



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 25TH TO MARCH 3RD



WBF
World
Bridge Federation

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WHERE THE WINDS BLOW



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SCHEDULE

TEAMS

10.30-12.50 FINAL & PLAYOFF
14.20-16.50 FINAL & PLAYOFF
17.10-19.30 FINAL & PLAYOFF
(16 BOARDS PER ROUND)

La crème de la crème

In the Open Poland and Sweden did well enough in their first two matches to be virtually certain of qualifying for today's final, which will be a repeat of the thrilling Bermuda Bowl final in Chennai.

If the match is even half as exciting, the spectators are in for a treat.

While these two giants battle for the gold medals Bulgaria and China will contest the bronze medal play-off.

The Women's event was much more exciting, going right down to the wire. China cruised into the final, but in the last round England and France went head to head for the other spot.

For most of the match it appeared that it would be England who advanced to the gold medal round, but a strong finish saw France reassert their authority as reigning World Champions and they will meet the hosts in today's final.

Meanwhile the Netherlands and England will contest the match for a place on the podium.



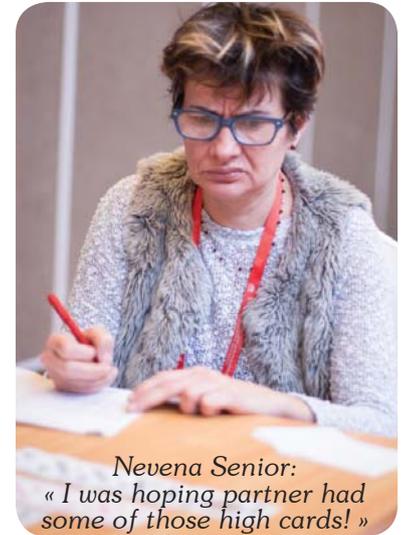
THE APPLIANCE OF SCIENCE

by **Mark Horton & Brian Senior**



In the modern age of Bulletin reporting you are unlikely to see a paper copy at a major event. This ensures that there are no restrictions on the number of pages, which usually means you get a lot more to read on your ipad over breakfast.

It also enables us to make corrections that the proofreaders have missed, and to amend articles where we get additional details from the players. We have been able to do that here in Huai'an — thanks to information received from Nevena Senior and Jennifer Mourgues.



Nevena Senior:
« I was hoping partner had some of those high cards! »

So, if you spot something, don't hesitate to let us know!



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RR3 WOMEN - ENGLAND vs CHINA

by **Brian Senior**

After two rounds England headed the rankings in the Women's event with just over 25 VPs, while China lay second, just below average. The cards ran very cold in the first half of the match so that after eight boards England had the lead, but by only 5-1 IMPs. Then the match exploded into life.

Board 9. Dealer North. E/W Vul.

♠ 6 2		♠ AKQ9543
♥ J 9		♥ KQ52
♦ KJ4		♦ Q7
♣ AJ9863		♣ -

♠ 7		♠ J 10 8
♥ 10 6		♥ A 8 7 4 3
♦ A 10 8 6 3 2		♦ 9 5
♣ KQ52		♣ 10 7 4



West	North	East	South
<i>Brown</i>	<i>Wang</i>	<i>Senior</i>	<i>Shen</i>
-	2♣	2♠	All Pass

West	North	East	South
<i>Li</i>	<i>Brock</i>	<i>Yan</i>	<i>Smith</i>
-	Pass	1♠	Pass
1NT	2♣	4♣	Pass
4♦	Pass	4♥	Pass
4♠	All Pass		

For England, Brock passed the North hand but then overcalled at her next turn. Yan made a self-agreeing splinter bid but, after an exchange of cuebids, stopped in 4♠. The lead was, of course, a club, and that ruffed out Brock's ace and established Yan's tenth trick; +620.

Wenfei Wang opened the North hand with 2♣, Precision, and Senior made a super-heavy overcall. Brown, with some badly-placed values and a singleton spade, had no reason to move so the game was missed. The lead was a club once more but +170 meant 10 IMPs to China and the lead in the match.



Board 10. Dealer East. All Vul.

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

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



West	North	East	South
<i>Brown</i>	<i>Wang</i>	<i>Senior</i>	<i>Shen</i>
-	-	1♥	Pass
Pass	1NT	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

West	North	East	South
<i>Li</i>	<i>Brock</i>	<i>Yan</i>	<i>Smith</i>
-	-	1♥	Pass
1NT	Dble	Pass	Pass
2♥	2NT	Pass	4♣
All Pass			

Playing natural methods, Brown had neither reason nor safety in responding to the 1♥ opening so Wang got to make a balancing 1NT overcall and Shen raised her to game. Senior led a low heart to the ten and king and that gave the ninth trick – not that Wang was ever going to have a problem in finding her extra trick – and Senior was soon put in difficulties by five rounds of clubs to give the tenth for +630.

Playing Precision, Li could make a psychic 1NT response with a fair degree of safety as her partner could only jump with a maximum (14/15) and plenty of shape, when Li's heart support would be very useful. Brock doubled, take-out of hearts, and Smith left it in, suggesting fair values with a good heart holding. When Li ran to 2♥ as planned Smith bid 2NT, intended as natural but taken as take-out for the minors. I'm not sure that Smith's interpretation of the auction quite adds up if you look at her hand and the auction. Brock's interpretation makes sense as she had reason to expect her partner to hold better than jack-to-three in hearts and might often want to suggest a no trump contract.

On another day Smith might have made 4♣, though

still for a big loss, but Li's lead of the six of spades to the eight and ace put the defence a tempo ahead. Smith tried sneaking her low diamond through after drawing trumps but the queen lost to the king and Yan returned the jack of spades so there was no danger of her being endplayed. Smith is credited with eight tricks, though she surely made nine in practice, and the -200 gave China a 13 IMP swing.

China gained three smaller swings to lead by 34-9 with two boards to play, then they added another big swing to their lead.

Board 15. Dealer South. N/S Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Brown	Wang	Senior	Shen
-	-	-	1NT
Pass	2NT	Pass	3♣
Pass	3♥	Pass	3NT
Pass	5NT	Pass	6♣
All Pass			

West	North	East	South
Li	Brock	Yan	Smith
-	-	-	1♣
Pass	2♣	Pass	2♦
Pass	2♠	Pass	3♦
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

In the English auction, 1♣ could have been as short as a doubleton, 2♣ was inverted and 2♦ showed a weak no trump type. Smith showed the diamonds at her next turn but, with no trump suit established, Brock signed off in 3NT. Smith had all 13 tricks once the club king put in an appearance; +720.

Shen's 1NT was 13-16 and 2NT transferred to clubs. I'm not sure why 3♥ was the correct follow-up with the North cards as we don't have the players' full methods at our disposal - my guess is that it was a second transfer, this time to spades. That fits with her next bid, a jump to 5NT, and Shen chose to play in 6♣. Again, there were 13 tricks, but +1390 was worth 12 IMPs to China, and a 46-5 lead.

Board 16. Dealer West. E/W Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Brown	Wang	Senior	Shen
Pass	Pass	1NT	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

West	North	East	South
Li	Brock	Yan	Smith
Pass	3♣	Dble	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

Four Hearts is unbeatable as the cards lie but 3NT can be defeated if the defenders attack diamonds and they have two chances to do so.

Wang passed the North hand, not wishing to preempt in second seat with a ten-high suit. When Senior opened a 15-17 no trump, Brown raised to game, not bothering with Stayman because she had no ruffing value even if a heart fit existed. Shen led her fourth-best spade and Wang switched to a club at trick two so Senior had time to lead towards dummy's remaining spade honour to set up her ninth trick for +600.

Brock liked the favourable vulnerability sufficiently to open 3♣ despite being in second seat, when theory suggests that pre-empts should be sounder. Yan's take-out double saw Li become declarer in 3NT. Brock saw little future in her club suit and decided to lead from strength, such that she needed the least help from partner. The king of diamonds proved to be both spectacular and spectacularly successful. There would have been a second chance when in with the king of spades had Brock made a less aggressive lead, but this simplified everything and the contract was one down for -100 and 12 badly-needed IMPs to England.

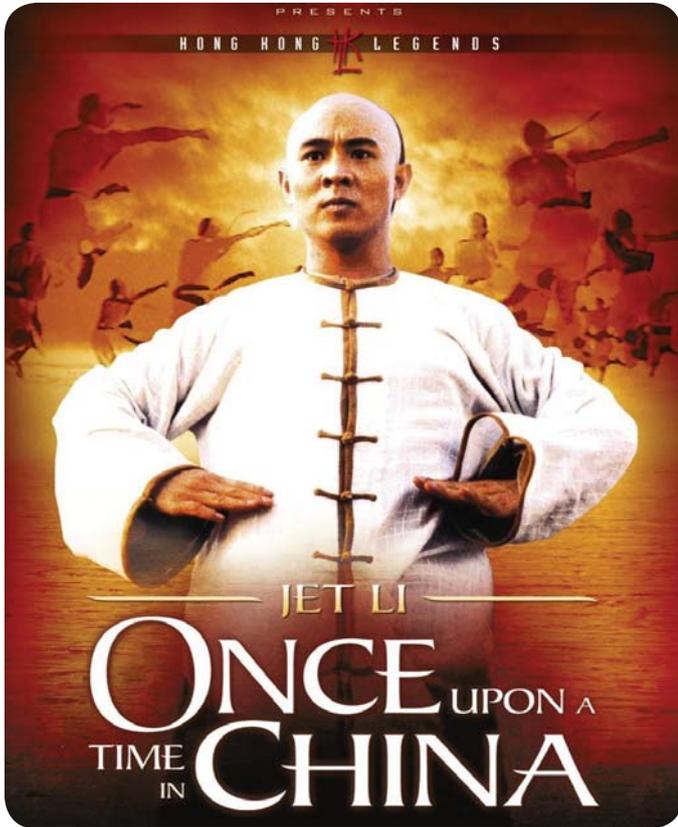
China came out on top in the match by 46-17 IMPs, 16.58-3.42 VPs. They headed the rankings at the end of the first round robin while England lay third. The field was, however, tightly bunched, so that all four teams were still very much in contention with a second round robin to come the next day.



ONCE UPON A TIME IN CHINA

by **Mark Horton**

Once Upon a Time in China is a 1991 film starring Jet Li as Wong Fei-hung. It is the first instalment in the *Once Upon a Time in China* film series.



Wong Fei-hung (1847 - March 1924) was a Chinese martial artist, physician, and folk hero, who has become the subject of numerous martial arts films and television series. He was considered an expert in the Hung Ga style of Chinese martial arts. As a physician, Wong practised and taught acupuncture and other forms of traditional Chinese medicine in Po Chi Lam, a medical clinic in Guangzhou City, Guangdong Province. A museum dedicated to him was built in his birthplace in Foshan City, Guangdong Province.

The film uses the epithet: Never was a hero needed more and, if things are going badly in a bridge match, the same principle applies.

See if you can spot the heroine in the match between the Netherlands and France.



Board 1. Dealer North. None Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
D'Ovidio	Arnolds	Frey	van Zwol
—	Pass	1♣	Pass
1♥	Pass	1NT	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

South led the six of diamonds and North took the ace and three for the five and jack.

South returned the eight of clubs and declarer won with the king and played two more rounds of the suit followed by dummy's ten of spades, covered in turn by the jack, queen and king.

South switched to the jack of hearts and declarer won with dummy's ace, cashed the nine of clubs and king of hearts, and elected play a diamond to the king and exit with a diamond, South winning and cashing the queen of hearts for one down; +50.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Dekkers	Cronier	van Delft	Willard
—	Pass	1♦	Pass
1♥	Pass	1♠	Pass
2NT	Pass	3NT	All Pass

North led the two of spades and South won with the king and switched to the queen of hearts, declarer winning with the ace and playing a diamond to the ten and jack. Back came the ten of hearts and declarer won and played a diamond and North taking the ace perforce and switching to the two of clubs. Declarer cashed the king of diamonds, two top spades and then played on clubs; +400 and a fast start for France, +10 IMPs.



Board 11. Dealer East. N/S Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>D'Ovidio</i>	<i>Arnolds</i>	<i>Frey</i>	<i>van Zwol</i>
—	—	Pass	Pass
1♦	2♠	Dble*	3♠
All Pass			

The defenders scored a heart, two diamonds and a club for +140.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Dekkers</i>	<i>Cronier</i>	<i>van Delft</i>	<i>Willard</i>
—	—	1NT	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

East's mini notrump combined with West's immediate jump to game left South to find a lead.

The three of hearts saw declarer win with dummy's jack and test the diamonds; +400 and 11 IMPs to the Netherlands.

Board 10. Dealer East. All Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>D'Ovidio</i>	<i>Arnolds</i>	<i>Frey</i>	<i>Van Zwol</i>
—	—	1♥	Pass
1NT	Dble	Pass	2♣
All Pass			

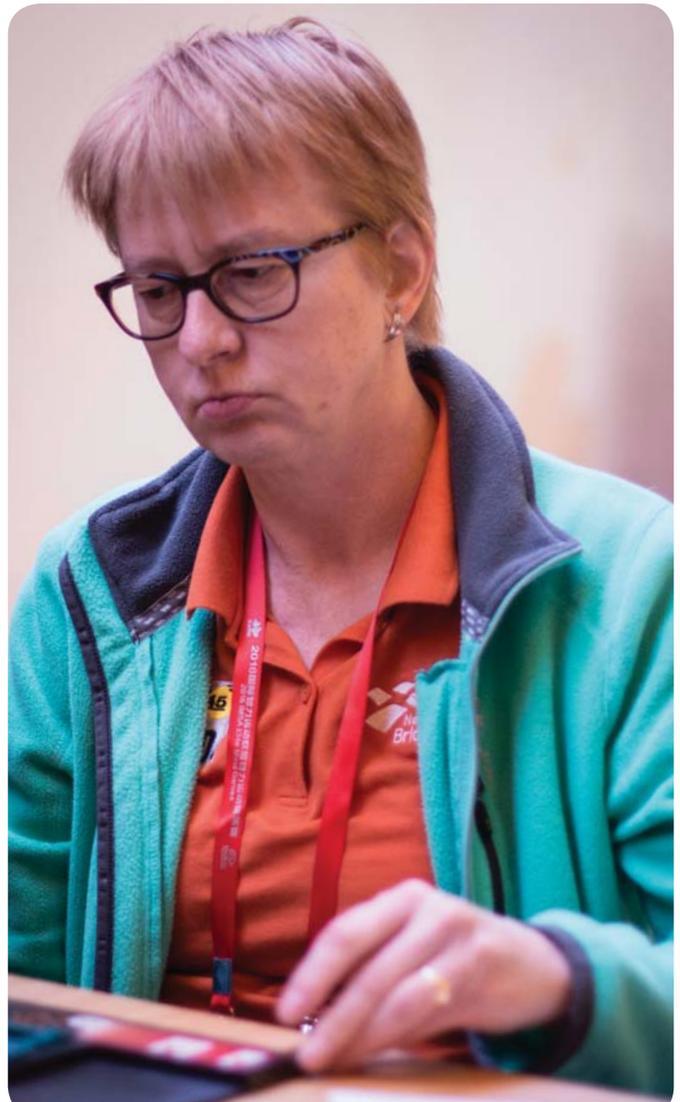
When West led the jack of diamonds declarer was able to win, draw trumps and play on hearts, establishing the jack, which took care of a losing spade; +130.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Dekkers</i>	<i>Cronier</i>	<i>van Delft</i>	<i>Willard</i>
—	—	Pass	Pass
Pass	1NT	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

East led the two of hearts and declarer was immediately up to nine tricks. After winning with the king she rattled off five rounds of clubs, East blanking her jack of spades. After cashing dummy's ace of spades declarer played one to the king, East now bared the king of diamonds, and a diamond to the ace meant declarer had ten tricks for +630 and 11 IMPs for the Netherlands.

With time running out France appeared to be heading for a good win.



Wietske van Zwol
NETHERLANDS

Board 15. Dealer South. N/S Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>D'Ovidio</i>	<i>Arnolds</i>	<i>Frey</i>	<i>van Zwol</i>
—	—	—	1♦
Pass	2♣	Pass	2♦
Pass	2♠	Pass	3♣
Pass	4♣	Pass	4♦*
Pass	4♥*	Pass	4♠*
Pass	4NT*	Pass	5♥*
Pass	5♠*	Pass	7♣
All Pass			

- 4♦ Cue bid
- 4♥ Cue bid
- 4♠ Cue bid
- 4NT RKCB
- 5♥ 2 key cards

Unless I am missing something North knew a key card was missing, so why she bid 5♠ is a mystery. However, it resulted in South jumping to a contract that depended on the location of a single king.

Well, the Great Shuffler was clearly in a benign mood when he dispensed the cards for this deal, and it was child's play to score +2140.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Dekkers</i>	<i>Cronier</i>	<i>van Delft</i>	<i>Willard</i>
—	—	—	1♦
Pass	2♣	Pass	2♦
Pass	2♠	Pass	3♣
Pass	3♦	Pass	3♠
Pass	4♣	Pass	4♦
Pass	4♥	Pass	4♠
Pass	5♣	All Pass	

North-South exchanged a lot of information but missed the boat entirely to lose 17IMPs.

Not their luckiest deal ever.

Netherlands had taken the lead at the death — could France turn things around on the final deal?



Doris van Delft

NETHERLANDS

Board 16. Dealer West. E/W Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>D'Ovidio</i>	<i>Arnolds</i>	<i>Frey</i>	<i>van Zwol</i>
Pass	Pass	1NT	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

South led the two of spades and North won perforce with the king.

Switching to a diamond honour at this point would condemn declarer to defeat, but when North opted for the ten of clubs declarer could win and play a spade, establishing a ninth trick for +600.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Dekkers</i>	<i>Cronier</i>	<i>van Delft</i>	<i>Willard</i>
Pass	Pass	1♣	1♠
Dble*	Pass	4♥	All Pass

South led her club and declarer won in hand, drew trumps by cashing the ♥AQJ and played a spade to the jack and king.

North switched to a diamond and declarer ducked, won the next diamond, cashed two clubs pitching a diamond, ruffed a diamond and played a spade; +620 and a single IMP giving the Netherlands a narrow win.



RR 4 OPEN - BULGARIA vs SWEDEN

by **Brian Senior**

At the end of the first day and first round robin, three Open teams were tightly clustered at the top, with China a little over half a match behind. Sweden and Bulgaria, second and third in the rankings, met in the first match of the second round robin.

Board 18. Dealer East. N/S Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Mihov	Sylvan	Stefanov	Wrang
-	-	1♥	Dble
4♥	4♠	All Pass	

West	North	East	South
Warne	Stamatov	Bergdahl	Danailov
-	-	1♥	Dble
4♣	Pass	4♥	Pass
Pass	4♠	5♥	Dble
All Pass			

Partner opens a five-card 1♥ and next hand doubles – what would you bid with the West hand?

For Bulgaria, Mihov made the simple bid of 4♥ and now Sylvan bid 4♠ as North. Nobody had anything to add and the lead of ace of hearts followed by a club switch to dummy's ace resulted in an overtrick for +650. For Sweden, Warne made a fit jump, 4♣ showing a raise to 4♥ with a decent side suit of clubs. Stamatov waited to see his opponents unwind before bidding 4♠ but now Bergdahl went on to 5♥ despite the lack of a club fit. Danailov doubled – the best he could do as 5♠ is down on a club lead – and there were the four obvious tricks to be lost for down two and -300 but 8 IMPs to Sweden.

Board 19. Dealer South. E/W Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Mihov	Sylvan	Stefanov	Wrang
-	-	-	1♠
Pass	2♦	Pass	3♦
Pass	3♠	Pass	4♣
Pass	4♦	Pass	4NT
Pass	5♠	Pass	7♦
Pass	7♠	All Pass	

West	North	East	South
Warne	Stamatov	Bergdahl	Danailov
-	-	-	1♣
Pass	1NT	Pass	2♠
Pass	2NT	Pass	3♦
Pass	3♥	Pass	3♠
Pass	4♣	Pass	4♦
Pass	4NT	Pass	5♦
Pass	7♦	All Pass	

The Bulgarian Precision Club auction handled this deal well. Danailov opened a strong club then showed his longest suit over the balanced positive response. Stamatov could have supported spades now but instead made a mark-time bid to see if his partner held a second suit and that hit pay-dirt. After an exchange of cuebids Stamatov took control with RKCB, discovered that all the key cards were present and jumped to the cold grand slam; +1440.

The more natural Swedish auction also seemed to be going smoothly when Sylvan made a game-forcing 2♦ response and Wrang could raise to 3♦. Sylvan showed the three-card spade support and again, after a couple of cuebids, it was time for Key-card, this time with the South cards. For Sylvan, spades were trumps, so he showed the queen of spades and two key cards



for that suit. Wrang jumped to 7♦ but Sylvan took that as offering a choice of grand slams rather than picking one. He converted to 7♠ and Wrang soon saw that he had no prospect of a thirteenth trick. The contract was down one for -50 and a massive 16 IMPs to Bulgaria.

chance to get to game by reopening with a double. Wrang redoubled to show his maximum but, while that got another bid out of Sylvan, that bid was only a competitive 3♠, and that ended the auction. Mihov led a heart so Stefanov won the ace and switched to his club. Again, 11 tricks was the outcome; +200 but 10 IMPs to Bulgaria, who led by 28-8.

After a couple of flat boards, Sweden started their recovery.

Board 21. Dealer North. N/S Vul.

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



West	North	East	South
Mihov	Sylvan	Stefanov	Wrang
-	Pass	Pass	1NT
Pass	2♥	Pass	2♠
Pass	Pass	Dble	Rdbl
3♥	3♠	All Pass	

West	North	East	South
Warne	Stamatov	Bergdahl	Danailov
-	Pass	Pass	1♣
Pass	1♦	1♥	Dble
Rdbl	4♠	All Pass	

Danailov opened with a strong club and Stamatov showed 0-7 in response. When Danailov now made a take-out double of the 1♥ overcall Stamatov felt able to jump all the way to game in his long spade suit. Bergdahl led his club and there were 11 black tricks to cash for an easy +650.

Wrang opened a strong no trump and Sylvan transferred to spades. When Wrang's completion came round to him, Stefanov gave his opponents a second

Board 24. Dealer West. None Vul.

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



West	North	East	South
Mihov	Sylvan	Stefanov	Wrang
1♦	Pass	1♥	2♦
2♥	All Pass		

West	North	East	South
Warne	Stamatov	Bergdahl	Danailov
1♦	Pass	1♥	Dble
2♥	3♣	Pass	3♥
Pass	4♣	Pass	5♣
All Pass			

Both 1♦ openings were nebulous, Precision-style. Wrang's methods permitted him to overcall 2♦ with the South hand and he did so. However, that received no co-operation from Sylvan and Wrang was not inclined to double 2♥ at his next turn. Three rounds of diamonds found the defensive ruff so 2♥ was down one for -50.

Danailov preferred to double 1♥, presumably with the intention of correcting a 2♣ response to 2♦. However, West's heart raise meant that Stamatov's club bid was at the three level, and now Danailov asked for a heart stopper then raised the 4♣ response to game. That looks like an awful lot of bidding (as opposed to a lot of awful bidding?) with the South cards, given that there are known to be two heart losers for a start, and 5♣ proved to be as hopeless as you or I would have suspected that it would be given that partner was unable to overcall 2♣ at his first turn. Two rounds of hearts





then a spade switch saw the contract down two for -100 and 4 IMPs to Sweden; 12-28.

Board 25. Dealer North. E/W Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Mihov	Sylvan	Stefanov	Wrang
-	Pass	1NT	2♦
3NT	4♦	Dble	Pass
Pass	Rdbl	Pass	4♠
Dble	All Pass		

West	North	East	South
Warne	Stamatov	Bergdahl	Danailov
-	Pass	1♣	3♥
Dble	4♠	Pass	Pass
Dble	All Pass		

Stefanov opened a strong no trump and Wrang overcalled to show one major. When Mihov raised to 3NT, Sylvan introduced his diamonds to attract a diamond lead and not caring if he was left to play there undoubled. When he was, of course, doubled, he redoubled to get Wrang to bid his major and Mihov duly doubled the final contract. Mihov led a club to his partner's ace and Stefanov switched to a spade. The defence had a second opportunity to cash out when Wrang ran that to the king, but Mihov continued with a second trump. Now Wrang could take a heart pitch on the king of clubs and escaped for two down and -300.

Bergdahl upgraded the East hand by a point for no obvious reason so opened with a strong club, notionally 16+, and Danailov pre-empted with 3♥, either spades or both minors. When Warne doubled to show values, Stamatov bid 4♠, pass or correct. Warne doubled and Bergdahl led a trump. Stamatov finessed in trumps, losing to the king. Warne switched to a heart and the defence took all its winners for down three and -500; 5 IMPs to Sweden, who closed again to 17-28.

Board 27. Dealer South. None Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Mihov	Sylvan	Stefanov	Wrang
-	-	-	3♦
3♥	3NT	All Pass	

West	North	East	South
Warne	Stamatov	Bergdahl	Danailov
-	-	-	3♣
3♥	3NT	4♣	Pass
4♦	Dble	5♣	All Pass

Wrang opened 3♦ as dealer and Sylvan took a shot at 3NT over Mihov's heart overcall. Knowing that declarer must have the hearts held, Stefanov tried a club lead. That ran to declarer's queen, ensuring nine tricks, and Sylvan came to an overtrick for +430.

Danailov opened 3♣, a transfer pre-empt. Warne made the 3♥ overcall and Stamatov duly bid 3NT, but Bergdahl competed with 4♣ as East and hit four-card support coupled with a diamond void. Warne cuebid then settled for game when Bergdahl signed off. Danailov led the jack of spades. Bergdahl won the ace and led a club up and Stamatov won the ace but could do nothing. There was just a spade to take and the contract was just made for +400. The double game swing gave Sweden another 13 IMPs and the lead in the match at 30-28.

On Board 29 the Swedish recovery was completed when Danailov/Stamatov bid a slam on a finesse while Wrang/Sylvan stopped in 5♥. The key finesse failed and Sweden had 13 more IMPs to lead by 43-28. Bulgaria picked up minor swings late on in the match but Sweden won it by 43-31 IMPs, 13.28-6.72 VPs.





THE GOLDEN RULE

by **Mark Horton**

Confucius was a Chinese teacher, editor, politician, and philosopher of the Spring and Autumn period of Chinese history.

Confucius is traditionally credited with having authored or edited many of the Chinese classic texts including all of the Five Classics, but modern scholars are cautious of attributing specific assertions to Confucius himself. Aphorisms concerning his teachings were compiled in the Analects, but only many years after his death.

Confucius's principles had a basis in common Chinese tradition and belief. He championed strong family loyalty, ancestor worship, respect of elders by their children and of husbands by their wives. He also recommended family as a basis for ideal government. He espoused the well-known principle "Do not do to others what you do not want done to yourself", the Golden Rule.

Many of his sayings might be applied to a bridge deal — I have attempted to apply some of them to the deals from the match between England and the Netherlands.

Board 19. Dealer South. E/W Vul.

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



Open Room

West	North	East	South
Brock	Arnolds	Smith	Van Zwol
—	—	—	1♠
Pass	2♣	Pass	2♦
Pass	3♦	Pass	3♥*
Pass	3♠	Pass	4♣*
Pass	4♥*	Pass	4NT*
Pass	5♦*	Pass	5NT*
Pass	6♦	All Pass	

- 3♥ Fourth-suit forcing
- 4♣ Cue bid
- 4♥ Cue bid
- 4NT RKCB
- 5♦ 3 key cards
- 5NT King ask

The Dutch got very close to the optimum contract. They had forgotten their Confucius:

It does not matter how slowly you go, so long as you do not stop.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Simons	Senior	Pasman	Brown
—	—	—	1♠
Pass	2♦	Pass	4♣*
Pass	4♦	Pass	4NT*
Pass	5♣*	Pass	5NT*
Pass	7♦	All Pass	

- 4♣ Splinter
- 4NT RKCB
- 5♣ 3 key cards
- 5NT Grand slam interest

With those perfect fillers in spades North jumped to what she assumed she could make — and her judgement was worth +1440 and 11 IMPs.





Board 20. Dealer West. All Vul.

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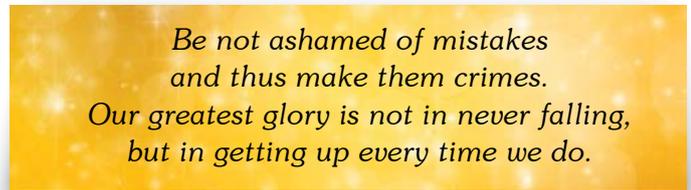
Open Room

West	North	East	South
Brock	Arnolds	Smith	Van Zwol
1♣*	Pass	1♥*	Pass
2♠	Pass	4♠	All Pass

- 1♣ One or more clubs
- 1♥ Spades

North led the six of clubs and when declarer played low from dummy South won with the ace and switched to the ten of diamonds.

When declarer put in the jack she was one down for -100.



Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Simons	Senior	Pasman	Brown
Pass	Pass	1♠	Pass
2♣*	Pass	4♠	All Pass

2♣ Drury

South led the eight of spades and declarer won in hand, crossed to dummy with the ace of spades and played a heart to the king followed by a heart to the ten and jack. She ruffed the ace of hearts exit and played a diamond to the.....king.

When it held she exited with a diamond and South won and returned a diamond. Declarer ruffed in dummy, pitching a club from her hand and played a club to the ten; +620 and 12 IMPs.



Board 22. Dealer East. E/W Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Brock	Arnolds	Smith	Van Zwol
—	—	Pass	1NT
Pass	2♣*	Pass	2♦*
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

West led the queen of spades and declarer won with dummy's ace and cashed the clubs, West pitching a spade, a heart and a diamond.

The ace of diamonds was followed by a diamond, declarer ducking East's jack. She won the heart return, cashed the king of diamonds and exited with a heart, hoping for an endplay, but there was none; -50.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Simons	Senior	Pasman	Brown
—	—	Pass	1NT
Pass	2♣*	Pass	2♦*
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

Here West led the king of spades and declarer won with dummy's ace, cashed the ace of diamonds and ducked a diamond. She ducked the heart switch, won the next heart and went down the endplay route, one down and no swing.

As you would expect, 3NT was the contract at every one of the eight tables, and at seven of them West led a top spade, the contract going one down.

Suppose declarer ducks the first spade?

If West plays another high spade, declarer ducks again and West switches to a heart. Declarer ducks, wins the next heart and plays four rounds of clubs, subjecting West to a strip squeeze.

If West finds the more challenging defence of switching to a heart at trick two declarer must win immediately and play a spade, forcing West to put up



an honour. Declarer ducks and is back in a winning position.

Board 23. Dealer South. All Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Brock	Arnolds	Smith	Van Zwol
—	—	—	1♣*
Pass	1♥	Pass	1♠
Pass	2♦*	Pass	3♣
Pass	3♦*	Pass	4♣
Pass	4♦*	Pass	4NT*
Pass	5♦*	Pass	5NT*
Pass	6♣	All Pass	

- 1♣ Two or more clubs
- 2♦ Fourth suit forcing
- 3♦ Fifth suit forcing
- 4♦ Cue bid
- 4NT RKCB
- 5♦ 3 key cards
- 5NT King ask

West led the jack of diamonds and declarer won with dummy's ace, came to hand with the queen of clubs and advanced the queen of hearts, covered by the king and ace. Declarer overtook the jack of clubs to play a heart, the ten losing to the jack. She ruffed the diamond return, cashed the ace of spades, crossed to dummy with a club pitched a spade on the nine of hearts and played a spade, collecting the queen and +1370.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Simons	Senior	Pasman	Brown
—	—	—	1♣
Pass	1♥	Pass	1♠
Pass	2♦	Pass	3♣
Pass	3NT	Pass	4NT
All Pass			

East led the two of diamonds and declarer ducked twice, +660 representing a loss of 12 IMPs.

Board 24. Dealer West. None Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Brock	Arnolds	Smith	Van Zwol
1♣*	Pass	1♦*	Dble
2♥	Pass	Pass	2♠
Pass	Pass	3♥	All Pass
1♣ 1+♣			
1♦ Hearts			

The defence started with three rounds of diamonds, holding declarer to seven tricks for -100.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Simons	Senior	Pasman	Brown
Pass	Pass	1♥	Dble
2NT*	3♣	Pass	Pass
4♥	Pass	Pass	Dble
All Pass			

2NT Good raise in hearts

West made the mistake of bidding her hand twice and that cost 500 and 9 IMPs.

*Life is really simple,
but we insist on making it complicated.*



Board 27. Dealer South. None Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Brock	Arnolds	Smith	Van Zwol
—	—	—	3♦
3♥	3NT	Dble	Pass
Pass	4♦	Pass	Pass
4♥	All Pass		

North took some time to bid 3NT and that persuaded East to speculate with a double. It turned out to be a triumph (if West passes and leads a low spade 4♦ should fail).

North led the ace of diamonds and declarer ruffed and played a club, North taking the ace and playing another diamond. Declarer ruffed, cashed the ace of hearts and continued with the jack, North winning with the queen and continuing the forcing defence with a third diamond, which should have ensured three down. However, South pitched one of her diamonds allowing declarer to save a trick. (Declarer is credited with nine tricks, so this may not be an accurate record of the play!)

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Simons	Senior	Pasman	Brown
—	—	—	3♦
3♥	3NT	All Pass	

3NT was unbeatable — East led a heart and West overtook it and returned the jack but the tricks were on top; +400 and 8 IMPs.

Board 28. Dealer West. N/S Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Brock	Arnolds	Smith	Van Zwol
1♦	Pass	2NT*	Pass
3♣*	Dble	3♦*	Pass
3♥*	Pass	3♠	Pass
4♥	Pass	4NT	Pass
5♥	Pass	6♦	All Pass

2NT Game forcing with diamonds
3♣ Shortage

North led the five of clubs and after some thought declarer put in dummy's queen. When it held she cashed the king of diamonds, played three rounds of hearts, ruffing, ruffed a club, ruffed a heart, cashed the queen of diamonds, ruffed a club, drew the outstanding trump and claimed, +920.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Simons	Senior	Pasman	Brown
1♦	Pass	2♦*	Pass
3♣*	Dble	3NT	All Pass

2♦ Inverted raise
3♣ Shortage

On a club lead declarer took ten tricks for +430 but lost 10 IMPs.

England led 39-25 and consolidated their position with a couple of small swings to record an important win that took them back to the top of the table.

In conclusion, I offer you two more gems from Confucius which easily apply to your Editors:

*Old age, believe me, is a good and pleasant thing.
It is true you are gently shouldered off the stage,
but then you are given such a comfortable front stall as spectator.*

Choose a job you love, and you will never have to work a day in your life.



RR 5 OPEN - POLAND vs BULGARIA

by **Brian Senior**

Two rounds to go in the qualifying round robin and, having both lost their morning match, Poland and Bulgaria were lying second and third respectively going into their afternoon match-up. A good win could see either team get one foot in the main final. A significant loss, however, would leave them with it all to do in their final qualifying match.

Poland took an early lead with a winning decision on this hand:

♠ A 7 5
♥ 7 4 2
♦ K 7 4
♣ Q J 10 4

With nobody vulnerable you see a 1♥ opening on your right and 1NT on your left. Partner overcalls 2♠ – do you try for game?

Gawrys raised to 3♠ while Nanev did not. Klukowski went on to what was a very good game, requiring a little more than one of two finesses, and game was an easy make on the actual lie of the cards for 6 IMPs to Poland.



Piotr Gawrys

POLAND

Golebiowski's 1♦ was natural, usually five cards. When Starkowski made a weak jump shift over the take-out double, Golebiowski showed his second suit in hope of improving things. Starkowski's simple preference to diamonds ended the auction. Isporski led the king of hearts, promptly switching to ace and another club on sight of dummy. Nanev ruffed and returned the jack of hearts and, though Golebiowski did not cover with the queen, Isporski overtook anyway to lead a third club. That was ruffed with the ten and over-ruffed and back came a heart to declarer's queen. Golebiowski cashed the ace of trumps and was down two for -200.

Mihov's 1♦ could have been short, Precision-style. Stefanov bid a simple 1♠ in response so Mihov could introduce his second suit at the two level, confirming genuine diamonds by doing so. Stefanov repeated the spades and Mihov the clubs and now the doubling started. Klukowski led the ace of hearts against 3♦ doubled and the play was exactly as in the other room up to the point where East returned the third heart. Mihov ruffed his heart winner in dummy to take a diamond finesse but the five-zero split meant that he still had to concede one more trump trick so was down two for -500 and 7 IMPs to Poland, who led by 13-0.

On Board 4, Isporski/Nanev bid quickly to 3NT off the heart suit. Hearts were led so they lost the first five tricks for down one and -100. Klukowski/Gawrys bid more slowly and knew about the weakness so played 4♣ instead, just making for +130 and another 6 IMPs to Poland; 19-0.

Board 2. Dealer East. N/S Vul.

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



West	North	East	South
<i>Isporski</i>	<i>Starkowski</i>	<i>Nanev</i>	<i>Golebiowski</i>
–	–	Pass	1♦
Dble	2♠	Pass	3♣
Pass	3♦	All Pass	

West	North	East	South
<i>Klukowski</i>	<i>Stefanov</i>	<i>Gawrys</i>	<i>Mihov</i>
–	–	Pass	1♦
Dble	1♠	Pass	2♣
Pass	2♠	Pass	3♣
Dble	3♦	Dble	All Pass

Board 7. Dealer South. All Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Isporski</i>	<i>Starkowski</i>	<i>Nanev</i>	<i>Golebiowski</i>
–	–	–	Pass
1♣	Pass	2♦	Pass
2♠	Pass	3♦	Pass
4♦	Pass	4♥	Pass
4NT	Pass	5♣	Pass
6♦	All Pass		

West	North	East	South
<i>Klukowski</i>	<i>Stefanov</i>	<i>Gawrys</i>	<i>Mihov</i>
–	–	–	Pass
1♣	Pass	1♦	Pass
1♠	Pass	2♦	Pass
2♥	Pass	3♣	Pass
4♦	Pass	4NT	Pass
5♦	Pass	6♦	All Pass

Isporski opened with a strong club and the 2♦ response was a natural positive. When Nanev showed a sixth diamond at his next turn, Isporski agreed trumps and, when Nanev could make a heart cuebid – just what his partner wanted to hear – Isporski asked for key cards then bid the small slam. Golebiowski led a club to dummy's bare ace. Knowing that he could be forced to ruff in dummy as soon as he gave up the lead, Nanev played ace and king of spades for a club discard, a diamond to the ace and a club, ruffing in dummy. He had to lose two trump tricks now so was down one for –100.

Klukowski's 1♣ opening was Polish, three-way, and the 1♦ response either negative or some invitational hands based on diamonds, as here. When Klukowski bid out his shape, thereby showing the strong club type, Gawrys took control and bid the small slam. Here the lead was a heart. Gawrys won in hand and cashed the ace of diamonds then played ace of spades and ruffed a spade. Next he led a diamond towards dummy's queen and had only one trump loser. With the majors providing the necessary discards for the club losers, Gawrys had 12 tricks and his contract for +1370 and 16 IMPs to Poland, who were building a big lead at 35-0.

Board 11. Dealer South. None Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Isporski</i>	<i>Starkowski</i>	<i>Nanev</i>	<i>Golebiowski</i>
<i>Klukowski</i>	<i>Stefanov</i>	<i>Gawrys</i>	<i>Mihov</i>
–	–	–	1♠
Pass	4♠	4NT	Pass
5♣	All Pass		

Both Norths took the simple approach of pre-empting to the maximum and both Easts overcalled 4NT to show a two-suiter, West bidding 5♣ as his preference if facing a heart-club two-suiter, and being left to play there.

Starkowski led the king of spades, forcing the long trump hand immediately. Isporski took a simple approach, ruffing then passing the queen of diamonds. Starkowski ducked in tempo and Isporski decided to believe his good fortune. He drew trumps then repeated the diamond finesse, losing to the king. Back came a spade, taking his last trump, and he was down two, having no time to both establish and cash a heart; –100.



Michal Klukowski
POLAND



Stefanov too led the king of spades. Klukowski ruffed but played the king of hearts at trick two. Mihov won the ace and forced dummy with a second spade. Now Klukowski led a diamond to his jack and Stefanov won the king and returned a diamond. Klukowski won in hand and ruffed his last spade, drew trumps and was down to nothing but winners; 11 tricks for +400 and 11 IMPs to Poland. They now led by an imposing 47-0.

Nanev bid 4♣, pass or correct. When that came back to Starkowski he bid 4♥ and that was that. Nanev led the nine of clubs, denying an honour and with some suit-preference overtones. Isporski won the jack and returned his diamond. Starkowski won in hand and cashed the ace of hearts before trying to cash out the diamonds for a club discard. But Isporski could ruff with the seven of hearts and he next cashed the ace of clubs before giving Nanev a spade ruff. There was no spade winner for the defence now as declarer could get rid of two spades on the queen of diamonds and king of clubs, but he was still down two for -200.

Board 13. Dealer North. All Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Isporski</i>	<i>Starkowski</i>	<i>Nanev</i>	<i>Golebiowski</i>
-	Pass	Pass	1NT
2♠	3♦	4♣	Pass
Pass	4♥	All Pass	

West	North	East	South
<i>Klukowski</i>	<i>Stefanov</i>	<i>Gawrys</i>	<i>Mihov</i>
-	1♥	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

Golebiowski opened a strong no trump after two passes and Isporski came in with 2♠, spades and a minor. Starkowski transferred to hearts and now

Stefanov traded on the limited nature of his opening bids in Precision style and opened 1♥ as dealer and Mihov just jumped to 3NT, natural. Stefanov passed so the Bulgarians had dodged the distributional dangers of the hand and were in the best spot as the cards lay, and played from the better side of the table. Klukowski led a low spade and Mihov won a very cheap trick with his five. Not wanting East to get in and perhaps push a club honour through the king, Mihov crossed to dummy with a diamond to lead a heart to his nine and, when that forced the king, was almost home. Klukowski cashed the ace of clubs, establishing declarer's king and, when the hearts proved to be three-two, Mihov had ten tricks for +630 and 13 IMPs to Bulgaria, who certainly needed them at 13-47.

Any relief felt by the Bulgarians at finally getting on the boards was not to last for long as, on soft defence, Klukowski was allowed to make a heart game on Board 15 which was defeated at the other table for 10 IMPs to Poland.

The final match score was 57-13 IMPs in favour of Poland, translating to 18.55-1.45 VPs. Short of a complete disaster in their final round robin match, they would be in the final, while Bulgaria were virtually dead and buried.





ENGLAND'S BÊTE NOIRE

by **Mark Horton**

When England met China they were hoping to halt a recent run of poor results against the hosts — a good win would leave the victors in a very strong position.

England opened the scoring:

Board 1. Dealer North. None Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Shen</i>	<i>Senior</i>	<i>Wang</i>	<i>Brown</i>
—	1♥	Pass	2♥
2♠	Pass	3♠	All Pass

Playing in a part score when you have a slam available (you will have observed that 6♣ is unbeatable) suggests that your auction has been deficient.

Declarer ducked North's heart lead and also ducked the switch to the queen of diamonds, so she took only ten tricks for +170.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Brock</i>	<i>Zhang</i>	<i>Smith</i>	<i>Wang</i>
—	1♥	Pass	1NT*
2♠	Pass	3♥*	Pass
4♠	All Pass		

1NT Forcing

3♥ Good raise in spades

North led the nine of clubs and when dummy's queen held declarer drew trumps ending in dummy, cashed three more clubs and played a diamond towards the king; +450 and 7 IMPs.

Board 3. Dealer South. E/W Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Shen</i>	<i>Senior</i>	<i>Wang</i>	<i>Brown</i>
—	—	—	Pass
Pass	1♦	Dble	Rdbl
2♣	All Pass		

Two Clubs was a comfortable spot.

North led the three of spades and South took dummy's king with the ace and switched to the eight of hearts, declarer winning with dummy's king and continuing with the queen of diamonds, ducked, and a diamond to the ten and jack.

North exited with a spade to dummy's queen and declarer played the king of clubs, North taking the ace and playing a third spade. Declarer ruffed, ruffed a diamond, played a club to the nine, drew the outstanding trump and ran the seven of hearts for +130.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Brock</i>	<i>Zhang</i>	<i>Smith</i>	<i>Wang</i>
—	—	—	Pass
Pass	1♦*	Dble	1♥*
2♣	Dble*	Rdbl	2♠
Pass	Pass	2NT	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

If I have interpreted the convention card correctly 1♥ was natural and forcing (my initial reaction was it must be a transfer to spades).

When East bid 2NT she must have been expecting more from West's free bid. If a double of 2♠ would show a strong balanced hand at this point it might be a better alternative.



Nicola Smith

ENGLAND

South led the four of diamonds and declarer won with the queen and played the king of clubs, North taking the ace and switching to the ten of spades for the king and ace. South returned a diamond and North cashed her tricks in the suit and exited with a spade. Declarer won with the queen, cashed the top hearts and rejected the club finesse; four down for -400 and 11 IMPs to China.

Board 7 Dealer South. All Vul.

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



Open Room

West	North	East	South
Shen	Senior	Wang	Brown
—	—	—	Pass
1♣*	Pass	2♦	Pass
2♠	Pass	3♦	Pass
3♥	Pass	4♥	All Pass

1♣ Strong

North led the jack of hearts and declarer won with dummy's king and played the ten of diamonds,

South going up with the king and switching to a club. Declarer took the ace then played a heart to the queen and a heart to the nine, a neat safety play that gave her eleven tricks and +650.

On this layout you might make 6♦ — could England fulfill the first part of the equation by reaching it?

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Brock	Zhang	Smith	Wang
—	—	—	Pass
1♠	Pass	1NT	Pass
2♦*	Pass	2♥	Pass
2NT	Pass	3NT	All Pass

2♦ Transfer to hearts

The answer was a resounding no.

If East cannot bid 3♦ over 2NT then perhaps West would do better to bid 3♦ as opposed to 2NT.

South led the three of clubs and declarer won with dummy's ace, cashed two hearts in hand, crossed to dummy with a spade and ran the queen of diamonds. South won and returned a heart, which must have given declarer a glimmer of hope, but after cashing two tricks in the suit and the king of spades North's discard on the three of diamonds confirmed the demise of the contract; -100 and 13 IMPs to China.

England were picking up the odd part score swing, but every time China got on the scoreboard they were dealing in double digits.



Nevena Senior & Fiona Brown

ENGLAND

Board 13. Dealer North. All Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Shen	Senior	Wang	Brown
—	Pass	Pass	1NT
Pass	2♣*	Pass	2♠
Pass	4♠	All Pass	

West led the three of diamonds and declarer won with dummy's jack and played a spade to the jack and queen, East pitching the seven of diamonds. West exited with the five of spades and declarer won in dummy and tried a heart to the nine, West winning with the king and exiting with a third spade. Declarer won in hand and played on hearts, West ruffing the fourth round and

cashing the ace of clubs for one down, -100.

West had done remarkably well not to bid over 1NT (she could have bid 2♠ to show that suit and a minor) but she missed the opportunity to double 4♠ — and you can collect 500 by switching to the ace of clubs followed by the queen when you are in with the king of spades.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Brock	Zhang	Smith	Wang
—	Pass	Pass	1NT
2♠	3♦*	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

3♦ Hearts with at least invitational values

On this layout it is impossible to touch 3NT.

West led the ace of clubs and continued with the queen but declarer ducked, won the next club and played a heart to the ten and jack. East cashed the four of clubs (West had unblocked the jack) and exited with a heart, so declarer claimed +600 and 12 IMPs.

England had lost by 23 IMPs — a big blow to their hopes.



Hongli Wang & Yu Zhang, China

RESULTS OPEN TEAMS**OPEN, RR 4**

	POL	7.45 - 12.55 (29 - 38 IMP)	CHN	
	SWE	13.28 - 6.72 (43 - 31 IMP)	BUL	

OPEN, RR 5

	CHN	8.24 - 11.76 (21 - 27 IMP)	SWE	
	BUL	1.45 - 18.55 (13 - 57 IMP)	POL	

OPEN, RR 6

	BUL	5.00 - 15.00 (18 - 38 IMP)	CHN	
	POL	12.29 - 7.71 (46 - 38 IMP)	SWE	

RANKING AFTER RR 6**1. POLAND 72.26**

PIOTR GAWRYS, STANISLAW GOLEBIEWSKI, KRZYSZTOF JASSEM, MICHAL KLUKOWSKI, MARCIN MAZURKIEWICZ, WLODZIMIERZ STARKOWSKI

2. SWEDEN 66.08

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

3. CHINA 56.15

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

4. BULGARIA 44.51

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

RESULTS WOMEN TEAMS**WOMEN, RR 4**

	CHN	4.26 - 15.74 (35 - 59 IMP)	FRA	
	NED	4.62 - 15.38 (26 - 48 IMP)	ENG	

WOMEN, RR 5

	ENG	4.44 - 15.56 (24 - 47 IMP)	CHN	
	FRA	14.18 - 5.82 (42 - 26 IMP)	NED	

WOMEN, RR 6

	CHN	9.09 - 10.91 (37 - 40 IMP)	NED	
	ENG	9.09 - 10.91 (25 - 28 IMP)	FRA	

RANKING AFTER RR 6**1. FRANCE 68.12**

BÉNÉDICTE CRONIER, CATHERINE D'OVIDIO, NATHALIE FREY, ANNELAURE HUBERSCHWILLER, JENNIFER MOURGUES, SYLVIE WILLARD

2. CHINA 64.62

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

3. ENGLAND 57.37

SALLY BROCK, FIONA BROWN, CATHERINE DRAPER, NEVENA SENIOR, NICOLA SMITH

4. NETHERLANDS 49.89

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