



# Bridge Bulletin



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# CHINA/FRANCE LEAD THE WAY



*Philippe Cronier offers bridge tips to the RDZF pupils.*

Jie Li of China leads the way after two sessions of the Men's Individual Championship. He is closely followed by the American pair, Michael Rosenberg and Chris Willenken, Miao Shi (China), half of the winning Men's pair, then Arild Rasmussen of Norway and a third American, Alan Sontag. Several more players are still close enough to be involved in the battle for the medals in Friday's final session.

Benedicte Cronier leads the Women's Individual field from Nicola Smith (GB) and Janice Seamon-Molson (USA). Again, several other players still have a genuine chance of getting into the medals, the pack being headed by Xuefeng

Feng (China), Nevena Senior (GB), Hongli Wang (China) and Tobi Sokolow (USA).

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**MEN SERIES****SESSION 1**

1	ROSENBERG Michael	60.00
2	WILLENKEN Chris	58.75
3	SHI Miao	57.50
4	WIJS Simon de	57.08
5	RASMUSSEN Arild	56.25
6	LI Jie	55.42
7	BRINK Sjoert	55.00
-	TUNDAL Ulf Haakon	55.00
-	SONTAG Alan	55.00
10	BERKOWITZ David	52.50
11	SHI Haojun	52.08
12	GITELMAN Fred	50.42
13	VERHEES JR Louk	50.00
-	CHARLSEN Thomas	50.00
15	LIU Jing	49.17
16	MALINOWSKI Artur	47.92
17	LIAN Ruoyang	46.25
18	HOFTANISKA Thor Erik	43.75
19	HOU Xu	43.33
20	GROETHEIM Glenn	42.08
21	DRIJVER Bas	41.25
22	MOSS Brad	40.42
-	PROOIJEN Ricco van	40.42
-	MULLER Bauke	40.42

**SESSION 2**

1	MOSS Brad	61.67
2	MULLER Bauke	61.25
3	LI Jie	59.17
4	SHI Haojun	54.17
-	SONTAG Alan	54.17
6	RASMUSSEN Arild	53.33
7	SHI Miao	52.92
-	WILLENKEN Chris	52.92
9	ROSENBERG Michael	52.08
10	TUNDAL Ulf Haakon	51.67
11	BRINK Sjoert	51.25
12	HOFTANISKA Thor Erik	50.83
-	GITELMAN Fred	50.83
-	MALINOWSKI Artur	50.83
15	LIAN Ruoyang	47.92
16	GROETHEIM Glenn	47.50
17	BERKOWITZ David	45.42
18	HOU Xu	45.00
19	LIU Jing	44.58
20	PROOIJEN Ricco van	44.17
21	CHARLSEN Thomas	43.75
22	WIJS Simon de	41.67
-	DRIJVER Bas	41.67
24	VERHEES JR Louk	41.25

**AFTER SESSION 2**

1	LI Jie	57.29
2	ROSENBERG Michael	56.04
3	WILLENKEN Chris	55.83
4	SHI Miao	55.21
5	RASMUSSEN Arild	54.79
6	SONTAG Alan	54.58
7	TUNDAL Ulf Haakon	53.33
8	SHI Haojun	53.13
-	BRINK Sjoert	53.13
10	MOSS Brad	51.04
11	MULLER Bauke	50.83
12	GITELMAN Fred	50.63
13	WIJS Simon de	49.38
-	MALINOWSKI Artur	49.38
15	BERKOWITZ David	48.96
16	HOFTANISKA Thor Erik	47.29
17	LIAN Ruoyang	47.08
18	CHARLSEN Thomas	46.88
-	LIU Jing	46.88
20	VERHEES JR Louk	45.63
21	GROETHEIM Glenn	44.79
22	HOU Xu	44.17
23	PROOIJEN Ricco van	42.29
24	DRIJVER Bas	41.46

**WOMEN SERIES****SESSION 1**

1	WANG Hongli	60.00
2	BROCK Sally	57.50
3	CRONIER Benedicte	57.08
4	DHONDY Heather	56.67
-	FENG Xuefeng	56.67
6	LEVITINA Irina	56.25
7	SUN Ming	55.00
8	SMITH Nicola	54.17
9	SUN Yanhui	53.33
10	SOKOLOW Tobi	51.67
11	SEAMON-MOLSON J.	51.25
12	SANBORN Kerri	50.83
-	BESSIS Veronique	50.83
14	LU Yan	49.58
15	PALMER Beth	49.17
16	WILLARD Sylvie	48.75
-	SENIOR Nevena	48.75
18	BROWN Fiona	44.58
19	D'OVIDIO Catherine	43.33
-	STOCKDALE Susan	43.33
21	NEVE Joanna	42.50
22	DEAS Lynn	42.08
23	GAVIARD Daniele	39.17
24	GU Ling	37.50

**SESSION 2**

1	SEAMON-MOLSON J.	62.08
2	SENIOR Nevena	59.58
3	SMITH Nicola	59.17
4	CRONIER Benedicte	57.50
5	SOKOLOW Tobi	54.17
6	D'OVIDIO Catherine	53.75
7	FENG Xuefeng	52.50
-	WILLARD Sylvie	52.50
9	BESSIS Veronique	52.08
10	BROWN Fiona	50.83
-	STOCKDALE Susan	50.83
12	DEAS Lynn	48.33
13	SUN Yanhui	47.92
-	WANG Hongli	47.92
15	NEVE Joanna	47.50
16	PALMER Beth	47.08
-	SANBORN Kerri	47.08
18	GAVIARD Daniele	45.83
-	DHONDY Heather	45.83
20	BROCK Sally	45.00
21	LU Yan	43.75
22	GU Ling	43.33
-	LEVITINA Irina	43.33
24	SUN Ming	42.08

**AFTER SESSION 2**

1	CRONIER Benedicte	57.29
2	SMITH Nicola	56.67
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4	FENG Xuefeng	54.58
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9	DHONDY Heather	51.25
-	BROCK Sally	51.25
11	SUN Yanhui	50.63
-	WILLARD Sylvie	50.63
13	LEVITINA Irina	49.79
14	SANBORN Kerri	48.96
15	SUN Ming	48.54
-	D'OVIDIO Catherine	48.54
17	PALMER Beth	48.13
18	BROWN Fiona	47.71
19	STOCKDALE Susan	47.08
20	LU Yan	46.67
21	DEAS Lynn	45.21
22	NEVE Joanna	45.00
23	GAVIARD Daniele	42.50
24	GU Ling	40.42

## Women's Individual – Session One

An Individual competition is a very different kettle of fish to either a Teams or Pairs event. The reason is very simple – each player partners every player in the event, in this case for three boards each, making 69 boards in total over three sessions. Top players are used to having complex agreements in the auction and subtle carding styles. In an individual, the entire field is required to play a system set by the organizers. Individual play is about keeping things simple and making life as easy as possible for a strange partner – practical play, you might say.

The system for the event was a cross between French and American Standard: strong no trump, five-card majors, three weak twos. Two-over-one is only forcing back to two of opener's original suit. Leads are third and fifth in suit contracts and in partner's suits, otherwise fourth in no trump only, top of sequences. Signals and discards, high to encourage or show an even number, a trump echo suggest the ability to ruff something.

Board 4. Dealer West. All Vul.

<p>♠ A 9 3 ♥ A ♦ K Q J 10 7 2 ♣ Q J 2</p>	<div style="background-color: #004d00; color: white; padding: 10px; width: 60px; margin: 0 auto;">                 N W     E S             </div>	<p>♠ Q 6 ♥ K Q 6 4 3 ♦ A 8 3 ♣ A K 4</p>	<p>♠ K 8 7 5 2 ♥ J 9 2 ♦ 9 6 5 ♣ 8 3</p>
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West	North	East	South
<i>Stockdale</i>	<i>Neve</i>	<i>Sun</i>	<i>Wang</i>
1♦	Pass	1♥	Pass
2NT	Pass	3♣	Pass
3♦	Pass	3♥	Pass
3NT	Pass	4♣	Pass
4♦	Pass	4NT	Pass
5♣	Pass	7NT	All Pass

It is often difficult to count the tricks for a grand slam in a regular partnership; how much tougher then, when one has never played with this particular partner before. The GB/China pairing of Susan Stockdale and Yanhui Sun are to be congratulated on reaching the cold grand on this deal.

Stockdale made a mildly off-centre rebid of 2NT rather than 3♦ and Sun saved space by bidding 3♣, allowing her to hear about Stockdale's extra diamond length then follow up by showing her fifth heart. It was natural for Stockdale to sign off at this point but Sun was far too strong to settle for 3NT and probed again with 4♣. When Stockdale repeated her diamonds, Sun checked on key cards then just bid 7NT without worrying about the queen of diamonds.

Perhaps she felt that Stockdale had to have that card or, at worst, KJxxxx for her repeated diamond bids.

Half the field missed 7NT, two playing in 7♦ and one in 6NT, so Stockdale/Sun collected 8 MPs out of 10.

Board 11. Dealer South. None Vul.

<p>♠ A 6 5 4 ♥ K 8 6 ♦ Q 10 7 6 ♣ J 7</p>	<div style="background-color: #004d00; color: white; padding: 10px; width: 60px; margin: 0 auto;">                 N W     E S             </div>	<p>♠ 8 7 3 ♥ A Q 4 ♦ 9 5 ♣ K 10 9 5 4</p>	<p>♠ K Q J 9 ♥ J 5 3 2 ♦ J 4 3 ♣ A 6</p>
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West	North	East	South
<i>Neve</i>	<i>Sokolow</i>	<i>Gu</i>	<i>Willard</i>
–	–	–	Pass
Pass	1♦	Pass	2♦
Pass	Pass	Dble	Rdbl
2♠	Dble	All Pass	

Some would no doubt respond 1NT rather than 2♦ with the South hand but I am quite comfortable with the raise. When that ran around to Ling Gu, she looked at her doubleton diamond and doubled, hoping to find a playable fit. However, while the vulnerability suggests competing, the fact that East has neither four-card major, suggesting that more often than not the partnership will have to play either a four-three fit or at the three level, might suggest that passing could be the wiser course – particularly as partner is a passed hand so N/S will have the balance of power.

Well, whatever the rights or wrongs of East's balancing action, Sylvie Willard made life very easy for her partner when she redoubled to show a maximum for her initial action. When Joanna Neve bid her four-card major, Tobi Sokolow was delighted to double, ending the auction.

Sokolow led the diamond three to the king and Willard switched to a heart. Neve won the king and led the nine of diamonds to Willard's ace. The good news was that declarer now had two diamond winners established. There was plenty of bad news to come, however. Willard returned a heart, won in hand with the king, and Neve tried the jack of clubs. With North marked with the ace – South's simple raise could not include ace-king, ace – Sokolow grabbed it and played a third heart to dummy's ace. Neve played a spade to the ace and a second spade, hoping to split the suit. Sokolow won the second spade and drew trumps, cashed the jack of hearts, and led a club. Dummy had the club king but Willard had the queen for the last trick; down three for –500.

# Men's Individual – Session Two

Two Americans and regular partners, Michael Rosenberg and Chris Willenken headed the rankings at the start of the second session of the men's Individual. However, those rankings fluctuated a great deal as the session progressed, although Willenken always retained a position near to the lead.

Board 2. Dealer East. N/S Vul.

<p>♠ 10 ♥ 8 6 4 2 ♦ K J 4 3 ♣ Q 10 9 8</p>	<div style="background-color: #38761d; color: white; padding: 10px; width: 60px; margin: 0 auto;">                 N W     E S             </div>	<p>♠ K Q J 7 6 ♥ 10 7 ♦ A Q 8 6 5 ♣ 2</p>	
<p>♠ A 5 ♥ A K Q J ♦ 9 2 ♣ A J 7 4 3</p>			
<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>
<i>Moss</i>	<i>Tundal</i>	<i>Sontag</i>	<i>v Prooijen</i>
–	–	1♠	Dble
Pass	2♣	2♦	2♠
3♦	Pass	Pass	4♣
Dble	All Pass		

When Ricco van Prooijen doubled the 1♠ opening, Ulf Tundal had a most unattractive bid to make. Two Clubs was more a matter of the least bad option rather than the best bid. Of course, we all appreciate that once in a while we will force partner to respond to a take-out double by bidding a three-card suit, but it is just too difficult to allow for that in the subsequent auction in most cases. Van Prooijen cuebid then competed to 4♣, only to see Brad Moss double him, ending the auction.

Alan Sontag led the king of spades. Tundal won immediately and, thinking it almost certain that Moss would have at least four clubs, played on that assumption to cut his losses. He played a club to the king then switched his attention to hearts, cashing all four rounds and discarding a diamond from his hand. Next he conceded a diamond and could not be prevented from ruffing dummy's second diamond in hand. That meant –200 but any other play would have been a trick worse so well done Tundal.



Board 8. Dealer West. None Vul.

<p>♠ K Q J 10 8 4 3 ♥ Q 9 7 2 ♦ 9 ♣ J</p>	<div style="background-color: #38761d; color: white; padding: 10px; width: 60px; margin: 0 auto;">                 N W     E S             </div>	<p>♠ A 9 ♥ A K 8 3 ♦ Q J 7 6 5 3 ♣ Q</p>	
<p>♠ 7 ♥ J 10 5 4 ♦ 10 8 ♣ K 10 7 6 3 2</p>			
<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>
<i>Tundal</i>	<i>Hou</i>	<i>Rasmussen</i>	<i>Verhees</i>
3♠	Pass	4♠	All Pass

Four Spades was the popular spot on this one – N/S have a very cheap save but it would be a wild gamble for anyone to come into the auction at this level. Xu Hou, half of the winning pair a day earlier, started with the ace of diamonds, took a long look at dummy, then cashed the ace of clubs before switching to a trump. Tundal won the nine, ruffed a diamond, played a spade to the ace, ruffed another diamond, drew the last trump and crossed to the ace of hearts to ruff out the king of diamonds; eleven tricks for +450.

It was surprising that so many of the other North players failed to cash that second ace and let through twelve tricks, declarer following the same line to set up two discards on the diamonds, so Hou deserves praise for getting it right – or, at least, half right. Try it on the lead of either a trump or the singleton heart, and declarer cannot establish the diamonds so is held to ten tricks.

Board 9. Dealer North. E/W Vul.

<p>♠ Q ♥ K 6 ♦ Q 10 6 5 4 3 ♣ K Q 10 8</p>	<div style="background-color: #38761d; color: white; padding: 10px; width: 60px; margin: 0 auto;">                 N W     E S             </div>	<p>♠ A 2 ♥ Q 10 4 2 ♦ 7 2 ♣ A J 7 4 3</p>	<p>♠ K 8 7 5 3 ♥ J 9 7 ♦ K J 8 ♣ 9 2</p>
<p>♠ J 10 9 6 4 ♥ A 8 5 3 ♦ A 9 ♣ 5 4</p>			
<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>
<i>Tundal</i>	<i>Hou</i>	<i>Rasmussen</i>	<i>Verhees</i>
–	1♣	Pass	1♠
Pass	INT	Pass	2♥
Pass	3♥	All Pass	

The INT rebid was 12-14 and 2♥ in principle to play in 2♥ or 2♠. However, Hou made a very aggressive raise despite his minimum, liking the black aces, four-card heart support and doubleton spade. At most tables where a heart contract was declared the favourable lay-out meant that nine tricks were made. But, of course, declarer doesn't know that everything lies so well...

Tundal led the five of diamonds to the king and Louk Verhees played well, ducking. Often, a defender sees no purpose in continuing diamonds here as he can see that he will not be able to win a further trick in the suit. But getting rid of declarer's late entry to the long spades fits with sound general principles and that is what Arild Rasmussen did, returning the diamond jack.

Verhees won the second diamond and led a club to the queen and ace. Back to hand with a heart to the ace, he led a second club up and Tundal took his king and switched to the queen of spades to dummy's ace. Drijver led a low club off the table, hoping to establish the suit with a ruff. However, that suited the defence very well. Rasmussen ruffed in with the nine, cashed the king of spades and continued with another spade for Tundal to ruff with the king. The fourth club now promoted the jack of hearts for down two; -100.

Board 10. Dealer East. All Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Malinowski</i>	<i>Shi</i>	<i>Gitelman</i>	<i>Rasmussen</i>
–	–	Pass	2♣
2♦	Pass	3♦	Pass
Pass	Dble	All Pass	

The South hand looks like a 2NT opening to me but what do I know? Everyone who opened 2NT played there and went down, while Rasmussen picked up a very healthy plus score by opening with a near game-forcing artificial 2♣. Seeing little defence to the majors and hoping to get support from partner to get in his opponents' way, Artur Malinowski overcalled 2♦. Miao Shi passed to suggest a poor hand, and Fred Gitelman thought that ace-doubleton should be adequate support for a vulnerable overcall. Rasmussen passed to see what Shi would do and, when the answer was double, suggesting defending, left it in.

Shi led the four of clubs to Rasmussen's ace. Rasmussen cashed the heart queen and spade king, showing the position to his partner, then reverted to clubs, returning the

six. Malinowski won and could do no more than draw three rounds of trumps and concede down two; -500 and a top for N/S.

Board 12. Dealer West. N/S Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Malinowski</i>	<i>Shi</i>	<i>Gitelman</i>	<i>Rasmussen</i>
Pass	Pass	Pass	1♥
1♠	2♠	3♦	Pass
3♠	4♥	All Pass	

Rasmussen thought for a good while before opening in fourth seat. He had a very shapely hand, of course, but only 9 HCP meant that his side had at best half the high cards and the opposition probably had a fit in the boss suit, spades. It could, therefore, have been right on another day to pass the deal out.

Eventually, Rasmussen judged to open 1♥. Malinowski overcalled and Shi showed a constructive raise to at least 3♥. Gitelman in turn showed spade support but also a diamond side-suit, hoping to help his partner to judge the double fit and how far to compete, quite apart from getting him off to a good lead. Rasmussen passed that around to his partner, saying that he could not bid game himself but was willing to hear Shi bid it – for South to bid 3♥ himself, in front of partner, would be weaker, following the principle of fast arrival to deny interest in game. Shi bid the game and Malinowski, lacking a diamond fit with which he might have bid on to 4♠, did as suggested, leading the eight of diamonds.

Gitelman won the diamond and switched to the queen of spades to dummy's ace. Rasmussen ruffed a spade, ruffed a diamond and led a heart to the ace then another low diamond. Malinowski was powerless. If he did not ruff in front of dummy, dummy would ruff and a spade ruff to hand would see declarer cash the king of hearts then rattle off winning diamonds, just losing a heart at some point. So Malinowski ruffed with the heart queen and returned a club. Rasmussen won the ace and led dummy's last trump to his ten. That was the same eleven tricks as if Malinowski had not ruffed the diamond; +650 and another excellent score for N/S.

## Men's Pairs – The Final Session

Going into the final session of the Men's Pairs, Chinese pair Ku Hou and Miao Shi had a useful lead over the rest of the field. The chasing pack was headed by USA's Michael Rosenberg and Chris Willenken.

Board 5. Dealer North. N/S Vul.

<p>♠ K Q J 8 6 ♥ Q 7 5 4 3 ♦ 7 ♣ J 7</p>	<div style="background-color: #336633; color: white; padding: 5px; margin: 0 auto; width: 80px; height: 60px; display: flex; flex-direction: column; align-items: center; justify-content: center;"> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; width: 100%;">N W                      E</div> <div style="width: 100%; height: 40px; background-color: #336633;"></div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; width: 100%;">S</div> </div>	<p>♠ 9 3 2 ♥ 9 ♦ K J 6 2 ♣ A 8 6 4 3</p>	<p>♠ A 10 7 6 4 ♥ A 8 ♦ 9 8 5 ♣ K 10 9</p>
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West	North	East	South
Brink	Hou	Drijver	M. Shi
–	1♠	Pass	2♥
Pass	2♠	Pass	2NT
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

It isn't obligatory to open a 5-2-3-3 eleven-count, particularly when vulnerable against not – you don't have a particularly appealing rebid whatever partner's response – but these days most top players open everything. Xu Hou duly opened 1♠ on the North cards and Miao Shi's response was game-forcing, permitting him to make a waiting bid of 2NT at his next turn. As Hou had no extra distributional feature to describe, he simply raised to 3NT and South had effectively concealed his second suit.

With both his five-card suits bid by an opponent, also showing at least five cards, Sjoert Brink had no appealing opening lead. He chose what rated to be the safest option, the queen of spades asking for an attitude signal. Shi won immediately, strongly suspecting that all three missing honours were onside, as neither a suit headed by queen-jack nor one headed by king-queen would have been an attractive choice. He called for the nine of diamonds from dummy and it was necessary that Bas Drijver cover, which he did with the king, to prevent five easy diamond tricks for declarer.

With entries at a premium, Shi next ran the jack of hearts followed by a heart to the ace. The eight of diamonds was covered by jack and queen, Brink throwing a spade and, while there was now a third diamond finesse to be taken, against the six, dummy's five would block the suit, making communications rather tricky. Shi, who had pitched a low club at trick one, now led his remaining small club and, when Brink played low, put in the nine. A second club was

won by Drijver, who then exited with his low diamond. Shi chose to win in dummy and play a low spade without cashing the club. Drijver hopped up with the nine and returned a club but now a second spade exit put Brink on lead and, after cashing two spade winners, he had to give the last two tricks to Shi for an interesting +600.

Board 10. Dealer East. All Vul.

<p>♠ Q 6 5 ♥ K J 8 4 2 ♦ A K 9 5 ♣ 4</p>	<div style="background-color: #336633; color: white; padding: 5px; margin: 0 auto; width: 80px; height: 60px; display: flex; flex-direction: column; align-items: center; justify-content: center;"> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; width: 100%;">N W                      E</div> <div style="width: 100%; height: 40px; background-color: #336633;"></div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; width: 100%;">S</div> </div>	<p>♠ A 9 2 ♥ A Q 9 7 ♦ 10 2 ♣ K 10 8 3</p>	<p>♠ J 8 4 ♥ 10 3 ♦ J 8 4 3 ♣ J 9 7 2</p>
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West	North	East	South
Li	v Prooijen	Liu	Verhees
–	–	1NT	Pass
2♦	Pass	2♥	Dble
Rdbl	All Pass		

Huge disasters are always entertaining for those who were not involved, so I hope the Dutch pair will forgive me for publishing this one. They can console themselves with the thought that it is not the biggest disaster involving a Dutch pair to be published in recent weeks (see coverage of the Venice Cup in Veldhoven).

The Chinese pair play the weak no trump, so that is what East opened, and West transferred to hearts. Many pairs would break the transfer with such good support but that is not the Chinese style. When East simply completed with 2♥, Louk Verhees doubled for take-out and West showed strength by redoubling.

Now it seems that Ricco van Prooijen passed as a neutral action, leaving his partner to run, but Verhees thought the pass was for penalties. Minus 2040 later, there being eleven easy tricks as the cards lie, they had something to discuss over their beer later that day.

Actually, while the result was very spectacular, once Verhees doubled there was probably no escape. Between the two series, ten tables played 4♥ and made the obvious eleven tricks. The only other table where this did not happen was in the women's event, where N/S played 3♣ doubled down four for –1100. It is hard to imagine that N/S can get out for less than the value of their opponents' game so, if there was a misunderstanding, it was a good time to have it at zero MPs cost.

Board 14. Dealer East. None Vul.

♠ 10 5 2 ♥ K J 10 9 7 4 ♦ K 2 ♣ 7 6	<table style="margin: auto; border: 1px solid black; background-color: #006400; color: white; padding: 5px;"> <tr><td style="padding: 2px;">N</td></tr> <tr><td style="padding: 2px;">W     E</td></tr> <tr><td style="padding: 2px;">S</td></tr> </table>	N	W     E	S	♠ Q 8 3 ♥ A Q 8 3 2 ♦ 7 6 ♣ 10 5 3
N					
W     E					
S					
♠ A J 7 6 ♥ – ♦ A 8 ♣ A K Q J 9 8 2	♠ K 9 4 ♥ 6 5 ♦ Q J 10 9 5 4 3 ♣ 4				

West	North	East	South
Sontag	v Prooijen	Berkowitz	Verhees
–	–	Pass	3♦
Dble	4♦	4♥	Pass
6♣	All Pass		

Alan Sontag chose to start with a double despite the void in an unbid suit – he simply felt that he was too strong for any other approach to make sense. When David Berkowitz bid freely over the diamond raise, Sontag took the practical approach and blasted 6♣. Dummy had just what he required and Sontag soon chalked up +920. The Americans were the only pair to reach slam, everyone else playing in 3NT.

Board 15. Dealer South. N/S Vul.

♠ 8 6 4 ♥ 10 9 4 ♦ 9 8 7 4 ♣ 10 9 2	<table style="margin: auto; border: 1px solid black; background-color: #006400; color: white; padding: 5px;"> <tr><td style="padding: 2px;">N</td></tr> <tr><td style="padding: 2px;">W     E</td></tr> <tr><td style="padding: 2px;">S</td></tr> </table>	N	W     E	S	♠ 10 9 7 3 ♥ K Q 7 3 ♦ K 10 3 ♣ J 5
N					
W     E					
S					
♠ J 5 ♥ 8 5 ♦ J 6 5 2 ♣ Q 8 7 6 4	♠ A K Q 2 ♥ A J 6 2 ♦ A Q ♣ A K 3				

West	North	East	South
Sontag	v Prooijen	Berkowitz	Verhees
–	–	–	1♣
Pass	1♦	Pass	2♥
Pass	2♠	Pass	2NT
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

Five declarers out of six managed to bring home 3NT on this deal.

Verhees received the lead of the six of clubs to the ten, jack and ace. He played ace and another heart to the queen and Berkowitz returned a club, ducked. Sontag won and cleared the clubs, not wishing to switch and risk taking

a finesse for declarer, and Berkowitz threw a heart. Verhees won the club and cashed three top spades then played a heart. Berkowitz won the king and cashed the last spade, but was then left with nothing but diamonds. On the enforced diamond lead, Verhees finessed and had his ninth trick for +600.

Had Berkowitz pitched a diamond instead of his low heart, the same line of play would have failed. When Berkowitz wins the heart king he can cash the fourth spade then has a heart exit card. But declarer does not need to play that way. Instead, he sets up the heart without cashing the top spades. Now he can win the heart or spade return, cash the jack of hearts, and now play out the spades to endplay East with the same result as before.

Board 19. Dealer South. E/W Vul.

♠ K 10 9 2 ♥ 10 8 3 ♦ K 3 ♣ K 8 4 2	<table style="margin: auto; border: 1px solid black; background-color: #006400; color: white; padding: 5px;"> <tr><td style="padding: 2px;">N</td></tr> <tr><td style="padding: 2px;">W     E</td></tr> <tr><td style="padding: 2px;">S</td></tr> </table>	N	W     E	S	♠ 8 7 4 3 ♥ A J 2 ♦ A 9 5 4 ♣ A 5
N					
W     E					
S					
♠ A J 6 ♥ 9 7 6 5 ♦ J 7 ♣ Q 9 7 3	♠ Q 5 ♥ K Q 4 ♦ Q 10 8 6 2 ♣ J 10 6				

West	North	East	South
Groetheim	v Prooijen	Tundal	Verhees
–	–	–	Pass
Pass	1♦	Dble	INT
Dble	All Pass		

Van Prooijen judged to open light in third seat, trading on the favourable vulnerability and the fact that he could open with a bid which, in his Precision system, did not even promise the suit bid, making it unlikely that partner would get over-excited. Ulf Tundal doubled and Verhees showed his values by bidding INT. When Glenn Groetheim's value-showing double was left in, van Prooijen had nowhere to run to and Verhees no reason to run.

Groetheim kicked off with the ten of spades, which was good news for declarer as it gave him a third trick in the suit. Verhees won the queen and led the ten of clubs round to Tundal's ace. He returned a spade into dummy's tenace so Verhees continued with a club to his jack, ducked, and another club, Tundal throwing a diamond. Groetheim won the king and led a spade to establish his fourth card in the suit and Verhees threw a diamond. He threw a second diamond on the queen of clubs, Tundal pitching a spade, then a heart to the king. Verhees played a low diamond now to Groetheim's king. Groetheim cashed the spade king and both East and South threw diamonds. Verhees made the last trick with his queen of hearts. Van Prooijen must have been well pleased to write down +180 on his personal scoresheet and take all 10 MPs.

Suppose that Tundal discards a heart on the fourth club instead of what he saw as an unneeded spade. Assuming that declarer still plays a heart off the table, the jack loses to the king and declarer exits with a diamond, as before. The winning defence is for Groetheim to take the king and lead a heart to his partner's ace. Now a spade back to the king squeezes South in the red suits. The heart play acts as a defensive Vienna Coup and produces a very elegant one down.

Board 24. Dealer West. None Vul.

<p>♠ A J 9 6 ♥ 10 9 7 4 ♦ 6 5 2 ♣ 6 5</p>		<p>♠ K 7 ♥ A 8 ♦ Q 10 8 7 3 ♣ Q 9 7 2</p>	<p>♠ 10 5 4 ♥ K Q J 6 5 2 ♦ 4 ♣ A K 3</p>
<p><b>West</b> <i>Lian</i> Pass Pass</p>	<p><b>North</b> <i>v Prooijen</i> 1♥ 2♥</p>	<p><b>East</b> <i>H. Shi</i> Pass All Pass</p>	<p><b>South</b> <i>Verhees</i> 1♠</p>

A number of pairs who stopped in 2♥ made and, in the Women, Nevena Senior held herself to only one down in game after finessing on a low diamond lead. Haojun Shi too led a diamond. Van Prooijen won the ace and cashed the king for a spade discard. In dummy for the last time, he took his best shot in the club suit, running the jack. When Shi won the queen, he returned the suit to declarer's ace. Van Prooijen tried the jack of hearts from hand but Shi won the ace and gave his partner a club ruff. A low spade to the king was followed by a spade back and a third spade, re-promoting a trump trick for West, who had used up his original trump trick with the club ruff.

The result of the 2011 Sport Accord World Mind Games is now history. The winners were the Chinese pairing of Xu Hui and Miao Shi, who had led for most of the second day. Second were Norway's Thor Erik Hoftaniska and Thomas Charlsen (see a separate article for a fourth-session brilliancy from them), while the bronze medals went to Fred Gitelman and Brad Moss of USA.

## Sneaky Defence

Thomas Charlsen and Thor Erik Hoftaniska of Norway finished second in the Men's Pairs, 4.2 MPs behind the winners. The Norwegians found a really sneaky defence on this deal from the final session.

Board 16. Dealer West. E/W Vul.

<p>♠ 9 8 5 2 ♥ 9 6 4 3 ♦ J 4 ♣ K J 8</p>		<p>♠ 6 3 ♥ K 8 7 5 ♦ 10 9 8 ♣ Q 6 3 2</p>	<p>♠ A K Q J 4 ♥ A Q J ♦ K Q 2 ♣ 9 4</p>
<p><b>West</b> <i>Charlsen</i> Pass Pass Pass Pass Pass</p>	<p><b>North</b> <i>Gitelman</i> 2♣ 3♠ 4♠ 5♦ 6NT</p>	<p><b>East</b> <i>Hoftaniska</i> Pass Pass Pass Pass All Pass</p>	<p><b>South</b> <i>Moss</i> 2♠(i) 4♦ 5♣ 6♠</p>

(i) (semi-)balanced 8-11

The Americans bid nicely to the good slam when Moss valued his two aces well. Two pairs missed the slam and a third bid to seven, going one down.

Hoftaniska led the three of clubs, third and fifth, and Fred Gitelman won the ace. He cashed the king and queen of diamonds and, on seeing that the suit had split, switched his attention to spades. He cashed all the spades, and Hoftaniska threw two hearts then a club, Charlsen a heart, while dummy came down to the diamonds and the club and heart tens. Next came the diamonds.

Charlsen threw a second heart then both the jack and king of clubs in normal tempo. That forced Hoftaniska to bare his heart king to keep the queen of clubs.

Can you blame Gitelman for being taken in? It seemed clear that Charlsen was hanging on to king and another heart so he finessed the queen and down he went. Hoftaniska took the last two tricks and wrote +50 on his scoresheet instead of -990. That made the difference between E/W scoring 2 MPs and 9 MPs.

A very nice defence.

## Other Sports in the Sport Accord World Mind Games

On the official website of the Sport Accord World Mind Games, <http://www.worldmindgames.net/en/>, you can also find information about the other sports participating in this event, along with photos and other relevant material.