



Bridge Bulletin



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NETHERLANDS/USA WIN TEAMS



Medal ceremony - Men Series

The Netherlands has looked the class team in the Men from start to finish of this tournament and completed the job with a comfortable 178-76 IMP victory over USA in Monday's final. The winners are Bauke Muller & Simon de Wijs, Sjoert Brink & Bas Drijver, Louk Verhees & Ricco Prooijen. USA took the silver medals and Norway, who defeated China by 129-100 in the third place play-off, took the bronze.

In the Women, USA topped the qualifying stage and won the final by the deceptively comfortable margin of 166-77 over Great Britain, who took the silver medal. The winners are Janice Seamon-Molson & Tobi Sokolow, Lyn Deas &

Beth Palmer, Kerri Sanborn & Irina Levitina. China took the bronze by defeating France by 91-67 in the third place play-off match.

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RESULTS

MEN SERIES

FINAL

Teams	c/o	1st	2nd	3rd	Total
UNITED STATES	0	13	41	22	76
NETHERLANDS	16	71	25	66	178

PLAY-OFF

Teams	c/o	1st	2nd	3rd	Total
CHINA	11	22	27.34	40	100.34
NORWAY	0	42	53.67	34	129.67

WOMEN SERIES

FINAL

Teams	c/o	1st	2nd	3rd	Total
UNITED STATES	3	56	19	88	166
GREAT BRITAIN	0	27	28	22	77

PLAY-OFF

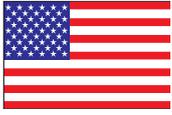
Teams	c/o	1st	2nd	3rd	Total
FRANCE	0	21	17	26	64
CHINA	1.67	32	36	22	91.7



Medal ceremony - Women Series

WOMEN FINAL

2nd Set



United States

v

Great Britain



Great Britain took a 3 IMP carryover advantage into the Women's final but the first set belonged to the Americans, who won it by 59-24, to lead by 59-27 overall. Great Britain only needed to pick up 1 IMP per board for the rest of the match to level it, but they would want to make a start on that task in the second set.

After 13 boards the set score was tied at 12-12. Then USA extended their lead on Board 30.

Board 30. Dealer East. None Vul.

<p>♠ – ♥ J 10 6 4 3 ♦ A K 8 6 4 ♣ Q 3 2</p>	<div style="background-color: #006400; color: white; padding: 5px; display: inline-block;"> N W E S </div>	<p>♠ J 6 5 3 2 ♥ 5 ♦ Q 9 ♣ 10 9 7 5 4</p>	<p>♠ A K 9 8 7 ♥ K 9 8 2 ♦ J 7 3 ♣ J</p>
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West	North	East	South
<i>Dhondy</i>	<i>Sokolow</i>	<i>Senior</i>	<i>Molson</i>
–	–	1♠	Dble
Rdbl	2♣	Pass	Pass
2♥	Pass	3♥	All Pass

West	North	East	South
<i>Deas</i>	<i>Brock</i>	<i>Palmer</i>	<i>Smith</i>
–	–	1♠	INT
Dble	2♣	2♥	Pass
4♥	All Pass		

What is your preference, a INT overcall or a take-out double, when a five-card 1♠ is opened on your right? Janice Molson went for the double, not liking INT with a minimum 4-3-3-3 hand with no source of tricks. Heather Dhondy redoubled, showing strength, and when Nevena Senior passed over 2♣ she showed a normal opening. Dhondy now introduced her hearts and, when Senior raised, it was mildly surprising to see Dhondy decline the invitation.

Tobi Sokolow led the ten of clubs to Molson's king and Molson switched to the two of diamonds. Thinking that likely to be away from the queen, Dhondy ducked it to Sokolow's queen and now had four losers; +140.

Nicola Smith preferred to describe her hand in one go by overcalling INT. Lyn Deas doubled and Sally Brock ran to clubs, natural until proven otherwise (i.e. she could, for ex-

ample, redouble to show the red suits at her next turn). When Beth Palmer bid 2♥ in front of her partner, she suggested a minimum opening, but Deas could hardly not bid game with a hand with such excellent heart support, to say nothing of the useful side-suit.

Smith cashed the king of clubs, getting a count signal showing an odd number of clubs from Brock. She thought a long time at this point before switching to her low heart round to Palmer's eight. Palmer ruffed a spade, ruffed a club, then cashed the ace and king of spades, pitching diamonds from the dummy. A spade ruff, Smith throwing a club, was followed by a second club ruff. Now South's distribution is known and there is a sure line to make the contract – ruff the fifth spade and cash the ace and king of diamonds. Palmer, however, played a diamond to the ace and I expected her to now exit with a heart, expecting to end-play Smith, who would win the ace and queen but then have to lead away from the queen of diamonds. It seemed that declarer's play to date had been based on South's holding the diamond queen. I was surprised when Palmer in practice cashed the ace and king of diamonds, dropping the queen, and could play a third diamond for her tenth trick.

Well done to Palmer, even if she missed the sure winning line at the end, she resisted the temptation to go for the losing endplay and made her contract for +420 and 7 IMPs to USA.

Board 31. Dealer South. N/S Vul.

<p>♠ A ♥ J 7 5 ♦ A K 10 9 7 6 5 ♣ Q 7</p>	<div style="background-color: #006400; color: white; padding: 5px; display: inline-block;"> N W E S </div>	<p>♠ J 9 6 ♥ A Q 9 8 6 ♦ J 8 ♣ 6 5 4</p>	<p>♠ 8 7 5 3 ♥ 10 ♦ Q 2 ♣ A K J 10 8 2</p>
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West	North	East	South
<i>Dhondy</i>	<i>Sokolow</i>	<i>Senior</i>	<i>Molson</i>
–	–	–	Pass
1♦	Pass	1♠	Pass
3♦	Pass	4♥	Pass
4♣	Pass	5♣	Pass
6♦	All Pass		

West	North	East	South
Deas	Brock	Palmer	Smith
–	–	–	Pass
1♦	1♥	1♠	3♦
4♦	All Pass		

Sokolow did not come in over Dhondy's natural and unbalanced 1♦ opening, so Senior got to bid her wonderful spade suit (2♣ would have been game-forcing), and now Dhondy jumped to 3♦, invitational and also denying three spades. Senior's splinter bid was music to Dhondy's ears and she cuebid the spade ace. When Senior followed through with a club cuebid, Dhondy jumped to the cold slam. Well bid and, after Sokolow cashed the ace of hearts, +920 to Great Britain.

Deas opened 1♦, 11-15 and not necessarily a genuine diamond suit. Brock overcalled and Palmer introduced the spades (double would have denied four spades to help them to compete in the minors and 2♣ would have been game-forcing). When Smith showed a limit raise in hearts, Deas competed with 4♦. That had to show very long diamonds and I was fully expecting Palmer to raise to game on the strength of her heart shortage and powerful club suit. They would still have missed slam, of course, so her actual pass only cost an extra couple of IMPs. Again, the ace of hearts was cashed; +170 but 13 IMPs to Great Britain.

Board 32. Dealer West. E/W Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Dhondy	Sokolow	Senior	Molson
1♦	1♠	Pass	2♣
2♦	3♣	3♦	4♣
4♦	5♣	All Pass	

West	North	East	South
Deas	Brock	Palmer	Smith
1♦	1♠	Pass	INT
2♦	2♠	Pass	Pass
3♦	3♠	Pass	4♠
All Pass			

I am not sure about supporting clubs when I have a seven-card major which I have only bid once. Sokolow's decision was very committal as the spade suit was now lost to the American pair and they alighted in the very poor club game.

Molson ruffed the diamond lead in dummy and led a spade to her ace, ruffed a diamond, and ruffed a spade low. When that was over-ruffed it became only a matter of how many down the contract would go. Dhondy returned a club to prevent any further ruffs in dummy, so Molson won, drew the remaining trumps, and led a heart to the king then back to her ten. When that lost to the jack she was down three for –150.

Smith had an awkward response to the 1♠ overcall and solved her problem by bidding INT, not requiring a diamond stopper as the 1♦ opening would so often not deliver a genuine suit. Deas showed that she really did have diamonds and Brock was happy to repeat her spades. When Deas came again with 3♦, Brock bid her spades yet again and Smith guessed to raise to game – it could hardly be far from making from her perspective.

Brock ruffed the diamond lead, cashed the ace of spades, and crossed to hand by leading a club to her king. She played the queen of spades, hoping to pin an original jack-ten doubleton, and Palmer won the king. Had she now continued with another diamond, Brock would have been in control, able to concede another trump but then get in to draw the last round and make five tricks in each black suit. But Palmer had worked this out and switched to the eight of hearts.

If Brock played the ten on this trick she would go down. Deas would cover with the jack and when Palmer got in with the ten of spades a heart through would mean two tricks for the ace and nine. But Brock got it right, playing Deas for the jack by rising with the queen. Deas won the ace but could not continue hearts to good effect. There was only one chance for the defence and Deas found it. She returned a club. When Brock now played a spade to Palmer's ten, a third club cut her off from dummy while there was still a trump out. Brock had to lose a heart for down one; –50 but still 3 IMPs to Great Britain.

GB won the set by 28-19 and trailed by 55-78 with 16 boards to play.

It may seem that Brock could have succeeded had she not played a round of clubs herself, instead ruffing a diamond back to hand at trick three. Now she could not be cut off from the long clubs. Let's see how the play goes now. If declarer next plays the queen of spades as before, East wins and leads a third diamond, forcing declarer down to the same length as herself. As West has the heart entry to permit her to play a fourth round of diamonds, East will get a third trump trick to defeat the contract.

Can declarer knock out West's heart entry early, i.e. before the third round of diamonds has been played so that there will be no fourth round? Well, yes she can, but she still goes down. If declarer leads the queen of hearts from dummy or low from hand to the queen, West wins the ace and East still has two entries in the trump suit to lead through the ten of hearts and establish the fourth defensive winner. It appears that the contract can never be made against accurate defence.

Dutch Destroyers

The Netherlands went into the 48-board Men's final with a useful 16 IMP carryover. It seemed that the match would be over almost before it had begun as the Dutch destroyed the Americans over the first few deals of the opening session.

The Dutch gained 4 IMPs on Board 1, then came something rather more substantial.

Board 2. Dealer East. N/S Vul.

<p>♠ 10 5 3 ♥ K J 8 ♦ A 4 3 ♣ A Q 4 2</p>	<p>♠ Q 7 4 2 ♥ 9 4 ♦ J 9 8 7 5 ♣ J 10</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; background-color: #38761d; color: white; padding: 5px; width: 60px; margin: 10px auto; text-align: center;"> N W E S </div> <p>♠ 9 8 ♥ A Q 7 ♦ K 6 2 ♣ K 9 8 7 5</p>	<p>♠ A K J 6 ♥ 10 6 5 3 2 ♦ Q 10 ♣ 6 3</p>	
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West	North	East	South
De Wijs	Berkowitz	Muller	Sontag
–	–	Pass	1♦
Pass	1♠	Pass	INT
Pass	Pass	Dble	Pass
Pass	2♦	Dble	All Pass
West	North	East	South
Willenken	Drijver	Rosenberg	Brink
–	–	Pass	1♣
Dble	Pass	2♣	Pass
2♦	Pass	2♥	All Pass

Sjoert Brink opened 1♣ with the South cards and Chris Willenken was happy to double despite clubs being his only four-card or longer suit. Michael Rosenberg, who held a maximum for his initial pass, cuebid in response then bid his five-card suit over Willenken's 2♦. Willenken passed that and, with the cards lying very favourably for E/W, Rosenberg came to eleven tricks for +200.

The real action came in the other room, where Alan Sontag had to open 1♦ in his Precision style and David Berkowitz scraped up a 1♠ response. When Sontag's INT rebid came around to Bauke Muller he doubled, showing decent values including some length in the suit bid on his right. Simon de Wijs passed the double and the Americans were in trouble. Berkowitz ran to 2♦ and that too was doubled.

De Wijs led the three of trumps to the nine, ten and king. Sontag tried a spade to the queen, losing to the king, and Muller cashed the queen of diamonds then switched to a heart, ducked to the jack. De Wijs cashed the ace of diamonds, on which Muller threw a heart, then led a spade.

Muller won the jack and switched back to hearts, Sontag rising with the ace and exiting by leading the heart queen and pitching a spade on de Wijs's king. De Wijs, however, had a safe spade exit so Sontag could come to only dummy's two remaining trumps; down four for –1100 and 14 IMPs to Netherlands.

Board 3. Dealer South. E/W Vul.

<p>♠ 10 7 ♥ 6 5 4 3 2 ♦ J 5 ♣ A 9 7 5</p>	<p>♠ 8 5 4 2 ♥ 10 9 8 7 ♦ 9 7 6 ♣ Q 6</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; background-color: #38761d; color: white; padding: 5px; width: 60px; margin: 10px auto; text-align: center;"> N W E S </div> <p>♠ J 9 6 3 ♥ Q ♦ A K 8 2 ♣ J 10 8 2</p>	<p>♠ A K Q ♥ A K J ♦ Q 10 4 3 ♣ K 4 3</p>	
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West	North	East	South
De Wijs	Berkowitz	Muller	Sontag
–	–	–	1♦
Pass	Pass	Dble	Pass
1♥	Pass	2♦	Pass
2♥	Pass	2NT	Pass
3♣	Pass	3♥	Pass
4♥	All Pass		
West	North	East	South
Willenken	Drijver	Rosenberg	Brink
–	–	–	INT
Pass	2♣	Dble	Pass
Pass	Rdbl	Pass	2♥
Dble	Pass	Pass	Rdbl
Pass	2♠	All Pass	

Sontag opened with a Precision 1♦ again and this time Berkowitz did not risk a light response. Muller doubled and followed up with a cuebid to keep the auction going. He described a strong balanced hand with three-card heart support, not quite forcing to game, and de Wijs had enough to go on to 4♥.

Berkowitz led the four of spades. De Wijs won and cashed three top hearts then played a diamond to establish a second discard for his club losers and just lost two diamonds and a heart; +620.

At the other table, Brink opened INT, 9-12 and, ostensibly, balanced. My experience with players who use the mini no trump is that they are almost all willing to distort their shape to use the opening and clearly the Dutch pair is no exception. Drijver used Stayman to run before the inevitable doubling started and Rosenberg doubled that. When Drijver ran to 2♠ and Rosenberg passed, Willenken

did not appreciate that he was in a forcing auction and passed.

Rosenberg cashed the ace of spades then switched to the ace of hearts before reverting to spades. However, with the top hearts ruffing out, Drijver managed to escape for only two down, losing three spades, two hearts and two clubs; -100 and 11 IMPs to Netherlands.

Board 4. Dealer West. All Vul.

♠ A 5 4 3 ♥ K 7 ♦ A J 6 ♣ 10 6 5 2	<table style="margin: auto; border: 1px solid black; background-color: #336633; 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	♠ K 10 8 7 ♥ J 10 ♦ 10 9 5 2 ♣ K 7 3	♠ Q J 2 ♥ 8 5 ♦ K 8 3 ♣ A Q J 9 4
N						
W E						
S						

West	North	East	South
<i>De Wijs</i>	<i>Berkowitz</i>	<i>Muller</i>	<i>Sontag</i>
3♥	Pass	Pass	Dble
Pass	4♥	Pass	5♣
All Pass			

West	North	East	South
<i>Willenken</i>	<i>Drijver</i>	<i>Rosenberg</i>	<i>Brink</i>
2♥	Dble	3♥	Dble
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

Willenken opened only 2♥, not liking the texture of his suit for a three-level opening. Drijver made a borderline double and Brink made a responsive double over Rosenberg's heart raise. Drijver closed the auction with a bid of 3NT. Rosenberg led the jack of hearts, ducked to the king,

and Drijver took the club finesse, claiming nine tricks when it was successful, five clubs, two diamonds and one trick in each major; +600.

De Wijs made the full-blooded 3♥ pre-empt and that was a level too high for Berkowitz, who passed. However, he had plenty with which to cuebid opposite Sontag's aggressive double and Sontag selected 5♣, of course.

The cards lie so well for N/S that declarer can hold his losses to just one heart and one spade, but Sontag did not know that everything was quite so favourable and followed an unsuccessful line. De Wijs kicked off with ace and another heart to dummy's king. Sontag ran the ten of clubs, unblocking his nine, then repeated the finesse and cashed the ace. He crossed to dummy with the club four to the six, Muller pitching a diamond, and led a spade to the queen. Next came a spade to the ace and now Sontag was at the crossroads. He suspected that East held four spades along with four diamonds. If the diamonds included the queen, East could be strip-squeezed. Sontag led a diamond to his king and cashed the last trump, throwing a spade from dummy while Muller threw a diamond (had he thrown a spade he would have been thrown in with the king, of course). Now Sontag played for the squeeze to have operated and tried to drop the diamond offline; down one for -100 and 12 IMPs to Netherlands.

Board 5. Dealer North. N/S Vul.

♠ A 5 3 ♥ 10 8 7 3 2 ♦ J 4 3 ♣ 9 5	<table style="margin: auto; border: 1px solid black; background-color: #336633; 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 6 2 ♥ J 5 ♦ A 7 5 ♣ 10 8 4 3 2	♠ K Q ♥ K Q ♦ Q 10 8 2 ♣ K Q J 7 6
N						
W E						
S						

West	North	East	South
<i>De Wijs</i>	<i>Berkowitz</i>	<i>Muller</i>	<i>Sontag</i>
-	Pass	Pass	1♠
INT	2♠	Pass	Pass
2NT	Pass	3♣	All Pass

West	North	East	South
<i>Willenken</i>	<i>Drijver</i>	<i>Rosenberg</i>	<i>Brink</i>
-	Pass	Pass	1♠
INT	2♠	All Pass	

After identical starts to the two auctions, Willenken went quietly when the 2♠ bid came around while de Wijs competed with 2NT, looking for a minor-suit fit. Holding five clubs, Muller was delighted to hear that, of course.

There was just one loser in each suit in 3♣ - Muller was always going to get the diamonds right after South's opening bid - and the fortunate major-suit positions meant that



Michael Rosenberg, USA

2♠ was also cold. In practice, Muller lost his trick in each suit so scored +110, but the defence to 2♠ did not lead diamonds quickly enough and Brink came to ten tricks for +170 and 7 IMPs to Netherlands.

That put the Netherlands up by 48-0 in the set and 64-0 including carryover. The USA finally got on the board on this next deal:

Board 7. Dealer South. All Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
De Wijs	Berkowitz	Muller	Sontag
Willenken	Drijver	Rosenberg	Brink
–	–	–	Pass
Pass	3♣	Dble	All Pass

The North hand looks to be a classic example of a 3♣ opener and both our Norths duly opened with that bid. Both Easts made a take-out double and both Wests left it in and collected a rich reward for their enterprise.

Muller kicked off with the ace of diamonds, de Wijs following with a discouraging two. He switched to ace and another spade. Berkowitz unblocked the jack but then decided to go up with the king anyway on the second round. He led a heart to the jack and queen and Muller continued with ace and another heart for de Wijs to ruff. Berkowitz ruffed the diamond return and played the queen of clubs but had to lose two trump tricks to the ace and jack for down three; –800.

If that looked bad with no game on the other way, the play went even worse for Drijver in the other room. Rosenberg too started with a top diamond, the king collecting the three from Willenken. But he switched to a low spade and Drijver got it wrong, losing to the queen. Willenken led a heart through, Rosenberg winning the queen and ace then giving his partner a ruff. Drijver ruffed the diamond return but had to lose two clubs and a the ace of spades for down four; –1100 and 7 IMPs to USA, who desperately needed them.

The action slowed down a little from here but what swings there were tended to go in favour of the Dutch. The Netherlands won the set by 71-13 and led by 87-13 overall, with two more 16-board segments to play.

Closing The Door USA vs Great Britain, 3rd Set

USA led Great Britain by 23 IMPs going into the third and final set of the Women's Teams final. Early in the third set they built on that lead and it had reached 44 IMPs with nine boards to go. Then came a British fight back. They bid and made a thin 4♠ on Board 40 while USA stopped in partscore making +140; 7 IMPs to Great Britain. Then:

Board 41. Dealer North. E/W Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Deas	Brock	Palmer	Smith
–	Pass	Pass	1♦
4♥	5♦	Dble	Pass
5♥	Pass	Pass	6♦
6♥	All Pass		

West	North	East	South
Dhondy	Levitina	Senior	Sanborn
–	Pass	Pass	1♦
Dble	2♦	3♣	5♦
5♥	All Pass		

Lyn Deas overcalled a very heavy 4♥ then kept on bidding, eventually alighting in 6♥. Sally Brock led the king of clubs followed by a low club to the ace, ruffed. Deas led the jack of hearts to the ace, hoping to see the ten appear to offer a second dummy entry. There was no luck there and when she next led a spade to the ten that lost to the jack and a trump came back. Deas had to concede a second spade trick at the end for down two; –200.

Haether Dhondy felt that she was too good for a 4♥ overcall so started with a double. She heard Nevena Senior

compete with 3♣ so was well worth her 5♥ bid over Kerri Sanborn's 5♦. Irina Levitina led the king of diamonds so Dhondy could ruff and play three rounds of spades, securing a ruff of the fourth spade and losing just one trick in each black suit; +650 and 13 IMPs to Great Britain.

The deficit was down to 24 IMPs, and Great Britain still had six boards to come. But now USA closed the door on them in no uncertain terms.

Board 42. Dealer East. All Vul.

♠ K 3 2 ♥ 2 ♦ J 5 3 ♣ A 9 8 7 3 2	<div style="background-color: #006400; color: white; padding: 5px; margin: 0 auto; width: 60px; height: 60px; display: flex; flex-direction: column; align-items: center; justify-content: center;"> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; width: 100%;">N</div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; width: 100%;">W</div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; width: 100%;">E</div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; width: 100%;">S</div> </div>	♠ Q 10 9 7 5 ♥ J 9 6 4 3 ♦ 10 6 ♣ J	♠ J 6 4 ♥ A 10 ♦ A Q 9 7 ♣ K 10 5 4
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West	North	East	South
<i>Deas</i>	<i>Brock</i>	<i>Palmer</i>	<i>Smith</i>
–	–	Pass	1♥
Pass	2♦	Pass	3♦
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

West	North	East	South
<i>Dhondy</i>	<i>Levitina</i>	<i>Senior</i>	<i>Sanborn</i>
–	–	Pass	1♥
Pass	2♣	Pass	2♦
Pass	3♦	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

Brock declared 3NT as North and received the lead of the nine of spades, zero or two higher, from Palmer. She ducked to the king and back came a second spade to dummy's ace. Brock read the spades as being five-three, so to play on clubs would lead to certain defeat. She took her best shot in the heart suit, leading low to the ten, superior in theory to playing the suit from the top when East was expected to have five spades, and that resulted in down two for –200.

In the other room, Dhondy did well to lead the unbid suit, the two of spades. Sanborn did better. She put up dummy's jack and won the queen with her ace then led the six of clubs. To defeat the contract Dhondy had to rise with the ace and play king and another spade – and perhaps that is the indicated play as no other suit rates to provide the defence with sufficient tricks to defeat the contract. When she played low the king scored and Sanborn was up to nine tricks when the diamonds behaved. When Dhondy threw her low spade on the run of the red winners, a club exit even provided an overtrick; +630 and 13 IMPs to USA. The lead was back up to 37.

Board 43. Dealer South. None Vul.

♠ 10 7 3 ♥ A 7 ♦ K 9 ♣ A K Q J 9 8	<div style="background-color: #006400; color: white; padding: 5px; margin: 0 auto; width: 60px; height: 60px; display: flex; flex-direction: column; align-items: center; justify-content: center;"> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; width: 100%;">N</div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; width: 100%;">W</div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; width: 100%;">E</div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; width: 100%;">S</div> </div>	♠ A J 5 4 2 ♥ 10 6 ♦ 8 7 4 ♣ 10 6 2	♠ K ♥ K 9 8 5 2 ♦ J 6 5 2 ♣ 7 4 3
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West	North	East	South
<i>Deas</i>	<i>Brock</i>	<i>Palmer</i>	<i>Smith</i>
–	–	–	Pass
1♣	1♥	1♠	3♦
3NT	All Pass		
West	North	East	South
<i>Dhondy</i>	<i>Levitina</i>	<i>Senior</i>	<i>Sanborn</i>
–	–	–	1♦
Dble	1♥	1♠	2♥
2NT	3♥	3♠	Pass
4♠	All Pass		

Sanborn opened 1♦ and Dhondy doubled then tried 2NT. Senior competed with 3♠ over 3♥ and found a five-three fit, declaring the spade game a few moments later. Sanborn led the queen of hearts and, with the second defensive red winner established, Senior needed to play the trumps for one loser. Of course, that proved to be impossible as the cards lay. She led low to the king and ace then low back to the eight and ten and had to go one down for –50.

In the other room, Smith did not open the South hand and Deas opened 1♣, Precision. Brock's overcall showed two suits of the same colour. When Palmer could show a semi-positive with five spades, Deas took a stab at 3NT.

Smith's jump to 3♦ was pass or correct, showing diamonds but also good enough support for a black suit at this level. Had Brock led her five-card heart suit, there would have been five defensive tricks for one down and a flat board. But she tried her partner's diamonds instead – there was no reason why Smith had to have hearts for her bid – and that established Deas's ninth trick; +400 and 10 IMPs to USA.

When Smith and Brock, knowing they needed some big swings, bid a grand slam on a losing finesse on the next board, the match was over. Just when Great Britain thought they were getting back into it, USA had closed the door on them. The final score was 166-77 in favour of USA as GB played for swings at the end.

Congratulations to Kerri Sanborn & Irina Levitina, Janice Seamon-Molson & Tobi Sokolow, Lyn Deas & Beth Palmer, on winning the gold medals in the first Sport Accord World Mind Games Bridge Teams event. Great Britain takes the silver, and China, who defeated France by 91-67 in the third place play-off match, the bronze.