

2007 Shanghai World Bridge Team Championships

THE 38th World Bridge Teams Championships took place in Shanghai from September 29th to October 13th 2007. Twenty-two national teams competed in each series: Open for the Bermuda Bowl, Ladies for the Venice Cup, and Seniors for the Senior Bowl. In the second week, there was a Transnational Teams tournament, open to all players wishing to participate, and this most enjoyable event attracted 148 teams.

For a country to send a team to compete in one of the three main events, their national team must have finished in the top few positions of their zonal championships. In England's case, this was the European Teams Championships that was held last year in Warsaw, Poland. The English Ladies won a bronze medal and earned their place in the contest for the Venice Cup. We had no representation in the Open and Seniors.

The format of all three competitions was a round robin of twenty-one sixteen-boards matches, with the top eight teams qualifying for the quarter finals. The England Ladies team (Heather Dhondy – Nicola Smith, Michelle Brunner – Rhona Goldenfield, Cath Jagger – Sarah Teshome) did extremely well to reach the last eight, considering that a previous winner – the Netherlands – and other strong teams did not reach the knock-out stages.

In the ninety-six board quarter-final

England faced the very strong Chinese team. The match was very close until the last set of sixteen boards, where China had a tremendous run to win 218-128 IMPs.

Here is a masterpiece of defence produced by England's Michelle Brunner:

Game All. Dealer West.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Goldenfield</i>	<i>Wenfei Wang</i>	<i>Brunner</i>	<i>Yi Qian Liu</i>
Pass	Pass	Pass	1♣
Pass	1♦	Pass	2♠
Pass	2NT	Pass	3♣
Pass	4♣	Pass	5NT
Pass	7♣	All Pass	

1♣ was strong, 1♦ negative, 2♠ game-forcing with spades, 5NT a grand-slam try,



REPORTS

Nevena Senior

which North accepted because of the fifth trump. Rhona Goldenfield led the jack of hearts, dummy played the queen and Michelle . . . smoothly produced the four! Glad she was in dummy, declarer took the club finesse and went off. Had Michelle covered the queen, declarer would have been locked in hand and, with no other options, would have cashed the ace of clubs. Michelle had listened carefully to the bidding: she knew declarer had running spades, so the heart loser would disappear anyway. She also knew that 5NT instead of Blackwood was suggesting a void in a side suit, so her only hope to defeat the contract was a trump winner for the defence.

Playing low on the queen of hearts created a 29-IMP swing for England, as the North-South pair in the other room had played in 4♠.

China later on lost the semi final to the eventual winners- USA1, but won the play off for the bronze medal against France.

The new Venice Cup holders are Jill Meyers, Jill Levin, Jo Anna Stansby, Debbie Rosenberg, Irina Levitina and Hansa Narasimhan. Germany finished second.

The Bermuda Bowl winners are Norway (Boye Brøgeland, Eric Sælensminde, Geir Helgemo, Tor Helness, Glenn Groetheim and Ulf Tundal). USA1 finished second and the Netherlands third.

There was another gold medal for the USA in the Seniors: Roger Bates, Grant Baze, Bart Bramley, Rose Meltzer, Alan Sontag and Lew Stansby beat Indonesia in the final.

The Transnational Open Teams was won by a team from Italy, France and Switzerland: Fulvio Fantoni, Claudio Nunes, Franck Multon, Thomas Bessis and Pierre Zimmermann defeated a strong Polish-Russian formation in the final. □



Photo: EBU

The England Venice Cup Team, from the left: Nicola Smith, Rhona Goldenfield, Martin Jones (npc), Catherine Jagger, Sarah Teshome, Heather Dhondy and Michelle Brunner