



Editors: Mark Horton & Brian Senior

Bulletin No 4

Sunday December 14th

Pairs Championships at Half-Way Stage



The WBF President, Giannarrigo Rona, with the winning Chinese team in the Youth Mind Sports Games, also held in Beijing this week.

The two Pairs Championships are at the half-way stage, each having played two x 22-board sessions, four boards against each other pair, and with two more such sessions to come on Monday.

In the Open pairs, Monaco's Geir Helgemo and Tor Helness have what is, superficially, a commanding lead, being over 4% ahead of the rest of the field. That lead could, however, disappear in the course of the first two-board round on the second day. The Monaco pair scored 57.5% on the day. This may not sound so impressive to anyone used to coming third in their club duplicate with a 60% plus score, but the margins are fine at the higher levels of the game and an overall score of 55% over the two days could well prove to be sufficient to take gold.

The Monaco pair is being chased by two young American pairs, Jon Kranyak/Vincent Demuy, and Roger Lee/Justin Lall. World number one, Fulvio Fantoni, with regular partner Claudio Nunes, is just below average and still well in contention for the medals.

The women's field is led by one of England's Teams winning pairs, Nevena Senior and Heather Dhondy, with a score just in excess of 55%. In hot pursuit is the Dutch pairing of Marion Michielsen and Meike Wortel, while the recently crowned World Mixed Pairs champion from USA, Kerri Sanborn lies third in partnership with Irina Leveitina. The Women's field is even more tightly packed than the Open, so there is all to play for on the second day.

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Rankings After 44 Boards

Open Pairs

				%
1	HELGEMO Geir	HELNESS Tor	MON	57.50
2	KRANYAK John	DEMUY Vincent	USA	53.18
3	LALL Justin	LEE Roger C	USA	52.95
4	WU Yuwei	DONG Li Dang	CHN	52.50
5	HERBST Ilan	HERBST Ophir	ISR	50.91
6	SHI Haojun	ZHUANG Zejun	CHN	50.68
7	FANTONI Fulvio	NUNES Claudio	MON	49.77
8	BIRMAN Alon	PADON Dror	ISR	48.64
9	JU Chuancheng	SHI Zheng Jun	CHN	47.50
10	ZIMMERMANN Pierre	MULTON Franck	MON	47.05
11	FISHER Lotan	SCHWARTZ Ron Haim	ISR	46.14
12	BERTENS Huub	CHEEK Curtis	USA	43.18

Women's Pairs

				%
1	SENIOR Nevena	DHONDY Heather	ENG	55.13
2	MICHELSEN Marion	WORTEL Meike	NED	54.67
3	LEVITINA Irina	SANBORN Kerri	USA	52.37
4	WANG Hong Li	LU Yan	CHN	52.37
5	RAN JingRong	WANG Wenfei	CHN	51.42
6	BROWN Fiona	DRAPER Catherine	ENG	50.51
7	DEAS Lynn	EYTHORSOTTIR Disa	USA	50.33
8	PASMAN Jet	SIMONS Anneke	NED	49.53
9	BJERKAN Cheryl Lou	WITTES Pamela Susan	USA	48.62
10	ZHANG Yu	WU Shaohong	CHN	45.81
11	SMITH Nicola	BROCK Sally	ENG	44.67
12	ARNOLDS Carla	VAN ZWOL Wietske	NED	44.56



Open Final Two – Israel v USA

by Mark Horton



After 16 boards, Israel held a useful 27 IMP lead over the USA team which had topped the qualifying table..



3NT was straightforward and on a club lead declarer won with dummy's ace and played on diamonds for ten tricks and, +630; 13 IMPs to Israel.

Board 18. Dealer East. N/S Vul.

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



Board 19. Dealer South. E/W Vul.

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



Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Herbst</i>	<i>Lall</i>	<i>Herbst</i>	<i>Lee</i>
–	–	Pass	1♦*
Pass	1♠	Pass	1NT
Pass	3♥	Pass	3♠
Pass	4NT	Pass	5♣
Pass	6♠	All Pass	

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Herbst</i>	<i>Lall</i>	<i>Herbst</i>	<i>Lee</i>
–	–	–	Pass
1♣	Dble	Rdbl	2♦
Pass	Pass	3♦	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

East led the queen of clubs and declarer won with the ace and played the king of diamonds. East took that and after a few moments reflection played another diamond for West to ruff. The trump return meant declarer was two down for –200.

On a diamond lead declarer would win with the queen and probably play a heart. Then North would need to rise with the ace and play the king of diamonds – not too difficult.

However, North decided to lead a spade – fine if it had been an honour – but he went with the six. Had declarer played low he would have been in clover, but he won with dummy's ace and played a heart. That gave South the chance to make the textbook play of going up with the king of hearts to protect his partner's entry, but when he played low North won with the ace (ducking gives declarer some chances to go wrong) and played the queen of spades. When that held he continued with the jack and declarer won, played a club to the queen and heart to the queen and king. He took the diamond return with the ace, crossed to dummy with the ace of clubs and took two more tricks in the suit via the marked finesse. With a complete count he played a heart to the eight and claimed for +600.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Demuy</i>	<i>Birman</i>	<i>Kranyak</i>	<i>Padon</i>
–	–	Pass	Pass
1♥	Dble	Pass	3♦
Pass	3♠	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Demuy</i>	<i>Birman</i>	<i>Kranyak</i>	<i>Padon</i>
–	–	–	Pass
1♦	1♠	Dble	Pass
1NT	Pass	3NT	All Pass

North led the queen of spades and when declarer ducked he continued with the six (no, I wouldn't have found a diamond switch either). Declarer won with dummy's king and played a club to the queen and a heart to the four, queen and king.



Vincent Demuy (USA)

When South returned the five of diamonds declarer made the essential play of going up with the ace but then played a heart to the ten, after which there was no way to recover. If declarer plays the jack of hearts North would win and exit with a spade, when declarer would need to get the hearts right in the ending. As it was one down gave Israel another 12 IMPs.

Board 27. Dealer South. None Vul.

♠ K 7 3 2 ♥ - ♦ A Q 10 6 2 ♣ A 9 7 5	<table style="margin: auto; border: 1px solid black; background-color: #c8e6c9; padding: 5px;"> <tr><td style="padding: 2px;">N</td></tr> <tr><td style="padding: 2px;">W E</td></tr> <tr><td style="padding: 2px;">S</td></tr> </table>	N	W E	S	♠ A 10 ♥ Q 10 9 8 6 3 ♦ 9 4 3 ♣ Q 8 ♠ Q J 6 ♥ J 7 4 2 ♦ 5 ♣ K J 6 4 2	♠ 9 8 5 4 ♥ A K 5 ♦ K J 8 7 ♣ 10 3
N						
W E						
S						

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Herbst</i>	<i>Lall</i>	<i>Herbst</i>	<i>Lee</i>
-	-	-	1♦*
Pass	1♥	Pass	1NT
Pass	2♥	Pass	Pass
Dble	Rdbl	3♣	3♥
All Pass			

You can make 6♣ on the E/W cards, so selling out to 3♥ was not a triumph. Perhaps West might have bid 2♥ over 1NT to suggest the type of hand he held? If you don't care for that then a double must be showing short hearts at this stage. In either case there must be some chance that E/W will reach the club game. Three Hearts drifted two down for -100.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Demuy</i>	<i>Birman</i>	<i>Kranyak</i>	<i>Padon</i>
-	-	-	1♣(i)
1♦	Dble(ii)	Pass	1♥
Dble	3♥	All Pass	



Lotan Fisher (Israel)

- (i) 2+♣, 12-14 or 18-19 balanced, no 5-card major
- (ii) Transfer to hearts

They got no closer here. Would it have made any difference if West had bid 2♥ at his second turn? It was a flat board.

Board 29. Dealer North. All Vul.

♠ 10 8 6 ♥ A K 9 7 4 ♦ A K Q 6 4 ♣ -	<table style="margin: auto; border: 1px solid black; background-color: #c8e6c9; padding: 5px;"> <tr><td style="padding: 2px;">N</td></tr> <tr><td style="padding: 2px;">W E</td></tr> <tr><td style="padding: 2px;">S</td></tr> </table>	N	W E	S	♠ A 9 7 2 ♥ 2 ♦ 10 8 7 ♣ A Q 9 8 2 ♠ K Q J 3 ♥ Q 8 6 3 ♦ 5 2 ♣ 5 4 3	♠ 5 4 ♥ J 10 5 ♦ J 9 3 ♣ K J 10 7 6
N						
W E						
S						

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Herbst</i>	<i>Lall</i>	<i>Herbst</i>	<i>Lee</i>
-	1♣	Pass	3♣
Dble	Pass	3♠	Pass
4♣	Pass	4♥	Pass
4♠	All Pass		

West led the king of clubs and declarer ruffed in dummy, cashed the ace of diamonds and then played ace of hearts and a heart. North ruffed and returned a trump, but declarer won in hand, ruffed a club, cashed two more diamonds pitching a club and played a heart. When North discarded declarer won with the queen and played the king of spades for eleven tricks; +650.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Demuy</i>	<i>Birman</i>	<i>Kranyak</i>	<i>Padon</i>
-	Pass	Pass	Pass
1♣(i)	Pass	1♥(ii)	Pass
1♠(iii)	Pass	2NT(iv)	Pass
3♣(v)	Dble	Pass	Pass
Rdbl(vi)	Pass	3♠(vii)	Pass
6♥	All Pass		

- (i) Strong
- (ii) 8-11 any shape
- (iii) One major
- (iv) Majors, 4-4
- (v) Sets hearts as trumps
- (vi) First-round control
- (vii) Cuebid

The result of that appliance of science was a magnificent +1430 and a well deserved 13 IMPs to the USA. It kept them in the match but, trailing 46-86, they would need to bring their A game to the table in the last set.

The Day After Tomorrow

Open Final Three – Israel v USA

by Mark Horton



The Day After Tomorrow is a 2004 American climate fiction disaster movie, co-written, directed, and produced by Roland Emmerich, which depicts catastrophic climatic effects in a series of extreme weather events that usher in global cooling and lead to a new ice age.

When I bumped into an acquaintance in the lobby after dinner and mentioned I was going back to work he asked why and I explained it was to write this article.

'Aah', he said. 'For tomorrow's Bulletin'.

'Not quite', I replied.

'It is for the day after tomorrow'.

As you might have guessed by now, the last session of the final was not exactly error free.

Board 1. Dealer North. None Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Fisher</i>	<i>Cheek</i>	<i>Schwartz</i>	<i>Bertens</i>
–	Pass	Pass	1♠
Pass	1NT	Pass	3♣*
Pass	3♠	Pass	4♣*
Pass	6♣	Dble	6♥
All Pass			

No doubt 3♣ was intended to show a three-suited hand, but clearly the wires were crossed. Six Hearts was hopeless and finished two down for –100.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Demuy</i>	<i>Herbst</i>	<i>Kranyak</i>	<i>Herbst</i>
–	Pass	Pass	1♠
Pass	1NT	Pass	2♣*
Pass	2♦*	Pass	2♥*
Pass	2♠*	Pass	2NT
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

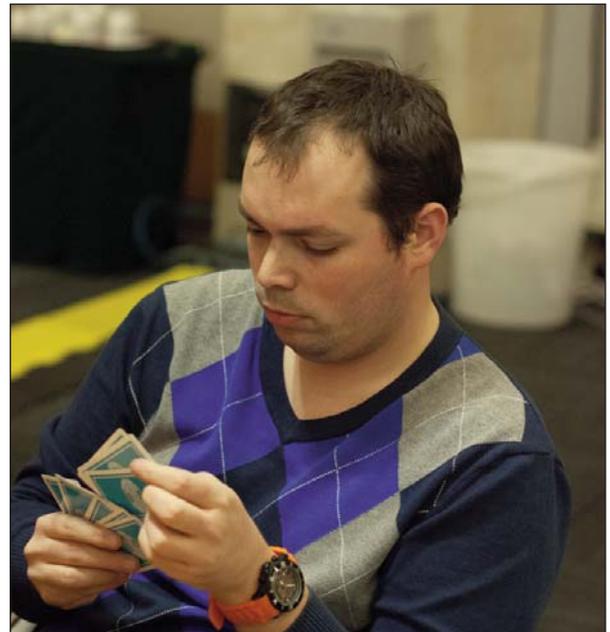
Two Clubs looks like a type of Gazzilli, with 2♦ promising 8+ and asking for more information. Two Hearts promised 5+♠ with 17+ and another four-card suit, 2♠

was a relay and 2NT showed South's hearts (in standard Gazzilli, if such a thing exists South would bid 3♥ to show the 5-4).



Whatever, 3NT was a doddle, declarer amassing eleven tricks for +460 and 11 more IMPs for Israel.

Ron Schwartz (Israel)



Board 3. Dealer South. E/W Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Fisher</i>	<i>Cheek</i>	<i>Schwartz</i>	<i>Bertens</i>
–	–	–	Pass
1♣(i)	1♠	2♦	Pass
2♠	Pass	3♣	Pass
4♣	Pass	4♠	Pass
4NT	Pass	5♣	Pass
6♣	All Pass		

(i) 2+♣, 12-21 may be longer diamonds.

A good natural sequence to the lay-down slam and +1370.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Demuy</i>	<i>Herbst</i>	<i>Kranyak</i>	<i>Herbst</i>
—	—	—	Pass
1♣	1♠	2♦	Pass
2NT	Pass	3♣	Pass
4♣	Pass	4♦	Pass
4♥	Pass	6♣	All Pass

Another cracking effort for a flat board.

Board 4. Dealer West. All Vul.

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

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

Open Room

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

East led the three of spades for the seven, queen and ace and declarer ran the ten of clubs to West's king. After cashing the king of spades, West returned the four of diamonds for the king and ace and back came a diamond for the jack and queen. The nine of spades was taken by the ten and East exited with his last diamond. Declarer won, cashed a spade and a diamond, played a club to the ace, and the ace and king of hearts for eight tricks; +120.

With such powerful intermediates you can always make a Meckwellian 3NT on this deal.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Demuy</i>	<i>Herbst</i>	<i>Kranyak</i>	<i>Herbst</i>
1♦	Pass	2♥	Pass
Pass	Dble*	Pass	Pass
2♠	Dble	All Pass	

It looks as if 2♥ promised both majors, but we do not have the players' systems to hand and cannot always find the players themselves to check on such details.

When South converted his partner's reopening double West decided to move to spades, a classic case of out of the frying pan....

North led the king of diamonds and when it held switched to the ace of hearts and a heart. South won with the jack and switched back to diamonds, declarer winning with dummy's ace and playing a club. South took the ace, cashed the king of hearts and played a diamond. North

won and played the last diamond, South ruffing with the ten of spades. Declarer over-ruffed, cashed the king of clubs, ruffed a club with the jack of spades and played a spade. North won and cashed the nine of spades for three down; -800 and 12 IMPs to Israel, almost out of sight.

Board 5. Dealer North. N/S Vul.

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

♠ K	♠ K
♥ J 8 3 2	♥ J 8 3 2
♦ A K Q 7 3 2	♦ A K Q 7 3 2
♣ K 3	♣ K 3

Open Room

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

(i) Spade support

North led the four of diamonds and South won with the king and continued with the ace, declarer ruffing and playing three rounds of hearts, pitching a club. He ruffed a diamond, cashed the ace of clubs and exited with a club. South won and returned the jack of hearts, ruffed by the ten and over-ruffed. Now the ten of clubs enabled South to score the king of spades for one down and -50.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Demuy</i>	<i>Herbst</i>	<i>Kranyak</i>	<i>Herbst</i>
—	Pass	Pass	1♦
1♠	Pass	3♦ (i)	Dble
4♠	All Pass		

(i) 4-card spade raise

Curtis Cheek (USA)



The first two tricks were identical, but then declarer played a spade to the ace and the appearance of the king meant his problems were over; +420 and 10 IMPs to the USA.

Board 6. Dealer East. E/W Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Fisher</i>	<i>Cheek</i>	<i>Schwartz</i>	<i>Bertens</i>
–	–	Pass	1NT
Pass	3♣*	Pass	5♣
Pass	5♦	All Pass	

I'm guessing 3♣ was intended as Puppet Stayman, but something went wrong.

Had North passed, 5♣ would not have been down off the top, but 5♦ was hopeless when East led the five of spades (notice that you can make 5♦ if South is the declarer).

Declarer took ten tricks for –50.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Demuy</i>	<i>Herbst</i>	<i>Kranyak</i>	<i>Herbst</i>
–	–	Pass	1NT
Pass	3♣(i)	Pass	3♦(ii)
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

(i) Puppet

(ii) At least one 4-card major

West led the four of diamonds and declarer played low from dummy, scoring an effortless +460 for 11 IMPs.

Board 9. Dealer North. E/W Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Fisher</i>	<i>Cheek</i>	<i>Schwartz</i>	<i>Bertens</i>
–	Pass	Pass	Pass
1♣*	1♥	Dble	Pass
1NT	All Pass		

North led the five of hearts and declarer won with the seven and played a club to the jack and king. South's return of the four of diamonds was taken by the jack and declarer crossed to the ace of clubs, came to hand with a diamond, cashed two clubs and played a spade. There was nothing the defenders could do to prevent nine tricks for +150.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Demuy</i>	<i>Herbst</i>	<i>Kranyak</i>	<i>Herbst</i>
–	Pass	1♦	Pass
1♥	Pass	1♠	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

Despite West's initial response North went with the heart lead chosen at the other table and declarer won and played a club to the jack and king. Here South tried the seven of spades and North won with the ace and returned the three. Declarer won with the king, unblocking the jack, unblocked the ace of clubs, played a diamond to the jack, cashed two clubs and the ace of diamonds, and exited with a spade to endplay South, who was forced to provide a stepping stone to dummy's diamond tenace; +600 and 10 IMPs to USA.

Board 12. Dealer West. N/S Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Fisher</i>	<i>Cheek</i>	<i>Schwartz</i>	<i>Bertens</i>
Pass	1♦	2♠	Dble
3♠	Dble	Pass	5NT
Pass	6♦	Pass	6NT
Dble	All Pass		

Having opened 1♦ North's double was perhaps a bid too far? 5NT looks like 'pick a slam' but N/S were already past the point of no return. West cashed his hearts and in due course the defenders collected a spade for two down; –500.

Closed Room	(i) Solid 7/8 card minor, no outside ace or king
West	(ii) Those who live by the sword.....
<i>Demuy</i>	
North	
<i>Herbst</i>	
East	
<i>Kranyak</i>	
South	
<i>Herbst</i>	
Pass	Four Spades doubled was four down for -800, so another 16 IMPs to the Sport Accord champions, Israel.
3NT(i)	
4♠(ii)	
Dble	
All Pass	

Women's Final Two – England v Netherlands



England had gone into the final of the Women's championship with a 16 IMP carry-over advantage, but the Netherlands had much the better of the first of the three sets and had taken the lead by 42-28. However, the second set saw the lead in the match change again as, one a generally quiet set of deals, the Dutch were held to just 3 IMPs.

Board 17. Dealer North. None Vul.

♠ Q 9 4 ♥ J 5 4 ♦ K 10 9 8 4 ♣ A K		♠ A J 8 ♥ K Q 10 ♦ J 3 ♣ Q J 10 5 2	♠ 10 7 5 ♥ A 7 2 ♦ A Q 7 6 2 ♣ 8 6
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West	North	East	South
<i>Draper</i>	<i>Arnolds</i>	<i>Brown</i>	<i>v Zwol</i>
–	1♦	Dble	3♦
All Pass			
West	North	East	South
<i>Simons</i>	<i>Brock</i>	<i>Pasman</i>	<i>Smith</i>
–	1♣	Pass	1♠
Pass	1NT	Pass	2NT
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

Fiona Brown doubled Carla Arnolds' 1♦ opening and Wietske van Zwol's raise was invitational. Arnolds had nothing to add to that. Brown led the queen of clubs. Arnolds won the ace and played two rounds of trumps followed by a low heart to the jack and queen. She won the heart return and cashed the club king before exiting with a third heart in hope that if the opposition had to open up spades it might prove to be to her advantage. It was not to be. Brown won the heart and led her low spade and the defence had three tricks there for down one and -50.

Sally Brock's 1♣ was either natural or two-plus cards in a balanced hand, and the 1♠ response denied a major, suggesting that partner convert to no trump. One No Trump showed 11-14 and Nicola Smith made an aggressive invitational raise, which Brock accepted. Jet Pasman led the queen of clubs to Brock's ace. It seems that there are eight tricks and little prospect of a ninth, however, it is amazing how often cashing a suit and

putting the opposition to a series of discards creates something out of nothing.

On the run of the diamonds, Anneke Simons pitched the three of spades, completed a club peter then a spade peter, before finally throwing a heart; Pasman threw two clubs and the eight of spades. The defence had failed to keep sufficient cards in either black suit to offer them the prospect of coming to three black tricks to go with the two heart tricks – it looks as though Pasman was at fault for throwing a spade when her clubs were of no value as she should have known the club position. Anyway, what that all meant was that Brock could play a spade, Simons winning the king and returning a heart, win the second heart and play another spade and had established her ninth trick while the defence had only one more heart to cash; +400 and 10 IMPs to England.

Board 22. Dealer East. E/W Vul.

♠ 10 9 6 4 ♥ A J 8 3 2 ♦ A 9 8 ♣ K		♠ Q ♥ 9 6 ♦ Q J 4 ♣ A Q 9 7 5 4 3	♠ A K 5 ♥ K 7 ♦ K 10 6 5 ♣ J 10 8 6
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West	North	East	South
<i>Draper</i>	<i>Arnolds</i>	<i>Brown</i>	<i>v Zwol</i>
–	–	1NT	Pass
2♣	3♣	Dble	All Pass
West	North	East	South
<i>Simons</i>	<i>Brock</i>	<i>Pasman</i>	<i>Smith</i>
–	–	1♣	Pass
1♥	3♣	Pass	Pass
Dble	All Pass		

E/W have the values to bid to, and can then make, 3NT, and would no doubt have done so without the intervention. However, even vulnerable against not, both E/W pairs were happy to stop off and take the sure penalty rather than bid a game that might not have been secure on a different lay-out.

Pasman led the ace of spades and switched to the heart king followed by a second heart. Simons won the jack and continued with the ace, ruffed with the three and over-

ruffed. Pasman returned a low diamond to the ace and the defence continued with two more diamonds so Brock had her diamond trick and, when the club king proved to singleton, had just one more trump loser; down three for -500 and a potential profit against the vulnerable game.

Brown too led a top spade then switched to king and another heart. Catherine Draper won the jack and continued with the ace and Arnold ruffed with the seven, Brown discarding her low spade. Arnolds led the jack of diamonds from hand and that ran around to Draper who promptly won and returned the suit. With no diamond trick, Arnolds was an extra one down, there still being two trumps to lose, for -800 and 7 IMPs to England.

Board 29. Dealer North. All Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Draper</i>	<i>Arnolds</i>	<i>Brown</i>	<i>v Zwol</i>
-	Pass	Pass	Pass
1♥	Dble	2♦	3♣
4♥	All Pass		
West	North	East	South
<i>Simons</i>	<i>Brock</i>	<i>Pasman</i>	<i>Smith</i>
-	1♣	Pass	1♠
Dble	Pass	2♣	Pass
3♥	Pass	4♥	All Pass

Both sides missed a chance on this deal, a tough to reach perfect fit slam.

Arnolds did not open the North hand so Draper got to open in fourth seat. When Arnolds doubled, Brown could show better than a raise to 2♥ by transferring, but would normally have only three-card support for this action, a four-card raise going through a Mixed Raise. Draper could have cuebid 4♣ but, facing likely three-card support, she felt that she needed too perfect a fit for slam to be good, so just jumped to game; +680.

Brock opened the North hand, the 1♠ response denying a major. Simons doubled for take-out of clubs and Pasman's cuebid was either GF or, a shere, both majors. Though Simons jumped in hearts, Pasman could only raise to game for a flat board.

England won the set by 29-3 and led overall by 57-45 with one 16-board set to play.

Set Three

Going into the final set of the Women's Teams final, England led the Netherlands by 57-45 IMPs, roughly a game swing. There were 16 boards still to play.

Board 3. Dealer South. E/W Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Dhondy</i>	<i>Wortel</i>	<i>Senior</i>	<i>Michielsens</i>
-	-	-	Pass
1♣	1♠	2♦	Pass
2♠	Pass	3♣	Pass
3♠	Pass	4♥	Pass
6♣	All Pass		
West	North	East	South
<i>v Zwol</i>	<i>Brock</i>	<i>Arnolds</i>	<i>Smith</i>
-	-	-	Pass
1♣	1♠	2♥	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

England created some daylight between the two teams when Heather Dhondy found a better rebid than Wietske van Zwol, making it easier for her side to get to the cold club slam.

In the Dutch auction, Carla Arnolds' 2♥ showed diamonds and van Zwol simply leaped to 3NT. As the opening had not promised real clubs, Arnolds felt unable to continue. After a spade lead, ducked and continued, van Zwol found that she had eleven running tricks for +660.

Dhondy's 1♣ opening also only promised two cards, but her cuebid provided room for Nevena Senior to show her

Wietske van Zwol (Netherlands)



clubs and now Dhondy could show her spade control and drove to slam; +1370 and 12 IMPs to England, who led by 69-52.

Board 8. Dealer West. None Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Dhondy</i>	<i>Wortel</i>	<i>Senior</i>	<i>Michielsens</i>
Pass	1NT	Pass	3♣
Pass	3♦	Pass	3NT
All Pass			
West	North	East	South
<i>v Zwol</i>	<i>Brock</i>	<i>Arnolds</i>	<i>Smith</i>
Pass	1NT	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

Both N/S pairs got away with one here. Five Clubs makes if declarer gets the trumps right, while 4♥ can also be made. Sally Brock and Nicola Smith bid it very simple, 1NT – 3NT, and the unrevealing auction attracted a spade lead round to the jack. When Brock, who had nine sure tricks just by cashing out, played clubs from the top, she had 12 winners for +490.

Marion Michielsens used Puppet Stayman, discovering that Meike Wortel had at least one four-card but no five-card major. She settled for 3NT now and the same spade lead meant the same 12 tricks for a push board. At the mid-point in the set, England still led by 69-53.

Board 9. Dealer North. E/W Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Dhondy</i>	<i>Wortel</i>	<i>Senior</i>	<i>Michielsens</i>
–	Pass	1♣	Pass
1♥	Pass	1NT	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

West	North	East	South
<i>v Zwol</i>	<i>Brock</i>	<i>Arnolds</i>	<i>Smith</i>
–	Pass	Pass	Pass
1♣	1♥	Dble	Pass
1NT	Pass	2NT	All Pass

Arnolds passed the East hand so, when she subsequently invited game, it was not a tough decision for van Zwol to decline the offer. Brock led a heart round to declarer's seven. A club to the jack was allowed to hold and a diamond to the jack also won. Van Zwol cashed the club ace, came back to the diamond ace, and exited with the queen of clubs. Smith won and led a spade, and when Brock cashed a forlorn hope ace of hearts, van Zwol had eight comfortable tricks for +120.

Senior upgraded the East hand for little more reason than that she thinks she can make any contract she plays in and Dhondy raised the 1NT rebid to game. Michielsens led the seven of spades to the ace and back came a second spade, ducked to the queen. Michielsens now switched to a diamond, dummy's jack winning the trick. Senior cashed the jack of spades and diamond ace then led a club to the jack, ducked, and switched her attention to hearts, running the nine. Wortel won the queen and returned a club so Senior won the ace and played a second heart but Wortel won the ace and returned a club to her partner's king, the setting trick. Michielsens had to lead a diamond into the king-ten so the contract was just one down for –100 and 6 IMPs to Netherlands, closing to 59-69.

Board 12. Dealer West. N/S Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Dhondy</i>	<i>Wortel</i>	<i>Senior</i>	<i>Michielsens</i>
Pass	3♦	3♠	Dble
All Pass			
West	North	East	South
<i>v Zwol</i>	<i>Brock</i>	<i>Arnolds</i>	<i>Smith</i>
Pass	3♦	Pass	5♦
All Pass			

Facing a passed partner and looking at a void in the suit opened on her right, albeit a pre-empt, Senior decided to try to make life more difficult for her opponents – if she could find a spade fit, she might even have a paying save against a diamond game or slam. Michielsens doubled, ending the auction.

Michielsens cashed a top club then switched to the four of hearts to dummy's ace. Senior conceded a club, won the

heart return and crossed to hand with a diamond ruff to take a club ruff. Next, she ruffed another diamond, low but Michielsen could over-ruff and cash the heart winner and give dummy a second club ruff. She could sit back now and come to three more trump tricks for down three and -500.

Arnolds did not come in over 3♦. Smith saw potential communication problems in 3NT so raised to 5♦ instead. This is often a sound approach, but more so when you have a strong hand with only singleton support for partner's major-suit pre-empt. I am not convinced that 5♦ was a better shot than 3NT on the actual deal and on this lay-out 5♦ was a disaster.

Arnolds led a spade so Brock could finesse and get rid of two heart losers, but that still left one heart loser and the unlucky trump split meant two more losers there for down one and -100; 12 IMPs to Netherlands. We had a new leader in the match. With four deals to go, Netherlands led by 73-69.

Board 14. Dealer East. None Vul.

♠ K J 5 ♥ 5 ♦ J 9 8 ♣ A J 8 7 6 4	<table style="margin: auto;"> <tr><td>♠</td><td>A Q 8 7 2</td></tr> <tr><td>♥</td><td>8 3 2</td></tr> <tr><td>♦</td><td>K 6 2</td></tr> <tr><td>♣</td><td>Q 2</td></tr> </table> <div style="text-align: center; margin: 5px 0;"> <table style="border: 1px solid black; width: 40px; height: 40px; 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="text-align: center;">E</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td></td><td style="text-align: center;">S</td><td></td></tr> </table> </div>	♠	A Q 8 7 2	♥	8 3 2	♦	K 6 2	♣	Q 2		N		W	E			S		♠ 6 4 ♥ A K J 10 9 4 ♦ A Q 3 ♣ 9 3	♠ 10 9 3 ♥ Q 7 6 ♦ 10 7 5 4 ♣ K 10 5
♠	A Q 8 7 2																			
♥	8 3 2																			
♦	K 6 2																			
♣	Q 2																			
	N																			
W	E																			
	S																			

West	North	East	South
<i>Dhondy</i>	<i>Wortel</i>	<i>Senior</i>	<i>Michielsen</i>
–	–	1♥	Pass
1NT	Pass	2♥	Pass
3♣	All Pass		
West	North	East	South
<i>v Zwol</i>	<i>Brock</i>	<i>Arnolds</i>	<i>Smith</i>
–	–	1♥	Pass
1NT	Pass	2♥	Pass
2NT	Pass	3NT	All Pass

After identical starts to the two auctions, Dhondy introduced her long club suit and Senior had no reason to go on. Van Zwol, meanwhile, preferred to show an invitational no trump type, and Arnolds raised her to game.

Wortel led a low diamond round to Dhondy's jack. A heart to the ace was followed by the nine of clubs, Michielsen putting in the king in hope of inducing a misguess if the suit was as actually was the case. Sure enough, Dhondy won the ace and continued with the jack to Wortel's queen. Wortel cashed the ace of spades and there was just the ten of clubs to be lost; ten tricks for +130.

Brock led a spade to the nine and jack and 3NT essentially depended on the heart position. When a heart to the jack lost to the queen, a spade return meant down one for -50 and 5 IMPs to England. They led by a single IMP, 74-73, with two boards to play.

Board 15. Dealer South. N/S Vul.

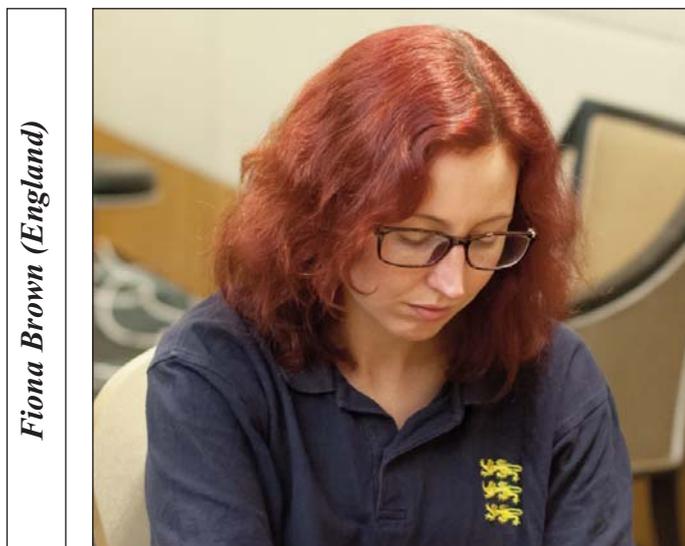
♠ A 8 5 ♥ J 7 5 ♦ A K 7 ♣ K 7 6 3	<table style="margin: auto;"> <tr><td>♠</td><td>K Q 7 4</td></tr> <tr><td>♥</td><td>4</td></tr> <tr><td>♦</td><td>J 9 8 6 3</td></tr> <tr><td>♣</td><td>Q J 5</td></tr> </table> <div style="text-align: center; margin: 5px 0;"> <table style="border: 1px solid black; width: 40px; height: 40px; 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="text-align: center;">E</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td></td><td style="text-align: center;">S</td><td></td></tr> </table> </div>	♠	K Q 7 4	♥	4	♦	J 9 8 6 3	♣	Q J 5		N		W	E			S		♠ J 10 9 2 ♥ 9 8 6 ♦ 4 2 ♣ A 10 9 2	♠ 6 3 ♥ A K Q 10 3 2 ♦ Q 10 5 ♣ 8 4
♠	K Q 7 4																			
♥	4																			
♦	J 9 8 6 3																			
♣	Q J 5																			
	N																			
W	E																			
	S																			

West	North	East	South
<i>Dhondy</i>	<i>Wortel</i>	<i>Senior</i>	<i>Michielsen</i>
–	–	–	1♥
Dble	Rdbl	1♠	2♥
Pass	Pass	2♠	All Pass
West	North	East	South
<i>v Zwol</i>	<i>Brock</i>	<i>Arnolds</i>	<i>Smith</i>
–	–	–	2♥
All Pass			

Smith/Brock play a trash multi, catering to bad weak two openings, and this means that their two of a major openings can be weak but constructive – going up to a minimum opening bid. Here, Smith's opening silenced everyone. Smith was down in a matter of no time. Van Zwol led three rounds of diamonds, giving her partner a ruff, and Arnolds switched to ace and another club. Van Zwol won and wasted no time in cashing the ace of spades; down one for -100.

Michielsen opened at the one level but her immediate rebid facing the redouble showed a minimum opening. Two Hearts would, of course, have been defeated once again, but Senior judged to compete with 2♠ – surely a winner whenever partner held four spades.

Michielsen cashed the ace of hearts and, surprisingly, switched at trick two, a club going to the jack and ace. Senior ran the jack of spades and, when there was no flicker on her left, rose with the ace and played a second



Fiona Brown (England)

round to the queen. Wortel returned a diamond to dummy's ace and Senior ducked a club, won the diamond continuation and cashed the king of clubs then took a diamond ruff before exiting with a heart. Wortel ruffed her partner's winner and cashed the king of spades and had two diamond winners for down two; -100 and 5 IMPs to Netherlands, back in the lead by 78-74 with just one board to go.

The Dutch had defeated England in the final of the 2013 Venice Cup in Bali in a very close encounter. Were they to repeat that here in Beijing?

Board 16. Dealer West. E/W Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Dhondy</i>	<i>Wortel</i>	<i>Senior</i>	<i>Michielsens</i>
1♥	Pass	Pass	1♠
2♣	Dble	2♥	3♦
All Pass			
West	North	East	South
<i>v Zwol</i>	<i>Brock</i>	<i>Arnolds</i>	<i>Smith</i>
1♥	Pass	Pass	1♠
Pass	1NT	Pass	3♠
Pass	4♠	All Pass	

Both Souths balanced with a 1♠ overcall. Van Zwol passed as West and Brock could make a constructive 1NT response. Smith now ignored her diamonds, expecting that they could be just as valuable as a side suit in a spade contract as if they were trumps themselves. She saw the

Nicola Smith (England)



Carla Arnolds (Netherlands)



potential of her six-five hand, of course, and made an invitational jump to 3♠, giving Brock an easy raise to game.

Though Smith did not guess to pick up spades, she had only three losers so quickly chalked up +420.

English supporters waited to see the result from the other table, feeling that they had little hope – surely the Dutch would get to one of their making games? The first round of the auction was identical but then Dhondy rebid 2♣.

This sort of bid, in an auction which is known to belong to the opposition, can occasionally lead to the concession of a penalty, particularly if partner takes you too seriously and over-competes, but it can also lead to a loss of definition in the opposition's auction. and so it proved here.

Wortel doubled for take-out and Senior gave simple preference to hearts. Now Michielsens bid 3♦ freely, thinking that she had shown her extra playing strength by doing so, and Wortel thought for quite a while before passing! From Wortel's perspective, her double had implied diamonds as that was the only unbid suit, so Michielsens would compete with 3♦ most times that she held four cards in the suit, without requiring much in the way of extra values.

I have my own view as to who was the more culpable for the missed game but, having learned from past follies, am not going to state here who I think dropped the ball and threw away a world championship event. That might cross me off someone's Christmas card list, so all I will say is that 3♦ made a comfortable +150 but that meant 7 IMPs to England.

Sally Brock, Fiona Brown, Heather Dhondy, Catherine Draper, Nevena Senior and Nicola Smith had won by 81-78 IMPs and were the 2014 Sport Accord World Mind Game Women's Bridge Teams champions.

Women's Pairs – Session One

The fields for the two Pairs events each consisted of the 12 pairs who had taken part in the Teams events. The format was four sessions of 22 boards, in each of which a complete movement of 11 x 2-board rounds would be played.

For the first session of the Women's Pairs, we look at the pick of the action from the table of the stationary pair in the movement – Lynn Deas and Hjordis Eythorsdottir (Disa) of USA.

Board 2. Dealer East. N/S Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Sanborn</i>	<i>Disa</i>	<i>Levitina</i>	<i>Deas</i>
–	–	Pass	1♠
2♠	4♥	5♥	6♠
7♥	7♠	Dble	All Pass

the auction seemed to take on a life of its own after Kerri Sanborn's Michaels Cuebid on the West cards. Disa showed heart shortage and spade support and now Irina Levitina had an easy 5♥ bid. South's jump to the spade slam looks a touch aggressive to me but it bullied Sanborn into saving due to her poor defence and extra heart. Had Disa now passed, 7♥ doubled would have cost –500, which would have netted N/S an 80% board, but Disa went on to 7♠ and now it was her side who were doubled. Levitina's club lead and continuation meant two down and it was E/W who collected +500 – along with all of the matchpoints.

Board 5. Dealer North. N/S Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Arnolds</i>	<i>Disa</i>	<i>v Zwol</i>	<i>Deas</i>
–	Pass	Pass	1♣
Dble	1♠	1NT	2♠
Pass	Pass	Dble	All Pass

Wietske van Zwol responded 1NT to her partner's take-out double of 1♣ and, when Lynn Deas supported her partner's spades, van Zwol doubled to show her maximum. Carla Arnolds left that in – where was she going to go when her partner clearly did not hold four hearts, and anyway, one down for +200 rated to be an excellent score at matchpoints?

Van Zwol led the ten of hearts to the jack and queen and Arnolds switched to the ten of diamonds, round to dummy's jack. Disa cashed the king of diamonds then led a low heart off the table and, not knowing who had the nine,

Arnolds went up with the ace and returned a club. Van Zwol won and continued clubs, so the defence had its side-suit tricks in the bag. Declarer ruffed the third club and led a spade up, losing to the bare ace. When a diamond came back she ruffed with the ten and was over-ruffed, but now had the remainder.

The contract was indeed down one for the magic +200 to the Dutch pair and this earned them 6 MPs out of ten. Had there been no double, they would have scored only 2 MPs.

Board 7. Dealer South. All Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Wu</i>	<i>Disa</i>	<i>Zhang</i>	<i>Deas</i>
–	–	–	1NT
2♦	4♣	Pass	4♦
Pass	6NT	All Pass	

Wu's 2♦ overcall showed one major and now 4♣ asked for aces. On hearing that there was an ace missing, Disa jumped to 6NT, knowing that her partner had to have everything else for her strong no trump. Wu led ace and another spade so that was a quick +1440 to Deas/Disa and 6 MPs. Two pairs played in 6♣, one was allowed to make the overtrick in 6NT.

Board 9. Dealer North. E/W Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Bjerkan</i>	<i>Disa</i>	<i>Wittes</i>	<i>Deas</i>
–	Pass	1NT	Dble
2♦	Dble	2♥	3♣
3♥	3♠	Pass	4♠
All Pass			

The double of 1NT showed either major plus a longer minor so, when Cheri Bjerkan transferred to hearts, Disa started with a double to show a willingness to compete, then admitted to spade support – it was clear which suits Deas had by now. Deas had a good hand once she knew of a spade fit and at least modest value in partner's hand, so went on to game.

Pam Wittes led the king of diamonds then switched to three rounds of hearts, forcing dummy to ruff. Disa played king and queen of trumps but the four-one split was very bad news. With few options open to her, she played three rounds of clubs, but Wittes could ruff the third round and return her last trump, removing dummy's last trump at the same time, and Disa had to concede two diamonds at the end for down three and –150.

That didn't look to be a great score for N/S, but –150 was worth a dead average, 5 MPs, as two N/S pairs had been doubled for –300 and –500 respectively.

Board 11. Dealer South. None Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Yan</i>	<i>Disa</i>	<i>H. Wang</i>	<i>Deas</i>
–	–	–	Pass
1♥	1♠	Dble	Pass
2♥	Pass	Pass	2♠
Pass	Pass	3♥	All Pass

It is important to compete the partscore deals at match-points, particularly when neither side is vulnerable so both are going down only in 50s. Disa's chunky four-card overcall quickly located the four-four spade fit, allowing Deas to compete to 2♠ over 2♥. Indeed, many would have raised immediately over the negative double, but that puts momentum into the auction and Deas didn't want that. When 2♠ came around, Hongli Wang was happy to compete with 3♥, even though the auction had not guaranteed that he rpartner would have the sixth trump. Neither North nor South could really compete further – Deas because she was weak, Disa because she held only four spades.

Disa led a top spade and promptly switched to a trump on sight of dummy. Seeing that she was not going to be permitted to take a spade ruff, Yan simply drew trumps herself then took the diamond finesse. Had Deas ducked in tempo, would declarer have come to hand with the ace of clubs to repeat the finesse? We will never know, because Deas wasn't willing to risk that so won her king and the defence cashed two more spade tricks and came to a club at the end for down one and –50.

Going plus scored 6 MPs for N/S as not everyone had found the four-card 1♠ overcall, but E/W had done what they could – defending 2♠ would have been worth only 1 or 2 MPs to them, according to whether they held the contract to eight tricks or let through the overtrick, as happened at another table.

Board 17. Dealer North. None Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Ran</i>	<i>Disa</i>	<i>W. Wang</i>	<i>Deas</i>
–	Pass	1♠	1NT
Dble	Rdbl	Pass	2♣
Pass	Pass	Dble	All Pass

Wenfei Wang's wafer-thin 1♠ opening caught Deas with enough to overcall 1NT and he rpartner with enough to double that contract. Disa's redouble was a puppet to 2♣ and, under her methods, Ran had to leave that around to Wang to make a take-out double then leave it in.

Ran led the six of spades and Wang won the ace then switched to her trump, Ran winning and playing two more rounds. That put Deas in the dummy so she drew the missing trump and tried the nine of diamonds, ducking when Wang covered with the ten. Wang returned the nine of hearts so Deas won her ace and cashed the king then tried a low spade, discarding dummy's heart loser, and hoping

for a misdefence. There was none forthcoming so she had to also lose a diamond at the end for down one and -100, leaving just 1 MP for N/S.

Board 18. Dealer East. N/S Vul.

♠ 10 3 2 ♥ K J 2 ♦ - ♣ A Q J 8 5 4 3		♠ A J 9 5 ♥ 10 8 4 ♦ Q J 7 6 5 ♣ 6	♠ Q 7 6 4 ♥ 6 3 ♦ 10 9 8 3 2 ♣ K 10
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West	North	East	South
<i>Ran</i>	<i>Disa</i>	<i>W. Wang</i>	<i>Deas</i>
-	-	Pass	1♥
3♣	3♥	4♣	4♥
Dble	All Pass		

Deas opened 1♥ then went on to game after Wang had raised her partner's clubs, and Ran liked her defensive prospects sufficiently to try a speculative double. However, while the trump situation was as ran had hoped and she duly made her two trump tricks, there was nothing to the play and Deas chalked up ten tricks and +790 in double-quick time. That was worth all the matchpoints for the American pair, off-setting the previous deal.

Board 19. Dealer South. E/W Vul.

♠ A 9 8 2 ♥ A K 7 5 4 ♦ 9 6 5 ♣ A		♠ J 7 6 3 ♥ 2 ♦ 10 4 ♣ Q 10 9 8 5 4	♠ 10 5 ♥ J 9 8 ♦ A K Q J 7 2 ♣ 7 3
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West	North	East	South
<i>Michielsens</i>	<i>Disa</i>	<i>Wortel</i>	<i>Deas</i>
-	-	-	1♣
1♥	4♣	4♦	Pass
6♦	Pass	6♥	Pass
Pass	7♣	Dble	All Pass

When Deas opened 1♣, even though that might have been only three cards, Disa could make a big pre-emptive jump to take away her opponents' bidding space. And when they brushed aside that pre-emption and bid a slam anyway, Disa came again with a 7♣ sacrifice. That was doubled by Meike Wortel and the play went very well for

declarer, who could have been down six if the defence found its spade ruff.

Marion Michielsens cashed the ace of trumps and atop heart then switched to a diamond. Meike Wortel won and in turn switched to a spade so Michielsens won the ace and returned the suit. Oops! Deas could now win, draw trumps and get rid of her second diamond loser on the fourth spade; down only four for -800 and 4 MPs to E/W.

One pair, Nevena Senior and Heather Dhondy of England, bid to 7NT on the E/W cards, and the double diamond finesse saw Dhondy home for what was, not surprisingly, a complete top on the board.

Board 22. Dealer East. E/W Vul.

♠ 9 ♥ 9 5 3 ♦ A K Q 9 6 5 ♣ A J 7		♠ A K Q 8 4 3 ♥ Q ♦ 8 7 ♣ K Q 9 2	♠ J 6 ♥ A 8 7 4 2 ♦ 2 ♣ 10 8 5 4 3
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West	North	East	South
<i>Draper</i>	<i>Disa</i>	<i>Brown</i>	<i>Deas</i>
-	-	Pass	Pass
1♦	1♠	Dble	3♠
4♦	4♠	Dble	All Pass

Such is the importance of doubles at matchpoints. Nobody could have blamed Fiona Brown, East, had she passed over 4♠; she had, after all, already made a negative double on her five-count, but she doubled on the strength of her one sure trick and the contract duly went one down for -100 and 3 MPs to N/S. Perhaps, had Brown passed, Catherine Draper would have doubled instead. Somebody needed to find a double, because one down undoubled would have given N/S 8 MPs.

Deas and Disa scored 51% in the session to lie seventh with three more sessions to come. The leaders were the Dutch pairing of Meike Wortel and Marion Michielsens, who had achieved 61.27%, putting them around 4% clear of the field.

Hjordis Eythorsdottir (USA)

