**English Women Win at World Mind Sports Games**

By PHILLIP ALDER

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LILLE, France — In the Women’s Teams final at the Second World Mind Sports Games here last week, England defeated Russia by 69 international match points. England also won this event four years ago in Beijing with four of the same players: Sally Brock, Nicola Smith, Heather Dhondy and Nevena Senior. This time, the third pair was Fiona Brown and Susan Stockdale.

In the semifinals England defeated France by 51 imps, and Russia (Svetlana Chubarova, Olga Vorobeychikova, Victoria Gromova, Tatiana Ponomareva, Anna Gulevich and Elena Khonicheva) beat Poland by the surprising and comfortable margin of 83 imps.

The diagramed deal was the first board of the final. In some ways it set the tone for the match.



At the other table Brown (West) opened one club because she was using the weak no-trump, Khonicheva (North) produced an unorthodox two-spade weak jump overcall, Stockdale (East) made a negative double, Gulevich (South) raised to four spades, West doubled, and all passed.

East led the club jack, West taking the trick and continuing with the club ace. North ruffed, cashed her diamond ace, ruffed a diamond in the dummy, cashed the spade ace and continued with another spade. West rose with her king and shifted to the heart king. When West led another heart, declarer ruffed in her hand and strangely ran the diamond jack, losing to West’s king and going down one, having lost one trick in each suit. If diamonds had been 4-2, the contract had no chance, so declarer should have assumed a 3-3 break.

Senior (South) made no such mistake. (In the given auction Dhondy’s two-diamond overcall with the North hand showed a spade-diamond two-suiter.)

West led the club ace, then switched to the heart king. East overtook with her ace and continued with the queen. Declarer ruffed in the dummy, played a spade to her ace and ran the diamond queen. When it held, South led a trump. West took the trick and played the club king. Declarer trumped in the dummy, cashed the diamond ace, ruffed a diamond in her hand, crossed to dummy with a trump and claimed, the diamonds being high.

Plus 100 and plus 590 gave England 12 imps en route to the gold medals.