



Bridge Bulletin



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CHINA/USA WIN PAIRS TITLES

Xu Hou and Miao Shi, representing China, led throughout the final session of the Men's Pairs Championship but by the end their advantage over second-placed Norwegians, Thomas Charlson and Thor Erik Hoftaniska, was down to less than half a top. The margin doesn't matter, however, and the Chinese pair took the gold medals, with the Norwegians taking silver. The bronze medals were won by Fred Gitelman and Brad Moss of USA.



The Women's Pairs had a desperately close finish with the lead going to and fro in the very last round of competition. Finally, however, it was reigning World Women's Pairs champions, Lynn Deas and Beth Palmer of USA, who won the title and gold medals. The silver was won by Xuefeng Feng and Yanhui Sun of China and the bronze by Benedicte Cronier and Sylvie Willard of France.

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RESULTS

MEN SERIES

SESSION 3

1	Glenn GROETHEIM - Ulf Haakon TUNDAL	60.50
2	Fred GITELMAN - Brad MOSS	59.50
3	Xu HOU - Miao SHI	55.00
4	Bauke MULLER - Simon de WIJS	52.00
5	Thomas CHARLSEN - Thor Erik HOFTANISKA	51.00
6	Ruoyang LIAN - Haojun SHI	48.00
7	David BERKOWITZ - Alan SONTAG	47.00
7	Sjoert BRINK - Bas DRIJVER	47.00
9	Artur MALINOWSKI - Arild RASMUSSEN	46.00
10	Michael ROSENBERG - Chris WILLENKEN	45.00
11	Ricco van PROOIJEN - Louk VERHEES JR	42.50
12	Jie LI - Jing LIU	41.50

SESSION 4

1	Thomas CHARLSEN - Thor Erik HOFTANISKA	62.50
2	Artur MALINOWSKI - Arild RASMUSSEN	59.58
3	Ricco van PROOIJEN - Louk VERHEES JR	58.75
4	Fred GITELMAN - Brad MOSS	55.00
5	Sjoert BRINK - Bas DRIJVER	52.92
6	Ruoyang LIAN - Haojun SHI	47.92
7	Xu HOU - Miao SHI	46.67
8	Bauke MULLER - Simon de WIJS	46.25
9	Glenn GROETHEIM - Ulf Haakon TUNDAL	44.17
9	Michael ROSENBERG - Chris WILLENKEN	44.17
11	Jie LI - Jing LIU	42.50
12	David BERKOWITZ - Alan SONTAG	39.58

FINAL STANDINGS

1	Xu HOU - Miao SHI	54.89
2	Thomas CHARLSEN - Thor Erik HOFTANISKA	54.30
3	Fred GITELMAN - Brad MOSS	52.61
4	Michael ROSENBERG - Chris WILLENKEN	51.84
5	Bauke MULLER - Simon de WIJS	51.70
6	Sjoert BRINK - Bas DRIJVER	50.82
7	Glenn GROETHEIM - Ulf Haakon TUNDAL	49.09
8	Artur MALINOWSKI - Arild RASMUSSEN	48.39
9	Ruoyang LIAN - Haojun SHI	48.07
10	Ricco van PROOIJEN - Louk VERHEES JR	47.34
11	David BERKOWITZ - Alan SONTAG	45.55
12	Jie LI - Jing LIU	44.50

WOMEN SERIES

SESSION 3

1	Irina LEVITINA - Kerri SANBORN	62.50
2	Xuefeng FENG - Yanhui SUN	59.00
3	Heather DHONDY - Nevena SENIOR	57.00
4	Benedicte CRONIER - Sylvie WILLARD	54.50
5	Janice SEAMON-MOLSON - Tobi SOKOLOW	52.50
6	Daniele GAVIARD - Joanna NEVE	49.00
7	Ling GU - Yan LU	48.00
8	Sally BROCK - Nicola SMITH	45.00
9	Veronique BESSIS - Catherine D'OVIDIO	44.00
10	Lynn DEAS - Beth PALMER	42.50
11	Ming SUN - Hongli WANG	41.50
12	Fiona BROWN - Susan STOCKDALE	40.50

SESSION 4

1	Lynn DEAS - Beth PALMER	55.83
2	Ling GU - Yan LU	55.42
3	Irina LEVITINA - Kerri SANBORN	54.17
4	Xuefeng FENG - Yanhui SUN	52.50
5	Fiona BROWN - Susan STOCKDALE	51.25
6	Ming SUN - Hongli WANG	50.83
7	Sally BROCK - Nicola SMITH	50.00
7	Veronique BESSIS - Catherine D'OVIDIO	50.00
9	Daniele GAVIARD - Joanna NEVE	46.25
9	Janice SEAMON-MOLSON - Tobi SOKOLOW	46.25
11	Benedicte CRONIER - Sylvie WILLARD	45.83
12	Heather DHONDY - Nevena SENIOR	41.67

FINAL STANDINGS

1	Lynn DEAS - Beth PALMER	55.84
2	Xuefeng FENG - Yanhui SUN	54.95
3	Benedicte CRONIER - Sylvie WILLARD	52.13
4	Heather DHONDY - Nevena SENIOR	51.89
5	Veronique BESSIS - Catherine D'OVIDIO	51.65
6	Irina LEVITINA - Kerri SANBORN	51.00
7	Sally BROCK - Nicola SMITH	50.30
8	Daniele GAVIARD - Joanna NEVE	49.41
9	Ling GU - Yan LU	48.89
10	Ming SUN - Hongli WANG	48.36
11	Janice SEAMON-MOLSON - Tobi SOKOLOW	47.27
12	Fiona BROWN - Susan STOCKDALE	38.25

Women's Pairs – Session Three

Going into the third session of the Women's Pairs, Lynn Deas and Beth Palmer of USA, the reigning World Women's Pairs champions, had a handy lead over the field. However, things were to change in this 20-board session. In a change from the first day, day two saw four-board rounds, five rounds in session three, six in session four. This was to ensure that pairs from the same country could not meet during the final session – not that anyone expects deliberate dumping to take place, but good organization should always cater to such a tactic, just in case.

Board 3. Dealer South. E/W Vul.

♠ 7 6 4 3 ♥ K Q 9 6 3 ♦ 5 ♣ Q 10 4		♠ A K Q 9 ♥ J 10 ♦ Q J 8 6 4 3 ♣ K	♠ J 10 5 ♥ 7 5 4 2 ♦ 7 2 ♣ J 8 5 3 ♠ 8 2 ♥ A 8 ♦ A K 10 9 ♣ A 9 7 6 2
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West	North	East	South
<i>Dhondy</i>	<i>Brock</i>	<i>Senior</i>	<i>Smith</i>
–	–	–	INT
Pass	Pass	2♦	Pass
2♠	Pass	3♦	Pass
4♠	All Pass		

It is never easy to bid to game in the face of an opposing strong no trump opening and it was achieved at only two tables out of six on this deal.

Britain's Nicola Smith opened INT as South and, when that ran around to Nevena Senior, also representing Great Britain, she overcalled 2♦, spades and another suit. Heather Dhondy'd 2♠ response could have been only three cards but Senior had a lot to spare for her first bid and made a game try for spades, showing her long diamonds in the process. Dhondy too could have been a lot worse – the fourth trump was gold dust, quite apart from actually having some high-card values, so she jumped to 4♠.

Sally Brock led a club to the king and ace. Smith cashed the ace of hearts then switched to the two of spades. Senior won and drew two more rounds of trumps then played the jack of hearts. She gave up a diamond and could ruff the next diamond and cash dummy's winners for ten tricks and +620. That was worth 8 MPs out of 10, the other pair to reach game, Janice Molson and Tobi Sokolow of USA having been doubled for +790.

Board 8. Dealer West. None Vul.

♠ A K 10 6 ♥ A K Q 8 ♦ K 2 ♣ J 6 3		♠ 5 4 ♥ 10 9 ♦ A Q 8 7 ♣ K Q 10 7 5	♠ Q J 9 2 ♥ 5 3 ♦ 10 6 5 4 ♣ A 9 2 ♠ 8 7 3 ♥ J 7 6 4 2 ♦ J 9 3 ♣ 8 4
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West	North	East	South
<i>Smith</i>		<i>Brock</i>	
2NT	Pass	3♠	Pass
3NT	Pass	4♣	Pass
4NT	Pass	5NT	Pass
6NT	All Pass		

Half the field bid to the cold slam on this one, the others usually just raising a 2NT opening to game, perhaps because they didn't have the methods to explore properly.

The British pair dealt very well with the problem. Three Spades showed interest in the minors and 4♣ a serious slam try with a fifth club. When Smith signed off, Brock made one more try and Smith bid the cold slam. Plus 990 was worth 8 MPs to Smith/Brock.

Board 10. Dealer East. All Vul.

♠ J ♥ A K Q J 2 ♦ – ♣ K Q 7 6 4 3 2		♠ A Q 9 8 7 6 2 ♥ 7 5 ♦ 9 6 5 4 ♣ –	♠ K 10 3 ♥ 10 8 ♦ A 10 8 3 2 ♣ J 8 5 ♠ 5 4 ♥ 9 6 4 3 ♦ K Q J 7 ♣ A 10 9
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West	North	East	South
<i>Gaviard</i>	<i>Senior</i>	<i>Neve</i>	<i>Dhondy</i>
<i>Sanborn</i>	<i>Sokolow</i>	<i>Levitina</i>	<i>Molson</i>
–	–	3♠	Pass
4♠	All Pass		

Both Easts opened 3♠ and were raised to game, both Souths leading the king of diamonds, ruffed in the dummy.

Joanna Neve led the king of clubs off the dummy and pitched a diamond on it. Heather Dhondy won the ace and cashed two diamond tricks and there were still two trumps to be lost; down two for -200 and 2 MPs to E/W.

Irina Levitina did rather better. She also led the king of clubs from the dummy but, when Tobi Sokolow played low without a flicker, she judged the ace to be offside so ruffed. Levitina played a heart to the dummy and ruffed a second club then played two more rounds of top hearts. Sokolow was obliged to ruff as otherwise the diamonds would have gone away but that, of course, cost her a trump trick. Levitina over-ruffed and played ace and another trump and had to lose one trump and three diamonds. However, one down for -100 was a good result for E/W, earning them 8 MPs.

Board 12. Dealer West. N/S Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Sanborn	Sokolow	Levitina	Molson
Pass	Pass	Pass	1♣
Pass	1♥	Dble	2♥
2♠	3♦	3♠	4♥
4♠	Dble	All Pass	

The two passed E/W hands got heavily involved in the auction later and Kerri Sanborn finally judged to save over a heart game that was doomed to go one down, a fate that should also have befallen 4♠ doubled. However...

Sokolow led the king of hearts and switched to a trump to the queen and king. Levitina led a diamond to her ten and Molson's ace and Molson played the ace of hearts for dummy to ruff. Levitina led a spade to the ace, dropping the jack, and ruffed her last heart. She could now come to hand with a diamond, draw the last trump and cash the remaining diamonds; ten tricks for +590 and all 10 MPs. Sanborn and Levitina were in the middle of an excellent session and, after a poor first day, were back into the middle of the field.

The defence did declarer's work for her by giving dummy the first heart ruff. Without this she is an entry short in her hand. It is better for the defenders to either continue trumps or play a club to the ace then a second round. There are now only nine tricks.

Board 15. Dealer South. N/S Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Dhondy	D'Ovidio	Senior	Bessis
-	-	-	1♥
1♠	2♥	Dble	2♠
Pass	2NT	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

Only one other pair tried the no trump game on this one and they went down. When Catherine D'Ovidio raised her 1♥ opening to 2♥, Veronique Bessis made a game try of 2♠ and, when D'Ovidio could show a spade stopper, simply raised to 3NT, imagining that nine tricks might be easier than ten.

Senior could have beaten the contract by leading ace and another spade, her partner's bid suit, but she didn't want to give a cheap trick to declarer when it was clear that the contract had been reached on minimal values and, perhaps, Dhondy would not have a sure entry quickly enough to cash the established spades. Instead, she led the queen of clubs, asking for an attitude signal, and that gave the contract. Bessis won the club ace, cashed the heart ace, then switched her attention to diamonds, leading the king. Dhondy won immediately and switched to the queen of spades to the king and ace. Senior returned her second spade to the jack and Dhondy now switched back to clubs.



Kerri Sanborn, USA

As there was only one winner to be taken there, Bessis had the rest; +600 and all 10 MPs.

Board 17. Dealer North. None Vul.

<p>♠ 9 8 ♥ 6 4 ♦ Q 10 7 5 4 3 ♣ 9 3 2</p>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: 60px; margin: 0 auto;"> N W E S </div>	<p>♠ J 2 ♥ A K Q 7 ♦ K ♣ A J 10 7 5 4</p>	<p>♠ A K Q 10 5 4 ♥ J 9 8 5 3 ♦ 2 ♣ K</p>
		<p>♠ 7 6 3 ♥ 10 2 ♦ A J 9 8 6 ♣ Q 8 6</p>	

West	North	East	South
Lu	Sun	Gu	Feng
–	1♣	1♠	Dble
Pass	2♣	3♥	4♣
Pass	5♣	5♠	Pass
Pass	Dble	All Pass	

Yanhui Sun and Xuefeng Feng had the better of this clash of two Chinese pairs.

Sun opened 1♣, Precision, 16+ and artificial, and Ling Gu made a natural overcall. Feng's double showed, Usually, a semi-positive of 5-7 HCP, and Sun bid her long suit. Now Gu jumped in her second suit to show considerable playing strength, and Feng supported the clubs. When Sun raised herself to game, it was very undisciplined of Gu to bid 5♠— she had shown a very shapely hand and should have been able to rely on Yan Lu to sacrifice if it was correct to do so.



Ling Gu, China

Feng led a club to the ace and Sun switched to a trump. Gu won and led a low heart from hand, Feng hopping up with the ten and playing a second round of trumps. The best that Gu could do was to draw the last trump then give up a heart. She could establish the fifth heart to go with her six trump winners but that meant four down for –800 and a deserved zero for E/W.

Board 20. Dealer West. All Vul.

<p>♠ K 6 5 3 2 ♥ A 5 4 ♦ 8 4 ♣ K Q 3</p>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: 60px; margin: 0 auto;"> N W E S </div>	<p>♠ A J 9 7 ♥ 6 ♦ 7 5 ♣ 10 9 8 6 5 2</p>	<p>♠ 10 8 4 ♥ Q 9 8 3 ♦ K Q 10 6 ♣ J 4</p>
		<p>♠ Q ♥ K J 10 7 2 ♦ A J 9 3 2 ♣ A 7</p>	

West	North	East	South
Gaviard	d'Ovidio	Neve	Bessis
1♠	Pass	2♠	4♦
Pass	Pass	Dble	All Pass

When East gave a simple spade raise, Bessis jumped to 4♦, hearts and diamonds, just as though it had been a weak 2♠ opening against her. D'Ovidio didn't like that at all, of course, and passed while offering up a silent prayer that there would be no double. Alas, Neve had a very handy diamond holding and was delighted to penalize her fellow Frenchwomen.

Daniele Gaviard led the king of clubs, which Bessis won. She led the queen of spades and ran it when Gaviard did not cover. Stuck in hand, Bessis tried the king of hearts next. Gaviard won the ace and returned a trump to the queen and ace. Bessis ruffed a low heart and took a club pitch on the ace of spades then ruffed a club. She continued with the ten of hearts round to Neve's queen and back came a heart for Gaviard to ruff out the jack. Bessis ruffed the club return, exited with a heart, and had to make one more trump trick for down two; –500 and 10 MPs to E/W.

Yanhui Sun and Xuefeng Feng of China had won the session, scoring 63%, and that had propelled them into the overall lead as previous leaders, Lynn Deas and Beth Palmer had had a poor session. They were still in second, but only a fraction ahead of Heather Dhondy/Nevena Senior of Great Britain, followed by Benedicte Cronier/Sylvie Willard of France.

There were 24 boards to be played in the final session.

Men's Pairs – Session Two

After one session of the 2011 Sport Accord World Mind Games Pairs Championship, Michael Rosenberg and Chris Willenken of USA led the way, but there were three sessions still to play so everyone still had an opportunity to make his mark on the competition.

Board 10. Dealer East. All Vul.

<p>♠ A 10 4 ♥ 8 ♦ A K 10 9 8 7 6 5 ♣ 6</p>	<div style="background-color: #336633; color: white; padding: 10px; 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 E </div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: center; width: 100%;"> S </div> </div>	<p>♠ 5 2 ♥ J 9 5 3 ♦ 3 ♣ K Q J 10 9 4</p>	<p>♠ J 9 8 6 3 ♥ A K Q 10 2 ♦ – ♣ A 5 2</p>
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West	North	East	South
Groetheim	Lian	Tundal	H. Shi
–	–	Pass	1♠
Pass	2♦	Pass	2♥
Pass	2♠	Pass	3♣
Pass	3♦	Pass	3♥
Pass	4♦	Pass	4♠
Pass	4NT	Pass	5♥
Pass	5♠	All Pass	

Ruoyi Lian and Haojun Shi stopped in 5♠ when Lian discovered that there was a key card plus the queen of trumps missing. While the spade honours are both onside, the four-one diamond split means that declarer has only discard so requires two ruffs in dummy, unless he is prepared to finesse the ten of hearts – a big position to take.

Three tables reached the spade slam and made it. After winning the club lead, declarer can lead a low spade and, if West ducks, put in the ten. Now declarer can cash the spade ace and both diamond winners stand up for club discards. Just one ruff establishes the hearts for +1430.

Haojun Shi too won the club lead and led a low spade. However, Norway's Glenn Groetheim split his honours, the king forcing the ace. Now declarer could not draw the sec-

ond trump without allowing Groetheim to draw a third round. Shi played the top diamonds but Ulf Tundal could ruff the second, forcing declarer to over-ruff. Shi continued with a club ruff, then four rounds of hearts, ruffing. The fifth heart was now established but to get back to hand Shi had to ruff a diamond. Now, when he played the nine of spades, Groetheim could win and force his last trump with the last diamond, and the seven of spades made the last trick; eleven tricks for +650 but only 3 MPs out of 10 for the Chinese pair.

Board 11. Dealer South. None Vul.

<p>♠ K Q 7 ♥ A 7 6 4 2 ♦ Q 5 4 2 ♣ 5</p>	<div style="background-color: #336633; color: white; padding: 10px; 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 E </div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: center; width: 100%;"> S </div> </div>	<p>♠ J 8 ♥ Q 9 3 ♦ A 7 ♣ K Q J 9 8 6</p>	<p>♠ A 10 5 4 3 ♥ – ♦ K J 6 ♣ 10 7 4 3 2</p>
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West	North	East	South
H. Shi	Drijver	Lian	Brink
–	–	–	2♥
Pass	4♥	Pass	Pass
4♠	All Pass		

Sjoert Brink's five-card weak two bid worked very well for his side when Bas Drijver could raise him directly to game. When that came back to Shi he guessed to compete with 4♠ and was left to play there. Note that 5♣ is completely solid on the E/W cards, declarer just losing one trick in each black suit. Four Spades looked to be hopeless when Drijver kicked off with the ace of hearts, forcing declarer immediately.

Shi ruffed the heart and, surprisingly to me – I had expected him to set up the side suit first – led a low spade towards the jack. Drijver took the queen and needed only to continue the heart attack to make declarer lose control of the trump suit. However, sometimes what looks obvious

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.

to an observer who can see all 52 cards is less clear to a defender who can see only his own cards and dummy's. Drijver switched to a low diamond, round to Shi's jack. Shi now played a club and Brink won the ace but could not effectively play hearts as dummy's queen would be established if he played the king. So he got off play with a diamond to dummy's ace and Shi ran the jack of spades to Drijver's king. The heart return came too late. Shi ruffed and cashed the ace of trumps and, when the suit broke evenly, could claim, cashing his club and diamond winners. Instead of a zero for 4♠ failing by a number of tricks – Dhondy/Senior in the Women's event defeated 2♠ – Shi/Lian collected 8 MPs out of 10 for +420. The dropped MPs were because Rosenberg/Willenken were doubled in the cold club game for +550.

Board 13. Dealer North. All Vul.

♠ K Q 10 4 ♥ A 8 7 ♦ K 9 8 3 ♣ 3 2	<table style="margin: auto;"> <tr><td></td><td>N</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td></td><td>E</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td>S</td><td></td></tr> </table>		N		W		E		S		♠ A 6 2 ♥ K Q J 5 ♦ J 10 6 ♣ J 8 5	♠ 9 5 ♥ 9 6 3 2 ♦ Q 2 ♣ A K 9 6 4
	N											
W		E										
	S											
West Brink – 1♦ 1♠ 2♣ 4♥	North M. Shi Pass Pass Pass Dble All Pass	East Drijver 1♣ 1♥ 1NT 2♦	South Hou Pass Pass Pass Pass									

One Club was either natural or balanced outside the 15-17 INT opening range, and 1♦ covered a range of hands including any 0-6 hand. One Heart was two-way, either any 12-14 balanced hand or natural with clubs and hearts, and 1♠ an enquiry. When Brink continued with a further enquiry of 2♣, Miao Shi doubled and Drijver denied club values. Brink now closed proceedings with a jump to the known four-three fit game.

The defence led three rounds of clubs for dummy to ruff. Drijver next drew all the trumps and that forced South to pitch two diamonds to keep his spade guard. The four-two split also meant that declarer had no option but to play South for the ace of diamonds – this was a heavy favourite anyway, given that North had already turned up with ace-king of clubs and had passed as dealer.

Drijver led a diamond up to establish his trick there and South took his ace and exited with a diamond. Now the diamond jack was a trick so that the spade finesse was not required, though I am confident that Drijver was about to get that suit right anyway.

The defence would have done better to lead trumps whenever they could. Making dummy take the club ruff early made life very easy for Drijver. If he has to work to get his ruff, he will run into serious communication problems and nine tricks looks to be the limit.

Board 14. Dealer East. None Vul.

♠ 9 7 4 ♥ Q 7 3 2 ♦ K 10 9 4 ♣ 9 8	<table style="margin: auto;"> <tr><td></td><td>N</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td></td><td>E</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td>S</td><td></td></tr> </table>		N		W		E		S		♠ K J 8 5 2 ♥ A ♦ A 6 3 2 ♣ K Q 10	♠ Q 10 6 3 ♥ J 5 4 ♦ 8 ♣ A 7 5 4 2
	N											
W		E										
	S											
West Brink – Pass Pass Pass	North M. Shi – 1♠ 2♦(i) 3NT	East Drijver Pass Pass Pass All Pass	South Hou 1♥ 1NT 2♥									

♠ A ♥ K 10 9 8 6 ♦ Q J 7 5 ♣ J 6 3

(i) GF enquiry

At four tables the combined 28-count proved to be insufficient after a club lead. Here, however, Brink led the ten of diamonds and the fall of the eight meant that Xu Hou could create a third winner in the suit. He won the queen and returned the five. Brink thought for a bit but eventually got that right and put in the nine – had he ducked, the



Sjoert Brink, Netherlands

five would have scored and there would have been the late threat of an endplay to worry about. Hou won the diamond ace and led a third round to the king and Brink exited safely with the fourth diamond. Meanwhile, Drijver threw the seven of clubs followed by the five then four of hearts, upside-down carding.

Hou cashed the ace of hearts, crossed to the ace of spades and cashed the heart king. When the queen did not fall, he switched his attention to clubs, leading low to the king, ducked, and continuing with the queen. Drijver won the ace and exited with a club to declarer's jack. Hou played a heart but Brink won and played a spade through and Drijver's queen was the fourth defensive winner.

The trick given by the opening lead proved to be decisive, +400 earning 9 MPs for the Chinese pair.

Board 18. Dealer East. N/S Vul.

<p>♠ Q 8 3 ♥ A 5 ♦ Q 8 5 2 ♣ A 8 4 2</p>	<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 E</div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; width: 100%;">S</div> </div>	<p>♠ K 10 6 2 ♥ Q 9 8 6 3 ♦ A 7 ♣ Q J</p>	<p>♠ A 9 7 ♥ K 10 7 4 ♦ 9 6 ♣ K 10 7 6</p>
	<p>♠ J 5 4 ♥ J 2 ♦ K J 10 4 3 ♣ 9 5 3</p>		

West	North	East	South
<i>Charlsen</i>	<i>Gitelman</i>	<i>Hoftaniska</i>	<i>Moss</i>
–	–	Pass	Pass
1♣	1♥	INT	2♦
Pass	Pass	2NT	All Pass

Thor Erik Hoftaniska made a slightly heavy bid of INT at his first turn, catering to the fact that a 1♣ opening is so often a balanced minimum opening, as here, in their methods. Brad Moss scraped up a 2♦ call, trying to jostle his opponents out of no trump, but now Hoftaniska took the push to 2NT – maybe a double here would have been penalty and hence not appropriate with weak diamonds, but if he could have doubled merely to show a maximum, a popular enough method, that would have worked out very well on this deal.

Anyway, as the cards lay there was never any doubt that Hoftaniska would make 2NT. After Moss's perfectly natural lead of the jack of hearts to dummy's ace, there was a third heart trick and the favourable club position meant four tricks in that suit. The question was, could declarer find his way to an overtrick?

Hoftaniska won the heart ace and played ace of clubs and a low club to the king then two more rounds of the suit. Moss threw a diamond, Gitelman a heart followed by a spade. Hoftaniska led a heart to the ten, cashed the king, Moss and dummy pitching diamonds, then played the fourth heart. Moss and dummy again discarded diamonds as Gitel-

man won. He switched to ace and another diamond but now, with everyone down to nothing but spades, declarer was well placed for his ninth trick, needing only to play North for the king. In practice, Moss switched to the jack, correct if his partner had held ♠K109, and that was covered all round; nine tricks for +150 and 8 MPs to the Norwegians.

Board 19. Dealer South. E/W Vul.

<p>♠ A ♥ K J 7 5 2 ♦ A K J 3 ♣ A 10 2</p>	<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 E</div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; width: 100%;">S</div> </div>	<p>♠ 10 8 5 3 2 ♥ A ♦ 10 7 5 ♣ K J 7 5</p>	<p>♠ Q J 9 7 ♥ Q 10 8 6 3 ♦ Q 9 8 ♣ 6</p>
		<p>♠ K 6 4 ♥ 9 4 ♦ 6 4 2 ♣ Q 9 8 4 3</p>	

West	North	East	South
<i>Moss</i>	<i>de Wijs</i>	<i>Gitelman</i>	<i>Muller</i>
–	–	–	Pass
1♥	1♠	4♥	Pass
4NT	Pass	5♦	Pass
6♥	All Pass		

The US pair made short work of this one. Moss opened 1♥, showing five, Simon de Wijs overcalled in his emaciated spade suit, and Gitelman made a semi-pre-emptive raise to 4♥. Moss asked for key cards and heard that his partner did not have the missing ace so settled for the small slam; +1430.



Brad Moss, USA

Only half the field bid this one so that was worth 8 MPs to Moss/Gitelman. It was bid at only two tables out of six in the Women.

Board 21. Dealer North. N/S Vul.

♠ 9 4 2 ♥ 10 8 2 ♦ K J 8 4 2 ♣ J 10	♠ A Q J 10 6 3 ♥ 6 ♦ A 10 6 ♣ 9 7 4	♠ 8 5 ♥ 7 5 4 ♦ Q 9 7 5 3 ♣ 6 3 2	♠ K 7 ♥ A K Q J 9 3 ♦ – ♣ A K Q 8 5
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West	North	East	South
De Wijs	Rosenberg	Muller	Willenken
Pass	1♠	Pass	2♥
Pass	2♠	Pass	3♣
Pass	3♦	Pass	3♠
Pass	4♠	Pass	4NT
Pass	5♠	Pass	7NT
All Pass			

There are 18 top tricks in each of four denominations on this deal. It would be very disappointing, therefore, not to reach a grand slam and, in a good quality event, failing to find no trump should score poorly.

The trick is to go slowly enough with the South cards to be able to discover what partner's spades look like without committing yourself to playing in spades. Chris Willenken achieved just that and when he used RKCB and discovered that his partner held the ace-queen of spades and the ace of diamonds he could bid a confident 7NT.

In the Men, four pairs played in 7NT and one each in 7♥ and 7♠, so Willenken/Rosenberg scored 7 MPs. In the Women, there were three pairs in 7NT, one each in 7♥ and 7♠, and one in 6♥. That last auction was a real thing of beauty – a constructive weak 2♠ opening and a 6♥ response!

The second session ended with China's Xu Hou and Miao Shi narrowly ahead of Michael Rosenberg and Chris Willenken. Next came the two Dutch pairs, Muller/de Wijs and Brink/Drijver.



An Instructive Visit

by Philippe Cronier

Giannarigo Rona and José Damiani, WBF and IMSA presidents, were invited to visit on Tuesday a bridge school in RDZF. RDZF is one of the most famous high schools of Beijing, from which a lot of pupils go on to the most celebrated universities, all around China but also abroad: two pupils of RDZF were admitted last year to Harvard on full scholarships.

The original purpose of this visit was to try to bring to Chinese teachers some tips or advice. Instead of that, the presidents and I were presented with a fast growing and successful school: 30 bridge students four years ago, 800 (!) today. As was said by Mr Liu Zhiyong, the chemistry teacher who initiated bridge in RDZF, bridge became very quickly the preferred mind game of the students, particularly because it develops logic, tolerance and partnership spirit.

Results of RDZF teams in scholars or youngsters competitions are amazing. The first school team was formed in 2008. In its first year it won medals in Chinese competition, as it has done in every year since. This year, a school team went to represent China in the 48th Asia-Pacific Bridge Championships, and won the silver medal in the U21 group.

The visit was concluded by a lecture given to young students of RDZF, enthusiastic to see Messrs Rona and Damiani. The final words of José Damiani reflected well this inspired afternoon: "We came to teach you several things, instead we learned a lot. Thank you to all of you for working so hard to develop this wonderful game."



RDZF pupils and teachers with the two presidents.