in Shanghai, China and became interested in the game in 1945 – hardly knew the basics when she started playing rubber bridge and paid through the nose in the early years. Came to Hong Kong in 1963 and played for the HK Ladies Team that very year. Continued playing for HK nearly every year since then in the Far East Championships but unfortunately no firsts. Played in the Olympiad in Venice and in Rhodes, Greece 1996. Last year in Hangchow finally managed to attain berth three to qualify for the Venice Cup 2000 at the age of 81! A dream realised! Had been thinking of retiring from bridge ten years ago but could not resist the lure of the game when asked to play. Enjoys playing with different partners and using various systems - Blue Club, Precision, Standard etc. Thanks to the Senior Events she may still play for another year or two. There is nothing, absolutely nothing, like bridge to keep the mind alert, and where else can one meet and know so many nice people.

Christine Booth, is a solicitor, currently a professor at the University of Hong Kong's Faculty of Law. She learnt to play bridge in 1991 and made her international debut in Perth in 1995 at the Far East Championships. Since then she has played for Hong Kong in a number

of regional competitions. She was also a member of the team that came second in the Amazing Thailand Bridge Competition last year and the ladies team that won the Hong Kong Intercity Championships in August 1999. In addition she played for Hong Kong in the World Bridge Teams Olympiad in 1996. Bermuda 2000 is her first appearance in the Venice Cup.

Shirley Chang, having retired from the bridge scene for nearly a decade, I was only recently enticed back to the challenge of the game, and thus I have nothing to my name except some wins ten years ago. In 1989 I came first in the Club Med series in Hong Kong featuring Omar Shariff. I was a member of the Hong Kong Intercity Championship in 1990. I hope to be able to add to these honours in the near future.

Shirley Leong, calls herself a bridge and tennis bum. Originally from South Africa, she has lived in Hong Kong since 1972 and now considers it home. She has represented Hong Kong in the PABF (in Perth), the Olympiad (Rhodes), Far East Congress (Thailand) and numerous intercity tournaments in Hong Kong. This is the first time she has ever played in a Venice Cup tournament.

Irene Ho, started enjoying the fun of bridge during her high school days, taking up duplicate in 1986. She is a frequent participant in national matches around the Pacific zone. She also serves on the council of the Hong Kong Contract Bridge Association to promote the game of bridge. Bermuda 2000 marks her first appearance in a World Championship.

Nancy Neuman, is the founder and managing director of an executive search firm based in Hong Kong SAR, serving the Asia Pacific market with emphasis on Greater China. Relatively new to the international bridge circuit, she partners Shirley Chang, playing a natural system. Apart from bridge her other hobbies include work, tennis and golf.

INVESTING IS OUR STRONG SUIT

A daily column on investing by Orbis Investment Management Limited

You may meet a senior representative from Orbis Investment Management Limited at the hotel. To make an appointment please contact the hospitality desk or call the Churchill Suite, room phone: 7554.

Investing in mutual funds

Orbis offers its investment management services in the form of mutual funds. It's worth spending some time considering why we do this. We used to manage portfolios individually for our clients and felt that we could offer a better service with funds.

First a brief explanation of what a mutual fund is: simply put, a mutual fund is a pool of investments collectively made on behalf of a large group of people.

Here is how it works: when you buy a mutual fund, like the Orbis funds, you are actually buying shares of an investment company. You are pooling your money together with that of many other people who like the same sorts of investments as you. A professional investment expert, known as a portfolio manager, invests it as one portfolio for the whole group. You participate in proportion to your shareholding in all profits and losses of the portfolio.

Why buy a mutual fund when you could have your own portfolio?

Access to professional management. If you do not have a very substantial amount to invest you are very unlikely to be able to have your account professionally managed by a top class investment professional. Even if you have a very substantial amount to invest it is very difficult to ensure that the best money managers are personally making the investment decisions on your account. By investing in a mutual fund you know who is making these decisions and that you are getting the same attention as all the other investors in the fund.

Efficient investment management. It is far more efficient for a manager to concentrate on one portfolio than hundreds. The most precious resource in the investment management profession is the time of those who make effective investment management decisions. Having fewer portfolios results in your manager spending more time thinking about how to invest your money. Of course, this does not guarantee better performance but it should help.

Convenience. Buying or selling a mutual fund can be simple, quick and inexpensive. You can track the value of your portfolio frequently. Reporting by funds is comprehensive and accounting for your investment is greatly simplified. By comparison, operating an individual investment portfolio can be expensive and cumbersome. Performance reporting for individual accounts is often vague or non-existent because it is very costly to produce.

More likely alignment of interest. One favourable sign for an equity is if the company's management has a significant long term ownership interest. This helps to ensure that they care about the long-term interests of shareholders. Similarly, it is preferable to have your manager's financial wealth co-invested with yours. This can be seen in the well-known hedge funds in which the manager is often the largest individual investor. Not all managers invest in their own funds but if they do it is reassuring to know that they are "eating their own cooking".

