



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



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CHINA'S CHAMPIONSHIP CHALLENGE



The best of enemies

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SCHEDULE

PAIRS

10.30-13.40 SESSION 3 (22 BOARDS)

15.30-18.40 SESSION 4 (22 BOARDS)

Chinese players dominated day one of the Pairs Competitions and as things stand the hosts are strong favourites to collect a hatful of medals later today.

In the Women's Championship the Anglo-Chinese consortium of Nevena Senior and Wen Hu led at the end of the first session, but were then overtaken by Yan Huang & Nan Wang and Yu Zhang & Hongli Wang. The Netherlands' Laura Dekkers & Doris Van Delft won the second session.

In the Open Championship it was a case of 'different but same same' as Linlin Hu & Xiaoyi Li dominated play to build up a healthy lead over their compatriots, Meng Kang & Shaolin Sun (who won the second session) and these two pairs are well ahead of Poland's Wlodzimierz Starkowski & Stanislaw Golebiowski.



GÖRAN GRGURIC



The man behind the bridge explosion in Croatia, Göran Grguric, died suddenly on Sunday.

He enjoyed general esteem, greatly contributed to the development of bridge discipline and by his example underlined the value of bridge and above all its culture, fair-play, and tolerance without any discrimination. Together with his wife Branka he was the true soul of Croatian Bridge.

Apart from the first five years of his life, which were spent in Zagreb, he spent all his life in and around Opatija.

He met his wife, Branka when he was twenty, and they married some ten years later.

He was fiercely proud of being Croatian and especially about the town of Opatija.

The town was the winter holiday playground for the members of the Austro-Hungarian aristocracy, who built the most beautiful villas and homes surrounding the sea. Göran recounted that in the 1920's workers had to leave at 22.00 as nobody was allowed in the town overnight except the rich and famous.

To enter the town you had to have an invitation or reason – it was not possible just to enter as a visitor.

When war broke out in 1990, Göran volunteered for the army, where he served until 1993. He returned to his company until 1997, when the laws changed and made the marine supply business much more difficult.

Following the war, the Government established farms for former soldiers who had suffered post traumatic stress disorder (which did not include Göran) and he

gathered all the farmers to join his own farm and form a co-operative, which he and Branka managed to this day.

Göran learned bridge at the turn of the century, and in 2004 organised a memorial game for a top bridge playing friend who had passed away. In doing so, he found that he had a calling for organising tournaments and set about a ten-year mission to make Opatija a major bridge destination.

It helped that the bridge clubs in Opatija and Rijeka were very supportive of the project.

Through his drive and initiative all of the stakeholders, especially the hotels and the Milenji Wellness Centre (where his daughter Zrinka works) were totally supportive of any activities held in Opatija, especially bridge.

Göran was a great personality, who honoured his Country and his Town, where in a short period of time he was able to organize and host a European University Championship, European Pairs Championship, World Youth Congress, European Champion's Cup, European Teams Championship and in 2015 the World Youth Open Bridge Championships.

Göran and Branka had their sights set on having many more championships and had already had plans for the next five years.

He is survived by his wife Branka and their daughters, Zelica and Zrinka and we send to them the sympathy of the entire bridge family and a comforting hug.



AGAINST ALL ODDS

by **Mark Horton**

China needed something close to a miracle going into the last set of the final. They needed to post a minimum of 49 IMPs, at the same keeping their redoubtable opponents off the scoresheet.

Board 3. Dealer South. EW Vul.

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



Yu Zhang

CHINA

The play record is incomplete, but this is what I believe may have happened:

West led the two of spades (a heart or a club is best) and when declarer played low from dummy East put in the ten and declarer won with the jack and played the ten of hearts. East won with the king and switched to the two of clubs, for the seven, queen and king.

Declarer cashed five diamonds, reducing everyone to five cards.

East had come down to ♠ K 5 ♥ 6 ♣ A 9 and when declarer played a spade to the queen East could win with the king, play a heart to partner's ace and score two club tricks for one down.

The simplest line for declarer is to run the nine of spades at trick two. East wins with the king and then does best to play two rounds of hearts, West winning and switching to a low club, forcing declarer to make a winning guess.

Open Room

| West | North | East | South |
|------|---------|----------|---------|
| Shen | Cronier | Wang | Willard |
| - | - | - | Pass |
| Pass | 1♣ | Pass | 1♥ |
| Pass | 1♠ | Pass | 1NT |
| Pass | 2♦ | Pass | 2♥ |
| Pass | 3NT | All Pass | |

Closed Room

| West | North | East | South |
|----------|-------|------|-------|
| D'Ovidio | Zhang | Frey | Wang |
| - | - | - | Pass |
| Pass | 2NT* | Pass | 3♣* |
| Pass | 3♠ | Pass | 3NT |
| All Pass | | | |

2NT 20-21

3♣ Stayman

East led the seven of diamonds and declarer won with the ace and played a spade, East going in with the king and switching to the ten of clubs for the queen and king. Declarer now had the tricks for her contract on top and when East allowed herself to be endplayed at trick 11 with the ♥K declarer collected an overtrick for +430 and 10 IMPs for China.



Benedicte Cronier & Sylvie Willard

FRANCE



Board 9. Dealer North. EW Vul.

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

Open Room

| West | North | East | South |
|------|----------|------|---------|
| Shen | Cronier | Wang | Willard |
| - | Pass | 1♥ | 2♣ |
| 2NT* | Pass | 4♣* | Pass |
| 4♥ | All Pass | | |

2NT Heart support
4♣ Splinter

Seeing little point in leading a club, South attacked with the queen of diamonds and like so many players before her discovered that it cost a trick.

(I recommend you study the excellent chapter on this topic in Blackwood's classic Complete Book of Opening Leads.)

Declarer won in hand, cashed the ace of hearts and continued with a heart, North winning, cashing a second heart and exiting with a diamond.

Declarer did not locate the queen of spades, so she was +620.

Closed Room

| West | North | East | South |
|----------|----------|------|-------|
| D'Ovidio | Zhang | Frey | Wang |
| - | Pass | 1♥ | 2♣ |
| 4♥ | All Pass | | |

South led the king of clubs and declarer won with dummy's ace.

One option now is to take the optimum line in the trump suit, playing low to the nine which offers a 57.34% chance of scoring four tricks, but declarer went for the tempting alternative of ruffing a club and playing ace of hearts and a heart. North won, cashed a second heart and exited with the four of diamonds, declarer taking South's jack with the king and then running the nine to South's queen. The diamond exit left her to guess the location of the queen of spades and when she started the suit by cashing the ace she

was one down for -100 and 12 IMPs the poorer.

Board 10. Dealer East. All Vul.

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

Open Room

| West | North | East | South |
|----------|---------|------|---------|
| Shen | Cronier | Wang | Willard |
| - | - | Pass | 1NT |
| Pass | 2♣* | Pass | 2♥ |
| Pass | 3♣ | Pass | 3♦ |
| Pass | 4♣ | Pass | 4♦* |
| Dble | 4♠* | Pass | 6♣ |
| All Pass | | | |

4♦ Cue bid
4♠ Cue bid

Declarer won East's heart lead with dummy's ace and played three rounds of clubs, finessing against the queen. When that passed off peacefully, she could run the jack of hearts and claim; +1370.

Closed Room

| West | North | East | South |
|----------|-------|------|-------|
| D'Ovidio | Zhang | Frey | Wang |
| - | - | Pass | 1NT* |
| Pass | 2NT* | Pass | 3♣ |
| Pass | 3♠ | Pass | 3NT |
| All Pass | | | |

1NT 14-16
2NT Clubs

West led the four of hearts so declarer took twelve tricks for +690 but surrendered 12 IMPs.



Board 14. Dealer East. None Vul.

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

Open Room

| West | North | East | South |
|-------------|----------------|-------------|----------------|
| <i>Shen</i> | <i>Cronier</i> | <i>Wang</i> | <i>Willard</i> |
| - | - | 1♦ | Pass |
| 1♠ | 2♥ | Pass | Pass |
| Dble | All Pass | | |

East cashed the ace of spades and switched to the two of diamonds, declarer taking dummy's ace and playing a spade (as the cards lie playing a heart to the eight should see declarer emerge with seven tricks).

West played the jack and East ruffed declarer's king and played a diamond. Declarer ruffed and played three rounds of clubs and West ruffed and returned the jack of hearts, East winning with the king and playing a diamond.

Declarer ruffed and played a heart but East won and forced out declarer's remaining trump with a diamond, two down for -300.

Closed Room

| West | North | East | South |
|-----------------|--------------|-------------|-------------|
| <i>D'Ovidio</i> | <i>Zhang</i> | <i>Frey</i> | <i>Wang</i> |
| - | - | 1♦ | Pass |
| 1♠ | 2♥ | Pass | Pass |
| Dble | All Pass | | |

Once again East started with the ace of spades, but here she switched to a club. Declarer won with the ace and played the ten of hearts. East made the mistake of winning with the king and when she switched to a diamond declarer took dummy's ace and played a heart. The appearance of West's jack meant there were now eight top tricks for +470 and 13 IMPs for China.

Board 15. Dealer South. NS Vul.

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

Open Room

| West | North | East | South |
|-------------|----------------|-------------|----------------|
| <i>Shen</i> | <i>Cronier</i> | <i>Wang</i> | <i>Willard</i> |
| - | - | - | 1♠ |
| Pass | 2♠ | 3♣ | 3♥ |
| Pass | 3♠ | Pass | Pass |
| Dble | All Pass | | |

The defenders scored three hearts, a club and three spades; +800.

Closed Room

| West | North | East | South |
|-----------------|--------------|-------------|-------------|
| <i>D'Ovidio</i> | <i>Zhang</i> | <i>Frey</i> | <i>Wang</i> |
| - | - | - | 1♠ |
| Pass | 1NT* | 2♣ | Pass |
| 2♠* | Pass | 3♣ | All Pass |

1NT Forcing

South led the king of spades and declarer won with dummy's ace pitching diamond, ducked a diamond to South's ten, won the heart switch with dummy's king, ducked a diamond to North's king, won the trump switch with the queen, played a heart to the ace, ruffed a spade, cashed the queen of hearts and ruffed a heart. North over-ruffed with the jack and exited with a spade.

Declarer had to lose a trick to the king of clubs; +110 and 12 more IMPs for China.

They had more than met their target, scoring 58 IMPs in the session, but they had also given up 38 IMPs and France added another title to their collection.



Nathalie Frey

FRANCE



AFTER THE FOX

by **Mark Horton**

After the Fox is a 1966 British-Italian comedy film starring Peter Sellers, who plays Aldo Vanucci (aka the Fox), one of the greatest criminals of the world and master of disguise. and directed by Vittorio De Sica.

Despite its notable credits, the film was poorly received. It has since gained a cult following for its numerous in-jokes skewering pompous directors, including Cecil B. DeMille, John Huston (who appears briefly in the movie, portraying Moses for De Sica in a film shoot within the film), Federico Fellini, Michelangelo Antonioni, and De Sica himself, vain film stars, their star struck audiences, and pretentious film critics.

As many of you will know, England's Nevena Senior is known as the Fox (if you want to discomfort her just arrange for her lucky fox mascot to disappear) and in this event, Fiona Brown having already left for Australia, she was partnering China's Hu Wen,.

Remarkably, Hu had learnt the system that Nevena plays with her regular partner, Heather Dhondy – how would things work out in the first session?

A top on a board was 10, so I will show the scores in the usual way, a top for NS being 10/0.



Nevena Senior

ENGLAND

Board 1. Dealer North. None Vul.

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

| West | North | East | South |
|---------|-------|----------|----------|
| Arnolds | Huang | van Zwol | Wang |
| — | Pass | Pass | 1♦* |
| Pass | 1♥ | Pass | Pass |
| Dble | Pass | 1♠ | Dble |
| Pass | 1NT | 2♠ | All Pass |

Here you see a typical matchpoint deal, with everyone having something to say.

From a practical point of view I suspect it works better to rebid 1NT with the South hand (raising to 2♥ is an alternative, but then West has an easy double) when NS might easily steal the contract.

South led the ace of diamonds, continued with the king and switched to the five of hearts, North taking the ace and returning the two of spades.

Declarer played the eight and when that held she played a club to the nine, a heart to the king, ruffed a heart, cashed the ace of clubs, ruffed a diamond, ruffed a heart and was +140.

Only one declarer failed to take nine tricks, so that was worth 4/6.

After the spade return declarer might have taken ten tricks. She must overtake the eight of spades, come to hand with the king of hearts, ruff a heart high, play a spade to the nine, draw trumps and advance the ten of clubs.



Board 5. Dealer North. NS Vul.

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

| West | North | East | South |
|----------------|---------------|----------------|---------------|
| <i>Willard</i> | <i>Pasman</i> | <i>Cronier</i> | <i>Simons</i> |
| — | Pass | 3♥ | 3NT |
| All Pass | | | |

Don't you just love East's approach?

West's pass might be considered conservative, but if she doubles and North decides to run then you won't get rich defending 4♠.

The defenders took five clubs and a diamond for +200, which was a shared top, worth 1/9.

Board 11. Dealer South. None Vul.

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

| West | North | East | South |
|-----------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| <i>D'Ovidio</i> | <i>Wang</i> | <i>Frey</i> | <i>Shen</i> |
| — | — | — | 2♦* |
| Pass | 3♦ | 3♥ | Pass |
| 4♥ | 5♦ | All Pass | |

2♦ Multi

West led the king of hearts and switched to the three of diamonds. Declarer won with the ace and played a spade to the king. West took the ace and exited with the queen of diamonds, leaving declarer a trick short of her target; -50 and only 2/8.

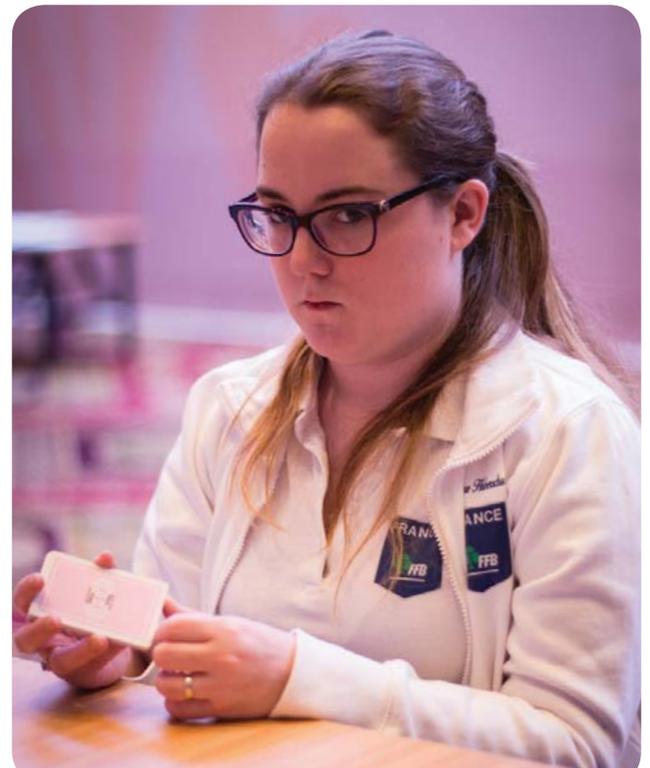
Board 15. Dealer South. NS Vul.

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

| West | North | East | South |
|-----------------|---------------|------------------------|----------|
| <i>Mourgues</i> | <i>Senior</i> | <i>HuberschwilerHu</i> | |
| — | — | — | Pass |
| Pass | 1♣* | 1♥ | Dble |
| Pass | 1NT | 2♥ | Pass |
| Pass | 3♦ | 3♥ | All Pass |

1♣ 2+♣ (11)-12-14 balanced (may have 5♦) or natural or 18-19 balanced

South led the two of spades and declarer took North's ten with the ace and played three rounds of hearts. She lost a trick to the king of diamonds, ruffed the spade switch and declarer played a club to the ace and a club, claiming eleven tricks for +200 and 4/6. Holding declarer to ten tricks would have saved a matchpoint.



Anne-Laure Huberschwiller

FRANCE

Board 17. Dealer North. None Vul.

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

Open Room

| West | North | East | South |
|----------|---------|--------|-----------|
| Hu | Dekkers | Senior | van Delft |
| — | 1♣ | 1♠ | 2♦* |
| 2♠ | 3♣ | 3♠ | 4♥ |
| All Pass | | | |

2♦ Hearts

West led the two of spades and declarer won with dummy's ace, played a club to the ace and a diamond to

the king and ace. East cashed the king of spades and then made the surprising play of cashing the queen of diamonds. That reduced three down to two down and when East continued with the ten of diamonds another trick went with it.

Declarer ruffed, pitched a diamond on the king of clubs and played a heart to the queen. Had she started with ♥ A Q J 8 6 4 she would now have been making!

Minus 50 gave NS 9/1, whereas 150 would have been 2/8.

Despite that setback, the new partnership showed the field a clean pair of heels, scoring 57.27%. In the next session everyone would be After the Fox.



The **2016 World Bridge Games** have a new format!

The first events, starting on 3rd September, will be the National Open, Women's, Seniors and Mixed Teams, with each WBF Member Bridge Organisation being entitled and invited to send a team in each category to compete in these exciting and challenging Championships.

The second week is for the new National Open, Women's, Seniors and Mixed Pairs Championships, and for these there is no limit to the number of pairs each NBO may nominate to participate. The pairs events will start on Tuesday 13th September.

More information can be found on the WBF Website: www.worldbridge.org

and on the special website set up for the event at: www.worldbridgegames2016.com where details of the hotels can be found.

Registration can be done through the website at www.worldbridge.org after 1st April 2016.

The World Bridge Federation and the Polish Bridge Union look forward to welcoming participants from all over the world to enjoy the 2016 World Bridge Games in the magnificent Hala Stulecia in Wroclaw, Poland.



OPEN PAIRS – SESSION ONE

by **Brian Senior**

And so we move on to the Pairs events of the 1st IMSA Elite Mind Games. In each of the Open and Women's series there would be 4 x 22-board sessions played over two days. Twelve pairs would take part in each event, meaning that a top on each board was 10 MPs and 220 MPs were available to each pair in any given session.

I should apologise now for the fact that the standard of recording was poor due to the use of some inexperienced operators, so I cannot be 100% sure that the members of a partnership are always in the correct seats. Also, there are some missing or questionable auctions and missing play details. These problems are likely to continue throughout the pairs event.

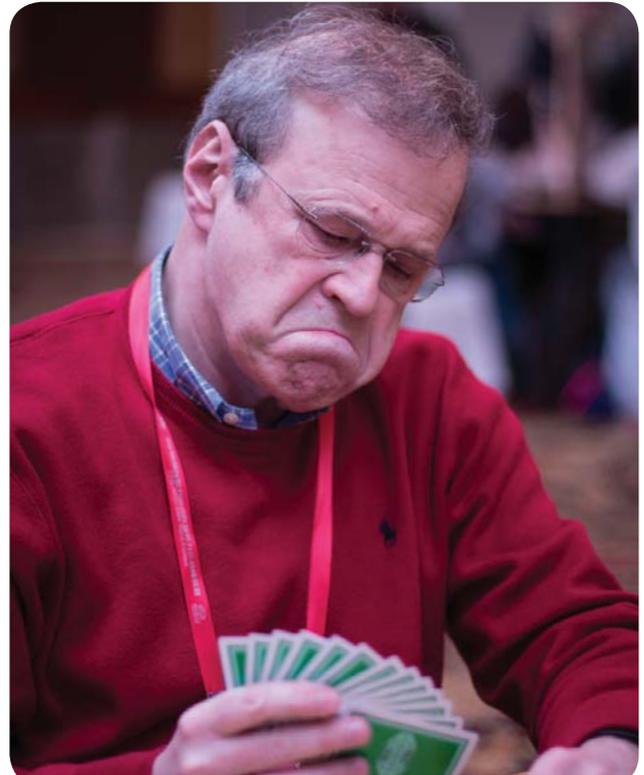
I will be following two of the six tables in the Open event.

Board 1. Dealer North. None Vul.

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

| West | North | East | South |
|----------|-------------|---------|------------|
| Upmark | Golebiowski | Nystrom | Starkowski |
| – | Pass | Pass | 1♦ |
| Pass | 1♥ | Pass | 1NT |
| All Pass | | | |

The Polish N/S pair had an uncontested auction to 1NT, against which Upmark (Sweden) led the ace of clubs, getting a discouraging ten from Nystrom. He switched to the king of spades, Nystrom following with the nine, again upside-down style, and continued with the five of spades, Nystrom winning the ace. A club through was ducked to Upmark's nine and he next switched to a heart. Starkowski rose with the ace and cashed out the diamonds and, despite the way the spades had become tangled, had only those five red tricks so was two down for -100 but 7 MPs out of 10 for N/S.



Włodzimierz Starkowski

POLAND

| West | North | East | South |
|------|----------|------|----------|
| Kang | Stefanov | Sun | Mihov |
| – | Pass | Pass | 1♦ |
| Pass | 1♥ | Pass | Pass |
| Dble | Pass | 1♠ | Pass |
| Pass | 1NT | 2♠ | All Pass |

Mihov (Bulgaria) opened a Precision 1♦ and passed the 1♥ response. That let in China's Kang and he balanced with a double. Sun responded 1♠ and competed with 2♠ when Stefanov bid a delayed 1NT. Mihov cashed the king of diamonds then switched to a trump. Sun rose with dummy's king to lead a heart towards his king. Stefanov rose with the ace and played a second trump but Sun was in control and came to an overtrick for +140.

With neither side vulnerable and the high cards roughly divided evenly, you want to be the declaring side as often as possible. For this reason I think it is a tactical error to pass the 1♥ response as it makes it far more likely that the opposition will come in than if you rebid 1NT. On this layout, -100 is the best result N/S can hope to achieve. Minus 140 scored just 2 MPs for N/S.



Board 2. Dealer East. N/S Vul.

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

| West | North | East | South |
|--------|-------------|----------|------------|
| Upmark | Golebiowski | Nystrom | Starkowski |
| - | - | Pass | Pass |
| 1♥ | 1♠ | 1NT | 2♠ |
| 3NT | Dble | 4♥ | Dble |
| Pass | 4♠ | Dble | Pass |
| 5♦ | Dble | All Pass | |

Upmark opened 1♥ rather than an amorphous 1♦ to ensure that the major was involved in the auction, and Golebiowski overcalled. Nystrom now psyched a 1NT bid, knowing that the hand must belong to his opponents as he was facing a non-strong club opening. When Starkowski now made a simple spade raise, Upmark jumped to 3NT, hoping to hold six diamond winners, and Golebiowski doubled. Nystrom, of course, knew that 3NT would be hopeless, so ran to 4♥. Starkowski doubled for penalty but Golebiowski did not expect that penalty to be sufficient to compensate for his vulnerable game so removed to 4♠. Why Nystrom felt the need to double that is unclear (or perhaps it is a recording error). Anyway, Upmark didn't fancy defending with his shapely hand and ran to 5♦, where he was doubled. With little enthusiasm for the task, Upmark managed to make only five tricks and was down six for -1400 and a predictable matchpoint score.

| West | North | East | South |
|----------|----------|------|-------|
| Kang | Stefanov | Sun | Mihov |
| - | - | Pass | Pass |
| 1♥ | 1♠ | 2♥ | 2♠ |
| 3♦ | 4♠ | Pass | Pass |
| 5♦ | Dble | 5♥ | Dble |
| All Pass | | | |

Kang too opened the major rather than a Precision 1♦ but he followed through with 3♦ at his next turn, ostensibly a game try, and took a unilateral save in 5♦ at his third turn. That was doubled, as was Sun's correction to 5♥, and that unattractive contract drifted

five off for -1100 and 8 MPs to N/S. Note that Upmark could therefore have salvaged a matchpoint at the previous table simply by making his six trump tricks.

Board 3. Dealer South. E/W Vul.

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

Starkowski bid and made 3NT+1 from the West seat but, apart from the fact that the lead was a low club, we have no information about either the bidding or play. With everyone else who declared 3NT going one down, +630 scored 10 out of 10 for E/W.

| West | North | East | South |
|--------|----------|---------|-------|
| Upmark | Sylvan | Nystrom | Wrang |
| - | - | - | Pass |
| 1♣ | Pass | 1♦ | Pass |
| 1NT | Pass | 3♥ | Pass |
| 3NT | All Pass | | |

One Club was strong and 1♦ weak. The 1NT rebid started at 17 HCP so Nystrom forced to game, 3♥ showing heart shortage, and 3NT was the obvious choice for Upmark. Sylvan led a heart to the jack and king. He played the king of clubs and, with Sylvan showing an even number in the suit, Wrang had no reason not to take the ace. He returned the five of hearts to the eight and queen and things were going quite well for Upmark, who had two extra heart tricks established. However, Sylvan switched to a spade to the ten and ace then shot up with the ace on Upmark's next play of a low diamond, and a second spade through meant that the defence had five tricks for down one and -100; 7 MPs to N/S.





Board 4. Dealer West. All Vul.

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

| West | North | East | South |
|-------------------|-----------------|--------------------|--------------|
| <i>Starkowski</i> | <i>Stefanov</i> | <i>Golebiowski</i> | <i>Mihov</i> |
| 1♣ | Pass | 1♦ | 1NT |
| Pass | 2♣ | Pass | 2♦ |
| Pass | 2♥ | Pass | 2♠ |
| All Pass | | | |

Starkowski opened a Polish Club and Golebiowski's response would often, as here, deliver a 0-7 hand, though it could also have been various hands based on the minors. When Mihov made a natural 1NT overcall, Stefanov used scrambling Stayman in hope of hitting a four-four major-suit fit. Not today, so Mihov had to make the best of his four-three fit. Starkowski led the queen of clubs. Mihov won the ace and led the queen of diamonds to the king and ace then came back to the jack of diamonds to lead a heart towards the king. When Starkowski split his honours, putting in the queen, Mihov ducked, and back came a diamond, which he ruffed low in the dummy. A club to the king was followed by the eight of hearts and, when Starkowski did not cover, this was run to Golebiowski's ace. The defensive club trick was cashed and the fourth diamond ruffed high in dummy and over-ruffed. There was no way to prevent declarer from coming to two trumps plus the king of hearts or seven of clubs, so the contract was just made for +110 but only 2 MPs for N/S.

| West | North | East | South |
|---------------|---------------|----------------|--------------|
| <i>Upmark</i> | <i>Sylvan</i> | <i>Nystrom</i> | <i>Wrang</i> |
| 1♦ | Pass | 1♠ | 1NT |
| All Pass | | | |

Wrang was left to play in his 1NT overcall and Upmark led the queen of hearts to the king and ace. Nystrom switched to the six of clubs and Wrang won and played ace and another spade. He came to three clubs, two spades, two diamonds a one heart for +120 and 6 MPs.

Board 5. Dealer North. N/S Vul.

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

| West | North | East | South |
|--------------|---------------|-----------------|--------------|
| <i>Mihov</i> | <i>Sylvan</i> | <i>Stefanov</i> | <i>Wrang</i> |
| - | Pass | 3♥ | 3NT |
| Dble | Pass | Pass | Rdbl |
| All Pass | | | |

Stefanov opened 3♥ and Wrang overcalled 3NT. Mihov could expect to have that defeated in his own hand so doubled. I'm not sure what Wrang's redouble was supposed to mean but if it expressed doubt in any way the message did not get across to his partner. Mihov led the king of clubs to ask for an unblock and Stefanov dropped the queen as instructed. Mihov cashed out for two down, +1000 and all 10 MPs.

| West | North | East | South |
|-------------------|---------------------|--------------------|---------------|
| <i>Starkowski</i> | <i>Mazurkiewicz</i> | <i>Golebiowski</i> | <i>Jassem</i> |
| - | Pass | 3♥ | Dble |
| Pass | 3♠ | All Pass | |

Golebiowski also opened 3♥ but Jassem chose to double rather than overcall and he passed Mazurkiewicz's 3♠ response. Golebiowski led the queen of hearts to dummy's ace and Mazurkiewicz took no chances, cashing the ace of spades then running the ten. He drew trumps in four rounds then played on diamonds and lost just the ace of that suit plus three club tricks, making exactly for +140 and all the matchpoints to N/S.

The other four contracts on this deal were 4♠-1, 4♠ doubled minus one, 2NT doubled minus one, and 3NT doubled down two.





Board 6. Dealer East. E/W Vul.

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

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

Board 7. Dealer South. All Vul.

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

| West | North | East | South |
|-------|----------|----------|----------|
| Mihov | Stamatov | Stefanov | Danailov |
| - | - | - | 1♦ |
| Pass | 2♠ | 3♥ | Pass |
| 4♥ | Dble | All Pass | |

It is far from being obligatory to make a take-out double with that South hand, but many players would do so. When Mihov could make a strength-showing redouble, however, the Swedish pair were in trouble, and Wrang's run-out to 2♥ was doubled by a delighted Mihov, who cashed the ace of hearts then switched to the ten of spades. Stefanov won the ace returned the nine to Wrang's king. He played on clubs and came to one of those, two diamonds and heart for down three; -500.

Stamatov's 2♠ response to the Precision 1♦ opening showed either an invitational balanced hand or, as here, both minors. However, Stefanov's overcall prevented the N/S pair from unwinding and Mihov's raise to game was doubled by Stamatov because of his two aces, ending the auction. There was nothing to the play and Stefanov soon chalked up ten tricks and +790; 4 MPs for N/S.

| West | North | East | South |
|------------|--------------|-------------|--------|
| Starkowski | Mazurkiewicz | Golebiowski | Jassem |
| - | - | 1♠ | Pass |
| 1NT | Pass | 2♣ | 2♥ |
| Dble | All Pass | | |

| West | North | East | South |
|--------|----------|-------|--------------|
| Sylvan | Jassem | Wrang | Mazurkiewicz |
| - | - | - | 1♦ |
| Pass | 3♣ | 4♥ | 5♦ |
| 5♥ | 6♦ | Pass | Pass |
| Dble | All Pass | | |

Jassem found a different way to get into trouble, passing over 1♠ to limit his hand but then coming into his opponents' non-fit auction with 2♥ and getting doubled for his pains. Starkowski led the ten of spades, Golebiowski winning and returning a low spade to Jassem's king. He played the ten of hearts and Starkowski can hardly be blamed for getting the position in that suit wrong. He won the queen and Golebiowski followed with the nine. Starkowski returned a club, won by Golebiowski, who switched to a diamond. Jassem won the ace played a club and Golebiowski won that and returned to the diamond attack. Jassem could win the diamond, overtake his last club and play the thirteenth club off the table to get rid of his diamond loser. Though that was ruffed, he had to come to one trump trick so had scrambled the same five tricks as at our previous table; -500 and 5 MPs each way.

Mazurkiewicz opened a natural 1♦ and 3♣ showed a mixed raise. I understand why Mazurkiewicz now bid 5♦ over 4♥, as he thought the opposing game was likely to make, but why Jassem bid 6♦ over 5♥ I have no idea. He surely had no reason to think that either 5♥ or 6♦ was making unless they have a special arrangement regarding the 5♦ bid. Anyway, the bad trump split meant that 6♦ doubled had to go three down and -800 scored just 1 MP for N/S when doubling 5♥ for down one would have reversed the matchpoint score to 9-1 in favour of N/S.



Board 8. Dealer West. None Vul.

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

| West | North | East | South |
|--------|----------|-------|--------------|
| Sylvan | Jassem | Wrang | Mazurkiewicz |
| 1♣ | Pass | 1♥ | Pass |
| 2♠ | All Pass | | |

Sylvan opened a potentially short club and Wrang made a transfer response to show four or more spades. Two Spades showed a minimum, usually with four-card support, and that was that. Jassem led the three of spades and Mazurkiewicz did not cover dummy's nine, allowing it to hold. Sylvan led a diamond to the queen, losing to the king, and Jassem returned the eight of hearts to the king and ace. Sylvan led a spade to the ace then a second diamond up and had to lose that trick plus a heart and a spade so had nine tricks for +140 and all 10 MPs to E/W.

| West | North | East | South |
|-------|----------|----------|----------|
| Mihov | Stamatov | Stefanov | Danailov |
| 1♦ | Pass | 1♠ | Pass |
| 2♠ | All Pass | | |

Mihov opened a Precision 1♦ then raised the 1♠ response to 2♠, ending the auction. The two of clubs was led and covered by the seven, eight and jack. Stefanov led a diamond from hand and, if the play record is to be believed, Danailov rose with the ace to switch to a low heart and declarer called for dummy's jack, losing to the queen. This enabled Stamatov to return a second heart to establish another winner in the suit for the defence, when they would have had only one heart trick had declarer played low on the first round. Stefanov made eight tricks for +110 and 6 MPs to E/W.



Marcin Mazurkiewicz

POLAND

Board 9. Dealer North. E/W Vul.

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

| West | North | East | South |
|--------------|----------|--------|----------|
| Mazurkiewicz | Stamatov | Jassem | Danailov |
| – | Pass | Pass | 2♥ |
| Dble | 3♥ | Pass | Pass |
| 3NT | All Pass | | |

Danailov opened a weak 2♥ in third seat. Mazurkiewicz doubled then bid 3NT on his own when Stamatov's pre-emptive raise came around. On a heart lead to the jack and king, Mazurkiewicz cashed the top diamonds and the fall of the queen, soon to be followed by the fall of the other minor-suit queen, meant that he had 11 tricks for +660 and 9 MPs.

| West | North | East | South |
|--------|----------|-------|-------|
| Sylvan | Hu | Wrang | Li |
| – | 2♠ | Pass | 3♠ |
| 3NT | All Pass | | |

Hu opened with a weak 2♠ and Li raised to 3♠, leaving Sylvan with little option but to overcall 3NT. The opening spade lead meant that there was no time to set up a heart winner and, though Sylvan too played diamonds from the top, that was for ten tricks and +630; 6 MPs for E/W.

Board 10. Dealer East. All Vul.

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

| West | North | East | South |
|--------------|----------|--------|----------|
| Mazurkiewicz | Stamatov | Jassem | Danailov |
| - | - | Pass | Pass |
| 1NT | Pass | 2♣ | Pass |
| 2♦ | Pass | 2NT | Pass |
| 3NT | All Pass | | |

Jassem used Stayman then invited game and Mazurkiewicz accepted. Stamatov led the jack of hearts. Mazurkiewicz ducked but won the heart continuation and led a club up. Stamatov grabbed his ace to clear the hearts and now Mazurkiewicz took a club finesse, came to hand with a top diamond and repeated the finesse. He cashed the club king then led a low diamond and the appearance of the queen meant that he had an overtrick for +630 and 6 MPs.

| West | North | East | South |
|--------|-------|-------|----------|
| Sylvan | Hu | Wrang | Li |
| - | - | Pass | Pass |
| 1NT | Pass | 2♣ | Pass |
| 2♦ | Pass | 3NT | All Pass |



Johan Sylvan
SWEDEN

Wrang too used Stayman but he then jumped to game. Play followed the same lines except that Sylvan used the king of spades as an entry to hand to take the second club finesse. The outcome was the same, ten tricks for +630 and 6 MPs.

Board 11. Dealer South. None Vul.

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

| West | North | East | South |
|----------|-------|----------|-------|
| Stamatov | Hu | Danailov | Li |
| - | - | - | 2♠ |
| Pass | 3♦ | Pass | 3♠ |
| Pass | 4♦ | Pass | 5♦ |
| All Pass | | | |

Li opened the South hand with a weak two bid and Hu responded with a forcing 3♦ then repeated the diamonds when Li showed that he had only spades. Li raised to 5♦ to end the auction. Danailov led a club so Hu won and led a spade, calling for dummy's jack. When that forced the ace he was home. Stamatov returned a heart but that was all for the defence; +400 and 6 MPs to the Chinese pair.

| West | North | East | South |
|--------------|-------|--------|----------|
| Mazurkiewicz | Nanev | Jassem | Isporski |
| - | - | - | 3♠ |
| All Pass | | | |

Isporski opened a level higher and Nanev left him to play there. Mazurkiewicz led his singleton diamond. Isporski won and led dummy's heart so Jassem went in with the ace to play a trump, the jack forcing the ace. Now Mazurkiewicz needed to lead a low heart to put partner in to give him a diamond ruff. In practice, he played king and another heart, and Isporski could ruff and play king and another spade and had nine tricks for +140 but no matchpoints to N/S.





Board 12. Dealer West. N/S Vul.

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

| West | North | East | South |
|-----------------|-----------|-----------------|-----------|
| <i>Stamatov</i> | <i>Hu</i> | <i>Danailov</i> | <i>Li</i> |
| Pass | 1NT | Pass | 2♣ |
| Pass | 2♦ | Pass | 2NT |
| Pass | 3NT | All Pass | |

| West | North | East | South |
|---------------------|--------------|---------------|-----------------|
| <i>Mazurkiewicz</i> | <i>Nanev</i> | <i>Jassem</i> | <i>Isporski</i> |
| Pass | 1NT | Pass | 2♣ |
| Pass | 2♦ | Pass | 2NT |
| Pass | 3NT | All Pass | |

Board 13. Dealer North. All Vul.

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

| West | North | East | South |
|-----------|--------------|-----------|-----------------|
| <i>Hu</i> | <i>Nanev</i> | <i>Li</i> | <i>Isporski</i> |
| – | Pass | 1♠ | Pass |
| 2NT | 3NT | 4♣ | Pass |
| 4♦ | Pass | 4♥ | Pass |
| 4♠ | All Pass | | |

| West | North | East | South |
|-----------------|---------------|-----------------|------------------|
| <i>Stamatov</i> | <i>Gawrys</i> | <i>Danailov</i> | <i>Klukowski</i> |
| – | Pass | 1♠ | Pass |
| 1NT | 2NT | 3♠ | Pass |
| 4♠ | All Pass | | |

A dull board saw both our Norths open 1NT and declare 3NT on the lead of the jack of diamonds. There were eight top tricks and the only real chance for a ninth was the heart finesse. When it succeeded, both declarers made nine tricks for +600 and 6 MPs.

Another dull deal saw East declare 4♠ after North had shown a minor two-suiter. There was no heart guess as the cards lay so both made an overtrick in double-quick time for +650 and 6 MPs.



LATEST VIDEOS



TEAMS FINAL

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Board 14. Dealer East. None Vul.

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

| West | North | East | South |
|-----------|--------------|-----------|-----------------|
| <i>Hu</i> | <i>Nanev</i> | <i>Li</i> | <i>Isporski</i> |
| - | - | 1♠ | Pass |
| 3♠ | 4♥ | 4♠ | Pass |
| Pass | Dble | All Pass | |

Hu's 3♠ raise was weak and Nanev overcalled 4♥ then doubled Li's 4♠ to show his good hand with decent defensive values. Isporski left it in and led his singleton in partner's suit, as who would not? Unfortunately, three rounds of hearts didn't get the job done. Li ruffed the third round high, drew trumps and took a diamond pitch on the king of hearts and, with the ace of clubs where it needed to be, had ten tricks for +590 and all 10 MPs.

Had Nanev switched to a diamond at trick two, he would have beaten the contract by a trick and earned his side 9 MPs.

| West | North | East | South |
|-----------------|---------------|-----------------|------------------|
| <i>Stamatov</i> | <i>Gawrys</i> | <i>Danailov</i> | <i>Klukowski</i> |
| - | - | 1♣ | Pass |
| 1♦ | 1♥ | 1♠ | Pass |
| 2NT | Dble | Pass | 3♦ |
| Pass | Pass | 4♠ | All Pass |

Danailov opened a strong club and the 1♦ response was a negative. Gawrys overcalled then doubled the



Hu Linlin
CHINA

2NT four-card spade raise, but had done his bidding now so was not tempted to double when his opponents got to 4♠ under their own steam. Klukowski led his heart and Gawrys got it half right switching at trick two - but to the ace of clubs. He had one more chance after seeing Klukowski's discouraging card but went back to hearts and, as we have seen, that was not good enough; ten tricks for +420 and 7 MPs.

Board 15. Dealer South. N/S Vul.

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

| West | North | East | South |
|-----------------|---------------|--------------|------------------|
| <i>Isporski</i> | <i>Gawrys</i> | <i>Nanev</i> | <i>Klukowski</i> |
| - | - | - | Pass |
| Pass | 1♦ | Dble | 1♠ |
| 2♣ | Dble(i) | 4♥ | All Pass |

(I) Three spades

Nanev doubled Gawrys's 1♦ opening and, having seen a free 2♣ bid from Isporski, jumped to 4♥ at his next turn. Nanev won the spade lead and played three rounds of hearts. Gawrys won and played king and another diamond and Nanev ruffed the third round. He was pretty sure what sort of hand Gawrys held by now so led a club to the ace then a second round and was relieved of the need to make a decision when the queen appeared; +420 and 6 MPs.

| West | North | East | South |
|-----------|--------------|-----------|-----------------|
| <i>Hu</i> | <i>Warne</i> | <i>Li</i> | <i>Bergdahl</i> |
| - | - | - | Pass |
| Pass | 1♦ | 1♥ | Dble |
| Pass | 1♠ | 2♥ | Pass |
| Pass | 2♠ | Dble | Pass |
| 3♥ | All Pass | | |

Li started with a simple overcall then repeated his suit. Though he doubled at his third turn, his overall auction did not sound so strong to Hu, who bid a quiet 3♥ in response and the game was missed. Li got the clubs right for ten tricks but +170 was worth only 2 MPs.

Board 16. Dealer West. E/W Vul.

| | | | |
|--------------|---|-------------|--|
| | ♠ J 8 4 | | |
| | ♥ Q J 6 5 | | |
| | ♦ A | | |
| | ♣ Q 10 9 7 5 | | |
| ♠ A K 10 6 2 | <div style="border: 2px solid red; padding: 5px; display: inline-block; text-align: center; width: 40px; height: 40px; background-color: #800000; color: white; line-height: 40px;">N W E S</div> | ♠ 3 | |
| ♥ K 4 | | ♥ A 9 7 3 2 | |
| ♦ J 7 3 | | ♦ K 6 5 4 | |
| ♣ A 8 3 | | ♣ K 6 4 | |
| | ♠ Q 9 7 5 | | |
| | ♥ 10 8 | | |
| | ♦ Q 10 9 8 2 | | |
| | ♣ J 2 | | |

| West | North | East | South |
|-----------------|---------------|--------------|------------------|
| <i>Isporski</i> | <i>Gawrys</i> | <i>Nanev</i> | <i>Klukowski</i> |
| 1NT | 2♣ | 3♦ | Pass |
| 3♥ | Pass | 3NT | All Pass |

Isporski opened 1NT and Gawrys overcalled 2♣, clubs and a major. Three Diamonds was a transfer and Nanev next offered a choice of games. Gawrys led the ten of clubs which held the trick and continued with a second club to the jack and ace. Isporski played king of hearts then a heart to the seven, losing to the ten, and back came a spade. He won and led a diamond up and Gawrys won the ace and knocked out the king of clubs. The contract was two down for -200 and only 1 MP to E/W.

| West | North | East | South |
|-----------|--------------|-----------|-----------------|
| <i>Hu</i> | <i>Warne</i> | <i>Li</i> | <i>Bergdahl</i> |
| 1NT | Pass | 2♦ | Pass |
| 2♥ | Pass | 3♣ | Pass |
| 3♠ | Pass | 3NT | All Pass |

The Chinese pair had an uncontested auction, also ending up in 3NT. Warne led the nine of clubs, ducked,



Li Xiaoyi
CHINA

and a second club. The play record ends there but Hu did a trick better than Isporski, escaping for down only one and -100, and the extra trick was worth 5 MPs to E/W

Board 17. Dealer North. None Vul.

| | | | |
|-----------|---|----------------|--|
| | ♠ A J | | |
| | ♥ 7 3 | | |
| | ♦ K 5 | | |
| | ♣ K 9 8 7 5 4 3 | | |
| ♠ Q 8 2 | <div style="border: 2px solid red; padding: 5px; display: inline-block; text-align: center; width: 40px; height: 40px; background-color: #800000; color: white; line-height: 40px;">N W E S</div> | ♠ K 10 9 6 5 3 | |
| ♥ J 9 5 | | ♥ K 2 | |
| ♦ J 8 7 6 | | ♦ A Q 10 | |
| ♣ J 10 6 | | ♣ Q 2 | |

| | | | |
|--|----------------|--|--|
| | ♠ 7 4 | | |
| | ♥ A Q 10 8 6 4 | | |
| | ♦ 9 4 3 2 | | |
| | ♣ A | | |

| West | North | East | South |
|------------------|--------------|---------------|-----------------|
| <i>Klukowski</i> | <i>Warne</i> | <i>Gawrys</i> | <i>Bergdahl</i> |
| - | 2♣ | 2♠ | 3♥ |
| Pass | 3NT | All Pass | |

Warne opened a Precision-style 2♣ and Gawrys overcalled. When Bergdahl introduced his heart suit, Warne took a shot at 3NT, where he played. A simple spade lead would have left Warne well short of his contract, but Gawrys thought declarer might have more in spades so looked elsewhere for his opening lead, choosing ace then queen of diamonds. Warne won the king and led a heart to the ten. That lost to the jack and the spade return left him with nine winners but no way to get at the last of them, the king of clubs. He was therefore one down for -50 but 6 MPs.

To succeed after the favourable diamond plays declarer needed to cash the ace of clubs before the spade was knocked out. After winning the king of diamonds he could cash the club ace then duck a heart, planning to play East for the king doubleton or tripleton.

| West | North | East | South |
|-----------------|------------|--------------|-------------|
| <i>Isporski</i> | <i>Sun</i> | <i>Nanev</i> | <i>Kang</i> |
| - | 2♣ | 2♠ | 3♥ |
| Pass | 4♣ | All Pass | |

After the same start to the auction, Sun repeated his clubs rather than gamble on 3NT. He was left to play in 4♣, against which Nanev led the two of hearts. Sun overcame that test by calling for the queen, and he continued with ace and a third heart, discarding his spade loser when it proved to be West who had the jack of hearts. However, he had to lose two diamonds and a club so was also one down for -50, again for 6 IMPs, of course.



Sun Shaolin

CHINA

Board 18. Dealer East. N/S Vul.

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

| West | North | East | South |
|------------------|--------------|---------------|-----------------|
| <i>Klukowski</i> | <i>Warne</i> | <i>Gawrys</i> | <i>Bergdahl</i> |
| – | – | Pass | Pass |
| Pass | 1♣ | 1♥ | Pass |
| 2♥ | 2♠ | Pass | 3♥ |
| Pass | 3♠ | All Pass | |

| West | North | East | South |
|-----------------|------------|--------------|-------------|
| <i>Isporski</i> | <i>Sun</i> | <i>Nanev</i> | <i>Kang</i> |
| – | – | 1♥ | Pass |
| 3♥ | 3♠ | All Pass | |

Both our N/S pairs missed the decent spade game. Nanev opened the East hand with 1♥ and was raised pre-emptively to 3♥. When Sun overcalled 3♠, Kang discounted his heart cards so did not raise. At the other table, Gawrys did not open as East but came in over Warne's strong club opening. Again, South discounted his heart holding, Bergdahl contenting himself with a cuebid invitational raise and respecting Warne's sign-off.

Both declarers lost a spade, a club and a heart, scoring +170 for 5 MPs. Mildly surprisingly, not one pair in the Open bid to game with their combined 25-count and nine-card fit. Presumably everyone heard E/W heart bidding and downgraded their heart values.

Board 19. Dealer South. E/W Vul.

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

| West | North | East | South |
|------------------|----------------|---------------|---------------|
| <i>Klukowski</i> | <i>Nystrom</i> | <i>Gawrys</i> | <i>Upmark</i> |
| – | – | – | Pass |
| Pass | 1♣ | Pass | 1♦ |
| Dble | 1NT | 2♣ | 2♦ |
| Pass | Pass | 2♥ | Dble |
| Rdbl | 3♦ | All Pass | |

Nystrom opened a strong club in third seat and rebid 1NT at his next turn. When Upmark competed in diamonds and the Poles in turn competed to 2♥, Upmark doubted to show extra values, in context of his initial negative response, and Nystrom showed the excellent diamond support. Three Diamonds was a very comfortable spot, simply requiring that one of the club ace and heart queen were onside. After a trump lead, Upmark duly made nine tricks for +110 and 7.4 MPs.

At what should have been our other featured table, there was a problem and Warne/Bergdahl were awarded an average plus.



Niklas Warne

SWEDEN

Board 20. Dealer West. All Vul.

| | | | |
|------------|---|-----------|--|
| | ♠ A 10 6 2 | | |
| | ♥ 6 2 | | |
| | ♦ Q 5 3 2 | | |
| | ♣ A J 6 | | |
| ♠ 8 7 | <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; align-items: center;"> N E </div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; align-items: center;"> W S </div> | ♠ J 9 5 4 | |
| ♥ 7 4 3 | | ♥ K Q 10 | |
| ♦ J 10 6 4 | | ♦ Q 7 2 | |
| ♣ 8 5 4 3 | | ♣ Q 7 2 | |
| | ♠ K Q 3 | | |
| | ♥ A J 9 8 5 | | |
| | ♦ K 7 | | |
| | ♣ K 10 9 | | |

| West | North | East | South |
|-----------------|------------|--------------|-------------|
| <i>Bergdahl</i> | <i>Sun</i> | <i>Warne</i> | <i>Kang</i> |
| Pass | Pass | 1♦ | 1♥ |
| Pass | 1NT | Pass | 3NT |
| All Pass | | | |

| West | North | East | South |
|------------------|----------------|---------------|---------------|
| <i>Klukowski</i> | <i>Nystrom</i> | <i>Gawrys</i> | <i>Upmark</i> |
| Pass | Pass | 1♣ | 1NT |
| Pass | 3♣ | Pass | 3♥ |
| Pass | 3NT | All Pass | |

What would you do with the South hand, balanced with 16 HCP and a stopper in whichever minor is opened on your right, but with a five-card major? Kang made the classical 1♥ overcall while Upmark preferred 1NT, but the only difference this made was in who became declarer in a no trump game.

Warne led a low a spade round to Sun's ten. Sun led a heart up so Warne split his honours, Sun winning with the ace and cashing the king and queen of spades then leading a club to the ace to cash the ace of spades, throwing a heart from dummy, then lead a heart towards the jack. Warne took the queen and underled in diamonds, Sun rising with dummy's king and cashing the hearts, coming down to two clubs and the queen of diamonds in hand. Seeing that a diamond exit would endplay him to lead away from the queen of clubs, Warne pitched the ace of diamonds, hoping to find his partner with the queen. Alas, all that did was to allow Sun to cross to his diamond queen and take the club finesse, emerging with 12 tricks and +690. There were a couple of penalties at other tables, against 1♦ doubled and 1♠ doubled, and this resulted in +690 being worth only 6 MPs.

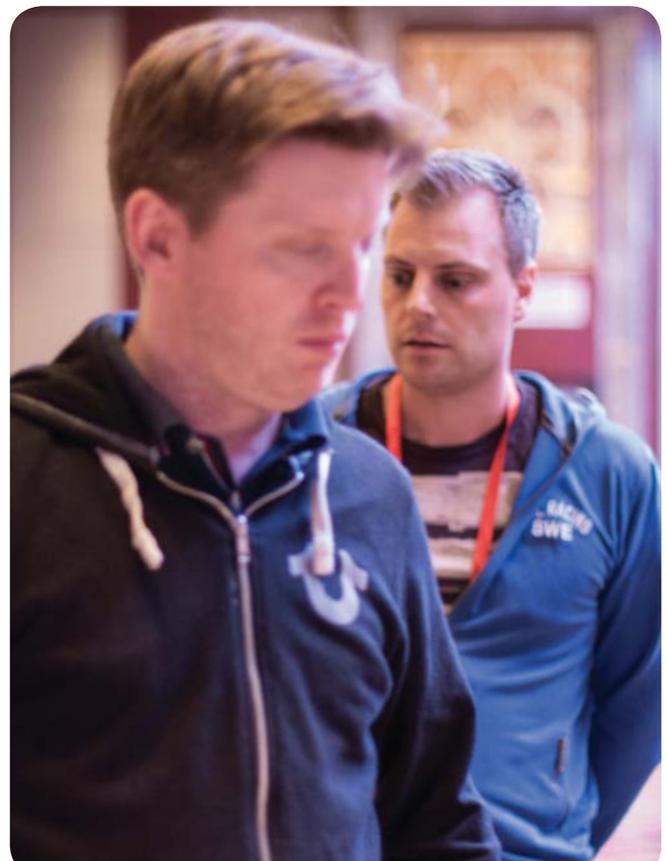
At our other table, the contract was played the other way up on the lead of the jack of diamonds, run to declarer's king. Upmark crossed to the ace of spades to lead a heart, ducking when Gawrys split his honours. Back came a spade so Upmark won the king and

cashed the queen in hope of an even split then led a club to the ace and a second heart up. Gawrys won and had a spade and a diamond to cash so there were only ten tricks for +630 and only 1 MP for N/S

Board 21. Dealer North. N/S Vul.

| | | | |
|--------------|---|-----------|--|
| | ♠ K 4 | | |
| | ♥ J 5 4 3 | | |
| | ♦ J 9 6 | | |
| | ♣ 10 9 7 5 | | |
| ♠ Q J 10 9 8 | <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; align-items: center;"> N E </div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; align-items: center;"> W S </div> | ♠ A 6 5 2 | |
| ♥ A Q 7 2 | | ♥ K 6 | |
| ♦ 10 3 | | ♦ A 4 2 | |
| ♣ 4 3 | | ♣ A K J 6 | |
| | ♠ 7 3 | | |
| | ♥ 10 9 8 | | |
| | ♦ K Q 8 7 5 | | |
| | ♣ Q 8 2 | | |

Both Upmark/Nystrom and Starkowski/Golebiowski bid smoothly to 4♠ but without really looking at slam as a serious proposition. Both declarers ruffed out the queen of clubs after drawing trumps via the finesse so both made all 13 tricks for +510. That was a dead average, 5 MPs, as just one pair bid and made 6♠, while one declarer missed the overtrick. Danailov/Stamatov bid it: 1♣ (strong) – 1♠ (8+ HCP, 5+ spades) – 2♠ – 3♥ – 4♣ – 4♥ – 4NT – 5♣ – 6♠.



Johan Upmark & Fredrik Nystrom

SWEDEN

Board 22. Dealer East. E/W Vul.

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

the king lost to the ace and a diamond back went to the queen and king. The defence also had a second club winner to come and four trump tricks for down three, -300, and zero MPs for E/W.

| West | North | East | South |
|------|--------|------|----------|
| Sun | Upmark | Kang | Nystrom |
| - | - | 2NT | Pass |
| 3♦ | Pass | 3♥ | All Pass |

| West | North | East | South |
|----------|------------|-------|-------------|
| Bergdahl | Starkowski | Warne | Golebiowski |
| - | - | 1♣ | Dble |
| Pass | 1♦ | Pass | 1♥ |
| Pass | 1NT | Dble | 2♦ |
| Dble | 2♥ | Pass | Pass |
| Dble | All Pass | | |

Warne opened with a strong club and Golebiowski doubled to show opening values. Now N/S took over the auction until Bergdahl started doubling, firstly to show some modest values, then for penalty. Bergdahl led a trump to the king and ace and Golebiowski cashed a second heart, getting the bad news. He led the ten of clubs to the queen and a diamond up and came to four hearts, two clubs and one diamond so was down one for -100 and 2 MPs.

At the end of the first session of four, the Chinese pairing of Xiaoyi Li and Linlin Hu led on 64.27%. Leading the chasing pack were Wlodzimierz Starkowski and Stanislaw Golebiowski of Poland, on 56.55%.



**OPEN PAIRS****AFTER SESSION 2/4**

| | | | | |
|----|------------------------|----------------------------|-----------|-------|
| 1 | HU Linlin | LI Xiaoyi | CHN - CHN | 61.45 |
| 2 | KANG Meng | SUN Shaolin | CHN - CHN | 57.95 |
| 3 | STARKOWSKI Wlodzimierz | GOLEBIEWSKI Stanislaw | POL - POL | 54.18 |
| 4 | MAZURKIEWICZ Marcin | JASSEM Krzysztof | POL - POL | 51.91 |
| 5 | NYSTROM Fredrik | UPMARK Johan | SWE - SWE | 51.68 |
| 6 | STAMATOV Jerry | DANAIOV Diyan | BUL - BUL | 51.09 |
| 7 | SYLVAN Johan | WRANG Frederic | SWE - SWE | 48.68 |
| 8 | STEFANOV Julian | MIHOV Vladimir | BUL - BUL | 47.41 |
| 9 | LIU Jing | HOU Xu | CHN - CHN | 45.82 |
| 10 | NANEV Ivan | ISPORSKI Vladislav Nikolov | BUL - BUL | 44.68 |
| 11 | GAWRYS Piotr | KLUKOWSKI Michal | POL - POL | 43.55 |
| 12 | BERGDAHL Tommy | WARNE Niklas | SWE - SWE | 41.59 |

WOMEN PAIRS**AFTER SESSION 2/4**

| | | | | |
|----|---------------------------|--------------------|-----------|-------|
| 1 | HUANG Yan | WANG Nan | CHN - CHN | 55.23 |
| 2 | ZHANG Yu | WANG Hongli | CHN - CHN | 54.55 |
| 3 | SENIOR Nevena | HU Wen | ENG - CHN | 52.73 |
| 4 | DEKKERS Laura | VAN DELFT Doris | NED - NED | 52.73 |
| 5 | WANG Wen Fei | SHEN Qi | CHN - CHN | 51.36 |
| 6 | BROCK Sally | SMITH Nicola | ENG - ENG | 50.68 |
| 7 | HUBERSCHWILLER Anne-Laure | MOURGUES Jennifer | FRA - FRA | 50.45 |
| 8 | CRONIER Benedicte | WILLARD Sylvie | FRA - FRA | 48.64 |
| 9 | FREY Nathalie | D'OVIDIO Catherine | FRA - FRA | 47.27 |
| 10 | YAN Ru | LI Yiting | CHN - CHN | 46.59 |
| 11 | ARNOLDS Carla | VAN ZWOL Wietske | NED - NED | 46.59 |
| 12 | PASMAN Jet | SIMONS Anneke | NED - NED | 43.18 |