



NEC Bridge Festival

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Welcome to the 8th NEC Cup Bridge Festival: 2003

This year's 8th NEC Cup boasts the largest and one of the strongest international fields ever, including many of the world's top players. Stage One will be an 8-round Swiss Teams consisting of 20-board matches, IMPs converted to Victory Points, qualifying eight teams for the KO phase. The 42-team field has been divided into top and bottom halves and the first Swiss match has been arranged so that each team in the top half is matched at random against a team from the bottom half; subsequent match pairings will be based on current VP totals. The quarter-finals and semi-finals will consist of 40-board matches while the final will be contested over 64 boards.

The Daily Bulletin Office/Secretariat and the Chief Director

As always, we need your help. Please report anything amusing, challenging, or skillful that happens in your matches (bridge or otherwise) to the **Daily Bulletin Office, a.k.a. The Secretariat** (E202). If we're not there, leave a note on one of our computers (they're on the far right as you enter the room). The **Secretariat** will open each day at 10:00 am. If you're trying to reach someone you can't find, leave a message with us and we'll do our best to get it to them. You may also contact the Secretariat via a house phone from the hotel or by dialing 222-1033 from the Yokohama area or 045-222-1033 from from outside the city area. The **Chief Tournament Director** for this year's **NEC Bridge Festival** will once again be the witty, urbane, unflappable and occasionally immovable **Richard Grenside**. Call him if you wish, but just as if you choose to draw an inference from an opponent's tempo or manner, you do so at your own risk.

Who's Who at the 8th NEC Cup

Welcome to Yokohama, everyone. As Ed Sullivan used to say every Sunday night, "We've got a really big show for you." The field, which is traditionally very strong, is filled with serious contenders, thanks to your participation. Although the defending champions from England will be without the inimitable John Armstrong for the first three (of eight) Swiss matches, they are fortunate in having former champ Dawei Chen pinch-hit for the day. There is absolutely no truth to the rumor that Brian Callaghan has paid off the airlines to keep John away for a second day.

Canada is represented by two teams—the winners of the 2002 IOC in Salt Lake City and the gold medalists at the 2002 Commonwealth Games in Manchester. As there was considerable overlap in these two teams, the bottom line is that John Duquette has been conscripted to bring their combined total to eight, two formidable teams. It has occurred to me (EOK) that three of my former partners are in their number, which only serves to underscore the high level of common sense demonstrated by Joey Silver, Fred Gitelman and Keith Balcombe.

[concludes on p.3]

NEC Cup 2003: CONDITIONS OF CONTEST

An 8 round Swiss, qualifying the top 8 teams to the Knockout phase; no playbacks.

V.P. Scale WBF 20-board scale (a copy can be found in the score book provided in your NEC Bridge Festival bag).

Seating Rights Toss of coin 5 minutes before start of match. Failure will constitute loss of rights.

KO-Phase Seating The winner of a coin toss has the choice of seating in either of the two 20-board segments. In the four 16-board segments of the final, the choices will alternate over segments.

Swiss Pairings For the first and second Swiss matches, pairings will be determined by randomly pairing each of the teams numbered 1-21 with one of the teams numbered 22-42. Subsequent match pairings will be based on current VP totals.

Home and visiting 1st numbered team sits N/S in open room, E/W in closed room.

Tie-Breaks At the end of the Swiss: ties will be broken by the result of the head-to-head match (if one was played) or an IMP quotient otherwise. If more than two teams are involved, WBF 2002 Conditions of Contest procedures will apply.

In the Knockout Phase, the team with the higher position from the Swiss will be assumed to have a ½-IMP carryover.

Systems No HUM methods will be permitted in this event.
In the Swiss, no Brown Sticker methods will be permitted.
In the KO Phase, Brown Sticker methods will be permitted only if filed before the start of the Swiss. Written defenses to such methods may be used at the table.

Length of Matches 2 hours and 50 minutes will be allotted for each 20-board segment (or 2 hours and 20 minutes for each 16-board segment of the final). In addition a 5-minute grace period will be allotted to each team. Overtime and slow play penalties as per WBF 2001 Conditions of Contest.

Appeals The WBF Code of Practice will be in effect. The Chief Director will have 12C3 authority. Appeals which are found to be without merit may incur a penalty of up to 3 VPs.

Match Scoring Pick-up slips are to be completed and all match results are to be verified against the official result sheet (posted at the end of each match); score corrections and notifications of appeals will be permitted up until the start of the next session.

KO Draw The team finishing 1st in the Swiss may choose their opponent from the teams finishing 4th-8th. The team finishing 2nd will have their choice of the remaining teams from the 4th-8th group. And so on.

In addition, before the start of the Knockout Phase and after all quarter-final draws have been determined, the team that finishes 1st in the Swiss chooses their semi-final opponent from any of the other three quarter-final matches.

Smoking No smoking in the playing areas. You may not leave the playing room to smoke.

Who's Who at the 8th NEC Cup (cont.)

What would the NEC be without a team led by Brigitte Mavromichalis? The short answer to that is just a lovely bunch of Hacketts. Beware of Paul and Justin, joined by the already legendary Geir Helgemo and Irish ace Hugh McGann.

Although Chris Convery would have made South Africa even more fierce, we can look forward to a strong challenge from his experienced countrymen despite his absence.

Hungary is represented by four perennial members of its successful national team, so expect to see them in contention all the way.

Among the favorites is Poland, a team whose front four would be on everyone's list of the world's current top hundred pairs.

Bobby Wolff has been a legend longer than anyone else at this tournament. In his latest incarnation he won the Reisinger at the Fall NABC in Phoenix with a team of relatively unsung heroes. Bobby's partner John Sutherlin and teammates Mark Feldman/Sharon Osberg are among the USA's top players.

Sweden always does well in the NEC and with PO Sundelin/Johan Sylvan joining forces with the youthful Fredrik Nystrom/Peter Bertheau, we can expect a traditional Swedish run this year.

A special welcome to Wales, whose performance in the Manchester Commonwealth games has created great interest in the game at home and strong support for the team appearing in the NEC.

Although Sylvie Willard could not complete the ranks of the team we have dubbed European Alliance, la famille Cronier will represent France with distinction while teammates Katrin Farwig/Barbara Hackett will do the same for Germany and England.

Japan's two PABF teams will be tough opponents in every match, as always, and both believe they have a good chance to make the top eight and survive to the Knockout phase, which begins on Thursday.

Hong Kong is fielding three very capable teams, Chinese Taipei two, and Korea one.

The rest of the field is primarily Japanese (Ishmael Del 'Monte has mothballed his Antipodean citizenship for the occasion), with several strong and experienced entries, so we would not be surprised to see a couple of representatives of the host nation in the late stages of the 8th NEC Cup.

With 42 teams in the field it will not be easy to predict the final eight with any confidence, although participants in the office pool will be trying to do just that. We predict that no one will guess the elite eight in the correct order of finish in the Swiss, but why should that prediction be any more accurate?

As the logistics for the Swiss are a bit awkward for us, we encourage you to visit the Secretariat (in Room E202) and share your bridge adventures with us (for better or for worse).

We are hoping to present introductions of all the foreign teams in the Bulletin, so we would be grateful for representatives of those teams to produce short and lively articles for us at their earliest convenience. We'd like to tell you that there will be a prize for the best presentation but you may have to be content with the adoration of your colleagues.

And finally, if you don't enjoy yourselves at this tournament you're not really trying.

Roster of the 8th NEC Cup

Team		Members					
No.	Name/Country	1	2	3	4	5	6
1	England	Brian Senior	John Armstrong	Brian Callaghan	Pablo Lombardi	Chen Dawai	
2	Canada-IOC	Joey Silver	Fred Gitelman	Gordon Campbell	Peter Jones		
3	Canada-Commonwealth	Nicholas Gartaganis	Judith Gartaganis	John Duquette	Keith Balcome		
4	Hackett	Paul Hackett	Justin Hackett	Geir Helgemo	Hugh McGann		
5	South Africa	Wayne Chu	Craig Gower	Neville Eber	Bernard Donde		
6	Hungary	Peter Lakatos	Gabor Winkler	Geza Homonnay	Peter Gal		
7	Poland	Krzysztof Martens	Marcin Lesniewski	Michal Kwiecien	Jacek Pszczola	Witold Wasak	Radoslaw Kielbasinski (npc)
8	USA	Sharon Osberg	Mark Feldman	Bobby Wolff	John Sutherlin		
9	Sweden	PO Sundelin	Johan Sylvan	Peter Bertheau	Fredrik Nystrom		
10	Wales	Gary Jones	Peter Goodman	Adam Dunn	Daffyd Jones		
11	European Alliance	Benedicte Cronier	Philippe Cronier	Barbara Hackett	Katrin Farwig		
12	PABF Open	Yasuhiro Shimizu	Kenji Miyakuni	Yoshiyuki Nakamura	Ryoga Tanaka	Tomoyuki Harada	Kazuo Furuta
13	PABF Women	Sakiko Naito	Ayako Amano	Nobuko Setoguchi	Hiroko Ota	Makiko Hayashi	Yuko Yamada
14	KOREA	Sung Kyung Hae	Hyung In Ryung	Sohn Eun Sun	David Chu		
15	Hong Kong 1	K.F. Tung	Chris Wu	S. P. Chan	Samuel Chow		
16	Hong Kong 2	Jun Cheng	C. C. Mok	Sunny Lam	Elizabeth Cheng	Sachiyo Uenaka	Kunio Ueda
17	Hong Kong 3	C. C. Wong	Irene Ho	Shinko Ishikawa	Youko Fukuyama		
18	Chinese Taipei-Lin	Michael Ting(PC)	Chih-Mou Lin	Donny Chen	Walter Chen	Strong Huang	Peter Ho
19	Taiwan Amethyst	Violet Liu(PC)	Wong Choo Wai	Chuang Shun Ho	Tom Cheng		
20	TAJIMA	Tadashi Teramoto	Mitsue Tajima	Masayuki Ino	Tadashi Imakura	Ishmael Del'Monte	
21	HIRATA	Makoto Hirata	Nobuyuki Hayashi	Seiya Shimizu	Takehiko Nagahama	Kyoko Ohno	Akihiko Yamada
22	ESPERANZA	Haruko Koshi	Mieko Nakanishi	Hiroko Janssen	Youko Ohsako	Mizuko Tan	Misuzu Ichihashi
23	GOING+MN	Robert Geller	Setsuko Ogihara	Hidenori Narita	Yoichi Ito	Akira Morozumi	Sei Nagasaka
24	Gryffindor	Hiroko Sekiyama	Michiko Iwahashi	Kumiko Matsuo	Youko Nenohi	Toshiko Kaho	Michiko Ohno
25	TONPUKU	Kyoko Toyofuku	Momoko Kumano	Midori Sakamoto	Yayoi Sakamoto	Koji Ito	Takahiko Hirata
26	SKOTII	Tsuneo Sakurai	Takahiro Kamiyo	Yoshio Tsuji	Shiro Inoue	Atsushi Kikuchi	Takehiko Tada
27	Girasol	Sachiko Yamamura	Taeko Kawamura	Keiko Matsuzaki	Kimi Makita		
28	DARUMA	Natsuko Nishida	Chieko Nohtomi	Tomoe Nakao	Setsuko Moriyama	Megumi Takasaki	Miho Sekizawa
29	Ron	Hiroshi Kaku	Masaru Yoshida	Masaaki Takayama	Minoru Mizuta	Chizuno Saito	Hideki Takano
30	RHEIN	Minako Takahashi	Fumiko Kimura	Michiko Ono	Toyoko Saito	Sachiho Ueda	Betty Tajiri
31	Cactus	Toshiko Miyashiro	Yukiko Umezu	Etsuko Naito	Michio Goto		
32	Fairy Tale	Takao Onodera	Yukinao Homma	Ken Higashiguchi	Shunsuke Morimura	Ryo Okuno	Kazuo Takano
33	KIMURA	Osami Kimura	Kinzaburo Nishino	Kiyoko Fushida	Setsuko Kimura	Hiroko Kobayashi	Chizuko Tsukamoto
34	MERRY QUEENS	Teruko Nishimura	Junko Nishimura	Toyoko Nakakawaji	Toshiko Hiramori		
35	Friends	Youko Saito	Etsuko Miyaishi	Chieko Ichikawa	Kuniko Saito	Mamiko Ohdaira	Takako Nakatani
36	SWAN	Minako Hiratsuka	Michiko Shida	Kotomi Asakoshi	Aiko Banno	Naomi Terauchi	Yuko Yoneyama
37	PS-JACK	Masako Ohtsuka	Masakatsu Sugino	Shoko Imai	Takako Fujimoto	Hiroya Abe	
38	Cosmos	Nobuko Wakasa	Masaharu Wakasa	Keiko Enomoto	Youko Takahashi	Kazuko Tsumori	Noriko Komiyama
39	My-Bridge	Masafumi Yoshizawa	Noriko Yoshizawa	Yoshitaka Agata	Kinuko Miyauchi		
40	Kinki	Chizuko Sugiura	Sonoko Namba	Mimako Ishizuka	Tohru Tamura		
41	Kacho-Fugetsu	Akiko Miwa	Kunio Kodaira	Teruo Miyazaki	Makoto Nomura	Fumuko Nanjo	Koji Yamada
42	JAPAN YOUTH	Takeshi Niekawa	Shugo Tanaka	Hideaki Yoshimi	Hideaki Mimuro	Masaki Yoshida	Hiroyuki Taguchi

Round-1 Match-ups: 1 vs 42 ; 2 vs 41 ; 3 vs 22 ; 4 vs 23 ; 5 vs 26 ; 6 vs 40 ; 7 vs 34 ; 8 vs 33 ; 9 vs 28 ; 10 vs 37 ; 11 vs 31 ; 12 vs 39 ; 13 vs 32 ; 14 vs 24 ; 15 vs 35 ; 16 vs 36 ; 17 vs 38 ; 18 vs 25 ; 19 vs 27 ; 20 vs 29 ; 21 vs 30

Last Year's NEC Cup: 2002

Last year thirteen international teams, including players from Australia, Austria, Canada, Denmark, England, India, The Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Russia, Spain, Sweden, Taiwan and the United States joined twenty-five top teams from Japan to vie for the 2002 NEC Cup.

In the qualifying Swiss, Team e-bridge tied with England/Norway for the early lead with PABF Women, Sweden and Australia tied for second place. By the end of Day Two Team e-bridge had eked out a narrow 2-VP lead over Sweden with England/Norway just 2 VPs behind. Team e-bridge and Sweden finished a close one-two, England edged out England/Norway by 1 VP for third place, and NAITO, India, USA and Canada rounded out the eight qualifiers.

In the knockout quarterfinals, Team e-bridge chose to play NAITO, Sweden chose to play Canada, England chose to play India, and England/Norway was left to play USA. e-bridge and Canada won their matches in blowouts while England/Norway and England survived in close single-digit wins. In the semifinals the two favorites, England/Norway and e-bridge, were soundly defeated. That left England (**Senior-Lambardi, Armstrong-Callaghan**) to face Canada (**Czyzowicz-Wolpert, Fergani-L'Ecuyer**) in the 2002 NEC Cup final.

First Quarter (Boards 1-16):

England drew first blood on the very first hand, a partscore deal.

Bd: 1	North
Dlr: North	♠ 965
Vul: None	♥ J6542
	♦ AQ94
	♣ 3
West	East
♠ K873	♠ AQ42
♥ AK9	♥ Q8
♦ K63	♦ 105
♣ 1074	♣ Q9865
	South
	♠ J10
	♥ 1073
	♦ J872
	♣ AKJ2

Open Room			
West	North	East	South
<i>Wolpert</i>	<i>Senior</i>	<i>Czyzowicz</i>	<i>Lambardi</i>
	Pass	Pass	1♣
Pass	1♥	Pass	Pass
Dbl	2♦	2♠	3♦
Pass	Pass	3♠	All Pass
Closed Room			
West	North	East	South
<i>Callaghan</i>	<i>L'Ecuyer</i>	<i>Armstrong</i>	<i>Fergani</i>
	Pass	Pass	Pass
1♣	1♥	1♠	2♣*
2♠	3♦	3♥	Pass
3♠	All Pass		

Enterprising bidding by both **Brian Senior** and **Lambardi** served to jockey **Jurek Czyzowicz** into 3♠, which was a trifle high. **Lambardi** cashed the ♣K, saw **Senior's** three, and switched not to the ♦J, but to the ♥7. Although that enabled declarer to discard a diamond on the third heart, there was still work to be done. **Czyzowicz** came to the ♠A to lead his remaining diamond, but ducked **South's** jack. A second trump went to the king and the ♣10 was passed to the jack and a third diamond tapped declarer, who played another club. **Lambardi** won and played a third diamond, forcing **Czyzowicz** to ruff with the ♠Q. **Senior's** mighty nine of trumps was the setting trick; -50.

Nicolas L'Ecuyer, having passed originally, felt free to keep on bidding once **Fergani** slipped in a fit-showing cue-bid that he hoped would direct a club lead in a relevant position. **John Armstrong** tried for game with 3♥ and **Fergani** had a chance to pass to warn of heart weakness. **Brian Callaghan** signed off and there they were, in the same 3♠ as their Canadian counterparts. Here, however, the defense slipped, **Fergani** starting with ♣A, then ♣K, **North** discarding the discouraging ♥6. **Fergani** switched to the ♦J, but when declarer covered there was no way for **South** to regain the lead to give his partner a club ruff. **L'Ecuyer** continued with ♦Q, diamond, but declarer ruffed and drew trumps; +140. 5 IMPs to England, 5-0.

England picked up another 3 IMPs on Board 2

extending their lead to 8-0. Canada picked up their first IMP on Board 4 when Fergani cashed a trick against an easy 6♥ while Lambardi did not. Canada gained another IMP on Board 5 when Fergani guessed the trumps better than Lambardi. An overtrick for England on Board 6 extended their lead to 9-2. Then came...

Bd: 8	North		
Dlr: West	♠ A105		
Vul: None	♥ A9763		
	♦ A8		
	♣ AKJ		
West			East
♠ Q982			♠ 43
♥ Q1084			♥ KJ
♦ KQ			♦ J9754
♣ Q75			♣ 10983
	South		
	♠ KJ76		
	♥ 52		
	♦ 10632		
	♣ 642		
Open Room			
West	North	East	South
<i>Wolpert</i>	<i>Senior</i>	<i>Czyzowicz</i>	<i>Lambardi</i>
Pass	2NT	Pass	3NT
All Pass			
Closed Room			
West	North	East	South
<i>Callaghan</i>	<i>L'Ecuyer</i>	<i>Armstrong</i>	<i>Fergani</i>
Pass	1♥	Pass	Pass
1NT	Dbl	2♣	Pass
Pass	Dbl	2♦	2♠
Pass	3♠	Pass	4♠
All Pass			

Senior, in 3NT, got the lead of the ♦5 to the queen and ace. He ducked a heart and the ♦9 went to the king. Wolpert returned the ♥Q, which Senior took to play another heart. Wolpert won and switched to the ♣7, which Senior won to clear hearts. Wolpert returned the ♣5 and Senior decided to rely on spades or an endplay. He won the ♣K, cashed his heart (♠8 from Wolpert, discouraging), and decided to play East for the ♠Q, taking a second round finesse. Wolpert won and cashed the inside ♣Q, which was not the card Senior was hoping to see. Two down; -100.

The auction was much more exciting in the other room, where Fergani decided to pass L'Ecuyer's 1♥ opening. Whether L'Ecuyer's

double of 2♣ was systemically for takeout or penalty is probably not in the system notes, but it would appear that Fergani expected some spade length when he bid 2♠ rather than double 2♦ (which would have gone down at least 500). In 4♠, Fergani ducked the lead of the ♦K, won the diamond continuation, ducked a heart, won the heart continuation, cashed the ♣AK, and led a heart, scoring the ♠7. He led a diamond through Callaghan, who discarded the ♣Q and permitted declarer to score the ♠5; another safe heart ruff followed, and another diamond was ruffed with the ♠10. Declarer had ten tricks now for +420. 11 IMPs to Canada, ahead 13-9.

Bd: 9	North		
Dlr: North	♠ AQ1074		
Vul: E/W	♥ J62		
	♦ 6		
	♣ 9852		
West			East
♠ J982			♠ K3
♥ K8			♥ A10754
♦ KQ10987			♦ J43
♣ 10			♣ Q74
	South		
	♠ 65		
	♥ Q93		
	♦ A52		
	♣ AKJ63		
Open Room			
West	North	East	South
<i>Wolpert</i>	<i>Senior</i>	<i>Czyzowicz</i>	<i>Lambardi</i>
	2♠	All Pass	
Closed Room			
West	North	East	South
<i>Callaghan</i>	<i>L'Ecuyer</i>	<i>Armstrong</i>	<i>Fergani</i>
	2♦*	Pass	2♠*
All Pass			

In reply to the question, "Is the North hand a mandatory weak two-bid in first seat, neither vulnerable?" We expect all the finalist to yell "yes" at us. Czyzowicz led the ♣4 against Senior, who played the ace and led a spade to the ten and king. The diamond switch went to the ace and declarer played two high trumps, then took the marked club finesse when Czyzowicz followed with the seven; +140.

Fergani, declaring the same contract from the short side, was not treated to the same information about the clubs. When he won the

opening lead of the $\diamond K$ with the ace and led a spade to the ten, Armstrong followed low painlessly. Fergani crossed to the $\clubsuit A$ and led a second spade to the *jack* (good man, Brian) and queen. Armstrong won and forced dummy with a diamond. Fergani ruffed and tried a club to the king, but Callaghan ruffed and forced dummy again. Fergani drew the last trump and conceded a club, but the defenders had the rest for two down; -100 , a three-trick difference from the Open Room result. 6 IMPs to England, back in front, 15-13.

ace and ducked a spade. Now Wolpert got a diamond ruff, so Lambardi took only eleven tricks. Still, that was $+990$ and 7 IMPs to England, ahead 22-13.

Bd: 10	North		
Dlr: East	\spadesuit A10986		
Vul: Both	\heartsuit A743		
	\diamond 104		
	\clubsuit J9		
West		East	
\spadesuit J54		\spadesuit KQ7	
\heartsuit K52		\heartsuit 6	
\diamond 6		\diamond QJ872	
\clubsuit Q107654		\clubsuit K832	
	South		
	\spadesuit 32		
	\heartsuit QJ1098		
	\diamond AK953		
	\clubsuit A		
Open Room			
West	North	East	South
<i>Wolpert</i>	<i>Senior</i>	<i>Czyzowicz</i>	<i>Lambardi</i>
		1 \diamond	1 \heartsuit
Pass	2 \spadesuit *	Pass	4 \heartsuit
Dbl	All Pass		
Closed Room			
West	North	East	South
<i>Callaghan</i>	<i>L'Ecuyer</i>	<i>Armstrong</i>	<i>Fergani</i>
		1 \diamond	1 \heartsuit
Pass	2 \spadesuit *	Pass	4 \heartsuit
All Pass			

Bd: 11	North		
Dlr: South	\spadesuit KQ95		
Vul: None	\heartsuit KJ97		
	\diamond 8743		
	\clubsuit 6		
West		East	
\spadesuit J6		\spadesuit 732	
\heartsuit Q86532		\heartsuit 4	
\diamond J106		\diamond A92	
\clubsuit K10		\clubsuit QJ8754	
	South		
	\spadesuit A1084		
	\heartsuit A10		
	\diamond KQ5		
	\clubsuit A932		
Open Room			
West	North	East	South
<i>Wolpert</i>	<i>Senior</i>	<i>Czyzowicz</i>	<i>Lambardi</i>
			1 \spadesuit
Pass	4 \clubsuit *	Pass	4NT
Pass	5 \clubsuit	Dbl	5 \diamond
Pass	6 \spadesuit	All Pass	
Closed Room			
West	North	East	South
<i>Callaghan</i>	<i>L'Ecuyer</i>	<i>Armstrong</i>	<i>Fergani</i>
			1 \spadesuit
2 \heartsuit	Pass	Pass	Dbl
All Pass			

Both North's advanced their partners' 1 \heartsuit overcall with a fit-showing jump to 2 \spadesuit and South did the rest. Callaghan passed and led his singleton diamond to the queen and ace. Fergani drew trumps and ducked a spade and could not be prevented from taking 12 tricks: $+680$.

Callaghan's weak jump to 2 \heartsuit ran into a takeout double and penalty pass, but he escaped for four down, Fergani breaking diamonds after winning the $\clubsuit A$; -800 .

Wolpert, opening the top buttons on his polo shirt, doubled 4 \heartsuit , aiming to alert his partner to the singleton diamond, with hopes of getting in with the $\heartsuit K$. Lambardi played the $\diamond 10$ from dummy at trick one, took the queen with the

Lambardi had a good hand in context after Senior's club splinter, but 6 \spadesuit needed more than a little luck to get home. Lambardi took the lead of the $\clubsuit K$ with his ace, ruffed a club, and led a diamond to the king. He crossed to a trump, led another diamond and found the ace onside with no diamond ruff forthcoming. He won the trump continuation in dummy, crossed to the $\diamond Q$, ruffed another club, came to the $\heartsuit A$, drew the last trump, and claimed, using the $\heartsuit K$ as the entry to discard his last club on the long diamond. Plus 980. Whew! 5 IMPs to England, 27-11.

Bd: 12	North		
Dlr: West	♠ Q85		
Vul: N/S	♥ A43		
	♦ 10653		
	♣ 642		
West		East	
♠ 743		♠ AJ1096	
♥ J1085		♥ Q2	
♦ Q8		♦ K42	
♣ AK105		♣ Q73	
	South		
	♠ K2		
	♥ K976		
	♦ AJ97		
	♣ J98		
Open Room			
West	North	East	South
<i>Wolpert</i>	<i>Senior</i>	<i>Czyzowicz</i>	<i>Lambardi</i>
Pass	Pass	1♠	Pass
2♣*	Pass	2♠*	DbI
Pass	3♦	All Pass	
Closed Room			
West	North	East	South
<i>Callaghan</i>	<i>L'Ecuyer</i>	<i>Armstrong</i>	<i>Fergani</i>
Pass	Pass	1♠	Pass
3♠	All Pass		

Nice convention, Drury, especially if it stops West from having to make a bid as repulsive as 3♠. Armstrong made 3♠ without much difficulty; +140.

Czyzowicz's 2♠ was regressive, so Lambardi pre-balanced with a takeout double that managed to hit an eight-card fit. That was the good news. On the other front, Senior went down 300 on the lead of the ♥Q. 4 IMPs to Canada, 17-27.

Bd: 13	North		
Dlr: North	♠ A4		
Vul: Both	♥ K842		
	♦ J732		
	♣ K73		
West		East	
♠ QJ10852		♠ K96	
♥ 10753		♥ 9	
♦ 6		♦ AQ1094	
♣ 52		♣ AJ106	
	South		
	♠ 73		
	♥ AQJ6		
	♦ K85		
	♣ Q984		

Open Room			
West	North	East	South
<i>Wolpert</i>	<i>Senior</i>	<i>Czyzowicz</i>	<i>Lambardi</i>
	Pass	1♦	1♥
1♠	2♠*	DbI*	Pass
3♠	Pass	4♠	DbI
All Pass			
Closed Room			
West	North	East	South
<i>Callaghan</i>	<i>L'Ecuyer</i>	<i>Armstrong</i>	<i>Fergani</i>
	1♦	Pass	1♥
Pass	2♥	DbI	4♥
4♠	Pass	Pass	DbI
All Pass			

Both Norths led a heart against 4♠ doubled, L'Ecuyer the four, Senior the king. In the Closed Room, Fergani won the ♥A and switched to trumps, L'Ecuyer playing ace and another. Callaghan won in hand and led a diamond to the queen, a big favorite to win. It didn't, however, and Fergani switched to a club to the king and ace. Callaghan threw a club on the ♦A, and ran the ♦10 to the jack for one down; -200.

In the Open Room, Senior switched to the ♣3 at trick two. Wolpert won the ace, played ♦A, diamond ruff, heart ruff, diamond ruff, felling the king, heart ruff, ♦Q, ruffed and over-ruffed, heart ruff; +790. 14 IMPs to Canada, back in front, 31-27.

England recouped 2 IMPs on the next deal when Wolpert misguessed a key suit to go down an extra trick in a doomed 3NT, 29-31, but the next deal was more exciting...

Bd: 15	North		
Dlr: South	♠ A72		
Vul: N/S	♥ K		
	♦ K1096		
	♣ AKJ106		
West		East	
♠ Q8		♠ K1064	
♥ J1084		♥ 9752	
♦ J87543		♦ 2	
♣ 4		♣ 9752	
	South		
	♠ J953		
	♥ AQ63		
	♦ AQ		
	♣ Q83		

Open Room			
West	North	East	South
<i>Wolpert</i>	<i>Senior</i>	<i>Czyzowicz</i>	<i>Lambardi</i>
			1♥
Pass	2♣	Pass	2NT
Pass	3♦	Pass	4♣
Pass	4♠	Pass	6♣
Pass	7♣	All Pass	
Closed Room			
West	North	East	South
<i>Callaghan</i>	<i>L'Ecuyer</i>	<i>Armstrong</i>	<i>Fergani</i>
			1NT
Pass	2NT*	Pass	3NT*
Pass	4♣	Pass	4♦
Pass	4♥	Pass	5♣
Pass	5♠	Pass	6♣
All Pass			

Open Room			
West	North	East	South
<i>Wolpert</i>	<i>Senior</i>	<i>Czyzowicz</i>	<i>Lambardi</i>
			Pass
2♥(1)	Pass	4♠	All Pass
(1) Majors, 3-10 HCP			
Closed Room			
West	North	East	South
<i>Callaghan</i>	<i>L'Ecuyer</i>	<i>Armstrong</i>	<i>Fergani</i>
			1NT(1)
Pass	3NT	All Pass	
(1) 11-14 HCP			

Wolpert/Czyzowicz blew Senior/Lambardi right out of the auction with their "Majors light" 2♥ opening. Czyzowicz lost the obvious four tricks and ended one down; -100.

Even if we can't tell you about all of the bids in the Closed Room, we can tell you that Senior/Lambardi outbid L'Ecuyer/Fergani to reach a very good 7♣. Unfortunately for England, there is an obligation to play out the hand, and in the course of doing so, after two high trumps and unblocking the ♥K, Senior had to endure Czyzowicz ruffing the ♦Q. A fourth trump beat 7♣ two tricks; -200. Argghhh.

In 6♣ L'Ecuyer had 12 top tricks and did not try for a diamond ruff for 13; +1370. 17 IMPs to Canada, 48-29.

The last deal of the set was flat, so Canada took a 19-IMP lead into the second quarter.

Second Quarter (Boards 17-32):

An extra undertrick gave England 2-IMPs on Board 17 while Board 18 was a push. Then...

Bd: 19	North		
Dlr: South	♠ K5		
Vul: E/W	♥ 54		
	♦ AJ8543		
	♣ Q82		
West		East	
♠ Q942		♠ AJ873	
♥ QJ1076		♥ A82	
♦ K72		♦ 96	
♣ 9		♣ K75	
	South		
	♠ 106		
	♥ K93		
	♦ Q10		
	♣ AJ10643		

Bd: 21	North		
Dlr: North	♠ KJ3		
Vul: N/S	♥ Q8532		
	♦ Q764		
	♣ 10		
West		East	
♠ 942		♠ A65	
♥ A		♥ KJ96	
♦ AJ108		♦ 2	
♣ AJ876		♣ K5432	
	South		
	♠ Q1087		
	♥ 1074		
	♦ K953		
	♣ Q9		

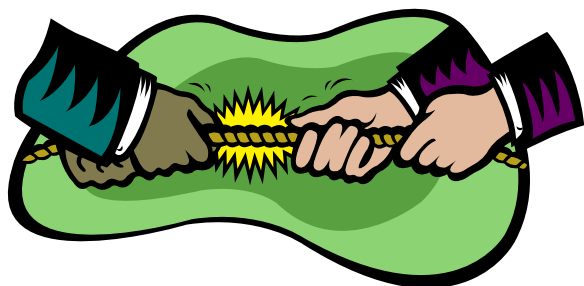
Board 20 was flat but a slam swing was in the offing on the next deal.

Open Room			
West	North	East	South
<i>Wolpert</i>	<i>Senior</i>	<i>Czyzowicz</i>	<i>Lambardi</i>
	Pass	1♣	Pass
2♣*	Pass	2♦*	Pass
2♥*	Pass	2♠*	Pass
3♦	Pass	3♥	Pass
4♦	Pass	4♠	Pass
6♣	All Pass		
Closed Room			
West	North	East	South
<i>Callaghan</i>	<i>L'Ecuyer</i>	<i>Armstrong</i>	<i>Fergani</i>
	Pass	1♣*	Pass
2♣*	Pass	2♥*	Pass
3♦	Pass	3♠*	Pass
4♦*	Pass	4♠*	Pass
4NT	Pass	5♣	All Pass

Both Wests made an inverted club raise, although Armstrong's 1♣ opening could have been made on as few as two. We suspect the subsequent Canadian auction showed a game-forcing responding hand and the rest were cue-bids after which Wolpert judged well to bid the slam. The play was pretty straightforward and Czyzowicz emerged with 12 tricks; +920.

The Brits started out similarly, but somewhere along the way things got a bit off track. While we can't be sure, we suspect that 4NT was not interpreted the same way on the two sides of the screen. Armstrong may well have thought it a form of DI because of the cue-bidding auction while Callaghan might have intended it as RKCB and taken 5♣ as zero key cards. For whatever reason, the auction ended abruptly and the Brits scored up an unhappy +420. 11 IMPs to Canada, now leading 67-31.

England regained 1 IMP on the next board to trail 67-32. Then Canada picked up 4 IMPs on this deal...



Bd: 23	North		
Dlr: South	♠ AJ7652		
Vul: Both	♥ 7		
	♦ 3		
	♣ J6532		
West		East	
♠ 9843		♠ ---	
♥ AKJ43		♥ Q10962	
♦ 42		♦ A10985	
♣ 94		♣ K87	
	South		
	♠ KQ10		
	♥ 85		
	♦ KQJ76		
	♣ AQ10		
Open Room			
West	North	East	South
<i>Wolpert</i>	<i>Senior</i>	<i>Czyzowicz</i>	<i>Lambardi</i>
			1♦
1♥	1♠	3♠*	4♠
Pass	Pass	5♥	Dbl
Pass	5♠	All Pass	
Closed Room			
West	North	East	South
<i>Callaghan</i>	<i>L'Ecuyer</i>	<i>Armstrong</i>	<i>Fergani</i>
			1♦
1♥	1♠	3♠*	Dbl*
4♥	4♠	5♦	Dbl
5♥	Pass	Pass	5♠
Pass	Pass	6♥	Dbl
All Pass			

We prefer a fit-showing 3♦ over 1♠ with the East hand, but perhaps that action wasn't available to the players here. Both Easts showed their spade splinter and bid on to the five level over 4♠. Czyzowicz was content to let it go at that and Senior had only the two red aces to lose in 5♠ and scored up an easy +650.

Armstrong showed his diamonds, then took the 6♥ "save" after his partner elected not to bid on. Justice was done when the diamonds failed to split and the defense was able to get in two rounds of trumps to hold declarer to nine tricks; -800. 4 more IMPs to Canada, 71-32.

Then Canada struck once more, orchestrating a big pickup on this deal...

Bd: 24	North		
Dlr: West	♠ 86		
Vul: None	♥ K87543		
	♦ 9		
	♣ J1085		
West	East		
♠ AQ4	♠ KJ1053		
♥ J	♥ A106		
♦ AQJ1064	♦ 873		
♣ KQ9	♣ 32		
	South		
	♠ 972		
	♥ Q92		
	♦ K52		
	♣ A764		
Open Room			
West	North	East	South
<i>Wolpert</i>	<i>Senior</i>	<i>Czyzowicz</i>	<i>Lambardi</i>
1♦	2♥	Dbl	3♦*
3♥	Pass	3NT	Pass
4♦	Pass	4♠	Pass
4NT	Pass	5♥	Pass
6♦	All Pass		
Closed Room			
West	North	East	South
<i>Callaghan</i>	<i>L'Ecuyer</i>	<i>Armstrong</i>	<i>Fergani</i>
1♦	2♥	2♠*	3♥
4♥*	Pass	4♠	All Pass

have taken 12. Plus 450 was 10 more IMPs to Canada, who increased their lead to 49 IMPs at 81-32.

But the tide was about to change.

Bd: 25	North		
Dlr: North	♠ 62		
Vul: E/W	♥ J10932		
	♦ AJ853		
	♣ 9		
West	East		
♠ 105	♠ AK84		
♥ K86	♥ AQ54		
♦ K62	♦ Q		
♣ A7632	♣ KJ104		
	South		
	♠ QJ973		
	♥ 7		
	♦ 10974		
	♣ Q85		
Open Room			
West	North	East	South
<i>Wolpert</i>	<i>Senior</i>	<i>Czyzowicz</i>	<i>Lambardi</i>
	2♥	2NT	Pass
3NT	All Pass		
Closed Room			
West	North	East	South
<i>Callaghan</i>	<i>L'Ecuyer</i>	<i>Armstrong</i>	<i>Fergani</i>
	2♦(1)	Dbl	2♥(2)
3♣	Pass	4NT	Pass
5♦	Pass	6♣	All Pass

(1) A weak two-bid in a major
(2) Pass or correct

If Czyzowicz seems a tad heavy for his 2NT bid his singleton diamond is not exactly a proven asset. Wolpert had extras for his 3NT but he had no real reason to expect any more than game facing a typical 2NT overcall. Lambardi led the ♠Q to the ace and Czyzowicz took the percentage line of ♣K, ♣J and let it ride. The play record does not indicate where the twelfth trick came from, but he scored up +690.

6♣ is not the best slam we've ever seen, but it's certainly far from the worst. The Multi-like auction enabled Callaghan to show his modest club suit naturally and now Armstrong, never the one to beat around the bush, rolled out "the tool" and drove the buggy right into the slam. Again with the help of North's opening two-bid there was no problem finding the ♣Q and the slam rolled home; +1370. 12 IMPs back to

Czyzowicz's 4♠ looks like a cue-bid in support of diamonds and Wolpert probably bid the slam thinking he was facing two key cards as well as the ♠K. Perhaps Czyzowicz thought spades was trumps (at least for RKCB purposes) since his 5♥ bid suggests two key cards. In any case, the Canadians have been living right up to now so why should anything change at this late date? Senior led the ♠8 and Wolpert won the ten to take the diamond finesse. A heart to the ace and another diamond finesse allowed him to claim 12 tricks; +920.

There's nothing on the Brit's convention card that suggests that Armstrong's 2♠ bid was non-forcing, but perhaps they don't require much to get into the fray. It's even possible that, because their 1♦ opening tends to show a five-card suit Armstrong was prepared to force his side to 3♦. Even so, it is hard to see how he could have any less for his 2♠ bid and, that being the case, how Callaghan could not make at least one more try for slam. On the heart lead he played safe for ten tricks and ended up taking 11 when he might have equally easily

England, trailing now by 37 at 44-81.

Let's discuss hand evaluation...

Bd: 26	North		
Dlr: East	♠ K		
Vul: Both	♥ K82		
	♦ A8764		
	♣ AJ52		
West			East
♠ Q7432			♠ A10
♥ Q			♥ AJ109
♦ K10932			♦ 5
♣ Q7			♣ K98643
	South		
	♠ J9865		
	♥ 76543		
	♦ QJ		
	♣ 10		
Open Room			
West	North	East	South
<i>Wolpert</i>	<i>Senior</i>	<i>Czyzowicz</i>	<i>Lambardi</i>
		1♣	Pass
1♠	Pass	2♣	Pass
3♣	Pass	5♣	Pass
Pass	Dbl	All Pass	
Closed Room			
West	North	East	South
<i>Callaghan</i>	<i>L'Ecuyer</i>	<i>Armstrong</i>	<i>Fergani</i>
		1♣	Pass
1♠	Pass	2♣	All Pass

I like the East hand. I'm not exactly enraptured by my clubs but I like the controls, texture and shape. Opposite ♣Axxx ♥Kx I think I can make game while ♣Axxx ♥x ♠Kx(...) gives me a play for slam. Did I say I like the East hand? I do.

I don't like the West hand. Yes, if East has an off-shape strong notrump not suited to a jump shift or reverse (e.g., ♠Ax ♥KJxx ♦J ♣AKxxxx) you might make game. But with such ugly soft values there will be many other hands where even the three level will be too high or where partner will move and...well, let's take a look.

Senior's double was of the "sporting" variety. Lambardi led the ♦Q, ducked, followed by the ♦J covered and ruffed. Czyzowicz cashed the ♥A and passed the ♥J to Senior's king. A third diamond brought the ♠10 from Czyzowicz and the ♣10 from Lambardi, who tried the ♠J to the king and ace. Trapped in his hand, Czyzowicz still had to lose two trump tricks and he finished

three down; -800. Unlucky?

Callaghan/Armstrong somehow managed to stop in a sensible 2♣ and made an overtrick for +110. Win 14. Now England trailed by only 23, 58-81.

Two push boards followed. Then came...

Bd: 29	North		
Dlr: North	♠ J7		
Vul: Both	♥ 1093		
	♦ A8		
	♣ A76543		
West			East
♠ 102			♠ KQ8653
♥ AJ872			♥ 5
♦ KQJ64			♦ 10952
♣ Q			♣ J9
	South		
	♠ A94		
	♥ KQ64		
	♦ 73		
	♣ K1082		
Open Room			
West	North	East	South
<i>Wolpert</i>	<i>Senior</i>	<i>Czyzowicz</i>	<i>Lambardi</i>
	Pass	2♦*	Dbl*
2♠*	3♣	All Pass	
Closed Room			
West	North	East	South
<i>Callaghan</i>	<i>L'Ecuyer</i>	<i>Armstrong</i>	<i>Fergani</i>
	Pass	2♦	Pass
2♠	3♣	Pass	Pass
3♠	All Pass		

Both Easts showed a weak two-bid in a major. Lambardi doubled, showing values, and Senior competed to 3♣ (only) over Callaghan's pass-or-correct 2♠, ending the auction. Czyzowicz led his singleton heart and 3♣ had four obvious losers; +110.

Even though L'Ecuyer was a passed hand, his 3♣ bid still wasn't chopped liver. So why didn't Fergani show any signs of life—ever? If one of North's spades had been a diamond (not exactly unlikely on the auction) 4♣ would have been cold, as would 3♠. Callaghan lost two spades and one trick in each minor for +140. 6 more IMPs to England, who closed to within 17 at 64-81.

The next board was a push in 4♥ making.

Bd: 31	North		
Dlr: South	♠ J		
Vul: N/S	♥ AK8654		
	♦ 874		
	♣ 1087		
West	East		
♠ Q1097432	♠ AK8		
♥ ---	♥ Q973		
♦ KQ95	♦ J6		
♣ 62	♣ KJ53		
	South		
	♠ 65		
	♥ J102		
	♦ A1032		
	♣ AQ94		
Open Room			
West	North	East	South
<i>Wolpert</i>	<i>Senior</i>	<i>Czyzowicz</i>	<i>Lambardi</i>
			Pass
3♠	Pass	4♠	All Pass
Closed Room			
West	North	East	South
<i>Callaghan</i>	<i>L'Ecuyer</i>	<i>Armstrong</i>	<i>Fergani</i>
			1♦
3♠	Dbl	4♠	Pass
Pass	5♥	All Pass	

The Open Room auction seems like a sensible one and 4♠ had three inescapable losers for +420.

Once Lambardi opened the bidding one can't blame Senior for thinking the hand was his. Was Armstrong entitled to think so also? We'll leave it to the reader to judge. Against 5♥ John led the ♠AK. L'Ecuyer ruffed the second, cashed the ♥A getting the bad news, and led the ♣8 passing it when John ducked. The ♣10 came next, jack, queen and L'Ecuyer overtook the second heart and finessed the ♣9. One diamond went away on the fourth club so he ended up losing a spade, two hearts and a diamond for two down; -200. That was 6 IMPs back to Canada.

The final board was another push game.

The half came to a close with Canada leading by 23 at 87-64. Thirty-two boards left for the 2002 NEC Cup.

Third Quarter (Boards 33-48):

The third quarter started off quietly when both sides bid to 1NT and made it. The first swing came on the second board of the set...

Bd: 34	North		
Dlr: East	♠ QJ932		
Vul: N/S	♥ K1076		
	♦ 52		
	♣ A6		
West	East		
♠ A64	♠ 1075		
♥ 43	♥ A92		
♦ Q3	♦ A986		
♣ J109843	♣ KQ7		
	South		
	♠ K8		
	♥ QJ85		
	♦ KJ1074		
	♣ 52		
Open Room			
West	North	East	South
<i>Wolpert</i>	<i>Senior</i>	<i>Czyzowicz</i>	<i>Lambardi</i>
			Pass
1NT	Dbl	Pass	4♥
All Pass			
Closed Room			
West	North	East	South
<i>Callaghan</i>	<i>L'Ecuyer</i>	<i>Armstrong</i>	<i>Fergani</i>
		1♣*	1♦
2♠*	Dbl	3♣	Pass
Pass	Dbl	Pass	3♥
All Pass			

Lambardi's jump to 4♥ when he had all the room in the world to invite seems precipitous. When Wolpert led the ♣J, Lambardi had four unavoidable losers; -100.

Armstrong's 1♣ might have been as few as two and Callaghan's 2♠ was a transfer to clubs. L'Ecuyer doubled to show spades and then balanced over 3♣ since he had learned that the hand was as likely to be his as the Brits'. In this case he was right. 3♥ just made and +140 was worth 6 IMPs to Canada, who led 93-64.

Canada picked up 2 IMPs on Board 35 while Board 36 was a flat 3NT. Then came another game decision with the score at 95-64.

Bd: 37	North		
Dlr: North	♠ AQ853		
Vul: N/S	♥ KJ83		
	♦ J5		
	♣ 95		
West	East		
♠ K62	♠ 10974		
♥ 107654	♥ AQ		
♦ K	♦ Q106432		
♣ KQ72	♣ 10		
	South		
	♠ J		
	♥ 92		
	♦ A987		
	♣ AJ8643		
Open Room			
West	North	East	South
<i>Wolpert</i>	<i>Senior</i>	<i>Czyzowicz</i>	<i>Lambardi</i>
	1♠	Pass	2♣
Pass	2♥	Pass	2NT
All Pass			
Closed Room			
West	North	East	South
<i>Callaghan</i>	<i>L'Ecuyer</i>	<i>Armstrong</i>	<i>Fergani</i>
	1♠	3♦	3NT
All Pass			

Senior/Lambardi did well to stop in 2NT—not that they had any particular reason to be even that high. Wolpert led a heart to queen and Czyzowicz returned a diamond, ducked to the king. A heart to the ace was followed by the ♦Q to Lambardi's ace. Pablo now made a great play by leading the ♣J from hand (unblocking the nine from dummy). Had the opposing clubs been reversed this would have established a tenace for him behind East's ♣H72. Alas, not today. Wolpert won the ♣Q and, not wishing to open up spades, led a third heart. Pablo won the jack, led a spade to the jack, ducked(?), and drove out the ♦10. Jasek exited with what figured to be a safe spade, but turned out to give up the contract. Pablo now cashed dummy's two spades and ♥K, then came to hand with the ♣A to take his eighth trick in the form of the ♦8; a fantastic +120.

Armstrong's 3♦ overcall somehow persuaded Fergani to overbid to 3NT—not that that figured to take much persuasion judging from the past 36 boards. Callaghan led the ♦K ducked, and shifted to a heart. Armstrong won the queen and exited with the ♦Q. Fergani won the ace and passed the ♥9 back to Armstrong's ace.

He cashed the ♦10 and exited with the ♠10, jack, king, ace. Fergani cashed the ♥J, then led the ♣9 to the ten, jack, and queen. He won the spade return, cashed the ♥K, and led dummy's last club hoping to find that East had started with the king-ten doubleton. But alas it was not to be. Two down, -200. 8 IMPs for England, trailing now by 23 at 72-95.

Bd: 38	North		
Dlr: East	♠ 987		
Vul: E/W	♥ Q943		
	♦ K102		
	♣ 854		
West	East		
♠ K653	♠ A42		
♥ AK106	♥ ---		
♦ QJ6	♦ 98743		
♣ 73	♣ AQJ106		
	South		
	♠ QJ10		
	♥ J8752		
	♦ A5		
	♣ K92		
Open Room			
West	North	East	South
<i>Wolpert</i>	<i>Senior</i>	<i>Czyzowicz</i>	<i>Lambardi</i>
		1♦	Pass
1♥	Pass	2♣	Pass
2♠*	Pass	3♣	Pass
3NT	All Pass		
Closed Room			
West	North	East	South
<i>Callaghan</i>	<i>L'Ecuyer</i>	<i>Armstrong</i>	<i>Fergani</i>
		1♦	1♥
1♠	2♥	3♣	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

Senior's ♠8 lead went to the jack and king. Wolpert played clubs from the top, Lambardi winning the second round to continue the ♠Q. Wolpert won, cashed dummy's clubs (pitching two hearts and a spade), and led the ♦9 and passed it when Lambardi played low. Senior won the ten and tried a low heart to the jack and ace. The ♦Q drove out the ace and Lambardi cashed the ♠10 before exiting with a heart. But that was Wolpert's last trick and he ended one down; -100.

L'Ecuyer led his partner's hearts and Callaghan won the jack with the ace to play a club to the queen, which held. Next came a diamond to the queen and king and back came a diamond

to the ace. Fergani, instead of shifting back to hearts, tried the ♠Q. Now Callaghan had the timing to establish his clubs and finished with nine trick; +600. That was 12 IMPs to England, who closed to within 11 at 84-95.

when all was said and done Armstrong lost two spades, one heart, two diamonds and one club for three down, -300. Still, that was 5 IMPs to England, who trailed now 89-95.

On the next board Canada picked up 1 IMP on an overtrick, increasing their lead to 7 at 96-89.

Bd: 39	North		
Dlr: South	♠ A87		
Vul: Both	♥ 8		
	♦ AK9854		
	♣ 652		
West			East
♠ 64			♠ KJ10932
♥ 6532			♥ Q
♦ QJ103			♦ 62
♣ 1094			♣ AKJ8
	South		
	♠ Q5		
	♥ AKJ10974		
	♦ 7		
	♣ Q73		
Open Room			
West	North	East	South
<i>Wolpert</i>	<i>Senior</i>	<i>Czyzowicz</i>	<i>Lambardi</i>
			4♥
Pass	Pass	4♠	Pass
Pass	Dbl	All Pass	
Closed Room			
West	North	East	South
<i>Callaghan</i>	<i>L'Ecuyer</i>	<i>Armstrong</i>	<i>Fergani</i>
			4♥
Pass	Pass	4♠	All Pass

Bd: 41	North		
Dlr: North	♠ A53		
Vul: E/W	♥ K9		
	♦ QJ9854		
	♣ 76		
West			East
♠ Q1064			♠ J2
♥ J8532			♥ AQ10764
♦ 763			♦ K
♣ 5			♣ AQ93
	South		
	♠ K987		
	♥		
	♦ A102		
	♣ KJ10842		
Open Room			
West	North	East	South
<i>Wolpert</i>	<i>Senior</i>	<i>Czyzowicz</i>	<i>Lambardi</i>
	1♦	1♥	2♣
3♥	Pass	Pass	3♠
All Pass			
Closed Room			
West	North	East	South
<i>Callaghan</i>	<i>L'Ecuyer</i>	<i>Armstrong</i>	<i>Fergani</i>
	1♦	1♥	1♠
3♥	Pass	4♣	Dbl
4♥	Pass	Pass	4NT
Pass	5♦	Dbl	All Pass

Lambardi led the ♥AK as Czyzowicz ruffed the second round and deftly thumbed the ♠K on the table. Senior won the ace, cashed two rounds of diamonds, and continued with a third diamond, ruffed with the ♠9 and overruffed. Lambardi exited with a heart. Czyzowicz ruffed, cashed the ♠J, and played the...♣J! When Lambardi ducked, Czyzowicz was out for two down; -500. Nice.

Mr. Senior. meet Mr. Lambardi. Senior opens the bidding, Lambardi makes a two-over-one (albeit in competition), then bids a new suit at the three level, and Senior passes. It's enough to drive a person to checkers. It's not surprising that 3♠ went down, but neither is it surprising that 5♦ is a lot closer to making than 3♠. Wolpert led the ♥2, king, ace, ruff. Lambardi played the ♦A and when the king fell he played a second diamond toward dummy. trying to tap the long trump hand. But Czyzowicz ruffed with the short trumps and now Lambardi was in trouble. Another heart was ruffed and two rounds of trumps drawn with the king and ace, revealing the bad news. One more diamond and the defense claimed down three; -150.

L'Ecuyer cannot have had any red cards in his bid box but even that does not explain his failure to double 4♠ after Fergani's vulnerable 4♥ opening. Fergani led the ♥K and shifted to a...club. When dummy's ten held Armstrong played a trump to the jack and queen and Fergani tried a diamond. L'Ecuyer won the king and shifted back to clubs. They say "what goes around, comes around," and it has never been truer than here. Armstrong inserted the jack and back came the defenders' club trick. So

Oh, and the vulnerable 4♥ game is cold on the trump finesse and it's hard to imagine East not bidding it after West's preemptive heart raise.

In the Closed Room the Canadians sensibly, if unluckily, found their way to 5♦—even if as a save. (Note: the Brits found their 4♥ game and knew whose hand it was.) Armstrong started the ♠J and L'Ecuyer won in hand to lead a club up. John rose with the ace and continued a second spade to the ace. The ♣K was ruffed and the two high spades cashed, promoting East's ♦K; two down, -300. 4 IMPs to England, who drew to within 3 at 93-96.

were not looking good. Czyzowicz ruffed a diamond, played two rounds of spades ending in his hand, cashed the ♣AK and then played the last spade. South ruffed but had to come to one more club trick for one down: -100.

The Brits' auction in the Closed Room was far more sensible: 12 opposite 10 with no eight-card fit belongs in 1NT. Fergani led a heart to the nine and a second heart went to the queen. A spade to the queen and king left Fergani on lead at trick four and he tried a low club—with even less success than his original heart lead. Armstrong won the nine, cashed three more clubs, played a heart to the ace, and exited with a diamond to endplay L'Ecuyer for the last two spade tricks; +150. 6 IMPs to England, 99-96.

The Brits were in the lead for the first time since the first quarter.

Both teams failed in a reasonable 4♠ game on the next board. Then...

Bd: 42	North		
Dlr: East	♠ J63		
Vul: Both	♥ 53		
	♦ AKQJ4		
	♣ 753		
West	East		
♠ A82	♠ Q1075		
♥ AQ8	♥ J1094		
♦ 109532	♦ 7		
♣ 84	♣ AKQ9		
	South		
	♠ K94		
	♥ K762		
	♦ 86		
	♣ J1062		
Open Room			
West	North	East	South
<i>Wolpert</i>	<i>Senior</i>	<i>Czyzowicz</i>	<i>Lambardi</i>
		1♣	Pass
1♦	Pass	1♥	Pass
2♥	Pass	2♠	Pass
4♥	All Pass		
Closed Room			
West	North	East	South
<i>Callaghan</i>	<i>L'Ecuyer</i>	<i>Armstrong</i>	<i>Fergani</i>
		1♣	Pass
1♦	Pass	1NT	All Pass

The rule is: never raise opener's second suit without four-card support. 4♥ was not a bad contract—it just didn't make. But that's what tends to happen when you play fast and lose with the odds. Lambardi led the ♦8 and was surprised to find that it was still his lead at trick two. This time he tried a trump and the ♥Q won in dummy. Czyzowicz played a spade to the ten and king and back came another heart, won in hand with the nine. But when Senior showed out on the third round of trumps, things

Bd: 44	North		
Dlr: West	♠ AQ2		
Vul: N/S	♥ 53		
	♦ QJ8		
	♣ K10843		
West	East		
♠ KJ9863	♠ 104		
♥ 6	♥ AKQ102		
♦ 762	♦ K105		
♣ 762	♣ Q95		
	South		
	♠ 75		
	♥ J9874		
	♦ A943		
	♣ AJ		
Open Room			
West	North	East	South
<i>Wolpert</i>	<i>Senior</i>	<i>Czyzowicz</i>	<i>Lambardi</i>
3♠	All Pass		
Closed Room			
West	North	East	South
<i>Callaghan</i>	<i>L'Ecuyer</i>	<i>Armstrong</i>	<i>Fergani</i>
2♦*	Pass	2♥*	Pass
2♠	Pass	Pass	Dbl
Pass	3NT	Dbl	All Pass

At favorable vulnerability, the West hand looks very much like a “book” weak two-bid: slightly undervalued, but acceptable. Kokish-san would cringe (though probably not be surprised) at his countryman’s choice of 3♠. Still, in today’s game to the aggressor go the spoils. 3♠ caught both opponents just a bit shy of what it takes to make an positive action. Senior led a heart and Wolpert cashed the ace-king-queen, pitching two clubs as Senior ruffed in. Now declarer only had to lose two diamonds, three trumps and one club for two down; –100.

The “always sensible” Callaghan opened more traditionally at the two level and Armstrong bid a pass-or-correct 2♥ (why not 2♠?). When that was corrected to 2♠ and passed back to South, Fergani protected with a double. Well, Senior couldn’t take that lying down. “3NT” said L’Ecuyer. “I double you” said Armstrong. “Your lead” said L’Ecuyer. John started off with two top hearts, then shifted to the ♠10. Nicolas won in hand, played a club to the jack, unblocked the ♣A, and then led a low diamond to the queen and king. Had Armstrong not cashed out his third top heart Nicolas would have scored up an overtrick. As it was, he settled for nine tricks, +750, and 12 IMPs to Canada, regaining the lead 108-99.

The rest of the set was rather tame as Canada gained two 1-IMP pick-ups and England a 1-IMP swing. So the third quarter ended with Canada back in the lead, 110-100. It would be 16 more boards for the 2002 NEC Cup crown.

Fourth Quarter (Boards 49-64):

The set started slowly... very slowly. On the first board England picked up an overtrick IMP in 3NT while on the second board Canada chose to play in their five-two spade fit while the Brits played their five-three diamond fit. Canada was duly rewarded with a 2-IMP gain when spades made three (+140) while diamonds made only two (+90). The next four boards were all game pushes and were followed by a boring seven-trick 1NT contract—just for a change of pace. When the eighth board of the set was placed on the table Canada was leading by 11 IMPs, 112-101.

Bd: 56	North		
Dlr: West	♠ K962		
Vul: None	♥ K64		
	♦ 542		
	♣ 962		
West			East
♠ Q			♠ A107543
♥ A73			♥ QJ
♦ A93			♦ KQJ8
♣ AKJ1074			♣ 8
	South		
	♠ J8		
	♥ 109852		
	♦ 1076		
	♣ Q53		
Open Room			
West	North	East	South
<i>Fergani</i>	<i>Senior</i>	<i>L'Ecuyer</i>	<i>Lambardi</i>
1♣	Pass	1♠	Pass
3NT	All Pass		
Closed Room			
West	North	East	South
<i>Callaghan</i>	<i>Wolpert</i>	<i>Armstrong</i>	<i>Czyzowicz</i>
1♣*	Pass	1♠	Pass
3NT	Pass	6♣	All Pass

Do you believe in magic? John Armstrong does—and this time he was right. Not only was the ♣Q onside (and he got a trump lead just to ensure that he had nothing to worry about in planning the play) but the ♦J showed up in dummy to provide a pitch for his third heart. 3NT made 12 tricks on the ♠K lead when the club finesse worked for +490 while 6♣ made the same 12 tricks for +920. 10 inspired IMPs for England, cutting Canada’s lead to a mere 1 IMP at 112-11.

Bd: 57	North		
Dlr: North	♠ 104		
Vul: E/W	♥ AQ9532		
	♦ KQ104		
	♣ J		
West			East
♠ K983			♠ 76
♥ KJ8			♥ 104
♦ 2			♦ A63
♣ Q9532			♣ AK10764
	South		
	♠ AQJ52		
	♥ 76		
	♦ J9875		
	♣ 8		

Open Room			
West	North	East	South
<i>Fergani</i>	<i>Senior</i>	<i>L'Ecuyer</i>	<i>Lambardi</i>
	1♥	2♣	2♠
3NT	4♥	All Pass	
Closed Room			
West	North	East	South
<i>Callaghan</i>	<i>Wolpert</i>	<i>Armstrong</i>	<i>Czyzowicz</i>
	1♥	2♣	2♠
3♥*	DbI	4♣	All Pass

3NT was a bit frisky, and had a double-edged effect when it forced Senior to bid 4♥. L'Ecuyer started the ♣K and shifted immediately to the ♠7. Senior rose with the ace, finessed the ♥Q, cashed the ♥A, and had only to knock out the ♦A to secure one down, -50.

Callaghan's 3♥ bid was some sort of club raise (Why not a notrump contract? No one ever leads diamonds.) and Armstrong, with no room for a delicate probe, guessed well to bid only 4♣. There was nothing to the play and John quickly claimed his ten tricks; +130. Not a big swing, but enough for England to regain the lead (for the moment) at 113-112.

Fergani/L'Ecuyer had just settled into a nice, cosy 1NT contract when the serenity of the moment was shattered by Senior's 2♦ bid. Perhaps Lambardi was confused that Senior had not made a takeout a round earlier and that this might be something different, or perhaps he was simply not expecting so little in the way of high cards. In any case, his 2NT bid took his side beyond their 2♥ safety level and then it was a case of "double trouble."

Fergani led the ♥KQ, then shifted to the ♦2, 7, 9, 10 (render unto Caesar...and all that). Lambardi played clubs from the top (pitching a heart and two spades) and Fergani won and exited a second diamond. When L'Ecuyer came in with the ♠A, he led a diamond through Lambardi's queen-eight to Kamel's king-jack for two down, -500. Nicely done.

In the Closed Room Czyzowicz led his clubs from the top against 1NT. Armstrong took the spade finesse, then guessed the diamonds for +90. 9 IMPs to Canada, who vaulted back into the lead at 121-113.

Bd: 58	North		
Dlr: East	♠ 108743		
Vul: Both	♥ 107632		
	♦ A7		
	♣ 8		
West		East	
♠ 52		♠ AQJ6	
♥ KQJ		♥ A84	
♦ KJ42		♦ 965	
♣ 10642		♣ J73	
	South		
	♠ K9		
	♥ 95		
	♦ Q1083		
	♣ AKQ95		
Open Room			
West	North	East	South
<i>Fergani</i>	<i>Senior</i>	<i>L'Ecuyer</i>	<i>Lambardi</i>
		1♣	Pass
1♦	Pass	1NT	Pass
Pass	2♦	Pass	2NT
DbI	All Pass		
Closed Room			
West	North	East	South
<i>Callaghan</i>	<i>Wolpert</i>	<i>Armstrong</i>	<i>Czyzowicz</i>
		1♣*	Pass
1♦	Pass	1NT	All Pass

Bd: 59	North		
Dlr: South	♠ KJ74		
Vul: None	♥ A1096		
	♦ KJ76		
	♣ 6		
West		East	
♠ Q102		♠ 9	
♥ 52		♥ KQJ843	
♦ 954		♦ A10832	
♣ KJ972		♣ 5	
	South		
	♠ A8653		
	♥ 7		
	♦ Q		
	♣ AQ10843		
Open Room			
West	North	East	South
<i>Fergani</i>	<i>Senior</i>	<i>L'Ecuyer</i>	<i>Lambardi</i>
			1♣
Pass	1♦	4♥	4♠
Pass	6♠	All Pass	
Closed Room			
West	North	East	South
<i>Callaghan</i>	<i>Wolpert</i>	<i>Armstrong</i>	<i>Czyzowicz</i>
			1♣
Pass	1♥*	2♥	2♠
Pass	3♠	Pass	4♠
All Pass			

There's no reason why the clubs couldn't have split more favorably, but when the opponents preempt (certain hairy-chested Dutch bridge magazine editors excluded) one should expect unfavorable splits. Lambardi won the ♠5 lead and got trumps right, playing to the ace and back to the jack, then drawing the third round. Since he needed the ♣K to either be onside or doubleton, the finesse figured to be the right play. But when the finesse lost Pablo was in way over his head and ended two tricks short; -100.

Playing in (only) game, Czyzowicz took a safe line for ten tricks. He won the heart lead with the ace, cashed the ♠K, then played a club to the ace and ruffed a club with the ♠J. When Armstrong showed out Jurek turned to Plan B. He led a diamond to the queen, Armstrong ducking, ruffed another club low, ruffed out the ♦A, and ruffed a third club. He now had to lose only a club and a trump; +450. 11 more IMPs to Canada, leading now 132-113.

We have a good deal less sympathy for the 2♦ rebid. Perhaps Wolpert has read too many of Al Roth's Master Solvers' Club comments ("If I can get by this round I'll be better placed..."). Even getting by this round will gain what? If Czyzowicz has as little as ♠x ♦KJx(x) he'll have good play for 4♠, and will risk playing in only 2♦. Nothing that South can do over 2♦ helps. Even a preference to 2♠ only confirms that you should have bid 4♠ the last time and not risked being left high and dry in 2♦. Darren scored up +130, but that was 11 IMPs to England, who now trailed by only 8 at 132-124.

Bd: 60	North		
Dlr: West	♠ J1076532		
Vul: N/S	♥ A		
	♦ A102		
	♣ AK		
West		East	
♠ AQ		♠ K8	
♥ Q10832		♥ J754	
♦ Q5		♦ J763	
♣ 10874		♣ Q65	
	South		
	♠ 94		
	♥ K96		
	♦ K984		
	♣ J932		
Open Room			
West	North	East	South
<i>Fergani</i>	<i>Senior</i>	<i>L'Ecuyer</i>	<i>Lambardi</i>
Pass	1♠	Pass	1NT
Pass	4♠	All Pass	
Closed Room			
West	North	East	South
<i>Callaghan</i>	<i>Wolpert</i>	<i>Armstrong</i>	<i>Czyzowicz</i>
Pass	1♠	Pass	1NT*
Pass	2♦*	All Pass	

Bd: 61	North		
Dlr: North	♠ 72		
Vul: Both	♥ AK52		
	♦ K982		
	♣ 1062		
West		East	
♠ Q43		♠ AKJ65	
♥ 863		♥ 974	
♦ J643		♦ Q10	
♣ KQ7		♣ A94	
	South		
	♠ 1098		
	♥ QJ10		
	♦ A75		
	♣ J853		
Open Room			
West	North	East	South
<i>Fergani</i>	<i>Senior</i>	<i>L'Ecuyer</i>	<i>Lambardi</i>
	Pass	1♠	Pass
1NT*	Pass	2♣*	Pass
2♦*	Pass	2♥*	Pass
2♠*	Pass	2NT*	Pass
3NT	All Pass		
Closed Room			
West	North	East	South
<i>Callaghan</i>	<i>Wolpert</i>	<i>Armstrong</i>	<i>Czyzowicz</i>
	Pass	1♠	Pass
2♠	Dbl	Pass	2NT*
Pass	3♦	All Pass	

We've a lot of sympathy for Senior's practical 4♠ rebid. When trumps broke two-two he was home with +650.

We suspect L'Ecuyer's 2♣ could have been a doubleton and that 2♦ was artificial (ala Cole), in which case 2♥ said "I'm willing to play 2♥ opposite a five-card suit. 2♠ then showed a balanced, constructive raise (E/W played Bergen-style raises) and 2NT was constructive. (Why bid again? Can 3NT really have much play opposite a balanced 8-9 count?) Lambardi led the ♥Q and the defenders cashed their four hearts and two diamonds for two down; -200.

Wolpert was way too active for a player with a balanced 10-count and 3♦ went three down; -300. 11 IMPs for England, back in the lead at 135-132.

We'd like to tell you that the last three boards were nail biters, but in actuality Canada lost 3 more IMPs on undertricks. The final score was 138-132; England had emerged as the 2002 NEC Cup champions.



2002 NEC Cup Winners: England



2002 NEC Cup 2nd Place: Canada

The 2002 World Bridge Championships August 16-31, Montreal, Quebec, Canada by Eric Kokish

Although I have lived in Toronto since 1998, I spent the first 50 years of my life in Montreal and had been looking forward to a real visit to the beautiful cosmopolitan island city for quite some time.

Despite the disappointing turnout due to the prevailing worldwide political and economic conditions, the Montreal organizing committee did a wonderful job in staging the tournament and making visitors feel welcome and comfortable. The city's charm and gastronomic delights held up their end too.

The logistical difficulties in scheduling a large number of events (including a parallel ACBL Regional) in two hotels over two weeks while keeping the players in the know about scores and seating assignments were truly daunting. Given the number of things that could go wrong (and some that did that could not be anticipated), the tournament must, in retrospect, be considered an aesthetic success and triumph of perseverance and will.

The first event, the Transnational Mixed Pairs, attracted a field of 434 pairs, who competed in three qualifying sessions, the top 182 pairs surviving to the three-session final.

The biggest news in the Mixed was the participation of Microsoft's main man, Bill Gates, who played with his favourite partner Sharon Osberg. An indication of the significance of Gates' presence at the World Championships (his first) was the media coverage for the event accruing from his Press Conference, which attracted fifteen radio and television channels and a sea of journalists and photographers. When asked whether the skills needed to be successful at bridge are similar to those needed to succeed in the business world Gates replied in the affirmative, highlighting the importance of a logical mind and the ability to make deductions from actions taken or not taken. Gates handled himself very well at the high-profile Press Conference, the effects of which were definitely positive for bridge. It would be wonderful to report that the Gates/Osberg partnership fared very well in the Mixed Pairs, but they missed the cut and had to be content with a series of victories on individual deals (several of which were highlighted in the Daily Bulletins, with the world paying close attention to their every move).

With one session remaining, Babette Hugon/Jean-Jacques Palau of France were comfortably in the lead on the strength 64.3%

and 61.2% sessions. Although they were comfortably over average in the final set, they were caught from behind by Rebecca Rogers/Jeff Meckstroth (USA), who produced a remarkable 70% game. Nearly as good in the final session were Sabine and Jens Auken of Denmark who banked a 68.4% score to move

up to third from far behind, duplicating their medal finish in Lille, four years earlier.

Meckstroth's victory in the Mixed gave him world titles in four different major events, the others being the Open Pairs, the Bermuda Bowl, and the Olympiad Open Teams.

Mixed Pairs (434 Pairs)

		Country	Avg %
1	Rebecca Rogers-Jeff Meckstroth	USA	61.192
2	Babette Hugon-Jean-Jacques Palau	FRA	58.593
3	Sabine and Jens Auken	DEN	58.264
4	Beth Palmer-Steve Robinson	USA	57.595
5	Pasternak – Araszkievicz	POL	57.11
6	Joanna and Lew Stansby	USA	56.80
7	Shawn Quinn-Bob Hamman	USA	56.48
8	Gail Greenberg-Brad Moss	USA	56.30
9	Bep Vriend-Anton Maas	NETH	56.03
10	Michel and Veronique Bessis	FRA	55.94

Power Rosenblum Teams (160 Teams)

One-hundred sixty was a perfect number of entries for the Power Rosenblum Teams as it permitted the organizers to arrange 16 seeded 10-team sections, playing a complete round robin of 20-board matches over three days, the top four teams in each section to qualify for the knockout phase. By accepting entries until just before game time it was possible to get to this ideal number, but inevitably, under pressure of time, a few things went wrong and created some controversy. A few pre-registered entries were misplaced; when they were rediscovered there was insufficient time to permit re-seeding, so there were a few unbalanced sections, which randomly affected several teams negatively or positively. Although all the events not specifically designated as "transnational" stipulated a "same nationality" requirement (which meant that many players could not participate as a result), there were many cases (mostly involving players representing the USA) in which it would have been unjust not to accept "legitimate residency" as sufficient. In another case, two American players were inadvertently accepted as late additions to a Swedish team. In the future, the Rosenblum, McConnell and Pairs events will all be transnational, making it much easier for the organizers and allowing more flexibility for the players.

Although a few fancied teams didn't come through the round robin, most of the top teams did, which enabled them to retain their original seed in the round of 64, as the conditions dictated. The first two knockout rounds featured 56-board matches, but later the matches increased to 60, then 64 boards.

In the round of 64, notable exits were suffered by powerful teams captained by Gabriel Chagas, Tony Forrester, Francesco Angelini, Andrei Gromov, Russ Ekeblad and Ronny Rubin.

The round of 32 saw the demise of serious contenders led by Franck Multon, Bauke Muller, George Jacobs and Seymon Deutsch, but the biggest upset to date came in the next round, when Nick Nickell's number one seed fell to Italy's unsung Dario Attanasio squad. Also in the round of 16, the powerhouse French team led by Robert Zimmerman fell to England's Ian Monachan while the reigning Bermuda Bowl champs captained by Rose Meltzer lost to Peter Fredin's nominally Swedish team.

In the quarterfinals, Italy's Lavazza (Norberto Bocchi-Giorgio Duboin, Lorenzo Lauria-Alfredo Versace, Guido Ferraro-Maria Teresa Lavazza), showing no ill effects after nearly frittering away a 49-IMP lead in the fourth

quarter against Jimmy Cayne's team, convincingly defeated Poland's Kowalski (Piotr Gawrys-Krzysztof Jassem, Apolinary Kowalski-Jacek Romanski, Marek Szymanowski-Piotr Tuszynski), 161-87.

The other three matches were closer. Burgay (Cezary Balicki-Adam Zmudzinski, Leandro Burgay-Carlo Mariani, Michal Kwiecien-Jacek Pszczola), representing Poland (one of those "residency" teams) defeated Monachan (Jason and Justin Hackett, Gunnar Hallberg, Ian Monachan, Lionel Wright), 164-123. Munawar of Indonesia (Taufik Asbi-Robert Tobing, Franky Karwur-Denny Sacul, Henky Lasut-Eddy Manoppo) ended the Cinderella run of Attanasio (Dario Attanasio-Guisseppe Failla, Mari d'Avossa-Stelio di Bello, Ruggerio Pulga-Giampaolo Rinaldi), 169-135. And in the closest match of the day, Fredin (Peter Bertheau-Fredrik Nystrom, Peter Fredin-Magnus Lindkvist, Christal Henner-Jimmy Rosenbloom) continued to look remarkably like a team of destiny by overcoming mighty Schwartz (Mike Becker-Richie Schwartz, David Berkowitz-Larry Cohen, Michael Rosenberg-Zia Mahmood), 110-100.

Both semifinal matches were extremely exciting and went down to the wire, with Lavazza producing strong first and fourth quarters to overcome strong efforts in the second and third by Fredin, winning 123-102. Munawar, after losing each of the first three sets by tiny margins, got the job done against Burgay in the fourth to prevail 126-111.

Lavazza	50	13	21	39	123
Fredin	6	42	35	19	102

Munawar	29	37	37	23	126
Burgay	30	40	38	3	111

This deal, from the fourth quarter, had a lot to do with determining the outcome of both semifinal matches:



Bd: 55	North		
Dir: South	♠ AQ52		
Vul: All	♥ 53		
	♦ 1087		
	♣ AJ107		
West		East	
♠ 3		♠ KJ4	
♥ J10842		♥ Q7	
♦ Q62		♦ AKJ954	
♣ Q963		♣ K8	
	South		
	♠ 109876		
	♥ AK96		
	♦ 3		
	♣ 542		
Burgay vs Munawar			
Open Room			
West	North	East	South
Mariani	Manoppo	Burgay	Lasut
Pass	1♦(1)	Dbl	1♠
2♥	Pass	3NT	All Pass
(1) 2+♦			
Closed Room			
West	North	East	South
Karwur	Balicki	Sacul	Zmudzinski
Pass	1♣(1)	1NT	2♣(2)
Pass	2♠	All Pass	
(1) Polish, F1			
(2) Majors			
Lavazza vs Fredin			
Open Room			
West	North	East	South
Versace	Lindkvist	Lauria	Fredin
Pass	1♣(1)	Dbl	1♥(2)
2♥(3)	2♠	3♦	Pass
3♠	Dbl	3NT	Dbl
All Pass			
(1) Swedish-style, F1\			
(2) Spades			
(3) five hearts, modest values			

Closed Room			
West	North	East	South
Nystrom	Bocchi	Bertheau	Duboin
			Pass
Pass	1♣(1)	1NT	2♣(2)
2♥	2♠	2NT	Pass
3♣	Pass	3♦	All Pass
(1) Usually natural or balanced, F1; (2) Majors			

Perhaps Sacul's 15-18 1NT overcall of Balicki's Polish Club opening was a fair description of his hand, but at least he had conceivable alternatives in 1♦ and a takeout double. Zmudzinski had a system treatment to locate a major-suit fit and that silenced Karwur, who knew hearts were held on his right. E/W sold out to 2♠, which I suspect must have left Sacul feeling a bit sheepish. On the lead of the ♦A, Karwur followed with the six, which looks like a standard attitude signal, although the partnership agreement is count first. Sacul continued with the ♦K and Balicki ruffed in dummy to pass the ♠7. Sacul won the jack and switched to the ♥Q, which Balicki won to lead a second trump, putting on the ace when West showed out. He continued with a heart to the king and a heart ruff, Sacul discarding, then a diamond ruff and another heart ruff. Sacul over-ruffed and forced dummy's last trump with a diamond. Now he would have had a diamond to cash when declarer let him in with a club, so Balicki took his ♣A and conceded: +110.

Meanwhile, Manoppo's amorphous Precision 1♦ created a somewhat different problem for Burgay, whose main suit was bid on his right. Here a natural 1NT overcall had considerable appeal (how often do you have six potential stoppers in an opponent's suit?) and pass was a reasonable alternative, but Burgay, who did not have a natural 2♦ overcall available, opted to double for takeout. That got Mariani to compete to 2♥ over Lasut's 1♠, and when Manoppo curiously refused to raise to 2♠ Burgay closed his eyes and blasted into 3NT.

In the other match, where both Norths started with a potentially prepared 1♣, the Easts took different approaches. Lauria's takeout double got him some useful information from Versace, but here Lindkvist competed to 2♠. Rather than shoot out 3NT, Lauria forced with 3♦ and when

Versace suggested a fit with 3♠, converted to 3NT when it appeared (from North's double) that the spade honours would lie well for him. Fredin, with two fast winners and some reason to think diamonds wouldn't break, doubled 3NT, but no one blinked.

Bertheau's 1NT overcall did not prevent his opponents from getting together in spades, and although he knew from Nystrom's competitive 2♥ that there weren't enough high cards for 3NT, game was not out of the question. He saw a chance to describe his hand well with an unsolicited 2NT but could really do no more than bid his long suit at his next turn, and there he rested. Duboin led the ♥A against 3♦ and switched to the ♣2 to the ten and king. Bertheau cashed a high trump, then led the ♥Q, which Duboin ducked. The ♣8 ran to the jack and Bocchi exited with the eight of trumps. Bertheau won in dummy and led a spade but Bocchi won the ace and led his remaining trump and so came to a spade at the end; +110.

The real interest was at the two tables where the East players declared 3NT and 3NT doubled on the lead of the ♠10. Manoppo won the ace and could be confident that Lasut did not have a K109 holding, so he switched to clubs and chose accurately by leading the jack. Burgay won the king and Lasut followed with the four (why not the five?), reverse count. Burgay ran diamonds but Manoppo parted with a card in each suit, his best defence. Burgay exited with the ♥7, but Lasut went in with the ♥K and cashed the ace to allow Manoppo to discard another spade. Now a club through the queen allowed Manoppo to take two club tricks to set the contract: -100. Well done by Manoppo/Lasut to flatten the board and stay close in the match, trailing by 6 IMPs, 104-110.

Lindkvist could read the ♠10 as Fredin's highest spade because the alternative was a KJ10 holding and Lauria had shown a spade stopper. Accordingly, he too found the switch to clubs but chose the more aggressive seven, which would have produced an extra trick for the defence if South held king-third of clubs without the eight and also a timely entry in hearts. Here, however, the ♣7 gave away the contract when Lauria put in the eight. He continued with the ♣K to establish his ninth

winner and Lindkvist took the ace to switch to hearts: +750. That was 12 IMPs to Lavazza, now 19 IMPs ahead at 103-84.

To be fair to Lindkvist, Fredin was far more likely to double with an honour in two suits than with two honors in a suit that declarer might not need to bring in 3NT.

Lavazza was a heavy favorite against Munawar in the final, but the Indonesians are always tough opponents and Lavazza had demonstrated in both their previous matches that they were not invulnerable. However, although the match was relatively close for a while, Lavazza played much better bridge, won all four quarters. Italy retained the Rosenblum Cup (Lauria and Versace were members of the winning Angelini team in 1998 in Lille) with a 90-IMP victory. Indonesia, a perennial qualifier for the late stages of world championships for many years and silver medalists in the Rhodes Olympiad, was not disappointed to go home with the silver medal.

Lavazza	41	36	47	36	160
Munawar	27	21	13	9	70

The Italian lead was just 14 IMPs midway through the second quarter when this deal gave Bocchi and Duboin a chance to shine:

Bd: 23	North	
Dir: South	♠ AQ75	
Vul: All	♥ 98	
	♦ AKQ82	
	♣ 32	
West		East
♠ 8432		♠ J10
♥ AKQJ43		♥ 7652
♦ 10		♦ 43
♣ J4		♣ 98765
	South	
	♠ K96	
	♥ 10	
	♦ J9765	
	♣ AKQ10	

Open Room			
West	North	East	South
Karwur	Bocchi	Sacul	Duboin
			1♦
1♥	Dbl(1)	3♥	Pass
Pass	Dbl(2)	Pass	4♣
Pass	4♦	Pass	4♥(3)
Pass	4♠(3)	Pass	5♣(3)
Pass	6♦	All Pass	
(1) 4+♠			
(2) Takeout, game-forcing			
(3) Control-showing			
Closed Room			
West	North	East	South
Versace	Manoppo	Lauria	Lasut
			1♦(1)
1♥	1♠	2♥	Dbl(2)
3♥	5♦	All Pass	
(1) 2+♦			
(2) Support Double			

Manoppo's conservative jump to 5♦ suggests that he couldn't cue-bid 4♥ without implying a heart control. The play was easier than the bidding: +620 on the lead of the ♥A.

The auction came up very well for Bocchi/Duboin's well-developed competitive methods when Bocchi was able to set diamonds in forcing mode at the four level, leaving Duboin room to show his heart control. Although Duboin's trumps were weak his hand was otherwise suitable for a diamond slam and he was pleased to show his club values over Bocchi's 4♠ control-showing bid. With his spectacular trumps Bocchi could be sure that Duboin would not be able to bid over 5♦, so he sensibly bid the slam himself: +1370 after two rounds of hearts. 6♥ would have gone for 1100, but saving after this type of auction would have been a terrible idea. Had Karwur risked 4♥ over his partner's raise to 3♥, it might have been more difficult for his opponents. On the other hand, over-competing might have convinced Bocchi that Duboin's "unbalanced" opening bid included a singleton heart. Italy gained 13 IMPs to lead by 27, 58-31, and this deal seemed to give them a shot in the arm and helped them gain some momentum in a match that had started somewhat

sluggishly. Meanwhile, in the anticlimactic 32-board playoff for third place, Burgay defeated Fredin 89-74 to claim the bronze medal.

McConnell Cup (36 Teams)

The turnout for the McConnell Cup was particularly disappointing. The 36 teams were divided into four seeded groups of nine to play complete internal round robins of 24-board matches over four days, with the top four in each group to qualify for the 16-team knockout stage.

There were two surprises in the round robin, with teams captained by Kathie Wei-Sender and Dianna Gordon missing the cut.

There were three high-profile matches in the round of 16. In one of them, Heather Dhondy's English team defeated Sylvia Terraneo's Austrian squad (with three members of the defending champions) by 48 IMPs. In another, Sabine Auken's German team eliminated the Chinese national team by just 5 IMPs. In the third, Gianna Arrigoni's Italian team upended Renee Mancuso's Americans by 19 IMPs.

In the quarterfinals, Radin (Mildred Breed-Shawn Quinn, Disa Eythorsdottir-Rozanne Pollack, Judi Radin-Valerie Westheimer) had a remarkably easy time with Baker (Lynn Baker-Kay Schulle-Karen McCallum-Debbie Rosenberg, Carol Simon-Rhoda Walsh) in an All-American confrontation, winning 224-98.

The other matches were much closer. Sanborn (Lynn Deas-Beth Palmer, Irina Levitina-Kerri Sanborn, Jill Meyers-Randy Montin), despite losing the third quarter by 50 IMPs, defeated Arrigoni I (Gianna Arrigoni-Monica Buratti, Manuela Capriata-Christina Golin, Francesca de Lucchi-Annalisa Rosetta) with a strong fourth quarter, 126-93. Vriend (Femke Hoogweg-Wietske van Zwol, Marijke van der Pas-Bep Vriend, Jet Pasman-Anneke Simons), the reigning European Women's champions from the Netherlands, outlasted Dhondy (Michelle Brunner, Rhona Goldenfield, Heather Dhondy-Nicola Smith, Lizzie Godfrey-Kitty Teltscher) 161-141. Closest of all was the reprise (of sorts) of the Paris Venice Cup final, in which Bessis of France (Veronique Bessis-Catherine d'Ovidio, Benedicte Cronier-Sylvie

Willard) turned the tables on Auken (Sabine Auken-Pony Nehmert, Ingrid Gromann-Elke Weber, Wiesia Miroslaw-Claudia Vecchiatto), sneaking through by just 4 IMPs, 118-114.

Sanborn outscored Vriend 63-0 in the first quarter of their semifinal match and built the lead to 83, 153-70, after three quarters, which convinced Vriend that it would be futile to continue. Radin got off to a strong start against Bessis in the other match, leading by 41 at the half. Bessis rallied a bit in the third quarter but Radin slammed the door in the fourth to win by 29, 129-100.

Sanborn	63	39	51	—	153
Vriend	0	40	30	—	70
Radin	27	49	26	27	129
Bessis	11	24	40	25	100

This was an important deal in both semifinals (analysis by Barry Rigal):

Bd: 31	North		
Dir: South	♠ 42		
Vul: N/S	♥ Q982		
	♦ J986		
	♣ QJ8		
West			East
♠ QJ10			♠ A9876
♥ AK10			♥ 54
♦ 42			♦ 7
♣ A10542			♣ K9763
	South		
	♠ K53		
	♥ J763		
	♦ AKQ1053		
	♣ ---		
Radin vs Bessis			
Open Room			
West	North	East	South
Willard	Breed	Cronier	Quinn
			1♦
Dbl	1♥	1♠	4♦(1)
Dbl	4♥	Pass	Pass
Dbl	All Pass		
(1) Hearts and diamonds			

Closed Room			
West	North	East	South
Radin	d'Ovidio	Disa	Bessis
			1♦
Dbl	1♥	4♠	5♥
Dbl	All Pass		

Radin was going to pick up a significant swing on this deal under most circumstances, particularly when Disa led the ♠A (a good choice, I think) and shifted to a diamond. The defenders arranged their diamond ruff and collected 500. Meanwhile, Cronier chose a trump lead against 4♥ doubled—which solved declarer's guesses and lost a critical tempo. The best Willard could do was win and underlead in clubs, but declarer could ruff and play a second trump, and was comfortably in control. Plus 790 meant 15 IMPs for Radin, opening up some daylight in the tight match.

In the other match Sanborn bought the contract at both tables. 4♠ made 420 (van der Pas did not underlead her diamond honours at trick one but did make the play at trick two). Meanwhile, Levitina as North sacrificed in 5♦ over 4♠. Simons doubled her and took the heart ruff for a painless 500 and 2 IMPs to the Netherlands.

That set up a final between two American teams (indeed, the same thing had happened in Albuquerque in 1994), which was not so unlikely as the USA fielded one-third of the teams in the event. The betting favourite was Sanborn, despite Montin's ongoing battle with the rampant flu bug (that had crept into Radin's camp overnight, too).

Sanborn gained 37 IMPs in the first quarter, tacked on another 33 in the second, and coasted home comfortably, winning the McConnell Cup by 100 IMPs.

Sanborn	57	35	13	47	152
Radin	20	2	18	12	52

One of the more interesting deals of the final (analysis by Barry Rigal) was:

Bd: 57	North		
Dir: North	♠ 109		
Vul: E/W	♥ 93		
	♦ K854		
	♣ Q9763		
West			East
♠ A854			♠ KQ76
♥ 10754			♥ Q82
♦ QJ			♦ A6
♣ J105			♣ AK82
	South		
	♠ J32		
	♥ AKJ6		
	♦ 109732		
	♣ 4		
	Open Room		
West	North	East	South
Radin	Meyers	Disa	Sanborn
	Pass	1♣	Pass
1♥	Pass	2NT	Pass
3♣(1)	Pass	3♠	Pass
4♠	All Pass		
(1) Inquiry			
	Closed Room		
West	North	East	South
Deas	Breed	Palmer	Quinn
Pass	Pass	1♣(1)	1♥
1NT	Pass	2NT	Pass
3♠	Pass	4♠	All Pass
(1) Strong, artificial			

Look how easy 3NT is here—perhaps Palmer might simply have bounced to that game on the assumption that hearts would be led. However, if you are going to play 4♠ there is no question which way up you would like it played—is there? If you play from the East side you protect your ♥Q, but the defense would lead three rounds of hearts, as happened against Disa. On the low diamond return declarer does best in abstract to rise with the ♦A, since whatever you do you need the club finesse. If clubs play for four tricks the diamond loser goes away, so you do not need the finesse in diamonds.

Disa therefore took the ♦A and played ♠K and a spade to the ace. Then she passed the ♣J as Meyers followed low, and continued with the

♣10, covered. Sanborn ruffed and returned a diamond for two down, -200.

In the other room Deas played 4♠ from the “wrong” side. Breed led a heart to the jack, and Quinn continued with ♥K, ♥A and another heart, the obvious approach as Quinn knew that there was no diamond trick on defense and hoped that there might be a trump promotion. Breed ruffed the heart with the ♠9, and Deas over-ruffed, played ♠K, guessed to

finesse in spades, and drew the last trump. Then she passed the ♣J and advanced the ♣10, covered. As she could not manage four club tricks because of the entry position, Deas now needed the diamond finesse, so she ruffed a club to hand and ran the ♦Q; contract made. 13 IMPs to Sanborn.

In the 32-board bronze medal playoff, Bessis overwhelmed Vriend, 74-22.

Zonal Teams (Consolation)

	Country	Score
1 Morath (Andersson, Bergdahl, Brenning, Flodqvist, Efraimsson)	SWE	229.00
2 Forrester (Allfrey, Bakhshi, Robson)	ENG	226.27
3 Grue (Kranyak, Kranyak, Moss)	USA/CAN	221.00

Both the Open Pairs (293 Pairs) and Women’s Pairs (78 Pairs) featured a four-session qualifying stage, a four-session semifinal, and a five-session final, but players involved in the Rosenblum and McConnell at the start of a particular stage were granted an exemption from that stage. The Conditions of Contest were designed to create competitive, high profile finals, but as a consequence it was unfortunate for those who had to play in the early stages that there was no carryover into the 72-pair Open and 32-pair Women’s finals, leaving them in the same position as those descending upon them from the Rosenblum and McConnell.

With one session remaining in the Open Pairs, Zia Mahmood/Michael Rosenberg, representing the USA, were nearly 1% ahead of Brazilians Diego Brenner/Gabriel Chagas. Fulvio Fantoni/Claudio Nunes of Italy were not too far behind the Brazilians, but the rest of the contenders were more than 1% behind third.

In the Women’s Pairs, three American pairs topped the rankings, with Karen Allison/Peggy Sutherlin just ahead of Karen McCallum/Debbie Rosenberg and Irina Levitina/Kerri Sanborn. Anne-Frederique Levy/Blandine de Heredia of France were fourth, about 1% behind the leaders, but the rest of the contenders would need to make up quite a bit of ground to win the event.

While Zia was hoping to shake his reputation as the best player never to have won a world championship, Michael and Debbie Rosenberg were threatening to become the first husband and wife to win parallel world titles. The scriptwriters had certainly earned their wages this time and, as the fifth session wound down, it appeared that the fairy tale ending would come to pass. Zia and Michael were enjoying a wonderful session while Karen and Debbie were in the lead or inches away from it after every comparison.

In the end, thanks to an incredible stretch run, Fantoni/Nunes rode a spectacular 65.7% session to victory in the Open Pairs, relegating the luckless Mahmood/Rosenberg to second place despite scoring 59.6% themselves. Brenner/Chagas edged Americans Chip Martel/Lew Stansby for the bronze medals. No one loses with more grace and good humour than Zia and this one had to be a heartbreaker even for the most stoic of players, but Zed departed himself as beautifully as ever. Standing beside Zia when he emerged from the playing area, I remembered how I felt in 1978 in New Orleans when Peter Nagy and I finished second to Marcelo Branco/Gabino Cintra of Brazil, having led after each of the first four sessions of the final. Despite the disappointment at losing, it was almost as if we had won. Zia told me later that he shared some of those feelings, at least at first.

Open Pairs (293 pairs)

		Country	Avg %
1	Fulvio Fantoni-Claudio Nunes	ITA	57.35
2	Zia Mahmood-Michael Rosenberg	USA	57.05
3	Diego Brenner-Gabriel Chagas	BRZ	55.02
4	Chip Martel-Lew Stansby	USA	54.62
5	Piotr Gawrys-Krzysztof Jassem	POL	54.02
6	Eric Eisenberg-Henri Kass	FRA	53.91
7	Piotr Bizon-Darek Kowalski	POL	53.60
8	Michal Kwiecien-Jacek Pszczola	POL	53.50
9	Alejandro Bianchedi-Ernesto Muzzio	ARG	53.45
10	Walid El-Ahmady-Tarek Sadek	EGY	52.88

Meanwhile, McCallum/Rosenberg's 54.2% in the final session was one of the better scores in their field and their closest rivals all fared significantly worse. They won the Women's Pairs by about .6%, with Levy/de Heredia

second and Levitina/Sanborn third. Imagine how Debbie Rosenberg must have felt, her joy in winning mixed with sadness for Michael's loss.

Women's Pairs (78 pairs)

		Country	Avg %
1	Karen McCallum-Debbie Rosenberg	USA	55.17
2	Anne-Frederique Levy-Blandine de Heredia	FRA	54.59
3	Irina Levitina-Kerri Sanborn	USA	54.484
4	Karen Allison-Peggy Sutherlin	USA	54.455
5	Mildred Breed-Shawn Quinn	USA	52.906
6	Lynn Deas-Beth Palmer	USA	52.007
7	Judi Radin-Valerie Westheimer	USA	51.788
8	Disa Eythorsdottir-Rozanne Pollack	USA	51.499
9	Margie Gwozdziński-Susan Wexler	USA	51.4210
10	Jill Meyers-Randi Montin	USA	51.14

Transnational Seniors Teams (31 Teams)

Many of the entries in the Transnational Seniors Teams included professionals or experts still active in serious open competition. Whether Seniors events were created to accommodate these players is a controversial issue, but each of the four teams to qualify for the knockout stage after a dozen 12-board Swiss matches was among the strongest in the field. Schippers (Jan-Willem Bomhof, Roald Ramer, Elly and Henk Schippers), from the Netherlands, won the round robin on a split tie with Freed, USA (Nels Erikson, Lew Finkel, Gene Freed, Joe Kivel, Chris Larson, Bernie Miller). Otvosi of Poland (Marek Borewicz, Wit Klapper, Krzysztof Lasocki, Ervin Otvosi, Jerzy Russyan) finished third and Holt (Boris Baran, Joe Godefrin, Diana Holt, George Mittelman, Ed Schulte), Canada/USA, edged Marsal of Germany by 1 VP for the last spot in the knockout phase.

In one semifinal, Schippers took a 30-IMP lead in the first half, but Holt stormed back to win the second half by 44 IMPs to prevail, 62-48. In the other Freed defeated Otvosi 70-45, winning the first half by 4 IMPs and the second by 21. In the final, Holt again fell behind at the half, but this time by only 8 IMPs. The second half was also close, but Holt won it by 13 IMPs to win the event by 5 IMPs, 57-52.

Transnational Senior Pairs (72 Pairs)

In the Transnational Senior Pairs, 28 pairs qualified for the three-session final. The event was won by the only two Bulgarians to compete in the Montreal Championships. Bulgaria has emerged in recent years as a force in European bridge and it was disappointing that none of their current front

line stars could manage the trip, but the victory by Messrs Drumev and Tanev speaks well for the country's depth at the international level. Boris Schapiro and Irving Gordon, the defending champions from England, did not

- 1 Christo Drumev-Ivan Tanev
- 2 Bruce Gowdy-Arno Hobart
- 3 Sangaparil Mohan-Claude Vogel

At the other end of the spectrum there wasn't much of a turnout for the junior events, and the Junior Teams had to be canceled. As a result, several of the disappointed juniors competed in the Rosenblum and acquitted themselves very

Junior Pairs (17 pairs)

- 1 Olivier Bessis-Godefroy de Tessieres
- 2 Joon S Pahk-Susan Doty
- 3 Jillian Hay-Tony Nunn

Junior IMP Pairs (18 Pairs)

- 1 Lula-Swiatek
- 2 De Groot-Brink
- 3 Wilsmore-Wyner

There were two other events in Montreal:

Zonal Pairs (127 pairs)

- 1 Cohner-Schroeder
- 2 Dubus-Parain
- 3 Voinescu-Taciuc

IMP Pairs (130 Pairs)

- 1 Masayuki Ino-Tadashi Imakura
- 2 Nick Sandkvist-David Burn
- 3 G Olanski-Wlodek Starkowski

The Solomon Trophy, awarded to the country with the best overall performance at these quadrennial World Championships, went to the United States, with Italy second, France third. Since the WBF adopted the IOC Dope Testing Policy the rules had been applied and accepted without incident. In Montreal, the easy run came to an end when Hjordis "Disa" Eythorsdottir, a member of the American team winning the silver medal in the McConnell Cup,

participate. Three months after the Montreal Championships, Schapiro, one of the great characters of the game who had won the event at 89, died peacefully at home. He was 93.

Country	Avg %
BUL	54.76
CAN	53.64
USA	53.49

well, missing qualification to the knockout by just a few Victory Points.

Results of the other junior events:

Country	Avg %
FRA	64.66
USA	56.73
AUS	56.59

Country	IMPs
POL	+74
NETH	+58
AUS	+42

Country	Avg %
GER	60.51
FRA	59.97
ROM	58.08

Country	IMPs
JPN	+169
ENG	+161
POL	+160

refused to submit to a mandatory drug test within the designated time period. Although she was eventually prepared to change her position, her decision came too late and accordingly, her medal was revoked.

The Montreal World Championships also marked two significant "changings of the guard." George Retek resigned as Treasurer after many years of dedicated service and has been replaced by Jean-Louis Derivery of

Guadeloupe, who had served as WBF Executive Council Secretary. Bill "Kojak" Schoder, after a distinguished run as WBF Chief Tournament Director that began in 1988, also stepped down at the conclusion of the

tournament. The new WBF Chief TD is England's Max Bavin, who has worked closely with Bill for many years at international tournaments.

[The preceding article is based on material appearing in the 2003 edition of World Bridge News]

Boris Schapiro (August 22,1909–December 1, 2002)



The world of bridge is a poorer place following the death of Boris Schapiro, who died peacefully at his home on Sunday, December 1, 2002, at the age of 93.

Boris was one of the all-time greats in bridge and was still winning major championships at the age of 89, when

he became world champion in the Senior Pairs in Lille in 1998 with his partner Irving Gordon. A force to be reckoned with at any bridge table, he struck fear into the hearts of many opponents over the years.

Born in Latvia and then moving to St. Petersburg, his wealthy merchant family fled the Bolsheviks and finally arrived in England at the end of World War I. Boris was educated at Clifton and at various universities, including the Sorbonne in Paris. He started playing bridge during his school days, when the game helped to supplement his income, but it was only after World War II that he started playing tournament bridge in earnest.

In a career that spanned seven decades, Boris won the British Gold Cup eleven times, the European Championships four times and the Bermuda Bowl in 1955. He came second in the World Teams in 1960 and the World Pairs and the World Mixed Teams in 1962 as well as winning the Sunday Times Invitational Pairs in

1964 and coming second in the same event in 1991 at the age of 81. 1997 and 1998 were particularly successful years for Boris, as he won his 11th Gold Cup, the South African Championships and the World Senior Pairs.

His most famous partnership, with Terence Reese, began in 1948 and was devastatingly successful. The partnership came to an end in 1965 when the pair was accused of cheating during the World Championships in Buenos Aires. After receiving the World Bridge Federation's ??? the British Bridge League referred the matter to an independent inquiry. The Foster report exonerated Reese/Schapiro of the cheating allegations. In 1968 the WBF Executive Council restored Reese/Schapiro to good standing, and Schapiro went on to represent Great Britain in several events.

Boris was made an Honorary member of the English Bridge Union and was the last surviving British Open World Grand Master. He became the bridge correspondent for The Sunday Times in 1968 and retained this position until his death: he had resigned from The Sunday Times but his articles are to continue until the end of the year.

His flamboyant if cantankerous exterior hid a side of him that not everyone saw. He was a man of great charm and charisma, erudite and good company. He had a wealth of anecdotes and had a keen sense of humor. He will be sadly missed by all who had the honor of knowing him and particularly by his beloved wife, Helen, who he always called "Kucklimu."

Meet Canada-Commonwealth

*Judith and Nicholas Gartaganis
Keith Balcombe/John Duquette*



Both pairs are long-standing partnerships who play a strong club system. Keith and John hate to go down in slams while Nick and Judy hate to miss them. Comparisons often involve a number of double-digit swings. When the pairs are sitting in the wrong direction the opponents need a calculator to add up theirimps.

John is the stabilizing influence on the team. The last time he lost his temper was in 1980. His teammates have more volatile

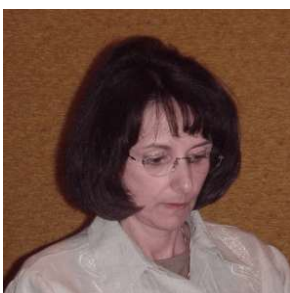
personalities, but his presence has a tranquilizing effect on them.

Keith is the scientist of the Duquette-Balcombe partnership. He believes that 3NT is always the right contract. The past 18 months have been a particularly successful time for Keith, having won the 2001 Canadian National team Championship (CNTC), the 2002 4th IOC Grand prix, and the 2002 Commonwealth Nations Bridge Championship.

Judy and Nick were Keith's teammates for the CNTC and the Commonwealth Nations Bridge Championship. Not many know that they are avid gamblers. This shared passion is restricted entirely to placing bets on who remembered the system notes correctly. Since both periodically update the notes, some wagers are settled more reluctantly than others. There is always a lingering suspicion regarding the authenticity of the document. Their list of philosophical differences outnumbers the areas of mutual agreement. After a disaster, it is not unusual to hear one of them say, "I was playing it your way!"

Meet Team USA

*Sharon Osberg/Mark Feldman
Bobby Wolff/John Sutherlin*



The team from the USA finds itself in a state of confusion, uncertainty, and disarray. John Sutherlin can't review his system notes since his luggage is still in Dallas, Texas. Sharon Osberg vowed that she wasn't going to be victimized again by faulty chopsticks in her room, but then forgot to bring a knife and fork. Mark Feldman arrived at the 7-11 convenience store too late to buy the phone card he forgot to bring. Bobby Wolff is having trouble relating to his environment. He believed the Chinese restaurant had given him complimentary appetizers and was shocked to learn that the meal was over when the bill arrived. Nevertheless, the team thinks that after 36 hours of sleeping and eating, walking and talking, they will be ready to play.

8th NEC Bridge Festival Daily Schedule

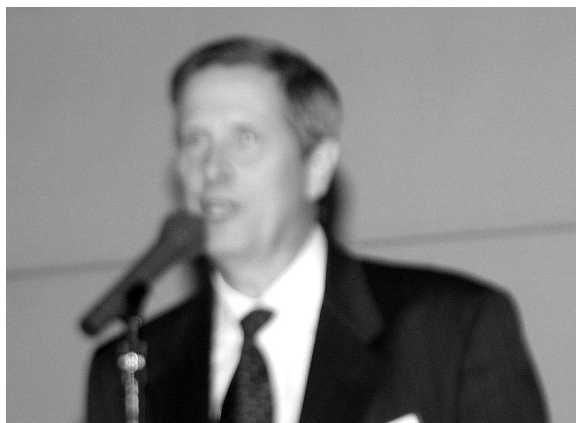
Day/Date	Time	Event	Location
Tuesday (Feb. 4)	10:00-12:50	NEC Cup Swiss - Match 1	Harbor Lounge (20 boards/match)
	12:50-14:00	Lunch Break	
	14:00-16:50	NEC Cup Swiss - Match 2	
Wednesday (Feb. 5)	17:10-20:00	NEC Cup Swiss - Match 3	Harbor Lounge
	10:00-12:50	NEC Cup Swiss - Match 4	
	12:50-14:00	Lunch Break	
Thursday (Feb. 6)	14:00-16:50	NEC Cup Swiss - Match 5	Harbor Lounge
	17:10-20:00	NEC Cup Swiss - Match 6	
	10:00-12:50	NEC Cup Swiss - Match 7	
Friday (Feb. 7)	13:10-16:00	NEC Cup Swiss - Match 8	E204/206
	16:00-17:10	Lunch Break	
	17:10-20:00	NEC Cup Quarter-Final 1	
Saturday (Feb. 8)	10:00-12:50	NEC Cup Quarter-Final 2	E204/206
	12:50-14:00	Lunch Break	
	14:00-16:50	NEC Cup Semi-Final 1	
Sunday (Feb. 9)	17:10-20:00	NEC Cup Semi-Final 2	E204/206
	10:00-12:20	NEC Cup Final 1 & Playoff for 3 rd	
	12:30-14:50	NEC Cup Final 2 & Playoff for 3 rd	
Sunday (Feb. 9)	14:50-16:00	Lunch Break	F203-206
	16:00-18:20	NEC Cup Final 3	
	18:30-20:50	NEC Cup Final 4	
Sunday (Feb. 9)	10:00-17:00	Yokohama Swiss Plate	F203-206
	10:00-17:00	Asuka Cup	
	18:00-19:00	Closing Ceremony	



Fujita-Kimio



Goto-Takuro



Richard Grenside