



David Stern, Bermuda Bowl, ROUND 10



USA2 vs AUSTRALIA



On the first 64 board day, the final match sees USA2 (Bathurst-Hurd, Demuy-Kranyak) who are leading the event, playing Australia (Edgtton-Hung, Milne-Coutts) running 14th, some 31 VPs adrift.

Board 1 was a lead problem. You hold:

♠ A 9 2
♥ K J 9 3
♦ 10 2
♣ J 10 9 4

You hear the bidding go:

Edgtton	Bathurst	Hung	Hurd
—	Pass	1♣	1♦
Dble	1NT	Dble	2♦
Dble	Pass	3♦	Pass
3NT	Pass	4♥	All Pass

Your lead. Because it is a lead problem you may look elsewhere but partner bidding diamonds twice certainly suggests a diamond lead which is what Bathurst led. Here is the full layout:

Board 1. Dealer North. None Vul.

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

In the closed room Coutts, South for Australia led a high diamond, both leads allowing declarer to pitch a spade and lose two trumps and a spade. On a spade lead, only an inspired guess in the trump suit would allow declarer to make. However a little less inspiration may be needed after North's 1NT bid.

On board two, the more conservative approach allowed the opponents to find their own trouble...

Board 2. Dealer East. NS Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Edgtton	Bathurst	Hung	Hurd
—	—	1♦	Pass
1♠	Pass	3♠	All Pass

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Demuy	Milne	Kranyak	Coutts
—	—	1♦	Pass
1♠	Pass	2♠	Pass
Pass	3♣	All Pass	


In the open room the defence was ruthless. North led his singleton diamond and upon winning the ♠J, South was able to give his partner two diamond ruffs, one with a low trump and one with the ace, while he still scored the ♠K. Three down and -300 to USA2. In the Closed Room declarer could have scraped home in 3♣ had he divined the bad break, but not unreasonably played for a 3-2 club break and lost three trumps, a diamond and a club. My admiration to Kranyak for not bidding 3♠ which might not be an unpopular choice in a bidding poll.

USA2 6 — Australia 1

After a flat board which might have yielded one less overtrick IMP in both rooms; and then another flat board...



Board 21. Dealer North. N-S Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Edgton	Bathurst	Hung	Hurd
—	Pass	Pass	1NT
All Pass			

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Demuy	Milne	Kranyak	Coutts
—	Pass	Pass	1♦
Pass	1♥	Pass	1♠
Pass	2♦	Pass	2NT
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

Three notrumps is certainly playable.

In the open room, Hurd, South, won the club lead and played ♦A followed by the ♦Q, ducked. West won the ♣J continuation and switched to a spade. Declarer played a heart to the ace and a low diamond leaving the defence with just five tricks when the ♥9 proved to be a stopper in that suit.

In the closed room, Coutts, South for Australia, won the club lead and continued with clubs, won by West who now switched to the ♥K, ducked, ♥Q from partner. The heart continuation was won in dummy with the ace. Declarer cashed the ♣A and now, to make the contract, all declarer had to do was hope East held ♦Kx, ♦Kxx or West held the singleton ten. A diamond to the nine would of course have succeeded but there was nothing in the bidding or the play to that point to suggest that this was a reasonable line. -100 and +120 saw six more IMPs to the USA2 team.


USA2 12 — Australia 1

The next board saw USA2 collect four more IMPs when, with a 21 count opposite zero, they elected to stay one level lower than Australia.

USA2 16 — Australia 1

Two flat boards until the first significant swing to Australia.

Board 25. Dealer North. E-W Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Edgton	Bathurst	Hung	Hurd
—	2♠	Pass	4♠
Double	All Pass		

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Demuy	Milne	Kranyak	Coutts
—	3♠	Pass	4♠
All Pass			

In the open room, Edgton no doubt was worried that he was being swindled by his favourably vulnerable opponents. We would be sure that he had no conviction that 4♠ would fail and just maybe partner had the values and shape to make a five-level contract. The defence started with a diamond to the ace, ♣A, a diamond to the king and a club ruff. Declarer then misguessed spades by winning the first round with the ace playing West for an original holding of ♠K5. That resulted in -300.

In the closed room, the defence started with a club, which made the club ruff less obvious. Also, without the benefit of the low diamond lead, West had no clue as to where partner's possible entry lay and unsuccessfully tried a heart. After that reprieve declarer finessed spades, later finessing the ♣J to make 10 tricks for +420 and 12 IMPs to Australia.

USA2 16 — Australia 13

More IMPs flowed down under on the next board.



Board 26. Dealer East. All Vul.

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

with the ♣A, ruffed by South who continued hearts. Declarer pressed on with clubs, taking the marked finesse, again ruffed by South. Another heart followed, ruffed by declarer who cashed the ♦A, continuing clubs after which he lost only the ♦K and the ♠A for two down and -500. That seemed like the best result his side could achieve.

In the closed room, declarer made ten tricks losing a spade, a diamond and a club for +790 and 7 IMPs to Australia who now took the lead.

USA2 16 — Australia 20

More IMPs for Australia on the next board.

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Edgton	Bathurst	Hung	Hurd
—	—	Pass	Pass
1♦	2NT	Pass	4♥
Dble	Pass	5♦	Dble
All Pass			

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Demuy	Milne	Kranyak	Coutts
—	—	Pass	Pass
1♦	1♥	Pass	4♣
Pass	4♥	Pass	Pass
Dble	All Pass		

If I had to define bridge ecstasy, holding five card support for partner's five card suit and a void in his second five plus suit would certainly be in the mix.

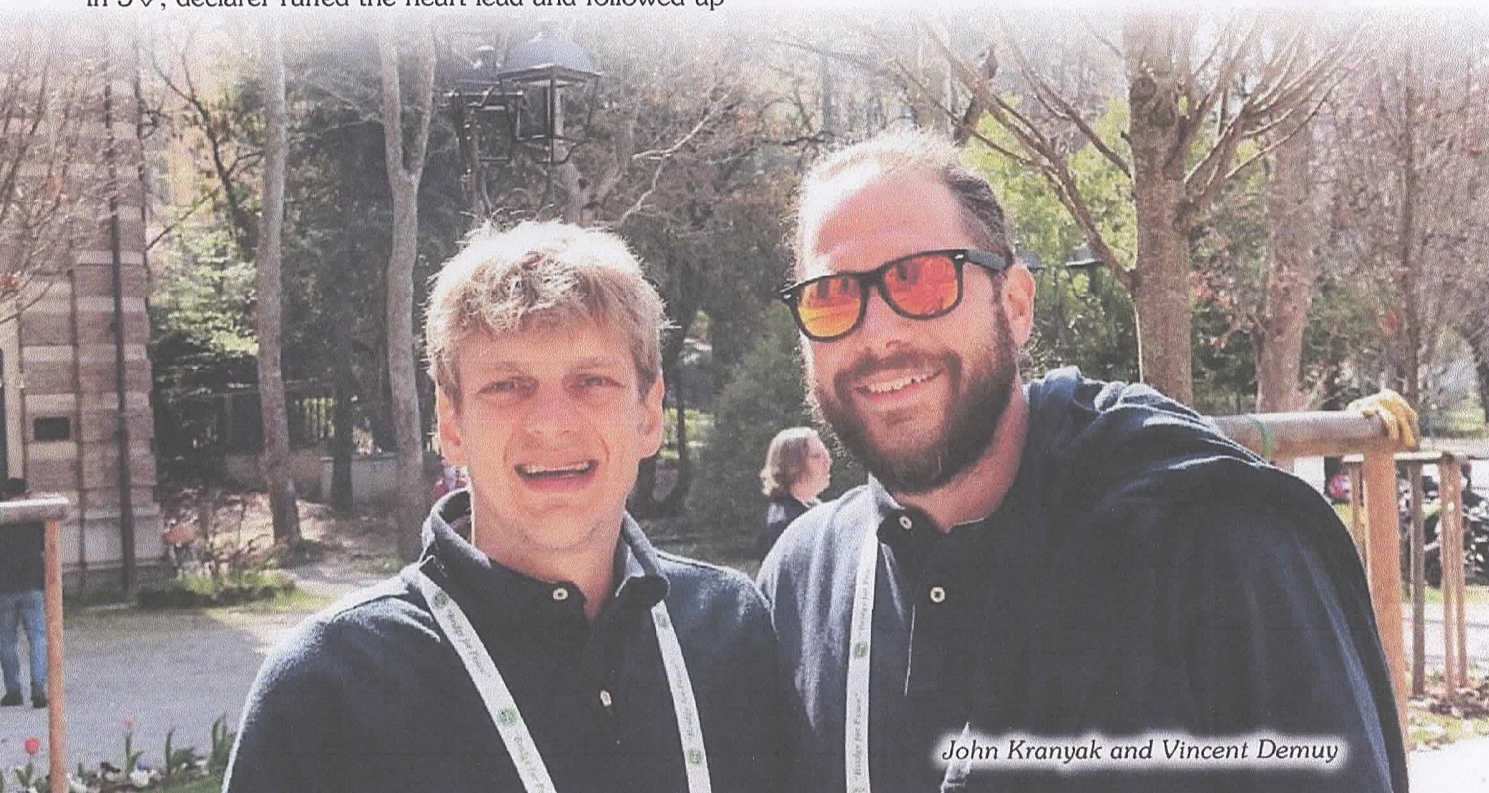
In the open room where Australia chose to sacrifice in 5♦, declarer ruffed the heart lead and followed up

Board 27. Dealer South. None Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Edgton	Bathurst	Hung	Hurd
—	—	—	Pass
Pass	1NT	3♠	All Pass



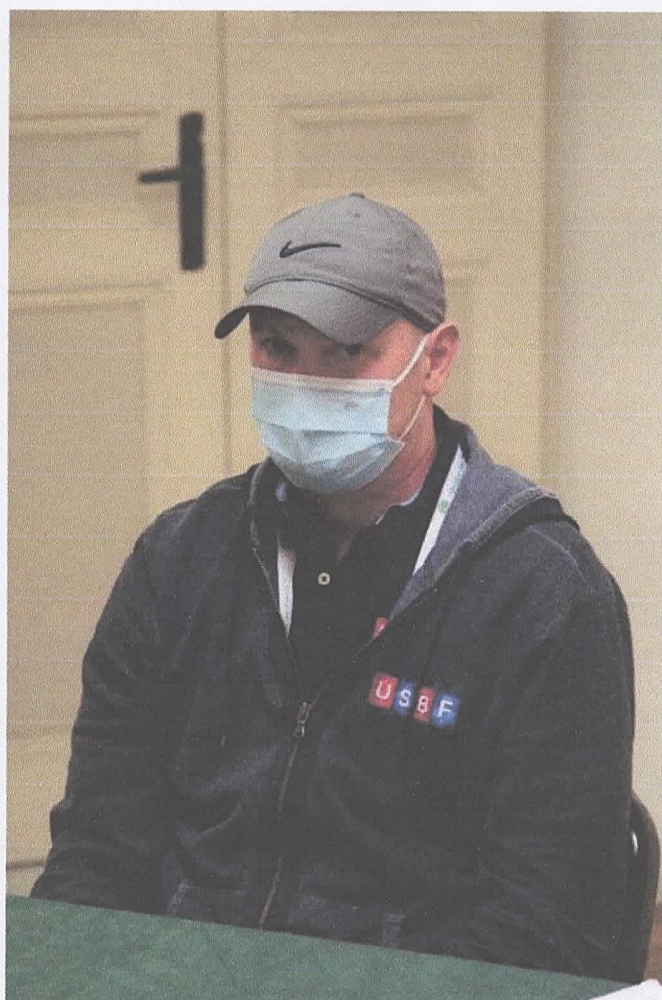
John Kranyak and Vincent Demuy



Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Demuy	Milne	Kranyak	Coutts
—	—	—	Pass
Pass	1NT	3♠	3NT
All Pass			

Now when you fly all the way from Australia, some 25 hours away, and give up two weeks of your life, nobody is going to pre-empt you out of what MAY rightfully be yours. Coutts certainly shopped well finding partner with a maximum 16 for his 14-16 1NT opening. Kranyak led a spade honour of course, Demuy pitching a heart. Then he erred slightly by playing the ♠A and queen – doubtless trying to signal his diamond card and assuming hearts were not in the picture. But from Demuy's perspective might declarer not have the ♦Q not the ♥Q? if East has ♥Qx he can block the suit by rising with the queen on the first round. Demuy pitched a second heart and thus could no longer hold up the ♥K long enough to prevent declarer running the suit. With the aid of the double club finesse, he had 10 tricks. (Demuy was by no means the only one to discard this way. Editor)



Kevin Bathurst

In the open room, three spades had its own problems. Hurd led his doubleton diamond, won by North's ♦K who then cashed a diamond and gave his partner a ruff. The ♥A, an essential cash, followed by a club continuation and another diamond from North which proved to be a trump promotion. ♠Q from declarer, overruffed by South with the ♠K thereby establishing North's precious ♠9. That was -150 but still 7 IMPs to Australia.

USA2 16 — Australia 27

The next Board saw Demuy-Kranyak push to 3NT on VERY limited values.

Board 28. Dealer West. N-S Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Edgton	Bathurst	Hung	Hurd
1♣	Pass	1♦*	1♠
Dble*	2♠	Dble	Pass
3♦	All Pass		

1♦ Transfer to 1♥
Dble Support Double

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Demuy	Milne	Kranyak	Coutts
1♦	Pass	1♥	1♠
Dble*	2♠	Dble	Pass
2NT	Pass	3NT	All Pass

Dble Support Double

In the open room, despite the ♣10 lead, once declarer held the ♣9, the defence were unable to garner their second club trick before declarer established hearts for a club discard. 3♦ scored +110.

In the closed room, Kranyak pushed to game on what was a minimum hand. This seems somewhat odd, as




a 1NT opening nil Vul in 1/2/3 seat shows 13-16 so presumable Demuy was limited to 12 points. The defence ended up taking three spades, two hearts, a diamond and a club for three down, +150 to Australia and 6 more IMPs.

USA2 16 — Australia 33

All good things must come to an end, but perhaps not quite so dramatically as this.

Board 29. Dealer North. All Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Edgton	Bathurst	Hung	Hurd
—	Pass	1NT	Pass
2♥	Pass	2♠	Pass
3♣	Pass	4♠	All Pass

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Demuy	Milne	Kranyak	Coutts
—	Pass	1NT	Pass
2♥	Pass	2♠	Pass
3♣	Dble	Rdbl	All Pass

With the spade queen, heart king, club ace onside and ♦J10 falling short an easy twelve tricks are available in spades or notrumps. Hung eschewed the spade finesse and made eleven tricks.

Sometimes bad things happen to good people. Presumably West's 3♣ showed shortage in both rooms. Milne thought he would suggest a club lead may be best for the defence wherever the contract landed. He never thought for a moment that this was in fact where the contract would land. Holding 13 points opposite his partner's 14-17 1NT opening, Demuy, West for USA2, decided to take a punt on partner's redouble – presumably a suggestion to play – and so passed.

Declarer lost just three trump tricks and racked up +1240 and 11 IMPs.

USA2 27 — Australia 33

Four down against three down saw two IMPs to the USA on the next hand followed by a flat board.

The last board of the set proved to be the most amusing/interesting one of a lively set of boards.

Board 32. Dealer West. E-W Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Edgton	Bathurst	Hung	Hurd
1♦	Pass	1♥	Pass
2NT	Pass	4NT	Pass
6♠	Pass	6NT	All Pass

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Demuy	Milne	Kranyak	Coutts
2NT	Pass	3♣	Pass
3♠	Pass	6NT	Dble
All Pass			

A combined thirty-three points and all you are missing is the ♦AK and unfortunately they reside in the same hand but fortunately not the hand on lead and even more fortunately you have four tricks in each of the other suits.

Twenty-one of the twenty-four tables played slam with sixteen being declared by West. It was doubled four times and made each of those times while on two undoubled tables North found the diamond lead.

The double cost Australia 6 IMPs, leaving the result USA 2 35 Australia 33. USA 2 were now running 3rd having been overtaken by England and Switzerland, Australia slipping one position to 15th.