



Editors: Mark Horton & Brian Senior

Bulletin No 3 Saturday December 13th

England (W) and Israel (O) are Champions!



Open Team Gold Medalists

Israel :

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



Women's Team Gold Medalists

England :

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

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(Women F1)
- 14 Well-judged Play

Results

Open Teams Final

	C/F	1	2	3	Total
Israel	0	45	41	56	142
USA	10	8	28	51	97

Open Teams Third-place Play-off

China	0	15	28	21	64
Monaco	6	31	41	30	108

Women's Teams Final

England	16	12	29	24	81
Netherlands	0	42	3	33	78

Women's Teams Third-place Play-off

China	0	1	22	55	78
USA	12	19	31	23	85

Participants

China

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

Jingrong Rang, 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 Four – Monaco v USA

by Mark Horton



This was an important match for both teams; a win for the USA would consolidate their position, whereas victory for Monaco would put them back in the race for a place in the final.

Board 19. Dealer South. E/W Vul.

<p>♠ AKQ ♥ 7 ♦ AQ ♣ AKQ9632</p>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: 40px; margin: 0 auto;"> <p style="margin: 0;">N W E S</p> </div>	<p>♠ 6 ♥ AJ864 ♦ 1076432 ♣ 7</p> <p>♠ J98432 ♥ K93 ♦ J9 ♣ J5</p>	<p>♠ 1075 ♥ Q1052 ♦ K85 ♣ 1084</p>
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Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Helgemo</i>	<i>Lall</i>	<i>Helness</i>	<i>Lee</i>
–	–	–	Pass
2♣	2♥	2♠	4♥
4NT	6♦	Dble(i)	6♥
6♠	Pass	Pass	7♥
Dble	All Pass		

(i) No key cards

On the first round of the auction North was content to show his strongest suit but as soon as his partner showed significant support he did not hesitate to show the two-suited nature of his hand with a majestic jump on the next round.

That put the American pair on the way to the excellent save, the only issue for South being to decide that he was not risking driving E/W into a making 7♠, which was unlikely given that East had denied any key cards.

The defenders collected a spade, a heart, two diamonds and a club for five down; –1100.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Demuy</i>	<i>Fantoni</i>	<i>Kranyak</i>	<i>Nunes</i>
1♣(i)	Dble(ii)	1♦(iii)	Pass
4♣(iv)	Pass	4♦(v)	Pass
4♠	Pass	5♣	Pass
6♣	All Pass		

- (i) Strong
- (ii) Two suits of the same colour, at least 4-4
- (iii) (5)6-7
- (iv) RKCB for clubs
- (v) 0 key cards



Once South passed on the first round (could he have bid 2♣ to say he preferred clubs to spades, but promised a better fit in one of the red suits?) there was no hope of N/S finding a save. North cashed his ace, but declarer could claim the rest for +1370 and 7 IMPs to the USA.

Board 20. Dealer West. All Vul.

<p>♠ AJ1032 ♥ QJ2 ♦ 84 ♣ 652</p>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: 40px; margin: 0 auto;"> <p style="margin: 0;">N W E S</p> </div>	<p>♠ K85 ♥ A53 ♦ A ♣ AKQ974</p> <p>♠ Q94 ♥ 64 ♦ J9732 ♣ 1083</p>	<p>♠ 76 ♥ K10987 ♦ KQ1065 ♣ J</p>
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Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Helgemo</i>	<i>Lall</i>	<i>Helness</i>	<i>Lee</i>
Pass	1♣	Pass	1♥
1♠	Dble	Pass	2♥
Pass	2♠*	Dble	4♥
All Pass			

N/S might have been disappointed to miss 6♣ or 6NT but at least they avoided 6♥.

When North bid 2♠ perhaps South might have mentioned his diamonds, but it is far from clear that it would have helped.

West tried the effect of leading the two of spades and when dummy's king held declarer played a heart to the king, unblocked the jack of clubs, and played a second heart, claiming twelve tricks and +680.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Demuy</i>	<i>Fantoni</i>	<i>Kranyak</i>	<i>Nunes</i>
Pass	1♣(i)*	Pass	1♦(ii)
1♠	Dble(iii)	Pass	2♠
Pass	3♥	Pass	4♣
Pass	4♦	Pass	4♥
Pass	4♠	Pass	5♦
Pass	5♥	All Pass	

- (i) 14+ (good 12/13) 4+ clubs or 15+ balanced
- (ii) 0+, 4+♥
- (iii) Strong, not necessarily three hearts

Here East led the four of spades and West took his ace, giving the USA an 1MP.

Board 25. Dealer North. EWVul.

♠ A Q 6 ♥ K 9 8 7 2 ♦ K 6 3 ♣ 5 4	<table style="border: 1px solid black; width: 60px; height: 60px; margin: auto;"> <tr><td></td><td style="text-align: center;">N</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">W</td><td style="background-color: #90EE90;"></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		♠ K 10 9 8 4 ♥ A J 5 ♦ 9 7 ♣ A Q J	♠ 5 ♥ Q 10 ♦ J 10 8 5 4 2 ♣ K 10 7 2
	N											
W		E										
	S											

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Helgemo</i>	<i>Lall</i>	<i>Helness</i>	<i>Lee</i>
–	1♥	1♠	Dble
2♥	Pass	3NT	All Pass

With a relatively modest hand when East suggested the nine trick game might be playable West was happy to go along with the idea.

South led the ten of diamonds and North took the queen with the ace and returned the suit. Declarer tried a spade, but North won with the ace and played a diamond. It looks as if declarer can emerge with five tricks, but according to the record he finished six down for –600.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Demuy</i>	<i>Fantoni</i>	<i>Kranyak</i>	<i>Nunes</i>
–	1NT(i)	Dble	2♣(ii)
Pass	2♦	Dble	3♣
3♠	Pass	4♠	All Pass

- (i) 12-14 any balanced, 5-3-3-2, 5-4-2-2 not 5-4 majors, 4-4-4-1, 6m-3-3-2
- (ii) Transfer

Four Spades was hopeless, but it had the virtue of being less expensive than 3NT.

North led the five of clubs and South won with the king and switched to the ten of diamonds for the queen and king. North returned his remaining club and declarer won in dummy, played a diamond to the ace and a spade. North went in with the ace and switched to the two of hearts.



South won with the ten and gave his partner a club ruff, so that was three down for –300 but still 7 IMPs to the USA.

Board 28. Dealer West. N/S Vul.

♠ Q 6 ♥ 10 7 6 5 2 ♦ J 8 ♣ J 10 5 4	<table style="border: 1px solid black; width: 60px; height: 60px; margin: auto;"> <tr><td></td><td style="text-align: center;">N</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">W</td><td style="background-color: #90EE90;"></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		♠ K 10 9 8 4 ♥ A J 5 ♦ 9 7 ♣ A Q J	♠ 7 5 4 3 2 ♥ J ♦ Q 9 6 5 2 ♣ A 7
	N											
W		E										
	S											

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Helgemo</i>	<i>Lall</i>	<i>Helness</i>	<i>Lee</i>
2♠(i)	Pass	2NT(ii)	Pass
3♦	Pass	4♠	All Pass

- (i) 5♠+5♣/♦, 2-10
- (ii) Relay

Facing a black two-suiter East would no doubt have made a try, but opposite diamonds he was unwilling to look beyond game.

North led the jack of clubs and declarer won with the ace and played a spade to the ace (in isolation putting in the jack will give you three tricks 96% of the time) and a spade for eleven tricks; +450.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Demuy</i>	<i>Fantoni</i>	<i>Kranyak</i>	<i>Nunes</i>
2♠(i)	Pass	2NT(ii)	Pass
3♦	Pass	6♦	All Pass

- (i) Spades and a minor
- (ii) Relay

North led the seven of hearts and declarer won with dummy's ace, cashed the ace of diamonds, played a diamond to the king (South discarding a discouraging nine of clubs) and a spade.

It was clear that declare held the ace of clubs, so if N/S were to get two tricks they could only come from spades. On this layout North needs to play the queen, catering for partner holding both the king and ten of spades, but what if West had started with ♠ 107542?

Now the fate of the contract would turn on how declarer tackles the spades. Low to the jack would be a winner on this layout and so would playing the ace (which works as long as spades are 3-2 with the honours split) but low to the eight would give the defenders two tricks in the suit.

When North followed with the six of spades declarer went up with dummy's ace, cashed three rounds of clubs, ruffed a heart and exited with a spade to endplay North.

A spectacular +920 and 10 IMPs to the USA.

Board 32. Dealer West. E/W Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Helgemo</i>	<i>Lall</i>	<i>Helness</i>	<i>Lee</i>
1♦	Pass	1♠	Pass
2♠	Pass	2NT*	Pass
3♠	All Pass		

South found the best lead of a club and North took dummy's king with the ace and returned the five, South winning with the queen and switching to the five of diamonds. Declarer won with the ace and played a spade to the eight. That was two down for -200.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Demuy</i>	<i>Fantoni</i>	<i>Kranyak</i>	<i>Nunes</i>
1♦	1NT	2♣ (i)	Dble
2♠	2NT	3♠	All Pass

(i) Majors

North led the ace of hearts and switched to the ace of clubs followed by the jack. Declarer won with the king and played a spade to the queen, claiming when South's jack appeared, +140 and 8 IMPs to the USA, giving them an important victory by 34-10 IMPs, 15.74-4.26 VP.

The Only Ones

Taking a leaf out of my co-editor's book, 'The Only Ones' were a punk-era band, though with a softer slightly more melodic style than the archetypal punk band, who had a couple of moderately successful albums, the better known being entitled 'Even Serpents Shine', which I have in my music collection at home in the original vinyl. As a further aside, I am very much a vinyl fan. Maybe it is just a nostalgia kick, but I feel that listening on vinyl, actually placing the stylus onto the record, is more of an event, or experience, than listening to the same music in digital format. One also tends to listen to entire albums rather than just pick out favourite tracks, as is tempting when everything is stored on the computer.

Anyway, enough waffle, I hear you say, what about a bridge hand – and quite right too. In Round Four of the qualifying stage, Meike Wortel and Marion Michielsen

were the only ones in either series to reach the top spot on this deal.

Board 20. Dealer West. All Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Lu</i>	<i>Wortel</i>	<i>Hongli W</i>	<i>Michielsen</i>
Pass	1♣	Pass	1♦
1♠	Dble	Pass	3♥
Pass	3♠	Dble	Pass
4NT	Pass	5♣	Pass
6NT	All Pass		

Wortel's 1♣ opening was either natural or balanced outside the no trump bridge, in which case it could even have delivered a doubleton club and five diamonds. One Diamond was a transfer to hearts and double showed three-card heart support. Three Hearts was now natural and invitational and Wortel cuebid to show her spade control. Michielsen's pass over the double denied the ace of spades but Wortel checked for key cards anyway and, on discovering that her partner held the king of hearts, jumped to 6NT, not only protecting her spade holding from the opening lead, but also because the long clubs offered the possibility of there being twelve tricks even when hearts were not playing for no loser. Very well judged, and Hongli Wang's spade lead saved wortel the decision whether to test diamonds before playing for the spade to be onside; +1440 and 13 IMPs to the Netherlands as China played in 4♥ at the other table.

Elsewhere, England played 4♥ while USA were down on 6♥, while in the Open Israel and Monaco got to 5♥ while USA and China stopped a little more securely in 4♥.

For more information about the Sport Accord World Mind Games go to:

<http://www.worldmindgames.net/en/>

See also, videos from the tournament at:

Day 1 Teams Event:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fW2Ivt8eTEE>

John Kranyak in action:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zy4oz-n707M>

El Classico 2014 – Monaco v Israel Open Round 5

by Mark Horton

In sport there is no greater rivalry than that between teams that are based in the same city. In baseball think the Yankees and the Mets, in cricket England v Australia, but in football the one to go for is surely the matches between the two supreme Spanish clubs, Barcelona and Real Madrid. So far they have faced each other 227 times, with Madrid winning 91 times to Barcelona's 88 with 48 draws.

In Round 5 the teams that finished first and second in this year's European Championships met in what was a must win match for the men from Monaco.

Join me now to see if the deals could match the excitement usually generated by the giants of Spanish football.

Board 3. Dealer South. E/W Vul.

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

Open Room

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

- (i) Checkback
- (ii) Forced
- (iii) Natural and invitational

East led the ace of clubs followed by the ace of hearts and a heart. West ruffed and in due course East collected two trump tricks for two down and –100.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Nunes</i>	<i>Herbst</i>	<i>Fantoni</i>	<i>Herbst</i>
–	–	–	1♣
Pass	1♥ (i)	Dble	1♠ (ii)
Pass	2♣ (iii)	Pass	2♦ (iv)
Pass	2♥	Pass	2NT
Pass	3♥	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

- (i) Spades
- (ii) Not four spades, normally balanced
- (iii) Puppet to 2♦
- (iv) Doing as requested



West led the jack of clubs and when East withheld the ace declarer won with the queen and played a heart to the queen, a heart to the king (West pitching the five of clubs) and a heart to the jack and ace. East exited with a heart and declarer won in dummy, pitching a diamond (West threw the six and ten of clubs on the third and fourth hearts). A low spade from dummy saw East go in with the jack and he switched to the seven of diamonds. When West ducked his king, declarer won with dummy's jack and ducked a spade to East's king. The ace of clubs was the last trick for the defence so +400 and 11 IMPs to Israel – not the start Monaco were hoping for.

Board 4. Dealer West. All Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Padon</i>	<i>Helness</i>	<i>Birman</i>	<i>Helgemo</i>
Pass	Pass	1♥	Dble
2♥	4♠	Pass	4NT*
Pass	5♦*	Pass	7♠
All Pass			

When North jumped to 4♠ South asked for key cards and then bid what he hoped his partner could make. Declarer won the heart lead, drew trumps and set up the diamonds for +2210.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Nunes</i>	<i>Herbst</i>	<i>Fantoni</i>	<i>Herbst</i>
3♣	Pass	4♣	Dble
Pass	4♠	Pass	4NT*
Pass	5♣*	Pass	6♠
All Pass			

The defensive barrage meant South could draw no inference from his partner's 4♠ bid and the result was a 13 IMP swing to Monaco.

Board 5. Dealer North. N/S Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Padon</i>	<i>Helness</i>	<i>Birman</i>	<i>Helgemo</i>
–	Pass	Pass	1♣
Pass	1♥	Dble	2♥
3♦	4♥	All Pass	

East led the king of diamonds and continued with the three, forcing declarer to ruff. He played a heart to the queen and ace, followed by the queen of clubs. West took the king and returned the two, so declarer won with dummy's jack, ruffed a diamond, cashed the king of hearts and played a club to the ace. West could ruff, but that was the last trick for the defence; +620.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Nunes</i>	<i>Herbst</i>	<i>Fantoni</i>	<i>Herbst</i>
–	Pass	Pass	1♣(i)
Pass	1♦(ii)	1♥(iii)	2♥
3♦	3♥	All Pass	

- (i) Could be two cards
- (ii) Hearts
- (iii) Take-out of hearts

Missing the game cost Israel 9 IMPs.

On Board 8, Fantoni/Nunes bid 5♣ with ♠Q92 ♥K1085 ♦A2 ♣A1098 opposite ♠10 ♥A43 ♦K10753 ♣KQ74. The diamonds were 3-3, but the trumps were 5-0 and ten tricks proved to be the limit. Israel stopped in 4♣ for 5 IMPs.

Board 9. Dealer North. E/W Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Padon</i>	<i>Helness</i>	<i>Birman</i>	<i>Helgemo</i>
–	Pass	1NT	2♥(i)
3NT	All Pass		

- (i) Hearts and a minor

South led the jack of clubs for the four, two and king and when declarer played the two of spades South went up with the ace and laid down the ace of clubs. When North unblocked the queen South cashed out for down one and –100.

In case you are wondering N/S were playing Smith Peters against no trump and North played the nine on the first round of spades to show interest in a club continuation.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Nunes</i>	<i>Herbst</i>	<i>Fantoni</i>	<i>Herbst</i>
–	Pass	1♣*	Pass
1♦*	Pass	1NT	Pass
2NT	Pass	3NT	All Pass

South led the jack of clubs and, as before, declarer won with the king. A diamond to the king (I cannot tell you if N/S were playing Smith, but the convention card says they play low with an even number and here North followed with the five and played the three on the next round) was followed by a diamond to the ace and the two of spades. When South ducked declarer won with dummy's jack and ducked a spade to South's ace. When South switched to the seven of hearts declarer put up dummy's queen and was home when it held. That handed Monaco 12 IMPs on a plate.

Board 11. Dealer South. None Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Padon</i>	<i>Helness</i>	<i>Birman</i>	<i>Helgemo</i>
–	–	–	Pass
1♥	Pass	1NT(i)	Pass
2NT(ii)	Pass	3♣	Pass
3NT	Pass	4♥	All Pass

- (i) Semi forcing
- (ii) 6+♥, plus a minor

Ilan Herbst (Israel)



North led the ten of clubs and declarer's losing spade went away on the ace of clubs. There was a trump and two diamonds to lose, but that meant +420.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Nunes</i>	<i>Herbst</i>	<i>Fantoni</i>	<i>Herbst</i>
–	–	–	Pass
1♥ (i)	Pass	1♠ (ii)	Pass
2NT (iii)	Pass	3♣ (iv)	Pass
3♠ (v)	Pass	3NT	Pass
4♥	All Pass		

- (i) 14+ (good 12/13) 5+♥ or 11-13 with 5+♥ and 4♠
- (ii) 0-9, 4+♠
- (iii) Two-suited
- (iv) Asking
- (v) Red suits

When North led the three of spades declarer lost a trick in that suit along with a heart and two diamonds so was one down and 10 IMPs to Israel.

I can think of two reasons why North might lead a spade rather than a club – see if you consider either of them valid:

1. South did not double 3♣.
2. Leading away from a king is never without risk.

(Bridge is such a great game, especially when you can see all four hands.) Monaco added 9 IMPs in bits and pieces over the remaining deals to win by 44-28 IMPs, 14.18-5.82 VP, to stay in the hunt for a spot in the final.

Ophir Herbst (Israel)



The Final Deal

With one board to play in the Open qualifying round robin, Monaco held second place over Israel by the narrowest of margins – just 0.01 VP. This was the decisive final deal.

Board 32. Dealer West. E/W Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>H. Shi</i>	<i>Helness</i>	<i>Zhuang</i>	<i>Helgemo</i>
1♦	1♥	Dble	Rdbl
5♣	Dble	All Pass	
West	North	East	South
<i>Nunes</i>	<i>Dong</i>	<i>Fantoni</i>	<i>Wu</i>
1♦	2♦	Pass	4♠
5♣	Pass	5♦	Dble
All Pass			

Claudio Nunes was put under pressure and had little option but to bid 5♣ over Yuwei Wu's jump to 4♠. Here, Lidang Dong's ability to make the two-suited majors overcall on only five-four in the suits meant that Wu could make the pressure bid. Fulvio Fantoni thought that there was a significant possibility that Nunes would have longer diamonds than clubs so gave preference to his partner's first suit and Yuwei Wu must have thought that Christmas had come a couple of weeks early this year.

Try as he might, Nunes could only manage eight tricks in the face of the six-nil trump break; –800.

In the other room, Tor Helness could only make a simple overcall so Geir Helgemo had no possibility to make a pre-emptive call. However, imagining that his opponents were about to find a big fit in a major, Haojun Shi jumped to 5♣ anyway. Zejun Zhuang could not have been thrilled by this development, particularly when Helness made a prompt double, but he left in 5♣ doubled on the basis that he had better club support than diamonds.

Helness led the jack of hearts and, after leading a low diamond to the jack, declarer managed to scramble nine tricks for down two and –500.

Those 7 IMPs were more than sufficient to move Israel up to second and push Monaco out of the final. They didn't help China, who still finished in fourth and last place in the qualifying stage, but would have at least made them feel a little better as they had finished that stage on a high.

USA v Israel – Open Final Set One

by Mark Horton



The USA started with a carry-over of 10 IMPs.

Board 3. Dealer South. E/W Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Padon</i>	<i>Lall</i>	<i>Birman</i>	<i>Lee</i>
–	–	–	1♠
Pass	2♠	Pass	4♠
All Pass			

West led the four of diamonds and when declarer played low from dummy East eventually won with the ace and cashed the king of clubs, on which declarer dropped the



ten and West the two. E/W's signals (in order of priority) are low encouraging, low showing an even number, and suit preference, so it was something of a surprise when East switched back to diamonds. A grateful declarer discarded both his remaining clubs for +420.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Bertens</i>	<i>Schwartz</i>	<i>Cheek</i>	<i>Fisher</i>
–	–	–	1♠
Pass	1NT(i)	Pass	2♥
Pass	2♠	All Pass	

(i) Semi-forcing



Here too West led the four of diamonds and when declarer put in dummy's jack East took the ace, cashed the king and ace of clubs, and eventually scored a trump for –140 and a 7 IMP pick-up for the USA.

Board 5. Dealer North. N/S Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Padon</i>	<i>Lall</i>	<i>Birman</i>	<i>Lee</i>
–	Pass	Pass	Pass
2♣*	Pass	2♦*	Pass
2♥*	Pass	2♠*	Pass
2NT*	Pass	3♥*	Dble
4♣*	Pass	4♦*	Pass
4♥*	Pass	4NT*	Pass
5♣*	Dble	Rdbl	Pass
5♦*	Pass	6♠	All Pass

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Bertens</i>	<i>Schwartz</i>	<i>Cheek</i>	<i>Fisher</i>
–	Pass	Pass	Pass
2♣*	Pass	2♦	Pass
2NT	Pass	3♥*	Dble
4♣*	Pass	4♦*	Pass
4NT*	Pass	5♦*	Pass
5♥*	Pass	6♠*	All Pass



In the Open Room, South's helpful lead of the three of clubs saw declarer win with the ace, draw trumps and play a club to the queen for +980.

In the Closed Room, South led the queen of hearts and declarer won with dummy's ace, drew trumps, eliminated hearts and diamonds and played a club to the ten. South won with the jack and returned a club for one down and -100 and Israel was off the schneider to the tune of 14 IMPs.

Board 7. Dealer South. All Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Padon</i>	<i>Lall</i>	<i>Birman</i>	<i>Lee</i>
—	—	—	1♥
Pass	1♠	Pass	2NT
Pass	4♥	All Pass	

West led the five of diamonds and when declarer ducked East won with the jack and continued with the ten of diamonds. Declarer took dummy's ace and played the queen of clubs, but West won, cashed a diamond and waited for a spade trick; one down for -100.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Bertens</i>	<i>Schwartz</i>	<i>Cheek</i>	<i>Fisher</i>
—	—	—	1NT
Pass	2♥	Pass	2♠
All Pass			



Lotan Fisher (Israel)

West led the five of diamonds, ducked, and East won with the ten and switched to the five of spades, handing declarer a vital tempo. He won with the ace of spades and forced out the ace of clubs, setting up a discard for dummy's losing diamond. That was +110 and 5 IMPs for the USA.

Board 10. Dealer East. All Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Padon</i>	<i>Lall</i>	<i>Birman</i>	<i>Lee</i>
—	—	Pass	1♦
1♥	Pass	1♠	Pass
Pass	1NT	Pass	Pass
2♠	All Pass		

South led his heart and declarer won with the ten and played the jack of diamonds, South putting up the king and returning a club to North's king. A heart to declarer's ace saw South ruff and play the nine of diamonds and declarer took the ace and played a spade. South won with the king and played a diamond, but declarer ruffed with the queen of spades and played a spade, claiming seven tricks and -100.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Bertens</i>	<i>Schwartz</i>	<i>Cheek</i>	<i>Fisher</i>
—	—	Pass	1♦
1♥	1NT	Dble	Pass
2♣	Dble	2♥	Pass
Pass	Dble	Pass	Pass
2♠	Pass	Pass	Dble
All Pass			

North led the six of spades and South won with the king and switched to the four of clubs, North winning with the queen and returning the ten of diamonds. When that held he played another diamond and declarer took the ace, ruffed a diamond, played a heart to the ten, and continued with the ace of hearts. South could ruff and play a club, but declarer put up the ace and played the king of hearts throwing a club, thereby escaping for one down and -200. That was 3 IMPs for the USA.

There is a way to collect 500, but it is very difficult and also counter-intuitive. North must return the five of diamonds rather than the ten and if declarer plays low South must put in the nine and play a second club, after which the defenders should come to seven tricks.

Board 12. Dealer West. E/W Vul.

♠ A J 10 ♥ K Q 6 4 3 ♦ A ♣ A 10 8 5	<table border="1" style="border-collapse: collapse; width: 60px; height: 60px; 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		♠ 7 3 ♥ A J 10 8 2 ♦ J 8 5 ♣ K Q 3	♠ Q 9 6 4 2 ♥ 9 ♦ 10 9 7 4 3 ♣ 9 4
	N											
W		E										
	S											
		♠ K 8 5 ♥ 7 5 ♦ K Q 6 2 ♣ J 7 6 2										

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Padon</i>	<i>Lall</i>	<i>Birman</i>	<i>Lee</i>
1♥	Pass	1♠	Pass
2♣	Pass	2♠	Pass
4♠	All Pass		

A theoretical question for you. What would a bid of 3♠ by West at his third turn show?

South led the king of diamonds and declarer won with dummy's ace and played the king of hearts. North took the ace and now found the only card in his hand to ensure the defeat of 4♠ when he switched to the three of spades. Declarer won with dummy's ten, cashed the queen of hearts pitching a club, and ruffed a heart.

South over-ruffed and exited with the king of spades, leaving declarer well short of his target. He finished two down for -100.

If North returns the seven of spades declarer must put up the queen. If South withholds the king declarer continues with the ten of diamonds, pitching a loser from dummy. North wins and plays a trump, but now declarer can draw the outstanding trump and subsequently pin the eight of diamonds for ten tricks.

If South covers the queen of spades declarer wins with dummy's ace, cashes the queen of hearts pitching a club and then crossruffs his way to ten tricks. This line fails if North still has the ♠ 7 as he can ruff the fourth round of clubs with it, promoting a trump trick for South.



Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Bertens</i>	<i>Schwartz</i>	<i>Cheek</i>	<i>Fisher</i>
1♥	Pass	1♠	Pass
3♣	All Pass		

Three Clubs was a miserable spot for E/W. North led the king of clubs and continued with the queen when declarer ducked. Winning with the ace, declarer played a third club and South won with the jack and played the five of hearts for the queen and ace. North returned the five of diamonds to the king and ace and declarer drew the outstanding trump and played the ten of spades. When it held he cashed the ace of spades and the king of hearts and conceded the rest for three down, -150, and 2 IMPs to Israel.

Board 14. Dealer East. None Vul.

♠ A 10 8 7 5 4 ♥ Q 9 3 ♦ Q ♣ J 8 4	<table border="1" style="border-collapse: collapse; width: 60px; height: 60px; 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		♠ 9 6 ♥ A K 5 4 ♦ 6 4 3 ♣ A Q 6 2	♠ K J 2 ♥ 7 2 ♦ J 10 9 8 7 2 ♣ K 9
	N											
W		E										
	S											
		♠ Q 3 ♥ J 10 8 6 ♦ A K 5 ♣ 10 7 5 3										

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Padon</i>	<i>Lall</i>	<i>Birman</i>	<i>Lee</i>
—	—	Pass	Pass
2♠	Dble	3♠	Dble
All Pass			

North led the ace of hearts and switched to the two of clubs. Declarer played low from dummy and, after winning with the jack, continued with the queen of diamonds. South won with the ace and returned the jack of hearts for the queen and king. North cashed the ace of clubs and continued with the queen, forcing dummy to ruff. After cashing the king of spades declarer ruffed a diamond, ruffed a heart, ruffed a diamond and laid down the ace of spades, scoring +530 when the trumps behaved.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Bertens</i>	<i>Schwartz</i>	<i>Cheek</i>	<i>Fisher</i>
—	—	2♣ (i)	Pass
2♠	Dble	4♠	All Pass

(i) Strong ART or weak with diamonds

Four Spades had to go one down for -50, but Israel added another 11 IMPs.

Israel had had much the better of the exchanges to lead by 45-18 despite the American carry-over.

England v Netherlands – Women’s Final Set One



England went into the 48-board final of the Women's championship with a 16-IMP carry-over advantage. After four boards of the final the score had moved on only to 17-1 to England but two boards later they were behind as the Dutch picked up a slam and then a game swing.

Board .5 Dealer North. N/S Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Simons</i>	<i>Senior</i>	<i>Pasman</i>	<i>Dhondy</i>
–	Pass	2♠	Pass
6♠	All Pass		
West	North	East	South
<i>Draper</i>	<i>Wortel</i>	<i>Brown</i>	<i>Michielsens</i>
–	Pass	Pass	Pass
2♣	Pass	2♦	Pass
2♥ (i)	Pass	2♠ (ii)	Pass
2NT	Pass	3♥	Pass
4♠	Pass	4NT	Pass
5♣	Pass	6♠	All Pass

- (i) Either hearts or balanced
- (ii) Virtually forced
- (iii) Balanced 22-24

For the Netherlands, Jet Pasman opened 2♠ with the East cards, weak with five spades and a four-card or longer minor, and Anneke Simons just jumped to the spade slam. Fiona Brown did not have an opening bid for the East hand so passed. However, after a 2♣ opening and reverse Kokish auction, she also became declarer in the spade slam.

Both Souths led the queen of hearts. Both declarers won, drew three rounds of trumps and eliminated the red suits then had to play the clubs for one loser, neither defender having discarded from the suit. Pasman led ace and another and, when Nevena Senior played low, put up her queen; +980. Brown did not cash the ace, instead leading low off the dummy and, when Meike Wortel played low, putting in the ten. That lost to the jack and there was a second club to be lost for down one and –50; 14 IMPs to the Netherlands.

Brown would have succeeded had North held the club jack or neither honour; Pasman needed North to hold the

king or for South to hold king-doubleton, when she would have to give a ruff and discard. Essentially, if you believe the clubs to be three-three then Brown's play is the better, if you believe them to be four-two with North having the length then Pasman's is more likely to pay off. Four-two with South holding the length, increases the likelihood of South holding both honours, of course.

Board 6. Dealer East. E/W Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Simons</i>	<i>Senior</i>	<i>Pasman</i>	<i>Dhondy</i>
–	–	1♥	Pass
2♣	Pass	2NT	Pass
3NT	All Pass		
West	North	East	South
<i>Draper</i>	<i>Wortel</i>	<i>Brown</i>	<i>Michielsens</i>
–	–	1♣	Pass
1♠	Pass	1NT	All Pass

Brown opened 1♣, natural or balanced, potentially a doubleton with as many as five diamonds. The 1♠ response usually denied a major and suggested that partner bid no trump unless unbalanced. With 11 HCP facing 11-14, Draper now made the normal decision to pass. Michielsens led the ten of hearts and Brown emerged to with eight fairly painless tricks for +120.

Pasman's four-card major, strong no trump style, meant that this had was a 1♥ opening. Her 2NT rebid showed a weak no trump type, up to 14 HCP and, because of the vulnerability, Simons took the aggressive approach of raising to game. With no desperately attractive lead, Heather Dhondy plumped for her only four-card suit, the four of clubs. However, that went to the king and ace and Pasman could return the club nine. Dhondy went up with the queen and switched to ace then jack of diamonds and the even heart split plus winning spade finesse gave Pasman nine tricks for an excellent +600 and 10 IMPs to Netherlands. They led by 25-17.

Had Dhondy instead led a spade, declarer could have won three tricks in that suit and, again, a diamond to the king would have resulted in nine tricks. And on a diamond lead, declarer must go up with the king, else a club switch puts her in serious danger., though she cannot actually be

defeated double dummy. If she does play the king at trick one, however, she can once again play spades for three tricks and make her contract.

Board 8. Dealer West. None Vul.

♠ 74 ♥ QJ643 ♦ A4 ♣ K754	<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		♠ 98 ♥ A108 ♦ Q62 ♣ QJ1092	♠ AJ106532 ♥ 5 ♦ 1095 ♣ A3
	N											
W		E										
	S											
		♠ KQ ♥ K972 ♦ KJ873 ♣ 86										

Both Easts opened 4♠ and played there.

Michielsen led the king of spades, judging it unlikely that declarer would be taking two finesses into her doubleton honours, but might need to ruff something in dummy. Brown won the ace and led a heart up. Wortel won and returned a club, which Brown won in hand to play the jack of spades. Michielsen won and returned a club and, in the fullness of time, Brown had to concede two diamonds for down one; -100.

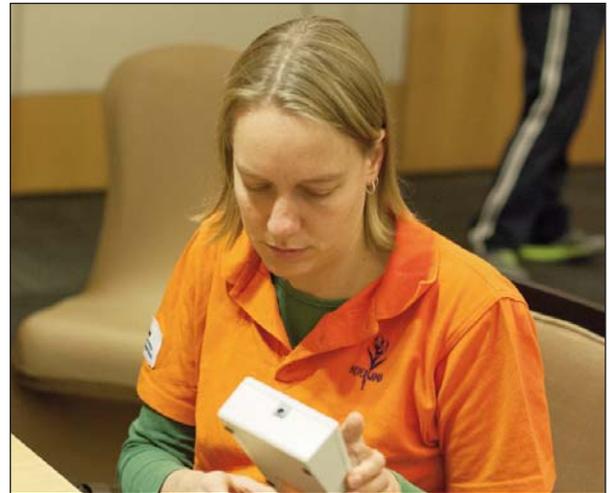
In the other room Dhondy led the two of hearts to the queen and Senior's ace. Had she been certain that the lead was from a four-card suit and that dummy's hearts were therefore no threat, Senior should have switched to a trump. However, not being sure of the heart position, she instead switched to a low diamond. Pasman could win the ace and play a second round and now had the crucial diamond ruff and her contract; +420 and another 10 IMPs to Netherlands, leading by 36-17.

Board 10. Dealer East. All Vul.

♠ Q32 ♥ KJ876 ♦ 83 ♣ AJ3	<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		♠ 6 ♥ Q9432 ♦ Q105 ♣ KQ85	♠ 108754 ♥ A10 ♦ AJ4 ♣ 1072
	N											
W		E										
	S											
		♠ AKJ9 ♥ 5 ♦ K9762 ♣ 964										

West	North	East	South
<i>Simons</i>	<i>Senior</i>	<i>Pasman</i>	<i>Dhondy</i>
—	—	—	1♦
1♥	2♦	Dble	Pass
2♥	Dble	All Pass	
West	North	East	South
<i>Draper</i>	<i>Wortel</i>	<i>Brown</i>	<i>Michielsen</i>
—	—	Pass	Pass
1♥	Pass	1♠	All Pass

Meike Wortel (Netherlands)



Michielsen did not open the South hand, a mildly surprising decision with all her 11 HCP in the two long suits and a convenient rebid over the most likely response from partner. Catherine Draper opened 1♥ in third seat then passed the 1♠ response and N/S saw no reason to get involved. Michielsen led a diamond to the queen, ducked by Brown, who won the diamond continuation and ruffed her third diamond. She led dummy's remaining low spade to her ten, losing to the jack, and Michielsen cashed all four spades then switched to a low club, which Brown ducked to Wortel's queen. Dummy was down to ♥KJ8 ♣AJ and, down to only these suits herself, Wortel was endplayed to give the seventh trick; +80.

Dhondy did open the South hand, with an unbalanced 1♦, and Senior competed with 2♦ over the overcall. When Pasman made a competitive double, Simons had no second suit so repeated her hearts, and now Senior made a penalty double. Dhondy must have been concerned that 2♥ might be very close to making, but backed her partner's judgment by passing.

Senior led her singleton spade and three rounds of those gave her a ruff. Now she switched to the king of clubs. Simons won her ace and played a heart to the ten followed by the ace of hearts. Next came a club to the jack and queen and a diamond switch from Senior. Declarer had to lose two more tricks from here for down one and -200; 7 IMPs to England to halt the Dutch charge. The Netherlands still led, however, by 36-24.

Catherine Draper (England)



Board 15. Dealer South. N/S Vul.

♠ K 10 6 5
♥ 7
♦ Q J 10 7 5 4 3
♣ 9

♠ Q 9 4
♥ 6 3
♦ 9 8 6 2
♣ 6 4 3 2

♠ J 7 2
♥ J 10 8 2
♦ —
♣ Q J 10 8 7 5

♠ A 8 3
♥ A K Q 9 5 4
♦ A K
♣ A K



West	North	East	South
<i>Simons</i>	<i>Senior</i>	<i>Pasman</i>	<i>Dhondy</i>
—	—	—	2♣
Pass	3♦	Pass	3♥
Pass	3♠	Pass	4NT
Pass	5♦	Pass	7NT
All Pass			

West	North	East	South
<i>Draper</i>	<i>Wortel</i>	<i>Brown</i>	<i>Michielsen</i>
—	—	—	2♣
Pass	2♦	4♣	Pass
5♣	5♦	Pass	7♦
All Pass			

Wortel's 2♦ response was waiting and game-forcing. Brown traded on the favourable vulnerability to make a pre-emptive jump overcall of 4♣, and after a pass from Michielsen, who was too strong to begin to describe her hand, Draper raised the level a little higher. when Wortel could now bid 5♦, missing all the top cards in every suit, she had to have long diamonds, and Michielsen raised to seven, choosing diamonds rather than no trump in case there was no high-card entry to the North hand. there was nothing to the play; +2140.

Senior made a natural positive and Dhondy introduced her own suit, heard about partner's second suit, and used key card for spades, the last bid suit. That discovered the king of spades so, knowing that there was an entry to dummy, Dhondy bid 7NT. Again, there was nothing to the play; +2220 and 2 IMPs to England.

The first set went to Netherlands by 42-12, but the carry-over meant that their actual lead was only 42-28. There were two sets to play.

Heather Dhondy (England)



Well-judged Play

The USA Open team was involved in a three-way fight for the two places in the final as they squared off against one of the other contenders, Israel, in the last round of qualifying. This deal went a long way towards ensuring that the Americans would make it through to the final.

Board 22. Dealer East. E/W Vul.

♠ Q J 10 7 4
♥ K 10 8 6 2
♦ —
♣ K Q 2

♠ 8
♥ Q
♦ 9 7 6 5 2
♣ A J 10 8 7 3

♠ A 5 3 2
♥ A 9 4
♦ A K 4 3
♣ 5 4

♠ K 9 6
♥ J 7 5 3
♦ Q J 10 8
♣ 9 6



West	North	East	South
<i>Fisher</i>	<i>Cheek</i>	<i>Schwartz</i>	<i>Bertens</i>
—	—	1NT	Pass
2♠	Dble	3♣	Pass
Pass	3♥	Pass	4♥
All Pass			

At the other table Jon Kranyak, for USA, declared 4♣ down one from the Eats hand for -100. here, Ron Schwartz opened a strong no trump and Lotan Fisher transferred to clubs. Curtis Cheek doubled to show spades then followed through by showing his second suit when Schwartz's 3♣ (denying a club fit) came around. Huub Bertens had a fitting spade card as well as four-card heart support, so was happy to raise to game, promptly doubled by Fisher.

Ace and another spade would have defeated the heart game, but why should Schwartz find that? He led the king of diamonds and Fisher followed with the nine, Cheek ruffing. The diamond nine was consistent with an odd number in the Israeli pair's methods, but that number rated to be five rather than three, and perhaps it was also intended to have suit preference connotations?

Had Cheek tried to cross to dummy in spades to lead a heart up, Schwartz would surely have gone in with the ace and dealt his partner a ruff to defeat the contract. Foreseeing this and hoping for some good fortune, Cheek laid down the king of hearts and was charmed when he saw the queen fall on his right. Schwartz won the heart and played a club so Fisher won the ace and switched to diamonds. Cheek ruffed and played on spades and Schwartz was powerless to prevent his coming to ten tricks for +590 and 10 IMPs to USA.

Nicely played.