



Editors: Mark Horton & Brian Senior

Bulletin No 2

Friday December 12th

# Final Line-Ups Decided



The line-ups for the two Teams finals are now decided. All matches will be played over three 16-board segments on Saturday.

In the Open it will be USA and Israel playing off for the gold and silver medals, while Monaco and China will have to settle for the bronze medal play-off. In the Women, the finalists are England and the Netherlands, leaving USA and China to fight for bronze.

Going into the final match, it seemed that the Women's series would have the tighter finish, however, in the event the two European teams each had big wins and were both well clear by midway through their respective matches. In the Open, however, Monaco were just ahead of Israel in the battle for second place, losing out on the very last board at the very last table in play, when Fantoni/Nunes went for a big penalty.

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# Results

## Open Round – Four

		IMPs	VPs
China	Israel	26-37	13.06-6.94
USA	Monaco	34-10	15-74-4.24

## Women – Round Four

		IMPs	VPs
England	USA	36-39	9.09-10.91
Netherlands	China	36-8	16.42-3.58

## Open – Round Five

		IMPs	VPs
Israel	Monaco	28-44	5.82-14.18
USA	China	14-50	2.41-17.59

## Women – Round Five

		IMPs	VPs
England	Netherlands	18-21	9.09-10.91
USA	China	35-15	15.00-5.00

## Open – Round Six

		IMPs	VPs
Monaco	China	37-31	11.76-8.24
USA	Israel	39-23	14.18-5.82

## Women – Round Six

		IMPs	VPs
England	China	58-11	18.87-1.13
USA	Netherlands	79-19	0-20

# Rankings

## Open Teams

1.	USA	67.62
2.	Israel	65.03
3.	Monaco	63.28
4.	China	44.07

## Women's Teams

1.	England	72.41
2.	Netherlands	66.45
3.	USA	52.53
4.	China	48.61

# Participants

## China

Chengju Chuen, Lidang Dong, Shi Haojun,  
Junsheng Shi, Yuwei Wu, Zejun Zhuang

## Israel

Alon Birman, Lotan Fisher, Ilan Herbst,  
Ophir Herbst, Dror Padon, Ron Schwartz

## Monaco

Fulvio Fantoni, Geir Helgemo, Tor Helness,  
Franck Multon, Claudio Nunes, Pierre Zimmermann

## USA

Huub Bertens, Curtis Cheek, Vincent Demuy,  
John Kranyak, justin Lall, Roger Lee

## China

Yan Lu, Jingrong Ran, Hongli Wang,  
Wenfei Wang, Shaohong Wu, Yu Zhang

## England

Sally Brock, Fiona Brown, Heather Dhondy,  
Catherine Draper, Nevena Senior, Nicola Smith

## Netherlands

Carla Arnolds, Marion Michielsen, Jet Pasman,  
Anneke Simons, Wietske van Zwol, Meike Wortel

## USA

Cheri Bjerkan, Lynn Deas, Hjordis Eythorsdottir,  
Irina Levitina, Kerri Sanborn, Pam Wittes

# Open Round Two – USA v Monaco

by Mark Horton



The convention centre in which play takes place is connected to the hotel by a covered walkway and as I crossed it for the umpteenth time I counted the steps one had to climb to reach it.

I was hoping the total would be 39, as I could then start this report with a reference to *The 39 Steps* a 1935 British thriller film directed by Alfred Hitchcock starring Robert Donat and Madeleine Carroll. Loosely based on the 1915 adventure novel *The Thirty-Nine Steps* by John Buchan, the film is about a man in London who tries to help a counter-espionage agent prevent an organisation of spies called *The 39 Steps* from stealing top secret information. When the agent is killed and he stands accused of the murder, he goes on the run with an attractive woman to save himself and stop the spy ring. Of the four major film versions of the novel, Hitchcock's film has been the most acclaimed. In 1999, the British Film Institute ranked it the fourth best British film of the 20th century.

A key element of the film surrounds Mr Memory – a man with a photographic memory – and just think how useful that would be for a bridge partnership who would have no trouble remembering all their agreements.

Unfortunately there proved to be 41 steps, so I will have to save the story for another occasion.

While I check how many steps there are to the top of the Leaning Tower of Pisa here is how the match unfolded:

The match started with a superlative effort by the Americans in the Open Room, an early contender for auction of the year:

**Board 17. Dealer North. None Vul.**

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

**Open Room**

West	North	East	South
<i>Helgemo</i>	<i>Kranyak</i>	<i>Helness</i>	<i>Demuy</i>
–	Pass	1♠	2♣
2♠	Pass	Pass	Dble
Pass	2NT*	Pass	3♦
Pass	4♠*	Pass	4NT*
Pass	6♦	All Pass	

When South reopened with a double North placed him with shape suitable hand that almost certainly included a



spade void. When his partner bid 3♦ he bid 4♠ to show a good hand with all his values outside spades. 4NT promised a good hand and North backed his judgment by jumping to the slam.

West led the two of hearts and declarer won with dummy's ace perforce and played a club to the queen. When that held he played two rounds of diamonds ending in dummy and another club, quickly claiming +920.

**Closed Room**

West	North	East	South
<i>Lee</i>	<i>Fantoni</i>	<i>Lall</i>	<i>Nunes</i>
–	Pass	1♠	2♣
2♠	Pass	Pass	2NT*
Pass	3♠*	Pass	4♣*
Pass	4♦	Pass	5♦
All Pass			

When South reopened with 2NT suggesting diamonds North showed a good hand with 3♠, but when South could only bid 5♦ on the next round he called it a day; +420, but 11 IMPs to the USA.

**Board 19. Dealer South. E/W Vul.**

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

**Open Room**

West	North	East	South
<i>Helgemo</i>	<i>Kranyak</i>	<i>Helness</i>	<i>Demuy</i>
–	–	–	1♦ (i)
Pass	1♠	Pass	1NT
Pass	2♥ (ii)	Pass	2♠
Pass	3♣ (iii)	Pass	3♥
Pass	4♥	All Pass	

- (i) Precision Style
- (ii) Transfer
- (iii) Forcing

N/S found their heart fit, but North was declarer and East unerringly put his hand on the six of clubs. Declarer finessed and West won with the king and returned the seven. Declarer won in hand with the queen and played the ten of hearts but West won and played his remaining

club. East ruffed and exited with the queen of diamonds, eventually securing the setting trick with the king of spades; +50.

**Closed Room**

West	North	East	South
Lee	Fantoni	Lall	Nunes
—	—	—	1NT(i)
Pass	2♣ (ii)	Pass	2♥*
Pass	2♠ (ii)	Pass	2NT*
Pass	4♥	All Pass	

- (i) 12-14 any balanced hand, 5-3-3-2, 5-4-2-2, not 5-4 in the majors, 4-4-4-1, 6m-3-3-2
- (ii) Asking

Played by South 4♥ was unbeatable, declarer winning the diamond lead in dummy and playing trumps; +420 and 10 IMPs to Monaco.

**Board 22. Dealer East. E/WVul.**

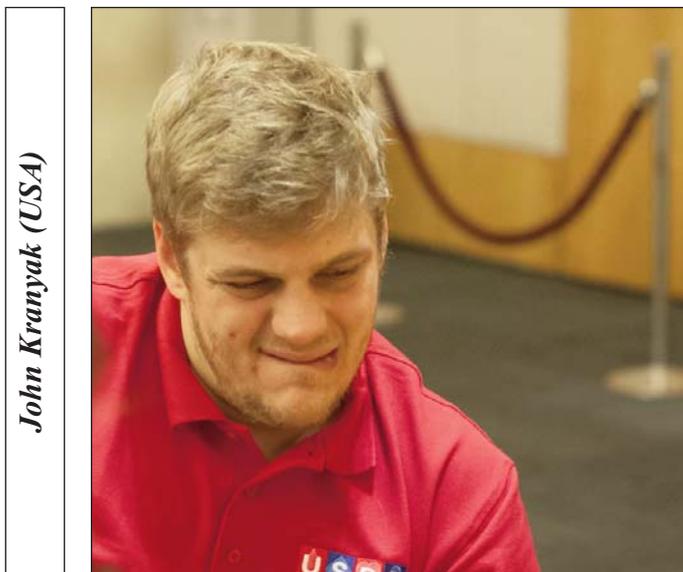
♠ J 10 9 7 5		♠ 6 4
♥ 2		♥ K J 5 4 3
♦ 8 3		♦ A Q J 10 9 4
♣ A Q J 9 4		♣ —
♠ 8 3 2		♠ A K Q
♥ A Q 10 9 7		♥ 8 6
♦ 7 6 5		♦ K 2
♣ 7 2		♣ K 10 8 6 5 3



**Open Room**

West	North	East	South
Helgemo	Kranyak	Helness	Demuy
—	—	1♦	2♣
Dble*	5♣	All Pass	

West led the five of diamonds and East won with the ace. When he did not switch to a heart declarer claimed the rest for +420.



John Kranyak (USA)

Fulvio Fantoni (Monaco)



**Closed Room**

West	North	East	South
Lee	Fantoni	Lall	Nunes
—	—	1♦	2♣
Dble	5♣	5♥	All Pass

Unlike his counterpart East was willing to hazard 5♥ and it proved to be a winning decision. Declarer lost two spades and a diamond for one down, but that gave the USA 8 IMPs.

**Board 26. Dealer East. All Vul.**

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



**Open Room**

West	North	East	South
Helgemo	Kranyak	Helness	Demuy
—	—	1♣	1♠
Pass	2♠	3♦	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

When East reversed West did not hesitate to bid game. North led the four of hearts and South won with the king and laid down the king of spades before returning the five of hearts, at which point declarer claimed nine tricks for +600. Had South tabled a low spade at trick two I am confident West would have played the queen before you could say Jack Robinson.

**Closed Room**

West	North	East	South
Lee	Fantoni	Lall	Nunes
—	—	1♣	1♠
Pass	2♠	3♠*	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

North led the two of spades and South won with the ace and switched to the two of hearts, North winning with the ace and returning the three. South took the king and went back to spades, the three putting declarer to a guess he got wrong so was one down for -100 and 12 IMPs to Monaco.

Board 29. Dealer North. All Vul.

♠ AKJ ♥ K 10 9 5 ♦ K Q 9 ♣ 10 8 4	<table style="border: 1px solid black; width: 40px; height: 40px; margin: auto;"> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">N</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">W E</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">S</td></tr> </table>	N	W E	S	♠ 8 4 3 2 ♥ 6 ♦ A 8 2 ♣ Q 9 7 3 2	♠ Q 9 ♥ Q J 8 4 2 ♦ J 6 3 ♣ A K J
N						
W E						
S						

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Helgemo</i>	<i>Kranyak</i>	<i>Helness</i>	<i>Demuy</i>
-	Pass	Pass	1♥
1NT	All Pass		

North led the three of hearts for the jack and king and when declarer ran the ten of clubs South won with the king, a no cost deceptive play that might have paid a dividend on another day, and switched to the jack of diamonds. Declarer won with the king, played a club to South's jack, won the diamond exit with the queen and cleared the clubs. The defenders cashed two hearts, but declarer had the rest for +120.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Lee</i>	<i>Fantoni</i>	<i>Lall</i>	<i>Nunes</i>
-	Pass	Pass	1NT
Dble	Pass	Pass	2♥
Pass	Pass	Dble(i)	All Pass

(i) Take-out

I meant to ask Fulvio at breakfast about the significance of his second round pass – probably it denied a five-card suit.



In 2♥ declarer lost two spades, two trumps and three diamonds so was two down for -500 and 9 IMPs for the USA.

Board 30. Dealer East. None Vul.

♠ A Q 10 9 6 3 2 ♥ 3 ♦ 7 3 ♣ 7 4 3	<table style="border: 1px solid black; width: 40px; height: 40px; margin: auto;"> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">N</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">W E</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">S</td></tr> </table>	N	W E	S	♠ K 5 ♥ A 4 2 ♦ Q J 10 8 6 ♣ K J 9	♠ 8 7 ♥ Q J 9 8 6 5 ♦ A 9 ♣ 10 8 5
N						
W E						
S						
		♠ J 4 ♥ K 10 7 ♦ K 5 4 2 ♣ A Q 6 2				

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Helgemo</i>	<i>Kranyak</i>	<i>Helness</i>	<i>Demuy</i>
-	-	Pass	1♦*
3♠	3NT	All Pass	

East led the eight of spades for the jack, queen and king and declarer played three rounds of clubs ending in hand followed by a heart to the jack and king. When he cashed the ace of clubs West matched it with the ace of spades. Declarer crossed to the ace of hearts and gave up; two down for -100.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Lee</i>	<i>Fantoni</i>	<i>Lall</i>	<i>Nunes</i>
-	-	3♥	Pass
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

As the proverb says, he who sows the wind shall reap the whirlwind, and when East opened 3♥ West's spades were out of the picture.

Declarer won East's lead of the jack of hearts with the ace and forced out the ace of diamonds. When East switched to a spade declarer claimed eleven tricks, worth +460 and 11 IMPs to Monaco, who emerged with a 35-29 IMP, 11.76-8.24 VP win.

# Big Trouble in Little China

## China v Monaco – Open Round 3

by Mark Horton



Big Trouble in Little China is a 1986 American martial arts comedy film directed by John Carpenter. It stars Kurt Russell as truck driver Jack Burton, who helps his friend Wang Chi (Dennis Dun) rescue Wang's green-eyed fiancée (Suzee Pai) from bandits in San Francisco's Chinatown. They go into the mysterious underworld beneath Chinatown, where they face an ancient sorcerer named Lo Pan (James Hong).

The movie was a commercial failure, and received critically mixed reviews that left Carpenter disillusioned with Hollywood and influenced his decision to return to independent film-making. It has become a cult film due to its success on home video. When China met Monaco in Round Three, our hosts were badly in need of a victory.

**Board 2. Dealer East. N/S Vul.**

♠ 7 4 ♥ 10 9 8 ♦ 6 3 ♣ Q J 8 7 6 5	<table border="1" 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		♠ 5 ♥ J 7 3 ♦ A 10 7 5 2 ♣ A K 9 4	♠ A Q 9 8 ♥ A K Q 5 ♦ K 8 4 ♣ 10 3
	N											
W		E										
	S											

**Open Room**

West	North	East	South
<i>Shi</i>	<i>Fantoni</i>	<i>Zhuang</i>	<i>Nunes</i>
–	–	1♦	1♠
Pass	2♦*	Pass	2♠
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

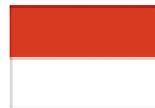
When I spotted Fulvio Fantoni at breakfast I asked him if his 3NT bid had any special significance. In his typically jovial and disarming way he described it as an idiotic bid (of course he had envisaged a situation where his side might lose the first four tricks, two diamonds and two clubs) considering 3♦ to be more accurate.

When East attacked with the second string to his bow by leading the ace of clubs the defenders soon had the first seven tricks in the bag for three down and –300.

**Closed Room**

West	North	East	South
<i>Multon</i>	<i>Dong</i>	<i>Zimmermann</i>	<i>Wu</i>
–	–	1♦	1♠
Pass	2♦*	Pass	2♠
Pass	3NT	Pass	4♠
All Pass			

When South removed his partner's 3NT he ensured that China was off to a fast start; +650 giving them 14 IMPs.



**Board 5. Dealer North. NS/Vul.**

♠ 8 7 3 ♥ J 9 3 ♦ J 9 8 ♣ A 9 3 2	<table border="1" 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 K Q 10 6 ♥ 10 7 6 5 ♦ 6 3 ♣ 10 4	♠ J 4 ♥ 8 4 ♦ A K Q 7 4 ♣ K Q 8 7
	N											
W		E										
	S											

**Open Room**

West	North	East	South
<i>Shi</i>	<i>Fantoni</i>	<i>Zhuang</i>	<i>Nunes</i>
–	1♦(i)	1♠	Dble
2♠	Pass	Pass	Dble
Pass	3♣	Pass	3♦
All Pass			

(i) 14+ (good 12/13) 4+ diamonds

East started with three rounds of spades and declarer ruffed and tested the trumps before claiming ten tricks and +130.

**Closed Room**

West	North	East	South
<i>Multon</i>	<i>Dong</i>	<i>Zimmermann</i>	<i>Wu</i>
–	1NT	2♣(i)	Dble
Rdbl(i)	3♦	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

Yuwei Wu (China)



- (i) Majors
- (i) No preference

N/S had the values for game, but they lost the first six tricks when East cashed his spades and then switched to a club; -200 and 8 IMPs to Monaco.

**Board 9. Dealer North. E/W Vul.**

♠ K J 6 5 ♥ 9 ♦ J 6 4 3 ♣ A J 10 3	<table border="1" style="margin: auto;"> <tr><td></td><td style="text-align: center;">N</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">W</td><td></td><td style="text-align: center;">E</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td style="text-align: center;">S</td><td></td></tr> </table>		N		W		E		S		♠ Q 7 3 2 ♥ Q 8 6 3 ♦ 9 7 ♣ 9 8 4 ♠ 8 4 ♥ A K J 10 7 2 ♦ 10 5 ♣ K 5 2 ♠ A 10 9 ♥ 5 4 ♦ A K Q 8 2 ♣ Q 7 6	
	N											
W		E										
	S											

**Open Room**

West	North	East	South
<i>Shi</i>	<i>Fantoni</i>	<i>Zhuang</i>	<i>Nunes</i>
–	Pass	1♥	2♦
Dble	Pass	2♥	All Pass

South cashed the ace of diamonds and then switched to the ten of spades. Declarer went up with dummy's king, ran the nine of hearts and exited with a diamond. South won, cashed the ace of spades and played a third spade. Declarer ruffed, cashed the ace of hearts, played a club to the ten, ruffed a spade, cashed two clubs ending in dummy and played the six of diamonds, catching North's trumps for ten tricks and +170.

To hold declarer to nine tricks South must cash a second diamond and then switch to a club, which is hardly obvious. If Declarer puts in dummy's ten, runs the nine of hearts and then plays a diamond North can pitch a club, when declarer cannot bring about the desired ending.

You might like to consider how declarer might play if South starts with three top diamonds, enabling North to pitch a club.

After ruffing declarer plays a club to the ten, plays the nine of hearts to the ten, cashes the ace of hearts and then plays a club to the jack, followed by the jack of diamonds. If North discards declarer gets rid of the king of clubs and then plays the ace of clubs, pitching a spade is North does not ruff, followed by another club, threatening to get rid of the last spade.

Don't you just love these unheard melodies?

**Closed Room**

West	North	East	South
<i>Multon</i>	<i>Dong</i>	<i>Zimmermann</i>	<i>Wu</i>
–	Pass	1♥	2♦
Dble	Pass	2♥	Pass
2NT	Pass	3♥	All Pass

South cashed two diamonds and switched to the six of clubs – outstanding, don't you agree?

Declarer won with dummy's jack, ran the nine of hearts, came to hand with a club, cashed the top hearts and exited with a heart to North's queen. South won the spade return with the ace; +140 and a well-earned 1 IMP for China.

**Board 10. Dealer East. All Vul.**

♠ Q 8 7 5 ♥ Q ♦ K J 4 ♣ 7 6 5 3 2	<table border="1" style="margin: auto;"> <tr><td></td><td style="text-align: center;">N</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">W</td><td></td><td style="text-align: center;">E</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td style="text-align: center;">S</td><td></td></tr> </table>		N		W		E		S		♠ J 2 ♥ A J 10 9 6 3 2 ♦ 7 ♣ 9 8 4 ♠ A 9 4 3 ♥ K 8 7 5 ♦ A 6 5 ♣ A J ♠ K 10 6 ♥ 4 ♦ Q 10 9 8 3 2 ♣ K Q 10	
	N											
W		E										
	S											

**Open Room**

West	North	East	South
<i>Shi</i>	<i>Fantoni</i>	<i>Zhuang</i>	<i>Nunes</i>
–	–	1NT	Pass
Pass	2♦ (i)	Pass	2♥ (ii)
Dble(iii)	Pass	2♠	All Pass

- (i) 6+♥/♠ or any 5+5+ strong
- (ii) Pass or correct
- (iii) Take-out

Facing a 14-17 1NT West was content to let matters rest, but he had an easy route into the auction at his next turn.

South led his heart and North won with the ace and returned the seven of diamonds to the queen and king. A spade to the ace was followed by a spade to the ten and queen and when North's jack appeared declarer claimed ten tricks – he could ruff both his losing hearts in dummy,;+170.

**Closed Room**

West	North	East	South
<i>Multon</i>	<i>Dong</i>	<i>Zimmermann</i>	<i>Wu</i>
–	–	1NT	Pass
2♣*	2♥	2♠	Pass
4♠	All Pass		

Pierre Zimmermann (Monaco)



The play was identical, and +620 gave Monaco 10 IMPs.

**Board 12. Dealer West. N/S Vul.**

♠ 7 5 3 2 ♥ 10 7 6 ♦ A 10 2 ♣ J 9 5	<table border="1" 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		♠ Q 10 ♥ A K 8 5 3 2 ♦ 6 5 ♣ K 8 3	♠ A 8 ♥ Q 9 4 ♦ K 9 8 4 3 ♣ 10 6 4
	N											
W		E										
	S											
		♠ K J 9 6 4 ♥ J ♦ Q J 7 ♣ A Q 7 2										

**Open Room**

West	North	East	South
<i>Shi</i>	<i>Fantoni</i>	<i>Zhuang</i>	<i>Nunes</i>
Pass	2♥ (i)	Pass	2NT(ii)
Pass	3♥	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

- (i) 10-13 (good 9) 5+♥ unbalanced hand; in 3rd seat could be weaker and maximum 12 (13)
- (ii) 5+♠ invitational plus

Commentating on live TV I speculated that West might lead the ten of diamonds, but it was a difficult lead to find.

Difficult? Not for Shi – he started with the ace of diamonds and when East played the nine he continued with the ten, East winning and clearing the suit. Declarer won and tried a spade to the queen and ace and East won and cashed his diamonds for one down and –100.

**Closed Room**

West	North	East	South
<i>Multon</i>	<i>Dong</i>	<i>Zimmermann</i>	<i>Wu</i>
Pass	1♥	Pass	1♠
Pass	2♥	Pass	2♠ (i)
Pass	3♦ (ii)	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

- (i) Forcing
- (ii) Asking for a stopper

When West led the five of clubs declarer won with the queen and forced out the ace of spades. East switched to a diamond, but it was too late; +630 and 12 IMPs to China.

**Board 15. Dealer South. N/S Vul.**

♠ – ♥ 8 6 2 ♦ AK 5 4 ♣ J 10 9 7 3 2	<table border="1" 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 8 7 5 3 ♥ J 10 9 4 ♦ 9 6 ♣ K 6	♠ A Q 4 ♥ K Q 7 5 3 ♦ 7 2 ♣ A 5 4
	N											
W		E										
	S											
		♠ J 10 9 6 2 ♥ A ♦ Q J 10 8 3 ♣ Q 8										

**Open Room**

West	North	East	South
<i>Shi</i>	<i>Fantoni</i>	<i>Zhuang</i>	<i>Nunes</i>
–	–	–	2♠ (i)
Pass	4♠	All Pass	

- (i) 10-13 (good 9) 5+♠ unbalanced hand; in 3rd seat could be weaker and maximum 12 (13)

West cashed two diamonds and switched to the jack of clubs. East took the ace and waited for his trump tricks, two down and –200.

**Closed Room**

West	North	East	South
<i>Multon</i>	<i>Dong</i>	<i>Zimmermann</i>	<i>Wu</i>
–	–	–	1♠
2♣	4♠	5♣	Pass
Pass	Dble	All Pass	

When West overcalled and North jumped to game East did not have a losing option.

North led the king of spades and declarer won with dummy's ace, pitching a diamond, played ace of clubs and a club and claimed when the suit divided; +550.

Declarer would have had to work harder on a heart lead. Say he covers the jack with the queen and South wins with the ace and plays a diamond. Declarer wins and must now play the jack of clubs, running it if North does not cover. South wins and plays a second diamond and declarer wins, ruffs a diamond, cashes the ace of clubs, pitches a diamond on the ace of spades, ruffs a spade and runs the trumps, squeezing North in the majors.

Anyhow it was 8 IMPs to Monaco, handing them a last gasp 35-29 IMP, 11.76-8.24 VP win.



Lidang Dong (China)

# England v USA – Women Round Four



At the end of the first round robin, England lay second and USA third. A solid win in their Round Four match could go a long way towards seeing England into the main final, therefore, while an American win could see them leapfrog their rivals into the top two with two rounds still to play.

USA picked up a partscore swing on the first board to lead by 5-0 IMPs but, after a flat second board, the two teams exchanged huge early Christmas gifts.

Board 3. Dealer South. E/W Vul.

♠ AKQ	♠ 6	♠ J98432
♥ 7	♥ AJ864	♥ K93
♦ AQ	♦ 1076432	♦ J9
♣ AKQ9632	♣ 7	♣ J5

♠ 1075	♠ 1075	♠ 1075
♥ Q1052	♥ Q1052	♥ Q1052
♦ K85	♦ K85	♦ K85
♣ 1084	♣ 1084	♣ 1084

<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>
<i>Draper</i>	<i>Disa</i>	<i>Brown</i>	<i>Deas</i>
–	–	–	Pass
2♣	2NT	Pass	3♦
4♣	5♦	6♣	6♦
7♣	Dble	All Pass	
<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>
<i>Sanborn</i>	<i>Senior</i>	<i>Levitina</i>	<i>Dhondy</i>
–	–	–	Pass
2♣	2♥	2♠	3♥
3♠	4♦	Pass	4♥
4NT	Pass	5♣	Pass
6♠	All Pass		

Disa, Hjordis Eythorsdottir, made a two-suited overcall and that found the diamond fit straight away, enabling the Americans to put the English auction under a lot of pressure. Credit Disa and Lynn Deas for their enterprise, but Fiona Brown's raise to 6♣ in competition looks wild (the most polite of the several adjectives I selected between) to me with only a doubleton trump and only a couple of jacks outside the opponents' suits., particularly as her pass of 2NT indicated either 8+ HCP or two controls. Catherine Draper might have made a forcing pass over the 6♦ call but it was hard to imagine what her partner could hold if not the ace of hearts given that Brown could not have a top honour in either black suit and would know that red-suit values would be of dubious value. Brown will argue that she would have cuebid 5♥ if holding the ace, but for an unlimited hand to always do this looks very dangerous. Disa added insult to injury by adding a double and the contract was one down for –200 when she then cashed her heart ace.



Nevena Senior made a simple heart overcall in the other room. This had the benefit of attracting the only lead in which she was interested should East become declarer, but did not suggest the playing strength of Disa's action, though her subsequent 4♦ surely did so and Dhondy might have been more aggressive from that point on. When Irina Levitina introduced her spades, Kerri Sanborn could ask about key cards and settle for the small slam when one proved to be missing; +1460 after an attacking diamond lead from Heather Dhondy, and 17 IMPs to USA.

Board 4. Dealer West. All Vul.

♠ K85	♠ K85	♠ K85
♥ A53	♥ A53	♥ A53
♦ A	♦ A	♦ A
♣ AKQ974	♣ AKQ974	♣ AKQ974

♠ AJ1032	♠ AJ1032	♠ AJ1032
♥ QJ2	♥ QJ2	♥ QJ2
♦ 84	♦ 84	♦ 84
♣ 652	♣ 652	♣ 652

<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>
<i>Draper</i>	<i>Disa</i>	<i>Brown</i>	<i>Deas</i>
Pass	2♣	Pass	2♦
Pass	2NT	Pass	3♦
Pass	3♥	Pass	4♦
Pass	5♥	Pass	6♦
Pass	6♥	All Pass	
<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>
<i>Sanborn</i>	<i>Senior</i>	<i>Levitina</i>	<i>Dhondy</i>
Pass	2♦	Pass	2♥
Pass	3♣	Pass	3♥
Pass	4♥	All Pass	

Senior opened with a multi 2♦. Two Hearts was pass or correct and 3♣ showed a strong but not game-forcing two bid in clubs, around a good eight or nine playing tricks. Dhondy showed that she really did have hearts and Senior raised to game; +650 after ace and another spade lead.

Disa opened 2♣ and followed up with a supposedly balanced 2NT rebid. She completed the heart transfer then, when Deas showed her second suit, felt that she was far too good to settle for simple preference to hearts. Her jump to 5♥ left Deas guessing and, when she went on with 6♦, the partnership was too high. It still required that Brown find the spade lead, else the spade loser goes away on the clubs, but she duly did so, leading the stronger of her black holdings, and that meant one down and +100 to England; 13 IMPs back to close to 13-23.

The deals ran quietly for quite some time, the score moving on only to USA 27 England 17, but finally the English comeback restarted.

Board 29. Dealer North. All Vul.

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

<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>
<i>Draper</i>	<i>Disa</i>	<i>Brown</i>	<i>Deas</i>
-	Pass	1♥	1NT
All Pass			
<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>
<i>Sanborn</i>	<i>Senior</i>	<i>Levitina</i>	<i>Dhondy</i>
-	Pass	1♥	1NT
2♦	All Pass		

Deas was left to play in her 1NT overall and Draper led the seven of diamonds to the king and ace. Deas promptly returned her remaining diamond and Draper went into her office before eventually working out that this play didn't really make sense unless declarer was trying to tangle the defensive communications. Draper went up with the queen – a crocodile coup at trick two, which is a rare beast indeed – and rattled off the diamonds. When Brown came down to four spades and three hearts and Draper switched to a club, she next discarded her jack of hearts and Deas could set up a heart to get out for one down and -100.

Sanborn competed with 2♦ on the West cards but lived to regret it.

Senior led a spade to the king and Dhondy played two more rounds to give her a ruff. Senior returned a diamond to her partner's ace and declarer pitched a club on the fourth spade so Senior got a second ruff. Now ace and another club cashed the remaining defensive tricks for two down and -200; 7 IMPs to England.



Board 30. Dealer East. None Vul.

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

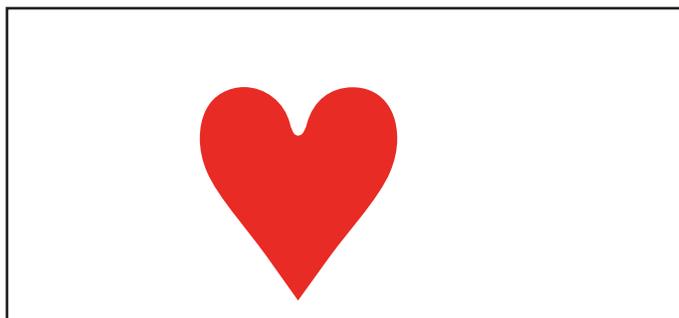
<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>
<i>Draper</i>	<i>Disa</i>	<i>Brown</i>	<i>Deas</i>
-	-	Pass	2NT
Pass	3♦	Dble	3♥
Pass	4♥	All Pass	
<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>
<i>Sanborn</i>	<i>Senior</i>	<i>Levitina</i>	<i>Dhondy</i>
-	-	Pass	2NT
Pass	3♦	Pass	4♥
Pass	5♣	Pass	5♦
Pass	5♥	Pass	6♥
All Pass			

Both Souths opened 2NT and both Norths transferred. When Brown doubled the transfer, Deas completed to 3♥, showing heart support, but Disa simply raised to game. There was no double at the other table but Dhondy made the more aggressive transfer break to 4♥ and now Senior was worth a try for slam. With all those key cards, Dhondy was always bidding six now and, when Senior signed off due to concern about the lack of a spade control, she duly raised herself to slam.

Both declarers got the clubs right so made all 13 tricks, but that was worth +1010 to England and only +510 to USA so 11 IMPs to England and the lead in the match at 35-27.

It seemed that England had come through to win the match but, after picking up an overtrick IMP in a dull game on Board 32, Draper/Brown had a bidding misunderstanding and played 2♣ on a two-two fit vulnerable when they had a partscore elsewhere. Down five meant -500 and 12 IMPs to USA, who won by 39-36 IMPs, 10.91-9.09 VPs.

Meanwhile, the Netherlands defeated China by 15.92-4.08 to close the rankings right up. England led but the whole field was covered by under 10 VPs with two rounds to play.



# Missed Brilliancy

The final board of Round Two offered an opportunity for a defensive brilliancy, missed at every table. This was the deal:

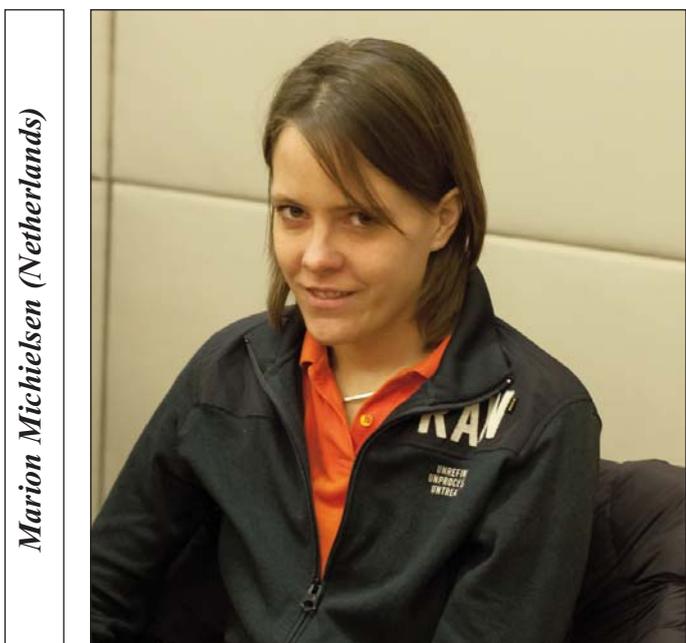
Board 32. Dealer West. E/W Vul.

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

At all eight tables North declared 3NT on a club lead to West's queen, ducked. Declarer won the next club performe and, at most tables, led a diamond to the queen and ace and the defence cleared the clubs.

It is possible to come to nine tricks by playing on the major suits, but that can wait. Declarer plays a second diamond and, when East follows with the nine, ducks, expecting to lose the trick to West's jack or, in this case, ten. Now, declarer needs only one extra trick from the majors and will test hearts then spades as required. But suppose that East puts up the jack on the second diamond play and declarer sees West follow with the ten – will he not play West for the nine? If he does so, East will cash the clubs for down one.

No East found this play but it is logical if you think about it. Clearly, declarer has plenty of entries to hand so why would he play diamonds in this fashion with a queen-ten holding – surely his first play would be low to the king?



Marion Michielsen (Netherlands)

# European Grand Slam

Board 4 of Round Seven was flat in 6♠+1 in the China v USA Women's match. The two European teams also shared a flat board, but both England and Netherlands were in the cold grand.

Board 4. Dealer West. All Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Simons</i>	<i>Brock</i>	<i>Pasman</i>	<i>Smith</i>
Pass	Pass	1♥	Dble
Pass	4♠	Pass	4NT
Pass	5♦	Pass	5♥
Pass	6♠	Pass	7♠
All Pass			
West	North	East	South
<i>Dhondy</i>	<i>Wortel</i>	<i>Senior</i>	<i>Michielsen</i>
Pass	Pass	1♥	Dble
2♥	4♠	Pass	4NT
Pass	5♣	Pass	7♠
All Pass			

Neither North was prepared to open an off-centre weak two bid when holding a strong four-card holding in the other major, so both Easts got to open 1♥.

Marion Michielsen doubled and Meike Wortel jumped to 4♠ over Heather Dhondy's heart raise. Michielsen simply asked for key cards and, on finding that partner held the ace of hearts, bid 7♠.

Nicola Smith too doubled the 1♥ opening. Anneke Simons did not raise to 2♥ but Sally Brock bid the same 4♠ as had Wortel. Smith asked for key cards and, when Brock showed one, showed her slightly more cautious nature by checking for the trump queen. Though not holding it, Brock judged, correctly, that her sixth spade should be enough, so jumped to 6♠, showing the queen but denying a side king. Now Smith raised to seven.

There was nothing to the play; flat at +2210.

