



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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TWO TALENTED INDIVIDUALS



OPEN INDIVIDUAL WINNER

Vladimir Mihov



WOMEN'S INDIVIDUAL WINNER

Jet Pasma

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There was a thrilling finish to the Open Individual in the 2016 IMSA Elite Mind Games, when Bulgaria's Vladimir Mihov scored a remarkable 30/30 on the last of the three board rounds to secure the title thereby pushing Poland's Michal Klukowski into second place. When Vladislav Isporski finished third Bulgaria secured a second medal.

Things were much more clear-cut in the Women's Individual, where a devastating performance by the Netherlands Jet Pasma put her so far in front of the field that she was certain of the title before the last round started.

With her compatriot, Carla Arnolds securing silver, it was the third time that one country had provided two medallists. These two were well ahead of the third placed finisher, England's Sally Brock.



OPEN INDIVIDUAL 2ND

Michal Klukowski



WOMEN'S INDIVIDUAL 2ND

Carla Arnolds



OPEN INDIVIDUAL 3RD

Vladislav Isporski



WOMEN'S INDIVIDUAL 3RD

Sally Brock



Open individual podium



Women's individual podium



SECOND HAND HIGH

by **Mark Horton**

Our scoring manager, Fotis Skoularikis, whilst constantly trying to ensure the continuity of the network that is essential for the smooth running of the Championships, occasionally manages to catch sight of a deal.

This was the final board of the second session of the Individual:

Board 24. Dealer West. None Vul.

♠ 7 3 ♥ Q 8 ♦ A 7 4 ♣ A 10 7 6 4 3		♠ K 9 8 4 2 ♥ A 5 ♦ K Q J 10 9 8 ♣ —	♠ Q 5 ♥ 10 6 4 2 ♦ 6 2 ♣ K 9 8 5 2 ♠ A J 10 6 ♥ K J 9 7 3 ♦ 5 3 ♣ Q J
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5♦ was a popular contract, reached via a wide variety of auctions of which this was the longest:

West	North	East	South
1♣	Pass	1♠	2♥
Pass	3♥	Dble	Pass
4♣	Pass	4♦	Pass
4♠	Pass	Pass	Dble
Pass	Pass	5♦	All Pass

South led the three of hearts and when dummy's queen held the trick declarer played the seven of



Fotis Skoularikis

spades from dummy and, if we are to believe the Ourgame operator, contributed the eight from hand when North followed with the five.

Now South could win and switch to a trump and declarer was without resource.

However, if declarer simply allows the seven to run the defenders are helpless!

South wins and plays a trump, but declarer wins and lays down the king of spades, pinning North's queen and setting up a ruffing finesse against South's jack.

Let's rewind to trick two.

When the seven of spades is played from dummy, North must put up the queen. Now the spade position is secure and all South has to do after winning with the ace is switch to a trump.

With such a powerful holding in spades South might have preferred a trump lead – but that's another story.



**OPEN INDIVIDUAL – SESSION TWO**by **Brian Senior**

The second session of the Open Individual was not the most exciting set I have ever followed, but there were a few interesting boards, starting with this one:



Board 2. Dealer East. N/S Vul.

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

particularly ones who have come up through a totally different bridge culture. The leader, Starkowski, opened 1♣ and, naturally enough, repeated his suit at his next turn. When Li rebid his moderate five-card spade suit, Starkowski was willing to risk the five level in search of a slam but, of course, he had spades in mind as a trump suit, having as he did such a good undisclosed three-card holding. He tried to ask for key cards but, it would appear, in China that is not the meaning of 4NT in this sequence, as Li jumped to 6♣. Four No Trump, then, was taken as showing a hand that was too good to bid 5♣, i.e. a club slam try?

West	North	East	South
<i>Mihov</i>	<i>Li</i>	<i>Hou</i>	<i>Starkowski</i>
–	–	Pass	1♣
1♥	1♠	3♥	4♣
4♥	4♠	Pass	4NT
Pass	6♣	All Pass	

Mihov had no difficulty in cashing the two red aces so the slam was down one for –100 and no matchpoints for N/S.

The perils of playing with strange partners,



Board 6. Dealer East. E/W Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Bergdahl</i>	<i>Golebiowski</i>	<i>Isporski</i>	<i>Stefanov</i>
–	–	1♠	Pass
2♠	Pass	Pass	3♣
Pass	Pass	Dble	All Pass

At four tables, E/W were allowed to play in 2♠, three times for an overtrick and once just making. Stefanov's 3♣ was strictly a matchpoint effort, as was Isporski's penalty double, and would pay off if he could escape for down one.

Bergdahl led the jack of spades and, when that held, continued with the four. Isporski won the king and, rather than continue with a third round, on which Stefanov would presumably have thrown his losing diamond, switched to the king of hearts and, when Stefanov ducked, continued with the queen to dummy's ace. Stefanov played ace then jack of clubs to the king and the even split in the suit

meant that he had only to lose a diamond at the end for down one and –100, worth 8 MPs.

It would have been much better for the defence had Isporski continued with a third spade at trick three. Now ace and jack of clubs would not be good enough – East can play a fourth spade through to promote a trump trick for his partner – so declarer would have to take the club finesse. If East wins the king and plays a fourth spade, declarer can discard his losing diamond and ruff in the dummy, or can ruff in hand, over-ruffed and over-ruffed again, but with the heart not yet established he is likely to be two down for a zero.

♠♥♦♣

Board 9. Dealer North. E/W Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Sylvan</i>	<i>Mihov</i>	<i>Upmark</i>	<i>Kang</i>
–	Pass	1NT	Pass
3♣	Pass	3♦	Pass
4♦	Pass	4♠	Pass
5♦	All Pass		

Three No Trump is the place to play on the E/W cards but only one pair out of six managed to stop there. Upmark opened a 15-17 no trump and 3♣ was a transfer to diamonds. Now, if West can rebid 3NT and have shown slam interest based on a long diamond suit that would seem to be a reasonable way to describe the hand, given its soft values outside the long suit. Again, we see the problem of playing unfamiliar methods, and Sylvan was probably not sure exactly what his options were. He rebid 4♦ over Upmark's 3♦ completion and the partnership was locked into the suit.

Kang led a low heart so Mihov won the ace and returned a heart to permit the defence to take the first three tricks for down one and –100. That was worth 5 MPs.



Johan Sylvan
SWEDEN

Board 13. Dealer North. All Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Nystrom</i>	<i>Sylvan</i>	<i>Golebiowski</i>	<i>Mazurkiewicz</i>
–	1♠	Pass	1NT
Pass	3♠	Pass	4♠
All Pass			

I would not have raised to 4♠ with the South cards – there is, after all, no premium on bidding thin games at matchpoints – and Mazurkiewicz's optimism looked as though it might have doomed his side to a minus score. However...

Golebiowski led the king of diamonds to the ten, nine and ace, and Sylvan played back the four of diamonds to the queen and jack. The contract could have been defeated now by playing the third diamond. Dummy would get rid of a heart and West would ruff and return a trump and, if East could then resist splitting his honours on declarer's heart lead towards the ace-ten, West could win the defensive

heart trick and play a second trump, leaving declarer with a heart to lose at the end.

But Golebiowski played the queen of hearts at trick three. If declarer ducks this the defence is powerless – the only way to prevent a heart ruff in the dummy is for East to switch to a trump and that picks up the queen, giving declarer ten top tricks. But Sylvan won the ace and ruffed a club, exposing the position to everyone. He took a heart pitch on the eight of diamonds as Nystrom ruffed, and now a trump return followed by West winning the heart trick and leading a second trump prevents the ruff and holds the contract to nine tricks. But no, Nystrom cashed the king of hearts and played another one, presumably playing his partner for queen-doubleton heart, and now Sylvan could ruff and had the rest for +620.

That looked like a great result for N/S, but everyone bid to game (I suspect more often by North simply bidding it rather than by South accepting an invitation) and four out of six made it. Plus 620 therefore scored 7 out of 10 MPs.

Board 14. Dealer East. None Vul.

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

♠ 10 4 ♥ 9 8 5 3 ♦ 10 8 4 ♣ K 9 7 6

West	North	East	South
<i>Nystrom</i>	<i>Sylvan</i>	<i>Golebiowski</i>	<i>Mazurkiewicz</i>
–	–	2♣	Pass
2♦	3♣	3♥	4♣
Pass	4♠	Dble	5♣
Pass	Pass	Dble	All Pass

E/W are cold for slam in either red suit. Golebiowski opened with an artificial game-force and 2♦ was waiting. Sylvan overcalled then, when Mazurkiewicz supported the clubs, introduced his second suit. I'm not sure why Golebiowski felt the need to double 4♠ with only ace-doubleton plus a small singleton in the other opposition suit – pass is clearly forcing here – but that was his chosen action and he doubled again when Mazurkiewicz's correction to 5♣ came around. Nystrom had no reason to over-rule his partner's decision – Golebiowski could have been much more


Marcin Mazurkiewicz
POLAND

defensively oriented than this, so 5♣ doubled it was and a normal winning spade play meant just one down for -100 and all the matchpoints to N/S.

Board 17. Dealer North. None Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Sun	Stamatov	Mihov	Warne
-	Pass	Pass	1♦
Pass	1♠	Pass	2♣
Pass	2NT	Pass	3♠
All Pass			

With a 3-1-5-4 hand, Warne might have raised to 2♠ at his second turn, but he could not really ignore



Jerry Stamatov

BULGARIA

the five-card club suit and his normal 2♣ rebid gave Stamatov a pretty ugly range of auctions. His choice of 2NT was a big overbid, but what else was better - Pass, 2♦, 2♠, 2♥ FSF? Now Warne showed the three-card spade support and, knowing that his heart values were not pulling their weight facing shortage, Stamatov passed.

Mihov had been listening in to his opponents' auction, of course, and led ace and another trump. Sun won and cashed the third trump then switched to a heart, but Stamatov was in control. He won the heart, pitching a diamond from dummy, and led the nine of clubs, ducking when Mihov played low. He could win the heart return and the even club split meant that he had the remainder for +140 and 4 MPs.

Four Spades was allowed to make twice on non-trump leads and there was also one table at which ten tricks were made in partscore.

Board 22. Dealer East. E/W Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Liu	Sun	Sylvan	Wrang
-	-	2NT	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

The universal system defines a 2NT opening as 20-21 but, as this is a popular upgrade even in a regular partnership, I am sure that Sylvan was not the only East to open 2NT with the flat 19-count. Looking at a 4-3-3-3 shape with an honour in every suit, Liu saw no reason to look for a spade fit and just raised to 3NT.

Wrang led a low heart to the nine and king and immediately had to find three discards as Sylvan cashed all the spades, ending in the dummy. He chose two hearts and a diamond. Sylvan continued with a diamond to the ten and king, and Wrang played ace and another heart. Sylvan won and played a diamond to the ace and another diamond and had ten tricks for +630 and 7 MPs.

Board 24. Dealer West. None Vul.

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



West	North	East	South
Liu	Sun	Sylvan	Wrang
Pass	Pass	1♦	1♥
2♣	2♥	2♠	Pass
3♦	All Pass		

The natural auction saw Sylvan declare 3♦ on a heart lead to dummy's queen. He led the three of spades to the king and ace and back came a trump. When Sylvan gave up a second spade, a second round of trumps limited him to one spade ruff so he had to concede a third spade trick and was held to

ten tricks for +130 and 4 MPs.

If declarer had judged the ace of spades to be offside because of the overcall, he could have led the seven of spades at trick two and run it. Drawing two rounds of trumps then playing a spade to the queen, king and ace leaves a ruffing finesse position against South's jack. Of course, that does require some inspiration, and North can overcome this line by covering the seven with the queen – which would be equally inspired.

Wlodzimierz Starkowski continued to lead and was on course to do the treble, having already won the Teams and Pairs. However, he led only narrowly from Michal Klukowski and Bulgaria's Vladimir Isporiski.



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OPEN INDIVIDUAL – SESSION THREE

by **Brian Senior**

And so we entered the final session of a week of tough bridge. Seven more three-board rounds would complete the two Individual competitions. In the Open, Wlodzimierz Starkowski, already winner of both the Teams and Pairs events, held a narrow lead from his team-mate, Michal Klukowski. Third place was held by Bulgaria's Vladimir Isporski. In the volatile environment of an Individual tournament, anyone down to at least eighth-placed Ivan Nanev could hope to win if they had a good enough session.

Board 3. Dealer South. E/W Vul.

	♠ J 8 3		
	♥ 8 6 3		
	♦ J 10 5 4		
	♣ A Q 4		
♠ A Q 10 6 4	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; display: inline-block; text-align: center;">N W E S</div>	♠ K 5	
♥ 7 5 2		♥ A Q J 10 9 4	
♦ 2		♦ Q 9	
♣ K 10 9 3		♣ J 7 5	
	♠ 9 7 2		
	♥ K		
	♦ A K 8 7 6 3		
	♣ 8 6 2		

West	North	East	South
<i>Gawrys</i>	<i>Jassem</i>	<i>Kang</i>	<i>Mihov</i>
–	–	–	3♦
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

Mihov opened 3♦ with the South cards and, looking at a diamond fit and relatively little defence, Jassem responded 3NT. On a very good day, there might be nine tricks, but more likely he hoped to make life tough for his opponents, who surely had a contract if only they could find it.

The defence can take the first 11 tricks, six hearts and five spades, but Kang led the queen of hearts and Jassem was charmed to see dummy's king hold the trick. He cashed all the diamonds then tried a club to the queen and had nine tricks for a great +400. Not altogether surprisingly, that was worth all 10 MPs. Four Hearts went off a couple of times, while heart partscores made +140 and +230, and one pair saved in 5♦ doubled for -500.



Board 5. Dealer North. N/S Vul.

	♠ K J 10 9 6 3		
	♥ 10 6 5 3		
	♦ 6		
	♣ 9 4		
♠ 7 2	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; display: inline-block; text-align: center;">N W E S</div>	♠ A Q	
♥ J 2		♥ K 8 7	
♦ Q 8 5 3		♦ A K 9 7	
♣ A K J 5 2		♣ Q 10 6 3	
	♠ 8 5 4		
	♥ A Q 9 4		
	♦ J 10 4 2		
	♣ 8 7		

West	North	East	South
<i>Starkowski</i>	<i>Mazurkiewicz</i>	<i>Jassem</i>	<i>Bergdahl</i>
–	Pass	1♣	Pass
1♦	1♠	2NT	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

After a simple auction, Bergdahl led a spade in response to his partner's overcall. Jassem cashed all five club tricks, Bergdahl coming down to one spade, ace-queen of hearts and the diamond stopper. Jassem cashed the ace and king of diamonds and, seeing the four-one split, continued by cashing the ace of spades then playing two more rounds of diamonds. That threw Bergdahl in to lead a heart at trick 12 and the king of hearts was Jassem's eleventh trick for +460 and 9 MPs to E/W.



Krzysztof Jassem
POLAND



Tommy Bergdahl

SWEDEN

Board 7. Dealer South. All Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Isporski</i>	<i>Wrang</i>	<i>Mihov</i>	<i>Bergdahl</i>
-	-	-	1♥
Pass	2♣	Pass	3♥
Pass	3♠	Pass	4♣
Pass	4♥	Pass	4NT
Pass	5♠	Pass	6♥
All Pass			

It is easy to get to the hopeless slam once North shows interest, and Wrang felt that he was worth a cuebid when Bergdahl could make a game-forcing jump rebid. Though he signed off at his next turn, Bergdahl was always going to bid on and he made the obvious call of 4NT, asking for key cards. Wrang had sufficient heart length that he pretended to hold the queen of trumps along with his two key cards and the Swedes were in 6♥. Not that it mattered what was led (apart from a club), but Isporski led a diamond to his partner's ace and Mihov continued the suit. There was no pressure so there was a club to lose at the end for down one and -100, good news for the two Bulgarians, who were still very much in contention near the top of the ranking, and could use the 8 MPs it gave them as three N/S pairs managed to stop in game.

Board 8. Dealer West. None Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Isporski</i>	<i>Wrang</i>	<i>Mihov</i>	<i>Bergdahl</i>
1♦	Pass	1♥	Pass
1♠	Pass	3♦	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

Rather than open a strong no trump, Isporski preferred to bid his suits, but he soon ended up in 3NT, just as he would have done had he opened 1NT. Wrang led the jack of spades. Isporski won the king and played the nine of diamonds, running it when Wrang followed low. Wrang won the next diamond and returned the jack of hearts to the queen and king, and a club to the queen and ace was the end of the play; ten tricks for +430 and another solid result for the two Bulgarians, earning them another 9 MPs.

This next board featured first and second versus third in the running standings.



Frederic Wrang

SWEDEN

Board 10. Dealer East. All Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Wrang</i>	<i>Klukowski</i>	<i>Mihov</i>	<i>Starkowski</i>
–	–	Pass	1♣
Pass	1♦	Pass	1♥
Pass	1♠	Pass	2♠
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

Klukowski used fourth-suit-forcing then jumped to 3NT when Starkowski showed four spades. Mihov led the two of hearts. Klukowski ran that to his ten then crossed to dummy with a heart to lead a spade to his nine. That was ducked so he continued by cashing the hearts, pitching a diamond from hand, then leading a diamond to the queen and ace followed by a club to the jack and queen. A second club set up another trick in the suit and Klukowski had a solid ten tricks for +630. That was worth 8 MPs as half the field made only nine tricks.



Michal Klukowski
POLAND



Włodzimierz Starkowski
POLAND

Board 16. Dealer West. E/W Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Isporski</i>	<i>Klukowski</i>	<i>Sylvan</i>	<i>Kang</i>
Pass	Pass	1♦	2♣
Pass	Pass	Dble	Rdbl
2♠	3♣	Pass	Pass
3♠	Dble	All Pass	

I am not sure, holding the South hand, if I would be prepared to defend 3♠ doubled after seeing partner show club support. Still, the lure of the magic +200 on a partscore deal is a strong one, and it was strong enough to convince Kang to pass and hope for the best.

Klukowski led the three of clubs to dummy's ace and Isporski led the two of hearts to the eight, nine and ten. He ruffed the club return in dummy and led a diamond to his ten. A spade to the nine held the trick and from here it was just a matter of cashing the ace of trumps and giving up a diamond, a heart and a spade; nine tricks for +730 and, of course, all the matchpoints to E/W.

Board 17. Dealer North. None Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Isporski</i>	<i>Klukowski</i>	<i>Sylvan</i>	<i>Kang</i>
–	Pass	Pass	1NT
2♣	Dble	2♠	Pass
Pass	2NT	3♦	Dble
3♠	Pass	Pass	Dble
All Pass			

Two Clubs was Landy, showing both majors, and the double just showed some high cards. Sylvan



Johan Upmark
SWEDEN

showed his spade preference and that came back to Klukowski, who bid a natural 2NT. Now Sylvan's 3♦ looks to be very dangerous – had partner been five-four the other way around in the majors he would have had nowhere to go to when 3♦ was doubled. As it was, Isporski could go back to spades and Kang doubled again.

Kang led a low trump to the jack and queen. Sylvan led the two of hearts and Kang went in with the king to play ace and another trump, putting paid to any thoughts declarer may have had about taking a heart ruff in hand. Sylvan won the third spade in hand and led his low club to the king and ace. Back came a club to the ten and queen and a third round to his ten. He pitched a heart on the ace of diamonds and led a heart towards the queen so had eight tricks for –100. This time it was N/S's turn to take all the matchpoints so the two boards had canceled each other out.

Board 19. Dealer South. E/W Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Upmark</i>	<i>Klukowski</i>	<i>Stamatov</i>	<i>Jassem</i>
–	–	–	1♣
Pass	1♦	1♠	Pass
1NT	All Pass		

Klukowski still led going into the final round but this board did him no good at all as Stamatov judged not to rebid his six-card spade suit and left Upmark to declare 1NT. Klukowski led the six of clubs, not wishing to lead into a possible diamond tenace. Jassem ducked dummy's ten so Upmark led a second club to his queen then ran the jack of spades. When that held the trick, he switched his attention to hearts, leading low to the jack. Jassem won the ace and led a diamond through. That was ducked to Klukowski's king and he returned a heart for his partner to win and cash the ace of clubs; nine tricks for +150. E/W took 7 MPs with some pairs playing a spade partscore and just one bidding and making 3NT.

Board 20. Dealer West. All Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Upmark	Klukowski	Stamatov	Jassem
1♣	1♦	3♣	Pass
Pass	Dble	Pass	3♠
Pass	4♠	All Pass	

Board 21. Dealer North. N/S Vul.

♠ J 9 3 ♥ K 5 ♦ K 10 8 5 3 ♣ A Q 3		♠ 8 5 4 ♥ J 10 8 6 ♦ A Q 9 4 2 ♣ 7	♠ A 10 ♥ 9 7 2 ♦ – ♣ KJ1098542
♠ K Q 7 6 2 ♥ A Q 4 3 ♦ J 7 6 ♣ 6			

West	North	East	South
Upmark	Klukowski	Stamatov	Jassem
–	1♦	4♣	Dble
All Pass			

Stamatov's jump to 3♣ was pre-emptive, in context of being vulnerable and facing a possible three-card suit. When it came back to Klukowski he reopened with a double and, on seeing his partner bid 'the right' major, raised him to game, knowing from the opposition's bidding that Jassem should hold some values. Four Spades was an excellent spot and Jassem soon chalked up ten tricks for +620. That was worth 6 MPs to N/S. One pair were doubled in 4♠ and made an overtrick!

Five Clubs would have cost only -500, but nobody had sufficient distribution to feel like bidding it when vulnerable.

N/S can make 4♠ but the 4♣ overcall made that almost impossible to achieve. It was completely normal for Jassem to make a negative double, and equally normal for Klukowski to leave it in. Theoretically, 4♣ can be down three, but why would South not lead his partner's suit? The diamond lead meant that Stamatov could get rid of one of his losers on the ace and lose just two trumps and three outside tricks for down two and -300. That was worth only 2 MPs to N/S and Klukowski had taken 11 MPs out of 30 on the round.

The below-average final round saw Klukowski lose the top spot to Vladimir Mihov of Bulgaria. These



were his last three boards:

Board 19

West	North	East	South
Mihov	Li	Nystrom	Sun
–	–	–	1♣
Pass	1♦	1♠	Pass
2♣	Pass	2♠	Pass
2NT	Pass	3NT	All Pass

The lead was again a club but this time South, Sun won the second round and played ace, king and another heart. Mihov won and led the jack of spades and had ten tricks for +630 and all 10 MPs.

Board 20

West	North	East	South
Mihov	Li	Nystrom	Sun
1♣	1♦	Dble	Pass
1♥	1♠	3♣	3♥
All Pass			

Clearly there was a misunderstanding between the two Chinese players, though it is hard to see how 3♥ could be natural. Sun intended it to be a strong 3♠ bid and that is surely what it should mean.

Mihov led the king of clubs and switched to a low

heart. After two rounds of hearts he went back to clubs and the hopeless contract drifted three off for –300 and another 10 MPs to E/W.

Board 21

West	North	East	South
Mihov	Li	Nystrom	Sun
–	1♦	4♣	Dble
Pass	4NT	Pass	5NT
Pass	6♦	All Pass	

A second successive mix-up for the Chinese pair saw them get to a silly slam. Li clearly intended 4NT to be to play and, equally clearly, Sun took it to be a much bigger hand than was actually the case, presumably stronger than a 1NT opening rather than weaker.

Four No Trump was in fact the winning action on the North cards as it cannot be defeated and even a double dummy lead gets only +500 out of 4♣ doubled. Plus 630 would have scored 7 MPs for N/S. I imagine that you can guess what 6♦-3 for –300 scored.

Vladimir Mihov had scored 30 out of 30 on the last round and won the Open Individual by a deceptively comfortable-looking 13 MPs. Michal Klukowski of Poland was second and Vladislav Isporski of Bulgaria was third.



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.worldbridgeworks2016.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.



WATCHING BRIEF

by **Mark Horton**

With only 21 deals left to determine the winner, I resolved to follow the fortunes of the overnight leaders, with the proviso that it was possible that a good run would propel a new name into the melting pot.

Board 1. Dealer North. None Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Brock</i>	<i>Mourgues</i>	<i>Hu</i>	<i>Smith</i>
—	Pass	1♣	2♠
Dble*	3♠	Pass	Pass
Dble	Pass	3NT	All Pass

South led the jack of spades and declarer won with the queen pitching a heart from dummy and advanced the queen of diamonds. When South followed with the four she remembered Zia's Bols Bridge Tip 'When they don't cover they don't have it' she went up with dummy's ace and ran the queen of clubs. South ducked, won the next club and played the king of spades, but declarer ducked, and when South switched to a heart North took the ace and cashed the king of diamonds, at which point declarer could claim; +400

and a magnificent 0/10.

3NT can be defeated, but it is not easy. For example, on a heart lead North must resist the temptation to play the ace and switch to the eight of spades.

Board 7. Dealer South. All Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>D'Ovidio</i>	<i>Huang</i>	<i>Brock</i>	<i>Pasman</i>
—	—	—	1♥
Pass	2NT*	Pass	4♦*
Pass	4♥	Pass	4NT*
Pass	5♥*	Pass	6♥
All Pass			

- 2NT Game forcing with trump support
- 4♦ Splinter
- 4NT RKCB
- 5♥ 2 key cards

Five pairs attempted this almost hopeless slam, so -100 was worth 4/6.





Board 9. Dealer North. EW Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Simons	van Zwol	Dekkers	Arnolds
—	3♣	Pass	Pass
3♠	All Pass		

North led the king of clubs and declarer took the ace and exited with the two of diamonds, South winning with the ten and switching to the jack of clubs, North overtaking it and returning the ten of spades. Declarer covered with dummy's jack and when that held she played two rounds of diamonds, ruffing, ruffed a club, cashed the ace and king of spades and played a heart. When North followed with the ten she fell from grace by putting up the ace and was one down for -100 and 6/4.

If North switches to the ten of hearts declarer has an elegant way to arrive at nine tricks. She takes dummy's ace and advances the jack of spades, running it if South does not cover. Then come two rounds of diamonds, ruffing in dummy, followed by a club ruff back to hand. After cashing a top spade declarer exits with a heart and scores the last two tricks with the ♠K8. Plus 140 would have been worth 2/8.

The way for North to defeat the contract at trick four is to play her third ten, the ten of clubs. Now declarer

cannot reach the desired ending and the defenders will score a trump trick to go with two hearts, a club and a diamond.

Board 11. Dealer South. None Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Brock	Smith	Fry	Yan
—	—	—	Pass
1♦	Pass	1♠	Pass
1NT	Pass	3♥	Pass
3♠	Pass	4♣*	Pass
4♦*	Pass	4♥*	Pass
4♠	Pass	5♣	Pass
5♥	Pass	6♠	All Pass

- 4♣ Cue bid
- 4♦ Cue bid
- 4♥ Cue bid

A void in partner's suit is not usually good news, but give West the jack of spades and 6♠ is reasonable.

South led the four of diamonds and declarer took dummy's top diamonds pitching clubs, played three rounds of hearts, ruffing and, perhaps for a moment thinking imagining it was her lucky day, ran the eight of spades. One down, -50 and a complete zero.





Board 16. Dealer West. EW Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Huberschwiller Zhang</i>		<i>Willard</i>	<i>Arnolds</i>
Pass	Pass	1♦	2♣
Pass	3♣	Dble	3NT
All Pass			

No doubt 3NT was a tactical effort and with nine tricks possible for EW in spades two down might be good, were it not for the fact that NS can take ten tricks in clubs.

West led the six of spades for the jack and ace and declarer won the second spade and knocked out the ace of clubs; -100, worth only 3/7.

Board 18. Dealer East. NS Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Huberschwiller Zhang</i>		<i>Willard</i>	<i>Arnolds</i>
—	—	2♠	Pass
Pass	2NT	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

East led the queen of spades and declarer won, cashed three rounds of diamonds and played a club to the ten for +690 and 5/5.

Nicola Smith and Nevena Senior were the only pair to bid a slam – Nicola doubled the opening bid and Nevena jumped to 6NT; +1440 and 10/0.

Board 19. Dealer South. EW Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Brock</i>	<i>Li</i>	<i>Senior</i>	<i>Arnolds</i>
—	—	—	Pass
1♣	1♦	1♠	Dble
Pass	2♦	2♠	3♦
Pass	Pass	3♠	All Pass

South led the two of diamonds and when declarer played low from dummy North won with the king and switched to a heart, South playing three rounds of the suit, North's ruff and the ace of clubs giving the defenders the first five tricks for +100 and 10/0.

If declarer goes up with ace of diamonds and takes the spade finesse she comes to nine tricks and +140 would have been worth 3/7.



Yu Zhang

CHINA



Board 20. Dealer West. All Vul.

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

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



Board 21. Dealer North. NS Vul.

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

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



West	North	East	South
Brock	Li	Senior	Arnolds
1♣	1♦	2♦*	Pass
2♥	2♠	3♣	3♠
Pass	Pass	4♣	Pass
Pass	Dble	Pass	4♠
All Pass			

West	North	East	South
Brock	Li	Senior	Arnolds
—	1♦	5♣	Dble
All Pass			

East had an awkward decision over 3♠ – a pass would have led to -170 and 6/4 and saving in 5♣ would have produced the same score.

South led the six of diamonds and declarer went up with dummy's ace, pitched a spade and played the seven of clubs, running it when North failed to go up with the ace. That meant she had nine tricks for -300 and 3/7.



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1	MIHOV Vladimir	BUL	60.00
2	KLUKOWSKI Michal	POL	58.12
3	ISPORSKI Vladislav Nikolov	BUL	57.25
4	STARKOWSKI Wlodzimierz	POL	55.80
5	NYSTROM Fredrik	SWE	55.51
6	UPMARK Johan	SWE	54.64
7	NANEV Ivan	BUL	52.75
8	BERGDAHL Tommy	SWE	52.32
9	SYLVAN Johan	SWE	52.17
10	HU Linlin	CHN	52.17
11	STEFANOV Julian	BUL	52.03
12	DANAILOV Diyan	BUL	51.88
13	JASSEM Krzysztof	POL	49.71
14	SUN Shaolin	CHN	48.99
15	KANG Meng	CHN	48.84
16	LIU Jing	CHN	47.97
17	WRANG Frederic	SWE	46.23
18	HOU Xu	CHN	45.94
19	LI Xiaoyi	CHN	45.07
20	MAZURKIEWICZ Marcin	POL	44.49
21	STAMATOV Jerry	BUL	43.48
22	GAWRYS Piotr	POL	42.90
23	WARNE Niklas	SWE	42.46
24	GOLEBIEWSKI Stanislaw	POL	39.28

WOMEN'S INDIVIDUAL**AFTER SESSION 3/3**

1	PASMAN Jet	NED	59.86
2	ARNOLDS Carla	NED	55.19
3	BROCK Sally	ENG	52.58
4	LI Yiting	CHN	52.17
5	WANG Wen Fei	CHN	52.06
6	HUANG Yan	CHN	51.88
7	WANG Hongli	CHN	51.77
8	SMITH Nicola	ENG	51.74
9	HUBERSCHWILLER A-Laure	FRA	51.19
10	WILLARD Sylvie	FRA	51.04
11	WANG Nan	CHN	50.29
12	CRONIER Benedicte	FRA	50.29
13	D'OIDIO Catherine	FRA	49.86
14	VAN ZWOL Wietske	NED	49.42
15	YAN Ru	CHN	49.39
16	SHEN (1) Qi	CHN	48.99
17	SENIOR Nevena	ENG	48.26
18	SIMONS Anneke	NED	48.12
19	HU Wen	CHN	47.25
20	FREY Nathalie	FRA	47.10
21	DEKKERS Laura	NED	46.96
22	MOURGUES Jennifer	FRA	45.62
23	VAN DELFT Doris	NED	45.22
24	ZHANG Yu	CHN	43.77

