



# 2016 IMSA Elite Mind Games

## 国际智力运动联盟智力运动精英赛

HUAI'AN, JIANGSU PROVINCE, CHINA • FEBRUARY 25<sup>TH</sup> TO MARCH 3<sup>RD</sup>



WBF  
World  
Bridge Federation

Editors: **Mark Horton & Brian Senior** • Layout Editor & Photos: **Francesca Canali**

## PLAYING MIND GAMES



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### SCHEDULE

#### TEAMS

10.30-12.50	RR 1	16 BOARDS
14.20-16.50	RR 2	16 BOARDS
17.10-19.30	RR 3	16 BOARDS

The 1<sup>st</sup> IMSA Elite Mind Games Championship began on Thursday at the New Century Grand Hotel Huai'an, in Jiangsu Province, China.

The opening ceremony was held in the Great Hall of the People in the centre of Huai'an. It saw the usual speeches from a number of distinguished guests followed by a sports and cultural show. The show featured martial arts, ballet, acrobatics, and assorted dancing and Chinese musicians, to provide an excellent mix of styles.

The Mind Games featuring in Huai'an are bridge, of course, chess, draughts, go, and xiangqi, while there is also a card game called Guandan with which I am not familiar, though this does not have the same championship status as the other five, being here as an exhibition event. In all, the five championship events feature 176 competitors from 43 countries.

Four teams in the Open and four in the Women were invited for the bridge part of the tournament. The four are China, Bulgaria, Poland and Sweden in the Open, China, England, France and Netherlands in the Women – in each case the host nation plus the three most successful countries at last year's world championships whose team was able to make the trip.

The bridge programme begins with the Teams which is played over three days, in each category, as a double round robin of 16-board matches followed by a 48-board final and third-place play-off. Monday and Tuesday will see the two Pairs competitions, each with 12 pairs playing four sessions of 22 boards, and the programme will be completed on Wednesday and Thursday by the Individual, in which 24 players will play 23 x 3-board rounds.

## PARTICIPANTS - OPEN



### CHINA

CHEN GANG  
HOU XU  
HU LINLIN  
KANG MENG  
LI XIAOYI  
LIU JING  
SUN SHAOLIN



### SWEDEN

TOMMY BERGDAHL  
FREDRIK NYSTRÖM  
JOHAN SYLVAN  
JOHAN UPMARK  
NIKLAS WARNE  
FREDERIC WRANG



### POLAND

PIOTR GAWRYS  
STANISLAW GOLEBIOWSKI  
KRZYSZTOF JASSEM  
MICHAL KLUKOWSKI  
MARCIN MAZURKIEWICZ  
WLODZIMIERZ STARKOWSKI



### BULGARIA

DIYAN DANAILOV  
VLADI ISPORSKI  
VLADIMIR MIHOV  
IVAN NANEV  
JERRY STAMATOV  
JULIAN STEFANOV

## PARTICIPANTS - WOMEN



### CHINA

LI YITING  
SHEN QI  
WANG HONGLI  
WANG WENFEI  
WANG XIAOJING  
YAN RU  
ZHANG YU  
HUANG YAN  
HU WEN



### ENGLAND

SALLY BROCK  
FIONA BROWN  
CATHERINE DRAPER  
NEVENA SENIOR  
NICOLA SMITH



### FRANCE

BÉNÉDICTE CRONIER  
CATHERINE D'OVIDIO  
NATHALIE FREY  
ANNE-LAURE HUBERSCHWILLER  
JENNIFER MOURGUES  
SYLVIE WILLARD



### NETHERLANDS

CARLA ARNOLDS  
LAURA DEKKERS  
HANS KELDER  
JET PASMAN  
ANNEKE SIMONS  
DORIS VAN DELFT  
WIETSKE VAN ZWOL

Photo: from the opening ceremony



## ALL ACCORDING TO PLAN

by **Mark Horton**

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The Editor was in Beijing in December alongside Brian Senior to both report and commentate on the SportAccord World Mind Games.

The 2014 SAWMG returned to Beijing for the fourth year in a row. A huge advantage of being in the same venue every time is that the organisers know exactly how to deliver a first class event - they only have to indulge in a little fine tuning in order to improve on the previous editions.

With three events to complete in just seven days the playing schedule is demanding, but never finished later than 19.30, allowing the teams to enjoy some of the culinary delights on offer in the increasingly cosmopolitan Chinese capital.

If you happen to be planning a trip to China make sure you visit the Xihe Ya Yuan Peking Duck Restaurant (even the locals describe it as the best in town) and Lost Heaven, the perfect way to end a day down town.

By now I expect you are becoming impatient for some bridge, so, sidestepping my subtle hint to the Michelin group let's see how things developed.

In the Open events the competing countries were China, USA, Israel & Monaco, while the Women's series involved China, USA, England & Netherlands.

To see how the teams lined up go to:

<http://worldbridge.org/the-2014-sawmg-teams.aspx>

### Teams

The tournament always begins with the team competitions - a double round robin being followed by a 48 board match between the top two while the other two play off for a place on the podium. Apart from the matter of prestige, there was a prize fund of US\$126,000 with first prizes of US\$30,000 for the Open and US\$24,000 for the Women.

### Lost in Space

#### Israel v Monaco RR1

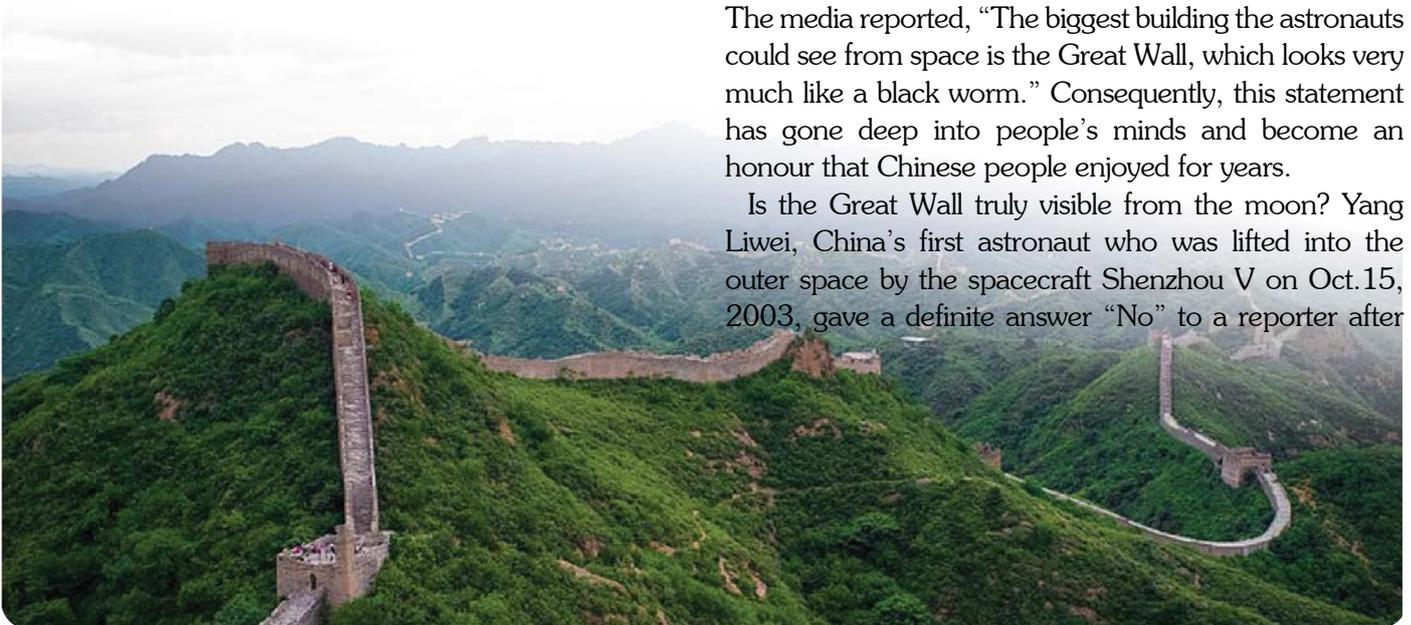
The Great Wall of China is no doubt the longest manmade project on earth.

It was constructed over thousands of years from the era of the Warring States (476 BC - 221 BC) to that of the Ming Dynasty (1368-1644).

The Great Wall was listed as a World Heritage site by UNESCO in 1987. Just like a gigantic dragon, it winds up and down across deserts, grasslands, mountains and plateaus, stretching approximately 8,851.8 kilometers (5,500 miles) from east to west of China (the length of all the wall built is estimated at 21,196.18 kilometers (13,170 miles). With a history of more than 2000 years, some of the sections are now in ruins or have disappeared. However, it is still one of the most appealing attractions all around the world owing to its architectural grandeur and historical significance.

It was widely believed that it can be seen from space. The media reported, "The biggest building the astronauts could see from space is the Great Wall, which looks very much like a black worm." Consequently, this statement has gone deep into people's minds and become an honour that Chinese people enjoyed for years.

Is the Great Wall truly visible from the moon? Yang Liwei, China's first astronaut who was lifted into the outer space by the spacecraft Shenzhou V on Oct. 15, 2003, gave a definite answer "No" to a reporter after



he reached the ground. Yang's negative response in a practical way may probably put out a fair number of people's passion. But it powerfully corrected the misconception. The wall is indeed majestic, but you won't see it from space!

In fact, besides Yang Liwei, there are a lot of astronauts said the Wall could not be seen from space. Neil Armstrong, who first set foot on the moon in 1969, was asked a thousand times whether or not he had seen the Great Wall from the moon. Recently from a sound recording that announced by NASA Johnson Space Center, Armstrong said that he had seen the continent, lakes and blue spots touched with red. But he could not make out any manmade object on the earth from the moon.

Theoretically speaking, the Great Wall is absolutely invisible from space. It is narrow and irregular. In space, something irregular is hard to be observed. Measuring about 10 meters (11 yards) wide on average, it blends easily into the surrounding environment. With unaided eyes it is hardly distinguished at an altitude of 65,617 feet. It is totally invisible at 196,850 feet. To see the wall from the moon is equivalent to seeking for a single hair from 2,688 meters (2,940 yards) away. For an astronaut to see it from space is obviously impossible.

It has been suggested that if bright spotlights are installed on the wall, astronauts would be able to see the lights at night. But this suggestion has not yet been the subject of a scientific experiment. So, for the moment it is generally accepted that the Great Wall cannot be seen from space.

By contrast, thanks to the efforts of BBO and Our Game bridge events are almost certainly visible from space (and will doubtless be a key feature of the in flight entertainment when the Virgin Galactic spacecraft embarks on its first commercial trip).

By now I expect the reader is wondering what happened in my featured match, so, turning reluctantly to the bridge here are the key moments from what proved to be a low scoring affair.

Board 2. Dealer East. NS Vul.

	♠ K 8 2		
	♥ A Q 8 7 6 5 3		
	♦ Q 5 2		
	♣ —		
♠ J 10 5 4 3	<div style="border: 2px solid red; padding: 5px; display: inline-block; text-align: center;">             N W E S           </div>	♠ A 7	
♥ —		♥ 10 9 2	
♦ 6		♦ A 9 4 3	
♣ A K 10 8 6 5 3		♣ Q 7 4 2	
	♠ Q 9 6		
	♥ K J 4		
	♦ K J 10 8 7		
	♣ J 9		

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Herbst</i>	<i>Multon</i>	<i>Herbst</i>	<i>Zimmermann</i>
—	—	Pass	Pass
5♣	Pass	Pass	Dble
Pass	5♥	6♣	Pass
Pass	Dble	All Pass	

The expert player with a wealth of experience, is not a magician or a fortune-teller, but he or she has learned to pay attention to the pluses and minuses of a hand and come up with an educated guess about which action will be right more often than wrong.

Even so, it is not possible to get every decision right, especially when the information at your disposal is limited in nature.

Here North might have overcalled 5♥, but it would be a significant gamble.

East could consider raising to 6♣ but it will need partner to have perfect cards - and as Bob Hamman would tell you - partner almost never does.

South's double saw his side reach a contract that was unbeatable - but unfortunately matters did not come to rest there as East knew that 6♣ must be a cheap save - indeed, they don't come any cheaper than this one, as the contract was unbeatable.

Declarer ruffed the lead of the ace of hearts and played a spade to the ace and a spade. He ruffed the heart continuation and claimed, +1090.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Helgemo</i>	<i>Schwartz</i>	<i>Helness</i>	<i>Fisher</i>
—	—	Pass	Pass
1♣	1♥	2♠*	3♣*
5♣	5♥	Dble	Pass
5♠	Dble	6♣	Dble
All Pass			

Here West was unwilling to rule out the possibility of playing in spades and the auction had of time to unwind. 2♠ must have shown club support and South's 3♣ showed a good raise in hearts. When East doubled 5♥ West's judgement was that it was wrong to defend and how right he was.

I guess you would call it a dull push.





Board 4. Dealer West. All Vul.

	♠ K J 9		
	♥ K 8 6 5		
	♦ 7 4		
	♣ J 9 8 2		
♠ 7 6 2	<div style="border: 2px solid red; padding: 5px; display: inline-block; text-align: center;">N W E S</div>	♠ A Q 10 4	
♥ 9 4 3 2		♥ 10	
♦ J 10 9		♦ A K 8 6 5 2	
♣ 10 4 3		♣ 7 5	
	♠ 8 5 3		
	♥ A Q J 7		
	♦ Q 3		
	♣ A K Q 6		

Open Room

<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>
<i>Herbst</i>	<i>Multon</i>	<i>Herbst</i>	<i>Zimmermann</i>
Pass	Pass	1♦	Dble
Pass	1♥	1♠	2♦*
Pass	2♠*	Pass	3♦
Pass	4♣	Pass	4♥
All Pass			

I think North's 2♠ was designed to show a stopper in that suit along with some scattered values.

East cashed the ace and king of diamonds and exited with the five of clubs. Declarer won with dummy's king and played a spade to the nine and ten. He lost two more spades to finish two down, -200.

Closed Room

<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>
<i>Helgemo</i>	<i>Schwartz</i>	<i>Helness</i>	<i>Fisher</i>
Pass	Pass	1♦	1NT
Pass	2♣*	2♠	Pass
3♦	Dble*	Pass	3♥
All Pass			

2♣ Stayman  
Dble Takeout

West led the jack of diamonds and East cashed two tricks in the suit and exited with the seven of clubs. Declarer won with the ace, cashed the ace and queen of hearts and when East discarded the six of diamonds on the second round he took the king of clubs and then played a spade to the nine and ten.

The partial elimination meant East was endplayed, forced to give declarer a spade trick or offer up a ruff and discard, so that was +140 and 8 IMPs to Israel.



Board 11. Dealer South. None Vul.

	♠ 4		
	♥ J 8 3		
	♦ Q J 10 9 6 4 2		
	♣ 7 2		
♠ A J 9 6	<div style="border: 2px solid red; padding: 5px; display: inline-block; text-align: center;">N W E S</div>	♠ 10 2	
♥ K 9 6		♥ 10 7 5 2	
♦ 5 3		♦ K 8 7	
♣ Q 9 4 3		♣ A K 8 5	
	♠ K Q 8 7 5 3		
	♥ A Q 4		
	♦ A		
	♣ J 10 6		

Open Room

<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>
<i>Herbst</i>	<i>Multon</i>	<i>Herbst</i>	<i>Zimmermann</i>
—	—	—	1♠
Pass	Pass	Dble	2♠
Dble	3♦	Pass	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

North led the queen of diamonds and when declarer played low from dummy South was forced to win with the ace. He switched to the jack of clubs and declarer won with dummy's ace and played the two of spades to the nine. When that held he went back to dummy with a club and played a heart to the king and a heart. North won with the jack, but the contract was secure, +400.

Closed Room

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

Here North judged it right to reply (far be it for me to point out that he was simply adopting the world's most quoted Bol's Bridge Tip - 'Don't be afraid to Respond') and that kept EW quiet.

West led the five of diamonds and when declarer tried dummy's queen East withheld the king, declarer winning with the ace and playing the queen of spades. When West ducked declarer continued with the three of spades and East won with the ten and switched to the seven of hearts. Declarer took the ace and played the five of spades to West's jack. West cashed the ace of spades and the king of hearts before exiting with a heart to leave declarer with two losing clubs, three down, -150, but 6 IMPs to Israel.

Board 13. Dealer North. All Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Herbst</i>	<i>Multon</i>	<i>Herbst</i>	<i>Zimmermann</i>
—	Pass	1NT	Pass
Pass	2♦*	Pass	2♥*
3♦	All Pass		

- 2♦ Multilandy
- 2♥ Pass or correct

North led the eight of hearts for the king and ace and South returned the king of clubs. When it held he continued with the queen and then the four, declarer ruffing in dummy and then running the queen of diamonds. When North discarded on the next diamond there was a trump to lose, +110.

Closed Room

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

Dble DONT - an unspecified one suiter



**Pierre Zimmermann**  
MONACO



**Franck Multon**  
MONACO

South led the nine of spades for the ten, jack and king and declarer ran the ten of diamonds, followed by the queen. After cashing five diamonds declarer took dummy's queen of spades and played a heart to the king and ace. The defenders could cash four clubs, but it was North who won the last one with the five of clubs, and declarer pitched a heart and took his eighth trick with the ace of spades, +380 and 7 IMPs to Monaco.

Two small swings gave Israel a narrow 20-15 IMP, 11.48-8.52 VP win.

### USA v Monaco RR2

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

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

Of the four major film versions of the novel, Hitchcock's film has been the most acclaimed. In 1999, the British Film Institute ranked it the fourth best British film of the 20th century.

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

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



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

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

Board 17. Dealer North. None Vul.

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

Open Room

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

When South reopened with a double North placed him with shape suitable hand that almost certainly included a spade void. When his partner bid 3♦ he bid 4♠ to show a good hand with all his values outside spades. 4NT promised a good hand and North backed his judgement by jumping to the slam.

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

Closed Room

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

When South reopened with 2NT suggesting diamonds North showed a good hand with 3♠, but when South

could only bid 5♦ on the next round he called it a day, +420, but 11 IMPs to the USA.

Board 19. Dealer South. EW Vul.

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

Open Room

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

- 1♦ Precision Style
- 2♥ Transfer
- 3♣ Forcing

NS found their heart fit, but North was declarer and East unerringly put his hand on the six of clubs. Declarer finessed and West won with the king and returned the seven. Declarer won in hand with the queen and played the ten of hearts but West won and played his remaining club. East ruffed and exited with the queen of diamonds, eventually securing the setting trick with the king of spades, +50.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Lee</i>	<i>Fantoni</i>	<i>Lall</i>	<i>Nunes</i>
—	—	—	1NT*
Pass	2♣*	Pass	2♥*
Pass	2♠*	Pass	2NT*
Pass	4♥	All Pass	

- 1NT 12-14 any balanced hand, 5332, 5422, not 54 in the majors, 4441, 6m332
- 2♣ Asking

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

Board 22. Dealer East. EW Vul.

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

Open Room

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

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

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Lee</i>	<i>Fantoni</i>	<i>Lall</i>	<i>Nunes</i>
		1♦	2♣
Dble	5♣	5♥	All Pass

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



**Vincent Demuy**

USA



**John Kranyak**

USA

Board 26. Dealer East. All Vul.

♠ J 8 2 ♥ A 8 6 4 3 ♦ K 2 ♣ 9 8 5		♠ — ♥ 10 9 ♦ A Q 6 3 ♣ AKQ10743
♠ Q 10 9 7 4 ♥ Q J 7 ♦ 10 8 5 ♣ J 2		
	♠ A K 6 5 3 ♥ K 5 2 ♦ J 9 7 4 ♣ 6	

Open Room

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

When East reversed West did not hesitate to bid game. North led the four of hearts and South won with the king and laid down the king of spades before returning the five of hearts, at which point declarer claimed nine tricks, +600.

Had South tabled a low spade at trick two I am confident West would have played the queen before you could say Jack Robinson.

Closed Room

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

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

Board 29. Dealer North. All Vul.

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

Open Room

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

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

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Lee</i>	<i>Fantoni</i>	<i>Lall</i>	<i>Nunes</i>
—	Pass	Pass	1NT*
Dble	Pass*	Pass	2♥
Pass	Pass	Dble*	All Pass

1NT 12-14 any balanced hand, 5332, 5422, not 54 in the majors, 4441, 6m332

Dble Take out



**Tor Helness**

MONACO

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

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

Board 30. Dealer East. None Vul.

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

Open Room

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

East led the eight of spades for the jack, queen and king and declarer played three rounds of clubs ending in hand followed by a heart to the jack and king. When he cashed the ace of clubs West matched it with the ace of spades.

Declarer crossed to the ace of hearts and gave up, two down, -100.

Closed Room

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

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

Declarer won East's lead of the jack of hearts with the ace and forced out the ace of diamonds. When East switched to a spade declarer claimed eleven tricks, +460 and 11 IMPs to Monaco who emerged with a 45-35 IMP, 12.80-7.20 win.



### Big Trouble in Little China

#### China v Monaco RR3

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

The movie was a commercial failure, and received critically mixed reviews that left Carpenter disillusioned with Hollywood and influenced his decision to return to independent film-making. It has become a cult film due to its success on home video.

When China met Monaco in the last match of day the hosts were badly in need of a victory.

Board 2. Dealer East. NS Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Shi	Fantoni	Zhuang	Nunes
—	—	1♦	1♠
Pass	2♦*	Pass	2♠
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

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

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



Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Multon	Dong	Zimmermann	Wu
—	—	1♦	1♠
Pass	2♦*	Pass	2♠
Pass	3NT	Pass	4♠
All Pass			

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

Board 5. Dealer North. NS Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Shi	Fantoni	Zhuang	Nunes
—	1♦*	1♠	Dble*
2♠	Pass	Pass	Dble
Pass	3♣	Pass	3♦
All Pass			

1♦ 14+ (good 12/13) 4+ diamonds

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

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Multon	Dong	Zimmermann	Wu
—	1NT	2♣*	Dble
Rdbl*	3♦	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

2♣ Majors  
Rdbl No preference

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



Board 9. Dealer North. EW Vul.

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

Open Room

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

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

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

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

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

Don't you just love these unheard melodies?

Closed Room

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

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

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

Board 10. Dealer East. All Vul.

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

Open Room

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

2♦	6+♥/♠ or any 5+5+ strong
2♥	Pass or correct
Dble	Take out

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

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

Closed Room

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

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





Board 12. Dealer West. NS Vul.

	♠ Q 10		
	♥ A K 8 5 3 2		
	♦ 6 5		
	♣ K 8 3		
♠ 7 5 3 2	<div style="border: 2px solid red; padding: 5px; display: inline-block; text-align: center;">N W E S</div>	♠ A 8	
♥ 10 7 6		♥ Q 9 4	
♦ A 10 2		♦ K 9 8 4 3	
♣ J 9 5		♣ 10 6 4	
	♠ K J 9 6 4		
	♥ J		
	♦ Q J 7		
	♣ A Q 7 2		

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Shi	Fantoni	Zhuang	Nunes
Pass	2♥*	Pass	2NT*
Pass	3♥	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

- 2♥ 10-13 (good 9) 5+♥ unbalanced hand; in 3rd seat could be weaker and maximum 12 (13)
- 2NT 5+♠ invitational plus

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

Difficult?

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

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Multon	Dong	Zimmermann	Wu
Pass	1♥	Pass	1♠
Pass	2♥	Pass	2♠*
Pass	3♦*	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

- 2♠ Forcing
- 3♦ Asking for a stopper

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

Board 15. Dealer South. NS Vul.

	♠ K 8 7 5 3		
	♥ J 10 9 4		
	♦ 9 6		
	♣ K 6		
♠ —	<div style="border: 2px solid red; padding: 5px; display: inline-block; text-align: center;">N W E S</div>	♠ A Q 4	
♥ 8 6 2		♥ K Q 7 5 3	
♦ A K 5 4		♦ 7 2	
♣ J 10 9 7 3 2		♣ A 5 4	
	♠ J 10 9 6 2		
	♥ A		
	♦ Q J 10 8 3		
	♣ Q 8		

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Shi	Fantoni	Zhuang	Nunes
—	—	—	2♠*
Pass	4♠	All Pass	

- 2♠ 10-13 (good 9) 5+♠ unbalanced hand; in 3rd seat could be weaker and maximum 12 (13)

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

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Multon	Dong	Zimmermann	Wu
—	—	—	1♠
2♣	4♠	5♣	Pass
Pass	Dble	All Pass	

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

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

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

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

**Monaco v USA RR4**

Day 2 started with 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. EW Vul.

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



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*	6♥
6♠	Pass	Pass	7♥
Dble	All Pass		

Dble 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 EW 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>
—	—	—	Pass
1♣*	Dble*	1♦*	Pass
4♣*	Pass	4♦*	Pass
4♠	Pass	5♣	Pass
6♣	All Pass		

- 1♣ Strong
- Dble Two suits of the same colour, at least 4-4
- 1♦ 5 (6-7)
- 4♣ RKCB for clubs
- 4♦ 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 NS finding a save. North cashed his ace, but declarer could claim the rest, +1370 and 7 IMPs to the USA.

Board 25. Dealer North. EW Vul.

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



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

2♥ Spade raise

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, -600.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Demuy	Fantoni	Kranyak	Nunes
—	1NT*	Dble	2♣*
Pass	2♦*	Dble	3♣
3♠	Pass	4♠	All Pass

1NT 12-14 any balanced, 5332, 5422  
not 54 majors, 4441, 6m332  
2♣ Transfer to 2♦

4♠ 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, -300, still 7 IMPs to the USA.

Board 28. Dealer West. NS Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Helgemo	Lall	Helness	Lee
2♠*	Pass	2NT*	Pass
3♦*	Pass	4♠	All Pass

2♠ 5♠+5♣/♦, 2-10  
2NT 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
Demuy	Fantoni	Kranyak	Nunes
2♠*	Pass	2NT*	Pass
3♦*	Pass	6♦	All Pass

2♠ Spades and a minor  
2NT Relay

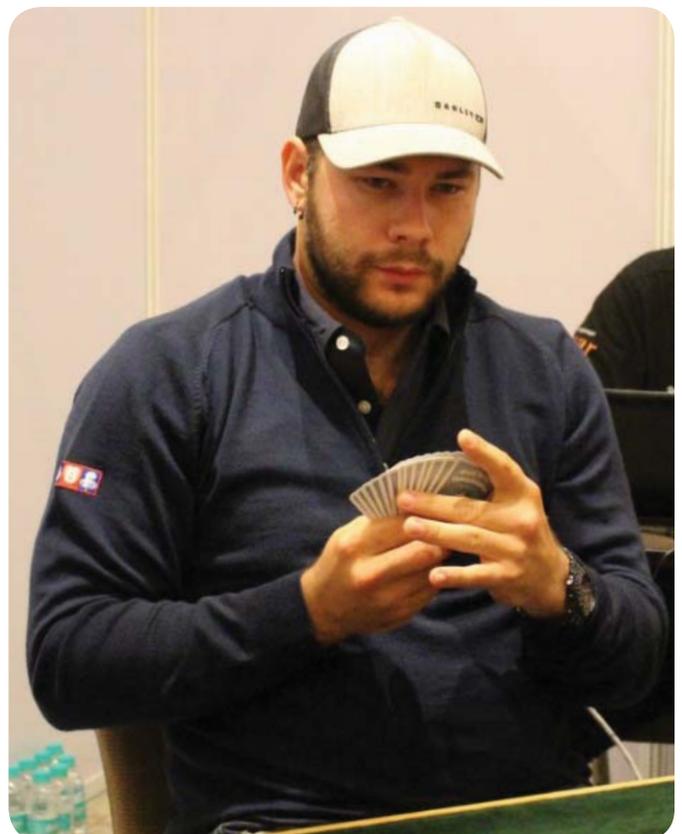
North led the seven of hearts and declarer won with dummy's ace, cashed the ace of diamonds, played a diamond to the king (South discarding a discouraging nine of clubs) and a spade.

It was clear that declarer held the ace of clubs, so if NS 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.



**Vincent Demuy**  
USA

Board 32. Dealer West. EW Vul.

	♠ A K 2										
	♥ A 2										
	♦ 9 8 6 4										
	♣ A J 7 5										
♠ 9 7 5 4	<table border="1" style="width: 40px; height: 40px; margin: 0 auto;"> <tr><td></td><td>N</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td></td><td>E</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td>S</td><td></td></tr> </table>		N		W		E		S		♠ Q 10 8 6 3
		N									
W			E								
		S									
♥ J 10	♥ K Q 8 6 5										
♦ A K 10 7 2	♦ J										
♣ K 2		♣ 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, -200.

Closed Room

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

2♣ 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, 34-10 IMPs, 15.74-4.26 VP.

### El Classico 2014

#### Monaco v Israel RR5

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.

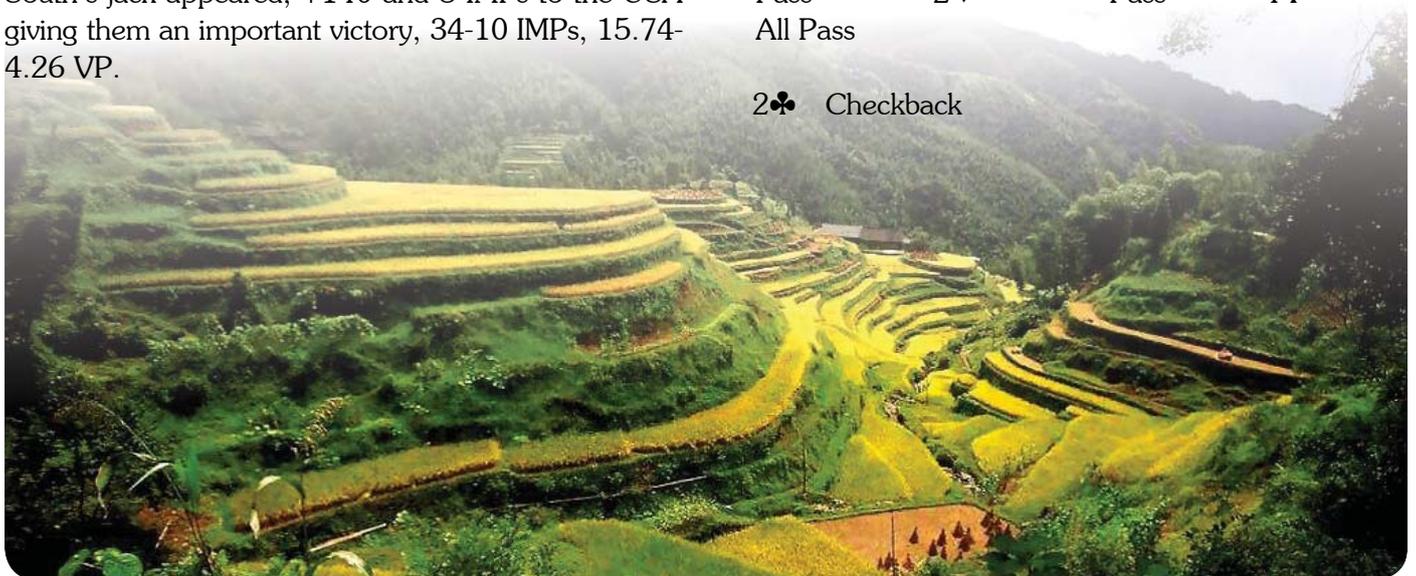
Board 3. Dealer South. EW Vul.

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

2♣ Checkback



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, two down -100.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Nunes	Herbst	Fantoni	Herbst
—	—	—	1♣
Pass	1♥*	Dble	1♠*
Pass	2♣*	Pass	2♦*
Pass	2♥	Pass	2NT
Pass	3♥	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

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, +400 and 11 IMPs to Israel - not the start Monaco was hoping for.

Board 4. Dealer West. All Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Padon	Helness	Birman	Helgemo
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, +2210.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Nunes	Herbst	Fantoni	Herbst
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 NS Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Padon	Helness	Birman	Helgemo
—	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
Nunes	Herbst	Fantoni	Herbst
—	Pass	Pass	1♣*
Pass	1♦*	1♥*	2♥
3♦	3♥	All Pass	

- 1♦ Hearts
- 1♥ Take out

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. EW Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Padon</i>	<i>Helness</i>	<i>Birman</i>	<i>Helgemo</i>
—	Pass	1NT	2♥*
3NT	All Pass		

2♥ 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, +100.

In case you are wondering NS were playing Smith Peters against no trumps and North played the nine on the first round of spades.

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 NS 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.

Tell it not in Gath.

Board 11. Dealer South. None Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Padon</i>	<i>Helness</i>	<i>Birman</i>	<i>Helgemo</i>
—	—	—	Pass
1♥	Pass	1NT*	Pass
2NT*	Pass	3♣	Pass
3NT	Pass	4♥	All Pass

1NT Semi forcing

2NT 6+♥, plus a minor

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♥	Pass	1♠*	Pass
2NT*	Pass	3♣*	Pass
3♠*	Pass	3NT	Pass
4♥	All Pass		

1♥ 14+ (good 12/13) 5+♥ or  
 11-13 with 5+♥ and 4♠

1♠ 0-9, 4+♠

I think 2NT was an artificial game force, usually a two suited hand.

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

I can think of two reasons why North might lead a spade rather than a club - do you consider either of them valid?

1. South did not Dble 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 nine IMPs in bits and pieces over the remaining deals to win 44-28 IMPs, 14.18-5.82 VP to stay in the hunt for a spot in the final.

This deal, played in the last qualifying round made sure that the USA would reach the final:

Dealer East. EW Vul

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

- 2♠ Transfer to clubs
- 3♣ No fit

East led the king of diamonds and declarer ruffed as West followed with the nine. Attempting to cross to dummy with a spade would have seen East take the ace and give his partner a spade ruff, but declarer found a brilliant counterpoint when he played the king of hearts at trick two. When West's queen put in an appearance declarer could play on spades for a comfortable +590.

At the other table, John Krayak was one down in 4♣, so the USA picked up 10 IMPs.

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



Board 32. Dealer West. E/W Vul.

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

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 queen and king, declarer was allowed to scramble nine tricks for down two and -500.

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 manage only eight tricks in the face of the six-nil trump break; -800.

The 7 IMP swing was more than sufficient to move Israel up to second and push Monaco out of the final.

**USA v Israel F1**

The USA started with a carryover of 10 IMPs.

Board 3. Dealer South. EW Vul.

♠ 9 4 3	<div style="border: 2px solid red; padding: 5px; display: inline-block;"> <table style="border-collapse: collapse; margin: 0;"> <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> </div>	N	W   E	S	♠ Q J 8
N					
W   E					
S					
♥ Q J 8 2		♥ 9 6			
♦ K J 6	♦ A 10 8 5 3				
♣ J 7 4	♣ A K 3				
♠ 10 2	♠ A K 7 6 5				
♥ 10 7 3	♥ A K 5 4				
♦ Q 9 4 2	♦ 7				
♣ 9 6 5 2	♣ 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. EW'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.



**Curtis Cheek**

USA

Closed Room

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

1NT 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, a 7 IMP pick up for the USA.

Board 5. Dealer North. NS Vul.

♠ J 10 3	<div style="border: 2px solid red; padding: 5px; display: inline-block;"> <table style="border-collapse: collapse; margin: 0;"> <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> </div>	N	W   E	S	♠ Q 9 6 5 2
N					
W   E					
S					
♥ 10 3 2		♥ 5 4			
♦ 10 8 5 4	♦ A 6				
♣ K 9 8	♣ Q 10 6 4				
♠ A K 8 4	♠ 7				
♥ A K 8	♥ Q J 9 7 6				
♦ K Q J	♦ 9 7 3 2				
♣ A 5 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

South led the three of clubs and declarer won with the ace, drew trumps and played a club to the queen, +980.

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

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, one down, -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		♠ Q J 6 5 ♥ 9 6 ♦ Q J 10 ♣ 10 8 6 3	♠ 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, +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			

2♥ Transfer

West led the five of diamonds and when declarer ducked, 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, +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		♠ 10 8 7 5 4 ♥ A 10 ♦ A J 4 ♣ 10 7 2	♠ 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, -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, -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



must put in the nine and play a second club, after which the defenders should come to seven tricks.

Board 12. Dealer West. EW Vul.

	♠ 7 3		
	♥ A J 10 8 2		
	♦ J 8 5		
	♣ K Q 3		
♠ A J 10	<div style="border: 2px solid red; padding: 5px; display: inline-block; text-align: center;">N W E S</div>	♠ Q 9 6 4 2	
♥ K Q 6 4 3		♥ 9	
♦ A		♦ 10 9 7 4 3	
♣ A 10 8 5		♣ 9 4	
	♠ 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 overruffed and exited with the king of spades, leaving declarer well short of his target. He finished two down, -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 cross ruffs 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 EW. 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, three down, -150, and 2 IMPs to Israel.

Board 14. Dealer East. None Vul.

	♠ 9 6		
	♥ A K 5 4		
	♦ 6 4 3		
	♣ A Q 6 2		
♠ A 10 8 7 5 4	<div style="border: 2px solid red; padding: 5px; display: inline-block; text-align: center;">N W E S</div>	♠ K J 2	
♥ Q 9 3		♥ 7 2	
♦ Q		♦ J 10 9 8 7 2	
♣ J 8 4		♣ K 9	
	♠ 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			
2♠	5-10 with spades		
	Dble Responsive		

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♣*	Pass
2♠	Dble	4♠	All Pass
2♣	Strong or weak in diamonds		

4♠ had to go one down, -50, but Israel added another 11 IMPs.



They had had much the better of the exchanges to lead 45-18.

**USA v Israel F2**

After 16 boards Israel held a useful 27 IMP lead.

Board 18. Dealer East. NS 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		

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	

- 3♥ 5-5, forcing
- 4NT RKCB
- 5♣ 1 key card

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, -200.

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			

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



Board 19. Dealer South. EW 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♣	Dble	Rdbl	2♦
Pass	Pass	3♦*	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

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 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, +600.

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.

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 had played 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.

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

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 EW 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 EW will reach the club game.

3♥ drifted two down, -100.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Demuy</i>	<i>Birman</i>	<i>Kranyak</i>	<i>Padon</i>
—	—	—	1♣*
1♦	Dble*	Pass	1♥
Dble*	3♥	All Pass	

1♣ 2+♣, 12-14 or 18-19 balanced, no 5 card major

Dble Transfer to hearts

Dble Take out

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

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♣*	Pass	1♥*	Pass
1♠*	Pass	2NT*	Pass
3♣*	Dble	Pass	Pass
Rdbl*	Pass	3♠*	Pass
6♥	All Pass		

1♣ Strong

1♥ 8-11 any shape

1♠ One major

2NT Majors, 4-4

3♣ Sets hearts as trumps

Rdbl First round control

3♠ Cue bid

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.

**USA v Israel F3**

**The Day after Tomorrow**

The Day After Tomorrow is a 2004 American climate fiction-disaster film co-written, directed, and produced by Roland Emmerich which depicts fictional 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.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Fisher	Cheek	Schwartz	Bertens
—	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. 6♥ was hopeless and finished two down, -100.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Demuy	Herbst	Kranyak	Herbst
—	Pass	Pass	1♠
Pass	1NT	Pass	2♣*
Pass	2♦*	Pass	2♥*
Pass	2♠*	Pass	2NT
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

2♣ looks like a type of Gazzilli, with 2♦ promising 7/8 and asking for more information. 2♥ 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.



Board 3. Dealer South. EW Vul.

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

Board 4. Dealer West. Both Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Fisher	Cheek	Schwartz	Bertens
—	—	—	Pass
1♣*	1♠	2♦	Pass
2♠	Pass	3♣	Pass
4♣	Pass	4♠*	Pass
4NT*	Pass	5♣*	Pass
6♣	All Pass		

- 1♣ 2+♣, 12-21 may be longer diamonds.
- 5♣ 1 key card

A good natural sequence to the laydown slam, +1370.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Demuy	Herbst	Kranyak	Herbst
—	—	—	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.



**John Kranyak**

USA

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Fisher	Cheek	Schwartz	Bertens
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
Demuy	Herbst	Kranyak	Herbst
1♦	Pass	2♥*	Pass
Pass	Dble*	Pass	Pass
2♠	Dble	All Pass	

It looks as if 2♥ promised both majors.

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 overruffed, 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. NS Vul.

	♠ J 9 4		
	♥ 7 5 4		
	♦ J 8 4		
	♣ Q 10 6 4		
♠ Q 10 8 5 2	<div style="border: 2px solid red; padding: 5px; display: inline-block; text-align: center;">N W E S</div>	♠ A 7 6 3	
♥ A 10		♥ K Q 9 6	
♦ 5		♦ 10 9 6	
♣ A J 8 5 2		♣ 9 7	
	♠ K		
	♥ J 8 3 2		
	♦ A K Q 7 3 2		
	♣ 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*	3♦
4♣	Pass	4♥*	Pass
4♠	All Pass		

2NT Spade support

4♥ Cue bid

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 overruffed. Now the ten of clubs enabled South to score the king of spades for one down, -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♦*	Dble
4♠	All Pass		

3♦ 4 card spade raise

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. EW Vul.

	♠ J 7 4		
	♥ A J 4		
	♦ A K 9 8 6		
	♣ 7 3		
♠ A Q 6	<div style="border: 2px solid red; padding: 5px; display: inline-block; text-align: center;">N W E S</div>	♠ 10 5 2	
♥ 8 3		♥ Q 10 9 6 5 2	
♦ Q J 5 4 3		♦ 7	
♣ 6 5 4		♣ 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 a Puppet to 3♦, 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, -50.

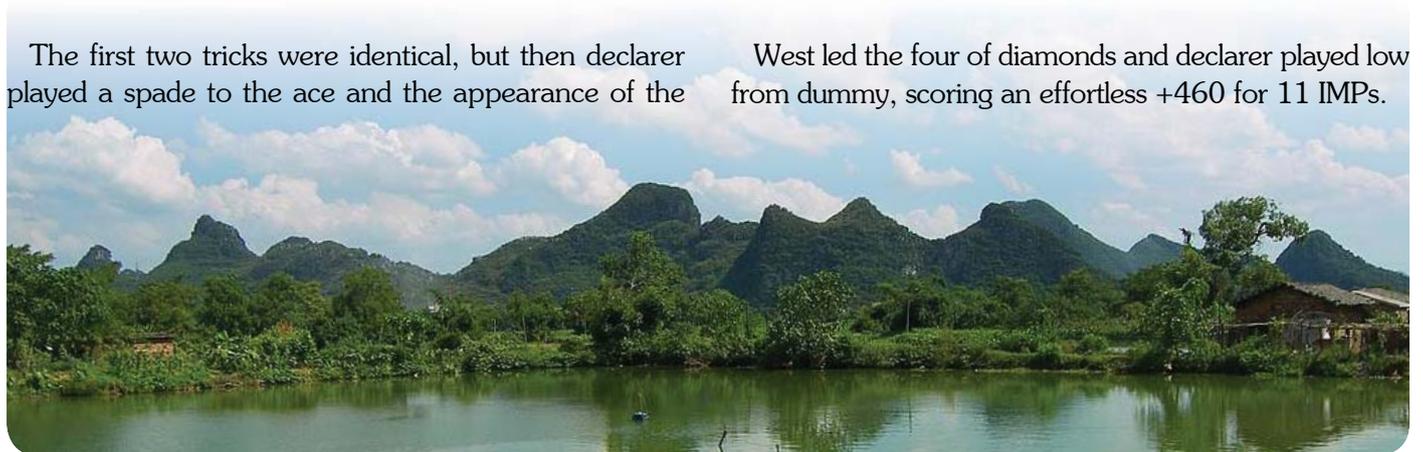
Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Demuy</i>	<i>Herbst</i>	<i>Kranyak</i>	<i>Herbst</i>
—	—	Pass	1NT
Pass	3♣*	Pass	3♦*
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

3♣ Puppet

3♦ 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 EW Vul.

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

Board 12. Dealer West. NS Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Demuy</i>	<i>Herbst</i>	<i>Kranyak</i>	<i>Herbst</i>
Pass	3NT*	4♠*	Dble
All Pass			

3NT Solid 7/8 card minor, no outside ace or king

4♠ Those who live by the sword.....

4♠ doubled was four down, -800 so another 16 IMPs to the Sport Accord champions, Israel.

Israel collected US\$30,000, USA 18,000, Monaco 12,000 & China 6,000.

**Star Quality**

I asked some of the brightest stars in the bridge firmament to tell me how they took their first tentative steps.

**Geir Helgemo**

I was 11 years old and playing football. Walking home after practice one day it started to rain heavily so I went to my father's bridge club for shelter. While watching my father play I spotted he could have taken

an extra trick.

I went to the library, borrowed every book they had and read them all.

**Sally Brock**

My parents play rubber bridge and when I was 14 they found themselves one short so I was drafted in to make up the four. I played with them a couple of times a week until I went to University where I joined the bridge club and met my first

husband, England International Tony Sowter.

**Nevena Senior**

I only started playing bridge during my final year at University and my first husband helped me to expand my knowledge of the game. At the time there was little money available within the Bulgarian Bridge Federation, but they

did manage to send a women's team to the Venice Olympiad in 1988 where we caused a big surprise by winning the bronze medals.

**Pierre Zimmermann**

I was studying mathematics at the same University in Lausanne that my children now attend and I founded a bridge club there. We knew so little that my partner would open 1NT with a void because he

knew that it promised 16-18 points, but not that it also needed a balanced hand. I persuaded Philip Morris to sponsor us with bridge tuition from a professional teacher.

**Nicola Smith**

My parents were both Internationals so it was almost inevitable that I would follow in their footsteps. Once I had acquired the basics I was able to improve my knowledge at my parent's club, the London School of Bridge. Situated on the King's Road in Chelsea it was also handy for shopping and watching Chelsea play at Stamford Bridge.

**Irina Levitina**

At one point while living in the USSR Irina was the second best female chess player on the planet, losing a match for the world championship 5-8.

Despite its unpopularity Irina took to bridge and became the first Soviet citizen to win a bridge award, securing the International Bridge Press Association's AlpWater prize for outstanding play in 1985.

She emigrated to America in 1987 and in 1993 she abandoned chess to concentrate on bridge, a decision she has never regretted. She puts it succinctly:

In Bridge the whole game is oriented towards conversation. Socializing with and having feelings for your partner is no less important here than other qualities, and in women this feeling is developed, perhaps even more so than in men.

**Marion Michielsen**

As a child Marion loved to play all games and was from birth blessed with a competitive nature out of the ordinary.

I always want to win and perform well. If there is something I am not very good at I usually stop doing it.

My father plays bridge reasonably well. I wasn't really interested at first, but then my younger brother learned to play, and I couldn't stand that he could do something



I couldn't so I wanted to learn.

Marion read all the bridge books and old magazines she could find and started to play with her younger brother at a club. They were a slight annoyance to their opponents, partly because they so quickly developed their bridge skills, partly because they always ate ice cream the table, making their opponents complain that the cards got sticky.

### Heather Dhondy



Heather's parents, Mike and Hazel Dunstan, were both avid bridge players and introduced their teenage children, Heather, Cathy and Peter to the game. The Dunstan children quickly absorbed the finer points of the game and enjoyed a high standard of Kitchen Bridge.

Heather soon graduated from the home game to the international scene. Her team from York University won the Portland Bowl and represented England in the Entente Cordiale in 1987.

At the age of 24, Heather began playing for the Women's team.

### Meike Wortel



She was taught to play by her parents when she was 'very small' but didn't really start playing until her student days.

Her interest in the game was fuelled by her passion for solving puzzles.

Her advice on how to improve? 'Ask better players plenty of questions - you will learn a lot'.

### Women's Teams

Unlike the Open, where one team was virtually out of contention at the end of day one, here all four teams retained an interest almost to the end of the qualifying process.

At the end of the first round robin, England lay second and USA third. A solid win in their Round Four match could go a long way towards seeing England into the main final, while an American victory could see them leapfrog their rivals into the top two with two rounds still to play. It didn't take long for the teams to exchange early Christmas gifts.

Board 3. Dealer South. E/W Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Draper</i>	<i>Disa</i>	<i>Brown</i>	<i>Deas</i>
—	—	—	Pass
2♣*	2NT*	Pass*	3♦
4♣	5♦	6♣	6♦
7♣	Dble	All Pass	

Hjordis Eythorsdottir, popularly known as Disa, made a two-suited overcall and that found the diamond



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

introduced her spades, Kerri Sanborn could ask about key cards and settle for the small slam when one proved to be missing; +1460 after an attacking diamond lead from Heather Dhondy, and 17 IMPs to USA.

Board 4. Dealer West. All Vul.

	♠ K 8 5		
	♥ A 5 3		
	♦ A		
	♣ A K Q 9 7 4		
♠ A J 10 3 2	<div style="border: 2px solid red; padding: 5px; display: inline-block; text-align: center;">N W E S</div>	♠ Q 9 4	
♥ Q J 2		♥ 6 4	
♦ 8 4		♦ J 9 5 3 2	
♣ 6 5 2		♣ 10 8 3	
	♠ 7 6		
	♥ K 10 9 8 7		
	♦ K Q 10 7 6		
	♣ J		

West	North	East	South
Sanborn	Senior	Levitina	Dhondy
—	—	—	Pass
2♣	2♥	2♠	3♥
3♠	4♦	Pass	4♥
4NT	Pass	5♣	Pass
6♠	All Pass		

West	North	East	South
Draper	Disa	Brown	Deas
Pass	2♣*	Pass	2♦*
Pass	2NT	Pass	3♦*
Pass	3♥	Pass	4♦
Pass	5♥	Pass	6♦
Pass	6♥	All Pass	

Nevena Senior's simple heart overcall had the benefit of attracting the only lead in which she was interested should East become declarer, but did not suggest the playing strength of Disa's action, though her subsequent 4♦ surely did so and Dhondy might have been more aggressive from that point on. When Irina Levitina

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



**Heather Dhondy**  
ENGLAND

West	North	East	South
Sanborn	Senior	Levitina	Dhondy
Pass	2♦	Pass	2♥
Pass	3♣	Pass	3♥
Pass	4♥	All Pass	

Senior opened with a multi 2♦. Two Hearts was pass or correct and 3♣ showed a strong but not game-forcing two bid in clubs, around a good eight or nine playing tricks. Dhondy showed that she really did have hearts and Senior raised to game; +650 after ace and another spade lead, 13 IMPs back to close to 13-23.

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



**Hjordis "Disa" Eythorsdottir**

USA

Board 30. Dealer East. None Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Draper</i>	<i>Disa</i>	<i>Brown</i>	<i>Deas</i>
—	—	Pass	2NT
Pass	3♦*	Dble	3♥
Pass	4♥	All Pass	

When Brown doubled the transfer, Deas completed to 3♥, showing heart support, but Disa simply raised to game. (You also need to know what a redouble would promise in this situation.)

West	North	East	South
<i>Sanborn</i>	<i>Senior</i>	<i>Levitina</i>	<i>Dhondy</i>
—	—	Pass	2NT
Pass	3♦*	Pass	4♥
Pass	5♣*	Pass	5♦
Pass	5♥	Pass	6♥
All Pass			

5♣ Cue bid/values

There was no double at this table but Dhondy made the more aggressive transfer break to 4♥ and now Senior was worth a try for slam. With all those key cards, Dhondy was always bidding six now and, when Senior signed off due to concern about the lack of a spade control, she duly raised herself to slam.

Both declarers got the clubs right so made all 13 tricks, but that was worth +1010 to England and only

+510 to USA so 11 IMPs to England and the lead in the match at 35-27.

It seemed that England had come through to win the match but, after picking up an overtrick IMP in a dull game on Board 32, Draper/Brown had a bidding misunderstanding and played 2♣ on a two-two fit vulnerable when they had a partscore elsewhere. Down five meant -500 and 12 IMPs to USA, who won by 39-36 IMPs, 10.91-9.09 VPs. Meanwhile, the Netherlands defeated China by 15.92- 4.08 to close the rankings right up. England led but the whole field was covered by under 10 VPs with two rounds to play.

### Women's Final

A tremendous 20-0 victory by the Netherlands (the only one of the tournament) against the USA in the last round saw them leapfrog the Americans to join England in the final in which

England started with a 16-IMP carry-over advantage.

After four boards of the final the score had moved on only to 17-1.

Board .5 Dealer North. N/S Vul.

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

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.

South led the queen of hearts. Declarer 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.

Pasman needed North to hold the king or for South to hold king-doubleton, when she would have to give a ruff and discard.

West	North	East	South
<i>Draper</i>	<i>Wortel</i>	<i>Brown</i>	<i>Michielsen</i>
—	Pass	Pass	Pass
2♣	Pass	2♦*	Pass
2♥*	Pass	2♠*	Pass
2NT*	Pass	3♥*	Pass
4♠	Pass	4NT*	Pass
5♣*	Pass	6♠	All Pass

- 2♦ Waiting, game forcing
- 2♥ Kokish
- 2♠ Relay
- 2NT 23-24 balanced
- 3♥ Transfer
- 4NT RKCB
- 5♣ 1-4 keycards

The early play was identical, but after completing the elimination Brown did not cash the ace of clubs, instead leading low off the dummy, putting in the ten when Meike Wortel played low. 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; 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.



**Fiona Brown**  
ENGLAND

Board 6. Dealer East. E/W Vul.

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

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.

West	North	East	South
<i>Draper</i>	<i>Wortel</i>	<i>Brown</i>	<i>Michielsen</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. Michielsen led the ten of hearts and Brown emerged to with eight fairly painless tricks for +120.

Board 8. Dealer West. None Vul.

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

Board 17. Dealer North. None Vul.

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

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, which would be the winning defence if declarer held say ♠AJ106532 ♥75 ♦1095 ♣A.

Pasman could win the ace of diamonds and play a second round setting up the diamond ruff that delivered her contract, +420 and another 10 IMPs to Netherlands, leading by 36-17.

At the end of the set the score was 42-28.



**Catherine Draper**

ENGLAND

West	North	East	South
<i>Draper</i>	<i>Arnolds</i>	<i>Brown</i>	<i>v Zwol</i>
—	1♦	Dble	3♦
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.

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	

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 Pisman 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, who had much the better of a generally dull set of deals.

They restricted their opponents to just 3 IMPs to lead 57-45.

Board 3. Dealer South. E/W Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Dhondy</i>	<i>Wortel</i>	<i>Senior</i>	<i>Michielsen</i>
—	—	—	Pass
1♣	1♠*	2♦	Pass
2♠*	Pass	3♣	Pass
3♠*	Pass	4♥	Pass
6♣	All Pass		

Dhondy's 1♣ opening also only promised two cards, but her cuebid provided room for Nevena Senior to show her clubs and now Dhondy could show her spade control and jump to slam over her partner's Last Train style4♥, +1370.

West	North	East	South
<b>v Zwol</b>	<b>Brock</b>	<b>Arnolds</b>	<b>Smith</b>
—	—	—	Pass
1♣	1♠	2♥*	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

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, but 12 IMPs to England, who led by 69-52.

Board 9. Dealer North. E/W Vul.

♠ 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	
♠ J 5 4 ♥ K J 10 7 ♦ A J ♣ Q 10 7 3		♠ 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>Michielsen</i>
—	Pass	1♣	Pass
1♥	Pass	1NT	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

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. Michielsen led the seven of spades to the ace and back came a second spade, ducked to the queen. Michielsen 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. Michielsen had to lead a diamond into the king-ten so the contract was just one down for -100.

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 and 6 IMPs to Netherlands, closing to 59-69.



Board 12. Dealer West. N/S Vul.

	♠ —		
	♥ 8 7 6		
	♦ AKQ 9 6 3 2		
	♣ 10 5 2		
♠ 9 5 2	<div style="border: 2px solid red; padding: 5px; display: inline-block; text-align: center;">N W E S</div>	♠ K 10 8 7 4 3	
♥ AK 3		♥ 9 5 2	
♦ J 10 8 5 4		♦ —	
♣ 7 6		♣ J 9 4 3	
	♠ 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			

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 Michielsens 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.

West	North	East	South
<i>v Zwol</i>	<i>Brock</i>	<i>Arnolds</i>	<i>Smith</i>
Pass	3♦	Pass	5♦
All Pass			

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.

	♠ A Q 8 7 2		
	♥ 8 3 2		
	♦ K 6 2		
	♣ Q 2		
♠ K J 5	<div style="border: 2px solid red; padding: 5px; display: inline-block; text-align: center;">N W E S</div>	♠ 6 4	
♥ 5		♥ AKJ 10 9 4	
♦ J 9 8		♦ A Q 3	
♣ A J 8 7 6 4		♣ 9 3	
	♠ 10 9 3		
	♥ Q 7 6		
	♦ 10 7 5 4		
	♣ K 10 5		

West	North	East	South
<i>Dhondy</i>	<i>Wortel</i>	<i>Senior</i>	<i>Michielsens</i>
—	—	1♥	Pass
1NT	Pass	2♥	Pass
3♣	All Pass		

When Dhondy introduced her long club suit Senior had no reason to go on.

Wortel led a low diamond round to Dhondy's jack. A heart to the ace was followed by the nine of clubs, Michielsens 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.

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

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.



**Wietske van Zwol**  
NETHERLANDS



Board 15. Dealer South. N/S Vul.

	♠ K Q 7 4		
	♥ 4		
	♦ J 9 8 6 3		
	♣ Q J 5		
♠ A 8 5	<div style="border: 2px solid red; padding: 5px; display: inline-block; text-align: center;">N W E S</div>	♠ J 10 9 2	
♥ J 7 5		♥ 9 8 6	
♦ A K 7		♦ 4 2	
♣ K 7 6 3		♣ A 10 9 2	
	♠ 6 3		
	♥ A K Q 10 3 2		
	♦ Q 10 5		
	♣ 8 4		

West	North	East	South
<i>Dhondy</i>	<i>Wortel</i>	<i>Senior</i>	<i>Michielsens</i>
—	—	—	1♥
Dble	Rdbl	1♠	2♥
Pass	Pass	2♠	All Pass

Michielsens 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. Michielsens 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 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.

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 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 in Beijing?

Board 16. Dealer West. E/W Vul.

	♠ Q 5		
	♥ A K 8 7		
	♦ Q J 9 7		
	♣ J 10 4		
♠ J	<div style="border: 2px solid red; padding: 5px; display: inline-block; text-align: center;">N W E S</div>	♠ 10 7 6 2	
♥ J 9 5 3 2		♥ Q 10 4	
♦ A 4		♦ 10 2	
♣ A K 7 3 2		♣ 9 8 6 5	
	♠ A K 9 8 4 3		
	♥ 6		
	♦ K 8 6 5 3		
	♣ Q		

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			

English supporters waiting to see the result from the other table, felt that they had little hope – surely the Dutch would get to one of their making games?

Dhondy's 2♣ 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.

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	

Though Smith did not guess to pick up spades, she



had only three losers so quickly chalked up +420 which meant 7 IMPs to England who had won by 81-78 IMPs and were the 2014 Sport Accord World Mind Game Women's Bridge Teams champions.

England collected US\$24,000, Netherlands 18,000, USA 12,000 & China 6,000.

### The Pairs

There would be four sessions of 22 deals.

### Open Pairs Session 1

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

Get it?  
Got it.  
Good!

Board 2. Dealer East. NS Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Demuy</i>	<i>Lall</i>	<i>Kranyak</i>	<i>Lee</i>
—	—	1♥	Dble
1NT*	4♠	5♣	5♠
6♥	Pass*	Pass	Dble
All Pass			

1NT Transfer  
Pass 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 phase of the game - Matchpointed Pairs - well worth seeking out.

One might observe that going for a huge penalty and scoring a zero might be rectified by making an over trick on the next board. At IMPs going for -1400 against the opponents +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 take the save. South led the queen of spades and then collected a couple of aces, two down, +300. That proved to be worth 4/6 for NS.

Board 8. Dealer West. None Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Helgemo		Fisher	H e l n e s s
Schwartz			
1NT	Pass	3NT	All Pass

What to lead from the North hand?

Fisher 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 honor from HHxx+ (touching honors) works better than the usual 4th best lead.
3. Doubleton and singleton leads also work better than textbooks suggest. The danger of helping declarer setting 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 Hxx leads.

There is plenty of debate about this - you can follow some excellent discussion at: [www.bridgewinners.com](http://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. EW Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Shi	Wu	Zhuang	Dong
—	Pass	1NT	Pass
2♦*	Pass	2♥*	3♣
All Pass			

2♦ Transfer

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

West	North	East	South
Shi	Wu	Zhuang	Dong
—	—	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, +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 if declarer takes the right view in spades, then as many as eleven become possible.

Board 11. Dealer South. None Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Herbst	Helness	Herbst	Helgemo
—	—	—	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.

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.

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

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

Rdbl A five card suit  
 2♠ Take out

Not a triumph for NS.

West led the five of hearts, after which declarer managed to scramble seven tricks. +300 was a top for NS, 10/0.

Board 18. Dealer East. NS Vul.

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

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

Dble Takeout

West speculated with a double.

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

Drop the Dead Donkey is a situation comedy that first aired on Channel 4 in the UK 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 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		
♠ Q 6 4 2	<div style="border: 2px solid red; padding: 5px; display: inline-block; text-align: center; color: white; font-weight: bold;">N W E S</div>	♠ 9 5	
♥ A 10 8 5 3 2		♥ K 7 6	
♦ Q 5 3		♦ 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
Shi	Herbst	Zhuang	Herbst
—	1♣*	Pass	1♠*
Pass	1NT	Pass	Pass
2♥	Pass	Pass	3♣
Dble*	3♦	Dble	All Pass

- 1♣ 3+♣ (only if 4333) 11-21
- 1♠ Transfer to diamonds
- Dble Take out

East led the six of hearts and West won with the ace and returned the four of spades. Declarer won with 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 eight of clubs, claiming an overtrick and +570. An unsurprising 10/0.

Board 14. Dealer West. All Vul.

	♠ K 10 6		
	♥ Q 9 7 3		
	♦ J 6 4		
	♣ K 9 7		
♠ A 4	<div style="border: 2px solid red; padding: 5px; display: inline-block; text-align: center; color: white; font-weight: bold;">N W E S</div>	♠ J 8 7 5 3 2	
♥ J 8 4 2		♥ A K 5	
♦ A K Q 10 5 2		♦ 3	
♣ 10		♣ Q 6 3	
	♠ Q 9		
	♥ 10 6		
	♦ 9 8 7		
	♣ A J 8 5 4 2		

West	North	East	South
Herbst	Cheek	Herbst	Bertens
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, -400, a predictable 10/0.

Board 6. Dealer East. EW Vul.

	♠ A 8 7		
	♥ 10 9 6 3		
	♦ K Q 10		
	♣ K J 3		
♠ K Q J 3	<div style="border: 2px solid red; padding: 5px; display: inline-block; text-align: center; color: white; font-weight: bold;">N W E S</div>	♠ 10 6 4	
♥ K Q J 7		♥ A 8 5 4 2	
♦ 9 8 3		♦ 5 4 2	
♣ 10 8		♣ 5 2	
	♠ 9 5 2		
	♥ —		
	♦ A J 7 6		
	♣ A Q 9 7 6 4		

West	North	East	South
Ju	Birman	Shi	Padon
		Pass	2♣*
Dble	Rdbl	2♥	3♦
Pass	3♥*	Pass	3♠
Pass	4♣	Pass	4♦
Pass	4♠*	Pass	6♣
All Pass			

- 2♣ Precision
- 4♠ Cue bid

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, +920 and 9/1.

If the trumps had been 3-1 declarer has 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 EW 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.

♠ A K 10 3 ♥ 10 8 7 6 ♦ A K Q ♣ Q 8		♠ 9 7 4 2 ♥ Q J 2 ♦ 9 6 5 4 3 ♣ 3	♠ Q J ♥ A 5 4 ♦ 8 2 ♣ A K J 7 6 5 ♠ 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, -300 and although EW would be forced to make 4♠ if they bid it was a predictable disaster, 0/10.

Board 13. Dealer North. All Vul.

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

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	

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. 6♦ was three down, a predictable 0/10.

On Board 16 NS's combined holding was ♠Q96 ♥A864 ♦AK64 ♣A2 facing ♠AK104 ♥97 ♦Q9532 ♣76. 6♦ is playable, as unless trumps are 4-0 you only need the spades to come in, a 61.6% chance.

Board 21. Dealer North. NS Vul.

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

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. EW Vul.

	♠ Q 10 8		
	♥ J 9 7 6 5		
	♦ Q J 10		
	♣ K 7		
♠ A 9		♠ 6 3 2	
♥ A Q 10 4		♥ K 8 2	
♦ 6		♦ A K 9 7 4 2	
♣ A J 10 9 8 4		♣ 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, -100 and 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 spade break.

If EW miss the title by 5 matchpoints should I remind declarer about this deal?



**Geir Helgemo**

MONACO

## The Phantom Menace

### Open Pairs F3

Star Wars Episode I: The Phantom Menace is a 1999 American epic space opera film written and directed by George Lucas. It is the fourth film in the Star Wars saga to be released, the first of a three-part prequel to the original Star Wars trilogy, and the first film in the story chronology.

At the bridge table everyone is aware of the dangers of a phantom sacrifice - let's see if they played any part in the third session.

Board 2. Dealer East. NS Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Multon</i>	<i>Fantoni</i>	<i>Zimmernann</i>	<i>Nunes</i>
—	—	1♣	Pass
1♦*	1♠	Dble*	2♥*
Pass	2♠	3♣	Pass
Pass	3♠	Pass	Pass
Dble	Pass	4♣	Dble
All Pass			

- 1♦ Transfer to hearts
- Dble Heart support
- 2♥ Spade support

When his partner doubled 3♠ East decided to run. South cashed the ace of spades and continued with the three, covered by the eight and king and ruffed by declarer, who played a club to the eight and ace and then covered North's switch to the ten of diamonds with the jack, South winning with the queen.

Now exiting with a trump is sure to lead to at least one down, but South played another spade, covered by the nine and queen and ruffed by declarer, who drew trumps, played a heart to the ace, pitched a diamond on the jack of spades, played a heart to the king and then cashed his remaining trump to squeeze South in the red suits.



One down would have been a zero for EW, but +510 was, unsurprisingly 0/10.

Board 6. Dealer East. EW Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Demuy	Fantoni	Kranyak	Nunes
—	—	Pass	1♠*
Pass	2♥*	Pass	2♠
Pass	3♠	Pass	3NT*
Pass	4♣*	Pass	4♦*
Pass	4♥*	Pass	4NT*
Pass	5♦*	Pass	6♣*
Pass	6♠	All Pass	

- 1♠ 14+ (good 12/13) 5+♠ or 11-13 with 5+♠ and 4♥.
- 2♥ 5+♥ game forcing
- 3NT Serious slam try
- 4♣ Cue bid
- 4♦ Cue bid
- 4♥ Cue bid
- 4NT Turbo

If you have only recently joined become a subscriber Turbo may be new to you.

This convention was originally designed to be employed with Neapolitan cue bids, which show a first or second round control after a fit has been established. It became part of the Blue Club system developed by Benito Garozzo.

The fundamental concept of Turbo is that the partner bids 4NT to show an even number of keycards. This only happens after a cuebid showing a first or second round control. A bid higher than 4NT promises an odd number of keycards and also first-round control in the suit bid.

6♠ was reached at every table and made easily on the lead of a diamond (3 times) a club and a spade. That left this table where West produced the nine of hearts. When declarer put up dummy's king he was one down - 0/10.

Board 13. Dealer North. All Vul.

♠ 3 ♥ 9 5 2 ♦ A 7 6 2 ♣ A 8 4 3 2		♠ 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
Dong	Fantoni	Wu	Nunes
—	Pass	1♣*	3♠
Dble*	Pass	4♥	Pass
Pass	4♠	Dble	All Pass

1♣ Strong

Declarer lost the obvious five tricks, two down, -500. EW +620 was recorded at every other table, 10/0.

Board 16. Dealer West. EW Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Dong	Fantoni	Wu	Nunes
Pass	Pass	1♦	1♠
Pass	2NT*	4♦	4♠
5♦	5♠	All Pass	

2NT Spade raise

Three NS pairs made 4♠ for +420, another made it doubled for +590 and one pair collected +500 from 5♦ doubled.

5♠ was one down, so 0/10.





Board 18. Dealer East. NS Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Helgemo</i>	<i>Fantoni</i>	<i>Helness</i>	<i>Nunes</i>
—	—	Pass	2♣*
Dble	3♣	Dble*	All Pass

2♣ 10-13 (good 9) 5+♣ unbalanced in 3rd seat could be weaker and maximum 12 (13)

West led the ten of diamonds and declarer won with the king and played the ace of clubs, followed by the jack. West took the queen, East discarding the two of hearts. According to the datum, declarer took only five tricks, -1100, for 0/10 (if it was six it would have saved a match point, 1/9, which can sometimes be significant).

Board 20. Dealer West. All Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Helgemo</i>	<i>Fantoni</i>	<i>Helness</i>	<i>Nunes</i>
Pass	Pass	1♥	Pass
1♠	Pass	3♦	Pass
3♥	Pass	4♥	All Pass

South led the three of clubs and when declarer won with dummy's ace North contributed the jack. Declarer ran the ten of hearts to South's jack and South now found the devastating play of cashing the ace of

diamonds and playing a second round of the suit, holding declarer to ten tricks, +620. That was 8/2.

Board 21. Dealer North. NS Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Shi</i>	<i>Fantoni</i>	<i>Zhuang</i>	<i>Nunes</i>
—	Pass	Pass	1♥*
1♠	3♥*	3♠	4♥
4♠	Pass	Pass	Dble
All Pass			

North led the eight of hearts and South won, cashed the ace of clubs and exited with a club. Declarer won, played a spade to the ten and ace and then finessed on the next round. That was one down and 10/0.

What a pity - that would have been the perfect Phantom - a sacrifice that makes.

### No Country for Old Men

#### Open Pairs F4

Sailing to Byzantium is a poem by William Butler Yeats, first published in the 1928 collection *The Tower*. It comprises four stanzas in ottava rima, each made up of eight ten-syllable lines. It uses a journey to Constantinople (Byzantium) as a metaphor for a spiritual journey. Yeats explores his thoughts and musings on how immortality, art, and the human spirit may converge. Through the use of various poetic techniques, Yeats describes the metaphorical journey of a man pursuing his own vision of eternal life as well as his conception of paradise.

The first line of the poem is 'That is no country for old men', and the 2007 film set in the vicinity of the United States-Mexico border, in 1980, concerning an illegal drug deal gone awry in the Texas desert backcountry derived its title from the poem.

I cannot tell you if the life of a bridge player in any way replicates the concepts outlined in the poem, but the winning of a major championship must surely be

part of the spiritual journey that every professional player undertakes over the years.

My choice of tile was predicated by the fact that one needs nerves of steel to take the many risks that seem to be associated with a Pairs event.

Perhaps older (and wiser?) players are reluctant to take as many as they might have done earlier in their careers, making the Pairs game No Country for Old Men.

When the last session started only a handful of match points separated the leading pairs.

Board 2. Dealer East. NS Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Zimmermann	Kranyak	Multon	Demuy
—	—	2♦*	Pass
2♥*	Pass	2♠	Dble
Pass	4♥	Pass	Pass
4♠	5♥	All Pass	

- 2♦ Multi
- 2♥ Pass or correct

West adopted a subtle approach designed to persuade his opponents that he was sacrificing. However, when they refused to accept the bait he should perhaps have taken the slight risk of doubling 5♥.

East led the ace of spades and switched to the jack of hearts. Declarer won with dummy's king, came to hand with the ace of hearts, ruffed a spade and played the three of clubs. When West went up with the ace he had endplayed himself and declarer escaped for one down, -100 and a maximum 10/0.

Two pairs doubled 5♥ and collected +500 for 1/9 each.



Board 3. Dealer South. EW Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Zimmermann	Kranyak	Multon	Demuy
—	—	—	Pass
Pass	1NT	Pass	2♣*
Dble	2♦*	Pass	2♥
Pass	Pass	Dble	Pass
Pass	2♠	Dble	All Pass

- 2♣ Stayman
- 2♦ No major

East led the king of clubs and when declarer ducked he continued the suit. Declarer won and ran the jack of diamonds. West ducked that, won the next diamond with the ace and played the queen of clubs. East pitched the two of hearts and declarer ruffed and played a heart to the king and ace. The eight of diamonds return was ruffed by West and he returned his remaining heart. Declarer won with dummy's jack and played a spade to the queen, but East took the ace and played back the ten of hearts for West to ruff.

That elegant defence put the contract two down, -300, 3/7.



**Franck Multon**  
MONACO



Board 6. Dealer East. EW Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Demuy</i>	<i>Fisher</i>	<i>Kranyak</i>	<i>Schwartz</i>
—	—	Pass	Pass
Pass	1♦	Pass	1♥
Dble	Pass	1NT	Dble
All Pass			

In the (good?) old days this deal would have been consigned to history with everyone passing.

South led the five of diamonds and declarer took North's king with the ace and ran the ten of clubs to North's ace. The defenders cashed three diamonds and South switched to the four of spades. Declarer had no chance of more than six tricks, one down, 200 and 8/2, the top going to the Herbst brothers, who made 1NT doubled with an overtrick on the NS cards for +280.

Board 8. Dealer West. None Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Demuy</i>	<i>Fisher</i>	<i>Kranyak</i>	<i>Schwartz</i>
2♠	Pass	4♠	All Pass

North led the ten of hearts and declarer elected to put in dummy's queen. South took the king and switched to the queen of spades. Declarer won with the king and played a diamond and South won with the ten and returned the five. Declarer ruffed and played the nine

of hearts, covered by the jack and ruffed. A spade to the ace was followed by the ace of hearts pitching a diamond and the seven of hearts for a ruffing finesse against South's eight.

It was neat way to record ten tricks, but a modest result, 6/4 as two pairs took eleven tricks.

Notice the text book situation in the club suit - if declarer plays a club at some point North is supposed to put up the king.

On Board 13 (is it just my imagination or does this deal enjoy more than its fair share of drama?) NS held ♠- ♥K10753 ♦AKJ642 ♣103 and ♠A4 ♥AJ962 ♦109 ♣AKJ9. One pair missed 7♥, but it was not a zero, that honour going to the pair who tried 7NT and found no joy in either minor suit.

When the last round started the title seemed to rest between Helgeness and the brothers Herbst.

Board 18. Dealer East. NS Vul.

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

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

South led the king of hearts and declarer won with dummy's ace, played a heart to the queen and a spade, covered by the queen, king and ace. North switched to the king of clubs and declarer won and played his remaining spade. South took the jack and played a club to North's queen. Now the obvious move is for North to play a diamond, forcing dummy to ruff and ensuring two down. However, after some thought North found the disastrous play of the jack of hearts. Declarer ruffed high, crossed to dummy with a trump and could discard all his diamond on the three good spades and the ten of hearts.

A huge slice of luck for EW who collected 0/10 instead of 10/0.

However, when the last board settled on the table it was the Monegasques led by only a single point.

Board 20. Dealer West. All Vul.

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

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

East led the queen of spades, but with spades 4-4 declarer could set up a heart for a ninth trick, +600.

Two pairs duplicated that result, one went down in 6♣ and another in 7NT doubled!

At the table that mattered the Herbst brothers played in 4♥ and went one down. That gave them only 3/7, but Helgeness's -600 was worth only 8/2, so incredibly the scores were tied.

Both pairs collected gold medals and US\$9000, with Lall/Lee receiving \$7,000.

In the Women's Pairs Michielsen/Wortel's win gave them US\$8,000, Ran/Wang collected \$6,000 and Wang/Lu \$5,000.



**Zejun Zhuang**

CHINA

## One for All, All for One

### Open Individual 1

One for all, all for one is the motto of Alexander Dumas' Three Musketeers (and the traditional motto of Switzerland. It is singularly appropriate for an Individual event, where the players join forces to play a common system and produce a single winner.

The methods in force for everyone were 5 card majors with a 15-17 NT, weak twos in three suits and standard signals with 3/5th leads against suits and 4th best versus no trumps.

Board 11. Dealer North. None Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Herbst</i>	<i>Lee</i>	<i>Zimmermann</i>	<i>Kranyak</i>
—	—	1♣	Pass
1♥	Pass	1♠	Pass
4♠	All Pass		

South led the jack of diamonds and declarer won with dummy's ace, unblocked the ace of clubs, crossed to the ace of hearts, pitched a diamond on the king of clubs, and ran the jack of clubs throwing dummy's remaining diamond. North took that and returned the eight of clubs. South ruffed with the king of spades, returned the jack of hearts for North to ruff and the last club enabled South to score the setting trick with the queen of spades, +50 and 9/1.

In passing I'll mention that one way to tackle this trump suit is to play the jack and run it if it is not covered. Assuming that loses you cash the ace on the next round, avoiding two losers 27% of the time.





Board 3. Dealer South. EW Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Herbst</i>	<i>Lee</i>	<i>Zimmermann</i>	<i>Kranyak</i>
—	—	—	Pass
1♦	3♠	Dble*	Pass
4♥	Pass	6NT	All Pass

South led the ten of spades and declarer won with the king, cashed the queen of diamonds, played a diamond to the ace, a club to the king and two more diamonds. North pitching the two of hearts, the five of spades and the eight of hearts.

Declarer continued with a club to the jack and queen, a club to the ace and the last diamond followed by a heart to the ten, South winning and cashing the nine of clubs for one down, +100 and 2/8.

One declarer went two down in 6NT the others all taking twelve tricks (although two stopped in 3NT).

Board 7. Dealer South. All Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Dong</i>	<i>Lee</i>	<i>Shi</i>	<i>Shi</i>
—	—	—	Pass
4♥	4♠	5♥	5♠
6♥	Dble	All Pass	

I have seen it written that opening 4♥ operates as a transfer to 4♠ by the opponents. Here was one of the

more esoteric examples.

The theorists can debate the situation if North doubled intending to bid 5♦ over a possible 5♣ response by partner.

Note that if North passes then South might well take some action.

North cashed the king of spades and switched to the seven of clubs which must be the right defence - if declarer has eight hearts and three spades then playing a trump will not stop any ruffs in dummy.

+500 was 10/0 - remarkably 11 tricks were made at all the other tables (twice when the contract was 5♥ doubled).

Board 9. Dealer North. EW Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Dong</i>	<i>Lee</i>	<i>Shi</i>	<i>Shi</i>
—	2♦	Dble	3♦
3♥	All Pass		

North's opening bid (of which your Editors thoroughly approve) saw EW go overboard.

North led the four of diamonds and South won with the ace and returned the ten, North winning with the king and switching to the four of spades (a club is best, ensuring two down). Declarer won with the ace and played a heart to the ten and king, South returning a spade to dummy's king. Declarer cashed the queen of spades pitching a diamond and then played the ace of hearts and a heart, South winning with the queen and playing the eight of spades. Declarer ruffed and played a club to the jack and king, South's diamond return giving North the last three tricks.

I make that four down, -400, but even the three down that appears on the datum was more than enough for 10/0.



Board 10. Dealer East. All Vul.

♠ K Q 10 ♥ A K Q 10 ♦ 5 4 ♣ K Q 7 4 ♠ 8 7 6 4 3 2 ♥ 8 ♦ K J 10 ♣ 9 6 3		♠ J 9 5 ♥ J 6 2 ♦ 3 ♣ A J 10 8 5 2 ♠ A ♥ 9 7 5 4 3 ♦ A Q 9 8 7 6 2 ♣ —	
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West	North	East	South
<i>Fantoni</i>	<i>Lee</i>	<i>Birman</i>	<i>Helness</i>
—	—	Pass	1♦
Pass	1♥	2♣	4♣*
Pass	4NT*	Pass	5NT*
Pass	7♥	All Pass	

- 4♣ Splinter
- 5NT 2 key cards and a void

With the diamond king offside this had to go one down, -100. However, with two pairs attempting 6NT (and one 6♦) it proved to be worth 7/3.

Maybe the answer is for North to bid 4♠? Then South could ask for key cards and bid 6♣ over North's response (gambling that North has the ♥AKQ) which should locate a second round diamond control?

Anyhow it's not often that you go down in a freely bid grand slam and score over average.



**Tor Helness**  
MONACO

On Board 13 South held (at game all)  
 ♠Q7642 ♥108 ♦102 ♣AKQ4 and saw partner open 3♦. East overcalled 3♥.  
 Your bid?  
 South tried 4♦ and found partner with  
 ♠98 ♥KJ3 ♦KJ87543 ♣10.  
 3♥ was making, but 4♦ was three down, -300 and 0/10.

Board 14. Dealer East. None Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Helgemo</i>	<i>Lee</i>	<i>Herbst</i>	<i>Padon</i>
—	—	Pass	Pass
1♣	1NT	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

East led the two of hearts and West won with the king and returned the eight to dummy's ace. With West marked with most of the missing high cards declarer played a spade to the jack, a spade to the king, a club to the jack, cashed all his winners and exited with a club forcing West to surrender a trick to the king of diamonds, +430, but only 5/5 as one EW got caught in 1♥ doubled for -800 while one declarer scored +460.

On Board 18 North (at red) was looking at

♠J84 ♥9865 ♦972 ♣A75.

East opened 3♥ and partner doubled.

Your move?

Nothing obvious springs to mind, so North (in common with the action at three other tables) decided to pass.

Partner held

♠AKQ2 ♥104 ♦A10 ♣K10842 and declarer

♠- ♥AQJ732 ♦86543 ♣Q6.

Declare ruffed the spade lead and played a diamond. South took it with the ace and returned a diamond, a soft defence that gave declarer an easy route to nine tricks and 2/10 (two others recorded +530). But if South had played a second spade declarer would have been struggling to take more than eight tricks.



Board 20. Dealer West. All Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Zimmermann	Lee	Lall	Multon
1♠	Pass	1NT	Pass
3♦	Pass	3♥	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

Offered a choice of two suits East introduced his own, which looks reasonable but when West bid 3NT he stood his ground rather than bid 4♠.

South led the four of hearts and declarer won perforce with dummy's king and played a spade. North took the ace and decided to switch to the three of clubs, turning a top into a bottom, 1/9.

Board 24. Dealer West. None Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Schwartz	Lee	Wu	Herbst
Pass	1♦	Dble	Rdbl
1♠	Pass	Pass	Dble
Pass	2♦	2♠	3NT
All Pass			

West led the nine of hearts and East took the jack with the queen and switched to the seven of spades. When declarer put up the king West won and returned the eight of hearts, so the defenders had soon amassed the first eight tricks, +200 and 1/9.

Would West have led the nine of hearts against 3NT if South had bid it immediately? We will never know, but 3NT was made four times, once with a overtrick, the leads being the ♠4 (+430) the ♥9 and the ♣7 (twice).

### Absolute Zero

### Open Individual S2

As the tournament drew to a close it was pretty cold in Beijing but still a long way short of absolute zero which is the lower limit of the thermodynamic temperature scale, a state at which the enthalpy and entropy of a cooled ideal gas reaches its minimum value, taken as 0. The theoretical temperature is determined by extrapolating the ideal gas law; by international agreement, absolute zero is taken as -273.15 on the Celsius scale.

It is much easier to record an absolute zero at the bridge table, as you will see from my review of the second session of the Open Individual.

Board 7. Dealer South. All Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Helgemo	Dong	Multon	Fisher
—	—	—	Pass
1♠	Pass	2♠	Pass
Pass	3♣	All Pass	

NS do very well in hearts, so playing in 3♣ was not a triumph.

Could South have risked a bid on the second round? Would it have made a difference?

East led the ten of spades and declarer took West's king with the ace, ruffed a spade, played a diamond to the ace, and then two more diamonds pitching a spade. East ruffed and played the king of hearts and a heart, West winning and playing a diamond. There was no way to avoid two down now, and -200 was 0/10.



Board 10. Dealer East. All Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Ju</i>	<i>Fantoni</i>	<i>Herbst</i>	<i>Bertens</i>
—	—	1♥	Pass
2♣	Pass	2♦	Pass
2♠	Pass	2NT	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

South led the four of spades and when North put in the ten (I would say it is near impossible for North to find the winning defence of rising with the ace and switching to diamonds) declarer won with the jack and played a club to the ten and jack. North cashed the ace of hearts and exited with a heart and declarer won, cashed another heart and played a club for the king and ace. Now cashing the clubs squeezed North in spades and diamonds for eleven tricks, +660 and 0/10.

Board 15. Dealer South. NS Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Zimmermann</i>	<i>Helgemo</i>	<i>Cheek</i>	<i>Kranyak</i>
—	—	—	Pass
Pass	1♠	Pass	3♠
Pass	4♠	All Pass	

East led the four of hearts for the five, king and ace and declarer drew trumps and played a heart to East's queen. The four of diamonds was taken by West's ace

and he innocently returned a diamond declarer could dispose of his losing club for a valuable overtrick, +650 and 10/0.

Board 16. Dealer West. EW Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Schwartz</i>	<i>Ju</i>	<i>Dong</i>	<i>Nunes</i>
Pass	Pass	1♦	Pass
1♠	Pass	Pass	2♣
Pass	Pass	Dble	All Pass

EW probably won't make 1NT, whereas in theory they can take eight tricks in spades. A player brought up on Acol would raise 1♠ to 2♠, but that is not de rigueur in the land of the five card major.

When South reopened East elected to double rather than bid 2♠, which should have put his side on the road to a top.

West led the five of diamonds (a spade is the killer, probably leading to two down) and East put in the eight, declarer winning with the jack and playing a heart. East won with king and switched to the king of spades. Declarer won with dummy's ace and played a diamond, East taking the ace, cashing the queen of spades and exiting with the eight to declarer's jack. The queen of clubs took the next trick and declarer exited with a heart to West's ace.

When West exited with a spade rather than a low club declarer pitched a heart from dummy and when East ruffed with the ten of clubs he overruffed and exited with a heart. West had to lead a club and declarer was home, +180 and 10/0.



Board 21. Dealer North. NS Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Schwartz	Ju	Dong	Nunes
—	1NT	Pass	2♣*
Pass	2♦*	Pass	3♥*
Pass	3♠	Pass	4♠
All Pass			

3♥ 4♥ and 5♠, forcing

East led his club and the defenders quickly wrapped up the first five tricks, ♣A, club ruff, ♦A, ♥A and another club ruff. With the rest of the field taking ten or eleven tricks in 3NT -200 was 0/10.

On Board 22 EW held

♠A643 ♥A943 ♦KQJ87 ♣- opposite  
 ♠K72 ♥KJ8 ♦A103 ♣QJ106

Only one pair attempted 6♦, which delivered all thirteen tricks (South had ♠QJ95 ♥652 ♦52 ♣AK52) for a maximum.

Board 23. Dealer South. All Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Birman	Schwartz	Helgemo	Helness
—	—	—	1♣
Pass	1♠	Pass	1NT
Pass	2♦*	Pass	2♠
Pass	4NT*	Pass	5♦*
Pass	5♥*	Pass	6♣*
Pass	6♠	All Pass	

2♦ Forcing relay  
 5♦ One key card  
 6♣ ♣K and ♠Q

East led the three of hearts and declarer won with the nine, cashed dummy's top clubs pitching a diamond, ran the queen of hearts, played a spade to the jack, ruffed the jack of hearts with the queen of spades and played a spade to the ten and king.

When East played the eight of hearts declarer must have feared he had been the victim of another Helgemo brilliancy, but West's discard meant he could claim, +1430 and 9/1.



**Top Gear**

**Open Individual S3**

Top Gear is a British television series about motor vehicles, primarily cars, and is the most widely watched factual television programme in the world. It began in 1977 as a conventional motoring magazine programme. Over time, and especially since a relaunch in 2002, it has developed a quirky, humorous and sometimes controversial style. The programme is currently presented by Jeremy Clarkson, Richard Hammond and James May, and has featured three different test drivers known as The Stig.

When the last session started it was very likely that the medals lay between Geir Helgemo, Tor Helness and Ilan Herbst.

The question was which of them would take the chequered flag.

Board 4. Dealer West. All Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Padon</i>	<i>Shi</i>	<i>Cheek</i>	<i>Dong</i>
1♦	Pass	1♠	Pass
2♠	Pass	3NT	Pass
4♥	Dble	Rdbl	Pass
4♠	All Pass		

That seemed quite a bad miss - once West bid 4♥ I expected East to take another bid with every suit controlled as well as the certainty that the heart king was onside.

Thirteen tricks were trivial, but only one pair bid the slam, so +710 was 6/4.

On board 5 NS held

♠KQ ♥104 ♦K76 ♣AKQJ97 opposite  
 ♠J1093 ♥Q98 ♦AQ!03 ♣43.

Everyone was in 3NT, sometimes by North, sometimes by South.

West held ♠A876 ♥AK532 ♦5 ♣1085 so the way

to the matchpoints was to get three tricks.

When West led a low heart declarer was +660 for 8/2.

Board 8. Dealer West. None Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Zhuang</i>	<i>Helness</i>	<i>Dong</i>	<i>Fantoni</i>
Pass	1♠	Dble	2♠
3♣	Pass	Pass	3♠
Dble	All Pass		

East led the two of clubs and West took the ace and switched to the seven of hearts for the queen, king and ace. A spade went to the king and ace and West ruffed the return of the nine of hearts, played a diamond to East's queen, ruffed the heart return and played a diamond, two down, -300 and a dreadful 9/1 for the leader.

On Board 9 Helness was declarer in 4♥ with

♠K6 ♥Q9765 ♦KQ10 ♣K86 facing  
 ♠5 ♥AJ1084 ♦A754 ♣J72.

He did not take the trump finesse and with East holding ♠A109743 ♥K2 ♦J93 ♣Q9 scoring only +420 was worth only 2/8.



**Lidang Dong**  
CHINA

Board 11. Dealer South. None Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Multon	Padon	Fantoni	Helgemo
—	—	—	Pass
2NT	Pass	3♣*	Pass
3♥	Pass	3NT	All Pass

North led the three of clubs and South won and returned a club, North winning and exiting with a club. Declarer had nine tricks, +400.

At every other table North led the jack of spades and declarer took ten tricks, so Helgemo had a top, 10/0 and took the lead.

Board 15. Dealer South. NS Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Herbst. O	Zhuang	Helgemo	Ju
—	—	—	Pass
3♠	3NT	All Pass	

North stretched to 3NT and East led his spade, declarer winning with the queen, playing a club to the ace and a diamond to the queen and ace. East exited with a club and declarer won with the king and returned a club. West won and played a spade and declarer won and cashed his club. East, down to red cards could not prevent declarer from collecting an eighth trick, one down, -100, another top, 0/10 for the leader.

Board 21. Dealer North. NS Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Dong	Herbst. O	Zimmermann	Schwartz
—	Pass	1♣	1♠
Pass	2♣*	2♠*	Pass
3♥	Pass	4♥	All Pass

2♣ Spade support  
2♠ Take out

Three pairs bid this excellent slam, so +480 was a miserable 8/2.

If East had bid 3♠ rather than 4♥ West might have bid 4♣ when East can surely ensure the bidding does not stop short of 6♥?

As you may have guessed it was Top Geir who cruised to victory.

Helgemo collected US\$8000, while Helness & Ophir Herbst (who tied) received \$5,500 each.

Nicola Smith won US\$6000 for her victory in the Women's Individual, with Marion Michielsen picking up \$4,000 and Catherine Draper \$3,000.





## THE EUROPEAN CHAMPIONS CUP 2015

by **Brian Senior**

Every year the European bridge League holds a Champions Cup event. The twelve-team field consists of the top ten finishers in the most recent European Open Team Championships, the holders, and a team from the host nation. In principle, the teams are the champion club from each country, but in some countries, such as England, the major team events are held between private teams so that there is no important inter-club championship and those countries can be represented by the winners of a major national championship – in England's case the winners of the Premier League, which is used as an aid to selection of the national Open team.

In the 13 years that the Champions Cup has existed there have been only four different winners, with the competition dominated by two Italian teams – Angelini, who have won it six times, and Allegra, who are five-time winners including the last four years.

The format is a round robin qualifier of 11 x 10-board matches, with the top four making it through to 32-board semi-finals and a 32-board final and play-off. Teams five-to-eight play secondary semi-finals, final and play-off, and teams nine-to-twelve minor semi-finals, final and play-off, to give a complete ranking from first down to twelfth. In each group of four, the top qualifier can select its semi-final opponent from the teams finishing third and fourth in their grouping.

England, as both hosts and having qualified by right, were entitled to two teams, as were Italy, as the holders. Meanwhile, the ongoing cheating scandal meant that no fewer than four of the qualifiers – Monaco, Israel, Germany and Poland – had withdrawn and been replaced by countries who had not originally qualified. While no team that finishes in the top half of a European Open Championship is weak, the overall field was somewhat weaker than usual, missing the gold and silver medalists in the 2014 European Championships and the new Bermuda Bowl champions from Chennai.

The English Bridge Union gave its second spot to a sponsor, which did not sit particularly well with other English players but did make a major contribution to the cost of holding the event. The sponsor's choice of team-mates meant that we had what I considered to be a ridiculous situation in which England was represented by a team of one Englishman (the sponsor), three Norwegians, an Irishman and Zia Mahmood, Pakistani, American and citizen of the world.

The sponsored team duly topped the qualifying rankings and played Onstein BC't of the Netherlands

in the semi-final, the Dutch team coming out on top by 77-42. The two Italian teams, Allegra and Angelini met in the other semi-final, with Allegra winning by 74-47.

This first deal came from the first round robin match between Allegra and Angelini.

RR1. Board 8. Dealer West. None Vul.

<p>♠ A K 9 8 ♥ A 3 ♦ A K Q 9 ♣ Q 3 2</p>		<p>♠ 10 ♥ Q 9 4 ♦ J 10 7 6 5 4 3 ♣ K 5</p>	<p>♠ 5 2 ♥ K J 10 5 2 ♦ 2 ♣ A J 9 8 6</p> <p>♠ Q J 7 6 4 3 ♥ 8 7 6 ♦ 8 ♣ 10 7 4</p>
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West	North	East	South
<i>Giubilo</i>	<i>Bianchedi</i>	<i>Cima</i>	<i>Di Franco</i>
2♣	2♥	Pass	3♥
Dble	Pass	4NT	Pass
5♦	Pass	6♦	All Pass

West	North	East	South
<i>Duboin</i>	<i>Tokay</i>	<i>Bilde</i>	<i>Sementa</i>
2NT	Pass	4♠	Pass
5♣	Pass	5♦	Pass
5♥	Dble	6♦	All Pass

For Angelini, Valerio Giubilo opened 2♣ and that made it possible for Bianchedi to overcall at a reasonably safe level. I'm not sure of the meaning of the subsequent auction, but it resulted in Giubilo declaring 6♦ from the right side. Bianchedi led the jack of hearts and Giubilo called for the queen. When that held he had no further worries and could draw trumps then give up a club and had 12 tricks for a swift and painless +920.

Giorgio Duboin, for Allegra, opened 2NT and that was a little too high for comfort so Mustafa Cem Tokay did not overcall. Four Spades showed one minor with some slam interest, 5♣ was pass or correct, and 5♦ said the suit was diamonds. That suited Duboin just fine and he cuebid on the way to slam, just in case Seven might be possible. Tokay doubled for the lead and Bilde signed off in the small slam.

Sementa led the six of hearts, third and low, and

Bilde, of course, called for dummy's ace. He cashed three rounds of trumps now, ending in hand. Tokay discarded the two of spades followed by the nine of clubs, while Sementa threw the spade two followed by the four of clubs. Both defenders had, I believe, shown an even number of spades. Bilde led the ten of spades next and Sementa played low – surely Tokay's first discard would not have been to void himself in a suit, so this looks like a clear error, but how could it hurt, as nobody would run the bare ten – would they? Yes they would! Bilde thought for quite some time but then convinced himself that this was his only real chance, as a defender would have had to make a crazy error to discard from a spade holding which would now ruff out. Bilde played low from dummy and, when the ten held the trick, crossed to the queen of diamonds to take two hearts discards on the ace and king of spades, after which he could give up a club and had 12 tricks for a magnificent flat board.

Though here representing Italy, Dennis Bilde is a young Dane who has been having a lot of success recently and his willingness to play for a world class opponent to have made an error rather than give up is one reason why.

Prooijen's overcall, Todor Tiholov showed a semi-positive by doubling. When Louk Verhees made a pre-emptive club raise, Tenev followed through by introducing his powerful spade suit and, with both East and West having already done their bidding, 4♠ ended the auction.

Van Prooijen led the partnership suit, selecting the queen, so Tenev could win the ace and ditch one of his heart losers. He drew trumps in three rounds, Verhees pitching one club and one heart, then led the remaining low heart from hand. Van Prooijen won the king and forced him with a club so Tenev ruffed and led the ten of diamonds. Again van Prooijen won his king and played a club. Tenev ruffed and, reading the position perfectly, cashed his last trump and forced Verhees to throw a heart to keep ace to three diamonds. But now Tenev could cash the ace of hearts and lead a diamond to the jack and ace and Verhees had to lead a diamond back to him at trick 12. Tenev put in the eight and had his game. Very nicely played for +420.

Berend van den Bos opened 1♠ and Joris van Lankveld made a simple raise. When Vladislav Isporski doubled for take-out, v d Bos could jump to the spade game but Rumen Trendafilov bid 5♣ over that, expecting it to either make or be a cheap save against 4♠. He was right, in a sense, in that 5♣ doubled was very cheap, though leading either red king would have beaten 4♠.

Van den Bos cashed a top spade then switched to a low diamond and Trendafilov won the king, ruffed a spade and played the nine of clubs, which was ducked by van Lankveld. Next Trendafilov led a low heart towards his king and van den Bos grabbed the ace and played a diamond. There was just the ace of trumps to be lost for down one; -100 but 8 IMPs to Radkov.

RR6. Board 24. Dealer West. None Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Isporski</i>	<i>v d Bos</i>	<i>Trendafilov</i>	<i>Lankveld</i>
Pass	1♠	Pass	2♠
Dble	4♠	5♣	Dble
All Pass			

West	North	East	South
<i>Verhees</i>	<i>Tenev</i>	<i>v Prooijen</i>	<i>Tiholov</i>
Pass	1♣	2♣	Dble
4♣	4♠	All Pass	

This deal comes from Onstein BC't versus Radkov, the Bulgarian champions.

For Radkov, Tenyu Tenev upgraded the North hand to a strong (16+) club opening and, after Ricco van



**Roumen Trendafilov**

**BULGARIA**



**Thor Erik Hoftaniska**  
NORWAY

The Norwegian champions, Heimdal BK, met the EBU Sponsor's team in Round 7.

RR7. Board 7. Dealer South. All Vul.

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

<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>
Lund	Saelensminde	Hoftaniska	Gillis
–	–	–	2♦
Pass	3♥	Dble	Pass
3♠	Pass	6♦	All Pass
<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>
Brogeland	Berg	Lindqvist	Johansen
–	–	–	2♦
Pass	3♥	Dble	Pass
3♠	Pass	3NT	All Pass

Both Souths opened with a multi 2♦ and both Norths jumped to 3♥, pass or correct, to pre-empt their opponents' auction. Now both Easts felt that they were far too strong for a simple 3NT overcall so both doubled and West responded 3♠. Now came a rather dramatic difference in hand evaluation. Espen Lindqvist, for EBU, settled for 3NT, trusting his partner

to understand that his double then 3NT combination showed a better hand than an immediate 3NT, while Tor-Erik Hoftaniska, for Heimdall, leaped majestically to 6♦, relying on his opponents to have a nine-card heart fit for their vulnerable bidding, when he might need only a club finesse for his contract if he could ruff hearts in the dummy.

Arthur Johansen led the seven of hearts against 3NT. When Erik Berg turned up with the queen, Lindqvist had a horrible guess – who had the ace of diamonds? On the actual lie of the cards, winning the first heart and playing on diamonds makes the contract, but if the ace is with North it is necessary to duck twice to cut defensive communications. Lindqvist ducked the heart and was down two when it was Johansen who held the critical card; –200.

It appears that 6♦ is indeed on the club finesse, but Hoftaniska made his slam in a different fashion. Gillis led the five of spades to the ten and ace. Hoftaniska played the king of diamonds so Gillis won and exited safely with his remaining trump, but the damage had already been done. Hoftaniska cashed the king of spades, played ace of hearts then ruffed a heart, and continued with the jack of spades to pin South's nine. Though Saelensminde did not cover the spade, Hoftaniska was sufficiently confident of the position that he discarded the queen of clubs on the spade jack and had no need to worry about the club position. That was +1370 and 17 IMPs to Heimdall BK, and you might say that the courage shown by the well-reasoned leap to 6♦ deserved its success.

Early on the final went well for the Dutch challengers, Onstein BC't. with this next deal making a major contribution to their lead.



**Boerre Lund**  
NORWAY

F1. Board 4. Dealer West. All Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Ticha</i>	<i>Bocchi</i>	<i>Ritmeijer</i>	<i>Bilde</i>
Pass	Pass	1♣	Pass
1♥	Pass	2♥	Dble
Rdbl	Pass	Pass	2♠
Pass	Pass	3♦	Pass
3♥	Pass	4♥	All Pass

West	North	East	South
<i>Madala</i>	<i>v d Bos</i>	<i>Bianchedi</i>	<i>v Lankveld</i>
Pass	Pass	1NT	Pass
2♣	Pass	2♥	Pass
4♥	all Pass		

For Allegra, Bianchedi/Madala quickly got to the heart game via a 1NT opening and Stayman response. Unfortunately for them, that put van Lankveld on lead and he made the aggressive choice of the king of spades. Van den Bos played an encouraging four so van Lankveld continued with a low spade to his partner's ace and back came a third round to the queen. With three tricks in the bank, van Lankveld went passive, switching to a trump. There was nowhere for Bianchedi to park his losing club so he was down one for -100.

For Onstein, Ritmeijer's 1♣ opening got the same contract played from the other side of the table after Ticha's natural 1♥ response, and Bocchi kicked off with the ten of clubs. There was still work to be done, but Ticha won the ace of clubs and played four rounds of diamonds, discarding two spades from hand while Bilde discarded the queen of clubs. Bocchi won the fourth diamond and led the three of hearts to the eight and king. Ticha played a club to the jack and king and Bilde returned a spade to the ace. When Bocchi now played the nine of clubs, Ticha could ruff with the ten, draw trumps and claim, winning the last trick with the eight of clubs. That was +620 and 12 IMPs to Onstein.

Had Bilde thrown a spade instead of a club then returned a trump when in with the club, it looks as though the contract should have been a trick short as

the defence could then have played a third round of trumps when declarer had to give up a spade to open her communications.

Onstein held a narrow lead going into the last board of set one but they came out of it behind when Bilde outplayed the Dutch declarer in this grand slam, and the momentum stayed firmly with the Italians for the remainder of the match.

F1. Board 16. Dealer West. E/W Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Ticha</i>	<i>Bocchi</i>	<i>Ritmeijer</i>	<i>Bilde</i>
Pass	1♥	Pass	2♠
Pass	2NT	Pass	3♦
Pass	3♠	Pass	4♣
Pass	4♦	Pass	4NT
Pass	5♦	Pass	6♣
Pass	7♠	All Pass	

West	North	East	South
<i>Madala</i>	<i>v d Bos</i>	<i>Bianchedi</i>	<i>v Lankveld</i>
Pass	1♥	Pass	1♠
Pass	2♣	Pass	2♦
Pass	2NT	Pass	3♠
Pass	4♣	Pass	4NT
Pass	5♦	Pass	6♦
Pass	7♠	All Pass	

Van den Bos opened 1♥ and rebid 2♣, natural or any 16+, over the simple 1♠ response. Two Diamonds showed game values facing the strong variety and 3♠ showed good spades. When van den Bos cuebid over 3♠, van Lankveld asked for key cards then for third-round diamond control and van den Bos duly bid the grand slam.

Madala led the three of spades. Van Lankveld won in hand with the ten and cashed the ace of spades then led a heart to the ace and ruffed a heart, a diamond to the ace and a diamond back to his king then ruffed a diamond. He ruffed a heart now then cashed his trumps, pitching the last two hearts from the table.

There was no squeeze so he had to concede the third round of clubs at trick 13 for one down and -50.

Bilde started with a strong jump shift then showed his second suit. Bocchi agreed spades so Bilde cuebid then asked for key cards and made his own grand slam try, accepted by Bocchi.

Ticha too led the three of spades to the eight and queen. Bilde cashed the ace of spades and led a heart to the ace then ruffed a heart. He continued with a diamond to the ace and ruffed another heart low, played king of diamonds then ruffed a diamond with the jack of spades. A third heart ruff established the queen and he now drew the missing trump, throwing dummy's club loser, and claimed the last three tricks with the ace and king of clubs and queen of hearts; +1510 and 17 IMPs to Allegra, who had taken the lead right at the end of the half by 46-38 IMPs.

position came to light Bilde crossed to dummy with a club to lead a spade to the jack and, when that too held, could cash out for nine tricks and +600.

Van den Bos also opened 1NT and the 3♥ response showed a 4-1-4-4 game force. Van den Bos showed his diamonds so van Lankveld cuebid then checked on key cards, followed by a grand slam try, asking for the queen of trumps. Van den Bos signed off in 6♦, against which Bocchi led the jack of clubs. Van den Bos won the ace and led a diamond to his ace, getting the bad news. He continued with a heart to the ace and second diamond, ducking Madala's jack. Madala returned the nine of diamonds so declarer put in the ten, ruffed a heart and led a spade to the jack. Meanwhile, forced to hang on to his club holding, Bocchi had come down to two hearts and one spade. Van den Bos cashed the king of diamonds, Bocchi throwing a heart and dummy a spade, then cashed the ace of spades followed by the last diamond. Had East held the king of hearts with his club stopper, he would now have been squeezed, but with West holding the two kings it was not to be; down one for -100 and another 12 IMPs to Allegra.

There was a winning line at the end if declarer could read the position. He must cash the last diamond without cashing the ace of spades. Seeing one more discard from East should help as the defender will have to throw his last spade or come down to a singleton heart. Cashing the three club winners now operates a positional squeeze against West and brings home the slam.

Had Madala returned a club to break up the squeeze when in with the jack of diamonds instead of a diamond to prevent a ruff, declarer could have taken a spade discard on the third club then continued by taking the spade finesse, cashing the spade ace and ruffing a heart. A spade ruff and second heart ruff would then have put him back in dummy at trick twelve for the trump coup.

F2. Board 21. Dealer North. N/S Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Madala</i>	<i>v d Bos</i>	<i>Bocchi</i>	<i>v Lankveld</i>
-	1NT	Pass	3♥
Pass	4♦	Pass	4♥
Pass	4♠	Pass	4NT
Pass	5♦	Pass	5♥
Pass	6♦	All Pass	

West	North	East	South
<i>Verhees</i>	<i>Bilde</i>	<i>v Prooijen</i>	<i>Duboin</i>
-	1NT	2♦	Pass
3♥	Pass	Pass	Dble
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

Bilde opened 1NT and van Prooijen overcalled to show a single-suited major – an aggressive action even at favourable vulnerability. Duboin had to pass for now but could double for take-out when Verhees's jump to 3♥, pass or correct, came back to him. Bilde bid 3NT, won the heart lead with the bare ace and led the seven of diamonds to the eight and ten, an avoidance play to keep the dangerous hand off lead. When the diamond



**Dennis Bilde**  
DENMARK

F2. Board 24. Dealer West. None Vul.

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



West	North	East	South
Madala	v d Bos	Bocchi	v Lankveld
Pass	Pass	2NT	Pass
4♥	Pass	4♠	Pass
5♣	Pass	6♣	All Pass

West	North	East	South
Verhees	Bilde	v Prooijen	Duboin
Pass	Pass	1♣	1♥
2♦	3♥	Pass	Pass
Dble	Pass	3NT	Pass
4♣	Pass	4♦	Pass
5♣	All Pass		

Bocchi opened 2NT and Madala showed one minor with slam interest. When he next showed that the minor was clubs Bocchi raised to slam on the strength of his excellent controls. At this table the lead was a spade so Bocchi too took the club safety play but here there was no heart to lose and he had 12 tricks for +920 and 11 IMPs to Allegra, who now led by an imposing 86-38 with only eight boards to play.

Had the opening lead against 6♣ been a heart, Bocchi would not have taken the safety play. Instead, he would have cashed the top clubs then played on diamonds. When the hand with the trump winner had to follow to three rounds of diamonds, a fourth diamond allows declarer to dispose of the heart loser and the slam is made.

That is not quite the end of the story of this deal. England's Mike Bell saw an extra chance. Before trying to play four rounds of diamonds for a heart discard, he saw the possibility of there either being queen-ten doubleton spade or being able to ruff out queen-ten-other. Accordingly, he won the heart lead, cashed the ace and king of clubs and followed up with the ace and king of spades. When the queen appeared he was at the crossroads and, perhaps inevitably after spotting the extra chance, played for it by ruffing a spade. Alas, the ten did not appear and South had the opportunity to discard a diamond so that he could now ruff the third round to defeat the slam. Playing for the extra chance had cost the contract.

The second half of the final was one-way traffic, with Allegra coming out on top by IMPs. The 2014 winners had successfully defended their title. They were, Alejandro Bianchedi, Dennis Bilde, Norberto Bocchi, Massimiliano Di Franco, Giorgio Duboin and Agustin Madala.

Van Prooijen opened a strong club and Verhees showed a club positive. The auction never really got to grips with the hand and they subsided in 5♣ without having explored it to the full. On the lead of the king of hearts, van Prooijen won the ace and played ace of clubs then a club to the ten, the safety play for one loser in the suit. That meant that he lost a heart trick so just made his contract for +400.



# FULL SCHEDULE

## FRIDAY FEBRUARY 26<sup>TH</sup>

### TEAMS

10.30-12.50 RR 1 (16 BOARDS)  
14.20-16.50 RR 2 (16 BOARDS)  
17.10-19.30 RR 3 (16 BOARDS)

## SATURDAY FEBRUARY 27<sup>TH</sup>

### TEAMS

10.30-12.50 RR 4 (16 BOARDS)  
14.20-16.50 RR 5 (16 BOARDS)  
17.10-19.30 RR 6 (16 BOARDS)

## SUNDAY FEBRUARY 28<sup>TH</sup>

### TEAMS

10.30-12.50 FINAL & PLAY-OFF 1 (16 BOARDS)  
14.20-16.50 FINAL & PLAY-OFF 2 (16 BOARDS)  
17.10-19.30 FINAL & PLAY-OFF 3 (16 BOARDS)

## MONDAY FEBRUARY 29<sup>TH</sup>

### PAIRS

10.30-13.40 SESSION 1 (22 BOARDS)  
15.30-18.40 SESSION 2 (22 BOARDS)

## TUESDAY MARCH 1<sup>ST</sup>

### PAIRS

10.30-13.40 SESSION 3 (22 BOARDS)  
15.30-18.40 SESSION 4 (22 BOARDS)

## WEDNESDAY MARCH 2<sup>ND</sup>

### INDIVIDUAL

10.30-13.50 SESSION 1 (24 BOARDS)  
15.30-18.50 SESSION 2 (24 BOARDS)

## WEDNESDAY MARCH 3<sup>RD</sup>

### INDIVIDUAL

9.45-12.40 SESSION 3 (27 BOARDS)

*Photo: from the opening ceremony*