



Editors: Mark Horton & Brian Senior

Bulletin No 5 Monday December 15th

Dutch Pair Win Ladies; Israel & Monaco Tie in Open



The Open Pairs Medalists:

Gold – Ophir & Ilan Herbst (ISR)
TIED WITH
Tor Helness & Geir Helgemo (MON)
Bronze – Justin Lall & Roger Lee (USA)



The Women's Pairs Medalists:

Silver – JingRong Ran & Wenfei Wang (CHN)
Gold – Marion Michiels & Meike Wortel (NED)
Bronze – Hongli Wang & Yan Lu (CHN)

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Final Rankings

Open Pairs

				%
1=	HELGEMO Geir	HELNESS Tor	MON	54.20
1=	HERBST Ilan	HERBST Ophir	ISR	54.20
3	LALL Justin	LEE Roger C	USA	52.61
4	KRANYAK John	DEMUY Vincent	USA	51.36
5	WU Yuwei	DONG Li Dang	CHN	50.45
6	BIRMAN Alon	PADON Dror	ISR	50.34
7	JU Chuancheng	SHI Zheng Jun	CHN	49.43
8	FANTONI Fulvio	NUNES Claudio	MON	49.43
9	SHI Haojun	ZHUANG Zejun	CHN	48.98
10	ZIMMERMANN Pierre	MULTON Franck	MON	47.50
11	BERTENS Huub	CHEEK Curtis	USA	46.14
12	FISHER Lotan	SCHWARTZ Ron Haim	ISR	45.34

Women's Pairs

1	MICHELSEN Marion	WORTEL Meike	NED	53.93
2	RAN JingRong	WANG Wenfei	CHN	52.30
3	WANG Hong Li	LU Yan	CHN	51.87
4	DEAS Lynn	EYTHORSOTTIR Disa	USA	51.19
5	BJERKAN Cheryl Lou	WITTES Pamela Susan	USA	50.68
6	PASMAN Jet	SIMONS Anneke	NED	50.45
7	SENIOR Nevena	DHONDY Heather	ENG	50.29
8	ZHANG Yu	WU Shaohong	CHN	50.29
9	ARNOLDS Carla	VAN ZWOL Wietske	NED	48.30
10	LEVITINA Irina	SANBORN Kerri	USA	48.01
11	SMITH Nicola	BROCK Sally	ENG	46.54
12	BROWN Fiona	DRAPER Catherine	ENG	46.16



Open Pairs Session One by Mark Horton

A word of explanation. A top on a board was 10 match-points, which will be expressed as 10/0 if it goes in the direction of NS, and 0/10 if it is for E/W.

Get it? Got it. Good!

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	♠ K Q 10 6 4 ♥ A J ♦ A J 3 2 ♣ 6 4
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West	North	East	South
<i>Demuy</i>	<i>Lall</i>	<i>Kranyak</i>	<i>Lee</i>
–	–	1♥	Dble
1NT(i)	4♠	5♣	5♠
6♥	Pass(ii)	Pass	Dble
All Pass			

- (i) Transfer
- (ii) Forcing, first round control

Sacrificing at pairs is always a thorny problem. Andrew Robson and Brian Senior penned an excellent booklet on the best strategy in this form of the game – Matchpointed Pairs – well worth seeking out. One might observe that going for a huge penalty and scoring a zero might be balanced by making an overtrick on the next board, whereas at IMPs going for –1400 against +120 loses you 15 IMPs. In order to get those back you need to bid and make one and a half vulnerable games that your opponents do not bid. Anyhow, here it was an excellent idea to save. South led the queen of spades and then collected a couple of aces, two down, +300. then collected a couple of aces, two down, +300; 4/6 for N/S.

Board 8. Dealer West. None Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Helgemo</i>	<i>Fisher</i>	<i>Helness</i>	<i>Schwartz</i>
1NT	Pass	3NT	All Pass

What to lead from the North hand?

North went for the two of hearts and declarer won with the jack and played the three of spades for the eight, nine and queen. He took the heart return with the ace and played a spade to the ten, jack and ace. South cleared the hearts and declarer cashed his winners for +430 and 4/6.

Winning NT leads (and Winning Trump leads) by David Bird & Taf Anthias detail a number of outcomes that contradict established theory:

1. Leading an unsupported ace works much better than textbooks suggest. These leads very often rank as #1.
2. In NT leading an honour from HHxx+ (touching honours) works better than the usual fourth best lead.
3. Doubleton and singleton leads also work better than textbooks suggest. The danger of helping declarer set up a side suit is overrated.
4. Aggressive leads from Kxx or Qxx are very likely to blow a trick.
5. Leads from Jxx are almost as safe as leading from xxx and should be preferred to higher Hxx leads.

There is plenty of debate about this – you can follow some excellent discussion at www.bridgewinners.com

What one can say about this deal is that if North had led a passive club declarer would have been doing well to take ten tricks (it is still possible but highly unlikely).

Before we leave the deal what should South lead against 3NT?

A spade? A low club? A club honour? A heart?

Answers on a postcard to Sally Brock, who might use this deal in one of her excellent series of articles on Opening Leads in Bridge Magazine Online.

Board 9. Dealer North. E/W Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Shi</i>	<i>Wu</i>	<i>Zhuang</i>	<i>Dong</i>
–	Pass	1NT	Pass
2♦	Pass	2♥	3♣
All Pass			

Would you feel comfortable if your system did not allow you to bid on the first round with the South hand? However, South was happy to come in next time around and there were nine easy tricks, +130 being worth 8/2.

Board 10. Dealer East. All Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Shi</i>	<i>Wu</i>	<i>Zhuang</i>	<i>Dong</i>
—	—	Pass	1NT
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

West led the three of hearts and declarer put up dummy's ten but won the trick in hand with the jack and played a spade to the king and ace. Back came a heart for the nine, queen and ace and declarer played a second spade, West winning with the queen and clearing the hearts. Declarer cashed the ten of spades and then played three rounds of clubs, finessing, for nine tricks and +600. Three pairs collected +630 so it worth only 4/6.

Suppose declarer plays on diamonds rather than spades? The 3-3 break ensures nine tricks, and a winning view in spades makes as many as 11 becomes possible.

Board 11. Dealer South. None Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Herbst</i>	<i>Helness</i>	<i>Herbst</i>	<i>Helgemo</i>
—	—	—	Pass
1♥	1♠	Dble	3♠
All Pass			

Overcalling on the rock solid four-card suit proved to be a real winner, as the delightful location of the minor-suit aces gave declarer an easy route to nine tricks. Two other pairs managed it, so +140 was worth 8/2.

On Board 13, Bertens/Cheek held : ♠ KQ1092 ♥ J2 ♦ K ♣ AK754 opposite ♠ J874 ♥ A5 ♦ 5432 ♣ Q98. North opened 1♣ on ♠ A ♥ KQ108 ♦ QJ108 ♣ J1032 and South responded 1♦, a transfer to hearts. West overcalled 1♠ and when North raised to 2♥ East bid 3♠, which ended the auction. Missing the game proved to be dreadful, +170 being worth only 8/2.

Board 17. Dealer North. None Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Padon</i>	<i>Cheek</i>	<i>Birman</i>	<i>Bertens</i>
—	—	1♠	1NT
Dble	Rdbl(i)	2♥	Pass
Pass	2♠ (ii)	Pass	3♣
Dble	All Pass		

- (i) Any five-card suit
- (ii) Take out

Not a triumph for N/S. West led the five of hearts, after which declarer managed to scramble seven tricks. Plus 300 was a top for N/S, 10/0.

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
---	--	---	--

West	North	East	South
<i>Padon</i>	<i>Cheek</i>	<i>Birman</i>	<i>Bertens</i>
—	—	Pass	1NT
3♣	Dble(i)	Pass	4♥
Dble	All Pass		

- (i) Take-out

West speculated with a double and declarer lost a club and two hearts for +790; 0/10, averaging out the round.

On Board 19, Lee/Lall held ♠ A982 ♥ AK754 ♦ 965 ♣ A opposite ♠ 105 ♥ J98 ♦ AKQJ72 ♣ 73. When South (Shi) opened 1♦ they bid 1♥ – 2♦* – 2♠ – 4♥. South held ♠ KQ4 ♥ Q1063 ♦ 83 ♣ KJ62 so in theory all the tricks

were available. Declarer recorded +650, 4/6. One pair bid 6♦, which is excellent unless South leads a spade, and took all the tricks, as did the declarer in the Women's event who reached the giddy heights of 7♦.

Drop the Dead Donkey – Open Pairs 2

by Mark Horton

Drop the Dead Donkey is a situation comedy that first aired on Channel 4 in the United Kingdom between 1990 and 1998. It is set in the offices of 'GlobeLink News', a fictional TV news company. Recorded close to transmission, it made use of contemporary news events to give the programme a greater sense of realism. The series began with the acquisition of GlobeLink by media mogul Sir Roysten Merchant, an allusion to either Robert Maxwell or Rupert Murdoch. The series is mostly based on the on-going battle between the staff of GlobeLink, led by editor George Dent, as they try to maintain the company as a serious news organisation, and Sir Roysten's right-hand man Gus Hedges, trying to make the show more sensationalist and suppress stories that might harm Sir Roysten's business empire.

In the Bulletin we are sometimes tempted to suppress the details of a story in order to preserve the reputations of the guilty parties, but we have a duty to our readers (and in any event our minimum bribe level for silence is a of a good bottle of wine).

I might also mention that my choice of title was partly inspired by the excellent dish of donkey that we enjoyed on Sunday night.

Join me now for the highs and lows of the second session.

Board 1. Dealer North. None Vul.

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

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

- (i) 3+♣ (only if 4-3-3-3) 11-21
- (ii) Transfer to diamonds
- (iii) Take-out

East led the six of hearts and West won with the ace and returned the four of spades. Declarer won the jack and ran the ten of diamonds to West's queen. He won the spade return with the ten, drew trumps and ran the club eight, claiming an overtrick and +570 for an unsurprising 10/0.

Board 4. Dealer West. All Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Herbst</i>	<i>Cheek</i>	<i>Herbst</i>	<i>Bertens</i>
1♦	Pass	1♠	Pass
3♦	Pass	3♥	Pass
4♥	All Pass		

When West rebid 3♦ East felt obliged to bid 3♥ rather than 3♠ and when West raised to game it was clearly impossible for East to go back to spades.

South led the ace of clubs and switched to the nine of spades. Declarer won with dummy's ace, cashed the top diamonds pitching his clubs and went 'all in' by playing three rounds of hearts. When South discarded on the third round declarer was four down for –400, a predictable 10/0.

Board 6. Dealer East. E/W Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Ju</i>	<i>Birman</i>	<i>Shi</i>	<i>Padon</i>
—	—	Pass	2♣(i)
Dble	Rdbl	2♥	3♦
Pass	3♥	Pass	3♠
Pass	4♣	Pass	4♦
Pass	4♠	Pass	6♣
All Pass			

West	North	East	South
<i>Multon</i>	<i>Demuy</i>	<i>Zimmermann</i>	<i>Kranyak</i>
—	1♣*	1♠	1NT*
Pass	2♦*	Pass	2♥
Pass	3NT	Pass	4♦
Pass	4♥	Pass	5♣
Pass	5♦	Pass	5NT
Pass	6♦	All Pass	

(i) Precision

West led the king of hearts and declarer ruffed and played the ace of clubs and a club to the king, claiming when the trumps broke for +920 and 9/1.

If the trumps had been 3-1 declarer had the entries to complete a dummy reversal, ruffing three more hearts in hand. On a spade lead declarer needs the trumps to 2-2, as a vital entry has been removed.

On Board 8, E/W held ♠A9 ♥K963 ♦8742 ♣AK4 opposite ♠K63 ♥A4 ♦AKQ95 ♣Q109.

Only Demuy/Kranyak managed to reach 7♦ for a deserved 0/10.

Board 11. Dealer South. None Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Lee</i>	<i>Multon</i>	<i>Lall</i>	<i>Zimmermann</i>
—	—	—	Pass
1♦	2♣	3♦*	4♣
Dble	All Pass		

Declarer lost the obvious tricks to finish two down for -300 and, although E/W would be forced to make 4♠ if they bid it, it was a predictable disaster; 0/10.

Board 13. Dealer North. All Vul.

	♠ A										
	♥ Q 8 6 4 2										
	♦ A Q 10										
	♣ A 10 8 5										
♠ J 9 5	<table border="1" style="display: inline-table; text-align: center; width: 40px; height: 40px;"> <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 10 8 6 4
	N										
W		E									
	S										
♥ 10 7 5 3		♥ —									
♦ 6 4 2		♦ J 9 5 3									
♣ Q 6 3		♣ K J 4 2									
	♠ Q 7 3 2										
	♥ A K J 9										
	♦ K 8 7										
	♣ 9 7										

Having produced a masterful auction to reach the grand slam on Board 8 the Americans fell from grace on this deal. They play a complex system which they know well, but something went wrong here. Six Diamonds was three down for a predictable 0/10.

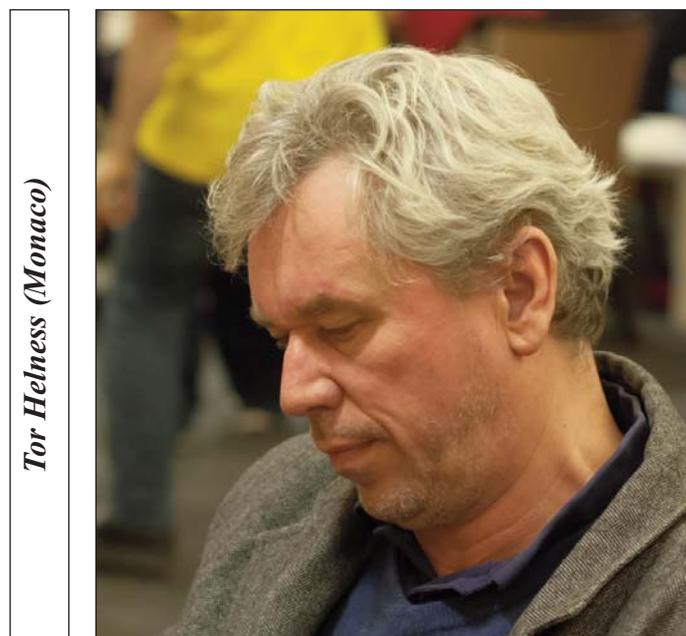
On Board 16, N/S's combined holding was ♠Q96 ♥A864 ♦AK64 ♣A2 facing ♠AK104 ♥97 ♦Q9532 ♣76. Six Diamonds is playable as, unless trumps are 4-0, you only need the spades to come in, a 61.6% chance.

Board 21. Dealer North. N/S Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Helgemo</i>	<i>Shi</i>	<i>Helness</i>	<i>Zhuang</i>
—	Pass	Pass	1♦
1♠	Dble*	2♦*	3♦
All Pass			

Declarer took the eleven tricks that were available but three pairs bid 3NT, so +150 was worth only 2/8.



Board 22. Dealer East. E/W Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Helgemo</i>	<i>Shi</i>	<i>Helness</i>	<i>Zhuang</i>
–	–	1♦	Pass
2♣	Pass	2♦	Pass
2♥	Pass	3♦	Pass
3NT	Pass	4♥	All Pass

North led the seven of hearts and declarer put in dummy's eight. When that held he played a club to the ace, ruffed a club and cashed the top diamonds pitching a spade. Its easy to see there are ten tricks now – a spade to the ace, ruff a club, ruff a spade, but declarer wanted more. He played for hearts to break by cashing the king. Now there were only nine tricks and –100 meant only 6/4. Birman and Padon also reached 4♥ and made it for 0/10.

To my untutored eye it seems that there is a good case for settling for ten tricks, as you can see you have avoided a 3NT contract that would probably attract a spade lead, which will either beat the contract or hold declarer to nine tricks, depending on how the spades break.

If E/W miss the title by 5 MPs should I remind declarer about this deal?

Women's Pairs Session Two

The field was tightly bunched going into the second session of the Women's Pairs. Having watched the sitting table for the first session, this time we will concentrate on a table at which both pairs were only passing through.

Board 1. Dealer North. None Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Dhondy</i>	<i>Brown</i>	<i>Senior</i>	<i>Draper</i>
–	1♣	Pass	1♠
2♥	Pass	4♥	Dble
All Pass			

Fiona Brown's 1♣ opening promised only two cards and the 1♠ response denied a major. When her opponents now bid to the heart game, Catherine Draper doubled because of her extra values and that ended the auction.

Brown cashed the ace of diamonds and, on seeing that declarer might need to ruff that suit in dummy, switched a to a low trump away from her queen, being rewarded when her partner held the jack so that her play did not give up the trump trick. Heather Dhondy rose with dummy's king to play a diamond and Draper took the king and

played a spade. The defence took two of those for down two and –300; 8 MPs out of 10 to N/S.

Board 4. Dealer West. All Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>v Zwol</i>	<i>Levitina</i>	<i>Arnolds</i>	<i>Sanborn</i>
1♦	Pass	1♠	Pass
3♦	Pass	3♠	Pass
4♠	All Pass		

Irina Levitina (USA)



Wietske van Zwol made the mildly aggressive jump rebid and that got her side to game – half the field stopped short of game, presumably after a simple rebid from West.

Kerri Sanborn led the ace of clubs and switched to the ten of hearts, covered all around. Carla Arnolds ruffed a club, cashed the ace of spades and played three rounds of diamonds, pitching her diamond and heart losers. Now a heart to the king put her in hand to play a spade and she had ten tricks for +620 and 9 out of 10 matchpoints.

Board 8. Dealer West. None Vul.

♠ A 9 ♥ K 9 6 3 ♦ 8 7 4 2 ♣ A K 4		♠ Q J 8 7 5 2 ♥ J 8 2 ♦ 10 3 ♣ 8 2	♠ K 6 3 ♥ A 4 ♦ A K Q 9 5 ♣ Q 10 9
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West	North	East	South
<i>Dhondy</i>		<i>Senior</i>	
1♣	Pass	1♦	Pass
2♦	Pass	4NT	Pass
5♥	Pass	5NT	Pass
6♥	Pass	6♠	Pass
7♦	All Pass		

English pair, Heather Dhondy and Nevena Senior were one of only two pairs in the Women's series to get to the top spot of 7♦, the other four E/Ws bidding to 6NT.

One Club could have been two cards and the 2♦ raise promised four-card support and not 3-3-4-3, with which the rebid would have been 1NT. Senior took the simple approach of asking for key cards, which worked out perfectly on this deal. On discovering that her partner held both the missing aces, she invited the grand slam and Dhondy, who did not have a source of tricks to justify bidding it herself, showed her two kings. That left room for



Hongli Wang (China)

Senior to make another grand slam try, 6♠ asking for third-round spade control – which would have to be a doubleton as Dhondy had already shown up with 14 HCP in aces and kings, so could not also hold the spade queen. And Dhondy duly obliged; +1440 and 9 MPs.

Board 9. Dealer North. E/W Vul.

♠ Q 7 5 ♥ K Q ♦ 9 4 3 ♣ Q 10 9 7 5		♠ 9 6 ♥ 7 5 2 ♦ Q J 2 ♣ K J 8 6 3	♠ A K 10 8 3 2 ♥ A 4 3 ♦ A 8 7 ♣ A
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West	North	East	South
<i>Yan</i>	<i>Zhang</i>	<i>H. Wang</i>	<i>Wu</i>
–	Pass	1♣	1♥
2♣	2♥	2♠	Pass
3♠	Pass	4♣	Pass
4♥	Pass	4NT	Pass
5♦	Pass	5♥	Pass
6♠	All Pass		

Hongli Wang opened a strong club, 16+ HCP, and the 2♣ response was a natural positive. When Wang now showed her long suit, Lu Yan raised to 3♠ and, after an exchange of cuebids, Wang asked for key cards – although, of course, she knew that partner could not hold any as she had all five herself, this enabled her to follow up by asking for the queen of trumps. Yan's jump to 6♠ now showed the queen and, presumably, denied a side king. Perhaps she just disliked her hand too much to be willing to admit to the king of hearts, particularly as that suit had been bid and supported by her opponents.

Wang won the heart lead, cashed the second heart and came to hand with a trump to cash the heart ace for a diamond discard. She continued with ace and another diamond, and could ruff her third diamond in dummy and claim +1430. Half the field missed this one so that was worth 8 MPs.

Board 10. Dealer East. All Vul.

♠ Q J 7 3 2 ♥ 10 9 2 ♦ Q J 3 ♣ 10 4		♠ 5 ♥ K 7 5 ♦ A 10 8 7 4 ♣ A Q 8 2	♠ K 10 6 ♥ 8 6 4 ♦ 9 6 5 ♣ K 9 7 6
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West	North	East	South
<i>Yan</i>	<i>Zhang</i>	<i>H. Wang</i>	<i>Wu</i>
—	—	Pass	1NT
Pass	2♠	Pass	3♣
Pass	3♠	Pass	4♣
Pass	4♦	Pass	4♠
Pass	5♣	Pass	6♣
All Pass			

From the sublime to the ridiculous, as they say. Well, to be fair, that is a bit of an exaggeration, as 6♣ did have play, though it was hopeless on the actual lay-out. After two smooth auctions to the top spot, a complete mess of an auction from Zhang/Wu. Two Spades launches a number of minor-suit hands and, I think, 3♣ simple showed a maximum for their 13-15 NT range. Three Spades shows at least 5-4 in the minors either way around with spade shortage and Wu, who had nothing wasted in spades, agreed clubs rather than settle for 3NT, then went on to slam facing the 5♣ sign-off.

Yan led the ten of hearts, which Wu won in hand. She played three rounds of diamonds, ruffing, and the three-three split gave her cause for hope. It was not to be. Wang had two trump tricks so the contract had to fail by a trick; -100 and zero MPs.

Board 12. Dealer West. N/S Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Simons</i>	<i>Bjerkan</i>	<i>Pasman</i>	<i>Wittes</i>
3♥	3♦	3♠	4♥
4♠	Pass	Pass	Dble
All Pass			

Everyone had a long suit on this deal and everyone got it into the action. However, west's spade support meant that it was E/W who won the auction, with Pam Wittes doubling on the way out, though her high-card values looked as though they might not be as useful as she might have hoped.

Wittes led a diamond to the jack and queen and Cheri Bjerkan tried to cash the ace. Jet Pasman ruffed and played the queen of clubs to the king and ace. Next she made the dangerous play of a spade to the jack and queen, running the risk that either defender might be able to take a club ruff if the defence could read the position. Wittes returned the four of hearts, intended to be suit preference for clubs, but Bjerkan read it differently, low to show interest in a continuation, so played a second heart and Pasman could ruff and play a spade to her ace; ten tricks for +590 and all 10 MPs.

The dangerous play on the first round of spades catered to South holding sxKQx, when ace and another would have seen dummy's trumps drawn and the defence could then cash three hearts for down three and a horrible result for E/W. Low to the jack was, you might say, the play of a pessimist (others might say realist).

Board 13. Dealer North. All Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Smith</i>	<i>Yan</i>	<i>Brock</i>	<i>H. Wang</i>
—	1♣	1♥	Dble
Pass	Pass	1♠	2♠
Pass	2NT	Pass	3♥
Pass	4♣	Pass	4♦
Pass	4NT	Pass	5♥
Pass	5NT	Pass	6♦
Pass	6♥	All Pass	

The next slam to be bid was another very good one. Yan's 1♣ was strong, the 1♥ overcall showed two suits of the same colour, and Hongli Wang's doubled initially merely showing some values, 5-7 or a better hand if balanced, as here. Wang showed her extras by cuebidding at her next turn and followed up by showing her chunky heart suit. That last was great news for Yan, who took control, discovering that her partner held two key cards without the trump queen, then the king of diamonds.

The lead was a spade. Wang won the ace and played a heart to the ace, discovering the four-nil break. She continued by ducking a club, and won the diamond lead. She could have succeeded from here simply by taking a



Pam Wittes (USA)

club ruff in the dummy – she can afford to ruff high as there is a marked finesse against West's ten – but instead cashed three rounds of diamonds then crossruffed, taking two high club ruffs in the dummy. That line worked just fine for 12 tricks and +1430. Nobody else got to slam, so that was 10 MPs to Yan/Wang.

Board 19. Dealer South. E/W Vul.

<p>♠ QJ1092 ♥ 985 ♦ 96 ♣ K103</p>	<table border="1" style="margin: auto;"> <tr><td style="padding: 5px;">N</td></tr> <tr><td style="padding: 5px;">W E</td></tr> <tr><td style="padding: 5px;">S</td></tr> </table>	N	W E	S	<p>♠ 87 ♥ KJ64 ♦ 1087532 ♣ 4</p> <p>♠ 53 ♥ Q3 ♦ KQJ4 ♣ AQJ75</p> <p>♠ AK64 ♥ A1072 ♦ A ♣ 9862</p>	
N						
W E						
S						

West	North	East	South
<i>Draper</i>	<i>W. Wang</i>	<i>Brown</i>	<i>Ran</i>
–	–	–	2♥
Pass	3♥	Pass	4♥
All Pass			

Ran's 2♥ opening showed the old Precision 2♦ type, three-suited with short diamonds and 11-15 HCP, except that it was restricted to either 4-4-1-4 or 4-4-0-5. Wenfei Wang's raise to 3♥ was only very mildly constructive – a better hand could have gone through a 2NT inquiry, but with a maximum all in prime cards Ran went on to game anyway.

Many years ago, I was taught that one should lead a trump against these three-suited hands as declarer always needed to take ruffs in one hand or the other. And a trump lead, followed by a second round when declarer conceded a trick, would have defeated the heart game on this layout. Catherine Draper led the queen of spades. Ran won and cashed the ace of diamonds then gave up a club. Fiona Brown switched to a trump, which ran round to dummy's

Wenfei Wang (China)



jack, but it was too late. Declarer had set up her cross-ruff and that provided ten tricks for +420 and 8 MPs – one West declared 3♠ and was down five for –500!

Board 22. Dealer East. E/W Vul.

<p>♠ A9 ♥ AQ104 ♦ 6 ♣ AJ10984</p>	<table border="1" style="margin: auto;"> <tr><td style="padding: 5px;">N</td></tr> <tr><td style="padding: 5px;">W E</td></tr> <tr><td style="padding: 5px;">S</td></tr> </table>	N	W E	S	<p>♠ Q108 ♥ J9765 ♦ QJ10 ♣ K7</p> <p>♠ 632 ♥ K82 ♦ AK9742 ♣ 6</p> <p>♠ KJ754 ♥ 3 ♦ 853 ♣ Q532</p>	
N						
W E						
S						

West	North	East	South
<i>Sanborn</i>	<i>Wortel</i>	<i>Levitina</i>	<i>Michielsens</i>
–	–	1♦	1♠
2♣	2♠	Pass	Pass
3♥	Pass	4♦	Pass
4♠	Pass	5♦	All Pass

Those who played in the four-three hearts fit were successful despite the five-one trump split, while those who declared either 3NT or 5♦ went down in game.

Marion Michielsens led her singleton heart to the nine and king. Irina Levitina cashed the top diamonds then played ace of clubs and a club ruff and a heart up. Michielsens ruffed and returned a spade to dummy's ace. Levitina ruffed a club then cashed the hearts but had to lose a spade and a diamond at the end for down one and –100. That earned E/W only 2 MPs.

Five Diamonds can be made. Declarer plays ace then ruffs a club at tricks two and three then plays three rounds of diamonds. She wins the return, ruffs a club, crosses to dummy and takes a third club ruff and dummy is high.

Day One ended with England's Heather Dhondy and Nevena Senior just ahead of the Dutch pair, Marion Michielsens and Meike Wortel. Irina Levitina and Kerri Sanborn of USA were lying third.

Kerri Sanborn (USA)



Women's Pairs Session Three

At the midpoint in the Women's Pairs, Nevena Senior and Heather Dhondy of England held a narrow lead over Marion Micjijlsen and Meike Wortel of the Netherlands, with USA's Kerri Sanborn and Irina Levitina in third.

had to bare the ace of diamonds. But now Senior simply cashed the ten of hearts and exited with a diamond to use Draper as a stepping stone to the fourth heart winner in the dummy; nine tricks for +110 and 9 MPs out of 10 to E/W.

Board 2. Dealer East. N/S Vul.

<p>♠ J 9 8 4 ♥ A J 5 4 ♦ 7 5 2 ♣ 8 6</p>	<div style="border: 1px solid green; padding: 5px; width: 40px; margin: 0 auto;"> <p style="margin: 0;">N W E S</p> </div>	<p>♠ K Q 7 6 5 ♥ Q 9 ♦ 10 9 4 3 ♣ A 3</p>	<p>♠ 10 ♥ K 10 7 ♦ K J 6 ♣ K Q J 10 9 2</p>
--	--	---	---

<p>♠ A 3 2 ♥ 8 6 3 2 ♦ A Q 8 ♣ 7 5 4</p>
--

West	North	East	South
<i>Dhondy</i>	<i>Brown</i>	<i>Senior</i>	<i>Draper</i>
–	–	1♣	Pass
1♥	1♠	Dble	2♣
Pass	2♠	3♣	All Pass

Nevena Senior's 1♣ opening could have been short but, after the 1♠ overcall, her first priority was to use a Support Double to show three hearts, rather than say that she had genuine clubs. Catherine Draper now made a cue-bid raise to 2♠ and now Senior could repeat her excellent club suit. Neither of her vulnerable opponents fancied taking another bid so 3♣ ended the auction.

Draper led ace and another spade, Fiona Brown false-carding with the king, and ruffed. Senior played the nine of clubs round to Brown's ace and back came a diamond to the jack and queen. Draper exited with a trump so Senior cashed a few of those then led a heart to the ace and a second heart to the queen and king. The position was clear now and led to a rather elegant ending. Senior cashed all her trumps and, to keep a heart guard, Draper



Board 6. Dealer East. E/W Vul.

<p>♠ 5 ♥ Q 9 ♦ Q 10 9 8 7 ♣ Q J 7 4 3</p>	<div style="border: 1px solid green; padding: 5px; width: 40px; margin: 0 auto;"> <p style="margin: 0;">N W E S</p> </div>	<p>♠ K 10 8 2 ♥ K 10 8 7 5 3 ♦ A 6 ♣ 9</p>	<p>♠ Q 7 ♥ A 6 2 ♦ J 5 4 3 2 ♣ 8 6 5</p>
---	--	--	--

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

West	North	East	South
<i>v Zwol</i>	<i>Levitina</i>	<i>Arnolds</i>	<i>Sanborn</i>
–	–	Pass	1♠
Pass	2NT	Pass	3♦
Pass	3♥	Pass	4NT
Pass	5♥	Pass	6♠
All Pass			

Irina Levitina made a game-forcing spade raise then showed a heart control over the short diamond rebid, and Kerri Sanborn checked on key cards then bid the small slam.

Wietske van Zwol led a trump to the queen and ace so Sanborn cashed the king of diamonds, played a spade to the king and pitched a heart on the ace of diamonds. There was just a heart to be lost now so +980 and 7 MPs.

Board 7. Dealer South. All Vul.

<p>♠ K 9 8 5 ♥ K 7 ♦ K 7 5 3 2 ♣ A 8</p>	<div style="border: 1px solid green; padding: 5px; width: 40px; margin: 0 auto;"> <p style="margin: 0;">N W E S</p> </div>	<p>♠ A 10 4 ♥ 5 ♦ 9 8 6 4 ♣ J 7 6 5 3</p>	<p>♠ Q 3 ♥ A 9 6 4 3 2 ♦ A ♣ 10 9 4 2</p>
--	--	---	---

<p>♠ J 7 6 2 ♥ Q J 10 8 ♦ Q J 10 ♣ K Q</p>
--

West	North	East	South
<i>v Zwol</i>	<i>Levitina</i>	<i>Arnolds</i>	<i>Sanborn</i>
–	–	–	1♦
Pass	2♦	2♥	Pass
4♥	All Pass		

Van Zwol had far too much diamond length to bid over the 1♦ opening but, when her partner could come in vulnerable at the two level, it seems reasonable to raise to game.

Alas, the four-one trump break meant that 4♥ was doomed and one down earned the Dutch pair only 3 MPs.

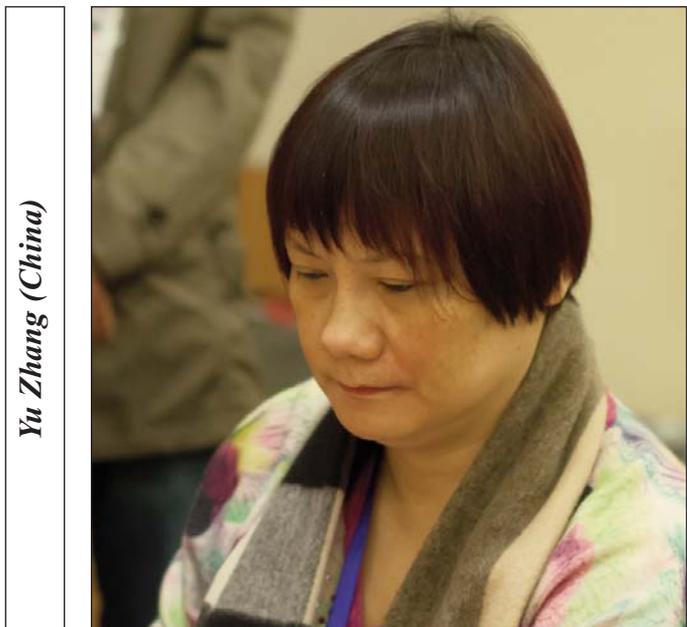
Board 8. Dealer West. None Vul.

♠ 4 ♥ K 8 7 3 ♦ A 7 ♣ A 10 7 6 5 2		♠ 10 3 2 ♥ Q 6 5 ♦ Q 4 ♣ K Q 8 4 3	
♠ AKQJ96 ♥ J4 ♦ J862 ♣ 9		♠ 8 7 5 ♥ A 10 9 2 ♦ K 10 9 5 3 ♣ J	

West	North	East	South
<i>v Zwol</i>	<i>Levitina</i>	<i>Arnolds</i>	<i>Sanborn</i>
1♠	2♣	2♠	Dble
4♠	All Pass		

Looking at only a pair of jacks outside her powerful spade suit, it again seemed natural for van Zwol to jump to game, hoping to shut out a potential heart fit in the opposition's hands. And, indeed, N/S did have a heart fit, but only the values for a partscore. Meanwhile, dummy was a bit of a disappointment, with those wasted club values.

The play began well for van Zwol when Levitina led the seven of hearts, third and fifth, and Sanborn put in the nine. That was one loser avoided, but that was to be the end of van Zwol's good fortune. She led a club up but Levitina grabbed her ace and promptly switched to ace and another diamond. Sanborn won the king and cashed the heart ace for down one and -50. That was worth just 1 MP to E/W.



Yu Zhang (China)

Board 9. Dealer North. E/W Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Wu</i>	<i>Senior</i>	<i>Zhang</i>	<i>Dhondy</i>
—	1♠	Pass	2NT
Pass	3♠	Pass	4♣
Pass	4♦	Pass	4♥
Pass	4♠	Pass	4NT
Pass	5♠	Pass	6♠
All Pass			

Dhondy made a game-forcing raise and 3♠ showed a minimum opener. Now 4♣ was a real slam try, demanding a cuebid if one could be made below game – 3NT would have been a weaker try. After the exchange of cuebids, Dhondy asked about key cards, found her partner with two plus the trump queen, and raised to the small slam.

The lead was the king of clubs to dummy's ace. Senior cashed two rounds of trumps and, with the diamond going away on the fourth heart, just conceded a club to the queen; +980 and 6 MPs to N/S – somebody was allowed to make the overtrick in the same contract despite the lead of the club king, while two pairs missed the slam..

Board 12. Dealer West. N/S Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Wu</i>	<i>Senior</i>	<i>Zhang</i>	<i>Dhondy</i>
1♦	All Pass		

Zhang made the, to me, strange decision to pass her partner's Precision 1♦ opening, so Wu was left to play the four-two fit while most of the field were playing in 1NT.

Senior led the king of spades, Wu winning the ace to play the queen of clubs. Dhondy won that and switched to

the king of hearts but Wu won that and played three more rounds of clubs, pitching both dummy's remaining hearts. Dhondy ruffed and, had she been able to divine that declarer held only two diamonds, might have defeated the contract by returning a low trump. In practice, she led a heart, forcing dummy to ruff, but now Wu played a spade and Senior cashed the third spade before playing another heart. Dummy ruffed with the jack and the ace of trumps was the seventh trick; +70 and 2 MPs for E/W.

Board 13. Dealer North. All Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Bjerkan</i>	<i>Arnolds</i>	<i>Wittes</i>	<i>v Zwol</i>
–	Pass	1NT	2♦
Pass	2♥	Dble	2♠
4♥	All Pass		

When Pam Wittes opened with a strong no trump, van Zwol overcalled 2♦, one major, and Carla Arnolds responded 2♥, pass or correct. Wittes doubled to show hearts and van Zwol converted to spades. Now Bjerkan took her partner's double very seriously and jumped to 4♥, ending the auction.

Arnolds led the seven of spades, Bjerkan winning dummy's ace and taking a spade ruff. Next, she crossed to the club king and ruffed the last spade. Alas, she ruffed low and was over-ruffed. A club ruff and diamond switch through the ace cut declarer off from her club winner and she had to concede two diamonds at the end for down one and –100, giving E/W 3 MPs.

Had declarer ruffed the last spade with her nine, she would have seen LHO discard. It would not have been too difficult now to drop the heart honours offside and she

would now have come to eleven tricks, as indeed was done at two of the other tables.

Board 14. Dealer East. None Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Bjerkan</i>	<i>Arnolds</i>	<i>Wittes</i>	<i>v Zwol</i>
–	–	Pass	Pass
1♦	4♥	All Pass	

Facing a passed partner, Arnolds overcalled 4♥ rather than cater to a possible club fit, leaving the defence with as little information as possible.

Sure enough, the diamond lead allowed her to get rid of a spade loser, where a slower approach might have attracted a spade lead and there would have been two immediate losers in that suit. At trick two, Arnolds led a club to the ten, jack and queen. Doesn't it look natural now for East to return a trump in hope of preventing club ruffs? That is how Wittes defended but it gave the contract. Bjerkan of course retained the king so Arnolds won cheaply and played ace of clubs then ruffed a club. That wa sover-ruffed and back came a diamond, which she ruffed with the jack. When that passe doff peacefully, Arnolds laid down the ace of hearts and the fall of the king meant that she had ten tricks for +420 and 7 MPs (there was one +530 in 3♥ doubled on the N/S cards).

Had East resisted the natural temptation to play a trump at trick three, declarer would still have played ace and ruffed a club at her first opportunity. That would still have been over-ruffed, but the difference would have been that, with no way to dummy to take a trump finesse, declarer would have eventually lost a trick to the king of hearts for down one.

Board 18. Dealer East. N/S Vul.

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



West	North	East	South
Lu	Zhang	H. Wang	Wu
–	–	Pass	2♣
Dble	3♣	Dble	Pass
3♥	Pass	4♥	Pass
Pass	Dble	All Pass	

West	North	East	South
Simons	Wittes	Pasman	Bjerkan
–	Pass	Pass	1♥
1♠	2♥	3♠	4♥
4♠	Pass	Pass	Dble
All Pass			

Lu doubled the Precision 2♣ opener and Hongli Wang in turn made a responsive double after Zhang's pre-emptive raise. On discovering a heart fit, Wang raised to game, and Zhang doubled. Had Lu's club values been in a different suit, 4♥ might have been a good contract. As it was, there were four top losers plus the trump suit to worry about.

Zhang led the eight of clubs. Wu won the ace and cashed the king and queen of diamonds before reverting to clubs. The unavoidable trump loser meant down one for -100 and no matchpoints for E/W.

Board 21. Dealer North. N/S Vul.

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



I suppose that it sounded to Bjerkan as though her opponents were sacrificing – she was not to know that her partner's 2♥ raise, which would tend to deliver only three-card support with a couple of high cards, was actually based on four-card support and a hand that Wittes judged too weak to make a pre-emptive raise to 3♥ at the prevailing vulnerability. Bjerkan doubled 4♠ and found that she could not beat it.

Wittes led a heart so Bjerkan won and, seeing little other prospect of defeating the contract, switched to ace and another club. Anneke Simons won and played spade king then low to the ace, ruffed a club, ruffed a heart and ruffed a club and the elimination play meant that she was secure against any diamond lay-out. In practice, she played ace then ran the eight and had her ten tricks for +590 and 9 MPs.

The set ended with Michielsen/Wortel holding a good lead over the bunch. Senior/Dhondy lay second, but on below a 52% score against the leader's 55+%. As you can imagine, the rest of the field was very tightly packed after that. there were 20 boards to play in the final session.



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