

My regular reader (Mrs Trellis of North Wales) will know that I am not a fan of doubling with the type of hand North holds.

2♠ clearly showed the minors, but South is somewhat short of high cards and when he jumped to game on the next round North took him seriously.

East led the three of spades but although declarer was allowed to get rid of a heart on the queen of clubs the contract was still one down, -100.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Packer	Kendrick	Tearne	Mestel
1♠	3NT	4♠	Pass
Pass	Dble	Pass	Pass
Pass	5♦	All Pass	4NT*

4NT Good support for both minors

Why North would want to bid 3NT over 1♠ is a riddle wrapped in a mystery inside an enigma; but perhaps there is a key. If the defence lead a spade and South is kind enough to hold the ace of clubs and a diamond entry then 3NT will make.

4♠ will go down but you can understand why South took out the double.

When East led the three of spades for the king and ace declarer could ruff out the queen of spades establishing a discard for a losing heart, +600 and 12 IMPs to England.

Dealer East. Game All

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Curtis	Moore	Fegarty	Free
1♠	2♥	1♦	Pass
3♦	3♥	Dble*	2♠*
All Pass		4♦	Dble
Dble	Support double		
2♣	Good raise in hearts		

With nothing to speak off in the way of high cards and no distribution West's decision to support diamonds proved to be unsound when East bid 4♦.

With an early Christmas present in the bag South led the eight of hearts and North won with the jack and returned the five of clubs. Declarer won, cashed a second club and exited with a club. South won and played another heart and declarer ruffed and, with fingers crossed, ruffed a club with the six of diamonds. The queen of spades was covered by the king and ace and declarer went back to dummy with a spade, ruffed a heart and exited with a spade, ensuring one more trump trick as South, down to ♦AKJ9 was forced to ruff. Two down meant -500.

Had North been able to overruff the six of diamonds the penalty would have been in four figures.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Packer	Kendrick	Tearne	Mestel
Pass	2♥	1♦	Pass
Pass	3♠	Pass	3♥
Pass	4♥	All Pass	3NT

East cashed the king of clubs followed by the black aces and exited with a spade. Declarer won with the king and cashed the top hearts, one down, -100 and 12 IMPs to Black Swan.

No doubt declarer thought West's failure to respond pinpointed the ♥Q (West looked certain to have the ♠QJ).

This deal from the mentally draining Round 12 illustrates to perfection the old adage, 'There is not always a Lightner at the end of the Tunnel'.

Dealer West. Both Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Curtis	Moore	Fegarty	Free
2♥*	Pass	4♥	4♠
Pass	4NT*	5♥	5♠*
Pass	Pass	6♥	Dble
All Pass			
2♥	Hearts and a minor		
4NT	RKCB		
5♠	2 key cards		

North led the ace of clubs for the six, nine and eight.

Given that West might have held ♣J8432 the commentators speculated on the possibility that North might play a second club, hoping that South could ruff it, but that would hardly explain South's double.

However, North did not play a club.

Unfortunately North chose to exit with a spade and declarer was soon claiming, +1660.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Packer</i>	<i>Kendrick</i>	<i>Tearne</i>	<i>Mestel</i>
2♥*	2♠	3♠*	4♠
Pass	Pass	5♥	5♠
Pass	Pass	6♥	Dble
All Pass			

Perhaps thinking his partner was doubling on power North allowed himself to be lulled into false sense of security. His lead of the two of spades did not trouble the scorers, +1660 and another dull, flat board.

...and so, ladies & gentlemen, as the muffled mobile of time goes off in the theatre of destiny, and the surgeon of fate realises he's sewn his phone inside a patient once again... I leave you with this thought - try beating 6♦ by EW.

The quarter final line ups produced these results:

England v Scottish President	54-51
Canada v Wales	46-76
Chairman v Australia	101-27
Scotland v India	60-62

Dealer West. Game All.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Duncan</i>	<i>Holland</i>	<i>Gordon</i>	<i>Green</i>
Pass	1♠	Pass	2♣*
Pass	2♦	Pass	2♠
Pass	4♠	All Pass	
2♣	Game forcing		

East led the two of hearts and declarer won with dummy's ace, played a club to the ace and a diamond to the

king and ace. West continued with the jack of diamonds (essential) and when it was allowed to hold (fatal) he continued with a club for the queen and king. At this point declarer can ruff a club, finesse in hearts and play two more rounds, pitching a diamond on the third and ruffing the fourth before exiting with a diamond. West, down to trumps has to ruff and surrender three trump tricks.

However, when declarer played the jack of spades it was covered by the queen and king and East pitched the seven of clubs. Now it was impossible to survive the 5-0 trump break for as soon as West came in with a trump he could exit with the ten of clubs and had to score another trump, one down, -100.

To be sure of defeating 4♠ East must overtake the jack of diamonds with the queen and give West a ruff. Given that declarer was known to hold four diamonds this is a difficult but perhaps not impossible play to find.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>King</i>	<i>Peterkin</i>	<i>Small</i>	<i>Sanders</i>
Pass	1♠	Pass	3NT*
Pass	4♠	All Pass	

3NT Balanced raise

Here East led the four of clubs and declarer won with the jack and cashed the ace of spades, East discarding the nine of clubs. Declarer unblocked the ace of clubs and continued with a spade to the jack and king. Declarer pitched a diamond on the club return and played the six of spades for the five and seven followed by a diamond to the king (if declarer ducks this the defenders are helpless). West won and played the jack. When it held he exited with a heart (a trump into the tenace sees East get squeezed in the red suits) and declarer played four rounds of the suit, catching West's trumps for +620 and 12 IMPs.

At the point where West played the jack of diamonds it is clear for East to overtake and play another diamond when East's ruff will be the setting trick.

India's Malhotra played the hand to perfection on a club lead.

He won with the jack, played a heart to the ace, a spade to the queen, unblocked the ace of clubs, took a heart finesse, cashed the king of clubs pitching a diamond took the ace of hearts, ruffed a heart and exited with a diamond, not caring who had the ace.



Dealer North. Love All.

♠ A 8 7
♥ K 4
♦ K J 10 5
♣ A Q 9 4

♠ J 4
♥ A J 9 7 2
♦ A 8 6 3
♣ 8 3

N
W E
S

♠ K 10 5 3
♥ Q 10 8 5 3
♦ Q 9 4
♣ 10

♠ Q 9 6 2
♥ 6
♦ 7 2
♣ K J 7 6 5 2

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Tedd	Datta	Salisbury	Nandi
	INT	Pass	2♣*
Pass	2♦*	Pass	2NT
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

East led the five of hearts and West took the ace and returned the seven to declarer's king. Declarer played a club to the jack and tried to slip a diamond past West - no joy as up went the ace and the defenders cashed their hearts for one down, -50.

It is of passing interest that neither East or West saw fit to enter the auction. (Bakhshi and McIntosh got all the way to 4♥ - on a good day it might have made.)

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Thakral	Jones	Bendre	Rees
	1♣	Pass	1♠
2♥	Dble	3♥	5♣
All Pass			

East led the three of hearts and West won with the ace and switched to a low diamond. Declarer saw his opportunity and went up with the king, pitched a diamond on the king of hearts, ruffed a diamond, crossed to dummy with a trump, ruffed a diamond, went to dummy to ruff the last diamond and played ace of spades and a spade. Even if West had held the king he would have been endplayed. That was a well played +400 and 10 IMPs to Wales.

The semifnals these scores:

Chairman - England	46-35
India - Wales	68-92

The significance of this result was that as the last national team standing Wales were the new Commonwealth Nations Team Gold Medallists.



Welshpride

Ready....Set.....GlasGow

Mark Horton presents a brief report on last month's fourth Commonwealth Nations Bridge Championships from Scotland's second city.

The 28 teams who travelled to Glasgow to contest the fourth Commonwealth Nations Bridge Championships were rewarded by a glorious week of sunshine and ideal playing conditions in the Radisson Blu Hotel.

They were split into two groups to play a round robin at the end of which the leading teams would advance to the knock out stage.

Here are a few highlights:

Dealer North. EW Game.

♠ 10 9	♠ 6	♠ AKQJ854
♥ AK5	♥ 7 6 4 3 2	♥ —
♦ A 10 9	♦ Q 6 5 4 2	♦ KJ8
♣ AQ 10 5 4	♣ 9 7	♣ K 6 2
	N	
	W E	
	S	
	♠ 7 3 2	
	♥ QJ 10 9 8	
	♦ 7 3	
	♣ J 8 3	

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Fegarty	Elliot	Curtis	Baggs
	Pass	1♠	Pass
2♣	2NT*	3♥*	Pass
4NT	Pass	6♠	All Pass
2NT Red suits			

Don't you just love North's intervention. Thereafter the auction resembled many of my school reports - 'could do better'.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
O'Mahony	Kendrick	Large	Mestel
	Pass	2♣*	2♥
3♣	3♠	Dble	Pass
7NT	All Pass		

Was that 2♣ a tribute to a certain Albert Benjamin, denoting an Acol Two Bid in an unspecified suit? Whatever it enabled EW to brush aside some spirited intervention by NS and reach the unbeatable grand slam which was worth 13 IMPs.

A football match between England and Scotland is a continuation of the oldest international fixture in the world, first played in 1872 at Hamilton Crescent, Glasgow. The history of the British Isles has led to much rivalry between the nations in many forms, and the social and cultural effects of centuries of antagonism and conflict between the two has contributed to the intense nature of the sporting contests. Scottish nationalism has also been a factor in the Scots' desire to defeat England above all other rivals, with Scottish sports journalists traditionally referring to the English as the 'Auld Enemy'.

Bridge matches between the two countries are no less keenly fought and there was a full house when the two sides met in Round 5.

Dealer North. NS Game.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Holland	Sime	Green	Murdoch
	1♠	Pass	2♣*
3♦	Pass	Pass	Dble
Pass	3NT	All Pass	
2♣ Mostly game forcing			

East led the nine of diamonds and declarer ducked, won the next diamond and ran the clubs. When he then took the ♥AK West was caught in a show up squeeze - forced to retain the ♦7 he had to blank the king of spades, +690.



Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Mould	King	Matheson	Small
	1♠	Pass	2♣*
3♦	Pass	Pass	4♣
Pass	4♦*	Pass	4♥*
Pass	4♠*	Pass	5♣
Pass	6♣	All Pass	
2♣	Game forcing		
4♦	Cue bid		
4♥	Cue bid		
4♠	Cue bid		

West led the king of diamonds and declarer won with the ace and drew trumps, West parting with a couple of diamonds. Declarer ran the rest of the trumps and cashed the ♥AK, West coming down to ♠K9 ♦J and East ♠J ♥Q10.

When declarer exited with the ♥9 hoping to endplay East he was one down and Scotland had 13 IMPs.

Suppose East had started out with the ♠K and say ♥Q1074. It is not difficult to see what declarer has in mind but as long as West retains three hearts and two diamond East can happily reduce to say two spades, two hearts and a diamond when declarer must go down.

So perhaps declarer should have got it right.

Dealer West. NS Game

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Holland	Sime	Green	Murdoch
1♦	Pass	1♠	2♥
Pass*	Pass	Dble	Pass
Pass	3♣	Dble	All Pass
Pass	Denies 3♠		

East led the king of spades and switched to the nine of hearts. Declarer put up dummy's ace and played a club to the jack, king and ace. East switched to the seven of diamonds and West won with the king and played the king of hearts ruffed by the six and overruffed by the eight. If East now continues with the ace of spades and a spade West ruffs and plays a heart. Declarer ruffs and East discards, wins the trump exit with the ten and plays a diamond. West wins and plays another heart and that

promotes the lowly ♣3 - a beautiful way to collect +1400.

When East missed this and returned a diamond declarer 'escaped' for -1100.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Mould	King	Matheson	Small
INT	Pass	3♥*	Dble
3NT	All Pass		
3♥	Shortage		

North led the four of hearts and South took the ace and returned the ten of diamonds. Declarer won, cashed another diamond then played the queen of clubs for the king and ace. A club back to the jack and a diamond to North's queen allowed to claim the rest, +460, but 12 IMPs to England.

Dealer North. EW Game

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Holland	Narunsky	Green	Kaprey
	1♥	2♣	2♦
3♣	4♥	All Pass	

East made the dramatic lead of the seven of clubs. When you do this type of thing you either end up smelling of roses or in the mire.

If declarer had put up dummy's jack of clubs the mire would have been very deep, but a low club allowed West to win with the ten. The nine of diamonds was ruffed by East and the ten of spades was covered by the king and ace. Another diamond ruff was followed by a second spade and West won and tried to cash a third spade, so declarer was just two down, -100.

You might think that an overcall of 2♣ would not be everyone's choice. On the actual layout EW easily make 4♠ (although even if East starts with a two suited overcall they are not certain to reach it) but give West four spades and you certainly want to be in game.

Unluckily for EW a bid of 2♥ would have shown spades and diamonds, so to show this two suiter East would have to bid 2NT - not ideal.

A simple 1♠ is a possibility, but you can see the attractions of 2♣.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Balkin	King	Holroyd	Small
	1♥	Pass	1♠
Pass	1NT	Pass	2♣
Pass	2♠	Pass	3♦
Pass	4♥	All Pass	

East led the ace of clubs for the two, ten and three. The king of clubs took the next trick, West following with the four. When East continued with a third club a grateful declarer took the rest, +450 and 11 IMPs for England.

Dealer West. EW Game

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Esmail	Kendrick	Deen	Mestel
1♥	2♣	2♦	Pass
2♥	Pass	3♦	All Pass

Bridge is littered with little 'rules' such as second hand low, third hand high, cover an honour with and honour etc but for the most part these are only guidelines which frequently have to be ignored. However, one piece of advice that is invariably sound is that if you have an opening bid and your partner opens the bidding then it is incumbent upon you to ensure that your side gets to game.

This deal looked like the exception that proves the rule, as in theory EW cannot make a game, but it is very easy for the defenders to go wrong. For example, if West declares 4♥ then North must find a spade lead, not impossible, but by no means a certainty.

We'll take a look at the alternative game possibility, 3NT in a moment.

South led the seven of clubs for the ten jack and ace and declarer played a diamond to the king, a spade to the king and a top diamond getting the bad news/good news (if the diamond behave then 3NT is a doddle). Declarer continued diamonds, South winning the fourth round, cashing the master trump and exiting with a spade. Declarer won in dummy and played the queen of clubs, establishing a trick for the nine, but there was still a heart and a club to lose, one down, -100.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Fegarty	B Shah	Curtis	R Shah
1♥	2♣	2♦	Pass
2♥	Pass	3NT	All Pass

Naturally South led a club and the ten was covered by the jack and ace. Declarer played a heart to the queen and when that held a second heart went to South's ace as declarer pitched a club. South switched to a diamond and declarer won in dummy, forced out the king of hearts and claimed ten tricks, +630 and 12 IMPs to England 2.

To have a chance of defeating 3NT South must lead a spade at trick one. Say declarer wins and plays a heart. If South takes the ace it is essential to switch to a club. East takes the jack with the ace, but crossing to dummy with a diamond to play a heart sees North win, cash a club and exit with a spade, South getting two spades at the end.

If, as is perhaps more likely, South withholds the ♥A North must duck (not an easy play to find). Then South can win the second heart and play a club, transposing into the first line.

Dealer North. Love All

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Esmail	Kendrick	Deen	Mestel
	4♠	All Pass	

Bidding becomes much tougher when the auction starts at a high level, a reasonable action can easily prove to be disastrous. Here East might/should overcall 5♥ and West might/should double or bid 5♣. When neither was willing to take any action North had no trouble recording +420.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Fegarty	B Shah	Curtis	R Shah
	4♠	5♥	5♠
6♥	6♠	Dble	Pass
7♥	Pass	Pass	Dble
All Pass			

Here East did overcall 5♥, which is usually the right thing to do in this situation.

What seems like far too many year ago now I discussed this type of auction with England's number 1, Tony Forrester. His theory is that you should try and decide at what level you would like the opponents to play and bid accordingly. If you decide that it is likely that EW can make 6♥ then one option is to pass over 5♥, reserving the option of bidding 6♠ if West bids 6♥ (I have a feeling West would have bid at least 6♥ and 5♠ is also a possibility).

This particular South hand is awkward to evaluate, but with partner odds on to hold eight spades you know that your side will not get a spade trick. So, unless partner has a bit on the side (a modest laugh is allowed at this point) you are looking at your sides only defensive assets and have to gauge if they might be enough to defeat 6♥/7♥.

When South made the natural looking spade raise and West bid 6♥ North, in the style of the great Rixi Markus, came again and East doubled to make it clear she held a spade loser.

It was a fair shot now for West to bid 7♥. Apart from the fact that it might be cold, it is clear that EW will not get rich defending 6♠ doubled and it is possible that NS might be persuaded to go on to 7♠.

Trusting that the minor suits would produce a trick South doubled to conclude an exciting auction. Right she was, one down, +100, but England had 8 IMPs.

It's a pound to a penny (I thought I'd get that in while the pound is still the currency of choice in Scotland) that at some point during a major championship that the Great Shuffler will produce a set of deals that are designed to wreak havoc.

In this event it proved to be Round 12 and it brought to mind the words of the Maximus Decimus Meridius, General of the Felix Legions at the beginning of the blockbuster movie Gladiator - 'At my signal, unleash hell'.

Substituting for the Romans and German tribesmen were England 2 and Black Swan.

Dealer East. NS Game

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Curtis	Moore	Fegarty	Free
		5♦	Pass
Pass	Dble	Pass	5♥
Dble	All Pass		

West led the jack of clubs and declarer put up dummy's ace, felling the king. A heart to the six and ten confirmed the worst and West continued with the nine of clubs. Declarer won in dummy and returned a club and West won and cashed another trick in the suit before exiting with the five of spades. Putting in the queen now should allow declarer to escape (if that is the right word) for -1100 but he played low from dummy and East won with the jack and returned the king of diamonds. West ruffed and played a spade. It would not help declarer to play the queen now as the defenders have the tempo. He went up with the ace and pitched a spade on the ace of diamonds. West ruffed and exited with a spade and still had a trick to come, down five, -1400.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Packer	Kendrick	Tearne	Mestel
		5♦	Pass
Pass	Dble	All Pass	

South led the eight of spades and North won with the queen, cashed the black aces and exited with a heart. Declarer ruffed and played a diamond - unfortunately it was the ten rather than the king - so he was three down, -500.

Looking on the bright side it only cost an IMP.

Dealer South. Game All.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Curtis	Moore	Fegarty	Free
			Pass
1♠	Dble	2♦*	2♠*
Pass	3♦	3♠	5♦
Pass	6♦	All Pass	
2♦	Hearts		

The Man Could Play

Tony Priday, one of England's top players for several decades, died three days ago at age 92. Among his many friends was Maureen Hiron, who published several deals played by Priday in the *Independent*. Three of them are presented here.

Dealer West. Both Vul

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

When one opponent pre-empted and the suit is raised by the other, the suspicion is that you are being talked out of something. In spite of the vulnerability, Tony Priday, seated South, came in with Three Spades after West opened with a weak Two Hearts and East raised. North, with some useful-looking cards, raised to Four Spades, and West led the ten of hearts to East's king. South ruffed the ace of hearts continuation, then played a spade to dummy's ace. Priday now ruffed dummy's last heart, then cashed the king of spades.

Everything was going well, and all that remained was to find the king of clubs onside, and with a reasonable break in that suit as well, the game would make.



Dummy was accessed with the ace of diamonds and the queen of clubs played. It held, but when South followed with the club jack, East covered and West showed out. Now the reason for Priday's precaution in ruffing dummy's third heart became evident. He cashed his king of diamonds then made the key play, exiting with his last diamond.

If West wins with the queen he is endplayed. On the forced red-suit return, declarer can ruff in dummy, while discarding his losing low club in hand.

If East takes the trick with the jack, he can cash the queen of spades, removing both declarer's and dummy's last trumps but must then lead a club, giving declarer the last two tricks – and the contract.

Dealer South. E/W Vul.

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

"Most of the pairs were in Six Hearts, and all bar one went down. It was just my bad luck to be playing against the best player in the club, Tony Priday. He was the only one to make the slam, and I got a bottom." Overhearing this, I went in search of the maestro himself to obtain further and better particulars.

West led the ten of spades, and when dummy descended, Priday was quietly confident. It was a good slam, requiring the trump suit to play for no more than one loser.

South won the lead in hand, and when Priday played the ace of hearts, the 5-0 break came to light. Declarer appreciated that the slam could be made only if East held at least three diamonds.

At trick three, a low heart went to dummy's nine and East's jack. Back came a spade to the king. A diamond to the ten was followed by the eight of hearts, to the queen and king. The diamond ace was cashed, and when West showed out, the path home was lit. As South needed two diamond discards in hand, the club finesse was necessary. Dummy's diamond queen was cashed and declarer's last two diamonds went away on the club ace and spade queen.

continued on page 6...

Early problems in Sanya

by Micke Melander

In the first round of the mixed teams NUNES, one of the possible favorites to win the tournament was drawn to play against the MASTERMIND team from Hong Kong. Board one immediately created several problems for the players.

Board 1. Dealer North. None Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Ling	Nunes	Yeung	Quinn
	1♣	Pass	1♠
Dbl	2♠	3♥	Pass
4♥	All Pass		

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Fantoni	Lam	Compton	Ling
	1♣	Pass	Pass
INT	Pass	2♣	Pass
2♦	Pass	2NT	Pass
3NT	All Pass		



Shawn Quinn and Claudio Nunes

Ling and Yeung did very well in the Open Room to avoid getting to three no trump and instead opted to play in four hearts on a 4-3 fit. Four Hearts had eleven tricks when the defense led clubs. Even worse for declarer in three no trump was that even if the king of diamonds had been onside, it still would not have guaranteed enough tricks to make the contract when the defense attacked spades. That would have been an easy opening lead in the Open Room since Quinn had found a One Spade bid on that poor hand...

In the Closed Room Fantoni overcalled with INT in fourth seat when the one club opening was passed round to him. Lam managed to put his fingers on the seven of spades, Fantoni ducked, won the second round and tried a heart to the king and North's ace. When the defense had blocked their spades, Fantoni had his ninth trick in the bag.

What looked like a big score and great start for the MASTERMIND team from Hong Kong eventually only created 2 IMPs.

The only big swing of the match came on board three.

Board 3. Dealer South. EW Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Ling	Nunes	Yeung	Quinn
			Pass
1♦	Pass	2♦	2♥
Pass	Pass	3NT	All Pass

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Fantoni	Lam	Compton	Ling
			Pass
1♣	Pass	1♦	Pass
INT	Pass	3NT	All Pass

In the Closed Room Fantoni had an easy time when he received a spade as the opening lead. He won with the queen, set up the diamonds, and when North got in with the queen of diamonds and shifted to a club Fantoni won



Fulvio Fantini and Donna Compton

in dummy, cashed out his diamonds and led the jack of hearts which went to the queen, king and ace. Now the ninth trick was set up for declarer, and in fact he got ten tricks when South discarded too many hearts on the diamonds so that the hearts produced two tricks.

In the Open Room Quinn made an aggressive overcall of two hearts which probably made Yeung go wrong in her choice of lines as declarer. A spade would have been killing, but South opted for her second suit and led the six of clubs which went to the two, queen and king. Three rounds of diamonds followed, South discarding hearts to put Nunes on lead. Another clubs was led, and declarer won in dummy and cashed out the diamonds, leaving the following position:

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

When declarer now called for the jack of hearts from dummy and Nunes smoothly followed low, declarer put up the king! The defense was now able to cash out the clubs and attack the spades while still having a stopper in hearts. That took the contract one down.

12 IMPs to the NUNES team who won the match by 13-4, which earned the NUNES team 13.65 VPs out of the 20 available.

That Man Could Play; continued from page 4.

Dummy held the ♦7 and ♣4. East's cards were the ♥7 5.

Friday was left with the ♥10 6. Friday could play either card from dummy and catch East in a trump coup. Note that the slam makes if East's club and spade cards were reversed.

Dealer North. Both Vul.

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

I have never before been given a hand that was played some seventy years ago – and by the person who originally played it. Tony Friday is one of the elder statesmen on the bridge world scene. Now 85, he began playing bridge at prep school, where the pupils used Mah Jong tiles in place of cards, as bridge was frowned upon.

In 1937, Friday was a mere stripling of 15 when he played this hand at Eltham Golf Club. Contract bridge was in its infancy, and the bidding was certainly antiquated by today's standards. North opened One Spade and South, Friday, jumped to Four Diamonds, raised to Five Diamonds.

West led the king of clubs: Seven from dummy. East overtook with the ace, doubtless hoping to hold the trick and push a heart through. But Friday ruffed with the diamond six, then played the seven to the ace, finding that East held a trump trick.

Now came Friday's master play – the jack of clubs – on which he discarded a spade. On lead with the club queen, West was impotent, and Friday was able to ruff the third spade, setting up spades for two heart discards from hand.

He proceeded to dislodge East's diamond king, and could then enter dummy by overtaking the trump two with dummy's three, to access the two established spades.

And what if East had not overtaken dummy's club king at trick one? Friday would have allowed the king to hold, discarding a low spade from hand.



The Fab Four

by Mark Horton

If by any chance you have dropped in on the Red Bull Championships from the Planet Mars (should that be Red Bull Planet Mars?) I'll mention that my title relates to the best-selling band in the history of pop music (with over 600 million record sales worldwide) the legendary Beatles.

They acquired the nickname 'the Fab Four' as Beatlemania grew in Britain, and by early 1964 they had become international stars, leading the British Invasion of the United States pop market.

The Fab Four would be a good name for a bridge team (too late, I have already registered the copyright) and before the Mixed Teams started I took a look at the team lists in an attempt to form an opinion as to who might win.

Here are my six to follow (don't blame me if you lose your shirts) from China, Red Bull & Yeh Mix, from the USA, Diamond & Joel, a Monaco/USA combination, Nunes and a truly Transnational squad with players from England, Germany, Netherlands, Turkey & USA, Salvo.

When the matches for Round 1 were posted I noticed that they included Salvo v Meikuangtixie so I settled down to watch - and completely coincidentally Francesca produced a couple of great photos from the Open Room which showed the friendly spirit that prevailed.



SALVO v MEIKUANGTIXE:

Marion Michielsen, Zia Mahmood, Xiangdong Liu, Jinghui Yang

With South making use of the world's most used Bols Bridge Tip (don't be afraid to respond) N/S stole the pot, although given that it is not easy for West to get into the bidding (Barry Rigal observed that a natural 2♣ would be one way) and even then EW would be doing very well to reach 4♥, it is not clear how significant an advantage this conferred.

2♠ drifted one down, -50.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Welland	Long	Auken	Gong
	1♣	All Pass	

Facing a partner who would have bid at the drop of a hat (and was possibly short in clubs) West was content to let matters rest. There are ten tricks available in clubs - unluckily for the declarer it was the defenders who amassed them, down five, -250 and 5 IMPs to Salvo.

Considerable technical problems meant that I was unable to give more than a passing glance to the remaining deals of the match, although I did notice that in the Open Room South was able to start with a Multi 2♦ on both ♠A1065 ♥A9432 ♦9 ♣J763 and ♠A109873 ♥864 ♦- ♣7632. I guess if anyone asked South how strong her weak two might be she could reply 'It all depends on Mah Mood'.

Board 1. Dealer North. EW Vul.

♠ K J 8 7		
♥ A 7 2		
♦ K 6 5		
♣ J 6 5		
♠ 9 5		♠ A 3
♥ K 9 3		♥ Q J 10 5
♦ A 8 2		♦ Q J 7 4
♣ A K Q 10 2		♣ 9 7 4
	<div style="display: inline-block; border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; text-align: center;"> N W E S </div>	
♠ Q 10 6 4 2		
♥ 8 6 4		
♦ 10 9 3		
♣ 8 3		

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Liu	Mahmood	Yang	Michielsen
	1♣	Pass	1♠
Pass	2♠	All Pass	

Round Two

by Barry Rigal

Board 8. Dealer West. None Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Buras	Hampson	Sarniak	Meyers
1♥	4♠	5♥	Pass
Pass	5♠	Dble	Pass
6♥	Pass	Pass	Dble
All Pass			

Meyers guessed badly at her final turn, but it is easy to sympathize with her choice. Had slam been one down she would have been picking up the same number of IMPs she might have lost via a phantom sacrifice.

Still, though it is easy to be wise after the event, given that the opponents were quite likely to have a spade void for this auction, maybe the double was unwise. Declarer guessed trumps of course, and had no trouble collecting +1210, good for only a 6 IMP gain when The Levins were allowed to play slam undoubled against Narkiewicz-Sakowska.



Jill Meyers and Geoff Hampson



Jacek Pszczola and Meike Wortel

Not all N/S pairs went minus here. For example Pepsi (Jacek Pszczola), playing with Meike Wortel reached 5♠ after an auction in which East had shown diamonds and a heart fit. East led ♦A and shifted to ♥Q...not a bad idea in abstract. But when Pepsi ducked, an uncharitable commentator would deduce that either West's signal or East's brain was not up to the task. A heart continuation saw declarer ruff and draw trumps before pitching both clubs on the good diamonds. And that was +650!

Board 10. Dealer East. Both Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Buras	Hampson	Sarniak	Meyers
Pass	2♣	Pass	INT*
Pass	3NT	Pass	2♠
INT 14-16 – plus upgrades			

Meyers was in the hot seat again on the lead of the ♠J. Personally I'd have thought ducking to be the indicated play, but who am I to argue with the world's current number one at anything – let alone the world's top-ranked woman bridge player. Meyers covered and the defenders could now set up clubs and come to four hearts and two aces without any pain.

In the other room 3NT by North on a club lead had nine winners simply by setting up spades. Joel had 13 IMPs, and led by 18, winning eventually by 14.

In an identical position to Meyers (after 1♠-2♦-2NT-3NT) Disa Eythorsdottir received the ♠J lead and did duck. When she covered the next heart – a suit preference ♥8 from East, West won and shifted to a club. That had the effect of putting West in to set up hearts, but simultaneously gave declarer her ninth winner when the ♠A was where it needed to be. If East had overruled her partner and exited with a diamond, Disa might have had to find the ♣J for herself to bring in the ninth trick.

Board 14. Dealer North. None Vul.

	♠ 7 6		
	♥ 4 2		
	♦ 10 5 3		
	♣ 8 6 5 4 3 2		
♠ Q J 10 9 8 5 3	<div style="display: inline-block; background-color: #4f7942; color: white; padding: 10px; text-align: center;"> N W E S </div>	♠ A 4	
♥ 9 6 5		♥ K J	
♦ —		♦ A K Q J 8 7 6 4	
♣ A J 7		♣ 10	
	♠ K 2		
	♥ A Q 10 8 7 3		
	♦ 9 2		
	♣ K Q 9		

West	North	East	South
Buras	Hampson	Sarniak	Meyers
	Pass	1♦	1♥
3♥*	Pass	4NT	Pass
5♣	Pass	5♠	All Pass

3♥ Invitational 6+ spades

Sarniak was in the right place at the right time here. Having elected to open 1♦ she found the good spades opposite and elected to simplify matters with keycard, reaching 5♠ the right way up – technically the par contract. On a top club lead she won and took a spade finesse. Meyers won her ♠K and had no winning option. She chose to play ace and a second heart and Sarniak won and cashed two diamonds to pitch two losers, ruffed a diamond, ruffed a club with the ♠A and claimed +450.

Though this was essentially a flat board, I thought E/W had done very well on a deal that caught out a large percentage of the field.

7.2 Mobile Phones and Electronic Devices

Mobile phones and electronic devices may not be taken into the playing area and toilets.

WBF General Conditions of Contest © 2014 Page 13

Any player, captain or coach bringing a mobile phone and or electronic device into the playing area and toilets will cause his team to be fined 2 VPs, (or 6 IMPs in a knockout match) or, in the case of pairs events, will result in his partnership being fined 25% of the matchpoints available on a board during the session, plus in all cases, a monetary fine, the amount of which will be announced to the participants before the start of the event. This penalty is mandatory. Failure to pay the fine will result in the player being prohibited from playing.

The Head Tournament Director may, at his discretion, prohibit a player from bringing other equipment into the playing area.

Anyone entering the playing area may be required to comply with procedures put in place by the WBF for the detection of such electronic equipment.

See also Section 27.2 for restrictions pertaining to spectators.

The Head Tournament Director will arrange for random checks of players, captains and coaches to ensure that there is compliance with these prohibitions. Refusal to submit to these checks will bar the individual concerned from entry to the playing area and toilet area, and from remaining there.

Refusal to submit to these checks will result in the individual being barred from the playing area and toilet area for the duration of the match or until such time as the Head Tournament Director, in consultation with the Championship Committee, shall decide.

Video Corner

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Find the links on www.worldbridge.org

No smoking or drinking policy

Please be reminded that smoking and drinking is prohibited at any time and in any place during sessions. If you do, an automatic penalty of 2VPs plus 100US\$ will be applied.



The Board that Never Was

by Mark Horton

The Man Who Never Was is a 1956 Second World War war film, based on the book of the same name by Lt. Cmdr. Ewen Montagu which dramatises Operation Mincemeat, a 1943 British Intelligence plan to deceive the Axis powers into thinking the Allied invasion of Sicily would take place elsewhere.

Montagu becomes involved in a tricky scheme to fool the Nazis which entails locating a corpse, establishing an identity for it as an intelligence officer called Major Martin, and having the body float in the water just off the coast of Spain, with military identification and letters in its pockets that describe a forthcoming invasion of Greece by the British.

Confused?

Here is the first board of the round 4 match between McAllister and Beijing Trinergy:

Board 1. Dealer North. None Vul.

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

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
McAllister		Zur-Campanile	
	Pass	1♣	4♠
Pass	Pass	Dble	Pass
4NT	5♠	Pass	Pass
Dble	All Pass		

West led the two of hearts and declarer lost a heart, two diamonds and a club, two down, -300.

In the other room:

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Bilde		Lund Madsen	
(The exact sequence is lost in the mists of time.)			

East-West had bid up to 5♥ and N/S were contemplating bidding 5♠, which might or might not have seen E/W go on to 6♥ when the Director arrived to point out that the wrong N/S pair were at the table. So, the board was

cancelled and a new much quieter one was substituted, McAllister picking up 5 IMPs by going plus at both tables.

Board 4. Dealer West. Both Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Bilde	Yan	Lund Madsen	Wang
Pass	1♣	1♥	2♦
2NT*	Pass	3♥	Dble
Pass	3♠	Pass	4♦
Pass	5♣	All Pass	

2NT Heart support

East led the eight of clubs, which solved a problem for declarer, who saw West win with the king, cash the ace of hearts and switch to the seven of spades for the eight, jack and queen. Declarer cashed dummy's ace of clubs, crossed to hand with a spade, drew trumps and did the right thing in spades and diamonds for +600.

If East avoids a trump lead declarer would have to get the suit right. The odds line is to play low to the nine, which delivers four tricks 33.91% of the time. My guess is that every Chinese player knows that one.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Sun	McAllister	Yan	Zur-Campanile
Pass	1♣	Pass	1♦
Pass	1♠	Pass	2♥
Pass	2NT	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

East led the five of hearts and West took the ace and returned the two to declarer's king. When a diamond to the ten held, declarer was in the game and he continued with a spade to the king and a diamond to the jack and queen, East discarding the seven of clubs. Declarer cashed the queen of spades followed by the minor-suit aces. A spade to the eight produced a hard fought flat board.

Board 6. Dealer East. EW Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Bilde	Yan	Lund Madsen	Wang
Pass	INT	Pass	1♠
All Pass			2♠

It's always annoying to miss a game when the tricks are on top - maybe North should raise to 3♠ when South would certainly go on to game.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Sun	McAllister	Yan	Zur-Campanile
Pass	INT	Pass	1♠
Pass	3♠	Pass	2♠
All Pass		Pass	4♠

The recommended auction gave McAllister a 6 -IMP pick up for an 11-2, 13.56-6.35 VP win.



Team McAllister

Breakfast with Jeff Polisner

By jean-Paul Meyer



Jeff Polisner

Jeff Polisner, WBF counsel, was the prosecutor in the case of Elinescu and Wladow, members of the German team, who won the d'Orsi Senior Trophy in the 41 st World Bridge Teams Championship in Bali. They were convicted of having used illegal signals.

Jeff, was the role of prosecutor a delicate one to handle?

As a lawyer, I have been involved in a number of bridge cheating cases. The case from Bali was the first prosecution under the WBF disciplinary code. It was not that difficult because there were videotapes and the codes were decrypted. I do not think that the hearing panel had a hard task to come to a conclusion. The players appealed and the new hearing panel confirmed the first decision.

How do you feel about the defending side?

I thought they were arrogant and did not present any relevant argument. The players who cheat always go too far. They use information they get and play beyond their ability. They do not even bother to construct alibi hands which would destroy any try to decrypt their code.

Do you think that cheater's teammates can play with them regularly without any doubt?

You will understand I am not willing to answer this question

by Micke Melander

it was a mild slam try, rejected by North. East however wasn't alarmed by this and doubled for business with her strong trump suit and remembering that partner had made an earlier overcall and probably had something to help on defense.

East led the four of clubs, which went to the ten, queen and Bertheau's ace. After some minutes of studying his problem he realized that the only reason for East to double was that trumps were breaking badly. But were trumps 4-1 or 5-0? He decided to play for trumps 4-1 and played the jack of hearts at trick two, covered by East and won in dummy. From here on it was still possible to make the contracted only if you played the card in the right order, but when Bertheau didn't get the timing right he went one off, losing four trump tricks to East.

One way of making the contract after playing a heart at trick two is to cash the ace of diamonds, play a diamond to the king, ruff a club, cash the ace of spades (discarding a club from hand) and play a diamond to the queen. Now when declarer plays his last club from hand East has to ruff with the eight as not to give declarer a ruff with the seven from dummy, which almost makes it a loser on a loser play...

"I played it wrong," Bertheau said afterwards. "I should have just cashed out my winners and tried to ruff two spades in hand and a club in dummy. That would have given me five tricks. When three rounds of diamonds hold that makes eight and there is no way for the defense to take me down." Right he was, though it is always easier when you know the full layout of the deal!

Peter Bertheau and Jessica Larsson

He was probably very relieved by the fact that their opponents got to play in Five Hearts at the other table, going two down for a push.

Board 11. Dealer South. None Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
	Peter		Jessica
	Bertheau		Larsson
Pass	1♠	Pass	2♣*
Pass	2♦*	Pass	2♠*
Pass	3♠	Pass	3NT*
Pass	4♥*	Pass	6♥
Pass	6♠	All Pass	
2♣	Häxan (Gazilli style)		
2♦	GF if South is strong		
2♠	16+ and 3 spades		
3♠	Setting trumps		
3NT	Serious slam try		
4♥	Cue bid with the ace or the king		
6♥	Maybe we should play in hearts instead the suit looks good with your king...		
6♠	No – we play in spades!		

A very nice bidding sequence from Bertheau-Larsson took them to Six Spades. This may look no better than 50% but when East didn't find the club lead and declarer cashed the ace and king of spades that was thirteen fast tricks.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
			1♥
Pass	1♠	Pass	2♣*
Pass	3♠	Pass	4♣*
All Pass			

It didn't go as well for the opponents in the Closed Room. South didn't like the possible rebids that were available in their system and choose a natural bid of Two Clubs. North made an invitational bid by jumping to Three Spades and believed that Four Clubs was a weak hand with 5-5 in hearts and clubs - when for South it was a cue-bid for spades...

Championship Diary

Walking into the MGM Hotel on Saturday morning the piped music on offer was the Animals 1965 hit single *We Gotta Get out of this Place*. (The B side is entitled *I Can't Believe It*.)

Having only finished Friday's Bulletin at midnight we could readily empathise with the lyrics.

Just to prove that the Editors have a life outside of bridge we should mention that in 1996 Brent Manley ran his first marathon in Memphis, Tennessee. A year later he was installed as Editor of the American Contract Bridge League's Bridge Bulletin with a readership of close to 200,000. Other runners told him about the 50 States Marathon Club and in September this year he became one of the small number to have completed a marathon in every state when he finished the Maui Marathon in Hawaii.

You can sample all kinds of exotic food here in Sanya. Which reminds me - all mushrooms are edible; but some only once.

Francesca Canali is our photographer here in Sanya. The standard procedure is for the journalists to tell the photographer which matches they are covering so appropriate photos can be taken, but she advocates a new method - if she gets any amazingly good pictures she expects us to report on that match.

Yesterday at the last minute we had to find some room for an unexpected item. Having read the article entitled *The Fab Four*, Patrick Jourdain suggested we change it to the *Fab Three*.

42 (forty-two) is the natural number immediately following 41 and directly preceding 43. The number has received considerable attention in popular culture as a result of its central appearance in *The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy* as the 'Answer to The Ultimate Question of Life, the Universe, and Everything'.

That explains why Group A of the Mixed Teams Semifinal comprised 42 teams.

High Anxiety

by Mark Horton

High Anxiety is a 1977 comedy film produced and directed by Mel Brooks, who also plays the lead. It was Brooks' first film as a producer and first speaking lead role (his first lead role was in Silent Movie).

The film is a parody of suspense films, most obviously the films directed by Alfred Hitchcock, Spellbound, Vertigo and The Birds in particular. The movie was dedicated to Hitchcock, who worked with Brooks on the screenplay, and later sent Brooks a case containing six magnums of 1961 Château Haut-Brion, to show his appreciation.

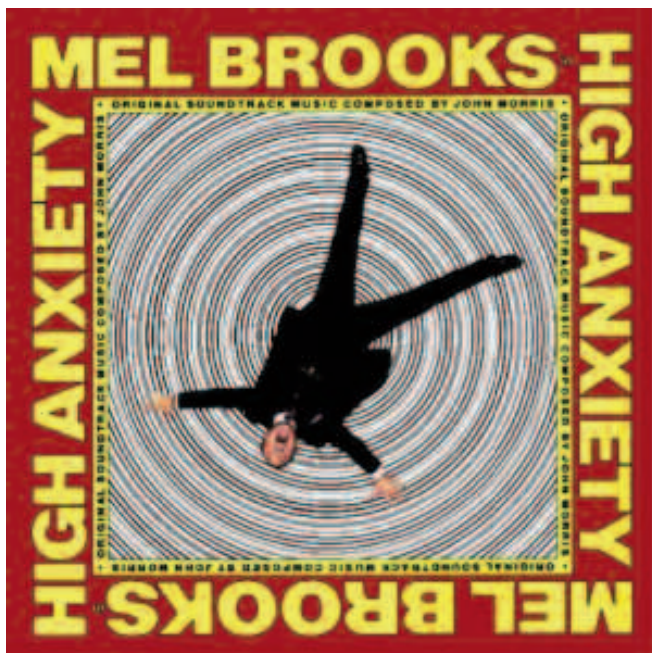
If any reader feels that a similar gesture is appropriate can I mention that I prefer the Latour '61 (but lesser vintages would be equally acceptable).

This deal from round 7 of day one of the Red Bull Mixed Teams produced all manner of results, some of them the type that might drive one to drink - especially a 1961 Bordeaux.

This was Lucky Star v Salvo:

Board 18. Dealer East. NS Vul.

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



Open Room

West	North	East	South
Welland	Lei	Auken	Ying
		1♣	1♦
2♦*	2♠	3♦*	4♠
Pass	Pass	5♣	5♥
Pass	5♠	All Pass	
2♦	5+♥, 4+♣		
3♦	Heart support (I'm guessing 3♥)		

I'm not sure 4♠ is the right approach on the South hand. In the Bulletin room there were votes for 5♠, 4♣ and 4♥.

Declarer was not hard pressed to score +710.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Chen	Mahmood	Yang	Michielsen
		1♣	1♦
2♥	4♠	5♥	6♣*
Pass	6♦	Pass	6♥*
Pass	6♠	All Pass	

Once North had jumped to 4♠ (did it in any way imply a fit for diamonds?) South was not stopping short of 6♠ and was able to make a couple of grand slam tries along the way.

If E/W had tried 7♣ my guess is they would have been writing down an even bigger number than the -1460 they had to inscribe on their score card.

There was a bigger swing in the match between Pertamina Blue and Rossard:

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Voltaire	Djauhari	Avon	Andhani
		1♣	1♦
1♥	1♠	Dble*	2♠
4♥	4♠	5♣	5♦
6♣	6♦	Dble	All Pass

Declarer was not troubled in the play, +1740.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Karwur	Gawel	Dewi	Brewiak
		2♣	2♦
5♣	5♦	Pass	Pass
6♣	Dble	All Pass	

South cashed the king of diamonds and switched to the six of spades. North took the ace and returned a heart, South winning with the ace and returning a heart for North to ruff, three down, -500 and 15 IMPs to Pertamina Blue.

On a roll

By Brent Manley

It's always good for team morale to get off to a fast start in a match against a quality opponent. Team Salvo, in comfortable qualifying position, did just that in the first match of the Mixed Teams Semifinal A on Sunday, starting with the first deal against the Chinese squad with the tongue-twisting name of Jilinshengqiaopaixiehui, shortened for this article to JILIN.

JILIN sent Wenjiong He, Jin Jing, Yu Wei and Hui Yang against Nafiz Zorlu (Turkey), Anita Sinclair (England) and Roy Welland and Sabina Auken (Germany)

Board 1. Dealer North. None Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Zorlu	He	Sinclair	Yang
	4♦	Pass	4NT
Pass	5♣	Pass	5♦
All Pass			

Sinclair could have defeated the diamond game with a club lead, but she made the not-unreasonable lead of the ♠A. She switched to a club at trick two, but He could discard the losing club on the ♠K. Plus 400 to JILIN.

At the other table, Welland was more aggressive with his eight-card diamond suit.

West	North	East	South
Wei	Welland	Jin	Auken
	5♦	Dble	Pass
5♠	Pass	Pass	Dble
All Pass			

The double of 5♦ is speculative at best and was punished severely. Welland led the ♥9, taken in dummy with the ace. Auken took the ♣A when declarer played that suit at trick two, and she cashed the ♦A and continued the suit. Declarer ruffed, played a spade to the ace and a club to the king then a club to Auken's queen. She still had two trump tricks and the ♥K to come. That was six tricks to the defense and plus 800, good for a 9-IMP gain.

On the following board, aggressive bidding by the Chinese team did not work out well for them.

Board 3. Dealer South. E/W Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Zorlu	He	Sinclair	Yang
3♠	4♣	4♠	Pass
Pass	4NT	Pass	Pass
Dble	All Pass		5♦

North has a good hand, but it was not enough to compensate for the weak South collection. Zorlu led the ♠J to the queen, king and ace. Yang took a successful diamond finesse and cashed the trump ace, but when the ♦K did not fall, there was no hope for the contract. In fact, declarer misplayed the contract and finished three down. After the ♦A failed to produce the king, South cashed the ♣A and erred by trying to cash the ♣K. Zorlu ruffed with the master trump and tapped dummy with a spade. Declarer took six trump tricks and the two black aces to finish at minus 500.



Anita Sinclair

At the other table, West opened 2♠. Welland overcalled 3♣ and was allowed to play there, finishing with 10 tricks for plus 130 and a 12-IMP gain.

On the penultimate deal of the set, Salvo lost 9 IMPs when Zorlu and Sinclair defeated an odd 4♠ contract five tricks but failed to double.

Board 6. Dealer East-. E/W Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Zorlu	He	Sinclair	Yang
INT	2♣	1♥	Dble
4♥	4♠	Pass	2♠
		All Pass	

The auction no doubt convinced East-West (and North) that South had a strong hand with a long spade suit. That probably accounts for the failure of East-West to double the final contract.

Zorlu led the ♥K to get a look at dummy, continuing the suit when Sinclair signaled encouragement. Yang ruffed in dummy and played a club to his king, East discarding a diamond. West took the ♣A and exited with the ♦2: queen, ace, 6. East's spade exit was ducked to West's 10 and the ♦J was taken by dummy's queen. A spade to the jack lost to the queen and declarer was tapped by another heart. His only other trick from there was the trump ace. What should have been plus 1100 was plus 250. At the other table:

West	North	East	South
Wei	Welland	Jin	Auken
		1♥	Dble
2NT*	3♦	4♥	All Pass

Eleven tricks were trivial. Plus 650 meant 9 IMPs to JILIN. That was it for the team, however, and Salvo emerged with a 32-9 win, worth 17.42 victory points.

World Championship Book 2014

The official book of these championships will be available around April next year. With analysis from our regular team of writers – John Carruthers, Barry Rigal, Brian Senior and Geo Tislevoll, it will again be in the full colour format first used for the 2013 edition and will comprise at least 336 large pages. There will be a full results listing, many photographs, and all the best of the action.

On publication, the official retail price will be US\$35-00. For the same price, you can pre-order while at these championships and have the book sent to you post free as soon as it is available.

In previous years the discount for buying at the championships has been greater. I should explain that the reason why I can no longer afford to be quite so generous is that it now costs something like US\$14 to send a single copy from England to anywhere else in the world (surface mail).

You can place your pre-order with Jan Swaan in the Press Room one floor up from the playing area in the MGM Grand. You may pay:

US\$35-00, 200 Chinese Yuan, £20-00 British pounds, or 25 Euros.



Local Derby

by Mark Horton

Having borne the slings and arrows of outrageous fortune (and the inevitable loss of data that accompanied it) during round 1 of the Mixed Teams at the Red Bull World Bridge Series I was hoping for better luck when I settled down to follow the second-round encounter between Gotard and Marvelous.

Both teams included pairs from Germany and they faced each other in the Open Room - that's a long way to travel to play someone from the same country!

Board 8. Dealer West. None Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Gotard	Vechiatto	Eggeling	Engel
1♥	4♠	Pass	Pass
5♣	Pass	5♥	5♠
Pass	Pass	Dble	All Pass

West followed the old adage - 'with six-five come alive' and South judged well to take the save in 5♠. Remind me to ask him if he would have carried on to 6♠ had E/W pushed on to 6♥.

East led the jack of clubs, and when the defenders dropped a trick declarer escaped for one down, -100.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Khandelwal	Capucho	Khandelwal	Lara
1♥	4♠	5♥	Dble
All Pass			

The defenders collected a spade trick, -750 and 12 IMPs to Gotard.

Board 9. Dealer North. EW Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Gotard	Vechiatto	Eggeling	Engel
	1♠	Pass	Pass
Dble	2♠	3♣	Pass
Pass	3♠	All Pass	

East led the ace of hearts, and when one of the minor suit aces vanished declarer recorded ten tricks, +170.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Khandelwal	Capucho	Khandelwal	Lara
	1♠	Pass	Pass
Dble	2♠	3♣	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

North led the six of spades, and the play went a little too quickly for the operator. My guess is that declarer won in dummy and took a losing club finesse. North cashed his spade winners and exited with the king of diamonds. With dummy down to ♥AQ ♣965 declarer discarded the queen of hearts and when the club suit failed to divide that was five down, -250 and 6 Marvelous IMPs.



Berthold Engel, Claudia Vechiatto, Marie Eggeling, Thomas Gotard

Board 12. Dealer West. NS Vul.

♠ A Q 8 7 3
♥ 7 6 5 4
♦ A 8
♣ K J

N
W
E
S

♠ 6 5
♥ K J 9
♦ 6 5 4 3
♣ 10 8 7 4

♠ 10 9 2
♥ A 10 8
♦ Q J 7
♣ A 9 6 5

♠ K J 4
♥ Q 3 2
♦ K 10 9 2
♣ Q 3 2

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Gotard	Vechiatto	Eggeling	Engel
Pass	INT	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

East led the six of spades and declarer won with dummy's king, played a club to the king and the jack of clubs. West took the ace, but declarer could not be denied nine tricks, +600.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Khandelwal	Capucho	Khandelwal	Lara
Pass	1♠	Pass	2♣*
Pass	2♥	Pass	2♠
Pass	2NT	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

East led the three of diamonds (second and fourth) and declarer took West's jack with the ace, crossed to the jack of spades, played a club to the king and a diamond to the nine. West won and fatally cashed the ace of hearts. There was no defence now, +600 and a push.

Declarer took the diamond finesse not only because it was likely that East had led from ♦jxxx but also because he feared that if he gave up a club the defenders might be able to cash four heart tricks. Given the heart pips that are missing there is a fair chance that suit might be blocked, so perhaps one should simply play a second club.

As to the defenders' play, it is hard to see how West's move in the heart suit could threaten the contract.

It was Gotard who won this low-scoring affair 13-7 IMPs, 12.57-7.43 VP.



The Swedish Bridge Festival is simply fantastic, I really hope to come back to this event in the future, where the game is being played at the highest level and with an organisation that is World Class.

Michael Byrne, England,
Chairman's Cup 2014



Play Chairman's Cup you too!

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How to play?

by Micke Melander

After an impressive bidding auction with your favorite partner you reach Six Hearts and manage to get it declared by the South hand. How to play when West leads the ace of diamonds?

Board 23. Dealer South. All Vul.

♠ A K 9 4 3
♥ A Q J 8 6 3
♦ —
♣ A 10

♠ Q 5
♥ 5 2
♦ K J 6 2
♣ K Q 5 4 3

At first glance it looks as if you have three spades, a diamond and three clubs. So it looks like it's all about solving how to play the trumps for one loser. What was your line? Let's say you played a club to the king and a heart to the jack, which holds the trick. What then?

Bojoh (for the Indonesian "Pertamina Red") went wrong at this point when she played against Chinese Lucky Star in round 4 of the qualifier Swiss at the World Mixed Team Championships. She tried to cash the ace of hearts but went down when the trumps were 4-1. Maybe you should be alerted by the fact that West of his own free will has led an ace against you, which doesn't happen very often.

Board 23. Dealer South. All Vul.

♠ A K 9 4 3
♥ A Q J 8 6 3
♦ —
♣ A 10

♠ J 7 2
♥ K 10 9 4
♦ A Q 10 7
♣ 6 2

N
W E
S

♠ 10 8 6
♥ 7
♦ 9 8 5 4 3
♣ J 9 8 7

♠ Q 5
♥ 5 2
♦ K J 6 2
♣ K Q 5 4 3

Open Room

West	North	East	South
L Chen	Asbi	J Yang	Bojoh
Pass	1♦*	Pass	1♣
Pass	2♠*	Pass	2♣
Pass	3♠*	Pass	2NT*
Pass	6♥	All Pass	4♥

- 1♦ Transfer to hearts
- 2♠ Game forcing
- 2NT Stopper in diamonds
- 3♠ Showing six hearts and five spades

It's not 100% clear what the best line is to follow, but a reasonable line is to play a spade to the queen and repeat the heart finesse, if trumps now refuse to behave, cash the aces of hearts and clubs and the ace and king of spades. If West has four trumps and three or fewer spades he may be thrown in on trumps, and then be endplayed to lead into South's minors, letting you pitch any remaining spade loser left in dummy.

This Sporting Life

Mark Horton

There will be more than 1000 competitors at this Red Bull World Bridge Series.

Many of them may be getting on in years, and may not be as fit as they would like.

In the recent Chess Olympiad in Tromsø (the venue for next year's European Open Championships) two players died within hours of each other. Chess players are readily susceptible to stress-related conditions. Chess, though the non-player might not believe this, is in many ways an extreme sport. At the Olympiad, participants were playing a game a day over a fortnight – 11 rounds, with just a couple of rest days on which to recuperate. For up to seven hours a day, they would be sitting at the board trying to kill – metaphorically speaking – their opponent, because this is the ultimate game of kill or be killed. It imposes enormous pressure on players. You need to be at the top of your game to perform. It has been suggested that in the course of a long chess game a player will lose as much weight as he does during a football match.

Many of the great Soviet Chess players had ridiculous lifestyles, living more or less on vodka, cigarettes and Chess. Many of them died young, like Leonid Stein, a three-times Soviet champion in the 1960s, who dropped dead of a heart attack in 1973 at the age of just 38. Mikhail Tal, world champion in the early 1960s, died at the age of 55 – a desperate loss to the sport. Vladimir Bagirov, who was world senior champion in 1998, was 63 when he dropped dead at the board while playing in Finland in 2000.

It seems to me that Bridge is no less a challenge - on day one of these Championships the players had to contest 56 deals over 11 hours. So, the next time someone suggests that Bridge is an intellectual pursuit played by wimps, tell them they've got it all wrong: this is a fight to the finish played in the tensest of circumstances by players who are physically and mentally living on the edge. We all need to get fitter to play this demanding game, and society should recognise it for what it is – a sport as challenging, dramatic and exciting as any other.

Round Four

By Barry Rigal

When I got up from watching this match, I thought erroneously that there might only be overtricks at stake, the bridge at my table having represented something very close to par. It just goes to show you can never tell.

Board 22. Dealer East. E-W Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Bilde	Meckstroth	Lund Madsen	Rogers
		1♦	Pass
2♣	Pass	2♥	Pass
4♦	Pass	4♥	Pass
4NT*	Pass	5♠*	Pass
6♦	All Pass		

Lund Madsen's reverse showed extras but didn't guarantee a fifth diamond. Bilde could jump to 4♦ to show real support, then use keycard to reach the excellent slam. How should one play it on a spade lead? My choice, simplistic as it might be, would be to rise with the ♠A and ruff two hearts early, overtaking a spade as your second entry to hand, then pin your hopes on the trump break. If you do anything else, it seems to me that you run into other more serious jeopardy. For example if you test trump early (or even lead a club up at trick two) the dangers are obvious and the communications become more challenging.

Lund Madsen took a different view, winning the spade ace then diamond king and leading a club towards the king. With all the suits splitting it was not critical which route she followed, and 1370 was a very solid result. In the other room, playing strong club, JoAnna and Lew Stansby bid 1♣-2♣-2♦-3♦-3NT, where 2♦ was Staymanic and 3♦ natural. JoAnna might have bid 4♦ over 3♦ but one can understand her reluctance to bid past 3NT. 12 IMPs to the Danes.

The next board posed a problem for Rogers and Meckstroth – indeed in a standard base I'm not sure what suggestion one might sensibly offer to overcome the problem here.

Board 23. Dealer South. Both Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Bilde	Meckstroth	Lund Madsen	Rogers
Pass	1♥	Pass	Pass
Pass	2♠	Pass	INT
All Pass			4♥

Meckstroth took an uncharacteristically long time to pass at his final turn, but he knew that if his partner had three trumps they had a terrible hand. With three trumps and constructive values they would raise, with anything better they would start with Drury. And since the partnership opens light he doubtless expected to buy a hand of the approximate shape that he did, but maybe in the 8-10 HCP range.

So what are you supposed to do as South here? I'm not sure transfers are the answer, but even if they were, how exactly would you describe the South hand? Slam is not laydown of course but you certainly want to be there (you have no heart loser one third of the time, and if you lose one heart you might make in some cases if either black suit breaks). At the table Meckstroth settled for a safe line in game after a diamond lead and made 650. There was no swing when Migri Campanile and John McAllister bid to the same contract. As Micke Melander has discussed in a separate article, if you receive a diamond lead through at trick one, the best line in slam appears to be to use the spade and then if necessary the club entries to take the heart finesses. (And yes, hypothetically East might do best to duck the ♥K if he or she had three clubs and four spades, to persuade you to waste the club entry in repeating the heart finesse).

The next three deals did not see the scorer troubled – but one technical point came up which I have never seen in print. Maybe the Smith echoers will have a strong opinion on it?

Against three no-trumps your partner leads a spade, a suit in which you hold jack-third, and dummy a singleton. Your jack forces the king, and at trick two declarer leads the club

jack from hand, and partner pitches the ♥9 (for reference, a suit in which dummy has KQxx). Is this a substitute Smith Echo to say 'Don't continue the suit I led'? Or is it simply discouraging in hearts?



Christina Lund Madsen and Dennis Bilde

When Dennis Bilde made this discard Lund Madsen read it as discouraging for the opening lead, while Bilde had simply meant it to refer to his heart holding and wanted his suit continued. Fortunately for the defense, Lund Madsen's shift did not let through the contract as declarer always had nine tricks.

The last two deals saw Meckstroth's team down just 11 to McAllister, but Migri Campanile and McAllister put two very nice results together.

Board 27. Dealer South. None Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Bilde	Meckstroth	Lund Madsen	Rogers
1♦	1♥	1♠	1♣
3♠	3NT(!)	All Pass	Dble

One has to admire the buccaneering spirit exhibited by declarer – I suppose stoppers are indeed all in the eye of the beholder. Lund Madsen stewed for some while but decided to play her partner for four spades (but maybe leading the ♠7 would be more discreet?). The defenders cashed out their six winners, with the spade blockage holding them to just four spade tricks.

In the other room JoAnna Stansby raised 1♦ to 2♦ as East, and now McAllister competed to 4♣ rather than try for no-trumps. Well done, and 6 IMPs more for his team.

Board 28. Dealer West. N/S Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Bilde	Meckstroth	Lund Madsen	Rogers
1♦	Pass	1♥	1♠
Dble	3♠	All Pass	

Bilde's weak no-trump base meant he was somewhat endplayed at his third turn, with extras in context but no way to describe them. His first double had suggested a strong no-trump without a stopper perhaps. He passed out 3♠ and after cashing two diamonds and observing the queen, he thoughtfully underled his ♦J to get a heart through. This didn't yield an extra undertrick but it was nice play nonetheless.

In the other room after a strong club from Lew Stansby and a negative response, Campanile competed with 1♠ and McAllister simply raised to 2♠ after a take-out double from West. JoAnna Stansby bought the hand in 3♥. With one of the spades going on the diamonds, the issue is whether the defenders can get the clubs going in time to create a trump promotion. The answer is no, but at the table declarer misguessed the hearts and finished up down one, for a further 4 IMPs to McAllister, and a 22-1 victory.



Blitz Brigade

by Mark Horton

Blitz Brigade is an online multiplayer game based on WWII. There are two teams, the Allies (the good guys) and the Axis of Evil (the baddies).
At the end of the first round of semifinal A, team Ganzer may have concluded that they had been up against the Axis of Evil when they faced Rivers.

Board 1. Dealer North. None Vul.

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

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Meckstroth	Bakkeren	Rogers	Arnolds
	4♦	Pass	5♦

All Pass

What to lead from the East hand?
East went for the ace of hearts and then switched to the nine of clubs. Declarer put up dummy's ace and then treated East to eight rounds of diamonds.



Becky Rogers and Jeff Meckstroth

This was the position when the last of them hit the table:

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

East could not afford to discard from either major, but parting with her last club meant declarer could throw a heart and lead a spade, a very well played +400.

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Ganzer	Cappelletti	Picus	Rivers
	4♦	Pass	5♦

All Pass

When East selected the four of clubs declarer had no choice but to finesse and West won with the king and returned the four of spades, East's major suit aces producing a rapid one down, -50 and 10 IMPs.

Board 3. Dealer South. EW Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Ganzer	Cappelletti	Picus	Rivers
2♦*	5♣	Dble	Pass
2♦ Multi			All Pass

North went all in with his overcall. The more restrained approach is to bid 3♣ or Pass and then come in on the next round (although the Multi remains under a cloud in North America, *The Mysterious Multi* has already been translated into Chinese).

East led the king of spades and declarer won with dummy's ace, played a diamond to the queen, and then the two of clubs. East went in with the queen and played a second spade. Declarer ruffed with the eight of clubs, played a club to dummy's ten, repeated the diamond finesse, drew trumps and claimed for one down, -100.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Meckstroth	Bakkeren	Rogers	Arnolds
3♠	4♣	4♠	Pass
Pass	4NT*	Pass	Pass
Dble	All Pass		5♦
4NT ♦+♣			

West led the four of clubs and when declarer played low from dummy East won with the queen and returned the three of clubs. West ruffed and switched to the king of hearts. East overtook it and cashed the queen before playing a third club, so declarer escaped for three down, -500, still a 9 IMP pick up for Rivers.

Board 7. Dealer South. Both Vul.

♠ J 7 6 4 2	♠ Q 9	♠ K 10 5 3
♥ A K 6	♥ J 9 3	♥ 2
♦ A J 10 4	♦ K Q 7 5	♦ 9 8 3 2
♣ 3	♣ A J 9 2	♣ K 8 7 4
	<div style="display: flex; align-items: center; justify-content: center;"> <div style="background-color: green; color: white; padding: 5px; margin: 0 5px;">N</div> <div style="background-color: green; color: white; padding: 5px; margin: 0 5px;">W</div> <div style="background-color: green; color: white; padding: 5px; margin: 0 5px;">E</div> <div style="background-color: green; color: white; padding: 5px; margin: 0 5px;">S</div> </div>	
	♠ A 8	
	♥ Q 10 8 7 5 4	
	♦ 6	
	♣ Q 10 6 5	

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Ganzer	Cappelletti	Picus	Rivers
2♠	4♥	4♠	2♥
Pass	Dble	All Pass	Pass

On paper, North's jump to 4♥ is disastrous as on a club lead it will cost 800, but if you can find a reason to double rather than bid 4♠ with the East hand then I salute you.

North led the three of hearts and declarer won with the ace and played a spade for the nine, ten and ace. South's essential diamond return went to the jack and queen and North exited with the queen of spades, in due course collecting a diamond and a club for one down, -200.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Meckstroth	Bakkeren	Rogers	Arnolds
2♠	Dble*	3♠	2♦*
2♦	Multi		All Pass
Dble	Penalties if your suit is spades		

After North's pass or correct double, E/W also need to know the meaning of Pass, Redouble, 2NT and 3♥ (to name but a few).

North led the three of hearts and declarer won with the ace and played a spade to the king and ace. South again found the essential diamond switch and North took the jack with the queen, cashed the queen of spades and exited with the nine of hearts. Declarer won with the king and played a club. When North withheld the ace a defensive trick had vanished and +140 gave Rivers another 8 IMPs on the way to a 33-0, 19.15-0.85 VP win.

Video Corner

now online:

Find all the links on www.worldbridge.org

Mixed Teams final broadcast

The final of the Red Bull Mixed Teams on Wednesday will be broadcast only on OurGame.

The Duplimates used for the duplication here in Bali are sold for Eur 1999. For more information see www.jannersten.com/newsletters/Sanya_specials.pdf or Per Jannersten.



Mixed Teams Semi-final Round Three

By Barry Rigal

Two of the teams who were fighting for the top places met in round three, Chime against Heilongjiang, and it turned out that the cards very much favored North-South. Let's see how they managed to cope with the inherent problems.

Board 15 Dealer South. N-S Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Garner	Xu	Henner	Xuefei
Pass	2♠	Pass	1♠
Pass	4♠	All Pass	3♥

While Yiting Li and Jing Liu had played a sedate contract of 2♠ in the closed room, for +170, Xuefei Li took a somewhat aggressive decision to try for game. How should you maximize your chances in 4♠ on the lead of ♦Q? Declarer won the trick, and led a trump to dummy. Henner gave declarer a chance by taking the trick and playing a low diamond back (rather than cashing the ♦K and switching to a club), which Garner won to lead a third diamond. Xuefei ruffed and led a trump to dummy, (West signaling for clubs) then the ♥Q covered all round. When she drew the last trump and advanced the ♥9 East nonchalantly played low and now declarer could have brought home her game by rising with ♥J to exit in hearts and endplay her LHO. She did not do so and E/W had +100 for a 7-IMP gain instead of a 10-IMP swing going the other way.

Though it might look better to duck the first diamond to tighten up the position, the defenders should always prevail if East ducks the first spade. Now West can signal for clubs on the first trump and East can win the ♠A, cash one diamond then play a club through to leave declarer without any hope.

The only declarers to bring home game here were for Barr and Vitas in their respective matches. Declarer for Vitas was favored with a club lead, while Ronnie Barr won the diamond lead and duplicated the line of play up to trick five. She then drew the last trump, ran the ♥Q, covered all round and played ♥J and another heart to endplay West, as advertised.

Board 16. Dealer West. E-W Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Garner	Xu	Henner	Xuefei
2♠	Pass	Pass	Dbf
Pass	2NT	Pass	3NT
Pass	4♥	All Pass	

Xuefei and Xu had a bidding misunderstanding but came up smelling of roses when Xuefei failed to re-open with what looks an entirely normal call of 2NT, then raised the Lebensohl-style 2NT call to 3NT. Since 2NT had gone down 200 in the other room, Xu Jing was playing with the house's money. He won the spade lead in dummy to play a diamond. Garner took the ♦K (not necessarily best though here it does not matter) to play a spade which Xu elected to ruff high, a slightly strange view. Then he advanced the ♥10, ducked all round, and crossed to dummy with a club to the ten, and led a second diamond to the jack, queen and ace. A second club locked the lead in dummy and now the defenders had a cross-ruff for +200 and a flat board.

Had declarer ruffed the second spade with the nine and led his low trump to the eight, he can then lead a second diamond and cover West's card. East can do no better than lead a club. Declarer rises with the ace, and must not ruff a spade – East does not overruff but pitches a diamond instead, and declarer can no longer come home. Instead, declarer leads a low trump to his ten, and East can do no better than win and play back a club. Declarer can now cross to hand in trumps and cash three diamonds to discard all of dummy's losers. That comes to four heart tricks three diamonds, two clubs and one spade trick.

(One more twist: In the parallel variation where West ducks the first diamond at trick two, and the defenders go after spades at every turn, declarer will need to take a first round club finesse in some variations).

Given all of that, it is not surprising that 4♥ was brought home at only four tables.

Chime added to their lead on the next deal, when Steve Garner picked up:

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

After hearing 1♥ to his left and 1♠ to his right with nobody vulnerable, he contented himself with 2♦ when one might have expected something a little more sporting. After a support double and a slow 4♠ to his right he was back in the hot seat with no idea what to do. Eventually, judging that his partner rated to have heart length and at least three spades, he elected to pass, hoping to find a ruff or two, or that 5♦ might prove too expensive. He scored a goal when partner had the perfect combination of soft cards in both majors, and 1-4 pattern in the minors with no values there. All of that meant that 4♠ went down two in top tricks while his teammates were collecting +500, which might have been 800, from 5♦x, that being Qing Yan's choice of action at her first turn to speak.

Heilongjiang made the final match score respectable when Xuefei and Xu judged this tricky hand very nicely.

Board 18. Dealer East. N-S Vul.

♠ A Q 9 8 5

♥ A J 8

♦ J 10 9 3 2

♣ —

♠ 10 2

♥ 10 9 3 2

♦ 8 7

♣ A 10 9 7 3

N
 W E
 S

♠ J 6 4 3

♥ 7 5

♦ A Q 6

♣ Q J 6 5

♠ K 7

♥ K Q 6 4

♦ K 5 4

♣ K 8 4 2

West	North	East	South
Garner	Xu	Henner	Xuefei
Pass	2♦*	Pass	INT(13-15)
Pass	2♠	Pass	2NT
Pass	3♦	Pass	3NT
Pass	4♥	All Pass	

2♦ Forcing Stayman

After the Forcing Stayman call Xu showed his spades and diamonds and I'm not sure whether South owed her partner a 3♠ call with decent support in context. But Xuefei converted 3NT to 4♥, suggesting something like his actual shape and Xuefei sat it out, to discover they had reached an excellent spot. She won the heart lead in dummy to advance the ♦J, and when Henner went up with the ♦A to return a trump declarer could simply repeat the diamond finesse, draw trumps, and take 11 tricks. Very nicely done, with 3NT failing when spades did not break. Ten of the 42 tables did record game here, but they were the only pair to reach 4♥ (two pairs made 4♠, one made 5♦ and the rest were allowed to make 3NT).

The International Bridge Press Association



The IBPA is a club of the world's bridge journalists and media people. Associate membership is open to all.

The main service to members is a monthly Bulletin edited by John Carruthers of Canada, circulated via the Internet. Members also enjoy the facilities of the Press Room at major championships.

The annual IBPA subscription is \$42 (US dollars) or 32 euro. New members joining in Sanya join for 1.25 years to the end of December 2015. Membership forms can be obtained in the Press Room.

The Press Room is located as follows: from the playing area in the MGM Grand take the escalator up towards Reception but turn right at the top of the escalator past the Haitang Restaurant (Breakfast Room) and in the line of offices the Press Room is first on the left before the Bulletin Room.

Current members paying late for this year or early for next year can also pay their dues in the Press Room.

The first meeting of the IBPA Executive will be on Friday morning 17th Oct.

Meet in the Press Room at 9.15 a.m.

Press Outing

At this tournament, there will be a press outing for IBPA members on Monday, Oct. 20. Participants will visit the Tropical Paradise Forest Park (lunch included). Bus pickup is at the MGM Grand at 10:45 a.m., returning before 4 p.m. You must sign up to take part in the Press Room by noon on Sunday, Oct. 19.

Patrick Jourdain, IBPA President

Give me but a Moment

by Mark Horton

'With willing hearts and skillful hands, the difficult we do at once; the impossible takes a bit longer'.

(Inscription on the memorial to the Seabees (U.S. Naval Construction Battalions), between Memorial Bridge and Arlington Cemetery in Washington.

Readers of the ACBL's Bridge Bulletin will be aware that I am always on the lookout for deals that might be featured in a Misplay These Hands with Me article.

I don't know if this deal from Round 6 of semifinal A will make it but you might like to consider it as a play problem:

Board 11. Dealer South. None Vul.

♠ A 7
♥ 7 4 2
♦ Q 10 8 7 6 5 4
♣ 4

♠ K J 9
♥ A Q 8 3
♦ —
♣ A K Q J 5 3

West	North	East	South
Pass	1♦*	1♠	1♣*
2♠	3♠*	Pass	Dble
Pass	5♦	Pass	4♣
All Pass			5♥
1♣ Precision			
1♦ Negative			

Rather than dwell on the confused auction let's concentrate on how you should tackle Five Hearts on the lead of the five of spades to the seven, ten and jack?

At the table declarer decided to duck a heart at trick two. East won with the jack and found the killing defence of a top diamond. Declarer could ruff, cross to dummy with a spade and draw trumps via the finesse, but the 5-1 club break meant there were only ten tricks.

Here is the full deal:

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

Suppose that at trick two declarer goes to dummy with a spade and takes a heart finesse. When that holds she cashes the king of spades, pitching dummy's club, ruffs a club, comes to hand with a heart and can play winning clubs, losing only two trump tricks.

Watching from home, my au pair pointed out that even Six Hearts is cold after a spade lead, declarer playing a third heart after cashing the ace.

(One player missed a chance for glory in the Mixed Teams, failing in Six Hearts doubled on the lead of the five of spades.)

World Championship Book 2014

The official book of these championships will be available around April next year. With analysis from our regular team of writers – John Carruthers, Barry Rigal, Brian Senior and Geo Tislevoll, it will again be in the full colour format first used for the 2013 edition and will comprise at least 336 large pages. There will be a full results listing, many photographs, and all the best of the action.

On publication, the official retail price will be US\$35-00. For the same price, you can pre-order while at these championships and have the book sent to you post free as soon as it is available.

In previous years the discount for buying at the championships has been greater. I should explain that the reason why I can no longer afford to be quite so generous is that it now costs something like US\$14 to send a single copy from England to anywhere else in the world (surface mail).

You can place your pre-order with Jan Swaan in the Press Room one floor up from the playing area in the MGM Grand. You may pay: US\$35-00, 200 Chinese Yuan, £20-00 British pounds, or 25 Euros.

Mixed Teams Semifinals Round 6

By Barry Rigal

The deals of the sixth round produced the most action of any set your correspondent has seen so far. Space being somewhat at a premium we shall do our best to focus on the main points of interest, but we could arguably have written up all seven deals had there been time enough...or the margin wide enough for all those comments.

Board 8. Dealer West. None Vul.

♠ 10 8 2	♠ 9 6	♠ A K 4
♥ J 4 3 2	♥ A 7 6	♥ K 10 9 8 5
♦ Q 6 2	♦ A K 9 8 5	♦ 10 4 3
♣ Q 10 2	♣ A K 3	♣ 9 6
	<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; align-items: center;"> <div style="background-color: green; color: white; padding: 5px; text-align: center;">N</div> <div style="background-color: green; color: white; padding: 5px; text-align: center;">E</div> </div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; align-items: center;"> <div style="background-color: green; color: white; padding: 5px; text-align: center;">W</div> <div style="background-color: green; color: white; padding: 5px; text-align: center;">S</div> </div>	
	♠ Q J 7 5 3	
	♥ Q	
	♦ J 7	
	♣ J 8 7 5 4	

West	North	East	South
Gang	P. Cronier	Seet	D'Ovidio
	1♦	1♥	Dble*
2♥	Dble	Pass	2♠
Pass	2NT	Pass	3♣
All Pass			
Dble 4/5 spades			

A remarkably disciplined auction from the French saw D'Ovidio show four or five spades at her first turn, then a minimum hand with five spades facing Philippe Cronier's value-showing double. At her next turn her 3♣ call suggested these values and thus presumably 5-5 since otherwise she would surely have passed 2NT.

Philippe gave the matter some thought but passed out 3♣ and D'Ovidio wrapped up +130 when 3NT could not quite be brought home after East's low heart lead. (And yes, 4♠ by North is the spot I suppose, with the N/S pairs for Hauge and Shenzhen managing this feat. Easy game, bridge.)

Both E/W pairs then did well to open a skinny 11-count and play 3NT with a 6-4 club fit and eight fast winners, with each of North and South able to let through the game by leading their five-card suit into a tenace, and both pairs duly did so. No swing, exactly one third of the field either stayed out of game or played another lower-scoring contract – and exactly zero pairs in the A semi-finals beat 3NT here!

Then the E/W pairs kept up the good work by bidding and making a skinny 4♠, which one would definitely wish to reach at vulnerable, but which was missed at a few tables. The N/S pairs retaliated by playing the optimal game of 3NT with nine top tricks, rather than experimenting with a 6-1 club fit (splitting 5-1) or even worse, a 7-2 diamond fit breaking 4-0 offside. It was still 5-0 to PZIM.

On to something more piquant, even if the IMP swing was small:

Board 12. Dealer West. N-S Vul.

♠ A 10 2	♠ J 7 5	♠ K Q 9 6
♥ A 8 7	♥ 9	♥ J 10 5 3
♦ J 8 6 4	♦ A K 3	♦ 5 2
♣ Q 7 6	♣ K 9 8 5 3 2	♣ A J 10
	<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; align-items: center;"> <div style="background-color: green; color: white; padding: 5px; text-align: center;">N</div> <div style="background-color: green; color: white; padding: 5px; text-align: center;">E</div> </div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; align-items: center;"> <div style="background-color: green; color: white; padding: 5px; text-align: center;">W</div> <div style="background-color: green; color: white; padding: 5px; text-align: center;">S</div> </div>	
	♠ 8 4 3	
	♥ K Q 6 4 2	
	♦ Q 10 9 7	
	♣ 4	

West	North	East	South
Gang	P. Cronier	Seet	D'Ovidio
1♦	2♣	Dble	Pass
2NT	Pass	3NT	All Pass

Gang's feather-light opening bid (yes one could be even less charitable but it is not the way of the Daily Bulletin team to call a spade a spade) propelled him to 3NT. Philippe's club lead saw declarer with a conundrum; so many bricks required, so little straw wherewith to make them. Perhaps one might win in hand and lead a heart up. Gang did better, in a sense. He won in in dummy and led a



The Open (above) and Closed Room tables

heart to the eight and nine, took the club return on the board and played another low heart. D'Ovidio ducked when she might have split her honour to better advantage, and declarer won cheaply and guessed spades, no doubt not hindered in that decision by South's two spade discards on the second and third clubs.

Curiously, this splendid result was worth just 3 IMPs. In the other room Zimmermann opened a 10-12 no-trump and Choon Chou Lou tried 3♣ over this. Since double would have been negative not penalty, Benedicte Cronier passed, and collected +300 the easy way.

It was 5-3 to PZIM, but I'm sure Catherine D'Ovidio would not have been looking forward to scoring up the next deal very much either.

Board 13. Dealer North. Both Vul.

	♠ J 10 3 2		
	♥ Q 3		
	♦ K 8 5 4		
	♣ A 3 2		
♠ K 8 7 5	<div>North WestEast South</div>	♠ A Q 6 4	
♥ —		♥ K 9 7 6	
♦ A Q 10 9 7 6		♦ J 3 2	
♣ K J 6		♣ 8 7	
	♠ 9		
	♥ A J 10 8 5 4 2		
	♦ —		
	♣ Q 10 9 5 4		
West	North	East	South
<i>Gang</i>	<i>P. Cronier</i>	<i>Seet</i>	<i>D'Ovidio</i>
ZimmermannLou		B. Cronier	Wu
	Pass	Pass	4♥
Dble	All Pass		

D'Ovidio received a spade lead (a 3rd/5th ♠7) and a friendly shift to the ♣8, covered all round. I was sitting behind her as she pondered the play to the next trick, and after extracting the heart ace from her hand she eventually led dummy's ♥Q, and when she saw the ♥7 on her right she went back into the tank, checked her opponents' leading methods – which surely suggested that RHO has ♠AQxx – and finally played the ♥A to doom herself to down one.

So far so bad, and when I tell you that against the same contract Pierre Zimmermann led the ♦A, one could be forgiven for assuming the worst. Declarer's natural move must be to lead the ♣Q from hand now, and emerge with +990? No, South led a low club to the ♣A, pitched her spade on the ♦K, and took the ♥A. now she had two clubs to knock out, and was forced every time she lost the lead, so she ended up scoring just six trumps, one diamond and one club for -500.

7 very surprising IMPs to PZIM, up 12-3. On the final deal both E/W pairs opened 4♥ and stole the hand from their opponents with a plausible though technically unmakeable game in spades available to them. PZIM escaped for down one, and won the match 14-2.

Championship Diary

We received a short note from Eric Kokish: "It all depends on mah mood" should be enshrined in the IBPA Hall of Fame.

When we logged on to watch the first match on Sunday we noticed that England's David Muller was commentating on BBO - then we noticed the time in London was 02.55!

One of the teams that qualified for semifinal A of the Mixed Teams was Jilinshengqiaopaixiehui - could that be the Chinese for supercalifragilisticexpialidocious?

Looking for a good (inexpensive) restaurant? Try Zen on the left hand side as you enter the shopping mall down the road from the MGM hotel - and make sure you try the (local) wild steamed rice.

As I am sure you are all aware Archibald Leach was the original name of the famous film star Cary Grant noted (not unlike the editor) for his transatlantic accent, debonair demeanor and dashing good looks. Barry Rigal, quizzed about Grant's birthplace correctly remembered that it was Bristol. (Why this came up has already been lost in the mists of time.) However, when later the same day the Editor enquired, 'How's the Bulletin?' it reminded us of the time when a Director was considering Grant for a part in a film, but was worried that the actor might be too old for the role.

He sent him a telegram asking, 'How old Cary Grant?'

Back came the reply. 'Old Cary Grant fine, how you?'

In yesterday's Bulletin Herman noticed that the Indonesian teams Pertamina EP finished 33rd and 34th in semifinal A, Red finishing ahead of Blue by 2.26 VP.

The Monumental Men

Saving hands for bridge players around the world...

By Mark Horton & Micke Melander

Our title pays homage to the so called Monuments Men, who were a group of men and women from thirteen nations, most of whom volunteered for service in the newly created Monuments, Fine Arts, and Archives section, or MFAA. Most had expertise as museum directors, curators, art scholars and educators, artists, architects, and archivists. Their job description was simple: to save as much of the culture of Europe as they could during combat as the World War II drew to a close.

They not only had the vision to understand the grave threat to the greatest cultural and artistic achievements of civilization, but then joined the front lines to do something about it.

Their achievements are described in the film directed, written, produced and starring George Clooney, *The Monuments Men*.

We doubt our efforts in producing material for these Bulletins will ever be the subject of a movie, but in the interests of preserving deals for cultural purposes allow us to present two monumental moments from round 6 of semifinal A:

Our first monumental score comes from the match between Platinum Cem and Shenzhen Pingan:

Board 12. Dealer North. All Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Wang	Upmark	Ma	K. Bertheau
1♦	2♣	Dble	Pass
2♦	All Pass		

In this room Wang-Ma got into big problems when Upmark made a simple overcall of Two Clubs. Ma could have saved their day by bidding 2NT over Two Diamonds instead of passively passing it out.

Upmark led his nine of hearts and that went to the jack, queen and ace. Declarer then finessed in clubs and played a diamond to the seven, eight and king, whereupon the defense crossruffed hearts and clubs to produce one down. If Katrine Bertheau could have imagined that her partner also held the ace of trumps two down was possible.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Delmonte	He	Weinger	Wen
1♣	2♣	Dble	4♥
Pass	Pass	Dble	Pass
Pass	5♣	Dble	All Pass

Meanwhile, Chinese He-Wen got into even bigger trouble when Wen thought partner had a two-suiter and not clubs with the same overcall. Weinger had no problems in doubling any contract the Chinese tried to play.

Weinger started with the king and queen of spades and a third round followed to her partner's ace. Delmonte now played a diamond which declarer won in hand and played a club to the king and ace. East returned the jack of hearts, which went to the queen and ace. Declarer was already three down and nothing could prevent the defense from getting at least two more trump tricks, so that was five down and -1400, Platinum Cem scoring 16 IMPs with the great score from the other room.



Board 13. Dealer North. Both Vul.

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



Open Room

West	North	East	South
Hague	Voldoire	Malinowski	Avon
	Pass	Pass	4♥
Dble	Pass	4♠	All Pass

South attempted to cash the ace of hearts, but declarer ruffed in dummy, cashed the king of spades, played a spade to the ace and ran the jack of diamonds to North's king. Winning the spade return with the queen, declarer played on diamonds, pitching a heart when North ruffed in with the ten of spades. Taking the heart exit with the king, declarer played a club to the jack for +620.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Romanowski	Gunev	Rossard	Popova
	Pass	Pass	4♥
Dble	All Pass		

Ignoring Edgar Kaplan's dictum that "take out doubles are meant to be taken out," East elected to play for penalties.

West led the six of clubs and declarer won with the nine and played ace of hearts and a heart. East won, cashed the ace of spades and played another spade. Declarer ruffed, drew trumps and advanced the queen of clubs, covered by the king and ace. There was a club to lose, but that was +790 and another monumental 16-IMP swing.



A road map

By Brent Manley

Jeff Meckstroth has enough advantages over so many players that it's folly to give him even more help with a dubious bid. It happened on this deal from round five of the Red Bull Mixed Teams semifinal A. Meckstroth was playing on the Rivers team against Gz. Zhaochengli.

Board 7. Dealer South. Both Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Meckstroth		Rogers	
1♠	Pass	2NT	Pass
4♣	Pass	4NT	3NT
5♥	Pass	6♠	Pass
			All Pass

South's 3NT bid showing the minors could help only the opponents. With two relatively weak suits, it was unlikely his side could win the auction, but it made the play easier for Meckstroth.

Against the slam, North started with a low club. Meckstroth put in the 10 from dummy and ruffed when South covered with the king.

At trick two, Meckstroth played a spade to dummy's 10, which held. He continued with the ♣A, on which he discarded a diamond. He then played a heart to his queen. North won the king and tried the ♦10, taken by Meckstroth with dummy's ace. He ruffed a club to hand, noting the fall of the queen, and cashed the ♥A and ♥J, pitching diamonds from dummy.

Dummy's clubs were good, so Meckstroth cashed the ♠K and took another spade finesse to pick up that suit. He could claim with two good clubs in dummy for plus 1430.

Making the slam didn't help his team win the match despite the 13-IMP gain (E/W stopped in 4♠ at the other table), but it was a good way to close out a match in which the Rivers team was trailing 19-0 going into the final board.

Perfect Numbers

By Mark Horton

In number theory, a perfect number is a positive integer that is equal to the sum of its proper positive divisors, that is, the sum of its positive divisors excluding the number itself (also known as its aliquot sum). Equivalently, a perfect number is a number that is half the sum of all of its positive divisors (including itself) i.e. $\sigma_1(n) = 2n$.

For 28, the divisors are 1, 2, 4, 7, and 14.

Given that the matches of the round of 32 in the 14th Red Bull World Bridge Series Mixed Teams were of 28 boards all the players would be looking for some perfect numbers.

I elected to watch the match between Hauge (seeded 19) and McAllister (14).

Board 4. Dealer West. All Vul.

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

Open Room			
West	North	East	South
Hauge	McAllister	Malinowski	Zur Campanile
1♠	Pass	2♣*	Pass
2♦	Pass	3♠	Pass
4♣*	Pass	4♦*	Pass
4♥*	Pass	4♠	All Pass
2♣	Game forcing		
4♣	Cue bid		
4♦	Cue bid		
4♥	Cue bid		

For my money both East and West should have done more - perhaps a good hand for You be the Jury?

With spades 2-2 declarer took all the tricks, +710.

Closed Room			
West	North	East	South
Bilde	Gunev	Lund Madsen	Popova
1♠	Pass	2♣*	Pass
2♦	Pass	3♠	Pass
3NT*	Pass	4♦*	Pass
4NT*	Pass	5♥*	Pass
6♠	All Pass		
3NT	Serious, slam try		
4♦	Cue bid		
4NT	RKCB		
5♥	2 key cards		

That was +1460 and 12 IMPs to McAllister.

Board 7. Dealer South. All Vul.

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

Open Room			
West	North	East	South
Hauge	McAllister	Malinowski	Zur Campanile
Dble	Rdbl	1♥	Pass
Pass	2♦	Pass	2♠
Pass	2NT	All Pass	



Dessy Popova

East led the two of hearts and when West put in the seven declarer won with the ten and played a diamond to the king and ace. West continued with the ace of hearts and a heart and declarer won and cleared the diamonds. That was eight tricks, +120.

To defeat 2NT East must lead a spade - not exactly obvious.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Bilde	Gunev	Lund Madsen	Popova
			1♦*
Dble	2♦	2♥	3♦
Pass	3NT	Pass	Pass
Dble	All Pass		
1♦ Precision			

Hoping that the diamonds would provide enough tricks North took a shot at game. Knowing that diamonds were not behaving West applied the axe.

East led the five of clubs and declarer put up dummy's queen and played the king of diamonds. West took the ace and switched to the king of spades. Declarer won with dummy's ace and cleared the diamonds, East discarding the six and two of hearts. In with the jack of diamonds West returned a club and declarer won and cashed his diamond winners. If East had retained both her clubs the defenders would be in a position to collect two down, as dummy would come under pressure, but when she parted with the ten of clubs declarer could play a heart to the queen and ace. West exited with a club and East won and played a spade, West's queen being the setting trick, -200 and 8 IMPs to McAllister.

Board 8 Dealer West. None Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Hauge	McAllister	Malinowski	Zur Campanile
1♣	2♠	3♥	Pass
4♥	Pass	4NT*	Pass
5♠*	Pass	6NT	All Pass
4NT RKCB			
5♠ 2 key cards + ♥Q			

East's thoughtful final bid avoided the spade ruff that would have defeated Six Hearts. South led her spade, +990.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Bilde	Gunev	Lund Madsen	Popova
INT	2♦*	Dble	All Pass
2♦ One major			

The defenders quickly got in three rounds of trumps and declarer could score only two trumps and a spade, five down, -1100 adding 3 IMPs to McAllister's total.

Board 10. Dealer East. All Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Hauge	McAllister	Malinowski	Zur Campanile
		Pass	Pass
1♠	Dble	2♠	Pass
2NT	Pass	3♠	All Pass

With an awkward lead North tried the seven of spades and declarer was not hard pressed to take ten tricks (eleven are possible and there is no lead to defeat Four Spades) +170.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Bilde	Gunev	Lund Madsen	Popova
		Pass	Pass
1♠	Pass	INT*	Pass
2♣*	Pass	2♠	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

To defeat 3NT South must lead a club honour, not at all easy given the auction. She went for the ten of hearts for the jack and king and North returned the two to declarer's ace. Three rounds of spades put South on lead and after a club to the king and a club declarer could win with the ace and claim nine tricks, +600 and 10 IMPs, 37-6 for McAllister.

Board 11. Dealer South. None Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Hauge	McAllister	Malinowski	Zur Campanile
Pass	1♥	2♠	Pass
Pass	3♥	Pass	4♥
All Pass			

East led the seven of clubs, and declarer won with the ace and ran the jack of hearts to West's king. A diamond to the king and ace saw East play a second club. Declarer won with dummy's ace, ruffed a club, crossed to dummy with a heart, drew the outstanding trump, played a diamond to the queen, cashed two trumps and played a spade to the ace. That was nine tricks, but the defenders took the last two, +50.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Bilde	Gunev	Lund Madsen	Popova
Pass	2♦	2♠	INT
Pass	4♥	All Pass	Pass



Rosen Gunev

East led the four of spades and when declarer played low from dummy West won with the king and switched to the four of diamonds for the queen and ace. When East failed to continue with the jack of diamonds, preferring a second spade, declarer could win with dummy's jack, come to hand with a club and run the jack of hearts. In due course the ace of spades took care of the losing diamond, +420 and 10 IMPs back to Hauge, who trailed 37-18 at half time.

Board 15. Dealer South. NS Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Cichocki	McAllister	Hochecker	Zur Campanile
2♦*	2NT*	4♥	INT
Pass	4NT*	Pass	Pass
Pass	Pass	Dble	5♦
2♦	One major		All Pass
2NT	Lebensohl (or possibly Rubensohl?!)		
4NT	Both minors		

East's double was a gallant effort - it might have been a real winner if West had started with a spade shortage.

However, reading nothing special into the double, West led the king of hearts, and declarer claimed all the tricks, +1150.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Bilde	Gunev	Lund Madsen	Popova
3♥	Dble	4♥	1♦*
Pass	5NT*	Pass	4NT
Pass	Pass	Dble	6♦
1♦	Precision		All Pass
5NT	Minors		

Here it was clear that East did not want a heart lead and West's spade lead meant +200 and 16 IMPs, almost doubling McAllister's lead.

When McAllister picked up game swings on the next two deals another 23 IMPs were in the locker and the result was not in doubt.

Small swings add up

By Brent Manley

After playing 16 short matches in the qualifying stages of the Red Bull Mixed Teams, players in the round of 32 settled in on Monday for a couple of 14-board sets.

An all-USA squad of David and Lisa Berkowitz playing with Alan Sontag and Robin Taylor opposed Anna Gulevich (Russia), Apolinary Kowalski-Ewa Miszewska (Poland) and Vytautas Vainikonis (Lithuania), playing as Vitas.

Vitas went ahead on the first board of the match.

Board 1. Dealer North. None Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Kowalski	Sontag	Miszewska	Taylor
	Pass	2♥*	Pass
2NT	Pass	3♦	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

2♥ Weak with 5-5 in hearts and a minor.

This contract should have been defeated. Sontag started with the ♠Q, ducked all around. He pressed on with a low spade to Taylor's ace, and she continued the suit. Kowalski won the ♠K and played the ♦K and the ♦Q, overtaking with the ace to fell the ♦J. On the third and fourth diamonds, Taylor discarded hearts. Instead of cashing dummy's fifth diamond, Kowalski played a low heart to the 8, jack and king. Sontag didn't want to set up Kowalski's long spade, so he exited with the ♥10. Kowalski ended with two hearts, five diamonds, the ♠K and ♣A for nine tricks and plus 400.

West	North	East	South
D. Berkowitz	Vainikonis	L. Berkowitz	Gulevich
	Pass	Pass	Pass
1♠	Pass	INT	Pass
2♣	Pass	2♦*	Pass
2♥*	All Pass		
2♦	Five hearts or a good spade raise		
2♥	Willing to play hearts		

Berkowitz won the diamond opening lead in hand and played a low heart, ducking when North produced the 10. Berkowitz played low again when North continued with the ♥K. A low club then went to Berkowitz's queen. He cashed the ♦Q, getting the good news in that suit, then cashed the ♣A and ruffed a club. Berkowitz lost only three trumps and the ♠A for plus 140, but it was a 6-IMP loss.

The next board was interesting for what happened at other tables.

Board 2. Dealer East. N/S Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Kowalski	Sontag	Miszewska	Taylor
		Pass	3NT*
Pass	4♥*	All Pass	
3NT	Solid major suit		
4♥	Pass or correct		

There were never more than seven tricks in hearts on this deal, and East-West soon were recording plus 300.



Vytautas Vainikonis

West	North	East	South
D. Berkowitz	Vainikonis	L. Berkowitz	Gulevich
		1♦	3♥
Dble	Pass	3♠	All Pass

Gulevich started with a top heart, continuing with the suit at trick two. On that trick, Lisa Berkowitz discarded a low club. She did the same on the next trick – another high heart. On the fourth round of hearts, Berkowitz ruffed in dummy with the trump king, discarding a diamond, then played three rounds of trumps before starting on the minors. She finished with nine tricks for plus 140.

It is worth noting that at least six East-West pairs doubled 3♥ for plus 500 but where North-South reached 4♥, none of those contracts was doubled.

At any rate, the 4-IMP swing to Vitas gave the team a 10-0 lead. Another small swing on this board added to the Vitas team's total.

Board 5 .Dealer North. N/S Vul.

		♠ 10 6 4 3			♥ A J 8 4 3 2			♦ 10 4			♣ Q
		♠ A 7			♥ Q 9 7 6			♦ A 7 3			♣ K 9 7 4
		<div>♠ N ♥ W E ♦ S ♣</div>						♠ K J 9 5			♥ 5
								♦ J 8 2			♣ A J 6 5 2
		♠ Q 8 2		♥ K 10		♦ K Q 9 6 5		♣ 10 8 3			
West	North	East	South								
Kowalski	Sontag	Miszewska	Taylor								
	2♥	All Pass									

Miszewska started with a diamond. Kowalski won the ♦A and switched to the ♠A, continuing the suit to East's king and taking a ruff at trick four. A club put East back on lead and she continued with the ♠J. Sontag ruffed with the ♥K and ran the ♥10, but he could not avoid losing another trick in trumps for minus 100.

Considering that East-West have the majority of the high-card points and a good club fit, minus 100 did not seem like a bad result. If David Berkowitz could have seen all the cards, it would have been a gain.

West	North	East	South
D. Berkowitz	Vainikonis	L. Berkowitz	Gulevich
	Pass	1♦*	Pass
1♥	Pass	1♠	Pass
3NT	All Pass		
1♦	Precision (possibly only two)		

Vainikonis hit on the lead of the ♦10, ducked all around. Another diamond went to South's 9, and Berkowitz ducked again. Gulevich could have sunk the contract then with a switch to the ♥K, but she played a third diamond.

Berkowitz took the ♦A and played a low club from hand, winning with the ace when North's queen appeared.

On a double-dummy basis, Berkowitz could have made the contract with a backwards finesse in spades – playing the jack from dummy and letting it ride if South didn't cover. If South did cover, Berkowitz could finesse against North's ♠10 for the ninth trick.

There was no particular reason for Berkowitz to make that play, however, and he eventually made the normal play of cashing the ♠A and finessing the jack. When the finesse lost, he was two down for minus 100. Another 5 IMPs went to Vitas, now leading 15-0.

Taylor got back in the match on the following board.

Board 6. Dealer East. E/W Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
D. Berkowitz	Vainikonis	L. Berkowitz	Gulevich
		Pass	1♣
Pass	1♠	Pass	4♠
All Pass			

Vainikonis won the diamond opening lead in hand and played the ♠K, finishing with just 10 tricks for plus 420. Sontag and Taylor did much better at the other table.

West	North	East	South
Kowalski	Sontag	Miszewska	Taylor
		Pass	1♣
Pass	1♠	Pass	4♦
Pass	4♥	Pass	4NT
Pass	5♥	Pass	6♠
All Pass			

The 4♥ bid by Sontag indicated slam interest, and Taylor used Blackwood to drive to the slam. East started with a low heart. Sontag won with dummy's ♥A, entered his hand with a diamond to the ace and played a club to dummy's jack. Kowalski won the ♣K and exited with the 10. Sontag took the ♣Q and played a low spade, winning with the ace when East contributed the queen. Sontag played a spade to the 7, ruffed a diamond and picked up the trumps with a spade to the 10. He took four clubs, the ♦A, a diamond ruff, four spades in hand and two hearts. Plus 980 was good for 11 IMPs to Taylor. The score was 15-11. Vitas was leading 22-12 when this deal came along.

Board 12. Dealer West. N/S Vul.

♠ 7 6 4	♠ 9	♠ Q 8 3 2
♥ A Q 10 3	♥ J 9 8 5	♥ K 6 4 2
♦ Q 9 2	♦ A K J 5 3	♦ 10 8 7
♣ Q 3 2	♣ J 9 8	♣ 7 6
	<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; align-items: center;"> <div style="text-align: center;">N</div> <div style="text-align: center;">E</div> </div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; align-items: center;"> <div style="text-align: center;">W</div> <div style="text-align: center;">S</div> </div>	
	♠ A K J 10 5	
	♥ 7	
	♦ 6 4	
	♣ A K 10 5 4	

West	North	East	South
Kowalski	Sontag	Miszewska	Taylor
Pass	Pass	Pass	1♠
Pass	INT	Pass	2♣
Pass	2♦	Pass	3♣
All Pass			

Taylor had no difficulty coming to 11 tricks, losing only a heart and a club. That was plus 150.

Vainikonis and Gulevich found a better contract.

West	North	East	South
D. Berkowitz	Vainikonis	L. Berkowitz	Gulevich
Pass	Pass	Pass	1♠
Pass	2♦	Pass	3♣
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

Lisa Berkowitz led a heart to her partner's ace. The ♥3 was returned to the 9 and king and a third heart set up North's jack. Declarer pitched spades from dummy on the second and third rounds of hearts. After winning the ♥Q, David Berkowitz exited with a low diamond. Declarer took the ♦A and ran the ♣9 to West's queen. That gave declarer four clubs, two diamonds, two spades and the ♥J for plus 600 and a 10-IMP gain.

At the halfway point of the match, Vitas was ahead 32-12.



Robin Taylor



By Francesca Canali

To be able to play bridge while watching a football match is definitely the dream of most of the men (actually not only a dream, as important football matches are the only condition that can convince them to try to be dummy in a mixed competition).

Well, this would have been very possible this weekend in Rome. The venue of the International Teams Tournament "Città di Roma – Angelini" was the Olympic Stadium: the competition was played in the rooms of the prestigious Monte Mario gallery, where players were able to enjoy a fascinating view of the soccer field.

The event met good international success, with participants coming from many parts of Europe and also from Israel, Lebanon and the United States, including the newest European Champions Lotan Fisher and Ron Schwartz.

After three days of play, the cup went to the Italian team Spassofood of Andrea Boldrini, Giuseppe Delle Cave, Francesco Ferrari, Federico Iavicoli, Fabio Lo Presti and Francesco Mazzadi. The six of them are all under 40 and grew up in the junior division of the Italian Bridge Federation, which is now happy to have been responsible for their first encounter.

Even if their junior years are over, these players kept in touch and despite the geographical distance of some of them and their professional and family commitments, they decided to spend a weekend together in the "Eternal-like-true-friendships-City."



F. Ferrari, A. Boldrini, F. Lo Presti, F. Iavicoli, G. Delle Cave

Round and About!

A review of the round of 32 from various sources

By Barry Rigal

Easiest winners in the round of 32 were Moss, who ended up winning by 100 or so (despite 'spotting' their opponents an 1100 on the very first deal – just to make it more interesting)... this was deal two.

Board 2. Dealer East. N-S Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Zhao		Sanborn	
		Pass	4♥
Dble	Pass	4♠	All Pass

Where Moss-Seamon were N/S, a quiet 1♥ opening saw Gothard collect +150 in 3♣. Kerri Sanborn found herself in 4♠ after her opponents went for a more aggressive choice with the South cards.

Curiously nobody defended 3♥x here but quite a few pairs were caught in 3♥ when East could pass and balance with a take-out double or even light and re-open with a double.

How would you play 4♠ on repeated heart leads? Best must be to ruff, cross to a top club in dummy and ruff another heart. North can do no better than pitch a diamond on this trick, and now you unblock your trump honors from hand, cross to a second club in dummy and draw a third round of trumps, leaving North with the master trump and club, and play a third club. North is in, and can cash his trump if he wants, but you end up scoring two ruffs and three trumps, and five tricks in the minors. Kerri successfully brought home her game in approximately this fashion. Only Jenny Wolpert for the Diamond team also managed ten tricks in spades here.

Board 6. Dealer East. E-W Vul.

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

As we have seen in Brent Manley's article, 6♠ can be brought home with accurate timing. Against Zhao-Sanborn the final contract was also 6♠ on a heart lead. Now declarer went after trumps immediately, guessing the suit by starting with the ace, then running the nine. Now declarer needs to come to hand to go after clubs. What you cannot do is run the queen, as North discovered, since Zhao could win and return the club ten, locking declarer in dummy. Two entries to hand were required, to ruff a diamond and then draw the last trump, and that was no longer possible.

Note that while it was necessary for declarer to lead a club to the jack, it might not have been sufficient... Zhao might have contributed the ♣10 to this trick! Now declarer will need to drop the ♣K to make the slam. To misquote George Bush Senior "Not gonna happen; wouldn't be prudent". Two boards later the Gothard team was heavily punished for a slight inaccuracy. After West had opened and North had preempted in spades, E/W found their heart fit and bid to slam, but played it in 6♥, down on the spade ruff. They were not



Members of Team Moss comparing scores

alone in this: 15 of the 32 pairs went down in slam, only four finding their way to 6NT. One N/S pair elected to sit it out in 2♦x for -1100, (as detailed in Mark Horton’s report) the matchpoint top for E/W, but Sanborn-Zhao were happy enough to take 800 after 1♣-(3♠)-x-All Pass. A nice view by Zhao, but what else could he sensibly do?

Ricco van Prooijen found a very satisfying way to go against the percentages here.

Board 10. Dealer East. Both Vul.

♠ J 7
♥ K 7 4 2
♦ A J 10
♣ K 7 5 2

♠ A K 10 5 2
♥ A J 3
♦ K 5 3
♣ A 4

♠ Q 9 6
♥ 10 9
♦ 9 8 7 2
♣ J 10 5 3

N
W E
S

♠ 8 4 3
♥ Q 8 6 5
♦ Q 6 4
♣ Q 9 8

West	North	East	South
van Prooijen		Wilson	
1♠	Pass	Pass	Pass
3NT	All Pass	2♠	Pass

Ricco won the heart lead in hand and played ♠A and a second spade. North won to shift to a low club to the eight and ten. Declarer won and played ♥A and another heart, letting North in for a second low club play. Restricted choice tells you clearly to play South for KHxx not for J10xx, but Rocco rose with the queen and when it held he had nine tricks. Why did he make the play? He judged that North’s shift to a club was far more likely to be from king-fourth than jack fourth. But as an aside, don’t you think that an on-form N/S pair would have seen South put in the ♣J on the first round?

Board 11. Dealer South. None Vul.

♠ 9 2
♥ J 10 8 6 4 2
♦ K Q 5
♣ A 10

♠ K 3
♥ K 7 3
♦ 10 9 7 6 4
♣ Q J 5

♠ A J 5
♥ A Q 5
♦ 8 3 2
♣ K 4 3 2

N
W E
S

♠ Q 10 8 7 6 4
♥ 9
♦ A J
♣ 9 8 7 6

West	North	East	South
	Li		Jing
Pass	2♣*	Pass	INT (13-15)
Pass	2♥	Pass	2♦
Pass	4♥	All Pass	3♥

2♣ Non-forcing Stayman

At the table I was watching this deal determined the fate of one team. Defending to 4♥, East led the ♠8, third and lowest, declarer playing low from dummy. Since from East’s point declarer could have been 5-4 in the majors, he won the ♠K and returned a spade, East helpfully signaling suit preference with the ten. Now declarer should have played ace and another heart to guard against king-doubleton offside (if the ♥K was onside the contract was safe). However he actually crossed to hand with ♣A and took the heart finesse. When West ducked his king declarer was not tested to rise with ♥A on the next round of trumps and claim his contract by discarding the diamond loser on the spade winner.

Readers can determine whether my reluctance to name one of my ex-partners as the guilty defender is based on my angelic personality or the large amount of hush-money I am confidently expecting to receive.



Ricco van Prooijen and Alison Wilson

Perfect timing needed

By Micke Melander

Team BINKIE who was seeded 22 took on WILLENKEN, seeded 11, in the round of 32. Lots of IMPs were shared between the two teams and when the smoke had cleared after the first half of the match the standing was 31-24 to the Binkie's.

Board 16. Dealer North. All Vul.

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

♠ A Q 6 2
♥ Q 10 6
♦ K 10 7 2
♣ 6 2

N
W E
S

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Gill	Willenken	Dawson	Berkowitz
1♦	3♣	Dble	Pass
4♣	Pass	4♠	All Pass

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Van Prooijen	Callaghan	Wilson	Duckworth
1♦	3♣	Dble	Pass
3♠	Pass	4♠	All Pass

In the Closed Room Callaghan led the ten of clubs. After some thinking Van Prooijen called low from dummy which ran to his jack. Next came the jack of spades. South probably should have ducked rather than winning as she did with the queen, to cash the ace of trumps and return a low heart, which went to North's king. Callaghan continued with the seven of hearts into declarer's tenace and West won South's ten with the jack. Van Prooijen cashed the ace of hearts and played a trump to dummy's ten. The king of spades then pulled the remaining trumps and ace-king of clubs and a diamond finesse made sure of his ten tricks.

In the Open Room Dawson who was declaring from the other hand after Gill didn't want to pick which major to play in also received a club as her opening lead. Dawson won with the ace in hand and finessed in diamonds with the queen. When that held, she cashed the ace of diamonds, ruffed a diamond and cashed king of clubs (discarding a heart from dummy). Declarer then ruffed a club, noticing that South discarded a heart, another

diamond was ruffed in hand before she played her fourth club ruffing in dummy when South again discarded a heart. This left

<p>♠ J 9 ♥ A J 5 ♦ — ♣ —</p>	<p>♠ 4 ♥ K 7 4 ♦ — ♣ 10</p>	<p>♠ K 10 ♥ 9 8 2 ♦ — ♣ —</p>
--	---	---

♠ A Q 6 2
♥ Q
♦ —
♣ —

N
W E
S

If declarer had now cashed the ace of hearts and just exited with a heart South would have been endplayed. For reasons unknown (declarer probably didn't believe trumps were 4-1) he instead called for a low heart from dummy. Willenken jumped up with his king making a crocodile coup of his partner's queen. When he shifted to a spade through declarer, it was all over, down two. 13 IMPs to the Willenken team.

For the record, South had missed her chance by not ruffing low on the previous club. Had she kept two hearts and three trumps in the ending, declarer is helpless. Sabine Auken made 4♠ in this way when her opponent missed the chance to be brilliant.

More tests arrived on the very next board, since if you arrived in 3NT, as Duckworth did, you had to time your play perfectly, for sure it wasn't easy to see where the nine tricks should arrive from.

Board 17. Dealer North. All Vul.

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

♠ A 6 5
♥ A J 5
♦ A Q 4 2
♣ K J 8

N
W E
S

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Gill	Willenken	Dawson	Berkowitz
Pass	Pass	2♥	Dble
All Pass	2NT	Pass	3♣

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Van Prooijen	Callaghan	Wilson	Duckworth
Pass	Pass	2♥	Dble
All Pass	3♣	Pass	3NT

Playing at double dummy it's an interesting hand, Duckworth almost did that when she wrapped up her nine tricks after Van Prooijen led the ten of hearts which went to the queen and ace. Declarer won the king of clubs then played the eight of clubs to the nine, ten and three. Then the key play arrived when Duckworth ducked a diamond to West to set up the timing for a potential squeeze. Van Prooijen exited with the queen of clubs setting up another trick for the defense. But when Duckworth won in dummy and played a heart towards her hand Wilson won with the king to play another round. That put pressure on West who now discarded a diamond. One might think that it matters if East doesn't win with the king of hearts or plays a third round of the suit, but in fact it doesn't matter so long Duckworth reads the situation right. Nor does it matter if West discards a spade instead...

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

At this point South played a spade to the king and took a losing finesse in diamonds, but with six tricks in the bag the ace of spades to come and two established diamonds that was the nine tricks she needed.

At the other table Berkowitz managed to make her contract in three clubs when Gill and Dawson both made some errors in the defense.

Board 21. Dealer North. All Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Gill	Willenken	Dawson	Berkowitz
1♠	Pass	1♦	Pass
4♠	Pass	2♦	Pass
	All Pass		

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Van Prooijen	Callaghan	Wilson	Duckworth
1♠	Pass	1♦	Pass
2♥	Pass	2♣	Pass
3♠	Pass	3♦	Pass
4NT	Pass	4♠	Pass
6♠	All Pass	5♣	Pass

Here both Wests probably wished that they could bid two spades like in the old days to set the trump suit and force to game. For Van Prooijen it was easier when partner showed her second suit than for Gill who was staring into three potential club losers without knowing that partner also had a fit there. Still, Van Prooijen had to go through "fourth suit" before rebidding his spades. When partner raised to four he had no problems asking for aces then bidding the slam.

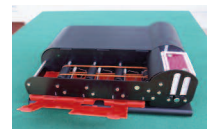
Gill just gave up at the other table and jumped to game when partner rebid her diamonds. That action cost the Binkie team 11 IMPs, in the end they lost the match by 65-50.

The Duplimates used for the duplication here in Sanya are sold for Eur 1999.

For more information see

www.jannersten.com/newsletters/Sanya_specials.pdf

or Per Jannersten.



A four-pipe problem

By Barry Rigal

Sherlock Holmes described a particularly knotty case as being a three-pipe problem. Be prepared to step outside the playing area and consume four pipes worth of tobacco as you address the following defensive conundrum. It came in the Mixed Teams round of 16.

♠ —

♥ J 6 5 3

♦ A 10 5 4 2

♣ A Q 7 4

♠ K Q J 2

♥ Q 10 8

♦ —

♣ K J 8 6 5 3

N

W E

S

West	North	East	South
2♣*	Pass	Pass	2♦
Pass	3♣	Pass	4♦
Pass	6♦	All Pass	

2♣ six+ clubs 10-15 HCP

As West you lead the spade king, declarer ruffing in dummy (partner follows with an upside-down ♠8) and following with the nine from hand.

Five rounds of trumps follow and your partner (who obviously began with seven spades to the ten else declarer would have ruffed another spade in dummy) must, you can be sure, have a heart honor if you want to beat the slam.

East's discards (after following with suit preference ♦8, ♦3) are ♠6, ♠7 ♠5. On the fifth trump, dummy pitches a heart. What seven cards do you come down to, and what do you discard on declarer's last trump?

When you've decided, take a look at the full deal.

Board 20. Dealer West. All Vul.

♠ —

♥ J 6 5 3

♦ A 10 5 4 2

♣ A Q 7 4

♠ K Q J 2

♥ Q 10 8

♦ —

♣ K J 8 6 5 3

N

W E

S

♠ 10 8 7 6 5 4 3

♥ K 9 7

♦ 8 6

♣ 9

♠ A 9

♥ A 4 2

♦ K Q J 9 7 3

♣ 10 2

In the six-card ending you have just one chance if you want to beat the slam. This is what you need to come down to:



♠ —

♥ J 6 5

♦ —

♣ A Q 7 4

♠ Q J

♥ —

♦ —

♣ K J 8 6

N

W E

S

♠ 10 3

♥ K 9 7

♦ —

♣ 9

♠ A

♥ A 4 2

♦ —

♣ 10 2

If your two non-club cards are either two hearts or one heart and one spade, declarer cashes the spade ace to force a heart out of you, runs the club ten, covered all round, then comes back to had with a heart. When he leads the club two from hand, intending to insert the seven if you play low, you must split your honors. Declarer ducks and you are endplayed. As you can see, this does not work in the ending above because whenever declarer cashes the spade ace he sets up a side-winner for you. And if he does anything else you have an exit card when you need it.

Looking for action

By David Stern

It's hard to decide who to watch in the first round of a tournament. There are the marquee "big name" players or the ones around whom there is likely to be "action." For the Mixed Pairs qualifying, I elected to watch Jacek Pszczola (Pepsi) and his partner Meike Wortel.

Pepsi, holding the WBF Ranking of 33rd in the world, is a Polish expert who lives in North Carolina in the U.S. and is a regular at ACBL tournaments, especially the three North American Bridge Championships, where he was won four titles. Pepsi is well known in the bridge world as a very solid player who takes advantage of the slightest slipup by the opponents.

Wortel is a three-time North American champion and holds the WBF Ranking of 65th in the world, holds European Women's, Girl's and Juniors titles and is at the forefront of women's bridge in the most competitive environment of the Netherlands.



Pepsi and Meike Wortel

Board 1. Dealer North. None Vul.

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

After North passed, Wortel opened 1♦ and rebid INT

when Pepsi bid 1♠. His 4♠ became the final contract.

North elected to lead the ♥4 in an effort to force declarer rather than playing for a diamond ruff. The casual player might put up the ♥Q from dummy, hoping for a cover with the king. Pepsi, realising the importance of the ♥4 lead, suggesting North held the ♥K, wanted to preserve the

♥Q J 10 for future use. South, suspecting that her partner had underled the ace, put up the king. Pepsi showed no mercy, crossing to the ♦K and discarding three clubs on the good hearts, making five for 97.6%

On this board, the spotlight fell on Wortel and her matchpoint strategy.

Board 2. Dealer East. N/S Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Pepsi		Wortel	
		1♠	Pass
2♦	Pass	2♥	Pass
2♠	Pass	2NT	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

South led the ♥J to North's ace. Wortel won the heart return with the king. Clearly, 12 tricks are available with either a diamond break or spade finesse and reasonable spade layout – ♠K 9 x x with North if they break badly.

At trick three, Wortel tried three rounds of diamonds and was at the crossroads. She could guarantee making 11 tricks by conceding a diamond or go for 10 or 12 tricks by taking the spade finesse. Clearly a gambler, and appreciating matchpoints, she finessed the spades – making 12 tricks but only 35.7% against those who made 13 tricks in spades and 11 pairs who bid and made slam.

On the following board, a mispick by Pepsi proved costly.



Board 9. Dealer North. E/W Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Pepsi		Wortel	
	Pass	1♥	Pass
1♠	2♦	2♠	Pass
4♠	All Pass		

North led the ♦A, allowing declarer to discard dummy's losing club on the ♦K. Double dummy, it's easy to see that a heart finesse will see smooth sailing for declarer. However, with so many ruffs available, Pepsi elected to play a heart to the ace, ruff a heart and play a spade to the ace and a spade to the king. A club ruff, heart ruff and club ruff saw the end of tricks for Pepsi, two down and 27.3%.

Board 4. Dealer West. Both Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Pepsi		Wortel	
Pass	Pass	1♣	1♠
Dble	Rdbl	4♥	All Pass

Wortel, sitting East, did well to steal the hand in 4♥ with N/S making 4♠. It seemed likely that South would lead a club, win the ♥K and put partner in with a diamond to get a club ruff to go with the ♦A for one down and a good score. In practice, South cashed the ♠A and continued the suit. Wortel ruffed and now committed the only error on the set by playing a club to dummy to finesse the heart. Yes, it's pairs, but setting up a likely club ruff seems an unacceptable risk. Anyway, all finished well when the heart finesse lost and South continued spades, allowing declarer

to make 10 tricks after losing the ♦A.

Another handy overtrick came their way in 3NT when Pepsi, holding ♥7 5 opposite ♥A K 10 4 3, played a heart to the ten with the ♥Q J inside. That was good for 89.8% on the board and 59.35% after 10 boards. A good start for sure.

A solid opportunity slipped by on the first board of the next stanza.

Board 11. Dealer South. None Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Pepsi		Wortel	
			2♦
Dble	2♥	3♣	Pass
3♦	Pass	3♥	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

There are an easy 12 tricks in 6♦. Still, stopping in game was worth 69.8% all the same as 29 tables played in 5♦ for plus 420 against the 460 in top tricks in no-trumps.

A few boards later, Pepsi could count himself very lucky when North, declarer in 3♥ doubled, lost his way on this layout.

Board 16. Dealer West. E/W Vul.

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

I won't make you suffer declarer's agony other than to say he finessed spades and Pepsi won a trick with the ♦8. That one down was worth 96.8%, whereas the more expected - 530 would have been just 2.3%. But hey, that's what champions do – turn a sow's ear into a silk purse.

The next board was probably the most interesting of the

set. The defence certainly deserved a better result for Pepsi-Wortel than it actually got.

Board 19. Dealer South. E/W Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Pepsi		Wortel	
Pass	1♠	Pass	1♣*
Pass	2NT	Pass	2♦
Pass	3NT	All Pass	3♥

Wortel led the ♠Q, won by declarer's ace. Seeing all hands, it's easy to see that declarer can cash the ♦A K and cross back to the ♦10 after the queen drops to cash the ♠K and then finesse hearts for at least 10 tricks. Declarer wasn't blessed with a hand record, however, and tried the ♦10, which Wortel correctly covered with the queen. Declarer, now desperate to get back to his hand to enjoy the ♠K, tried the ♥Q, ducked by Wortel, and continued with the ♥J again beautifully ducked by Wortel. Declarer then played a low heart to the 10, which Wortel won and put declarer back into dummy with the last heart.

Declarer cashed the diamonds to come down to this ending:

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

Note how beautifully Pepsi unblocked the ♣9 to allow a low club to go round to East to play a low club and force declarer to the club guess. Declarer guessed right, playing the ♣K, but holding declarer to 10 tricks earned Pepsi-Wortel a fine 65.7%.

At the end of second qualifying session, the two were running 20th of 130 pairs on 57.95%.

Answer from Germany

By Jean-Paul Meyer

Ulrich Wenning is the President of the German Bridge Federation (GBF) and he was a member of the national team that won the D'Orsi Trophy (Senior Teams) in Bali.

We met him as he wanted to express his opinion as a partial answer to Jeff Polisner's interview (Bulletin 3) and as answer on other questions about the cooperation between the WBF and the GBF.



Ulrich Wenning

The GBF has cooperated with the WBF all during its history. An investigation and a decision in Bali would have prevented some bad publicity for the WBF and GBF.

The GBF had good reason for asking for a postponement of the meeting in Dallas, which was declined by the WBF.

The decision of Disciplinary Committee of WBF was without delay enforced by the GBF.

Mr. Elinescu and Mr. Wladow brought an action against the GBF and the WBF in a German court. The serious complaint of "German Doctors" will be defended by the GBF in cooperation with the WBF.

No public statement to this pending procedure is possible this time.

The cheating accusation against Mr. Elinescu and Mr. Wladow was shocking for the members of the German Seniors Team. Not one of the team members could have imagined that the swings of their scores were anything other than a result of their wild bidding. Certainly none of them had any suspicion that it could have been due to cheating.

Classical Themes Part I

By Mark Horton

The quarter finals of the 14th Red Bull World Bridge Series Mixed Teams Championships contained more than one deal that replicated themes that have been frequently discussed in the text books.

Board 6. Dealer East. EW Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Kowalski	Welland	Miszewska	Auken
2♣*	Pass	INT	Pass
3NT	All Pass	2♦*	Pass
2♣ Stayman			
2♦ No major			

What to lead from the South hand?
Suppose you decide you best chance is to start with a club - which one do you go for?
I think I am right in saying that in one of his books Hugh Kelsey advocated that with an outside entry you should start with an honour, while with no entry a low card is



Ewa Miszewska

best, catering for partner, or possibly declarer or dummy, holding Ax.
Whatever the merits of that argument it is clear that on this layout leading a low club will be catastrophic.
The alternative to a club is a heart - here I suspect the universal choice would be a low card. If you lead a heart here and declarer takes partner's king with the ace and then ducks a diamond to North then a club switch will be essential. Pairs playing Smith Peters should be in a position to get that right.
Here South led a club.
It was the three.
That gave declarer a second club trick and with the heart finesse onside and the diamonds breaking declarer had nine tricks, +600.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Zorlu	Vainikonis	Sinclair	Gulevich
2♣*	Pass	INT	Pass
3NT	All Pass	2♦*	Pass
2♣ Stayman			
2♦ No major			

Here South led the five of clubs. Declarer won with the jack and ducked a diamond to North, who switched to the king of hearts. Declarer won with the ace, crossed to dummy with the king of diamonds and ran the queen of spades, so she took ten tricks, +630 and 1 IMP to Salvo.

Board 7. Dealer South. All Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Kowalski	Welland	Miszewska	Auken
Pass	INT	Pass	Pass
Pass	3NT	All Pass	3♦*
3♦	5+♠, 4+♥ game forcing		

East led the nine of clubs and declarer won with dummy's jack and played a diamond, winning with the ace when West put up the king. A spade went to the king and ace and West returned a club to declarer's ace. A spade to dummy allowed declarer to run the eight of diamonds and when it held he claimed, +660.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Zorlu	Vainikonis	Sinclair	Gulevich
Pass	1♦	Pass	1♠
Pass	2♣	Pass	2♦
All Pass			

Perhaps South should rebid 2NT with this type of hand. Missing the game cost Vitas 11 IMPs.

Board 9. Dealer North. EW Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Kowalski	Welland	Miszewska	Auken
	1♣*	Pass	INT*
Dble	Pass	2♥	3♦
4♥	All Pass		

1♣ Any balanced hand including any other 5 card suit, also 5422

INT Balanced, 5-11, 4 card major possible

South led the nine of spades and declarer won in hand with the king, cashed the ace and king of hearts and played a club. North went up with the ace and returned a club and declarer put in the ten and claimed when South won with the queen, +620.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Zorlu	Vainikonis	Sinclair	Gulevich
	Pass	Pass	4♦
Dble	5♦	Dble	Pass
5♥	All Pass		

North led the queen of diamonds and declarer could not avoid the loss of a trump and two clubs, one down, -100 and 12 IMPs to Vitas.

Board 12. Dealer North. All Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Kowalski	Welland	Miszewska	Auken
INT	Pass	3NT	All Pass

North led the five of spades and declarer won with the queen and played a heart to the three, eight and jack. South returned the ten of diamonds and North allowed that to run to dummy's queen (difficult for North to win and switch to a club). Declarer cashed four rounds of spades followed by two rounds of hearts, but when the suit failed to divide he was one down, -50.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Zorlu	Vainikonis	Sinclair	Gulevich
INT	Pass	3♣*	Dble
3♠	Pass	4♠	All Pass

North led the ace of diamonds and when South followed with the jack he accurately switched to the four of clubs. Declarer took South's jack with the king, cashed the queen and jack of spades, played a spade to the king and a low club. When South nervously went up with the ace declarer had been handed a life-line. North won the diamond return, but dummy's queen of clubs could take care of declarer's losing heart, +420 and 10 IMPs to Salvo.

Board 13. Dealer North. All Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Kowalski	Welland	Miszewska	Auken
	Pass	Pass	1♦
2NT*	3♣*	4♥	4♠
Dble	5♦	Pass	Pass
5♥	Pass	Pass	5♠
Dble	All Pass		
2NT ♥+♣			
3♣	Good raise in diamonds		

With two apparently well-placed defensive cards, North might have doubled 5♥.

North led the ace of hearts and declarer ruffed and played a club. West took the ace and continued with the two of hearts. Declarer won with dummy's king and played a spade to the jack and king. Declarer ruffed the heart return, laid down the ace of spades and conceded one down when the queen did not appear, -200.

(I will refrain from mentioning the hackneyed phrase 'the five-level belongs to the opponents'.)

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Zorlu	Vainikonis	Sinclair	Gulevich
	Pass	Pass	1♠
2♥	Dble	3♥	5♦
5♥	6♦	Pass	Pass
Dble	All Pass		

West led the ace of clubs and then tried to cash the ace of hearts. Even though that was ruffed, declarer could not avoid the loss of two spade tricks. Two down, -500 and 7 IMPs to Salvo.

Board 14. Dealer East. None Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Kowalski	Welland	Miszewska	Auken
		2♠*	Pass
Pass	Dble	All Pass	
2♠	Spades and a minor		

South led the jack of hearts for the queen and king and North cashed the ten of hearts and switched to the two of spades for the four and South's jack. The ace of clubs and a club put North on lead and he accurately played the ace of hearts. When declarer ruffed with the queen of spades South pitched the two of diamonds. Now declarer does best to play a diamond, escaping for four down; when she played the five of spades South went up with the king and played the king of diamonds. A diamond to the ace and a diamond ruff meant four down, -800.

After cashing the king of diamonds South can play a trump. If declarer wins and draws the outstanding trump North takes the rest; if she wins in dummy and plays a winning heart South ruffs and plays a club; finally if declarer wins and plays a diamond North wins and plays a club.

In all three cases declarer is held to three tricks for -1100.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Zorlu	Vainikonis	Sinclair	Gulevich
		Pass	1♣
Pass	2♣*	Pass	2♦
Pass	2♥	2♠	Dble
Pass	3♦	Pass	3NT
Pass	4NT	All Pass	

I'm guessing 2♣ was game forcing (was it an inverted raise?)

West led the four of hearts and declarer went up with dummy's ace, played the ten of clubs to the ace and a club to the king. Returning to hand with a club declarer played the jack of hearts, covered by the queen and king and played a spade. East went in with the ace and played the queen of diamonds and declarer won in dummy and played a diamond to the nine. +490 but 7 IMPs to Salvo, well ahead at half time, 49-39.



Anna Gulevich

Killing lead

By Micke Melander

Vytautas Vainikonis for the Vitas team made a killing lead against Brink in the Round of 16. Vainikonis held;

♠ A K 10
♥ 6 2
♦ K 5 3 2
♣ 10 9 5 2

and had to kick off after watching the following bidding sequence that took place in the Closed Room:

West	North	East	South
Brink	Vainikonis	Rimstedt	Gulevich
INT	Pass	2♦	Pass
3♥	Pass	4♥	All Pass

What to lead and why?

Board 12. Dealer West. N/S Vul.

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

Open & Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Kowalski	Dubin	Miszewska	Ponomareva
Brink	Vainikonis	Rimstedt	Gulevich
INT	Pass	2♦	Pass
3♥	Pass	4♥	All Pass

Vainikonis led the nine of clubs on which Brink did the best he could by jumping up with the ace from dummy to create some fog into what was going on. A heart to the ace was followed by the eight of diamonds to the jack and Gulevich's ace. Gulevich was not tempted to continue with clubs and instead played the queen of spades overtaken by Vainikonis with the king and another attack on clubs through dummy's jack! Brink could no longer make the contract whatever he did because Vainikonis made sure to win the next diamond and immediately return a third club, collecting the fourth trick for the defense.

You could, of course, lead the ace of spades, and shift to a club to also defeat the contract. This is provided that you jump up with the king of diamonds and again attack clubs. This leaves partner with the ace of diamonds to be able to collect that along with her established winner in clubs.

At the other table, Dubinin led the natural ace of spades to take a peek at the table. But when he returned a passive trump he let the game through. Declarer could pull trumps and set up a club discard on the diamonds...

10 IMPs to Vitas, who in the end won this match by 16 IMPs.

World Championship Book 2014

The official book of these championships will be available around April next year. With analysis from our regular team of writers – John Carruthers, Barry Rigal, Brian Senior and Geo Tislevoll, it will again be in the full colour format first used for the 2013 edition and will comprise at least 336 large pages. There will be a full results listing, many photographs, and all the best of the action.

On publication, the official retail price will be US\$35-00. For the same price, you can pre-order while at these championships and have the book sent to you post free as soon as it is available.

In previous years the discount for buying at the championships has been greater. I should explain that the reason why I can no longer afford to be quite so generous is that it now costs something like US\$14 to send a single copy from England to anywhere else in the world (surface mail).

You can place your pre-order with Jan Swaan in the Press Room one floor up from the playing area in the MGM Grand. You may pay: US\$35-00, 200 Chinese Yuan, £20-00 British pounds, or 25 Euros.

Great comeback

By Micke Melander

Team Atabey had taken a lead over SAIC by 40-21 at halftime in their Mixed Teams quarterfinal. We have seen great comebacks before - so maybe also this time?

Board 21. Dealer North. N-S Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Aronov	F. Wang	Zobu	Liu
	1♦	Pass	2♦
Pass	2♠	Pass	3♣
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Zhuang	Atabey	W. Wang	Semerci
	1♦	Pass	2♦
2♥	3NT	All Pass	



Wen Fei Wang

Wen Fei Wang in the Open Room received the seven of hearts as the opening lead. The four and eight followed to declarer's queen. Wang cashed the ace of diamonds and finessed successfully in diamonds. Declarer then cashed the king of diamonds, noticing a spade discard from West and cashed the ace of spades before running the jack of spades, on which West now discarded a club. With five tricks already won, two spades and a diamond established it was just a question where the defense would give declarer the ninth trick. Eventually it came in hearts, when Zobu returned that suit after winning the queen of spades.

It didn't go so well for Atabey, declaring the same contract in the Closed Room. Wang led the six of hearts and Atabey was allowed to win it with dummy's jack. Declarer then played the king of clubs. East won and returned the ten of hearts, ducked by Zhuang to declarer's queen. Declarer couldn't read who had the long heart suit, so he played a spade to the ace and a spade to the king, no queen arriving. Declarer then went wrong in diamonds, playing low to the king and finessing West for the queen. This maneuver led to two down because East could cash the queen of spades before playing a heart to partner, who could cash out the remaining three hearts.

13 IMPs to SAIC, who had gained 1 IMP on the first board of the set and 5 IMP on the fifth board, setting the score to 19-0 to level the match. So 40-40 was the standing in the match with seven boards to play.

Board 23. Dealer South. All Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Aronov	F. Wang	Zobu	Liu
			1♣
Pass	2♦	Pass	2♥
Pass	2♠	Pass	3♠
Pass	4♣	Pass	4♥
Pass	4♠	Pass	4NT
Pass	5♣	Pass	5♦
Pass	5♥	Pass	6♦
All Pass			

**Team ATABEY**

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Zhuang	Atabey	W.Wang	Semerci
Pass	2♦	Pass	1♥
Pass	3♠	Pass	2♠
Pass	4♠	Pass	4♦
Pass	5♣	Dble	4NT
Pass	6♦	All Pass	Rdbl

Both teams did extremely well avoiding playing in Six Spades, a contract that most probably would depend on whether declarer could find the queen of trumps. Also, the defense might have a diamond ruff.

Switching the trump suit after setting another suit and using that one for Blackwood isn't always that easy. But they did it brilliantly on both tables, so no swing. Gawel – Brewiak for Rossard bid 6NT to take the lead in another close match against Moss where Sanborn – Zhao had played Five Spades. Atabey, however, won 2 IMPs on the hand before and was in the winning position again, but not for long...

SAIC scored 5 IMPs on board 24, then came:

Board 25. Dealer North. E-W Vul.

♠ 9	♠ 7 4 3	♠ Q 10 8 2
♥ A 10 9 8 3	♥ J 7 6	♥ 5 2
♦ A Q 7 6	♦ K 10 9	♦ J 8 2
♣ 10 6 2	♣ Q 8 7 5	♣ J 9 4 3
	<div style="display: flex; align-items: center; justify-content: center;"> <div style="background-color: green; color: white; padding: 5px; margin: 0 5px;">N</div> <div style="background-color: green; color: white; padding: 5px; margin: 0 5px;">W</div> <div style="background-color: green; color: white; padding: 5px; margin: 0 5px;">E</div> <div style="background-color: green; color: white; padding: 5px; margin: 0 5px;">S</div> </div>	
	♠ A K J 6 5	
	♥ K Q 4	
	♦ 5 4 3	
	♣ A K	

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Aronov	F. Wang	Zobu	Liu
1♥	Pass	Pass	1♣
Pass	Dble	Pass	1♠
All Pass	2♠	Pass	4♠

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Zhuang	Atabey	W.Wang	Semerci
Pass	Pass	Pass	2♦
Pass	2♥	Pass	2NT
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

Liu in the Open Room received a club from Aronov in the opening lead. The ace and king of spades followed, West discarding the ten of hearts on the second round of trumps. Declarer then cashed the king of clubs and led a diamond towards dummy. West jumped up with the ace, and returned another diamond. Declarer won with dummy's king, cashed the queen of clubs pitching a losing diamond from hand then called for a trump from dummy, East winning it with the queen, leaving:

♠ —	♠ —	♠ 10
♥ J 7 6	♥ A 9 8	♥ 5 2
♦ 10	♦ Q 7	♦ J
♣ 8	♣ —	♣ 9
	<div style="display: flex; align-items: center; justify-content: center;"> <div style="background-color: green; color: white; padding: 5px; margin: 0 5px;">N</div> <div style="background-color: green; color: white; padding: 5px; margin: 0 5px;">W</div> <div style="background-color: green; color: white; padding: 5px; margin: 0 5px;">E</div> <div style="background-color: green; color: white; padding: 5px; margin: 0 5px;">S</div> </div>	
♠ J 6		
♥ K Q 4		
♦ —		
♣ —		

If East now had played either minor instead of leading hearts, the contract would have gone down. But the five of hearts to the king and ace and another heart to declarer's queen gave declarer the tempo needed to pull trumps and claim ten tricks.

Semerci in the Closed Room played in the only game that could make, but went wrong as declarer. West kicked off with the ten of hearts, which went to declarer's queen she then cashed the ace and king of spades. West wrongly discarded a diamond on the second spade. This allowed declarer to make the contract by guessing everything right, but when she instead cashed out clubs and lead a heart towards dummy, West simply went up with the ace and played another round of hearts to set up that suit for the defense, while still having the ace of diamonds, allowing him to get in to cash his winners. (Bill Pollack for Moss made the same error and his declarer now made no mistake.)

The way of making the contract should be to aim for

three clubs, one diamond, two hearts and three spades. Question: once you realize this, are there any threats? Yes, if spades break 4-1 or worse. You lack entries to dummy and you know that almost for sure that the defense can block you out from getting an entry in hearts, so you have to believe that the ace of diamonds is onside.

You have your three tricks in clubs as soon as West has the ace of diamonds. Even if the queen of spades fell under the ace-king of spades you have only eight tricks! So after a heart to the queen, unblock ace-king of clubs, cash ace of spades and play the queen of hearts. West will most probably duck whereupon you may play any red suit towards dummy, giving you the entry you need to set up another red winner, cash the queen of clubs and then finesse in spades for nine tricks.

With this game swing SAIC was 13 IMPs ahead in the match. Another 6 IMPs came on the next hand, moving them 19 IMPs in front of Atabey with only two boards to play.

With ♠AQJ8753 ♥AKJ3 ♦10 ♣K, would you dare open with one spade, taking the risk that the board might be passed out?

Board 27. Dealer South. None Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Aronov	F. Wang	Zobu	Liu
Pass	1♦	Pass	1♣
All Pass			4♣

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Zhuang	Atabey	W. Wang	Semerci
			1♠

All Pass

Semerci opened with one spade and was left to play there scoring nine tricks after receiving a heart lead. In fact, Semerci was right with her opening bid since there only were eight tricks available against perfect defense.

Liu also got a heart led in the Open Room, which went to the queen and king. Declarer won the ace of hearts, ruffed a heart in dummy and exited with a club to the king and ace. Now came the moment of truth. Was Aronov going to find to underlead his ace of diamonds to get partner in to give him a ruff in hearts? He did it – down on the table came the six of diamonds which went to East king. But when East mysteriously returned a diamond instead of the last heart, declarer was allowed to ruff and just play on trumps to score the ten needed tricks, giving SAIC another 6-IMP swing.

SAIC won the second half of the match by 46-2! That was the great comeback they needed to get through to the semifinals.



Team SAIC: Jihong Hu (coach), Weimin Wang, Yong Mei Zhou, Wen Fei Wang, Mao Yuan Hu, Yi Qian Liu, Zejun Zhuang, Rong Huang (npc)

Classical Themes Part II

By Mark Horton

With Salvo leading by 30 IMPs Vitas was hoping for some early swings, but after 8 boards of the second half the score had advanced to 69-31, mainly as a result of this deal:

Board 22. Dealer East. EW Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Kowalski</i>	<i>Welland</i>	<i>Miszewska</i>	<i>Auken</i>
		INT	2♦*
Dble	Rdbl	Pass	2♥
Dble	2♠	Dble	Pass
3♣	Pass	3NT	All Pass
2♦ Diamonds and a major			

South led the ten of spades and declarer won performance with dummy's king and played the queen of hearts. North put up the king and when that held, he switched to the queen of diamonds. When declarer ducked, South won with the king and cleared the diamonds. Now the best declarer could do was take her winners for one down, but she played a heart and South won and cashed her diamonds for three down, -300.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Mahmood</i>	<i>Vainikonis</i>	<i>Michielsen</i>	<i>Gulevich</i>
		INT	Dble*
2♣*	Pass	2♠	Pass
2NT	All Pass		

South led the jack of diamonds and declarer won the second round of the suit and cashed her winners, +120 and 10 IMPs to Salvo.

Board 23. Dealer South. Both Vul.

♠ A 9 3 2		♠ 7 6	
♥ —		♥ 10 4 3 2	
♦ K Q 8 7 6 4		♦ 9 2	
♣ K 4 2		♣ J 9 8 6 5	
♠ Q 8 5	<div style="background-color: green; color: white; padding: 5px; display: inline-block;"> N W E S </div>	♠ K J 10 4	
♥ J 9 7 5		♥ A K Q 8 6	
♦ A 10		♦ J 5 3	
♣ Q 10 7 3		♣ A	

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Kowalski</i>	<i>Welland</i>	<i>Miszewska</i>	<i>Auken</i>
Pass	2NT*	Pass	2♦*
Pass	4♠	Pass	3♣*
Pass	6♦	Pass	5♣*
All Pass			6♠
2♦ 5♥+4♠, 17-19			
2NT Relay			
3♣ Shortage			
5♣ First round control			

I'm guessing about the meaning of 4♠, 5♣ and 6♦, but they led to a contract that needed declarer to locate the trump queen. (4♠ might have been RKCB for spades with 5♣ showing 3 key cards and then 6♦ offered an alternative contract).

East led the two of diamonds and West won and returned the suit. When declarer misguessed trumps he was one down, -100.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Mahmood</i>	<i>Vainikonis</i>	<i>Michielsen</i>	<i>Gulevich</i>
			1♥
Pass	2♦	Pass	2♠
Pass	3♠	Pass	4♣*
Pass	4♦	Pass	4NT*
Pass	5♣*	Pass	5♦
Pass	5♥*	Pass	6♦
All Pass			
4♣ Cue bid			

There was nothing to the play, 16 IMPs to Vitas, back in the match.

Board 28. Dealer West. NS Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Kowalski	Welland	Miszewska	Auken
1♦	Pass	Pass	Dble
Pass	INT	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

East led the two of diamonds (low from a doubleton) and declarer went up with dummy's ace and played the king of clubs. East won with the ace as West pitched the four of hearts and continued diamonds. West won and cleared the suit and declarer had only eight tricks, -100.

Notice that if declarer plays low from dummy at trick one and West is tempted to make the expert play of ducking, leaving East with a diamond to play when she gets in with the ace of clubs then there is a risk. East might duck the first round of clubs, then declarer will realize that it is necessary to play on hearts to drive out West's potential entry to the diamonds.

Best for West would be to win the diamond lead with the king and switch to spades, leaving declarer with no chance. (This was the defense found by the Pollacks in their match against Rossard. Voltaire HAD ducked the diamond king but his partner ducked the first club, and declarer astutely worked out who had the club ace, so drove out the heart ace and made 3NT. It was just too little too late, as Rossard held on to win by 3 IMPs.)

Finally I should point out that if declarer had guessed to play on hearts at trick two he would have made the contract.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Mahmood	Vainikonis	Michielsen	Gulevich
Pass	Pass	Pass	1♣
1♦	1♠*	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

West led the five of spades and declarer won with the king and played a heart. West went in with the ace and played a second spade, but now declarer could force out the ace of clubs and come to nine tricks, +600 and 12 IMPs to Vitas, too little too late and Salvo advanced to the semifinal.

WBF and the Great Wall

By Jean-Paul Meyer

The Great Wall is the most well-known place for tourism in China. On the photo below, WBF President Gianariggo Rona is not doing any tourism and the wall at his back is not the Great Wall, but it is important. It is THE WALL OF SPONSORS.

As with other sporting events – Formula 1, tennis, golf and football, for example – bridge can proudly present on this wall no fewer than 19 sponsors.

The first one is **OURGAME**, a Chinese company based in Beijing and quoted on the Hong Kong Stock Exchange. Their business is online games – 56 of them, including draughts, chess, poker and, of course, bridge.

Red Bull, the energizing soft drink, is also an important sponsor interested in bridge after Formula 1 racing and cliff diving.



Other sponsors are hotels, restaurants, an insurance company, bridge-article retailers, a maker of massaging arm chairs, and others.

The most exciting question was about the new contract between the WBF and OurGame.

Rona notes: "This contract is valid only for this championship. We received important support from OurGame and they have the exclusive rights for broadcasting the Mixed Teams final plus the semifinals and final of the Rosenblum. I do not know what the future will bring with OurGame, but I know OurGame intends to organize online bridge tournaments.

"I also know that the future of bridge is connected to the Internet, not to television. The rhythm of play at bridge is too slow for appearing regularly on television.

"Concerning television, you must know that the last session of the main competitions here will be broadcast on three Chinese channels. This is, of course, very good news.

"The WBF's aim is not to make money on sponsoring but to reduce costs so players will have to pay less. BBO will remain a partner to bridge as other online companies may do. All I wish is to build a longer wall."

Big comeback

By Brent Manley

Although it can be nerve-wracking, coming from behind for a win can be very satisfying for the winning team and, of course, frustrating for the players who fail to hold a lead.

In the Red Bull Mixed Teams, the semifinal match between Salvo and Rossard had lots of twists and turns, including a rally from behind by Salvo, Rossard pulling even after giving up the lead, then Salvo finally putting the match away.

Salvo (Zia Mahmood, Marion Michielsen, Anita Sinclair, Nafiz Zorlu, Roy Welland and Sabine Auken) started well, scoring an 11-IMP gain on the first board of the 32-board match. Their opponents were Martine Rossard, Jerzy Romanowski, Danielle Avon, Grazyna Brewiak, Wojciech Gawel and Jean-Michel Voldoire.

Board 1. Dealer North. None Vul.

♠ J 10 8 6 5
♥ A K 2
♦ —
♣ 10 9 7 5 4

♠ —
♥ J 8 6 5 4
♦ A Q J 10 7 3
♣ A 3

N
W E
S

♠ A Q 9 4 3
♥ 9 7
♦ 5
♣ K Q 8 6 2

♠ K 7 2
♥ Q 10 3
♦ K 9 8 6 4 2
♣ J

West	North	East	South
<i>Gawel</i>	<i>Zia</i>	<i>Brewiak</i>	<i>Michielsens</i>
	Pass	Pass	1♠
2♠	4♦	5♦	Dble
Pass	5♥	Pass	5♠
6♦	Pass	Pass	6♠
All Pass			

Had Gawel found the killing lead of the ♣A, his team would have gained 4 IMPs on the board instead of losing 13 – plus 50 and plus 100.

West	North	East	South
<i>Zorlu</i>	<i>Rom'ski</i>	<i>Sinclair</i>	<i>Rossard</i>
	Pass	Pass	1♠
2♠	4♠	5♦	Pass
Pass	5♠	Pass	Pass
6♦	Dble	All Pass	

Rossard could have taken a heart ruff with his singleton trump for plus 300, but she started with the ♠A, so all the defenders could get were two heart tricks for plus 100.

Things were looking good for Salvo through the first 10 boards, but their 21-9 lead quickly evaporated.

Board 11. Dealer South. None Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Gawel</i>	<i>Zia</i>	<i>Brewiak</i>	<i>Michlielsen</i>
			Pass
1♣	Pass	1♥	Pass
1♠	Pass	2♣	Pass
2♦	Pass	2NT	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

Any lead but a spade was good enough to defeat the contract provided the defense was accurate. Michielsen started with a low diamond, Zia ducking when declarer played the 10 from dummy. Brewiak played a low club from dummy to Michielsen's ace. At that point, it was necessary for her to continue with a diamond, but she apparently did not read Zia's signal at trick one. Instead, she exited with a club. Declarer won in dummy and ran the ♡J and was soon claiming with three hearts, three clubs, one spade and two diamonds. Plus 400 for Rossard.



Martine Rossard

West	North	East	South
Zorlu	Rom'ski	Sinclair	Rossard
1♣	Pass	1♥	Pass
1NT	Pass	3NT	All Pass

Against 3NT from the other side of the table, Romanowski started with a low diamond to the queen and ace. Rossard took the ♣A when Zorlu led to dummy's king. She returned a diamond, ducked by Romanowski to maintain communication. Declarer overtook his ♦10 with the jack and played a heart to his jack. When that lost, he was two down, losing three diamonds, two black aces and a heart. That was 11 IMPs to Rossard, now trailing 21-20. Rossard took the lead on the next board.

Board 12. Dealer West. N/S Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Gawel	Zia	Brewiak	Michielsen
1♣	Pass	2♣	Pass
2♦	Pass	2NT	Pass
3♦	Pass	3NT	All Pass

Brewiak had no trouble taking 12 tricks after Michielsen started with a low spade. At the other table, Zorlu and Sinclair landed in 5♣ by West, an odd contract considering the superior fit in diamonds. Even after a spade lead, 5♣ could have been made: ♠A, ♥A, ♥J to king, ♥Q, spade pitch, ♥10, spade pitch. South can ruff the fourth round of hearts with a natural trump trick or not, but declarer is in control either way thanks to the ♣9 in hand. Zorlu did not play along those lines, however, going minus 50 for an 11-IMP loss.

Rossard outscores Salvo 39-6 over the final six board to take a 48-27 lead with 16 boards to play.

Second half

In the second semifinal session, Salvo wasted little time scoring a swing, earning 11 IMPs for bidding and making 6♥ at the Auker-Welland table while Voldoire and Avon stopped in 4♥, taking 11 tricks. That was 11 IMPs to Salvo.



Grazyna Brewiak and Wojciech Gawel

You know it's your night when you pull the wrong bidding card out of the box to end up playing a 4-2 fit in a minor when, with careful play, you can come to 12 tricks in spades . . . and you win IMPs! That's what happened to Zia and Michielsen on the following board.

Board 23. Dealer South. Both Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Voldoire	Zia	Avon	Michielsen
Pass	1♥	Pass	1♦
Pass	2♦	All Pass!	1♠

Zia meant to bid 2♣ – fourth-suit forcing to game – but pulled the wrong card, a non-forcing 2♦. Michielsen managed 10 tricks for plus130 after West started with a trump. It looked like a loss of at least 10 IMPs, more if North-South bid and made 6♠ at the other table.

As it happened, Gawel and Brewiak did bid the slam, but Brewiak did not manage 12 tricks.

Welland started with the ♥J. Brewiak went up with the ace and ruffed a heart. She played a club to the ace and a club to the king, pitching a diamond from dummy on the ♣Q.

Instead of ruffing her last club, the winning play, followed by a diamond finesse, she erred by cashing the ♦A and ruffing a diamond then ruffing a heart, felling the king. In the end, she was down to two trumps in each hand and West still had all four of his spades. When Brewiak played the good ♥Q from dummy, East ruffed, South overruffed and West did the same. West was then on lead with three trumps. Dummy had two and declarer one. On the trump exit, West could not be prevented from taking another trick. That was plus 100 and, given what happened at the other table, an unlikely 6 IMPs to Salvo.

On the next board, the Voltaire-Avon methods wrong-sided the final contract – to their detriment.

Board 24. Dealer West. None Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Voltaire	Zia	Avon	Michielsen
2♦*	Pass	2♠*	Pass
3♠	Pass	4♦	Pass
4♠	Pass	5♥	Pass
5♠	All Pass		

2♦ Strong hand, game force

2♠ Major-suit ace

Michielsen found the killing lead of the ♣Q. When that held, she cashed the ♦A and continued with the ♣J. Zia read the position correctly, overtaking with the ♣A to give his partner a ruff. That was two down, plus 100 for Salvo.

West	North	East	South
Welland	Gawel	Auken	Brewiak
1♠	Pass	2♣	Pass
4♠	All Pass		

Gawel led the ♥8. Welland won in dummy, pitching a club from hand. He had to lose the ♦A and two clubs, but he had plus 420 and 11 IMPs for his side. (After a diamond lead and club shift, declarer might still have been thinking.) Salvo was now ahead 62-49.

After three pushes, the match tightened up again.

Board 28. Dealer West. N/S Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Voltaire	Zia	Avon	Michielsen
Pass	INT	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

Avon led a spade, giving Zia no chance to make the contract. He did well to finish only one down for minus 100.

West	North	East	South
Welland	Gawel	Auken	Brewiak
1♥	INT	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

Auken started with the ♦10, taken by Welland with the ace. Welland had his chance to defeat the contract by switching to a spade (the king would have been best), but he got out with a heart. That was all Gawel needed. He lost one club and one diamond for plus 660. That was 13 IMPs to Rossard. The score was tied at 62-62. The tie was broken on the next deal, however.

Board 29. Dealer North. Both Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Voltaire	Zia	Avon	Michielsen
Pass	Pass	Pass	1♦
All Pass	1♥	Pass	INT

Voltaire started with a low spade, taken in dummy by the

ace. Michielsens called for the $\diamond 10$ and Avon erred by playing low. West won the $\diamond A$ and played the $\heartsuit K$, ducked. Michielsens won the continuation of the $\heartsuit Q$ with the ace, finessed in diamonds and cashed that suit, eventually finessing in spades (the 8) and clubs for 11 tricks and plus 210.

At the other table, the auction was the same, but Welland started with the $\heartsuit K$ and a low heart, taken in dummy with the ace. Auken covered the $\diamond 10$ and declarer scrambled home with seven tricks for plus 90. That was 3 IMPs to Salvo.

On the next board, Voldoire and Avon both took aggressive positions and got too high.

Board 30. Dealer East. None Vul.

		\spadesuit A 8 \heartsuit K Q 9 5 2 \diamond 6 3 \clubsuit J 8 4 2	
\spadesuit 9 7 2 \heartsuit J 6 \diamond A K Q J 9 4 \clubsuit K 5	<div style="background-color: #008000; color: white; padding: 5px; text-align: center;"> N W E S </div>	\spadesuit K 6 5 3 \heartsuit 10 7 3 \diamond 10 7 \clubsuit A 10 6 3	
		\spadesuit Q J 10 4 \heartsuit A 8 4 \diamond 8 5 2 \clubsuit Q 9 7	
West	North	East	South
Voldoire	Zia	Avon	Michielsens
INT	Pass	Pass	Pass
2 \diamond	Pass	2 \clubsuit	Pass
3NT	All Pass	2NT	Pass

Nothing wrong with the INT opening, but Stayman on the East hand seems a bit much. Zia started with the $\heartsuit Q$ and the defenders quickly took six tricks in the majors for plus 100.

West	North	East	South
Welland	Gawel	Auken	Brewiak
INT	All Pass	Pass	Pass

Welland also liked his hand for a INT opener. The level suited Auken, who passed.

Gawel also started with the $\heartsuit Q$. Brewiak took the second trick with the $\heartsuit A$ but mysteriously switched to a diamond. North-South had discarding problems on the run of the diamonds and Welland ended up with nine tricks for plus 150 and a 6-IMP gain.

The penultimate board sealed the deal for Salvo.

Board 31. Dealer South. N/S Vul.

		\spadesuit K J \heartsuit 7 \diamond Q J 10 8 4 3 2 \clubsuit 7 6 4	
\spadesuit 6 4 3 \heartsuit K 10 9 2 \diamond 7 6 \clubsuit J 10 9 5	<div style="background-color: #008000; color: white; padding: 5px; text-align: center;"> N W E S </div>	\spadesuit A Q 9 \heartsuit A Q J 8 \diamond K 9 \clubsuit A K 3 2	
		\spadesuit 10 8 7 5 2 \heartsuit 6 5 4 3 \diamond A 5 \clubsuit Q 8	
West	North	East	South
Voldoire	Zia	Avon	Michielsens
Pass	3 \diamond	Dble	Pass
3 \heartsuit	Pass	4 \heartsuit	All Pass

Zia started with the $\diamond Q$, ducked by declarer. Michielsens won the continuation with the $\diamond A$ and exited with a heart. It all came down to the club suit, and Voldoire eventually made the percentage play, losing to the doubleton queen. That was plus 50 to Salvo.

West	North	East	South
Welland	Gawel	Auken	Brewiak
Pass	Pass	2NT	Pass
3NT	All Pass		Pass

As Mark Horton pointed out upon seeing the deal, 3NT by East cannot be defeated – and Welland astutely didn't bother with Stayman over Auken's 2NT, showing 22-24 high-card points. Auken won the opening spade lead in hand, entered dummy with a heart and ran the $\clubsuit J$. South got the $\clubsuit Q$ but Auken had four hearts, two spades and three clubs for plus 400 and 10 IMPs. The final board was a push, so Salvo had rallied for a berth in the Mixed Teams final with an 81-62 victory.



Jerzy Romanowski

ruffed a heart, a club to the nine, ruffed a heart with the king of clubs, drew trumps and played a diamond to the jack, +1370 and 17 restorative IMPs to Salvo.

Board 10. Dealer East. All Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Yang	Mahmood	Wang	Michielsen
I ♥	I ♠	Pass	Pass
All Pass		Pass	INT

West led the five of hearts and declarer won with the jack and played the jack of spades for the king and ace. A spade to the nine was followed by a claim, +150.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Welland</i>	<i>Dai</i>	<i>Auken</i>	<i>Zhang</i>
2♥*	2♠	Pass	Pass
Dble	Pass	Pass	Pass
		3♦	All Pass

In first position Two Hearts (especially NV vVul) would be 3-9, but here it was wide range.

Lixin Yang

North led the king of spades and declarer ruffed in dummy, played a heart to the king, a heart back to the ace,

South led the ten of diamonds and when North withheld the ace declarer won in hand with the king and played the king of clubs. South took the ace and returned the two of clubs, declarer winning with dummy's ten, cashing the top hearts throwing a spade, ruffing a heart and playing a diamond to the queen and ace. North cashed the ace of spades and exited with a spade and declarer ruffed in dummy and pitched a spade on a heart. South's ruff was the last trick for the defence, +110 and 6 IMPs to Salvo.

Board 12. Dealer West. NS Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Yang	Mahmood	Wang	Michielsen
Pass	Pass	1♣*	Pass
2♥*	Pass	2♠	Pass
2NT*	Pass	3NT	All Pass

- 1♣ Precision
 2♥ Shortage in a black suit, three-suited
 2♠ Relay
 2NT Club shortage

If my interpretation of the auction is correct then perhaps North should have found the club lead that would have defeated the contract.

On a spade lead South won and found the best shot of the ten of clubs. Declarer won with dummy's jack and played on diamonds, North winning the third round and returning the five of clubs. Declarer covered with dummy's seven and although South could win there was only a spade to come, +400.

Played by East, 3NT is almost impregnable, but on the ten of clubs lead declarer still needs to be careful. Say she wins and plays a top diamond. If North wins and plays a club South wins and finds a low spade switch, North winning and returning a club. Declarer wins and must play three rounds of diamonds. On the last of these, South, down to ♠A ♥J1083 ♣K is squeezed.

If North ducks the first diamond East must switch to spades – do you see why?

Because a second diamond allows North to duck again and now the communications for the squeeze will be broken by a third round of diamonds at some point.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Welland	Dai	Auken	Zhang
Pass	Pass	1NT	Pass
2♣*	Pass	2♦	All Pass
2♣	Puppet to 2♦		

West's pass over Two Diamonds facing a 15-17 1NT may look odd, but any continuation over it except 2NT (54 majors invitational) would have been game forcing.

Two Diamonds was straightforward - declarer emerged with ten tricks, +130 but Salvo lost 7 IMPs.

For the final movement, *Shepherd's song. Happy and thankful feelings after the storm* you must turn to Barry Rigal's report.



GEELY AUTOMOBILE: Jianming Dai, Lixin Yang, Hongli Wang, Shen Yue Gui, Yu Zhang, Liping Wang

Thrust and parry

By Barry Rigal

In the semi-finals of the world mixed teams Wojciech Gawel as North found the most challenging defence to Sabine Auken’s slam, but she was able to overcome his best shot.

Board 18. Dealer East N-S Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Welland	Gawel	Auken	Brewiak
1♠*	Pass	1♣	Pass
3♦*	Pass	3♣*	Pass
3♠*	Pass	3♥*	Pass
6♥	All Pass	3NT	Pass



Sabine Auken



Roy Welland

Welland relayed with 1♠ to silence North at unfavorable vulnerability (which certainly worked to the defence’s benefit in not pinpointing the opponents’ cards, though it may have facilitated getting to slam).

Auken showed a 4-3-1-5 minimum hand and Welland found a Landy slam-try; “I’ll bid it, you make it”.

How would you play slam on a diamond lead?

My guess (confirmed by the bulletin team – not necessarily the equivalent of the Good Housekeeping Seal of approval!) is that one should lead a club to the jack, and if it holds, give up a spade, planning to pitch a diamond and club on the good spades. But Auken actually received the more testing trump lead and won cheaply in hand to pass the club queen.

Had Gawel taken this to return a trump, declarer can ruff one diamond and come to 12 tricks via six trump tricks and six plain winners. But he defended well by ducking, and was in a sense unlucky that his side’s clubs were so good that Auken was not tempted to repeat the finesse. Instead she led a low club to the ace and a third club, hoping her LHO would win this, whereupon the route to 12 tricks would be secure enough. But when Gawel took the third club he found another good play. Instead of shifting to his diamond sequence, or returning a trump, he played back a spade. As this takes out declarer’s last entry to hand, Auken needed the spade finesse, in order to come to two spades, two clubs, five hearts a diamond and two ruffs. She made no mistake and came to 12 tricks, generating a swing of 13 IMPs, enough to win her semi-final encounter with Rossard.

Symphonic Variations

By Mark Horton

A symphony is an extended musical composition in classical music, generally scored for orchestra, though more recent examples have been written for chamber ensembles, organ, choir, piano, or combinations of these resources. Many symphonies are tonal works in four movements with the first in sonata form, which is often described by music theorists as the structure of a classical symphony, even though many symphonies by the acknowledged classical masters of the form, Haydn, Mozart and Beethoven, do not conform to this model.

The final of the Red Bull World Mixed teams Championships, would like most symphonies, consist of four movements.

Awakening of cheerful feelings on arrival in the Final

Board 3. Dealer South. EW Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Yang	Zorlu	Wang	Sinclair
Pass	1♥	Pass	1♣
Pass	3♣	All Pass	1♠

North's jump to 3♣ was preemptive and was intended to keep E/W out of the bidding. Given that E/W can make eleven tricks in diamonds, it was not without merit, although it is hard to see how they might have come into the auction.

West led the five of hearts and East took the ace and switched to the queen of clubs, declarer winning with the ace and playing a club to dummy's eight, East discarding the five of diamonds. The jack of spades went to West's queen and two rounds of clubs exhausted everyone's supply. When declarer played a heart East followed with the seven and declarer put up the king only to see West pitch the seven of diamonds. East took the heart continuation and switched to diamonds, so that was four down, -200.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Welland	Dai	Auken	Zhang
Pass	1♥	Pass	1♦*
Pass	2♥	Pass	1♠
Dble	All Pass		Pass
1♦ Precision			

West's reopening double yielded a rich dividend. East passed, and led the queen of clubs, which declarer won with the ace.

Waiting for declarer to play to the next trick, I considered what might happen if declarer crossed to hand with a diamond to play a trump. To secure four down, East must go up with the ace and play a spade. West wins, cashes the king of clubs (East pitching a spade) and gives East a club ruff. A spade puts West in to deliver another club ruff, and then West wins the diamond return and plays a spade, allowing East to overruff declarer.

In fact, when declarer played the three of hearts from dummy at trick two, East took North's eight with her jack and switched to the three of spades. West won, cashed the king of clubs (spade away by East) and gave East a club ruff. Now East played a diamond for the jack, king and ace, won a heart with the ace, cashed the queen of diamonds, then played a spade and ruffed a club. That was +500 and 7 well earned IMPs for Salvo.

Board 7. Dealer South. All Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Yang	Zorlu	Wang	Sinclair
Pass	2♦*	Pass	1♣*
Pass	2♠	Pass	2♥
Dble	Pass	3♣	Pass
Pass	Pass	4♣	3♠
All Pass			

2♦ Multi style

South led the three of clubs and declarer won in hand and played a diamond. South won and switched to the three of hearts, but it was too late - declarer had the tempo and could establish a diamond for a heart discard, +130.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Welland	Dai	Auken	Zhang
Pass	1♠	2♣	1♦
3♠*	4♠	All Pass	2♠

East led the king of clubs for the three, five and six and continued with the queen. Here the loss of tempo was more crucial, as declarer could establish a heart for a diamond discard, +620 and 13 IMPs to Geely Automobile.

To defeat 4♠ East must switch to a diamond at trick two. Then came what might have been the hand of the Championships:

Board 8. Dealer West. None Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Yang	Zorlu	Wang	Sinclair
Pass	1♣*	Pass	2♣*
2♦	Pass	Pass	3♦*
Pass	3♠	Pass	4♣
Pass	4♠	Pass	5♣
Pass	6♣	All Pass	
2♣	Inverted		

North's raise to 6♣ was on the optimistic side but when East led seven of diamonds he had a chance to justify it in the play.

He won the lead with dummy's ace, cashed the ace of spades followed by the king of clubs. When West discarded, the contract was a goner, finishing two down, -100.

I am working on a new book with Eric Kokish and one of our themes will examine some of the skills that declarer needs to master in order to reach a higher level.

One of these is the ability to project the play down to an end position. It may appear to be difficult, but on many occasions the application of the technique we will be describing will make you realize that it is within most players' grasp.

I was commenting on OurGame and although one has the benefit of seeing all four hands it did not seem to be out of the question for declarer to find the winning line.

First of all, assuming you can avoid a trump loser, there are eleven top tricks. One way to get a twelfth might be to find the queen of spades making an early appearance, but that strikes me as being against the odds.

The first question to address is how to play the clubs?

In one of his many classics Terence Reese discusses how to deal with this very issue - which opponent is more likely to have started with a club void?

(Chatting to Zia later while he was waiting for the last set of boards to be completed he observed that you would generally play for the opponent who had overcalled to be short.)

With West known to have length in diamonds it seems natural to start with a club to the ace. Now you can pick up the trumps and play four more rounds, followed by the ace of spades. At this stage these cards will remain:

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

When you cross to hand with the ace of hearts, West has no good move - a spade surrenders two tricks in the suit, while after a diamond pitch declarer exits with a diamond to endplay West. For those interested in the terminology of the game, this is a strip-squeeze, or "ecdysiast's delight."

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Welland	Dai	Auken	Zhang
Pass	1NT	Pass	2NT*
Pass	3♣*	Pass	4♠*
Pass	5♥*	Pass	6♣
All Pass			
2NT	Transfer		
4♠	Splinter		
5♥	Cue bid		

Here East led the king of hearts and declarer, with no adverse bidding, won and played a club to the king. Bad luck and no swing.

Suppose declarer ducks the opening lead? (If you live in or around Bath, this play tends to become almost second nature).

Now East must find a diamond switch, otherwise declarer (with the right view in trumps) can reach this position:

♠ K J		♠ 9 8
♥ A J		♥ Q 9
♦ 10		♦ 7
♣ —		♣ —
♠ Q 10		
♥ 10		
♦ K Q		
♣ —		
	♠ N	
	♥ W	♥ E
	♦ S	
	♣ —	
	♥ 7	
	♦ A 8 6	
	♣ 7	

When declarer plays the seven of clubs West must discard a heart, as does declarer and then a heart to the ace squeezes West.

At the end of the set Salvo trailed Geely 19-26.

For the second movement, **Merry gathering of bridge players**, read Micke Melander's article.

Thunder, Storm

With Geely Automobile leading 48-41, Salvo was hoping to fire a few broadsides as the third session got under way. They certainly came out with all guns firing.

Board 2. Dealer East. NS Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Yang	Mahmood	Wang	Michielsen
4♠	All Pass	1♠	Pass

South led the four of diamonds and North won with the ace and returned a spade. Declarer won in dummy, came to hand with a spade, played a heart to the ace, ruffed a heart and advanced the jack of diamonds. When that was covered by the queen declarer claimed ten tricks, +420.

If you would have returned a club at trick two, well done indeed.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Welland	Dai	Auken	Zhang
2♥*	Dble	1♠	Pass
2NT	Pass	2♠	Pass
		3♠	All Pass

2♥ 9-13 with three spades

South led the three of hearts and declarer won with dummy's ace and played the queen of clubs. North won with the queen and tried the king of hearts, but declarer ruffed, went to dummy with a spade and played a club to the eight and nine. Declarer ruffed the heart return, ruffed a club, came to hand with a spade and played the jack of diamonds, covered by the queen, king and ace, +140 but 7 IMPs to Geely Automobile.

Board 3. Dealer South. EW Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Yang	Mahmood	Wang	Michielsen
1♦*	1♥	Dble	Pass
Pass	Pass	Dble	4♥
			All Pass
1♦	Precision		

When North, clearly a latter disciple of Mike Lawrence, introduced his hearts, South jumped to game - let's call it a good example of Leaping Michielsen.

East led the queen of clubs for the king and ace and West switched to the ace of diamonds and a diamond, East cashing two more tricks in the suit and then returning a club (a low spade or another diamond is better). Declarer ruffed with the two of hearts (the seven, eight or nine is best) and played the seven of hearts, running it when West (mistakenly) did not cover. Now declarer could play a low spade to the jack and East's king, ruff the club return and drop West's queen of spades for two down, -300.

If declarer ruffs with an intermediate heart, say the seven, and then plays the eight West covers and declarer wins in dummy, ruffs a club with the nine of hearts, plays a heart to the six and queen and then plays the jack of spades, holding the defenders to just one more trick.

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2015 YEH BROS CUP BRIDGE INTERNATIONAL MASTER CHAMPIONSHIP



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Exciting Mixed Team Final

Mixed Teams final Segment 2

By Micke Melander

After the first segment in the final between Salvo and Geely Automobile in the Mixed Teams Geely Automobile had taken a small lead with 26-19. Was it going to continue like this or would someone run away in the standing towards victory?

Board 16. Dealer West. E-W Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Yang	Mahmood	Wang	Michielsen
1♦	Pass	1♠	4♥
All Pass			

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Sinclair	Dai	Zorlu	Zhang
1♦	2♣	Pass	2♥
Pass	4♥	Pass	4NT
Pass	5♣	Pass	5♥
All Pass			



Yu Zhang

Here both teams missed the opportunity to bid the lay-down slam. When Zia passed in second seat in the Open Room Michielsen didn't pay much more attention to the board than bid her game which everyone happily passed out.

Zhang in the Closed Room went asking for aces, but without being able to check if partner controlled spades or not she didn't want to risk bidding the slam so they came to stop in Five Hearts. If Three Spades would have been a splinter game raise that particular bid would probably have solved all problems for South.

Both declarers managed to get their twelve tricks without problems, so no swing. Before this hand Geely had earned 1 IMP after they managed to make Three Spades on the first board of the set when Salvo had stopped in Two Spades which was what they could make against a perfect defense. And when they played the third board it was another push, then came this:

Board 18. Dealer East. N-S Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Yang	Mahmood	Wang	Michielsen
1♥	1♠	1♦	Pass
4♥	4♠	2♥	Pass
Dble	All Pass	Pass	Pass

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Sinclair	Dai	Zorlu	Zhang
1♥	2♥*	Pass	Pass
4♥	4♠	2NT*	Pass
5♣	5♠	Pass	Pass
		All Pass	

Zia didn't show his strong two-suiter and just bid on in the longest and strongest, spades that basically could have a play against a void with partner, Yang didn't believe so

when holding 15 HCPs and partner had open, wrong he was since N-S was even cold for 11 tricks which both declarers took. +990 was 8 IMPs Salvo who closed the gap in the game.

Board 23. Dealer South. All Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Yang	Mahmood	Wang	Michielsens
Pass	1♠	Pass	Pass
Pass	2♣*	Pass	INT
All Pass			3♦

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Sinclair	Dai	Zorlu	Zhang
Pass	1♣*	Pass	Pass
Pass	1♠	Dble	1♦*
3♥	Pass	4♥	2♦
			All Pass

The anti-action from Wang in the Open Room in the first bidding round led to problems the next time it was her time to act Zia had made an artificial call (Gazilli) stealing her longest suit when pass was here only action she then had to face Three Diamonds when it was her next turn to bid, finally passing it out. That led to the fact that they sold out to Three Diamonds when they were making Four Hearts their way.

In the Closed Room Dai opened with a strong precision like One Club, when South bid negative and North showed her spades Zorlu doubled and Sinclair with his great shape could jump to Three Hearts inviting to play in game, Sinclair had no problems raising to game!

With the king of trumps onside and the diamond ace singleton in dummy it was an easy play to wrap up eleven tricks. That was another 11 IMPs to Salvo who now looked very solid.

On board 24 Zia held

♠ 9
♥ A 8 3 2
♦ Q 7 6 4
♣ J 8 5 2

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Yang	Mahmood	Wang	Michielsens
INT	Pass	2♣	Pass
2♦	Pass	2♥	Pass
3♥	Pass	4♥	Pass
Pass	?		

Zia doubled for business, having heard enough and knowing things wasn't behaving too well for declarer, a real "tiger double" a la Zia style...

There was no real play for declarer as long as the defense didn't give away any gifts, +100 would have been a simply brilliant score in Pairs, now it was 2 IMPs since the 50 they had got in the other room. But with a match that seems very close maybe this is the medicine that requires making sure to win the championship!

Board 25. Dealer North. E-W Vul.

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



Hongli Wang

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Yang	Mahmood	Wang	Michielsens
	Pass	1♥	Pass
2NT	Pass	3♣	Pass
3♦	Dble	3♠	Pass
3NT	Pass	Pass	4♦
Dble	All Pass		

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Sinclair	Dai	Zorlu	Zhang
	Pass	1♥	Pass
2♣	Pass	3♣	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

Here Zia's double didn't work out that well when it got Michielsens to sacrifice against 3NT that was a contract which was at least two levels too high when all key cards were wrongly placed for E-W. Sinclair had to realize this at the other table, when going two off in 3NT in the Closed Room. 300 from the Open Room and 200 from the Closed Room was an 11-IMP swing back to Geely Automobile.

Board 27. Dealer South. None Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Yang	Mahmood	Wang	Michielsens
			1♥
Pass	1♠	2♦	2♠
3NT	Pass	Pass	Dble
Pass	Pass	4♣	Pass
4♦	4♠	Pass	Pass
Dble	All Pass		

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Sinclair	Dai	Zorlu	Zhang
			1♥
Pass	1♠	Dble	2♠
3NT	All Pass		

When Wang went scared over Michielsens business double over 3NT Zia went for their own game instead of defending Four Diamonds, which was a correct decision since it's very much likely to make when East were 0-3-5-5 and West had a great fit to that. Four Spades should have been two down, if the defense attacked clubs before declarer could set up hearts to get a discard. Now they secured their one down by playing the suit which eventually went to be the final result.

In the Closed Room Sinclair struggled in 3NT but had to go to off when the queen of hearts was offside after a spade had been led. That was 5 more IMPs to Geely Automobile.

Board 28. Dealer West. N-S Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Yang	Mahmood	Wang	Michielsens
INT	All Pass		

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Sinclair	Dai	Zorlu	Zhang
1♣	1♠	Dble	2♠
Pass	Pass	3♣	All Pass

Yangs mini no-trump opening closed the auction in the Open Room and after a spade was led to the jack, which held the trick, and declarer played a diamond two the ace and another diamond to the queen in trick three it was seven tricks for the declarer coming from one spade and two tricks in all the other three suits.

Sinclair had a much more difficult contract to play in the Closed Room, but with a club lead to the nine that held the trick it solved one of the problems. Two more rounds of trumps followed, pulling what remained with the opponents. A couple of tricks later South got in with a diamond and returned a spade before the defense had started attacking hearts, which meant that declarer could set up a spade, discarding a losing heart for nine tricks giving Salvo 1 IMP instead of losing 4.

After two segments of this exciting Mixed final the standing were 48-41 to Geely Automobile.

Coming down to the wire

Mixed Teams final stanza four

By Barry Rigal

The third quarter had seen Geely Automobile extend their lead to 20 IMPs before a late rally had reduced the margin to 6 IMPs at 72-66. Salvo would field Zia/Michielsen and Welland/Auken against Gui/Liping and Dai/Zhang.

On a set that was going to produce a swing (or the prospects of one) on just about every deal, first blood went to Salvo when Gui doubled, then raised an invitational jump to game with what seemed (to the naked eye) like a sub-minimum for his earlier action. Game duly struggled out for down one while Auken was just managing to bring home her partscore in the other room.

Zia and Michielsen returned the partscore swing on the next deal:

Board 44. Dealer West. E-W Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
1♦	Pass	1♠	Dble
Rdbl*	2♣	2♠	3♣
3♠	All Pass		

After Gui produced a support redouble and somewhat undisciplined spade raise Michielsen might have worked out that dummy rated to put down a singleton club? But there again ♦Q4 looked to be a terrible holding for the defence. One might sympathize with a top heart lead (declarer wins the king to duck a diamond and has an answer for everything the defence might do). Michielsen did better: she led a top club and shifted to a spade. When Zia made the normal control-retaining play of ducking, Liping won in hand and ruffed two clubs in dummy for +140. Had Zia played ace and another trump the defence must prevail. Since N/S had competed to 4♣ (undoubled and down only one) in the other room, Geely had a gain of 3 IMPs instead of a loss of the same number.



Board 45. Dealer North. None Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Gui	Zia	Liping	Michielsen
2♠	1♣	Dble	Pass
	All Pass		

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Welland	Dai	Auken	Zhang
4♠	2♣	Dble	3♣
	All Pass		

Gui's jump to 2♠ (when coupled with the actions on board 43) suggest maybe E/W were playing non-standard methods in response to takeout doubles. Both Norths naturally led a heart rather than the club that would have held West to nine tricks. After drawing two rounds of trumps to find the bad news, both Wests ran the hearts, pitching clubs, then led ♦A and another diamond and could not be prevented from making ten tricks. The 6 IMPs to Salvo gave them the lead at 77-75.

Geely reclaimed the lead on the next deal when a conservative action by Welland backfired. Responding to a (potentially light) 1♠ opening at favorable vulnerability, he elected to relay and find a six-card spade suit opposite, then invite game in spades with:

♠ Q
♥ A K 9 7 2
♦ K 9 6 3
♣ 7 3 2

The good news when his partner also took a conservative view and passed was that 4♠ wasn't cold, the bad news was that as the cards lay both 4♥ and 4♠ were very straightforward. Geely found their 5-3 heart fit and played 4♥ to gain six IMPs and regain the lead at 81-77.

Back and forth went the lead.

♠ A K 10 3
 ♥ K 10 2
 ♦ K J
 ♣ A K Q 6

N
 W E
 S

♠ 8 4
 ♥ Q J 5
 ♦ A 9 5 2
 ♣ J 10 7 2

Gui and Liping bid these cards 2♣-2♦-2NT-3NT, Welland-Auken reached the club slam after 2NT-3♣-3♦-4♠ (3♣ puppeted 3♦ then 4♠ showed both minors, and a slam invite). In 6♣ on a trump lead Auken won in dummy and played a heart. North took the ace to return the suit and now Auken ruffed two spades in hand for her 12 tricks. Salvo were in front 89-81.

Both N/S pairs stayed out of a delicate vulnerable 4♥ where the key would have been to pick off a doubleton ♥A-J over the king queen, with an eight-card fit. Then a two-suited Astro overcall from Auken allowed her side to compete to the four-level, and drove Dai-Zhang too high, in what in practice was the wrong eight-card fit. Down 200 on ruffs, while Zia was collecting a sedate +110 at the two-level, and it was suddenly 96-81.

Time for Zia to produce one of his "master-bids" At favorable vulnerability, you hear your RHO open a strong no-trump in front of you. How many hearts would you bid, holding:

♠ Q 10
 ♥ K Q J 10 7 6 5
 ♦ A 7 3
 ♣ J



Zia's answer? None! He passed, and INT became the final contract. He led a top heart (how unimaginative) and the defenders took two aces and six hearts, for +200, while in the other room Welland down-valued his 15-count to a 1♣ opening and sold out to a 3♥ preempt – down 50 on a club lead. 102-81 now, with six deals to go.

Geely needed some action, but the next four deals did not produce anything for them. Both E/W pairs went minus in low-level partscores, then down in 2♠ on a 5-2 fit where their opponents were likely to have gone minus themselves. Then the N/S pairs bid a skinny game and negotiated ♥AJ76 facing ♥K85 for the necessary four tricks to bring it home (no great inspiration was required, merely Qxx onside). When both N/S pairs bid to a perfect-fit 5♦, the match score was 103-84 and there were just two deals to go.

Board 55. Dealer North. None Vul.

♠ 8 7
 ♥ 8 7 6 3 2
 ♦ A Q 3
 ♣ A 7 3

♠ A K 10 9 3 2
 ♥ 9 5
 ♦ 9 8 6
 ♣ K 5

N
 W E
 S

♠ 6 4
 ♥ J 10
 ♦ K J 7 5 2
 ♣ 10 8 6 4

♠ Q J 5
 ♥ A K Q 4
 ♦ 10 4
 ♣ Q J 9 2

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Gui	Zia	Liping	Michielsen
2♣*	3♦*	Dble	INT
All Pass			3♥

2♣ one suiter
 3♦ hearts, invitational plus

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Welland	Dai	Auken	Zhang
2♠	Dble	Pass	INT
Pass	4♥	All Pass	3♥

Zia has never been afraid to take a position, and here he elected to play partscore despite his ten-count, knowing spades and diamonds were offside. After a top spade lead and diamond shift Michielsen rose with the ace and drew trumps then established a spade to pitch a club for +170.

Welland found the more accurate defence of three rounds of spades. Declarer pitched a club from dummy, and Auken ruffed in to play back a heart. Zhang won, drew the last trump, then advanced the ♣Q, covered all round. Now she could run the trumps, pitching a diamond from hand. Auken was squeezed on the last trump, and though she

might have given declarer a nasty guess had she bared her $\diamond K$, she chose to pitch a club, and now declarer finessed in clubs and ran the suit for ten tricks and 6 IMPs.

Note that to execute the squeeze successfully declarer had to pitch a diamond not a club from dummy at trick three, playing West for $\clubsuit Kx$. Welland could have broken up the squeeze by ducking the $\clubsuit Q$ (and from a purely psychological case wouldn't South have advanced the $\clubsuit 10$ from, e.g., $\clubsuit QJ10x$ if she had wanted him to duck from Kx ?).

Last board...all to play for, with Salvo leading 102-90.

Board 56. Dealer North. N-S Vul.

	\spadesuit A K	
	\heartsuit K 9 7 5	
	\diamond 9 4	
	\clubsuit K 10 8 3 2	
\spadesuit 9 5		\spadesuit Q 10 8 4 3
\heartsuit A J 10 8 6		\heartsuit Q 4 2
\diamond Q 7 6 2		\diamond 10 8 5
\clubsuit 7 5		\clubsuit Q J
	\spadesuit J 7 6 2	
	\heartsuit 3	
	\diamond A K J 3	
	\clubsuit A 9 6 4	

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Gui	Zia	Liping	Michielsen
Pass	1 \clubsuit	Pass	1 \spadesuit
Pass	INT	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Welland	Dai	Auken	Zhang
2 \heartsuit	Pass	Pass	Dble
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

One could just about imagine N/S in search of a swing bidding to 6 \clubsuit and guessing trumps. But Welland's preempt made life impossible for the Chinese while that 1 \spadesuit response deservedly made sensible bidding with the N/S next to impossible.

Zia made 630 after the $\diamond 10$ lead by guessing clubs then sneaking a low diamond through to the nine, Dai carefully ducked Auken's low heart lead to Welland's ten. The defenders cleared hearts, and Dai went to the $\diamond A$ to lead a club to the eight. Nice play, but an IMP to Salvo, who won 103-90 after a very impressive performance in the last set.

If N/S had reached 6 \clubsuit and made it the match would have been a tie, which would have been broken by a fifth set of 8 boards. Classical students will have realised that Mark Horton's Symphonic Variations uses four subheadings based on the movements in Beethoven's Pastoral Symphony (number 6) which contains five movements rather than the traditional four. Editor

A young bridge player grows up

By Brent Manley

Seven years ago, a young woman from Nanjing showed up in the Vugraph theater at World Team Championships in Shanghai, China, to watch her favorite sport – bridge.

Wang Nan, known on BBO as Shelley, was a raw but enthusiastic beginner. "I want to be a bridge pro," she said.



Nan Wang

Wang and two friends learned bridge at the Nanjing Sports Institute, taking classes at the suggestion of one of her teachers. Wang's interest deepened when she found a bridge book in the school's library. One of her friends described bridge as "joy for the brain."

Fast forward to 2014. Wang has shown herself to be a good student of the game. At her first world championship, she and partner Bangxiang Zhang were in third place going into today's Final A in the Red Bull Mixed.

Wang, still in college when she showed up in Shanghai, earned a degree in sports marketing and now works for the bridge association in Jiangsu Province, where she lives.

She warmed up for the Mixed Pairs by playing with Zhang on the Shenzhen Nangang Power team in the Mixed Teams, losing to a squad from Shanghai by a single IMP.

Wang confesses to being "a little nervous" at the Sanya tournament. "I have made many mistakes – sorry to my partner."

She still plays a lot of bridge on BBO and OurGame, one of the sponsors of the Sanya tournament. "I have learned so much," she said. "Bridge has changed me a lot."

Part of Wang's maturation as a player is her new demeanor at the table. "I used to be angry," she said, "but now I am a good partner."

From safety to risky plays and actions

By Micke Melander

Thursday morning was kickoff for the Mixed Pairs semifinals in Sanya. Some new pairs has been added to those who already had survived the first cut in the qualification phase, so we would see much more risk-taking bridge then in the previous teams tournament. Suddenly it was all about tops and bottoms...
Let's have a look at a deal from the first segment to begin with.

Board 9. Dealer North. E-W Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Senensky	Ellingsen	Shnier	Nielsen
	Pass	4♥	4♠
5♥	Dble	All Pass	

Let's say you lead the king of spades, partner follows with the six showing one or two spades, how to continue? Cashing the ace of spades seems obvious, so we at least get that trick.



Barry Senensky



Barbara Shnier

Should you return a diamond and try to get a ruff or should you return a club? Many returned a diamond to try getting a ruff. "I think it's wrong thinking," said Kristian Ellingsen, one of Norway's new star junior players. "A diamond trick will never disappear, only an eventual diamond ruff. But eventual club tricks might disappear on diamonds for sure. And we know that partner is marked with at least one ace, maybe both of them! Therefore a club should be returned."

Right he was. Still, his partner returned a diamond to try to get a ruff, letting declarer make her contract. But they weren't alone. Checking the frequencies, we could see that minus 650 occurred four times, minus 850 six times from 27 tables in play.

Here comes a hand from the second segment:

Board 11. Dealer South. None Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Welland	Ellingsen	Auken	Nielsen
2♠	Dble	Pass	3♦*
Pass	3NT	All Pass	
3♦ Lebensohl situation, so invitational.			

Sabine Auken led the four of spades: two, nine and eight. Welland continued attacking spades with the queen. Ellingsen won in hand with the king and immediately played a low heart to dummy's seven when Auken followed with the three. A club to the ace took declarer back to his hand so he could play another heart from hand. Auken considered her play at length before playing the ace so she could return her last spade, which was won in dummy with the ace.

Ellingsen went thinking about how to play clubs. With hearts 5-1 and spades 5-3, West was clearly the favorite to hold the queen of clubs because there were more empty spaces there. So Ellingsen played a diamond to the ace, a heart to dummy's queen, then took the club finesse. Disaster! Auken won the queen of clubs and put her partner in with the king of diamonds, which was singleton at that point, Welland having discarded diamonds on the second and third rounds of hearts. The defenders took three spades, and one trick in each of the other suits for two down. That was only 2 matchpoints out of 52 for North/South. Achieving plus 400 would have been worth 46 matchpoints.

Board 21. Dealer North. N-S Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Wang	Cronier	Ma	Willard
	Pass	1♣	Pass
INT*	Pass	2♥	Pass
2NT	Pass	3NT	All Pass

Aiyue Ma opened with a strong club, INT was artificial, showing at least 8 high-card points and was forcing to game. When she refused to show her second suit the pair was quickly in 3NT. Cheng Wang was not happy to have missed slam in clubs after scoring 12 tricks in 3NT. What he probably did not take into account was that when Philippe Cronier led the four of spades and it went to his queen, he already had got one gift. He then set up the

hearts and then took his winners, ending up in hand and finessing in clubs. When the queen dropped he had his twelve tricks. It's certainly not obvious how to play in Six Clubs if the defense start with the ace of hearts, you still have to find where the queen of clubs is located and you will not have many clues about how to play the suit.

Also, the frequency sheet showed that plus 490 was worth 42 matchpoints! As a matter of fact, Cronier's gift in opening lead didn't cost anything because declarer didn't need it as the club suit provided five tricks for declarer.

Board 22. Dealer East. E-W Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Wang	Cronier	Ma	Willard
3NT	4♥	INT	Pass
Dble	All Pass	Pass	Pass

On this board, Cronier took a chance against the no-trump game by bidding Four Hearts, which turned out to be costly when his Chinese opponents made sure to charge for it by doubling. Ma started with the king of clubs, a second round was played to West's ace. Then came the



Philippe Cronier

king of spades and a heart to the ten. Ma now played back a spade to the ace and Wang returned a low diamond. Cronier ruffed, ruffed a spade in dummy and took a second diamond ruff. Three rounds of trumps followed and the queen of spades. Ma was down to the two-card ending holding the ace of diamonds and the queen of clubs.

Perhaps she was tired, discarding the queen of clubs instead of the diamond ace although declarer had already ruffed diamonds twice. Cronier scored his jack of clubs at the last trick, but plus 500 was a great score for East-West, giving the Chinese pair 50 matchpoints. As you can see, 3NT does not make against competent defense.

Board 24. Dealer West. None Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Asbi	Tobing	Bojoh	Tueje
Pass	INT	Pass	2♣
2♦	Pass	Pass	Dble
Pass	2♠	Pass	4♠
All Pass			

When dummy arrived Tobing was probably sorry for not gambling making a business pass over his partner's take-out double. Two Diamonds doubled could easily have cost 800. Bojoh led the four of diamonds, Tobing called for the ace from dummy and continued with a low diamond towards the queen. West won with the king and could see partner discarding the three of hearts, showing something in the suit.

After fingering the jack of clubs and his low club, Asbi decided to follow his partner's signal and returned the queen of hearts, which held the trick. When the jack arrived next, declarer won with the ace. From there on it was a walk in the park, three rounds of trumps, heart ruff, queen of diamonds and pitching a club from dummy, cash out the clubs and ruff the third round in dummy, claiming 11 tricks and 32 of the possible 52 match points. Plus 800 would have been a clear top!

It's interesting to note that the two pairs, both from Indonesia, are neighbors at home and regular teammates. When they want to play together, they don't even have to drive to get to a game with their friends, much less fly all the way from Indonesia to Sanya for the pleasure.

Championship Diary - 1

Herman De Wael, who is here as a Director, gave a ruling during the Mixed Pairs Semi-Final B.

Aiyuë Ma and Cheng Wang, the pair who were ruled against, did not agree and asked for a review. This took place at the end of the day and no change to the ruling was made. Saddened, the pair left the building. They had booked a flight home that same evening, intending to cancel it if they had made the A-final.

Herman checked the standings and saw that they had finished seventh, less than one matchpoint off the qualifying sixth spot. But it transpired that one more ruling was pending, and when it was finally decided, another score change had to be made.

Ma and Wang were now fifth, and qualified for the A-final, but would they receive the news before flying off to the mainland?

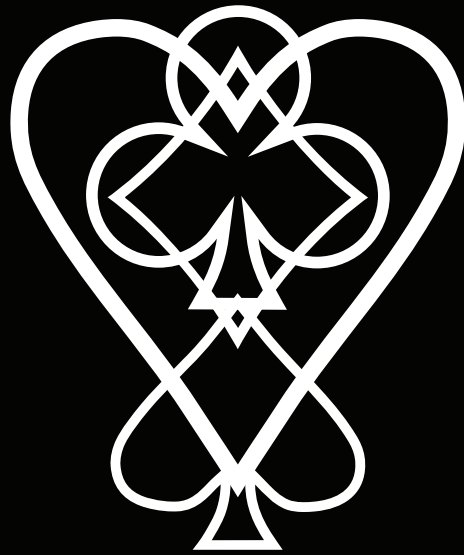
Luckily, one of the Chinese directors knew someone who knew someone, and they were told of their good fortune. They played the final on Thursday and Friday and finished in 47th position. 'It's wonderful to be allowed to play in such a great field' was their comment..



Mary Ma and Frank Wang with
Herman De Wael (middle)

JUNE 27TH - JULY 11TH

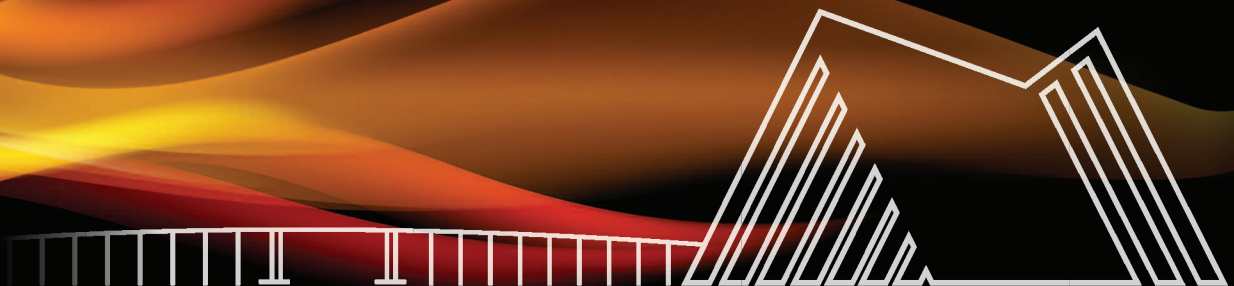
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House of Cards

By Mark Horton

House of Cards is a 1990 British political thriller television drama serial by the BBC, set after the end of Margaret Thatcher’s tenure as Prime Minister of the United Kingdom. The two subsequent episodes were To Play the King and The Final Cut, all three titles having obvious links to bridge.

Based on the three books written by Michael Dobbs, the series proved so popular that the author had to rewrite all three to bring them into line with the television series.

The drama introduced and popularised the phrase: ‘You might very well think that; I couldn’t possibly comment.’ It was used by the main character, Francis Urquhart whenever he could not be seen to agree with a question, with the emphasis on either the ‘I’ or the ‘possibly’ depending on the situation. The phrase was even quoted in the House of Commons following the series.

Urquhart’s policy is to eliminate anyone who stands in the way of his political ambitions and he is utterly ruthless in that regard.

You might argue that to succeed in one of the toughest of the bridge disciplines, match pointed pairs, one must be totally ruthless.

Here are a few deals from Session 6 of the Red Bull World Series Mixed Pairs Championship:

Board 2. Dealer East. NS Vul.

♠ Q 9 7 3
♥ A 8 4
♦ 6 5 3
♣ 9 8 3

♠ A 6 2
♥ K 10 9 5
♦ A Q 9 8
♣ 7 5

N
W E
S

♠ K 10 5 4
♥ 6 2
♦ J 10 7 4 2
♣ A 4

♠ J 8
♥ Q J 7 3
♦ K
♣ K Q J 10 6 2

West	North	East	South
Bertheau	Weinstein	Larsson	Bjerkan
		Pass	1♣
Dble	Pass	1♠	2♣
Pass	Pass	2♦	Pass
Pass	3♣	3♦	All Pass

When West doubled, East made a typical match point orientated response and then introduced her diamonds on the next round.

Micke Melander was watching at the table and his report will give all the byplay.

I’ll confine my observations to dealing with the inevitable question, ‘Why didn’t West bid Three Spades over Three

Diamonds?’
Well, you might very well think that; I couldn’t possibly comment.

Declarer was not tested in the play, recording +130 collecting 32 of the 52 match points that were available.

If West had bid Three Spades I suspect East would have made it by winning the club lead, playing a diamond, cashing the ace of spades and ducking a spade to South’s jack. Two pairs recorded +140 for 45/07 matchpoints.

Board 3. Dealer South. EW Vul.

♠ K 6 3
♥ J 10 9 3
♦ K 9 4
♣ K J 4

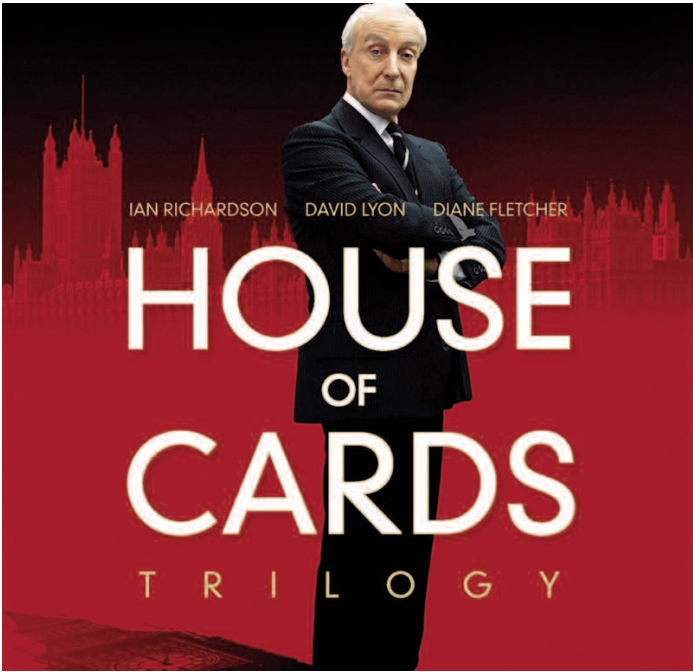
♠ Q J 10 9
♥ 6 5
♦ J 8 7 5 3
♣ 7 6

N
W E
S

♠ A 8 5 4 2
♥ 8 7
♦ A Q 10 6 2
♣ 10

♠ 7
♥ A K Q 4 2
♦ —
♣ A Q 9 8 5 3 2

West	North	East	South
Senensky	Gan	Shnier	He
			1♥
Pass	3♦*	Dble	4♣
Pass	4♦	Pass	5♣
Pass	5♥	Pass	6♥
All Pass			





Victoria Gromova

Only five pairs failed to bid a slam on this deal. When West led the queen of spades the trick that earned was worth 33/19 for EW.

I can't help but feel that it was poetic justice, for if South had opened One Club then North would have responded One Heart, leaving East to guess which ace to lead against a slam.

Allowing the overtrick would have changed things completely, giving NS 37/15.

Two pairs recorded +1770 (7♥ doubled).

Board 4. Dealer West. All Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Senensky	Gan	Shnier	He
Pass	1♣	1♦	Dble*
2♦	Pass	3♦	All Pass

East's initial overcall was impeccable, but on the next round the preemptive raise put EW too high. Declarer lost six tricks, and -200 was duplicated only once, leaving EW with a solitary match point.

Board 5. Dealer North. NS Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Gromov	Pszczola	Gromova	Wortel
	Pass	1♥	INT
2♥	Dble*	Pass	2NT
All Pass			
	Dble Takeout		

West led the jack of hearts and declarer won with the queen and played on diamonds, East winning the third round with the ace. The heart return was ducked to West's jack and declarer won the next heart, crossed to dummy with a diamond and played a spade. The appearance of East's queen meant that nine tricks were in the bag, +150, which was worth 36/16.

If South had jumped to 3NT (all the people I consulted selected that bid, expecting partner to have a little more for his double) she would have improved her side's score to 47/5.



Xinli Gan and Xinmei He

ITALIA team

By Francesca Canali

The Italian Bridge Federation announced the Trials this year. The winners, Team Angelini, formed the Italian National Team for the last European Teams Championships; the runners-up, Team Gerli, travel, accommodation and entry fees for the World Bridge Series Open Teams. That's how six "next door" players were transformed into six "Blue Team" players.

As everybody knows, under the name "ITALIA" some of the best champions ever have played. The members of the ITALIA team here may not be bridge shining stars but are no less brilliant.



Francesco Murgia, Matteo Baldi, Gianni Patelli, Pierfrancesco Parolaro, Nicola Del Buono, Aldo Gerli

Aldo Gerli

34 years old, Padova, Nicola Del Buono's partner

It's tough to say what was Aldo's best conquest this year. And if it seems impossible to you that winning the Blue Team's shirt and the travel to a tropical island is not enough, you are definitely going to change your mind: in June Aldo became father of his first born, Alessandro.



Aldo graduated in law and is now finishing his apprenticeship in a notarial company. Bridge wise there was a problem for him:

"In order to be able to attend the Trials, I had to tell my notary that I was sick at home. Once I won, I was very worried: the news would have been published on the Internet, Facebook and so on, and my notary would have discovered my lie! Anyway I did not care, I was too happy!"

And the right attitude (?) definitely helped him:

"Some days later I had a job interview in another notarial company. The new notary told me: You conquered a place in the National team? You are definitely a winner. In the new office I am happier from all points of view."

Nicola Del Buono

46 years old, Milan, Aldo Gerli's partner



"Nicola Del Buono? That's impossible, he stopped playing many years ago."

That's what bridge players in their fifties said when they asked me who was Aldo going to play with; even if Nicola's name was in black and white in the list of the teams that had registered for the Trials, everybody was incredulous.

After partnering Benito "the living legend" Garozzo for some years, Nicola retired from Bridge competitions. The reason? "I became father of two children. Both my wife and I have important working positions. Making babies is a matter of two persons and responsibilities must be shared as well."

The experience with Benito was very important for Nicola. Obviously from a technical point of view, "with Benito I discovered a new world, he taught me about the philosophy of Bridge," but also from the human side

“Benito is pure passion. I remember about a match we played versus Balicki-Zmudzinski, who in my opinion are among the strongest players in the world. We won by a wide margin. Benito was so happy that despite being over 70 he was so excited that he kept jumping like a boy for the joy.”

“Nicola Del Buono? Who, the super-cool one?” I swear that I also heard about this comment, but let’s not deepen the issue in order not to bother... The captain of the ITALIA team. In fact, the npc will be Nicola’s wife, Valeria. “That was Aldo’s idea. After all, as a notary, he takes decisions about everything and everybody!”

Matteo Baldi

38 years old, Turin, Francesco Murgia’s partner



Computer scientist and very fond about sport, especially surfing (he has been practicing it for about 20 years now) and climbing. But, in these times, probably Matteo Baldi’s most extreme activity is working as an entrepreneur in the Eurozone. His father is Gianni Baldi, the professor (“il professore”), who puts his program knowledge at the service of bridge since the Eighties.

Benito Garozzo was instrumental also in Matteo’s case: “At 19, I wanted to start surfing, so I decided to go with my father in Bali, because he had to help the WBF in the world junior championships. At first I indeed tried surfing, but that was not easy. After some days I was very aching and tired, so I decided to have some rest in the rama theatre. There I met Benito, who was coaching the Italian junior National Team. He had the patience to teach me about Bridge. With such a teacher who wouldn’t have fallen in love with the game?”

Matteo’s company is dealing with IT and formation, and is very important in his area. Matteo’s biggest satisfaction is that their customers are very satisfied, but forget about the shark-entrepreneur’s cliché: one step aside from Sanya’s ticket, during the Semifinal of the Trials, with very few IMPs between the two teams, Matteo’s opponent did a revoke, which would have been the trick to defeat his contract. Without hesitation Matteo told him to change his card.

Pierfrancesco Parolaro

61 years old, Lecco, Gianni Patelli’s partner

What I definitely like best about this team is that all six are rightly very proud of themselves, even if they are aware of their limits. “Are you asking if we deserved this success? Yes we did, because we played better than almost all the other teams. We played at our best, and I also dare

to say that we all were humble and determined” said

Pierfrancesco, adding that a little extra support may have helped:

“When we bid a slam with two diamonds losers and our opponents did not cash them, I started to believe that maybe we had a supporter up above.”

The business manager for a mineral company started playing bridge at the bar during his high school years. Now he claims to be “very excited and extremely proud to represent my Country”. A little contradiction, but only apparent: “I don’t agree with Trials, because I think that in Italy there are only very few players gifted with excellent Bridge skills and able to provide top level play.”

Francesco Murgia

58 years old, Turin, Matteo Baldi’s partner

“I think that for Mr. Francesco life is nothing but the boring obstacle between him and the green felt.”

This is what Francesco Murgia’s business partner writes in his book’s chapter dedicated to him. In Turin, the two of them run a disc shop, that is also a benchmark for independent music in Italy.

The author of the book, Maurizio Blatto, is not a bridge player. He adds: “Listening to Francesco’s bridge conversations at the phone is a strange experience. The lexicon is somewhat between Russian submarines’ secret codes and porn subtexts. Some examples: ‘the small one shows appreciation, the high one resists.’ ‘I made a very hard one’ ‘I opened with mildew’”.

For Francesco, who is thus very fond of music, the soundtrack of this Championship is “China Girl” by David Bowie”.

Gianni Patelli

65 years old, from Brescia, Pierfrancesco Parolaro’s partner

Winning the travel, the accomodation and the entry fee was good for Gianni of course, but what was best for him was defeating team Cesati in the Trials’ semifinal. “In an interview they claimed that they would easily defeat us. Here we are,” Gianni winks. The business agent is very fond of Kenya.



Eye of the tiger

By Micke Melander

Almost all of us have probably at some point over the years seen some of the Rocky movies, which were first released in 1976. In these movies the boxer Rocky Balboa always seemed to find the power to get up again to make a comeback and win, even though he was counted out to nine in the ring.

In 1982 Rocky III arrived in the movie theaters with the theme song "Eye of the Tiger", produced by the American rock band "Survivor". Peter Bertheau and Jessica Larsson were counted out to nine, and risked not making the A-final in the Mixed pairs unless they had an extraordinary finish to secure their final place in the last qualification round. They could thus easily be put into the shoes of Rocky.

Board 20. Dealer West. All Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
	Bertheau		Larsson
2♣	Pass	2♦	Pass
2♥	Pass	3♦	Pass
3NT	Dble	Pass	Pass
4♣	Dble	4♦	Dble
All Pass			

Knowing their position, Peter Bertheau made a real tiger double over 3NT, aware that not much was going to be well placed for declarer who had shown hearts and clubs, exactly the suits Rocky, (sorry Peter!), had behind him. However he only had no spot cards, and if West had dared to trust partner's pass and just follow that line he would have had an easy nine or even ten tricks in that game. West fled to Four Clubs which Bertheau again doubled, not knowing that also this would have been an easy contract to declare with more or less ten cold tricks, since Bertheau's clubs were so poor. East appeared on the scene with another diamond bid, and now they were in deep water. Four Diamonds doubled was passed out, and eventually went two down for a fantastic score of 113.92 of the 118 match points. This secured the Swedish Pair their spot in the final of the Mixed Pairs.

After the first day of the final Bertheau-Larsson had slowly climbed the ladder to go to sleep just 0.19% behind the leading Chinese pair Wang-Zhang and being second with more than 2.5% down to third place.

Friday morning offered the following show when they played Weinstein-Bjerkan.

Board 1. Dealer North. None Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Bertheau	Weinstein	Larsson	Bjerkan
	Pass	1♥	Pass
INT	Pass	2♣*	Pass
2♦*	Pass	2♠	Pass
2NT	Pass	3NT	All Pass



Cheri Bjerkan

Two Clubs was Gazilli style and Two Diamonds forcing to game if partner was strong. Then Two Spades showed that Larsson held a 16+ hand with at least 4-5 in the majors. In 3NT Weinstein led the two of clubs which went to the nine, king and Bertheau's ace. After studying his declaring problem for a while he produced the six of clubs on the table and at the same time putting his head down under the screen saying "just to say good morning" with a giggling smile to Howard Weinstein.

Weinstein eventually ducked, Bertheau set up his long suit and could claim eleven tricks when the jack-ten of spades fell under the ace-king-queen to set up the nine of spades as the last trick for declarer.

460 scored 34 of the 52 match points for E-W

Board 2. Dealer East. N-S Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Bertheau	Weinstein	Larsson	Bjerkan
		Pass	1♣
Dble	Pass	1♠	2♣
Pass	Pass	2♦	Pass
Pass	3♣	3♦	All Pass

Bjerkan led the king of clubs, ducked by Larsson. Another club followed, and declarer now won in hand to fire out the jack of diamonds, which went to the king, ace and the three from North. Another diamond followed to the ten on which South discarded a club. Larsson now played a heart to dummy's nine and when South followed low she had managed to play hearts with only one loser! Ten tricks after losing a trick to a club, a heart and a spade paid the Swedes 32 of the 52 match points this time.



14TH Red Bull
WORLD BRIDGE SERIES

Championship Diary - 2

Mr Knut Brinchmann, the General Secretary of the Norwegian Federation visited the 14th Red Bull World Bridge Series in Sanya to present Tromsø, the site of next year's European Open Championship (27 June to 11 July 2015). He told us that he has agreed with the Federations of Denmark, England, France, Germany, Poland and Sweden to conduct a draw at the end of their National Championships. The winners will receive a return flight ticket to Tromsø.

When one staff member mentioned they had been suffering a certain amount of intestinal discomfort during the night a wag suggested that we try and slip an intentional mistake past the proof readers by using the title *Championship Diarrhea*.

On hearing that he had again been overlooked by the IBPA's Annual Awards Committee one of the Editors consoled himself with the thought that at least he had now equalled the record held by the late Peter O'Toole who holds the record for receiving the most Oscar nominations (8) without ever winning one.

We can recommend Changyu, Cabernet Sauvignon Dry Red Wine (the vintage appears to be in Chinese) which should be available in any of the local supermarkets.

Running scores in the Mixed Pairs Final were not available on our computers, although they were displayed on the monitors on the floor below our office. No problem then, as the Editor completed his 51st marathon by running up and down the stairs to collect them after each pair of boards.

Beware the tricky Opening Lead

By Barry Rigal

We are not at the end, not even at the beginning of the end, but perhaps at the end of the beginning. With 30 deals to go and Bertheau-Larsson tied up with Zhao-Sanborn, I went to watch an outside chance for a medal, Auken-Welland. They did not disappoint, and one of the hands saw them at their most dangerous best.



Andrej Gromov

Board 1. Dealer West. None Vul.

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



West	North	East	South
	Welland		Auken
2♠	Pass	4♠	All Pass

At most tables North made the natural lead of his top diamond and declarer could win and draw trumps, then lead a second diamond up. A heart loser would inevitably depart on the minor-suit winners in dummy.

Welland as North had different ideas, selecting as his opening salvo (well he would, wouldn't he?) the obvious ♦4. Auken won her nine, and continued diamonds to Welland's king and dummy's ace. Now when declarer led a club to the queen, Welland won and returned a club. Declarer rose

with the king and drew trumps then had a choice between the double-finesse in hearts (no joy there) or trying to establish a discard for the hearts by running the jack of diamonds from dummy to pin the ten. No luck there either, and though West could have emerged with two overtricks on some good guesswork, one can hardly blame him for finishing with ten tricks and a round zero.

The Gromovs were still in contention, but this board saw a missed opportunity for them

Board 27. Dealer South. None Vul.

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



West	North	East	South
Chagas	Gromov	Pain	Gromova
Pass	1♦	Pass	Pass
1♠	Pass	INT	All Pass

Victoria Gromova stole her opponents best fit but the nebulous diamond stopped her from finding her side's best spot. She led a diamond to the queen and king, and Leda Pain drove out the heart ace, North discarding an encouraging diamond at trick three. Now the defenders cashed out the diamonds, declarer discarding two spades from dummy and a club from hand. When Gromova shifted to a low spade rather than the jack or nine, Pain seized her chance by ducking. Gromov won the ten and shifted to a club, but Pain finessed, rose with the ♠A on the spade return, then cashed her winners for a show-up squeeze on North for +90. While absolute par here is 3♦x down one for 100 to E/W +90 was a very respectable score.

Championship cards

The cards played at the championships are sold for EUR 100/200 decks.

Note that orders must be placed during the championships while delivery will be from Europe AFTER the event.

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Board 30. Dealer East. None Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
	Welland		Auken
		1♠	3♦
Pass	3♠	Pass	4♣*
Pass	4♥*	Pass	4♠*
Pass	6♦	All Pass	

4♣ Last train

When West stayed out of the bidding Welland made what was initially a game try, and Auken cooperated with a last-train 4♣ call. Now after a 4♥ cuebid Auken could bid 4♠ and Welland jumped to slam. +920 was virtually all the marbles.

IBPA General Meeting and awards



Monday morning, 20th October.

In the WBF Meeting Room (directions below) at the MGM Grand

AGM starts 9 a.m. All members please be prompt

Awards at 9.30 a.m. to 9.50 a.m.

All free to play at 10 a.m.

Meeting finishes by 10.30 a.m. Those on the press trip leave at 10.45 a.m.

Directions to WBF meeting room

From the MGM Grand Playing Area go past Registration (on your left) and "comfy chairs" (on your right) up the escalator towards Reception but at the top turn RIGHT past the shops, Breakfast Room (Haitang Restaurant), circular table presentation, through the double doors to the office area. The offices are Press Room, Bulletin Room, WBF Secretary's room, and then round the corner to the left is the WBF Meeting Room.

World Championship Book 2014

The official book of these championships will be available around April next year. With analysis from our regular team of writers – John Carruthers, Barry Rigal, Brian Senior and Geo Tislevoll, it will again be in the full colour format first used for the 2013 edition and will comprise at least 336 large pages. There will be a full results listing, many photographs, and all the best of the action.

On publication, the official retail price will be US\$35-00. For the same price, you can pre-order while at these championships and have the book sent to you post free as soon as it is available.

In previous years the discount for buying at the championships has been greater. I should explain that the reason why I can no longer afford to be quite so generous is that it now costs something like US\$14 to send a single copy from England to anywhere else in the world (surface mail).

You can place your pre-order with Jan Swaan in the Press Room one floor up from the playing area in the MGM Grand. You may pay:

US\$35-00, 200 Chinese Yuan, £20-00 British pounds, or 25 Euros.



Bumps in the road

By Brent Manley

In the Mixed Pairs Final A, Peter Bertheau and Jessica Larsson of Sweden started the day just barely out of first place. By the end of the day's second session, they were at the top, thanks to their final round, against Zia Mahmood and Marion Michielsens.

A few missteps in the third of five sessions dropped the Swedes back to second behind Kerri Sanborn and Jie Zhao, but they were still in contention along with several other pairs with two rounds to go (20 boards).

This was the round against Zia and Michielsens.

Board 19. Dealer South. E/W Vul.

	♠ J 8 6		
	♥ 10 6 4		
	♦ K 5 4		
	♣ K 10 9 3		
♠ 9 7	<div>♠ N ♥ W E ♦ S</div>	♠ A K 3 2	
♥ A K Q 8		♥ 9	
♦ A 8 6 3		♦ J 9 7 2	
♣ Q 8 7		♣ A J 6 5	
	♠ Q 10 5 4		
	♥ J 7 5 3 2		
	♦ Q 10		
	♣ 4 2		
West	North	East	South
<i>Zia</i>	<i>Bertheau</i>	<i>Michielsens</i>	<i>Larsson</i>
			Pass
INT	Pass	2♣	Pass
2♥	Pass	3NT	All Pass

Bertheau avoided the club lead that would have made 10 tricks for Zia trivial, but he didn't find the spade lead, which would have held declarer to nine tricks. Fortunately for the Swedes, Zia didn't realize that after Bertheau led the ♥4, covered by the 9, jack and ace, that he now had four heart tricks.

At trick two, Zia led a low diamond, ducking to Larsson's 10 when Bertheau layed low. She thought for a time and returned a heart. Zia won and played a club to the ace, eschewing the finesse, and played a diamond up, taking Larsson's queen with the ace and played a third round of the suit. Zia won the spade exit with the ace and played a club to the queen.

Zia ended up with two spades, three hearts, two clubs and two diamonds for plus 600. Not giving up the overtrick helped the Swedes to an 82.69% score. The next board, the last of the set, was even better for them.



Board 20. Dealer West. Both Vul.

	♠ K J 7 3 2		
	♥ J 8 6		
	♦ K J		
	♣ A K 9		
♠ 5 4	<div>♠ N ♥ W E ♦ S</div>	♠ A 9 8	
♥ A K 10		♥ 4 3 2	
♦ A Q 8 7		♦ 9 6 5 4	
♣ Q 8 6 5		♣ J 10 7	
	♠ Q 10 6		
	♥ Q 9 7 5		
	♦ 10 3 2		
	♣ 4 3 2		
West	North	East	South
Zia	Bertheau	Michielsens	Larsen
INT	Dble	Pass	Pass
Rdbl	All Pass		

Bertheau's double showed strength. Zia meant his redouble as asking for help. Michielsens knew her side had at least half of the high-card points, so she reasonably thought her hand might be good enough to help her partner to seven tricks. If Zia rather than Bertheau had held the ♥J, Zia would have scored up INT redoubled instead of going down.

Larsson showed what a good partner she is by holding two honors in spades, the suit Bertheau led against the redoubled contract. North-South could not be prevented from taking seven tricks for plus 400 and 94.23% of the matchpoints.

Things started well for the Swedes in the third set of 10 boards. They scored 84.62% on the first board for making 10 tricks in 4♠ and about average on the second board. Round two did not bring good news for Bertheau and Larsson.

Board 23. Dealer South. Both Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
	Bertheau		Larsson
1♦	1♠	Pass	Pass
2♣	Pass	2♦	Pass
Pass	Dble	All Pass	

Had Larsson pulled the double to 2♥ or 2♠, North-South would have had a chance for a plus. Despite the bad trump split, declarer was not troubled to make 2♦ doubled with an overtrick. The opening heart lead went to the king and ace. Declarer played his singleton spade at trick two. Bertheau went in with the ♠A, cashed the ♥Q and played a third heart. Declarer ruffed and played the ♣K, taken by Bertheau with the ace. He continued with a spade to dummy's king, declarer discarding a club. He then ruffed a club, reducing Larsson to all trumps. She ruffed her ace on the spade from dummy and undertricked when declarer ruffed a club with dummy's queen. Declarer gave up a club at the end but had an overtrick for plus 380 and nearly 89% of the matchpoints.

This board from the next round was also a disappointment.

Board 25. Dealer North. E/W Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
	Bertheau		Larsson
	1♦	Pass	1♠
Pass	2♦	Pass	3♠
Pass	4♠	Pass	4NT
Pass	5♥	Dbel	Pass
Pass	Rdbl	Pass	5♠
All Pass			

Did redouble show the ♥A? Should it? Perhaps Bertheau should have bid 6♠ himself. It seems logical that Larsson's pass of the double of 5♥ indicated some further interest in slam but a problem in hearts. In any case, the wires appeared to have been crossed and the slam was missed.

Larsson claimed after winning the heart opening lead, conceding a heart. Plus 480 was worth only 13.46%.

The boards weren't all bad. Bertheau and Larsson earned a good score for their accurate defense on the following deal.

Board 29. Dealer North. Both Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
	Bertheau		Larsson
1♠	1♣	1♦	1♥
Dble	2♥	Pass	Pass
All Pass	Pass	2♠	3♥

Bertheau started with the ♦A and continued with the ♦Q when Larsson signaled encouragement. At trick three, Bertheau shifted to the ♣10. Declarer played low and Larsson again signaled encouragement with the 3. Declarer played a spade to dummy's ace and ran the ♥10. Bertheau took the ♥K and continued with his second club, taking the ruff when Larsson won the ace and returned the suit. Plus 100 gave them 71.15% on the board.

They scored a near top on the final board when the opponents played in 5♦ undoubled for plus 440 (Bertheau led his partner's suit and a club trick went away) when other pairs were in slam or were doubled in lower diamond contracts.

It was a good finish for a disappointing 48.62% session.



Jessica Larsson

In the Zone

By Micke Melander

Being in the zone and receiving some easy points here and there is often one of the main keys when winning in bridge. We have all had the feeling that it almost doesn't matter what we do, it will still be good. Sanborn-Zhao, the gold medalists in the 2014 years edition of the World Mixed Pairs were surely in that mood in the last session of the Mixed Pairs final, scoring a fantastic 68.89%.

Board 13. Dealer North. All Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Bertheau	Wang	Larsson	Liu
	Pass	Pass	1♦
1♥	3♦	Pass	Pass
Dble	All Pass		

Larsson had to flip a coin, should she stick out her partner's take-out double, or bid a number of spades? If bidding spades, should it be three or four? Where was the possibly biggest income on the board for E/W? After being in the zone, Bertheau-Larsson slowly started to get out of it. With 30 boards to play they were first in the standings,



Peter Bertheau

but the moment had passed and they slowly dropped down the ladder. Larsson decided to pass the double and Bertheau led a spade into declarer's tenace. Declarer then ruffed a spade in dummy and took a successful finesse in diamonds which revealed the split in trumps. When the story of trumps was told, declarer just safety played the board for ten tricks, losing a heart, a club and a trump. 870 was a great score.

By comparison, Sanborn and Zhao were defending 3♠ undoubled from the East seat, which had eight winners, and would have yielded them a paltry 10 MPs....except for the fact that Sanborn was allowed to score all her trumps when she got to ruff a second heart (despite the fact that declarer had two higher trumps than she, at the point that she discarded a loser). That meant 28 MP instead of 10 for the eventual winners.

Board 15. Dealer South. All Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Bertheau	Zhao	Larsson	Sanborn
			Pass
Pass	1♣	Pass	1♠
2♦	Pass	Pass	2♥
Pass	2♠	All Pass	

Peter Bertheau led his ace of diamonds and carefully examined the dummy when it arrived. He knew that partner had two cards in the suit when she had followed with the eight and declarer with the six - when playing upside down count and attitude. He finally went for the aggressive and gambling defense by shifting to the king of clubs; Sanborn won with the ace, cleared trumps, gave away a trick to the king of diamonds and could then claim her tricks. Five trumps, two clubs and a diamond was enough to make her contract. An easy 46/6 matchpoints for the gold medal winners. If Bertheau had played a deceptive high diamond at trick two, might Larsson have won her ♦K and shifted to a low club, to give declarer a losing option she might well have taken? -100 was worth only 14 MP for N/S here.

Board 16. Dealer West. E-W Vul.

♠ J 5	♠ K 8 6 4	♠ 10 9 7 2
♥ J 9 7 4 2	♥ A 10 5	♥ 8
♦ 9 8 5	♦ A J 7 4 3	♦ Q 10 6 2
♣ 9 8 4	♣ K	♣ Q 7 6 5
	<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; align-items: center;"> <div style="text-align: center;">N</div> <div style="text-align: center;">E</div> </div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; align-items: center;"> <div style="text-align: center;">W</div> <div style="text-align: center;">S</div> </div>	
	♠ A Q 3	
	♥ K Q 6 3	
	♦ K	
	♣ A J 10 3 2	

West	North	East	South
Bertheau	Zhao	Larsson	Sanborn
Pass	1♦	Pass	2♣
Pass	2♦	Pass	2♥
Pass	2♠	Pass	2NT
Pass	3NT	Pass	4NT
Pass	6NT	Pass	Pass
Pass			

A simple and constructive bidding quickly took the winners to the excellent slam without too much difficulty but that's how it is to be in the flow. Bertheau lead the five of diamonds, which went to the three, two and declarer's king. Sanborn now played a club to the king, a heart to the king, and cashed the ace of clubs, noticing that all followed. She then exited with the jack of clubs giving away a trick to the queen – and when everyone followed suit she could claim her twelve tricks quickly. Sanborn-Zhao had made sure to eliminate two of their contenders with minutes to spare on the round by scoring 34/18.

Championship cards

The cards played at the championships are sold for EUR 100/200 decks.

Note that orders must be placed during the championships while delivery will be from Europe AFTER the event.

Please see (or email) per@jannersten.com to order or get more info.

The Duplimates used for the duplication here in Sanya are sold for Eur 1999.

For more information see

www.jannersten.com/newsletters/Sanya_specials.pdf or Per Jannersten.

7.2 Mobile Phones and Electronic Devices

Mobile phones and electronic devices may not be taken into the playing area and toilets.

WBF General Conditions of Contest © 2014 Page 13

Any player, captain or coach bringing a mobile phone and or electronic device into the playing area and toilets will cause his team to be fined 2 VPs, (or 6 IMPs in a knockout match) or, in the case of pairs events, will result in his partnership being fined 25% of the matchpoints available on a board during the session, plus in all cases, a monetary fine, the amount of which will be announced to the participants before the start of the event. This penalty is mandatory. Failure to pay the fine will result in the player being prohibited from playing.



The Head Tournament Director may, at his discretion, prohibit a player from bringing other equipment into the playing area.

Anyone entering the playing area may be required to comply with procedures put in place by the WBF for the detection of such electronic equipment.

See also Section 27.2 for restrictions pertaining to spectators.

The Head Tournament Director will arrange for random checks of players, captains and coaches to ensure that there is compliance with these prohibitions. Refusal to submit to these checks will bar the individual concerned from entry to the playing area and toilet area, and from remaining there.

Refusal to submit to these checks will result in the individual being barred from the playing area and toilet area for the duration of the match or until such time as the Head Tournament Director, in consultation with the Championship Committee, shall decide.

Kerri and Jack in Sanya

By Barry Rigal

Before the final two deals of the mixed pairs finals, I got a chance to talk to Kerri Sanborn and Jack Zhao, to ask them how the partnership had gotten together, and for any other thoughts.



Mixed Pairs winners Frank Zhao and Kerri Sanborn

Kerri said that Jack was the nicest mixed partner she had ever played with. They had first played in Mike Becker’s cut-around game in Florida and had identified they had a similar approach to the game.

Kerri is famous for wanting to keep things simple but she said Jack had some excellent bidding wrinkles which they had added on to a basic framework and that they had largely avoided misunderstandings in the auction. Jack said that in case anyone was in doubt, Kerri had assumed the male role in the partnership!

Here is Jack at work.

Board 19. Dealer South. E/W Vul.

<div><div><div>♠ J 8 6</div><div>♥ 10 6 4</div><div>♦ K 5 4</div><div>♣ K 10 9 3</div></div><div><div>♠ 9 7</div><div>♥ A K Q 8</div><div>♦ A 8 6 3</div><div>♣ Q 8 7</div></div><div><div>N</div><div>W</div><div>E</div><div>S</div></div><div><div>♠ A K 3 2</div><div>♥ 9</div><div>♦ J 9 7 2</div><div>♣ A J 6 5</div></div></div>			
<div><div><div>♠ Q 10 5 4</div><div>♥ J 7 5 3 2</div><div>♦ Q 10</div><div>♣ 4 2</div></div></div>			
West	North	East	South
	Zhao		Sanborn
			Pass
INT	Pass	2♣	Pass
2♥	Pass	3NT	All Pass

We had seen Bertheau-Larsson defending 3NT and holding it to nine tricks earlier. Zhao was favored with a club lead and ran it to his hand to advance a low diamond. When North fell from grace and put up the king, declarer was in excellent shape. He won the spade shift, advanced the diamond jack, covered all round, took the club finesse, then cashed off the diamond nine and the three top hearts to reach this ending:

♠ 9	♠ J 8	♠ A 3 2
♥ A K Q 8	♥ 10 6	♥ 9
♦ —	♦ —	♦ —
♣ 7	♣ 10 9	♣ J 6
	<div><div>N</div><div>W</div><div>E</div><div>S</div></div>	
	♠ Q 10	
	♥ J 7 5 3	
	♦ —	
	♣ —	

The club jack squeezed a spade out of South, and three rounds of hearts then caught North in a non-simultaneous double squeeze since he had sole guard of both black suits.

They went into the last ten deals with a decent lead, but had to play a series of the leading pairs in that period. Having disposed of Bertheau-Larsson, they came up against Gromov-Gromova.

Board 17. Dealer North. None Vul.

<div><div><div>♠ 9 4</div><div>♥ K 10 7 3</div><div>♦ A Q 5 4 2</div><div>♣ 8 3</div></div><div><div>♠ 6</div><div>♥ 8 6 5 4</div><div>♦ 6 3</div><div>♣ Q 9 7 5 4 2</div></div><div><div>N</div><div>W</div><div>E</div><div>S</div></div><div><div>♠ K 8 7 5 3</div><div>♥ A Q J 9</div><div>♦ K 7</div><div>♣ A 6</div></div></div>			
<div><div><div>♠ A Q J 10 2</div><div>♥ 2</div><div>♦ J 10 9 8</div><div>♣ K J 10</div></div></div>			
West	North	East	South
Gromov	Zhao	Gromova	Sanborn
		1♣*	1♠
Pass	2♦	Pass	3♦
All Pass			
1♣	Clubs/balanced/18+		

Gromova picked a good moment to upgrade her hand into the strong variety of the Polish Club though it was certainly not unlucky that things worked out as they did. When Sanborn bid spades and Zhao bid diamonds, Gromova passed discreetly, and led the club ace then shifted to spades. Declarer finessed and took a diamond finesse, letting Gromova win and give her partner the spade ruff. At most of the tables where East had opened 1♠ and N/S played diamonds, declarer tackled trumps after a spade shift by playing ♦A and another, collecting +130 for 3IMP instead of +110 for 20 MP. Of course a fair few E/W pairs bought the hand in clubs or hearts, escaping for 50 or 100.

With two deals to go, Sanborn and Zhao were already sure of victory, but they did not take their foot off the accelerator.

Board 19. Dealer South. E/W Vul.

♠ J 3
♥ 9 8 7 3
♦ K Q 8
♣ K Q 8 4

♠ 5 2
♥ A Q 10 6 5 4
♦ J 3
♣ 7 5 3

♠ Q 6 4
♥ K 2
♦ 10 7 6 4 2
♣ A 6 2

♠ A K 10 9 8 7
♥ J
♦ A 9 5
♣ J 10 9

N
WSE
S

West	North	East	South
Cichocki	Zhao	Hocheker	Sanborn
Pass	INT	Pass	1♠
Pass	3♠	Pass	2♠
All Pass			4♠

In a top standard event you'd expect the field to play 4♠, making +450, but you wouldn't be surprised to see a few pairs fall by the wayside? In fact only 12 pairs out of 27 bid to 4♠ and three of them held themselves to ten tricks. So +450 was worth a remarkable 40/52 for N/S.

It didn't get any better for Cichocki-Hocheker:

Board 20. Dealer West. Both Vul.

♠ A 10 9 8
♥ 9 5 4
♦ Q 8 2
♣ A 7 4

♠ J 6
♥ K J 2
♦ K 9 7 5
♣ Q J 10 3

♠ K Q 7 5 3 2
♥ A 8 7
♦ J 4
♣ 8 5

♠ 4
♥ Q 10 6 3
♦ A 10 6 3
♣ K 9 6 2

N
WSE
S

West	North	East	South
Cichocki	Zhao	Hocheker	Sanborn
1♣	Pass	1♠	Pass
INT	Pass	4♠	All Pass

It is rarely a good idea for both halves of a partnership to throw caution to the wind. On this occasion Cichocki's standards for an opening bid were clearly not in accord with Hocheker, whose decision to jump to game rather than to invite could best be described as sporting. The good news was that the critical red-suit honors were both onside, the bad news was that trumps did not behave and -200 was the inevitable result. That meant 49/52MP, just enough to get Sanborn/Zhao over the magic 60% threshold, and for a win by nearly four tops.



The happy winners after the final board.

A flying start

By Micke Melander

After finishing off the Mixed Pairs yesterday we are back on track with the teams, now competing for the Rosenblum, McConnell and Rand Cups. Some very expensive actions by the players from team Weinstein paid out 28 IMPs on only two boards.

Board 20. Dealer West. All Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Hua	Chagas	Hu	Weinstein
2♠	Pass	Pass	1♣
All Pass			Dble

Chagas kicked off with the nine of clubs. Hua knew as declarer that all the spades were behind him, given the take-out double from South, and therefore read the situation correctly when he won with the ace to continue with a low heart towards the queen. Weinstein went up with the king and tried to give his partner a ruff in clubs. But when North followed suit, declarer won in dummy and cashed the ace and queen of hearts before playing a low trump to dummy's nine. Chagas could now not get more than two trump winners, giving declarer his eight tricks.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Demirev	Zhang	Ginossar	Liu
2♠	Pass	3NT	2♣
Pass	Dble	All Pass	Pass

Ginossar had loftier visions when his partner overcalled with Two Spades over the precision opening bid and jumped to 3NT. Zhang sitting behind West with all the spades doubled for business, knowing things weren't behaving at all for declarer and not being afraid at all that they might run to Four Spades.

Liu attacked with his longest and strongest – clubs. Ginossar won with the king and ran the nine of spades to

North's jack, who continued the attack of clubs. Being declarer couldn't have been much fun, since the defense had set up their clubs, the diamonds were wide open, the spades not behaving, and hearts could only produce one extra trick. Ginossar therefore exited with a low club hoping to get a gift from the defense which might reduce the catastrophe. Liu cashed his clubs and exited with a heart, which declarer won in dummy. Ginossar could make no more than two clubs, two hearts and a spade. Four down was 1100 for N/S and with the excellent score from the Open Room Shaoguan BA had an 18 IMP start in the match.

Board 6. Dealer East. E-W Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Hua	Chagas	Hu	Weinstein
Pass	2♣	Pass	INT
Pass	3NT	All Pass	2♠

Hua picked his longest and strongest and led a diamond. Declarer who needed a trick in hearts to get his ninth trick was helpless.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Demirev	Zhang	Ginossar	Liu
Pass	2♣	Pass	INT
Pass	3♣	Pass	2♠
All Pass			3NT

Demirev in the Closed Room unluckily led a heart instead of a diamond, which was enough for Liu to quickly bring in his nine tricks and collect 10 IMPs for the Chinese team. That was 28 IMPs on two boards in a match that finally ended 30-2 to Shaoguan BA, who had got a flying start in this year's edition of the Rosenblum Cup.

By Mark Horton

FROM THE DIRECTOR OF INDEPENDENCE DAY
A BOLLOO BAECKER FILM

THE DAY AFTER TOMORROW

STARRING KATE WINSLET, JOHNNY DEPP, PAUL DOOLEY, AND JEFF BRIDGES
MUSIC BY JAMES NEWTON HOWARD
CASTING BY JILL KATZ
COSTUME DESIGNER JILL KATZ
PRODUCTION DESIGNER JILL KATZ
EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS JILL KATZ, JILL KATZ
PRODUCED BY JILL KATZ
SCREENPLAY BY JILL KATZ
DIRECTED BY JILL KATZ

These deals come from the Round 2 match in the McConnell between POLLACK and CHINA RED. It has taken me so long to type them that their appearance in the Bulletin might well coincide with my title.

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

N

W E

S

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

Declarer eliminated the diamonds as at the other table, but lost a spade to West and a heart to East, +130 and 7 IMPs to China Red.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Pollack</i>	<i>Zhang</i>	<i>Bjerkan</i>	<i>Wu</i>
		1♠	Pass
2♦*	Pass	2♠	Pass
2NT	Pass	3NT	Pass
4NT	All Pass		
2♦	Game forcing		

North led the seven of clubs and declarer won with the queen, ran the queen of spades to South's king, finessed on the club return, won the third club and cashed her winners, +460.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Rang	Picus	Wang	Berkowitz
		1♠	Pass
2♦	Pass	2♠	Pass
2NT	Pass	3♦	Pass
3♥	Pass	3NT	Pass
4♦	Pass	4♠	Pass
4NT	Pass	5♥	Pass
5NT	Pass	6♦	All Pass

When I conferred with Barry Rigal he thought East might have done better to bid 3♠ over 3♥, and then 5♦ over 4♦.

On this layout even Five Diamonds would have been hopeless. Declarer lost two spades and a club, two down, -200 and 13 IMPs for Pollack.

Board 11. Dealer South. Love All.

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



Lisa Berkowitz

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Pollack	Zhang	Bjerkan	Wu
			INT
Dble*	2♥*	Pass	2♠
Pass	2NT	Pass	3♣
Pass	3♦	Pass	3♥
Pass	3♠	Pass	4♣*
Pass	4♦*	Pass	4♠
Pass	4NT*	Pass	5♣*
Pass	5♦	Pass	5♠
All Pass			

Dble DONT - a single suiter
 2♥ Transfer
 2NT Forcing
 4♣ Cue bid
 4♦ Cue bid
 4NT RKCB
 5♣ 0-3 key cards

I can't be certain about my interpretation of the bidding, but 5♠ was unbeatable, +450.

Well done if you reached 6♦ played by South (perhaps an Acoll pair might bid 1♦-1♠-INT-2♣*-3♠-4♦-4♥-4♠-5♣-6♦).

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Rang	Picus	Wang	Berkowitz
			INT
Pass	2♥*	Pass	2♠
Pass	3♦	Pass	4♠
Pass	5♥*	Dble	Rdbl*
Pass	5♠	Pass	6♦
Pass	6♠	All Pass	
2♥	Transfer		
5♥	Cue bid		
Rdbl	First round control		

Should North have passed 6♦, which would have made on a heart lead?



Sue Picus

With both North and South advertising a heart control I think East would have led a club.

West led the jack of hearts. Perhaps fortunately the play record is missing, declarer apparently finishing three down for -150 and 12 IMPs to China Red. Hard to see how that might happen - did declarer try for a dummy reversal? (which would work if spades were 2-3, but would also require diamonds to be 2-2 and that declarer finesse the nine on the first round of the suit.)

Board 13. Dealer North. All Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Pollack	Zhang	Bjerkkan	Wu
	1♥	Pass	2♥
Pass	3♣*	Pass	4♥
All Pass			
3♣	Game try		

East led the five of diamonds and declarer took West's ten with the king, drew trumps, played a diamond to the jack, cashed two diamonds pitching a spade and played a club, +680.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Rang	Picus	Wang	Berkowitz
	1♥	Pass	2♥
Pass	Pass	2♠	3♥
3♠	All Pass		

South led the five of hearts and North won with the king and returned the three of diamonds. South won with the jack, cashed the ace and played a diamond, North winning and playing the ace of hearts. Declarer ruffed with dummy's jack, played a spade to the ace and ran the nine of spades. She then ran the nine of clubs to North's king, one down, -100, but 11 IMPs to China Red.

I can't believe that any player from North America is unfamiliar with Meckstroth's Law - *if partner freely raises your six card major then bid game.*

Given a second chance North stood by her initial decision.

After 1♥-2♥ one of my colleagues said that given a choice of only one bid at this point he would bid 4♥. I confess I might do the same.

Providing services at the World Bridge Series



Left:

Hainan Industrial School Students are providing the services for BBO broadcasting. They are new to bridge, playing for about one year. Five of them have attended the National Middle School Students Bridge Championship.



Right

Staff from Sanya Contract Bridge Association, training volunteers from Hainan Industrial School.

Reversal of fortune

By Brent Manley

The Nick Nickell team started well in the Rosenblum Cup, winning their first match 23-1, but the second round brought a reversal of fortune. Nickell had only three modest gains in a 27-10 loss to Kasimirs Dreamteam, two players from Austria, two from Luxembourg. This was one of the pluses for Nickell.

Board 8. Dealer West-. None Vul.

♠ A Q 9	♠ 2	♠ K J 10 8 5
♥ 10 8 6 5	♥ A 9 3 2	♥ 7 4
♦ Q J 5 4	♦ 9 3	♦ 10 8 7
♣ Q 7	♣ K 8 6 4 3 2	♣ A 10 9
	<div style="display: flex; align-items: center; justify-content: center;"> <div style="background-color: green; color: white; padding: 5px; margin: 0 5px;">N</div> <div style="background-color: green; color: white; padding: 5px; margin: 0 5px;">W</div> <div style="background-color: green; color: white; padding: 5px; margin: 0 5px;">E</div> <div style="background-color: green; color: white; padding: 5px; margin: 0 5px;">S</div> </div>	
	♠ 7 6 4 3	
	♥ K Q J	
	♦ A K 6 2	
	♣ J 5	

West	North	East	South
Meckstroth	Kasimir	Rodwell	Jokisch
1♦	Pass	1♠	Pass
INT	2♣	2♠	All Pass

Peter Jokisch started with the ♥K, which won the trick. The ♥Q also held the trick. As you can see, North is due for a diamond ruff, and it seemed that was coming when Jokisch played the ♦K at trick three. The ruff vanished, however, when Jokisch played the ♣J next (queen, king ace), establishing three tricks in that suit for declarer. The play record indicates that Eric Rodwell made eight tricks, but it seems there are nine tricks: five spades, three clubs

and a diamond. It was a gain anyway because at the other table against the same contract, Steve Weinstein also cashed two hearts and played the ♦K, but he continued with the ace to give Bobby Levin a ruff. Plus 50 meant 5 IMPs to Nickell.

The next board was an easy push for the expert players involved but is worth reporting for the benefit of a less-experienced player who might miss the key point of the deal.

Board 9. Dealer North. E/W Vul.

♠ Q 9 6 4	♠ A 10 8	♠ 7 5 2
♥ 10 8 5	♥ A K J	♥ Q 9 4 3
♦ 9 7 5 2	♦ J	♦ A K Q 10 8
♣ Q 6	♣ K 9 8 4 3 2	♣ 5
	<div style="display: flex; align-items: center; justify-content: center;"> <div style="background-color: green; color: white; padding: 5px; margin: 0 5px;">N</div> <div style="background-color: green; color: white; padding: 5px; margin: 0 5px;">W</div> <div style="background-color: green; color: white; padding: 5px; margin: 0 5px;">E</div> <div style="background-color: green; color: white; padding: 5px; margin: 0 5px;">S</div> </div>	
	♠ A 10 2	
	♥ 7 6 2	
	♦ 6 4 3	
	♣ A J 10 7	

At both tables, the contract was 5♣ by North. In the Open Room, Rodwell had made a takeout double. In the Closed Room, Bernd Saurer (East) overcalled 1♦ after North's 1♣ opener. The opening lead at both tables was a high diamond. The continuation was ruffed and a low club led to dummy's king. Dummy's last diamond was ruffed and the ♣K cashed, picking up trumps. Now, instead of taking a heart finesse or trying to guess the ♠Q, both declarers simply cashed the ♥A, ♥K and exited with the ♥J, not caring who won.

Whichever opponent took the third round of hearts would play a spade, picking up the queen, or play a red suit, allowing declarer to ruff in one hand and discard a spade from the other.

A big swing went against Nickell on this board.



Peter Jokisch, Jeff Meckstroth, Udo Kasimir, and Eric Rodwell in the Open Room

Board 10. Dealer East. Both Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Meckstroth	Kasimir	Rodwell	Jokisch
		1♠	Pass
2♦	Pass	2♠	Pass
3♣	Pass	3♦	Pass
4♥	Pass	5♣	Pass
5♥	Pass	5♠	Pass
6♦	All Pass		

Udo Kasimir started with the ♣8 to Meckstroth's jack. Jeff Meckstroth needed some luck, specifically a major-suit king with North. At trick two, Meckstroth played a low heart from hand, putting in the queen when North played the nine. Jokisch won the ♥K and returned the suit. Meckstroth still had a chance if North had the ♠K, but that hope was forlorn as well. The ♠Q went to South's king and the defenders cashed another heart for two down – minus 200.

West	North	East	South
Fischer	Levin	Saurer	Weinstein
		2♠	Pass
2NT	Pass	3NT	All Pass

Doris Fischer won the club opening lead in hand and ran the ♠Q. South took the king and returned a club, but Fischer had an easy 11 tricks for plus 660 and 13 IMPs for her side.



Steve Weinstein, Doris Fischer, Eric Kokish doing the dummy and Bernd Saurer in the Closed Room

On the next board, Nickell was again on the wrong side of a slam swing.

Board 11. Dealer South. None Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Meckstroth	Kasimir	Rodwell	Jokisch
			1♣
2♥	Dble	3♥	3NT
Pass	4♥	Pass	5♦
Pass	6♦	All Pass	

Jokisch and Kasimir apparently use non-forcing free bids, thus the double instead of a natural 2♠. Despite the interference, they found their nine-card fit and played from the correct side. There was no defeating the slam played by South. Jokisch won the opening heart lead in hand, pitching a club from dummy. He then pulled trumps and was able to claim 13 tricks when trumps proved to be 2-2. He discarded his losing clubs on the long spades and could crossruff from there.

At the other table, Levin and Weinstein landed in 6♣, which had no play on the lie of the cards, with or without a club lead. Minus 50 meant 14 IMPs to the Europeans.

Tomorrow is another Day

By Mark Horton

At the end of his second round match in the Rosenblum, Patrick Jourdain popped into the Bulletin Room to show me this deal:

Board 23. Dealer South. All Vul.

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

Patrick's question was in two parts, first how to make Six Clubs, a question to which he soon spotted the answer - declarer must reduce dummy's trumps and then endplay North (Barry Rigal examines this in detail elsewhere in the Bulletin.)

But the second part is harder and it took some time, even with the benefit of being able to see all four hands, to arrive at the solution.

Declarer wins the diamond lead in hand perforce and cashes the ace of clubs. Treating the queen as a true card declarer unblocks the diamonds, cashes the queen of hearts and plays off the red winners. This is one of the possible endings:

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

Declarer takes a spade finesse and then exits with a club. North wins and can choose which hand to surrender the last four tricks to.

If North keeps four spades and two clubs then after taking the spade finesse declarer exits with a spade and again North has an unsavory choice.

Having just heard that a deal I had submitted for the IBPA's annual declarer play award which I regard as perhaps the best I have seen for the last 30 years (Phillip Alder described it as a certainty to win in the New York Times) was overlooked I wondered if by some chance some superman or woman might have managed to make 6NT.

In the Seniors 7/7 went down, in the Women's 10/10. In the Open 25 declarers tried 6NT and, miracle of miracles, one of them was successful.

It happened in the match between HKJ9 and Phoenix Legend.

Sensing a story I went to check the line ups. In my haste I assumed it was one of HKJ9's Cheung Lik and Fung Chi Pong who had performed the feat, but when I spoke with them it transpired that it was one of their opponents,



Zhen Shen Yong explains how he squeezed North

narrowing it down to one of Chi Feng, Hao Ge, Min Gong, Da Sun or Zhen Shen Yong.

Eventually I discovered that the declarer, Zhen Shen Yong had been treated to the lead of the three of hearts. He was able to run that round to the nine. That looks like a good start, but declarer's communications are poor. He cashed the ace of clubs unblocked dummy's hearts and took a spade finesse. He cashed the queen of hearts and a diamond to reach this position:

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

When declarer cashed the king of diamonds North was caught. Discarding a spade would allow declarer a choice of winning lines, either playing two rounds of spades or putting North on play with a club, while pitching a club would leave declarer with the pleasant option of crossing to the ace of clubs and cashing the queen of diamonds which would force a spade discard, North then being put in with a club to lead into the spade tenace, or of exiting with a low spade (if declarer wants to be flash he can throw the queen of diamonds) and North can choose his poison.

Well done, but at the back of my mind something was nagging me.

♣K10876 3 ♣A4 - I have seen this combination before - then I remembered, in a Camrose match many years ago between England and Wales Patrick Jourdain had had to tackle this suit in a slam, and of course he made the technical play for 5 tricks by running the ten, his opponent, Graham Kirby, following to the trick and saying 'I think this is the card you are hoping to see' as he contributed the nine (this play gives you a 79.13% chance of losing only one trick).

So, after a heart lead has gifted a trick should declarer unblock the diamonds, cross to dummy with a heart and run the ten of clubs?

Perhaps, but if South holds a doubleton honour he wins and plays a heart and the clubs are dead.

Now if you are in 6♣ the situation is different, as I'm sure Barry has explained.

So, immediately after failing to receive an award I have an early entry for next year's contest - I'll let you know what happens in Chennai.

PS. Exchange the seven and three of spades and now try to make 6NT.

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A mixed bag from the McConnell/Rand Cup qualifiers

By Barry Rigal

Board 23. Dealer South. Both Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Willard		Cronier	
1♣	Pass	1♠	Pass
2♣	Pass	2♥	Pass
3♣	Pass	4♣	Pass
3♥	Pass	4NT	Pass
5♥	Pass	6♣	All Pass

Sylvie Willard declared 6♣ on a top diamond lead. She won in hand and tried the ♣A, believing her LHO's play of the ♣Q. So she played ♠A and ruffed a spade, crossed to the ♦K and ruffed another spade, (North missing her chance to deceive declarer by failing to unload the ♠K) then tried two top hearts, and decided that the suit was not breaking — and yes, maybe, South might have dropped one of the ♥J-10 under the king to try to generate even more deception?



Sylvie Willard

This was the ending:

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

Willard ruffed her diamond winner to dummy, then got the ending absolutely right when she ruffed a spade to hand and exited in hearts, forcing North to ruff and lead away from her trump trick. +1370 meant Willard was the only declarer to make her slam in the McConnell, while for the record, only one declarer made slam in the Seniors. (It was X Shen playing with M Shen for Xinyuan Senior team against Hubei Qiaoxie on the lead of ♥8, which made counting the hand somewhat easier). Perhaps not surprisingly this team was leading the Seniors after day one.

As indicated above, North could certainly have made Willard's life far harder by dropping the ♠K on the third round of spades. Now declarer would surely have played for hearts to break, allowing North to ruff in and exit with the fourth spade.

And yes one has to sympathize with the Rosenthal team in the open event, who went down in slam to lose 9IMPs after their opponents bid 1♣-1♠-2♣-2♥-All Pass. At least two tables in the open event played partscore here with the E/W cards.

Round 5

Board 1. Dealer North. None Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
	Pass	1♦	1♥
3NT	All Pass		

Bridge players are famous for making things more difficult for themselves than they need, but I do have a little sympathy with one of the world's better analysts who was complaining in my earshot about the bad luck his team had suffered here.

He explained to me that his teammates had defended 3NT by East after a heart lead into the tenace. Declarer had won cheaply and knocked out the diamond ace, and the defenders had cleared hearts, leaving East no problems in setting up the clubs, with a spade entry to reach them.

In the other room our hero announced that West had declared 3NT on the auction shown. "After the heart nine lead, wasn't it natural to assume the suit was 5-2 and not 6-1, so one must put up the queen to kill the suit?" he asked. Now South won and shifted to spades. Declarer ducked the king, won the next, finessed in clubs, and played a diamond. South won his ace on the second round and cleared spades, setting up two spade winners, and one trick in each suit, since declarer couldn't develop clubs without letting North in?"

Up to a point, Lord Copper. Try putting up the ♥Q as you suggest, then winning the shift to the ♠K to play a diamond immediately. South wins and plays a second spade, this time the jack. You win, and unblock diamonds, then take a club finesse, observing the fall of the nine on your left. Now you cash two diamonds and find North with five diamonds, and apparently four spades. Now you lead a heart to the king, hoping that North will follow, when the club king will drop. When he shows out you can change tack and endplay North with the third spade, to lead clubs for you. Of course if South exits with a low spade at trick four, instead of the jack you have to win, unblock diamonds and take the

club finesse as before. Then you cash the diamonds, watching South's discards. If he keeps the blocking ♠J, you strip him of his clubs then throw him in with the ♠J to lead hearts. If he discards it, you throw North in as before to lead clubs.

There are other lines to make the contract, but double-dummy experts may like to consider what would happen if you get the ♥9 lead and cover with the queen. You win the shift to the ♠K, take a club finesse....and now what? Do you back declarer or the defense?

(Answer at the end of this article).

I was focusing on Platinum against Joel, the then-leaders of the women's event, and found this deal to set the field more problems than they could cope with. This was the only board of the seven that Joel scored IMPs on, but it was more than enough to give them the win.

Board 6. Dealer North. None Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Lund Madsen	Gromova	Weinger	Ponomareva
	Pass	1♦	Pass
2♣	Pass	3♣	Pass
3♥	Pass	3NT	All Pass

Neither East nor West did enough here; perhaps East should bid 3♥ as a splinter over 2♣ and might try either 3♠ or 4NT over 3♠, West should surely try 4♣ or 4♦ over 3NT. The other room had a different problem when Willard-Cronier had to decide how to advance after 1♦-2♣-(2♠)-3♣-3♥. Cronier bid 3NT here too, which seems pessimistic though to be honest I'm not sure what is right here – but those loserless major-suit holdings surely argue for more don't they? Slam looks excellent facing the West hand without the ♦K, and West would surely pass 3NT. In fact Willard judged well to move on with 4♣ over 3NT. The auction continued 4♣-4♦-4♥-4NT-5♦-5NT-6♦-7♣. Only five of the 26 tables bid slam in the McConnell. Well done Chinese Taipei Ruyi and China Yellow Team for flattening the deal at 2140.

Solution to the problem mentioned above:

In 3NT after winning the shift to the spade king and taking a club finesse you must next duck a club as the cards lie. If you play ♣A and another club the defenders win and duck a diamond, and can then counter any move you make.



Lindsey Weinger

Smirnov on the rocks, please

By David Stern

In the first two rounds of the Open Teams qualifying, the opponents were certainly hoping to have Smirnov on the rocks but found it harder to get their favourite drink than they expected.



Alex Smirnov

Alex Smirnov and his long-time partner, Josef Piekarek arrived in Sanya knowing that their team had fallen apart because of the unavailability of Antonio Sementa. After looking around, Alex and Josef joined Alex's good friends from Down Under, the Australians Nye Griffiths, Liam Milne, Michael Whibley and Sartaj Hans. The team is called LITTLE MECK.

Alex makes a few journeys to Australia each year and often stays in my place for a few days when we catch up with bridge and life. What I have noticed while he stays there is something very sadly missing in today's bridge world – he spends a few hours EVERY day practicing online with his partner and simultaneously discussing systems, treatments and understandings, all of which I am sure has added to their success as a partnership.

Board 1. Dealer North. None Vul.

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

In the Closed Room, North played in 2♦, off one for minus 50 for Smirnov's team, but it was a 2-IMP gain because East-West at the other table competed to 2♠ and brought it home by double-finessing in clubs for plus 110. Two boards later:

Board 3. Dealer South. E/W Vul.

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

The Egyptians bought the contract at both tables, in the Open Room reaching 2♠ by West, going one down and 3♣ by South at the other table also going one down after mispicking the heart suit – 4 IMPs to LITTLE MECK.

Board 4. Dealer West. Both Vul.

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

LITTLE MECK thought they would return the favour on the very next hand with North playing INT, one down in the Open Room. The best spot on the hand is 2♠, but a hard contract to reach after North opens INT unless the opponents compete.

Closed Room:

West	North	East	South
Sadek	Piekarek	Nabil	Smirnov
Pass	1♣	Dbl	1♠
2♥	2♠	Pass	Pass
3♥	All Pass		

Two boards later, LITTLE MECK delivered the deciding blow for the match.

♠ 10 4
 ♥ J 8 7 3
 ♦ A
 ♣ K J 9 6 4 2

	N	
W		E
	S	

♠ K 9 5 3 2
 ♥ A
 ♦ K 9 7 4
 ♣ 10 8 5

The next board cost LITTLE MECK 13 IMPs when Smirnov/Piekarek bid to 6♦, going down, against 4♠ making at the other table. LITTLE MECK came right back on the next board, however.

♠ K Q J 8 5
♥ —
♦ A Q 10 5 2
♣ 10 7 6

♠ 3
♥ J 10 8 7 6 3
♦ 8 3
♣ A O 9 4



♠ 9 7 6 4
♥ K Q 2
♦ J 6
♣ 8 5 3 2

♠ A 10 2
♥ A 9 5 4
♦ K 9 7 4
♣ K J

after North had shown spades and diamonds. Some may say lucky, others may say otherwise as Griffiths and Milne bid to 6♦ by North. The diamond slam fails, of course, on the less-than-obvious club lead but easily makes seven against the normal lead of the ♥K. That was 10 IMPs to LITTLE MECK, who lead 18-13 with three boards to go. The final score was 29-14 or 15.5 – 4.5.

We are always interested in the views of the players. One multiple world champion observed that if matches were of 6 boards rather than 7 you could perhaps shave 1½ hours from the daily schedule.

Please see (or email) per@jannersten.com to order or get more info.

Will Lavazza win?

By Micke Melander

One of the favorites to go far in this year's edition of the Rosenblum Cup and be a competitor for the medals is certainly LAVAZZA (as always). The Lavazza team is lined up with its team members Bocchi, Duboin and Madala. But the captain Maria Teresa Lavazza has brought in Bianchedi and Muzzio from Argentina and the team is also additionally reinforced by Zia Mahmood.



Alejandro Bianchedi and Ernesto Muzzio

In Round 7 of the qualification, LAVAZZA took on YUETAO OF GUANGZHOU from China. Already the first hand gave declarers lots to think about, especially being back playing in teams where safety-play is an issue.

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

N	
W	E
	S

How would you play 4 spades, when North leads the king of clubs and South has opened the bidding in first seat, vulnerable against not, with a precision Two Clubs?

Board 15. Dealer South. N-S Vul.

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

N	
W	E
	S

♠ Q 4 3
♥ A K 6
♦ 6
♣ Q J 8 6 4 3

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Duboin	Ye	Mahmood	Wu
2♠	Pass	3♦	Pass
4♦	Pass	4♠	All Pass

When dummy goes down you probably quickly realize that you might have preferred to be in Five Diamonds in terms of choice of game. However, Four Spades gives you many alternative lines and possible routes to succeed. Duboin found a nice way of trying to secure his ten tricks. He won the opening lead with the ace of clubs and fired back the nine of diamonds, which held the trick when everyone played low. Duboin then played the jack of hearts to break the communication for the defense and open routes for him to get back to hand if necessary. North went up with the queen and gave his partner a ruff in diamonds. South then tried to cash the ace of hearts. Duboin could now ruff and play ace of trumps and a trump to the king. When the queen fell from South he had eleven tricks. It would have been interesting to see how he would have coped with a club return instead of the ace of hearts. He can still make his contract though, regardless of what the defense does, but it will certainly create more problems, since he can no longer pull trumps and cash his established diamonds. In the other room the Chinese team played in Three Spades and just managed to make their contract. 7 IMPs to LAVAZZA.

Board 18. Dealer East. N-S Vul.

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

N	
W	E
	S

♠ Q 10
♥ A 4
♦ Q J 9 7 3
♣ Q J 5 3

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Duboin	Ye	Mahmood	Wu
INT	All Pass	1♠	Pass

When Zia didn't find any reason to bid again over INT and South didn't balance E-W were left to play there. This was very wise, when not much was behaving. West was

**Norberto Bocchi**

probably very tempted to bid something else with his 11 HCPs and three nice tens in his hand.

Ye lead a heart, whereupon Wu won with the ace and returned his four of hearts. Duboin tried the heart finesse, which lost to North's queen, he now played a third round of the suit to declarer's jack. Since declarer had set up two hearts and already had four winners in the black suits it was just a matter for Duboin where he would be able to get his seventh trick. South discarded a diamond on the third heart and a club on the fourth. That was all Duboin needed to play a club to the king and a club towards his hand. When South followed with the jack he simply ducked it. South now shifted to the queen of diamonds, declarer covered and the defense could only get their two tricks in diamonds, which was eight tricks to declarer.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Song	Muzzio	Huang	Bianchedi
		1♠	Pass
INT	Pass	2♣	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

When East was compelled to bid over INT it was enough for West to take a chance at game. Again a heart was lead to the ace, a heart went back to the jack and queen and a third round followed to declarer's king on which South again discarded a diamond.

It would have been interesting to see what South would have discarded if declarer had cashed his last heart, but instead he went for the spades and tried to finesse the jack, which led to a complete disaster. When South now returned a low diamond and declarer decided to play on for the ace of diamonds being onside, he went up with the king. But when North produced the ace the roof fell in. North now played back a diamond to the jack which was the fifth trick for the defense! Having defeated the contract, South wanted more, and shifted to the ten of spades. Declarer ducked, whereupon South won and cashed out his last two diamonds, bringing the contract four down!

To beat 3NT legitimately, the defense has shift to diamonds at the second or third trick. When they actually played a third heart, declarer could have played spades from the top instead of finessing at double dummy to bring home +400.

Gold Red Bull Trophy

Hosted by World Bridge Federation in cooperation with Chinese Contract Bridge Association, Sanya Municipal Government and Beijing Lianzhong Co., Ltd., the 14TH Red Bull World Bridge Series is going on in Sanya, Hainan, China. The tournament concludes Oct. 25th.

The Red Bull Special Award "Gold Red Bull Trophy (999Pure Gold)" is presented to players whose ranking in two competitions is less than 17.

List: after the two Mixed events

Name	Team	Pairs	Total
Sabine AUKEN (Germany)	1	5	6
Roy WELLAND (Germany)	1	5	6
Kerri SANBORN (U.S.A.)	5	1	6
Jie ZHAO (China)	5	1	6
Apolinary KOWALSKI (Poland)	5	10	15
Ewa MISZEWSKA (Poland)	5	10	15
Andrey GROMOV (Russia)	9	6	15
Victoria GROMOVA (Russia)	9	6	15
Philippe CRONIER (France)	9	7	16
Sylvie WILLARD (France)	9	7	16

Notice: A winner can receive the Red Bull Special Award only once.



More McConell

By Barry Rigal

For the last match of the first day I watched leaders MOSS take on SCITY of Korea

Board 22. Dealer North. None Vul.

♠ A 10 9 8 3		♠ K Q J 7 4 2	
♥ 9 8		♥ A Q 4	
♦ Q 6 3		♦ A K	
♣ 10 9 4		♣ A 5	
♠ 6	<div style="display: inline-block; background-color: green; color: white; padding: 5px; text-align: center;"> N W E S </div>	♠ 5	
♥ K J 2		♥ 10 8 7 6 2	
♦ J 9 7 5 4 2		♦ 10 8	
♣ K 7 3		♣ Q J 8 6 2	

West	North	East	South
Sanborn	Park	S-Molson	Kim
	Pass	2♣	Pass
2♦	Pass	2♠	Pass
3♦	Pass	3♠	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

The first deal of the seven-board set gave Seamon-Molson a nasty problem. After her partner's 3NT, it was certainly possible that Sanborn might have the ♦Q instead of the two red jacks. But supporting diamonds with ♦AK seemed excessive. Indeed 6NT is not a terrible spot; you may not always get to test spades before diamonds if they duck the ace twice, but we have all been in worse spots. This time 660 was the limit on a heart lead, and that was worth an IMP when Im/Kwon stopped in 4♠, losing three trump tricks but managing the rest painlessly enough.



Lynn Deas and Hjordis "Disa" Eythorsdottir

Going plus as E/W may not seem that remarkable but only eight tables out of 26 managed it. Slam going down was the order of the day.

Both N/S pairs then went plus, one defending INT, one playing INT, and both E/W pairs bid on to 5♥ for +450 (game being on one of two finesses) instead of defending to 4♠x for a sure +300. It was 2-0 to Moss after three deals.

Board 25. Dealer North. E-W Vul.

♠ Q 6 3 2		♠ K J	
♥ 10 9 4 2		♥ J 7 6 3	
♦ 6 5		♦ Q J 10 8 7	
♣ J 6 5		♣ 8 3	
♠ 8	<div style="display: inline-block; background-color: green; color: white; padding: 5px; text-align: center;"> N W E S </div>	♠ A 10 9 7 5 4	
♥ A Q 8 5		♥ K	
♦ A K 9 3		♦ 4 2	
♣ K Q 9 7		♣ A 10 4 2	

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Sanborn	Park	S-Molson	Kim
	Pass	Pass	1♠
Dble	3♠	Pass	Pass
Dble	Pass	4♥	4♠
Pass	Pass	Dble	All Pass

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Kwon	Eythorsdottir	Im	Deas
	Pass	Pass	1♠
Dble	3♠	Pass	4♠
Dble	Pass	5♥	All Pass

Sitting behind Seamon-Molson I wondered whether she might have removed 4♠ to 5♦ rather than doubling. As you can see, 5♦ is extremely easy to play by comparison to 5♥, where the unlucky trump break dooms you to one down. As usual in these positions, where the target is simply to bid the best game not the highest scoring, removing the double of 4♠ to 4NT should get West to bid 5♣ and East to correct to 5♦, where the matter rests.

Even though the defence slipped against 4♠x (Top diamond lead to East's queen, ♥A, diamond to the ten, club to the queen, then a third diamond instead of a major-suit exit) and collected only +300, that was still worth 9 IMPs for Moss, leading 11-0.

Hallberg's Anatomy

By Micke Melander

One of the more popular TV series of recent years is ABC's Grey's Anatomy, about a medical drama set at the fictional Grey Sloan Memorial Hospital in Seattle. The series covers the stories of the interns and residents as they try to balance their personal lives with the demands of their medical training. The main character is a student, Meredith Grey, who is married to a neurosurgeon at the hospital. The neurosurgeon could be likened to Gunnar Hallberg and his student Peter Bertheau.

Here comes their first operation with really sharp scalpels against ERA from Round 8 of the semifinals in the Rosenblum Cup.

Board 24. Dealer West. None Vul.

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



Open Room

West	North	East	South
Tarnowski	Hallberg	Pachtman	Bertheau
1♠	Pass	1NT	Pass
2♦	Pass	2NT	Pass
3♣	Pass	3NT	All Pass



Dominik Filipowicz - Krzysztof Martens

Only a heart (or a low diamond, which never will be led against that auction) defeats the contract. Bertheau put the seven of hearts on the surgeon's table, which went to the jack and declarer's king. The opening lead more or less squeezed dummy and forced declarer to an early decision.

Eventually, he discarded a diamond and continued with a club to the king, a spade to the ace and another club towards dummy. Bertheau put the jack on the table allowing declarer to win with the queen in dummy and on the third round of clubs Hallberg discarded the four of diamonds (upside down attitude). Bertheau continued with the queen of hearts, whereupon declarer threw away a spade from dummy, Hallberg following with the six and declarer with the two. South now followed partner's signal and returned the two of diamonds to North's king and when he returned his last heart the operation was over. Pachtman was helpless; he had to lose another trick in hearts and to the ace of diamonds, going one down.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Whittaker	Filipowicz	Patterson	Martens
1♠	Pass	1NT	Pass
2♣	Pass	3♣	All Pass

In the Closed Room Whittaker and Patterson were sniffing at game but came to a stop in Three Clubs. North led a heart, declarer won in dummy, played a club to the king, a spade to the ace and two more spades, discarding a diamond from dummy. It didn't matter what the defense did, declarer losing one diamond and two clubs scoring 10 tricks, +130.

5 IMPs to BLACK and time for another operation in the Open Room.



Gunnar Hallberg

Board 25. Dealer North. E-W Vul.

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



Open Room

West	North	East	South
Tarnowski	Hallberg	Pachtman	Bertheau
	Pass	1♠	Pass
INT	All Pass		

Hallberg led the seven of hearts, which went to the king, ace and declarer's four. Bertheau now shifted to the three of spades, ace and Hallberg unblocked the queen of spades from his hand, making it easy for Bertheau to see what was going on.

Tarnowski did the best he could, reading the situation correctly, and placing North with more clubs than South. Therefore he played the queen of clubs, hoping to get the singleton jack from South. Hallberg followed low, as did dummy and South. Declarer continued with clubs, winning with the ace in dummy, South discarding the two of hearts. On the next round of clubs, South discarded the six of hearts, Hallberg won with the jack and played the two of spades which declarer won with the king and had to see himself defeated. He could cash his established clubs but had to give up the remaining tricks going one off, -100.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Whittaker	Filipowicz	Patterson	Martens
	INT	Pass	2♣*
Pass	2♥	Pass	4♥
All Pass			

In the Closed Room Martens took a chance to play in Four Hearts after Filipowicz's mini INT opening. Even though declarer got some help from the defense when they led a diamond to the queen and ace it didn't matter. Declarer had to lose to two spades, a club and a heart, going one off. Another 4 IMPs to the BLACK team who won the match 10-8 IMPs or 10.92-9.08 VP.

Both teams went forward to the Round of 32.

7.2 Mobile Phones and Electronic Devices



Mobile phones and electronic devices may not be taken into the playing area and toilets.

WBF General Conditions of Contest © 2014 Page 13

Any player, captain or coach bringing a mobile phone and or electronic device into the playing area and toilets will cause his team to be fined 2 VPs, (or 6 IMPs in a knockout match) or, in the case of pairs events, will result in his partnership being fined 25% of the matchpoints available on a board during the session, plus in all cases, a monetary fine, the amount of which will be announced to the participants before the start of the event. This penalty is mandatory. Failure to pay the fine will result in the player being prohibited from playing.

The Head Tournament Director may, at his discretion, prohibit a player from bringing other equipment into the playing area.

Anyone entering the playing area may be required to comply with procedures put in place by the WBF for the detection of such electronic equipment.

See also Section 27.2 for restrictions pertaining to spectators.

The Head Tournament Director will arrange for random checks of players, captains and coaches to ensure that there is compliance with these prohibitions. Refusal to submit to these checks will bar the individual concerned from entry to the playing area and toilet area, and from remaining there.

Refusal to submit to these checks will result in the individual being barred from the playing area and toilet area for the duration of the match or until such time as the Head Tournament Director, in consultation with the Championship Committee, shall decide.

Amendments to the General Conditions of Contest

Section 25 Screen Regulations

In section 25.1, the following sentence is added:

A player who removes one or more of his bidding cards from the tray in an apparent attempt to "pass" is indeed deemed to have "passed."

At the end of 25.2 (c), the following sentence is added:

Therefore the tournament director cannot make enquiries on a player's behalf on the other side of the screen during the auction or play.

Section 25.3 (g) is amended as follows:

Failure to do as (f) provides may persuade the Director it was the partner who drew attention to the break in tempo. If so he may well rule there was no perceived delay and thus no unauthorised information. A delay in passing the tray of up to 20 seconds is not normally regarded as significant. If the players have not been randomising the tempo of the auction as desired by section 25.1 paragraph 3, then a delay of less than 20 seconds may well be regarded as being significant.

The Night Shift

By Mark Horton

The Night Shift is an American medical drama series that premiered on May 27, 2014, on NBC. The series follows the lives of the staff who work the late night shift in the ER at San Antonio Medical Center.

The players here in Sanya have not quite been burning the midnight oil, but they are having to play long after the sun is over the yard arm.

In Round 8 of the McConnell, two powerful teams faced off, China Red and BAKER.

Board 22. Dealer East. All Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Brock	Zhang	Smith	Wu
		2♣*	Pass
2♦*	Pass	2♠	Pass
3♦	Pass	3NT	Pass
4NT	All Pass		
2♣	Weak 2♦ or 23+ balanced or any game force		
2♦	To play facing diamonds		

South led the queen of clubs and declarer won with the ace, cashed the top diamonds, went to dummy with a heart and forced out the queen of diamonds, +630.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Lu	Wortel	Wang	Michielsen
		1♣*	1♥
2♦	Pass	2♠	Pass
2NT	Pass	3♠	Pass
3NT	Pass	4♦	Pass
4♥*	Pass	4NT	Pass
5♦	Pass	6NT	All Pass
4♥	Cue bid		

North led the nine of hearts and declarer won with the jack, played a spade to the king and the queen of spades. When South discarded declarer needed diamonds to

deliver six tricks. When they did not the contract finished one down, -100 and 12 IMPs for BAKER.

Board 25. Dealer North. EW Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Brock	Zhang	Smith	Wu
			1♠
Dble	3♠*	Dble*	4♠
Dble	All Pass		
3♠	Preemptive		
Dble	Responsive		

West led the eight of spades and declarer took East's jack with the ace and played the king of hearts. West won with the ace and cashed the ace of diamonds, continuing with the three when East played an encouraging seven.

East won with the ten and returned the eight of clubs and West won with the queen and exited with the five of hearts. Declarer ruffed East's jack and played a spade. East won and played a club, three down, -500.



Marion Michielsen and Meike Wortel

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Lu	Wortel	Wang	Michielsen
Dble	3♠*	4♥	1♠
Pass	4♠	Pass	Pass
5♥	All Pass		

Declarer could not avoid the loss of a spade, a heart and a club, one down, -100 and 12 IMPs to BAKER.

Board 28. Dealer West. NS Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Brock	Zhang	Smith	Wu
1♣*	Pass	1♦*	Pass
1♥*	Pass	4♥	All Pass

1♣ All weak NTs open 1♣ unless 5M, may be 4-4-4-1 11-14

1♦ Transfer

1♥ Weak no trump type

North led the king of clubs and declarer ducked, won the next club, played a spade to the king and a low heart for the queen and ace. South took the next heart with the king, cashed the ace of diamonds and waited for a trump trick, one down, -50.

If declarer was going to play the trumps in this fashion it works better to win the ace of clubs at trick one. Then after a spade to the king and a heart to the ace declarer can play three more spades, discarding dummy's remaining club, losing only two hearts and a diamond.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Wang	Wortel	Wang	Michielsen
Pass	Pass	1♥	Pass
1♠	Pass	2♥	Pass
2NT	Pass	3♠	Pass
4♥	All Pass		

South led the three of clubs and declarer won and played the four of diamonds. South went up with the ace and played a club and North won and continued with the queen. Declarer ruffed, overtook the jack of diamonds with

dummy's king and played the jack of hearts for the queen and ace. A spade to the king was followed by a heart, two down, -100 and 2 IMPs to BAKER.

It's worth noting that the technical line in the trump suit is to play the jack, which results in one loser 36.73% of the time.



Yu Zhang

Video Corner

now online



Prize Giving in Mixed Events

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1cb9lvwmjlc>

The Final in the Mixed Pairs

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Qkhh3ra6Jmo>

Press Conference Mixed Pairs Gold Medal

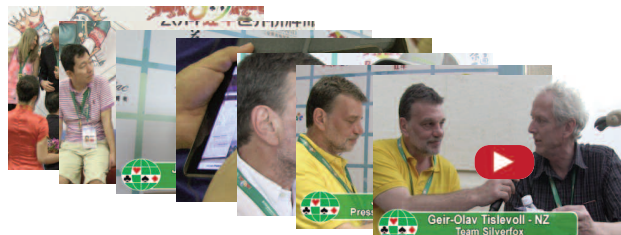
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TB7YQ9x2CP8>

Interview with Juan Carlos Ventin - Team Ventin

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Se2dhYgfK-4>

Interview with Vincent Demuy - Lebron Team

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tH9YTJZvZo0>



Find all the links on www.worldbridge.org

Play bridge with a World Champion

By Micke Melander

Gunnar Hallberg, a very well-known professional on the Bridge circuit, and winner of gold medals for England in both Sao Paolo and Philadelphia with the English senior team, gave two boards with problems that he thought were obvious plays or actions that is, if you want to understand what this game is about more from a psychological point of view.

In the first example you have:

♠ 9 3 2
♥ Q J 9 7 5
♦ J 7 5
♣ 9 5

With no one vulnerable, you are in first seat and pass with that "lump," and so does LHO. Your partner opens in third seat with One Heart and RHO overcalls 1♠. What do you bid?

Board 24. Dealer West. None Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Hallberg			
Pass	Pass	1♥	1♠
INT!	2♣	Dble	Pass
4♥	All Pass		

"It's the most natural and obvious INT bid you can make", Gunnar says. You have to remove the opponent's interest in bidding spades over your eventual game in hearts. You don't have a clue to which level they can afford to bid. But we would like to buy the board as cheaply as possible.

This hand was from the Round 8 in the qualification round and earned Hallberg and his Black team 4 IMPs when his teammates sacrificed in Four Spades at the other table for 300.

On the next example from round 7 you are going to lead away from the following hand against Four Spades:

♠ J 9
♥ A 6
♦ Q 9 8 6 5 3
♣ Q 10 9

You know that dummy is going to arrive with four spades, a balanced hand 8-12 HCPs. You also know that declarer is holding four spades, five hearts and 16+ HCP when you have bid diamonds... What to lead?

Board 20. Dealer West. All Vul.

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

	N	
W		E
	S	

Again Gunnar says: "It's rather obvious that they are going to make game, if we are to find anything we probably have to get it with help from the clubs." Hallberg therefore led the ten of clubs on which he got an encouraging three from partner and declarer won the trick with the ace. Declarer then played the three of spades. What is your plan seeing the dummy above?

Board 20. Dealer West. All Vul.

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

"I just followed with the jack of spades, said Gunnar. A play that never will cost anything. Declarer won with the king and called for the jack of hearts from dummy, I ducked in tempo, and declarer played a second round of hearts. This I won and played a club to my partner who then could give me a ruff in hearts!"

That was 1 IMP for Black when their teammates had played Four Hearts to make eleven tricks on the other table. At pairs it would most probably have been worth all the matchpoints!

Strong finish

By Brent Manley

At the start of play on Sunday in the Open Teams Semifinal A, the DIAMOND and LAVAZZA teams were lying seventh and eighth, respectively, and not far apart in victory points. They were matched as opponents in the first round of the day. LAVAZZA sent Alejandro Bianchedi/Ernesto Muzzio and Agustin Madala/Norberto Bocchi against John Diamond/Brian Platnick and Sjoert Brink/Bas Drijver.

The match started quietly, with a push on the first board and a 3-IMP swing on this one:

Board 2.. Dealer East. N/S Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Diamond	Muzzio	Platnick	Bianchedi
Pass	1♣	Pass	Pass
Pass	2♥	All Pass	1♥

Diamond led the ♠2, ducked to Platnick's king. The ♣A was next, and Bianchedi ruffed the club continuation and played a diamond to the ace. He ruffed another club, cashed the ♥K and played another heart to the queen and ace. The ♥J picked up the last outstanding trump. Next

came the ♦K and a diamond ruff. The 3-3 split meant declarer had the rest for plus 200.

West	North	East	South
Madala	Drijver	Bocchi	Brink
Pass	Dble	INT	Pass
		All Pass	

Brink led a low diamond and Bocchi was delighted to see dummy's club suit. Bocchi put up dummy's queen and the opponents cleared the suit, but Bocchi had five clubs and the diamond trick for minus 100.

The score was 3-2 for LAVAZZA when this deal came along.

Board 4. Dealer None. Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Diamond	Muzzio	Platnick	Bianchedi
Pass	Pass	INT	All Pass

Bianchedi led the ♣K, switching accurately to a low heart at trick two. Platnick took the ♥J with the king and ran five rounds of diamonds, South reducing to the singleton ♠K, ♥A 10 6 and the ♣A. Platnick played a spade from dummy and Muzzio went up with the ace, felling his partner's king, but he pushed a heart through the West hand and the defenders took the rest of the tricks. There was a lot more action at the other table.

West	North	East	South
Madala	Drijver	Bocchi	Brink
Pass	Pass	INT	Dbl
Redbl	Pass	2♣	Pass
2♦	2♥	Pass	3♥
Pass	3♠	Pass	4♥
All Pass			

Obviously, Bocchi/Madala put the mini-INT to the side when vulnerable. Brink doubled to show a good hand and the redouble was a runout with a long suit. Bocchi had a



Sjoert Brink and Bas Drijver

good hand, but so did Brink, and the heart game was reached. Bocchi started with the $\diamond A$ and continued with the queen then the jack, ruffed in dummy. Drijver was not troubled to take 10 tricks with the location of virtually every high card known, thanks to the bidding. He lost two diamonds and a heart for a well-earned plus 620. That was 11 IMPs to Diamond, now leading 13-3.

That score held up until the penultimate board of the set.

Board 6. Dealer East. E/W Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Diamond	Muzzio	Platnick	Bianchedi
1♣*	Pass	1♦*	Pass
INT	Pass	3NT	All Pass

Diamond's Precision 1♣ and rebid of INT showed the strong balanced hand. North started with a low heart to Bianchedi's ace, Diamond following with the queen. The heart return was ducked by North to maintain communication (in case Bianchedi started with three hearts). Diamond won with dummy's jack and called for the ♣9, taking some time before playing from hand after Bianchedi followed low. Finally, Diamond played the ♣Q, ending his chances to make the contract. Without four club tricks, he had to play on spades. Muzzio took the ♠A and cashed three hearts for plus 100.



Agustin Madala

West	North	East	South
Madala	Drijver	Bocchi	Brink
2♣	Pass	Pass	Pass
2NT	Pass	2♠*	Pass
		3NT	All Pass
2♠ West to bid 2NT if he has a balanced hand			

The opening lead was the same at this table and the suit was continued and ducked. Madala won in dummy and played the ♣9, letting it run when Brink followed low. Madala was soon claiming plus 600 for a 12-IMP gain. Lavazza was now up 15-13. They tacked on another double-digit swing on the final board.

Board 7. Dealer South. Both Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Diamond	Muzzio	Platnick	Bianchedi
INT	Pass	Pass	Pass
Dbl	2♥	3♦	2♦*
Pass	3♥	All Pass	Pass

Platnick led the ♦Q to the ace. Muzzio played a spade to his queen and Platnick's king. A club went to Diamond's ace. Muzzio ruffed when West continued with the ♦K, then played the ♥A and a heart to the king, following with a club to his 10 and the ♣K, ruffed by Platnick. He still had one more trick to lose but could claim plus 140.

West	North	East	South
Madala	Drijver	Bocchi	Brink
			2♥
Dbl	3♥	3♠	Pass
4♠	All Pass		

Brink led a heart to Drijver's ace and a heart was returned. Bocchi ruffed in dummy when his ♥J was covered by the king. He played a low spade from dummy, winning with the king when Drijver played the queen. Bocchi then played the ♠8 to dummy's 10 and Drijver's jack. At that point, with two tricks in, Drijver could have defeated the contract by switching to his singleton diamond, taking a ruff. Instead, he exited with his third trump. Bocchi won and had only to knock out the ♦A to claim 10 tricks and plus 620, good for a 13-IMP swing to LAVAZZA, winners by a score of 28-13.

By Barry Rigal

Not to be outdone, Dekkers/Nab went one step better on the next deal.

♠ A 9 8 6 5
♥ 6 3
♦ J 4 2
♣ J 9 8

Pass	Dble	4♥	Pass
All Pass		Pass	4♠

Baldysz' luck changed on the next deal, when she accidentally passed an 18-count. The deal was passed out, and you or I would discover that we had missed a vulnerable game or slam. No, partner had a four-count, and while at double-dummy one could come close to making a game with the combined cards, in practice normal play saw the Dutch misguess the play badly in the other room and



Anna Sarniak

lose 100. That made it 14-3.

The next deal saw the East-West pairs somewhat unluckily compete voluntarily to 3♥ and catch their partner with just the wrong hand for that decision, although both defences had to be accurate to hold declarer to eight tricks; no swing.

Then came a board discussed by Mark Horton elsewhere, which perhaps is too difficult a problem for the defenders...or maybe not?

Board 5. Dealer North. N-S Vul.

		♠ A 9 7 ♥ Q ♦ Q J 10 3 2 ♣ K Q 7 5	
♠ 10 5 2 ♥ K 10 3 2 ♦ 4 ♣ A 10 9 5 2	<div style="background-color: #008000; color: white; padding: 10px; text-align: center; width: 80px; margin: 0 auto;"> N W E S </div>	♠ J 4 ♥ 9 8 4 ♦ A K 7 6 ♣ J 8 4 3	
		♠ K Q 8 6 3 ♥ A J 7 6 5 ♦ 9 8 5 ♣ —	
West	North	East	South
Baldysz	Nab	Sarniak	Dekkers
Pasman	Bertheau	Simons	Larsson
Pass	1♦	Pass	1♠
All Pass	2♣	Pass	4♣



Cathy Baldysz

Both tables followed the approved route to 4♠ (none of this Gallic temporizing with club suits for our Norths!). both Wests led their singleton diamond, received the ruff (East knew she needed to cash the second top diamond as she had no re-entry, but could give suit preference to deny a heart card). Now what was West to do? The universal and unsuccessful action was to try to cash the ♣A. Result: misery!

Mark's point that declarer is relatively unlikely to have a 6-3-3-1 shape (because of East's failure to overcall with five hearts at favorable vulnerability) is a good one. But as we saw, West believed in Oscar Wilde's dictum that he could resist everything but temptation. The ♣A hit the table and West's jaw hit the floor.

The next board saw more misery for the E/W pairs, this time on opening lead.

Board 6. Dealer East. E-W Vul.

		♠ Q 4 3 ♥ A K Q 5 4 ♦ J 10 3 ♣ 4 2	
♠ A 10 6 ♥ 10 9 2 ♦ 9 4 ♣ A J 10 9 3	<div style="background-color: #008000; color: white; padding: 10px; text-align: center; width: 80px; margin: 0 auto;"> N W E S </div>	♠ K J 9 7 5 ♥ 8 3 ♦ 7 6 5 ♣ Q 6 5	
		♠ 8 2 ♥ J 7 6 ♦ A K Q 8 2 ♣ K 8 7	

Both tables reached 4♥, Larssonas South after opening 1♣ (clubs or balanced might have five diamonds) and receiving a transfer response to hearts. Here one can hardly blame Pasman for leading a trump. In the other room Sarniak as East heard 1♦-1♥-2♥-4♥ and one could certainly raise more of an eyebrow at her failure to lead a black suit. She too led a trump and conceded 420, again for no swing.

Again, though the results from the other tables were somewhat surprising to me. A grand total of four tables defeated game here in the McConnell. Three tables led a club, one led a spade. In the Seniors, five tables beat 4♥ by North (three times on a club lead, twice on a spade lead) while one table scooped the matchpoint pool by cashing the first ten tricks against 3NT.

A quiet partscore deal saw Netherlands win 14-3 and continue their trek towards the top.

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Dodging the Bullet

To successfully avoid a very serious problem

By Mark Horton

The bullet catch is an illusion in which a magician appears to catch a bullet fired directly at them - often in their mouth, sometimes in their hand or sometimes caught with other items such as a dinner plate.

Chung Ling Soo was the stage name of the American magician William Ellsworth Robinson.

Chung's most famous illusion, partly because of his death while performing it, was called Condemned to Death by the Boxers. In this trick Chung's assistants took two guns on to the stage. Several members of the audience were called up to mark a bullet that was then loaded into one of the guns. Attendants fired the gun at Chung, and he seemed to catch the bullets from the air and drop them on a plate he held up in front of him.



The trick went wrong when Chung was performing at the Wood Green Empire, London, on March 23, 1918. After each performance, to avoid expending powder and bullets, he had never unloaded his guns properly. Rather than firing them off or drawing the bullets with a screw-rod, as was normal practice, he removed the bullet and powder by dismantling the breeches of the guns. Over time, a residue of unburned gunpowder was able to form in the channel he had made which allowed the flash to bypass the barrel and only ignite a blank charge in the ramrod tube. On the fateful night, the flash from the pan also ignited the charge behind the marked bullet in the barrel of the gun being used. Consequently, the bullet was fired in the normal way, hitting Chung in the chest. His last words were spoken on

stage that moment, "Oh my God. Something's happened. Lower the curtain." It was the first and last time since adopting his persona that he had spoken English in public.

When I asked Barry Rigal to look out for a deal where a defender had avoided a fatal pitfall, thereby dodging the bullet, he almost instantaneously suggested this deal from Round 13 of the McConnell:

Board 5. Dealer North. NS Vul.

♠ A 9 7		
♥ Q		
♦ Q J 10 3 2		
♣ K Q 7 6		
♠ 10 5 2		♠ J 4
♥ K 10 3 2		♥ 9 8 4
♦ 4		♦ A K 7 6
♣ A 10 9 5 2		♣ J 8 4 3
	<div style="display: inline-block; background-color: green; color: white; padding: 5px; text-align: center;"> N W E S </div>	
	♠ K Q 8 6 3	
	♥ A J 7 6 5	
	♦ 9 8 5	
	♣ —	

In the match between China Red and Dezhouqiaoxie (Pushi) 4♠ was rapidly reached at both tables (as it was virtually everywhere else).

In the Open Room, West led her diamond and East won, cashed a second diamond and gave her partner a ruff. When West tried to cash the ace of clubs declarer was home free, +620.

4♠ was defeated only four times out of 22, once where North was the declarer, making it much easier to avoid playing the ace of clubs.

(It was a similar story in the Seniors where 4♠ was defeated only twice in eighteen attempts.)

Clearly the West players were worried that declarer might discard one or more losing clubs on dummy's diamonds, but did they miss something?

Suppose declarer held ♠KQ863 ♥AJ76 ♦985 ♣3? It is safe to exit with a trump, as declarer cannot cover all the losers.

It is only when declarer has something like ♠KQJ863 ♥AJ7 ♦985 ♣3 that it is essential to cash the ace of clubs after taking the ruff.

Hard to resist the temptation to lead the singleton diamond but leading a trump at trick one puts the defenders in charge even if declarer has six trumps, so whilst the few who resisted the temptation to try and cash the ace of clubs get an honourable mention, the winner of my Chung Ling Soo award for the best opening lead of the Championships is Wei Wang of China Orange, as she was the only one in the McConnell to start with a trump and defeat the contract.

Master Play

By Mark Horton

Piotr Gawrys is one of Poland’s superstars. A WBF Grand Master, he has won three world championships, the 1984 World Team Olympics, the Transnational Mixed Teams 2000 and the Transnational Open Teams 2005. His other first places include the Generali World Masters Individual in 1992 the European Teams Championships 1993 and the European Open Pairs 1995.



Piotr Gawrys

On this deal from the Rosenblum round of 32 he afforded us a glimpse of his skill.

Board 3. Dealer South. EW Vul.

♠ J 10 8 4
♥ K 8
♦ K 6
♣ A Q 6 5 2

♠ Q 6 5 3
♥ 10 7 3 2
♦ 10 9
♣ 9 7 4

♠ 9 2
♥ Q 4
♦ A J 3 2
♣ K J 10 8 3

♠ A K 7
♥ A J 9 6 5
♦ Q 8 7 5 4
♣ —

N
WSE
S

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Mazurkiewicz	Silverstein	Jassem	Rosenthal
Pass	2♣	Pass	1♥
Pass	2NT	Pass	2♦
Pass	3♥	Pass	3♦
All Pass		Pass	3NT

East led the three of clubs and declarer took West’s nine with the queen, pitching a diamond from dummy and played a heart to the jack. When that held he played a heart to the king, a spade to the ace and cashed the ace of hearts pitching a club. So far, so good but when declarer exited with a heart West won and returned the seven of clubs. With East holding the ace of diamonds the contract was doomed, one down, -50.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Lorenzini	Gawrys	Bessis	Klukowski
Pass	2♣	Pass	1♥
Pass	2NT	Pass	2♦
Pass	3NT	All Pass	3♦

Play started in an identical fashion, East leading the three of clubs, declarer taking West’s nine with the queen, pitching a diamond from dummy and playing a heart to the jack, playing a heart to the king, a spade to the ace, cashing the ace of hearts and pitching a club.

Rather than play a heart declarer played a diamond to his king. East took the ace and returned the king of clubs, but declarer ducked, discarding one of dummy’s hearts, won the spade switch with dummy’s king, cashed the queen of diamonds and exited with a heart.

West won with the nine, but had no good move. If he exited with a club declarer would win and return a spade, forcing West to surrender the game going trick.

Saving time, West cashed the queen of spades and declarer claimed the last two tricks, +400 and 10 IMPs to Mazurkiewicz.



Thomas Bessis

Four is enough

By Brent Manley

It's tough to play four-handed in an event that features as many boards and as many days as the Rosenblum Cup (open teams), but the LEBRON squad is a young group with plenty of stamina. They had enough energy to cope with the formidable Nick Nickell team in their Semi-final A match in the third round.

The affair was close through the first three boards, Nickell ahead 3-0, when this deal came along.

Board 18. Dealer East-. N/S Vul.

♠ Q 5
♥ A Q J 10 6 5
♦ A 8
♣ 10 8 5

♠ A 9 7
♥ K 9 8 3
♦ K 4 3
♣ J 3 2



♠ K J 10 6 4
♥ 7
♦ Q 10 5 2
♣ O 6 4

♠ 8 3 2
♥ 4 2
♦ J 9 7 6
♣ A K 9 7

West <i>Meckstroth</i>	North <i>Demuy</i>	East <i>Rodwell</i>	South <i>Kranyak</i>
3♠	All Pass	2♠	Pass

Jeff Meckstroth's preemptive raise of Eric Rodwell's weak two-bid did the trick, Demuy going quietly. John Kranyak started with the ♣K and continued with the ♣A before switching to a diamond. Demuy won the ♦A and played a second diamond to the king in dummy. The ♠A and a second spade picked up North's queen, and Rodwell cashed the ♦Q and ruffed a diamond. He lost two clubs, a diamond and a heart for plus 140.

At the other table:

West	North	East	South
Hurd	Katz	Wooldridge	Nickell
Pass	3♥	2♠ All Pass	Pass

John Hurd's pass allowed Ralph Katz to enter the auction at the three level. Joel Wooldridge started with a low diamond, which went to the 6, 4 and 8. Katz played a club to dummy and a heart to his 10. He took another heart finesse after getting back to dummy with the other high club. A second heart finesse revealed the trump loser, but Katz lost only two spades, one heart and one club for plus 140. The net plus of 280 gave Nickell a 7-IMP gain and a 10-0 lead.

The lead evaporated on the next board.

Board 19. Dealer S. E/W Vul.

♠ A 9 8 6
♥ Q 3
♦ 10 7 4 2
♣ 10 5 3

♠ 10 3
♥ A 10 9
♦ K Q J 8 5 3
♣ K 2



♠ 7
♥ J 7 5 4
♦ 6
♣ A O 9 8 7 6 4

♠ K Q J 5 4 2
♥ K 8 6 2
♦ A 9
♣ |

West	North	East	South
<i>Meckstroth</i>	<i>Demuy</i>	<i>Rodwell</i>	<i>Kranyak</i>
2♦	3♠	4♣	1♠ 4♠
All Pass			

Kranyak lost a diamond, a club and a heart but had his 10 tricks and plus 420. At the other table, Hurd and Wooldridge found the excellent save despite the unfavorable vulnerability.

West	North	East	South
<i>Hurd</i>	<i>Katz</i>	<i>Wooldridge</i>	<i>Nickell</i>
2♦	3♠	4♣	1♠
5♣	Pass	Pass	4♥
All Pass			5♠



John Kranyak

North-South can take no more than three tricks against 5♣, so even Wooldridge had been doubled in 5♣, the minus 200 would still have been a gain for them. When Nickell went on to 5♠ - he might have been the one who was saving – the aggressive bidding paid off. Nickell could not avoid three losers, which meant 10 IMPs to LEBRON. The match was tied at 10 at that point.

LEBRON took the lead on the penultimate board.

Board 20. Dealer West-. Both Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Meckstroth	Demuy	Rodwell	Kranyak
1♦	Pass	INT	All Pass

Rodwell's INT was normal. He could have been held to eight tricks, but on the opening lead of the ♥J, he took the ace (lest the opponents find the diamond switch), played a couple of rounds of clubs to confirm that the suit was breaking, then knocked out the ♠A to collect nine easy tricks. At the other table:

West	North	East	South
Hurd	Katz	Wooldridge	Nickell
1♣	Pass	2♦	Pass
2NT	Pass	3♣	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

At the other table, Hurd opened 1♣ and Wooldridge, with his five-card support, made a limit raise in clubs and the game was reached.

Katz led a low diamond to Nickell's queen, which held the trick. Another diamond went to the 10 and jack. At that point, if Katz could have seen his partner's hand, he would have switched to the ♥K, the killing thrust. Declarer could duck a couple of times, but he would eventually have to try for a couple of spade tricks, and the hand with the setting trick would be in. Katz, however, played another diamond and Hurd escaped with nine tricks. Plus 600 meant another 10 IMPs to LEBRON, who finished with a 20-12 victory.

Championship Diary

Chatting with the President of the EBL, Yves Aubry, he mentioned that he had made more than 100 flights in the last year, a testament to the work that he has to undertake on behalf of the League.

He also mentioned the possibility of staging a 'Midnight Pairs' in Tromsø - in the open air, naturally.

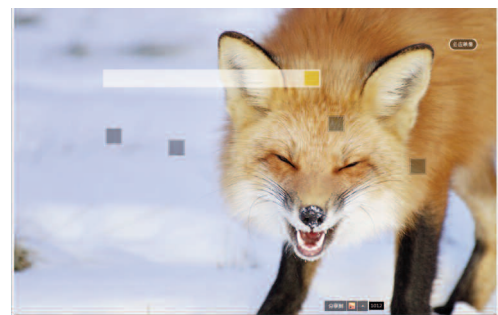


Xie Dandan, Tong Tong, Zhan Dunni, three of the huge crowd of Chinese helpers who all attend Qiongzhan University

While constructing the article *Dodging the Bullet* I asked Barry Rigal if he had any idea who Chung Ling Soo was. His first guess was the man who invented Bird's Nest Soup. His next that he was a partner in the firm of lawyers, Soo Grab it and Run. His final despairing attempt was that it related to the eponymous hero of the Johnny Cash hit *A boy named Soo*.

If you can add to those do let us know.

Yesterday the web browser Bing created a home page in honour of one of the World Champions competing here in Sanya - can you name her? Here is your clue:



Back from the brink

By Brent Manley

In the final match of the Open Teams Semi-final A, the Nick Nickell team needed a big set to make it to the round of 32. They came through, winning 36-1 against a Chinese team to jump from 36th place – out of qualifying – to 20th, making the top 27 teams that went forward to the round of 32 along with the top five teams from Semi-final B.

Nickell and company continued to steamroll the opponents in the knockout phase, pounding the Hemant Jalan team 47-6 in the first of three sets and taking a 140-29 lead with 14 boards to go.

Board 2. Dealer East. N-S Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Meckstroth	Bendre	Rodwell	Thakral
		1♦*	Pass
1♠	Pass	INT	Pass
2♦*	Pass	2♠	Pass
2NT	All Pass		
1♦	Precision		
2♦	Checkback		

Sundeep Thakral led a low heart to the 6, 8 and jack. Eric Rodwell played a low club to the king and North's ace. North followed with the ♥A and another heart, establishing the suit. Rodwell played a spade from hand and South went in with the ace to cash his heart winners. Meckwell had stopped on a dime for plus 120.

West	North	East	South
Jalan	Levin	Malhotra	Weinstein
		Pass	Pass
1♣	Pass	INT	Pass
2♣	Dbl	3♣	All Pass

Bobby Levin, North, started with the ♠10. Steve Weinstein won the ace and returned the suit. Declarer at that point should have played on hearts to establish a discard for his losing diamond, but he played a trump instead. Levin went in with the ace and gave his partner a spade ruff. When Weinstein returned a diamond, declarer could not avoid one down. Nickell was ahead 5-0.

More IMPs went Nickell's way on the next board.

Board 3. Dealer South. E/W Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Meckstroth	Bendre	Rodwell	Thakral
			1♥
Pass	INT	Pass	2♣
Pass	2♠	Pass	3♦
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

Rodwell led the ♣10. Declarer, Kaustubh Bendre, discarded a diamond from dummy and won the ♣Q in hand. At trick two, North played a low heart to dummy's jack, returning to hand with the king. He then played a spade to dummy, cashed the ♥A and played a heart to Jeff Meckstroth's 10. At that point, declarer was down to the ♣A 6. Meckstroth returned a club, ducked by declarer. Rodwell cleared the suit and waited with the ♦A to take the setting trick in clubs for plus 50 to Nickell.

West	North	East	South
Jalan	Levin	Malhotra	Weinstein
			1♥
Pass	2♣	Pass	2♦
Pass	2NT	Pass	3♠
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

Ashish Malhotra also started with a club, which ran to Levin's queen. He played the ♥K at trick two, Malhotra falsecarding with the queen, but then played a diamond from hand. East had to duck or Levin would have two diamond winners to go with four hearts, two clubs and two spades. The ♦Q held the trick, and Levin made another astute play – a low heart from dummy. Jalan won the ♥10 and returned a club, but Levin was in control. He took the ♣A and entered dummy with the ♠A to cash three heart tricks for plus 400 and 10 IMPs to his side.

The score was 16-0 for Nickell when Meckwell got to show of the power of their Precision system.

Board 8. Dealer West. None Vul.

<div> <div> ♠ 8 7 4 3</div> <div>♥ J 9 4</div> <div>♦ 7 5</div> <div>♣ A K 10 6</div> </div> <div> <div>♠ AKJ9</div> <div>♥ 10 8 7</div> <div>♦ A Q J 10 3</div> <div>♣ 9</div> </div> <div> <div>N</div> <div>W E</div> <div>S</div> </div> <div> <div>♠ 6</div> <div>♥ AK 3</div> <div>♦ K 9 8 2</div> <div>♣ J 8 7 5 4</div> </div>			
<div> <div>♠ Q 10 5 2</div> <div>♥ Q 6 5 2</div> <div>♦ 6 4</div> <div>♣ Q 3 2</div> </div>			
West	North	East	South
Meckstroth	Bendre	Rodwell	Thakral
1♣*	Pass	INT*	Pass
2♥*	Pass	3♣*	Pass
3♠*	Pass	4♦*	Pass
5♣*	Pass	6♦	All Pass
1♣	Strong, usually 16+.		
INT	Five or more clubs, game forcing		
2♥	Five or more diamonds		
3♣	Four-card diamond support		
3♠	"Undiscussed"		
4♦	Roman Key Card Blackwood for diamonds		
5♣	Two key cards and the trump queen		

Thakral started with a low heart to the 7, 9 and ace. Rodwell cashed the ♥K at trick two and played a spade to the ace. Rodwell's losing heart went away on the ♠K. A spade ruff was followed by a low club from hand. Thakral won with the ♣Q and played a trump, but Rodwell could cruise in from there with an easy 12 tricks for plus 920.

An initial trump lead would not have helped the North-South cause. In that case, declarer could give up a club, win



Ashish Malhotra



Eric Rodwell

the trump return and establish a club trick by ruffing out the suit. He would win five diamonds in dummy, two ruffs in hand, two high spades, two high hearts and a long club for the same 12 tricks.

It was a 13-IMP swing because of what happened at the other table.

West	North	East	South
Jalan	Levin	Malhotra	Weinstein
1♦	Pass	1♥	Pass
1♠	Pass	INT	Pass
2♥	Pass	3♦	Pass
Pass (!)	Pass		

Obviously, something went wrong in the auction. Malhotra took the same 12 tricks as Rodwell, but his added up to only plus 170.

Jalan finally broke into the plus column on this deal.

Board 10. Dealer East. Both Vul.

<div> <div>♠ A 9 7 4</div> <div>♥ 10 9 8 2</div> <div>♦ J 2</div> <div>♣ K Q 10</div> </div> <div> <div>♠ 3</div> <div>♥ Q 6 4</div> <div>♦ A K 8 6 4</div> <div>♣ J 7 6 3</div> </div> <div> <div>N</div> <div>W E</div> <div>S</div> </div> <div> <div>♠ 2</div> <div>♥ A 7 5 3</div> <div>♦ Q 7 5 3</div> <div>♣ A 9 8 4</div> </div>			
<div> <div>♠ K Q J 10 8 6 5</div> <div>♥ K J</div> <div>♦ 10 9</div> <div>♣ 5 2</div> </div>			
West	North	East	South
Meckstroth	Bendre	Rodwell	Thakral
All Pass		Pass	3♠

Bendre's pass worked out well for his team. There were only nine tricks in spades and scarcely any way for the opponents to screw up the defense. Plus 140 to Jalan.

West	North	East	South
Jalan	Levin	Malhotra	Weinstein
Pass	3♦	Pass	1♠
All Pass		Pass	4♠

Weinstein considered his hand too good for a preempt in spades and he went for the vulnerable game after getting a four-card limit raise from Levin. East-West took their tricks for plus 100 and 6 IMPs, their only gain of the set.

The next board produced 7 IMPs for Nickell with an odd auction at one table and expert declarer play at the other.

Board 11. Dealer South. None Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Meckstroth	Bendre	Rodwell	Thakral
Pass	1♣*	1♦	Pass
2♣	All Pass		Pass



Sundeep Thakral

Despite holding 25 high-card points between them, North-South seemed flummoxed by the opposition bidding. Some action by North seems warranted over Meckstroth's 2♣, South's pass over 1♦ notwithstanding.

Meckstroth played the 6-0 fit for six tricks, going minus 100. At the other table, Levin made the most of his and South's assets.

West	North	East	South
Jalan	Levin	Malhotra	Weinstein
Pass	2NT	Pass	Pass
Pass	3♦	Pass	3♣
All Pass			3NT

There were no misunderstandings about who had what on this auction. Malhotra started with a low diamond to the 3, 10 and ace. Levin led a diamond right back at trick two, taken by East with the queen. East then played the ♠J: 3, 4, king. Levin returned a spade to the 9, ducked by West. In dummy, Levin played the ♦J to East's king. East got out with a spade to the queen and ace. Down to only hearts and clubs, West exited with a heart to Levin's king. He cashed two more hearts, reducing West to only clubs, and played a low club from hand, inserting the 8 when East showed out.

West won but had to lead away from the ♣K, which rode around to dummy's queen, where the good ♦9 was waiting to be cashed. Levin took three hearts, two spades, two diamonds and two clubs for plus 400.



Kaustubh Bendre

The Four Spades explosion

By Micke Melander

Before the last segment of the Round of 32, MAZURKIEWICZ led ROSENTHAL by a score of 77-63. The match re-started with a “simple” 3NT, when being in 6NT was the real challenge, the board is reported from that perspective in another article by Mark Horton. They both managed to score eleven tricks for a push. Then the explosion of Four Spades contracts started.

Board 2. Dealer East. N-S Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Klukowski	Hanlon	Gawrys	Carrol
1♥	1♠	Pass	1♦
Pass	4♣	3♦	3♠
		All Pass	

Hanlon watched Gawrys kick off with the seven of clubs, won in dummy with the ace. Declarer then played a diamond to the queen and ducked a second round to

West’s jack. West returned the queen of clubs ruffed by declarer. Hanlon then continued with a third round of diamonds, trying to collect clues about how the cards were distributed and therefore carefully looking what East was going to discard. On the third diamond, he got to see a heart! This heart gave Hanlon the impression that Gawrys had 3-4-2-4 rather than 2-4-2-5 and therefore played East for the queen of trumps. Hanlon thought that with 2-4-2-5 Gawrys always would have discarded a club...

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Lorenzini	Jassem	Bessis	Mazurkiewicz
1♥	2♥	Pass	1♦
Pass	4♣	3♥	3♠
		All Pass	

In the Closed Room, Mazurkiewicz got to declare Four Spades from South after a transfer from North. West lead the four of hearts to East’s ace, and back came the ten of diamonds which went to dummy’s queen. Mazurkiewicz now played on the simple line of a club to the ace, ruff a club, ruff a heart, cash the ace of spades, ruff a club, ruff a heart and ruff his last club. At this position he was down to king-jack in spades and two low diamonds in dummy while having king to four in diamonds in hand and only needed two more tricks. When the king of spades brought down the queen he had ten tricks.

So first blood to MAZURKIEWICZ, who earned 12 IMPs.

Board 5. Dealer North. N-S Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Klukowski	Hanlon	Gawrys	Carrol
Pass	Pass	1♦	1♠
Pass	2♠	Pass	3♥
Pass	3♠	All Pass	

In the Closed Room, the Irish pair came to a stop in Three Spades. Klukowski lead the five of diamonds that went to



Tom Hanlon and John Carroll

the two, nine and declarer's ten. Carrol now cashed the ace and king of spades to pull trumps being afraid that either of the defenders might have diamond ruff to bring him down. That was a real double fault. The defender who might have had a ruff was out of trumps and the trumps, which might have been played for one loser, now represented two losers. Declarer ran the queen of clubs to East's king and East cashed the jack of trumps and played back the six of hearts. Carrol tried for having the king onside and when it wasn't he was bound to go one down, losing two trumps and one trick in each plain suit.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Lorenzini	Jassem	Bessis	Mazurkiewicz
	Pass	1♦	1♠
Pass	2♠	Pass	4♠
All Pass			

Mazurkiewicz just jumped to game after he got a single raise from partner. Lorenzini lead the five of diamonds, which Bessis couldn't read. Bessis went up with the ace of diamonds and returned the suit. Declarer won in dummy with the jack and played a spade to the ten! Even when that held the trick he needed a lot more luck: trumps to break 3-2 and the kings of clubs and hearts to be onside. When that wasn't the case, he was one off for a push.

Board 8. Dealer West. None Vul.

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

N

W

E

S

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Klukowski	Hanlon	Gawrys	Carrol
1♥	Pass	1♠	Pass
2♦	Pass	3♥	3♠
4♥	Dble	All Pass	

A competitive auction brought the Polish pair to game in hearts, which Hanlon happily doubled, probably believing that Santa Claus had come early this year to Sanya. The four of spades was led to the three, seven and declarer's five. Carrol played back the nine of diamonds whereupon Klukowski played the heart ace and a trump to dummy's jack receiving the bad news of the trump split when South discarded the two of spades. Declarer then finessed successfully with the queen of clubs and tried the ten of



Piotr Gawrys and Michal Klukowski diamonds. Hanlon went up with the king and switched to the three of clubs which went to the four, seven and declarer's nine. If it just wasn't for the trumps it was a great contract North with Q1083 left in trumps had to score two more tricks in the defense to set the contract with a trick for +100.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Lorenzini	Jassem	Bessis	Mazurkiewicz
1♥	Pass	2♥	4♠
Dble	All Pass		

In the Closed Room, Mazurkiewicz took a chance at game and jumped to another Four Spades. West's take-out



Cedric Lorenzini and Thomas Bessis

double was converted to penalty by Bessis. Lorenzini led the two of hearts, ruffed by declarer in hand. South tried with a diamond towards dummy but West went up with the ace and played back the queen which declarer now won in dummy with the king. A club to the king and ace followed, West continued with the jack of diamonds, when East discarded a heart and declarer again ruffed. Another club was now played by declarer. East overtook West's nine with the ten and played a trump, declarer successfully finessing in trumps. He then tried the ace of spades to see that West was out and then knew that he had two spade losers and two more in clubs for down three. Plus 500 meant 12 IMPs to ROSENTHAL for this Four Spade contract.

Board 12. Dealer West. N-S Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Klukowski</i>	<i>Hanlon</i>	<i>Gawrys</i>	<i>Carrol</i>
INT	Pass	2♥	3♥
Pass	Pass	Dble	Pass
4♠	All Pass		

Hanlon lead the five of hearts, declarer won in dummy with the king and went for the right line when calling for the jack of trumps, Carrol covered with the queen and declarer won with the ace. Another trump followed to dummy's nine and South's king. Back came a heart to dummy's ace as North discarded a low diamond. A diamond to the king ended play North, who had to lead away into declarer's tenaces in clubs and diamonds. Hanlon tried a club but when the suit was 3-3 Klukowski had no problem scoring his ten tricks.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Lorenzini</i>	<i>Jassem</i>	<i>Bessis</i>	<i>Mazurkiewicz</i>
INT	Pass	2♥	Dble
Rdbl	Pass	3♠	Pass
4♠	Dble	All Pass	

In the Closed Room Mazurkiewicz led the ten of hearts when the French actually had got the declarer play on the right hand. Bessis won with the ace and played a spade to dummy's eight. If he just would have continued playing on

trumps he would have been okay like Klukowski did in the Open Room. The double from North probably made him thinking that trumps was 4-1 so to protect against this he wanted back to his hand and called for a low diamond from dummy. North could now win with the jack, give partner a ruff in diamonds, get back a ruff in hearts and give partner a second diamond ruff.

Two down was minus 300 and 12 IMPs to MAZURKIEWICZ.

Board 14. Dealer East. None Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Klukowski</i>	<i>Hanlon</i>	<i>Gawrys</i>	<i>Carrol</i>
		Pass	Pass
1♠	Dble	Rdbl	2♣
2♦	3♣	3♠	All Pass

Why Gawrys didn't jump to Four Spades when partner raised the question for support in diamonds remains unknown. When E/W had all the right spot cards needed, 20 combined high-card points were enough for game when trumps behaved. Declarer set up his hearts, could pull trumps and when the ace of diamonds was onside it was ten tricks.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Lorenzini</i>	<i>Jassem</i>	<i>Bessis</i>	<i>Mazurkiewicz</i>
		Pass	Pass
1♠	2♣	Dble	3♣
3♦	Pass	4♠	All Pass

Similar bidding in the Closed Room, Bessis valued his hand differently from Gawrys and took a chance on game. Right he was this time bringing in 6 IMPs in the last Four Spade contract of the match.

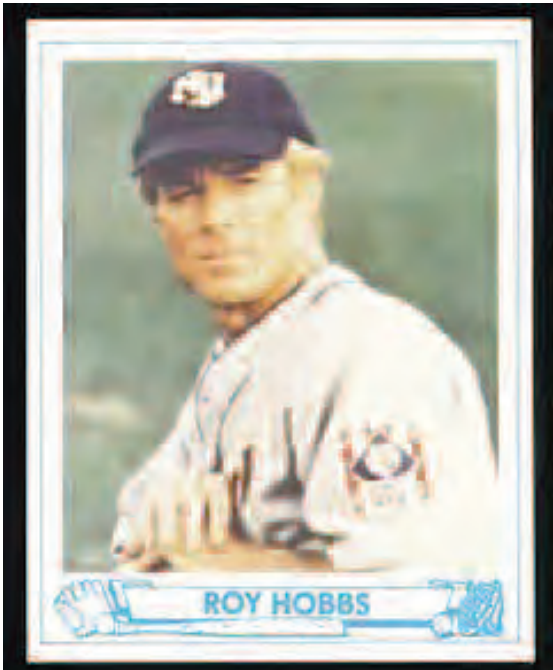
MAZURKIEWICZ won the last segment with 45-29 and was then clear for the Round of 16.



The Natural

By Mark Horton

The Natural is a 1984 film adaptation of Bernard Malamud's 1952 baseball novel of the same name, directed by Barry Levinson and starring Robert Redford, Glenn Close, and Robert Duvall. The film, like the book, recounts the experiences of Roy Hobbs, an individual with great 'natural' baseball talent, spanning decades of Roy's eventual success and his suffering.



In an early scene Roy is asked what he hopes to achieve in Baseball and he says he hopes that when he walks down the street people would look, see him and say, 'There goes Roy Hobbs, the best there ever was'.

I cannot tell you that what people will say about the bridge champions of the present era, but if you stay with me until the end of this article I will offer an opinion about one of them.

MONACO started the second set of their Rosenblum round of 16 match with a 4IMP lead.

Board 2. Dealer East. NS Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
King	Fantoni	Black	Nunes
3♣*	Pass	1♠	2♣
3♣	Good raise in spades		

South led the queen of hearts and declarer won with the ace and played the six of spades. South going up with the ace and returning a spade to dummy's king. Declarer played dummy's ten of spades, overtook it with the jack and played the seven of hearts for the jack and king. A heart to the ten was followed by the jack of diamonds to the ace, a club went on the master heart and declarer came to hand with the ace of diamonds, +480 when the queen appeared

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Helgemo	Hallberg	Helness	Bertheau
3♣*	Pass	1♠	2♣
3♣	Spade raise		

Here too, South started with the queen of hearts and declarer won with the ace and played a spade. South took the ace and returned the eight of hearts. Not wanting to risk a heart ruff declarer put up dummy's king and played a club to the king and ace. South cashed the jack of hearts and continued with the queen of clubs. Declarer ruffed, played a spade to the king, cashed the ace of diamonds and played a diamond to the jack and queen, +140 and 8 IMPs to BLACK handing them the lead.

Board 5. Dealer North. NS Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
King	Fantoni	Black	Nunes
4♠	INT*	2♠	Pass
INT	12-14 any balanced, 5332, 5422, (no54 Ms), 4441, 6m332		

I'm not sure if 2♠ promised spades and a minor, but West was always going to game whatever it meant.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Helgemo	Hallberg	Helness	Bertheau
	1♣	1♠	Pass
2♣	Pass	2♠	Pass
2NT	Pass	3NT	All Pass

South led the nine of clubs and North won with the ace and returned the jack. South ruffed and switched to the nine of hearts for the five, king and ace. Declarer cashed the ace of spades and then played dummy's diamonds, throwing a heart from hand. That was +420.

Board 9. Dealer North. EW Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
King	Fantoni	Black	Nunes
	Pass	1♣	1♦
2♦*	4♦	Pass	Pass
5♣	All Pass		



Fulvio Fantoni

North's jump to 4♦ took away a lot of space, but even so West might have done more than bid 5♣.

Declarer won the diamond lead with dummy's ace, ruffed a diamond, drew trumps and claimed twelve tricks, +620.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Helgemo	Hallberg	Helness	Bertheau
	Pass	1♣	1♦
2♠*	4♦	Pass	Pass
6♣	All Pass		

That simple auction gave MONACO 13 IMPs.

Board 10. Dealer East. All Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
King	Fantoni	Black	Nunes
		Pass	1♦*
Pass	2♣*	Pass	2♠
Pass	2NT	Pass	3♣
Pass	3♦	Pass	3♥
Pass	3NT	Pass	4♦
Pass	5♣*	Pass	6♦
All Pass			

- 1♦ 14+ (good 12/13) 4+ diamonds
- 2♣ Game forcing, clubs or balanced or diamond support
- 5♣ Cue bid

West led the two of clubs for the ace, five and three. Declarer played a spade for the six, ace and two and the six of hearts. West put up the king and exited with the seven of hearts for the jack and ace. Declarer played four rounds of trumps and when West discarded the four of hearts declarer knew he was home, +1370.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Helgemo	Hallberg	Helness	Bertheau
		Pass	1♦
Pass	1♥	Pass	1♠
Pass	1NT	Pass	3♥
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

North knew his partner had a very good hand, but with so much in clubs it was tough to go beyond 3NT. East led the nine of clubs and declarer won with dummy's ten, cashed the top clubs and claimed eleven tricks, +460 but 12 IMPs to Monaco.

Board 13. Dealer North. All Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
King	Fantoni	Black	Nunes
	Pass	Pass	1♦*
Dble	1♥	1♠	Dble*
2♠	3♥	Pass	4♥
4♠	4NT	Pass	5♦
5♠	Pass	Pass	6♦
6♠	Pass	Pass	Dble
All Pass			

1♦ 14+ (good 12/13) 4+ diamonds

I'm not sure about the meaning of South's first double - it might have shown heart support.

Thereafter both sides bid a lot.



If West had passed 6♦ East would have doubled for a heart lead, but as you will read elsewhere that is no guarantee that the slam will be defeated.

South led the ace of diamonds and declarer ruffed in dummy, ruffed a heart with the nine of spades and played a club. South did not make the mistake of ruffing (that allows 6♠ to make!) and discarded the ace of hearts. Declarer won with dummy's queen, ruffed a heart with the two of spades and played a club. Playing safe, South pitched the two of diamonds and declarer won with dummy's ace, and ruffed a heart with the jack of spades. South overruffed and returned a trump. Declarer won with dummy's ace and the defenders had a heart and club to come, two down, -500.

Declarer missed a neat possibility.

If he wins the spade exit in hand he can play a diamond, throwing a club from dummy. South wins and exits with a spade, but declarer wins in dummy and cashes two more trumps, squeezing North in hearts and clubs for one down.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Helgemo	Hallberg	Helness	Bertheau
	2♦*	Pass	2NT*
Pass	3♦	Pass	6♥
?			
2♦ Multi			
2NT Relay			
3♦ Minimum, hearts			

N/S can make 6♥ but only if South is declarer.

When I presented the auction up to the point where South had bid 6♥ to my colleagues, to a man (and woman) they said they would not double and were thinking about what to lead.

Now came one of the most remarkable (and courageous) bids you will ever see - indeed, I am almost at a loss to find the words to describe it.

The bid of the century perhaps?

Or the bid heard round the world?

This is how the auction concluded:

6♠!! Dble All Pass

North led the nine of hearts and declarer ruffed and played a club, winning with the queen when South pitched a diamond. He ruffed a heart and played another club, putting in the nine when South threw the ace of hearts. North won with the ten and made the slight mistake of returning a diamond. Declarer ruffed and ruffed a heart and although South could overruff that was the last trick for the defence, one down and 7 IMPs for Monaco.

It is unusual for a single bid to win an award, but it is not without precedent so Geir's stupendous effort must surely be a candidate for 2015.

There goes Geir Helgemo, the best there ever was.

Friendly but Merciless

By Sviatlana Badrankova

Bridge is equal to all other sports when it is about the players’ attitude to the competition. At the table, they are as friendly to each other as they are merciless to the bidding and play problems they face.

This deal from the match between LAVAZZA and ERA in the Red Bull Rosenblum round of 16 serves as an example:

Board 23. Dealer South. All Vul.

♠ 6 5 4
♥ A 8 7 6 2
♦ A J 8 2
♣ 9

♠ 3
♥ Q J 4
♦ K 10 3
♣ K Q 10 7 6 5

N
W E
S

♠ K J 9 8 7 2
♥ K 10 9 5 3
♦ –
♣ 4 2

♠ A Q 10
♥ –
♦ Q 9 7 6 5 4
♣ A J 8 3

West	North	East	South
Tarnovski	Bocchi	Pachtman	Madala
2♣	Dble	2♠	Pass
3♣	3♦	3♥	4♣
Pass	5♦	Pass	6♦
Dble	All Pass		

At this table, each player made the maximum use of the

resources available (at many other EW were allowed to play in hearts).

Well informed about the lay out, Agustin Madala demonstrated precise declarer play. After the ♥Q opening lead, he ruffed in hand, took his time for planning and proceeded very confidently. He ran the ♦Q discovering the 3-0 trump break (East discarded a club) and played the ♣J. Bar Tarnovski, West, won and returned the ♦10 to the jack. A heart ruff was followed by a diamond to the ace, the ♥A (club from declarer’s hand), and one more heart ruff. Then the ♣A and a club ruff resulted in this ending:

♠ 6 5 4
♥ 8
♦ 8
♣ –

♠ 3
♥ –
♦ –
♣ K 10 7 6

N
W E
S

♠ K J 9 8
♥ K
♦ –
♣ –

♠ A Q 10
♥ –
♦ –
♣ A 8

On the ♣A, both dummy and East pitched a spade, but when the eight of clubs was ruffed, East had to admit he was caught.

A beginner may wonder why declarer should lose a trick in a side suit when possessing the ace opposite a singleton and plenty of trumps. Nevertheless, only this line of play allows declarer to succeed and it takes no account of the quality of declarer’s spades. East, is marked with at least five spades and, replacing the ten of spades with the two would make no difference.

Next door, Dominik Filipowicz, playing in 5♦ doubled collected 12 tricks as well but after a small spade opening lead.

So, the merciless LAVAZZA’s score was tanked up by 11 IMPs.... but the atmosphere at both tables remained friendly.

(A beginner might wonder why declarer had not simply taken two spade finesses, but suppose West had started with the singleton jack!

It is the ability to take these minute extra chances into account that only the very greatest players can master.
Editor)



Agustin Madala

Carousel

By Mark Horton

Carousel is the second musical by the team of Richard Rodgers and Oscar Hammerstein II. Rodgers later wrote that Carousel was his favourite of all his musicals. One of the many well known songs from the musical is If I loved You, which contains the line 'I'd let my golden chances pass me by'.



In the last session of the Rosenblum round of 32 this deal offered up a beautiful opportunity:

Board 1. Dealer North. None Vul.

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

3NT/ 4NT was a popular contract but three declarers were more ambitious, getting all the way to 6NT.

This was the bidding at one of the tables:

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Strzemecki</i>	<i>Chagas</i>	<i>Zawada</i>	<i>Weinstein</i>
	Pass	1♣*	Pass
1♥	Pass	1NT	Pass
3♣*	Pass	3♦*	Pass
4NT*	Pass	6NT	All Pass

South led the ten of spades and declarer won with dummy's ace and ran the eight of clubs. When that held he continued with the nine of clubs and when North played the jack he won with the king. When declarer ducked a heart, North won with the king and returned a spade. There was no pressure in the ending and declarer lost a club at the end for one down.

The other two declarers were also unsuccessful, but all three had let their golden chance pass them by.

Instead of ducking a heart declarer plays off his spade and diamond winners to reach this position:

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

♠ —	♠ —	♠ —
♥ J 6 5	♥ —	♥ —
♦ J	♦ —	♦ —
♣ 2	♣ —	♣ —

When declarer cashes the ace of diamonds North must throw a high heart to avoid being endplayed, but then declarer can play a heart to the ace, when if North unblocks, a second heart results in South being endplayed.



Przemysław Zawada

Notice that if South leads a heart declarer can survive by taking the ace, playing clubs as before and then cashing the winners in the pointed suit. The last of these will be too much for North, even if he is down to ♥K4 ♣16.

“What,” I hear you asking, “if North had started with $\clubsuit Q|3$?”

First that is not the type of hand that will entertain you. Second, in this type of situation it is almost impossible for a defender not to give the game away.

The three declarers in 4NT all took 12 tricks - well done indeed.

Every IMP Counts

By Al Levy & Mark Horton

An earlier Bulletin mentioned this deal from Round 2 of the McConnell:

Board 9. Dealer North. EW Vul.

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

At one table declarer made 5♣, playing in approved fashion, eliminating the diamonds while drawing trumps and then playing three rounds of hearts, endplaying whoever won the trick.

At the other table declarer, a very strong player (with three world titles to her name) performed the elimination, but then lost a spade to West and finished with only ten tricks.

Although of little interest in itself, it did draw our attention to an interesting situation that is likely to occur quite often.

Our expert immediately assumed that on this deal 5♣ would be made via the elimination, so the score in the other room was certain to be +400.

Making 12 tricks for +170 results in a difference of 230 which equates to 6 IMPs. Taking 11 tricks for +150 gives a difference of 250, still good for a 6 IMP swing. However, making only ten tricks for +130 leaves a differential of 270 - and that costs an extra IMP.

So, perhaps now we know why players like Jeff Meckstroth know the IMP scale off by heart!



Close-up image of the Lincoln Imp at the Medieval Cathedral of Lincoln, England.

Apart from IMPs at bridge, an imp is a mythological being similar to a fairy or goblin, frequently described in folklore and superstition. The word may perhaps derive from the term ympe, used to denote a young grafted tree.

WBF Swiss Teams - Masterpoints Award

Rank	MP
1	120
2	96
3	84
4	72
5	60
6	50
7	40
8	30
9	20
10	10



7.2 Mobile Phones and Electronic Devices

Mobile phones and electronic devices may not be taken into the playing area and toilets.

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Any player, captain or coach bringing a mobile phone and or electronic device into the playing area and toilets will cause his team to be fined 2 VPs, (or 6 IMPs in a knockout match) or, in the case of pairs events, will result in his partnership being fined 25% of the matchpoints available on a board during the session, plus in all cases, a monetary fine, the amount of which will be announced to the participants before the start of the event. This penalty is mandatory. Failure to pay the fine will result in the player being prohibited from playing.



The Head Tournament Director may, at his discretion, prohibit a player from bringing other equipment into the playing area.

Anyone entering the playing area may be required to comply with procedures put in place by the WBF for the detection of such electronic equipment.

See also Section 27.2 for restrictions pertaining to spectators.

The Head Tournament Director will arrange for random checks of players, captains and coaches to ensure that there is compliance with these prohibitions. Refusal to submit to these checks will bar the individual concerned from entry to the playing area and toilet area, and from remaining there.

Refusal to submit to these checks will result in the individual being barred from the playing area and toilet area for the duration of the match or until such time as the Head Tournament Director, in consultation with the Championship Committee, shall decide.

the ♠Q and returned the 10, blotting out declarer's 9. Jassem tried a club to the 10, but Levin won the jack and got out with a low diamond. Jassem played low from dummy and Weinstein was in with the ♦J. He played another diamond to the 10 and dummy's queen, Levin playing low.

The ♦A was followed by another diamond to Levin's king. He exited with a heart, giving declare three tricks in that suit. Still, it was two down for plus 200. At the other table, Katz and Nickell stopped in 2NT, down one, for a 3-IMP gain.

The teams exchanged overtrick IMPs on the next few boards before the hammer fell on Nickell on unlucky No. 13.

Board 13. Dealer North. Both Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Jassem	Levin	Mazurkiewicz	Weinstein
All Pass	2♥	Pass	6♦

Against this uninformative auction, Jassem had to find an opening lead and he chose well, starting with the ♠A. Mazurkiewicz followed with the 10 and Jassem did not have to think hard to conclude that Weinstein's leap to slam was likely based on a heart fit. The heart switch at trick two resulted in one down, plus 100 for Mazurkiewicz.

At the other table:

West	North	East	South
Katz	Gawrys	Nickell	Klukowski
	2♦*	Pass	2NT
Pass	3♣	Pass	3♦
Pass	3♠	Pass	6♥
All Pass			

Michal Klukowski and Gawrys managed to get to the right slam played from the right side. On the lead of the ♣A, Klukowski had to be careful to ruff with one of his heart honors. Otherwise, the 4-0 trump split would defeat the contract. Ruffing with an honor allows declarer to cash the other high one and take the marked finesse in hearts to pick up trumps.

In the VENTIN v LITTLE MECK match, Sabine Auken, sitting East, made a Lightner slam double on this bidding:

West	North	East	South
Welland	Milne	Auken	Griffith
	2♥	Pass	6♦
Pass	Pass	Dble	Rdbl
All Pass			

Welland found the heart lead to give his partner a ruff, but Auken returned a diamond and Aneurin Griffiths was able to claim his redoubled slam for plus 1830. Had Auken returned a spade to her partner's ace, she could have taken a second heart ruff for plus 1000 and a 20-IMP swing because their teammates at the other table — Carlos Ventin and Frederic Wrang — bid 6♦ by North, making because Josef Piekarek, who was on lead, did not find the opening shot of a spade, which would have at least given his side a shot at defeating the slam via a heart ruff. Auken and Welland had to be relieved to lose only 10 IMPs. Despite that hiccup, Ventin won the match.

At the end of play in the second set of the Round of 16 match, MAZURKIEWICZ had a 34-27 lead.

In the third of the three sessions, the swings were mostly small ones. Halfway through the set MAZURKIEWICZ had scored 8 IMPs to 5 for NICKELL to lead overall by 42-32.

Both teams had a chance for a double-digit swing on the following board, but neither could stop short of slam.

Board 21. Dealer North. N/S Vul.

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



Ralph Katz

West	North	East	South
Klukowski	Rodwell	Gawrys	Meckstroth
	1♣*	1♦	1♥
Dble	1♠	Pass	2♦
Pass	2♣	Pass	3♠
Pass	3NT	Pass	4♣
Pass	4NT	Pass	5♦
Pass	6♠	All Pass	

With a discard available on the ♦A, all Rodwell needed was the ♥A on side. It was not to be, so the contract was one off, minus 100.

West	North	East	South
Weinstein	Mazurkiewicz	Levin	Jassem
	1♣	Pass	1♥
Pass	1♠	Pass	2♣
Pass	2♣	Pass	3♦
Pass	3♥	Pass	4♣
Pass	5♦	Pass	5♥
Pass	6♥	All Pass	

In hearts, no lie of the cards would allow declarer to get out with one trump loser. In fact, there was no way to avoid two heart losers, so the contract was two down, minus 200 —3 IMPs to NICKELL.

Had North-South at either table avoided the doomed slam, they would have been rewarded with a 12- or 13-IMP swing.

NICKELL was trailing 50-32 when this deal came along.

Board 25. Dealer North. E/W Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Klukowski	Rodwell	Gawrys	Meckstroth
	Pass	2♣*	3♠
Dble	Pass	4♥	Pass
Pass	4♠	Pass	Pass
Dble	All Pass		

There were only two defensive tricks available to East-West: the ♥A and the ♣A. The overtrick gave Nickell a score of plus 690. It would have been a huge gain if Weinstein could have brought home his contract at the other table. It had no play, however.

West	North	East	South
Weinstein	Mazurkiewicz	Levin	Jassem
	Pass	1♣	4♠
5♦	All Pass		

Mazurkiewicz led the ♣10. Weinstein went up with the ace, pulled trumps and played the ♥A and a low heart from hand. When Mazurkiewicz followed low smoothly, Weinstein played low, losing to the jack. With a club and a heart still to come for the defense, Weinstein was two down and minus 200. It was a 10-IMP gain, tightening the score to 50-42.

NICKELL gained 5 IMPs on the next board when Gawrys when down in 1NT, a contract made by Levin at the other table. An overtrick IMP made the score 50-48 when the final deal of the match was put on the table.

Board 28. Dealer West. N/S Vul.

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



Nick Nickell

At the other table, Levin and Weinstein played in 2♠ after a Flannery auction, making nine tricks for plus 140.

West	North	East	South
Klukowski	Rodwell	Gawrys	Meckstroth
1♥	Pass	1♠	Pass
3♠	Pass	4♠	All Pass

Against the spade game, Meckstroth started with a trump. Gawrys played low from dummy and Rodwell took the king. At trick two, Rodwell played a diamond, taken by Meckstroth with the jack. Meckstroth cashed the ♦A and continued with a trump.

Gawrys won in dummy and played the ♥A followed by a low heart. Rodwell discarded a club and Gawrys ruffed. He then ruffed a low diamond with the ♠J and called for another low heart, ruffing again as Rodwell discarded another club. Gawrys, now out of trumps in his hand, entered dummy with the ♣K. This was the position:

♠ A	♠ 10	♠ –
♥ K J	♥ –	♥ –
♦ –	♦ K	♦ Q
♣ 8	♣ J 9	♣ A 10 7
	<div style="display: inline-block; background-color: #008000; color: white; padding: 5px; text-align: center;"> N W E S </div>	
	♠ –	
	♥ Q 10 9	
	♦ –	
	♣ Q	

Gawrys cashed the ♠A to pull the last trump, and on the play of the ♥K, Rodwell could not find a good discard. The squeeze brought the contract home for a 6-IMP swing. Had Gawrys gone down, minus 50 would have resulted in a 5-IMP swing for NICKELL, good enough for the victory.

The Duplimates used for the duplication here in Bali are sold for Eur 1999.

For more information see

www.jannersten.com/newsletters/Sanya_specials.pdf or Per Jannersten.

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The cards played at the championships are sold for EUR 100/200 decks.

Note that orders must be placed during the championships while delivery will be from Europe AFTER the event.

Please see (or email) per@jannersten.com to order or get more info.

Championship Diary 2

The Rosenblum match between Formidables and Yuetao of Guagzhou was a real nailbiter. On Board 20 of the final set different explanations on either side of the screen led to a score adjustment, 3NT-1 being changed to 4♠+2 which effectively swung 13 IMPs to the Chinese team.

Then came another moment of drama:

Board 21. Dealer North. NS Vul.

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

N/S for Formidables reached 6♠ on the lead of the five of diamonds.

At some point declarer played a heart to the king and West followed with the ten of diamonds! At this point declarer claimed 12 tricks and so play ceased. Now West's potential revoke came to light and the result was changed to one down.

(Suppose declarer ruffs a diamond at trick one, crosses to the queen of spades, ruffs a diamond, cashes a club, ruffs a club, ruffs a diamond, draws trumps and plays a heart to the king, West following with the ten of diamonds. That becomes a penalty card and the losing hearts go on dummy's winning diamonds.)

Now the match was an exact tie, and the rules provide for two extra boards to be played.

Formidables asked for a review on both deals.

Both results stood, but meanwhile Yuetao had been going through the boards and they discovered scoring error! It gave them 5 IMPs and a place in the quarter finals.

That is not quite the end of the story.

With reviewers in short supply (they had all seen the hands) Ata Aydin had to deal with them. That meant finding a substitute for 4 deals in the Pairs Championship for his partner Ugurcan Suzer. Virginia Chediak stepped in and the temporary partnership collected 59%, 79%, 66% & 100% on the four deals. Ugurcan asks that you seek as many reviews as possible over the coming days!

Netherlands-Pertamina EP (Indonesia)**McConnell QF I**

By Barry Rigal

The Dutch team featured a mix of youth and experience. Although Michiels/Wortel were playing for BAKER, the Dutch had included an even younger pair on their squad, in the shape of Laura Dekkers/Judith Nab. They would be out for the first set as Anneke Simons/Jet Pasma and Carla Arnolds/Wietske van Zwol took on the Indonesian front four of Lusje Bojoh/Julita Tueje and Suci Dewi/Kristina Murniati.

After PERTAMINA had broken on top with 3 IMPs in undertricks, the second board of the match saw Simons put Pasma's declaring skills to the test.

Board 2. Dealer East. N/S Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Simons	Tueje	Pasma	Bojoh
	Pass	1♠	2♣
3♣	Pass	3♠	Pass
4♠	All Pass		

It seems somewhat surprising that E/W had to play game here after East had opened the bidding – there ought to be a way to put the brakes on – indeed that is what East's 3♠ bid normally represents. But Simons took her partner through the red light and it was up to Pasma to come home without incurring an accident. She was favored with a top heart lead – for which one could hardly blame South. Declarer won in hand, led a spade to the king, then a

second spade and found the good news. When the jack of hearts came back she won in dummy, came to hand with the ten of hearts and pitched her club on the fourth heart after crossing to dummy with the ♦A, and lost only one more trick to the ♦Q.

I'm not sure if West asked her partner why she didn't drop the ♦Q – but such comments normally get rewarded with a quick slap around the chops...

CHINA ORANGE misguessed both pointed queens against MOSS, while BAKER managed to play a making partscore in both rooms somehow to gain 6 IMPs.

The next board saw a tricky valuation problem; after North opens a natural 1♣ (let's say 2+ clubs for the sake of argument, but it is not really germane to the problem) how should E/W bid here?

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



At the table when Pasma overcalled 1♠, as we all would do, Simons' methods allowed her to show four trumps and opening values with a jump to 3♠. When Pasma signed off in 3♠ Simons had nothing to say. Observe the perfect fit and complete absence of wasted spots – every honour down to the ten is more than pulling its weight! Even though the defenders took a club ruff, they could not stop declarer making ten tricks when spades were 2-2. CHINA RED were the only pair to bid game here but in compensation the 2♣ opening found in the other room handed back 300 points to COFCO, so they gained only 4 IMPs here.

Netherlands went into the lead 11-6 when they stopped low on an ill-fitting combined 24-count, and though Simons couldn't quite bring home her two-level partscore in a 5-1 fit, she still gained against 3NT down two from the other room. It was 12-6 when the boards started to heat up,

Board 9. Dealer North. None Vul.

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



Lusje Olha Bojoh

West	North	East	South
Simons	Tueje	Pasman	Bojoh
2♣	Pass	1♣	Pass
Rdbl	4♦	3♦	Dble
7♣	All Pass	4♥	5♦

Pasman certainly did not hold back here, but reached a contract with measurable play - albeit not necessarily one would wish to be in, since finding the ♥Q is not enough to guarantee making the slam. Pasman had a lot of information from the opponents' entry into the auction but it did not point clearly one way or the other. Eventually she won the top diamond lead and drew trumps, then led a heart to the king and the ♥J from dummy, a move she would have cause to regret. When the hearts did not break, she followed the percentages and misguessed the spade queen. Of course had she led a low heart from dummy instead of the jack, the hand would have been over. PERTAMINA led 22-12 now.

BAKER missed slam altogether, and CHINA ORANGE negotiated hearts successfully against MOSS to bring home the grand slam.

On the next deal only three of the N/S pairs were able to bid to their best slam, 6♦. The rest of the field played 3NT.

Board 10. Dealer North. None Vul.

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

CHINA ORANGE and CHINA RED managed to play 6♦ by North. On a diamond lead the CHINA ORANGE declarer played a heart towards her queen and was home as the cards lay. (Note: if West ducks her king the only and non-obvious line is to draw trumps, eschewing the spade ruff in North and play three rounds of hearts, falling back on the club finesse if hearts do not break). The China Red declarer received the devilish lead of a low spade and elected to ruff a spade in hand. That was a swift down one.

Against declarer for PUSHI West for BAKER led the spade nine. Yes a club lead would have worked better (declarer needs to take the ruffing finesse in clubs at once to come home since in theory the defenders could duck the first heart lead towards the queen – easier said than done!). But even so, I think South did very well not to play on spades but to go after hearts. West took her king, and declarer needed no further heroics.

Board 11. Dealer South. None Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Simons	Tueje	Pasman	Bojoh
Pass	1♣(2+)Pass	1♦(♥)	Pass
1♠	INT	Pass	2♦
Pass	3♣	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

Six of the eight tables played 3NT here, five by North, and all six made it, though accurate defence should prevail. Simons' overcall got Pasman off to a spade lead (low from three) and the spade king went to the ace. Back came a revealing spade ten, and declarer won the jack to play a diamond up. When Pasman ducked, the hand was over. Declarer could win and go after clubs, with her ninth winner already stolen. To defeat the contract Pasman has to win the diamond ace and shift to the heart ten – an almost impossible task? Notice that it is not good enough for West to duck the first spade and have East continue spades when in with the ♣Q at trick three. West gets caught in a strip-squeeze, after having to discard all her diamonds to lose the link to her partner.

Both N/S pairs then did well on the next board too, reaching a thin 3NT (with 11 facing 12 the hand was passed out at one table in Baker-PUSHI, the latter team's



Pertamina EP

discretion clearly suggesting their name was somewhat misleading!) and guessing which opponent had the missing queen-third of clubs to bring it home. Only the Baker declarer failed to find the queen, but both tables in CHINA RED-COFCO missed 3NT.

With the match score at 22-15 for Pertamina, the sort of result came up that has fans of KISS (Keep It Simple Stupid) chortling with glee.

Board 1. Dealer North. None Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Simons	Tueje	Pasman	Bojoh
	2♦*	Pass	2NT
Pass	3♣	Pass	5♣
All Pass			

Should 5♣ be Exclusion Blackwood or not? And should the blame be shared on the grounds that if one player makes the call and their partner is capable of passing it, then they shouldn't have put them under such pressure? One could argue that all North had to do was raise to 6♣ and her partner would be able to decide which slam they wanted to play in. Regardless, 5♣ was seven down while in the other room a Multi-auction got Arnolds-van Zwol to 6♥x by South and after the ♠A lead declarer could claim. Note that on a club lead (found by Glasson for the Moss team, you can only make legitimately by ruffing high. If you ruff low you can't draw trumps, and the 4-0 break means you run into a trump promotion on a second club.

If -700 was painful consider that PUSHI competed to 5♠x by West; try and beat it! The winning line after a diamond lead is to ruff four hearts in dummy, ruffing a second diamond then alternating ruffing hearts and leading clubs toward the West hand, to prevent South ruffing a winner. She does best to discard on the clubs, but when the fourth heart is ruffed, she can either overruff and concede control, or discard again and let declarer single in all 9 trumps and two clubs. Since 6♥ made in the other room this board constituted a first in my 35 years of watching bridge at the top, in that there were two swings of 20 IMPs on the same deal out of the four comparisons here.

At the end of the set NETHERLANDS led PERTAMINA EP by 32-22. With carry-forward from the individual match in the round robin the total was adjusted to 40-22.

Little fish are sweet

By Barry Rigal

In the semi-final phase of the qualifying event, when Diamond played Mark Gordon, this board was played in 2♠ by N/S for Gordon, down 100. Pepsi played 1NT as East on the auction shown below.

Board 1. Dealer North. None Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Seamon	Diamond	Pepsi	Platnick
			Pass
1♣	1♥	Pass	Pass
Dble	Pass	1NT	All Pass

Brian Platnick led the heart eight, and Pepsi put up the jack, ducked by Diamond. A second heart went to the king for a shift to the ♠J, round to the queen. Now a club to the queen, and a club back saw Platnick put up the jack – a card he was about to be known to hold. Diamond ducked the ♣K, so Pepsi led a diamond to the ♦Q, and Platnick made his second nice play when he ducked. Now a diamond to the ten and jack saw this ending reached.

	♠ 10 4	
	♥ A 7 3	
	♦ —	
	♣ A	
♠ A 6	<div>W N E S</div>	♠ 8 5
♥ —		♥ Q 10 9
♦ K 10		♦ —
♣ 10 8		♣ 3
	♠ K 9 2	
	♥ —	
	♦ A 8	
	♣ 9	

Diamond exited with the ♠10, overtaken by Platnick. At this point South's distribution appeared to be known as 5-1-5-2 so Pepsi took the ace and exited with a club, expecting to get a heart trick in the ending. But the defenders had one club and two tricks in each of the other suits for down one. Nicely done.

Robot madness

By Al Levy

The final KO of the 18th World Computer-Bridge Championship takes place today. With a strong finish, Shark Bridge overtook WBridge5 to meet Micro Bridge in the final KO. So it is a final without the favorite, WBridge5, for only the second time in the past eight years.

One deal that helped Shark Bridge advance was against WBRidge5 in their round-robin match, and showed the need to advance the auction as quickly as possible.

Board 11. Dealer South None Vul.

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

WBridge5 had just one trick. Plus 1090 to Shark Bridge

West	North	East	South
Shark Bridge	WBridge5	Shark Bridge	WBridge5
2♥	Pass	4♥	1♠
Pass	Pass	5♥	4♠
All Pass			Dbl

The North robot could have defeated 5♥ by leading the ♣A, but (presumably on a spade lead), West had an easy 11 tricks for plus 650. Combined with the result at the other table, Shark Bridge had a 17-IMP gain.

Disa-ppearing defensive tricks

By Barry Rigal

From Round 23 of the Women's qualifying

Board 1. Dealer North. N-S Vul.

		♠ 8 7 6		
		♥ A Q 7 2		
		♦ 10 6 5 2		
		♣ K 10		
♠ K 9 5	<div><div>N</div><div>W</div><div>E</div><div>S</div></div>		♠ Q 4 3 2	
♥ J 9 8			♥ K 10 6 5 4	
♦ J 3			♦ A 7 4	
♣ Q 9 7 6 4			♣ 2	
		♠ A J 10		
		♥ 3		
		♦ K Q 9 8		
		♣ A J 8 5 3		
West	North	East	South	
	<i>Disa</i>		<i>Deas</i>	
	Pass	1♥	Dble	
2♥	Pass	Pass	Dble	
Pass	3NT	All Pass		

From the qualifying match against Singapore Disa Eythorsdottir won the lead of the heart five cheaply in hand and led a diamond to the king, a club to the king and a diamond to the queen. With two diamond tricks in the bag, she now needed only four club tricks so she led a club from the board. Had West ducked declarer would have reverted to diamonds, but West accurately rose with the ♣Q and played back a heart. Disa ducked, pitching a diamond from dummy, won the next heart discarding a second diamond, and led a spade to the ten, producing this ending:

	♠ 8 7 6		♠ Q 4 3
	♥ 7		♥ K 10
	♦ 10 6		♦ A
	♣ —		♣
♠ K 9 5	<div><div>N</div><div>W</div><div>E</div><div>S</div></div>		♠ A J 10
♥ —			♥ —
♦ —			♦ —
♣ 9 7 6			♣ A J 8

When West won her spade king she had to lead either black suit and give dummy an extra winner, thereby conceding the ninth trick.

Five Easy Pieces

By Mark Horton

Five Easy Pieces is a 1970 American drama film starring Jack Nicholson. It tells the story of a surly oil rig worker, Bobby Dupea, whose seemingly rootless, blue-collar existence belies his privileged youth as a piano prodigy. The five classical piano pieces played in the film and referenced in the title are:

- Frédéric Chopin: Fantasy in F minor, Op. 49
- Johann Sebastian Bach: *Chromatic Fantasia and Fugue*, BWV 903
- Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart: Piano Concerto No. 9 in E-flat major, K. 271
- Chopin: Prelude in E minor, Op. 28, No. 4
- Mozart: Fantasy in D minor, K. 397

I cannot tell you if these are difficult compositions, but there were some tough deals in the second session of the Rosenblum quarter-final between Monaco and Lebron - by pure chance I have selected five of them - judge for yourselves if they were five easy pieces:

Board 19. Dealer South. EW Vul.

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



John Kranyak

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Demuy	Helness	Kranyak	Helgemo
			1♦
Pass	3♣*	All Pass	
3♣	Natural, limited		

East led the king of hearts and declarer won with dummy's ace and played a club to the jack and ace. East continued with the jack of hearts to dummy's queen, ruffed a heart with the king of clubs, drew trumps, cashed the ace of diamonds and played a diamond to West's king. East's ace of spades was the last defensive trick, +130.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Nunes	Hurd	Fantoni	Wooldridge
			1♦
Pass	2♣	Pass	2♦
Pass	3♣	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

West led the seven of spades (Slavinsky, see below) and East won with the ace and returned the three of spades to the nine and queen. The next spade went to declarer's king, and he played a club to the king and East's ace. The eight of spades was the defenders fourth trick, but with the king of hearts onside declarer had the rest, +400 and 7 IMPs for Lebron.

Using Slavinsky leads you give count with the opening lead when you have one or more honours. With K6532 you lead the 2, with K653 the 6 and with 9832 the 2. (the ten is not regarded as an honour).

To defeat 3NT East must switch to a diamond at trick two. If West is allowed to win the trick he must then continue with the queen of spades - that's a very difficult piece of play to find.

Board 21. Dealer North. NS Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Demuy	Helness	Kranyak	Helgemo
	3♠	Pass	Pass
Dble	All Pass		

Preemptive style is a partnership matter.

East led the king of diamonds and when West followed with the two he switched to the king of clubs. West overtook it with the ace and tried the ace of diamonds. Declarer ruffed and ducked a club to West's ace. He ruffed the diamond return and now does best to exit with the king of hearts, which might allow him to escape for three down.

However, declarer exited with the king of spades and East took the ace and returned a diamond. Declarer ruffed and played the jack of spades. West won and played another diamond and declarer was without resource. He tried pitching hearts on the diamonds, but then West cashed the ace of hearts and played a heart, ensuring a trick for East's nine of spades, five down, -1400.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Nunes	Hurd	Fantoni	Wooldridge
	2♠	2NT	Pass
4♠*	Pass	4NT*	Pass
5♣*	Pass	5♠*	Pass
6♦	All Pass		

If 4♠ showed diamonds and slam interest (!?) then 4NT might be Turbo (see below) with 5♣ promising three key cards and 5♠ being some kind of grand slam try.



Vincent Demuy and John Hurd

Here North's more conservative action left E/W with much more room and they quickly reached a slam that appeared to be doomed.

However, when North elected to lead the four of hearts the situation changed dramatically, as at a single stroke the contract became unbeatable.

Declarer won with dummy's queen, drew trumps, played a heart to the ace, eliminated the clubs and exited with a heart. North won with the king and had to lead into the split spade tenace.

It would not have helped North to unblock the king of hearts as although it would then be possible for South to win with the jack he would be the one to be endplayed.

You can imagine how it went at the scoring up - 'Board 21, +920' - 'Well done, lose 10 IMPs.

By the way, would a double by South in this type of situation ask for a spade lead (imagine South held a likely trick in addition to the spade void)?

Turbo may be new to you.

This convention was originally designed to be employed with Neapolitan cue bids, which show a first or second round control after a fit has been established. It became part of the Blue Club system developed by Benito Garozzo.

The fundamental concept of Turbo is that the partner bids 4NT to show an even number of keycards. This only happens after a cuebid has been made showing a first or second round control. A bid higher than 4NT promises an odd number of keycards and also first-round control in the suit bid.

Board 22. Dealer East. EW Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Demuy	Helness	Kranyak	Helgemo
		Pass	Pass
Pass	1♣	1♥	Dble*
Pass	2NT	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

When East led the five of hearts declarer was able to win with dummy's nine. He continued with three rounds of spades, West taking the last of them with the ace and returning a heart to dummy's king. Declarer cashed dummy's remaining spade and was home, +400.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Nunes	Hurd	Fantoni	Wooldridge
Pass	1♣	Pass	Pass
Pass	2NT	1♥	Dble*
All Pass		Pass	3NT

East led the queen of hearts and declarer won with dummy's king and played a spade to the queen. When it held he continued with the jack. When that too was ducked he tried the two of clubs. East went up with the king and played a spade. West took the ace and returned a heart. Declarer put in the ten and East won and played a heart. Declarer won, cashed the top diamonds and the ace of clubs and was two down, -100 and 11 IMPs to Monaco.

Declarer had missed a difficult chance. When West returns a heart declarer goes up with the ace and plays three rounds of diamonds, displaying West.

Board 26. Dealer East. All Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Demuy	Helness	Kranyak	Helgemo
Pass	INT	Pass	Pass
Pass	2♥	Pass	2♣*
All Pass		Pass	3NT

East led the six of clubs and declarer put up dummy's queen. When it held he played a heart for the ten, jack and queen. East switched to the three of spades and declarer won with the king, played a diamond to the ace and a heart, +660.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Nunes	Hurd	Fantoni	Wooldridge
Pass	1♥	Pass	Pass
Pass	2♥	Pass	INT
Pass	4♥	All Pass	3♥

East led the two of diamonds and declarer won in hand,

cashed the ace of hearts and continued with a low heart to West's king. back came the five of clubs and declarer took the ace and tried to play three rounds of diamonds. East ruffed and cashed his black winners, one down, +100 and 13 IMPs to Monaco.

If declarer wins the diamond lead in dummy and plays a heart the fortunate lie of the suit combined with the location of the king of clubs makes it very easy to record ten tricks.

Board 27. Dealer South. None Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Demuy	Helness	Kranyak	Helgemo
Pass	1♠	2♥	1♦
3♥	All Pass		Dble

South cashed the king of spades and switched to the six of clubs. Declarer won with the queen and returned a spade to South's king. he switched to the queen of diamonds and continued with the ten of diamonds to North's king. North returned the three of spades and when declarer pitched a club South ruffed and the king of hearts was the sixth trick for the defence, two down, -100.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Nunes	Hurd	Fantoni	Wooldridge
Pass	1♠	Pass	1♦
Pass	3NT	All Pass	3♦

East led the queen of hearts and declarer won with the king, cashed the king of diamonds and claimed, +400 and 7 IMPs for Lebron.

Five easy pieces? Perhaps not.

For those who are interested a quick internet search revealed that Islamay's *An Oriental Fantasy* by Balakirev is considered to be one the most difficult to play.

Un Ristretto Lavazza, grazie

Lavazza v Era Round of 16 – segment 3

By Micke Melander

Before the last segment between LAVAZZA and ERA in the Round of 16 the match was very close. ERA had taken a small lead of 3 IMPs, 56-53. After the first four boards in the last segment it looked like every IMP would be more important than ever for both of the two teams trying to qualify for the quarterfinals, since only 4 IMPs had been shared.

Board 19. Dealer South. None E-W.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Tarnovski	Duboin	Pachtman	Mahmood
Pass	2♣	Pass	INT
Pass	4♥	All Pass	2♥

When Zia opened with INT in the closed room he managed to get the Four Heart contract declared by South. The defense started with a diamond to the ace and two rounds of spades, putting West on lead, who returned a club to dummy's queen. Zia now simply finessed twice in trumps and could claim his ten tricks.



Bar Tarnovski

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Madala	Filipowicz	Bocchi	Martens
Pass	1♥	1♠	1♦
All Pass			3♥

Bocchi led the four of clubs, and declarer won in hand with the ten. Being only in Three Hearts, Filipowicz played as if he wanted the king of hearts to be offside when he tried the jack of hearts from hand. When East didn't cover he put up the ace of trumps and continued with the queen from dummy. Bocchi won the trick with the king of trumps, cashed the king of spades to return a Lavinthal three of spades to Madala's ace who immediately fired back a club for Bocchi to ruff. When Bocchi also could cash the ace of diamonds the contract was one off.

10 IMPs to LAVAZZA who now was back in a winning position again.

Board 20. Dealer West. All Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Tarnovski	Duboin	Pachtman	Mahmood
Pass	Pass	1♠	Pass
3♦	Pass	3♥	Pass
4♠	All Pass		

Zia was never put to the test as to whether he would have found the killing lead against Six Spades, when Tarnovski – Pachtman stopped just in game. Knowing that West had a two-suiter and you could suspect that dummy might be able to get some discard from hearts it could really had been an alternative to cash the ace of diamonds before playing the king of clubs, just to make sure declarer couldn't throw away a grand loser from dummy. This is exactly what happened when Zia led a passive two of trumps: This was some quick twelve tricks for the declarer.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Madala	Filipowicz	Bocchi	Martens
Pass	Pass	1♠	Pass
3♦	Pass	3♥	Pass
4♣	Pass	4♦	Pass
4♥	Pass	4NT	Pass
5♣	Pass	6♠	All Pass

Madala – Bocchi had higher visions in the Closed Room and didn't give up bidding until they had reached the small slam. Martens didn't find the lead of the ace of diamonds but tried to set up a club first, which lead to twelve quick tricks also at this table. A 13 IMP swing again for LAVAZZA who was suddenly flying high, and there were more to come.

Board 21. Dealer North. None Vul.

♠ 10 8	♠ A K J 9 5 3 2	♠ 7 4
♥ A Q 7	♥ 10 6 5	♥ J 9
♦ Q J 10 4	♦ —	♦ K 7 5 2
♣ Q J 10 3	♣ A K 2	♣ 9 7 6 5 4
	<div style="display: inline-block; border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; text-align: center;"> N W E S </div>	
	♠ Q 6	
	♥ K 8 4 3 2	
	♦ A 9 8 6 3	
	♣ 8	

On this hand Duboin – Mahmood stopped in Four Spades. Pachtman lead the jack of hearts, West captured it with the queen when declarer played low from dummy, and returned a trump. This was all Duboin needed to be able to more or less claim his eleven tricks when he could ruff a



Ron Pachtman

club in dummy and cash the ace of diamonds, discarding a losing heart.

Meanwhile in the Closed Room Filipowicz and Martens bid Six Spades and the location of the heart ace meant there was no possible winning line to play for. Another 13 IMPs for LAVAZZA who now had scored 36 IMPs in the last three boards! One might wonder how many ristretto LAVAZZA'S captain Mrs Maria Teresa had ordered them to drink before the match restarted for the last segment.

Board 22. Dealer East. E-W Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Tarnovski	Duboin	Pachtman	Mahmood
INT	3♣	Pass	1♣
		All Pass	

Tarnovski started with the king of diamonds, ducked by Zia. West shifted to the ace of spades and made sure that the defense won the ace, king and queen separately, Pachtman winning the third round to play back a diamond that forced Zia to go up with the ace. When the king of clubs was offside and the defense could cash a diamond the contract was down two.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Madala	Filipowicz	Bocchi	Martens
		Pass	INT
Dble	2♣	2♥	Pass
4♥	Pass	Pass	Dble
All Pass			

Bocchi got punished in the Closed Room when he tried to fight for the contract with Two Hearts. That little competing bid was enough for Madala, who now suddenly jumped to game. Martens took the opportunity to receive the gift and made a clear cut business double when holding what looked like at least four sure tricks in his hand. Bocchi tried his best to get as much information as possible about how to play the board. In an attempt to play for down one he eventually finished up down three, even though spades were 3-3.

Finally a swing for ERA, who took 14 IMPs back.

Board 25. Dealer North. None E-W.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Tarnovski	Duboin	Pachtman	Mahmood
	Pass	1♣	1♠
Dble	4♠	Pass	Pass
5♦	Pass	Pass	5♠
Dble	All Pass		

It looked like the next swing would be coming here. Tarnovski with two aces didn't believe for a second that the opponents would make game when his partner had opened the auction with One Club. Five Spades was however unbeatable when West held the ace of hearts. Duboin and Mahmood were probably quite sure that they would gain some IMPs from the board, but no!

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Madala	Filipowicz	Bocchi	Martens
	Pass	1♣	4♠
Dble	All Pass		

In the Closed Room Martens just went directly to game and Bocchi turned Madalas take-out double into business. That was -690 away when they got the same eleven tricks. However 1 IMP wasn't much anymore in this game after the previous proliferation of IMPs delivering 50 over four boards...

The match offered one more big swing on the last hand:

Board 28. Dealer West. N-S Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Tarnovski	Duboin	Pachtman	Mahmood
1♥	Pass	1♠	Pass
2♣*	Pass	2♦*	Pass
2♠	Pass	4♠	All Pass

Zia, again, led a passive trump, Duboin won the trick with the king when declarer called for a low from dummy to return a second round of trumps now won by dummy's nine. Declarer now cashed the ace of hearts, ruffed a heart, cashed ace and king of clubs and played another heart whereupon North tried to ruff with his ten of spades but East could overruff with his queen. With two diamonds to lose and a heart there was nothing Pachtman could do to finish the match in style. He was bound to go one down.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Madala	Filipowicz	Bocchi	Martens
1♥	Pass	1♠	Pass
2♣	Pass	4♠	All Pass

Bocchi declared the same contract in the Closed Room. South led a spade when Bocchi followed low from dummy. North won with the king and returned a diamond to the jack. South cashed the ace of diamonds before returning another trump which went to the nine, ten and queen. Bocchi now played a heart to the ace and ruffed a heart to set up the tempo for a single or double squeeze.

"It was obvious," Bocchi said when asked after the match. "No one could now hold on to two suits, North would be squeezed in the minors and South in hearts and clubs. So at this point I just claimed and the opponents conceded."

The ending looked like this:

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

By ruffing a diamond, ruffing a heart, playing a club to the king then draw the last trump and cash the king of hearts to squeeze North in the minors. Right he was!

Another 10 IMP swing to Lavazza who managed to score more IMPs in this last segment then they had in the two previous. Final score 110-72.

Bridge magic

By David Stern

If Jack Zhao says he has an interesting deal to report, you should listen. Board 12 of the second round of the Open Pairs qualifying was one such hand.



Jack Zhao

Board 12. Dealer West. N/S Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Luo	Shi	Ju	Zhao
Pass	1♣	1♦	1♥
3♦	3♥	4♣	4♦
Pass	4♥	All Pass	

Zhao's bid of 4♦ was intended to let partner know that the hand belonged to them. West led the ♦3 led and Zhao decided that it was most unlikely that West held the ♦K, so he rose with the ace and immediately ruffed a diamond in hand.

Seeing four likely losers, Zhao had to conjure up something special to make the contract – and he did, with a little help from the opponents, something we all need in pairs tournaments.

After ruffing the diamond, Zhao played the ♠A, ♠K and a third spade. It was a critical moment for the defence. East must ruff his partner's spade winner with a "useless" trump and play either his second trump or the ♣10 to break up the ending that Zhao achieved when East did not find the key play.

West continued with a diamond, ruffed by Zhao to follow with a club to the ace and a spade through East. It makes no difference what East does, whether he ruffs or discards with declarer on play in this ending:

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

At this point, Zhao had lost only one trick. When he exited with a club, the defence was helpless. If West holds the lead, he will be endplayed in trumps or forced to lead a diamond, allowing Zhao to discard dummy's club loser and ruff in hand. If East overtakes with the king, Zhao then has only one club loser. West will get a trump trick, but Zhao will have his contract.

Well done by Zhao, who already has one gold medal for winning the Red Bull Mixed Pairs. He finished his Open Pairs session with 55.6%.

since they would have hoped that their partners were in game. That wasn't the case, so it was another loss, this time 5 IMPs to VENTIN, who was leading with 11 by the last board of the match. In other words LAVAZZA needed to score at least 500 for 11 IMPs to make a draw or 600 for 12 IMPs and win the game. But with no one vulnerable it's easier said than done.

Board 14. Dealer East. None Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Wrang	Bocchi	Upmark	Madala
		1♣	Dble
Pass	1♠	Pass	INT
Pass	2NT	All Pass	

Bocchi and Madala came to stop in 2NT, with all the suits being fairly favorably distributed and the key cards onside it wasn't any real problem for Madala to come to ten tricks. But 180 was not even close what they needed to turn the match around.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Duboin	Auken	Mahmood	Welland
		1♣	Dble
Pass	1♠	Pass	INT
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

Sabine simply jumped to game when Welland could double and then rebid no trump. Just as in the Closed Room, nothing could stop him from making nine tricks. Even six down would have been enough to win the game. Another swing to VENTIN, who got 6 IMPs for this one, winning the segment by 35-24 and the match by 105-88.

Thanks to the players for a great show. It was a real thriller all the way to the end!

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The Barry Riga! Collection

By Mark Horton

During the course of a major Championship Barry Riga! keeps an eye open for deals that might be in contention for one of the IBPA's annual awards.

A couple of days ago he remarked that he has never collected so many deals from a tournament, such has been the quality of the play.

The Red Bull Rosenblum semi-final between MONACO and DIAMOND witnessed another deal that will surely not escape Barry's attention:

Board 25 Dealer North. EW Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Greco	Helness	Hampson	Helgemo
	1♥	Pass	2♦
2♠	Pass	Pass	2NT
Pass	3♦	All Pass	

**Geir Helgemo**

It was a pity that North did not raise to 3NT as then we would have had a chance to see if West would have found the lead of the ace of spades. (I am confident declarer would have negotiated the diamond suit after a low spade lead).

West led the queen of clubs against Three Diamonds and declarer won in dummy and played a spade to the king and ace. West switched to a trump and declarer took East's nine with the ten and played to ruff two clubs, finishing with +130.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Nunes	Drijver	Fantoni	Brink
	1♥	Pass	2♦
2♠	3♦	Pass	3♠*
Pass	4♣	Pass	4♥
Pass	5♦	All Pass	

The Dutchmen pursued the sound policy of ensuring that with an opening bid facing an opening bid they got to game.

West led the queen of clubs and declarer won in dummy and played a spade to the king and ace. West returned the queen of spades and declarer ruffed, cashed the king of clubs, ruffed a club with the jack of diamonds, ruffed a spade, ruffed a club with the king of diamonds, played a diamond to the ten, cashed the ace of diamonds and exited with a diamond.

East had to win and, exhausted of black cards he had to lead into the split tenace in hearts, giving declarer a beautifully played +400 and 7 IMPs.

**Sjoert Brink**

On a roll

By Brent Manley

The team captained by Lynn Baker made it to the final of the Women's Teams for the McConnell Cup, defeating the Sylvia Moss team 149-112.5. In the opening set of the McConnell Cup final against CHINA RED, the Baker squad continued to score IMPs in bunches. After 14 boards, the score was 53.67-6 for the multi-national BAKER team.

BAKER started with a carryover of 7.67 and added to that on the second board of the set when Karen McCallum, playing with Baker, judged correctly that the opponents' game was not making.

Board 2. Dealer East. N/S Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Michielsen	Lu	Wortel	Wang
		1♣	Pass
INT	Pass	2♦	Pass
2♥	Pass	2♠	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

Marion Michielsen's game-forcing INT made her declarer in the logical game for East-West. Yan Lu started with the ♣K, ducked, and continued with the ♣J, also ducked. Michielsen took the third club with dummy's ace and ran the ♥Q to Lu's king. Michielsen lost four clubs, a heart and the ♦A for two down and minus 100.

West	North	East	South
Ran	McCallum	Wang	Baker
		1♦	Pass
3NT	Dble	All Pass	

McCallum was pretty sure she had five tricks against 3NT in the form of four clubs and the ♥K, so she applied the red card and led the ♣K. Declarer, Jing Rong Ran, ducked twice, won the third round of clubs and played a diamond to her king and another diamond to dummy's jack. Baker won the ♦A and returned a heart. When Ran ducked, McCallum won the king and cashed her clubs. Two down meant plus 300 to BAKER and a gain of 5 IMPs.

BAKER's lead continued to grow with gains on three consecutive boards.

Board 4. Dealer West. Both Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Michielsen	Lu	Wortel	Wang
Pass	1♥	Pass	INT
Pass	2♦	Pass	3♦
All Pass			

Meike Wortel led the ♣K to dummy's ace, Lu continuing with a spade to her king and Wortel's ace. A spade return picked up Michielsen's jack, and Lu pitched a heart from dummy on the ♠10. She then embarked on a crossruff that resulted in 11 tricks for plus 150.

McCallum and Baker were more ambitious at the other table.

West	North	East	South
Ran	McCallum	Wang	Baker
Pass	1♥	Pass	2♣
Pass	2♠	Pass	3NT
All Pass			



Karen McCallum

Ran started with the ♥K. Blessed with great spots in the heart suit, Baker won with the ace and played the suit right back to her 9. Ran took the ♥J and played the ♦10, but that solved another suit for declarer. Baker won with dummy's ♦Q and played another heart to West. The diamond return gave her four tricks in that suit. All she had to do was to lead a spade to dummy's king to establish her ninth trick. She took one spade, one club, three hearts and four diamonds for plus 600 and a 10-IMP gain.

On the next board, CHINA RED was minus at both tables for another swing to BAKER.

Board 5. Dealer North. Both Vul.

♠ A Q 7 2		♠ K J 10 9 5	
♥ K 5 4 3		♥ A 9 6	
♦ A 6 3 2		♦ J 10 8 5	
♣ 3		♣ Q	
♠ 8 6 4	<div style="display: inline-block; background-color: green; color: white; padding: 5px; text-align: center;"> N W E S </div>	♠ 3	
♥ 8		♥ Q J 10 7 2	
♦ 9 4		♦ K Q 7	
♣ A J 9 8 7 5 4		♣ K 10 6 2	

West	North	East	South
Michielsen	Lu	Wortel	Wang
Pass	1♦	1♠	Dble
2♠	Pass	Pass	Dble
Pass	4♥	All Pass	

Wortel led the ♣Q, ducked all around. At trick two, she switched to the ♦J, taken in dummy. Not suspecting the actual lie of the club suit, Lu played a low club from dummy, ruffing with the ♥3. Wortel overruffed with the ♥6, then cashed the trump ace and continued with her third trump, leaving declarer with only the ♥K for ruffing club losers. The result was one down for minus 100.

West	North	East	South
Ran	McCallum	Wang	Baker
Pass	1♦	1♠	2♥
3♣	4♥	Pass	Pass
4♠	Dble	All Pass	

The heart game is makeable, so even though the team was minus at both tables, the 4♠ bid probably averted a bigger loss for CHINA RED.

Baker led the ♦K, switching to a club at trick two. Hongli Wang won dummy's ♣A, played a heart to the ace, followed by a heart ruff, club ruff, heart ruff, club ruff. A diamond to the queen was followed by a spade to the ace and the ♦A. McCallum had nothing but spades left, so she got out with a low one. Wang won the ♠J but still have to lose a trump trick for minus 300.

That was 9 IMPs to BAKER.

The team gained again by playing in the right strain at the right level on this board:

Board 6. Dealer East. E-W Vul.

♠ A 9 6 5 3 2		♠ Q 8 7	
♥ 2		♥ K J 8	
♦ 8 5 4		♦ K 9 7 2	
♣ A 7 3		♣ K 10 5	
♠ J 10	<div style="display: inline-block; background-color: green; color: white; padding: 5px; text-align: center;"> N W E S </div>	♠ K 4	
♥ 10 7 4		♥ A Q 9 6 5 3	
♦ Q J 3		♦ A 10 6	
♣ Q 9 6 4 2		♣ J 8	

West	North	East	South
Michielsen	Lu	Wortel	Wang
Pass	1♠	1♣	1♥
All Pass		Pass	3♥

Michielsen led the ♦Q to Wang's ace. Declarer played a spade to dummy's ace and took the heart finesse. She cashed the trump ace and played a third round. The 3-3 trump split gave her five heart tricks, two spades and the aces of clubs and diamonds for nine tricks and plus 140.

West	North	East	South
Ran	McCallum	Wang	Baker
Pass	1♠	Pass	1♥
Pass	2♠	Pass	2♥
Pass	4♠	All Pass	3♠

Wang led the ♦7, ducked to Ran's jack. She continued with ♦Q to the ace in dummy. McCallum played a club to the ace and a heart to the queen, discarding her losing diamond on the ♥A. A club from dummy was taken by West with the queen. McCallum ruffed the diamond continuation, ruffed a club with dummy's ♠4 and cashed the ♠K. A heart ruff put



Jing Rong Ran

her in hand to play the ♠A, and when the suit divided 3-2, she could claim for the loss of one more trick. Plus 420 meant 7 IMPs to BAKER.

The final deal of the set was a difficult one to manage, but Michielsens and Wortel found the right strain, albeit one level too high (that is, if Deep Finesse had been on lead).

Board 14. Dealer East. None Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Michielsens	Lu	Wortel	Wang
		Pass	Pass
2♣	Pass	2♠	Pass
3♣	Pass	3♥	Pass
3NT	Pass	4NT	All Pass

As you can see, a heart lead defeats 4NT if South holds onto her ♥10. It's an easy defense when you can see all the cards. At the table, Lu started with the ♦8 to her partner's queen and Michielsens's ace. Unless North had led a singleton diamond, Michielsens now had 10 tricks: five diamonds, one heart, two spades and two clubs. She earned one more by playing a low club from hand at trick two. The ♣10 held the trick and Michielsens was soon claiming plus 460.

West	North	East	South
Ran	McCallum	Wang	Baker
		Pass	2♥
4NT	Pass	5♣	Pass
6♣	All Pass		

Ran didn't have many good options over Baker's aggressive 2♥ bid. Ran picked the one that described her hand and made a reasonable gamble on the slam. If even some of East's high cards had been in the minors, CHINA RED would have been recording the double-digit swing instead of BAKER.

The opening lead was the ♥K. Wang won the ♥A perforce, cashed the ♦A, the ♠Q and the ♦K, continuing with the ♦J. McCallum ruffed in with the ♣9. Wang overruffed with the ♣10 and cashed the high spades, pitching diamonds before playing her other trump. When Baker showed out, Wang had to concede one down for an 11-IMP loss.

BAKER was off to a good start in search of a world title.

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Tired players in the Seniors final

By Micke Melander

Watching the first segment of the teams finals in Sanya quickly brought to mind the fact that the players have now had been competing for six consecutive days. If the players also had participated in the Mixed Teams and Pairs they were now up to 13 full days of bridge at the highest level. For sure this will sooner or later make everyone tired and not able to play at their normal best. So let's have a look at some of the hands from the final between MILNER and STERNBERG in the Seniors to see what they managed to achieve.

Board 1. Dealer North. None Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Schermer	Kowalski	Chambers	Romanski
	1♦	Pass	1♠
Pass	2♣	Pass	2♠
Pass	4♠	All Pass	



John Schermer

John Schermer was on lead on the very first board of the match and decided to lead the king of spades to see what was going on. Viewing the dummy and looking at his hand he should have seen the clear danger that declarer might get rid of potential heart losers from dummy's minors one way or another, especially with his diamond holding. Schermer, did however, continue with a low trump that went to declarers jack. Romanski now finessed in diamonds, and got to throw one of his heart losers on the ace of diamonds. When the clubs were 3-3 he could throw a second heart loser on the fourth club to claim his almost impossible contract just losing two trumps and the ace of hearts.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Lall	Hamilton	Milner	Fisher
	1♦	Pass	2♠
Pass	3♠	All Pass	

In the Closed Room, Lall started by collecting the ace and king of trumps before he switched to a heart. East won his two heart tricks, but when the defense had no ruffs to make it was a claim for nine tricks when declarer couldn't go wrong playing sensibly. A great opening for the MILNER team who took an early lead with the 7 IMPs this board gave them.

Board 11. Dealer South. None Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Schermer	Kowalski	Chambers	Romanski
1♥	Pass	2♥	1♣
2♠	Pass	3♣	Dble
3♥	All Pass		Pass


Kowalski led the queen of diamonds, which held the trick, so did the jack that followed. A third round of diamonds endplayed South, who had to lead away from the ace of

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Lall</i>	<i>Hamilton</i>	<i>Milner</i>	<i>Fisher</i>
			1♣
1♥	Pass	2♥	Dble
3♦	Pass	3♥	All Pass

I doubt that the defense would have been this soft if the players were in good form with their minds functioning at 100% or close to that.

♠ Q J 10 5 4
♥ A 9
♦ Q 9 4 3
♣ O 2

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

West	North	East	South
Schermer	Kowalski	Chambers	Romanski
All Pass	1♠	Pass	INT

A photograph of a middle-aged man with short, graying hair and black-rimmed glasses. He is wearing a gray short-sleeved button-down shirt and a green lanyard with a badge around his neck. He is seated at a table, looking slightly to his left. The background is a plain, light-colored wall.

Jacek Romanski

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Lall</i>	<i>Hamilton</i>	<i>Milner</i>	<i>Fisher</i>
	Pass	1♦	Pass
Pass	1♠	Pass	Pass
2♦	All Pass		

Reese Milner



Hemant Lall

balanced with One Spade, Milner's strongest suit, Lall, who probably believed the opponents were in at least a 4-3 fit, raised to Two Diamonds, Milner was left to play. The eight of spades was led to the three, ten and king. A heart to the ten and ace now followed from declarer, North, who couldn't see what really was going on, returned the queen of spades. East went up with the ace and continued with the seven, ruffing low in dummy when South discarded a club. It was now time for declarer's next finesse: a club to the eight, which drew South's ace. Finally, South realized it was time to play trumps, but when he played the two that went to the jack, queen and declarer's king it was almost all over.

East, with four tricks, cashed the king of clubs, played a heart to the king and called for the nine of clubs from dummy. North who probably couldn't believe that partner held the ace of diamonds saw no reason to ruff with the



Fred Hamilton

nine of diamonds, so he ruffed with the three and declarer could over-ruff with the six. Declarer could then play his last spade and score then ten of diamonds “en passant” for his eighth trick to make this impossible contract, what we also might call an uninteresting push when comparing the results...

Board 14. Dealer East. None Vul.

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

W

N

E

S

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Schermer</i>	<i>Kowalski</i>	<i>Chambers</i>	<i>Romanski</i>
		Pass	Pass
1♣	Pass	2♥	Pass
2NT	Pass	3♣	Pass
4♦	Pass	4NT	Pass
5♦	Pass	5NT	Pass
6♦	Pass	6♠	All Pass

Lots of noise in the Open Room from East-West, Schermer-Chambers finally crashed in Six Spades which was an impossible contract to play when the king of hearts was led from South. Four down was one too many.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Lall</i>	<i>Hamilton</i>	<i>Milner</i>	<i>Fisher</i>
		Pass	Pass
1♣	Pass	2♥	Pass
3♦	Pass	3NT	All Pass

A more sensible auction from the Closed Room, maybe West should have tried with four diamonds to steer the contract right and make a mild slam try with his great hand. Fisher led the king of hearts which was won in dummy with the ace. Milner now played well when he led a low club to the ten, still keeping his spade connection between the two hands open. A diamond to the jack followed, when that held declarer cashed ace and king of diamonds and set up his fifth by playing a fourth round to South. With five tricks won for declarer, nothing could stop him from winning two spades, a diamond and two more clubs for ten tricks. That was 12 IMPs to Milner, who eventually won the first segment of this final with 27-11.

By Barry Rigal

In the other room, Piotr Gawrys as East also came in in balancing seat over 4♠ and Michal Klukowski declared 5♥x down 100 to gain 11 IMPs when Stanislaw Golebiowski played 4♠ undisturbed for 620.

♠ 6
♥ Q 10 6 3 2
♦ K 10 8 7 5 3
♣ 10



West	North	East	South
<i>Zimmermann</i>	<i>Hampson</i>	<i>Multon</i>	<i>Greco</i>
	2NT	Pass	3♦(♥)
Pass	3♥	Pass	3♠
Pass	3NT	Pass	4♦
Pass	4♥	All Pass	

A man with short brown hair and a serious expression is looking directly at the camera. He is wearing a black polo shirt with a checkered collar and a checkered pocket. He is holding a small, light-colored card or object in his hands. The background is slightly blurred, showing other people in a social setting.

Eric Greco

A few deals later, John Diamond/Brian Platnick attempted an equivalent slam of their own – but their luck was considerably worse.

Board 1. Dealer North. None Vul.

♠ 10 5 4	♠ K Q J 3 2	♠ A 7
♥ 9 6	♥ J	♥ A Q 8 7 4 2
♦ K 10 9 5 4 3	♦ Q 6	♦ A
♣ J 5	♣ 9 8 7 4 2	♣ A K Q 10
	<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; align-items: center;"> <div style="text-align: center;">N</div> <div style="text-align: center;">W</div> <div style="text-align: center;">E</div> </div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; align-items: center;"> <div style="text-align: center;">S</div> </div>	
	♠ 9 8 6	
	♥ K 10 5 3	
	♦ J 8 7 2	
	♣ 6 3	

Open room

West	North	East	South
Diamond	Fantoni	Platnick	Nunes
1♦*	1♠	1♣*	Pass
2♦	Pass	2♠	Pass
4♦	Pass	4♥	Pass
4NT*	Pass	6♥	All Pass

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Zimmermann	Hampson	Multon	Greco
2♦	2♠	2♣	Pass
4♦	Pass	3♥	Pass
		4♥	All Pass

There is no bigger fan of the French 2♣ and 2♦ openings bids than I, so I was not surprised to see Multon-Zimmermann gain 11 IMPs for stopping in 4♥. But slam was dependent on playing hearts for no loser – basically a 50% shot because if you cashed the ace before taking your discard, ♥J 10 doubleton onside or stiff ♥K offside would allow you to succeed while you could not negotiate the singleton king onside. Whatever the case, MONACO had generated 22 IMPs from the two slam ventures instead of losing the same number on a less fortunate day.

DIAMOND's only swing in the set came when a preemptive jump response kept them low on a deal where Zimmermann-Multon played game, down 200, while in the other match Auken-Welland played 4♠x down 800. When on the next deal Klukowski overcalled 2♥ over a Multi 2♦ on an eight-count with a six-card suit, Gawrys drove him to slam, a contract that turned out to require 4-3 diamonds, and got them. Slam was missed in the other room (partly because the South player who had a 3♠ preempt had chosen to open one and not let the opponents in). Those two double-figure swings to MONACO gave them a 35-23 lead at the end of the set.

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- December 6th - Saturday
 - 2.00 pm - Registrations' closing
 - 2.30 pm - First session
 - 9.00 pm - Second session
- December 7th - Sunday
 - 2.00 pm - Third session
 - 9.00 pm - Fourth session
- December 8th - Monday
 - 10.30 am - Fifth session
 - 4.00 pm - Prize giving

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Never say die

By Brent Manley

With 14 boards to play, the four-man LEBRON team held a 7-IMP lead over MONACO, one of the pre-tournament favorites to take the Rosenblum Cup, awarded to the winners of the Open Teams. LEBRON's 68-61 lead was increased to 25 IMPs early in the match, but as MONACO demonstrated, it ain't over 'til it's over.

Board 2. Dealer East. N/S Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Kranyak	Helness	Demuy	Helgemo
		Pass	1♦
3♣	Dble	Pass	3NT
Pass	4♣	Pass	4♦
Pass	4♥	Pass	Pass (!)
Pass			

Tor Helness and Geir Helgemo seemed headed for the cold 6♦, but something went wrong and Helness found himself in the awkward contract of 4♥. Vince Demuy led the ♣8, taken in dummy with the ace. Helness ruffed a club at trick two, played a heart to the queen and another to the

jack, king and ace. Demuy still had three trumps to one for Helness, but 10 tricks were there because the West hand could not be reached. It was a disappointing result, but at least it was a plus.

At the other table, John Hurd and Joel Wooldridge had a free run to the diamond slam, making 13 tricks for plus 1390 and a 13-IMP gain.

Another 5 IMPs went to Lebron when Helgemo-Helness bid to 4♥, one down, while Hurd and Wooldridge stopped in 3♥.

The score after three boards was 86-61.

The MONACO comeback started on this deal.

Board 4. Dealer West. Both Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Kranyak	Helness	Demuy	Helgemo
1♦	1♥	Pass	2♥
Dble	Rdbl	2♠	3♦
Pass	3♥	All Pass	

Demuy led a low club to the queen and ace. Helness cashed the trump ace and played a club to dummy's king to play a heart. He won with the ♥K when Kranyak showed out, cashed the ♣J and put Demuy in with the ♥Q. Demuy thought for a bit before playing the ♦J. Helness could claim plus 140 at that point.

West	North	East	South
Nunes	Hurd	Fantoni	Wooldridge
2♣	2NT	All Pass	

The natural, limited 2♣ bid by Claudio Nunes made Hurd's decision more difficult with his 17-point hand and he eventually decided to show his values with the 2NT overcall.

Fulvio Fantoni led his partner's suit and Hurd took West's ♣Q with the ace. He cashed the ♥A and ♥K and exited with a heart. Fantoni accurately switched to a low spade and the defenders took the next five tricks. That was minus 50 for LEBRON and 6 IMPs to MONACO.



Geir Helgemo and Tor Helness

Another 5 IMPs went their way on this wild deal.

Board 6. Dealer East. E/W Vul.

	♠ K J 6 5	
	♥ 5 4	
	♦ —	
	♣ A K Q J 9 6 5	
♠ 10 9 4 3	<div style="background-color: green; color: white; padding: 5px; text-align: center;"> N W E S </div>	♠ Q 8 7
♥ 10 7 3 2		♥ A K J 8
♦ Q 8 6 5 2		♦ A K 9 7 4
♣ —		♣ 8
	♠ A 2	
	♥ Q 9 6	
	♦ J 10 3	
	♣ 10 7 4 3 2	

West	North	East	South
Kranyak	Helness	Demuy	Helgemo
		1♦	Pass
1♥	5♣	Dble	Pass
5♦	Pass	Pass	6♣
Pass	Pass	Dble	All Pass

The 5♦ contract was going down at least one – two if Helness could find the spade lead, but it was hard to tell in such a heated auction. Demuy cashed the two high hearts to score plus 100. The auction went much differently at the other table.

West	North	East	South
Nunes	Hurd	Fantoni	Wooldridge
		1♦	Pass
1♥	Dble	Redbl	3♣
4♣	7♣	Dble	All Pass

Fantoni had the same two heart tricks for plus 300 and another gain for MONACO.

Board 8. Dealer West. None Vul.

	♠ K	
	♥ A Q 7 6 3	
	♦ K 8 5 3	
	♣ K 10 9	
♠ A Q 4 2	<div style="background-color: green; color: white; padding: 5px; text-align: center;"> N W E S </div>	♠ J 10 9 5 3
♥ K J 8		♥ 9 4 2
♦ A Q 9 6		♦ J 10 2
♣ 7 5		♣ 6 2
	♠ 8 7 6	
	♥ 10 5	
	♦ 7 4	
	♣ A Q J 8 4 3	

The auction is lost in the ether, but the final contract for Helgemo/Helness was 4♥ by North, making for plus 420. At the other table, Nunes and Fantoni played in 2♠ with the East-West cards, one down for minus 50. That was a 9-IMP gain for MONACO, now only 5 IMPs behind.

Monaco took the lead on the following board.

Board 10. Dealer East. Both Vul.

	♠ K Q 10 8	
	♥ K 9 8 6	
	♦ 4 3	
	♣ Q 8 3	
♠ A 5 4	<div style="background-color: green; color: white; padding: 5px; text-align: center;"> N W E S </div>	♠ 2
♥ 4		♥ A Q 7 5 3 2
♦ K Q		♦ A 9 6 5
♣ A 10 9 7 5 4 2		♣ K J
	♠ J 9 7 6 3	
	♥ J 10	
	♦ J 10 8 7 2	
	♣ 6	

West	North	East	South
Kranyak	Helness	Demuy	Helgemo
		1♥	Pass
2♣	Pass	2♦	Pass
3♣	Pass	3♦	Pass
3♠	Dble	4♣	Pass
5♣	All Pass		

Kranyak took 12 tricks for plus 620. At the other table:

West	North	East	South
Nunes	Hurd	Fantoni	Wooldridge
		1♥	Pass
2♣	Pass	2♠	Pass
3♣	Pass	4♣	Pass
4♦	Pass	4♥	Pass
4♠	Pass	5♦	Pass
5♥	Pass	6♣	All Pass

- 2♣ Game force: Natural, clubs; balanced hand or heart support
 2♠ Four or more diamonds
 3♣ Six or more clubs
 4♣ Club support
 5♦ 1, 3 or 5 key cards and diamond cuebid
 6♣ No extras



Joel Wooldridge

The nice auction got Nunes to the good slam. All he had to do was make it. Hurd led the ♠Q (Rusinow). Nunes won the ace and ruffed a spade then cashed the ♣K. He played a diamond to his hand and cashed the trump ace, discovering the trump loser. All he needed was for Hurd to follow to one more diamond and he was home. A heart to the ace allowed Nunes to pitch his spade loser on the ♦A and concede one trick. Plus 1370 was worth 13 IMPs to MONACO, now ahead 94-86.

On the penultimate board, Kranyak had a chance to put his team back in the lead.

Board 13. Dealer North. Both Vul.

		♠ J 10 6 3	
		♥ J 2	
		♦ J 8 3	
		♣ K 10 6 3	
♠ 9 2	<div>North</div> <div>WestEast</div> <div>South</div>	♠ A Q 7	
♥ K 8		♥ 7 6 5	
♦ A 9 6 5 2		♦ K Q 7 4	
♣ J 7 5 2		♣ A Q 4	
		♠ K 8 5 4	
		♥ A Q 10 9 4 3	
		♦ 10	
		♣ 9 8	
West	North	East	South
<i>Nunes</i>	<i>Hurd</i>	<i>Fantoni</i>	<i>Wooldridge</i>
	Pass	1♣	1♥
1♠	Pass	2♥	Pass
3♦	Pass	4♦	Pass
4♥	Pass	4♠	Pass
5♦	All Pass		

Hurd led the ♥J to Wooldridge's ace and Nunes won the ♥Q (showing a potential entry in spades) with the king. Nunes pulled trumps but could not avoid losing a trick in each black suit for one down, minus 100.

West	North	East	South
Kranyak	Helness	Demuy	Helgemo
		1♣	1♥
2♦	Pass	3♦	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

Helness led the ♥J, which Helgemo ducked to declarer's king. Kranyak had nine tricks if he could guess which black-suit finesse to take. On the run of the diamonds, Helgemo held onto his hearts, coming down to the doubleton ♠K and five good hearts. Kranyak, perhaps suspecting that Helgemo had blanked the ♣K, played a club to the ace. When that produced no king, his only choice was to cash the ♠A. That also drew low cards, so Kranyak had to concede one down for a push.

Monaco's comeback was complete.

You be the judge!

By Barry Rigal

I was brought this fine deal by the person on the receiving end of the story, Janusz Makaruk. He and his partner Niedzelski were in great shape in the pairs, but their compatriots (Jagniewski and Gawel) handed them a near-zero on this deal.

Board 1. Dealer North. None Vul.

	♠ A K 2		
	♥ A 3		
	♦ 8 6 2		
	♣ A 9 7 5 3		
♠ 9 8 7 6 4	<div>North WestEast South</div>	♠ 10	
♥ Q 5 2		♥ K J 9 8 4	
♦ Q J 7 4		♦ A K 10	
♣ K		♣ J 8 6 4	
	♠ Q J 5 3		
	♥ 10 7 6		
	♦ 9 5 3		
	♣ Q 10 2		
West	North	East	South
	Pass	1♥	Pass
2♥	All Pass		

Wojciech Gawel led a trump against 2♥, letting Rafal Jagniewski win and return a trump. On this trick South could hardly signal for a spade since if declarer had the king he didn't want his partner underleading the ace, so he followed with his small trump as declarer won in hand. Makaruk led a club to the two, king and ace, and Jagniewski underled his ace-king of spades! That let Gawel win and play a third heart; +110 was an 8% board for E/W and 92% for N/S.



Wojciech Gawel

By Micke Melander

When you know that you're in a tight match and every IMP counts, it all becomes very nerve-wracking to watch, especially when so many of the boards are sufficiently wild and crazy that they might result in big swings going in any direction. Moving into the last segment between LAVAZZA and VENTIN, the Italian coffee team was down by only 6 IMPs, 64-70.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Duboin</i>	<i>Auken</i>	<i>Mahmood</i>	<i>Welland</i>
6♦	3♠	5♦	Pass
	All Pass		

That was 10 IMPs to VENTIN, now ahead by 16.

♣ 9 2

♠ 9 5
♥ 10
♦ A 10 7
♣ A K J 8 7 6 3

♠ K 10
♥ Q J 9 5
♦ K Q J 9 8 6 4
♣ —

♠ J 7 6
♥ A K 3 2
♦ 5 3
♣ O 10 5 4

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Wrang</i>	<i>Bocchi</i>	<i>Upmark</i>	<i>Madala</i>
4♠	2♠	3♦	3♠
5♦	Pass	5♣	Pass
	All Pass		

♣ 4

♠ 9 7 5
♥ J 9
♦ 10 7
♣ K Q 10 9 5 2



♠ 10 8 4 3 2
♥ A 8 6 4 2
♦ 5
♣ 8 7

♠ J
♥ Q 5
♦ A Q 9 6 4 3
♣ A J 6 3

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Wrang</i>	<i>Bocchi</i>	<i>Upmark</i>	<i>Madala</i>
		Pass	1♦
Pass	1NT	Pass	2♦
Pass	2♥	Pass	2NT
Pass	4♦	Pass	4♥
Pass	6♦	All Pass	

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Duboin</i>	<i>Auken</i>	<i>Mahmood</i>	<i>Welland</i>
		Pass	1♦
Pass	INT*	2♦	3♣
Pass	3♦	Pass	3♥
Pass	3♠	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

INT Artificial game force



Juan Carlos Ventin, Johan Upmark and Frederic Wrang

**Giorgio Duboin**

Well bid by Bocchi-Madala, who reached their small slam in diamonds very efficiently. Declaring the board didn't present any problems for Madala, who quickly wrapped up the tricks he needed. In the Closed Room, Zia's Two Diamond overcall for the majors seemed to be enough to make Auken/Welland lose interest in the slam potential of the board. So they settled in 3NT instead, a rather pessimistic view. Twelve tricks were also quickly in the bag here after Zia led a low heart.

That was 12 IMPs back to LAVAZZA, so VENTIN now only leading by 4. Board three was a push in Three Hearts, both rooms making their contract. Board four could have been a very expensive business for the VENTIN team when Upmark felt he had to act with:

♠A1074 ♥Q103 ♦742 ♣J95 after his partner had opened with One Club and RHO had overcalled with One Heart. Upmark's negative double brought them to Three Spades when Madala preempted them there and East didn't dare to pass. With a very bad fit, they went three down vulnerable to lose the 4 IMP they were leading by. So with ten boards to go, we had a tie!

Board five took LAVAZZA into the lead when they scrambled 10 tricks in Two Clubs when they only got nine in the Open Room – so now we had a new leader of the match with 1 IMP then came board six.

Board 6. Dealer East. E-W Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Wrang	Bocchi	Upmark	Madala
		1♦	Pass
3♦	4♣	Dble	Pass
4♦	4♠	Pass	5♣
All Pass			

Wrang should probably have jumped to game, when his partner doubled Four Clubs. Upmark was for sure closer to double Five Clubs than to sacrifice against the game given his 17-point hand. He did well to pass the board out considering that the defense only had two tricks in hearts to score.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Duboin	Auken	Mahmood	Welland
		1♦	Pass
1♥	Dble	4♣	Pass
4♥	5♣	Dble	Pass
5♦	All Pass		

In the Closed Room Duboin-Mahmood dominated the action. Auken bid herself all the way up to Five Clubs probably believing that she was sacrificing, when it was the opposite. Welland led the two of clubs. Why he didn't try the ace of spades to get a signal from partner and see the dummy is a mystery. Even more mysterious is that he didn't double Five Diamonds... When Welland led a club Zia could have made his contract if the queen of hearts had been onside, but now it was only one off when he picked up the jack of spades.

Despite that, 7 IMPs more meant that LAVAZZA extended their lead to 8 IMPs.

Board 7 was another push when both tables refused to play in Four Hearts when they had a four-four fit there, and instead went playing a no trump game, going one off. That was a missed opportunity for both of them, since they could have made some IMPs for a nice swing here.

Board 8. Dealer West. None Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Wrang	Bocchi	Upmark	Madala
INT	2♥	All Pass	

With hearts being 3-3 for the defense and the king of hearts and the ace of diamonds onside, Bocchi made ten tricks when the defense led a club.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Duboin	Auken	Mahmood	Welland
INT	Pass	2♥	Pass
3♠	Dble	Pass	5♣
All Pass			

Auken's takeout double over Three Spades was all Welland needed to jump to game in clubs in the Closed Room. With a INT to his left he might have expected most of the missing keycards to be where they were. Five Clubs was in fact unbeatable, and produced 6 IMPs back to VENTIN, now was down by just two again in this thriller.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Duboin	Auken	Mahmood	Welland
	2♥	All Pass	

Auken not only managed to "steal" the contract with her very weak Two Heart opening, she also managed to make it when Zia led the queen of clubs. This went to the king, ace and declarer's five. Auken could later play a low club towards the 10, to set it up for a discard of her diamond loser, to make the contract.

Plus 170 and plus 110 was at this point a huge result, since 280 brought in another 7 IMPs to VENTIN, now back in the lead by 5 IMPs. Board ten was a push when both tables reached an excellent Six Clubs and board eleven got VENTIN 1 IMP when LAVAZZA played Four Spades just made in the Open Room, while Auken/Welland went for 3NT in the Closed Room making 11 tricks! Board twelve got the audience another push when they both played a completely impossible Four Heart contract, going one off. So with two boards to go we had VENTIN in the lead by 6 IMPs.

Board 9. Dealer North. E-W Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Wrang	Bocchi	Upmark	Madala
	Pass	1♣	1♦
Dble	Pass	1♥*	2♣
Dble	2♦	Pass	Pass
Dble	Pass	2♠	All Pass

1♥ Spades

After a very competitive auction, Upmark managed to buy the final contract in Two Spades. Madala led the king of diamonds, and on seeing the dummy he shifted to the jack of hearts, which went to declarer's king. Three rounds of trumps followed, putting declarer on play. He now tried the queen of clubs, which went to the king, ace and the two. Upmark then called for the jack of diamonds which set up his queen and his eighth trick. After making the correct guess in clubs he finished with 10 tricks for 170.

Board 13. Dealer North. All Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Wrang	Bocchi	Upmark	Madala
	Pass	INT	2♣
2♦	2♠	3♦	3♠
All Pass			

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Duboin	Auken	Mahmood	Welland
	Pass	INT	2♥
Dble	Pass	3♦	All Pass

Mahmood had no problems making his ten tricks when the king of clubs and the ace of hearts were onside for 130. The unhappy news for LAVAZZA was that if their opponents had managed to bid 3NT that would always make, based on the actual layout of the board. However Bocchi and Madala competed as high as they could without being doubled. Three down didn't cost that much

Semi-finals II

By Barry Rigal

The VENTIN team were down 35 IMPs after the first set, so needed something good to happen fast to get back into their match. They got it when Gawrys found himself in an inferior contract and couldn't bring it home.

Board 3. Dealer South. E/W Vul.

♠ A 9 7 6	♠ Q 10 5 3 2	♠ 4
♥ K	♥ J 9 5	♥ Q 3
♦ Q 9 4 3	♦ A J	♦ K 8 6 5
♣ J 10 8 2	♣ K Q 9	♣ A 7 6 5 4 3
	<div style="background-color: green; color: white; padding: 5px; text-align: center;"> N W E S </div>	
	♠ K J 8	
	♥ A 10 8 7 6 4 2	
	♦ 10 7 2	
	♣ —	

4♥ looks to be a straightforward enough spot, one in which you might be able to afford a safety play in hearts (if they don't lead a diamond) but certainly cannot afford one if they do lead a diamond – as was discovered in another event!

But Gawrys reached 4♠ after Klukowski had treated his hand as a spade raise. Wrang's lead of the ♣A didn't appear to paralyze declarer – but perhaps it made Gawrys take his eye off the ball. He ruffed the opening lead and led out ♠K then ♠J, both ducked by Upmark. Once the bad trump break comes to light declarer must simply play ♥A and another heart, and the defenders cannot score more than three tricks. Gawrys actually led a diamond to the ace to clear trumps, and Upmark forced him with two rounds of diamonds. Now when Gawrys drew the last trump and gave up a heart, it didn't matter which defender he put on play as they each had a diamond left to cash, for down one.

Board 4. Dealer West. Both Vul.

♠ K 7 2	♠ A Q 10 9 8	♠ J 6 5
♥ K 8 6 5 4	♥ A 3	♥ J 9 2
♦ Q 5 2	♦ 8 4	♦ A K J 10 7
♣ J 10	♣ 8 7 6 2	♣ 4 3
	<div style="background-color: green; color: white; padding: 5px; text-align: center;"> N W E S </div>	
	♠ 4 3	
	♥ Q 10 7	
	♦ 9 6 3	
	♣ A K Q 9 5	

West	North	East	South
Greco	Fantoni	Hampson	Nunes
Pass	Pass	1♦	Pass
1♥	1♠	Dble	2♣
2♥	Dble	Pass	2♠
Pass	3♣	All Pass	

West	North	East	South
Helgemo	Drijver	Helness	Brink
Pass	Pass	1♦	2♣
Dble	2♥(♠)	Pass	2♠
Pass	3♦	Pass	3♠
Pass	4♠	All Pass	

DIAMOND had certainly not had the best of the luck in their match to date, but they evened up the score a little here. While Fantoni had an accurate way as a passed hand to show spades, then extras, then club support, Nunes wasn't excited by his small doubleton spade as offering enough to suggest that as a strain in which to make game. This was particularly because North could have opened a hand in the 9-13 range with 5-4 pattern.

Drijver showed spades then cuebid instead of raising clubs – he was doubtless expecting a little more in the way of a real hand for vulnerable overcall. The defenders had a chance to test declarer, even with the favorable spade break and the clubs 2-2. Helgemo led a diamond to his partner for a shift to the ♥9, but Helness had won the first diamond with the king rather than the ace, and there were so few high-cards outstanding that Brink had no problem in guessing the heart suit. With the trumps the way they were, ten tricks rolled in now and DIAMOND had 10 IMPs.

MONACO struck back with a very nicely bid hand.



Bas Drijver

Board 7. Dealer South. Both Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Greco	Fantoni	Hampson	Nunes
1♦*	2♦	3♥	Pass
3NT	All Pass		Pass

West	North	East	South
Helgemo	Drijver	Helness	Brink
1♥	1♠	2♦	Pass
2♠	Pass	3♣	Pass
3♦	Pass	4♣	Pass
4♥	Pass	4NT	Pass
5♠	Pass	6♦	All Pass

It is somehow paradoxical, don't you think, that the hand that opens a four-card major finds diamonds, while the hand that opens diamonds can't reach the diamond slam. Of course Greco's opening bid suggested nothing more than 13 cards and a following wind, while Helgemo's four-card major 1♥ opening allowed him to appreciate later that he had huge fitting cards in both minors. His 2♠ call appears to have been nothing more than a waiting bid, not promising extras, a convenient treatment here.

After the 1♠ overcall the slam was always going to be bid now, since East knew his spade holding was safe from attack.

Board 8. Dealer West. None Vul.

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

VENTIN closed the match margin still more when Welland declared 4♥ as South on a trump lead and could simply drive out the ♥A. Now the defenders had an unpalatable choice: they could sit back and play clubs and let declarer develop diamonds for the discard, with ♠K protecting the spades. Or, as happened at the table, West could shift to the ♠Q. Declarer won and drew the last trump then built a spade winner to pitch his diamond loser.

So far so good: but the remarkably friendly lie of the cards strongly suggests there is no defence to 4♥. And that is true at double dummy, but in real life when Gawrys as North bid to 4♥ after Upmark had opened 1♣, Wrang put his fingers on the killing lead, a low spade! Declarer cannot be blamed for ducking this, and now the defenders had two spades one heart and a ruff to collect four tricks.

Board 11. Dealer South. None Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Greco	Fantoni	Hampson	Nunes
1♦	2♣	Pass	Pass
Pass	3♣	All Pass	2♦

West	North	East	South
Helgemo	Drijver	Helness	Brink
1♦	2♣	Pass	Pass
Pass	3NT	All Pass	2NT

Drijver and Brink outbid Fantoni-Nunes again at the game-level, and this time it was not really a question of luck, since both the partscore and game that were reached were almost equally likely to make.

After the loose 1♦ opening one could certainly argue that the 2NT call is less attractive than in the closed room. Additionally, though, since Helgemo had not opened a four-card heart suit, Brink might have considered that he might find himself receiving a spade lead on a blind auction rather than a heart. 3NT needed the clubs to behave, as did 3♣ after Hampson's diamond lead. Both came home of course; 7 IMPs to VENTIN.

The deal that gave MONACO a little breathing space as they entered the last set was this one. And personally I think the E/W methods plus some good judgment earned them the swing.

Board 13. Dealer North. Both Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Greco	Fantoni	Hampson	Nunes
	2♣	2♥	Pass
3♦	Pass	3NT	All Pass

West	North	East	South
Helgemo	Drijver	Helness	Brink
	1♣	1♥	Pass
3♦	Pass	4♣	Pass
4NT	Pass	5♥	Pass
6♦	All Pass		

You have to admire the fact that Helgemo had the methods to make a slam-try while Helness could go past 3NT with a cuebid on a minimum hand with two aces and a queen where he had already overcalled, vulnerable. It was so easy to bid 3NT here, but Helness displayed perfect partnership trust facing the strong jump, and he was rewarded when 6♦ was almost as good a contract as 3NT – you might even make it when the heart finesse worked while diamonds were queen-third offside. At the end of the set, both MAZURKIEWICZ and MONACO had by no means insurmountable leads, at 12 and 8 IMPs respectively, with 14 deals to play.



Claudio Nunes

The Perfect is the Enemy of the Good

By Adam Wildavsky

Ricco van Prooijen and I played for the first time in the Open Pairs here in Sanya. We made it to the semi-final where we encountered this deal:

Board 25. Dealer North. EW Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
	Pass	INT	Pass
2♥*	Pass	2♠	Pass
3NT	All Pass		
2♥	Transfer		



Ricco van Prooijen

Ricco found the good lead of the ♥Q. Knowing he would lead low from ♥QJ63 I did not need to play the ace so I encouraged with the two. Declarer won the ♥K and led a diamond to the jack. I won and cashed the ♥A, knowing that Ricco would unblock with ♥QJx. Disaster! He played low and declarer took 10 tricks instead of 8.

In retrospect I ought to have continued a low heart. I didn't want to punish Ricco for finding a great lead from ♥QJ doubleton, but I can't cater to everything. ♥QJx is twice as likely a priori, and even more likely when one considers that a lead from a tripleton is more attractive than one from a doubleton. Ricco trusted me to know this. He needed to cater to my holding ♥Axx, where I would always defend as I had.

Would defeating 3NT have been enough to qualify us for the finals? Alas, yes. Sorry, partner!

Semi-final the denouement - Segment 3

By Barry Rigal

As the final stanza of the two matches started, MONACO and MAZURKIEWICZ held leads equivalent to a game swing. Both immediately improved their position.

Board 15. Dealer South. N/S Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Greco	Helness	Hampson	Helgemo
Pass	2♥	Pass	2♣
Pass	4♣	Pass	3♣
Pass	4♥	Pass	4♦
Pass	5♣	Pass	4♠
Pass	7♣	All Pass	5NT

West	North	East	South
Nunes	Drijver	Fantoni	Brink
Pass	2♥	3♦	2♣
6♦	Pass	Pass	6♣
Pass	6NT	All Pass	Dble



Włodzimierz Starkowski



Stanislaw Golebiowski

The open room auction saw Helgemo set clubs after the response showing decent hearts, use keycard, then confirm possession of all the keycards to let Helness jump to the grand slam. Very nicely done. The 2♣ opener in the other room saw much more ambiguity and from South's point of view he doubtless thought his partner had ♦Kx as with his actual hand he would/should have bid 7♣ over 6♦. Is that right – who can say without intimate knowledge of the N/S methods?

Both tables in VENTIN v MAZURKIEWICZ played 6♣; an opportunity missed. In the same match both E/W pairs had the opportunity to trust their opponents, with a large number of IMPs riding on their decision:

Board 17. Dealer North. None Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Starkowski	Auken	Golebiowski	Welland
	1♥	1♠	4♦
4♥	5♠	Pass	6♥
6♠	7♥	7♠	Dble
All Pass			

West	North	East	South
Upmark	Gawrys	Wrang	Klukowski
4♠	1♥	1♠	2♠
All Pass	6♦	Pass	7♥

It surprised me how many Easts treated their hand as a 1♠ overcall not a 2♠ bid. Both tables in our other match saved in 7♠x, but Upmark wasn't prepared to trust his opponents, perhaps gambling on finding his partner with a minor-suit winner here? That cost him 12 IMPs.

VENTIN hit back at once, when Welland/Auken did exceptionally well not just to reach the solid minor-suit slam but to do so after losing the diamond fit on opening bid.

Board 18. Dealer East. N/S Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Starkowski	Auken	Golebiowski	Welland
Dble	2♠	1♦	1♠
Dble	Pass	5♦	4♠
			All Pass

West	North	East	South
Upmark	Gawrys	Wrang	Klukowski
Dble	2♠	1♣	1♠
Dble	Pass	Pass	3♠
4♠	Dble	4♦	Pass
5♣	Pass	Pass	Pass
		6♦	All Pass

As we all have come to realize, the one five-card suit Roy Welland never has when he opens 1♣ is clubs, but this time he not only got to introduce his minor at the four-level he got to jump to slam at his next opportunity. Very nicely done – and well done Auken for making the slam try facing what might have rated to be a balanced 11-14. Neither of our other tables got to slam here.

With three boards to go, MAZURKIEWICZ appeared to be coasting to victory (leading by 28 IMPs after a two-ace slam reached by Welland-Auken) while Monaco had their match in hand by 20 IMPs and were able to survive the nice piece of play by Brink. Both tables for VENTIN then produced a great result (alas for them they did it on the same deal).

Board 26. Dealer East. Both Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Starkowski	Auken	Golebiowski	Welland
Dble	Pass	Pass	1♣
1♥	Dble	1♦*	Dble
1♦	0-7	All Pass	

West	North	East	South
Upmark	Gawrys	Wrang	Klukowski
Pass	1♥	Pass	1♣
Pass	2♣	Pass	1♠
Pass	3♦	Pass	2♠*
All Pass			3NT
2♠	18+, 5+♠		

Welland opened 1♣, concealing his long suit, then doubled 1♦ to show a strong hand, and letting Auken saw off 1♥. Would she have sat for 1♠x? Again, only The Shadow knows... in 1♥x after a diamond lead the defenders ruffed out the ♠A and scored five plain winners and four trump tricks for 800. Meanwhile, though 3NT had proved easy to make in our other match when played by North, the Poles declared it from the South seat and Upmark led a heart. He could win the first diamond and play another heart, killing dummy, and leaving declarer with just eight tricks.

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A Delightful Irish Power Play

By Micke Melander

Carrol/Hanlon, Ireland, scored a 100% on one of the hands in the first session of the Open Pairs final.

Board 9. Dealer North. E-W Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
	Hanlon		Carrol
	1♣*	Pass	1♥
Pass	1♠	Pass	3NT
Pass	5NT	Pass	6NT
Pass			

How did you manage to bid to 6NT? That was my first question. Well the auction went very fast, they explained:

"One Club was two-way with either a weak balanced hand (11-13) or any 17+. One Spade was still two-way, South jumped to game assuming partner was balanced with the weak hand. Then Five Notrump was pick-a-slam with the stronger version and there we were."

How on earth did you manage to make it then? That was my second question. "Easy they said". "Really?. Was my reply, looking like I wasn't convinced. "West led his longest and strongest, a heart to East's ace and we had 13 tricks, if it wasn't for the fact that the defense had already won a trick... Then Hanlon said, "he would have made it anyway", laughing. "How", I asked, which was my last question. "We haven't figured that out yet..." was the answer.

Here comes the solution with a passive spade being led.

Win the opening lead in hand with the ten. Play the king of hearts, discard a diamond from dummy, the defense probably duck this trick, they capture the second round of hearts to return a third. This forces you to win with the jack and you have discarded two diamonds and one club from dummy. Now unblock the queen of spades, cash the king of diamonds, play a diamond to the ace and win two rounds of spades to reach the following position:

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

Cashing the jack of spades squeezes East in three suits, if he hangs on to the nine of hearts you simply discard your heart and West will be squeezed in the minors. The defense might discard otherwise and set it up so West will hang on to the heart. Now another double squeeze will be reached, when East has to hang on to his jack of diamonds and West will be forced to discard himself down to jack-second in clubs.

I'm sure that's how he would have played it!

Since in your mind you are probably trying to defeat the contract, you are thinking of what will happen if the defense also ducks the second round of hearts. How to play then?

Again, a spade is led to the ten, you play two rounds of hearts pitching a club and a diamond from dummy. With three tricks in the bag, you play your queen of spades and overtake it in dummy with the king. Then, when cashing out the remaining spades, you will reach the following position:

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

West has been forced to discard all his hearts to retain the minor guards. East has to keep his two hearts to ensure that the defense retains two tricks in the suit. Now you play a diamond to the king, a diamond to the ace and throw West in on a third round of diamonds to force him to open up the frozen club suit. That give you the remaining tricks through the finesse in clubs.

I'm sure he would have played it like this if they had ducked twice in hearts!

In the Closed Room Fantoni declared the same contract after opening with a precision like Two Club opening. Nunes asked for distribution, got his fit and draw to the spade game. Klukowski led a trump, whereupon Fantoni won in dummy and called for the jack of clubs. Gawrys went up with the king, to play back another round of trumps again won in dummy* by declarer. Fantoni now called for the eight of clubs which went to the six, three and nine. Klukowski now attacked diamonds, Fantoni went up with the ace, ruffed a diamond and tried to set up his clubs by ruffing one low in dummy with the two of spades, which Gawrys over-ruffed with the nine.

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

With these cards remaining and North to lead away there was no hope for declarer when North returned the queen of diamonds. Fantoni ruffed in hand, tried a club ruff to set the suit and if the king of hearts (impossible) would have been single he would have made his contract. When that wasn't the case he was doomed for down one and another swing to MAZURKIEWICZ.

*Fantoni could have made his contract at this point by winning in hand so he could use his high trumps in dummy to ruff high and set up his clubs without being over-ruffed by North.

The Polish defensive strategy of giving nothing away and just playing passively gave MAZURKIEWICZ 12 more IMPs to extend their lead further.

Board 8. Dealer West. None Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Jassem	Helness	Mazurkiewicz	Helgemo
Pass	INT	Pass	2♣
Pass	2♠	Pass	3NT
Pass	4♠	All Pass	

Here comes our first problem presented earlier. Mazurkiewicz led the five of hearts, Jassem won with the king, when declarer followed low from dummy. West shifted to the two of diamonds to his partner's ace. Helness could no longer make his contract when the defense returned a diamond and declarer played ace-king-queen of trumps. He had to lose a trump and another trick to the ace of clubs for one off.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Nunes	Gawrys	Fantoni	Klukowski
Pass	1♠	Dble	Rdbl
2♣	Pass	Pass	2♠
Pass	4♠	All Pass	

In the Closed Room Fantoni was on lead against Gawrys who was declaring the same contract. Fantoni kicked off with his singleton trump, helping declarer solve trumps with no loser. 11 IMPs to MAZURKIEWICZ.

One of the few boards where Monaco actually won IMPs in the third segment was the following where Helness took the whole hand from Mazurkiewicz when he gave away the little finger.

Board 10. Dealer East. All Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Jassem	Helness	Mazurkiewicz	Helgemo
1♥	INT	Pass	2♥
Dble	2♠	Pass	4♠
All Pass			

Mazurkiewicz led the ace of clubs, saw dummy and shifted to a trump. Helness did very well when he went up with the ace of spades from dummy and called for another club,

which went to the queen and king. If Mazurkiewicz now had continued with trumps declarer wouldn't have been able to make his contract, since he would have lost three tricks already and had a diamond loser as well to take care off when the suit didn't break 3-3. In the real world, East returned another club, Helness could ruff in hand with the jack and cash the ace and king of diamonds. It was now all over when he played the queen of diamonds:

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

West had to ruff with his king of spades, giving declarer the opportunity to ruff the fourth diamond in hand with his ten of spades to get his ten tricks.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Nunes	Gawrys	Fantoni	Klukowski
		Pass	Pass
2♥	Pass	Pass	2♠
Pass	4♠	All Pass	

In the Closed Room Nunes led the king of hearts. Klukowski won in dummy and called for the jack of spades. Nunes won and returned another trump. Klukowski no longer had any chance, since as soon as Fantoni got in he could play a third round of trumps before declarer could ruff a club in dummy. Losing three clubs and one trump was simply one too many.

Last but not least, a trump lead was not right on the first problem. A trump lead on the second problem was killing, even though you basically could lead anything (except a low club or the jack of diamonds) as long as you shifted to trumps when getting on lead again.

So motto: always lead trumps (except when it's wrong). Or: never lead trumps (except when it's right).

The Swedish Bridge Festival is simply fantastic, I really hope to come back to this event in the future, where the game is being played at the highest level and with an organisation that is World Class.

Michael Byrne, England,
Chairman's Cup 2014

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By Mark Horton

It is ranked as the best musical ever and the fifth greatest American motion picture of all time.



A top was 52, so scores will be expressed in the now standard way, 26/26 representing dead average.

North led the two of hearts (low from a doubleton, but theoretically fatal on this layout) and when South put in the eight declarer won with the queen and played the ten of

spades to the jack and ace (as before South does best to duck).

South returned a spade and declarer won and played a heart to the king and ace. A spade to declarer's king (a heart went from dummy) was followed by a club to the king. Declarer cashed the jack of hearts pitching a club as North parted with a diamond. A diamond to the queen saw North duck, but declarer simply continued with the ace of diamonds and a diamond, ending play North who had to lead a club. +400 which scored 9/43.

On Board 3 South held ♠Q6 ♥- ♦K109432 ♣QJ1054. All manner of opening bids, 2NT (minors) 2♦/3♦/4♦ were in the mix and created varying degrees of havoc, +800 being the top N/S and -500 the equivalent for E/W, both worth a maximum.

On board 5 E/W held: ♠A542 ♥Q82 ♦AQJ ♣Q98 opposite ♠QJ1083 ♥K10973 ♦4 ♣A7 and it was all about making the maximum number of tricks.

Pszczola and Mahmood bid 1♠-2♣*-2♥-3♦-3♥-4♦*-4♥-4♠ and South, on lead with ♠K97 ♥A65 ♦K632 ♣K43.

Declarer won the trump lead, drew trumps by repeating the finesse and got the hearts right by playing low to the queen. When North's jack 480 came up on the next round he could claim +480 and 16.55/35.35.

Board 9. Dealer North. EW Vul.

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



Gabi Lorentz



Stephen Burgess

West	North	East	South
Lorentz	Mahmood	Burgess	Pszczola
	1♠	Pass	2♥*
Pass	2NT	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

I know East led the two of diamonds and declarer took twelve tricks, +490 and 34/18.

I imagine declarer won in hand, crossed to dummy with a spade and played the king of hearts pitching a diamond. East can win and subsequently be squeezed, or duck twice and then get caught in a squeeze without the count.

Only one pair bid 6NT for 52/0, but two reached 6♠ - here is one of the auctions:

West	North	East	South
Li	Auken	Sun	Welland
	1♠	Pass	1NT*
Pass	2♣*	Pass	2♦*
Pass	2♥*	Pass	2♠*
Pass	3♥*	Pass	3NT*
Pass	4♣*	Pass	6♠
All Pass			

1NT Game forcing

2♣ 5+♠ and 4+♦ or 5332 or 5440

2♦ Relay

The notes to the incredibly complex Auken/Welland system stop after 2♣, so I am guessing that the rest was a series of relays.

Declarer won the trump lead with dummy's queen and ran the king of hearts, pitching a diamond. East won and returned a trump but declarer was not hard pressed to take twelve tricks - I guess she simply ruffed a heart and then had twelve tricks. +980 was worth 49/3.

Board 10 Dealer East. All Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Lorentz	Mahmood	Burgess	Pszczola
1♠	Pass	1♦	Dble
Pass	2♥	INT	Pass
		All Pass	

East led the ten of spades and Declarer won with dummy's ace and played on trumps, East ducking the king, winning the next round and playing a second spade. Declarer won in dummy, drew the outstanding trump (West pitching a diamond) and played the queen of diamonds. East went up with the king and exited with a club. When dummy's queen held declarer played the eight of spades.

At this point the play record stops, but my guess is that West played low and declarer pitched a diamond. East was down to ♦976 ♣KJ4 and discarded a diamond. Now declarer could ruff a diamond and the appearance of the ace gave him eleven tricks, +200 and 46/6.

Playing in hearts was the key on this hand, as +170 was worth 41/11.

Only one pair bid 4♥ - Kalita and Nowosadzki:

West	North	East	South
Vainikonis	Kalita	Orlanski	Nowosadzki
Pass	1♦*	1♣	Dble
Pass	2♦*	Pass	INT
Pass	3♥	Pass	2NT
Pass	4♥	All Pass	3♠

East led the ten of spades and declarer won in dummy and played a top heart. East won and fatally switched to the six of diamonds, West winning and returning the five. East won and played a third round but declarer won with dummy's jack, drew trumps ending in hand, took the club finesse, ruffed a diamond, crossed to the king of spades and ran the nine of spades, +620 - a maximum 52/0 to finish the set.

Holding declarer to nine tricks (one way if for East to play a second spade and then switch to a club when in on the first round of diamonds) would have given E/W 4/48.

A different kind of team

By Russ Ekeblad, USA

On the eve of the start of the Open Pairs, having just been bounced from the Rosenblum Cup in our round of 32 match, I came down with a nasty cold. Having a compromised respiratory system (yes, smoking is not a good thing), I was effectively an invalid. I struggled through the first day of the pairs qualifying, but I felt I had little choice but to withdraw.

At that point, a "dream team" came to my rescue. Tournament Director Marc van Beijsterveldt was made aware of my situation by my partner, David Bakhshi. Marc went way above and beyond the call of duty. He arranged a team of volunteers to wheel me from my room to the playing site and even to the restroom during the breaks. He also arranged for me to have a stationary table so that I didn't have to leave my chair.

The team of young Chinese volunteers was truly outstanding. They were gracious, kind, helpful and always looking out for my welfare. In particular, I wish to single out a young woman named Liu. She was my guardian angel throughout the entire ordeal, tending to whatever needed to be done to make me as comfortable as possible.



Russ Ekeblad

Also, special thanks to my friend Jie Zhao, Jack to his American friends. After the first Open Pairs session, he accompanied me in an ambulance for the one-hour ride to the hospital for a breathing treatment. He stayed with me and brought me back to the hotel in the middle of the night.

Finally, I want to thank my partner David, who put up with my cranky behavior and whining. He also catered to me, serving as valet, waiter and emissary to whomever needed to be talked to regarding the entire situation. Also heart-warming were the many expressions of concern and support from my fellow bridge players.

It reminded me that the bridge community is very special. Often lost in the competitive intensity (and I'm as guilty as anyone) is the far more important reality that we are human beings first and where we stand in the bridge pecking order is insignificant by comparison.

A special thank you to everyone who has made my Sanya experience so memorable.

By Barry Rigal

Board 5. Dealer North. N-S Vul.

Open Room

Closed Room

Board 6. Dealer East. E-W Vul.

Open Room

Closed Room

19

**Pierre Zimmermann**

clubs and a spade but he would have brought home ten tricks if hearts had split and spades had not.

(For the record, if East has $\diamond J$ x or $\diamond 10$ x, instead of $\diamond K$ x, he can defeat you after you play the $\spadesuit Q$ by winning the ace and shifting to his low diamond, or by cashing his club then playing his high diamond...or indeed by ducking the $\spadesuit Q$.)

Board 8. Dealer West. None Vul.

	\spadesuit Q 8	
	\heartsuit K	
	\diamond A 9 6 4 3	
	\clubsuit K Q J 6 3	
\spadesuit 5 3	<div style="background-color: #008000; color: white; padding: 5px; text-align: center;"> N W E S </div>	\spadesuit A 10 9 6 2
\heartsuit Q J 10 9 2		\heartsuit 6 5
\diamond J 10 8 5		\diamond K 2
\clubsuit 10 4		\clubsuit A 8 7 5
	\spadesuit K J 7 4	
	\heartsuit A 8 7 4 3	
	\diamond Q 7	
	\clubsuit 9 2	

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Jassem	Multon	Mazurkiewicz	Zimmermann
2 \heartsuit	2NT	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Helgemo	Gawrys	Helness	Klukowski
Pass	1 \diamond	1 \spadesuit	Dble
Pass	2 \clubsuit	Pass	2NT
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

While a heart lead defeats 3NT you can certainly not blame Helgemo for leading a spade to the queen and East continued with the spade ten, perhaps hoping that West has started life with $\spadesuit 7$. Declarer played two rounds of clubs, ducked, and East won the third as Helgemo pitched the $\heartsuit Q$ – wouldn't you? Alas this encouraged Helness to shift to a heart, (a diamond scrambles the entries). Declarer could simply win that trick and play a fourth club.

Helness won, and exited with a second heart, allowing declarer to win in hand and lead a diamond to the ace. If Helness unblocked the $\diamond K$ the $\diamond Q$ would be declarer's ninth trick, and if he didn't he would be endplayed with the $\diamond K$ to lead spades.

In the other room a spade lead was less attractive from the East hand, but Mazurkiewicz opted to set up his suit, not his partner's. Multon won cheaply and tried to clear clubs. Mazurkiewicz won the second club and shifted belatedly to hearts, won by the king.

Now when Multon cashed the third top club and found the bad news he simply had to play a fourth club, playing for the $\diamond K$ to be onside. East wins and gets out with a second heart, won in dummy for a spade to the queen. If East ducks then declarer is in hand to cash the long club and can lead a low diamond towards the queen to force East to give you two tricks in the ending. Multon played for misdefence instead. He advanced the $\spadesuit Q$ and Mazurkiewicz won to play back a heart. Although it was possible to endplay West now with a heart to lead diamonds, the fact that East had the $\diamond K$ meant the defenders had five tricks.

Board 9. Dealer North. E-W Vul.

	\spadesuit 8 6	
	\heartsuit 3 2	
	\diamond J 9 7	
	\clubsuit A Q J 9 4 2	
\spadesuit A K 10 5 3	<div style="background-color: #008000; color: white; padding: 5px; text-align: center;"> N W E S </div>	\spadesuit J 7 2
\heartsuit 9 7 6		\heartsuit A K Q 5
\diamond 10 2		\diamond A K 8 4 3
\clubsuit 8 6 5		\clubsuit 10
	\spadesuit Q 9 4	
	\heartsuit J 10 8 4	
	\diamond Q 6 5	
	\clubsuit K 7 3	

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Jassem	Multon	Mazurkiewicz	Zimmermann
	3 \clubsuit	Dble	5 \clubsuit
Dble	All Pass		

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Helgemo	Gawrys	Helness	Klukowski
3 \spadesuit	3 \clubsuit	Dble	Pass
	All Pass		

One might not approve of Zimmermann's experiment, but in fairness he was probably losing 10 IMPs whatever he did. And Mazurkiewicz did give some thought to acting over the double of 5 \clubsuit .

In the other room it would be interesting to see a simulation of West's action over the double. Put me down as a 4 \spadesuit bidder; but Helgemo did not agree and there are quite a few people who think his judgment is better than your columnist's. Either way, that was 14 IMPs out of the blue for MAZURKIEWICZ.

In the driver’s seat

Starting play in the Red Bull Open Pairs after Thursday’s semi-final sessions, Eric Greco and Geoff Hampson were in the lead with 61.87%. There were, of course, many boards left to play, and you can never tell what might happen in a pairs game. They did, however, start off with a good result against a Dutch pair.

Board 1. Dealer North. None Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
	Hampson		Greco
	Pass	Pass	1♠
INT	Pass	2♠	Pass
3♣	Pass	3NT	All Pass

East’s 2♠ was described as invitational or clubs or the minors. Hampson led the ♠2 and Danny Molenaar put up dummy’s jack. To beat the contract, Greco had to duck, but he won the ace and returned the suit. Declarer played the

♥Q at trick two, taken by Greco to return a third spade. Molenaar could now have made the contract by playing the ♦A and ♦Q, continuing the suit if North ducked the second round. Declarer would have ended up with two hearts, three diamonds, two clubs and two hearts.

That’s a play to be made at IMPs, of course. If the diamond finesse is working, the make-sure-of-your-contract line could result in a poor matchpoint score. Accordingly, Molenaar went to dummy with a heart and ran the ♦J. Hampson won the ♦K and exited with a low club, Molenaar took the ♣Q with the ace and cashed a diamond, then played a club from hand. When Greco showed out, Molenaar had to concede one down. Plus 50 was good for 69.23%.

The second board of the set did not work out so well for the two USA players.

Board 2. Dealer East. N/S Vul.

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



Geoff Hampson and Eric Greco

West	North	East	South
	Hampson		Greco
3♥	4♣	INT	3♣
Dble	All Pass	4♠	5♣

Whoever said that vulnerability is for children would have approved of Greco's leap to the three level vulnerable against not. West transferred to spades and East bid the game when Hampson raised. Greco thought for some time before bidding 5♣. He didn't fancy his chances on defense against 4♠, so if he could hold 5♣ doubled to one down, he would have a good board.

Molenaar led the ♠3 to Tim Verbeek's 10 and Greco's ace. Greco played the ♣K, ducked, and continued with the queen, taken by Verbeek with the ace. He played the ♦7 at trick four. Greco put in the 9, his best shot at getting out for one down, but Molenaar won the ♦10 and cashed the ♦A. The defenders still had a heart trick coming, so Greco was minus 500 for a 3.85% score.

On the third round, Greco made a good decision in selecting the strain of his game contract and was rewarded with a near top.

Board 5. Dealer South. Both Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Greco		Hampson	
	Pass	1♠	Pass
2♣	Pass	2♥	Pass
2♠	Pass	3♣	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

Greco's 4-3-3-3 handed looked like it belong in notrump, so that's where he played it. North could have held Greco to 11 tricks with a club lead, but he started with the ♦10. South played the ♦K to Greco's ace, and he played a heart to dummy's king at trick two. South won the ♥A and returned a diamond to Greco's queen.

Greco studied dummy for a bit before cashing the ♥Q, getting the good news when the jack fell. All he needed then was a successful spade finesse. His luck continued running good when that also worked. Plus 490 earned Greco-Hampson a 95.93% score, their best of the first round.

They came close to that score with the penultimate deal of the set.

Board 9. Dealer North. E/W Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
	Hampson		Greco
	1♣	Pass	INT
Pass	2♠	Pass	2NT
Pass	3♣	Pass	3♠
Pass	3NT	Pass	4NT
Pass	6♦	Pass	6♠
All Pass			

- 1♣ Precision: strong, artificial
- INT Five or more hearts, 12+ HCP
- 2♠ Natural, 5+
- 2NT Balanced
- 3♣ Natural
- 3♠ Doubleton raise
- 3NT Probing
- 4NT 14-15 balanced
- 6♦ Introducing third suit

East led a trump, won in dummy with the 10. The ♥K was next, Hampson discarding a diamond. East took the ♥A and played another trump to dummy's queen. When West followed, Hampson knew he could afford to ruff a heart, which he did. He then pulled trumps, pitching a low club and a low diamond from dummy. When the hearts proved to be 4-4, Hampson had 12 tricks and a 94.23% score. Hampson noted that even if hearts didn't break well, there most likely would have been squeeze chances.

The two finished the set with a 57.86% score, good enough to keep them in contention.



Who's Taking Who?

By Micke Melander

Three interesting and well played boards from the second session in the Open Pairs final in Sanya.

Board 14. Dealer East. None Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Gierulski	Liu	Skrzypczak	Zhang
1♠	2♥	1♣	Pass
3♦	Pass	3♥	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

Liu led the king of hearts, which went to the ten, three and four. The queen of hearts followed, on which declarer discarded the two of diamonds from the dummy and South carelessly showed his length by following with the eight. Now Gierulski could try to sneak himself an extra trick since he won with the ace and exited with the seven of hearts to set up the nine or win it if North ducked. Liu



Jerzy Skrzypczak

didn't fall into the trap however, and read the situation right when declarer discarded the five of spades from dummy. North simply cashed the ace of spades and played a club back, which forced declarer in the end to lead away from ace-four in diamonds from dummy, giving up another trick. 30/22 to E/W, an overtrick would have given them 45/7.

Board 15. Dealer South. N-S Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Gierulski	Jassem	Skrzypczak	Mazurkiewicz
4♠	Dble	Pass	1♥
5♦	5♥	Dble	5♣
Pass	6♣	Dble	Pass
			All Pass

Wild distributions tend to create a lot of different scores when you check the frequencies after the game - especially when you can make game both ways. On this hand N/S



Boguslaw Gierulski

could make Five Clubs and E/W Five Diamonds or Five Spades. So Six Clubs doubled was clearly the par result N/S could achieve sacrificing despite being vulnerable against not!

But I'm pretty sure that neither side had a clue about who could make what until the board was over.

Gierulski led the five of spades which went to the eight, ace and seven. East then played back the queen. Mazurkiewicz won with the king, pulled trumps, eliminated the diamonds, and threw East in by playing a heart to the nine for one down. This actually was as close as you could come to average since the score was to be 27/25 in favour of N/S.

Then came a top for Gierulski/Skrzypczak.

Board 16. Dealer West. E-W Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Gierulski	Jassem	Skrzypczak	Mazurkiewicz
1♣	Pass	2♥	Pass
3NT	Pass All		

Jassem didn't want to lead away from any of his honours so started with the five of spades. Declarer went up with the queen and South won the trick with the ace. Not knowing what was going on he now returned a second spade. Declarer won with the jack of spades and tried to finesse the queen of clubs, which lost to South's king. Still not understanding that shifting to diamonds was urgent, the disaster was complete when he returned his last spade, still believing that suit was his partner's longest and strongest. Gierulski could now try if clubs was breaking for ten tricks, when that wasn't the story he ducked a club and could claim nine tricks, getting three clubs, a diamond, two hearts and three spades.

That was 52/0 to Gierulski/Skrzypczak who were in close contact with the top five at this point of the championship.



Double Dutch

By Mark Horton

During session 2 of the Red Bull World Open Pairs Championship the two Dutch pairs to reach the final found themselves in opposition.

Board 18. Dealer East. NS Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Ticha	Verbeek	Ritmeijer	Molenaar
		2♥*	Pass
2NT*	Pass	3♥*	Pass
3NT	All Pass		
2♥	Both majors, weak		
2NT	Relay		
3♥	Longer hearts, minimum		

Of course 3NT is way too optimistic on the E/W cards (they were already overboard when East opened 2♥) but N/S found a way to extract the maximum.

North started with the spectacular lead of the queen of spades and that ran to West's king. The ace of hearts and a heart to the queen saw South win with the king and switch to the three of clubs. North won with the nine, South took the spade return with the ten and tabled the jack of clubs. When that held a third club went to North's queen and after cashing the ace of clubs North played a heart and South won and cashed the spade ace for four down, +200 and a complete top.



Richard Ritmeijer and Magdalena Ticha

Camouflage

By Mark Horton

Camouflage is the use of any combination of materials, coloration or illumination for concealment, either by making animals or objects hard to see, or by disguising them as something else.

Camouflage themes recur in modern art, and both figuratively and literally in science fiction and works of literature.

It can happen that on a bridge hand that a player needs to disguise his intentions - take a look at this fascinating deal from Round 3 of the Open Pairs Semifinal:

Board 26. Dealer East. All Vul.

N
W E
S

♠ 10 8 7 4
♥ 7
♦ A J 8 3
♣ A K 10 5

♠ A Q J
♥ A Q 8
♦ K Q 9 7 6 4
♣ Q

West	North	East	South
	<i>Hallberg</i>		<i>Black</i>
		2♦*	Dble
2♣*	3♥	Pass	3NT
Pass	4♥	All Pass	
2♦	Three suited, 4-4-4-1, limited		
2♣	Pass or correct		

The first question for East is which club honour to lead? If you play ace for attitude and king for count (and if you don't you should) then you have a choice.

So, you lead a club and see the dummy, with its singleton queen of clubs.

What is your agreement now about the meaning of partner's card?

Many pairs play that when there is a singleton in dummy the defender's card is suit preference, but that is by no means a universal approach.

Let us say that E/W are employing standard signals and West follows with the two of clubs.

The natural play for East now is to switch to a spade, and declarer, without pause for thought, goes up with dummy's ace, plays the eight of hearts to the jack and advances the ten of diamonds.

How do you defend at matchpoints?

Remember, you are playing standard signals - you will want to know that West played the six of hearts on the first round of trumps and the six of spades under the ace.

Let us say that you go up with the ace of diamonds and partner follows with the five? Do you play for partner to have started with a singleton diamond, or give up on that idea and play a spade, hoping to secure your third trick via

the king of spades?

At IMPs this would not be a problem - the diamond ruff and a spade trick is your only hope, but if you play a diamond and partner cannot ruff then dummy's diamond will take care of any losers in declarer's hand.

Here is the full deal:

♠ 9 2
♥ K J 10 9 5 3
♦ 10 2
♣ J 9 8

♠ K 6 5 3
♥ 6 4 2
♦ 5
♣ 7 6 4 3 2

N
W E
S

♠ 10 8 7 4
♥ 7
♦ A J 8 3
♣ A K 10 5

♠ A Q J
♥ A Q 8
♦ K Q 9 7 6 4
♣ Q

Look at the situation from declarer's point of view.

He formed the view that West held the king of spades, and he knew from the bidding that West must have started with

He knew that E/W were playing standard signals, hence his play of the ten of diamonds (if E/W were using upside down signals then declarer would have played the two of diamonds). By camouflaging his diamond holding declarer made the situation unclear and when East (after long thought) played a spade declarer was rewarded.

I discovered that play had followed a similar course at another table, but East had unerringly played a second diamond to secure the ruff that defeated the contract.

His reasoning was as follows:

West had followed with the two of clubs, an odd number, most probably five; the six of hearts was unclear, but if it was the start of a trump peter it could be interpreted as a desire to ruff something; finally partner's six of spades was likely to show an even number; all the evidence pointed to West being 5-3-1-4.

Oops!

By Mark Horton

In the film *Independence Day*, there is a scene where the characters played by Will Smith and Jeff Goldblum, who are about to fly into space in an alien ship when they have the following exchange: (the flying instructions have been written on piece of paper, but unbeknown to our heroes they are upside down).

Captain Steven Hiller: Oops.

David Levinson: What do you mean, oops?

Captain Steven Hiller: Some jerk put this...

David Levinson: Don't say 'oops' ...

Captain Steven Hiller: What do you say we try that again?

David Levinson: Yes, yes. Without the "oops."

Thataway.

I'm not sure what the bridge version of Oops might be - perhaps it is this deal from the seventh session of the Open Pairs final?

Board 13. Dealer North. All Vul.

♠ 7		
♥ A 7		
♦ A Q 10 6 3		
♣ J 10 8 6 4		
♠ 8 6 5 2		♠ K J 4
♥ 10 8 5 4 2		♥ 9 3
♦ 9 7		♦ J 8 4
♣ Q 3		♣ A 9 7 5 2
	<div style="display: inline-block; background-color: #008000; color: white; padding: 5px; text-align: center;"> N W E S </div>	
♠ A Q 10 9 3		
♥ K Q J 6		
♦ K 5 2		
♣ K		

West	North	East	South
Lanzarotti	Su	Manno	Li
	1♦	Pass	1♠
Pass	2♣	Pass	2♥*
Pass	3♣	Pass	4NT*
Pass	5♥*	Pass	6NT
All Pass			

2♥ Fourth suit forcing

4NT RKCB

5♥ 2 key cards

West led the five of hearts (at first the operator had West leading the three of clubs - the only lead that is sure to defeat the contract - with East withholding the ace!).

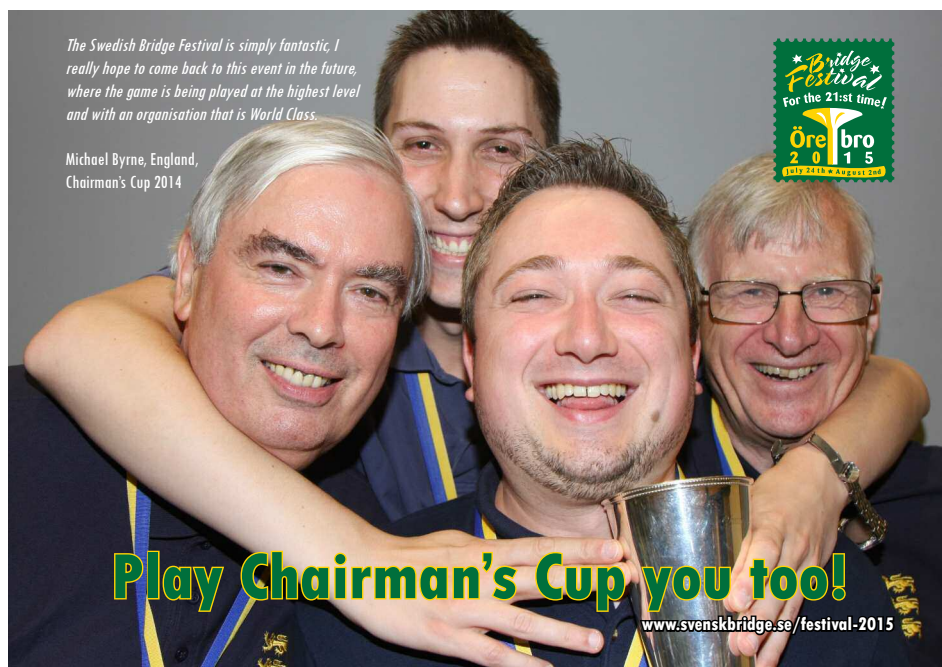
Declarer won with dummy's ace and missed the chance for immortality by playing the four of clubs from dummy. When East failed to rise with the ace declarer eventually came to twelve tricks by taking a spade finesse.

Rather than run the risk of losing two tricks in clubs, declarer might have considered the possibility that East might come under pressure.

Cashing four hearts followed by running the diamond will force East down to ♠KJ4 ♣A9. When declarer plays dummy's last diamond East must part with a club. Declarer plays a spade to the ten and exits with a club to endplay East.

Oops!

(When somebody tried this against Fantunes, East was not slow to put up the ace of clubs and continue with a club for one down and a virtual top.)



Ramblin' through the Rosenblum Part II

By Barry Rigal

With the Mazurkiewicz team up 40 IMPs after the first stanza, they were doubtless not disappointed to see a relatively quiet set of deals, where only 35 IMPs were scored – and that the majority of those IMPs went into their column not the opponents.

Board 19. Dealer South. E-W Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Klukowski	Zimmermann	Gawrys	Multon
Pass	INT	Dble	Pass
3♣	Pass	3NT	2♥
All Pass			Dble

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Nunes	Starkowski	Fantoni	Golebiowski
Pass	Pass	2NT	Pass
3♣	Pass	3♠	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

In the Closed Room Golebiowski led a low heart and declarer went for the simplest approach of putting up the ten, since he would be in good shape if it held (spade finesse, club to dummy, spade finesse and the set up diamonds). When the heart ten lost to the jack he played a club up and took a spade finesse. That lost and the defenders cleared hearts, with enough communications in place to have an easy +200.

The stakes were higher in the other room after Zimmermann's investment in a no-trump opening. 3NTx ran into identical declarer play and defence, for an unlikely 500 to Monaco. If declarer guesses hearts at trick one by putting in the eight to force the jack, he wins in hand to lead a club to dummy and takes a spade finesse. When South wins and shifts to a diamond to his partner's ace, a heart back leaves declarer with four red-suit winners, four spades, and a club. Of course if the spade finesse holds

declarer might not work out to do this. He would probably play for the ♦A and ♠K to be switched, and play a diamond himself.

MONACO gave it all back and more on the next board.

Board 20. Dealer West. Both Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Klukowski	Zimmermann	Gawrys	Multon
Pass	1♣	1♥	Dble (4/5♠)
Pass	2♣	Pass	3NT

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Nunes	Starkowski	Fantoni	Golebiowski
Pass	2♣	Pass	2NT*
Pass	3♣	Pass	3♦*
Pass	4♠	All Pass	

I'm sure N/S would have reached 4♠ in the Closed Room even had East overcalled. But without his bid South could puppet 3♣ then show 5-5 in the majors. And that got Starkowski to 4♠ in double-quick time. The play started ♦J to the ♦Q and ♦A, followed by two top clubs pitching diamonds, a heart to the king, and a trump shift. Starkowski won in dummy and ruffed a heart, ruffed a diamond, and led a heart out of dummy in this position.



♠ J 10 4	♠ 9	♠ —
♥ —	♥ —	♥ A 10 7
♦ 4	♦ 7	♦ 10 9
♣ 8 4	♣ J 7 6 5	♣ Q
	<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; align-items: center;"> <div style="background-color: #008000; color: white; padding: 5px; text-align: center;">N</div> <div style="background-color: #008000; color: white; padding: 5px; text-align: center;">E</div> </div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; align-items: center;"> <div style="background-color: #008000; color: white; padding: 5px; text-align: center;">W</div> <div style="background-color: #008000; color: white; padding: 5px; text-align: center;">S</div> </div>	
	♠ K Q 6	
	♥ Q J 6	
	♦ —	
	♣ —	

When Nunes discarded, declarer could ruff low and ruff a club to hand for his eighth trick with two top spade winners to come. Nunes had missed his chance: if he ruffs high and plays back a club declarer has to guess which club to play from dummy (though the fall of the nine and ten would really tell him that the low club was indicated). If he guessed wrong West would ruff high on the next heart and play back a trump to leave declarer with a loser in whichever hand he won the trick.

Of course 4♠ down one would have lost IMPs anyway, after Multon's malhabille jump to 3NT. The problem came at least partly because of the ambiguity about his spade length; but could it have hurt to take things more slowly? The defenders could even survive the heart lead, since it was easy for Gawrys to win and shift to a diamond. After that declarer would not have been able to unscramble his tricks even if spades had split, since East would have had three diamonds and a heart to cash. Multon did the best he could when he played East to be 3-5-2-3, by winning the second diamond. But as it was he was down 300, and that was 14 IMPs to Mazurkiewicz.

At the end of the set the lead was up to 62.

After the third set, analyzed in detail by Micke Melander, Mazurkiewicz had retained 52 of those IMPs. 14 deals to go to hold on to them!

They started well when a doubled partscore for +470 gave them a bonus 8 further IMPs.

The next deal was a remarkably unlucky one for the Fantunes methods.

Board 45. Dealer North. None Vul.

♠ A 9 4 2	♠ Q 8 6 5	♠ K J 7 3
♥ 10 8	♥ 2	♥ A 9
♦ A Q 10 8 3	♦ 6 5 2	♦ K J 4
♣ 9 3	♣ K 10 7 6 4	♣ A Q 8 5
	<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; align-items: center;"> <div style="background-color: #008000; color: white; padding: 5px; text-align: center;">N</div> <div style="background-color: #008000; color: white; padding: 5px; text-align: center;">E</div> </div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; align-items: center;"> <div style="background-color: #008000; color: white; padding: 5px; text-align: center;">W</div> <div style="background-color: #008000; color: white; padding: 5px; text-align: center;">S</div> </div>	
	♠ 10	
	♥ K Q J 7 6 5 4 3	
	♦ 9 7	
	♣ J 2	

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Klukowski	Helgemo	Gawrys	Helness
	Pass	1♣	5♥
Dble	All Pass		

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Nunes	Starkowski	Fantoni	Golebiowski
	Pass	1♣	4♥
Dble	All Pass		

Where Gawrys had opened a (typically weak balanced) 1♣ he would have done more than bid 4♥ over his partner's double of 4♥ had the auction gone that way. This is what Kowalski/Romanski ran into in the Senior Teams, where Kowalski cuebid 5♥ over the double of 4♥ then raised 5♠ to 6♠. And slam is indeed makeable as was demonstrated by Romanski. After a heart lead against 6♠ by West, Romanski needed to do nothing more complicated than take multiple trump finesses and an eventual club finesse. (In fact per the Ourgame record South carelessly came down to ♣Jx and one heart so was endplayed with his heart to lead clubs.)

Fantoni was in a different position: he had shown 15+ already so did not have so many extras and thus defending 4♥ was more attractive. This looked likely to be 7 IMPs away, but whereas Helgemo escaped for -800 on a trump lead to 5♥x, the defence to 4♥x was surgical. A club to the queen, two diamonds, the spade ace, then a second club to the ace. Now a third club forced declarer to ruff high and a top heart to the ace saw the fourth club promote a trump for West. Bien joué!

Board 46. Dealer East. N-S Vul.

♠ 6 3	♠ A	♠ K J 9 8 7 4
♥ A K Q 6	♥ J 10 3 2	♥ 9 8
♦ J 10 8 4	♦ K Q 9 7 3	♦ A 6
♣ A K 2	♣ J 9 6	♣ 7 5 3
	<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; align-items: center;"> <div style="background-color: #008000; color: white; padding: 5px; text-align: center;">N</div> <div style="background-color: #008000; color: white; padding: 5px; text-align: center;">E</div> </div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; align-items: center;"> <div style="background-color: #008000; color: white; padding: 5px; text-align: center;">W</div> <div style="background-color: #008000; color: white; padding: 5px; text-align: center;">S</div> </div>	
	♠ Q 10 5 2	
	♥ 7 5 4	
	♦ 5 2	
	♣ Q 10 8 4	

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Klukowski	Helgemo	Gawrys	Helness
4♣*	Pass	2♦*	Pass
4♠	All Pass	4♥*	Pass

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Nunes</i>	<i>Starkowski</i>	<i>Fantoni</i>	<i>Golebiowski</i>
4♠	All Pass	3♠	Pass

4♠ when played by West is certainly a measurably superior contract to when it is played by East, but Fantoni was harshly punished here. After a club lead declarer won and played a trump. Starkowski won the ace to play... a low diamond. Fantoni played the hand very well – he rose with ♦A, reasoning there were decent chances to develop a diamond if South had a doubleton diamond honor; so up went the ♦A and down went the contract. He pitched his diamond on the hearts, ruffed a diamond, and cashed the second top club, before ruffing a diamond back to hand. Had this stood up, he would have exited with a club and been sure of two trump tricks in the three-card ending. But South overruffed and cashed a club, with a spade to come at the death.

Sally Horton in the women's final played 3NT as West after East had shown a maximum hand for her multi 2♦, with a poor suit. She won the diamond cheaply and led a spade, won the diamond return and crossed to hand to duck a diamond to North.

North cashed out her diamonds from the top, suggesting a heart entry. South pitched hearts, and North now exited with the club jack. Brock won, and ran the hearts, coming down to a two-card ending, taking the ace, king and queen, on which North followed with the ten and now South had to discard from $\spadesuit Q-10$ and $\clubsuit Q$. If declarer had a master heart and the 13th club, she needed to pitch spades, if she had a spade left, South had to pitch a club.

Retaining the spades looks right (but had North followed with the heart jack at trick 11 the ending would have been transparent – declarer either had two hearts left or her actual hand, and either way pitching a club could not cost). Obviously she got it wrong – otherwise there would have been no story.

Board 51. Dealer South. Both Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Klukowski</i>	<i>Helgemo</i>	<i>Gawrys</i>	<i>Helness</i>
	INT	Pass	2♣
Pass	2♦	Pass	2♠*
Pass	3♣*	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Nunes</i>	<i>Starkowski</i>	<i>Fantoni</i>	<i>Golebiowski</i>
	1NT	Pass	2♣
Pass	2♦	Pass	2NT
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

Both tables played 3NT here on mildly aggressive auctions. Fantoni led the $\diamond 6$ (odd number with no honour or even with an honour) to the queen and king, won the $\spadesuit Q$ lead at trick two...and played back a spade, which seems very strange to me. (Mind you, the winning defence of shifting to hearts was too hard to find I suppose). The defenders continued diamonds, and now declarer set up spades without any further alarm.

In the other room Gawrys ducked the ♠J. Klukowski won his ♥K and played back a diamond (again the heart shift succeeds – this might be easier to find?).

Consider this quite plausible defence: diamond lead, spade to the ace, second diamond won by declarer and a second spade...ducked! Now there are no entries to establish spades, but declarer changes tack.

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

N

S

W E

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

Declarer can only succeed by cashing the top diamond and the ace, king and queen of clubs. Then he exits with a spade to West. That player can cash his last spade but is then down to only hearts, and declarer can establish an extra heart winner.

That was enough for Mazurkiewicz to hold on, losing the set by 1 IMP but winning overall by 51 IMPs.

Looking for Mister Goldbar

By Brent Manley

Going into the final day of the Red Bull Open Pairs, Chris Willenken and David Berkowitz were in the hunt for a medal. Could the in-laws (Willenken is married to David's daughter, Dana) move up from fourth in the standings?

They got off to a good start.

Board 1. Dealer North. None Vul.

<p>♠ Q 6 4 ♥ K J 10 6 5 ♦ A 2 ♣ 8 5 4</p>			
♠ K 10 8 7 ♥ A Q 9 ♦ K 7 6 ♣ K J 6	<p>N W E S</p>	♠ 9 2 ♥ — ♦ Q J 8 5 4 3 ♣ 10 9 5 4 3	
	♠ A J 5 3 ♥ 8 7 4 3 2 ♦ 10 9 ♣ A Q		
West	North	East	South
Willenken	I♥	Berkowitz	3♦
			4♥

All Pass

Berkowitz led the ♣10, taken in dummy with the ace. Declarer played a low trump from dummy, misguessing by playing the king. The king held, but when declarer played a

spade to the jack, Willenken won the king and switched to a diamond. That assured two down and plus 100, good for 61.54%.

Berkowitz and Willenken did not do as well on the next board, but it wasn't because they erred in any way. North-South cannot be defeated in 5♦, and when the opponents stopped in 3♦ and scored plus 150, Berkowitz and Willenken had reason to hope for a better score than they got: just 19.23%. Too many North-South pairs scored worse, playing in the wrong contract or underplaying the right one.

This board renewed their hopes for a place on the podium.

Board 5. Dealer North. N/S Vul.

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

Città di Milano

INTERNATIONAL TEAMS BRIDGE TOURNAMENT

6-7-8 December 2014

NH CENTRO CONGRESSI MILANOFIORI - Assago (MI)

PROGRAM

- December 6th - Saturday
 - 2.00 pm - Registrations' closing
 - 2.30 pm - First session
 - 9.00 pm - Second session
- December 7th - Sunday
 - 2.00 pm - Third session
 - 9.00 pm - Fourth session
- December 8th - Monday
 - 10.30 am - Fifth session
 - 4.00 pm - Prize giving

REGISTRATIONS

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- Entry fee: € 300 per team - Free entry for Juniors teams.

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Chris Willenken

West	North	East	South
	<i>Berkowitz</i>		<i>Willenken</i>
	1♦	1♠	2♦
4♠	5♦	Pass	Pass
5♠	Dble	All Pass	

Berkowitz was headed for minus one if East led his singleton heart at trick one or two. After some thought in the heated auction, West bid 5♠, doubled by Berkowitz. Willenken led his singleton club, taken by his partner with the ace. Berkowitz thought things over for some time before continuing with a low club, suit preference for diamonds. Willenken ruffed, put Berkowitz in with a diamond and ruffed again for plus 300 for an 88% score.

They nearly split the round with East-West, however, getting a poor score for not balancing against a 2♠-contract, which just made. Minus 110 was worth only 2 of 52 matchpoints.

After some other boards that scored poorly because of what happened at other tables, Berkowitz salvaged a fine score on this deal to score 80.77%.

Board 9. Dealer North. E/W Vul.

♠ J 10 9 7 5 3
♥ A J
♦ 10 6 4
♣ 8 6

♠ K
♥ Q 9 8 6 5 4
♦ A Q J 5
♣ A 4

♠ A Q 2
♥ 3 2
♦ K 9 8 3
♣ K 7 5 2

♠ 8 6 4
♥ K 10 7
♦ 7 2
♣ Q J 10 9 3

West	North	East	South
<i>Willenken</i>		<i>Berkowitz</i>	
	2♦	Pass	3♥
Dble	3♠	3NT	All Pass
2♦	Multi		
3♥	Preempt for North to pass or correct		

Willenken's ♠K was a welcome sight for Berkowitz. After winning trick one in dummy (North contributing the ♠J), Berkowitz considered his plan for a while before calling for a low heart from dummy. North won the ♥J and could have held Berkowitz to nine tricks by switching to a club, but he continued with a low spade. Berkowitz won and played another heart, ducked around to North's ace. Berkowitz could claim at that point for plus 630 and great score.

With a peek at the hand records or with X-ray vision, Berkowitz could have earned another 80.77% score on the final board of the set.

Looking at this hand

♠ A Q 10 6 3
♥ Q J
♦ A 9 8 7
♣ | 7

You open 1♠ and your left-hand opponent bids INT. Partner bid 2♣ and RHO bids 2♥, which is passed out. What do you lead?

You know, of course, from the question that leading partner's suit is not the right answer. Berkowitz, of course, did not have the advantage of such a clue. He led his partner's suit and lost a few matchpoints. The full deal:

Board 10. Dealer East. Both Vul.

♠ 7	♠ J 4 2	♠ A Q 10 6 3
♥ 10 6 5	♥ 9 8 7 4 3 2	♥ Q J
♦ 6 3 2	♦ Q J 10 4	♦ A 9 8 7
♣ A K 8 6 5 2	♣ —	♣ J 7
	<div>W N E S</div>	
	♠ K 9 8 5	
	♥ A K	
	♦ K 5	
	♣ O 10 9 4 3	

On the lead of the ♣J, declarer covered with the queen, ruffed when West covered and played two rounds of hearts. Now the ♣10 forced out the ♣A and declarer ruffed again. He played diamond to dummy's king and discarded a spade on the ♣9. Declarer lost only one spade, one heart and one diamond for plus 170. Holding declarer to three by leading the ♠A and continuing the suit would have resulted in 42 of the 52 matchpoints.

The session ended with Berkowitz and Willenken below average but still in the top 10 with hopes for a medal.