



14th

WORLD YOUTH BRIDGE TEAMS CHAMPIONSHIP

TAICANG - CHINA 25th JULY - 4th AUGUST 2012

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Daily Bulletin

Bulletin 4

Sunday, 29 July, 2012

Big Day Ahead



Just a Small Selection of the Group of Ever-Helpful Volunteers

We are at the half-way point in the round robin stage of these championships and today, with an extra match, is a big day for all those teams with any hope of qualification (perhaps it will seem even longer to those with no such hopes?).

The Netherlands continues to lead the way in the Girls championship, over 20 VPs ahead of second-placed Poland, but now the rest of the top half of the rankings are also really stretching out, with the Poles 20 VPs clear of third-placed Italy and another significant gap to France and China in fourth and fifth.

Netherlands also leads the way in the Juniors, but here things are much closer with France, Israel and France all within 10 VPs of the leaders. There is a significant gap, however, between sixth-placed Australia and Singapore in seventh.

France leads the Youngsters series, and they and the chasing pair of Poland and Australia have opened up a bit of a lead over the rest of the field. Perhaps, however, with eight teams to qualify, the most significant gap is that between seventh-placed England and eighth-placed Sweden.

Results

Saturday 28 July

Juniors Round 7

ARGENTINA	PAKISTAN	37	16	20	10
SINGAPORE	CHINA	41	43	15	15
BRAZIL	BULGARIA	31	29	15	15
CHINA H K	CANADA	17	46	8	22
USA1	USA2	68	31	24	6
JAPAN	FRANCE	20	66	5	25
NETHERLANDS	COSTA RICA	115	6	25	0
ISRAEL	AUSTRALIA	22	41	11	19
DENMARK	ITALY	41	26	18	12
INDIA	EGYPT	67	26	24	6

Juniors Round 8

AUSTRALIA	ARGENTINA	20	46	9	21
ITALY	PAKISTAN	39	16	20	10
INDIA	SINGAPORE	32	57	9	21
DENMARK	BRAZIL	64	40	21	9
ISRAEL	CHINA H K	45	22	20	10
NETHERLANDS	USA1	31	12	19	11
EGYPT	JAPAN	23	94	1	25
CHINA	COSTA RICA	78	10	25	1
BULGARIA	FRANCE	9	73	2	25
CANADA	USA2	51	31	20	10

Juniors Round 9

ARGENTINA	ITALY	27	46	11	19
PAKISTAN	INDIA	49	22	21	9
SINGAPORE	DENMARK	33	42	13	17
BRAZIL	ISRAEL	13	51	6	24
CHINA H K	NETHERLANDS	37	40	14	16
USA1	JAPAN	51	30	20	10
AUSTRALIA	CHINA	32	19	18	12
COSTA RICA	BULGARIA	7	67	2	25
FRANCE	CANADA	51	17	23	7
USA2	EGYPT	79	8	25	1

17:40

VG	FRANCE	ISRAEL	Y
B2	ARGENTINA	NETHERLANDS	J
B3	ARGENTINA	SWEDEN	Y
B4	AUSTRALIA	ITALY	Y
OG	ENGLAND	CHINA	Y

Juniors Ranking after Round 9

1	NETHERLANDS	187.0
2	FRANCE	183.0
	ISRAEL	183.0
4	CHINA	177.0
5	USA1	167.0
6	AUSTRALIA	165.0
7	SINGAPORE	150.0
8	BULGARIA	138.0
9	ARGENTINA	137.0
	ITALY	137.0
11	USA2	136.0
12	DENMARK	132.0
13	PAKISTAN	123.0
14	CANADA	120.0
15	CHINA HONG KONG	113.0
	JAPAN	113.0
17	INDIA	102.0
18	BRAZIL	71.0
19	COSTA RICA	58.0
20	EGYPT	50.0

Matches on BBO

Sunday 29 July (all times GMT+8)

09:00

VG	BULGARIA	AUSTRALIA	J
B2	ISRAEL	SINGAPORE	J
B3	USA2	FRANCE	J
B4	DENMARK	PAKISTAN	J
OG	CHINA	ITALY	J

11:45

VG	ISRAEL	FRANCE	J
B2	ITALY	FRANCE	G
B3	POLAND	NETHERLANDS	G
B4	NETHERLANDS	USA2	J
OG	CHINA H K	CHINA	J

15:00

VG	USA2	AUSTRALIA	J
B2	ISRAEL	ARGENTINA	J
B3	FRANCE	POLAND	G
B4	ISRAEL	ENGLAND	Y
OG	NORWAY	CHINA	Y

Youngsters Round 7

ARGENTINA	USA1	16	85	1	25
FRANCE	USA2	67	39	22	8
ENGLAND	CHINESE TAIPEI	76	23	25	3
CHINA	SINGAPORE	40	28	16	12
ISRAEL	SWEDEN	18	45	9	21
LATVIA	POLAND	36	43	14	16
ITALY	JAPAN	85	7	25	0
CANADA	NORWAY	40	53	12	18
AUSTRALIA	Bye	0	0	18	0

Youngsters Round 8

ITALY	ARGENTINA	41	18	20	10
LATVIA	FRANCE	24	46	10	20
AUSTRALIA	ENGLAND	39	24	18	12
USA1	CHINA	74	45	22	8
USA2	ISRAEL	28	60	7	23
CHINESE TAIPEI	SWEDEN	71	39	23	7
NORWAY	SINGAPORE	86	25	25	2
POLAND	JAPAN	76	23	25	3
CANADA	Bye	0	0	18	0

Youngsters Round 9

ARGENTINA	CHINESE TAIPEI	29	46	11	19
FRANCE	SINGAPORE	37	23	18	12
ENGLAND	SWEDEN	38	37	15	15
CHINA	ISRAEL	37	37	15	15
USA1	POLAND	52	44	17	13
AUSTRALIA	JAPAN	85	22	25	2
LATVIA	CANADA	93	22	25	1
ITALY	NORWAY	33	52	11	19
USA2	Bye	0	0	18	0

Girls Ranking after Round 9

1	NETHERLANDS	193.0
2	POLAND	171.0
3	ITALY	151.0
4	FRANCE	136.0
5	CHINA	134.0
6	SWEDEN	122.0
7	CHINESE TAIPEI	120.0
8	INDONESIA	106.0
9	USA	104.0
10	OCEANIA	99.0

Youngsters Ranking after Round 9

1	FRANCE	181.0
2	POLAND	175.0
3	AUSTRALIA	171.0
4	USA1	156.0
5	ISRAEL	155.0
6	NORWAY	152.0
7	ENGLAND	150.0
8	SWEDEN	134.0
9	CHINA	129.0
	ITALY	129.0
11	CHINESE TAIPEI	122.0
12	LATVIA	114.0
13	ARGENTINA	113.0
	USA2	113.0
15	SINGAPORE	112.0
16	CANADA	86.0
17	JAPAN	69.0

Girls Round 7

CHINESE TAIPEI	INDONESIA	20	41	10	20
FRANCE	NETHERLANDS	1	49	4	25
USA	ITALY	52	48	16	14
OCEANIA	POLAND	14	56	5	25
CHINA	SWEDEN	45	47	15	15

Girls Round 8

NETHERLANDS	CHINESE TAIPEI	39	12	21	9
SWEDEN	FRANCE	35	52	11	19
ITALY	INDONESIA	41	20	20	10
POLAND	USA	72	8	25	2
CHINA	OCEANIA	62	59	16	14

Girls Round 9

CHINESE TAIPEI	FRANCE	29	41	12	18
NETHERLANDS	ITALY	28	18	17	13
INDONESIA	POLAND	17	72	3	25
USA	CHINA	21	56	7	23
OCEANIA	SWEDEN	58	17	24	6

The Draw

Sunday 29 July

Youngsters Round 10

11	SINGAPORE	ARGENTINA	
12	SWEDEN	FRANCE	
13	ISRAEL	ENGLAND	B4
14	NORWAY	CHINA	OG
15	POLAND	USA2	
16	JAPAN	USA1	
17	CANADA	AUSTRALIA	
18	ITALY	LATVIA	
19	CHINESE TAIPEI	Bye	

Youngsters Round 11

11	ARGENTINA	SWEDEN	B3
12	FRANCE	ISRAEL	VG
13	ENGLAND	CHINA	OG
14	CHINESE TAIPEI	POLAND	
15	USA2	JAPAN	
16	USA1	CANADA	
17	AUSTRALIA	ITALY	B4
18	LATVIA	NORWAY	
19	SINGAPORE	Bye	

Girls Round 10

21	SWEDEN	CHINESE TAIPEI	
22	ITALY	FRANCE	B2
23	POLAND	NETHERLANDS	B3
24	CHINA	INDONESIA	
25	OCEANIA	USA	

Girls Round 11

21	CHINESE TAIPEI	ITALY	
22	FRANCE	POLAND	B3
23	NETHERLANDS	CHINA	
24	INDONESIA	OCEANIA	
25	USA	SWEDEN	

Girls Round 12

21	POLAND	CHINESE TAIPEI	
22	CHINA	FRANCE	
23	OCEANIA	NETHERLANDS	
24	USA	INDONESIA	
25	SWEDEN	ITALY	

Juniors Round 10

1	INDIA	ARGENTINA	
2	DENMARK	PAKISTAN	B4
3	ISRAEL	SINGAPORE	B2
4	NETHERLANDS	BRAZIL	
5	JAPAN	CHINA H K	
6	EGYPT	USA1	
7	CHINA	ITALY	OG
8	BULGARIA	AUSTRALIA	VG
9	CANADA	COSTA RICA	
10	USA2	FRANCE	B3

Juniors Round 11

1	ARGENTINA	BRAZIL	
2	PAKISTAN	SINGAPORE	
3	CHINA H K	CHINA	OG
4	USA1	BULGARIA	
5	JAPAN	CANADA	
6	NETHERLANDS	USA2	B4
7	ISRAEL	FRANCE	VG
8	DENMARK	COSTA RICA	
9	INDIA	AUSTRALIA	
10	ITALY	EGYPT	

Juniors Round 12

1	ISRAEL	ARGENTINA	B2
2	NETHERLANDS	PAKISTAN	
3	JAPAN	SINGAPORE	
4	USA1	BRAZIL	
5	EGYPT	CHINA H K	
6	CHINA	DENMARK	
7	BULGARIA	INDIA	
8	CANADA	ITALY	
9	USA2	AUSTRALIA	VG
10	FRANCE	COSTA RICA	

Juniors Round 13

1	ARGENTINA	NETHERLANDS	B2
2	PAKISTAN	JAPAN	
3	SINGAPORE	USA1	
4	BRAZIL	CHINA H K	
5	ISRAEL	CHINA	
6	DENMARK	BULGARIA	
7	INDIA	CANADA	
8	ITALY	USA2	
9	AUSTRALIA	FRANCE	
10	COSTA RICA	EGYPT	

Dutch Diaries - Part 2

by Kees Tammens

In Taicang it is enjoyable to walk slowly through the streets with their many shops. I also made an interesting visit to Shanghai, including a trip to the top of the television tower with transparent glass bottoms where you could look 350 meters down. This tourist outing finished in great style with a copious and excellent dinner in a local restaurant next to the 'House of Blues and Jazz'; were we in New Orleans? However, as all players know by heart, tourism is all right but, when the bridge starts, that is what we really want to do. So when the referee started the clock Thursday morning, my Dutch juniors were completely focused on the game. Nobody cared in which continent we were. And the first three rounds had all gone like a beautiful dream. After 24 victory points (Australia), 22 (Italy) and 25 (India), the Netherlands was leading the field. But the road ahead is still long and full of nasty obstacles.

In Round 4 against Denmark, a bidding sequence developed that raised some eyebrows:

Board 5. Dealer North. N-S Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Wackwitz	Bilde	Westerbeek	Jespen
—	2♣	Pass	2NT (a)
4♦	5NT	Pass	6♣
Dble	Pass	6♦	Dble
Pass	6♠	All Pass	

(a) Transfer to clubs

In a junior tournament there is always a lot of bidding going on. So the pass by East, Chris Westerbeek, was somewhat astonishing. Well, no problem at all when West, Ernst Wackwitz, seemed to

be clairvoyant of the big diamond fit and jumped preemptively to four diamonds. So I was certain that East would support his partner after five notrumps. Another shock pass by East. Now West was sure that he would defeat six clubs with a spade ruff and the ace of diamonds, so he produced a clever Lightner double. We will never find out if East would have found the spade lead, because he saved in six diamonds; you have to support your partner one time with six trumps. After the double of six diamonds, Dennis Bilde (North) must have had an awkward decision, because with a spade void in West it was very likely that East had at least one spade trick. Then East, thinking that having supported his partner one time was enough, refrained from seven diamonds. This might have been the winning move because it would have given North-South the opportunity to get to the grand after all, and we all regret that eight diamonds is not allowed.

I was sure that diamonds would be bid more exuberantly at the other table, and hoped this would push my pair into seven spades.

West	North	East	South
Ege	v d Bos	Tofte	v Lankveld
—	2♣	Pass	3♣
Pass	3♠	Pass	4♦
Pass	4NT	Pass	5♦
Dble	7♠	All Pass	

Well, East's pass over two clubs gave South the bidding space to show a club suit headed by at least two of the top three honours, which paved the route to seven.



Berend van den Bos

In this round with many wild boards, in several matches the IMP totals climbed over 100 in 16 boards. However, the score in Denmark versus the Netherlands stayed low. The Danes seemed to be heading to victory when the next-to-last board came up.

Board 14. Dealer East. None Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Wackwitz	Bilde	Westerbeek	Jepsen
—	—	1♦	Pass
1♥	3♠	4♣	4♠
5♥	Pass	6♥	All Pass

Well, the difference was that the Danish juniors went one off in slam whilst the Dutch made it and so won the match by 16-14. In these days it seems profitable to cash your aces when opponents bid a slam.

Israel has been the most impressive junior team over the last five years. Defending world junior champions (2010) and winners of the transnational open teams in Veldhoven (2011). They have also won the White House Junior Internationals (sorry if I mention this event once or twice) in Amsterdam three times in a row, only losing in 2012 to the Netherlands. Time goes on and three Israeli juniors on the winning team in the 2011 Europeans in Albena are too old to play in Taicang. But still Israel is the team to beat.

Round 5 of this World Championship was a repeat of the finale of WHJI-2012, with the same four pairs. And again it was very exciting. The Israelis were lucky on board 1 when they bid and made a 20 percent six spades. But the Dutch were lucky on Board 4 when they missed a 5-4 fit in spades, good for an easy 650, bidding three notrumps with these hands and making that on a

finesse, when another lead would have defeated the contract right away.

The match had a lot of difficult deals in which it was never easy to know what to do. All the pairs played pretty well, although they may have different opinions about that.

At both tables a different view of the defense could have gained a lot of imps here:

Board 10. Dealer East. All Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
—	—	1♦	Pass
1NT	Pass	3NT	All Pass

At both tables the same bidding sequence and opening lead, the five of hearts. When declarer called for the three from the dummy, South had to decide whether to put in the nine or the queen. And if he played the queen and won the trick, should he switch to a spade?

At the table, both Souths played the nine of hearts. To defeat the contract, they had to win with the queen and switch to a spade.

In the end, both declarers took ten tricks for a push.

Israel had a 32-18 lead with two boards to go.



Board 15. Dealer South. N-S Vul.

♠ 7 6 ♥ A Q J ♦ A 3 2 ♣ A K J 10 5 ♠ K Q J 5 4 ♥ 9 8 ♦ 9 4 ♣ 8 7 4 2	♠ 10 9 8 3 ♥ 4 3 2 ♦ Q 10 8 3 ♣ 6 3 ♠ A 2 ♥ K 10 7 6 5 ♦ K J 7 6 ♣ Q 9
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West	North	East	South
Meyhuas	v d Bos	Padon	v Lankveld
–	–	–	1♥
1♠	2♠	Pass	3♦
Pass	4♣	Pass	4♦
Pass	4♠ (a)	Pass	5♦ (b)
Pass	7♥	7♠	Pass
Pass	7NT	All Pass	

(a) Roman Key Card Blackwood
 (b) Two key cards, no queen of hearts

North only wanted to know if partner had a spade control. Four diamonds showed a diamond and a spade control. When East saved in seven spades, Berend van den Bos (North) only hoped that South would pass quickly (indicating the wish to play in seven notrumps). Then he bid seven notrumps, knowing that it might need a club finesse, but thinking that his partner ought to have the queen of clubs for his pass over seven spades. And right he was. When Israel ended in six hearts, the Netherlands tied the match with these 13 IMPs.

The match against Egypt had some personal interest for me. Back in Amsterdam I play a lot of card games with Egyptian friends; they don't know bridge, but if Egypt beats a Dutch team you can hear their bright remarks: "Kees, you cannot beat us at bridge?" However, not this time. When the Dutch juniors scored a blitz 25, they emerged with 56 VPs from the three matches and kept their place in the top of the rankings after a day of exciting bridge.

Deadly Defence

by Michael Byrne

The English Youngsters found Poland too hot to handle in their Round 4 match, but Shivam Shah and Alex Roberts combined well on this deal to bring in a much-needed swing.

Board 11. Dealer South. None Vul.

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

In the Closed Room the English North-South bid to 5♦ by South on a top heart lead and that was an easy 11 tricks for plus 400. This was the auction in the Open Room:

West	North	East	South
Shah		Roberts	
–	–	–	1♣
3♥	Dble	Pass	4♣
Pass	4♦	Pass	5♦
Pass	Pass	Pass	

One Club was Polish, three-way and, presumably, 4♦ was forcing.

Put yourself in the East seat – how can you possibly beat 5♦? Surely the opponents have missed a slam when you hold such a poor hand facing partner's pre-empt?

If that's your attitude, then you'll never be a winner as real bridge players don't give up. Looking for miracles, Roberts led a club and one duly materialised when Shah ruffed it. Now the spotlight turned to him – could he find a low heart?

Analysing the position well, he reasoned that a low heart could never cost. If partner had the ace of trumps, the ruff would still arrive, so only an undertrick would be lost, and to force to game facing a non-vulnerable opening declarer would surely have most of the missing points. Besides which, if

he had held the queen of hearts, he might have tried 3NT at some stage. The scene was set for a heart back and another club ruff and that was one down and 10 IMPs to the good.

England continued to play well and lost by 3-25 VPs.

Play Problem

by Brian Senior

The most interesting deal from Round 7 on Saturday morning was Board 3, on which a number of pairs got to the diamond grand slam. Altogether, 16 pairs bid to 7♦ and 13 of them made it. But why did three fail?

Board 3. Dealer South. E/W Vul.

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

After the popular trump lead, I have seen five different lines of play and there may well have been more.

The simplest line was to win the opening lead in the East hand and take an immediate club finesse – very simple, and very successful.

Another declarer drew trumps and came down to an ending in which, having taken one spade ruff, he was a trick short. He now took the simple club finesse and again was successful.

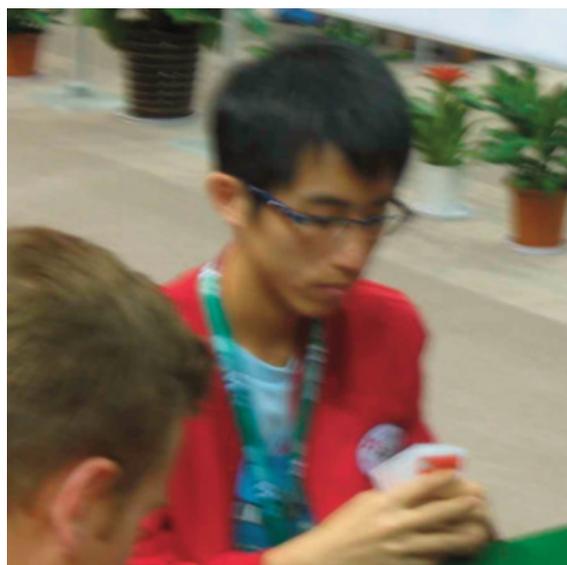
Line three saw declarer come down to an ending in which he could take either the simple club finesse or, after pitching a club on the king of hearts, the ruffing finesse. He duly went for the ruffing finesse and was one down.

Then there were the two declarers in the China v Singapore Juniors match.

For China, Yinpei Shao won the trump lead with the jack, played a second diamond to the queen, then cashed the spade king. He continued with a diamond to the king, cashed the ace and queen of hearts and followed up with the ace and queen of spades, throwing two clubs from hand. Then he ruffed a spade, threw the three of clubs on the heart king and ruffed the last heart. Down to ♣AQ facing the ♣7 and ♠10, he had a complete count on the hand so knew that North had started with four clubs to South's three. Accordingly, he played for North to have been squeezed and led a club to the ace – down one.

Singapore's Wei Seng Tan showed how the contract should be played. He won the trump lead with the ace and cashed the spade king. Next he crossed to the queen of hearts and ruffed a spade, followed by a diamond to the jack. Had the diamonds proved to be four-one, he would have taken the queen of diamonds next, crossed to the ace of hearts and drawn the last trump, eventually falling back on the club finesse when the spades proved to be five-two. But when everyone followed to the second diamond, Tan could take a second spade ruff, this time with the queen, so that he would have been secure even had spades been five-two the other way around. From here it was a simple matter to cross to the ace of hearts, draw the last trump and cash out – no finesses, no squeezes, just taking two ruffs and making 13 tricks.

That was worth 19 IMPs to Singapore in a match that they eventually drew.



Wei Seng Tan

Juniors Round 7 - USA1 vs USA2

by Phillip Alder

The second all-American battle took place in the first match on Saturday.

First, though, here are two questions.

1. Dealer East. N-S Vul.

♠ 5 4
♥ J 10 4 2
♦ 7 3 2
♣ A 8 3 2

♠ K J 8 7
♥ K Q 8 7 5 3
♦ A J 5
♣ —

West	North	East	South
—	—	1♣	1♥
Pass	3♥	Pass	4♥
Pass	Pass	Pass	

West leads the ten of spades. East wins with the ace and switches to the king of diamonds. Over to you.

2. With only your side vulnerable, you (East) hold:

♠ J 9 ♥ A 10 9 6 3 ♦ K Q J 2 ♣ 8 5

The auction starts:

West	North	East	South
1♣ (a)	1♠	2♥	2♠
Pass	Pass	??	

(a) Natural or two-plus clubs in a balanced hand outside the range for one notrump (14-16)

What would you do now?

The match started quietly with USA1 gaining 3 IMPs when both USA2 pairs went one down in a partscore. The second deal was a flat game, made when both Wests understandably led a diamond into the ace-queen.

The next deal was much more interesting.

Board 3. Dealer South. E-W Vul.

♠ J 9 5 3 2
♥ 10 8
♦ 9 5
♣ 8 5 4 2

♠ K
♥ K 7 6 4
♦ A Q 7 2
♣ A Q J 9

♠ A Q 10 8 6
♥ A Q
♦ K J 6 4
♣ 7 3

♠ 7 4
♥ J 9 5 3 2
♦ 10 8 3
♣ K 10 6

West	North	East	South
Drodge	Dwyer	Gannon	Lien
1♦	1♠!	Pass	Pass
Dble	Pass	Pass	Pass

West	North	East	South
Lee	J. Wang	Rajkumar	Z. Wang
1♣ (a)	Pass	1♠	Pass
1NT	Pass	2♦	Pass
3♦	Pass	3♥	Pass
3NT	Pass	4♥	Pass
5♣	Pass	6♦	All Pass
(a) 16-plus points			

Sean Gannon and Stephen Drodge have said that they will write up the defence against one spade doubled. Suffice to say, they took the maximum number of tricks of 12, for plus 1400.

Roger Lee and Raghavendra 'Raghu' Rajkumar bid to six diamonds. Zizhuo Wang led the six of clubs. Declarer won with dummy's ace, drew trumps and conceded one trick for plus 1370 and the loss of 1 IMP. If he had finessed at trick one and taken all 13 tricks, it would have been an unusual flat board.

Next came another example of 'juniors never pass'.

Board 4. Dealer West. Both Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Drodge	Dwyer	Gannon	Lien
Pass	Pass	1♠	Pass
1NT	Pass	2♣	Dble (a)
Redble	2♦	All Pass	

(a) Take-out, implying a three-suiter short in clubs

West	North	East	South
Lee	J. Wang	Rajkumar	Z. Wang
Pass	Pass	Pass	1♠
Pass	1NT	Pass	2♥
Pass	2NT	Pass	3♦
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

Two diamonds made with three overtricks when East led a club, three of dummy's hearts evaporating.

The defence against three notrump was careful. East led the two of hearts, West putting in the seven. North won and played three rounds of diamonds. West underled his king of hearts, East taking the trick and accurately switching to a low spade. Now Zhuo 'Jimmy' Wang (North) had no chance.

Plus 150 and plus 100 gave 6 IMPs to USA1.

Another 2 IMPs went the same way on the next deal for one fewer undertrick; then:



Kevin Dwyer

Board 6. Dealer East. E-W Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Drodge	Dwyer	Gannon	Lien
—	—	Pass	1♦ (a)
1♠	3NT	All Pass	

(a) 10-15 points, 2-plus diamonds

West	North	East	South
Lee	J. Wang	Rajkumar	Z. Wang
—	—	Pass	1♦ (a)
1♠	2♠	3♠	5♦
Pass	Pass	Pass	

(a) 10-15 points, 2-plus diamonds

Kevin Dwyer's three-notrump response looks right to me. But the contract was not airtight. East led the four of spades, third and low. Now, double-dummy, declarer had to discard a heart from dummy; but he actually pitched a club. Then, if West had not put up his ace, the defence could have triumphed. But when West understandably took the first trick, North was home with two spades, one heart and six diamonds.

Five diamonds had three top losers, giving 10 IMPs to USA1.

The lead got even wider on the next deal:

Board 7. Dealer South. Both Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Drodge	Dwyer	Gannon	Lien
-	-	-	1♦ (a)
1♥	2♥ (b)	Dble	Pass
Pass	3♣	Pass	3♦
Pass	Pass	Pass	

- (a) 10-15 points, 2-plus diamonds
 (b) At least a game-invitation in diamonds

West	North	East	South
Lee	J. Wang	Rajkumar	Z. Wang
-	-	-	1♦ (a)
1♥	2♥ (b)	Dble	Pass
Pass	3♦	Pass	3♥
Pass	3NT	Pass	Pass
Dble	Pass	Pass	Pass

- (a) 10-15 points, 2-plus diamonds
 (b) At least a game-invitation in diamonds

If Drodge had led his singleton ace of clubs, he probably would have defeated three diamonds, thus: ace of clubs, ace of hearts, heart to the king, club ruff, and a later diamond trick. But he selected the ten of spades. This ran to the declarer's jack. Owen Lien then played a spade to dummy's ace, a diamond to his ace and discarded a heart on the king of spades.

Zizhuo Wang was optimistic in moving towards game with the South hand. Then Roger Lee (West) found a timely double. The defenders got five hearts, one diamond and one club for three down.

Plus 110 and plus 800 gave 14 IMPs to USA1 and the lead by 35-1.

USA2 stemmed the tide on the next deal.

Board 8. Dealer West. None Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Drodge	Dwyer	Gannon	Lien
1♥	Dble	Pass	2♦
Dble	Redble	2♥	2♠
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

West	North	East	South
Lee	J. Wang	Rajkumar	Z. Wang
1♥	Dble	1♠	Pass
3♠	Dble	Pass	3NT
Pass	Pass	Pass	

The aggressive bidding by Rajkumar and Lee pushed their opponents into three notrumps from the right side.

Against Wang, West led a spade, but declarer won with his king, took a club finesse, unblocked dummy's diamonds, cashed the ace of clubs and continued with the jack of clubs. West had no answer.

In the Open Room, Gannon did very well, finding the killing spade lead. North played low from the dummy, but Drodge accurately won with his eight, cashed the ace and played a third round. North took a club finesse, unblocked his diamonds and led a hopeful king of hearts. But the defenders had five tricks: three spades and two hearts.

Plus 430 and plus 50 gave 11 IMPs to USA2.

The same team gained 2 IMPs on a partscore board. On Board 10, USA1 won 12 IMPs when Jimmy Wang took a losing line in four spades. USA1 gained another IMP on the next board.

Then came the deal from which the first problem given at the start was taken.

Board 12. Dealer West. N-S Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Drodge	Dwyer	Gannon	Lien
1♣	1♥	Pass	3♥
Pass	4♥	All Pass	

West	North	East	South
Lee	J. Wang	Rajkumar	Z. Wang
2♣ (a)	2♥	3♣	3♥
3♠	4♥	5♣	Dble
Pass	Pass	Pass	

(a) Precision style with 6-plus clubs

Probably Gannon should have gambled with two diamonds over one heart. His hand was too promising to pass.

Dwyer played carefully when East led a spade, West taking his ace and switching to the king of diamonds. Declarer won with his ace, cashed the king of spades, ruffed a spade in the dummy and discarded a diamond on the ace of clubs. Then he played on trumps, making his contract.

If North had played on hearts immediately, the defenders would have got the spade ace, the heart ace, the diamond queen and a diamond ruff.

Five clubs doubled went down only one, declarer losing one spade, one diamond and one club.

Plus 620 and minus 100 gave 11 IMPs to USA1, now ahead by 59-14.

The next deal was exciting:

Board 13. Dealer North. Both Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Drodge	Dwyer	Gannon	Lien
–	1♦ (a)	1♠	2♥
4♦ (b)	Pass	4♠	5♣
5♠	6♣	Pass	Pass
Dble	Pass	Pass	Pass

(a) 10-15 points, 2-plus diamonds

(b) Fit-showing jump

West	North	East	South
Lee	J. Wang	Rajkumar	Z. Wang
–	1♦ (a)	1♠	2♥
4♠	Pass	Pass	5♣
5♦	Dble	5♠	Pass
Pass	Dble	All Pass	

(a) 10-15 points, 2-plus diamonds

Both contracts went one down, giving 9 IMPs to USA2. It was not easy for Dwyer to realize that six clubs would be a phantom sacrifice.

The last three boards were not newsworthy, and USA1 won the match by 68-31, or 24-6 in victory points.



Sean Gannon

However, the bidding problem given at the beginning is worth discussing with your partner. This was the full layout:

Board 16. Dealer West. E-W Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Drodge	Dwyer	Gannon	Lien
1♣ (a)	1♠	2♥	2♠
Pass	Pass	3♦	Pass
5♦	Pass	Pass	Pass

West	North	East	South
Lee	J. Wang	Rajkumar	Z. Wang
1♦ (a)	1♠	2♥	2♠
Pass	Pass	3♦	All Pass
(a) 10-15 points, 2-plus diamonds			

In the Open Room, is the new-suit three-diamond rebid invitational or forcing?

I think most would treat it as forcing, and clearly Drodge felt that way. If so, East should have doubled.

It was much easier in the Closed Room.

Lee played carefully to land nine tricks. Gannon dropped one trick and went three down.

Finally, note that this is not a good board for opening one club with a balanced hand out of the range for one notrump, which is very popular these days, with, usually, transfer responses to one club. (Yes, some would pass that West hand, and if you are one of them, mentally add, say, the jack or queen of diamonds.) Suppose the auction starts like this:

West	North	East	South
1♣	1♠	Dble	Pass
??			

West presumably rebids one notrump despite the lack of a spade stopper, arguing that partner has something in the suit when spades aren't raised.

But we can make it even worse:

West	North	East	South
1♣	1♠	Dble	2♠
Pass	Pass	Dble	Pass
??			

If the opening bid is one diamond, West can rebid two clubs or three clubs in more comfort.

Decisive Board

by Brian Senior

This huge swing was the decisive board when Latvia met Poland in the Youngsters series, Round 7. Going into this board, Latvia led the match by 36-24 IMPs.

Board 13. Dealer North. All Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Loziewicz	Zalitis	Terszak	Freimanis
—	1♦	1♠	Dble
4♦	Pass	4♠	Dble
Pass	Pass	Pass	

West	North	East	South
Dreimanis	Kazmier'k	Ilzins	Witkowski
—	1♣	1♠	Dble
4♠	Pass	Pass	4NT
Pass	5♣	Pass	Pass
5♠	Pass	Pass	Dble
Pass	Pass	Pass	

USA Girls

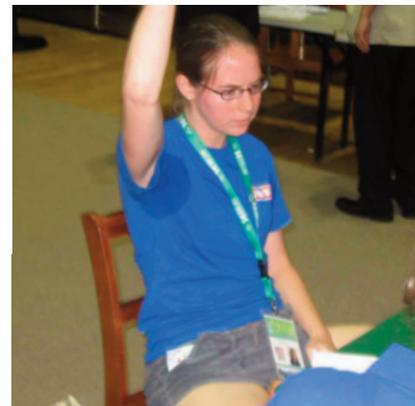
We continue our profile of the teams with the US Girls team.

(originally published by the ACBL)



Taylor Compton

Taylor is a 13-year-old from Dallas who started playing bridge when she was six (she learned at age four using the Bridge Master software). Her parents are both excellent players, and her mom owns a bridge studio where Taylor, who is an ACBL-accredited teacher, has been teaching kids' classes for two years. She is a member of the American Bridge Teachers Association. In addition to bridge, Taylor enjoys soccer, acting, swimming, and hanging out with her friends.



Marianna Linz

Marianna, 22, started playing bridge with her family when she was so young she had trouble holding 13 cards. She became more serious about bridge as a student at Harvard, where she was President of the Harvard Bridge Club.

Marianna graduated Summa Cum Laude in 2011 with a degree in Chemistry and Physics and Earth & Planetary Sciences.

In the fall of 2012 she plans to start a PhD program in either Climate Science or Physical Oceanography.

For Latvia, Aleksis Zalitis opened 1♦, Precision, and Gints Freimanis made a negative double of the 1♠ overcall. When Igor Loziewicz made a splinter-raise to 4♠, Freimanis doubled again to show his extra values and Zalitis left it in.

Freimanis led a club and Andrzej Terszak pitched a heart from dummy, trying to preserve the trump length as potential later entries to the long diamonds. Zalitis won the club ace and switched to the jack of hearts for the king and ace and now Freimanis returned a low heart, assuming his partner to hold the ten. Terszak discarded a diamond from dummy and scooped in the heart ten. He played the king of spades, ducked, then a diamond to the king and ruffed a diamond with the queen. Terszak next led a spade to the jack and ace, ruffed the club return and played winning diamonds through North. He could over-ruff and get back to dummy with a club ruff for ten tricks and plus 790. (Incidentally, 4♠ cannot be defeated double dummy.)

At the other table, Wojciech Kazmierczak, for Poland, opened 1♣, Polish, and again there was a 1♠ overcall and negative double. Gints Dreimanis simply raised to 4♠ with the West cards and, when that came back to Lukasz Witkowski, rather than make a second double he bid 4NT, take-out. Kazmierczak responded 5♣ to that, a contract which cannot be defeated, so Dreimanis did the right thing when he took the push to 5♠, or so it appeared. However, as they say, the play's the thing.

Witkowski led a club against 5♠ doubled and Janis Ilzins ruffed and played ace of diamonds then ruffed a diamond low. He continued with the queen of spades and, when that was ducked, continued with the spade ten. Kazmierczak won the ace and led a club, ruffed with dummy's last trump. The king of diamonds stood up for a heart discard but Kazmierczak could ruff the next round and that left Ilzins playing out of his hand. He made only his trumps from here so was three down for minus 800 and a massive 17 IMP swing to Poland, who won the match by 43-36 IMPs, 16-14 VPs.

Team Profiles Wanted

We don't want to have to publish nothing but US profiles. Please captains, players, coaches or whoever, write us a few words on the players in your team. We'll add the photographs.



Luz Ortega

Luz, 24, has a degree in electrical engineering from Universidad Metropolitana in her native Caracas, Venezuela. This spring, she will begin graduate studies in engineering management at Florida Institute of Technology in Melbourne. Luz previously represented Venezuela in international competitions, both on a junior team and on a women's national team.



Sylvia Shi

Sylvia, 23, started learning bridge very recently (January 2011), although she had played other card games. She became a Life Master and won the Mini McKinney (0-5) in her first year playing bridge. In 2011 she represented her district in the Flight C North American Pairs. Sylvia has a degree in public health from Johns Hopkins and is currently in a PhD program in public policy at the University of Maryland.



Isha Thapa

Isha, 17, will graduate from Gunn High School in Palo Alto CA this spring and will know soon where she will attend college this fall. She learned bridge in eighth grade in a class at her middle school. Her interest in bridge caused her father to renew his own interest, and they have played together frequently in the past few years. Isha plays the piano, is learning guitar and sings in a youth choir.



Rebecca Wernis

Becca started playing bridge as a freshman in high school in Chicago, under the tutelage of her chemistry teacher, who offered bridge classes after school. Having learned some basics, she attended her first NABC in Chicago and was hooked. Becca, 21, is a junior at Caltech, majoring in and preparing for graduate studies in physics. She represented District 23 in the GNTs Flight B in New Orleans. This summer in Philadelphia, she and her Caltech colleagues competed in the ACBL's collegiate championships, finishing third.

The NPC is Jenni Carmichael.

Match of the Day

China v USA1 (Youngsters Round 8)

by Brian Senior

In Round 8 of the Youngsters Championship, fifth-placed USA1 faced ninth-placed China. It proved to be a lively match with swings coming thick and fast.

Hongji Wei also led the king of hearts but switched to a diamond when that held the trick. Jia Shen Yin won the ace and returned the suit to Brescoll's king. Brescoll cashed the ace of trumps now and the fall of the jack meant that he was in control. He led a second spade to the nine and king and had the rest for plus 420 and 10 IMPs to USA1, the perfect start to the match.

Board 1. Dealer North. None Vul.

<p style="text-align: center;">♠ J ♥ K Q 10 6 5 3 ♦ Q 5 2 ♣ J 9 7</p> <p>♠ A Q 8 6 5 4 ♥ A 7 4 ♦ K J ♣ K 5</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">♠ 10 9 7 ♥ 9 8 ♦ 7 6 ♣ A Q 10 8 4 2</p> <p style="text-align: center;">♠ K 3 2 ♥ J 2 ♦ A 10 9 8 4 3 ♣ 6 3</p>
--	--

West	North	East	South
Tan	R. Jeng	Zeng	A. Jeng
–	2♥	Pass	Pass
Dble	Pass	3♣	3♥
3♠	Pass	4♠	All Pass

West	North	East	South
Brescoll	Wei	Kaplan	Yin
–	2♥	Pass	Pass
Dble	Pass	3♣	Pass
4♠	Pass	Pass	Pass

Both Norths opened with a weak 2♥ and, after two passes, West doubled. East's 3♣ response showed values in both cases, Lebensohl-style. For USA1, Zachary Brescoll simply jumped to 4♠ now, while Zihan Tan, for China, preferred a forcing 3♠, raised to game by Liwei Zeng.

Richard Jeng led the king of hearts and, when that was ducked, continued with the ten. Tan won the ace and led his low club to the queen, then ran the ten of spades to the bare jack. Jeng returned a club, won in dummy with the ace to lead a diamond up. Andrew Jeng grabbed his ace and exited with a diamond and there was no way for declarer to avoid losing a trick to the king of spades for down one and minus 50.

Board 2. Dealer East. N/S Vul.

<p style="text-align: center;">♠ K 8 5 ♥ Q ♦ 8 ♣ Q J 10 8 6 5 3 2</p> <p>♠ Q J ♥ K 8 7 5 4 ♦ A 6 2 ♣ 9 7 4</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">♠ 4 3 ♥ A 10 9 3 2 ♦ K J 9 5 4 ♣ K</p> <p style="text-align: center;">♠ A 10 9 7 6 2 ♥ J 6 ♦ Q 10 7 3 ♣ A</p>
--	--

West	North	East	South
Tan	R. Jeng	Zeng	A. Jeng
–	–	1♥	1♠
2♠	3♣	3♦	Pass
4♥	4♠	All Pass	

West	North	East	South
Brescoll	Wei	Kaplan	Yin
–	–	1♥	1♠
2NT	3♠	4♥	4♠
5♥	Pass	Pass	Pass

Both Wests showed constructive heart raises but North's decision now made for two quite different auctions. Jeng introduced his eight-card club suit and that left room for Zeng to show his diamonds as a game try. When Tan accepted the invitation, Jeng now showed his spade support and his brother was left to declare the spade game. At the other table, Wei preferred to bid 3♠ rather than show the clubs and that added momentum to the auction as Adam Kaplan bid 4♥, Yin 4♠ and Brescoll went on to 5♥.

Tan underled the ace of diamonds against 4♠. Zeng won the king and continued with a low diamond, Jeng going wrong by putting in the queen. However, he ruffed the ace of diamonds and led a club to his ace and the appearance of the king was good news. Two rounds of trumps ending in dummy meant that Jeng could cash clubs to get rid of his red losers and he had two overtricks for a useful plus 680.

Yin cashed the ace of clubs against 5♥, then switched to a low spade. Wei won the king and returned a spade to the ace. There was a diamond to come for the defence but that was all; down two for minus 100 and 11 IMPs to USA1.

Board 3. Dealer South. E/W Vul.

	♠ Q 10 9 6		
	♥ Q 2		
	♦ 10 9 8 6 3		
	♣ K Q		
♠ A 2		♠ J 7 5 4	
♥ A 8 7 3		♥ K J 9 4	
♦ A J 7		♦ K Q 2	
♣ J 10 9 2		♣ 6 4	
	♠ K 8 3		
	♥ 10 6 5		
	♦ 5 4		
	♣ A 8 7 5 3		
West	North	East	South
Tan	R. Jeng	Zeng	A. Jeng
–	–	–	Pass
1♦	Pass	1♥	Pass
1NT	Pass	2♦	Pass
2♥	Pass	4♥	All Pass
West	North	East	South
Brescoll	Wei	Kaplan	Yin
–	–	–	Pass
1NT	Pass	2♣	Pass
2♥	Pass	4♥	All Pass

Andrew Jeng led the three of spades, which Zeng won with dummy's ace to play a second round. Andrew overtook his partner's winning nine to switch to a diamond, won in hand by Zeng who ruffed a spade. The jack of diamonds to the king allowed declarer to ruff his last spade and when he now played ace and another heart and the queen popped up he had ten tricks for plus 620.

Wei cashed the king and queen of clubs then switched to the ten of diamonds. Brescoll won the ace and played ace and another spade, ducking Wei's nine. Wei played a second diamond so Brescoll won and ruffed a spade. He played a club on which Wei ruffed in with the queen. Brescoll over-ruffed and ruffed dummy's last spade, then played ace and another heart and was one down, having to lose a trick to the ten of trumps; minus 100 and 12 IMPs back to China.

Board 6. Dealer East. E/W Vul.

	♠ Q 10 7 5		
	♥ Q 10 6 2		
	♦ 6 5		
	♣ 8 4 3		
♠ A K 3		♠ 9 8 2	
♥ 9 3		♥ A K 8 5 4	
♦ Q 9 8		♦ K 7 3 2	
♣ A J 10 5 2		♣ K	
	♠ J 6 4		
	♥ J 7		
	♦ A J 10 4		
	♣ Q 9 7 6		
West	North	East	South
Tan	R. Jeng	Zeng	A. Jeng
–	–	1♥	Pass
2♣	Pass	2♦	Pass
2NT	Pass	3NT	All Pass
West	North	East	South
Brescoll	Wei	Kaplan	Yin
–	–	1♥	Pass
2♣	Pass	2♥	Pass
3NT	Pass	Pass	Pass

Richard Jeng led the five of spades to the jack, ducked, and Andrew returned a spade. Tan won and led a club to the king then ducked a heart. Richard won and led a diamond to the ten and queen and Tan played back a diamond, running the nine to Andrew's jack. Andrew returned a spade so declarer won and cashed the ace of clubs then tried to split the hearts and, when they failed to oblige, was one down for minus 100.

Wei too led the five of spades and Brescoll ducked the jack, led a club to the king and continued with a low diamond. He could have succeeded at this point by putting up the queen and clearing clubs, but did even better as the cards lay by put-

ting in the nine. He must have been delighted when that held the trick. He cleared the clubs and, thanks to the diamond play, had four clubs, two diamonds and two major ace-kings; ten tricks for plus 630 and 12 IMPs to USA1, who led by 33-18.

Board 7. Dealer South. All Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Tan	R. Jeng	Zeng	A. Jeng
-	-	-	1♥
1♠	Dble	Pass	2♥
Pass	2♠	Pass	2NT
Pass	4♥	All Pass	

West	North	East	South
Brescoll	Wei	Kaplan	Yin
-	-	-	1♥
1♠	2♦	Pass	2♥
Pass	2♠	Pass	2NT
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

The Chinese N/S pair played in 3NT and, knowing that a spade lead would give a trick, Brescoll tried the effect of leading the eight of clubs. That ran to Yin's queen and he played a heart to the ace, and a heart back to the ten and king. Brescoll played a second club for the nine and jack and Yin played a low spade from hand. Brescoll went in with the king and that was ten tricks for plus 630.

The Jeng brothers chose to play in 4♥. Tan led the eight of clubs round to the queen and Andrew unblocked the king of diamonds, crossed to the heart ace and took a spade pitch on the ace of diamonds. Next he led a heart and, strangely given the auction, put up the queen. Tan won the king and led a second club. Zeng took the ace and

switched to a spade and Andrew rose with the ace and tried to split the clubs. When they proved to be four-two he was one down for minus 100 and 12 IMPs to China; 30-33.

Board 10. Dealer East. All Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Tan	R. Jeng	Zeng	A. Jeng
-	-	Pass	1♥
Dble	2♥	Pass	Pass
2♠	3♥	Pass	Pass
3♠	Pass	Pass	Pass

West	North	East	South
Brescoll	Wei	Kaplan	Yin
-	-	Pass	1♥
4♠	Pass	Pass	Dble
Pass	5♥	Pass	Pass
Dble	Pass	Pass	Pass

Both Souths opened 1♥. Tan started the West hand with a double then showed his spades and was happy to compete to 3♠ over 3♥. That ended the auction and Tan got out for one down when the defence presented him with an avoidable club trick; minus 100.

Brescoll simply overcalled 4♠. When that came around to Yin he doubled. Clearly he intended this to be for penalty and equally clearly it is normal to treat it as take-out. Wei duly bid 5♥, happy to have both four trumps and some useful outside strength, and must have been shocked to find that this cost minus 800. Three rounds of spades gave Kaplan the opportunity to over-ruff dummy and there were two top diamonds to come; 14 IMPs to USA1, who led by 52-32 after ten boards.

Board 11. Dealer South. None Vul.

<p>♠ 9 4 2 ♥ 2 ♦ 8 6 4 ♣ K 9 7 6 3 2</p> <p>♠ K ♥ A K 7 3 ♦ A J 10 7 ♣ Q J 10 4</p>	<p>♠ A Q J 10 8 ♥ Q J 10 8 6 ♦ 5 ♣ A 5</p> <p>♠ 7 6 5 3 ♥ 9 5 4 ♦ K Q 9 3 2 ♣ 8</p>
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West	North	East	South
Tan	R. Jeng	Zeng	A. Jeng
–	–	–	Pass
1♣	Pass	1♠	Pass
1NT	Pass	2♥	Pass
3♥	Pass	3♠	Pass
4♦	Pass	4NT	Pass
5♦	Pass	5NT	Pass
6♥	Pass	Pass	Pass

West	North	East	South
Brescoll	Wei	Kaplan	Yin
–	–	–	Pass
1♣	Pass	1♥	2♦
Pass	3♣	3♠	Pass
4♦	Pass	4NT	Pass
5♦	Pass	5NT	Pass
6♥	Pass	7♠	All Pass

Tan opened with a strong club and Zeng made a natural positive. When Zeng next showed his second suit, Tan showed the heart fit and, after an exchange of cue-bids, Zeng took control. When Tan showed three key cards, Zeng invited seven and, unable to show the spade king without committing to the grand slam, perhaps Tan should have bid it. After all, spades was his partner's first-bid suit, so what could be more valuable than that king? There was nothing to the play; 13 tricks for plus 1460.

The Americans got a little lucky on this one. One Club was again strong, and the 1♥ response denied five hearts (unless five-five or more in the majors) and promised 8+ points on a 3-2-1 scale for the AKQ. When Yin interfered, Brescoll passed to see which way his partner would jump and Wei now made a fit-showing 3♣ bid. Kaplan showed

his spades and now Brescoll judged his hand to be too good for the obvious 3NT, so he cue-bid 4♦. Kaplan checked on key cards then asked about kings and Brescoll showed the king of hearts. That was good news for Kaplan and, imagining that the 4♦ cuebid showed spade support, he jumped to 7♠.

Apparently the tray took a long time to come back to Kaplan, who was wondering whether South was thinking about a double. If so, perhaps South had five trumps. Accordingly, having won the diamond lead, Kaplan did not overtake the spade king, preferring to cash it then risk a bad heart split by leading a heart to the ace. He drew the rest of the trumps, crossed to a top heart and took the club finesse for his contract; plus 2210 and 13 IMPs to USA1. Their lead was up to 63-32.

Board 15. Dealer South. N/S Vul.

<p>♠ 9 4 ♥ A 8 6 5 2 ♦ J 3 2 ♣ 9 4 3</p>	<p>♠ A K 10 2 ♥ 4 ♦ Q 9 6 4 ♣ Q 7 6 5</p> <p>♠ J 5 3 ♥ K 9 7 ♦ K 8 7 ♣ K J 10 2</p> <p>♠ Q 8 7 6 ♥ Q J 10 3 ♦ A 10 5 ♣ A 8</p>
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West	North	East	South
Tan	R. Jeng	Zeng	A. Jeng
–	–	–	1♦
Pass	1♠	Pass	2♠
Pass	3♣	Pass	4♠
Pass	Pass	Pass	

West	North	East	South
Brescoll	Wei	Kaplan	Yin
–	–	–	1♦
Pass	1♠	Pass	3♠
Pass	4♠	All Pass	

I find Yin's jump raise hugely aggressive – unless it was just a recording error, in which case my apologies to him. However, Wei would have moved over a simple raise, as did Richard in the other room, so 4♠ would still have been the final

contract.

Zeng led the five of spades and dummy's six held the trick. Richard played ace and another club, ducking to Zeng's ten, and back came a second trump. Richard won the ace and ruffed a club then played the queen of hearts, won by Zeng with the king. Zeng played his last trump. Richard won the queen and led a low diamond to his queen, losing to the king. Zeng could cash the club king and there was still a second diamond to be lost; down two for minus 200.

Kaplan too led the five of spades and again dummy's six held the trick. Wei played ace of clubs and a club to the queen and king and back came a second spade, which he won with the ten. Now he played a heart up and Kaplan, wanting to play a third trump, rose with the king and did so. Wei won the king and led a diamond to the ten and jack. With the red suits both lying well for declarer, it didn't matter what West returned now. In practice, Brescoll returned a diamond to the king and ace and the ruffing heart finesse saw Wei home. Plus 620 meant 13 IMPs to China,

The last board was a flat game so USA1 ran out winners by 74-45 IMPs, 22-8 VPs.

This result meant that USA1 consolidated their fifth place while China slipped one to tenth.



Olympic Update

The Opening Ceremony of the Games of the 30th Olympiad in London contained the usual mix of spectacle and ceremony.

The evening started with a show lasting 80 minutes, called 'The Isles of Wonder'. In this, Great Britain showed everything that it had contributed to the world, starting with the Industrial Revolution, over film, TV and pop music, and ending with Sir Tim Berners-Lee, the inventor of the World Wide Web.

Then followed the usual parade of athletes, with 204 delegations and four 'Individual Olympic Athletes' (from South Sudan and Curaçao, new nations that do not have a National Olympic Committee). All delegations carried a strange co-

nical object, the purpose of which would become known only later.

The ceremonial part of the evening began with speeches by Lord Sebastian Coe and by IOC president Jacques Rogge, who stressed that, for the first time in history, all 204 delegations contained at least one female athlete.

Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II then proclaimed the official opening of the Games. This was the second time in her reign she had carried out this task, after Montréal in 1976 (although she could have done the ceremonial task on four other occasions). She became the fifth person in history to have opened two Olympic Games (*).

The Olympic flag was carried into the stadium by eight dignitaries, including UN Secretary General Ban Ki Moon. A ninth dignitary, Mohammed Ali, ceremoniously touched the flag when it was paraded by him.

The oath for the athletes was pronounced by British Taekwondo athlete Sarah Stevenson. There was also an oath for the judges and, for the first time, an oath for the coaches.

The Olympic Flame was brought to the stadium in a boat skippered by David Beckham, and carried into the stadium by Olympic legend Sir Stephen Redgrave. The flame was then handed over to seven young Britons, who represented all the British medallists since 1948. These seven lit the 205 cones, the purpose of which now became apparent. The cones then rose and met, creating one giant Olympic flame in the center of the stadium.

The ceremony ended with Sir Paul McCartney leading the whole stadium in a sing-along version of 'Hey Jude'.

Earlier in the day, the Archery competition had begun, and the first world record of the Games was set by Korean Im Dong-Hyun, with a score of 699 (out of a possible 720). This record is all the more remarkable considering that the athlete is legally blind in one eye and has limited vision in the other. The Korean team also set a combined world record.

(*) The others are King George I of the Hellenes (1896, 1906), Adolf Hitler (winter and summer 1936), Giovanni Gronchi (winter 1956, summer 1960) and Emperor Hirohito (summer 1964, winter 1972).